

JUNE 20, 2023 • VOL XIV • ISSUE #13

# GRAB

MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION



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ISSUE

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*Joe Ganthreau*

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RAYMOND LUCZAK

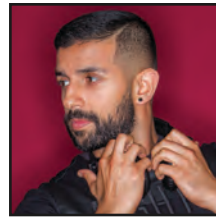
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1961 - 2019

Cover: Pride in the Park  
Chicago2023 Pride Parade  
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# GRAB RAYMOND

## The search for love: An interview with Raymond Luczak

By Gregg Shapiro

Here's a funny, gay, "small world" story. In the 1990s, years before I actually met Raymond Luczak, we were both published in the long-running (1976-1995) gay culture magazine "Christopher Street." In fact, "Lincoln Avenue," the short story of mine published in the issue of "Christopher Street" which featured Luczak's "Notes of a Deaf Gay Poet" article on the cover, would go on to be the titular piece of my short fiction collection published by none other than Luczak's Squares and Rebels Press in 2014.

Minneapolis-based Luczak, a prolific author of 20 books, is not only the publisher at Squares and Rebels, as well as Handtype Press, he is also the editor of the literary journal "Mollyhouse." Additionally, he has edited numerous anthologies. The city of Minneapolis figures prominently in his new novel "Widower, 48, Seeks Husband" (Rattling Good Yarns Press, 2023), almost becoming a character in itself. LGBTQ+ history also plays a large role as the book spans 40 years, incorporating many significant community events. Raymond was kind enough to make time during his book tour to answer a few questions.

**Gregg Shapiro: Not long before we spoke, you attended the Rainbow Book Fair in NYC. How was the experience for you?**

**Raymond Luczak:** I enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would. The last



time I'd done the Rainbow Book Fair, some years back, it was held uptown at the John Jay College, which I didn't like mainly because there was security and there was no straightforward way of entering the fair itself. This time around the fair was held at the LGBTQ+ Community Center. The vibe was much more welcoming and cozier due to its smaller footprint.

**GS: What is your opinion of LGBTQ+ lit fests and book fairs? What are your likes and dislikes?**

**RL:** Aside from the Rainbow Book Fair, the only other LGBTQ+ book fair I've done was Outwrite in Washington, DC in 2019. Even though the turnout was smaller than the ones I've seen at RBF, I enjoyed that one very much. It felt very low-key, and many of the vendors had spare moments to "visit" with each other. However, my biggest gripe with LGBTQ+ book fairs/festivals is that accessibility doesn't seem to be a priority. I did email the coordinator of a certain queer book festival about

my information accessibility needs as a Deaf writer should I attend. His lackluster response made it very clear that he did not want to think about providing ASL interpreters; he didn't even ask how we might be able to work together to make that happen. As a result, I've never gone. Ableism is still alive and well within the LGBTQ+ literary community.

**GS: You have established yourself over the years as a poet, fiction writer, editor, and publisher. Your new book "Widower, 48, Seeks Husband" is a novel. Do you have a preference for poetry or prose?**

**RL:** I like both genres for different reasons. Poetry is about distilling language itself. Prose is about expanding language itself. Both genres are capable of conveying intense moments of experience whether it be lyrical or narrative. I am fortunate in that I have more tools to work with whenever I write something.

**GS: What excites you most, and least, about being a publisher?**

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**RL:** I enjoy working with writers to develop and hone their work toward publication. I also love discovering new voices I hadn't heard of before; that's how I came across Dan Callahan's *That Was Something*. I'm still very proud of being the first to publish Kris Ringman's books; they've been nominated twice for the Lambda Literary Award. I wish I could publish more books, but I've had to be extremely selective about what I publish.

**GS:** Geographic place is prominent in "*Widower, 48, Seeks Husband*," with Minneapolis street intersections, neighborhoods, and businesses named throughout. Would it be fair to say the novel is a love letter to Minneapolis?

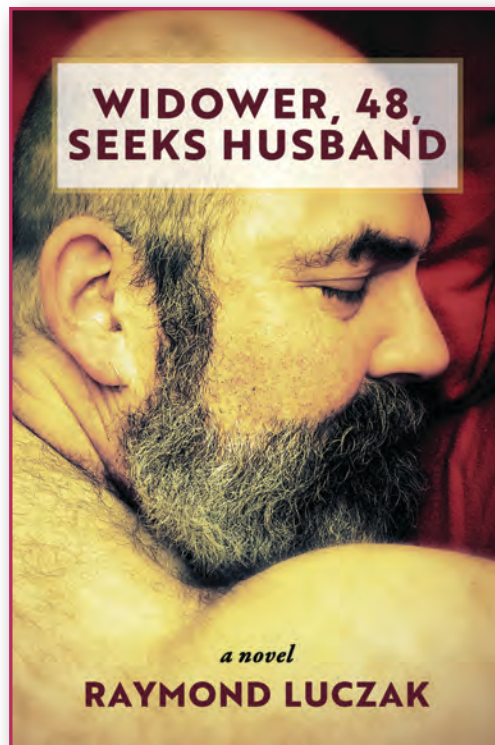
**RL:** I'm not sure if I'd use the phrase "love letter," but when I was writing the novel, I simply walked around my own neighborhood and used actual locations for scenes in my book. I was interested in creating a sense of place as well as giving it some context. It was fun walking my dog Rocky around the neighborhood (he really loved to help out with my field research) and imagining what it must've been like once upon a time when it was quite a gay neighborhood.

**GS:** You populated "*Widower, 48, Seeks Husband*" with real people and events from gay history, including Anita Bryant pie-tosser Thom Higgins, early married gay couple James Michael McConnell and Richard John Baker, the Stonewall Riot, the AIDS crisis, in addition to Minnesota gay history. As a longtime Minneapolis resident, was it your intention to call attention to an area that may have been overlooked in the story of the LGBTQ+ community?

**RL:** Social history has always interested me. How did people back then used to live, and how did they look at the world at the time? Part of the novel's impetus came from the fact that when we talk about the national LGBTQ+ history of political

changes, the flyover country, as in the land between the coasts, often gets overlooked, as if nothing much happens there when reality has made it clear that it's anything but. I did a lot of historical research and conducted a number of interviews with old-timers about what Minneapolis was like in the late 1970s when the novel begins.

**GS:** You cover a variety of subjects that will be familiar to LGBTQ+ readers, such as drag, aging, online hookups, bears, AIDS, and



body image, to name a few. Did you know that you'd be dealing with these subjects when you first began writing the book or did each topic reveal itself as you wrote?

**RL:** I write my novels without any outline. It usually begins with me wondering about a new character. What's their story? What do they want? And it isn't usually too long before they make their own desires apparent. All those topics happened quite organically. I like discovering new things as I write along. It's always terrifying, wondering whether my novel in progress will be any good.

**GS:** Speaking of bears, the hirsute

character Howie comes to terms with his bear-ness in the book. Was it a conscious decision to write for a bear audience?

**RL:** No, not at all! I was thinking more about the older gay community who don't always get the attention and respect they deserve. Ageism is unfortunately rampant within the LGBTQ+ community, particularly when it comes to finding a new partner. I was also fascinated by the idea of featuring a so-called nobody trying to find a husband. I think that's a much more emotionally interesting challenge to explore. Not only that; Howie would not be considered a typical beauty. I am very interested in dissecting social mores surrounding physical perfection. In that sense, the book was informed by my exposure to disability literature.

**GS:** Before he passes away in 2008, Timm tries to arrange a new man for Howie because Timm is worried about Howie being alone after all the years they spent together. Is this based on something that actually happened, or is it an invention for the sake of the novel?

**RL:** Oh, that was a total fabrication on my part! Timm did mean well, but you could say that I wanted to have a cringe-worthy moment here and there.

**GS:** If there was a movie version of "*Widower, 48, Seeks Husband*," who would you like to see playing Howie, Timm, Nick, Betsy, and Billy?

**RL:** When I first wrote the novel back in 2009, I thought how wonderful James Gandolfini would be as Howie. He always had that dark, almost forbidding, quality. But now? I'd go with Stephen Wallem even though he's not overly hirsute. A younger Leslie Jordan would've nailed Timm; we'd need a shortish actor with a bit of swish and a lot of sass. Depending on how long it'd take to secure financing for such a film adaptation, Russell Tovey could be old enough to play Nick by the time the shooting starts. I'd love to see Suzy Eddie Izzard play Betsy; she'd be so perfect in that part. Timothée Chalamet would be great as Billy. And yes, the film rights are still available.



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**THURSDAY JUNE 22 / OPEN 3PM**  
**PRIDE BOWL KICKOFF PARTY 6-9PM**  
**LET'S GO! THURSDAY DANCE PARTY 9PM-2AM**

**FRIDAY JUNE 23 / OPEN 3PM**  
**TGIF SHOW TUNES 3-7PM**  
**RU'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS**  
**VIEWING PARTY 7-9PM**  
**MEN'S ROOM GLOW PARTY 9PM-2AM**

**SATURDAY JUNE 24 / OPEN 1PM**  
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**BAR CRAWL 1-7PM**  
**SATURDAY SHOW TUNES 3-8PM**  
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# GRAB JAKE



Photo By Damon Baker

## Dancing Through the Heartbreak Jake Shears channeled joy on his second solo album, even if he wasn't always feeling it

By Chris Azzopardi

Listening to his new album, you wouldn't know Jake Shears went through a pandemic breakup. After all, he doesn't process his personal hardships through his music, Shears admitted to me during our recent interview.

And so "Last Man Dancing," his second solo release after his 2018 self-titled album, is a "party album through and through," he says. This, then, is a Shears LP down to its deeply disco-heavy core, rooted in the glittery glam-pop sounds of the Scissor Sisters (which, by the way, haven't totally disbanded, though they are on a very long indefinite hiatus — Shears spoke on that in our interview, too).

The Scissor Sisters made Shears, the band's frontman, a gay icon almost 20 years ago when the quartet's self-titled 2004 debut embraced the kind of unabashed queerness we've now come to expect from LGBTQ+ artists.

Shears, whose look has gone from twink to daddy (is there a 44-

year-old gay man who can't relate?), tells me he watches up-and-coming queer artists with great admiration. But without Shears, it's hard to imagine what their careers might look like — could they be as freely expressive if he wasn't leading the way in feather-adorned leather pants or that bare-chested suspenders look he favored? Even for a generation of LGBTQ+ people who aren't musicians (including yours truly), Shears made celebrating ourselves easier by always outwardly celebrating himself.

The publicity notes for the new album call it a "reminder to keep moving through whatever life throws at you." So while he may not have created a breakup album or one that speaks directly to this current climate of Republican-charged anti-queer expression, Shears' message of defiance through joy, dance and self-celebration profoundly resonates. It's an exultant Pride proclamation to get us through the night.

**Chris Azzopardi:** When we last spoke in 2018, I felt like you were just getting settled into New Orleans. You had just maybe moved, is that right?

**Jake Shears:** Yeah, I'd been there for a little while and I had my apartment. I bought my house after. I have a house there now; you're like, what are you doing in London now?

**CA:** That was my follow-up question, actually.

**J.S.:** New Orleans is always my wind-down spot, you know what I mean? It was always a place for me to go be creative and feel free. And I love it so much. I can't be there year 'round. I started getting a little twitchy. So I wanted to come to London because I knew I could just get all my work done here; I could get loads of stuff done. It's been super busy this last year, so it's been good. It's just kept me on my toes.

**CA:** With "Last Man Dancing," I always appreciate when you have

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a new album out because so much of my experience is rooted in your music.

**JS:** Thank you. I get excited about it too.

**CA:** And this is cool because it's an all out party. I was like, where are the Jake ballads? And it kept playing and I'm like, OK, I guess I'm just supposed to dance the whole time.

**JS:** Yeah, they don't come. It was an idea that I had when I had half of the songs written for this and the album was taking shape, and then I was like, "What if it just doesn't stop?" And there's a halfway point to the record, so I put it in two parts — but what if it just keeps going and literally the second half doesn't stop; there's no stops between the tracks. It's definitely a party record with a lot of different influences going on.

**CA:** I imagine you created it during the thick of Covid.

**J.S.:** Some of it. There's a few songs before, some during and some after. So not wholly. "I Used To Be In Love" and "Devil Came Down the Dance Floor" [featuring Amber Martin] were made totally remotely. Me and [producer Michael] Cheever made them a world apart and made a really cool ballet of studio monitors, iPads, iPhones, headphones, earbuds, all on top of each other to mute. If you've got your monitors going and you've got your mics going, and it's echoing and reverbing... it was just a load of muting; we'd have to get each other's attention on the screen and wave "turn things off." Yeah, it was complicated.

**CA:** I read that a lot of the vibe of the album was influenced by your parties, specifically ones you've had in New Orleans, which made me feel like I had missed out on a lot of good Jake Shears parties.

**J.S.:** Oh god, they're still going to go on and on. My house there is very special and it's very central. It's a couple blocks out of the [French] Quarter. It's really nice. It's not fancy, but it's super cozy and vibe-y and there's loads of books and there's record players everywhere and great art and, yeah, there's a place to dance.



Photo By Damon Baker

**CA:** Collaboration has been a significant aspect of your career. What do you value most about collaborative experiences and how do they influence your creative process?

**J.S.:** I don't make anything by myself. I get seeds of ideas. I'll do some writing. I'll get concepts, but the joy of making music is the joy of hanging out with somebody else that you like and doing something with them. Cheever, Boys Noize, Vaughn Oliver and Ryland Blackinton — we all are just great friends. We just love working together. So there's fun happening while we're making music and geeking out on stuff. It's a great hang and it's super fun. You build something together and there's payoffs. Cheever and I wrote "Diamonds Don't Burn." I was literally doing vocals in his 3-year-old's nursery when she was at school.

**CA:** What was going on in your life when you wrote these songs?

**J.S.:** It's kind of all over the place. There was nothing too personal, although my boyfriend and I broke up in the summer of 2020. I was just

absolutely devastated, and it took me two years to get over it. I've never been so heartbroken, but I had no desire to put that into the music. I wanted to put the good times into it and the joy and the fun that I was having, especially when stuff started opening back up, when New Orleans sort of came alive again and we could all get together. That was what I wanted to infuse into it, the fun that I was having as well. But yeah, that was a super rough moment. A breakup in the middle of lockdown is just not fun.

**CA:** So many artists write best when they're heartbroken, and so the fact that you didn't take advantage of that musically and went in the opposite direction is really interesting — maybe making a dance album was, for you, the catharsis?

**J.S.:** It is, and also, I'm just the opposite. If I'm having a bad day and if I'm not feeling good and if I'm feeling depressed, I don't want to write, I don't make myself write, I don't feel like working on creative stuff. I really only like to work creatively if I'm feeling good, if I'm

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Photo By Damon Baker

feeling healthy, if my brain feels good. I'm not one of those people that makes lemons into lemonade, necessarily.

**CA: Even now, you're still addressing themes of self-acceptance, love and empowerment. How do you think your work from Scissor Sisters and beyond has contributed to the broader conversation surrounding LGBTQ+ rights and representation?**

**J.S:** It was a funny, old world in 2003, and it is in 2023. I do think that we are in a better spot in so many ways. It's such a big conversation. I feel like it was such a different world then; we didn't have social media and we weren't communicating the same way that we are now. I would never want to go through what I did then, now. Just having that spotlight, everybody can so easily just get amplified unwillingly in one moment, and I liked that world better.

I hope that I opened up some doors and pathways as I feel like people did for me who came before me, and it's nice to see queerness

being celebrated in mainstream culture and risks still being taken. I also find some of it to be... I'm really going to have a really hard time getting to my point. I think there's been a lot of inauthentic allyship. Look at the Dodgers right now.

**CA: Do you see that same kind of inauthentic allyship in music?**

**J.S:** Not necessarily. No. I see a wide breadth of artists being listened to and adored and these artists taking risks. Just seeing Anohni put out a record or announce an album was really exciting. But then there's the new kids I've become friends with, like Jake Wesley Rogers, who I love so much. It's just been really amazing watching him blossom. It's also really interesting because he has a completely different experience in what he is doing. I mean, he's on TikTok all day long. It's so strange. To me, I just think it's weird. I think it's unnatural, and I don't ever really want to do that. But if the kids want to do it, then have at it.

So listen, I can feel like an

absolute grumpy old man, but I also don't feel like an old man yet. So I don't know. I'm going to be 45 this year, which is just crazy. I don't know how I'm going to feel at 45. I'm so proud of everything I've done, and so I feel so lucky and fortunate with my career and I've been able to do all this stuff and then at the same time I'm like, "Am I going to have a family? Who's going to look after me when I start losing my marbles?"

**CA: Do you have any nieces or nephews who dote on you?**

**J.S:** Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos are two of my best friends. I pull their kids aside all the time and I tell Lola, I'm just like, "You are going fucking to take care of me. I know you are going to take care of me."

**CA: I plan on living on a "Golden Girls"-style compound with all of my queer friends, and we will just all take care of each other. We're going to help each other keep our marbles.**

**J.S:** It's what's happened in New Orleans. All my best friends have moved down there. When I'm down

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Photo By Damon Baker

there now, it's just loads of family around. Although the other day I held a baby and burst into tears, so I'm just like, "What?"

**CA: So maybe you were meant to be a real daddy.**

**J.S:** I don't know, though. I just feel like it's a new phase of life. I definitely want to just keep working. Now, another musician friend of mine who's putting out a record next month, we had about an hour on FaceTime last week, and he's going to be 50, and he was just like, "We can't do this forever." It's like, "We got to do it now," and I agree.

**CA: Next year is the 20th anniversary of Scissor Sisters'**

**debut album. I know you get this question all the time about a reunion, and based on what I've read, you're very open to it. So if you're very open to it, why hasn't it happened yet?**

**J.S:** I don't know. I think I want everybody to be down and ready and stoked if that was ever to happen. I definitely don't want to be twisting anybody's arm. Not that that's happening, but yeah, it would be nice. I think it would be really fun, and I think it would be great. So yeah, you never know. Stranger things have happened.

**CA: I think people want you to be the ringleader here and get the**

**troop together, but I guess everyone has to be in on that too.**

**J.S:** Everyone's got their own lives and stuff, you know what I mean? All I can do is just keep moving forward and doing what I love to do, and I'm so happy about just getting to put this album out. I feel like this record's got some Scissor spirit to it in a lot of ways. It's all one. I look at it as one body of work.

*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*



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#### What is DOVATO?

DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1  
medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection  
in adults: who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to  
replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider  
determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus  
that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is  
not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

**Please see additional Important Facts About DOVATO on the  
following page.**

Ask your doctor about staying undetectable with fewer medicines in 1 pill.

## Important Facts About DOVATO (cont'd)

### Who should not take DOVATO?

#### Do not take DOVATO if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.
- take dofetilide. Taking DOVATO and dofetilide can cause side effects that may be serious or life-threatening.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
  - Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
  - If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider may perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
  - If you can become pregnant, you and your healthcare provider should talk about the use of effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
  - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.**
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - DOVATO passes to your baby in your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

### What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

#### DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?”

### What are possible side effects of DOVATO? (cont'd)

- **Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or “tea-colored” urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Too much lactic acid is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:** feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems,** which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems.”**
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).**
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
- **The most common side effects of DOVATO include:** headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

### Where can I find more information?

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to [DOVATO.com](http://DOVATO.com) or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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# GRAB DJ MOHAMMAD



## Confessions with DJ Mohammad

By Chez Ordoñez

Having recently sat down with Atlanta-based DJ Mohammad – returning to Chicago for his debut performance on Friday, June 23 for this year's Pride in the Park – I was immediately taken by his passion for music and unavoidable charisma. Throughout our conversation, he'd inquire about something from me while matching my energy. This most certainly added to his mysterious allure.

Growing up as the youngest of four children in the '90s, Mohammad was introduced to a variety of music genres, mainly R&B, thanks to his three older sisters. This played a significant role in shaping his style of music and tastes, with a special love for incorporating strong female vocals that can be easily noticed throughout his tracks. From House music, Techno, and even his love affair with using darker beats, he's unapologetically into Trance.

To get Mohammed warmed up and in the mood for our interview, the first thing he heard was me blasting "Padam Padam." Shout-out to my main girl Kylie, if you're

reading this, loves ya babe.

As we affirmed our mutual love for the song and the Australian powerhouse, I harnessed that moment to dive in for the interview... and it got steamy straightaway.

**Chez: So, tell me about DJ Mohammad. Who is he? What are you into...musically? Intrigue me.**

**DJ Mohammad:** I'm Mohammad Fahidi, and my DJ name is just my first name. I felt it was unique enough, so why do I change it, right? I've been DJing for about eight years now, since 2015, Originally from San Francisco – and that's where it all started; it's where I learned how to DJ and got my music inspirations. I live in Atlanta now, but San Francisco will always be home. I started just DJing at a bar and it's grown into something amazing... and now I'm getting to do Pride in the Park in Chicago, which is extremely exciting for me.

**Chez: Express to me your style of music; what are you known for?**

**DJ Mohammad:** I think opening your mind to different styles and sounds

is a good thing, and my music will bring you there. I'm a big fan of using dark elements throughout my music along with some strong, aggressive rhythm and powerful vocals. I enjoy a darker tone to the music something sexy.

**Chez: [Gay gasp]**

**DJ Mohammad:** But don't worry... since Pride in the Park is mostly a fun, daytime Pride celebration my set will be a great high-energy, good vibes disco party with some other great sounds people can sing along to and embrace their Pride. In many ways, I can be very versatile.

**Chez: I love this interview already. Also, tell me about what types of events you're typically booked for.**

**DJ Mohammad:** I get booked for all different types of events. I'll do after-hour events, pool parties, and prime-time events like Pride in the Park. Versatility is key and I truly love that. It's all about the music and good vibes.

**Chez:**As we both laughed and about the music industry and how he manages to keep sane with all of the clubs, parties, and traveling so much... the infamous Gaga quote was in my head: "No sleep, bus, club, another club, another club, plane, next place, no sleep, no fear nobody believed in me."

It's very clear you're passionate about your art. **Creatively speaking, what gets you off? What are you into?**

**DJ Mohammad:** What gets me going and, you know, it's turned into something pretty incredible, is knowing that started DJing at a bar and now I'm doing gigs like Pride in the Park. I love underground parties and festivals, and just something in me loves the underground kind of style parties where the DJ actually isn't really the focal point. It's more of the music and just the vibe and all that. Besides music, I'm very into traveling to different cities and discovering new things and places and also enjoy video games a lot.

**Chez: We love that you're coming to Pride in the Park! How familiar were you with it?**

**DJ Mohammad:** I've actually seen so many videos and posts about it and of course the amazing lineups. And through Circuit Mom, I'm happy to be returning to Chicago again and debuting at Pride in the Park. I'm very excited as well because I've never gotten to experience Pride in Chicago before because it's at the same time as San Francisco Pride in New York Pride.

**Chez: For you, what role does music play in queer culture?**

**DJ Mohammad:** That's a good question. Music is one of the most important things we probably have, it's who we are. I also believe that it depends on the person and their tastes, and what they need from the music at that moment, music is life and saves them too. In our community, some really love the dance vocal remixes and something to sing along to, and I think that's important because it shines a light on us. It shows how we can be free and how we accept who we are.

**Chez: Have you ever seen or felt that your music gives them a sense of hope or a sense of being a safer space for them by**

**just hearing your music?**

**Follow me on this. Of course, you'll get people that like circuit music and others that definitely don't, but I'm not meaning musical tastes, I'm referring to that very moment and the people who're there experiencing your sounds and living in the moment – or going through it – that you've seen the effect it has on them in some way.**

**DJ**

**Mohammad:** Hmm, I'm not sure how to answer that. I suppose I do have a platform and the opportunity to help people if they come talk to me. I'm always approachable and love talking to people.

**Chez: There is no right or wrong answer, but think of it like this; I regularly use comedy to mask my own pain but I also recognize its power in helping someone simply to laugh once that day. For me, it's a simple, effective way to help people, regardless if I directly or indirectly feel something isn't right. So many people in our community have dark thoughts and feel alone or afraid, so I use comedy as a way to pay it forward. Listening to good music and DJs, I know people can in a way associate the DJ talking and helping them without saying a word. If the DJ is vibing with the crowd and recognizing their music's impact, it can be very healing. It could make that person feel happy and safe.**

**DJ Mohammad:** Yeah, wow, actually, that's a great way to put it. Thank you. I haven't heard it put that way before and I like it. I'm openly gay and I like to show my Pride and



go to Pride events and can go as my real self.

Hearing you say it like that makes me think how many people come out to events scared, but don't say that of course. I hope that the people who aren't out yet – scared to be out or dealing with other things in life – may come to listen to the music and take from it whatever they need and feel free at some point. That's a

*Catch DJ Mohammad at Pride in the Park on Friday, June 23. and follow him on Instagram @djmohammadsf*

*For those who're curious, Chicago's Pride in the Park is an immersive Pride experience – an inclusive queer celebration that brings together iconic musical performances, legendary drag queens, and unrivaled local partnerships with a mission of love, music, and community. The lineup includes DJ Mohammad along with Grammy winners and nominees such as Zedd, Saweetie; Years & Years, Zara Larsson, Chicago's very own DJ Lady D, Miss Toto, and more. Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24, from 3 to 10 p.m., located at Grant Park.*

# GRAB MISS TOTO

## The Quadruple Threat Known As Miss Toto

By Chez Ordoñez

Just returning from a music festival in Miami, where she flew down and slayed the house down, the always stellar and ever-sickening Miss Toto will be returning to Pride in the Park this year, but making a debut performance DJing on Friday, June 23. And yes, while still in drag! Toto is a veteran when it comes to performances, festivals, and putting on a great show, and equally as talented behind the scenes and backstage as well – last year working for Pride in the Park as head of artist relations for all of the drag talent.

**Chez: Excited to be returning to the stage at Pride in the Park?**

**Miss Toto:** Absolutely. So, my first year at the festival I was just doing drag, which I loved, and that was a year that we had that crazy storm and I was the only queen to do two numbers, which I also love. I'm definitely excited to return but never went away; last year I switched it up and helped coordinate all of the drag queens and performances which I also love because I enjoy the managerial standpoint because I know what needs to happen between production and drag queens, and to make sure they have everything that they need to make their show the best possible.

**Chez: I don't think I've ever asked you but I'm really interested to know like what got you into music and DJing? What got you into drag? I've always been fascinated with your journey because spans from being a bodybuilder, drag queen, activist, and DJ.**

**Miss Toto:** I've been involved with music pretty much for my whole life, and then I put it by the wayside when I got into college and grad school because I was more focused

on science. I just put all that music stuff on the back burner. And now that drag is my full time, I'm realizing a lot of creative things that my inner child and inner high schooler were never able to fulfill, one of them being music.

I actually have a lot of musical knowledge; I can read music and play a few instruments. Since I love performing but I also know that I'm in a position where people are listening to what I'm doing, seeing what I'm doing, and supportive... I take it as a good sign. Chicago is the birthplace of House Music. I'm in all these spaces with some of the best DJs all the time, so why not learn from them? And then also put my own Miss Toto spin on what I feel the music should be going in that direction. Also, I wasn't hearing the music that I wanted to necessarily here in the club all the time. So I'm like..well let me do that...let me play for the girls and the gays who like that type of music because I know we're out there.

**Chez: Absolutely. You're giving people an awakening... a sensory overload of amazing experiences of drag and music combined.**

**What can people expect from your type of music? Is anything different while you're in drag?**

**Miss Toto:** You always know you're gonna dance! I know I'm here to make people dance, but then also I



like to play a mix of like pop music because as a gay person, I love pop music and I feel like there's a lot of music that people kind of forget about.

I love a throwback moment but really enjoy current pop too. But they're just some songs that really get you up and going, so I know what will work and focus on always delivering great sounds. It's great when people ask me after my sets, "What song was this or that" or if I see people examining what song it is in the audience but enjoying it.

**Chez: Do you have any musical influences that you pull from? Are there any artists you're just obsessed with right now?**

**Miss Toto:** Okay, so my current fave songs I'm playing on in a set, and definitely something by Slater.

**Chez: A little bird told me that you're dropping your own music?!**

**Miss Toto:** So yeah, I wrote "Fangs" around Halloween last year. I do a Halloween series where I do different iconic looks and this year was all black vampires, which inspired me to write Fangs.

**Chez: Are you excited to see any of the musical acts or drag performers?**

**Miss Toto:** As far as the drag goes, all of those because the entertainers are my friends. I love seeing my friends have a platform like this because just to me, I think it really is the biggest stage in Chicago for drag. I'm trying to think of other stages, but that's really it. Excited to see Zedd, who I saw at Bonnaroo. I know a bunch of other gays lost their minds when they saw Zara Larsson.

**Chez: Do you think the secret ingredient is to what you do? Just feeling like the crowd and the vibe, overall.**

**Miss Toto:** I think the overall ingredient is trusting yourself. Don't think too much. There's a lot of just being an artist in general, not specifically, even a queer artist is just a lot of self-doubt. When you're putting your art out there, use to always ask myself if people are going to like what I'm doing. But then you have to remember, like, not everything is for everybody. So not everyone's going to love every damn DJ or drag performer.

As long as there are a few people in the crowd that will you're at least going to make them have a good time and have a memorable experience.

**Chez: Well, tell me any closing remarks, What do you want to say to the girlie pops? What do you want to say to people that have been coming for the first time.**

**Miss Toto:** I will say If you already have your ticket, I cannot wait to see you there. But if you do not have your ticket, you need to get on it now because it's not anything that you want to miss. You're not going to regret it. I promise you. It's going to be major.

**Chez: I love it. Thank you, Miss Toto... The Grand Governess, The**



**Maven, The Supreme Coven C\*nt.**  
**Miss Toto:** [Laughs] Thank you! Talk soon, baby!

*For those who're curious, Chicago's Pride in the Park is an immersive Pride experience – an inclusive queer celebration that brings together iconic musical performances, legendary drag queens, and unrivaled local partnerships with a mission of love, music, and community. The lineup includes Miss Toto along with Grammy winners and nominees such*

*as Zedd, Saweetie; Years & Years, Zara Larsson, Chicago's very own DJ Lady D, DJ Mohammad, and more.*

*Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24, from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m., located at Grant Park. Tickets are available at [PrideParkChi.com](http://PrideParkChi.com).*

*Find Miss ToTo on Instagram: Instagram: **@theMissToto***

# POSITIVE THOUGHTS

HIV

## A Reminder of Why We Must Protect Trans People

Juan Michael Porter II

We should fight for the rights of transgender people because it is the right thing to do and because trans rights, like Black rights, queer rights and HIV rights are human rights — point blank, period.

I recently spelled that out to a former friend and fellow same-gender-loving man who asked why I kept getting “distracted” by supporting transgender folks. This person felt that I should stay in my lane and focus on HIV instead. He insisted — erroneously — that our trans siblings “don’t have it as bad as we did back in the day,” and were therefore less deserving of support.

It was almost as if he had transformed into a conservative commentator and forgotten about the existence of intersectionality — the overlay of existing discriminations that oppress various groups — and that we are all in this together.

### ***Bigotry by any other name is still bigotry***

After reminding him that he was mirroring the same coded language that xenophobic bigots have long used to deny aid to immigrants, I told him that I’d been hit with similar rhetoric from people who should’ve been standing in community with me: queer folks who have told me that people living with HIV “mess it up for gay people,” heterosexual artists who have claimed that my homosexuality was a perversion or that the only reason I was successful was because I am Black, and supposedly liberal — but actually racist — white gay men who’ve insisted that Black people “don’t have it as bad as [gay people] do and need to sit down.”

Not that the fight for collective liberation needs to be a case of the oppression Olympics, but it is obtuse to ignore the reality that if neo-Nazis show up, they are going to target Black folks first. Reductive comparisons aside, I speak of racism

because the foundation for oppressing others in this country is rooted in anti-Blackness — equating the richness of one’s skin with “dark evil,” all while connecting the notion of “pale superiority” with purity — and that this same ideology has been seized by homophobes to associate queerness and especially transgender existence with negativity. Hence the rush by right-wing extremists, such as the so-called Proud Boys, to target drag performers, who they equate with trans people.

What it all comes down to, I told my no-longer friend, is that there will always be a reason to hate people who are different — especially when it helps one to divide and conquer. Or as the activist and artist Queen Jean recently put it, “How are we fighting for Black liberation while denying it for our queer and trans siblings? The assignment was to dismantle the master’s house — not move into the guest house.”

But moving into “master’s guest house” — by becoming white supremacist adjacent and allowing proxy wars to turn us against each other — seems to be the name of the game for some people. And what’s it all about? Ultimately, the collective eradication of anyone who exists outside of white Christian patriarchy’s ideal.

### **Arguing for freedom of thought while promoting genocide**

Following our fractious discussion, I told my former friend that our relationship was over, at which point, he suggested that I was the actual bigot because I was judging him for holding a different opinion. I responded, “Harriet Tubman would have left you,” and walked away. Snappy retort and calm exterior aside, I felt sadly about this breakup. I got over it by reminding myself that while I respect one’s right to disagree with



me, I refuse to share my time with anyone who argues for the invalidation of another person’s right to exist — or who peddles anti-liberation talking points.

The most recent rush of anti-liberation (and decidedly anti-queer) hate seems to have broken past years of anti-trans bathroom and sports legislation and found a new standard bearer in the governor of Florida’s so-called “Don’t Say Gay” law — which forces educators to out children who might be queer to their parents. The genesis for that law can be tracked to the Helms Amendment, which was introduced in 1987 by then-Republican Sen. Jesse Helms. That “no promo homo” law prohibited any funds provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from supporting HIV prevention materials and advocacy that might “promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activities.” This included mentioning anal sex.

Though Helms could be called the modern day progenitor of recent anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, its original blueprint was laid by a group of people who fled religious persecution in England, only to oppress others in this country — all while enshrining the rights of white Christian male landowners to eliminate Indigenous people, enslave and medically experiment on kidnapped Africans, and oppress their descendants. Presently, there is a move to erase this history because it might make white





kids feel badly — all while ignoring how global majority children might feel or the fact that such history could inspire white youth to feel positively by aligning themselves with collective freedom.

**Dragging us back in time**

These efforts to legislate global majority and queer people out of existence are part of a multi-pronged attack to deny historically marginalized people access to sexual health or basic care, are the literal manifestation of "Silence=Death," and have disastrous implications for all people — because what affects one will eventually affect all.

Though there has been some racial and sexual progress over the last two decades, with this year's introduction of over 400 anti-LGBTQ bills, it seems that conservative activists have returned to saying the quiet part out loud. To wit, the conservative commentator who — during the Conservative Political Action Conference, held earlier this month — stated, "transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely."

This brings us back to Helms who, during his arguments against

funding HIV prevention, stated, "Some senators believe the AIDS epidemic is so bad that we should disseminate whatever materials anyone wants to produce regardless of content. But I still flinch when I hear the word condom on television... We've got to call a spade a spade and a perverted human being a perverted human being, not in anger but in realism... I just want the American taxpayer's dollars to be spent in a moral way."

By 1993, Helms' morals had contributed to HIV becoming the leading cause of death among people aged 25-44 years in the U.S. Though he was considered extreme in his day, he still held the ear of Pres. Ronald Reagan and was able to push forward his amendment with a vote of 94-2. As Lori Behrman — then-spokesperson of Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) — foresaw, "This kind of amendment only sets a precedent that will come to haunt everyone at a later date."

That date is now. And if we aren't all in this together — if we don't support transgender people who currently bear the brunt of these attacks, even as they fight for our collective right to thrive — we will be taken down piece by piece until there is no one is left.

*Juan Michael Porter II is a senior editor at TheBody and TheBodyPro. He has been living with HIV since 2015. This column is a project of TheBody, Plus, Positively Aware, POZ and Q Syndicate, the LGBTQ+ wire service. Visit their websites — <http://thebody.com>, <http://hivplusmag.com>, <http://positivelyaware.com> and <http://poz.com> — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.*

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# GRAB JOHN

## The host with the most: An interview with John Waters

By Gregg Shapiro

You know that old Scott McKenzie song? The one that goes, “If you’re going to San Francisco...?” If you head east from San Francisco, across the Bay Bridge, then you’ll arrive in Oakland where, on July 1 & 2, “filth elder” John Waters will be emceeing the 2023 edition of the hip, queer, punk music festival Mosswood Meltdown. This year’s line-up is one deserving of Waters’ inimitable hosting and includes groundbreaking acts such as Le Tigre, Gravy Train!!!!, ESG, Bratmobile, JJ Fad, and Quintron & Ms. Pussycat, among others. John Waters was gracious enough to make time to answer a few questions in advance of Mosswood Meltdown.

**Gregg Shapiro: In early July, you will once again be hosting the Mosswood Meltdown music festival in Oakland, California. How did you become involved with the festival?**

**John Waters:** I was asked to do it through my two music promoters who also promote the “John Waters Christmas” (show) and a lot of my different shows. Punks have always been my people. I always felt at home in the punk world. So, I said yes. Mark and Amy, who run the thing, liked it. It worked the first time and then it’s just become part of a tradition. I do it every year. I introduce all the acts. I’m writing the intros right now. I get a great education! I’m probably the oldest punk there. They treat me with great respect, even the youngest ones. It’s just a perfect place for a filth elder to end up. I love it because they’re all angry and funny and in a good mood. They love each other and they just hate everybody else in the world. It’s kind of funny because they’re good people. It’s a crazy couple of days, but it’s a peaceful one, even with all the slam dancing

and all the music is about craziness. There’s a certain irony. They are good people; the punks.

**GS: The 2023 line-up is awesome and features Le Tigre, ESG, Gravy Train!!!!, and Bratmobile, to name a few.**

**JW:** It’s almost all women. There are a few men that we’re allowing in our liberalism to play [laughs].

**GS: Are there bands that you are particularly looking forward to hearing?**

**JW:** Well, I’d love to see the ones like Gravy Train!!!! because they haven’t performed in a long time. I get a great education in punk rock every year. My youth spies come through. But punk’s there, anywhere from 12 years old to 80. That’s what’s so amazing. Punk really has never died and it never feels dated.

**GS: Have you ever been invited onstage to perform with any bands, and if so, which ones?**

**JW:** [Laughs] I would not be out there pogoing. I strictly come on and they like to hear me do their introductions. Iggy (Pop) and I have never stage-dived together. Even though he was really great; we’re the same age. He’s more



adventuresome than I am, especially about being nude.

**GS: If you were going to form a band in 2023, with you as the front-person, what musicians would you want to enlist to perform with you?**

**JW:** Oh, God! Well, first of all, if I could sing, I would have exploited that a long time ago. I guess I would have a G.G. Allin cover band.

**GS: He was sort of Iggy-ish; the stuff that he used to do on stage.**

**JW:** G.G. Allin used to throw turds (at the audience). He would be the opposite gay thing because he was known for having a tiny penis. It would be for reverse size-queens.

**GS: That would be a great name for a band, too. The Reverse Size-Queens.**

**JW:** It would be! John Waters and the Reverse Size-Queens.

# BERLIN PARK LINEUP 2023

## PRIDE WEEKEND

WED. JUNE 21.....FALLOUT BOY AFTER PARTY - HOST PB - DJ PEPPER JELLY

THURS. JUNE 22.....KINFOLK - HOSTS ARI GATO / HELVETIKAH BLAK - DJS BONITA APPLEBLUNT / IAMBRANDON

FRI. JUNE 23.....PUSHY PRINCESS PARTY - HOST LUCY STOOLE - DJS MX TOTO / BLESSTONIO

SAT. JUNE 24.....STRAPPED 5PM-10PM - HOSTS IRREGULAR GIRL / SICHELE - DJS STASNEY / BONITA APPLEBLUNT  
.....SNDS 10PM-1AM - HOST TENDERONI - DJ GREG HAUS.....1AM-5AM LATE NIGHT - DJ RIKA B

SUN. JUNE 25.....BERGHAIN 3PM-10PM  
.....DJS MX TOTO / LA SPACER / CQCHIFRUIT / DON CRESCENDO / MISS TWINK USA

**GS:** In preparing for this interview, I was thinking about the role of music in your movies, beginning with the “Polyester” theme song sung by Tab Hunter and Debbie Harry, and then the vintage tunes on the 1988 “Hairspray” soundtrack. Can you please say something about the role of music in your life?

**JW:** In “Desperate Living,” I had a classical score. In “Cecil B. Demented,” we had noise punk bands playing. Stiv Bators (of the bands Dead Boys and Lords of the New Church), was in “Polyester.” Debbie Harry was also in “Hairspray,” and she started in the punk movement. I’ve always had punk attitude. “Pink Flamingos” was a punk rock movie before there was such a thing as punk rock.

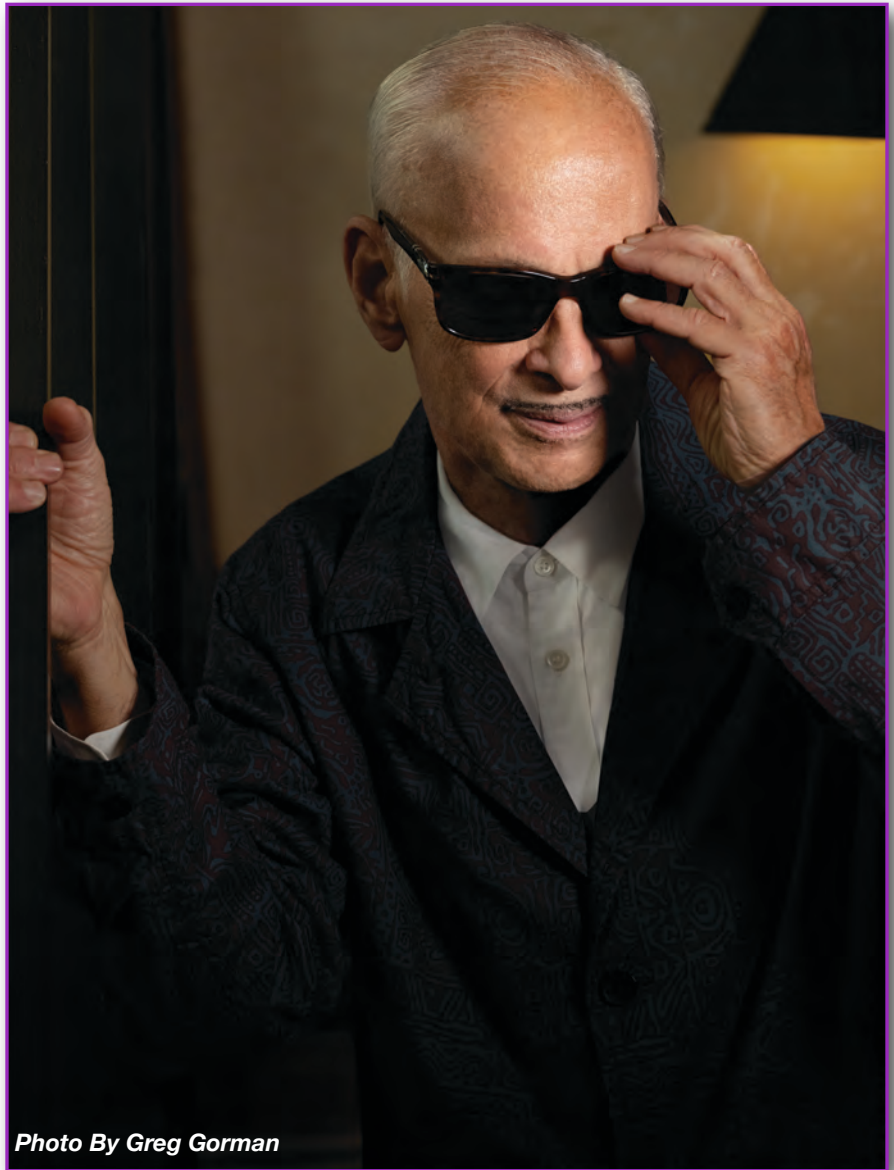
**GS:** The compilations “A John Waters Christmas” (2004) and “A Date With John Waters” (2007) featured a diverse selection of artists including Tiny Tim, The Chipmunks, Ike & Tina Turner, Edith Massey, and John Prine with Iris DeMent. Could you foresee putting together another such compilation, perhaps one for Pride?

**JW:** A Gay Pride one? I guess. [Laughs] There was a hipster gay pride parade once in London, called the Gay Shame Parade. It was really funny. I must admit that gay music is kind of terrible [laughs]. Yes, I would like to do a gay one. “Jet Boy Jet Girl” would have to be on there. That was my favorite.

**GS:** Yes, Elton Motello!

**JW:** But I’ve already used that one on “A Date With John Waters.” Now there are so many gay songs. I definitely could do a really good gay pride album! I’ll have to think about that one. Maybe that will come in the future.

**GS:** Two of your movies, “Hairspray” and “Cry Baby” have been adapted into Broadway musicals. Is there another one of



*Photo By Greg Gorman*

**your movies that you think would make a good musical?**

**JW:** I always said “Pink Flamingos” would make a good opera. It was optioned once to be an opera, but it never happened. I think “Pink Flamingos” as an opera would work best of all the other ones.

**GS:** In late May 2023, Leslie Van Houten, about whom you wrote in your 2010 book “Role Models,” had her grant of parole reinstated by a state appeals court panel. What does that mean to you?

**JW:** I’m going to let the appeals court speak for them-selves on that. I believe the most important thing to read is the amazing \_L.A. Times editorial that came out this week

saying that they agreed she should be free.

**GS:** Finally, John, we’re speaking during the first few days of Pride Month 2023. As you know, I live in Fort Lauderdale, which is kind of ground zero. Do you have any thoughts about the current state of Pride celebrations, especially since we are under attack more than ever?

**JW:** It only makes you stronger! Remember Anita Bryant? She made the gay movement so strong. Didn’t she come from Florida? I want to have “Don’t Say Straight” in Florida. Where you can’t do line dancing. I think it’s a little late to attack drag queens. It’s a little late to attack gay anything because it’s so accepted now. They’re 30 years too late.



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#### BEFORE RECEIVING CABENUVA

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have ever had a skin rash or an allergic reaction to medicines that contain cabotegravir or rilpivirine.
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- have ever had mental health problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if CABENUVA will harm your unborn baby. CABENUVA can remain in your body for up to 12 months or longer after the last injection.

Please see additional Important Facts About CABENUVA on the following page.



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## Important Facts About CABENUVA (cont'd) BEFORE RECEIVING CABENUVA (cont'd)

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  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if CABENUVA can pass to your baby in your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby during treatment with CABENUVA.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with CABENUVA. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with CABENUVA.

**Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take CABENUVA with other medicines.

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CABENUVA

**CABENUVA may cause serious side effects, including:**

- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with CABENUVA. **Stop receiving CABENUVA and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:**
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  - muscle or joint aches
  - trouble breathing
  - blisters or sores in mouth
  - blisters
  - redness or swelling of the eyes
  - swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue
- **Post-injection reactions** have happened within minutes in some people after receiving their rilpivirine injection. Most symptoms resolved within minutes after the injection. Symptoms may include:
  - trouble breathing
  - narrowing of airways
  - stomach cramps
  - sweating
  - numbness of your mouth
  - pain (e.g., back and chest)
  - feeling anxious
  - feeling warm
  - rash
  - feeling light-headed or feeling like you are going to pass out (faint)
  - blood pressure changes

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CABENUVA (cont'd) CABENUVA may cause serious side effects, including: (cont'd)

- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus or people who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during CABENUVA treatment. Liver problems have also happened in people without history of liver problems or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
  - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
  - dark or "tea-colored" urine
  - light-colored stools (bowel movements)
  - nausea or vomiting
  - loss of appetite
  - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
  - itching
- **Depression or mood changes.** **Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
  - feeling sad or hopeless
  - feeling anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself

**The most common side effects of CABENUVA include:**

- pain, tenderness, hardened mass or lump, swelling, redness, itching, bruising, and warmth at the injection site
- fever
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or bone pain
- nausea
- sleep problems
- dizziness
- rash

These are not all the possible side effects of CABENUVA. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

## GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to CABENUVA.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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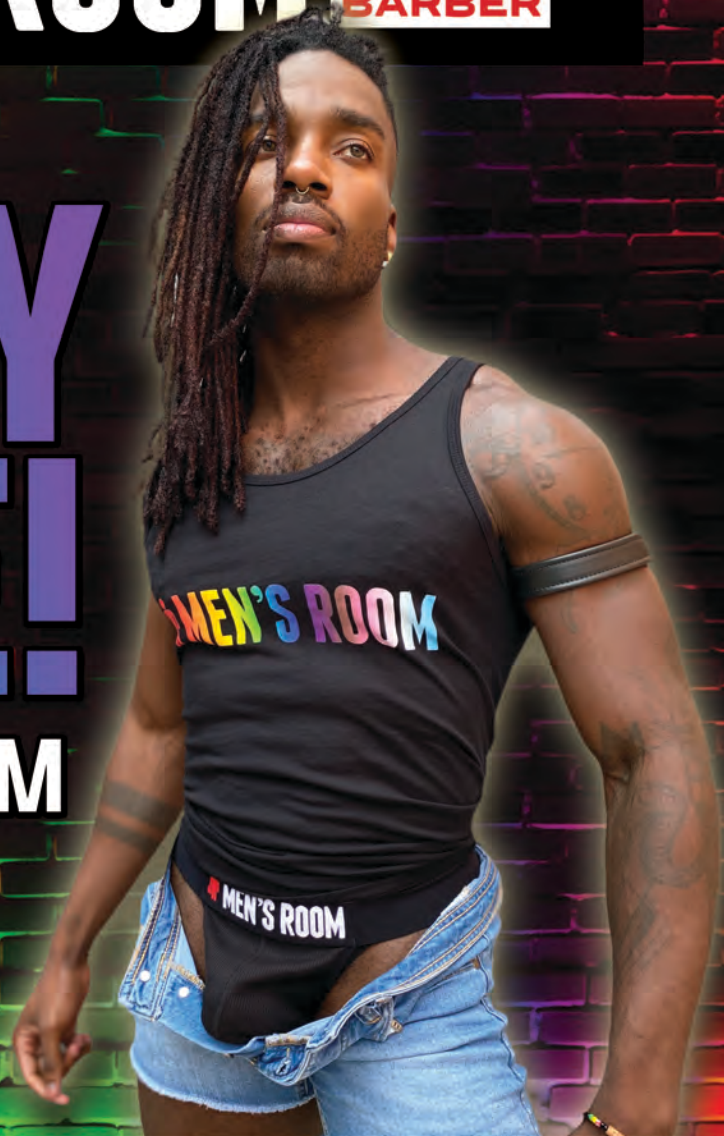


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TUESDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** . \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. **D.S.Tequila Co:** . 50cent Wing Night 5pm-10pm, Must Purchase a drink for special. Dine in Only. **Hydrate:** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm-8pm: \$5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. **Shakers on Clark:** \$3 Domestic Beers. **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:** \$5 Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Tallboys Everyday Specials, \$5Jager, \$5 Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi.

WEDNESDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$ New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlies:** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. **Jackhammer:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$4Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm-10pm: \$6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. **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, \$5 Tito's Cocktails, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Jockstrap Night. Free Clothing Check.

THURSDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons . Everyday Specials:\$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@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. **D.S.Tequila Co:** Bottomless Tacos! \$23.95 5pm-10pm , Must purchase a beverage for special. Dine in Only. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. **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:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails\$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays70's& 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo.

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@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. **D.S. Tequila Co:** TGIF Special \$5 Effen Cocktails and \$4 Homitos Shots. Hydrate: Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. **Jackhammer:** \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys \$8 New Amsterdam & Redbull Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$6 Tito's Cocktails \$7.50 Big Miller Lites. Happy Hour Specials. 5pm-8pm: \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 3-7pm, RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party 7-9:30pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9:30pm- 2am. **The Sofo Tap:** \$3 House Shots, \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tall Boys Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 6/23 Gay Pride Gear Swap.

SATURDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$6 Lagunitas IPADrafts. Happy Hour Specials: 1/2 Off All Drafts \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@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. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 Miller Lite TallBoys Happy Hour Specials: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Signature Margaritas Happy Hour Specials. 2pm-5pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$12 Mimosa Carafes, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. **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:** \$5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat, \$5 Signature Margaritas, Happy Hour Specials: 12pm-3pm: 1/2 Off All Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 5am. 6/24 Ripe Party Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T.

SUNDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$6 Chicago Handshakes Happy Hour Specials 2pm-5pm \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@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. **D.S. Tequila Co:** Coyote Ugly Drag Brunch \$50 all inclusive food and beverage package plus Drag Show. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Jackhammer:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands Happy Hour Specials :1st Sunday: \$7 Planter's Punch 2nd Sunday: \$5 Dog Bowls (Premium Well) 3rd Sunday: \$3 Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's Tallboy Beers 4th Sunday: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor) 5th Sunday: \$6 New Amsterdam & Red Bull Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Kit Kat Lounge:** Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$12 Mimosa Carafes. Happy Hour Specials: 7pm-10pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 Off Any Bloody Mary, Milagro Tequila Mixed Drinks, or Tito's Vodka Mixed Drinks. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am **The Sofo Tap:** \$6 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 12pm-2pm: \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 1pm-3pm: \$3 House Shots FREE Chicago-style hot-dogs (while supplies last) Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 4am. 6/25 Pride Parade Day Beer Bust Cook-Out 3-7pm. Clubroom Open.



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# GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart this week

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	Artist	Title
1	Paul Woolford X Lewis Thompson X Mnek	16 Again (Radio Edit)
2	Thaylo	Deep Heart (Original Mix)
3	John Summit & Hayla	Where You Are (Shorter Radio Edit)
4	Allegra	Amazing (Tobtok Remix)
5	Armand Van Helden x Karen Harding	Wings (I Won't Let You Down)
6	Tiesto & Tate MCrae	1035 (Joel Corry Remix)
7	Kuu X Riton & Alex Metric	Lose Control (Radio Edit)
8	Ellis	After Hours
9	Audien	Drifting Away ft. Joe Jury
10	Taylor Swift	Lavender Haze (Felix Jaehn Remix)
11	Leftwing Kody X Robot Collective	Love Like This (Radio Edit)
12	The Magician & The Aston Shuffle	Differences (Original Mix)
13	Man Cub & Allie Crystal	Dont Forget
14	Tungevaag x Lovespeake	I Knew It Was You
15	Fred Again x The Streets x Dermot Kennedy	Mike (Desert Island Duvet Remix)
16	Marf	Monday Ft. Philip Strand
17	Crystal Lake	The Feeling Ft. Colt Hill
18	Sigala & Mnek	Radio
19	Alok & James Arthur	Work With My Love
20	Lucas & Steve x Yves V	After Midnight ft. Xoro (TELYKast Remix)
21	Zack Martino	Kill My Heart
22	Felix Jaehn	Wishlist
23	Kim Petras	Brrr
24	DubDogz x Bruno Be x Ghostt	Sleepwalking ft. The Chain Gang of 1974
25	Tiesto	Lay Low (Nick Strand X Mio Remix)
26	Jonasu & Clara Mae	Can't Do Both
27	NIIKO X SWAE ft. Allie Crystal	Nothing On Earth
28	Sick Individuals & Alle Farben	My Life ft. The Runaway Club
29	Breathe Carolina x ManyFew	Dancing In The Dark (Radio Edit)
30	M22 & Ella Henderson	Heartstrings

# CELEBRATE PRIDE

FRIDAY 6.23

## PRIDE GEAR SWAP

8PM - BUY-SELL-TRADE YOUR OLD GEAR -  
SHOW OFF YOUR PRIDE IN LOVINGLY USED GEAR

## CRUISIN' WITH PRIDE

AT MIDNIGHT

SATURDAY 6.24

## RIPE PARTY

HOT GOGO DUDES, DEEP BEATS, DIM LIGHTS DJ HARRY T

SUNDAY 6.25

## POST-PRIDE PARADE BEER BUST

**\$2** BUD LIGHT DRAFTS  
AND SODAS ALL DAY

COOK OUT 4PM / CLUB ROOM OPEN



SATURDAY 7.1

## ALL AMERICAN BEAR NIGHT

DRAWINGS FOR TICKETS TO SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA  
MIDNIGHT PIZZA PANIC DJ HARRY T

SUNDAY 7.2

## ALL DAY BEER BUST

**\$2** BUD LIGHT DRAFTS & SODAS  
BLOW JOB CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT

MONDAY 7.3

## FULL MOON PARTY AND CONTEST

TUESDAY 7.4

## INDEPENDENCE DAY BEER BUST

**\$2** BUD LIGHT DRAFTS & SODAS ALL DAY

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# GRAB ROGER

## Dangers of Selling Your House With No Money Down

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

**Q: My husband and I are selling our Lake Shore Drive condominium so we can retire in Florida – no more Chicago winters. We have owned the condo for over 15 years and have the mortgage almost paid off. Our condo has been for sale for more than a year but we can't seem to find a buyer. We did receive an offer from a real estate investor who lives in our building who agreed to pay our full asking price but wanted us to finance 100 percent of the purchase price. The offer is tempting because we could get our price and receive monthly payments which we would use for our retirement, but we would get no money at closing. Is there any risk to us? Could this jeopardize our retirement?**

**A:** On the other side of every “no money down” transaction is the

seller who accepts a piece of paper for his or her property instead of cash. Typically, these sellers are older and own their property free and clear. Even though the seller may be getting his or her asking price the question is should the seller take this kind of financing? The answer is no.

There are many creative strategies to help buyers finance the purchase of real estate. One strategy includes the borrowing of some of the purchase price from the seller. A seller financing part of the purchase price is a legitimate method to make real estate purchases affordable to buyers and can benefit both parties in a sale.

With the “no money down” method of real estate financing, instead of the seller receiving the bulk of the sales price at the closing and financing 10 to 20 percent of the price, the seller finances the entire purchase price for a buyer who needs no money to close.

Some no money down plans involve a buyer who will take title to the property, refinance it himself, give the seller a little of the money and use the balance of the money for something else. If he defaults on the loan, the bank will foreclose and the seller would have to pay off the bank to be able to take back the property.

My advice to the couple in the question is that they should not sell their home to someone who does not have any money. Their buyer could be a big risk because he may lack the income and savings to buy the building on conventional terms. The buyer could have bad credit, too many loans or have gone bankrupt.



I suspect that the real problem in the question is a too high an asking price for the property. If the price were lowered a conventional buyer could be found. Although getting a full price offer may sound attractive it's really a price cut in disguise. Whenever a seller agrees to give up property for a promise of future payments at less than the going rate, the value of the deal is reduced. The couple would be better off cutting the price and taking cash or selling their condo with different seller financing methods that offer real protection to the seller instead of only risk.

If the seller's mortgage were paid off, an acceptable alternative would be to sell the condo on a land contract, receiving a 10 or 20 percent downpayment while financing the balance over 20 to 30 years with a five year balloon (a balloon means that all the remaining payments come due after five years and the buyers would then have to obtain new financing from a bank).

But be warned, save that downpayment and be prepared to use it to get the property back if the buyer ever defaults.

*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](mailto:RVMLawyer@aol.com). He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.*

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# GRAB HOLLY

## The Battle of Wellington Green

By Holly Maholm



Since the plan of Kaylyn and the Gender Studies crowd to attack Donut Time had been thwarted, I surrendered my spatula and grill to Tuco, whom I saw was exercising the greatest possible self-restraint, refusing as he did to punch out any of those young men (good customers of Donut Time) who clustered around Aly in the hope that she would find one of them more magnetically masculine than him. But alas, those men were destined to go home entirely unsatisfied, at least sexually, though the sliders and beer had gratified two other appetites of lesser urgency than sex.

I crossed into the green, cutting diagonally in front of the dried-out fountain where Kaylyn and her supporters were gathered. I could see that Kaylyn was standing in the circular bed of the fountain, using it as a platform from which to rally her followers to action. They had collected several pallets to make a bonfire, and I was incensed to see they had thrown two of the park benches – most often used by the Retirees when currycombing one of the rescue horses – onto the fire.

I hustled away into the dark, in the direction of the War Memorial, where I knew Dave and his Legionnaires were manning their trebuchets, preparing to lay down a withering volley of shit-bombs on the attackers. Looking up, I

saw Dave had already withdrawn his crew from their positions guarding the Memorial, in the hope that Kaylyn might soon “take the bait” and commence her attack.

But a voice called to me from the darkness. It was Scallywag. “Holly, over here.” I saw him and another five unicorns hidden in the dark (but also made invisible by their unicorn powers). I hurried up to him, and he spoke. “The battle is going to start soon, so you need to get out of the line of fire. Seriously, Holly, please go back and stay with Dave, because when the attack comes, we unicorns will be mounting our own counter-attack, and you don’t want to get caught up in that.”

“You’re going into battle!” I gasped, picturing the devastation that would result if six invisible unicorns were to use their horns to attack unsuspecting teenagers in the dark. It would be nothing less than a slaughter! But at that moment, Kaylyn gave the command to attack, and her Battalions of the Gender Ambiguous started marching in the direction of the War Memorial.

I was momentarily afraid, but simultaneously I heard the sound of one of the trebuchets being fired. I looked up and watched as a cluster of 10 brown plastic bags arched overhead in the direction of the attackers. An instant later those bags hit the ground and exploded, following which I heard the other trebuchet being fired, and another 10 bags of concentrated unicorn shit flew overhead, impacting with devastating effect among the attackers.

What I heard from the Pink-Hair foot-soldiers was nothing less than astonishment, shock and bewilderment. I heard “OMG! I’m covered in shit! It’s all over my face! It’s in my hair!” Even from where I was standing, the stench of horse and unicorn manure choked my lungs and made breathing difficult. Then once again, I heard first one, and then the other trebuchet fired, after which I heard multiple loud “Splats!” as the shit-bombs found their marks among the attackers. In moments, the Army of the Gender Diverse began to disperse, and I heard cries of... “It’s running down my neck! It’s in my mouth! I’m going to be sick!”

The main army of attackers was in full retreat, but Kaylyn proved herself a better field general than we had predicted. She and a small group of hand-picked Pink-Hairs were observed circling around the main force and coming toward us silently in the dark. This was that part of her plan by which she intended to ensure the destruction of the Memorial, even if the larger battalions failed. It was this group I feared was about to be decimated by six invisible unicorns with deadly horns!

But how wrong I was! Scallywag and his crew positioned themselves to one side of the path Kaylyn and her platoon had to follow to reach the Memorial, and as they crossed in front of the unicorns, I saw a most unexpected sight. Scallywag gave the order, and all of the unicorns transformed themselves! Instantly, they used their unicorn powers to disguise themselves as so many enormous skunks! Turning their backs on the platoon, they cut loose with powerful jets of spray, each one finding its mark among the attackers.

The smell? ... well, if you’ve ever been “skunked,” or owned a dog that annoyed a skunk, you know what agony... what unimaginable suffering each of those Pink-Hairs was experiencing. It would be days before any of them could re-enter the society of humans.

*(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](http://www.hollymaholm.com).

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# PARADE INFORMATION

**DATE:** Sunday, June 25th

**TIME:** 12 Noon

**STARTS at:** Broadway & Montrose.

**LINE UP:** North Broadway (both the east and the west curb lanes, from Montrose to Wilson); West Montrose (both the north and south curb lanes from Broadway to Clark); Sunnyside Ave from Broadway to North Sheridan Road and North Sheridan Road, between Montrose and Wilson.

**ROUTE:** Step off from the Broadway/Montrose corner, proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

## **CONTENT & DESCRIPTION:**

The parade will feature 150 registered entries, including floats, decorated vehicles, performance groups, a marching band and walking contingents.

The entries represent community organizations, businesses, governmental officials and individual community members. Crowd estimates each year are in the hundreds of thousands. So the plans are to line the parade route with barricades on both sides of the street from beginning to the end of the parade route. Spectators will be required to remain behind the barricades. (Only parade registrants traveling down the middle of the street, police officers, other city officials, security staff, parade marshals and credentialed media reps will be allowed in the street). In recent years, the City of Chicago has required that several large city parades, including the Pride Parade, line their parade routes with barricades at our own expense. Police officers and parade marshals will be stationed at various points on the street in front of the barricades along the parade route. Police officers will also be in the area surrounding the parade. In addition, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team to supplement the police

presence along and surrounding the parade route (please note any of this information is subject to change on the day of the Parade without notice).

## **\$1000 Fine FOR PUBLIC ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:**

The parade will have more security and a tighter rein on public alcohol consumption. In addition to the large number of police officers who staff the event, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team to supplement the police presence. Penalties include, but are not limited to, \$1000+ tickets being issued and/or the immediate disposal of open containers of alcohol into trash receptacles. Public urination is also grounds to receive a ticket.

## **PARADE DAY HEALTH/ SAFETY:**

Bring plenty of bottled water, sunscreen and a hat or other head covering, and dress lightly because parade day is usually hot and sunny.

**STREET CLOSURES:** (on parade day, Sunday, June 26)

**ASSEMBLY AREA:** Tentative time: 10:30 a.m.

**PARADE ROUTE:** Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. The parade starts at 12:00 Noon at the Broadway/Montrose corner proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

**NO PARKING:** Both the Assembly Area and Parade Route (listed above) will be posted with temporary signs indicating **"NO PARKING ON SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2022, FROM 5:00 AM TO 8:00 PM. - Both sides of the street."**

Montrose Ave. - Greenview Ave. to Hazel St.  
Broadway St. - Leland Ave. to Grace St.  
Sunnyside Ave. - Broadway St. to North Sheridan Rd.

Halsted St. - Grace St. to Belmont Ave.

Belmont Ave. - Sheffield Ave. to Broadway St.

Broadway St. - Belmont Ave. to Diversey Pkwy.

Diversey Pkwy. - Broadway St. to Cannon Dr. (Sheridan)

Cannon Dr. - Diversey Pkwy. to Fullerton Pkwy.

Addison St. - 736 W. Addison St. to Sheffield Ave.

Waveland Ave. - Halsted St. to Broadway St.

Grace St. - Halsted St. to Fremont St.

Clifton from Montrose Ave. to Sunnyside Ave.

Wellington Ave. from Clark St. to Racine Ave.

North Sheridan Road from Montrose to Agatite Street

East Side of Racine St. from Belmont Ave to Wellington Ave

## **ADDITIONAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS:**

There will be additional parking restrictions on Sunnyside Ave between Broadway and North Sheridan Road also North Sheridan Road from Montrose to Agatite Street.

**TOWING:** Begins at 5:00 AM. Due to the volume of vehicles involved, the issuing of parking violation citations and towing will start at 5AM - Promptly.

**CROSS STREETS:** Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. After stepping off at 12:00 PM, the parade will take approximately two and one-half hours to finish crossing the Broadway & Montrose corner. After this time, the floats will still be winding their way to the end of the parade route at Diversey & Sheridan. This year there will NOT be a Buffer Zone on Halsted Street after the parade ends. Police will work to re-open the streets to vehicular traffic as soon as cleaning crews are finished and the streets will not remain open to foot traffic.



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**TRANSPORTATION:** From the Red Line: Wilson, Sheridan, Addison or Belmont all provide access via a short walk to the parade route.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Belmont station (and the surrounding area) tends to become the most crowded, so you are encouraged to consider watching the parade from the other parts of the route, including areas toward the start of the route—such as Broadway, south of Montrose—which are served by both the nearby Wilson and Sheridan stations on the Red Line. In addition, a number of lakefront bus routes including the 146 and 151 provide convenient access from the north, the Gold Coast/North Michigan Avenue and downtown to areas east of the parade route.

Extra service will be provided on the “L” on parade day to accommodate the large numbers of people who attend the parade. Due to the increase of local traffic and a number of bus reroutes, potential parade spectators are advised to make use of the L or the various bus routes.

**BUS REROUTES:**

From 8 a.m. until approximately 8 p.m., the following nine bus routes will be detoured as a result of several street closures: #8 Halsted, #22 Clark, #36 Broadway, #76 Diversey, #77 Belmont, #78 Montrose, #80 Irving Park, #151 Sheridan and #152 Addison.

CTA: **1-312-836-7000**  
**www.transitchicago.com**  
 Other information on public transportation: **1-312-322-6900** **www.metrotransit.com**

**PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER STREETS:**

There will be at least nine cross-over streets:  
 Montrose Ave. at Broadway  
 Irving Park Rd. at Broadway  
 Grace St. at Halsted St.  
 Addison St. at Halsted St.  
 Roscoe St. at Halsted St.

Wellington Ave. at Broadway  
 Aldine Street at Halsted St.  
 Cornelia Ave at Halsted St.  
 Barry Ave. at Broadway

At each corner of the streets listed above there will be police officers assigned to assist pedestrians to cross the parade route.

**NEEDS AND SPECIAL NEEDS:**

**1. Portable Restrooms -** are stationed along both the parade line-up street and the parade route. Included at several locations are restrooms for the physically challenged.

**Physically Challenged Area/Wheel chair Accessible Area/Seniors -**

for people who need or want more space: the sidewalks of West Diversey Parkway (near 600 W. Diversey). Traditionally this area of the parade route has fewer spectators than other sections of the parade route. Spectators in these areas generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

**Seniors (outdoor) -** The area mentioned above in #2 (600 W. Diversey sidewalks) is a designated OUTDOOR area for

seniors. Spectators in this area generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

**Chicago Fire Department First Aid Stations:**

901 W. Addison St.  
 765 W. Roscoe St.  
 3165 N. Halsted St.  
 561 W. Surf St.  
 802 W. Roscoe St.  
 803 W. Roscoe St.

For more information:  
**www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org**  
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# GRAB PRIDE



## 1. \$1000 FINE FOR PUBLIC ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:

The parade will have more security and a tighter rein on public alcohol consumption. In addition to the large number of police officers who staff the event, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team to supplement the police presence. Penalties include, but are not limited to \$1000+ tickets being issued and/or the immediate disposal of open containers of alcoholic beverages into trash receptacles. (Public urination is also grounds to receive a ticket).

**2. STARTING TIME:** The parade starts at 12 Noon. So, arrive early to find a good spot.

## 3. PUBLIC

**TRANSPORTATION:** Parking in the area is limited, so walk, take public transportation (or if you must drive, then car pool). For CTA/PACE/Metra transit information, call **1-312-836-7000**; Web Site: [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com) or **1-312-322-6900**, Web Site: [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com); Potential spectators are advised to consider making use of RED line el stations including Sheridan Road, Wilson Avenue or Addison Street (The Belmont stop becomes extremely over crowded on parade day).

**4. BARRICADES:** The parade route will be lined with iron barricades. Spectators will be required to stand behind the barricades, not in the street. Besides the parade registrants traveling down the middle of the street, only police officers, other city officials, security staff, parade

marshals and credentialed members of the media will be allowed in the street.

## 5. PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER STREETS:

The 9 corners where pedestrians may cross from one side of the parade route to the other side include: Montrose Ave. at Broadway; Irving Park Rd. at Broadway; Grace St. at Halsted St.; Addison St. at Halsted St.; Roscoe St. at Halsted St.; Wellington Ave. at Broadway; Aldine St. at Halsted St. Cornelia Ave at Halsted St; Barry Ave at Broadway.

There will be police officers assigned to assist pedestrians in crossing at these locations. For updates:

[www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org](http://www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org)

**6. CROWDS:** Since the number of spectators have increased dramatically in recent years on Halsted Street, spectators are being advised to try other sections of the parade route to view the parade (for example, 4000 to 4300 N. Broadway). In addition, spectators must watch the parade on the actual parade route, not in the assembly area. (The assembly area is for parade participants only).

**7. SAMPLING:** City ordinance prevents parade participants from tossing items to spectators. Likewise, spectators should not toss items back to parade participants. Spectators are not allowed to walk into the street to get items. Spectators must wait until parade participants come to the sidelines to hand out items. Parade participants are not

allowed to hand out items to spectators who are standing on sidewalks in the assembly area. Spectators who want sample items must view the parade from the parade route, not the assembly area. For safety, no high powered water rifles are allowed.

**8. TRASH:** Keep the neighborhood clean by using trash barrels provided along the route.

## 9. NEEDS & SPECIAL

**NEEDS:** Physically challenged/ wheelchair accessible and senior area is provided. See parade website for details. Portable restrooms are placed along parade route.

## 10. POLICE PERSONNEL ARE ON HAND

(as well as parade marshals): In addition, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing security officers to assist. But spectators can be a big help by obeying the above rules and city ordinances in relation to alcohol consumption and other issues.





# Parade Route

## Chicago 52nd Annual Pride Parade

(The Parade is scheduled each year for the last Sunday in June)



Map showing route of 2023 Chicago Pride Parade

-  CTA L station
-  Transfer point
-  Accessible station
-  Parade route & direction
-  Designated parade crossing
- 

# PRIDE PARADE LINEUP

**2023 PRIDE PARADE LINE OF MARCH – Organizations & Local & National Businesses w/their LGBTQ Employee Groups. 52nd Annual Pride Parade will start at 12 noon SUNDAY JUNE 25th.**

- 1.Intro-Banner
- 2.Color Guard (Scouts for Equality)
- 3.Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson
- 4.Banner – Richard Pfeiffer
- 5.Nettelhorst School –
- 6.Near North Montessori school
- 7.Francis W. Parker School & Catherine Cook School –
- 8.Lycée Francais de Chicago –
- 9.Rogers Park Montessori School -
- 10.American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) –
- 11.Chicago Teachers Union –
- 12.State of Illinois – float walkers
- 13.Chicago Public Library -
- 14.Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles (Lakeside Pride Marching Band)
- 15.Heels & Hardhats & Endurance Contracting -
- 16.Chicago Gender Society –
- 17.Chicago Fire Department –
- 18.Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame sponsored by the McKinsey Group –
- 19.Planned Parenthood of Illinois –
- 20.Chicago Officials and city department reps -
- 21.Diversity & Inclusion (UAW 551)
- 22.Kimberly Clark -
- 23.County Officials and county department reps -
- 24.**Grab Magazine**
- 25.Hyatt –
- 26.State Officials and department reps -
- 27.Equality Illinois –
- 28.PFLAG –
- 29.Federal and International officials and departments -
- 30.ABC 7 Chicago/WLS TV
- 31..Milliman & Out in Tech
- 27.Enjoy Illinois/Illinois Office of Tourism
- 28.Department of Children & Family Services
- 30.Federal Reserve Bank
- 32.Rush University Medical Center
- 32.Organized Chaos
- 33.Bikes & Mics
- 34.Dykes on Bikes
- 35.Fidelity Investments
- 36.Bud Billiken –
- 37.McDonald’s –
- 38.Expedia
- 39.Neighborhood Loans
- 40.Virgin Hotels Chicago
- 41.Chime –
- 42.Howard Brown Health
- 43.Chicago White Sox
- 44.BOMA Chicago Foundation
- 45.NASCAR Enterprises LLC
- 46.UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago
- 47.Chicago Bulls & BMO Harris Bank
- 48.Chicago Bulls & BMO Harris Bank s Blue Shield – float/walkers
- 49.Rainbow Mensans Chicago Area Mensa
- 50.Deloitte Services LP (Deloitte LGBTQIA+ & Allies Community)
- 51.CW26 Chicago
- 52.Minor of Glencoe North Shore (McGrath Auto Group)
- 53.Human Rights Campaign
- 54.Chi-Town Squares
- 55.Keshet w/additional organizations
- 56.bp
- 57.Steve Quick Jeweler & Chicago Pride Guard
- 58.Ferrara Candy/CGMC
- 59.Center on Halsted & US Bank
- 60.Broadway in Chicago
- 61.Asians Friends
- 62.Trikone
- 63.Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches
- 64.JPMorganChase
- 65.Chicago Sugar Daddy Patisserie
- 66.Chicago Smelts
- 67.JCC Chicago –
- 68.Baton Show Lounge & Chicago Coalition of Kink Clubs
- 69.Kenosha Pride
- 70.Dream Town Realty
- 71.Gerber Hart Library and Archives
- 72.Univision Chicago
- 73.NPI Hillcrest Investor Group LLC (dba Legacy Cannabis)
- 74.Ropes & Gray
- 75.Dentsu Smirnoff
- 76.Kraft Heinz
- 77.Charlie’s Chicago
- 78.Illinois Central Railroad Company
- 79.Abbott Pride Network
- 80.Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- 81.Petsmart
- 82.Sidetrack
- 83.WGN TV
- 84.LATSE Local 476 Studio Mechanics
- 85.Macy’s
- 86.Second City Outlaws
- 87.FCB Chicago –
- 88.Uptown Chamber of Commerce
- 89.Walgreens
- 90.Illinois Department of Human Resources
- 91.iHeart Media KISS FM 103.5 & Cook County Dept. of Public Health
- 92.iHeart Media & Vizzy
- 93.iHeart Media WGCI & Chicago Public Schools
- 94.iHeart Media & Visit Orlando
- 95.Astellas
- 96.Folia Brazil
- 97.Veterinary Specialty Center
- 98.Erie Family Health Center
- 99.Cushman Wakefield
- 100.WGN Radio & Jewel Osco
- 101.CBS 2 Chicago
- 102.Baxter Healthcare
- 103.ComEd
- 104.Parliament of Religions
- 105.Verilife Cannabis Dispensary
- 106.Allstate Insurance
- 107.Nordstrom
- 108.Goose Island Beer Company
- 109.Chicago Bar Assoc. Young Lawyrs Div
- 110.United Way of Metro Chicago
- 111.FTI Consulting, Inc.
- 112.Encore w/Hell in a Handbag Productions
- 113.National Gay Pilots Association
- 114.American Airlines
- 115.Southwest Airlines
- 116.United Airlines
- 117.Elevate K-12 –
- 118.Audacy Chicago 93XRT (WXRT-FM)
- 119.Jones Lang LaSalle
- 120.Gateway Foundation
- 121.AbbVie
- 122.EY
- 123.The Mix 101.9
- 124.Starbucks
- 126.Accenture
- 127.The Thresholds

(Continued)

# PRIDE PARADE LINEUP

(CONTINUED)

- 128. Comcast NBC Universal
- 129. Foreskin Pride
- 130. Roscoe's Tavern
- 131. 1871
- 132. Verizon
- 133. T-Mobile
- 134. Actors' Equity Assoc.
- 135. Fermilab
- 136. Mars
- 137. Project VIDA
- 138. PriceWaterhouse Coopers
- 139. Lake View East Chamber of Commerce
- 140. Fifth Third Bank
- 141. Chicago Cubs
- 142. Johnson & Johnson
- 143. Kenvue Care With Pride
- 144. Bank of America
- 145. Public Broadcasting/WTTW/WFMT/WBEZ and Lyric Opera
- 146. Chicago Bears
- 147. Women's touch football club
- 148. Wendy's
- 149. Zurich North America/Youth Services Glenview/Northbrook
- 150. PrimeCare Health
- 151. Keller Williams One Chicago
- 152. LGBTQIA+ Alliance at Purdue NW
- 153. Blue Cross Blue Shield
- 154. Free Mom Hugs
- 155. Amazon
- 156. Chicago Dragons Rugby Club
- 157. Athletic Alliance of Chicago
- 158. Chicago Fire Football Club
- 159. Chicago Red Stars
- 160. Chicago Gay Hockey Assoc & Chicago Blackhawks
- 161. Dick's Sporting Goods
- 162. Northshore University Health System
- 163. DePaul
- 164. T-Mobile
- 165. Discover
- 166. Thousand Waves Marital Arts/Self Defense
- 167. WCPT Newsweb Radio
- 168. Chicagoland Targets
- 169. Arcus Behavioral Health & Wellness
- 170. Meta
- 171. Image Edge LA Tan
- 172. TCA Health
- 173. Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- 174. Applied Systems
- 175. Northrop Grumman
- 176. Lambda Legal
- 177. College of DuPage
- McAninch Art Center
- 178. Firebrand Second City

- Country Dance Assoc.
- 179. Fox 32 Chicago
- 180. Leather64Ten
- 181. Grainger
- 182. Servin Fysh
- 183. Wintrust
- 184. Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus
- 185. Univision
- 186. Obama Foundation
- 187. Chicago Boyz & Girlz
- 188. Northwestern Medicine
- 189. University of Chicago Sciences
- 190. Sherwin Williams Paint
- 191. Huntington Bank
- 192. AIA Chicago
- 193. Gerber Collision & Glass
- 194. Alcalá's
- 195. Advocate Health
- 196. Chicago Fetish and Leather Pride
- 197. My Buddy

**The Staff of GRAB  
Wishes everyone a  
safe and Happy  
Pride**

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# 2023

FRIDAY, JUNE 23 3PM-10PM  
SATURDAY, JUNE 24  
& SUNDAY, JUNE 25 12PM-10PM

PRIDE NORTH  
Glenwood Arts District

THE ROGERS PARK  
GLENWOOD



## 2023 PRIDE NORTH DJ LINEUP



THE GLENWOOD

FRIDAY JUNE 23RD  
10-2AM DJ LAWRENCE K

### SATURDAY JUNE 24TH

#### STOLI SOUTH STAGE

12:00-1:30PM	DJ RILEY YORK
1:30 - 3PM	DJ LAURA B
3:00 - 4:30PM	DJ JESSE MERCADO
4:30 - 6PM	DJ RON G
6:00 - 8-PM	DJ RONS
8:00 -10PM	BLK OUT

#### GOOSE ISLAND NORTH STAGE

12:00-1:30	DJ WOLFY
1:30 - 3PM	MICHAEL THOMAS
3:00-4:30PM	DJ HARRY T
4:30-6PM	DJ T-KIDD
6:00PM-8-PM	DJ WILLYUM
8:00PM-10PM	DJ DIGIMARK

### SUNDAY JUNE 25TH

#### STOLI SOUTH STAGE

12:00-1:30PM	DJ RILEY YORK
1:30 - 3PM	DJ LAURA B
3:00 - 4:30PM	DJ JESSE MERCADO
4:30 - 6PM	DJ RON G
6:00 - 8PM	DJ LAWRENCE K
8:00 - 10PM	BLK OUT

#### GOOSE ISLAND NORTH STAGE

12-1:30	DJ WOLFY
1:30 - 3PM	MICHAEL THOMAS
3:00 -4:30PM	DJ HARRY T
4:30-6PM	DJ T-KIDD
6PM-8-PM	DJ WILLYUM
8PM-10PM	DJ DIGIMARK



# Topweb Pride Ad



# PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST **MPOX**

**Mpox cases have been reported in the Chicago area.**

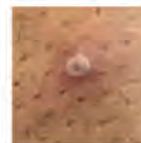
## **Get both doses of the FREE Mpox vaccine.**

It's never too late to vaccinate. Mpox vaccines are free, and even if you got the first shot already, you can still get the second shot for stronger protection against Mpox and Mpox symptoms.

## **Stay alert for signs and symptoms**

Mpox symptoms usually start within 3 weeks of exposure. Be on the lookout for flu-like symptoms. People with Mpox may experience all or only a few of the following symptoms:

- Fever, sore throat, nasal congestion, cough and/or chills
- Swollen lymph nodes, glands
- Exhaustion
- Muscle, head and/or back aches
- Rash on hands, feet, chest, face, mouth or genitals
- The rash may look like pimples or blisters and may be very painful or itchy.



## **Get tested.**

If you develop symptoms or think you may have been exposed to Mpox, contact your healthcare provider about vaccination and testing.



06/15/23

For more information and to find Mpox vaccine, visit: [bit.ly/PreventMPOXCookCounty](https://bit.ly/PreventMPOXCookCounty).



**Cook County** DEPT. of  
**Public Health**



Photos By Anthony Meade







# Color'EM Black

Point Out Hatred!



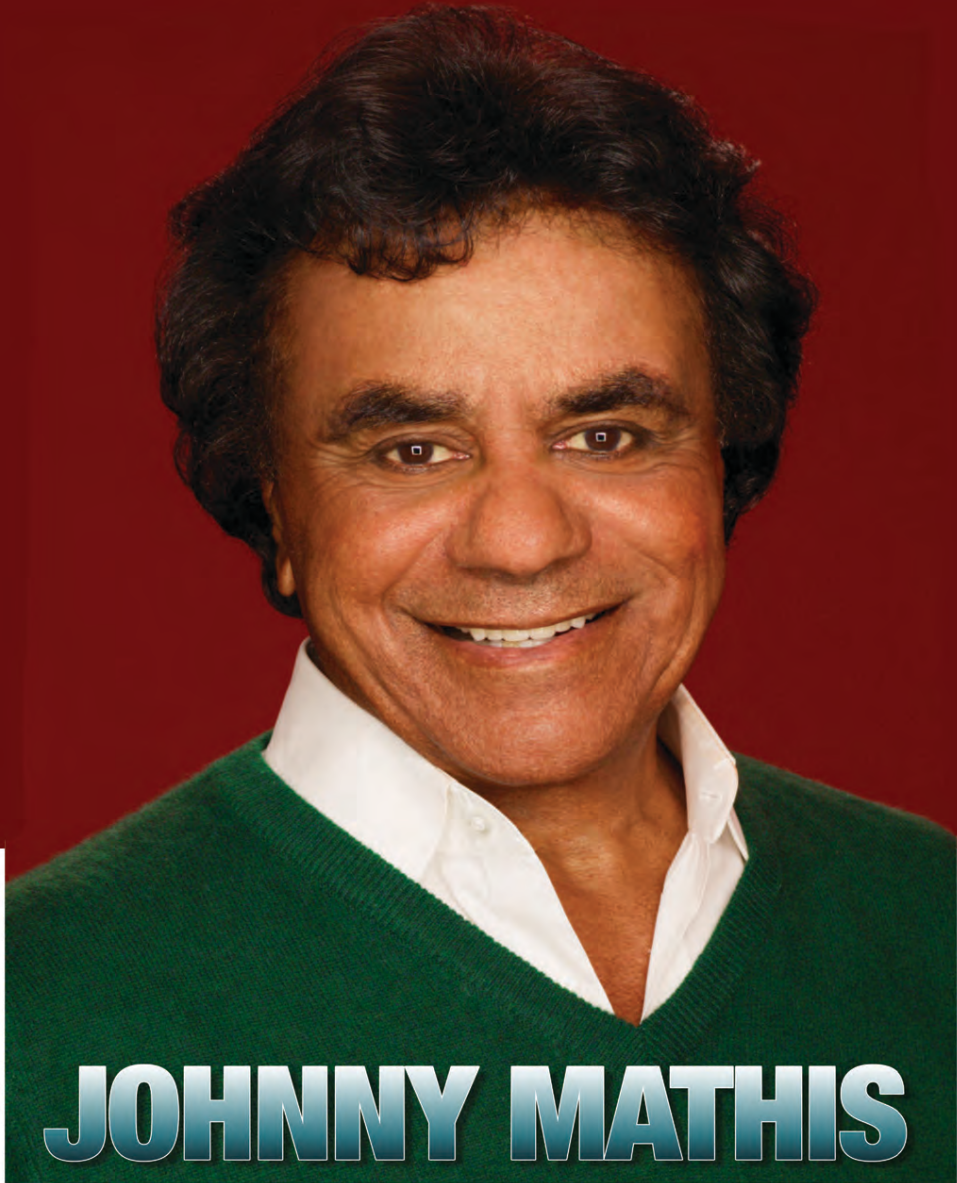
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TO  
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RACISM  
SEXISM  
HATE**

📅 June 23rd 🕒 6PM

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# JOHNNY MATHIS

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Celebrate the holidays as Johnny performs some of his greatest Christmas hits and personal favorites!*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023**

**ONE VERY SPECIAL PERFORMANCE 8PM**



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# Twin Palms

A man in sunglasses and swim trunks is sitting on a yellow towel by the edge of a swimming pool. In the background, other guests are relaxing on lounge chairs under yellow umbrellas, with tall palm trees and a clear blue sky.

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BOOK BY  
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MUSIC & LYRICS BY  
**JEFF LYNNE & JOHN FARRAR**

Based on the Universal Pictures film  
Screenplay by Richard Danus & Marc Rubel

DIRECTED BY  
**KEVIN WICZER**

CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
**KRISTINE BURDI**

MUSIC DIRECTED BY  
**KENNY McMULLEN**

**MetropolisArts.com | July 13 – Aug 13**

Xanadu is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
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# OUT IN THE PARK

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9  
8PM - MIDNIGHT**

A PRIVATE NIGHT IN THE PARK TO  
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND BENEFIT  
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**3 POP-UP DJ AREAS THIS YEAR!**

WITH DJ SEAN PARKS, DJ RNB, AND  
DJ AJ DUBBZ



DJ SEAN PARKS



DJ RNB



DJ AJ DUBBZ



\$45 ADVANCE TICKETS WITH  
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AHF

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FOUNDATION

WITH GENEROUS HELP FROM OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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AFTER PARTY  
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**KOKANDY PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENTS NICKELODEON'S  
THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL  
BASED ON THE SERIES BY  
STEPHEN HILLENBURG  
JUNE 22 – SEPTEMBER 3,  
2023 AT THE CHOPIN  
THEATRE**



This summer, dive into Bikini Bottom as Kokandy Productions kicks off its 2023 season with Nickelodeon's The SpongeBob Musical, directed by JD Caudill, playing June 22 – September 3, 2023 at The Chopin Studio Theatre, 1543 W. Division St. in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.

The SpongeBob Musical is based on the beloved animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg and features a book by Kyle Jarrow, with original songs by Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alexander Ebert of Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady A, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants and T.I., and songs by David Bowie, Tom Kenny and Andy Paley. Additional lyrics are by Jonathan Coulton, with additional music by Tom Kitt. The musical production was conceived by Tina Landau.

Tickets are now on sale at [bit.ly/SpongeBobChicago](http://bit.ly/SpongeBobChicago).

**SAM SMITH  
United Center in Chicago  
August 15, 2023**



Multi-Platinum, GRAMMY®, BRIT, Golden Globe and Oscar winning artist/songwriter Sam Smith has announced "GLORIA The Tour," their first North American run since 2018,

which will land in Chicago on August 15 for a performance at the United Center. Show time is 8:00 pm. Jessie Reyez, who guests on Sam's forthcoming album, Gloria, will be the special guest.

Reserved seats and general admission main floor tickets can be purchased online through [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

**MUSIC THEATER WORKS  
ANNOUNCES THE CAST AND  
CREATIVE TEAM FOR ITS  
150th PRODUCTION, THE  
TONY AWARD-WINNING THE  
PRODUCERS A MEL BROOKS  
MUSICAL, AUGUST 10 - 20, AT  
THE NORTH SHORE CENTER  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
IN SKOKIE**



Music Theater Works, currently presenting its second production in the 2023 season, Pippin, through June 25, has announced the cast and creative team for its third production in the 2023 season, **THE PRODUCERS** A Mel Brooks Musical in the Center Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts In Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, August 10 - 20. The twelve time Tony Award-winning musical comedy with book by **Mel Brooks** and **Thomas Meehan**, music and lyrics by **Mel Brooks**, directed by L. **Walter Stearns**, choreographed by **Darryl K. Clark**, assistant choreographed by **Nick Johnson** and music directed by **Eugene Dizon**. The performance schedule includes a preview performance Thursday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m. with press opening Friday, Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. The performance schedule is Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. with a Saturday matinee, Aug. 19 at 2 p.m. Complete performance schedule is included at the end of this release. Tickets are now on sale from \$39 to \$106 with tickets for guests 25 years old and younger available at half-price at [MusicTheaterWorks.com](http://MusicTheaterWorks.com) or by calling the Music Theater Works box office at the North Shore Center, 847.673.6300. Group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by contacting **847.920.5360**.

**CHICAGO DANCERS  
UNITED ANNOUNCE DANCE  
FOR LIFE 2023 AUGUST 19 AT  
THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE**



Chicago Dancers United, which supports the health and wellness of Chicago's professional dance community, announces the program for its 32nd annual fundraiser, Dance for Life, which takes place Saturday, August 19 at 6 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago, followed by an After Party at Venue SIX10, 610 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

The complete lineup of artists includes **BOOM CRACK! Dance Company**, **Chicago Tap Allstars**, **Giordano Dance Chicago** with **Giordano II** and members of **South Chicago Dance Theatre**, **Hiplet Ballerinas**, **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, **The Joffrey Ballet**, freelance performers **Joseph Massarelli** and **Riho Sakamoto**, **Moonwater Dance Project**, **Muntu Dance Theatre**, and, for the finale, choreographer **Randy Duncan**.

Dance for Life 2023 Co-Chairs are **Ted Grady**, **Ross Slotten MD**, **Victor Alexander**, and **Maray Gutierrez**.

Dance for Life raises money for The Dancers' Fund, which provides Chicago dance industry professionals with financial support for preventative health care and critical medical needs. The event showcases the city's unique variety of dance traditions and styles by bringing together professional dance companies and dancers from throughout Chicago, who unite to support their peers by generously donating their time, energy, and artistry. Throughout its history, Dance for Life has presented nearly 45 Chicago-based professional dance companies representing a variety of genres, sizes, and histories and numerous choreographers, artists, and designers. An additional beneficiary of Dance for Life is AIDS Foundation Chicago.

For Tickets or more information call **312-341-2300** or visit [auditoriumtheatre.org](http://auditoriumtheatre.org),



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Fine Arts Building - Studebaker Theater | 410 S. Michigan Ave. | Chicago, IL

# STEAMWORKS

the musical

DIRECTED BY:  
MARY CATHERINE CURRAN

FRIDAYS | STARTING MAY, 26<sup>TH</sup>  
8:00PM | TICKETS - \$20

STEAMWORKS BATHS

THE ANNOYANCE

ON SCREEN AT THE LOGAN  
JUNE 23-26

## TO WONG FOO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

JULIE NEWMAR

11 PM IN LATE NIGHT AT THE LOGAN

COMING SOON: ASTEROID CITY, INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY, OPPENHEIMER  
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# SAM SMITH

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**JESSIE REYEZ**

**AUGUST 15**  
**UNITED CENTER**

## GLORIA the tour

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EGOIST • 773-857-0882  
3739 N. Halsted

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DR DONALD MASON  
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711 W. North Ave Suite 201

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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

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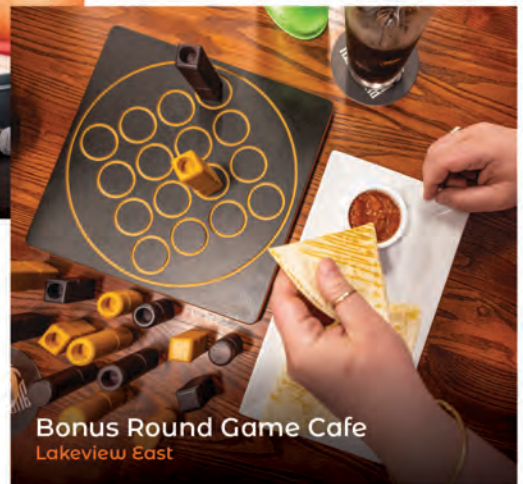
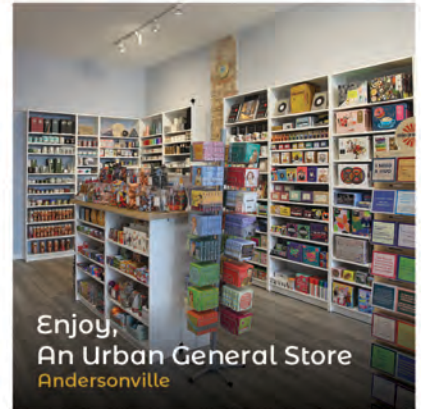
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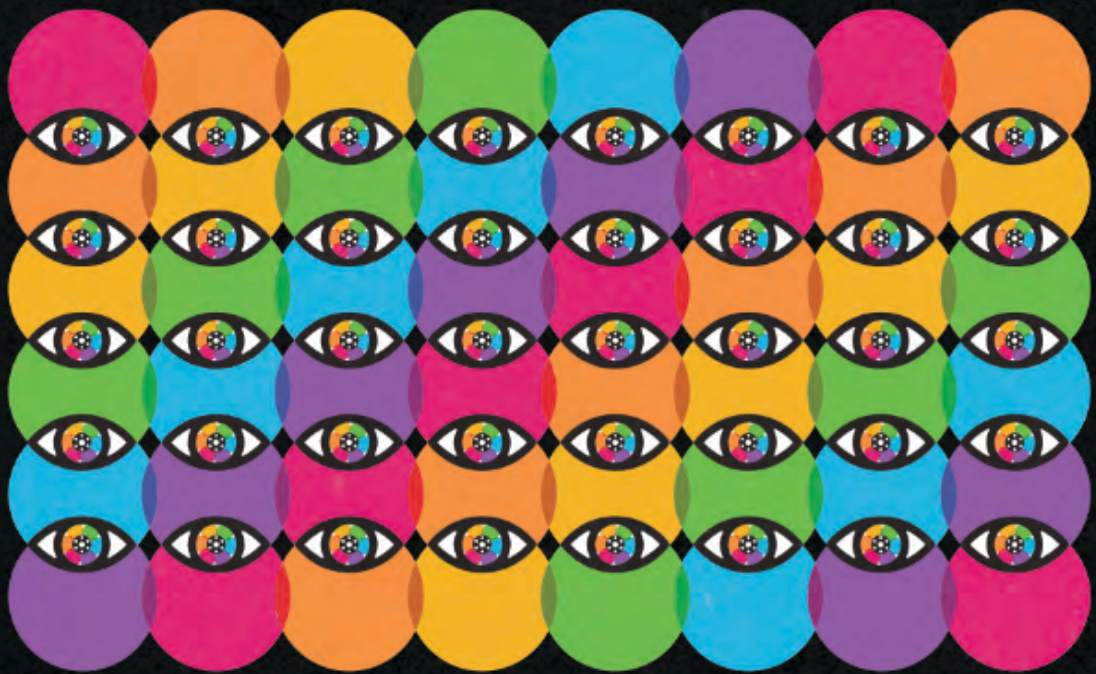


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