

# GRAB

MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 • VOL XI ISSUE #18 [WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM)

DJ  
*KARSTEN  
SOLLORS*



**BAD BOY CLUB MONTREAL**

**MEGA 30<sup>th</sup> EDITION CELEBRATION**



# BLACK&BLUE

**MAJOR PARTIES** WITH  
INTERNATIONAL AND MONTREAL DJs  
**30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEGA SHOW**  
AT THE SUNDAY MAIN EVENT

**STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING DETAILS! STAY SAFE!**

Québec 

Canada 

Montréal

TOURISME /  
MONTREAL

DESTINATION  
CENTRE-VILLE  
MONTREAL

**a&u**  
AMERICAN ADULT MAGAZINE

*fugues*

EDGEMEDIA NETWORK

LIFE+Style  
-bailMAG.com

  
gayvan.com


  
fierté  
mtl

SAUNA  
CENTRE-VILLE

SAUNA OASIS



 MEN'S ROOM

 Maison  
Plein Cœur

**4KIX**

**GRAB**

**INspired Media**

**Buzz**

*Gay Calgary*

My Gay Toronto.com

**AURA**  
WEB SOLUTIONS

  
SHAUN PROULX  
MEDIA

**PINK**  
COURAGE



  
**nexus**  
news radio

GARÇONS  
SCULPTEURS 

**RJV**  
COMMUNICATION

**Dan Saycool**

COMMUNITY  
EVENT  
ORGANIZED  
BY



TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL PARTNER,  
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION,  
OR VOLUNTEER :  
**INFORMATION@BBCM.ORG**







## BALMORAL STREET DINING



**CHECK OUT OUR EXPANDED  
PATIO AT THE BALMORAL  
STREET DINING  
EXPERIENCE!**

**REPLAY ANDERSONVILLE**  
**5358 N. CLARK ST**  
**CHICAGO, IL 60640**

**REPLAY**  
beer • bourbon • dining





# CONTENTS

## THIS ISSUE

<b>NEXUS DANCE CHART</b>	26
<b>GRAB HOLLY</b>	30
<b>GRAB MUSIC</b>	34
<b>GRAB NEWS</b>	36
<b>Bar/Restaurant/ Directory/</b>	38 & 40
<b>MAP</b>	41
<b>CLASSIFIEDS</b>	42

**GRAB MAGAZINE**  
**3712 N. BROADWAY #315**  
**CHICAGO, IL 60613**  
**TEL: 773-515-0293**  
**WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM**  
**WWW.GRABBYAWARDS.COM**  
 EMAIL: GRABMAGAZINE@AOL.COM

# GRAB

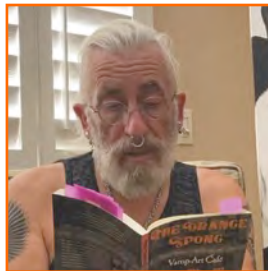
MAGAZINE

**DJ  
KARSTEN  
SOLLORS**  
**6**



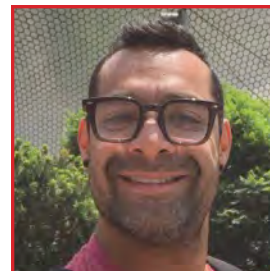
**JESSIE  
WARE**  
**10**

**PAULA  
PELL**  
**16**



**ST. SUKIE  
DE LA  
CROIX**  
**22**

**GRAB  
ERIK**  
**28**



### **Publisher**

Stacy Bridges

### **Contributors**

Chris Azzopardi  
 Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss  
 Owen Keehnen  
 Erik Sosa-Kibby  
 Holly Maholm  
 Tom Olah  
 Gregg Shapiro  
 Dylan Seitz

### **Production**

Stacy Bridges  
 James Gumb

### **Photography**

Bear Lens Photography

### **Sales**

Erik Sosa-Kibby  
 Judy Kyle

### **Public Relations**

Nick Wille

### **NATIONAL SALES**

### **REPRESENTATIVE**

RIVENDELL MEDIA  
 908-232-2021

### **In Memorium**

Mark Nagel (Co-Founder)  
 1961 - 2019

### **Cover:**

**DJ Karsten Sollors**  
*Photo By: Brian Rody*



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



# Charlie's<sup>®</sup> CHICAGO

See  
y'all  
real  
soon!

Be sure to follow us on  
social media and check our website  
for re-opening information!

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



Charles\_ChicagoBar



CharliesBarCHI



CharliesBarCHI

TEXT "CHARLIESCHI" TO 31996

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



## GRAB A DJ

Chicago's  
Karsten Sollors

By Tom Olah

A respected resident of Sound-Bar in Chicago, Karsten Sollors is one of the scene's rarities whose unwavering commitment to the music which drives him has established the DJ as an invaluable and integral part of the North American electronic music circuit.

Largely defined by earnest transmissions of sincere and soulful energy, Karsten's unwavering passion for the music through his decades of experience within the industry speaks for itself. A musical narrative dictated by rhythm, flow and emotion, the Canadian native's musical stamp is hugely reflective of his deep, galvanised connection with Chicago and its rich history of House music. Perfectly balanced between underground flavour and irresistible rhythms, Karsten is a true purveyor of the genre fusing together elements of house, tech house and deep house throughout his career.

Proudly advocating the Chicago sound, Now residing in the city, Karsten is fully immersed and connected with many of his inspirations, as well having the privilege to work alongside and learn from the expertise of the iconic Gene Farris.

**Tom Olah: First off, Karsten, thanks for taking the time out of your extremely busy schedule to talk with me. Where did you grow up?**

**Karsten Sollors:** Absolutely! It's my pleasure, thank you so much for having me. I was born in Vancouver, Canada to a Canadian-Scottish mother and a German immigrant father. I lived all over British Columbia, Canada in places such as Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna; I then moved to Montreal when I was 19, backpacked through Asia for a year when I was 22. Then I got an opportunity to move to Europe at 25 which I took and ended up living in both Hamburg, Germany and Barcelona, Spain. In 2010, I moved back to Vancouver at age 27 for six years, and then moved to Chicago four years ago.

**TO: You travel quite a bit and I read that you backpacked in Thailand for a year in 2005. What was that experience like?**

**KS:** Yes, it was awesome. On that same trip, I was actually first in Taiwan teaching English (for three months) before heading over to Thailand for the rest of the trip. I love that country so much; it's such a spiritually rich and kind culture. The people are amazing, the food is incredible and the landscape is breathtaking. I actually carried a bag of vinyl records with me, along with my luggage, and ended up playing at a number of beach clubs across the country. It's surprising to me but I love that you brought up that trip, as it was ages ago. My travels have been extensive since then and I really haven't

thought about that time in my life for while. For example, in 2019 alone, I visited 50-plus cities, 10 countries and even toured India twice for a total of six weeks and 10 shows!

**TO: Favorite place to vacation?**

**KS:** That's a tough one and is ever changing. I travel a lot. In 2019, I was in a new city almost every weekend, which was amazing. I have gotten to experience so many places. As I mentioned, I spent more than six weeks in India last year; that was an awesome adventure. It's such a charming country. I think my new favorite place to



Photo By Perry Senecal



vacation and spend time though is Tulum, Mexico. The beaches are stunning, I love being in the jungle; it has a boho kinda vibe, it's very artistic and spiritual and has some of the best and freshest plant-based meals i've experienced. I came back from there feeling grounded and fully rejuvenated. I hope to do the same again this winter.

**TO: Growing up, did you always know you wanted to be a DJ? How old were you when you decided this was for you?**

KS: I started deejaying when I was 14 years old after going to my first rave back in '98. My parents had gifted me a basic set-up with two Technics 1200s and mixer; I started collecting records and playing in my bedroom. I didn't ever consider it to be a career path for myself. I just did it because it gave me so much pleasure. I loved sharing music with my friends, playing house parties and small gigs at the boarding school that I attended and around where I lived. It wasn't until later in my life that I was asked to DJ randomly by my friend Skylar in Vancouver at a place called 1181 where my career of it really kicked off. That one night completely changed the course of my life. The owner at the time, Jenn, asked me to

come back to play again as soon as possible and within about a month or so, offered me a full-time residency, which lead to more and more gigs locally. Once I started to produce my own music, and really gain traction from that, the out-of-town and international gigs started coming and then eventually became the norm.

**TO: Where was your first DJ residency?**

KS: 1181 was my first DJ residency. Currently I hold a residency at *Sound-Bar*, *Z Bar* in the Peninsula Hotel and at *Replay* with *Organized Grime Crew*. I'm also a regular at *CircuitMOM Productions* events and the *Gene Farris And Friends/Farris Wheel Recordings* shows as well as at *Spybar* – all in Chicago. I play four to five times a year at *Gorgomish* after-hours in Vancouver which holds a very special place in my heart. There are also many party promoters around the world that I have been working with regularly over the years, and that is constantly expanding.

**TO: Has Chicago influenced your deejaying?**

KS: It absolutely has. I have great respect for Chicago and its rich history in electronic music and the legendary

pioneers of house who came up from here. I moved here to be with my husband Brian Rody, and it ended up being extremely important for the development of my career and artistry as well. As a creative, I am deeply inspired by my surroundings; Chicago is a special place that is full of talent and inspiration. Being able to surround myself with such talent has really brought out the best in me. I'm constantly striving to learn, grow and evolve. I've just been so fortunate with the friends, promoters, clubs and colleagues that have so graciously welcomed me into the Chicago underground scene and allowed me to fully thrive within it. Now that I'm representing Chicago on my travels and tours, I find myself consciously honoring the pioneers that came before me, in one way or another – weaving the older/classic and the new to create some kind of a timeless journey for the dancefloor. It's interesting, I've always had a deep connection to Chicago, its history and music without really knowing it. Being here has absolutely reflected that to me.

**TO: Do you have any advice for someone thinking of becoming a DJ/producer?**





*Photo by Tony P @ Black And Blue Ball, Chicago*

**KS:** DJ for love of it, for the music, without the need to make a career from it. I think this instills the right values that a DJ should have. A career in music is a mega-hustle and requires a lot more than just the technical aspect of deejaying. They need to be prepared to work constantly at it, and that effort never lets up no matter what level you're deejaying at. It's important to be part of a "scene" if you want to play gigs locally. So definitely go out and support club nights and festivals, make friends with other DJs, producers and promoters.

In the current climate, it's very important to be producing your own music. One thing to keep in mind is that there is no such thing as an overnight success. Our society tends to sensationalize the very few instances where this happens, and it ends up affecting us all into thinking this is the norm. We live in a culture where we want everything now, everything fast. This is not how it works for 99.9 percent of success stories in any field, take small steps everyday, fall forward and know that any career worth living takes time to build. When I look back, even three to four years, I have attained almost every goal I set out to achieve and I'm constantly making new

ones. Don't let the what you don't have yet, affect everything you've done up till now. Celebrate your wins, learn from your perceived losses and the rejection and keep working hard. Lastly, support your friends' art/music. When they put out new music or content, shoot them a like and a comment or, better yet, buy their tracks as that's what helps them chart and get more visibility which then directly manifests into gigs and income. There's enough room for everyone to be successful. We are all different and bring something unique to the dancefloor.

**TO: How many tracks have you released to date? Any yet-to-be released tracks that you can tell us about?**

**KS:** In the six years that I have been producing and putting out music, I have more than 50 commercially released original tracks and remixes on labels such as Toolroom, Nervous Records, Farris Wheel Recordings, Sleazy Deep, Undr The Radr, Stealth, Simma Black, Great Stuff and many more with many of those tracks landing in the Top 10 and Top 100 on the charts. Yes! I definitely have lots of new music set to come out. I have a few remixes coming out. On Simma Black, a remix for

Vanilla Ace and Venky, on We Jack which is run by Gettoblaster and is a remix of their track "Break Em Off" featuring Chicago Rapper Kid Enigma, as well as a remix for Sophia Essel and DaniCW called "My Love" on UK-based Sinister Sounds. I'm currently working on many collaborations, one of which is with rapper Cazwell, and another six with Montreal-based duo Lex & Wood. I also have a track I'm working on with LA-based Cazzette with vocalist Ayer. There's much more in the pipeline that I'm very excited about but is a bit too early to announce.

**TO: So this year has been a bit crazy. What have you been doing to keep sane during the Covid-19 pandemic?**

**KS:** Yes! Wow what a surreal year it has been, reflecting on it now as I write this. Thankfully, a large part of what I do is in the studio so I've been able to get into a routine where I'm working on music for at least three hours everyday – which is actually a bit more than I got when I was regularly touring. A lot of DJ sets and shows have moved into the digital space with streaming and I've been fortunate to do a few really cool online streams. In June, I did a massive pride event with Beatport and London-based He.She.They, as well as a couple



GRAM  
FASHION



3331 N. BROADWAY | 773.477.1737



for my home team label Farris Wheel Recording, Spybar and also with my Tatues/Organized Grime Crew. In July, I also found out that I was accepted into the Grammy Recording Academy "Class of 2020," which is has been such a high honor for me to be recognized in that capacity. I've been working with them on a few projects and now have some new goals and directions in mind. Music aside, I've been walking a lot at the lakefront in the mornings and I have been biking and swimming almost everyday in the later afternoon after my studio sessions. I'm fully vegan as of three years now, and love to cook, so I've been finding a lot of enjoyment in being creative in the kitchen, cooking and baking a ton. I've also had a chance to read a lot more then ever before, and definitely been locking into all the amazing TV series that are streaming these days.

**TO: What are some upcoming events in which you are going to be a part of in 2021?**

**KS:** For the rest of 2020, it's likely that all my events will be in the digital space. Next up will be Friday, September 4 for Dirtybird x Farris Wheel's new stream event on Dirtybird TV called "Carnival" which will be streamed live from Spybar Chicago, so that should be really cool. I also have a few other streams, interviews and mixes booked for later in the month. My radio show "Sollors Systems" is also still going strong, we just finished airing our 18th episode. It streams monthly on UK-based Data Transmission Radio the fourth Thursday of every month, with unlimited playback on SoundCloud. For live in-person shows, I'm hopeful but that's a tough one to really give any concrete details. With all the uncertainty in the world at the moment, I think it's very difficult to predict what 2021 is going to look like. Thankfully I have quite a few promoters who had me booked for events in 2020 that have just shifted the

bookings to 2021. We will see; all info and details will be posted in real time across my socials!

**TO: Anything else you would like to say to our readers?**

**KS:** Thank you so much for having me. This has been fun. Anyone who wants

to keep up-to-date with my music, life, plant-based food recipes and tour schedule is welcome to follow me across all socials and streaming **@karstensollors**. I look forward to hopefully seeing everyone on the dancefloor again soon!

Photo By Elena Bayda @ Release, Dallas TX





The image shows two cups of shaved ice on a metal table. The cup on the left is filled with bright red shaved ice, and the cup on the right is filled with light pink shaved ice. Both cups are topped with a single red cherry and have a black straw inserted. In the background, there is a colorful fence made of vertical wooden slats in various colors like blue, yellow, red, and green. The 'SIDETRACK' logo is overlaid on the top center of the image.

**SIDETRACK**®

**OPEN WITH OUTSIDE SEATING**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY 3-11PM**  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-11PM**



## GRAB JESSIE



Photo by Carlijn Jacobs

## Inside Jessie Ware's Queer Utopia

### Disco queen settles the gay debate over her new album and talks queer Twitter love, big wigs and pop music's disco moment

By Chris Azzopardi

Jessie Ware sees all the fan-sent rainbow emojis on her Twitter feed, and “definitely a lot of Spanish writing and I don’t know what they’re saying to me but I love it,” gushes the British balladeer turned disco queen. For the first time since releasing her debut *Devotion* in 2012, Ware feels a major shift, one her glorious soul-escape album, *What’s Your Pleasure?*, has afforded her. She says all this crazy queer love (rightly so; the album is, right now, the closest thing we have to a COVID cure) has been helping her ride out this miserable pandemic: “We’ve gone global, baby. We’re not just America. We’re not just UK anymore. We are global and I am loving it.”

I connected with Ware recently to talk about a lot of things that were not things I planned on talking about with

her. As we near the end of our scheduled time together, Ware says, apologetically, “I feel like I answered nothing,” right after she asked me, randomly, unprompted, without any smooth transition, what I had for breakfast.

For Ware, finding time to prepare a meal with her two children around, I discover, has been a challenge. “This is what I do: I kind of go, ‘Why don’t you go up the hill and go get your hot chocolate, darling, so I can shove a bloody banana bread into my mouth?’”

Recently, Ware managed to steal a few uninterrupted moments to talk about *What’s Your Pleasure?*, which is drenched in the kind of sensuality that has made at least one gay man stop in the middle of sex to ask what song was playing (for inquiring minds, it was the

title song). Even though Ware says she was “knackered” from trying to figure out how to promote an album during lockdown, she mustered plenty of energy to talk about that Grindr encounter, and whatever else came up.

**Chris Azzopardi: Take me back to the day when you told yourself that you’d give the gays everything they want with this album.**

**Jessie Ware:** I finished my last show of the last record and I could see my gay fans in the audience. I thought, “You need more energy, and you need more sex, and that is what I’m going to give you.” I think it was always in the back of the mind. My gay following has grown, particularly now with this record. But the gay community has always been loyal, so I felt I had to give something back. I



# DIVALICIOUS BRUNCH WITH MADAM X

INDOOR & OUTDOOR DINING  
FREE FLOWING MIMOSA, BELLINI,  
SANGRIA, BLOODY MARY PACKAGES!  
11AM TIL 3PM



MONDAY 9/7

YOU BETTER WERK, BITCH!

# LABOR DAY

## CELEBRATION AT KIT KAT



### DIVA AND DINNER WITH KINLEY PRESTON

INDOOR & OUTDOOR DINING  
DINNER MENU 4-11PM

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**\$7.95** HAPPY HOUR  
MARTINIS  
5-7PM ONLY



3700 N HALSTED 773.525.1111 FOR RESERVATIONS KITKATCHICAGO.COM



@KITKATLOUNGE



KIT KAT LOUNGE AND SUPPER CLUB



wanted to combine fashion, art, dance and music all together in one kind of big melting pot and feel confident and fun and sophisticated and flirtatious. It was really empowering.

**CA: I feel like this wouldn't be a proper gay interview with you if I didn't bring up your gay brother, who seems to come up every time we chat. Did he have anything to do with how gay this album is?**

**JW:** Nope. He absolutely didn't have any involvement in this. I played him a few songs, demos, and he was obsessed with "The Kill." But yeah, he was not my soundboard. I guess my kids were.

**CA: How so?**

**JW:** I think when you get a 3-year-old dancing, then you're doing a good job. And then if you get a 3-year-old singing the words, then you're doing an even better job. When she sang "Ooo la la, open up the door, you know I like it," I was like, "Oh, Jesus, girl. Good thing she doesn't know what she's fucking talking about."

**CA: "Remember Where You Are" keeps me in the day, and in the moment. Honestly, it's exactly what I need right now.**

**JW:** "Save a Kiss" has a different kind of poignancy during this lockdown, and I know it's bloody hard for you at the moment and it's a mess, and yeah, that absolutely is about the world going to shit and remembering where you are and who you're with. And remembering what matters. So yeah, I appreciate that, doll. I'm glad it's helping you a little bit.

**CA: Just hearing you talk about it is getting me teary-eyed.**

**JW:** Get a fucking grip. OK, yeah, it is good to cry.

**CA: And I don't even have a question about this song, but I know I want to know more about it. What can you say about that song?**

**JW:** I had finished writing with Danny Parker, who is very available and wonderful and also goes by the name Model Child, and we were just having fun and in that relaxed state. We just slowed the vibe and took a different direction. It's very much a nod to Earth, Wind & Fire and Minnie Riperton and

done. I imagined it at the end of an episode of *The Handmaid's Tale*.

**CA: My boyfriend tells me that he heard that gays are bickering about whether this is a full-on disco album or disco lite. Can you settle this controversial gay debate right here, right now?**

**JW:** Jesus Christ. It's a nod to a wonderful era, but I could never say that I've done a disco record because I don't think it's right to. It's an

homage and it's a dance record that's got many different facets to it. I'm lucky for people to even say it's a disco record, but I think I have to earn my stripes.

**CA: While doing a deep dive into disco for this album, was there something about disco music's relevance to the LGBTQ community that surprised you?**

**JW:** I took for granted the genre of disco and the movement around that. I learned how important it was to the queer community. The significance of a song like Fern Kinney's "Love Me Tonight" during the AIDS epidemic put a whole different meaning on that song. So I was just kind of absorbing, respecting, and acknowledging it. And also I was watching a lot of *Pose*.

**CA: While making the album?**

**JW:** I watched the first series. The second series came out when I finished the record, or I watched it when I finished the record. But I love it. I met Billy Porter during New York Fashion Week and I did

that really unattractive squeal.

**CA: I bet it was adorable and he loved it.**

**JW:** Mm, not sure. It was slightly overzealous on my part.

**CA: I could see him in one of your big wigs.**

**JW:** I think that's the thing: What I love about Billy Porter is that he comes from



*Hair*, the musical. I think Trump had just been over (to the UK) and (UK Prime Minister) Boris Johnson had just got back in power, and we were feeling miserable about it. "The heart of the city is on fire" and this shit is going on and it's quite a dystopian image of the world. We never could have predicted that we were going to have a global pandemic. This song was kind of a reaction to that. It's the nearest to a political song I've





# REELING2020

THE 38<sup>TH</sup> CHICAGO LGBTQ+  
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Watch the  
**VIRTUAL FESTIVAL**  
at [ReelingFilmFestival.org](http://ReelingFilmFestival.org)

38  
9/24-10/4  
2020



musical-theater and on this record there were nods to musical-theater and melodrama and all of it. I mean, never trust anyone who doesn't love a musical, that's what I say. You know what I mean? I just think, who are you that you don't want someone to break into song and dance?

**CA: You, along with Lady Gaga and Dua Lipa, have been doing your part to save the gays from COVID with disco-esque albums. And Kylie has one on the way. Any theories on this disco moment pop music is having right now?**

**JW:** I have no idea what happened and why we all did the same thing at the same time. I mean, they're all different. They're all totally different. But it's really lovely to be among those names. And if it's giving the gays what they want, that is the most important thing. If only I could sell as many as them though, right? I'm just this little kept secret that I do quite like. Still the best kept secret.

**CA: Well, that could change. Getting you a Grammy could and should be the next major gay movement.**

**JW:** Can you also do everything in your power to fix my brother up with somebody?

**CA: He's still single? The last time we talked he was single.**

**JW:** It's just like ... I don't understand. He's a doctor. He works hard. He saves lives. God, what a nightmare for a young gay man.

**CA: OK, so honestly, this is my thing with your brother...**

**JW:** I love that you've got a thing about my brother. Go on.

**CA: He just needs to get on Grindr and tell everyone he's Jessie Ware's brother.**

**JW:** I definitely think my brother has dropped my number into a Grindr message or two. But who knows. He'll never tell me. But there was this fan on



*Photo by Carlijn Jacobs*

Instagram who messaged me saying, "Look who I bumped into." And they messaged me again and said, "A guy was having sex with me last night and I had your record on and he stopped to ask what song this was." I said, "I'm so sorry, but out of curiosity, which song was it?"

**CA: Now that the album has been out since June, how do you sense it's been received compared to your past albums?**

**JW:** It's been overwhelmingly amazing. I wish somebody would've told me that they wanted me to make a disco record a little earlier – maybe I would've bloody done it! But it's been amazing. And it's just been really gratifying because I felt

so in control and so empowered and confident. A 35-year-old woman, making music, feeling like I knew who my fans were, and this is really a credit to my fans that I felt I was making the record mostly for them.

And the reviews have been amazing, and that's very nice of them, but to be honest, I cared more that my fans were going mad for it. And apart from a few #JusticeForOvertime hashtags – which is like, come on, get over it – it's been amazing. It's been exciting. I feel like a new artist.

**CA: What kind of reactions are you seeing from the queer community on your social media? There's some good stuff out there.**



**JW:** I mean, the teaser for the “What’s Your Pleasure?” video – it’s big hair! And all my gay fans were commenting, being like, “The bigger the hair, the closer to God.” I don’t know.

**CA: That’s what Dolly Parton says.**

**JW:** Oh, well then, there. That’s it. I’m done. Ha!

**CA: You’ve peaked.**

**JW:** I’m fucking *done*. But I think it’s so fun, and I’m very much giving the gays what they want. There was one that made me laugh so much. Somebody wrote, “You, Jessica, need to go to your room and have a think about what you’ve done!” Ha!

**CA: I saw one message that said, “Who is Jessie Ware and why have all the gays adopted her this summer?”**

**JW:** Excuse me. I was always adopted by the gays, thank you very much. Welcome to our club.

**CA: Things are so sad and shitty. These comments must be giving you so much life.**

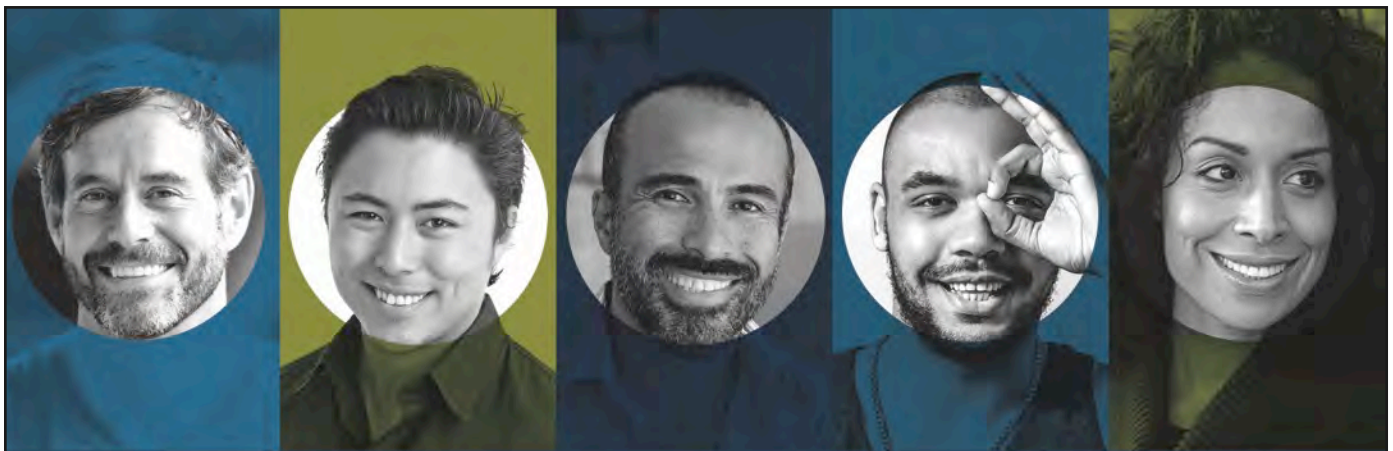
**JW:** The humor and the sass and the fact that we have so much fun together, they’re just really egging me on now. Like, I don’t know how big I can get my next hair, but I’d say that was about 12

hairpieces in there, so I’m gonna have to work out what I do on the next bloody thing. I’ve done latex, I’ve done massive hair. I need to think about what I’m going to do next.

**CA: I believe in you.**

**JW:** Whatever you want, I will do. I am at your mercy.

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



Northstar Healthcare is **unique** and we are proud about that.

Northstar Medical Center is a private state-of-the-art research based clinic, devoted to the LGBTQ community for over 25 years. Our progressive approach to both internal medicine and HIV-related healthcare, coupled with our philosophy of personalized care propel us to offer services that go beyond just health; Northstar Clinic physicians and staff strive to keep you at your best.



2835 N Sheffield Ave #500, Chicago, IL 60657  
P: (773) 296-2400 | F: (773) 296-1097

[www.nstarmedical.com](http://www.nstarmedical.com)





Photo Courtesy Quibi

## Murder, She Kind of Wrote

### Out *SNL* alum Paula Pell puts a goofy queer twist on Jessica Fletcher in *Mapleworth Murders*

By Chris Azzopardi

Writer-actress Paula Pell knows it's ridiculous: a dowdy, out-of-touch suburban broad with an accent that is somehow a little British – or Irish, or something – who solves murders in her quaint town. But the Emmy winner, who wrote for *Saturday Night Live* for nearly 20 years and recently made a dildo-assisted splash in front of the camera as Val in the Netflix original movie *Wine Country*, ate up every bit of *Murder, She Wrote*. So playing a randy, gay Jessica Fletcher? It's the kind of role she'd kill for.

Luckily, she didn't have to. Fellow comedian and *30 Rock* actor John Lutz asked Pell if she'd be interested in portraying an amateur sleuth. She said

absolutely. And now, for 12 short-form episodes on Quibi, she is. In the hilarious satire *Mapleworth Murders*, Pell's Abigail Mapleworth solves insanely silly murder-mysteries in her own peculiar way, with help from her millennial, selfie-obsessed niece (Hayley Magnus).

Recently, Pell called to talk about the show's shenanigans as a pandemic salve, why she thinks Angela Lansbury would be into the show, and that time she accidentally sent a dildo to her parents.

**Chris Azzopardi: I don't think there could possibly be a better time for this show. I needed to laugh.**

**Paula Pell:** That makes me so freakin' happy. I hope that that is true for many people, and I hope that a lot of people watch it, because we loved making it so much. It was one of those moments, and there are so few. *Wine Country* was one of them. But those true things you do and you go, "If I were able to do that as my job, I would do it all the time." It was just such a romp of joy.

You know, we weren't sure what date we were launching because of everything that has happened, and schedules were so screwed up. It was getting so ... like, god when is this going to come out? And I really am glad it came out when it did because it does feel like our souls are so exhausted that



# MADE - YA - LOOK

A FULL SERVICE DESIGN | ADVERTISING | MARKETING AGENCY  
READY TO ELEVATE YOUR BRAND.

THIS MODEL IS SOLELY HERE AS EYE CANDY, ENJOY.

**BRIGHT.BOLD.FUN.**  
[www.bluebotadvertising.com](http://www.bluebotadvertising.com)



**BLUE BOT**  
ADVERTISING



we just need something to laugh at. Something weird that's *not* terrifying.

**CA: Are you eager to find out what Angela Lansbury thinks of this show? Because I am.**

**PP:** I am eager. At first we were talking about maybe having a tiny cameo or something if she was able to. I mean, in the second season we would love to have something where I'm having trouble with my niece and then I call my aunt and it's her; we're all connected. Because we're so filthy in it, I was a little bit worried that if we called her and she saw some of it, she'd be like, "Oh, this is disgusting." But then I remembered, of course, that Angela Lansbury is such a theater broad and she played Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, which is just my dream role. And I'm like, "She can be very dark." And very sweet, I've heard, from everyone I've ever talked to that has ever met her. I would be thrilled some time to have her even see it or look at it or know that it's just an homage, because it's got so much love behind it for her and for that show.

**CA: What was it like to bring Abigail to life?**

**PP:** So much stylistically made me so freakin' excited because the style is so specific. We wanted her to just be really eccentric and mix all these different patterns. By the end of it everyone on set was so funny because they're like, "I'm obsessed with the Mapleworth style, and I really, really wanna dress like Abigail Mapleworth." The bucket hats, the trench coats, the scarves – it's such a reminder to me of all those old broads in my family: those great aunts, the grandmas and my mother, who is now in

her 80s. She's hilarious, and she'll just get her slacks on with her little Chico's jacket and her scarf and her earrings and her lipstick and then she'll come home from church and go sit in her bra with her necklace still on and eat potato salad and a hamburger. Ha! Just very strong women who are also dainty are my favorite thing of all. I have always loved matrons. I was born at 50. And like, is there anything better than *The Golden Girls*? I mean, you just want to live with them.

**CA: How did you land on that wild affectation for Abigail?**

**PP:** A little bit of it was this actress that I worked with, Anne Meacham, when I was in college. I understudied; we had a pro theater company at University of Tennessee. They would bring in people from Broadway and soap stars. I worked with Melissa Gilbert, and all these people who were on these shows in the '80s. And this woman was Anne



Photo Courtesy Quibi

Meacham. She was a theatrical actress on Broadway who did a lot of Tennessee Williams plays. She was also on *Another World*, the soap opera. And she was just this old theater broad with red-dyed hair pulled back in a tight bun. She was really skinny, and she was blind, and I had to take care of her the whole time because in *The Lion in Winter* she played the queen. And she was so eccentric: "I love you! I hate all of them! But I love you!" She would take my dog and put my dog's face in her makeup mirror and she would put his face in there to make him look at himself in the mirror. She was the ultimate theater broad. And I ate it up! I was just so obsessed with her.

I've often thought of doing a one-woman show where I just was her and did a bunch of adventures that happened during that time. So all these years, I've had that voice in me. So Abigail has a bit of that dainty but sort of "Is she British? No" vibe. You're like, "They're born in Wisconsin but they talk like they're European." So I just love those dainty ladies that have a household of knick-knacks and a lot of dogs. And a "handywomanman."

**CA: Speaking of a handywomanman, I had to take a double-take because that's your**



Photo Courtesy Quibi





**ALL NEW  
FALL 2020  
NASTY PIG  
COMING  
SOON!**

**NEW VAUX COLLECTION**

AVAILABLE AT

**FULL KIT GEAR**

**Your favorite gear. Everyday low prices.**

**5021 N. CLARK STREET CHICAGO, IL 60640  
SHOP ONLINE NOW AT [WWW.FULLKIT.COM](http://WWW.FULLKIT.COM)**



fiancé Janine Brito as Junie.

**PP:** Ha! When she kisses me and takes my earring out of her mouth.

**CA: Whose idea was that?**

**PP:** That was her idea. She was like, "I think once I'm whispering to you, I should come back and have your earring in my mouth."

**CA: Did you do it in one take?**

**PP:** No. We did a bunch of different versions of that, because there were some where she was whispering a lot of things and I was saying, like, "Oh, well, we can do that together. Or separately and watch each other!" But we do want to do more of Junie. We want Junie to be in there always, like, cleaning out my pipes, or down under the floor, under my bed doing something. Just always working.

**CA: Your characters in both *Wine Country* and *Mapleworth Murders* are involved in some way with dildos. Which got me thinking: dildos really are as erotic as they are completely silly. Is that why they end up in your projects?**

**PP:** Ha! I spent a lot of time alone! There were times, like after my divorce or before I was ever even married, you do have to have that little drawer. You have to have something *in* that little drawer.

I have to tell you something funny about a vibrator. I bought a very haphazard vibrator on Amazon – ha! –



Photo Courtesy Quibi

not too long ago. It was at Christmas that I ordered this vibrator and I was like, "Oh, I'm going to order this very basic one." I ordered it, and then I went home for Christmas and then went back home to LA after Christmas. It was January 15th, and I looked on my phone. It said, "Your package has arrived" and showed the picture of the vibrator and I was like, "Oh, did we get a package?" And I look out at my house in LA and I didn't get a package. Then I looked, and you know how they show you where they delivered it? It was delivered to my mom's front porch, like, with her poinsettias and her little beagle statue that says "Welcome." So next to that is a box with a basic Amazon vibrator in it and it made me

laugh so hard. I called my mom and was like, "There's a package there, it's something for me, just send it back to me." Of course they opened it and then repackaged it with Orlando newspapers.

**CA: That seems horrifying.**

**PP:** Well, it was really fun to talk to props in two different projects about my vibrators and dildos and have them discuss with you, like, "Now, this one, you're gonna have to push this" – like, the prop department is showing you! In *Wine Country* too. It was like, "Now this thing, this button is kind of ... it sticks a little bit. So you gotta turn this here."

**CA: Would you be any good at solving a murder?**

**PP:** I've always loved the idea of being a detective, but I would want to be the one that's in the office, or going to the people that aren't scary and dangerous to ask them questions. I would love being part of solving something that helped people have closure or helped find a bad person. Like, I would love doing that. But I also have fear of that sort of repercussion of criminals. When I was young I was always afraid somebody was going to be stalking me for turning them in.

So I would love all the sitting and talking about the human nature of it and trying to interrogate someone and getting them to admit something and be good cop, bad cop. That part really is interesting. But the rest of it would scare me. I wouldn't want to be the one in the danger part of it. I'm a chicken that way.



Photo Courtesy Quibi



A man with extensive tattoos on his arms, neck, and hands is wearing a grey mesh face mask and a tank top featuring a colorful comic book panel pattern. He is holding the bottom of the tank top, revealing white underwear with a skull and bones logo. The background is a solid bright blue.

# egoist

UNDERWEAR | ACTIVE WEAR | SWIMWEAR  
SHORTS | TANKS | T-SHIRTS | AROMAS | LUBE

# END OF SUMMER SALE

TANKS, SHORTS,  
+ SWIMWEAR  
(SELECT STYLES)

**25-50% OFF**

IN-STORE | CURBSIDE PICKUP | ONLINE | FREE SHIPPING AVAILABLE

3739 N HALSTED ST | CHICAGO, IL 60613

**EGOISTUNDERWEAR.COM**





# GRAB ST. SUKIE



## Orange you glad I asked?: An interview with St. Sukie de la Croix

By Gregg Shapiro

Gay historian and writer St. Sukie de la Croix's new novel, *The Orange Spong And Storytelling at the Vamp-Art Café* (Rattling Good Yarns, 2020), more or less picks up where its predecessor, 2017's *The Blue Spong and the Flight From Mediocrity* left off. By that I mean, it returns readers to the Bohemian neighborhood of Chicago's TowerTown during the roaring '20s. This time, however, the denizens are the habitués of the titular Vamp-Art Café, who are, as you may have surmised, vampires. Not just any vampires, mind you, but the kind who enjoy a "rattling good yarn." Anything, that is, except for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, which, according to the Orange spong (aka Ra aka the sun) worshipping vampires, got it all wrong. Sukie was kind enough to

answer a few questions about the book around the time of its publication.

**Gregg Shapiro:** I would describe *The Orange Spong And Storytelling at the Vamp-Art Café* as a set of stories within the framework of a larger story. Which came first – the concept or the stories?

**ST. Sukie de la Croix:** [Laughs] I wish I was that organized. I tend to start fiction with a vague idea. After *The Blue Spong and the Flight from Mediocrity*, I knew I wanted to write another spong book, but a different spong. I knew that the spong was going to be orange. So, I typed "Orange Spong" at the top of the page and sat back and waited. Without wishing to sound spiritual, I open up my mind to any possibility, I

dispense with logic and common sense and at some point, it flows out of me. My fingers start typing. I didn't know it was a book about vampires telling their stories, until a vampire stood up in the Vamp-Art Café and started telling a story. I call it trance-writing. I let the characters form and write themselves.

**GS:** When you lived in Chicago you were a participant in the *Twilight Tales* reading series at the Red Lion. Was that a source of inspiration for *The Orange Spong*...?

**SSdIC:** *Twilight Tales* was an open mic at the Red Lion Pub on Lincoln Avenue where people got up and told stories. The idea for *The Orange Spong* may have come from that. That didn't occur to me until you mentioned it.



Consciously, I was inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. I love listening to other people tell their stories. I very much miss the Twilight Tales reading series because nothing was out of bounds. I never had to worry if I was going to offend someone. I read by necrophiliac poem "I F\*\*k the Dead" there and they loved it. I also read a story called "Trixie, the Singing C\*\*t" and a poem, "I F\*\*ked an Alien on a Greyhound Bus". When you find a group of people who love you in your vilest literary moments, hang on to them. They are precious. All those people I met there are very dear to me.

**GS: Did any of the stories in *The Orange Spong*... start there?**

**SSdIC:** I seem to remember I read an early version of "Who Was Jane Dalotz?" at Twilight Tales while I was there. That's the only story in the book that existed before. Looking at the stories after they were finished, I think I based Charles Weymouth in "The Woman in the Puddle" on my grandfather returning from fighting in the Boar War. I see my influences after it's finished, rather than thinking about something, then writing about it. Jane Dalotz was a name scribbled onto an old photograph I found in somebody's trash years ago in England. I imagined the woman in the photograph to be one Lewis Carroll's little girls all grown up.

**GS: I'm grateful to you for writing about the Essanay Movie Studios. When I lived in Chicago and walked**

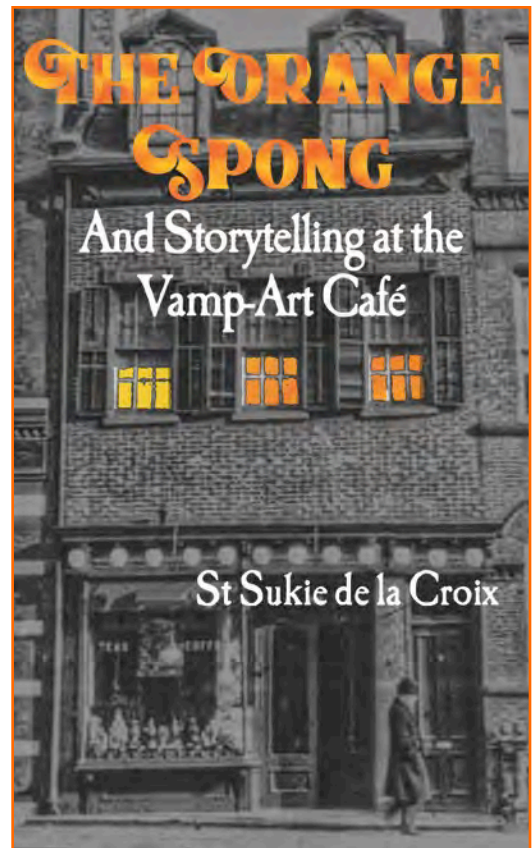
**from my home in Uptown to Andersonville, I usually made a point of walking west on Argyle Street so I could stop and pay homage. Why did you choose to include it in the book?**

**SSdIC:** In the 1920s Towertown in Chicago was exactly as I describe it in the two spong books. Many of the inhabitants of that area were wilting stars from Essanay Studios. There was one real life café owner in Towertown who was a lesbian and had her face disfigured when a giant fan blew sand onto her face for hours in a movie scene of a sandstorm. Took her face off. She sued and bought a café with the money. Touring circuses used to stay in the area. Vaudeville stars, political agitators, gays and poets. That's why I set the spong novels in that neighborhood in 1920s Chicago, because all the characters there were larger than life.

**GS: In the novel, you wrote about the vampires' dislike of the book *Dracula*, and also included details about Bram Stoker's homosexuality.**

**SSdIC:** Bram Stoker's day job was at London's Lyceum Theatre looking after the actor, Henry Irving – a big Mary

Queen. They were very close. Stoker was what we would now call a "bear." Prior to Stoker's marriage to Florence Anne Lemon Balcombe, she dated Oscar Wilde. She loved the gays ... a Victorian Liza Minnelli [laughs]. Stoker's marriage was famously sexless.



**GS: There's a description of Chicago in the book – which is set almost 100 years ago – calling it "politically corrupt and bereft of morals." Is this an example of the more things change, the more they stay the same?**

**SSdIC:** Chicago is still politically corrupt and bereft of morals. That's what makes it interesting. That's why I lived there for over 20 years. If I wanted boring, I'd have moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, which has all the charm, charisma, and mystery of a rotting dog turd on a gravel path. All the men in Fort Wayne look like child-molesters and all the women look like they died three weeks ago in a freak nail salon accident.

**GS: A few times in the book you make mention of "rattling good yarns," which is also the name of the publisher of *The***





**Orange Spong... How do you define a rattling good yarn?**

**SSdIC:** It's a forgotten British phrase often applied to Victorian or Edwardian Penny Dreadful stories, or the boy's adventure stories I read as a kid. My spong books are very much in the vein of those stories, an old-fashioned beginning, a middle, and an end in that order. I don't read much modern fiction. I enjoy the books that would now be called Steampunk, authors like Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Dennis Wheatley and H. Rider Haggard. They wrote rattling good yarns. I enjoy other writers too but the spong books are very much in that Steampunk vein.

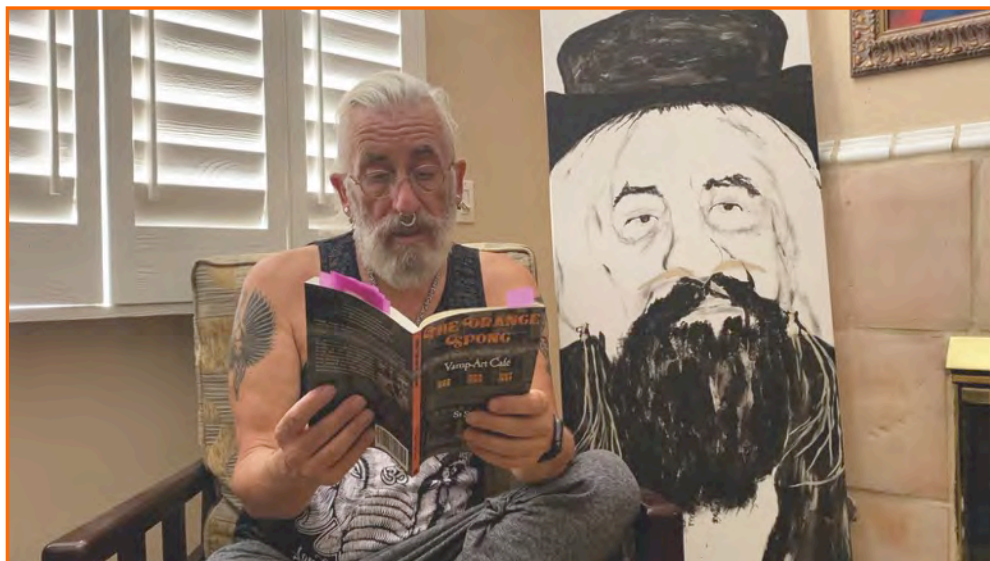
**GS: What do you think fans of the Bronte sisters would think about the liberties you took with the stories of their lives and deaths?**

**SSdIC:** I've been to the vicarage in Haworth, Yorkshire, where the Bronte's lived. There is something magical about them and their lives, so I conjured up some magic about them. As for caring about what Bronte fans might think, I don't. Other people's opinions are of no use to me whatsoever. How can you write with all that chattering "other-people" noise going on around you? All those little twittering opinions from other people. I don't understand writers who obsessively worry about what other people think. It just means you haven't found your own voice yet. That's what it means.

**GS: Was it challenging or rewarding to write the stories in the various voices of the storytellers?**

**SSdIC:** Everything I write is a challenge. Writing doesn't come easily to me. As each of the vampires gets up to tell their stories, it's a different voice you hear... or I hear, and hopefully the reader does to. To be able to write different voices, you need to listen to other people talking. I've spent my whole life listening to people talking, on buses, in stores, at funerals. I think LGBTQ folks listen to other people's conversations more than non-gay folks, and that's because we grew up having to be guarded about what we said. We sat there listening, afraid to speak in case they found out our secret.

**GS: Being a historian, would you please say something about the process of maintaining historical**



**accuracy in *The Orange Spong*...?**

**SSdIC:** I get very angry when history is rewritten. I see it all the time in movies. The rubbish I hear about Stonewall – don't get me started. In both the spong books I'm trying to conjure up a time that none of us lived in. What was it like in 1924 Chicago in the arts community? It's like doing a jigsaw puzzle. If a character buys a car, I feel compelled to know what kind of car it is and where they bought it in Chicago. I use the online Chicago Tribune archives at the Harold Washington Library. What soap would this character use? When were toasters invented? What shoes would this flapper wear? The characters lived in that time and I want to take the reader back there.

**GS: How many more spong books do you have in you and what color spong do you think you might write about next?**

**SSdIC:** At least one more spong book and it's either purple or green. After that, I don't know. I'm very aware of life's ruts and how easy it is to fall into them. As far as I know for sure, we only have one life, and as Auntie Mame said, "Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death." A spong is a sphere that comes into one's life and changes it. A spong is an electric shock, a wake-up call. In the orange spong, vampires are sent from Ra, the Orange Spong, to save the planet from pollution. A spong is a catalyst.

**GS: You have written about the past in both your fiction and non-fiction. Could you ever imagine writing about your vision of the future?**

**SSdIC:** No, I can't speculate on the future. Although I enjoy the silliness of Victorian sci-fi, it's not a genre I'm

interested in writing myself. Not good at guessing games. I was listening to the guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar answering questions from an audience. One asked, "Does reincarnation really exist?" The guru answered, "Why do you need to know, why can't you enjoy the mystery of it?" That's where I stand. There are unknowns and the future is one of them. I prefer not to speculate but enjoy it as it unfolds before my eyes.

**GS: *The Orange Spong*... is set in Chicago, but would it be fair to say that you've become better acquainted with "Ra, the orange spong, in the sky," since moving to the California desert?**

**SSdIC:** Every morning I wake up in the Coachella Valley and see Ra, the orange spong, shining down on me. I meditate by the pool as Ra, the orange spong rises behind the palm trees. I grew up in England, which is rain, rain, rain, clouds, overcast, rain – repeat. Day in, day out. Then in Chicago, the weather is unpredictable – snow, high winds, rain, sun, and that's just walking to the corner store. On the way back from the corner store it's sleet, sun, hail, rain, locusts, frogs, drive-bys, a toothless crack-whore singing opera wearing nothing but her panties, and a tornado. I now live on the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian reservation in the desert and every day I worship Ra, the orange spong and sing... "Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter. Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here. Here comes the spong, doo-doo-doo-doo, here comes the spong... And I say it's all right." A little Beatles song for the over 60s out there [laughs].



Lark

# LABOR DAY WEEKEND



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

## FRIED CHICKEN FRIDAY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

## GOSPEL BRUNCH

11AM-3PM WITH LIVE PERFORMANCES BY MISS RUFF-N-STUFF  
FREE-FLOWING MIMOSAS, BELLINIS, SANGRIA & BLOODYDS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

## QUEENS OF POP BRUNCH

11AM-3PM FREE-FLOWING MIMOSAS, BELLINIS, SANGRIA & BLOODYDS



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

## LATIN LABOR DAY BRUNCH WITH SHANTELL D'MARCO

11AM-3PM DJ LAURA B PLAYS ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE LATIN HITS  
FREE-FLOWING MIMOSAS, BELLINIS, SANGRIA & BLOODYDS  
VILLA ONE TEQUILA DRINK SPECIALS & HOURLY DRAWINGS FOR PRIZES

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



## GRAB A HIT

Top 15 Dance Chart this week  
Visit [nexusradio.fm](http://nexusradio.fm)

**NEXUS**  
RADIO.FM

	Artist	Title
1	DJ SHAAN	Paradise (Radio Edit)
2	Lastlings	No Time (Original Mix)
3	Young Bombs	High Road ft. Robinson (Radio Mix)
4	Alex Newell	Mama Told Me
5	Low Steppa	Weekend Love ft. Reigns
6	Riggi & Piros x VENIICE with RANI	My Feelings
7	Karen Harding x Digital Farm Animals	Undo My Heart
8	Shanguy	Back To Life
9	DASCO ft Twan Ray & EV Palmer	Magik
10	The Shapeshifters	Finally Ready ft. Billy Porter
11	Lost Frequencies & Zonderling	Love To Go ft. Kelvin Jones (MOTi Remix)
12	Sia	Together (Andrew Marks Remix)
13	Becky Hill & Sigala	Heaven On My Mind (Radio Edit)
14	Sigma x John Newman	High On You (Original Mix)
15	Jessie Ware	Save A Kiss (PS1 Remix)

**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON**  
**CAR ACCIDENT, WORK INJURY OR ORTHOPAEDIC INJURY**



**BACK | SHOULDER | ELBOW | WRIST  
HAND | HIP | KNEE | ANKLE | FOOT**

**GOLD COAST ORTHOPAEDIC SPINE AND HAND SURGERY**

**ROBERT JAMES FINK, M.D.**

7200 N. Western Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60645

**NOW WITH 4 NEW LOCATIONS:**

19 CLOCK TOWER PLAZA ELGIN, IL 60120

1324 E. OGDEN AVE NAPERVILLE, IL 60652 (773) 306-2722

4909 W. DIVISION ST CHICAGO, IL 60651 (773) 832-7100

1925 E. 95TH ST CHICAGO, IL 60617

**312-654-8800** [www.goldcoastorthopaedic.com](http://www.goldcoastorthopaedic.com)

**NATIONAL**

**SUICIDE**

**PREVENTION**

**LIFELINE**™

**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

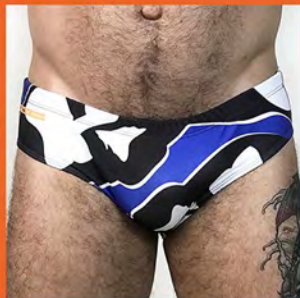
This Ad sponsored by GRAB Magazine



# SWIMWEAR

NEW STYLES AVAILABLE

BREEDWELL • CHRIS LOPEZ



New Facemasks

64TEN

6410 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL | 773.508.0900

f t i y /LEATHER64TEN | WWW.LEATHER64TEN.COM



# GRAB ERIK

## Welcome to the Jungle

By Erik Sosa-Kibby

For the past couple of weeks, I have exhausted myself in thinking about the direction of this article, because so much has happened in the last couple months that having time to think clearly has now become a luxury. If I have been MIA, it's because I have been living in the jungle that is the Riviera Maya since March 15th and for some reason, this morning, I couldn't get Guns & Roses' "Welcome to the Jungle" out of my head. And, although, it may not be exactly where I thought this piece would go, it definitely felt like a good lead in to whatever I end up conveying about my continued experiences here in the tropics of Mexico. So, please excuse the randomness that is me.

"Welcome to the jungle, we've got fun and games. We got everything you want honey, we know the names. We are the people that can find whatever you may need. If you got the money, honey we got your disease." Fun in the water and sun. Check. Eco friendly outdoor activities. Double check. And by disease, I'm pretty sure Axel means sex, drugs and rock and roll. Corona Virus, not included. But to be honest, that point of view of life is simply for the traveler who has come to the Mayan peninsula to get away and escape the stresses of daily life because living here, in what many consider to be paradise, the reality is anything but party and play. However, being able to experience both worlds is something is a blessing that continues to enrich my life and that of my family everyday. My new normal is still trying to acclimate to mosquito bites, heat rashes, and a less complicated pace of life. To put it bluntly, Mary, if you want to live at a slower pace, then you have to deal with its people, lack of technology and the rest of the vacationing idiosyncrasies that are need in you everyday management of self. Yes, change is difficult, but not as difficult as transporting your home across waters.

I know I digress, but I think we can all agree that moving sucks ass! Now, moving internationally during a pandemic, well, let's just say it takes a certain breed of person to do it with skill and grace. Karens need not apply. When I was younger, I remember

schlepping my belongings from place to place as more of an inconvenience than the involved process it is today. If picking up your life and changing your daily routines isn't hard enough, try, in conjunction, transitioning hormonal teenagers and an ex to a new environment with different peoples and customs. Yes, it is true that moving is more stressful than divorce.

Truth be told, I do want to thank my ex-partner and my wonderful next-door neighbor for managing that whole side of my life. I will add, however, that I was originally scheduled to come back home in July to pack a few important items, possibly see the boys graduate from 8th grade and bid farewell to loved ones. Unfortunately, due to the riots and fear of having an unstable president possibly close borders again, well, we quickly put a kabosh on that stint in fear of being separated. So, for the past six months, here we all are, still are trying to make a new life and name for ourselves.

The best news is that boys have now been accepted to Colegio Puerto Aventuras, and international school in the Yucatán. I can't express how amazed and proud I am of Cole and Parker as they contribute to be cooperative and optimistic about our new endeavors. COVID does have its benefits. And now, with this new outlook, mindset and support I'm beginning to plant roots and begin a fresh new journey to where I'm not only building a new home, but creating a unique boutique BnB experience for the traveling artist. More information on that is forthcoming.

But for now, let me end with this, Casa IndigeNOS is slated to be, but not limited for, the creative individual in need of studio space while on vacation. The fact that tourism is down because of COVID is allowing me to plan and structure a small business plan that has



been in my entrepreneurial spirit for a long time. With so many ideas bouncing in and out, it's really hard to define exactly what my new space will encompass. However, what I do know is that I am working with a great team of family and new friends to help me create a unique place for travelers, as well as for the community around me.

In the end, as much as I love the United States and am so ever grateful for its education and opportunities, the time has come to literally move, in or to push forward in order to continue growing mentally, artistically, and socially. Unfortunately, the country that raised me seems to lack the nurture, compasión, tolerance it had once for all its people. The divisive political and cultural language and environment, along with its hypocritical capitalistic injustices among humanity on a global scale is no place to raise impressionable teenagers. It's time for me to go back to my motherland and pave the way for my children to view life from a world perspective of community, culture, love, and respect for all things living.

*Erik R. Sosa-Kibby, a loving father of two adopted boys, he was raised on the Northside of Chicago where he eventually made a name for himself as an accomplished artist. Today, Sosa resides in Tulum, Mexico where his brand is expanding to making costume wood furniture and pieces.*



# I LIKE IT HARD

ARE YOU READY FOR IT?



**SWISS NAVY®**

AVAILABLE IN STORES NOW



# GRAB HOLLY

## Riding the Gender Unicorn

By Holly Maholm

For our fellow citizens who dwell outside the world of LGBT (and who are thereby forever debarred from entry into those secret Agendas, Fellowships and Conspiracies which – it is confidently assumed – must certainly be shared amongst such Acolytes of the Prince of Darkness), it is self-evident that the scope and influence of the Gay Agenda is as mysterious as that Aptitude which makes all Gay Men supremely talented at Interior Decoration.

Nevertheless, I must confess that I – denizen of LGBT, but one who has never felt the urge to worship the Prince of Lies (and certainly not since swearing to serve that greater and more powerful monarch, Penelope, Queen of the Unicorns) – am as confused as anyone regarding the “intersection” (our society being, today, entirely “intersectional”) between The Gay Agenda, on the one hand, and Transgender Land, on the other.

Thus, I decided that now was a good time to ask Dave how I might safely navigate that risky and confusing “intersection” just mentioned. “Dave,” I

began, “you talked about your LGBT students who are LGB – or who are suffering anxiety because they suspect they might be gay – but what about your students who are some variety of T? Do they come to you for advice? Do their parents blame you when little ‘Billy’ announces he intends to transition to ‘Billie?’”

“Tough question,” Dave responded. “The first thing you need to know is that my LGB students are – comparatively speaking – much less complicated. Their ‘issue’ is strictly one-dimensional. Their sexual orientation – instead of following the expected path – circles around to their own self gender; or – not meaning to erase the B – can be as well satisfied with their own gender as the other.

“But you T-folks, Holly, are another story, entirely! My T’s are forever lecturing me that ‘gender’ and ‘sexuality’ are two completely different things – as if (and they don’t like it when I make this analogy) ‘gender’ and ‘sexuality’ have no honest or authentic ‘intersection,’ but jet off to infinity like two incompatible parallel lines, doomed for eternity never to be reconciled.”

He paused, then looking me straight in the eye, confessed, “Holly, I have to tell you how grateful I am to have you, Cindy, Xandra and Ally in my life. I mean... instead of the T-kids I have in my class.

Maybe you don’t appreciate this, but for me, a gay man, it’s just so much easier to interact with trannies – like yourselves – who started with your birth-gender – M – and then... positively, decisively and irrevocably transitioned to the other gender – F.

“I can always depend upon you to be wearing a skirt, Cindy to have her hair in a wave, and Aly to be wearing high heels and a push-up bra. All of you are dependably ‘female’ in attitude, dress and appearance. And let me also note, it is refreshing that the three of you are – apparently – heterosexual; something you would think that I – a gay man – would find off-putting, but when I remind myself that the three of you are as deeply appreciative of a stiff and well-proportioned cock as



Mike and I, I let that error go.

“Right now, when some young ‘Billy’ seeks me out for advice and counsel, it never fails that he soon starts lecturing me on the ‘Gender Unicorn.’ Which would be fine, if there were only the two genders to be found among the Unicorns, but that not what I am informed. No, I am invariably instructed that the number of valid genders is limited only by a teenager’s imagination – and sometimes even that is inadequate to describe all the genders I am warned I must affirm and approve. And heaven forbid (!) I express any skepticism as to the actual existence of Nano-gender, Hyper-gender or Semi-hemi-demi-gender.

“But, you know, Holly, funny thing. No matter what incomprehensible gender little ‘Billie’ insists he is, I have yet to see such a teenager climb up on the Gender Unicorn and ride across the ‘intersection’ to the sexual side of the street. I never hear of little Billie applying his ‘gender-creativity’ to any sexual activities that you or I or any other LGBT person would find either stimulating or gratifying.

“So here is what I think: There is a ‘Transgender Agenda’ alive in the high school, but it’s not me – Keeper of the Gay Agenda – who is pushing it. No. It’s the students, themselves, who created that imaginary Gender Unicorn, and who stubbornly insist upon the actual, physical reality of each and every one of those... incoherent, implausible genders they claim to represent. By this, they intend to solidify their common social agenda, which is to enable each one of them to find a place among that revolutionary ‘Vanguard of the Woke’ who are crusading to ‘Smash the Gender Binary.’ It’s that simple.”

(To be continued)

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

### The Law Office of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, P.C.



*When experience counts...  
In Service to the community  
for over 35 years.*

- Business Organization
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premartial Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60602

**312-263-8800**  
**RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM**



# UPTOWN NEWEST OUTDOOR

## Patio



TRY OUR  
NEW MENU  
WHILE ENJOYING  
A UNIQUE DRAG  
SHOW



\* FULL BAR SERVICE

4705 N BROADWAY | CHICAGO IL | 60640

SERVING:



Hot drinks



Crepes



Booze infused  
Gelatos



Frozen drinks



## ELDERE BROTHER ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM "I WON'T FADE ON YOU" OUT 10/2



Alternative rock band Elder Brother have announced details of their highly anticipated new album, *I Won't Fade On You*. Set to be released on October

2nd via Pure Noise Records, the album features brand new single, "I Get So Tired Of You," premiering now on The Noise.

"*I Get So Tired Of You*" is a song we had floating around for a while that we were nervous to pursue because of the prominent keyboard line," shares **Dan Rose**. "Kevin can play piano but we were always apprehensive to commit to any keys-driven tunes because we weren't as confident on the instrument. Once we added Evan to the lineup, who is a classically trained pianist as well as a drummer, we were more confident to start moving in that direction sonically. I think the song is a product of us gaining more confidence in our instruments and as a band, in general."

Elder Brother began as a collaboration between **Dan Rose** and

**Kevin Geyer** (The Story So Far), who released their debut record, *Heavy Head*, in 2014. The following year the duo released an EP titled *Wish You Were Here*, which featured all tracks with the name "*Wish You Were Here*," including an original and covers of songs originally written by **Get Up Kids**, **Ryan Adams** and **Pink Floyd**.

Their latest album, *Stay Inside*, was released on May 18th, 2018 via Pure Noise Records. *Stay Inside* expands on Elder Brother's previous releases with refined musicianship and songwriting, while focusing on a central theme of drug addiction that has personal meaning to the band.

Elder Brother will release their new album *I Won't Fade On You* on October 2nd via Pure Noise Records. To pre-order, please visit: [smarturl.it/ElderBrother](http://smarturl.it/ElderBrother).

## girlfriends RELEASE NEW SINGLE "EYES WIDE SHUT"



girlfriends, the pop-punk duo made up of **Travis Mills** (musical artist, Beats 1 Host, actor) and **Nick Gross** (Big Noise, Gross Labs, Find Your Grind), have released their new single "*Eyes Wide Shut*".

"*Eyes Wide Shut*" is the follow up single to the duo's debut "*California*." The music video was previewed with MTV's Friday Livestream and has since

amassed nearly 100K views and over 1 Million streams across digital platforms. The single showcases honest lyrics and is a tribute to where the duo grew up while pulling inspiration from influential artists like *blink-182*, *5 Seconds Of Summer*, *The 1975*, *Phoenix* and *All Time Low*.

Gross and Mills first walked right up to the edge of rock stardom before either of them had even left their teens. The brash and catchy hip-hop Travis made in his Riverside, California bedroom and posted on MySpace as "T. Mills" led to a major label deal, a spot on the Warped Tour, and an electric buzz, presaging the era of SoundCloud emo-rap and laptop hooks that was to come. At 17, Gross found himself in New York's Times Square playing MTV's TRL, in a pop-punk band featured prominently on Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County, with a major label contract of their own.

In recent years, Travis experienced the loss of his close friend Lil Peep and the very public dissolution of a romantic relationship. He knew he needed a new creative vehicle to exorcise his demons.

After seeing Nick drumming in an Instagram story, he called him up. It was a serendipitous conversation, as Nick (a multimedia CEO) also felt the urge to give a new pop-punk band his focus.

"I just had so much to write about," Mills says of the sessions that turned into the girlfriends debut. "It came from a genuine place. I'd be stressed out, or bawling my eyes out, and the songs would come very organically. If we ever spent more than an hour trying to figure out a hook or a verse, we scrapped it and just kept moving. This project is different from anything else I've ever done."

Like the punk rock music that first inspired him as a teenager, Mills sees girlfriends as an outlet for soulful expression and emotional catharsis, a means to process his feelings of grief, uncertainty, and renewed vigor for life, in a way that's likely to connect with others who struggle. Nick is equally enthusiastic to have another crack at pop-punk, the genre that first set him on his career path.

Check out the new music video at <https://youtu.be/XQ3IKnB47SU>.

## TROYE SIVAN'S NEW EP, IN A DREAM, IS OUT



Capitol Records released *In A Dream*, **Troye Sivan**'s new six-song concept EP.

In the lead-up to the EP's release, Troye also shared the single "*Easy*" – which amassed over 11 million

combined global streams in the first week of release and now tops 36 million streams – and "*Rager teenager!*" along with self-directed videos for the tracks.

Last week marked the sixth anniversary of the release of Troye's first major label EP, *TRXYE*, which charted in the top five of the *Billboard* 200 and included the single "*Happy Little Pill*." In his career to date, Troye has amassed over eight billion combined global streams. His sophomore album, *Bloom* (Capitol Records), was named as one of the best albums of 2018 by critics at *Rolling Stone*, *USA Today*, *Billboard*, *OUT*, *NPR Music*, *The Guardian* and numerous other publications. *TIME* said, "Troye Sivan is the perfect pop star."

The leadoff track, "*Take Yourself Home*," trended at #1 on Twitter worldwide following its release earlier this year and has now attained over 92

million cumulative global streams. *The New York Times* hailed "*Take Yourself Home*" as an "understatedly lush quasi-soul thumper." *PAPER* said, "It's perhaps the first great song to come out of our collective apocalyptic state of mind during the COVID-19 outbreak."

*USA Today* placed *In A Dream* on its list of "10 albums you need to hear this month," noting that "Aside from Taylor Swift...no other artist has better captured our quarantine blues than Troye Sivan." The Associated Press said, "It's a perfectly-timed appetizer for an evolving artist – a wistful and experimental musical postcard for an uneasy era." Troye recorded five of the EP's six songs with producer **Oscar Görres** (The Weeknd, *MARINA*, *Tove Lo*) between Stockholm and Los Angeles, just prior to the lockdown.

For more information visit [www.troyesivan.com](http://www.troyesivan.com)





# Real Men. Real Hookups.

VISIT [WWW.SQUIRT.ORG](http://WWW.SQUIRT.ORG) AND  
CHECK OUT OUR NEW FEATURES:

- ▶ Video
- 🔔 Push Notifications
- 🔍 Search Filters
- ... and more!





## Taylor Small to Be First Trans Person Elected to the Vermont State Legislature



LGBTQ Victory Fund endorsed candidate **Taylor Small** won her primary for a Vermont state House seat and will almost certainly become the first out trans person ever elected to the Vermont state legislature. She currently has no general election opponent. The

victory in Vermont is the latest in a string of primary victories for non-incumbent trans state legislative candidates, including **Stephanie Byers** in Kansas, **Madeline Eden** in Texas and **Jessica Katzenmeyer** in Wisconsin. **Sarah McBride**, whose primary is next month, will become the first out trans state senator in U.S. history if she wins in Delaware. Mayor **Annise Parker**, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund, released the following statement about Small's victory:

"Taylor shattered a lavender ceiling in Vermont, but her victory is more than just a milestone in our movement for equality. It is part of a transformative moment in U.S. political history, with trans candidates breaking new ground in red states and blue states and at an unprecedented pace. In 2020 alone, we can double the number of trans state legislators in the country to eight, a remarkable opportunity given

the first out trans state legislator was elected less than three years ago. While trans people remain severely underrepresented in elected office, Taylor and others are building the political power we need to defeat anti-trans legislation and change hearts and minds."

Only four out trans people have been elected to serve in state legislatures and all still hold their seats. Virginia Delegate Danica Roem became the first out trans person to win and serve in a state legislature when she was elected in 2017. Currently there are just 28 out trans people serving at any level of government in the United States.

More information about Victory Fund and its candidates is available on its website at <http://victoryfund.org/ourcandidates>. Since 1991, Victory Fund has helped thousands of openly LGBTQ candidates win local, state and federal elections.

## Federal Court Rules Florida School Must Treat Transgender Students Equally Including Access to Restrooms



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed a lower court ruling that required a suburban Jacksonville, Florida, school district to treat transgender student **Drew Adams** equally by allowing equal access to the restroom that matches his gender. Drew Adams' case was the country's first trial involving a transgender student's equal access to restrooms.

"Today, the court sent a clear message that schools must treat transgender students with the same dignity and respect as any other student," said **Tara Borelli**, Counsel at Lambda Legal. "The trial court was correct when it ruled that the law requires that Drew Adams be treated like every other boy and be allowed to use the boys' restroom. We are glad the court saw the school board's policy as unjust and discriminatory, and affirmed the inherent dignity of transgender students."

"I am very happy to see justice prevail, after spending almost my entire high school career fighting for

equal treatment," said Drew Adams, 19, a former student at Allen D. Nease High School in Ponte Vedra, Florida. "High school is hard enough without having your school separate you from your peers and mark you as inferior. I hope this decision helps save other transgender students from having to go through that painful and humiliating experience."

The 11th Circuit upheld the July, 2018, ruling by the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida that deemed the school policy as discriminatory and ordered the St. John's County School Board to allow Adams to use the boys' restrooms at Nease High School, like all other boys. The 11th Circuit agreed that excluding transgender students from the restrooms that match their gender is unconstitutional because it discriminates based on sex in violation of the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and violates Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

As the judges wrote: "Bostock confirmed that workplace discrimination against transgender people is contrary to law. Neither should this discrimination be tolerated in schools. The School Board's bathroom policy, as applied to Mr. Adams, singled him out for different treatment because of his transgender status..."

A public school may not punish its students for gender nonconformity. Neither may a public school harm transgender students by establishing arbitrary, separate rules for their restroom use. The evidence at trial confirms that Mr. Adams suffered both these indignities. The record developed in the District Court shows that the School Board failed to honor Mr. Adams's rights under the Fourteenth Amendment and Title IX."

"Our family is extremely relieved that the court sided with our son, and affirmed it was discriminatory to deny him equal access to the restroom. It was so painful to watch our son suffer discrimination at the hands of his school, when the only thing he should have to worry about is getting a good education," said **Erica Kasper**, Drew's mother. "I hope all schools across the country are paying attention to what we went through and to this decision."

Drew Adams was an honor student at Nease High School. Currently, Drew attends the University of Central Florida, where he's studying psychology and political science with the goal of helping other LGBTQ youth. Drew has been an active member of his local community as a volunteer at local hospitals, and with organizations that support LGBTQ youth.

Drew began living as the boy he is in 2015. He used the boys' restroom when he started his freshman year at Nease High School without any incident. But, after an anonymous report was made, he was told he could only use gender-neutral restrooms, which separated him from his peers and treated him as unfit to share communal facilities with others.

The case, *Adams v. The School Board of St. Johns County, Florida*, began in June 2017, when Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on behalf Drew Adams arguing that St. Johns County School Board's discriminatory restroom policy sent a purposeful message that transgender students in the school district are undeserving of the same privacy, respect, and protections afforded to other students.

Read the decision here: <https://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/>



# GET ON OUR VIP LIST

**GRAB** MAGAZINE



Sign up for our new VIP Email List and we'll keep you updated when our new issues become available, plus we'll send you special offers & VIP promotions exclusively for our subscribers. It's Free!

Sign up today at [grabchicago.com](http://grabchicago.com)



JOIN OUR VIP LIST AND YOU COULD  
WIN A \$50 GIFT PACKAGE FROM OUR  
FRIENDS AT 64TEN!

**64TEN**





## GRAB A CAR

**AVIS/BUDGET**  
(Car, Mini Van & SUV Rentals)  
773-528-6400 - 3721 N. Broadway

## GRAB A CART

**BEATNIX** • 773-281-3214  
3400 N. Halsted

**CUPIDS TREASURES/  
LEATHER SPORT** • 773-348-3884  
3507 N. Halsted

**PLEASURE CHEST** •  
3023 N. Broadway - 773-880-9280  
3436 N. Lincoln Ave - 773-525-7151

**UNABRIDGED BOOKSTORE** •  
3251 N. Broadway - 773-883-9119

## GRAB CLOTHES

**BROWN ELEPHANT - SHOPS** •  
Andersonville - 5404 N. Clark  
773-271-9382  
Lakeview - 3020 N. Lincoln Ave  
773-549-5943  
Oak Park - 217 Harrison Street  
708-445-0612

**CRAM FASHION** • 773-477-1737  
3331 N. Broadway

**EGOIST** • 773-857-0882  
3739 N. Halsted

**FK - FULL KIT GEAR** •  
773-657-8000 - 5021 N. Clark

**LEATHER 6410** •  
773-508-0900 - 6410 N. Clark

**MEN'S ROOM** •  
773-857-0907 - 3420 N. Halsted

**ZEGLIO - CUSTOM CLOTHIERS** •  
773-525-6199 - 3341 N. Broadway

## GRAB A DOCTOR

**ADAM J COHEN, MD**  
PLASTIC SURGERY & MEDSPA  
847-834-0390 • 2845 N. Sheridan #903

**ROBERT JAMES FINK, M.D.**  
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON  
GOLD COAST ORTHOPAEDIC  
312-654-8800 7200 N. Western Ave  
*Convenient Location!!!*  
[goldcoastorthopaedic.com](http://goldcoastorthopaedic.com)

**TOM KLARQUIST, M.D.**  
AMG PROGRESSIVE MEDICAL  
GROUP • 773-296-5090  
3000 N. Halsted #509

**MAN UP MEDICAL**  
773-305-3300 • 916 W. Belmont  
[www.ManUpMedical.com](http://www.ManUpMedical.com)

**MK CHIROPRACTIC**  
DR DONALD MASON 312-291-8277 -  
711 W. North Ave Suite 201

**NORTHSTAR HEALTHCARE**  
773-296-2400 - 2835 N. Sheffield

## GRAB A HAIRCUT

**CHICAGO MALE SALON**  
773-281-6005 • 3418 N. Halsted

**FLASHES HAIR DESIGN**  
773-472-3355 • 3740 N. Broadway

**SLADES BARBER SHOP**  
773-880-9858 • 3314 N. Halsted

## GRAB HELP

**AIDS FOUNDATION** -  
200 W. Jackson Blvd #2100 -  
312-922-2322

**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**  
1925 N. Clybourn - 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

**GL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** -  
773-303-0167

**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

**NEW TOWN ALANO CLUB**  
773-529-0321

**OAK PARK AREA LESBIAN AND  
GAY ASSOCIATION** • Oak Park, IL  
708-557-3003

**PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS  
OF GAYS & LESBIANS (PFLAG)** -  
773-472-3079

**PRIDE CHICAGO (Pride Parade  
Organizers)** - 773-348-8243

**QUARE SQUARE COLLECTIVE**  
(Nonprofit for queer artists of color)  
[www.quare2collective.org](http://www.quare2collective.org)

**RAINBOW SASH MOVEMENT**  
[JMurray@RCN.COM](mailto:JMurray@RCN.COM)

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
3857 N. Kostner - 773-725-9026

**TEST POSITIVE AWARE  
NETWORK (TPAN)** •  
5537 N. Broadway - 773-989-9400

**UNITY LUTHERN CHICAGO**  
1212 W. Balmoral - 773-878-4747

## GRAB A LAWYER

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

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

## GRAB A MOP

**CHESTNUT ORGANIZING &  
CLEANING SERVICE** -  
312-332-5575

## GRAB A VIDEO

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

To Place an ad in GRAB  
Magazine contact us today  
at 773-857-2262

**FIND  
GRAB  
MAGAZINE  
ONLINE AT**

[WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM)  
[WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM)  
[WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM)  
[WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM)





**STEAM  
WORKS**  
BATHS

**WE'RE OVERSTOCKED**



**WE'VE GOT SOME OF THE LITTLE EXTRAS  
YOU'LL NEED TO HELP MAKE IT THROUGH  
SOCIAL DISTANCING**

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP IN CHICAGO  
VISIT US ONLINE TO ORDER AT  
**STEAMWORKSBATHS.COM/STORE**

Steamworks Chicago @SteamworksCHI

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



## GRAB A DRINK

16	<b>@MOSPHERE • 773-784-1100</b> 5355 N. Clark
5	<b>2ND STORY BAR • 312-923-9536</b> 157 E. Ohio
6	<b>BATON SHOW LOUNGE</b> 312-644-5269 • 4713 N. Broadway
26	<b>BERLIN • 773-348-4975</b> 954 W. Belmont
15	<b>BIG CHICKS • 773-728-5511</b> 5024 N. Sheridan
24	<b>BOBBY LOVES • 773-525-1200</b> 3729 N. Halsted
20	<b>CELL BLOCK • 773-665-8064</b> 3702 N. Halsted
27	<b>CHARLIES • 773-871-8887</b> 3726 N. Broadway
49	<b>CLOSET • 773-477-8533</b> 3325 N. Broadway
67	<b>ELIXIR ANDERSONVILLE</b> 773-975-9244 1509 W. Balmoral
51	<b>ELIXIR LOUNGE 773-975-9244</b> 3452 N. Halsted
3	<b>FANTASY NIGHTCLUB</b> 773-325-2233 • 3641 N. Halsted
10	<b>GRANVILLE ANVIL</b> 773-973-0006 • 1137 W. Granville
31	<b>HYDRATE • 773-975-9244</b> 3458 N. Halsted
8	<b>JACKHAMMER • 773-743-5772</b> 6406 N. Clark
68	<b>JEFFERY PUB • 773-363-8555</b> 7041 S. Jeffery Blvd
29	<b>L.J's (Little Jims) • 773-871-6116</b> 3501 N. Halsted
71	<b>LIPS • 312-815-2662</b> 2229 S. Michigan Ave
44	<b>LUCKY HORSESHOE</b> 773-404-3169 • 3169 N. Halsted
2	<b>MANHANDLER • 773-871-3339</b> 1948 N. Halsted
48	<b>MARTYS MARTINI BAR •</b> 773-561-6425 • 1511 W Balmoral
13	<b>MARYS ATTIC •</b> 773-784-6969 5400 N. Clark
70	<b>MEETING HOUSE TAVERN •</b> 773-696-4211 • 5025 N. Clark
1	<b>RAVENSWOOD TAP •</b> 773-528-3253 • 1829 W. Montrose
35	<b>REPLAY • 773-975-9244</b> 3439 N. Halsted
58	<b>ROGERS PARK SOCIAL</b> 6920 N. Glenwood
34	<b>ROSCOES • 773-281-3355</b> 3356 N. Halsted
38	<b>SCARLET • 773-348-1053</b> 3320 N. Halsted

## GRAB A DRINK

63	<b>PROGRESS •</b> 773-697-9268 • 3359 N. Halsted
45	<b>SHAKERS ON CLARK •</b> 773-327-5969 3160 N. Clark
39	<b>SIDETRACK • 773-477-9189</b> 3349 N. Halsted
52	<b>SOFO Tap • 773-784-7636</b> 4923 N. Clark
69	<b>SPLASH • 773-904-7338</b> 3339 N. Halsted
12	<b>THE CALL • 773-334-2525</b> 1547 W. Bryn Mawr
23	<b>THE NORTH END •</b> 773-477-7999 • 3733 N. Halsted
7	<b>TOUCHE • 773-465-7400</b> 6412 N. Clark

## GRAB A BITE

21	<b>F.O'MAHONY'S • 773-549-0226</b> 3701 N. Broadway
14	<b>HAMBURGER MARY'S</b> 773-784-6969 • 5400 N. Clark
22	<b>KIT KAT LOUNGE &amp; SUPPER CLUB • 773-525-1111</b> 3700 N. Halsted Open Daily 5:30pm-2am
32	<b>LARK • 773-799-8968</b> 3441 N. Halsted
36	<b>NOOKIES • 773-248-9888</b> 3334 N. Halsted CLOSED FOR REMODELING
61	<b>RED ROVER CAFE/CONN'S CATERING • 773-262-0414</b> 1535 W. Devon Ave
67	<b>REPLAY ANDERSONVILLE</b> 773-654-1369 • 5358 N. Clark
43	<b>WOOD • 773-935-9663</b> 3335 N. Halsted
	To Place an ad in GRAB Magazine contact us today at 773-857-2262

## CULTURE

25	<b>CENTER ON HALSTED</b> 3656 N Halsted • 773-472-6469
11	<b>GERBER/HART LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES •</b> 6500 N. Clark 773-381-8030
9	<b>LEATHER ARCHIVES &amp; MUSEUM • 6418 N. Greenview</b> 773-761-9200

## GRAB SLEEP

33	<b>BEST WESTERN PLUS HAWTHORNE 773-244-3434</b> 3434 N Broadway St
----	---

## GRAB A TOWEL

53	<b>BANANA VIDEO 773-561-8322</b> 4923 N. Clark
28	<b>RAM BOOKSTORE &amp; ARCADE 773-525-9528</b> 3511 N. Halsted
40	<b>STEAMWORKS BATHHOUSE</b> 773-929-6080 • 3246 N. Halsted

## SUBURBAN BARS

**BOXERS N' BRIEFS •**  
55 Four Corners Ln  
618-332-6141 (Centreville, IL)

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

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

**MANEUVERS •**  
118 E. Jefferson St.  
815-727-7069 (Joliet, IL)

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

To Place your BAR in this section of GRAB Magazine Call Today 773-857-2262

## PICK UP GRAB IN OTHER CITIES

### CALIFORNIA

**Street Bar - 760-320-1266**  
224 E. Arenas Road, Palm Springs

### INDIANA

**Gregs Indy- 317-638-8138**  
231 E. 16th St, Indianapolis (Bar)  
**The Club Indianapolis-317-635-5796**  
620 N. Capitol Ave (Bathhouse)

### MICHIGAN

**Dunes Resort - 269-857-1401**  
333 Blue Star Highway, Douglas  
**FIVE 15 - 248-515-2551**  
515 S. Washington, Royal Oak (Bar)

### MISSOURI (ST LOUIS)

**Club St. Louis - 314-533-3666**  
2625 Samuel Shepard Dr (Bathhouse)  
**Rehab Bar & Grill - 314-652-3700**  
4054 Choteau Ave (Bar)

### OHIO

**The Club Columbus- 614-291-0049**  
795 West 5th Avenue (Bathhouse)

### WASHINGTON DC

**DIK Bar - 202-328-0100**  
1637 17th Street NW  
**Annie's Paramount Steakhouse -**  
202-232-0395 1609 17th Street NW





# GRAB MAGAZINE MAPS

- GRAB a Bite
- GRAB a Drink
- GRAB Some Sleep
- GRAB Some Culture
- GRAB a Towel



# GRAB CLASSIFIEDS

## CLEANING SERVICES

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

## HELP WANTED

**STEAMWORKS** - Come work at the hottest club in town. Steamworks is accepting applications for all positions and shifts. Stop by and fill out an application at 3246 N. Halsted.

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

## HELP WANTED

**STYLIST FOR CRAM FASHION** Join Chicago's Premier Men's Boutique: Cram Fashion is accepting applications for energetic, determined, and fashionable candidates who have an eye for fashion and knowledge of current trends, must have weekend, evening, and some holiday availability, and a minimum of 2 years retail/customer service experience or coursework in the retail management/fashion business fields are preferred. Opportunity for growth is available within the company. Please e-mail your cover letter and resume to **crammanager@gmail.com**

**SALES MEN/WOMEN - GRAB Magazine** is currently seeking motivated Sales Reps. This is a sales commission position. Email your resume today to **GrabStacy@gmail.com**

## RECOVERY

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

## BODYWORK

**HOT, SEXY, FIT,** Affectionate, Passionate, Energetic, Strong Hands, Naturally Smooth, Relaxing, Indulging Erotic Bodyworker! Book Appointments Now **773-991-8728**.

## MASSAGE

**NEW OPENED MEN FOR MEN - MASSAGE SPA** Clean & Private rooms with hot shower. Relaxing music. Our well-trained Asian masseurs with magic hands will relax U from head to toes. Open every day. We only take appointments. Please call David: **646-206-7265**. We are located in the west loop: Halsted St / Jackson Blvd.

Place your Classified ad on this page for as little as \$15 per Issue! Email Today!

**GrabStacy@gmail.com**

Be sure to download the next issue of GRAB



Online  
**www.GrabChicago.com**  
Tuesday  
September 15, 2020





**THE CLUB**<sup>®</sup> COLUMBUS  
Good. Clean. Fun.

795 West 5th Avenue • Columbus, OH  
(614)291-0049



**THE CLUB**<sup>®</sup> INDIANAPOLIS  
Good. Clean. Fun.

620 N. Capitol Avenue • Indianapolis, IN  
(317)635-5796



**THE CLUB**<sup>®</sup> ST LOUIS  
Good. Clean. Fun.

2625 Samuel Shepard Dr. • St. Louis, MO  
(314)533-3666

**A Private Men's Sauna**  
**[www.theclubs.com](http://www.theclubs.com)**

**SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR GUYS 18-24 • SUNDAY LUNCH EVERY SUNDAY 1PM**  
**FREE HIV TESTING WEEKLY • DISCOUNTED LOCKER PRICES M-F 8am-4pm**



# END **of** SUMMER

UP TO 50% OFF

SELECT STREETWEAR  
INCLUDING  
SHORTS  
TANKS  
TEES  
JOCKS



## MEN'S ROOM

3420 N Halsted St. • 773-857-0907

OPEN 11AM TO MIDNIGHT EVERYDAY

CHICAGO **BOYSTOWN**

  @MENSROOMCHICAGO