

OCTOBER 11, 2022 • VOL XIII • ISSUE #19

GRAB

MAGAZINE

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CONTENTS

THIS ISSUE

KEVIN
CAHOON
6



STEWART
TAYLOR
10

TRAVEL
MADISON,
WISCONSIN
14



NORA
O'CONNOR
20

YVIE
ODDLY
24



GRAB A FRIEND
(DRINKSPECIALS) 28
NEXUS DANCE CHART 30

GRAB Holly 32
GRAB MUSIC 40
GRAB THEATER 42
GRAB EVENTS 44
Bar/Restaurant/
Directory/ 46 & 48
MAP 49
CLASSIFIEDS 50

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GRAB MAGAZINE
CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION

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GRAB KEVIN



Monarch's hot butterfly: An interview with Kevin Cahoon

By Gregg Shapiro

Fox's new musical nighttime soap opera "Monarch" is to country music as the network's "Empire" was to hip-hop. Complete with over-the-top exaggerated characters, familial intrigue, infidelity, and tragedy. Oh, and a few queer characters, too. Among those characters is hair and makeup artist Earl, played by out actor and singer Kevin Cahoon. In addition to occasionally being the much-needed source of comic relief, Earl also plays the irreplaceable best friend of country music queen Dottie Roman, played by none other than Oscar-winner Susan Sarandon. Fortunately for us, Kevin was kind enough to make time in his schedule to answer a few questions.

Gregg Shapiro: Kevin, I first became aware of you as a performer via your music and your band Ghetto Cowboy. Your debut album "Doll" won an OutMusic Award in 2006. When you look back at that time, how do you feel about it?

Kevin Cahoon: That's one of the proudest achievements I've ever had in

my life; winning an OutMusic Award for "Doll." It really is! It's on every bio, every résumé. I was so proud to have received it because, in a way, I was coming from the theater, and to do this as my first foray into music, creating rock and roll and pop songs; it just felt like the warmest embrace. I was so honored to receive that. That whole period of my life, with Ghetto Cowboy, and playing all of those incredible venues, like Don Hill and CBGS's. To have been a part of that and to have been a part of the queer music scene at that time felt special. The LGBTQIA community is still moving forward, trying to gain equality across the board. But at that time this was (during) "don't ask, don't tell." This was before marriage equality.

GS: The early 2000s.

KC: Yes, it was even before "RuPaul's Drag Race." The culture had no understanding about this music and these people that really were making this music. So, it really felt like the outsiders were crashing their way

through the door. I even felt that way naming the band Ghetto Cowboy. I thought, "People who are disenfranchised and pushed to the outskirts of society are forced to live in a ghetto." Whether it's a Jewish ghetto or a Spanish Ghetto or African American, or even rural people in Appalachia or in rural parts of this country, they are pushed, pushed, pushed to the boundaries. By naming the band that I thought, "Oh, this is what it is. We're gonna come in. We're gonna be cowboys in this and we are going to stake our claim from the outside." It was an incredible moment, and it was so exciting, and it was one of the greatest times of my life.

GS: Have you had the time to work on any new original music?

KC: I haven't, and I want to. I think about it all the time. It's coming, I promise. I have an idea for the long-awaited second album [laughs].

GS: As you mentioned, at the same time you were making this music,



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you were doing a lot of theater and have continued to focus on your acting career. Would you say you're a singer who acts or an actor who sings?

KC: I would say that I'm an actor who sings. Even with the rock and roll, it was coming from a place of character, and a place of story. I felt like I was playing a character when I was fronting my band.

GS: You're currently in the new Texas-set Fox series "Monarch" in which you play Earl Clark. What was it about the character of Earl that appealed to you as an actor?

KC: First of all, it's a network series with Susan Sarandon and Trace Adkins. That was a giant appeal! As an actor, I was connected to the world because I grew up in Texas, I grew up in the rodeo and I have a real soft spot for it, if there's a pair of cowboy boots and a cowboy hat, I'm gonna grab them and put them on. I love the whole aesthetic. I love the world. I love the outsider going out into the plains and staking a claim for himself. That's the world of "Monarch." This show biz, country-western family. It is the juiciest of fun soap operas you could ever imagine.

GS: It's very much in the mold of a classic nighttime soap opera.

KC: It is! In the greatest way. Who doesn't love that? We all loved "Desperate Housewives," "Nashville," "Dallas," and "Dynasty." The character (I play) was inspired by a real person named Earl Cox. He is the premier hairstylist to every country star you can ever imagine. So, the ("Monarch") creator, Melissa London Hilfers, saw his place in their world and thought, "Let's create a character that is inspired by him." So, it's loosely inspired, but she ran with it. I (Earl) have worked for the family for decades. I have been the best friend of Dottie Roman, played by Susan Sarandon. The series evolves when you get to episodes six, seven, and eight, more is revealed as to what Earl knows, and how long he's been around. He lives on the ranch (The Brambles) with the family. We shot on this incredible 140-acre ranch right outside of Atlanta. It was a dream. The job was a dream. I'm praying that I continue to have more of that dream [laughs]. We'll see what happens when it gets to season two.

Gregg Shapiro: I'm so glad you said



what you did about Earl and Dottie. There is a palpable exchange of affectionate feelings between them. Would you agree that without their gay hair and makeup people, most country divas would end up looking like Marjorie Taylor Greene?

Kevin Cahoon: Gay people are the motor in the pickup truck of the country music industry. I say that Earl Clark showed up to The Brambles with a suitcase full of rhinestones and a dream. His dream was to be in show business. To be close to an iconic diva of country music, which is Dottie Roman, played by Susan and he enjoys being that close to the first lady, and he enjoys his place as the major domo gatekeeper. He will do anything he has to do to retain that position. I think he loves getting dressed up. In the show, they have a fantastic rockabilly hairstyle for me and great, sparkly clothes. I told the wardrobe and hair team that he enjoys getting made-up just as much as he enjoys making Dottie up. That should be part of his essence. That he loves to be seen and he loves to show off and I think they accomplished that with their incredible wardrobe and hair.

GS: Is there any possibility of Earl having a love interest?

KC: There is. If a season two happens, I think that that is in the pipeline.

GS: The queer energy in "Monarch" is powerful with you and singer/songwriter Beth Ditto, who plays Dottie's and Albie's (Trace Adkins) daughter Gigi, representing for us. What is it like

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working with Beth?

KC: We fell in love immediately. I'm from Texas, Beth is from Arkansas. We fell in love over Zoom. That's how much I love her. She said to me over the Zoom, "Oh, I can tell I'm gonna fall in love with you." And I said, "Well, I've been in love with you for years because I know who you are. I'm afraid you're stuck with me for the rest of your life." We have a daily text exchange, Beth and I, which I cherish, and it happens late at night, usually, because we're both night owls. This text exchange can be about how much we both love Ritz crackers [laughs]. It can go deep, or it can go surface. But I love her and I cherish her, and I'm so lucky that I'll have her in my life for the rest of my life.

GS: Could there someday be a creative collaboration between Kevin and Beth?

KC: Yes! Come on. I would just die and go to heaven. That would be a dream. Maybe we can come up with a song for the show.

GS: Fantastic. Will "Monarch"'s audience ever have a chance to hear you sing?

KC: Well, I hope that's another thing in season two. Let's get a boyfriend and let's get a song.

GS: "Monarch" is set in Texas. As a Houston native, how do you feel about the way Texas is depicted in "Monarch," as well as in other shows set in the state?

KC: Texas is such an interesting place. Because you have these hotbeds of liberal progressiveness.

GS: Austin.

KC: Austin, Houston, Dallas. Then, on the outskirts, it's pretty red. But I do have to say that within those red pockets, LGBTQIA people are there. They are part of the fabric. They are accepted, they are beloved. They are part of the world. But when a midterm election is coming up, they drag up all the stuff again to push these buttons to get people voting for them. I do feel like we are making strides today. I hope the protection of marriage equality passes in Washington. I think that would be huge. But we have to keep up the fight and we've just got to keep moving forward. There's no choice.

GS: In terms of your personal musical taste, where does country music fall when it comes to your playlist?

KC: It's high on my playlist. I listen to a lot of country music. Brandy Clark is one of my favorites.

GS: I love Brandy Clark. She's a great, queer singer-songwriter.

KC: Yes, she is. She's spectacular! And Shane McNally is also. I know Brandy and Shane very well because we're working on a Broadway musical together that they have written. I am an actor in it. And Robert Horn, who's an incredible writer who wrote for the television show "Designing Women," and won a Tony Award for writing "Tootsie" on Broadway; the three of them have written this incredible show. Over the years of working on this show, I've gotten to know Brandy and Shane very well. When I was about 20 years old, I was really into country music. I wore Wranglers and Ropers to acting school at NYU. That's how Texas I was! Brandy and Shane are responsible for this rebirth of love that I have for country music. Especially the music that they create. And Kacy Musgraves, of course.

GS: Right! Because Kacy has covered a lot of Brandy's songs.

KC: Yes, they've all worked together. She is a great champion of the LGBTQIA community. I love country music! My friends had a surprise birthday party for me at Dollywood.



That's How much I love country music [laughs].

GS: When does the show open?

KC: I will say it's not announced yet, but I will tell you this. It could be on Broadway in the spring of 2023. We're actually going to the Pioneer Theater in Salt Lake City. It will run from October 28th to November 12th. The show is called "Shucked." It's directed by Jack O'Brien, theater legend, Tony Award winner who did "Hairspray." It's an exciting, completely original American musical comedy. It's not a jukebox musical. It's not based on any source material from before. I'm really excited about it.

GRAB STEWART

Stewart Taylor Gets the Last Word With New Song About His Real-Life Toxic Relationship

By Mike Bahr

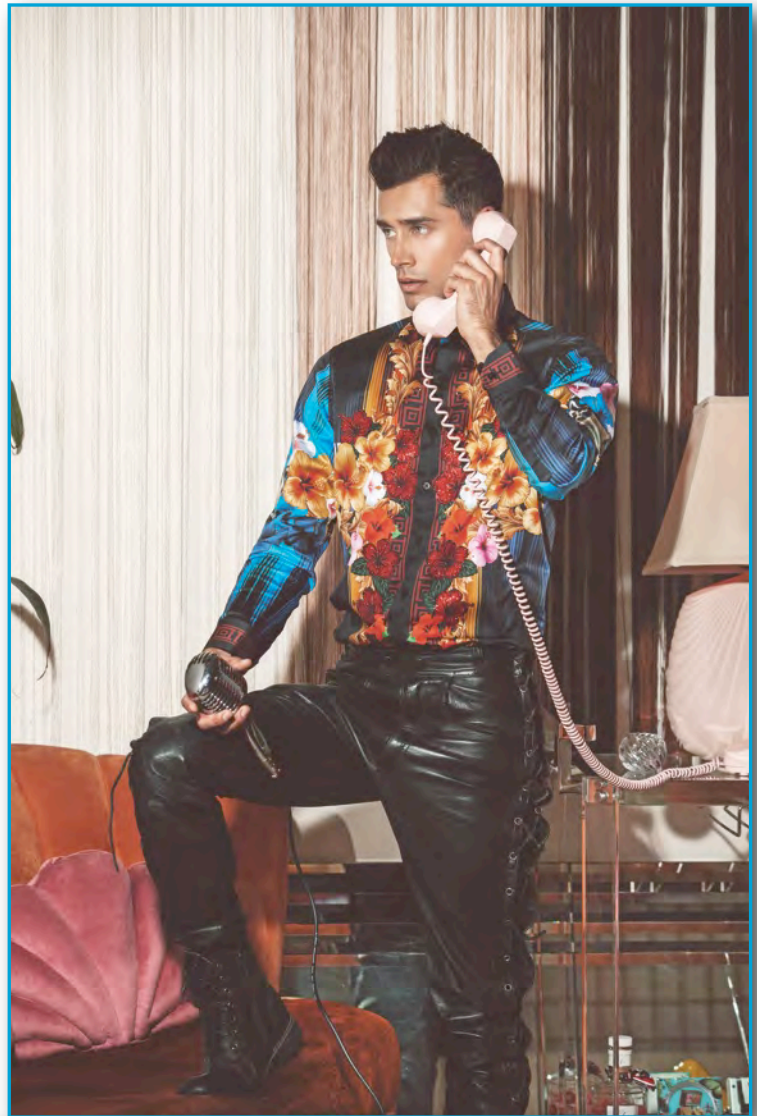
"My favorite memory of Chicago was when I traveled there as a kid in 2004 on a boy scout trip," reflects out singer Stewart Taylor, a Connecticut-native. "I was eleven and it was mid-February, and it was freezing! Luckily, we weren't in tents like we usually were on scouting trips. We stayed in a hostel and I'll never forget how right next to our building was a record shop with a massive billboard of Britney Spears promoting her *In the Zone* album. For so long, Britney and the city of Chicago were one in the same for me!"

These days, Stewart Taylor is making his own hit records. We spoke with him from his home in Los Angeles as he was promoting "Maybe We Shouldn't Talk", his catchy true-to-life pop tune about his true-life struggles in a toxic relationship.

Mike Bahr: In your new song, you open up about your rocky relationship with your ex.

Stewart Taylor: My ex and I fought

over anything and everything: our careers, what his friends thought of me, about trauma, jealousy, other men... He always told me I was too much and too loud, and I rebelled against that because I hate being told what to do or



how to act. The person I'm with should celebrate who I am, not try and make me smaller.

MB: Did you try to work things out in the relationship?

ST: I personally did everything that I could do to try and make that relationship work. I loved that man so much, and I still do. We had great date nights and fun getaway trips to Palm Springs and Las Vegas, but trouble always seemed to find us where ever we

went.

MB: Who was to blame?

ST: We both are to blame. At the end of the day, we were two men with a lot of trauma and his temper and our demons really got the best of us.

MB: Take us back to the beginning.

Where did you meet?

ST: We met at a charity event in Hollywood. We simply caught eyes in a crowd, started dancing, and within a minute or two we were making out and leaving together.

MB: Was it love at first sight?

ST: Not exactly. We got in a fight the night we met. How's that for a major red flag?

MB: What did your friends think of



the relationship?

ST: My friends really liked him. He's a hilarious, attractive, likable guy. However, it became apparent very quickly that we weren't exactly great for each other.

MB: When did you know it was time to call it quits?

ST: When he got really drunk and humiliated me in front of a large group of people. He said some pretty terrible things to me.

MB: Did you finally end all communication with him?

ST: I moved out of the apartment. I'd see him around West Hollywood every now and then and I'd say hello. But then he moved to Nashville and I haven't seen him since. During the pandemic, he called me and went on a drunk rant about me and I hung up and immediately started writing "Maybe We

Shouldn't Talk".

MB: Has he heard the song?

ST: He has and he loves it! I've been writing songs about him for some time, so he's gotten used to it. My first cut as a songwriter was a song I wrote about him called "Lie I Tell Myself". A Romanian pop star named Antonia released it in 2020.

MB: He can't be upset that Jake Dean Taylor plays him in the music video!

ST: Not at all. He gets a kick out of someone else playing him in a video and Jake Dean Taylor is gorgeous.

MB: It's a beautiful video!

ST: Thank you! I developed the story from beginning to end. One of the first things I wrote in my notebook was that we had to start off in a desert with our backs to each other and end in a tug of

war. It's magical to see my ideas come to life from paper to screen.

MB: Was that the same python from Britney's "I'm A Slave 4 U" VMA performance?

ST: Funny you should ask that! In between takes on set with the python, the snake handler told me that his father supplied Britney with her python for the VMA performance. It wasn't the same snake but maybe a descendant!

MB: What have you learned about relationships?

ST: I have learned relationships are complex. You can love someone and also realize that they are not the right person for you. It's a delicate unraveling.

For more Visit
Stewarttaylorofficial.com





GRAB A GETAWAY

Pride Journey: Madison, Wisconsin

A few years ago, I remember reading that Madison, Wisconsin was voted one of the top LGBTQ-friendly destinations in the country. Since I have a propensity to travel to under-the-radar destinations, I decided I wanted to see for myself what made Madison so special and inclusive.

Madison is the capitol of Wisconsin, a swing state in the political world, so it was no surprise that I was greeted with open arms upon arrival. The first thing I noticed was how clean and walkable the city was. It is fairly simple to walk to most attractions if you are staying in the heart of downtown. If the attraction is a bit far, you can rent a bike from the citywide BCycle bike share program.

Start your tour of Madison at the *Chazen Museum Of Art* located on the University of Wisconsin campus. The free museum houses a collection of over 24,000 works ranging from a painting by Andy Warhol to artifacts from ancient Greece, Western Europe, and Moghul India.

Continue your cultural tour of Madison at *Art + Lit Laboratory*, a community-driven contemporary arts center in the Capitol East District which houses an art gallery and performance space in addition to a library, artist studios, and a dedicated education studio. The facility welcomes over 200 events annually ranging from lectures to contemporary dance classes.

Before heading out for dinner, check in to the AC Hotel Madison Downtown, a beautiful property located a block away from the Capitol Building which offers beautiful 360-degree views of the city from its rooftop patio. The modern AC Lounge is located just off the reception area and features a towering LED sculpture that serves as the centerpiece of the space. Located on the top floor is Eno Vino, the hotel's signature restaurant which features an extensive wine menu consisting of over 200 bottles.

The rooms at AC Hotel Madison are



quite spacious and blend in with the property's minimalist vibe. I had a wonderful view of the Capitol building from my room which was even more breathtaking during sunset.

For dinner, take a short Uber-ride to *Mint Mark*, a produce-forward restaurant operated by James Beard Award nominated Executive Chef Sean Pharr. The relaxed space is welcoming but sophisticated and offers a variety of tapas ranging from a delicious Cauliflower dish consisting of herbs, raisins and crispy sarvecchio to Sorpesine made with ricotta, butternut squash, fermented plum and pecans. If

you like pasta, I'd recommend the Carbonara. It was my favorite item on the menu.

I happened to be in town during GLEAM, an evening light exhibition which takes place at the *Olbrich Botanical Gardens* and features large scale light installations created by local, regional, and international designers. This is a fun activity to go to with a group of friends or just stroll through on your own. Get there early to beat the crowds.

If you still have energy, head to Woof's, one of the city's LGBTQ bars, located just a short walk from the hotel.

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The space is owned by the same people who own *D'Vino*, a neighboring Italian restaurant. Woof's offers one of the best happy hours in the city with half-price drinks from 4-7pm.

Every Wednesday and Saturday, the city welcomes the Dane County Farmers' Market on the Square. Over 150 vendors participate each week, and the market is the largest producer-only farmers' market in the country. All of the items for sale at the market are produced by the vendors themselves. Even

though I didn't purchase anything, it was a great way to start the day. If you have time, book a tour of the Capitol building, an architectural wonder worth visiting which contains the only granite dome in the United States. The building houses both chambers of the Wisconsin legislature along with the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the Office of the Governor. After your tour, grab a bowl of ramen at Morris Ramen, owned by State Representative Francesca Hong.

Next up was a tour of the *Henry Vilas Zoo*, one of only a few admission-free, community-supported zoos in the country. The zoo just welcomed a baby orangutan, and I had the chance to see it along with its mother in the primate habitat. If you have time, take one of the behind-the-scenes tours offered at the zoo. I decided to jump on the African Adventure Behind the Scenes Tour where I got to meet and feed the zoo's beautiful, reticulated giraffe Eddie. You really don't appreciate how tall these animals are until you are standing a few feet away.

Also, part of the tour was a visit with their white rhino named Harmon. Unfortunately, Harmon was basking in the sun during my visit and didn't want any of the treats we brought for him. After a few minutes of trying to seduce

Harmon with food, we decided to let him relax and soak up the rays.

Next, head to *Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center*, a Frank Lloyd Wright designed building located on the shore of Lake Monona. Wright designed the building decades before it was built. He fought with the city multiple times to try to get them to agree to build the facility and sadly he didn't get to see his wonder come to fruition. The Monona Terrace finally won city-wide approval after Wright's death and now serves as a tribute to his contribution to Madison.

Touring around Madison will surely make you hungry, so try out Heritage Tavern. The farm-to-table restaurant is operated by chef/owner Dan Fox, a James Beard Award-winner. It was one of my top 10 dining experiences ever. I began my meal with a new addition to the menu, a sweet corn chowder served with popcorn of course. I was in awe of how delicious this soup was and felt bad not finishing the bowl as I had to save room for some other selections including the chef's upscale take on deviled eggs. I can't even explain what was on them, all I can say it you must try these. You won't be disappointed. For my entrée I ordered the Bouillabaisse served with an assortment of fish, fingerling potatoes and roasted fennel bathing in a saffron

tomato broth with garlic sabayon.

I really wanted to walk off my food coma, but I had tickets to the Madison Ballet's production of "Next Steps", a program built entirely of world premieres, and featuring the work of Artistic Director Ja' Malik and Richard Walters. The ballet is committed to celebrating female-identifying choreographers and showcases San Francisco-based Marika Brussel.

After the ballet, head to one of the city's other LGBTQ-establishments including *Shamrock Bar & Grille* or *Sotto Nightclub* for a nightcap.

Before heading home, grab breakfast at Short Stack Eatery, an LGBTQ-owned restaurant located close to campus which offers a selection of favorites including of course, pancakes. I decided to try the sweet potato pancakes which were served with fresh strawberries. The oversized portion could have fed two people and was so delicious. And even though I didn't have one, I heard they also make a killer Bloody Mary.

One other thing that stood out during my trip to Madison was how friendly the people are. Everyone greets you with a smile. There is nothing like Midwest hospitality.



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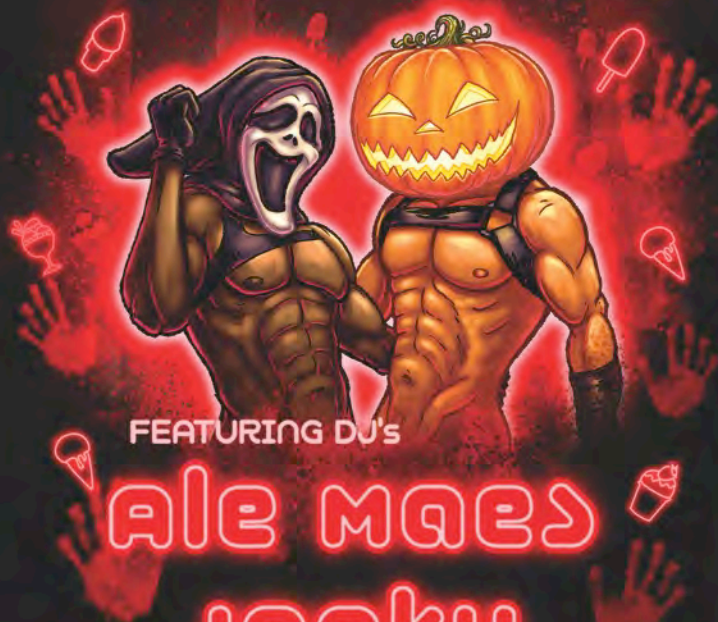


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GRAB NORA

“Heart” to heart: An interview with Nora O’Connor

By Gregg Shapiro

Nora O’Connor just might be the hardest working woman in music. For years, the Evanston-based singer/songwriter has earned a reputation as a go-to backing vocalist and musician. She’s toured and recorded regularly with Neko Case, Mavis Staples, The Decemberists, Andrew Bird, Kelly Hogan, and many others. With Hogan, O’Connor is also a member of the Chicago-based band The Flat Five. Additionally, O’Connor has also made time to release three solo albums, with the latest being the just released “My Heart” (Pravda Records). Well worth the wait (her previous solo effort was released in 2004), “My Heart” is a delight from start to finish. Nora was gracious enough to make time for an interview during the autumn of 2022. [Nora O’Connor plays an album release show on October 22 at SPACE in Evanston.]

Gregg Shapiro: There are 18 years between your previous solo album “Til The Dawn” and your new album “My Heart.” Were the songs on the new record written over the course of those years, or were they written in one burst more recently, specifically for this record?

Nora O’Connor: They’re new. They’re all new. It’s funny, when people say, “Why has it taken you 18 years?” It’s not like I haven’t been doing anything [laughs]. Winter of 2019, I wrote a couple songs. I was just coming off a tour with The Decemberists, and The Flat Five had just made a couple records. It seemed like I had the time and the openness and the space to dig up and see what was happening, and the willingness to give it a go. Then COVID happened, which completely wiped out my calendar, like everybody else’s. I started doing these outside backyard shows, late summer of 2020. It was just 20 people. We all still have our masks on, but we’re outside and we’re spread out, and we’re only going to do this for two hours. Back then, there was nothing going on. There was no eating out, there was no visiting, there was nothing. This was it, this was our little thing, and it was magical. It was wonderful, in a way, all things

considered. Because we were doing something and it was like, “Oh my God, I’m having a show!” People were like, “Oh my God, I’m actually at a show,” even though there were just 20 of us in a friend’s backyard. It just hit me, I want more new original music in this solo setting, when I’m playing by myself. I love singing covers, and I know a million songs. With singing covers, I just love turning people on to songs they’ve never heard. I try to dig a little deeper with my set list. Finding a deep Harry Nilsson or a deep Joni Mitchell or Ron Sexsmith (track). Whatever cover I decide I want to do or songs that my friends write, all these different people that I love their songwriting. I started writing more in 2020. My whole family was home. My husband was teaching. My kids were having school. I found a corner of my basement, built a little studio, and then started doing home recordings. Then I was like, “Yeah, it’s time, let’s do this, let’s make a record.” It felt so right. I hadn’t the desire or those feeling, the way I had them in the last year. It’s like, “Nora, just trust yourself! Let’s go! It’s OK that you’re not The Decemberists or you’re not Neko Case or you’re not Kelly Hogan or you’re not Andrew Bird, or all these people that you tour with.” Maybe that was intimidating for me. Touring with all these bands that were so fucking amazing. I can’t write a song like that [laughs]. I can only do what I can do. I think I just gave myself a break and let myself have the experience of that journey of creating a record.

GS: As you said, you’ve been far from sitting idle during the years between albums. In addition to raising your family, you’ve been performing with Neko Case, Mavis Staples, The Decemberists, and others, as well as performing as a guest vocalist on albums by other artists. Did you come from a large family and that is what makes you so good at playing well with others, or were you an only child who craves being around other people?

NO: I am the youngest of four, but we also adopted two of my cousins, so there was six of us. My parents are



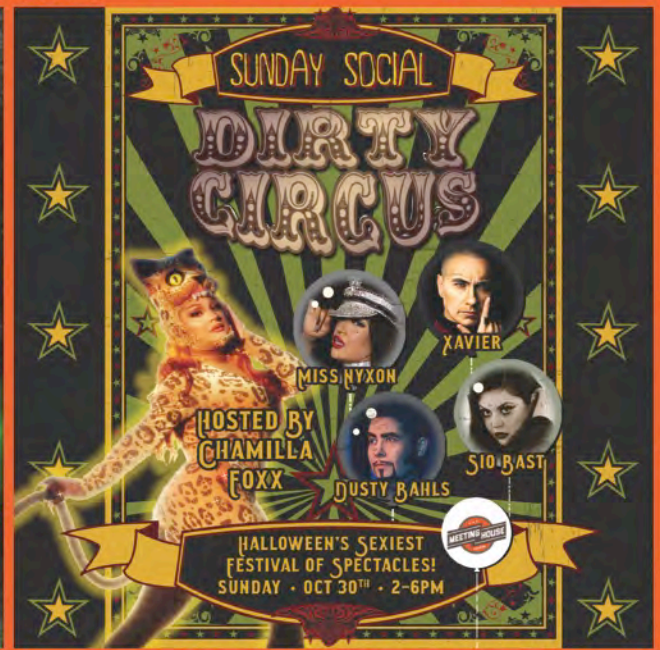
amazing. They were busy, so I had to entertain myself. I guess along the way I realized that singing harmony was really my jam. I do that best. I put myself in that position to be that person that’s hired to sing harmony. I’m a good administrative assistant of a song. I’m a good rhythm guitar player or auxiliary whatever. A little mandolin, a little banjo, a little keyboard; whatever the song needs to lift it. I like that role. I don’t love being in the middle of the stage and having to do all the talking. I think I’m a little more of an introvert, but I still want to perform, and I still want to do all these things. I think I also want to challenge myself and do some hard things, too. This is why I’m doing this now.

GS: You mentioned The Flat Five, and during the albums’ interim, you also performed shows and recorded two albums as one-fifth of that group. What did you like best about that experience?

NO: Because we’re such a democracy. We all come to the band with a really special and necessary gift. We work really well together. It’s this little special, sacred thing. We don’t want to be famous. We don’t really want to go on tour and tour our asses off because we’re doing all these other things. The Flat Five is our sacred place where it’s all about the music and we try to play as best we can, sing as pretty as we can. When I’m doing a gig with The Flat Five, I feel like I’m watching my favorite band. Even though I’m standing on stage right next to them. I’m like, “Holy shit, that’s Kelly Hogan! Holy crap, that’s Scott Ligon playing, he’s my favorite musician in the whole wide world.” The Flat Five just haven’t made that our number one thing. Even though it is our favorite thing, it’s not our number one job. We do all these other things. We had a zoom meeting last night because we really miss each

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other. Kelly's been touring with Mavis (Staples). I've been touring with Neko, Scott and Casey (McDonough) are touring with NRBQ, and Alex (Hall) is touring with JD McPherson. We're all doing these really great things, but we're all like, "Damn, I miss you guys." When there's a pocket, when things slow down, that's when we'll book some shows, try to make some money, and then make a record, but I don't know when that's gonna happen.

GS: One of my favorite songs on "My Heart" is "Cambridge Cold." I went to Emerson College in Boston, and I really loved hearing you sing about Inman Square and the fabulous Central Square music venue The Middle East. Because you live in Evanston, I was wondering, is it just me, or does Cambridge feel like the Boston-area version of Evanston?

NO: I think that's a really good point. Yes, I think it does. I'd rather drive around Evanston than drive around Chicago, because it's just so much crazier, and I'd rather go do something in Cambridge than do something in Boston. So, yeah, I guess it's kind of similar. But that's a completely made-up story. I didn't move to Cambridge, so it's really just a story. But what is true about it is that when I was in (the band) The Blacks in the late '90s, we got to play at the Middle East upstairs then we got played the Middle East downstairs. I really did have that feeling like, "Oh yeah, we're doing this, baby! It's on, we've made it, we've arrived." I've never left Chicago. I've lived here my whole entire life, so it's almost like a little fantasy of this is probably what would happen if I moved away. I'd probably just go for a year and do some things and come back. I like that notion of moving out east.

GS: The "heart" at the center of the "My Heart" album sounds like it's been broken, especially on the title cut, "Sore," "Follow Me," and "Fare Thee Well." Can you please say something about the heartbreak there?

NO: I think I'm prone to writing break-up songs. I think I'm prone to listening to break-up songs. What's different, I feel, is I'm just a little more in touch with the heartbreak that I've had. It's not irrational anymore. It's almost like I respect it and cherish it, and it's because of my experiences that I am who I am today. It's all good things. It's not like a victim, like "Oh, you broke my heart." It's more noticing and observing my feelings and not letting that destroy



me. I don't know how to explain it. I feel like I've been through so many transformations over the last few years and digging deep spiritually and trying to have a lot more gratitude in my life than I've ever had before.

GS: My mind works in seeing patterns. Even if there's just two things, that's a pattern. For example, you performed a cover of Stevie Nicks' "That's Alright" on 2004's "Til The Dawn," and you cover Margo Guryan's "It's Alright Now" on "My Heart." Am I reading too much into that or am I on the (al)right track?

NO: [Laughs] everything's going to be all right! I just love a healthy break-up song. Margo's is a little creepier. She's really saying, "it's all right, we're done." Stevie Nicks is saying, "It's OK, we're done, you go on and have a good life." I think when look back on the craziness of my younger years and of my relationships and how there was just so much drama and everything was such a big fucking deal. I just like this idea of, "This isn't working out, and we're grownups, so let's respect each other and move on. I love a healthy break-up song."

GS: One of the nicest surprises on "My Heart" is the "Winwoof"

instrumental. What can you tell the readers about that song?

NO: I wanted an instrumental. I wanted to write an instrumental, but I didn't know what it was. I had this chord progression. In my mind, it's about this mystical creature, nature/Mother Nature, invisible/visible creature like a wolf or a "winwoof." It's a made-up word. So, that's my story about the "winwoof." But the other story is I really meant to type Winwood (as in Steve) because it sounded like a Traffic song [big laugh], but I wrote Winwoof instead, and then I made up the story about the mystical creature. But I had this chord progression that I thought was sort of like Stevie Winwood, kind of Traffic. I had Scott, Casey, and Alex in the studio, I said "I've got this chord progression. While I have you guys, let's record some basic tracks." The four of us just played it in the studio live, and then I sat with it. I was like, "OK, this is my instrumental!" Then I added a harmonium. But it's one of those songs that I think I will revisit and add words to for another record. I'm introducing this concept with this instrumental that I think is going to be a bigger story later on.

GS: Your 1996 debut album

"Cerulean Blue" featured the song "Lipstick Lesbian," as well as the song "Tommy Cheddar," about your gay best friend Thomas Dunning. Additionally, you've worked with The Aluminum Group, which is led by gaybrothers John and Frank Navin. Would you mind saying a few words about what the queer folks in your life mean to you?

NO: Everything! Thomas and I have been friends forever. I'm just an advocate. I want to stand next to you guys all the time and be there however I can show up as an ally to my queer community. I was thinking about "Lipstick Lesbian." I wonder how that aged. I don't sing it anymore. It's autobiographical. I mean I consider myself... I don't know what I am. I don't really identify as hetero, but I don't really know what I am. Like somewhere on the hetero/queer plane. I am definitely on the spectrum of all the things. I like all sorts of people. I'm married (to a man) for 20 years. I'm really excited about this younger generation. My kids, it just rolls off their tongue. They don't get confused about pronouns. It doesn't matter. They get it. I'm just trying to latch onto my own kids and learn from them. I get excited about younger artists, non-binary queer women. I feel like when I was coming up, people were saying, "You can't do that." I don't feel like anybody's saying that to them. What would that feel like if I grew up and nobody said you can't do that? How would I be different? How many more records would I have made?



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Night of the Living Drag

RuPaul's Drag Race's Yvie Oddly Leads a Cast of Seven Sinful Queens

By Ben Nelson

RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 7 queen Yvie Oddly returns to Chicago on Tuesday

October 25 th to star in RuPaul's Drag Race Night of the Living Drag, an extravagantly produced Halloween spectacular that draws inspiration from Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Oddly plays the role of The Boogiemán who summons a cast of sinful RuPaul's Drag Race queens from the depths of fiery hell. The cast includes Aquaria the Sloth, Asia O'Hara the Envious, Bosco the Lustful, DeJa Skye the Greedy, Kim Chi the Glutton, Lady Camden the Proud, Rosé the Vain, and Vanessa Vanjie the Wrathful.

"I am excited to host a fierce and frightful exploration into all of world's most wicked sins," says Oddly. We spoke with the ultimate queen of curiosities from

her Denver home.

Ben Nelson: You will be in Chicago to host the live Halloween spectacular, RuPaul's Drag Race Night of the Living Drag. What can fans expect from the show?

Yvie Oddly: This show has got some of the most amazing performers brought from the depths of hell. I hope the fans are ready for a spooky sinful spectacle; the Halloweeniest Halloween that ever hallowed.

BN: You star as the Boogiemán. **Yvie Oddly:** I am! The boogiemán is a really fun character to play because he seems

spooky but he's just like everyone else. He's got his night job of hiding under kids' beds, but he really just wants to be free to boogie with baddies.

BN: Aquaria stars as the deadly sin, Sloth. Is she a sloth in real life?

Yvie Oddly: Not at all. Aquaria is one of the hardest working queens. I'm so excited to tour with Aquaria because I cannot think of anyone more motivated and dedicated than she is, especially on stage.

BN: Rosé plays the deadly sin, Vain. In real life, is she always in front of a mirror?

Yvie Oddly: Of course she is. What drag queen isn't?!

BN: Asia is "Envious". What does Asia have that you covet?

Yvie Oddly: The thing I most envy about Asia is that she has her shit together!

BN: Of all the queens starring in RuPaul's Drag Race Night of the Living Drag, who is the most sinful?

Yvie Oddly: Why, me darling! I have the most skeletons hiding in my closet.

BN: Have you ever experienced stage fright, Yvie?

Yvie Oddly: I still get stage fright quite often actually, but I'm a thrill-seeker so that's a part of what I love most about performing. I conquer my fear every time I get on stage and share my pure, unfiltered energy with crowds.

BN: What scares you the most?

Yvie Oddly: I am terrified of fish and being in open water. I know it sounds silly but there is some logic involved. Human beings cannot survive in water. Fish can! I'm convinced they are terrestrial aliens and that the ocean is a whole world we'll never be able to fully explore.

"RuPaul's Drag Race Night of the Living Drag" takes place Tuesday, October 25 at

*Rosemont Theatre. Tickets are available at **VossEvents.com**.*



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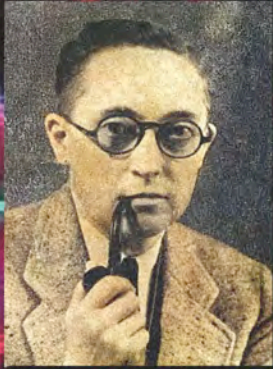
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Dedication 1:30p | 3512 N. Halsted | No Charge



DANIEL SOTOMAYOR

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Daily Specials

Monday	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$4StoliCocktails (Any Flavor). @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlies: Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. Hydrate: Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. Lark: Happy Hour 5-7pm, Bottles of Wine 50% off with dinner entree purchase. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 4pm, Dancers 8pm. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm.Shakers on Clark: Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. Steamworks: Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$4 Whiskey, Rye& Bourbon \$3 Miller Lit Drafts\$5Big Ass Long Islands, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche: Euchre Night, Come out and Play 7-10pm Sports on our screens Club room Open!.</p>
Tuesday	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: TuneUp Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. Houndstooth: \$2 Tacos, ½ Off Bottles of Wine, \$5 Red or White Sangria, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. Hydrate: TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: 50% Off Bottles of Wine with any Entree Purchase, Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm 50%off Bottles of Wine with purchase of an Entree. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$3 House Shots, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm.Shakers on Clark: Game Night, Free Pool, \$3 Domestic Bud, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra, Miller Lite, Miller High Life and PBR. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. Steamworks: Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). The Sofo Tap: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts.Touche: Hardcore Cruisin' Sponsored by Leather64Ten No Cell Phones/Wifi</p>
Wednesd ay	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's),. \$4 Premium Well Cocktails. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close.Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: Free Bingo, 50% Off Nachos & Totchos, \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks, Traditional Flavor only. Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm.Lark: Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails. Buy One Pizza Get one half offDie In OnlyLucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 Miller Lite Drafts, \$4 Stolis (All Flavors), \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm Shakers on Clark: Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, FUN DMC: Dua/Megan/Cardi last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. The Sofo Tap: \$3 House Shots, \$4 Titos Coctails,\$6Big Miller Lite Drafts. \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche:Jockstrap Night Sponsored by Full Kit GearFree Clothing Check.</p>
Thursday	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Whiskey, Rye & Bourbon.@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. Charlie's: Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. Hydrate: 5/26 Skin Trade Grabby Opening Party Doors open at 9pm brnefit for TPAN.. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lark: Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails . 7pm Extreme Bingwith Vian Dejour. 50%off Nachos or Tatchos \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks Tradional Flavor OnlyLucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 You Call It's, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. Shakers on Clark: Darts Night \$1 off Fireball, Jager, Malort and Well Shots, \$2.50 PBR Cans. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. The Sofo Tap: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails\$4 TallBoys, \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche: Throwback Thursdays70's& 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo.</p>

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

Daily Specials

Friday

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p – 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p – 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p – 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays – Strut 10p – 1am, Dancing until close. **Hydrate:** Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lark:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails .Every Friday from **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Tito's, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. **Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview:** Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) **Shakers:** \$4 Domestic Bottles \$5 Well Mixed Drinks, \$10 Giant 23oz Long Islands in 22 flavors. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 3-7pm, RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Viewing Party 7-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. **The Sofo Tap:** \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** 10/14WTNB Leather Social Friday Funder 10/21 Cowboy RoundUp save a horse ride a cowboy.

Saturday

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Lagunitas IPADrafts \$5 Premium Well Cocktails \$12 mimosa Carafes. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-3am. **Charlie's:** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, The Main Event 10pm – 1am Dancing until Close. **Lark:** Lakeviews #1 Free flowing Brunch 11am-3pm **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. **Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview:** \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.). **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games with Zamora Love & Friends 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. **The Sofo Tap:** \$4 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$4 Tallboys, \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** 10/15 GEAR Night with BLUF/Chicago Dress Code in Club Room BNC 6pm. 10/22 SNAKE PIT PARTY.

Sunday Funday

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Signature Margaritas \$12 Mimosa Carafes. **@mosphere:** \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-2am **Charlie's:** Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm – 7pm, Singsational Sunday Karaoke 7pm – 11pm Mas Leche 11pm – 1am, Dancing until close. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Divalicious brunch with Madam X 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis . **Lark:** Lakeviews #1 Free flowing Brunch 11am-3pm **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Frozen's, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm **Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview:** \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am **The Sofo Tap:** \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$6 Chicago Handshake, \$5 Prairie Vodka Cocktails, \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** . 1025 ROCKY HORROR SCREENING PARTY Lets do the time warp again! Club Room Open.



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	Artist	Title
1	Felix Jaehn & Zoe Wees	Do It Better
2	The Knocks x Paul Woolford x Dragonette	Slow Song (Paul Woolford Remix)
3	Agnes	Love and Appreciation
4	Lewis Thompson x David Guetta	Take Me Back (Radio Edit)
5	Manuel Riva & Alexandra Stan	Heal Your Soul
6	MEDUZA x James Carter	Bad Memories ft. Elley Duhe + FAST BOY
7	Mike Williams	Pretty Little Words ft. Zack Hall
8	Brooks ft. Isabel Usher	Someday
9	TELYkast	Body To Body
10	Lucas & Steve x DubVision	Feel My Love ft. Joe Taylor (Festival Mix)
11	Swedish House Mafia	Heaven Takes You Home
12	Benny Benassi & Anabel Englund	Lightwaves
13	JES	All Or Nothing (Original Mix)
14	Alok x Ella Eyre x Kenny Dope ft. Never Dull	Deep Down
15	Tate McRae	What Would You Do (Galantis Clean Remix)
16	Joel Corry x Becky Hill	History
17	Tobtok	Satellite ft. Arinn (Radio Edit)
18	LP Giobbi	Forever And A Day ft. Caroline Byrne
19	MK & BURNS	Better ft. Teddy Swims
20	Young Bombs	Kinda Funny ft. Audrey Mika
21	Tiesto ft. Charli XCX	Hot In It
22	ILLENium & Teddy Swims	All That Really Matters
23	DES3ETT	Neon Signs ft. Jack Dawson
24	DES3ETT	Seventeen
25	Beyonce	Break My Soul
26	Zedd x Maren Morris x Beauz	Make You Say
27	GTOffice	Never Together
28	Tom Ferry & Anasa	Summer Of Love
29	Loud Luxury ft. KIDDO	These Nights
30	Paige x Nihil Young x Lauren L'aimant	River (Radio Edit)
31	Elton John & Britney Spears	Hold Me Closer
32	Jonasu & Reve	All Night & Everyday
33	Syence	Forever For Now ft. Riley Biederer
34	Drake	Massive
35	Fedde Le Grand & 22Bullets	Down
36	Breikthru x SLATIN x dEVOLVE	Ocean (dEVOLVE VIP)
37	Dillon Francis x ILLENium & EVAN GIIA	Don't Let Me Let Go
38	RUDY	No Touchin
39	Robbie Mendez	Run
40	Andrew Bayer & OLAN	Under Pressure (Radio Edit)

SUNDAY.OCTOBER 23

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GRAB HOLLY

A Marriage "On the Rocks"

By Holly Maholm

If you have been following along with the story of my life among the unicorns, you will recall my account of the Unicorn Wedding experienced by two gay men – Mike and Dave – who reside in our little town. And you will likewise remember several instances wherein Mike and Dave provided timely, essential leadership for their LGBT neighbors. Most recently, you will have cheered the efforts of the unicorns to reward Mike and Dave with the opportunity to adopt the child of a local high school girl who unexpectedly became pregnant. Based on the foregoing, you would conclude – as did I – that Mike and Dave's future was looking bright. But how wrong I was! Mike called and asked me to join the two of them at their apartment in the old Methodist Church. I arrived bearing a heavy burden of trepidation, and when I came into the room, neither spoke, and neither could look me in the eye. I feared the worst! Mike began. "So, Holly, you are one of our few friends who've been married – twice, I believe – so I don't need to tell you that marriage can have its 'rocky' aspects. In my job as a Christian pastor, I have counseled many married

couples who have run into... 'impassable roadblocks' in their marriages, so much so that the marriage did not survive." He took a deep breath, then went on. "The fact is, Dave and I have hit just such a barrier." I had to interrupt. "Wait! I can't believe what I'm hearing! I thought you two were the perfect couple. What could possibly be so important that it could come between you, right at this moment when you're about to adopt!" I couldn't go on. My throat was choked with emotion. "NO!" Dave yelled out. "It's not us! We're not the problem!" He jumped up and took a seat on the couch next to Mike, where he reached around to give him a supportive hug. "It's not Mike and I," he explained, "who need 'marriage counseling.' It's all us LGBs who need to smooth out some 'rough spots' and 'issues' with you Ts in the room. Let me tell you what's happening – which is no joke, I assure you!" "You know, Holly, that I am the unofficial faculty advisor of the LGBT kids at the high school. I have them in my class, where we pursue a curriculum as if they were Roman-era soldiers reading the immortal, ancient Roman and Greek historians, statesmen and philosophers. The students camp out in tents in the field behind the school, and every year we build a Roman siege weapon or war chariot. It's a course of study that

produces self-reliant, self-confident young men – and a few women – who learn the importance of teamwork, loyalty and trustworthiness. My graduates are well prepared to succeed in life, no matter what job or profession they choose.

"But recently, things started to change. The new students I have wanted to induct as novice 'Legionnaires' have become less and less willing to accept the requirements of our camp. As you know, I strictly limit how much time they are allowed with their iPhones and internet. They have only a few minutes a day on social media, and we don't spend any time at all on video games. In my opinion, if anyone wants to live the life of a 'warrior,' then instead of some FPS game, I teach them how to use a Roman gladius, shield and war hammer.

"My students don't play at being



'social justice warriors,' where they might be tempted to spend their time posting snarky comments in an attempt to 'cancel' someone who used the wrong word. No. They learn how to aim a trebuchet and hit an enemy at 100 yards with a flaming projectile! My students learn to speak plainly, honestly and without fraudulent intent. I teach them that the mark of a man is his refusal to speak lies or empty bullshit. His integrity and self-respect depend on it." Dave fell silent, certain he had read out his own judgment. Mike picked up where Dave could not go on. "Anyway, yesterday Dave was talking to a couple of prospective new students for next year's incoming class of Legionnaires. One of the youngsters introduced himself, then went on to say 'and my pronouns are they/them.' Well, Dave told him he could be 'he/him' if he's male, or 'she/her' if she's female or transgender, but he couldn't accept any person who claims to be 'they/them' in the class. "So, this morning we found out that student went to the school administration and filed a complaint against Dave for 'Sex Discrimination.' It's some 'gender warrior' who wants to start a war between the LGBs and the Ts, and Dave is caught in the middle!

(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.

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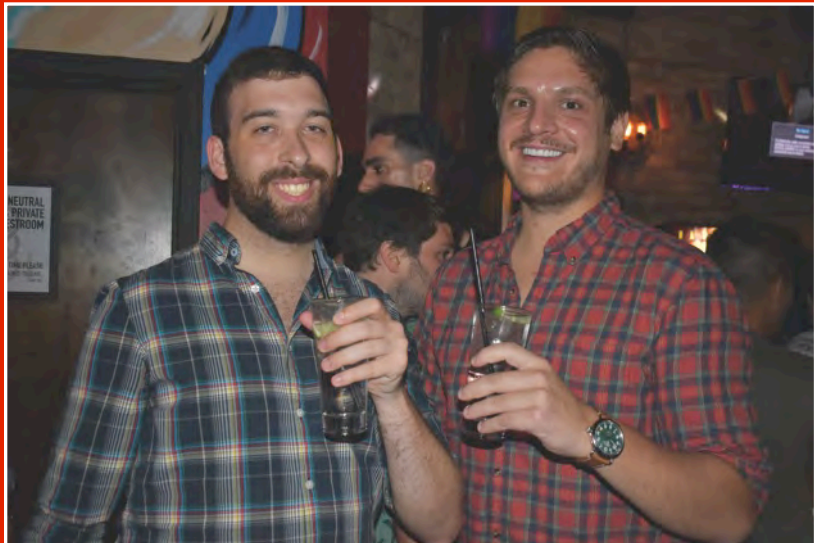
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Photos By Anthony Meade



October 11, 2022

GRAB Magazine

39

TL GLD New Album 'Rock Boyega' Out November 11



Hip-hop rock band, STL GLD, have officially announced details surrounding their anticipated upcoming fourth studio album, 'Rock Boyega', out November 11 on AR Classic Records. It was recorded, mixed and mastered by The Arcitype at The Bridge Sound & Stage in Cambridge, MA, and includes features from formative artists like Darlingside, Jared Evan, Cliff Notez, Latrell James, and more.

Last week the band releases the first single and music video for "Resisting", a compelling track that comments and rails against present day policy brutality that the country faces on what seems to be a daily basis.

On the track, rapper and co-founder of STL GLD, Moe Pope shares, "Resisting" is usually the last thing you hear before a boot, baton, a fist, or worse is levied upon a human when dealing with law enforcement. Hip Hop is always my way of flipping anything negative and making it work in a way in which I lose my fear and regain strength. Stop resisting, my words, my art, that's my source of freedom."

Inspired by the fierce and emotional determination exhibited by **John Boyega** following the murder of George Floyd, Pope found a kindred spirit in the actor, sharing the same anger and frustration with the world's continual mistreatment of people of color. The toll this takes on his mental health became the centerpiece of this album, and the inspiration from Boyega fueled his will to fight for balance; the title 'Rock Boyega' was born.

On November 10, STL GLD will headline an album release show at Paradise Rock Club in Boston with support from 7L & Esoteric (of Czarface), **Najee Janey** and **Toritori**. Tickets and more information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3C2h4xj>

Formed in 2014 by Moe Pope and producer The Arcitype, STL GLD's powerful message and exhilarating live show has quickly earned them the reputation as one the most exciting bands to come out of New England. The group is also one to confront the status quo head on.

STL GLD is **Moe Pope**, The Arcitype, **Christopher Talken**, **Jonathan Ulman**, and **Tim Hall**.

For more information, visit: www.stlglid.com

QUEER ARTIST JOHNNY MANUEL RELEASES BRAND NEW EP YOUNGER SKIN



In celebration of last week's release of his brand new EP *Younger Skin*, prolific queer artist and The Voice Australia finalist **Johnny Manuel** has released the music video for his latest single "The Others." On the avant-garde concept behind the music video, Johnny says: "As an artist I think it is always important to keep evolving on all levels. So when my creative team came to me with the concept for the video for "The Others," I felt it was a perfect time to let go and trust the process and I am so glad I did."

Younger Skin is Johnny's first-ever solo project. As a proud queer black man, Johnny is excited to step out on his own and embrace a fresh sound for his new EP. About the making of his latest project, he says, "There was a level of comfort I hadn't experienced in the creation of my music before and it allowed me to open up. The icing on the cake was having it mixed by Elijah Marrett-Hitch, and his magic ears, and mastered by Dale Becker. Their combined level of skill and attention to detail elevated the EP and gave it the polished finish it needed."

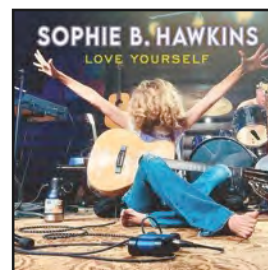
Of the creative process that led to *Younger Skin*, Johnny says: "The creative process was completely different for me this time around. I know myself better than I ever have and I'm learning to trust my instincts more. The morning walks I take, the daily journaling I do, studying my idols and how they crafted their careers. It all lends itself to my process now. I have an incredible management team made up of people who are also brilliant artists, and masters at what they do, so they know the process firsthand. They encourage and inspire me to push myself, grow and enjoy the process. This is what it's supposed to be and how it's supposed to feel. As artists it's imperative that we feel supported and heard by our co creators, and I was lucky enough to have that with the making of *Younger Skin*."

On the meaning behind *Younger Skin*, Johnny shares: "This EP is titled *Younger Skin* because I feel like I'm finally able to be who I wanted to be when I was younger. It's a way of reclaiming my power. I'm honoring the dreams that weren't realized at the inception of my career. *Younger Skin* represents the fulfilling of all the promises I made to myself when I was in my younger skin and it's a cheeky wink at all the people that tried to convince me to not believe in myself years ago. As a child with big

dreams it was soul crushing to be doing what I love yet being told I wouldn't fully realize my dreams unless certain parts of myself were hidden. I couldn't be black, openly queer, and a superstar. I was told that was impossible. Well, I'm back now and determined to shatter all the limitations those small minds tried placing on me. I'm here to get back what I was robbed of and I'm honestly telling the story of what it felt like for me when I was in my *Younger Skin*."

Defining his own artistic vision across multiple projects with creative collaborators Grammy-winning artist/producer Nick Littlemore (PNAU and Empire of the Sun) and rising artist/producer Aidan Laprete, Johnny's new sound finally allows him to be his authentic self.

SOPHIE B. HAWKINS KICKS OFF NEW ERA WITH SINGLE "LOVE YOURSELF" OUT NOW



GRAMMY-nominated, platinum-selling artist, prolific songwriter and spellbinding live performer Sophie B. Hawkins has kicked off her next era in what has been a trailblazing career with the release of her brand-new single "Love Yourself." Rooted in her raw yet poetic lyrics and effortlessly captivating vocals, the song is a soul-stirring piece of symphonic pop about self-love and the way we talk to ourselves, re-framing our inner dialogue to change patterns and bring healing. Sophie will be rolling out new music during this new creative chapter, culminating in an album next year. It's an exciting rebirth for the legendary artist whose indelible hit songs such as "Damn, I Wish I Was Your Lover" and "As I Lay Me Down" have been featured in cultural touchstone TV shows and films (from recent hits *Stranger Things*, *Euphoria*, *Ozark*, and *PEN15*, to landmark series *Beverly Hills, 90210*, *Dawson's Creek*, *The L Word* and more) and who has always been ahead of her time with her steadfast activism supporting such causes as environmental protection, animal rights and LGBTQ equality; using her songwriting and platform for positive change with the forward-thinking, pioneering outlook she has championed all along.

Known for her captivating live shows that all but erase the divide between audience and performer, Sophie is currently on the road celebrating her new music and the 30th Anniversary of her iconic, critically-acclaimed, platinum-selling debut album *Tongues and Tails*.

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The Artistic Home Presents the
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NOVEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 11,
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The Artistic Home presents the world premiere of **Siah Berlatsky's** Shakespeare-inspired, gender-bending romantic comedy *Malapert Love*, developed as part of the company's Summer on the Patio series. Directed by ensemble member **Julian Hester**, *Malapert Love* will play November 5 – December 11, 2022 at The Den Theatre's Upstairs Mainstage, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.

Malapert Love is a modern response to the tropes, style and structure of Shakespeare's comedies. It follows the tangled and farcical action of a group of people who have all fallen in love with the wrong person.

Comments Playwright **Siah Berlatsky**, "My writing is very inspired by my experience of gender and sexuality. When I first started writing this play, I was about halfway through high school, and intensely aware of the pressures which were starting to be applied to me surrounding gender and sexuality. The ideas and 'rules' about relationships and identity which were beginning to take more solid shape in those around felt strange, and in many ways comical. Fundamentally, this piece is a rebellion against taking heteronormative society too seriously. In writing it, I hoped to free myself through laughter."

Tickets are now on sale at **thedentheatre.com** or by calling 773-697-3830.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM
ANNOUNCED FOR BRITISH FARCE
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY,
OPENING NOVEMBER 18



Citadel Theatre Company has announced the cast and crew for its holiday season show, the British farce *IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY*. The show was penned by Britain's famed master farceur

Ray Cooney (*TWO INTO ONE, RUN FOR YOUR WIFE*). Set in a London hospital three days before Christmas, Dr. David Mortimore is a married neurologist preparing to deliver a lecture to an international conference that he hopes will boost his career. In the midst of his preparations for this important event, he's interrupted by a former nurse who claims he's the father of her 18-year-old punk son, and that the boy now wants to meet his biological father. And if that weren't enough, Dr. Mortimore must deal with a variety of farcical nuts running in and out of doors of the doctor's lounge, pretending to be people they are not, and even crawling on the snowy ledge outside the window. When it was produced in London's West End in 1992, the *SUNDAY EXPRESS* said it "tickles the funny bones quite shamelessly." Directed by Citadel veteran **Pat Murphy**, whose most recent work at Citadel was 2020's *THE FANTASTICKS*,

Tickets for *IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY* are now on sale at **www.citadeltheatre.org** or by phone at 847-735-8554

THEATERWIT'S
**WHO'S HOLIDAY!, BACK BY
POPULAR DEMAND, NOV. 25-DEC.
30.**



Christmas Day is in our grasp. Why the vodka? Glad you asked! Theater Wit announces the return of *Who's Holiday!*, a hilarious night out with a booze-guzzling, cigarette-smoking, 40-year-old Cindy Lou Who as she recalls the fateful night she met The Grinch, and the sordid events that happened after, November 25-December 30, 2022.

Who's Holiday! is written by **Matthew Lombardo**, directed by **Christopher Pazdernik**, and stars Chicago favorite Veronica Garza, now Jeff-nominated for her portrayal last year as an adult Cindy Lou Who.

Who's Holiday! returns to Theater Wit not without controversy. In 2017, the playwright was locked in a legal battle with Dr. Seuss Enterprises over accusations of copyright infringement, delaying the play's New York premiere for nearly a year. Ultimately, a U.S. District Court ruled in Lombardo's favor, citing his depiction of an adult Cindy Lou Who living in a beat-up trailer in the snowy hills of Mount Crumpit as "fair use." Freed of litigious red tape, *Who's Holiday!* went on to be hailed "a raunchy riff on Dr. Seuss's yuletide tale" (New York Times) that "dares to be as tasteless as possible while replicating Seuss's trademark rhythms" (*Time Out New York*). Chicago's

critics lapped up Theater Wit's 2021 Chicago premiere, too. "Highly Recommended" said the *Chicago Reader*, with the best pull quote of all, "I loved this show!" ChicagoTheatreReview.com agreed "Garza is a comic genius," adding *Who's Holiday!* is "a very funny, often poignant production guided with panache by an excellent director."

Tickets to *Who's Holiday!* are and are already on sale at **Theater Wit.org** or by calling the Theater Wit box office, (773) 975-8150.

ABOUT FACE THEATRE
PRESENTS THE WORLD
PREMIERE OF
Mosque4Mosque
NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 17.



About Face Theatre opens its 2022-2023 season with the world premiere of **Omer Abbas Salem's** new Play *Mosque4Mosque*, directed by **Sophiyya Nayar**. *Mosque4Mosque* is a family comedy about a queer Arab-American Muslim man navigating his first real relationship while his relentlessly caring immigrant mother tries to find the perfect man for him to marry. *Mosque4Mosque* will be presented November 17 – December 17, 2022 at The Den Theatre, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago.

Ibrahim is an average 30-something queer Arab-American Muslim who is constantly being reminded how unmarried he is by his relentlessly caring immigrant mother, Sara. Having helped raise his smart, popular, cheerleading hijabi younger sister, Ibrahim has always been comfortable sinking into the background. Normal job, quiet life, easy men. But on the precipice of finding what could be his first real relationship, Sara feels compelled to take Ibrahim's future into her own hands by attempting to find the perfect man for him to marry. *Mosque4Mosque* is a comedy about a normal Muslim American family that asks us to wrestle with what we believe normal to be.

For Tickets visit The Den Theatre Box Office located at 1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago or online at **aboutfacetheatre.com** or **WWW.thedentheatre.com**

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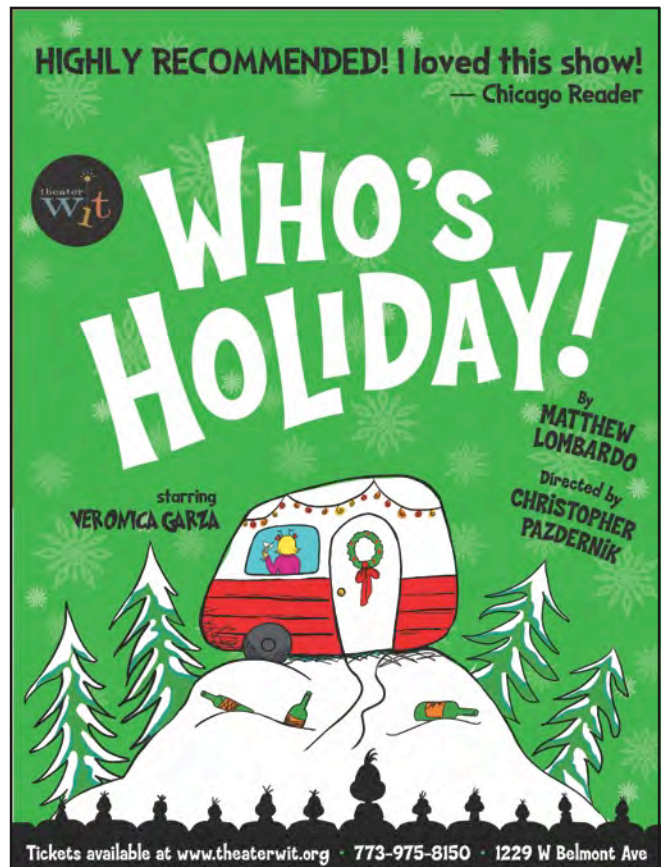
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! I loved this show!
— Chicago Reader

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HOLIDAY!**

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Directed by **CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK**

starring
VERONICA GARTZ

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FRIDAY THE 13TH ('80) 11 p.m.

Oct. 14th - 17th
A NIGHTMARE ON ELM ST. ('84) 10:30 p.m.
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE ('74) 11 p.m.

Oct. 18th - 20th
PSYCHO ('60) 10:30 p.m.
EVIL DEAD II ('87) 11 p.m.

Oct. 21st - 24th
IT'S ALIVE ('74) 10:30 p.m.
+ Mutant Baby Shower 10/21 at 8

Oct. 21st - 24th
THE SHINING
1980 11 p.m.

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—Broadway World

October 1st - 30th 2022

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**TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL
WINDY CITY ANNOUNCES ANNUAL
CHILI COOK OFF ON SUNDAY
OCTOBER 23RD AT TOUCHE**



Trident International Windy City proudly announces their annual CHILI COOK OFF on Sunday, October 23rd which will be held at Touché 6412 North Clark Street in Chicago. The public (sorry you must be 21 or over) is invited to come and sample a variety of chili recipes prepared by representatives of many Chicago leather & fetish community clubs and businesses. Proceeds from this event benefit the Broadway Youth Center.

This event kicks off at 5pm when our competing chefs serve up samples of their chili. A \$5 donation to the BYC entitles guests a tasting card that permits them to sample each of the chilis offered and then vote for their favorite taste.

The chili chefs will be competing for two trophies – Best Chili and Fan Favorite. The Best Chili trophy will be awarded to the chili chef who receives the most votes from the tasters. The Fan Favorite trophy is awarded to the chili chef who raises the most money.

The Broadway Youth Center works to improve the quality of life experienced by youth (12-24) who are LGBTQ+, underserved, and/or experiencing homelessness through the provision of youth-centered integrated healthcare and social services. BYC serves anyone, regardless of ability to pay. BYC provides basic needs assistance, resource advocacy, mental wellness supports, and education/vocational services. To reach BYC, please call 773.388.1600

Supporting the BYC programs has been a cornerstone of Trident International Windy City's ongoing efforts. For many years, Trident has hosted 2 annual "tasty" fundraisers for BYC, their Chili Cook Off in the Fall and Cupcake Wars each Spring. These events have solicited huge support for BYC, usually raising sufficient funds that help cover their service expenses for a month or more. Those unable to attend are encouraged to donate directly to BYC.

Trident International Windy City is the oldest pansexual Leather/Levi Club in Chicagoland. Founded in 1993, they meet monthly at Touché. For more information on Trident visit their website TridentWindyCity.com or on Facebook.com/TridentWindyCity.

**CHICAGO FASHION WEEK 2022
OCTOBER 16TH-23RD
"IMPACT"**



FashionBar, LLC Has announced Chicago Fashion Week powered by FashionBar LLC. The Designer Reveal scheduled for October 8th 2022 kicks off the shows that begin October 16th to October 23rd 2022 at Water Tower Place on Chicago's Magnificent Mile.

FashionBar is proud to celebrate this season's theme IMPACT - Your identity can give fashion life with your donations directly benefiting Howard Brown Health (a 501c3 organization) providing access to healthcare, education and social services for the LGBTQ+ community. The season you will be viewing the collections of various emerging, established, and Avant Garde designers to hit the runway during this season's October 2022 runway shows.

FashionBar LLC invites you to join them as VIPS on the red carpet. Experience Chicago Fashion Week powered by FashionBar LLC as you meet and greet designers, models, influencers, journalists, and media while experiencing The Shows at Water Tower Place! The Shows and The Marketplace are located at Water Tower Place, 835 North Michigan Avenue (FashionBar, Level 3), Chicago IL 60611.

Powered by FashionBar LLC, these events are a part of a week-long lineup of fantastic Fashion Week runway shows, panel discussions, and speakers. The Marketplace, a Chicago fashion experience showcases amazing designer brands, wellness & beauty products giving you the fashion you need to impact your life.

FashionBar, LLC is an agile, business platform that engages and works with emerging and established fashion designers and creative talent. We establish opportunities and professional exposure for growing and established talent and nurture emerging talent to create a pathway for what is possible. FashionBar LLC has revitalized interest and infused new life into the Chicago fashion industry. Our passion for fashion is elevating Chicago's fashion scene - having successfully produced and executed Fashion Week runway shows, projects, and events in and around Chicago, London, and Los Angeles.

Tickets can be secured at www.fashionbarchicago.com or on www.Rebelity.com.

**HAUNTED HALSTED
HALLOWEEN PARADE
25th Anniversary
MONDAY OCTOBER 31**



If you love Halloween, you'll want to get crackin' on that costume!

October 31, 2022 is the 25th annual Haunted Halsted Halloween Parade. It's free to watch or compete in the costume contest/parade with \$4,000 in prizes!

The 2022 costume contest categories and prizes are:

1st place \$500, Runner up \$250:

- Scary
- Creative
- Youth Couples

1st place \$1,000, Runner up \$250:
Group 3+

If your group, organization or business would like to participate in the parade, contact info@northalsted.com.

Register for Contest by Oct 30, 2022

You can also register before the start of the Parade in person at Halsted & Belmont, from 6:30-7:15pm, October 31, 2022.

Parade Starts at: Halsted & Belmont
Parade Ends at: Halsted & Brompton
Awards Show & After Party at: Halsted & Roscoe

The parade will go on, despite rain or snow

Pets: Pets are welcome to march in or watch the parade (owner assumes responsibility for safety)

Event Schedule

6:30PM Costume Contest
Registration – Halsted & Belmont
7:30PM Parade Kickoff at Halsted & Belmont
8:00PM Parade Ends at Halsted & Brompton
8:30PM Awards Show Begins at Halsted & Roscoe
10:00PM End of Event
For more information visit <https://www.northalsted.com>

Check us out online

www.GrabChicago.com
www.GrabChicago.com
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NORTHALSTED

PRESENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY

OCT 31 7:30PM

HAUNTED HALSTED

HALLOWEEN
PARADE



HOSTS

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BATTY DAVIS

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

MOLLY & ALEX

FREE ENTRY

COSTUME CONTEST
\$4,000 IN CASH PRIZES



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FK - FULL KIT GEAR •
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GREAT HEAD SALON
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MEN'S ROOM Barbershop
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SLADES BARBER SHOP
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OF COMMERCE** - 773-728-2995

ASIANS/FRIENDS OF CHICAGO -
312-409-1573

BROADWAY YOUTH CENTER -
773-388-1600

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**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
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SIDETRACK

"Photos By Anthony Meade



October 11, 2022

GRAB Magazine

47

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48	MARTYS MARTINI BAR • 773-561-6425 • 1511 W Balmoral
70	MEETING HOUSE TAVERN • 773-696-4211 • 5025 N. Clark
1	RAVENSWOOD TAP • 773-528-3253 • 1829 W. Montrose)
67	REPLAY • 773-654-1369 3358 N. Clark (Andersonville)
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58	ROGERS PARK SOCIAL 6920 N. Glenwood
34	ROSCOES • 773-281-3355 3356 N. Halsted

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38	SCARLET • 773-348-1053 3320 N. Halsted
63	PROGRESS • 773-697-9268 • 3359 N. Halsted
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23	THE NORTH END • 773-477-7999 • 3733 N. Halsted
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71	WHISKEY GIRL TAVERN • 773-654-1766 • 6318 N. Clark

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22	F.O'MAHONY'S • 773-549-0226 3701 N. Broadway
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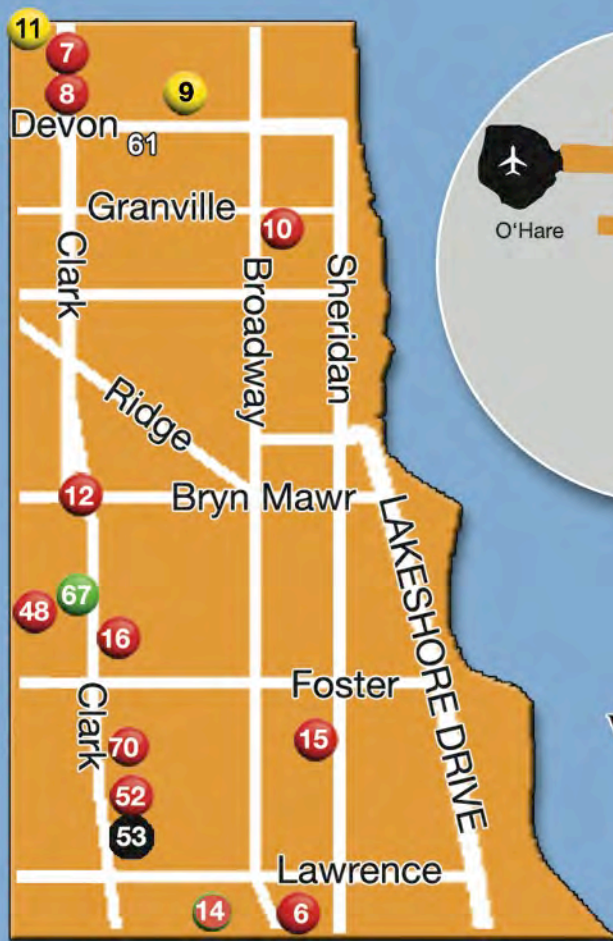
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- GRAB a Bite
- GRAB a Drink
- GRAB Some Sleep
- GRAB Some Culture
- GRAB a Towel

GRAB CLASSIFIEDS

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

NEED RESPONSIBLE PERSON; to assist senior in North Halsted with Laundry, housekeeping... Very flexible..4hrs 2 to 3 days weekly @\$16 hourly. Send letter about yourself...to pafirstcontact@gmail.com. Required.

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