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SALT LAKE CITY **22**

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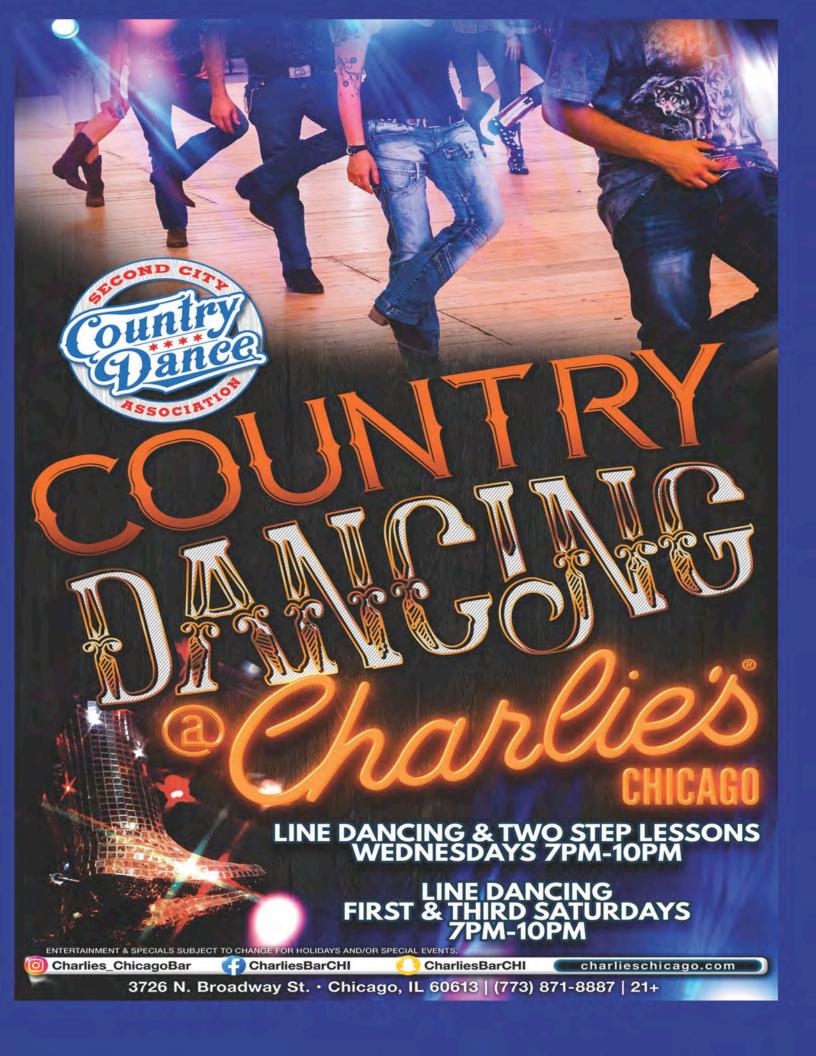
In Memorium Mark Nagel (Co-Founder) 1961 - 2019

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Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal in "Brokeback Mountain." Photo: Focus Features

A Queer Slate, In Focus

The studio that brought us 'Brokeback Mountain' turns **20**

By George Elkind

For 20 years now, Focus Features has been distributing and funding queerfocused movies, marketing them successfully to a wide audience even early on. As a specialty distribution and production company responsible for works as disparate as "Beginners," "Pariah" and "Brokeback Mountain," Focus has always occupied a unique place in the pre-streaming landscape. Able to bring both star-driven and smaller works to arthouse and multiplex audiences alike, it's played a key role in pushing queer works (just a portion of its output) into the center of both film and popular culture.

Led in its first decade by co-founder and influential LGBTQ+ ally James Schamus, who departed the company in 2011, Focus owes much of its success to groundwork he laid prior, and often with frequent collaborator and "Brokeback Mountain" director Ang Lee. Schamus, whose producing and writing credits stretch back to 1990 (and included biting queer works lke Todd Haynes' "Safe and Poison," along

with Tom Kalin's "Swoon"), managed to feature and elevate queer characters and creators early on. But Focus' brand under his stewardship and after has long skewed less abrasive, closer to the mold of works like his and Lee's 1993 film "The Wedding Banquet": a bright comedy of manners about a gay Taiwanese immigrant (Winston Chao) struggling to conceal his identity and relationship from his visiting parents.

By situating queer characters in polished movies like "The Wedding Banquet," rooted in more familiar film forms, Focus' output found new ways of making and marketing queer-centric and even queer-adjacent works inviting to a broader audience. Rarely positioning queer people as rebels, deviants or outsiders — as had so often been done before - Focus' material instead spotlighted what they gave to culture, upending the narratives in which they've fought to play a part.

Throughout its life, Focus has proved a welcoming environment for so many queer films, with a body of work reflecting shifts in attitudes and concerns. In light of this impact during their 20th anniversary, what follows is a consideration of a portion of their queer-related works.

'Far From Heaven' (2002)

Reuniting Todd Haynes and Julianne Moore after their stirring work in "Safe," "Far" made explicit both the critical and nostalgic 1950s references that colored a wave of works then in both the arthouse and mainstream around its time. But instead of treating them gravely (as in "American Beauty") or comically (see "Blast from the Past") and in both cases from a kind of distance - Haynes raced directly to the waters of one of the period's deepest wells in his treatments of societally forbidden queer and interracial romance. Embracing both the vibrant, suggestive colors and the accompanying seasonality of Douglas Sirk's "All That Heaven Allows," "Far" is a melodrama like Sirk's - but one whose acting timbre skewed just slightly more contemporary, giving it a separate sort of bite. But the mode for Haynes offers more than just décor, allowing for both an enduring social portrait and a way of reflecting on the senseless intractability of social ills that's lost none of its sting now. With Dennis Quaid starring opposite Moore as her repressed-but-caught-cruising husband, he offsets any air of

victimhood on her part for the ways he's convinced himself he's sick — a Haynes standby if there ever was one.

'Brokeback Mountain' (2005)

Few gueer works seem to have made so broad an impression on audiences as "Brokeback," which seems to have been the point. "We really wanted to make a big, gooey, epic love story, Schamus told the Harvard Crimson in 2005, going on to describe its "hot, man-on-man action" as "a slight twist," even calling the film "conservative." And in a way he's right, considering the reassurances it offers viewers through the shape of its two leads. By centering Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger's fraught gay romance around cowboys in figure if not fact (technically they tend sheep), the film offers playful reassurances of their manhood in a way that mirrored the positioning of Eric McCormack's title character in "Will & Grace." By assuring audiences that its cis gay characters could still present as masculine, and even marry women well, it lampoons the "real men" notion of performative manhood even as it invites viewers in with it - quietly underlining that no activity, affiliation, or mode of presentation prevents a person from being gay. Thanks to this odd seduction, the most skeptical and queer-resistant viewers might be likeliest of all to mourn the unfairness of its end.

'Milk' (2008)

"In front of a hostile audience or a mostly straight one, I might break the tension with a joke." says Sean Penn's Harvey Milk in an onscreen speech. The line's a pun itself, playing on not only Milk's candidacy - to be the first gay American man to hold public office — but on the film's uneasy courtship of mainstream and awards season viewers. Van Sant presents Milk in his 40s as an underdog, rookie politician; Penn answers with quips and what we're to take for sparkling wit, sprightly and eager to please. Executed years after "Good Will Hunting," Van Sant and screenwriter Dustin Lance Black color largely within the lines here - many drawn by Rob Epstein's 1984 nonfiction work "The Times of Harvey Milk." Despite this basis, the "Milk" script feels lacking and oddly shapeless, rarely so clever as its actors or its crew. Somewhere in it there's a



Julianne Moore and Dennis Quaid in "Far From Heaven." Photo: Focus Features

Sean Penn as Milk in "Milk." Photo: Focus

story focused on the rituals of

underdog queer performance in a field of American competition

but maybe that's how its makers saw the movie itself. As it stands, its best features live in its margins. Pete **Buttigleg** surely took some notes.



July 19, 2022

'Beginners' (2011)

With this coming-out movie working outside the usual mode, Mike Mills offered a largely autobiographical take on queer life that still feels refreshing for its lack of prescriptions. Mills treats hisqueer characters from a close distance as an adult son, Oliver (played by Ewan McGregor), observes his widowed father, Hal (Christopher Plummer), coming out near the end of his life. What's done here feels remarkably settled and peaceful considering the potential drama in play. Never treating Hal's identity as a problem for Oliver to solve, the film acknowledges the tensions and small ironies in supporting Hal through periods of adjustment — both to terminal sickness and to queer life. Premised on calm acceptance and allowing for occasional bemusement, "Beginners" avoids cloying, performative or histrionic treatments by remaining low-key, honest and fair.



"Usually in these movies, they hire two straight women to pretend and the inauthenticity is just unbearable," says Julianne Moore's Jules when her daughter asks about the man-on-man porn she's watching: perhaps a queasy form of comment on its two leads. Starring opposite Moore is Annette Bening as Nic, making for a picturesque if somewhat stereotypic lesbian pair for the time. Their nuclear family life's stirred up early by the entrance of interloper Paul (Mark Ruffalo), the rakish bachelor sperm donor who (biologically) fathered their two children some 18 years back — and who, with growing determination, seeks to become a fixture in their lives. Comically treating the question of whether he has anything to offer them, the film feels uneasily responsive to skeptics of lesbian child-rearing (director and co-writer Lisa Cholodenko herself became pregnant via a donor during the film's development) while offering a depiction of gueer parenthood rarer at its release than now. The result remains an answer to something that shouldn't be a question, and a work that feels today like an issue film meant for its own time.



Goran Visnjic (left) and Academy Award nominee Christopher Plummer (right) star in writer/director Mike Mills' "Beginners."

'Pariah' (2011)

Less about self-acceptance than self-discovery and then negotiating one's identity with those nearby -"Pariah" feels less frothy than many coming-out tales about young people. Finding Lee (played by Adepero Oduye), a 17year-old Black teen, caught between the often practically minded, sometimes faltering companionship of a few close peers and the eerie mind games pressed by her suspecting, conservative-minded parents, it's distinct from many such works in that she faces a credible threat of reprisal for acknowledging who she is. As such, "Pariah" finds her negotiating with her surroundings in small, bold steps, and even steps backward. With writer-director Dee Rees' and cinematographer Bradford Young's shared eye for detail and a buoyant range of supporting characters they reliably treat humanely, "Pariah" bubbles with an energy that suggests an autobiographically informed, stubborn core of optimism about Black queer life.

Aasha Davis as Bina (left) and Adepero Oduye as Alike (right) in writer/director Dee Rees' "Pariah." Photo: Focus Features



"Tully' (2018)

Queerness is mostly a background detail in "Tully" but provides an important framework. Diablo Cody ("Juno," "Jennifer's Body") slips the fact in early that Marlo (Charlize Theron), a pregnant mother expecting her third child, is bisexual and has had relationships to women before her current marriage to a negligent man. This detail calls her current situation — and the postpartum depression from which she suffers into deeper question, and one that deepens further with the arrival of Tully (Mackenzie Davis). With Davis playing a night nurse meant to relieve Marlo's pressures in caring for her newborn, the bond between them proves more homosocial than homoerotic but is suggestive all the same. By providing an uncanny window into Malo's past through a figure reminiscent of herself at a prior time, Tully's presence serves as a reminder of the freedoms she had and might have kept. Framing queer ways of living as a freeing opportunity, the film's peripheral introduction of queerness as a lens proves reliably enriching, and easily one of its best parts.

Mackenzie Davis as Tully and Charlize Theron as Marlo star in Jason Reitman's "Tully." Photo: Focus Features



The Danish Girl' (2015)

After limping through development for over 10 years (not uncommon), "The Danish Girl" arrived as an ill-formed work. With a flat depiction of its transgender leading character, director Tom Hooper (coming off Best Picture winner "The King's Speech") dramatizes Danish painter Lili Elbe's pioneering medical transition as a grandly tragic Icarian act, implying that it's necessarily self-destructive for her to affirm herself as the person she is. With this well-meaning valorization, Hooper combs through history to find and treat Lili (played by Eddie Redmayne) as a kind of doomed angel with her identity as basically her sole trait: a well-weathered, nervously supportive trope of queer representation. While its casting of a cis actor has done it no favors (even according to Redmayne), "The Danish Girl" could probably have never escaped Hooper's coy stagings or Lucinda Coxon's poor script. Well-meaning as it surely is, this should have been left in better hands.

'Dark Waters' (2019)

Absent any explicit allusion to queerness in its characters, the perspective of "Waters" is present solely through its style and thematic concerns. With a legal thriller examining the longrunning legal battles over a toxic family of chemicals, director Todd Haynes and cinematographer Ed Lachman present a fearful vision of isolated paranoia fueled by corporate profiteering and governmental neglect. Reflecting a fierce and justified skepticism of institutional actors that many queer works could now use more of, it's a film that holds fast to the lessons of the AIDS crisis. With queerness and its history coloring a justly critical lens, the film's heat comes from precisely that: a perspective accustomed to vulnerability, and a position familiar with being trapped or left outside.



GRAB DAISY



Daisy Edgar-Jones know why "the Crawdads sing"

By Gregg Shapiro

Daisy Edgar-Jones is an actor whose career is blossoming like hernamesake. In recent years, she sees to be everywhere. LGBTQ+ viewers may recognize Edgar-Jones from her role as Delia Rawson in the recently canceled queer HBO series "Gentleman Jack." She also played memorable parts in a pair of popular Hulu series, "Normal People" and "Under the Banner of Heaven." Earlier this year, Edgar-Jones was seen as Noa in the black comedy/ horror flick "Fresh" alongside Sebastian Stan. With her new movie, "Where the Crawdads Sing" (Sony/Columbia), she officially becomes a lead actress. Based on Delia Owens' popular book club title of the same name, the movie spans a considerable period of time, part murder mystery, part courtroom drama. Daisy was kind enough to answer a few questions in advance of the movie's opening date.

Gregg Shapiro: Daisy, had you read Delia Owens' novel "Where the Crawdads Sing" before signing on to play Kya? **Daisy Edgar-Jones:** I read it during my audition process, as I was auditioning for the part. So, the two went hand in hand.

GS: What was it about the character of Kya that appealed to you as an actress?

DE-J: There was so much about her that appealed to me. I think the fact that she is a very complicated woman. She's a mixture of things. She's gentle and she's curious. She's strong and she's resilient. She felt like a real person. I love real character studies and it felt like a character I haven't had a chance to delve into. It felt different from anyone I've played before. Her resilience was one that I really admired. So, I really wanted to spend some time with her.

GS: While Kya is in jail, accused of killing the character Chase, she is visited by a cat in her cell. Are you a cat person or do you prefer dogs?

DE-J: I like both! I think I like the fact that dogs unconditionally love you. While a cat's love can feel a bit conditional. I do think both are very

cute. Probably, if I had to choose, it would be dogs.

GS: I'm a dog person, so I'm glad you said that. DE-J: [Laughs]

GS: Kya lives on the marsh and spends a lot of time on and in the water. Are you a swimmer or do you prefer to be on dry land?

DE-J: I like swimming, I do. I grew up swimming a lot. If I'm ever on holidays, I like it to be by the sea or by a nice pool.

GS: Kya is also a gifted artist, and it is the thing that brings her great joy. Do you draw or paint?

DE-J: I always doodle. I'm an avid doodler. I do love to draw and paint. I loved it at school. I wouldn't say I was anywhere near as skilled as Kya. But I do love drawing if I get the chance to do it.

GS: Kya was born and raised in North Carolina. What can you tell me about your process when it comes to doing a Southern accent or an American accent in general?



DE-J: It's obviously quite different from mine. I've been lucky that I've spent a lot of time working on various accents for different parts for a few years now, so I feel like I'm developed an ear for, I guess, the difference in tone and vowel sounds [laughs]. When it came to this, it was really important to get it right, of course. Kya has a very lyrical, gentle voice, which I think that North Carolina kind of sound really helped me to access. I worked with a brilliant accent coach who helped me out and I just listened and listened.

GS: While I was watching "Where the Crawdads Sing" I thought about how Kya could easily be a character from the LGBTQ+ community because she is considered an outsider, is shunned and ridiculed, and experiences physical and emotional harm. Do you also see the parallels?

DE-J: I certainly do. I think that aspect of being an outsider is there, and this film does a really good job of showing how important it is to be kind

to everyone. I think this film celebrates the goodness you can give to each other if you choose to be kind. Yes, I definitely see the parallels.

GS: Do you have an awareness of an LGBTQ+ following for your acting career?

DE-J: I tend to stay off social media and am honestly not really aware of who follows me, but I do really hope the projects I've worked on resonate with everyone.

GS: Are there any upcoming acting projects that you'd like to mention?

DE-J: None that I can talk of quite yet. But there are a few things that are coming up next year, so I'm really excited.



July 19, 2022

GRAB Magazine













Photos by Anthony Meade

Aug 6-7





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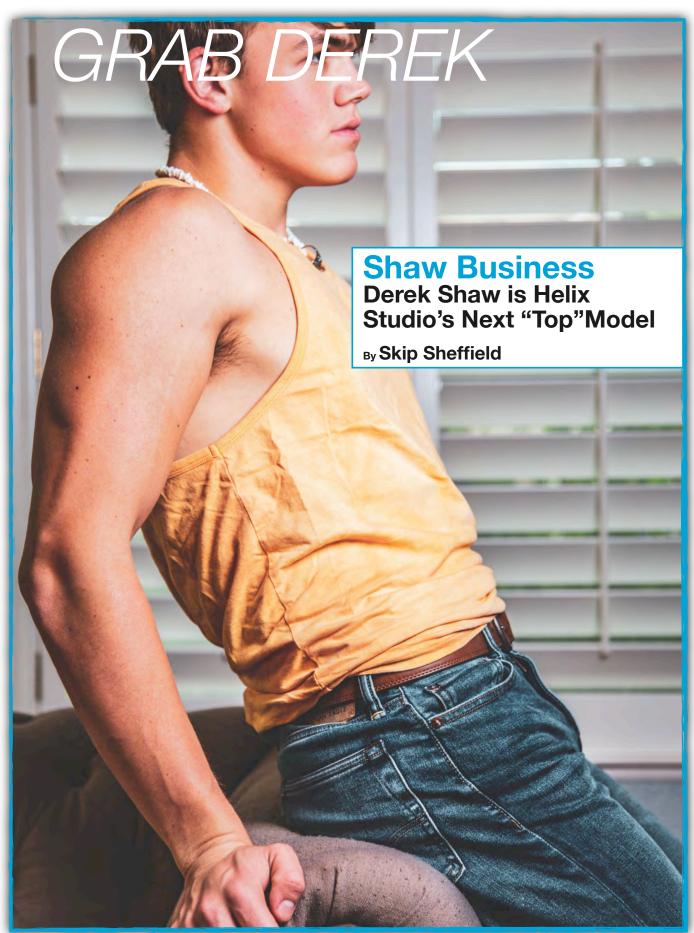


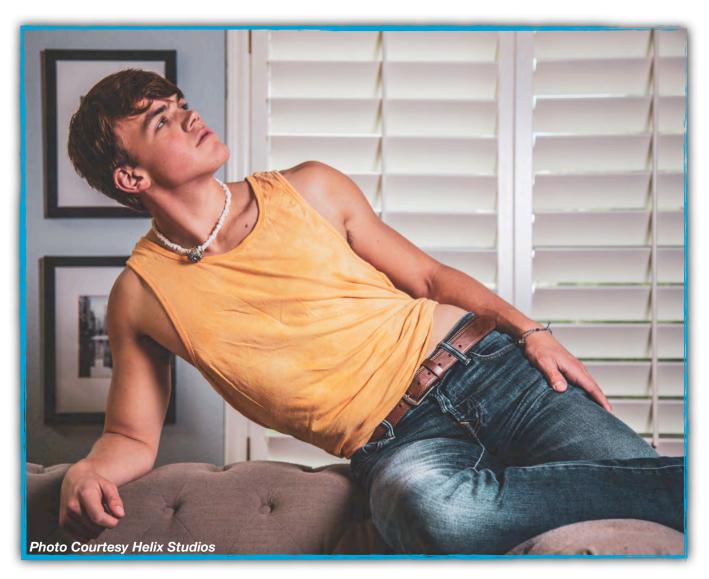












erek Shaw was working at a fastfood restaurant in Orlando. Florida when he decided to take a chance and apply to Helix Studios. Three weeks later, he landed a role as a cabin caretaker in the Helix series Unromantic Getaway and was flown to Utah for his first ever gay adult shoot! Since then, he has appeared in several films including Shower Secrets and Beefcake and the Boy. Derek's 21, a full-time medical assistant and he loves to work out. He lost his virginity with a guy at 18 but says he considers himself bisexual because every once in a while, he will crush on women. We spoke with Helix's 'top' model from his home

SKIP SHEFFIELD(SS)): You talk about finding love on your socials,

but are you really ready to find love, Derek?

Derek Shaw (DS): I'm ready for love, but is love ready for me? Most mortal men fail to meet my exceedingly high standards.

SS:Would you date another adult film star?

DS: Maybe, but I'm an absurdly jealous lover. I typically go for wellestablished tight-laced military men, but I'll make an exception if he resembles Cameron Alborzoan.

SS:What gave you the courage to pursue an adult film career?

DS: No courage, whatsoever. I was just bored working in fast-food.

SS:How did you choose Helix?

DS: I took a look at some other studios. I decided on Helix 'cause I

didn't want to risk being the smallest in stature.

SS:Who are your closest friends at Helix?

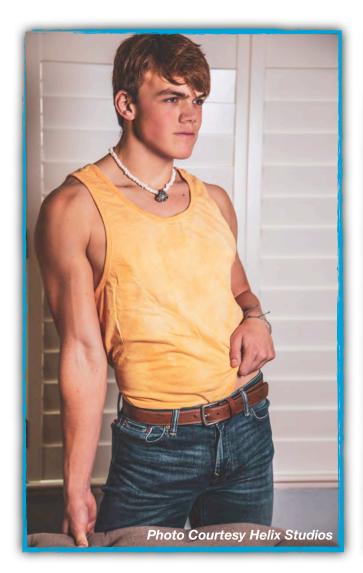
DS: I love Garrett Kinsley. I call him my Garrett carrot. Also, Aiden, cause he's so cute, I'm obsessed. And Asher, because I think he's juicy.

SS:The guys at Helix all seem so close. Does it ever get weird having sex with your friends?

DS: Having friends in general is weird. In between sets, to keep it off my mind, I watch Minecraft Speedbuilds or I dance around a summoning circle with Garrett.

SS:What is something your fans would be surprised to learn about you?

DS: I'm actually four raccoons in a trench coat.





SS:You have been open about your gynecomastia. Can you explain what that is?

DS: Gynecomastia is when men have a fatty growth right behind their nipples, almost like a woman's breast. It's typically caused by a hormone imbalance. I developed gynecomastia around the time when puberty hit full swing.

SS:How did it affect your selfesteem as a child?

DS: My classmates would often mock me with cruel comments like "you should get a bra" or call me "bitch tits." Then they would call me a crybaby for getting upset. What truly broke me is when an adult I trusted flicked my nipples and laughed. It took all my willpower to not cry. At 13, I started wearing thick shirts and hoodies, even in the heat of Floridian summers. I tried binding my chest with tape. I couldn't take the daily bullying. I used to cry myself to sleep while I gave myself bruises trying to crush my chest in.

SS:That's awful!

DS: Doctors kept telling me my breasts would go away if I lost weight. At around 14, I decided it was time to do something about my body. I began by taking a soccer ball and kicking it up and down a steep hill. I timed myself until I was bright red, dizzy, and covered in grass. It didn't help much. For my 15th birthday, I got a bench set from my parents and used it every single day and started to see improvements. I was on an adrenaline high. I finally felt happy with who I was becoming.

SS:How important is fitness to you today?

DS: It is everything! The gym is my sanctuary and where I go to get away from it all.

SSWhat is your typical fitness routine?

DS: I work out for two hours every day. I'll sometimes give myself a break day or two, but I'm always itching to get back.

SS:Do you follow a strict diet?

DS: I am a slave to my diet. Seldom do I let myself enjoy ice cream or eat a stack of pancakes. I love eating salmon, mangos, and coconuts. Real tropical vibes! Salads are cool, too, I guess.

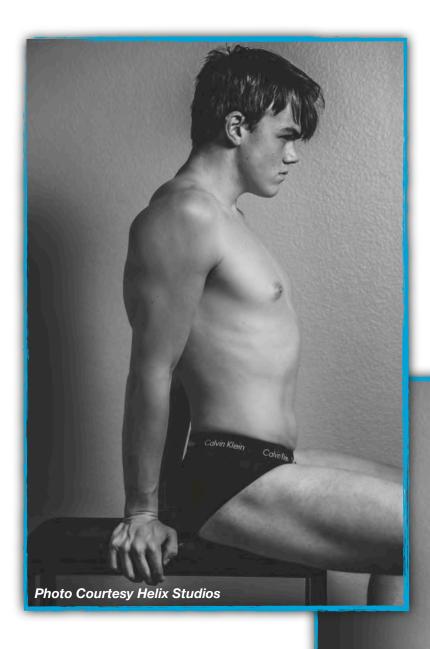
SS:What do you love most about your body today? Do you have a favorite part?

DS: My favorite part of my body are my fists. I consider myself a fighter. If I die, just know I went down swingin'.

SS:Is it true that you ended up in the ER recently?

DS: I was having difficulty breathing, even when I laid down in bed. My chest was aching in pain as if I was being squeezed. I kept getting light headed and falling down. I swear it felt like a heart attack. Turns out it was a panic attack! I wasn't even feeling panicked the moment it occurred, just stressed, then boom! I thought I was gonna die.

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SS:Are you working to keep your stress down?

DS: For sure! I've been giving myself lots of rest and relaxation. I'm also planning to travel more! I'm planning trips to Oslo, London, Nice, Copenhagen, maybe Paris... not sure, Paris sounds scary.

SS:Will you be performing at any clubs or making special appearances in London or in any cities?

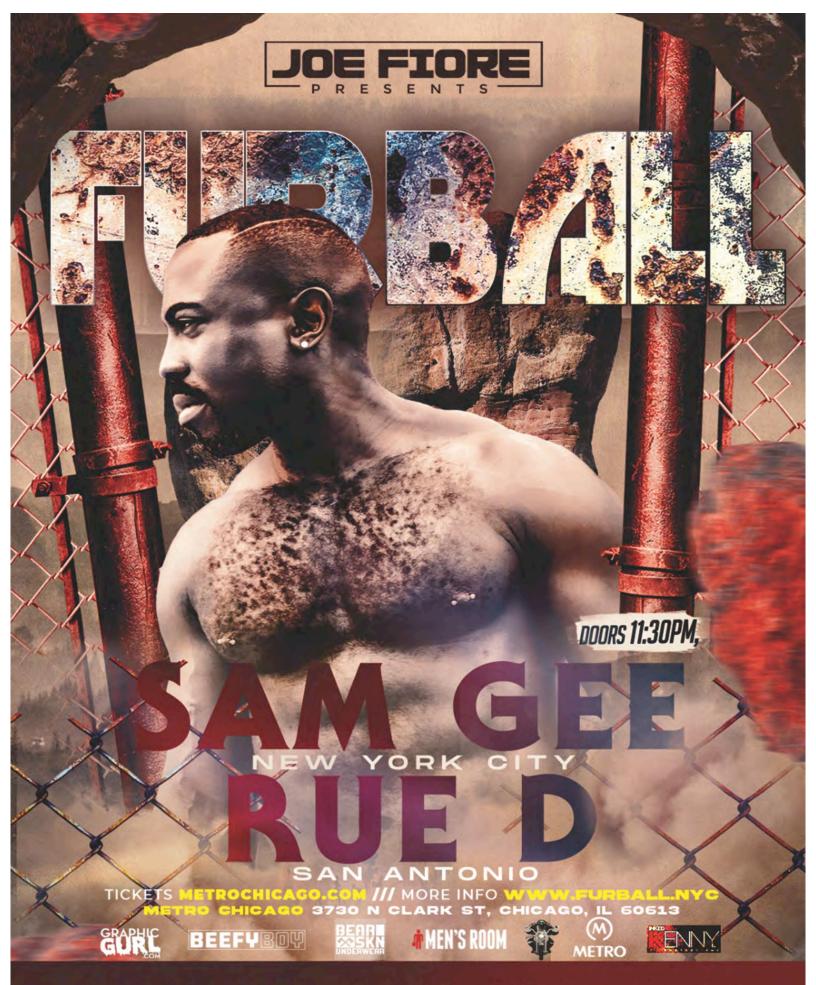
DS: No... wait, how do I do that?!

SS:What are your goals for the future?

DS: Nothing, really. I could die tomorrow or in 100 years. I just want to have fun and, you know, annoy people.

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GRAB A PLANE



Pride Journey: Salt Lake City

By Joey Amato

For years I have heard about Salt Lake City's thriving LGBTQ community, but I had yet to experience it firsthand. The Advocate even called Salt Lake City, one of the ten 'Queerest Cities in America.' Recently, I had an opportunity to travel to the Beehive State with my good friend and internationally known EDM musician Joey Suarez, where we had a chance to revel in the city's attractions and culinary scene and see what all the hype was about.

Our homebase for the visit was the fabulous Hotel Monaco, part of the Kimpton collection of hotels. Kimpton is well-known for being one of the most LGBTQ-friendly chains in the country, so I knew we were in good hands. The property features a welcoming lobby, fitness center, two culinary options: Bambara and The Vault and is within walking distance to almost every attraction in the city.

Begin your first day in Salt Lake City with a trip to Eva's Bakery, a wonderful little establishment offering freshly baked goods and a variety of homemade breakfast items. I decided to try their Roasted Beet & Avocado Toast which was served with potatoes and organic greens. This was a perfect option for those who enjoy a savory breakfast item over something sweet, although Eva's definitely has a nice selection of sweet treats to choose from if you prefer.

Just a short drive away from downtown is the Natural History Museum of Utah. The beautifully designed building blends in perfectly with the natural surroundings of the mountains and contains quite the selection of dinosaur fossils and gemstones, most of which were discovered locally. The museum boasts an extensive paleontology program and possesses nearly 30,000 specimens in their collection.

Next, swing by Tracy Aviary, one of only two free standing aviaries in the country and say hello to Andy, the Andean condor as well as the Chilean flamingos. The aviary also offers unique experiences which guests can participate in to get up close and

personal with some of their feathered attractions. Don't forget to stop by the South American Pavilion featuring 30 South American birds nestled amongst lush plants in a unique indoor-outdoor exhibit.

Salt Lake City's international culinary scene is something the city is proud of and one of its shining stars is a Japanese restaurant called Takashi. Joey and I ordered four dishes to share, and each was prepared to perfection. Our favorites included the Magic Dragon roll as well as the Tiger's Roll featuring tiger shrimp tempura with spiced crab, kaiware sprouts, unagi and avocado, topped with eel sauce and sesame seeds.

For some fun entertainment, head to Why Kiki, a tiki bar themed venue just a few blocks from the hotel which recently started weekend Drag Lunch – no, not exactly brunch, as some performances occur after standard brunch hours. The intimate venue is a wonderful place to catch a performance by one of Salt Lake's fabulous drag performers, while sipping

a delicious tropical cocktail.

Adventure seekers can go on a hike along one of the city's numerous trails. On one crisp morning, we headed to a trail nicknamed "The Living Room" due to the rock formation at the top of the mountain that resembles a couch, or so I've been told. We made it about three-fourths the way to the top before we had to stop from exhaustion due

to the altitude. Yes, I'll blame the altitude. Don't despair, there are many picturesque vantage points along the way to capture that perfect Instagram photo.

For dinner, head to Manoli's, a tapas style Greek restaurant which offers a variety of traditional dishes as well as some modern twists of Greek specialties. While Joey dined on a sumptuous lamb burger, I tried the Garides, which were grilled shrimp cooked in a Greek coffee BBQ sauce served over seared polenta. We



decided to share an order of Spanakopita which is a savory phyllo filled pastry stuffed with feta and spinach and served with an artichoke cream sauce. I love Spanakopita and Manoli's didn't disappoint. However, the best part of the meal was the cinnamon ice cream, which was probably one of my favorite ice cream dishes ever!

When I lived in Nashville, I published an LGBTQ magazine called UNITE and one of our issue's featured country music superstar Eric Church on

the cover. He is country music's answer to Bruce Springsteen, so much in fact, one of his biggest hit songs is titled "Springsteen." We had the opportunity to attend the Eric Church concert at the Vivint Arena, home of the Utah Jazz. While it would have been fun to experience a basketball game, hearing 15,000 people sing Church's hit songs was guite memorable.

After the concert, it was time to explore Salt Lake's nightlife. Located on Harvey Milk Boulevard is Milk+, a swanky new LGBTQ club that would

rival that of most major cities. Milk+ offers a huge dancefloor, stage, patio, and table seating to enjoy cocktail or food. The eye candy was abundant, and the bar staff was quite friendly. All the entertainment occurs in one large open room so the venue mixes between drag and dancing most of the evening.

Another bar worth visiting is The Sun Trapp, which is within walking distance of Hotel Monaco. With limited time, it was impossible to visit all the nightlife establishments, but I think I got a good taste of what Salt Lake City had to offer. I began to see why the city was voted one of the most queer-friendly cities in the country.

Enjoy the Journey!











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GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

Monday

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$4StoliCocktails (Any Flavor). @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlies: Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. Hydrate: Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. Lark: Happy Hour 5-7pm, Bottles of Wine 50% off with dinner entree purchase. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 4pm, Dancers 8pm. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. Steamworks: Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$4 Whiskey, Rye& Bourbon \$3 Miller Lit Drafts \$5Big Ass Long Islands, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche: 7/4 Independence Day Beer Bust \$2 Bud LightDrafts & SodasClubroom open6pm, 7/11 Euchre Night, Come out and Play 7-10pm Sports on our screens Club room Open!

Tuesday

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: TuneUp Tuesday Karaoke 7 - 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p - 2am, Dancing until close. Houndstooth: \$2 Tacos, ½ Off Bottles of Wine, \$5 Red or White Sangria, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. Hydrate: 8/10 TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: 50% Off Bottles of Wine with any Entree Purchase, Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm 50%off Bottles of Wine with purchase of an Entree. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$3 House Shots, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers, North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders, Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. Steamworks: Every Tuesday 4 pm - 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). The Sofo Tap: \$4 Premium Well Cockttails, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: Hardcore Cruisin' Sponsored by Leather 64Ten No Cell Phones/Wifi

Wednes day

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$4 Premium Well Cocktails. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: Country Line Dancing 7 - 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm - 1 am, Dancing until close. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: Free Bingo, 50% Off Nachos & Totchos, \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks, Traditional Flavor only. Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm.Lark: Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails, Buy One Pizza Get one half offDie In OnlyLucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 Miller Lite Drafts, \$4 Stolis (All Flavors), \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers, North End: Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, FUN DMC: Dua/Megan/Cardi last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly midweek gathering of Furry Men. The Sofo Tap: \$3 House Shots, \$4 Titos Coctails,\$6Big Miller Lite Drafts. \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: Jockstrap Night Sponsored by Full Kit GearFree Clothing Check. 7/13 Full Moon Jockstrap NightContest @midnight.

Thursda v

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 Only.Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 You Call It's, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. The Sofo Tap: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails\$4 TallBoys, \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche: Throwback Thursdays70's& 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo.

July 19, 2022

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

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. GRABBYS: Gay Pom Awards Show6pm at Metro Theater. 7pm show starts Tickets Available at the door or onl;ine grabbyAwards.com,Hydrate:Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lark: Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails .Every Friday from Meeting House Tavem: \$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 LiteDrafts \$3 HouseShots. \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: 7/22 ONYX CLUB NIGHT, 7/29 TBD.

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 Brunch11am-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, \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: 7/23 RIPE PARTY, Dim Lights, Deep Beats, GoGo Duddes, DJ Harry . 7/30BEAR ALL Live Musicreturns. Show at 9pm.

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 11 am, 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 Brunch11am-3pm Lucky Horseshoe: Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Frozens, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) Sidetrack: Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am The Sofo Tap: \$7 Big MillerLite Drafts, \$6 Chicago Handshake, \$5 Prairie Voclka Cocktails, \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: 7/17 Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts & Sodas Club Room Open 6pm Movie Night 7pm. 7/24 Beer Bust Splash Party 7pm wild times with water.

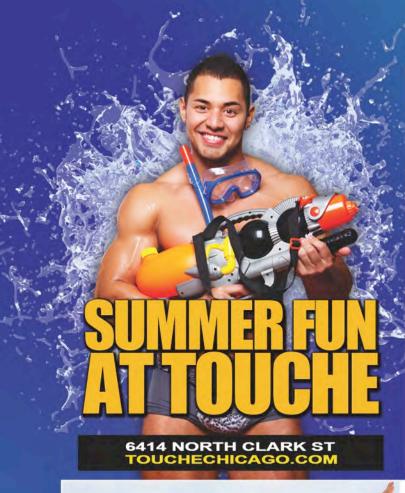


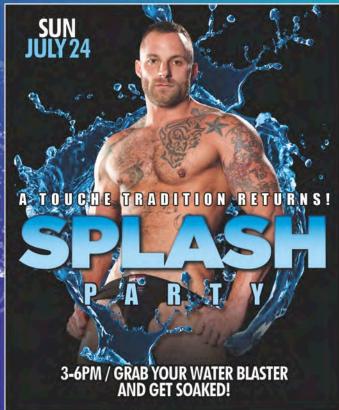
GRAB A HIT



Top 40 Dance Chart this week Visit nexus radio.fm

Artist Title 1 Tritonal x Marihy 2 Shane Codd 3 Becky Hill & Galantis 4 Steve Aoki & HRVY 5 Save Me 5 ARTY 5 Good To Me 6 LP Giobbi X Bklava 7 Just Kiddin & Camden Cox 8 Manuel Riva & Alexandra Stan 9 Gryffin & OneRepublic 10 Armin van Buuren & Sam Gray 11 Ashley Paul 12 Bastiqe x Paul Keen & Lena Sue 13 Ted Bello & Robbie Rosen 14 Audien 15 Duke & Jones 16 David Guetta & Becky Hill & Ella Henderson 17 Des3ETT 18 Neon Signs ft. Jack Dawson 18 Nitti Gritti ft. Hadar Adora 19 Seamus D 10 Like That 20 Alok & Bastille 21 The Pressure 22 Farius ft. Cristina Soto 23 Like The Chailismokers 34 Alegra 45 Lay	\	<u>Isit nexusradio.im</u>	
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	40	SAINt JHN	The Best Part Of Life (Imanbek Remix)







FRI JULY 29
CHRISTMAS
IN JULY ALLING ALL BAD SANTAS
AND NAUGHTY BOYS!



GRAB ABBA

Q-Music: Box of ABBA



By Gregg Shapiro

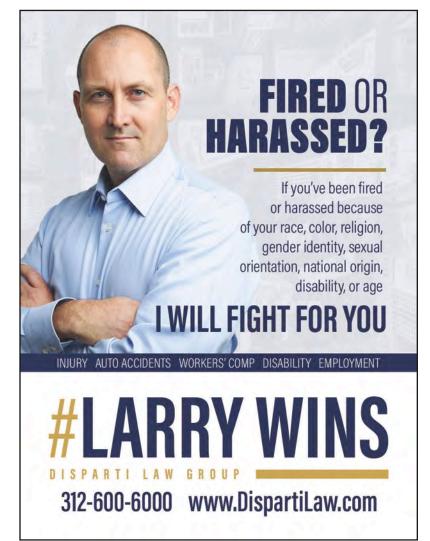
Aside from ABBA, can you think of another Swedish quartet with two female (Anni-Frid & Agnetha) and two male (Bjorn and Benny) members, a 50-year history, and multiple hit singles, as well as 10-CD and 10-LP box sets? No? Neither can I. What about a Swedish pop quartet whose music inspired a long-running Tony-nominated Broadway musical, and a subsequent dreadful movie adaptation and sequel? If you answered "no" to the previous question, you'd be right.

Nevertheless, even though ABBA has been celebrated via numerous compilations, the 10-disc "ABBA: Album Box Set" (Polar/Universal) is the first of its kind domestic product. Beginning with 1973's "Ring Ring" and concluding with the 10-song "Tracks" collection, this box set ought to be of interest to longtime fans and newcomers (if there are any left) alike.

ABBA's queer appeal shines through, like a rainbow made of ice, amongst the 10 albums, which includes 2021's reunion album "Voyage" (released after a 40-year recording gap). Over the course of ABBA's lengthy recording and performance hiatus, its popularity seemed to increase not fade for its LGBTQ+ fans. Featured in movies and associated soundtracks with strong queer draw such as "Muriel's Wedding" and "The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert," to name a couple, ABBA became a constant presence. Even synth-duo Erasure, featuring gay vocalist Andy Bell, got into the act, putting out the four-song "ABBA-eque" EP in 1992. Diva-goddess Cher followed suit in 2018 with her ABBA album "Dancing Queen."

While early hit songs including "Waterloo" and "S.O.S.," were definitely meant for getting down at the disco, it was "Dancing Queen" (yes, queen) from 1976's "Arrival" album that earned ABBA a permanent place in rotation at gay clubs. Buoyed by a retro-disco beat and inspiring words of encouragement, "Dancing Queen" transcended gender to become a sensation (although the titular character being "only 17" might still give one pause). Following that, ABBA made the most of the popularity of dance music on subsequent albums with tracks such as "Take A Chance On Me," "Voulez-Vous," "Angel Eyes," "The Winner Takes It All," "The Visitors," and especially "On and On and On" and "Lay All Your Love On Me."

But it's not all midnight sunshine and Volvos. English not being ABBA's first language often works against the lyrics. There's nothing profound being said, although there doesn't necessarily need to be. Regardless, the simplicity tends to drag the songs down, instead of elevating them. Thankfully, the melodies and instrumentation go a long way in saving the material. The 1974 Eurovision champions were simply unstoppable and remain so to this day.



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GRAB HOLLY

One Magical, Miraculous Mirage

By Holly Maholm

There is no telling how long Laura and Doug would have stood there – transfixed by the sight of two luminous, supernatural unicorns – had the wolves not intervened. All three Grey Wolves took the opportunity to walk up close to the teenagers, where one wolf – a female – began to lick Lauren's fingertips in a most affectionate way. The other two trapped Doug between them, each energetically nuzzling his palms and rubbing their snouts against his body, as if begging him to scratch behind their ears. Lauren, feeling encouraged by the attention, spoke up.

"Oh, if you only knew how I feel! All my friends and family have been telling me I'm too young to know what I want; that this baby is a disaster, that I would be foolish to keep it." Doug spoke. "Everyone is telling us we're careless and selfish, and lazy, too; how we don't deserve the baby." Lauren broke in, "After they tell me I'm too helpless to deal with a newborn, the next thing they tell me is that I've got some amazing career waiting for me when I am older, where I'll be a doctor or lawyer or chief executive of some big corporation. So, which is it?

"They want me to get rid of the baby, so I can have a fancy, professional career, but nobody asks me if that's what I want. Maybe that's not my ambition! But meanwhile, they're doing everything they can to convince me – us – how useless we are, and how we're too young to know what we want."

At that instant, the effect the wolves were having on Doug overcame his fear. He dropped to one knee and put his arms around the animals standing on either side of him. He spoke with anger. "Damn it! That's my baby, too! And all those busybodies who are trying to get Lauren to have an abortion, not one of them has ever acknowledged that this infant is... maybe... my firstborn son! Doesn't that mean anything anymore?" The wolves turned their heads and began nuzzling Doug's ears on either side. Responsively, Doug turned his head and buried his face in the fur of one of the wolves. Lauren reached down and began to stroke the back of Doug's

"It's time for you to see the truth!" Glitter announced. "I cannot allow the two of you to continue to labor under this cruel and heartless misapprehension. Please stand up, Doug, and observe." Doug regained his footing and looked where Glitter had indicated. At that moment, the plan developed by the unicorns reached its climax.

I left Victor behind and – still invisible to all – walked over and took my place near Azura. Then, Victor removed my disguise of invisibility and cloaked me in another, never-before-seen disguise. Instantly, I was surrounded by an

Instantly, I was surrounded by an intense, silvery light, shimmering and pulsating as if some miraculous mirage existing in the brightest desert on Earth. And because I was enveloped in this... glimmering, silvery camouflage, my face and figure were only imperfectly discernible by the teenagers.

Except... it was no longer I who stood before them, but the figure of a female child, no more than three or four years old, with hair that matched Lauren's. This 'infant avatar' grinned and laughed and shook out her curls, smiling back at Lauren and Doug as if they were her natural parents. Then, in



moments, this... mesmerizing mirage transformed that little girl to a boy of similar age, who looked around inquisitively and – seeing an adorable baby unicorn just steps away – boldly rushed over and threw his arms around Azura, giving her the biggest hug his little arms could manage.

"You see," Glitter resumed, "it is not only this newborn unicorn who retains some of that innocence and joy which she brought with her into this world, it is – it will be – your own infant, whose kindness, curiosity and love will amaze all who know her. Lauren, Doug, you see revealed before you the truth of your child! Not some 'inconvenient' burden to be disposed of at the first opportunity, but something – someone – of incomparable, inexpressible worth.

"The two of you possess the greatest gift that any young parents might bestow upon another willing, grateful couple. In this case, a couple consisting of two men who love each other with as much honesty and self-sacrifice as you will ever see in this world. Two men who – if you will honor them with this gift – have vowed to raise your child as their own."

Lauren turned to Doug, and the two of them hugged, their eyes hidden in the embrace. Glitter and Azura reinstated their disguise of invisibility, and Victor resumed his disguise as a horse. As I hurried to collect Victor and buckle him back into his harness, I called out, "Lauren! Doug! I'm here!"

(To be continued)

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

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DANCERS'









By Delven Shaw

GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LEO GRANDE is daringly perfect



A perfect little film with two excellent performers, GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LEO GRANDE adds another unique triumph to the resume of **Emma Thompson**. In some ways, this film - nearly all performed in a single hotel room - could be a play. Thompson plays Nancy, who has never had an orgasm and has arranged to meet Leo, a young and dashing sex worker.

Thompson is terrific as someone who embraces her losses and has little joy. On the other hand, Leo is shrouded with mystery but transparent in his love for his work. Daryl McCormack is striking physically and compelling emotionally. But Nancy is tough, and building a bridge is a challenge.

As they take tiny steps toward making a connection, we see the value and freedom in abandoning old habits and trying new things. Watching Nancy unbutton Leo's shirt and explore his chest is classic.

The excellent screenplay is by *Katy Brand*, and the top-notch direction is done by *Sophie Hyde*.

When we move out of the hotel room for a coffee house hello, the film adds a layer of sweetness and sourness to the tension between the two stars. It is a perfect summer treat.

Beware of many spoilers in the trailer. LEO GRANDE is on Hulu. MY FAKE BOYFRIEND Is the real



MY FAKE BOYFRIEND is my favorite comedy of the summer. Bright and charming, clever and full of surprises, this new piece from Amazon can be enjoyed by all audiences. It has a unique concept perfectly pitched for today. I think you will have a great time.

Andrew (the charming Australian actor *Keiynan Lonsdale*) has split and reconnected with the hunky, shirtless Rico (*Marcus Rosner*) too many times for his friends Kelly and Jake (*Sarah Hyland* and *Dylan Sprouse*) to tolerate. So they create a virtual man, Christiano, who becomes a viral sensation with millions of followers, leading to sponsorship offers and much more.

Watching Andrew grow from skeptical to grateful to horrified is a lot of fun, especially when he meets a man IRL (Samer Salem) who could be the real deal.

Simon Sinn and Karen
Robinson are terrific in supporting roles.
And it is excellent to see BIPOC in the leading roles.

Chicago director **Rose Troche**, who had a breakout success with the much-loved Go Fish, deserves much of the credit for this comedy's humor and sexy style. Never revealing too much, she keeps what easily could have been over-the-top performances perfectly scaled for at-home view. But I suspect audiences would adore attending in-person screenings as it is a crowdpleaser.

There are a lot of queer culture available screening right now. Check out the two-minute reviews at DelvenShaw.com for more!

LOVE, VICTOR is gentle comfort in tough times



The final season of LOVE, VICTOR has landed on Hulu and may provide gentle comfort in tough times. In season three, our friends from Creekwood High School are all back, each with their complicated twist on love.

As Season 2 ended, Vector (a winsome *Michael Cimino*) had betrayed his love Benji (traditionally handsome George Sear) by kissing Rahim (intriguing *Anthony Keyvan*) at a wedding. As the new season begins, he learns his love cannot be reciprocated. Are we foolish for hoping for a fairy tale ending on a Ferris Wheel?

The parents of the students have the most interesting storylines. Victor's parents, Armando and Isabel (*James Martinez* and *Ana Ortiz*), have sought a welcoming Catholic church. There they find a couple whose gay son is a perfect match for Victor. Rahim's mother supports her son despite her Muslim faith, but he is forced back into the closet when a relative arrives from Iran. The family dynamics are gripping and well played.

My favorite character Felix (Anthony Turpel), quirky and sexy, has found new love with Victor's sister Pilar (excellent Isabella Ferreira). Felix's ex Lake (*Bebe Wood*) connects with Lucy adding a welcome lesbian presence to the group of friends. Mia (Rachel Hilson) has a terrible relationship with her parents but at least has her man to keep her company in her fabulous house.

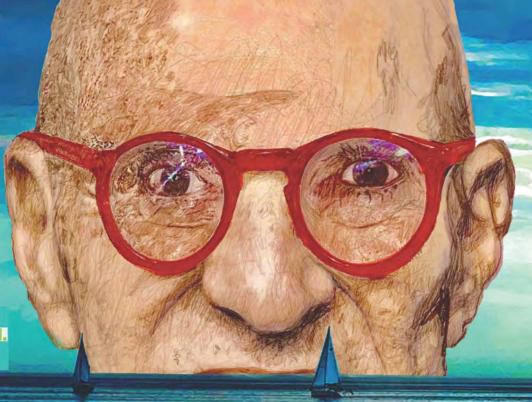
Creators *Isaac Aptaker* and *Elizabeth* deserve great credit for expanding the life of this project. And for hiring expert writers, directors, and designers who make each episode sparkle.

Love, Victor, and Love Simon, the film which inspired it, will always hold a high place in LGBTQ film history. They are not as political or sexual as some. They are not just about fashion or current trends. The series understands that old fashion romance is even more appreciated in difficult times.

And like the delicious flavored sweets and drinks Victor and Benji serve in their coffee house, we all need some comfort at times.

Open Space Arts presents

THE KRAMER PROJECT



CENTER
ON 3656 N.
HALSTED
15 YEARS OF PRIDE

Larry Kramer's

The Tragedy of Today's Gays

Adapted for the stage and directed by David G. Zak
Videography by Magdiel Carmona

July 22, 23, 24, 28, 30, and 31 at 7 pm.



Performances in the Hoover-Leppen Theater 3656 N Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60613

Lake Photo : Donna Speigel

THE KRAMER PROJECT

One-Of-A-Kind IMMERSIVE OPEN SPACE ARTS PRESENTS A WORLDPREMIERE STAGE EVENT THE KRAMER PROJECT TO BENEFIT CENTER ON HALSTED



Open Space Arts has announced its inaugural production of THE KRAMER PROJECT directed and adapted by David Zak from Larry Kramer's (THE NORMAL HEART) watershed speech "The Tragedy of Today's Gays". "In this season of anti-trans legislation, looming supreme court decisions, and orders to 'Don't Say Gay", I found myself wondering 'What would Larry Kramer say?" recounts Zak. "The Tragedy of Today's Gays' calls out to be shared in a new way even now, two years after his death." This will be the first production for Open Space Arts, a non-profit dedicated to producing works of social relevance. All proceeds of the production will go to the Center on Halsted, a community center for LGBT+ Chicagoans in Lakeview. The production runs July 22 - July 31 at Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted.

Demoralized by the reelection of George W. Bush in 2004 and the 60 million voters who chose his 'Moral Values, Larry Kramer gave what he called 'the most difficult speech I ever had to give." That speech, titled "The Tragedy of Today's Gays", was heralded as a "strident but truthful lecture" by The Boston Globe. In the wake of Trump's presidency, David Zak revisited the speech and "found it still vibrant and stirring." Zak initially worked with Kramer to adapt his speech into a theatrical work, having worked with the author previously on the Chicago premiere of Kramer's comedy about the Reagans JUST SAY NO.

THE KRAMER PROJECT is the first event for <u>Open Space Arts</u>, a new non-profit dedicated to works of social relevance. Ticket sales from the six performances will benefit Center on Halsted, the Midwest's most comprehensive community center dedicated to advancing community and securing the health and well-being of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) people of Chicagoland.

The Cast includes *Tom Chiola, Keith Butler, Elijah Newman, Hailey Hance, Roberto del Rio, Theo Wampuszyc,*

Alexandria Moorman, and Khloe Janel. The video design is by Magdiel Carmona, and the original music is by Elijah Newman.

__ Tickets now on sale at https://www.centeronhalsted.org/

DANCE DIVAS STRUT THEIR STUFFJULY 31 AND AUG. 1 AT BATON SHOW LOUNGE BENEFITING THE DANCERS' FUND AND HIV/AIDS INITIATIVES



Showcasing Chicago dancers in a night of music, dance, and laughter, Chicago Dancers United presents Dance Divas 2022, a party and performance Sunday, July 31 at 6 p.m. and Monday, August 1 at 7 and 9 p.m. at the Baton Show Lounge, the famed female impersonation nightclub, 4713 N. Broadway, Chicago. A VIP Champagne Reception takes place Sunday, July 31 at 4 p.m. at the Upstairs Baton Bar. All proceeds benefit The Dancers' Fund and HIV/AIDS initiatives.

Under the artistic direction of choreographers *Jeremy Plummer* and *Harrison McEldowney*, Dance Divas is a glamorous night of "high heels and high camp" featuring Chicago's leading professional male dancers impersonating the famous dancing women of stage, screen, and pop music. This year's theme is "A Night at the Awards." Performers include

Katlin Michael Bourgeois, independent artist

Joshua Blake Carter, Giordano Dance Chicago

Fernando Duarte, The Joffrey Ballet Elliott Hammonds, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Ethan Kirshbaum, Chicago Movement Collective

Harrison McEldowney, independent artist

Joe Musiel, C5 "create with no limits"

Jimi Loc Nguyen, independent artist Eddy Ocampo, Leveldance Jonathan Pacheco, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater

Jeremy Plummer, C5 "create with no limits"

Jordan Ricks, independent artist Cesar Salinas, Giordano Dance Chicago

David Schultz, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Isaac Stauffer, Chicago Tap Theatre Imani Williams, independent artist "Harrison and I look

forwardto celebrating the Chicago dance

community once again with a show by the dancers and for the dancers," said Plummer. "We showcase dancers and companies from all over Chicago for a unique night of show-stopping glitz and glamour!"

Co-chairs of Dance Divas 2022 are **Kevin McGirr** and **Aaron Weiss**.

Tickets are available at chicagodancersunited.org/dancedivas.

WELCOME TO FUN HOME, NEXT IN PARAMOUNT'S NEW BOLD SERIES, AUGUST 3-SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 AT AURORA'S NEW COPLEY THEATRE



Welcome to Fun Home, an unforgettable, groundbreaking musical like no other.

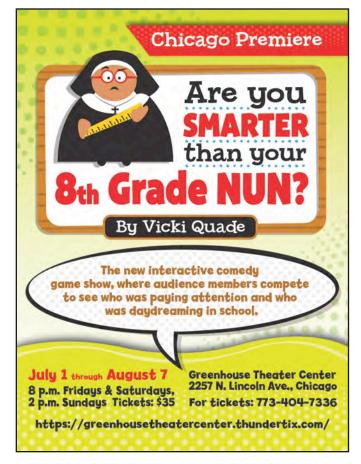
Where memories linger like snowflakes, and the truth is always opaque. Where finding yourselfmeans looking to the past and seeing yourself reflected in your father, who is exactly the sameand still so different than you. It's a place filled with humor, secrets, anger, unexpected joy,self-revelation and the most confounding thing of all: family.

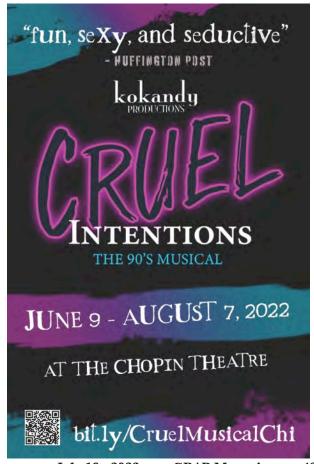
Paramount Theatre presents the Tony Award-winning Best Musical Fun Home – book and lyricsby *Lisa Kron*, music by *Jeanine Tesori*, based on the popular graphic novel of the same name

Alison Bechdel - as the third production in its inaugural four-show BOLD Series. Bechdel's autobiographical story about her discovery of her own sexuality, her relationship with hercloseted gay father, and her attempts to unlock the mysteries surrounding his life is in line withthe BOLD mission: to bring fearless, thought-provoking and unexpected new forms of live theater to downtown Aurora.Jim Corti, Paramount Theatre's Artistic Director, co-directs Fun Home with Landree Fleming, in her Paramount directing debut. Previews start August 3, 2022, at Paramount's new CopleyTheatre, 8 E. Galena Blvd., in the North Island Center in downtown Aurora.

For tickets and information to Fun Home at the Copley, visit *paramountaurora.com*, call *630-896-6666*, or stop by the Paramount box office, 23 E. Galena Blvd.,







COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RECEIVES MONKEYPOX VACCINE Cook County Public Health

Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) has received 86 doses

the JYNNEOS monkeypox (MPX) vaccine. The two-dose regimen is enough to treat 43 people. JYNNEOS is in limited supply and thus being prioritized for use as postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) for individuals with known or suspected contact with monkeypox cases. Currently, there are 700 confirmed MPX cases in the U.S., according to CDC. This includes 91 cases in Illinois and 7 cases (plus 12 contacts) in CCDPH's jurisdiction of suburban Cook County. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend widespread vaccination against monkeypox. However, depending on the demand and vaccine availability, CCDPH is considering expanding vaccinations to those with a higher-thannormal risk of exposure, including close personal contacts of people with monkeypox, laboratory workers who test for

workers who test for monkeypox, and gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men.

Monkeypox is a rare, but potentially serious viral illness, that belongs to the orthopoxvirus family,

which includes smallpox. Once infected, people usually have flu-like symptoms (e.g., fever, chills,

headache, muscle aches), swelling of the lymph nodes, and a characteristic rash on the face and

body. Sometimes people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. People with monkeypox are

contagious from the time they have symptoms until the rash fully heals. Most infections last 2-to-4 weeks.

How to protect yourself:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with someone with a rash consistent with monkeypox.
- Do not touch the rash or scabs of person with confirmed or suspected monkeypox.
- Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with confirmed or suspected monkeypox.
- Do not share eating utensils or cups with someone with confirmed or suspected monkeypox.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels or clothing of a sick person.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer,

especially after contact with sick people.

• Talk to your healthcare provider if you were potentially exposed. You may be a candidate for

a post-exposure vaccination to prevent the development of monkeypox disease.

How to protect others:

If you have symptoms particularly a rash consistent with monkeypox (even if you do not think you

were in contact with anyone with monkeypox), or if you have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with monkeypox:

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Contact a health care provider as soon as possible for an evaluation.
- Avoid skin-to-skin, or close contact with others, including sexual contact, until a medical
- evaluation has been completed.
- Inform sex partners about any symptoms you are experiencing.
- Cover the rash with clean, dry, loose-fitting clothing.
- Wear a well-fitted mask.
- If you are contacted by public health officials, answer their confidential questions to help

protect others who may have been exposed.

A person who is sick with monkeypox should isolate at home. Someone with an active rash or other

symptoms should be in a separate room or area from other family members and pets when possible

and contact their healthcare provider right away.

LGBTQ VICTORY FUND CONDEMS HOMOPHOBIC ATTACK AGAINST JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI CANDIDATE JUSTICE HORN



Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund, condemned a homophobic attack against out LGBTQ candidate Justice Horn. Horn's campaign sign was defaced with a homophobic slur July 4th weekend in Kansas City, Missouri.

"Recent anti-LGBTQ attacks from officials serving at the highest levels of government empower bigots across the country to espouse hate openly. The reality is that out LGBTQ candidates of color bear the brunt of much of this animus. We stand firmly with Justice and unequivocally condemn this homophobic attack. Hateful acts like this make it abundantly clear that progress is not linear and should never be taken for granted. This is a reminder for the LGBTQ community and our allies that the fight for equality is far from over and that we must enter this election with urgency

and strength. The stakes could not be higher."

Justice Horn is currently running for Jackson County Legislature, District 1. If elected, he would be the first out LGBTQ county official in the state of Missouri.

For more information visit http://www.victoryfund.org.

REUSO and Andersonville Chamber of Commerce Launch DINE OUT WITH REUSO

A New Sustainability
Reusable Packaging Platform to
Divert Thousands of SingleUse Containers from the Waste
Stream

REUSO

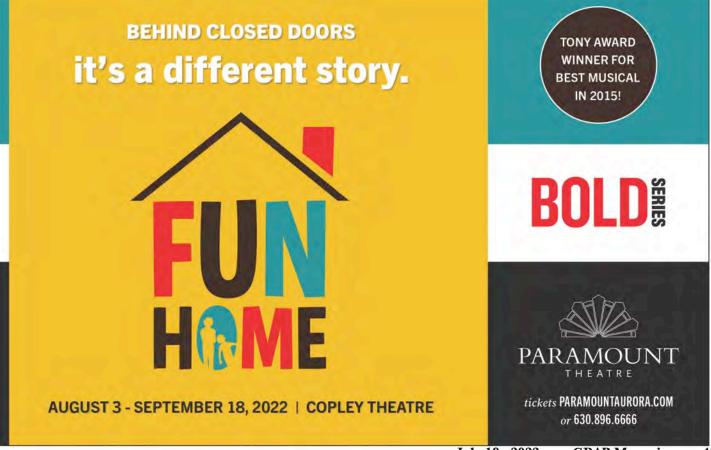
The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce (ACC) is pleased to partner with REUSO to launch Dine Out with REUSO, a new initiative providing neighborhood restaurants and other businesses with reusable food and beverage containers to reduce waste production. REUSO utilizes cloud-based technology to provide containers that can be used over 1200 times, diverting thousands of single-use containers from the waste stream. Used containers are returned, commercially washed and redistributed to purveyors across the food and beverage ecosystem, similar to shared systems such as Redbox DVDs and Divvv bikes.

The initiative will launch this month at Andersonville's Gadabout Restaurant and Swedish American Museum, coinciding with Plastic Free July. The neighborhood's first outdoor return station will be available shortly in the Swedish Museum parking lot at the corner of Foster & Ashland. REUSO also introduced its reusable containers at this year's Andersonville Midsommarfest street festival. The goal is to create a broader reuse model that can become the standard for other neighborhoods throughout Chicagoland and beyond.

REUSO's reusable containers are considered green after just six reuses. By utilizing REUSO products, communities have the capability to divert thousands of kilograms of CO2, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save on electricity. The use of a single REUSO Reusable has the potential to divert over one thousand single use containers from a landfill.

Dine Out with REUSO comes on the heels of last year's launch of Clark Street Composts, ACC's partnership with WasteNot Compost, with more than 20 local restaurants, bars and other businesses committed to diverting their compostable waste away from landfills to be returned to the community as nutrient-rich soil.





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