

OCTOBER 17, 2023 • VOL XIV • ISSUE#20

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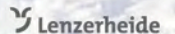
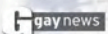


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1961 - 2019

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The advertisement features a central illustration of a man in a red hooded cloak with a menacing expression, holding a scroll with skulls. He is flanked by skeletons in blue robes. The background is dark blue with a grid pattern. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with gothic motifs and a scroll at the bottom containing the word 'Chicago' and a small flag icon.

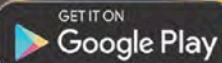
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# GRAB FREDA

## “Everything” everywhere all at once: An interview with Freda Love Smith

By Gregg Shapiro

For many people, the name Freda Love Smith conjures the sound of music. Drumming, in particular. Before she retired, Evanston resident Smith was a drummer in several bands, including Blake Babies, The Mysteries of Life, Antenna, Some Girls, and Sunshine Boys to mention a few. Smith wrote about that part of her life in her marvelous 2015 memoir “Red Velvet Underground.” The subject of music also features prominently in her equally awesome new book, “I Quit Everything” (Agate, 2023). Subtitled, “How One Woman’s Addiction to Quitting Helped Her Confront Bad Habits and Embrace Midlife,” the book includes sections on alcohol, sugar, cannabis, caffeine, and social media, and is equal parts confessional and self-help guide. Smith’s honest and open voice guides readers through her experiences while generously providing hard-won wisdom. Freda was kind enough to make time for an interview shortly before the book’s release. [Freda Love Smith reads from her new book “I Quit Everything” on October 22 at Space, 1245 Chicago Avenue in Evanston.]

**Gregg Shapiro: Your new book “I Quit Everything” is your second after 2015’s “Red Velvet Underground.” Did you know after the first book that you had another in you?**

**Freda Love Smith:** I knew I wanted to write more books, and even before “Red Velvet Underground” came out I was experimenting with another food-related project. That fizzled, and then a surprising thing happened, which was the resurrection of my drumming career

with Chicago band Sunshine Boys – suddenly I had a whole other, all-consuming artistic outlet. I kept writing during that time, but I wrote slower and less. The narrative of “I Quit Everything” ends with my retirement from drumming, but the process of writing the book actually began with that retirement. At one of my final musical performances, I read an early draft of the social media chapter, marking my transition from one type of creative work to another.

**GS: In the book you write about completing your MFA in Creative Nonfiction. Did any part of this book begin while you were working on your MFA?**

**FLS:** Writing this book interrupted the project I’d been working on for my MFA! My thesis was a biography of Angela DeAngelis, a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army and an instrumental player in the kidnapping and indoctrination of Patty Hearst. Angela went to college in my hometown, Bloomington, Indiana. I have a contract for that book, and I still absolutely intend to write it, although it seems to be morphing into a novel. The idea to write “I Quit Everything” popped into my head, and it wouldn’t leave me alone until I wrote it. It’s a very short book, and it didn’t take long; it just



came pouring out of me. I’d already lived through all the quitting that the book documents, and had kept a detailed journal throughout, so it was just a matter of finding points of connection, doing some research, and assembling a loose structure.

**GS: “I Quit Everything” is separated into seven sections, five of which have addictive-substance-titles, with each one containing brief essays. Did the essays or the section themes come first in your creative process?**

**FLS:** I mostly started with the themes. One advantage I had in figuring out the structure was that the book documents an experiment that spanned about eight months, so there was an intrinsic chronology I could rely on: first I quit this, then that, then that. Within this framework I certainly take liberties, but at least there is a basic timeline to contain the chaos!

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**GS: “I Quit Everything” is a book full of books with quotes from and references to “Sugar Blues,” “The Doors of Perception,” and “The Botany of Desire,” to name a few. Do you feel, as a writer, that you have a responsibility to recommend books to your readers?**

**FLS:** I am grateful when writers recommend books to me and I love when one piece of writing points me to another, so it’s natural to want to pay it forward! “I Quit Everything” does end up being partly about books – I write about how books saved me during Covid, and about how a bookstore job helped me escape the academic job I was eager to quit. And although the book is a deeply personal memoir, documenting my struggles with addiction and withdrawal and midlife, I wanted it to be more than just my story; I wanted to fold in the stories and observations and research of others to give the book more texture and substance.

**GS: In addition to quoting writers, you also quote musicians, including Jonathan Richman on pages 82 and 104. Would it be fair to say you consider Richman as an influence?**

**FLS:** Yes, for sure! Jonathan Richman has been a force in my life since I first heard his solo albums in the ‘80s, which inspired me to seek out his earlier work with the Modern Lovers, one of my favorite bands of all time. Few songwriters are as singular he steers clear of cliché, irony, and cultural pressure to conform to any current trends. He makes sincerity seem like the most punk thing ever.

**GS: Would you agree that the looseness you write about in the “I’m Loose” essay seems to have been replaced by a kind of cultural tightness? If so, do you see that as a positive or negative?**

**FLS:** This is amazing timing! I was just talking about “looseness” today with a former student of mine. She’s in her twenties, and at a recent family event her aunt (a Gen-X’er like me, in her fifties) went on a rant



about how kids these days are too uptight, how we all used to drive drunk, and it was fine! I don’t advocate a return to rampant drunk driving, but believe me, I understand the sentiment, absolutely.

**GS: I love the way you write about actors and films. For people familiar with you as a musician in bands including Blake Babies, Mysteries of Life, and Some Girls, to name a few, do you think they’ll be surprised to learn about movie star dreams?**

**FLS:** I think they’ll be surprised, yes. I always felt most comfortable hiding back behind the drum set and became very shy when I had a microphone in front of my face.

**GS: Did being a musician and playing for audiences fulfill that longing for you?**

**FLS:** It absolutely did and gave me a more comfortable way to be an artist and performer; one better suited to my disposition!

**GS: I loved the Sugar section, as that is also my addiction. I totally related to Cap’n Crunch’s violent mouth shredding, which is why I preferred the now defunct Quisp – same manufacturer, same taste, but gentler on the gums. Are you concerned about a backlash from Big Cereal?**

**FLS:** First of all, I’d like a time machine so I can go back and pour

myself a big bowl of Quisp – how did I never know about Quisp! I feel cheated. I have often felt the same way about quaaludes. Totally missed out, born just a little too late. Anyway, it’s unlikely Big Cereal will find me much of a threat; I think their power is even greater than it was when I was a kid. I recently read that they continue to reformulate those cereals to make them more appealing and – to borrow a cute adjective from the British – “moreish.”

**GS: On a more serious note, the Social Media section of the book becomes a eulogy for your friend Faith Kleppinger. Did you know when writing that section that that’s what it would be or was it something that developed organically?**

**FLS:** That came straight out of the journal that I was keeping at the time, writing about my quitting process and about the major events of my life. I loved her so much, and that loss permeated everything at the time.

**GS: What would it mean to you if “I Quit Everything” became recommended reading for people in the recovery community?**

**FLS:** I feel big love for the recovery community and have been thrilled to glimpse the ways in which that world is opening up, diversifying,



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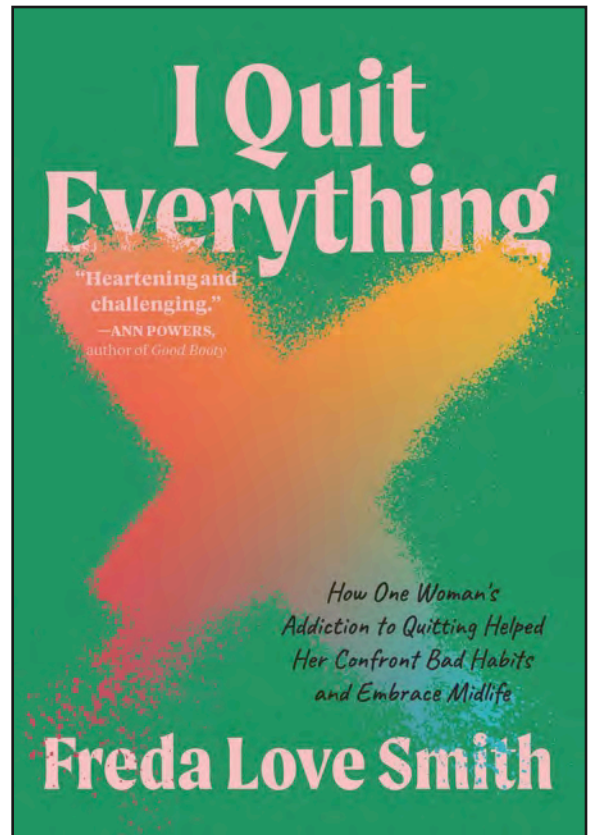
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allowing in myriad voices and approaches. I appreciate the nuance in language like “soberish,” “sober curious,” and “California sober.” It feels to me like there is more space for people to decide what they want their sobriety to look like; not everyone fits every program. It would mean the world to me if “I Quit Everything” were to help anyone to break a destructive habit, to take a good honest look within and decide what they can and can’t afford to mess with, and to trust themselves to make the right choices.

**GS:** You grew up not far from Bloomington, Indiana, which is known as a college town. You also lived in Boston; a city well-known for its colleges. You currently live in Evanston, which is home to Northwestern University. Would you say that that was a conscious decision on your part to live in these types of places?

**FLS:** I can even add one to the list – for four years I lived in Nottingham in the UK, home to two major universities! I do love college towns

and feel very comfortable in the milieu of academia. My mom worked at Indiana University as the editor of their alumni magazine, and I’ve worked on and off in a variety of teaching and administrative jobs at universities since my young adulthood. My partner Jake is a professor at Northwestern. I’ll probably die in a college town (Mellencamp reference!)



# KARAOKE

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### Important Facts About DOVATO

This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

#### What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?

If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection and Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Resistant HBV.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the HBV can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HBV infection and take DOVATO, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
  - Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.

- Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver function and monitor your HBV infection. It may be necessary to give you a medicine to treat hepatitis B. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking DOVATO.

For more information about side effects, see "What are possible side effects of DOVATO?"

#### What is DOVATO?

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

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

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## Important Facts About DOVATO (cont'd)

### Who should not take DOVATO?

#### Do not take DOVATO if you:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Where can I find more information?

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

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# GRAB STEWART



Photo by Jacob Halter

## Love Me Knot The Out Artist Sings a Ballad for his “Favorite Ex”

Jamie Booth

Stewart Taylor has written songs for American Idol's David Hernandez and RuPaul's Drag Race's JuJu Bee, Mo Heart, and Manila Luzon. He has also released several singles of his own, including his funk and R&B inspired debut, “Mess Your Hair Up” and 2022's “Maybe We Shouldn't Talk”. His newest single is “Favorite Ex,” a song that merges eighties vibes with today's pop and R&B. In it, Stewart Taylor sings about a former lover he had in New York that he was forced to leave behind in order to pursue his music dreams in Los Angeles.

“We both knew that our time together was limited but I often look back and wonder what would've been had I stayed,” he reflects.

The video for “Favorite Ex” is a captivating reflection of the song. It depicts Taylor walking alone along gorgeous ocean vistas (filmed in Malibu) and sweeping desert scenes

(filmed in the Mojave Desert). Taylor says he drew inspiration from F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and its theme that every party eventually has to end. As they do in the novel, beautiful things fall apart in the video including a chandelier and a bouquet of white roses.

We caught up with Stewart Taylor in Los Angeles to learn more.

**Jamie Booth: Are you an emotional guy when it comes to relationships?**

**Stewart Taylor:** I'm a Cancer, so yes, when I'm dating someone, I really go all in. Being with me can be quite the rollercoaster ride some days!

**JB: Do you intend to be raw and honest in your music?**

**Stewart Taylor:** I've been processing my feelings through singing and songwriting since I was a little kid, and coming from an

honest place is very important to me. Writing music is one hundred percent my Lexapro. I've struggled with anxiety and depression for most of my life, and music has saved me so many times.

**JB: In “Favorite Ex,” you sing about stealing your ex back from his current bf. Is that something you would really do?**

**Stewart Taylor:** My ex was certainly a keeper and he has given me several albums worth of material over the years, but he lives over three thousand miles away in New York. Even if he were closer, though, getting in the way of his new relationship is not something I would ever do. It was just something fun to fantasize about! I've hung out with my ex and his new beau a couple of times when they have visited LA. It felt weird but I was very respectful and supportive.

**JB: What have you learned from him that you are now applying to current relationships?**



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Photo by Jacob Halter

**Stewart Taylor:** I've been in toxic relationships in the past. He was the closest I've ever been to a healthy and loving relationship. These days, I look for people who are kind to me, the way he was, and someone who can keep up with my energy.

**JB: Why did you choose an 80s vibe for "Favorite Ex"?**

**Stewart Taylor:** It's my favorite era. I love eighties music and my eighties icons.

**JB: Were you alive in the 80s?**

**Stewart Taylor:** I wasn't. Total nineties boy right here!

**JB: What do the 80s conjure up for you?**

**Stewart Taylor:** I like to say that I lived in the eighties in another life because I've always been so drawn to that time in music and pop culture. I watched a lot of VH1 and MTV as a kid, and icons like Janet

Jackson, Madonna, Paula Abdul, and Prince are still huge influences for me.

**JB: A lot of music artists are diving deep into the 80s these days. Charlie Puth's latest album is 80s inspired.**

**Stewart Taylor:** Funny you should say that! I used to write and record with Charlie. We attended Berklee College of Music at the same time. He taught me a lot about recording harmonies; skills I still use to this day. Musically speaking, we worked well together. We both have a real love for pop music and R&B.

**JB: The music video, on the other hand, is very modern day. It's not 80s at all.**

**Stewart Taylor:** I think it's important to remain current. I'm definitely not out here billing myself as a throwback artist. Instead, I started working with an incredible German designer named Joseph Auren to experiment with more futuristic and flamboyant looks. The making of the video took two full days in Malibu and the Mohave Desert. The Malibu shoot was really cold and I spent the entire day getting body slammed by waves. I took a very hot shower when I was done filming! Day two was a three-hour drive to the middle of nowhere. The director dropped me off in the desert, drove away, and then flew a drone around me to film the dance sequences. It was over

one hundred degrees and by the seventh or eighth take, I thought I was going to pass out.

**JB: The symbolism gets pretty deep with empty desert, hour glasses and crashing chandeliers.**

**Stewart Taylor:** I like to incorporate symbolism in my music videos. For "Favorite Ex," I imagined I was a prince walking through a desert and stepping into a Malibu paradise with no one to share it with. It can be lonely chasing dreams and giving up on love in order to pursue a calling. That's the decision that I made. The hourglass was obviously about love running out of time. The chandelier on the desert floor was inspired by *The Great Gatsby* and it is meant to signify how every party eventually comes to an end.

**JB: Speaking of parties, the remixes of "Favorite Ex" are climbing the Billboard club charts.**

**Stewart Taylor:** I love them! Both the Hector Fonseca and Thiago Ducky remix and the DJ Mentol and Scott Storch remix are incredible.

**JB: Are you involved with anyone right now, Stewart?**

**Stewart Taylor:** I'm not. I'm very picky with men, and with good reason! I'm a hopeless romantic and I'm waiting for the right guy to come along.

*Stewart Taylor's "Favorite Ex" is being distributed independently and is available on Apple Music, Spotify, and all digital platforms. Its video is available on YouTube. Follow on IG @imstewarttaylor and stewarttaylortofficial.com*







*Photo by Jacob Halter*

# GRAB CLOTHES

## Fall Fashion Spice Up Your Wardrobe with the Athleisure Pieces Men Are Addicted to this Season

By Jorge Trevino

Addicted USA's fall collection is proving once again that they are masters of steamy, cutting-edge menswear. With a mix of leather, mesh, knits, and attention-grabbing details, these fashion-forward pieces from the sister brand to ES Collection are perfect for the fashionable guy who wants to spice up their wardrobe with sizzling and seasonally appropriate looks that will keep them cool in the fall season.

The collection features a range of athleisure pieces that seamlessly blend style and relaxation. Think fitted tracksuits, sleek overalls, and mesh-paneled hoodies that transition effortlessly from a workout to a night out.

Accessories play a significant role in completing the Addicted look this fall. The brand offers an array of sexy underwear and swimderwear options and matching harnesses, ensuring that every outfit, no matter how layered, retains an element of allure.

### **Cat's Meow**

Awaken your wild side in Addicted's leopard print brief and trunk, made of the finest fabrics. The striking leopard print runs all over both pieces in different shades. Plain black waistband features the centered AD silicone logo. Ribbons in plain black contrasting. The Leopard Fresh brief is \$36 @ AddictedUSA.com. The Leopard Fresh Trunk is \$42 at AddictedUSA.com.

### **Sleek Sweat Pant**

Get werkin' in Addicted's brand new sweat pant for fall. Made of 100% polyester, the jogger features contrasting mesh with a prominent



Photo By Alberto Casu

AD logo on front and on rear. Available in green (seen here, navy, black and white. \$98 at

**AddictedUSA.com.**

### **Knee Highs**

Addicted's Neon Socks, Knee-height long socks are extra soft to the touch, and super comfortable. \$27 at AddictedUSA.com. For a more complete look, pair it with Addicted's Spider harness, constructed of wide elastic which is very stretchy and durable. Comfortable to wear, easy to wash. The AD ADDICTED logo printed on the back. Available in multiple colors. Spider Harness is \$14 @ AddictedUSA.com. Or Addicted's Thin Flame Low Rider tank. Made with C-through fabric, the very fresh and breathable tank is available in multiple colors and is \$36 at

**AddictedUSA.com**

### **Proud and Loud**

Show your Pride in Addicted's mesh rainbow Bermuda shorts, the perfect short for parties, festivals, and nights out at the clubs. \$76 at AddictedUSA.com. Pair it with the spectacular design of Addicted's mesh rainbow tank top, an oversized tank that guaranteed to get you noticed! \$54 at AddictedUSA.com. Or the more daring can opt to pair it with the Spider Rainbow harness, \$16 at **AddictedUSA.com.**

### **Fruitilicious**

You'll always be in season in these cute swimderwear briefs featuring deliciously juicy fruit prints. They are underwear and swimwear all-in-one – so you can wear them all year round! \$46 at **AddictedUSA.com**

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Addicted's camo overalls are made from the finest jeans fabric. The piece features a large frontal pocket on the chest as well as two additional front pockets and two rear pockets. Adjustable straps and buttons for best comfort. \$114 at [AddictedUSA.com](http://AddictedUSA.com)



*Photos By Alberto Casu*



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# GRAB MUSIC



## Q-Music: 2023 LGBTQ+ History Month playlist

By Gregg Shapiro

At just 22 years old, **Joanna Sternberg** is an old soul. Most of the songs on their new album “I’ve Got Me” (Fat Possum), come from a

bare-bones folk tradition, performed by Sternberg on guitar, piano and keys, violin, and bass. The lyrics, sung in Sternberg’s distinctive vocal

style, alternate between introspection (the title tune, “Mountains High,” “Drifting On A Cloud”), yearning (“I Will Be With You,” “I’ll Make You Mine,” “The Human Magnet Song”), and brutal honesty (“Stockholm Syndrome,” and the rocking “People Are Toys to You”). The vocals and simple, yet meaningful, lyrics also sound like they owe a debt to early

is especially true on the piano and vocal numbers, including “She Dreams.” [Joanna Sternberg performs on December 3 in Chicago at Thalia Hall.]

**Worriers’** queer lead vocalist Lauren Denitzio uses they/them pronouns, but that’s not the only reason to listen to the band’s new studio album “Trust Your Gut” (Ernest Jennings Record Co.). Arriving just a few months after the intimate “Warm Blanket” (on red vinyl!), “Trust Your Gut” (on black vinyl) has a fuller sound with Denitzio being backed by a band. Worriers covers a full range of emotions on the songs “Hold My Breath,” “I’m Not Mad,” “Waste of Space,” “Backyard Garden,” “Anything Else,” and “Losing the Thread.” The rocking title cut has hit single written all over it and deserves to be heard by everyone.

**Nora Kelly Band** is easily the coolest, queer, Canadian, country band since k.d. lang and the Reclines first appeared on the scene



almost 40(!) years ago. Rodeo Clown (Mint Records), on tasty brown vinyl, honors the country tradition over the course of 10 original tunes. Talk about torch and twang! The all-queer band knows its way around pedal steel, fiddles, banjos, guitars, and keyboards. Kelly's strong vocals give songs such as "Lay Down Girl," "MMM Delicious," "Purgatory Motel," "Catch A Bone," "Roswell," and the title cut the country kick they need, boots and all.

In a perfect and more accepting world, "Out Here Now" ([evermorenest.com](http://evermorenest.com)), the second album by queer Americana act **Ever More Nest** (aka Kelcy Mae Wilburn), would be embraced by music lovers from all walks of life. The songs are as accessible as anything you'd hear on albums by non-queer musical acts from Austin to Nashville and beyond, as well as those on records by Brandy Clark or Brandi Carlile. In other words, there's so much to like about "Out Here Now," including the title track, "What's Gone Is Gone," "Out Loud," "Wishing Well," "My Story" (check out Fat Kaplin's fiddle work), "All I Want," and "Almost Home."

After his most daring (and possibly best) album, 2019's "Territories," prolific gay singer/songwriter **Tom Goss** returns with the bouncy and infectious pop album "Remember What It Feels Like" ([tomgossmusic.com](http://tomgossmusic.com)). The more traditional tunes range from dance-floor ready cuts including "Everything," "Literally," and "Undercover Summer," bubblegum numbers "Enemy of Good," "Don't Wanna," "First Date," and "Break Your Heart." Ballads including "Something Beautiful" and "Fall Before You Fly," are examples of his versatility. Goss, who is known for being generous with his fans, packing recent recordings with more than a dozen songs, doesn't skimp on "Remember What It Feels Like," with its 15 tracks.

Some LGBTQ+ folks of a certain age are sure to remember the UK sextet **General Public**, and its 1984 IRS Records debut album "All The Rage" (BMG), newly reissued on vinyl for the first time since it was first released. Gay men, especially, will probably recall the band's hot front-men Dave Wakeling (who came out as bi in the 1980s) and the late Ranking Roger (who passed in 2019). The pair had previously been

founding members of the groundbreaking ska band The English Beat before departing and forming General Public. "All The Rage" incorporates both the ska influence of early English Beat songs, as well as the more pop and dance-oriented material of the English Beat's final recording "Special Beat Service" (from 1982). The most popular hits from "All The Rage," including "Tenderness," "Never You Done That," and "Hot You're Cool" leaned towards the pop and dance aspect. General Public's second album, "Hand To Mouth" (BMG) from 1984, also reissued on vinyl, didn't fare as well as its predecessor. [Wakeling, and his other band English Beat, perform on December 3 and 4 in Chicago at City Winery.]

Could singer/songwriter **Rachael Sage** be the bi Taylor Swift? Prolific, independent, eternally struggling with love, and empress of her own musical empire, Sage beat Swift to the rerecording punch by a few years when she revisited two of her previously released albums. For the ambitious double disc "The Other Side" (MPress), Sage chose to include a second album of "alternate mixes." Sage, who plays keyboards and guitar, once again delivers a set of pleasing pop songs including "Flowers For Free," "The Place of Fun," "Albatross," "Butterflies at Night," "I Made A Case" (which appears in two versions, including a duet with Howard Jones), and "No Regrets" (co-written with her father Stuart Weitzman). Sage's well-chosen covers include queer singer/songwriter Maria McKee's "Breathe," Yaz's "Only You," and "Forgive Me This," an obscure Europop song.

On her new eponymous black vinyl Mack Avenue album, queer vocalist (and songwriter) **Veronica Swift**, who clearly has talent to burn, goes where few other artists in the jazz vocals genre would dare to tread. By performing daring jazz-influenced covers of songs by Nine Inch Nails ("Closer") and Queen ("The Show Must Go On" and "Keep Yourself Alive"), she sets out to broaden listeners' horizons, and she succeeds. Swift's reading of Jerry Herman's "La Cage Aux Folles" anthem "I Am What I Am" swings as



it never has before. She also has a flair for the dramatic which comes through on her rendition of the lovely standard "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" and her near-operatic take on Jobim's "Chega de Saudade." Originals such as "Severed Heads" (adapted from a Puccini opera) and "In the Moonlight" (adapted from a Beethoven piano sonata) further demonstrate what Swift is capable of as a lyricist and performer.

Directed by Martin Scorsese, the 1977 drama "New York, New York," starring Liza Minnelli and Robert DeNiro, was more of a movie with musical numbers than a movie musical. Considered a commercial and critical failure, especially coming as it did right after 1976's Oscar-nominated "Taxi Driver," "New York, New York" is probably best known for its theme song, both Liza's version and the one that Frank Sinatra turned into one of his signature tunes. The movie featured a few standards, alongside original tunes by the Tony Award-winning duo of gay John Kander and his writing partner, the late Fred Ebb. In 2023, a stage musical adaptation of "New York, New York," opened on Broadway, featuring the titular song, as well as "But The World Goes 'Round" and "Happy Endings" (from the movie). You can hear those songs, as well as several new Kander & Ebb compositions (along with lyric contributions by the ubiquitous Lin-Manuel Miranda) on the double disc "**New York, New York: Original Broadway Cast Recording**" ([newyorknewyorkbroadway.com](http://newyorknewyorkbroadway.com)).



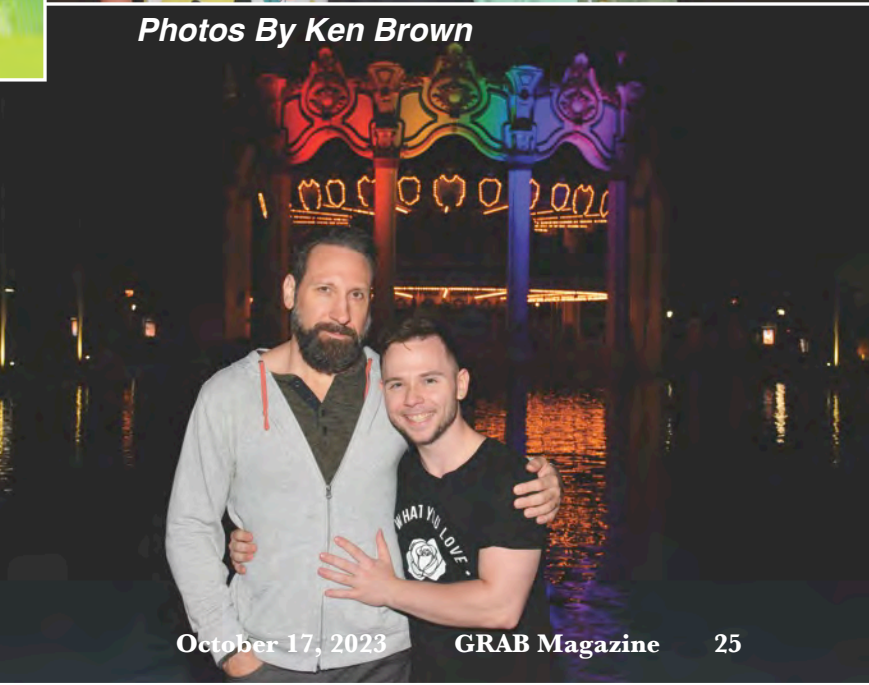
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The 27th Annual Mr. International Rubber weekend will be held October 19-22, 2023 at the North Shore Conference Center in Skokie, Illinois. Events will be based at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Skokie; and the adjoining North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

This evolution comes after more than a decade of the event being held at Center on Halsted in the Lakeview neighborhood. During that time, the event grew more popular, and found itself expanding to other venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art, The Vic Theatre and The Riviera Theater.

Now in 2023, Mr. International Rubber attendees can enjoy an all encompassing hotel based event, with parties, education, kink shopping, demonstrations, meet-ups, socials and the MIR27 contest

all happening in one location.

The theme for MIR27 is Intergalactic Rubber, and the organizers invite die-hard rubberists and those who are curious to join in the fun of exploring a universe of shiny gear, alien lifeforms, and probing research.

The Kink Market at MIR27 will be held in the Versailles Foyer and Ballroom of the DoubleTree by Hilton, Skokie. Vendors from across the United States as well as from Canada and the United Kingdom will be present. Additionally, the Chicago Rubber Club Gear Sale is the perfect way to buy or sell gently used and lovingly abused gear. Kink Market admissions may be purchased on site at MIR registration. Weekend packages are still available for purchase online at MIRubber.com. Parking is free, and the hotel is accessible via CTA bus and train connections.

Primary sponsors for the 2023 edition of the event include: Jackhammer/The Hole, RECON.com, ForFun Bangkok, Steamworks, and Mid America Fists In Action.

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<http://www.mirubber.com>

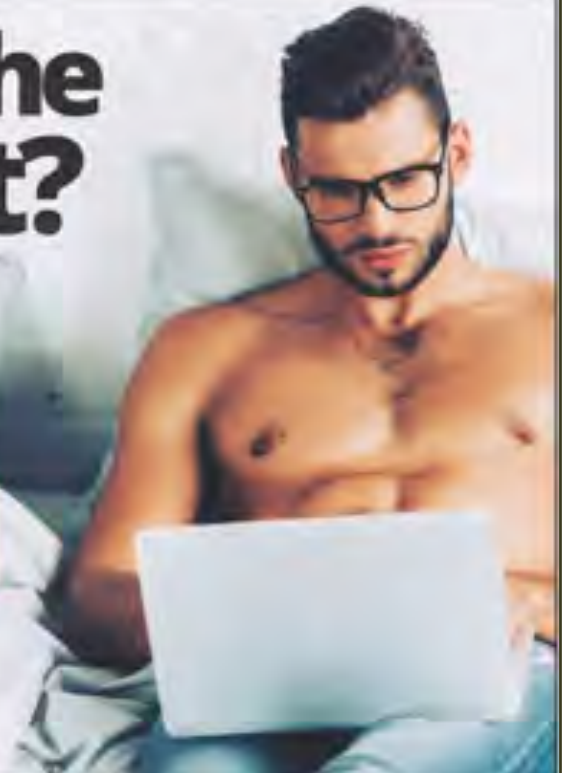
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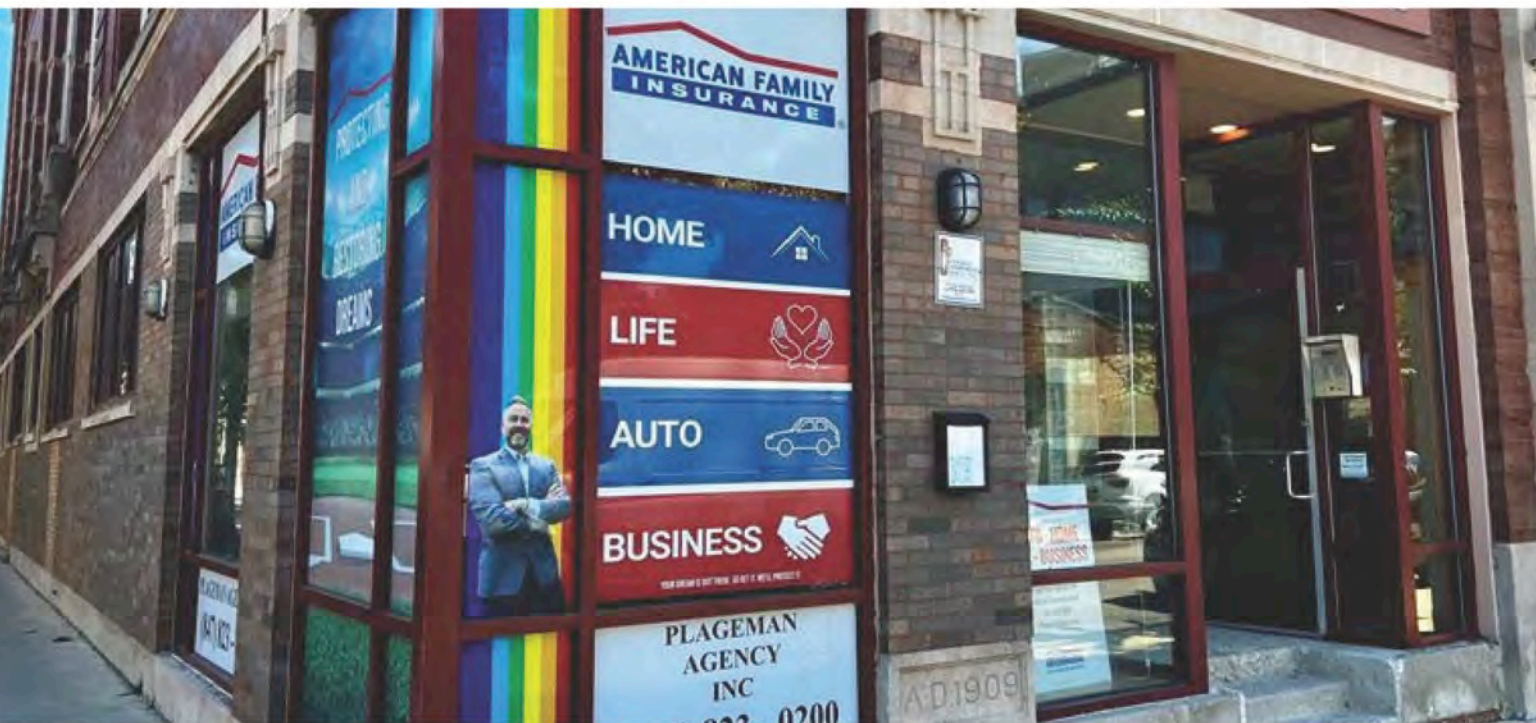
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TUESDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** . \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. **D.S.Tequila Co:** . 50cent Wing Night 5pm-10pm, Must Purchase a drink for special. Dine in Only. **Hydrate:** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm-8pm: \$5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. **Shakers on Clark:** \$3 Domestic Beers. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. **Steamworks:** Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free\* (\*Free 30 day membership and free locker). **The Sofo Tap:** \$5 Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Tallboys Everyday Specials, \$5Jager, \$5 Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi. 10/24 Pumpkin Perversions.

WEDNESDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$ New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. **Jackhammer:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$4Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm-10pm: \$6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. **Shakers on Clark:** Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Britney & Rihanna last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. **Steamworks:** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. **The Sofo Tap:** \$3 House Shots, \$5 Tito's Cocktails, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts **Touche:**Open 5pm - 4am.Jockstrap Night. Free Clothing Check. 10/25 Jack-O-Lantern, BNC 7:30pm

THURSDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons . Everyday Specials:\$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. **Charlie's:** Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. **D.S.Tequila Co:** Bottomless Tacos! \$23.95 5pm-10pm , Must purchase a beverage for special. Dine in Only. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis.**Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. **Steamworks:** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. **The Sofo Tap:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails\$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays70's & 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo.

FRIDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p-1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p-1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p-1am, 5th Fierce Fridays - Strut 10p-1am, Dancing until close. **D.S. Tequila Co:** TGIF Special \$5 Effen Cocktails and \$4 Hornitos Shots. Hydrate: Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. **Jackhammer:** \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys \$8 New Amsterdam & Redbull Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$6 Tito's Cocktails \$7.50 Big Miller Lites. Happy Hour Specials 5pm-8pm: \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. **The Sofo Tap:** \$3 House Shots, \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 1020 Cowboy Round Up Save a Horse Ride a Cowboy, 10/27 Halloween Glow Party.

SATURDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$6 Lagunitas IPADrafts. Happy Hour Specials: 1/2 Off All Drafts \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-3am. **Charlie's:** Country Line Dancing 7-10pm, The Main Event 10pm-1am Dancing until Close. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 Miller Lite Tall Boys Happy Hour Specials: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Signature Margaritas Happy Hour Specials 2pm-5pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$12 Mimosa Carafes, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games with Sasha & Zamora Love 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. **The Sofo Tap:** \$5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat, \$5 Signature Margaritas, Happy Hour Specials: 12pm-3pm: 1/2 Off All Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 5am. 10/21 Gear Night with Bluf/ Chicago Barber & Bootblack on duty Dress Code in ClubRoom BNC 6pm, 10/28 Full Moon Ripe Party.

SUNDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$6 Chicago Handshakes Happy Hour Specials 2pm-5pm \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-2am **Charlie's:** Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm-7pm, Singsational Sunday Karaoke 7pm-11pm Mas Leche 11pm-1am, Dancing until close. **D.S. Tequila Co:** Coyote Ugly Drag Brunch \$50 all inclusive food and beverage package plus Drag Show. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Jackhammer:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands Happy Hour Specials: 1st Sunday: \$7 Planter's Punch 2nd Sunday: \$5 Dog Bowls (Premium Well) 3rd Sunday: \$3 Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's Tallboy Beers 4th Sunday: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor) 5th Sunday: \$6 New Amsterdam & Red Bull Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Kit Kat Lounge:** Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$12 Mimosa Carafes. Happy Hour Specials: 7pm-10pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 off Stoli Vodka (and Stoli flavors) and Stoli Bloody Mary's. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am **The Sofo Tap:** \$6 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 12pm-2pm: \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 1pm-3pm: \$3 House Shots FREE Chicago-style hot-dogs (while supplies last) Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts, \$2 Sodas, Clubroom Opens 6pm, Movie Night 7pm.

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# GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of October



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|    | Artist                                       | Title                                     |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | San Holo                                     | No Place Is Too Far                       |
| 2  | Niel Degas X Ricardo Geldres                 | LA Nights ft. Drew Tyler                  |
| 3  | Sophie And The Giants X Purple Disco Machine | Paradise                                  |
| 4  | Da Buzz                                      | My Life                                   |
| 5  | Kaleena Zanders & Anabel Englund             | Anything 4 U                              |
| 6  | LP   | Golden (Leanh Remix Edit)                 |
| 7  | Bingo Players X Goshfather                   | Be Mine                                   |
| 8  | The Chainsmokers                             | My Bad                                    |
| 9  | Rod Carrillo & David Sosa                    | Just A Little While                       |
| 10 | Brando                                       | Too Close                                 |
| 11 | Riggi & Piros                                | Stuck On You Ft. Jen                      |
| 12 | Artbat                                       | Coming Home ft. John Martin (Stream Edit) |
| 13 | Lawrent                                      | When I'm With You                         |
| 14 | Tiesto                                       | Drifting                                  |
| 15 | Takis  | California                                |
| 16 | Sasha Lopez x Dara                           | Gasoline                                  |
| 17 | Zack Martino & Tudor                         | Subliminal                                |
| 18 | Calvin Harris & Sam Smith                    | Desire                                    |
| 19 | Aviella                                      | Scared To Love Again                      |
| 20 | Midnight Kids & Madison Watkins              | One More Night (Original Mix)             |
| 21 | Jost   | Cool Kids                                 |
| 22 | Belters Only                                 | 4eva                                      |
| 23 | The Blessed Madonna & Gabriels               | Mercy Ft. Jacob Lusk                      |
| 24 | Breathe Carolina x ManyFew                   | Dancing In The Dark (Radio Edit)          |
| 25 | Anabel Englund                               | Strangely Sentimental                     |
| 26 | Casso x Raye x D block Europe                | Prada                                     |
| 27 | Zayn   | Love Like This (Mura Masa Remix)          |
| 28 | Troye Sivan                                  | Rush                                      |
| 29 | Jade Shadi x Trackula x Electric Chapel      | Free Falling                              |
| 30 | Office x Jayem                               | Can't Deny Ft. Alix Robson                |



**Touche**

# **HALLOWEEN AT TOUCHE**

**TUESDAY.OCTOBER 24** CARVING AT 8PM - JUDGING AT 11PM

**PUMPKIN PERVERSIONS CARVING CONTEST**

**WEDNESDAY.OCTOBER 25**

**JACK-O-LANTERN JOCKSTRAP NIGHT**

**THURSDAY.OCTOBER 26** HANDS IN AT MIDNIGHT

**PUMPKIN FISTING**

**FRIDAY.OCTOBER 27**

**NIGHT OF THE LIVING (W)HORES**

SLUTTY HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST HOSTED BY MCL2022, GEORGE WHITE  
BENEFIT FOR THE MCL TRAVEL FUND

**SATURDAY.OCTOBER 28**

**FULL MOON HALLOWEEN PARTY**

DARE THE DARK - LIGHTS OUT IN THE MAZE! / "SHOOT THE MOON" CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT

**SUNDAY.OCTOBER 29**

**BIG BOO BEER BUST**

\$2 BUD LIGHT DRAFTS & SODAS ALL DAY / BEARS VS. CHARGERS 7:20PM KICKOFF  
MOVIE NIGHT 7PM IN CLUB ROOM

**MONDAY.OCTOBER 30** 10PM

**ROCKY HORROR SCREENING PARTY**

**TUESDAY.OCTOBER 31**

**HALLOWEEN PARTY**

COSTUME CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT

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# GRAB ROGER

## Health Care Power of Attorney

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

The Illinois legislature periodically enacts legislation designed to update the Illinois Power of Attorney for Health Care Act. Recent changes concern who may act as agent or witness the form, as well as significant changes to the lengthy Notice section and the form itself that broadens its scope and attempts to make it more user-friendly.

Gone are definitions of “incurable or irreversible condition,” “permanent unconsciousness,” and “terminal condition” which relate in the previous form to points when life support may be withdrawn. The new form no longer calls for such trigger-points.

There are changes to as witness requirements and who may witness health care agencies. The law expressly prohibits these enumerated “licensed professionals providing services to the principal” from serving as witnesses:

- attending physician;
- mental health service provider;
- advanced practice nurses;
- physician assistant;
- dentist;

podiatric physician; optometrist; and relatives of any such professionals.

Health care facility operators (e.g., directors and executives) may not witness, but that prohibition does not apply to “non-owner chaplains or social workers, nurses, and other employees.”

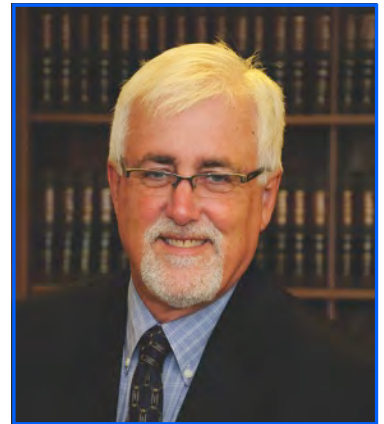
The statutory short form presumes that the principal is granting broad-based authority to his or her agent to make decisions in all types of health care scenarios. The choices for life-sustaining treatment have changed significantly and the form now asks the agent to choose between quantity of life and quality of life. There are also check-box options for invoking the start of the authority (upon execution of the form or upon the physician’s determination).

The law rewrites the “Notice to the Individual Signing the Power of Attorney for Health Care,” which appears at the beginning of the health care form, and continues for roughly five pages. It adds a number of sections in Q&A format, illustrating the breadth of the power and addressing various circumstances that may arise:

“What are the Things I Want My Health Care Agent to Know?” warns of the importance of choosing a trustworthy agent, but recommends particular topics and considerations to independently address with the prospective agent.

“What Kind of Decisions Can My Agent Make?” outlines numerous dilemmas that an agent may face and provides examples as to how the principal may limit or direct these decisions.

“Whom Should I Choose to be My Health Care Agent?” elaborates considerably upon the prior version’s mere recommendation that the agent be “trustworthy.” For example, a person should choose an agent who “would not be too upset to carry out your wishes if you



became very sick” and is “comfortable talking with and questioning physicians.”

“What if My Agent is Not Available or is Not Willing to Make Decisions for Me?” explains the role of successor agents and their importance.

“What Will Happen if I Do Not Choose a Health Care Agent?” describes the surrogacy statute and the potential benefits of appointing an agent over relying on the default authority provided for by statute.

“What if I Change My Mind?” addresses how to destroy the documents or fill out a new form.

The Health Care Power Act supersedes all other Illinois laws that remain inconsistent with it. In particular, if an individual has signed a Living Will Declaration under the Illinois Living Will Act, the Declaration will remain inoperative as long as an agent remains available under the health care power of attorney to address life-sustaining or death-delaying procedures on behalf of the individual.

Under the Saving Clause, all powers of attorney for health care that were validly created prior will be grand fathered in under the statute. Nevertheless, I always encourage people to review plans periodically to ensure that they still adequately address needs.

*Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a graduate of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at [RVMLawyer@aol.com](mailto:RVMLawyer@aol.com). He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.*

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# GRAB HOLLY

## *The Fable of the Pond*

By Holly Maholm



Penelope, Queen of the Unicorns, had requested my presence. I found her resting with Sassy Pants in the apple orchard, in the shade. She spoke. "Holly, I wish to speak to you about that young woman... the one who works as a waitress at Donut Time. Sassy informed me the woman was plagued by feelings of inadequacy, shame and self-pity, but nevertheless, Dot was able to alleviate her discomfort by the simple expedient of depriving her of her smart phone. When I heard this, I thought you might like to hear an instructive little fable we unicorns share with our offspring. It goes like this:

"Once there was a young unicorn – a filly, whom I will call 'Polly' – who was just old enough to have been introduced to those powers of 'Unicorn Magic' to which she – like all unicorns – is heir. She learned to change the colors of her mane, coat and tail, to disguise herself as any breed of horse you can name, and to employ her magic so as to create around her a sparkling, shimmering cloud of multicolored images, shapes and scintillations having an irresistible, hypnotic effect upon any who witness that performance."

She continued. "So, it happened

that the Queen of the frolic (of which Polly was a member) was visited by a She Wolf from the wolf pack living nearby. Now, this wolf was well known to that Queen, inasmuch as that She Wolf – like all members of her species – held unicorns (especially unicorns having about them some air of 'royalty') in the highest possible regard.

"The Queen took the She Wolf aside, that they might speak in private, and the She Wolf explained, "Your Majesty, one of my pack told me of something odd involving a member of your frolic, which I thought you would want to see." Accordingly, the She Wolf led the Queen to a protected hiding place in the nearby forest, a place near to a small pond. There, they witnessed the following: Polly was to be seen standing motionless in a shallow place in the pond, where the water – as still as glass – came up only to her knees.

"Polly, they observed, appeared to be mesmerized by her reflection in the water. Though frozen and immobilized, she was rapidly running through every power to be found in Unicorn Magic. She cycled from one representation of a 'Beautiful Unicorn Filly' to the next. She changed the colors and styles of her coat, mane and tail, and she adopted multiple facial expressions – from 'Cute and Innocent' to 'Sultry and Mysterious' to 'Sly and Mischievous.' She went on in this way without pause, reveling in the power she had acquired to assume the appearance of a succession of angelic unicorns, each one possessed of Exquisite, Incomparable Beauty.

"The Queen turned to the She Wolf and made a request, "If you would, could you spare one of your pack to stand guard here by this pond – unseen by this youngster – to ensure that no harm comes to her?" The She Wolf assented, and for more than two weeks the wolves kept that watch, silent and unseen by the young unicorn.

"Then, in time, the She Wolf again came to the Queen, and reported, "Your Majesty, you are needed at the pond. The unicorn filly is in distress." Thus, the Queen and the She Wolf returned to

the pond, where – from hiding – they observed Polly lying on her side in the water, which now came up to her throat.

"The Queen saw that for the entire time since she had last seen the juvenile unicorn, the youngster had been so captivated by the images offered to her by her magic that she had forgotten to eat. The expression on Polly's face displayed profound confusion and surprise, as if she had been so absorbed in the power of her magic that she did not realize she was starving.

"The Queen turned to her companion and spoke, 'Please, walk to the edge of the pond and make yourself known to the youngster.' This the She Wolf did, and upon that helpless and immobilized juvenile noticing her approach, the She Wolf bared her teeth and fangs in warning, and uttered a menacing growl!

"Instantly, the filly panicked, struggling – but failing – to get to her feet, seeing before her only a painful, inescapable death. Presently, however, the Queen motioned to the She Wolf to return to the forest, whereupon the Queen walked down to the edge of the pond, where the filly could welcome her rescuer."

Summing up, Queen Penelope shared with me the moral of this fable, as the unicorns know it to be: "Do not forget yourself in dreams or fantasies of glamor, vanity or pride... so long as carnivores still roam this land."

*(To be continued)*

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

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# GRAB A PLANE



Photo Courtesy of Discover Puerto Rico

## Visit a Foreign Country Without Leaving the U.S. Everyone Welcome in Historic San Juan

By Bill Malcolm

Beaches, great food, a friendly welcoming culture, and lots to see and do in a city founded 500 years ago make San Juan, Puerto Rico perfect for a holiday. Best of all, it's so easy: no passport needed, your phone and phone plan work, and everyone speaks English as well as Spanish. Did I mention the good coffee and rum?

I was in town for the 40th Anniversary Convention of the LGBTQ+ Travel Association along with almost 700 other travel professionals. Among the many panels, one discussed how to make the other Caribbean islands as welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community in Puerto Rico. Details at [igltta.org](http://igltta.org).

### **GETTING THERE**

I took Southwest to San Juan (SJU) via Fort Lauderdale on the way there and Orlando on the way back. I paid just \$317 round trip from Indianapolis and hopped on an earlier flight on the way back thanks to their new free stand by policy. Spirit and Jet Blue are also

extremely popular choices to get to the island.

### **WHERE TO STAY**

I stayed at the Coqui Del Mar Guest House in Ocean Beach (2218 Calle General Del Valle). The lodge features a great cooked to order breakfast with a side of fresh local fruit (and fresh tropical juices), as well as Puerto Rican coffee which is quite strong.

A pool and hot tub, free use of several bicycles also makes for a great visit. On weekends they serve brunch which was homemade paella the Saturday I was there. They offer tours of Old Town as well as of the Yonqui rain forest. You can walk or bike to nearby Ocean Beach. Details at [coquidelmar.com](http://coquidelmar.com). The property also has VRBO rentals nearby.

Other lodging options include the chain hotels in the Condado district including the LGBTQ friendly Tryst Hotel which sits right on the beach. The Miramar neighborhood includes the Dan Rafa Boutique Hotel (601 Avenida Miramar) which

has a nice bar in the lobby and is in a cute neighborhood with a lot of shops. The Fairmont in Isle Verde near the airport also features a casino, several pools, and a fun bar. Be sure and be on the lookout for about resort fees and other sneaky junk charges (aka destination fees, property fees, etc.). They vary widely but many hotels now have them and not just here.

### **WHAT TO DO**

San Juan is a city of historic, interesting, and colorful safe neighborhoods and I explored many of them. The Condado neighborhood is right on the beach and has interesting shops and many higher end hotels. The beach is beautiful and features a gay section (Atlantic Beach). You can rent chairs right on the beach. Plan on a day at the beach.

The nearby Santurce neighborhood is up and coming. Stroll down Calle Loiza for the most popular cafes, galleries, and murals. The Santurce Mercado is a farmer's market in this up and coming arts



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district of Santtucre which is known for a lot of murals. Buy a Puerto Rican hat at the hat store.

Old San Juan is the highlight of my entire trip and focuses on this area founded in 1508 by Ponce de Leon. I took a walking tour of the gay monuments of Puerto Rico Gay Tours ([www.PuertoRicoGayTours.com](http://www.PuertoRicoGayTours.com)) which focused on historic Old San Juan.

You will also want to visit Fort Morro (Castillo San Felipe del Morro) in Old San Juan now run by the National Park Service. Built in 1539 by the Spaniards to fortify San Juan, they needed the Island for supplies for ships en route to the America's from Europe and Africa. El Morro was built to protect San Juan Bay's deep harbor from attack by the sea and sits at the end of the city which also had a wall built around it. The Spaniards ruled until 1898 when Puerto Rico became a U.S. Territory.

The Distrito T Mobile near the Convention Center is the new entertainment and dining destination. They had La Bamba dancers at the opening night of ILGLTA when I was there. (LaBamba

is a dance native to Puerto Rico.)

Rio Piedras is another neighborhood to visit. I took the Tren Urbano (metro or subway) to the Rio Piedras neighborhood for lunch at the Plaza del Mercado (farmers market) and had a fresh juice smoothie (papaya, guava, pineapple, coconut) and a meat roll from the Dominican Republic. A local band played while a dancer accompanied them at the Plaza.

Nearby is the beautiful University of Puerto Rico campus which features Spanish architecture and lots of tropical trees. The Spanish architecture reminded me of the Stanford University Campus in California.

I then took the Train (Tren Urbano) out to the last station, Bayamon, and walked around this historic suburban city which is over 250 years old. Have something to eat or drink at the food trucks which are parked in shipping containers. There are two small museums in the small suburban village which is very walkable. The train system is safe, modern and graffiti free. Take an Uber to the

Sagrado Corazon station to catch it as it does not run into the popular neighborhoods nor the airport, convention center, nor Old Town. Day passes are just \$5. It is a perfect way to explore the area.

#### **NIGHTLIFE**

San Juan has the best nightlife in the Caribbean. Tia Maria's in the Santurce neighborhood is a lot of fun and features a friendly local crowd. Oasis is close to the gay beach in the Condado neighborhood right on the beach. Head to La Placita, the Santrucre fruit market by days but is packed on weekends. The Circo Bar is popular as is Kweens Klub with its huge dance floor.

#### **WHERE AND WHAT TO EAT**

Lots of food options with interesting dishes define this city The food uses lots of local spices.

For a splurge, Marmalade Restaurant in Old San Juan features 14 course meals. The beef tenderloin was excellent. Nearby I also had a rum cocktail at La Factoria (148 Calle San Sebastian).

While in Puerto Rico, enjoy the local fruits (mango, papaya,

pineapple, coconut). The bread is particularly good. Rice and beans are a staple. Many restaurants also feature paella (the Spanish rice dish with seafood and vegetables). Expect a lot of Island spices including cilantro in many dishes.

Bacardi makes rum right on the island and the Pina Collada was invented here. Rum is produced from sugar cane which is produced on the island.

For a snack, try the local candies like the coconut ginger bar.

**TRAVEL TIPS**

This is a Spanish speaking island although most people also know English. Street signs are in Spanish. They use the metric system (gas is \$1.00 a liter) but the speed limits are in miles per hour.

Skip the rent a car and take Uber. It's fast and cheap.

Although it sometimes doesn't feel like it, you are in the U.S. Which is why I liked to 'Live Boricua' (live Puerto Rican) referring to the spirit, flavor, and rhythm you will feel in every part of the island. The locals are a proud and happy people living



Photo Courtesy of Discover Puerto Rico

on a wonderful island. This was my first visit to the commonwealth, but it won't be my last. This is an easy to visit, LGBTQ+ welcoming tropical paradise that has not been over-run with tourists like Puerto Vallarta and other destinations have.

The Discover Puerto Rico website features a LGBTQ section

full of travel tips including nightlife ideas.

You owe it to yourself to visit, especially given you don't need a passport and the airfares are so cheap. Live Boricua!

Bill Malcolm is North America's only syndicated LGBTQ+ value travel columnist.

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**CHICAGO'S RENOWNED  
ARTS IN THE DARK PARADE  
CELEBRATES  
HALLOWEEN AS THE  
"ARTISTS' HOLIDAY"  
SATURDAY OCTOBER  
21ST**



LUMA8 has announced the 9th Arts in the Dark Halloween Parade, a family-friendly happening featuring unique floats, spectacle puppets and all forms of creative performance taking place Saturday, October 21, from 6-8pm. Attendees are urged to arrive early to find a good spectating spot and attend a pre-Parade candy giveaway starting at 5pm featuring HARIBO's Goldenbear and more. Spectators are also encouraged to come dressed in their own colorful and creative costumes to join in the festive fun. This magical evening procession celebrates Halloween as the "artists' holiday" and draws together participants from major cultural organizations, inspiring youth programs, and aspiring artists in every field. Named 'One of the best Halloween celebrations in the world' by UK-based Wanderlust magazine – this dazzling production annually delights an audience of 50,000+ gathered along historic State Street, from Lake to Van Buren Streets.

This year's Arts in the Dark Halloween Parade holds a record number of applicants, with a selection of approximately 90 arts organizations participating. Families can expect to see well over 4,000 parade participants with virtually every neighborhood in Chicago represented. Colorful costumes, masks, installations, lighting, fire, acrobatics, puppetry and spectacle, dance moves and choreography, music, theatrical performances, street arts, circus arts, and cultural traditions will fill State Street.

**Mark Kelly**, Arts in the Dark Halloween Parade co-founder and artistic director, is thrilled to see the explosion of creative ferment as the parade groups prepare for their State Street performance. "I am very excited to have the League of Chicago Theatres, in partnership with BandWith Chicago, leading the parade," he shared. On some of the specific featured groups, he

commented, "Reinvent Ability and their wheelchair dancers will join over 40 dance organizations, while several striking IATSE film locals will remind us of their importance to the cultural life of our city. The amazing creative life of our city is truly captured in this playful and singular event."

As the parade celebrates the Halloween holiday by representing thousands of Chicago artists, it's fitting that the parade, located in the 'Candy Capital of North America,' is co-sponsored by two giants of the candy industry: Barry Callebaut, the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality chocolate and cocoa products, and HARIBO, the world's leading manufacturer of gummi products.

"Barry Callebaut is proud to again sponsor this iconic Chicago event," said **Ben De Schryver**, President, North America, Barry Callebaut. De Schryver added, "Given that Chicago is the home of our North American headquarters, it is important to us to support events, like the Arts in the Dark Parade, that honor the diversity and contributions of our community and bring people together to celebrate the sweet joys of Halloween."

"We're thrilled to be part of the Arts in the Dark Parade to support our local Chicago community and put the 'happy' back in 'Happy Halloween!'" said **Seth Klugherz**, Vice President of Marketing, HARIBO. "HARIBO is committed to giving back to the places where we live and work, and we're excited to bring Goldbears to the Parade to infuse fun and treats for families and friends to share while enjoying inspiring live performance."

This year marks the parade's inaugural bilingual emcee, Spanish-speaking WGN-TV journalist and co-anchor Lourdes Duarte, who will provide commentary on the parade from her staging between Monroe and Adams Streets. This year's parade will feature close to a dozen Mexican contingents, many of which choose to represent their cultural heritage by showcasing the traditions surrounding Dia de los Muertos. Noteworthy as well are the remarkable contributions of Chicago's Black cultural organizations and traditions to the parade. A wide array of other ethnic and cultural traditions will be represented as well, including Brazilian, Columbian, Irish, Indonesian, Peruvian, Caribbean, Jamaican, Polynesian, and Indigenous groups.

Chicago's diverse dance community will be well represented with a selection of 40 dance organizations including Reinvent Ability dance group and their wheelchair dancers, The Joffrey Ballet, Forward Momentum Chicago, Ballet Folklorico de Chicago,

Astronaut Flee, Trinity Dance School, Aztec Dance, and more. Dance genres will include footwork, tango, hip hop, house, stepping, clogging and ballet. And this year, audiences can expect a collection of 12 marching bands and drumlines and several music ensembles. Select music groups include everything from the South Side Jazz Coalition to the Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles. The parade showcases a variety of music genres including hip-hop, jazz, gospel, opera, Mariachi, house, pop, steel pan, rock, punk and more.

LUMA8 President & CEO **Sharene Shariatzadeh** is delighted that her company will provide over \$70K in grants to parade groups who might not otherwise be able to participate. "Our priority is to ensure that Arts in the Dark is a true reflection of Chicago's diverse cultural and ethnic community," she says. "Thanks to the support of our sponsors and a 2023 Chicago Presents Grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), we are able to offer the assistance that allows organizations from every corner of Chicago to celebrate together in the heart of the city."

Arts in the Dark is presented by LUMA8 and the City of Chicago and is co-sponsored by Barry Callebaut and HARIBO, with Major Support from the Chicago Loop Alliance. It is produced in partnership with DCASE and is a proud recipient of a 2023 Chicago Presents Grant. Additional support is provided by Choose Chicago, Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park, and William Blair. For more information visit [www.artsinthedark.org](http://www.artsinthedark.org)

**LAKEVIEW HALLOWEEN  
PUP CRAWL  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 21**



The Lakeview Halloween Pup Crawl is Sat Oct 21, 2023; 10am-2pm. Costume fun for pups & their people! Treats, gift bag, raffle prizes & a patio brunch after party at Lark. Hosted by **Miss Foozie!** Check in at Halsted & Aldine

For more information or to register visit <http://www.lakeviewpupcrawl.com>.



**25th ANNUAL DOUGLAS HALLOWEEN PARADE FOR ADULTS SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH Annual Douglas Halloween Parade for Adults Saturday, October 28th, 2023**



Hystopolis Productions have announced the 25th Annual Douglas Halloween Parade for Adults, set to dazzle spectators on Saturday, October 28th, 2023, in the heart of Downtown Douglas, Michigan. The festivities will kick off with the parade lineup at 9pm, and the main event, featuring a breathtaking display of costumes, puppets, performances, and more, will commence at 10pm on Center Street.

Every year, people from all corners of the country flock to Douglas, Michigan, to partake in this extraordinary Halloween celebration, and this year promises to be the best yet. With an estimated attendance of 10-15,000 people, the town will be transformed into a mesmerizing stage adorned with lights and concert-quality sound.

The Douglas Halloween Parade for Adults is a testament to the boundless creativity and enthusiasm of its participants. Hundreds of dedicated paraders invest countless hours throughout the year planning and crafting their costumes and performances.

"This parade is a celebration of adulting at its finest," said Erin Wilkinson, Director of Events at Hystopolis Productions. "It is an opportunity for adults to channel the imaginative spirit of their inner-child."

The centerpiece of the evening is the appearance of the giant Pumpkin King puppet, who ignites the audience to thunderous exhilaration!

Surrounding the event are the charming towns of Saugatuck and Douglas, renowned for their many bars, restaurants, and retail shops offering a wide range of delicious

food, refreshing beverages, and unique shopping experiences. Look for area establishments hosting costume competitions and special events centered around Halloween. In addition to the main parade, the History Center and OxBow House will host fundraisers with bars near the parade lineup, providing an opportunity for visitors to support local causes while enjoying the festivities.

The evening's entertainment begins early, with a sidewalk party starting around 8pm on Center Street, featuring DJ Eddie Green dropping infectious beats, setting the stage for an unforgettable night of fun.

"You've heard about it, you've seen pictures and videos all over social media, and now is the time to experience it firsthand," urged Wilkinson. "The 25th Annual Douglas Halloween Parade for Adults promises to be a night of extraordinary creativity, entertainment, and camaraderie. Don't miss this chance to be part of an unforgettable Halloween tradition."

Official Douglas Halloween merchandise is sold at Kim Neuens Design & Interior downtown Douglas.

For more information and updates, please visit [www.douglashalloween.com](http://www.douglashalloween.com).

**The 26th ANNUAL HAUNTED HALSTED HALLOWEEN PARADE WILL BE HELD TUESDAY OCTOBER 31ST IN THE NORTHALSTED NEIGHBORHOOD**



Chicago's Halloween Night Parade Has Amazing Creativity, \$4K in Prizes & Live Music.

The 26th annual Haunted Halsted Halloween Parade will be

held October 31st, 2023 in the landmark Northalsted neighborhood. The free-to-watch parade, ranked one of the top ten in the US by Fodor's Travel, has a spectacular Costume Contest (Sign Up Free) featuring \$4,000 in cash prizes and concludes with an awards presentation, live performance by musical duo Molly & Alex and dance party.

The costume competition covers 5 categories: Character, Creative, Scary, Youth (<13) and Group. Each category will have a \$500/\$200/\$100 prize winner for 1st place/2nd place/3rd place, respectively.

The Halloween Parade starts from Halsted/Melrose and heads north to Halsted/Cornelia; hundreds of Chicago's most creative costumes filling the street are an amazing sight to behold. Also participating in the Halloween Parade are fire performers Chicago Full Moon Jam, Windy City Jeep Club, Lakeside Pride Marching Band, Chicago Spirit Brigade, The Good Bus and more.

This year's Grand Marshall, 44th Ward Alderman **Bennett Lawson**, will head up the judging panel, with hosts **Batty Davis** and NBC5's **Matthew Rodrigues** presenting the awards. Howard Brown Health volunteers are staffing the contest on-site registration at Halsted & Belmont (10/31, 6:30-7:30pm).

The Awards show will feature Chicago powerhouse musical duo **Molly & Alex** (Molly Callinan and Alex Newkirk).

Sign up to participate free, all ages at [hauntedhalsted.com](http://hauntedhalsted.com).

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Photos By Anthony Meade





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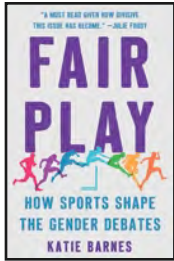
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# GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

**"Fair Play: How Sports Shape the Gender Debates"** by Katie Barnes c.2023, St. Martin's Press \$29.00 304 pages



The jump shot happened so quickly, so perfectly.

Your favorite player was in the air in a heartbeat, basketball in hand, wrist cocked. One flick and it was all swish, three points, just like that, and your team was ahead. So are you watching men's basketball or women's basketball? Or, as in the new book, "Fair Play" by Katie Barnes, should it really matter?

For sports fans, this may come as a surprise: we categorize sports according to gender.

Football, baseball, wrestling: male sports. Gymnastics, volleyball: women's sports. And yet, one weekend spent cruising around television shows you that those sports are enjoyed by both men and women – but we question the sexuality of athletes who dare (gasp!) to cross invisible lines for a sport they love.

How did sports "become a flash point for a broader conversation...?"

Barnes takes readers back first to 1967, when Kathrine Switzer and Bobbi Gibb both ran in the Boston Marathon. It was the first time women had audaciously done so and while both finished the race, their efforts didn't sit well with the men who made the rules.

"Thirty-seven words" changed the country in 1972 when Title IX was signed, which guaranteed there'd be no discrimination in extracurricular events, as long as "Federal financial assistance" was taken. It guaranteed availability for sports participation for millions of girls in schools and colleges. It also "enshrine[d] protections for queer and transgender youth to access school sports."

So why the debate about competition across gender lines?

First, says Barnes, we can't change biology, or human bodies that contain both testosterone and estrogen, or that some athletes naturally have more of one or the other – all of which factor into the debate. We shouldn't forget that women can

and do compete with men in some sports, and they sometimes win. We shouldn't allow overinflated numbers of trans athletes to stand, and we shouldn't ignore the presence of transgender men in sports.

What we should do, Barnes says, is to "write a new story. One that works better."

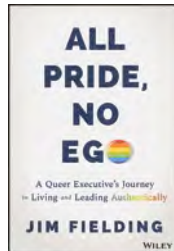
Here are two facts: Nobody likes change. And everybody has an opinion.

Keep those two statements in mind when you read "Fair Play." They'll keep you calm in this debate, as will author Katie Barnes' lack of flame-fanning.

As a sports fan, an athlete, and someone who's binary, Barnes makes thing relatively even-keel in this book, which is a breath of fresh air in what's generally ferociously contentious. There's a good balance of science and social commentary here, and the many, many stories that Barnes shares are entertaining and informative, as well as illustrative. Readers will come away with a good understanding of where the debate lies.

But will this book make a difference? Maybe. Much will depend on who reads and absorbs it. Barnes offers plenty to ponder but alas, you can lead a homophobic horse to water but you can't make it think. Still, if you've got skin in this particular bunch of games, find "Fair Play" and jump on it.

**"All Pride, No Ego: A Queer Executive's Journey to Living and Leading Authentically"** by Eddie Ndopu c.2023, Legacy Lit \$29.00 240 pages



Auditions are always nerve-wracking. Will the part be yours?

You sure practiced enough before you were judged – and that's what an audition is, a judgment. Can you handle the lines? Are you a fit for the part you want, or would you be better at a walk-on? Being someone else in a play is fun, but not always easy. Neither, says Jim Fielding in his new book "All Pride, No Ego," is being someone else at work.

Born in Toledo into a big extended clan, Jim Fielding says that it looked

like he was a member of "the perfect, nuclear family." The truth was, though, that "vulnerabilities and dysfunctions were numerous" and that included homophobia, which was a problem: when he was six years old, Fielding realized he was gay.

To cover for it, he became an overachiever with a lack of self-confidence and an abundance of insecurities. To help him to conquer his weaknesses, he built a great support system but still, "I wish I had a book like this when I was starting out in my career."

His first point here is his mantra: "Control the controllable, but leave space for the possible." "Color "within the lines" if you must, but do it at "a company whose ethics and values align with your own." If you're in control, set clear goals, "hire people who are smarter than you are" and get to know them well.

"Never stop learning." Accept that you can forgive without forgetting transgressions. Remember that if the job is right, you won't have to change who you fundamentally are. Learn to "define FAMILY however it works for you..." Know the difference between want and need. Trust your intuition, tamp down impulsiveness, but be flexible – which will help you attract and keep the best team possible. Know that selfishness is a righteous thing sometimes.

Strive always for "cultures of excellence."

And always "leave [your] corner of the world a better place than [you] found it." Donate. Volunteer. Do good.

In his preface, author Jim Fielding says that he wrote this book because he "realized that my leadership style and success... are completely dependent on my personal journey." Those words should alert readers that "All Pride, No Ego" is preponderantly a memoir, which isn't a bad thing but it bears mentioning.

If you don't have the patience it takes for rambling stories, you won't like this book at all, in fact. Fielding is a storyteller, and he smartly uses his experiences to show, not tell, in a way that's pleasant and relatable for anyone who's ever struggled at work. Yes, the workplace tales mean that business advice is sometimes embedded, sometimes apparent, and sometimes down a rabbit hole for you to follow but for most readers, it'll be a useful scavenger hunt.

While this book is perhaps best for the person who's looking for a first job or who just found one and is sweating to fit in, "All Pride, No Ego" is worthwhile for anyone. Enjoy the memoir, find the helpful parts.

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# Chicago Bathhouse Stands Up to Hate Raising \$20,000 For the ACLU/Drag Defense Fund



# STEAM WORKS

BATHS

Steamworks Chicago like so many other LGBTQ+ businesses, wanted to do something to fight the daily barrage and persecution of drag queens and transgender Americans. “Drag is not a crime. Being trans is not a crime” said Nirmalpal Sachdev, GM Steamworks Chicago. There are over 600 bills circulating in various state houses targeting the trans and drag community nationwide and they need representation and support to fight back. “We are grateful for this generous contribution from Steamworks Chicago,” said Edwin Yohnka, director of communications and public policy at the ACLU of Illinois. “The commitment reflects the need for each of us to step up and defend LGBTQ+ rights as they are under attack across the country. With the help of folks from all across the country, the ACLU is committed to fighting for LGBTQ+ equality and protecting the right of free expression for Drag performers.” A Chicago bathhouse and the ACLU/ Drag Defense Fund joining forces may make you scratch your head and go...what? In fact, that’s exactly what the ACLU thought when Steamworks Chicago approached them with their

fundraising idea back in March. They knew they had a winning concept to raise over \$10,000 for the Drag Defense Fund. They just had to convince the ACLU they were serious.

The meetings went deep. The ACLU needed to make sure this was done in accordance with their fundraising guidelines and they had to make sure Steamworks Chicago was serious about their intentions. “We’re so grateful the ACLU took the time to listen to our wacky fundraising proposal. Every year we create a special collectors VIP membership for International Mr. Leather in May and Market Days in August call it our VIP/Black Card. The card has a sexy fetish image on it and we thought what if we donate 10% of all sales for this 2023 VIP/Black Card starting May 1st through August 15th to the ACLU/Drag Defense Fund?” said Nirmalpal Sachdev, Steamworks Chicago. The company went a step further, held a photo shoot with San Francisco fetish drag performer Grace Towers to be the face of the 2023 VIP/Black Card. The card was a hit and Steamworks Chicago outpaced their own goal of \$10,000 and instead raised

\$20,000 for the ACLU/Drag Defense Fund. “It’s not about whether we have drag performances here or not, it’s about standing up to hate against the LGBTQ+ community.”

*Steamworks Chicago is a well-known Chicago bathhouse providing a safe and social space for the MSM community to engage, have fun and explore all sides of themselves. To learn more about upcoming events here go to*

**[www.steamworksbaths.com/chicago](http://www.steamworksbaths.com/chicago)**. Twitter (X): @steamworksCHI Instagram: @steamieschitown

*The American Civil Liberties Union is an American nonprofit human rights organization founded in 1920. The organization strives "to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States". [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)*



Photo By Anthony Meade

## Steamworks Check Presentation to the ACLU

Pictured(Lto R)**Madrid Magdaleno**-Steamworks Staff, **Ruben Gomez**-Steamworks Staff, **Eva Styles**-Drag Performer, **Gabriel Pachter**-ACLU Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives and Team Operations, **Agustin Munguia**-Steamworks Assistant Manager, **Luis Gomez**-ACLU Events and Supporter Communications Specialist, **Joan Waters**-Drag Performer, **Fox E. Kim**-Drag Performer, **Martin Hernandez**-Steamworks Staff, **Nirmalpal Sachdev**-GM Steamworks Chicago, **Jony Melgar**-Steamworks Staff, (Behind Jony sunglasses on) **Jose Alvarez**-Steamworks Night Manager,**David Tasco**-Steamworks Staff.

Under the checkLeft side under the check-**Alejandro Malaga**-Steamworks Staff  
Right side under the check-**Alfredo Espinosa**-Steamworks Facilities Manager

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE  
THEATRE ALLIANCE CO-  
PRESENT  
"PRIETO"  
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT  
OCTOBER 20-22**



Chicago Shakespeare Theater and the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (CLATA) co-present *Prieto*, an autobiographical coming-of-age story written and performed by Yosimar Reyes. This production is part of *Destinos*, the 6th Chicago International Latino Theater Festival, a cultural high point of our city's Latino Heritage Month showcasing Latin theater artists and companies from Chicago, the US and Latin America. *Prieto* runs in a limited engagement for one weekend only, October 20-22, 2023 in the theater Upstairs at Chicago Shakespeare.

In this defiant and joyful celebration of self-discovery, Reyes gives a playful performance as his younger self, taking audiences on a journey through his childhood growing up queer with an overprotective grandmother in East San Jose. Against a backdrop of poverty and politics, Reyes comes to understand the complex intersection of his queerness and identity as an undocumented American, navigating topics typically entrenched in struggle with levity. *Prieto* is performed in English with moments of Spanish. The production is directed by Kat Evasco and Sean San José, featuring the visual art of projection designer Joan Osato and set designer Tanya Orellana. *Prieto* is produced by the Living World Project. Yosimar Reyes is a nationally acclaimed poet and public speaker. Born in Guerrero, Mexico, and raised in Eastside San Jose, Reyes explores the themes of migration and sexuality in his work. The Advocate named Reyes one of "13 LGBT Latinos Changing the World" and *Remezcla* included Reyes on their list of "10 Up and Coming Latinx Poets You Need to Know." His first collection of poetry, *For Colored Boys Who Speak Softly...* was self-published after a collaboration with

the legendary Carlos Santana. His work has also been published in various online journals and books including *Mariposas: An Anthology of Queer Modern Latino Poetry*, *Queer in Aztlan: Chicano Male Recollections of Consciousness and Coming Out*, and the forthcoming *Joto: An Anthology of Queer Xicano & Chicano Poetry*. Reyes was featured in the documentary, *2nd Verse: The Rebirth of Poetry*.

For more information or to buy tickets, contact the Box Office at **312.595.5600** or visit the Theater's website at [www.chicagoshakes.com](http://www.chicagoshakes.com).

**FLEETWOOD- JOURDAIN  
THEATRE ANNOUNCES  
CASTING FOR "THIS BITTER  
EARTH", TO PLAY OCTOBER  
28-NOVEMBER 12**



Casting has been announced for the final production of Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre's 2023 season, the two-character drama *THIS BITTER EARTH*, by Harrison David Rivers. Rivers is a St. Paul, Minnesota-based playwright whose plays have been produced by such leading companies as New York's Roundabout Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Center, Seattle Public, TheatreWorks Hartford, and Penumbra. Set between 2012 and 2015 against the events of the Black Lives Matter movement, *THIS BITTER EARTH* is a drama about an interracial gay male couple who must navigate the differences in their backgrounds and attitudes toward activism, in addition to the other challenges of committed relationships. FJT Artistic Director Tim Rhoze will direct. It will play October 28 - November 12, 2023.

Rhoze's cast will include Matthew Lolar-Johnson as the introspective Black playwright Jesse Howard, and Tiemen Godwaldt as Neil Finley-Darden, a white Black Lives Matter activist from a privileged East Coast background. Lolar-Johnson's credits include *CHOIR BOY* and *1919* at Steppenwolf Theatre. Godwaldt comes to Fleetwood-Jourdain with

extensive credits with The Acting Company of South Bend, Indiana, where he has played such iconic roles as Prior Walter in *ANGELS IN AMERICA* and David O. Selznick in *MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS*. The production team includes Tim Rhoze (Director/Co-Set Designer/Sound Designer), David Goodman-Edberg (Lighting Designer), Bria Walker (Costumer), and Shane Rogers (Technical Director/Co-Set Designer). Performances will be Saturdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 3:00 pm, at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre in the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Tickets are \$30.00 and are on sale now at [www.fjtheatre.com](http://www.fjtheatre.com).

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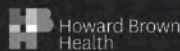
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