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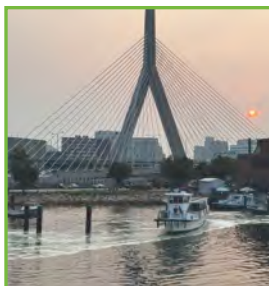
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GRAB ANDY



Photo By Sean Black

Bell of the ball: An interview with Andy Bell

By Gregg Shapiro

Even though it's been 10 years between Andy Bell solo albums (if you don't count Bell's "Torsten" side projects), the gay music icon hasn't exactly been sitting idly by. As one half of Erasure, Bell (and Vince Clarke) released about a half dozen studio albums. But now Bell is back with the fabulous "Ten Crowns" (Crown Recordings Limited). Glittering with Bell's trademark vocals and enough dance beats to take you on the "galactic journey" he references on album opener "Breaking Thru The Interstellar." Andy was gracious enough to make time for an interview in advance of his upcoming tour dates. **[Andy Bell performs on November 7 + 8 in Chicago at Metro.]**

Gregg Shapiro: Andy, I'd like to begin by congratulating you on being one of the Pride ICON winners at the 2025 Peugeot Attitude Pride Awards Europe. What does an honor such as this mean to you?

Andy Bell: It's really flattering

because I'm an old bird now [laughs]. I'm 61 years old. I think just to have a little nudge from the powers that be to remind the young ones that we're still around [laughs]. There were some people that existed before they did and fought for their right to be as comfortable as they are, even though we're under attack, again.

GS: What is the significance of the title of your new album, "Ten Crowns?"

AB: To be honest, it's not really that significant. It's my third solo record, and it's been 10 years since the last record. We were trying to think of a title, and it just so happened I had 10 (dental) crowns done in Miami. I thought, "Ten Crowns, that sounds really good." It kind of sounds like a reference to a semi-royal something or other. I thought it's good enough for a title.

GS: Dave Audé, who produced "Ten Crowns," also co-wrote all the songs on the album with you. Please say something about how

that creative collaboration works.

AB: Dave is really amazing. I have three or four people I trust in my life, studio-wise. One is Vince Clark, one is Dave Audé, and one is Gareth Jones, the recording producer. I've had a kind of working relationship with Dave Audé for the past 12 years or so. We had a couple of Billboard number ones on the dance charts quite a while ago. We carried on writing as an exercise in between. He moved his family from LA to Nashville. He's such a sweet guy, and he's so untainted by the record business after being in it for so long. He's a straight man, and he comes from Utah, but he has the sensibility of a bear [laughs].

GS: That's a great sensibility to have. You're saying he's warm and fuzzy?

AB: Basically, he's warm and fuzzy, and he cares, times ten.

GS: Sisely Treasure, whom folks will remember from Cooler Kids, co-wrote "Put Your Empathy On



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Ice" with you and Dave, and she also sings with you on the track. How did this collaboration come to be?

AB: That came about because she had already written the song with Dave. Cooler Kids also did a tour with Erasure, and (Sisely's former band) Shiny Toy Guns is my husband's favorite band. I didn't realize how versatile Sisely was with her voice and stuff. She'd written this song, and the verse was something like, "I stand on the side of your grave and I mourn the blah blah blah..." I thought I'd like to make it something that's still a bit dark but much more uplifting. We rewrote the chorus and the verses just so it sounded a bit more like David Bowie.

GS: Speaking of collaborations, does the song "DHDQ," from your 2010 album, "Non-Stop," have anything to do with Debbie Harry's guest appearance on the "Ten Crowns" song "Heart's a Liar"?

AB: It doesn't, but I suppose we could put one and one together and get three [laughs] because Debbie's my total heroine; she always has been. When I wrote that "Debbie Harry drag queen" song, it was it was by no means any disrespect to her. It was really an ode to her being the queen of New York and the queen of punk. Somebody did ask her if she felt like a drag queen, and she goes, "Oh, well, I suppose so [laughs]." I would not exactly call her look drag. It was just a bit of trickery with the lyrics.

GS: In keeping with your collaborative work, you have a long history of collaboration, not just in Erasure with Vince Clarke, but in your solo career, from your k.d. lang duet on "No More Tears (Enough is Enough)" from "The Coneheads" soundtrack to Jake Shears and Claudia Brucken who appeared as guest artists on your "Electric Blue." What makes you so good at playing well with others, Andy?

AB: I love meeting people. If we click, especially when you're in the studio together, it's such good fun. It's hilarious! Writing together with Boy George is hilarious. If I'm doing remixes for people – I did one for Sandra Bernhard, one for Amanda Lear, and one for Goldfrapp – and I

love the person, I'll add vocals to them as well without telling them, so it's like a really nice surprise [laughs] when they get the remix. Usually, they ask me for another one, and I'm like, "Oh, haven't got time!"

GS: It's the Bell bonus!

AB: Yes, that's what it is!

GS: In "Dance For Mercy," you sing about what sounds like a near-death experience.

AB: I've had a few [laughs]. I've never seen the light, though. Maybe I'm going to hell [laughs]. You know how all the people talk about going towards the light? I've never seen it. That's why I've always thought that it's not my turn yet. My nan always had this turn of phrase that you're too wicked for this world, which kind of meant you're an angel, really.

GS: I love the "Diamonds Are Forever" reference in "Dawn of Heaven's Gate." Have you ever had the chance to meet Shirley Bassey?

AB: I have not. If I did, we would probably have a field day, I'm sure. She loves to drink, she's from Wales, I love Welsh voices. Her voice is incredible. She's got one of the most amazing voices in the world ever. I think we would get on like a house on fire.

GS: "Dawn of Heaven's Gate" also includes lyrics in Spanish that echo what you sing in English.

AB: We've never had a hit in Spain, for one [laughs]. We're huge in South America. We had a guy in the studio; the engineer was from Chile. I thought that it would be wonderful to have the lines translated into Spanish, just to let the people know what I'm singing about. Usually they



Photo By Sean Black

can't speak English, so they just go by the feeling of the lyric. I wanted them to know that this is the kind of thing that I write about.

GS: You are embarking on a multi-city solo U.S. tour from October into December. What are you most looking forward to about being on tour?

AB: We've got a great team. We've got an amazing band. We've got a great tour manager. (Andy's husband) Steve's gonna be on tour with me. We've already got the show down pat. It's a great mixture of all the new songs and Erasure classics. I'm looking forward to celebrating with our fans and the local people. We just have a great, wild time. We had some shows in Germany, Denmark, and the UK, already. It was so hot in those places. 100 degrees on the stage. Hopefully, it's gonna be just as steamy [laughs].

GS: I had the pleasure and privilege of hanging out with you several years ago when you were DJing at Smart Bar in Chicago. Will you be including DJ dates in your schedule while you are on tour?

AB: Funny you should say that, because I just asked Stephen about

maybe getting a Pioneer for the desktop so I can start doing remixes. I can feel it stirring in my blood. You're probably a bit psychic there.

GS: Better psychic than psychotic, I always say.[Laughs]
"Wonderland," the debut album by Erasure, will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2026. Is there anything special in the works to mark the occasion?

AB: Apart from the Erasure shows that we have in September, and Vince and I writing already for a new record, there aren't any special celebrations planned, so far, for the "Wonderland" anniversary. But I think it's time for a high-energy resurgence, and we caught the very end of it in 1985, 1986, post-Frankie Goes to Hollywood, was the death of the clone. We missed the boat a bit on that record. Hopefully, it will be rediscovered.

GS: Finally, I now live in Fort Lauderdale, and I know you also spend time here in South Florida, where we are at the mercy of a



relentlessly anti-LGBTQ governor and his evil cronies. Do you have any words of wisdom to share with our queer community?

AB: I would just like to say if you don't need any fashion designers or

production teams for your theater, or you don't need any TV, people fair enough. But you know you're not gonna have the same look that you have now. No style! They need us, and we need them, full stop.



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GRAB KATE



“Rainbows” bright: An interview with Kate Pierson

By Gregg Shapiro

It's likely a testament to the commitment of the members of the B-52s that each of its remaining long-term members; Kate Pierson, Fred Schneider, and Cindy Wilson, has only released two albums apiece under their own names over the course of the band's 45-year recording career. Pierson's latest album, “Radio & Rainbows” (Long Meadow Music/Crush Music/SongVest Records), arrives 9½ years after 2015's “Guitars and Microphones” (anyone else see a pattern here?). Dedicated to Pierson's wife, Monica Nation, the album takes Pierson in a variety of musical directions, including dance (“Take Me Back to the Party,” co-written with Jimmy Harry, and the soaring “Wings”), the suitably spooky “Every Day Is Halloween” (co-written with and featuring Sia), the island breeze of “Pillow Queen” (don't miss the music video!), the funky “Dream On” and “Living In a Monet” (featuring queer musician Gail Ann Dorsey), as well as the colorful title cut. Pierson, who played some solo shows over the summer, is joining her B-52s bandmates for what sounds like an

amazing tour as they hit the road with Devo. The delightful Kate made time for an interview in advance of the tour.

Gregg Shapiro: Kate, your 2015 solo debut album was titled “Guitars and Microphones” and your 2024 follow-up solo album was titled “Radio & Rainbows.” What can you tell us about your fondness for the coordinating conjunction?

Kate Pierson: “Guitars and Microphones” is the name of one of the songs on my first album. I didn't plan on that being the name of the album, but it had a good ring to it. The song itself is pretty autobiographical in a lot of ways, about my childhood and having a protest band with my friends in high school. That song meant a lot to me. Then I thought, “I have a song called “Radio & Rainbows might as well...” That song means a lot to me, too, because it has a lot of political references in it and it's prescient, if I may use that word, with rainbows and rainbow flags. I think it's good.

GS: You co-wrote the song “Every

Day Is Halloween” on “Radio & Rainbows” with Sia (Furler) with whom you also co-wrote six songs on “Guitars & Microphones.” What do you like best about collaborating with Sia?

KP: That was also (written) with Sam Dixon. I love to collaborate. The way the B-52s have always written has been, with some exceptions, by jamming together. Even the instrumental part, usually, started out as kind of jamming. We'd all jam together, and that way, a very unusual, collective unconscious and consciousness comes forth, that melds the craziness of all our minds and melds. All this stuff that is swirling in our brains comes out in a very unconscious way; an unconscious way from the subconscious. That kind of template has always worked for me. But when I started working with Sia, she had already co-written a lot of songs with these different sorts of star songwriters: Jimmy Harry, who wrote with Madonna, and Chris Braide, who works with Lana Del Rey and a lot of other artists, and Sia, of course, I was kind of terrified. We would go to the writing session, and

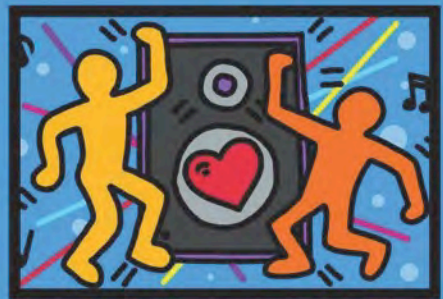
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I didn't know who this person was, but it worked every time. Then Sia's career started really blowing up in the middle of this, and so I started going by myself to these writing sessions. I worked with this artist named Bleu McAuley. We did all this in L.A., and the collaborations with every person I went to meet and play with and jam with worked. I was amazed at how it all clicked, and it was fun. I just continued that process, and one of the songs on (the) "Radios & Rainbows" (album), "Every Day is Halloween," that I wrote back then, it was the first song, and I don't remember why I didn't put it on "Guitars & Microphones," but it wound up on this album.

GS: The new music video for "Pillow Queen," from the album "Radios & Rainbows," features drag queens Billy LaMour and Raja Gemini, and the song "Mister Sister," about a drag queen called Debbie Delicious, appeared on "Guitars and Microphones."

Please say a few words about the role that drag queens play in your life.

KP: When the B-52s formed, people said Cindy and I were drag queens! I think drag queens have always been so important to the gay community, as have trans people, and the whole rainbow of different LGBTQ+. We've always had trans people and drag queens in our lives, and as friends. They were always friends. Going to the Pyramid Club or different clubs in New York, there'd always be a drag queen. It was just a natural part of the whole community. Who would ever dream that they would be pilloried, and treated today as outcasts? It's just horrible! But back then, it was such a joyful part of the community. Drag queens have always been important and friends. Of course, RuPaul was in our "Love Shack" video. We went to see RuPaul back when we lived in Athens. We went to Atlanta. RuPaul had a band called Wee Wee Pole and we went to see them perform. RuPaul was so amazing and positive and wonderful. I always saw drag queens as fairy godmothers. The performances, the joy, and the fun of drag queens was always present. Drag queens have always been a symbol, kind of the face of Pride parades and performances.

Especially now, since they've been sort of banned, I wanted to feature them. John Stapleton, who's done most of my videos, has sort of taken the reins on doing the videos. He did "Evil Love" and he did others. We work together on that. I've known Billy LaMour. I would have liked to feature more drag queens, but getting availability and trying to cut to the chase [laughs]... two drag queens equal many!

GS: The "Pillow Queen" video is set at a drive-in theater. Do you have any drive-in movies or memories you'd like to share with the readers?

KP: Drive-in movies go along with my love of Airstream trailers. It's a kind of mid-century pipe dream to have. Going to the drive-in in your Airstream. They always say a lot of the B-52s' references are sci-fi, B-movies, and surf, and all this kind of stuff mixed together. I think drive-in movies have a special place there in the list of influential things that are kind of a nostalgic dream. There is a great drive-in theater on the Cape, and every year they are always showing "Jaws."

GS: Is that the one in Wellfleet?

KP: Yes, it's in Wellfleet. There's nothing like a drive-in. Being outside, and of course, there's always the make-out factor.

GS: Speaking of drive-ins and movies, you were in the Indigo Girls-inspired film "Glitter & Doom." How did that come about, and what was that experience like for you?



KP: They asked me to be part of it. It was a very small part. I've known the Indigo Girls forever. They're compatriots and they're Georgia girls. I saw them last year at the Town Hall in Provincetown. I said yes when they asked me to be in the movie. They came to my personal studio and workspace here in Woodstock (New York). I record my own vocals there a lot of time and rehearse. Oh, my God, they tricked out the place! I believe it was during COVID-edge time. They put plastic everywhere. It looked like a kill room; there was so much plastic. They set it all up there, so it was easy. I went down the road and did my part.

GS: You mentioned the title track, and the song "Dream On," both of which sound, to my ears like you are making a political statement. Am I on the right track, and if so, how important was it to you to include a song such as this one on the album?

KP: I think it's very important to speak out now. As the B-52s, we never wanted to hit people over the head with political messages, but we definitely had them in there. Especially on things like "Channel Z" and other songs that referenced politics. It's never a conscious decision, especially on the "Radios &





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Photos By Ken Brown



Rainbows" album. In fact, I was re-recording some demos I had at Dreamland, where we recorded "Comic Thing." I asked Tracy Wormworth, who plays with the B-52s, and Sterling Campbell, who plays drums with the B-52s, and Ken Mauri, who plays keyboards and second guitar with the B-52s, when we were through recording the finished songs, to jam. We were there in the studio, and they started playing a riff, and I spontaneously came up with lyrics for "Dream On," suggested by the music. The idea may be in my consciousness somewhere, but I had no intention of writing a political song like that. Then I had to rearrange the parts a little bit, and I had a lot of fun with that song. It sort of harkens to Patti Smith's "People Have the Power."

GS: Yes, I also thought that. Additionally, I love the dance-oriented and funkier songs such as "Wings," "Take Me Back To The Party," "Evil Love," "Living in a Monet," and "Every Day Is Halloween." Are dance and funk part of your musical vocabulary?

KP: Absolutely! When I'm working out in my gym, the first thing I do to warm up is say, "Alexa, play 'Hot Pants' by James Brown." She's answering now, I hear her in the other room. She's gonna play "Hot Pants." Of course, the B-52s started as a dance band. We always love to dance. I still love to dance every chance I get. We dance around the house a lot. I love any kind of funk and soul, and I also love African and Brazilian music. My taste is very eclectic. I love old-style country music. I love Willie Nelson, and I love Bebel Gilberto, and I love French music and some rap. But my favorite music is funk and soul.

GS: Just a little over three years ago, the B-52s announced its

farewell tour. However, beginning in the fall of 2025, you and the band will be embarking on a concert tour with Devo. Not that I want the B-52s to ever stop performing, but how did this change come about?

KP: Well, I always said it was the Cher-well Tour. I never said farewell, actually.



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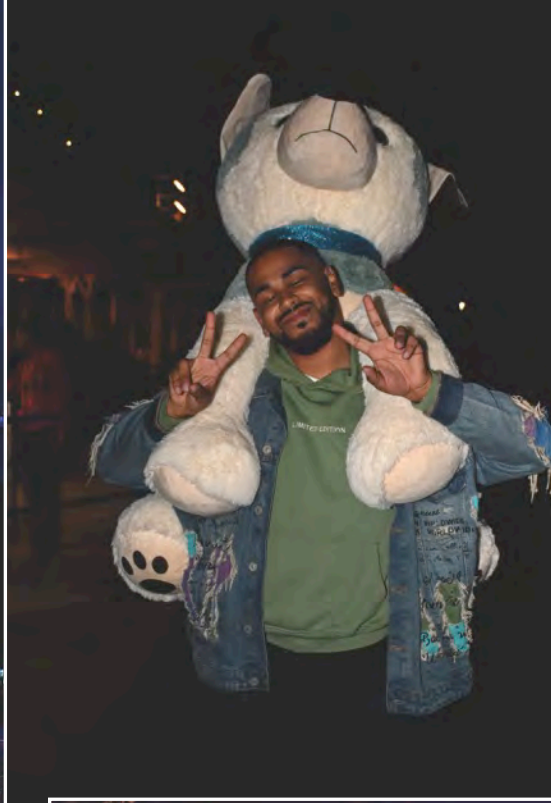
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GRAB A PLANE



The San Francisco of the East: Historic Boston Never Disappoints

By Bill Malcolm

I visited Boston not once but twice on back to back trips for work recently. Boston is a walker's paradise full of stories about the founding of our country. It's a vibrant city with many universities, top-notch transit, interesting unique neighborhoods, and part of the entire New England charm. I stayed in the Seaport District which is close to South Boston and filled with new walking trails, beaches, parks, restaurants, and hotels. It reminded me of my former home, San Francisco: very walkable, interesting unique neighborhoods, an international flair (lots of foreign visitors including Quebecers), and expensive (\$2800 for a one bedroom apartment, \$300+ a night for a hotel).

WHERE TO STAY

The Omni Boston at the Seaport (450 Summer Street) was outstanding. It featured a great outdoor pool and fitness center. Great food. Spacious rooms. Get a larger room in the Portrait Tower (avoid the Artist Tower with its smaller rooms). Just steps to the World Trade Center transit station with the free Silver Line bus. Walkable to the Harbor attractions, Ptown Ferry and more.

For my second trip, I stayed at the Aloft Hotel in Seaport. A Marriott Hotel, it has a Brazilian steak house on the property and a Dunkin' and liquor store nearby (and is across the street from the Convention Center). Warning: You may pay an annoying \$35 resort fee (aka amenity fee or destination fee) if you don't come in with a conference. Get a room facing the warehouse district (quieter) but you can still watch the planes land at Logan and have a view of the harbor and South Boston.

Both hotels are in the Seaport District (a revitalized industrial area along the harbor where the convention center is located) and are just north of South Boston and the extremely cute Broadway Avenue District filled with independent shops and restaurants and the only CVS in the area. While the Seaport area is a bit touristy if not plastic, you can easily escape just walk a half-mile to South Boston where you can explore the area or even take the #9 bus to the Club Café.

WHAT TO DO

Tour the USS Constitution and Museum at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston National Historic Park highlights the story of "Old Ironside" and was built in 1794. Nearby are

the historic Bunker Hill and Bunker Hill Museum. From there you can walk the historic Freedom Trail back to the city through the historic North End/Italian Village. Don't miss the Paul Revere House.

The Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum (306 Congress) highlights that the sons of Liberty pitched tea from three British ships into Boston Harbor to impose the British tea tax in 1773. You can even toss some fake tea into Boston Harbor. Explore the Seaport District including the Seaport Commons, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Boston Children's Museum, and Fan Pier Park.

Enjoy an outdoor concert at the Leader Bank Amphitheatre.

NIGHTLIFE

I loved the Club Café (209 Columbus Avenue). They have free cabaret shows. Lots of singers in the audience also performed the night I was there. You can order dinner, but the food is so-so. They also have a dance area, video bar, and a theater. It's my favorite bar in Boston (and there are only a few – amazing for a big city). I hear the gay life is over in Provincetown, a short 60+ minute ferry ride away. In fairness, Dani's just opened. It is a new women's bar.



GETTING THERE

I took American Airlines for my two trips. One trip went through (awful) Philadelphia Airport where overpriced restaurants have replaced much of the seating to wait for your flight. The corridors are extremely crowded, and you have to stand to wait for your flight. AVOID PHL. I have transferred to American and Delta in defiance of my once favorite, Southwest, which has stabbed loyalists in the back with its plethora of new fees and anti-consumer policies.

WHERE TO EAT

Legal Seafoods overlooks the Harbor and is exceptionally good. Lots of Italian Food everywhere as well as clam chowder and lobster

rolls.

TRAVEL TIPS

Boston hotels are expensive and many tack on a resort or other junk fee of around \$35 a night. Take the free SL 1 bus from the airport to the World Trade Center station (if you are staying in Seaport) or to the T (subway) station to connect to anywhere. Logan Airport also has a ferry service to the mainland! It's so close to downtown you won't need (or want) a rental car, much less an UBER. Boston has excellent transportation. You can pay by just tapping your credit card at some stations. Otherwise it is \$2.40. And everyone takes transit. Plan your trip to mbta.com.

Boston Spirit is the LGBTQ magazine of New England. Bay

Windows is still around but is down to just a few pages. Plan your trip at meetboston.com.

Amtrak operates from both the South and North Stations. Boston has excellent Amtrak service as well as regional rail, subway, ferries, and buses. You cannot beat a trip to Boston to learn about the history of our country. I cannot wait to go back. You will be asking yourself (like I did): How did I never live here? Such a great city!

Bill Malcolm is North America's only syndicated LGBTQ value travel columnist who has written over 100 columns over the last 10 years which have run in LGBTQ publications, been posted on the IGLTA.org website, and appeared in other forums.



Happy 11th Anniversary



Photos By Anthony Meade



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EVERY **TUESDAY**

boyz night

GUYS UNDER 25 GET IN FREE*
THURSDAYS 4pm-4am

TM4M
trans men 4 men
every 3rd
monday
8pm-2am

SATURDAY NIGHT @
the Baths WITH **DJ J-DADDY**
SATURDAYS 11PM-5AM

FareJass
MTF4M
TRANSWOMEN NIGHT
AT THE BATHS
4TH MONDAYS, 8PM-MIDNIGHT
WITH OUR HOST **KIMME FOX**

BEAR HUNTER
2ND WEDNESDAYS, 6-9PM

SUNDAY SERVICE

SUNDAYS 2PM-8PM
WITH **DJ CLUB CHOW & DJ JUNKY**

FRIDAY NIGHT @

FRIDAYS 10PM-4AM
WITH **DJ HARRY CROSS**

BEARS
THE BATHS BEYOND

THE ORIGINAL BEARS BATHHOUSE EVENT
EVERY 4TH SATURDAY, 1PM-6PM
WITH **DJ JESSE MERCADO**
FOOD, MUSIC, AND HOT HUNKY MEN

CUM UNION
THE INFAMOUS DOWN & DIRTY BATHHOUSE EVENT
2ND MONDAYS & 3RD FRIDAYS

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

KARAOKE

WEDNESDAYS 10PM-1AM

THURSDAYS 10PM-1AM

FRIDAYS 9:30PM-1:30AM

SATURDAYS 10:30PM-2:30AM

SUNDAYS 8PM-MIDNIGHT

**POWERED BY
KARAFUN**

3162 N CLARK

**WEDNESDAY IS
NERD NIGHT!**
SING SONGS FROM FLIGHT
OF THE CONCHORDS, LONELY
ISLAND, JONATHAN COULTON
& MUCH MORE. AS ALWAYS,
TONS OF SONGS FROM
MUSICAL THEATRE!



IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

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

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months, and may give you HBV medicine.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Talk to your healthcare provider about the risks of breastfeeding during treatment with BIKTARVY.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ Those in the "Most Important Information About BIKTARVY" section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that may have been hidden in your body. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

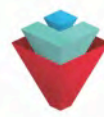
- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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BIKTARVY® is the #1 prescribed*
HIV treatment for 6 years.

Source: IQVIA LAAD, July 2018 through July 2024.*



BIKTARVY®
bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg/
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

People featured are compensated by Gilead.



Hugo

68-ish, taking
BIKTARVY
for 7 years

Scan the QR code or visit
BIKTARVYStories.com
to learn more

*Age
is just a
number*

Sixty-something years of *Stories* to tell

Hugo is still undetectable with BIKTARVY. *Undetectable* means the virus in his blood is so low that it can't be measured in a lab test.

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults.
BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.

*This information is an estimate derived from the use of information under license from the following IQVIA information service: IQVIA LAAD, for the period July 2018 through July 2024. IQVIA expressly reserves all rights, including rights of copying, distribution, and republication.

Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and at BIKTARVY.com.

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

Daily Specials;

MONDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlies: Half off Hennessy and Patron 7pm - 11pm ABC Bingo, 11pm Charlie's Live. Hydrate: Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. Shakers on Clark: Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. Steamworks: Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, \$5 Tecate Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend. 10/6 Full Moon Party and Contest.</p>
TUESDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlie's: \$4 You Call It's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm BS Karaoke, 11pm Baddies Block Party. 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, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, 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 New Amsterdam Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts Touche: Open 5pm - 4am. Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/ Wifi, 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock.</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlie's: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Boys and Booze. Jackhammer: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$4 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, 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 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Dua & Ariana 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 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check, 9/24 BNC 7:30pm.</p>
THURSDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlie's: 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm Mother Rebirth, 10pm - Power up Reloaded. 2nd Thursday of the Month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Scissor Sisters. 4th Thursday of the Month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Vinyl. Jackhammer: \$3 House Shots, \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. Shakers on Clark: \$1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks, Karaoke 10pm-1am. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursday! Pop Music Videos in Glass/Side Bars 9pm-2am, Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month in Main Bar, All Things K-Pop other Thursdays in Main Bar. Steamworks: Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. The Sofo Tap: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Stoli Mules (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts Touche: Open 5pm - 4am. Throwback Thursdays 70's & 80's Music & Porn By Bijou Video.</p>

FRIDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, 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 1pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st Friday of the Month 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Charlie's Presents. 2nd Friday: 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Glow Up. 3rd Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Thirst Trap. 4th Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars 11pm Haus of Charlie's. **Jackhammer:** \$8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, \$8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. **Meeting House Tavern:** HAPPY HOUR (5-8 PM): \$5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$6 Tito's Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR (3-6 PM): \$4 Signature Margaritas, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 9/19 Cowboy Round Up with ILGRA. 9/26 Oktoberfest Pretzel Toss, 103 Oktoberfest Bippie Play Party Tug- O-War Contest, 10/10 Snake Pit Party, 10/17 Cowboy Round Up with ILGRA.

SATURDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, 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 12pm-3am. **Charlie's:** 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Under the boots tonight. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots, \$8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, \$8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** HAPPY HOUR (2-5 PM): \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat Drafts, \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$8 WYNK THC, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Post-Brunch SaturGay Fun 1pm-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR: (12-3 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Signature Margaritas, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 5am. 9/20 Oktoberfest Begins! Gear Night barber & bootblack on duty Dress Code in Clubroom BNC. 9/27 RIPE PARTY Dim Lghts, Deep Beats, Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T. 10/11 Dungeon Master Night S&M Demo @ Midnight CWB 5pm. 10/18 GEAR NIGHT with BLUF/Chicago Barber & Bootblack on duty Dress Code in Clubroom BNC 6pm.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$6 Chicago Handshakes, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, 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 12pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month 5pm - 7pm Queeriod, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo, y Perreo. 2nd Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Drag U 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. 4th Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Boyfriend Material, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Jackhammer:** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): \$3 House Shots, \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **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:** \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm. **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 off Bloody Mary's, \$1 off Tito's Mules, and \$1 off all Revolution beers.. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR (1-3 PM): \$3 House Shots, FREE Hotdogs (while supplies last) ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$6 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust \$2 Draughts & Sodas Clubroom opens 6pm Movie Night 7pm, 10/5 Last Day of Oktoberfest.

**The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and online Tuesday October 21st (Halloween Issue) reserve your space today
Call 773-707-2660 or email GRABStacy@gmail.com**

GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of September

Visit nexusradio.fm



	Artist	Title
1	Martin Ikin x Hayley May	Rush
2	Sachi x Poppy Baskcomb	Holding Your Hand
3	Alok & Agents Of Time	Fever
4	Ryan Ennis x Carla Monroe	Blow My Mind
5	Chris Lake	Savana
6	Joki x Ridges	Don't Let Me Down (Radio Edit)
7	KSHMR	Wild Ride
8	Hugel X David Guetta X Kehlani & Daecolm	Think Of Me
9	Mergui	Risk It All (Altego Clean Remix)
10	Tate MCrae	Revolving Door (Lavern Remix Clean)
11	Mintd X Mesa & Boss	Right Here
12	James Alexandr & Autone	Boys & Girls Ft. Penelope
13	Dimitri Vegas X David Guetta X Loreen	Pum Pum (Liquid Version)
14	Aki Nair	Alibi (Edit)
15	Allegra	Wildfire
16	Kaskade X Lipless	State Of Mind
17	Rscl & Vassy	Beg
18	Agatino Romero	Ricochet
19	Timmy Trumpet & Zen It	Afterglow Ft. Anylia
20	Kaskade X Punctual	Heaven Knows Ft. Poppy Baskcomb (Andrea Botez Remix)
21	Alle Farben X Majestic	From Disco To Disco
22	Victoria Nadine x Kygo	Can't Get Enough
23	ILLENIUM x Norma Jean Martine	Refuge
24	Anabel Englund & Mary Droppinz	Born To Fly
25	Jules Liesl	Cherry (Mousse T. Slow Jam Remix)
26	Nimino X Maverick Sabre	Beside Of Me
27	Felix Jaehn x Nasri	Wake Up (With You Mine)
28	Charlie Shell & After Hours	Visions Ft. Asta
29	Loud Luxury	R U Down
30	Dancingfaraz	Take Control

BRINGING MUNICH TO CHICAGO
SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 5

Oktoberfest



AT

Touché

MÜNCHEN

\$6 PINTS

OF HOFBRAU'S
OKTOBERFEST BEER
(AS SERVED IN MUNICH)

WIN!

ENTER OUR OKTOBERFEST
RAFFLE TO WIN A NEW
LEATHER JACKET FROM



64TEN
CHICAGO

**DRAWING ON
SUNDAY OCTOBER 5**

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GRAB ROGER

Planning – Total Preparation

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

In a matter of weeks, the COVID-19 outbreak changed the world in completely unprecedented ways. Now with new political turmoil, ICE raids and the potential for National Guard troops patrolling the city, it is time to regroup and take note of available protections.

Plan for Incapacity. Carry with you a wallet card with contact information for emergency caretakers. If you have a pet at home, carry a pet card to inform emergency care providers that there is a pet in your house that needs care.

Have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) entry in the address book of your cell phone. That listing can help the paramedics call your LGBTQ partner, spouse or friend that you chose, if needed, while you are riding to the hospital in the ambulance. Also, make sure your apartment building, has updated contact information for you and who can enter your apartment and have access to the important documents to assist you. You may not want your niece that you have not seen in over 20 years gaining entry to your

apartment because she is your closest blood relative.

Share Finances. Everyone should make a will, power of attorney for property and power of attorney for health care. Share details of your financial affairs with your spouse or partner. This should include the location of all assets and vital documents such as insurance policies, passbooks, deeds etc. Each person should list the names, addresses and account numbers of every bank, mutual fund and brokerage account; policy numbers for health disability and life insurance policies; car registration and title numbers; credit card numbers; employer pension account numbers, and make sure the other person has a copy of your list. The lists should also include IRA accounts with beneficiaries, pension funds and profit sharing plans, annuities, safe deposit boxes, location of valuable antiques, jewelry etc.

Not Safekeeping Documents. You need not always give copies of your trusts, powers of attorney, etc. to other people (agents and fiduciaries) who may need to implement them. However, you should communicate to the

interested people their role, what kind of documents exist, and where they can find them if the need arises. If these people cannot reach the documents when needed, implementation will not be smooth. Many times clients do not know where their documents are. Keep copies in each person's car and suitcase when you travel.

Old Powers of Attorney. Powers of attorney are wonderful documents in theory. Working with them can sometimes be a chore, though, especially when trying to convince others (like banks) to accept them on their face. An "old" power of attorney is more difficult to deal with than a fresh one because a question arises as to whether it is still good or whether it has been replaced. I suggest that you "refresh" your



powers of attorney every two to three years by restating them.

Power of Attorney for Health Care. The agent and successor agent(s) under your health care power of attorney should be made aware of its existence and the location where it can be found in the event the agent needs a copy of it for purposes of implementation. The health care power of attorney is only effective if the agent is aware of it and can obtain a copy when it needs to be used. Further, it is your agent's or your responsibility to communicate the health care agency to your health care providers.

Though, I do recommend consulting with your attorney first, the powers of attorney forms can be bought in any office supply store and are available on-line if you do a Google search. Many organizations that serve seniors and disabled will post them on their websites, and the State of Illinois provides in their statutes the form language.

Outdated Beneficiary Designations. Always verify who the named beneficiaries are for each asset that does not pass through a will. Individuals will often name someone other than their LGBTQ partners/spouses as beneficiaries on employee benefits such as life insurance or 401(k) plans. It is extremely common for clients simply to forget that a previous unmarried partner or parent is still named on an IRA or life insurance policy.

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. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR YOUTH

You Are Not Alone

It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:

1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
3. Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
4. Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
 - Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
 - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
 - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
 - Recent increased agitation or irritability.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

Text or call 988 or chat 988lifeline.org, or reach out to a mental health professional.

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

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THINGS WITH FRIENDS

BY KRISTOFFER DIAZ DIRECTED BY DEXTER BULLARD

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Saturday, October 11 at 7 p.m.

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GRAB HOLLY

All's Faire for Fun and Frivolity

By Holly Maholm

Tracy had been so cowed by Penelope, Queen of the Unicorns (whom he had assumed was an ordinary horse) that he agreed the fund-raising event he was planning would benefit the Horse Rescue, rather than Donut Time. Wait... that's impossible. How could Penelope – a unicorn – possibly “cow” anyone? I must have mixed up my metaphors (or my quadrupeds). It was a mystery to me how – without the intercession of some overbearing and implacable heifer, which Penelope assuredly is not – Tracy could have been “cowed.” Nevertheless, Tracy showed every sign of having been caught frozen and immobile in the path of a cattle stampede, so we'll have to leave it there. Walking back to town, I assured Tracy, “Look, no matter where the money goes, you just concentrate on your event, and we'll work out your unpaid tab later.” He gratefully agreed. The format of Tracy's fund-raising event (as he explained it) was this: “People in this town – maybe everywhere – love an opportunity to play ‘Imaginary Dress-up.’ At Halloween, they love to dress up as a zombie or monster or ‘sexy nurse.’ Or maybe a ‘sexy cat,’ ‘sexy vampire’ or

‘sexy accountant.’ Dave has his high school students taking part in an on-going game of ‘Imaginary Roman Soldiers Training Camp,’ which has been super-successful for years. “Here's my plan: We'll organize one of those Renaissance Faires, where people of all ages can pretend they are in the Middle Ages, and they can dress-up as Brave Knights, Lords or Ladies, or even Slutty Tavern Wenches of Easy Virtue. We'll hold the Faire on Wellington Green, and all the merchants and restaurants can get lots of new business. These Faires have a website where you can go to learn where and when they will be held, and I've already got ours scheduled for early October.” He went on. “There's a wide variety of vendors who come to these events and sell special ‘Middle Ages’ accessories like helmets and armor, clothing peasants wore in 1046, and jewelry, footwear and flags. We'll get lots of those vendors, and we will charge them a fee to set-up on the green.” I could see the excitement in Tracy's eyes as he contemplated the fun of his “Festival in Honor of the Dark Ages” (before social media was invented). Tracy hurried off to check with his workers at the Bee, and I headed over to the stable, where I found Cindy

already hard at work inventing new ways to extract “ducats” (or whatever coins they had in those days) from her naïve and trusting customers. Seeing me, and guessing my purpose, she explained: “I'm expecting you want to see what irons I've got in the fire? There are so many money-making projects connected to this Dark Ages festival, and I only have time to arrange a few. The first one... well, I hope you won't object to me ‘resurrecting’ (that's a pun) one they actually used back then. You see, the Church was extremely powerful in those days, and they used to have their own, exclusive fund-raising scam, which was selling ‘Indulgences.’ The local priest would reach out to his flock and tell them, ‘Pay me 100 ducats



(or whatever), and I'll grant you a Divine Indulgence for your sins; so, if you die you won't be judged for those sins (and have to go to Hell).’

“My plan is... I'm going to do the same! I'll dress up as a priest or monk and walk around selling Indulgences. I'll Grab their money, then give them a coupon for a free ice cream cone from Tuco and Aly's Original Ice Cream Shop! ‘You say you want an Indulgence so you can taste a little bit of Heaven? No problem. I'll sell you one!’

“And here's another idea,” Cindy continued. “You know how, in the Dark Ages, people believed in witches? Okay, so I will sell ‘Dunk the Witch’ tickets, and if you and four of your friends buy tickets, then you can gather around one of your female friends and start chanting ‘Dunk the Witch! Dunk the Witch!’

“Then we jump into action! We give the alleged witch some privacy to change into her witch outfit (which we provide). After she's dressed, she has to sit on one end of the Dunking Stool (sort of like a teeter-totter) where she is lowered down into some water (one of the big watering troughs from the stable) and – according to the ‘Rules for Discovering Who's a Witch’ – if she sinks to the bottom (and drowns), she was _not_ a witch, whereas if she floats, then she's definitely a witch. Don't worry, we won't let anyone drown.

“It should be fun for the ‘alleged witch’ and all her friends to experience an authentic Dark Ages Witch Dunking, and who knows, maybe we'll even find a real witch or two!”

(To be continued)

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

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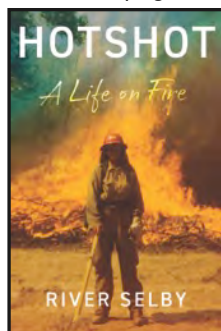
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GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"Hotshot: A Life on Fire" by River Selby c.2025, Atlantic Monthly Press \$27.00 326 pages



How ya doing?

Everything good? You need anything, something to drink, a plate of food, a hug, just say the word. If you're here, you should at least be happy about it. As in the new book "Hotshot" by River Selby, there's a problem if something's wrong.

River Selby never set out to be a hotshot firefighter.

They never set out to do anything, in fact, but to stay alive while doing drugs, selling sex for food and money, working as a stripper and a waitress, and living for a time with a man under a bridge. It wasn't the life they imagined when they became a runaway as a teenager. Fighting fires was never on the radar until too many losses and an "unraveled" life, bulimia and a series of fast-food jobs sent them into a deep depression. The suggestion from a friend, a lifeline thrown, made Selby realize that they "would have tried anything."

"A week later," they said, "I was hired. Two weeks after that I was on my way to New Mexico for my first fire assignment..."

Quickly and clearly, a big goal became apparent: Selby wanted to be a hotshot, to feel the "reverence" and camaraderie that elite firefighters enjoy, to know the excitement of chasing a raging fire – but they were told, "You can't be a hotshot. You're a girl."

Two years later, the dream was realized after all when they were hired as "the first woman" of a hotshot crew, a fact of which the supervisor reminded Selby constantly. Sexual harassment and constant put-downs instantly became on-the-job concerns, none of which could be reported for fear of reprisals. That intensified Selby's bulimia, sending them on an emotional tailspin, unsure of themselves and the root of the anxiety and feelings of inadequacy.

They sought therapy – and things again became clear.

"If you really believe that about yourself," a therapist told them, "then someone taught you to believe it."

In the past few months, there have been a lot of new memoirs about fighting fires, each as timely as the last. In the midst of them comes "Hotshot," which is absolutely not a made-for-TV book. It's different.

Yes, you'll find some danger inside here and some edge-of-your-seat pages but mostly, fires aren't all that need fighting in author River Selby's account. From the opening pages, they plainly let readers know that their back story isn't what you might expect from someone in a gutsy profession; in fact, this memoir might instead change your definition of "gutsy" as the actual fires they battled take somewhat of a back seat. In the fiery wake of #MeToo, that can get squirmy but Selby's stories from history, ecology, and geology make great ballast.

This is a worthy book for adventurers, and for readers who wonder what it's like for a woman in a deeply-swaggering world. "Hotshot" may rankle you, it may inspire you, it may open your eyes to your own soul, so find it and read. With this book, you'll love doing it.

"Mounted: On Horses, Blackness, and Liberation" by Bitter Kalli c.2025, Amistad \$22.00 192 pages



One thousand, two hundred pounds and four legs.

Put that between your knees and you'll find out what real horsepower is. You're five feet off the ground, moving as fast as a car on a downtown street, hooves pounding as hard as your heart. Dangerous? Maybe. But as you'll see in "Mounted" by Bitter Kalli, your ancestors did it and so can you.

When they were a young child, "around the age of six or seven," someone gave Bitter Kalli a set of "pony books," the kind that appeal to young girls, mostly white ones. Kalli wasn't entirely comfortable identifying as a girl then but they adored the books, in part because the stories

featured the kinds of friendships and acceptance Kalli wanted. After devouring those stories, they begged their parents for riding lessons from a nearby Brooklyn stable.

Fast forward to 2014, when Kalli was seventeen years old, an experienced equestrian, a trans individual, and a protester at college. During that protest, they watched the horses that carried the police, and wondered what those animals saw in the crowd.

For that matter, what did horses see throughout Black history?

In times of slavery, it was not uncommon for fleeing slaves to steal a horse or two to get away faster. Kalli shares heart-pounding tales of escape, sharing examples of how human chattel was often compared to that of equines in newspaper ads, as slaveholders mourned the latter loss much deeper than the former.

Many Americans are unaware of the rich contributions that African Americans made to the settling of the West. Kalli examines a popular movie, deconstructing it and adding real history to the Hollywood tale.

"What we know as the Wild West would not exist without the 182,000 enslaved people living in Texas in 1860..." they say.

Horses are featured in many of the world's religions. Horsey language lends itself to the erotic. Even, says Kalli, "Black and brown youth in Brooklyn" understood the appeal of a good-looking Polo pony...

Take a good study of the cover of "Mounted." Appreciate the artwork, notice the design. Then add this book to your "Things I Never Really Thought About" list, because you'll think about it now. And you're going to want to read every delicious word.

Horses have been hiding in plain sight in Black history for centuries, but author Bitter Kalli pulls them to the forefront, turning each facet of the subject over for deeper examination and additional thought. Happily, you won't feel forced to do that; their writing comes across like an invitation to a warm, intimate conversation, the kind you get while casually hanging out with a new group of friends on the patio. What you learn is highly intriguing, and you won't ever see horses in the same way again.

Beware that this book has one explicit chapter inside, but it fits the narrative and you won't mind. You'll be too busy enjoying what you read and wanting more. For horse lovers and history lovers alike, "Mounted" is the perfect ride.

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**AMERICAN BLUES THEATER
OPENS ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY
SEASON WITH THE WORLD
PREMIERE OF "THINGS WITH
FRIENDS" NOW THROUGH
OCTOBER 5TH**



American Blues Theater, under the continued leadership of Executive Artistic Director **Gwendolyn Whiteside**, is thrilled to open its 40th anniversary season with a world premiere by Artistic Affiliate **Kristoffer Diaz**, *Things With Friends*.

The winner of the 2023 Blue Ink Playwriting Award and workshopped through American Blues Theater, *Things With Friends* will receive its world premiere staging Running now through October 5th under the direction of Artistic Affiliate **Dexter Bullard**.

Executive Artistic Director **Gwendolyn Whiteside** states, "We're thrilled to share Kristoffer Diaz's provocative world premiere that will leave audiences breathless."

Things With Friends received our 2023 Blue Ink Award for new work and its relevance has only grown in the interim. Pairing Dexter Bullard's deft direction with this powerful script is sure to produce a night of theater audience will not forget."

Tickets are on sale now the American Blues Theater box office, online at www.americanbluestheater.com, or by phone at (773) 654-3103.

**FULL CAST ANNOUNCED FOR
AMERICAN PREMIERE OF
LONDON PUB THEATER HIT
GANGSTA BABY, SEPTEMBER 19
THROUGH OCTOBER 5TH**



Josh Odor, Bryan Nicholas Carter, and **Jensen Knudson** will join **Cameron Raasdal-Munro** in his

semi-autobiographical play about a gay sex worker who is the son of a gangster.

The three Chicago actors who will join UK-based **Cameron Raasdal-Munro** in the American premiere of his semi-autobiographical drama *GANGSTA BABY*. Open Space Arts is producing the LGBTQ+ drama which premiered at London's Hope Theatre in January 2024, will again be directed by **Rikki Beadle-Blair**, who was appointed an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the 2016 Birthday Honours for his services to drama. *GANGSTA BABY* follows the story of the young gay sex worker "Junior" in the working-class city of Hastings, southeast of London; and his relationships with his violent and homophobic gangster father "Senior," his transgender street artist stepbrother Pete, and a client whose session with Junior is interrupted when Senior unexpectedly returns.

Tickets are now available at www.openspacearts.org.

**HAPPILY NEVER AFTER:
DISENCHANTED! REWRITES THE
FAIRY TALE RULEBOOK AT THE
ECC ARTS CENTER ON OCT. 11**



Poisoned apples? Glass slippers? Who needs 'em!?

Forget everything you think you know about fairy tale princesses when *Disenchanted!* comes to the ECC Arts Center on Saturday, October 11 at 7 pm.

In this uproarious hit musical, Snow White and her squad of royally fed-up leading ladies toss their tiaras and take the stage to set the record straight. These aren't your storybook sweethearts. They're fierce, fed-up, and ready to sing the truth. It's not your average fairy tale. It's anything but Grimm.

DIS!, as the show is affectionately known, made its Off-Broadway debut in a limited engagement at the Theatre at St. Clements in December 2014, before transferring to an open-ended run at the Westside Theatre in 2015.

The production played to sold-out houses and received rave reviews from outlets including The Huffington

Post, The New York Times, NBC-TV, CBS-TV, Broadway Blog, and The New York Observer.

DIS! earned multiple award nominations, including "Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical" and "Best New Off-Broadway Musical," as well as two Lucille Lortel Award nominations for "Best Lead Actress" and "Best Featured Actress."

It was also recognized by Playbill in its "Best of the Year" list for 2014 and received a Henry Hewes Design Award nomination from the American Theatre Wing for "Best Costume Design."

This show contains adult language and themes and is not appropriate for children.

Tickets are available at eccartscenter.org, by phone at 847-622-0300, and in-person at the ECC Box Office.

**WORLD BALLET COMPANY'S
NATIONAL PREMIERE TOUR
HONORS THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ICONIC
NOVEL THE GREAT GATSBY AT
THE GENESEE ON
OCTOBER 16TH**



Following a successful world premiere, 80-show run of this Broadway-style ballet in the spring of 2025, World Ballet Company will tour *The Great Gatsby* Ballet in Fall 2025 to 50+ new cities nationwide.

The dazzling new show adapts the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel of ill-fated love and the American Dream into ballet form, taking audiences straight into the lavish decadence of the Roaring Twenties. The production features sensual and stunning choreography (including acrobatics!) performed to an original, lively jazz score; sumptuous sets fused with multimedia and projection effects; and glamorous, hand-sewn costumes that capture the allure of the Jazz Age. Add in a live singer and a couple of Charleston dance sequences, and this is ballet like it's never been seen before.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com and in-person at The Genesee Theatre Box Office 203 N Genesee Street Waukegan, IL.

The full-season line-up can be found at www.GeneseeTheatre.com.

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