

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 VOL XVII • ISSUE#9

GRAB MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S MONTHLY
LGBTQ+ PUBLICATION



CHRIS SALVATORE
SCORCH MARKS

Invest in your *future*

SENIOR EMPLOYMENT BOOTCAMP

A 2-WEEK JOB READINESS
COURSE FOR ADULTS 50+

- ✓ Resume writing
- ✓ Interview practice
- ✓ Job search strategies

**\$100
STIPEND**

**CENTER
ON 3656 N.
HALSTED**



SEPT 21 - OCT 2, 2026
WEEKDAYS
9:30AM - 12:30PM

CENTER ON HALSTED
3656 N Halsted St
Chicago, IL 60613

RSVP
bit.ly/sremploymentbootcamp

LGBTQ+
Adults 50+
and Allies
Welcome



MONDAYS ARE RUFF

\$5 COVER



hydrate
HOSTED BY

MZ. RUFF
N' STUFF

BEATS BY

MARTIN.

HYDRATE
3458 N. HALSTED
HYDRATECHICAGO.COM

8 PM DOORS
10:30 PM SHOW



DYMOND
CARRINGTON



DAKOTA
MONROE



NIA
VALENTINO



EBONII
MICHAELS



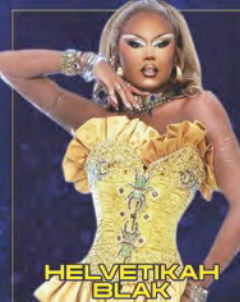
VERONICA
DEVARAU



SATIVA
DIAMOND



BELLA
DIAMOND



HELVETIKAH
BLAK

CONTENTS

THIS ISSUE

GRAB A FRIEND (DRINK SPECIALS)	24
NEXUS DANCE CHART	26
GRAB ROGER	28
GRAB HOLLY	30
GRAB EVENTS	34
Bar/Restaurant/ Directory/	38 & 40
MAP	41
CLASSIFIEDS	42

GRAB MAGAZINE
3712 N. BROADWAY #315
CHICAGO, IL 60613
TEL: 773-707-2660
WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM
WWW.GRABBYAWARDS.COM
EMAIL: GRABSTACY@GMAIL.COM

NEW
QUEER
HORROR
FILM
6



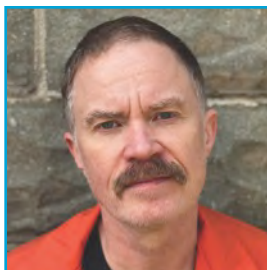
RODDY
BOTTUM
10

GRACE
WALCOTT
14



TRAVEL
MADISON,
16

SCOTT
HEIM
18



Publisher

Stacy Bridges

Creative Director (Web)

Miguel Ortuno

Contributors

Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss
 Holly Maholm
 Bill Malcolm
 Gregg Shapiro
 Terri Schlichenmeyer

Production

Stacy Bridges

Photography

KEN BROWN
 ANTHONY MEADE

Sales

David D.
 Liz Zale

Public Relations

Nick Wille

NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

RIVENDELL MEDIA
 908-232-2021

In Memorium

Mark Nagel (Co-Founder)
 1961 - 2019

Christian Keener 1989-2026

Cover:

**Chris Salvatore and
 Brandon Shypkowski**
 Photo By: Lester Villarama

GRAB

MAGAZINE

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



#ALWAYSAPARTY®

Charlie's

CHICAGO

in PANZON!



**FRIDAY,
SEPT. 25
7PM-11PM**

**Charlie's night for Chicago
Bears, Chubs, and the Chasers
that can't get enough of 'em!**

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



Charles_ChicagoBar



/CharlesChicago



Charles_ChicagoBar

charlieschicago.com

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

GRAB A FILM

Surviving the Storm Chris Salvatore and Brandon Shypkowski on Their New Queer Horror Film

By Larry Olsen

Chris Salvatore and **Brandon Shypkowski** star in the new queer apocalyptic survival horror film "Scorch Marks", streaming October 1 exclusively on **Dekkoo.com**. The film follows Beckett, played by Shypkowski, who wakes up to a devastated world and finds himself trapped with the haunting presence of his abusive ex-husband, Joel, played by Salvatore.

According to director Brendan Haley, the cataclysmic storm at the center of the film is a reflection of modern-day America. "The storm was always intended to be a metaphor for the chaos of mainstream society, while speaking to the dread and isolation it imposes on those who aren't like it," he says. "It is threatening, unnatural, and feels utterly impossible to rectify, and yet, as with all weather patterns, it is meant to pass sooner or later."

We sat down with the film's two leads to talk about their on-set chemistry, the toxic relationship at the story's core, and what they each took away from playing it out against the end of the world.

Larry Olsen: The two of you met for the first time on set. What was your first impression of each other?

Chris: The first thing I noticed was how tall and obviously handsome Brandon was.

Brandon: Chris is one of the most disarmingly kind people I've ever met. And being easy on the eyes doesn't hurt.

L.O: I read that you rehearsed together for months before filming

started.

Brandon: Absolutely. This was my first feature film as a lead, and I really wanted to leave it all on the table. I knew that if there were any fires to put out on set, our performance wasn't going to be one of them.

Chris: Some of the material is super intense, and having the time to rehearse so much together really helped us form a genuine connection that I think you'll be able to see on screen.

L.O: What first drew you to your character when you read the script?

Chris: I was drawn to my character's darkness and pain.

Brandon: I immediately saw the humanity in my character, Beckett. I saw someone playing the hand he'd been dealt, fighting his demons, just trying to survive.

L.O: Beckett and Joel are working through a toxic history while trying to survive something even bigger than themselves. Did any part of their story feel personal or relatable to you?

Brandon: I think we've all experienced life throwing us a curveball on top of relationship



Photo by Lester Villarama

struggles. In a weird way, I think those curveballs show us who we are.

Chris: Something that really struck me as relatable about Beckett and Joel's relationship is how comfortable they each are placing blame on the other. It's always easier in the short term to point fingers, but it all eventually catches up with you.

L.O: That storm is described as a metaphor for the isolation of living outside straight, mainstream society. Did that idea shape how you approached your character?

Chris: It definitely added another layer to how I saw Joel — that same metaphor can even apply to the isolation he creates within his relationship with Beckett. He knows how to make Beckett feel like he's the person who understands him best, then uses that intimacy as a way to control him. I think that can



feel especially complicated for queer people, because when you've already spent most of your life feeling misunderstood and outside of mainstream society, finding someone who makes you feel seen can be incredibly powerful. Joel weaponizes that. So for me, the storm and the relationship almost mirror each other, in that both can make you feel trapped, alone, and unsure of where real safety is.

L.O: What was your favorite scene to film together?

Brandon: For me, it was the flashback scene of us meeting and dancing.

Chris: I had so much fun filming the scene where Joel first starts haunting and taunting Beckett during the apocalypse.

L.O: What's something you learned from watching the other one work?

Brandon: Oh man, I learned so much from Chris. He's pretty much unflappable. He got there early for prosthetics, dove into huge scenes where he could barely see, and knocked it all out of the park — without a single complaint. Chris is a consummate professional. He cares about the crew, and he wants to make sure everyone's having a good experience. That, in turn, uplifted the work too.

Chris: I learned how to be a better actor by watching Brandon work. He was always fully prepared and made these tremendously emotional scenes look like a cakewalk. He'd also remind me to have fun whenever I started getting in my head about performance.

L.O: Did you bond over any shared horror movies or guilty pleasures while filming?

Brandon: Chris introduced me to Dunkin' Donuts — the beauty of an egg sandwich and a box of twenty-five munchkins in the morning.

L.O: What do you hope viewers feel or take away from watching Beckett and Joel's story?

Brandon: I hope our story helps viewers see the humanity in other people — especially people they dislike.

Chris: I hope they take away the lasting impact that relationships, and the way we move through them, can haunt someone long after the expiration date. How complicated and messy love can be when it's tangled up with fear and isolation.

L.O: Is there a lesson we can learn from the film?

Brandon: Face your demons before they cause an apocalypse. Beckett is the ultimate victim at first, but as he starts to admit his sins, he grows into someone who won't repeat them. I think every single human being on Earth can relate to that. God knows I can.

Chris: Understand the difference between love and control. Trust

your own instincts. You're not defined by what happened to you.

L.O: What's next for each of you?

Brandon: I'm writing a horror feature that I hope will be off the ground soon.

Chris: I'm currently working on a memoir about my elderly neighbor, Norma, and our friendship together.

Scorch Marks begins streaming on Dekkoo on October 1. Visit dekkoo.com/scorch-marks.



Photo by Lester Villarama

GRAB IMPERIAL TEEN



Photo By Milan Zrnica

In “Overdrive”: an interview with Roddy Bottum and Will Schwartz of Imperial Teen

By Gregg Shapiro

Imperial Teen fans are a dedicated and, above all, patient bunch. They must be because the quartet, whose debut album, “Seasick,” came out 30 years ago (!), have only released seven albums, including its latest, “All Over You” (Merge), during that time. It’s safe to say that each album was well worth the wait, including the new one which begins with the irresistible “Overdrive,” a song that has all Imperial Teen’s trademark qualities – sassy lyrics and hooks, as well first-rate musicianship, and then some. Roddy Bottum and Will Schwartz, the two queer men who make up half of Imperial Teen were gracious enough to make time for an interview in advance of the band’s multi-city tour.

Gregg Shapiro: “All Over You” is Imperial Teen’s seventh studio album since 1996. What’s the secret to the band remaining a musical unit for 30 years?

Will Schwartz: That we like/love each other and have a mutual respect for our legacy as a band. When we play (our own) shows there’s an intense relationship with

us and our fans that’s very fulfilling and moving. Like being part of a secret club that anyone is welcome into. Also, we just laugh a lot together; so, you just want to feel that over and over.

Roddy Bottum: We’ve made records every six years for the past thirty or something. It’s not perfect, the time gap, but it’s worked for us. How rare is it to have these kinds of relationships? I will constantly pay attention to interactions of this weight, know what I mean? I love long-term relationships.

GS: The gap between Imperial Teen albums – seven years – was longer this time than in the past. Is the song “Hands All Up,” with the lines “Don’t take too long... Just write the song,” a comment on that?

RB: Yes, it is. It always takes too long. I think that line came from Will. He was probably most determined going through the recording process and was a total victor in pushing it forward. We were all onboard, but he was particularly encouraging about getting it done. It happens like that, usually there’s one of us

pushing hard. We work well as a team.

WS: We all live in different cities or states, and it can be really hard to come together with everyone’s lives being so busy and varied. We really have to be intentional to finish a record together. This time I was laser focused on finishing and sometimes it can feel like herding cats with the others. It also has to do with a feeling of running out of time like we’re in a race against ourselves and our projected sense of mortality as artists.

GS: I love the video for “Overdrive.” How was it decided that Will would be the one, “Walking through the mall with a baseball bat”?

WS: I sing the lead vocal, so it seemed to make sense that I’m playing that character. The concept was to be in a kind of abandoned mall, and the band members are searching for each other but also living out our individual experiences. Like the world has kind of ended or is crumbling around us but we’re still searching and vital and being cheeky and stylish and dancing with



Lovers

CHICAGO'S PROUDEST
KARAOKE BAR

3729 N HALSTED ST

CHICAGO EAGLE

CHICAGO'S ICONIC LEATHER BAR & DANCE CLUB

4713 N BROADWAY ST

OPEN LATE



DECIBEL

BEST LATE NIGHT DANCE BAR

954 W BELMONT AVE

TUESDAY 9PM - 2AM | THURSDAY & FRIDAY 9PM - 4AM | SATURDAY 9PM - 5AM

THE CLOSET

3325 N BROADWAY AVE • OPEN LATE

YOUR LATE NIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD BAR 7 DAYS A WEEK

FANTASY
NIGHT CLUB
HALLS

3641 N HALSTED ST SUN-FRI: 9PM - 4AM / SAT: 9PM - 5AM

HV ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLIFE DEVELOPMENT + MANAGEMENT GROUP

attitude. That's a bit what it feels like to me lately making art or playing shows or doing things that are supposed to be fun.

Like the outside world is kind of horrible but we still need to let off steam and dance with each other.

RB: It was the line in the song that encouraged the prop. The lyric came first. I wrote that line thinking about the destruction of the American mall and how it was failing and flailing and a dying institution. The video was an attempt at referencing this sentiment, do you feel it?

GS: Yes, I do.

RB: We had originally intended to recreate the "running in the mall" scene from the Dutch movie "Christiane F," where "Heroes" by David Bowie plays. We didn't get that shot; we tried. The symbolism of the loss of the American mall is heavy for me.

GS: Album closer "Bringing It Down" might be my favorite song on the album, beginning with the way it refers to aging with the line, "We used to not wear glasses." Am I on the right track in that regard?

WS: [Laughs] I'll let Lynn (Truell), the drummer/vocals/bassist, know that because she didn't like that line. We tend to feel kind of like bad asses when it comes to aging because we still feel sexy and vital and kind of take good care of ourselves. But we do make references to getting older sometimes in lyrics. Lately, I feel like older people are making vital music and just still stylish and sexy so that inspires me even though I'm not too old. I'm 54, which sounds crazy to me, but ok. Like I love the way Kim Deal and Kim Gordon look and sound with their solo records. Also, Madonna's album has been a big inspiration to me and the short film that she made with my former Hey Willpower backup dancer Solomon Chase and his partner David Toro (aka **TORSO**) is genius.

RB: Yes, for sure. That line is a little bit on the nose, but yeah. I love that line, I love our lyrics. I was particularly proud of the line in that song. "Let's stitch it up with a needle," really speaks to me. It's my favorite song on the record, too. It's

gut wrenching for me. We sing about aging a lot. Doesn't everybody?

We're meant to feel so bad about it. I like to think that through our record making, we're embracing aging. I'm never gonna get Botox!

GS: "Gotta Get You Home," with the lines "We learn to be more scandalous/We're turning into anarchists" and "Bringing It Down," which includes the lines "They've ripped the wings off an eagle/Let's stitch it up with a needle," feel like political statements. Does that sound correct to you?

WS: Yes, we're very political in our personal lives but it's more like we try to live our politics than overt political activism. Lynn and I keep up with the news a lot and get ourselves all worked up and Jone and Roddy maybe less so but they're living their lives in a political way in their communities just being themselves and being outspoken advocates for anyone considered weird by the mainstream. Together, we want to represent ourselves as progressive, inclusive and open and it's important to be louder and more direct about it these days with the country being taken over by an authoritarian party.

RB: The past seven years have been so overtly political, how can we not sing about it? COVID happened. BLM happened. So many revolutions. Palestine. There are so many horrors continuing to happen. We, I should say I, am a wreck. The

country we live in is threatening to kill me. I feel it every day.

GS: Roddy, while we're talking about "Bringing It Down," your partner Joey Holman, with whom you perform as the musical duo **Man On Man**, can be heard playing guitar on that song with **Imperial Teen**. What does it mean to you to have him performing with the band?

RB: He's simply a better guitar player than me. Will is pretty good with noise, but Joey is real adept at getting a particular noise. We did a lot of the guitar tracking in Provincetown at my house there and when we record, we tend to use things that are close by. That feels like a cold explanation. Let me try again. We asked Joey to play guitar because he's special and he's the most pertinent heart in my life.

GS: Will, Roddy's 2025 memoir "The Royal We," was recently released in paperback. Do you think you might have a memoir in you?

WS: I might, but I also might be too lazy. I loved Roddy's book and its depiction of L.A. when he was in his teens. So free and fun and with a world where so much was possible. One thing that would make me hesitate with writing a memoir would be the amount of self-reflection and then the reception of that from people around you. I already have a decent amount of insecurity or



Photo By Milan Zrnic

vulnerability, so I'd have to steal myself up before going down that path.

GS: Cover bands continue to be a popular thing. Are you aware of any Imperial Teen cover bands?

WS: [Laughs] No. Are you?

RB: I'm not. I'm not aware of any cover bands. I know an all-woman Led Zeppelin one. No others. Some kids are interested in making a documentary about Imperial Teen, but I'm not aware of any cover bands.

GS: Have you ever heard any artists covering an Imperial Teen song in their set?

WS: In their set? No, but I heard a cover of "Ivanka" by a French band. It was cool; kind of mod and angular sounding.

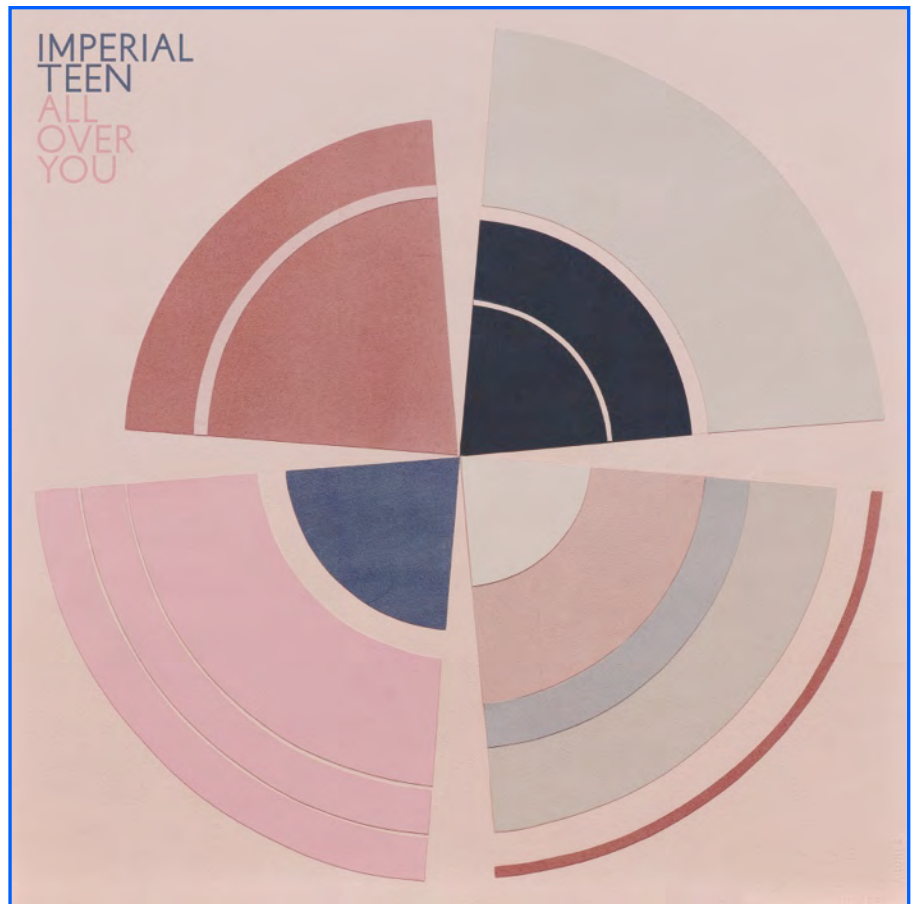
RB: Again, no. I met Marlon James, the writer, in Florida this year and I'm pretty sure there's a reference to an Imperial Teen song in his new novel, "The Disappearing." I'm gonna get it today. When (the book) "Glamorama" by Bret Easton Ellis came out in the '90s, he referenced Imperial Teen. I got to talk to him about it last week. Maybe writers are more of our target champions than bands.

GS: In October, Imperial Teen embarks on a multi-city tour featuring east and west coast dates. Are there dates forthcoming including the south and central US?

RB: None yet, no. We are waiting for offers to play places or other bands to ask us on the road. We love to play. We are a live band. It's kind of what we do best. I have lots of projects going on at the same time but Imperial Teen live is kind of the best thing ever. It's powerful and family and strength and positivity and a realness like no other.

WS: We're playing in Durham, NC! Yeah, I think we'll do some more in Spring/Summer 2027 and hit up some spots we're missing in 2026.

GS: The entertainment world recently lost some significant



icons: Dolly Parton and Tim Curry. Would you care to share your thoughts on the passing of both?

RB: Oh my gosh, it was a hard couple of weeks. My number one bestie who I love and was so rad and powerful and a gift to womanhood first was Jennifer Finch who was in the band L7. That was hard for me personally and then immediately after that, Dolly happened. I loved Dolly, of course. Like, more than Mother Teresa. I used to see her around Los Angeles. One time my dad and I saw her at our Mexican restaurant and another time I saw her sitting passenger in a really old and fucked up car just driving down our block. Tim Curry hits hard too, he's been on my mind because my bestie, Paul, is playing his role in "Rocky Horror" this month. Tim's have been the toughest shoes ever to fill. He was heroic and strong and he did it first. He was the first. My sister read his autobiography, I haven't yet; I've got to.

WS: I adored Dolly. She just seemed like an angel on earth. Not only was

her music so resonant and powerful with that incredible voice and her songwriting prowess, but her physical beauty was crazy and her humor was remarkable. She was always a huge icon for me and my queer brothers and sisters – especially the SF lesbians in the 90's. There was this crossover of punk and burlesque and queer counterculture and it was always Dolly at the forefront of all that. Tim Curry I always admired; "Rocky Horror" was an amazing example of being who the fuck you want to be – just that image of him as a "crossdresser" as a kid and him having so much confidence was a nudge to be yourself and not care what people thought. Jone and I have a thing with "Easy Street" (from "Annie") when we have easy plane travels together. There was this one trip just her and I and we got this smooth easy flight from like Chicago to New York together and we sang and did that dance together when we got off the plane – Rooster and Lily St. Regis [laughs].

GRAB GRACE



Photo By Laura Turbow

Healing the Rifts Within the LGBTQ+ Community

By Jason Salerno

A new documentary, in which drama therapy transforms LGBTQ stories — from bar raids to modern backlash — into healing, releases on National Coming Out Day, October 11, 2026. Directed by Grace Walcott, a real-life marriage and family therapist, *River of Life, LGBTQ+* follows queer participants of varying races, ages, identities, and backgrounds, including a 73-year-old non-binary individual who survived raids on gay bars, a 43-year-old therapist once labeled mentally ill for being trans, and a 21-year-old who feels their Blackness has eclipsed their queer identity even within LGBTQ+ spaces.

Over ten weeks, elders share stories of when being gay was a crime, when ACT UP staged bold demonstrations, and when the AIDS crisis vilified gay men — while younger participants walk the elders through their own thinking on gender, challenging views some elders once dismissed as flippant, even bizarre. Walcott's own journey

toward self-acceptance, and acceptance within the queer community, runs through the film as well.

We spoke with Walcott about the tensions that surface between generations, what internalized oppression looks like from the inside, and what healing, accountability, and solidarity can look like when a community turns inward to repair itself.

Jason Salerno: You've said protecting the LGBTQ community means "making room for difference, disagreement, and ongoing change." Where's the line between healthy disagreement and disagreement that does real harm?

Grace Walcott: Conflict and disagreement are a natural part of being in community. We have to learn how to repair. Repair is a process through which we truly witness one another and find ways to resolve our differences. It is a process of calling in rather than

calling out. Often, differences resolve themselves when we have truly had the experience of knowing one another. Knowing one another has to happen on a much deeper level than, say, the arguments that happen so often online.

JS: What is causing the divide among the LGBTQ community?

GW: LGBTQ+ elders and youth are not having enough opportunities to truly witness and experience one another. I think this can be a problem in many cultures, but in queer culture, we can be particularly isolated from one another by age because we do not always have a biological connection. We need more spaces in which people can show themselves and their challenges. Although technology has created pathways for connection — social media, for example — it is also being used in ways that create division.

JS: ACT UP and the AIDS crisis



Photo By Laura Turbow

come up as touchstones of solidarity forged under attack. Do you think today's version of that solidarity has to look the same — collective, public, and confrontational — or does healing internal rifts require a quieter, slower kind of unity?

GW: There is a new way that political activism is happening. We need deep healing experiences that unpack the systemic divisions that can affect our community. I sometimes hear reporters say that we all need to just "listen to one another." We need to do much more than listen. We need to reach toward one another with curiosity and be open to healing together.

JS: Elders in the film admit dismissing pronoun changes as "flippant, even bizarre".

GW: The younger participants walked them through their own thinking and when the elders fully understood the meaning of pronouns and how some youth saw them as connected to liberation,

mutual respect developed. One of the elders in the film talked about how the youth held their ideas like a kaleidoscope: "No one was afraid to turn the dial and experience something else."

JS: The film also tackles the internalized transphobia that exists within LGBTQIA+ spaces.

GW: The trans participants in the group unpack transphobia by revealing their own challenges. One shared how he was often seen as mentally ill. The elders, who remembered conversion therapy and how homosexuality had been labeled a pathology in their time, felt an immediate sense of empathy. What continually worked in our drama therapy group was witnessing one another and truly understanding each other's challenges. That created deep bonds.

JS: If a viewer recognizes their own gatekeeping, judgment, or internalized shame in someone on screen, what's the first step you'd

want them to take?

GW: First, we must recognize that we all make assumptions and judgments. This is a natural part of being alive. The more aware we become of the ways we may be alienating ourselves from one another — for example, by making incorrect assumptions — the better we can make decisions that build a stronger community. If I could boil this down to one basic problem: we are not coming together regularly as a community to play, heal, be curious, and support one another. We are becoming more and more alienated as a society. This isn't good for our mental or social health. As a society, we need more nuanced conversations and spaces in which we can truly know each other.

River of Life, LGBTQ+ releases October 11, 2026. For more information, visit RiverofLifeLGBTQ.com.

GRAB A GETAWAY

Fall Fun in Madison, Wisconsin

By Bill Malcolm

Fall is a perfect time to visit Madison. The summer heat is gone. You can still bicycle around town using the B Cycle shared bike electrical assist bike system, and there is so much to do: Olbrich Botanical Gardens (and the nearby Garver Feed Mill food hall) are great, the Saturday Farmers Market on the Square Saturdays is still going strong, and the new Madison Public Market is open. The city is situated on an isthmus between two lakes.

THINGS TO DO

Bike around Lake Wingra or head out to Picnic Point on Lake Mendota via a B Cycle shared bike by Trek.

Visit the UW Arboretum. The visitor center and trails have signs explaining the several types of vegetation (prairies, savannas, deciduous forests, conifer forests, and wetlands).

Enjoy the free Vilas Zoo on Lake



Wingra.

Visit the free Olbrich Botanical Garden near Lake Monona on the east side and have lunch at the Garver Feed Mill. The Olbrich Garden has a magnificent Thai Pavilion.

Check out the brand-new Madison Public Market which just opened. Full of local shops and cafes.

Watch the sunset at the UW Memorial Union Terrace. Enjoy a brat, corn on the cob, and a local IPA.

Enjoy the UW Campus including the Memorial Union, the Lakeshore Trail, the free Geology Museum, the Allen Centennial Gardens, and the Chazen Art Museum.

Take a free tour of the beautiful State Capitol Building which rivals the one in D.C.

Enjoy the prairie at Owen Park just off Old Sauk Road on the west side.

Pick up some Stella's hot and spicy cheese bread at the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings on the Capitol Square.

UW Bookstore has all the kitsch one could want regarding Wisconsin-themed items.

Hilldale Mall has upscale women's clothing and lots of

interesting shops.

Then there is The Old Fashioned, a supper club or night spot featuring Wisconsin culinary fare.

WHERE TO EAT

Merchant and Lucille just off the Capitol Square are both great.

Casetta's has great sandwiches.

Pick up some Wisconsin cheese at Fromagination right on Capitol Square.

Enjoy Babcock Hall UW ice cream at the stand at UW Memorial Union. You are in the dairy state after all.

WHERE TO STAY

I like the UW Fluno Center right on campus. The Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style inspired rooms are a treat, you can use the student rec center (including indoor pool) for just \$10, and the breakfast buffet is to die for. The windows in the rooms open to fresh outside air. Everything was great except the 11 percent resort fee and the hard to use Spectrum U Roku TV set up.

For more Frank Lloyd Wright architecture, check out the Monona Terrace Convention Center as well as the Dane County Regional Airport.

I also like the nearby Hampton Inn and Doubletree as well as the locally owned Concourse Hotel. The new Embassy Suites is also nice.

I stayed at the Hilton Monona Terrace one night. It was okay but it showed its age.



NIGHTLIFE

Woofs on King Street just off the Square is Madison's leather bar and more. Try the Sunday beer bust or enjoy its Italian restaurant right next door. Nearby also just off the Square is the legendary Shamrock, a friendly neighborhood bar. On the Beltline, you will find Club V.

GETTING THERE

Just two and a half hours from Chicago, the city is readily accessible by car. Or take Amtrak to Milwaukee and take the Badger bus over to Madison to the new regional bus station on Lake Street. You can fly into MSN at Dane County Regional Airport just minutes from downtown. The Van Galder Coach USA bus goes from downtown Chicago and O'Hare to Madison.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the local publication, *Our Lives*, or the website of Outreach Madison for local events. *Isthmus* is the monthly alternative publication. *The Capital Times* has great local news and comes out weekly. Destination Madison is the tourism office.



Rental car is not needed. Madison has a great bus system that goes everywhere or you can ride your bike. The Capitol Square-State Street Mall-UW Campus is very walkable. You can take the D line from the airport (and many hotels have free

shuttles).

You will not run out of things to do in this Midwestern gem.

Bill Malcolm is a native of Madison and currently resides in Indianapolis.

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!

SHAKERS
ON CLARK

GRAB SCOTT

The skinny on “Mysterious Skin”: *An interview with gay writer Scott Heim*

By Gregg Shapiro

Gay writer Scott Heim has a couple of reasons to celebrate. First is that his acclaimed 1995 debut novel “Mysterious Skin” has been reissued by Harper Perennial in an anniversary edition featuring a new afterword written by Heim. Second, the 2004 movie adaptation of “Mysterious Skin,” directed by gay filmmaker Gregg Araki, and starring Joseph Gordon Levitt and Brady Corbet, along with Michelle Trachtenberg and Elizabeth Shue, is being rereleased theatrically in a 4K Restoration in August 2026. Scott generously made time for an interview between the reissue of the book and the rerelease of the movie.

Gregg Shapiro: Scott, is there one character from “Mysterious Skin” who you could point to as the inspiration for the novel? One who got the ball rolling, so to speak.

Scott Heim: I was working on my MFA at Columbia University, and I turned in a story that was basically about the character Neil in the present day (although I think his name was different in that story). While writing it, I was doing some research on “recovered memory,” its questionable aspects, the different ways that people can remember similar past events, that sort of thing. By coincidence, I was also reading books by Budd Hopkins about UFOs and UFO abductions, and I realized how similar the memories (whether real or imagined) of abuse survivors and UFO abductees often sounded. I suppose that’s the moment when my ideas for a novel began to take shape.

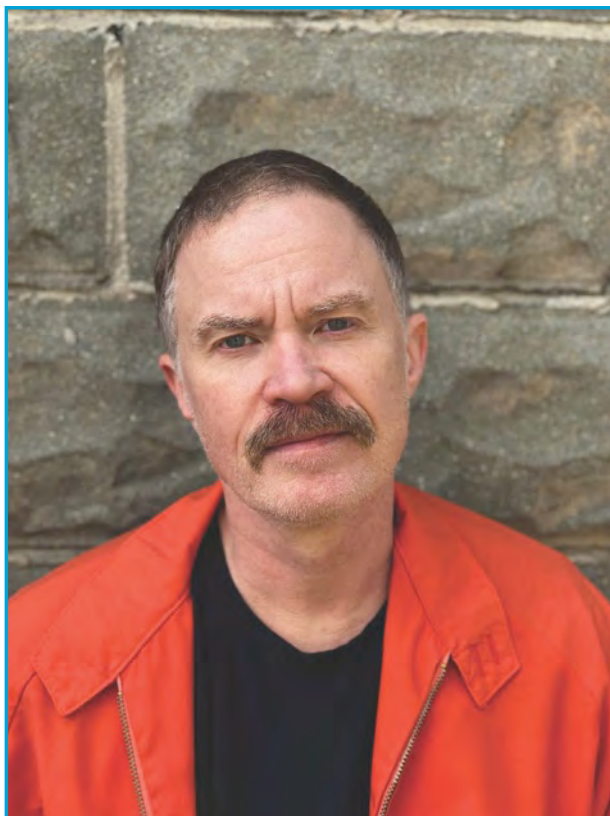
GS: Please say a few words about the *multiperspectivity* device you

employed in the novel – individual characters – Brian, Neil, Wendy, Deborah, Eric – narrate first-person sections.

SH: At its core, “Mysterious Skin” is primarily a book about memory and its inconsistencies and how no story is ever 100 percent true – that to really know something as clearly as possible, you have to hear as many sides or versions, to keep peeling back layers of a story’s “skin” or “mystery” to get at the closest truth. Neil’s version of events is so different from Brian’s version of events, and for the reader to understand the truth as best as possible, I felt the best method of getting there would be to have multiple voices tell the story from different perspectives. I guess the title is ironic, in a way, because there’s no mystery for the reader – to me, the interesting thing was always taking the reader on a journey to figure out how the characters themselves are going to learn what is true about their memories and what is false.

GS: Being that “Mysterious Skin” was your first novel, how much of you, if any, is in the characters?

SH: Oh, quite a bit. That’s one of the fun things about working on something with multiple POVs. Parts of me are Neil and parts are Brian, but I could say that about Eric and



Wendy, too. The characters are also mirrored some people I grew up with, family and friends, etcetera. I grew up in these Kansas towns and had a lot of these experiences. But there’s also many, many things that are completely sourced from my imagination. And really, it’s my third novel that’s far more autobiographical than “Mysterious Skin.”

GS: How soon after “Mysterious Skin” was published were you approached about a movie version?

SH: In retrospect, I realize that it really wasn’t very long at all – within the first two years, maybe two and a half, a production company had contacted my literary agent asking about the rights. This wasn’t Gregg or his producers, though – it was some of the people who’d produced the film “Swingers,” which came out in 1996, a year after “Mysterious Skin” came out in hardcover. That might seem a little strange, as the plot and characters and setting of “Swingers” really couldn’t be more



HAMDARD HEALTH ALLIANCE

PrEP and Sexual Health Clinic

Start PrEP Today!

Meet with a Hamdard Health provider to start your HIV prevention!



Healthcare, all in one place:

- Primary Care
- Therapy
- Psychiatric Services
- Public Benefits (SNAP, Insurance)
- Senior Day Program
- PrEP and Sexual Health
- Medication Assisted Recovery



SCAN HERE

1542 W Devon, Chicago 773-465-4600

RANDOLPH STREET MARKET

SEPT 26+27

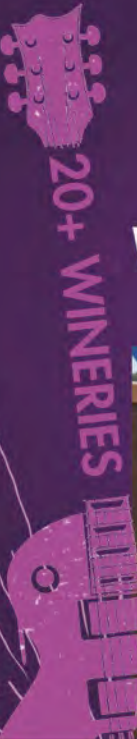
Chicago's World-Famous Treasure Hunt

Indoor/Outdoor Rain or Shine






RANDOLPHSTREETMARKET.COM



ILLINOIS Vintage

Utica, Illinois

WINE & LIVE MUSIC

Near Starved Rock

SAVE 20% WITH
CODE **GRAB20**
ONE FLEXIBLE WEEKEND PASS

ILLINOISWINE™
Illinois Grape Growers & Vintners Alliance (IGGVA)

BUY TICKETS NOW & SAVE:
VINTAGEILLINOIS.COM

SCAN QR CODE





different than my book, but they were dead set on doing “Mysterious Skin,” and they brought me out to L.A. to work on a screenplay closely with them. Eventually that all fell through – the old story of money and funding falling through, etcetera – but my script, and eventually my novel, got into Gregg’s hands, and he wound up being even more passionate about making the film than the original production company had been, so everything worked out perfectly in the end.

GS: Were you a fan of Gregg Araki’s previous movies?

SH: I remember enjoying some more than others – for instance, I thought “Nowhere” was genius but feeling mixed about some of his earlier films. But how can you not admire the energy and passion and visual aesthetic in any Gregg Araki film, no matter who you are? So, of course, when Gregg became a strong possibility, I went back and watched everything again and watched the few I hadn’t seen for the first time, and I got more and more excited by the possibility of working with him. In my mind constantly were thoughts like ‘Gregg has the precise energy and passion and aesthetic and music taste that I’d want, but very different dialogue and setting and characterization’ – how would my focus on screwed-up Kansas kids and all their internal traumas translate through Gregg’s eyes? I don’t think I adequately imagined how beautifully it succeeded. After all these years, I feel like it was destined from the beginning, even when I was writing the book, that he (and eventually, Joseph and Brady and the rest of the cast) should be the one(s) to transform that story into film.

GS: How do you feel about the movie being rereleased in theaters?

SH: It’s all so overwhelmingly exciting. I often think about how there are so few people who ever even want to write a book, and of those, a small fraction actually do it and finish it. And then of those people, even fewer find an agent, and then an editor, and get a book published. And then of those people, a tiny percent have their book made into a film. And of those – and I know this is true because of the writers I’ve chatted with whose books also

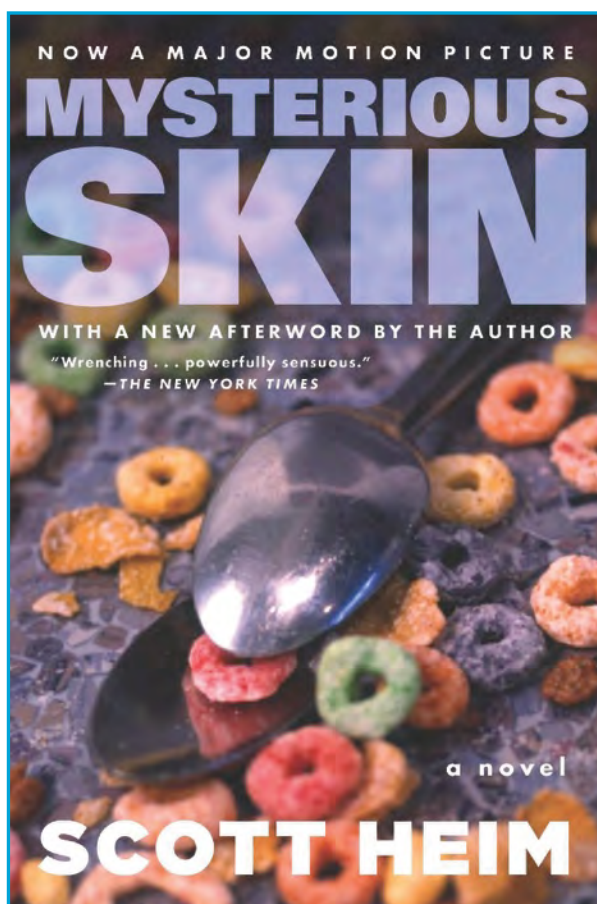
became films – very, very few actually like the film adaptation.

So, I’m a huge rarity – a writer whose book was made into a film who actually loves the result. And now here I am, 20-plus years after the film’s initial release, still immensely proud of the movie, still good friends with Gregg and Joseph and Brady and Mary Jane (the film’s producer), still flattered and humbled by the response the film has gotten over the years and all the new younger fans, some of whom are the same age I was when I wrote the novel and were barely even in diapers when the film came out.

Like I said, it’s kind of overwhelming. Sometimes I think about it all, and I realize that if I never do another thing for the rest of my life, well, there’s been this, and it’s endured, and I think it’s been important for a lot of people. And that’s enough, really – this statement might sound pretentious or arrogant, but enough time has passed now where I can actually realize that I created something that mattered, you know?

GS: Yes! In the 30 years since “Mysterious Skin” was published, the subject of sexual abuse of minors has become increasingly prevalent, especially in light of the Epstein scandal. Please say something about your novel’s place in that history.

SH: Someone asked me recently if I thought “Mysterious Skin” could be published today – or at least, if a major publisher like mine (HarperCollins) would do it, or if it would only be a risk (because of its subject matter) that a smaller indie



publisher would take. And I’m still unsure of my answer. I do think it would be more difficult, and maybe I was lucky in the early ‘90s that I found the right editor (the late Robert Jones) who shared a certain sensibility and saw my talent and had a vision for the book despite its possible controversies.

But then again, the opposite could be true, and because of scandals like Epstein or the Olympics gymnast team story or whatever, others could see novels like mine as potentially marketable. I think the difficult thing about “Mysterious Skin” for many people is that it never really tells the reader or viewer how to think; there isn’t really a discernible wrong or right, and instead of painting people as black/white or villain/hero, I prefer to show varying shades of gray and potentially differing ways of seeing/remembering.

GS: The paperback version of the anniversary edition of “Mysterious Skin” features a new afterword which you wrote “proved so

difficult." Please elaborate.

SH: It was originally supposed to be an introduction. But I feel uncomfortable when writing about things I did and my successes, in that first person style, because it seems braggy and seems as though I'm dead and writing from the grave. At some point, almost as a joke, I started writing the "introduction" as though it were a third-person "reader's guide for book groups" that many books now have after the final page of the story... and then I was able to really get work done. So, I did the whole thing that way, I was able to remember a lot about the book's initial process and publication, and now the intro is an afterword, in the form of a book group guide.

GS: The rare "Mysterious Skin" soundtrack CD, which you mentioned in the afterword, is sought after by collectors far and wide. What would it mean to you to have the soundtrack made available again, perhaps on vinyl?

SH: Having Robin Guthrie and Harold Budd do the soundtrack was one of the most exciting things to

happen for me and also for Gregg; both of us are massive Cocteau Twins fans, and I was listening to Harold's early records as a kind of ambient inspiration while I was actually at the computer writing the book in the first place. And in the years since that soundtrack came out, I've been sort of fascinated by how the CD went out of print and became a hard-to-find rarity.

Well, you might know this by now, but 4AD Records is doing a reissue, so it will indeed be coming out again, probably around the time of the 4K Restoration release in theaters mid-August. People who've been unwilling to shell out the \$\$ for the rare CD will finally get the opportunity to own a physical copy of the music again.

GS: Lastly, are you working on a new book?

SH: The easy and quick answer here is "no." And I haven't really wanted to. Then again, that's what I said after my second book, but then the movie happened and I realized I still had certain life experiences I wanted to translate into a novel. And in the



past year, I've gone through a few interesting life changes and upheavals that would, I think, make a good book. I've started realizing, many nights as I'm in bed and about to sleep, that I'm thinking about another book. So, we'll see what happens in the next few months.

STEAMWORKS BATHS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS WITH THESE WEEKLY & MONTHLY EVENTS

Double Dip
DOUBLE DOWN ON OUR STUDENT DISCOUNT
EVERY **TUESDAY**

BEAR HUMP
2nd Fridays 7pm-1am

FRIDAY NIGHT @ the Baths
FRIDAYS 10PM-4AM
WITH DJ HARRY CROSS

50 STEAMWORKS BATHS
EST 1976
50 WEEKS OF GIVING
5% OF WEDNESDAY ENTRY SALES GOES TO A COMMUNITY PARTNER

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

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

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

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

Fine Fassy
MTWTF TRANSWOMENSHOUL AT THE BATHS
4TH MONDAYS, 8PM-MIDNIGHT

SUNDAY SERVICE
SUNDAYS 2PM-8PM
WITH DJ CLUB CHOW & DJ JONKVV

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

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



FK
FULL KIT GEAR

INTRODUCING FK SPORT
CREST



**YOUR SOURCE FOR LEATHER
CUSTOM FIT HARNESSSES**

WWW.FULLKIT.COM 5021 N CLARK STREET



GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

Daily Specials;

MONDAY	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.
TUESDAY	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. dB/Decibel: Open 8pm-4am Industry & Friends Night All Night Drink Specials \$2 Well Cocktails, \$2 PBR, \$3 Bombs, \$4 Deep Eddy Flavored Vodka Cocktails, \$4 High Noon. Hydrate: Tat Tuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 4-6pm \$8 WINE, \$9 APPS, \$10 Martinis. Live Instrumentalists. 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.
WEDNESDAY	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 4-6pm \$8 WINE, \$9 APPS, \$10 Martinis. Live Broadway Vocalists. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. 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: Open 5pm-4am Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check,
THURSDAY	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. dB/Decibel: Open 8pm-4am All Night Drink Specials \$3 Well Cocktails, \$3 Bombs, \$3 PBR, \$4 Deep Eddy Flavored Vodka Cocktails, \$4 High Noon, \$5 Titos, Altos, Jameson, Hendricks, Bacardi. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 4-6pm \$8 WINE, \$9 APPS, \$10 Martinis. Live Ballet. 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. In Main Bar: Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month, other Thursdays are "Let's Go! Latin" or "All Things K-Pop. 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.

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. **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. **dB/Decibel:** HAPPY HOUR 8pm-10pm. \$5 Titos, Altos, Jameson, Hendricks, Bacardi, \$5 High Noon, \$4 Deep Eddy Flavored Vodka Cocktails, \$4 PBR. **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:** All Day Brunch All Drag, Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. **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. 8/18 Cowboy Round Up with ILGRA. 9/25 FULL MOON PARTY & CONTEST. 10/2 OKTOBERFEST NIPPLE PLAY PARTY TUG-O-WAR CONTEST 10/9 SNAKE PIT PARTY. 10/16 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. **Cell Block:** Open 12pm-3am. **Charlie's:** 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Under the boots tonight. **dB/Decibel:** HAPPY HOUR 8pm-10pm. \$5 Titos, Altos, Jameson, Hendricks, Bacardi, \$5 High Noon, \$4 Deep Eddy Flavored Vodka Cocktails, \$4 PBR. **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. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag, Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **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. 8/19 OKTOBERFEST BEGINS! GEAR NIGHT bareber & Bootblack on duty Dress Code in Clubroom. BNC 6pm. 9/26 RIPE PARTY Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T. 10/3 Chicago's BEAR'S NIGHT MIDNIGHT PIZZA PANIC. 10/10 DUNGEON Master Night S&M demo @ midnight CWB 5pm. 10/17 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. **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:** All Day Brunch All Drag, Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. Sunday Tea Dance DJ Janky and Friends 4pm-10pm \$9 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 Noon, 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.

The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and online
 Tuesday October 20th, 2026 (Halloween Issue)
 Reserve your space today
 Call 773-707-2660 or email GRABStacy@gmail.com

Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of September 2026

Visit nexusradio.fm

	Artist	Title
1	Aname	Sirens ft. Emelie Hollow
2	Punctual & Beachcrimes	Angel City
3	Brooks x Vikkstar x Jex	Call My Bluff
4	Axwell	Whatever Turns You On Ft. Bonn
5	Robin Schulz x Watermat	Take It Slow
6	Pigine	One More Sunday
7	Kshmr x Jason Ross x Brieanna Grace	Ultra Love
8	3daywkend	Permission To Love
9	Nghtmre x Jordin Sparks	No Air
10	DJ Pauly D	Lost Ft. Capri Everitt
11	Krewella	Without You
12	Rose Gray	Club To Your Arms
13	Swedish House Mafia x Lykke Li	Happiness Is So Sad
14	Joel Corry	Whisper
15	Alan Walker	Pain (Radio Edit)
16	Ave	Meet Me In The Dark
17	Meduza & Rani	Silence
18	James Hype	Serotonin
19	Z3lla	X2C
20	Jonas Dufrasne	Holding On
21	Fisher	What A Life Ft. Florence Arman
22	Jamie Jones & Camden Cox	State Of Mind
23	Dash Berlin	Lonely Man Ft. Simon Ward
24	Lumine	Here For Us
25	Madonna	Danceteria
26	Zhangye x Skylar Grey	Dreaming
27	Icona Pop	Yellow Top
28	Kungs x Boys Noize	Get Away
29	Manyfew	U Got Me Ft. Jenny Adesanya
30	ANYMA x JOJI	Beautiful

BRINGING MUNICH TO CHICAGO
SEPTEMBER 19-OCTOBER 4

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



**DRAWING ON
SUNDAY OCTOBER 4**

6412 NORTH CLARK / **TOUCHECHICAGO.COM**



GRAB ROGER

Clients That Lawyers Watch Out For

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

Q: I called a lawyer that advertises in the local LGBT papers. She told me that she wouldn't represent me. Does a lawyer have the right to turn down a client?

A: Sometimes it is appropriate for a lawyer to not take a new client or handle their legal problems, for a variety of reasons:

A case outside a lawyer's expertise. At the initial client interview, if I ask myself, "why is this client talking to me?" the matter is probably outside my expertise. It is important that all lawyers know the limits of their competence and refer matters to a specialist in appropriate cases.

A case with an actual or potential conflict of interest. The law books are full of cases where lawyers were liable for representing the buyer and seller in a closing, the borrower and lender in a financing, or an investor and the investment

promoter. These situations often arise when two amicable parties, with divergent interests, ask the lawyer to spare them the cost of a second lawyer. When they later have a falling out, the one who lost money will sue the lawyer for malpractice.

Clients who have had previous lawyers. This is a human red flag. The tip-off is a prospective client who tells the lawyer, "another law firm told me that..." The lawyer will inevitably be compared to a hazy, but ever-improving recollection of contrary advice by a different firm. These clients will abruptly depart when things don't go their way. Unfortunately, lawyers do not make the facts.

The client who cannot define objectives that the legal system can achieve. This client will not accept that court orders and judgments may be difficult to enforce, and may be impossible to satisfy. This client wants the opponent broke and in prison. The client wants to get even. They may have psychological

needs they are unwilling to reveal, or be one of those legal "buffs" who is more interested in the process than the result.

The make-or-break case. Clients depending on their lawyers to rescue them from grave financial difficulties or hardship have no tolerance for the lawyer failing to succeed. Even if the lawyer takes the case, the lawyer is in a no-win situation because even if the lawyer gets a good result, it won't be enough to satisfy the client.

Perpetual victims. These clients can't understand why people are always



taking unfair advantage of them. A tip-off is a person who complains that his or her own family and friends have turned against him or her for no reason. Perpetual victims live in a world of dishonesty, including supposed wrongdoing by previous lawyers. And if the new lawyer doesn't resolve the case to their complete satisfaction, then they must have sold out to the opposition.

Packrats and collectors. This client arrives with disorganized boxes of files, receipts and records that the lawyer is expected to sort out. The collection includes wads of irrelevant papers. Whenever asked for a specific document, the client assures the lawyer that it's in one of the boxes. If the lawyer is foolish enough to take the case and search the boxes, the lawyer won't find the needed item. At this point, the client will insist that the document that was going to win the case was definitely in the box when given to the lawyer.

The client who has trouble telling the truth. Topping the list of clients to avoid are those who lie or are dishonest with their lawyers. One can count on them to get the lawyer into a jam and reconstruct the facts so that the lawyer takes the blame. Unless a lawyer is a criminal defense expert representing someone who has been indicted, stay clear of dishonest clients.

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.

WALK WITH US TO PREVENT SUICIDE

Out of the Darkness Chicago and Land Walk

October 3, 2026 | 9AM | Montrose Harbor

Register. Volunteer. Donate.

afsp.org/Chicago

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

OUT OF THE DARKNESS Community Walks



Photos By Anthony Meade



GRAB HOLLY

Never Cry Shark

By Holly Maholm

Imagine you live on Cape Cod, and you see a report in your local paper that reads, "Local Woman Killed in Shark Attack." Then, you ask yourself, "Where did the reporter get his facts to enable him to write this report?" You think, "Well, the reporter must have spoken to the local police officer who responded to the tragedy; and perhaps he interviewed friends of the woman, or by-standers who saw the attack from the beach."

But if you think about it, you realize there are two others who might have had something to say about the incident, but who are never called upon to give their testimony. One is the victim – who has tragically died, and so cannot recount her experience – and the other is the shark, whom no one ever takes the time or trouble to interview. Nevertheless, you might ask yourself, "Without the testimony of the shark, do we have the whole story?"

It was afternoon when I arrived at the old farmhouse at the Horse Rescue, where I planned to help Dot blanch the ripe tomatoes for tomato sauce. I walked in the kitchen, and Dot spoke up, "Oh, good, you're here. Penelope needs you out in the orchard right away." No more needed to be

said. I set off for that clearing in the apple orchard where, from time-to-time, Penelope, Queen of the Unicorns, convenes the Court of All Animals, and she its Chief Justice and Final Arbiter of Claims made by one species against another.

There, I found Penelope resting comfortably in the long grass, her Chief Defender, Victor, stationed protectively behind her; and sitting respectfully in a group not far from Penelope were a half dozen wolves. Of these, I recognized the lead She-Wolf of her pack, and one or two others were familiar to me by sight. I took a seat in the grass near my Queen, who addressed me.

"Holly, good of you to come. You know our toothy friends, here, who have assisted me in the past, when I had need of them. You are aware, of course, that recently a common housecat made a Complaint against the Species Human, and you were so kind as to represent your species when I heard that Complaint. Now, word of the possibility that any species of animal might make a claim against you humans has spread like wildfire, and thus, our friends here, of the Species Canis Lupus, have petitioned me to require that you hear their complaint against you... your species, that is.

"All parties being present," she announced, "the Court gives leave to the She-Wolf to state her grievance." She fell silent, and the She-Wolf stood, turned her gaze upon me (which made my blood run cold), and started in.

"May it please Your Majesty. We all know that fable which humans teach their children, which has as its title and moral the words 'Never Cry Wolf.' In the story, a young shepherd is out tending his flock in the mountains, when – becoming lonely and bored – he decides to play a trick designed to bring the local villagers (including the Village Elder, who owned the sheep) out to visit him. Though there were no wolves in the area, he set up a cry of 'Wolf! Help! Wolf!'

"In the fable, the young man repeats this



trick on several successive days, causing the villagers much annoyance, and destroying his credibility. In the end, he is actually attacked by wolves, but when he cries 'Wolf!' the villagers refuse to come to his aid, and he is killed by wolves."

The She-Wolf looked menacingly at me, and went on. "That is the falsehood, the slander, which has caused our species so much injury in the past, and even now motivates members of your species to seek us out to kill our innocent adults, mothers and pups. Now, I will tell you the truth of your little Fable.

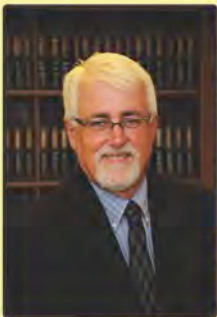
"It is true that the shepherd repeatedly played his ill-advised trick upon the villagers, and they soon stopped responding. However, the Village Elder, whose sheep they were, could not fail to respond. He knew that his very livelihood, his fortune and his support depended upon his protecting that flock. Hence, when the boy played his little trick One-Time-Too-Many, the Elder flew into a rage, and picking up a nearby stone, smashed it down upon the boy's skull, killing him. The man threw the body off a cliff into the valley, and later claimed the boy had been attacked and carried off by wolves.

"So, you see," the She-Wolf summed up, "that ancient Fable you venerate is nothing but a lie designed to hide the true identity of the murderer – a human! Yes! That man was Guilty of Murder, and every one of your species who has ever repeated that shameful lie is equally Guilty of Falsehood and Slander!"

(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.

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



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

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

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

312-263-8800

RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM



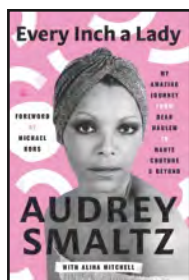
Photos By
Anthony Meade



GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"Every Inch a Lady: My Amazing Journey from Dear Harlem to Haute Couture & Beyond" by Audrey Smaltz with Alina Mitchell, foreword by Michael Kors c.2026, Amistad \$27.99 256 pages



Snap, zippers, buttons, ties. Toss that garment on, pull it up, wrap it around, you know what you like and how to wear it. The color is perfect for your skin tone, the fabric enhances your form. Yep, you always look your best and, as in the new book "Every Inch a Lady" by Audrey Smaltz (with Alina Mitchell), that best is fabulous. "Born, bred, toasted, buttered, jellied, and honeyed in Harlem" in 1937, Audrey Smaltz was a force to be reckoned with almost from the time she could walk. Her parents imbued confidence in her, they nurtured her creativity and sent her to charm school, but they never allowed her to create a stir. "That," says Smaltz, "is not what ladies did."

By the time she was a teenager, Smaltz was modeling for New York City designers. Shortly thereafter, she started working for a married man with whom she had an affair, and whom she loved very much. She broke up with him, attended college, worked a series of jobs that taught her about fashion and jobs that didn't seem to fit her. An ill-fated marriage took her to Chicago where she ultimately landed a position that sent her to work in Ebony magazine's New York office. Working at Ebony was a career-changer, in a way. Smaltz was able to travel the world and learn more about fashion, but she didn't exactly get along with her boss. Finally, seizing an opportunity, Smaltz decided to launch her own company, Audrey Smaltz, Inc., a "fashion production business," but she couldn't get any designers to take a chance on her. Undaunted, she reorganized, re-branded, hit the streets, and knocked on doors until she finally found one client, which led to many others. Through it all, her personal life was a whirlwind. She dated "more men than you can shake a book at," settling

down occasionally, briefly. Fashion had always been her first love, but she accidentally found real love, "the love of a woman," at a leadership course... There's an old saying that writers need to add lots of "color" into their stories. Read a little of "Every Inch a Lady," and you'll notice immediately that author Audrey Smaltz (with Alina Mitchell) quite literally takes that to heart by mentioning nearly every color of the spectrum here. Hmm. That oddity aside, Smaltz is a wonderfully lively storyteller, speaking with the energy of a woman much younger to the heart of anyone who loves fashion. That glee extends to collectors of vintage clothing, who will be delighted to read about the industry long ago and the way things worked then. Smaltz says she experienced racism, which is not unusual for pre-Civil Rights America, but doors were surprisingly closed for other reasons that will astound anyone who's savvy about the fashion industry, even today. There's quite a bit of name-dropping in this book but most of it belongs in the anecdotes, so you likely won't mind. If you're a fashionista, too, find "Every Inch a Lady," and snap it up.

"Finding Renée Richards: The Ground-Breaking Story of Tennis's Trans Pioneer" by Julie Kliegman c.2026, Harper One \$28.99 272 pages



Come on in, the water's fine. Wade into it up to your ankles, your calves, your waist, you'll be okay. You'll adjust to the waves that swirl around you so come on, dive in, it's all good. As in the new book "Finding Renée Richards" by Julie Kliegman, that goes for swimming, and for controversy. Assigned to do a story on books written by trans tennis great Renée Richards, Julie Kliegman read the books and became "transfixed by a woman who had fought so hard to simply live as who she had long known she was...." Their editor had figured that, as a nonbinary and trans individual, Kliegman would have "something incisive to say..." in an

article. Instead, once they met and began interviewing Richards, Kliegman was left frustrated... Born in the late summer of 1934, Richard Henry Raskind seemed to have arrived with a tennis racket in his hand. His mother was a psychiatrist; his father was an orthopedic surgeon who hoped "Dick" would follow his footsteps but Raskind was drawn instead to ophthalmology and tennis. He was also irresistibly drawn to wearing women's clothing. His sister knew of this pull and Raskind eventually came out to both parents, but few others on the tennis circuit were aware. When Raskind visited his hometown of New York City, however, he enjoyed furtively going out in women's clothing but he also tried to squash the desire; in the meantime, he fell in love, married, fathered a son, and eventually learned that it was possible to become the woman he knew he really was.

To continue playing tennis professionally was a bonus. And right there were the disagreements Kliegman had with Richards. Richards, "To this day... [makes] a point of describing herself as a woman, period," says Kliegman, but she firmly acknowledged Richard, almost as a separate individual, insisting that Kliegman use "him/his" pronouns when describing her earlier life.

And as for tennis and trans women's participation in the sport, Richards had something even more frustrating to say...

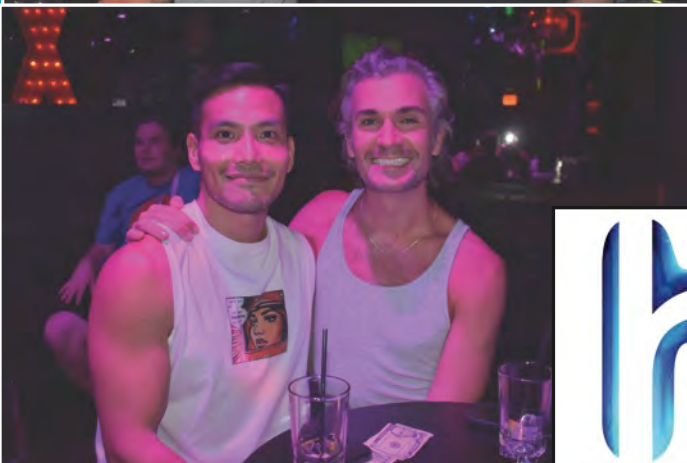
Take that as a fair warning: you might be equally surprised at what author Julie Kliegman uncovered in "Finding Renée Richards," and you may be truly gobsmacked by reading opinions from other women about the topic of trans women in sports.

That's the main, huge point of interest in this fascinating book; the other is Richards' life as seen through the lens of a trans individual. Kliegman's wrestling with the ninety-year-old Richards' firmly dug-in heels is, in itself, worth your time as a study of highly varying viewpoints. That Kliegman and Richards have both lived at least a part of trans history is somewhat of a key to understanding how this book unfolds, as Kliegman offers up Richards' tale. Readers who are able to read between the lines will be riveted.

If you're a sports fan and you have opinions, you must read this book – and that goes double if it's tennis you love. Also check out "Finding Renée Richards" if you just want a raucously good and very fine read.



Photos By Anthony Meade



**ONE WEEKEND ONLY:
VINTAGE ILLINOIS TURNS
NORTH UTICA INTO THE
STATE'S LARGEST OUTDOOR
TASTING ROOM .
SEPTEMBER 19-20TH**



For one weekend only, Carey Memorial Park in North Utica becomes the state's largest outdoor tasting room.

Vintage Illinois returns September 19–20, bringing together more than 20 wineries from across the state for a weekend of wine tasting, live music, food, shopping, and more. Guests can taste wines from around the state without driving from winery to winery, talk directly with the winery teams, and take home bottles they can't get at home. All while supporting local agri-tourism businesses.

It is a simple way to plan a September weekend: text the group, head to Utica, find a spot in the park, and taste your way through Illinois wine.

"Vintage Illinois brings wineries from across the state together in one place, and that gives people the chance to try wines they may not otherwise find near home," said Lisa Ellis, executive director of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance. "Guests can come for a few hours, a day or make a full weekend of it. They can meet the people behind the wines, listen to music, enjoy the food vendors, and spend time with friends in North Utica."

The festival is built for tasting at your own pace. Guests can start at any winery booth, compare wines from different parts of Illinois, return to a favorite pour, and purchase bottles directly from participating wineries. Wine styles range from dry reds and whites to fruit wines, sparkling wines, and other winery specialties.

Past attendees often make Vintage Illinois an annual friends' trip, couples' weekend, or family gathering. One guest described it as "a fun, relaxing weekend tasting

wines with friends," while another noted the chance to sample wines they would not normally try.

Wine Taster General Admission is \$45 in advance and includes a souvenir event glass and 10 tasting tickets. The price increases to \$55 at the gate, if tickets remain available. Advance ticket sales close September 18 at 11:59 p.m.

Designated-driver and non-drinker tickets are \$10 and include admission to the festival grounds and two bottles of water.

Tickets are available at www.vintageillinois.com

**RANDOLPH STREET MARKET
FESTIVAL RETURNS
SEPTEMBER 26-27 WITH
OVER 200 VENDORS
SHOWCASING ANTIQUES,
VINTAGE FASHION, ART, VINYL
AND MORE IN CHICAGO'S
WEST LOOP**



Randolph Street Market Festival, 1341 W. Randolph St., returns to Chicago's West Loop this September from Saturday, September 26 through Sunday, September 27 from 10 am – 5 pm both days for its "Best in Show: Tastemakers Choice for Charity" edition, bringing together more than 200 dealers for what's been billed as America's largest and liveliest urban antiques market. Since 2003, the market has drawn shoppers from across the country to its expansive outdoor vendor spaces and air-conditioned Beaux-Arts building, offering a rain-or-shine shopping experience spanning antiques, vintage and indie fashion, fine art, vinyl records, estate jewelry, home décor and global goods, and making it one of the nation's premier urban antique and vintage shopping destinations. With more than 200 dealers spread across the market's outdoor grounds and air-conditioned Beaux-Arts building, shoppers can expect an ever-changing mix of vintage and antique furniture, decorative art, fine jewelry, vinyl records, indie designer fashion, global goods and one-of-a-kind finds from sellers across the country.

This September, the market adds a philanthropic twist with its "Best in Show: Tastemakers Choice for Charity" theme. A panel of 75 judges — well-known interior designers, fashion stylists and tastemakers — will roam the show awarding ribbons to their favorite booths. Beyond the shopping, Randolph Street Market Festival delivers a full day of eating, drinking and entertainment in the heart of the West Loop. A full on-site bar keeps guests refreshed with beer, wine, spirits and specialty cocktails, while a rotating lineup of food trucks and local restaurant vendors serves up everything from quick bites to full meals throughout the weekend. Entertainment including live glass blowing demonstrations and live music plays across both days, from live bands to DJs spinning on the market floor, rounding out a festival atmosphere that keeps shoppers browsing, eating and lingering well past their first lap through the vendor stalls. For tickets, vendor lists and more information, visit www.randolphstreetmarket.com

**CENTER ON HALSTED'S
SENIOR EMPLOYMENT
BOOTCAMP SEPTEMBER 21-
OCTOBER 2 (WEEKDAYS)**

**CENTER
ON 3656 N.
HALSTED**

Center on Halsted's Senior Employment Bootcamp is a free, two-week employment-readiness program designed for LGBTQ+ adults age 50 and older. The program provides participants with support and practical tools to help strengthen their job-search skills and prepare for employment opportunities.

The bootcamp includes resume development, interview preparation, job-search strategies, and other employment-readiness activities.

The program is free to participants. Transit passes are provided, and participants who successfully complete the course will receive a \$100 stipend.

For more information and registration, visit: <https://www.centeronhalsted.org>

MARTHA WASH AND MARSHA WARFIELD BRING "IT'S RAINING QUEENS" TO CHICAGO OCTOBER 3RD



A powerhouse evening of music, comedy, and storytelling is set to take the stage this fall as legendary vocalist **Martha Wash** and acclaimed comedian and actress **Marsha Warfield** unite for *It's Raining Queens*. The dynamic dual-headline experience will play the main stage at City Winery Chicago on Saturday, October 3.

Presented by Do-Kwa Productions, *It's Raining Queens* is a bold new live concept blending iconic music with razor-sharp comedy. Designed as a 75–90 minute seated, theater-style show, the production seamlessly weaves together Wash's era-defining vocals with Warfield's commanding stand-up and cultural commentary, creating an experience that transcends traditional concert or comedy formats.

Best known for her unmistakable voice on dancefloor anthems like "It's Raining Men" and "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)," the two-time Grammy Award nominee and Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Martha Wash brings decades of musical excellence and emotional depth to the stage. Warfield, celebrated for her Emmy-nominated career and beloved role on *Night Court*, as well as appearances on *The Upshaws* and *9-1-1*, delivers incisive humor shaped by a lifetime at the top of her craft.

Together, the two icons create a fully integrated "music + comedy" event that promises not only entertainment, but genuine connection, presence, and personality.

"This show is about more than just the music. It's about sharing stories, celebrating resilience, and connecting with audiences in a real and joyful way," said Wash. "I've always believed music has the power to bring people together, and with *It's Raining Queens*, we're doing

that in a whole new way."

Warfield echoed the sentiment, adding, "Comedy has always been my way of telling the truth; sometimes gently, sometimes not," she said. "Sharing the stage with Martha allows us to blend humor and heart in a way that feels fresh, honest, and deeply entertaining."

With equal billing between two award-winning performers, *It's Raining Queens* offers cross-generational appeal and an intimate, theater-style setting that highlights both artists' unique talents. The show moves effortlessly between powerhouse vocal performances and laugh-out-loud comedy, creating a rhythm that keeps audiences engaged from start to finish.

The production marks the latest venture from Do-Kwa Productions, the team behind the award-winning and fan-favorite touring show *First Ladies of Disco* and the acclaimed *Love & Conflict* tour. With a proven track record of delivering high-quality live entertainment, the company continues to innovate with this distinctive new format.

Positioned as "Music Comedy Royalty," *It's Raining Queens* invites audiences to experience two legendary performers in a setting that is both intimate and electrifying. Whether drawn by Wash's iconic voice or Warfield's unforgettable wit, attendees can expect an evening that is as soulful as it is hilarious.

Tickets are available at <https://tickets.citywinery.com>

LAKEVIEW EAST
FESTIVAL
of the
ARTS

SEPT. 19+20

ON BROADWAY
BELMONT TO HAWTHORNE

150+ ARTISTS
LIVE MUSIC
LOCAL CUISINE
KIDS ACTIVITIES

lvefota.com

CO-SPONSORS

Best Western PLUS Hawthorne Terrace | CUB | FOURSIDED | COMPASS | BOTTLE UP! | GEICO

PARTICIPATING SPONSORS

chirozone | LAZ | LVAC | MARIANO'S | WINTRUST | nrg | Renewal | Telaprooms



PhotosBy Ken Brown



PULLMAN HOUSE TOUR

PULLMAN NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK

Saturday and Sunday
October 10 & 11
2026

**ADVANCE TICKETS
ARE JUST \$21**

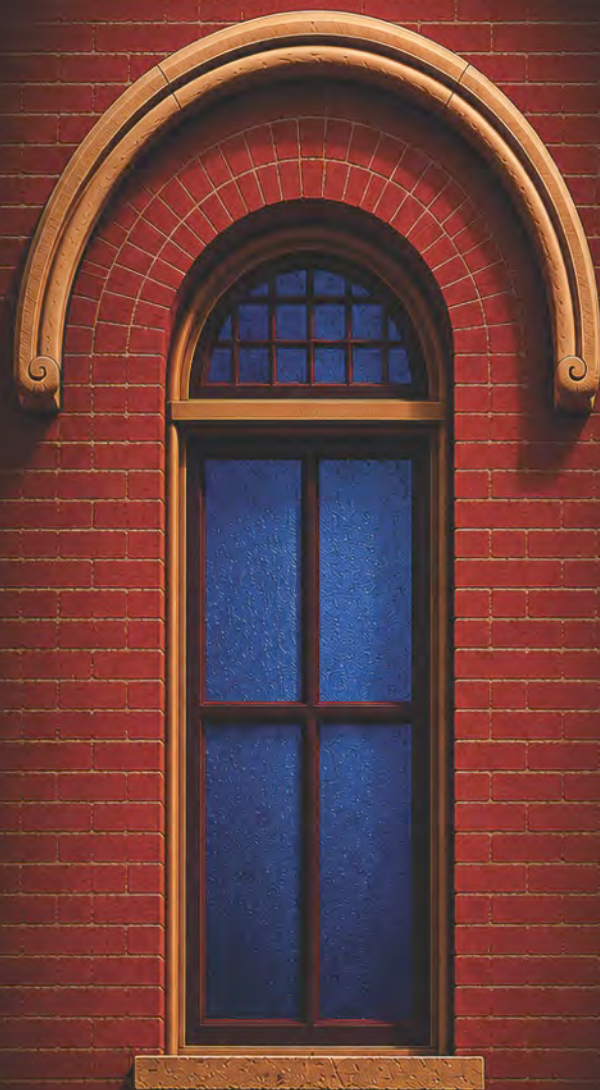
by October 8
\$27 after and
\$22 for seniors

Visit friendsofpullman.com
for more information and tickets.

The tour starts at the
Pullman Exhibit Hall
11141 S. Cottage Grove
Chicago

ORDER TICKETS AT
friendsofpullman.com
INFORMATION 773-785-8901

PRESENTED BY PULLMAN CIVIC ORGANIZATION
AND FRIENDS OF PULLMAN NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK



**EXPLORE
ICONIC HOMES.
DISCOVER A
REMARKABLE
HISTORY.**

GRAB A CART

BEATNIX • 773-281-3214
3400 N. Halsted

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

GRAB CLOTHES

BROWN ELEPHANT - SHOPS •
Andersonville - 5404 N. Clark
773-271-9382
Lakeview - 812 W. Belmont
773-549-5943
Oak Park - 217 Harrison Street
708-445-0612

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

EGOIST • 773-857-0882
3739 N. Halsted

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

MEN'S ROOM •
773-857-0907 -3343 N Halsted St

RED VAULT •
773-739-9473 6534 N Clark St

GRAB A DENTIST

ADAM UNTERBRUNNER, D.D.S.
773-348-3950
2040 W. Irving Park Rd.

GRAB A DOCTOR

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH
CENTER - 773-388-1600

HAMDARD HEALTH ALLIANCE
773-465-4600 -
1542 W. Devon St.

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

NORTHSTAR HEALTHCARE
(WELLNESS HOME)
773-296-2400 - 2835 N. Sheffield

ReAlign MED
773-665-4400 - 916 W Belmont
www.ReAlignmed.com

CHICAGO MALE CLINIC
Holistic Men's Sexual Health
and wellness
773-414-9900 -
4801 W. Peterson Ave., Suite 506

GRAB A HAIRCUT

BOHO BLONDE
773-857-0913 - 3740 N Broadway

MEN'S ROOM Barbershop
773-857-0907 - 3343 N Halsted

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

GRAB HELP

AIDS HOTLINE (ILLINOIS) -
800-AID-AIDS (800-243-2437)

ASIANS/FRIENDS OF CHICAGO -
312-409-1573

BROADWAY YOUTH CENTER -
773-388-1600

CENTER ON HALSTED
3653 N. Halsted - 773-472-6469

CHICAGO ANTI-BASHING
NETWORK - 888-471-0874

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RELATIONS -
312-744-4111

CHICAGO HOUSE
2229 S. Michigan Ave -
773-248-5200

CHICAGO MALE CLINIC
FREE SEXUAL HEALTH EXAM &
CONSULTATION 773-414-9900
ChicagoMaleClinic.com

CHICAGO PRIMETIMERS
An intergenerational social group of
gay, bi, and trans men
chicagoprimetimers.com

CHICAGO WOMEN'S AIDS
PROJECT-
North Office: 6363 N. Broadway -

CITY OF CHICAGO DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE HOTLINE -
877-863-6338

CONGREGATION Or CHADASH -
773-271-2148

DIGNITY CHICAGO -312-458-9438

EQUALITY ILLINOIS -
773-477-7173

GLSEN - 312-409-1835

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE
773-907-0367

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH
CENTER - 773-388-1600

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN -
312-252-0012

LAKEVIEW EAST CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE - 773-348-8608

GRAB HELP

LAMBA LEGAL - 312-663-4413

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER
PROJECT (LCCP) 773-561-4662

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

PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS
OF GAYS & LESBIANS (PFLAG) -
630-415-0622

PRIDECHICAGO (Pride Parade
Organizers) - 312-847-8093

RAINBOW SASH MOVEMENT
JMurray@RCN.COM

RECOVERY CENTERS OF
AMERICA • 331-234-5598
St. Charles, IL

RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES
AT THE KENNETH YOUNG
CENTER
224-539-8507

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

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
617 W. BELMONT - 773-525-0844

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

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

GRAB A LAWYER

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

GRAB A MASSAGE

CHICAGO MALE CLINIC
Holistic Men's Sexual Health and
wellness
773-414-9900 -
4801 W. Peterson Ave., Suite 506

GRAB A MOP

CHESTNUT ORGANIZING &
CLEANING SERVICE -
312-332-5575

GRAB A VIDEO

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

To Place an ad in GRAB
Magazine contact us today
at 773-707-2660

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

EARTH WIND AND FIRE
SIY STONE
BOOTSY COLLINS
JAMES BROWN
CHAKA KHAN
RICK JAMES
PARLIAMENT
AND MANY
MANY MORE

YOU CAN'T FAKE THE FUNK
A JOURNEY THROUGH FUNK MUSIC
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
DARYL D. BROOKS

SEPTEMBER 5 - OCTOBER 25
773.769.4451 BLACKENSEMBLE.ORG

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON IS SPONSORED BY

ABBOTT

DAYLESS FAMILY FOUNDATION

A grant from the Dayless Family Foundation Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation

OPEN SPACE ARTS
GREAT GAY STORIES—PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE—LIVE HERE.

LIVE AT OSA • ON STAGE IN UPTOWN

THE SWALLOW
(La Golondrina)
by Guillem Clua
translated by Tim Gutteridge
directed by Laine Rogers
featuring Michelle McKenzie-Voigt
& Jim Nally

SEPTEMBER 11-27

BEFORE WE ARE HISTORY
OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 8
STAGE READINGS OF PLAYS FROM THE LAST 40 YEARS

- ★ JERKER by Robert Chesley
- ★ ONE by Jeff Hagedorn
- ★ A QUIET END by Robin Swados
- ★ PLUS CONTEMPORARY NEW WORKS

OPEN SPACE ARTS presents

FKING STRANGERS**
by Erik Patterson
directed by Jack Dugan Carpenter

JANUARY 22–FEBRUARY 7, 2027

IN-PERSON FILMS AT FACETS

BOOKENDS
SEPTEMBER 28
Written by Noam Ash
Directed by Mike Doyle

UNCLE ROY
AUGUST 31
Written by Dawn Mickelson
Directed by Keri Pickett

SCAN FOR TICKETS
OPENSACEARTS.ORG
773-773-7837

THEATER • FILM • NEW WORK

Black Girl from a White Suburb
created by Tania Richard | directed by J. Nicole Brooks

World Premiere

AMERICAN BLUES THEATER

Sept 4 - Oct 4
AmericanBluesTheater.com

GRAB A DRINK

GRAB A DRINK

GRAB A TOWEL

- 14** **2 Bears Tavern Uptown**
773-672-4900 • 1140 W. Wilson Ave
- 16** **@MOSPHERE** • 773-784-1100
5355 N. Clark
- 5** **2ND STORY BAR** • 312-923-9536
157 E. Ohio
- 15** **BIG CHICKS** • 773-728-5511
5024 N. Sheridan
- 26** **BELMONT/DECIBEL** •
954 W Belmont
- 20** **CELL BLOCK** • 773-665-8064
3702 N. Halsted
- 27** **CHARLIES** • 773-871-8887
3726 N. Broadway
- 6** **CHICAGO EAGLE**
312-644-5269 • 4713 N. Broadway
- 49** **CLOSET** • 773-477-8533
3325 N. Broadway
- 67** **ELIXIR ANDERSONVILLE**
773-975-9244 1509 W. Balmoral
- 51** **ELIXIR LOUNGE** 773-975-9244
3452 N. Halsted
- 3** **FANTASY NIGHTCLUB**
773-325-2233 • 3641 N. Halsted
- 74** **FATHOM** • 773-904-7229
1622 W Belmont
- 10** **GRANVILLE ANVIL**
773-973-0006 • 1137 W. Granville
- 31** **HYDRATE** • 773-975-9244
3458 N. Halsted
- 8** **JACKHAMMER** • 773-743-5772
6406 N. Clark
- 68** **JEFFERY PUB** 773-363-8555
7041 S. JEFFERY BLVD
- 71** **LIPS** • 312-815-2662
2229 S. Michigan Ave
- 75** **LEVEL SPORTING CLUB** •
3343 N Clark
- 24** **LOVES** • 773-525-1200
3729 N. Halsted (Formerly Bobby Loves)
- 44** **LUCKY HORSESHOE**
773-404-3169 • 3169 N. Halsted
- 48** **MARTYS MARTINI BAR** •
773-561-6425 • 1511 W Balmoral
- 70** **MEETING HOUSE TAVERN** •
773-696-4211 • 5025 N. Clark
- METRO & SMARTBAR** •
773-549-4140 • 3730 N. Clark
- 72** **Nobody's Darling** •
1744 W Balmoral
- 63** **PROGRESS** •
773-697-9268 • 3359 N Halsted

- 1** **RAVENSWOOD TAP** •
773-528-3253 • 1829 W. Montrose)
- 67** **REPLAY** • 773-654-1369
3358 N. Clark (Andersonville)
- 35** **REPLAY** • 773-975-9244
3439 N. Halsted (Lakeview)
- 58** **ROGERS PARK SOCIAL**
6920 N. Glenwood
- 34** **ROSCOES** • 773-281-3355
3356 N. Halsted
- 45** **SHAKERS ON CLARK** •
773-327-5969
3162 N. Clark
- 39** **SIDETRACK** • 773-477-9189
3349 N. Halsted
- 69** **SPLASH** • 773-904-7338
3339 N. Halsted
- 23** **THE NORTH END** •
773-477-7999 • 3733 N. Halsted
- 52** **The SOFO Tap** • 773-784-7636
4923 N. Clark
- 7** **TOUCHE** • 773-465-7400
6412 N. Clark
- 71** **WHISKEY GIRL TAVERN** •
773-654-1766 • 6318 N. Clark
- 12** **Wil's Martini Lounge** •
773-747-2135 • 1478 W Catalpa

- 53** **BANANA VIDEO**
773-561-8322
4923 N. Clark
- 40** **STEAMWORKS
BATHHOUSE**
773-929-6080 •
3246 N. Halsted

SUBURBAN BARS

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

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

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

To Place your BAR
in this section
of GRAB Magazine Call
773-707-2660

GRAB SLEEP

Le Meridien Essex
312-939-2800
800 S. Michigan Ave

Godfrey Chicago
312-649-2000
127 W. Huron St

GRAB A BITE

- 2** **DREW'S ON HALSTED** •
773-244-9191
3201 N. Halsted
- 21** **F.O'MAHONY'S** • 773-549-0226
3701 N. Broadway
- 22** **KIT KAT CLUB** • 773-525-1111
3524 N. Halsted
- 32** **LARK** • 773-799-8968
3441 N. Halsted
- 56** **MIA FRANCESCA**
773-281-3310 • 3311 N. Clark
- 67** **REPLAY ANDERSONVILLE**
773-654-1369 • 5358 N. Clark

CULTURE

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

The Next Issue of
GRAB hits the streets
and online Tuesday
August 18th, 2026
(MARKET DAYS
ISSUE)

Contact us today to
advertise

773-707-2660 or email
GRABStacy@gmail.com



GRAB CLASSIFIEDS

CLEANING SERVICES

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

GRAB A PAINTER

FULL SERVICE PROFESSIONAL PAINTING and wallpaper installation. Specialized finishes, power washing, decks, carpentry work. Interior and exterior. Licensed general contractor. **FREE ESTIMATES.** Guaranteed commitment to Quality. Serving Chicagoland since 1973. Please call **773-725-9800**. **www.abbottpainting.com** Abbott Painting Company

GRAB A REALTOR

MARK ZIPPERER, RE/MAX PREMIER
1207 N Dearborn St
773.612.6628
mark@markzipperer.com
www.markzipperer.com

JL JORDAN III
AptAmigo
702-612-9776
jl@aptamigo.com
https://www.aptamigo.com/jl.jordaniii

CHAD DUDA Broker
@ Properties
773-398-4097
chadduda@gmail.com
Buying or selling?
25 years of real estate experience. Talk to the EXPERT!

HELL IN A HANDBAG PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

JOAN CRAWFORD GOES TO HELL

by David Cerda Directed by Cheryl Snodgrass

25 SINCE 2001
HELL in a HANDBAG PRODUCTIONS
Smart • Ridiculous • Stupid

AUG. 21 - SEPT. 27

GET TICKETS: — 

Or Go To: HANDBAGPRODUCTIONS.ORG



The Clutch
HELL IN A HANDBAG PERFORMANCE SPACE
4335 N. Western Ave.
• IN CHICAGO •





THE CLUB[®] COLUMBUS
Good. Clean. Fun.

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



THE CLUB[®] INDIANAPOLIS
Good. Clean. Fun.

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



THE CLUB[®] ST LOUIS
Good. Clean. Fun.

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

A Private Men's Sauna
www.theclubs.com



FREE

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

PARTY FOR THE PRESERVES

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27



**ALL
AGES**

Party all weekend with free family-friendly fun!

Pick and choose from seven events, each with a unique mix including live music, paddling, hikes, arts and crafts, games, and outdoor activities.



Camp Bullfrog Lake

Paddling, night walks & Funkadesi
Saturday, September 26, Noon-9 pm



Thatcher Woods Pavilion

Salsa dancing with Latin Street band
Saturday, September 26, 11 am-2 pm



Camp Shabbona Woods

Acoustic music at the campfire
Saturday, September 26, 6-9 pm



Powderhorn Lake

10-person canoe adventure
Sunday, September 27, 10 am-2 pm



Crabtree, River Trail & Sagawau

Nature fun at our nature centers
Saturday, September 26
Check website for times



RSVP for a party near you:
fpdcc.com/party

