

MAY 24, 2022 • VOL XIII • ISSUE #9

# GRAB

MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION



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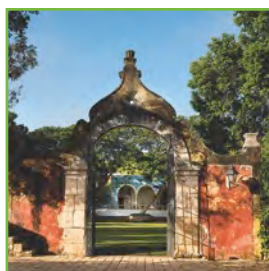
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# GRAB MARGARET



Photo By Albert Sanchez

## Screen heat: An interview with Margaret Cho

By Gregg Shapiro

Could there be an Emmy Award in Margaret Cho's future? In Hulu's *Fire Island* (premiering June 3), as well as on HBO Max's *The Flight Attendant*, Cho's uncharacteristic restraint gives her queer characters, Erin and Utada respectively, an admirable depth and humanity. Additionally, Cho has an upcoming appearance on the Emmy Award-winning *Hacks* (as herself), and ongoing guest-starring roles in a multitude of popular shows. Never one to sit idle, Cho will be taking her stage act on the road throughout the coming months. Busy as she is, Margaret was gracious enough to make time to answer a few questions.

**Gregg Shapiro:** Margaret, in the new movie *Fire Island*, you play Erin, who's described by one of the characters as a "career brunch server, age unknown, lesbian queen." What was it about Erin that

**spoke to you and made you want to portray her?**

**Margaret Cho:** I just love the script. I'm a big fan of Joel Kim Booster, and his comedy and his writing, and as a person. I wanted to be a part of the film. I love Andrew Ahn's direction. I love Bowen (Yang). It was really special to do this. The "career brunch server" was so appealing. Everything about this character is a lot of fun, and so it was just perfect. We had a blast doing it.

**GS:** It looks that way! Erin is the wise lesbian housemother to her gaggle of younger gays. Is this an aspect of your personality that also transfers to your offscreen life?

**MC:** Absolutely! The elder gay. The crone. It's also the old lesbian who's burned all of her bridges with the current lesbians her age and has to mine the younger generation for

friendship. It's very fun, it's really cold, and it's very realistic to me.

**GS:** What was the best part for you about acting with rising comic actors such as Bowen and Joel, whom you mentioned, as well as Matt Rogers?

**MC:** We laughed every day. We had such a good time. Outside of my dressing room, every day, there were full-on reenactments of entire "Real Housewives" episodes. Full Tiffany Pollard monologues from "I Love New York." It was like Shakespeare in the Park, but it was "Real Housewives" by the trailer. It was exciting. I just love those guys.

**GS:** Erin was able to afford to purchase the *Fire Island* house following winning a settlement involving a piece of glass and a major Italian chain restaurant. Do you think our current culture is more litigious than necessary?

**MC:** I don't know. I think the



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**MEN'S ROOM EDITION OF**  
**LET'S GO THURSDAY** 9PM-2AM

FRIDAY MAY 27 / OPEN AT 3PM

**TGIF SHOW TUNES** 3-7PM  
**RU'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS**  
**VIEWING PARTY** 7PM

**FRIDAY NIGHT**  
**DANCE PARTY** 9PM-2AM

SATURDAY MAY 28 / OPEN AT 1PM

**DRAG & GAMES**  
WITH ZAMORA & SASHA LOVE 3PM  
**SATURDAY NIGHT**  
**DANCE PARTY** 9PM-3AM

SUNDAY MAY 29 / OPEN AT 1PM

**SHOW TUNES** 4-10PM  
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**AFTER DARK** 10PM-2AM

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Photo by sergio garcia

character is just really savvy and knows where to make an opportunity for herself. I think that's really more it. I don't know if it was necessarily because of the culture or the time or whatever. But I think that she's just smart about doing where she can get something.

**GS: Was your first trip to Fire Island as a performer or as a vacationing guest?**

**MC:** Every trip I've made there was as a performer and then I stayed for vacation. So, I made it work and pleasure, both at the same time. I've been going there since 2008. I love spending time there and just hanging out. I'm actually more of a Provincetown lady. I've been going to Provincetown since the 1980s to work and perform and just hang out. These are very much important areas for me. It's the gay beach life that I really love.

**GS: You mentioned Andrew Ahn, the gay filmmaker who directed *Fire Island*, and he also directed the**

**lauded 2019 film *Driveways*. Is he a director you could see yourself working with again?**

**MC:** Absolutely! I love Andrew. I think he's quite an incredible director. Not only is he so great with actors... the way that he creates films is so visually stunning and they're so emotionally rich. I really admire him and his vision as an auteur. I would love to work with him again.

**GS: You were one of the performers in the line-up for the LGBTQ+ comedy show "Stand Out," which was part of Netflix is a Joke: The Festival. Stand-up comedy has received increased attention with Jerrod Carmichael coming out as gay in his HBO Max comedy special *\_Rothaniel\_*, as well as the controversy surrounding Dave Chappelle's Netflix comedy special. As a performer whose roots are in stand-up comedy, do you think there's the possibility of healing?**

**MC:** Yes, I think so. We need to hear from LGBTQIA voices in comedy. I think that queer comedy has always been a part of the larger comedy world. We've always had a very strong presence within comedy. I see so many more of us participating and out there in this conversation. I was glad to be part of the festival and I'm so grateful to be part of the queer comedy community.

**GS: Finally, I live in Fort Lauderdale, and I noticed that Florida is not on your tour schedule. I know that I've seen you perform in West Palm Beach, Miami, and, more recently, in Fort Lauderdale. With the political climate being what it is under the current governor, do you foresee performing here at any point in the near future?**

**MC:** Yes, definitely. I think it's important to be out there. I was actually just there a few weeks ago, so. I think that we need to be constantly out there and we definitely need to be heard. Yes, I'm sure I'll be returning again soon.



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# GRAB JONNNY

## Go Jonny Go! Jonny McGovern's New OUTtv Show Shines Spotlight on the Other Stars of the Gay Club

By Jason Salerno

Jonny McGovern and his bestie, Greg McKeon, are on the hunt for America's next champion GoGo superstar star in OUTtv's hilarious new competition series, GoGo for the Gold. They have assembled a diverse cast of GoGos that encompass a wide range of body types from masculine hunks to thick bears, smooth twink and even one trans man!

To win, the GoGos must compete in a series of dancing, fashion and, of course, body challenges. The winner will receive a \$10k cash prize and the title of America's #1 champion GoGo superstar star. The competition will be fierce!

### Jason Salerno: What makes GoGo for the Gold different from all other reality competition shows on TV?

**Greg:** The GoGo dancers! There's never been a reality competition show that showcases the talents of the GoGo boy. GoGo Dancers bring the energy and flavor to nightclubs and festival events all around the world.

**Jonny:** Queer pop culture has spent the past fourteen years celebrating the queens on Drag Race; now it's time to shine the spotlight on the other stars of the gay club. GoGo boys serve the looks. Like the queens, they have star quality and tons of personality. They come in all types and styles and best of all, they bring the drama.

### JS: How did you get into GoGo-ing, Greg?

**Greg:** I started GoGo dancing the day I turned 21. I had always wanted to entertain people and make them smile. It was so exciting for me to stand on a box and spread positive, sexual energy on the dancefloor. During my time, I worked with some really big personalities and I really came to value the adventure of working in nightlife. It opened so many doors to so many

exciting opportunities and people. One person I met was Jonny McGovern.

### JS: Is that how you two started working together?

**Jonny:** Greg and I met in 2010 on the set of the music video for my "Sexy Nerd" song. We quickly became besties and started throwing some of the hottest GoGo parties in Los Angeles.

**Greg:** The parties we threw were all about the GoGo boy. We developed star dancers and worked with new guys on how to be successful on the box. It was more than simply a party; it was a community of guys that wanted to entertain and put on a show.

### JS: How did you come up with the concept for GoGo for the Gold?

**Greg:** We based the show around real-life challenges that GoGo boys face working in clubs.

**Jonny:** And then we heightened the dilemma, added tongue in cheek elements and some dramatic twists to amp up the obstacles for TV.

### JS: What can fans expect from the first season?

**Greg:** Expect a lot of humor, drama, fun and maybe even a few tears shed along the way. We have an incredibly diverse cast of GoGo boys competing for the \$10k prize. They exhibit very different styles, body types, gender expressions, but all have tons of talent.

### JS: Who are the GoGo Gods?

**Jonny:** They are the judges of the competition, led by Greg, of course. They will judge the GoGos based on four main criteria: Fantasy, Body,



Jonny McGovern-Photo by Luke Fontana





Dance and Individuality.

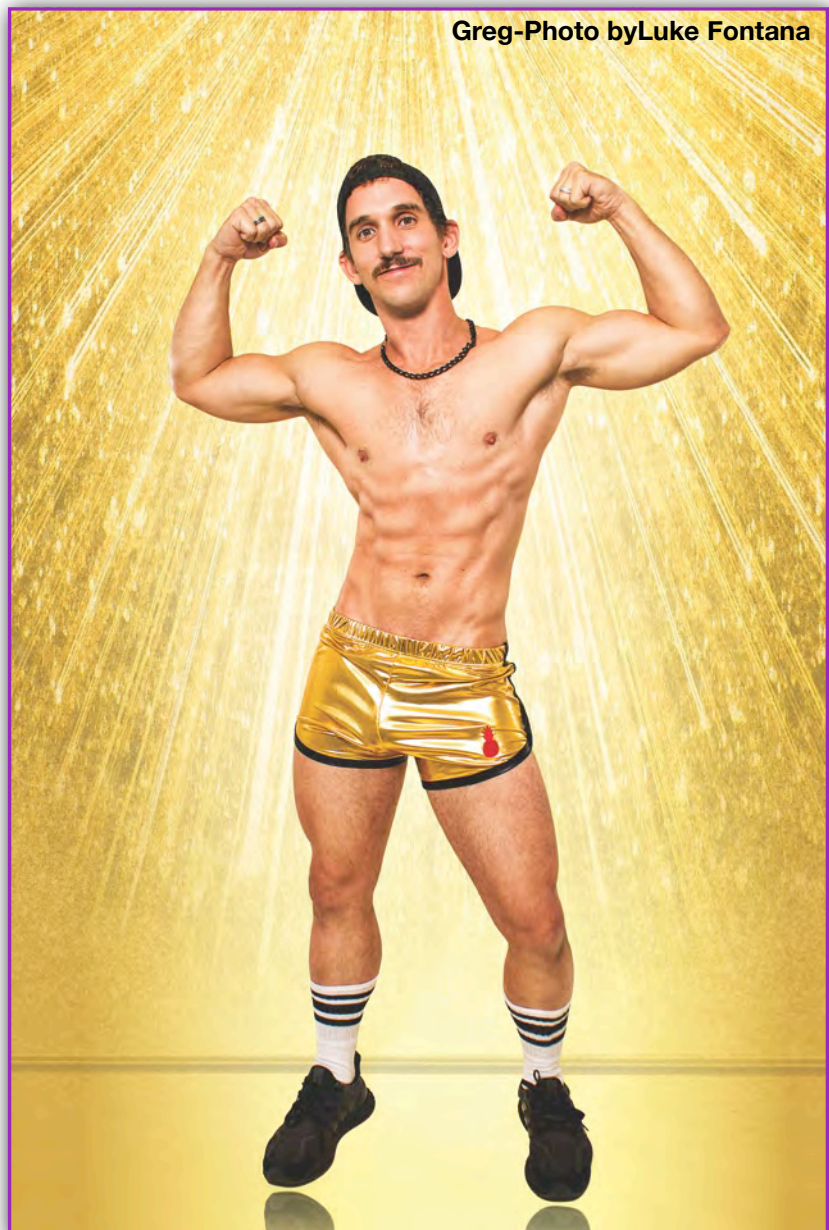
**Greg:** GoGos today are more than dancers. They are also influencers, models, nightlife representatives and stars. The hardest part for me, as a judge, will be eliminating the boys. I think they are all stars.

**JS:** What do you hope viewers to take away from **GOGO FOR THE GOLD?**

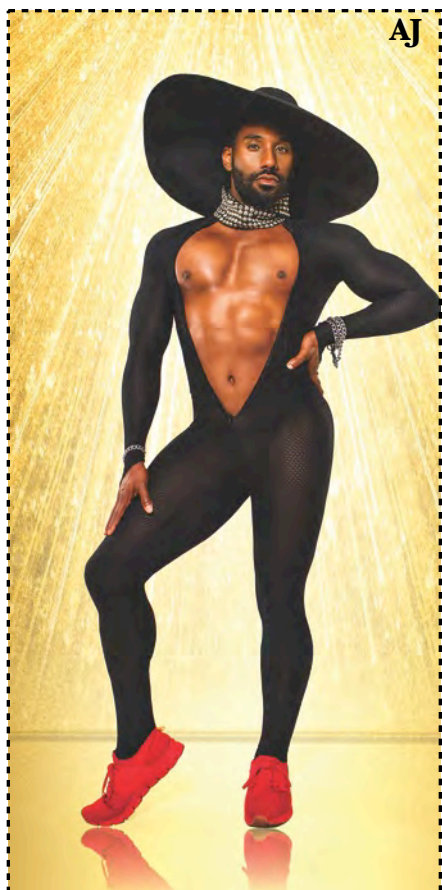
Greg: Amazing entertainment. Our GoGo boys are always ready to put on a hell of a show for you.

**Jonny:** I hope the show positions GoGo boys as the new drag queens. My message to viewers: Get ready for your new obsession.

Follow Jonny on IG @jonnymcgovernisyourdaddy. Follow Greg on IG @GrgistheWerd. Watch new episodes of GoGo for the Gold on Fridays at OUTtv.com, with a free 7-day trial. Also available on the OUTtv Apple TV channel.







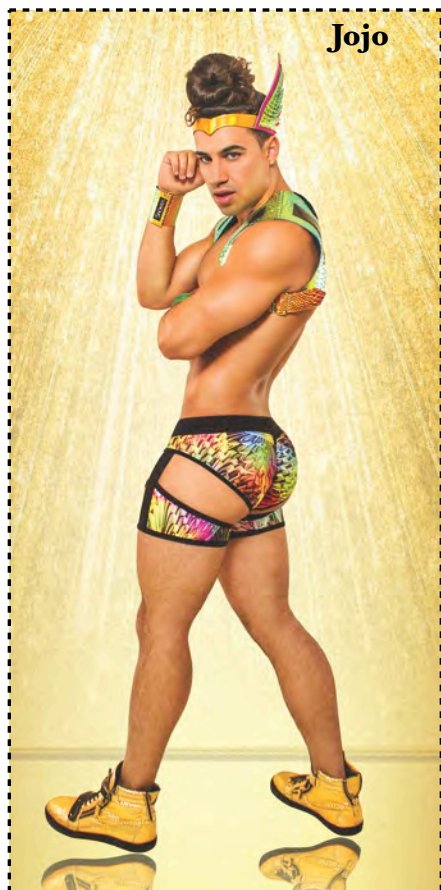
**AJ**



**Beef  
Bearrito**



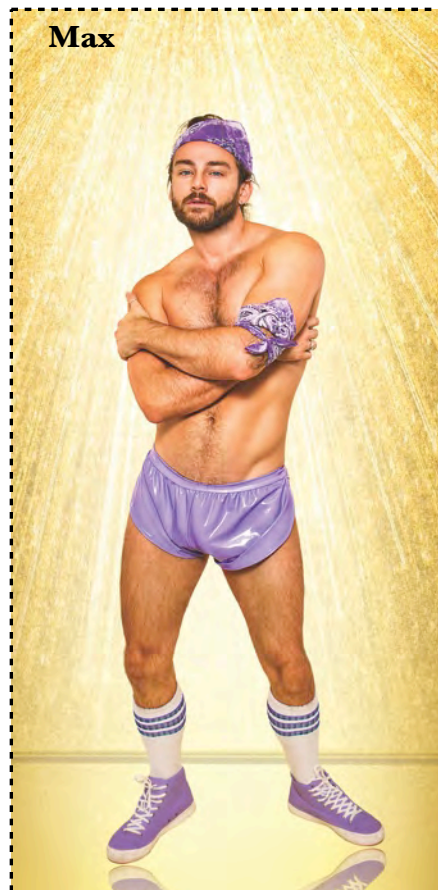
**Eddie**



**Jojo**



**Ken X Y**



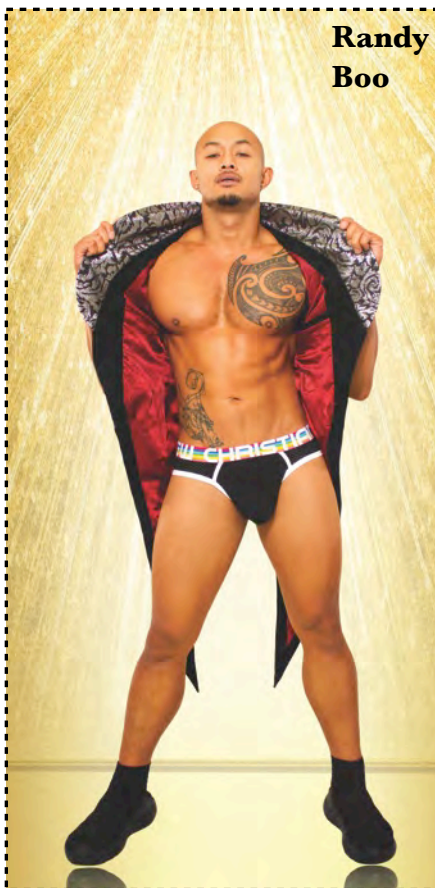
**Max**



**Paulo**



**Randy  
Boo**



**Steven**



**Zaddy**



**Gama**



**Rico**





# GRAB JANKY



## Spilling Tea with Janky

By Chez Ordoñez

As one of Chicago's most talented and sought-after house DJs, I sat down with Cenk, most known as Janky, so his fans and friends can get to know him on a deeper level, discuss his inspirations, and his much-anticipated debut performance at Pride in the Park that will take place on Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th at Grant Park.

Chicago's Pride in the Park which debuted in 2019, is an immersive Pride experience built upon an inclusive queer celebration that brings together all-star musical performances, legendary drag queens, and unrivaled local partnerships with a mission of love, music, and community. As one of the biggest queer outdoor festivals – last year alone welcoming 30,000 attendees over the weekend – and this year set to be even bigger, gayer, and more stunning with the Grammy-winning duo The Chainsmokers; Alesso; and RuPaul Dragrace winners Shea Coulee', Monet X Change, and Priyanka.

In getting warmed up for the interview and casually spilling some piping hot tea (that shall forever remain undisclosed), I immediately give mea culpa for not coming to see him regularly at Hydrate Nightclub where he is a resident DJ. That in itself is very nostalgic for him as he began remembering Hydrate being a strong presence during his coming of age appearances in Boystown, where he would go dance and mingle.



Personally, I remember this too because that may have been one of the first places I met him or met up with him. Knowing him for over 8-9 years now, it's one of the reasons I was first drawn to him – he is always a beaming light of goodness whenever he entered a room.

To me, Janky is the queer uppers we all wanted and that were graciously dipped in the essence of House music. He's an experience. As we continued spilling, thotting, and potting, I asked Janky some deep questions that ranged from knowing his inspirations, uncovering his aspirations, and the role of music in the queer community.

**Chez: So I know your father was a big musical influence in your life and in many ways gave you that**

**initial musical awakening by introducing you to Turkish, Arabic, and electronic music, do you recall your second musical awakening?**

**Janky:** There definitely was a second awakening when I started going out as an adult and even whenever I would go to any parties where everyone wanted me to either plug in my aux cord or ask me to DJ. They trusted my taste and organically became fans as progressed as a DJ.

**Chez: I love that. Do you think there will be a third awakening? I know people are curious to know what keeps you going?**

**Janky:** Honestly, my thirst...for more. [insert mutual laughter here]. I have never felt more passionate about something in my entire life. This is the



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first time I've been able to express myself creatively in a way that touches me deep and emotionally inside. I'm hungry for personal growth and have a yearning for more.

**C: It sounds like you've been set free in a way by being a DJ.**

**J:** Some of the largest music cities aside from Chicago, such as New York, Miami, and Detroit are all cities that I have been but on the dance floor – so my goal is to now make the connections to play in those cities where I can spread my sound. Once I do I know I'm going to kill it because I love what I do.

**C: That's amazing. What role do you think music still plays in the queer community and for music festivals like Pride in the Park?**

**J:** As a gay man, it's so gratifying that I get to play in a queer-centric safe space that's intentionally created for our community.

Doing a music festival like Pride in the Park really makes sense because our community continues to grow each year and so many want to experience an outdoor music festival but may not feel safe in a non-queer space. It's so profound and immensely important for queer culture to always know that the dance floor is about them freely expressing themselves in a safe space.



Queer DJs were really a huge part in shaping house music into what it is

today. Me following in the footsteps of gay house music royalty such as Frankie Knuckles, Derek Carter and Honey Dijon is a blessing.

**C: I'm always saying that Pride – at its core – is a protest. Where do you see the role of music continuing to play in Pride?**

**J:** Music is powerful. It's as equally a form of expression that creates safe spaces as it is a weapon if used like that. Music allows us to simply be liberated and be authentic – whether you're shirtless on a dancefloor, next to a person who is passing around a bottle of poppers, being in drag, or the first time someone feels comfortable being in different clothing. So we dance still today to

celebrate the many achievements we've made-ish, we must still remember that there are constant attacks on us every single day, so let's continue to be doing everything we are doing with music as a form of protest.

**C: Amen to that! I'm curious, from the DJ booth, do you see the community becoming more inclusive? What are your experiences looking into the crowd?**

**J:** Well, there is no question that we must continue to do better, especially with our trans brothers, sisters, and non-binary chosen family. I do notice though when I'm looking into the crowd as a DJ or dancing in the crowd as a gay man, that in Chicago we do a really good job at creating queer-inclusive spaces compared to other cities. There is plenty of work that still needs to be done, but I feel an at-home Pride when I see this.

**C: Thank you Janky! Always lovely spilling tea and truth with you.**

And there you have it, a bit of the Janky experience and why he always impresses and has a pulse on music, love, and the community.

*Janky will be performing at Pride in the Park, Grant Park's Butler Field (Downtown Chicago), 100 S. Lakeshore Drive, Saturday, June 25, 2-10 p.m. and Sunday, June 26, 3-10 p.m. To see him, get your tickets at [PrideParkChi.com](http://PrideParkChi.com).*







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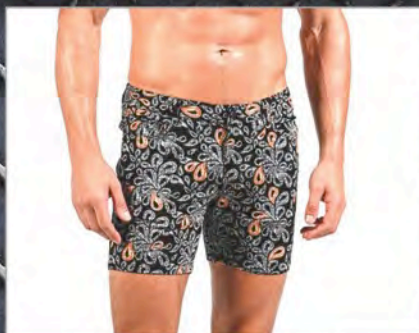
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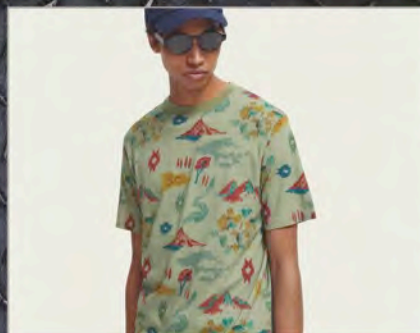
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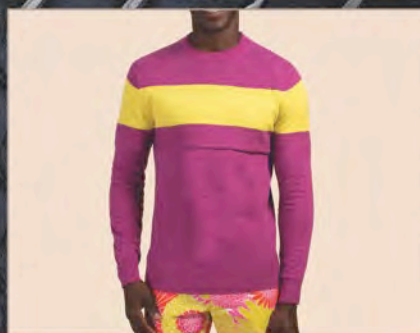
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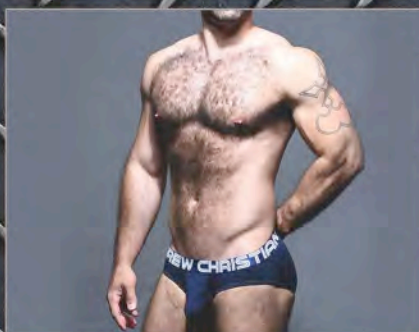
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# GRAB A PLANE



## Yucatan-Can Same Sex Weddings on the Mexican Riviera

By Rick Karlin

Last summer, the congress of the Mexican state of Yucatán approved same-sex marriage. Those laws went into effect this past March. Same-sex couples can now legally marry in twenty-two of Mexico's 32 states. The approval in Yucatán came two months after the legislatures of Baja, California and Sinaloa voted in favor of marriage equality. The Yucatan peninsula, best known for Cancun and Chichen Itza has long been a favorite of the LGBT community which enjoyed its beaches along the Mexican Riviera and its accepting attitude.

Merida, the state's largest city is now gearing up to host same sex weddings. But why should a couple consider a destination wedding in or around Merida? Other than the breathtaking scenery and lush tropical

gardens, how about the fact that Merida is one of the safest cities in the world? Also, a destination wedding for fifty people will cost less than a wedding half that size in the U.S. And that includes renting out a private hacienda or two to house all your guests and host your event. You might even be able to rent a private jet to take everyone to your exotic destination wedding and still walk away with a few extra Benjamins in your wallet. A weekend stay at a hacienda is about 1500 pesos or \$75. For the weekend! Overnight accommodations at nearby Hotel Mesón del Marqués are also reasonably priced.

A few things you should be aware of though. If you like a 24-hour gay party atmosphere you won't find it in Merida. Despite holding one of

Mexico's biggest gay Pride parades every year, there is no gay nightlife per se. Folks gather with friends everywhere and are welcome to do so. Also, if you have elderly or disabled members of your party, most of the venues are not handicapped accessible. In fact, one hacienda had eighty steps just to walk up to the first floor. Many of the colonial buildings are multiple levels, and few pathways are paved. But, with those caveats stated let's look at some of the delights that await.

Midway between Cancun and Merida, you'll find one of the most magical places, Zazil Tunich, a cavern-type cenote. A cenote is a body of water formed by the gradual dissolving of highly porous limestone, causing a collapse of the underground rock.





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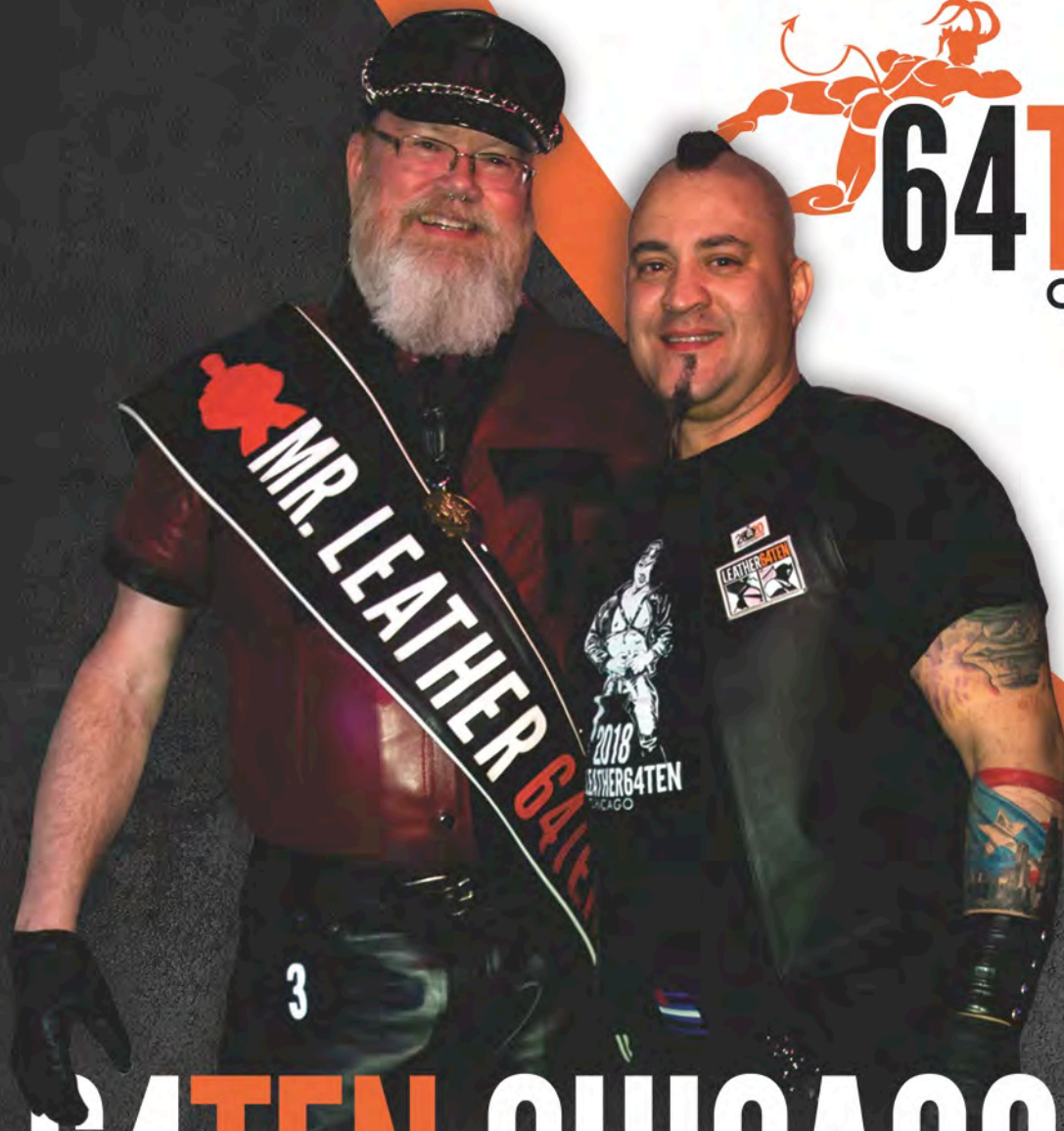
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When the collapse is deep enough to hit an aquifer, freshwater ends up in the sinkhole where it collects, forming pools and streams that can sometimes even connect to underground rivers. Some are just a few feet below the surface while others are in pits several stories deep. They are considered almost sacred places, and some have been known to host weddings. The cenote at Zazil Tunich has a deck overlooking the aquifer which has hosted small wedding parties and romantic dinners for two.

Merida, a city of one million people, is accessible from many major U.S. airports and is only a three-hour drive to Cancun, 40 minutes to Chichen Itza, and just minutes to the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean. It is a young and hip city with tons of restaurants, bars, and cultural attractions. The residents are proud of their Mayan culture, which is on display and preserved in the cuisine. In fact, many residents speak Mayan as well as Spanish (and to a lesser extent, English). While you can rent a car for day-trips outside the city, Ubers are plentiful and an inexpensive way to get around town, at less than \$5 a ride.

For centuries Merida was a prosperous center for textiles and sisal rope used in sailing vessels, with strong trade connections to Europe, particularly with France. It was dubbed "ciudad blanca," or the "white city," for the white garments worn by the townsfolk, a tradition that continues to this day. It was already the center of Mayan culture when it was discovered in 1542 by the conquistadors. Mérida's historic downtown, where some of the city's top attractions can be found, is laid out as a grid, making it much

easier to navigate than many other Mexican towns.

Thanks to its warm, humid climate and numerous attractive parks and flower gardens, it is a laid-back alternative to many of Mexico's busier cities. A good place to begin exploring the city is Plaza Mayor, also known as Plaza de la Independencia, or Plaza Grande. It is both the commercial and cultural hub of Mérida, as well as the centerpiece of the old city center and a short walk from Municipal Market. The Museum of Contemporary Art, Natural History and Mayan World Museum of Mérida are all worth a visit, as are the

poc'chuc (pork marinated in in sour orange juice, grilled or cooked on a wood fire, and served with pickled red onions), tikin xic (white fish marinated in regional mix of achiote and sour oranges), sopa de lima (a soup of lime-marinated shredded turkey or chicken), and sikil pak, (a dip of toasted pumpkin seeds, cilantro, and roasted tomatoes).

Museo de la Gastronomía Yucateca, is a hip, airy restaurant dishing up local classics, spirits, and craft cocktails. Other spots that are highly recommended include Ixi'im at hotel Chablé Yucatán (see more about the hotel later in this article), Olivia,

Pizzeria Raffaello, La Negrita Cantina, Pola Gelato, and the food stalls at Mercado de Santiago. In Merida, the wedding venue options range from the serene to out-of-your-mind luxurious. Venue options for your wedding range from the intimate Casa Azul, by Private Haciendas (which despite its name is yellow on the outside) to grand. Grupo Izamal has two hotels to conduct the weddings of its clients. The Rinconada del Convento Hotel is a 12-room hotel that has a Mayan pyramid overlooking an esplanade in the garden. The esplanade has enough space for



numerous galleries and studios featuring international and local artists. Yucatan is also a wonderful place from which to embark on a fun day trip exploring Mayan sites such as the ancient ruins of Uxmal or the beaches of Celestun.

Check out the local cuisine which, will no doubt, feature some regional favorite dishes. Among those are cochinita pibil (suckling pig rubbed with achiote paste, marinated in sour orange juice, wrapped in banana leaves, and then cooked in a sealed earthen pit, called a pib, that forms an airtight oven, cooking and smoking the meat),

an event of up to 450 guests and has a wonderful side view of the Izamal Convent and a unique panorama of this beautiful, magical town. Villa San Antonio de Padua is a colonial house with four rooms and offers privacy and elegance of the place when holding events for up to fifty people. It features a catering service offering regional Yucatecan foods made with local ingredients.

Villa Mercedes Hotel offers modern amenities (and elevators) for guests. Chablé Resort & Spa is part of a collection of ultra-luxury boutique hotels. Built in a beautiful former





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hacienda it is located around a sacred cenote, where nature connects through architecture. Upscale Hacienda-style weddings artfully combine the ancient Mayan environment with modern sophistication, accommodating weddings of up to one hundred people. A culinary experience enhances the setting for your wedding as tropical gardens boast a marvelous view of the original 19th century walls of the former Hacienda. Its sister location, Chablé Maroma, on the coast of the Riviera Maya, offers spaces that merge with the beaches and the rain forest.

The Haciendas by Luxury Collection is the most “Americanized” of the offerings.

With three Haciendas in Eastern Yucatan, the exclusive collection offers a wide range of experiences. Each atmosphere transports you to an era of luxury and comfort that the hacendados of the Mexican southeast enjoyed in the past with all the amenities of today. Built in 1700, Hacienda Uayamon reflects the sophistication of a luxury resort with attention to surrounding natural beauty. Walk through its candlelit private gardens amongst the whistling frogs or discover Edzna, a historical Mayan site.

Hacienda Santa Rosa is a former nobleman's private estate featuring uniquely carved columns, ornately furnished gardens, and mysterious evening campfires. All offer top of the line services and luxury to the finest detail.

Of course, as with all weddings in Mexico, certain documents are required. If one, or both, of the couple are Mexican nationals, that means an application for marriage provided by the Directorate of Civil Registry of Yucatan. It must be filled out with the general data of both parties, data of the parents, data of the witnesses, and the general data where the wedding will take place, an updated birth certificate and official identification of both parties an analysis and prenuptial medical certificate and attend the premarital orientation workshop at the registry office and provide three witnesses over the age of 18, with official identification.

Foreigners need to have the following: legalized or apostilled birth certificate



(with its Spanish translation), a letter of naturalization, and a valid passport. All documents must be presented in original and a copy. And, of course, payment of the corresponding civil wedding fee. It is a good idea to secure a local wedding planner to help take care of these issues for you.







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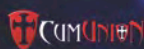
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# GRAB JOHN

## Long-Term Survivor: An interview with gay writer John Weir

By Gregg Shapiro

If patience is a virtue, then fans of award-winning gay writer **John Weir** are among the most virtuous people you will ever find. Weir won a Lambda Literary Award for his remarkable 1989 debut novel *The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket* and then had his readers wait 17 years for his second novel, 2006's devastating *What I Did Wrong*. Winner of the 2020 AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction, Weir's debut short story collection ***Your Nostalgia is Killing Me*** (Red Hen Press, 2022) is certainly worth the wait. The linked stories span a 40-year period, illustrating the power of nostalgia to alternately bring us to tears and make us laugh with a familiarity that is sure to resonate with readers from all walks of life. John, who is also a longtime educator, was gracious enough to answer a few questions in advance of the release of *Your Nostalgia is Killing Me*.

**Gregg Shapiro:** John, you're a writer known for your novels *The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket* and *What I Did Wrong*. Your debut short story collection, *Your Nostalgia is Killing Me* (Red Hen Press, 2022), winner of the 2020 Grace Paley Prize in Short Fiction, is being published in April 2022. That said, one of the things that struck me about *Your Nostalgia is Killing Me* is the poetry in it. There are references to poets W.H. Auden, Frank O'Hara, and Robert Frost, and the narrator of the story "Kid A" talks about the "embarrassing poems" he's written about Andy, described as "Straight guy half my age. Lives with his mom." Please say a few words about the presence of poetry in your life.

**John Weir:** I teach in the MFA Creative Writing and Literary Translation program at Queens College CUNY, and one of the best features of our program is the requirement that

students take a workshop outside their genre. So, I often have poets in my Fiction Writing Workshop. So much fun to see how poets read, to notice what they notice in a piece of fiction. It's hard to generalize about poetry – there are so many poetics – but I think of poetry as being generally more condensed and image-driven than most prose. I love how poetry can compress a range of feelings into a coppery-tasting, odd, unexpected image. My father read Robert Frost to my brother and me when we were kids, so Frost was my first poet. And then Langston Hughes! Because of a public TV show where Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis read and recited Hughes' poetry. And there was a paperback volume of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* lying around the high school choir room. Maybe somebody thought it was a chamber music score? I had no idea what was going on in *Four Quartets*, but I liked Eliot's turn of phrase. I probably said that out loud and embarrassingly at the dinner table. "Mom, Dad, T.S. Eliot has a fun turn of phrase!" As an adult, I'm an obsessive buyer-of-poetry-volumes, and the front room of my two-room apartment is jammed floor-to-ceiling with poetry. Lately, I'm reading Frank Bidart and Louise Glück, because they have new books, and because they're basically a gay-guy-&-his-best-straight-girlfriend-couple out of a Stephen McCauley

novel. And there are so many LGBTQ poets publishing wonderful books lately: Danez Smith, Tommy Pico, Natalie Diaz, Jos Charles, Phillip B. Williams, Donika Kelly, Franny Choi, and Eileen Myles now and forever!

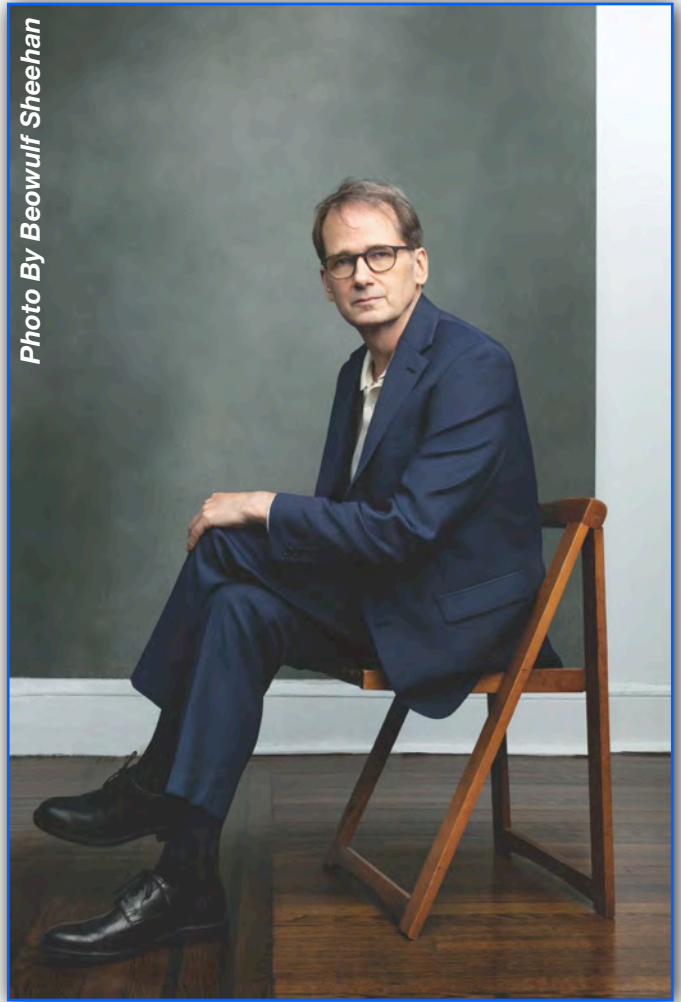
**GS:** In addition to poetry, modern music also features prominently in the book, aside from the Radiohead nod of "Kid A," the story "Katherine Mansfield," which perfectly blends comedy and tragedy, is packed with music references. What kind of role does music play for you?

**JW:** Thanks for using the word "perfect" in relation to my writing. Do you have music playing in the background when you're working or writing or whatever?

**GS:** Constantly!

**JW:** My mother's father was assistant manager of a radio station in Denver during World War II, and she grew up with the radio on, 24/7, and so did I,

Photo By Beowulf Sheehan





thanks to her. There was music in the house when I woke in the morning, and music until bedtime. Not live music, though my mother would sometimes bang out “Musetta’s Waltz” on the piano. And my parents had a huge collection of LPs – obsolete technology! – ranging from Bach to the Beatles, and I listened to Ella Fitzgerald’s Cole Porter Songbook over and over during high school. And Sondheim! I guess I’m gay. I need music in the background in order to concentrate, and I also sometimes need to play a song or album over and over in order to write a story. That’s actually what I was doing when I wrote “Kid A,” about a guy wandering into a porno movie theater in Queens. It’s the only story in *Your Nostalgia Is Killing Me* that I wrote in one sitting. Maybe it took six hours? And I was plugged into headphones and listening to – no lie – Radiohead’s *Kid A*, over and over. “How to Disappear Completely!”

**GS: Speaking of music, the third section of the book, “Imitation of Life,” opens with a Lance Loud epigraph. I recently interviewed Kristian Hoffman who was in the queer punk band The Mumps with Lance. Are you aware of The Mumps’ music, and if so, are you a fan?**

**JW:** Lance Loud! Surely you watched *An American Family* on TV in the early 1970s?

**GS: I did!**

**JW:** I saw every episode: the Loud family as reality TV before reality TV happened. And Lance Loud was my first homosexual! Other than Paul Lynde, but Lynde wasn’t out. Lance Loud was completely out – unlike anybody else on TV or in movies or anywhere in popular culture in 1973. It wasn’t a pose, it wasn’t a fashion statement, it wasn’t a flirtation with queerness or a temporary thing: he was gay. He went on Dick Cavett and was gay! So, he was one of my idols. And my biggest reward for publishing my first novel was getting to meet him, in Los Angeles, in 1992. I was in L.A. for the summer, staying with Randy Dunbar, then Art Director of *The Advocate*. Randy took me to a party in Silverlake, and Lance Loud showed up on his motorcycle. It was like Bowie or Grace Jones had walked in the room. He wasn’t the skinny guy from the TV show, he’d gotten pumped up and he was sort of a studly motorcycle guy, but with irony. I hope I

told him how much he had mattered to me when I was a 14-year-old queer kid stuck in rural New Jersey. I think I did. In any case, I picked him up once in a borrowed car and we went to the preview of Tim Burton’s *Mars Attacks!* I would’ve married him, or anything else, if he asked me, but I don’t think I was his type. I wanted his voice in my book, and so: the epigraph. Kind of a memorial to him, and to all the complicated theatrical courageously queer gay guys I’ve known. But you asked about The Mumps! I’m listening to them right now. Speaking of having music in the background. “I Like to Be Clean!”



Photo By Beowulf Sheehan

**GS: Movies also appear throughout the book, particularly in the story “Humoresque.” If you could pick one of the stories in the book to be made into a movie, which one would it be, and why?**

**JW:** I wish the whole book were a movie, with Jodie Foster as me! Was Jodie Foster my first lesbian? But she was not out until I was, like, 50. Still, though: when I was 17, I wanted to be Jodie Foster in *Taxi Driver*. Well, not that I wanted to have sex with Harvey Keitel! I guess I’m more influenced by movies than any other, “entertainment genre.” Particularly in terms of transitions: is this a jump cut? Is it a fade-out? Is it a smash cut? I’ve

learned a lot from movies about how to manage time and space. How to move people around in a room. How to show that time has passed. Which story as a movie? “Katherine Mansfield,” with the narrator and his gay pop star ex-boyfriend, and his “straight” acting class maybe-ex-boyfriend, and his dead gay best friend in the background – varieties of queer! – would be a fun movie musical. Is Lin Manuel-Miranda reading this? Andrew Garfield can play all the parts! Or wait: Ben Platt in an age-appropriate role as the pop star boyfriend! I guess “Humoresque,” the story with the guy and his aging mom and his ambivalent possible-boyfriend would work as a movie. Not that the mom is my actual mother, who died in 2018, but: my actual mother always said she wanted Lee Remick – who’s also dead! – to play her in the movie. If “Humoresque” were a movie, it would have to be a French film, where people talk a lot.

**GS: In more than half of the stories, including “It Must Be Swell to Be Laying Out Dead” and “Neorealism at the Infiniplex,” Dave (who represents gay writer David Feinberg) is a character, and in many ways, he haunts some of the other stories, particularly the ones in the “Long-Term Survivors” section. Do you think Dave will always have a place in your work as he does in *What I Did Wrong and Your Nostalgia Is Killing Me*?**

**JW:** Gosh, I don’t want to write about David Feinberg for the rest of my life, but... I mean, you’d think I’d have exhausted that topic by now. Not to cast shade on Dave! He was quite the character in real life, and so of course he’s a fun character on the page. I have two voices playing constantly in my head, one is my mother’s, and the other is Dave’s. Are they the same voice? The older I get, the more they merge. When I’m writing about a character who’s inspired by David or my mother, I don’t have to work hard to come up with dialogue. It’s like taking dictation: I just write down what I hear them saying. Which is not to say that I’m remembering what either of them said, in real time in the actual world. I can hear them talking about stuff they would never have known about – COVID or Marjorie Taylor Greene or Spielberg’s and Kushner’s *West Side Story*. It’s hard not to write about characters who make writing so easy for you. And I’m not good at inventing things. I couldn’t



invent a character as vivid as either of them.

But the question of writing about David Feinberg and his writing, his fiction, and nonfiction, is also a question of writing about the first 15 years of the global AIDS crisis. And I don't know how I'll ever be able to write about anything that doesn't take that crisis into account. That is if I'm writing realist fiction, and not fantasy or science fiction. I would not be able to pretend AIDS was not there – is not *\_still here\_*. Well, and reality is lately so much like science fiction, that all you have to do is write down what happened this afternoon, and you've got a dystopian novel.

**GS: Other writers make appearances in the book, including Tennessee Williams and Roland Barthes, as well as Joan Didion, who died in December 2021. Is Didion someone you would consider to be an influence on your writing, and if so, in what ways?**

**JW:** I hope I can stop writing like Joan Didion! I fell in love with her ironic tone when I was 17. A cute boy in my freshman year of college sat me down and read me Didion's essay "On Self-Respect," and I fell in love with him and her at the same time. Didion reminds me of my WASPy mother if my mother had migraines and read Henry James. Then when I was twenty, in 1979, I had a summer job as the parking lot attendant at the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, PA. It mostly meant sitting outdoors under a flood light and reading Didion's *\_The White Album\_*, while a touring company inside the Playhouse did *\_Oklahoma!* "I'm Just a Girl Who Can't Say No" drifting out into the night air as a background to Didion on the Manson family's Linda Kasabian. The first section of *\_The White Album\_*'s title essay ends with a sentence I can quote from memory: "By way of comment I offer only that an attack of vertigo and nausea does not now seem to me an inappropriate response to the summer of 1968." And in 1979, I was all, "Oh, wow." The ironic understatement, I guess? "Does not now seem an inappropriate response." The way she delays the full emotional impact of a sentence until its very end. How careful she is about where she places each word in a sentence. Her ability to withhold commas! Also, this rhetorical strategy: slyly undermining an official assertion. "Yes, yes, all of that is true, but let me just say...." And then, in

pursuing that "let me just say," she gives so perceptive and incisive a reading of a situation or event, that you forget the official assertion. I imitated that strategy constantly when I was writing nonfiction pieces for *\_Details\_* magazine in the early 1990s. Of course, I did it obviously and badly, and I can hardly stand to read some of those *Details* pieces now.

GS: AIDS activism and ACT UP figure prominently in the book, especially in the stories "Political Funerals" + "The Origin of the Milky Way," which made me wonder if you'd



Photo By Beowulf Sheehan

read Sarah Schulman's book *\_Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987–1993\_* and, if so, what you thought of it.

**JW:** I bought Sarah Schulman's book as soon as it showed up on the bookstore shelves. Frustratingly, it was not immediately in my nearest Brooklyn Barnes & Noble, so I went into Manhattan and got it at the Strand. I picked it up off the table of new releases, and because I'm a relentless narcissist, I turned at once to the back of the book and looked to see if my name was in the Index. Which it was! Argh, me. I'm reading the book in bits and pieces and learning stuff about ACT UP New York that I didn't know. But some of it is like home movies, and that's an odd experience, to feel like you're somehow historical. (I say something like this in "Long-Term

Survivors.") By the way, Sarah, in real life, was at the party I write about in "Scenes from a Marriage" – Dave's "I'm Still Standing" party, thrown a week or so before he died. Obviously, I have fictionalized aspects of that party, but Sarah writes about the real party in *The Gentrification of the Mind*. So, Sarah Schulman and I are intertextual!

**GS: Astrological signs such as Gemini, Leo and Cancer are referred to in some of the stories. What's your sign and are you a follower of the zodiac?**

**JW:** I'm an Aquarius with Cancer rising and my moon in Pisces: a balloon tethered to a dinghy floating in the sea. It's perilously easy for me to avoid things. I became aware of astrology because of the 5th Dimension's recording of "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In," which was the #1 pop song on the AM radio for six weeks in the spring of 1969, when I was 10. "The age of Aquarius." *\_My\_* age! So, I got into astrology, because it seemed like it was all about me. And it bugged my mother (a Taurus), which was a plus. Way later, I wrote a horoscope column for *Details* magazine, because I was on their payroll as a Contributing Editor, and the articles I wrote kept getting killed, and they had to run out my contract somehow. So, I did horoscopes for them under the nom de stars, "Clinton Point." Clinton Point did horoscopes for a German magazine too! For about a year. I forget the magazine's name. I speak six words of German, all of which mean "angst," but they translated my columns, and so I was briefly telling German people not to drunk dial your ex during Mercury retrograde.

**GS: The final story in the book, "It Gets Worse," is a kind of anti-It Gets Better coda with its heartbreaking depiction of bullying. The story reminded me of the way that queer singer/songwriter Jill Sobule has addressed similar themes, particularly on her most recent album *Nostalgia Kills*, and her stage show *F\*ck 7th Grade*. Are you aware of her work?**

**JW:** Gregg, I admit I didn't know Sobule had an album called *Nostalgia Kills*. Maybe I should send her a copy of my book! I know her song "I Kissed a Girl," and that's about the extent of my experience of Sobule. Thanks for the tip. I've been trying to catch up with

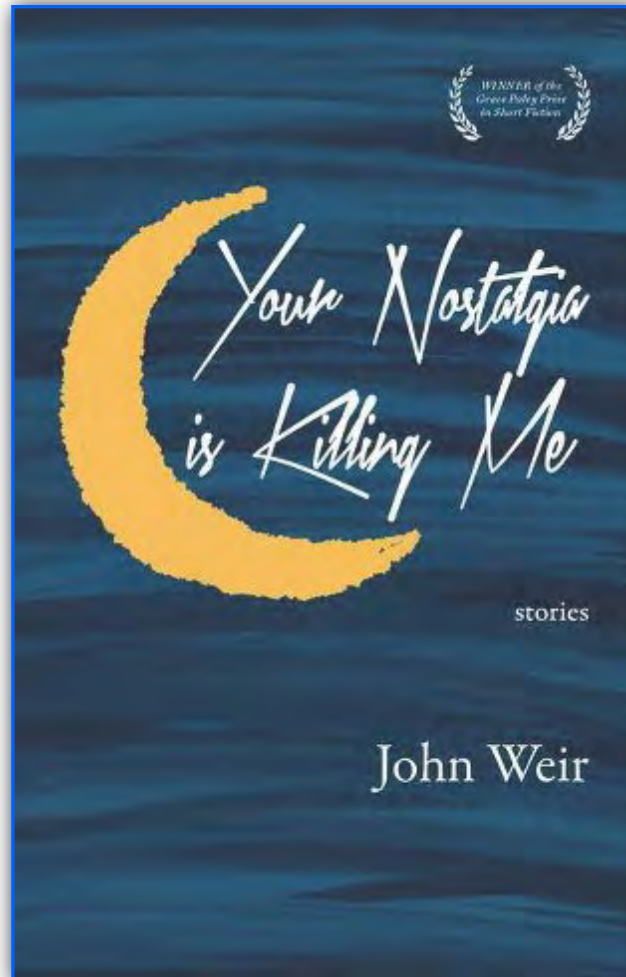


current pop music during Covid, and I'll add *Nostalgia Kills* to my playlist.

**GS: Do you think catharsis occurs when addressing the hell of middle school and high school for LGBTQ people, especially those of a certain age?**

**JW:** Oh, gosh, such a good question. I have been writing for decades about my experience of being harassed in grade school and high school. It's in all three of my books. Maybe it won't make sense to younger LGBTQ people to hear me say that the audience I have been trying to reach is not harassed queer kids, but their abusers. Kids who get harassed in grade school and high school because of their difference – if it's body shaming, racist abuse, misogynist attacks, or homophobic attacks: they know what happened. I don't need to tell them. The people who don't know what happened are the people who inflicted the abuse. Or the "straight" kids who stood around and watched it happen and said nothing. Anybody who went to high school in America participated in or witnessed some form of bullying. I'm guilty of having not intervened in high school when kids who were designated "uncool" got shunned or harassed. And I was a vicious mocker, so I'm sure I inflicted pain. What I want to do in my writing about being the target of harassment is to ask – maybe force – the reader to recognize, confront, their complicity in that harassment. I have wanted my writing to make that particular reader uncomfortable. Because: gosh, denial. People refuse to see their role in inflicting and perpetuating various kinds of abuse. And, so, I want to break through that denial. One of my strategies is to write about a scene of harassment as plainly and directly as possible, without ever asking the reader for sympathy. Because the minute a person thinks you're asking for pity, they stop listening to you. Stop hearing the truth of what you're saying. Anyway, that's been my experience. I try to say, simply, "This happened. And then this. And then this. In this order, on such and such a day, when the sun was shining." And I leave my feelings out of it. That strategy never works, though! My other strategy is humor, which I wield with a

degree of hostility, as a smart reader once pointed out to me. Getting someone to laugh is a way of throwing them off-center for a second, and sometimes, in that moment, new information can get in. That strategy doesn't work either! I have not yet had the sense that straight people are aware of their childhood complicity in generating and enforcing a homophobic regime in grade school and high school.



Sure, they were kids at the time! But who's meaner than kids, and more skillful at inflicting harm?

**GS: I saw your Facebook post about the forthcoming paperback editions of *The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket*, a reissue, and *What I Did Wrong* which is finally making its paperback debut. What does it mean to you to have these books back in print?**

**JW:** First off, it means that a guy named Richard Morrison at Fordham University Press was incredibly patient in asking me like once a year for the longest time if I'd be interested in having my novels

re-issued. Like I said earlier, it's easy for me to avoid things, and I just pretended I'd never heard him ask! I don't know why. I'm perverse. After a while, though, I figured, "Why not?" Was I waiting for Sofia Coppola to offer me a movie deal? Puzzling. But now both books will be out in May 2022, in Fordham's New York ReLit series in the Empire State Editions, and, yay. University presses are good at keeping books in print for a long time, regardless of sales, so that's reassuring. Eddie Socket would make a fun musical, and I think Taylor Swift should write it! With Taylor's sometime-collaborator and popstar guy Jack Antonoff as Eddie, and Kara Young – a brilliant actor who was just in Lynn Nottage's *Clyde's*, which I managed to see in New York in the 10 minutes before Omicron hit – as Polly. Maybe I'll send copies to Swift and Sobule! Or, you know, have my people contact their people.

**GS: Have you started thinking about or writing your next book, so we don't have to wait 16 years in between?**

**JW:** Oh, stab me! Okay, I admit there are three manuscripts I've been writing and rewriting since the last century. One's a novel about my favorite dead ex-boyfriend, and I keep trying to make it a Raymond Chandler mystery and failing. One's a bunch of essays I've written over 30 years and say the words "essay collection" to an agent and watch what happens. (In other words, I don't have an agent at the moment.) The third

manuscript is about my mother, and I can't decide if it's fiction or nonfiction or, I don't know, an opera. My mother was Auntie Mame crossed with Henry Fonda in *My Darling Clementine*, and I want to make sure I get her right, or she will smite me from the beyond.





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CUBS VS. REDS

SAT 5/28 AT 6:15PM  
CUBS VS. SOX

MON 5/30 AT 6:40PM  
CUBS VS. BREWERS

THURS 6/2 AT 2:07PM  
SOX VS. BLUE JAYS

SAT 6/4 AT 3:10PM  
SOX VS. RAYS

ALL STARS  
SEASON 7

VIEWING PARTY



FRIDAYS AT 8PM

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# GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

## Daily Specials

<b>Monday</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$4StoliCocktails (Any Flavor). <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlies:</b> Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. <b>Hydrate:</b> Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. <b>Lark:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm, Bottles of Wine 50% off with dinner entree purchase. <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 4pm, Dancers 8pm. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$5 Jäger, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. <b>Replay Beer &amp; Bourbon Lakeview:</b> Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts &amp; Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$4 Whiskey, Rye&amp; Bourbon \$3 Miller Lit Drafts \$5Big Ass Long Islands, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b>5/30 Memorial Day Beer Bust \$2Bud/BudLightDrafts CookOut 3-7pm Clubroom Open 6pm Survivor Party 10pm.</p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> TuneUp Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. <b>Houndstooth:</b> \$2 Tacos, ½ Off Bottles of Wine, \$5 Red or White Sangria, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. <b>Hydrate:</b> 8/10 TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lark:</b> 50% Off Bottles of Wine with any Entree Purchase, Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm 50%off Bottles of Wine with purchase of an Entree. <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$3 House Shots, \$5 Jäger, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers &amp; Ciders. <b>Replay Beer &amp; Bourbon Lakeview:</b> Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts &amp; Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. <b>Sidetrack:</b> 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. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts.<b>Touche:</b> 5/25 Best of Chicago Welcome Party Hosted by MCL 2022Hardcore Cruisin Open 10pm' Sponsor Leather 64Ten. No cell phones/Wifi.</p>
<b>Wednes day</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$4 Premium Well Cocktails. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close.<b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lark:</b> Free Bingo, 50% Off Nachos &amp; Totchos, \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks, Traditional Flavor only. Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm.<b>Lark:</b> Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails. Buy One Pizza Get one half offDie In Only<b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$3 Miller Lite Drafts, \$4 Stolis (All Flavors), \$5 Jäger, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft &amp; Cans. <b>Replay Beer &amp; Bourbon Lakeview:</b> Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts &amp; Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor &amp; Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, FUN DMC: Dua/Megan/Cardi last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am <b>Steamworks:</b> Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$4 Titos Coctails,\$6Big Miller Lite Drafts. \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> 5/25Best of Chicago Welcome Party Hosted by MCL2022.</p>
<b>Thursda y</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Whiskey, Rye &amp; Bourbon.<b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. <b>Charlie's:</b> Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. <b>Hydrate:</b> 5/26 Skin Trade Grabby Opening Party Doors open at 9pm brnefit for TPAN.. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. <b>Lark:</b> Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails . 7pm Extreme Bingwith Vian Dejour. 50%off Nachos or Tatchos \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks Tradional Flavor Only.<b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$5 You Call It's, \$5 Jäger, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails <b>Replay Beer &amp; Bourbon Lakeview:</b> Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts &amp; Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay &amp; Friends 9pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$4 Premium Well Cocktails\$4 TallBoys, \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> 5/26 World Bear Party Hosted By Hunter Harden</p>



# GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

## Daily Specials

Friday	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. <b>Baton Show Lounge:</b> Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm &amp; 11:30pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p – 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p – 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p – 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays – Strut 10p – 1am, Dancing until close. <b>GRABBY'S:</b> Gay Porn Awards Show 6pm at Metro Theater. 7pm show starts Tickets Available at the door or online grabbyAwards.com, <b>Hydrate:</b> Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. <b>Lark:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails .Every Friday from <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$5 Tito's, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Jäger, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. <b>Replay Beer &amp; Bourbon Lakeview:</b> Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) <b>Shakers:</b> \$4 Domestic Bottles \$5 Well Mixed Drinks, \$10 Giant 23oz Long Islands in 22 flavors. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 3-7pm, RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Viewing Party 7-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts.</p>
Saturday	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Lagunitas IPA Drafts \$5 Premium Well Cocktails \$12 mimosa Carafes. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. <b>Baton Show Lounge:</b> Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm &amp; 11:30pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 2pm-3am. <b>Charlie's:</b> Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, The Main Event 10pm – 1am Dancing until Close. <b>Lark:</b> Lakeviews #1 Free flowing Brunch 11am-3pm <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Jäger, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. <b>Replay Beer &amp; Bourbon Lakeview:</b> \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.). <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag &amp; Games with Zamora Love &amp; Friends 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$4 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$4 Tallboys, \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> 5/28 Old School Leather A Touche Year 45 Celebration with Bijou Video &amp; Drummer Magazine.</p>
Sunday Funday	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Signature Margaritas \$12 Mimosa Carafes. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. <b>Baton Show Lounge:</b> Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm &amp; 11:30pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 2pm-2am <b>Charlie's:</b> Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm – 7pm, Singational Sunday Karaoke 7pm – 11pm Mas Leche 11pm – 1am, Dancing until close. <b>Hydrate:</b> Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Divalicious brunch with Madam X 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis . <b>Lark:</b> Lakeviews #1 Free flowing Brunch 11am-3pm <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Frozen's, \$5 Jäger, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm <b>Replay Beer &amp; Bourbon Lakeview:</b> \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$6 Chicago Handshake, \$5 Prairie Vodka Cocktails, \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> 5/29 Post IML Contest SuperRipe The Weekend's wildest night with hot go-go dudes &amp; DJ Harry T</p>



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## GRAB A HIT

**Top 40 Dance Chart this week**  
 Visit [nexusradio.fm](http://nexusradio.fm)



	Artist	Title
1	Alesso & Sentinel	Only You
2	Tujamo	Down
3	Duke & Jones	Vertigo
4	Farius	A Big Life (Radio Mix)
5	Franky Wah	Come Together
6	D.O.D & Carla Monroe	Still Sleepless
7	undefined	NEXUS RADIO March22_12_NewMusi
8	MO	New Moon
9	Swedish House Mafia	Heaven Takes You Home
10	Jetta	Honey (Jonasu & RUDY Remix)
11	Sam Gellaitry	New Wave
12	Sigma	Can't Get Enough ft. Taet
13	Mabel x Jax Jones x Galantis	Good Luck
14	ManyFew x Franky	You Had Me
15	Jonas Blue & Sevens	Angles
16	David Guetta & Becky Hill & Ella Henderson	Crazy What Love Can Do
17	Thomas Gold x Jex x Hugo Cantarra	Wasted
18	Billy Porter	Children (MikeQ and 2LIVE Remix)
19	Fireboy DML	Peru ft. Ed Sheeran (R3HAB Remix)
20	MadBoys	We Made It
21	Diplo & Miguel	Don't Forget My Love
22	NEIKED x Mae Muller x Polo G	Better Days (Regard Remix)
23	VASSY x GTOffice	Tuff
24	Becky Hill & Galantis	Run
25	MelyJones & Charles B	Do You Remember (Coopex Edit)
26	ARTY	So Good To Me
27	Zookeeper & Jen	Taking Over Me
28	John Newman	Waiting For A Lifetime
29	Keanu Silva x Toby Romeo x SACHA	Hopeless Heart (Radio Edit)
30	Charli XCX	Beg For You ft. Rina Sawayama (Charlie Lane Remix)
31	SIDEPIECE	Don't Keep Me Waiting
32	Swedish House Mafia & Sting	Redlight (Radio Edit)
33	The Chainsmokers	High (Radio Edit)
34	Jax Jones	Where Did You Go ft. MNEK
35	Codeko & April Bender	Not Alone
36	Kungs	Clap Your Hands (Robin Schulz Remix Radio)
37	Nicky Romero x GATTUSO x Jared Lee	Afterglow (Shorter Radio Edit)
38	Cosmic Gate & Olivia Sebastianelli	We Got The Fire
39	Wilkinson & Becky Hill	Here For You
40	Anitta	Boys Don't Cry (NIIKO & SWAE Remix)





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PHOTOS BY ANTHONY MEADE







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**Thirsty Thursday  
Karaoke**

**9pm-1am**

**ALL DAY SPECIALS  
\$5 You Call Its**

HOSTED BY  
Bradley KB  
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**Friday  
8pm-2am**



**Happy Hour 5-8pm  
\$5 Chicago Handshakes**

**ALL DAY SPECIALS  
\$7 BIG Miller Lite Drafts  
\$5 Tito's**



**Saturday  
2pm-6pm**



**ALL DAY SPECIALS  
\$5 Signature Margaritas  
\$5 Premium Well Cocktails  
\$12 Mimosa Carafes**



**6pm-2am**

**SKIN**  
**SUNDAY | 2PM-6PM**



**ALL DAY SPECIALS  
\$3 House Shots  
\$5 Premium Wells  
\$12 Mimosa Carafes**

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WEDS 5.25

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THURS 5.26

## WORLD BEAR WEEKEND PARTY

9PM-4AM SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY HUNTER HARDEN  
& JOHNNY BENJAMIN, MR. WORLD BEAR 2018  
DRAWINGS FOR WORLD BEAR 2022 WEEKEND PACKAGES  
MIDNIGHT PIZZA PANIC

FRI 5.27

## WTNB SOCIAL

WOMENS, TRANS, NON-BINARY LEATHER KINK  
PRESENTATIONS & RAFFLES / 7PM IN CLUB ROOM

## ALL COLORS CLUB NIGHT

WELCOMING ALL CLUB BROTHERS & SISTERS TO A  
NO HOST FRIDAY CLUB NIGHT / BENEFIT RAFFLE  
FOR LA&M / FREE GIFT FOR ALL IN THEIR COLORS

SAT 5.28

## OLD SCHOOL LEATHER NITE

10PM / A YEAR 45 CELEBRATION SALUTING OUR  
LEATHER ROOTS / DOOR PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS

SUN 5.29

## SUPER RIPE PARTY

9PM-4AM DIM LIGHTS...DEEP BEATS...DJ HARRY T  
GETTIN' DOWN & DIRTY WITH ALEX TIKAS, STRATTEN  
& ROB MONTANA ON STAGE!

MON 5.30

## BEER BUST

\$2 BUD/BUD LIGHT DRAFTS ALL DAY

## COOKOUT

FREE GRILLED EATS & RAFFLES 3-6PM

## SURVIVOR PARTY

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at Pride, too!  
Join our Pet Parade!*





# GRAB HOLLY

## Doug Joins the Patriarchy

Sassy Pants, Dot and I were gathered in the orchard at the Horse Rescue, where we were brainstorming ways to convince Lauren – a local high school girl who had fallen pregnant – to deliver her child, and then give him up for adoption by Mike and Dave, a gay couple. Sassy spoke.

“You may be of the opinion, Holly, that all matters relating to Lauren’s pregnancy ought to be governed by the ‘convenience of Lauren.’ As if – Lauren’s unborn child being entirely contained in her body – we need only ask ourselves ‘What does Lauren want?’ And, if we were to submit to the clamorous hysterics of Lauren’s most militant ‘sisters’ – Feminists – we could not help but acknowledge that Lauren does possess absolute power over the contents of her womb.

“But, were we to reason in this way, we would be guilty of sacrificing the welfare of that child to the naked power which Lauren – the mother – possesses. For there is another party whose ‘convenience’ we have not yet addressed, but whose contribution is equally as important as Lauren’s.

“Previously, we observed that there are those who would characterize the contents of Lauren’s uterus as a mere

‘clump of cells.’ And if we were talking about a polyp or tumor, and if a surgeon were to remove those cells and do a DNA analysis, we would find that DNA to be entirely Lauren’s.

“However, if that surgeon were to take a sample of the contents of Lauren’s uterus and do a DNA analysis, he would find Lauren’s DNA mixed with the DNA of another person – the father. Thus, it is fundamentally dishonest – and contrary to ‘the science’ – to assert that the contents of Lauren’s womb are a mere ‘clump of cells.’ No. They are living tissue of an entirely new and unique member of the Species Human.”

Sassy turned to Dot and inquired, “Dot, do we know who the father is?” Dot replied, “Yes, it’s a senior named Doug.” “And what do we know of their history?” Sassy continued. Dot responded, “They were dating for most of the school year, so Lauren is sure Doug is the father. It’s just... somehow, the condom failed.”

Sassy was visibly relieved. “That’s the first good news I’ve heard today. Do you realize, Holly, how unusual this situation is? In this case, the mother knows full well who the father is, and she has been willing to share that information with others. Accordingly,

reasoning as we did earlier, we would conclude that this pregnancy ought to be governed as much by ‘the convenience of Doug’ as it is by ‘the convenience of Lauren.’ (Or, if we were to grant Doug as much dignity as Feminists bestow upon Lauren, we might entitle this ‘the convenience of the Patriarchy.’)

“Nevertheless, it is a tragic fact – in your human society today – that many of your expectant mothers are unable to name the father of her baby. In these cases, the mother might produce a list of 8 or 10 names, and then announce, ‘I’ve narrowed it down to one of these.’ But, hearing such a confession, we see to what a low ebb the ‘Power of the Patriarchy’ has fallen.

“In ancient times, when wealth and power in society were monopolized by kings and queens and of others of



the aristocracy, the fate of a child was usually determined by his patrilineal ancestry. In those days, the ‘Patriarchy’ exercised unlimited scope and power. But not today. Today, the DNA that Doug contributed to the conception of his and Lauren’s baby is accorded no special recognition. Indeed, your human society – guided by the strident and uncompromising demands of Feminists – universally disregards every aspect of Doug’s involvement in this pregnancy.

“But, Holly, is it just that this child should be ‘disinherited’ from his authentic patrimony? What would justify us to conclude that Doug – having contributed the ‘spark of life’ to this infant – could thereafter be wholly excluded from the upbringing or education of his offspring? And even if – supposing for the moment that Doug is indifferent to the child – is it wise for your species to deprive that infant of the benefits of a father?”

Sassy summed up. “There is a great injustice here which we must strive to avoid. Supposing Lauren carries her pregnancy to term, and then allows Mike and Dave to complete the adoption, how, then, will Doug react, witnessing his son brought up in another home, by other parents, in the same little town where he lives?

“And all this (!) done without him ever having the opportunity to add his own words of affirmation and support for that burden taken up by others in his place?

“Honestly! Are we supposed to stand idly by and watch him be robbed of the power of his own patrimony?”

*(To be continued)*

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

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INTERNATIONAL  
**GRABBY** April 23, 2022  
 A W A R D Torremolinos,  
 EUROPE Spain





# GRAB A FILM

By Delven Shaw

**LUZ** is a powerful journey to the dawn.



Gay men in prison have been a staple in films, from Hollywood-sized musicals like *KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN* (1985) to small gems like *THE PRINCE* (2019). And *Luz* begins with a young man stripped searched, and admitted to jail; you might expect you know which path the film will take. As a result, this is one of my favorite films of 2022.

However, writer/director **Jon Garzia** has a few tricks up his sleeve, aided tremendously by two men who befriend each other and bend their own lives. Ruben (Ernesto Ruiz) holds the center of the film, as he enters a jail after the accidental death of his trans lover and his punishment by his mafioso cousin for whom he worked. He is desperate to stay in touch with his deaf daughter, who is being cared for by his mother.

His cellmate Carlos (Jesse Tayeh) is older and has been hardened. He tells Ruben never to trust, never to hope, and never to have any dealings with the gay inmates. And when Ruben fails to heed those rules, the fate of the two men is healed as the men brawl into a beautiful romance.

But *Luz* is a story of survival, and the second half of the film has much to say about family and the bond between men. The sexuality is frank and robust. The performances of the large ensemble cast delve deeper than those generally seen in a prison film.

A remarkable feature of the film is the haunting score by **Jim Brunberg** and **Benjamin Landsverk**, which is simple, and deeply felt.

**There are a lot of queer culture available screening right now. Check out the two-minute reviews at [DelvenShaw.com](http://DelvenShaw.com) for more!**

**RUMSPRINGA** is a sweet delight.



If you are worried that all the films of our day are as gloomy as our news, take a trip with *RUMSPRINGA*, an unexpected charmer about an Amish young man coming to Berlin for the traditional rite of passage before settling down into married life.

We spend only a few moments with Jacob in his traditional community in Pennsylvania before he and his sack board a bus to a new life.

The sight gags are plentiful and well-earned as Jacob experiences contemporary culture for the first time. How he loses his luggage and eventually his heart is a voluptuous journey that I suspect you will enjoy. It easily leaped to the top of my favorite comedy films of 2022.

When Jacob (**Jonas Holdenrieder**) sees another bearded man Alf (**Timur Bartels**), he thinks he has found a connection to his past. The relationship between two straight men is beautifully played. Holdenrieder is all Carol Channing-sized eyes as he meets the world of flush toilets, roller skates, beer, dancing, and very relaxed sexuality.

On the other hand, Alf is jaded, oversexed, and often shirtless. But as he awakens to find that he has made his first real friend, the film finds its very enjoyable sweet spot. The men are excellent in their scenes together, and the introduction of Gizem Emre as Ina, whose accidental meeting in the airport sets the comedy into action, adds a unique yet sexy innocence.

Some wacky plot twists toward the end, including a white horse, are none too subtle. But the intention of the director Mira Thiel and writers **Nika Heinrich** and **Oskar Minkler** seems pure.

As you see the world through Jacobs's eyes, you too might become a bit more hopeful.

**THE FIRST LADY** takes a new look at heroic women.



*THE FIRST LADY* is a new look at three women who were pivotal to the history of our democracy - **Michelle Obama**, **Betty Ford**, and **Eleanor Roosevelt**. By making the political personal, the series provides an intimate sn startling look at women who did not ask to be pillars of history, but who stepped up to the roles they not covet.

My favorite storyline is that of Betty Ford, who is brilliant as played by Michelle Pfeiffer. In this telling, by Aaron Cooley, Mrs. Ford is thrilled that her husband is coming to the end of his long congressional career when fate intervenes. The series looks back at her aspiration to be a dancer and takes time to explore her first marriage, and her challenges with addiction. Her desire to be transparent about her medical history and challenges are clearly laid out in sublimates layers of tension with her husband, but when Pfeiffer explodes after her husband pardons Richard Nixon, the scene is powerful.

**Gillian Anderson** as **Eleanor Roosevelt** is equally good, as she journeys from an unhappy childhood to the European school for girls which molds much of her political and personal directions. Since these episodes are set farther back in history, they seem fresh, but not as crucial as the Ford story.

Much has been written about Viola Davis' portrayal of Michelle Obama, and it does not seem like perfect casting, although Davis is a producer on the project. The language seems intentionally harsh as the Obamas have been so protective of their image and their children.

In carefully plotted episodes, we see how these three women anchor these presidencies and change the course of history because of their beliefs. We meet their parents and children, watch the date and dream, and quietly rebel against what is expected from them.

If you are a fan of history, this is must-see TV. If you don't love politics, but still enjoy a good yarn, this is material that may leave you wanting to know more about three incredible women.



# THE GRABBY AWARDS

Europe April 23, 2022  
Torremolinos,  
Spain



May 24 , 2022

GRAB Magazine

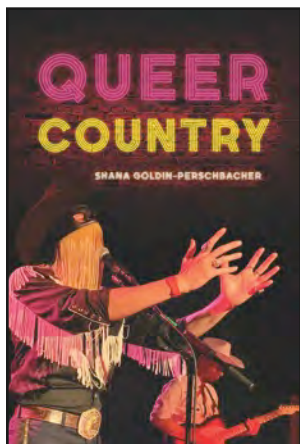
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# GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

**"Queer Country"** by Shana Goldin-Perschbacher  
c.2002, University of Illinois Press  
\$110 hardcover; \$24.95 paperback 288 pages



Two steps. This way, two more that way, tap your heels together, step-and-bow left, step-and-bow right, turn and again. Eventually, you'll get the hang of doing this and you won't bump into everybody on the dance floor. Also eventually, you'll see that country music has a place for you even when, as in the new book "Queer Country" by Shana Goldin-Perschbacher, you never thought you had a place for it.

Usually, when one thinks about country music, rural living comes to mind: cowboys, pick-ups, Christian values, conservatism, heartbreak and honky tonks. Stereotypically, few of those things have seemed LGBT-inclusive and listeners might have felt unwelcome, were it not for today's boundary-breakers and "queer country" which, says Goldin-Perschbacher, is becoming more of a music category with fans.

Goldin-Perschbacher is quick to say that "queer country" is not a genre on its own. Some out musicians might closer identify themselves with Americana or folk music; k.d. lang's music is more country-politan, but with humor; and you can attend queer Bluegrass festivals, if you want. None of this defines the various artists: in many ways, gay, lesbian, and trans artists have really had no other options than to embrace all labels.

Then there's the issue of how to do queer country: Goldin-Perschbacher refers often to Patrick Haggerty, who was the first gay artist to officially record the album *Lavender Country*. He recorded it in Seattle, shortly after Stonewall; at that time, Haggerty was especially determined that his album be honest and sincere in its reflection of gay life – things

that continue to concern queer artists who use irony, drag, and camp in their work.

And there's that struggle to go mainstream. Goldin-Perschbacher writes about k.d. lang's career and how it progressed. You'll read about Chely Wright and Lil Nas X and how they used non-traditional ways to rise to stardom. And you'll read about many artists who do what seems best for them, and count LGBTQ listeners and cis audience members among their fans.

There really is no way "Queer Country" could ever be considered a "beach read."

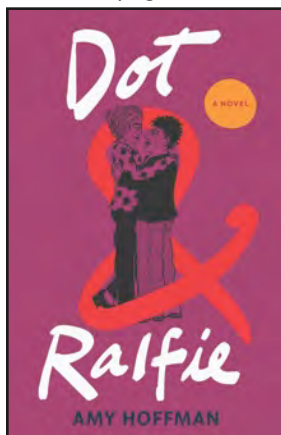
This isn't the relaxed, rangy kind of book you want to sunbathe with; instead, author Shana Goldin-Perschbacher speaks to the academic, rather than the casual listener, with language that seems to fit better in school, than in sand. The analyses border on the high-brow just a bit, with some amount of repetition to underscore various points.

Even so, this is an important work.

In writing about this almost-hidden branch of country music, Goldin-Perschbacher also tells of the efforts she's made to help some artists to gain a wider audience. This lends more of an insider feel; the intimately extensive interviews with artists, and excerpts from other works, let readers know that they should keep their eyes (and ears!) open...

Give yourself some room to absorb, if you tackle this book. It's not for everyone, but C&W listeners and "queer country" fans may find it necessary. Step one is to find somewhere comfortable to sit. Reading "Queer Country" is step two.

**"Dot & Ralfie: A Novel"** by Amy Hoffman  
c.2022, University of Wisconsin Press \$16.95 147 pages



There is one alternative to growing older.

Never mind, though, it's not on your radar. You're more focused these days on not groaning when you get up each morning, and keeping your joints oiled

enough to work. Years don't really mean much when you've got places to go and people to see before that alternative happens but in the new novel "Dot & Ralfie" by Amy Hoffman, keep one eye on that calendar...

Neither Dot nor Ralfie could agree on how they met, except that it was back when good lesbian bars still existed, before the internet. Dot recalled, but Ralfie denied, that they met over a pool game and Ralfie wandered away. They both remember a cocktail party when Ralfie first took Dot home with her.

These days, though, "home" is a third-floor walk-up in a Boston neighborhood. It's been a great place and Dot & Ralfie like the neighbors and all, but Dot's sixty-eight and Ralfie's over seventy and three floors of steps are a problem. A big problem, especially when you've had knee surgery like Ralfie's had. Especially when you've had a teensy little heart attack and walking makes you winded, as it does Dot.

And so, Dot's sister, Susan, has been pushing Dot and Ralfie to move to a senior living complex, which Ralfie refers to as Maple Grave because that's what's next, isn't it? Yeah, and Susan is so determined to have Ralfie and Dot move into senior housing that she buys a way-off-the-beaten-path Maple Grave apartment of her own, for her and her lover, Germaine.

But Germaine's not happy: she's more than a decade younger than Susan and besides, she'd miss her friends back in the city, just as Ralfie would miss the guys at her job at the DPW, and Dot would miss the kids at the school library where she worked. And it would be such a hassle for Dot to see the older librarian that she had a little affair with not long ago. Viola was ailing, and needed Dot's help.

Still, those stairs. What was the next step?

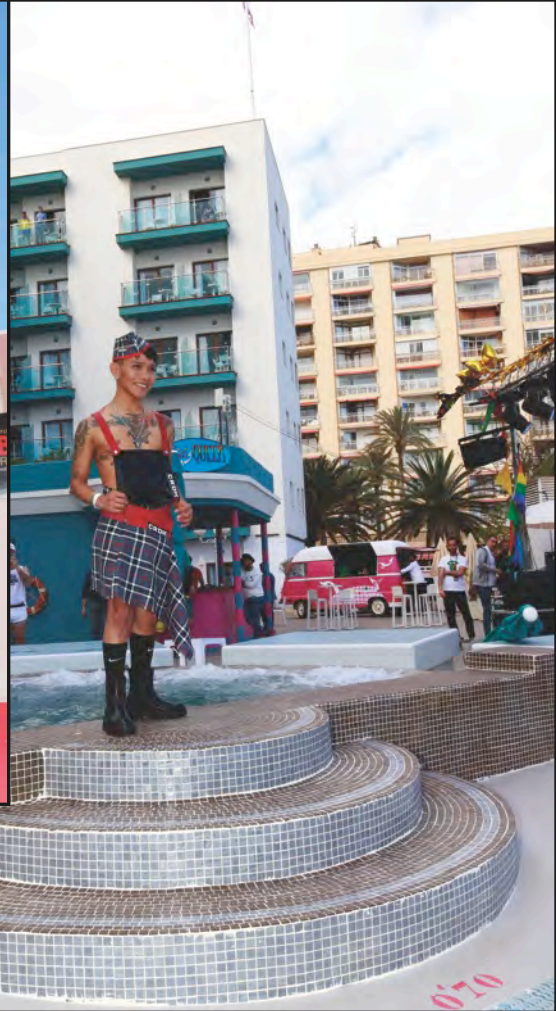
The meme is correct: Old Age Ain't for Sissies. But what are ya gonna do about it? You're gonna read "Dot & Ralfie," that's what.

That's because this is an adorable book. It's funny in all the right parts, good-naturedly grumpy where it needs to be, and wonderfully, wryly sarcastic, but author Amy Hoffman also nudges her readers to think about their own futures and what each might entail. Who will care for us when we only have similarly-aged friends to rely on?

To soften the soberness of that question, Hoffman gives readers a handful of very charming characters that fuss at one another, argue, make up, scheme, and fuss some more. It's a little like a lesbian "Honeymooners" episode, only much sweeter and better.

There aren't a lot of novels specific to lesbian seniors who want something reflective of their lives so seek out "Dot & Ralfie." If you're tired of the usual





THE  
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Europe April 23, 2022  
Torremolinos,  
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## A FINE FEATHERED MURDER: A MISS MARBLED MYSTERY



Hell in a Handbag Productions to conclude its 20th anniversary season with the world premiere of *A Fine Feathered Murder: A Miss Marbled Mystery*, by Artistic Director David Cerda, directed by Cheryl Snodgrass. This wild whodunit inspired by everyone's favorite female British mystery writer will play June 16 – July 31, 2022 at The Chopin Upstairs Theatre, 1543 W. Division St. in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.

Handbag goes posh with Ed Jones as Miss Jane Marbled, an unassuming spinster with a knack for solving murders. It's a good thing because people drop dead wherever she goes. Join Miss Marbled as she visits her dear friend, the wickedly and ridiculously chic, Lady Violetta Fowler (David Cerda\*) for the annual Fine Feathered Ball at the Fowler Estate, England's largest poultry farm. All is well until murder shows up, unannounced, and, in the most brutal fashion. Poor unflusterable Miss Marbled is left to contend with a rogues' gallery of suspects sure to delight audiences in the tastefully intriguing manner they've come to expect from Hell in a Handbag Productions.

For additional information or Tickets, visit <http://www.handbagproductions.org>.

### Broken Nose Theatre Presents AFTER THE BLAST May 13 – June 11, 2022 at The Den Theatre



Broken Nose Theatre, one of Chicago's premier Pay-What-You-Can theatre companies, is pleased to continue its tenth season with the Chicago premiere of Zoe Kazan's smart and incisive sci-fi drama *After The Blast*, directed by ensemble member JD Caudill\*. The production will play May 13 – June 11, 2022 at BNT's resident home, The Den Theatre (2A), 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.

Generations after a global disaster has driven humankind into underground cities, partners Anna and Oliver are hoping to have a child – even though Anna's struggles with depression may prevent them from gaining the government approval needed to become parents. But when Oliver brings home a small robot – a new companion they name "Arthur" – their lives are changed forever. Zoe Kazan's smart and incisive play asks, "When the future seems bleak, how do we form bonds and build lives in the face of uncertainty?"

BNT Artistic Director E.M. Davis\* and Managing Director *Rose Hamill* comments, "Our ensemble immediately took to this story when we read it two years ago – but after everything we've all been through in that intervening time, what playwright Zoe Kazan has to say about isolation, connection through technology, climate change and pursuing parenthood in an uncertain future has only deepened our appreciation for this excellent play. Bringing puppetry to the BNT stage for the very first time to depict our protagonist's robotic companion, ensemble member JD Caudill and the fantastic production team will bring to life this story that begs the question, 'When outside circumstances have driven us underground and apart, how far will we go to maintain the well-being of our closest loved ones?'"

Tickets are currently available at [brokennosetheatre.com](http://brokennosetheatre.com) and [thedentheatre.com](http://thedentheatre.com).

### ASTON REP THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND UNAFRAID MAY 13 – JUNE 12, 2022 AT THE EDGE OFF- BROADWAY THEATER Edge Off-Broadway Theater



AstonRep Theatre Company is pleased to conclude its 2020-21 season with the Chicago premiere of Sarah Treem's courageous drama *When We Were Young and Unafraid*, directed by Sara Pavlak McGuire\*, playing May 13 – June 12, 2022 at The Edge Off-Broadway Theater, 1133 W. Catalpa Ave. in Chicago.

In the early 1970s, before Roe v. Wade, before the Violence Against Women Act, Agnes has turned her quiet bed and breakfast into one of the few spots where victims of domestic violence can seek refuge. But to Agnes's dismay, her latest runaway, Mary Anne, is beginning to influence Agnes's

college-bound daughter Penny. As the drums of a feminist revolution grow louder outside of Agnes's tiny world, Agnes is forced to confront her own presumptions about the women she's spent her life trying to help.

Tickets are currently available at [www.astonrep.com](http://www.astonrep.com) or by calling 773 828-9129.

### Music Theater WorksPRESENTS THE LITTLE MERMAID June 2 to June 26, 2022



Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic Disney animated film, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is a classic and beautiful love story for the entire family. With music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater, and a compelling book by Doug Wright, this Broadway gem will capture your heart with its irresistible song favorites, including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl" and "Part of Your World."

From the moment you step into the theater, this immersive production will make you feel part of Ariel's world. When she disobeys her father, King Triton, and makes a deal with the evil witch, Ursula, Ariel thinks her dreams have come true. But when the bargain is not what it seems, Ariel needs the help of her colorful friends, Flounder the fish, Scuttle the seagull, and Sebastian the crab to save her true love and restore order under the sea.

Run time is approximately 2 hours and 35 minutes, including one 15 minute intermission.

For Tickets or more information Visit <https://www.musictheaterworks.com/2022-Season/>



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[lakesidepride.org/sweethomechicago](http://lakesidepride.org/sweethomechicago)



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# THE GRABBY AWARDS

## 2022 nominations

The Annual INTERNATIONAL GRABBY Awards highlighting top productions, talent and performances of the gay adult film industry. GRABBY Awards America will take place on Friday May 27th at the Metro Theater 3730 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL DOORS OPEN AT 6PM SHOW STARTS AT 7pm. The GRABBY's are Presented this year by Justfor.fans. Tickets for the Show ARE NOW ON SALE AND AT THE DOOR AT METRO.

Kicking off the star-packed weekend will be the Opening Party at Hyrate 3458 N. Halsted for The Skin Trade Party with DJ Chi-Chi LaRue.

This Years GRABBY Co-Hosts will be **ChiChi-LaRue, JJ Knight, Skyy Knox** and Chicago's very own **Honey West**.

"We are thrilled to be able to return to a live Show After a 2 year live break, because of Covid," said show producer **Stacy**

### **Bridges.**

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

This Years nominees are as follows;

### **Best Newcomer**

Sean Austin  
Amon Bane  
Beau Butler  
Cole Connor  
Daniel Evans  
Felix Fox  
Leo Lewis  
Max Lorde  
Reign

### **Performer Of The Year**

Marco Antonio  
Boomer Banks  
Michael Boston  
Beau Butler  
Dante Colle  
Archer Croft  
Chris Damned  
Dillon Diaz  
Kane Fox  
Rudy Gram  
Leo Grant  
Owen Hawk  
Oliver Hunt  
DeAngelo Jackson  
Allen King  
Cade Maddox  
Sir Peter  
Drew Sebastian  
Silver Steele  
Zario Travezz  
Kosta Viking  
Jake Waters  
Alpha Wolfe  
Isaac X

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### **HOTTEST BOTTOM**

Michael Boston  
Jack Bailey  
Oliver Hunt  
Allen King  
Riley Mitchel  
Dallas Preston  
Tannor Reed  
Seth Santoro  
Luke Truong

### **HOTTEST TOP**

Marco Antonio  
Max Arion  
Amon Bane

Romeo Davis  
Kane Fox  
Tristan Jaxx  
Cade Maddox  
Lucca Mazzi  
Sergeant Miles  
Sir Peter  
Tyler Roberts  
Alex Tikas

### **BEST VERSATILE PERFORMER**

Michael Boston  
Chris Damned  
Dillon Diaz  
Daniel Evans  
Jimmy Fit  
Nick Fitt  
Rudy Gram  
Owen Hawk  
Cesar Rossi Alex  
Tikas Aaron Trainer  
Zario Travezz  
Isaac X  
Jake Waters  
Alpha Wolfe

### **BEST GROUP SCENE**

Silver Steele, Aaron Trainer, Adrian Rose, Alex Tikas, Archer Croft, Lake Huston, Brayden James, Damien Crosse, Darwin Col, Felipe Duran, Greco Sol, Jake Lawrence, Jason Ryder, Jay Donahue, Jay Seabrook, Justin Cruz, Kyle Hart, Milan Gamiani, Reuben Foux, Rob Montana, Scott Demarco, Scott Harden, Seth Santoro & Zain Alexander - **Court Martial, Silver Steele's 25 soldier gang bang** - Dragon Media

Max Konnor, Jake Nicola, Austin Avery, Isaac X, Cole Connor, Beau Butler Reign & Lucca Mazzi - **Dirty 30 Barbak Birthday** - Raging Stallion  
Chris Damned, Beau Butler, Isaac  
(CONTINUED)



# THE GRABBY AWARDS

## 2022 nominations

### **BEST GROUP SCENE**

#### **(continued)**

Isaac X & Alpha Wolfe – **Get A**

**Room Too** - Raging Stallion

Dillon Diaz, Vince Parker, Michael Boston, Lucca Mazzi, Jake Waters, Luke Truong & Jake Nicola - **LAPD 2**  
Dragon Media

Cain Marko, Jack Vidra, Owen Hawk, Boomer Banks, Jayden Jaxx, Tyler Roberts & Tarzan Top XXL - **Market Daze Orgy** - Raw Fuck Club

Cole Connor, Dillon Diaz, Eric Charming & Shae Reynolds – **Making the Grade** - Falcon Studios

### **BEST SCREENPLAY**

Don't Tell My Wife 2 - Icon Male

*Jake Jaxson's Love Happens* - Cocker Boys

*LAPD 2* - Dragon Media

*Making the Grade* – Falcon Studios

*Painful Love* - Icon Male

*Quiet On Set* - Helix Studios

*Scrum* – Raging Stallion

*The Territory* – Raging Stallion

### **BEST ALLSEX MOVIE**

*Born to Porn* – Falcon Studios

*Court Martial, SilverSteele's 25*

*Soldier Gang Bang* - Dragon Media

*Dirty 30 Bareback Birthday* –

Raging Stallion

*Falcon LIVE: 4 The Fans* – Falcon Studios

*LAPD 2* - Dragon Media

*Mountain Tops* – Raging Stallion

*My Sexy Guncles* - Pride Studios,

Family Creep

*RawFuck Revelations 1 & 2* - Raw Fuck Club

*Rocco Steele's Door Open Ass Up Motel* - Dragon Media

*Sexual Favours 2* - Noir Male

*Tales from the Locker Room 2* - Falcon Studios

*Too Big to Handle* - Noir Male

*What's Your Kink?* - Cocker Boys

### **Best Director All SexMOVIE**

*Gio Caruso* - My Sexy Guncles - Pride Studios, Family Creep

*Steve Cruz & Leo Forte* - Born to Porn – Falcon Studios

*Steve Cruz* - Falcon LIVE: 4 The Fans – Falcon Studios

*Tony Dimarco* - Dirty 30 Bareback Birthday – Raging Stallion

*Tony Dimarco* - Mountain Tops – Raging Stallion

*F4gs* - RawFuck Revelations Part 1 and 2 - Raw Fuck Club

*Max Konnor* - Start Of The Summer - Noir Male

*Chi Chi LaRue* - Tales from the Locker Room 2 - Falcon Studios

*Mason* - Too Big To Handle - Noir Male

*Nick Moretti* - Court Martial, Silver Steele's 25 Soldier Gang Bang - Dragon Media

*RJ Sebastian* - What's Your Kink? - Cocker Boys

*Rocco Steele* - Rocco Steele's Door Open Ass Up Motel - Dragon Media

### **WALL OF FAME**

### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

#### **AWARD**

### **HOTTEST DADDY**

Tomas Brand

Lance Charger

Tristan Jaxx

Killian Knox

Sergeant Miles

Musclebear Montreal

Vince Parker

Aron Ridge

Dale Savage

Drew Sebastian

Max Sargent

Alex Tikas

### **Hottest TWINK**

Austin L Young

Joey Mills

Harley Xavier

Aiden Garcia

Ashton Silvers

Avery Jones

Dallas Preston

Felix Fox

Carter DelRey

Jack Bailey

(CONTINUED)





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## 2022 nominations

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### **SCRUFF PRESENTS BEST SOCK PUPPET PERFORMER**

#### **HOTTEST COCK**

Max Arion  
Amon Bane  
Jayden Jaxx  
Max Konnor  
Cade Maddox  
Leo Lewis  
Cristian Sam  
Drew Sebastian  
Alex Tikas  
Andrey Vic

#### **BEST THREWAY**

*Dante Colle, Killian Knox & Michael Boston* - Bad Daddies - Icon Male  
*Tyler Roberts, Owen Hawk & Archer Croft* - Demolition Day - Raw Fuck Club  
*Sky Knox, Trent King & Derek Thibeau* - Into the Woods - Falcon Studios  
*Max Adonis, Brock Banks & Austin Avery* - Jake Jaxson's Love Happens - Cocky Boys  
*Roman Todd, Dallas Preston & Drew Dixon* - Jake Jaxson's Love Happens - Cocky Boys  
*Kosta Viking, Rudy Gram & Allen King* - Kosta Viking & Rudy Gram spit-roast Allen King - Lucas Entertainment  
*Dillon Diaz, Adrian Hart & Joey Mills* - Layover My Dick (Part 3) - MEN  
*Alex Tikas, Julian Torres & Aiden Joseph* - My Sexy Guncles part 1-3 - Pride Studios, Family Creep

*Cole Connor, Killian Knox & Chad Hammer* - SCRUM - Raging Stallion  
*Tristan Hunter, Zario Travezz & Beau Butler* - Work From Home - Falcon Studios

*Romeo Davis, Cole Connor & Beau Butler* - Show Hard - Raging Stallion

*Dillon Diaz, Devin Trez & Zeno Rey* - Start of the Summer - Noir Male

*Beau Butler, Max Konnor & Colton Reece* - Tales From the Locker Room 2 - Falcon Studios

*Josh Brady, Riley Finch & Travis Stevens* - Quiet On Set - Helix Studios

#### **HOTTEST BODY**

Beau Butler  
Daniel Evans  
Casey Everett  
Felix Fox  
Rudy Gram

Alpha Wolfe  
DeAngelo Jackson  
Sky Knox  
Cade Maddox  
Sir Peter  
Reign  
Aaron Trainer  
Kosta Viking

#### **BEST MOVIE/QWEB SERIES**

### **SQUIRT.ORG FAN FAVORITE (VOTED ON BY FANS THROUGH SQUIRT.ORG WEBSITE)**

#### **BEST ACTOR**

*Max Adonis* - Jake Jaxson's Love Happens - Cocky Boys  
*Amon Bane* - Night-time Emissions - Family Creep - Pride Studios

*Beau Butler* - Dirty 30 Bareback Birthday - Raging Stallion

*Cole Connor* - Making The Grade - Falcon Studios

*Drew Dixon* - Next Stop Vegas - Disruptive Films

*Andre Donovan* - The Territory - Raging Stallion

*Casey Everett* - Painful Love - ICON Male

*Aiden Garcia* - Quiet On Set - Helix Studios

*Taye Hanson* - Lucky in Love - Cocky Boys

*Tristan Hunter* - Work From Home - Falcon Studios

*Aiden Joseph* - My Sexy Guncles - Pride Studios, Family Creep

*Adam Russo* - Caught Raw Handed - MASQUILIN

#### **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**

*Austin Avery* - Jake Jaxson's - Love happens - Cocky Boys

*Michael Boston* - Caught Raw Handed - MASQUILIN

*Josh Brady* - Quiet On Set - Helix Studios

*Beau Butler* - The Territory - Raging Stallion

*Lance Charger* - Painful Love - Icon Male

*Dante Colle* - The Last Course - Disruptive Films

*Nick Fitt* - Painful Love - Icon Male  
*Kane Fox* - Jake Jaxson's love happens - Cocky Boys

*Colby Jansen* - Don't Tell My Wife 2 - Icon Male

*Allen King* - Boyfriends & Cheaters - Lucas Entertainment

*Cade Maddox* - Tales From the Locker Room 2 - Falcon Studios

(continued)



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# THE GRABBY AWARDS

## 2022 nominations

### **BESTDUO**

*Boomer Banks & Luke Truong* - Cruising for loads - Raw Fuck Club  
*Cole Connor & Roman Todd* - Falcon LIVE: 4 The Fans - Falcon Studios

*Kosta Viking & Marco Antonio* - Kosta Viking bottom's for Marco Antonio - Lucas Entertainment

*Angel Rivera & Dallas Preston* - Lets Get Cocky - Cocky Boys

*Cade Maddox & Tristan Hunter* - Let's Get Quenched - Falcon Studios

*Cole Connor & Felix Fox* - Making The Grade - Falcon Studio

*Killian Knox & Adrian Rose* - Manscaped by my stepdad - Pride Studios Family Creep

*Max Konnor & Michael Boston* - Mountain Tops - Raging Stallion

*Lance Charger & Casey Everett* - Painful Love- Icon Male

*Sean Maygers & Beau Butler* - Show Hard - Raging Stallion

*Jimmy Fitt & Mason Thorne* - Tales from the Locker Room 2 - Falcon Studios

### **BESTDIRECTOR MOVIE/WEB SERIES**

*Steve Cruz* - It's Complicated - Falcon Studios

*Tony Dimarco* - Scrum - Raging Stallion

*Trenton Ducati & Jasun Mark* - Capital Affairs - Hot House

*Ricky Greenwood* - Painful Love - Icon Male

*Jake Jackson & RJ Sebastian* - (Un)lucky in Love - Cocky Boys

*Michael Lucas* - Boyfriends & Cheaters - Lucas Entertainment

*Mark MacNamara* - The Territory - Raging Stallion

*Bree Mills* - The Last Course - Disruptive Films

*Pierce Paris & Ben Rush* - Caught Raw Handed - MASQULIN

*Alex Roman* - Quiet On Set - Helix Studios

### **BESTMOVIE/WEB SERIES**

*Boyfriends & Cheaters* - Lucas Entertainment

*Cought Raw-Handed* - MASQULIN

*Jake Jaxson's Love Happens* - Cocky Boys

*Making the Grade* - Falcon Studios

*Painful Love* - Icon Male

*Quiet On Set* - Helix Studios

*Scrum* - Raging Stallion

*The Last Course* - Disruptive

Films

*The Territory* - Raging Stallion

*Work from Home* - Falcon

Studios

*(Un)Lucky in Love* - CockyBoys

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Foster

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Lawrence

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WRIGLEY FIELD

WRIGLEY FIELD

Addison

Clark

Halsted

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44

26

Belmont

LAKESHORE DRIVE

Broadway

33

49

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A full-body photograph of a very muscular man with a tanned complexion, posing in a wide-legged stance against a plain white background. He is wearing black, shiny, form-fitting leggings that appear wet. His arms are extended outwards, and his hands are flat on the ground. He has a serious expression. A tattoo of a sun is visible on his upper left chest, and another tattoo is on his right bicep. The lighting is bright, casting a sharp shadow of him onto the wall and floor behind him.

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