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GRAB A PLANE

Pride Journey: Athens, Georgia

By Joey Amato

Everyone knows that I am a sucker for small-city charm, so I decided to venture about an hour and a half outside of Atlanta to Athens, Georgia, home of rock bands R.E.M., Widespread Panic, and of course, the B-52's. As soon as I drove into the college town, I knew I was in for a treat. I love exploring these destinations as they tend to offer tons of local restaurants and boutiques which ooze with character.

Athens is a thriving college town located in the northeastern part of Georgia. It is home to the University of Georgia, which is the state's flagship university, as well as the Athens Institute of Technology and Piedmont College. Athens is a vibrant city that offers a unique blend of Southern charm and culture.

Athens has a rich history that dates back to the early 1800s when it was founded as the seat of Clarke County. The city was first settled in 1801 and was named after Athens, Greece, the birthplace of democracy. The city played a key role in the Civil War, serving as a transportation hub for the Confederacy. In the years following the war, Athens became a center of higher education, with the founding of the University of Georgia.

The city soon became the center of politics and commerce in the region. The University of Georgia is the largest employer in Athens, and its presence has shaped the city's culture and economy. The university is home to the Georgia Bulldogs, the school's football team, and a number of other athletic teams. It also hosts numerous music, art, and theater events throughout the year.

Athens is also known for its distinctive neighborhoods. Five Points is the city's oldest and most popular area, and is home to a variety of shops, restaurants, and



bars. After checking into my room at Hotel Indigo, I walked to the center of town, which was lined with a large selection of restaurants and live music venues. Given the musical heritage of Athens, live music is still at the heart of their nightlife scene. Some venues worth checking out include 40 Watt Club, The Warehouse, and the Georgia Theatre.

To my surprise, located in the center of downtown is a fabulous four-way rainbow crosswalk. Sometimes when I visit smaller destinations, I wonder if the community is welcoming to LGBTQ individuals, but I quickly realized that Athens most definitely is. Having the university present in the city adds to its progressive stance. If you are in

town on a Friday evening, swing by Athens Showgirl Cabaret's Fabulous Fridays at Hendershot's, located in the Bottleworks development. A coffee shop during the day and bar in the evening, Hendershot's is the perfect place to mingle among LGBTQ locals. After the drag show, head to Sister Louisa's Church, about a 10-minute walk from Hendershot's. The quirky establishment features a bar, patio, and club area and is the hub of LGBTQ nightlife in Athens.

After a restful night's sleep, head to Mama's Boy, for breakfast. A short drive from the hotel, the restaurant is a local institution, serving up a hearty breakfast that won't break the budget. The morning is a great time to head to

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EVENT LISTINGS



The State Botanical Garden of Georgia. I spent about 2 hours strolling around the gardens and taking in the sights and smells of my surroundings. Be sure to visit the Discovery and Inspiration Garden as well as the Hummingbird Trail.

For an afternoon pick-me-up, head to 1000 Faces Coffee, a cute coffee shop and roaster in town or check out Condor Chocolates and sample some delicious chocolate truffles.

The Georgia Museum of Art is located on the University of Georgia campus and definitely walkable from Hotel Indigo, although I would recommend bringing a bottle of water along for the journey. The museum contains a lovely sculpture garden as well as various exhibition halls which feature a vast collection of fine art. Currently on exhibition is Power & Piety: Seventeenth-Century Spanish Art. Admission is free to



Botanical Gardens

both the Museum of Art as well as the botanical gardens, making Athens a budget-friendly getaway.

Speaking of art, beautiful murals can be found all over town, depicting the city's rich musical heritage, but my favorite was the "Greetings from Athens" mural located on the side of a building in a

narrow alley. It can easily be missed if you don't know where you are going.

The city is home to numerous festivals, including the AthFest Music and Arts Festival, the Athens Film Festival, and the Athens International Film & Video Festival, so it may be a good idea to plan your visit around one of those events.

If you are in the mood to do some shopping, I recommend wandering through Wuxtry Records, one of a few independently owned record stores left in the country. I could spend hours going through their endless aisles of records but only had two days in the city, so I had to move on. I stumbled upon Community, a hub for locally-made products including candles and handcrafted soaps.

Athens, Georgia is a small city with a lot to offer. Its vibrant music scene, thriving culinary scene, and abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities make it a perfect destination for a solo trip or a vacation with friends. If you are looking for a hip weekend adventure, I would give Athens a try.



Museum of Art

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Important Facts About DOVATO

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is DOVATO?

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

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

Ask your doctor about staying undetectable with fewer medicines in 1 pill.

Dovato dolutegravir 50 mg/ lamivudine 300 mg tablets

DOVATO.com

Important Facts About DOVATO (cont'd)

Who should not take DOVATO?

Do not take DOVATO if you:

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

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

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

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

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

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

What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

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

Where can I find more information?

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to DOVATO.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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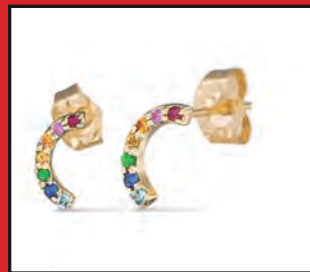
Pride 2023: We're Here and We're Queer – With Loads of Fun Gear

By Mikey Rox

Somewhere over the rainbow, there's Pride swag galore

Rainbow Earring Studs

Sometimes less is more – yep, even at Pride – and Alexis Jae's rainbow stud earrings (constructed of recycled gold and ethically sourced gems) are an understated statement piece that give your lobes lowkey sparkle without clamoring for desperate attention. Wear both or split 'em up to share with a friend. \$135, [AlexisJae.com](https://www.AlexisJae.com)



Stonewall '69 Candle

A torch still burns bright for LGBTQ+ equality – even though these dark times sometimes hinder its light – but you can stand vigil with Kendi Lux's soy-blend, lemon-leaf-and-jasmine-scented Stonewall '69 candle commemorating the movement-defining riot that blazed our first path. \$17.50, [KendiLux.com](https://www.KendiLux.com)



Personalized Pronouns Note Kit

The art of suggestion isn't lost on queer-owned Nice Paper Goods, which offers a first-of-its-kind personalized pronoun note kit – an all-in-one stationery set complete with 10 cards, envelopes, and USA Forever stamps that never expire, and printed with your preferred pronouns under your chosen name. \$32, [NicePaperGoods.com](https://www.NicePaperGoods.com)



Dentata Ring

“Teeth” – the 2007 horror-comedy about a good Christian girl with a mean set of chompers in her ‘sacred place’ – was probably enough to turn a few guys gay, but many feminists have reclaimed the vagina dentata myth as a symbol of pride and empowerment. All belts are off with KIL N.Y.C.’s Dentata ring, featuring a spiked mouth design that curves around the finger, mimicking the way a Victorian chastity would have been worn. Even better, 10% of each sale will support Her Justice, an organization dedicated to helping impoverished women in New York City. \$150, KILNYC.com



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Calvin Klein Pride Jocks

Cyndi Lauper didn’t anticipate you prancing around in your barely-there Calvins when she invited you to show your true colors, but Klein’s Pride Edit five-pack thong set in a spectrum of flashy colors are practically begging for a remix. \$42, CalvinKlein.com



‘Let the Light Shine In’ Boxer Briefs

Hang loose (but not too loose) in SAXX’s super-soft “Let the Light Shine In” boxer brief designed by queer artist Carlos Oliveras Colom who tapped into his LGBTQ+ and Afro-Latinx experiences to create this colorful, curvy, comfortable pair of skivs that give off more than few unassigned vibes. \$34, SAXXUnderwear.com



Rainbow Coin Purse

Pocketless at the parade? Par for the course when you prefer to party in sequined banana hammocks, but Pop of Confetti has you covered with its cute-AF rainbow seed-bead coin purse that stashes your contraband... and condoms (because safe sex is still sexy, y'all). \$32, PopOfConfetti.com



Rene Jacket

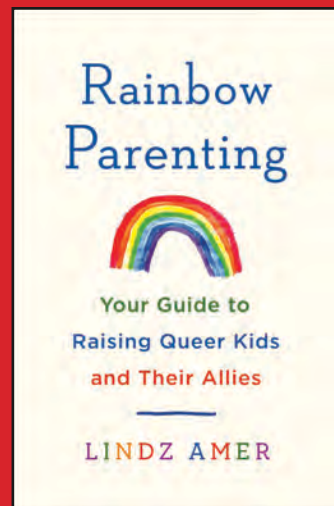
It's hard to choose just one Pride-primed piece from Orttu's expansive collection of sophisti-sensual wearable art, but our money's on its mesmerizing, double-breasted Rene jacket in deep black, featuring uniquely sculpted sleeves and a stunning geometric "laser light" print in high-contrast yellow-gold, so you can show up in the VIP as a status whoa instead of status quo. \$450, Orttu.com

choose just one



'Rainbow Parenting' Guide

Pride starts at home – it was only born in the streets out of necessity – and books like Lindz Amer's "Rainbow Parenting: Your Guide to Raising Queer Kids and Their Allies" not only serve as a sign of how far we've come but it also provides effective tools for understanding, accepting and respecting LGBTQ+ minds and bodies – which is all we really want anyway. \$19,



NEFT Vodka Pride Barrel

Cocktail connoisseurs typically have a go-to spirit to get them in, well, the spirit, but consider corking your staple swill this season and switching it out for something sassier, like NEFT Vodka's pop-arty, community-supporting Pride barrels, made with oxygen-rich water filtered deep in Austria's Rhaetian Alp for an earthy, slightly sweet front and minerally smooth finish. \$45, Shop.NEFTVodkaUS.com



Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels

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GRAB HANNAH



Hannah Gadsby Thinks You Deserve a Break

By Sarah Bricker Hunt

A lot has changed since Hannah Gadsby first took audiences on the unexpected journey that was “Nanette,” their 2018 career-making Netflix special. Yes, there was that whole Trump presidency situation and, oh, that global pandemic hiccup, but also, Gadsby got new glasses, an additional dog, created two more specials, put out a New York Times bestselling memoir (“Ten Steps to Nanette”), opened an art show in Brooklyn focused on Picasso’s alleged misogyny (“It’s Pablo-matic: Picasso According to Hannah Gadsby”), and picked up a new descriptor along the way: beloved wife.

It’s that latter detail that Gadsby explores in depth in their latest Netflix endeavor, “Something Special.” Spoiler alert: A wild rabbit pays the ultimate price for Gadsby’s wedded bliss, but it’s totally not the rabbit’s fault. It’s just that, sometimes, the journey is exactly the opposite of what you’re expecting, and maybe that’s the point of, well, everything.

The newly released special is a departure from Gadsby’s work on stage so far, which has focused on topics like neurodivergency (Gadsby is autistic), family dysfunction, mental health and other heavy topics. The comedian teases the audience that all the chatter about how this special would be more lighthearted than “Nanette” and “Douglas,” released in 2020, could be an elaborate ruse. Is existentialism and social reckoning right around the corner? Nah. Gadsby, as they remind us in example after example, is not a good liar.

This special, like the others, is about where Gadsby is at this moment in time. And, happily, this moment is a good one.

“I didn’t expect to get married,” Gadsby tells *Pride Source* in a recent Zoom interview. “So I thought that was an interesting enough place to begin. Also, I believe my audience has invested in me. I shared my pain and my trauma and my difficulties, and I think it would be weird to hide

my current state of joy. That would feel like a disingenuous approach. So I really wanted to share that.” Gadsby’s marriage to producer Jenney Shamash, who the comedian calls “Jenno,” has been surprising in one way, the comedian says. “Being surrounded by straight, unhappy married people my whole life, I’m mostly surprised that it’s not so miserable. Like, you hear comedians talk about it: ‘My wife’s this. My wife’s that.’ Why did you marry that horrible person you keep complaining about?” they joke. Gadsby says that as they toured with the new material, audiences responded in a way that made it clear this was a show they wanted and, in many ways, needed. “It’s going to be a feel-good show because I believe I owe you one,” they say in the special. “I have dragged you through a bit of my shit over the years, and you’ve stuck with me. Much obliged! But it’s time for some payoff.”

Still, Gadsby is happy to dig into the heavy stuff during our time



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Photo Courtesy Jess Gleeson/Netflix

together, acknowledging the deeply disturbing culture wars happening in the U.S. with the LGBTQ+ community at the center — especially LGBTQ+ kids and young adults. “I was a young person during a very similar time, but without the internet — so it wasn’t that similar,” Gadsby says. “But the anti-gay rhetoric that I grew up with — the discourse surrounding me when I was growing up — was frighteningly similar to that which we’re experiencing now.”

Coming of age in tiny Tasmania, an Australian island state some 150 miles south of the mainland, Gadsby said they felt isolated, a struggle in and of itself. But today’s younger generation is experiencing an anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment “everywhere all at once.”

“So it’s incredibly difficult, particularly, to be a young queer person in this moment,” they add. “And I can’t speak to that experience. I’m not queer... That is a joke. I’m not young. But, I wanted to lead with the fact that I’ve overcome the trauma of this kind of environment.”

Gadsby is frustrated that the world

is experiencing a new wave of anti-queer sentiment. “Part of the rage in ‘Nanette’ was the fact that we don’t learn,” they say. “Why aren’t we learning? Why can’t we learn? And I still have that rage. There’s still a fight to be fought, but there’ll be time for that. I just felt like we need a break also because we’re fighting for our right to exist.”

Gadsby notes that people trying to oppress the queer community don’t actually have skin in the game. “They’re not going home and wondering if they’ll be safe. They’re already safe. That’s what we have to remember as a community. It’s like we have to look after ourselves and each other, on a very personal level.”

Looking after each other can be challenging for people experiencing trauma — the tendency can be to retreat into isolation. “Yeah, that’s what trauma does,” Gadsby says. “And what’s going on at the moment is incredibly traumatic. We’re in a new place, and it’s frightening, but I think it’s horrible to think that I’m an ‘elder’ and I’m only 45, but we have to do our bit to help relieve the pressure.”

In many ways, Gadsby’s presence on stage is a billboard for intersectionality. They are frank about their identity as a genderqueer lesbian and their 2017 autism diagnosis, aspects of Gadsby’s personhood that has made it challenging for the entertainment world to figure out where they belong.

“Before I even began my career, I was difficult to categorize my entire life, and not for a lack of trying,” Gadsby says. “But I think that’s where my comedy begins — it’s me trying to be what people would prefer I be, and my persistent failure is what has gotten me here. I think I’m... close. I’m always close, but just always fall short. But I think that’s where comedy lives, so it’s not a problem.”

Neurodiversity has been a central topic in all three Netflix specials. “And I’m really keen not to tell autism, and rather to show it. That’s what this show really is. It’s showing autism.”

At one point in “Something Special,” Gadsby recounts two separate stories involving awkward encounters with Jodie Foster. In

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Photo Courtesy Jess Gleeson/Netflix

one, Gadsby crumples up a bit of cardboard where Foster had written down her phone number, right in front of Foster (one of Gadsby's sensory issues relates to feeling "very irritated" when they have to hold small and irregular-shaped objects against their palms). In another, Gadsby responds to a

birthday gift from Foster by saying "I've already got Bananagrams!" and then chucks the present to the side. The stories are universal on one hand — virtually everyone can conjure up encounters they'd like to do over — but resonate strongly with the neurodiverse community.

Foster, Gadsby says, was

gracious about the incidents. "She was there with a wife and they just kept on being amazing, kind, generous people," they remember. "She's very competitive at charades, though. I will give her that," Gadsby adds.

Throughout the special, Gadsby stresses how important it has been to have Jenno by their side as both their romantic partner and producer of their shows, describing their relationship like the sport of curling. "I'm the giant puck," they say in the show. "And every morning, we have a little team meeting and go, 'This is where you need to go, this is how fast you're gonna go there, this is the line you're gonna take,' and then we send me out, and there's not a fucking thing I can do about it."

Perhaps neurodiversity is Gadsby's secret super power? "Maybe.

Although we've just told everyone, so, rats!"

"But, no. You've always got to keep trying to make connections. That's what we are as humans, and it's a particularly difficult time to do that. All I can say is hang in there, and it's not your fault."



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GRAB JORDY

Oh, “Boy”: An interview with queer singer/songwriter Jordy

By Gregg Shapiro

Out singer/songwriter Jordy is on a career high. After gaining national attention via appearances on the “Today Show” and “Good Morning America,” as well as becoming a TikTok sensation, playing a series of music festivals, and releasing his debut album in 2021, Jordy’s back with his sophomore full-length “Boy” (300 Elektra Entertainment). Just in time for summer (and Pride), Jordy’s brand of honest and uplifting queer pop is just what we need at this difficult time for the LGBTQ+ community. Jordy made time for a quick interview at the start of Pride season.

Gregg Shapiro: Jordy, the last time we spoke, in April 2021, some incredible career events had just occurred for you. You signed with 300 Entertainment (now 300 Elektra Entertainment), you performed on the “Today Show,” and your song “Long Distance” had become a breakout hit. When you look back on that time, what stands out the most to you?

Jordy: It was such a crazy time for me. I had been putting out music for years, but all of a sudden, things were happening so incredibly quickly. I think it was a good reminder from the universe that I was doing all the right things – writing music that was honest and authentic to me and sharing it with the world. I’m so grateful for that time in my life. It was such a stepping-stone.

GS: Two years later, do you feel like you’ve had the chance to fully absorb the events of the recent past?

Jordy: I try every day to live as presently as possible. I think it’s so easy to forget to celebrate the victories along the way because we, as artists, are always thinking about what’s coming next. But when I think about what I’ve accomplished over the years it makes me emotional. I’m doing what I’ve always dreamed of doing, and there’s not a day that goes by when I don’t think about how grateful I am for that.

GS: You went to college in Boston, as I did (Emerson College), and I was wondering if you were able to take advantage of the city’s renowned music scene while you lived there.

Jordy: I was an a cappella boy [laughs]. At BU, I was a member of the “treblemakers” and I truly have the fondest memories. I learned how to perform, how to sing in more of a pop lane after being classically trained in high school and made friends that will be my friends forever. Eventually, I started writing a bit and gigged around Boston and Cambridge which was really fun for

me also. I wanted to establish myself as a solo artist and that was really the beginning of it all. I love that city so much.

GS: Me, too! This interview is taking place while you’re in Europe, where last night you performed at the Night & Day Café in Manchester, England.

Jordy: It’s all just so crazy. Playing Birmingham and London already, it’s been insane to see the turnout and the amount of people screaming the lyrics back at me. I get so stuck in my bubble of L.A. that I forget the music is being listened to by people all over the world. It’s so cool, and also fun to hear people singing my songs with a different accent [laughs]. I cannot wait to come back.

GS: Your new album, “Boy,” was





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was the best part of the experience of making “Boy” for you?

Jordy: Honestly, working with my best friends. I feel so lucky to work with stupidly talented people, but even luckier that they are the people I love the absolute most. Some who have been with me since my very first single. It’s so special. It was also a very cathartic experience writing about my life over the past couple of years. Growing up is so hard and being able to write about that in the music was so therapeutic. I am immensely proud of the project and so happy it’s out for people to enjoy.

GS: At a time when the subject of mental health is a large part of the national conversation, some of the songs on “Boy,” including “Good Not Great,” “Boy (Intro),” “Hypothetical Party,” “Dry Spell,” “Love You and Let You Go,” sound like you being honest about your own struggles. What do you hope to achieve by sharing songs such as these?

Jordy: I think when I was young, I just wanted to feel heard and seen. I was closeted and insecure and so emotional in a time when it wasn’t “cool” for boys to express that. When I write music, I want my listeners to feel seen in the way I wasn’t. All those songs express very true parts of myself, and I wanted to be as vulnerable as possible so that my fans felt less alone after listening to the record. We’re all human. And we deserve to experience art that honestly represents our journeys.

GS: “Story of a Boy,” includes your queer interpolation of Nine Days “Story of a Girl,” but the song has had a bonus as it has become a kind of anthem for the trans community. What does that mean to you?

Jordy: It’s been such a humbling and emotional experience for me. The trans community is under attack right now. They need their voices lifted. They need protection. So, for

Photo By Dante Velasquez



this trend to happen organically during this time is incredibly powerful. At first, I thought it was cool that I was taking the original song and making it my own, which is the gay experience, but now it’s taken on a whole other meaning. Meeting trans fans at shows and hearing how much the song means to them is why I do what I do. Tell your trans friends you love them. They need it.

GS: “luv u, bye” is a hot dance track that sounds like it could be a hit at tea dances. How would you feel if the song was embraced by DJs and became a club hit?

Jordy: I would love that! Let’s make it happen [laughs].

GS: You’re playing some upcoming Pride festivals, including ones in West Hollywood, Houston, and Chicago. As a native of the Chicago area, what does it mean to you to be performing for the hometown crowd?

Jordy: Every time I get a chance to perform in Chicago, it warms my entire heart. That city is my home and my heart. And to be representing my city and the queer community all at the same time is truly a dream come true. Pride can’t come soon enough!

GS: When you perform in a state such as Texas, where the LGBTQ+ community is under threat, do you feel a responsibility to use your platform as an artist to speak out against injustice?

Jordy: Absolutely. Every show in those states is an act of protest. I will sing every song proudly and speak on behalf of my community without fear. We need to be loud. We need to speak up. And I am honored to do that for my community. It’s my duty as an artist.

Jordy will be performing at Pridefest on the Cutwater Spirits Stage Halsted and Grace on Sunday June 18th. For more information visit <http://www.pridefestchicago.com>



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 - numbness of your mouth
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 - feeling anxious
 - feeling warm
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- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus or people who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during CABENUVA treatment. Liver problems have also happened in people without history of liver problems or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark or "tea-colored" urine
 - light-colored stools (bowel movements)
 - nausea or vomiting
 - loss of appetite
 - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
 - itching
- **Depression or mood changes.** **Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself

The most common side effects of CABENUVA include:

- pain, tenderness, hardened mass or lump, swelling, redness, itching, bruising, and warmth at the injection site
- fever
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or bone pain
- nausea
- sleep problems
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- rash

These are not all the possible side effects of CABENUVA. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to CABENUVA.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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Daily Specials;

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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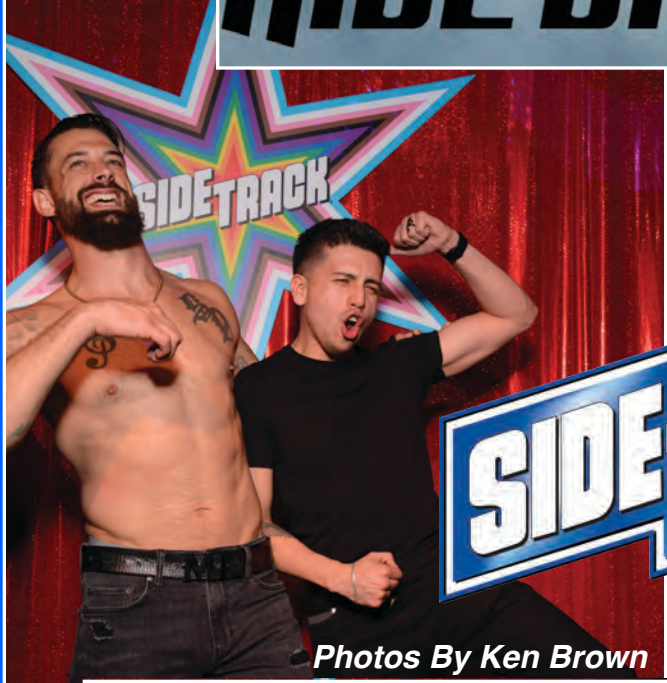
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| | Artist | Title |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Kim Petras | Brrr |
| 2 | Thaylo | Deep Heart (Original Mix) |
| 3 | LP Giobbi | Forever And A Day ft. Caroline Byrne |
| 4 | Twocolors x Asdis | Gravity |
| 5 | Vowed & B4n4n4 G4ng | Feeling Inside (Radio Edit) |
| 6 | Tiesto & Tate MCrae | 1035 (Joel Corry Remix) |
| 7 | Allegra | Amazing (Tobtok Remix) |
| 8 | Paul Woolford X Lewis Thompson X Mnek | 16 Again (Radio Edit) |
| 9 | James Chris | Variable (Radio Mix) |
| 10 | Leftwing Kody X Robot Collective | Love Like This (Radio Edit) |
| 11 | Zack Martino | Kill My Heart |
| 12 | DubDogz x Bruno Be x Ghostt | Sleepwalking ft. The Chain Gang of 1974 |
| 13 | Audien & Codeko | Antidote Ft. Jt Roach |
| 14 | 3LAU | Too Late For Love |
| 15 | Andrew Rayel & Florentin | All Falls Down ft. Kyle Anson |
| 16 | Man Cub & Allie Crystal | Dont Forget |
| 17 | Ames & Nalestar | Loving You More (Radio Edit) |
| 18 | Marco Nobel x Glass Keys x Tyler James Bellinger | The Fire |
| 19 | Sigala & Mnek | Radio |
| 20 | Rasmus Hagen x Alius x Achilles | Be Somebody |
| 21 | Tungevaag x Lovespeake | I Knew It Was You |
| 22 | Hayden James | Good Life ft. Emie (Radio Edit) |
| 23 | JES | Is It True |
| 24 | Leftwing Kody & Goodboys | Only You |
| 25 | TELYKast With Francis Karel | Better Now |
| 26 | Leowi | Do You Feel The Same |
| 27 | Joel Corry x Becky Hill | History |
| 28 | Kuu X Riton & Alex Metric | Lose Control (Radio Edit) |
| 29 | INNA x Stefflon Don x Dhurata Dora | Yummy |
| 30 | M22 & Ella Henderson | Heartstrings |



RAGING STALLION STUDIOS
RIDE OR DIE



Photos By Ken Brown



GRAB HOLLY

A Soft Word Turns Away Wrath

By Holly Maholm



We have all heard this ancient wisdom, but is there more that wise man might have said? What about the power of “generosity” or “humility” or “heartfelt sympathy?” I had been warned that Kaylyn and her Non-Binary friends meant to unleash their gender non-conforming wrath upon our little town. Thus, I asked: Who has the power to turn that hate aside?

Blair had revealed to me the plan Kaylyn intended to initiate that very day: To launch a diversionary attack on Donut Time (breaking windows and using fire-bombs to start the building on fire), to be followed by an all-out attack upon the Civil War Memorial.

Soon after learning Kaylyn’s plan, Dot and I developed a strategy which we believed would blunt that part of the Attack of the Pink Hair Crowd which related to the War Memorial. However, we did not yet have a plan for how to protect Donut Time.

Now, I took extreme care not to disclose the possibility of an attack upon Donut Time to anyone “in town” – meaning Dave, his LGBT students,

or anyone at Donut Time. I couldn’t take a chance on what Cindy might do if she learned the secret.

You see... Cindy is not like other people. She’s a tranny and has lived the “Life of a Tranny” for nearly three decades. And since you may be one of those who are not familiar with the likely reaction of a tranny to a violent threat such as this (no matter how well-informed you may otherwise be concerning our little world of LGBT), I will explain.

If Cindy were informed of the plan for an attack upon Donut Time, she could not possibly keep that to herself. She would instantly go into hysterics as to the possibility of such an attack, and soon everyone walking in the door at Donut Time would learn the secret. Such a result would quickly get back to Kaylyn, who would instantly change her plans (as to both Donut Time and the Memorial). Thus, I had to keep Cindy (and also Xandra, though she probably could have kept her mouth shut) in the dark.

The pressure was on me to come up with a plan for the defense of Donut Time, one which could be hidden from Cindy even while it was put into motion upon the very doorstep of Donut Time.

Though I knew I could not depend upon Cindy to keep this secret, there was one tranny who worked at Donut Time who could keep any secret, no matter how juicy. This was Aly, whom you recall is famous in our little town for having the finest ass, the most succulent tits, the most shapely legs (usually paired with the shortest possible miniskirt), and often known to be “cast as the lead” in the sex fantasies of our town’s straightest young men.

Yes, Aly could keep a secret. Daily she worked the register, where she rang up orders for men before whom she had once dropped to her knees and provided an experience sweeter than any donuts ever baked. She remembered all her old clients, but she kept their secrets, no matter how knowingly they smiled at her.

I took Aly aside and told her of the threat to Donut Time, and shortly she came up with a plan. “It’s simple, Holly,” she purred. “Have you seen how many vans are pulled up in front of Donut Time in a day? There’s plumbing, electrical,

carpenter, roofing, flooring and delivery vans, and every one has a driver who never misses a day stopping by for something sweet. Here’s what we’ll do...”


Later that day, Aly and I brought ‘round to the porch in front of Donut Time the grill we use for cookouts, which I set up and started the charcoal. Also, we got out several coolers, filled them with ice cold beer, and placed them near the grill.

All that day, Aly invited her best customers – many of whom were veterans, and most of whom either took a “personal day” or called in sick the first day of deer season – to stop by after work for a Customer Appreciation cookout. I worked the grill, and Aly handed out sliders and beer to show our gratitude for our very best customers. And you know, there were so many vans parked out in front of Donut Time that evening that the street became impassable, and no sane person (nor any Gender Studies student) would have been so foolish as to mount an assault against that dense deployment of vans.

I had asked: “Who has the power to turn aside the wrath of those poisoned with hate?” It was Aly, who lives by these words: “If you come to me hungry, or thirsty, or feeling ‘the urge,’ living lonely, forsaken, impoverished or old... I won’t turn you away.”
(To be continued)

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

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GRAB LUCINDA

Heart and humor and humility: An interview with Lucinda Williams

By Gregg Shapiro

In a recording career that spans more than 40 years, with well over a dozen studio albums of unforgettable originals, Grammy Award-winner Lucinda Williams has left an indelible mark on contemporary Americana, country, blues, pop, and rock music. Virtually unstoppable – undeterred by a tornado, a stroke, and a pandemic – Williams emerges victorious on record and in print in 2023. Her memoir, “Don’t Tell Anybody the Secrets I Told You” (Crown), was recently published, and her new album “Stories From A Rock N Roll Heart” (Highway 20/Thirty Tigers), featuring a stellar lineup of guest artists including Angel Olsen, Bruce Springsteen, and Margo Price, arrives this summer. An absolute delight to talk to, Lucinda was gracious enough to make time for an interview before the release of the album.

Gregg Shapiro: 2023 is the 35th anniversary of your self-titled album which contained the song “Passionate Kisses,” later covered by Mary Chapin Carpenter, earning you your first Grammy Award. What was the experience of having one of your songs become a hit for another singer, and what did it mean to you win that Grammy?

Lucinda Williams: It was great, of course. Having Chapin – that’s what her friends call her – cover “Passionate Kisses” opened a big door for me, really. It started getting all this airplay and eventually won a Grammy for Country Song of the Year, which was the biggest irony, because it almost didn’t become the single. She wanted it to be the first single off her new album and her people said no, they didn’t think it was a good idea because it wasn’t a

country song.

GS: It was more pop.

LW: Yeah, but she stuck to her guns and said, “I don’t care.” She had been playing it live and she said her fans really liked the song a lot. She stood her ground and said she

wanted it to be the first single. They relented and it became the single. When it won the Grammy for Country Song of the Year [laughs] it was nice. It was like, “Ha ha ha.”

GS: You got the last laugh.

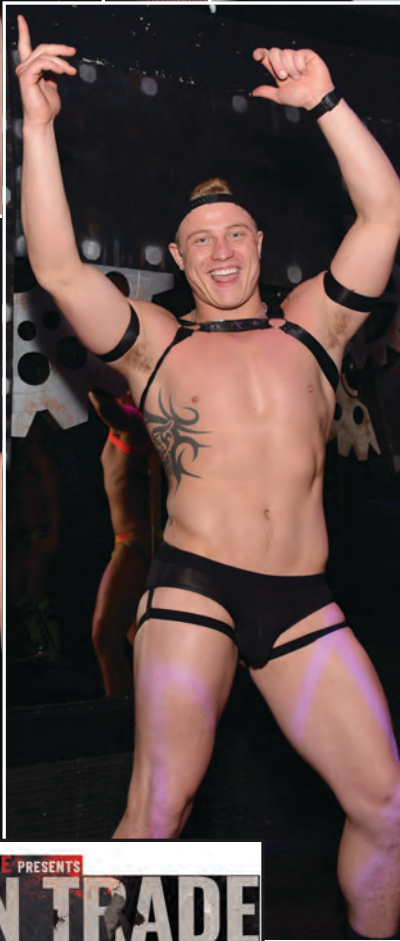
LW: Exactly!

GS: Over the years, you’ve had a wonderful array of guest musicians performing with you on your albums, and “Stories From A Rock N Roll Heart” is no exception, beginning with Bruce Springsteen and Patti Scialfa on “New York Comeback” and “Rock N Roll Heart.” What made those songs a good fit for you, Bruce and Patti?

LW: I think the nature of the songs, what they’re about, and just the feel and vibe of them. I’m in Nashville right now with my husband Tom, and our friend Jesse Malin was in town. We were working on songs



together. That one came up, and I think it was Tom who had the feeling – he’s always been a huge Bruce fan, and he said, “Wouldn’t it be great if we could have Bruce on this song.” At first, it was just Bruce, and then Patti jumped in, bless her heart. Anyway, Jesse Malin was the one who piped up and said, “I think I can get I can get a hold of Bruce for you. He’d probably be into it. Jesse went back home to New York where he lives. He’s tied in with all the East Coast rockers and musicians and all. So, he was able to track Bruce down. Bruce said yes. We sent him the tracks; we weren’t in the studio with him at the same time. Bruce has his own studio. They went in and jumped on board. We didn’t even tell him what to do. We let them decide for themselves. They ended up really getting into it enthusiastically. You can tell when you listen. Every time I



CHI CHI LA RUE PRESENTS
SKIN TRADE



Photos By Ken Brown



I hear it and I hear his voice on there I just get so excited and happy. It's such a thrill to hear him on there. He's just such a sweetheart.

GS: Another one of the stellar guest artists on the album is queer singer/songwriter Angel Olsen who joins you on "Jukebox." Why did you want to work with her?

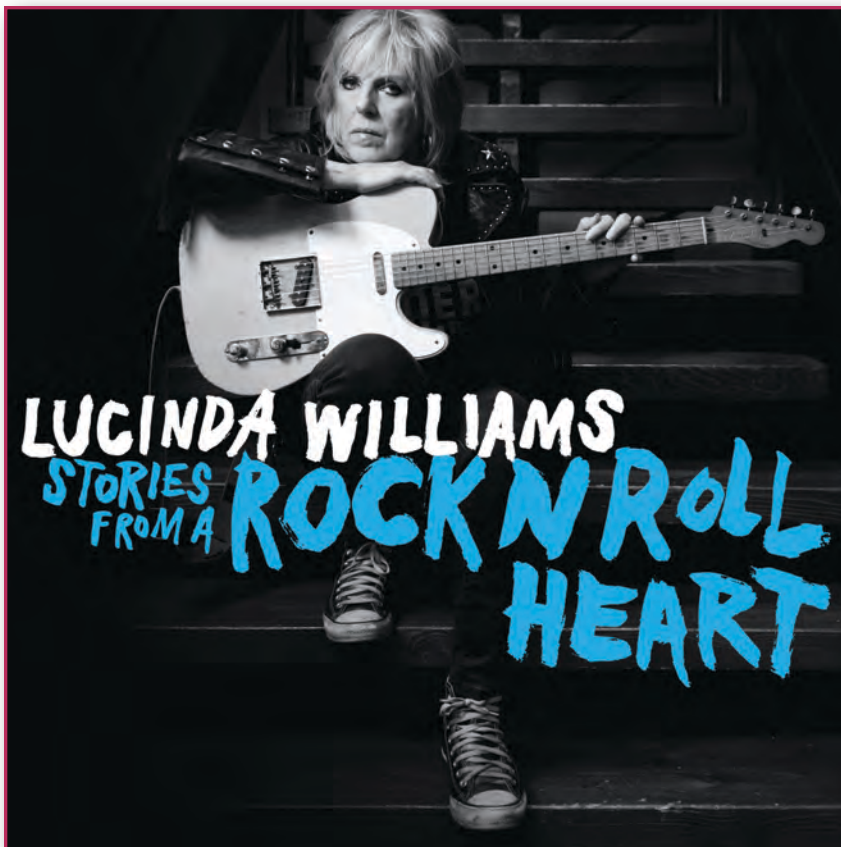
LW: I love her voice and her vibe and everything. I wanted another voice on there. I love having guests come in the studio and do their thing. It adds so much to the song. A lot of the time it has to do with if the person is available and how convenient is it going to be and all those technical details. She happened to be in Nashville around the time we were in the studio. I think she told me she spends a lot of time in Asheville, North Carolina. But she was in Nashville, and she was really into coming in and doing something. That's how all that happened. That went smoothly. She just came in and did her thing. It's real subtle, but I think it really adds something, especially at the end.

GS: I live in Fort Lauderdale, and you live in Nashville, meaning that we both in live places considered to be ground zero for attacks on the LGBTQ+ community. To my ears, it sounds like you are addressing that subject on the song "This Is Not My City." Am I right about that?

LW: I wasn't necessarily but, it's open for interpretation. I'm glad you mentioned that actually because I like to politicize things. I like to make statements about things. That was one that was a collaboration, a collaborative effort between me and my husband Tom and Travis Stephens. I know Tom and I talked about this. It is politicized, but it might not be real obvious. You're right, basically, it is supposed to be about that feeling of division. Being politically divided and being frustrated with it. Just all the stuff that's been going for the last however many years.

GS: Are you aware of if you have an LGBTQ+ following for your work?

LW: I hope so! It's hard for me to tell.



Somebody would need to have been keeping track of all that. I mean, the only thing I could do is look out in the audience or, after the show, meet and greet people. But there's always been a certain percentage of my audience from that community. I'm not sure if there's more now or not. It would be cool if there were [laughs].

GS: I also want to extend my congratulations on the publication of your memoir "Don't Tell Anybody the Secrets I Told You." As the daughter of a writer, poet Miller Williams, do you think it was inevitable that you would someday write a book?

LW: Yeah, probably. For years, people have been saying I should write a book. I'm such a storyteller. I've always written songs that tell stories. When I get on stage to perform my songs, I explain the song by telling the story behind the song. The book is really just the same thing, just taking it a little bit deeper even. With more details about the characters and the songs because they're all true stories. I talk a lot about characters that people already know about through the

songs. When they read the book, they can get to know them even better, maybe see a photograph of them in the book.

GS: You have concert tour dates from May through August. I was thinking about the way that when Mary Gauthier published her memoir, and she would tour, she would read passages from the book and then do songs. Will you be doing something similar? Reading passages from "Don't Tell Anybody the Secrets I Told You" in your concerts?

LW: Yeah, we're going to do something like that. The lyrics to a lot of the songs are in the book. After the story, there'll be some lyrics from a song that is connected with that story. Tom was saying he wants to connect some recordings of songs with the book. Make a CD of songs that go with the book, have it available with the book, or something like that.

GS: If "Don't Tell Anybody the Secrets I Told You" was adapted into a biopic, who would you want



to play you?

LW: That's so interesting because I just did a book event with Steve Earle as the moderator in a bookstore in Brooklyn, when we were in New York recently, and somebody said that (Williams' acclaimed 1998 album) "Car Wheels on A Gravel Road" should be made into a play.

GS: Wow! Like a musical?

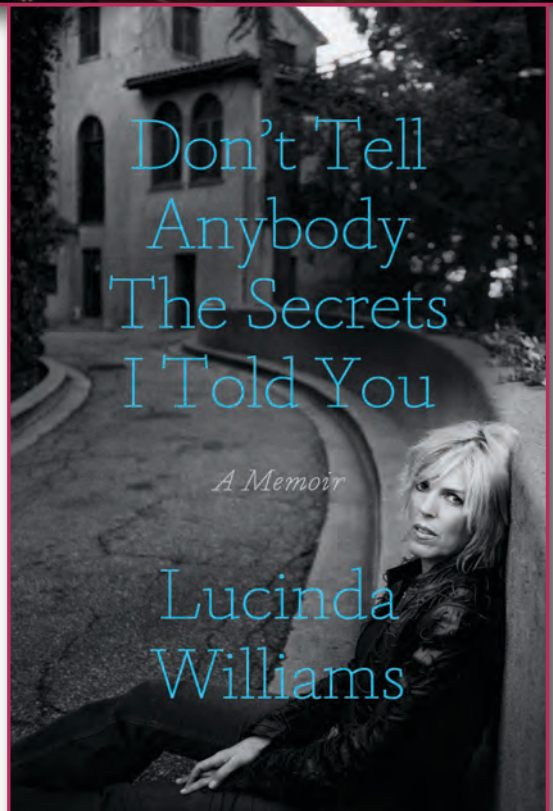
LW: Yes, I guess. Then I kind of laughed and said, "Okay, as long as Frances McDormand can play me." Everybody clapped [laughs]. I love her! It was just off the top of my head, basically. But I've always loved her acting. She kind of reminds me of me a little bit, physically. I think she would be a good choice.

GS: My husband turned 70 in March, and to celebrate we went for dim sum with a group of friends. Did you do anything special to commemorate your 70th birthday?

LW: Let's see, I think we were performing somewhere. It was January 26th, so we would have been in Europe. We did the show and they brought a cake out on stage for me. The audience sang "Happy Birthday" [laughs]. It was a trip turning 70! I wanted to tell everybody, "I'm 70! I'm 70!"

GS: It's something to celebrate.

LW: Yeah, I made it to 70. Nobody thinks I'm 70 [laughs].





Photos By Anthony Meade

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GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"I Have Something to Tell You (For Young Adults) By Chasten Buttigieg c.2023, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing \$18.99 209 pages



Experience, they say, is the best teacher.

Once you've done something, you can say you like it and you'll do it again or not. The subject comes with a different viewpoint, once you've gotten a little experience with it. You're wiser, more confident. As in the new book "I Have Something to Tell You" by Chasten Buttigieg, you'll have the chops to offer valid advice.

If you'd have asked 8-year-old Chasten Buttigieg what life was like, he probably would've told you about his big brothers and how wild and daring they were. He would've said he didn't have many friends and that he loved his parents. He wouldn't have told you about being gay, though, because he had no frame of reference, no experience, or role models. He just knew then that he was "different."

A year later, he watched Will & Grace on TV for the first time, and it was hilarious but he had to be careful. Already, he understood that being "someone 'like that'" had to be hidden. He watched Ellen and he was sure that "gay people weren't found in places" like his Northern Michigan home town.

For much of his childhood, Buttigieg says he was bullied, but being lonely was worse. He was awkward, but he found his happy place in theater. "In school," he says, "I felt a constant tug-of-war between where I was and where I wanted to be," between authenticity and pretending. A year as a high school senior exchange student in gay-friendly Germany, then a "safe space" in college in Wisconsin clarified many things and helped him gain confidence and "broaden [his] perspective."

By the time he met the man he calls Peter, "I felt at ease to present myself in ways I hadn't felt comfortable doing..."

Still, he says, things may be better or they may be worse, "We've got a long way to go, but you, the reader, get to be a part of that promising future."

Filled with an abundance of dad jokes and a casual, chatty tone that never once feels pushy or overbearing, "I Have Something to Tell You" may seem like *deja vu* for good reason. This gently altered version of a 2020 memoir, meant for kids ages 12 and up, says all the right things in a surprisingly paternal way.

And yet, none of it's preachy, or even stern.

Though there are brief peeks at his adult life on the campaign trail with his husband, now-Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the heart of author Chasten Buttigieg's book is all memoir, set in a loving household in a small town. It's lightly humorous but not trite; to this, Buttigieg adds a layer of subtle advice, and genuineness to a tale that's familiar to adults and will appeal to young, still-figuring-it-out teens.

You can expect a "you are not alone" message in a book like this, but it comes with an upbeat, fatherly calm. For a teen who needs that, reading "I Have Something to Tell You" will be a good experience.

"Harley Quinn: Ravenous"
by Rachael Allen c.2023, Random House \$19.99 349 pages



Forget about it.

Put it out of your mind, don't worry about it. It's likely nothing, so let it rest. Let it go and don't be afraid because, as in the new book "Harley Quinn: Ravenous" by Rachael Allen, fear is how they make you scream.

Being a First Year intern at Gotham University was going to be The. Best.

Having completed the University's gap-year program last year, Harleen Quinzel was practically bouncing. She'd decided on research, possibly

psychology, as a career and First Year program included mentorship and a chance to study some of Gotham's worst, most notorious criminal minds. The Joker, Two-Face, King Shark, Mr. Freeze, she could be assigned to any one of them at Arkham Asylum.

First Year was also going to be a bit of a relief.

Sure, she'd still have to put up with classmates like the jerk who kept asking if she was "straight now" (nope, still bi, today, tomorrow, last week) and she'd have to try to fit in, which was hard to do after what happened at the end of last year. Then, some of Harleen's friends were attacked with a fear spray that made them scream and scream, and her best friend died from it. There was gossip but Harleen had her research to enjoy, she loved her mentor, and she was fascinated by Talia al Ghul, who'd tried to assassinate Gotham's mayor. Talia was a great study-subject – even though Harleen wasn't technically supposed to ever speak to her.

Until Talia said that she knew who made the fear spray. She needed information for information, tit for tat, and she hinted that she knew the truth about Straw Man, who was rumored to haunt Arkham and who had a hand in the fear spray, so...

So then Harleen woke up in the hospital, the victim of a bad accident and amnesia. But was it an accident? Were this guy, Win, and the adorable Ivy trustworthy? And the escape of Gotham City's worst, most violent criminals... was Harleen at fault?

Let's say a movie theatre munched its film to a pulp and made a novel from the leftover cells. Or they used the mush to paint a Ben-Dot artwork panel, but in words. That's kinda how you could think of this book. As a part of the "DC Icons" franchise, "Harley Quinn: Ravenous" almost screams graphic novel or comic book.

So what's the problem?

Nothing, as long as you know that before you pick it up because that's the sort of feel you'll get in what only looks like a regular novel. Nothing, if you relish a story that starts with action and peppers it with chaos before dropping readers into a land of dark monsters and crime. Nothing at all, if you've read author Rachael Allen's novel-before-this-one – otherwise, you'll be awash in humor, feminism, superheroes, and scrambling to find your footing. Be warned.

Overall, love a funny, crazy-paced dark-Gotham novel with a feminist warrior, you'll devour "Harley Quinn: Ravenous." As for a bookmark...? Nah, forget about it.

**GRANT
PARK**



2023

FRIDAY JUNE 23

ZEDD

ZARA LARSSON • CIRCUIT MOM

**DJ MOHAMMAD • O'LAYSIA ENZA
DJ ZEL • SATIVA FELICIANO DIAMOND
MISS DJ MEG • XO CARRINGTON • MISS TOTO**

SATURDAY JUNE 24

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PRIDE TORONTO'S 43RD FESTIVAL RETURNS TO TORONTO THIS JUNE!



Toronto will be alive with colour, music and energy as Pride Toronto comes back for its 43rd year! As one of the largest and most inclusive 2SLGBTQI+ festivals in the world, Pride Toronto promises to deliver an experience like no other from June 1-30th, 2023.

This year's theme, "Here, There, Everywhere," is more than just a slogan - it's a rallying cry for the entire 2SLGBTQI+ community. Focused on the present moment, we are Here to proclaim and celebrate our existence. We are here against all odds, and continue to endure. We are here to stay. We take action by being There for each other. We relentlessly advocate for our community, and champion safe spaces in times of need and in times of joy. As we revel in and learn from our differences, we come together as one universe. We are together because we are Everywhere.

With over 100 events planned throughout the month, Pride Toronto offers an incredible range of opportunities to celebrate and show your support. From dazzling drag shows to vibrant parties, inspiring art exhibits, stunning murals, exciting auctions, captivating buskers, empowering human rights conferences, thought-provoking youth panels and the renowned Parades and Marches, there is truly something for everyone to enjoy and participate in.

For a full list of Pride Toronto's events, announcements and more information about the festival, visit their website at www.pridetoronto.com.

PRIDE IN THE HEART OF THE ILLINOIS VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 10, 2023



Ottawa Family Pride Festival will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023 in Downtown Ottawa, Illinois. Also the 2023 Ottawa Family Pride Festival kick-off with their first-ever

Parade! For more information visit <https://ottawafamilypridefest.org>

MOTOR CITY PRIDE ANNOUNCES THE ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP FOR THE JUNE 10TH AND 11TH 2023 FESTIVAL



Motor City Pride announces the lineup for the 2023 Festival. The annual LGBTQ pride festival will be held on June 10 & 11, 2023, in Hart Plaza, Detroit, Michigan. Last year Motor City Pride looked backward, paying tribute on the 50th anniversary of the first pride march in Detroit. This year we are focusing forward, by bringing the best breakthrough and up-and-coming LGBTQ+ artists. If you do not know their names already, you better catch up quickly because the soundtrack to your summer begins June 10 and 11 at Motor City Pride. Plan on getting to the festival early and staying late.

Alex Delavan Stage Coordinator, said: "This year, MCP has a GLAAD Award Breakthrough Artist 2023 Nominee trending right now (JORDY), one of the most in-demand local-gone-national Detroit Institute of Musical Education (DIME)/Assemble Sound alumni (Siena Liggins), a RuPaul's Queen from both Season 14 (Jasmine Kennedie) and 15 (Robin Fierce), one of New York's underground dance parties (The Robyn Party) that sells out the Brooklyn Bowl featured on Robyn's Missing U video." It's not just the headliners that are starting to become household names, other MCP artists that have been on SNL (Robert Bannon), America's Got Talent (Nugisy), Fox's Alter Ego (Mama Yaya), and so much more. You will always remember back to Motor City Pride 2023 when you saw them before they blew up.

"What a great privilege it has been to gather so many enthusiastic entertainers for our diverse city. As the entertainment department developed this lineup for 2023, we wanted every community representative on stage as we do throughout the city". Stated **Darius Wheeler**, Entertainment Director.

For more information, visit www.motorcitypride.org

PRIDE FEST Chicago LINEUP ANNOUNCED June 17-18, 2023



Heather Small (M People), Slayyyter, Meet Me @ The Altar, JORDY, and Eureka O'Hara are among this year's headliners for Chicago Pride Fest®, taking place June 17th and 18th in the city's landmark LGBTQ+ Northalsted community.

Other artists on the Bud Light North Stage include Nick Osin, Shab, Ultra Naté, Ariana and the Rose, Dancing Queen: An ABBA Salute and Ultrabeat.

Additional attractions include the Waveland DJ Stage, a Youth Pride Space for teens, Proud Pet Parade with Miss Fozzie, Firebrand country western dance and Servin' Fysh dance company, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, 103.5 KISS-FM Rainbow Run, guest speakers, and over 150 merchandise and food vendors.

The Youth Pride Space debuted last year and returns for both days of Chicago Pride Fest 12-7pm at Broadway and Waveland (inside the festival). It is a dedicated safe space for LGBTQ+ teens and teen allies (age 12-18). Programming includes speakers, entertainment, activities, dance area, refreshments, and counseling resources. Details forthcoming at northalsted.com/youth.

Northalsted Vice-President and lead event organizer, **Mark Liberson**, is excited for Chicago Pride Fest's 22nd anniversary, "We come together in June to celebrate community and uplift each other in the struggle for equality and human rights. Despite decades of progress, the need for Pride has not lessened, as outright attacks, especially on transgender and BIPOC members of our community, are ongoing."

A \$15 suggested donation at entry helps pay Chicago Pride Fest performers, event workers, and funds community programs. Generous public donations paid for the creation and ongoing maintenance of the Chicago Pride Crosswalks: 14 rainbow paved neighborhood intersections make up the longest installation of its kind in the world, and the programming supported by Northalsted, including DEI training. For more information visit <http://www.PridefestChicago.com>

JUNE 17-18

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HEATHER SMALL (M PEOPLE) SLAYYYTER
MEET ME @ THE ALTAR JORDY
EUREKA O'HARA ULTRA NATÉ
BBYMUTHA COOKIEE KAWAII
NICK OSIN SHAB ARIANA AND THE ROSE
SIXTEEN CANDLES THE VIXEN PRESENTS BLACK GIRL MAGIC
TOO MUCH MOLLY BAND DANCING QUEEN: AN ABBA SALUTE
HELLO WEEKEND ULTRABEAT BEV RAGE & THE DRINKS
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JANKY AZN INVZN ft. CHESS KNIGHT + SUPES BASE DJ XTASY
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**Pride IN THE PARK
CHICAGO 2023
June 23-24, 2023**



Get ready to celebrate Pride in the Park, the ultimate outdoor festival for the LGBTQ+ community! This two-day event will take place on June 23rd and 24th, 2023 in Grant Park, Chicago, and will feature an incredibly diverse lineup of national and local talent. With past headliners like **Tiesto, Steve Aoki, Alesso, The Chainsmokers, Chaka Khan, Gryffin, Daya, Shea Couleé, Todrick Hall, Tamar Braxton, Kathy Sledge**, and hundreds of others performers, you know this is going to be a party you won't want to miss!

For more up to date information visit

<http://www.prideParkChi.com>

**CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE
SUNDAY JUNE 25TH**

The parade Kicks off at Noon Sunday June 25th from Broadway and Montrose, proceeds south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive. The four-mile parade route travels through the Northalsted, Uptown, Lakeview and Lincoln Park neighborhoods. Be sure to watch for GRAB Magazines Float!

For more information visit <http://www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org>

**FIERTE MONTREAL
AUGUST 3 TO 13: NEVER
WITHOUT OUR PRIDE!**



The 11 celebratory days of the 17th edition of the Fierté Montréal Festival, Québec, Fierté Montréal reminds us that in a social context where the oppression of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities persists, the purpose of the Festival is more relevant than ever.

The Festival will take place from August 3 to 13 all around the city,

including at the Olympic Park's Esplanade -Festival main site- as well as in the Village, Jardins Gamelin, the Montréal Casino, Le National, Société des arts technologiques (SAT), Club Soda and elsewhere. In addition to the Pride Parade along Boulevard René-Lévesque, Fierté Montréal is bringing back two Community Days that will take place on Sainte-Catherine.

For more information visit fiertemontreal.com

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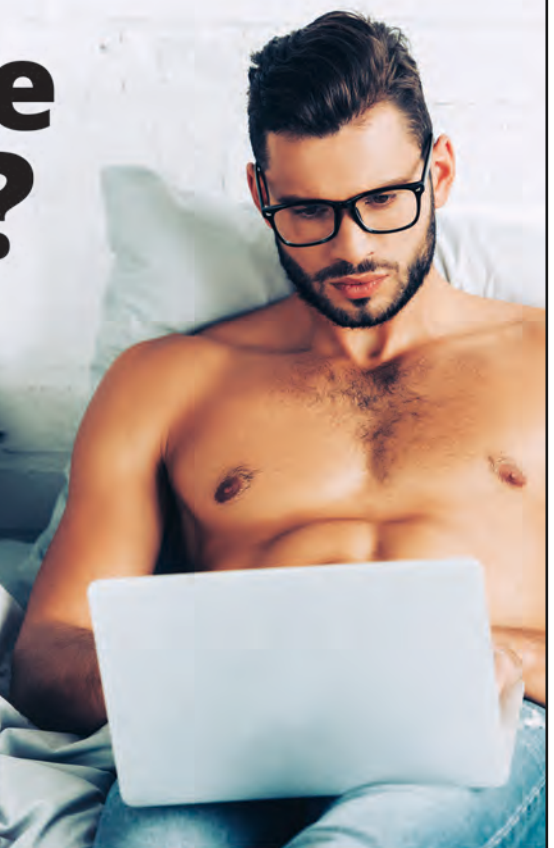
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"If there was a heaven, it could not be better than this." – *New City Stage*

Tickets available at CabaretZaZou.com. Use code Pride23 for 15% off tickets (some restrictions apply).

**Kayla Boye's CALL ME
ELIZABETH TO BE
PRESENTED AT VENUS
CABARET THEATER JUNE 16-
18**



"Call Me Elizabeth," a one-woman show about the early life of Elizabeth Taylor, will be presented June 16-18 by KB Productions at Venus Cabaret

Theater. The critically acclaimed production is written by and stars Kayla Boye and is directed by **Michael Weber**.

Fresh off her 1961 Academy Awards triumph and a recent brush with death, Elizabeth Taylor is struggling with her hardest role yet: herself. Through an intimate conversation with her biographer, "Call Me Elizabeth" examines the movie star's early life, career and loves as she grapples with the culture of celebrity and her place as Hollywood's brightest star.

Boye states, "I thank the leadership team at Mercury Theater Chicago for the opportunity to bring "Call Me Elizabeth" to Chicago audiences during Pride Month. It is especially exciting to share the story of Elizabeth Taylor at this time, as the play explores the formative relationships in her life that led to her trailblazing fight against HIV/AIDS. She was an extraordinary woman who used her fame for good, and her legacy continues today."

Tickets are now on sale and may be purchased by visiting www.callmeelizabeth.com or by calling the Box Office at **773-360-7365**

**WINDY CITY GAY CHORUS
AND WINDY CITY TREBLE
QUIRE PRESENT
A NIGHT FULL OF STARS: A
Night full of stars: A WCPA
PRIDE CONCERT
June 17th**



The Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire Have announced their upcoming 2023 pride concert, *A Night Full of Stars*. This concert is produced by WCPA's members, with selections being a mix of full choir and cabaret pieces. Conductors on the concert are:

Choir portion: **Beth Bellinger**, **Ken Huan**, and **Sharon Lee** Cabaret portion: **Kelsey Braman** and **Sharon Lee**.

Featuring solo and group

performances, this concert will spotlight many of WCPA's members and allow them to truly show what makes them Windy City Stars. Songs include "This is Me"

from The Greatest Showman, a reimagining of the Smashmouth (and Shrek) hit "All Star", "How

Far I'll Go" from Disney's Moana, "City of Stars" from La La Land, and more! To include as much of our community in our Pride celebration as possible, tickets for the concert

are "donate what you can", with the option to attend the concert at no cost (Suggested donation: \$25 per person).

For tickets call **773.325.5200** or visit <http://www.windycitysings.org>.

**MIZ CRACKER: HERE I
STAND
METROPOLIS
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
JUNE 22, 2023**



In her brand new stand-up comedy special, *Here I Stand*, drag queen and comedienne **Miz Cracker** discusses everything from sex and dating to quarantining, dieting, and getting older. With her signature brand of cheerful pessimism, she tells jokes and stories about her bizarre childhood, her vices, her worst mistakes, and how she managed to survive it all. Embracing a message of self-acceptance, *Here I Stand* is a show for anyone who needs to laugh out loud – sometimes at themselves. Enhance the night with VIP Tickets, including Cabaret seats, and a VIP Meet & Greet with this iconic *RuPaul's Drag Race All Star*.

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