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PRIDE PARADE GUIDE



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GRAB MAXXIE



The Name on Everybody's Lips is Gonna be Maxxie!

The World's First Animated Drag Queen Hero Releases This Pride

By Robbie Todoro

With the world eagerly awaiting the next great superhero, director Anthony Hand is answering the call in heels. Hand's groundbreaking animated feature Maxxie LaWow: Drag Super-Shero makes its glittering debut on TVOD platforms including Amazon, iTunes, Google, and Dish this June 17. Centered around a shy barista who transforms into a fierce drag queen superhero, the film is a dazzling mashup of drag culture, pulsepounding music, and high-flying fantasy. Featuring the voices of celebrated RuPaul's Drag Race stars like Jinkx Monsoon, BenDeLaCrème, Monét X Change, and Rosé, Maxxie LaWow isn't just an animated spectacle—it's a heartfelt story of self-acceptance. community, and the magic of becoming your true self. We sat down with Anthony Hand to talk about the inspiration behind the world's first drag queen superhero film, the creative process, and why now is the perfect time for Maxxie to soar.

Robbie Todoro: Maxxie LaWow is the first animated feature film

centered on a drag queen superhero—what inspired you to take this bold and groundbreaking leap into uncharted cinematic territory? **Anthony Hand:** After seeing yet another superhero movie about a straight guy, I realized our LGBTQ+ stories weren't being told so I set out to change that. Drag queens have always inspired me with their resilience, art, and magic. Drag is the perfect metaphor for a superpower, and I knew it would resonate far beyond the queer community.

RT: You've mentioned the impact of Drag Race and the lack of LGBTQ+ superheroes as creative motivators—how did those influences specifically shape the character of Simon and his transformation into Maxxie?

AH: Simon's journey shows that you don't need a wig, a costume, or a title to be a "Shero." You just have to believe in the power that's already inside you. Loving yourself is the real transformation, and that's what gives you the courage to stand up, speak out, and shine.

RT: Drag is such a physical and expressive art form. What were the biggest challenges in translating that live-action energy into animation, and how did your collaboration with Chubby Beagle Productions help overcome them?

AH: Capturing the magic of live drag in animation was a fun challenge. From lip sync battles to aerial choreography, we worked with an amazing choreographer, studied drag shows, and poured all that energy into the animation. Watching it come alive was pure magic.

RT: The film blends superhero fantasy with high-energy music—can you talk about how the original songs, particularly "Shero" and "Bye Girl Bye," serve to deepen the emotional arcs of your characters?

AH: From the start, I knew we needed original songs that would celebrate drag, lift up the LGBTQ+community, and be so good that queens everywhere would want to lip sync to them. Each song reflects what's happening in the





story emotionally, from a Kylie

Minogue-meets-Barbarella anthem

yourself to a Britney Spears-style banger celebrating Maxxie's arrival. The songs add heart, humor, and pure pop magic and I can't wait for everyone to dance along when the soundtrack drops this summer.

about loving

RT: Dyna Bolical is a fabulously fierce villain with a wild plan involving drag queen tears-what inspired her character. and how did you approach balancing her camp with complexity? AH: Dyna

Bolical is part Joan Jett, part Jaida Essence Hall, and part Maleficent — a fierce rocker, a fashion-forward queen, and a classic villain rolled into one. Her outrageous plot to harvest drag queen tears was inspired by Heidi N Closet's hilarious Drag Race win and my love of over-the-top camp.

RT: You've assembled an allstar voice cast, including Jinkx Monsoon, BenDeLaCrème, and Monét X Change—what was it like working with these iconic drag voices, and how did they influence the tone and style of the film?

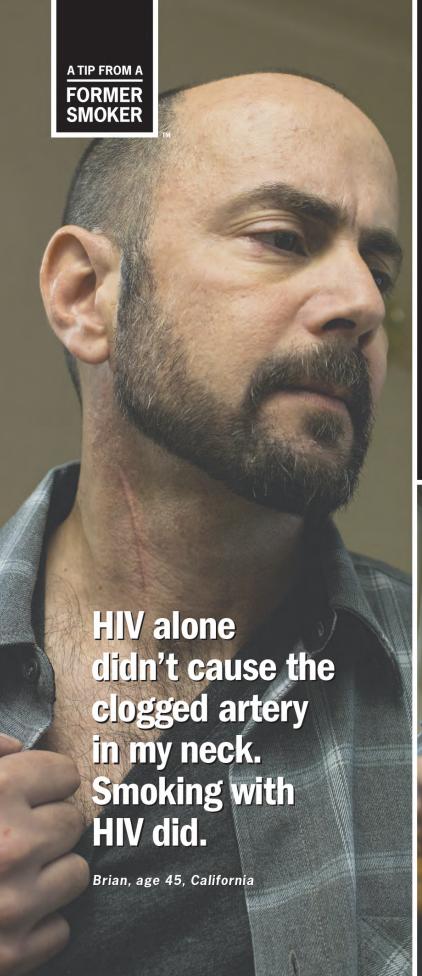
AH: Working with these iconic queens was pure magic. Their wit, warmth, and hilarious improvisations helped shape Maxxie LaWow into a fierce

and funny celebration of drag artistry.

RT: Now that Maxxie LaWow is finding her spotlight on major platforms, what do you hope audiences take away from Simon's journey of selfacceptance and empowerment? AH: Maxxie LaWow is a bright. joyful, campy, and uplifting film with a whole lot of heart. From the very beginning, I wanted it to be accessible to drag fans of all ages and backgrounds, including our straight allies, and to create something that queer kids could watch with their families and friends. Everyone who worked on this film poured their passion into bringing Maxxie's story to life, and I think we've created something truly special. I can't wait for Maxxie to find the big, loving audience she deserves. And the early response has been amazing. Everyone who's watched it so far keeps asking, "When do we get to see more?" So who knows? Maybe this is just the beginning. Maybe one day we'll see Maxxie in a series, or another big glittering feature film adventure.

Maxxie LaWow: Drag Super-Shero will release to TVOD platforms Amazon, iTunes, Google, indemand, Dish, DirectV and VUDU on Tuesday, June 17. For more information, visit www.maxxie.com and follow on Instagram @ MaxxieLaWow





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GRAB A FILM



Salt in the Wound

New Queer Film Confronts Abuse, Love, and the Complexities of Memory

By Shane Gallagher

In Salt Water, a haunting new queer drama by Colombian filmmaker Steven Morales Pineda, a man confronts the ghosts of his past and the priest who left him emotionally scarred.

Set against the arresting backdrop of Colombia's Caribbean coast, the film follows Jacobo (Luis Mario Jiménez), a 33-year-old man who reconnects with José Luis, a former Catholic priest now accused of child abuse. José Luis is not only Jacobo's alleged abuser; he was also his first love. Their reunion is charged with conflicting emotions of resentment, longing, guilt, and even desire. As the tides of the ocean ebb and swell, so too do the emotions between the two men, raising questions that defy easy answers.

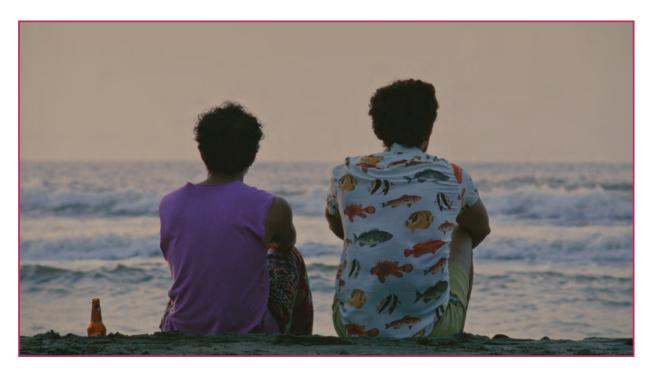
"Salt Water is about an uncomfortable love, but one that is still, undeniably, a love story," says Pineda, who wrote, directed, and co-produced the film. Drawing from personal experience, he began writing the story as an act of catharsis after turning 30 and confronting long-buried childhood trauma. "There was a story trapped deep inside me that I had always refused to tell," he recalls. "I decided it was time for catharsis."

Far from a black-and-white portrayal of victimhood and guilt, Salt Water invites viewers to sit with ambiguity. "I'm not here to point fingers," says Pineda. "I want to foster empathy both for those navigating trauma, for those silenced by shame, and for those whose actions we may not fully understand." That nuance has made the film a standout at festivals, with audiences praising its emotional honesty and bravery. "At the Miami premiere, a man in his seventies whispered to me, 'I'm a priest. And I thank you for the delicate way you've addressed this subject."

The film's production was a labor of love and survival. Shot in April 2021 amid a sudden COVID-19 surge, the crew had to navigate lockdowns, curfews, and police checkpoints. "It was an odyssey," says Pineda, who financed the film with his life savings and the support of artist friends. "But in the end, everything came together beautifully."

Salt Water also reflects the urgency and necessity of queer storytelling in today's world. "Queer art is not just important, it's essential," Pineda affirms. "It's how I challenge the systems that try to erase us. It's a lifeline."

Up next, Pineda is in postproduction on his second feature, Our Name is Mary, a coming-of-age story about three teenagers exploring identity in a machista Colombian town. "I want to keep telling stories that give voice to misunderstood characters from the



LGBTQ+ community," he says. "There are more stories in the oven that will continue doing us justice."

Salt Water is available on Amazon, Apple all major TVOD platforms.

Learn more at www.bgpics.com/ movies/salt-water.



GRAB JENSEN

Worth the Wade: An interview with Jensen Atwood

By Gregg Shapiro

There's no question that when Patrik-lan Polk's series "Noah's Arc" premiered on Logo 20 years ago, it was a groundbreaking creation. The story of a group of black gay men and their wonderful friendship. The arc of the cute main character, Noah (Darryl Stephens), included his relationship with hot Wade (Jensen Atwood), a situation that regularly steamed up TV screens. It may, in fact, be what brought viewers back repeatedly, including a 2008 movie, "Noah's Arc: Jumping the Broom" (in which Noah and Wade get married) as well as 2020 "Noah's Arc" short, and now, a new full-length feature "Noah's Arc: The Movie," airing on Paramount+/ Showtime on June 20. In the movie. Noah and Wade face new challenges, including the expansion of their family via surrogate. Atwood, who was briefly in Fort Lauderdale during Pride month, was kind enough to make time for an inperson interview.

Gregg Shapiro: Jensen, since the early 2000's, when the "Noah's Arc" series premiered on Logo, you have been playing the character of Wade, including in the latest installment, "Noah's Arc: The Movie." What was it about Wade that appealed to you as an actor?

Jensen Atwood: The thing that appealed to me the most is the impact on the community. The difference that this show and the character have made in people's lives. I still get emails to this day from people who are finding out about the show for the first time, about how it saved their lives.

GS: "Noah's Arc: The Movie" was.

once again, written and directed by Patriklan Polk, the creator of the

entire franchise. What's the secret to your long-standing working relationship?

JA: It's a friendship. Patrik is a good friend of mine. I'm thankful that we've connected on a personal level. I think that's one of the reasons why the working relationship has lasted so long. Also, for me, as an actor, I always look to my director. I say I'm a third eye actor, where I look for the vision of the director. Patrik is that director with the vision, and if you follow his lead, he's gonna take you to the right place.

GS: Because you've all been working together for more than 20 years, in the series, as well as in the 2008 movie "Noah's Arc: Jumping the Broom" and the 2020 short, does the cast feel like family to you?

JA: Yes. We are a family. It's a "Noah's Arc" family. A lot of the guys I knew before "Noah's Arc," and "Noah's Arc," has definitely bonded us in that way.

GS: In the years between "Jumping the Broom" and the new full-length movie, many changes have occurred, and the movie addresses some of them, including that Wade and Noah are becoming fathers via a surrogate.



How do you personally feel about the challenges and rewards of fatherhood?

JA: It's probably one of the most profound positions that you can have in life. Being a father and being responsible for another life, and hopefully being able to guide them in the right direction. I didn't have the best or closest relationship with my own father, which I feel like I missed out on. I refuse to be that same absence. Presence in rearing children is everything, and it's important.

GS: In the movie, Wade and Noah both have booming careers, which leads them on a quest to find a nanny. One of the agencies sends a very conservative woman, played by Jasmine Guy, to interview Wade and Noah. What was it like being in scenes with Jasmine?

JA: It was phenomenal! This might sound a little weird, but, "Noah's Arc" has everything to do with sexuality, and I want to say that Jasmine Guy kind of helped shape my sexuality [laughs].

GS: From watching her on "A Different World?"

JA: Yeah, from "A Different World." She's an icon, and it was an honor to work with her. I didn't Did your insurance deny you access to obesity medication and care?

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know she was going to be a part of the project, and so to see her across from me, to actually be in a scene (with her), just her and me, it meant the world to me. I can't wait to put it on my reel [laughs].

GS: Even though Beyoncé never makes an appearance in the movie, there's a lot of talk about her. Would you say you are a Beyoncé fan?

JA: I am a Beyoncé fan, but I also look at her as a coworker, as well. I danced for Beyoncé for a while, and I did a few of her videos, as well. So, I look at her as a coworker more than anything, but she's definitely fan-worthy [laughs].

GS: Without giving away too much, the ending of the movie is a little ambiguous, even ending with a question mark. If there was a "Noah's Arc: The Movie" sequel, would you come back for that? JA: I'm happy to hear how the end is ending and/or possibly not ending. But, yeah, I would love to come back for more "Noah's Arc." It's a staple at this point, and I am proud to be a part of it. So, let's do it again!

GS: You and Darryl Stephens look as though neither of you has aged



over these 20 or so years. Would you care to let the readers know how you manage that?

JA: How do I manage that? Hair dye [laughs]. It's been a long time, 20 years, and I have a lot more grey hair than I did when we first started "Noah's Arc." I like to try to stay true to characters. Wade is a character for me, and I didn't want to get too far away from the familiarity of what people know of

Wade, which are the classic braids and a goatee. So, I cut off my beard and went back to the goatee. The goatee was a lot whiter than it used to be, so I did a little dying there, and there you have it, Wade's back [laughs].

GS: Are there any upcoming film or TV projects you'd like to mention?

JA: Yes! I am super proud of Carl

. Weber's BET+ series "The Family Business: New Orleans," I play Saint on there. I already mentioned the Tubi series "Spilled Paint," which will also be out soon. And I was lucky enough to be in a film called "Run" that will be in theaters in August, which is from Chris Stokes and Marques Houston's production company.





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GRAB A PLANE



Summer Fun In Washington, D.C.

By Bill Malcolm

Summer is a wonderful time to visit D.C. The museums are free, the crowds are gone, and the hotel rates are more reasonable. The nightlife is incredible with eight new bars, including one that is alcohol-free. Yes, it can be hot and humid so plan accordingly.

WHAT TO DO

Check out the WorldPride LGBTQ outdoor exhibit across from the J.W. Marriott on Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 14th. Dubbed the Rainbow History Project: Pickets, Protests, and Parades, it chronicles the history of gay pride in Washington through the decades.

The U.S. Botanical Garden is just west of the Capitol and features an indoor plant garden including lots of orchids and plants from around the world. Like all Smithsonian museums, it is free. The 28,944 foot Conservancy has 10 glassed-in garden rooms and hundreds of orchid specimens.

The National Museum of the American Indian is a must. Its café features trout and other delicacies. The Whittemore House Museum at 1526 New Hampshire features displays of former Democratic First Ladies and other leaders. It is

located in Dupont Circle and was constructed in 1894.
Walk or run with the DC
Frontrunners. They meet at 20th at P on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. to walk and at 10 a.m. to run and go up Rock Creek Park to the Zoo.
Optional branch follows.
GoGayDC has fun Friday night meet-ups at various locations. They meet at 7 p.m. at a different bar each week. It's a great way to meet the locals.

NIGHTLIFE

Eight new bars have opened in the last two years. Who says bars are dead? You can dance the night away at Bunker. The District Eagle at 1357 U is new and is for the leather crowd. The Green Lantern is a fun dive bar. Take off your shirt Thursday night and drink for free. They also have a great happy hour.

The Little Gay Pub at 1100 P is very popular new and also serves food. Sit outside on the patio. The Number 9 is a lot of fun and has 2 for 1 before 8 p.m. The Trade Bar on 1410 14th has drink specials until 9 p.m. and a fun outdoor patio. JRs on 17th Street is still going strong and has special events, too. It's a D.C. staple.

The list goes on.... See the May

21, 2025, _Washington Post_ article for a complete listing of the bars in D.C.

WHERE TO EAT

The Pembroke inside the Hotel Dupont Circle is excellent (1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW). Try the branzino (fish) served with escarole with a side of kale Caesar salad. Also in Dupont Circle is Le Pain Quotidien, which is great for coffee and a croissant or a complete brunch.

Grab a breakfast burrito at the Wawa at One Thomas Circle.

Rasika Flavors of India is arguably one of the best Indian restaurants in America. Located at 633 D Street NW in the Penn Quarter neighborhood, you can sit outside if you want. The crispy baby spinach appetizer is to die for. The black cod was excellent, as was the lamb burrani.

Dirty Habit, the bar in the Hotel Monaco has a fun happy hour and an excellent restaurant. It's very LGBTQ friendly. However, beware of the surprise 20 percent service charge fee. Eighteen percent goes to the employees, while two percent "contributes to our team's fair compensation and benefits" (whatever that means). The



building is a former post office. You will find them at 700 F Street NW. Carmines on 7th Street NW has Italian food served family style. You will find them in Pann Quarter. The Dupont Italian Kitchen is at 1637 17th Street NW is a LGBTQ staple on the 17th Avenue NW gayborhood and also has a fun bar upstairs. A fun gay clientele. The Mitsitam Café inside the Native American Museum has great trout as well as an Indoanm style taco

Always check the drink prices before ordering. DC has taken overpriced glasses of wine to new heights.

GETTING THERE/GETTING AROUND

I took American non-stop into close in Reagan Airport. It's just a 15minute or so Metro subway ride on the Yellow Line to the Comfort Inn or take the Red Line to Dupont Circle to get to the Dupont Circle Hotel.

WHERE TO STAY

I spent two nights at the Dupont Circle Hotel. The mattress was amazingly comfortable. I got a quiet room facing the interior. It's an Irish chain with lots of amenities,



including a heated bathroom floor and super comfortable

bathrobes. You will find them at 1500 New Hampshire. Bargain hunters will love the Comfort Inn Downtown DC/ Convention Center on 13th Street NW at M just off Mass Avenue. Just steps to the bars and restaurants on the very trendy 14th Street NW. If you get hungry, the 24hour Wawa is a few blocks away as is Streets Market, which also has prepared food. You are also just steps to the bars on 14th Street NW. And no annoying amenity or resort fees. Tell the friendly staff. including manager Raji, that Bill sent

you.

The new Eaton Hotel is a boutique hotel at 1201 K is another option. It's very LGBTQ+ friendly and even has a LGBTQ suite! You will find them at 1201 K Street NW.

I also like the Washington Plaza, the only DC hotel with a large outdoor pool. It's on Thomas Circle and is a bargain.

DC hotels are expensive, so shop around and be aware of annoying resort or amenity fees, which are often not disclosed or transparent. I avoid hotels that charge them on unless they are disclosed up front.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Washington Blade is in print and on line. Metro Weekly is the other gay paper and is online only. Both have local current activities.

I never tire of visiting the DC, arguably one of the gayest cities in America. And you cannot beat the free museums, great transit, and excellent nightlife scene.

Bill Malcolm is the nation's only syndicated LGBTQ travel columnist. He received no compensation from anyone for his column.



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GRAB MUSIC

Q-Music: Regarding reissues – Pride edition

By Gregg Shapiro

A recent article in Rolling Stone about the new, expanded reissue of Lotti Golden's 1969 soul/garage/ psych breakthrough "Motor-Cycle" (Atlantic/High Moon) is finally giving the remarkable album some long overdue attention. Golden, who was a teenager at the time of the album's release, was taken under the wing of gay songwriter, producer, and all-around music legend Bob Crewe for the production and arrangements of the album. Her queer influences and inspirations extended beyond Crewe as Brooklyn-native Golden spent much of her time hanging out with her entourage, including LGBTQ folks, in the East Village. Musically, Golden sounds like she could be the motorcycle-jacket-wearing, slightly younger sister of Laura Nyro. But where Nyro's songs were succinct pop gems, Golden's sprawling (and never boring) songs clocked in between six and a half and eight and a half minutes. Daring for its time, the music, including "Gonna Fay's," "The Space Queens (Silky Is Sad)," "Motor-Cycle Michael," and "A Lot

Like Lucifer (Celia Said Long Time Loser)," are mind-blowing. With extensive and informative liner notes by Holly George-Warren, Richard Hell, Lucas Van Lenten, and others, this album is sure to get listeners' engines revving.

Proto-punk, glam rock, gender fuck - New York Dolls served it all. And they did it in full hair and makeup and heels (well, platforms). In 1973! Plus, they had the remarkably talented line-up of David Jo Hansen (aka David Johansen), Sylvain Sylvain, Johnny Thunders, Arthur Kane, and Jerry Nolan. Sadly, none of them are still alive (with Johansen's passing in February 2025 being the most recent). However, New York Dolls' music continues to enthrall and inspire. The band's eponymous 1973 album, originally released on Mercury Records, has been gloriously reissued in a 180 gram vinyl, 45 RPM double LP audiophile edition by Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab. Whether you're a longtime fan or a newcomer, roof-

> raising and rocking New York Dolls originals such as "Trash," "Looking For A Kiss," "Jet Boy," "Personality Crisis," and the gorgeous acoustic number "Lonely Planet Boy," will make you fall in love, "L-U-V," with these Dolls.

If the vocals by trans singer Cinder of dark industrial postpunk band **Cindytalk** sound familiar, you may recognize them from



their performance of the cover of "Kangaroo" from This Mortal Coil's 1984 album "It'll End In Tears." As you can hear on the remastered, clear vinyl reissue of Cindytalk's 1984 debut album "Camouflage Heart" (DAIS), Cinder's vocals alternate between a growl, a yowl, and a whisper, transporting the songs into the stratosphere. Ranging from noise rock to sludgy grind ("Memories of Skin and Snow," "The Spirit Behind the Circus Dream") to elegance ("Disintegrate..."), this is an album you won't soon forget.

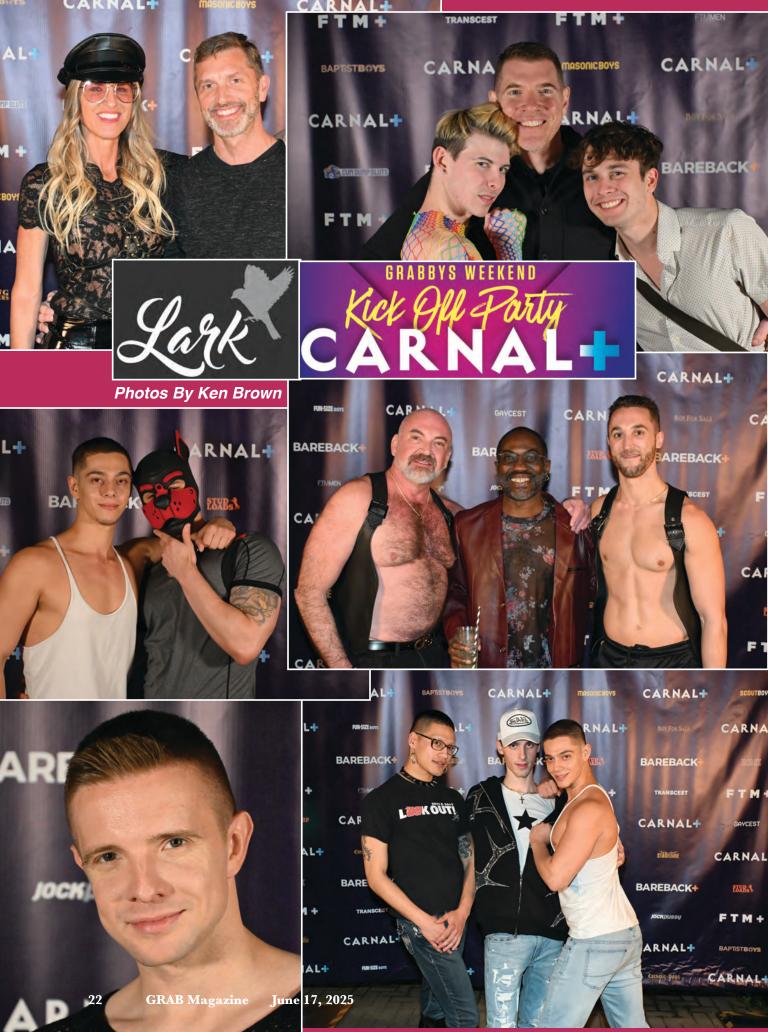
What should have been a cause for celebration is now being observed in a much more solemn way. The 30th anniversary reissue of queer singer/songwriter Jill Sobule's eponymous 1995 album on Rhino/ Atlantic/Lava), debuting on vinyl (in red, no less), has taken on different meaning after Sobule died in a house fire in early May 2025. Her passing is an immeasurable loss felt by many, and tributes across the country, known as Jillith Fairs, are taking place to honor her memory. Thankfully, we still have her singular body of work, including this self-titled album containing her brilliant hit single (and video) "I Kissed A Girl" (which pre-dates Katy Perry's song of the same name by more than a dozen years), "Supermodel" (also featured on the "Clueless" soundtrack), Sobule's trademark story songs such as "Karen By Night" and "Margaret," as well as political statement such as "Resistance Song."



For the diva-hungry gays, the eponymous 1990 debut album by Mariah Carey arrived just in time. Madonna's "Like A Prayer" had restored her queer fans' faith in her (get it?), but the 1990 "Dick Tracy" movie tie-in follow-up sent most scattering (with the exception of album closer "Voque"). So, Carey's timing was perfect, and according to her gay legions, so was her voice and her look. However, it wasn't all smooth sailing for Carey. An ugly divorce and the "Glitter" fiasco caused the fans to flee. But she remedied the situation by leaving Columbia Records (and her ex-hubby Tommy Mottola) behind and found a kind of paradise on Island Records. Carey's Island breakthrough was 2005's "The Emancipation of Mimi" (Island), newly reissued in a double-LP vinyl edition to mark its 20th anniversary. In addition to containing the hit singles "We Belong Together," "It's Like That," and "Shake It Off," the vinyl reissue expands on the original version by six songs.









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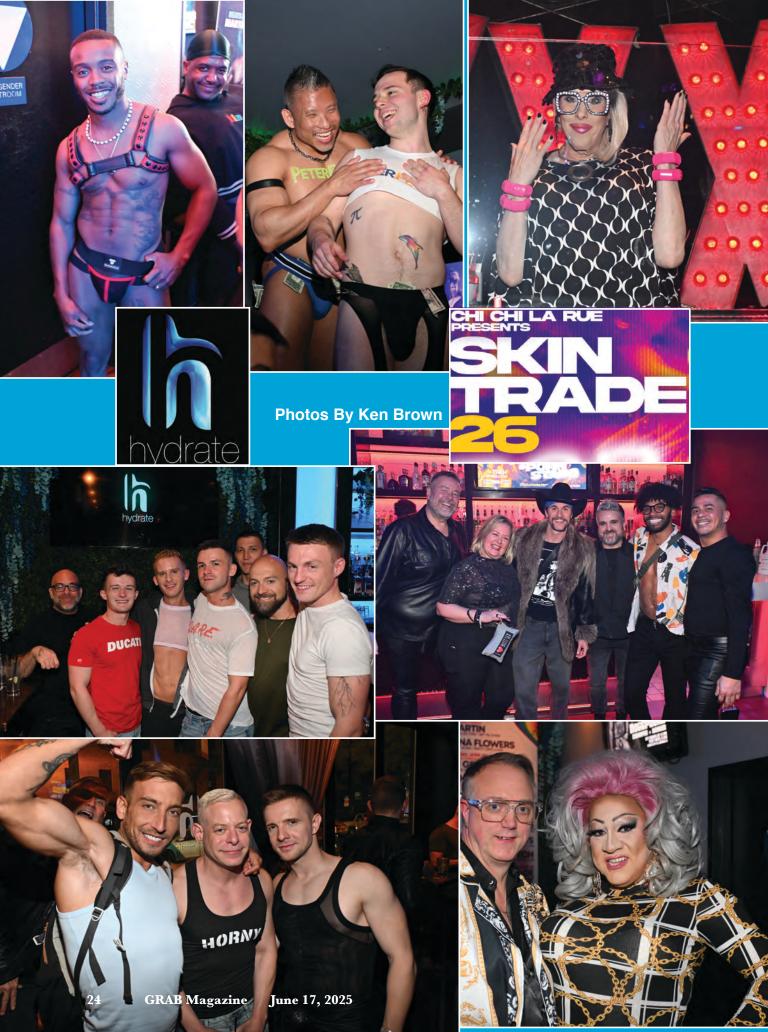
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PRIDE FEST EDITION
WITH DJ J-DADDY

SUN JUNE 22, 2PM-8PM SUNDAY SERVICE PRIDE FEST EDITION WITH DJ CLUB CHOW

MON JUNE 23, 8PM-MIDNIGHT FABALASS PRIDE EDITION

TRANSWOMEN'S NIGHT @ THE BATHS
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WITH DJ JESSE MERCADO

SAT JUNE 28, 11PM-5AM
SATURDAY NIGHT @ THE BATHS
PRIDE EDITION
WITH DJ J-DADDY

SUN JUNE 29, 6PM-MIDNIGHT POST PRIDE PARADE PLAY WITH DJ J-DADDY

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JUNE 21

JESSE MCCARTNEY · CONFIDENCE MAN HAYLA · CHRISSY CHLAPECKA

SIXTEEN CANDLES • HELLO WEEKEND • BEYOND THE BLONDE • THE DIVAS
ASHLEY PAUL • BEV RAGE & THE DRINKS • DJ X-TASY • BOY J • DOGGPOUND
MIMI MARKS • CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE • ZAMORA LOVE • VJ BRYAN
MR. PRETTY & FRIENDS • SERVIN' FYSH DANCE COMPANY • DJ LAURA B • MARK LOVE
UNFRIENDLY BLACK HOTTIES • GAY MEN'S CHORUS • KERI TRAID • SECRET QUEEN
MZ RUFF N STUFF • HELVETIKAH BLAK • SATIVA DIAMOND • BELLA DE BALLE • PIXEL
LUNA LA CATRINA • PERSEPHONE BROOKLYN • DOM BROWN

JUNE 22

DEBORAH COX · ALUNA · THE ACES SNOW WIFE · THE VIXEN · SHEA COULEÉ

DANCING QUEEN: AN ABBA SALUTE • TOO MUCH MOLLY BAND • FIREBRAND
JULES LIESL • MICAH • BLACK GIRL MAGIC • CREATION CHICAGO • DJ CA\$H ERA
VIRAGO • DJ X-TASY • AVI SIC • SASHA LOVE • CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE
ANDREW SA • IAMBRANDON • MARTIN • JANESITA • COBRA B • DJ LAURA B
B.BLYSS! • MISS FOOZIE'S PROUD PET PARADE • DIDA RITZ • OLAYSIA • LILA STAR
STYLIN' OUT NETWORK • SERENA FIIERCE • GINA BELLE • BATTY DAVIS
SORRAYA DASH • RACHEL SLURRZ • KITTY BANKS • PEEPER JOHNSON
KARA MEL D'VILLE • JOURDIN K LARUE • KHLOE COULEÉ • ARI GATO
OPAL • HAUS OF AMI • HUSBAND FIIERCE
ROBYN BANKS FIIERCE • KINLEY PRESTON



JUNE 21-22





PRIDEFESTCHICAGO.COM

SATURDAY

NORTH STAGE

12 PM DJ LAURA B

1 PM PRIDE DRAG SHOW

JESSE MCCARTNEY 2 PM

2:50 PM PRIDE DRAG SHOW

3:30 PM SERVIN' FYSH DANCE CO.

4 PM BEYOND THE BLONDE

5:45 PM PRIDE DRAG SHOW

6:30 PM CHRISSY CHLAPECKA

7:15 PM ASHLEY PAUL

7-45 PM HAYLA

9:05 PM CONFIDENCE MAN

WAVELAND STAGE

1 PM VJ BRYAN

2:30 PM DJ X-TASY

4:30 PM UNFRIENDLY BLACK HOTTIES

6.30 PM DOGGPOUND

8 PM MR. PRETTY & FRIENDS



JUNE 21+22 **WAVELAND & BROADWAY** 11 AM - 5 PM

SOUTH STAGE

1 PM GAY MEN'S CHORUS

2 PM CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE

2:30 PM BEV RAGE & THE DRINKS

4 PM THE DIVAS

6 PM HELLO WEEKEND

8 PM SIXTEEN CANDLES

NORTH STAGE

12 PM MISS FOOZIE'S PROUD PET PARADE REGISTER

12 PM DJ LAURA B

12:30 PM FIREBRAND

1 PM PRIDE DRAG SHOW

2 PM DEBORAH COX

2:50 PM PRIDE DRAG SHOW

SNOW WIFE 4 PM

5:15 PM DANCING QUEEN: AN ABBA SALUTE

6:50 PRIDE DRAG SHOW

8 PM JULES LIESL

8:15 PM MICAH

9 PM THE ACES

SUNDAY

WAVELAND STAGE

1 PM DJ CA\$H ERA

3 PM IAMBRANDON

4:30 PM MARTIN

4:30 PM HOUSE OF FIIERCE

AT CENTER ON HALSTED (3RD FLOOR)

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

FOR AGES 55+

12 PM - 4 PM

6:30 PM VIRAGO

8 PM AVI SIC

SOUTH STAGE

12:30 PM CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE

1 PM MISS FOOZIE'S PROUD PET PARADE (AWARDS)

1:30 PM TOO MUCH MOLLY BAND

3 PM HAUS OF AMI

3:45 PM ANDREW SA

4:30 PM JANESITA

5:15 PM COBRA B

6:15 PM B. BLYSS!

7:15 PM ALUNA

8:15 PM STYLIN' OUT NETWORK

BLACK GIRL MAGIC W/ THE VIXEN & SHEA COULEÉ





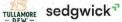




























































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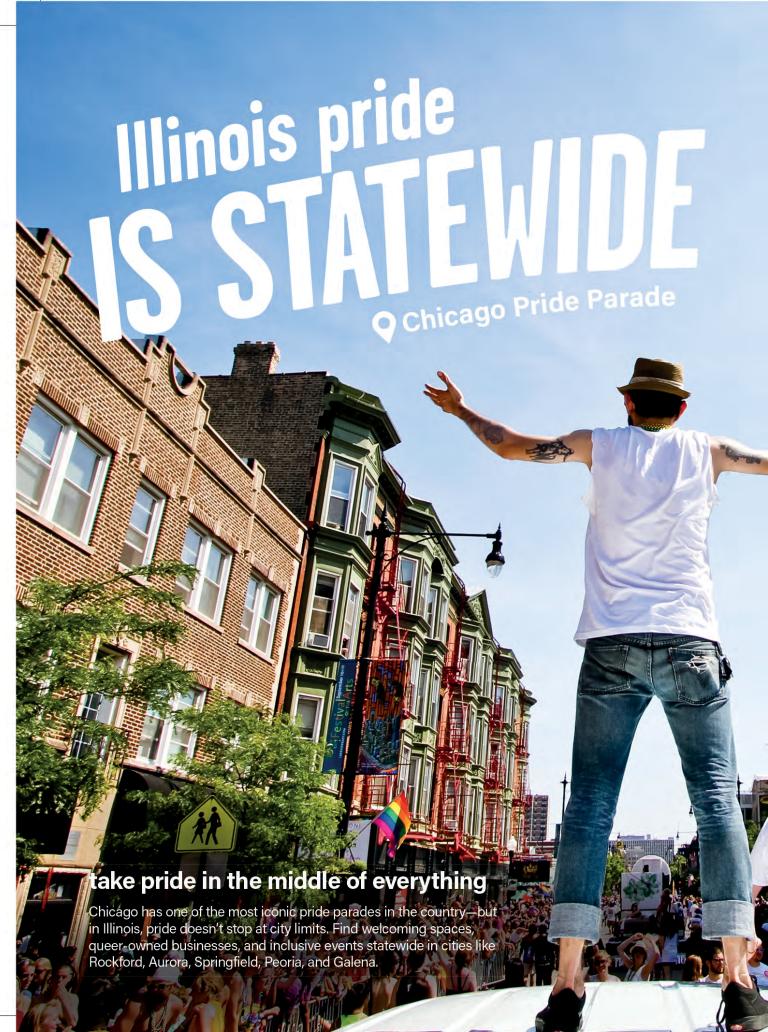
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A Guide to Pride

in the Preserves

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CELEBRATING

FRIDAY. JUNE 27

CELEBRATING PRIDE IN ALL OF OUR PERVERSIONS

SATURDAY. JUNE 28

11AM-4PM A FLEA MARKET FOR KINK

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SUNDAY. JUNE 29

MARCH WITH MCL 2025, J-HUMMINGBIRD / SHOW OFF YOUR LEATHER/FETISH PRIDE!



GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts.@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlies: Half off Hennessy and Patron 7pm - 11pm ABC Bingo, 11pm Charlie's Live. Hydrate: Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks.Shakers on Clark: Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. Steamworks: Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, \$5 Tecate Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend.

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: \$4 You Call It's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm BS Karaoke, 11pm Baddies Block Party. Hydrate: TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. Shakers on Clark: \$3 Domestic Beers. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. Steamworks: Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). The Sofo Tap: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts Touche: Open 5pm - 4am Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi, 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock.

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Boys and Booze. Jackhammer: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$4 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. Shakers on Clark: Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Dua & Ariana last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. The Sofo Tap: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check, 6/11 Full Moon Party & Contest.

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. Charlie's: 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm Mother Rebirth, 10pm - Power up Reloaded. 2nd Thursday of the Month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Scissor Sisters. 4th Thursday of the Month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Vinyl. Jackhammer: \$3 House Shots, \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis..Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. *Meeting House Tavern:* \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. Shakers on Clark: \$1 off All Call Liguor Mixed Drinks, Karaoke 10pm-1am. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursday! Pop Music Videos in Glass/Side Bars 9pm-2am, Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month in Main Bar, All Things K-Pop other Thursdays in Main Bar. Steamworks: Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. **The Sofo Tap:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Stoli Mules (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts Touche: Open 5pm - 4am. Throwback Thursdays 70's & 80's Music & Porn By Bijou Video.

ESD/

WEDN

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$3 House Shots. \$5 Miller Lite Drafts. EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallbov Beers (Old Style, PBR. Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: 1st Friday of the Month 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Charlie's Presents. 2nd Friday:8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Glow Up. 3rd Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Thirst Trap. 4th Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars

11pm Haus of Charlie's. Jackhammer: \$8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, \$8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. Meeting House Tavern: HAPPY HOUR (5-8 PM): \$5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$6 Tito's Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. The Sofo Tap: HAPPY HOUR (3-6 PM): \$4 Signature Margaritas, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Open 5pm - 4am. 6/20 Coeboy Round Up with ILGRA, 6/27 Leather & Fetish Pride Party

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 2pm-3am. Charlie's: 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Under the boots tonight. *Jackhammer:* \$3 House Shots, \$8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, \$8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Lucky Horseshoe: Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. *Meeting House Tavern:* HAPPY HOUR (2-5 PM): \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat Drafts, \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$8 WYNK THC, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. *Sidetrack:* Open at 1pm, Post-Brunch SaturGay Fun 1pm-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. The Sofo Tap: HAPPY HOUR: (12-3 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Signature Margaritas, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts Touche: Open 2pm - 5am. 6/21 Gear Night with Bluf/Chicago Barber & Bootblack on duty dress Code in Clubroom BNC 6 pm. 6/28 Ripe with Pride Party Dim Linghts, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes.

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$6 Chicago Handshakes, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. Baton Show Lounge: Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 2pm-2am Charlie's: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month5pm - 7pm Queeriod,

7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo, y Perreo. 2nd Sunday 5pm -7pm Queeriod Presents Drag U 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. 4th Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Boyfriend Material, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. Hydrate: Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. Jackhammer: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): \$3 House Shots, \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis .Lucky Horseshoe: Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm Shakers on Clark: \$1 off Bloody Mary's, \$1 off Mules: Vodka, Tequila, or Whiskey. And \$1 off all Revolution beers. *Sidetrack:* Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am . *The Sofo Tap:* HAPPY HOUR (1-3 PM): \$3 House Shots, FREE Hotdogs (while supplies last) ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$6 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. *Touche:* Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust \$2 Draughts & Sodas Clubroom opens 6pm Movie Night 7pm. 6/29 Pride Parade Day Beer Bust Cook Out 3-7pm Clubroom Open.

The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and online Tuesday July 22nd (Market Days Issue) reserve your space today Call 773-707-2660 or email GRABStacy@gmail.com

Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of June 2025



Visit nexusradio.fm

	Artist	Title
1	Lena Leon	Seconds To Sunrise (Radio Edit)
2	Nathan Dawe X Abi Flynn	Here In Your Arms
3	Blond Ish	Self Love
4	Alon & Lowen	Everything (Radio Edit)
5	Armnhmr	Moments Ft. Z3lla
6	Afrojack	Never Forget You
7	Rihanna	Friend Of Mine
8	Felix Cartal & Reve	Dancing In A Dream
9	Jules Liesl	Cherry (Mousse T. Slow Jam Remix)
10	Jade	Angel Of My Dreams (The Blessed Madonna Remix)
11	Babsy	Young Again
12	Tate Mcrae	Sports Car (Telykast Remix)
13	Wizthemc X Bees & Honey	Show Me Love (Radio Edit)
14	Boris Way X Jaimes	I Will Wait
15	Alok & Alan Fitzpatrick	Friday I'm In Luv Ft. Bbyclose
16	Victoria Nadine x Kygo	Can't Get Enough
17	James Hype	Don't Wake Me Up
18	CMC\$ X Terror Jr	Risk It All
19	Gabi Sklar	Miami (Dalexo Remix)
20	Sommer Ray	Lalala (Everybody's Up) (Hedegaard Edit)
21	William Black & Kate Morgan	Save Me
22	Joe Bermudez & Jenna Drey	Halley's Comet (Zillionaire Remix)
23	Kaskade X Punctual	Heaven Knows Ft. Poppy Baskcomb (Andrea Botez & Bis
24	Rudimental X Khalid	All I Know
25	Ofenbach	Need You The Most
26	Don Diablo	Freek Like Me
27	Gtofice X Matthew Topper & Petie	Something New
28	Kaskade X Lipless	State Of Mind
29	Jaden Bojsen	I Feel It (Radio Edit)
30	Thierry Von Der Warth	Sun Is Rising



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GRAB ROGER

United We Stand

By Roger V. McCaffre-Boss, Esq.

In the 45 years that I have been an attorney, one thing that I find most encouraging has been the growing trend for professionals to come out of the closet, band together to further their careers and businesses and to battle discrimination in the workplace. All different kinds of LGBTQ people are forming support groups to provide needed business contacts, job referrals and mutual support.

Everyone can show the unity of the community by working for and contributing money to those local organizations which are committed and established to serve the needs of LGBTQ persons and advancing the cause for civil rights. The example of strong, well supported and effective community organizations will make those whose intent it is to reverse the progress of LGBTQ rights to seriously reconsider their stance or be subject to intense, united opposition.

All LGBTQ persons can show the unity of the community by their commitment to work together and accept each other for their

differences as well as their commonness. Be it someone who dresses in leather, clothing of the opposite sex, tattooed, pierced or in a business suit; pride must never be allowed to die. To exclude anyone who is a LGBTQ person because they look or act different buys into the same prejudice of society that we battle against.

Our acceptance of everyone's differences sets the example for others of how we should be treated. We cannot expect others to do for us that which we cannot do for ourselves.

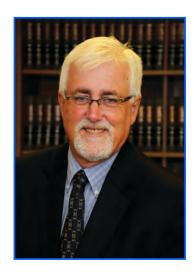
That commitment must be expressed in the fight each day by each LGBTQ person by each generation. Each person can make a difference and each person can use their life to set an example of pride and acceptance.

It is this author's personal opinion that the strongest way to show Unity is the effective use of the "gay dollar." By supporting local gay businesses and professionals the true economic clout of the gay and lesbian community can be felt.

For each dollar spent with a LGBTQ business or professional, be

it a doctor, lawyer, accountant, real estate broker etc. that business or professional can return those dollars back into the LGBTQ community by supporting other businesses and hiring other LGBTQ persons. Gays and lesbians can be paid a living wage to be able to live openly and outside of the closet.

Each LGBTQ business or professional can in return support local gay publications through advertisements and with fundraisers support those community organizations that support LGBTQ rights and provide needed services for those in need. It is the community organizations that present the first line of defense to ignorance and intolerance.



Unlike blacks or Hispanics whose problems have gained widespread attention and sympathy with straight society, LGBTQ persons have been treated with hostility and a lack of sympathy to their needs and problems. By accepting the diverseness of LGBTQ persons, by working together in self help groups and by supporting LGBTQ businesses and LGBTQ professionals, LGBTQ persons people can progress in achieving acceptance and equal treatment from insurance companies, employers, businesses, banks and lending institutions.

Each day there are still battles for civil and legal rights that must be fought by all LGBTQ persons. To give up that fight would be to surrender to ignorance and prejudice; only by our setting the example of acceptance will there be unity and from that unity will come economic success, acceptance in a straight society and continued legal recognition of gay or lesbian couples protecting marriage rights from a conservative government and Supreme Court. It is from our diversity and differences that our strength and unity is nourished.

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



THIS AD SPONSORED BY GRAB MAGAZINE

JOIN TO CHICAGO'S CELEBRATION OF PRIDE

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GRAB HOLLY

When "Auto-Pay" Auto-Fucks-Up

By Holly Maholm

I could feel myself starting to blush. (Not a reaction attributable to my participation in any of my more colorful amorous activities, which - through repetition - have lost their odor of the "exotic" and taken on the flavor of "humdrum.") No. I blushed out of shame... humiliation... and mortification. Donut Time was in arrears of its bills at the local newspaper - the Wellington Bee - and I took this failure personally. My face felt flushed, and there were tears coming to my eyes. Xandra, I could see, noticed my reaction and waited anxiously for me to speak.

"We can't let anyone find out about this, Xandra." I started in. "Don't tell anyone until I've had a chance to discover what happened. When I find out, I'll come and tell you. Now, give me a minute to think." She exited the booth and returned to the kitchen.

I knew exactly where I had to go to find the cause of this disaster. I wrapped my two remaining donuts in a napkin and slid out of the booth. Then, not forgetting to Grab those treats for later, I hurried to the Bank. Arriving there, I looked for the Head Teller, Irina. (I wanted to avoid Gary, the bank manager, who might ask me why I was

there.)

Now, Irina was not just the teller who usually handled bank transactions related to Donut Time. In her spare time, she was also the person who "kept the books" for Donut Time. She knew QuickBooks and provided a similar accounting service for most of the small businesses in Wellington. I trusted her to keep my secret. She took me aside into an office and closed the door, after which I swore her to secrecy... and explained the crisis. She pondered a few moments; went on her computer a few more moments; then spoke.

"You have two problems. Here is first problem." (Now, Irina is a Russian immigrant, and she tends to explain things in a characteristic "Russian" way: "Here is problem. German Army have 500 tanks. Russian Army have 300 tanks. This not good. We need more tanks. You have tanks? How many tanks you have? We take tanks you not need. Use your tanks. Give back when we are done.")

Irina explained. "Donut Time pays bills from Bee by Auto-pay. First of month bank pays money to Bee from Auto-pay account. But if no money in Auto-pay account, it can't pay. Does nothing. But also, does not give notice

of non-payment. This first problem.

"Second problem:
Auto-pay account
must get money from
Donut Time General
Account. But last four
months, General
Account did not
transfer money to
Auto-pay account. No
money in Auto-pay
account; no payment
to Bee.

"Reason is: Donut Time General Account has no money. Deposits of cash from sales at Donut Time not enough to cover checks or payroll or transfer to Auto-pay. Sorry, Holly, but Donut Time cannot pay its bills. Slowly going bankrupt."

For the second time that day, my face felt flushed and my voice choked up. Finally, I croaked-out a crestfallen "Thanks" to



Irina, after which I left the bank and headed back to Donut Time. There, I intended to tell Xandra what I had learned. When I walked in, I saw Xandra and Aly having an intense private conversation behind the cash register. Obviously, Xandra had shared news of our disaster with her. I motioned for Xandra to join me and headed to an open booth, where I took a seat. Xandra joined me, and I started in explaining what Irina had said.

Once I had explained all, Xandra and I began discussing what steps might enable us to save Donut Time. Should we raise prices? Or make the pastries smaller, using less fruit filling? Or maybe cut back on hours for the waitresses or delivery staff? Our rent, utilities and insurance were sure to go up. We faced the same difficult choices that all small businesses do. Donut Time (and the Bee) are no different from countless other small businesses.

As we talked. I noticed Tracy come in for a couple of lunch pastries (stromboli) and soda. I saw he and Alv get into a conversation, which I could not hear. Then, at some point, Aly pulled open a drawer located under the register, where she found a cardboard box the size that holds a dozen donuts. She opened the box and let Tracy look in, upon which he froze. In seconds he recovered, took the box from Aly and - seeing Xandra and me in a booth - walked unsteadily over to us. He folded back the top of the box and – showing us the contents – declared:

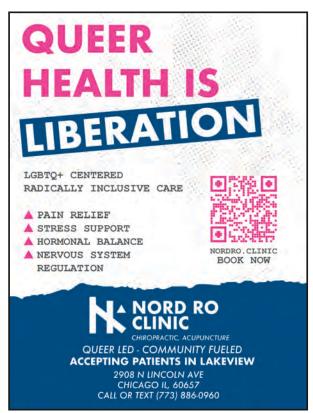
"Holly, Xandra, I told you before it was time for Donut Time to 'Pay the Paperboy,' but now, I see, it's actually time for the Paperboy to Pay You."

(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.









GRAB A BOOK

"Books for Pride Month" by various authors c.2025, various authors \$24.99 - \$32.00



You're going to be on your feet a lot this month.

Marching in parades, dancing in the streets, standing up for people in your community. But you're also likely to have some time to rest and reflect – and with these great new books, to read...

First, dip into a biography with "Marsha: The Joy and Defiance of Marsha P. Johnson" by Tourmaline (Tiny Rep Books, \$30), a nice look at an icon who, rumor has it, threw the brick that started a revolution. It's a lively tale about Marsha P. Johnson, her life, her activism before Stonewall and afterward. Reading this interesting and highly-researched history is a great way to launch your Pride Month.

For the reader who can't live without music, try "The Dad Rock That Made Me a Woman" by Niko Stratis (University of Texas Press, \$27.95), the story of being trans, searching for your place in the world, and finding it in a certain comfortable genre of music. Also look for "The Lonely Veteran's Guide to Companionship" by Bronson Lemer (University of Wisconsin Press, \$19.95), a collection of essays that make up a memoir of this and that, of being queer, basic training, teaching overseas, influential books, and life.

If you still have room for one more memoir, try "Walk Like a Girl" by Prabal Gurung (Viking, \$32.00). It's the story of one queer boy's childhood in India and Nepal, and the intolerance he experienced as a child, which caused him to dream of New York and the life he imagined there. As you can imagine, dreams and reality collided but nonetheless, Gurung stayed, persevered, and eventually became an award-winning fashion designer, highly sought by fashion icons and lovers of haute couture. This is an inspiring tale that you shouldn't miss.

No Pride celebration is complete without a history book or two.

In "Trans History: From Ancient Times to the Present Day" by Alex L. Combs & Andrew Eakett (\$24.99,

Candlewick Press), you'll see that being trans is something that's as old as humanity. One nice part about this book: it's in graphic novel form, so it's lighter to read but still informative. Lastly, try "So Many Stars: An Oral History of Trans, Nonbinary, Genderqueer, and Two-Spirit People of Color" by Caro De Robertis (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. \$32.00) a collection of thoughts, observations, and truths from over a dozen people who share their stories. As an "oral history," you'll be glad to know that each page is full of mini-segments you can dip into anywhere, read from cover to cover, double-back and read again. It's that kind of book.

And if these six books aren't enough, if they don't quite fit what you crave now, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help. There are literally tens of thousands of books that are perfect for Pride Month and beyond. They'll be able to determine what you're looking for, and they'll put it directly in your hands. So stand up. March. And then sit and read.

""Just Good Manners: A Quintessential Guide to Courtesy, Charm, Grace and Decorum"" by William Hanson c.2025, Gallery Books \$28.99 272 pages



So. Many. Forks.

You're glad you're not doing the dishes at the end of this dinner – but in the meantime, what's protocol? If this event wasn't a make-or-break, filled-with-repercussions kind of deal for you, you wouldn't care; you'd use one fork, one spoon, and enjoy your meal, thank you. So please pass the salt and the new book "Just Good Manners" by William Hanson.

Dining at a restaurant not long ago, Hanson noticed a glaring difference between how his fellow Brits order a meal, and how Americans do it. We might share a language, he says, and we're a lot alike but we're also different in many ways. Manners are

It may seem that formal manners are archaic, even quaint, but Hanson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

says that they're needed now more than ever. Manners help smooth social transactions. They leave room for grace in many situations, and they help put people at ease.

"Contemporary etiquette," he says, "is rooted in six key principles."

Humility is what ensures that everyone at your meeting or dinner is comfortable, not just you. Hospitality welcomes everyone to the table. Knowing one's rank shows respect. Says Hanson, "politeness takes patience" and humor, as manners evolve. And although it sounds counter-intuitive, manners are somewhat based on passiveaggressiveness, which helps you be direct, but not too much.

Here, you'll learn how to deal with introductions in different situations and what to do with a pronoun faux-pas. You'll see that merely greeting someone can be fraught with danger, so be sure you know who's who before you enter a room. Learn to avoid five "taboo" topics when engaging in small-talk. If you're interrupted, know how to kindly gain control of a conversation again. Find out how the use of slang tells a listener who you really are. Know how to be a good guest, and the kind of host people appreciate.

And yes, you'll learn about those many, many forks...

You do not live in a bubble. You don't work in one, either, and smoothing ruffled feathers is needed more than ever in today's world so maybe it's time to learn how to do that from a very unruffled source. With "Just Good Manners," it could even set you apart.

Indeed, author William Hanson makes a case for politeness-asdiplomacy here, in a book that's very Brit-centric but that includes anecdotes about disastrous situations in other countries. Tales like those are fun to read, in a Schadenfreude way, but they also illustrate why it's essential to understand other cultures in business settings as well as in many casual events. If that sounds daunting, rest assured that Hanson uses his own advice, putting readers at ease with humor and charm and by taking the scariness out of manners by making them an easy, maybe even enjoyable, challenge.

You won't feel scolded when you read "Just Good Manners," but you will learn enough to be someone people want around. It'll give you confidence. Before your next big event, it'll give you something to chew on.



PRIDE PARADE ORGANIZERS KICK OFF PRIDE MONTH WITH COMMUNITY FOCUS



PRIDEChicago, the all-volunteer organization behind the iconic Chicago Pride Parade, officially launched Pride Month on Sunday, June 1, with a celebratory event at Sidetrack in Lakeview. The evening honored local LGBTQ+ leaders and organizations while building excitement for the 54th annual Chicago Pride Parade, set for Sunday, June 29 at 11:00 a.m.

The kickoff drew a crowd of community members, supporters, and organizers to toast the parade's enduring legacy as a beacon of visibility and advocacy for Chicago's LGBTQ+ community.

Longtime parade coordinator and PRIDEChicago Vice Chair Tim Frye was among the featured speakers, joined by Steve Long, Board Chair, and Ron Thomas, Treasurer. The leadership trio reflected on the parade's growth and emphasized the importance of this year's theme, "United in Pride." Also in attendance from PRIDEChicago were Terra Campbell (Community Engagement), Daniel Ortiz (Secretary), Dan Nisbet (Development), Terrence Chappell (Marketing), and Alex Riolo and James Gibbs (Volunteer Coordinators)—all of whom play key roles in organizing the annual parade year-round.

"This event is about more than a celebration—it's a reminder of how far we've come and how important it is to keep showing up for each other," said Long, who added that the organization would "continue to be rooted in community and driven by volunteers."

One of the night's highlights was the recognition of TaskForce Prevention and Community Services, which was named PRIDEChicago's inaugural "Out Front" honoree. The distinction celebrates grassroots organizations providing lifeline services to the

LGBTQ+ community. TaskForce, which focuses on youth and young adults on Chicago's West Side, was awarded a \$5,000 donation from PRIDEChicago in support of its ongoing work.

"Pride is not just about celebration; it's about recognizing those who uplift, protect, and advocate for our community every day," said Campbell. "TaskForce embodies that mission."

The event also spotlighted Dr. Maya Green, named one of this year's Community Grand Marshals. Dr. Cathy Creticos, also named a Grand Marshal, was unable to attend.

Hosted by Sidetrack and sponsored by Chandon, the event served as both a kickoff and a call to action as Chicago prepares for one of the nation's most storied Pride parades.

For more information visit: www.PrideChicago.org





Sunday, June 29th at 11 a.m.



PRIDEChicago is proud to have produced the iconic Chicago Pride Parade for over 50 years. We are rooted in community and driven by volunteers.

Show Up For Pride: Donate \$25 in 2025

donate.pridechicago.org



PARADE INFORMATION

DATE: Sunday, June 29th

TIME: 11A.M.

STARTS at: West Sheridan & Broadway (viewing starts at Grace &

Broadway)

ROUTE: Proceeds south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

DESCRIPTION: The 54th annual Chicago Pride Parade will showcase 150 registered entries, including vibrant floats, decorated vehicles, performance groups, marching bands, and walking contingents. Participants represent a diverse mix of community organizations, businesses, government officials, and individual community members.

THEME: "United in Pride"

highlights the power of coming together, embracing our diversity, and championing love, and equality as one united force.

GRAND MARSHALS: For the first time in Chicago Pride history, a local community group will lead the parade as the inaugural "Out Front" Leader, followed by this year's Community Grand Marshals.

The 2025 Community Grand Marshals are Dr. Maya Green and Dr. Catherine Creticos. Both honorees were selected through an online nomination process, reflecting their profound impact on healthcare, advocacy, and the LGBTQ+community.

HISTORY: Inspired by the Stonewall Riots, Chicago made history as the first city to host a Gay Liberation March. On June 27, 1970, a modest but purposeful group of 100-150 participants gathered at Washington Square Park (Bughouse Square) and marched to the Civic Center (now Daley Center). This inaugural march, held a day before similar events in New York City and Los Angeles, laid the foundation for the modern Pride movement. It was a bold assertion of LGBTQ+ rights and visibility during a time of intense discrimination.

TaskForce Prevention & Community Services, an LGBTQ+youth-focused health and wellness organization located on the west side of Chicago, has been selected as the inaugural "Out Front" Leader of the 2025 Chicago Pride Parade. TaskForce is

being honored for its decades of unwavering service, providing critical resources, advocacy, and support to LGBTQ+ youth, particularly those in underserved communities.

ORGANIZERS: The Chicago Pride Parade is produced by PRIDEChicago, a non profit organization founded by the late Richard Pfeiffer and his husband Tim Frye. (pridechicago.org)

\$1000 Fine FOR PUBLIC ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:

The parade will have more security and a tighter rein on public alcohol consumption. In addition to the large number of police officers who staff the event, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team to supplement the police presence. Penalties include, but are not limited to, \$1000+ tickets being issued and/or the immediate disposal of open containers of alcohol into trash receptacles. Public urination is also grounds to receive a ticket

PARADE DAY HEALTH/ SAFETY:

Bring plenty of bottled water, sunscreen and a hat or other head covering, and dress lightly because parade day is usually hot and sunny.

STREET CLOSURES: (Please pay close attention to no parking signs posted on the parade route for the parade.)

ASSEMBLY AREA: Tentative time: 9 a.m.

PARADE ROUTE: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. The parade starts at 11A.M. at the Broadway/Sheridan corner proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

NO PARKING: Both the Assembly Area and Parade Route will be posted with temporary signs indicating "NO PARKING ON



SUNDAY JUNE 29,2025, Parking restrictions start at 5 a.m. on Sunday, June 29th. Some parking restrictions lift at 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Sunday, June 29th.Check posted temporary parking signs.

TOWING: Due to the volume of vehicles involved, the issuing of parking violation citations and towing will start at 2 a.m. on Sunday, June 29TH.

CROSS STREETS: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. After stepping off at 11:00 AM, the parade will take approximately two and one-half hours to finish.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: From

the Red Line: Addison, Belmont, and Sheridan transit stations are all within a short walking distance of the parade route. Please note: the Sheridan station is not ADA accessible. From the Brown Line: The Belmont transit station is within walking distance of the parade route. The Belmont station (and the surrounding area) tends to become congested.

PLEASE NOTE: The Belmont station (and the surrounding area) tends to become the most crowded, so you are encouraged to consider watching the parade from the other parts of the route, including along Broadway south of Belmont. In addition, a number of lakefront bus routes including the 146 and 151 provide convenient access from the north, the Gold Coast/North Michigan Avenue and downtown to areas east of the parade route.

Extra service will be provided on the "L' on parade day to accommodate the large numbers of people who attend the parade. Due to the increase of local traffic and a number of bus reroutes, potential parade spectators are advised to make use of the L or the various bus routes.

For Buses and bus reroutes, check CTA Bus Tracker or visit *transitchicago.com*.

Metra will offer expanded service on several of their lines on parade day, visit *metra.com*

Cooling Buses: if needed, will be available at the following locations:

Waveland west of Halsted Addison west of Halsted Roscoe east of Halsted Belmont west of Halsted Belmont and Broadway

PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER STREETS:

Addison at Halsted, Cornelia at Halsted, Buckingham at Halsted, Briar Place at Broadway, and Wellington at Broadway

At each corner of the streets listed above there will be police officers assigned to assist pedestrians to cross the parade route.

NEEDS AND SPECIAL NEEDS:

Portable Restrooms - are stationed along both the parade line-up street and the parade route. Included at several locations are restrooms for the physically challenged.

Physically Challenged Area/Wheel chair Accessible Area/Seniors -

for people who need or want more space: the sidewalks of West Diversey Parkway (near 600 W. Diversey). Traditionally this area of the parade route has fewer spectators than other sections of the parade route. Spectators in these areas generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

Seniors (outdoor) - Diversey & Broadway (600 W. Diversey sidewalks) is a designated OUTDOOR area for seniors. Spectators in this area generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

Chicago Fire Department First Aid Stations:

Addison west of Halsted Roscoe east and west of Halsted

Aldine west of Halsted Surf east of Broadway

PORTABLE

RESTROOMS: Stationed along both the parade route and the staging area.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Report suspicious activity to 9-1-1
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Have a meeting spot
- Know your location
- Stay Hydrated

ALERTS: OEMC issues alerts and notifications

needed to keep residents and attendees up to date on weather conditions and emergencies. Sign up for NotifyChicago alerts at **notifychicago.org**

KNOW YOUR LOCATION
(Pole Markers): Temporary pole identifiers are visible from light poles throughout the parade route to mark the location. Look up for the black signs with white lettering. Call 9-1-1 to give the letter-number combinations on the pole nearest to your location to help first responders locate you as quickly as possible. You can also use the identifiers to let friends and family know where you are if you become separated at the event.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Alcohol
- · Bicycles, Scooters
- Coolers
- Drones
- Fireworks
- · Folding Chairs
- Propane, Propane Tanks
- Tents, Canopies, or Structures
- Tripods, Monopos, Selfie Sticks
- Vending
- Weapons

For more information visit:

www.PrideChicago.org org

Email:

info@pridechicago.org 773-348-8243.



PARADE GRAND MARSHALS



Dr. Maya Green,

Affectionately known as "Dr. 100" for her candid and compassionate approach to healthcare, has made significant strides in advancing health and community wellness for the TLGBQIA community. A south side Chicago native, Dr. Green is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago's MD/MPH program and completed her fellowship in HIV Medicine at Rush University Medical Center. Her career has been dedicated to expanding healthcare access, with a particular focus on Black communities on Chicago's south and west sides.

Currently serving as the Chief Medical & Health Equity Officer at Onyx Medical Wellness, Dr. Green developed the Nexus program, which streamlines HIV treatment and prevention services and has held leadership roles at the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center and Howard Brown Health, where she has championed healthcare equity. Dr. Green serves on the boards of several key organizations, including TaskForce, Life Is Work, 5:30 Scholars, and the Cook County Health and Hospitals System—each focused on uplifting historically overlooked communities.



Dr. Catherine Creticos

Dr. Catherine Creticos is a respected infectious disease specialist who has dedicated over 30 years to serving the LGBTQ+ community. As the Medical Director of Clinical Research at Howard Brown's Center for Education, Research, and Advocacy, Dr. Creticos has led critical HIV therapy trials and vaccine studies that have revolutionized LGBTQ+ healthcare. A proud ally, Dr. Creticos has worked tirelessly to ensure that safe and effective treatment options are accessible to people living with HIV, helping shape the landscape of HIV care and advocacy for the broader LGBTQ+ community.

Both Dr. Green and Dr. Creticos' ongoing dedication to health equity and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community reflects the deep commitment needed to build a healthier and more inclusive future for all.





Parade Route Chicago 54th Annual Pride Parade

(The Parade is scheduled each year for the last Sunday in June)



NORTHALSTED

MARKET DAYS $CHIC\Lambda GO****$

KEKE PALMER DAVID ARCHULETA SAUCY SANTANA MONET X CHANGE JOE DOMBROWSKI

KIESZA SAM STAR SASHA COLBY BROOKE EDEN

RALPHI ROSARIO · ALEX ACOSTA · DANNY VERDE JOE GAUTHREAUX · JESUS MONTANEZ · J WARREN · RON CARROLL SAM GEE • 16 CANDLES • ROD TUFFCURLS AND THE BENCH PRESS DANCING QUEEN: AN ABBA SALUTE • RADIO GAGA TOO MUCH MOLLY BAND • HELLO WEEKEND • IPOP THE WEEKEND RUN CLUB • JAGGED LITTLE PILL: ALANIS TRIBUTE BEV RAGE & THE DRINKS • FEARLESS: A TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR DISCO CIRCUS • 3 MARTINI JEANNIE • S@N!C HEALING • THE DIVAS YACHT ROCK-ETTES • MIMI MARKS • MZ RUFF N STUFF VERONICA POP · DIDA RITZ · GINA BELLE · SERENA FIIERCE RON GERONIMO · DJ SPEED · CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE · FIREBRAND

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Aly & AJ - Austin Snell - Ben Rector - Betty Who - Bone Thugs-N-Harmony - Eric Bellinger - Eric Benét Foghat - Ginuwine - Good Neighbours - Grand Funk Railroad - Hiss Golden Messenger - Hoodie Allen iann dior - John Butler - Joy Oladokun - The Record Company - Yoke Lore

Adam Jensen • Arts Fishing Club • Augustana • Ava Maybee • Bombargo • Cooper Ramsey • Daniyel • Eggy Illiterate Light • Jack Wharff & The Tobacco Flatts • Jason Scott & The High Heat • Kashus Culpepper • Luke Borchelt Mike Jones • Odie Leigh • Paul Young • Shaylen • Snow Wife • The Army, The Navy • Wang Chung • Zinadelphia

JUNE 26 - 28

LAINEY WILSON

w/ Lukas Nelson AND Shane Smith & the Saints THE KILLERS

w/ Cold War Kids

MEGAN THEE STALLION

w/ Flo Milli

Riley Green • The Avett Brothers • Young The Giant • The Fray • BossMan Dlow • CAKE • OFFSET BILLY CORGAN and the Machines of God • DEVO • Gavin Adcock • Motion City Soundtrack The Mavericks • Malcolm Todd • Mayday Parade • The Maine • Jo Dee Messina • Phil Vassar • The Psychedelic Furs Allison Russell • Dumpstaphunk • Grupo Mania • Here Come The Mummies • Julien Baker & TORRES Lecade • Molly Tuttle • Plain White T's • The Cat Empire • The English Beat The Chameleons • The Summer Set • YTB Fatt

I900Rugrat • Adam Warner • Amble • Bandits on the Run • Cassandra Lewis • Chaparelle • Chuckyy • Dogpark Freddy Jones Band • HAFFWAY • Lille Venn • Local H • Nicotine Dolls • Preston Cooper Showoff • Skrilla • Smallpools • Spyro Gyra • The Producers • Willy Porter

JULY 3 - 5

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W/ Bishop Briggs AND The Aces **BAD OMENS**

w/ Spiritbox AND We Came As Romans THE LUMINEERS

w/ Hippo Campus



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310babii • Badflower • Bully • Dorothy • Everclear • Frost Children • GASHI • hey, nothing • iDKHOW • Jinjer • Josh Ross LANCO • Nettspend • Rome • Snow Tha Product • Tripping Daisy • TWINSICK • Vixen • Zach Seabaugh

Aidan Canfield - Archers - Bloodywood - Darren Kiely - Friko - Gary Lewis & The Playboys - Lauren Watkins - Little Texas
Phantom Planet - Phoneboy - Rivals - ROCKETT MAFIA ft. RIKKI ROCKETT - Saxsquatch - The Ike Reilly Assassination - Timmy Skelly





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MILWACKEE WORLD FESTIVAL, INC.

Summerfest presented by American Family Insurance is one of the most iconic celebrations of music in America, hosting the industry's biggest acts for an unforgettable live music experience. Since its inception in 1968, Summerfest continues to distinguish itself as a premier independent national music festival and has developed an unrivaled reputation, consistently featuring hundreds of performances across 12 stages, throughout the 75-acre festival grounds along Lake Michigan. Summerfest will take place over three weekends - June 19-21, June 26-28, July 3-5, 2025.

Summerfest is well known for its multi-genre lineup and is recognized as one of the most affordable music festivals in the world. Summerfest's lineup of artists is showcased throughout the 75-acre festival park across 12 stages, with artists including: Hozier with Gigi Perez, Megan Thee Stallion with Flo Milli, The Killers with Cold War Kids, Lainey Wilson with Lukas Nelson and Shane Smith & the Saints, Benson Boone with Bishop Briggs and The Aces, James Taylor with Jason Mraz and Tiny Habits, Def Leppard with Tesla, Bad Omens with Spiritbox, and We Came As Romans, BossMan DLow, The Avett Brothers, Japanese Breakfast, CAKE, The Head And The Heart, Riley Green, Gary Clark Jr., Young the Giant, Babymetal, Loud Luxury, OFFSET, Jack's Mannequin, Lindsey Stirling, Whiskey Myers, Billy Corgan and the Machines of God, Ayra Starr, Richard Marx, Porter Robinson, Dirty Heads, The Fray, Natasha Bedingfield, DEVO, Motion City Soundtrack, Betty Who, Snow Tha Product, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, and many more.

Among the new experiences for fans this year at Summerfest is Astral Relics of the Great North Woods, an immersive art installation from Milwaukee-based FuzzPop Workshop, located just inside the north gate. Festivalgoers can also enjoy daily intimate performances at the American Family Insurance House, featuring Aly & AJ, Gigi Perez, Young The Giant, Alex Warren, and more. Also, NEW for 2025 - Dean's Dip Pickleball Village will host open play and clinics for men, women, kids, and beginners. Families can head to the Northwestern Mutual Community Park for The Lil' Gig-with familyfriendly programming and a DJ dance party. And, for those looking to enjoy the scenic lakefront, free kayaking on Lake Michigan will be available, presented by Black Creek

Summerfest is proud to feature local food and beverage vendors and is excited to welcome three new food vendors to the lineup – Beats and Eats, Jamba, and Nino's Southern Sides. New foods for this year during Summerfest include Sicilian Cheesy Garlic Breadsticks, Lumpia City Mac 'n Cheese Rolls, Cheese Quesadilla, Funnel Cake Pork Sandwich, and more.

For the latest information and to purchase tickets, visit *Summerfest.com,* or Facebook, X, Instagram and TikTok:

@Summerfest.

THE BRISTOL RENAISSANCE FAIRE IS SET TO OPEN JULY 5!



KENOSHA, WI – For thousands of enthusiasts and revelers, the return of summer means the iconic Bristol Renaissance Faire will soon open! The Faire's 2025 season runs nine weekends starting July 5 and closing on Labor Day Monday, September 1. You'll enjoy an exciting, eclectic mix of fun and frivolity located on thirty-plus acres just a short drive from either Chicago or Milwaukee. Leave this century behind, join us, and immerse

yourself in the sights, sounds, and flavors of a day in a beautiful, bustling 16th-century shire with hundreds of truly fun, daring, talented, and zany village people.

FEASTING

Go on a stroll through the village with a colossal Roasted Turkey Leg, a juicy Steak-On-A-Stake, or one of the many scrumptious vegetarian delights like the ever-popular Garlic Mushrooms or Chocolate-Covered Strawberries. Delicious Steamed Artichokes, Gelato, Fruit Ice, Monkey Tails, Cheese Fritters, and Ice Cream Crepes are some of the Faire's other popular offerings on its 80+ item menu. For the thirsty, craft brews, ciders, cocktails, teas, sodas, and other refreshing beverages are readily available. Gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian options are available. You can find the full menu at https:// renfair.com/bristol/the-faire/food/

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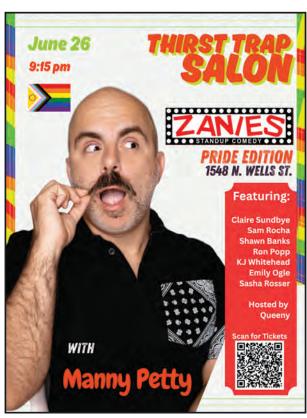
Take home a memory from one of the nearly 200 artisan shops where you can find everything from handmade chain maille, Scottish kilts, and handcrafted leather masks to Steampunk adornments, soaps, jewelry, and beautiful floral wreaths for the hair. Interesting, educational demonstrations by potters, blacksmiths, and other working artisans are offered many times throughout the day. Don't miss Marketplace Weekend July 19 and 20 where you can be rewarded for shopping! Details at RenFair.com/ Bristol/Marketplace

ENTERTAINMENT

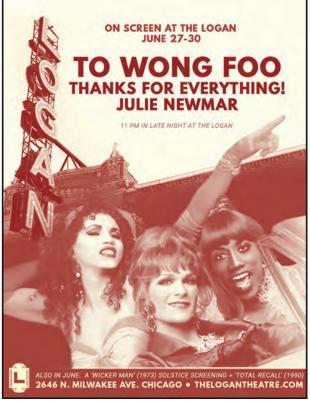
The entertainment at the Bristol Renaissance Faire is to be found at every turn, in the village streets and on one of the many stages where you'll find daredevil acrobats, jugglers, soulful musicians, side-splitting comedians, full-contact jousts, and hundreds of costumed performers who bring the Village to life! The complete list of entertainment is located at https://renfair.com/bristol/the-faire/entertainment/

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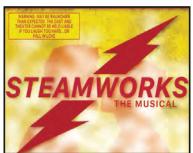








STEAMWORKS THE MUSICAL '25 JUNE 6th THRU AUGUST 2nd



Al's a new gay in Chicago looking for love in the big city when he bumps into the most beautiful man he's ever seen on the streets of Northalsted one night. Desperate to make his acquaintance, Al follows him into the legendary bathhouse Steamworks. As he makes his way through the maze of jacuzzis, slings, gloryholes, and fuck benches, Al makes a wild group of friends who help him discover what love might really mean when everyone's covered in cum.

Performed at The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago on Saturday nights at 10pm thru August

2nd. www.theannoyance.com

THE SECOND CITY PRESENTS: THE EVENT - AN LGBT+ PRIDE SHOWCASE HOSTED BY GEORGE ELROD JUNE 7-28



This Pride season, The Second City brings you the gayest improv show in town! The Event is a fast, fabulous, and intermittently feral variety show, featuring a rotating cast of Second City Mainstage, e.t.c., and TourCo alum teaming up with their hilarious queer friends for an unforgettable night of comedy.

No repeats. No rules. Just fresh queer comedy chaos every week. Each show will be different with a new cast, new bits, and surprise guests. Nothing planned except the vibes. It's giving mystery box energy... but funny and gay. Celebrate pride, celebrate comedy, and celebrate community... with laughter!

For tickets and more information,

visit www.secondcity.com or call The Second City Box Office at 312-337-3992.

AMERICAN BLUES THEATER
PRESENTS THE CHICAGO
PREMIERE OF GOLD LEAF
RAGTIME BLUES BY CHARLES
SMITH RUNNING NOW THROUGH
JUNE 29TH



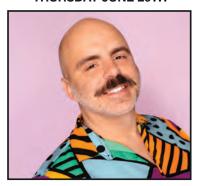
American Blues Theater, under the continued leadership of **Executive Artistic Director** Gwendolyn Whiteside, presents the Chicago premiere of Artistic Affiliate Charles Smith's Golden Leaf Ragtime Blues, directed by Ensemble Member Chuck Smith. Capping off Blues' 2024-2025 season, Golden Leaf Ragtime Blues is a comedic and thoughtful tale brought to the stage by the creative team behind last season's successful The Reclamation of Madison Hemings. Running Now through June 29th.

Pompey is an aging white vaudevillian; Jet is a Black teenager. Thrown together by circumstances beyond their control, they show us how basic needs and emotions transcend barriers of race, religion, and age. Don't miss Ensemble member and veteran TV star Dennis Cockrum's ("Shameless") return to American Blues Theater in the role of Pompey, along with Ensemble member Dawn Bach (Marsha), Justin Banks (Jet) and James Sherman (Ollie).

Executive Artistic Director comments, "We're thrilled to produce another collaboration between Charles Smith and Chuck Smith. Working with these two legends has been a dream for us. In addition, the excitement of Ensemble member Dennis Cockrum's return to our stage as we celebrate our 40th anniversary is palpable."

Tickets are on sale now through the American Blues Theater website www.americanbluestheater.com, or calling the box office at **773**-**654-3103**.

MANNY PETTY ZANIES PRIDE EDITION THIRST TRAP THURSDAY JUNE 26TH



Manny Petty (he/him) is a Chicago-based Stand-Up Comedian and Musician somewhere between Tom Petty and a Mani- Pedi. He is a first-generation Sicilian- American, happily married househusband, and former punk rocker turned clown. Manny has opened for the likes of *Rhys Nicholson*, *Brendan Scannell* and *Beth Stelling* and has headlined shows around the Midwest at The Laugh Factory, Zanies, The Crucible, Forward Madison, Laugh It Uptown and the Comedy Clubhouse.

Thirst Trap Salon is Thursday, June 26 at 9:15 pm at the world famous Zanies in Oldtown. This year's lineup includes some of the best LGBTQ+ comedians in the Windy City with host Queeny and guests: Claire Sundbye, Ron Popp, Sam Rocha, Shawn Banks, Emily Ogle, KJ Whitehead & Sasha Rosser. Tickets are \$25 at

www.Chicago.Zanies.com

THE NEXT ISSUE OF GRAB HITS THE STREETS AND ONLINE TUESDAY JULY 22ND (MARKET DAYS ISSUE) RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY 773-707-2660

STEPPENWOLF



YOU WILL GET SICK

Written by

NOAH DIAZ

Directed by Artistic Director

AUDREY FRANCIS

Featuring ensemble members Cliff Chamberlain, Amy Morton and Namir Smallwood

A YOUNG GAY MAN'S JOURNEY AND THE UNLIKELIEST OF FRIENDSHIPS— WHIMSICAL, WILD AND DEEPLY MOVING







MCA CHICAGO TO OPEN CITY IN A GARDEN: QUEER ART AND ACTIVISM IN CHICAGO ON JULY 5TH

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is excited to announce its latest exhibition, City in a Garden: Queer Art and Activism in Chicago, opening on July 5, 2025. The exhibition highlights Chicago's essential yet often overlooked role in the stories of queer art and activism, examining the city's queer history from the 1980s to the present. The exhibition's title is based on Chicago's official motto, Urbs in Horto, meaning "city in a garden." In the context of this presentation, the title speaks to the exhibited artists' and activists' utopian visions of a metropolitan sanctuary for people of all races, genders, and sexualities. These visions remain ever urgent, as queer people continue to fight for their lives and livelihoods under ongoing and renewed political threats.

The earliest works in City in a Garden date to the 1980s, when activists radically mobilized in response to the US government's disastrous handling of the AIDS crisis. Around that time, the historically pejorative epithet "queer" began to be reclaimed as a liberatory term encompassing all who purposefully deviated from heteronormative society. Organized around five themes—Garden, Club, Street, Cinema, and Utopia—the exhibition draws on this history of activism to map the ways queer life



in Chicago has taken shape, as well as the ways it continues to be imagined.

Drawing from the MCA Collection and key loans from local collections. City in a Garden features over thirty artists and collectives who address the show's themes through diverse media and methods, including social documentary photography of clandestine queer spaces; craft-informed sculpture that challenges normative depictions of gender and sexuality; drawings, paintings, and videos that explore queer intimacy; archival materials related to groups who innovatively combine artistic and activist strategies; and more. Artists include Doug Ischar, Patric McCoy, Amina Ross, Edie Fake, Jeanne Dunning,

Nick Cave, Diana Solís, and Brendan Fernandes. Fernandes's installation, The Rite (2019), will be activated with performances throughout the show's run; times will be announced on the exhibition webpage.

In addition to in-gallery activations, the MCA will also host a series of programs centered on the themes of City in a Garden. Included in these events is the return of the MCA's Primetime celebration, which will feature Smartbar's legendary LGBTQ+ party Queen!, on July 18, 2025.

Find more information about MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at *mcachicago.org* or at *312.280.2660*. facebook.com/mcachicago IG: @





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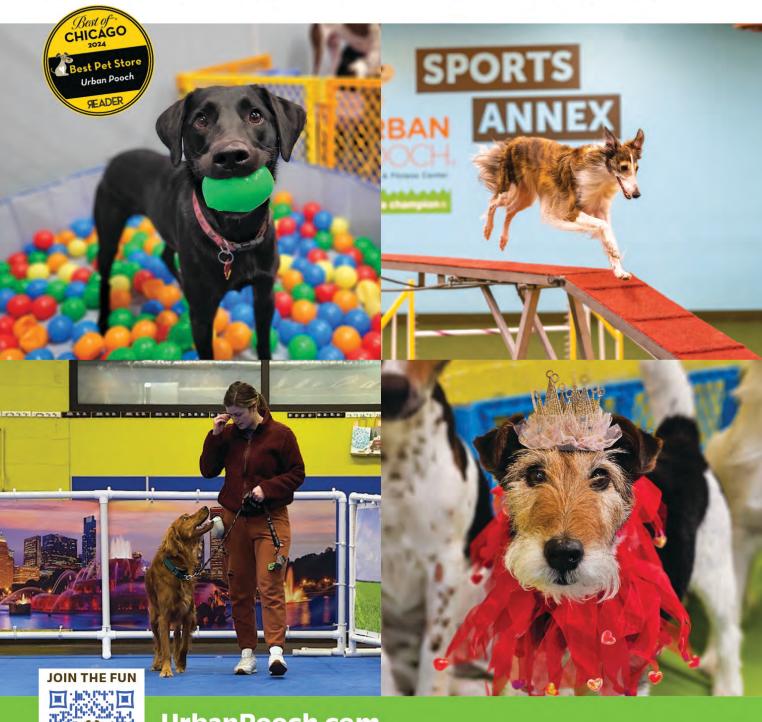






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CITY IN A GARDEN

JUL 5, 2025-MAY 31, 2026

City in a Garden: Queer Art and Activism in Chicago celebrates the history and future of the city's LGBTQ+ community by bringing together work from over 30 artists and collectives working in Chicago from the 1980s to the present.

