

JULY 18, 2023 • VOL XIV • ISSUE#15

# GRAB

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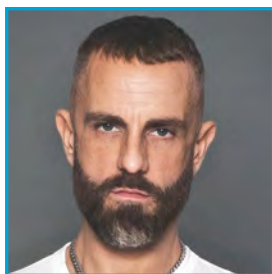
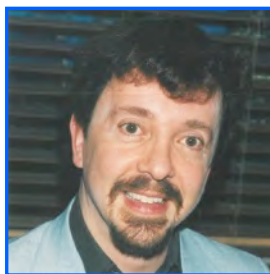
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1961 - 2019

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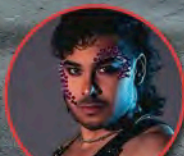
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## Boze knows: An interview with gay writer Boze Hadleigh

By Gregg Shapiro

To say that gay author Boze Hadleigh is prolific is an understatement. The author of nearly 30 books (including those forthcoming), Hadleigh has made a name for himself by going where few others dare: the dark underbelly of Hollywood. In his latest book, "Game Show Confidential: The Story of An American Obsession" (Lyons Press, 2023), Hadleigh doesn't play around, pulling back the sparkly curtain to dare to reveal truths some would never consider. Hadleigh recently took time out of his busy writing schedule to answer a few questions about "Game Show Confidential."

**Gregg Shapiro: I know that some authors consider books they've written to be like their offspring, and don't like to play favorites, but with 29 books to your credit, is there one for which you feel a particular affinity?**

**Boze Hadleigh:** I think my seven books that focus on the LGBT-etc. presence in and contributions to the entertainment world, though "juicy" and entertaining, are quite educational, both for gay readers and especially for heterosexuals who have no idea how big and excellent the "gay world" is. In particular I'd say my 2020 book "Inside the Hollywood Closet," because in quotes directly from the horses' mouths we get what being LGBT-etc. and working and living in "showbiz" is like – most gay stars have to "act" whenever they leave their house – and "IHC" shows how much has improved over the years for gay people but also how much has not improved and how some things are worse.

**GS: What's involved in deciding on the topics for your books?**

**BH:** Usually, it's what interests me. "Game Show Confidential" evolved

from my being asked to write a biography of "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek (partly because I was on the show and won). But that didn't interest me – frankly, dull, plus before I was on the show I'd seen him make three separate anti-gay comments, which as I say in the book is three too many. A few times I've done a book because the topic interested me but there was no book. So, I did "Celebrity Feuds!" because at the library I only found two feud-related books. One on the Hatfields and McCoys (thrilling, right?) and one on "the writers' wars," meaning the fight to establish a writers' union in Hollywood. My book includes Laverne vs. Shirley, Diana Ross leaving the Supremes, Abbott vs. Costello, also family feuds like Julia and Eric Roberts, the Jacksons, and the gay feuds between Truman Capote and Gore Vidal.

**GS: Hollywood is a prominent subject in your books with at least half of them being about movies, actors, and actresses. Would it be fair to say that your fascination with Hollywood is equaled by that of the public's obsession?**

**BH:** Overall, I'd say we live in a media culture and celebrity journalism has become too prevalent. A lot about Hollywood, including reality shows and many current sitcoms plus many game shows past and present, doesn't interest me. Also, my interest, and my books reflect it, is in the reality behind the show of show business. Say, you see a magazine or tabloid photo of a male movie star and his wife and perhaps it includes his manager or personal trainer. The caption only mentions hubby-and-wife, not the fact that the other guy is hubby's lover. There is so much deception in showbiz, which is America's basic culture, and I like to show the truth behind it. It usually boils down to catering to the average, often bigoted public so that companies (studios, networks,



newspapers, etc.) can make maximum profits. In other words, the business end determines what is shown.

**GS: Your new book, "Game Show Confidential," is being released around the same time that ABC's "The Game Show Show," which features queer voices such as Margaret Cho, Patrick Gomez, and Guy Branum, is airing. Is it a coincidence that a book and TV program about game shows are arriving concurrently or is something else at work?**

**BH:** No, just serendipity. ABC heard about my then-upcoming book and asked me to fly to L.A. for an on-camera interview, but I was out of the country. Would have been a great tie-in. The fact is that during COVID game shows have become much more popular, including new shows, reboots of classic shows, reruns on the Game Show Network and Buzzr, and shows about game shows. Betty White called game shows "TV's feel-good genre."

**GS: In "Game Show Confidential," you mention game shows that originated in Britain and then became popular in the US. Were there many that started in the US that went on to success in other countries?**

**BH:** Yes, many US game shows have had foreign editions. Usually, the most popular are in Britain and Australia. Foreign-language versions are popular, too, from South America



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to francophone Canada to Southeast Asia. In Indonesia their version of "Tic Tac Dough" was titled "Tak Tik BOOM," spelled that way!

**GS: In the book, you spill a lot of tea, including revealing things about Bob Barker, such as his sexism and racism, as well as Pat Sajak being sexist, racist, and homophobic. Were there people you weren't able to mention for various reasons?**

**BH:** Besides Sajak, the sidebar – most of the chapters have sidebars – titled "File Under Bigotry" includes Chuck Woolery, Bob Eubanks and Steve Harvey. I also more or less answer the pertinent question, "Is Drew Carey gay?" He's the one who kept bringing it up. As for still-taboo subjects, I didn't include the longstanding rumors that perhaps "Password" host Allen Ludden (whose father died in 1919 at 26 from the global virus pandemic that's still mislabeled "the Spanish flu") and wife Betty White were basically very good friends.

**GS: Why do you think so many game show hosts, including Chuck Woolery, are right wingers?**

**BH:** That is, so many of the older male hosts. One journalist quoted in "GSC" says much of that derived from a time when white male hosts held a monopoly – no women, no people of color. However, Steve Harvey is also bigoted, and I mention that fellow African American Kevin Hart lost the coveted Oscar-host gig due to his recurrent homophobia. Alas, bigotry is not limited to any one group.

**GS: Nevertheless, Merv Griffin, whose homosexuality was an open secret, created an unparalleled game show empire. Do you think his remaining closeted was the reason or was there something else?**

**BH:** Merv's two big hits were "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune." The game show giants were the ruthless Goodson-Todman empire –

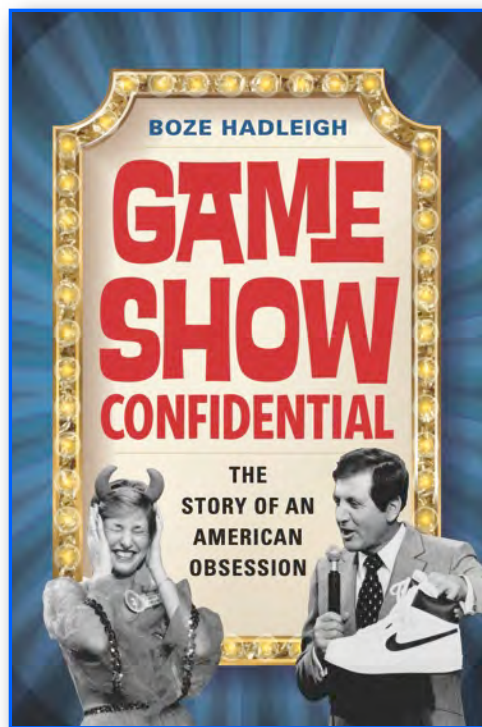
there's a chapter on them [laughs]! Griffin did not need to hide behind Eva Gabor, but one reason for that was rival real estate tycoon Donald Trump making homophobic comments about him, including the nickname "Merv the Perv." Griffin was his own boss, he wasn't an actor, he was no sex symbol. I think his closetedness was due to his generation, where everything about being gay was demonized. He remained ashamed of being gay, despite the progress being affected mostly by younger generations.

**GS: Meanwhile, Jane Lynch, who is an out lesbian, currently hosts the primetime revival of "The Weakest Link," and before that hosted "Hollywood Game Night," co-created by Sean Hayes, for several years. What do you think, if anything, has changed?**

**BH:** There's now a diversity of game show hosts, including to some extent lesbian and gay ones – in that order, because general audiences are more comfortable with a Jane or Ellen than with most openly gay males. Ironically, Charles Nelson Reilly once hosted a game show about hetero romance, and for two whole years Rip Taylor hosted "The \$1.98 Beauty Show."

**GS: Speaking of stars competing on game shows, what do you think about "Celebrity Jeopardy" and "Celebrity Wheel of Fortune"?**

**BH:** What makes them interesting is seeing – at least on "Celebrity Jeopardy!" – how smart certain celebs are. As Nelson Reilly said, and is quoted in "GSC," lots of celebs and most sports figures avoided shows like "Jeopardy!" and "Password" but were glad to come on "The Match Game" (where



Charles was a longtime panelist), because that show had no wrong answers.

**GS: Have you started working on or thinking about your next book project?**

**BH:** Due in spring 2024 is an outrageous quotes collection currently titled "I Can't Believe They Said That!!" Yes, two exclamation marks! Like all my books, including the two animal-themed ones – Betty White gave a lovely blurb for "Life's a Pooch" in 2017 – (it's) very gay-inclusive. That book is complete. I'm working on one about celebs and suicide – not just showbiz, though mostly – which includes a chapter on gay suicides. As Bea Arthur pointed out, 30 percent of teen suicides are due to homophobia. And today, with the Trump-inspired backlash against gays, lesbians, drag queens, and trans people, it's up to all of us to actively oppose this pro-fascist bigotry and attempts to turn back the clock to a sexual Dark Ages.







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# GRAB TOM

## DJ Tom Stephan in the flesh at Furball

By Gregg Shapiro

What is it about a DJ that allows them to have a lengthy and successful career? Aside from being a turntable master, knowing how to read and work a room and keep people dancing from sunset to sunrise, or being a top-notch remixer. It helps if they're as friendly and warm as Tom Stephan. Having a sense of humor, which Stephan has in abundance, also goes a long way. Also known as Superchumbo, Stephan has DJed countless clubs, festivals, and parties, and includes to be one of the hardest-working DJs behind the decks. Tom was kind enough to make time for an interview during one of his rare weekends off from DJing in advance of his August 11 date at Furball during Market Days in Chicago.

**Gregg Shapiro: For those not in the know, how did you come up with your DJ name Superchumbo?**

**Tom Stephan:** The name Superchumbo came from the mid-to-late '90s. I was at a rave outside of Lisbon, Portugal where Danny Tenaglia was playing. I was there with Rob Di Stefano from Twisted (Records). We were there, dancing all night and enjoying ourselves, let's say. On our way back, driving back to Lisbon, we stopped at a gas station. I got out (to fill the tank), and I look at the pumps and they say "Chumbo" and "Super" or "S/Chumbo," something like that. I said, "Do you want Chumbo or Super Chumbo." For the rest of the day, I was known as Superchumbo. That's where the name came from. Then I found out later Schumbo, which is actually pronounced "shoombo" in Portuguese, doesn't mean "super," but "without." As in without lead (chumbo is a metal).

**GS: You will be spinning at Furball in Chicago on August 11. What are you most looking forward to about that event?**

**TS:** This is my first time spinning at Furball, but not my first time spinning in Chicago or at Market Days. Market Days is always an amazing weekend in Chicago. I'm looking forward to playing Furball because it's the kind of party that I like to play, which is a sweaty, sexy, raunchy kind of thing.

**GS: How often do you get to Chicago?**

**TS:** Probably three or four times a year.

**GS: As a progressive house DJ, what does it mean to you when you get to spin in Chicago, the birthplace of house music?**

**TS:** It's amazing! And so many people from the UK (where Stephan is based) are so jealous. I think I often play something that I feel like is a Chicago thing. Cajmere, or something. In the same way that when I play in New York I always play something that's very New York to me. I'm always aware of being



there and what that means, I guess.

**GS: Did you have any opportunities to meet and work with Chicago's very own house music godfather Frankie Knuckles?**

**TS:** No. I can't say that we even ever met, although I saw him DJ many times, and the last time was possibly one of the last DJ sets that he played in London. I believe it was just a few months before he passed. But I do work regularly with someone that I consider to be a Chicago legend, and that's Celeda. In fact, I'm working on something new with her right now.

**GS: Fantastic! Your Furball set in Chicago is taking place at Metro. Were you aware that in the**



late 1970s, long before Metro became a renowned live music venue, that it was home to a gay disco called Center Stage where Grace Jones and Sylvester were among the acts to perform there?

**TS:** You're kidding me!

**GS:** I'm not kidding you.

**TS:** I had no idea. That's amazing!

**GS:** It was quite a place. People danced on the main floor, as well as on the stage where there was a kind of early laser light show on a backdrop. And the balconies were used for what balconies were used for in the late '70s.

**TS:** [Laughs] That's really amazing. Now I'm super excited.

**GS:** I had the pleasure of interviewing Yoko Ono in 2007 before she performed at the Pitchfork Music Festival, in support of the "Open Your Box" album on which the Superchumbo remix of "Kiss Kiss Kiss" appears. What did having the chance to remix Yoko mean to you?

**TS:** This is really funny because I'm also speaking to someone today who's writing a book about Yoko. He just reached out to me yesterday. It's David Sheff, the guy that wrote "Beautiful Boy," the book about his son's drug addiction. I was completely blown away when he contacted me. I've been emailing back and forth with him with my Yoko stories. It was amazing because when I was a kid, my dad and my uncle had a music store and I used to work there on the weekends. Well, work, I was like 10 years old, I was just allowed to hang out there, basically. I used to dust, or something. I would hang out there on Saturday afternoon, and then I would get maybe paid five bucks or else I could like take home a seven-inch single. I took home "(Just Like) Starting Over" by John Lennon, which just came out, and the B-side was "Kiss Kiss Kiss." I discovered it on there. That, at the time when I was 10 years old, was the craziest song I'd ever heard. We had a show and tell thing at school and I brought it in to play it. [Laughs] the teacher was not happy about it at all. She took it off and wouldn't let me finish playing it, which made me love it even more. That was a really

important thing for me. After Orange Factory did (the remix of) "Open Your Box," they decided to go through Yoko's back catalog and do some remixes. I was approached and they asked, "What would you like to remix?" I didn't even have to think about it; "Kiss Kiss Kiss." The song has been with me since I was a kid. The crazy thing about that story for me is I've been DJing in Tokyo for about 20 years now. The promoter that brought me over there most times, Mr. Yoshida, who's done loads for the gay scene in Tokyo, brought me there for maybe the tenth time, and we were celebrating because of that. He asked me, "Do you know why I first brought you here?" I said, "No." He said it was because he loved the remix I did of Yoko Ono's "Kiss Kiss Kiss." It's so bizarre. This record has made its way through my life.

**GS:** In addition to Yoko, you have worked with some of music's most legendary divas including Beyoncé, Kylie Minogue, Shakira, Missy Elliott, and the late Tina Turner. Are there a few others with whom you haven't yet worked that you would love to work with in the near future?

**TS:** Madonna. [Laughs] I was asked to do a remix of "Medellin," which I can't say was one of my favorite songs, but I wasn't going to turn down the opportunity anyway. But she rejected it. Madonna doesn't like me, I guess. But that's okay. I never get to anybody that I remix, or very rarely. Except for Kylie Minogue.



I did with I remixed "Can't Get You Out of My Head." We did a photoshoot together. It was funny because [laughs]...she's a pro and she's giving looks and I'm kind of standing there just basically nervous because I've got my hands on Kylie Minogue. She said, "Oh, come on Tom! I know you're gay, but just grab me!" That's my memory of that photo shoot, and the picture is just awful.

**GS:** Do you have any dream collaborations?

**TS:** Somebody that I feel like I would like to do...I'm just a huge fan of Depeche Mode. I even had a chance to remix Nitzer Ebb, probably one of my favorite bands ever. So, Depeche Mode comes up as something I would love to do because I love them so much. This new album, I think, is one of their strongest in a long time. I think it's really great.

**GS:** I'm glad you mentioned Nitzer Ebb and Depeche Mode because I was wondering if there's a genre of music that you listen to for personal enjoyment that might surprise your legion of fans?



**TS:** I listen to a lot of rock, actually. I don't even know where it came from, but I suddenly realized that I was obsessed with Queens of the Stone Age. I listen to them a lot when I go to the gym. I've also been listening to Arctic Monkeys. That's what I listen to a lot. My nephew's got a band called Blankstate, and I listen to them a lot. When I'm not working or working on music, I don't tend to listen to the music I DJ, unless I'm checking something. I just posted a recording of my set from Alegria, and I wanted to listen to it to make sure I was happy with everything before I stuck it up online. Then, on a Sunday, coming back from DJing or whatever, some of the new Arctic Monkeys is pretty mellow and I love listening to that or Steely Dan or something like that.

**GS:** I live in Fort Lauderdale, and while this interview is taking place, you are visiting Florida. Do you have any thoughts you'd like to share about Florida's homophobic governor, Ron DeSantis?

**TS:** [Sighs and laughs] I mean, I think he's an asshole. I think it's just a cheap way of trying to polarize people and win votes. I don't know, maybe he is as homophobic as he acts. I think it's just a manipulative thing. It's a shame because my mother lives here, near Saint Petersburg. I go to Miami often to DJ. I like coming to Florida. I think it's really sad, what he's doing. It's really upsetting. Just recently, hearing about the Supreme Court thing the other day, it really bothered me. I feel hurt about this. I like to think I'm OK with who I am, and I'm not affected by this kind of thing. But it occurred to me that I am affected by it. What's wrong with people? It seems totally bizarre to me that it's being done under the excuse of Christianity, which means that I don't understand anything about Christianity. I thought you weren't supposed to go around judging everyone else.

*Tom Stephan will be DJing Furball: Market Days Friday August 11th at Metro Theater 3730 N. Clark Street, Doors Open at 11:30pm. For Tickets and more information visit <http://www.furball.nyc>*





JOE FIORE  
PRESENTS

# FURBALL

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# GRAB A GETAWAY



Photo By Craig Watson

## BEACHES AND PEACHES: YOUR VISIT TO THE ART COAST OF MICHIGAN

By Bill Malcolm

The LGBTQ+ friendly cities of Saugatuck and Douglas in Southwest Michigan cannot be beat for a summer weekend or vacation. The numerous sandy beaches along Lake Michigan are stunning. Two nearby state parks are great for hiking and swimming. Ride your bike on the Kal Haven Trail in South Haven. Kayak on the Kalamazoo River. Take a sunset cruise out of Saugatuck. Explore the art galleries of Douglas and Saugatuck. Have a drink by the pool with the hotties (and a DJ) at the Dunes. Or just relax. Don't forget to enjoy the local blueberries, red haven peaches, and apples. It's a fruit basket.

### GETTING THERE

Saugatuck Douglas Fennville is a 2 hour drive from Chicago and just 3 hours from both Detroit and Indianapolis. Gerald R. Ford Airport in Grand Rapids is an option as is

Amtrak (the Pere Marquette goes to Holland). Once there, the community transit on demand bus service (aka the Inter Urban) can be used to get around.

### WHERE TO STAY

You are not in Ptown much less Rehoboth. But for the Midwest, it's a lot of fun. There are two great LGBTQ+ resorts.

The Dunes is one of the largest in the country and features rooms, cabins, or a "downstairs" value option. You can walk to Douglas. They have events every night at the bar and the Sunday T Dance (with BBQ) is not to be missed. Nor are the Perfect 10 dancers. You can dance the night away on their incredible outdoor bar area. Book your stay at [dunesresort.com](http://dunesresort.com) 269/857-1401. Upcoming events include:

July 21-23 Christmas in July. Don't miss Molly and Alex in the Cabaret while DJ Keller Shaw spins the tunes.

August 4-6 Mardi Gras Weekend which includes Elton John tunes in the cabaret.

August 19- 21 White Party Weekend

September 15 Lambda Car Club Weekend

September 22- Mr. Michigan Leather Weekend

The Camp It Outdoor Resort 15 minutes south in Fennville is a value option. They feature tenting, cabins, a lodge (aka a bunk house), glamping tents, RV sites, and more. The pool scene events and both resorts have a theme every weekend. I was at CampIt for trailer trash weekend (while the Dunes was having underwear weekend).

Everyone is welcome at Camp It. They even had trans week celebration the week after the weekend I was there.

Upcoming events include:

August 11-13, Country Fair Weekend

August 18-20, Mardi Gras Weekend

September 15-17, Fire and Arts Weekend

October 27-29, Halloween Douglas Weekend

You will find them at 6635 118th



A full-body photograph of a very muscular man with a well-defined physique, including prominent pectorals, abdominals, and arm muscles. He is wearing dark denim shorts and is posed in a way that highlights his muscle definition. He has a tattoo on his left arm and is looking down and to the side.

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**Cabins at Camp It**  
- Photo By Bill Malcolm





*Dunes Resort Pool -  
Photo By Julien Capmeil*





**Dunes Resort Outdoor Patio Dance Floor -  
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Avenue in Fennville. Book your stay or more information at [www.camptitresort.com](http://www.camptitresort.com). 269-543-4300.

#### **WHAT TO DO**

Hang out on Oval Beach in Saugatuck. Don't miss the sunset. The \$10 admission fee is charged until 9 p.m. but worth it.

Visit Wa Ke Nah Nature Preserve and hike to the secluded beach. It's my favorite.

Pick blueberries, peaches, or apples or visit one of the many wineries. Modales is my favorite ([modaleswines.com](http://modaleswines.com)).

Work out at the Blue Star Gym (6492 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck). \$15 is the day use fee.

See a show at the Center for the

Performing Arts. "Jersey Boys" runs through September. You will find them at 400 Culver Street in Saugatuck ([www.sc4a.org](http://www.sc4a.org)).

Take a hike through the maple forest and the rolling sand dunes at Saugatuck Dunes State Park. Out of staters pay \$9 day use fee.

Visit the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center in Douglas ([mysdhistory.org](http://mysdhistory.org)). See the new Herstory exhibit showcasing women's history in Saugatuck-Douglas. It profiles 17 women from the community's history. There is other exhibit, A Century of Progress: 100 Years of LGBTQ History in Saugatuck-Douglas is necessary. You will find them at 130 Center Street in Douglas.

#### **WHERE TO EAT**

Uncommon Coffee Roasters in Saugatuck has the best coffee in the area. Try a slice of the homemade pizza or a hot sub at Lakeshore Convenience Store in Douglas 155 Blue Star Highway).

Treat yourself to lunch at the Farmhouse Deli in Douglas. Local ingredients and fresh juices available.

The Coral Gables in Saugatuck is extremely popular. Sit outside and watch the boats go by.

The new Chicken Scratch Farm Bakery and Café has great cookies and hot dishes to go.

The What Not in Fennville has great food and a live band on the weekends. Try the perch basket. It is 2405 68th Street in Fennville.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

OutPost, Between the Lines, and Metra Magazine are your Michigan LGBTQ+ publications.

The Commercial Record is the local weekly. The West Michigan Revues the monthly alternative publication out of Grand Rapids which also has travel tips for the area.

Plan your trip at [Saugatuck.com](http://Saugatuck.com).

Bill Malcolm's syndicated travel column appears in LGBTQ+ publications across the country. A former resident of the Detroit area (Royal Oak), he has been coming to Saugatuck-Douglas-Fennville for many years.



**Photo By Craig Watson**





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# GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

## Daily Specials;

MONDAY	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor), Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlies:</b> Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. <b>D.S.Tequila Co:</b> \$5 10oz Margaritas. <b>Hydrate:</b> Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm.. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks.<b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm-4am. 6/4 Euchre Night, Come out and Play 7-10pm Sports on our screens Club room Open!.</p>
TUESDAY	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. <b>D.S.Tequila Co:</b> . 50cent Wing Night 5pm-10pm, Must Purchase a drink for special. Dine in Only. <b>Hydrate:</b> TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm–8pm: \$5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers &amp; Ciders. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> \$3 Domestic Beers. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, \$5 Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi.</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$ New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. <b>Jackhammer:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons, Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager &amp; Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR &amp; Hamm's. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$4Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm–10pm: \$6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft &amp; Cans. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor &amp; Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Britney &amp; Rihanna last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$5 Tito's Cocktails, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts <b>Touche:</b>Open 5pm - 4am.Jockstrap Night. Free Clothing Check.</p>
THURSDAY	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons . Everyday Specials:\$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. <b>Charlie's:</b> Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. <b>D.S.Tequila Co:</b> Bottomless Tacos! \$23.95 5pm-10pm , Must purchase a beverage for special. Dine in Only. <b>Jackhammer:</b> \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager &amp; Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR &amp; Hamm's. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis..<b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Darts Night \$1 off Fireball, Jager, Malort and Well Shots, \$2.50 PBR Cans. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay &amp; Friends 9pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails\$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays70's&amp; 80's Music &amp; Porn by BijouVideo.</p>



## 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 Hornitos 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 Boys Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm-4am. 6/2 Pride Month KickOff Party, 7/21 Coeboy Round Up.

## 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 Tall Boys 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. 7/22 RIPE Party Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T, 7/29 Christmas in July Party.

## 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:** Queerid! 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. 7/23 Splash Party 7pm Wild times with water.



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	Artist	Title
1	Kylie Minogue	Padam Padam
2	Niko The Kid	Only One ft. MAYLYN
3	James Chris	Summer Again (Radio Mix)
4	Landis	Hypno Eyes (Radio Edit)
5	Morgan Page & Telykast	Dancing All Alone
6	Marvel Riot	Need You Tonight
7	Lucas & Steve x Yves V	After Midnight ft. Xoro
8	ARTY x Jonathan Mendelson	Lightning Strikes
9	Collin Oliver	54 (Radio Edit)
10	Taylor Swift	Lavender Haze (Felix Jaehn Remix)
11	CLMD	Bounce
12	GTOffice & Alwz Snny	Every Thought Of You
13	Duke & Jones X Marthy	Call Me
14	Anabel Englund	Need Me Right
15	TELYKast With Francis Karel	Better Now
16	Niiko X Swae	Fast Forward
17	Sam Smith & Kim Petras	Unholy (David Guetta Acid Remix)
18	Audien & Codeko	Antidote Ft. Jt Roach
19	Leftwing Kody X Robot Collective	Love Like This (Radio Edit)
20	Chris Odd & Bono BaDJa	Mirror (Original Mix)
21	Joe Bermudez & Amanda Brigham	Cinderella (Club Mix Radio Edit)
22	Greg Gatsby X Richard Fraioli Ft. Camila	Mayday (Stonebridge Radio)
23	Calvin Harris	Miracle Ft. Ellie Goulding
24	Lum!x X Lawrent	Electric Love
25	Armand Van Helden x Karen Harding	Wings (I Won't Let You Down)
26	Zack Martino	Kill My Heart
27	The Magician & The Aston Shuffle	Differences (Original Mix)
28	John Summit & Hayla	Where You Are (Shorter Radio Edit)
29	Marf	Monday Ft. Philip Strand
30	Sick Individuals	You Ft. Dotter





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# GRAB ROGER

## Condominiums Association Turnovers

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

**Q: Last year I bought a new condominium in Andersonville. We are having problems with the developer in turning over the condominium association to the homeowners. What are the developer's responsibilities?**

**A:** I get this question all the time. When the real estate market was hot and condominiums selling like hotcakes, developers were making sales, turning over the building to the homeowners and moving on to their next construction project. When the market turned, sales stopped, leaving developers with more units on their hands. As time passes the homeowners who bought want to know what their rights are from their developer.

Most developer turnovers are without incident and routine. The Illinois Condominium Property Act provides that a "detailed accounting" is to be provided by developer within 60 days after election of the first unit owner board of managers; which is required to be within 60 days after 75 percent of

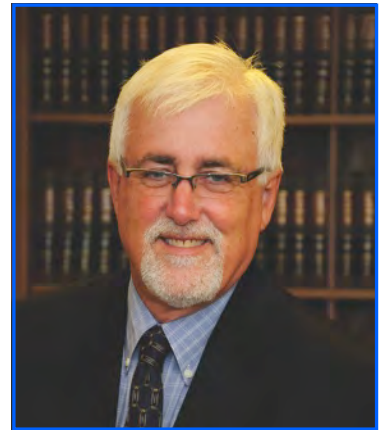
the units are sold or three years after recording the declaration.

In many situations, the biggest issue becomes whether the developer has properly paid assessments on units during the development period. The Act requires that the developer pay assessments on unsold units beginning with the first conveyance and to collect assessments from owners of sold units during the period from the first sale until turnover to the unit-owner controlled board.

In a recent case, Metropolitan Condominium Association v. Crescent Heights the unit-owner board filed a three-count complaint against the developer and its property manager for declaratory judgment and a "detailed accounting" pursuant to Section 18.2(d)(2) of the Act. The developer contended that it had complied with the Act's requirement of a detailed accounting due to the fact that it had employed a management agent during development, and the unit-owner board continued on with the agent as its manager following turnover; therefore having access through the management agent of all records and accounting on unit assessments.

The unit owners argued that the information provided by the management agent was insufficient and that the Act's requirement for a "detailed accounting" mandated "a breakdown of which units were sold, when they were sold, what assessments were paid for each unit, when the assessments were paid, and whether the developer properly paid assessments for all units during the period prior to the initial sale.

The Appellate Court ruled that a "detailed accounting" under the act must include the sale dates of individual units, the assessments paid on each unit following the sale of the first unit, and the dates on which assessments were paid. The court found the agency



relationship with both the developer and the unit owner board did not preclude the necessity for the detailed accounting by the developer. The purpose of permitting the unit owners to verify that the developer has complied with its duty to pay assessments on unsold units would otherwise be thwarted.

To answer the question: first check how long it has been since the condominium declaration was recorded for your building. If it is over three years, you can compel the developer to turn over the association to the homeowners; same if it is more than 60 days after 75 percent of the units have been sold. Then review all the records and make sure that the developer has been making payment on the unsold units it owned. You may recoup a great deal of cash for your association.

Also be aware that when you buy into an older condo building, you are bound to pay the assessments. And if you don't, they will put a lien on your property or evict you. That's why it's important to be diligent before buying a condo unit, looking into the financials of the governing group before closing on a deal. Before buying, find out if special assessments are anticipated, get a statement of the reserves and find out how they compare to the most recent reserve study.

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

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# GRAB HOLLY

## *I Am Brought Before the High Council*

By Holly Maholm

There was an empty space in the pit of my stomach. I had been summoned to appear before the High Council of the Patriarchy, and – though the Supreme Leader of the High Council (Chet, proprietor of the feed store) was not a person whose reputation was likely to inspire fear – I was nonetheless concerned that the members of the High Council might yet prove to be merciless, power-mad tyrants. But again, how wrong I was!

Gary led the way to the stables, where I lived. I saw chairs had been set up in a circle in the corridor leading back to the stalls. I was shocked to see the members of the High Council were already seated, and I was instructed to sit in the one empty chair – placed ominously opposite the Supreme Leader as if the seat of the accused drawn up before the tribunal.

But upon looking around at the members of the High Council, and expecting to see a gathering of elderly, “patriarchal” males steeped in power, privilege and authority-over-others (each one invested with a hereditary certainty that his interests would be protected, no matter what injustice might thereby result), I was soon forced to recalibrate my understanding of “the Patriarchy.”

The High Council consisted of the following: Chet (owner of the feed

store), Gary (manager at the bank), Larry (Vice-Principal at the high school), Dot (farmer, lesbian and fellow member of the frolic), Phyllis (retired English teacher), Betty (one of the Lunch Ladies at the high school), and – after all – me (local tranny and retired lawyer). So, not only were there more females than males on the High Council of the Patriarchy, but two of the members were LGBT!

I asked myself, if Kaylyn and her Gender Studies crew could only see how very “un-patriarchal” this particular Patriarchy actually is, would they admit how silly it is to be making plans to “crush the Patriarchy?” But before I could answer that question, the Supreme Leader spoke.

“Holly, it’s nice to have you join our little group. I hope you don’t mind us meeting here, where you live, but Dot suggested we could have privacy here.” But before he could go on, I heard one of the delivery chariots drive up out front, and Fender walked in, carrying several boxes of donuts and two big carafes of hot coffee. Dot and I jumped up and took possession of those provisions, after which we filled everyone’s cup and passed around the boxes of donuts so that each person could select his favorites. Chet resumed.

“I have to say, Holly, since you and your tranny friends took over Donut Time, this town has become a happier place to live and work. I can’t start my day at the feed store without a couple dozen – some of which I eat, and the rest I hand out to my customers. So how many folks work at Donut Time?”

I mentally took a census, then replied. “Well, there’s Cindy and Xandra and Marsha, who do the baking, plus Recon and Fender, who make deliveries, and then there’s the new girl – Blair – and Aly and Tuco and I fill in when things are busy. So, it’s considerable.”

“Yep,” he responded, “and I know Tuco and Aly are running a business at No. 9 on the Green – that ol’ eyesore (!) – and I know Phyllis (he nodded in her direction) and Xandra’s Grandma Lily have a place to live on the second floor at Donut Time. And don’t forget... many of my retired friends spend



their mornings in the booths you have there, which is a whole lot more sociable than waiting-to-die in that hospice over on Sycamore. Truly, we do love our donuts in this town.”

At that moment, we heard footsteps coming toward us from the dark end of the corridor. Soon we were joined by a lovely Golden Palomino, who walked up in a curious, friendly manner (as if attracted by the smells of fresh donuts at our end of the corridor).

That magical beast reached out her nose and nuzzled Dot on her cheek, then ambled over to Chet, where he was happy to feed her one of his favorite Honey Glazed. The Palomino raised her muzzle to give him a kiss (and if you had, perhaps, imagined that Palomino to be – instead – the Queen of the Unicorns, and if you had likewise imagined her magical horn to be invisible to all, that Queen – Penelope by name – briefly joining the High Council as its sole representative of “Royalty,” you would have witnessed her gently stroke her powerful, supernatural horn – source of so much sympathy and love – across Chet’s chest and near his heart) thereafter retreating into the darkness at the other end of the corridor, to listen.  
(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](http://www.hollymaholm.com).

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# GRAB JOHN

## Burning Up Hottie John Duff Fans the Flames in New Track, "House on Fire"

By Larry Olsen

John Duff grew up in a suburb outside of Baltimore. After graduating college, he made his way to the bright lights of New York City, where he worked as an actor and partied for six years. He then moved west to Hollywood to pursue his artistic dreams. He has been in Los Angeles for six years and has released an EP, *Homo•Sapien*, and several hit tracks including the gay classics "Girly" – who can forget that hilarious video where he battled Bianco Del Rio? – and "High Heels."

His latest single, "House on Fire," is a breezy throwback track that seems to signify that romance is alive, however, in true John Duff fashion, there is a deeper message of concealed infatuation within. The singer dives into the song's creepy subject matter in its chilling music video.

We spoke with John Duff from his home in Los Angeles.

**Larry Olsen: You wrote "House on Fire" about a man you went on a date with once that you fantasized was "the one". What was it about him that intrigued you so much?**

**JD:** You know, the whole thing felt like some sort of kismet. I was at a friend's wedding in Tennessee. I left early and while walking back to my hotel, I stopped in at a club I had heard of. Upon entering, I was immediately drawn to this person. He seemed familiar, but was no one I knew. We acknowledged each other with glances and stares, as homosexuals do. I was by myself, and he was with a group. Unsure if any of those people were with him, I did a lap. We made eyes again, but no contact. So, I went home. I may have looked at some apps to see if he would magically appear on a grid, but he didn't. I woke up to a DM

from him the day after. He had recognized me, but was too shy to approach me. We arranged to meet for dinner. I think when you meet someone on vacation, your walls come down a little faster. That's why they always go to like Fiji on *The Bachelor*. We talked about our views, goals, and plans – and had everything in common. It was all aligned. But alas, I flew home the next day.

**L.O: You never saw him again?**

**JD:** It was a geographic crisis. I think gunning for people who don't live in an accessible vicinity is a sign of unavailability, at least that's what my therapist says. So, though we texted and spoke for months, it was always compartmentalized as a fairy tale for me.

**L.O: Does the wistful melody and string arrangement in "House on Fire" reflect your feelings for the crush?**

**JD:** The song is definitely romantic. The lyric on its own is a desperate cry for movement, growth, connection, commitment. I wanted the ball to roll. I wanted it to snowball into an unshakeable love.

**L.O: The video is pretty twisted, John.**



**JD:** For me, everything creatively starts with: "you know, I've never seen anyone do \_\_\_\_\_ before" or "I haven't heard a song like \_\_\_\_\_ in a long time." When I create, it's always an attempt to fill a void. To paint with a palette that isn't currently in use. The "House of Fire" video is a dramatic portrayal of a one-sided relationship. Essentially, this fairy tale guy was something of a prisoner in my mind; perhaps on his own volition, perhaps against his will. But who is the captive and who is the captor? Sure, the fantasy lived in my head but it also consumed me. So, as my production team and I began to treat the video, a lot unfolded and none of it was accidental. The antihero in the video, played by me, is more than meets the eye. To all of his viewers on the internet, he's perfect. He lives in a bright and colorful world and teaches people how to fix things.





Photos By Ken Brown



July 18, 2023

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teaches people how to fix things. He's pretty. As we began to unpack this whole hostage thing, we realize it's rather omnipresent. We've all kind of become unpaid-employees to the algorithm - and there is no end in sight.

**L.O: Are we, the viewers, the doomed girl in the video, captive to social media?**

**JD:** That's sort of how it feels sometimes, right? Like the only way out our current situation is to burn the whole system down. Hmm.

**L.O: What are stories that appear on your social newsfeeds?**

**JD:** A ton of Mariah Carey! So many people send me videos and memes of her, because of my first music video, "Girly". I guess that sort of triggered the algorithm into thinking that's all I care about. And to be honest, I don't help. I obviously watch all of the videos.

**L.O: The TikTok dance that you do in the video is super catchy! What has been the response from fans?**

**JD:** Ya know, I'm a little bit of a troll, and my longtime followers get that. The people that have responded, love it and they get it. Most of my followers haven't acknowledge it though. They only like me when I'm naked.

**L.O: I think we can agree that the fall of social media is inevitable. What are three things you would like to have handy when the house burns down around us all?**

**JD:** My faith in God, water, and music.

**L.O: How would you like to be remembered?**

**JD:** As a shiny object. As everyone here is aware, life is tough. So, I hope people recognize the strength and bravery it takes to have fun, to walk tall, and to put yourself out there. If nothing else, I'm great at that.

John Duff's "House on Fire" is available on Apple Music, Spotify, and all digital platforms. Its video is available on YouTube.

Follow John Duff on Facebook and Instagram @ iamjohnduff









**KINKY BOOTS PLAYS AT  
WILMETTE' STUNNING NEW  
MCGRATH FAMILY  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
FROM AUGUST 18TH  
THROUGH AUGUST 27TH**



The Highland Park Players theater company is thrilled to announce the cast and production team for the upcoming production of the Tony Award-winning musical "Kinky Boots." This exhilarating show, filled with toe-tapping music and a heartwarming story, will captivate audiences at the brand new McGrath Family Performing Arts Center, 1100 Laramie Ave, Wilmette, IL. Performances are August 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm and August 20, 26, 27 at 2:00 pm.

Inspired by true events, "Kinky Boots" tells the extraordinary tale of Charlie Price (Ben Frankart), a struggling shoe factory owner, and Lola (Anania Williams), a fabulous performer and drag queen. Their unexpected

partnership takes them on a transformative journey of acceptance, self-discovery, and the power of embracing individuality.

"We are incredibly excited to bring 'Kinky Boots' to the stage," said **Whitney Langas**, a producer of Highland Park Players. "This show is a celebration of diversity, acceptance, and the power of embracing one's true identity. Audiences can expect a high-energy production that will leave them inspired and entertained."

To purchase tickets and learn more about the show please visit [www.highlandparkplayers.com](http://www.highlandparkplayers.com) or call 224-212-0477.

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Join smartbar sweethearts and musical contortionists **Derrick Carter**, **Michael Serafini**, and **Garrett David** for an evening of only the rawest Chicago house music served up by the pros. The Queen! hosts are as stellar and stunning as ever: the renowned but never-replicated **Lucy Stooles** and **Nico** are poised to take center stage, stealing the show, per usual. Bask in the atmospheric vibrations, dance into twilight, and celebrate one of the best parties to come out of Chicago with plenty of over-the-top kings and queens and

everything in between.

Derrick Carter is widely acknowledged as one of the better DJs of the world. With innovative productions, flawless technical skills, and an effortlessly joyful attitude of rocking a crowd, his influence has infiltrated the spectrum of dance music. Although known as one of the key players of Chicago's house music wave in the '90s, Carter began DJing at the age of nine, spinning disco and funk records at family reunions. He freely travels outside standard club tastes, incorporating old-school disco, soul, jazz, new wave, and whatever else catches his fancy.

Michael Serafini first got his start in Chicago nightlife in the '80s working for Berlin nightclub as a video jockey and remixer. Under the mentorship of close friends Terri Bristol and Ralphie Rosario, Serafini began DJing regularly in the early '90s and took up a position at one of Chicago house's most famous institutions, Gramophone Records. As his experience grew, so did his reputation, later landing a residency at Boom Boom Room, then the city's longest-running house night. In 2007, Serafini

took over ownership of Gramophone Records, which he still operates today.

Through the mentorship of **Chez Damier**, studying behind the desk at Gramophone Records, and being at the helm of smartbar's wildly successful Queen! party, Garrett David has spent the past decade developing his unmistakable style and ability to hypnotize the dance floor. His meticulous approach and underground attitude shines through his production, releasing lush and skittery tunes on prestigious labels such as Courtesy of Balance, Smallville, Residual, and his own imprint, Global Swing.

Lucy Stooles, Chicago's Black Bearded Beauty, is a Windy City-based drag performer, artist, and activist with an international presence. She's an Out 100 honoree, two-time Drag Queen of the Year, and entrepreneur.

Nico is the anti-socialite party girl that brings shots and chaotic energy to the room, straight from the runway to the punk show. She's rough around the edges with a face that's always blended for the HD.

For more info visit [Ravinia.org](http://Ravinia.org)

**"THE COLOR PURPLE"  
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Based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and the Warner Bros./Amblin Entertainment motion picture, *The Color Purple* was adapted for the stage by Pulitzer Prize and Tony® Award winner **Marsha**

**Norman**, with music and lyrics by Grammy® Award winners **Brenda Russell**, **Allee Willis**, and **Stephen Bray**.

The story spotlights Celie, a downtrodden young woman whose personal awakening over the course of 40 years forms the arc of this epic story. With a joyous score featuring jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music and blues, *The Color Purple* is a story of hope, a testament to the healing power of love, and a celebration of life. The story is an inspiring family saga that tells the unforgettable story of a woman who, through love, finds the strength to triumph over adversity and discover her unique voice in the world.

*The Color Purple* premiered at the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta,

Georgia and opened on Broadway on November 1, 2005, where it was nominated for eleven 2006 Tony® Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book, and Best Original Score. The London off-West End production moved to Broadway in 2015, winning the Tony® Award for Best Revival of a Musical. Warner Bros. has announced a releasedate for a new feature film adaptation, set to premier in 2023. For tickets or more information visit <http://www.Fineartsbuilding.com> or call their Box Office at 312-753-3210





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