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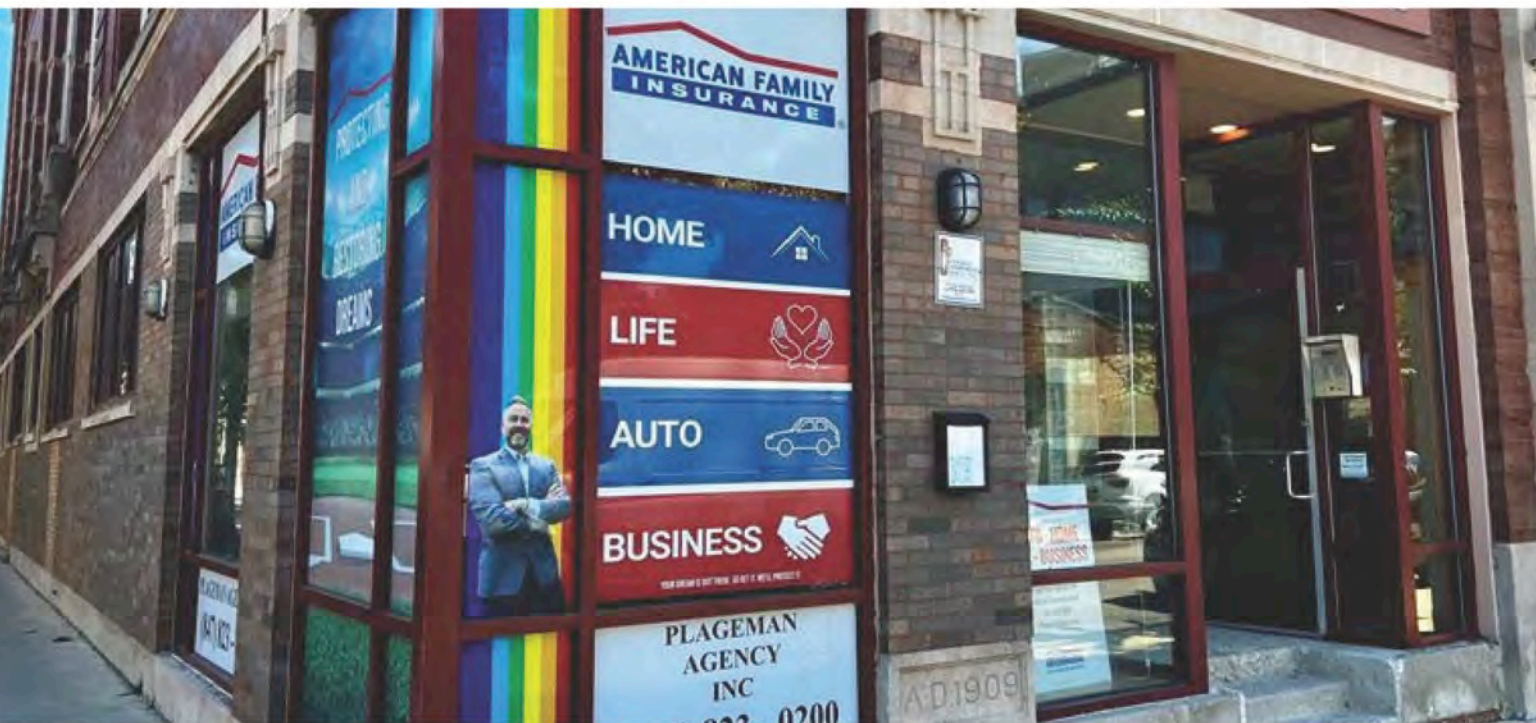
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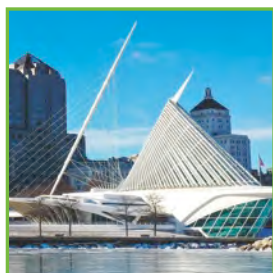


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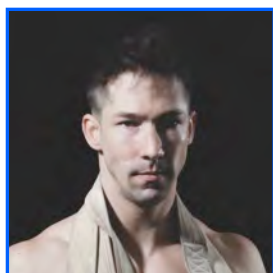
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GRAB VANESSA



Musical magnetism: An interview with Vanessa Briscoe Hay of Pylon Reenactment Society

By Gregg Shapiro

Long before cities such as Seattle (and by extension Olympia), Washington or Austin, Texas became music meccas at the end of the 20th century, Athens, Georgia was the place for cool bands. Athens was home to legendary acts including the B-52's and R.E.M., as well as Love Tractor, Oh-OK, and of course Pylon. With lead vocals by Vanessa Briscoe Hay, and a unique danceable sound, Pylon made an indelible impression with two albums, "Gyrate" (1980) and "Chomp" (1983), before parting ways. Over the years they regrouped here and there, and then received the reissue treatment in 2007, 2009, and then again in 2020. Pylon Reenactment Society, led by the band's original vocalist Vanessa Briscoe Hay, along with Jason NeSmith, Kay Stanton, and Gregory Sanders, make their album debut on "Magnet Factory" (Strolling Bones/New West). The 11 songs manage to remind us of Hay's origins while successfully making something new and exciting. Vanessa was gracious enough to make time for an interview in advance of the album's release.

Gregg Shapiro: Vanessa, for those who may not be aware, please say something about how the original band line-up came up with the name Pylon.

Vanessa Briscoe Hay: Pylons are the cones you see on the road, not the architectural ones or electrical ones. We chose the name Pylon because its shape is modern, industrial, iconic, and functional. We first noticed them at a factory where three of us worked when we were coming up with our band name. Fortunately, another band name contender "Diagonal" fell by the wayside. We considered using the symbol of a diagonal – perhaps found images – as our band name, years before Prince.

GS: I lived in Boston in the early 1980s as a college student, and I remember that was when I first heard Pylon being played on radio station WBCN, as well as the region's other college radio stations. How much of a role would you say that college radio played in getting the word out about the band?

VBH: I loved WBCN! Such a great station. When our first single "Cool" / "Dub" came out, WBCN

made "Cool" their Big Mattress Song of the Week which meant they played it an insane number of times a day. College radio was extremely important in getting the word out by playing our band and other bands like hometown heroes the B-52s and later R.E.M. and Love Tractor. We had a great student station at the University of Georgia – WUOG – it is one of the keys of our town's early musical success. Commercial radio had no place in their programming for bands like us at the time. Later, the labels "New Wave" and "Alternative" were born as a marketing tool to make what we actually called "New Music" at the time more palatable to programmers – or so I've heard [laughs].

GS: Pylon was one of several bands that emerged from the fertile Athens, Georgia music scene. What would you say were some of the qualities that distinguished it from the scenes in other cities at that time?

VBH: We were part of a creative group of people who weren't afraid of working outside of our disciplines. Many who went to the art school at University of Georgia back then were trying on different hats – a



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photographer might make sculptures out of unconventional material like sprinklers or garden hoses like our bassist Michael Lachowski did, or painting using only two colors because that was all they could afford, like some of the art girls did. We weren't afraid to just go in there and do it. No authority needed. Every scene needs a tipping point to succeed - we had all the elements we needed to make it happen: a great student radio station (WUOG), a record store (Chapter Three), interesting people, cheap rent, parties, and a vegetarian restaurant (El Dorado).



GS: Fellow Athens band R.E.M. recorded a cover of Pylon's "Crazy." Do you recall what that meant to you?

VBH: It meant a lot. Pylon had retired for the first time at that point. I was honored that they chose our song to record. Michael Stipe heard it the first time we played it and remarked to me between sets outside the 40 Watt Club how much he liked that song. We would probably have been forgotten except for their recording of that song and a big mention in the movie "Athens, GA Inside/Out" around that same time. Pylon regrouped and began playing again in 1988.

GS: Interest in Pylon never seriously waned and in 2007 and 2009 DFA reissued "Gyrate" and "Chomp," which were then reissued in 2020 on New West, along with a four-LP box set. What do you think that says about Pylon's musical impact?

VBH: I never would have guessed this would happen back when we got started in 1979. I thought it was going to be a one-off project. There is something elemental/youthful about our music which makes it ripe for rediscovery by succeeding generations. Our music can sometimes be a bit raw and it's not everyone's cup of tea. But it is danceable and fun. I have theorized that because we never achieved mainstream success (or were overplayed on the radio or MTV or wherever) that might make the music more interesting to some folks as well. Just a theory, who knows? I'm

glad people are still finding out about us and like Pylon.

GS: You performed in the band Supercluster with Jason NeSmith and Kay Stanton. Is that where the seeds for Pylon Reenactment Society were planted?

VBH: Yes. Jason and Kay were both important members of Supercluster which started around 2007. We could have as many as nine members on stage. It was a lot of fun. Supercluster was a recording project for music that was coming into my head at the time which wasn't Pylon-type material. I would come to rehearsal with lyrics and a simple music line which I played on the keyboard. They would then help arrange and shape the song. One song was Pylonesque: "Peace Disco Song." Pylon's guitarist Randy Bewley also played in Supercluster. One night at a Pylon rehearsal, bassist Michael Lachowski started playing the bass line to that song and Randy admonished him that it was a Supercluster song. Anyway, Supercluster petered out in 2013. We just stopped playing. Jason NeSmith came to see me in 2014 because he was putting the music performances together for a series of events called Art Rocks Athens which explored the connection between music and art in Athens from 1975-85. He asked me if I would like to perform a few songs and was a bit floored when I suggested doing Pylon material if he would help me put a band together.

GS: In what ways would you say your songwriting has evolved in the years between Pylon and Pylon Reenactment Society?

VBH: I am so glad you used the term evolve. As we live, hopefully, we do grow and evolve. It's really hard for me to see exactly how I've evolved because I am obviously too close. I know I've experienced more things first-hand at this point than I experienced in earlier phases of my life, like birth, death, betrayal, magical things, sad things. I try to write a little something every day. Maybe I've learned a few things.

GS: One of the first things that listeners might notice when they hear Pylon Reenactment Society's "Magnet Factory" album is that your trademark growl has been tempered a bit. Listeners can still hear it on "Messenger," "3 X 3," and "Compression." Please say something about the evolution of your vocal style.

VBH: I never planned to be a singer, but now I've sung on and off for 44 years or so. I've learned a few things on my own. I've also raised two children who are now adults. I sang a few lullabies and holiday songs along the way. More importantly, the song always suggests what I will do with it. I also think I hear different things to do that I may not have thought of before.

GS: Earlier we talked about R.E.M., and Kate Pierson of the B-52's,

another legendary Athens band, can be heard singing with you on the song “Fix It” on “Magnet Factory.” How did that collaboration come about?

VBH: About a year ago, the B-52s had announced that they were coming to the end of their touring days and would play their last show in Athens, GA. Of course, we all went. It was fabulous onstage and off [laughs]! Anyway, Pylon Reenactment Society had just finished tracking our album and we were set to mix the album at Chase Park Transduction with David Barbe the following week. While watching this show, I realized what a perfect fit Kate would make for one of our songs. She is one of my singing idols and Cindy Wilson is another. I asked Kate after the show if she would sing a song with us on our album and she said yes. I sent her the lyrics and Jason sent her the tracks. She recorded her vocals at the studio she uses the next week and sent the recording to us to mix. We were all over the moon when we heard her vocals. Just amazing! Such an honor to have her sing with

us.

GS: Athens bands including the B-52's, R.E.M., and Love Tractor, all had queer members, which made me wonder if you were aware of an LGBTQ+ following for your own musical career?

VBH: We do have a LGBTQ+ following for our music – even some super fans. I am so appreciative of their support. I went to art school at UGA in Athens and was friends with Jeremy Ayers who was Silva Thin at Andy Warhol's Factory. I also have loved ones in the LGBTQ+ community. Don't we all? If you say you don't, you are in major-league denial. We are all a part of the human race. Love not hate. We need more of that.

GS: We're speaking shortly before “Magnet Factory” is being released. Are there plans for a



Pylon Reenactment Society tour in support of the album, and if so when will it begin?

VBH: Pylon Reenactment Society is planning some dates. So far, we have a release party planned for Athens on February 9th at Hendershots and some dates at SXSW. I believe we are going to the Northeast in April, and we will go from there.

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GRAB A GETAWAY



Photo Courtesy of Visit Milwaukee

Milwaukee's A Hoppin'

By Bill Malcolm

Milwaukee is a fun vibrant city with its own unique identity. Just 90 miles north of Chicago, it was settled by Germans and their influence persists today. Milwaukee is so well run the Mayor of Portland just came to town to get tips on dealing with the homeless. The historic Third Ward and nearby Walker's Point have many LGBTQ venues from which to choose. The stunning architecture of the Milwaukee Art Museum's Quadracci Pavilion (designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava) alone makes the city worth a visit. Indeed, the "Cream City" is named for its many buildings of that colors. Few U.S. cities have preserved their historic buildings (and repurposed them) as well as Milwaukee has.

WHAT TO DO

Make your first stop the Milwaukee Art Museum if only to gaze at the stunning building which hangs like a giant ship over Lake Michigan. The recent Darrell Ellis: Regeneration exhibit chronicles the many talents young New York City artist who died at 33 from complications from AIDS.

New exhibits for 2024 include: Larry Bell's Iceberg

exhibition: <https://mam.org/exhibitions/iceberg/>

Idris Khan: Repeat After Me: <https://mam.org/info/pressroom/2023/07/milwaukee-art-museum-to-present-first-american-survey-exhibition-of-acclaimed-british-artist-idris-khan/>

Take the Hop Streetcar around town.

Shop 'til you drop in the historic Third Ward just south of downtown.

Eat Wisconsin's foodie specialties like brats at the Milwaukee Public Market. Or have a fresh squeezed carrot juice and garden salad at the Green Kitchen in the Market. Enjoy wine or a local microbrew or have a microbrewed coffee. And pick up some Wisconsin cheese to take home.

Work out at the Wisconsin Athletic Club.

Visit the Harley Davidson Museum to learn about the history of this customer focused company and the culture it created. They also have a nice restaurant.

Try one of the 20 food vendors at the nearby 3rd Street Market Hall.

Enjoy at Lakeshore Brewery Hazy IPA at one of the many bars.

Visit the Milwaukee County

Historical Society Museum to learn about the beer culture in the city where beer made Milwaukee famous.

NIGHTLIFE

Who says gay bars are dead? The new POP video bar (124 W. National) is the first new bar in the city since 2010 and is a fun, airy place. It also features a full-service restaurant. Try the pizza.

Other nearby bars (all in Walkers Point include Woodys and LaCage Niteclub. Kruz is where you will find the leather crowd.

Woody's has two for one special on Thursdays and features a friendly crowd.

Women will like the Walker's Pint bar, one of only 25 lesbian bars left in the U.S. according to a story on POP in *Our Lives Magazine* (Nov./Dec. 2023 issue). *Our Lives* is Wisconsin's only LGBTQ publication and is based in Madison.

The Harbor Room is nearby and is also fun. You can take the Green Line Express bus to the bars in Walkers Point from downtown or the Third Ward.

WHERE TO STAY

Enjoy the historic Homewood Suites just north of the Milwaukee Public Market. It's in the historic



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Photo Courtesy of Visit Milwaukee



Button Block Building made of red sandstone from the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior. The repurposed building features lofty ceilings, the original wood floors, and more. Did I mention the free laundry machines? Built in 1892, the building's sandstone is over one million years old.

TRAVEL TIPS

Milwaukee has its own lingo you may not be familiar with including Bubbler: Milwaukee-speak for a water fountain;

Kringle: A large round pastry made in Racine Brats (pronounced Brawts): A spicy pork sausage on a bun;

Cheese curds: Rubbery tasting bits of cheese shaped into a small ball. They can be fried or fresh and now come in many flavors;

Drumlins: A long oval hill created

by glaciers. They are found west and north of the city;

M'waukeee – the locals don't pronounce the l's;

And they are from WES-KAHN-SIN (a very nasal accent). Also called Sconnies.

GETTING THERE

Amtrak has seven trains each way from Chicago which take 90 minutes and make three stops. There is also one (soon to be two) trains to St. Paul, Minnesota. The intercity buses and trains all use the sleek Multi-Modal terminal which also features Bubblr shared bikes, Milwaukee Public Transit buses, the Badger Bus to Madison, Amtrak, Greyhound, MegaBus, and the Hop Street Car. Why more cities don't have such a facility is beyond me. The terminal is clean, bright, features restrooms, and even sells tickets.

General Mitchell International Airport (MKE) is the city's international airport (and also has an Amtrak station). It's an under-used, uncrowded airport and a great option even for those in northern Illinois.

They feature a "decombulation area" after TSA to regroup, the only one in the country. Don't miss the aviation history museum. Old timers will remember Northwest Orient, North Central, Midwest Express, and Ozark Airlines. Did someone say chocolate chip cookie? (It was a highlight of the Midwest Airlines flight.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Shepherds Express is the weekly which features a LGBTQ section.

OurLives is the state's LGBTQ publication.

VISIT Milwaukee has several tips including Things to do: <https://www.visitmilwaukee.org/things-to-do/>

Major events: <https://www.visitmilwaukee.org/events/> including the PrideFest in June.

View a digital guide: <https://www.visitmilwaukee.org/official-visitors-guide/>

There are few cities left that have such a unique character and identity. Milwaukee is one of them and is worth a visit.

Bill Malcolm is North America's only syndicated value travel columnist who focuses on value travel, use of transit, and off beat things to see and do for the LGBTQ+ community. He is a native of nearby Madison and has also lived in Milwaukee.

Photo Courtesy of Visit Milwaukee



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GRAB AN AWARD

Queerty Announces Jinkx Monsoon to Host The 12th Annual Queerties Awards Show; Paula Abdul to be Honored with Straight Up Ally Award

Queerty, the LGBTQ+ entertainment news site, has announced that **Jinkx Monsoon** will host the 12th anniversary Queerties awards, taking place March 12th in Los Angeles, and **Paula Abdul** will be honored with the Straight Up Ally Award. The Queerties is a celebration of entertainment and pop culture moments that defined the past year in the LGBTQ+ community. It is designed to uplift and spotlight LGBTQ+ creators, tastemakers, and storytellers who are not often recognized at other award shows.

Says Jinkx Monsoon, "With me hosting The Queerties, you can expect lots of humor with a reverence to the great female hosts before me. Joan Rivers, Whoopi, Rosie... they taught me all I need to know: look good, be funny, throw things at the audience."

"I wanted to host The Queerties because I've won enough awards," Monsoon laughs. "No, seriously, I can't think of a better evening than celebrating the queerest of the queer. These awards are so important. Just because the world isn't ready to recognize our greatness all at once doesn't mean we aren't great, so let's celebrate it."

On being presented with the Straight Up Ally award, Paula Abdul says, "I am so honored to receive the Straight Up Ally Award from the Queerties and the Queerty team. The LGBTQ+ community has always held such an enormously large place in my heart, soul and being. They themselves have truly been such magnificent allies to me, which I'm eternally grateful for. I'm so looking forward to celebrating with the other honorees, the gay

community and my peers on this very special evening."

David Archuleta, whose song "Afraid To Love" is nominated in the Music Video category, will perform live at The Queerties. He rose to fame as the first runner-up in Season 7 of American Idol. In 2020, David Archuleta released his eighth album, *Therapy Sessions*, which offered a peak into his internal struggle with himself: a battle he has experienced for most of his life. In 2021, he came out as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

"The Queerties gives voice to the LGBTQ+ community," Scott Gatz of Q.Digital, the parent company of Queerty, explains. "It is the pop culture awards show where queer people honor the best of the best by voting for the talent and creatives they feel will have the most lasting impact on the next generation of queer youth."

Nominees for The Queerties were selected by the editors at Queerty. Queerty readers are voting on their favorites now through February 22nd. Categories range from the "Badass" award, honoring the year's top LGBTQ+ newsmakers, to "Coming Out for Good", an award recognizing brave notables who shook up mainstream



Paula Abdul
Photo By Sebastian Smith

America with their coming out stories, and awards for excellence in music, TV, cinema and more.

Nominees for this year's "Badass" include gender fluid actor Bella Ramsey (*Game of Thrones* and *The Last of Us*) and Ncuti Gatwa (*Doctor Who* and *Sex Education*). Hunter Schafer (*Euphoria*) and Filipino-American beauty influencer and social media personality Bretman Rock are among those vying for the coveted "Style Icon" award. Joe Locke (*Heartstopper*), Karan Brar, and Wayne Brady are some of the stars being heralded for officially and unapologetically coming out this year as LGBTQ+.

In the performance categories, **Colman Domingo** (*Rustin*), **Andrew Scott** (*All of Us Strangers*) and **Lily Gladstone** (*Killers of the Flower Moon*) are among those competing in "Film Performance" while **Kit Connor** (*Heartstopper*), **Matt**

Bomer (Fellow Travelers) and **Miss Benny** (Glamorous) battle it out in the TV category. Ice Spice, Victoria Monét, and Reneé Rapp are among the divas squaring off to be named the year's "Breakout Musical Artist".

And what is a queer award show without at least a little drama? The 12th anniversary Queerties will award the "Best Feud" prize to the most legendary rivalry of all time. Nominees include **Joan Crawford vs. Bette Davis**, **Mariah Carey vs. Jennifer Lopez**, and **Kim Cattrall vs. Sarah Jessica Parker**.

For more information on the 12th Annual Queerties Award Show and to vote for your favorite nominees, visit www.queerty.com/Queerties.



Bob the Drag Queen - photo by David Laffee

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GRAB EDDIE

Meet Carnal Plus Exclusive Eddie Patrick

By Tom Olah

TOM OLAH: You've been in the biz for nine months – In less than none months in the biz, your popularity has skyrocketed fast... What's it like getting so much attention from fans fast?

EDDIE PATRICK: It's been the most fun I've ever had. The attention from the fans has blown my mind and is by far my favorite part of the work. It blows my mind every time I get a new subscriber – like people really buy my stuff. Wow.

I've been recognized a couple times by fans in public now and it absolutely feels surreal. It's been the most surprising part and I feel the most fulfilled when I get nice messages and comments from people saying how much they love my videos. The fans are everything. I wouldn't be doing this interview without them.

TO: What did you do before you were in the adult biz?

EP: Before I did porn, I was performing as an aerialist in the circus mostly. I had a duet in the air where I would throw a girl around. Everyone always thought my partner and I were married and in love, when actually we were both gay. I worked on cruiseships, nightclubs, traveling tent shows... I traveled the world and met so many people. It was definitely my calling for a long time and I am still passionate about it, but porn is calling a little louder to me right now.

TO: How did you survive the pandemic?

EP: Well, I unfortunately only qualified for \$14 usd in unemployment a week. I had just moved back to the country and my income from the quarter they sampled was so low because I had only worked a couple weeks. So I had to figure out what to do.

Obviously there wasn't any circus that was open, but I already knew how to sew from making my own costumes. So I started selling just swimsuits at first and it really

just took off. It was the first time I really felt in control of my own income. I loved how much the pandemic forced me to change in the end. I eventually burnt out because I was at those sewing machines for so long... sometimes 12-hour days of just sewing.

TO: Do you still sew at all?

EP: I sew all the time! I've been trying to just have fun and make stuff for myself and my friends lately. I definitely want to rebrand and start selling again – hopefully this year.

TO: How did you get into porn?

EP: Well, after I got burnt out sewing I started auditioning again and got a job performing at a resort. There was another guy in the show who had an onlyfans, and I had always been curious about it. So I did. I went home to Vegas the next week and it happened to be the GayVN Awards in town, so I ended up doing filming some amazing videos with the hot guys that were in town. One of my videos got Legrand Wolf's attention and before I knew it I was on set doing porn! It all happened really really quickly.

TO: What do you think makes you different from other creators? You've grown so quickly – what's your secret?

EP: First, I think it helps that I'm genuinely horny as hell and I _love_ sex, and I love sharing that with everyone. But also a huge part of my success has been the support I get from my Carnal+ family. Having a community in the work I do is so important. We get to bounce ideas off of each other and grow together. I love when I film something crazy hot and I get to run and share it with my brothers. Legrand and the whole team really make sure we are taken care of.

TO: Now we have a very personal question. How did you learn to



Photo Courtesy CarnalPlus.com

fuck yourself?

EP: I was just a horny teenager with a dream. And I finally was home alone [laughs]. It didn't work the first couple times but I remember when I finally got it in. It was cosmic. And the first time I came in myself changed everything. I think my whole outlook on life fundamentally shifted after that moment. The funny thing is I could suck my own dick before that. But after I learned to self-fuck, I totally even forgot about self-sucking and lost the flexibility.

I think more guys could fuck themselves if they just tried a couple times. Maybe I should make a tutorial.

TO: Do you watch porn yourself?

EP: Yes. I really believe it helps so much to be a fan of porn. And to be frank, I think it helps that I've watched so much porn that I'm a little bored of it. It pushes me to be creative and I always find myself making something a little different with my scene partners. I feel like Eddie is perfect for the person who is bored of the same porn over and over but not necessarily looking for anything hardcore either. I love being surprised when I watch porn, and I always try and keep that in mind when I'm on set and/or creating content.

Photo Courtesy CarnalPlus.com





Photo Courtesy CarnalPlus.com

TO: What's it like being a CarnalPlus Exclusive and how has it helped you grow?

EP: It really just feels like I get to make movies with my hot friends. I mean, come on, we're in a new city all the time! From filming for Cum Dump Sluts in Los Angeles to making a movie for ScoutBoys in the mountains of Spain. And all the while, the company is encouraging us all to make content for our OnlyFans. The studio work is great but I feel like it's even more valuable to be around trusted, tested, serious creators all the time.

TO: What is your favorite part about being an adult performer?

EP: Sharing what I do with the fans. Being able to capture beautiful raw candid moments with my partners and then sharing it with the world has been absolutely therapeutic. As someone who is hypersexual and somewhat of an exhibitionist, I feel like I've been training my whole life for this career. I wish I'd started sooner.

To See more of Eddie Visit <http://www.CarnalPlus.com>



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MONDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor), Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlies:** Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. **D.S.Tequila Co:** \$5 10oz Margaritas. **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 Sofa Tap:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend.

TUESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. **D.S.Tequila Co:** . 50cent Wing Night 5pm-10pm, Must Purchase a drink for special. Dine in Only. **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, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm–8pm: \$5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. 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 Sofa Tap:** \$5 Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Tallboys Everyday Specials:,\$5Jager, \$5 Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi.

WEDNESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$ New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. **Jackhammer:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, 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 **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$4Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm–10pm: \$6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. 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 & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Britney & Rihanna last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. **Steamworks:** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. **The Sofa Tap:** \$3 House Shots, \$5 Tito's Cocktails, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts **Touche:**Open 5pm - 4am.Jockstrap Night. Free Clothing Check.

THURSDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons . Everyday Specials:\$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. **Charlie's:** Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. **D.S.Tequila Co:** Bottomless Tacos! \$23.95 5pm-10pm , Must purchase a beverage for special. Dine in Only. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lit Tallboys 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. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. **Steamworks:** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. **The Sofa Tap:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails\$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays70's & 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo. 70's & 80's Music.

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p-1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p-1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p-1am, 5th Fierce Fridays - Strut 10p-1am, Dancing until close. **D.S. Tequila Co:** TGIF Special \$5 Effen Cocktails and \$4 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 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. **The Sofu 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. 2/23 Porn Poker Party, 3/1 Vax Party 8-11pm.

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 Sofu 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. 2/24 Full Moon Ripe Party Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T. 3/2 Bear Night Bears, Cubs, Otters & more. 3/9 Dungeon Master Night Demo @ Midnight CWB 5-9pm.

SUNDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$6 Chicago Handshakes Happy Hour Specials 2pm-5pm \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm-7pm, Singational Sunday Karaoke 7pm-11pm Mas Leche 11pm-1am, Dancing until close. **D.S. Tequila Co:** Coyote Ugly Drag Brunch \$50 all inclusive food and beverage package plus Drag Show. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Jackhammer:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands Happy Hour Specials: 1st Sunday: \$7 Planter's Punch 2nd Sunday: \$5 Dog Bowls (Premium Well) 3rd Sunday: \$3 Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's Tallboy Beers 4th Sunday: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor) 5th Sunday: \$6 New Amsterdam & Red Bull Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Kit Kat Lounge:** Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$12 Mimosa Carafes. Happy Hour Specials: 7pm-10pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm. **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 off 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 Sofu 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, \$2 Sodas, Clubroom Opens 6pm, Movie Night 7pm.

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	Artist	Title
1	Pls&ty	Upside Ft. Ben Samama (Radio Edit)
2	Noizu	Vogue (Radio Edit)
3	Purple Disco Machine x Duke Dumont	Something On My Mind (Radio Edit)
4	Angrybaby	I Don't Want To Fall In Love (Original Mix)
5	Tiesto X Fast Boy	All My Life
6	Telykast	You Got Me (With Georgia Ku)
7	Kenya Grace	Paris
8	DVBBS	This Moment
9	Kastra & Luma	Think About You
10	Ultra Nate	Unbreakable (Radio Mix)
11	Felix Jaehn & Jonas Blue	Past Life (Clean Bandit Remix)
12	Allegra	Round & Round (Tiesto Remix)
13	Anabel Englund	Strangely Sentimental
14	DJ Sammy	Have You Seen The Rain
15	Syn Cole & Anml Kngdm	Let You Go
16	PARISI	Believe In Myself (US Dance Radio Edit)
17	Morgan Page X Farfetchd	Runaway Ft. The Dirty Rich
18	Vaance	Something Good
19	Armin Van Buuren	Lose This Feeling
20	Bingo Players X Stadiumx	Good Times Ft. Gemaine
21	The Knocks & Sofi Tukker	One On One (Radio Edit)
22	Kylie Minogue	Padam Padam
23	Tritonal & Kwesi	Everything Is Beautiful (Radio Mix)
24	Electric Polar Bears	Where We Started
25	Office x Jayem	Can't Deny Ft. Alix Robson
26	Jess Glynne	What Do You Do
27	David Guetta & Kim Petras	When We Were Young (The Logical Song)
28	Icona Pop	Tears On The Dancefloor
29	Manuel Riva & Misha Miller	Wild Young Heart
30	Ferry Corsten	Stay Awake ft. Diandra Faye (US RADIO EDIT)



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GRAB ROGER

Selling Your Home Without Using a Real Estate Agent

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

Sellers are always questioning the need for the services of a real estate agent. Discount internet brokers and for sale by owner companies are promoting their services to an eager and willing market. And legitimate realtors faced with this strong competition and declining sales are struggling to pay office expenses and advertising budgets.

For more than 40 years, I have always believed the expense of a sales commission was justified by the benefit a realtor provided to the seller even though the cost may have seemed high at the time. I still believe that, but I would never argue that a house seller should pay a six percent sales commission.

Using the services of a real estate agent can offer some real advantages:

- Overpricing: Many sellers overestimate the value of their homes resulting in a very hard time for the owner in selling the house. Real estate agents can offer

guidance in setting the selling price of the property based on market value from sales of similar properties in the area. Remember your house is only worth what someone is willing to pay for it.

- Screening: When a seller places an ad in the paper to sell their property the ad attracts not only genuine prospective buyers but also browsers and curious neighbors looking for a free tour. A real estate agent will be able to distinguish between the looker and the serious buyer.

- Helpful advice: Real estate agents can suggest ways to make the dwelling more sellable by painting a room, removing debris, cleaning an offensive odor not noticeable to a seller etc. Agents can suggest how to best describe the features, details and highlights of a house. And they can suggest staging, well worth the expense.

Agents can also engage in diplomacy between all the parties to a contract (including the lawyers) and try to keep the parties on track without letting emotions run out of check. And last but not least, agents do a lot of the leg work to make sure

all the documents are ready for a smooth closing.

- Financing: Many sales of real estate fall apart because the buyer doesn't qualify for financing. A good real estate agent can minimize the risk because he or she will have more information available about mortgage lending practices and the finances of the buyer. An agent will screen potential buyers to insure that they qualify for a large enough mortgage to purchase the property.

- Legal obligations: If you decide to use the services of a real estate agent, the seller should be aware of his or her legal obligations. The listing agent (the agent who represents the seller) will have the seller of the



property sign a written listing agreement to give the agent the authority to sell the property for a certain period of time at a certain price.

The listing agreement will usually provide that if the property is sold to anyone during that time, the listing agent is entitled to a sales commission even if the seller may have found the buyer. If the seller waits until after the written agreement expires and sells the property to a buyer the agent found, the seller is still obligated to pay the sales commission.

Even if there is no written listing agreement, if the agent finds the person who buys the property at the seller's price, the seller owes a sales commission. If there is written agreement and the agent finds a buyer ready, willing and financially able to purchase the property and the owner decides not to sell (for whatever reason), the owner is still liable to pay the agent even though there is no sale.

I always recommend that owners of property have their lawyer review the listing agreement before they sign and, of course, have the sales contract also approved.

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

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SIDETRACK



GRAB HOLLY

The Story of the Pharaoh's Horse

By Holly Maholm

It was apple-picking time in the orchard at the Horse Rescue, and Dot and I were taking a break. We were stretched out on the ground near where Victor was harnessed to the farm wagon, on which multiple bushels of apples were stacked. I said to Victor, "Doesn't it bother you – a magical unicorn – to be harnessed to a mere farm wagon? Isn't that beneath you?"

Victor glanced back at us and replied, "Not a bit. We unicorns remember a story one of our frolic-mates – Feather – used to tell. A story which is more than just one of our Fables – it's what Feather, himself, experienced. Now listen.

"Back during one of the years not long after the end of your Civil War, there was a small circus that used to travel in a circuit that stopped here in Wellington. And in that circus was a sort of 'ride' for children that was like this: There was a big, square canvas tent, and on the inside, across one wall, was painted an illustration taken from some ancient Egyptian papyrus. It portrayed the Pharaoh of Egypt standing in his war chariot, going into battle pulled by his war horse. And that war horse was a magnificent animal, standing tall and muscular and brave, the expression on his face showing his unshakable determination to carry his Master to victory.

"In the middle of the tent was a short vertical axle, to which was attached one end of a horizontal pole, and the other end of that pole was attached to a harness for a small pony. And that pony was hitched to a little, two-wheeled cart in which parents would sit their young children, and that pony would walk round and round, giving those children a pony ride. And the name of that pony was 'Falk.'

"So, for five years Falk pulled that childish little cart, all the while passing again and again under the painted gaze of first the Pharaoh – his expression angry and intense – and then the Pharaoh's chariot horse – his expression grim and determined.

"But in time the circus went bankrupt, and Falk was sold to the local Race Track. There, he was harnessed to a farm wagon, which the owners of the track used to transport some of their patrons from the front gate to the grandstand. At that tie many of the patrons were veterans of the Civil War, and the wagon was provided for those wounded veterans (of whom there were many) who had lost one or both legs, or were otherwise too disabled to walk. And so, Falk made one round trip after another, from the front gate to the grandstand and return, pulling that wagon freighted with cripples.

"Now, it happened, on days they didn't have races, that Falk was turned out into a nearby pasture, where he mixed in with the thoroughbred racehorses. And Holly, Dot, it never failed that those racehorses – who were, after all, superb specimens of the Species Horse, several of whom were champions – found Falk to be a ridiculous creature with whom to be forced to share a pasture.

"They tormented him: 'Where's your war chariot? Where's your Pharaoh? You think he's looking for you? No way!' You see, that old Egyptian papyrus gave the racehorses limitless opportunities to heap scorn upon the little carriage pony.

"But, in time, after years laboring in the circus, and at the race track, it came the day when all of Falk's strength left him. It was nighttime in the stable, where all the



racehorses – and Falk – were bedded down, but Falk could no longer stand, so weak was he.

"You know that Feather was well-known for his love and sympathy for wounded veterans, and he was well-aware of Falk and his years pulling that farm wagon. It was then that Feather – sensing the little pony's tether had run out – entered the stable. He saw Falk down on his knees, his head nodding from side to side listlessly. Then... Feather used his unicorn magic to assume the disguise of a large, jet-black Arabian! ...his body shimmering and sparkling with intense illumination! Falk and the racehorses were astonished at the sight, and Feather boomed out these words...

"Attend to me! You, Falk! I have been sent by my master to gather you to your reward! Yes! If that old canvas had been bigger, the artist would have painted your Pharaoh going into battle against me, Bucephalus, the greatest of all horses! And riding on my back the greatest of all warriors, Alexander the Great! My master, bravest of men, has seen your sacrifice, and he honors you... not for your speed or strength, but for your unwavering loyalty.

"Now! Come with me!"

Bucephalus called out, turning as if to enter a shining portal to another life, and Falk... laid down his head and slipped his one last earthly harness."

(To be continued)

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

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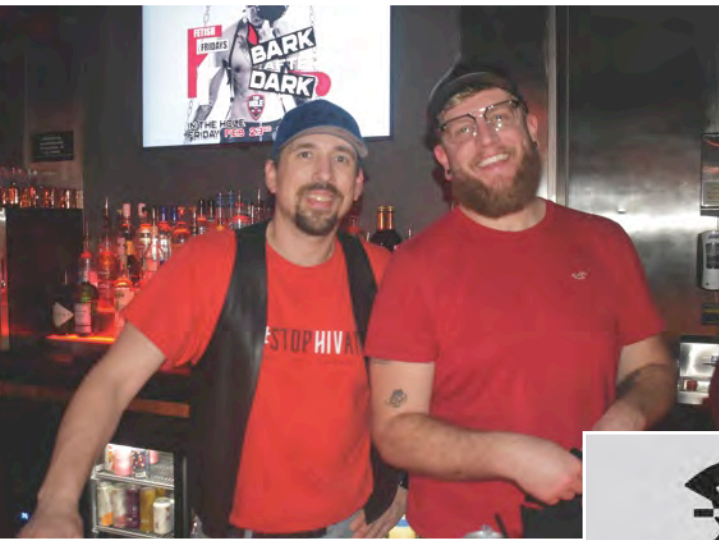
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Photos By Anthony Meade



GRAB MUSIC

Q-Music: Hot LGBTQ artists for cold temps

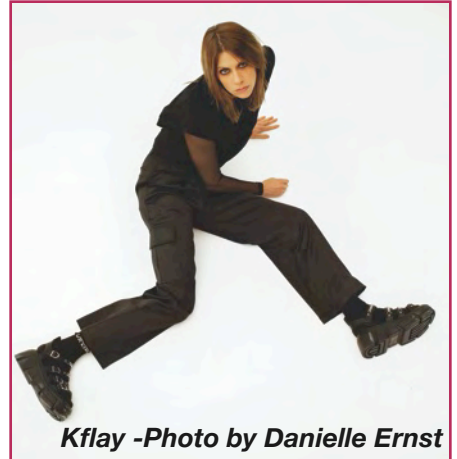
By Gregg Shapiro

“Mono” (Giant), the title of queer, hip hop-influenced singer/songwriter **K.Fl原因**’s new album has a frightening significance. Due to a health crisis, she has lost hearing in her right ear. In other words, she no longer hears in stereo. She addresses the subject in album opener “Are You Serious?,” a song in which she captures the trauma of the experience, and yet she proves herself to be a survivor, making an album in the aftermath of this massive change in her personal and professional life. Not an easy listen, but well worth the time, K.Fl原因 alternates between lashing out and taking her lashes on songs including “Hustler,” “Punisher,” “Carsick,” “In America,” “Irish Goodbye,” “Chaos Is Love,” and “Yes I’m Serious.” If you’re a fan of queer singer/songwriter Caroline Rose, you’ll likely dig K.Fl原因, too. [**K.Fl原因 performs on March 15 + 16 at**

Chop Shop.]

Queer, DC-based musician Rye Thomas of **Soft Punch** says his music is “For the queer and the damaged and the eternally curious.” Like K.Fl原因’s “Mono,” Soft Punch’s album “Above Water” (softpunchmusic.com) arrives following a debilitating illness. The baker’s dozen songs, including “Here Comes The Chorus,” “Now’s The Time,” “An Astronaut,” “Semaphore,” “Here/Now,” and “Fine,” are the very definition of sophisticated bedroom pop, intimate and incandescent. Soft Punch also packs a punch on the harder rocking song “My Head.”

In its lush and distinctive way, the music of the coolest Icelandic band **Sigur Rós** (led by openly queer Jónsi) has always felt orchestral. Therefore, when you hear



Kfl原因 -Photo by Danielle Ernst

“Átta” (BMG), the band’s first album in 10 (!) years, on which it performs with the London Contemporary Orchestra (under the direction of conductor Robert Ames), it sounds perfectly natural. “Átta,” available in a double LP set (meant to be spun at 45 RPM), is as gorgeous a musical statement as the cover art (a Pride banner set ablaze) is unsettling. Songs such as “Blóðberg,” “Gold,” “Mór,” “Andrá,” and “Fall,” do offer a kind of musical comfort in these difficult times.

Mouths of Babes is a notable queer duo. Comprised of Ingrid Elizabeth (of Coyote Grace fame) and Ty Greenstein (of Girlyman renown), the couple brings years of musical experience to this new project as you can hear on the new album “World Brand New” (mouthsofbabesmusic.com). A seamless blending of Ingrid’s Americana-oriented style with Ty’s pop-influenced sound, Mouths of Babes might be the most compelling queer duo since the Indigo Girls. The message of making the “world brand new” runs throughout the album, from the title track to politically meaningful numbers including “One For Me” and the dazzling “My Country.” “Jubilee” is the perfect name for the joyful, Cajun-fueled tune at the center of the album. Mouth of Babes’ cover of Holly Near’s “I Am Willing” (featuring Vicki Randle) is simply stunning.

Ragana is also a queer female duo (Maria and Nicole, who divide their time between Olympia, Washington, and the Bay Area), but



MouthsofBabes

on the polar opposite end of the spectrum from Mouths of Babes. Purveyors of pitch-black metal, Ragana serves up visceral metal sludge accompanied by vocal-chord bloodying shrieks. That said, the title cut of its new album “Desolation Flowers” (The Flenser), is described as “a hymn of gratitude for queer and trans ancestors, known or unknown, by blood or affinity, whose joy and survival make our lives possible, and whose memory inspires and helps us resist the tide of increasingly visible hatred and oppression.” How’s that for a statement? As Miss Jean Brodie herself said, “For those that like that sort of thing, that is the sort of thing they like.”



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GRAB MAGAZINE
Chicago's Monthly LGBTQ+ Publication

**LGBTQ LUNAR NEW YEAR
DINNER 2024
ASIANS AND FRIENDS
CHICAGO HOSTS 'YEAR OF
THE DRAG-ON' CELEBRATION
ON SAT FEB 24TH**



Taking a cross-dressing twist for the Year of the Dragon, members of Asians and Friends Chicago (AFC) will host a dinner-and-drag musical revue, celebrating the Year of the "Drag-on" and bringing together members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) community to recognize the start of the lunar calendar.

The dinner will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Pho Viet, 4941 N. Broadway in Chicago at 7 p.m. Highlighting the evening will be a raffle and special performances by AFC members based on the five dragon elements: fire, water, air, earth and metal.

"We're the only LGBTQ organization in the city that hosts a Chinese New Year event and we're happy to do so," said **Angel Abcede**, president, Board of Directors, for AFC. "Our members look forward to this annual gathering, which is known not just for the fine cuisine, but for our original, home-spun entertainment."

Tickets are \$45/presale (online until Wednesday, Feb. 21) and \$55 at the door. To purchase tickets, visit AFC's website at <http://afchicago.org>.

Since its founding in 1984, AFC has served the LGBTQ Asian community and its allies by offering members a social opportunity to celebrate Asian cultures and meet people of similar backgrounds and interests. AFC is a proud 2010-2011 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, a two-time winner for Best Organization in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade, hosts of IFCON 2016 Chicago and recipients of Chapter of the Year 2022 from the International Friendship Association.

**CHORUS QUEENS &
DRAG DREAMS UNITE: CGMC
PRESENTS LIPSTICK &
LYRICS: FORTY & FOXY - A
GLAMOROUS FEAST FOR THE
SENSES!**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024;
AND SATURDAY, MARCH 2**



The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus proudly presents Lipstick & Lyrics: Forty & Foxy, a dazzling, live-singing drag show that celebrates the sensuality and empowerment of middle age. Get ready to unleash your inner diva at the most sensational drag show of the year! This spectacular event is set to take the stage at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Saturday, February 24, 2024; Friday, March 1, 2024; and Saturday, March 2, 2024, with two performances each night at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM.

This drag extravaganza features 20 performers, including 18 fabulous queens, two charismatic kings, one special guest performer, and a squad of electrifying dancers. Forty & Foxy is a unique and exhilarating experience that combines the vocal talents of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus members with the glamor and charisma of their drag personas. This year's theme revolves around embracing and celebrating the sexiness that comes with turning 40.

The stage will sizzle with iconic hits, including a nod to the Queen of Disco with electrifying Donna Summer tunes. Audiences will be transported to the world of empowerment and self-discovery as the performers belt out "I'm Changing" and pay homage to the legendary Jimi Hendrix with a sultry rendition of "Foxy Lady."

CGMC Artistic Director **James Morehead** is at the helm of the show, rehearsing and getting the show ready for the stage. "I guarantee you will laugh, you will cheer and you might even tear up a little," said Morehead.

Tickets now available at cgmc.org/lnl

**CHICAGO CULTURAL
CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW
EXHIBITIONS FEATURING
ARTIST VICTORIA MARTINEZ**



The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and its partners are pleased to offer free arts programming throughout the historic Chicago Cultural Center this spring and summer. New exhibitions include Victoria Martinez: Braiding Histories, opening April 6; Images on which to build, 1970s-1990s, opening April 20; and Opening Passages: Artists Respond to Chicago and Paris, opening May 4, 2024.

Continuing art exhibitions include A Long Walk Home's Freedom Square: The Black Girlhood Altar, through March 10; Surviving the Long Wars: Transformative Threads, through December 8, 2024; and Great Ideas of Humanity: One of a Series presented with the Design Museum of Chicago.

Additional highlights include a Spring Open House on April 11 from 4-8pm; a free "Under the Dome" concert on April 18 featuring Rudy De Anda; Dance Residency open studios on more than a dozen dates; film industry programs and screenings; tours; talks; shopping at the Buddy store; and more.

Completed in 1897 as Chicago's first central library, the Chicago Cultural Center serves as a cultural hub for Chicagoans and visitors year-round with free arts programming, breathtaking architecture, and tours.

For more information visit ChicagoCulturalCenter.org



GAYVN AWARDS
LAS VEGAS, NV JANUARY 25TH
Photos By Ken Brown



**GINGER MINJ PRESENTS
THE BIG GAY CABARET AT
VENUS CABARET THEATER,
INCLUDING PERFORMANCES
BY JAI RODRIGUEZ, TINA
BURNER, MIZ CRACKER, AND
DANNY FRANZESE
SERIES BEGINS
MARCH 15, 2024**



Ginger Minj, star of "RuPaul's Drag Race" and "Hocus Pocus 2," together with the team that brought Golden Gals Live! to Chicago, present The Big Gay Cabaret at Venus Cabaret Theater at Mercury Theater Chicago, 3745 N. Southport. The Big Gay Cabaret is a monthly series, starting the weekend of March 15, 2024 at Venus Cabaret Theater, located at 3745 N. Southport Ave.

Tickets are available at www.mercurytheaterchicago.com or www.biggaycabaret.com.

**MUSIC THEATER WORKS
ANNOUNCES THE CAST AND
CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE
25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM
COUNTY SPELLING BEE,
MARCH 7 - 31, AT THE NORTH
SHORE CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS IN
SKOKIE**



Music Theater Works has announced the cast and creative team for the first production of its 2024 season, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, in the Center Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, March 7 - 31.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, conceived by Rebecca Feldman, additional material by Jay Reiss, music and lyrics by William Finn and book by Rachel Sheinkin, is directed and choreographed by

Christopher Pazdernik, assistant directed and choreographed by Keely Vasquez and music directed by Michael McBride. The schedule includes a preview performance Thursday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. with a press opening Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. The performance schedule is Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 16 at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The two performances: Saturday, March 23 and March 27 at 7:30 p.m., are for guests 18 years old and above as words spelled will be of an adult nature and may not be suitable for children.

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has won the hearts of theatergoers across the country with its mix of wit, wills, and audience participation. Join this group of unique and dedicated students as they compete for the spelling bee championship that celebrates the pursuit of the ultimate prize while finding the joy of being oneself.

Tickets are now on sale from \$39 to \$106 with tickets for guests 25 years old and younger available at half-price at MusicTheaterWorks.com or by calling the Music Theater Works box office at the North Shore Center, 847.673.6300.

**ABOUT FACE THEATRE TO
PRODUCE THE MIDWEST
PREMIERE OF "THE
BRIGHTEST THING IN THE
WORLD" MARCH 14
THROUGH APRIL 13TH**



About Face Theatre continues its 29th season with the Midwest premiere of *The Brightest Thing in the World* by Leah Nanako Winkler, directed by AFT Artistic Associate Keira Fromm. The show will run March 14 through April 13, 2024, at The Den Theatre, 1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago.

The Brightest Thing in the World starts as a bubbling romantic comedy between barista Lane and

her regular Steph, charting their growing relationship as they encounter real-world challenges like teen pregnancy, parenting, and addiction. This play is a celebration of love, family, and the people in our lives who shine the brightest.

All performances will take place at The Den Theatre, 1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago

Charmingly free-spirited barista Lane is determined to win over her new regular, the reserved and intellectual Steph. Delightful romantic comedy ensues with poetry, homemade desserts, and sparks flying. But both women are carrying life-changing secrets involving addiction, past relationships, and family. What happens when the giddy romance wears off and Lane and Steph must do the work of building a lasting relationship out of honesty, compassion, and courage? The Brightest Thing in the World is a funny, heartfelt new play delving into the people we think we know and the people we know we love.

Tickets are on sale now online at AboutFaceTheatre.com, by calling 773.697.3830, or in-person at The Den Theatre box office.

**The Next Issue of
GRAB hits the
streets and online
Tuesday March
19th, 2024**



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Centerstage Spring Events

Chicago Tap Theatre

Saturday, February 10, 2024 • 7PM

Chicago Tap Theatre is a vibrant dance company with a unique mission to preserve the quintessentially American dance form of tap and take it to the next level of creativity and innovation. Bridging the gap between tap and other forms of concert dance, CTT has performed at the Jazz Dance World Festival, the New York Musical Theatre Festival and Lollapalooza.

CTT's recent 20th anniversary show was selected by the Chicago Tribune as one of the Top Ten Dance Shows in 2023.



Bachelors of Broadway

Saturday, March 16, 2024 • 7PM

Take a trio of dashing men, with soaring melodies from stage and screen, and refine the sound with contemporary three-part vocal harmony – you've got a ticket to **Bachelors of Broadway: Gentlemen of the Theatre**. Thrilling voices and exciting new arrangements of theatrical music both fresh and familiar come together with songs from "Wicked," "Phantom of the Opera," "Jersey Boys," "Hamilton," "Les Misérables" and more. See why **Bachelors of Broadway** generates standing ovations from audiences young and old worldwide.

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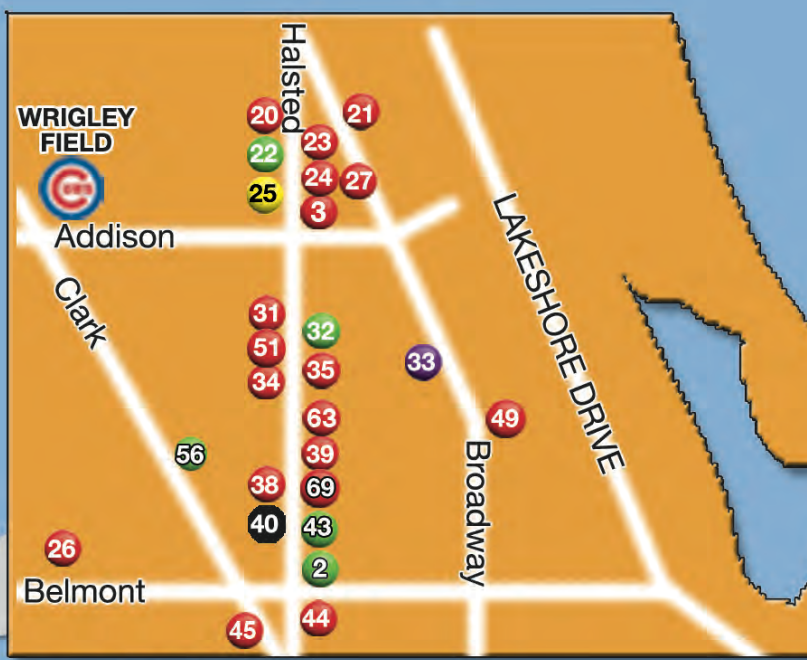
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