ADAM LEVINE
Maroon 5’s Frontman

MODERN MAN
Jesse Tyler Ferguson

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5  My Musical Journey
   Publisher’s Column

7  Modern Man
   Jesse Tyler Ferguson

9  All Over Adam Levine
   Maroon 5 frontman on New Album, and being so cool with the Queers

10 Canadian Champs
    Tokyo Police Club Shows that Hard Work Pays Off

12 The Return of Cho
    Favorite Fag Hag Back with New Album and Tour

14 Patrick Masse
    Country Music for Our Community

15 Dancing Queens
    Tell Your Mother - Mamma Mia is Back!

16 Lady Gaga in Concert
    Glam Diva takes Edmonton to the Monster Ball

17 Directory and Events

24 2010 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life
    Calgary and Edmonton Pick Up the Challenge

24 The Great Canadian Hair Do
    Continuing the Legacy of a Canadian Icon

25 Rhino in the Room
    Lethbridge Hosts Second Annual International Queer Film Fest

26 Ignorance Binds Education
    The Effects of Bill 44

27 Q Scopes
    “You’re too sexy for your own good, Pisces!”

28 Deep Inside Hollywood
    Rosie’s TV alliance with Oprah

29 Cocktail Chatter
    Oh, Mary? Meet My Family! and How’d Ya Like a Nice Planter’s Punch?
Continued From Previous Page

30 Out of Town
Cruising and Touring Alaska - A Primer on Gay Travel in America’s Last Frontier

32 Fundraising Photos

34 Adult Film Review
Laid Off, Stag Candy

40 Calgary Communities against Sexual Abuse
Reaching Out to the LGBTQ Community

42 Calgary Artists for life
A First Annual AIDS Fundraising Gala

43 A Couple of Guys

44 Bitter Girl

46 Queeries
I’m not stalking him, but…

47 Letters to the Editor

48 Classified Ads

50 Chelsea Boys

51 Music Review
Margaret Cho, Lady Gaga

52 Leather and Feathers
Gay N’awlins Gets Decked Out for Southern Decadence

54 Heterophobia
Beyond Closed Doors kicks off Pride Week

56 Queer Eye

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GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine #83, September 2010
My Musical Journey
Publisher’s Column

By Rob Diaz-Marino, MSc

Music is a huge part of my life, as I’m sure it is for many people. Though for something so important, it seems too easy to take it for granted.

It is something so engrained in the human psyche, like a precursor to language, that we seem to understand naturally and can affect us so deeply. Even without lyrics, the sounds can evoke emotions, memories, tell stories, and inspire us to harmonize physically with the pace and motion.

I recall telling part of this story in another column, however when I think back to my childhood, I don’t remember anything of buying music. My parents already had a substantial collection of cassette tapes, origin unknown to me, and anything new was borrowed from the library. As I randomly went through their collection, I would occasionally gravitate to particular songs I liked of just about any style: marching band themes, 60’s crooner songs, James Last, and Michael Jackson. I also stumbled across a fair amount of classical music, and ended up listening to a handful of those artists who would sound pretentious to list. After that, I specifically remember going crazy for an album called “Switched On Bach” which had some of his pieces retooled for electronic instruments. Then when we got our first CD player, “80 Spectacular Sound Effects” was the big fascination for me.

I do remember the kids on my street would get all excited when their parents bought them the latest New Kids on the Block album, or KLF, or Salt N Pepa since “Let’s Talk About Sex” was so taboo for our age. But I never went home and asked my parents to buy me that music. I was happy with what I had, and while I would oblige to listen to those songs with my friends, that was as far as it went.

After I got my first video game console, a Nintendo Entertainment System (NES), I started to really enjoy the simplistic background music from the games I played. I began tape recording a cycle or two of each unique song for me to listen to later. This became a fun tradition for me, even as I moved on to the more sophisticated Super NES. I would rent new games to play over the weekends, and record the music as I went along.

Soon after my household began subscribing for dial-up internet service, I discovered MIDI songs. Because of low bandwidth capabilities, MIDI was the ideal method of storing and transmitting music at the time. The file format contained the structure of the song without the actual sounds, so it was the responsibility of the computer that played back the MIDI song, to synthesize the instruments. So the first music-related thing I started asking my parents to buy for me was newer sound hardware to make the MIDI songs sound better.

Then at some point it occurred to me to ask for software so that I could create MIDI songs of my own. This wasn’t the standard thing you could find in a department store, so we searched and searched until we found something at a music store. It wasn’t cheap, but I got the entry-level Cubasis for my birthday, and throughout Junior High, High School and University, I lived with this program open on my home computer.

It’s a little known fact in my social circles today that I dallied in composing. To this day I still can’t play an instrument or even read sheet music - yet with that program I began sequencing my own original songs. I started a website and built a substantial fan base, met a whole bunch of amazing people that provided me with support and encouragement for what I was doing. I competed in a yearlong online MIDI competition with people from around the world, and came out in first place. Before I left High School I bought a collection of professional-quality sound samples to record my music, and produced 3 albums. I tried to sell them, but I discovered I cared more about people hearing and enjoying what I had produced; forcing them to pay for a physical copy was just a roadblock that turned people away.

This wave of inspiration began to peter out when I found my ability to conceive of songs had moved beyond my technical ability to produce them. My concentration shifted to other areas. The people who had supported me continued trying to expose me to new music with the hopes of inspiring me to compose again. My mom’s influence got me interested in a new age composer by the name of David Arkenstone, and yes, I did finally start buying his albums. But I was left in a state where I was completely isolated and unaware of mainstream music.

Then I started writing for this magazine, taking over the music review column and getting exposed to all sorts of new mainstream music. I’m still often stumped when it comes to knowing who a lot of bands are, but along the way I’ve discovered songs in all sorts of genres that bring me immense joy. These keep me company on my long drives to and from Edmonton, and when I’m concentrating on intense tasks in my daily work. I would miss not having them to listen to.

Yet in those times when I feel like I’m losing my sense of self in my busy life, I will go back and listen to my own songs. They bring me back to the mindset of my younger self, and that helps remind me of who I am and where I come from. Even though my music is probably long forgotten by others, I’m still glad that I created it. Those pieces still carry great meaning for me – it’s like I put my dreams in a bottle so that they could never evaporate.

The Winds of Change, Part 4

Things are finally starting to calm down in this community shakeup that’s been happening the past few months. As planned, the Junction opened on August 13th, bringing Edmonton’s bar count up to 6; then the following day both Prism and PLAY had their closing nights, bringing it right back down to 4.

While the new owners are still working out some of the kinks as they go along, the community’s response to the Junction continues to be phenomenal. Already, numerous events at different ends of the community spectrum have been held in the space - more on that in the next section.

September 2010

Last month we ran an article about the new LGBT African group at the Pride Centre of Edmonton, however there was some confusion about how the group was structured. While Frederick’s is the unofficial leader, we neglected to credit the involvement of Jeff Bovee, Hairs, Gerard, and the two Moses’ too!

The night after Junction’s opening party was the bi-monthly BEEF BearBash, where organizers were relieved to have the old space back for their dance.

Continued on Page 35
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Modern Man
Jesse Tyler Ferguson

By Chris Azzopardi

First kisses are always a big deal, and clearly that's been true for two Modern Family fathers. The ABC sitcom hit a home run during its debut season last year, garnering critical kudos, healthy ratings and Emmy love for its funny family romp. But the gay parents, Cameron and Mitchell (played respectively by Eric Stonestreet and Jesse Tyler Ferguson), have yet to reach first base.

The lack of lip action prompted frustrated fans to launch a kiss-pushing Facebook campaign, but Ferguson, who plays the series' uptight lawyer, assures us it's finally happening this season, premiering Sept. 22. Ferguson, on the way to the Modern Family set in L.A., also chatted about risking his career for this role, Nathan Lane's crazy-and-queer parties, whether there will be a Cam-Mitchell marriage and how the sitcom changed his life.

GayCalgary: What's it like to be back on the Modern Family set?

Jesse: You know, honestly, there hasn't been a job that I've enjoyed more than this. It really does feel like a family reunion every time we get back together.

GayCalgary: How has the show changed your life?

Jesse: I have no anonymity anymore. It's funny, because when I did The Class, (director) James Burrows said to the cast, “You have to say goodbye to your anonymity. It's going to be different. I saw this happen with Will & Grace and Friends.” We were kind of terrified, actually. And then the show got canceled, and my anonymity stayed fairly intact. So I'm now experiencing that.

GayCalgary: You're single – has it helped in the dating department?

Jesse: (Laughs) It's actually been harder! I have a lot of people who I think are hitting on me, but then it ends up that they just want to be friends. It's just hard to tell people's intentions.

GayCalgary: Who'd be your type: Cam or Mitchell?

Jesse: Oh gosh! It seems wrong to say Mitchell, but I definitely like Cam. He'd be a lot of fun to date, actually. If I could find an Eric Stonestreet-type who wants to date me, that could be great.

GayCalgary: Too bad Eric's straight.

Jesse: Too bad, but it's been nice test-running that chemistry with him.

GayCalgary: Modern Family has become a monster hit among gay audiences, even picking up GLSEN and GLAAD honors. How do you feel that the show has been a positive influence for gay and lesbian people, especially parents?

Jesse: Gosh, I mean it's really hit very close to home because I have parents who also found it challenging at times. I have a gay sibling as well, and it's been hard for my parents, so I think it's been really helpful for them to see their son, not just on TV in a gay relationship, but able to be more open and out in the community in real life as well.

There are a lot of great TV shows that are just sort of putting it out there. They're not “gay” characters; they're just great characters who happen to be gay, just operating among society like they do in real life. It's really great for families who maybe have a challenging time with that. I wish there was a reference point like Modern Family or Glee to show my parents when I was a kid – and to reassure me as well.

GayCalgary: Your parents, particularly your father, had a hard time with your sexuality, as you noted in Out Magazine. What was it like for them – and him, especially – to see you on the cover of Out?

Jesse: It was challenging for him, but also really exciting. He was sort of confused because I made reference to the Jonas Brothers and having crushes on all of them. It means what it says! They're handsome men!

He's a funny little guy. He hasn't grown up in the entertainment industry, so with my Emmy Award nomination (for Outstanding Supporting Role in a Comedy Series), he asked, “How does that come to be?” It needs to be broken down for him, and that's OK. I'm willing to take those steps with him.

GayCalgary: The Cam-Mitchell kiss is a hot topic lately. When will it happen? And is there really a wedding in the works?

Jesse: First of all, with the kiss thing, it's been built up to a kissing episode – and I have to say, it's not going to be an episode about kissing. (Glee creator) Ryan Murphy criticized us, saying that it shouldn't be this big thing, and he sort of didn't have his facts right because it's not going to be this big thing. The Facebook campaign and all these people rabidly excited about the kiss are what's made it a big thing.

There's a big PDA episode that deals with public displays of affection in general, but the kiss might not even be a part of that episode. We're trying to integrate it in a way that's just very natural.

And with the gay marriage, we were just so excited about Proposition 8, but we certainly don't have a wedding episode planned. We hope to be on the air for a very long time, so we don't want to put all the eggs in Season 2's basket and then not have any stories to tell.
Sunday, Sept 12, Eau Claire Market
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All Over Adam Levine
Maroon 5 frontman on New Album, and being so cool with the Queers

Adam Levine knows a little teasing goes a long way. That’s why the Maroon 5 superstud – who’s fronted the funky pop-rock band since its Grammy-winning debut, Songs About Jane, dropped eight years ago – is up for talking gay porn and solving problems in bed. Sex, though, is customary for the group – after all, they named their third album Hands All Over. And put a bare-naked babe on the cover.

That’s just the line Levine, 31, likes to cross, as he tells us. The gay-friendly guy also discussed his hotness eclipsing the band’s music, being domineering, his new fashion venture and freaking out uptight Americans.

GayCalgary: Your first gay interview was with The Advocate, right?
Levine: Yes. Was that a gay interview? It’s so funny – a “gay interview.”
GayCalgary: Before that, did you know you had a big gay following?
Levine: If you have a big following, a certain percentage of your big following must be gay – which, of course, I embrace with open arms.
GayCalgary: What’s the significance of the title, Hands All Over?
Levine: An album title is almost meaningless – the ring of what you’re saying and the combination of words is what really matters. Naming an album is a very weird process; it doesn’t exactly have to mean anything. It just has to feel good.
GayCalgary: This one definitely leaves room for interpretation. It could be sexual, or it could simply mean that you have your hands in every musical genre – rock, country, pop, soul. There’s even a disco sound on some of the songs. Is that what you were going for?
Levine: Yeah, there’s definitely a sound that is ours, and there’s definitely a little bit of ’70s in what we do sometimes. You could say funk, maybe chic.

“Never Gonna Leave This Bed” left me wondering: Do you solve all your problems in bed?
(Laughs) That is certainly not a bad place to solve your problems! I also liked the double meaning there, because “Never Gonna Leave This Bed” could sound like you’re really depressed and you just want to sit and eat Ho Hos and be a slob and also, a place you can escape to with someone you care about.

GayCalgary: In the “Misery” video, you seem to be enjoying those beatings a little too much. Is aggression a turn-on for you?
Levine: Not really, actually. I mean, aggressive, yes. I like to be in control. I don’t want to be dominated or anything like that – definitely not to the extent in the video. Getting the shit beaten out of me is not my thing.

GayCalgary: Not even in bed?
Levine: In bed? No, no, no. I don’t like any kind of real pain in bed. Maybe the illusion of pain.

GayCalgary: Do you feel like your looks overshadow your music?
Levine: I definitely think it overshadows our music. It doesn’t bother me, but one really doesn’t have anything to do with the other. And that’s all I can really say.

As flattering as it is to be considered attractive by anybody – which it is, it really is – it doesn’t really make me feel good when people judge what we do based on that. It’s just really silly because our music became successful on its own merit.

GayCalgary: Is the band ever envious of you being … you?
Levine: No, I don’t think so. They’re not the types who want it.

GayCalgary: I’ve heard that after this album you might disband? And then what? Do gay porn?
Levine: I’d have to be in a real low place to do that because, unfortunately, as much as I love the gays, I am not one of them (laughs). But if we stop selling records, who knows? What were we talking about, other than gay porn?

GayCalgary: Will the band still be around after this album?
Levine: I don’t think that the band’s going anywhere. I just say that to fuck with people. And I’m sure that they have no desire to go solo. I may do things on my own and experiment with different people and try different things with different artists. I’ll always do collaborations, but I don’t want to be a solo artist.

If I were ever going to do something, maybe I’d start another band. But I’m not interested in it just being me – “Hey, look! It’s me, Adam Levine! And here’s my album!” It’s super uncool. I’d much rather be in a band. And I think I’m going to be in this one for a long time.

GayCalgary: Why are you more comfortable around gay men than most straight guys seem to be?
Life as a rock star isn’t always glamorous. Tokyo Police Club singer/bassist Dave Monks, on the line from Minneapolis, was having issues finding a decent lunch. “I just spent an hour walking around trying to get a salad with some real vegetables in it. Some spinach and avocado, not just iceberg lettuce with mayonnaise. It is impossible. It means another day of dealing with not the greatest nutrition,” he said.

The road has been the home for Monks, along with guitarist Josh Hook, keyboardist Graham Wright and drummer Greg Alsop, since they formed in 2005. In addition to their own headline shows, they have performed at world-renowned festivals like Coachella, Lollapalooza, Glastonbury, Reading and Leeds, Roskilde and Rock am Ring. They’ve been on shows that included heavyweights like Metallica and Faith No More, and opened for Weezer on their tour.

“Festival Lineups are really crazy. We just played Outside Lands in San Francisco. Right before, on stage was Levon Helm, the drummer of The Band, and next on stage were Cat Power and The Strokes. We played a festival in Belgium and on the main stage Metallica was playing and half a kilometer away we were playing at the same time. Our tent was packed but you could hear them faintly in the distance and see their huge video screens. It was kind of funny to be playing against Metallica. You could hear them faintly in the distance and see their huge video screens. It was kind of funny to be playing against Metallica. But at a festival, for every metal fan, there would be a fan of something else.”

They’ve also appeared multiple times on the David Letterman show.

“We have done Letterman three times now. Going back the last time it wasn’t a weird, nervous experience we were pretty us. People said it was good to have us back, it was cool.”

It is a testament to their hard work and constant touring that has brought the band international success. A lot of Canadian “indy” bands still have day jobs, but not Tokyo Police Club.

“I only know one experience, which is ours. I feel like the Canadian music scene feels different from place to place. Looking back in a broad sense, when we were putting out our first EP and record it felt like the reward of a lot of hard work that paid off. Now, the more I look back at it, it was 50% hard work and 50% luck. We are really lucky that so many serendipitous things happened to get to the place where we are a sustainable band. It is hard to appreciate that when you are in the moment, but it is cool to realize it now.”

They have brought their experiences from touring the world with 2008’s Elephant Shell into their new album Champ, released in June.
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The Return of Cho
Favorite Fag Hag Back with New Album and Tour

By Jason Clevett

It’s album release day, and Margaret Cho has a full day of interviews promoting Cho Dependant, her comedy album. Months of work with artists like Ani DiFranco, Fiona Apple, Andrew Bird and Calgary’s own Tegan and Sara, have come to fruition.

“It is a great album. ...I am really proud of it. I am so glad it is finally out there. It took a long time and was a lot of work but I am really excited about it. Comedians really are obsessed with music. A lot of rock stars want to be comics and a lot of comics want to be rock stars; it is a common exchange. I have made a lot of friendships within comedy and rock. There is a lot of song writing that has a lot of humor in it - guys like Morrissey, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Elvis Costello - their stuff is very funny sometimes. In terms of composing, that is where I needed the help and reached out to so many great musicians. The lyrics came pretty naturally to me as a comic.”

The album has already spawned two videos: I’m Sorry and Eat Shit and Die. As someone who has guest starred in many music videos herself, doing them was one of the aspects of the album that Cho was most excited about.

“Both videos were directed by Liam Sullivan (Kelly of Shoes fame), a wonderful, creative, hilarious guy that I have worked with a lot in the past. He is a really great film maker. We made these videos together. I loved doing I’m Sorry with Andrew Bird because he is such a serious guy but a hilarious performer. He was funny as a corpse in this Weekend at Bernies inspired video. My husband made the turd costumes for Eat Shit and Die, they are really works of art, incredible.”

Cho is back on the road in support of the album, which brings her to Calgary October 1st and Edmundstown October 2nd. The tour will feature her trademark stand-up and a few numbers from the album.

“I’ve been doing some shows in Provincetown unofficially and started in Portland, Seattle and Vancouver. I expect it to go beautifully, I am really excited and can’t wait to get out there. It will be new jokes, stories, new things. I’ve been living in Atlanta for the last six months so I am excited to get out there and do jokes and new material. There will be a couple of songs in there too. The songs will depend on my mood, but I’d like to do I’m Sorry, Your Dick and My Puss, and other than that we will see.”

Her comedic style is in sharp contrast to the likes of Lisa Lampanelli, who also comes to Alberta in October. This is part of why her fans really connect with her.

“I don’t really have a mean sense of humor. My humor is very inclusive and about being together as opposed to attacking. There are legitimate things about different comedic forms but I come from it with a compassionate level. I love being able to go out and connect with people and do shows live, to meet people. A lot of people have been coming to see me year after year which is really tremendous. I am excited to see everyone again.”

See everyone except for me, that is. The tour dates were announced after I’d already booked a vacation to San Francisco which means I unfortunately will not get to laugh my ass off with the rest of Calgary on October 1st.

“You’ll have fun,” she said. “I promise I’ll come back to Calgary again.”

Margaret Cho
Cho Dependant available now

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Country music is traditionally not a genre in which you’d expect a gay man or a lesbian to flourish. Yes, k.d. lang and more recently, Mary Chapin Carpenter have come out. Unfortunately, there hasn’t yet been an openly gay male Country singer, and Calgary singer/songwriter Patrick Masse hopes to change that.

Patrick grew up in a household where music was always played and enjoyed. “We listened to a lot of music growing up...a lot of country but we listened to a lot of things like the Mommas and the Poppas and the Eagles.” This music background made him a big fan of artists like Merle Haggard, The Oak Ridge Boys, Don Williams, Alabama, The Judds, and fellow Canadian Anne Murray.

The influence of an older, traditional style of Country music is evident from listening to his newest album, Mend the Man. While I’m not a Country fan, I still found songs like Everybody Likes to be Loved and Something’s Telling Me - to be enjoyable and fun. For instance, I can see them drawing a lot of people to the dance floor at an ARGRA dance. Patrick told me the album – which he co-produced – was kind of a personal journey for him. He says he learned a lot about himself and a lot of what he wanted out of life.

This album is notable as well because it’s not your typical pop-culture Country presented by shiny young male and female divas, which is so popular state-side. Granted, the Canadian and international audiences are very different. Patrick tells us, “in the United States if you’re not in the pocket for what the sound is for that genre, it’s really tough.” Outside of the US, Country/Western music has become so popular, and different sub-genres have evolved under its umbrella. “Country is such a melting pot of so many different music [styles] now. To say you’re country – what does that mean?”

Country Music for Our Community

By Evan Kayne

Patrick Masse

Country music is traditionally not a genre in which you’d expect a gay man or a lesbian to flourish. Yes, k.d. lang and more recently, Mary Chapin Carpenter have come out. Unfortunately, there hasn’t yet been an openly gay male Country singer, and Calgary singer/songwriter Patrick Masse hopes to change that.

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For proof, see how people line up at Folk festivals to see Country artists like Sylvia and Ian Tyson, Stompin’ Tom Conners, and Kris Kristofferson. Patrick believes that says more of the hunger for Canadians to enjoy the whole range. “Especially in Canada, we’re so lucky as artists, as there is such a major opportunity for all kinds of music.”

Like most other music genres, Country is facing massive changes due to the impact of the internet and the newer distribution streams available. Patrick admits the internet is both good and bad, but as an artist it allows for more direct ownership of your music. “There’s a lot more artists like me who have their own corporations and labels.” For musicians, working in this newer media is a bonus to add to their artistic resume; when the larger labels consider you, they want to see an artist actively promoting themselves. “It’s kind of a really cool time for artists because we really have control over our careers, and we can decide what we want and don’t want to do.” Patrick has been fortunate in that his manager has tons of industry experience and has taught him to be the owner of his own artistic ventures and career.

Being the owner and operator of “Patrick Masse – Musician Inc.” allows him to get a better idea of who his audience is. Age-wise, he says it varies, although in the past it has predominately been women. More recently, since he started doing shows in the gay community, he sees a lot more male fans. Patrick is also discovering untapped markets – like the college scene, and places like Quebec and even Europe.

Listening to him speak, it becomes clear that his focus is on staying true to himself and remembering why he got into music as a career. This work ethic is probably why he decided to make his orientation a non-issue - that, and his admiration of country singers who have faced up to life’s challenges and come back stronger.

As for any issue regarding his sexuality, he knows he’s in a genre which isn’t the most open-minded. In this day and age, Patrick thinks the audience doesn’t care – as he puts it, “it’s not really something that people think about.” In the United States, he has done shows at country bar, and also at gay rodeos, and for him the paths don’t really cross. To a certain degree he feels artists such as Ellen Degeneres and (on the Country side) k.d. lang have paved the way for LGBT entertainers. “The bottom line is that people aren’t on the radio because of their orientation, they’re on the radio because they’re talented.”

His openness on his sexuality has been an gradual process, one he’s had years to consider. While he came out at age 19 in his personal life, it wasn’t until after 2000 he came to terms with it in his professional life. As for any detractors, Patrick feels, “if that’s the reason why people don’t want to come to my
This month marks the third time in five years that the ABBA musical Mamma Mia comes to Alberta, with stops in Calgary September 21st to 26th, and Edmonton September 28th to October 3rd. What is it about the fairly simple story of a young girl seeking her father on her wedding day, set to ABBA music, that keeps people coming back?

“It is fun, it is universal, if you have seen it you might want to bring your grandmother, or see it with your girlfriend with different people in different roles,” Alison Ewing, who plays Tanya, told GayCalgary & Edmonton Magazine. “To have it come back and see a different company do it is great. The music of ABBA is so timeless. 1974 is when they started writing all this great music and it still is not old after all that time. Still so fun and great to sing, like having a giant party. The familiarity with the music helps - everybody knows it. It is so nice to see a show and know the words by heart and sing along. Something, a memory, resonates in your mind with songs that really means something. You wouldn’t think any of it would make a plot but it works out really well.”

Ewing had just wrapped up a day of rehearsals in New York, where the new cast of the touring production has been working on perfecting the show. Her own journey to the role has been a decade in the making.

“I think everyone except for four people in the Ensemble are all new. They revamped the whole tour so it could travel faster and visit some cities it hasn’t been before. They’ve re-cast all of the leads. We are all just reworking the show so it is like starting a brand new play all over again. 10 years ago I was doing Cabaret in New York. I had a friend who had left the show and was doing the role of Tanya. She recommended I audition in Los Angeles as a dancer and the understudy of Tanya. I didn’t book it and was told I was too young. A few years ago Mamma Mia was to open in Vegas and I was living in California and drove out and re-audition. I auditioned for Donna and didn’t get the role. I wasn’t right for the part. It was a good thing I went to Vegas because when they were doing this casting they called me and wanted to see me in LA. I drove down from San Francisco. My third audition in ten years! It is funny to think that it took me growing into the right age and role, and the revamped tour [meant] I was finally the right [person]. I am really happy about that.”

Ewing is looking forward to visiting Western Canada for the first time.

“I love being on the road more than anything. I am very excited about Canada. I do love to explore and hike and run. I live in California and there aren’t a lot of fall leaves so I am looking forward to seeing them change. I have only been to Toronto once, so I am excited to go to other areas of Canada and see what it is all about. …I love hearing the different accents, seeing the different food, it is really exciting for me. Plus living in hotels, you don’t have to make your bed.”

The contrast between Tanya, the wealthy divorcé with multiple ex-husbands, and her own life is what makes the role fun, she says.

“In the film, the role was taken on by the incredible Christine Baranski. “She is such a famous person doing a role like that so well, there is a lot of pressure. But our director and choreographers are so good about beginning the building of your character from a natural place that feels good to you. …I am somewhere in the middle of a fully developed Tanya and confident I will make it my own. I am pulling character traits from many people including Christine Baranski.”

In fact, she may have had a few helpful hints in playing the role directly from the film and stage star.

“Does Your Mother Know, which is Tanya’s big number in the second act. I was just talking about Christine and how she had the number in the movie when she walked into our rehearsal room. She said I’m just doing a voiceover at a studio down the hall and I heard you singing and came in to… The男 cast of Mamma Mia

Continued on Page 35

GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine #83, September 2010 15
Lady Gaga in Concert
Glam Diva takes Edmonton to the Monster Ball

By Rob Diaz-Marino

Following an interesting opening performance by glam rock band Semi-Precious Weapons, I could sum up the Lady Gaga concert in Edmonton this past August in a two word phrase: fucking fabulous!

Perhaps I’m easily impressed as a not-so-avid concert goer, but I found the subtle differences in the songs from their album versions helped make the live performance truly unique, and the accompanying performances, though a little abstract at times, were totally mesmerizing. Even the enthusiasm from the audience was epic, with so many people in costume, both men and women.

The concert kicked off with a video presentation leading into Dance in the Dark. Lady Gaga made her first appearance as the large curved screen raised up to reveal the stage. She descended to ground level from a raised platform, along a staircase with banisters made of large syringes filled with red fluid. Sexy male and female dancers joined her as she went through some of her classics like Just Dance, Dirty Rich, and The Fame.

As the stage changed to a subway-car setting, Lady Gaga frames the concert as a narrative about the journey to the Monster Ball, where she (Mama Monster) wants to take all of her fans (the Little Monsters). My eyes popped when she talked about enlisting the help of her trusted friends – “the Edmonton Gays”!

Her messages to her fans in general were very positive and encouraging. “You’re all rock stars, and you were fucking born that way!” But she had special things to say to her fans and supporters from the LGBT community: thanking us for helping to make her music so popular; asking everyone to be themselves and not let anyone put them down; openly talking about the needless oppression of the LGBT community; and bringing attention to her charity of choice that helps get LGBT youth off the streets.

Another aspect that was bound to appeal to her gay male audience were the lean backup dancers. After singing about the infamous “disco stick” in Love Game she said, “Guys, get your dicks out. I hear they have some pretty big cock here in Canada.” They launched into Boys Boys Boys during which the male dancers bounced their junk around suggestively.

Of course the costumes, particularly Gaga’s, were over the top fashion statements with asymmetric curves and vivid colours. One dress had motorized spines on her head and shoulders that undulated and spread as she sung “So Happy I Could Die”.

At the midpoint of the show, a piano rose up from the stage for a minimalistic but poignant performance of Speechless. She revealed how the song was inspired by her drunken deadbeat dad, and that fact made me see the song in a whole different (teary-eyed) light. She followed this up with a special performance of “You and I”, a song yet to be released as part of her next album.

The final number really got me to sit up in my seat. The curtains rose on a dark stage, and as Gaga and several other dancers cautiously sidled to the centre walkway, something large started to move in the darkness. A set of giant eyes and a toothy mouth lit up, revealing a giant monster with tentacles! The sense of horror this creature inspired added a whole new dimension to Paparazzi.

After the beast was slain, the curtains closed and the house lights came up. Some people began leaving, but most of the crowd stayed put, looking on anxiously and cheering for more. Indeed, it felt like something was still missing. And then, quite abruptly the curtain rose again to reveal the Monster Ball, and an encore performance of Bad Romance. Despite the power of the sound system in Rexall Stadium, I could clearly hear the audience singing along at the top of their lungs – I was one of them.

The show came to an end but I was left feeling pumped, with a sense of wonder at all that I had seen. Fucking fabulous, as I said!

Set List

Find Out!
LGBT Community Directory

GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine is the go-to source for information about Alberta LGBT businesses and community groups—the most extensive and accurate resource of its kind! This print supplement contains a subset of active community groups and venues, with premium business listings of paid advertisers.

......Find our Magazine Here    ......Wheelchair Accessible

Spot something inaccurate or outdated? Want your business or organization listed? We welcome you to contact us!

403-543-6960    1-888-543-6960
magazine@gaycalgary.com

http://www.gaycalgary.com/CalgaryTravelRss
http://www.gaycalgary.com/EdmontonTravelRss
Local Bars, Restaurants, and Accommodations info on the go!

Browse our complete directory of over 540 gay-friendly listings!
## CALGARY EVENTS

**Mondays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>See Apollo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASK Meet and Greet</td>
<td>7-9:30 pm</td>
<td>See Alberta Society for Kink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Out Youth Group</td>
<td>7-9 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Outlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>World Free Studio (812 Edm. Tr NE) Jan→Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Show</td>
<td>8:30-9 pm</td>
<td>See “Yeah... What She Said!”</td>
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</tbody>
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**Tuesdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calgary Networking Club</td>
<td>5-7 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Outlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between Men</td>
<td>7-9 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Outlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehearsals</td>
<td>7-9:30 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Men’s Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karaoke</td>
<td>8pm-1am</td>
<td>At Texas Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholics Anonymous</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>See Hillhurst United Church (Gym Entrance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesdays**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communion Service</td>
<td>12:10 pm</td>
<td>See Knox United Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Healing Circle</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>See AIDS Calgary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wing Night</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>At FAB</td>
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**Thursdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesbian Seniors</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>See for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Night</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>At Calgary Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim Practice</td>
<td>6-7 pm</td>
<td>See Different Strokes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fake Mustache Show</td>
<td>7-9:45pm</td>
<td>See Miscellaneous Youth Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholics Anonymous</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>See Hillhurst United Church (Gym Entrance)</td>
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**Fridays**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leather Night</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>At Calgary Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ Fundraiser</td>
<td>5-9 pm</td>
<td>By ISCCA at Backlot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illusions</td>
<td>7-10 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Outlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Womynspaze</td>
<td>7-9 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Outlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Directions</td>
<td>7-9 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Outlink</td>
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**Saturdays**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beach Volleyball</td>
<td>7:30-9:30 pm</td>
<td>See Apollo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headlining</td>
<td>8-10 pm</td>
<td>See Calgary Outlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholics Anonymous</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>See Hillhurst United Church (Gym Entrance)</td>
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**Sundays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship Time</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>See Deer Park United Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Services</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>See Scarboro United Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ Social Sundays</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>At Calgary Eagle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directory & Events**

### Bathhouses/Saunas

- **Goliaths**
  - 308 - 1 Ave SW
  - 403-219-0911
  - www.goliaths.ca
  - Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

### Community Groups

- **AIDS Calgary**
  - 110, 1603 10th Avenue SW
  - 403-508-2500
  - info@aidscalgary.org
  - www.aidscalgary.org
- **Alberta Society for Kink**
  - 403-398-9968
  - abertassoc@skynet.com
  - http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/abertassoc
- **Apollo Calgary - Friends in Sports**
  - www.apollocalgary.com

A volunteer operated, non-profit organization serving primarily members of the LGBT communities but open to all members of all communities. Primary focus is to provide members with well-organized and fun sporting events and other activities.

- **Western Cap 29**
  - www.westcap29.com
  - North America’s largest LGBT sporting competition with over 400 athletes in up to seven different sports.
- **Badminton (Absolutely Smashing)**
  - badminton@apollocalgary.com
  - Will return in September 2010. Sign up on myapollo.org to receive updates.
- **Bowling (Rainbow Riders League)**
  - bowling@apollocalgary.com
  - Will return in September 2010. Sign up on myapollo.org to receive updates.
- **Curling**
  - curling@apollocalgary.com
  - Will return in September 2010. Sign up on myapollo.org to receive updates.
- **Golf**
  - golf@apollocalgary.com
  - Occasional rounds will occur during the summer of 2010 depending on weather and leaders. Sign up on myapollo.org to receive updates.
- **Lawn Bowling**
  - lawnbowling@apollocalgary.com
  - All Day - Calgary Outlink
- **Outdoor Pursuits**
  - outdoor@apollocalgary.com
  - If it’s done outdoors, we do it. Volunteer led events all summer and winter. Hiking, camping, biking, skiing, snow shoeing, etc. Sign up at myapollo.org to get updates on the sport you like. We’re always looking for people to lead events.
- **Running (Calgary Runners)**
  - YMCY Eau Claire (4th St, 1 Ave SW)
  - Calgaryrunners@shaw.ca
  - Both leagues will return in September 2010. Sign up on myapollo.org to receive updates.
- **Slow Pitch**
  - slowpitch@apollocalgary.com
  - Will be running Friday nights during the summer of 2010, location to be determined. Sign up on myapollo.org to receive immediate notice of start date and location.
- **Squash**
  - squash@apollocalgary.com
  - All skill levels welcome.

### Church Service

- **Calgary Outlink**
  - All Day
  - 5-7pm
  - See Calgary Outlink

### Montly Events

- **Monthly Dance**
  - 8pm
  - By ARGA
  - 1st Thu of every month
  - Calgary Outlink

### Other Events

- **AIDS Walk for Life**
  - 10am-7pm
  - By AIDS Calgary

### Website

- [www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org)

### Contact Information

- **Apollo Calgary**
  - 1235 8th Avenue SE
  - Lawnbowling@apollocalgary.com
  - Lawnbowling@apollocalgary.com
  -slow.pitch@apollocalgary.com
  -ball@apollocalgary.com
  -curling@apollocalgary.com
  -lawnbowling@apollocalgary.com
  -volleyball@apollocalgary.com
  -bowling@apollocalgary.com
Aims to let youth know they are not alone, and to connect them with their peers. Safe environment with a variety of resources and activities.

- **New Directions**
  Drop in peer-support group to provide support and resources for individuals who identify as transsexual or inter-sexed.

- **SHEQ Soothing Healing Ego Quest**
  Studio or Krisa, 403-585-7437
  Workshop for women—a chance to grow and share their experiences related to women’s sexuality. To participate, please call or leave your name and a contact time/number with Calgary Outlink.

- **Womenspace**
  Peer social/support group for women providing an evening of fun, bonding, discussion and activities.

- **Calgary Queer Book Club**
  77 Deerpoint Road SE
  http://www.dfp.ca

- **Diverse Strokes**
  http://www.diversestrokescalgary.org

- **Library**
  A great selection of resource books, fiction, non-fiction, videos and everything in between, all with a queer perspective.

- **Drop-In Center**
  A safe and supportive environment for one to one peer counseling for many issues surrounding family, friends, or anyone questioning their sexuality.

- **Calgary Outlink**
  403-269-8382
  http://www.calgaryoutlink.com
  A pro-choice organization that believes all people have the right and ability to make their own choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

- **Calgary Men’s Chorus**
  http://www.calgarymenschorus.org

- **Rehearsals**
  Temple B’Nai Tikvah, 900 - 47 Avenue SW
  403-220-6394

- **Calgary Sexual Health Centre**
  304, 301 14th Street NW
  403-283-5580
  http://www.calgarysexualhealth.ca
  A pre-choice organization that believes all people have the right and ability to make their own choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

- **Calgary Queer Book Club**
  Weeds Cafe (1903 20 Ave NW)

- **Deer Park United Church/Wholeness Centre**
  77 Deerpoint Road SE
  http://www.dfp.ca

- **Don’t Buy In Project**
  http://www.dontbuyin.ca
  A pro-choice organization that believes all people have the right and ability to make their own choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

- **Fair Tales Presentation Society**
  #4 - 1230 A 17th Avenue SW
  403-244-1956
  http://www.fairtalesfilmfest.com
  Alberta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

- **DVD Resource Library**
  Over a hundred titles to choose from. Annual membership is $10.

- **Gay Singles in Calgary**
  http://www.gaysinglesincalgary.org

- **Girl Friends**
  girlfriends@shaw.ca
  members.shaw.ca/girlfriends

- **GirlsTrove**
  http://www.girlstrrove.ca

- **GLBT Housing**
  http://www.glbthousing.ca

- **HIV Peer Support Group**
  403-230-5832
  hivpeergroup@yahoo.ca

- **ISCCA Social Association**
  http://www.iscca.ca
  Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch Charity fundraising group.

- **Knox United Church**
  #506 - 4th Street SW
  403-269-8382
  http://www.knoxunited.ab.ca
  Knox United Church is an all-inclusive church located in downtown Calgary. A variety of facility rentals are also available for meetings, events and concerts.

- **Library**
  A great selection of resource books, fiction, non-fiction, videos and everything in between, all with a queer perspective.

- **Drop-In Center**
  A safe and supportive environment for one to one peer counseling for many issues surrounding family, friends, or anyone questioning their sexuality.

- **Calgary Networking Club**
  #5 - North Tower, 520 - 17th Ave SW
  403-269-8382
  The networking meetings are open to all individuals who would like to promote their businesses or who would like to meet new people - no business affiliation is necessary.

- **Worship Services**
  10:30am in July and August.

- **Miscellaneous Youth Network**
  http://www.misycyouth.com

- **Fake Mustache**
  The Soda, 211 - 12th Ave SW
  Calgary’s ONLY Drag King Show. $5 cover, $2 cover under 18. Advance tickets available at Barbara Shop.

- **Myistique**
  mystiquescocialclub@yahoo.com
  Mystique is primarily a Lesbian group for women 30 and up but all are welcome.

- **Coffee Night**
  Second Cup (2312 - 4th Street SW)

- **NETWORKS**
  403-293-3356
  samplef@yahoo.net
  A social, cultural, and service organization for the mature minded and “Plus 40” LGBT individuals seeking to meet others at age-appropriate activities within a positive, safe environment.

- **Parents for Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**
  Sam, 403-695-5791
  http://www.pflagcanada.ca
  A registered charitable organization that provides support, education and resources to parents, families and individuals who have questions or concerns about sexual orientation or gender identity.

- **Positive Space Committee**
  4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
  403-440-6383
  http://www.mtnoyal.ca/positivespace
  Works to raise awareness and challenge the patterns of silence that continue to marginalize LGBT20 individuals.

- **Pride Calgary Planning Committee**
  403-797-4564
  http://www.pridecalgary.ca

- **Pride Rainbow Project**
  pp@planet-save.com
  http://www.pridenarrowproject.com
  Youth run project designed to show support for same-sex marriage in Canada and elsewhere. A fabric rainbow banner approximately 5 feet wide - goal is to make it 3.2km (2 miles long) in order to break the world record.

- **Primetimeers Calgary**
  primetimeerscalgary@gmail.com
  http://www.primetimeerscalgary.com
  Designed to foster social interaction for its members through a variety of social, educational and recreational activities. Open to all gay and bisexual men, as well as those who may be uncertain or questioning their sexuality.

- **Rocky Mountain Bears**
  134 Scarboro Avenue SW
  403-244-1161
  www.scarborounited.ab.ca
  An affirming congregation—the full inclusion of LGBT people is essential to our mission and purpose.

- **Sandpiper Community Services**
  403-272-2912
  sandpiper@nucleus.com
  http://www.thesandpiperfoundation.com

- **Unity Bowling**
  Let’s Bowl (2916 - 5th Ave NE)
  sundaynight@live.com

- **Urban Sex Radio Show**
  CJSW 90.9 FM
  http://www.cswm.com
  Focus on sexuality, gay bisexual lesbian trans gendered and straight issues here in Calgary and around the web.

- **Western Canada Bigmen and Admirers**
  groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternCanadaBigmenGroup/
  bigmen411@yahoo.com

- **Vigor Calgary**
  403-255-7084
  www.vigorgcalgary.com
  Violence in Gay Male Relationships (VIGOR) is a committee of professionals dedicated to increasing the awareness of gay men’s domestic violence and the services available to them.

- **Yeah...What She Said!” Radio Show**
  CJSW 90.9 FM
  yeahwhatsheaid@gmail.com

### Restaurants
- **Calgary Eagle Inc.**
  See Calgary - Bars and Clubs.

- **Club Saguen**
  1140 10th Ave SW
  403-457-4444
  http://www.clubssaguen.ca

- **FAB (formerly Money Pennies)**
  See Calgary - Bars and Clubs.

- **Halo Steak, Seafood & Wine Bar**
  13226 Macleod Trail SE
  403-271-4111
  www.halorestaurant.com

- **Village Bistro & Lounge**
  25, 610 8th Ave SE
  403-262-6342 ext 236

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**Directory & Events**

- **Rainbow Community Church**
  Hillhurst United, 1227 Kensington Close NW
  renaberry@shaw.ca
  http://www.rainbowcommunitychurch.ca
  The Rainbow Community Church is an all-inclusive church; everyone is welcome.

- **Rocky Mountain Bears**
  bearclaw@shaw.ca
  http://www.rockymountainbears.com

- **Safety Under the Rainbow**
  http://www.safetyinrainbow.ca
  Mission: To raise awareness and understanding of same-sex domestic violence and homophobic youth bullying.

- **Scardoo United Church**
  134 Scarboro Avenue SW
  403-244-1161
  www.scardooonline.ab.ca
  An affirming congregation—the full inclusion of LGBT people is essential to our mission and purpose.

- **Sharp Foundation**
  403-272-2912
  sharpfoundation@nucleus.com
  http://www.thesharpadfoundation.com

- **Uncle Bowie**
  Let’s Bowl (2916 - 5th Ave NE)
  sundaynight@live.com

- **Urban Sex Radio Show**
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  http://www.cswm.com
  Focus on sexuality, gay bisexual lesbian trans gendered and straight issues here in Calgary and around the web.

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  25, 610 8th Ave SE
  403-262-6342 ext 236

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**GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine #83, September 2010**

19
EDMONTON

Bars & Clubs

Buddy’s Nine Club
11725 Jasper Ave 780-488-6636

FLASH
10018 105 Street 780-999-8255

The Junction
10242 106th St 780-756-5667

PLAY Nightclub (closed)
10220 103rd St 780-497-7529

Prism Bar & Grill (closed)
10524 101st St 780-990-0038

Woody’s
11725 Jasper Ave 780-488-6657

Bathhouses/Saunas

Down Under Baths
12224 Jasper Ave 780-482-7960

Steamworks
11745 Jasper Ave 780-451-5554

Community Groups

Alberta Bears
www.bearbcal.org

Alfview-Strathcona County LGBTQ Group
#44, 48 Broomfield Blvd, Sherwood Park, AB
www.alfview.ca

Directory & Events

Free School provides workshops on a variety of topics related to local activism.
• Get Tested for STIs
Free STD testing for anyone interested. For more information please contact the Pride Centre.
• GLBT Seniors Drop-In
Main Space – Upstairs
tuff@shaw.ca
A social and support group for seniors of all genders and sexualities to talk, have tea and offer each other support.
• Men Talking with Pride
Main Space – Upstairsobwells780@hotmail.com
A social discussion group for gay, bisexual and transgendered men to discuss current issues and to offer support to each other.
• Men’s HIV Support Group
Green Room – Upstairs
huges@shaw.ca
Support group for people living with HIV/AIDS.
• PFLAG
Red Room - Downstairs
780-436-1998
edmontonbhp@pflagcanada.ca
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays: A support group for family members and friends of GLBT people. An excellent resource for people whose families and friends have just come out.
• Prime Timers
See Edmonton Primetimers.
• Suit Up and Show Up: AA Big Book Study
Downstair Guch Area
Discussion and support group for those struggling with an alcohol addiction or seeking support in staying sober.
• TTIQ
Green Room – Upstairs
admin@pridecentreofedmonton.org
TTIQ is mixed gender open support group addressing the needs of transsexual and transgendered individuals.
• Womanspace Board Meeting
Main Space – Upstairs
womenspace@hotmail.com
Womanspace is a Social and Recreational Society in Edmonton run by volunteers. They provide opportunities for lesbians to interact and support each other in a safe environment, and to contribute to the broader community.
• Youth Movie
Main Space – Upstairs
brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org
Movie chosen by youth (aged 14 – 25), usually with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served.

Looking for Something?
Search for more listings Online!
Post your listing for FREE!

www.gaycalgary.com/directory
EDMONTON EVENTS

Mondays
Boot Camp ☞ Team Edmonton 7-8pm
Men’s HIV Support Group ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 7-9pm
Curling ☞ Team Edmonton 7:15pm
Mixed Badminton ☞ Team Edmonton Jan 13 – End of May 8-10pm

Tuesdays
GLBT Seniors Drop-in ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 1-4pm
TTIQ ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 2-4pm
Youthspace ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 3-7pm
Community Potluck ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 7-9pm
Swimming ☞ Team Edmonton 7-9pm

Wednesdays
PFLAG ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 12:10pm
Youthspace ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 3-7pm

Fridays
Youth Sports/Recreation ☞ 4pm
Youth Understanding Youth ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 7-9pm
Youth Movie Night ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 6:30-8:30
Youth Volleyball ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 7-9pm

Restaurants
The Junction 10242 106th St 780-756-5667
Prism Bar & Grill Edmonton - Bars and Clubs 780-488-6557
Woody’s 11725 Jasper Ave 780-409-3333

GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine #83, September 2010

Directory & Events

AIDS Walk for Life ☞ Edmonton 10am-4pm

Wednesdays
PFLAG ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 12:10pm
Youthspace ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 3-7pm

Fridays
Youth Sports/Recreation ☞ 4pm
Youth Understanding Youth ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 7-9pm
Youth Movie Night ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 6:30-8:30
Youth Volleyball ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 7-9pm

Restaurants
The Junction 10242 106th St 780-756-5667
Prism Bar & Grill Edmonton - Bars and Clubs 780-488-6557
Woody’s 11725 Jasper Ave 780-409-3333

Legends: ☞ Monthly Recurrence, ☞ = Date (Range), ☞ = Sponsored Event

Outdoor Pursuits ☞ outdoorpursuits@teamedmonton.ca
Running (Arctic Frontrunners) ☞ running@teamedmonton.ca
All genders and levels of runners and walkers are invited to join this free activity.

Samsara Yoga ☞ Koezone Fitness, #203, 10575 – 115 Street 780-488-3234
yoga@pridecentreofedmonton.org

Slo Pitch ☞ Parkland Field, 111 st and 68 ave
Season fee is $30.00 per person. $10 discount for players from the 2008 season.

Snowball’s Ill ☞ February 5-7th, 2010
catsnpuppies@teamedmonton.ca
Skiing and Snowboarding Weekend.

Soccer ☞ soccers@teamedmonton.ca

Spin ☞ NaceWan Centre for Sport and Wellness 109 St. and 104 Ave
Wednesdays, 5-45-6:45pm
Season has ended.
spin@teamedmonton.ca
7 classes, $28.00 per registrant.

Swimming (Making Waves) ☞ NAT Pool
swimming@teamedmonton.ca

Tennis ☞ Kinsmen Sports Centre 7 Sundays, 12pm-3pm
tennis@teamedmonton.ca

Ultimate Frisbee ☞ Sundays Summer Season starts July 12th
ultimatefrisbee@teamedmonton.ca
E-mail if interested.

Volleyball, Free To Be Intermediate ☞ Amiskwacy Academy (101 Airport Road)
volleyball@teamedmonton.ca

Volleyball, Free To Be Recreational ☞ Mother Teresa School (9098 - 105 Ave)
recvolleyball@teamedmonton.ca
Outdoor season, Sundays, 3-5pm

Women’s Lacrosse ☞ Sharon: 780-461-0017
Pam: 780-436-7374
Open to women 21+, experienced or not, all are welcome.
Call for info.

Womonspace ☞ 780-482-1794
womspace@gmail.com
www.womspace.ca
Women’s social group, but all welcome at events.

Youth Understanding Youth ☞ 780-248-1971
www.yoyedm.ca
A support and social group for queer youth 12-25.

Youth Sports/Recreation ☞ 780-482-3234
brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org

Youth Movie Night ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 6:30-8:30
Youth Volleyball ☞ Pride Centre of Edmonton 7-9pm

Saturday, September 25th
Fall Dance ☞ Womonspace 9pm

Sunday, September 26th

Soul OUTing ☞ Second Sunday every month, 7pm
An LGBT-focused alternative worship.

Film Night ☞ Bi-monthly, contact us for exact dates.

Book Club ☞ Monthly, contact us for exact dates.

Same Gender Speed Dating Ltd. ☞ 780-221-8535
www.samesexualdating.com
An LGBT-focused alternative worship.

Gay Male Speed Dating ☞ Boston Pizza Private Party Room, Whyte Ave
TBA
Must pre-register to attend - please contact us.

Lesbian Speed Dating ☞ Boston Pizza Private Party Room, Whyte Ave
TBA
Must pre-register to attend - please contact us.

Theatre & Fine Arts

Exposure Festival ☞ http://www.exposurefestival.ca
Edmonton’s Queer Arts and Culture Festival.

The Ruby Theatre ☞ 10708 124th St, Edmonton AB 780-453-2440
www.theatronetwork.ca
## LETHBRIDGE EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 14th</td>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>9am-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 11th</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>9pm-2am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Community Groups**

- GALA/LA
- Mountain Pride
- Community Groups

**Events**

- Wednesday Coffee Nights
- Movie Night

**Contact Information**

- GALA/LA: 302 Buffalo St
- Mountain Pride: 302 Buffalo St
- Community Groups: 10113 - 103 Ave, T8V 1C2

**Website**

- www.galaletbridge.ca

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## BANFF/CANMORE

**Community Groups**

- Mountain Pride
- GALAP
- Community Groups

**Events**

- Friday Coffee Nights
- Movie Night

**Contact Information**

- Mountain Pride: BOX 4892, BANFF, AB, T1L 1G1
- GALAP: 10113 - 103 Ave, T8V 1C2
- Community Groups: 10113 - 103 Ave, T8V 1C2

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## GRANDE PRAIRIE

**Community Groups**

- GALAP
- Community Groups

**Events**

- Movie Night

**Contact Information**

- GALAP: 10113 - 103 Ave, T8V 1C2
- Community Groups: 10113 - 103 Ave, T8V 1C2

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## CANADA

**Community Groups**

- Alberta Trans Support/Activities Group
- Galap Grand Prairie

**Events**

- Movie Night

**Contact Information**

- Alberta Trans Support/Activities Group: www.albertatrans.org
- Galap Grand Prairie: lethbridgepridefest@gmail.com

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## FORT MCMURRAY EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 19th</td>
<td>AIDS Walk for Life</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Information**

- GALAP Grand Prairie: lethbridgepridefest@gmail.com

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## BANFF/CANMORE EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 13th</td>
<td>Queer Cinema</td>
<td>8pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Information**

- Queer Cinema: 302 Buffalo St

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## GRANDE PRAIRIE EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Coffee Night</td>
<td>7-9pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Information**

- Coffee Night: Moose Hall (1401 S Ave N)

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## RED DEER EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, August 14th</td>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>9am-5pm</td>
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**Contact Information**

- Hiking: Waterton National Park

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## ALBERTA EVENTS

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**Contact Information**

- AIDS Walk for Life: Fort McMurray

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## LETHBRIDGE EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 14th</td>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>9am-5pm</td>
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</table>

**Contact Information**

- Hiking: Waterton National Park

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## Theatre & Fine Arts

- **Alberta Ballet**
  - Website: http://www.albertaballet.com
  - Frequent productions in Calgary and Edmonton.

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**Website**

- Eventmaster Inc.: www.eventmasterinc.net
- YouthSafe: www.youthsafe.net
2010 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life
Calgary and Edmonton Pick Up the Challenge

By Dallas Barnes and Sam Casselman

Scotiabank, along with AIDS Calgary and HIV Edmonton, would love for you to participate in the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life on September 12th. According to 2008 United Nations statistics, there were 34.1 million individuals living with AIDS in the world. Globally the disease has taken the lives of 25 million people. It is imperative that a cure be found, and that individuals affected with AIDS and HIV are treated with the dignity they deserve. By participating in the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life, you can help, and also get some good exercise along the way.

The walk in Calgary is being held at Eau Claire starting at 11:30am with the Opening Ceremonies. Make sure to arrive at 10am to check in, and even if you are not participating in the walk, stop by to cheer on those that are. The walk will commence at noon, and wind down at 1pm with lunch and entertainment.

To register as a team or individually visit the AIDS Calgary website. There will be prizes for certain categories: Top Early Bird, Top Walker, Top Child, Top Youth, Top Corporate Team, and Top Non-Corporate Team.

Another way to participate is to volunteer for the event. There are still spots available, so make sure to check out the AIDS Calgary website for information.

Further north, Edmonton will similarly be hosting their Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life, at Churchill Square from 11am to 4pm. Registration also begins at 10am, followed by a Pancake Breakfast and a Pre-Walk Concert by Souljah Fyah. Opening Ceremonies commence at 12:30pm with a performance by Marni Gras, followed by the walk from 1-2:30pm. There will then be a post walk party from 2:30 to 4pm.

There is a special incentive for participants to raise more that $1000, as this qualifies them to become a member of the Extra Mile Club. This gains them access to an exclusive reception held on September 9th, entitles them to express registration on event day, and a gift certificate from Prana Holistic.

Joyce LaBriola of HIV Edmonton is also encouraging the public to join in. “This is the 19th annual walk in Edmonton. ...The top walker wins a trip to the AIDS Walk San Francisco. People can expect fun, and a family day of entertainment. Our goal is $90,000 in pledges.”

With an estimated 4000 individuals afflicted with HIV/AIDS in Alberta, the focus on raising money for AIDS Calgary and HIV Edmonton is crucial. Both Calgary and Edmonton’s events make this task a fun and fashionable community effort.

The Great Canadian Hair Do
Continuing the Legacy of a Canadian Icon

By Dallas Barnes and Sam Casselman

Almost 30 years ago, Canada lost one its most revered heroes. Terry Fox lost his battle to cancer only nine months after running 5373 kilometres in support of cancer research. While Canada may have lost a hero, it inspire a new mission that has since become a yearly ritual.

The Terry Fox Foundation presents The Great Canadian Hair Do, a nationwide challenge to the public to “do” what you can to raise funds prior to The Terry Fox Run on September 19th.

Kelsey Riecken of the Terry Fox Foundation is very excited about this project. “When Terry recognized that he would not be able to complete his Marathon, he instead bequeathed his mission to those very Canadian’s who kept him going day in and day out.”

It was Terry who saw the potential in his supporters, when he said, “When I ran through the Sparks Street Mall, the road was narrow yet people were running behind me and all these other people were lined up clapping for me. I was floating through the air and didn’t even feel a thing. I felt so great, that type of memory you can never take away.”

For those unfamiliar with the story of Terry Fox, a brief history is outlined on The Terry Fox Foundation’s website.

To date, close to $500 million has been raised worldwide for cancer research in Terry’s name through the annual Terry Fox Run, held across Canada and around the world. But running is not the only way to support his mission. The Great Canadian Hair Do offers other options.

“Don’t split hairs over this one,” says Riecken. “Shave participants can choose to lose their locks, beard, or moustache for pledges. Those of you with eight inches of untreated hair, consider having your long tresses made into wigs and hairpieces for those that have lost their hair to illness.”

She even encourages participants to collect pledges for waxing “down there,” wherever that may mean for you. “As an added bonus, it will be cooler in the summer without all that extra hair.”

It is easy to register your own Hair Do fundraiser. Simply visit the Terry Fox Foundation website for more information and tips on how to organize your own event.
From the humble beginnings of a roundtable meeting at a coffee shop, the group of seven that mulled over the possibility of hosting a queer film night in Lethbridge launched the first, and only, festival of its kind south of Calgary: the Rhino in the Room (RITR) International Queer Film Festival.

This year marks the second annual screening of the eclectic film fest that aims to give our often marginalized community a voice in a popular, and creative, media – movies and visual art.

“We have films from all over the place really, and they’re all so good,” says enthusiastic festival director, Britt Elder. “It was absolutely unbelievable watching them all. We added a matinee because nothing could be cut.”

Rhino in the Room opens Wednesday, September 15th with a panel discussion on queer representation in the media at the University of Lethbridge. It concludes with a wrap-up party Saturday, September 18th, with entertainment by the Brazen Hussies and Calgary’s Fake Mustache brigade.

Between these bookends, the festival will be screening 17 films at the Sterndale Bennett Theatre and at the U of L, from film producers spanning the globe.

“Filmmakers got a lot of positive feedback last year as [did the festival], and we’re excited to contribute again,” says Elder.

The origin of films screening this year come from as far away as Australia and New Zealand, France, and Germany; closer to home, California, and even the festival’s hometown, Lethbridge. Film budgets range just as vastly; from amateur works of love to pro reels. Rhino aims to encompass it all.

Tickets went on sale September 1st and, if you purchase in advance, the Pink Package is available at an affordable $25, granting you access to all of the films and associated events.

The Rhino is already taking submissions for next year’s festival. If you have a film, video, or other visual contribution that you feel would be of interest to the LGBTTQ community, visit their website for details. The deadline for submissions is May 1st, 2011, so you still have plenty of time to put forward your own film, or to invite a filmmaker from abroad to contribute.

In the meantime, for your enjoyment, you can attend this year’s festival in the windy city.
Politics

Ignorance Binds Education

The Effects of Bill 44

By Stephen Lock

Back in April 2009 I wrote a column about Bill 44 granting parents the right to disallow their children to be taught about religion, sexuality and sexual orientation if what was being taught contravened the parents’ own views.

In it I pointed out what we had here was a conflict of rights: The rights of parents to decide what values their offspring will be exposed to and the rights of non-Christian and GLBTQ folk to be not be demonized by allowing for open and honest discussion of, admittedly, sensitive topics in a classroom setting under, hopefully, the enlightened guidance of a teacher. I tried to strike a fair balance between the expressions of those often opposing rights.

However, those who take the position of supporting Bill 44, and therefore opposed to what they suspect will be an affirming approach to non-Christian religious beliefs, sexuality, and sexual orientation, appear to have fallen into the trap social conservatives always seem to fall into. Namely, pre-judging just what the curricula will be, and the effect it will have on their children.

As of September 1st, the start of the 2010/2011 school year, parents will have increased authority to remove their children from classes on religion, sexual orientation issues, and sexuality. On the surface, it would seem reasonable that parents would have such authority. These are, after all, their kids. However, if one examines all this a bit deeper it becomes clear, or so I would argue, that what is actually going on is that some (not all) the parents in favour of Bill 44 want to indoctrinate their children exclusively with their own set of values and are not at all willing to allow the child to be exposed to a wider interpretation of the issues, or be exposed to alternative ideas than what the parents themselves hold. It’s like the parents believe a child is a blank canvas upon which only they should be allowed to write, and that schools should restrict themselves to the Three R’s – Readin’, ‘Ritin’, and ‘Rithmetic. ’Schools are about preparing young minds for the world beyond, and that preparation must extend past the old style basics of grammar, literature, arithmetic and mathematics. Schools have a responsibility to instill critical thinking in the pupils for which they are responsible for 12 years. That involves exposure to new and, yes, sometimes challenging ideas, supplying the student with the tools to analyze those concepts and come to some sort of intelligent and thoughtful conclusion. What the child learns at home in regard to ethics and morals and values will also play a part in that analysis, as it should. What is learned in the home and what is learned in school should complement each other, even if what is being taught seems to be at odds or contradicting each other. Having a monolithic approach whereby what one learns in school is just what mom and dad teach at home is unrealistic and, quite honestly, serves no one any good.

One of the issues surrounding the introduction of Bill 44 and the so-called “Parental Rights” measure is what effect it will have on discussion in the classroom or upon teachers themselves. There is a valid concern that Bill 44 will have a chilling effect due to the option of parents going to the Alberta Human Rights Commission if they feel they were not properly notified about a particular lesson, and that the lesson contravened or was not in support of their own beliefs and values. Clearly what is not being taught is the fine art of irony. Social conservatives have long railed against the “quasi-judicial” powers of various human rights commissions, especially in cases where minorities have sued conservative or right wing individuals for discriminatory or prejudicial remarks. Quite often, although certainly not exclusively, it has been GLBTQ folk versus anti-gay right wing types or social conservative types. The conservative press (which of course constantly goes on and on about the “left-lib media bias” in Canada, which doesn’t exist with the possible exception of CBC) predictably has conniption fits over these ‘attacks’ against freedom of speech or how the rights of social conservatives are being trampled upon in the name of political correctness. Hooey!

In a reasonable world, of course, parents would not go trotting off to the human rights commission because little Johnny or little Susie heard about non-Christian expressions of faith, or learned about sexuality and sex (not the same thing, by the way; one is the expression and the other deals with the mechanics) or - gasp - learned that yes gay, lesbian, bisexual and even transsexual and trangendered people exist and, yes, such folk are all part of the continuum of human sexual and gender expression and are therefore quite normal.

By the same token, in a reasonable world GLBTQ people or those of other minorities would likewise not need to go trotting off to human rights commissions because, in a reasonable world, they would not be exposed to ignorant, hurtful, damaging, sometimes dangerous actions and comments from those who despise them. Unfortunately, we do not seem to live in a very reasonable world.

Ideally, and setting aside the whole issue of notification to begin with, if a parent had an issue over a particular class or the notification process of that class, he or she should attempt to resolve it directly with the child’s teacher. If that didn’t work, the next appropriate step - and one that was used by thousands and thousands of parents for many many decades - would be to go to the principal with their concerns. That usually resulted in some sort of accommodation or compromise.
that everyone could live with. If it didn’t, there was always the School Board, but that was often seen as a rather drastic step and used only in extreme cases. The world has changed and as part and parcel of the sense of entitlement that so many people seem to be infested with, the first step is too often to go to court or to some sort of tribunal, like a human rights commission.

It’s not like parental rights weren’t already pretty well protected. Schools are required to advise parents in advance of sex-education classes and parents have the option of withdrawing their child from that class.

It’s been a few decades since I attended public school and I remember when we had religious class (later it became “comparative religion” and not just Christian) and one or two kids were always off in study hall during the class. I can’t speak for others, but it never really fazed me. I realize now, those kids were likely Jewish or maybe from an atheist family (not that atheist families were much in the habit of declaring their atheism back in “my day”) and that was why they were exempt. I certainly don’t recall them being teased or ostracized because they weren’t in the class learning about the Apostles or Hinduism or Islam or what have you. I don’t even really remember what the class discussed or what we were taught, to be honest. The only class I remember was a Comparative Religious 11 and I remember that because I had issue with how the teacher presented her subject matter as if any faith other than Christianity was...well...just not quite as good, you know. Poor things...ugh. I certainly did not have my parents get up in arms and attempt to have her tarred and feathered. The lesson I came away from that experience has lasted until this day, and that was the lesson of tolerance. Not just tolerance of other religions, which was the goal of the class, but a tolerance of those with whom I take issue, even as I may well condemn their views. While I sometimes slip up, it is a lesson I at least try to remember.

However, with Bill 44 the notification and opt-out options will be expanded from sex-ed classes to courses that primarily and explicitly deal with religion as well as sexual orientation. Alberta Education has identified nine courses requiring parental notification. These include religious ethics, parenting, and aboriginal spirituality. The teaching of evolution, oddly enough will not require notification. At least somebody somewhere in the bureaucracy had their head on straight for that one.

What disturbs me, in part, is we as a community and as activists struggled for so many years to have sexual orientation if not “taught” then at least discussed in the public schools (the separate schools were a lost cause right from the get-go since homosexuality is, according to the Roman Catholic Church, already in contravention of solid Catholic values). As attitudes and approaches evolved over the years it was a cause for relief, even celebration I suppose, that sexual orientation was finally coming out of the closet, as it were, in our public education system. And our kids - I refer to them as “ours” because, in a sense, they are all our kids; certainly our future - could be exposed to the not so terribly radical idea that, gosh, lesbians, gay men and bisexual people are not some weird, icky, predatory perverts lurking in the gloom waiting to turn fine upstanding gay men and bisexual people into perverts. Instead, they are our kids; certainly our future - could be gay men and bisexual people are not some weird, icky, predatory perverts lurking in the gloom waiting to turn fine upstanding gay men and bisexual people into perverts.

Not just tolerance of other religions, which was the goal of the class, but a tolerance of those with whom I take issue, even as I may well condemn their views. While I sometimes slip up, it is a lesson I at least try to remember.

As Jupiter backs into Pisces and bumps into Uranus, Venus will quincunx both, inspiring brilliant attempts at reconciliation and harmony. Then Mars follows Venus, energizing those ideals, which might help – or could ruin the whole thing by being too pushy. Easy does it!

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You can try too hard to please your partner (or to land one!), leading to frustration and miscommunication. Making your baby wonder where that came from. Take it easy! Share secrets to build intimacy. That’s better than overextending yourself...

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Your efforts to bring co-workers into better cooperation include some excellent ideas, but your enthusiasm could be excessive, creating more discord than morale. Share your ideas, but also make an effort to get theirs. Independent efforts are good, too...

GEMINI (May 21– June 20): Your reputation for wit and playfulness could complicate your efforts at work. Building morale is important, but is it part of your job description? Surprise conferences with the boss may include some light teasing about your fondness for playing tricks on others...

CANCER (June 21– July 22): Your efforts at home or community involvement will seem right on target. Your ideas are more far-reaching than others like. Keep the arguments calm and principled, be flexible, and you can come to a much better plan...

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Your seductions and cajoling will get you to places you never imagined going. What feels like surprising successes can lead you to overdo your efforts, provoking arguments and frustration. Be cool. Take it all as experimentation and adventure...

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Take a good hard look at your diet and exercise. Some adjustments are necessary on both scores. Maybe just a few less desserts, a few more reps. It doesn’t have to be anything dramatic, but in time the results could be...

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): You feel bogged down in the problems of family, partnership and the encroaching burdens of maturity. “Lighten up, have fun,” is usually just flippant, but really, that will help you see through the problems...

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Meditation and retreat should prove very harmonizing, but once you get relaxed, some of your darker dreams and fantasies can surface. You can handle that and more. It should make good creative inspiration...

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Look beneath those urges to get out of the house. What are you getting away from? Getting out and having fun is fine, but imagine you home you’d rather stay in and take steps toward reaching that ideal...

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You’re too sexy for your own good! Seriously. Stop and think before you get sucked into something you’ll regret later. You can enjoy greater passion and a more powerful connection if you just think it through...

PIGS (February 19 – March 19): You’re too sexy for your own good! Seriously. Stop and think before you get sucked into something you’ll regret later. You can enjoy greater passion and a more powerful connection if you just think it through...

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his Web site at www.starchack.com.
Romeo San Vicente

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It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia’s gay marriage

It was time for the funny, under-appreciated and politically incorrect sitcom It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia to attack the subject of marriage equality, so it’s going to chew on both sides of the issue in its upcoming season’s first two episodes. Rob McElhenney’s character, in love with a transgender woman named Carmen (played by Brittany Danke), finds out that she has not only finished her surgical transition but that she is also marrying another man. And because this is a sitcom about self-centered apolitical people, he goes ahead with a court battle about Carmen’s “gay” marriage out of sheer jealousy. Meanwhile, straight characters marry on a whim and chaos ensues. And McElhenney personally knows the score on marriage equality: his own lesbian mother and her partner helped raise him. See the comedic skewering of this culture war when the new season premieres next month.

Justin Timberlake to play gay – and booger.

Does anyone have fond memories of the flop Lance Bass romantic-comedy On the Line? Does anyone even remember it? Well, if you do, you might also remember his fellow boy-band pal Justin Timberlake’s cameo as a “flamboyant” makeup artist. It was a mercifully brief appearance and goes down the very road you think it does. Well, now Timberlake has a chance to play another gay character (and hit other notes besides the most generic sassy ones) on The Cleveland Show. He’ll lend his voice to the animated series as the boyfriend of Jason Sudeikis’s (30 Rock) character Terry. In the same episode, Timberlake will also play a singing booger belonging to Cleveland’s stepson. As there is no precedent for the nasal mucus role, Romeo is sure that whatever approach the pop star takes will be just fine. The episode is scheduled for February 2011.

Jane Wiedlin, Daniela Sea join Casserole Club

Filmmaker Steve Balderson isn’t playing it traditional in casting his upcoming feature The Casserole Club. Instead, for his period 1960s suburban dramedy about “desolation, unspoken desires” and the hosting of elaborate dinner parties, he’s bringing together a group of actors that includes Jane Wiedlin of the Go-Go’s and former L Word co-star Daniela Sea. Wiedlin’s been exuberantly entertaining in a few films, like Clue and Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure but has usually chosen to focus more on being the rock star she is. Sea has been in several bands, but is known for playing male on L Word. Wouldn’t it be cool if they played a heterosexual couple here and Sea was the girly-girl and the pixie-ish, bisexual Wiedlin had five o’clock shadow? It would, but that’s probably not how it’s going to work out. In fact, there’s no word at all on who their characters are, but shooting is scheduled to begin this fall. All will become clear soon enough. The film’s website has some great cocktail and casserole recipes to distract you in the meantime.

Deep Inside Hollywood

Rosie’s TV alliance with Oprah

Deep Inside Hollywood

Romeo San Vicente

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Cocktail Chatter

Oh, Mary? Meet My Family! and How’d Ya Like a Nice Planter’s Punch?

By Ed Sikov

Some of us are so gay-centric that we have no close straight friends and leave our families in Anamoose, N.D., or Chloride, Ariz., and never look back. But if you’re like me, you love your friends, straight or gay, and you love your family, too. Still, we tend not to mix our friends with our families. We prefer to lead double lives. Your straight brother doesn’t know you’ve been licking some guy’s balls for the last few weeks, and the guy whose balls you’ve been licking never, ever hears stories about when you were five.

But inevitably comes the dreaded day when our two worlds collide. Mine came last weekend. There were extra rooms in the beach house, so I invited my big sister, Barbara, who for a brief period in 1966 dropped the second “a” from her name; my nephew, Luke, a 6-foot-5 former skateboarder who’s now 32 and teaches elementary school science; my niece, Laurel, who at the age of 12 drove her friends around town in her mother’s car and is now an executive at the world’s most famous soup company; and Ken, her hunky new husband, who at 18 was a nationally-ranked diver and is now a management consultant built like a middleweight wrestler.

Our two housemates last weekend are cut from decidedly different cloth. Ian and Frankie each manage top-notch restaurants in Manhattan. Ian is low key and gentle. Frankie is a flaming whirl of activity and talk, all performed as though he was auditioning for a happy-ending remake of The Boys in the Band. “Oh, Mary!” Frankie says witheringly; “Louise!” figures prominently, too. “Ladies!” Frankie says. “Forget making sandwiches. The lunchmeat is poo-snuggles.” He’s a hoot — to us. How Ken and Luke would handle him was my concern. Then worry. Then bar-quality terror.

As it turned out, my family was way cooler than I imagined. Luke and Frankie barbecued lamb together; Frankie’s nickname for Luke (“Cuteness on Stilts”) actually flattered the designee. Barbara and I spent that evening at all. The conversation over grilled salmon and store-bought potato salad became heated. Sal and I held equally rigid but opposing positions on the subject of Planter’s Punch. Saturday’s beach time consisted of more too much tasting and giggling, and Sal and I were already flying high by the evening.

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The Negroni (original recipe)

1-oz Beefeater gin
1-oz Campari
3/4-oz sweet vermouth

Mix the three liquors in a shaker filled with ice. Shake, and then strain into a pre-chilled martini glass.

The Negroni (my way)

1-part Beefeater gin
1-part Campari
a splash of sweet vermouth

Follow the same mixing instructions as above. But I like to taste gin and Campari more than sweet vermouth, so I drastically reduce the vermouth. Try the original recipe first, then play around.

How’d Ya Like a Nice Planter’s Punch?

“That’s the thing about Planter’s Punch,” Sal shouted over the din at BarHarbor one Friday evening as a crowd of guys holding sweaty dress shirts over their arms, not-so-fresh from the city, yelled remarks at each other while getting smashed on overpriced drinks. “What’s the thing?” I screamed back. Sal only seemed to mouth his reply; I couldn’t hear a word of it. Sal’s boyfriend, Shea, broke in: “Fact is, this drink was served by Cuban slave owners but made by slaves from rum distilled by slaves and fruit grown by slaves. Bottoms up!” (“Where?” the wag next to us cried.)

Sal and Shea are once-a-month housemates. Shea is a successful and very handsome 32-year-old actor; he’s always in something, from Broadway to off-off-off. Sal, whose last name is Amminio – his parents were either clueless or just plain mean — comes from South Philadelphia via Harvard Law, and is 30. Dismissing a lucrative career in corporate law in favor of various low-paying legal gigs for the LGBT community, Sal had little savings. He’d also learned from the bitter 25-year experience of working with and for PGs (Phenomenally Idiotic Guys) to detest much of our community. I teased him relentlessly about his name and spent that weekend obscurely singing, “Who killed Teddy Bear? Does anybody care?”

BarHarbor’s Planter’s Punch was obviously made in vats meant for storing crude oil. Heavy on cheap juice and full of ice, it still cost $12 a pop. By the time the bar boy, who looked like a sixth-grader with very grown-up armpit hair, worked his way through the phenome-high crowd, the punch was basically flavored ice water.

“I ‘an do be’er than that!” I slurred over the requisite playing of Cher’s “Believe.” “Duh yoo buh-leew...” Shea sang out in perfect imitation. “We can, darling,” Sal hollered back. And with that we headed home for dinner.

The conversation over grilled salmon and store-bought potato salad became heated. Sal and I held equally rigid but opposing positions on the subject of Planter’s Punch. Saturday’s beach time consisted of more too much tasting and giggling, and Sal and I were already flying high by the time Dan and Sean came downstairs. Sal spent the whole dinner laughing wildly at anything anyone said, while I (I am told) simply passed out at the bar. Sal’s boyfriend, Shea, broke in: “Fact is, this drink was served by Cuban slave owners but made by slaves from rum distilled by slaves and fruit grown by slaves. Bottoms up!” (“Where?” the wag next to us cried.)

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Planter’s Punch

This recipe makes enough for six drinks

1-cup dark rum (I prefer Havana Club Rum)
1/2-cup orange juice
1/2-cup pineapple juice
1/4-cup unsweetened lime juice
1/4-cup Orange Curacao (Sal’s idea)
1/4-cup brandy (my idea; I like Azteca de Oro)

Pour all ingredients into a pitcher. Let it blend and chill for a few hours. Then serve over a limited amount of ice.

(Note: Some people add grenadine; we say “yuck!” Some people stick foamy little fruit slices on the edge of the glass — slivers of orange or lime. We say, “Who wants a piece of orange going up a nostril?” I, for one, don’t like anyone or anything getting between me and my drinks.)

Ed Sikov is the author of Dark Victory; The Life of Bette Davis, and other books about films and filmmakers.

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GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine #83, September 2010

29
I recently returned from my second trip to America’s largest and least populated (by density) state, Alaska. These facts aren’t a big surprise to most people, but sometimes it’s difficult to grasp the state’s sheer dimensions - for example, Alaska is about 15 times bigger than Pennsylvania, but Pennsylvania has 17 times the number of residents. Beyond coming up with startling (and geographically geeky) trivia facts like these, it’s difficult to describe Alaska’s terrain and scenery without resorting to trite superlatives. It’s truly a land you need to visit to even begin to comprehend. The leading highlights for most visitors are up-close views of massive glaciers (dozens of them in some areas), a fascinating array of wildlife, and North America’s highest peak (20,320-foot Mt. McKinley, in Denali National Park). Alaska also offers some of the world’s most exciting kayaking, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping (not to mention dog-sledding). This is a state rich in history - from indigenous culture to tales of Russian trappers and U.S. gold-fortune seekers. And the abundance of delicious fresh seafood makes this a terrific dining destination. Alaska is ideally suited to outdoorsy travelers, but - thanks to cruise ships and scenic railroads - it’s also relatively easy to enjoy the natural beauty from a comfy and controlled environment.

Is There a Gay Scene in Alaska?
Let’s put it this way: I wouldn’t recommend traveling to Alaska expressly to partake of gay nightlife, or meeting other “family.” Anchorage is a large, modern city with a couple of gay bars, including the extremely fun and friendly dance club Mad Myrna’s (http://www.alaska.net/~madmyrna) - you’ll also find some excellent museums and many stellar restaurants in Anchorage. The state’s second largest city, Fairbanks, has a small but active GLBT scene, some of it tied in Alaska’s oldest college, the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Juneau, with a population of about 30,000, is the state capital and is generally considered the most progressive city in the state - a fair number of gay folks live here, and bars and restaurants are generally quite friendly. Also noteworthy is tiny but funky Talkeetna, midway between Anchorage and Denali National Park. This cool little village is a great base for exploring Denali and a haven of free-spirits (it was the inspiration for TV’s Northern Exposure). Throughout Alaska, and especially around Anchorage, you’ll find many gay-owned and gay-friendly inns and B&Bs. There’s a good list of these at PurpleRoofs.com (http://www.purpleroofs.com/usa/alaska/alaskaregion.html).

An excellent general GLBT resource for the state is BentAlaska.com, a website with events, news, and organizations of interest to the community, plus a list of gay-friendly businesses.

Taking a Cruise in Alaska
Even if you’re not especially enamored of cruise vacations, traveling by boat is without question the best way to see southeastern Alaska’s scenery, including areas like Glacier Bay National Park and College Fjord. Many major cruise lines offer Alaska cruises, with Holland America Line (http://www.hollandamerica.com) and Princess Cruises (http://www.princess.com) offering the greatest variety of itineraries, along with the exceptional line of smaller, upscale ships, Cruise West (http://www.cruisewest.com).
These are all extremely gay-friendly and gay-popular cruise lines. Several GLBT-oriented tour operators, notably RSVP Vacations (http://www.rsvpvacations.com), Olivia (http://www.olivia.com), Atlantis (http://www.atlantisevents.com) book all-gay charter trips on some of the major lines that ply Alaska waters, including Holland America and Princess, as well as Carnival (http://www.carnival.com), Celebrity (http://www.celebritycruises.com), Norwegian (http://www2.ncl.com), and Royal Caribbean (http://www.royalcaribbean.com). Also note that such ultra-luxurious lines as Silversea (http://www.silverseaships.com) and Regent Seven Seas (http://www.rssc.com) regularly visit Alaska.

Even on cruises booked to the general public, you’ll nearly always find gay and lesbian passengers (and certainly some crew). And on these cruises, there’s usually at least one and sometimes several GLBT mixers or meet-ups onboard during the week. If you’d like to find other gay travelers booked on the same cruise, or read other GLBT feedback related to cruise travel, check out the gay/lesbian cruising forum at Cruisemates.com (http://www.cruiseates.com/forum/gay-lesbian-cruising).

I can speak very positively about Alaska cruises based on my recent sailing aboard Holland America’s exceptionally well-outfitted Statendam. I traveled with my family, seven of us altogether, chose a partially glacier-intensive itinerary, through the Inside Passage, with calls at Ketchikan, Juneau (my favorite), and Skagway, plus a day each sailing through Glacier Bay and College Fjord. I’m not, for the record, a general fan of cruise vacations - just a personal preference, as I’m more partial to the freedom of road-tripping, and traveling without a set itinerary. But this Holland America cruise was a wonderful adventure from start (out of Vancouver) to finish (in Seward). And if you are planning a trip with a few friends or relatives, a cruise can be ideal in terms of logistics, value and the pure fun of sharing countless memorable experiences together.

Alaska cruises range greatly in price, starting for as little as $600 per person, based on double-occupancy, with an inside cabin on one of the less-fancy ships that visit the region, such as the Carnival Spirit or Norwegian Star - this is also assuming you book during the shoulder months (May and September). For a stateroom with balcony on an upscale line like Holland America, expect to pay $1,500 or more, depending on the size of the cabin, the particular ship, and the time of sailing (June through August are high season). And if there were ever a great time to splurge for a balcony cabin, it’s an Alaska cruise, as a huge part of the experience is observing the magnificent scenery from aboard the ship.

If you’re averse to organized-group travel, would like to combine driving your own car with traveling by ship, or simply enjoy the excitement and relative affordability of ferry-bout transportation, consider a do-it-yourself version of an Alaska cruise: traveling the Alaska Maritime Highway System (http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/index.shtml). You can get around via this extensive network of state-operated ferries, just as many Alaskans get from town to town, either without a car or - at considerably greater expense - with one. This is an adventurous way to sail through the Inside Passage, starting either down in Bellingham, Washington, or much closer to Alaska in the Canadian port city of Prince Rupert. The ferry stops at all the major towns in southeast Alaska.

You can also sail via the ferry system through Prince William Sound and to Kodiak Island (with stops in Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, Homer, and others), or through southwestern Alaska’s remote Aleutian Chain, from Chignik all the way to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. Again, traveling with a car and sleeping onboard in cabins can make this a fairly costly trip - figure on about $800 to $900 per car and cabin for a one-way trip from Port Rupert to Skagway. But you can choose an itinerary that allows you to get on and off at a number of ports, and it’s still cheaper and allows for greater flexibility than a cruise.

Touring Alaska on Land

Whether you reach Alaska by cruise ship, plane or car (the 2,300-mile drive from Great Falls, Montana to Fairbanks on the Alaska-Canada Highway is quite a memorable undertaking), it’s worth taking some time to explore some parts of the state’s rugged and largely unspoiled interior.

Many cruise lines offer one-way itineraries (as opposed to “loop” itineraries, that return you back to Vancouver, Seattle, or wherever the cruise started). These begin or end in Alaska, typically in a port that’s relatively close to Anchorage, such as Whittier or Seward. This latter community, home to the superb Alaska SeaLife Center aquarium and Kenai Fjords National Park, is where my recent Holland America cruise ended.

From here my family and I rented a couple of cars and explored the area, continued on to Anchorage, and then spent two nights up in Talkeetna. Other notable areas within relatively easy driving distance of Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula include the charming little vacation town of Girdwood, which is home to upscale Alyeska Resort; Homer, a popular fishing town; and Whittier, which has kayaking and boating on Prince William Sound plus access to several stunning glaciers. Farther afield and also well-worth investigating are Denali National Park (4 to 5 hours north of Anchorage), Fairbanks (2 hours farther north of Denali), and Valdez (6 to 7 hours east of Anchorage).

One way to explore the interior without a car, as far north as spectacular Denali National Park and on up to Fairbanks, is via the scenic Alaska Railroad (http://www.alaskarailroad.com). Many Alaska cruises offer post- or pre-trip options that includes several days on the railroad, or you can book your own railroad package, which includes riding the railroad’s gleaming railcars past incredible scenery, tours at different stops, and overnight hotel accommodations. These packages range from 5 to 12 nights and start around $1,800 per person.

Shorter day trips are also available on the Alaska Railroad - among the most rewarding itineraries are the ride from Anchorage to Denali (starting around $150), and the Glacier Discovery Trains to Grandview (starting around $85).

Another great option is to book a trip with a local outfitter. Based in Fairbanks, Out in Alaska (http://www.outinalaska.com) is a highly reputable, gay-owned tour operator that offers exciting trips, both camping (starting around $1,800 for six days) and hotel-based (from $2,500 for seven days), to some of the state’s most scenic areas. Out in Alaska trips typically last a week to 10 days, have 5 to 10 participants, and include meals, transportation within the regions visited, activities, and - in the case of camping - gear.

Some Out in Alaska trips are oriented primarily toward sightseeing and might cover major national parks (Denali, Kenai Fjords, Wrangell-St. Elias) and the regions around Fairbanks and Anchorage. The more activity-driven trips - which can be themed around glacier trekking, hiking, rafting, or kayaking - venture into the state’s remote wilderness, from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the Yukon or Copper rivers. The company also organizes small LGBT group adventures on some of the mainstream cruises offered through the Inside Passage.

However you explore this majestic land, it’s absolutely worth the time and effort to get yourself up here - and to plan on spending a minimum of seven days. When even seasoned travelers talk about “trips of a lifetime” and “most memorable travel experiences,” they’re often referring to adventures they’ve undertaken in Alaska.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor’s Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication.
Photography

Bowling for Beswick - Calgary

ISCWR Big Hair Candidate Show at Woody’s - Edmonton (photos by B&J)
Adult Film Review

Laid Off, Stag Candy

By Jerome Voltero

Laid Off
By: Mustang
From: Adult Depot
Genre: Blue Collar
Cast: ★★★
Story: ★★★
Visual: ★★★
Faves: Matthew Ford, Girth Brooks

It’s not a happy situation at the warehouse, where the entire branch is being shut down. Everyone is being laid off with only 2 days notice and minimal severance. Nobody is a happy camper, and they are all in the mood for a little misbehaviour to express their dissent.

To add insult to injury, a security guard shows up from the company to watch that employees don’t steal or damage anything. Dean Tucker decides to give the guard something to watch, forcing his co-worker Ari Silvio to his knees to suck his dick. The security guard maintains his cold composure, though soon starts pushing down the tent he’s pitching in his pants.

The film introduces hottie Girth Brooks, as seen on the cover, with hardware that lives up to his clever name! Brooks decides he’s had enough of putting up with co-worker Conner “Charterbox” Habib’s constant yapping, and so cuffs and gags him with red packing tape. He enlists the help of Colby Keller to make sure Habib gets the molestation he deserves.

In the final scene Matthew Ford works his way up the chain of command, making sure a white collar executive gets a taste of his displeasure. Helpless in his cushy desk chair, Andre Barclay’s rank means nothing when this silver-haired alpha male decides to dominate him.

Stag Candy
By: Stag Homme Studios
From: Priape
Genre: Compilation
Cast: ★★★★★
Story: ★
Visual: ★★★★★
Faves: Damien Crosse, Jean Franko, Francesco D’Macho, Matthew Rush

After looking at the hunky Rob Nelson on the cover, shoulder splattered in thick white liquid, I couldn’t help but think to myself, “Jeez that bird was sick!” Never mind that pendulous, oiled up flesh-cicle that we decided not to show in the magazine because the kiddies might me watching or something. It’s a hot photo, I highly recommend looking it up.

Like its predecessor Stag Fight, Stag Candy is a compilation of a number of short - and evidently foreign - Stag Homme porn flics. Here we are treated to a generous 6 such films.

What makes a stag? Well apparently Francesco D’Macho and Damien Crosse are exemplars. To describe the type, a stag would be a guy who has a well muscled athletic build, is slightly furry, and possesses a certain type of handsomeness – doey eyes perhaps?

My favourite scene is unquestionably the Urinal Cruising film where two sexy Spaniards square off in the bathroom at an actual night club in Madrid. Checking each other out while taking a pee, these two uncut and well-endowed men prove that more than three shakes is playing with yourself. I guess they get around this by playing with each other instead.

The final scene with Matthew Rush and Orlando Toro is also very steamy. The two are jogging along the beach, but decide to duck in amongst the mangrove bushes to play. The scenery is a beautiful combination of ocean, sky, plant, and “animal”….grrr!

My one complaint though, is that all the video seems to be squished horizontally to fit the screen dimensions. The distortion felt uncomfortable to watch, like looking through drunk-goggles. With it seeming so unrealistic, it was harder to engage - although at the right angle it did make cocks look freakishly large!

While you’re at it...

Loading Zone
By: Hot House Video
From: Priape
Genre: Blue Collar
Cast: ★★★★★
Story: ★★★
Visual: ★★★
Faves: Arpad Miklos, Kyle King, Vince Ferelli

Coyote Point
By: Titan Men
From: Adult Depot
Genre: 1950’s
Cast: ★★★★★
Story: ★★★
Visual: ★★★★★

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Late Breaking News
See our News Releases area for GLBT news updates throughout the month.
We attended the BEEF Bear BBQ at Victoria Park earlier in the afternoon where the sunbathing bears traumatized the little kids (heh heh) and indulged in some good burgers (pronounced bear-grs). Arriving late, I decided to take a slice of watermelon from the few that were left on the picnic table, but it tasted really strange. Luckily someone told me it had been infused with vodka, otherwise I imagined myself in my naiveté trying another slice, also finding it bad, and throwing the whole lot out.

The dance at Junction was insanely busy, and the plan was for me to down my two drinks at the beginning of the night so that I would completely sober up by the time we needed to drive home. I’ve sworn off beer in the past but unfortunately I relapsed and ordered one as my first drink. Sure enough, I was reminded why I vowed never to drink it – it did not agree with me. It took awhile for me to figure out why I felt so uncomfortable and grouchy, unfortunately by which time I had convinced Steve that we needed to leave early.

A few weeks later we were back in Edmonton for Coronation, however we came a day early to catch the Lady Gaga concert for a review (see page 16). Unfortunately, but understandably, we only received one reviewer ticket, and access for one photographer. So I got to watch the whole show (which was bloody fabulous), while Steve was brought in with the other photographers for a few songs only.

Steve figured it out that we have been covering Coronations for 10 years now. I recall how after my first, behind the camera for 6 hours of drag, my back was in so much pain that it wasn’t even funny. By now I’m a seasoned Coronation cameraman, and the night flew by easily. Ivonna Diamonds and Big Daddy Pump stepped down, and Dee Luv and LJ Steele were both voted in as Edmonton’s next monarchs. Congrats!

As new developments in Calgary go, we’re happy to say that the Twisted Element has resumed carrying our magazine, and given us their blessing to provide event coverage once again. So keep an eye out in future editions for articles about upcoming events, and photos of special happenings in this venue. Already online is an article about Kristine W, who is being flown in to perform at Twisted during Pride weekend. As for us, we’re excited to reconnect with this audience and once again be able to say that we are available in all LGBT bars across Alberta!

This Month
By the time you read this article, Pride will have probably come and gone. Nevertheless this is the biggest thing happening this month before the community starts to slow down for the fall and winter months.

It should be hammered into your head by now, the Dance being on the 4th, and the Parade on the 5th. Make sure you check out the Official Pride Guide booklets that were inserted in last month’s edition, as there are many more events happening from September 1st all the way through to the 11th. One such event running during that time span is the theatre production, “Heterophobia”, of which we are a sponsor. Read the article on page 54.

And still there are more events coinciding with Pride Weekend. Club Sapien has DJ Perry Finch out for their Evolution dance on Friday September 3rd – not to be mistaken with the (r)Evolution Pride Dance the night after. The aforementioned performance of Kristine W is happening at the Twisted Element the same night as the Pride Dance, which makes for a difficult decision at worst, some bar-hopping at best. The ISCCA is holding a special BBQ after the Pride Parade at the Backlot, while at the same time, the Calgary Eagle has their notorious post-parade party. Goliaths has a special after-hours dance on Sunday September 5th, from midnight until 8am.

Of course, don’t forget about the AIDS Walks in both Calgary and Edmonton, Sunday September 12th. Diana Ross is in concert in Calgary at the Stampede Corral on September 11th, and the ARGRA Dances start up again this month on September 18th. Check out our online events calendar for more forthcoming events.

http://www.gaycalgary.com/

say hello. It was so random for her to walk into the room and sit down to watch right as we were doing her big number. She couldn’t have been nicer... she is a well put together woman for sure. She talked to us about how different it was to shoot the number while dancing on sand on an actual beach. It was interesting to hear how it worked on a movie set [compared to] on stage. It was cool to have her there [even] for a minute.”

Mamma Mia
Calgary - September 21st to 26th
Edmonton - September 28th to October 3rd
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www.mamma-mia.com

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shows or buy my music, then I really don’t want that kind of fans.” He feels there are just as many who don’t have a problem with his sexuality and love his music, and that he will win these fans over with his honesty and openness.

“My whole thing is I don’t want to exclude anyone from my music.” This philosophy is extended to the song lyrics on Mend the Man, which Patrick has made gender neutral. He doesn’t understand why others are not seeing this is the way to reach our community. Given the size of the LGBT community and the spending power therein, it makes no sense for Patrick to alienate a portion of the audience based on sexuality.

The novelty of his sexuality in this genre of music has actually opened up a potentially big opportunity – his own reality show. However, as it’s still a work in progress, Patrick didn’t have much information. At this point he is considering first producing it and then selling the show to an interested channel, but the only way he’ll do the show at all is if he has 100% control.

The concept is simply following the journey of a gay Country/Western singer. “One night you’re in Las Vegas performing in a drag show; the next night you’re performing at a rodeo.” His manager is fully supportive of this endeavour, because it puts the gay issue right out there, deals with it, and then allows Patrick to continue with what he does best.

Patrick does have some apprehension about being the first of his kind to come out. He knows of other stars who are gay, closeted, and whom he thinks will never come out. However, given his own life experiences, the closet was never an option. “I just got to the point where I realized...I just want to be who I am.”

Meanwhile, Patrick is booked to perform at the Country Music Awards in Edmonton September 8-12, probably in a showcase, however the details have not yet been confirmed. Also, don’t be surprised to see him drop in and do an “Open Mike” night event at a local club here in Calgary from time to time. Additionally, he says he will probably consider touring or doing promotional efforts in colleges and cities that are seeing increased interest and he says he will probably consider touring or doing promotional efforts in colleges and cities that are seeing increased interest.

Whether this increased interest translates into greater album sales and a successful reality series remains to be seen, but on personality and talent alone, Patrick Masse is definitely an artist to keep an eye on.

### Levine:

- **Levine:** Because there’s a lot of homophobic straight guys. Listen, I think the more secure you are with your sexuality, the more it doesn’t matter. I have straight friends and gay friends. I was raised in a place where we were a little ahead of our time with being accepting and tolerant of everybody. L.A.’s a different place to grow up; there’s obviously a huge gay community there. It was never weird or taboo.
- **Levine:** It’s actually really astonishing that homosexuality is one of the last remaining acceptable prejudices. Like, it’s still acceptable to a certain extent for people to be homophobic. And it’s really disgusting, because being homophobic is no different than being racist or sexist. For some reason, people still think it’s OK to call people a faggot, and it really pisses me off.
- **Levine:** I do press with gay and straight magazines; it doesn’t make a difference. People need to get real and realize that this needs to stop. But I’m happy about Prop. 8. That’s amazing. I hope it sticks.
- **Levine:** You’ve also said that the U.S. is too uptight about sex. If it weren’t, how would you take advantage of that?
- **Levine:** I would probably be the same. I’m always inspired to go too far, so I’ll probably do that with this album – make some video or something. I enjoy making uptight Americans feel uncomfortable. It’s sex! Who cares? People are more obsessed with censoring sex than censoring violence. That makes no sense to me. Same reason I don’t understand why marijuana is not legal and cigarettes are.
- **Levine:** I write songs – of course I smoke pot!
- **Levine:** How will your fashion line, 222, be different from other celebrity lines?
- **Levine:** The difference is that I’m designing a lot of the stuff, and it’s going to be good. I’m really passionate about this. This is going to be really special. We have the best cuts, best fabrics, best everything. And it’s really simple. We’re trying to make this as clean and flawless as possible.
- **Levine:** Were you this fashionable when you were a teenager?
- **Levine:** No, I was into wearing the dorkiest things I could find. I loved vintage shopping. I was definitely a bit of a rebel at the time because I went to school with a bunch of people that were eventually going to become doctors and lawyers, and I wanted to be a musician. That was a rebellious move in my sheltered private-school world.
- **Levine:** On the MTV show When I Was 17 you said you were gross when you were that age. What would you tell your 17-year-old self now?
- **Levine:** I wouldn’t change a thing. Part of being a kid is not knowing what the hell you’re doing, and the journey of figuring it all out is part of life. And I wouldn’t tell myself anything, because I wouldn’t want to wind up in any other place.

### GCM

- **GCM:** I do press with gay and straight magazines; it doesn’t make a difference. People need to get real and realize that this needs to stop. But I’m happy about Prop. 8. That’s amazing. I hope it sticks.
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GayCalgary: While we’re on the topic of eggs, is there another baby on the way?
Jesse: I would be thrilled with a second kid in the future, but I don’t think it will happen this season. Honestly, as an actor, I don’t know if I can handle another kid right now (laughs). It’s enough when we have the twins (who both play their daughter, Lily) on the set. I play with both of them and look at their parents and I’m like, “How do you do this all the time?”
GayCalgary: Has it turned you off from being a father?
Jesse: No, it’s actually whetted my appetite. I’ve been a little baby crazy lately, but I’m single — so there’s that. If the opportunity arose, I would totally jump on it.
GayCalgary: How will Nathan Lane play into Cam and Mitchell’s lives in Season 2?
Jesse: He’s our older, gay and flamboyant friend who throws these very eccentric themed parties, such as the “Studio Fifty-Fourth of July Party.” In this episode he’s throwing his “Oscar Wilde and Crazy Brunch Party” and we have to all dress up in Oscar Wilde gear, and we’re trying to get out of going to these parties but he’s very sensitive about people who cancel on him. It’s a really funny episode, and he’s perfect for this part.
GayCalgary: I could see Cam having more fun than Mitchell at these parties.
Jesse: Even he’s reached the breaking point. When we were actually shooting our scenes without Nathan Lane, the ones that lead up to his entrance, we’re in some very specific Oscar Wilde costume gear, and I looked at Eric — and he was wearing this fantastically flamboyant outfit — and said, “If this is what you’re wearing, Nathan Lane has to be a few notches above this?”
GayCalgary: Have you given Eric tips on playing gay? I know he’s got the “z-snap” down.
Jesse: That’s never happened again — which is good. But Eric is doing such a fantastic job, and he understands the workings of Cameron so well that I would never even attempt to offer any advice. All of his instincts are always spot on.
GayCalgary: You recently were in some Central Park productions, The Merchant of Venice with Al Pacino and The Winter’s Tale. What’s it like moving between theater and TV?
Jesse: My roots are in the theater, so it was harder going from theater to my first sitcom. I love the immediate response from the (theater) audience. But on a show, you don’t know if something’s funny because no one’s allowed to laugh and you’re working very closely and very quietly and very intimately with the other actors.
GayCalgary: After playing gay on Fox’s short-lived 2008 show Do Not Disturb and again now on Modern Family, do you fear being typecast?
Jesse: Honestly, no. I would never have given up the opportunity to play Mitchell because of that fear. It’s been interesting, because Do Not Disturb was not successful at all. It’s interesting to see how playing gay on one sitcom just did not work and here it’s working brilliantly. I’m happy to have the opportunity to play gay on a sitcom that is working so well, and I just can’t worry about being typecast.
GayCalgary: Even gayer than either sitcom role is your hilarious rendition of Lady Gaga’s “Alejandro” on YouTube. Are you inspired to take that further?
Jesse: I’m trying to put together a show. It’s probably going to be a pretty gay show, actually. Gaga musical theater, that’s what you can expect.
Calgary Communities against Sexual Abuse

By Sam Casselman and Dallas Barnes

There are some frightening statistics out there when it comes to the GLBTQ community and sexual assault. One study suggests that at least 20% of the Canadian Lesbian population that has experienced sexual assault. Another study suggests that 28% of gay men experience sexual assault by their partner, and 10% of gay men have been sexually assaulted by heterosexual men as a form of gay bashing. Perhaps most disturbing is that these statistics come only from the incidents that are reported.

“There is only a 6% reporting rate as most assaults are by people we love and trust,” explains Jenny Ofrim, a Public Education and Training Team Leader for Calgary Communities against Sexual Abuse (CCASA). “I don’t think a lot of people recognize what sexual abuse is. A lot of people are afraid to say they were assaulted because they don’t want to be identified as the victim.”

Being sexually assaulted is difficult enough to handle, never mind the fear of being judged for your sexuality, or the thought that your situation may reflect badly on LGBT people as a whole. It is enough to keep a victim silent.

“We know that there are higher rates of violence among more oppressed communities. CCASA wants to be a safe place for the community,” says Mary Macguire, GLBTQ Liaison Volunteer.

CCASA is trying to erase that fear of coming forward and seeking help. Part of this includes reaching out to the LGBT community. Their mission is to provide leadership to impact attitudes and actions around sexual abuse and sexual assault. They do this in a myriad of ways, including sexual assault and sexual abuse crisis and education services. Their guiding principles centre on sexual violence as being an abuse of power and control.

CCASA offers free individual counseling services to people over the age of 12 that have been sexually assaulted or sexually abused. Friends, family, or any supporters that have experienced sexual violence are also welcome for free counseling.

Gay Calgary and Edmonton Magazine had a chance to talk with Jenny and Mary about the many misconceptions of sexual assault in the GLBTQ community.

GayCalgary: What would you say to men that have been assaulted but are afraid to do something about it?

Jenny: A lot of men I have worked with were afraid to talk about it because they felt that somehow they weren’t man enough to fight it off or somehow they feel emasculated by this, but we know that is not the case. We also know that 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before they are 18. We know that a lot of men access our services and we would like men to know that they are not alone.

Mary: CCASA is there for the clients and there is no hidden agenda. We are not trying to force counseling or force our own opinions. It is safe and confidential. CCASA will not make you report the assault, it is your choice.

GayCalgary: What are the stats on women and sexual abuse?

Jenny: The stats we have say that 39% of women over the age of 18 have been sexually assaulted or sexually violated and those are the ones who actually report it. Most people never actually talk about it because they think it’s their fault. We know it’s not their fault. …I had a caller once on the support line and she was 74 years old and just decided now she would tell someone she was abused at 5 years old. She went her whole life without telling a soul.

GayCalgary: How does sexual assault impact people’s understanding of their own sexual orientation as they grow up?

Jenny: There are many assumptions about that. We have men coming in who have been assaulted either as children or adults and are now questioning their sexual identity, and for some reason they connect the two. We know that these things are not connected; your sexual identity or your sexual orientation has nothing to do with the trauma that you experience. …

Mary: I’ve found a lot of people I know that are gay have also experienced trauma. I find a lot of gay men experience sexual trauma or violence in their relationships and with gay women it seems to be rooted to their childhood. However I do see sexual violence and abuse in a bigger picture and I don’t see it as a cause of homosexuality by any means. …

Jenny: …A hard thing about coming forward to talk about sexual abuse, GLBTQ people face, is the fear of having to identify or talk about being gay, especially if you’re not out, or if you’re questioning. The really important thing is that people know that we’re open. …I have met with people 10 to 12 times as a counselor and never discussed their sexuality; I don’t need to know about it to help someone through their sexual trauma. It’s whatever the individual wants to share with us, whatever they think is important to their healing.

GayCalgary: What about the misconception about sexual offenders being mostly homosexual?

Jenny: We know that most offenders are heterosexual males who perpetrate against both males and females. If a man perpetrates against a boy it doesn’t mean he’s gay because again it’s not about sex, it’s about power and control. There is a difference between child molesters and pedophiles, pedophiles have a sexual desire for children male or female - it could be both - and they may or may not act on it; as soon as they do, its child abuse. Child Molesters have a sexual attraction to people their own age but choose to act out sexually on children to gain power and control, but it’s not necessarily about sex.

GayCalgary: Do many people who have been sexually assaulted not realize that what has happened to them is considered as such?

Mary: So many people are told things like, well you had too much to drink, so the next day they might not view it as sexual assault. This is why talking about CCASA is important, it creates awareness so people know there is a place to talk about these things and find out more information.

Jenny: And they have a right to access the services, they have a right to know it wasn’t their fault; they have a right to feel in a safe place. There are a lot of people out there working with people who are victims of sexual assault by focusing the prevention behaviors on the victim. But we know that the perpetrator is the only person that is responsible for that sexual assault.

Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse is here to help if you, or someone you know is a survivor of sexual abuse or sexual assault.
ONLY THE BEST FILMS MAKE IT.

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL FILMFESTIVAL
SEPT. 24 - OCT. 3, 2010
CALGARYFILM.COM
By Sam Casselman

This year marks the 20th anniversary of a life taken by AIDS far too soon. Organizer John Iocchelli and his family lost his Brother Fausto on July 20th, 1990 at the age of only 27. Sadly this is the case for far too many people with AIDS every day.

John says, “I wanted to do something to commemorate the occasion as well as do something to benefit the AIDS community in Calgary. I contacted my friend Ryan Jones and we decided to coordinate a fund-raising gala that would involve a chance to bring together our friends, as well as the greater Calgary community.” Ryan has been involved with HIV/AIDS fundraisers as an individual, and with his AIDS walk for life team “The Punks” who raised over $4,000 last year.

After some hard work and planning, Ryan and John came up with the first annual Calgary Artists for Life Fundraiser. “If the event is successful this may turn into an annual event”, says organizer John Iocchelli.

It will take place at 7pm on Thursday September 9th, 2010 at Cantos Music Foundation. Admission is by donation and guests will have the opportunity to view and place bids on 27 T-Shirts - that is, one Tee for every year AIDS Calgary has been in operation. The Tees have been painted, altered and embellished into wearable or frameable works of art. This includes the work of local queer artist Lisa Heinricks, Samantha daSilva, Jerrod Oliver, Deb Ede, Kenson Truong, Darrell Fendick, John Parnell, Melody Germain, Stephen Bateman, Leanna Isayew, Britttany Lintick, Jack Bride, Carl White, Timothy Hoey, Audrey Mabee, Amy Dryer, Verna Vogel, Colin Menzies, Chief of Police Rick Hanson, Colleen Huston, Seka Owen, Lana Selbee, Michael Wright, Leila Armstrong, Veronica Funk, and Georgina Stone.

“All the funds raised will go to make a difference in the quality of life of those living with HIV/AIDS through AIDS Calgary’s nutrition program,” says John.

The evening’s MC will be Constable Lynn MacDonald of the Calgary Police Service’s Cultural Diversity Unit, with performances by Calgary’s own musical group, Boy and Gurl. Other silent auction items will be up for bids; hors d’oeuvres and complimentary beverages from Barefoot Wineries will be served; and door prizes will be up for grabs, including 2 round trip tickets from WestJet, a Shaw PVR, tickets to the Alberta Ballet and much more. Come on out and support a great cause while meeting new people and having a great night out. For more information visit their website or find them on Facebook as “Calgary Artists for Life.”

Want to get involved? The organizers are still looking for sponsors and volunteers. If you are interested please contact John Iocchelli at 403-863-3884, or Ryan Jones at 403-870-7529.
representative, Dennis Theobald, has been quoted as saying. How can they not? And the fear is not irrational. It’s actually quite a rational fear. Just as social conservatives have been saying for years, there is a chilling effect which occurs when there is even the suggestion of a threat of being sued or hauled before a tribunal. Even as a supporter of human rights, and human rights commissions, for many years and as one who supported complainants going to human rights around issues of sexual orientation discrimination, I understood the point those diametrically opposed to my position were making. I didn’t always agree with the extent of their concerns and often did not, in fact, see human rights rulings as infringements on free speech or the open exchange of ideas, which is what education should be about, but I do here. I suppose now that the shoe is on the other foot...

So, if I as a former activist and supporter of just about all things commission-related can realize what the effects of Bill 44 will have, how is it that the very groups that previously raised a hue and cry over what they perceived as attacks on their freedom of speech and freedom of expression now don’t seem to think there is anything to be concerned about with Bill 44? I suppose we are all guilty of filtering concerns through the prism of our own agenda, but this is a direct attack on speech and ideas and not at all about allowing speech that is discriminatory and harmful to specific groups.

At least the Canada Family Action Committee (CFAC), long a thorn in the side of equal marriage and GLBTQ rights activists, has raised concerns as they long have, about further broadening the mandate of the Alberta Human Rights Commission. There, at least, is some consistency and in this case, ironically enough, I support CFAC’s view as stated by their spokesperson Nathan Cooper that “[parents] dragging [teachers and principals] before the Human Rights Commission is [hardly] an ideal scenario by any stretch of the imagination.”

Bill 44, however, is in effect as of September 1st and the directly affected courses are: Aboriginal Studies 10, Theme II: Aboriginal World Views, Career and Life Management (CALM), Career and Technology Studies which includes reproduction and preparing for parenthood as well as Developing Maturity and Independence, Health (Grades 4, 5, and 6), Health and Life Skills (Grades 7, 8, and 9), Religious Ethics 20, Religious Meanings 20, and World Religions 30.

Teachers will be required to determine whether their lesson plans in other courses will require notification in accordance with the provincial Human Rights Act. So Bill 44 isn’t just restricted to the nine subjects outlined above, but will in fact, apply to all subjects in the curricula such as Social Studies, literature, even art and music. Heaven forbid a teacher inform his or her students about how Carravagio’s homosexuality and hedonism informed his art and subject matter, that writers such as Andre Gide, Genet, Proust or Oscar Wilde were homosexual and their writing can be read as cryptic acknowledgments of the homoerotic in life and art, or that the stirring passion of a Tchaikovsky symphony was often tied to his passion for some working class youth and his lifelong struggle with his homosexuality.

Whether or not Bill 44 is, as Edmonton activist Rob Wells (for whom I have enormous respect) describes it, “Tory gay bashing”, remains to be seen. I don’t happen to think it is. Not specifically. I do happen to think it is a particularly odious piece of small-mindedness and parochialism, further rendering our education system into something less than grand, something less than an introduction to the wonders of the mind, of learning and exploring, and into something trite and trivial and focused on easy, not on anything challenging.

Education should be about challenge and about challenging our assumptions and what we take for granted. It should be about expanding our horizons, not contracting them. It should be about showing us powerful and provocative ideas, of throwing open a window to the vast previously unimaginable worlds of ideas and thought and perception. It should be about freeing our minds and intellects so that they can potentially soar to greater and greater heights, not tie them down in the prosaic boggle of daily prejudices and ignorance. Education should be the antithesis of ignorance, not subject to it.

Bill 44 is a bad law and a bad law that will have consequences on the ability of our children to grow into all that they could be.
Queeries

I’m not stalking him, but...

By Steven Petrow

I’m not stalking him, but...

Q: I connected with this really nice guy on Facebook and have been perusing his profile ever since. We’re actually going to meet for coffee—as our first date. So am I allowed to “know” as much as I do about him? I don’t want to creep him out.

A: Unless your new friend has signed up for an app that reveals who’s been reading his page, ignorance is bliss. But your instincts are good: People don’t always like the idea of new friends or beaus knowing all about them. In fact, when the two of you get together, try to pretend you don’t know what you do. Don’t bring up out of the blue his entire work history (yes, that’s creepy) and avoid comments like “So, I saw you and Mike broke up on Facebook...” But if you both love Lady Gaga or volunteer at the local LGBT center, it’s fine – and actually very helpful – to talk about what you have in common to break the ice and discover what else you may share.

Online relationships are just like offline ones. Peeling back the layers of someone’s life and personality should happen in a gradual way, as you build up trust. And hearing someone describe his life in his own words is a great way to get to know someone. It’s entirely possible that your new friend would rather tell you himself about his beloved pets and what he wore for Halloween last year.

Dressing for success or myself

Q: Usually when I’m applying for a job I set aside the real me—the butch dyke, if you will—and dress up a little feminine (different hair, different suit, everything). As I get older, this makes me feel less and less comfortable, as though I’m not being the real me. How do you suggest I dress for interviews?

A: That’s a tough question. Ideally, it’s essential not to disguise yourself or to appear other than who you are. Still, there’s something to be said for having your “interview suit” – and doing some extra grooming – especially because we all know how others’ prejudices can work against us.

Think of it this way: The idea is to take appearances completely out of the equation so that you can explain your qualifications and sell yourself without distraction. Once you land the job, you can be freer in how you dress. You’re not selling out to adopt a more mainstream look for the interviews; this is just another step to get you in the door.

In my experience, most people try to pick up a company’s dress code once they start work. But if you don’t think you can do that—or want to dress butch all the time—then go ahead and do it for the interview. If the company can’t take it then, you’re wasting your time considering this particular employer.
**Too chicken to tell my ex about my STD**

**Q:** I need to tell my ex that I contracted a venereal disease and that I may have passed it on to her, but I can’t bear the idea of talking to her. Is it rude to just email her about this?

**A:** One way or another, your ex needs to have this information and you have an obligation to get it to her. It’s about being honest and respectful. While the medium you use is less important, receiving such news in a brief email message could be pretty shocking. If you make the effort to actually talk with your ex, you’re showing a modicum of respect for her feelings and saying that you’re taking the matter seriously. This route also gives her a chance to ask questions, some of which you may be able to answer on the spot.

Nevertheless, if your animus toward your ex is too strong to pick up the phone, then go ahead and email her. Ask her to let you know that she received your news—you wouldn’t want information like this to wind up in a junk folder.

Another idea, although perhaps more appropriate for those who’ve had a casual sexual hook-up, is to send one of the ecards available through inSpot.org, an Internet service for sex partners and tricks. This site will deliver messages like “I got diagnosed with an STD and you might have been exposed. Get checked out.” You can either sign your ecard or send it anonymously.

Okay, now you have no excuse.

Steven Petrow is a past president of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association and writes for the Huffington Post and The Advocate. He’s also the author of “The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette.” Learn more at www.gaymanners.com

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**Letters to the Editor**

Dear GayCalgary,

I would like to personally commend the Edmonton Capitals, from Mr. Katz on down to the bat boys for not being tolerant of this terribly homophobic incident/commentary that occurred in California. Strange that in a state that just had an anti gay marriage proposition struck down by a conservative Republican Judge appointed by President Reagan that this kind of commentary is considered even mildly acceptable.

I think that Mr. Brent Bowers should also be commended for resigning so deftly and quickly. If he wanted to meet for coffee, I would be glad to take him to the Gay Pride Centre of Edmonton and get him initiated in learning tolerance for gay, lesbian, and transgendered personages (such as myself). Learning about our daily struggles in life will make him see that even though he was engaging in “locker jock talk” & just got caught on an open microphone, what he stated is intolerable & despicable. Just as it would be if he stated his comments in private.

The sooner gay hatred and bigotry goes away in all formats, the sooner we will all get along in a more peaceful co-existence. Mr. Bowers should march in a Gay Pride Parade & perhaps attend one of our fine gay friendly bars such as “FLASH” to show his remorse. Once he establishes himself as a strong advocate for the sexually disadvantaged & their rights, the sooner he will be able to further his baseball career in another locale. I for one certainly wish him well in that endeavour.

Graciously,

Walter Dean Blake

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GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine - Classified Ad Categories

**Classified Ad Categories**

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Full Run Cost:

5% GST:
TOTAL:

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Additional Words - 20¢ each

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GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine #83, September 2010
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CHELSEA BOYS

BY
GLEN HANSON
and
ALLAN NEUWIRTH

Fashion mogul Kelvin Cohen has summoned Sky to a meeting at his office...

I said Eggshell, not Ivory, you fucking color-challenged cretin!!

Now get the fuck out and don’t come back until you get it right!!

Oh, Sky—!! Come on in and have a seat!

Uhh... Thanks, Mr. Cohen.

Please, call me "K.C."—All my friends do. So, how does it feel to be the new Kelvin Cohen underwear model?

Well... Casey... that’s what I wanted to talk about...

I’m, like, flattered you picked me—but I don’t wanna be an underwear model... I don’t even like fashion—I want to be an artist. That’s why I came to NY, to study—it’s why I’m working at Andre’s gallery!

Honey, do you know how much money you could make modeling for me? Forget about Andre, you could buy your own fucking gallery!

Mmm! Mmm! You don’t have to say yes right away, look—I’m having some of my friends over to my house on Fire Island this weekend. Why don’t you come along? We can talk about it then.

Well... could I bring some of my friends too?

Are they anything like you?

Oh, yeah! They’re great!

By all means, then—bring them along!

Guess what, guys?! My new friend Casey just invited us out to his house on Fire Island this weekend!
Music Review
Margaret Cho, Lady Gaga

By Chris Azzopardi

Margaret Cho
My Rating: ★★★

Don’t worry about missing Margaret Cho’s dirty mind on her music debut. Her first CD rolls in all the bits of the brassy, queer-revered comedian: Asian imitations, foul anecdotes and sex jokes. But now her mouth’s open for a different reason – to sing. As crazy as that sounds, Cho calls on all her musically savvy chums – from Tegan and Sara to Fiona Apple and (holy lesbian!) Ani DiFranco – to worship penis, hurl on a jack-o’-lantern and beg for semen in a Scissor Sisters-styled song. Cho’s sound respectively resembles her collaborators’, resulting in a schizo disc that’s more instantaneous than replayable, even if Cho’s remarkably invested in the music as much as the punchlines (most of which work subtly into the melodies). Jumping genres, from ’60s girl-group pop to rap, she goes dunk-n-the-nit for the wonderfully staged “Eat Shit and Die,” the unspoken lash-out of every country star who doesn’t have the balls, like Cho does, to say it in a song. The straight-faced “Hey Big Dog” – a seriously good folk ditty co-written by genre-god Patty Griffin – is oddly placed among novelty numbers about surviving a lice infestation and drug addiction. “Intervention,” featuring an overdone mid-song skit, probes the latter and concocts funny-or-not confusion: Should we laugh? Get help? Lots of it’s offered on Cho Dependent, a buddy-boosted collection that more than lives up to its title.

Lady Gaga, The Remix
Various Artists
My Rating: ★½

Little Monsters, it was inevitable: A bad Gaga album. With so many hands in her post-debut projects – hey, that happens when you’re a pop powerhouse – Gaga’s club-gear collection is seriously slacking and virtually risk-free throughout its 10 tunes. It’s not all her fault, though – or maybe it is. The remixes (missing many from the European edition), new versions of songs from her first disc and follow-up EP The Fame Monster, is partly such a lame cash-grab because its foundations are such perfect pop pleasures already. How do you better “Bad Romance”? You don’t! And Starsmith’s retro-trance reworking can’t compete with its kid, never quite igniting like its cool daddy does. When the songs do, it’s because they’re basically mirror reflections of the originals – and that’s why “Poker Face,” so literal that calling it a remix would wrongly suggest that something was done to the song, is a lost opportunity. “Telephone” is practically insufferable with the “artistic” chipmunk manipulation of Gaga’s voice, and ingenuity is totally sucked dry near the tail end with the “Alejandro”-meets-Kylie mix. Only a couple re-cuts, including FrankMusik’s edgier “Eh, Eh (Nothing Else I Can Say)” and a Marilyn Manson teaming on “LoveGame,” is with merit, giving Gaga the guts we’ve come to know.

Also Out

Katie Melua, The House
Even with Madonna producer William Orbit at the helm, the big-in-Britain musician’s stargazing fourth album is more Kate Bush than Ray of Light. Her voice lifts and floats on the hauntingly winsome set-launcher “I’d Love to Kill You,” the first of many ambient dreamers. The writing’s spotty and a couple cuts are slip-ups, but Melua proves, with songs like “Red Balloons” and “Tiny Alien,” that she might one day hang with the cool kids.

Little Big Town, The Reason Why
Contempo-country lovers, step up. Without over-lacquering their organic rockish sound, the vocal-swapping foursome relate their own style to their Fleetwood Mac tropie. Via big, surging love ballads (the pained plea “Shut Up Train” being the clear winner) and boot-stomping boogies – the best being “All the Way Down” and “Little White Church,” the sassy call-for-commitment first single – the band’s latest is everything Lady Antebellum’s wasn’t.

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GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine #83, September 2010
Leather and Feathers
Gay N’awlins Gets Decked Out for Southern Decadence

By Jon Fairbanks

Bourbon Street has a carnival atmosphere on most weekends, but Labor Day Weekend is a party like no other in the Dirty South. Southern Decadence, SoDec or Gay Mardi Gras is a legendary circuit party that has gone on for more than three decades. Hurricanes, oil spills and other disasters haven’t stopped LGBT travelers from flocking to the Crescent City. If anything, it’s given “the city that care forgot” another reason to lift a plastic cup.

The center of the action takes place where Bourbon Street meets St. Ann Street. This is the area where you’ll find most of the gay bars. The most popular, the Bourbon Pub and Oz couldn’t be easier to find. They’re across the street from one another on Bourbon. If you’re looking to dance, these are the two venues you’ll want to check out. If you’re looking for something low-key there are plenty of options nearby, including Cafe Lafitte’s in Exile, Napoleon’s Itch (both on Bourbon Street) and Old Friends (on St. Ann).

Southern Decadence isn’t just about going to the bars, there are also outdoor concerts and parades. On the Sunday before Labor Day, many will don their most elaborate dress and gather to see the floats, performers and half to completely naked partiers. This year the theme is “Leather and Feathers” and the colors—black, powder blue and purple. Keep in mind this is “Gay Mardi Gras” so expect requests to flash for beads or get hit in the head with a set intended for someone else.

During any trip to New Orleans you will meet more than your fair share of fun and eccentric people. The laissez-faire lifestyle of the people who live here, like a good hurricane (the drink), is intoxicating. Where else could you see a Drag Race? Drag queens racing each other in the middle of Bourbon Street in shopping carts! Take that RuPaul!

If you’ve shot your wad on summer getaways to Provincetown or Fire Island, New Orleans is the perfect spot for a fall gaycation. Hotel rates are reasonable, drinks are cheap and depending where you go, you can eat very well for very little. Despite the oil disaster in the Gulf, local restaurants still prepare and serve seafood better than any other city in the country.

Weekend passes are available for special events and entry into clubs like Oz and the Bourbon Pub, but they’re only worth buying if you actually plan on going to the bars in the evening or plan on going to a lot of the events. Most bars on and around Bourbon Street are open 24 hours and during the day, most don’t charge a cover. If you do plan on just showing up and paying general admission, be prepared to wait in line at many of the venues past 9 pm.

There are two great bars just for the ladies. Rubyfruit Jungle is in the French Quarter. Three dance floors packed with beautiful ladies?! Needless to say, you’ll never get bored. The other venue, Club Tribute is arguably the most popular lesbian bar in the area, however, it’s located in Metairie, a city close to but not exactly in New Orleans. Drink specials are offered every night of the week, this may keep Club Tribute packed, but the hot women working behind the bar don’t hurt either.

Since Hurricane Katrina, more and more gay and lesbian tourists from around the world are discovering Southern Decadence. Approximately 100,000 LGBT out-of-towners gather for this uninhibited celebration, according to neworleansonline.com

Maybe I should have told you sooner, but if you are planning on going to SoDec, it’s a good idea to book your hotel room early. The best locations (to make sure you’re never too far away from the fun) are on or near Bourbon Street or Canal Street. A major tourist destination, there’s no shortage of great properties to stay at when you’re in New Orleans.

W French Quarter is next to Jackson Square. This is an eclectic area where you’ll find street performers, palm readers and artists selling their wares. After a long day of living it up, head back to the hotel and lounge around in the outdoor courtyard or take a dip in the illuminated outdoor pool. Now if want to goose lady luck, W New Orleans is located close to Harrah’s Casino, great shopping and the Warehouse District.

Not too far away from W New Orleans on Canal Street, you’ll find the New Orleans Marriott. Offering more than one thousand guestrooms and suites, this lavish property offers a chic wine bar, rooftop swimming pool, fully-equipped fitness center and a number of other amenities. These are just a few options. There are a variety of hotels, fitting pretty much any budget.

Gorgeous people, incredible food and music … you’ll find plenty of all three in NOLA. New Orleanians have seen and been through it all, but they always bounce back, put on a smile and find a reason to celebrate!
10th Annual Taboo

Naughty...but nice Show

CALGARY
November 11-14, 2010
BMO (Roundup) Centre – Hall B, Stampede Park

EDMONTON
October 14th - 17th, 2010
The Northlands Expo Center
7515-118 Ave NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 4X4

www.TabooShow.com
Theatre Preview

In June 2009, the IGNITE! Festival with Sage Theatre hosted its most successful play ever, *Heterophobia*, by Pam Rocker. Since then, Rocker has expanded the play by another 20 minutes to add more depth and detail to the already intriguing and multi-layered characters. This newest production of *Heterophobia* will be playing from September 1st to 11th at The Motel Theatre.

*Heterophobia* is described as a dark comedy, “a tall glass of gay with a twist of straight.” The playbill states, “In the world of heterophobia, social norms are flipped on their ears, and extreme role reversal ensues. Being gay is the norm, and being straight is the deviance.” It is essentially a story of relationships and our capacity for love.

Rocker describes the general plot. “Our leading lady, Grant, [comes] home for a visit after a tough break-up, with a secret that gets heavier by the second. As she struggles to hold on to her hidden cravings, her Moms try to woo her with waffles, clean underwear, and the prospect of settling down and being artificially inseminated. Meanwhile, her best friend Peter bursts onto the scene with erotic thoughts about Nathan Lane and a determination to cheer Grant up. But as Grant’s secret becomes too big to hold onto, she is forced to make a choice about revealing who she really is.”

Theatre company, Behind Closed Doors, is a perfect fit for this production. Amber Alexander, Producer and founder, created it on a vision “to bring the stories of the forgotten, stereotyped, and ignored individuals within our society to the stage.”

Rocker agrees with the fit. “The whole heart behind Behind Closed Doors is to produce unique entertainment that is infused with a spirit of play and social justice – which is what *Heterophobia* is all about. I am so proud to be a part of the courageous footprints they are making.”

*GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine* had the privilege of talking to Pam in greater depth about this season’s production.

“When I started to write Heterophobia, I was working for the largest evangelical church in Canada, married, and trying to figure out why I couldn’t get my feelings to align with my belief system. Being raised in a conservative, religious home meant that the word gay was synonymous with evil. I had been struggling for years with the terrifying idea that I may be gay, and had yet to utter those words aloud to anyone. I found myself in a Playwrighting course...
and our final assignment was to write a one-act play about anything that we wanted. My soul was searching for truth, acceptance, and answers, and I looked at that opportunity as a chance to explore the very ideas that I had always been trained to fear. I was sitting at a Christian retreat centre, with all of these desires and ideas floating through my heart, and the word heterophobia came to me. I was angry at how hard I knew it would be if I ever came out, and I thought, I need to create a world where it’s absolutely normal to be gay – because I was honestly curious about what that would look like. Being political was never on my mind, and I never thought that this play would see the light of day.

“Years later, while still navigating my sexuality and dipping my toe into the idea that someday I may be able to be myself, I entered Heterophobia into the IGNITE! Festival with Sage Theatre. It was accepted, but 4 months later, I saw Heterophobia come alive on the stage. I was ecstatic, even though my personal life was hell. I was making, what I call, impossible choices – where you know you will be rejected in some way by people you love and adore, but that you have to have the integrity to be honest about who you are. The success of the show at IGNITE! was a huge validation for me. I felt in a tangible way that so many other people got it – they saw the irony that I saw when I looked at this world where phobias were reversed. I was starting to experience what it felt like to be in a community where I didn’t need to explain or justify who I was, but that I was accepted outright, with no caveats required. It was extremely liberating and gave me the courage I needed to come out to my family.”

Director Ayla Stephen and the cast and crew compliment Heterophobia well. Stephen, a seasoned actor and Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Company, jumped at a chance to work with Rocker. “I find the subject matter very accessible. Pam has taken an issue play and made it very enjoyable to watch. Essentially it’s a play about relationships and expectations. She doesn’t push a political agenda, or place judgment or blame on anybody. She gives the audience a new perspective and really starts a dialogue. Not only is the subject matter important, but the show is fun!”

The rest of the cast are just as enthusiastic. Whitney Richter, in the role of the lead character Grant, senses the importance of this role. “I absolutely believe that this play presents important subject matter – it’s a representation of all different types of relationships and, as Pam puts it so eloquently, one very fundamental key to having a successful relationship in your life: grace. Having grace with each other; whether you agree with the decisions or choices, whether they be spiritual, sexual or otherwise, so that the love we have for one another is always at the forefront and is the most important thing. There is a lot to be learned from Pam and this wonderful play she has written. She has the ability to take a topic that can be so controversial and political and she boils it down to the core, strips away all pretenses and makes it about the people and relationships involved.”

When asked why the public, regardless of sexual orientation, should come to Heterophobia, Rocker answers with no hesitation. “Whatever your background, whatever your belief system, this show is a lot of fun and is really all about a family who is struggling to love and understand each other. As political as the title may sound, the play is anything but issue-based. It sprang from real questions that I, and millions of other people, have every day. Will I be loved? Will I be accepted? Will my parents be proud of me? It’s an interesting way to look at what we fear, what makes us hate, and why. I hope that it challenges all of us to see each other as human beings and not as labels or ideas.”

Heterophobia
September 1-11
The Motel Theatre
www.heterophobia.ca

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1854
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