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Be sure to keep an eye on our website for upcoming announcements of special events, screenings, contests, and surprises! For tickets and information visit: calgaryexpo.com

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### Magazine Figures

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Please contact us immediately if you think you may have missed the booking or submission deadline.
I’ve always had mixed feelings about Facebook, Twitter, and other technologies that push people to be in constant communication with one another. As a business we can certainly appreciate the value of these things as a marketing tool, to keep our audience aware of what we’re up to. But as individuals, I’m truly worried that these technologies are breaking down barriers between people that are expected to be there in order for us to function properly as a society.

Probably the most mainstream example of this is the notion of online bullying. When I was growing up, like many kids I dealt with bullies at school and in my neighbourhood. But my home was a safe place from all of that. Sure, I sometimes dreaded going to school, but I could get through it knowing there was an end to it once I got home. If I wanted to talk to my friends, I could call them on the phone or speak to them on a simple online chat program like ICQ or MSN Messenger. It was easy for me to filter out any unwanted contact with people that I didn’t want to hear from.

Thanks to Social Media, even home doesn’t feel like a safe place any more. The people that you don’t want to hear from can reach you, even if they’re not talking to you directly. There’s no such thing as trying to avoid being online at the same time as them, because they can leave messages, tag you in photos or comments, or even write on your wall – all for you to see the next time you log in. It’s difficult to hide because even when you’re not logged in, your profile gives them a constant reminder of your existence, leaving you open for opportunistic attacks any time they see your name show up. What’s worse is that they can glean further personal details about you from your profile or from sifting through your entire history of public discussions with others, giving them more ammunition to taunt you with. You may as well invite the people that bother you right into your home.

Social Media has also become a precarious outlet for people to deal with their anger. Everyone needs to vent from time to time; it’s part of being human. But we sometimes need an outside party to talk us down before we make a fool of ourselves publicly. When I’m mad about something, I’ll get that negative energy out by ranting to friends or loved ones in private. They’re the ones who will help me work through it, kindly influence my thinking back toward reason when I need it, and not hold a poor reaction against me after I’ve come around. This is a safe place for me to express my emotions and test them out, so I can at least make a choice whether to drop the issue or proceed with it.

Social Media has broken down that filter so that all of us can instantly share our poorly thought out knee-jerk reactions with the entire world. You may as well be shouting across a crowded room to express your private and personal thoughts to friends and family. Your friends and family can still help, but there are numerous others who may see it and react just as poorly back toward you. Too many hot tempers converging on one another will invariably erupt into a brawl, which leaves everyone feeling wounded and indignant. You only spoke out of a need to have your anger resolved, but instead your anger is magnified and spread to others. Social Media then makes it easier than ever to play the old passive-aggressive game of talking around each other. All of this just makes things more difficult for you in your day to day life.

There are numerous other scenarios that I can think of, where Social Media has become a bane. Checking in, or being checked into places other than your home can instantly notify malicious people of a prime opportunity to vandalize or burglarize your home. Games like Farmville are designed to post updates to your profile about your game progress. This can be a breach of privacy, and can get you into a lot of trouble if you’re supposed to be doing something more important. People can easily create fake profiles for themselves to avoid accountability for their own words and actions online. This also gives their opinions a misleading lack of bias and context that would normally come with their identity.

The topic of my Master’s Thesis required me to do a fair amount of research on the human impact of various technology-enabled social awareness systems, and from what I gathered, every advantage that technology can provide also comes with a disadvantage. The act of heightening awareness of others is a trade off with privacy. It’s a good thing when technology provides something of use or value, such as facilitating work or social activities, but it’s a bad thing when it is misused or it misbehaves. There has been a huge amount of research to find solutions for our technology to mitigate privacy as seamlessly as it can provide awareness, but nothing short of another human in between can handle this ideally. So that means we as
individuals are left to take this responsibility into our own hands.

**Familiarity breeds contempt.** Even the chattiest of Kathy’s needs to spend some time away from other people. Too much contact with other people means you are “always-on,” you never get to let your guard down which is exhausting. Value your solitude. You need time to consciously process and reflect on what happens around you before you go shovelling more information into your head.

**Don’t cheapen your notion of friendship.** Remember who your real friends are. Keep them on separate lists from family, work colleagues, real life acquaintances, online acquaintances, “frienemies”, and any strangers that you may have added for other reasons. For each post you make, consider anew which lists you include. If you can’t name every person that will be able to see what you’re about to post, then it’s probably safer not to post.

**Control your fate.** Everything you do on Social Media has consequences. Know what they are so that you can stop yourself from making a mistake. Familiarize yourself with the privacy settings that these technologies offer, and use them. At the same time remember that technology isn’t perfect and can’t always be trusted.

**Err on the side of caution.** Don’t post anything publicly on Social Media that you wouldn’t be comfortable shouting across a crowded room of family, work colleagues, and strangers. You may think you know who is seeing what you post, but Social Media can sometimes behave contrary to your expectations. Exercise your right to freedom of speech by making a conscious decision about who you speak to, and when is best not to speak at all. The phone is still at your disposal when you need it.

**Written record is forever.** Once you say something on Social Media, you can’t ever take it back, even if it’s only

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**Online Last Month (1/2)**

**A Visionary with a Heart for his Community**

**Club Sapien says goodbye**

On Saturday, February 11th, Calgary will be saying goodbye to one of its finest establishments. Club Sapien will be disbanding after nearly two years...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2726

**Team Edmonton Mixer**

**Sports and Recreation and Fun!**

Team Edmonton, Edmonton’s volunteer-operated, non-profit society providing recreational activities for the LGBT community, in association with...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2727

**Pride Calgary Community Meeting**

**Public Forum for the 2012 year**

A temperature of -40 did not stop a group of community-oriented individuals from attending the 3rd Annual Pride Calgary Community Meeting held at The ...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2728

**Healthy Living**

**HPV and oral sex: A risky mix**

What’s the cause for the alarming 225 percent increase in oral cancer? Could it be heavy smoking or drinking? Well a new study in Clinical Oncology...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2729

**Book Marks**

**Double Life: A Love Story from Broadway to Hollywood**

Double Life: A Love Story from Broadway to Hollywood, by Alan Shayne and Norman Sunshine. Magnus Books, 448 pages, $24.95 hardcover. When...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2734

**Creep of the Week**

**Amy Koch**

It’s always sad to watch a person self-destruct. Especially when that self-destruction is happening in that person’s pants. Minnesota Senator...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2735

**Creep of the Week**

**Rick Santorum (Again!)**

I’ll be frank. I’m tired of writing about Rick Santorum. But the man just cut an incredible anti-gay streak across New Hampshire. Come on, Rick, give...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2736

**Creep of the Week**

**Pope Benedict XVI**

You know, whenever I’m in the market for marriage advice, the only person I trust is an unmarried guy in a dress. It also...

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2737
Creep of the Week
Patrick Wooden
Holy shit. And I mean that literally. Because Patrick Wooden is both a pastor and a man whose imagination is wildly scatological, at least when it...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2738

Deep Inside Hollywood
Linda Lovelace gets her men
It takes a village to tell the story of ’70s porn sensation Linda “Lovelace” Boreman, and acclaimed filmmaking team Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2739

Hear Me Out
Graffiti6, Rumer
Graffiti6, Colours Everyone’s talking about the hotness of Jamie Scott, frontman for breakout duo Graffiti6...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2740

Thinking Out Loud:
Lessons from Egypt
A tourist’s view of what Egypt’s new democracy means for LGBT rights
2011 will be known in large part for the Arab Spring. From my LA home, I felt such camaraderie with those brave...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2741

Thinking Out Loud
Joel Osteen and feel-good homophobia
When the Michelle Bachmanns or Glenn Becks of the world do their public rants about rampant homosexual perversion and the decay of American values...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2742

Jann Arden experience
one to be treasured
February 24th marked the 10th time that I have seen Jann Arden live in concert. I’ve seen her in other cities, with an orchestra, and even outdoor...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2743

Supportive Family and Friends
Can Reduce LGBT Youth Suicide, Harm Risks, Study Shows
A new study shows that support from friends and family may be the best protection from suicide and self-harm for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2744

If My Credit Has Some Dings, Can I Get A Home Loan?
So you want to know if you can still qualify for a home loan even if your credit has some dings. The answer to this question, unfortunately, is not black...
http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2745

GayCalgary Online
With our new policy on coverage we have saved a lot of time this month, so we have finally been able to make some headway on the GayCalgary website.
Previously we had a photo gallery area on our website that we eventually disabled after a long period without updates. Part of the reason for this was that doing updates was horribly complicated and time consuming, so it fell to the wayside.
This month we were able to get a new photo gallery system set up on our site that makes our job of adding photos much more manageable. We’ve already gone back a few months and posted back to Calgary Pride this past September, perhaps further by the time you’re reading this.
We will continue getting caught up on past months as time goes by. We have 8 years to get caught up on, plus we have stuff to post from the pre-magazine days back to the year 2000. But people will finally be able to see the complete set of photos (minus the ones that didn’t turn out)
Religion and homosexuality are at the best of times, strange bedfellows, and rightfully so. It is no secret that right-wing, conservative, religious ideologies have told us that we are not free to love whomever we want. Fortunately for all of us, affirming churches such as Hillhurst United have opened their doors to everyone, and taken the plight of these “Religious Refugees” to heart.

Religious Refugees is a three part program running at Hillhurst United. As a United, affirming church, Hillhurst’s pews are full of different faiths, gender identities, and sexualities. Hillhurst is well aware that many of their constituents have come from very painful backgrounds that reject them due to who they are, and Religious Refugees attempts to tackle these issues head-on. It is hoped that with this program, each attendee is able to explore their own faith without any inhibitions.

Joanne Anquist of Hillhurst United, and facilitator at this event took some time to talk to GayCalgary Magazine about the program.

“IT RUN INTO MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE RAISED IN CONSERVATIVE, religious communities. They were ‘true believers’ and the church was an important part of their life. But, for whatever reason, it is no longer a place they call home. They have been ostracized in some way—because they have come out as gay or lesbian, because they don’t believe all the things they were taught as children, because they find the expectations too restrictive and oppressive. They are ‘refugees’ from the world they call home, and they are looking for a way to be a spiritual person without having to compromise who they are. This is an opportunity to get together with fellow travelers and have honest conversations about spirit struggles without judgment—nobody will try to convert you or tell you you’re a sinner!”

Pam Rocker, Communications Director for Hillhurst is also enthusiastic about the program. “Many people grew up in church or religion that marginalized who they were in some way, and this resulted in a spiritual abuse. It is tough when one is rejected from the church and are searching for a place to heal and discuss. Most people think that all churches treat God in the same light and that is what the sole definition of Christianity is. This is not true, especially at Hillhurst. This is a perfect opportunity for people that have experiences negativity to come to.”

Again, unless you are a member of Hillhurst United or the United Church in general, the thought of going to a church program is probably daunting, especially when you are a proud member of the queer community. This point has been taken by both Joanne and Pam.

“The invitation that Hillhurst puts out to everyone is ‘Whoever you are...wherever you’re at...join us on the Journey.’ We live by that. It doesn’t matter if you are a person of deep faith who has been spiritually abused by another church, or you are a person who has lost their faith, or never had any, but are curious about the faith stories of others, you are welcome to join the conversation. Everyone is invited to participate, but nobody is obligated to speak or share. It is a safe place to be who you are,” Joanne asserts.

Pam adds, “The church in general hasn’t been good at two things: apologizing (recognizing the hurt even if they are not directly involved), and creating safe spaces for everyone and never questioning one’s motivations. I have had a similar experience as have many disenfranchised people of faith. I wanted to explore my sexuality within a safe space. It is common for people especially in the queer community to have grown up with very backwards rules, where if they do one thing that is perceived wrong, everything is wrong. It is definitely a culture of guilt.”

Joanne continues, “Many at Hillhurst United Church are members of the queer community. They have been marginalized by traditional religious communities and told they are sinners, and unworthy. We believe it is our responsibility as a Christian church to speak out against religious homophobia, and to welcome all into our community as valued members.

“I am particularly drawn to those who were raised in conservative Christian traditions, because I was as well. I had a friend in my church that was gay. He prayed for ‘healing”
and believed God would make him straight. When it didn’t stick, he left the church, and has never really returned. But he has always been searching. He is the reason I left that conservative community of faith - because if there was no room for him, there was no room for me. My litmus test for being part of a church is whether they are truly welcoming to members of the LGBT community. Will they speak for the marginalized in the face of the hateful words which come out of other religious communities? We welcome those who have been displaced from their communities of faith and trust that they will find a spiritual home that accepts them for who they are. One of the great things about Hillhurst is that it doesn’t matter if you’re gay or straight - it is not the only thing that defines you. You are welcome to participate fully in our community.
March 24th will go down as a night of glamour, drag, disco dancing, music and overall food and drink gluttony at Edmonton’s Yellowhead Brewing Co.

The famed Guys in Disguise group – “creators and presenters of cross-dressing comedies since 1987” – have selected the date to celebrate more than two decades in North American theatre.

“When we started this journey, we simply wanted to create a show for the Edmonton Fringe. Year by year we have been emboldened by the success of each project and enjoy pushing the perceived boundaries of drag performance,” says Darrin Hagen who, with partner Kevin Hendricks comprise the main body of the group. “No one can see 25 years into the future. We just approach it year by year.”

The troupe will be displaying photo archives by way of slideshows throughout the evening and offer poster archive giveaways. The Guys In Disguise Classic will be offering a performance, and a pictorial presentation of the group’s history.

“There will also be prizes, a balloon lottery and a silent auction created by our many friends and sponsors in the community,” Hagen says.
Having been a pivotal and influential group in western Canada’s drag scene since the late ‘80s, Guys in Disguise has several achievements to boast at this party: creating a Queer-friendly cultural climate where emerging queer artists can explore their unique voice; 20 years of putting on the annual Loud & Queer Cabaret; being the first drag troupe in Western Canada to go public; being the first queer theatre company in Alberta; performing as part of the Alberta Scene at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa; taking “BitchSlap!” on tour to Florida; and the publication of ‘The Edmonton Queen’, “which added a distinct survivor’s voice to the national discussion of Queer history, and which has been studied internationally by students of gender, queer theory and Canadian lit,” says Hagen.

“The success of Guys In Disguise has helped to create a climate where queer artists can be confident that there is an audience for their message,” he says. “It has also created a respect for the art of drag performance by consistently challenging preconceived notions of what drag is and how it is presented.”

The group has persevered through media slander, the loss of many members amid the ‘90s, and a great many more challenges to continually provide opportunity for generation after generation of LGBT artists in Alberta and beyond.

“Our shows have opened eyes to the history of drag, and to the reality that drag is not merely something you see when you go to a gay bar, but part of the history and culture of the world,” Hagen states. “It has helped educate our largely hetero audience about the lives of the history and people in our community. And it has done so through extremely accessible humour.”

“Lastly, it has taken the formerly easy-to-dismiss caricature of drag queens and compelled the audience – and the media – to re-think that faulty assumption.”

The troupe has created more than 24 hit comedies including PileDriver!, BitchSlap!, The Edmonton Queen, Tornado Magnet, and Christmas sensation With Bells On to sold out crowds from Calgary, Red Deer, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Whitehorse, Orlando, Key West, Seattle and more.

And their momentum keeps building. Hagen says more plays and more queer writer development is on the horizon.

“Plus we are currently going through 25 years of our archives in order to donate them to the Edmonton Gay Archives, the provincial archives, and the National Gay Archives,” he says. “There are many more plans afoot, but I would prefer to wait until they are more solid before announcing them.”

This gala is an opportunity for the troupe to thank their audiences and sponsors, many of whom have shared the ride for decades, supporting the group’s work year after year.

If you are interested in participating in this special night there are several fun options available:

Sponsor one of Canada’s top Queens paying homage to the group. For $200 your name will appear in lights and you and a guest will receive complimentary tickets to the night; donate a prize – gift or merchandise – for the balloon lottery/silent auction; or just simply purchase a ticket and attend. Tickets are available online at www.GuysinDisguise.com or at TixOnTheSquare.ca.

“The biggest lesson I have learned is to not wait until you feel the world is ready for your message,” Hagen says. “Just start delivering the message and watch the world prove that it has been ready all along. Artists are instruments of change, not followers of trends.”

“It’s what we do for a living.”

Guys in Disguise
25th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, March 24th
Yellowhead Brewing Co (10229 105 Street NW, Edmonton)

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2748
View Bonus Pics/Videos • Share with a Friend • Post Comments
The dichotomy of hilarity and tragedy can only begin to describe one’s coming out journey. The University of Calgary is hosting its 3rd Annual Coming Out Monologues on March 15th and 16th so we can relive and re-evaluate this fundamental journey many of us have experienced.

Aleesha Bray, one of the Coordinator’s of the event took some time to talk about The Coming Out Monologues and its relevance in today’s world.

“In 2007 a group of students at the University of California Riverside created the first Coming Out Monologues, inspired by Eve Ensler’s popular *Vagina Monologues*. The University of Calgary is the first school in Canada to pick up this event.”

The Coming Out Monologues is traditionally performed by members of the LGBTQ+ community in a theatre setting. The stories and performances are tales of coming out in all forms, and are either written by the performers themselves or by other anonymous individuals.

While keeping with tradition, this year the performers are doing a lot more to make the production spicy. Not only will they be recanting their most personal stories to hundreds in the audience, the audience will also have more chance to engage. There will be an art installation by artist and monologue performer Zac Slams, as well as musical performances, swag, live tweets, a chance for a unique “coming out of the closet” personalized photo, and a chance to state your comments of support on a uniquely crafted wishing tree.

Most pertinent to the event however, are the stories of personal survival, triumph, pain, and humour. Each night will bring the audience a volley of 13 different performances.

“This year there is a huge crossing of generations performing,” states Bray. “There are 17 year olds as well as 70 year olds performing which will be a nice foray into all coming out stories.”

“Each performance is funny, engaging, emotional, and challenging. The stories are so organic and come from a place that is so personal to each individual. This allows the audience to get an idea of how diverse the queer culture is and how each individual is affected.”

Bray spoke about the journey that performers went through during rehearsals. “Each performer is creating a more personal story as we move along in the rehearsal process. Some individuals that originally joined the production to read someone else’s story have changed their minds and decided to write and perform their own. There are so many connections on a personal level, and people who didn’t feel comfortable verbalizing their own stories have begun to feel less isolated.”

This has also been a profound personal journey for Bray as well. “I am so excited to be a part of the production this year. I was a performer last year and was asked if I wanted to take it over this year. It was extremely intimidating but I am also so happy to take it on. We are really focused on getting the word of the performance out there as it is so relevant to everyone, both gay and straight. It opens the dialogue to the myriad of gay issues that are facing the world.”

Both nights’ performances are being emceed by the talented Constable Lynn MacDonald, and all proceeds from each performance go to the Calgary contingent of Camp fyrefly which will be debuting in 2013. Tickets are available online, at the University of Calgary box office, or at the door. Each show is predicted to sell out, so make sure you secure yourself a seat.
The recent closure of Club Sapien left a void for many in our community that has been difficult to fill. Fortunately, a multitude of community organizations have started joining forces and sharing ideas to bring Calgary’s LGBTQA community some new and improved opportunities to come out and enjoy yourselves. Queers on Campus’s Gender Bender, coming up Friday March 23rd, is one such opportunity.

Gender Bender is a unique and fun event that allows you to play with gender in your own, personal way. The event takes place at the always gracious Den/Black Lounge at the University of Calgary and promises to be a great way to spend your Friday night. Kings, Queens, and everything in between will be donning their best top hats and gowns as they put on a fabulous show. In between and after the shows, DJ Jay Fraid and DJ Goldstar will keep you dancing.

Zac Wierzbicki, one of the co-chairs of Queers on Campus, the organizer of this year’s Gender Bender is extremely excited about the event. “This year is a little different than it has been in the past, in that we are collaborating with a number of groups to put the event on. Apollo and ARGRA have both been really helpful with agreeing to post information about Gender Bender. The VP of ARGRA actually helped us secure the DJ’s. We are also being supported by Ming, Divine, and GayCalgary Magazine.”

“Also new this year, we are partnering with Pride Calgary to hold a joint event as the official Pride Calgary Half Way to Pride Event.”

Doug Hass, Communications Director for Pride Calgary, loves the collaborative effort. “To celebrate the half-way mark to Pride, we are thrilled to team up with the U of C and their Gender Bender event. By partnering up with various organizations and schools around the city, we are able to reach an audience that we have yet to tap and introduce them to Pride and all we have to offer.” Pride will be selling all things rainbow at the event, so make sure to check out their table.

The Miscellaneous Youth Network will be supplying quite a few entertainers, as well as emceeing the event.

All proceeds go towards Queers on Campus. “The organization is a Student’s Union sanctioned club at the University of Calgary,” explains Wierzbicki. “As a group of queer students and allies, we work with organization both on and off campus to promote understanding and acceptance of the queer people (queer obviously being used in the sense of an umbrella terms which includes and encompasses all forms of sexual and gender diversity).”

“Some of the money goes towards covering the cost of the event itself, included in that is a donation to Miscellaneous Youth. Overall though, the event is our main fundraiser and we use the money to fund our events over the entire academic year. With about one event per week, the cost begins to add up, but Gender Bender enables us to do these personal.”

Wierzbicki is excited by the response he has witnessed, and hopes this will mean a packed house. “I am really looking forward to the event this year. With this being my first year as co-chair, and just the absolute wave of support and interest we have received over the last couple of weeks, the event should be absolutely amazing!”

Queers on Campus presents Gender Bender
A Community Collaboration

By Dallas Barnes

Gender Bender
Presented by Queers on Campus
March 23rd, 9:00pm
The Den, University of Calgary
Tickets: $10.00

http://www.gaycalgary.com/a2750
View Bonus Pics/Videos • Share with a Friend • Post Comments
Sometimes, being different isn’t so different.

As the not-so-different Boysen Hodgson says, “You get the same experience (as everyone else in New Warrior Training): it’s the same protocols that we put on for anyone, the difference being that most of the facilitators are gay, bi or trans.”

Boysen Hodgson, of The Mankind Project USA, is describing opportunities that have been organized for this personal development weekend, most famously parodied in Disney/Pixar’s Finding Nemo (2003) (“SharkBait! Boo-ha-ha!”). The name may seem gender-specific for men, and indeed it is. The interesting idea here is that it’s not sexuality-specific.

“The Project is still 75-80% heterosexual demographically, but it’s very much dependent upon where you are in the country: how ‘out’ is the culture in that given area?”

Mankind Pride, as the alternative trainings are called, are an offshoot of the original Mankind Project. It has its origins in 1985 as a response to the sixties’ and seventies’ feminist movement, basically asking, what about men?

As their website describes, “The ManKind Project is a global not for profit organization that conducts challenging and highly rewarding trainings for men at every stage of life. We help men through any transition, men at all levels of success, men facing almost any challenge... We strive to be increasingly inclusive and affirming of cultural differences, especially with respect to color, class, sexual orientation, faith, age, ability, ethnicity, and nationality.”

This may sound ambitious for a few days spent without any female accompaniment. Can a group of males get together for an entire weekend and still be constructive? According to the Mankind Project line, yes! “[MKP is] a new way of being for men...and the hope for creating a new culture out of that new way of being for humanity.”

Boysen tries to explain these lofty goals. “We look pretty honestly and fully at all aspects of a man’s life during the training weekend, and the baseline is, we’re men. Then it’s about levels of distinction: what does that mean to you? Being in a circle with gay men, when I got through my own internal homophobia, processed my own stuff...” He hesitates, then continues, “what becomes clear is that, holy cow, there’s so much more in common than there is difference. From what I’ve been told, that can be an incredible eye-opener for a homosexual man, to say, holy shit, these straight guys, they’re carrying around the same fears that I am, the same insecurities that I am. They have the same vulnerability: they cry like I do, they laugh like I do,
they rage like I do. And it boils down to that level where we can connect.”

“The (Mankind Pride) Gateways are about creating spaces for men who know that it is going to be very difficult for them to overcome that level of basic perceived safety, entering into a container with a lot of heterosexual men... But once a man goes through the training, he’s then invited to become (if he chooses to) a part of the community. Once you enter into that space, it’s all of us; one big circle.”

Enter Mark Riser, volunteer with nearly a dozen New Warrior Training weekends, and Terry Syvenky, a newbie who began his version of this adventure in October of 2011. As Terry says, “It’s the nature of people to expand and explore, and we think it’s really important for our community to know that, when the time comes to do some work, that they can find an organization that will actually affirm them and accept them, and celebrate them as a gay man. That being a man has nothing to do with your sexual orientation.

“We all know that, when the sign says ‘Everyone Welcome’, that is not always the case. So when an organization like the Mankind Project makes this unequivocally clear, in their written materials and in the language that the facilitators use during the weekend, I want people to know about it.”

Mark mentions the personal obstacles he started to overcome after discovering the training weekend in 2007, in Vancouver. He acknowledges that when he was young, “I wasn’t accepted. For me, it was my family...and that has impacted my ability to be social, to trust others, or to have healthy relationships.

“When I went to this MKP weekend (in 2007), for the first time I felt like I belonged, and had men accept me, and embrace me, and care for me. And challenge me in a way that I’ve never experienced before. I went through my whole childhood up until I was about 28 without having any meaningful connections, and very few with men. Whereas now I have many male friends, and really feel like I can trust the men in my life.”

Mark also mentions, as a veteran facilitator promoting his passion, that there are weekly MKP circles in both Edmonton and Calgary, and that there are two training weekends coming up. One is a sample of the all-gay kind of MankindPride, in Tucson, Arizona (March 30th - April 1st), and the other, standard version weekend, is in Gull Lake, Alberta (May 11th - 13th).

A so-far unexplored aspect of non-discriminatory inclusion is the changing demographics of the MKP participants. As Boysen mentions, “Age is definitely shifting. Our median age for men coming into the Project is around 45, but, depending on the community that you are in, the age is going down. As an example, in New England, in one of our trainings we had last year, 40% of the staff were under 35, and more than 40% of the participants were under 35.” A statistic which reflects the ages of Mark and Terry.

The times they are a-changing, but in a good way. The question is if this change is for you.
Think of Sherry Vine’s rise to the (figurative) top as a fairy tale. She begrudgingly waited on people – as a server – until realizing she could dress all pretty and make a lot of money. Next up was singing about penis, poop and boobs (hey, if the shoe fits), referencing those while spoofing pop icons in her outrageous YouTube takes on “Born This Way,” “Rolling in the Deep” and Madonna’s newest single, “Give Me All Your Luvin’.” Then, finally, her happily-ever-after: She got a TV series, a zany half-hour, anything-goes variety show called She’s Living For This on the here! network.

We got Vine on the phone recently to chat about paying homage to variety show icons, her reason for doing drag and how she gets so much penis (take that, Cinderella).

**GC:** The show is a modern twist on classic TV variety shows – because if there was one thing missing from The Carol Burnett Show, it was penis.

**SV:** (Laughs) I agree! One of my favorite topics. Penis and boobs.

**GC:** Where does your dirty mind come from?

**SV:** I don’t know! But I remember being in high school, and we would do musicals and I would literally sit there and write dirty lyrics to all the songs and then read them or sing them to people. I have no idea where that comes from.

**GC:** Your parents?

**SV:** Well, they’re pretty silly, actually. And they have a good sense of humor and are a little on the dirty side. Some of my videos they love, and there are definitely some that cross the line for them. Anything to do with fist-fucking is really not for my parents. But the poo-poo ones, they love!

**GC:** How does it feel to get it off the ground?

**SV:** It really is like a dream come true. I’ll be there in front of the cameras and I still can’t believe it’s happening. I feel like I’ve been doing Sherry Vine for 20 years and it’s all been building up to this.

**GC:** What was Sherry Vine up to 10 years ago?

**SV:** Really the same, but YouTube clearly opened me up to a much bigger audience. I’ve been making a living performing as Sherry in larger cities for the past 15 years and it’s just been the past three years, since the invention of the YouTube, that it’s spread.

**GC:** How did TV variety show icons, like Cher and Carol Burnett, inspire the show?
SV: Carol Burnett was the biggest influence. I was a little kid when Carol Burnett was on, but I remember watching it and thinking that’s what I want to do. And Cher with her out-of-control glamour, and even Donny and Marie – I remember watching them and thinking it was so much fun.

GC: But they didn’t have penises on their shows. What inspired the full frontal?

SV: We don’t have the censorship. So, right away, we wanted to just introduce to people that this is going to be different than what they’re used to seeing. And we weren’t expecting all that penis! (laughs)

GC: I’ve only seen the first episode.

SV: That’s what I mean. The one!

GC: How do you find the penises for this show?

SV: Oh, honey, I fucking love Facebook because I can put something on Facebook – “anyone wanna have a nude walk-on?” – and I’ll get 20 responses in an hour.

GC: What else do you live for besides this show?

SV: Right now, that’s it. My focus is this right now because I want to give it everything I can possibly give. I want to make sure everything is right. Everything bigger and better than before.

GC: Does that mean you’re putting a hold on video parodies?

SV: No. We had a little break in January and I took advantage of the time and whipped up some videos. We did one with this medley, which was just for fun, and the Pandora Boxx one was big because it involved a lot of people flying in from L.A. for the day to shoot the video. I’m working on a video parody right now; we just wrote it, and we’re recording it and then we’ll shoot the video hopefully in a couple of weeks – another one with Peppermint Gummybear. So yeah, there will be more of those coming.

GC: What’s the trick to spoofing a song or video?

SV: I feel it out depending on how big the original song is. If it’s Lady Gaga, then I go all out and do a parody of the video, not just a parody of the song. Then you take her video and, luckily, Lady Gaga just gives you so much to play with. (laughs) The “Telephone” one was probably my favorite in terms of what we did if you look at her video and then ours. Every little thing – how do we make fun of her cigarette glasses? – we picked apart. And then there are some where it’s me standing in front of a green screen and it’s just meant to be silly. Those are the ones that cost, like, a dollar. (laughs)

GC: Is there anywhere you won’t go?

SV: There are definitely places I won’t go, for sure. I wouldn’t make any AIDS jokes, obviously. Even on the TV show, if I’m making fun of anyone it’s myself, and there aren’t lines I won’t cross in terms of scatological humor or sex jokes – but there’s definitely places I wouldn’t go. I remember being one who’d never make a 9/11 or Princess Diana joke. Never, ever.

GC: Have you heard from any of the artists you’ve spoofed?

SV: Totally. Katy Perry liked the “Fire Crotch” video; she actually tweeted it and sent it out and thought it was funny. And I’ve gotten two messages from Lady Gaga. One for the “Born This Way” parody and the other one for a cover of “You and I.” She responded to both of those – tweeted them, responded to them on her website and wrote me a really sweet email.

GC: Do you and her have a history?

SV: No. I met her – and I don’t know if she even remembers – before she was hugely famous in a teeny dive bar. She was walking from bar to bar performing “Just Dance” and I met her and hung out with her. But we weren’t friends, no.

GC: When did you first realize you wanted to do drag?

SV: In theater school, I was always drawn to female parts. I would read A Streetcar Named Desire and think, “Oh, Blanche is the good part; I don’t want to be Stanley, I want to be Blanche.” I was just drawn to the female parts more than the male parts because they were just more interesting to me as an actor.

When I first started drag, the focus was not performing at bars or clubs or singing: the reason I first started doing drag was because I wanted to be the leading lady of a theater company I helped start. And then I was like, “I don’t want to wait tables anymore, so let’s see if I can make money in drag.”

GC: Did you wait tables for a long time?

SV: It felt like a long time! I waited tables for six years. Long enough to hate it.

GC: What’s the secret to your legs?

SV: (laughs) It’s from wearing those heels. People would make fun of my legs growing up as a kid – telling me I have skinny chicken legs – but they work in heels! 😃
By Jason Clevett

I wasn’t sure what to expect in attending The 39 Steps, playing until April 1st at Stage West. I didn’t see the production during its successful 2010 run at Vertigo Theatre but I do have fond memories of watching reruns of Alfred Hitchcock Presents. The 39 Steps is definitely a departure from what comes to mind when you say the name Alfred Hitchcock. It is a murder mystery, but also an at times chaotic, slapstick whirlwind. It certainly must have surprised movie patrons in 1935 to see a Hitchcock directed comedy, and it still is a surprise if unfamiliar with the show. Your enjoyment will depend on what you prefer in theatre; those who aren’t fond of 1930’s style slapstick comedy may not enjoy the show.

In the wrong hands, The 39 Steps would be a mess. A 4 person show, it relies on three people to portray over 150 different characters. Under the skillful direction of Mark Bellamy, actors Andy Curtis, Chris Hunt, and Natascha Girgis tackle the various roles with gusto. It really is a show that highlights a performer’s skills and the three pull it off exceptionally well.

The heart of the story is the character of Richard Hannay (John Ullyatt) a handsome gentleman with wavy hair and a pencil moustache. He is unwittingly drawn into a world of spies and espionage, and it is up to him to save the day.

There are lots of clever references to Hitchcock and many laughs and memorable characters. It is an entertaining night out.

Those looking to partake in some additional Stage West food and entertainment should check out their upcoming Concert series. This year will feature The Amazing Kreskin in May, and tributes to Madonna, Elvis, Michael Jackson and John Lennon in the summer and fall.
Gay Calvary Magazine #101, March 2012

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Rumer Has It
British songstress embraces classic vibe, being an outsider

By Chris Azzopardi

Rumer is used to standing out. Her grade-school years were spent in clothes other girls weren’t wearing, and now, as the U.K. crossover hits America, her life hasn’t changed all that much: She still wants people to like her without boob-baiting them.

Born Sarah Joyce, Rumer doesn’t need any gimmicks to gain fans. Her old-soul throwback debut, Seasons of My Soul, soared to No. 1 on the iTunes Albums Chart recently.

In our chat, Rumer talked about falling in love with gay men, never compromising herself for music and how classic musicals inspired the album.

GC: What’s going on, Rumer?
R: Just having my hair colored. The foils are coming out as we speak.

GC: Based on Seasons of My Soul, either you’re an old soul or I need to grow up.

R: I think I’ve always been mature in some ways and immature in others, like falling in love every five minutes.

GC: Are you prepared for all the gay love you’re about to get?
R: (Laughs) I already have my supergay, Wally. He actually told me that he thinks he’s in love with me and it’s freaking me out. He’s been having dreams and it’s making him confused.

GC: Have you ever fallen for a gay man?
R: All the time! It’s like, I’ve met the love of my life. And then he’s gay. We connect and get along so well. I always fall in love with gay men.

GC: Why do you connect with them so much?
R: We like the same music. Just the great females. All the best ones: Judy Garland, Nina Simone, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Sarah Vaughan.

GC: In fact, one song on the album is named after Aretha. I get the sense from it that you were an outsider. Is that right?
R: Yeah, at secondary school I had my socks pulled up and buckle shoes and a little bob haircut. I walked onto the school bus and all the girls had on makeup and short skirts and were really fashionable. I looked down at my little buckle shoes and long socks and just thought, “Oh god, really? I’m not in Kansas anymore.”

GC: And still, you stayed true to yourself. Even when record labels tried molding you into something other than yourself, you wouldn’t have it.
R: Yeah, they did that. I always believed that you have to create your own reality. People don’t get you because you need to make them get you. Don’t compromise. I don’t believe in compromising. I believe in making your own path and making your own way. And even if you’re different, there’s always a first time for everything.
GC: Some musicians are content with being branded as something different just for popularity. What do you think of that?

R: I don’t think that ever works. You’re never really yourself that way, and people are very intelligent and will sense when you’re not being yourself.

GC: You launched your career the old-fashioned way, without having to go the American Idol route.

R: (laughs) But I love all that stuff!

GC: You’re cool with talent-seeking reality shows?

R: Sometimes it gets boring, but I don’t have a problem with people who do that. I just think that some people can get very good careers out of it; they can end up on Broadway or with other careers they weren’t expecting. I can see why, if you live in a small town in the middle of nowhere, you might. This one girl was a single parent with two kids, so it’s good for people who don’t really have the ability to do it the old-fashioned way.

GC: Elton John is a big fan. Have you met him?

R: I did! I met him when I did a show with him and Leon Russell. He was warm, like a really kind uncle. I put out my hand to shake his and he ignored it and went for a hug.

GC: Gay men are so affectionate, aren’t they? I’m sure Wally is the same way.

R: He says to me, “I love you. Now say I love you back.” He’s very funny. He calls me Rumercita, and it’s so funny: Whenever I’m in a public place he’ll walk up to me and go, “Excuse me, do I know you? Are you famous?” He’ll look around and go, “Are you Rumercita the porn actress? You played Sister Fellatio in that porn movie!” (laughs)

GC: Pop music nowadays is more about the frills than the voice. Do you miss when music relied more on the singing?

R: Yeah, I do. At the same time, I think pop has its place. When I was growing up in the ’80s, Madonna was really cool, and now kids love Katy Perry, or they love Lady Gaga, because she looks like a Disney princess. And they serve a purpose. I don’t think there’s anything wrong with pop princesses. It’s good to have balance, for everyone to have choice.

At the moment there are more choices of styles of music. I think when you get one producer, like Dr. Luke who writes all the same songs for all the pop princesses, that’s when it gets boring. You hear the same synthesizer and think, “Oh god, it’s the same top superstar producers in the office just going ‘round and ‘round and ‘round.” It gets very boring. But that often has more to do with the producers, not the artists themselves.

GC: What inspired the classic throwback vibe of the album?

R: Movies that were designed to put America into this lovely dreamy sleep while it was going through a depression. It did the same thing to me when I was depressed as a kid. I think that those dreamy melodies and those dreamy costumes – Adrian Adolph Greenberg’s crazy costumes for the MGM musicals, and all the lovely beautiful women dancing around and the gentlemen in top hats – is when I first came to understand music as a way of trying to transport yourself the way that people use drugs, smoke a joint or whatever. Music transports you to a better place. It can take you to a whole new world where you’re safe and everything’s beautiful.
For those who think prices at the pump have gotten expensive, have you looked at what they’re charging for underwear? The most in-demand briefs today are by the Spanish designer brand, ES Collection. ES briefs typically retail between $55 to $65 each in boutiques and luxury department stores. And no, that isn’t for a three-pack. It’s for one pair!

Expensive, for sure. But those that can afford them say they’re worth it. Those that can’t afford them buy them anyway. It’s the price of looking good and if you want to ride the sexy train, you gotta cough up the ticket price.

Luckily, ES Collection’s latest line offers a reprieve to the fashion forward walking around with fat wallets yet empty bank accounts. Addicted by ES has all the style of sex appeal of the flagship brand, but at fashion friendly prices.

**GC:** Is Addicted the younger brother to ES?

**ES:** I guess you could call it that. ES collection is five and a half years old while Addicted is about to turn two. But in underwear years, ES is in its thirties while Addicted just graduated college.

**GC:** Addicted appears to be a more provocative active wear brand.

**ES:** Addicted is much more young, dynamic, powerful and strong. It’s for the more daring guy.

**GC:** Why did you create Addicted?

**ES:** ES is a high end brand that uses expensive fabrics. It’s not affordable to everyone. We realized pretty quickly that the style and cuts also appealed to a demographic that were just starting out in life and didn’t have the disposable income yet to spend on briefs. We decided to create a second brand with a similar spirit and an equally strong identity that would be more affordable to young guys.

**GC:** Why did you name the brand Addicted?

**ES:** Because you wear them once and you are addicted.

**GC:** Are you suggesting addictions can be good?

**ES:** Sure, there are many good addictions. Sports, the quest for optimum health, most love... Some addictions are great!

**GC:** Addicted appears to be a more provocative active wear brand.

**ES:** Not so much. It is more concept brand

**GC:** What kind of man wears Addicted?

**ES:** I would like to think everyone but our main demographic tends to be young men between 18 and 30. They’re athletic guys with a playful spirit. They’re fashion conscious which is something that kind of took us by surprise. It’s amazing how fashion conscious young guys are today! It used to be that girlfriends and wives bought their partner’s designer briefs. Now, guys have caught the underwear train.

**GC:** Do you expect the Addicted wearer will one day grow into ES?

**ES:** That’s our plan.

**GC:** Is that why Addicted seems to be on more store shelves than ES?

**ES:** Addicted is a consumer brand and so is in more places. The ES collection has a restrictive policy regarding distribution and wholesale. We don’t sell to just any stores. Retailers need to meet a pretty high standard to carry the line. One of the best places to purchase ES and view the entire collection is at LAJock.com.

**GC:** What new styles are you unveiling for Addicted?

**ES:** Our mesh collection has been a huge seller. It’s not your typical mesh. It’s a flex mesh that accentuates the curves in your body. This season, it isn’t so much about the cuts as it is about the colors. We’re introducing lots of new vibrant colors to the collection.
GC: What are some styles that you might do for Addicted that you would not do for ES?
ES: We wouldn’t do mesh for ES. It’s too young for the sophisticated ES Collection wearer. Also some of the long boxers that I designed for Addicted wouldn’t translate for ES. The ES wearer isn’t interested in the cut and also because of the high end fabric in ES, the briefs would be extremely expensive to make.

GC: The men’s underwear industry has exploded in recent years with tons of new designer brands.
ES: It’s a growing market. For so long, the men’s underwear industry was lackluster with all brands looking the same. I am thrilled that so many new and great brands have come to the market offering color, comfort, sexiness, and now there are even eco friendly briefs.

GC: Do you worry that too many brands are flooding the market?
ES: I hear that a lot; designers worrying that too many brands will tip the scales of supply and demand. I don’t agree. The flood of brands has helped the entire industry to grow and has inspired innovation. Today, you have to offer something new and great if you’re going to enter the competitive athletic wear industry. The innovation has attracted tons of new buyers... guys that never bought underwear before!

GC: What inspired you to design men’s briefs?
ES: I started designing men’s swimwear and, in time, learned I could export those designs and convert them into underwear.

GC: What’s the most popular brief and cut in the Addicted line?
ES: The basic AD2 boxer. It’s extremely comfortable, fits great, and has some amazing color combinations. Young guys love them.

GC: Are young athletes moving away from baggy athletic wear to more fitted wear?
ES: I don’t think baggy athletic wear will ever die. It’s comfortable and when an athlete is training, comfort is key. It’s when you want to show off the results of your sweat and hard work that tighter athletic wear comes into play.

GC: Your campaigns seem to suggest that younger men have become more seductive.
ES: I think younger men have become more in touch with their sexuality. They’re more playful than past generations.

GC: Briefs appear to be part of their arsenal to lure sex... is that fair to say?
ES: I don’t know about that. For the railway campaign, we just let the models have fun and be themselves. They were playing, being silly and yeah, I suppose feeling sexy, but not in a luring kind-of-way. To be honest with you, they seemed more interested in exploring themselves than with putting themselves out as bait for others.

GC: Your models are also less bulky than what we see in most campaigns... are muscles out?
ES: Addicted is more about fashion. Our customer is athletic and fit, not bulky and buff.

GC: Sex sells underwear... does underwear buy sex?
ES: I never really thought of it that way but you know what? Maybe it does. There’s a reason all the best toys are sold in colorful boxes. It’s all about the pretty packaging, isn’t it?
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By Trent Locke

A muscular chest is powerful. It increases your presence in the boardroom, wins that special someone over in the bedroom, and intimidates on the playing field.

If you struggle with a flat or uneven chest, Scott Herman says it is time to switch your routine.

Dumbbells will allow you to activate more muscle fibers and ensure that you are working out each pectoral evenly. For the best results, find an experienced spotter to ensure that you are maximizing each rep and finishing each rep range for both arms.

Scott's routine focuses on muscle growth and strength gain. Sets are therefore done in a pyramid. Lifters are expected to max out the weight for each rep, however Scott advises never sacrifice weight for form.
The Routine

5 sets per exercise. Reps will vary per set. Use your MAX weight for each rep range.
• Set 1: 12 reps
• Set 2: 10 reps
• Set 3: 8 reps
• Set 4: 6 reps
• Set 5: 4 reps

Incline Barbell Chest Press

For this exercise you will first need to find an incline bench press. Lay back on the bench with your hips and back against the pad and your feet flat on the ground. Have your spotter make sure that your elbows are tucked in toward your lats but are at least 4-5 inches away from them. Tucking your arms in allows you to push through the triceps (and not the shoulder) to both maximize your control over the weight and the chest muscle fibers that are engaged. From here you must extend your arms up while ensuring that the weight stays over your chest and not your shoulders. Once at the top begin to lower the weight back down to the starting position and repeat. Breathe out as you extend your arms.

Dumbbell Incline Chest Fly

Set your bench to 45 degrees. Grab dumbbells and lie back with the dumbbells held by your chest (palms facing in), your hips and back against the pad and your feet flat on the ground. From here, extend your arms up and ensure that the weight stays over your chest and not your shoulders. Next, while keeping a slight bend in your elbows, begin to lower your arms away from your body with your palms facing the ceiling. Stop once your elbows are the same height as your back. Have your spotter make sure that your arms are extended far enough so the exercise is a fly and not a press. Bring the dumbbells back to the starting position and repeat. Breathe out as you extend your arms.

Warm-up Tips

Before beginning your chest routine, Scott says it is a good idea to do a warm-up. Warming-up provides increased blood flow and oxygen to the muscles that you are going to be working. This not only helps prevent injury, it will help you to get a better lift as well. A general warm-up, such as walking at a moderate pace on the treadmill, is good. Also, perform a few sets of each exercise with lighter weight and higher repetitions. Then gradually increase the weight until reaching the workout goal.
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Several in the Canadian media and the general public have become interested in trans youth – most recently following a February 2012 story in the UK about a child who at 5 years of age became what is believed to be the youngest person ever diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder [1] (GID, also known as Gender Dysphoria). It’s probably inevitable that many opinions and emotions have circulated as a result. I’m concerned that some of the attention surrounding trans youth and kid’s risks loses perspective by the (often unintentional) omission of some important distinctions.

The medical profession has long recognized that gender dysphoria often first occurs in youth and childhood, and formalized this in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-III) in 1980 with a specific diagnosis for adolescents. Treatment at that time often took the form of aversion-type therapies, but because these seemed to result in increased distress and self-harm (and not unusually transition in adulthood, anyway) it became necessary for that treatment to be rethought. As years passed, it became increasingly obvious that when there is a gender identity variance, undergoing puberty to become a sex that one does not feel is appropriate to them has a tremendous negative toll on a youth’s emotional well-being. Puberty is also accompanied by major body changes, some of which could be impossible to overcome in adulthood if that person inevitably transitions.

It’s important to recognize that the process I’m speaking of for trans youth is not “sex changes” and surgery. This is often the conclusion that people jump to, but the reality is that newer treatments merely delay puberty until it is certain that further changes like hormone therapy must be undertaken, typically after age 14. German singer Kim Petras is thought to be the first youth to have undergone surgery at the age of 16, in 2009. Since then, a youth in the UK has done so as well [2], and there was an unconfirmed rumour that someone in Europe had transitioned at age 14, but surgery at this age is still rare. By the time this decision is made, a teen has typically had several years to assess if they need to make this life-changing decision for themselves.

Youth transition does not start simply because a child wants to crossdress on occasion or because they like dolls or trucks. It happens when there is a strong and persistent identification that clearly indicates that there is something deeper than the usual experimentation phase which most kids go through. If a child or youth exhibits a clear and persistent identification to express themselves as a gender contrary to their birth sex with an obvious 24/7 drive, then arrangements are made to allow the child to live accordingly. Although this social transition and accommodation in schools is gleaning much of the attention, the fact is that this aspect is really not a new phenomenon.

What is new is the use of puberty-delaying drugs, which is credited as having been pioneered by Dr. Norman Spack, at the Children’s Hospital Gender Management Services Clinic in Boston, in 2007. If accommodation proves to be an appropriate way to alleviate emotional distress, parents and doctors might then consider pharmacologically delaying the effects of testosterone or estrogen which would otherwise typically occur at puberty. Even at this stage, everything is reversible, in the event that a youth changes their mind. It isn’t until hormone therapies are started that changes occur, and that generally happens after there has been much time to consider the consequences, and the youth is able to make a mature and informed decision.

This process is undertaken carefully, with a desire to approach things in a balanced way that neither encourages someone to follow a path if they don’t need to, nor waits until a self-destructive event occurs to prove necessity. Even so, Dr. Spack states that nearly a quarter of his patients have already engaged in serious self-harm [3] before coming to him.

As these stories break, it is sometimes alleged that parents and medical professionals are participating in some kind of agenda which might influence youth to become trans. Speaking for myself as a trans advocate, my advice to trans people is actually to do what is necessary, in order for a person to be at peace with themselves - and I don’t believe that “what is necessary” follows a specific formula, but is for the individual to determine. I actually take issue with anything that could lead to transition by coercion. Anything that could induce a gender identity conflict where none had previously existed is in fact something that I would vocally oppose. I do not, however, see equality and anti-bullying education as “encouraging” a gender identity conflict. What I support in regard to education is acknowledgement in an age-appropriate way that trans people do exist, and are deserving of the same respect afforded to anyone else. I support this for the benefit of those trans youth who do exist - either openly or in hiding - and who need to know that they are not alone, nor are they “freaks” of some kind.

The same is typically true of parents and medical professionals, who usually don’t come to a decision to assist a child to transition very easily. Parents and doctors who form a transitioning youth’s support network are very much thinking about the needs of the child when they make that wracking decision.

National Public Radio (NPR, a semi-public broadcaster in the US) recently compared reparative / aversion and affirming practices. [4] People wanting to know more should read the contrasting accounts told in this piece.
New Faces and Fresh Perspectives
Get Educated while Having Fun at this Year’s OUTspoken Event

By Janine Eva De Zamacona

Save the dates of March 21st to 24th in your calendar if you live in Lethbridge, or can make it to the area for the 2012 OUTspoken event.

Slated as the largest going on of its kind in the whole of southern Alberta, OUTspoken offers “an amazing four day workshop and lecture series” that wraps up with a fun evening of entertainment, dance and partying – Masquerave – at the University of Lethbridge Student Union Ballroom.

This year’s event offers a long list of impressive presenters and speakers – all at no cost and without need to register

“Almost every event has a new spin on it with vibrant new faces and prospective on the classes being offered,” says Shalyn Martin, advertising coordinator and graphic designer, on behalf of the OUTspoken collective. “We are excited to hear the stories that will be shared at the Queer and Christian panel this year [Thursday 7 to 9 pm], along with our two new panel discussions: Trans Perspective [Saturday 1pm] and Parents’ Perspective [Saturday 3pm].”

Guests slated to speak at the event on a wide range of LGBTQ topics include: Whitehorse born Ivan Coyote, an award winning author of six collections of short stories, one novel, three CD’s, four short films and a renowned performer of music, poetry, and spoken word at writer’s festivals from Anchorage to Amsterdam; Ken Coolen, president of the Vancouver Pride Society and recent star of a documentary centered on his travels to various pride celebrations around the world; Kate Bornstein, an American author, playwright, performance artist, speaker and gender theorist who has published five books, including Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws (2006); Bre Woligroski, a Canadian queer, religious and feminist activist who has worked with the Student Christian Movement of Canada, World Student Christian Federation and served as a volunteer delegate for the United Nations 52nd Commission on the Status of Women; and Katie Toth, a freelance journalist for Xtra, Geez, and Rabble, whose queer and activist media has been published across the globe.

“The workshops, performances and keynotes that will take place during this year’s event will provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for visitors,” Martin says. “Education of this sort is crucial for making Alberta a safer place for all people, and OUTspoken is an important part of educating the public about specific issues surrounding the queer community.”

The event kicks off Wednesday with speeches from the mayor of Lethbridge, members of the Lethbridge police, the U of L president’s office, and several other community supporters. Saturday concludes with keynote entertainer Kate Bornstein.

OUTspoken provides a prime opportunity for community members and allies to meet queer activists from across Alberta and North America, “which allows us to build a stronger, more united queer movement,” Martin says.

This second annual event is made possible by the University of Lethbridge Student’s Union, Lethbridge Public Interest Research Group, ULSU PRIDE Centre, OUTreach Southern Alberta and the University of Lethbridge Campus Women’s Centre.

For more information and a schedule of events visit their website.
Admit it, as much as you appreciate her evil one-liners on Glee, part of you misses the days when Jane Lynch felt more like your own little comedy secret, when she would show up as a surprise supporting character in films like The 40 Year Old Virgin and Julie & Julia. But with the track suit taking up so much of her time lately, we've seen less and less of her in feature films, so it's nice news to report that she's recently signed on for the indie feature A.C.O.D. Starring alongside Richard Jenkins (Eat Pray Love) and Adam Scott (Parks and Recreation), Lynch will play “Dr. Judith,” a therapist and author – we're imagining Suze Orman meets Dr. Phil – who's experiencing a career downturn and takes on Scott as a patient.

Of course, if you can’t wait for that one’s eventual release to see her on the big screen again, you can always bite the bullet and catch her in this spring’s sure-to-be bizarre Farrelly Brothers reboot of The Three Stooges. And no, Lynch doesn’t play Moe.

Deep Inside Hollywood
Jane Lynch, out of the tracksuit

By Romeo San Vicente

Admit it, as much as you appreciate her evil one-liners on Glee, part of you misses the days when Jane Lynch felt more like your own little comedy secret, when she would show up as a surprise supporting character in films like The 40 Year Old Virgin and Julie & Julia. But with the track suit taking up so much of her time lately, we’ve seen less and less of her in feature films, so it’s nice news to report that she’s recently signed on for the indie feature A.C.O.D. Starring alongside Richard Jenkins (Eat Pray Love) and Adam Scott (Parks and Recreation), Lynch will play “Dr. Judith,” a therapist and author – we’re imagining Suze Orman meets Dr. Phil – who’s experiencing a career downturn and takes on Scott as a patient.

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Gossip

Matthew Bomer: gay and Normal

Welcome to the 137th update on the decades-long gestating movie adaptation of Larry Kramer’s ’80s stage classic The Normal Heart. Now a period piece, the AIDS drama about gay men caught in the wide net of the disease’s first, devastating wave has, as reported earlier, found a director in Ryan Murphy and a cast including the now-officially-publicly-gay (as opposed to everybody-on-the-Internet-knew-he-was-already) White Collar star Matthew Bomer. Joining him for the angry, sorrowful story is Big Bang Theory star (and, for the purposes of this discussion, right now classified as merely probably-maybe-gay because he won’t talk about it) Jim Parsons. And joining them? A powerhouse supporting cast including Julia Roberts, Mark Ruffalo and Alec Baldwin, none of whom have to stumble around the new media glass-closet scenario. Lucky them. And lucky you, the movie will, we hear, finally hit theaters in 2014.

Cherry Jones and B.D. Wong are wide Awake

It’s always good news when cool, gay character actors – people whose faces you know because they’ve been in a million different things on stage, TV and film, the queer version of “Oh hey, it’s That Guy” – keep on succeeding. And on NBC’s new series Awake (premiering March 1) both Cherry Jones (24) and BD Wong (Law and Order: Special Victims Unit) get theirs. They both play therapists to Jason Isaacs (Lucius Malfoy in those little-seen Harry Potter films), each one determined to convince him that their version of his reality is the truth. Confused? That’s because Isaacs plays a man who, depending on whether he’s awake or asleep, is living in a reality in which either his wife or his son has been killed in a car accident. Which no-win situation should he accept as true? And how does this play out over the course of a series? Who knows right now, but In Treatment meets The Twilight Zone is just original and weird enough that it ought to meet your DVR’s programming queue.

Gay(ish) pilot season casting news: the roundup

Recently, on the hilarious Happy Endings (which you should be watching, as it boldly allows its gay male character to be both a layabout slob and to make out with guys with no crazy special-episode build up) “Max” (Adam Pally) kissed Jimmy Wolk. Wolk’s name will only be familiar to fans of the cancelled-quickly Lone Star, but the handsome young actor has also just been cast on Greg Berlanti’s (Brothers and Sisters) drama pilot Political Animals. So here’s hoping it doesn’t get Lone Star’d… Meanwhile, Ellen Barkin has joined the cast of Ryan Murphy and Ali Adler’s comedy pilot The New Normal. She’ll play the mother of a woman who becomes involved as a surrogate for a gay male couple trying to have a baby… Kevin Bacon will take on the lead role in Kevin Williamson’s still-unnamed pilot about a serial killer using the internet to build a serial-killing cult… And the outcome of a network bidding war sees Portia DeRossi starring in The Smart One for ABC. Produced by DeRossi and Ellen DeGeneres, it’s a comedy concerning an intelligent, successful woman who goes to work for her sister, a former beauty queen who’s now a big-city mayor (and, presumably, not so smart). Start building your scorecards now; pilot season is a tricky beast to keep track of. Romeo San Vicente has plenty of experience with tricky beasts.
Cocktail Chatter

The Rob Roy: A Wee Tale

By Ed Sikov

“A Rob Roy,” Chipper announced much too loudly. He looked around at the table at our stunned expressions and seemed quite pleased with himself.

As we stared – Chipper is a devout martini drinker – the server asked in a bright tone of voice, “How would you like that, sir?” “Perfect, please,” Chipper said. He leaned back in his chair and asked, “And what will you all be having?”

“Rob Roy!” Craig cried.

“Same!” said Dan.

“Make me a Rob Roy!” Paolo decided after pretending to think about it for a moment.

“Who am I to break this chain of fools?” I inquired. “Rob Royals all around.” “Perfect!” Chipper said.

“What’s so perfect about it?” Craig asked.

“It’s a different kind of perfect,” I started but was immediately cut off by Chipper.

“A perfect Rob Roy is made of Scotch mixed with equal parts sweet and dry vermouth,” he explained. “Anything to me for verification.”

“Oh! The ladde’s right. Even the wee bairn o’ Scotland know it.” Having once played Harry Beaton in a community theater production of Brigadoon, I’m prone to launching into a Broadway brogue at the least excuse. Dan groaned. “There he goes,” he said wearily. “He’ll be Harry Beaton for the rest of the evening.”

“–I’m leavin’ Brigadoon! I blared out and got up to use the men’s room. When I returned, there were five Rob Roys on the table. “We waited for you,” Paolo said. “To make an appropriate toast,” Craig added. Dan harrumphed.

“Oh!” I sang out. I cannot believe how kind ye are! To the Rob Roy, to wee Craig rather spoiled the festivities by spitting out a mouthful of Rob Roy into the tablecloth. “Blechhhhh!” he said redundantly. “That’s the worst drink I’ve ever had!” Chipper was appalled; the rest of us couldn’t help but giggle.

“Now then,” I began, only to feel Dan’s hand squeeze my thigh. “Put Harry Beaton to bed, hon.”

“Oh!” I cried – Dan was not going to have the last word on this – “OK. I think it’s the ‘perfect’ that makes it imperfect.”

“How so?” asked Chipper.

“It’s the wee – I’m sorry, this is hard for me – the small amount of sweet vermouth that clashes with the smoky scotch. If anyone cares for a second one, I suggest ordering it dry. And by the way, Chipper, what’s the Rob Roy to begin with?”

“My aunt Kate started doing genealogical research and she just told me that she’s sure that we’re related to Rob Roy McGregor, for whom the drink is named. He was the Robin Hood of Scotland.”

“Bullshit,” Craig snapped. “You’re more likely to be related to Farmer McGregor.”

Chipper and I were the only ones to go for a second Rob Roy, and we both ordered them dry. “Och!” I said much to Dan’s consternation. “I’m nae Harry Beaton noow. I’m Grrroundskeeperrrr Willie, an’ I say it’s a fine a’drrrrrinkie!” “I live with this,” Dan said to his plate. He received no answer.

I Walked (Barely) with a Zombie

My birthday was approaching, and Ramona insisted on taking me out to celebrate. “Let’s get shitfaced,” she advised. She’d just broken up with a 24-year-old gymnast. For some reason she wanted to revisit Le Quai à Nice, the French bistro we’d gone to several months ago.

When I arrived I found Ramona on the sidewalk staring at the storefront. “What’s up, Mo?” I asked. “It’s gone!” she cried. “Look!” She pointed to a Caribbean restaurant called Turks and Caicos. Le Quai à Nice was now a calypso joint. “Oh, well,” she shrugged. “Conch fritters, anyone?”

We were seated immediately, Turks and Caicos not having quite caught on yet. “Two Zombies,” Ramona yelled at the dark, handsome waiter before she’d even taken off her coat. “Mo, I really don’t think that’s a good idea,” I said. “F*** you,” she advised. “It’s your birthday, and I just got dumped by the best lay I’ve ever had.” (This was an achievement; Ramona isn’t known for sexual restraint.) “That’s in a Zombie anyway?” she asked.

“A laundry list of heavy duty alcohol mixed with some fruit juices so you won’t know how strong it is. Let’s have one each and switch to seltzer.”

“No!” she shouted. The bartender turned and looked at us warily, as did the three other diners in the room. “Fasten your seatbelts,” she quoted. “It’s going to be a bumpy night.” A shiver ran down my spine.

Mo polished off her Zombie before we’d even ordered any food, which gave her the opportunity to describe every inch of Geoff the gymmast’s body before getting anything to sop up her boozy misery. I never heard even the gayest guy describe a man’s body in such hot detail. I felt like I’d spent a weekend in a community theater production of Brigadoon – a magnifying glass and Klieg light. The highlights: “The best-tasting treasure trail ever.” “Pecs like granite.” “I swear he had a 12-pack. I counted!” “His dick was only seven inches, but he made up for it in other ways, if you know what I mean.” (I didn’t, but didn’t care to ask for clarification.) “And the sweetest little hairs around his nipples.”

“Anotherround,” Ramona slurred when the waiter arrived with the conch fritters. “I don’t think that’s such a good idea,” I said though my own buzzy haze. Ramona leaned toward me as though she was about to reveal a secret. “They say it’s on you, yagonnahaveagoodtime,” Ramona said conspiratorially.

The rest of the evening was like limbo – the place, not the dance. I remember helping Ramona on with her coat at the front door with the waiter hurrying toward us with the check, which we hadn’t paid; pulling Ramona off the sidewalk, where in an inadvertent homage to “Loony Tunes” she’d slipped on banana peel; folding her into a cab and giving the cabbie $20 to get her safely into her building; somehow landing in my bed; and Dan waking me up as he pulled my shoes off with a scowl. They don’t call them Zombies for nothing.

If you’re not able to try these recipes at home, then ask your favourite bartender to make them for you!

The Rob Roy, Dry

4 parts Scotch (it was originally made with Dewar’s, but use any brand you like)
1 part dry vermouth

Mix both liquors in a shaker filled with ice; shake; serve in a martini glass.

The Zombie

1 oz. white rum
1 oz. golden rum
1 oz. dark rum
1/2 oz. fruit brandy
3/4 oz. pineapple juice
3/4 oz. papaya juice
Lime juice to taste
151-proof rum to float on top

Pour all ingredients into a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake, then strain into a Collins glass (a tall, usually straight-sided tumbler) filled with cracked ice. Float the 151 rum on top by inverting a spoon over the glass and slowly pouring a thin stream of 151 over the back of the spoon.

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GayCalgary Magazine #101, March 2012 31
By Chris Azzopardi

Times like this – election years, when US politics are a comedian’s punching-bag – were made for Kate Clinton, who has hilariously riffed on 30 years of stupid presidents and right-winged morons.

In the midst of her All Fracked Up Tour, we caught up with Clinton to talk about the US presidential race, progress made in the LGBT community and how comedy is a great tool for creating change.

GC: What’s the focus of the All Fracked Up Tour?
KC: Isn’t that a great title? It’s not easy to be thinking in November what will work in February, because everything changes so fast. My topics are always political and I’m barely keeping up with what’s going on. (Laughs) I can’t believe that anyone ever said, “What will we do without George Bush?” Like, are you kidding me? That got very boring because it was always the same: He’s bad. Oh, yep. He’s bad.

GC: Now you have Santorum.
KC: Ah, it’s a comedy gift. People drop off. Michele Bachmann drops off, but Rick Santorum, for some bizarre reason, is rising to the top. A friend of mine says, “Cream rises but scum floats.”

GC: What are your thoughts on the changes and progress within the LGBT community?
KC: For a 40-year movement, we’ve made incredible changes. And it’s state-by-state levels, so that means there’s conversation about LGBT rights in all the states – and that’s great. The great Mae West said, “It’s better to be looked over than to be overlooked,” and we’ve been really looked over. But you can see the poll number changes on America’s belief about marriage equality, so I think we’ve done our work. I think we still have a lot of work to do. I sometimes worry that people will just kick back and go, “Well, excellent, we got that,” but we still have a lot of work to do about race in our community and poverty issues and violence and bullying.

GC: Does that mean you have to work harder and be even more political?
KC: Oh yes, absolutely. I feel like the longer I’ve performed, the more political I’ve gotten. The difference is that when I began the mainstream community was really quite homo ignorant, but now, whether they like it or not, they know there are gay people – they’ve met gay people – so that’s a big change.

GC: How does comedy help you get your point across?
KC: People let their guard down and become more open when they’re laughing. They let things in I don’t think they ordinarily would. I love my shows when a straight couple comes out and goes, “We’re Republicans but we laughed.” I’ve done my job then.

GC: What are your thoughts on the One Million Moms who rallied against J.C. Penney because they chose an out lesbian, Ellen DeGeneres, as their spokesperson? And what do you think of Ellen’s reaction?
KC: I’m always happy when she speaks out because I love to hear her take on anything, whether it’s toilet paper or it’s to give her take on what J.C. Penney did and her sly humor that (One Million Moms) only has 48,000 people on their...
Facebook site. That’s a great example to people.

Years ago, I met a young guy at a fundraiser meeting and we were talking and he said things like “What’s ACT UP?” “Who’s Larry Kramer?” And finally I said to him, “Where are you from?” (Laughs) He was from Ohio and newly out and thought he was the only gay person in the world. I said, “What made you come out?” And he said it was Ellen. It was the first time he realized he wasn’t the only one. Oh god, he was so funny. It was the season she came out on her show and he said, “It took me a season, too!”

GC: You must hear similar stories, right?

KC: Mm-hmm. The stories people tell me are wonderful: they had their first date at my show, they brought their mom. “We had some talking to do after, but she liked it.” (Laughs) But it’s great. I feel very blessed to have this job.

GC: By now most people must know what they’re in for when they go to a Kate Clinton show. But have you had angry right-wingers at your shows?

KC: People have gotten up to leave and I just pretend they’re going to the bathroom. One time I was doing a show and these two couples just huffed out and made a big stink in the lobby and security said they wanted to go back there and teach me a lesson. I said, “Thank you for protecting me.” And they were like, “We weren’t protecting you. We were protecting them. We knew you’d turn the audience on them.” (Laughs)

GC: What are your thoughts and predictions on the US presidential race this year?

KC: It’s going to get uglier, and it’s going to be a fight, but I think that President Obama is getting his message out and reenergizing people. I think it’ll be four more years, which I’m very excited about. He started a lot of wonderful things and I really think the first couple of years of his administration were like cleanup on aisle five – they were going into different departments and cabinets, and it was just a mess. A lot of it was rebuilding, and they have wonderful people working; LGBT people are placed everywhere in agencies across the government and they’ve really just started to crank it out, and it’s good news. I hope we get four more years of being able to move things forward.

GC: Do you think that once he secures four more years he’ll be more open to discussing LGBT issues?

KC: Absolutely. It’s politics. But I think that he’s got plenty of sort of surrogates who are speaking up for him. I don’t get the sense that LGBT people are as impatient as they were. I do think with the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and the justice department’s commitment not to defend DOMA because parts of it are unconstitutional – and states like Washington and New York with marriage equality – the LGBT community, while still impatient, and that’s good, are getting more of the real politic of what he’s up against. Republicans are just the opposing-only party – everything’s no, now. If you don’t like government, go golfing. That’s what I think.

GC: Tell me about your cameo on Smash.

KC: Wasn’t that great? Apparently NBC was showing trailers on American Airlines and people were screaming on the plane, “Kaaate!”

GC: Lesbians like to fly American Airlines, huh?

KC: Oh, they do.

KC: What was that like?

KC: Just a complete pleasure. The scene that I’m in, I had to act very non-impressed and not at all excited by this incredible girl singing in front of me, just belting out “Over the Rainbow” time after time – and it was staggering – but I had to act like it wasn’t that great.

GC: That was a challenge?

KC: Yeah. But it’s wonderful to be around such talented young people and to know that – hello! – Angelica Houston is anywhere on the set.

GC: Would you like to do more TV?

KC: I hope so. It’s so much fun and you reach so many people without having to go to their town! (Laughs)

GC: How do you feel about your friend Cynthia Nixon’s brouhaha, where she told a reporter she “chose” to be lesbian?

KC: I’m profoundly pro-choice. I love what she said. I thought it was great. And she’s very thoughtful and very outspoken, and she was probably talking along and having a little piece of celery and the whole room blew up. But she’s the real deal.

It could be that we were born this way, but that really shouldn’t be our question. Our question should be, “Why is it so stigmatized?” “Why are we still fighting for LGBT rights?” “What is your problem?”

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The Information Superhighway is Being Re-Routed

By Stephen Lock

Perhaps by now the issue of the “Lawful Access Bill” giving government warrantless access to individuals’ online activity and information has been resolved. Issues come up that I think would make for a great, or at least decent column, but of course the column gets written a couple of weeks prior to being published, so there is always the threat of passing my ‘best before’ date by then. But I suspect, given the speed at which government bureaucracies work, this remains an issue.

Public Safety Minister, Vic Toews, has tabled Bill C-30 (Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act), a rather draconian piece of legislation, popularly known as the “Lawful Access” bill. Almost immediately, various organizations and individuals working in the areas of civil liberties, freedom of speech, and privacy issues raised a hue and cry over it. Of course, if one reads mainstream media, it would be easy to dismiss these organizations and individuals as another example of the ‘looney left’, which would be inaccurate.

Amongst the critics of this legislation is Ontario’s Privacy Commissioner, Ann Cavoukian. She has been quoted as saying the bill “will be the first, but steady, step of the creep of surveillance into the lives of law-abiding citizens,” adding that police and other law enforcement agencies already successfully investigate alleged child pornography cases even though, in order to do so, they require a judge to issue them a search warrant.

The problem with C-30 is this important – no, crucial - step has been removed. Law enforcement, under C-30, could require various Internet servers to supply personal information such as names, ISP addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, home addresses, and web-surfing history of their clients on the mere suspicion of “inappropriate activity” without having to go through the bother of obtaining a search warrant.

Toews attempted, disastrously as it turned out, to hang this legislation on the boogie-man of the child pornographer and essentially shot himself in the foot by declaring those opposed to the legislation must then be on the side of child pornographers.

Kiddie porn, especially since the rise of the Internet, has become a major societal problem. The issue, of course, is not ‘just’ viewing primarily adult males having sex with juveniles and children, the issue has rightly been couched as such images being an almost eternal record of an act of child abuse and exploitation. These are real kids, someone’s little boy or little girl, and while the sexual abuse of children is horrific enough, images circulating over the Internet for decades afterward exacerbate the abuse. It has been argued that each time a particular image is viewed or uploaded to another site, it is a re-abuse of that child.

Who wouldn’t want to take steps to stem the tide of sexual abuse against children? This is how Toews and his department are attempting to frame C-30, but the potential of abuse by authorities able to start digging around without being required to convince a judge of the perhaps moral and certainly legal necessity of doing so and obtaining a search warrant, is what the issue is really about.

C-30 could, conceivably, be used to ferret out not just ‘terrorists’ but anyone the government deemed to be ‘of interest’... when I was involved in trying to have Alberta’s then-Individual Rights Protection Act amended to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination, I and others involved in that were not exactly looked upon favourably by MLAs or many of the bureaucrats working under them.

Back in the early 1980’s when a handful of us were pushing for inclusion and protection, homosexuality was still seen as “perversion”, a choice, certainly nothing to be ‘protected’ and very probably something that should be stamped out. Of course, Trudeau had ensured homosexuality was decriminalized in 1969 but, in the eyes of many politicians we dealt with, it was still criminal. They never said so - they couldn’t - but we heard much of it being a ‘crime against nature’. Do you not think we were seen as ‘people of interest’? A threat to social order?

I remember when the 8th National Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men was held at the University of Calgary in 1980, we held a small rally in front of City Hall that was attended by some of the leading lights of Canada’s gay liberation movement (mostly from Toronto). We had RCMP, I suspect, up on the roof of the public library with cameras and zoom lenses taking pictures of us. Dossiers were being created on many of us. If the Internet had existed then and a bill like C-30 was being proposed, who knows what civil rights abuses we would have experienced? Yes, it was a different time, with a different ethos, it couldn’t happen now. Could it?

In more recent times I was involved, through being the Regional Co-Director for Egale Canada in the Prairies, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Region, with the push for equal marriage. While the above examples were provincial in focus, although the 8th National Conference did deal with national/federal issues as well, the fight for equal marriage in Canada was decidedly federal in nature. We were taking on Parliament. Actually, it was a two-pronged struggle as we also were dealing with individual provinces and territories since the division of authority dictated the federal government was responsible for defining marriage and who could and could not marry, while the provinces and territories were responsible for licensing marriages.

Egale Canada and Canadians For Equal Marriage, and those activists involved in those and supporting organizations, were definitely seen by the federal government as “people of interest”. Megabytes of email zipped back and forth between us all. Websites were created. We all used the Internet to search out information on other jurisdictions, to communicate with each other, to discuss and debate strategy, to be in touch with international activists in countries who had, at that point in history, successfully brought in either legal civil unions or actual equal marriage. Do you not think for one minute the allowances a bill like C-30 would have permitted would not have been implemented against us? Dang tootin’ they would have been!

On a personal level, as a healthy adult gay man I do, in fact, surf for porn on the Net. I happen to think gay porn, by and large, is an affirming thing for us as gay and bisexual men. As a sexual minority, or a sexualized minority if you will, porn imagery plays an often key role in much of how we all self-identify. I would hazard a guess there isn’t a gay/bi man who doesn’t have a porn collection on his computer. And that’s fine. If, for one, do not have an issue with that whatsoever. However, do I want the government or law enforcement authorities being able to access my web-browsing history? The answer is an emphatic no! Do I want them to be able to compel my Internet server to allow them access without a warrant and due process? Again, the answer is an emphatic no!

It could be argued, I suppose, they’d never do so without just cause. What constitutes just cause? My political activity? Perhaps even my admission I view porn, maybe that is enough
to tip off the authorities and get me on their radar. Requiring a warrant to search through my web history affords me some protection from unnecessary surveillance. A warrant would not be issued unless a judge was convinced there was just cause to issue one; a legal cause. But to be able to arbitrarily go in and poke around without the barrier of an objective opinion, such as a dispassionate judge might have, is an unacceptable incursion into the privacy of citizens.

Laws do need to keep pace with technology. On that, Vic Toews is correct. However, this must - as with any innovation in crime-fighting - be balanced against the sanctity of the individual and privacy needs. C-30 is a bad piece of legislation, too sweeping in its aims and certainly too sweeping in its application. There are no safeguards in place, no restraints on the power of the police or the government to do what they see fit to do. That is a recipe for disaster when it comes to the integrity of the individual. Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four is looming on the horizon, 28 years late, but dangerously imminent.

Our photo galleries don’t just contain photos, however. We are also posting video clips that you can view with a much more widely compatible player. If you can watch clips on YouTube, you’ll be able to watch clips from our gallery as well with our own embedded player. Plus, the gallery is set up to allow you to share your favourite photos and videos on Facebook, or embed photos into your own website.

If you’re looking for something specific, the gallery comes with built-in search capabilities that help you to quickly find photos by the name of the event, presenting organization, city, location, date, and other keywords.

February 2012

This past month Calgary bid farewell to one of its nightclubs. Club Sapien was the bar of choice for numerous LGBT Calgarians, but due to various factors making it impossible to continue running, they made the call to close their doors.

In my time I’ve seen several bars try to continue running until they are physically kicked out by their landlords, vanishing overnight without warning. That’s why this was among the more dignified bar closures I’ve witnessed. Club Sapien threw a well attended Friday and Saturday night farewell party before they officially closed on Sunday. It was a chance to properly say goodbye to one of our gay spaces.

The staff did a great job of making sure these last two nights were fun for everyone. April Storm was able to keep the mood light with some side-splitting dark humour about the situation in between fabulous final drag performances by herself, Argentina, and Farah. Club Sapien was in business for just over one year.

In contrast, the Calgary Eagle celebrated a milestone of longevity with their 10th Anniversary the following weekend. It was a great chance to get caught up with friends, old and new, and to appreciate how far the bar has come.

Perhaps Calgarians are learning not to take their LGBT dance floors for granted, or perhaps it was just coincidence, but the ARGRA White Party later in the month was strongly supported and received a huge turnout despite the cold weather. It was a great party, and people continued dancing well into the wee hours of the morning.

Meanwhile, we were proud to sponsor Team Edmonton for their annual Mixer at the Sawridge Inn. Organizers say the event was another huge success. Similarly, Jasper Pride and Whistler Pride both reported great success for their events.

A selection of photos from most of these events can be seen in this edition, and the full collection of photos is available online in our new photo gallery! Visit the URL below:

http://www.gaycalgary.com/pa3

Edmonton Content

We’re still looking for freelance Edmontonian writers and photographers to step forward to help take care of local city coverage. If you are proud of your city and want Edmonton to continue to have strong representation as part of GayCalgary Magazine’s Alberta-wide scope, we need your help...plus we pay you for your efforts, and your work is seen by an estimated audience of close to 200,000 readers. Contact us by Email at magazine@gaycalgary.com if you have any questions, or to apply. Please submit a sample of your work, along with your name and contact information.

We’re excited to announce that we’ve officially confirmed OVER the Rainbow level sponsorship with Edmonton Pride Festival Society. This will be the 6th consecutive year that GayCalgary Magazine has been a major sponsor of Edmonton Pride.

This Month

There are some great LGBT community events coming up this month at the University of Calgary: the Coming Out monologues (March 15th and 16th), and the Gender Bender (March 23rd). For more information look for the ads or read the articles in this edition.

In Edmonton, Living Positive through Positive Living Society is bringing Jeffery Straker to town for a special performance at McDougall United Church on March 16th. I’ve not had the chance to express how impressed I was with Straker’s CD that came out last year. He is definitely worth the $15 to see! Refer to the ad in this edition for more details.

Last but not least, Back(lot) 2 Boyz(town) is back for its second year as a kick-off to Apollo Western Cup. It was a raging hit last year, so mark your calendars for the night of April 4th. See the ad in this edition for more details.
Even with much of North America enjoying a comparably mild winter this year, let’s face it - thoughts of sipping tropical cocktails by the pool, floating happily on a catamaran, and scampering to the beach in flip-flops sound pretty appealing right now. There are still a few mean weeks left in winter, and one of the world’s most delightfully distinctive and wonderfully scenic gay resort destinations beckons. In fact, sunny Key West has lately made a strong push to market itself as the ultimate Gay Spring Break getaway.

This tiny island is linked to the Florida mainland by the 105-mile Overseas Highway (U.S. 1), which crosses dozens of bridges as it wends its way scenically through the Florida Keys. It’s the southernmost point in the United States (with the exception of Hawaii), and it’s less than 90 miles across the Straits of Florida from Cuba. In other words, while Key West is very much part of the United States, it feels much like its own little Caribbean nation (they don’t call it the “Conch Republic” for nothing). This makes it an ideal tropical getaway if you’re seeking the climate and character of the Caribbean, but with an exceedingly welcoming attitude toward gays and lesbians. It’s also pretty easy to get here - if you’d rather forego the pretty 3-hour drive from Miami, just fly here: Key West is served by a variety of major airlines with direct flights to Miami, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta, and Tampa.

Key West’s Gay Spring Break promotion (gayspringbreakkeywest.com) is aimed squarely at the thousands of college students who plan their vacations throughout late winter and into early spring. All you have to do to partake of a number of discounts provided by local gay-frequented resorts, restaurants, bars, and attractions is present your student I.D. to the staff at the Key West Business Guild (gaykeywestfl.com), right off historic Duval Street at 513 Truman Avenue. Do this, and you’ll be issued a Gay Spring Break Card.

Attractions

Of course, even if you’re not a student, this is a great time of year to visit (perhaps you like hanging out in bars and gay resorts packed with college students?). And the Key West Business Guild, which functions as the town’s gay welcome center, is worth a stop as well to pick up brochures and advice on where to go, and also to visit the fascinating free exhibit on legendary playwright Tennessee Williams, who spent much of his life here.

As utterly relaxing as it is here, Key West actually has enough in the way of museums and activities to keep activity-seekers quite happy. In addition to Tennessee Williams, the island has been a part-time home of author Ernest Hemingway, whose rambling old mansion is open for tours (note the many friendly six- and seven-toed cats living on the property, descendants of “Papa’s” own feline friends). And President Harry Truman set up his “Winter White House” here in 1946 - it, too, is a museum.

Other attractions well worth a visit include the Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservancy, Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, and Mel Fisher Heritage Maritime Museum.

You’ll also find a several tour companies and boat charters catering enthusiastically to the gay market, including Blu Q Catamaran Gay Sailing, Danger Charters, and several other outfitters. And you can catch a ride to Fort Jefferson and Dry Key West’s beautiful waterfront, from near the foot of historic Duval Street

by Andrew Collins
Tortugas National Park on the Yankee Freedom II ferry - it's a long way out to this intriguing island park, but the ride - which includes breakfast, lunch, and snorkeling - is part of the fun. There's also a Gay Key West Trolley Tour every Saturday at 4 pm.

It's sometimes said, erroneously, that Key West lacks beaches. It is true that compared with many Florida and Caribbean destinations, few accommodations have direct beachfront. But you will find some stunning stretches of sand within walking distance of Historic District hotels and guesthouses, including Fort Zachary Taylor, Smathers Beach, and Higgs Beach.

Eating
As you might guess, given the island's location, both seafood and Latin American cuisine are major culinary highlights in Key West. You'll find plenty of excellent restaurants around town, all of them casual in spirit but some turning out impressively sophisticated contemporary cuisine. A couple of newer spots around town have been garnering acclaim of late, including gay-owned Flaming Buoy Filet Co. (theflamingbuoy.com), a cozy and romantic spot serving ecletic, first-rate cuisine, like tuna-watermelon ceviche and pan-seared mahimahi with banana salsa. Don't miss the avocado cheesecake when it's featured. Tucked down an quite lane off of Duval, brand-new 2 Cents (facebook.com/2centsKw) is garnering raves from discerning foodies for its stellar yet affordable gastro-pub cuisine.

Near the gay guesthouses on Fleming Street, dapper Azur (azurkeywest.com) turns out artfully prepared Mediterranean-inspired creations, such as yellowtail-snapper Benedict for brunch, and duck and pork ribs cassoulet at dinner. You can't go wrong with Pepe's (pepescafe.net), a stalwart for steaks, oysters, and old-school classics since 1909. Nearby B.O.'s Fish Wagon (bosfishwagon.com) is a breezy, open-air spot serving delicious conch fritters, soft-shell crab, and quite possibly the best fried grouper sandwich in Key West. Walk a few doors over to Coffee Plantation (coffeeplantationkeywest.com) for espresso drinks, tasty desserts, and comfy seating with free Wi-Fi.

One of the better Italian restaurants in town, and also one of the gayest, La Trattoria (latrattoria.us) draws high praise for such tasty, traditional creations as gnocchi gorgonzola and scallops in scampi sauce. Seven Fish (7fish.com), which occupies an old luncheonette and has a sleek, sophisticated interior, serves seafood-oriented bistro fare, such as crab and shiitake mushroom ravioli.

El Siboney (elsiboneyrestaurant.com), with its simple ambience, is the place in town for humble, stick-to-your-ribs Cuban fare. As for traditional Cuban sandwiches, tiny 5 Brothers Grocery (http://5brothersgrocery.tripod.com) - on a side street in the historic district - serves the best around.

Bar-Hopping
Most of the town's several gay bars are along the main drag, Duval Street. Here, the La-Te-De (lateda.com) guest house has a poolside bar, an intimate piano bar, and a much-beloved cabaret. Down a few blocks, the New Orleans-inspired Bourbon Street Pub (bourbonstpub.com) is a sauce-y spot with a small bar up front with cocktail tables, a larger outdoor bar in back (along with a lively pool area and hot tub), and video screens galore. It's part of the sexually charged (and very friendly) New Orleans Guest House (neworleanshousekw.com) complex. The same owners run the lovably raffish 801 Bar (801bourbon.com), Key West's definitive neighborhood hangout since the 1970s. There's almost always a crowd of gossipy locals hanging around the bar. The adjacent One Saloon caters mostly to leather-and-Levi's types and is reached through 801's back door. Aqua Nightclub (aquakeywest.com), which was handsomely remodeled in 2011, is best known for its raucous drag shows and an impressive dance floor with high-tech laser-and-sound shows, and a cozy video bar.

Where to Stay
Key West has a number of inns that cater either exclusively or predominantly to the gay market. One of the best is Alexander's (alexanderskeywest.com), a long-popular gay resort with the relatively unusual policy of being both clothing-optional (on the two upper sundecks) and welcoming to both women and men. Aromatic tropical flowers, sundecks, rattan and wicker furnishings, and sparkling tiled bathrooms impart Alexander's with a classy but casual look. In addition to the aforementioned New Orleans Guest House, the town's other favorite accommodation for guys seeking cruise-y adventures but still wanting upscale and extremely well-maintained accommodations is the iconic Island House (islandhousekeywest.com). Day passes are available, with access to bar as well as the 24-hour heated pool, indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, gym, sauna, steam room, and erotic-male-video lounge.

Most of the town's men's resorts are along Fleming Street, the Historic District's main drag. Here you'll find Equator (equatorresort.com), which has plush rooms with contemporary Caribbean-influenced furniture. The lovely grounds include a compact but pretty pool and a nice sundeck. Nearby, the largest gay resort in town comprises three distinct and very social properties - the Oasis, Coral Tree Inn, and Coconut Grove (keywest-allmale.com)- operated by the same management. Drawing a predominantly male crowd, Big Ruby's (bigrubys.com) is less than a block from Duval Street, hidden behind high walls from noise and street traffic. The grounds feature towering palm trees and fragrant flowers, and an abundance of sundecks. Rooms are warm, contemporary, spotless.

Key West has dozens of other terrific places to stay among mainstream properties, from historic inns to posh resorts - they all readily roll out the rainbow carpet. A favorite among the former is the atmospheric Cypress House (cypresshousekw.com), a rambling compound that includes a historic mansion and two Bahamian conch-style cottages - 22 rooms total. With a central location, reasonable rates, and a super-friendly staff, this gay-owned property is a great find. Among larger hotels and resorts, the Crowne Plaza Key West (lacockahakeywest.com) on historic Duval Street, the elegant Hyatt Resort & Spa (keywest-hyatt.com), and the swanky Westin Resort & Marina (westinkeywestresort.com) are all great bets.

www.gaycalgary.com
GayCalgary Magazine #101, March 2012
Southern Alberta and Montana have a lot of similarities in climate, geography, and culture. We both proudly display our cowboys at events like the Calgary Stampede and Miles City Bucking Horse Sale in Miles City, Montana. We also share a strong streak of social conservatism running through the land. If you were to skip back twenty years, you can see how difficult it would be for a young person to be openly gay. It is in this social climate, in the milieu of Miles City, Montana author Emily Danforth sets her first novel, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*.

The title character faces life changing events, starting with the death of her parents, her adoption by her conservative and deeply Christian aunt, a romance, and a reveal which ultimately sees her sent to a gay conversion therapy camp for teens.

Author Emily M. Danforth grew up in Montana, roughly at the same time as she set the novel (early to mid-1990s). Given that twenty years ago, people in Calgary marched in the Gay Pride parade in masks to protect themselves against any negative repercussions, I asked her what Montana was like at the time for the visibility of any LGBT community. “There was really no visibility, so it’s difficult for me to make blanket statements that people would not have been receptive, but because I knew no one my age or older that was out and proud in any way...it certainly seemed to me that it was something that was shameful.”

As well, Emily had friends who went to churches where they were told homosexuality was a sin. Of course there were rumours about people but no one was officially out. “The general climate was one of repression and I think fear and misunderstanding...because there was no visibility on the personal level it was something that was just unthinkable in terms of me being out of the closet.” In an age when we are wired 24/7 into the Internet, it may be difficult to imagine a time just two decades ago where there were no online support groups, no Facebook groups, no gay-straight alliances – no contacts at all for a LGBT youth. This is the setting, the world the protagonist faces in the book.

Emily does give the character of Cameron a mentor figure to tutor her (as much as possible for Miles City in 1991) in lesbian culture. As Emily told me, these things that seem so small for people who were never in the closet or don’t have any sense of it are monumental to the protagonist. “Okay, so she introduces you to bands and sends you a copy of *RubyFruit Jungle*. But if you’ve got nothing and you never see any representation of the way you love reflected back to you – or you seek out these terrible movies just to see one inkling of some kind of lesbian attraction...it becomes crucial.” Without a mentor figure to induct a person into the larger LGBT community, a character like Cameron Post would have been left to her own desires and own devices to cope with her sexuality.

Since the time the novel was set, it is difficult to say whether it has changed. In Canada, we’ve had a lot of changes in the past twenty years, but it is still safer to be openly gay in larger cities. Emily’s family is still in Montana, and her parents in Miles City in the house she grew up in. She says LGBT acceptance really depends on the part of Montana you’re in, as Montana is a really culturally diverse state. “There are pockets of extreme conservatism...where any sort of sign you are anything other than heterosexual...it could be potentially dangerous.” Yet Emily told me there are places like Missoula that are diverse and very accepting of LGBT folk. Furthermore, there are some people who are now living out of the closet in Miles City – for a while there was a lesbian pastor at a church as well, so it has changed somewhat.
As to how much of Emily’s experiences growing up in Miles City shaped Cameron, she told me “Cameron is very different...starting from the fact she’s an orphan, and the fact she’s got this evangelical aunt move in who’s got particular ideas about her salvation. In terms of Cameron’s shame, there’s a kind of shame where she doesn’t know where it comes from, certainly that I felt. Her eagerness to seek out any kind of representation of anything other than heteronormativity was part and parcel of how I spent my adolescence.” This included sitting through horrible movies that had gay or lesbian themes, reading books with LGBT characters – anything to feel and confirm there were other options. Also, while Cameron seeks solace with swimming and sports, Emily sought protection by being the class clown.

“Legitimately I was voted class clown my senior year, and that was how I manoeuvred my way through the halls of Custer County District High School, was to be silly and goofy. That’s a really common story: you’ve got this thing that you’re ashamed of, and so you make up for it by being funny, and always making jokes and hoping that people don’t pay attention to these other parts of you.” She didn’t come out...she had some sense of herself as being gay at an early age, but she also felt she couldn’t come out while she lived in this part of eastern Montana.

If she had come out twenty years ago (and in some cases even today), sending Emily off to a “pray-the-gay-away” conversion therapy camp might have seemed the logical choice. The interesting thing about the novel is while Cameron is sent to this camp, it’s not all about it – the book still remains Cameron’s story.

Yet there has been some criticism the author didn’t pick a side in the ex-gay conversion therapy debate in her book. Part of this is because she feels there is only one side to choose.

“My side on the ex-gay camp debate is that they’re ludicrous and horrendous...I don’t see how one can have a side...they’re akin to torture.” What’s even more appalling is that confused teenagers are sent there being told, “you must go to this because otherwise you’ll go to hell and you must try to correct this perversion on yourself.”

However, this novel needed to be more complicated; so making this 15 year old girl the puppet or mouth piece for Emily’s views is just not what interested her about fiction. She felt it was more interesting to show the character interacting with these events as she tries to puzzle them out.

“For me as a novelist, that’s what I was trying to be true to: who is this girl, and how would she react in this situation, because she’s not me. She’s not the 30 year old me who has made sense of her identity and has specific things she can say about how teenagers should and shouldn’t be treated.”

It would have been easy to make the operators of the gay conversion camp into monsters or broad caricatures; in earlier drafts this was the direction Emily went, but she realised the world is more complicated. “People who would devote their lives to running a facility like this do it because they think they are doing god’s work. They think that they are saving people’s souls, so there’s something more interesting to me than myself as a 30 year old out lesbian saying you people are morons.”

The book, just recently published, is getting a very good reception from critics, including a lovely review in the L.A. Times, and generous reviews on the NPR blog, Booklist, and Publisher’s Weekly. After reading it, what impressed me even more is that it is marketed as “Young Adult”. Emily and I discussed this, recounting books by Judy Blume and other young adult traditional books like The Pigman. Similar to these other books, The Miseducation of Cameron Post content-wise can be upsetting or difficult for some readers, which suits Emily just fine.

“If it makes a reader think or even if it makes them angry and makes them want to have a discussion about something or just consider something in a way they hadn’t before, that’s one of the cool things that fiction can do.” For Emily, she prefers the fiction that make a reader think, what is this person’s world, what is going on her mind, how does this world look like mine, and what does that say about my world and choices?

And certainly this book does make you think. I’ve reviewed other books in the past, giving them praise and even criticism. This is one of the few books I’ve read which I feel strongly enough to say “go out and buy this”. Even if you’re an adult looking back, several years removed from your youth. Even if you ARE a youth now, read this book. The book paints a world and a protagonist we should always remember, if only to know we have made the world a better place because of our struggles to be free and to love freely whom we choose.
By Jason Clevett

In 1996, 10 Indiana University students formed the acapella group Straight No Chaser. Between 1996 and 1999 the group became successful, touring across the US to places including Carnegie Hall. In 1999 new students replaced the graduating members and since then more than 60 students have been members of the IU group.

Fast forward to 2006 and a 1998 video of The 12 Days of Christmas was posted on YouTube, which lead to the original members being asked to reunite and sign with Atlantic Records. According to Charlie Mechling, it has been an amazing ride.

“It has been something we honestly never even thought about or considered. When we left the group back at Indiana University we just wanted to leave a legacy group. We all went our separate ways and were doing our own things. Every bit of it has been a surprise – the initial phone call to reunite was shocking and the fact that 4 years later we are doing this full time and just got back from doing a tour of the UK. I don’t think anybody could have scripted it and if they had I don’t think I would have believed it.”

12 Days of Christmas has nearly 15 million views while other covers like Madonna’s Like a Prayer and a mashup of The Lion Sleeps Tonight/I’m Yours continue to climb. Mechling didn’t realize how well seen 12 Days has been, and reflected on the incredible popularity of their online videos.

“Wow...I didn’t know it was that many views. It is funny how it has been viewed, we were just looking to do something fun and new to cap off our Christmas concert. I am still amazed when people say they have seen it thirty or more times. It was just 10 college friends getting up there to have fun, I never thought it would be what it is.”

Although acapella groups are not a new idea, they seem to be cyclical. With shows like Glee popularizing the idea, more high school and college singing groups are emerging.

“It is funny, when we were at IU we started the group because there was acapella around the country but not at the University. The last few years kind of mirrors that same situation, it exists especially in the collegiate form but there really aren’t acapella groups being played on the radio. There are professional groups like Rockapella out there. With us and Glee and The Sing off, we have had a lot of people who say they are in an acapella group in school and it isn’t something I thought I could do after school until I saw your show. It is nice to feel like we’re doing something new and for these kids who would love to do this for the rest of their lives.”

Inspiring others means a lot to the group, who are probably one of the most fan-friendly groups touring. They often meet with singing groups and contest winners before the show as well as meet fans after. Some cities feature VIP packages with an intimate dinner and private concert. Two lucky “chasers”, as their fans are called, will meet the band in Edmonton and Calgary through a contest on the GayCalgary website.

“Part of the reason why after every show we go out to the lobby to meet with anyone who wants something signed or
a picture with us is because it means a lot to hear from fans and let them know we value those stories and being inspired as much as the actual show. We have gotten to be a lot closer to a bunch of our fans. It is in conjunction with how active we are, and our fans are online with social media and such. There are times I have met someone at a meet and greet and I know their face but I've never met them [before]. They tweet at me or facebook or whatever. It is nice to have those personal face to face moments to put a face to a twitter handle. Those meet and greets, whether before the show or after when it is just anybody who wants to stick around for a few minutes, it means a lot and we get a lot of personal stories from these folks. It is a big part of what Straight No Chaser is."

Travelling to meet and perform is amazing but has its challenges for band members who have families back home. With the internet it makes it much easier to keep in close contact.

"I will say thank goodness for the internet and Facetime and video chat. I have a nine and a half month old son and another guy in the group just had his third son a few weeks ago. I look at it as I go for awhile and it is tough to be away but, when I get home I get to be here 24 hours a day whether it is a weekday or weekend. I cram all the weekends into about 2 months and then I go away and that is cramming in the weekdays I would work if I had a nine to five job. I think it balances out although it is a challenge."

Being a group of 10 handsome talented guys, it isn't a surprise that many "chasers" are gay. The diversity of the audience shows the universal appeal of the group, Charlie explained.

"It is just indicative of how universal our music is. It is not about age, orientation, race, sex. What is most important is the music. We get a lot of comments from people saying that they felt they got to know us and love our banter. It is a universal draw. It is nice to see three generations of a family coming to the show and all enjoying it, or a couple on their first date or a gay or lesbian couple. It is nice to see that mix. We are blessed to have it."

This fall Chasers will get to spend time on a boat with the guys, who will embark on a cruise from Miami to Mexico. The video commercial on their website is a hilarious indication of what to expect.

"We are constantly trying to think of new things. The last two summers we have done a show at Harrah’s in Atlantic City and that became a home base for us. We met a lot of fans coming in and seeing the show 5 or 10 or 20 times. So we wanted to do something different from our touring show. We tossed around the idea and it sounded like a lot of fun doing shows and going on vacation at the same time. It is a fun idea not just for the fans but for us. It is a lot more than just a couple of shows by us - we are going to have special events and such that we are putting together right now."

First they have to complete their spring tour, which brings them to the Jack Singer Concert Hall in Calgary March 8th and the Myer Horowitz Theatre in Edmonton March 9th.

"It isn't the first time we are there. We are crossing our fingers and packing our warmest clothes for the first half of the tour. The first part of the Canadian run will be in March and the second half is in May. We will get to some cities we have been to a few times and have some new ones on the horizon. There is something that is fun but daunting about touring Canada in the winter. We know we could hit a bunch of snow and be trudging through snowbanks to get into the theatre but it is part of the experience. We are also really excited to finish off this spring North American tour in Canada at a time when I know it is going to be really beautiful and great weather. It is a great bookend for these three months of touring."

Most of the songs are covers and mashups but they have recorded some original material, and plan to include some in upcoming shows and albums.

“We do have plans to do some originals. We have worked on a few and recorded one or two. It is tough to have originals on an album that has some of the greatest songs ever recorded. They have to be a great song to stand up next to a Madonna or Michael Jackson song. We work hard on the material whether covers or originals, and when it comes down to it we just want to have the best songs in the show and on the album."

Concert attendees can expect classics, new songs, and an amazing evening with Straight No Chaser.

“They can expect to smile a lot. Some of the songs we are just standing side by side singing what is there and letting the music do all the work which causes a different smile than when we are having a conversation with the audience or each other. We are just 10 guys up there having fun and it shows. We work in a bit of what I will loosely call choreography. There will be a lot of songs that have been on albums and a lot of new songs as well, some classics and soon to be classics. Expect to have fun, expect to laugh and hear some great music."
The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch proudly presents:

THE WEEK OF CORONATION 36

A "Whole Lotta FABULOUSNESS"

DOING SOMETHING TIMELESS

Wednesday, April 18th @ 9:PM
it's the Imperial Roast @ the Texas Lounge (MMM... blue!)

then on Thursday, April 19th it's the In-Town Show
doors @ 8:PM, Show @ 9:PM @ the Calgary Eagle
$5.00 cover

and then Friday night, April 20th @ Twisted Element it's...
the Out-of-Town Show! Hosted by T.B.A.
W/doors @ 7:PM & show @ 8:PM
$10.00 adm.

Saturday, April 21st it's Coronation XXXVI
@ the Westin Calgary (DT)
Gallery/$40.00 - Dinner/$60.00
doors @ 4:PM, Dinner/Awards @ 5:PM,
Show @ 6:PM.

Sunday, April 22nd @ 11:AM @ the Westin
it's the Victory Brunch! $35.00 @ the door

Sunday, April 22nd @ 2:PM
Join the Alaska Birdwater Party
@ the Calgary Eagle

To be followed by
"Tough Drag Night" @ 8:PM
also @ the Calgary Eagle

Thanks, Calgary!
Photography

Winterfest 2012 at the Junction - Edmonton photos by Shae Guerin

NEW!

GayCalgary™ Magazine
PHOTO GALLERY
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ARGRA White Party - Calgary  http://gaycalgary.com/pa95

Last Fake Moustache Show at Sapien - Calgary  http://gaycalgary.com/pa91
Aids Calgary Mardi Gras, Calgary http://gaycalgary.com/pa94
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Jasper Pride - Jasper AB, photos by Mike Gere
WinterPride - Whistler BC, photos by T-Bodies Productions/GayWhistler
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NEW EPISODES EVERY MONDAY | 9:00PM ET/PT
FOLLOWED BY BEHIND-THE-SCENES “UNTUCKED” | 10:00PM ET/PT
CHELSEA BOYS

BY GLEN HANSON AND ALLAN NEUWIRTH

LATE ONE NIGHT, A HORNY RICHARD AND RUBEN BROWSE THE WEB FOR A THIRD...

NENE, HOW'D YOU FEEL ABOUT TRYIN' SOMETHIN' A LITTLE DIFFERENT TONIGHT??

SURE, WHAT DID YA HAVE IN MIND?

LOOK WHO JUST SENT US A PIC AND WANTS TO HOOK UP.

WHADDAYA THINK?

WHAT THE HELL... TELL HIM SURE, C'MON, OVER.

AN HOUR LATER... I SEE YOU'RE WEARING WHAT I TOLD YA. FICKIN' HOT.

THANKS, ACTUALLY, I ONCE CONSIDERED A CAREER IN INTERIOR DESI... D'OH!!

NICE PLACE, YA GOT SOME EXPENSIVE SHIT HERE.

THANK YOU, SIR.

SO, WANNA GET STARTED, SIR?

YEAH, DOWN ON YER KNEES, PIG BOYS, I'LL GET THE ROPE.

IS THIS WHERE YOU TEASE AND TORTURE US TILL WE BEG FOR MERCY?

NO, THIS IS WHERE I ROB YOU.

MMMMPH, PLMPH-- NMPH MRMPH MMMMMPHNER!!

MHMPHOO MMMPHMHPHT, MUMPHA PRRAMPHP MMPHMPHIMPINO!!

* C'MON, PLEASE -- NOT THE RUGS' DERECKNER?!

* NEXT TIME YOU WANNA TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT, ORDER A CARAMEL CAPPUCCINO!
### LGBT Community Directory

GayCalgary 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.

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

- **Magazine:** 403-543-6960
- **1-888:** 1-888-543-6960
- **Email:** magazine@gaycalgary.com

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### CALGARY

#### Accommodations
1. **Westways Guest House**
   - 1004 - 11th Ave SW
   - 403-229-1758
   - westways@shaw.ca
   - [www.gaywestways.com](http://www.gaywestways.com)

2. **Texas Lounge**
   - 308 - 17th Ave SW
   - 403-229-0911
   - [www.goliaths.ca](http://www.goliaths.ca)

#### Bars & Clubs
1. **Backlot**
   - 209 - 10th Ave SW
   - Open 7 days a week, 2pm-close

2. **Calgary Eagle Inc.**
   - 424a - 8th Ave SE
   - 403-263-5847
   - [http://www.calgaryeagle.com](http://www.calgaryeagle.com)

3. **Club Sapien**
   - 1140 10th Ave SW
   - [www.club sapiens.ca](http://www.club sapiens.ca)

4. **FAB**
   - 1742 - 10th Ave SW
   - [www.fab-bar.com](http://www.fab-bar.com)

5. **Goliaths**
   - 308 - 17th Ave SW
   - [www.goliaths.ca](http://www.goliaths.ca)

6. **La Fleur**
   - [www.lafleur.ca](http://www.lafleur.ca)

7. **One Yellow Rabbit**
   - [www.oneyellowrabbit.com](http://www.oneyellowrabbit.com)

8. **Pumphouse Theatre**
   - [www.pumphouse.ca](http://www.pumphouse.ca)

#### Community Groups
- **AIDS Calgary**
  - 110, 1603 10th Avenue SW
  - 403-508-2500
  - info@aidscalgary.org

- **Apollo Calgary - Friends in Sports**
  - [www.apollocalgary.com](http://www.apollocalgary.com)
  - [www.myapollo.com](http://www.myapollo.com)

- **Backlot**
  - 209 - 10th Ave SW
  - Open 7 days a week, 2pm-close

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  - 424a - 8th Ave SE
  - [http://www.calgaryeagle.com](http://www.calgaryeagle.com)

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  - [www.fab-bar.com](http://www.fab-bar.com)

- **Goliaths**
  - 308 - 17th Ave SW
  - [www.goliaths.ca](http://www.goliaths.ca)

- **La Fleur**
  - [www.lafleur.ca](http://www.lafleur.ca)

- **One Yellow Rabbit**
  - [www.oneyellowrabbit.com](http://www.oneyellowrabbit.com)

- **Pumphouse Theatre**
  - [www.pumphouse.ca](http://www.pumphouse.ca)

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### Directory & Events

**GayCalgary Magazine** #101, March 2012

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**FIND OUT!**

LGBT Community Directory

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**http://www.gaycalgary.com/Directory**

Browse our complete directory of over 600 gay-friendly listings!
### Calgary Events

**Mondays**
- **ASK Meet and Greet**
  - 7-9.30pm
  - See Calgary Outlink
- **Inside Out Youth Group**
  - 7-9pm
  - See Calgary Outlink

**Tuesdays**
- **Calgary Networking Club**
  - 5-7pm
  - See Calgary Outlink
- **Between Men**
  - 7-9pm
  - See Calgary Outlink
- **Karaoke**
  - 8pm-1am
  - At The Texas Lounge
- **Fatsh Slosh**
  - Evening
  - At Bootdor 2nd
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
  - 8pm
  - At Hillhurst United Church (Gym Entrance)
  - 1227 Kensington Close NW

**Wednesdays**
- **Communion Service**
  - 12:10pm
  - See Knox United Church
- **Women’s Healing Circle**
  - 1:30pm
  - See AIDS Calgary
- **Free Pool**
  - All Day
  - At Calgary Eagle with Prime Times Calgary
- **LGBT Coffee Night**
  - 7pm
  - See CAANS
- **Mosaic Youth Group**
  - 7-7.9pm
  - At Old Y Centre (223 12th Ave SW)

**Thursdays**
- **Lesbian Seniors**
  - 7-9pm
  - See Kerby Center, Sunshine Room
  - 1133 7th Ave SW

**Swimming**
- 6-7pm
  - By Different Strokes
  - At SAIT Pool (1301 - 16 Ave NW)

**Lesbian Meetup Group**
- 7-30-9pm
  - At Calgary Outlink

**Alcoholics Anonymous**
- 8pm
  - At Hillhurst United Church (Gym Entrance)
  - 1227 Kensington Close NW

**Fridays**
- **Leather Night**
  - 7-9pm
  - At Calgary Eagle
- **Rec Volleyball**
  - 7pm
  - See Apollo Calgary
- **Illusions**
  - 7-10pm
  - See Calgary Outlink
- **Womynspace**
  - 7-9pm
  - See Calgary Outlink
- **New Directions**
  - 7-9pm
  - See Calgary Outlink
  - 2nd
- **Heading Out**
  - 8pm-10pm
  - See Calgary Outlink
  - 4th
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
  - 8pm
  - At Hillhurst United Church (Gym Entrance)
  - 1227 Kensington Close NW

**Saturdays**
- **Running**
  - 7-9am
  - See Apollo Calgary
- **Coffee**
  - 10am
  - By Prime Times Calgary
  - At Midtown Co-op (1130 - 11th Ave SW)
- **Curling**
  - 2:20 & 4:30pm
  - See Apollo Calgary
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
  - 8pm
  - At Hillhurst United Church (Gym Entrance)
  - 1227 Kensington Close NW

**Swimming**
- 5-6pm
  - By Different Strokes
  - At SAIT Pool (1301 - 16 Ave NW)

**Women’s Volleyball**
- 7-8.30pm
  - See Apollo Calgary

**Free Pool**
- All Day
  - At Calgary Eagle

**Sunday, March 10th**
- **FABolous!**
  - 10pm
  - By ISCCA at FAB Bar
- **Uniform Night**
  - 9pm
  - At Calgary Eagle

**Thursday, March 15th**
- **Coming Out Monologues**
  - 7:30pm
  - By Bosnia Bohuslaine Theatre
  - Calgary, Room 105, University of Calgary

**Friday, March 16th**
- **Coming Out Monologues**
  - 7:30pm
  - By Bosnia Bohuslaine Theatre
  - Calgary, Room 105, University of Calgary

**Saturday, March 17th**
- **St. Patrick’s Day Pajama Party**
  - 8pm-12am
  - At The Gullath and Texas Lounge
- **Kilt Night**
  - 9pm
  - At Calgary Eagle

**Friday, March 22nd**
- **Gender Bender**
  - 9pm-2am
  - By CalOrg
  - At The Den/Black Lounge, U of C

**Saturday, March 24th**
- **Bear as you Dare**
  - 9pm
  - At Calgary Eagle
- **Women’s Dance**
  - 9pm
  - By CalOrg
  - At Vees1008 in Inniswood (1008 14th Stw, Calgary)

**Saturday, March 31st**
- **Calypso Cowboy Dance**
  - 8pm-2am
  - By ARGBA
  - At Hillhurst-StonySprings Community Hall
  - 1303 - 5th Ave NW
- **Socks & Jocks**
  - 9pm
  - At Calgary Eagle

**Wednesday, April 4th**
- **Back(t)2 Boys(t)own**
  - 9pm
  - By Bootdor or Vojal (213 - 10th Ave SW)

**Saturday, April 7th**
- **Western Cup Dance**
  - 9pm-9am
  - By Apollo at Hotel Arts (119 - 12th Ave SW)

**Saturday, April 14th**
- **Kinky Flic Market**
  - 11am-5pm
  - By ASK
  - Forest Heights Community Centre
  - 4409 Finlay Ave SE

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**Legend:**
- ☑ = Monthly Recurrence
- ➞ = Date (Range/Future)
- ★ = Sponsored Event

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**Western Cup 30**
- [www.western30.com](http://www.western30.com)
- Easter long weekend, 2012

**Badminton (Absolutely Smashing)**
- 6020 - 4 Avenue NE
- badminton@apollocalgary.com

**Biking**
- bike@apollocalgary.com

**Boot Camp**
- 2501 3rd St NE
- bootcamp@apollocalgary.com

**Bowling (Rainbow Riders League)**
- Let’s Bowl (2916 5th Avenue NE)
- bowling@apollocalgary.com

**Curling**
- North Hill Curling Club (1201 - 2 Street NW)
- curling@apollocalgary.com
- Will return in September 2010. Sign up at myapollos.org to receive updates.

**Golf**
- golf@apollocalgary.com

**Lawn Bowling**
- lawnbowling@apollocalgary.com

**Outdoor Pursuits**
- outdoorpursuits@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 myapollos.org to get updates on the sport you like. We’re always looking for people to lead events.

**Running (Calgary Frontrunners)**
- YWCA Eau Claire (4th St, 1st Avenue SW)
- calgaryfrontrunners@shaw.ca
- East Doons (directly off the Bow river pathways). Distances vary from 6 km - 15 km. Runners from 6 minutes/mile to 9+ minute miles.

**Slow Pitch**
- slowpitch@apollocalgary.com

**Squash**
- Mount Royal University Recreation
- squash@apollocalgary.com
- All skill levels welcome.

**Tennis**
- tennis@apollocalgary.com

**Volleyball (Beach)**
- beachvball@apollocalgary.com

**Volleyball (Int/Comp)**
- West Hillhurst Community Centre
  - 1940 6th Avenue NW
- sb@apollocalgary.com

**Volleyball (Recreational)**
- 235 - 19 Ave SW
  - reedv@apollocalgary.com

**Volleyball (Women’s)**
- WYCA Calgary (220 - 5th Avenue SE)
  - vbwomen@apollocalgary.com

**Yoga**
- World Tree Studio (812 Edmonton Trail NE)
- 403-618-9442
  - yogalocs@apollocalgary.com
- $120 (10 sessions), $34 drop-ins open to all levels. Apollo membership is required.

**Alberto Rockies Gay Rodeo Association (ARGRA)**
- www.argra.org

**Calgary Gay Fathers**
- calgaryfathers@hotmail.com
  - http://www.calgarygayfathers.ca
  - Peer support group for gay, bi, and questioning fathers. Meeting twice a month.

**Calgary Men’s Chorus**
- www.calgarymenchorus.org

**Rehearsals**
- Tyndale Y.503, 900 - 47 Avenue SW
  - calgarysexualhealthcentre.com

**Calgary Outlink**
- 81, 1528 16 Avenue SW
  - 403-234-8973
  - info@calgaryoutlink.ca
  - http://www.calgaryoutlink.com

**Peer Support and Crisis Line**
- 1-877-OUT-IS-OK (1-877-688-4765)
- Front line help service for GLBT individuals and their family and friends, or anyone questioning their sexuality.

**Calgary Lesbian Ladies Meet up Group**
- Between Men and Between Men Online

**Headling Out**
- Illusions Calgary

**Inside Out**
- New Directions

**Womynspace**

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

**Calgary Sexual Health Centre**
- 304, 301 4th Street NW
  - 403-282-5580
  - calgarysexualhealth.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.

**Calgary Outlink**
- 81, 1528 16 Avenue SW
  - 403-234-8973
  - info@calgaryoutlink.ca
  - http://www.calgaryoutlink.com

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**Headling Out**
- Illusions Calgary

**Inside Out**
- New Directions

**Womynspace**

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

**Calgary Park United Church/Wholesome Centre**
- 77 Deerpoint Road SE
  - 403-278-8263
  - http://www.dapus.ca

**Different Strokes**
- http://www.differentstrokecalgary.org

**FairyTales Presentation Society**
- 403-244-1956
  - http://www.fairytalesfilmfest.com
  - Alberto Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
Edmonton Events

**Mondays**
- Boot Camp
  - Team Edmonton
  - 7-8pm

**Tuesdays**
- Martial Arts
  - Team Edmonton
  - 7.30-8.30pm

**Wednesdays**
- GLBTQ Bowling
  - Edmonton Bowling
  - 1.30-3.30pm
- Youth Sports/Recreation
  - Youth Understanding Youth
  - 4pm

**Thursdays**
- Youth Sports/Recreation
  - Youth Understanding Youth
  - 4pm
- Book Club
  - Bookworms Book Club
  - 3rd

**Fridays**
- Men’s Games Nights
  - Edmonton
  - 7.10-30pm
- Interim Volleyball
  - Team Edmonton
  - 7.30-9.30pm

**Saturdays**
- Naturalist Gettogether
  - Buck Roelke Boys Club
  - 2nd

**Sunday**
- Edmonton Illusions
  - The Junction
  - 8.30pm
- Youth Sports/Recreation
  - Youth Understanding Youth
  - 4pm
- Book Club
  - Bookworms Book Club
  - 7.30pm

**Legend:**
- = Monthly Reoccurring Date (Range), **= Sponsored Event

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**OUTreach**
- OUTreach at University of Alberta, basement of SUB
  - outreach@ualberta.ca
  - http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach
  - A social discussion group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men to discuss current issues and to offer support to each other.

**Men’s HIV Support Group**
- 10608 - 105 Ave
  - 780-436-199
  - edmonton@pridecentreofedmonton.org

**PFLAG**
- 10608 - 105 Ave
  - 780-436-199
  - info@pflagalberta.ca
  - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. A support group for family members and friends of LGBT people. An excellent resource for people whose family members and friends have just come out.

**Womanspace Board Meeting**
- 10608 - 105 Ave
  - womanspace@womenspace.org
  - 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**
- 10608 - 105 Ave
  - brennan@pridecentreofedmonton.org
  - Movie chosen by youth (aged 14 – 25), usually with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served.

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**Edmonton Contd.**

- Edmonton Rainbow Business Association
  - 3379, 11215 Jasper Ave
  - 780-429-5014
  - http://www.edmontonrba.org
  - Primary focus is the provision of networking opportunities for LGBT owned or operated and LGBT-friendly businesses in the Edmonton region.

- Edmonton Illusions Social Club
  - The Junction
  - 780-387-3343
  - groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions

- Edmonton STD
  - 11111 Jasper Ave

- Edmonton Vocal Minority
  - 780-479-2038
  - sing@evmchoir.com

- GLBTQ Sage Bowling Club
  - 780-474-8240

- HIV Network Of Edmonton Society
  - 9702 111 Ave NW
  - 780-488-5742
  - www.hivedmonton.com

- Pride Centre of Edmonton
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - 780-488-3234
  - admin@pridecentreofedmonton.org
  - http://www.pridecentreofedmonton.org

  - Free School
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - monthly@shaws.ca
  - Free School provides workshops on a variety of topics related to local activism.

  - Get Tested for STIs
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - Free STI testing for anyone interested. For more information please contact the Pride Centre.

  - GLBT African Group (Drop-In)
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - info@pridecentreofedmonton.org
  - 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
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - mbrown798@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
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - info@pridecentreofedmonton.org
  - Men’s HIV Support Group provides opportunities for men whose family members and friends have just come out.

  - PFLAG
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - info@pflagalberta.ca
  - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. A support group for family members and friends of LGBT people. An excellent resource for people whose family members and friends have just come out.

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  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - womanspace@womenspace.org
  - 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
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - brennan@pridecentreofedmonton.org
  - Movie chosen by youth (aged 14 – 25), usually with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served.

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**Directory & Events**

#### Edmonton Events

**Edmonton Events**
- Boot Camp
  - Team Edmonton
  - 7-8pm
- Martial Arts
  - Team Edmonton
  - 7.30-8.30pm
- Intermediate Volleyball
  - Team Edmonton
  - 7.30-9.30pm

**Fridays**
- Men’s Games Nights
  - Edmonton
  - 7.10-30pm
- Interim Volleyball
  - Team Edmonton
  - 7.30-9.30pm

**Saturdays**
- Naturalist Gettogether
  - Buck Roelke Boys Club
  - 2nd

**Sunday**
- Edmonton Illusions
  - The Junction
  - 8.30pm
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  - Youth Understanding Youth
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  - Bookworms Book Club
  - 7.30pm

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- Edmonton Vocal Minority
  - 780-479-2038
- GLBTQ Sage Bowling Club
  - 780-474-8240
- HIV Network Of Edmonton Society
  - 9702 111 Ave NW
  - 780-488-5742
- Pride Centre of Edmonton
  - 10608 - 105 Ave
  - 780-488-3234
  - admin@pridecentreofedmonton.org
- Living Positive Society of Alberta
  - # 50, 7912 - 104 Street
  - http://www.facebook.com/LivingPoz
  - Living Positive Through Positive Living.
- Men’s Games Nights
  - Unitarian Church (10804 119th Street)
  - 780-474-8240

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**OUTreach**
- OUTreach at University of Alberta, basement of SUB
  - outreach@ualberta.ca
  - http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach
  - GLBT African Group (Drop-In)
  - info@pridecentreofedmonton.org
  - A social and support group for seniors of all genders and sexualities to talk, have tea and offer each other support.

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**YouthSpace**
- brennan@pridecentreofedmonton.org
  - A safe and supportive space for GLBTQ youth aged 13 – 25. Video games, computers with internet, clothing bank, and more.

**Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton**
- 780-474-8240
- tuff@shaws.ca

**Team Edmonton**
- president@teamedmonton.ca
- http://www.teamedmonton.ca
- Members are invited to attend and help determine the board for the next term. If you are interested in running for the board or getting involved in some of the committees, please contact us.

**Badminton**
- 780-446-3520
- badminton@teamedmonton.ca

**Womanspace Board Meeting**
- 10608 - 105 Ave
  - womanspace@womenspace.org
  - 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**
- 10608 - 105 Ave
- brennan@pridecentreofedmonton.org
- Movie chosen by youth (aged 14 – 25), usually with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served.
The Junction
Saturday, March 17th
St. Patrick’s Day Dance ———— 8pm-2am
By Lethbridge Pride and OUTreach

Theatre & Fine Arts

Saturday, March 21st
OUTspoken Word Festival ———— All Day
By OUTspoken

RED DEER

EDMONTON CONTD.

• Bowling (Northern Titans)
  ➢ Ed’s Rec Room (West Edmonton Mall)
  ➢ bowling@teamedmton.ca
  ➢ $15.00 per person

• Cross Country Skiing
  ➢ crosscountry@teamedmton.ca

• Curling with Pride
  ➢ Granite Curling Club, 8240 107 Street NW
  ➢ curling@teamedmton.ca

• Cycling (Edmonton Pridersiders)
  ➢ Various locations in Edmonton
  ➢ cycling@teamedmton.ca

• Drag Queen (Flaming Dragons)
  ➢ dragqueen@teamedmton.ca

• Golf
  ➢ golf@teamedmton.ca

• Gymnastics, Drop-in
  ➢ Ottawa Gymnastics Club, 8755 – 50 Avenue
  ➢ gymnastics@teamedmton.ca

Have the whole gym to yourselves and an instructor to help you achieve your individual goals. Cost is $5.00 per session.

• Hockey
  ➢ hockey@teamedmton.ca

• Martial Arts
  ➢ 15450 – 105 Ave (daycare entrance)
  ➢ 780-326-6414
  ➢ kungfu@teamedmton.ca
  ➢ kickboxing@teamedmton.ca

Join this free activity.

• Ultimate Frisbee
  ➢ ultimatefrisbee@teamedmton.ca
  ➢ E-mail if interested.

• Volleyball, Intermediate
  ➢ Anthony-Wedmore Academy (101 Airport Road)
  ➢ volleyball@teamedmton.ca

• Volleyball, Recreational
  ➢ Mother Teresa School (908 - 105 Ave)
  ➢ volleyball@teamedmton.ca

• Women’s Lacrosse
  ➢ Shawer: 780-461-0017
  ➢ Pam: 780-436-7374

Open to women 21+, experienced or not, all are welcome. Call for info.

• Yoga
  ➢ Un’s Baya Yoga Studio (10350-124 Street)
  ➢ yoga@teamedmton.ca

• Women’s Space
  ➢ www.womenspace.com
  ➢ Women’s social group, but all welcome at events.

• Women’s Support Group
  ➢ 780-246-1971
  ➢ www.yoadm.ca

A support and social group for queer youth 12-25.

• Slo Pitch
  ➢ Parkallen Field, 111 st and 68 ave
  ➢ slo-pitch@teamedmton.ca

• Outdoor Pursuits
  ➢ outdoorpursuits@teamedmton.ca

• Running (Arctic Frontrunners)
  ➢ Emily Murphy Park, west end
  ➢ running@teamedmton.ca

All genders and levels of runners and walkers are invited to join this free activity.

• Slo Pitch
  ➢ Parcollen Field, 111 st and 68 ave
  ➢ slo-pitch@teamedmton.ca

• Snowballs Y
  ➢ January 27-29, 2012
  ➢ snowballs@teamedmton.ca

Skiing and Snowboarding Weekend.

• Soccer
  ➢ soccer@teamedmton.ca

• Spin
  ➢ MacEwan Centre for Sport and Wellness
  ➢ 109 St. and 104 Ave
  ➢ Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45pm
  ➢ Season has ended.
  ➢ spin@teamedmton.ca

7 classes, $28.00 per regiment.

• Swimming (Making Waves)
  ➢ NAIT Pool (11762 – 106 Street)
  ➢ swimming@makingswim.com
  ➢ www.makingswim.com

• Tennis
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Announcements 100

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Adult Oriented 210

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Help Wanted 240

Writers and Photographers

GayCalgary Magazine is seeking additional freelance writers and photographers from Edmonton, Lethbridge, Red Deer, and Medicine Hat to accept monthly assignments. Must be willing and able to conduct interviews in person or by phone. Please have a writing sample ready. Contact Steve at publisher@gaycalgary.com.

Models/Escorts 460

Alberta Escort Listings


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Q Scopes

Don’t act prematurely, Pisces!

Mercury is slowing down in Aries to turn retrograde while aspecting Venus and conjuring Uranus. Enjoy flirtations, but don’t count on them to last. Any “inspirational notions” this week will blow up next week, but could lead to true genius by late April.

ARIES (March 20–April 19): Is cooperation more trouble than it’s worth? Your colleagues may feel the same way about you. Focus on improving your technical and interpersonal skills. Things will improve soon. Build a track record you can be proud of.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Venus coming home to Taurus opens you up to new dreams, ideas and romances. Stay within your budget, but let all other limits and constraints fly to the wind. Sharing your ideals and dreams will boost your allure.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Wild impulsive ideas can lead to true love or add some juice to an existing relationship. Confess your wildest hopes and some will be fulfilled. Think ahead, though! Life gets crazy next week. Pay attention to details.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Be helpful, kind and supportive, but bending over backwards for others will just get you a sore back. Open-mindedness is good, but study basic premises before adopting entire philosophies. You will be heard, so think before speaking!

LEO (July 23–August 22): You’re too sexy for your shoes, too sexy for your lover, too sexy for your job. Tone down the charm and charisma at least a little bit. Others can easily make it out to be more than you intended, arousing jealousy and harassment suits.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22): Your naughty mouth can get you into trouble, delicious or otherwise. Tell the one you love what you’d really like to do when you’re alone together. It could do wonders for your relationship.

LIBRA (September 23–October 22): A flirtation with a co-worker or an exercise buddy could turn into something serious, unless you take it too seriously. Let it be fun and light. You both need some fresh air and fun, and if that’s all it is, that’s OK, too.

SCORPIO (October 23–November 21): As you get over being cranky and critical of your friends, how many do you have left? Getting rid of annoying twits may improve your life, but you probably still have some fences to mend. Make time for the folks who really matter.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 20): Family ties or work in your community can strengthen a foundation for your career. Thing seem to be backsliding now. Recalculate your direction. That will take a few weeks yet. Don’t fret over immediate results. Keep your eye on the long run.

CAPRICORN (December 21–January 19): Why do siblings or neighbors drive you crazy? It’s not about you. Work to understand and be sympathetic to their problems. On a power surge right now, you can afford to be generous.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18): Take yourself, your ideas or your sex life too seriously. Dissatisfaction drives the search for improvement; an open mind, some humility and a sense of humor will help you succeed. The comforts of home help you keep balanced.

PISCES (February 19–March 19): “Brilliant” financial ideas will soon prove to need correcting. You probably have a good start to a plan, though it needs time and work. Don’t act prematurely! Listen to your partner’s suggestions politely, but your friends really have the better insights.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977 teaches at the Online College of Astrology. He can be reached for personal or business consultations at 415-864-8302 or through his website at http://www.starjack.com
CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL RODEO & MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE 29 ~ JULY 1, 2012

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