

TORONTO'S PREMIER GAY LIFESTYLE DIGITAL MAGAZINE & MOBILE EDITION

# MY GAY TORONTO

ISSUE #47

June 15 - July 15, 2017.



WOLF DADDY PRESENTS

**SATURDAY**  
**JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**10PM TO 2AM**

**DJ NEILL MACLEOD**  
**DJ AERYN PFAFF**

**WOLFPACK**  
**GET RUGGED**

**WAYLA**

**\$5 COVER**

My Gay Toronto.com

ID REQUIRED AT THE DOOR // 19+ // WAYLABAR.CA

WHAT

+ PRIDE MONTH  
JUNE 1-25



FESTIVAL WEEKEND  
JUNE 23-25

WILL

+ PRIDE PARADE  
JUNE 25



YOU



ADD



TO



+ PRIDE ?

+  
HONOURS THE FACT THAT WE ARE A COMMUNITY  
OF MANY, OF DIFFERENCES, OF DIVERSITY, AND  
THAT WE BECOME WHO WE TRULY ARE WHEN WE  
ADD IT ALL TOGETHER.



Muguer

HOTEL

DU MATISE



**CALIBER**  
CALIBERMEN.COM

# Hot, Wet & Full Of Pride

RAYMOND HELKIO

Sapphic Aquatica is back with their over-the-top sexy Pride edition. DJ Ace Dillinger compliments an eclectic array of talent including; The Eccentric One plus drag artists Spencer Munny and Pretty Riikkii. This sex-positive, body-positive space is for women and trans identified revellers and offers spaces to explore kink, fetish and all variations of consensual play. The event is held at Oasis AquaLounge which boasts an outdoor heated pool, hot tub, dry sauna, towel and locker service but it's the live fire performer and Sybian rides (by a trained operator) that will guarantee a hot, wet night for all.

MISS F will host the event and as one of the organizers, the event is being used as a tool to raise money and awareness for Rainbow Railroad. As MISS F explains, "I have raised money for Rainbow Railroad for other Pride Sapphic events in previous years but I was first exposed to them in 2013 when the city was preparing for World Pride. I was really moved by this charitable organization that helps at-risk LGBTQ+ folks escape from life-threatening situations, simply for being themselves. I feel very grateful to be able to be out and proud in North America because there are other countries where that type of expression is punishable by death. I think that particularly during Pride celebrations, we should reflect on the ways that we are privileged and to reach out and help other queer folks that are not so lucky. I want Sapphic Aquatica bring awareness to this organization because what they do is so very important. This event is about creating space to celebrate our bodies, desires and identities but I think we also need to look beyond ourselves and really come together as a community.

Donations are PWYC and are voluntary but queer/trans lives are invaluable; you cannot put a cost on freedom."

More info: <https://oasisaqualounge.com>

**OASIS aqualounge**

## Sapphic AQUATICA PRIDE EDITION

For WOMEN and TRANS FOLKS  
Hosted by MISS F

**Sunday June 18 8pm-3am**

PWYC donations towards Rainbow Railroad

Live performer Katalina Fae	Trans King Pretty Riikkii	Gender Performer Spencer Munny	Artist The Eccentric 1	DJ Ace Dillinger
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**\$20 PER PERSON | CIS MEN\* ARE NOT PERMITTED**  
\*cis folks identify with the gender that they were assigned at birth

CLOTHING OPTIONAL | MON - SUN 11AM - 3AM | WWW.OASISAQUALOUNGE.COM



# Colour my world

PAUL BELLINI



When the rainbow flag first started showing up everywhere in the early '90s, my friends and I referred to it dismissively as 'the fag flag.' After all, we weren't a 'nation.' What on earth did we need a flag for? Clearly no one agreed, as the goddamn thing proliferated and now storefronts and banks use it to lure in gay customers.

Last week the flag was in the news again, when Philadelphia Pride unveiled a new design, adding a brown stripe and a black stripe. They are meant to represent people of colour. By this logic, only red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple people are currently represented. Furious dissenters wanted to know so where's the white stripe, or why are there no brown or black rainbows in the sky?

"If You Hate the New Pride Flag, You're the Problem" screamed the finger-pointing headlines at The Advocate. Honey, I hated it even before they added the new colours. The rainbow flag first appeared in the early 1500s, to represent unity and social change, which it still does. Rainbow flags have been used by Germans, Buddhists, Peruvians, the peace movement, and Meher Baba. Then, in 1978 a San Francisco-based artist named Gilbert Baker copyrighted his design and unleashed it onto the world. Rainbow flags first came to prominence during Harvey Milk's funeral. Legend has it that they were so rushed by events of the day that the first shipment of flags came from surplus stock made for the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Back then, it made sense to create a new symbol to identify the emerging gay liberation movement. It helped replace that dismal pink triangle, which had been used by Nazis to identify gays in the concentration camps. It was embraced because it was inclusive, and showed diversity. Back when coming out was the biggest issue facing most gay people, Gilbert Baker said that "when a person puts the Rainbow Flag on his car or his house, they're not just flying a flag. They're taking action." And making money for the cause. My favorite part of any Pride parade is when they march down the the street

with one of those big-ass rainbow flags that require about 20 people to carry it, and people throw in coins to help cover the cost of the event. Those are big fucking flags. I've never seen a Canadian flag that big.

Over the years, there have been endless variations of the rainbow flag's design, representing bears, bisexuals, pansexuals, the leather community, the trans community, even the Fat Fetish Pride community. So why not add a few more colours? I'd love if it looked like the paint chip wall at Canadian Tire. The rainbow flag is not sacred, so adding new colours really isn't such a big deal. It's just that the thinking behind Philadelphia Pride's re-design is so literal. If black represents black people, is yellow meant to represent Asian people?

The truth is, the world has fundamentally changed in the last decade. This was driven home last week when Bill Maher endured a torturous dressing down from his friend, black writer and intellect Michael Eric Dyson, who finally put it in terms we all can understand. Though Maher rationalized that as a comedian he felt he had the right to use terminology from another century in a satiric way, the truth is any use of the N word is just that - a slur. No context can justify it, not even quoting cool rap lyrics, reading aloud Mark Twain novels, or dancing to a particular Patti Smith song from 1978. Decent people have no option but to oblige and to do so with courtesy. If a black person wants to add a black stripe to the rainbow flag, so be it. There may not be pure logic in it, but to disagree just seems like sour grapes.

So welcome the new rainbow flag, gang. I'll admit, I kind of like it. But I worry about Pride committees all over the world, now having to sew on yards and yards of black and brown fabric onto their giant flags. Hopefully, the wider flag will catch even more loose change.



# Stewart Legere @ Buddies

DREW ROWSOME



Stewart Legere's new album *Quiet the Station* has been garnering rave reviews, ardent fans and anticipation for seeing it performed live. The only question was when Toronto would get to experience it. "I've been working on a new theatre project where I collaborate with queer artists from every region of the country," says Legere. "I was chatting with Evalyn Parry at Buddies about it and she knew that I had a record coming out and she offered the space. 'If you're going to do a record release in Toronto, you should do it at Buddies.'"

They settle on Tuesday, June 20 and Legere is "really psyched because at Buddies it's Queer Pride month and there's a whole slew of events. Just before us is Johnnie Walker's show. He's a great friend of mine and he's doing a staged reading of his new show *Shove It Down My Throat*. We get to go early and see his show and then stay and play some music. And we're going to offer a deal for anyone who wants to stick around after Johnnie's show, there will be a discount. I love Buddies. It's always been a beacon of inspiration for me. Every time I come to Toronto I either go dancing there or see what's happening and see a show. At the Rhubarb Festival I've seen many, many shows. It's a favourite place of mine."

Legere knows his theatre. "I have a theatre company in Halifax called the Accidental Mechanics Group and I also work with a company called Zuppa. I've been doing theatre since I graduated from university here in 2005. So I've been making theatre and touring with theatre for years now." However he doesn't limit his creative urges to one medium. "I've been writing and touring music for five or six years as a solo singer-songwriter and I'm also in a band called The Heavy Blinkers. In the last six months I've been doing shows in support of the record release. I kind of have a bit of theatricality but it's about the music."



Legere explains that, “A lot of times in theatre I’m trying to push or provoke people. For these songs, I just hope that people come and have a really warm night. The show is pretty much a straight-up music show. Tanya Davis, a friend of mine, is coming from Montreal to open and there will be lovely guests and surprises in there. I love being moved by music. I just like creating a sort of warm atmosphere in the show. I want people to have real feelings. Feel free to be in a room that holds that energy. And hopefully walk away feeling steeled, better armed emotionally to go into the night. That’s the hope,” he laughs.

The other advantage of performing at Buddies during Pride is the joyful queerness of the space. “It’s a complicated thing being a relatively new singer-songwriter on the scene,” says Legere. “I’ve seen it with friends of mine who have been around for a long time, they don’t necessarily want to admit it but the amount of homophobia and transphobia, and misogyny in the music industry, even in the tender area of the singer-songwriter, is still really pervasive. A friend of mine, when she was getting bigger, there was lots of pressure on all sides, to be quieter about herself. I’m always really proud when other musicians who are queer don’t hide it. I think it’s really important to support queer artists who don’t hide behind the veil of a persona to please people. At the end of the day if the music is good, it will shine through. At the end of the day, at the end of my life I don’t want to have a lot of regrets and keeping myself secret is not one I want to spend any time on either personally or professionally.”



Much more on Stewart Legere and Quiet the Station at [drewrowsome.blogspot.com](http://drewrowsome.blogspot.com)

Stewart Legere performs Tues, June 20 at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St.  
[buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com)

Quiet the Station is available at [stewartlegere.bandcamp.com](http://stewartlegere.bandcamp.com)

**Friday June 16:**

Lil Debbie live at The Phoenix Concert Theatre (410 Sherbourne St)  
 Openers: DJ Ticky Ty and DJ Recklezz  
 Double Drum Performance by KLR + Rosie. Doors at 10 - \$15

**Wednesday June 21:**

Play at Smith (553 Church St)  
 Mid-week 2 floor event where you can sip and mingle or dance and party. -DJs Mavis + Okaay  
 Doors at 9:30  
 \$5 before 11, \$8 after. No advance tickets. Cover at the door.

**Thursday June 22:**

Giggles - a pride comedy show at Comedy Bar (945 Bloor St W)  
 Host: Elvira Kurt  
 Headliner: Adrienne Fish  
 Featuring: Chantel Marostica, Ashley Moffatt, Martha Chavez, Dawn Whitwell, Deanna Smith  
 Doors at 7:15  
 \$20 advance tickets available at [www.girlplaytoronto.com](http://www.girlplaytoronto.com)

**Friday June 23:**

GirlPlay Toronto + Cream + BTC + Toastr + About Last Night Present Juicebox at Noir (Inside Rebel) (11 Polson St) DJs KLR, Sticky Cuts & Recklezz ; Dance Performance by Girls Club  
 Doors at 10 - \$30 in advance. Tickets available at [www.girlplaytoronto.com](http://www.girlplaytoronto.com) - \$40 at the door

**Saturday June 24:**

Toastr Pride - All Throwbacks, All Night at The Raq (739 Queen St W)  
 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s tunes + Dance floor + Lounge + Pool Tables + Licensed Patio  
 DJs Lucie Tic & Sticky Cuts - Doors at 9:30 - \$15 in advance. Tickets available at [www.girlplaytoronto.com](http://www.girlplaytoronto.com) - \$20 at the door

**Sunday June 25:**

9th Annual T-Dance at 580 Church Street (580 Church St)  
 2 Patios - Outdoor Club Event - DJs: Miz Megs, Stix, Foxtrot, KLR, Lilly Russner, Marina, Steph Honey and More... - \$20 cover at door. No advanced tickets.

Advance tickets available at [www.girlplaytoronto.com](http://www.girlplaytoronto.com)



**JUNE 21 - JUNE 25**

TICKETS AND INFO AT [WWW.GIRLPLAYTORONTO.COM](http://WWW.GIRLPLAYTORONTO.COM)

**\$60 WEEKEND VIP PASS**  
[WWW.GIRLPLAYTORONTO.COM](http://WWW.GIRLPLAYTORONTO.COM)

**WED JUNE 21**  
**PLAY**  
 DJ MAVIS  
 DJ OKAAY  
 @SMITH  
 553 CHURCH STREET  
 DOORS AT 9PM  
 \$5 BEFORE 11 - \$8 AFTER

**THURS JUNE 22**  
**GIGGLES**  
 EL VIRA KURT  
 ADRIENNE FISH  
 DAWN WHITWELL / DEANNE SMITH  
 MARTHA CHAVEZ / ASHLEY MOFFATT  
 CHANTEL MAROSTICA  
 @COMEDY BAR  
 945 BLOOR STREET WEST  
 DOORS AT 7:30PM - \$20 IN ADVANCE

**FRI JUNE 23**  
**JUICEBOX**  
 STICKY CUTS  
 RECKLEZZ  
 KLR  
 @NOIR  
 11 POLSON STREET  
 \$30 ADVANCE \$40 AT THE DOOR  
 DOORS OPEN AT 10PM

**SAT JUNE 24**  
**toastr**  
 LUCIE TIC  
 STICKY CUTS  
 THROWBACKS AND POOL  
 @THE RAQ  
 POOL HALL AND NIGHT CLUB  
 739 QUEEN ST WEST  
 \$5 IN ADVANCE \$20 AT DOOR

**SUN JUNE 25**  
**9TH ANNUAL T-DANCE**  
 8 DJs  
 2 PATIOS  
 580 CHURCH ST  
 \$20 AT THE DOOR - 9PM-12AM

# Let's build a community for queer women

ALEX MATVEEVA at [Let's TO](#)



Photo by Matt Clopot

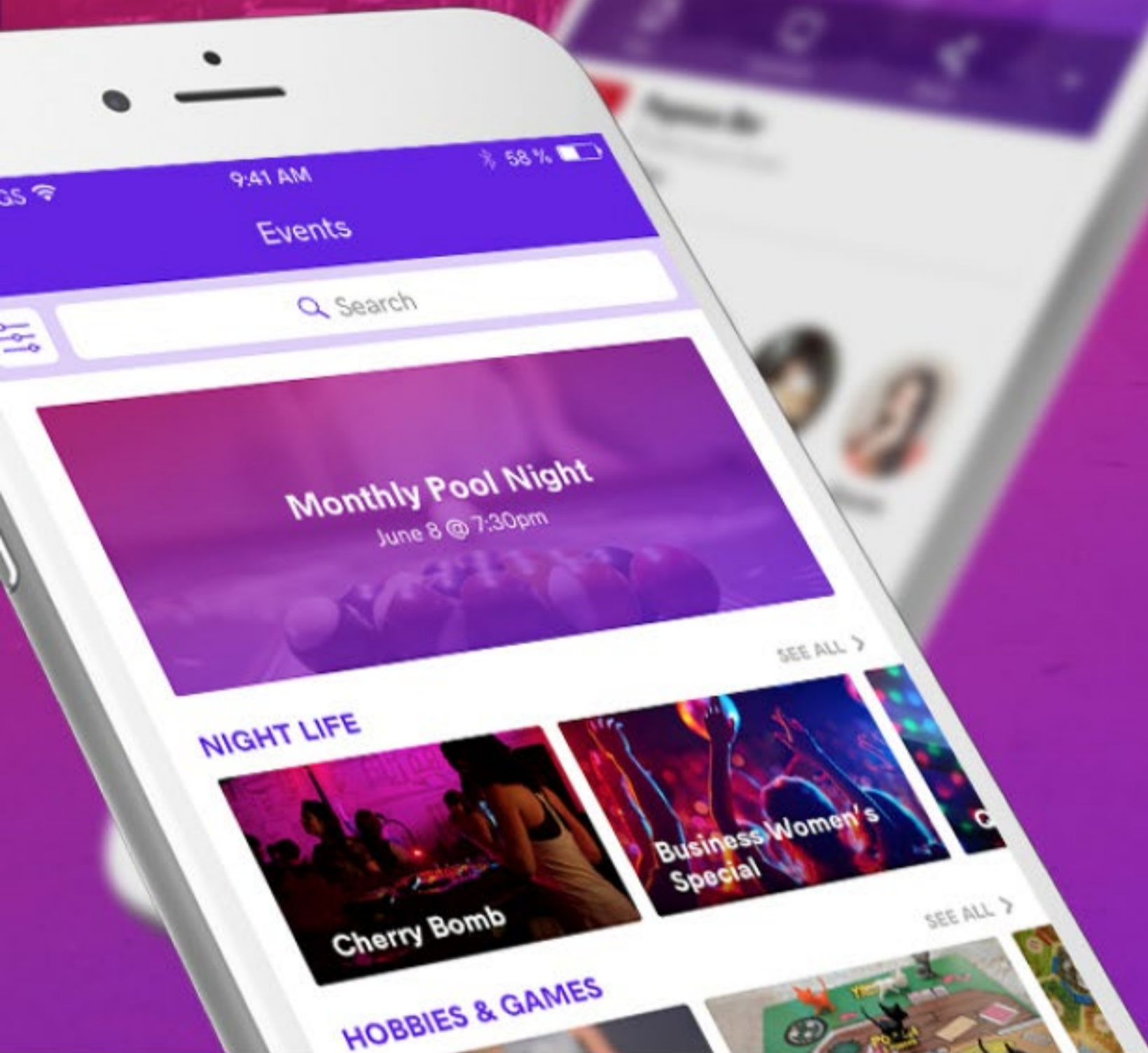
When I was first coming out I found that it was hard to find other queer women around me. I thought there was some secret club you had to belong to in order to know where all the lesbian hangouts were. But as time went on it became clear to me that you just needed to put in the time, make acquaintances where you could, and do relentless google searches before you stumbled onto something you might like. That's just the reality of things. Church Street always seemed to be male dominated and queer women seemed to be scattered all over the city. On the one hand, it's great, because you can explore any part of the city and are sure to find a queer couple holding hands, but not so great when you're new on the scene and think that Church Street is where it's at. In fact, that can be very discouraging. Women already have such a hard time coming out as it is! On top of having to come out (and sometimes having to keep coming out) and experiencing all the hardships that go along with that, you now have to somehow find a way to navigate the labyrinth of the queer scene and hope that one day you'll find a friend. Just one friend would be awesome! Someone to share the experience with or to vent with. And truthfully, as a gay woman, I believe we shouldn't hide from each other!

It's already becoming easier to find your crowd with technology, Facebook events, meetup events and even Reddit. However, Anabel and I, here at Let's didn't think it was enough. We wanted to make things even easier for women, whether you are fresh on the scene or as stale as MySpace we want to bring the community to you! And we're doing a pretty good job already! We got weekly events with attendance of 20 to 50 people, we've got a website that has resources as well as most queer women events in Toronto. We spend about four hours each week trying to find queer events and make it as accessible as we possibly can. We sincerely believe that if the women in the LGBT community stand strong together and feel like they are a part of the community than the LGBT community as a whole, benefits!

We are tired of having to find out about hangouts, parties and board game gatherings through word of mouth. We are tired of having to meet friends at a club like setting and not having other options. We just want a friendly space just for us sometimes, where we can relax and make meaningful connections that are based on interest. That's why we're excited to fix it one step at a time!

# let's

AN LGBT  
COMMUNITY  
JUST FOR  
WOMEN



**HELP US MAKE THE  
COMMUNITY EVEN BETTER**

PLEASE SUPPORT US AT:

[letzto.com/indiegogo](https://letzto.com/indiegogo)

# Alyson Calagna brings her beats back to Toronto

ROLYN CHAMBERS



Alyson Calagna is at one with the music she remixes and plays just as much as she is at home with whom she plays for. Having long staked out her section of the circuit party kingdom, a scene largely dominated by male DJs and largely attended by male revellers, she has become a known name with a recognizable sound. This sound, heavily influenced by what she calls "Omtronica, is a mixing of sexual, sensual and spiritual rhythms with tones of empowerment and ecstasy." It is this sound that she will be bringing, once again, to Toronto Pride.

**My Gay Toronto: You're playing the annual GreenSpace Tree House party at Toronto Pride. Musically, how is an outdoor daytime party different for you than an indoor night time event?**

*Alyson Calagna: Yes, I love playing outside. It's always lovely having mother nature as your backdrop. It's different based on the time slot. I am playing early, so the sun will be out and will be shining. That changes the vibe of the set. I think atmosphere plays a significant role in any set. I like to feed off of the room and in this case, I will be feeding off of the sun.*

A true circuit DJ who travels the world spinning at some of the top parties, Calagna criss-crosses the United States and has played in Brazil, Mexico, Montreal and of course Toronto. She has also headlined some of the worlds largest venues including Pacha, Space, Crobar, as well as Toronto's now closed Government nightclub.

**MGT: What have been some of the oddest or most interesting things you've seen from the DJ booth?**

*AC: Ummmmm, I don't think I can say that in a public forum. I have played Black Party, you know.*

Calagna's forthcoming album, *Omtronica: Music for the Seeker* will unleash her new, Eastern-influenced sound. She calls it "part yoga retreat and part South Beach heat that reinvents the dance experience as a soulful labyrinth winding toward awakening, revelation and power."

**MGT: When playing a long set, what one snack do you have to have in the booth with you?**

*AC: Protein Bars. Always. I love the Tenacious Tess bar's. They are a Colorado company, and they are super delicious. Occasionally I'll bring a protein shake and shaker if the set is really long.*

Critics who have heard her live sets or have listened to her on major dance labels like Nervous, Stereo Productions, Intenso and Star69, have praised her for discovering an unmistakable sound of her own. A sound that has even made its appearance on NBC's *Trauma* and MTV's *Cribs*.

**MGT: What are the hottest tracks right now and what do you predict will be the hot summer songs/remixes?**

*AC: That's hard to predict because there are so many different vibes, genres, and scenes. I just finished remixing a song called "Sway" by the Canadian Jazz artist Bria Skonberg. It has a beautiful sexy, summer vibe filled with horns and percussion. I'm excited to play this all summer. Usually, Summer brings forth a lot of the funky, groovy and disco influence house and tech-house. I love this time of year.*

By her constant rebooking at several events over the last decade it's obvious that Toronto loves Alyson Calagna, no matter what time of year it is.

Hear Alyson for yourself at: [www.remixyourworld.com](http://www.remixyourworld.com) ; [www.facebook.com/djalysocalagna](http://www.facebook.com/djalysocalagna)

# SUNDAY JUNE 25 TREEHOUSE PARTY

**Alain Jackinsky**  
**Alyson Calagna**  
**Isaac Escalante**  
**Oscar G**  
**Tom Stephan**



# Cazwell Brings Femme Back

RAYMOND HELKIO

It's impossible to forget my first time seeing Luke Cazwell perform in a small gay New York club. His fresh and sexy-as-hell demeanour have won him the hearts of fans around the world. Unapologetic in his approach to lyrics, he's the brains behind such hits as I Seen Beyoncé At Burger King, Ice Cream Truck, Guess What and his latest single Loose Wrist which proudly aligns itself with the beauty of femme. This is not new territory for Cazwell since he's best known for his outlandish and in-your-face proclamations on what it means for him to be gay. Rap has long been associated with anti-gay rhetoric which is what makes Cazwell's songwriting, especially his latest single stand out as provocative and brave.



"I noticed a real femme pride movement brewing on social media a few years ago," continues Cazwell, discussing the inspiration for the song. "I love that it is so visible right now. It's about time we all embrace femme." Cazwell has come out with Lacey Shorts, which are exactly what they sounds like; beautiful, breezy and not for the shy. His latest video Loose Wrist is as much about pushing the new fashion line as it is about pushing a queer-friendly agenda. Loose Wrist is available through iTunes.



# Fashionably bare-assed

LEE FANCY - LEBER

I've always been fascinated with jockstraps, from how they look in porn to how liberating they feel when worn instead of my usual tighty whities. I usually wear them under gym shorts or whenever I wear summer shorts. There is something about baring your exposed ass under your shorts that: a. makes things cooler ; b. enhances the feel of the material against your ass ; c. provides easy access for spur-of-the-moment encounters ; d. makes you feel like you have a fun secret when you head out on the street.

Going through the local stores, you realize that this could be an expensive form of expression. If you wear a pair as you would underwear, you need more than a couple of pair. The average price is about \$30 each and this keeps my summer interest from becoming an all year fetish. I did an online search through the websites of the companies and stores that I regularly patronize, and realized that jockstraps are just pricey.

Then I tried a Google search for "cheap jocks" thinking it would result in finding no-name brands and low quality. To my surprise there are sites that carry the brands I love and are priced right. These are the three sites out that I found to be the most amazing.

## 1. CheapUndies

This place is my go to for all undergear needs. Every day at noon they have special listings of what's on sale for that day, and that's when to buy. They do also have big brand names and usually sell them half off the original price you'd find in stores. [www.cheapundies.com](http://www.cheapundies.com).



## 2. TopMensunderwear.net

You can get a ton of jocks for \$10 and it's free shipping all around the world. Going through the selection you can easily get lost as they have a ton of different styles of jocks. [www.topmensunderwear.net](http://www.topmensunderwear.net).



## 3. Amazon

Here you can get recommendations from the guys who wear them. Again huge selection but the best thing I like about the company is that they have a hassle-free return policy.

[www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca)



I hope you found this helpful and you get out and upgrade your collection or come over to the "Jock Side.". Next time, as you walk down the street, how many other bare asses under shorts have you passed?

Let those buns of yours breathe!



# It takes a Village

PAUL BELLINI



Recently, I had dinner with my cousins, three elegant women who live in the gaybourhood. As I knew they adore Ru Paul's Drag Race, I suggested we dine at Glad Day, currently enjoying a zeitgeist moment by airing the show to crowded rooms every Friday night. The menu, which was created by the women behind Cardinal Rule, was quite good. (My cousins previously lived on Roncesvalles and dined at Cardinal Rule frequently.) I had a heaping bowl of fusilli, while they enjoyed the vegetarian fish'n'chips and poutine.

Afterwards, we grabbed a round of drinks and settled back to watch Drag Race. The crowd grew rapidly, swelling to capacity. The venue plays last week's episode first, then the new one. People are really into this whole drag thing. The evening was hosted by two drag queens who performed numbers of their own during the breaks.

In last week's episode, a queen named Alexis Michelle was booed for creating an outfit based on the Native American member of The Village People Felipe Rose (who, thank God for him, was half Sioux). Alexis adorned her dress with turquoise (a mineral found all over the world) and used a bow, sans arrow, as a fascinator. It wasn't a good look, but worse, one of the drag queen hosts accused Michelle of cultural appropriation, this year's 'worse than cancer' over-reaction. Bows and arrows, by the way, predate recorded history, and the oldest was found in Denmark, for fuck's sake. So how is this even "cultural appropriation?"

Yes, we owe other cultures our respect, but I failed to see how that outfit was worthy of any but the most disingenuous and sanctimonious outrage. It's selective scorn. After all, weren't we watching a TV show in which men appropriate the attire of women, and the whole thing is hosted by a black man wearing a blonde wig? Do young people have no capacity for discernment, no sense of irony? Is everything nowadays about revealing one's moral high road in order to provide self-congratulation? And to see the rest of the crowd jump on the lynching bandwagon made me want to flee, and I would have, but then again, I had to stay to see who was going to be voted off. (No one, as it turns out - a bum episode.)

My cousins had a great time, and we hope to do it again. If nothing else, it swells my heart to see a bookstore reinvent itself as a community hub. The new Glad Day is everything the old one wasn't, and that fusilli was delicious, by the way. Books, food, and a good show. What more could you want? Maybe a little less throwing of stones by those who live in glass houses.

# I'm a few weeks out from Pride and I forgot to get in shape! Help!

JAY QUARMBY

Has this year's Pride party season crept up on you? Was your intention of joining the gym in January well intended but didn't quite happen? I'm sorry to say, I can't get you in fitness model shape in the three weeks before you're out dancing at the Pride parties with the rest of the Herculean gay men out there, but I can give you a few great tips that will help you tighten up, lose a few pounds, and generally feel a little more confident about yourself and motivated heading into the upcoming summer party weekends.

**1. Cut the sugars.** Immediately and completely. This is your first step in the right direction, sugar is our number one enemy, that belly fat and extra love handles that you wish were gone, you can blame sugar for that.

So get rid of the sugar in your coffee, Frapa-whatevers at Starbucks are off the menu. Anything with sugar in it, don't have. Fruit is ok, during the day, but no juices, cookies, basically any processed snack is going to have sugar in it. Read the label of anything you pick up, and you will be surprised how much sugar is in it.

## **2. Up your green vegetable intake**

This is pretty straightforward, I can guarantee you aren't eating enough green vegetables, and since we are all adults here, I don't have to go into why vegetables are good for you. Just eat them, lots of them!

## **3. Drink more water**

Once again, I can guarantee you aren't drinking enough water. Think about this. Dehydrate a muscle by only 3% and you cause about 10% loss of strength and an 8% loss of speed. This is huge! If you are dehydrated, your muscles aren't going to work properly, your body is going to struggle to do exercise. If you are trying to workout when you are dehydrated, you are basically shooting yourself in the foot as you aren't going to be able to push yourself as hard as you should be able to.

## **4. Calorie counting**

Losing weight is a basic mathematic equation.

It's been proven over and over again, and it works, I've seen it hundreds of times. If you have more calories coming in than getting used, you are going to put on weight, it has to go somewhere. Fortunately it also works in reverse: if not enough calories are coming in to be used, fat gets burnt instead.

I've saved you the hard work of finding a calorie calculator, go to [this site](#).

Punch your details in and find out how many calories you should be eating to be in a negative state. Meaning you're burning more than you are putting in. Think about this, if you really wanted to, you could lose two pounds a week, very easily this way, within a few weeks you could be down six or eight pounds. That's going to make a difference on how you look and feel!

If you feel like you can't do this on your own and you need some help, or you have any questions please email me

[info@jayquarmby.com](mailto:info@jayquarmby.com)

I'm always happy to help!

Jay Quarmby  
Lifestyle and Fitness  
Specialist  
[jayquarmby.com](http://jayquarmby.com)



Everyone's  
**WELCOME**  
EVEN *straight* PEOPLE  
**ONLY**  
*Vegas*





# Celebrate Pride in Iceland

THE LAND MAY BE COLD, BUT THE PEOPLE OH SO WARM.



Icelanders \*love\* a good hot dog. This is one of the first things Robert Sharp of OUT Adventures, proclaims in a [recent blog post](#). Frankly (no pun intended), we were sold on the island right there, but there are better reasons to visit the land of fire and ice.

Hungry for an epic adventure? Capital city Reykjavik offers everything from eclectic nightlife to tantalizing Nordic cuisine. Being gay is also a total non-issue here (they've already had a lesbian prime minister)

The countryside, meanwhile, is a great place to spike your adrenaline by white water rafting, glacier trekking, or zipping on Zodiacs through glacial lagoons. It's also peppered with glorious geysers and volcanoes.

But perhaps, best of all, Reykjavik Pride is coming up in August, and OUT Adventures has an [Iceland Pride Adventure](#) that celebrates it all and ends with a bang (metaphorically speaking). You'll get to party with all the locals plus a medley of global merrymakers.

Interested in booking, or want to learn more about this awesome escape?  
Email [info@out-adventures.com](mailto:info@out-adventures.com) or just give Rob or his team a call at 1-866-360-1152!

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# Men of Steel : The battle over condo erections

RAYMOND HELKIO

Good looking, warm, inviting and charming and a hot body. These are just a few of the credentials Remington's Men of Steel look for in their dancers. After more than two decades of dishing up beefcake on Yonge Street, the boys are planning a move to a new location in the Queen West neighbourhood, time to celebrate Pride 2018 at both locations and celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary at the current historical location. The move is reflective of a larger shift in demographics within our downtown core from what once was a sketchy head shop-laden destination for potheads to a bloated condo developer's wet dream. I spoke with the general manager, Dave Auger to get his take on how the scene has evolved, "When I took over as GM, the club only allowed women in on Sundays. We changed that while still keeping early evening hours for men only, then after 9:00 pm we welcome women, trans and everyone else looking for great entertainment." When Remington's first opened it's doors in June 16, 1993 they did not own the building so when their landlord announced he had sold the building to a condo developer, they found themselves in the middle of a contentious legal battle. As Dave explains, "many businesses were forced to leave as they could not afford to fight the multi-billion dollar developer." After successfully taking both developers to court, the club has managed to hang on as one of the last remaining tenants, literally bringing the project to grinding halt, yet still forcing the club to seek out a new venue. "The biggest challenge of late has been the battle with the developers of the property. The block upon which Remington's Men of Steel is located has changed hands to several developers in the last three years. The first developer unlawfully doubled every tenant's lease (for us almost \$50,000/month) for which we had to take them to court; we were successful. Shortly after the developer sold to another developer who in short time issued an early termination notice violating the lease agreement terms."

Every business south of Remington's has been vacated to the end of the developer's property.



Looking north, a few are closed but remain in are the Evergreen drop-in centre, a convenience store, VIP Billiards, a shawarma place and a government office. Further complicating the situation is the fact that strip clubs are considered adult entertainment and therefore bound by strict city licensing and zoning bylaws. Professional club dancers, otherwise known as strippers must clear a criminal background check before they are given a valid licence. Despite these challenges, the situation is shifting for Remington's having recently won several awards from Best Bar None in addition to this year's Queer Choice Awards. With Pride month already upon us, expect the usual hot boys, drinks and beats but add to that a 4am last call and possible appearances by some Montréal's finest imports. Extended hours continue through the Canada 150 celebrations (June 28-July 2).

Remington's Men of Steel **open daily**  
Sun-Tue from 6pm and Wed-Sat from  
5pm- 379 Yonge Street, Toronto -  
[www.remingtons.com](http://www.remingtons.com)



**CALIBER**  
CALIBERMEN.COM

# The legendary of Lana Turner and her scandals

PAUL BELLINI



If you're at all familiar with Hollywood legend and lore, then you know that Lana Turner was called the 'Sweater Girl' because of her amazing tits. You might also know that she was discovered sitting on a stool at Schwab's Drug Store (it was actually the Top Hat Cafe), and most importantly, you would know that her 13-year-old daughter stabbed her big-dicked Mafioso boyfriend to death, resulting in one of the all-time biggest show biz scandals. And now, Danforth Prince and Darwin Porter have unleashed their laser-like research skills to dig out the real story of the great movie star Lana Turner.

Subtitled *Hearts & Diamonds Take All*, it's a massive, juicy read. Born Judy Turner, she grew up nice and it wasn't long before she was getting small parts in big movies. She loved men, married seven and had affairs with many more. One of her biggest fans was Eva Peron, who modelled her own look on Turner's style. Lana Turner had some great roles (*The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Bad and the Beautiful*, *Imitation of Life*) yet only received one Oscar nomination, for *Peyton Place*. It was a charmed life, except for her affair with Johnny Stompanato.

A low-level mobster, he wooed Lana with jewels, eventually winning her heart with his charm and his giant penis. But he often flew into violent rages, threatening to maim or kill Lana, Cheryl and Lana's mother as well. Once, sensing that Lana was having a fling with co-star Sean Connery, he went on set and waved a gun in Connery's face. Cheryl could take no more of the threats, and during a horrible fight she delivered one efficient stab wound with a kitchen knife, causing enough internal bleeding to end Stompanato's life almost immediately. As far as movie star scandals go, this is one of the greatest.

Cheryl Crane is still alive, a lesbian in a long-term relationship. She recently retired from her job as a real estate agent. Considering the trauma - not just the murder she committed, but also the fact that she was repeatedly raped as a child by Lana's then-husband Lex Barker - she turned out okay. (Lex Barker was Tarzan, by the way. Like much of the Golden Age gossip, every element of the story is a combination of the campy and the erotic.)

The book is full of other morsels, like that Johnny Weismuller had an elongated foreskin, or that Freddie Bartholomew liked having his toes sucked. Once again, Darwin Porter and Danforth Prince have concocted a jaw-dropping biographical delight of a great movie star. And even if you don't care about old movie stars, it's also pretty horny.



MYGAYTORONTO MOBILE EDITION COVER  
PHOTOGRAPHER AND HIS POETIC EROTIC  
NATURALISM

# Daniel Decot

BY DREW ROWSOME

The photos created by Daniel Decot appear straightforward, infused with a naturalistic eroticism that leaps off the page. But as the play of light and dark draws one in, there is a startling effect of intimacy, of a connection being communicated. The photographer himself has a similar effect, claiming simplicity before being inspired into sensual poetic metaphors that begin by being matter of fact. Because of the distance, Decot is based in Belgium, and a slight language barrier, this interview was conducted by email so following up on tantalizing hints and innuendo was difficult. So Decot remains, like his photographs, casual and straightforward but teasing erotic mystery.

**What first inspired you to take up photography?**

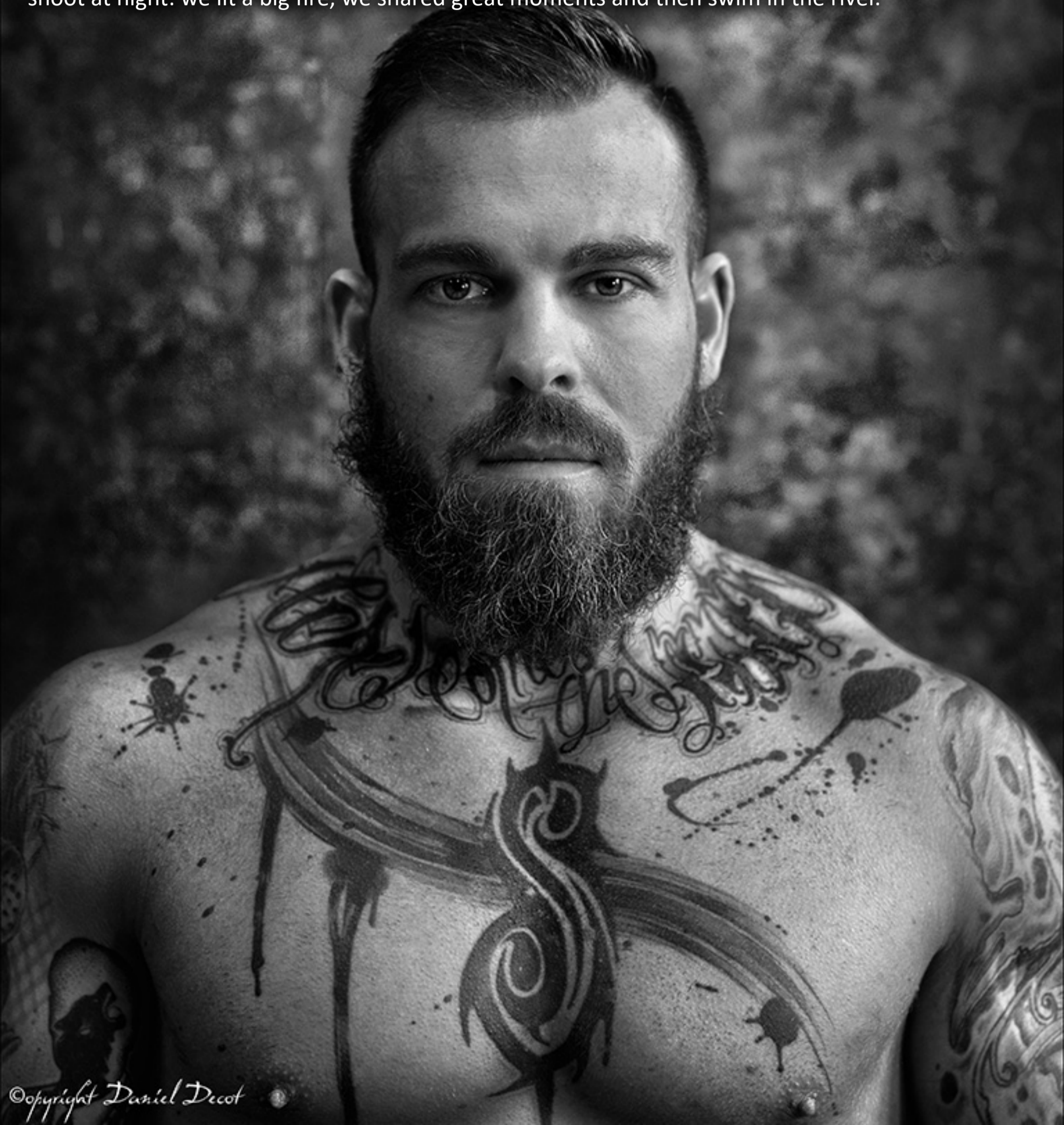
Daniel Decot: When I was 12 years-old there was a photography course at school. Our teacher asked us to choose a subject: flowers, animals, people... I chose people.

When did you decide that photography was a viable career option or artistic outlet ?

Some years ago I realized that more and more people, mostly actors/actresses, artists, were asking me to take their publicity shots.

What is the favorite of your photo shoots so far and why ?

I have lots of favorites, but probably all the photoshoots with my friend Ben, a tattooed guy I met at the gym. We began to work together for magazines. I particularly have great souvenirs of a nude shoot at night: we lit a big fire, we shared great moments and then swim in the river.





### How do you choose your models?

I don't really like the word "model." The few models I have worked with were really too "professional" for me. I prefer to meet and capture real people in their home environment, so that they feel more at ease as that is where they evolved. I like that more than making pictures with posed supermodels wishfully transformed and enhanced. That's why almost all the guys in my photos are my close friends or men I meet at my friends' homes. I'm very attracted by personality and how their eyes really look into my eyes.

### What makes for a good model?

I prefer a release during a session so I give precedence to loosening over acting. Don't do, don't act, don't pose, just do nothing. No dramatic effect but just a look, a presence, the raw drawing of a gesture, a growing thought. An intense yet discreet emotion, nearly mute and blind which tends to reveal a true moment. It's unutterable, subtle and far away from clichés, sensationalism and other perfectly portrayed photos from the fashion world. No showing off, no distortion. No voyeurism. No transgression. The end purpose being to suggest intimacy and not to steal it from the subject.

There is no message, it's a meeting, some shared instants. A caring look from my end. A deeper look on the inside from theirs. My approach is based on a certain neutrality that emphasizes the mystery, creating impressionistic images. Leaving to the audience the possibility to picture its own story.

### Your website says that you shoot using natural light. How do you get the eyes so startling vivid in your portraits?

I try, when possible, to have light from windows at my back so that it reflects in the eyes of the people I shoot.

Nudes, boxers, bikers, surfers, miners . . . There is an obvious erotic thread of masculinity in your choice of subjects. How do you decide what you want to explore?

Well, it depends on the people I meet, I'm a naturist, a surfer and a biker. I do a lot of sports including boxing, I'm a bearded multi-tattooed guy. I just take photos of people I meet, there's no special credit for that, I guess.

While recognizing the similarities, particularly in many of the boxer photos, how do you see the difference between the more documentary photos of the bikers and surfers vs the poetry/collaboration of the portraits ?

Actually, those two types of photography are very different. The "documentary" photos need from me that I am 100 percent focused in the present moment. When a boxer is throwing a punch or when a biker rides very fast I have to be there that moment. That's why I prefer to shoot



during releasing moments, when boxers are in the locker room or in the corner of the ring for instance, I try to highlight intimacy like I do with portraits. But I always have in mind to make some artistic, poetic portraits, even with those exhausted boxers with their broken faces.

**The portraits of you done by Cedric Brion are quite extraordinary, coy and slightly imitative of your style. Were they his idea or yours? Was the concept his or yours? What was it like to work on the other side of the camera?**

Cédric is a friend and an incredible photographer. He is more specialized in studio photos so we made an experiment, He shot me then I shot him in the same place, his studio, with spotlights for him, none for me, but with all the windows wide open to let natural light come in. Curiously enough, since Cédric made this picture of me, several photographers have asked me to sit for them.

**Who would you cite as an influence?**

Of course Robert Mapplethorpe for his extraordinary use of light, and incidentally because a lot of my friends are black guys, Richard Avedon: I love all his studio photos with the white backgrounds, particularly the Warhol and Factory photos. And Herb Ritts. And many more.

But, my two major artistic influences are two painters, corresponding with my two types of photos. Johannes Vermeer and his use of diffuse light from a window influenced my photos of a tainted world, a zone with diffuse and glowing light, where sfumato in the subtle gray scale helps individual shades eventually melt within. And Edward Hopper and his contrasting sunlight illuminating people. I like to create photos with a lot of contrasted between the black and white, like the German expressionism movement that affects space dramatically, some chiaroscuro from which faces and shadow-striped bodies strive to hide



The quality of the photos, the ambience, reminded me of silver prints like Ansel Adams and George Platt Lynes. How did you discover and come to use that style?

Thank you. They are great photographers but, well, I think my work is a mix of lot of conscious and unconscious influences since my childhood.



What makes a photo erotic?

The way the model look at me. At you. At you looking at them.

There is a wonderful quote on your Facebook page attributed to philosopher Jean Baudrillard: "There are those who photograph naked bodies as of the flesh, others like meat, and those who photograph the animal naked, his skin and his soul." What is it you are trying to capture when you photograph nudes?

Once they have taken their clothes off, peeled off the skin of their social ID, there is just there, in front of us, then, men, exposed in their true essence. As smooth as when photo sensitive paper lets

mysteries show in the reddish ambiance of the dark room.

My personae have a link with those of Edward Hopper's paintings, for being solitary, melancholic, mute and wholly-engrossed in their thoughts. Locked within, alone, nude facing a window letting the light float in to suggest the possibility of an infinite world lying beyond on the other side. And like always, wriggling from famous artists to anonymous people, swinging from boxers to geeks, oscillating from straight managers to tattooed bikers, trying to suggest what unites us in our differences, and shedding light on our identities and resemblances through our skin grains, up to the most intimate as I would like the audience to see the humanity beyond the characters.

**How do you get your models to be so apparently comfortable when posing nude?**

Most are my close friends so comfortable when nude. But when I shoot "new friends" I spend the first hour, before taking the first photo, making them comfortable. We talk a lot, have a drink, laugh, etc and then when we've become more intimate, I feel it's time to take out the camera.

**Where do you see your style evolving to? What would be your fantasy shoot?**

Probably to a "less." As I said before : My approach is based on a certain neutrality, emphasizing the mystery, creating impressionistic images leaving the audience the possibility to picture its own story.

More on Daniel Decot at [DanielDecotPhoto.com](http://DanielDecotPhoto.com)

Download the current or back issues of MyGayToronto at [mygaytoronto.com/mobile/](http://mygaytoronto.com/mobile/)



© Daniel Decot Photo







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## THE NOT SO SECRET PETTY PRIDE POLICE FLOAT PROPSAL

The following information is classified and intended for select eyes only. Upon reading delete email, deactivate email account, destroy Acer computer provided to receive email, wash hands, walk away.

Document Attached

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**Events thus far:** Pride Toronto, has voted to ban police floats and booths from this year's Pride Festival (and maybe forever, since no time frame was given.) For almost a year now we have all heard the controversy and the debates for and against this move. YumEee! Industries advises that you move past it. It's a done deal. It's also a deal that can of course be reversed by the Pride Toronto membership if they so choose. Pride Toronto membership is basically open to anyone. If you want to effect change (like BLMTO has done), get up off your ass (like BLMTO did), buy a \$10 membership (like BLMTO even did for people who couldn't afford one), mobilize (like the experts in BLMTO) and do something about it (like BLMTO, who will certainly try and stop you.) In the meantime, let's get petty.

**Events to come:** For those members of the queer community who would still like to see the police involved in this year's parade, YumEee! Industries proposes that you incorporate the po-po into your own floats. BLMTO is not officially participating in this year's parade because they claim that they are technically not an organization but a movement, a movement that is comprised of members of various other queer community groups. But because of this sly technicality, be sure that the BLMTO presence will still be strongly felt throughout the parade. And so they should; queer people of colour (POC) exist not just for this one day parade but everyday. To counter this fickle fact, invite the cops to your float. But don't just sneak them in; showcase them in a loud and proud way that is representative of your fabulous gay life.

Having attended every Pride for the last 20 years we at YumEee! Industries have reported on countless Pride parties. Our festive hat is always on, jauntily cocked to one side. Just as our political protest megaphone is always on blast, cockily critiquing that which needs it. But we also embrace controversy and exist to challenge those who think in extreme blacks and whites.

In the past we planned a Pride float where we pretended it was Christmas. Picture a festive red and green float where Santa Bear sat bare-chested on his sled as he was fawned over by twinkish elves while being pulled by nine hunky reindeer . . . in the middle of summer. Mixing things up and bringing clashing ideas together has always been more interesting to us than the typical, the usual, the boring. This is our strength.

Since technically the police float ban is only specific to the Toronto police, we propose that your organization create a sly police "themed" float to represent your business or group. This is what we can offer:

# 1) FULL SCALE STRIPPER POLE POLICE CRUISER

YumEee! Industries will design and create a replica Toronto Police Cruiser (circa 1981, or 2000) out of redwood and balsa. This will be the focal point of your float, which will be hidden inside a large wooden horse that we have named the Torontonion Horse. Trademark pending. When the time is right, as your float moves past the threshold intersection of Yonge and Bloor streets, the Torontonion Horse will automatically retract and reveal the police cruiser within. Revolving and elevating on a state of the art hydraulic system controlled remotely, it will be the envy of every jacked-up car owner. Your cruiser will be painted hot pink and will be detailed with light pink glitter paneling on the sides, hood and trunk. The hood itself will be transformed into a stripper stage complete with pole. The pole will not only fly the rainbow flag but it will be affixed with replica "Homewood" and "Maitland" street signs. The tires of your squad car, painted a high gloss glitter black, will showcase hubcaps made of rotating half mirror balls. On top, the usual red and blue emergency lights will be replaced with pink and baby blue strobes that will pulse along to the beat of the music. A plush pimp pink fun fur interior will add a dash of street cred. Finally, to surprise your already captive audience, pink odorless



© YumEee! Communications @Rolyn Says

non-toxic smoke scented with the fragrance of Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum will shoot out the back muffler while Diana Ross & The Supremes remixed classic, "Stop In The Name Of Love," blares out of the sound system.

## 2) COCKY COSTUMES

Dancing around your souped-up, gayed-up cop cruiser will of course be hot guys and girls of every race in the gayest, most lawless outfits possible. These outfits will consist of glittery pink running shoes with light up soles, rainbow-coloured knee-high socks, hot pink short shorts, pink faux snake skin belts and specially designed baby pink crop-top police shirts accented with rainbow coloured lapels. To top off this traffic stopping "lewk" your faux force will sport revamped police caps accented with massive feather headpieces that would put a Vegas showgirl to shame. For accessories, gold mirrored sunglasses, brown hankies in back packets and lots of lip gloss. Of course guns will not be incorporated into this hot cop ensemble. Instead large hand fans silk-screened with the words, "Gurl Stop!" will be used to create an arresting statement.

If you decide to go ahead with this petty proposal, contact us as soon as possible so we can get out our glue guns, shake down our glitter bottle, stake out some fun fur, and steal someone's bedazzler. It's time to put the pride into the police.

Some (like BLMTO) will say that no matter how you dress it up, at its core the institution of policing is still ugly. No matter how much frosting you add to this particular cake it's still going taste like sour milk. YumEee! Industries however believes that the police are not the latest fashion trend or an unnecessary dessert. They are a required uniform, they are a staple in our cupboard. Instead of ridding them from our wardrobe or from our diet we should be updating the pattern and insisting on better ingredients so that they better suit our fabulous lives.

Sincerely,

*Rolyn Chambers*

Grande Wizard of Petty Operations, Lieutenant Minister of DisInformation\*  
North East District

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"After reading it to a friend I agreed that it sounded too much like it was the gay community that needed to "get along" with the c, instead of demanding that they change more to suit us....



# Short, sweet and gay

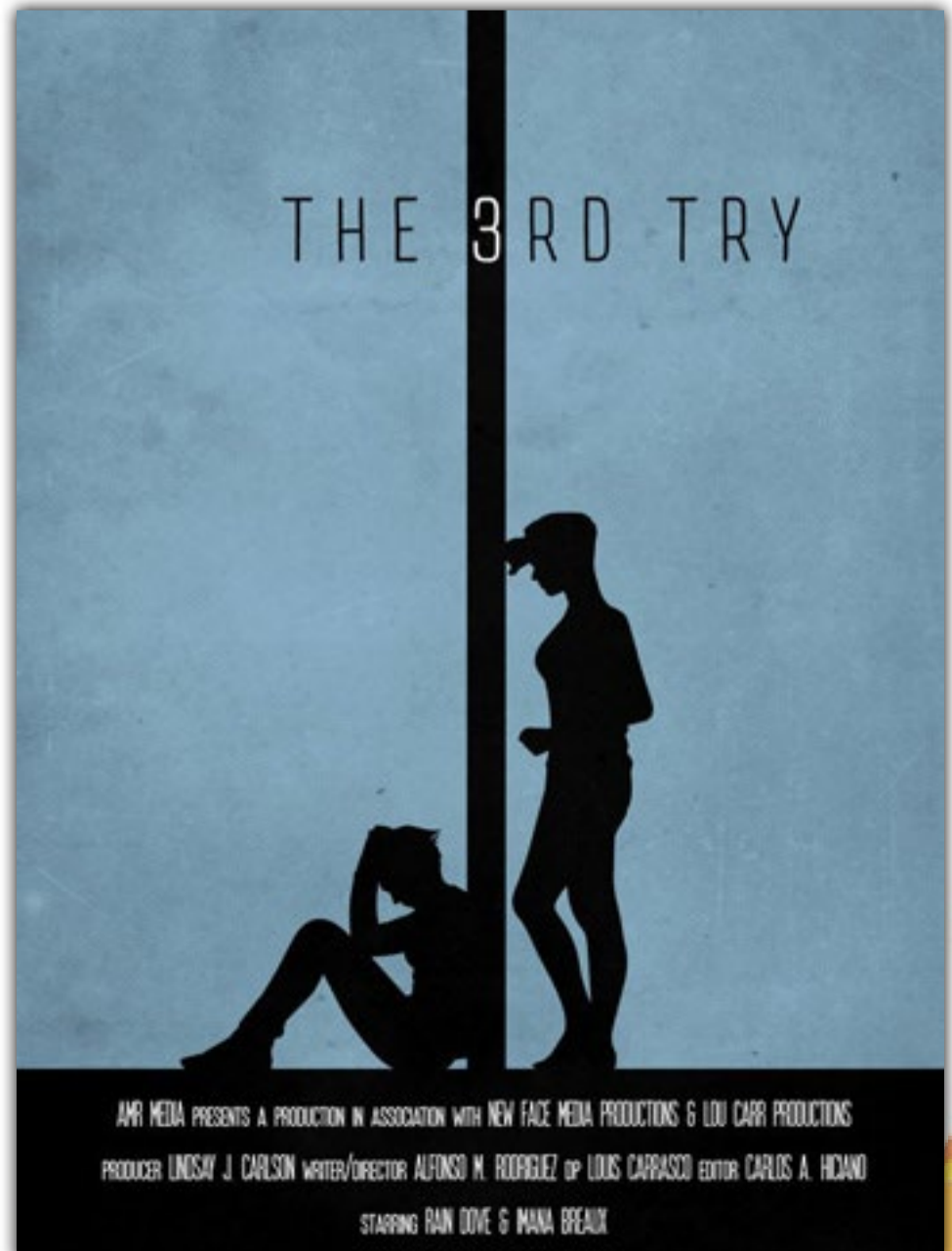
PAUL BELLINI



The WILDsound Short Film Festival has been around for a while now, showcasing short films from across the globe. On Thursday, June 22, the festival presents a program of LGBTQ+ films from India, Israel, Australia and the States. Curated by Kierston Drier, it looks enticing.

One of the films, Masc Only, was directed by Drew Droege. Many of us remember Drew from his hilarious impersonation of Chloe Sevigny, which he brought to a Bitch Salad show a few years ago. The other films span a wide range of concepts, from lesbians in anguish, a Jewish boy forced to denounce his gay desires, a Hindi transwoman in love, a dance film, and a film about a woman struggling with loneliness.

Short films are more popular than ever, but they seldom receive as much attention as features. Still, a good movie is a good movie, at any length. This popular event (the last 58 screenings have sold out) takes place at the Carlton Cinema and is not only PWYC but also licensed. For more information check out the Wildsound info page at <http://www.wildsound.ca>.



# Catching Up With Dj Barry Harris

ROLYN CHAMBERS



As I danced around my loft to an epic remix of Whitney Houston's mega hit, It's Not Right But It's Okay, all I could think about was Ross. It was 2001 and I had just broken up with him for the third time and though I was mourning the loss, I was also very relieved. He was crazy. This song, about breaking up with a cheating lover, captured my sad sentiments but the way it was recreated and remixed for the dance floor invigorated my soul. This remix was much more than alright, it was more than okay, it would go on to become a classic on dance floors all across the world. Little did I know it at the time but this particular remix, the one that I would listen to three or four times a day, every day that summer, was created by a fellow Torontonian, the legendary Barry Harris.

I say legendary because as I would later discover, this DJ turned, turned song writer, turned musician, turned producer had not only created some memorable remixes before I discovered his Whitney wonder, but his offshoots into other areas of the music scene were impressive to say the least.

Before he hit it big with his remixes, Harris created Kon Kan in early 1988. Some might remember their chart topping single, "I Beg Your Pardon". A decade later he teamed up with chart-topping DJ/ Producer Chris Cox to form Thunderpuss. From 1997- 2003 they were responsible for some of the biggest remixes of the day for such artists as Madonna, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Whitney Houston, Enrique Iglesias, Jennifer Lopez, Mary J. Blige, Céline Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson and Spice Girls. But then he disappeared for a while.

My Gay Toronto caught up with Barry while he was down in LA, to find out where he's been and why he's back with a vengeance.

## My Gay Toronto: **You were out of the Toronto club scene for a while. Where were you and why are you back?**

Barry Harris: I took a time off DJing from 2005 to 2014 as at the time I didn't really like where gay music was going. It seemed to have painted itself into a corner and wasn't going anywhere anymore. Record store culture was dying, the NYC scene was dying and the whole music business was changing dramatically. My instincts felt it was time to take a little time out. I was happy to step aside for a bit and simply observe until I felt the times had changed enough, were interesting again and my passion and fire lit up again and has ever since.

## **When and why did you get into DJing, and what's it like "staying in the game"**

I got into DJing in Toronto in 1983. I played all the gay bars at the time, Dudes, Stages, Charly's, Boots, The Barn up until 1988. I made my own record which went huge around the world with "I Beg Your Pardon" so I focused on that being signed to Atlantic Records NYC until 1993. I then returned back and played the gay bars in Toronto once again until 1998 when I moved to Los Angeles. Suddenly the success of Thunderpuss and Whitney Houston's "It's Not Right But It's Ok" and "Dive in The Pool" changed my life yet again.

Music has always been a big passion with me all my life. I came out and went to my first gay bar "The Manatee" when I was 16. My life changed that night and I've been hooked on dance music ever since. I don't know why. I guess sticking with gay dance music culture is my comfort zone. I'm the kind of guy that gets bored musically easily so 'staying in the game' isn't hard for me as long as it's fun, challenging, changing & evolving.

## **What projects do you have on the go right now?**

I just finished a remix for Tracy Young "Peace, Love and Music" which just came out a few weeks ago, and I also just finished a new Erasure song "Just A Little Love". I'm enjoying 'feel good' music again. Music culture also goes with the times and I've chatted about this with a few different DJ friends. We all agree 'feel good' music is back. I think the world is crazy enough on a day to day basis. Let's escape and dance with positive vibes. I'm happy that dark era (2000 - 2008ish) of gay club music is behind us.



## **What are the parties you remember most and why?**

I'd have to say when I DJ'd at Twilo in NYC and debuted "Dive In The Pool" first time ever, the crowd instantly went nuts. The second time was when I DJ'd at Roxy when I met Cher & she performed, the place was packed and it was like a football stadium cheer when she came out. Simply goose bumps.

## **What are the parties that you hated to be at?**

The ones I didn't go to and the ones that just seemed to playing the same sound and vibe for the past 14 years. Just not my 'cup o' tea. It's 2017 now not 2003 on a loop.



### What will be the hot queer anthem this summer?

I'm not really sure, the audiences will tell us. I would certainly like to see Peace, Love & Music be a contender.

### What are your classic Pride songs?

Oh geesh there are a lot, but a few that come to mind now are ; Free - Ultra Naté, Proud - Heather Smalls, Born This Way - Lady Gaga, Firework - Katy Perry, We Are Family - Sister Sledge, I'm Coming Out - Diana Ross, Dive In The Pool & I Got My Pride - Barry Harris/Pepper Mashay. Sorry don't mean to 'blow my own horn, but you asked.

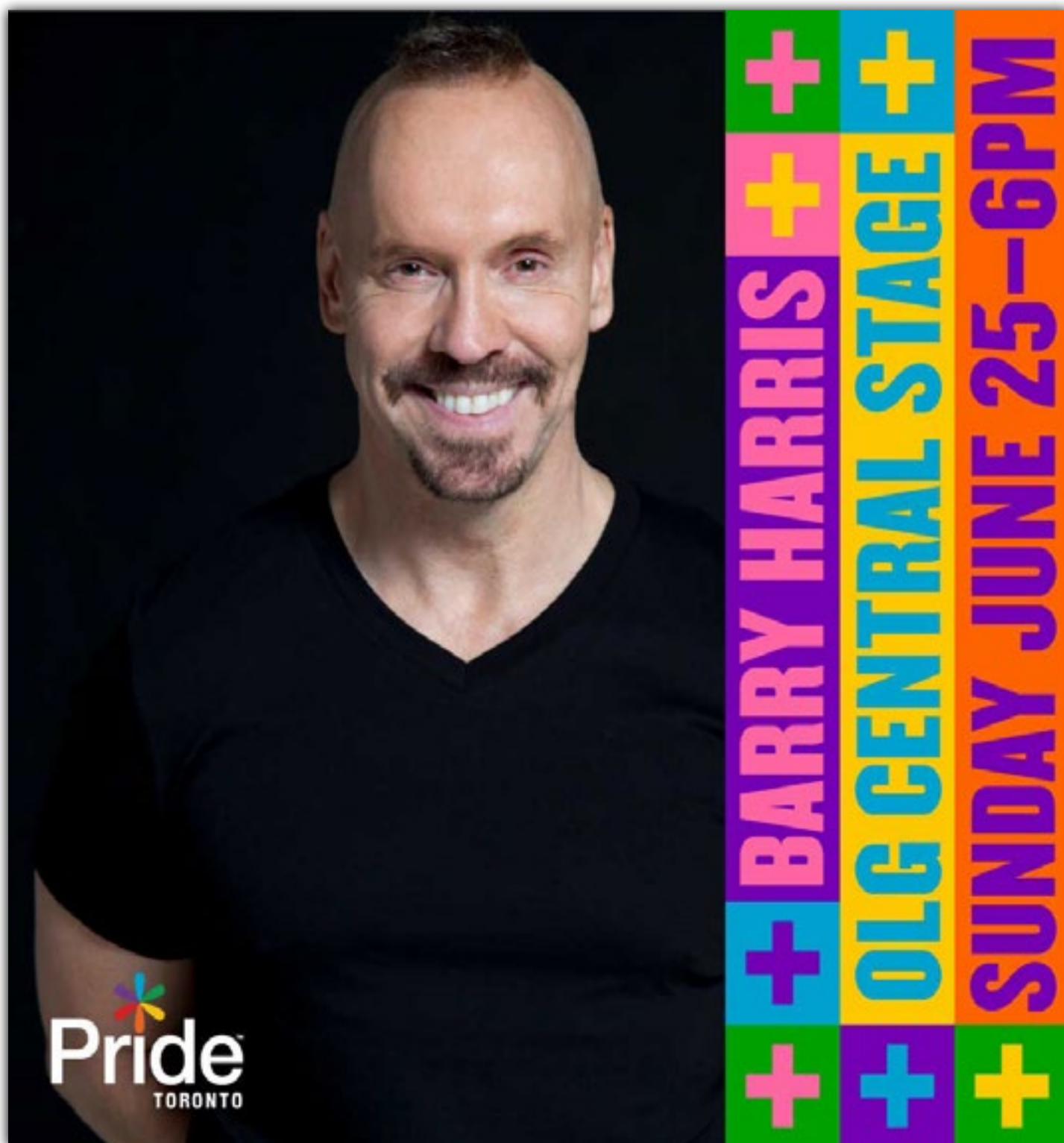
### What events are you looking forward to this Pride?

I'm travelling around a lot and will be in San Francisco Pride to DJ the Sunset Boat Cruise Friday June 23 then back to Toronto to DJ OLG Central Stage Sunday June 25th so I won't be around to check out too many of the Toronto events. All the events are great and a lot of people put a lot of 'blood, sweat and tears' into them. The overall "electric Toronto Pride vibe" is always a great experience.

### Do you have any thoughts on the so-called police ban controversy that has over shadowed this Pride?

I see a whole brand new committee now on board as of January 2017 looking forward and putting this behind us. I prefer to stay out of politics in every way and keep my thoughts to myself. It's unfortunate that the whole issue really ripped a lot of us apart from each other. Hopefully time will heal and we can all get back on track and continue to move forward. This is Toronto, Canada, an amazing & diverse city and country that I am SO proud of.

As I reflect on the year long drama that has surrounded this years Pride festival, I turn up the volume on Harris' Whitney remix. The words, "It's not right, but its okay," take on a whole new meaning, but the beats are still refreshingly the same.



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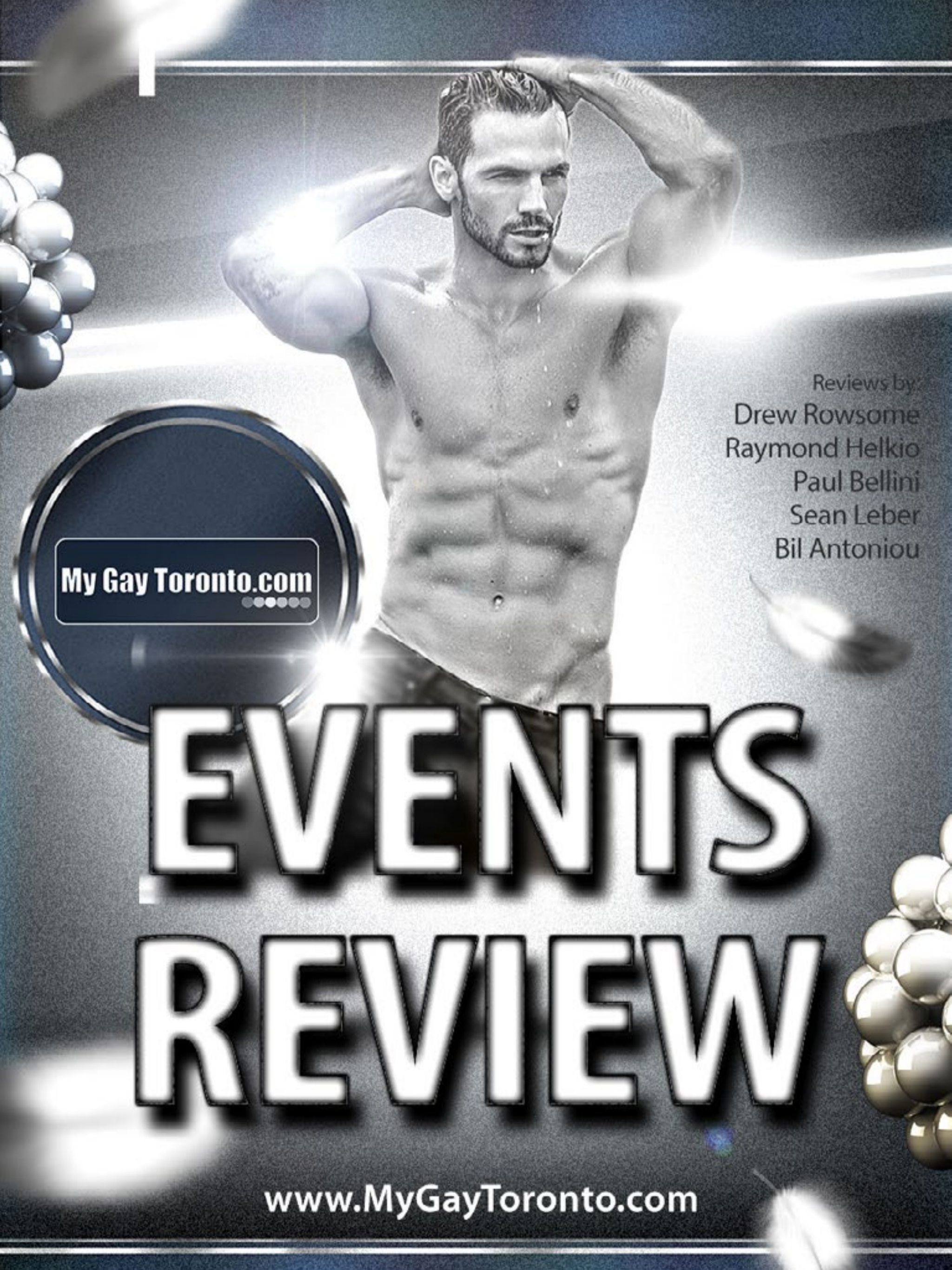


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**My Gay Toronto.com**  
●●●●●

# EVENTS REVIEW

[www.MyGayToronto.com](http://www.MyGayToronto.com)

# Stupefaction **Morro & Jasp and the meaning of life, theatre, gods and Cheezies**

DREW ROWSOME ★★★★★

## MORRO & JASP in

# STUPEEFACTION



The regal Jasp, fired up by a newfound and freshly created religion, attempts to rid the packed audience in the Streetcar Crowsnest theatre, of negativity. Her effect on the cast is questionable. Morro & Jasp's Stupefaction's effect on the audience is a rousing success, to a person we left laughing and cleansed of all possible negativity.

We are seated, greeted and sold Cheezies by a somewhat clumsy usher, Elliot Loran (Ride the Cyclone), who, between preening and rehearsing dance moves, quickly comes in conflict with Morro and Jasp who join the audience. They are "two desperate clowns" who are attending the spectacle because the cell phone addicted Jasp is sad. As she explains it, "I was drowning in photos of other peoples' filtered happiness."

Due to "technical difficulties, the spectacular show never gets started (though the finale, which is the beginning, is a marvellous joke and narrative solution that is too hilarious to spoil). Fortunately there is a hunky technician, who Jasp and most of the audience has the hots for, Sefton Jackson, who arrives. While he struggles with the problems, FedEx, Anand Rajaram (Mustard), attempts to deliver a mysterious box. Stupefaction then descends into chaos and utter hilarity.

Jasp/Amy Lee (James and the Giant Peach, Bright Lights, 9 to 5) is regal, pompous, bossy and a bit of a bully. Naturally that makes her the perfect choice for a blessing by the god of theatrical lighting and comic bliss. She struts, leads a revival meeting, satirizes current and past dictators (she crows, "Think

of it as liberation instead of limiting” and “Freedom through structure!”), and produces double takes that are breathtakingly precise. Her supposed subordinate, Morro/Heather Marie Annis (*Bright Lights, 9 to 5*), is the charming innocent clown who is blessed with a physicality that is as expressive as it uproariously funny. And she does heartbreak with a devastating impact, a ukulele rendition of REM elicits tears and tears of laughter.

Loran is every frustrated and failed would-be musical theatre star, torn apart by desperation and egotism. And he nails every line that punctures the specific arrogance of those poor creatures. He is hilarious and dares to take the usher far beyond the point where he becomes unlikable before deftly showing us the sadness under the monstrosity or just showing off with a jeté. Jackson would have earned accolades just for being such prime eye candy, but he also has a way of delivering one-liners that brought down the house. Rajaram’s FedEx is a wide-eyed, one-note joke, but it is a good one that he delivers with aplomb, as well as bringing down the house with alliterative self-help psychobabble. And his one-on-one scenes with Morro are giddy tragedy that would be mesmerizing if one wasn’t laughing so hard.

A slapstick chase scene falls flat, transitions between bits are a little messy, and some of the special effects (and they are spectacular, Morro and Jasp take full advantage of Streetcar Crowsnest’s possibilities and whatever their budget was) are mistimed, but the true spectacle in *Stupefaction* is the interplay between the cast and the flood of lightning-quick comic ideas. Three hoary old circus clown acts are given a fresh coat of paint and turn fresh and novel, props are miraculous and even the audience participation segments are charmingly nasty. This is clowning with a razor blade embedded in the Cheezies, Morro & Jasp deliver a pertinent satirical warning about religion, power, politics, theatre, relationships and social media/technology, but make the audience laugh to the point of pain while they take their hits.

Clowning, and theatre, and satire, is messy work full of risk-taking and derring-do with a high chance of misstepping. When it also purges negativity, it is stupefying that it can accomplish that much. And that *Stupefaction* can be that much fun.

*Stupefaction* continues until Sat, June 24 at Streetcar Crowsnest, 345 Carlaw Ave. [crowstheatre.com](http://crowstheatre.com), [morroandjasp.com](http://morroandjasp.com)





# Wonder Woman

BIL ANTONIOU ★★★★★

On the enchanted island of Themyscira, a race of godlike Amazons train for battle in their female-only paradise, placed there by Zeus as protectors of the world from the forthcoming return of the malevolent god of war, Ares. The only child of the island is precocious Diana, who defies her worried mother's command that she not develop her powers, secretly training with her aunt (an impressively robust Robin Wright) until growing up to be an exceptional woman (played by Gal Gadot) worthy of her kind. Just in time, too, because World War I is raging outside the island's protective bubble and the crash landing of an American spy working for the British government (Chris Pine) piques Diana's interest, drawing her into human civilization despite being warned that the world of men does not deserve her (though really what mother worth her salt hasn't said that to her daughter).

Funny, exciting and often smart, this film is a lovely break after years of self-important and far too heavy superhero movies that treat moral conundrums with the weight that Ingmar Bergman would have given them. Director Patty Jenkins keeps all aspects of the film under control and on an even keel, from the wonders of the opening sequence to the humour of the fish-out-of-water scenes (basically a delightful remake of *Splash*) through to the last, and frankly weakest, third act that focuses on fighting. The concluding segment tries to have some fun by pulling a bait-and-switch on the ultimate villain and, in doing so, wastes the talent of Elena Anaya, whose untold depths of terrifying menace through pained eyes and face mask as a poison gas specialist make for the best performance of the film. It's a shame that the visual effects aren't up to par with the best films in this genre, too much of the human activity looks like animation and doesn't give one a sense of the grueling effort that the actors must have put into their training, but all these quibbles are easily redeemed by the film's lead actor and the star quality she brings to the experience. Gadot handles being both emotionally responsive and physically virile with ease, at the same time admirable and relatable; when encountering sexism she reacts like she's dealing with petulant children, and it is thanks to Gadot's naturally commanding air that all these aspects of the character go down so smoothly.

# Showstopper: the glorious joy of creating musical theatre

DREW ROWSOME ★★☆☆☆



A cast of master improvisers were forced to improvise further when the sets and props for Showstopper were detained at customs. A bare stage and minimal effects reduced the song-and-dancers to only their wits and talent. Fortunately they were up to the challenge and if they can be this entertaining under adverse conditions, they are sure to be spectacular when in their comfort zone. Thought it can't be too comfortable at the best of times, every word, lyric, melody and dance move is made up on the spot.

And therein lies a quandary for this review. It was a preview to begin with and not only did I see a show that was missing key elements, but the show will be different every night for the rest of the run. So I'm not going to review, other than to state emphatically that I laughed heartily many times and left humming several non-existent show tunes, but instead offer some of the many thoughts that wound up ricocheting through my head.

The cast and musicians are uniformly outstanding and were having such a good time that it was infectious. Not only were they working to entertain the audience, but they seemed to take great joy in cracking each other up. And therein lies one of the major appeals of Showstopper. A musical that is set, and it usually has to be to keep all the multiple moving parts from colliding and collapsing, has been repeated many times. Sometimes many, many times. These performers get a fresh show every night. And it is a show that they create. The ecstasy on their faces when a gag locks into place, a plot point makes sense, or a harmony comes together, is ecstatic for an audience.

The framework of Showstopper is that the cast and musicians are creating a musical for a producer "Cameron" (presumably referring to Cameron Mackintosh who is famous for creating the mega-musical and many of the clichés that Showstopper lampoons) who is never seen but checks in by phone. Suggestions are solicited from the audience and from there the musical begins. Here again the creators of Showstopper are very clever. One of the more famous, and certainly most involving, musical theatre tropes is the backstage musical or the "let's put on a show" musical. And in this case, the audience participates and are in on the creative process.

Anyone who has ever sung along to a musical or imagined dancing on stage - and I'm pretty sure that is almost everyone, that is one of the vicarious thrills of a musical - is instantly, intensely involved. Before the lights go down, there is a soundtrack mashing up snippets from famous musicals: before

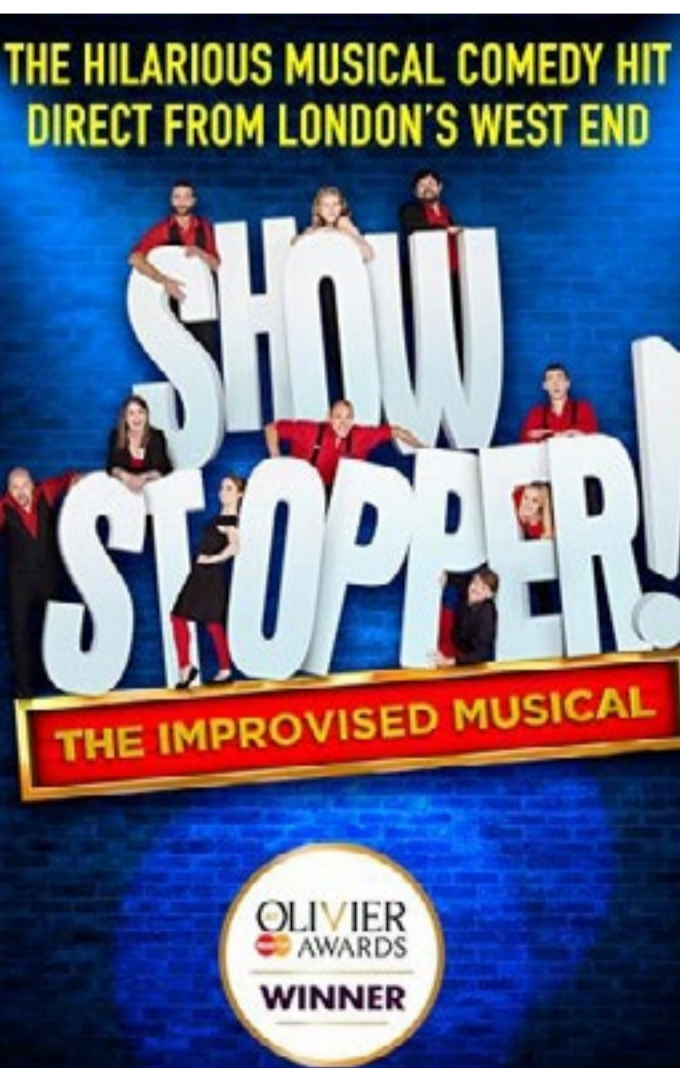
the cast hits the stage, the audience is already singing along. And having suggestions subliminally placed in their heads.

Documentaries and behind-the-scenes observing of the creative and rehearsal processes are time-honoured fascinations that Showstopper gleefully exploits. Watching the performers subtly cue each other to keep a song together rhythmically or to anticipate lyrics, or noticing the arpeggio that the keyboard player uses to cue a modulation, is an insider joy that is only outclassed by the wink in a performer's eye, or a double take, that signals, "Can you believe I pulled that off?" The audience becomes co-conspirators in the very best way. And what would be a mediocre musical if rehearsed and delivered, becomes a brilliant creation we have created.

And therein lies another way that Showstopper lures the audience to investing their hearts into the show. There is an old circus trick where an acrobat flubs an attempt at a reputedly very difficult part of their act. They are encouraged to try again and the audience is right there with them, willing them to be able to perform this death-defying feat. When they do, it is glorious, a releasing relief. In their own way the cast of Showstopper steps onto a high wire every night. But any mis-step does not result in a plunge to certain death, it creates comedy. And the audience becomes even more involved in seeing if they can actually complete their death-defying task.

At the preview the audience suggestions (and yes everyone was aware we were being subtly steered) resulted in the musical being set in a 7-Eleven in Scarborough and entitled Slurpee! The audience burst into guffaws every time Scarborough was mentioned so the comedy portion was, a bit smarmily, taken care of. From there is was a matter of satirizing musical theatre clichés (though surprisingly no jazz hands. Too obvious?) and delving into theatrical tropes. And that they did very well. And we all left laughing, humming formerly non-existent show tunes, and wanting to see what Showstopper is like with a full production and different driving directives. Like a 7-Eleven Slurpee or a trip to Scarborough, it's hard to settle for just once.

Showstopper runs until Sun, June 25 at the Panasonic Theatre, 651 Yonge St. [mirvish.com](http://mirvish.com)





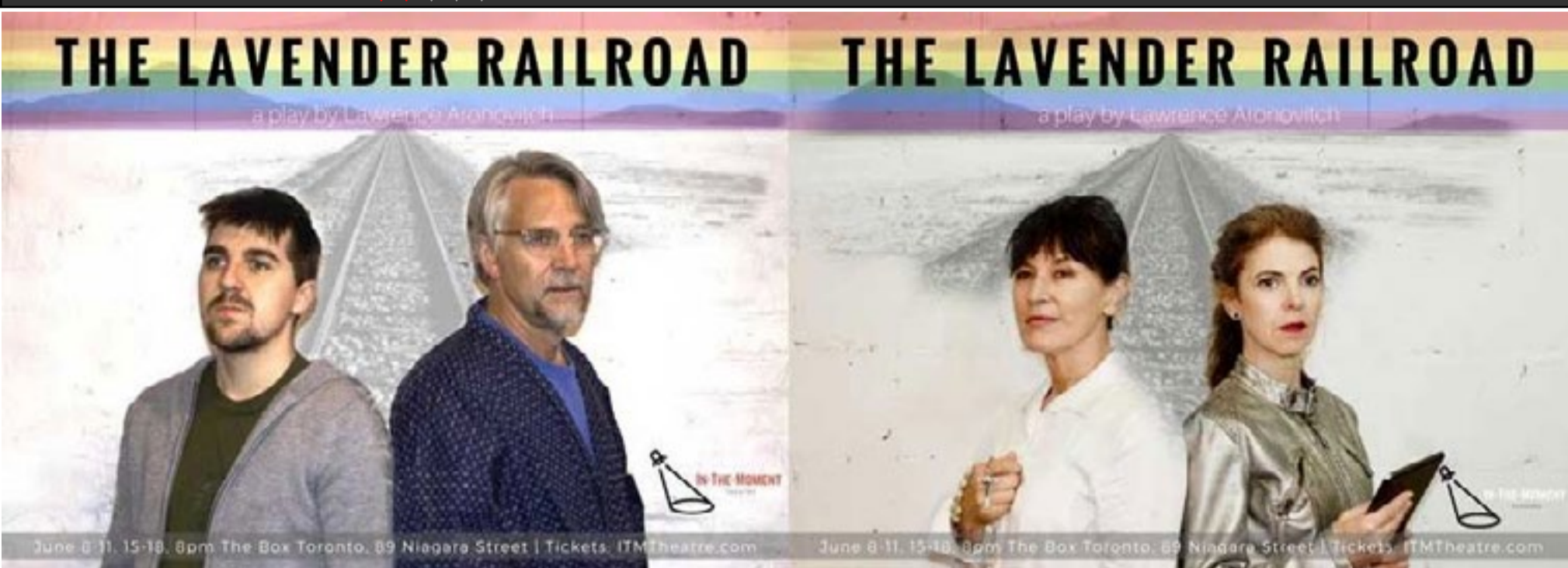


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# The Lavender Railroad: who do you trust?

DREW ROWSOME

★★★★



Dystopian visions are having a moment. With what is happening in the world, particularly to the south of us, what once seemed fantastical is all too plausible. And for those of us who live proudly on the queer spectrum, it is even more frightening. And more plausible.

Playwright Lawrence Aronovitch posits a near-future world where gay/lesbian is once again punishable by death, and what should be a fanciful leap of the imagination registers as a distinct possibility. Sadly the amount of exposition and clever clues used in *The Lavender Railroad* to establish this world, is not a necessity - the shout out in the program to *Rainbow Railroad* shows that we are already there.

Aronovitch isn't interested in creating a plea for gay rights or even necessarily warning us how fragile those rights are, he's concerned with trust, faith and the rights of the individual versus the common good. It is fertile material and Aronovitch digs deep with arguments and counter-arguments wrapped in two games of cat and mouse. The characters thrust and parry verbally, trying to decide who can be trusted, who they can have faith in, how badly they will be betrayed.

*The Lavender Railroad* is divided into two parts, linked metaphorically by the differences between different tea service rituals and the veneer of civilization they represent. The first half has Sebastian (Tony Babcock) hoping to board the lavender railroad to get to safety. The gatekeeper, Mother Courage (Peter Nelson), has to decide if Sebastian's skills as a mathematician are worth risking the entire railroad. This portion takes place just after, and just before, unseen action sequences giving this segment the feel of the pause in a big budget tentpole film where motivations and morality are explained before getting back to the derring-do and explosions.



There should be considerable suspense but the information is doled out in fragments that repeat a few times too often, and with inexplicable long pauses that go slack instead of ratcheting the tension. Mother Courage is dressed in a kimono and espouses a love of poetry, yet denies his obvious (as written, not necessarily as played) gayness. There are moments where he resembles an inscrutable coiled snake ready to strike Babcock's wide-eyed naif, but then there is a pause that stretches. It makes the moment where Babcock plays his obvious card of youth and sex appeal, a footnote rather than a shattering transition. In the second half, where the sexual tension between the women is explored and explosive, the lesbians get to generate a lot more excitement.

Judith Cockman as The Sister and Jennifer Vallance as The Commander have much more defined roles by virtue of the route they have chosen to survive. The dilemma here is whether The Commander really wants to escape via the lavender railroad or if she wants information from The Sister in order to dismantle and destroy the railroad. The women pace and confront each other with eyes that are hungry both for each other and for their goals. They are both riveting.

There are a plethora of ideas and metaphors, all tidily but loosely bound, that give The Lavender Railroad a poetic coherence that encourages engagement and sparks thought. And the ambiguity of both endings are nihilistically horrifying. Perhaps the airless confines of The Box Toronto - the intimate setting of which gives the actors and words nowhere to hide or fake it so they don't - made the night feel overlong, it is hard to sustain suspense when the audience is sweltering. Perhaps the two pieces will join into one dramatic dystopian tentpole piece (there are hints linking the pieces including an unseen and thus fascinating character) or be tightened into a taut two-acter. Or perhaps we should just enjoy the chance to mull over this dissection of where the personal and the political collide in a queer context while we brace for the coming dystopia.



The Lavender Railroad continues until Sun, June 18 at The Box Toronto, 89 Niagara St.  
ITMtheatre.com

# Wagstaff: Before and After Mapplethorpe

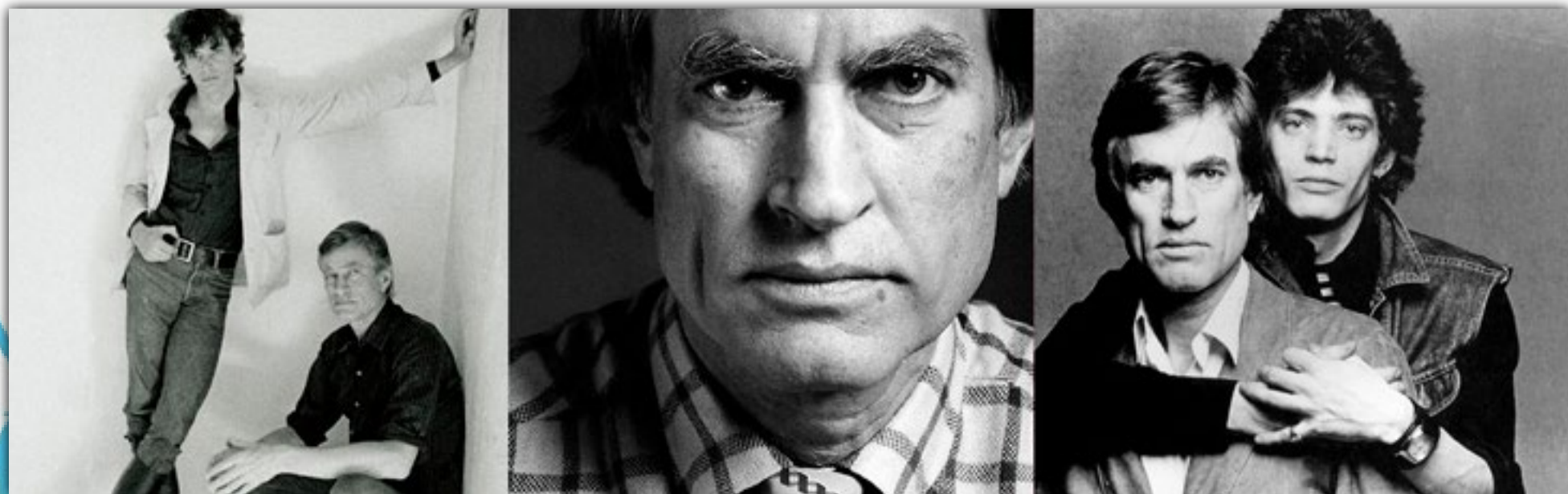
- WHEN ART, SEX AND LOVE INTERTWINE - DREW ROWSOME ★★★★★



Sam Wagstaff was born rich and gay, and as an art collector he became an influential tastemaker who changed the way we perceive art and the world. Yet, as the title *Wagstaff: Before and After Mapplethorpe* admits, he will always be most famous as photographer Robert Mapplethorpe's lover and patron. And author Philip Gfeter has an agenda beyond elevating Wagstaff's reputation and recounting his life: *Wagstaff: Before and After Mapplethorpe* is at heart an ambitious treatise on how photography became art. And how much of that transformation was due to Wagstaff.

Gfeter also offers a step-by-step analysis of how Mapplethorpe's art, and star status, developed. Mapplethorpe's fame, or notoriety, as an artist was cemented when he photographed the gay male BDSM world and nude black men in a beautifully-lit and posed manner that treated the subject matter as one would a landscape, still life or female nude. The subject matter may have been shocking, particularly in the '70s and '80s when the work was produced, but the technique was flawless and coldly elegant. And the controversy, the debate over what is porn and what is art, made his career.

Wagstaff was born into a wealthy pedigreed New York family and Gfeter covers his childhood, time in boarding school and struggles with his sexuality, a struggle he, despite eventually, emphatically, coming out, never quite reconciled. And while his sexual relationship with Mapplethorpe was not an enduring one, their emotional and professional partnership lasted their lifetimes. Gfeter offers anecdotes and gossip but, aside from a few odd attempts to standardize the mechanics of gay male relationships, the recounting is matter-of-fact and not salacious.



Where Gefter's true passion (and it must here be noted that he was the main photography critic for The New York Times for over 15 years and the producer of the marvellous, if similarly coy, film Bill Cunningham New York) is the story of Wagstaff's obsessive collecting of photography turned a journalistic endeavour into the artform we recognize it as today. Gefter writes that Wagstaff "didn't even like photography... Wagstaff had long believed in a hierarchy that privileged the fine art of painting over the applied art of photography."

That opinion changed and Gefter finds fascinating quotes that attempt to explain just what caused this revolution and just how Wagstaff, who became one of the ultimate authorities, judged what is art and what is not quite. Gefter posits that it has to do with sensuality and the gay sensibility. Gefter explicitly links the gay rights movement with photography's ascendance.

I started to read Wagstaff: Before and After Mapplethorpe for admittedly prurient reasons. I am a Mapplethorpe fan and that is emphasized by my continuing idolization of Patti Smith ([M Train](#)). I am also fascinated by that period of creativity in New York, the work and life of Andy Warhol, the scene at CBGB, gay history in general, the photographs of [Diane Arbus](#) and George Platt Lynes that once encountered in an original print can never be forgotten, etc, etc. And completely pruriently, Mapplethorpe's sexuality and fetishes are erotically irresistible. I would have settled for having those itches scratched, or even massaged. What I hadn't counted on was being given a new perspective on seeing and experiencing not only art but, by extension, life itself.

More on Wagstaff: Before and After Mapplethorpe at [drewrowsome.blogspot.com](http://drewrowsome.blogspot.com)

WAGSTAFF:  
BEFORE AND AFTER  
MAPPLETHORPE  
A BIOGRAPHY  
PHILIP GEFTER



My Gay Toronto.com

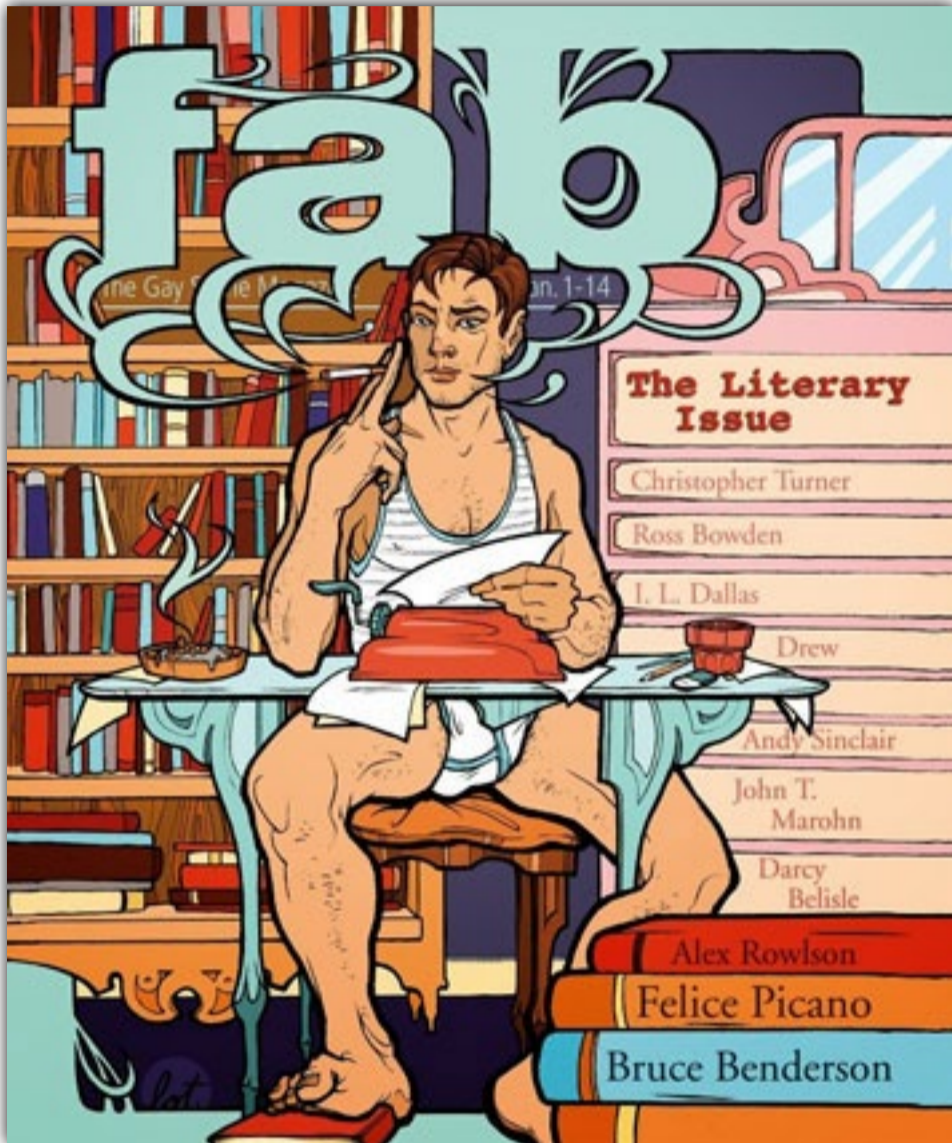
# FLASHBACK



# Turning Cole to diamonds

DREW ROWSOME

A decade ago, Paul Bellini was a Troll, Rolyn Chambers was fresh on the beat and Britney Spears was featured in Sushi. As the fab years pass, some things change and some blondes are still overexposed.



I didn't become a part of the fab family until a year later, when a story I submitted was published in the literary issue. It was a cute tale, "In Stephen King's Motel Room," positing that Stephen King's prodigious output was due to a muse who, in classic horror story fashion, abandons King to possess a hustler.

The excitement of seeing my name on the same cover as Felice Picano (who also had a story included) was addictive, and shortly after that I was lucky enough to secure a position as an intern. Even luckier was that my arrival coincided with the launch of fabmagazine.com; with a background in web design, I became a bridge between the print and online teams. And I learned. Learned about the scene, gay life, politics and to always have a sense of humour.

One of my favourite issues was the Satire issue, in which I wrote a piece wherein artist and provocateur Keith Cole was presented with a Governor General's Award. I sat in Woody's on the day it came out and watched as the after-work drinkers poured in and pored over the new issue of fab. There were expressions of disbelief and shock followed by peals of laughter when the subterfuge sunk in. Today, Keith Cole is a Dora-nominated actor and the choreographer of Sky Gilbert's ambitious new play Dancing Queen — and he's about to present his master's thesis at OCAD. Sometimes satire is prescient.

Conditions at fab changed, and it was time to move on, but a few years of freelance led to a golden opportunity when Pink Triangle Press purchased fab and I was hired to help the magazine thrive in its new home. Four and half years later, PTP fell apart and it was again time to move on. I quickly found a home at MyGayToronto and began contributing to the fiesty website and monthly digital download magazine. This will leave me with more time to pursue my first love - writing - so I can continue to chronicle all the details and dirt of our big gay scene. And when I get to cover Keith's acceptance of his Governor General's Award, I'm hoping he will be blond.



# Tooji comes out with religious fervour

DREW ROWSOME

Some people never come out.

Some people come out discreetly.

Some people are forced out of the closet.

Some people are suddenly queer and here and you'd better get used to it.

And then there's Tooji, a Norwegian pop star/activist:



The video is beautiful and achingly erotic, the song better than one would expect from a former Eurovision Song Contest entrant, and the impact is powerful. The narrative is of Tooji and his lover, who just happens to be a priest, arguing about being closeted and then making passionate love on a church altar before transforming into a conjoined angel. The reactions of the parishioners in the pews are priceless.

If it is a publicity stunt, it is a shrewd one worthy of the crafty queen of sacrilegious stunts, Madonna. Already it has aroused the ire of the bishop of Oslo who says,

*'No matter what the video's message might be or who the artist might be, footage of intimate scenes in front of the altar is unacceptable, and it is an abuse of the church. I was informed about the matter after they decided to rent out Frogner Church and had done the shoot. No matter what the content of the video might be, it is not acceptable to perform these types of scenes in front of the altar. It is a misuse of the holy room of the church.'* But then the bishop goes on to clarify that it is not the gay content,

*'A scene shot between a man and a woman would also be unacceptable. What has happened breaks several rules of the church.'*



From dancing in Iran, to fucking in a cathedral, Tooji speaks his mind,

*'I always thought that who I loved is my business, but knowing how many young people are struggling with the burden of society's ignorance, I want to stand out as an example and let my voice be heard for all those voices mute, for all those who feel ashamed with their beliefs, that are told that God doesn't accept them,' he said. "Let me tell you: You are a part of God and what you have is the purest gift. Any love between two grown-up, consenting adults - no matter gender, no matter race - is pure. I am gay, and I stand up for my rights, and that is why I made the video Father.'*







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# Like Gay Unicorns

MR X. - OPINIONATED 2012

A couple of months ago, I was shoe shopping with a friend of mine at Holt Renfrew. We were looking for a pair of shoes so specific, they didn't exist, but I was humouring him anyway. So we went down the stairs, on our hunt, merrily on our way, when there, upon us, lay the mythical beings: the kept boy and his sugar daddy.

I had heard tale of their existence. There are movies about them. Stories about them. I've heard gay men sing songs about them as they huddle around the campfire. I even heard tale of one of my own friends moving to Vancouver to be kept by some millionaire. I heard recounts of my friend's freedom to travel, work out, do whatever he pleases, all at the expense of his millionaire boyfriend. But like stories of unicorns, gryphons and mermaids, I failed to see this lifestyle materialize for myself and I never saw a kept boy his sugar daddy for myself. Until that fateful Sunday at Holt's.

The age difference between them was clearly (judging simply by appearance) a hundred years. The sugar daddy was muscular, tall and tanned to within an inch of his life. The boy was short, kinda chunky, and whiter than liquid paper. They were shopping for shoes. The boy, clearly appreciating the footwear he was trying on looked to his sugar daddy for validation.

"No," the sugar daddy said. "Try these on." And he passed another pair to his boy.

The boy smiled, took the shoes tried them on and did the obligatory runway walk towards the nearest mirror. The sales clerk chimed in with: "How do they feel?"

The boy replied, "They feel okay. But I like the other ones better."

The sugar daddy said, "No. I like these. We'll take these."

And then they were gone. The man happy that

**UNICORNS  
ARE AWESOME**



**I AM AWESOME  
THEREFORE I AM A  
UNICORN**

he got what he wanted. And I guess, the boy too. To a certain extent.

My friend and I contemplated the kept boy and his daddy. Both of them good looking in that too-perfect-to-touch kind of way. I'm sure that the age difference between them wasn't a barrier after the first initial meeting. I mean, doesn't every twenty year old shares the same life experience as his dad? The sex is fantastic. I'm sure. At the beginning anyway. But doesn't everybody age? And what will happen when the sugar daddy's boy is not as boy-looking as he used to be? Or ... as boy-looking as that other boy over there?

My friend and I then had the debate of who we felt most sorry for: the sugar daddy or the boy? We couldn't come up with any solution, really. What we did resolve was that, just because you're going for the illusion of perfect, doesn't mean you've achieved it.

That includes the shoes.

# Pec Man

EMERY POSTE

The pectoral, or chest, muscles are the first area of the body after the face that eyes are automatically drawn to. They are the fan shaped muscles that cover the upper ribcage.

Technique is key to optimizing your training: it is essential in any exercise situation that you perform the movements correctly. There are certain muscles in the body that are not used on a regular basis, and/or are used differently than they would be in an exercise situation and the pectoral muscle group is one of them. Among the things you can do to first prepare them is pushups or, if you belong to a gym, the pec deck and chest machines are good to start with.

These machines are designed to limit your range of motion, thus focusing the unused muscles or getting them into action. Only when your muscles are at a point where they feel more stable and you feel comfortable should you upgrade to working out with free weights, dumbbells and barbells, on a bench press--generally the flat bench is the bench to begin your free weight training on.

3 to 5 sets of repetitions of 6 to 12 during a workout is most common. Increasing and decreasing the weight between sets is best to develop strength and size rapidly. Once the muscle group has become more used to free weights you can move on to the other benches such as the incline bench, which develops the upper area of the chest, or the decline bench, which gives lift and width. The pec-deck, or flies, will help develop the centre giving a valley effect between. This, coupled with a high protein diet, will get your tighter-fitting shirt right where you want it.



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# Memory Lane

SAMANTHA LAUZON

The short end of the stick or teaching an old tranny new tricks...

While walking down the hallway today, I stopped and took an inventory of my shoe closet. It's about that time to donate the things I'm not wearing to the Women's Shelter.

At the bottom on the right's a basket full of the most beautiful lingerie longingly staring up at me. They were gifts from "Clients" or costumes I wore during my time as an exotic dancer out at Diamonds in Mississauga, and some I wore during one of the many XXX Webcam shows I performed many years ago.

I can't bring myself to put any of them on again. I take them out periodically to try on and see if they still look good hoping that one day I'll feel safe and secure enough in my current relationship to dress in them for my fiancé. I'm not sure I ever will and when I do it's pretty far and few between.

When I dress like this, I feel weirdly objectified. Yes of course that's the point right? To have the man of your dreams begging, like a child for a candy or a dog for a bone; pardon the pun. But when he looks at me like that I can't but wonder why? Why me? Why here? Why now? I never realized falling in love this hard would be such a compromising position for the person that I've fallen in love with that they'd have to give up some fundamentals of their own, just to be with me.

Later, after showering I put on a see-through Kimono he likes, and while it may not be the sexier stuff he really wants to see, it's definitely a start. After all when your teaching an old Trannie new tricks, you gotta start slow.

I know he looks at me lovingly and he cares about all of me and not just parts. But the old me, the object of desire to some and the fetish to others, still deep inside has a fear of only being wanted for the sum of her parts of lack their of.



# Stay Cool

LEE FANCY-LEBER

It's heat wave season soon and all across the city, people are doing their best to beat the heat. Air conditioners are no friend to the environment: they use up massive amounts of electricity and release toxic refrigerant chemicals into the air. If you do have one, try to limit usage and try these simple ideas to stay cool.

**1. Stay hydrated.** Drink lots and lots of cold water, and try to avoid the sugary beverages. Filling your glass with ice may be a temptation, but remember that your body works overtime to warm up ice water, which in turn makes you even hotter from the inside out.

**2. Super soak your cottons!** Soak your socks, a t-shirt, or even a towel, wring them out and put them on your body! A wet shirt on in front of a fan can keep you cool for at least an hour. Wrap that wet towel around your head and your core temperature will drop.

**3. Fill a couple sandwich bags with ice,** wrap them in a face cloth, then bind that icy pack around your wrists. Your wrists are a major thoroughfare for your bloodstream, so the ice will send chills through your whole body.

**4. Heat Rises!** Stay in the lower part of your house.

**5. Stay Indoors!** The sun is at its most intense between 11AM and 3PM. If you can avoid going outside during a heat wave between these hours, you will manage to stay a lot cooler. If you do have to go out during the hottest hours, keep covered up!

**6. Put your home on a heat-beating schedule.** At night, open your windows and use fans to create a cross-breeze, which will circulate the cooler night air. In the morning when the sun rears its smiling face, close all windows, blinds, and curtains, and keep doors and windows closed throughout the day until it is cooler outside than it is inside.



**7. Eat smaller, greener meals.** Big meals with tons of protein use a lot of your energy to digest. That digestive work is going to heat you up from the inside.

**8. Fans are a much more eco-friendly alternative to air conditioning,** and they're a fraction of the price too. Hang a cold wet cloth over the fan, and you have a little DIY air conditioner in minutes! If you are feeling more creative, place a large bowl of ice in front of the fan, and it will have the same effect.

**9. Go for a swim!** If you are lucky enough to live by a lake or the ocean, retreat into nature's cooling mechanism. If not, many cities have parks with water features, or you can spend an hour or two at the local indoor pool.

**10. Embrace the heat.** Heat waves can last several weeks, and can be very uncomfortable. However, some people in the world live in intense heat for the better part of the year, and they don't give it a second thought. You can get used to it, and if you take the necessary precautions, you can learn to live quite normally in unusually warm temperatures.



# Roasted Chicken With Sage Dressing

KEN KOSTICK

Want to serve something other than hamburgers and hot dogs at your next backyard get together? Well this delicious option serves up a complete chicken for your entire family or all of your guests. My mom would often make this family favourite because it's easy and flavourful.

Feeding chicken to your furry four-legged family members can be a real treat, but remember to keep the bones away from them as it can be very dangerous.

Serves 4-6

1- 5-6lb roasting chicken  
 ¼ cup olive oil  
 8 garlic cloves, peeled  
 1 tsp dried basil  
 ½ tsp sea salt  
 ½ tsp black pepper

## Dressing

½ lb bacon, chopped and cubed  
 1 Spanish onion, chopped  
 4 celery stalks, chopped  
 1 small red pepper, chopped  
 4 eggs  
 10 cups dried bread, chopped  
 2 tbsp ground dry sage  
 ½ tsp sea salt  
 ½ tsp black pepper



Take the olive oil and rub the chicken. Place garlic bulbs in various cavities. Top with basil, sea salt and pepper.

In a sauté pan cook the bacon, onion, celery and red pepper. In a large bowl place the bread and cooked bacon mixture, eggs and spices. Mix well with your hands and stuff the chicken.

Bake the chicken uncovered, in a preheated oven at 350 F for 1 hour to 1 ½ hour. Baste once or twice to get a nice golden glaze. Serve warm.



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# LGBT Upcoming Hot Events

[http://www.mygaytoronto.com/events\\_hot/](http://www.mygaytoronto.com/events_hot/)

<p>JUN-JUL</p> <p><b>WORKING HARD EVERYDAY FOR YOU</b></p> <p>OPEN DAILY SUN-THURS WED-SAT 8:00PM - 3:00PM</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>JUN 15 Thu</p> <p><b>DRAG ME TO THE DRIVE IN</b></p> <p>THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2017</p> <p>8:00PM - 11:00PM</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>JUN 16 Fri</p> <p><b>FORTE 20 PRESENTS THE REATES</b></p> <p>Pride</p> <p>Friday June 16 7:30pm 427 Bloor Street West</p> <p>\$50 at door   \$25 online</p> <p>buy at <a href="http://fortechorus.eventbrite.ca">fortechorus.eventbrite.ca</a></p>	<p>JUN 16 Fri</p> <p><b>WEIRDO</b></p> <p>FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 10PM</p> <p>blvss</p>	<p>JUN 16 Fri</p> <p><b>D.F.M.O.</b></p> <p>FRIDAY - JUNE 16TH</p> <p>DJ JOHN CAFFERY DJ JEFF KIRKWOOD</p> <p>EAGLE 457 (CHURCH STREET) 10PM-1:45</p>	<p>JUN 17 Sat</p> <p><b>Ear Candy</b> with DJ RELENTLESS</p> <p>10PM to 5PM NO COVER</p> <p>WAYLA</p>
<p>JUN 17 Sat</p> <p><b>THE CUBEGUYS</b></p> <p>DEKO-ZE SUMATION JOSHUA REID TRICK D</p> <p>794 BATHURST ST. TORONTO CANADA</p>	<p>JUN 17 Sat</p> <p><b>WHITE GAY WASTED</b></p> <p>WE CAN DO IT WE CAN'T EVEN</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>JUN 17 Sat</p> <p><b>4 PLAY UNDERWEAR PARTY</b></p> <p>DJ CESAR MURILLO</p> <p>EAGLE</p>	<p>JUN 17 - Sat</p> <p><b>SHOWGASN</b></p> <p>PRIDE 2017 KICK OFF</p> <p>SHOWGASN JUNE 17 @ 7:30 SUNDAY JUNE 18 @ 8PM</p> <p>\$28</p> <p>buddies</p>	<p>JUN 21 - 25</p> <p><b>PLAY 2017</b></p> <p>JUNE 21 - JULY 1</p> <p>TICKETS AND INFO AT WWW.PLAY2017.COM</p> <p>\$60 WEEKEND VIP PASS</p>	<p>JUN 21 - 25</p> <p><b>EAGLE PRIDE '17</b></p> <p>WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 THURSDAY JUNE 22 FRIDAY JUNE 23 SATURDAY JUNE 24 SUNDAY JUNE 25</p>
<p>JUN 22 - Thu</p> <p><b>BAD TIMES</b></p> <p>THURS</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>JUN 23 - 25</p> <p><b>MEN OF STEEL</b></p> <p>CELEBRATE YOUR PRIDE WITH THE MEN OF STEEL</p> <p>JUNE 23, 24 &amp; 25</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>JUN 24 - Sat</p> <p><b>MERRY OMI PRIDE</b></p> <p>YEARS OF QUEER LOVE</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>JUN 24 - Sat</p> <p><b>Sydney to Billy</b></p> <p>LET'S DANCE</p> <p>PRIDE 2017 JUNE 23-25, 2017</p> <p>SAT June 24th, 10:30pm - 2am</p> <p>Mercedes Benz Canada Booth at Church &amp; Mallard</p>	<p>JUN 24 - Sat</p> <p><b>PRESENTING THE NAKED POSTER</b></p> <p>ALCO - DJ RELENTLESS</p> <p>JUNE 24 JUNE 20, 120 CHURCH</p>	<p>JUL 1 - Sat</p> <p><b>Canada's 150th BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>
<p>JUL 1 - Sat</p> <p><b>WOLFPACK</b></p> <p>DJ NEIL MACLEOD DJ BERYN DPOFF</p> <p>WAYLA</p>	<p>JUL 1 - Sat</p> <p><b>JOCKEY STRAP</b></p> <p>DJ JEREMY KHAMKEO</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 1ST</p> <p>EAGLE</p>	<p>JUL 8 Sat</p> <p><b>GLOW JOB</b></p> <p>BRINGING JULY 8TH</p> <p>DJ JOSH KARIM</p> <p>EAGLE</p>	<p>MONDAYS</p> <p><b>Heavenly Mondays</b></p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>MONDAYS</p> <p><b>Crews Tongos</b></p> <p>MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>	<p>MONDAYS</p> <p><b>Magie MONDAYS</b></p> <p>AN INDUSTRY INSIDE EVERY WEEK</p> <p>\$5</p> <p>EMINGTONS</p>

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# PRIDE + + + + + + + + + + + + + + 2017

**+ PRIDE WEEKEND: JUNE 23-25 + PRIDE PARADE: JUNE 25**  
**FOR MORE INFO, VISIT PRIDETORONTO.COM #PRIDETO**

## **YEARS AND YEARS BONEY M. EVELYN 'CHAMPAGNE' KING**

**KING, SEVDALIZA, RICO DALASAM,  
LA SANTA CECILIA, NINA SKY, AJBEEZ,  
PURPLE DISCO MACHINE, STONEBRIGE,  
DJ SEAMUS HAJI, CAKES DA KILLA,  
GAVIN TUREK, ABRA + MANY MORE**

**SURPRISE HEADLINER:  
KIIARA**

## **WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22**  
**TRANSFORMATION / YDS / 12-11pm**  
Sevdaliza, Lido Pimienta + more

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23**  
**CLASSIC DISCO / YDS / 5:30-11pm**  
Boney M., Purple Disco Machine + more

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**  
**DRAG BALL / YDS / 2-11pm**  
Qween Beat, Kitty Glitter, Drag Show + more

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**  
**BLOCKORAMA / Bud Light Wellesley Stage / 12-11pm**  
Evelyn King, Cakes Da Killa + more

**FINAL PLAY / YDS / 2-11pm**  
Years and Years, King + more

**My Gay Toronto.com**



**EDITOR**

Drew Rowsome

**CREATIVE ART DIRECTOR**

Sean Leber

**CONTRIBUTORS**



**Drew Rowsome** - MGT Editor, a writer, reviewer, musician and the lead singer of Crackpuppy. [drewrowsome.blogspot.ca](http://drewrowsome.blogspot.ca).



**Paul Bellini** was a writer for The Kids in the Hall and a producer for This Hour Has 22 Minutes, and columnist at Fab Magazine...



**Raymond Helkio** - is an author, director and award-winning filmmaker. He cofounded [TheReadingSalon.ca](http://TheReadingSalon.ca)



**Rolyn Chabers** was a fab columnist and currently social columnist for Daily Xtra!



**Bil Antoniou** - is an actor and play writer. He is also movie reviewer who has been writing for [myoldaddiction.com](http://myoldaddiction.com)



**Samatha Lauzon** is Trans activist and educator.



**Lee Fancy** is contributing editor and events listings coordinator.



**Sean Leber** - Founder, MGT Creative Director, and contributing editor.

**EDITORIAL INQUIRIES**

[editor@MyGayToronto.com](mailto:editor@MyGayToronto.com)

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**

[questions@MyGayToronto.com](mailto:questions@MyGayToronto.com)

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