

Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 17 Years

QUEST

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MADISON CAPITOL PRIDE

PHOTOS INSIDE

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WISCONSIN LGBT NEWS BRIEFS

LAUNCH OF WISCONSIN DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LGBT HEALTH WEBSITE

Wisconsin - The Wisconsin Division of Public Health has launched a website dedicated to increasing knowledge about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health disparities and health resources in Wisconsin. The website is congruent with Healthiest Wisconsin 2020, a plan for the decade to improve health across the life span, and eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity.

LGBT people share many of the same health concerns as heterosexual men, women and youth—they should maintain a healthy diet, exercise regularly, limit alcohol consumption, and avoid exposure to cigarette smoke. However in addition, LGBT people face significant health disparities related to health behaviors and conditions and access to healthcare. For example:

- 27% of lesbian, gay and bisexual adults in Wisconsin were uninsured, compared to 10% of heterosexual adults; and
- One in four Wisconsin high school students who had had same-sex sexual contact attempted suicide in the previous year—a rate more than four times higher than that of students who had had only opposite-sex sexual contact.

The LGBT website emphasizes the diversity the LGBT population in Wisconsin, highlights health issues facing particular populations, and provides links to resources, both in Wisconsin and on the Internet. The site addresses health issues, including alcohol and drug use, cancer, HIV/AIDS, mental health, tobacco, and violence and safety.

The LGBT Health website can be accessed at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lgbthealth>

FAIR WISCONSIN DIRECTOR ELECTED TO NATIONAL POST

Madison - The national alliance of state-based lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) advocacy organizations has elected Fair Wisconsin Executive Director Katie Belanger to its Board of Directors. The Equality Federation announced the move during their annual summer meeting.

"I am honored to be elected by my colleagues from across the country to serve on the Equality Fed-

eration Board of Directors," Belanger stated. "As we continue taking important steps toward equality here in Wisconsin, I am excited to play an active role in building the LGBT equality movement on the national level."

The Board of Directors also elected Belanger Board Secretary. "With the passage of domestic partnerships in 2009, Wisconsin is once again poised to become a leader in the quest for fairness," Belanger added.

Fair Wisconsin Inc. Board President Dick Wagner, one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when elected to the Dane County Board in 1980, noted that, "Wisconsin's progressive reputation was hurt after the 2006 marriage ban, but we are on the right path to resuming our rightful place as a state that is moving this debate forward. The election of Katie to serve on the Equality Federation national board is just one example of how Wisconsin continues to move in the right direction."

The Equality Federation works to achieve equality for LGBT people in every state and territory by building strong and sustainable statewide organizations in a state-based movement. Fair Wisconsin is the only organization representing the Badger state in the national alliance. For more information about the Equality Federation, please visit www.equalityfederation.org. For more information about Fair Wisconsin Inc., please visit www.fairwisconsin.com.

SAGE/MILWAUKEE NEEDS YOUR "STUFF" FOR ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Milwaukee - SAGE/Milwaukee is planning its annual Rummage Sale for September 10th through September 11th and is asking for donations of items for the sale. Sage will be accepting donations at the SAGE/Milwaukee offices on Mondays from 9:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.; and on Thursdays from Noon to 5:00 p.m.

"...we need all of you to go to your stuff and see what you don't need anymore and make a donation to SAGE. We can give you a letter for tax purposes if your donation is valued at more than \$25," states an email from Sage Executive Director, Bill Serpe.

Household things sell the best, but, remembering that 'one person's trash is another person's treasure', so most anything will sell.

If you don't have a car and need a pick-up please call the Sage office 414-224-0517 to make those arrangements.

MILWAUKEE LGBT CENTER CONSTRUCTION AND MOVE MAKING PROGRESS

Milwaukee - With a current estimate for reconstruction of the new community center space at 4-6 weeks, a move-in date of late September to mid October 2010 is in the planning. "We are working with movers, security system vendors, phone service providers and other vendors to ready the building for our move. Currently, there are tenants on two floors who will be moving in the next six weeks or so," states the Center Connection newsletter emailed to Quest's office.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center received its special use permit from the City of Milwaukee Board of Zoning Appeals on July 29, 2010. This allows the reconstruction of three spaces in the new Community Center building at 252 E. Highland, including Project Q, a large Community Room, and two office suites. The remainder of the building is in great condition requiring only paint and new carpet.

With the expansion of the Center will come the planning and creation of a new LGBT Mental Health Clinic.

LGBT CENTER FUNDRAISING

A Challenge Party was held at the home of Nicholas Lemus and Martin Huennekens of Mequon, Wisconsin on Friday, June 18. \$13,722 was raised specifically for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center by Challenge Party attendees.

The first Challenge Party was launched in 1988 with the intent of challenging members of the metro Milwaukee LGBT community to recognize and honor the significance and achievements of local LGBT organizations and to support them generously with personal donations. Since that first Challenge Party, participants have raised more than half a million dollars (or more than an average of \$38,000 annually) to support the innovative and critical services and programs needed by Milwaukee's LGBT community.



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OUTREACH COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Madison - OutReach, Madison's and south central Wisconsin's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center has announced the 2010 Community Awards Recipients. The Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet on the evening of Friday, September 24th at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

The OutReach Awards Banquet is our primary annual fundraising event. It showcases the services of OutReach and honors the contributions of individuals, community members, and organizations that support our mission "to promote equality and quality of life issues for LGBT people".

• **Woman of the Year for 2010** goes to Kristina Kosnick. Ms. Kosnick is currently a Humanities Exposed (HEX) Scholar of the University of Wisconsin. She is being recognized for her ground-breaking work in creating the LGBTQ Reading, Writing, and Relating Narratives Project at OutReach. The project, which seeks to provide a forum for LGBTQ people to write, share, collect and publish personal narratives, has served as a launching pad for community education/networking, youth outreach, and the "personal is political" activism.

• The **2010 Man of the Year** is Rev. Ellwood (Woody) Carey. Rev. Carey is being honored for his contributions to the LGBT communities in Madison over the past couple of decades. Now retired, he served as an openly gay minister in the Presbyterian Church, and during that period was a very active and vocal supporter of LGBT rights. In addition to his religious work, Rev. Carey has served four terms on the New Harvest Foundation board, part of that time as Co-Chair. Woody's leadership has been instrumental in expanding the reach and impact that the New Harvest Foundation has had in Madison.

• **2010 Organization of the Year** goes to Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus. This award goes to a business, non-profit, or community group that makes a notable effort toward the advancement of LGBT equality and quality of life. Perfect Harmony Perfect Men's Chorus (PHMC), Madison's gay and gay-friendly men's chorus, embodies this spirit. Formed in 1997, its singing membership of 30 men strives to provide gay bisexual, transgender, and gay friendly men with opportunities for the performance of choral music in a supportive and affirming environment. Feeling strongly that music is a common link among all people, PHMC partners with other community organizations to provide entertainment for a wide range of events which include fundraising, social change, education, and just plain fun.

• **OutReach Volunteer of the Year for 2010** is Caroline Werner. A retired social worker, Ms. Werner has a long history of working as a LGBTQ older adult advocate, attempting to secure better awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of our communities by service providers. She is being honored here for her incredible effort in organizing seventeen different presentations on weekday afternoons from June through December 2010 at OutReach and the Madison Senior Center. The presentations are designed to inform LGBTQ seniors and their support network about services available in Dane County and teach individuals how to self-advocate.

• Jessie Otradovec will be honored with a **Special Recognition Award** from the OutReach Board of Directors for her intense community activism over the last year. Jessie has spent countless hours organizing and participating in activism and grassroots campaigns for the benefit of the LGBT community in Madison as well as nationally. She single handedly organized four busloads of people to attend the National Equality March in October 2009. She was also pivotal in the organization of the march for equality in Madison on December 5th and played a major role in the recent organization of the National Organization for Marriage counter protest.

• Cass Marie (Domino) Downing is this year's **Courage Award recipient**. Ms. Downing is recognized for her determination over the last year to maintain her public role as an entertainer and AIDS Network fundraising hostess in the face of some significant personal health challenges. With characteristic grace, energy, and warmth, Ms. Downing exemplifies the qualities of the human spirit that we can all take hope from in the face of adversity.

For more information on or to order tickets for the 2010 OutReach Awards Banquet Dinner on Friday, September 24th, please call Harry or Steve at 255-8582 or e-mail at harrys@lgbt Outreach.org.

DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE BOUTIQUE OWNERS COME TOGETHER FOR MKE FASHION NIGHT 2010

*Free event is the first of its kind in the city
and modeled after urban cities popular
Fashion Night Out events*

Milwaukee- Downtown Milwaukee Boutique owners come together September 10 to celebrate their contributions to the Milwaukee Fashion Scene at a highly anticipated, exclusive event called **MKE Fashion Night 2010**. Fred Boutique and the Bartolotta Restaurant Group will host the free event. It will take place at Bacchus, 925 East Wells, from 8:30 p.m. - midnight and feature complimentary wine, drink specials, party gift bags, a local jazz singer and ensemble, and high fall/winter styles and looks from participating boutiques.

"We have created an all-exclusive event for Milwaukee's legitimate men & women's fashion and apparel retailers to showcase each of their unique presence on the Milwaukee scene," said Ron Krinn, co-owner of Fred Boutique and creator of MKE Fashion Night. "This special event celebrates fashion on the local level and all those involved from the boutique owners to the customers. It raises the awareness of our boutiques' vibrant fashion imprint as our collective presence continues to become powerful and grow."

MKE Fashion Night 2010 is an event calling all guests to "dress to impress." Expected attendees are boutique owners, clients, special VIPs, and the Milwaukee's beauty and spa sector. Each boutique who will participate in the event will style two mannequins in the upcoming season's 2010 fashion styles and looks to create a pensive gala of fashion throughout the venue. The participating boutiques are:

- Fred Boutique, 522 North Water Street
- Boutique Larriex, 717 North Milwaukee Street
- Boutique B'Lou, 424 East Wisconsin Avenue
- Flaire, 407 East Buffalo
- Stephanie Horne, 324 North Water Street & 1800 West Bluemound Road

- Shop, 1918 E. Capitol Drive
- Lorena Sarbu, 310 East Buffalo Street

Boutique Larriex's owner, Lydia Hamilton, is excited about her participation in MKE Fashion Night 2010. Hamilton's boutique was recently featured on Good Morning America in a story highlighting retailers that opened its doors during the recession. "Milwaukee is a city that is often overlooked for its fashion sense; however, it is a city that has a reverence for high fashion and style," said Hamilton. "I believe this event will bring awareness to our customer's acute taste for chic clothing, which they can get at any one of the boutiques featured at this year's event at an affordable price."

For more details about MKE Fashion Night please call 414.270.1009.

PROJECT Q LAUNCHING NEW YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT

A new youth media project is being formulated at Project Q to offer youth the opportunity to conceptualize, create, and polish a new local radio program. The youth will be responsible for the intricate process of radio production with guidance from Project Q staff and Lisa Goldman, M.Ed., who will start as a professor at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) this fall. Production requires the participants to select a topic and overall impact goals, learn how to use equipment, record the show, and complete all editing for the show, among other tasks.

The idea started with Ms. Goldman who was a consultant for Youth Media Project in New Mexico until her recent move to Milwaukee to start her new position with MIAD. She hopes to replicate the positive experiences youth had in New Mexico with Youth Media Project by coordinating with Project Q to give Milwaukee LGBTQ youth the chance to have a new creative outlet, to share their experiences, and develop skills and ideas.

Project Q is the "for youth, by youth" youth development program of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. The program serves lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and allied (LGBTQA) youth ages 12 to 24 in the greater Milwaukee area. The program provides opportunities for the development and leadership of these youth in a safe, accessible space.

NEED A LITTLE ROOM TO BREATHE?

Madison - A new group is forming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals who are seriously committed to stopping smoking. The group will be a combination of education and support and will offer members strategies to help you become and stay a non-smoker.

The group will meet one night a week for 7-weeks starting Tuesday, August 24th at 6:00pm at OutReach (600 Williamson St). A brief telephone screening is required with one of the group facilitators. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact OutReach, Inc. at (608) 255-8582 or e-mail Harry at harrys@lgbt Outreach.org as soon possible.

OutReach is a partner with Rm2Breathe, a state wide anti-tobacco program for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual people in Wisconsin. Check out the web-site www.rm2breathe.org for more resources to quit.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

PROUD THEATER LOOKING FOR INTERESTED YOUTH, AGES 13-18, FOR 2010-2011 SEASON

Madison - Proud Theater - an award-winning, exciting and innovative youth theater program designed to foster self-expression and self-empowerment for Madison-area youth - is opening its doors through November 17, 2010 to youth ages 13 to 18 interested in changing the world through the power of theater. Proud Theater was founded in late 1999 by Sol Kelley-Jones and Callen Harty and is currently aligned with Outreach, Inc - Madison's LGBTQ resource center. Proud theater is open to any youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning (LGBTQ), or who are the children of LGBTQ parents, or who are allies of the LGBTQ community at large.

The youth gather Wednesday nights starting September 8th, 5:30pm throughout the school year at Bethany United Methodist Church in Madison where they improvise, create, and perform theatrical pieces, poetry and music that reflect the realities of their young lives. They then share their work at performances throughout the year in the larger community - ending the year with a cumulative production. This year's performance will be May 19 - 21, 2011 7:30 PM at the Bartell Theater in Madison, including a 2:30 PM matinee on May 21.

The teens of Proud Theater collaboratively create all the plays and theatrical pieces themselves, with guidance from Proud Theater Artistic Director Brian Wild and prominent adult members of the Madison community. These include Callen Harty - Local Playwright and recent Artistic Director of Broom Street Theater, Sol Kelly-Jones - Proud Theater Co-founder and LGBTQ activist, local playwright/actor Heather Renken, Emma Zeldin - LGBTQ activist, youth counselor/adult mentor Amber Becker, Musical Director Galen Olsen, Technical Director N-digO, and local musician/Actors Shaun Petts and Gabriel Swimm. Proud Theater is supported as a project through Outreach Inc, and is associated with Art & Soul Innovations, StageQ and other members of the Madison area theater and business community also lend their support. Proud Theater also enjoys generous support from The Mukti Group - dedicated to the support and development of LGBTQ youth through theatrical works across the country. The Mukti Group recently awarded Proud Theater a \$10,000 grant to help expand their reach and community involvement.

involvement.

The emphasis on original theater, music, prose and poetry makes Proud Theater stand out among other like groups from across the country. Homophobia presents many challenges in the lives of young people. As a result, these self-described "queer" youth may be more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to experience depression, family estrangement, school problems, and substance abuse. In response, Proud Theater offers encouragement, inspiration, and support on many different levels. It builds upon the youths' innate resilience—providing them with community, security, peer support, and mentorship. This in turn, contributes to their positive engagement with school, overall health, self-esteem and stability.

Proud Theater's tradition of celebrating rainbow symbols has a dual meaning for those members of the group who have multiracial identities. In addition to producing pieces that work to counter homophobia, anti-racist and multicultural themes are integrated into their works.

For youth interested in becoming part of Proud Theater, please contact Brian Wild either by phone at 608-469-6685 or by e-mail - proudtheater@gmail.com. Donations can be made to Proud Theater through Outreach, Inc.

MENOMONIE THEATER GUILD TO STAGE HEDWIG

Menomonie, WI - Menomonie Theater Guild, the oldest existing community theater organization in Western Wisconsin, will stage the rock musical Hedwig and the Angry Inch on September 10 & 11 in Menomonie, WI. The show is written by John Cameron Mitchell with music by Stephen Trask and stars renowned Eau Claire female impersonator Miss Dee-Lovely in the title role.

The musical tells the story of an 'internationally ignored' rock singer, Hedwig, and her search for stardom and love. Born a boy named Hansel, whose life's dream is to find his other half, Hedwig reluctantly submits to a sex change operation in order to marry

an American G.I. and escape over the Berlin Wall. The operation is botched, leaving her with the aforementioned 'angry inch'. Finding herself high, dry and divorced in a Kansas trailer park as she watches the Berlin Wall come down, she pushes on to form a rock band and encounters a lover/protégé in young Tommy Gnosis. Tommy eventually leaves Hedwig, steals her songs, and uses them to become a huge rock star. Hedwig and the Angry Inch is interlaced with outrageous humor and emotional vignettes that prove to be thought-provoking and deeply relatable to everyone, regardless of background or lifestyle.

Debating off-Broadway in 1997, the show has since become a cult classic sensation. It makes its long-awaited Broadway debut this fall, with writer John Cameron Mitchell reprising the role made famous in both the original production and the 2001 film of the same name.

MTG's production reunites several cast members from 2008's Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild production of The Rocky Horror Show including Miss Dee-Lovely, Jeannette Paules (who directs), and Tarin Gilleland in another gender-bending role as her husband Yitzhak. Menomonie rock band Sonic Screwdriver rounds out the cast of outrageous misfits. The production is sponsored by Volume One.

Rather than taking place in a theater, the Menomonie production will be presented "gig-style" at the Acoustic Café, a popular venue for independent musicians and art exhibits. The Café is

located at 102 Main Street West, on the southwest corner of Main & Broadway.

Menomonie is located on Interstate 94, just sixty miles east of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Performances will be held on Friday September 10th at 8:00pm and on Saturday September 11th at 8:00pm and 11:59pm. Tickets are \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance. Advance tickets may be purchased in Menomonie at the Acoustic Café and in Eau Claire at Tangled Up in Hue (416 South Barstow) and Truckers Union (413 Water Street). Arrangements can also be made to purchase tickets by mail. Email menomonietheaterguild@hotmail.com with requests and contact information.



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TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR STAGE Q'S "LAST SUMMER AT BLUEFISH COVE"

Madison - Stage Q will present "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" beginning September 3 and running through September 25 on the Drury Stage at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E Mifflin Street in Madison. Directed by Laurie Attea, the cast features Madison theater favorites Susan Carnell, Katy Conley, Kristin Forde, Sarah Karon, Wendy Fern Hutton, Paula Orton, Corianne Wilson and Tara Ayres.

"Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" is an engaging story about a tight knit group of eight women who reunite for the summer at a beachfront called Bluefish Cove for fun, rest, and relaxation: think Big Chill for lesbians. It's the summer of 1979 and one of the women in the group is stricken with an illness that forces her, as well as everyone else, to reevaluate her life while dealing with issues relating to family, life, death, love, relationships, sex, and whether or not to come out. It's a funny, moving story of friendship, family, and loss; it's also a charming love story. Written by playwright Jane Chambers, this was the first lesbian-positive play on Broadway, a topic that, at that time, was still considered taboo.

This family of friends discovers that a strong foundation of love and support is what will ultimately sustain them in the difficult times. It's this love that ultimately saves the weakest one in the group, and they learn from each other about strength and determination, and on the importance of being truthful with yourself and, most of all, about facing your fears.

Thursday performances are at 7:30 pm and Friday and Saturday shows are 8:00 pm. There is one

Sunday matinee at 2:00 pm on September 19. Tickets are \$10 for Thursdays and Sundays, and \$15 for Fridays and Saturdays. To purchase tickets or make reservations, visit the Bartell website at bartelltheatre.org, or visit stageq.com for more details. Reservations are also available by calling 608-661-9696, extension 3.

Show dates and times:

Friday, September 3, 8:00 pm
Saturday, September 4, 8:00 pm
Thursday, September 9, 7:30 pm
Friday, September 10, 8:00 pm
Saturday, September 11, 8:00 pm
Thursday, September 16, 7:30 pm
Friday, September 17, 8:00 pm
Saturday, September 18, 8:00 pm
Sunday, September 19, 2:00 pm
Thursday, September 23, 7:30 pm
Friday, September 24, 8:00 pm
Saturday, September 25, 8:00 pm

Help needed for "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" load-in

A beautiful set is planned for the upcoming production of "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove," and help is needed to make it a reality. "We need people to help us move the set pieces from the scene shop to the Bartell, to help assemble them, and to paint them. We'll be working all day on Sunday, August 29," states Stage Q's Tara Ayres.

At least six people are needed to meet at the Stage Q scene shop on Madison's west side at 8:30 August 29 to help load the truck and load in the sets and props at the Bartell Theatre at 113 E Mifflin

Street. "We'll need at least six more people (more would be great) beginning around 9:15 to help assemble the sets. If you have tools you can bring (electric drills, impact wrench or driver and ratchet attachments) that would be great. But we'd love to have your help, even if you don't have tools, continues Ms Ayres.

"If you've helped with one of our builds before, you know it's a lot of fun. If you've never worked with StageQ, it's a great opportunity to meet some wonderful people, and get a behind-the-scenes look at a show."

If you wish to help on the 29th, especially with the move from the west side to the Bartell at 8:30, please email bluefish@stageq.com.

MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL PRESENTS SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING OF "HOWL" IN RECOGNITION OF BANNED BOOK WEEK

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival jump-starts Milwaukee's fall film festival season with a special advanced screening of the highly anticipated new film *Howl*, from acclaimed documentarians Rob Epstein (*The Times of Harvey Milk*) and Jeffrey Friedman (*The Celluloid Closet*).

James Franco stars as the young Allen Ginsberg in this remarkable, genre-bending anthology of episodes - a hybrid of biopic, staged recreations, defiant declaration, and animation - that chronicles both Ginsberg's emerging life as a poet and the landmark 1957 obscenity trial that tried to suppress his writings.

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HOWL



Directed by Epstein and Friedman, with cinematography by Ed Lachman and music by Carter Burwell, the film features a talented cast, including Franco, Jon Hamm, David Strathairn, Jeff Daniels, Mary-Louise Parker, Treat Williams, Alessandro Nivola, and Bob Balaban. *Howl* was presented as the Opening Night Film at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival in January, and showcased at this year's Berlin Film Festival.

View the trailer here: <http://www.oscilloscope.net/>

"It's always great -- and appropriate, I think -- for the LGBT Film/Video Festival to have the opportunity to present a film that champions freedom of expression and it's really exciting to be partnering with such front-line advocates on this issue," said Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival director Carl Bogner, of the UWM Peck School of the Arts Film Department.

Howl is co-sponsored by the UWM Union Theatre and Equality Wisconsin, and co-presented by

Woodland Pattern Book Center, the Milwaukee Public Library, UWM Libraries, Milwaukee Film, and the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation in anticipation of Banned Book Week, September 25 - October 2.

Showtime and ticket information:

Aaron Tveit and James Franco in *Howl*

Wednesday, September 15 @ 7pm

UWM Union Theatre. Tickets: \$9 General Admission/\$7 for students and seniors.

Discounted ticket prices are also available to Woodland Pattern Book Center members, card-carrying members of the ACLU, and anyone presenting their Milwaukee Public Library card.

Purchasing a Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival pass - either a General Pass or a Fiver - will also secure admission to this special screening. Film/Video Festival passes will be on sale at the UWM Union Theatre on the night of the screening.

Tickets to *Howl* will be available at the Peck School of the Arts Box Office, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd, starting on September 1 and at the UWM Union Theatre one hour before the screening on September 15.



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MILWAUKEE'S OUT N ABOUT

DAIRYLAND CLASSIC RETURNS TO MILWAUKEE

By Paul Masterson

The Dairyland Classic (DLC) softball tournament returns to Milwaukee on Labor Day weekend, September 2nd through 6th. This city's gay softball tradition dates back to the late 1970's, when it began as the Wreck Room Classic. The tournament has since evolved over the decades. It has, however, always showcased Milwaukee's historic participation in national LGBT athletics. A founding city of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), Milwaukee hosted NAGAAAFest, the gay softball world series in 2009.

NAGAAAFest's spectacular success, based on the many year's of organizing the Dairyland Classic, provided the groundwork for another world-class softball experience. Brian Reinkober leads the present Dairyland Classic Committee. "Our members have taken the best of past Dairylands, added some things that worked very well during the Gay Softball World Series 2009 and mixed the two together to produce something uniquely Milwaukee, something uniquely our own," Reinkober said.

SSBL assistant commissioner Pete Nys expects over 35 teams. They represent recreational and competitive levels. The D recreational division plays at Wick Field located on Vliet and 51st streets. The C recreational and competitive both play at Brookfield's Wirth Park, one of field complexes used during NAGAAAFest 2009.

According to Nys, nine local teams from Milwaukee have registered to participate. Boom, a Dairyland Classic sponsor, has a C division team. Brad Yates joined the Boom Bulldogs this season. Known for his

versatility, Yates plays second base, outfield and pitches. "It takes a phenomenal catcher to be a great pitcher," Yates said.

Hybrid Hustlers, a new SSBL team, makes its DLC debut. The team was formed under manager Sean Felice. It consists largely of members of the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association (MGVA). MGVA president Eric Euting explains the relationship of the newly formed volleyball organization with SSBL's newest softball team. "MGVA wanted to form a softball team but it wasn't fair to the membership to use the association funds. Hybrid was a new bar looking to sponsor a team but didn't have enough people. It worked out perfectly," Euting said. About half of the Hybrid Hustlers are volleyball players. Jimmy C, a former umpire who began his softball career as a SSBL player in the early 1980's, joined Hybrid Hustlers to offer his experience as a coach. "They're a great bunch of guys and gals. We're a good mix of talent – we even have a couple of straight guys. We have the potential to go all the way in the tournament," Jimmy said.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center fields *Scream*, the only SSBL team not sponsored by a bar. *Scream*'s fully diverse roster ranges from university professors and MD's to barristas. Asked about *Scream*'s upcoming second Dairyland Classic, shortstop and co-manager

Will Pelfrey said, "we have a great recreational team and we're looking forward to a wonderful weekend of softball. People join *Scream* because we're all about having fun."

After the Last Out

Unlike previous tournaments that ended with a banquet, Dairyland Classic 2010 concludes with a street party. "A highlight of NAGAAAFest was the Street

Bash so we decided to bring it back," Nys said. The Street Bash takes place Sunday evening from 3 to 11:30pm between Boot Camp and Kruz on East National Avenue.

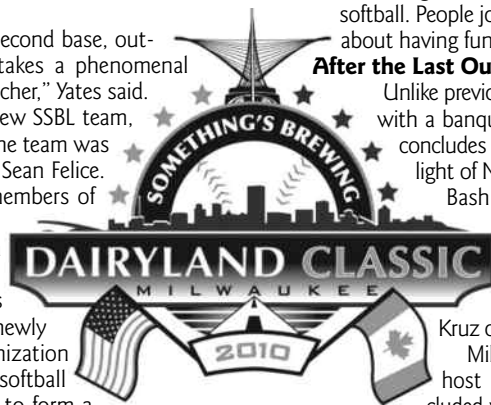
Milwaukee icon Dear Ruthie will host the outside festivities. Included will be the DLC trophy presentation and live entertainment featuring the Chicago based band, Sensation as well as local entertainers. The evening's headliner is 80's pop star Tiffany. Milwaukee DJs will provide dance music throughout the evening.

In addition to the Street Bash, DLC amenities include a shuttle bus from the Hyatt and Doubletree host hotels to the sponsor bars, a Sunday morning Dairyland Classic Send Off Brunch at Charlie's in the Third Ward and, on Monday, Woody's Annual Dairyland Classic Drinking Team Day at Miller Park with tailgate party.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks from registration to field support as well as Street Bash set up, break down and talent assistance.

For more Dairyland Classic 2010 details and volunteer opportunities visit

<http://www.ssbilmilwaukee.com/>



Four Wettings and a Funeral

Anthony Paull



I'm mistaken; I thought dating was over, passé, pedestrian, but I've come to find we've simply altered the rules. Blame it on evolution or survival of the indiscriminate if you will, but I feel the Internet – the need for 'social' networking – has shape-shifted us into a new species that no longer identifies with the concept of boundaries, particularly when it comes to interacting with friends face-to-face.

"So? I slept with Drake, big deal," Patrick says, while catching a beer with me at a German pub. "I'm not even sure what Drake is to me anyway."

"Well, for the last three years, he's been one of your best friends."

"Oh...yeah, hm," he says, quickly slurping his Guinness to avoid the awkwardness of the moment. "Well, I had to guilt someone into sleeping with me. What the hell was I supposed to do? I haven't had sex in like, two months."

Yes, two months! There's no telling how long that is in dog years or asshole years.

Therefore, I should understand, and I should accept the fact that Patrick resorted to the desperate measure of doing Drake – an act which technically, I'd be fine with if it wasn't for his tactics: specifically his 'woe is me' method, where usually after drowning in three beers, he openly questions why anyone would have sex with him. "I'm so fat and ugly!"

"I can't believe that actually works," I groan.

"Dude, of course it works. Women have been doing it for years," he assures me.

My response: whiplash, coupled by a few gratuitous eye-blinks. "Stop being so dramatic. You know I just can't have sex with anyone." Surveying the bar, he leans in for a whisper. "You know my problem."

Yes, besides a martyr, Patrick is also a sharp-shooter, the quickest gun in town. In other words, he pre-ejaculates. Mainly, before he gets his zipper down....

"You know, I bet some guys find that sexy," I inform him.

"Oh bullshit, Anthony. You always try to make everything sexy," he jabs. "There's nothing sexy about it."

'Tis true, but I'm grasping for straws to make light of the situation. I hear that's what you do as a friend. But maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I should just start having sex with him. Is that how it works? Seriously, I haven't dated for awhile so I don't know. We're in a bar. We're having drinks,

talking sex. Could my flattery be considered a come-on? When your friends start having sex with one another how do you know where you stand with any of them...ever?

The next day, I contemplate this while heading to the funeral of another friend's grandmother. I wonder about my role in the funeral. Should I be attending? Is this what my friend would want? I can't call and bother him, and I'm not sure if it's wise for him to bother me either – mainly because I'm pathetic, and still dealing with the death of my 9 yr. relationship. Each of us, we're swallowing so much loss and sadness. We each need a helping of support, so why do I question if it's proper for me to provide him that support today? Who knows? Maybe I'm more confused than Patrick about roles in a friendship. Or maybe I'm just too horny to think straight.

Would life be more clear if I said screw it and started screwing everyone too?

"Dude, it happened again," Patrick says. On the phone, his voice sounds panicky, as I drive up the crowded interstate to the church. "I shot all over Drake's leather couch. I couldn't stop it. Dude, I got some on his cat...hit him like a bullet."

"I don't need all the details."

"Please, I can't deal with this. What's wrong with me?"

"Nothing!" I yell. "It happens to a lot of guys. It's normal. Get on medication and

get over it!"

"Well, you don't have to be nasty. What's your problem?"

"I'm on my way to a funeral."

"Oh," he says, concerned. Then he goes silent, turning the 'oh' into an ooh when he forms an idea. Maybe if he were to have sex somewhere completely un-sexy, like a, hm, funeral, he'd be able to perform longer. He'd drop atom bombs. "Dude, why didn't I think of this earlier? I just have to have sex somewhere where I'm totally turned off. Any ideas?"

"Well, why don't try my car, because right now, I seem to be totally turned off in it...probably because of this conversation."

Patrick doesn't find me funny. I'm not being supportive, he says. If I were a good friend, I would help him; I would have an answer. Sadly, he tells me that his ailment fails to allow him to feel like a real man. What will Drake think of him if he can't fully perform? What will Drake tell everyone?

"He's your friend. He won't tell anyone anything," I assure him, walking into the church.

He lingers with a response. "Maybe that's why we have sex with friends, because we trust them," he says.

"Yeah, and maybe that's why I'm not having sex," I admit. "Because lately, I can't remember what a real friend is."

10 'GAYCONS' THAT SHOULD GO AWAY FOR GOOD

by Mikey Rox

Late, great comedian Rodney Dangerfield was famous for his schtick "Don't Get No Respect." The LGBT community sympathizes, old friend – we don't either, and here are 10 reasons why.

Perez Hilton

His super snarky, eponymous gossip site may pull in nine million visitors a month [SOURCE: www.ebizmba.com/articles/gossip-websites], but Perez Hilton (AKA Mario Lavandeira) is one nasty homo. For starters, he actively outs closeted celebrities [SOURCE: www.today.msnbc.msn.com/id/14065223] for his own amusement – and he's proud of it. But that's not what makes this self-loathing sloth wholly despicable; Hilton is a hypocrite of the highest order. Consider the 2009 confrontation between the blogger and Black Eyed Pea's member Will.I.Am at Toronto's Much Music Awards wherein Hilton fired off a double dose of F-bombs, calling the singer "a fucking faggot." [SOURCE: htwww.tmz.com/2009/06/22/perez-vs-will-i-am-caught-on-tape/] Alas, you know what they say: Takes one to know one.

Dan Choi

What began as a benign and commendable campaign to shed light on the military's discriminating "don't ask, don't tell" policy has turned the recently discharged activist into a money-grubbing media whore. According to an angry letter addressed to Choi from Nonnie Ouch, president of Texas Tech University's Gay-Straight Alliance, the former Army lieutenant personally declined a request to speak at the school because it couldn't cough up enough cash [SOURCE: www.queerty.com/dan-choi-speaking-fees-spoiling-his-appeal-among-grassroots-activists-20100803/]. Choi's asking price? \$10,000. Nobody will deny that the fight for equal rights comes at a cost – but who knew it cost so much? Don't sweat the snub, Nonnie. Your money's better spent on a *real* American hero.

Reichen Lehmkuhl

After dropping long-time and "Amazing Race" partner Chip Arndt, Lehmkuhl star-fucked his way through gay Hollywood until he hit pay dirt – Lance Bass [Source: www.people.com/people/article/0,26334,1219142,00.html]. Their short-lived, rickety romance ended just six months after it landed within the pages of *People Magazine*, but Lehmkuhl already got what he wanted – relevance among the vain and vapid. Case in point: This fall the former Air Force captain will headline Logo's "Real Housewives" rip-off, "The A-List: New York," a reality program that will follow the lives of six equally pathetic gay men. The first indication that this show will blow? Somebody at Logo doesn't know the alphabet – or has an incredibly sinister sense of humor.

Adam Lambert

On "American Idol" Lambert was endearing – likeable even – but flash forward six months, from the singing competition's 2009 finale to his controversial performance on the American Music Awards, and the SoCal na-

tive's second-place status starts to make sense. Between screeching the lyrics to his first post-"Idol" single, "For Your Entertainment" – which ultimately failed to resonate with the general public – and simulating oral sex with one of his male dancers on stage [SOURCE: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/celebritynews/6636015/American-Music-Awards-Adam-Lambert-outrages-viewers-with-X-rated-AMA-performance.html], Lambert came off more showboater than showstopper. The verdict? Timing is everything – and the world's just not ready for a Y-chromed Gaga wannabe who performs faux fellatio in prime time.

Melissa Etheridge

One minute the "Come to My Window" crooner is speaking out against California's same-sex marriage ban with wife Tammy Lynn Michaels by her side, the next she's serving said wife with divorce papers. Michaels, via her blog, claims that she was blindsided by Etheridge's filing and left broke with two toddlers to feed [SOURCE: www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/03/tammy-lynn-michaels-melis_n_634926.html] – and if that's the case, shame on the lesbian rock legend. Spousal support doesn't just apply to straight people; you can't pick and choose what aspects of traditional marriage you want to honor. Besides, with 27 million records sold worldwide surely Etheridge can show a little sympathy for the mother of her twins – if only so she can stop scrounging up gas money from the couch cushions.

Michael Lucas

Besides being one of the most loud-mouthed figures in gay culture – and a pornographer (doesn't that say it all right there?) – Lucas is also an unapologetic bigot: He hates Muslims, and he's not afraid to shout it from the rafters [SOURCE: www.bilerico.com/2010/08/michael_lucas_hates_muslims_does_the_advocate.php]. Combine those dastardly traits with an unequivocally petty persona that can't handle when people call him out on his own ignorance and you've got a grandstander of inferior design. But that's neither here nor there. Lucas never could keep his mouth shut – in person or on screen – so his latest nonsensical statements shouldn't shock. He enjoys rocking the boat, so long as the boat is filled with bare-chested, non-Islamic boys and wads of cash. Here's hoping that his ship sinks sooner than later.

Boy George

Not exactly the "Karma Chameleon" of which he sings, '80s icon Boy George has slighted fans by attempting to perform concerts high on heroin [SOURCE: www.thisdayinrock.com/index.php/general/1961-born-on-this-day-george-odowd-boy-george-singer-dj-culture/] and landed himself in handcuffs for falsely reporting a burglary, an offense for which he was fined and sentenced to community service. Of course, everyone deserves a second chance. And George got one. But then he went and mucked that up by assaulting and imprisoning a male escort. Reports

claim that George bound and beat Norwegian rent boy Audun Carlsen because he thought the hooker was stealing personal photos from his computer [SOURCE: www.nydailynews.com/gossip/2008/12/05/2008-12-05-court_finds_boy_george_guilty_of_false_i.html]. As a result of the fracas, the Culture Clubber was placed behind bars, serving only four months of a 15-month sentence that should have lasted forever.

Andy Cohen

Host of Bravo's reunion shows and self-promoting chat-fest "Watch What Happens: Live," Cohen seemingly came out of nowhere. Except he came from somewhere – right down the hall, where he serves as the network's senior vice president of production and programming. One can contemplate how the decision was made to pluck the walking advertisement for anti-tanning from his desk and put him in front of the camera, but one doesn't have to: It seems as if Cohen coyly campaigned for the job, because, well, he thinks he deserves to be on TV [SOURCE: www.nymag.com/arts/tv/features/63010/]. In an interview with *New York Magazine* earlier this year, he said: "I don't have a lot of self-doubt or cracks in my self-confidence." That Jackhole of the Week award he gave himself recently is well earned.

Lindsay Lohan

On-again, off-again lady lover Lindsay Lohan was once a bright and shining star. Not anymore. A tumultuous relationship with a semi-famous female DJ, a few stints in rehab and jail time will do that to a girl. While accidents happen – forget the DUI; "I Know Who Killed Me" should have been considered a crime – it's the wacktress's apparent disregard for authority and woe-is-me attitude that leaves a bitter taste in people's mouths. Throw in a family full of hangers-on who will stop at nothing to get their busted mugs on the cover of a magazine and you've got a recipe for we-don't-give-a-shit-about-you-anymore stew. Hopefully there's enough to feed the whole clan.

Steven Slater

Despite conflicting accounts from passengers on what really happened aboard JetBlue Airways Flight 1052 – the events that led to a grandiose beer-thieving, slide-releasing tarmac exit – flight attendant Steven Slater's fame is still on the rise. Gawker called him a hero, Hot Air said he was an inspiration, and *The New York Daily News* sympathized with the steward's plight [SOURCE: www.news.yahoo.com/s/yblog_upshot/20100810/bs_yblog_upshot/rogue-jetblue-flight-attendant-being-hailed-as-a-modern-american-working-class-hero]. But while Slater did what so many had-it-up-to-here employees dream of day in and day out, it's his smug, I'll-cut-you-while-you're-sleeping smile dominating the Internet that's enough to make even the most seasoned flier afraid of the friendly skies. Seriously, dude is a creeper. The only silver lining in this case is that maybe he'll go away as fast as he got here. Fingers crossed.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxscissors.com.



RAVYN ENTERTAINMENT SHOW AT CLUB 5 PRIDE WEEKEND

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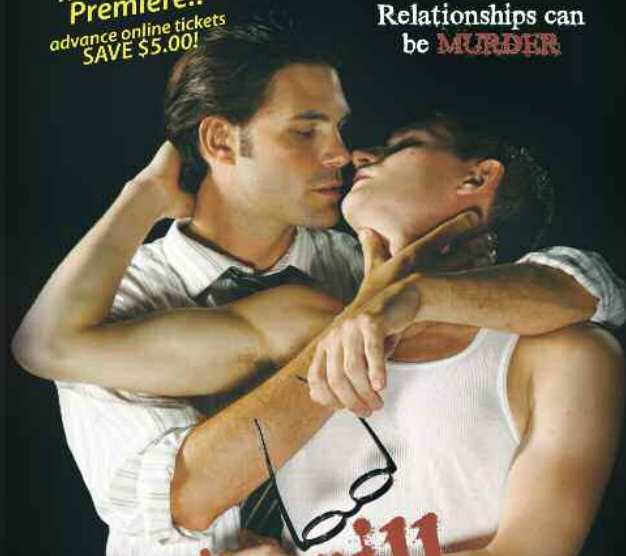
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LOVE LAUNCHES THE BOULEVARD'S 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY SEASON

By Paul Masterson

Photo Credit: Troy Freund <http://troyfreund.com/>



The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre opened its 25 season with *Fourplay: 4 Comedies of Seduction*. The quartet of one-act love stories presents a glorious spectrum from too sweet to too sexy to miss.

True to its mission to train new actors and directors, this production allows several to make their respective debuts in the program's first half.

Paul Madden directs for the first time with John Patrick Shanley's *Red Coat* and Elaine Jarvik's *Dead Right*. Shanley's vignette of adolescent "love" stars two new young actors, Hugh Blewett and Keigan Vonnoy. They portray love struck teens with apt innocence and palpable affection.

Dead Right approaches love from a different angle. An older couple discover their bond through a dead acquaintance's obituary. The wife (Barbara Weber) harps incessantly on the deceased's shoddy remembrance. Her pummeled husband (Mark Bucher read the part for the absent *Mark Ninneman*) offers a dose of reality.

Thomas Mertz-Dillon directs the third play, *Sure Thing* by *David Ives*. This cleverly contoured play deconstructs the art of the pick-up. Brooke Wegner plays the aggressive female in artistic director Bucher's clever role reversal of the original casting. It's 2010 after all. Now women are granted the same prerogative of firing the first shot – or, in this case, delivering the first lame pick-up line. Wegner delightfully dominates the repartee with rapid-fire variant pitches (each punctuated by a "ding") to move in on her prey, the lonely male reading Faulkner, adeptly played by Ken Dillon

The evening's theatrical weight comes after intermission. It's the meat course after the trio

of light appetizers.

Harold Pinter's *The Lover* was a scandal when first performed in 1963. A happily married, middle class couple has moved to the "village" outside London. Like any good bedroom community residents, he, Richard (Jason Will), goes off to work in the city whilst she, Sarah (Erica Wade), entertains her lover. It's all very mutual because he, Richard, has his whore in the city. This exposed, indiscreet charm of the bourgeoisie has a twist, of course.

The Lover can be played with a dire existentialist distance. But Bucher has his cast deliver Pinter in Anglo-accented and sophisticatedly intoned conversation. The opening exchange:

Richard: *Is your lover coming today?*

Sarah: *Mmmmmm*

Richard: *What time?*

Sarah: *Three*

Richard: *Will you be going out or staying in?*

Sarah: *Oh...I think we'll stay in.*

And so it continues. The couple's casual, candid and detailed discussions of apparent extramarital exploits explore the dynamics, intricacies and power plays of partnership. It's delicious.

Will as Richard is glorious. He carries the modern yet classic English gentleman with mercilessly aloof charm. He describes his whore's wit and grace with the same perfectly English ennui as when talking about the traffic, then deflects moments of spousal tension with a polite offer of another drink. Will's physical presence wonderfully balances Pinter's wrestling gender roles.

Wade's Sarah displays a natural comfort as the stay-at-home mistress. Her poise belies her

frisky inner-kitten. She captures the congenial but naughty wife with just a hint of pouting jealousy. Wade loves the role and it shows.

The Tom Jones soundtrack, although slightly loud, provides an appropriately retro mood.

A nod to the 21st century reality of same sex partnerships on an equal footing with the other side would have been appreciated. It's an unfortunate sin of omission. Still, the Boulevard's next show is gay playwright Evan Smith's *The Savannah Disputation*.

Fourplay – 4 Comedies of Seduction runs through August 29 at the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 South Kinnickinnic in Bay View. Ticket information: 414-744-5757



Friday, August 27

LaCage (Milw) Back To School Party 11 pm

Saturday, August 28

Angels Of Hope MCC (3607 Libal Street, Green Bay) Food Drive to Benefit ARCW 1-4 pm
Please bring non-perishable food items -canned vegetables, beans, soups, and fruit, boxed cereals, pasta, rice, and potatoes **Free HIV tests** • Win \$10 gift cards to Harmony Cafe, Live Music & fun! Sponsors: Green by East High School GSA, Preble High School GSA, Angels of Hope MCC

ICON (Kenosha) ICON All Male Revue 10pm

LaCage (Milw) Miss Club Wisconsin Pageant 9pm

LaCrosse Pride (LaCrosse) NOON-11PM @ La Crosse's South Side Oktoberfest Grounds, Ronnie Nyles, Sick Of Sarah, Kids Area with inflatables, Vendors, and a show of hometown Pride with the cast of Illusions, LaX Girls, and Savanna and Co.

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Kenosha) Life's A Beach! @ North Beach, Racine 2-5pm

Friday, Septmeber 3

Stage Q (Madison) Lesbian "Big Chill" Last Summer at Bluefish Cover 8 pm

Saturday, September 4

Madison Gay video Club "Gay Porn Stars" (Here!, dir. John Roecker, 2008) "F*ck U" (Rascal Video, dir. Chi Chi LaRue, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org , 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Sunday, September 5

Dairyland Classic Street Bash 3pm - 11:30 pm

National Ave, Milwaukee Between 1st and Water (Boot Camp & Kruz)

Monday, September 6 - Labor Day

Boom (Milwaukee) Laborday Cookout on the patio 2 pm Beer Bust

Friday, September 10

SAGE (Milwaukee) Annual Rummage Sale Repeats Sat. Sept 11.

Saturday, September 11

Rainbow Club (Northern Wisconsin) Cherokee County Park - Hwy N - 5 miles E of Colby, off of Hwy 29. or take Cty F south 3 miles, you will hit Cty. N and take a right after the bridge. The Park is on the right. Please bring a dish to pass, Terry will supply the meat & soda. Also, there will be a White Elephant Auction. 12 Noon - ? For questions, call Terry at (715) 654-5044. Leave a message if not at home. All are welcome.

Sunday, September 12

Boom (Milw) Packer Party Free Beer Bust if you are on the Boom Email List Food & Shots

Kruz (Milwaukee) Castaway M. C. Leather Club "THE PACK IS BACK" BEER/SODA BUST 3-7 pm Prizes/Raffles - Game Time 3:15 P.M.

Monday, Septmeber 13

Outwords Books (Milw) Outwords Men's Book Club The group will discuss Two People, the classic love story by David Windham. 7 pm Everyone is welcome to join in.

Tuesday, September 14

Outwords Books (Milw) The Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwords Books The book for discussion is Club 1049 by Kim Pritekel 7pm Everyone is welcome to attend

Wednesday, Spetember 15

UWM Union Theatre (Milw) Milwaukee LGBT film & Video Festival Presents a special advance screening of Howl at 7 pm. \$9 adults \$7 Students

Thursday, September 16

Boom (Milwaukee) The ROOM's 6 Year Anniversary Party - No fold or contruction is going to hold this one back!!! Food from Miss Laties Diner Pinacle Drink Specials

Saturday, September 18

Madison Gay video Club "Dream Boy" (Here!, dir. James Bolton, 2008) "Taboo: The Peter Twins" (Bel Ami, dir. Lukas Ridgeton, 2009) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Miramar theatre (Milw) Books Miltown Kings present their season opener- "Miltown Kings Between the Sheets". Door opens at 9pm and the cover is only 5\$. We wanna see you in your nighties! This is an 18+ show.

Friday, Septmeber 24

Monona Terrace (Madison) OUTREACH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, September 25

Boom (Milwaukee) Adult Film Star Gavin Waters

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Racine) Life's a Beach! @ North Beach, Racine 2-5pm Join us north of the Oasis (Look for the Rainbow Flag) for a relaxing day at the beach, where music, games and some snacks will be provided. Bring your towel and beach chair.

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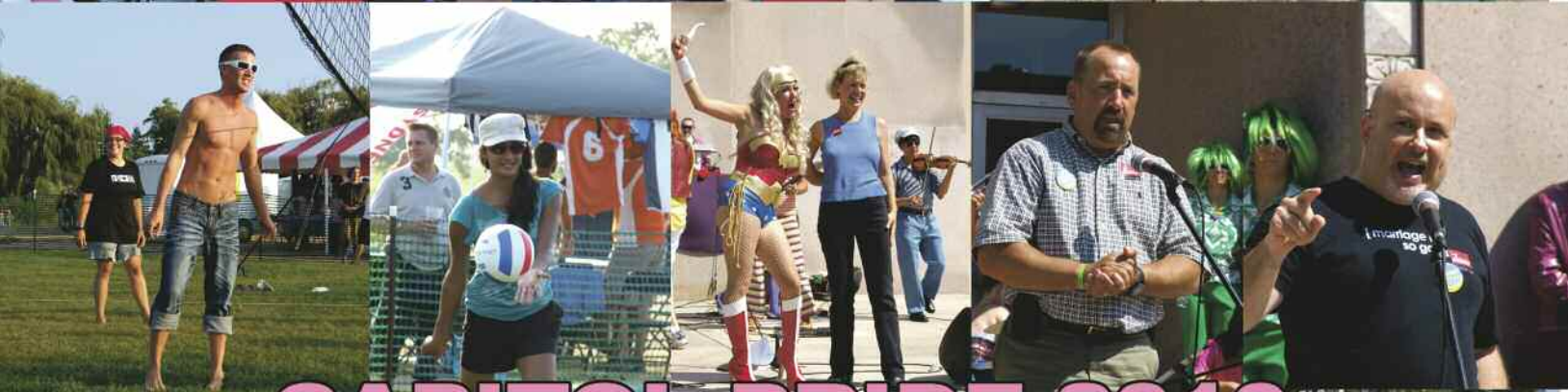
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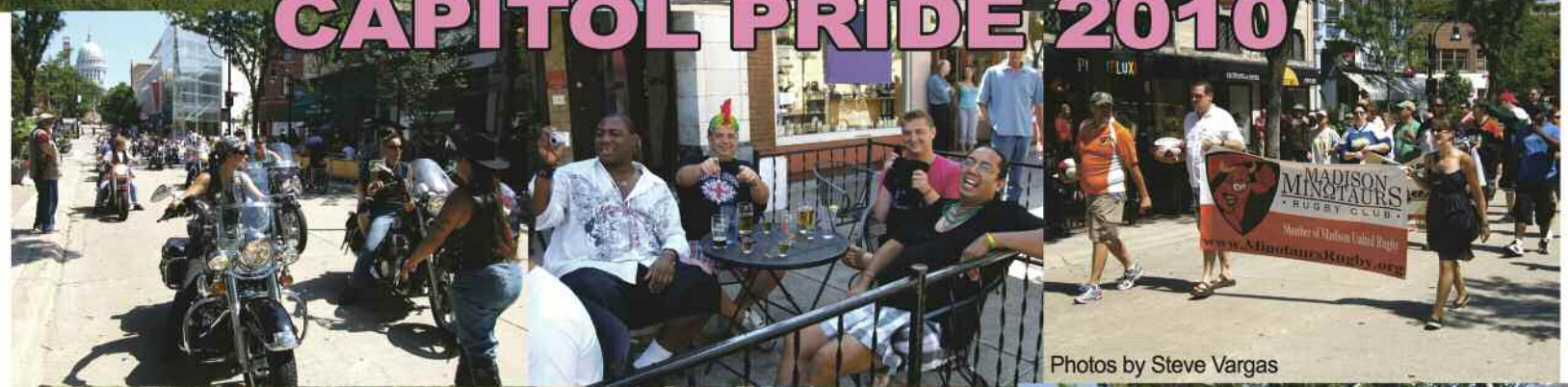
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(An effervescently gay advice columnist) Disclaimer: Although the author of this column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not. Send questions to askunclebarbie@aol.com

DIVERSITY = STRENGTH

Dear Uncle Barbie,

We just completed a workshop on diversity at work. The facilitator tried to emphasize the importance of accommodating all the different cultures, but how can we do that? Is it really practical? Call me an old fart, but I think society has taken the idea of political correctness too far. There is a limit. People seem so afraid of offending another culture. It seems as though our country is going out of its way to make a big deal out of everyone's heritage, especially now that we have our first African American president. I thought this country was supposed to be a melting pot. So, why does our government not encourage people to set aside differences and melt together as one country? That is why we call ourselves the United States, right? --**Signed, Gary**

Hello Gary,

True, our states are united, and, yet we are still all individuals with unique backgrounds. We are one country made up of many cultures. Although being an American is a culture in and of itself, we have numerous sub-cultures that enrich the diversity in the United States. And, I must say, this strengthens our communities, just as diversity in nature strengthens the environment.

I find that nature is a good role model to look to for counsel. When we humans cannot figure out our problems, I believe Mother Nature holds the answers. Homophobia, racism, sexism and other forms of prejudice are examples of what I think of as societal diseases because such attitudes eat away at a community like a cancer. However, when we look to the natural world for direction, we see that in a healthy system, there is a balance of diversity within that system which enables it to be strong and thrive. The same basic type of system exists in our society. We need people of diversity to create a truly balanced environment, be that your work environment or any other social environment.

If a self-contained group of people think and live the same way, and if interactions with people from other cultures and beliefs are excluded, then the system of that closed group soon becomes socially stagnant. This type of singular system or mono-culture experiences little to no growth. What people with intolerant attitudes do not realize is that a community benefits from including diversity into the population. We need each other. To coin a phrase, "The sound of one wing flapping is the sound of a system out of balance." How can a bird fly with only one wing? People from other walks of life can provide different ways of looking at things. A new perspective on life may be just what we need.

Let us take a moment to examine the ways in which the natural world benefits from diversity. Every creature from the largest whale to the smallest bacteria work in (a symbiotic relationship) harmony in order to contribute something that benefits the environment. The bear needs the berries from the plants; the plants need the soil to grow; and the soil needs the bear for fertilizer. Hence, the natural cycle continues to hoop around in an ongoing spiral of circles. We, too, have something to contribute to the world and something to benefit from it.

By utilizing the diversity in the animal kingdom, creatures benefit from one another in an ecological co-existence. Things are balanced. The hawk is a day bird, and the owl is a night bird; the Eagle is aggressive and the dove is peaceful. This type of harmonious system serves to create a healthy stability. (It goes without saying that the world of humans could certainly benefit from this kind of stability and harmonious coexistence.)

It is natural for us to rely on each other because we are part of nature, and nature has designed everything to be interconnected into the web of life. After all, what would a forest be like if there were only one kind of animal, or an ocean if there were but one type of fish, or the sky if only a singular specie of bird existed? I believe there is wisdom in honoring diversity, and not only in our country but throughout the world. I also think you would do well to look to nature as an example of how to live your life. Always stay in touch with the Earth. Remember what God said, "Make Mother Nature proud--or at least less ashamed." (Ok, so, maybe God did not exactly say that, but I am sure She meant to.)

Barefoot Boy, Barbie



Barbie is a pebble in the shoe of the prudish.

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"Dream Boy"

Back in the mid-1990s, mainstream publishing suddenly discovered gay books. Don't know how; don't know why. One such book was Jim Grimsley's poignant coming of age novel, "**Dream Boy**."

At the time, Grimsley's novel was nothing less than an absolute sensation. Think "**Brokeback Mountain**" before "**Brokeback Mountain**" and then substitute a rural Southern high school setting for Big Sky country. Alex Sanchez had yet to introduce his out 'n proud Rainbow Boys; the gay teens in Mark Roeder's "Gay Youth Chronicles" hadn't yet found themselves in peril. Nor had the gay coming of age novel become the sta-



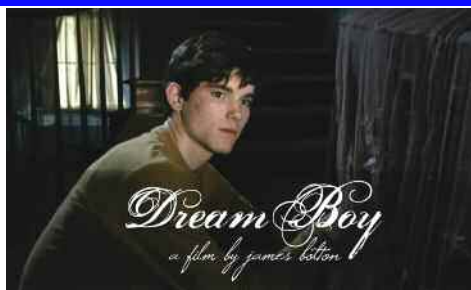
ple (cliché?) of Gay Lit it's become today.

In fact, everyone in Glenn's acquaintance read "**Dream Boy**." Everyone. So, of course, Glenn hastily followed suit.

In "**Dream Boy**," Grimsley introduces Nathan (Stephan Bender), a sensitive (read: gay), painfully shy boy who is starting at a new school. Nathan's family moves around a lot. It seems that Nathan's Daddy has something of a drinking problem. He also sexually abuses his son.

And yet, just possibly, there might be hope for Nathan. In short order he discovers Roy (Max Roeg), the sexy, confident boy next door. Nathan spends an inordinate amount of time each afternoon watching Roy as the lad completes his chores out back. More importantly Roy discovers Nathan. Roy surreptitiously glances at Nathan in the rearview mirror as he drives the school bus each day; his smile broadening as Nathan oh-so tentatively smiles back.

Their innocence, the sim-



plicity of their longing will surely strike a chord with most audiences; certainly for those gay moviegoers who, like Glenn, are gentlemen of a certain age.

No surprise that Roy accepts an offer of help with his English essay. Their hesitant hand-holding as Roy later tutors Nathan with his Algebra homework left Glenn neither surprised nor shocked. After a very short hop, skip and a jump, the two lads are down to their tighty-whities and making out amongst the tombstones in the deserted cemetery located conveniently nearby.

Sadly, Bolton's film here begins to go horribly wrong, veering disturbingly into the world of adolescent soft-core.

Roy proves to be a bit skittish after any expression of affection or physical desire for Nathan; Nathan himself has no such qualms. Yet, unlike so many stories such as this, Roy doesn't shun Nathan at school. Rather, Roy is determined to include Nathan when Roy and his two sexy friends Burke (Randy Wayne) and Randy (Owen Beckman) head off to the local swimming hole; later as the group plans an overnight camping trip.

Still, the course of true love never did run smooth, either in Shakespeare's time or in



Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Grimsley's sparse, lyrical ghost story manages (only just) to elude the worst of the melodramatic excesses of so many Southern Gothic novels. Glenn wishes he could say the same of director James Bolton's cinematic adaptation. There's certainly plenty of blame to toss around. Glenn would most likely want to start with Richard Buckner's ponderous, mind-numbing score. Equally mind-numbing visually is Sarah Levy's cinematography which offers clouds: clouds at sunset, clouds at sunrise; storm clouds looming on the horizon, etc. Clouds, clouds and more clouds.

But ultimately the lion share of blame rests entirely on James Bolton's shoulders for his slavish devotion to Grimsley's novel. Scenes straight from the novel tumble forth, one after another, albeit lacking Grimsley's evocative storytelling which skillfully brought his characters, particularly Nathan and Roy, to life. Nor does Bolton's screenplay offer his young cast members much help. Looking to the novel for dialogue, what often proved picaresque on the page emerges as painfully stilted on-screen: "Please, ma'am, I was hoping you might let Nathan go out riding with me tonight... We won't be out too late. I'll bring him back by eleven o'clock." Vaguely set in the 1970s, "**Dream Boy**" often feels as if time-warped back to the 1950s.

For the film's first 40 minutes or so, audiences might well become swept up in Nathan and Roy's burgeoning relationship by filling in for themselves details otherwise missing. Most in Glenn's devoted focus group managed to do so. The film's extraordinary concluding section is, however, another matter entirely. Here the sexual abuse subplot, never properly fleshed out, dominates before the film spirals totally out of control with a cinematic flourish of rape, murder and resurrection. Many readers found Grimsley's conclusion of "**Dream Boy**" to be both frustrating and unsatisfying. Glenn suspects that moviegoers won't be any happier when the final credits roll.

Just the facts...

"**Dream Boy**" has a running time of 90 minutes and is available on DVD with a SRP of \$24.99. Diana Scarwid, Nathan's mom, is surely best known for playing Joan Crawford's wayward daughter Christina in "**Mommie Dearest**." Blink and you're likely to miss Rickie Lee Jones as Roy's mom.

very many gay films; nor does it here.

In the novel Roy's girlfriend Emily (Tricia Mara) is a female rival never met but rarely absent from Nathan's thoughts. In the film she's brought front and center. Perhaps Bolton felt a flesh and blood Emily necessary to establish Roy's initial heterosexual credentials. Or perhaps Bolton merely wished to include the inevitably cringeworthy scene where poor Emily begins to sense that her boyfriend has lost interest in her.

Still, this is merely the first in a nearly unceasing sequence of increasingly cringeworthy scenes as Nathan's dad (Thomas Jay Ryan) starts up again with his "interfering ways" and later Nathan must pay the price for the sin of seducing Roy.



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