

Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 18 Years

QUEST

Volume 18 Issue 6 April 28 - May 11, 2011

A FOND FAREWELL TO **MARIA CADENAS**

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MOVES ON
AND CCF ANNOUNCES A NEW INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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YOU ARE THE LINK TO STOP BULLYING

Photos courtesy Arketype, Inc.
Story by Mark Mariucci aka Za



When Joey Taylor first contacted me at Quest, I only knew him as that guy who worked at the salon where I get my hair cut. Dan Savage had just released his "It Get's Better" Youtube campaign. Joey was inspired and wanted to do something similar. My first gut reaction I must admit was to think "here is another kid with wonderful ideas that aren't going anywhere."

Something was different this time though. I am not sure if it was Joey's unbridled enthusiasm or the flashback to my childhood where I remembered that every single day of junior high and high school I was subjected to bullying. Perhaps it was both.

Joey's idea was much bigger in scale than just aiming a webcam and uploading a four minute video to the "It Get's Better" website. I knew as he asked me for help that it was more than he or

I could manage alone. I pointed Joey to friends of mine at the award winning advertising agency Arketype Inc.

After a meeting was set up with Jim Rivett and Shelly Young, things began to move very fast. Joey and Arketype planned out a video shoot and website. The concept grew to include not only gay bullying but all bullying. Making a video is one thing, but getting it into schools and on the air is entirely another major step. Arketype had the resources and connections to make this possible.

After many meetings a video shoot was set up. The date chosen was Martin Luther King Day. The location would be the Weidner Center for Performing Arts on the UWGB Campus. MLK day was chosen on purpose. Since 2006 Arketype and all its employees have created posters and delivered onsite programs to local school children featuring anti-bullying, diversity and respect messages. This year, the video shoot would take over that effort.

In the middle of a January snowstorm on Martin Luther King Day, more than a hundred thirty individuals met on the UWGB campus to tell thier stories and be in the shoot. For Quest's involvement, I was thrilled to shoot still photographs of everyone participating. Other

"I want the young people that feel bullied today to know that it gets better. Tomorrow is a new day and there are many community resources to lend support.

We just need to speak up. No one has to feel alone,"

Joey Taylor

camera crews were on hand for behind the scenes shots and of course the main video shooting on the Weidner stage.

Many have joined this effort, contributing generous in-kind and cash donations, including Ames Production Services, Arketype Inc., Harmony Café, a program of Goodwill NCW, Kavarna Coffeehouse, Salon BBN (Beauty by Nature), SAM & RUBY, Savvy's Pizza & Italian Cuisine, Union Congregational Church, Weidner Center Presents, Quest Magazine and a donation through Cream City Foundation in my name courtesy of Joe Pabst.

Today perhaps because of the publicity over the recent teen suicides, most people are aware





bullying at school is a pervasive problem that affects millions of students each year. Perhaps you were not aware that it has been going on for decades and it appears that finally there is a nationwide effort to confront this.

In the U.S., 21% of elementary schools, 43% of middle schools, and 22% of high schools reported problems with bullying during the school year according to the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 2005-06 school year.

Bullying Creates a Climate of Fear and disrespect in schools and has a negative impact on student learning. It can Lead to Criminal Behaviors and has been linked with serious school violence, shootings and hazing incidents. Depression, low self-esteem, health problems, poor grades, and suicidal thoughts are all Short- and Long- Term Effects of bullying.

Brown County's voice in speaking out against bullying will be a new video and website currently being produced pro bono by Arketype.

Original music was contributed by Sam & Ruby. The video's widespread reach will include Viral Efforts such as online video postings and social media sites. The website will be a "Gallery of Stories" that Inspire as well as a place of community, comfort and healing.

Arketype's services are being donated, however funds are needed to cover outside costs, as well as sustain the website, video distribution and viral efforts in the coming months.

A 501(c)(3) organization was established to allow tax-deductible donations. **You can help by giving to Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Attention: Anti-Bullying Video, 310 West Walnut Street, Suite 350 Green bay, WI 54304.**

Coming soon: www.ouchbullyinghurts.com



Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 17 Years

QUEST

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ON MLK DAY JOEY TAYLOR & ARKETYPE TAKE ON BULLYING WITH A NEW VIDEO! AND WEBSITE OUCHBULLYINGHURTS.COM

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FAIR WISCONSIN ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Milwaukee - The Fair Wisconsin Leadership Awards is the annual signature event supporting the Fair Wisconsin Education Fund. In the past, Fair Wisconsin has gathered members of the LGBT community, activists and policy makers, including Governor Jim Doyle, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and State Representative Mark Pocan, to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the advancement of LGBT equality in Wisconsin. This tradition continues with 2011's events.

At both receptions, Fair Wisconsin will honor AFSCME Wisconsin with the Tammy Baldwin Statewide Impact Award. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) of Wisconsin, including Councils 24, 40, and 48, have been one of our earliest and strongest supporters. During the 2006 campaign against the amendment, AFSCME Wisconsin did not hesitate to stand with the LGBT community against discrimination.

When Fair Wisconsin worked to pass domestic partnerships in 2009, AFSCME was again among the first organizations to speak out in support for the critical protections the legislation provides to caring and committed same-sex couples. In 2011, when public employees' collective bargaining right came under attack, it was an opportunity for Fair Wisconsin to return the support and stand with them in solidarity. The resulting coalition created a network of organizations that, many for the first time, actively embraced our LGBT movement.

Milwaukee Leadership Awards reception on May 4th.

Coast Restaurant, 5:30 - 8pm hosted by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele
HONORING: Tammy Baldwin Statewide Impact: AFSCME Wisconsin
ADVOCATE: State Representative JoCasta Zamarripa

Throughout her career, Representative Zamarripa has been a consistent and strong public advocate for LGBT equality, notably during the 2006 marriage amendment campaign. She's been successful at building non-traditional allies and in outreach to communities of color. Last fall she was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly, adding another much-needed pro-fairness voice to our state legislature.

ORGANIZATION: The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is thriving and growing into an

even stronger community resource in their new home in downtown Milwaukee. With their move comes increased visibility and inclusiveness as the Center has now become an essential piece of Milwaukee's cultural core.

ACTIVIST: Helen Boyd

Author of *My Husband Betty and She's Not the Man I Married: My Life with a Transgender Husband*, Helen Boyd is a nationally recognized and trusted voice on issues concerning gender and has championed gender equality for years. She lives in Appleton with her partner Rachel Crowl and teaches gender studies at Lawrence University.

Host: State Representative Mark Pocan

HONORING: Tammy Baldwin Statewide Impact: AFSCME Wisconsin

ADVOCATE: David Fowles

Last August David Fowles, a Green Bay Department of Public Works employee, had the courage to stand before his employer and ask to be treated fairly by requesting for domestic partner health care coverage. The resulting debates drew much-needed attention to the state of LGBT equality in the Fox Valley and across Wisconsin and Fowles is still continuing the fight in Green Bay and pushing for equal treatment from his employer.

ORGANIZATION: First Congregational United Church of Christ

First Congregational has been a longtime leader and an affirming voice that continues to move LGBT inclusion from acceptance to celebration. Under the leadership of the Reverend Curt Anderson, First Congregational has consistently proven itself a role model to other faith communities by developing new and innovative outreach efforts. This past Valentine's Day First Congregational placed a large color ad in the Wisconsin State Journal that prominently featured many LGBT couples along with the message, "We Celebrate All Relationships."

ACTIVIST: Will Van Roosenbeek

Roosenbeek has made it a point to make himself accessible to people on the UW-La Crosse campus. He's been proactive and approachable in educating people about the issues around gender and transitioning. Roosenbeek has been a critically visible leader in this part of the state.

RSVP for the Milwaukee Leadership Awards reception on May 4th or the Madison Leadership Awards reception on June 6th at this address:

https://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35038/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=636

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CREAM CITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Milwaukee - Cream City Foundation has selected Griselda Aldrete as its interim Executive Director. Aldrete is stepping down from the Cream City Foundation's Board of Directors to lend her non-profit expertise to the organization during this time of transition.

Aldrete will oversee the day-to-day operations of the Foundation while a full search for a permanent Executive Director is under way. Her experience includes serving as Director of Corporate Events at UMOS, Inc., a local non-profit in Milwaukee, WI. She is a Criminal Justice instructor at Bryant and Stratton College and worked formerly as a reporter and photographer for ¡Aqui! Milwaukee magazine.

"We are honored to have Griselda assume this interim role," said Jim Schleif, Board President. "This is a dynamic time for us, and her experience in nonprofits, events, media, and social justice will be critical in guiding us in our search for our next Executive Director."

Aldrete will be supported by a new Program Manager, Anahí Sánchez, who will be responsible for leading all aspects of Cream City Foundation's programs, focusing on two primary initiatives – LGBT Youth Homelessness and Project Aging. As the current national co-chair of M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán), Sánchez coordinated its national conference and mobilized LGBT inclusive dialogue and policy.

"Anahí's experience in intersectional analysis, community organizing, and program management will augment the Foundation's leadership in social change philanthropy," said Schleif. "The Foundation is fortunate to have such a strong staff team in place."

Cream City Foundation's Transition Committee, under the leadership of Jim Schleif, will continue its work to oversee a nationwide Executive Director search.

THE BAY VIEW GARDEN & YARD SOCIETY PRESENTS ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL BAY VIEW PLANT SALE

Bayview - The Bay View Garden And Yard Society, in collaboration with the South Shore Farmers' Market and Milwaukee County Parks, will help you kick start your 2011 growing season with its annual Bay View Plant Sale at South Shore Park,

2900 South Shore Drive, on Saturday, June 4 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Blooming in color with Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront as a backdrop, the Bay View Plant Sale hosts a variety of local, commercial plant vendors with hundreds of beautiful, quality plants; including annuals and perennials, hanging baskets, ornamental trees and shrubs, vegetables and herbs, some of the best exotic heirloom favorites, and tropical plants. Delicious bakery, food items, and coffee will also be available for sale. The Society members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about gardening.

Formed in 1995, the Bay View Garden And Yard Society has been committed to beautifying yards and public gardens in the Bay View community, including the development and maintenance of the Village Roots Community Garden, the WWII Memorial Garden on Kinnickinnic, the Lincoln-Howell-KK Triangle Garden, the Pryor Avenue Well, and the Fire Department Engine House on KK.

For more information about the group, plus updates on Plant Sale sponsors and vendors, look on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BVGAYS

7TH ANNUAL SPRING FLING HONORS GLBT MILITARY AND VETERANS

Milwaukee - SAGE (Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elder)/Milwaukee's popular and "oh, so fun" Spring Fling is back, and it will be better than ever! Help celebrate the end of DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell). This year's theme is "Do Ask, Do Tell - Honoring our GLBT Military and Veterans." Party-goers are encouraged to wear their military uniforms, medals or ribbons in celebration of GLBT patriotism. Whether or not you served and whether in uniform or wrapped in "the red, white and blue" or saucy civilian togs just come and look your beautiful self.! For those choosing to socialize AND dance, you'll find the music varied and inclusive.

Spring Fling is still only \$15 per person. Finger foods/snacks, soft drinks, celebration cake and other novelties are included. Your favorite cocktail will be available for cash purchase.

A special event at this year's soiree is a silent auction with proceeds to benefit SAGE/Milwaukee. One of the highlights of the evening is crowning the SAGE/Milwaukee Spring Fling King and Queen. The Regal Pair will represent SAGE/Milwaukee in the Pride Parade this Summer.

The "gay-la" will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 5pm-9pm. MONA's--Milwaukee's Out n About, 1407 South First Street, will again graciously host. Spring Fling tickets are available through the SAGE office (414)224-0517, SAGE/Milwaukee Social Events Committee Members or at the door.

FORMER TRIANGLE MANAGER DIES

Charles D. Pelishek

October 1, 1968 – April 9, 2011



"Chuck" "Chuckie" Charles D. Pelishek, left his family and friends at the age of 43 on April 9, 2011. Beloved son and friend of Dori and the late Charles Pelishek, dear brother and friend of Susan and her husband Brian.

Chuck was known in the community as a bartender/bar manager at the Triangle. He resigned his position at the Triangle due to ongoing medical conditions and dearly missed his daily contact with his friends and the community. Some may remember him from many years ago when he bartended at Cest La Vie and the Bootcamp.

His upbeat personality experienced by the people who came in contact with him would have been hard to understand if you knew the physical suffering he was going through. Through it all, he met his suffering head on, every day and did not let it destroy his life. He was still able to be a wonderful son, an ideal brother, an endearing friend and an all around fabulous person.

Raise a glass and toast his life, as he celebrated his life every day and be thankful he has touched your life.

You have been so brave and we will miss you terribly – I miss you Chuckie,

Sincerely,
Your friend and brother,
--Jim Crom

2011 PRIDEFEST MEDAL RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Milwaukee - The PrideFest Board of Directors announced recipients of the 2011 PrideFest Medal. The prestigious award recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have made a significant contribution to the LGBT community.

This year's awardees recognize Maria Cadenas, Cream City Foundation's departing executive director and Diverse and Resilient.

Maria Cadenas, Cream City Foundation's Executive Director

Maria Cadenas became executive director in spring of 2005. PrideFest recognizes her significant contribution to the betterment of Wisconsin's LGBT community through her exemplary dedication and commitment.

During her six-year tenure, Cream City Foundation (CCF) has moved forward in two significant ways. The organization has changed its mission statement and has expanding its funding. Founded with a mission to support existing LGBT non-profit organizations, CCF decided to rethink its strategy and focus its efforts on the LGBT struggle for equality. Rather than merely provided funding to organizations, CCF became an active part of the movement.

"Building CCF is not for its own but for the sake of funding the movement. Before its purpose was to fund non-profits, now it's a catalyst for change. The core is social change funding to generate equality. I guess that's why I'm proud of CCF because it's about the community," Cadenas said.

Through Cadenas' efforts, CCF's second achievement has been in the expansion of funding. She created seven new donor advisement funds and three targeted funds. The targeted funds include the Arts and Culture Fund, Sports Fund and the John Cowles Fund. The latter is directed to LGBT youth.

"I don't think we recognize the value of sports and arts in our community. Because they're not political, they've been completely ignored. They shouldn't be. They, more than the groups that are insular, build the community. We have to remember we are a movement for equality. That's why sports and arts are important. They bring people together and people are the movement. PrideFest is a great event not because of the entertainment but because it's a community event," Cadenas said.

Over the six years of Cadenas' leadership, CCF has directly distributed over \$720,000 to local LGBT entities. Adding the developed partnership with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to finalize matching funds from a national project, Cadenas' efforts have brought an additional \$200,000 to LGBT programs.

Diverse & Resilient

Diverse and Resilient, Milwaukee's capacity building organization, has long been a proponent of the healthy development of Wisconsin's LGBT people. Its partnership with PrideFest created the PrideFest Health and Wellness Area in 2007.

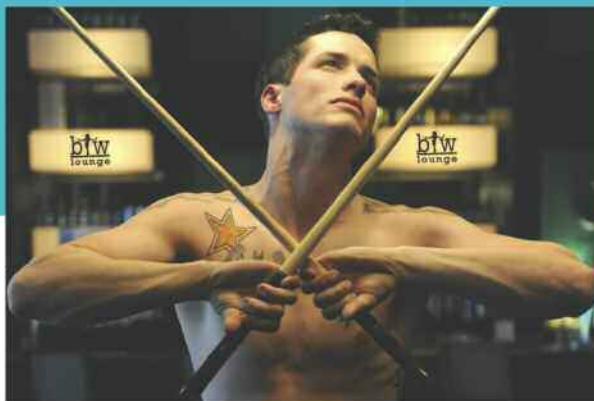
The PrideFest Medal recognizes Diverse & Resilient's fifth year anniversary of the PrideFest Health and Wellness Area. Diverse & Resilient's PrideFest Health & Wellness Committee has developed cadre of community-based LGBT organizations. Its focus is to



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promote a healthy LGBT lifestyle and to increase visibility of available health related choices. The ever-expanding Health & Wellness Area promotes positive behaviors, health awareness as well as encourages healthy lifestyle choices. This unique project reaches out to the over 30,000 people who attend PrideFest annually.

Health and Wellness sponsors include a broad spectrum of LGBT and non-LGBT organizations. These include FORGE, the LGBT Community Center, Bestd Clinic, and ARCW. Participants range from athletic groups to arts groups. All receive exhibition space at no cost. The only requirements are that they represent a mental or physical health related objective and provide interactive engagement with the Health & Wellness Area visitors.

Visitors might find one participant giving out apples, bottled water and other health foods while another distributes safer sex accessories. Interactive art, senior exercise and volleyball might be other activities PrideFest attendees can enjoy at the Health & Wellness Area. The Health and Wellness Stage presents demonstrations from food preparation to belly dancing. HIV testing and smoking cessation booths are also available.

In all, Diverse & Resilient brings together dozen of individuals, groups and organizations to creatively showcase Milwaukee's robust, viable and, above all, healthy LGBT community.

The PrideFest Medal

In honor of PrideFest's 20th Anniversary in 2007, the PrideFest board of directors voted to institute a special award, the PrideFest Medal for Outstanding Service to the LGBT Community and the PrideFest Medal for Corporate Community Service. These awards honor an individual and a corporation respectively for outstanding service to the community.

PrideFest board member and executive director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, Paul Masterson designed the medal. Chris Jensen of C-3 Design, official PrideFest jeweler, fabricates the medal.



Made of sterling silver and enamel, the medal depicts three symbolic elements: the pink triangle supported by hands and six pillars. Each pillar has an enamel center representing the LGBT rainbow colors. It is worn suspended from a red neck ribbon.

In the center, the pink triangle represents our past and present persecution. It is held aloft by the hands of past victims and present activists as both a warning and as a sign of courage.

The lower pillars support the triangle. They symbolize diversity to be joined. They are our strength, resolve and commitment. Supported by the pink triangle, the upper pillars align as a buttress. Together, they create unity to effect our equality.

The red ribbon symbolizes our martyrs. They are the countless known and unknown victims of hatred throughout our past history as well as those, like Matthew Shepard, who have perished in more recent times. Their memory calls on us to continue our struggle against intolerance to achieve justice and equality.

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RAP LEGENDS SALT-N-PEPA TO HEADLINE PRIDEFEST

Trailblazing Duo take Miller Mainstage on Saturday June 11



Milwaukee - When you speak of "firsts" you can't help but mention this rap music duo sensation. They were the first all-female rap crew. They had the first rap song to be nominated for a Grammy. As one of the first rap groups to cross over into pop mainstream, they helped to lay the groundwork for the music's widespread acceptance in the early 1990's. They paved the way for the likes of TLC, En Vogue, and others. This June 11, They also will become the first rap group to perform as headliners at PrideFest.

Cheryl James and Sandy Denton, otherwise known as Salt-N-Pepa, not only were "firsts", they were pioneers who showed the industry that women were more than just window dressing or a gimmick. In the process, they sold over 15 million albums and singles worldwide, won a Grammy Award, and had six of their singles certified either platinum or gold.

Emerging in the late 1980s with "Show Stopper," (with producer Hurby "Luvbug" Azor), Salt-N-Pepa established a standard with their string of hits, including "Push It," "Shake Your Thang," "Shoop," and "Whatta Man," as well as their socially responsible mega hit, "Let's Talk About Sex," which catapulted them to the forefront of the national discussion about safe sex and AIDS. It was re-written as "Let's Talk about AIDS," for a PSA in 1992, and proceeds benefited the TJ Martell Foundation for AIDS Research and The National Minority AIDS Council.

Having just recently come off the Hip Hop Legends tour, Salt-N-Pepa will be debuting their full headline show at PrideFest.

"This is the first headlining Rap act in the history of PrideFest" said PrideFest Entertainment Director David Charpentier. "And what a way to do it than with the best selling female rap act of all time."

Their first album, "Hot, Cool & Vicious," had three hits, including "Push It," which sold more than a million copies and became the first rap song to be nominated for a Grammy. Deejay Spinderella (Deidre "Dee Dee" Roper) joined

them for their second album, "A Salt with a Deadly Pepa" featuring "Shake Your Thang," with go-go band EU. "Blacks' Magic" was next, featuring "Expression," which was the first single ever produced by Cheryl. It spent eight weeks at the top of the rap charts and went gold.

Salt-N-Pepa's fourth album, "Very Necessary," was released in 1993 with such memorable hits as "Shoop," and "Whatta Man," in which they teamed with the ladies from En Vogue. But it was "None of Your Business," which captured the 1995 Grammy for Best Rap Performance, before

their split in 1997 to focus on personal issues.

In 2007, VH-1's "The Salt-N-Pepa Show" chronicled events in the lives of the ladies as they returned to the recording studio. On October 12, 2010, Salt-N-Pepa received the "I Am Hip Hop Award" at the Bet Hip Hop Awards, and by February of this year, they embarked on a national tour entitled Salt N Pepa's Legends of Hip Hop Tour.

Salt-n-Pepa will perform at PrideFest on Saturday, June 11 on the Miller Lite Mainstage. For more information, and tickets, please visit www.pridefest.com.

Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival

Thursday, May 5, 7pm \$5



KABOOM

Equal parts **randy sex comedy** and **apocalyptic thriller**, the new film from **Gregg Araki** (*The Living End*, *The Doom Generation*, *Mysterious Skin*) tells the story of **Smith**, an **ambisexual 18 year-old cinema studies major**, who **stumbles upon a monstrous conspiracy**.

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PLAY BALL!

SSBL softball season opens May 7

By Paul Masterson

Milwaukee - Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League opens its 2011 season May 7 at Wilson Park on the city's south side. Opening Day begins with a Skills Clinic at 10am with games to follow from 11am to 4pm.

According to SSBL, this season's roster will expand by five for a total of 15 teams. That represents a 50% increase over last year's number. Some teams are back in the roster after sitting out a season, others appear for the first time. Local bars Kruz, Walker's Pint, Charlie's, DIX as well as Woof's from Madison are now sponsoring teams in the 2011 line up. They represent both Competitive and Recreational level teams.

"It's incredible to see all the new teams. The increase makes for a busy day at Wilson Park. We'll be playing 14 games each Saturday of play," SSBL assistant commissioner Peter Nys said.



The league has also announced a new position, public relations director, for the SSBL board. Mark Hare was nominated and elected to fill the new role. His duties include SSBL website maintenance and monitoring the league's social network presence.

SSBL also continues its volunteer work as Miller Park concession volunteers. The league raises much needed funds for operating costs and to host its yearly tournament. The income allows SSBL complete financial independence.

The Dairyland Classic

The city's famed annual tournament, the Dairyland Classic (DLC), returns again this year. The traditional end of summer event attracts dozens of gay softball teams from across the nation and Canada. The 2011 DLC takes place September 2-5.

As featured last year, the DLC will conclude with closing ceremonies and street bash.

More information for teams and members may be found at <http://www.ssblmilwaukee.com/> and on SSBL's Facebook page.



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THE DATING DIET By Anthony Paull *The Sluuuuuuurp*

Hi, I'm Anthony Paull. I'm punk rock, and I'm with the press, but dear God, I'm not supposed to take a picture of Jake Gyllenhaal's crotch at the SXSW press conference for *Source Code*. Well...actually, I'm given two minutes to take Jake's pic, but I need to keep the camera at eye level. After all, that's most professional, and I wouldn't want to blur any boundaries. Not like that brave, yet tacky, press member who followed Jake into the bathroom to photograph his penis. Why, that foul man, he ended up a TMZ 'star', rolling in gold. And I ended up...here.

Hi, I have no money. Last year, I broke up with boyfriend, the love of my life, because I wanted to make it on my own, but I never could figure out the right method, at least financially. So a year later, through a series of twists and turns, we ended up back together, and I'm still broke. But hey, at least I have my ethics. However, my crew – let's just say they're lacking in that department, particularly when it comes to meeting Jake. For instance, take my camera girl, Jessica. For some reason, she wants to snap a picture of Jake with some paper doll called Flat Stanley. And my assistant, Skip...well, I'd rather *not* know what he wants because he keeps making strange sucking sounds, particularly when eyeballing Jake at the conference.

"Can I ask Jake a question? Please?" Skip asks me.

"That depends. What's the question?"

"Sluuuuuuurp."

"That's not a question."

"It *could* be."

Such statements are why I no longer allow my crew to drink before a work obligation. You see, it's never good to mix celebrities and cheap vodka. But I suppose, these are things one can only learn through trial and error, after suffering the fate of having an assistant simulate oral sex during a press conference.

"Skip, I need you to listen to me. We're *working*," I explain. "I'm serious. You can't proposition the celebrities."

Overhearing, Jessica begins tee-heeing. "I think it's funny." Taking the Flat Stanley doll from her purse, she dances him on her knee.



"Do you think I should ask Jake if he likes to play with dolls?"

"Not if you like your job."

"Why? Celebrities love Flat Stanley. He's an A-Lister," she sings. And sadly, she's right. Whether at SXSW or Sundance, that stupid doll has been in more pics than me. But that's ok because I'm supposed to be 'working'.

So I'm off, interviewing celebrities, musicians, and directors while Jessica returns to the hotel, held up by a hangover. A Starbucks trip later, she phones to tell me she accidentally gave Flat Stanley to a homeless man, who was asking for money. "He was folded in my pocket with my cash," she cries. "I let him go!"

"Um, I'm trying to interview the drummer of HOLE," I mumble.

"Oh, get over yourself. THIS is more important!"

Hence, an hour later, we join together, along with Skip, to scour the streets for the man who has Flat Stanley. Of course, he's nowhere to be found, resulting in a meltdown for Jessica, who can only be aided by, well...more vodka.

Yes, I know; I don't learn from my mistakes. I'm supposed to be working, figuring out a way to make a living as a full-time writer, and here I am, drinking in a bar with Jessica and Skip until 2 am, when we hitch a cab to the hotel with some drunken stranger, who squeezes in between Skip and me in the back seat. Soon, I hear whispers as the strange man reaches for Skip's hand. Offended, Skip groans loudly.

"What's going on back there?" Jessica asks, seated up front.

"Skip's a fucking queer! Skip's a fucking queen!" the drunken guy yells.

"Now, that's not very nice," Jessica replies.

"Well, Skip wasn't very nice to me. I offered him *many* things!"

"Sorry, but I don't think my boyfriend *Jake* would appreciate such things," Skip states.

"Oh yeah? Well, *my* boyfriend would appreciate them either!" the drunken guy exclaims.

To which, I start groaning, because none of this is making sense – my life, my career, this 'cab ride' conversation, steering out of control.

Dear God, where am I heading? With my writing, I'm beginning to feel like I'm typing in circles, forever on the verge of making it, but never quite making it enough. I have one novel on the shelf, and one that I have to completely rewrite. When will I be taken seriously? When will I take myself seriously? I'm running out of time. My fellow writers, they're racing around the festival, discovering the latest film, the latest star, and I'm blacking out at the hotel. Why did this happen?

"Well, there's no question about it. Flat Stanley is gone," Jessica says. Back at the hotel, she turns out the light and flips on her stomach to sleep. "I lost him."

"Yeah, and I lost half my chances to work the red carpet," I sigh.

"Hey, at least you found a story," she says. "Who cares about the red carpet? Your readers don't give a crap. They want to hear about *you*."

"Yeah, you *and* Jake's penis," Skip adds.

And falling asleep, I can't help but laugh, thinking it might be a blessing to feel 'sucky' about where I am in life, because sometimes, the best of times happen when you're drowning in it. You just have to learn how to enjoy the sluuuuuuurp.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN CENTER FOR AIDS INTERVENTION RESEARCH (CAIR) TO SPONSOR CONFERENCE ON MAY 16 WITH NATIONAL EXPERTS ON HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AMONG BLACK GAY OR BISEXUAL MEN

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin will sponsor a day-long conference in Milwaukee that will feature presentations and discussions by several of the country's leading research authorities in the field of HIV prevention among African American gay and bisexual men. The conference, "Moving Forward: The Next Generation of HIV Prevention Programs for Black Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM)" is free and open to professionals, volunteers, and interested community members.

Throughout the United States, Black gay and bisexual men are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports have focused attention on the rising HIV rates among Black MSM in Milwaukee. These disparities are due to multiple social, economic, cultural, behavioral, and health factors, and the conference will include presentations by nationally-recognized researchers who have developed models for more effective HIV prevention for racial minority gay or bisexual men. CAIR is sponsoring the Moving Forward event as a re-

source to the community and to organizations in the Midwest working to develop new HIV prevention programs for Black MSM.

The Moving Forward conference will bring to Milwaukee: David Malebranche, M.D., MPH., Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory University (who will speak on "The Role of Masculinity and Gender Role Conflict in the Lives and Sexual Behavior of Black MSM"); John Peterson, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Georgia State University ("HIV Sexual Risks Among US African American MSM: Addressing Effects of Social Oppression and Influences of Social Networks"); Robert Miller, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the School of Social Welfare at University of New York-Albany ("African American Gay Men, Spirituality and HIV Disease: How Do We Manage?"); and Sheldon Fields, R.N., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Rochester ("Project YEAH: HIV Prevention Research for Young MSM of Color").

The Moving Forward conference will take place from 8:30 until 4:00 on Monday, May 16 at the Ital-

ian Community Center located at 631 East Chicago Street in Milwaukee. Lunch will be provided, and the conference is approved for continuing education credit for physicians, psychologists, and allied health professionals. There is no charge for attending the conference, which is being supported by CAIR. However, attendees are requested to advance register by May 9. Interested persons can register online at www.mcw.edu/cair/2011conference.htm or can contact Kevin Brown at kdbrown@mcw.edu with questions or for more information.

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research at MCW is one of five HIV prevention research centers in the United States funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. CAIR's missions are the development of improved ways to prevent HIV infection, the development of new approaches to improve the health of persons affected by HIV/AIDS, and disseminating its research findings to service providers in the United States and throughout the world so they directly benefit from CAIR's work.

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bookworm sez by Terri Schlichenmeyer

"Concierge Confidential"

by Michael Fazio with Michael Malice
c.2011, St. Martin's Press
\$24.99 / \$28.99 Canada 271 pages

Some people, well, you'd do anything for them.

The sweet older lady next door calls for a favor and you go running. Your nephew bats those baby blues and you'd buy out the toy store for him. If she asked, you'd dig ditches for a beloved former boss, and all your mom has to do is crook her finger for you to be at her service.

Is serving what you do best? Could you do it for a living? Read the new book **"Concierge Confidential"** by Michael Fazio (with Michael Malice) and you'll think twice before answering.

When Charlie Sheen called and asked if the boss was in, Michael Fazio was barely fazed. Fazio figured it would be a small step from agency assistant to "the next big Hollywood movie mogul" and a good mogul isn't impressed with fame.

But Fazio's job at The Liberty Agency didn't so much include hob-nobbing with the stars as it did taking care of his boss, Glennis. He soon learned that keeping her happy meant plugging in her curlers and making coffee before she got to work. Caring for her was, oddly, something Fazio enjoyed doing.

After another brief assistant's job and a gig playing piano on a cruise ship, Fazio and his part-

ner, Jeffrey, moved to Manhattan. Though Fazio was initially unemployed, he quickly found a job at the InterContinental Hotel on 48th Street, where he learned that his unique strengths would best be put to use as a concierge.

A good concierge, like a good business person, has lots of contacts to call upon for favors. He (or she) excels at making the impossible possible. Though celebrities and millionaires are the concierge's typical clients, anyone staying at a hotel with a concierge can use the services offered.

Fazio writes about finding yachts for his clients, as well as tickets to sold-out concerts, reservations to jam-packed restaurants and night clubs, and yes, even the unconventional. He writes about good tipplers, bad eateries, ugly situations, and how he survived them all.

Going on vacation this summer? Check this book out before you leave.

"Concierge Confidential" includes the dishiest stories of wealth and celebrity, as well as a wealth of tips on star treatment and getting the best results from your hotel stay.

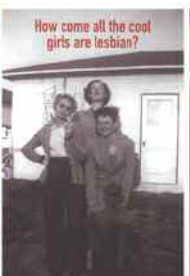
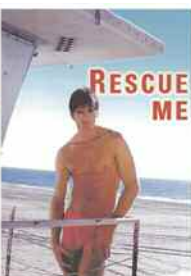
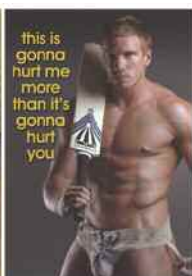
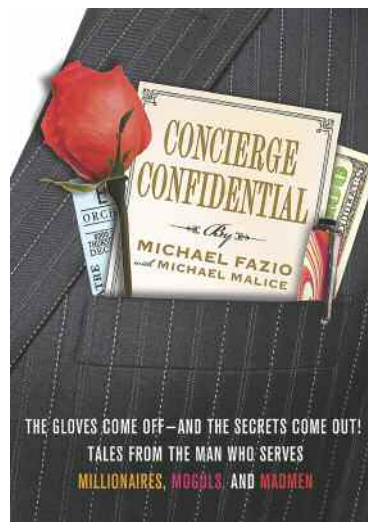


Authors Michael Fazio and Michael Malice don't stop there, though. They explain what a concierge does, where you'll find one, and how to get what you need (hint: being a jerk won't impress anybody). In between

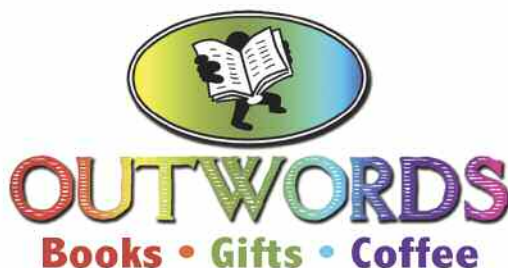
lessons, you'll be regaled by tales of Hollywood and Broadway, challenges and chefs, businessmen and bubbleheads, hissy-fitting stars and hustling scammers, and the rich and famous.

And then, if your hotel doesn't have a devoted concierge, you'll learn how to schmooze tickets, reservations, and admission on your own.

It's hard not to love something that so effortlessly entertains, and "Concierge Confidential" does just that. If you're heading for holiday, or if you're just up for a light, fun, privy look at leisure and luxury, you should do anything to get this book.



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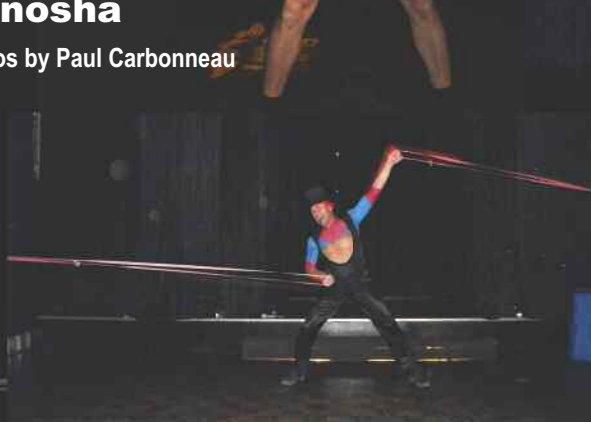
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Miss Wisconsin North America At Large at Club ICON, Kenosha

Photos by Paul Carbonneau





invites you to Spring Fling

"Do Ask, Do Tell—Honoring our GLBT Military and Veterans"



**Saturday, May 14 from 5pm - 9pm
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1407 S First St. Milwaukee
Tickets \$15 per person**

includes finger foods/snacks, soda, celebration cake
and other novelties, silent auction and dancing.
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7th annual Spring Fling Queen & King will be crowned at the event

This year's theme is: "Do Ask, Do Tell—Honoring our GLBT Military
and Veterans." Join in the festivities by wearing your uniform, medals,
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SAGE/Milwaukee Social Events Committee Members or at the door

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MUSIC AND THEATRE ARTS

TRUE BEAUTY

D Alexander Takes a Stand

By Max Jiminez

D Alexander has noticed a big change in the music industry since he began recording four years ago. In the beginning, producers tried to force him to become a mainstream pop artist. Fearing his music would lose its essence, D Alexander resolved to remain true to his artistry even if it meant never achieving high record sales. "I told the producers they can keep their money, cars, and chicks, just give me a mic and some glitter."

He sees other musicians following a similar path. "Artists are finally taking a stand against the industry. I, for one, am relieved that I have remained true to my principals. The freedom to express myself honestly is what makes me feel beautiful."

Beautiful happens to be the name of D Alexander's first single, on i-Tunes now.

It used to be that being gay was a career killer. Is that not true anymore?

Today, an artist remaining in the closet is more of a career killer than coming out is. As artists, it is our duty to publically expose our diaries. If fans find out that we have been deceiving them, they will question the art form that is supposed to be our truth.



Is it easier for young artists to come out as gay today?

It is much easier. There is something of a revolution taking place in today's music industry. As a generation, we are taking a stand and fighting for our rights. Nothing is off limits.

How have releases like Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" and Ke\$ha's "We Are Who We Are" impacted the world's feelings about the LGBT community?

I started to tear up the first time I saw the video for "Born This Way." I could not believe that we had finally arrived. Many

songs have danced around the subject without entirely bringing it home but Gaga's lyrics are so bold and her message is so clear. It's fantastic to hear the song playing on mainstream radio and television.

Do you feel Elton John and Ricky Martin waited too long to come out?

No, it was a different time then. I commend their courage. The more closets that get cleaned out, the easier it becomes for us to be fearless.

What gave you the courage to stand up to the music industry suits?

I did it pre-Glee, way before it was popular to be out and proud. I used to feel lost and unsure about what I should write about. Once I figured out who I was, my musical mission became clear. Instead of worrying about what people thought, I began to write about everything I was feeling. Instead of keeping those private thoughts locked away in a journal, I brought them forth. They have been some of my best works yet.

"Beautiful" seems to suggest that beauty comes with maturity.

Beauty comes with honesty, most importantly honesty with yourself; the ability to be comfortable in your own skin. In a way, maturity plays a role in this discovery because it is ultimately life's hurdles that point our internal compasses in the right direction.

What do you hope fans take away from your music?

Art is indefinable. I hope my music will allow fans to take whatever they need to from it.

What should fans know about the next generation of emerging musicians?

We represent the future of freedom. We are the freak buried deep within the most conservative mind. That wild animal that erupts only when the lights are off and we are alone. We have to stop giving a shit about what people think. We are a generation of beautifully insane youth. Get ready for the takeover.

D Alexander is on MySpace:

<http://www.myspace.com/dalexandertakesover>

FADE IN

The Return of Kristine W

By Charlie Rockafort

When Kristine W released *Straight up with a Twist* last year, her first jazz album, some assumed it meant an end to her reign as dance music queen. Kristine, had no plans to fade away from the clubland that adores her, and she proves it this month with the release of her new single, a blazing dance track - "Fade".

We're excited that you're releasing a new dance single!

"Fade" is about the people in our lives that will always be a part of our tapestry. They put their stamp on you and no matter what happens, they're always with you. I'm releasing the track on my Grandpa's birthday - who would have been 100 this year. He was a wonderful man who will never fade away from me.

It's your 16th release to the dance clubs.

Can you believe it? Fingers crossed for another #1.

After you released your jazz album, there were rumors you were leaving dance. Did you truly entertain the idea of moving from dance to jazz?

Never. The jazz album was something my dance fans had been asking for. I just did what I was asked to do. But leave dance? Never.

How do jazz fans compare to dance music fans?

They're more similar than I imagined! You know, I find all music fans to be enthusiastic. Music across genres has the same effect: it connects with people's souls.

How is it to be a woman in music?

My mom was a musician. She was an uber-glamorous woman and fans loved her but she had a hard time being taken seriously. I remember her struggling to gain respect.

Times have gotten better. Today, women in music are starting their own labels and releasing their own records. They're taking control of their music careers.

That's what you did.

Walking away from the major label system was a hard decision. I was so used to the idea that you had to be signed to a label to be a true artist. Times have changed. The majors are struggling to survive, which, of course, is sad but it's also opened the opportunity for artists to make it on their own.

It has forced artists to become business people.

That's true. It's now up to the artist to find the right producers, remixers and marketing team. It's a lot of work, but there's a certain freedom in taking over the steering wheel of your destiny.

Today, you're the longest reigning dance queen.

I never imagined I'd be around this long. I have such a passion for music, especially dance music. It's a tough business but every time I get knocked down, I get back up because I love it.

What's next for you?

We are working on the #1s album. I've been blessed with so many #1s, it will be a double cd set!

Visit www.Kristinew.com.



Photo by
Korby Banner

Two to Go @ the Boulevard

A review by Paul Masterson

The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre concludes its 25th Silver Anniversary season with *Two to Go*, a pair of 1930's era, one act plays by a pair of gay playwrights, George Bernard Shaw's *A Village Wooing* and Thornton Wilder's *The Pullman Car Hiawatha*.

In a typically Boulevardian quirk, artistic director Mark Bucher places the scene today, in a Milwaukee community college schoolroom. The set is replete with chalkboard and patriotic portraits of Washington, Lincoln and Governor Walker. The instructor vies with the classic classroom full of intellectually impoverished, testosterone inspired class clowns and their female counterparts. The instructor introduces the play and hands out parts to his reluctant cast. He invokes a bust of Shakespeare to become the conduit for Thalia to transform the calamity into the world of stage comedy.

A Village Wooing opens the evening with all the brilliance and charm Shaw can offer. This terse exercise begins with the coincidental cruise ship meeting of *He* (Michael Keiley), a travel guide

writer, and *She* (Liv Mueller), a village shop assistant. Their smart and well-timed repartee pits the rather stodgy and effete *He* against the sincerely honest and practical *She*. The action moves to the shop where she works. There they meet again. The epic lovers' duel ensues with all its English finesses, logical and illogical twists and turns when finally...well, you should attend to find out how it all ends.

Keiley and Mueller make an impressive first appearance at the Boulevard. Their energy and chemistry provide for a truly joyous moment, however brief, in the guise of a finely concise study of relationships and the road to intimacy.

Wilder's *Pullman Car Hiawatha* changes tack to a somewhat more complex and philosophical view of the world. The scene is a train ride from New York to Chicago. A myriad cast of characters played by six actors including Mr. Bucher himself. Guided by a stage manager (Jamie Jastrab) and the train's porter (Michael Weber), they create a microcosm of life in what is essentially an experimental prelude to Wilder's later and grander

experiment, *Our Town*.

The main action focuses on the Insane Woman (Brooke Wegner) and Harriet (played alternately by Rebecca Segal and Marion

Araujo...this night it was Segal's turn). It's Harriet's last train ride.

The other characters' comings and goings flash by in quick succession. This series of expressive revelations explore identity, acceptance and rejection of what seems to be our inevitable reality and, ultimately, our deepest emotional responses to that reality.

In their midst, Harriet's story unfolds while the Insane Woman attempts to fathom whatever it is that is happening around her.

Bucher's cast delivers a genuinely reflective and sensitive performance without becoming mired in sentimentality. Their natural sincerity buttresses Wilde's soberly introspective and non-judgmental observations of American life.

The program fittingly concludes and celebrates the Boulevard's quarter century of fine theatrical offerings.

Two To Go at the Boulevard Theatre's 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue in Bay View, runs through May 29. Tickets are \$20 and \$22. Call 414 744-5757 for more information.



DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

Friday, April 29

LaCage (Milwaukee) LaCage 27th Birthday Party 10pm

Midtowne Spa (Milw) Squirt Party guys & giveaways

Ravens (Appleton) April Drag Revue features Neely O'hara, Miss Gay North America Emeritus 2011, Shannon Dupree, Miss Wisconsin USofA Royalty, Miami Knight, Miss Gay Titletown WI USofA '10, Jaida Dumar, Miss City of Festivals WI USofA 2011, Trina Lynn, Miss Club 5 2011, Betty Boop, Miss Shelter Club 2011 & more 10:30pm

SAGE (Milwaukee) Movie Night, Royal Wedding 6pm

Saturday, April 30

ICON (Kenosha) 5th Anniversary - FREE Buffet 7-10 and live music by "Out of Control" surprise guest appearances and over \$1000 in door prizes and give-a-ways.

OZ (Wausau) Bryanna Bank\$ Fundraiser for Nationals

SAGE (Milwaukee) Annual meeting at Plymouth UCC 2717 East Hampshire. 2 pm

T.C.Dance Club (Appleton) 3rd annual SPRING FLING Hosted by NEW Pride champagne reception 6:30pm \$50/ person includes reception, food, dance instruction & open bar all night. 21 + New this year...the Big Basket Raffle!

Sunday, May 1

LaCage (Milwaukee) Mr & Miss LaCage Pageant

Monday, May 2

SAGE (Milwaukee) Outdoor walk, every Monday 6-7 pm

Saturday, May 7

Madison Gay Video Club "Alex and Leo (German w/sub-titles)" (Breaking Glass Pict., dir. Ives-Yuri Garate, 2010) "Revenge" (Cocky Boys, dir. Kyle Majors, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Napalese (Green Bay) 2nd Bear Night 9pm till close Beer/Soda Bust at the door for \$9 There will be a Raffle to benefit to ARCW Food Pantry and BC4M.

Monday, May 9

Outwords Books (Milwaukee) Outwords Men's Book Club. The group will discuss Hidden, Tomas Mourmian's chronicle of a gay teen who is sent by his parents to a residential facility that supposedly will turn him straight. 7pm

Tuesday, May 10

Outwords Books (Milwaukee) The Lesbian Reading @ Outwords The book for the May discussion is Ghosts of Winter by Rebecca S. Buck 7 pm

Saturday, May 14

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Racine) Go GAGA as they celebrate 2 years of serving the community. At Coolleer Near the Lake 505 56th St Kenosha 6-close \$20 advance or \$25 at the door. Call 262-664-4100 for more info on the web at www.lgbtsewisc.org

Madison Gay Video Club "Some Boys Do" (Maple House Ent., dir. Stephen Shypitka, '10) "Below The Rim 1 & 2" (Rascal Video) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

MONA's (Milw) SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders)/Milwaukee's 7th Annual Spring Fling, "Do Ask, Do Tell Honoring our GLBT Military and Veterans," from 5PM to 9PM Ticket is \$15 see ad this issue for details

SASS (Green Bay) Masquerade Party - A Black & White Affair 9:30 pm

Sunday, May 15

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Castaway's BEER/SODA BEER BUST. 3:00 - 7:00 P.M. Title : "LEATHER & FACE" Prizes/Raffles/ FUN!!!!

Monday, May 16

Italian Community Center (Milw) MOVING FORWARD the next generation of prevention programs for black men who have sex with men. Recent behavioral, social and health research findings. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm presented by Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) & Medical College of Wisconsin.

Thursday, May 19

Triangle (Milwaukee) Bryanna Bank\$ Fundraiser for Nationals

Friday, May 20

SAGE (Milwaukee) Fish Fry at MONA's meet at 6pm

Saturday, May 21

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Chez Bouche' An Erotic Dance Comedy 8pm

SAGE (Milw) Walker's Point Walking Tour 1-2:30 pm

Saturday, May 27

SAGE (Milw) Movie Night, The Kids Are Alright 6pm

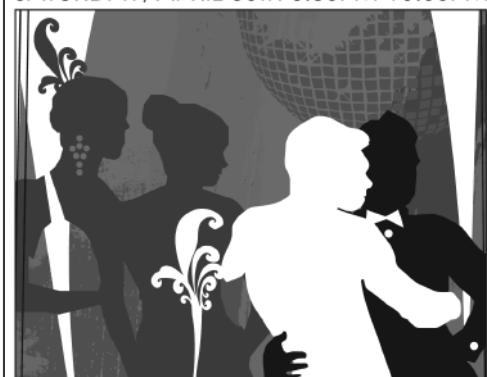
PRIDEFEST 2011

Fri, Sat, Sun, JUNE 10 - 11- 12

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Sunday, June 12, 2 pm

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30th 6:30PM-10:00PM



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Tickets are now available online or by calling 920-471-3260. Tickets are also available for purchase at Rascals Bar & Grill, The Shelter Club, Napalese Lounge & The Blue Life.

New this year is the "Big Basket" raffle! How BIG is your basket?

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 & can be purchased even if you are not able to join us on the 30th.

- One Night Stay at Chanticleer Guest House
- Two "Men/Ped" Gift Certificates from Salon CTI
- Tickets to "The Two and Only" at Fox Cities PAC
- Round of Golf at Butte des Morts Country Club
- Dinner for Two at Butte des Morts Country Club
- Swing Chair from The Wealth Factory

For a complete list of items or for more info, check out www.newpride.org



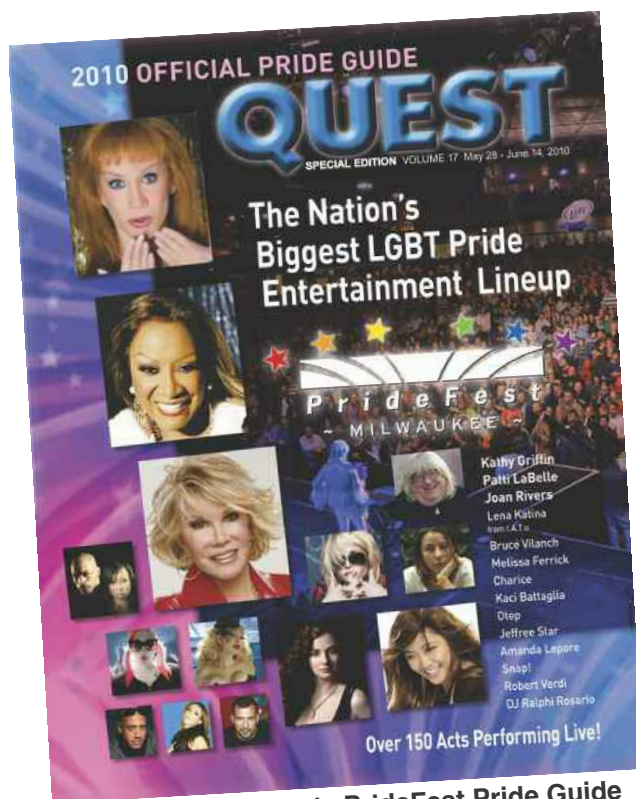
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Glenn's love affair with the films of Gregg Araki began with his little known debut feature, **Three Bewildered People in the Night**. The year was 1987; imagine if you dare a younger rather more adventurous Glenn who immediately became captivated by this gender ambivalent chronicle of David, a disaffected gay performance artist, his best gal pal Alicia and her cute, bi-curious boyfriend, Craig. Shot in a marvelously moody black & white and made on a micro-budget, **Three Bewildered People in the Night** seemed to herald a new, talented gay filmmaker.

In fact, Gregg Araki appeared to be well on his way to becoming the wunderkind of the 1990s "Queer Cinema" following such films as **The Living End**, **Totally F***ed Up**, and **The Doom Generation**. Then, after his disappointing "hetero" flick, **Splendor**, Araki disappeared.

When Araki resurfaced in 2005, it was to direct an adaptation of Scott Heim's harrowing novel, **Mysterious Skin**, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Here was a different, more mature Gregg Araki. Heim's spare, haunting story of two lost boys growing up in the barren landscape of 1980s small-town Kansas arrived on the screen without any of the cinematic excesses Araki had increasingly fallen victim to.

So, what to make of **Kaboom**? Let's be clear from the start. Glenn hasn't a clue. Yes, yes, that's the conclusion reached long ago by many of you wonderfully loyal **Quest** readers.

Best to jump right in and start at the beginning. A slight, cute but somewhat scruffy naked youth is viewed walking down a long corridor. His name is Smith (Thomas Dekker), by the way. This strange occurrence is actually a reoccurring dream of the slight, cute but somewhat scruffy youth.

The would-be Freudians in Glenn's acquaintance chuckled merrily at this admission.

All of the lad's nearest and dearest are watching him as he walks down this long corridor; first is his sexy roommate, then his mom and finally his BFF, a stylish lesbian, Stella (Haley Bennett). Our

naked adventurer, a suitably waifish successor to longtime Araki muse, James Duval, is a college freshman whose sexuality is as undeclared as is his major.

When he isn't dreaming at night of the long corridor, Smith daydreams about his hunky, intellectually vacant roommate, Thor (Chris Zylka). Oblivious to Smith's unrequited interest, Thor practices stretching exercises to enable this surfer-dude to self suck his own board. This being a Gregg Araki film, Thor practices these stretching exercises in the nude which manages to be both deliciously gratuitous as well as extraordinarily frustrating for Smith and surely most moviegoers.

Thwarted in his quest for Thor, Smith becomes infatuated with London (the amusing named Juno Temple) as well as tentatively connecting with a shy lad named Oliver (Brennan Mejia) via the usual social media options. Meanwhile, a very sexy brunette, Lorelei (Roxanne Mesquida), develops a fatal attraction for Stella.

Despite Smith's brief rendezvous with a hunky stranger on a nude beach, **Kaboom** begins to move away from silly sex comedy only to morph into an equally silly thriller as Araki allows his infatuation with nihilism and apocalyptic fantasies free reign.

On his way home after his close encounter of the sexual kind with his trippy new friend London, Smith stumbles upon the mysterious red haired girl only to be attacked by three thugs in animal masks.

Did this really happen? Perhaps it was just a drug induced aftershock?

The red haired girl slips Smith a flash drive. Who is she? The flash drive offers a very strange video. Come morning, the flash drive is gone. Maybe Smith just dreamt it.

Smith may have traversed the long corridor of his dreams alone but once awake, Stella, too is increasingly plagued; her sexy girlfriend Lorelei is actually a witch and begins offering some pretty peculiar notions about how to keep their relation-

Full Price, Matinee or wait 'til the Budgets

Watching **Kaboom**, it is almost as if Araki never made **Mysterious Skin**. Something of a **Doom Generation** for the post-millennium, **Kaboom** is never less than entertaining. Araki is truly generous to a fault in supplying hot sex scenes; surely knowing that they are always something of a guilty pleasure in an otherwise legitimate film, particularly if transgressive or just a wee bit kinky as they are here.

Fortunately Araki has cast **Kaboom** with aplomb; Juno Temple is a particular standout as the sexual dynamo London while Haley Bennett is deliciously deadpan as Stella. Taking his undeclared disaffection to an unfortunate extreme, Thomas Dekker sadly lacks the innate warmth and charm James Duval brought to Araki's earlier efforts. Still all of the actors play with a astonishing sincerity even as Araki's screenplay spirals ridiculously out of control. In the end, **Kaboom** fades from the screen with less of a bang and than a whimper.

Thanks to its inclusion at both Cannes and Sundance, it is impossible for Glenn not to find **Kaboom** fascinating stuff. The cyber highways and byways of the internet are literally littered with **Kaboom** reviews by every serious (and in Glenn's case, not so serious) film critic.

Still, Glenn can't help but wonder if **Kaboom** would have warranted anywhere near such extraordinary attention had it been crafted by a filmmaker less celebrated than Gregg Araki.

Just the facts...

Kaboom runs approx. 86 minutes & is in English. **Kaboom** will be screened on Thursday, May 5th at the UWM Union Cinema @ 7:00pm.

Kaboom will be released on DVD May 31, 2011. There was something of a "gay controversy" over Thomas Dekker's role on the popular TV series, **Heroes**.

Almost unrecognizable in **Kaboom** is longtime Araki favorite James Duval, playing the role of The Messiah. Fans of the **L Word** will remember Kelly Lynch who played Ivan Aycock.

ship fresh.

Having decided that his nightmares and hallucinations indicate a real-life plot, Smith enlists Stella to begin investigating the increasingly bizarre occurrences swirling around them. A conspiracy as sinister as it is clandestine emerges with Smith and his friends finding themselves right amidst the maelstrom. Nothing short of the safety of the world is at stake but fortunately Araki still manages to find time to toss in enough soft-core sex scenes to make certain even the least discerning of moviegoer will keep paying attention.

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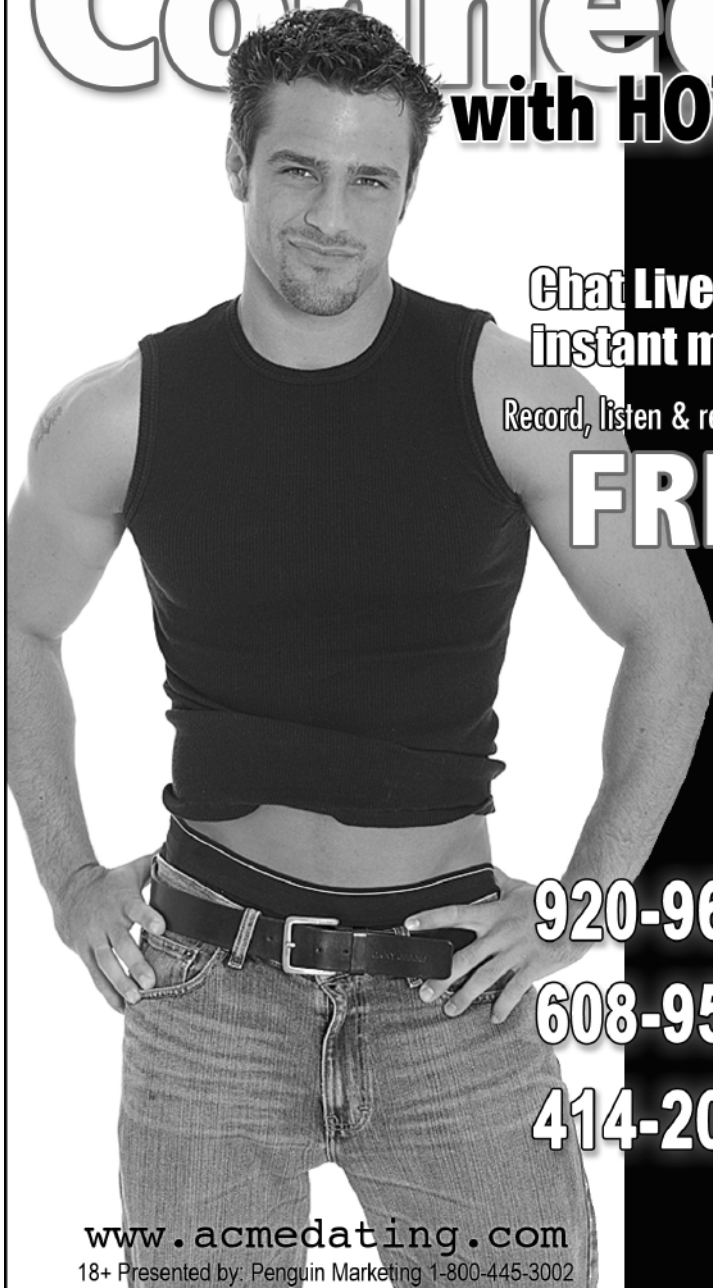
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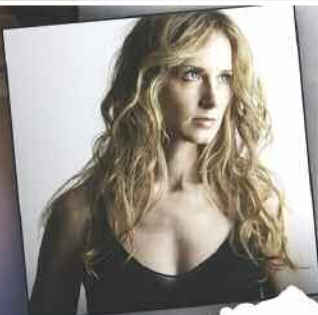
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