

QUEST

Volume 19 Issue 10 October 2012



**DOUG RICKERT
DOESN'T USE A GUN
WHEN HE SHOOTS HIS ZOMBIES**



MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18-21, 2012



Cloudburst

OPENING FILM!

(Thom Fitzgerald, Canada, 94min., 2011)

Thursday October 18, 7:30pm Oriental Theatre

A winning romantic comedy with Oscar winners Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker as Stella and Dot, life partners together for 31 years...and now on the lam.



Mosquita y Mari

(Aurora Guerrero, USA, English and Spanish with English subtitles, 85min., 2011)

Saturday October 20, 7pm UWM Union Theatre

Yolanda – known affectionately as “Mosquita” – was only interested in getting into college, but then she met Mari.



Keep the Lights On

(Ira Sachs, USA, 101min., 2012)

Sunday October 20, 9pm UWM Union Theatre

A chronicle of a decade-long relationship between two men, a pairing founded on chance (promiscuous; intense) and founded by addiction.



My Brother The Devil

CLOSING FILM!

(Sally El Hosaini, UK, 111min., 2011)

Sunday October 21, 7pm UWM Union Theatre

Two Arab brothers find their loyalties tested in this gripping British drama about masculinity, the lure of gangs and the bravest of declarations.



Peck School of the Arts
DEPARTMENT OF FILM



Joseph R. Pabst

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HE SHOOTS ZOMBIES TO THRILL!

Cover feature interview by Mark Mariucci (aka Za)

This month's cover feature introduces a new face to the photography scene. Douglas Rickert has for years been involved in horror attractions and recently began aiming his camera at local monsters on the scene. Doug, used to work for me as a bartender back in the days of Za's. I caught up with him recently and asked how he's been doing these past several years?

DOUG: For the past 22 years my real day job has always been in IT. I started working young. I have also been involved with the Haunted Attraction industry since 1982, and actually ran my own haunted attraction for thirteen years. I am currently in a relationship with a great guy that shares all my passions; we have been together for ten years now and counting. We are like any other couple I guess, own a home, we have a daughter we have raised together along with a dog & a cat. So domesticated!

ZA: Is your interest in photography something recent? When did you start getting serious?

DOUG: I have always loved photography! When I was a young boy I received my first camera for Christmas from my sister in 1978. It was not until around 2009 when I really started pursuing photography again on a more serious level shooting photos for area haunted attractions. The more I got into it the more it just took off. I bought a nice camera and started branching out in other areas of photography beyond the haunted attraction industry. I continue to learn new things everyday and am always striving to do a better job on each shoot I take on.

Are you a Cannon shooter or Nikon? (Just so we can keep the flame wars going of course LOL)

LOL, I am Cannon guy but not for any particular reason other than it was the best deal I could find at the time.

You also own Madeyascream.com with your partner, Todd. Why did you start that website venture? I had retired from the haunted attraction industry after the 2001 season when Todd and I started dating. Managing an attraction is very time consuming and I was finally interested in settling down with someone. I knew it would be hard to continue on building and designing haunted attractions and trying to make a life for myself. At that time I knew Todd was not interested in the whole haunt thing so I chose to give it up and pursue new adventures with him.

Then it happened, around 2008 my brother, Todd and I decided it might be fun to help another haunted attraction with building a room or two. So we volunteered at 'Green Bay Fear' and had a great time. It was after that season that I decided to revive Madeyascream.com from my old haunt

days. We made it a legal company and have been running with it ever since. Though I am no longer involved in the managing/building/designing of the business, we get to do something I was never able to do when I was running my own haunt; we travel throughout Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin to view haunted attractions. We report on the latest news, provide photos & videos, not only from haunted attractions but from conventions as well, on our website and Facebook page. They say that once the haunted attraction industry is in your blood it never leaves and I believe that to be true! I love the horror industry in every way, and have met so many great friends and continue to do so each year.

When did you first become involved and excited about the horror/haunted house circuit?

When I was younger, I used to build haunted houses in my cousin's basement and we always had a great time, but I guess it really all started in 1982. My cousin and a friend of mine asked me to go with them to work at the 'March of Dimes Haunted House'. Needless to say after that one night I was hooked. It was only five years later and I was helping run the haunted house with a group. Then myself and a good friend ran it and in 1996 we started a brand new haunt on Broadway called, "Nightmare on Broadway".

We should probably explain to the readers, although everyone knows Halloween is the unofficial Gay holiday, most are probably not aware of just how many from our LGBT community are intimately involved in producing or working at the Haunted House attractions across the United States. In many ways it is much like any other type of theatre. Please talk about this and why you think gays are attracted to this theme?

This is very true. When I ran my own haunt there were several gays that worked with me over the years. This is also true with all of the haunted attractions we have visited over the years. The haunted attraction industry is full of different walks of life and has always been accepting of the gay community. Some of the best haunted attractions I have seen over the years have been designed and managed by gays.

Whether it is the creativity it allows, along with the theatre/showmanship, this industry seems to fit the gay community like a glove.

You selected a local model Garrett Zima for our cover shoot. Tell us something about Garrett?

When you and I first talked about doing this I started racking my brain about what I could do. I kept going back to photos I already had and was considering going that direction. The more I thought about it, I came to this conclusion: what would be better on the cover of a gay magazine for

the October issue than a cute young gay guy, looking sexy and scary?! That is when Garrett popped into my head. I knew he was involved in the haunted attraction industry and thought he might be up for it.

I met Garrett this past year and had a chance to talk to him a great deal at a wedding I was shooting for another friend who is running the haunted attraction Garrett works at. I knew Garrett was into photography himself and is an accomplished photographer of his own. I messaged him to see what he thought about it and much to my delight he was game to give it a shot. Once in front of the camera he was a natural and made the shoot extremely easy for me.

Has he also done regular modeling or is it mostly horror theatre for him?

I believe this was Garrett's first try at modeling, and because of his background in photography, he knew what he liked to see when he was shooting, so he ran with it and did an amazing job.

Garrett's hometown is Manitowoc, WI. He manages his own Halloween Store called 'Halloween Manty' and his own photography studio called 'CG Photography'. This year he will be acting at the 'Panic Chamber Hotel'.

Other than the prolific volume of horror show photographs you have published, what other subjects interest you for the camera lens?

I had shot a few weddings recently, and though I am not sure I want to pursue that on a regular basis, I would do it again depending on the person asking. I actually did a shoot for some lesbians that I know who decided to have a commitment ceremony. It was a lot of fun and had some very special moments, for us as well.

I have been shooting senior pictures and also special themed shoots for friends and a website based out of the Milwaukee area called, Wisconsin Sickness. Most recently I did some pinup model shoots. While I love discovering my lighter side, my one true love will always be in horror photography. What I haven't done to date, is shooting drag photos, so you may see me lurking around a show with camera in hand :)

Is there anything else you want to add Doug?

I want to thank you (Mark) for giving me this opportunity. I was really on cloud nine when you asked, and seeing it coming to fruition is just well, awesome! I am very excited to see the final results! I also wish to thank Kurt Selke for the amazing makeup work he did on Garrett, and getting the look I wanted. I would also like to thank Garrett for agreeing to do this with me, he truly helped make the shoot a success and I look forward to working with him more in the future.

HAUNTED ATTRACTION INFORMATION

Green Bay

Terror on the Fox

Opens Saturday September 29

Green Bay Fear

Opens Friday September 28

Menasha

Oblivion Haunted House

Opens Friday October 5

Oneida

The Morgue

Opens Friday October 5

Neenah

Neenah's Most Haunted

Opens Friday October 5

Burial Chamber

Opens Friday October 5

Fall River

Chamber of Horrors

Opens Saturday October 6

Gresham

Panic Chambers Hotel

Opens Friday October 12

Milwaukee

Hauntfest

Opens Friday October 12

Monster Mayhem

Opens September 28

Mars Haunted House

Opens Friday October 5

Glenwood City

Town of Tormented Souls

Opens Friday October 5

Sparta

House of Shadows

Opens Friday September 28

Mount Pleasant

Abandoned Haunted House Complex

Opens Friday October 5

Ixonia

Dark Side Haunted Adventure

Opens Friday September 28

Fort Atkinson

Dr. Scary's Haunted House

Opens Friday October 5

Waukesha

Wisconsin Fear Grounds

Opens Friday October 5



Model: Garrett Zima, Owner of HalloweenManty

Makeup: Kurt Selke, KJS Custom Arts

Photographer: Doug Rickert, Owner of MadeYaScream.com



POSITIVEVOICE: MANY GENERATIONS, ONE PURPOSE

By Mark Zirbel

The idea of throwing a beach party in late September ordinarily requires some audacity, but not for hardy Wisconsinites! On September 18th, Positive VOICE (**PVinc.org**) joined LGBT-supportive community partners for "The Last Beach Party of the Summer" – the 15th anniversary celebration of Fox Valley-based GLBT Partnership. The GLBT Partnership is a youth support and leadership program of Harmony Café which serves clients from ages 13 to 18 in areas near Appleton and Green Bay. Positive VOICE proudly supported this important fundraiser as a **Youth Program Sponsor**.

Highlights of this celebration included emotional testimonials by GLBT Partnership members and alumni, as well as the keynote address by actress **Geri Jewell**, known for her roles in "The Facts of Life" and "Deadwood". Both Jewell and the Partnership speakers addressed the hardships faced by openly gay and lesbian individuals. While themes such as rejection, bullying, depression, and suicide attempts permeated their stories, Geri Jewell also addressed issues of interest to adults who struggle with acceptance.

Ms. Jewell spoke humorously yet poignantly on growing up and living with cerebral palsy. She drew clever parallels between living with a disability and the difficulties of finding acceptance later in life as an out lesbian. Relationships, employment, and social needs are just three areas Geri spoke on where both ableism (prejudice based on one's disability) and homophobia posed challenges during her adult years.

Jewell's words were very well received by those of all ages in attendance. While Positive VOICE (PV) affirmatively supports the LGBTQ youth of Northeast Wisconsin, PV also provides necessary resources for adults 18 and older throughout our region in the form of inclusive programming and special events.

As many adults in Northeast Wisconsin can attest, being out is not always easy. **Jennifer Seidel**, Positive VOICE treasurer, reflected on her experiences as a young adult. "When I first came out, the only place that I knew that was around Green Bay was Za's," she recalled, mentioning the former night club. "It was the only place where I could be myself. I didn't know any other place to go."

Seidel learned of Positive VOICE in 2009 and attended PV's annual meeting. "After attending the (PV co-sponsored) chili cook-off, it gave me a welcoming feeling. I continued being involved in Positive VOICE." She most enjoyed "being accepted, having a place to go." After several years of participation, Seidel was elected to PV's Board of Directors. "Volunteering my time

has made me feel more comfortable about myself," she added, "like I'm doing something good."

Positive VOICE President, **E-Ben Grisby**, echoed Jennifer's sentiments. While PV has sponsored youth programs like GLBT Partnership, "we have also co-sponsored events such as Nights of Noise and World AIDS Day—at both Harmony Café sites in Appleton and Green Bay." Grisby noted these events offer enriching volunteer opportunities for those of many ages, including adults.

On needs specific to the adult LGBT community, Grisby commented, "We have spoken at the **Ally Conference** at UW-Green Bay (and will be part of this year's event on October 20th). PV has led forums on GLBT adoptions and parental rights, domestic partnerships, and financial planning, which includes living wills and powers of attorney."

In addition, Positive VOICE has offered programming for various constituencies, such as the Transgender Transformation groups in Appleton and Green Bay. PV members have worked to form the Adult Gay-Straight Alliance of Green Bay, a parent/ally support group, and many have been associated with PFLAG.

"Socially, we have either hosted or co-hosted community functions such as St. Patrick's dinner (at Union Congregational UCC), the chili cook-off at Angels of Hope MCC, and GLBT Prom for Adults." PV has also participated in roller derby events and Appleton's Octoberfest, as well as charitable causes like AIDS Walk Wisconsin and Habitat for Humanity. Grisby also pointed out PV's involvement in annual **Pride Alive** festivities, which includes financial sponsorship.

Currently, Positive VOICE is making arrangements for its annual **Holiday Party**, an event which is expected to draw attendance from a diverse cross-section of Northeast Wisconsin's LGBT community.

Overall, Grisby stressed that Positive VOICE seeks to offer a wide range of activities at varying cost levels, reflecting the economic diversity of our membership.

"We embrace inter-generational diversity, and we look forward to gaining diverse ideas, thoughts and most of all—people—to join Positive VOICE," Grisby urged. "By joining PV, your input and intentional contribution would greatly benefit not just yourself, but others within the LGBTQ and Ally community in and around Northeast Wisconsin." He concluded, "We need many voices to speak up loudly, proudly and purposefully."

Become a Member of Positive Voice or Renew your Membership:

Thinking about becoming a member of *Northeast Wisconsin's largest GLBT organization* or renewing your annual membership? Memberships are in effect for one year from payment date, \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families. There is a special full-time student membership available for \$10 per year. Members receive the **PV Inc.** News, discounts on **PV** events and help support our organization in reaching our goals and enriching our lives. Use the following coupon to send in your membership fee. Remember that **additional donations are always welcome** to help support our work to fulfill our mission statement. **THANK YOU!**

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An interview with community activist Si Smits

by Paul Masterson

With this interview QUEST continues our series of conversations with Wisconsin's GLBT personalities. Some are relatively well known, at least in their immediate community. Others maintain a lower profile, going about their work as unsung heroes. Through these mini-portraits QUEST recognizes the many individuals that make up our diverse community.

Four decades ago, in the wake of the Stonewall Riots, Milwaukee's WTMJ-4 Television News ran a series, "Some Call Them Gay." For the first time a local TV station publicly acknowledged the existence of an otherwise barely known and generally misunderstood part of the Milwaukee population. One segment opens with a shot of a man on a motorcycle. The voice-over identifies him as Si Smits, a Vietnam veteran, now a factory worker who had come out to his employer. At the time, that was a courageous but risky act. Smits could have been fired.

From there Smits became more involved in GLBT social and political activities. In the mid-1970's he helped organize the region's first leather organization, the Silver Star. In 1984 he opened The Boot Camp Saloon at the corner of Barclay and National Avenues. It became the city's main leather bar. At the time, that particular scene represented one of many diverse expressions of gay male liberation. But as much as his establishment catered to a specific clientele, Smits remained involved with the community at large. In 1995 he helped establish a federally registered 501(c)3 charitable organization, the Gay/Lesbian Community Fund. According to its mission, the fund supports local LGBT organizations with financial stipends. He was also a member of the Milwaukee Pride Parade committee and currently serves as the treasurer of Milwaukee SAGE, (Seniors in a Gay Environment), the local chapter of the nation's GLBT organization for seniors.

Now, celebrating its 17th anniversary, the G/L Community Fund launches its Fall Campaign.

QUEST spoke with Si Smits about the G/L Community Fund (G/L CF), its history, and its current fund raising campaign.

QUEST: Let's start at the beginning. Why did you create the G/L Community Trust Fund?

Si Smits: We wanted to establish an endowment fund to help grass roots GLBT organizations that need support – either they didn't have the resources for major fund raising, or were unable to receive grants from major donors.

QUEST: What differentiates G/L CF from Cream City Foundation or other major philanthropic organizations?

Si Smits: Our mission is similar but, as I mentioned, we focus on the smaller groups that have not yet reached the point of getting major donations from the other foundations. Some may

never get that big and they might not want to. Also, some funding agencies require that the recipient organization be a registered 501(c)3 non-profit. We don't make that demand although most of them do fall into that category. Most are all-volunteer organizations with no paid staff. Still, all of them do something for the GLBT community and that needs to be recognized.

QUEST: So G/L CF picks up the funding slack, so to speak.

SS: That's one way of putting it. Larger organizations know how to manipulate the system to absorb all the available funds. They have paid staff and professional grant writers. The little groups can't compete. The G/L TCF identifies those under-served groups and offers what it can. It's not much but it's significant for some and certainly better than nothing.

QUEST: What types of groups are they?

SS: We work with a variety of groups serving youth, seniors, arts, health, spirituality, and social services. We've funded 25 groups and organizations. Some aren't gay specific, like the Boulevard Theatre, but contribute to the GLBT community. Others are specifically GLBT and integral to the community's quality of life, like GALANO, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, GAMMA, Milwaukee Metropolitan Church, Pride Parade, the Queer TV program, and the ARCW Food Pantry.

QUEST: Who serves on your board of directors?

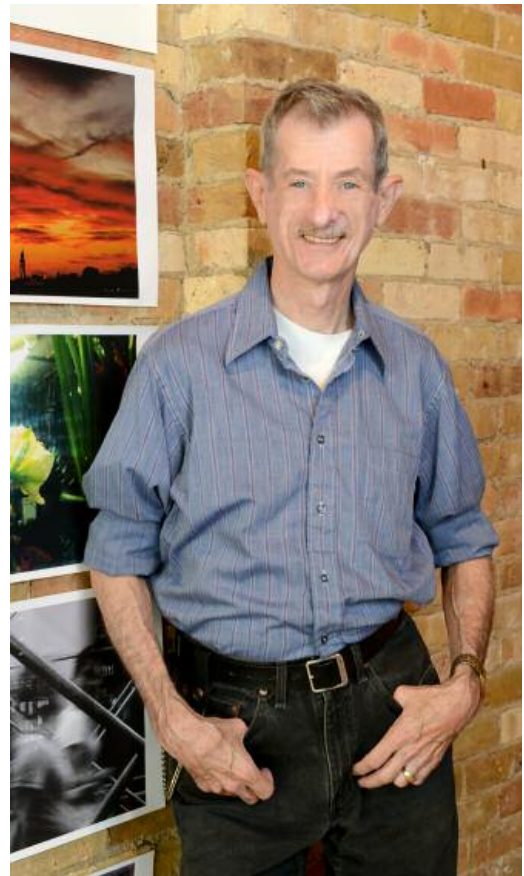
SS: They are all members of the GLBT community. Of the officers, I'm currently president. Don Schwamb is vice president. Our secretary is Paul Scalnici and the treasurer is Mary Badger. They are all people who have been active in the community for years.

QUEST: Who are your donors?

SS: We have members who join the G/L Trust Fund and make annual contributions. In addition we have a good number of sponsors that includes businesses and corporations. They range from bars like Boom and Club Charlies to Herbert Kohl Charities, and, of course, dozens of local individuals.

QUEST: Wisconsin has well developed GLBT communities. Big cities have Pride events, active social networks and political infrastructures. Yet Wisconsin's state constitution has an anti-gay marriage amendment. As the struggle for GLBT rights progresses, what is the role of a foundation like the G/L CF?

SS: As a 501(c)3 our role is strictly regulated. We can't legally advocate for political causes or candidates. However, by supporting GLBT arts



and social organizations we help create positive change by sustaining the GLBT profile in the greater community. That's not political but, in a good way, it influences our environment and the society in which we live. That promotes understanding and that eventually means an improved climate to advance GLBT rights.

QUEST: During its history, how much has the G/L CF dispersed in funding?

SS: Last year we gave out \$5500. That's about average. Over the years the amount has ranged from \$5000-10000 annually.

QUEST: How can someone become a member or donate to G/L CF?

SS: We launch our annual fund raising drive in October each year. If someone isn't currently on our mailing list they can reach us by email at

glcommunityfund@hotmail.com

or they can use regular mail to

PO Box 1686, Milwaukee, WI 53201

We now have a website

at www.glcommunityfund.org.

QUEST: Is there a minimum donation request?

SS: Annual membership is just \$25. However, gifts of any amount are needed to continue our mission. We have legacy funds and Donor Advisory Funds. We recommend larger gifts such as property or bequests be arranged through the donor's attorney. We also offer help to anyone interested in producing a fund raising event. Of course, all donations are tax deductible.



Model: Thom Ertle
Photography and lighting:
Mark Mariucci

An Interview with Thom Ertl

by Paul Masterson

Are you fruity or spicy? Or perhaps, just nutty? Thom Ertl can tell you. A retail sales specialist (RSS) for L'Oreal at a major department store at Mayfair Mall, you may have seen him been at the fragrance counter. He's been there since 2005. But, there's much more to Thom Ertl than a nose for scents. He's got another career and has been an actively engaged LGBT activist for years. As part of its continuing series on personalities, QUEST spoke with Ertl about his varied community callings.

His activist history is a long one. In 1985, he volunteered at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), then became a staff member in education. In 1995, he went on to the Medical College of Wisconsin – Center for Aids Intervention Research, Cair.

QUEST caught up with Ertl there where we began our interview in a first floor MCW conference room.

QUEST: Let's start at the present, what do you do here with CAIR?

Thom Ertl: "I do curriculum and development... branding, so to speak...and recruitment materials. I always had a creative urge and that adds to my ability to do marketing. I don't know how much people really knows about CAIR. They presume it's medical research with microscopes and all that. But the research is more in the line of psychological assessment based in specific demographics. Right now we have an LGBT based study on African American males called Connections Creating Change, or C3. The premise is friends educating friends within the AA Men Having Sex with Men community.

QUEST: How did you get into the branding niche?

ThE: I've done branding forever. I did curriculum development as well as graphic design while I was at ARCW and as a freelance graphic designer with STD Specialties, Milwaukee's HIT bowling tournament, the LGBT Community Center and Men's Voices Milwaukee. I also sang with MVM.

QUEST: It sounds like you've been involved with a full spectrum of groups.

ThE: I've always been involved. It's an element of my life. I've felt more compelled to contribute than to simply be there. Being creative as an artist I've been able to apply my talent to supporting my LGBT causes.

QUEST: You're an artist as well?

ThE: In the name of the genre "re-purposed art", I dumpster dive and rework furniture among other things. I participated in a re-purposed art show focused on clothing at the Milwaukee Art Museum, I entered designs created collaboratively and solo."

QUEST: What exactly is re-purposing?

ThE: I take objects originally intended for one use and then discarded or obsolete. I turn them into something entirely new with an unrelated purpose. I'll show you.

We move up a flight of stairs to his MCW office. Its walls and the front of his desk are a perfect example, decorated in large square panels of corrugated cardboard originally intended for shipping boxes. They form a patterned wall paneling, one square placed so the corrugation runs vertically, the next horizontally. The pale earth-toned surface with its three-dimensional linear texture adds a rugged but sleek elegance to his work space.

QUEST: Okay, artist, community volunteer, and in MCW's research development. How did you get into fragrance?



Some examples of Thom's re-purposed artwork.

ThE: My partner Scott works in retail. He mentioned job openings in visual display and with various account executives. I was looking for something part-time and entirely different. It's easy to become a bubble in the LGBT community. It becomes all-consuming and emotionally draining. I wanted to do something fun to balance the more serious side of my life. Fragrance is definitely different from my day to day activities.

QUEST: Yet it's related. You're dealing with behavioral psychology.

ThE: Exactly, the whole marketing industry is developed around psychology. There are many levels to the psycho-social side of fragrance. Listening is a major part. It's about knowing what a person likes and how they perceive themselves.

QUEST: So there's little difference between the behaviors of health survey participants and those of your customers?

ThE: Not "survey," it's "assessment" and we call them "guests" in the fragrance department. But right, both the researcher and the RSS use assertiveness rather than aggression to reach the participant or guest. I do that. It allows people to trust me and be honest.

QUEST: What's the psychology of scents?

ThE: That's hard to answer. Historically, people wanted to cover up body odor. Nowadays, they might want to lure someone, or project a persona. Some think it gives them an extra edge. Then there's the lemming quality of trends in general. If your friends wear something, you want it too.

QUEST: Who are your guests?

ThE: It's a full range of humanity. Mostly women. There are guys as well. It's very interesting from my vantage point. The metros come in, the screaming come in. They take their time. Then the suburban guy comes in and incognitos his way quickly through the department. He gets what he wants and gets out. I love helping lesbians when they're buying men's fragrances. They see me and they're more comfortable deciding. All the couples are cute. They take turns smelling the blotter card (those little cards use to demonstrate a scent – *ed.*) and decide if they like it.

QUEST: Blotter cards? Doesn't a scent change with the body's chemistry?

ThE: Well, you just can't spray someone down. The blotter cards are a start. Fragrances do change from one person to the next based on the notes. They have lots of intricacy – a top note, heart, and bottom. The guests' preferences come into play here. If they like the scent on the card, they can try it on themselves.



QUEST: How much does the guest depend on you?

ThE: They usually know what they want. They might want what's hot based on a blow-in (those scent samples in magazines – *ed.*). I don't pre-judge. Some are stuck in their ways. It's a blessing and a curse. I understand there are reasons for it, economic, habit, and others. But, I subtly present alternatives. If I get scent *virgins* I ask questions to get an idea if they're fruity or nutty,

or floral. I get foreign guests as well. Compared to Americans, who tend to be a lighter and sweeter in their tastes, Europeans are deeper. They're spicier...and earthy.

QUEST: Who are the most difficult guests?

ThE: Of course, there's always a straight guy who resists. The line is "I don't want to smell like a fag."

PREVIEW: The 2nd Annual 25th Anniversary Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Cloudburst

Thursday, October 18 @ 7:30pm
Landmark's Oriental Theatre

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The last couple of months have been something of an embarrassment of riches for Glenn. So many wonderful LGBT films to watch and to review, so little time as Glenn is rather wont to write. For the September issue of **Quest**, The Milwaukee Film Festival allowed Glenn to preview three outstanding LGTB films: **How to Survive a Plague**, **Love Free or Die** and **Gayby**. As the Milwaukee Film Festival runs from September 27th to October 11th, loyal **Quest** readers might still have time to catch these three fabulous films plus many, many more on offer. For Glenn's reviews of **How to Survive a Plague**, **Love Free or Die** and **Gayby**, simply go to www.quest-online.com to read last month's issue.

Now for the October issue of **Quest**, Glenn has been provided with screening materials for many of the thirteen feature films and documentaries which, along with three assorted programs of short films, comprise **The 2nd Annual 25th Anniversary Edition of Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival**.

Opening the festival on Thursday, October 18 is Thom Fitzgerald's acclaimed **Cloudburst**, a film starring two Oscar-winning actresses: Olympia (**Moonstruck**) Dukakis and Brenda (**My Left Foot**) Fricker.

Films worthy of Glenn's special mention from the hectic **Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival** weekend schedule include Erin Greenwell's deliciously quirky **My Best Day**, Negar Azarbayjani absorbing Iranian trans-drama **Facing Mirrors** and Yavir Mozer's powerful documentary **The Invisible Men** which chronicles the plight of three gay Palestinians forced to flee their homelands.

On to **Cloudburst**... Given the current political climate, most especially the hot-button issue that is same-sex marriage, it is indeed fitting that Thom Fitzgerald's **Cloudburst** has opened LGBT Film Fests in London, Dublin and across the length and breadth of our panoramic American landscape prior to its **Milwaukee LGBT Film Fest** Opening Night screening.

Shedding any last remaining vestiges of her iconic **Tales of the City** role, Olympia Dukakis throws herself into the role of Stella, a cantankerous old dyke who is never without her leather cowboy hat or at a loss for a



good cuss word. She loves k.d. lang and Dot (Brenda Fricker) although not necessarily in that order.

Looking and indeed sounding like everyone's favorite Irish grandmother, Fricker's Dot is nearly blind and in declining health but steadfast in her love for Stella. Living together in a picturesque clapboard house on the scenic coast of Maine for over 30 years, Stella and Dot prove a decidedly eccentric couple.

As **Cloudburst** opens, Stella is delighting in her new discovery, a lesbian porno procured at their local gas station. You see, Stella and Dot remain shockingly frisky, at least to Glenn's humble sensibilities. All Glenn can offer is that it is all fun and games until somebody rolls out of the bed. Although she did not fall on the cat, Dot did manage to badly sprain her wrist. This misadventure is just the opportunity that Dot's homophobic granddaughter Molly (Kristin Booth) needs to dash poor Dot off to a nursing home; later Kristin connives to get Dot to turn over power of attorney.

As if channeling her inner Thelma and Louise, Stella packs up her beat-up red pickup truck, smuggles Dot out of the nursing home under the cover of night and heads north to Canada where they might marry and thwart the dastardly plans of the meddling Molly.

Perhaps against the odds, Stella stubbornly soldiers on, convinced that they are on the run from the law. Along the way Stella and Dot happen to encounter a cute young male hitchhiker, his unbuttoned shirt and low-riding jeans revealing an admirably toned torso. Thinking he'll help throw potential law-enforcement off their track, Stella decides to offer him a ride, "Pull up your pants, kid, you're humping the wrong fire hydrant."

The perpetually bare-chested Prentice tells Stella and Dot he's headed home for his mother's funeral.

Full Price, Matinee or wait 'til the Budgets

Bursting with warmth and humor, **Cloudburst** is at its heart a marvelous if unconventional love story. For over 30 years Stella and Dot have lived and laughed and fought and most of all, have loved. In Fitzgerald's quixotic screenplay such a couple should be celebrated, not forced to hit the road to legalize their union.

As Dot and the incorrigible Stella, Glenn has only praise for Brenda Fricker and Olympia Dukakis, each bringing such warmth and depth to their characters. Thom Fitzgerald has front-loaded his screenplay with warm, endearing moments of Stella and Dot, from tender embraces under picturesque sunsets to getting a little frisky under the sheets.

Dukakis's Stella is the showy role, one which boasts plenty of laughs while taking the ornery dyke to previously unimagined heights. Still, Glenn couldn't help but think Stella as just the sort of person who'd quickly make Glenn fantasize about driving a steak knife through his hand if he ever found yourself seated next to her at dinner.

That said, the opportunity to catch a film like Thom Fitzgerald's **Cloudburst** at a setting like the Opening Night screening at the **Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival** is, simply put, unbeatable.

- Recommended!

Just the facts...

Cloudburst screens on Thursday, October 18 @ 7:30pm at the Oriental Theatre

Cloudburst has a running time of 94 minutes and is in English. All about **Cloudburst** @ <http://www.cloudburstmovie.com>
Complete schedule at arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm.

As a soundtrack of k.d. lang's greatest hits continues to play in the background, Stella's red pickup meanders its way along from one stretch of scenic vista to the next until they reach the curiously named Upper Economy, where Prentice's family lives.

Here Fitzgerald's otherwise sure screenplay veers into a curious mix of pathos and slapstick; a sight gag of Prentice's very naked father chasing Stella and Dot's red pickup long outstaying its welcome.

Eventually Stella and Dot, with Prentice firmly in tow, find themselves back on the road to Canada and the end of their journey.

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Preview: The 2nd Annual 25th Anniversary Edition of Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival October 18 – 21

Opening Night: Thursday, October 18 – Landmark's Oriental Theatre

***(7:30 pm) CLOUDBURST**

(Thom Fitzgerald, Canada, 94min., 2011)

Recommended

Day 2: Friday, October 19 – UWM Union Cinema

***(5:00 pm) OCEAN FREE**

(Charles Atlas, 100min., 2011)

A pas de trois of cinema and dance and music, **Ocean** is video artist Charles Atlas' stunning documentation of Merce Cunningham's dance piece, staged at the bottom of a quarry. In 2008, Merce Cunningham shared, in the Rainbow Granite Quarry in Minnesota, "Ocean" – his celebrated dance, a tribute to his partner John Cage and to James Joyce. Cunningham's long time video collaborator Charles Atlas taped three performances of the piece to form his video **Ocean**. Working with the movement of multiple cameras and split-screen, Atlas uniquely captures the particular dynamism of this legendary occasion.
(Not available for preview)

***(7:00 pm) "THIS GODDAMN CRAPHOLE": An Evening of Men's Shorts**

Gays are everywhere: At the Bathhouse! In Nazi ruins! In the Canadian Navy! At the office! Tonight's menagerie of international and award-winning shorts offers portraits and stories of men (mostly gay, some straight) learning to live where they are, or maybe longing to leave. Films to be screened include: **Steam is Steam** (Etienne Desrosiers, Canada, 11min, 2011); **The Man That Got Away** (Trevor Anderson, Canada, 25min., 2012); **Prora** (Stephane Riethauser, Switzerland, in German and French with English subtitles, 23min., 2012); & **Law & Order** (Jan Soldat, 9min, Germany, in German with English subtitles, 9min., 2012)
(Not available for preview)

***(9:00 pm) "SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED": AN EVENING OF WOMEN'S SHORTS**

These women – venting in the bathroom about a date gone wrong, trying to feel reassured about their sexual prowess, looking for a partner who doesn't own a goddamn cat, and dealing with those pesky gay men – prove it: Relationships take hard

work. Tonight's exhibition of short films offers cross section, humorous and honest, of the diverse lesbian community. To screen: **Lesbian Cliché Song** (Amy Turner, Kathryn Lounsberry, & Bob Koherr, USA, 7min, 2012); **Genderfreak** (Rebecca Louisell, USA, 18min, 2011); **Do You Have a Cat?** (Nicole Kristal & Jason Sax, USA, 11min, 2011); **The First Date** (Janella Lacson, USA, 8min, 2012); **It Gets Bitter** (Laura Terruso, USA, 1min, 2012); **Two Bodies** (Nijla Mumin, USA, 13min, 2011); & **Seminal** (Bren Ryder, Canada, 10min, 2012).
(Not available for preview)

Day 3: Sat., October 20 – UWM Union Cinema

***(11:00 am) SOMETHING SPECIAL FREE**

(Paul Schneider, USA, 35mm, 90 min., 1986)

Seeing Paul Schneider's **Something Special** for the first time in decades was definitely something of a blast from the past for Glenn. In its best ABC Afternoon Special fashion, **Something Special** (aka **Willy /Milly**) cheerfully tells the story of Milly Niceman (Pamela Segall). Milly is a lively teen who is tired of not being taken seriously simply because she is a girl. Enter Malcolm (Seth Green), the extraordinary little boy for next door. Equal part magician and hoarder, Malcolm offers Milly a mysterious potion containing eclipse powder which will present Milly with her "deepest, darkest, heart's desire." Malcolm sweetens the deal by offering a money-back guarantee. Next morning Milly wakes up with "a guy's thing down there." Exit Milly, enter Willy. **Something Special** evokes Tom Hanks' **Big** and Kathleen Turner's charming time-travel misadventure, **Peggy Sue Got Married** with a dash of **Wizard of Oz** thrown in good measure. The film's quirky take on gender roles is so deliciously subversive thanks to its strangely comforting '80s sitcom vibe. **Recommended**

***(1:00 pm) CALL ME KUCHU**

(Katherine Fairfax Wright & Malika Zouhali-Worrall, USA, 87min., 2011)

In Uganda, an "Anti-Homosexuality Bill" proposes death for HIV-positive gay men, and prison for anyone who fails to turn in a known homosexual. Inspired by American evangelicals who have christened this African nation ground zero in their war on the "homosexual agenda," the bill awaits debate in Uganda's Parliament. Meanwhile, local newspapers have begun outing LGBT people – known in Uganda as "kuchus." **Call Me Kuchu** is a harrowing bulletin from the front lines of the ongoing global

struggle for LGBT rights, and, tragically, the film is the final testimony of David Kato, who was brutally murdered in his own home one year into filming. **(Not available for preview)**

***(3:00 pm) UNITED IN ANGER: A HISTORY OF ACT UP** (Jim Hubbard, USA, 93min., 2012)

Whilst perhaps not exactly a documentary junkie, Glenn often finds himself just as satisfied after a fine documentary as after watching a feature film. Perfect examples are **Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls** or **Stonewall Uprising**. Both documentaries offer examples of directors who are determined to show rather than simply tell their story. **Stonewall Uprising**, from Kate Davis and David Heilbroner, is particularly impressive when you learn that there is no archival footage of this pivotal moment in LGBT history. Curious, thinks Glenn that no TV crew thought to film a bunch of drag queens battling police during the hot summer nights of June, 1969. How different the situation during the late 1980s, when ACT UP members made sure there were always cameras to record their demonstrations.

Jim Hubbard's **United in Anger** relies upon a seemingly endless parade of first hand-accounts in chronicling the history of ACT UP unlike David Weissman and Bill Weber's stirring **We Were Here** or David France's **How to Survive a Plague** which has been screened during this year's Milwaukee Film Festival. Not that Glenn can fault the articulate and diverse group of interviewees Hubbard has assembled. Screening **How to Survive a Plague** and **United in Anger** is quick succession; Glenn was struck with how much of the same archival footage is in both films. While invariably thoughtful, thorough and balanced, **United in Anger** lacks the immediacy and the passion which made **We Were Here** and **How to Survive a Plague** so powerful and so emotionally involving.

***(5:00 pm) FACING MIRRORS**

(Negar Azarbayjani, Iran/Germany, in Farsi with English subtitles, 102min., 2011)

Following **Cloudburst**, festival-goers will have a second opportunity to hit the open road in Negar Azarbayjani's **Facing Mirrors**. Rana (the extraordinary Ghazal Shakeri) longs to be a proper Iranian wife and mother. Her reality is rather different. With her beloved husband in prison and facing enormous debt, Rana does her best for her young son. As she nervously adjusts her scarf, worried she might be arrested, Rana embodies all that is traditional in Iran.



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So she probably shouldn't be using the family car as a taxi, even if only for female passengers. But then she wouldn't have met Adineh aka Eddie (the equally extraordinary Shayesta Irani), a Trans-man who is on the run, desperate to flee an arranged marriage and any thus hope to become the man he knows he is inside.

Rana is initially reluctant to take on the fare but Eddie offers an awful lot of money. One million Toman does indeed sounds like an awful lot of money to Glenn, regardless the exchange rate. As they set off their journey, Azarbayjani's screenplay deftly explores how such an unlikely friendship can flourish in a country where women are required to wear a hijab and homosexuality is a serious crime and yet transsexuality is legal if accompanied by a sex change operation. **Highly Recommended**

*** (7:00 pm) MOSQUITA Y MARI**

(Aurora Guerrero, USA, English and Spanish with English subtitles, 85min., 2011)

Set entirely within the Mexican immigrant community of Huntington Park, in southeast Los Angeles, Aurora Guerrero's charming **Mosquita Y Mari** evokes Hettie MacDonald's 1996 classic coming of age tale, **Beautiful Thing**. 15-year-old Yolanda (Fenessa Pineda) is an excellent student; each new quiz or paper she aces going right up on the family fridge. Yolanda might not always seem comfortable with her group of friends; at least she doesn't seem unhappy. And as long as Yolanda's grades continue to pass muster, her hardworking, taciturn parents are happy.

The arrival of Mari (Venecia Troncoso), the new girl at school, turns Yolanda's world topsy-turvy.

Since there aren't enough geometry books to go around, Mari has to share with Yolanda whom she soon nicknames Mosquita. As the new girl, Mari tries to act tough but Yolanda quickly sees right through this half-hearted charade. Unlike Yolanda, Mari doesn't only have school to worry about; she also shoulders responsibility for the care of her siblings. Her commitment to her family leads Mari to some extreme measures to try to earn money to help out with expenses.

Guerrero's screenplay favors a naturalistic approach, eschewing narrative fireworks in favor of a collection of scenes where Yolanda and Mari's burgeoning relationship is allowed to flourish. Hanging out after school in an abandoned warehouse allows their friendship to grow away from both their schoolmates as well as the prying eyes of the gossiping butcher at the local grocer. Mari relishes the attention pays her. When their friendship evolves into something rather deeper, Mari grows uncomfortable, reluctant to let her friend in too deeply into her life.

*** (9:00 pm) KEEP THE LIGHTS ON**

(Ira Sachs, USA, 101min., 2012)

Theirs must be the most chronicled gay relationship in New York, maybe anywhere — ever. In **"Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man"** Bill Clegg chronicles how he walked away from a career as a literary agent with a loving family and supportive partner to embark on a two-month crack binge. Something of publishing phenomenon, earlier this year Clegg picked up where the previous memoir left off with **"Ninety Days: A Memoir of Recovery."**

In his new film, **Leave the Lights On**, filmmaker

Ira Sachs brings his own slant to his ill-fated relationship with Bill Clegg. Recalling the edgy, sexually charged films of the early 1990s New Queer Cinema, **Leave the Lights On** finds Erik (Thure Lindhardt) thinking he'd won the jackpot when he hooked up with Paul (Zachary Booth), a handsome lawyer with Random House. The sex is hot, so what if there's an awful lot of drink and drugs. Erik clings to the idea that Paul is the love of his life regardless of Paul's increasingly erratic behavior. Days come and go when Paul never even comes home. As Paul further spirals out of control, Erik arranges an intervention; Erik's glowing description of Paul at odds with the Paul we've met but never actually get to know.

Unfortunately **Leave the Lights On** has nowhere to go. Paul's is an all too familiar story of addiction. Erik challenges Paul to clean up his act, to go to rehab after which there is a brief respite. Time and again Erik gives Paul another chance. Time and again Paul disappears, disappoints. An extraordinary episode which found a pitiful Erik holding Paul's during his brief encounter with a rent boy finally left Glenn exasperated.

Leave the Lights On is an often stunning, deeply personal film, a film full of "moments" but none the more emotionally compelling for it.

*** (11:00 pm) SPARKLE'S TAVERN**

(Curt McDowell, 16mm on DVD, 120min., 1985)

A rare screening of the last film from the outrageous queer underground filmmaker Curt McDowell — and starring George Kuchar! **Sparkle's Tavern** is a bordello run by a brother and sister

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team (the sister played by McDowell's real life sister Melinda, to whose generosity we owe this opportunity to present her late brother's film. Much thanks!) The siblings try to keep their operation a secret from their disapproving, more conservative mother, but when she encounters the enchanting Mr. Pupik (played by Kuchar), she has a change of temperament.

(Not available for preview)

Day 4: Sun., October 21 – UWM Union Cinema

*** (11:00 am) THE INVISIBLE MEN**

(Yariv Mozer, Israel, in Arabic, Hebrew and English with English subtitles, 69min. 2011)

"The Palestinians won't accept us because we're gay and the Israelis won't accept us because we're Palestinians without a permit and we're illegal," says Abdu, precisely describing the dilemma faced by many gay Palestinians seeking asylum in Israel. In **The Invisible Men**, director Yariv Mozer follows three such men who, facing death threats from their own families, choose to flee to Israel in the hopes they might find a better life.

The Invisible Men focuses primarily on Louie's story as he seeks out help from The Aguda - The National Association of GLBT in Israel. With their assistance, Louie hopes to receive UN refugee status and the chance to start over in a third country. Louie is initially reluctant to share his personal story; he uneasily relates details of how a friend took photos of Louie kissing his boyfriend unaware and later, after an argument, providing the incriminating photos to Louie's father. The prominent scar on his right cheek a powerful reminder of what waits for Louie should he wish to go home.

Director Yariv Mozer effectively captures Louie's "invisible life," working at whatever odd jobs he can find, wearing the Star of David, and at all times trying to be as inconspicuous as he possibly can. No matter many times the police take Louie across the fence that divides Israel and the Palestinian Authority, he always manages to return to Tel Aviv. **Highly Recommended**

With:

TOMORROW EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT (Akram Zaatar, Lebanon, 7 min., 2010)

A late night online chat between two men who haven't met since the turn of the millennium leads to their reunion after ten years of separation.

*** (1:00 pm) LET MY PEOPLE GO!**

(Mikael Buch, France, in French with English subtitles, 86min., 2012)

On a Film Festival schedule chuck-full of searing documentaries (**Call Me Kuchu**, **The Invisible Men**) and serious minded dramas (**My Brother the Devil**, **Facing Mirrors** and **Keep the Lights On**), Glenn is relieved to see included an unpretentious little comedy like Mikael Buch's **Let My People Go!**

Reuben's life could not be more idyllic. He wakes up to find the sun is shining, the flowers are

blooming, the birds are singing, even the adorable little gophers are frolicking on the perfectly manicured lawn out front. After dressing in his perfected pressed postman's uniform, Reuben (Nicholas Maury) kisses his gorgeous Finnish boyfriend Teemu (Jarkko Nieminen) goodbye and hops onto his bicycle ready to deliver the post to the friendly, cookie-baking residents of this tranquil little community.

Everything changes when Reuben reaches the home of Mr. Tiilikainen (Kari Väänänen).

Receiving a packet full of money he immediately decides he doesn't want, Mr. Tiilikainen insists Reuben take it. As someone who is committed to doing his duty to the letter, Reuben naturally refuses. The two scuffle. When Mr. Tiilikainen appears to stop breathing, Reuben panics, grabs the cash and heads home. Once there he is shocked to find an unsympathetic Teemu who banishes Reuben from their little slice of Finnish paradise. With nowhere else to turn to, Reuben returns to Paris and his crazy family headed by Almodóvar regular Carmen Maura as his mom and off-the-charts sexy Clément Sibony as his firebrand brother Samuel.

Once Reuben arrives home, director Mikael Buch takes the narrative helter-skelter into the wacky world of farce. In short order Reuben nearly kills his annoying nephew, fends off the unwanted advances of the elderly lawyer Goldberg, and meets his father mistress before landing in jail.

First-time director Mikael Buch might play fast and loose with both gay as well as Jewish stereotypes in this sweet Technicolor fairy-tale but never with matters of the heart.

*** (3:00 pm) MY BEST DAY**

(Erin Greenwell, USA, 75 min., 2012)

Small town America has rarely been portrayed with such affection and charm as in Erin Greenwell's **My Best Day**, easily Glenn's favorite film to be screened at **The 2nd Annual 25th Anniversary Edition of Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival**.

If refrigerator repair dispatcher Karen (Rachel Style) has one wish, it is to understand why her father left many years earlier, taking with him her sister Stacy. She might just get her chance to find out when out of the blue her dad chooses the Fourth of July to call Hank's Refrigerator Repair.

Karen sets off an extraordinary chain of events when she convinces her friend Meagan (scene-stealing Ashlie Atkinson) to come along on the job. Their plan would have been perfect if her dad would have been home. In his stead they find Eugene (Harris Moran). Glenn's not exactly sure who Eugene is; he says he's "just sleeping on the couch, hard times and all that..." Eugene warns Karen and Meagan to watch out for Stacy (Jo Armeniox) who they are trying to tough-love her out of her gambling addiction. Then there's Stacy's younger brother Ray (the precocious Robert Salerno), who inexplicably is wearing a wrestling tights.

And along the way Meagan astutely points out that the refrigerator has simply been unplugged.

As it turns out in this charming slice of rural Americana, Karen isn't the only character on a quest. Meagan has just splurged on a new motor-cycle she mistakenly thinks is going to impress Heather (Kate McKinnon). Eugene spends most of the film searching for "meatless-meat." Stacy is obsessed with that one ultimate bet, the bet which will allow her to pay everyone back. Ray faces down both bullies and puppy love.

My Best Day succeeds thanks to the generosity of spirit Greenwell brings to this amazing piece of Americana. A place where, under a night sky shot through with sparklers and fireworks, Greenwell's quirky, engaging characters just might be celebrating their best day. **Highly Recommended**

*** (5:00pm) AT LAST: AN EVENING OF TRANS* SHORTS**

This evening's shorts program explores and celebrates the struggles and joys and talents of a diverse group of Trans* people. To screen: **Queen** (Adam Rose, USA, 22min, 2011); **The Thing** (Rhys Ernst, USA, 15min, 2012); **La Santa** (Mauricio López Fernández, Chile, in Spanish with English subtitles, 14min., 2012); **Transforming Family** (Rémy Huberdeau, Canada, 10min, 2012); & **Black Mask** (Rene Brasil, Brazil, in Portuguese with English subtitles; 15min, 2011)

(Not available for preview)

*** (7:00pm) MY BROTHER THE DEVIL**

(Sally El Hosaini, UK, 111min., United Kingdom, 2011)

Two Arab brothers, joined by devotion and hero worship, find their loyalties tested in this gripping British drama about masculinity, the lure of gangs, and the bravest of declarations. Mo and his older brother Rashid live in an immigrant community in the London borough of Hackney (an area aflame during the 2011 riots.) Mo idolizes the glamorous Rashid, who, as something of a prince in a local gang (dealing drugs, mostly), is the stealth breadwinner for his family. But after his best friend falls in a knife fight, Rashid, shaken, drifts from the society the gang corralled, finding other possibilities in Sayyid (the great Said Taghmaoui), an artist on the periphery of their tenement world. Seen as disloyal, Rashid becomes a target for his former cohorts, and a confused Mo, betrayed by his brother's change of heart, embraces the role models brandished by the gang. The jurors at Outfest, when awarding **My Brother The Devil** the award for Outstanding International Feature at this year's festival, cited, "its taut narrative, sensitive interrogation of masculinity, excellent performances by an ensemble cast, and intense cinematic experience." We couldn't agree more: Sally El Hosaini's debut film, one of the most exciting we are screening this year, is powerful, troubling, beautiful.

(Not available for preview)

For more information & last minute additions or changes, be sure to check out the official festival website:

www.arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm

MADISON SETS A DATE NIGHT FOR "AN EVENING WITH LESLIE JORDAN" WITH FIRST APPEARANCE AT BARRYMORE THEATRE

Emmy Award winning actor/comedian LESLIE JORDAN has proven to be a lot of things in his illustrious career spanning TV-FILM-STAGE and NIGHTCLUBS. The common thread of his fame, whether he's playing a role or just being himself is; he sure can tell a story! And story telling he will do when he brings his one-man show "**AN EVENING WITH LESLIE JORDAN**" to Madison's storied, historic BARRYMORE THEATRE for one night only, **Friday, October 19 at 8:00 P.M.** Regaling audiences and critics alike with this latest in a series of acclaimed autobiographical stage pieces, the pixie from Dixie entices audiences to sit back and lend an ear to his comedic romp of twisted, tattling tales with his own, customized spin, Southern style!

Jordan is a small town man with a giant propensity for scene stealing. Best known for his raucous, outrageous recurring role as Karen Walker's nemesis, BEVERLEY LESLIE on the television classic *Will & Grace* (garnering an Emmy for Best Guest Actor in a Comedy Series, 2006) as well as his career defining role as BROTHER BOY of both the original film *Sordid Lives* and the recent Logo TV sensation, *Sordid Lives, The Prequel*, he has also made dozens of memorable appearances in commercials and hits television shows including *Reba*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Ugly Betty*, *Alley McBeal*, *Boston Legal*, *Murphy Brown*, *Monk* and as a series regular on the 80's sitcom *Hearts Afire*. Most re-



cently, Jordan made a brief yet indelible splash performance (cartwheels anyone?) in the Academy Award winning box office sensation *The Help*. A veteran of the live stage as well, his one man autobiographical shows include *Hysterical Blindness*, and other *Southern Maladies That Have Affected My Life Thus Far*, *Full of Gin & Regret*, *Stories I Can't Tell Mama*, *Deck Them Halls Y'All* and *My Trip Down the Pink Carpet* which was based on the best

selling autobiography of the same name and filmed as an HBO Special.

The self-proclaimed "gayest man I know" has publicly chronicled his start in show biz from the day he boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Hollywood with \$1,200 sewn into his underpants to the heights of his lucrative, diverse and award-winning career as a comedic actor. Success has not been without its dangerous temptations along the way; a self-proclaimed former battle with various addictions, self-loathing and even a brief incarceration, candidly and openly shared. Jordan's evening of storytelling is exactly what you'd expect; colorful, ribald, salacious, laugh-your-ass-off hysterical with no holds barred and all prisoners taken and up for public prosecution and scrutiny!

"**AN EVENING WITH LESLIE JORDAN**" plays the Barrymore Theatre as its first stop in a swing through Wisconsin. Tickets and information are available by visiting the theatre website at www.barrymorelive.com or you can call & charge at (608) 241-8633.

REACTION PRODUCTIONS, a Los Angeles and Palm Springs, CA based marketing, promotions and production firm is producing the touring version of "**AN EVENING WITH LESLIE JORDAN**". Additional information and/or inquiries can be obtained by visiting www.reactionshows.com website or by calling (760) 322-3554

Gay North America International (GNAI) holds National Pageant in Kenosha www.gnaipageantry.com

If you follow the art of female impersonation in the local bars throughout Wisconsin you are probably aware there is no shortage of pageant systems for the boys and "girls" to compete. A few years back a brand new pageant was started. This one was different because many of the people who are behind it are familiar faces in the scene in Wisconsin.

The group started ground work for the original North America system in late 2010. Based on feedback gathered from other systems and contestants throughout the country. It was felt there was a need for a new system that not only incorporates the stage aspect of performing but also gives back to the LGBT community. Today each titleholder has a platform or charity they work with throughout their reign to help promote civic responsibility within the community in addition to performing. In 2012 North America was merged with Miss Gay International, formerly owned by Dena Cass to become Gay North America International.

Scott Stebane told us how the group came together. "Basically a group of us from different backgrounds in entertainment got together over a series of discussions and

the system just grew from there. Our board consists of entertainers, promoters and bar owners so we have a cross section of talent and can each specialize in our own area."

Board members from Wisconsin include Scott Stebane who oversees promoters, Neely O'Hara is the contestant liaison for the Miss divisions & Jazmine Roberts is the national pageant coordinator and liaison for the Mr divisions. We also

have Michael Stoker from Illinois who is in charge of the Mr and Femme divisions.

The next regional At Large prelim is in Pennsylvania in October. The Illinois and Tri-State At Large & Supreme will be a double crowning in Springfield, IL on Oct.20. Interested contestants can contact us through our website.

The At Large and Supreme Nationals are Nov 16 & 17 in Kenosha, WI at the Parkway Chateau located on the corner of I-94 and Hwy 50. The Mr & Miss division nationals will also be held at The Parkway Chateau in April 2013. The Mr & Femme divisions will be held in Springfield, IL next May 2013.

"On behalf of the board of Directors of Gay North America International we look forward to creating not just a pageant but a family. We are dedicated to giving back to the community we serve. We look forward to the support of the LGBT community of WI as we continue to grow the system. It is a great opportunity for entertainers and promoters alike to become involved in a brand new system that is so close to home. Anyone who is interested or would like more information can also contact us through our website", stated Neely O'hara who has owned many crowns in her past and now steps forward helping to manage this new pageant system.



Miss Gay North America International Titleholders: Londenn D Rain (At Large) & TeeKee LaRue (Supreme)

Avenue Q - Puppets with Purpose a Review by Paul Masterson



The Skylight Music Theatre opens its 2012-13 season with a must-see hit production of the Tony Award winning *Avenue Q*.

This charming and high-spirited musical finds its inspiration in Sesame Street with a cast of puppet characters manipulated by on stage singer-actor-puppeteers. The plot line finds Princeton (Ben Durocher) out on his own after graduating college and seeking his purpose in life. He rents an apartment managed by grown up child star Gary Coleman (Tiffany Cox). The beat-up tenement offers diverse neighbors including furry monsters, a teacher, a wanna-be comedian, an Asian-Caucasian mixed racial couple and, in an Ernie & Bert homage, a cou-

ple of guy (but not entirely gay) roommates. They all have their stories and dilemmas, of course, but they provide the framework for what ultimately results in Princeton's finding his purpose...well, almost.

The "jewel box" Cabot Theater setting lends intimacy and audience-cast connection (unlike show's touring production at the PAC a few years back). It's actually what a show like this deserves. But it's the puppetry that gives *Avenue Q* the edge. Were this just another musical exploration of post-adolescent, on-the-verge-of-adulthood Angst, a Rent-lite if you will, it could easily fizzle into a been-there/done-that *deja vu*. But the puppets take us back to our Sesame Street days and we're ready to accept anything they

say, or sing, as the most sincere and innocent of adult truths, like the songs "The Internet is for Porn" or "I'm not Wearing Underwear Today."

Speaking of which, the two dozen songs by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx traverse the tentative territory of insecurity and the road to discovering one's purpose. "It Sucks to be Me" and "If You Were Gay" are stand-out standards in the first act, and "The More You Ruv Someone" and "Schadenfreude" in the second.

Of course, to bring the puppets to life, there has to be a capable cast. Here, all the members are beyond capable. Dressed in unobtrusive shadow-like gray, they almost disappear, their voices and expressions transferred seamlessly to their puppet personae.

Lisa Schlenker's scenic design offers an appropriately cartoony backdrop to this storybook-style production. Jamie Johns musical direction is spot on with an assembly of guitar, electric bass, sax drums and keyboard.

One might expect a show conceived in 2002 with a focus on social issues like racism, homelessness, and gay coming out, might be dated a decade later. But, in today's political climate, these themes are just as poignant and topical as ever. All in all, *Avenue Q* offers a wonderful, lighthearted but adult (don't bring the kids) evening of entertainment.

Milwaukee should be grateful for the fortunate confluence of local production sponsors who helped bring this marvelous show to the Cabot Theater. They include the ACLU of Wisconsin, Cream City Foundation, Wisconsin Gazette, and Harley Davidson.

If you go, *Avenue Q* runs through October 14 at the Broadway Theatre Center Cabot Theater, 158 North Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. For ticket info go to www.skylightmusictheatre.org

Coffee or Tea? Local LGBT film debuts @ MGAC

by Paul Masterson



You are what you eat, they say. For many a freshly minted gay boy, you are what trendy brand you wear...or what music you listen to. Local film director Lucien Jung probes into that post-coming out world in which the real dilemma looms. Coming out was the easy part - in his newly released "Coffee or Tea?" figuring out "what's next" is even more daunting.

"Coffee or Tea?" is a fun and breezy short in the spirit of Hollywood romantic comedies from the '50s and '60s. It may be "camp," but we are absolutely sincere in our positive message of self-acceptance," Jung said. "We define our lead characters not as members of a marginalized community but as two young men engaged in the universal pursuits of figuring out who they are and how to love and be loved."

The film was conceived by Jung and co-writers Thomas Sennholz and Daniel J. Harmon. "The idea was to make a fun, frivolous film as an exercise in working together as a team. We all came from different backgrounds but found we were all outsiders. The film's point of view reflects our own journeys of figuring out who we are," Jung said. "Coffee or Tea?" is our cheerfully absurdist take on queer love and the Sandra Dee and Doris Day films. My hope is that audiences will smile with recognition and understand that to get what you want you have to know who you are.

Then maybe, for the next generation of outsiders, their journey of self-discovery really will end with a lovely soft-focus kiss."

The five minute film stars local talent Allie Beckmann as Britney, the angel who forces everyone else to confront and accept what they want. Her mission is to help tentative gay boys on their merry way. Bobby Reitman plays Britney's most recent success, Matt. Through Britney's matchmaking, he meets Ritchie (Brennan Johnston), another one of her charges. The moment of truth ensues.

"We used all local music for the soundtrack and we also have to thank the very generous and gracious owners and management of Hamburger Mary's in Bay View for providing a location for the filming. We even had waiter staff act as extras," Jung said. "Now we're hoping to have "Coffee or Tea?" picked up by LGBT film festivals. I'm happy to announce it's already been chosen for play at the 2012 Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival! It will be screened in November during the Men's Shorts program at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA)."

A sneak preview of "Coffee or Tea?" takes place at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's special Open Mic fund raising event sponsored by GAMMA, Saturday, October 6. The Open Mic opens at 7pm with a potluck dinner. Programming begins at 7:30pm. A \$5 donation at the door is requested.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 South 2nd Street in Milwaukee's Historic Walker's Point.

OUT BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 11 #10 October 2012



2013

**MEN OF
PRIDE**

Let's hear it for the boys!

PrideFest Milwaukee launches calendar series to celebrate LGBT community

Looking for a new way to celebrate your LGBT community pride on a year-round, daily basis? This summer, our volunteers are developing "Men of Pride" the first in a series of annual calendars showcasing the diverse people and places of PrideFest Milwaukee.

Models, photographers, designers and other local professionals have donated their time to make this creative collaboration possible. Our first-ever calendar, which features the men of Wisconsin, will be published this fall and will be available for sale at bars, pridefest.com, Pride events and will be available for sale November 1 for \$10.00. We are limiting production to just 1000 copies, so be sure to get yours before they're gone!

We are partnering with local LGBT businesses, including This Is It, Fluid, DIX, Five Nightclub, Woody's, Club Icon and more, to create this community experience. Sponsorships, which start at \$200, subsidize our production costs of and make it possible for us to reach the largest possible audience. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we will be co-hosting a series of calendar release parties this fall where you can meet our models, get personal autographs and photos, and enter our PrideFest VIP Weekend Experience contest

And no, our series isn't just limited to men! We are already in discussions to highlight other members of our colorful community in future years, with a proposal already on the table to create an "LGBT Families" calendar for 2014. Whether you're interested in joining next year's project as project leader, creative support, or featured family, please contact us at info@pridefest.com to learn more.

We want to thank the many talented people involved with this year's kick-off project, as well as those who have expressed interest in being involved in future years. We're committed to raising LGBT visibility sky-high, and we could never do it without you!

Watch for sneak preview photos, production updates, release party invitations, and purchasing opportunities on our Facebook page this fall.

We look forward to seeing "Men of Pride" on your walls next year!





Cordially Yours by Michael Johnston

As the autumn leaves start to fall let me welcome you once again to another edition of Cordially yours. Can you believe it's October?

In the last month, we've gone from summer to fall, and have seen The Ball Game, go bye-bye! Who would have thought Milwaukee, without The Ball Game, 1971 – 2012. Sad to see yet another revered Gay establishment have a last call, and without a proper Bon Voyage. What a long, rich history – a lot to be proud of... Congratulations to Rick, Danny, Queenie, Myrna, Drew, David, Debi, Max, and all the rest of the Staff, past and present that made the South Second Street emporium the legend it was. To quote Bob Hope "Thanks for the Memory!"

Fans of Sirius XM Radio and Broadway's Seth Rudetsky will want to see, as well as hear him, as he brings "Seth's Big Fat Broadway" to Vogel Hall, of The Marcus Center. Thursday, October 4 and Friday, October 5 Broadway Babies will be out en masse to enjoy this incredible one-man show. Keep an eye out, Vogel Hall will be the place to be this season for more "Off Broadway" experiences.

Saturday, October 6 The AIDS Walk Wisconsin will once again take place at the Lakefront, walking not only for a cure, but for all our friends living with HIV or AIDS. This year, Ryan Braun of The Milwaukee Brewers will lend his name and considerable appeal as Honorary Chair – in making a difference, every gift can change a life!

Recently, I had the privilege of lunching with ARCW (AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin) new Executive Director, Mike Gifford. This serious man is so devoted and the personification of the old adage still waters run deep. Doug Nelson and the ARCW Board were very wise in naming Gifford, Nelson's successor. And we here in Wisconsin are very fortunate.

The same day of the AIDS Walk, the flawless Barbara Cook graces our fair city at Alverno's Pittman Theater. Ms. Cook is touring in "Barbara Cook at 85". The toast of Broadway for almost 65 years, and still in glorious voice, you must hear this legend! Brava!

Sunday, October 7, The 11th Annual Brady Street Pet Parade – 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. For more info – www.BradyStreet.org

Skylight Music Theatre – who wants to make our nights sing! Will open their season with "Avenue Q" now through Sunday, October 14.

The Milwaukee Ballet is doing "La Boheme" at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Thursday, October 18 – Sunday, October 21. If you love

this opera by Puccini, or the pop Broadway smash musical "Rent," please come and see what Michael Pink does with this classic.

The Milwaukee Rep's Stackner Cabaret will be celebrating "Blues in the Night"

Friday, October 19 – Sunday, December 23. Who could possibly be Blue listening to the music of Ellington, Goodman and/or Miss Bessie Smith? The Rep's Quadracci Powerhouse is honoring another historic figure with "The Diary of Anne Frank" probably the most read diary – ever! This opus for the entire family is on the boards from Tuesday, October 23 – Sunday, December 2.

The Sunset Playhouse, our "West End" Theatre in Elm Grove, is mounting "Twelve Angry Men" Thursday, October 25 – Sunday, November 11 – well worth the drive!

Off The Wall Theatre is doing "Trainspotting" Thursday October 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 and Thursday, November 1, 2, 3, and 4 – a must see!

The Florentine Opera performs an audience favorite with "Carmen" Friday, October 26 and Sunday, October 28 at The Marcus. Please take in the Opera Party at The Room of Boom, the Sunday before October 21 7 PM. This is a perfect chance for you to meet the Cast, hear the Interns sing, and engage in conversation about the show, Opera, and the performing arts. And it is absolutely free!

The Northern Lights at Potawatomi Bingo Casino! Have a month's worth of first-rate talent!

Thursday, October 4 The Go-Go's 8 PM Friday, October 5 The Crickets with Special Guest Lee Rocker 8 PM Wednesday, October 10 SNL Alum Dana Carvey 8 PM Saturday, October 13 "Weird Al" Yankovic – "The Apocalypse Tour" 8 PM Thursday, October 18 Clannad 8 PM Friday, October 19 Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan 8 PM Friday, October 26 America You've Got Talent's Howie Mandel 8 PM & 10 PM Tuesday, October 30 & Wednesday, October 31- Halloween, Paul Rodgers with Special Guest The Dave Mason Duo 8 PM

Dreamgirl Mary Wilson of The Supremes shined ever so breathlessly last month at Northern Lights. Talk about a potential talent for PrideFest! Thank You Staff of Northern Lights for the Royal Treatment! Mary certainly had a "Mary" Crowd! So good to see so many of us! It looked like PrideFest in September! Baby Jane Hudson celebrating his Birthday Eve came in with Brian Kohler of The Harbor Room, Russ – one of my favorite Leathermen and one of the tantalizing Trailer Sisters, and the legendary Princess Charlotte Lorraine, The Supreme, Ms. Ross - David Howser, bedazzled in "Supreme Fashion" head to toe, the fab Ginger in HowserWare as well, so fabulous to see so many of your smiling faces.

My favorite part of the Show was when Ms. Mary invited up onto the stage the aspiring Supremes. All of us who copied their moves, look, singing into hairbrushes wanting to be Supreme too! Did I want to go up there? Yes! Did I go up there? No! No sense of rhythm - - but Charlotte and David along with a few others took the challenge, and had a chance of a lifetime! And did they ever shine! I was soooooo very proud! I loved



Roger RamJet, Paul Milakovich, Patrick Farrell, Cordially Yours,

Patrick's highly successful Exhibit - "Looking Back" The Summer of 2012
Tory Folliard Gallery

it when Miss Mary Wilson pointed out our Chuckie AKA Charlotte and was impressed with his knowledge of lyrics and dance movements. So much so, our Princess was asked to stay up with the Show for an additional number! CL was also clad in HowserWare and ended up getting his top signed by Mary. David was gracious enough to gift me with an original Howser Brooch that I was thrilled to sport and will treasure always!

To add a bauble or original wear, created and celebrated by David Howser, please visit his on-line boutique – www.HowserDesigns.com and Google Etsy and search for HowserDesign. The Holidaze are fast approaching!

Continuing in the Applied Arts world, my favorite artist, Patrick Farrell's work is being enjoyed now through Sunday, October 28 at The Englewood Orchard Galleries of Door County. Please if you're in the area give your eyes the wonderment of "Apples on a Silver Tray". After you see the Master's touch, you can see what the other Master has done with the beauty of nature and this year's "Leaf Show".

I closed out the hot summer of 2012 with a hot time at the Dairyland Classic/SSBL Awards Party. The Pritzlaff Building makes for a great location, and the outstanding talents of Milwaukee's very own – Dear Ruthie as Mistress of ceremonies and Chris America as Mistress Madonna was in a word Magic! So good to see the Community turn out, support the event, the sport, and be ambassadors

for our fair hamlet. Everyone seemed to be having a super time! Congratulations to our winning home team, Boom! and their powerful Team!

Loved seeing all the bars united to offer one big super bar – Fluid's Bill, Lizzie and Will, Club Charlie's Craig & Dawn, Gunnar, and Collin, the Boys of Walker's Pint, and Bill and Nate and Men of The Hybrid Lounge – all mixing up great drink specials.

The Peck Pavilion Series at The Marcus was a sensational way to utilize prime real estate and offer something different to Water Street. I loved the man who did a great Tribute Show to old blue eyes – Frank Sinatra. I closed my eyes, and he was there... I also enjoyed the "Music of the Night" provided by Franc D'Ambrosio. Franc has played the Phantom of the Opera, more than any other performer! What pipes, what a Show!

A dinner party to end all dinner parties – Thank You Joe Pabst for outbidding everyone at CCF's (The Cream City Foundation) My Best Friend Is...Gay-la and gathering all of us at the home of Boris and Doris. Yes the celebrity writers from Shepherd Express that write about all the celebrities about town hosted a most marvelous dinner at their charming farm. My first time ever on a farm! And hopefully, not my last time – there! A dinner companion commented that Boris' and Doris' is a bit like Ten Chimneys – and it is, so now I must dub their pied de terre One Chimney! The champagne flowed, the conversation as bubbly as the bubbles, the feast – fit for a Queen and just a royal time!

Congratulations to the Fathers of the Brides – what is summer without nuptials? Serge & Jerry from Kruz married off their daughter in Canadian style this past season. And Robert Parrish & Richard Steele, now of Palm Springs returned to escort daughter Heather down the aisle to endless bliss. It was delightful having R&R back home, they could enjoy our inferno of a summer – and yet we were still cooler than the Springs!

Rest In Peace, that empress of the key board, Norma Frinzi Angeli, the toast of Angelo's on Van Buren. I had the pleasure of seeing Norma many times throughout the years. You never knew if she would be accompanying Jerry Grillo, Robert, or any of the talented voices of the Florentine Opera Chorus. So fortunate to have an autographed CD of her greatest hits and my cherished Norma Fan Club button – she always did the hit song from "New Faces of '52" for me -- "Guess Who I Saw Today?" – Unfortunately, for us, it won't be Norma.

Butch's Casino Steakhouse is still tops with me! I dined there last month and even without my pal and favorite server DeDe providing extraordinary service – they're still holding up! Our servers Mark and Suzie, with Bartenders Gary and Derek, and Gil doing his master-chef-ing, the quality and quantity is alive and well, with this dedicated staff.

Remember, it's the glamor, not the grammar, as we all prepare for the bewitching month of October, and all the haunting it brings as I remain Still Cordially Yours,.



The poster features a black and white close-up of a person's face with dramatic, dark eye makeup. The text is primarily in red and yellow, with a black background. The top left has the text "Please do not disturb Carl, HE already is." in red. The top right says "CLUB ICON" in red. The center has "Halloween Extravaganza!!!" in large, stylized red letters. Below that is "Saturday, October 27th" in yellow. Further down, it lists "With a HUGE costume contest with OVER \$1000 in CASH & PRIZES! Including: \$500 prize pack for BEST COSTUME" in yellow. Then "\$5.00 cover charge" in yellow. At the bottom, it says "Visit us on the web for all of our October Events www.club-icon.com" in yellow. The bottom left corner provides the address "Club ICON • 6305 120th Ave • Kenosha WI • 262-857-3240" in white.

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Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

When I first started thinking about this month's column, I decided I wanted it to have plenty of seasonal flare. After all, I love autumn and all of the crap that goes along with it. Crisp winds, muscle men in bulky wool sweaters, Halloween, cowboy boots, apple cider, tight jeans...you get the idea.

Should I write about events in the Wisconsin during October? Hmmmm....Michael Johnston does a darn good job of that every issue. What's hot? What's sexy for October? Hmmmm....I think Wisconsin's LGBT Community already knows that. Maybe I should ditch the advice this week, and focus on recipes. But what sort?

Should I write about comforting casseroles? Savory side dishes? Toasty beverages that warm your toes? Screw that! I know! Let's talk about sweets that come together easily with some of everyone's favorite boxed cereal! These items are fun, silly, take little to no time to make and are truly addicting.

I found three that are perfect for October munching (one is shared by one of the Ruthie Rooters!), but all of them are also great for snacks, work treats, and sharing with friends any time of the year. That said, stir up these crunchy bites...eat good, and shut up!

RUTHIE'S BITCHIN' PEANUT BUTTER BARS

A tasty take on traditional crispy marshmallow bars, this recipe uses Reese's Puffs cereal and colorful M&M candies. The treats come together in moments, and they're damn good! Try 'em and see for yourself!

- 30 marshmallows
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 6 cups Reese's Puffs cereal
- 1-1/2 cups milk chocolate M&Ms

Combine the marshmallows, butter and peanut butter in a saucepan. Over medium heat, cook the mixture, stirring until everything is melted and well combined. Remove from the heat, and stir in the cereal and M&Ms. Spritz a 13 x 9 inch pan with cooking spray. Carefully transfer the mixture to the pan, and, when cool enough to touch, pat the mixture into an even layer. Cut into bars when completely cool.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Use regular marshmallows – not miniatures or extra-large. Feel free to try this with different flavors of cereal, and adjust the peanut butter to your liking.

SWEET -TRICK SNACK MIX

Relax! There's no trick to this easy snack mix! (I just couldn't think up a better name.) If you haven't guessed, my change-of-pace snack mix includes Trix cereal, and offers a unique burst of sweet citrus flavor.

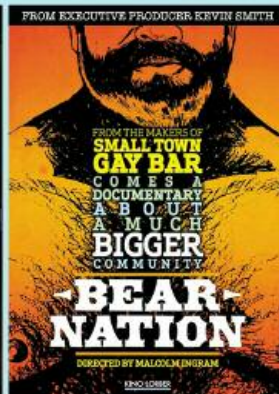
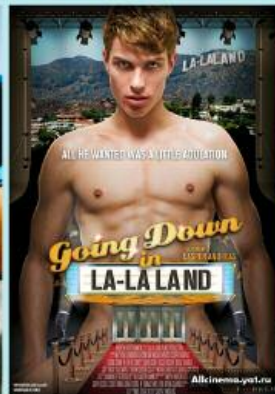
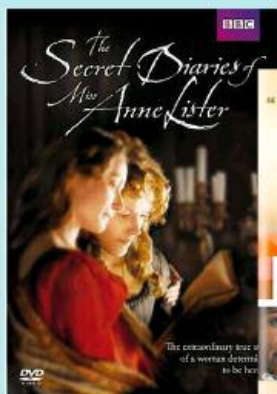
- 2 cups Trix cereal
- 6 cups popped popcorn
- 1/4 cup butter
- 3 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 box (4-serving size) orange gelatin

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Mix the cereal and popcorn in a large bowl. Line a 15 x 10 pan with aluminum foil and generously spritz foil with cooking spray. In a large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the corn syrup and sugar. Stir in the gelatin. Mix well. Heat to boil, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to low. Simmer until sugar is dissolved (about 4 minutes). Carefully pour the sugar mixture over the cereal mixture. Gently mix until cereal mixture is well coated. Spread cereal mixture onto the foil-lined pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 15 minutes. Break into pieces when cool.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Give the mix a little Halloween flair by tossing in handful or two of candy corn when stirring the sugar mixture into the cereal mixture. Store the snack mix at room temperature in a tightly covered container.

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SPICY CEREAL CLUSTERS

"These addicting snacks contain a little bit of a kick," writes Pamela from West Allis. "They're great for a party." Thanks for sharing Pamela! You're free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt is on the way!

1/2 cup Cheerios cereal
1/2 cup chow mein noodles
1 can (11.5 ounces) mixed nuts
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup light corn syrup
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
Dash of salt

Cover a 9 x 15 inch pan with aluminum foil. Generously spritz foil with cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine the cereal, chow mein noodles and nuts. In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Stir in the sugar, corn syrup, black pepper, cayenne pepper and salt. Cook 5 minutes, stirring constantly, until the sugar is melted and mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and pour over the cereal mixture. Carefully stir until cereal mixture is well coated. Quickly drop mixture by heaping tablespoonful onto foil-lined pan. Cool before eating or storing.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Toss some butterscotch chips into butter mixture if you'd like. When simmering the butter mixture, it may foam up a bit. This is okay...just keep stirring. Store these tasty bites between sheets of waxed paper in a tightly covered container.

Have a question for Ruthie? Want to share a recipe with her? If she publishes your recipe, you'll receive a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt!

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& Alternating Sat. clinic from 9-12 for gay/bisexual men Call for schedule

October Outreach Schedule
FREE HIV & SYPHILIS Testing at:

Woodys, Thurs. 4th, 9-11 • Kruz, Fri. 5th, 7-9
Fluid, Mon. 8th, 9-12 • Studio 200, Wed. 10th, 9-11
LaCage, Wed. 17th, 10-1ish
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Well here we are again, I hope you all had fun last month where ever you decided to celebrate the end of summer. Which now brings us to this month, October! That right it is October, the month where even you can look pretty by putting a mask on and no one will call the cops on you, well except maybe a few of you, but I don't want to go there. Also in October is Football, you may ask me why I decided to tell you all that, and to be honest I am trying to figure that out too. Either way, who cares! Let's get on with it! The thing that we are going to talk about this month is nothing! That's right nothing; this month is completely devoted to reader mail. So I want to thank all of you who write in so regularly and let's get to answering some of your questions.

Brent,

My Girlfriend and I have an argument over which is the best way to keep our piercings clean. She has a hood and I have a nipple. Which is the best way? --Sarah & Jessie

Well, the best way to keep both of them clean in my opinion is antibacterial soap. It kills bacteria but is not too harsh as to irritate the piercing. Just remember to only clean the piercing twice per day at the most. Cleaning your piercing any more than that can end up just irritating the piercing and causing it to take longer to heal.

Dear Brent,

Long time reader, first time writer. I was wondering how old is too old to get a piercing? I am in my fifties and I really want some piercings but I am worried about how my peers might react. Also are there any added health issues for older people when they get pierced? --Paul.

Well, first thanks for being an avid reader of my column, and kudos for having the courage to write in, now on to your questions. First in my experience as far as peers go, I say to hell with them. You are old enough to make your own damn decisions

and have the right to do to your body what you will. So to your peers, if they can't deal with your piercings then maybe you should find some better friends. As far as your second question, health issues are always an important thing to consider when getting a piercing at any age. However as you get older time takes its toll and the body gets sick more often and things of the like, but when it comes to piercings the only additional concerns are if you have any health conditions that would hinder your body's ability to heal, such as diabetes. As long as you are free of conditions which could hinder your healing, or are on medication to offset these hindrances then you will be fine. Thanks for the E-mail Paul.

Brent,

I want to get into Play piercing how do I do this? -- C.P.

Temporary Piercings, also known as play piercings. (Ok you kinksters; break out your Crisco and paper towels) Play piercings are piercings done anywhere on the body but there is no jewelry inserted. The purpose of these piercings is to push the person receiving them to their limits. As well as pushing limits this form of play forces the body to produce endorphins creating a natural high. These piercings are done with very thin needles; usually 22ga to 27ga, by using these thin hypodermic needles there is usually very little blood loss and no permanent marks. These piercings will heal completely in roughly one to two weeks. Please though keep in mind that this is a very dangerous thing to get into if you do not know what you are doing. I definitely recommend you speak with someone who has done this in the past and knows what they are doing before you even attempt to do something like this.

Well it looks like I am out of room again. Please keep those emails coming in, they really do brighten up my day. (except for the ones that force me to drink heavily.) Send emails to avantgarde@voyager.net. Just put Skin & Steel in the subject line.

KRUZ

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