

QUEST

Volume 20 Issue 1 January 2013



**OUR VERY FIRST
COVER MODEL**

ANDY

**IS BACK TO HELP US
CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF QUEST!**

Photography by Mark Mariucci MarucciPhotography.com

MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL

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Wildness

Thursday, February 21, 7pm

Artist WU TSANG in person with WILDNESS, a spirited documentary/memoir/manifesto about the struggles of making a space queer and of claiming a space you can understand as safe. (73min., 2011)



Young and Wild (Joven y Alocada)

Thursday, March 7, 7pm

Mariely Rivas's lively coming-of-age story of a young woman who, torn between the burning fires of religious fervor and youthful sexual energy, defiantly chooses pleasure. (96min., 2012)



Portrait of Jason

Thursday, April 4, 7pm

Shirley Clarke's landmark documentary – newly restored! – that unwinds an uninhibited monologue – raw, troubling, often funny – from one Jason Holliday, hustler-cabaret performer-sometime domestic. (105min., 1967/2013)



Tallulah, and how!

Thursday, May 2, 7pm

Cordially Yours' Michael Johnston uncorks an evening devoted to legendary diva Tallulah Bankhead, which will include a screening of her 1965 Hammer horror film *Die! Die! My Darling!* (Silvio Narrizano, 97min., 1965)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: ARTS.UWM.EDU/LGBTFILM



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Quest Volume 20 Issue #1 January 2013

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Quest

Wisconsin Gay Entertainment Guide



QUEST TURNS 20



Quest

Wisconsin Gay Entertainment Guide
Volume 2, Issue 1 Feb. 9 - 22, 1995

Well, we made it!
Our First Anniversary
Issue!

Hey! Stop looking at
that boy on the cover,
I'm talking to you...



Andy, who with his daughter is on our 20th anniversary cover managed to make a record of six covers for Quest. These three are during our first twelve months.

Printing was expensive back then and we could only afford newsprint and one extra color for extra impact. The July Fourth cover was my first attempt using two colors together instead of black and one color to make it more colorful. I would have to wait 17 years to have full color on a regular basis.

QUEST TURNS 20

By Mark Mariucci, Quest Publisher

On our cover we are thrilled to include our very first covermodel, Andy for his sixth cover of **Quest**. Andy worked for a time as a bartender at Za's in Green Bay and since he was so easy on the eyes, I thought he was a logical choice for being on the cover. Jay Bero, then a stylist with Apple Photography Group and now the owner of **Burst** Flower and Gift shop in Green Bay acted as the set stylist for this shoot. I have personally photographed Andy for all 6 covers and he still is one of the easiest models I have had the pleasure to work with.

Andy has enjoyed 18 years as a business professional with a leading communications and entertainment company. On the political side he worked with **Fair Wisconsin** to help protect domestic partnership in Wisconsin. "I LOVE my job," he enthusiastically says. "I also have the joy of becoming a father through the wonders of surrogacy and couldn't be happier!" he continues.

Quest was started as a small format bar entertainment guide for all of Wisconsin. I was the publisher as I still am, but also owned a successful bar called Za's in Green Bay and felt that it was hard for any of the bars and businesses outside Milwaukee to get enough attention since those communities were much smaller than Milwaukee's then very well developed gay community.

I already had formal schooling in commercial photography and a background working in design and layout of other publications including *The Entertainer* in Green Bay. There I did photography, paste-up and layout. I had just worked on a collaborative effort with the Northeastern Wisconsin bars called Green Apple, a newsletter and had invested in the then brand new Macintosh desktop publishing technology. At that time both *In Step* and *Wisconsin Light*, were still produced using conventional paste-up and camera negatives. Armed with a Postscript laser printer, Photoshop and Quark Xpress, I knew a low cost free publication could be supported on a shoestring budget, so **Quest** was born.

Starting with the first cover I knew I wanted to break new ground, so I planned that covers would mostly be professionally taken photography. This first cover featured this issue's cover model Andy completely nude on a couch with heart shaped box of chocolates covering his privates both so we could get published and also because we came out closer to Valentines day missing January completely.

Andy went on to model the 4th of July issue riding a rocket which was shot on the roof of Za's so a cloud background was possible. This was the first attempt to produce a two color cover; red, (white paper) and blue.

Andy would return for our first anniversary issue which by now was printed in house. He appears again for an April Fools issue where the cover is reversed showing it correctly on the back cover as a joke. The photo of Andy shows his backside on the cover and front side on the back cover. His fifth cover was in our new larger hybrid format which we

used for many years repeating that Valentines theme with the heart box of chocolates but perhaps a bit more tasteful.

While I was preparing to shoot Andy and his new family member, I mentioned that I hoped to find the three magazine issues he appeared on the covers. Andy reminded me there were actually five covers and proceeded to name them all. After a search in our archives I was fortunate to find all five to include here. I say fortunate because there are two big gaps in the collection, the first caused by was water damage in a rented house where I stored the earliest ones framed, and in a moment of lapsed judgement, I disposed of about one year's worth that were stored with the printing presses in Pulaski, Wisconsin while cleaning out the office after being unused for several years. Fortunately there is a complete set with the State Historical Society in Madison as well as a nearly complete set with UW Milwaukee's LGBT history archives. You can also view an almost complete set on line at:

<http://www.mkelgbthist.org>

direct link to the quest covers is:

<http://www.mkelgbthist.org/media/print/quest.htm>

The first year of **Quest** was printed in Ripon on newsprint at a local printer there. They had also printed the other publications *Entertainer* and *Entertainer*, Milwaukee that I had worked on. The printer started having complaints from homophobic pressmen and the Vice President who had Christian values decided they no longer would print the magazine. I was outraged as both *Entertainer* newspapers featured nude females with stars over the breast and that was completely ok, however our print classifieds were too sexual for them. Go figure!

After failing to find another printer nearby, I decided to purchase my first printing press and go in-house. A friend owned a quick print center and showed me how to operate the press and a brand new technology for printing plates made the rest possible. Instead of needing to create a negative and then a printing plate, I could now output the plated directly from certain laser printers. This technology had its limits as did my ability to get good print quality, but we were able to keep churning out the copies and keep costs down.

During the years that followed **Quest** was twice left as the only remaining LGBT publication in the Milwaukee area that could print news. We covered the scene throughout the battle for gay marriage which as we all know ended in defeat with the marriage amendment.

Quest at this time now had the usual calendar of events, news and press releases, book, music and movie reviews and the long running classified ads that ran as a feature until the end of the 1990's where they went online only for a time and are now ended.

Advertising was mostly outside of Milwaukee and hampered growth for years until **Quest** merged with *Outbound Magazine*, a smaller format glossy color publication mainly for Milwaukee and Southeastern

Wisconsin.

By then **Quest** had moved from *Outbound* size to the hybrid square size that mirrored *Homo Xtra* in New York. The purchase of larger two color printing presses allowed us to increase size to where we are now, 8.5 x 11. We were still printed in house and four color covers using those plastic laser plates were a nightmare taking all day to print one page in color.

Wanting to include more color meant having to once again go to an outside printer. Port Washington had a printer that had contacted us and a test was done. We had to go back to newsprint, but now could have more pages in color. Later we changed to our current printer in Ripon owned by Journal Publishing. There at first we used a glossy cover and newsprint with all pages now being color.

Last January sensing a changing market with print publications going online or out of business all across the nation, we decided to change format again. *Outbound* was merged into **Quest**, all pages going full color glossy print on expensive paper in our larger **Quest** size. We also left the news to *Wisconsin Gazette* and decided to focus on lifestyle and attract a larger audience including younger LGBT people who had not grown up with **Quest**.

Our focus included for the first time photo spreads in most issues giving up and coming photographers from all over Wisconsin a chance to get published in print. For many this was their first time. Either the photographer was LGBT or the subject was or worked in an LGBT related field. Our first cover included a straight married fitness model who danced with Red Star and featured a female Milwaukee born photographer.

Quest would continue to break new ground integrating straight and gay together with other models and photographers. We are especially proud of the Mothers Day issue with featured mothers with their LGBT daughters or sons photographed by the fabulous Amanda Schlicher of Tangerine-Studio.com with production and direction by Kelton (Keltonhatton.com)

This year we plan more studio photo sessions, and our other features that you love so much but we will also spend time tripping down memory lane showing past covers and telling tales of the early years. We hope you enjoy the ride!

NOTICE:

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and **Quest** will feature a gallery display of original magazine covers plus enlarged reproductions of certain covers during the month of January beginning Saturday, January 12 with an reception. Doors open 7:30pm with cash bar and all proceeds benefit the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. We plan to have some of **Quest** photographers, writers and others on hand. Stop in and say hello.



Left:
For April Fools we printed a cover backwards reversing not only the words, but showing the backside of Andy. On the back cover it is shown the correct way. Our Little Joke!

Below Left:
we reprised the first issue cover (sort of) bringing back Andy one more time.

Below:
Although it took four runs for each color and a fifth run for the opposite side, we did manage to print one or two issues with a full color cover. This was the first attempt.



2012...

by Paul Masterson

Another New Year's Eve has come and gone...with its concluding hang-over, 2012 fades into our collective memory. For the national and local LGBT community the year turned out well for all intents and purposes. 2012 marked landmarks of longevity with many of Milwaukee LGBT organizations celebrating major anniversaries. All in all, there were generally more ups than downs to report. Still, the political and social gains were in part tempered by some unsettling HIV health news.

The year began with the LGBT Community Center trying to shake off five years of disconnect with the very population it was created to serve. The near implosion left center members wondering "what's the use?" while the beleaguered board explored the disenfranchised membership for a second chance. Since then, board changes and expansion, the return to old by-laws regarding board member selection, as well as a recent new hire, Tom Hanley as program director, have tried to get the center back on track. At this stage, with its space downsized by two thirds, it seems to be hanging in there with its rent reduced to under \$10,000 per month. Overall operating costs have been halved. Recent Cream City Foundation funding, matching grants, and United Way support are keeping the LGBT Community Center afloat. Recent website postings reflect positive changes with the center offering assorted new classes and a meeting venue for 50 community organizations.

The bar scene continued to contract and expand. *Triangle Bar* just disappeared. *MONA's* closed as well. Then, after four decades, *The Ball Game* gave up the ghost without much fanfare, replaced by a straight Tiki bar. Sadly, no one in the community thought to take up the banner at the north end of the gayborhood to continue a gay presence there. However, for what it's worth, there's now an urban cheese factory, Clock Shadow Creamery, flying the rainbow colors in its window at 2nd Street and, appropriately enough, Bruce. Further south, anchoring Gay View's ever expanding Kinnickinnic entertainment mile, Hamburger Mary's Bar & Grille became city's latest addition to the club scene. Besides its signature dagger-pierced burgers, the lavender locale's community conscious claim to fame is "HAM-Bingo," a weekly fund raising night hosted by Dear Ruthie and her ball-calling coterie. It also sponsored the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center softball team, *Scream*. Hamburger Mary's weekend drag shows have become ever more popular

with a full palette of popular entertainers playing to standing-room-only crowds.

Meanwhile, Cream City Foundation (CCF) marked its 30th anniversary. It welcomed a new president and CEO, Paul Fairchild into the fold. With a quick succession of introductory events Fairchild hit the ground running. He has been busy aggressively establishing contacts from businesses and corporations to individual donors, expanding the foundation's outreach to include seven southeast Wisconsin counties. CCF dispersed \$50,000 in grants to recipients that span the community spectrum. Its underwriting partnership with the ACLU and Harley Davidson rescued the Sky-light Music Theatre's staging of *Avenue Q*. Other corporate funders withheld support due to the musical's positive LGBT message. The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and the Racine based LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin have also received major CCF funding. Smaller grant went to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, Nomadic Limbs, the Queer Program and Pathfinders among a dozen others.

Also in the realm of philanthropic giving, the G/L Community Trust Fund supported 21 groups and programs for a total of over \$6600. (see QUEST's Oc-

tober interview with G/L CTF director Si Smits).

In 2012 SAGE (Seniors in a Gay Environment) relocated to Plymouth Church on the city's upper east side. The group continues to serve seniors in the Milwaukee area through social events and provides members access social services. Its current board chair, Dawn Schmidt will step down in March 2013 as she and her wife Jacquie Lindo are expecting a "little one."

PrideFest 25 came off with a record financial year, near record attendance and near perfect weather. The PrideFest Medal for Community Service was awarded to Karen Gotzler, the LGBT Community Center's current interim executive director; the LGBT Film/Video Festival; and to Michael Lisowski for 20 years of producing cable TV's *Queer Program*. Retro main-stage entertainment, expanded Gay Arts Center stage programming, an all new *Womyn's Spot* attraction dedicated to the L crowd, as well as a bigger and better GAMMA-MGVA volleyball tournament marked the silver anniversary event.

Meanwhile, speaking of gay jocks, the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network (MGSN) continued to expand with a successful Big Gay 5K Run a week before before



PrideFest. 80 participants raised funds for the ARCW AIDS Walk. It hosted a Brewers Night Out and an Admirals Outing. MGSN also launched the Milwaukee Gay Basketball League. It now plays at Kosciuszko Community Center. The Saturday Softball League played a perfect season (its 35th) with a record 15 teams taking the field. The annual SSBL Dairyland Classic wrapped up the summer with a great Labor Day weekend of play and a fabulous closing Party at the Pritzlaff. Over Thanksgiving weekend the city's bowlers greeted nearly two hundred guests for the 34th annual HIT bowling tournament. Information about the new basketball league and all other Milwaukee's LGBT sports can be found online at milwaukee-gaysports.com.

Billed as its second 25th anniversary event, Milwaukee LGBT Film & Video Festival, the annual celluloid celebration continued to bring the latest and best of the international LGBT flicks to an avid audience. Also, after its sneak preview screening at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, a local film production, a cute comedy short entitled *Coffee or Tea*, won the Audience Favorite Award at the Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival. Maybe it will get shown here.

Damn Right!

Politically, Wisconsin's tumultuous year of the recall gave the LGBT community little to hope for in state level LGBT progress. November, however, proved a critical month. It was tense going into the 2012 presidential election. LGBT issues, though barely mentioned during the campaign, stood to win or lose with its outcome. There was a collective sigh of relief with President Obama's reelection. In Wisconsin, an outburst of "damn right!" greeted the election of Tammy Baldwin as the nation's first lesbian senator along with new gay congressman, Mark Pocan. The state's first black gay Wisconsin assembly candidate, Kenosha county supervisor Dayvin Hallmon, made a bid in Kenosha's 65th district. He didn't make it through the primary but remains an ac-



Sport photography by Paul Masterson ©2012



tive member on his county board. His political aspirations to higher office remain. No doubt we'll be seeing him run again in the near future.

Elsewhere, UWM's LGBT Studies Program hosted a weekend long Sex and Gender Spectra Conference focusing on trans issues.

The bad news, however, was the alarmingly high HIV infection rate increase among men having sex with men in the African American commu-

nity. Diverse & Resilient, the city's capacity building organization, has received major federal and city grants to launch programs designed to help stem the tide of this serious community crisis.

Going into 2013 QUEST Magazine celebrates its 20th anniversary. An special exhibit featuring QUEST Magazine covers through the years opens at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on Saturday, January 12. Editor Mark Mariucci hosts the gala reception that night. All are welcome to attend!

NEW ON DVD NOTRE PARADIS (OUR PARADISE) Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

This final 2012 review finds Glenn, a Christmas Cranberry Julep cocktail in hand, not the first, looking back upon a massive holiday misstep.

Each year Glenn hosts a festive cinematic evening complete with suitable festive entertainment; boasting suitable (and plentiful) festive refreshments.

Last year's **Christmas Carol-athon** was admittedly rather coolly received. Patrick Stewart, George C. Scott, Mr. Magoo, and Alastair Sim are each unique and entertaining Scrooges but together make for a rather long night. By the time the last Tiny Tim had bleated out "God Bless Us, Every One!" Glenn's last remaining guest was heard to exclaim, "Never Again!"

So what to do this year to win back favor? A mini-Monty Woolley Christmas festival with **The Bishop's Wife** and **The Man Who Came for Dinner** would be ever so clever but alas already done. Who wouldn't love a Sensational 60s Sit-Com Xmas? Glenn can in his dreams hear the soothing creak of the color wheel changing the gorgeous Aluminum Christmas Tree from red to gold to... well, you get the idea. Well, alas that too has been done and done to death.

For 2012, Glenn decided rather to go against tradition; go against the season. For 2012 Glenn would offer his guests respite from the Ho! Ho! Ho!!! of the season, for one night at least with a screening of a new film by French director Gaël Morel, **Notre Paradis (Our Paradise)**.

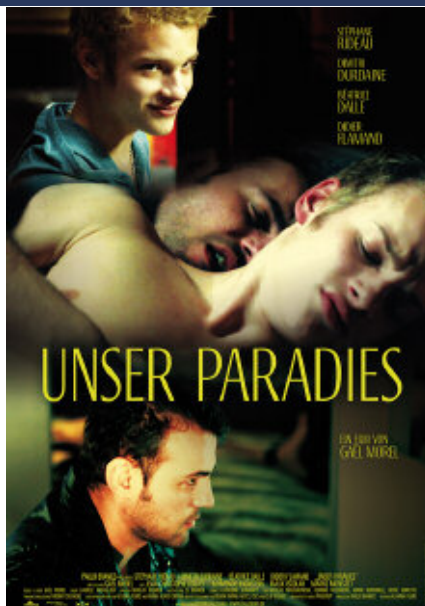
Glenn's First Annual *Un-Christmas* Christmas!

Loyal **Quest** readers will remember Gaël Morel from his debut in **Wild Reeds**, a timeless and absolutely breathtaking coming of age film dating from 1994. Morel quickly retreated behind the camera with surprising success, a string of intriguing feature films including **Full Speed** and **3 Dancing Slaves** to his credit.

In **Notre Paradis (Our Paradise)**, Morel has turned to Stéphane Rideau, his **Wild Reeds** co-star to play Vassili, a jaded male hustler on the wrong side of 30.

Unshaven, a burgeoning pot-belly rather too prominently displayed and possessing a sly, wary look, the Vassili we first meet in **Our Paradise** admittedly possesses little of the sensual spark Rideau first offered in **Wild Reeds**. He might insist he is 20 but Vassili is waging a losing battle in a young man's game. Still, his first client (Jean-Christophe Bouvet) proves pragmatic and definitely does not deserve the violent surprise Vassili has in store for him, Roy Orbison's hauntingly appropriate "In Dreams" echoing in the background.

Later that same night, whilst prowling the cruising grounds of Paris' Bois de Boulogne, Vassili happens



upon a gorgeous youth (Dimitri Durdaine), dazed and bruised from an attack and looking for all the world as if a fallen angel. Lacking any memory of his life before the attack, even his own name, he only reluctantly accepts the name Angelo much as he only reluctantly accepts Vassili's best Good Samaritan ministrations.

Despite their obvious attraction, Vassili and Angelo prove an unlikely pair. Uneasy over their disparate ages, Vassili is determined to maintain a distance in fear of getting hurt. For his part, Angelo only comes to accept that he actually does love Vassili, thanks to Said (Rabah Zahi) a cute, good-natured working boy.

Briefly even the most cynical of Glenn's guests began to wonder if there was more to this love story than might meet the eye.

When the two pair up for paying clients, Glenn sensed trouble ahead. Vassili might be happy to exploit Angelo's youth and beauty for a fast euro or two but is decidedly less happy when their tricks increasingly want want only Angelo, Vassili relegated to waiting in the next room.

Eventually Vassili confronts his insecurities. "Why stay," he challenges Angelo, "Out of pity?"

"Because you make me hard."

Finally faced with the consequences of Vassili's violent rages, he and Angelo hit the open road, heading out of Paris. Here Morel's screenplay changes direc-

Buy it, rent it, or forget it...

Okay, cards on the table, Glenn's *Un-Christmas* Christmas screening of **Our Paradise** was not a success. Not even close. There is such a thing as too much Bah Humbug. Who knew?

The post-party silence left Glenn plenty of time for contemplation, especially of the relationship between Vassili and Angelo. Durdaine's Angelo possesses an intriguing amoral innocence perhaps to suggest what Vassili might have been like when he first hit the mean streets of Paris.

Scattered amidst scenes of graphic sexuality, violence as well as some bizarre fetishes none amongst Glenn's acquaintances would admit knowledge of are also scenes of extraordinary tenderness between Vassili and Angelo. In particular there is an achingly poignant scene in which Angelo contemplates the sleeping Vassili, wishing for Vassili an ordinary life while offering his love unconditionally. Gay cinema might be littered with male prostitutes, yet rarely do these hard working lads fall in love.

That young newcomer Dimitri Durdaine is stunningly beautiful and often naked kept the attention of many amongst Glenn's guests.

As unconventional a love story as **Our Paradise** is, Glenn never stopped rooting for these two star-struck lovers to realize their dream in a film that is surely one for the collection.

Just the facts...

Our Paradise clocks in at a chilling 100 minutes and is in French with English subtitles. **Our Paradise** is available on DVD (2/5) with an SRP of \$24.99

Béatrice Dalle, young Vassili's mother debuted in the title role of the 1986 indie classic, **Betty Blue**

tion and we meet another Vassili (Mathis Morisset), the adorable young son of Anna (Béatrice Dalle), a conjurer's assistant and Vassili's old friend.

After the Parisian scenes, a rapid succession of wild hedonism and violence, this interlude offers a welcome respite.

Yet all too soon Vassili's darker urges take hold, again, and Vassili and Angelo (with young Vassili in tow) hit the road again heading out to the idyllic mountain home of Victor (Didier Flamand).

Victor boasts a beautiful, spacious provincial French countryside home complete with a gorgeous young Moroccan boyfriend who is jealously devoted; Victor has indeed created his own paradise. Will this paradise prove too tempting to Vassili and Angelo?

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BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 12 #1 January 2013



BOOM HOLIDAY PARTY

Photos by Will Sharkey



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Cordially Yours by Michael Johnston

Lucky number 13 – can you believe it – 2013! 13 years into the not so new century. Happy 2013 – to a year of serenity, advancement, and accomplishment for all! With a New Year brings wonderful possibilities to engage in – let's start with Theatre!

"Divorce Party, The Musical" plays Vogel Hall at The Marcus Center Thursday, January 3 – Sunday, January 27. You'll love the latest from the Producer who brought you "Menopause The Musical". See you can base anything on a musical these days! This show provides the ultimate for a Girl's Night Out – but not for girls only! To get your seat please call 414-273-7206 or go on-line – www.marcuscenter.org

Did you know that this month Gershwin is in the house? 'SWonderful, 'SMarvelous that the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Edo de Waart will be celebrating the famous brothers – Gershwin, George and Ira. The first weekend of the New Year – Friday the 4th – Sunday the 6th, "Gershwin's Favorites: Porgy, Bess and More" – Jeff Tyzik, Conductor Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th "Rhapsody in Blue" – Francesco Lecce-Chong, Conductor. The Gershwin's are the American Songbook – what a treat!

The Northern Lights Theatre at Potawatomi Bingo Casino is the place to go this month for some sparkling entertainment - - all Shows at 8:00 p.m. Monday, January 7 – Friday, January 11 "Tribute to The King – Elvis' Birthday Month. Friday, January 18 Restless Heart Wednesday, January 23 Jeffrey Osborne Thursday, January 24 Robert Randolph & The Family Band Thursday, January 31 Eric Burdon & The Animals.

For laughs there is Bonkerz Comedy Club featuring: Larry Reeb with Jack Baker on Saturday, January 5 Bill Gorgo with Collin Bullock on Saturday, January 12 Sonya White with Jamie Cruz on Saturday, January 19 Diaz Mackie with Robert Keen on Saturday, January 26

Clay Aiken had a most enjoyable Christmas Show last month, if you didn't know any better you would think you were in Las Vegas! What quality, what glitz!

"Memphis" will heat up your January starting Tuesday, January 8 – Sunday, January 13. This popular Broadway extravaganza revolves around a D. J. from Tennessee who decides to play the music of the day, by the original artists as opposed to spinning the much paler, vanilla

covers that were blocking the airwaves back in the mid-fifties. In doing so he created an international craze that keeps the beat going to this very day.

Don't forget to see the mesmerizing Treasures of Kenwood House, London currently on exhibit at The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM). Come view Rembrandt, Van Dyck, and Gainsborough – in your town through Sunday, January 13, a chance of a lifetime...

Leslie Fitzwater is "Edith Piaf on Stage" at The Cabot Theatre of The Skylight Music Theatre beginning Friday, January 25 – Sunday, February 10. You won't want to miss her interpretation of the little wren, France's own Judy Garland.

On the theme of "Memphis" playing here and breaking down segregation and uniting all mankind – "Clybourn Park" – the 2012 Tony Winner graces The Quadracci Powerhouse at The Milwaukee Rep Tuesday, January 29 – Sunday, February 24. During this month where we remember and salute The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. it's most topical of the Arts to remind and to celebrate how far we have come - - and to remind us just how far we must go...

The Milwaukee Rep did an outstanding take on "The Diary of Ann Frank". I was fortunate enough to see and get enmeshed in another time in our history where our humanity was in question. The Reps' production was fascinating and the acting superb. Something that will live with me forever!

Mitchell Park Domes "Music Under Glass" every Thursday 6:30 – 9:00 PM. This month they offer: U2Zoo January 3, The Happy Dutchmen January 10, The Jerry Grillo Orchestra January 24, and The Barrettes January 31. "Circus Comes to Town – Train Show" Saturday, January 19 – Sunday, March 10 I can't wait to see what Burt Gross does with this ever-popular Domes tradition.

Fluid – "Let Us Entertain You" takes place **every third Saturday of the month** – promptly at 10:00 PM. This month, Saturday, January 19 "A Salute to the Wacky Ladies of Milwaukee Camp" Starring Dear Ruthie, Chastity Belt, Baby Jane Hudson, and Your Hostess, Lizzie Bordeaux.

What a goodtime I had doing the "Pilot" with Show Director, Goldie Adams, Miss Gay Wisconsin U.S. of A. Betty Boop, and Lizzie Bordeaux, Emcee. The best part of the evening the

Audience really seemed to enjoy and appreciate this very ambitious undertaking. Support the shows and local entertainers it's a win - win situation.

Which segues into my opportunity to thank the Entertainers who volunteered their time and considerable talents for the HIT Welcome Show # 34 "A Miracle of 34". The dazzling cast included: Goldie Adams, Bambi, Jonathan, Corky Morgan, Members of The HIT Board - Barbie, BoBo, ChaCha (Rochelle) Dishwalla, and Candy Stick – so popular were they – that an encore was demanded! Always a pleasure working with HIT!

Congratz to David and Boom/The Room for being entered into Holiday Invitational Tournament's (HIT) Hall of Fame for all they've done for the tournament.

Also a shout out of Thanks to Goldie Adams, Maple Veneer, Baby Jane Hudson, and Corky Morgan who joined me in Boom/The Room's Holiday Revue.

Happy to report Bob Schmidt, the legend behind The M&M Club, is recovery very well in his Palm Springs abode after a precarious fall.

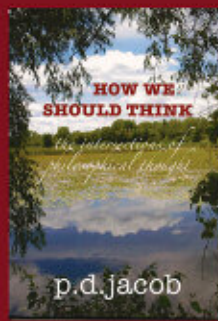
We've lost a couple of BrewTown favorites – Bob "Ma" Barker of The Castaways who was one of the best Emcees ever to take to a stage in this city and Phil AKA "Phyllis" thanks for all you've done for the Community may your memory live on.

Restaurant wrap up recently I had a fabulous time at the ever-friendly, ever-popular Bosley's on Brady – 815 East Brady Street, in Milwaukee's lower east side. It is the place to see and to be seen at! What an uber popular cocktail hour! And the meal – I closed my eyes and I was back in Key West! Michelle, Nels, and Stacey treated me like royalty! If you're looking to get away and you only have a couple of hours recharge your batteries with a tropical time of it at Bosley's on Brady – it's rejuvenating! And I loved the mistletoe!

And while in FoodLand kudos to ARCW's Jolly, Holly, Folly, 30 marvelous restaurants, bars (Champagne), friends, familiar faces, fun, and The Milwaukee Reps' production of "Sense and Sensibility". What a time!

Remember even in the New Year, it is the glamor, not the grammar as we all get use to writing a 3 instead of 2 on our checks – if you still write out check – as I remain Still Cordially Yours.

Wisconsin Gay Author/Activist Publishes Third Book



Green Bay author and LGBT activist, Paul "Cricket" Jacob, has released his third book. **THE FREETHINKING HUMANIST** chronicles the key events and the individuals responsible for the 'free thought' and 'humanist' movements.

While respecting religious diversity and the positive messages delivered through a variety of theologies, many, like Jacob, cannot overlook the oppressive, judgmental and divisive nature of competing faith-based religions. Jacob explores the early Church's refusal to let scientific discoveries interfere with its teachings, and how the Church-sanctioned Inquisitions punished those who thought 'outside the bible'. *"The luckier of history's greatest thinkers faced imprisonment, while many of the less fortunate were burned at the stake."* The book is a wonderful reference tool which includes: The Humanist Manifestos I, II & III; Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and 16 Traits of Self-Actualizers, Ted Turner's Ten Voluntary Initiatives, a listing of the Greek Gods, the history of the Christmas and Easter holidays, pages of incisive quotes from history's greatest thinkers, and a listing of freethinking and humanist organizations in the United States and around the world. Jacob was a guest author at the 2009 Fox Cities Book Festival and is a familiar presenter at LGBT-related and sexual health-related functions throughout northeast Wisconsin. This book release follows **THE AWAKENING DREAM – Journey On The Wings Of A Thousand Angels** (publ. 2008) and **HOW WE SHOULD THINK- The Intersections Of Philosophical Thought** (2010). All three books are available via the author's website: www.pdjacob.com or the publisher: www.lulu.com.



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Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of my little Ruthie Rooters out there! What? You're not a Ruthie Rooters? You say you don't even know what that means? Well, sugar, you should hop on the Internet right now and go screw yourself.

No, no, no. I'm just kidding. Whether you're reading "Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen" for the first time or the 10,000th time, I'm glad you're here, and I truly hope you had a helluva holiday!

I can tell you that my yuletide bonanza got off to a great start at the home of Mequon's Nicholas and Martin. (No one speaks of "bonanzas" anymore and that saddens me.) These two cuties invited me to their fabulous holiday party and fundraiser (see photo) where I was asked to simply say a few words on behalf of the charities involved, and I'm happy to say that these two fine men and their friendly guests raised more than \$800 for Alliance School of Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Make A Wish Foundation. Way to go, boys! What a night!

I'm thrilled to report that there's a new, monthly event in town that just can't be missed. Ryan Rose (formerly of the "Wicked" tour) and his partner RJ (hubba-hubba) have launched Magic MKE! This company strives to increase awareness of the arts in Milwaukee, help artists succeed in their passion and raise contributions to various art-related groups in our city. As such Magic MKE features its own show, "The Showcase," once per month, truly "showcasing" various artists in our town!

I was asked to emcee the premier showcase in December at Carte Blanche Studios,

and what a wonderful event it was! We featured local singers and dance groups that truly knocked everyone on their keesters. The informal meet-and-greet in the bar afterward was fun as well. What a great change-of-pace night! "The Showcase" is a perfect evening for a date, a night out with friends, or simply a lovely evening out of the house.

The second installment of "The Showcase" will be held on January 14 at 7:30 pm. You won't want to miss it. I'll be emceeing once again, but the show truly sparkles with the talented local singers, actors and dancers we have lined up. Check out Magic MKE on Facebook for more information or stop by Fred Boutique in downtown Milwaukee for tickets.

If you're anything like me (and I pray to God, you're not), you have a hard timing getting your rear end outta bed for church on Sunday. Now there's no need to fear punishment from the Big Guy...spend Sunday, January 13 at "Gospel Sunday" at Hamburger Mary's in Bay View.

The Packers are off that week, so come enjoy Sunday with a hearty Mary's brunch. My gal pals Shannon Dupree and Cee-Cee LaRouge as well as my identical twin cousin Sister Mary Ruthie will baptize you with the spirit with their hand-clapping, foot-stomping gospel show! Ideal for all ages, this hilarious 2:00 pm brunch event promises to be highlight of your weekend. Come in your best church hat, and you may even snag a prize!

Have you kooky kids heard the news? Fluid is featuring drag shows now! Check out the fun on the third Saturday of every month!

I'll be a guest on January 19 as show director Goldie Adams salutes Milwaukee's campy queens. Showtime is at 10:00 pm, and I hope to see you all there!

Nothing rings in the New Year like good time with great friends...but satisfying comfort food it certainly a close runner up. That said, let's step into my Bitchin' Kitchen for a truly tasty corn bread recipe.

I'm only featuring one recipe this month, because that's all I got! Remember, folks...send me your favorite dishes. If I publish them, you'll get a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt in the mail. That said, let's make some corn bread. Now, eat good and shut up!



TONY'S NOW-FAMOUS CORN BREAD

This tongue-in-cheek recipe comes from Tony of Milwaukee. Not only will it make you laugh (just like Tony himself), but it's a great recipe. In fact, I made it for the Rusty Nail Trailer Park holiday party, and it was a huge hit! Give it a try and see for yourself.

- 1 cup Vodka, preferable Grey Goose or Kettle One**
- 3 cans of Diet Coke**
- 3 eggs**
- 1 cup buttermilk**
- 1 container (8 ounces) sour cream**
- 3 boxes (8.5 ounces each) corn muffin mix**
- 1 can (8.5 ounces) creamed corn**
- 1 can (15.25 ounces) whole kernel sweet corn, drained**
- 1 additional cup of Vodka, rail is fine**

To begin with, wear clothes. This can splatter. Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees. Put ice in glass and add Grey Goose Vodka or Kettle One Vodka to taste and add Diet Coke. Lock up the cat. Turn on Lifetime.

Begin watching a bad Meredith Baxter movie. Remember the last time you made something and figure out where you put the mixer. Get it out. PLUG IT IN. (Very important.)

Crack eggs in large mixing bowl. Swear out loud as some of the egg white misses the bowl. Take a drink of your vodka. Using the mixer, beat eggs until they are lovely lemon color. (I said "lovely," damnit!). Add the buttermilk. Take another drink. Mix buttermilk with eggs until you're ready for another drink. Take another drink.

Add sour cream. Try to figure out who left fresh cream out, let it go sour, and still decided to eat it. Beat in well. Wonder why Meredith Baxter doesn't just kick the crap out of her husband.

Open each box of corn muffin mix and add one at a time to the bowl. Beat like your life depends on it. Take another drink. Search kitchen for can opener. Trip over the escaped cat. Threaten cat and swear out loud. Add corn. Finish drink. Picture the face of someone you hate in the bowl and beat batter until combined. Pour second drink using rail. (Cheap stuff

is fine when you're buzzed.)

Grease a 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Drink. Pour batter into pan. Swear as some of it hits the counter. Wonder out loud, who's cleaning this up? Drink. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out with moist crumbs. Drink. Think out loud, isn't Meredith Baxter a lesbian now? Take corn bread out of oven. Wonder why in the hell you made it in the first place. Finish drink. TURN OFF OVEN. Refrigerate leftovers. Go to bed.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Don't have any buttermilk? Save a trip to the store with this idea. Simply add a tablespoon of white vinegar to a measuring cup. Add white milk to 1 cup. Let mixture sit for 5 minutes. You now have 1 cup of buttermilk substitute.

Got a recipe or question for Ruthie? Send it to her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com. You can also keep up with her appearances, rantings & ravings on Facebook at Ruthie DearRuthie.

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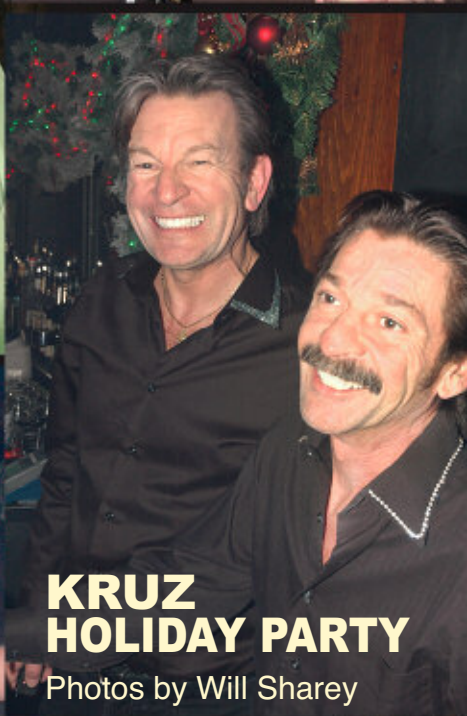
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 Studio 200, Wed. 9th, 9-11 • LaCage, Wed. 16th, 10-1ish
 Club Icon, Fri. 18th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)
 Club Boom, Thurs. 24th, 9-11



Well it is January, and last month was full of it! Hell it was so cold I thought my nipple rings were going to freeze to my truck every time I went to go somewhere. Well enough about me bitching let's talk about you my glorious readers. How was new years for you all? Do you even remember it? Do you remember where you threw up and who you took home to screw? Anyway, I guess you all embarrassed yourselves enough so I don't need to harp on you anymore. Let's get onto the piercing of the month. Let's talk about something that we haven't touched on in a while. The tongue piercing!

The tongue piercing in recent years has really become one of the most common piercings ever to hit western culture. It started gaining a lot of its popularity during the punk scenes of the 1960s and 1970s. From here it has grown into something that seems at least, every single girl from the suburbs has! The tongue piercing is usually done in the center of the tongue, although this piercing can be done in the sides of the tongue as well, but keep in mind that just because this is a very common piercing it is actually one of

the most technically difficult piercing for a piercer to perform. There are many large blood vessels that if struck can wreak havoc on the body and cause major bleeding which would need a doctor to fix! The tongue is relatively painless and heals extremely quickly, usually in about 3-6 weeks.

Now let's get to the part you all want to know, what you can use your tongue piercing for! The tongue piercing can be a very sensual thing, well unless you get it stuck on your partner's jewelry. (Not that I have ever had that happen to me.) It can be highly erotic just to see and even more to feel. For obvious reasons the tongue piercing is best put to use during oral sex, although some people have reservations about oral sex when jewelry is involved. Some people say that the steel doesn't feel comfortable against their skin; well we have a solution to that gripe. Jewelry companies have made products called French ticklers for a long time. What they are is little pieces of silicon molded into interesting shapes like spiky balls, atoms, and ribbed domes. These ticklers take the hard cold edge off the barbell and replace it with a soft

squishy feeling. So from now on you have no reason to refuse head from someone with a tongue piercing. (Of course I don't think any of my readers would refuse head from a fat blind man with leprosy, so I guess that last line doesn't mean much.) Well that's about it when it comes to tongue piercing so let's get on to something else.

Well I think I've got enough room for some reader mail.

Dear Brent,

Here is my question... How do you do piercings? I don't mean the actual act of it, but more so how did you get into the job and how can you force yourself to hurt people for a living. —Abe

Well Abe, you ask a very hard question to answer, so let's start with your first question. I got exposed to body piercing when I was very young through national geographic magazines and tribal themed television shows. I was hooked at that point and learned everything I could about tribal cultures. I didn't know it back then but I know now that I needed piercing and tattooing in my life from the first moment I saw it. From there, once I turned 18 I walked into Avant-Garde and got my tongue pierced, at the time I said it would be the only piercing I would ever get. (God was I wrong) From there I started hanging out at the shop, eventually I started working at the shop for free just so that I could have an excuse to be there and learn something new. Then one day the owner Jim asked me if I wanted to work at the shop and actually get paid to do it, of course I jumped at the chance and now that chance has led me into a partial ownership of Avant-Garde. As for your second question all I can really say is that you have to have a certain mentality to do this job. It's not really about hurting people, but you do have to have the will to be comfortable around pain. That's about all I can say, thanks for the letter Abe.

Well I think I have now run out of room for this month, until next month try to stay warm and if that doesn't work, then drink a fifth of vodka and imagine that you are warm! Please also don't forget you can reach me anytime by e-mail at Avantgarde@voyager.net. Just put Skin & Steel in the subject line, and remember you can e-mail me about anything. Thanks and have a great month and a Happy New Year!

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A photograph of a man with dark hair and a light beard, lying back in a bathtub filled with white bubbles. His eyes are closed, and he has a relaxed expression. His arms are raised, with his hands behind his head. The bubbles are thick and cover most of his body.

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