

20^{YEARS} QUEST

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 3, MARCH 2013

**THE
QUEER
PROGRAM
TURNS 20**

Photography by Kate Sherry



MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL



Portrait of Jason

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

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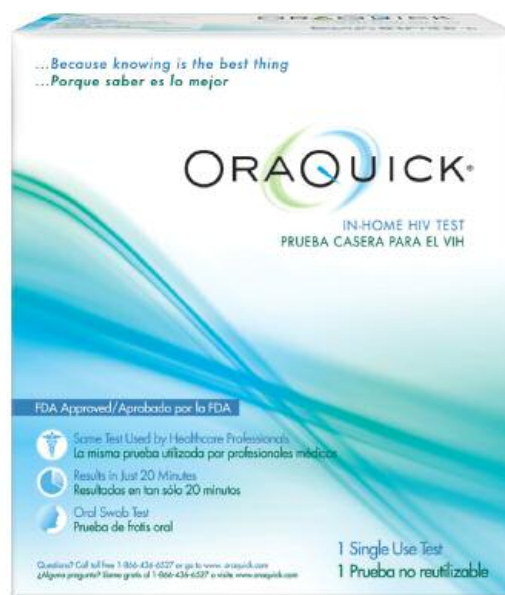


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MAKING AIR WAVES: The Queer Program turns 20

Cover Photography by Kate Sherry, Story by Paul Masterson

Summer in Milwaukee 1991... the city is in the throes of the Jeffrey Dahmer case. The mainstream print and broadcast media are the primary sources of information about the case and, by extension, about gay life itself. Now, beyond the AIDS stigma, a crazed serial killer-cannibal becomes the public face of the LGBT community. To confront the crisis, activists Michael Lisowski and Dan Fons embark on a project that, for one of them, still endures today. On November 4, 1992, from a MATA Community Media studio located in the old Schlitz complex at 2nd and Galena Streets, they broadcast the first segment of *The Queer Program*.

With Michael Lisowski still at the mic, *The Queer Program* continues its mission to present an alternative news source for and about the LGBT community. QUEST spoke with Lisowski about the beginnings and highlights of his two decade stint as a volunteer radio host.

QUEST: The first question is an obvious one: why *The Queer Program*?

Michael Lisowski: The Dahmer case really cast the whole community in a negative light. I knew four of his victims - one was in the Milwaukee gay youth group. Lots of people knew them. Dahmer himself was a familiar face in the bars and the rumors were flying. Dan Fons was active in ACT-Up and we both

worked for ARCW (AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.) We wanted a new means of communicating our side of things. We decided to create a Cable TV program and call it *The Queer Program*.

QUEST: Was this the Milwaukee's first LGBT cable program?

ML: No, before that there was a show called *Tri-Cable Tonight* founded by Mark Behar and Brice Clark. It was a prerecorded bi-weekly show. I was the co-host. But, *The Queer Program* was the first live broadcast. MATA had introduced a new system, M-PACT, that allowed us to do a live show. It was a system with two stationery cameras. One focuses on the talent and the other faces down vertically to allow showing photos, newspapers or fliers. It was a simple operation with a static unmanned camera. A console allows the host to switch cameras or show videos. MATA offered us a studio to do a live program using their new system. We took the required MATA training, did some pilot episodes, then, a year after the Dahmer trial, we broadcast our first live show.

QUEST: Speaking of sponsors, what are the costs of doing the *The Queer Program* and where does the money come from?

ML: We were initially sponsored by the Gay People's Union (GPU) sponsored us. Now MATA membership is \$200 per year for an organization. The G/L Community Trust Fund supports us with an annual grant. Back in 2007 Cream City Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary and we received \$250 from a special fund set up for the occasion by Joe Pabst. Last December CCF gave us \$1000. Other costs are out of pocket.

QUEST: That's it?

ML: Three or four years ago CCF funded a project I organized with the LGBT Community Center to train Project Q kids about TV production. The idea was for them to produce their own show. Sadly, nothing came of it after the grant award. I returned my part of the grant. Efforts are still underway to get Project Q involved. I'd love to see them come on and do something that would reach other kids at home who might not yet be aware of what's available to them.

QUEST: What was *The Queer Program* format? Has it changed over the years?

ML: At first it was Dan and I as co-hosts. The original show was 30 minutes and aired on Tuesdays but it was later expanded to a full hour. We presented news and events in the gay community. Dan filmed



a lot of the Act-Up protests. We'd show the videos and comment on them and invite guests for interviews. The show would be done live and recorded for a later replay. Sometimes we'd have to edit content or fix technical glitches for the replay.

It's pretty much the same today. We moved to the new MATA location on Clybourn Street in 2001. Our time slot changed as well. We're on Mondays at 6pm now. We now have a Health & Wellness booth at PrideFest. We tape people telling what they like about PrideFest and broadcast it. We actually did a show from PrideFest when it was back Veterans' Park. We've always wanted to have a gay dating game. With call-in contestants, the guest would pick a winner. No one seems to be brave enough to be a contestant.

Co-hosts have come and gone. In 1993 we had Melanie, a black lesbian. Dan left for San Francisco in September '96 and I went solo for a while. Then Charles Daniels (aka Charles D.) came in. He had been on before promoting pageants, and all. He stayed for 8 or 9 years. A viewer named Tim joined in and the three of us co-hosted. Charles' other community work required him to leave and Tim moved on. So, for a while I was alone again. Currently, Deonte "D" Goodwin, is my co-host. He's been with the show since '07.

QUEST: Do you have any particular memories to share?

ML: Many. We covered some significant local news events, like the Act-Up and Queer Nation protests around HIV/AIDS issues. There was the cryptosporidium outbreak in 1994...104 people died and most were HIV patients including Dan Fons' brother Chris. I remember one of Dan's pet peeves was closeted politicians. He was always trying to out them. In September '96 the Shepherd Express ran an article "Herb Kohl has a Queer Problem" We opened the show with the Hallelujah chorus because Dan was so happy the mainstream media finally covered the story.

We once had a video clip for Valentine's Day of gay guys kissing. MATA slapped our hands for it but they didn't forbid us from showing it. So, we showed it again. It caused a bit of consternation.

QUEST: You've been on for 20 years. Have there been other LGBT TV shows?

ML: Dan and I tried to inspire other organizations to do shows as well. Surprisingly only a few responded. With the ones that did, we turned Tuesday from 630-9pm into gay night on public access TV. BestD Clinic would start out for ½ hour, then *The Queer Program*, followed by *Gay By God's Will*, an LGBT religious show hosted by Lew Broyles, the pastor of Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church. There was even a locally produced gay soap opera. It ran for 5 or 6 episodes. The story line involved a gay bashing, the embittered victim, played by me, and the relationships

around him. It just ended abruptly. We never finished it. So, for years we had a lot of LGBT programming but the other shows faded away. The last, BestD Clinic's program continued until 2001.

QUEST: You mentioned interviews. Who were your special guests?

ML: There's a long list including most of the region's LGBT movers and shakers like Maria Cadenas, Brenda Coley and Ray Vahey. Political personalities include Tom Barrett, Sheriff Clark, and Marvin Pratt. Most famous would be Wilson Cruz. He was a TV star who came out in the mid-90's. I called him and we did a phone interview. Entertainers like John McGovern and Aiden Bay, a gay pop singer, have been on as well.

Initially when I interviewed people from organizations, it was pure PR... the good work they do etc. Then I became more investigative. You can't come on to just read a press release. I don't read the riot act but I want real honest answers. If they promote a program and I know nobody comes to it, I'll ask about it. When the LGBT Center's new leadership came on, I asked questions that touched on things that might not have been so comfortable to answer. Our community needs to know about the status of our larger organizations. They get lots of money through federal and other grants. People should know how it's being spent. I ask some difficult questions about finances or internal workings. If the answers are evasive, I call them on it.

QUEST: Who would you like to have on?

ML: My wish list would be Joe Pabst, Gwen Moore, and Tammy Baldwin.

QUEST: There's a variety of shows on public access TV. As MATA's only current LGBT production how do you co-exist with the other producers?

ML: We all get along. Lots of religious shows jumped on the cable show band wagon. As a producer I've always stood up for them. Others are irritated by their stance on LGBT issues. But I believe in the 1st Amendment. I take advantage of it and believe they have the right to as well. There have been some issues. At one time, an Islamic program came on after BestD Clinic. It got back to us that they would disinfect the studio after the BestD people left. We reported them and the MATA administration told them not to do it. On the other hand, the son of one of the religious show producers would come to us for condoms.

QUEST: For all your years as a community volunteer, aside from a little funding, have you or the *The Queer Program* received any other recognition?

ML: We were awarded The PrideFest Medal for Community Service in 2012 and two community services awards from Cream City Business Association.

Recently, *the Queer Program* entered two of its

best shows in the Wisconsin Community Media Video Festival. One was broadcast July 16, 2012. It highlighted Gretchen Mead, from the Victory Garden Imitative and Paul Fairchild from CCF, and Paul Williams of the LGBT Community Center, and the collaboration of those groups. It was one of the smoothest shows. The 2nd entry includes an interview with two national co-chairs of NABWMT (National Association of Black and White Men Together), Daryl Fore of Cleveland and Mark Behar of Milwaukee. We spoke about the importance of the country's first interracial gay organization. The awards are in April. Hopefully, one, or maybe both will be recognized for an award.

QUEST: So, over all the years, for all your effort, what has been the community response?

ML: Viewership is hard to estimate. Public access wasn't included in (cable viewer) surveys. The station itself wasn't even formally listed in papers. Of course, there was no internet when we started so we had to do our own promotion with flyers and advertisements in the gay papers. If we knew we'd have a guest on in advance we'd do a press release. We've always had a pink triangle or a rainbow flag in the background so if people would stumble on us while channel surfing, they'd know we're a gay show.

Over the years I'll be out and about and someone will recognize me. I've even been asked for my autograph. Once I was stopped while shopping. A very handsome gentleman asked if I still did the show. I said yes. He then asked me if I accepted Jesus into my life. I said I did and he moved on. I don't know if he was disappointed but I was. He was very attractive.

We also have call-ins. We named one "the Flusher". We'd answer and all we'd hear was a flushing toilet. He called for months. Otherwise, we've had our share of crude and obscene homophobic crank calls. Sometimes we have to cut them off because of MATA rules.

But overall most calls are positive. One time I had a friend's son on the show. A caller complained about it but then the mother called in and defended me. A young and very intelligent man calls in occasionally. He says he not gay but discusses things with a lot of insight. I really enjoy callers who just say how much they like the show and our coverage of events and the community. When you get a call like that you realize "it's worth it."

***A Celebration of The Queer Program's
20th Anniversary takes place at the
Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 South 2nd Street
(one block north of National Avenue)
Friday, March 15 from 7:30 to 9:30pm.
All are cordially invited to attend.***



**The Queer Program past history in pictures...
In the Studio and at PrideFest**

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The mission of The Queer Program is to heighten the visibility of Milwaukee's LGBT communities through Milwaukee public access cable television.

The Queer Program is funded by Gay People's Union, Inc., The G/L Community Fund, and a Grant from the Cream City Foundation

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SSBL - the 2013 Season

Story and photography by Paul Masterson

With the last vestiges of Winter in the offing, Milwaukee's LGBT softball players are looking



forward to the 2013 SSBL (Saturday Softball Beer League) season. Players are digging out cleats, gloves and team jerseys in preparation. The league hopes to maintain or increase its 16 team roster, the record number of teams established last season. New prospective sponsors may help. Milwaukee GAMMA active in volleyball since its founding three over three decades ago, is considering expanding its athletic involvement to include softball.

Meanwhile, SSBL managers recently met at Hybrid Lounge, home of the Hybrid Hustlers, a relatively recent addition to league's recreational division line-up. In addition to special announcements for the upcoming season, the organization's board presented a new enhanced website and special new mobile optimized App. This site, <http://ssblmilwaukee.com/>, provides gay Milwaukee's softball history, photos and real time season schedule, scores and standing. Each team will have its own a web page for pictures and player roster. The new App provides team member direct communication and latest league updates.

The 2013 Season

SSBL games will again be played at Wilson Park at South 20th Street and Howard Avenue on the city's south side. However, this year field costs have increased and the county has levied a new \$500 county league sanction fee. Rather than pass on these increased operating costs to teams and players, SSBL managers decided to seek out sponsors for the three fields. "SSBL rates among the most affordable leagues in NAGAAA. Increased costs are inevitable but we want to keep our tradition of accessibility," SSBL commissioner Brian Reinkober said. P&N Promotions, a local gay owned business stepped to the plate and has already sponsored one of the fields. The remaining two fields seek sponsors. Sponsorships are \$400.

The season itself has new changes as well. NAGAAA, (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance), the national umbrella organization for the all of LGBT softball works closely with the ASA, the American Softball Association. Its latest move to comply to ASA regulations is an



extension of the base line from 65' to 70'. Local leagues may opt out but Milwaukee SSBL plans to adopt the new regulation. Reinkober explained the situation. "Compliance is important. Aside from being a safety concern, all other leagues and World Series tournaments use the 70' baseline. It's a logical change."

DLC 2013

This season's big news is a schedule change for Milwaukee's annual softball tournament, the Dairyland Classic (DLC). This year, the event takes place over the 4th of July weekend. Traditionally held on Labor Day weekend, this year's Harley-Davidson anniversary takes place over those same dates. Hotel rooms have been fully booked well in advance leaving little hope for the league to find 200 available rooms. Games will take place Saturday and Sunday, July 6 and 7. Registration and the SSBL welcome party will be on Friday, July 5.

Doug Weber, last year's event director, has taken on the mantle to organization the 2013 DLC. He addressed to shift to the July 4th holiday weekend. "In so many ways, The Dairyland Classic is a boon to the city beyond the league and the LGBT community. Skipping a year wasn't an option. It's a financial boost for the city's economy and a great advertisement for the city itself.. This will be our 36th DLC and the move to mid-summer actually provides a better opportunity for more teams to attend. The NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series is usually within weeks of the DLC. That leaves most teams to choose one or the other. Now, it'll be easier for teams to attend both. That means we can expect upwards of 50 teams, that's 750 players. We expect them to come in from all over the country. Last year we had 35, exclusively from the Midwest." Weber said.

As in the past, the DLC will offer the usual array of Milwaukee amenities including a Street Bash. Talent and venue have yet to be announced but rumor has it that this year's party will return to Catalano Square in the Historic Third Ward.

COLOR RUSH AT THE MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

by Paul Masterson

Today we use our cell phones call, text, and, more often than not, take photos. You've been there. You pass your phone around to show your latest vacation pix, attach a self-portrait to a text to a new friend, or post a Walmart ass-crack shot on Facebook. But photography was different back in the day.

The Milwaukee Art Museum opened *Color Rush - 75 Years of Color Photography in America*, its newest special exhibition on February 21. The retrospective spans color photo history with hundreds of rare images from 1907-1981. Yes, 1907, when color photography was an obscure art in its infancy and only 8% of the population owned a home telephone.

Six years in the making, the *Color Rush* is divided into three parts. The first is presented in a series of alcoves with the earliest Autochrome images. The second focuses on the 1930's and World War 2.; part 3 follows color photo development in both popular culture and art in the post-war period to 1981. The exhibit traces the varied courses taken by the medium – commercial, amateur and art – and their mutual interaction that led to the acceptance and embrace of color in all three.

One enters the exhibit as if entering a mysterious dark room. A kiosk of alcoves holds a dozen pallid hued images from that first decade of real color photography. Color photos existed before but required either a scientist to complete the complicated chemical process or an artist to hand apply pigment to a printed image. In 1907 a commercially available process, Autochrome, first allowed photographers to create color images without all the muss and fuss. Essentially, they were glass slides viewed with a Diascope, an ungainly contraption, back lit mechanically or by sunlight. When originally presented by its inventors, the Lumiere brothers, Edward Steichen was in the audience. He would become one of color photography's most avid proponents.

For Kodak Film promoting color photography soon became a driving force in the spread of the genre from its occasional professional journalistic and advertising application to every day use by amateurs. *National Geographic* led the way early on in 1910. By the late 1930's color was appearing regularly in popular illustrated magazines. Fashion rag *Vogue* first featured a color cover by Steichen in 1932.

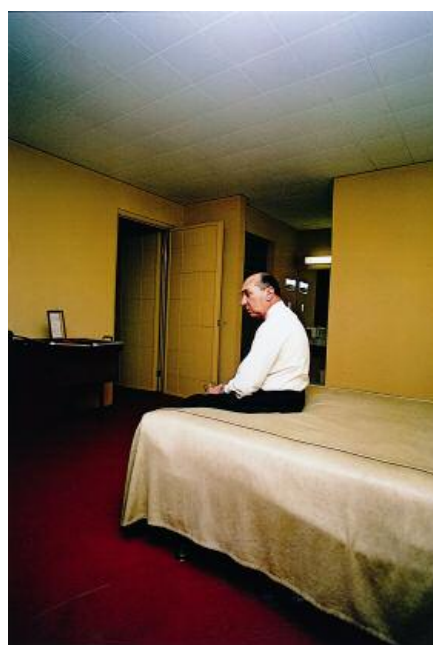
Advertising and photojournalism make up a good part of the second part of the show. Framed pages and vitrines are filled with original magazines opened to spectacular illustrations. They offer a color sampler from Nickolas Muray's unnaturally polychromed *Christmas Cakes and Cookies* to Gerard



Edward Steichen bouquet flowers 1940



Nickolas Muray Cake advert



William Eggleston Huntsville Alabama 1978

Sheedy's photo journalistic spread in *New York Sunday Mirror*. As fate would have it, Sheedy captured the glowing red inferno of the 1937 Hindenburg disaster. Curiously, the brief accompanying article on the zeppelin's flaming demise mentions color photography nearly 20 times. Rather than a tragic news item the spectacular crash seems to be framed as a marketing tool for color film. The powerful impact of the color news image was quickly recognized. But ironically, when the government Farm Security Administration sent out photographers to document the Depression in color, their work was granted only a limited audience. The exhibit includes a slide show of these images that reveals why. The viewer is much more engaged by the composition and color than by the dire depictions of poverty. In fact, the bucolic scenes under bright azure skies, rugged tanned farmhands, and little girls in matching (and, of course, colorful) calico dresses look more like advertising for a vacation in the heartland than an expose' of the national economic malaise.

After WW2 Kodak's successful "Colorama" campaign engaged many of the best professional and art photographers of the era. The exhibit includes a 1950 Grand Canyon photo by Ansel Adams. Popularly known for his black and white images, Kodak commissioned him to take photos using its color film. They would be displayed as massive murals in New York City's Grand Central Station. MAM's exhibit features a relatively "miniature" version. The original was three times bigger, 18 feet high and 60 feet long!

There are slide shows in the exhibit as well. They use those old projectors with their familiar, nostalgia-evoking rhythmic clacking with each changing slide. For those raised in the digital age, it's a rare visual and aural experience of the past. The photos themselves range from early Laszlo Moholy-Nagy abstracts to Nan Gordon's *Ballad of Sexual Dependency*. The latter, a take on the traditional family slide show ritual, is viewed in its own curtained chamber. Gordon's work, 720 non-traditional images backed with a soundtrack, features a quirky but personal compilation of random, banal snaps ranging from Thai tombs and other sundry cemeteries to unapologetic gay boys, lesbians, and straights having sex on chairs, beds and couches.

MAM's exhibit captures that magical *Wizard of Oz* moment when black and white transitions to color as the legitimate language of both family life snapshots and art medium. This must-see, brilliantly curated show runs through May 19. For more information go to www.mam.org.



After planning the outing to see Emma Watson, post-Harry Potter, in the delightful **The Perks of Being a Wallflower**, Glenn would not have expected to be hosting a cinema night featuring another coming-of-age film.

What with Oscar Night fast approaching (or rather just past for those reading this in March), Glenn had thought to choose a Classic Hollywood theme, perhaps one with a Bette/Joan double feature. Guests would be expected suitably attired; plenty of lavishly extravagant cocktails to be conjured up until late in the night.

Instead the buzz for **North Sea Texas** (Noordzee, Texas) proved far too enticing.

Gay gentlemen of a certain age love coming-of-age films; unquestionably those in Glenn's cinematic circle do! What's not to love? There is the inevitably cute gay adolescent uncertainly navigating first love with... the boy next door (**Beautiful Thing**), the unobtainable straight boy at musical-theatre camp (**Camp**), the dark and sultry rowing teammate (**Summer Storm**) or whilst searching for aliens (**Mysterious Skin**).

If Bavo Defurne's elegantly autumnal **North Sea Texas** does not in fact supplant anyone's personal favorite, Glenn suspects it will nevertheless charm its way onto many a favorite gay film list!

Despite its title, **North Sea Texas** is set in a small town, located on isolated stretch of the Belgian North Sea coast where young Pim (Jelle Florizoone) lives with mother. The time is most probably sometime in the 1970s yet there is indeed a timeless quality to the storytelling.

The "Texas" of the title is in fact the anachronis-

tically Deco-style bar (inevitably) set against moody Belgian skies where young Pim's mother Yvette (Eva Van Der Gucht) spends most of her time.

The Pim first introduced is a very young lad, one perhaps not entirely at ease with his body but with a definite fascination for his mother's old beauty queen sashes, makeup and fabulous collection of rhinestone-encrusted tiaras – still a fascination for a number amongst Glenn's acquaintances.

Yvette actually catches out young Pim one afternoon while taking a break from serenading the family pooch with her accordion. In fact she doesn't seem to be all that bothered. Still, poor Pim flees to the rather more homey comforts of the neighbors just down the road.

Here he finds a loving, tight-knit family consisting of another single mother, Marcella (Katelijne Damen), Gino (Mathias Vergels) and his sister Sabrina (Nina Marie Kortekaas). Indeed, Gino's mother is just the sort of traditional mother figure that poor plump Yvette can't even be bothered to aspire to.

Pim spends more and more time with his adopted family, falling truly, madly, deeply in love with the slightly older Gino (Mathias Vergels), a floppy-haired charmer. The otherwise quiet, shy Pim is naturally delighted with the growing relationship with Gino and by the attention Gino shows him.

So under Gino's spell, Pim never suspects just how Sabrina pines unrequitedly away for him.

Pim's brief idyll ends quite as abruptly as it began; Gino's interest soon wanders to a cute

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

In his directorial debut, Bavo Defurne offers a poignant, sumptuously filmed take on the familiar coming-of-age film. Rarely have both the joy and the ache of gay adolescence been brought as vividly to the screen. Yet moviegoers must allow to be drawn in by this quiet film.

North Sea Texas is a film of moments rather than boasting broad narrative strokes. Anton Mertens's gorgeous cinematography effectively enhances the feeling of Pim's isolation, the wide expanse of dune and sea adding an almost perverse sense of claustrophobia.

Jelle Floorizone's Pim's performance offers pitch perfect restraint. Pim has fashioned his own private world, one which only comes alive in solitude, alone with his precious box of treasures. Mathias Vergels' Gino is more elusive; we're never quite sure what the real Gino is and what is merely Pim's fantasy.

A gloriously joyous motorcycle ride effectively reconciling both versions of Gino, albeit if only briefly.

In fact there are stunning performances throughout. Once a beauty queen, Van Der Gucht's Yvette has chosen not to age gracefully; trying to be the life of the party has made her look increasingly grotesque. She is neglectful most certainly yet there is no malice in her. An ideal mother she is not.

Whilst **North Sea Texas** is Pim's story, young Nina Marie Kortekaas very nearly steals the proceedings with her beautifully rendered Sabrina; her unrequited love of Pim another case of yearning for someone unobtainable.

Just the facts...

North Sea Texas has a running time of 96 minutes and is in Dutch with English subtitles.

North Sea Texas is newly released on DVD with a MSRP of \$27.99 Thomas Coumans, who plays Zoltan, appeared in the extraordinary thriller, **In the Arms of My Enemy** (2007). Mathias Vergels (Gino) can also be seen in the upcoming DVD release, **Mixed Kebab**.

French lass named Francoise (Ella-June Henrard) he meets in Dunkirk. Enter the handsome, sexually-ambiguous Zoltan (Thomas Coumans), a camy who rents out the spare room and in the process managing to be quite a distraction for both Pim and Yvette.

Through it all, Sabrina pines for the still oblivious Pim.

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At the Theatre **Underneath the Lintel** Milwaukee Chamber Theatre

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

As a devotee of flashy Broadway musicals, Glenn is only occasionally confronted at the theatre with a truly thought-provoking question as for instance, "Would you recognize a miracle if you saw one?" Or forced to ponder just to what extent one might be reasonably expected to act as a humanitarian.

Such is the challenge of Glen Berger's clever, thoughtful play **Underneath the Lintel**, which just opened at Milwaukee's Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre.

Glenn admits to be positively intrigued by the play's premise; a dedicated, lifelong librarian becomes obsessed to learn the story behind a battered Baedeker travel guide returned 113 years overdue. You see Glenn recently had a curious experience in returning an item to his own local library, the rather ironically titled DVD **Brief Encounter**. For over two weeks this poor, decidedly dreary DVD languished lost in the library system before officially dated "returned" to the system three days before Glenn received the over-due notice.

Curious indeed but hardly holds a candle to the enticing backstory surely surrounding the very tardy return of this dog-eared, much traveled Baedeker.

The year is 1986, necessarily set prior to

the Internet Age. As the lights come up, there enters a rather shambolic gentleman of a certain age, an unnamed librarian (James Ridge) who looks for all the world like the sort of guest Aunt Bee's Women's Group would have invited for a weekly lecture back on the old **Andy Griffith Show**.

In fact he has rented a rather shabby theatre to present his experiences replete with a slideshow, chalk and blackboard plus a trunk full of pieces of historic evidence. It is to be a one-night only event.

From here he begins to spin an extraordinary chronicle beginning with his own background as a dedicated librarian of long standing, one who has relished the simple, structured existence at the small Dutch library, willingly guided by the dictates of the date stamper, an object to him of near mythic proportions.

Such a life has proved to be sufficient, at least until the discovery of the book returned 113 years past due; our dedicated librarian soon becoming obsessed with getting some answers, specifically as to who took the book out and the circumstances of its extremely tardy return.

The first piece of evidence, discovered

amidst the pages of the Baedeker, is a claim ticket for a London cleaner. And so the journey begins, this first stop in London netting our dedicated librarian a pair of trousers. In the pocket is an ancient German tram ticket. Later he discovers the record of a dog named Zebrina, quarantined upon arrival in England but sadly never claimed.

And so goes the continuing journeys of this dedicated librarian, in quick fashion setting off to such faraway places as China, Australia and New York, somehow always managing to find a production of **Les Misérables** to while away an evening.

The role of the unnamed, dedicated librarian fits actor James Ridge like a comfortable pair of well worn gloves. Initially rather too manic for comfort – Opening Night jitters perhaps – he settles in nicely as his conviction grows that the man he seeks is in fact the mythical Wandering Jew, even if proof might forever elude him.

Underneath the Lintel continues at Milwaukee's Broadway Center until March 17th. For tickets or for further information, please call the Box Office @ 414.291.7800 or go to www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com.



ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Upcoming Dates for Free HIV testing in the Green Bay/Fox Valley Area

Tuesday, March 5

Spectrum at Harmony Cafe (Green Bay)
free HIV testing 7-8pm.

Thursday, March 14

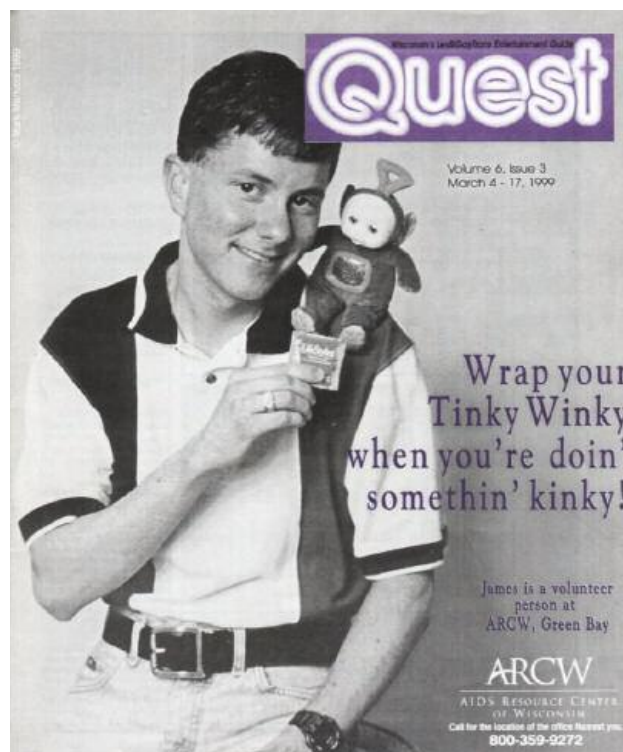
XS Nightclub (Green Bay)
free HIV testing 10pm-midnight.

Friday, March 22

PJs bar (Oshkosh) free HIV testing 6-8pm.

Thursday, April 4

Ravens (Appleton) free HIV testing 9-11pm.



14 Years Ago in Quest

For more than a year, Quest Magazine partnered with ARCW to present covers that featured a safer sex message.

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DEAR RUTHIE LAUNCHES HER OWN CHARITY

“Quest” columnist Dear Ruthie seeks to help animals/pet owners in the Greater Milwaukee area.



Been to Dear Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen lately? If so, you may have read that journalist, comedian and actress, Dear Ruthie recently launched her own charity...Ruthie's Kennel Club. The “Quest” columnist announced the charity in February, and she held a kickoff party at Art Bar on February 23.

Ruthie's Kennel Club is a nonprofit dedicated to financially helping animal-related charities in the greater Milwaukee area succeed in their missions and goals. As such, the group “adopted” three local, animal-related charities. Donations raised over a 12-month period will be equally divided among the charities selected for the 2013 fundraising year.

This year, Ruthie's Kennel Club adopted Milwaukee Pets Alive, Buster's Fund and The Kinsey Foundation. Milwaukee Pets Alive strives to end the killing of homeless pets in Milwaukee through comprehensive programs and resources benefiting and serving the people and companion animals in the city. Buster's Fund is a unique charity in that it works to provide financial assistance and resources to pet owners in need. It also maintains a pet food bank in Milwaukee. The Kinsey Foundation is dedicated to helping patients in hospice care spend time with their pets and care for the pets' needs during the hospice stay.

“I'm so exciting about the charities we have on board for our inaugural year,” said Dear Ruthie. They truly represent the type of animal-related charities that Ruthie's Kennel Club strives to help.” Ruthie added that a donation to Ruthie's Kennel Club is a actually a donation to three separate charities. “That's what makes us different,” she said. “We're helping three local charities at one time.”

The group's board of directors includes Dear Ruthie (founder), Todd Richards, Sandy Ploy and three honorary members, each representing one of the year's benefi-

ciary charities.

Ruthie's Kennel Club will host its first official fundraiser at 8:00pm, on March 28. The charity will be the hosting group for Ham-Bingo at Hamburger Mary's in Bay View. To learn more about Ruthie's Kennel Club, volunteer your time or make a donation, visit www.ruthieskennelclub.org.



DORA DIAMOND OPENS GAY CABARET

Milwaukee's newest drag queen on the block launches her own, *Dora Diamond's Gay Cabaret* at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on Friday, March 22, at 9pm. The tall, dark and delicious diva has played various venues in Milwaukee. She's graced the stages of Hamburger Mary's, the LGBT Community Center, and the MGAC. Now Dora Diamond is launching her own brand of cabaret featuring all-LGBT talent. The 18+ cabaret will be a monthly event.

“I'm so excited to have my own show. I'll be the evening's MC and will be singing some of my favorite songs,” Dora says. “The show will feature lots of other talent – singers, performers, comedians,

you name it. The idea is to present a true variety show with that cabaret feel.”

The first show's line-up includes local singer Corky Morgan. “When they asked me if I'd perform at Dora's show, I just sent a text ‘I'd love to do it.’ I'm really looking forward to it.”

Dora expects to bring the show to the MGAC Stage at this year's PrideFest. She'll also help open Milwaukee's premiere LGBT entertainment event with her rendition of the National Anthem at the PrideFest Opening Ceremony

For more details friend Dora Diamond and “like” the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on Facebook!

OUR BOUND MAGAZINE

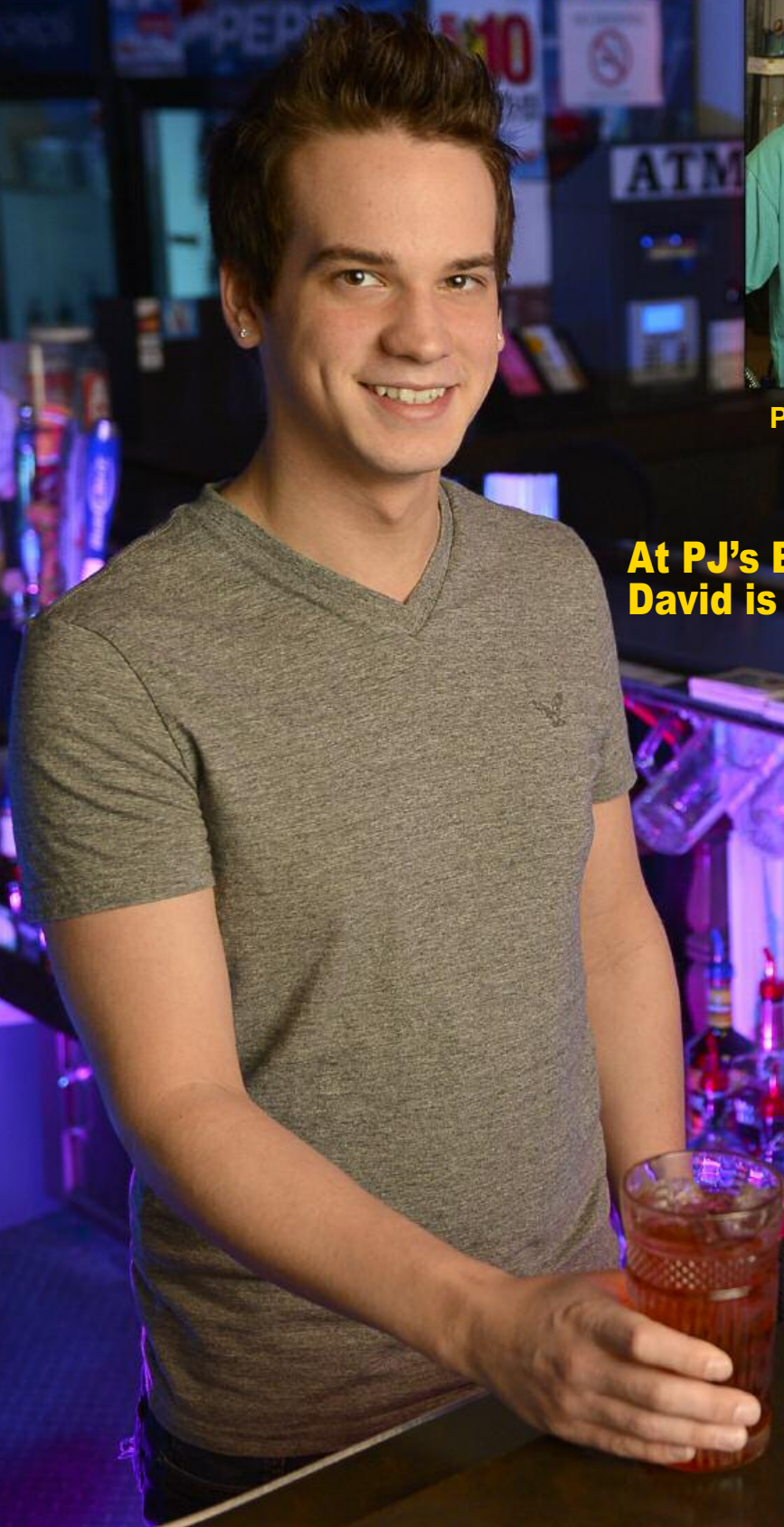
Volume 12 #3 March 2013



Pictured above with David are PJ's Owners:
Steve, Royal, and John

**At PJ's Bar in Oshkosh,
David is here to serve you.**

Photo by Mark Mariucci





the animals that ultimately reap the benefits!



**Ruthie's Kennel
Club Charity
Kick-Off Party at
Art Bar**
Photos by
Will Sharkey



Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

The holidays are long gone. The Superbowl is a memory. The Oscars have been handed out. Damn it! It's time for spring! When the hell is spring going to officially be sprung? I'm tired of waiting. I've seen 90 year-old men come around faster. God, I hope it arrives soon. It's time for shirtless boys to take over Milwaukee! Let the restraining orders against me commence!

Now I have to admit that Mother Nature has been pretty kind to us this winter, but I'm ready for some warm weather. Luckily, there's been a helluva lot going on around Brew Town to help pass the time. For instance, Fluid Bar has launched a fantastic new cabaret show! Stop by Fluid on the last Friday of the month to catch The Improve Cocktail Lounge. There, you'll find one keyboard, two queens and whole lotta vodka! Jon Alan Bauer and Jason Meissner head up this memorable evening of live music.

In early March, Karen Valentine hosted a wonderful show as part of Keith Leifer's Party for Heart event at the Wherehouse. A benefit for One Heartland, Keith's open-to-the public party has been a staple in Milwaukee for years. And it just keeps getting bigger and better. Thanks for inviting me to participate in this great charity.

Speaking of charities, I've launched my own! Ruthie's Kennel Club "adopts" three animal-related charities and raises funds for them over the course of a year. You can learn more at the charity's Face Book page (Ruthie's Kennel Club), or check out our Web site at www.RuthiesKennelClub.org. Special thanks to Androldea for the incredible site and very kind donation. Art Bar was kind enough to host our kickoff party, and I couldn't have been more excited about the turnout. Thanks to every one who attended!

Want more info on Ruthie's Kennel Club? Come to our first official fundraiser on March 28 at Hamburger Mary's. I'll host a crazy-ass HamBingo at 8:00 p.m. with proceeds going to the Kennel Club. Enjoy great burgers, wonderful prizes and a damn good time!

If you can't make it March 28, stop by March 29. That's when I'll be hosing my own drag show at

Hamburger Mary's, "Ruthie's Three-Girls-Three." My special guests are Goldie Adams and Trina Avalon. This fast-paced, campy show starts at 9:30 and is followed by Mary-oke at 10:15. Swing by for a hilarious time! For now, however, let's read a letter!

Dear Ruthie,

I am very interested in trying drag and performing. I have a few dresses and a wig, but I don't know how to do my face. Any makeup pointers? What's the best way to learn how to paint your face? I did some theater in high school, but that sort of makeup doesn't cut it, does it? Help me! Any help would be appreciated.

(signed) Wanna Get Girly

Dear Girly Boy,

Great! Just what the city needs! Another queen! No, no, no...I'm just kidding. It sounds like you've been thinking about this for a while, which is great! If you want to learn how to paint your face, I suggest a few things:

Hit the town, and check out drag reviews. Go to Montage and see several of their shows or check-out the local drag scene in your specific neck of the woods. After awhile, you'll find one or two performers that you feel a connection with. In other words, you'll find a few favorites. Once you know who you'd like to work with, approach that performer and ask if she paints people. Be sure to ask how much she charges for helping with makeup. Do not assume that a performer is going to use her time, makeup and talents to dress you up. Ask for a quote on her services.

Once you've secured a girl to help you, ask lots of questions and take notes. Look at the types of brushes she suggests as well the makeup brands. Be prepared to learn as much as you can, and then buy a few products and start experimenting with your own face.

A second idea is to hit the Internet and see if there is an online drag tutorial you'd like to follow. You'll find many on YouTube, but I highly suggest searching for my gal pal, Cee-Cee LaRouge. Once you find her on YouTube, see her video "The New Makeup Tutorial." This is a great video that truly

walks you through doing a full face! Now go, get your drag on, sister! Hopefully, we'll see you on the stage soon!

Now that we have our little dragster off and running, let's stop by the bitchin' kitchen for an all-time favorite. We're talking the top of the line in no-fuss comfort food...the classic that got us through our childhood lunches...the No. 1 time-saver for generations of busy moms...the one and only grilled cheese sandwich.

Check out my version of grilled cheese and you'll want to make it time and again. It's easy, quick and oh-so-damn good! So fry one up tonight, then eat good and shut up!

RUTHIE'S BITCHIN' GRILLED CHEESE

I know what you're thinking. You're saying to yourself, "Really, Ruthie? A recipe for grilled cheese?" All I can say it don't knock it until you try it! Once you try this grilled cheese sandwich, you won't want to make grilled cheese any other way.

- 1 package (8 ounces) shredded double cheddar cheese
- 1 brick (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/8 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 to 2 dashes garlic powder
- Sliced bread
- Butter, softened

Combine the first four ingredients in a large bowl. Spritz a skillet with cooking spray, and heat it over medium-high heat.

Meanwhile, spread one slice of bread with butter. Top with as much of the cheese mixture as you'd like. Butter another slice of bread and set it, butter side down, over cheese mixture. Butter top of sandwich. Set sandwich, butter side down, into hot skillet. Carefully butter top of sandwich.

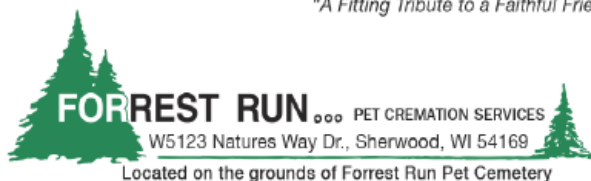
Grill 3 minutes or until bottom of sandwich is golden brown. Flip it. Grill another 3 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from skillet, and let sit for 5 minutes before serving.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

The cheese mixture makes enough for four to six sandwiches. Refrigerate the leftover cheese mixture for sandwiches later in the week. The mixture also freezes well. Freeze it, and when guests drop in, simply melt it in the microwave for a great dip with taco chips.

Got a recipe or question for Ruthie? Email it to her at deamsruthie@yahoo.com. If she publishes your dish, you get a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt!

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Emerging local Artist Brando Salvatierra will display photography of both his black & white/ color pictures



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Where: LGBT center of SE Wisconsin
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For any additional information
call (262) 634-4100
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photo by Brando Salvatierra



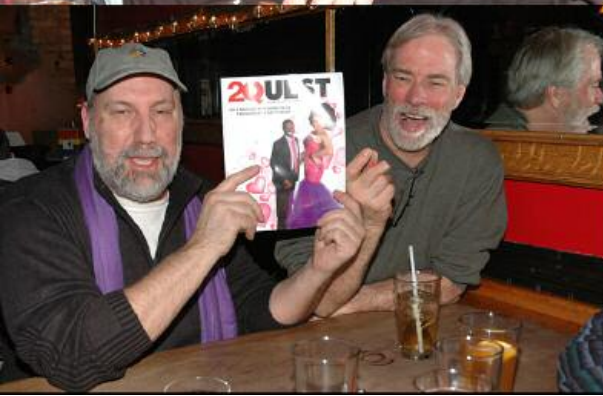
HAMBINGO AT HAMBURGER MARYS MILWAUKEE

Photos by Will Sharkey



Sisters Fundraiser at D.I.X. Milwaukee

Photos by Will Sharkey





Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

March is marching in are you feeling it? You got to love it – spring is in the air – my favorite time of the year. We survived yet another winter! My only question – where are we all celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year without The Ball Game?

Please come out and celebrate One Heartland, formerly Camp Heartland on Saturday, March 2 The Where House, where East National Avenue and South Water Street meet, Kruz is the neighboring bar. Tall Keith is hosting once again, there will be drink specials, a sumptuous buffet, oh and yeah a Show – that's where I come in. We have a cavalcade of performers for your enjoyment: Dear Ruthie, Goldie Adams, Maple Veneer, Chastity Belt, Bambi, Laura Monagle & Rich Perry, Corky Morgan, Jonathan, Shane Ashton (singing his hit song "Heartbeat" from the movie series "Eating Out: The Open Weekend" - - this tune plays in the beginning of the film, Shane wrote the song, lyrics, and did the musical arrangement. "Heartbeat" was selected to be on a charity album called "Indigo" in support of The Trevor Project, to prevent teen suicide among the LGBTQ youth. The song is also available on iTunes). Showtime is 6 PM, to take in this gala for children affected by HIV/AIDS and making sure they have a summer camp getaway please come and support "our camp". All it takes to take in all of this is – a gift to One Heartland. The theme this year is "High School Prom", the Post Party, after 8 PM is at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Now through Sunday, May 19 The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) offers up "Choosing Color: Modern American Photography" – color photography's effect on Twentieth Century Art. Definitely something to see and not write about!

Music Under Glass at The Milwaukee Domes concludes this month – A Celebration of the Irish – Frog Water – a band that combines Celtic, Blue Grass, and Ragtime music on Thursday, March 7 6:30 – 9:00 PM. A Beach Party Celebration – Closing night of Music Under Glass, the following Thursday, March 14 R.A.S. Movement featuring Jah Dwayne Tafari & Naima Adedapo-Tafari providing the sounds of the Caribbean, Reggae, Roots, and Rock to heat up your mid – March! What no Frankie and Annette? Surfs up! "Blue Bayou" is the Spring Floral Show at The Milwaukee Domes Saturday, March 23 – Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day.

The Florentine Opera has quite a busy month as they commemorate the music and legacy of Benjamin Britten. "Albert Herring" will be gracing the stage of Vogel Hall at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts March 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 17.

There will never be another May Queen like ...

Britten's centennial is being observed by The Florentine with this opus about a lonely shop boy in a small English village and all his misadventures telling a tale of humor, wit, and poignancy. "Albert Herring" is being brought to us in part by the great generosity of Joe Pabst.

The Sunday (March 3, 2013) before "Albert" opens please join The Florentine at The Room of Boom at 7:00 PM for an "Opera Party". A chance to meet and greet the Stars of the Opera, hear the outstanding voices of The Florentine Interns who did a flawless recital last month ("That's Amore" you'll want to hear this charming Valentine produced every mid-February) there will be a tasty buffet presented by Peter Pitch's Miss Katie's Diner, Cash Bar, opera videos and music playing to get you more acquainted with this wonderment in our community. The cost for this night of culture, art and fun – Free, absolutely complimentary as underwritten by The Cream City Foundation (CCF).

Thursday, March 14 The Florentine will continue honoring Benjamin Britten by presenting "The Hidden Heart – A Life of Benjamin Britten & Peter Pears". This film explores Britten's loving relationship with Peter Pears and the observation of three of his greatest works – "Peter Grimes", "War Requiem", and "Death In Venice". The film is 78 minutes in length, shown at the new, exquisite home of The Florentine Opera Company - - 926 East Burleigh Street Milwaukee 53212, in the same neighborhood as The Art Bar. The LGBT Film Festival's Carl Bogner (Milwaukee's answer to Robert Osbourne) will be the host for this special night at the opera, with a reception to follow.

Skylight Music Theatre is serving up "Pump Boys and Dinettes" Friday, March 8 – Sunday, March 24 The Cabot Theatre. For something sizzling off the grille take in this delicious show by calling 414-291-7800. Order up!

The Milwaukee Rep follows the highly regarded "Clybourne Park" with Lorraine Hansberry's "Raisin In The Sun" Tuesday, March 12 – Sunday, April 14 Quadracci Powerhouse. Described by The Washington Post as one of a handful of great American dramas, the saga of the Younger family and their struggle for dignity and a better life is as topical today as it was when first mounted.

"Ring Of Fire – The Music of Johnny Cash" is staged at The Stackner Cabaret now through Sunday, May 5. Find out the musical answers to why he "Walked the Line" on the way to "Folsom Prison" with "A Boy Named Sue" and he was al-

ways "The Man in Black".

Off The Wall Theatre – the most significant little theatre in Milwaukee has a powerful message with their spring time offering "The Man in the Glass Booth" by Robert Shaw. No this show has absolutely anything to do with "The Dating Game" – but if you're looking for a deep, thought provoking evening you will find it with this vehicle. Mr. Off The Wall Theatre – himself, Dale Gutzman will star in this drama about a Nazi war criminal – keep in mind, not everything is ever as it appears... "The Man in the Glass Booth" plays March 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

For something completely on the other side of the dial there is The Marcus Center – Off Broadway Series proudly presenting "The Cook Book – The Music of Sam Cooke Starring Darian Ford". This is a delectable creation remembering the sounds of Pop and promise that Sam Cooke and his 29 Top 40 Hits brought to life. Vogel Hall will be kicking it up Friday, March 22 – Sunday, March 24. This will get you going like no other show possibly could, please call 414-273-7206 and get your reservation in now!

Don't forget to plan ahead and purchase your tickets for the Event of the summer of 2013 – the return of "Wicked" at The Marcus! Seats are available for purchase starting Saturday, March 9. "Wicked" lands here in Brew City on Tuesday, June 12 and runs through Sunday, July 7. The perfect show, for the perfect family! Who doesn't want to return to Oz, just one more time?

Mr. Ed Asner known as the iconic television star "Lou Grant" comes to the Cream City for one night only in a historic night and a historic portrait of the man on the dime, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Did you know that it was President Roosevelt that helped launch The March of Dimes? Now known as The March for Babies, Roosevelt a man that suffered with polio, joined forces where everyone sending in their dimes could finance the research necessary to find a cure. This was during the Great Depression and World War II – talk about tough times. "Ed Asner as FDR" plays The Milwaukee Theatre Saturday, March 16. To be a part of this special performance, please call: 800-745-3000. Asner is an Emmy Award Winner as well as Golden Globe Winner and has just come from a successful stint on Broadway.

RicFest Scholarship Fund Raiser is taking place on Thursday, March 14 at Chez Jacques. If you haven't treated yourself to the tempting tastes of Jacques, you owe it to yourself to take in "Paris in Milwaukee – oui, oui!" The RicFest evening is to

raise funds to help out students who otherwise can't forward or complete their education; money brought in will provide another scholarship, for another deserving student. The students of today are our leaders of tomorrow... Cocktails are at 7:00 PM (Cash Bar), Dinner consisting of three palate pleasing courses of salad, entrée, and dessert will follow at 7:30 PM and tickets can be purchased at Chez Jacques or by phoning 262-573-3321.

Please don't forget MilMAIDS one of our home town's longest running, most successful grass roots HIV/AIDS fund raisers. And it's tons of fun! Debi Vance & Cindy O., and BoBo & Candy Stick have been pulling this Bowling Tournament together for decades. This Fearless Foursome connect with friends and bowling fans in Madison and united we have MilMAIDS. Every other year it's done here, and opposite years in our State Capitol. Saturday, April 13 bowling will take place at AMF-West Allis and a Reception/Award Ceremony to follow at Victor's on Van Buren. Always a fantastic Saturday whether you bowl or not, a great way to network with friends you haven't seen in forever!

Congratulations go out to my "home bar" Boom for 13 successful years of serving the LGBT Community! In these troubling times anything that last longer than a decade is a lifetime. Please continue to support your local LGBT Bars so they in turn can support You!

A wonderful weekend of Special Stars and spe-

cial events marked this special anniversary! Cheers to the next 13 years! So happy and proud to be a part of the Boom team for the past 6.5 years!

How was your Valentine's Day my Valentines? I spent a week in Manhattan, between Fashion Week, President's Day Weekend, and Cupid's Holiday - - you can imagine the fun I had! Allow me to indulge you in just a few highlights...

Though I stayed uptown, my fab host, Dr. Lance and I toured the island for all we and it was worth!

The West Village where we sipped at Onegin - a Russian bar promoting infused vodka - Horseradish? Ginger? Cucumber? From there to Eric's for a welcoming toast, dinner at MoMo's - great Italian food and the most fascinating people! Thanks Rick for a flawless feast from there Lance, Rick & Eric, Tony and I went kiddy corner to Julius' a neighborhood bar in the West Village - which has the honor of being in the cult Gay flick "The Boys in the Band" and the oldest LGBTQ bar in the City. Talk about history!

The next afternoon it was to Columbus Circle with me and to East 52nd Street to The Paley Center for Broadcasting. Here is where like Alice in Wonderland I got enmeshed in ancient videos and kinescopes of television programs dating back to 1945! "Gidget goes Gotham City!"

Dinner that night was in Hell's Kitchen - trust me anything but! Vinyl is where Tony, Lance and I

landed for cocktails names after musicians - like Jimi Henrix, Rosemary Clooney, and Lady GaGa - guess which cocktail I devoured? Albums of the vinyl persuasion deck their halls and Diana our server treated us like - well Rock Stars!

From there to Greenwich Village and Marie's Crisis! No crisis here but oh the people - one of everything! And the bar is the size of your home wreck room. The power the piano man held - and everyone stood around and made a joyful sound. Daniel, David, Bridget & her beau that looked suspicious like Daniel Radcliffe, Dr. Lance, Tony and I joined in - we ended up from the far wall to piano center - talk about an accomplishment! Applause to Maggie Wirth and Steven the two servers - not only do they do table service they sing! Check out Maggie on YouTube.

Saturday brought a night at the opera with Georges Bizet's "Carmen" at The Met! Taking that A Train in ermine and pearls - toasting with Champagne in the lobby and the fantastic French language serenading us about the town tramp - its opera every one sings, everyone dies! Sardi's was closing shame on you Vincent so off to Yum- Yum a Thai restaurant for us and an after party!

Sunday brunch "bottomless" Bloodys, Mimosas, Screw Drivers, and/or Champagne at Arte Café - a lovely three course brunch of eggs, pasta, and pancakes all five star and then a jaunt through Central Park. I finally paid homage to Strawberry Fields -

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St. Patrick's Day
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Free stuff, drink specials
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Club ICON St. Patrick's Day
2013 T-Shirt Offer*!
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Sunday
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A Hot Night Out at La Cage

Photos by
Will Sharkey



it's comforting to think they may last forever! An Imagine labyrinth to gaze on and remembering John Lennon one of last century's finest poets, song-men and pitying the poor horses of the drawn carriages variety from here – where else? The Plaza and my search for Eloise! Here we toured the elegant surroundings of one of NYC's toniest establishments – Eloise is still in residence and celebrated rightly so! A round of Bloody's with Derek one of Hugo Boss' leading visualist working the on-line end of this fabled fashion house. Derek is so proud of his position that off to his Hugo Boss Flagship store to see the high quality and smart look of tomorrow. Well of course I wanted everything and in every color and with Derek's discount what a way to take care of a spring wardrobe. All that shopping made me incredibly thirsty so to the Flaming Saddle with us, here the Bartenders not only fix your cocktails they take to a make shift stage – the bar and boot boogie for you from one end to the other! Talk about Grand Old Opry! At the Saddle I was lucky enough to run into Jeff from Milwaukee, small world, isn't it?

Walking down the street I had a star encounter with Georgia Engel – the one and only Georgette Baxter from "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" – she also was Evelyn's Lesbian lover on "Two And Half Men" – more on Evelyn (Holland Taylor) later. Vlada for more flavored/infused vodka! Meesha from Russia shared his Motherland's milk and where else for us to end up but Fiddlesticks for a burger and then

home again, home again!

Time to rejuvenate and a bite at HiLife a neon, eclectic den that offered a great Cobb salad, a quick cab ride through the Park – to The Metropolitan Museum of Art where we saw awesome exhibits including salutes to localites Frank Lloyd Wright and Georgia O'Keefe, we walked through an Egyptian Tomb – who knew? Passing The Dakota, offering regards to Yoko Ono and Lauren Bacall and din-din at Lidia's of Italy's Becco. What a divine spot! From there back to Lincoln Center with us to see the very first preview of "Ann, a Portrait of Governor Ann Richards" starring Ms. Holland Taylor. You all know Holland as the ageless Evelyn Harper on "Two and Half Men" – well for the last six years she has committed herself to writing the most remarkable one-woman, tribute show to the remarkable Ann Richards. I was mesmerized, laughing, crying, totally engulfed in the moment of suspended reality. For two hours that "Two and Half Men" Star was Governor Richards.

I see a Tony Award on Ms. Taylor's mantel! I have been a fan of Holland Taylor since "The Edge of Night" in 1978 – when as Nurse Denise Cavanaugh she lost her beloved Miles (Joel Crothers) to Nicole (Maeve McGuire).

Touring Columbia and New York Presbyterian Hospital where Dr. Lance reins there guest list has included such luminaries as Hilary Rodham Clinton, Ed Koch, and Barbara Walters – who had her life

saving heart surgery here and donated a room for families to rest while visiting their hospital bound – yes the same hospital Dr. Oz practices at – need I write more? What a wonderful taste of the Big Apple and no worms!

Looking for a quick, delicious bite – time and budget an issue? Have you tried Crisp 1323 East Brady Street? I've stopped here a few times and have never been disappointed with their thin crust pizza. While they have other things on the menu I'm never able to pass on my favorite – I'm addicted to Crisp's Supreme Pizza! The Supreme seems to have everything on it but Diana Ross and anchovies! They also offer an array of appetizers that I've sampled waiting for my satisfying pie. A zesty black bean dip with home-made pita chips, Caesar salad spiced to perfection, with a bit of a bite, per bite, and an artichoke and spinach dip are just a few of the tantalizing selections I've enjoyed.

I love the look of the place as well – an open concept, full bar, two floors, exposed kitchen and the booths are semi private, achieved by draping fabric and giving it a canopied, tenting feeling.

Crisp also offers a Sunday Brunch of unique selections and bottomless Bloody Mary's and Mimosas – I warned you, most tempting...

Remember my bon amis – it is the glamor, not the grammar as springtime hits Milwaukee and I remain as always – still Cordially yours,.

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Well, here we are again back in print and ready for spring! I hope all of you had a great time last month with St. Patty's Day. Well I guess I just more hope that you remember who you went home with and if you had to sneak out of their house in the morning! Either way I do have some news for you all first before I get to the piercing we are going to talk about this month, I want to talk a little bit about the Milwaukee Pride Parade, the people running it this year are really doing a bang up job but they are going to need your help to pull it off, so please go to their website and download the volunteer form to help out. I have also been informed that if you are a nonprofit organization you get in FREE to the parade so check out their site at www.prideparademke.org. With the parade looming closer and closer that also means Pridefest is coming! Save the dates June 7, 8, 9 and check out their website at www.pridefest.com. Also both of these great organizations are on facebook, so don't forget to like them there too! Well now that I have plugged everyone who gobbled up my ear over the weekend, let's get on with the topic of the month.

This past month I was told many times that I talk about nipples and P.A.'s too much, well you can't hold that against me, I love those piercings! So to make happy my complainants I will talk about something new with you all. This month we will talk all about the tongue and nostril piercings. First up is the

tongue piercing.

The tongue piercing began to get popular in the UK during the punk movement of the 1970's. Form it's start it has picked up steam and become a large part of mainstream culture, spreading from the punks and moving in the suburbs of America. Today it is hard to find a person who doesn't have a tongue piercing. Besides being associated with rebellion it is also strongly associated with sex. (I bet you were all wondering how long it would take me to get to that part!) It has long been thought that having a tongue piercing will make you give better oral sex to your partner. Being a person who has three tongue piercings I can say that this is false. To be very honest with you all they just get in the way. So basically when it comes to this piercing it is really just for aesthetics, and for people who have oral fixations. (And if you have an oral fixation please email me PLEASE!) To take care of a tongue piercing it is very simple, just use listerine or another comparable antiseptic mouth wash, every time you eat drink or smoke.

Next we will talk about the nostril piercing. This piercing is much older than the punk movement as tribes all over the world have been doing it for years! It has recently seen a resurrected life in today's modern culture due to popular celebrities adorning their own faces with a nostril piercing. Nostril piercings don't really serve a purpose with the exception of

beauty. There are no meanings to a nostril piercing, one side does not mean you are gay, or anything like that. It is purely decorative. (Kind of boring huh? I think next month I will pick something to spice up the column, like talking about dick piercings or nipple piercings! j/k) To take care of this piercing all you have to do is use antibacterial soap twice daily at the end of your shower. And the most important thing to do is to leave it alone, don't play with it at all.

Now that I have appeased everyone lets get on with reader mail, hmm let's see what we have today.

Brent,

I was wondering how many piercings I can get at a time. Is there like a limit or anything? — John

Well John there actually is a limit on the number of piercings you can get at a time. It isn't really a set number but it does vary slightly from person to person. The most amounts of piercings I will ever perform on one client are three piercings. After three piercings the body just can't handle it any more, and begins to shut down and go into shock. So I hope that answers your question, thanks for the mail.

Well, I think that about wraps up this column I hope you all had fun, and I hope you have more fun with warmer weather on the way. Don't forget about the Pride Parade and Pridefest. Check out their website at www.prideparademke.com and www.pridefest.com. And finally don't forget to keep those emails coming send your questions and gripes to avantgarde@voyager.net. Until next month have a great time in April and keep getting pierced, and don't stop until you jingle when you walk!

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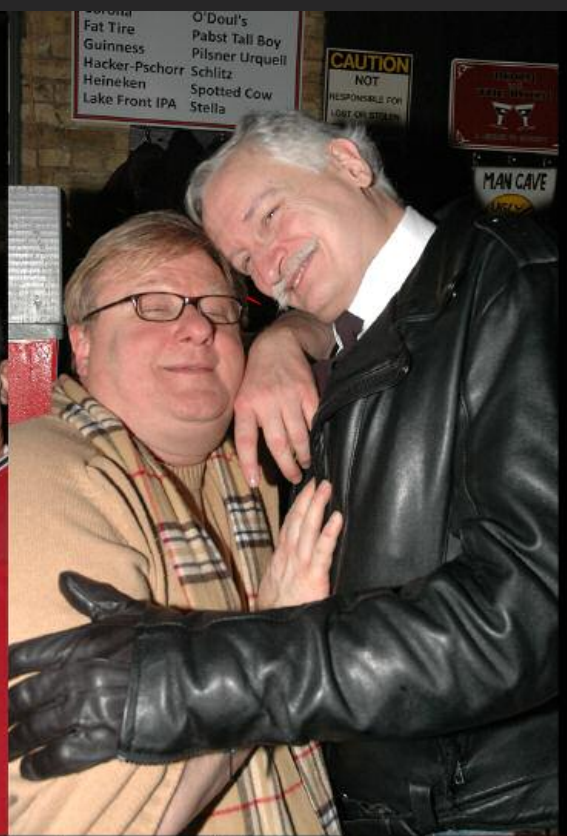
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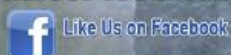
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