

20 YEARS QUEST

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 5 MAY 2013



Bradley Borresen
Wisconsin Leather/Levi Daddy

Photography by
Doug Rickert
snoopy@MadeYaScream.com



TICKETS & INFO available:

pridefest.com

PrideFest Milwaukee

June 7-8-9 Summerfest Grounds



FRI JUNE 7

Erasure's

Andy Bell



With
Sophie B.
Hawkins

ABBA Salute



SAT JUNE 8

Indigo Girls

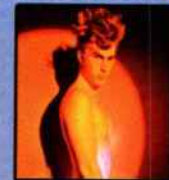


Bad Romance
DJ Reid Stefan



SUN JUNE 9

Amanda Palmer



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Muse
DJ Grind

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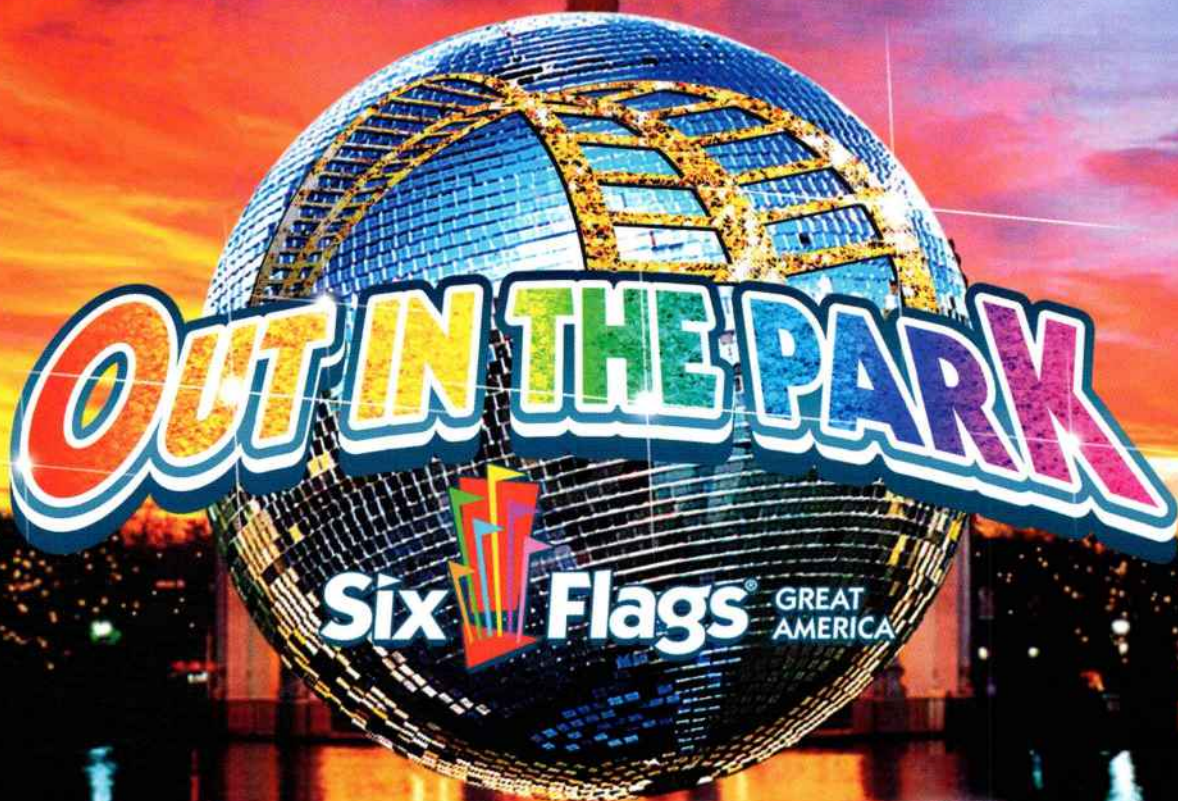


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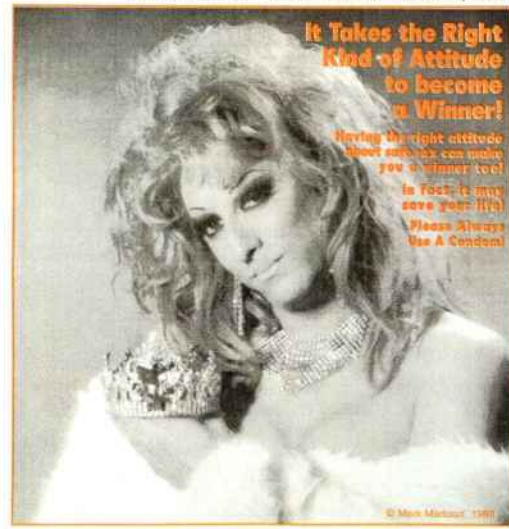


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Wisconsin's LastGayBare Entertainment Guide
Quest



Volume Issue 19 October 22 - November 4, 1998



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Having the right attitude doesn't always mean you're a winner too!
In fact, it may save your life!
Please Always Use A Condom!

15 Years Ago in Quest

Quest for many years was the owner of Miss Wisconsin USofA Pageant system. We featured many titleholders on our covers over the years including Kelli Jo Klein, our Oct. 1998 cover. Keli Jo has had many state titles over the years & retired from female impersonation this past month.

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PO Box 1961 Green Bay, 54305
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editor@quest-online.com www.quest-online.com

Publisher: Mark Mariucci (ZA)

Contributors: Paul Masterson, Glenn Bishop, Dear Ruthie, Michael Johnston, Brent H

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Photography: Mark Mariucci, Will Sharkey, Paul Masterson, John Kaspar, Tony Ritschards, Troy Zierer

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COMMUNITY NEWS

THE QUEER PROGRAM RECEIVES TWO WISCONSIN COMMUNITY MEDIA'S BEST OF THE MIDWEST VIDEO FESTIVAL AWARDS

Milwaukee - The Queer Program, celebrating 30 years as Milwaukee's longest running community interest weekly live public access cable television series, has won two Merit Awards from the Wisconsin Community Media's 15th Annual Best of the Midwest Video Festival. The awards are the equivalent of a 'Bronze' medal in the Fest.

The Queer Program submitted two entries from 2012. 'Weed Dating: The Victory Garden Initiative' aired July 16th and featured guests Gretchen Mead, Director of the Victory Garden Initiative, Paul Fairchild, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation, and Paul Williams, Co-President of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Board of Directors. The program discussed the collaborative effort of the three organizations in hosting this unique 'Weed Dating' event held the following Saturday, July 21st. The program also focused on the Victory Garden Initiative's mission to empower communities to grow food and establish the relationship of human and food ecology from soil to seed to plate.

The second winning entry, 'The National Association of Black and white Men Together', aired October 22nd. The program featured guests Mark Behar, National Co-Chair of the NABWMT (and Milwaukee gay community activist) and Darryl Fore, National Co-Chair of the NABWMT from Cleveland, OH. The program focused on the history of the NABWMT since its founding in San Francisco in 1980 and its mission to foster supportive environments wherein cultural and racial barriers can be overcome among its approximately 20 chapters nationwide.

The two live programs were submitted for the Amateur/Student Entry LIVE Category. The mission of Wisconsin Community Media is to recognize outstanding video productions produced by public, education, and government access television staff and community producers and to encourage excellence in community television. The awards will be handed out at the Video Fest Banquet on April 26th.

The mission of The Queer Program is to heighten the visibility of Milwaukee & Wisconsin's LGBT communities through live public access cable television. The Queer Program is produced by Michael Lisowski and sponsored by Gay People's Union, The G/L Community Fund and Cream City Foundation. The Queer Program airs live Mondays through Milwaukee Community Media on Time Warner Cable Channel 96 and AT&T Uverse 99. The Queer Program replays Saturdays Midnight and 10PM. It can also be viewed later on www.milwaukeecommunitymedia.com.



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THE MILWAUKEE PRIDE PARADE ANNOUNCES THIS YEAR'S GRAND MARSHAL AND ASKS FOR COMMUNITY HELP

Seeks \$\$\$ donations to keep the flags flying this year.

The Milwaukee Pride Parade Announces this year's grand marshal

The Milwaukee Pride Parade is delighted to announce the Grand Marshal of the 2013 Milwaukee Pride Parade, Sue Black. "Sue Black brings her passion for excellence, community, and kids to the Milwaukee Wave professional soccer team as their new Owner/ CEO. She is also thrilled with leading the organization's charitable arm – **Wave of Hope**.



Often described as a visionary, Sue's career has focused on transforming lives and places. She has broken glass ceiling after glass ceiling. Leading the longest running soccer franchise in North America and the with 6 World Championships this is her dream come true.

Sue prides herself on excellence. She was a dynamic Director of Milwaukee County Parks after serving as Director of Wisconsin State Parks and the Arizona State Parks System. Under her direction, the Milwaukee County

Park System received the National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal Award for excellence in Management.

Sue is thrilled to join the Wave team, driven to take it to new heights and helping the community through the Wave of Hope.

Sue was born and raised in Milwaukee and is proud to be a UW Badger with her Masters degree in Education.

"Being chosen to be the grand marshal of the pride parade is an honor."

Milwaukee Pride Parade seeks \$\$\$ to keep the flags flying this year.

No stranger to budget crunches, and hard times The Milwaukee Pride Parade has had to deal with fiscal woes, denial of areas to be used on parade day without notice, and many other issues. Today, the woes are simply fiscal.

Although attendance and parade entries have been growing every year, revenue does not always keep up with the progress. Last year's parade (Fiscal 2012) lost money. Even with that loss, the board had planned to install the flags for the parade this year as they have been for the past several years. During the year the board looked at ways to trim the budget and still keep a great parade.

Unfortunately, however well a plan is laid, things can always change. This year the Milwaukee Pride Parade lost one of its major corporate sponsors and due to this loss had to make some difficult decisions on where the funds would be cut and if they would have to be cut from this year's parade or risk future years.

After reviewing all "optional" expenses of the parade the Board of Directors agreed that cutting the 2nd Street Pride Flags was the right call

to make to ensure fiscal stability for both this year (2013) and next year (2014).

The Milwaukee Pride Parade pays to have over 100 Pride Flags hung from the light poles on S. 2nd Street for 2 weeks each year. The costs to complete this project are approximately \$4,500 (\$1,000 for the permit and \$3,500 to install/remove them).

Although the Flags have been officially removed from our 2013 Operating budget the Board of Directors began to look for ways to possibly save the flags this year. What they came up with is a 2 "pronged" assault.

The board itself is doubling its efforts to find a replacement sponsor before the deadline to pay for and obtain the Permit for the Flag installations.

A more innovative second approach is a brand new fundraising campaign on Fundrazr.com <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/fUfA9>.

The goal for the campaign is to raise \$4,500.00 Before May 17, 2013, because that is the last day to reasonably acquire the permit and contract a licensed and bonded installer required by the permit.

"The Milwaukee Pride Parade Board would like to say thank you in advance to all those who can help the parade keep the flags down 2nd Street, and also say Thank you" to the Community of South East Wisconsin, for even though the Campaign literally launched a little over a week ago, the out-pouring of support from fellow organizations has been touching to say the least, stated Parade Coordinator Brent Holmes.

The Milwaukee Pride Parade will be held on Sunday June 9th, 2013 @ 2:00pm from 2nd & Greenfield to 2nd & Oregon St. Applications can be found at www.prideparademke.org.

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ARGONAUTS OF WISCONSIN

ONE OF THE OLDEST LGBT ORGANIZATIONS IN WISCONSIN

by Paul Masterson for QUEST

The club's by-laws state its mission "to bring together persons with a common purpose and inclination for fellowship and advancement of their individual and collective needs." Headquartered on a farm in Hilbert, Wisconsin, a town nearly 30 miles south of Green Bay, is the state's oldest gay organization, the Argonauts of Wisconsin. Founded nearly 40 years ago in 1974 as a Milwaukee leather and Levi motorcycle club, the Argonauts' history reflects the ever-changing face of local LGBT life. While today's organization preserves the traditions of its earliest membership, it has become ever more integrated into the community-at-large.

Originally called the Argonauts of Milwaukee-Green Bay, the founders started the organization on January 18, 1974 in a meeting at the Wreck Room, one of the city's first leather-Levi bars. But, since the membership was largely from Green Bay, the headquarters was moved there and the name changed to Argonauts of Wisconsin. Bar nights were held in Milwaukee and still are. More recently, the club has expanded its bar night tradition to Madison, Wausau, Oshkosh and Appleton. Future sites include Eau Claire and La Crosse. Beyond Wisconsin the Argonauts are closely engaged with similar groups in Chicago and Minneapolis.

As one of the founding members of the Mid-America Conference of Motorcycle Clubs (MACC), the region's gay leather organization for men and women, the Argonauts have helped form similar organizations in Florida (Key West Wreckers) and in Minneapolis (the Black Guard). They have always been close with the Castaways, the Milwaukee club founded five years after the Argonauts.

Their history tent at Pride Alive, Green Bay's annual Pride celebration, is a treasure trove of Wisconsin leather-Levi history. The club has accumulated so much material over its four decades that some has been donated to the Chicago Leather Archive.

QUEST spoke with current members Steve Jones and Bradley Borresen about Argonaut history, organizational changes and its current status in the state's LGBT community.

Jones has held various offices including

several terms as president over his decades long involvement. "The Argonauts, membership is at its highest ever with 19. The number may seem small but add to that the associate members and the figure swells to nearly 100. Many of the associates are in Wisconsin but others hail from all over the country from Cal-

ifornia to Florida. Membership is more open and younger. Our membership fee is \$30 for associates. It allows the member to wear the Argonaut emblem. Club events are welcoming to everyone," Jones said. "We have also taken on the role of a charitable organization."

continues

Dixie's Tupperware party

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The Argonaut Charities

The Argonauts' community engagement began with its initial response to the AIDS crisis. When first organized the group's public profile was at best restrained. Perhaps as a reaction to the world as it was in 1974, motorcycle clubs in general were insular and almost covert. Membership was highly restricted. Prospective applicants went through a six month pledge period. To those outside the leather-Levi realm, the vision of a leather clad biker on a Harley was intimidating. The 1980 film *Cruising* starring Al Pacino and set in the gay S&M milieu reinforced the image of leathermen as sexually compulsive outsiders. Homophobia aside, even other segments of the LGBT community, particularly those trying to present gay people as just like straights, marginalized the leather clad bikers.

But, as gay activism helped change the political landscape and the intolerance of LGBT lifestyle began to recede, the Argonauts also became more visible. But it was a national calamity that catapulted the club into prominence. When AIDS first broke out in the early 1980's, the Argonauts took on a leading role in creating a community response. At great expense to its membership, the club sent a contingent to San Francisco, one of the pandemic's epicenters, to



be trained in HIV prevention. They returned and created the Center Project, Inc (CPI), the first HIV clinic in Green Bay. It was located next to the Napolese Lounge, the club's home bar. Later, as the crisis grew and outside funding became available, CPI became part of ARCW (Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin), eventually moving to a much larger, new location.

With federal funding in place for HIV/AIDS, and now well-versed in organizing, the Argonauts dedicated its fund raising to other needy groups. "Over the decades our community support role and charitable giving has grown. We help area individuals, agencies and groups like Rainbow

Over Wisconsin and Pride Alive (Green Bay's Pride event) among many others. The club still supports ARCW with two annual food drives to stock the food pantry. We also have our annual nine-day Easter Egg fundraiser. But we're not alone. We've always had wonderful support from drag queens, lesbians, and everyone. We're a tight knit community," Jones said.

Runs and Events

The Argonauts/Castaways Joint Run is its annual, 3-day (and nights!) summer gathering. Back in the days when most members owned a motorcycle, the Run was a traditional, club-exclusive summer meeting. For the Argonauts, the destination is a farm outside of Green Bay. "It has always been quite the party. Over the years it has grown. Nowadays fewer members have bikes so some come in cars and RV's. It's a family reunion with well over 100 people from other clubs. The public is now invited as well. One group that attends is the Tennessee Leather Tribe from Memphis. They provide a barbecue!" Jones said. The site has changed over the years as well. Currently, the club's 2-story barn can accommodate a 250 seat banquet replete with a bar and kitchen. It also provides bunk space and a patio deck



with a bonfire pit.

Some of the many activities include Argonaut Club Nights at local bars, joint events held in collaboration with other regional leather/ Levi clubs. The regular Club Night is the second Friday of each month at their home bar, Napalese Lounge in Green Bay. Winter Quest, an anniversary dinner, is held the 3rd Saturday of every January

Titles

The leather-Levi community has always held contests. The Argonauts own three state and regional titles: Wisconsin Leather/Levi Daddy, Wisconsin Leather/Levi Daddy's boy and Mr. Northwoods. Holding a local title qualifies the Wisconsin winner for the International Mr. Leather or International Leather Sir boy contests. Beyond the competitive qualifications, the contests and awards, the titles come with certain obligations to the community.

Bradley Borresen currently holds the Wisconsin Leather/Levi Daddy title. An Argonaut for just two years he is also the clubs corresponding secretary. He joined to connect with people in the leather community. "I find them more open minded than others. In Green Bay people regard leather as a fetish. But everyone has a fetish...drag queens, straight people," Borresen said.

When asked why he competed for a title, his answer was immediate. "I ran for the title to call attention to the fact that Green Bay has a leather crowd. I always get on-line questions about the lifestyle. Nobody wants to be judged and up here it's more difficult to meet people, especially if you have an interest outside the mainstream. Today with the internet it's actually more difficult. Before people went to the bars and interacted, now they stay home at the computer. Leather groups are folding for lack of membership. So the idea is to let people know there's a leather group and it's okay. We don't need 100 members and you don't have to be a member to attend events. Like drag queens we do what we do for the benefit of the community."

Borresen's role as Mr. Wisconsin Leather Levi Daddy title holder also gives him a voice. His service as a title holder focuses on bullying and he is creating his own anti-bullying campaign. "I grew up in a very small community and was the victim of bullying. It's tough growing up gay in that sort of environment. All the way

through school people in that position are bullied. Teasing, poking, jokes...it brings you down so far. It's something that affects everyone's adult life. Whether the bully or the bullied you grow up with a false sense of how life works. It's hard on the bullied, of course, but there are consequences for the bully as well. People don't realize it stays with you your whole life. Facebook has provided me with people from my past and I communicate with someone who bullied me. His life now isn't so great." His campaign strategy is still in the planning stage. "I'm connecting with bars to plan

events, talking to people at Pride. As a bartender and through my Facebook page I talk to a lot of people. We're always involved with fundraisers but I think raising awareness through direct communication is just as important. But it's hard to get people to listen," Borresen said.

Information about the Argonauts of Wisconsin, event schedule as well as photos of past Runs & the Hilbert farm may be found on Facebook or their website: www.argonautsofwi.com

Photography for cover and these pages by Doug Rickert - snoopy@madeyascream.com



Titleholder Bradley Borresen

PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE IN THE HOME STRETCH

Organizers Tidy up Details in Final Month before Gates Open – even launch a New Stage

Milwaukee - With just over one month to go, the production team at PrideFest Milwaukee is making their final push to the opening of the gates. (June 7-8-9) Contracts are still being worked out, menus planned, speakers booked, and volunteers contacted for available openings.

"We always find ourselves in between this feeling over being overwhelmed, and of being totally energized and ready to bring it home!" says Festival Director Pete Minns about the final weeks leading up to the festivals start. "We do have an incredible team. Every year, these folks come back and dedicate hours and hours of volunteer time to organize, and run this three day festival. And every year, it's a great time."

Last year, organizers set some pretty high personal festival bests, even after publically acknowledging that things have been difficult at times. Board President Scott Gunkel has praised the Board and the team this year for making "smart and responsible cost reductions." Having done so has allowed the organizers to not only bring in top entertainment, but also launch a new stage.

Pop icon Andy Bell of Erasure will be the Miller Lite Main stage headliner on Friday, June 7, in an opening night show that also stars Sophie B. Hawkins and ABBA Salute. Saturday, June 8, the legendary Indigo Girls hit the stage, and Sunday June 9, outspoken supporter of LGBT and women's rights, Amanda Palmer closes out the festival after Dangerous Muse opens with electropop dance sounds and sexy stage theatrics never before seen on the Miller Lite Main stage. Other artists performing over the weekend include God-Des & She, Beverly McCellan, Big Bad Gina, DJ Grind, Bag Romance show, Something to Do, and Wisconsin's own first lady of Rock - Ronnie Nyles and Tallulah Who, among others. A full lineup can be found on pridefest.com.

Following last year's success with the new stage area Wom!nz Spot Lounge and Café, organizers are again branching out and this year will launch The Riviera Maya Stage. Sponsored by La Nueva Ritmo, the stage focus will be to highlight the multicultural dimension of the LGBT and Straight community. "This multicultural stage is dedicated to presenting musical groups from diverse backgrounds," says Board Member Francisco Araiza. "We wanted a place to showcase different nationalities, ethnicities, languages, and religions, and by showcasing our diversity, we hope to find the commonalities that make the fabric that forms one worldwide LGBT and Straight community." The stage will be open each night and will feature Latin and hip hop artists, as well as DJs.

Festival tickets are already on sale, and for an extra close up experience, headliner shows are also available for reserved seating. The reserved ticket price also includes the gate ticket fee. Festivalgoers also will have the option of adding \$1 to their ticket purchases to support the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's greatest needs fund. "We may not always have the best budgets to work with from year to year," says Gunkel, but we do have a great opportunity here to reach out to as many people as possible." The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has battled back from financial woes over the last year with a strong and dedicated board and staff, and the option to add a \$1 charge to tickets purchased on pridefest.com was a way for PrideFest to help raise funds for the center. "The Festival itself is always in need of donors, and sponsors to help open the gates, but we also want to support our community while we have the chance."

You can support them both by logging onto pridefest.com and purchasing your tickets to this year's festival. By doing so in advance, you save \$3 off the admission price at the gate (\$13 online/\$16 gate) or you can purchase a three day weekend pass and save big at only \$30. Single-day VIP passes, which includes access to the exclusive Potawatomi Bingo Casino VIP Deck, will be \$100 advance, or \$225 or the three-day weekend. Opportunities also exist for both individuals to sponsor, as well as business who wish to sponsor. Sponsor levels include anything from VIP tickets to business logo placements online.

For up-to-the-minute PrideFest news throughout the year, follow them on Facebook and Twitter. To become a volunteer, donor, sponsor or vendor, please visit www.pridefest.com, e-mail info@pridefest.com

pridefest.com, or call 1-414-272-3378.

The mission of PrideFest is to celebrate the diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) culture and community. PrideFest, Inc. is a 501c4 nonprofit organization, compliant with all State of Wisconsin and IRS rules. PrideFest is accomplished through the work of the Board of Directors, which oversees business operations year-round, and the Production Team, which develops and carries out the day-to-day planning of the weekend festival. Each year, this unpaid volunteer team is committed to raising the funding necessary to produce our annual event. PrideFest would not be possible without the generous sponsorships, donations and paid ticket purchases of our community.

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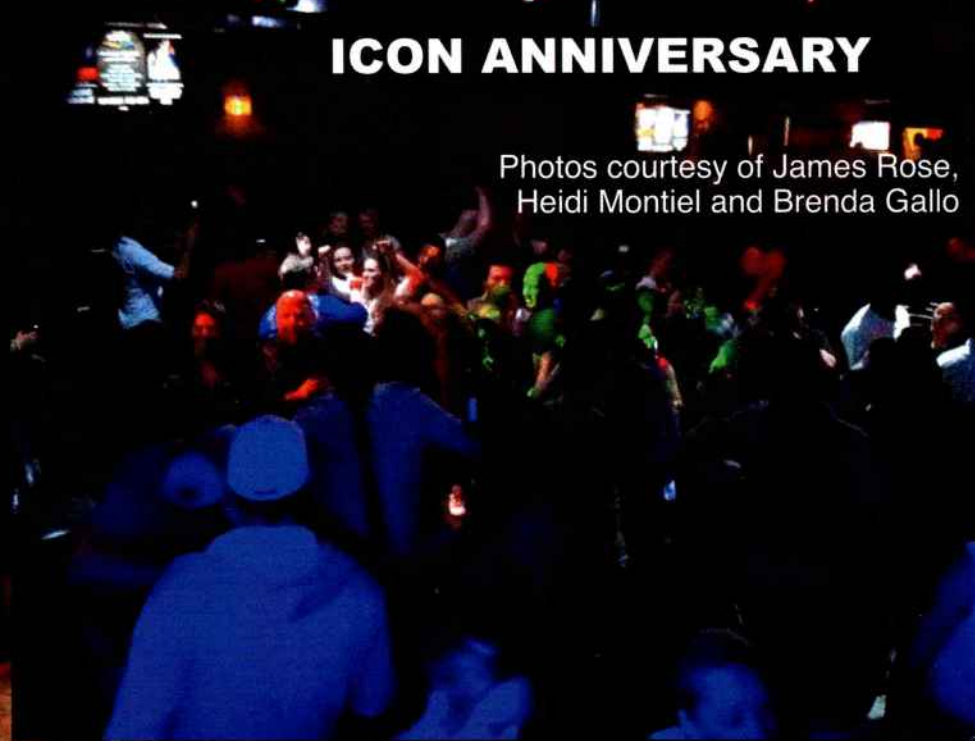
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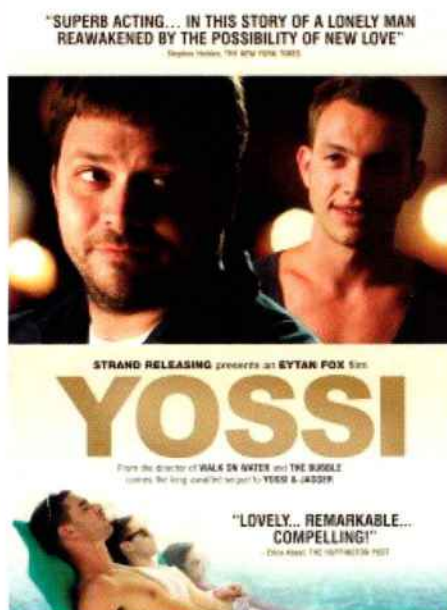
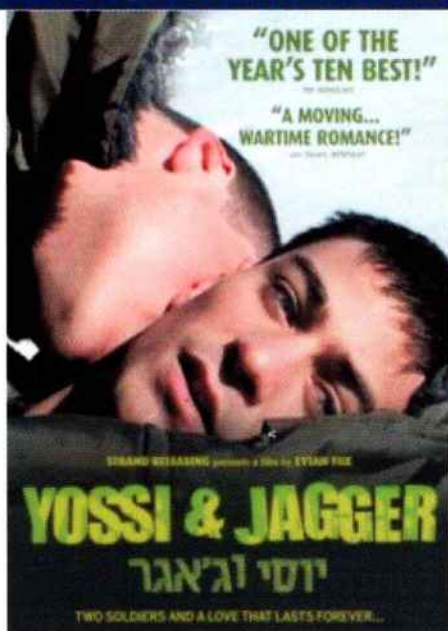
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ICON ANNIVERSARY

Photos courtesy of James Rose,
Heidi Montiel and Brenda Gallo





How do you go on living after you lose the love of your life? Ten years have passed, yet that's the dilemma continuing to plague Yossi Guttman (Ohad Knoller) in Eytan Fox's new film **Yossi**, a sequel to his 2002 cinematic breakthrough, **Yossi & Jagger**.

Gay love stories do not get much better than **Yossi & Jagger**. The place is the snowy, barren landscape of the Israeli-Lebanese border. Yossi (Ohad Knoller) is the quintessentially tough-as-nails army commander whose gruff exterior belies his deep concern for all those under his command. Lior a.k.a. Jagger (Yehuda Levi) is his second in command, a sweet, fun loving kid whose good looks, easy smile and outgoing personality have made him a favorite with everyone in camp.

Unabashedly gay, Jagger is truly, madly, deeply in love with Yossi, planning for the time they are out of the army and won't have to hide their relationship. Yossi is decidedly less certain. A career soldier, he has had to hide his sexuality for too long. Only on those rare occasions he and Jagger are away from the rest of their battalion, can he actually remember what it is to smile, have fun, to be happy.

After one such occasion, tragedy strikes when a night mission goes terribly wrong; Jagger dying in Yossi's arms.

In the years since leaving the army, Yossi has trained to be a cardiologist.

Yet the intervening ten years have not been kind to Yossi. Although still played by Ohad Knoller, he is barely recognizable; he's moon-faced, decidedly pudgy and decked out with a scraggly beard.

At the hospital he's well-liked but a total worka-

holic, often sleeping in spare hospital rooms between his shifts; refusing to take vacations. Intensely private, he rebuffs the advances of a sweet nurse (Ola Schur-Selektar) harboring for him an unrequited love Yossi is far too clueless to recognize. Yossi also rebuffs the best efforts of a colleague who seems to think Yossi will be right as rain if only he can get Yossi to let his hair down, knock back a couple of cocktails and bed some suitable female.

Nor does Yossi's home offer much of a refuge. In the hands of director Eytan Fox and cinematographer Guy Raz, Yossi's apartment is spartan, deeply claustrophobic and shrouded in gloom. For dinner he fixes himself a mountain of pasta, and later, in the dark, he impassively watches (really boring) gay porn.

"That's some life you carved out for yourself," one of Glenn's acquaintances was heard to utter.

One night Yossi musters up the courage to take a stab at online dating; he remains closeted so of course his profile is sans photo. Yet even an internet novice such as Glenn knows that a glimpse of the goods is required for a successful hookup. Innocently perhaps, Yossi chooses a favorite if not a particularly recent photo; a choice which leads to an encounter both awkward and embarrassing.

Thankfully at this point Itay Segal's screenplay has a surprise up its proverbial sleeve. Yossi's somnolent existence is shattered when he comes face-to-face with Jagger's mother (Orly Silbersatz Banai) at the hospital as a patient.

She, however, doesn't recognize Yossi as her son's commander. And really, how could she?

Yet this reacquaintance with Jagger's family leads Yossi to hit the road, to go to Eilat, the re-

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

Yossi & Jagger has long been one of Glenn's favorite films, truly a Gay Film Essential and certainly a must for any collection. Director Eytan Fox has gotten fine performances from his exceptionally attractive cast whilst taking a simple narrative and turning it into a truly memorable gay love story. Of **Yossi**, Glenn remains less convinced.

If his love for Jagger proved to be something of an awakening for Yossi, the ten years without him has left Yossi mired in grief and perhaps guilt; the extent of Yossi's physical transformation and joyless existence is, in a word, startling.

Not that Yossi isn't a sympathetic figure. Perhaps sensing the all-persuasive sadness that surrounds him, his hospital colleagues walk around him as if on eggshells. Indeed, when focusing the minutiae of Yossi's daily existence, Itay Segal's episodic screenplay is on firm ground.

All bets are off once Yossi hits the road. Allusions to **Death in Venice** feel at best clumsy and at worst, overly melodramatic.

The introduction of Tom (Oz Zehavi) and his army buddies does breathe some much needed life into the film. Yet Glenn is at a loss to understand just what attracts the young and impossibly beautiful Tom to the depressed, humorless Yossi. Could it be that hot, hunky Israeli soldiers have a thing for pudgy, middle-aged gay men?

If so, Glenn wants to know where to sign up!

Just the facts...

Yossi & Jagger has a running time of 65 minutes as is in Hebrew with English subtitles

Yossi & Jagger is available on DVD with an SRP of \$19.99

Yossi clocks in at 84 minutes and is in Hebrew with English subtitles

Yossi is available on DVD on May 21 with an SRP of \$27.99

Look for Lior Ashkenazi (Moti) in Eytan Fox's **Walk on Water**

sort town he and Jagger had long dreamt of going. With Mahler's 5th Symphony's cued up and Mann's **Death in Venice** packed, perfect for a little late-night reading, Glenn couldn't help but worry that **Yossi** had all the earmarks of yet another "tortured homosexual dying at the end story."

Then Yossi happens upon four friendly, handsome soldiers on leave. Yossi is understandably drawn to their beauty, their youth and their high spirits. One of the soldiers, Tom (Oz Zehavi), who is openly gay, proves to be insistently if inexplicably interested in Yossi.

Can this gorgeous young soldier help Yossi find a way to love again?

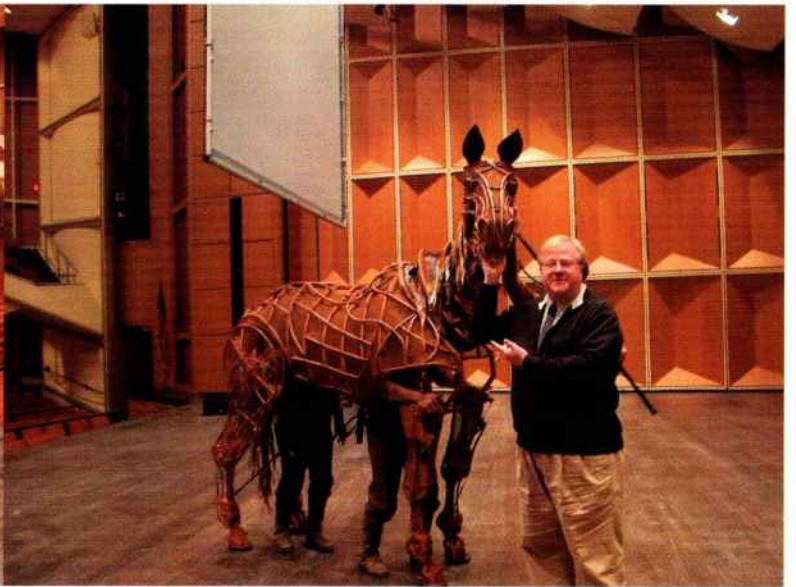
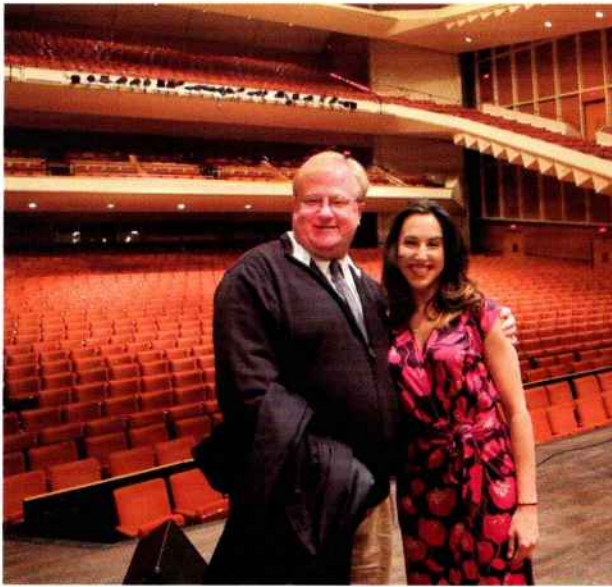
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Volume 12 #5 May 2013

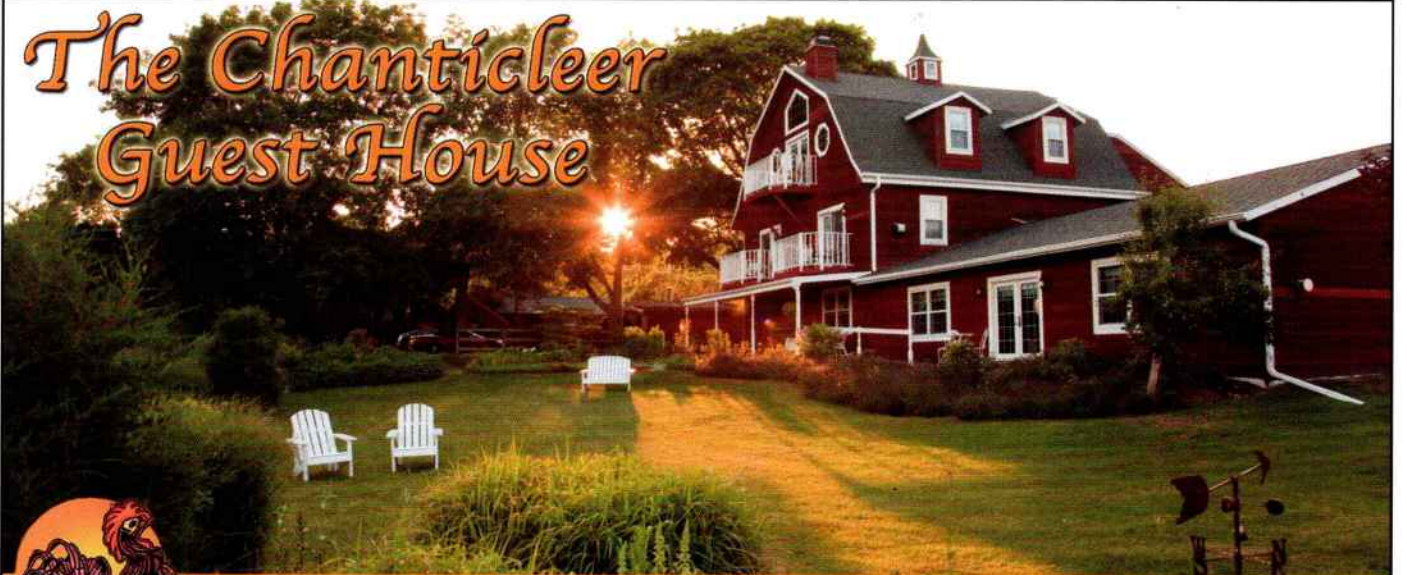
Out and About with Michael Johnston!

Upper Right - Shannon Dupree and the gang from Hamburger Mary's
 Thank you to Roger K for the photo

Below right - Joey the Horse from "WarHorse" The Marcus Center



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Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Rally 'round the May pole -- summer will soon be here! Softball teams are forming; outdoor activities are being planned, as well as gardening, and all the fun we can pack into the best time of the year!

Self-promotion time -- Please come and see me as I introduce a dahling lady, in a dahling movie -- that's right Spell-Check be damned! Tallulah Bankhead will be once again on the stage as she so richly deserves to be in her final movie "Die, Die My Darling!" Starring the stunning Tallu and a young ingénue named Stephanie Powers. Currently Powers has replaced dear Valerie Harper in a stage production of "Looped" a play about Bankhead and this very movie, so what goes around, comes around.

It's all a part of Carl Bogner's highly popular LGBT Film/Video Festival

Thursday, May 2 7:00 p.m. UWM Union Theatre -- for more information: Arts.UWM.EDU/LGBT-Film Brought to you by The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and Peck School of the Arts -- Department of Film

Since last we met I spent a wonderful Saturday night at Hamburger Mary's located at: 2130 South Kinnickinnic Avenue. Shannon Du Pree does two flawless shows one at 8 p.m. and the late night, naughtier, one at 9:30 p.m. Joining me on this awesome adventure was two of Drag-dom's Hall of Flamers: Rona and Charlotte Lorraine. These Entertainers know a good show when they see one and the Siskel & Ebert of Illusion gave the Review four thumbs up! Rounding out our terrific table was Roger RamJet and Jay formerly of Singational Productions.

We were greeted at the door royally, with celebrity hostesses, Lady Gia and Elle. It had been awhile since my last visit -- happy to see all-star servers like Roger and Todd still tray-ready. Angelo, a very cute, shy fellow saw to all our needs and made sure our glasses were never empty. Compliments to the Chef -- I had a seductive sandwich, featuring a burger, bacon, and guacamole with the suggestive name of "B.J.". Gary Olson, the marvelous manager, made sure the capacity crowd was enjoying their Mary-adventure, food, drinks, and entertainment-a-go-go. The Guests in attendance were celebrating everything from birthdays, engagements, anniversaries, bachelorette parties and boob jobs! Very diverse! Shannon brought in a pair of dazzlers one from the south, Chicago and the other one from our state capitol, very first-rate Performers.

On Sundays at 1 p.m. is Gospel Brunch where Sister Shannon and Sister Mary Ruthie get you full of the spirit, Charity Ham-BINGO! With Dear Ruthie is Thursdays & Sundays; Friday's Shauna

Love brings a little bit of Vegas your way, every month that has a fifth Friday means a Three Girls Three Show starring Dear Ruthie. Fridays and Saturdays after The Divas brings down the house, Mary Oke-Karaoke takes over and you're the Star! Sing out Louise!

Hamburger Mary's -- a very amusing, Gay-friendly, slice of Milwaukee -- call for a reservation (414-988-9324) because this place really fills up!

John McGivern gets all gussied up for "The Mystery of Irma Vep: A Penny Dreadful" at Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street Thursday, May 2 -- Sunday, May 26. Norman Moses co-stars -- you don't want to miss these two BrewTown Theatre Legends, please call 414-278-0765 for reservations, an excellent, renovated auditorium, with ample parking making for an easy access theater experience -- how refreshing.

Friday, May 3 -- Saturday, May 18 Windfall Theatre offers up "A Little Night Music" 130 East Juneau Avenue. This Sondheim warhorse has taken Broadway by storm recently with the likes of Catherine Zeta Jones and Angela Lansbury, followed by Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch -- come see as The Windfall has it's turn on "Smiles of a Summer Night" -- the summer night smiles three times first on the young, second on the fools, third on the old, to have the summer smile on you, please call 414-332-3962.

The art of illusion is commemorated grandly in "The Kiss of the Spider Woman" by Kander & Ebb, book by Terrence McNally gracing the stage at Off the Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street (414) 327-3552. Dale Gutzman presents his stellar cast of Broadway Babes: Karl Miller, Marilyn White, Jeremy Welter, and Lawrence J. Lukasavage in this award winning theatrical sensation.

Starting May 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 This show isn't done too often, see it while you can!

It's May how about a little Mozart? My Friends of The Florentine Opera Company will be closing out their 79th much lauded season with "The Marriage of Figaro". Well it is a timely topic... This Opera will star the stunning Daniel Belcher in the lead role, Friday, May 10 and Sunday, May 12 Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at his most marvelous.

Pre-Opera Luncheon, for "Figaro" You can dine with The Florentine's General Director William Florescu and Maestro Joseph Reicigno prior to Sunday's Matinee in the tres elegant Bradley Pavilion. If interested in taking part in a lively opera discussion before the performance and extraordinary meal, please call 414-291-5700 # 212 to your RSVP.

Please don't forget the "Opera Party" at The

Room of Boom, the Sunday prior to opening (May 5) 7 p.m. The Florentine Interns will sing, the Opera Leads will field the Q&A section of the night, a cash bar, and a complimentary buffet, catered by that palate pleaser -- Miss Katie's Diner.

Keep in mind, the Pitch family has opened a brand new "Piano Bar" with fine food, drink, and live cabaret! Pitch's Baby Grand Restaurant and Piano Bar located at 11320 West Bluemound Road is a triple threat -- offering the perfect recipe, for the perfect night -- Bravo!

The Florentine's 80th Season has been announced -- and what a stunner we have to look forward to! The forbidden love of "La Traviata" by Verdi starting the season off on Friday, November 8 and Sunday, November 10 Just in time for my favorite Holiday St. Valentine's Day The Florentine will coax you in the mood with "Festa Fiorentina" a review of love songs featuring The Florentine Opera Studio Artists February 14, 15, and 16, 2014 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) -- A tour of Italy, plus songs of the great Italian -- American popular singers. A political slant takes stage next with George Frideric Handel's "Julius Caesar" -- an empire in the hands of love -- Friday, March 28 and Sunday, March 30, 2014.

To close out this very special Anniversary season The Florentine will be showcasing a beloved Opera for the ages -- "La Boheme" where tragic romance is marked in unforgettable song. Puccini at his very best! If you are a fan of Broadway's "Rent" please see this forbearer, and find another favorite. Friday, May 9 and Sunday, May 11, 2014.

Please don't hesitate call today 1 800 32 OPERA, wish the Florentine a continuing 80 years of unparalleled entertainment and get your seat secured for a sensational season of scintillating saga and song! Happy Eighth Decade!

You won't be whistling Dixie, if you're wise enough to catch "Dixie's Tupperware Party" to be held in The Vogel Hall of The Marcus -- Tuesday, May 14 -- Saturday, May 25. The Cream City can't wait for the toast of the Alabama Trailer Park, Ms. Dixie Longate to turn a rather sedate theater into a lively Tupperware Party, to end all Tupperware Parties! Listen for the burp and get a chair by calling 414-273-7121.

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and Broadway Across America has just announced their 2013 -- 2014 Season! More Tony Award Winning Shows that you can shake a stick at! "Jersey Boys" -- A Season Special returns Wednesday, October 16 -- Sunday, October 27 -- This Four Seasons Salute is a must see -- feel good adventure! "Irving Berlin's White Christmas" -- Tuesday, November 26 -- Sunday, December 1 -- If this Holiday Faire doesn't get you in the Spirit of the Season -- nothing will, what a great pre-Holiday gift! "War Horse" -- Joey charges in to The Marcus Tuesday, January 7 -- Sunday, January 12, 2014 -- A Milwaukee Premiere! Don't forget your Kleenex! "Evita" -- All hail Argentina's unforgettable Empress Tuesday, February 4 -- Sunday, February

9, 2014 "Flashdance" – What a Feeling! – Will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary here in Milwaukee at The Marcus – Tuesday, March 4 – Sunday, March 9, 2014. Talk about 80's flashback with this Flashdance! "The Phantom Of The Opera" – Will take BrewTown by storm with this all-new U.S. National Tour. A great way to cool out the summer of 2014 – the curtain rises July 23 through August 3, 2014. Time once again to enjoy the music of the night!

The same evening of The Marcus unveiling, Seth Rudetsky did his A-mahzing "Seth's Big Fat Broadway Show" and it truly was "A-mahzing"! What knowledge! Seth was kind enough to share the Bill with Jason Burns and Equality, Wisconsin, promoting equal rights for All – which also is A-mahzing! For all You Theater Buffs – - HIT (The Holiday Invitational Tournament) will be hosting a Bus Trip to Chicago and SideTracks for Sunday ShowTunes – May 19. Contact Ricky (Candy Stick) for all details and your reservation (414)881-8071.

Put a little spring in your step with the spring series of The Milwaukee Ballet under the Artistic Direction of Michael Pink as they proudly present Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" Thursday, May 16 – Sunday, May 19. The Most popular Ballet of all time! The Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra performs this timeless classic with passion and grace, while the Dancers tell the story with their agile forms 414-902-2103.

The 1935 classic, America's favorite Opera "The Gershwin's Porgy & Bess" concludes the Skylight Music Theatre's 2012 – 2013 season – Make Your

Night Sing! This is The Skylight's Bill Theisen's favorite show and farewell show – as he bids a fond adieu to the Skylight. The glorious Cabot Theatre of The Broadway Theatre Center will be the setting Friday, May 17 – Sunday, June 9.

The Gershwins' at their very best – put a little "Summertime" in your summer time 414-291-7800. Also at The Skylight "Kay Stiefel and Jack Forbes Wilson: Sing Me A Story" runs Friday, May 3 – Sunday, May 19.

Looking for a place to grab a quick, delicious bite, how about "Where Milwaukee Meets" The Hybrid Lounge 707 East Brady Street, where Van Buren and Brady meet. This popular pub now offers great "eats"! Recently on a Saturday afternoon, I met a couple of friends and we enjoyed not only Matt's hospitality, but burgers and a gigantic side order of green beans which were out of this world and nothing like your mother made! Compliments to Chef Brian! Looking over their menu there is an array of burgers; even veggie, sandwiches, salads and the ever- present tots! The Community has been bemoaning no "Gay" restaurant since the closing of MONA's. This maybe what you're looking for. Hybrid also offers a Friday Fish Fry – it is Milwaukee after all and Brunch on Sundays when they open at 10 a.m.! Perusing the Brunch selections there is a column of omelets and Classics like Biscuits and Gravy, French Toast, Pancakes, and the popular healthy option of yogurt and granola – something for everyone.

Wishing a speedy recovery to The Harbor

Room's favorite All-Star Miller Bill, the old H.R. is not the same without you!

This month closes out with Memorial Day – a weekend that launches the unofficial summer season, International Mr. Leather (IML - Chicago), The Indianapolis 500 Race, a time to start your gardens, celebrate this glorious country we call home and remembering our war dead – the soldiers who have gone before us...I'm very fortunate not to have suffered such a loss in this life-time, however we did lose a hero in my eyes, in John Albinger. John was Madonna's quintessential fan. No one knew or appreciated the Material Girl quite like John. He was a fixture at Kruz – he loved Kruz and Kruz loved John! I'll Cherish the many memories of our Show Tune Sundays at SideTracks and something tells me they'll never be the same, we were all so Crazy For You – Take A Bow!



It is the glamor, not the grammar as we remember and we celebrate, as I remain still Cordially yours,.



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Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen



Hey Kids! It's your old friend, Ruthie! Time is short and I've got some goodies in the oven of my Bitchin' Kitchen. Let's read a letter and then get to the eats!

Oh, but before we do, let me tell you about my new show, "Ruthie's Starry Night Review!" This tribute to Hollywood divas takes place at 9:30, Friday, May 31 at Hamburger Mary's! Hosted by Joan Rivers (me), this fast-paced night features Marilyn Monroe, Madonna (Jackie Roberts), Tina Turner, Whoopi Goldberg (Symphony Alexander-Love), Cher and Liza Minnelli (Myami Richards). Come check us out, then stick around afterward and have a few cocktails with me!

Okay...now let's get to that letter I mentioned. It involves an issue that more folks from our community seem to face.

Dear Ruthie,

After living together for nearly 2 years, my partner decided we should begin the process to adopt. Not a dog. Not a cat. Not a pre-determined area of a highway in need of a cleanup. A baby. An honest to truth baby!

I have no desire to be a parent. None. I never have. He, on the other hand, says he always wanted to be a Dad, and he feels that this is our future and the natural progression of our relationship. I'm not so sure. I'm really confused. Any advice?

Thanks, Kid-Free Chris

Dear Kid-Free,

I take it you didn't discuss having a family before you two hotties moved in together. If you had, this likely wouldn't have been an issue right now. Or, at least, you both would have known where you stood on the issue early on in your relationship. This is something that all couples should discuss when their relationship takes a serious turn and the future looks bright.

You don't mention having a heart to heart with your partner, so start there. Let him know how you're feeling. Set some time limits to give you

both time to think things over. Either one of you may find that your feelings change with time.

If things don't change, you may want to consider a separation and see where your heads end up on this situation. Regardless, do not move forward with an adoption unless you truly, in your heart, wish to become a parent. It's not a decision that should be made lightly, nor is it a choice that should be made to keep your partner happy.

Wow! That was a serious one. Now, let's relax by stepping into my Bitchin' Kitchen, everyone! I've got two dishes, both shared by readers just like you! They come together easily (the recipes...not the readers), and they're sure to get your mouth watering. The first is a slow-cooker soup and the second is a sweet treat that's hard to beat. Now, eat good and shut up!

JEFF'S SLOW-COOKED FRENCH ONION SOUP

Jeff is a regular at my HamBingo show at Hamburger Mary's in Bay View. It's always great to see him, but you can't imagine how thrilled I was when he brought me a cup of this fantastic slow-cooked soup! He created the recipe himself, and it's actually better than some I've tried at restaurants! Thanks Jeff. Your free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt is on the way!

4 tablespoons butter
3 pounds large sweet onions, chopped
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
2-1/2 garlic cloves, minced
1-1/2 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons salt
2-1/2 teaspoons fresh ground black pepper
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1-1/2 tablespoons sherry cooking wine
1-3/4 cups Cabernet Sauvignon
10 cups water
1 -1/2 teaspoons dried thyme
4 packets (.35oz ea) Swanson Beef Boost

1/4 cup instant beef bouillon

Shredded cheese, croutons for garnish

Melt butter in a large deep skillet. Add onions and sauté over medium-high heat for 10 minutes. Add sugar and stir frequently for an additional 10 minutes. Add garlic; sauté another 5 minutes. Slowly stir in flour and remove from heat.

In a large bowl, combine the salt, black pepper, Worcestershire sauce, wines, water, thyme, Beef Boost and bouillon. Add onion mixture.

Spritz a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray; add soup. Cook on low, covered, for 7 hours. Top individual servings with garnishes.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Jeff uses light butter when making his recipe. He also recommends garnishing individual servings with shredded Swiss or gruyere cheese. "You may even want to broil individual servings in oven safe bowls," he adds. "Broil the servings until the cheese turns golden brown."

DUNK-A-ROO DIP

Here's a sweet treat from Dan of Racine. "I found the recipe on the Internet, but it's easy, fast and good," he says. The three-ingredient dip is perfect for a dessert or for adding a sweet bite to a savory appetizer buffet.

1 box (18.9 ounces) Funfetti cake mix
2 cups plain yogurt
1 container (8 ounces) Cool Whip, thawed
Sliced fruit

In a large bowl combine the first three ingredients. Serve with sliced fruit. Refrigerate leftovers.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Do not add the ingredients called for when baking a cake...you only need the actual cake mix. Stir in a drop or two of vanilla extract to the dip if you'd like. You could also serve this dip with animal crackers or graham crackers. You could even add additional sprinkles to the dip for more color!

Got a recipe for Ruthie? Share it with her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com. If she publishes your recipe, you'll get a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt!

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April showers have brought way to May flowers. . . at least I think they are flowers. . . Could just be a rather tiny drag queen in her Sunday garb. But who am I kidding there is no such thing as a tiny Drag queen right?? (My email is going to be SO full of hate mail this month.)

That's right boys and girls it's May and that means just one short month before pride. Before I get into the happy parts of Pride, I'm sure many of you have heard about the Pride Parade's last minute fundraising push to try and save the 2nd Street Pride Flags which get mounted on the flag poles. They need to raise \$4,500.00 by May 17th to have enough time to get them installed etc. They have set up a Fundrazr.com campaign called "Save the 2nd Street Pride Flags" check it out and donate what you can for this great cause. You can also find out information about the parade at www.prideparademke.org or on facebook @Milwaukee Pride Parade.

And of course we can't have Pride without Pridefest! The headliners have been announced and I'm sure you are all flocking to get your tickets together and figure out how your get there. For more information as always you can check out their website www.pridefest.com or on facebook @Pridefest Milwaukee.

While I am on the topic of these organizations I just want to extend my personal thanks to all of the people involved with each organization. Both of these organizations are run 100% by volunteers and require huge time commitments from all of their members. Both Pridefest and the Pride Parade work year round to make sure that everything will be perfect for the coming year. So, next time you see a volunteer for either

Pridefest or the Pride Parade (Or ANY volunteer organization for that matter) let them know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Okay let's get to it. This month I figured we should talk about a new piercing fad which seems to be taking the world by storm. They are called Dermal Anchors. Now I'm not going to call them piercings because in reality they are not the true definition of what they are is a "Trans-dermal Implant." I know that's a big word for a lot of my readers so we will bring it down a level or 10. What that really means is that there is a piece of metal permanently implanted under your skin and then different "Ends" can be screwed on to the base. That's right I said permanent, once these piercings heal they need to be surgically removed by cutting the skin which holds them in. A not so fun and not so painless procedure I might add.

Dermal Anchors have a few additional concerns over a traditional piercing. For starters when they are removed, or if they migrate (reject), they will leave a larger and more noticeable scar than a traditional piercing. Additionally, Dermal Anchors go deeper into the body than a traditional piercing and thus the risk of bleeding and bruising to the site of the piercing is increased dramatically.

The care of Dermal Anchors also varies from that of traditional piercings. First and foremost the body needs time to heal and begin to grow new tissue to hold in the anchor, for this reason you should wear a small band-aid over the anchor to prevent it from falling out for the first 2 weeks. After that you should wear the band-aid for another 2 weeks when you sleep. If you toss

and turn in your sleep you should continue to wear the band-aid every night when you go to bed. As for cleaning it use an anti-bacterial soap and gently clean around, and under the "head" of, the jewelry once to twice daily. The best time to do this is at the end of your shower after you have shampooed and body washed.

Looks like we have some space for reader mail. . . let's see here:

Dear Brent,

I have been reading your column for a long time and there is one thing I have to ask. How do you come up with the ideas for your column and why do you have such an attitude about it? --John

Well thanks for writing in John. As far as how I come up with the idea's that is easy. I just sit down and think of something good to write about. As far as my attitude, I really don't think I have an attitude. I like to think of it as my writing style, and it's not my fault that I do it in my own little crass way. I also have the attitude I do because this is something very important to me, and I will never step down to anyone when it comes to things that are important to me. Thanks for the letter John.

Well that's really about all the brain power I can pour into this one, In the meantime have a great Month of May, a Happy Memorial Day Weekend, and don't forget to check out both the Milwaukee Pride Parade and Pridefest at www.prideparademke.org and www.pridefest.com respectively.

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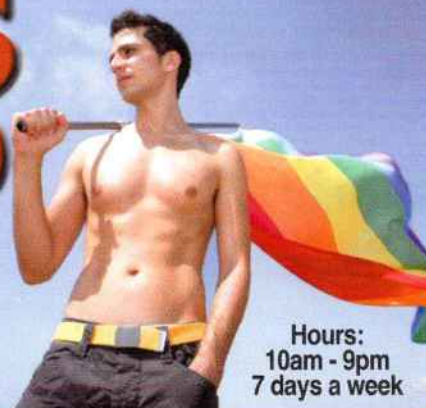
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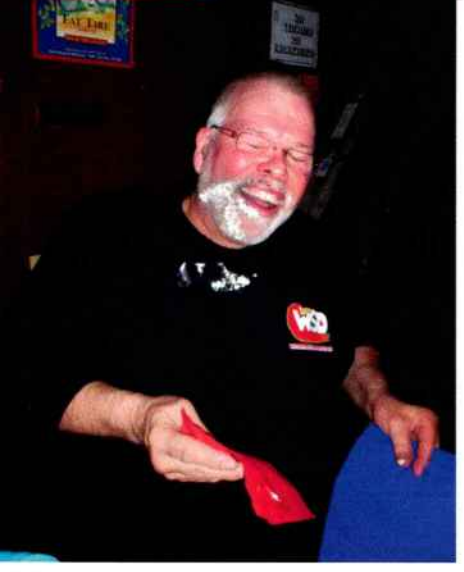
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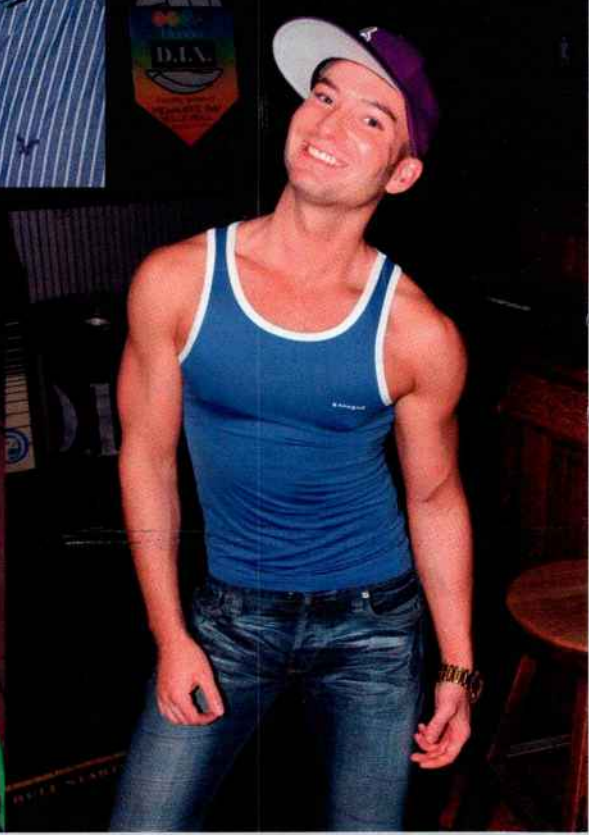


Out and About

Above and Left:
Ron celebrates
his 70th Birthday
at Harbor Room



Center and below:
Boy Luke has
a farewell party
at D.I.X.



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May Outreach Schedule

FREE HIV & SYPHILIS Testing at:

Woodys, Thurs. 2nd, 9-11 • Kruz, Fri. 3rd, 7-9

Harbor Room, Fri. 3rd, 10-12 • Fluid, Mon. 6th, 9-12

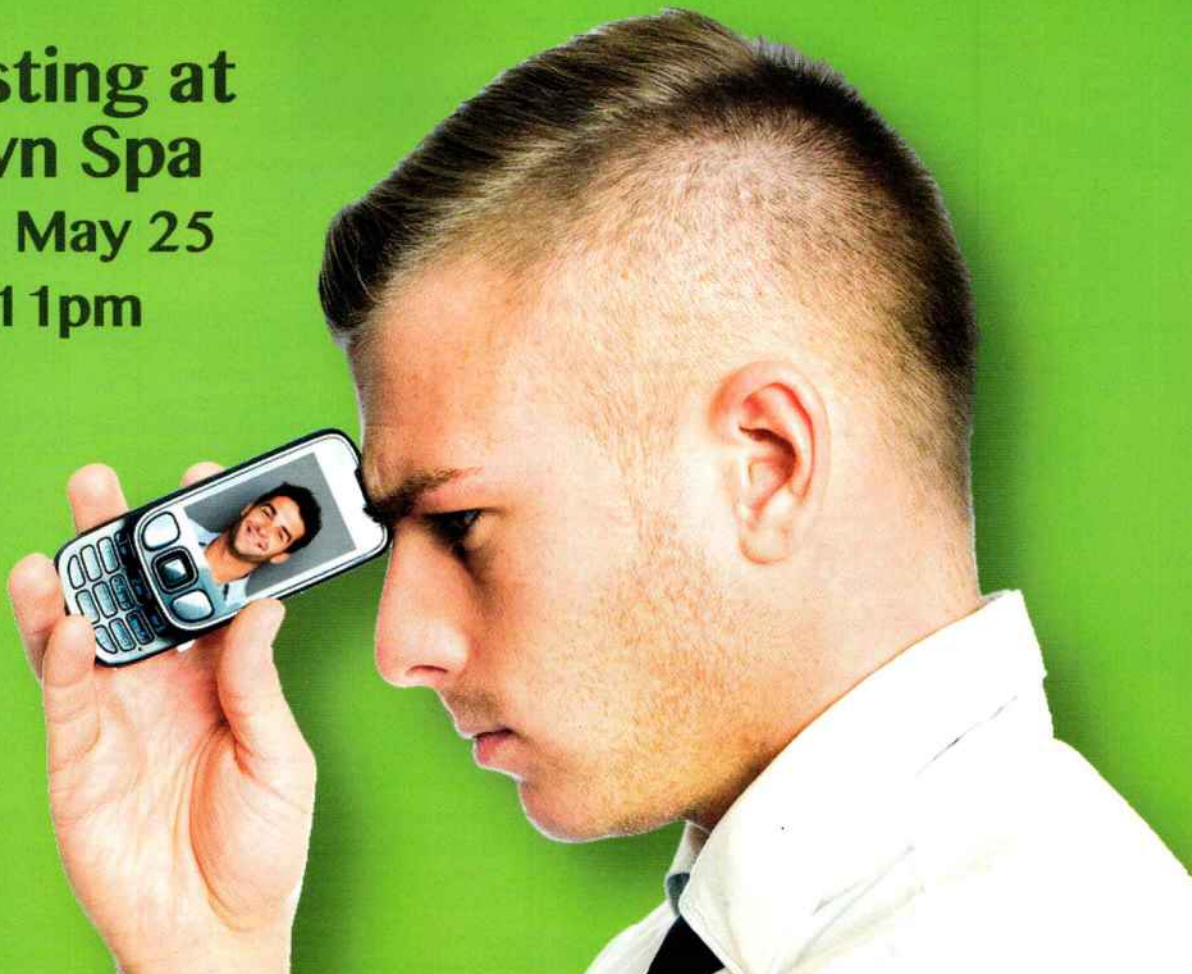
LaCage, Wed. 15th, 10-1ish

Club Icon, Fri. 17th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)

Studio 200, Wed. 22nd, 9-11 • Club Boom, Thurs. 24th, 9-11

LaCage, Wed. 20th, 10-1 • Club Boom, Thurs. 28th, 9-11

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8 pm to 12 pm

Saturday July 20th - 11 pm
MR HARBOR ROOM CONTEST
Emceed by John Weiler,
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Sunday July 21st
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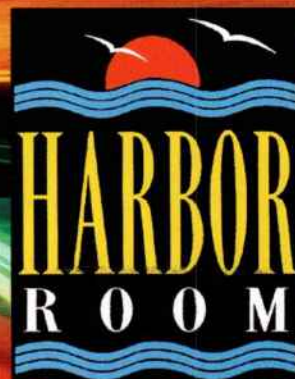
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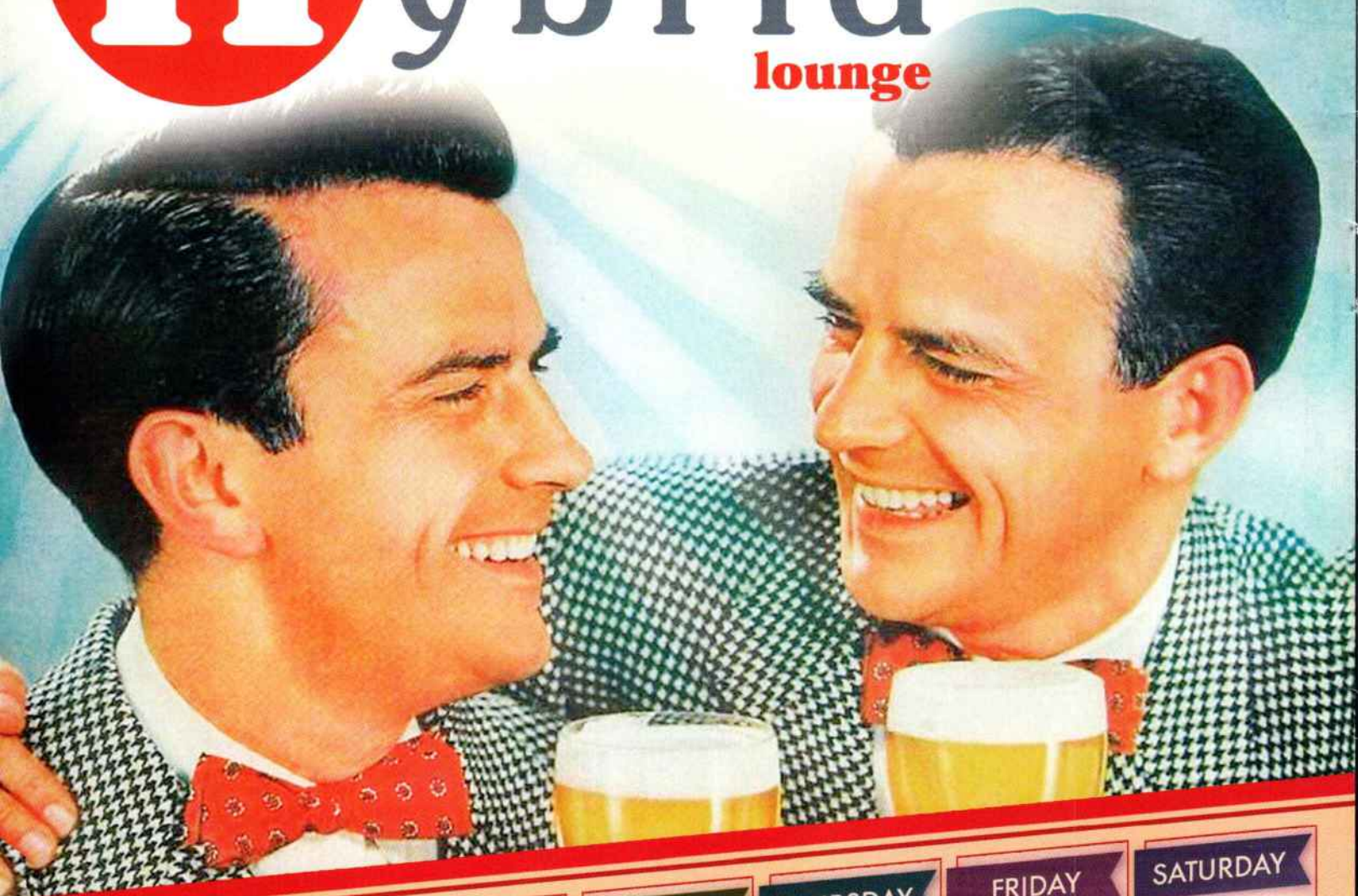
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