# YEARS

**VOLUME 20 ISSUE 9** SEPTMEBER 2013

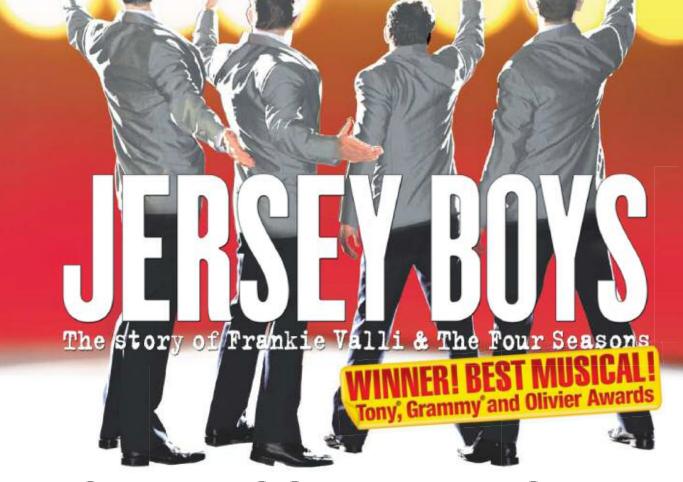
> Jaye Gatsby Mr Mississippi Valley with his partner Ben

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It's not often we feature anything concerning the western part of Wisconsin. The big three in Wisconsin are Milwaukee, Madison and the Fox Valley in that order. Even so, if you rule out smaller cities like Wausau, Eau Clair and La Crosse, you may be missing out. Smaller and more conservative, they still have gay brothers and sisters with the same hopes and dreams the rest of us have. Today we are featuring on our cover a young man who decided to go for the state title of Mr Gay Wisconsin in the USofA system. Chad Schuld goes by the stage name Jaye Gatsby. Young and full of energy, this guy is also easy on the eyes. We asked Jaye to give us his take on being in this pageant system from his part of the state.

Quest: I understand you are a musician and singer, playing the guitar. Do you play other musical instruments as well?

Jaye Gatsby: I have played guitar for about four years now. I used to be in a couple different bands just doing some harmony tunes and some back of riffs. Most of my playing is usually by myself and sometimes in front of my friends.

Being asked if I'm a musician is more than just a word. I like to take my experiences that I have had in my lifetime and incorporate them into some sort of short story. I have written many poems and short stories that I can relate to in my life. This is what defines a musician to me and it was my way out when I was growing up in a family that was deemed unacepting of my choices. Six years later, my family came to watch me win my title as Mr. Gay Mississippi Valley WI-USofA 2013.

Q: Have you performed much in public yet?

JG: I have performed a couple times in public. Again, back in college I was doing some back up harmonies and some backing vocals for some garage bands. I have performed a couple times in public. This is definitely an experience for me as I approach the stage my heart just bursts through my chest. I find the adrenaline rush to be such a good feeling. I guess what keeps me going is the feeling of that rush and also to show people how I express myself. I find it amazing how I can show people how proud I am to be who I am today.

Q: You are also the current titleholder for Mr Gay Mississippi Valley; a prelim for Mr Gay Wisconsin USofA, a national pageant organization that is one of the oldest and most respected in the country. Who is your promoter?

JG: The promoter for Mr. Gay Mississippi Valley WI-USofA is Taylor Vaughn. This is her first year hosting a competition on the male side of US of A system. She is also the current reigning Miss Mississippi Valley WI-USofA 2013 who will be competing for Miss Wisconsin USofA 2013 on October looked for someone to lean on and help me better identify myself for support. I became friends with my friend Matt. He not only helped me out after some family issues, but he helped me grow to who I have become today. He taught me that its okay to be a member of the homosexual community. I learned that I was born different and that difference among people is what brings communities together. Being different from everyone else, we should thrive together and encourage another to discover who we are and why we are one. I entered the pageant system to show people how I learned how much it means to have support and that there is always someone there for you no matter how dark your path may seem. I have come a long ways down a dark path of inception and thought that I would never pull out, but Matt saved me and made me realize it's okay to be who I am. I am proud to be who I am and I can't wait to help support those who need it the most.

The Mr. USofA competition is not about winning. The competition is about becoming someone who can show what it means to have leadership, loyalty and friendship.

19th and 20th. **Q:** You will be competing for the state title very soon. Where and when will people be able Q: What motivated you to want to enter to see you compete? this pageant system? JG: Yes, I will be competing JG: The thing that motivated for the state title on Sept. me the most to enter the 22nd. The title for Mr. pageant system was the Gav Wisconsin USofA need for equality. Since I at La Cage. Milwaukee. discovered who I was, I



**Q:** You live in the La Crosse area, which like my hometown, Green Bay, is a smaller community. Has your title and the "spotlight" attached to it been a positive experience or not?

**JG**: To me La Crosse is not exactly a smaller city. I grew up in Arpin, Wisconsin...lets just say the fields on the sides of town were bigger than the actual town. La Crosse has given me a positive experience since claiming my title in that I have met more people than I would have before claiming the title. I am meeting people from all over the state in the US of A system. The most positive part about my experience, I would have to say the integration to my new family. I feel a since of belonging and feel welcomed when I have lived a life of difference. I can finally associate myself with people like me and feel accepted for who I am.

**Q**: La Crosse is quite a distance from the other LGBT markets where Mr Wisconsin USA pageants exist. Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay/Fox Valley are probably the main areas where people associate see these events, however this is a statewide pageant and includes Wausau, Eau Claire and of course La Crosse.

How do you perceive your roll as Mr. Gay Wisconsin US of A should you win?

**JG**: I will introduce myself to the other areas of Wisconsin and help raise awareness and support for those who need a voice or support that they can't get from their own homes. I have learned it is a long process; that it is difficult to become accepted in a discriminating society such as our own.

I plan to increase the size of the competition for the Mr. US of A competition by showing our communities how important it is to be who you are and to support another.

**Q:** What perspective can you bring as a member of our Wisconsin LGBT family from your part of the state that might be different from someone in a bigger city like Milwaukee or Madison?

**JG:** Being part of the La Crosse community, I have learned it is much smaller than cities like Milwaukee. Cities like La Crosse have developed a discrimination among peoples and it shows with downtown life. Coming to a larger city like Milwaukee will definitely be intimidating to me. The downtown life will have a lot of people involved in the nightlife. There will be so many more people to meet and so many more things to see. Meeting people in a new area that is different from my own lifestyle is not necessarily an experience to be afraid of, but one that should be embraced for new beginnings and an a learning experience.

**Q:** I photographed you along with your partner for the cover, which was a nice surprise for him I think. Tell us how and when you met Ben. (Also how he is impacting your life now even as you are preparing for a state title.)

**JG**: Ben and I met in Wisconsin Dells. We decided to meet for the first time in person there outside of Tanger Factory outlet mall. He was very shy at first, but too be honest, it was love at first sight. I never believed in something like that, but after meeting him...I knew that we'd

be together. In the most nerve racking demeanor, my first words to him were, "Are you hungry? Do you wanna get something to eat?" I said it so fast he just looked at me in disbelief and had the most beautiful smile on his face. It was a Sunday night, we first went to a sports bar, had a couple beers and a burger. After learning more about him, we decided to go mini golfing. Later on that evening, we walked the boardwalk under the night lights and the stars. It was one of the most romantic nights of my life. We talked about everything from family to our own jobs and even our crazies memories. It's been about two months for us now and I honestly don't think I've been happier. I always seem to have a mind that races a million miles a minute and in his presence I drop everything and just have the biggest smile on my face.

Ben has a huge role on my path for the state title. He is going to be there cheering me on and I know that I'm going to do my best, because he will be there to support me. Ben gives me the ability of being proud of who I am. He makes me so happy in more than a thousand ways and hasn't let me down once since I have met him and his support shows through me.



Photography by Mark Mariucci (aka Za)



#### **An interview with Karen Gotzler**

#### interim executive director for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

With its application period for a new, paid executive director officially over, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center now must select the most qualified candidate from a pool of nearly 50 applicants.

QUEST spoke with outgoing interim executive director Karen Gotzler who has been the center's ED, as a volunteer, since April 1, 2012. Gotzler is also chief operations office of Urban Strategies, a Milwaukee based consulting firm that has assisted many local LGBT organizations. She is a recipient of the PrideFest Medal for Community Achievement. The conversation touches on her own community engagement, as well as her assessment of the center's present and future

Paul Masterson: Let's start at the beginning. Why did you volunteer to take the helm of a floundering ship with a quarter million dollar debt?

Karen Gotzler: It was more than ½ million it was more like ¾ million. I did it because I could see over the last 14 years the center had served and positively impacted the lives of tens of thousands of people, including my own. I felt the center needed to exist for all LGBT people, their allies - and not so allies - to educate the entire community and be there for the future.

PM: As COO of Urban Strategies, you have created strategic plans for various LGBT organizations. How did you apply that experience to the center's recovery? Is there a 12-step program for non-profits?

KG:. Over the last 30 years I've worked with 100's of non profits. Working with the center has given me the opportunity to use virtually every experience and incorporate them. That includes the financial challenges. I did not understand the full depth of the center's financial situation when I first came on. Talking to the landlord and others, I learned the extent of the problem. We moved very quickly to renegotiate on the past debts. The building owners were incredibly generous. We were able to pay off the long term debt by borrowing from individuals to be able to negotiate to pay off the debt early. The idea being having cash on hand was better than having receivables. The owners were very open to that. We are all very grateful to them otherwise we wouldn't be here.

But there were also the bigger vision questions and partnership questions. The idea that the center's board should be elected by the people who support it seemed nat-

by Paul Masterson





### Thursday, September 19 Filibusters (Sheboygan)

Free HIV testing from 9-11pm. Finger-stick test with results in 15 minutes.





ural. So we reverted back to the old bylaws. The idea the center could be home to and host for many community building programs and activities makes all the sense in the world. That meant reestablishing some long term relationships and creating new ones.

PM: What makes the LGBT Center's needs different from those of other non-profits? Or are they?

KG: The essential infrastructure needs and financial needs are the same for any non-profit. In some ways it makes this project something that I know how to do. What makes it different is the stigma that is still associated with LGBT issues. That affects not only the challenge of serving the community but also generating the support for it. We want to think now that DOMA is gone, the Supreme Court has ruled in our favor in certain cases, and there are LGBT TV characters, everything is fine. It's not. There are still hate messages on our Facebook page and there are still social services not interested in LGBT issues. Some of us still deal with internalized homophobia and heterosexism. The whole notion of the center's revival is a huge lesson in the challenges we continue to face. It would be a great study in the history of our social movement.

PM: The Center was founded to serve the LGBT community. Under the former leadership it reached the point of estrangement from that community. What steps have been made and continue to be made to reconnect?

KG: There are many. Specifically, the board of directors has been very intentional to have regular town hall meetings to give reports and get feedback from members and organizations. The bylaws now allow members to elect the board. That was important in getting the community involved again. The board and

I made a point to reestablish relationships with some the key funders from past years. We created the "Believe in the Center Campaign, a matching grant to raise funds. Every center program works in conjunction with partners who are the key to their success. Then there's the commitment of the staff and volunteers who have dedicated their time, expertise and their money to participate in this miraculous process. It literally has taken hundreds and hundreds of individual's contributions to achieve it. When we look back at the center's history there are numerous individuals who have made huge contributions both from a leadership perspective and from a financial perspective. That has allowed the center, and the community, to be as robust as it is.

The first organizational relationships we needed to address was with Cream City Foundation. I met with its president at the time, Jim Schleif, and executive director, Paul Fairchild, to get an idea what the relationship was in the past and how to improve it. They were very generous. CCF gave us one of the first new grants that we received.

We also hired Tom Hanley as a temporary program coordinator, specifically to work through last May for the transition. He stayed on until the end of June. His role was pivotal in bringing the center to the place where we are ready to hire the full time paid executive director.

Our programs continue to expand. Most recently SAGE (Seniors in a Gay Environment) became a center affiliate. We've already begun programming for older adults - on September 10th, at 2pm, Chris Amety will present a program on Social Security benefits for same sex couples. A dedicated weekly dropin will be scheduled starting in October. It will be

Thursdays from 2-5pm. Of course, any center events are open to seniors and everyone.

Another thing is our social media presence It really just started with the new board. We have 3200 likes on Facebook. That promotes our programs like Healthy Relationships, Dance Classes, and all the rest. We want everyone to feel welcome and be themselves. That's our tag line: "Be Yourself."

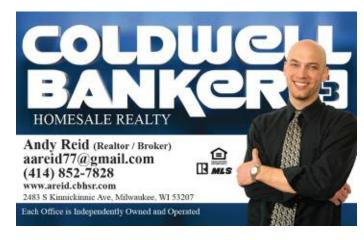
PM: And the board?

KG: Nonprofits get in trouble when a board and an executive director have unbalanced roles. I strove to fix that here. For six years Peter Larson has been the board treasurer. His continuity of service is in large part the reason why we were able to stabilize the center. He knew the financial history. Since the initial group of board members stepped up we had an election with the members participating. Four new members came on in February. That sort of engagement and development is really critical to the health of a non-profit. The board is very diverse in its skill sets, interests and in its demographic. That really made my job so much easier. I've depended on them for guidance and, literally, their operational work and sometimes a shoulder to cry on.

PM: What about the location?

KG: Right now it's a mute point - we cannot afford to move. This is a long term conversation the organization needs to have but for now the focus is on sustainability and creating the financial reserve a strong non-profit should have. Once that is in place we will tackle things like how do get more parking.

PM: How did the Center recruit the prospective applicants for the ED position? And, what is the status of the search?







KM: We received funding from Johnson Family Foundation through Center Link, the national association of LGBT centers, for search expertise and to support the transition. We received around 50 applications. There was an achievement history questionnaire in the application as well. We'll ask our organizations what they would like to see and vet our candidates accordingly. Our goal is to announce the actual hiring at our Big Night Out event in October.

PM: What is the board looking for in the candidate? KM: Experience working with the LGBT community and a knowledge of its issues, causes and concerns. We are looking for someone with non-profit management and fund development experience - someone who is comfortable talking and working with the widest possible range of people. I have really met some of the most fascinating people I have ever known since doing this work. For example, I am amazed at what I have learned from the youth who are involved in center programs, especially in the areas of identity, self-expression, sexual orientation, and gender roles, Those roles are no longer

so well defined. It's been a good opportunity for self-reflection and personal growth as well as an opportunity to give back. The new ED will have to have to be prepared to learn that and appreciate it.

PM: Given the political strides achieved by the LGBT people in recent years, what will the ED's role be for the LGBT Center?

KM: I was on the committee that hired the first executive director. We had seven applications. Only a few were really viable candidates. This time around, 15 years later, we have 50. At least half are viable. That speaks to the progress we've made as a society. On the other hand, much of the work of the ED will be the same: not only to manage a sound organization but also to be one of the lead voices in the community about LGBT life, needs and successes.

PM: So what about the future...for the new ED and the Center itself?

KG: The new board and I were very intentional knowing

we could not bring on a new paid executive director until we were confident there would be the income and structure to support that position. That meant taking care of the accounting, financial and legals issues. They were many. The last year has been the opportunity to go through one cycle of all of the center's programs, events and finances to make all the adjustments possible to allow the new person to start off with a well functioning organization.

The LGBT Center has the trajectory of typical non-profits. Like people, they have their own life cycle. In its 15 years this organization has had ups and downs. But in just a year we have accomplished enough in overcoming a "down" to say the Center can look forward to a much stronger future. Our goal is to offer a community environment where people gather and connect. Based on the successes in the past months, I'd say we're well on our way. FMI on the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, its programs & events, go www.mkelgbt.org/ or friend the center on its Facebook page.

## ARCW & COMMUNITY ADVOCATES PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES \$1.2 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT TO EXPAND HIV, HCV & SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

New collaboration will ensure both HIV-positive and HIV negative women of color will have increased access to critical services

MILWAUKEE, WI - A new collaboration between the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) and Community Advocates has been awarded a new three-year, \$1,262,534 grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services. With this funding, ARCW and Community Advocates will expand substance abuse, HIV, and hepatitis C (HCV) prevention services as well as Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) treatment services targeting African American women in Milwaukee.

"Unfortunately, African American women in Milwaukee experience alarmingly high rates of HIV infection and many face significant challenges related to alcohol and substance use and abuse," said ARCW President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Gifford. "Through this strategic partnership with Community Advocates, we will be able to help African American women in Milwaukee access the medical and mental health services they need to overcome addiction and stay safe from HIV."

Addressing substance abuse issues facing African American women is a vital component in the battle to prevent new HIV infections. African Americans account for 50% of reported HIV infections in Milwaukee County in 2012, but only compose 27% of the County's population. Moreover, the rate of HIV infection among African American women is 25 times greater than the rate among Caucasian women. Studies also show African American women are at increased risk for using or relapsing into substance abuse and subsequently, engaging in behavior that lead to HIV infection. In Milwaukee County, more than 7,500 African American women have substance abuse treatment needs.

The stark data and growing concerns that African American women struggling with AODA issues lack access to HIV and HCV prevention services, and that African American women living with HIV and HCV lack access to AODA treatment, led ARCW and Community Advocates to pursue joint funding to support the new collaboration. With

the support made available for this new partnership, ARCW and Community Advocates will be better equipped to provide HIV prevention and testing, as well as substance abuse treatment.

"We know behind the data and statistics are real women and families impacted by this issue, said Joe Volk, Chief Executive Officer at Community Advocates. "The need for this type of collaboration is apparent in the community, and we are committed and glad to be working with partners like ARCW who are equally committed to addressing this issue." Improved prevention and treatment options for women enrolling in the programs made possible with this funding is also hoped to create a 'ripple effect,' as African American women with AODA issues often face homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, and sexual exploitation.

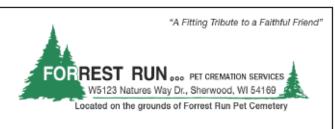
The timing of the new partnership is especially critical as local alcohol and substance abuse rates have skyrocketed in recent years. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Milwaukee ranks seventh in the nation for urban areas in past-month binge drinking and first in percentage of persons with past-year alcohol abuse or dependence. Moreover, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, alcohol use by women of childbearing ages, 18-44 years old, is 68% in Milwaukee compared to 50% nationally.

"The high rates of alcohol and substance abuse in Milwaukee have both societal and financial consequences for our community and result in increased risk for contracting HIV," Gifford said. "By connecting more people to the care and treatment they need, we can save lives from HIV and overdose and begin to reverse the troubling increases in costs associated with alcohol and substance abuse."

Health care costs for drug-related hospitalizations in Wisconsin totaled \$287 million in 2010, an increase of 126% from the \$127 million in 2002.

"The impact of substance abuse and HIV on all fronts - whether it's health-related, financial or otherwise – for the Milwaukee community and beyond cannot be underestimated; we *must* address it more comprehensively and collaboratively in order to make the needed impact," said Volk.

Currently, the three-year collaboration is projected to reach 9,900 women; conduct 600 HIV and 800 HCV tests; and provide AODA treatment and counseling for 492 women. Services offered under the grant award will begin during spring 2014.



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#### Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival presents... | A | D | V | D | V | E

Celebrated documentary about iconic, anarchical drag queen superstar, star of John Waters films, to screen October 17 to open 28th Annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival. Classic Divine-John Waters films also to screen this fall.

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival will open its 28th Annual edition with a new documentary about a superstar both underground and iconic. The Festival will present **I Am Divine**, an exuberant portrait of the drag queen actor Divine, who rose to midnight movie prominence in the underground films of John Waters, starring in such titles as **Pink Flamingos** and **Female Trouble**.

The screening will be Thursday, October 17 at 7:30pm at the Oriental Theatre. The Festival runs October 17-20, with the subsequent films screening at the UWM Union Theatre. Entire schedule, ticket, and venue information can be found at arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm starting in early September.

I Am Divine chronicles the entire career of the actor who portrayed "the Filthiest Woman in the World" in Pink Flamingos but who was born Harris Glenn Milstead in Baltimore in 1945. The film follows his life from his bullied teenage roots to the brink of mainstream success: Divine was to start taping episodes of the television series "Married...with Children," as the male character "Uncle Otto," the day after he died.

I am Divine is directed by Jeffrey Schwarz, a filmic chronicler of LGBT life, whose last film was the documentary Vito. about film historian/AIDS activist Vito Russo.

"1Am Divine is a blast," reports Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival Director Carl Bogner. "Divine had such incredible energy, a punk energy before

there was punk. There's never been another star like him and the movie is a celebration of all of Divine's singular talents."

"Divine can still shock," Bogner continues, "and we all remain in need of such Divine intervention."

The Festival will provide two late-night opportunities to see Divine in action, before and after the Festival. On Thursday, October 3 at 10pm, the Festival will present **Female Trouble** (1974) as a fundraiser for AIDS Walk Wisconsin. (The 2013 AIDS Walk will take place on Saturday, October 5.) On Saturday, October 26, at 11pm, the Festival will screen **Pink Flamingos** (1972). Both of these screenings will take place at the UWM Union Theatre.

This fall, the Festival is also sharing a screening of an underground filmmaker who John Waters cites as a major influence. On Tuesday, October 15, at 7pm, the Festival will present George Kuchar's camp melodrama **The Devil's Cleavage** (1974.) Professor Elena Gorfinkel, of the UWM Art History Department, will introduce the film. This screening is presented as part of the Union Theatre's Experimental Tuesdays at the Union Theatre series, and is free and open to the public.

The 28th Annual Festival will be presenting other documentary portraits as well, including **Big Joy: The Adventures of James Broughton** about the influential experimental filmmaker and poet, and **Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth** about the acclaimed

novelist and dedicated activist. Other documentaries will include **The New Black**, about homophobia and the African American community, and **Born This Way** about the struggles for LGBT people in the African nation of Cameroon, where there are more arrests for homosexuality than in any other nation in the world.

Also to screen are narrative features from around the world, including **Reaching for the Moon**, a film from the South American director Bruno Barreto about the American poet Elizabeth Bishop's experiences in Brazil; **In the Name Of**, the award-winning Polish film about the conflicting desires of a Catholic priest; the Taiwanese romantic comedy **Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?**; and the Philippines film **Bwakaw**, about an elderly gay man and his dog.

Complete information – complete schedule, ticketing, venues – will be at arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm

The Festival is presented by the UWM Department of Film in the Peck School of the Arts and made possible thanks to the sponsorship of Joseph R. Pabst and the Cream City Foundation. The Festival also acknowledges the essential support provided by Bronze Optical, Jack H. Smith of Shorewest Realtors, UWM Union Programming and the UWM Union Theatre, the UWM LGBT Campus Partners, as well as generous individuals, businesses, and campus and community organizations.





# MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO

### I AM DIVINE OPENING NIGHT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

7:30 PM

ORIENTAL THEATRE

#### **MORE DIVINE INTERVENTION!**

35mm! 🖈 UWM Union Theatre

#### **FEMALE TROUBLE**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10PM (AIDS WALK WISCONSIN BENEFIT)

PINK FLAMINGOS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 11PM

facebook.com/mkelgbtfilm

arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm



There's quite a lot going for as well as going in **White Frog**, a recent DVD release and one eagerly awaited by several of Glenn's acquaintances, all of whom are far more in step with popular entertainment than is Glenn.

"See the heartthrobs from **Glee**, **Teen Wolf** and **Twilght** all in one movie!"

Had Glenn actually managed to catch any of the **Twilight** series he surely would have remembered the astonishingly named heart-throb BooBoo Stewart. Glenn finds himself equally clueless of identity of handsome young Tyler Posey, familiar to everyone but Glenn for his role on MTV's **Teen Wolf. Glee** heartthrob Harry Shum, Jr. would have joined the cast at some point after Glenn had already abandoned the hit high school musical dramedy.

Its popular young cast notwithstanding, White Frog emerges as a movie on a mission, something of a cross between the ABC Afternoon Specials Glenn so fondly remembers from his youth and the curiously distinctive original films produced by the Lifetime™ cable network.

BooBoo Stewart plays Nick Young a teen with Asperger's Syndrome. A few all too brief scenes brief effectively establish his relationship with his older brother Chaz (Harry Shum, Jr.); Nick idolizes his popular older brother Chaz who for his part looks out for Nick.

It is just a normal Friday afternoon, then, in their affluent Southern California residence, a sunny suburban idyll where bicycles can be left on the front lawn without fear of theft. Chaz is working out a suitable excuse to go hang out with his friends and the 'rents are cuddling up on the sofa. Surely it is just another Friday afternoon, no different than the many which came before and the many which will surely follow.

Until the unimaginable happens; until the call in the middle of the night bearing the

news that Chaz is in the hospital. So sick with worry, Chaz's parents rush out, nary a thought of young Nick.

After the funeral Nick is even more alone, left to muddle on as best he can. Offering little help are Nick's parents (BD Wong and Joan Chen); their grief too proving to be all consuming. He does get help, first from his psychiatrist Dr. King (the hilarious Amy Hill).

Later Doug (Tyler Posey), one of Chaz's friends, takes Nick under his wing. His idea to include Nick during their Friday night poker games is initially met with resistance, particularly from Chaz's best friend Randy (Gregg Sulkin).

As is often in the case in stories (and screenplays) such as this, when tragedy strikes, the underlying problems within the family are revealed, suddenly, painfully at a time when grief has left everyone at their most vulnerable.

And so it is with the Young family.

The spotlight in Fabienne Wen and Ellie Wen's screenplay is never more harsh and unforgiving as when it is focused on Nick and Chaz's parents Irene (Joan Chen) and Oliver (BD Wong). Eldest son Chaz has been their golden boy; he certainly was the apple of his father's eye – dare Glenn suggest Chaz is another example of a best little boy in the world?

In the wake of the tragedy, Irene turns increasingly to alcohol. Bearing the guilt that he secretly wishes that it would have been his younger son who would have died, Oliver continues to turn to a faith which is repeatedly shown to come up lacking.

All that's left is the revelation that their (perfect) son Chaz was gay and the stage is set for a family showdown. It is high noon and the stage is set at the Firehouse, a lesbianrun inner-city youth community center and a cause close to Chaz's heart.

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

The central story in Fabienne Wen and Ellie Wen's screenplay, the one offering the most dramatic potential should have been to focus on how this deeply flawed family, one already challenged with a teen with Asperger's Syndrome, might survive the loss of the perfect son/brother.

Glenn is of course reminded of the superb **Ordinary People**. What's lurking behind the facade of cheerful suburban perfection that was Mary Tyler Moore's character was something truly, madly, deeply crazy scary; the stuff of really frightening nightmares.

Instead White Frog spends far too much time with the Friday night poker players, a curiously diverse group and one which feels arbitrarily rather than naturally assembled. How well do Chaz's friends really know of Chaz, Glenn wondered, other than his prowess at poker? Had any other than Randy even met Nick? None even suspect that Randy and Chaz were anything more than best friends.

**White Frog** is saved, only just, from sinking under the weight of its own earnestness thanks to a handful of fine performances, some even from its collection of heartthrobs.

BooBoo Stewart has the biggest challenge playing Nick, a teen with Asperger's Syndrome and as far as Glenn can judge, acquits himself well indeed. Of Chaz's friends Tyler Posey's Doug really stands out, looking absolutely fabulous shirtless and being the most genuine, caring of Chaz's friends.

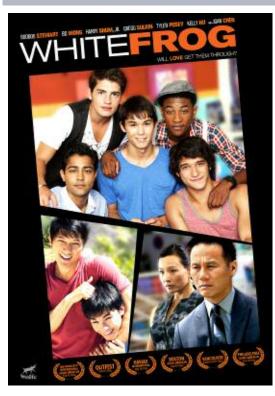
And finally, Amy Hill's Dr. King is just the sort of shrink that

And finally, Amy Hill's Dr. King is just the sort of shrink that Glenn has long sought and even longer needed.

#### Just the facts...

White Frog has a running time of 93 minutes as is in English. White frog is available on DVD from Wolfe Video with a SRP of \$24.95

All about White Frog @ www.whitefrogthemovie.com B.D. Wong plays Dr. George Huang, an FBI psychiatrist who is gay, on NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"



#### JOE KOMARA PLAYS BY HIS OWN RULES IN SECOND SEASON OF THE GIRLS GUIDE TO DEPRAVITY

#### Airs on Cinemax September 13th

Joe Komara knows how to get attention. Playing the friendly gay bartender, Tyler, on Cinemax's hit comedy/drama series, The Girl's Guide to Depravity, Komara's five o'clock shadowed beard and innocent baby blues have helped propel a character largely relegated behind the bar in season one, to front-and-center in the show's second season that begins airing September 13th.

"Tyler was originally created as a sounding board for the girls on the show," explains Komara of his character on The Girl's Guide to Depravity, based on Heather Rutman's popular book and blog of the same name. Season 2 follows three friends, Sam (Rebecca Blumhagen), Jenna (Meg Barrick), and Megan (Tessa Harnetiaux) and the rules they use to have fun and avoid being hurt in relationships. "In Season 1, Tyler was there mainly to discuss following the rules vs. not following them, why they matter or if they matter at all."

But Komara started gaining a following himself, especially after the show revealed his bisexuality into the story line, labeling his character "an equal opportunity whore". In the show titled Rule #40: Sometimes It's Just About Sex, Not the Sexuality, Tyler has a love scene with a woman. Until that episode, Tyler had been depicted as a pretty cool cucumber. It was the first time viewers experienced the wild side of Tyler.

In Season 2, we learn even more about him. We learn Tyler is a dyslexic, pill popping illegal immigrant – and even still, he is able to find love! That's right, while the girls are busy trying to crack the code on dating with complicated relationship rules, Tyler lands the first dreamy man that walks into his bar.

"Tyler is a decent and funny guy who tells it like it is," says Komara. "He's doable."

Joe Komara is a former gymnast-turned-singer who got his start in showbiz on the New York stage, performing in the Broadway revival of Grease and the Los Angeles transfer of the recent Follies Broadway revival.

He moved from small town Indiana to New York City two weeks after 9/11, only to discover upon arrival that the building he was planning to call home was bolted shut by the city for not meeting up to codes. "I was homeless for eleven days," he remembers.

It wasn't long before he was hitting the pavement with his copy of Backstage in hand, landing small roles in the off-Broadway productions of The Donkey Show, Applause ENCORES! at City Centre, and Broadway concerts at Town Hall. "My gymnastics background helped my

career a lot," he continues. "Adding tumbling to my skills helped give me an edge over a lot of the other dancers."

While in New York, Komara was offered his first television role on the CBS daytime soap opera, As The World Turns. It was the first time Komara realized that screen acting might be a realistic goal for him.

He relocated from New York to Los Angeles and immediately noticed the difference between the two cities' acting communities. "It's easier to get jobs in New York. You hit the street, go on auditions and eventually someone takes a chance on you. In L.A., it's about having the right look, knowing the right people or my new favorite, having the most Twitter followers."

That's why landing the part on The Girl's Guide to Depravity with only one audition was such a huge surprise for Komara. "Apparently HBO liked me. A few weeks after meeting with casting and producers, I got the offer. It couldn't have been easier."



And Komara couldn't be happier with the series. "It's a show all single people can relate to: dating, trying to figure out the right game to play or not play, trying to have fun, and keeping from getting our hearts broken."

In the first season, when the girls' mentor decides to settle down, get married, and move to the burbs, she bequeaths them the "Girl's Guide to Depravity". The girls go through the rules like they go through guys, quickly and recklessly. Rules like "#30: Be a Super Tease" and "#38: Relationships are great when you don't give a shit". The girls try to act as they think guys act: emotionally detached.

And they try using men as play things. But in the end, they can't help getting emotionally involved.

Season one of The Girl's Guide to Depravity amassed wide appeal in the USA as well as Japan, Australia, Latin America, and Canada.

Joe Komara admits he follows some of the rules from the show. Like "#3: Free drinks always taste better". "I would agree with that!" he says. Also "#19: Settling is for guitters." "I prefer to wait for the elusive grand prize," he adds.

But when on the prowl or on the hunt for his next big acting gig, Joe Komara says he adheres to his favorite rule of all "#55: "F\$#% the rules."

The Girl's Guide To Depravity Season 2 airs on Cinemax September 13th. Twitter: @depravedgirl www.facebook.com/thegirlsguidetodepravity

Follow Joe on Twitter: @joekomara www.facebook.com/theJoeKomara

### September Special













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#### SSBL ENDS 2013 SEASON

by Paul Masterson

With the player's shadows cast noticeably longer in the mid-August sun, Milwaukee's Saturday Softball Beer League ended its 37th season with a special day of play on Saturday, August 17. The season began back in early May but several wet weekends forced cancellations that required late season make-up days. The last Saturday of play not only made up those postponed games but also provided a suitable occasion for an end of season picnic replete with an awards ceremony, an All-Star Game and an Old Timer-Rookie game. This year, the 15 SSBL teams were divided into three divisions: C, Competitive; 50/50 competitiverecreational; and D. Recreational, Two new teams, Hamburger Mary's and Studio Stinger joined the roster. The 2013 first place trophies went to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center SCREAM (D division), Hybrid Red (50/50), and Fluid Force (C Division).

The Dairyland Classic highlighted the season with over 30 teams playing in this annual Milwaukee gay softball tournament.

Rescheduled from its traditional Labor Day weekend to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the switch would have made the end of the 2013 season anticlimactic were it not for the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) played this year in Washington, D.C. during the last week of August. Milwaukee and Madison sent two teams, the Kosmos and Arsenal. Both were amalgams of league players recruited from a spectrum of their respective teams. Madison Arsenal placed 19<sup>th</sup> in a field of 53 teams. It was the first time a Madison team played through to a Championship game in a gay softball world series.

In an another historic moment, Mona Garcia, SSBL treasurer (and occasional short-stop for the Boom Bulldogs), who is also the executive assistant of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), received the prestigious 2013 NAGAAA Commissioner's Award. The towering glass trophy features a softball atop an obelisk and is inscribed "Mona Garcia - Presented in recognition of your dedicated work in establishing the Executive Assistant role on behalf of the organization."







Above: Paul Masterson shot these pics from this year's season of SSBL.

Left & Below: from the Gay Softball World Series in DC late August.







Volume 12 #9 September 2013







# MADISON PRIDE 2013









Hey Ruthie Rooters! Who's ready to party? It's September and there's a lot going on! Have a pet? Love our furry friends? Don't miss Wagfest on September 7th (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at Mitchell Park (19900 River Road, Brookfield - next to the Wilson Center for the Arts). I'll be celebrity bartending that afternoon, so stop by, grab a glass of wine and say, "Hi."

Everyone loves the Bay View Bash (September 21). This huge street festival occurs between Potter and Clement on Kinnickinnic Avenue. The bash runs between 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Don't miss "The Girls of Hamburger Mary's" on the main stage at 6:30. Featuring all of your Mary's regular hostesses, it's one show you don't want to miss.

The zombies are coming! Take place in the Zombie Apocalypse Charity Pub Crawl in Bay View! Grab your best zombie garb and enjoy drink specials as groups of the undead stagger from bar to bar on Saturday, September 28. This is one event not to be missed. Best of all, the proceeds go to local animal-related charities, including Ruthie's Kennel Club! To learn more, visit the group's Facebook site. Simply search for Bay View MKE Zombies on Facebook. There you'll learn how to sign up, get your free T-shirt and more!

Summer may be coming to an end, but on the bright side that means sweater weather, football and hearty eats. At the Bitchin' Kitchen, we're cooking up twice baked potatoes sure to satisfy as nights get cooler. So, bake up a few this weekend and get ready for fall. Get your cords and thick socks outta storage, enjoy these savory spuds, and eat good and shut up!

#### **HEARTY SAUSAGE SPUDS**

4 medium baking potatoes
2 cooked bratwurst, sliced
1/2 small onion, diced
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup butter
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
Salt to taste

Here's a stuffed potato that eats like meal! Twice baked potatoes filled with cheese, sausage and more. What's not to like?

Preheat oven to 400°. Prick potatoes with a fork, and set potatoes on a baking sheet. Bake for 75 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, in a medium skillet, cook brats and onion in butter until onions are golden and tender and brats are warmed through. Remove from heat.

Allow potatoes to cool slightly. Carefully, slice off top fourth of each potato and scoop out potato flesh, leaving shell intact. Return potato shells to the baking sheet. In a large bowl, mash the potato flesh with the remaining ingredients. Stir in brat and onion mixture. Fill shells with mixture and top with cheese. Return to oven and bake at 450° for 15 minutes or until cheese is melted and potato is heated through.

#### **Ruthie's Culinary Clues**

This is a great recipe to use up any leftover brats you may have grilled the night before. You can also try the recipe with cooked ground beef, chicken or any cooked sausage. Get creative with different types of cheeses if you'd like.

#### **SOUTHWESTERN SPUDS**

4 potatoes

1/2 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons sour cream
Salt to taste

1 can (X oz) chipotle pepper in adobo sauce

I love southwestern foods, so when I decided to devote this month's column to stuffed potatoes, I had to hop in the bitchin kitchen and whip up a spud with plenty of Mexican flair.

Preheat oven to 400°. Prick potatoes with a fork, and set potatoes on a baking sheet. Bake for 75 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool slightly. Carefully, slice off top fourth of each potato and scoop out potato flesh, leaving shell intact. Return potato shells to the baking sheet. In

a large bowl, mash the potato flesh, cheeses, butter, sour cream and salt.

Dice one chipotle pepper and add to potato mixture. Measure out 2 tablespoons of the adobo sauce (from the can). Add to potato mixture. Fill potatoes with mixture. Return to oven and bake at 400 for 10 minutes or until cheese is melted and potatoes are heated through.

#### **Ruthie's Culinary Clues**

Really want to push the Southwestern envelope? Stir a can of drained black beans into the potato mixture. Have some left-over taco meat from the other night? Add it to the potato mixture, too! Top the baked potatoes with a tablespoon of salsa, chopped fresh cilantro or additional sour cream if desired.

#### TROPICAL SWEET POTATOES

4 medium sweet potatoes
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon milk

1 can (8 oz) crushed pineapple, drained (reserve liquid) 6 marshmallows

Sweet potatoes seem to be more popular these days than ever before. Here, I stuffed them crushed pineapple for a tangy dinner addition. Add some cooked chicken or bacon to beef them up a bit if you'd like.

Preheat oven to 400°. Prick potatoes with a fork, and set potatoes on a baking sheet. Bake for 75 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool slightly. Carefully, slice off top fourth of each potato and scoop out potato flesh, leaving shell intact. Return potato shells to the baking sheet. In a large bowl, mash the potato flesh with the butter, salt and milk, along with 1/2 cup crushed pineapple. Divide mixture into the potato shells.

Top potatoes with 1 tablespoon with the remaining crushed pineapple. Slice marshmallows in half and top each potato with two marshmallow halves.

In a small saucepan over low to medium heat, bring reserved pineapple juice to a boil. Spoon juice over each potato. Place sweet potatoes under broiler and broil until browned.

#### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Make these spuds a main dish by adding cooked chicken or pork to the mashed mixture. Feel free to add some diced red or yellow pepper to the mixture for a little color. Feeling exotic? Add a pinch of ground curry to the potato mixture. Go ahead, you daredevil, you!

Have a recipe you'd like to share with Ruthie? If she publishes your dish, you'll get a free Dear Ruthie T-shirt. Mail her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com today!

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, November 23 2013

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It's time once again for our September song... maybe not a tune, but a column sharing what we all have to look forward to. I can't think of a month that has more songs written about it or is mentioned in their song title than September. Summer maybe slipping behind us, but the fall brings the new season of theater and indoor activities as the leaves turn color and fall to the Earth.

I take it we all survived the Harley 110<sup>th</sup>! Not bad for three digits!

Festivals are still festive, even though we had to turn another page of the calendar. Indian Summer Festival graces the Henry Maier Festival Park Celebrating the Great Lakes Indian Communities Friday, September 6 – Sunday, September 8.

TosaFest at 7615 West State Street is the same weekend (Friday & Saturday) if you prefer heading west and away from our big pond.

Fair Wisconsin's Garden Party for Equality will be held on Sunday, September 8 11 AM – 1 PM in Milwaukee. Come and see what will be blooming politically this autumn. Jake Jones & Jeff Welk will graciously open their world up for us all to enjoy. The Jones/Welk homestead was recently

featured in The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel – Home and Garden Section. This is an extra special garden party - - the first one since the marriage of Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin.

How about a visit to a garden of another nature? "Grey Gardens, The Musical" the East Hampton estate of two ladies named Edie - as in Edith Beale, aunt and cousin to/of Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. Descend into the wild madness of "Big" Edie and "Little" Edie, Grey Gardens will haunt you forever, a perennial? Dale Gutzman's Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street brings this secret garden alive starring Miss Marilyn White, Niffer Clarke, and the welcome return of Jack Forbes Wilson September 11, 12, 13, 14. 15. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22 All Seats \$30. Due to limited seating and the popularity of this vehicle please call for reservations: 414-484-8874 or visit www.offthewalltheatre.com

The ninth month also brings scads of birthdays – could it be after effects of the Holidays? Welcome to the age of Virgo: Diane "Legs" Gregory, Dan (Taylor's) Taylor, Janet "Boom-Boom" Gurwitz, Randy "Evileen" Frank, Bill (Fluid) Wardlow

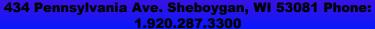
Jeff "Rita" Whitt and of course Baby Jane Hudson – never mind which one he is celebrating – just know every year he does. This year's festivities will take place at The Harbor Room. You can expect a rollicking good time of it and a show to end all shows. I had a ball working with that hottie John Weiler and all the steamy former Mr. Harbor Rooms commemorating The Harbor Room's "Birthday" sashing this year's honoree – Mike Jones. What better way to commemorate their 13th anniversary? Gregg & Eddie, Patrick, Randy, Bob, and Jorge had us all going until the wee hours of the morning, lucky 13th?!?!

Speaking of birthdays/anniversaries that vixen of vixens Velveeta Head Cheez/Brian Rochon returned to the Brew City to enjoy his day of days. I didn't even know he had departed our fair hamlet. Yes that old beloved love bug had taken a big bite out of our Vel and Fort Myers has inherited him via love. I've also had the pleasure of meeting the man who has Ms. Head Cheez' heart, Mike is guite the head turner and they both were beaming! Seems Vel came home for family, friends, and birthday revelry - - and his reason for living, Mike from Fort Myers, called to wish him a "Happy Birthday" while they were talking he entered Vel's room - he was here, and on his cell phone, mere feet away – but not for long. Talk about romance! Needless to say candles were blown and the party began! To love!

Maybe a great way to celebrate your birth and/or



## Filibusters





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2013				5 ^Happy Hour *Men's Night	6 College ID Night Bring in your College ID and Get \$1 off your Drink	7 ^^Bottomless Cup Day Contruction Party
8 Packer Football Rail & Dom. Beer Bust During the Game and Free Food	<b>9</b> Closed		11 ^Happy Hour **Ladies Night	12 ^Happy Hour *Men's Night	13 ^Happy Hour AIDS Walk Wisconsin Fundraiser with Jeff & Kitty	14 ^^Bottomless Cup Day 7pm Bear Underware Party
15 Packer Football Beer Bust & Free Food During the Game. Specials & Giveaways!!	16 Closed	17 ^Happy Hour All Day 4pm - Close	18 ^Happy Hour **Ladies Night	19 ^Happy Hour *Men's Night 9-11pm ARCW Free & Confidential HIV Testing	20 ^Happy Hour 10pm - Close Pirate Party with DJ starting at 10pm	21 ^^Bottomless Cup Day DJ starting at 10pm
22 Packer Football with Beer Bust, Food & Giveaways. Free shots for Packers TD	23 Closed	24 ^Happy Hour All Day 4pm - Close	25 ^Happy Hour **Ladies Night	26 ^Happy Hour *Men's Night	27 ^Happy Hour DJ starting at 10pm	28 ^^Bottomless Cup Day DJ Misty in the House starting at 10pm. Toga Party!
	<b>30</b> Closed	*Men's Night - 11pm - Close \$1 Domestic Tap Beer  **Ladies Night - 11pm - Close \$1 Domestic Tap Beer  ^Happy Hour - 2-4-1 Domestic Tap Beer & Rail Mixers 4 - 7pm unless noted  ^^Bottomless Cup Day 4 - 8pm All You Can Drink \$10 Domestic Taps, \$13 Rail Mixers & \$15 Craft Beer  Check out our Party & Event Details on Facebook!!!				

our lost youth is by attending "The Ultimate 80's Sing-A-Long" on Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21 8 PM The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. A weekend of bringing back the Power Balladz of Guns N' Roses, Bon Jovi, Motley Crue, Queen, Styx, Journey, Heart, Aerosmith, White Snake, Poison and many others. Proof that maestro Mitch Miller isn't the only one that can conduct a sing-a-long and follow a bouncing ball!

Friday, September 20 – Sunday, October 6 The Skylight Music Theatre opens their season with "Fidelio" music by Ludwig Van Beethoven, libretto by: Joseph Ferdinand Von Sonnleither, Stefan Von Breuning and George Friedrich Treischke Performed in English, in The Cabot Theatre. I had the pleasure of meeting the Skylight's new artistic director, Viswa Subbaraman. He was in attendance at the Cream City Foundation's successful summer celebration – "My Best Friend is Straight". Mr. Subbaraman is excited to be in Milwaukee and guiding The Skylight, long may the Skylight, light the way...

Art Pop, 2013 benefitting The AIDS Resource Center's (ARCW's) AIDS Walk Wisconsin will be taking place once again on Sunday, September 29 at Taylor's (on the corner of Jefferson and Wells) 2 – 6 PM. A great combination of art gallery, cocktail party, fundraising and networking - - you make a small contribution at the door, and it entitles you to a drink and a bid on an Art Block. Art

Blocks are made by friends/fans/family of Taylor's – everyone is issued a wooden block and it's their mission to process it into a work of art. The blocks are hung and the bidding begins. The result an afternoon of fun, fund raising for AIDS Walk Wisconsin and throughout the years has become an eagerly anticipated event. Promoting the Art Pop extravaganza also provides a great segue to the Walk itself. Other great bars and restaurants have many fund raisers going on for the Walk as well forgive me for not reporting them - - it's just that of this deadline, I don't have any further activities to share.

Please gear up, form teams, collect pledges and take part in AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2013! It is never too early to get this important message out there. We have lives to save and extend! It will be here before we know it - Saturday, October 5 Summerfest Grounds, this year's Honorary Chair Stephanie Klett, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. New this year -- another option for raising much needed funds, having fun and keeping fit -- a 5 K Run!

Larry's & John's Summer Party has become legendary and for good reason -- none of which I will share with you dear readers. Just know; you want to be on the guest list! Their suburban sprawl, including hot tub, pool, a well-stocked bar, sumptuous buffet — enhanced by an outstanding floral creation from Gregory & Company, Brookfield were all important factors in making this sum-

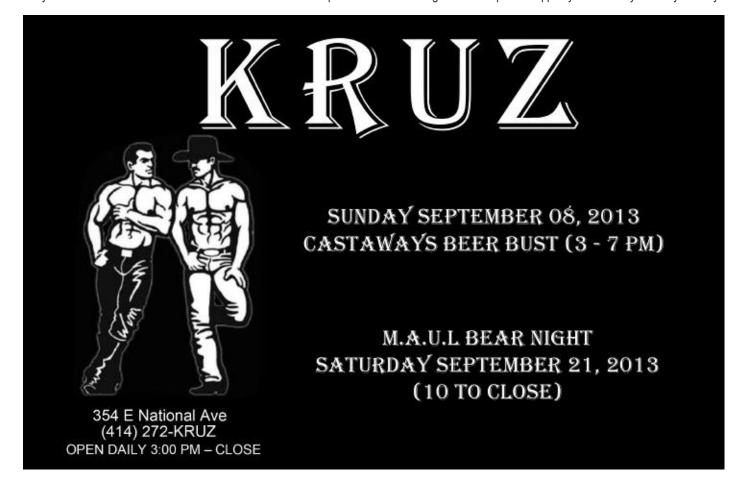
mer place shine as well as all in attendance!

I had a ball taking in the La Cage Saturday night
Revue starring Anastasia Deveroux and Company. Dale the all-star bartender kept us all well

pany. Dale the all-star bartender kept us all well lubed! Adding to the fun was sitting with Dragdom's very own Goldie Adams and Bambi. Talk about a Saturday night fever!

Sunday/Fun Day is taking over Club Charlies in The Historical Third Ward! Yes, indeed it seems every Sunday an array of stunning stunners are taking over the otherwise tasteful pub and putting an even more diverse spin on the usual. The Party starts about 1 PM with a little nosh, then the music builds and takes you into another world. Every week is a little different - -so you have to check it out to see what all the fun is about. Craig & Dawn with the creativity of Steve and Crew will make Sunday/Fun Day a habit you'll want to engage in religiously!

The Blue Jacket is up and running and creating quite a buzz. The spot we remember as The Triangle is now a bar/restaurant - - with a huge garage door that brings the outside in or the inside out. The view, a parking lot that once housed the long lamented Boot Camp Saloon, boy have things changed! This block once hosted flourishing Gay businesses – they call this progress? I guess nothing stays the same forever; it brings to my mind the old Joni Mitchell ditty – "They've paved Paradise and put up a parking lot". Please, please support your local Gay and Gay Friendly



# When he asks. You should know. Get Tested It's FREE



establishments before they are memories. Dan (She-Devil) remembered as an original bartender at the original Triangle let Al Thomas, the original proprietor of The Triangle know that their former "den of inequity" is now a tres yuppy playground providing Al with a major laugh at how times change...

Happy, happy 20th Anniversary Outwords Books, Gifts and Coffee 2710 North Murray Avenue 414-963-9089 Milwaukee's premier LGBT bookstore and gift shop! These days there isn't anything more challenging than running an independent book store. Of course Outwords offers much, much more than just books, stop in and see for yourself, I never visit without leaving with bags full of things I can't seem to find elsewhere. With technology steaming forward maybe one day we'll see a world without books, let alone book stores. Again I urge you don't let this happen...

My Best Friend is Straight summer soiree struck gold once again! Great weather, great location, great turn out of over 200 "Friends" turning out and turning on, celebrating friendship, tolerance, acceptance, community and all things positive. While this is a fund raiser for The Cream City Foundation - - in reality it's a fund raiser for Our Community – State Wide! Paul Fairchild – President/CEO hosted with his usual flair and charm, in spite of his back giving out. Of course his aide de camp, The Champ, Chuck Grosz was close by engaging guest in raffle tickets. My favorite part – why of course all

the "Friends" who make this summer evening so successful: Marquette U's Paul Milakovich, Aurora Health Care's Elaine Maly, Nora Sale of Froedert, ARCW's very own Mary Hartwig, Dawn Blumfield from Club Charlies, Joe Kender, Roger RamJet, Milwaukee's DaVinci - Patrick Farrell, Joe Pabst, Jody Armata AKA Mr. Northshore Funeral, Bill Greylak, The Flower King Will Radler, William Keyse Rudolph/MAM, Susan Davis, Griselda Aldrete, Renee Kernberger, Stephanie Hume, Jose Milan, Denise Cawley, United Way of Greater Milwaukee's very own Mary Lou Young, Dr. Robert Starshak & Ross Draegert - The First Couple of The Cream City Foundation, ACLU's Chris Ahmuty and Kristen Hansen, The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts - Paul Mathews and Bev Beenen, Skylight Music Theatre's new visionary Viswa Subbaraman, The Shepherd Express' very own "First Couple of social news — Boris & Doris", Pam Percy & Marty Hinz, and many, many more local-ites enjoying the sounds of DJ Rick Akey and the delicious nosh catered by Kathy Papineau and Localicious, a perfect recipe, for a perfect evening!

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will be hosting their "Big Night OUT Cabaret" on Friday, October 11 5:30 P.M. Woodland Dreams Ballroom at Potawatomi – a very special Gala! For all the details please visit – mkelgbt.org/BigNightOut2013

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival opens Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at The Oriental – the last of great movie palaces in our neck of the woods. Carl Bogner is working around the clock to make it the spectacular we've come to appreciate. I believe we're all in for a "Divine" time of it this year!

Writing a column of this nature for the past 14 years – where does the time go? It's always important to have excellent legal counsel... If you are in need, might I suggest one of my favorite barristers? Christopher Krimmer of Balisle & Roberson, S.C. Law Services Madison 608-259-8702. I've known Christopher since he got his professional start working with/for ARCW and he is the best!

Al Culbreath was celebrated at This Is It with a lovely, loving gathering of friends and fans on a sunny summer Saturday afternoon. Larry Krueger – the man who brought Café Mélange to life orchestrated a touching tribute to a true maverick in our community. RIP Al.

This has been a very difficult summer; it seems every column I generate includes another death report... so very sorry to inform that Michelle Mueller a fixture in the LGBT Community has succumbed to cancer. Michelle will be remembered as the lady that balanced Cosmos on each breast. She also operated the floral department at The Metro Market where she could be ever so creative. Michelle was an entertainer and a founding team member of the "Strongest Link" that has taken all kinds of honors in participating in AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Michelle was also a pioneer in gender reassignment, transforming in the early



1970's when needless to type the world was a lot less forgiving. Memorials in Michelle Mueller's memory to ARCW are most appreciated.

Food time - - din-din at Odd Duck on Milwaukee's near south side - - 2352 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. (414) 763-5881 <a href="www.Odd-DuckRestaurant.com">www.Odd-DuckRestaurant.com</a> is where Ross Bachhuber, co-owner /chef and Melissa Buchholz, co-owner/manager, collectively provide a most unique, unusual array of delicious small plate selections that satisfies like no other. Amber our server complimented our meal with terrific suggestions. The menu changes daily, because most items are local and in-season, fresh and in prime quality for usage. This spot is so popular; I would not just pop in for a righteous repast, but would highly recommend a reservation to avoid the disappointment of not being seated. Do yourself and someone most deserving the favor of dining at the Odd Duck - - this place is not to be missed!

Remember as always, it's the glamor, not the grammar enjoy the colors of the season and the colorful characters that make up your life - - as I remain Still Cordially yours.



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#### September Outreach Schedule

#### FREE HIV & SYPHILIS Testing at:

Woodys, Thurs. 5th, 9-11
Kruz, Fri. 6th, 7-9 • Harbor Room, Fri. 6th, 10-12
Fluid, Mon. 9th, 9-12 • Studio 200, Wed. 11th, 9-11
Club Icon, Fri. 13th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)
LaCage, Wed. 25th, 10-1ish
Club Boom, Thurs. 26th, 9-11





Well we are back in print and happy to have had the recent surge in warm weather before fall arrives and makes us all "put in and zip up". Harley weekend was a blast, I hope you had fun over Labor Day as well. State Fair was also last month I know I ate and drank my fill how about you? Once again I am writing this from my iPad due to horrible planning on my part and a wonderful editor who will put all of my rumblings through a spell check. Thanks mark!

Alrighty then what shall we talk about this month. How about we talk about jewelry this time around. In the shop I have numerous people ask me why should they spend \$20 or more on a piece of jewelry when they can get similar looking jewelry at the mall or online for under \$5. S les delve into this topic a bit more shall we?

First and foremost is the difference in

metal quality. Cheaper jewelry is just that cheaper, the metal most cheaper manufacturers use is of lesser quality than a piercing shop will carry merely because of professional standards. A mall or online store just cares about profit, a piercing shop has a reputation to consider and in most cases cares a great deal more about the health and well being of their clients.

Secondly prices at piercing shops are going to be higher due to higher overhead. More expensive rent and more staff means more costs. But the trade off to those costs is that the staff you will find at a piercing shop is usually 100-200 times more knowledgeable than a person at a mall stand or and online store. Is a piercing shop's job to know about piercings and jewelry 10 ways from Tuesday, at a mall store the only knowledge most need is how to

charge your debit card.

Lastly you have the craftsmanship that goes into higher quality body jewelry. These are things you will never notice in the scope of your time with a piece of jewelry but these little things will make your life so much easier. Things like recessed threaded joints, higher polishing times, hand fittings, rounded corners, and so many other little things. On the mass produced cheap jewelry these little things are never addressed and they are simply left to be rough and unfinished edges. It's like the difference between a Kia and a Porsche.

So don't forget all these little details the next time you are eyeing up that new piece of jewelry and see a \$30 price tag.

Well it seems I have babbled enough, that or my cocktail is empty and I feel guilty about making my editor proof read another column. Tanks again Mark. Until next month, have a great September stay warm and get pierced and tattooed!











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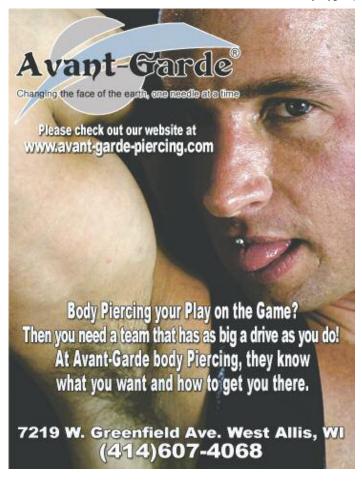
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