

# 20 YEARS QUEST

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**WyNonna**  
**Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2014**

Photographer: Mark Mariucci (Za) [MariucciPhotography.com](http://MariucciPhotography.com)  
Make-up: CC Domino ( Jeremy Joseph)  
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# AN INTERVIEW WITH COLLEEN CARPENTER, MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Paul Masterson

On November 18 Colleen Carpenter takes the reigns of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. She is the center's 5<sup>th</sup> executive director since its founding in 1998. The center's recent history, including a controversial move, has been one of implosion, near extinction and miraculous revival. Now, with the Center's financial crisis abated, its community standing restored, and its spacious Blatz brewery space reduced to a third of the original area, Colleen Carpenter faces new challenges to continue the Renaissance.

QUEST spoke with Carpenter and asked about her strategies, views and vision for the Center.

**QUEST:** Congratulations on being selected as the center's new executive director. Prior to your hire, I interviewed Karen Gotzler, the outgoing interim executive director. She mentioned there were 50 applicants for the position of which over two dozen were highly qualified. You came out on top. What prompted your application?

Colleen Carpenter: To be honest, I wasn't looking for a job. Four different people sent me the application and suggested I apply. One was my oldest daughter. My kids have

been haranguing me for treating my life as if I'm a missionary. They saw my previous job as too limited. I wanted to shut them up. I applied. As we moved through the interview process I saw how all my previous work fit what the center does. I ran a small community center in Southern Illinois so I have experience with creating programs. I worked for an organization serving runaway kids, an AIDS housing organization, and others that turned out to make this an almost perfect fit.

**QUEST:** In the press release announcing your hiring, you mentioned "coming out in Milwaukee" and your connection to the city. Can you give us some details and insights into your previous LGBT experience?

CC: I moved to Wisconsin in 1985, married and with three little kids. I had danced around the edges of lesbian culture for years. I went to Washington, DC to demonstrate for women's reproductive rights. I met a woman. I came home and told my husband. And that was that.

**QUEST:** Your career has certainly put you in a similar situation before – taking over an organization with administrative and financial problems. Both of



your recent leadership roles have been with organizations for women. The Center has also had a female ED for most of the last decade. Here you are representing all the letters of the LGBT acronym. How do you change the perception that the LGBT Community Center is largely geared towards women?

CC: I didn't expect to be called to this position because of the Center's history of female leadership. We're all aware of the issue. I think that the proof is in the pudding. I want the entire community to look at us and what we produce and judge us by that. I don't see any programs that are exclusive. My intention is to serve the entire

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community. The social services offer everyone support. SAGE is a bridge program. It will be expanded more into social service but it's also a social opportunity program for our elders. It serves both men and women. The enrichment programs for adults are across the spectrum. Part of the reason they selected me for the position is because the board and I all have the same conception of being a community center as opposed to being a service organization. We have a responsibility to provide services and program for the entire diverse LGBT spectrum. We're committed to that vision.

**QUEST: In that regard, there was a recent "sweep" of county parks conducted by the sheriff's department with numerous arrests and public shaming of gay men for lewd and lascivious behavior. The action opens a larger debate. The reality is public sexual activity is illegal. The crime is a misdemeanor. The specific targeting of gay men, however, had a blatant political motivation and purpose for Sheriff Clark. As ED of the Center you represent the community even in this awkward circumstance. How would you address this situation?**

CC: Oh my. Anybody who has spent time in this community understands that Sheriff Clark's motivations have nothing to do with public safety. It's clear he has political ambitions. Giving him more attention and spotlight is something I'm reluctant to do. As a community we are tired of being used as other people's political footballs. Sheriff Clark and others who hold those retrograde prejudices are going to find out that, unlike in the past when those attitudes helped them, the tide has shifted and they will pay a price. If the ED of the LGBT Center can't stand up and defend people in this situation who in the world can? Some people aren't positioned to fight back. I have a responsibility to not be afraid to speak in defense of our community - especially as a new leader in the community.

**QUEST: The Milwaukee LGBT community is very diverse. There are dozens of LGBT political, arts, and athletic groups. Yet they are very disconnected. For example, the Saturday Softball League, one of the city's longest existing gay organizations, includes only one team not sponsored by a bar, namely the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center *Scream*. Some might consider this a problem while others see it as a natural state. Do you believe the Center should be a true hub and attempt to connect those di-**

**verse entities? Or should it focus on offering specific services?**

CC: We're supposed to be a hub. We're either a community center or we're not. In my ideal universe there is something the center sponsors or hosts that touches the entire community and connecting them all. It's a dream but it's not impossible,

**QUEST: How do you intend to pursue that role?**

CC: We have to raise some money. We have to marshal the support of the community. The board is driven and energetic and focused. We have an amazing concept of this huge canvas we can paint on. It's just a matter of the harnessing resources to achieve that.

**QUEST: Will the Center stay in its current location?**

CC: We don't have the space to do what I think we should do. In fact, the current space is less than adequate for what we're doing. We need a bigger facility. If we have to hunker down in this smaller space for a few years while we work on our vision and raising funds, there's nothing that should prevent us from realizing that. There is no formal planning right now - we're still in recovery mode. The longevity of this institution is dependent on not getting ahead of ourselves. This is the first time in over two years we have a little money in the bank. Our cash flow is major consideration but it's a great change from being in incredible debt.

**QUEST: Given the LGBT community's recent political and social gains - marriage equality now in 16 states and the District of Columbia, the end of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and even the irony of Wisconsin's representation by a lesbian in the Senate and a gay man in the House of Representative, yet the State constitution has an anti-gay marriage amendment - some might argue the concept of an LGBT Community Center is obsolete. Do you foresee that one day the Center's purpose will be superseded by acceptance and assimilation?**

CC: No. not while I live and breath.

**QUEST: Regarding acceptance and assimilation, through marriage equality and all the rest, do you believe there's an inherent LGBT identity to be lived and celebrated or is "LGBT" an expedient political alliance that will fade with universal equality?**

CC: I don't want to be lost in mainstream culture. In all movements there is tension within. What strategy to pursue, what tactics, what is downplayed. Our community

is no different. Act-up versus the "act nice" faction. It's not any different today. We're delighted at how quickly public opinion has shifted and attitudes towards LGBT rights have shifted. But now that we're in danger of being respectable so might say "let's push the Trannys off the float"- "let's wear polo shirts." We can't fall victim to that. Some of most non-conforming friends have been at this a very long time. It would be tragic and immoral to reject them in the name of conformity. It will cost us. Andrew Sullivan celebrates the end of gay culture. He thinks we'll just be absorbed into the mainstream. I react to that with horror. I'm glad there's less fear now and we can go anywhere but I don't want to give up our bars and institutions. I don't believe we need to make that trade off. Anyone who wouldn't come to the Gay Arts Center, for example, shows fear. Most mainstream gay activists didn't want to reverse DOMA through the lawsuit. They were afraid to wage that battle. They were afraid the outcome would be bad. Because of our fears it was two straight lawyers who fought that battle. Our fears have never protected us.

**QUEST: Even with the reversal of the Center's fortunes, some are still skeptical. How will you reverse that?**

CC: We have bridges to mend. The biggest mistake we can make as a community is to have our institutions self-sabotaging. Whether its divisions around personalities or strategies, if we are not pulling together we are pulling apart. One of things most important for me in the early part of my tenure is to insure we have strong bridges to the extent it is within my power to do so. Our culture is so segmented - its natural, without intent. But it should be somehow connected. There are too few opportunities for it to happen organically. The Center should be the natural vehicle for that. It has to be intentional to reach out. Our programs are sometimes divided racially, by age, or identity. We have to move to bring in everybody. It's a challenge for all organizations, if you approach people in order to fill slots to diversify, they will know it. It's a mistake to try to diversify for its own sake...but it's not going to happen naturally. We want to reach people and give them a voice not just a slot.

We're 15 years old but in ways we're just two. The previous vision was more social service oriented and now we're reaching beyond that. We are trying to lay the groundwork so when ideas come forth to expand that reach our response can always be "yes."



## ON THE COVER

Happy Holidays to you and yours. I hope that it finds you joy, laughter and love. May these feelings of reflection and goodwill continue into the new year and infuse in you a spirit of self-worth, family and community that sustains you the entire year. You get what you give, so give a smile, you will be amazed at what you get in return. Inspiration comes in many forms, so stay true to who you are and what you believe because you never know when someone watching.

**Wy Nonna**  
Miss Gay WI USofA 2014



## Les Miserables @ Skylight a review by Paul Masterson

At first, *Les Miserables* may seem an odd holiday offering compared to the traditional mainstays like *The Nutcracker* or *A Christmas Carol*. But the Skylight Music Theatre's current production of that very Broadway hit musical, directed by Molly Rhode, proves that true holiday spirit and message are more than just another reprise of classic fare. Based on Victor Hugo's 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, the award winning *Les Miserables*, first staged in 1980, has been performed thousands upon thousands of times. In 2012 it was made into a successful film. This is not, however, just another musical with familiar tunes. The work's success may be found in its truly universal themes of human dignity and goodness, of revolution and redemption.

Like the box office smash *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miz*, as it's affectionately known, has not only a fanatical following among theater-going veterans who attend any performance at any cost, anywhere, but it also continues to garner new fans with each successive run. But, of course, remounts and traveling tours risk that certain ennui of overexposure. Not so for the Skylight staging. It is amazingly fresh, emotionally charged, and vigorous. Its powerful music, delivered by music director Robert Lindner's spectacular voices, is a pure mastery of tight chorus work and sovereign soloists. The dozen piece orchestra, although typically reduced for this venue, fills the space with a noble sound. The incredible costumes by Carol J. Blanchard and

Peter Dean Beck's sensual lighting and innovative set design within the Cabot Theatre's intimate confines all contribute to this uplifting experience of engaging storytelling. This lavish and spectacular production ranks among the best the Skylight has ever offered.

A *Les Miz* has been selected to launch the Skylight's *Be Out* LGBT outreach program. On December 12<sup>th</sup> the Be OUT night includes a package for FREE a pre-theatre reception and a ticket to that evening's performance. Tickets starting at \$22.50. Call the Skylight box office at 414.291.7800 and mention Be OUT to reserve your ticket/reception package.

The reception begins at 6 pm in the Salon, followed by the performance at 7:30 pm. [www.skylightmusictheatre.org/shows/events/events/be-out-at-skylight](http://www.skylightmusictheatre.org/shows/events/events/be-out-at-skylight)  
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## MR WISCONSIN LEATHER 2014 ANNOUNCES THE TOGETHER PROJECT

October 12, 2013 saw the beginning of a new pageant for the leather community in Wisconsin. 45 year old, TC Hammond of Green bay, WI, had the honor of being named the inaugural MR WISCONSIN LEATHER 2014. Without delay Mr Hammond got to work on fulfilling his role for the upcoming year. The mission of MWL (Mr. WI Leather) is "Together Always Higher", and TC, with a desire to stay true to that mission has started THE TOGETHER PROJECT.

"MWL is not a one time thing, nor is it about one man, group or city. It encompasses all of us so we want to create a tradition, a legacy that benefits us all. It's not just what we do now, but what we also inspire others to do in the future that will define who we are. This is our starting point."

Much like the Leatherman's Code of honor, integrity, trust and temperance, THE TOGETHER PROJECT's code is that of spirit,



community and inspiration. It's a tour of Wisconsin with a goal of bringing the spirit of leather to life, support our statewide LGBTQ community and give inspiration to those that are looking for mentoring and guidance.

"By working with each local community, we will educate, raise awareness and funds for ARCW, promote the ideals of the NCSF (National Coalition for Sexual Freedom) and invite everyone to be a part of the amazing Leather/Kink family here in Wisconsin. (and have one hell of a good time doing it!)"

TC mentioned he wants all everyone to remember "change begins within ourselves and if each generation works together, we can all share in our evolution."

In addition to THE TOGETHER PROJECT, TC has begun his journey towards representing Wisconsin at the 36th INTERNATIONAL MR LEATHER, Memorial day weekend in Chicago, IL. He hopes to see all of his WI



Leather family celebrate together at this historic and amazing event

For events, info on THE TOGETHER PROJECT and to follow TC's journey as MWL, follow him on Facebook@Mr-WiLeather TC Hammond

## PERFECT HARMONY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS "FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS"

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus opens its 17<sup>th</sup> season with "Festival of Lights," our much anticipated winter concert. We will hold two performances – Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM and Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Both will be held at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI. Tickets are available at [www.perfectharmonychorus.org](http://www.perfectharmonychorus.org) or from chorus members.

From songs that we teach our children to share the ideals of our history, represented by our suite of Hanukkah children's songs, to the fantasies that we create for them, like Santa Claus, represented by our traditional Christmas songs, the songs of "Festival of Lights" have a common theme: our hope and joy for the future. We include several songs of hope for peace, including Wisconsin native Kurt

Bestor's Prayer of the Children. There are even some old favorites sung in new ways to add some sparkle to the season.

Never inclined toward run-of-the-mill productions, Perfect Harmony will present the world premiere of "Tikkun." "Tikkun" was commissioned by Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus from Wisconsin artist and PHMC singer Arthur Durkee. Mr. Durkee notes that the words of the song are based on and inspired by words and concepts from the mystical tradition of Judaism. "The Hebrew words used in this musical evocation are concepts and formulae from the wisdom and practice of Kabbalah, some forms of which use repeated words and phrases to evoke meditative and contemplative states . . . All of this is reflected within the musical setting, as are some hidden numerological meanings

that can be found in rhythms and metric cycles and musical intervals."

First United Methodist Church is an open and welcoming church that offers an ideal setting. As a Reconciling Congregation offering full participation to all persons, it is supportive of the chorus and its mission.

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus is Madison's gay and gay-friendly men's chorus. Its singing membership strives to provide gay, bisexual, transgender and gay-friendly men with opportunities for the performance of choral music in a supportive and affirming environment. Perfect Harmony is a member of GALA Choruses, performing before an international audience at GALA Festivals in 2008, and again in 2012. The chorus consistently commissions new music as well as performing a wide range of new and challenging choral music.

**Tickets:** \$20 at the door or [www.perfectharmonychorus.org](http://www.perfectharmonychorus.org)



**Left:**  
Transgender Day of Remembrance  
At Milwaukee LGBT Center Friday,  
November 22nd.  
Over 70 people attended.

**Right:**  
Gay mystery writer Mark Zubro  
reads from new work at Outwords  
Books Saturday November 23rd.

photos by Michael Lisowski



# WarHorse

## A Spectacular Journey

By David Freeland

Tony-Award winning stage spectacle moves families, audience members to tears

*War Horse*, the astounding theatrical experience coming to the Marcus Center, exerts its pull from the moment the title character, Joey, first trots on stage as a foal, petted by his owner and best friend, 15-year old Albert. The audience gasps, aware that Joey is a puppet, not a real horse, but captivated by the way he shudders and whinnies at Albert's loving touch. Joey's lifelike eyes, shining and reflective, draw us into the soul of his journey; as the evening progresses, and Albert sets out to rescue Joey after he has been sold to the English cavalry, we find ourselves carried along and hoping for Joey to make it home.

It's that kind of emotional power that has made *War Horse* an international phenomenon, sweeping up audiences and awards on both sides of the Atlantic and even inspiring an Oscar®-nominated film directed by Steven Spielberg. *War Horse* won five 2011 Tony® Awards (including Best Play) for its New York premiere plus a Special Tony® Award for Handspring Puppet Company for creating the eleven puppets at the heart of the show.

"One of the things we like to imagine," observes Basil Jones, who runs Handspring with co-founder Adrian Kohler, "is people in the audience nudging the person next to them, saying, 'did you see that?'"



Set during the First World War, *War Horse* combines a powerful story with thrilling stagecraft and music. In addition, it showcases what may be the most inventive use of puppetry ever seen on stage. Soon after meeting him as a young horse, we watch in amazement as an adult Joey, seven feet tall, materializes before our eyes. Two puppet masters working inside Joey's frame (built of light, malleable cane) raise and lower his torso, letting out forceful breaths, while a third manipulates his ears, lifting and pulling them back to register tender shades of emotion. Spielberg's film version of *War Horse* employed real horses, but these onstage creations fully personalize equine ideals of courage, strength and loyalty in ways that reinforce the themes of the story.

"Spielberg made a terrific film," enthuses Michael Morpurgo, upon whose beloved

novel *War Horse* is based, "but cinema has its limitations. It isn't live, and that's the difference. What's amazing about the stage show is that, whether it's the music, design, or lighting, the puppets, the quality of acting or direction, it's ingenious and unique. It's a theatrical event."

During World War I, more than one million horses were conscripted by the British military alone; of these, only 62,000 returned. As Joey is forced into battle, serving in both the British and German armies, we are moved by his bravery and the trust he places in those who exploit his strength. His innocence makes him seem above the fighting: in *War Horse*, animals behave with a dignity that humans do not always achieve. Still, Joey is unprepared for the true brutality of 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare.

In a brilliant scene that defines the excitement of Act Two, he faces a new kind of foe: a massive tank rolling his way, prepared to flatten everything in its path. The scenic design is so visceral that we are rushed into battle alongside Joey, enveloped in the sound and smell of combat. Joey rears on his hind legs as the tank pitches toward him and the stage goes black.

"The First World War is emblematic," suggests Mervyn Millar, *War Horse*'s puppetry director, "in the way the possibilities of destruction changed. You see Joey standing, looking at the tank, which advances without logic, without thought. Joey tries to work out what it means, what it wants, and it doesn't want or mean anything. It just destroys."

Joey's plight resonates with anyone who has ever loved an

animal or taken a pet into the family. As Albert continues his search, we are reminded of the ways in which animals remain with us through many stages of our lives, giving much and asking for little.

"People emotionally invest in animals," Millar believes. "I think everyone can empathize with Joey."

Determined to save his friend, Albert runs away from home with the hope of getting close to the front. But in trying to rescue one family member, he hurts another, leaving behind a mother anxious with worry. *War Horse*'s relevance comes from our awareness that, nearly a century after the start of the First World War, families are still being separated by armed conflict.

"We talk a lot about the history of the war," remarks Chris Harper, producer for the National Theatre of Great Britain (which

first staged *War Horse* in London), "but at the heart of the show it's just a family, struggling to deal with life. The thing that's exciting about *War Horse* is that it appeals to lots of generations. We see grandparents bringing their kids, wanting to explain the history from their own personal journeys with World War II or more recent conflicts. It's a production that brings the family together."

Will Albert find Joey in time? As *War Horse* reaches its beautiful climax, the hopes of parents, children, and beloved friends – both onstage and off – merge into a shared experience, as tissues are drawn from pockets and eyes glisten with tears.

"We get people coming back again and again," Harper explains, "and they always have the same reaction. It awakens something in you. *War Horse* makes grown people cry."

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Cue music: **We Need a Little Christmas** by the indomitable Angela Lansbury.

*Haul out the holly;  
Put up the tree before my spirit falls  
again.  
Fill up the stocking,  
I may be rushing things, but deck the  
halls again now.  
For we need a little Christmas  
Right this very minute!*

Yes, Holiday music managed to hit the Milwaukee airwaves even before the last of the Halloween hangovers were finally put to rest. Then, rather too quickly on the heels of the return of Angela and Bing and Judy amongst the many familiar Christmas crooners, the Hallmark cable network began its onslaught of original seasonal selections. Their "Countdown to Christmas" began on Friday, November 1 and continues a mind-numbing 24/7 schedule until 12 midnight on December 31.

Who knew there are so many Christmas movies!

The Hallmark Channel isn't the only cable network which can be accused of rushing things, although the lovely folks at Lifetime cable network did manage to hold off until mid-November with its own holiday programming, charmingly dubbed "It's A Wonderful Lifetime" and blessedly limiting the festive fun to merely Saturday nights.

No longer content with merely "25 Days of Christmas," the ABC Family Network began on November 20th, added on an additional eleven-day "Countdown to 25 Days of Christmas."

Can a year-round Christmas cable network be far behind...?

At first glance the initial Hallmark Channel offering, **A Boyfriend for Christmas**, seemed promising. Could this be, mused Glenn, a sweet gay love story set amidst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season? Sadly **A Boyfriend for Christmas** proved to be yet another of more common heterosexual female-centric Christmas tales that seem to dominate the genre. In fact, scanning one synopsis after another, Glenn found little amongst the dozens of holiday films on offer of particular interest to LGBT viewers.

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

Like many in Glenn's acquaintance, Glenn's cache of Holiday DVDs (along with a few odd VHS tapes) is a rather mixed bag, boasting all of the expected suspects: from Judy Garland to Mr. Magoo, assorted **Nut-crackers** and **Christmas Carols**, Capote's sublime **Christmas Memory** with Geraldine Page as well as Charlie Brown and other familiar friends from classic 1960s animation.

On a rather smaller shelf, there's Glenn collection of gay Christmas DVDs. Yes, Virginia, there are a handful of gay Christmas DVDs not titled **Make the Yuletide Gay**. There's **Visions of Sugar Plums** and **24 Nights**, both seducing potential viewers with cute guys on the box cover. Whilst **Home for the Holidays** starring Robert Downey, Jr. is terrific, neither **Too Cool for Christmas** nor **Houseboy** is likely to bring much in the way of holiday cheer. And as for **Ornaments**, oh, dear!

Glenn might well quibble few characters in **The Perfect Wedding** are fleshed out; Roger Stewart's Roy virtually disappears, his character never has a chance with either Gavin or winning back former flame Paul. TV pros Kristine Sutherland and James Rebhorn manage to register as Paul's supportive parents. Best of all there's lovely chemistry between Eric Aragon's sexy Paul and Jason T. Gaffney's sweet, self-sacrificing Gavin.

Okay, **The Perfect Wedding** might not be a Christmas film per se; rather it is a charming little gay rom-com sure to be enjoyed with just a drop of eggnog during the Christmas holiday season.

## Just the facts...

"**The Perfect Wedding**" clocks in at 82 minutes  
"**The Perfect Wedding**" is available on DVD with an SRP of \$24.95

Kristine Sutherland is best known for her role as The Slayer's Mom on **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**  
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Since the holiday season requires Glenn to play host at least once, Glenn would dare not, surely could not and definitely should not once again screen **Make the Yuletide Gay**. Given how badly go the fortunes of the Green Bay Packers, there would likely be little joy for Glenn in bringing out the familiar bright yellow Cheeseheads which figure so prominently in the film.

Then, as if dropped directly from Santa's sleigh, Glenn found a screener for **The Perfect Wedding**, new from Wolfe Video. Indeed, as if Santa-sent, Glenn had his sweet gay love story set amidst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season!

Alana (Apolonia Davalos) is engaged to be married and has decided that Christmas would be the perfect time to plan her perfect June wedding, a time when family and friends would gather together. In addition to her parents, there'll be wedding planning input from her brother Paul (Eric Aragon), her BF (best friend) Vicki (Annie Kerins) and her GBF (gay best friend) Roy (Roger Stewart).

Alana's mother Meryl (Kristine Sutherland) wants to plan a big, lavish wedding; a wedding so big and lavish that it is sure to create such memories that her husband Richard (James Rebhorn), despite facing Early-onset Alzheimer's, might be able to hold on to them always. Meryl's plan however, is rather at odds with the simple, intimate wedding that Alana and fiancé Kirk (Brendan Griffin) have in mind.

Along the way, you can be sure that there will be various and sundry issues, complications and misunderstandings. Well, of course there will. **The Perfect Wedding** wouldn't be terribly entertaining if all went smoothly, even if the cast includes some cute, fit lads who seem to spend a beguiling amount of time shirtless.

For Paul, this Christmas get together offers a chance to at making amends to Roy. Once a rather too sexually generous alcoholic, Paul knows that he treated Roy rather shabbily but he's 18 months sober thanks to his supportive family and stoic AA-sponsor Zach (Sal Rendino), sadly saddled with playing the role of human PEZ dispenser, homilies and platitudes always at the ready.



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Mark Mariucci**



## Dear Ruthie Stars in Zany Off the Wall Creature Feature!

Move over Scrooge! Make way for the Creature." THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK, BLACK LAGOON" that is! Set in the heart of the Amazon Jungle on December 24th, this marvelously "Off the Wall" Christmas extravaganza is certain to be the hottest new holiday show in town. Dale Gutzman, famous for his "Holiday Punch" Christmas Revues, has whipped up a new confection of zany song, dance, and comedy. It's a parody of 1950's horror films and IT IS FUNNY! All the cheap, gaudy B movie trappings are present. You already know the plot from countless horror film experiences. Marine Biologist David Reed, who is handsome but nerdy, joins the kindly Dr. Maya to explore the depths of the Black Black Lagoon, in hopes of finding a prehistoric relic.

Accompanying them is David's brainy and beautiful assistant Kay Laverne and the fame seeking hedonist millionaire Mark Calhoun. The small shabby boat winds it's way up river under the command of the sleazy Captain Gonzales. All the men have eyes on the alluring Kay, especially when she performs her erotic swimming routine. But then a stranger arrives in the guise of Tanya, the wild and beautiful jungle girl, looking to escape from her destiny as a human sacrifice to the God



"SEE KAY LAVERNE TORN BETWEEN THE LOVE OF A MAN AND A MONSTER!"  
 "SEE DAVID REED AND MARK CALHOUN IN A SAVAGE BATTLE FOR MALE SUPREMACY!"  
 "SEE TANYA THE JUNGLE GIRL'S MIND WARPING, EROTIC SACRIFICIAL DANCE!"  
 "SEE THE KINDLY DR. MAYA BE REALLY REALLY KIND, CAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS."  
 "SEE THE EROTIC WATER BALLET THAT DRIVES MEN TO MADNESS!"  
 "SEE WHAT THE CREATURE DOES ALONE IN HIS DARK, MOIST, CAVERN!"  
 "SEE THE VICIOUS DEADLY BLOW GUN DART ATTACK OF THE HOARD OF SAVAGES!"  
 "SEE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE PASS OUT!"

SEE 'DALE GUTZMAN'S THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK, BLACK LAGOON!' at OFF THE WALL THEATRE.

of the Deep! AND WHAT IS THIS GOD OF THE DEEP? IT'S THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK, BLACK LAGOON! And wouldn't you know it, THE CREATURE falls in love with Kay.

There's romance (some of it very strange indeed), adventure, comedy hi-jinx, beautiful exotic scenery, intrigue, passionate jungle sex (some of it very strange indeed), and SONGS. YES, SONGS, including "White Christmas," "Moonlight Becomes You," and "Pagan Love Song."

So put "The Nutcracker" on hold, OUR SHOW IS NUTTIER! Delay "Les Miserables," OUR SHOW IS MORE MISERABLE! "Bypass "Scrooge" OUR SHOW HAS WAY MORE.....WELL YOU KNOW! With musical arrangements by the stunning Jack Forbes Wilson and Technical Direction by the even stunning David Roper, THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK, BLACK LAGOON is truly something to behold. But in order to behold it, you need to reserve your tickets NOW!

**Dec. 18,19,20,21,22, 26,27,28,29,  
and New Year's Eve!**

**For tickets call: (414) 484-8874  
or go to [www.offthewalltheatre.com](http://www.offthewalltheatre.com)**



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**Publisher:** Mark Mariucci (ZA)

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

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# BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 12 #12 December 2013



## Kruz Celebrates 7!



Photographer: William Sharkey

## Hamburger Mary's Pride Parade Fundraiser



**January 30, 2014 8:00pm to close**

**50/50 raffle  
Great bingo prizes (TBA)**



**HamburgerMarys.com/MKE • 2130 S Kinnickinnic**

## QUEST / OUTBOUND MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES A BRAND NEW COVER MODEL CONTEST!

Quest/Outbound Magazine will soon be holding contests to see who gets to be on upcoming covers of the magazine. Each participating bar will choose a few bartenders and customers to compete. **All you have to do is vote!** Each vote costs a one dollar donation to Rainbow Over Wisconsin, a 501c3 non-profit that raises money to enrich the lives of the LGBT community in Wisconsin. Both the bartender and the customer with the most votes will appear together on the next available magazine cover.

**It's fun and it's people you already know, so vote, vote, vote!**

**RULES:** The cost to participate in this contest is a one dollar donation to Rainbow Over Wisconsin and will count as one vote. You may vote as many times as you wish for any or all persons running in the contest. 100% of the money collected from votes is donated to Rainbow Over Wisconsin, a 501c3 Wisconsin Corporation. Bars wishing to participate in this contest must be a current advertiser in Quest Magazine. The bar will choose the customers and the bartenders to compete. The bartender and the customer who each raise the most \$1 votes will be declared the winner. A photo session will be announced and held during business hours of the bar hosting this contest and is open to the public. You must be 21+ to participate. A signed model release is required to appear on the cover of Quest Magazine.



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*\*Some exclusions may apply*

# Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen



It's the most wonderful time of the year! The spirit of giving that's in the air...the excitement shared among children of all ages...the Kardashian Christmas Special...it truly is the season of magic. Be sure to get out there and enjoy the season with friends, family and loved ones. Take the time to let others know how much they mean to you, tell them how much you value your relationship with them, and then get them drunk.

Make sure to stop by your favorite restaurants, clubs and bars this holiday season! These folks are working hard to make your Christmas merry and bright, so let your waiters, bartenders and business owners know that you appreciate the work they put into making things extra special this season.

Speaking of extra-special events, be sure to catch me in "The Creature from the Black, Black Lagoon – The Musical!" Tell Tiny Tim to take a break this year, and put those dancing nut crackers on the shelf for a bit. You want to see this hilarious holiday show that pokes fun of classic horror films of the 1950s and features plenty of toe-tapping songs and dance numbers. (As Dr Kay Laverne, I sing "White Christmas" and go ballroom dancing with my classic counterpart, Jeremy Welter.)

It all goes down at Off the Wall Theatre (in downtown Milwaukee), December 18 through Dec 31. Call 414-484-8874 to hold your tickets! They're selling fast with many reservations for our New Year's Eve show and appetizer buffet. If you liked me in "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane" and you adored "The Divine Sister," you don't want to miss "The Creature from the Black, Black Lagoon!"

Similarly, I'll be ringing in the New Year at Hamburger Mary's on January 4<sup>th</sup> with two great shows. My special guests and I will help you dine with the divas during two shows (8:00 and 9:30), followed by what Shepherd Express readers voted as the Best Karaoke in Milwaukee starting at 10:15. Call Hamburger Mary's at 414-988-9324 and reserve your table today! Good entertainment, great eats and special New Year fun all rolled into one!

Speaking of great eats, let's step into the Bitchin' Kitchen, shall we? I've got four recipes perfect for celebrating the season. Best of all, each recipe calls for 5 ingredients...or less! What could be easier? Try them out for Christmas or New Years or any friendly get-together you may be hosting. Then, have yourself a merry little Christmas, a heluva New Year and eat good and shut up!

## CHRISTMAS MARTINI

*You don't have to be a professional bartender to shake up this festive beverage. The pretty ruby*

*red and soft pink layers offer a little taste of the holidays with every sip.*

### Crushed ice

- 1 ounce white chocolate liqueur**
- 1 ounce peppermint schnapps**
- 2 ounces vanilla-flavored vodka**
- 1 teaspoon grenadine**

Set ice in a cocktail shaker. Top with liqueur, schnapps, and vodka. Shake (shake it, baby, shake it!) and strain into a martini glass. Slowly and carefully pour the grenadine down the inside edge of the glass so it pools at the bottom.

### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Having a party? Chill the martini glasses before guests arrive. Serve with a cherry garnish or small peppermint stick for extra flair.

## BAKED BRIE WITH BRANDIED NUTS

*Here's a fancy-smancy appetizer that's sure to warm up chilly winter nights. I betcha anything you're asked for the recipe. Tell 'em, it's from Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen!*

- 1/4 cup chopped macadamia nuts**
- 1/4 cup brown sugar**
- 2 tablespoons brandy**
- 1 wheel (7 ounces) Brie cheese**
- Crackers**

Combine the first three ingredients in a small bowl; cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Set the Brie on a baking sheet or pizza pan (or ovenproof serving platter if you've got one). Bake Brie on center rack for 3 to 4 minutes or until cheese is lightly softened.

Remove Brie from oven and top with an even layer of the nut mixture. Return to oven for an additional 3 minutes or until the brown sugar has melted. Serve warm Brie with crackers.

### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

You can serve this treat with cocktail bread, sliced pitas, bagel bits and/or apple and pear slices. Simply combine this dish with a platter of fresh fruits, some boxed chocolates or truffles and a few bottles of wine and you've got a great holiday appetizer line up.

## WINTERLAND SALADS

*Layered in four individual glasses this change-of-pace salad offers a snazzy burst of color to holiday dinner tables. Featuring shrimp, mango and avocado, these unique salads are great any time of year.*

- 12 large shrimp, cooked, peeled & deveined**
- 2 mangos, peeled and sliced**
- 2 avocados, peeled and sliced**
- 1 small lime**

Set a shrimp into the bottom of each of four glasses. Top with half of the mango and avocado. Repeat the layers. Top each glass with a shrimp.

Cut lime in half. Using one half of lime, squeeze lime juice over the four salads. Slice remaining half of lime into four thin slices. Garnish each salad with a slice of lime. Refrigerate salads until ready to serve.

### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Instead of layering these salads into individual serving glasses, you can layer all of the ingredients into one larger glass bowl. Feel free to gently season the salads with salt and pepper before adding the lime juice if you'd like. Garnish with chopped cashews or macadamias for a bit of crunch.

## NO-FUSS FUDGE

*Think you can't make fudge? Think again! This 3-ingredient confection comes together in a snap. Perfect for the holidays, great for gift giving and ideal for decadent snacking, the fudge offers lots of room for versatility so you can switch it up as you like.*

- 8 ounces chocolate, finely chopped**
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk**
- 1 cup pecans, chopped**

Line an 8-inch square baking pan with aluminum foil. Allow the foil to hang over all four edges of the pan. (You'll see why later...just trust me for now.) Lightly spritz foil with no-stick cooking spray.

Set the chopped chocolate and condensed milk in a microwave-proof bowl. Microwave on medium-high for 3 minutes, stirring the mixture every 30 seconds. If mixture is not completely combined, continue to microwave at 30 second intervals, stirring well between each additional interval.

Stir nuts into chocolate mixture. Pour mixture into foil-lined pan. Cover pan and refrigerate until chocolate is set.

Using the foil hanging over the pan, pull chocolate out of pan. Invert onto a cutting board, and peel away all foil. Cut fudge into serving size pieces.

### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Feel free to leave out the nuts or use a different variety. Add some raisins or chopped marachino cherries to the chocolate mixture if you'd like (drain/dry the cherries a bit on a paper towel first, though). Garnish the fudge with additional chopped nuts or toasted coconut by sprinkling such garnishes over the chocolate mixture before you pop it in the fridge. AND...never, never, never overcook the chocolate. Keep checking it and stirring at 30 second intervals. If the chocolate "burns," you'll have to toss it and start over.

Got a recipe for Dear Ruthie? Email her at [dearmsruthie@yahoo.com](mailto:dearmsruthie@yahoo.com). If she publishes your dish, you'll get a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt. Check her out on Facebook at Ruthie DearRuthie or follow her on Twitter at @DearRuthie.



## Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

### It's the most wonderful time of the year...

At least that is my fervent wish for all of You, dear readers! I appreciate you taking the time to read me every month – especially during this hectic season.

Due to the Holidays, I realize we're pulled in many directions – family, friends, and business obligations -- and as always there is scintillating theater options.

The Milwaukee Rep, after a highly successful run of "Ragtime" is mounting "Noises Off" now through Sunday, December 22. The Quadracci Powerhouse will be the place to be and enjoy this spectacularly funny, peerless backstage farce. This dizzy, well-known romp is a festival of delirium – so says The New York Times. Go for the laughs and all else attainable 414-224-9490 for reservations.

The Skylight Music Theatre is gifting the community with "Les Miserables" on the boards now through Sunday, December 29. This highly popular vehicle is jam-packed with drama, intrigue, and music that has become part of the American songbook. Come enjoy the debut season of Artistic Director, Viswa Subbaraman. He truly is making his mark on this treasured arts group. To prevent yourself from being miserable, get your tickets now -- 414-291-7800.

How about the gift of laughter this Season? The Second City's Nut – Cracking Holiday Revue is

slated Thursday, December 5 – Sunday, December 15 Marcus Center's Vogel Hall 929 North Water Street 414-273-7206. See the future stars of Saturday Night Live – right here on our home turf.

"Hanging Help for the Holidays" in Wreath form – a Silent Auction benefitting The Holton Street Clinic and The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) is taking place on Saturday, December 7, 2 – 5 pm at Fluid. Inventively decorated wreaths will be on display and you have the opportunity to bid on the one that will enhance your home and holiday. A prize will be awarded for the best wreath – the one bringing in the biggest donation. Bid early and often it goes to a great cause. This is another excellent example of our Community engaged in making a difference!

Later that day consider going to the City of Festivals, Men's Chorus will be giving us all a little "Winter Magic" on Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, December 8 at 3 PM Plymouth Church 2717 East Hampshire Street.

Not to be left out, Women's Voices Milwaukee, will celebrate the season with a reason on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 PM with "We Are Family" seasonal songfest at Washington Park Senior Center 4420 West Vliet Street.

Michael Pink's Milwaukee Ballet offers the seasonal opus of all there is -- "The Nutcracker" Mil-

waukee's magical Holiday tradition Saturday, December 14 – Friday, December 27 The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. To escape back to your childhood, please call 414-902-2103. Everything is beautiful at the ballet...

Continuing with our cultural riches to par take in The Florentine Opera Company commemorates this time of the year with "Home for the Holidays" – now in their 80<sup>th</sup> Season, they truly have lots to be festive about! Friday, December 20 and Saturday, December 21 The Wayne & Kristine Lueders Florentine Opera Center please call 1-800-32-Opera to hear the sounds of the Angels of The Florentine.

The Alchemist Theatre 2569 South KK in Bay View presents "A Kick in the Dickens 2 – More in the Stocking!" Their Holiday Pageant runs December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 7:30 PM Curtain.

Dale Gutzman's Off the Wall Theatre is offering up a holiday musical with their usual, unusual flare. "The Creature from the Black, Black Lagoon" Starring Dear Ruthie as Kay Laverne, Queen of the B movies and the phenomenal stable of OTW Actors will provide their take on life and the holidays through tinted glasses. December 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29 and New Year's Eve [www.offthewalltheatre.com](http://www.offthewalltheatre.com) or call and speak with Donna at: 414-484-8874.

Music Under Glass is underway at The Mitchell Park Domes every Thursday at 6:30 PM. December 5 brings The Tom Brusky Polka Band, December 12 is Da La Buena, December 19 Santa gets rocked Holiday Show with The Cheap Shots

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and The Grand Holiday Show is December 26 with Kal Bergndahl Project and to start out the New Year -- January 2 -- hang overs and all -- Semi-Twang. A visit to the Domes is mandatory this time of the year -- you've got to see what Boom/The Room's Burt Gross did to deck their halls, most impressively!

The Milwaukee Art Museum has Thomas Sully -- "Painted Performances" through Sunday, January 5, 2014. I love this show -- lots of portraits of theater types and their benefactors! Very fun! Very sad to report that William Keyse Rudolph will be leaving the museum and our fair hamlet, it was a pleasure to know this dear man.

I would love to acknowledge during this season of giving and remembering our Community, has a new Executive Director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Colleen Carpenter -- has been appointed this highly coveted position. This is just what our city and The Center needs -- an answered prayer. There was a National search and Ms. Carpenter impressed and exuded all the qualities needed for this intricate role. I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Colleen, by Paul Williams of The Center. I look forward to an upcoming interview with her -- she has a most friendly demeanor and bright aura. You have the chance to meet and greet Ms. Carpenter on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 6 PM The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

In the Season of Giving department this is a record breaker! Will Radler -- Wisconsin's most successful prominent landscape architect, botanist, developer of best-selling roses, and philanthropist gifted The AIDS Resource Center of

Wisconsin (ARCW) and the state of Wisconsin with an astounding gift of one million dollars! This is the largest gift the Agency has ever received. The rippling affect and effect of Will's astounding gesture is simply phenomenal. And yes Virginia now even I believe in Santa Claus!

On the topic of Community engagement -- The Cream City Foundation hosted their fourth annual "Business Equality Luncheon" The Bradley Pavilion of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. I was beyond thrilled to have been a guest -- I went out of curiosity, next year I'll go out of conviction. It was S.R.O. like most Events at The Marcus. CCF's Paul Fairchild, President and C.E.O. and Charles Grosz, Office and Events Coordinator did an outstanding job of gathering up and cultivating the who's who of Wisconsin! Gay, Straight, and everywhere in between! CCF Board member Paul Milakovich -- who spoke, Terri Coughlin, Jose Milan, Greselda Aldrete, Dan Sawall, Jim Schleif -- whom I had the honor of lunching next to, The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's Mike Gifford, Dan Mueller and Staff, a table of FAIR Wisconsin Dr. Robert Starshak & Ross Draeger, Raquel Filmanowicz, BMO Harris Bank, Mayor Tom Barrett, County Executive Chris Abele -- whom I had such fun with at The Pride Parade, Aurora Health Care's Jerry Janis and his beau John, Dr. Nick Turkal of Aurora -- our Key Note Speaker, Peter Nys and Cindy O, Queer TV's Michael Lisowski, The Wisconsin Gazette's Louis Weisberg & Leonard Sobczak, Diverse & Resilient's Dr. Gary Hollander, Renee Kimberger of Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Artist Maureen Kane, Jerold Fox, Mary Burke, Chris Slinker of Keller Williams Real Estate, Hannah Rosenthal of the Milwaukee Jewish Feder-

ation, Charlie, Craig Bodoh, Jim Moore, Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary Beth Budisch, Denise Cawley, Colleen Carpenter and Paul Williams -- The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Paul Mathews and Heidi Lofy of The Marcus Center, Tim Carpenter, Marina Dimitrijevic -- currently chairwoman, who will be seeking Jon Richard's role with his advancement, this highly popular, visible, devoted politician is an option to our town's future; she may end up Milwaukee's first woman Mayor. JoCasta Zamarripa, Cristy Garcia Thomas, Tom Ewing & Gary Balcerzak, Deb Lange and so many familiar faces -- I was never so proud! I wish you all could have been there. So rewarding!

Congratulations and long may you love -- three weddings, three -- Tony Torti & Jeff Bass, Tim Greene & Michael Karl, and Tom Reed & Jon Martin. Always the bride's maid...The Ball Game's Royalty of the AARP Table, Bill & Gordon commemorated 45 years of love! Happy, happy Anniversary!

Food time -- in case you have to entertain this season and are culinary limited, as I am, might I suggest hosting at Carson's -- Prime Steaks, Famous Barbecue, Ribs 301 West Juneau Avenue 414-223-3311 Located in The Moderne -- Brew Town's latest high rise. Noah was our server and was outstanding as was the Crab Cakes -- go figure at a steak house. I also drool when thinking of their prime rib!

*So ends another column and another year!  
Remember it's the glamor, not the grammar -- may this Season bring you light, bright, and the might to enjoy it for the moment and I'll write you in 2014 as I remain Still Cordially Yours..*

## Great Last Minute Gift Ideas!

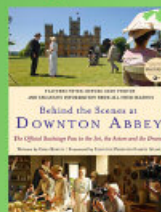
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Well we are back for the holiday season, I hope you all didn't get too fat from all that turkey you had at thanksgiving. Who am I kidding you probably just ate a bunch and fell asleep. (You know that reminds me of some of my friend's love lives.) I think I have now insulted enough of my readers so let's get on with the piercing of the month. Seeing as at the end of this month you're all going to be doing your hardest to get some on New Year's Eve. I figured that I should talk about some genital piercings, the frenum in particular. So let's get on with it!

If you remember what a frenum is from the last time I wrote about them then you can feel free to skip ahead to the next paragraph but you might miss a really good joke that I haven't thought of yet. The frenum is a piercing that goes through the skin along the shaft of the penis. Contrary to popular belief it does not go through the shaft of the penis. This piercing is usually done with a barbell but rings can be put in as well. It is usually better to wait until the piercing is healed before putting a ring in. See aren't you glad that

you read all the way through that, yea so I lied there wasn't a really good joke in there but get ready I'm sure one will pop in my head any minute now. Well until that happens lets move on, shall we?

Taking care of a frenum is extremely easy, and if you have read any of my past columns you will already know how to take care of this, but for that 1% of people who haven't here we go again. It doesn't take a lot of time to do but is still very important just wash the piercing with antibacterial soap at the very end of your shower. That's right the end you know after you have "cleaned" your privates for that half hour you claim to. So that's about it on how to take care of it, now let's get onto the part you really want to know about, how they feel during sex.

Okay you horn dogs we have reached the part of the story where you get to grab your dick and double click. During sex the frenum(s) act as a giant speed bump on your dick. When the speed bump grabs the walls of whatever you may be screwing it holds for a split second causing a little bit of tension

and thus causing more pleasurable feelings. Also, as with most piercings once a body part has been pierced it becomes almost super sensitive. So remember that all you my hillbilly readers, good 'ole Bessie is going to feel a little different the next time your standing on the bucket trying to f#@k it!

Well I think I pretty much ran this column dry and since I see that I have a little more room for some reader mail let's get to it.

Brent,

*First I want to tell you that I have been reading your column for a while and I really like it. So on to my question, I have been trying to figure out a X-mas present for my lover and he is really into piercings. The problem is that I don't know anything about piercings their sizes or anything! So how can I get him something that will be right and he doesn't have to return.* — Bob

Well Bob, first I want to tell you that there is not a single body jewelry store that will accept refunds that I know of. So you're going to have to make sure that what you get is what he wants. A way around this is to take him to a couple of stores and see which ones he likes, then go back to the store at a later date and get what he picked out. Of course you could always just do the easy thing and get a gift certificate. Thanks for the question.

Well it seems we have run out of room again so don't forget to keep those email coming to me at [Avantgarde@voyager.net](mailto:Avantgarde@voyager.net) just make sure you put "Skin and Steel" in the subject line so you don't get lumped into spam. So I guess this is good bye for the year 2011, I hope you all have a great Holiday with friends and family and I hope Santa gives you that little something extra in your stocking this year, or is that a little something extra in your rear. (I can never remember.) Have a great new year and I hope you all remember at least most of the night, and don't forget to drink a toast to a healthy and cheerful 2012!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! (Now where is that damn egg nog??)

# KRUZ

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## Kruz Turns 7

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## BOOM H.I.T. WEEKEND

Use the Q code below to see more.



All Photos on this page by Will Sharkey

# Beat Box

## Winter's Hottest Club Tracks

By Jimmy Newsum

Baby, it's cold outside. Luckily, the heat on gay dance floors shows no sign of cooling down. Clubs are working overtime to keep their rooms hot and sweaty this season. Here are the top scorchers being played now.

### "Planet XL (That's How We Do)" Tony Moran TanMan Music



The latest booty bopper from the veteran producer and DJ was originally conceived as an anthem for the NYC dance floor. However, with its pounding groove and soaring vocals courtesy of Deborah Cooper, it has extended well beyond the Big Apple, filling floors from Amsterdam, San Francisco, LA, Brazil and all around the world. As expected, Moran's production is hard and driving, literally propelling Cooper's already powerful vocals into the stratosphere. The NYC mix of the track is a bit more peak hour while the sinister 6KU mix is best suited for after hour clubs. With "That's How We Do", Tony Moran proves his patented NYC sound has no boundaries.

### "With You" Kimberly Davis D1 Music



Few labels cross that line between Soulful and

Jackin' House the way D1 Music consistently manages to do and has done once again in their latest track featuring the vocals of Kimberly Davis. The Soulbeats extended remix of the song is a fantastic shake 'n' bake of disco and funk with a bassline hook that hits in the hips and a shuffle far more complex than typically heard in clubs these days. Paul Goodyear's remix forces hands in the air while DJ Escape and Tony Colluccio's darker take on the track sweeps fans into the afterhours. What really makes this a crossover threat isn't some appeal to commercial interests but the degree of quality: the bassline, drums and overall programming is vastly superior to 99% of dance floor fodder - and Davis' vocals are beyond compare.

### Raph Solo "The Remixes" Angel King Music



Fans of the brawny crooner will love this brand new collection of remixes that includes a high-speed version of Solo's smash from last fall, "Brand New Dime". Also featured are remixes of "Finally" and the sexy club favorite, "Manimal". A particular standout is the Club Junkies mix of Solo's first track from his soon to be released *Am I Too Much?* Album. "Glass of Wine" is a vibrantly lush pop track that Solo says he was inspired to write after breaking up with a man he intended to marry. Sadly, the relationship didn't work out but Solo got a great song out of it and Club Junkies expertly weave their massively funky, celebratory beats with his soaring melody. Together, they create a track that is sure to get fans moving in clubs this winter.

### "Love Sexo" Various Artists Peace Biscuit

This massive retrospective compilation from Peace Biscuit is a fun party mix that incorporates everything from gnarly electro and trap to



anthem house and disco madness. The set premieres exclusive gems from a wide smorgasbord of fierce talent including Grammy winners Mya and Angie Stone. There's also Ultra Nate, Carmen Electra, and Michelle Williams (of Destiny's Child). We can't leave out the gay faves: Amanda Lepore, The Ones, Colton Ford and Cazwell who premieres his "Helen Keller" track that twink ragers will lose their shit over. Peace Biscuit, the home to many of these artists, designed Love Sexo as an audio and visual experience with music and videos. They deserve an award for this exceptionally well-crafted project.

### "Love Story" Jason Dottley JD3 Records



The latest track from the devilishly handsome actor from TV's *Sordid Lives* is a slice of 80's pop, layered with synthesizer effects and emotionally compelling percussive touches. Its message is equally as powerful, about being in love at a unique time in history when the world is finally beginning to accept two people of the same sex together. Several versions are available but the mix of note is the adrenaline-charged remix by 7th Heaven who, under their pop AKA StarLab, tailored the track especially for dance clubs.

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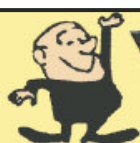
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