

# QUEST

MAGAZINE Volume 21, Issue 2 February 2014



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# End of the Rainbow

a review by Paul Masterson

There is, perhaps, no other 20<sup>th</sup> century celebrity so deeply tied to LGBT cultural identity as Judy Garland. Decades ago, long before the universal usage of "gay", the code phrase "friend of Dorothy", an allusion to Judy Garland's role in the 1939 film, *The Wizard of Oz*, revealed one's secret sexual identity. That film's poignant song "Over the Rainbow" and its theme of self-discovering gave LGBT people an anthem, a symbol and a cult of personality. The Milwaukee Rep's production of Peter Quilter's *End of the Rainbow* now presents a chapter of Judy Garland's roller coaster career to the stage. Like the LGBT community itself, her story of self-destructive addiction coupled with her desire to be loved and accepted is precisely the struggle that once mirrored our lives. There's more than a bit of sentiment and nostalgia, of course, but, even more so, it's a tragic history of a diva.

Hollis Resnik stars as Judy Garland. She brings all the infamous quirks and, especially Garland's iconic music to the stage. Beyond brilliant renditions of classic Garland songs, Resnik successfully gives us a compelling glimpse into a show-biz ego crippled by addiction and an ever restarting but always frustrated love life.

The scene is set in a London hotel and a local night club. It's 1969. Garland, now 46, attempts another come back. Mickey Deans (Nicholas Harazin) is, since their chance meeting just two weeks prior, both her new manager and her latest finance. As the couple arrives at their lavish hotel suite, Garland complains it must be the smallest room in the hotel. Enter her accompanist, the pianist Anthony (Thomas J. Cox). They've played together before at a previous and ill-fated come-back gig. But that's in the past. The trio is now poised to launch a six week run at a local club. But even before the heap of Louis

Vuitton bags are unpacked and the first notes sound, the tension between the three begins to show. What follows is an opera of sorts, the plot moving through its chapters accompanied by well suited songs from Garland's repertoire. The dialogue offers insights into a past dating back decades. We learn about the singer's addiction that begins with her childhood role as Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*. She admits "I flew over the yellow brick road." Indeed, those



Vaudevillian days of the show must go on created an addicted retinue of performers. Judy Garland was among the most enduring. Throughout her entire career, she went on bolstered by drugs and alcohol. Now, well meaning, her future husband tries to break her old habits. He fails.

For the LGBT audience, Anthony, the gay pi-

anist, provides a secondary plot. In fact, his story comes to the fore with Garland as his accompanist. Her songs take on as much a narrative context of his life as her own. As a gay man of the 1960's he represents our struggles from parental abandonment to a conflicted lover who has left him for a woman. Thomas J. Cox plays the role with all its range from venomous queen, to painfully self-deprecating lonely heart, to compassionate angel. His physical presence is at times combative and regally assertive, at others uptight and clenched like a child awaiting a scolding. Ultimately, Anthony is a constant and most honest human character. Yet for Garland he falls into the masses of forgotten fans and accompanists who have vainly offered solace, support and adulation.

Mickey Deans role in this tragic history is enigmatic. One wonders if the young man's intentions are sincere or simply manipulation. He will become Garland's fifth husband. In this fictionalized account it is difficult to discern his motives. Harazin plays Mickey as unsure of himself as driven in the shadow of his diva. He moves from moral high ground hugging, depriving Garland of her drugs and booze, to, doling out handfuls of pills - pouring her tumblers of whiskey to wash them down - the show must go on, after all.

*End of the Rainbow* is fiction based on the historical reality of Garland's world of make-believe. It is also a page out of LGBT history. Curiously, Judy Garland's death coincided with the Stonewall Uprising in 1969. Some theorize the gay community's collective grief was the match that lit the powder keg of our repressed anger. The result was, in its way, the *End of the Rainbow* where we found our pot of gold, our yellow brick road to identity.

*End of the Rainbow* runs through February 9 at the Milwaukee Rep. For tickets info go to [www.milwaukeekeerep.com](http://www.milwaukeekeerep.com) A LGBT Pride promotion offers a \$30 ticket to any performance. Just enter PRIDE in the code window.

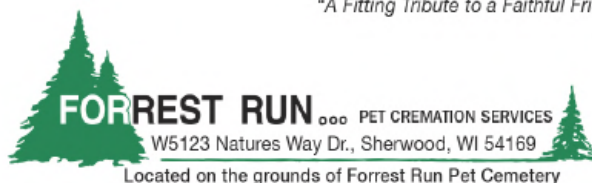
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# In the Heights

a review by Paul Masterson

In the dead of this particularly brutal Wisconsin winter, there's nothing better to take the chill off than a trip to the Dominican-American barrio of New York City's Washington Heights in a steamy and sultry July. The Milwaukee Skylight Theatre production of Lin-Manuel Miranda Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical *In the Heights* will take you there.

Like the the Skylight's previous productions this season, there's a theme of revolution. It's not the explosive sort of *Les Miz* or Beethoven's *Fidelio*, but rather of the inner, personal kind. It's a love story, of course. Usnavi, (Tommy Rivera-Vega) the storyteller/narrator of this tale, runs a ramshackle corner bodega. He lives with his grandmother Abuela Claudia (Christina Aranda), the neighborhood matriach. Nina Rosario (Rana Roman) returns from college. She's lost her scholarship and dropped out. Her parents, Kevin (David Flores) and Camila (Ericka Wade) run a taxi service. They're struggling. An employee, Benny, played by Rueben Echoles, is an African American, and hence an outsider. A romantic relationship develops between Nina and Benny.

The stage is set. By the play's end, Miranda has made us part of the barrio's relationships, its social dynamics, and most of all, its musical and emotional flavor.

Micha Kachman's set is a gritty urban street corner in the Heights. It never changes. It's the universe for its inhabitants. The George Washington Bridge looms in the background as an beacon, a connection to the bigger world. Lighting by Holly Blomquist is effective

The cast and ensemble represent a diversity of local and regional talent. David Flores, a familiar face at such venerable venues as the Boulevard Theatre and the Florentine Opera among many others, plays a serious but pliable father and businessman. It's a pleasure to hear him sing for a change. Erika Wade, also a Boulevard regular, gives us a classic Latin mother, watching out for everyone's interests. Both exude Latin passion and compassion. Rena Roman as Nina has a natural ease about her. Her singing is just as natural. Her opposite, playing for the first time at the Skylight, is Chicago native Rueben Echoles. He gives a strong performance as the outsider. Also new to the Skylight, Tommy Rivera-Vega is an affable character who easily draws us in to his narrative.

Musically, the show offers colorful, vibrant Latin styles -salsa, bomba and plena - blended with the NYC street sounds of rap and hip hop.

Under the direction of Jeff Schaetzke the eight member orchestra adds to the heat with a tight and energetic performance. The songs bring us through the narrative with lyrics in a Spanish-English mix.

Speaking of passion, Claudia Sol Morgan's rigorous and energetic choreography is delightful. The dancers are living it. Watching them we want to join in. It is frustrating...but we still leave the theater as if we did - with the exhausted elation that only a Latin beat can bring.

In all, the entire cast and ensemble give us an all too brief evening of sizzling hot enthusiasm.

For the LGBT audience the themes of striving, resilience, migration, family – both individual and, in the broader sense, community – should have particular resonance. Like the Heights barrio, we share in our diversity, struggles and our own version of family. We've faced adversity and through our mutual support continue to thrive. The changes occur. As the Heights' various characters, we move through the greater world but find our safety, loves and strengths in our own diversity.

*In the Heights* runs through February 23. Out at the Skylight, a special LGBT outreach pre-show reception takes place prior to the February 13 performance. For information go to [www.skylightmusictheatre.com](http://www.skylightmusictheatre.com)



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## New at Milwaukee Art Museum Uncommon Folk: an uncommon exhibition

by Paul Masterson

*Uncommon Folk – Traditions in American Art*, an exhibit of nearly 600 pieces of American folk art opened January 29 at the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM). Assembled primarily from MAM's holdings of nationally renowned and important self-taught artists' works, many of the works have been on display in MAM's folk art gallery and may be familiar to museum regulars. However, the exhibit offers visitors a rare opportunity to view them in an entirely new and innovative context. Rather than display the collection chronologically or as individual objects, the exhibits presents them in 16 categories. These feature all manner of folk art from advertising to decoys and from toys to quilts. They also include categories like carving and found objects. Some sections are dedicated to specific artists like Edward Hicks from Pennsylvania, as well as Wisconsinites Albert Zahn and Eugene von Breunchenhein. By dividing the works in this format, the exhibit explores the why and hows of the folk art genre, transcending time while focusing on the continuum of tradition.

According to curator Margaret Andera "it's about fun." It is. Entering the exhibition, the viewer is greeted by an assembly of advertising signs. In the largely illiterate era of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these sculptural occupational signs intend to define specific businesses by efficient and engaging imagery - like a large pair of eye glasses replete with eyes for an optometrist. The



next section, *Toys*, explores the leisure movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when industrialization gave workers something they hadn't enjoyed before: time off.

From there each section presents a wonderful array of artistic Americana. While some examples are derived from the European, African-American and other ethnic roots of influence, the collection reveals an intrinsically American character. The installation studies that particular aspect in compare and contrast groupings. These allow not only for a study the breadth and width of the genre but also allow the viewer to easily grasp what has changed and what has not. Arrangements of portraits, for example, mix 19<sup>th</sup> century primitives with their contemporary counterparts.

One of the last categories highlights a large collection of carved decoys. Derived from Native American hunting tradition this section also includes a rare assembly of dozens and dozens of ice fishing lures. Suspended on fish lines in a grouping, they become a virtual school of miniature sculptures.

*Uncommon Folk – Traditions in American Art* runs through May 4, 2014. For more information go to [www.mam.org](http://www.mam.org)



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# Cupid Ain't Stupid: Valentine's Gifts That'll Getcha Some

by Mikey Rox

Christmas just ended, but there's another gift-buying season right around the corner. The best thing about Valentine's Day, however, is that it really is the thought that counts. (People lie about that at Christmastime, ya know.)

To help you pick the perfect gift for your sweetie this Valentine's Day, here's our list of fun and frisky ideas that they'll love to unwrap.

## Boots No7 Men Grooming Products



If your main squeeze likes to primp and preen like everyday is a walk down a rainbow carpet, his heart will skip a beat with a gift from Boots No7 Men this Valentine's Day. Boots No7 Men was launched in the United States earlier this year (it originally hails from jolly ol' England), introducing a new line of products dedicated to dapper chaps while offering the same Boots formula as the coveted women's collection. Affordable, effective, and available in sleek, masculine packaging, Boots No7 Men products include Energising Hair & Body Wash, Energising Face Wash, Energising Face Scrub, Rapid Revival Eye Roll-on, Protect & Perfect Intense Moisturiser, Protect & Perfect Intense Serum, Anti-Friction Shave Gel, and Post Shave Recovery Balm. (\$7.99-\$22.99; [walgreens.com](http://walgreens.com))

## Between Me and You Honey Journal

Think you know everything about your significant other? Think again. But you two can build a relationship that's closer and more honest than ever with the Between Me and You Honey Journal, a handsome spiral-bound notebook dedicated to sharing personal experiences, life stories, hopes, fears, fantasies, and more. The books are divided into six chapters, each concerning a specific phase of life or point in a relationship, which feature questions that are comfortable, conversational and often include a bit of humor. Gift one to be filled out and returned by someone special, or fill one out for your lover in advance of the big day. Between Me and You Journals also are available for other recipients, including mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and grandparents. (\$14.95; [sanddunebooks.com](http://sanddunebooks.com))

## The HomeMade Gin Kit

There's nothing more satisfying than coming home from a long day at the office and enjoying a freshly prepared cocktail with your sweetie – unless, of course, that cocktail is made from a DIY gin that you two have created yourselves. You can do just that with the HomeMade Gin Kit, which helps you produce a small batch of the herbal spirit by mixing a bottle of your store-bought vodka with the kit's blend of juniper berries and a proprietary blend of spices, botanicals, flowers, and aromatics. The HomeMade



Gin Kit also includes instructions, a double mesh fine strainer, funnel, and two clear Italian glass swing bottles, which all come neatly packed in a box that's ready for gifting. Salud! (\$49.95; [homemadegin.com](http://homemadegin.com))

## LifeStyles Pleasure Products



Sex is in the air on Valentine's Day, but it's important to play it safe. Whether you're rekindling the romance in your marriage on February 14 or just kickin' it with a rando you picked up at the "I Hate Cupid" happy hour, LifeStyles has a wide selection of pleasure products to set the mood and make bedtime a bit more exciting – while helping you stay sexually healthy. From SKYN and TURBO condoms to Warm Lovin' Personal Lubricant to vibrating devices from him and her, you can choose from a wide array of sensual and stimulating items to make this red-hot night one to remember. (Prices vary; [lifestyles.com](http://lifestyles.com))

## Cocoa Canard Spooning Chocolate



Lovers with allergies have a hard time enjoying all the sweet treats that the holidays have to offer, and that especially includes Valentine's Day since chocolate – in all its delicious forms – is the name of the game. But this year, thanks to Cocoa Canard, lactose-intolerant and celiac-suffering chocoholics can celebrate with the rest of Cupid's cocoa-covered targets with Spooning Chocolate, the first dairy- and gluten-free pure, non-bitter dark chocolate that instantly dissolves in a cup of hot water. The makers like to call it the Espresso of Hot Chocolate, but you'll probably just call it Liquid Yum. To enhance the gift-giving experience, Cocoa Canard has put together a handsome gift package, which includes a can of Spooning Chocolate, Spooning Mug, and personalized stationery. (\$24.95; [cocoacanard.com](http://cocoacanard.com))

## Secretions Magnifiques Eau de Parfum



Have you ever wanted to bottle-up the scent of a swagger, sweaty man to whiff whenever you want? Secretions Magnifiques Eau de Parfum by Etat Libre d'Orange has perfected that formula in a new scent that all at once blends sex, saliva, skin, and sandalwood (among other tantalizing aromatics) into a mesmerizing and masculine grooming spray perfect for giving the one you love – or keeping for yourself and owning your new status as a walking aphrodisiac. (\$80; [minnewyork.com](http://minnewyork.com))

## See a Heart, Share a Heart Photo Book



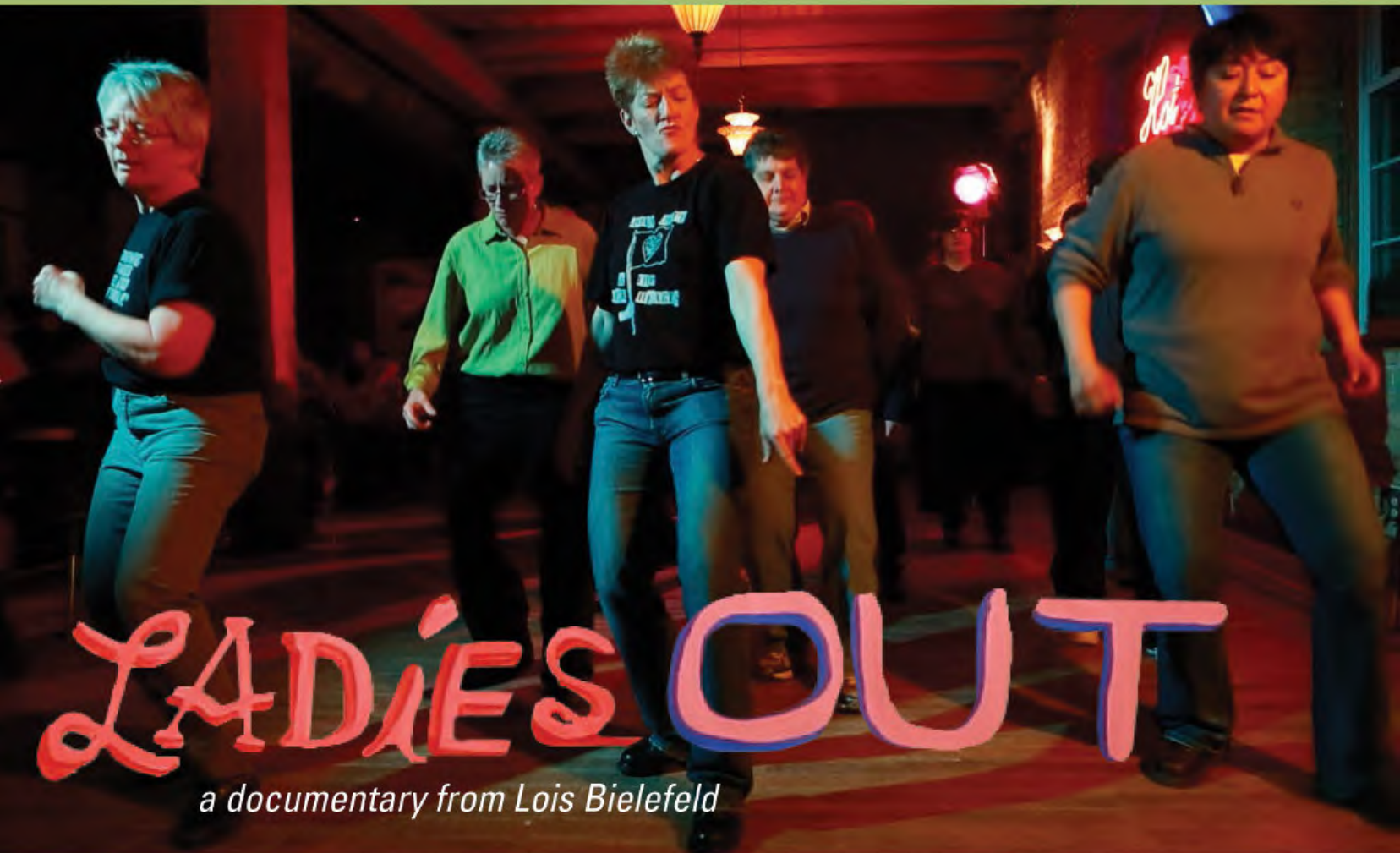
It may not seem like there's a whole lot of heart left in this wacky world we live in, but it's there – you just have to look hard enough. That's how photographer Eric Telchin stumbled upon his latest project and gift book, *See a Heart, Share a Heart*, which features found hearts in the most mundane of places – like sweaters, sidewalks, leaves, and animal fur. If you think you've already heard about this project, it's possible: Telchin's book is based on his ["Boy Sees Hearts" Tumblr](http://BoySeesHearts.com) that continues to find and release a little bit of love back into the world on a daily basis. A portion of the proceeds from sales of *See a Heart, Share a Heart* and available prints will benefit the It Gets Better Project. (\$10.70; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))

## FreshNeck Subscription

Give the debonair gift that keeps on giving this Valentine's Day with a subscription to FreshNeck, AKA the Netflix for ties. Your guy will always step out in style with this service that allows him to pick his favorite ties from a robust selection of neckwear and add them to his "Closet" (fancy name for queue), and in one to







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three business days his top picks will arrive. When he wants to switch it up again, he just sends the ties back in the provided prepaid envelope and awaits his new arrivals. FreshNeck also offers a variety of bowties, pocket squares and cufflinks so he can dress to the nines every day of the week. (\$20-\$55/month; [freshneck.com](http://freshneck.com))

#### "Eye Heart You" Artwork

If your sweetie skews a little funky with a dash of morbid, he or she might appreciate this interesting work of art entitled Eye Heart You, which spells out the affectionate sentiment of "I Love You" in a rebus – for the most part, anyway. In place of the first two words are stitched pictures that feature an eye and an anatomically correct heart, respectively, and then the word "you." The 5X7 piece is set in an ash wood frame and comes ready to hang. (\$41; [www.stillhousenyc.com](http://www.stillhousenyc.com))



#### Égalité Wine

Even if you're not a wine-and-dine couple (and who can blame you? It's totally over-rated), you can still mark this special occasion with a toast on the couch while watching reruns of "Roseanne" – and supporting the fight for equal rights while you're at it. Égalité wine, introduced early last year, is the first nationally distributed wine created in support of the LGBT equality in the United States and around the world. Meaning equality, Égalité is both



a reflection of the wine's French origin and a celebration of equality for gay Americans. Since its launch, the brand has contributed more than \$20,000 in cash and product to LGBT organizations. (\$22.99; [wine.com](http://wine.com))

#### Nasty Pig Baller Line

Turn up the heat in the bedroom this Valentine's Day – without touching the thermostat – with Nasty Pig's new Baller line of undergarments, featuring red-hot socks, briefs, and jocks sure to excite that adorable fetishist who shares your bed. Also available in green – if you're trying to send that 'go-ahead' message from the get-go – these latest additions are full of frisky pop to make his tightening denim drop. (\$16-\$29; [store.nastypig.com](http://store.nastypig.com))



#### Please Me Adult Board Game

We've all been in relationships where our lover is playing games – and not in a good way. That all changes with Please Me: The Game of Self-Discovery, an adult board game that facilitates openness and mutual discovery between partners by allowing each player to explore their intimate and sensual side in a non-threatening setting. The object of the game is to



"gems" on the sundial in one of the three winning sequences while being "pleased" along the way. When the spinner lands on your gem, you'll act out one of your Please Me cards on a player of choice (which, depending on how many players are in the game, could have interesting results). But beware: If you fail to perform a Please Me task before the timer runs out, you have to remove one of your gems. Which probably isn't so bad if you think about it; in this game, the longer you play, the better. (\$39.99; [pleasemegame.com](http://pleasemegame.com))

#### Pacific Beach Peanut Butter's "Bundle of Love"



"Wanna spoon?" is the never-more-appropriate tag line of Pacific Beach Peanut Butter whose "Bundle of Love" Valentine's gift set features three 12-ounce jars of the company's all-natural flavors, which include mouthwatering options like butterscotch, toffee, and chocolate raspberry. Founded by young entrepreneur Matthew Mulvihill, who went into business with his mom (swoon alert!), PBPB is quickly claiming its slice of the peanut-butter pie while continuing to make and fill each jar by hand from sunny San Diego. The Valentine's gift set is packaged in a festive red box and includes a spoon for immediate enjoyment. Makes a great gift for platonic peanut butter-loving friends – or for a bedroom buddy who likes to get a little nutty in the boudoir. (\$29.99; [pbpeanutbutter.com](http://pbpeanutbutter.com))

#### Impress Coffee Brewer

Cohabiting with a coffee-holic? Bring their caffeinated vice into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the Impress Coffee Brewer, a clever one-cup-at-a-time java device that combines immersion brewing and filtering with triple-walled insulation. It takes just three minutes to create 14 ounces of amazing coffee, which stays hot for hours so your peppy paramour can relax and enjoy or take it on the road. No more paper filters, electric mechanisms, or fussy coils and plungers – just press and go for a great cup of joe. Available in Vadah Black and Original Silver, Impress is perfect for coffee lovers of all ages, as well as gadget and gearheads that have to have the next best thing. (\$39.95; [www.impresscoffee.com](http://www.impresscoffee.com))



*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger who lives in New York City with his husband and their two dogs. Follow him on Twitter @mikeyrox.*

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## OUTWORDS BOOKS HOT PICKS

In honor of Black History Month, in February the **Outwords Books Hot Picks** will feature **New & Noteworthy** titles illuminating the African-American LGBT experience.

Please note: the titles listed below are just a sampling of titles on display throughout the month of February.

### For the Guys:

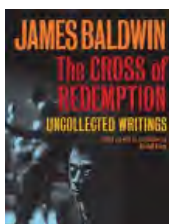
#### 1. **Lazarus,**

Rashid Darden  
Abandoned by his father and emotionally distant from his mother, Adrian feels alone – adrift on campus – until he meets Savion. Savion has just what Adrian needs: stability, maturity, and love yet their relationship is threatened by Adrian's biggest challenge: BETA CHI PHI. Finding the appeal of pledging his father's fraternity irresistible, Adrian pledges Beta Chi Phi in an attempt to fill the void in his heart, even after his relationship with Savion blossoms. Adrian knows that he must keep his relationship with Savion a secret at all costs, for if his new-found family were to learn the truth, he may have to choose... The one he loves... or his brothers.



#### 2. **The Cross of Redemption,**

James Baldwin  
**The Cross of Redemption** is a revelation by an American literary master: a gathering of essays, articles, polemics, reviews, and interviews that have never before appeared in book form. James Baldwin was one of the most brilliant and provocative literary figures of the past century, renowned for his fierce engagement with issues haunting our common history.



#### 3. **May the Best Man Win,** M. T. Pope

Kardell Spencer is a hard-working, successful advertising company owner who has a no nonsense approach to work and professionalism. Lewis Turner is Kardell's flamboyant, over-the-top employee. They are polar opposites. Mateo Lopez is a rich, handsome restaurateur and a new client for Kardell. When he takes a liking to Kardell, Kardell plays hard to get. Lewis, however, is quick to move in and makes a play for Mateo. Mateo takes control of the situation and proposes a contest to see who will be the best man for him. But Mateo has an ulterior motive that puts both men's lives in jeopardy.



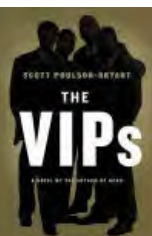
#### 4. **Mogul,**

Terrence Dean  
After the sudden death of his father, Aaron clings to music as an escape. His love for music lands him at the estate of Larry "Pop" Singleton, a Hip Hop music mogul. With the help of Pop and "the family," Aaron finds success and starts his own music label. He's signed and worked with some of the biggest Hip Hop artists in the country. One of them is Brooklyn native lyricist, "Tickman." Together they are making sweet music together. However, at the pinnacle of his career, compromising photos of Aaron land on the desk of a national news program and for the first time he is at a crossroad in his career: come out publicly with his secret or watch his music empire crumble.



#### 5. **The VIPs,**

Scott Poulson-Bryant  
On a steamy June day in New York City, mega-star rapper TNT gathers a group of four successful men together, child-



hood friends who called themselves "the VIPs," signaling the big dreams they all once had. These four men have a history and bond that could be torn apart by a night of passion one of them had long ago. The VIPs, who haven't seen one another in years, are greeted at the Hotel Gansevoort by an openly hostile TNT, who asks them the bombshell question: "Which one of you bastards is my father?"

### For the Gals:

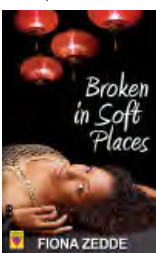
#### 1. **The EXchange,** Nikki Rashan

When readers first met Kyla, she was a confused young woman struggling with her sexuality. By the time we met her again, she was a loose philanderer, bed-hopping in her search for love. She found it with the beautiful, no-nonsense Asia. After nine years of solid commitment, Kyla has become bored. She soon finds the excitement she craves, but not in the right place. Angie, her ex turned longtime friend, is single again, and she's ready and willing to fill the void Kyla feels. Will Kyla trade the stability she has with Asia for the passion she's been missing?



#### 2. **Broken in Soft Places,** Fiona Zedde

Some mornings, Sara Chambers wakes in bed next to her girlfriend and her girlfriend's lover wondering how she ended up there. Beautiful, successful, and a force to be reckoned with at her Atlanta law firm, Sara is still powerless in her attraction to the rebellious and reckless, Rille Thompson. Now, after twenty years, Rille still pushes Sara beyond her limits, bringing a third lover into their bed. The hold Rille has over Sara—and their new lover—becomes as powerful as it is dangerous. Can Sara pull herself free in time, or will her life turn to cinders in the wake of Rille's powerful flame?



#### 3. **Full Circle,** Skyy

It's been two years since Lena decided to take time away from drama to find herself and focus on her child. But the present finds her staring at images of Denise, the one who got away. Will Lena finally move on to someone new, or go after the one she's wanted all along?



#### 4. **In Pursuit of Joi,**

Olivia Renee Wallace  
Joi McIntosh is a woman torn. She is married to the perfect husband. She is the mother of the perfect daughter. She has her own thriving business and seems to be living the perfect life. But she has secrets... secrets that haunt her dreams. Along comes Latoya Bradshaw. She's beautiful, successful, and edgy. She awakens feelings in Joi that have lain dormant for years. She reminds Joi of her past. Joi must decide on whether she wants to continue living the life of the woman that she has become or risk it all to become the woman that she once thought that she was meant to be.



#### 5. **Taking a Chance at Love,**

Kesha Pride  
Hospital policy clearly states that physicians cannot become involved with trainees. Thus the newest addition to the hospital, Dr. Tori Becker, and trainee, Dr. Kenya Jackson, are forced to ignore their mutual attraction. But that's not the only obstacle keeping them from one another. Old relationships, past flings all begin to surface. The two women must decide what lengths they are willing to go to for their chance at love.



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# Beat Box

## Hot Tracks Heating Up The Deep Freeze

By Jimmy Newsum

Most parts of the country have been suffering through their coldest winter in twenty years. Luckily, an onslaught of hot and sweaty beats is keeping the thermostats on gay dance floors pumping high. Here are the top scorchers being played now.

### "Mad" Vassy



Dust off the straight jackets, Vassy's follow-up to "We Are Young", her #1 smash featured on the soundtrack of Disney's *Frozen*, is another high-energy bootie-shaker sure to drive clubbers to the brink of insanity. Co-produced by Dave Audé and featuring slamming remixes by Cosmic Dawn, WAWA, Andy Reese, Dmitry KO, Jochen Simms and IKON, "Mad" is darker than Vassy's previous tracks but remains sexy, fun and intoxicating with a sensorial vibe. It dares clubbers to embrace their inner crazy, which many of us are more than happy to oblige.

### "Unbreakable" Sasha Gradiva

The Matinee Party headliner best known for showing up at the Grammys in a baby pink gown and a Terminator-esque rifle attached to her arm, is on a war path to claim her shot at pop stardom with a



club ready dance anthem that will likely go down as one of her classic tracks. Similar to Christina Aguilera, Gradiva uses the natural strength in her powerful voice to aggressively convey her emotions (i.e. vulnerability, naivete, and confidence to name a few). She attacks with gun's blazing and the support of a top-notch production track that crush out the vocals of a lesser singer, but not Gradiva. She's unbreakable.

### "Twilight" Aris



Clubland's newest out rocker combines a punk sensibility with electronic dance to create a unique grunge house sound all his own. It's the first track from an album inspired by the tragic death of the out artist's mother, yet "Twilight" is no downer. It's not exactly uplifting, either. It's hard, dark, underground, and grainy. Some will think it a flashback to underground Seattle rock and in fact, the song's insidious hook does seem a direct nod to Kurt Cobain. Two variations are being released simultaneously: a rock and EDM version. Both comprise the artist's gritty vocals and party-ready soundscapes.

### "Kiss My Lips" Cherie Lilly



The artist that brought us the hard thumping, sweat inducing Ballroom track "Body" returns with another barn storming party anthem designed to get fans frisky on the dance floor. Written by Lily and produced by Sweden's Lillpop, "Kiss My Lips" tells the story of a sassy miss who knows what

she wants and strikes full force. It contains more narrative than Lily's previous tracks, and the darker, dirtier, and harder beats match the lyrics perfectly. The remix package includes productions by Vjuan Allure, Richie Beretta, MikeQ, Divoli S'vere and B. Ames.

### "Am I Too Much?" Raph Solo



Best known for his sultry dance numbers, Solo ventures into the land of the love ballad this time around with a song eternal romantics will melt over. Few vocalists communicate the intensity of love, its joys, melancholy and suffering as well as Solo does. Some will mock all the schmaltz, but many more will appreciate the quality of Solo's warm velvety voice and the exceptionally beautiful orchestral backup.

### "Helen Keller" Cazwell

The latest dance floor anthem from our favorite indie hip hopper was intended to be a moom-bahton track (the latest dance trend fusing electro with reggaeton and a bit of house). On a whim, Cazwell and producer Richie Beretta experimented with a more hypnotic, four-on-the-floor pulse and happily, it convinced them to change course. They added a crunky, nineties house vibe, mixed in some trap elements, topped it off with vocals from drag superstars Manila Luzon and Roxy, and voila, a new sound in dance was born and it is killer.





# TLA Entertainment Group Sold to New York-Based Investment Firm Sterling Genesis International

New York (January 30, 2014) - TLA Entertainment Group, Inc. (TLAEG) announced today that the company has been acquired by New York-based investment firm Sterling Genesis International, LLC.

The sale includes direct to consumer brands of all digital properties including [tlamovies.com](http://tlamovies.com), [tlavideo.com](http://tlavideo.com), [tlagay.com](http://tlagay.com), [tlacult.com](http://tlacult.com) and [tlaondemand.com](http://tlaondemand.com).

G. Sterling Zinsmeyer, Chairman of Sterling Genesis International, will become Chief Operating Officer of TLAEG. Said Zinsmeyer, "TLA's powerful worldwide brand awareness, together with fresh capitalization, will enable us as a company to continue to flourish, build upon a strong infrastructure, and seize new opportunities for digital expansion in the current marketplace.'

Derek Curl, Chief Executive Officer and President of Sterling Genesis, will take on the position of Chief Executive Officer and President of TLAEG.

"With this acquisition's potential for consolidation and global expansion,

we will be able to realize even further the tremendous value TLA Entertainment Group has in the entertainment world," said Curl.

TLA Entertainment Group's current General Manager, Brian Sokel, will move into a Senior Executive management position and Jo Borasky, current Controller, will serve as CFO to aid in a successful transition for the company. TLA Releasing, owned separately by Curl, will be reintroduced into the TLAEG as part of the acquisition.

Raymond Murray, former president of TLAEG said, "Zinsmeyer and Curl are highly regarded veterans in finance and film production, with a proven track record of experience, financial savvy, and forward thinking approaches to film distribution. We look forward to a smooth transition and a bright future at TLAEG'

Eric Moore, a founding partner of TLAEG, who will stay on as the new group's Chief Technology Strategist, said, "I am excited about the new possibilities Sterling Genesis has brought to the table and I am eager to begin implementing

their new vision."

About TLA Entertainment Group  
TLA Entertainment Group, based in Philadelphia, is a privately held corporation founded in 1981. The company began as owners of the Theatre of the Living Arts, a repertory cinema as well as the Roxy Screening Rooms. In 1985, it opened the first of several award-winning video stores in the Philadelphia area and in New York City. In 1996 it launched [www.tlavideo.com](http://www.tlavideo.com), a direct-to-consumer movie site that has since expanded into the sale of DVDs and most recently, VOD. In 2000 it launched TLA Releasing, a film and video releasing company for North America. In 2005 it opened a British distribution company based in London.

Today, TLA Entertainment's primary business remains as a DVD and VOD e-tailer through its many sites including [www.tlamovies.com](http://www.tlamovies.com), [www.tlagay.com](http://www.tlagay.com), [www.tlaraw.com](http://www.tlaraw.com) and [www.tlacult.com](http://www.tlacult.com). Films TLAEG has distributed include *Latter Days*, *Another Gay Movie*, and *Mysterious Skin*.

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## GAMMA elects New Officers - Launches Membership Drive

Milwaukee GAMMA, one of southeast Wisconsin's first LGBT social organizations, elected new officers for 2014. The current officers are Bim Florek, president; Roger Kocher, Vice President; Paul Masterson, secretary; and Tom Radtke, treasurer. Founded in 1978(!), GAMMA began as an athletic association. It focused volleyball and running. Over the years, it became a social outlet for men in the greater Milwaukee suburban area and beyond. The organization boasts nearly 100 members. Beyond athletics, the group held annual parties and other group activities for its membership.

Recently voted Best Gay Association in

Milwaukee by Wisconsin Gazette, today's GAMMA offers an ever broadening spectrum of social activities. These include organized team sports like Volleyball, Frontrunners, and Monday Night Irregulars Bowling as well as sheep's head, cribbage and board games. There is also a GAMMA Cooking Group that holds monthly communal cooking-in events featuring an ethnic cuisine and GAMMA Out, a contingent that goes out on the town for fine dining, theater, and a monthly Happy Hour held at one of the city's popular watering holes. Its signature event is a monthly party at a member's home. A major Holiday Party and a summer cook-out are held annually.

GAMMA has just launched a new membership drive. The membership year is from July 1 to June 30, but new members may join any time during the year. Dues are pro-rated. Annual dues are \$36 for individuals, \$57 for two persons receiving one newsletter, or \$16 for out-of-state members. Dues are not tax deductible. For more information, call Bim Florek at (414) 418-9198. GAMMA also maintains a web site complete with all event information as well as digital copies of its newsletter. Please visit GAMMA on-line at [www.milwaukeegamma.com](http://www.milwaukeegamma.com).

And, don't forget to *Like* GAMMA on its Facebook page: GAMMAMKE





## Please Like Me • Chozen • Looking

As he prepared for his annual **Downton Abbey** theme night, Glenn wondered about the notion of Network Television scheduling.

Imagine an impossibly young Glenn wishing to watch **The Judy Garland Show** whilst the rest of the oh-so middlebrow Bishops were devoted to the decidedly homespun charms of **Bonanza**, then the 4<sup>th</sup> highest rated show on television. Back in 1963, the Big Three Networks ruled television viewing with an iron fist and just like homes of all his friends, the Bishop household boasted just the one television set.

Might Judy have come up trumps against less a less popular program? Possibly. A quick glance at the 1963/1964 television schedule finds an impressive array of variety shows including the granddaddy of them all: **The Ed Sullivan Show**. Alas, as one well familiar with Judy's fabled Christmas Show episode, the best guess is in the end, sadly, quite possibly not.

In the fifty or so years since that epic battle for Sunday-night ratings, viewers now have so many alternative viewing options; no longer are viewers required to watch television programs programmed at the whim of network executives.

What this all means is that, despite its tremendous popularity, there would be no **Downton Abbey** marathon this year. Instead there would be a decidedly eclectic night of television entertainment featuring the first episodes of three new Gay series.

Up first would be a most extraordinary animated series from a cable network called FX: **Chozen**. Next up the highly touted HBO offering, **Looking**. And finally on the Pivot network, **Please Like Me** from Aussie comic Josh Thomas.

Thinking it best to keep to what he knows best Glenn prepared simply to supply an appropriate number of vintage TV trays and an assortment of nibbles which surely would have impressed even one as demanding as Mrs. Patmore.

Others amongst Glenn's acquaintances were to be responsible for working out the viewing logistics. HBO's **Looking** is indeed a Sunday evening program but **Chozen** premiered on FX on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and **Please Like Me** can be found on **Pivot**, Glenn has on good authority, amidst an endless cycling of **Buffy the Vampire Slayer** reruns.

Now, Glenn is probably not the target audience for FX's **Chozen**. Indeed, the premise for **Chozen** was unlikely to appeal to very many

amongst those in attendance, a group far more at home with the best of Broadway and **Live from the Met** than with rap music. Still, Glenn found something refreshing about a plus-sized white ex-con gay rapper protagonist. Glenn is, after all, all about breaking down stereotypes. Sadly **Chozen** has little to do with breaking down anything.

After he's framed by disgruntled group member Phantasm (Method Man), Chozen spends ten years in prison, all the while plotting revenge. Prison has changed Chozen and not perhaps for the better. Upon his release he enlists the help of a bullied computer geek to trace the whereabouts of former group members Ricky and Crisco and quickly sets his sights on Phantasm who has spent the very same ten years becoming a superstar.

The humor, such as it is, is more often than not of the bathroom variety. **Chozen** is neither funny enough nor particularly original; think **Animal House** or worse, **Another Gay Sequel**. Still there is something endearing about Chozen as voiced by Bobby Moynihan. And there are moments of occasional genius, like when Chozen drops in at the LGBT Student group just in time for a discussion of "the Media and their portrayal of gay men as shallow oversexed deviants with no respect for family values." Hilarious.

Surely not since **QAF** has there been a gay series as hyped as HBO's **Looking** which follows three young(ish) gay men as they look for love (and sex) in that most gay of Gay Meccas: San Francisco. On the heels of his critically acclaimed **Weekend**, director Andrew Haigh could surely be counted upon to bring something fresh to this exciting new series.

In fact, **Looking** feels very much like **Weekend**, quite real and joyfully relishing the dullness of ordinary life only done as a serial for American television and with a rather larger budget. The opening episode, deliberately eschews characters back stories, literally dropping viewers into the lives of Patrick (Jonathan Groff), Augustin (Frankie J. Alvarez) and Dom (Murray Bartlett).

At least in the opening episode, Groff's Patrick, a 29 year-old video game designer, edges significantly towards the spotlight; the premiere's opening moments find Patrick getting a handjob in a public park, a scene surely meant to be awkward and funny but proves to be merely rather embarrassing. Later Patrick meets up with Benjamin (Matthew Wilkas), a hookup from a dating website called "OkCupid." Glenn imagines this encounter, too, was meant to be awkward and funny and yet again comes off embarrassing not to mention painful to watch.

Patrick as it turns out is also losing longtime roommate Augustin who has decided it is finally time to move in with his boyfriend Frank (O.T. Fagbenle). If the thought is that these two would suddenly become some sort of an old monogamist couple, forget it. Forget it the moment super cutie Scotty (Tanner Cohen) reveals

## Watch it, DVR it, or forget it...

**Please Like Me** proved an unqualified success, perhaps thanks to the lateness of the evening and extraordinary number of cocktails consumed. Still, a **Please Like Me** marathon is already in the planning stages with Glenn needing to start thinking of suitable Aussie nibbles.

And so too, HBO's **Looking** proved generally successful, admittedly with some reservation. Glenn remembers when people signed up for Showtime so as to be able to watch **Queer As Folk**, an unlikely scenario here.

And what of **Chozen** on FX? Well, let's just say Glenn is not amongst the Chozen people and leave it at that.

## Just the facts...

**Looking** produced by HBO will run 8 episodes, airing into March, 2014 All about **Looking** @ [www.hbo.com/looking](http://www.hbo.com/looking) Tanner Cohen who plays Scotty in **Looking** starred in the popular romantic comedy, **Were the World Mine**.

**Gayby's** Matthew Wilkas played Benjamin in **Looking**.

**Chozen** on FX airs at 10:30pm on Monday nights.

All about **Chozen** @ <http://www.fxnetworks.com/chozen/> The second season on **Please Like Me** is due Aug., 2014.

All about **Please Like Me** @

<http://www.pivot.tv/shows/please-like-me>

to them his smooth, lean torso, ostensibly to show off his new tattoo, of Dolly Parton's signature which he designed himself. Augustin and Frank, look literally transformed by desire, looked ready to devour the attractive young man, undoubtedly an allusion to Tennessee Williams' **Suddenly Last Summer**, mused Glenn.

Rounding out this trio is Dom who is pushing 40; a career waiter, Dom has spent too many years and far too much energy getting laid whilst letting his dream of opening his own restaurant languish amidst a sea of regret. A strongly written, genuinely funny heart-to-heart Dom has with his live-in BFF Doris (Lauren Weedman) effectively grounds a character too often left a one-dimensional stereotype.

Awkward and funny perfectly describes the most conventional of the three screened programs and no less entertaining for it, **Please Like Me**, the creation of Aussie comic Josh Thomas.

Josh Thomas is cast as Josh, a twenty year-old with a rubbish face who has just splurged on a \$19 ice cream sundae to share with girlfriend Claire (Caitlin Stasey). Only Claire has something of a bombshell in mind for Josh, telling Josh she wants to break up with him. "I kind of feel like we've drifted," she says. "Also, you're gay." Poor Josh manages a half hearted denial, more out of form than out of any sense of conviction.

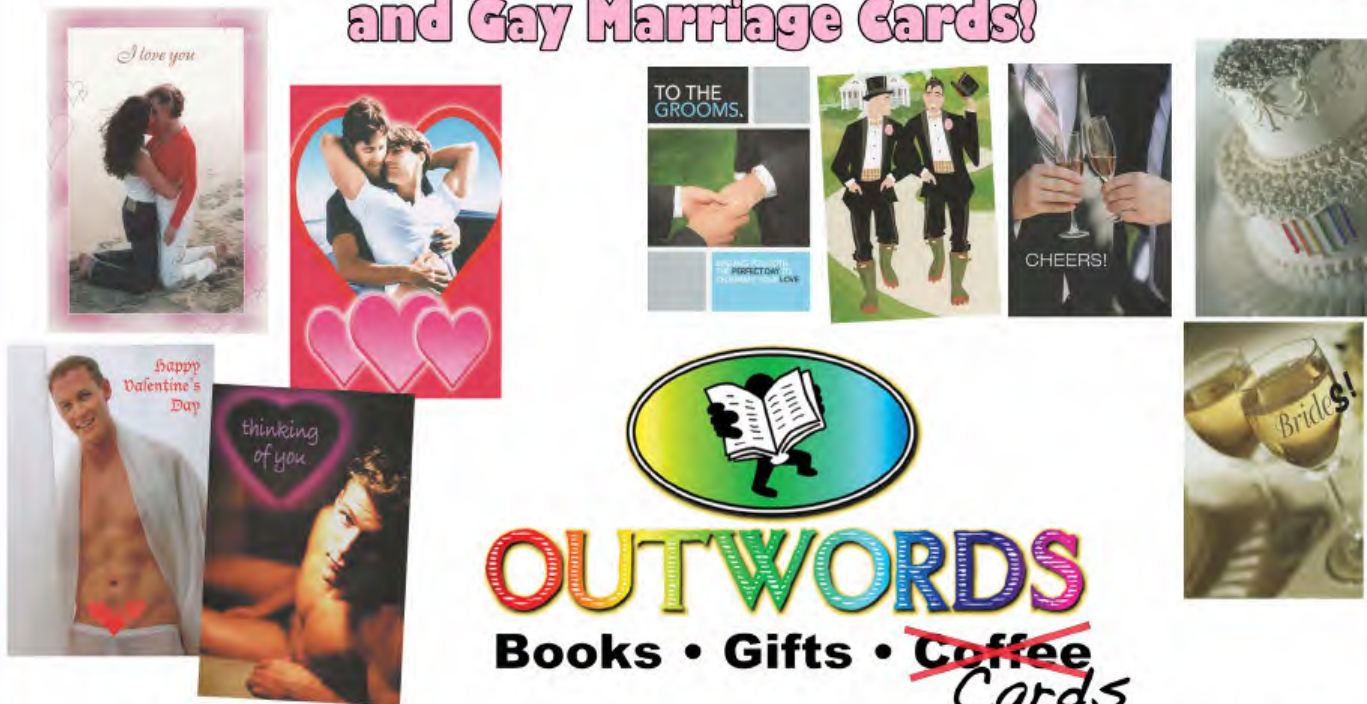
Thomas's teleplay deftly introduces the many wonderfully quirky characters who people Josh's world. There's his giraffe-obsessed best friend and roommate Tom (Tom Ward). Nobody likes Tom's girlfriend Niamh (Nikita Leigh-Pritchard) and Tom keeps insisting he's going to break up with her. Almost before Josh knows it, he has a boyfriend, Geoffrey (Wade Briggs), yet Josh is initially dubious.

"I can never really trust when someone that good-looking is into me," Josh tells Tom. "When it's somebody mediocre looking, I can appreciate why their standards are so low, but when they're that pretty I'm just like, uh, what are you hiding?"

Meanwhile, Josh's depressed mother (Debra Lawrance) has made a rather serious cry to help. Josh's father Alan (David Roberts) feels guilty about his ex-wife while rather unsuccessfully trying to please his new bride, Mae (Renee Lim). And finally there's Auntie Peg (Judi Farr), something of a religious zealot who chooses the night of Josh's first date with Geoffrey to query the size of her nephew's testicles.



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# OUT BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 13 #2 February 2014

**Below: Sister Sexy Angel hosts a Youth Gala @ Milwaukee LGBT Center as part of her Novice Project.**

Courtesy of Kraco Photography



**Hambingo at Hamburger Mary's  
Raising \$\$\$ for the  
Milwaukee LGBT Pride Parade**



Photos courtesy of Brent







# Hybrid lounge

Taken at Hybrid Lounge Milwaukee  
during the Cover contest shoot.  
Photograph: Mark Mariucci  
Assisting: Will Sharkey







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## Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Happy February, the month of love! Hopefully the January thaw will help to heat up the second month of the New Year.

Boom/The Room commemorated 14 years of serving the Community last month! Congrats! A party to mark this special Anniversary will be taking place on Friday, February 21, with all the bells and whistles – Drinks Specials, Food, Dancers – maybe even the return of the Ball Stamper! Boom is also on the market... if you have ever had the fantasy of having your own bar/lounge here is your golden opportunity! Maybe you'll even have a place for Lance, Shawn, Huck and me?

The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) has a unique exhibit for your viewing pleasure: "Uncommon Folk: Traditions in American Art" running through Sunday, May 4 in the Baker/Rowland Galleries. I love the MAM, but will miss William Keyse Rudolph who has taken on a new assignment at another Art Museum in a much warmer climate. Thanks so much for your monumental contribution here!

Tim Rice and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award Winning "Evita" brings a breath of early spring to Uihlein Hall of

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 929 North Water Street Tuesday, February 4 – Sunday, February 9. A brand new production, direct from Broadway of the classic Broadway show, a new perspective you will want to take in. For your audience with Eva Peron, and to be in the audience, please call 414-273-2787. You don't want to cry over missing this Valentine of a show!

Also included in this month's C.Y. a photo of "Joey" the Star of "War Horse", "War Horse" played



The Marcus Center last month. Unfortunately, we ran out of space for this photo... I did thoroughly enjoy this most touching play - - if you are ever in position to see it, do yourself the favor and do so. What a great way to usher in a New Year of BMO Harris Bank Broadway at The Marcus Center productions! "War Horse" Heroes Night at The Marcus raised \$6,728 to support the Center for Veteran's Issues (CVI).

"The Whipping Man" is taking the Stemke Studio of The Milwaukee Rep by storm. Matthew Lopez' gripping, award-winning, post-Civil War drama is on the boards Wednesday, February 5 – Sunday, March 16. This epic is "filled with fine characterization and unexpected moments of humor" so says The New York Times. The Civil War may be over, but for some the struggle has just begun!

The Rep's Quadracci Powerhouse provides "An Iliad" adapted by Homer, by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, Translation by: Robert Fagles, and Features James DeVita. A must see tour-de-force performance. Tuesday, February 25 – Sunday, March 23.

Hollis Resnik IS Judy Garland in "End of the Rainbow" this show is the living end! A must see for any Judy Fan, Friend of Dorothy, or anyone who enjoys seeing an actor embody, explain, and define an icon. In a word brilliant! This opus is playing through Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – you won't regret investing in this one! Brava to Ms. Resnik and Bravo to Mark Clements who directed this masterpiece.

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Milwaukee Leadership Awards takes place on Saturday, February 8 The Hyatt Regency Milwaukee Regency Ballroom 333 West Kilbourn Avenue. Cocktails at 6:30 p, Dinner at 7:30 p, Program at 8 p Keynote Speaker Kate Bornstein, Kate is a performance artist and playwright who has authored several award-winning books in the field of Women and Gender Studies, should make for a fascinating presentation. The Award Recipients are all rather fascinating in their own right: Tammy Baldwin, Statewide Impact Award – Domestic Partnership Legal Challenge Couples, Community Advocate of the Year – Kenosha County Board, Organization of the Year – Cream City Foundation, Activist of the Year – Ray Vahey – for a life time of advocacy. To RSVP and be a part of this fascinating evening: [fairwisconsineducationfund.com/leadership](http://fairwisconsineducationfund.com/leadership)

Valentine's weekend can be a pure romantic songfest with "Festa Fiorentina" – a revue of love songs starring the Florentine Opera Studio Artists and Sponsored by: Glen & Claire Hackmann. Friday, February 14, Saturday, February 15, and Sunday, February 16 in Vogel Hall of The Marcus Center. Please call 414-291-5700 # 224 or 1-800-32-OPERA # 224 to reserve a place for you and that special someone. The Florentine Opera Company is currently in a whirlwind of celebration, in honor of their 80<sup>th</sup> Season! What better way to say "Happy Birthday" than by investing in the Company by purchasing tickets to their fine performances.

Renaissance Theaterworks proudly presents "The Understudy" by Theresa Rebeck now through Sunday, February 9. This fascinating play is directed by Mallory Metoxen. An unpredictable comedy if there ever was one! Come and enjoy the making of a Broadway premiere. Renaissance Theaterworks is a theater company that celebrates women – but Not for women only!

Aiming for something high this season? The Sky-light Music Theatre mounts "In The Heights" the 2008 Tony and Grammy Award-Winning musical about life in the tight-knit community where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. Conceived by and Music & Lyrics by: Lin-Manuel Miranda, Book by: Quiarra Algeria Hudes all taking place in the sumptuous Cabot Theatre currently running through Sunday, February 23.

Michael Pink's Milwaukee Ballet season continues gloriously with "Winter Series" Thursday, February 13 – Sunday, February 16 pushing the boundaries of Ballet! To be a part of the magic, please call: 414-902-2103, taking place in the lush setting of Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center.

A variety of options to celebrate love, romance, and avoid cabin fever by supporting the Arts. You won't have to choose, why not go to all?

The Holidays, now seem light years away – but I applaud This Is It and their fun/camp salute to the Season and a legendary Television Star – "A Betty White Christmas" What fun! A tribute that I think would truly tickle Mrs. Allen (Password) Ludden, our favorite "Golden Girl". Bravo to the Golden Staff of This Is It – George, Jerry Gin&Tonic, Donny,

James, Jed, Jesse, Joe, John, Nelson, Tom, and Tyler. I'm sure Shorewood Florist Dale Servais had something to do with the glamorous execution and it was a kick to hear Ms. White recite in the loo!

Fluid decked their halls tres chicly as well! Lizzie did a flawless job with their dazzling chandeliers – very Currier & Ives meet Liberace! A stunning look indeed! As stunning as their Crew: Bill, Jon, Roy, Puddy, John Mark, Natasha, John and etal.

Boom/The Room pleased their patrons with the traditional "Polish", upside down Christmas Tree. A space saver, that provides a warm glow to The Room. Thanks to all you stout-hearted Darlings who joined Maple Veneer, Goldie Adams, and Cordially Yours for our "Musical Christmas Card". What a great time! Thanks Lance, Shawn, Huck, and David for getting us all in that Holiday mode!

Kruz never disappoints with their real tree, the smell, the size, the ornaments, even a train around the base of the majestic evergreen! A taste of yesteryear – Jerry, Serge, Nicky, Bobby, Ryan, Steve, Chris, Ginger and the Rest helped in making our Season bright! What fun I had at the Castaway's Sunday Beer Bust and I don't even drink the stuff! The sensual Sir Steve Seefeldt, Tall Keith, Steve of Uncle Ned's Consignment Liquidation & Estate Sales – the best there is on the south side, Jimmy Strange, Drew, Dan Riedl, Mark Powers, The Trailer Sisters, Eduardo, Doug, and an assortment of men in "Union Suits" adding so much testosterone to the Event.

The Harbor Room was festooned in Holiday décor as well – a swell job done by Brian! The H.R. Staff of Brian, Cookie Sue, Jeremy, Jorge, Randy – what a hoot he is late nights and all the others that bring so much to our Community, as well as our Hosts – Gregg & Eddie are the best. I think it's a tie, the Christmas decorations or the Customers which were lit brighter? (Not to mention the Staff!) The H.R. Regulars like Jamie Taylor and The Trailer Sisters holding court add to the fun here.

Hybrid Lounge had their balls hanging from the ceiling, and a big bag full of goodies hanging above the door... We all know the goodies at The Hybrid aren't hanging from the ceiling -- it's those hotties sitting on each side of you at the bar! Or perhaps the ones servicing you from across the bar – Bill, Patrick, Nate, Matt, Jason, Jake, John, Matt, Ryan all exceptional bartenders! You voted and invested in Rainbow Over Wisconsin and The Milwaukee LGBT Pride Parade and your voice made Cover Boys out of the two handsome gents gracing the cover of this month's issue. Congratulations job well done! Don't forget Hybrid has a great Sunday Brunch and Nightly Dinner options to enjoy! And seeing we're in Brew City – Hybrid also offers a fabulous Friday Night Fish Fry.

Woody's is always a favorite for the Game! Be it The Green Bay Packers or The Badgers! Once you fill this old-time tavern with all the Jocks, Ball Fans, Sports Fans, etc... – your eyes could care less about decorations – unless they have a pulse! LOL! Great job Toby & Curt, Wes, Jeff, Roman, Mikey, and the rest of your Team.

Club Charlies – The Straightest Gay Bar or is it

the Gayest Straight Bar? A question to ponder for the ages – always one of the most colorful spots in The Historic Third Ward to visit and Craig & Dawn wouldn't have it any other way! I always enjoy a cup of good cheer there – whether or not it's the Holidays, they're always celebrating! Congratulations on your new addition Fred!

Taylor's on Jefferson & Wells, across from Cathedral Square, as festive outside, as in! Dan Taylor always goes above and beyond! How can he not with his sensational bartenders: Carolyn, Sharon, Nick, Tony, Courtney – to name but a few who always make sure your glass is filled and the night is right!

Yet another night spot to add to your places of interest - Romo's Silver City Sports Bar 3530 West National Avenue (36<sup>th</sup> & National Avenue). Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy Romo West and her husband are your hosts here. They just opened recently and I popped in for a sip over the holidays and to wish them well on this new venture. Peggy was thrilled to share that Gregg & Eddie from The Harbor Room had paid a call earlier, welcoming them to the area and the business of adult beverages.

Larry & John hosted their last Holiday bacchanal! Due to my Fridays, Show Tunes, at The Room, I was absent, but heard it was like all their other parties, a barn burner! No one knows how to amass a group of desirables like these two!

Tim's & Michael's NYE Cocktail Party was a hit and a great way to say good bye to 2013 and hello to 2014! The Newlyweds gathered a great mix to sip, graze, giggle, and enjoy! Special kudos to Jon's Seafood Spread and his dip was tasty too!

Jack Eigel's Holiday Soiree was one not to miss! I still can't figure out how all those people fit in his fascinating home, rubber walls? Artist Jack Lake and his Gourmet wife LeeAnne, Marty Hintz & Pam Percy, Jackie B, Kate, KLH's Marilyn Mee – sharing her latest passion raising funds for the Dog Squad of the Milwaukee Police Department, Daniel from Watts, Dan Taylor of People's Park and Taylor's, Jerry Gin&Tonic, Kevin & Jason and Tiffany, and the list goes on, all enjoying the best the Season had to offer. Kudos to Jack for having the most tastefully appointed back yard!

Betty Who -- that's her name, not a question took The Pabst Theatre Pub by storm! Yes the golden voiced thunder from down under (Australia) a viral video hits Starlet since last fall made quite a debut. Looking like the love child of Lady GaGa and Pink – very tall, strikingly attractive, platinum blonde beauty had every one on their feet! Her Getaway Tour which brought her to town via Ohio and continued to Madison is quite the Star on the rise. Her most popular tune – "Somebody Loves You" a love song was used at a Home Depot when a handsome fellow proposed to an equally handsome fellow. Please YouTube her or go to her Web Page You too will be impressed. Paul, The Pub bartender filled our glasses as Debbie & Monique, Scott Wallace, Jim, Roger RamJet, Bjorn & Jonathan, Michale Takach & Chris Francis, and many, many more saw history in the making... The next time Betty Who plays The Pabst it will be





Betty Who photo courtesy of Roger K

the Main Theatre.

Thanks for the great feedback I received from last month's Cordially yours. I must give a shout out to Greg Gowdy who captured the wed-

ding in picture form for all of us to enjoy! Watch out Annie Liebovitz!

It's always hard to end a column, especially when you have to end, with an end... It saddens me greatly to share the news that Andrew (Drew) Kovalski AKA "Bambi" has died at only 43. You all remember Drew as the very popular and friendly Bartender from The Ball Game and then Fluid. I can't tell you how many Shows we did together, he was always participating in Fund Raisers and helping out for the greater good. Drew is survived by his life partner of over six years Wes Le Mieux AKA Goldie Adams. Please keep good thoughts and vibes going their way. Take a bow, Miss Bambi and rest in peace, good show! A special gathering to remember this special friend will take place on Saturday, February 8 - 7 p.m. at Woody's.

Food time: New Year's Day was ushered in this year with a bit of a continental flare, by brunching at Chez Jacques on South First Street. The Champagne was flowing and exotic dishes that would have pleased the palate of Marie Antoinette were enjoyed by one and all! I thought our table with Newlyweds Tom Reed & Jon Martin and Brian Buchberger & Andy Schaidler, Jay Reinke and Roger RamJet was impressive until Jack Eigel came in with a table of 22! Chez Jacques is in the Historic Walker's Point neighborhood offering Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner - Tuesday - Sunday 11 am - 9 pm Bon Appetite! Why not feast here on the feast of the Valentine?

Wishing all of my Valentines out there a wonderful month of love! Keep warm - and aremember it's the glamor, not the grammar - until next time, I'll remain Still Cordially Yours,.

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Photos by Will Sharkey







February is finally here, Wait why was I excited about February? Ah well not like it matters, But since I have the space let's kick off this month with another healthy dose of Shameless pugs for Pridefest and the Pride Parade. Both are starting their gear up to 2014 so you may want to check out their websites at [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com) and [www.prideparademke.org](http://www.prideparademke.org) respectively, also don't forget to follow them on Facebook.

So I decided to break with tradition this February, and instead of writing about genital piercings we are going to talk about a few facial piercings. So let's get to it!

There are so many things you can get pierced on your face it is hard for me to figure out where to start. I guess we will start at the top and work our way down. First you have the eyebrow piercing, fashionable yet wonderfully understated. Eyebrows are a great way to show off a great jaw line or showing off your jaw while you put it to good use! (Damn it hands stop writing dirty! I get all excited and have to stop writing

then!) Next you have the ear piercings, from the lobes to the cartilage and everything in between, these are a great way to express yourself while making sure you still have a job when you walk into work with them. You also then have the nostril piercing; these have become very popular as they make a person look delightfully trashy while still allowing them to cling to "high morals." (Yea, high morals, maybe there heels are high in the air! See I did it again!)

After the nostril you start getting in the mouth, I know all of you are happy to hear me talk about something you can really get inside of! (God f@\*cking Damn it! I am really going to beat myself up over this column!) Anyway, lip piercings have become very fashionable in this day in age, why I haven't a clue but I think it has something to do with those cute punk kids standing in the corner. Also when talking about piercings around the mouth you have to talk about the tongue piercing. (I bet you read this whole column just waiting for this!) The tongue piercing has roots that go way back,

but it has become very popular and remains that way to this day. The tongue piercing has, for a long time, been associated with oral sex and making it better. For me I won't lie, sometimes it gets in the way and other times it makes me. . . . (You will have to get me very drunk to get the rest of that sentence out of me!) Either way there are all sorts of fun attachments you can put on it to get different sensations like smooth, hard, even spikes! (Owww, sorry I just think that would hurt. But of course we can't forget about our kinky counterparts. Gottah love them for doing what they do. Damn it I messed my pants again think about what they do!) Other than that I think that about wraps it up for facial piercings. Let's move along to some reader mail.

**Dear Brent,**

*My lover says that I am too fat to get a navel piercing. What should I tell her? --Suzi*

Well Suzi first off thanks for writing in, and secondly I would tell her to get her sh\*t and go! My personal belief is that if someone you care about is calling you fat and saying that you're not good enough for something then they are not good enough for you. As far as actually being too fat to get your navel pierced, that is a giant load of horsy poop! I have pierced women of all sizes and to be very honest it does not matter. As long as you take care of it and keep it clean you will be fine. Thanks a lot for writing in.

Don't forget, if you have a question or problem related to body piercing just write me at [avantgarde@voyager.net](mailto:avantgarde@voyager.net), I will answer your questions as soon as I possibly can.

Also don't forget about the Pride Parade & Pridefest, Check out their websites at [www.prideparademke.com](http://www.prideparademke.com) and at [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com) and find them on Facebook as well!! Until next time have a great February and a Happy Valentine's Day!

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