

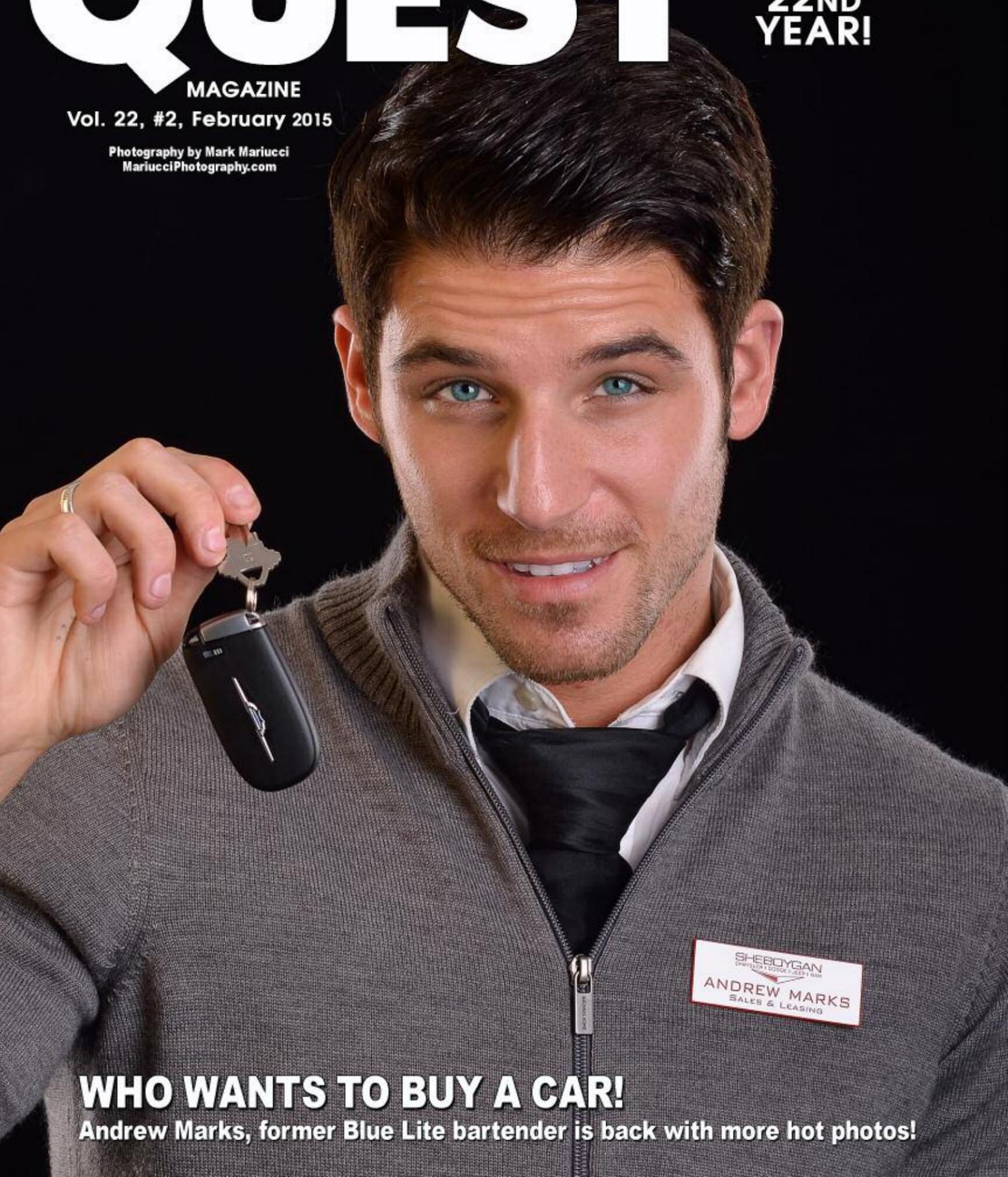
# QUEST

MAGAZINE

Vol. 22, #2, February 2015

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**A PASSION FOR FASHION – MAM OPENS “INSPIRING BEAUTY – 50 YEARS OF EBONY FASHION FAIR”** By Paul Masterson

The Milwaukee Art Museum invites you to a new take on fine art – the art of fashion. With its latest major exhibit, *Inspiring Beauty – 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair*, we are transported not only into the world of Haute Couture but also into a moment of contemporary African-American history. And, of course, there's a major gay connection.

The story begins with a savvy African-American publishing magnate, John Johnson who, in 1945, began a line of magazines targeting the African-American reader. One was *Ebony Magazine*. Mirroring the popular “Life Magazine”, *Ebony* focused on all aspects of popular culture in a black American context. Its intention was to raise black awareness and appreciation of its own contributions. It included a fashion column. That column, through the efforts of the publisher's wife, Eunice Johnson, evolved into a living exercise, the *Ebony Fashion Fair*. A traveling fashion show, it toured as many as 180 cities, including Milwaukee, each year. Venues varied from magnificent hotel ballrooms to high school gymnasiums. Mount Mary University provided Milwaukee's site for well over a decade. In fact, next to the 67 ensembles on view, an additional 13 garments in the show come from the Mount Mary collection.

Beginning in 1958, the *Ebony Fashion Fair*



provided a platform for exclusive fashion designers to become accessible to the burgeoning African-American middle class. It also raised African-American designers to the status of such highly regarded names as Yves Saint Laurent, Givenchy, and dozens of others by showing their work alongside these great fashion icons. Of course, it wasn't quite as simple as that. Civil rights were not quite in place and the Johnsons confronted their share of

racism and discrimination. When Eunice Johnson approached the Parisian fashion houses, she was initially met with skepticism and, in some cases, refusal. Once she put money on the table, most designers were willing to sell to her, but others, like Chanel, would not allow their creations to be worn by black models and sold to black buyers.

The exhibit begs the obvious question, is fashion really art? In today's consumer world where even major names in the design business are selling their wares through more pedestrian outlets, we may need a lesson in exactly what the fashion is about. We first need to learn the nomenclature of the world of design and Haute Couture. For most, Haute Couture simply means expensive “designer” clothes. About the only thing correct about that definition is “expensive.” Haute Couture (HC) is beyond expensive. For most it is unfathomably expensive – say \$200,000 expensive. But, beyond the cost, a garment has to fulfill a litany of criteria to be considered HC. To make an easy comparison, it's like Champagne. That is, it can only be from one specific source and made under certain highly regulated controls. No matter how sparkly, expensive or exclusive, there is no other Champagne than that produce in the Champagne region. Likewise, HC must

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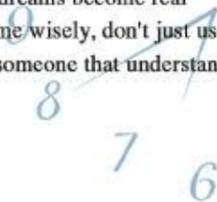
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be made in France by a designer who is a French citizen and a member of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture. HC garments must be entirely hand-made, of the finest materials, and be produced in a studio (atelier) in Paris with at least 15 full time craft-people on staff. Suffice it to say, the customer base is limited. There are fewer than HC 2000 clients world-wide of which only 200 are active buyers.

Aside from the exclusivity, craftsmanship and creative aspects of fashion as art, it is easy to find other common artistic elements. Color, line, and shape as well as the cultural influences that identify artistic movements, from classic to abstract and post-modern, are also integral to both. They both share inherent sculptural and architectural qualities as well. And, fashion, like art, is timeless.

The gay connection is obvious. Fashion wouldn't be fashion without the LGBT element. Among the 52 designers represented in the exhibit, many, like Givenchy, Alexander McQueen, Patrick Kelly and Yves Saint Laurent among others, were gay. Both Kelly and Yves Saint Laurent died of AIDS. Kelly was one of few foreign designers who were invited to join the Chambre Syndicale. In order to become a member, Kelly became a French citizen.

Among the events held in conjunction with Inspiring Beauty several explore the LGBT influence and impact on the fashion industry. A special lecture "A Queer History of Fashion" is scheduled for March and MAM After Dark in April features a fashion show with Diverse & Resilient. LGBT Film/Video Festival director Carl Bogner introduces a fashion conscious film series at MAM beginning February 22.

For more information of these events and *Inspiring Beauty 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair* go to the Milwaukee Art Museum website, mam.org.

## INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP'S COMING TO MADISON AUGUST 2015

**MADISON** - The Madison Area Sports Commission (MASC) is pleased to announce that the 2015 International Gay & Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA) will be holding their North American Championships in the Greater Madison area August 9-15, 2015 at Reddan Soccer Park in Verona. The Madison Area Youth Soccer Association (MAYSA) is a co-host of the American soccer event. The IGLFA North American Championships tournament will feature approximately 250 competitors and their partners/family members. Organizers are expecting teams from all over North America to compete. The estimated economic impact of this weeklong event is just over \$333,000 according to MASC estimates. "We're excited to be hosting this North American Championship here in the Greater Madison area," said Jamie Patrick, MASC's vice-president. "Madison is the ideal destination to showcase this event as it dovetails perfectly with our affinity for soccer and our universal love of people that our progressive city embodies," he added.

"We are very excited to host the 2015 IGLFA North American Championship II at MAYSA's Reddan Soccer Park. IGLFA's mission and enthusiasm for soccer are going to make our fa-

cility a very fun place to be in the middle of August if you are a fan of The Beautiful Game" said Chris Lay, Executive Director of MAYSA and Reddan Soccer Park.

The IGLFA was founded in 1992 in order to help promote and foster the growth of LGBTQ football worldwide. Since IGLFA's creation, more than 100 teams/clubs representing over 30 countries have joined and participated at IGLFA competitions. Each of these teams/clubs has played a vital role in helping IGLFA uphold its mission of "Equality through Football," according to co-president Kimberly Hadley.

"The International Gay and Lesbian Football Association) is extremely pleased to have the 2015 IGLFA North American Championship II hosted by one of the most progressive cities in the USA, Madison, Wisconsin. It's also exciting to know that Madison is one of the Top 10 sporting cities in the country so we should see a great local participation as well.

We are very excited to have the tournament hosted at a top quality venue and by experienced hosts who are working closely with our organization to put on a very enjoyable experience. We look forward to a fabulous tournament in a fantastic city!" she added.

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

by Mikey Rox

Christmas hasn't been gone for long, 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 holiday time, 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.

### Kiss Pillows and Paintings

Contemporary artist Olesya Robison gives puckery pouts the glam-rock treatment in her



Kiss collection, featuring oil-on-canvas conversation starters and in-your-face throw pillows with just the right amount of pop. The former - officially titled "Candy Crush Kiss" - features 24k gold flakes imported from France and genuine Swiss Swarovski crystals, while the latter gives your urban space a splash of champagne wishes and caviar dreams via one sultry smooch. \$65-\$1,000; [olyrobinson.com](http://olyrobinson.com)

### The Gay Gospel

Twenty-something singles don't have to spend another lonely Valentine's Day down in the dumps when they can curl up with a confidence-boosting book. Author Justin Luke Zirilli's *The Gay Gospel* levels the



playing field for today's young gay men with his no-nonsense but oft-hysterical advice on everything from sex and dating to family and finances. Couples, too, can enjoy this quick guide to love, relationships and everything in between that Broadway star Billy Porter calls "definitely concise, incredibly lean, yet amazingly practical." From \$6.95; [justinlukenyc.com](http://justinlukenyc.com)

### 360 Mini Massager

Instead of outsourcing your lover's spa-quality shiatsu session, get hands-on at home this year with Moji's 360 Mini Massager - the perfect palm-sized device to help put a little passion back in the bedroom. Equipped with seven rotating steel spheres to help ease the tension out of the toughest spots, this flexible massager features an adjustable clasp for a contoured fit so the two of you can take turns getting knotty - er, naughty - all night. \$29.95; [gomoji.com](http://gomoji.com)



### Nip+Man

If your bae is focused on staying buff (lucky you!), Nip+Man male grooming products will help him stay studly and cuddly while enhancing that bargin' bod. More than just a skin care line for men, this range of products - billed as incorporating a "number of plastic surgery alternatives" - are designed to emphasize natural contours and improve skin texture. Lineup includes the usual suspects like facial wash and after-shave lotion, but there also are more manly additions like Pec Fix, Bicep Fix, and Ab Fix, the names of which alone will make you want to rip off his clothes. \$60.84; [GNC.com](http://GNC.com)



### Bits of Love Jewelry

If you're not quite ready to take the legal plunge with your main squeeze, Bits of Love jewelry can help you effectively express your four-letter affection without signing an anxiety-inducing lifelong contract. Each solid-sterling silver ring is handcrafted in the United States, and a portion of sales benefit Street Poets Inc., a poetry initiative for at-risk youth that believes in the power of words to transform. \$95; [bitsoflovestyle.com](http://bitsoflovestyle.com)



### Perfect Reject Plush Sculptures

There's a certain beauty in our own flaws - and those of our better halves - and that concept has never been captured more poignantly than by Perfect Reject, plush sculptures that aptly celebrate difference and diversity in a tattered-and-torn collection of misfit dolls. With an emphasis on tolerance and compassion, these handcrafted keepsakes are as unique as the love between you and your S.O., and each one is a testament to the resilience and imperfection of your individual relationship. Available in a wide array of animals and pop-culture icons, there's a Perfect Reject to fit every personality. \$150-\$375; [perfectreject.com](http://perfectreject.com)



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#### Whiskey Explorers Club

Does your honey have an affinity for high-end hooch? Send your message of love by the bottle with the Whiskey Explorers Club, a one-time or quarterly gift set that packs a powerful punch. Each For Whiskey Lovers shipment contains four 50mL flights of premium whiskey labeled with a generic code. To find out what brand of whiskey they're tasting, your too-cute connoisseur can turn the experience into an interactive game where they'll provide tasting notes and ratings while enjoying a rousing edition of My Whiskey IQ. From \$75; [forwhiskeylovers.com](http://forwhiskeylovers.com)

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world, including CNN.com, The Huffington Post, The Advocate, Instinct magazine, and Out.com, among many others. He lives in Manhattan with his husband and their cuddle-buddy furbaby. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

## The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and INCLUDE present it gets better

A week of community awareness, conversation, celebration and song featuring members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles

**APPLETON** - One of the most challenging issues among today's LGBT young adults and adolescents is bullying. For one week this February, the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and INCLUDE will put a spotlight on this issue in the Fox Valley community.

*it gets better*, Feb. 16-21, is a performing arts response to the difficult issue of bullying led by members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA). The weeklong residency will feature two public performances and 10 residency activities including school visits and community conversations that will impact approximately 5,000 students and adults. A community choir made up of approximately 50 local singers will also perform with the cast during the Saturday evening performance.

"Our mission for the week is to rally the community around the central issue of bullying and promote a welcoming, inclusive and safe Fox Valley community for all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity," said Chad Hershner, co-chair of INCLUDE.

The *It Gets Better* project began in 2010 when Dan Savage and his partner Terry Miller were inspired to take action after being moved by too many stories of young lives being cut short as a result of bullying and isolation, especially students who identified as LGBT.

GMCLA was established in 1979 to bring an end to homophobia and discrimination of all kinds through entertainment and education. The chorus has been working with students since 2008 with their first residency, the Alive Music Project. The *it gets better* program combines elements of both projects into one powerful week-long residency.

"The performing arts gives us a platform to launch a discussion that might be too difficult for many youth to start in everyday life," said Amy Gosz, director of programming and community engagement for the Fox Cities P.A.C. "For every student that participates in a residency activity we are encouraging conversation and reinforcing that all people deserve respect."

#### PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

*it gets better piano bar*  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center  
Kimberly-Clark Theater

Tickets: \$35  
Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles Presents  
*it gets better*

Saturday, Feb 21, 7:30 pm  
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center  
Thrivent Financial Hall

Tickets: adults \$15, students \$7.50

Tickets go on sale Friday, Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. in person at the Fox Cities P.A.C. ticket office. Tickets are also available on Ticketmaster online and by phone at (800) 982-2787. Additional fees may apply.

GMCLA will host residency activities at the following high schools: Appleton East, Appleton North, Appleton West, Kaukauna, Menasha and Neenah. The public is invited to attend and participate in community conversation at the following events:

LGBT Partnership Meeting, a program of Goodwill Industries NCW (students ages 14-18) Mon., Feb. 16, 4:53:30 p.m. Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley  
160 S. Badger Ave, Appleton

World Café Event Thursday, Feb. 19, 6-9 p.m.  
UW-Fox Valley 1478 Midway Road, Menasha  
*it gets better Journey* Friday, Feb. 20, 12-1 p.m.  
UW-Fox Valley 1478 Midway Road, Menasha

## ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

### A Review by Paul Masterson

The Skylight Music Theatre continues its season of Fantasy and Fairy Tale themed works with a production of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty's musical, *Once on this Island*. Nominated for numerous Tony Awards, it received an Olivier Award for Best Musical in 1994.

Set on a Caribbean Island, the story revolves around the forbidden love of a dark skinned peasant girl for a light skinned son of a wealthy land owner. Based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*, it revisits the themes of social disparities, prejudice, and the power of the human spirit. Directed and co-choreographed (with Lee Palmer) by special guest, former Skylight Artistic Director Bill Theisen, *Island* brings exuberant dance, vibrant color and heart-warming emotion to break the gloom of our dark Milwaukee winter.

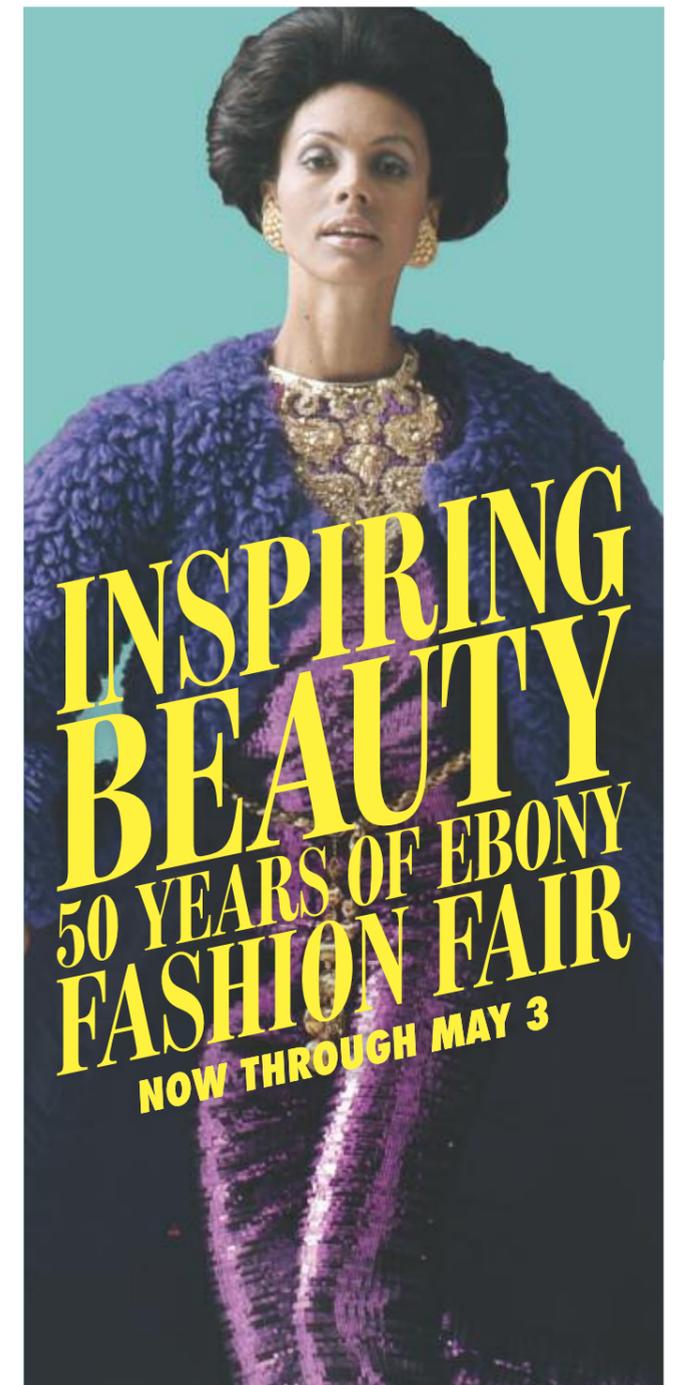
The piece is intriguing for its use of Voodoo gods as the tale's propelling forces. Asaka, mother of the Earth (Raven Dockery); Papa Ge, Demon of Death (Bill Jackson); Erzulie, Goddess of Love (Cynthia Cobb); Agwe, God of Water (Shawn Holmes) are not merely distant deities. They interact with the islanders as part of their daily lives and personify emotions, life's realities, love and death. As a compliment, Ken Goldstein's wonderful set design envelopes the cast in its repetitive circular forms implying the island as life itself. It is a perpetual cycle of nature where time is merely a human imposition. Loyce Arthur's clever costume design provides bright colors and island textile patterns not only as tropical references but also to reinforce the natures of the iconic Voodoo gods, like Erzulie in blood red and Papa Ge in his top hat and tails of an undertaker. Under the baton of music director Shari Rhoads, the five member orchestra brings an Afro-Caribbean sound with Calypso rhythms and percussive underpinning to further transport us to an island fantasy.

*Island's* plot itself reflects voodoo symbolism of ancestors and their protective powers. At the beginning of the play, the play's heroine, Ti Moune (Kanova Johnson) is saved from a flood by being placed in a tree by the god, Agwe. At the end, her tragedy is resolved again by the gods turning her into a tree.

A narrative driven piece, dances and songs provide emotional stages as the fable's arch develops. At first, a bit tentative, one settles in to it. The cast of gods and leads also play the roles of the islander-storytellers and aristocrats. Among the stand outs is Holmes' powerful rendition of "Rain". He and Dockery are young performers who are coming on strong with frequent appearances at the Skylight and elsewhere. Johnson as Ti Moune offers a classic heroine with resolute presence and a voice to match. Jackson's sonorous bass compliments his character as the Demon, Papa Ge but also provides richness in the ensemble pieces.

*Once on this Island* is performed without intermission and runs approximately 80 minutes. A handy tissue is recommended.

For ticket information go to [www.skylightmusictheatre.org](http://www.skylightmusictheatre.org)



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Marc Bohan for Christian Dior, Evening Ensemble, Fall/winter 1968-69. Courtesy of Johnson Publishing Company.

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## NEW ON DVD **Pride** By Glenn Bishop

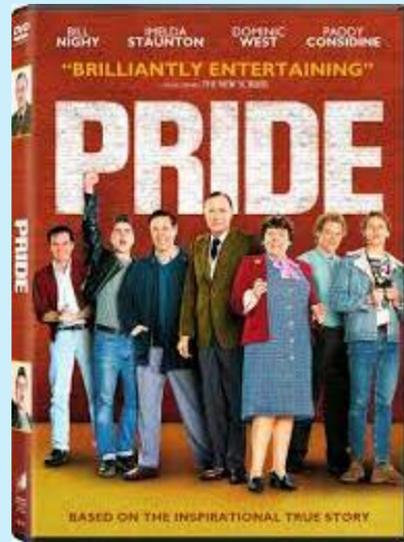
Who doesn't remember that first time walking into a gay bar? Or their first Pride March, for that matter? Loyal *Quest* readers, imagine if you can a much younger, rather less cynical Glenn. The year is 1978 and Glenn is parked a block or so from now legendary gay nightclub The Factory, where the Broadway Theatre Center is currently located. Even from outside, Glenn could hear that now all too familiar disco beat, beckoning. It is Glenn's first time going to a gay bar. How many times on that cold winter's night would Glenn walk up to the entrance only to lose courage and ever so nonchalantly walk around the block yet again?

Many such memories came to mind for the group of gentlemen of a certain age who form Glenn's monthly cinematic circle, thanks to a terrific new film, **Pride**.

Recalling such wonderful films as *Billy Elliot*, *The Full Monty* and *Brassed Off*, director Matthew Warchus' **Pride** is inspired by the efforts of a small activist group, Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, to show solidarity with and raise money for the striking coal miners.

The idea comes from activist Mark Ashton (the excellent Ben Schnetzer) who understands that they, gay men and lesbians, and the miners were fighting the same battle against the same enemies: Margaret Thatcher, seen at her loathsome best in a brief news clip, the Police, the public and especially, the tabloid press. At the 1984 Pride March, Mark convinces his friend Mike (Joseph Gilgun) and others to take pails to collect money instead of carrying the agreed upon banner, "Give it to the lesbians, they love a banner."

Their efforts result in them raising over £200 as well as founding the fledgling Lesbian and Gays Support the Minders or LGSM. Yet even as this small group continues to raise money, pail in hand, they have trouble finding anyone who is willing to take it, "they don't want to take the money because we're puffs (and a



dyke)."

Even after being given the cold shoulder by the National Union of the Mineworkers, the intrepid LGSM members remain determined. Gethin (Andrew Scott), owner of the Gays the Word Bookshop which the LGSM call home, suggests the group try calling the mining group in Dulais Valley in South Wales. Success! A meeting with the union rep Dai Donovan (Paddy Considine) is soon arranged, "So, LGSM. What does that stand for, then?"

Despite this early miscommunication, all are soon fast friends; Mark inviting Dai to their local for a pint, later urging the union rep to give a speech. Here Dai more than proves his mettle, winning over an initially doubtful gay pub crowd with a winning message boasting equal measures of friendship and eloquence.

Eventually, after some considerable and quite heated debate, the Onllwyn Miners' Welfare decides to return the favor and invite members of LGSM to their little village, in thanks for their continued support.

What sort of reception will the striking miners give Mark and the others of the LGSM?



### Buy it, Rent it, or forget it...

A gay group raising money for striking miners in 1980s Thatcherite Britain seems such an improbable idea for a film's narrative, that it is impossible to not believe that **Pride** must be based on a true story. To his credit, Stephen Beresford's screenplay is by all accounts extraordinarily faithful to real life events, whilst remaining doggedly determined to keep upbeat.

Unabashedly manipulative and with heart as big as the silver screen itself, **Pride** ultimately evokes the cinema of Frank Capra, who in films like *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and even that all too familiar holiday classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, feature an idealistic common man rising up to fight the good honest fight.

In **Pride**, that idealistic spirit is embodied by the young firebrand Mark Ashton who is squarely at the heart of LGSM, although there's nary a mention of his commitment to communism. Jimmy Somerville, whose soaring falsetto is heard during the film's foray to The Pits and Perverts Benefit Ball, would later pen in memory of Mark the haunting song, **For a Friend**.

Curiously, the film's nominal protagonist, Joe (George MacKay), is in fact one of the only entirely fictional creations. The shy, closeted young man engagingly played by MacKay, starts the day quite literally stumbling into his first Gay Pride March and by night's end has found what so many gay men and lesbians were looking for at the time: a sense of belonging. Equally familiar is Gethin's story, that of a young gay man fleeing a small South Wales village for London, leaving behind in the process family and friends. It has been 16 years since Gethin has spoken to his mother.

Beresford's screenplay occasionally focuses on bigger themes, from showing the mid-winter bleakness of South Wales during the strike to acknowledging the AIDS crisis. Nor is there, nor can there be a storybook happy ending; we know that the miners were ultimately defeated in the strike as Thatcher reigned triumphant.

But for the most part, what makes **Pride** such a winning film is its focus on the positive outcomes, for example the addition of LGBT equality to the Labour Party's platform as well as the likely and unlikely friendships that were forged between members of the LGSM and the members of the Onllwyn Miners' Welfare.

Boasting a terrific story and fabulous cast, Glenn says buy **Pride**; resistance is futile.

### Just the facts...

**Pride** clocks in at 120 minutes and is in English and offers closed-captioning and subtitles.

**Pride** is available on DVD & Blue-Ray, DVD SRP: \$30.99

DVD features include deleted/extended scenes plus the featurette: **PRIDE: The True Story**.

Look for a cameo from popular out actor Russell Tovey (**Looking**).

**Pride** was nominated as Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy at the recent Golden Globes.

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### CARY NOKEY PURSUES THE "AMERICAN DREAM" PERFORMS MADISON AS PART OF THE RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE TOUR

By Jamie Wirth

"Today's American Dream isn't about achieving goals. It's about doing what you got to do to get by," explains Cary Nokey frontman Rob Fusari. "No one wants to earn anything anymore. We expect everything to be handed to us. The new American dream is a lottery ticket."

Before launching Cary NoKey, Fusari (who goes by the name Cary now) was a famous record producer. Most notably, he produced Lady Gaga's Grammy winning *The Fame* album.

He also produced smash hits for Destiny's Child ("No, No, No" and "Bootylicious"), Whitney Houston ("Love That Man"), and Will Smith ("Wild Wild West").

"On the outside it seemed like I had everything but I was never able to understand or accept certain elements that existed in me," he admits.

Everything changed once the dormant decadent rockstar awakened and Cary NoKey was born.

Cary NoKey is more than a musical experience. It is a visually mesmerizing show featuring punked out Elton

John-esque piano skills and explosive keytar riffs. The music is a roller coaster ride through the 80's with influences from Prince, David Bowie, Thomas Dolby and a touch of 90's Kurt Cobain. Fans of RuPaul's Drag Race will get to experience it when Cary NoKey opens the Battle of The Seasons 2015 Condragulations Tour at the Majestic Theatre in Madison on February 17.

"American Dream" is the band's third release. It has a saturated, gluey sound – as if recorded on 2-inch tape – and offers a gut-wrenching commentary on the bleak state of the American dream.



USofA Pageants, Drag Queen, Jesse Adams, & Misty Mountains Presents  
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Former Miss Gay WI USofA Kelli Jo Klein  
For more information please contact promoter Misty Mountains at clark2922@gmail.com

The one group Cary excludes from society's rampant acedia is the trans community. He points to them as the few still willing to fight to obtain their desire. It's why he chose to feature trans actresses Trace Lysette, Dina Marie, Victoria Beltran and Bailey Jay in the music video for *American Dream*.

"Transsexuals represent the larger idea that the American dream is something within. Like when Glinda the Good Witch says to Dorothy after she clicks her ruby slippers, 'You've always had the power'. Pre-transsexual transsexuals know they have to fight to release the truth that hides beneath the uniform the world forces them wear. The moment we each find our own personal 'I have to' is when life really begins."

That is how it has been for Cary. "Cary NoKey was always there inside," he explains. "I simply needed to find the courage to embrace my glam American Dream".

Cary NoKey performs the Majestic Theatre in Madison on February 17th, part of RuPaul's Drag Race: Battle of The Seasons 2015 Condragulations Tour. To learn more about Cary NoKey, visit [www.carynokey.com](http://www.carynokey.com). For tickets, go to [www.majesticmadison.com](http://www.majesticmadison.com).

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Woodys, Thurs. 5th, 9-11  
Kruz, Fri. 6th, 7-9  
Fluid, Mon. 9th, 9:30-11:30  
LaCage, Wed. 18th, 10-11  
Club Icon, Fri. 27th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)



**Quest Cover : Andrew Marks**

Photography: Mark Mariucci, [MariucciPhotography.com](http://MariucciPhotography.com)

Styling: Samantha Landgraf

# BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 14 #2 February 2015

## Clowning around 2015 MAUL White Party at D.I.X.

Photography by Will Sharky



*Cordially Yours*  
by Michael Johnston

To the month of Love – February is here celebrating the second month of the New Year! The Holiday season is behind us – but that doesn't mean the party has to end...

"Inspiring Beauty 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair" at The Milwaukee Art Museum. February is Black History Month -- what a creative way to celebrate and embrace the fashionable contributions. Haute couture designers such as Christian Dior, Patrick Kelly, Vivienne Westwood, Stephen Burrows, Givenchy, Christian Lacroix, Yves Saint Laurent, Bob Mackie, Missoni, Jean Patou, Sarli, Emmanuel Ungaro and many more one-of-a-kind ensembles will be on display to view. Their works will provide a multi-sensory re-creation of the pioneering fashion flair that helped redefine beauty, style, and empowerment for African American women everywhere. Friday, February 5 – Sunday, May 3.

Turner Hall will be the Site hosting "Tony N' Tina's Wedding". Only eight shows, so make your reservation today, Thursday, February 12 – Saturday, February 21. Tickets include: a full (delicious) Italian dinner from Buca Di Beppo. To get on the Wedding guest list call 414-286-3663. You know you want to go – the hardest part will be deciding if you're friend of the bride or friend of the groom.

Now with our right to get married here – playwrights start penning Tony N' Tony's Wedding or Tina N' Tina's Wedding!

I heard a "Rumor" that Fleetwood Mac is coming to town! Pun intended! Back in the late 70's Paul Berens and I would play Fleetwood Mac's Rumor eight track, yes eight track to and from high school daily! All the while, we never stopped "Thinkin' About Tomorrow"... Well Thursday, February 12 you

can hear and see them Live at The Bradley Center – thanks to BMO Harris, Ticketmaster has your tickets.

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February (Saturday and Sunday, performances too) don't be superstitious; embrace the date with a date to "From Vienna to the Great White Way" Great music from Viennese Operetta to Broadway. The Florentine Opera Studio Artists: Julie Tabash – Soprano, Lindsay Metzger – Mezzo Soprano, Aaron Short – Tenor and Baritone Pablo Siqueiros are featured. The Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall in The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. [www.florentineopera.org/1-800-32-opera](http://www.florentineopera.org/1-800-32-opera).

Did you all have a campy good time of it with "Valley of the Dolls"? What fun, what trash – what we all need! "God of Carnage" by Yasmina Rezo will be the perfect comedy for Off The Wall Theatre's February offering. Running the 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and March 1 Directed by Jeremy C. Welter the OTWT is located at 127 East Wells Street 414-484-8874 and Donna can take your reservation, she gives good phone...

Thursday, February 19 is Chinese New Year – The Year of the Sheep, 4712<sup>th</sup> Chinese year. Looking for a way to commemorate this auspicious occasion? The place to be, to ring it in, is The Red Star Cocktail Club -- high above The Trocadero. Lance is pulling out all the stops lanterns, gongs, Buddha's, fortune cookies, Geisha Girls, a Burlesque Show to list a few details. The party will continue the following day for "Finally Friday" at 5 pm. See you there!

Celebrate Mother's Day early with "Mamma Mia!" Friday, February 20 – Sunday, February 22 Uihlein Hall of The Marcus. The music of ABBA will get your toe a tapping and before long you'll be up, out and dancing in the aisles. 414-273-2787/marcuscenter.org

The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre brings a Midwest premiere in "The Train Driver" by Athol Fugard Wednesday, February 25 – Sunday, March 15 Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre Directed by C. Michael Wright and featuring David Daniel and Michael A. Torrey.

In Tandem Theatre Company brings to the boards a "Season with a lot of Heart" how apropos in the month of the valentine... with "Come Back" by Neil



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Haven. "Come Back" is a new comedy, by this local playwright, his previous effort "Stuck" was highly acclaimed. You can come back to Mr. Haven's work Thursday, February 26 – Sunday, March 22. 414-271-1371  
www.intandemtheatre.org.

### This Month's Bucket List for February, 2015

Monday, February 2  
GroundHog Day

Thursday, Feb. 5 – Sunday, May 3  
The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM)  
"Inspiring Beauty 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair"  
Thursday, Feb. 12 – Saturday, Feb. 21  
Turner Hall  
"Tony N' Tina's Wedding"

Thursday, February 12  
The Bradley Center  
Fleetwood Mac Live In Concert

Fri., Sat., Sun. February 13, 14, 15  
Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall in The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts  
The Florentine Opera Studio Artists  
"From Vienna to the Great White Way"

Sat., February 14  
Valentine's Day

Monday, February 16  
Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 17  
Fat Tuesday – Mardi Gras

Wednesday, February 18  
Ash Wednesday

February 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 & March 1  
Off The Wall Theatre  
"God of Carnage"

Thursday, Feb. 19 and Friday, Feb. 20  
The Red Star Cocktail Club  
Chinese New Year Party and Celebration

February 20, 21, 22 Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center  
"MaMa Mia!"

Wednesday, February 25 - Sunday, March 15  
Chamber Theatre / Broadway Theatre Center  
"The Train Driver"

Thursday, February 26 – Sunday, March 22  
In Tandem Theatre Company  
"Come Back"

Shout outs and thanks so much to all who turned out for The Red Star Cocktail Club's Holiday Party. What a coup to get Mrs. Claus and her favorite Elf to tend bar for us! The Christmas Revue that followed was a kick as well. Applause to Goldie Adams returning to the stage after a brief hiatus, Maple Veneer, Neely O'Hara and Jennifer North all of "Valley of the Dolls" rounding out the cast ever so curvaceously and every one's favorite Valentine – Karen, as well as Red Star Bartrend-ress Alyssa making her debut with a hippopotamus!

Boom/The Room has been sold! That is a fact, lots of rumors are circulating to who purchased and what it will become – and really it is anyone's guess. Personally, I don't know so I won't speculate. I'm just glad the beautiful, historic buildings are sold and will have a new life!

Sending out positive vibes and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Milwaukee's favorite Princess Charlotte Lorraine, You can't keep a good gurl down and if you could what would you do with her?

Hail and farewell - - after five flawless years of service Jerry Gin&Tonic has hung up his shot glass at This Is It! At the time of his departure he and Jed Reed had the longest tenure of five years. Not to fear George will fill Jerry's popular Sunday afternoon shift - - but I don't envy the bartender, Jerry has left very large shoes to fill ...

Jim McDougall a Milwaukee fixture for ions has passed away. I first met Jim a successful realtor at the old YP where he always held court back in the day. Condolences to Lee, his life partner of 42 years!

Looking to spend a fascinating day in Milwaukee, might I suggest investigating the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee? The Special Collections at The UWM Libraries is simply beyond compare! Max Yela, Special Collections Librarian maintains a Pop Culture Collection to bring your memories, nostalgia and fun to mind! Among the topics there are collections of: American Nursing History, Art & Architecture, Aviation History, Book Arts, Contemporary Fine-Press Printing, Civil War Regimental Histories, Comic Books, Gay, Lesbian, Bi Sexual and Trans Gender Studies, Irish Literature, Jewish Studies, Labor & Radical Movements, Local Small – Press Publishing, Native American Literature, Printing & Publishing History, Social Justice, UWM Authors, Women's Studies and more. What topics - so flattered to know they have all my columns – of "Cordially yours" going back 15 years – In Step, Q Voice, Outbound, and Quest. I looked through the very first issue of In Step from 1984! Do any of you remember "Escape" Ron Geiman and Erin did the publication pre In Step... if you have items like this or any from the topics above consider sharing them with the library so everyone can benefit. Give Max Yela a call at 414-229-4345 and make this great collection even greater! Go and

visit, tour and take it in – it's open to the public and the public is most welcome. The LGBT Collection "Our History Made Visible - - is fabulous! Michael Doylen, Head of Archives for UWM has so much to be proud of! If you have something you would care to share call Michael at 414-299-6980. This is the ideal place to leave your legacy. For those of you into Geography - again it's UWM The American Geographical Society Library (AGS Library) is for you. Never have I seen so many globes and maps in one place, some dating back to the 1400s. They are here in their impressive archives. This is the most treasured collection nationwide! We are so fortunate to have these here, yet another option for an excellent tour.

Food time – romance is in the air, a special dinner with your special someone this Valentine's Day, how about Ward's House of Prime? 540 East Mason Street 414-233-0135. I loved the fresh oysters, the chili – enhanced with prime rib and the prime rib as an entree. The tiramisu made for a great dessert and tasty too! Ward's is very welcoming, casual and comfortable. A very posh, contemporary look with lots of dark wood, leather and chrome - - the staff and service was above par and made for a pleasant evening on the town.

Forgive the brief column - - transcribing this from sunny Fort Lauderdale - - enjoying the superb hospitality of Mike Sanfelippo & Kyle Clements. I have been spoiled rotten staying in their luxurious 14<sup>th</sup> floor Las Olas condo overlooking the Inter-Coastal. Touring glorious mansions and yachts! Shopping Fort Lauderdale Beach Collector Car Auction... Maybe I have found my true calling? Of course the chilliest day down this way was 63 degrees! Zipping over to Key West for a mini sub vacation was as fabulous as you can imagine, loved the Westin Hotel on Mallory Square. Duval Street is still one of the happiest streets in the world to walk. Visiting with Milwaukee's chief Key West Ambassadors Jeff & Michele Green of Bosley's on Brady sharing time with them enhanced the holiday. Discovering Sebastian Beach in Lauderdale (that is where all the boys are – LOL) a day trip to Boca Raton – a favored spot to retire made for marvelous get-aways. Favorite memories too many to recall! I did love riding around the ocean front that Connie Francis made so popular with "Where The Boys Are" in a Rolls Royce! Being introduced to Dennis & Tammy and enjoying their palatial Lauderdale estate as Doris Day's favorite pianist, Milwaukee's very own – Bobby Patrick, played a Yamaha baby grand piano (thrilled I was asked to sing and lead a sing-along- - and they didn't boo!) How Bobby got away from his adoring public is anyone's guess. None-the-less, I am home rested, relaxed and reminding you - - it's the glamor not the grammar as I remain Still Cordially Yours – Happy Valentine's Day!!!



Thank God January is over! I know, I know—last month I sang the praises of a New Year and all the promise and potential (and partying) that comes with it. But I've had it up to my tits with January. (Granted, at my age, that's not a very high ladder to climb, but still!)

January saw the end 2014, the end of "American Horror Story," and the end of the season for the Green Bay Packers. Oh, those poor, dear, wonderful Packers.

For some reason, people are always surprised to hear that I'm a Packer Backer. Why? I'm the biggest Packer fan alive. Not only do I watch every game, but I'm the only person I know who sends the Packer Clubhouse a resume every week, hoping to become the new locker-room attendant, official towel-snapper, shower instructor or fluffer. Do the Packers have a fluffer? I don't know, but if so, I'm up to the challenge.

I've yet to hear back regarding all the resumes I've sent. I find this hard to believe. I mean, who doesn't want a middle-aged, big-boned redhead creeping around the locker room? Oh, well. There's always next year, I suppose. Fingers crossed that all my years of practice will pay off, and I'll finally be offered the job of Official NFL Butt-Slapper. What a great Valentine's gift that would be!

Speaking of Valentine's Day, let's step into my Bitchin' Kitchen where you can whip up a sweet surprise for your own butt-slapper. This month, we're making an easy microwave soufflé that comes together in a coffee cup and some velvety Kahlua Fudge. Never made a soufflé? You can't go wrong with this five-ingredient delight, featuring peanut butter and a few other kitchen staples.

While we're talking about kitchen staples, the no-fuss fudge includes Kahlua! Wow...a candy made from butter, sugar, chocolate and booze. What's not to love? Give it away for a gift, slice it up for a friend or eat it all yourself, but promise me that this Valentine's Day you'll eat good and shut up!

#### MICROWAVE PEANUT BUTTER SOUFFLE

Dessert has never been easier than it is with this five-ingredient treat. It simmers up in a coffee mug for a fast individual dessert. Make one for yourself and one for your special someone tonight!

1 egg  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 tablespoons smooth peanut butter  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1/8 teaspoon baking powder

Using a fork, mix all ingredients in a small bowl until well combined. Spritz a 10- to 12-ounce microwave-safe coffee mug with nonstick cooking spray. Pour peanut butter mixture into mug. Microwave for 60 seconds or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

#### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Don't use chunky or reduced-fat peanut butter for this recipe. Jazz up the decadent dessert with a drizzle of chocolate syrup, a spattering of chopped peanuts or both! Serve warm mugs alongside vanilla ice cream.

#### KAHLUA FUDGE

Perfect for Valentine's Day gift-giving, this no-fuss fudge comes from Cheryl of Milwaukee. She's swapped out the Kahlua for Jack Daniels, so feel free to add your own twist! "The key is to keep stirring the mixture on the stovetop," she explains. "Keep track of the time. If you stop too soon, it can be a bit grainy." Thanks Cheryl! Enjoy your free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt.

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2-1/2 cups powdered sugar  
3/4 cup Kahlua  
5 cups sugar (2 pounds)  
2 sticks unsalted butter  
1 cup whole milk

1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 bag (10 ounces) Ghirardelli 60% cocoa bittersweet chocolate chips  
25 large marshmallows, halved

Foil and butter a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Whisk powdered sugar and Kahlua in a large bowl; set aside.

Combine sugar, butter, milk, and vanilla in a large pot with a heavy bottom. Stir continuously until mixture comes to a boil. Continue stirring, while boiling, for 4 minutes. Remove from the heat.

Stir chocolate and marshmallows into sugar mixture until completely blended. Stir in Kahlua mixture until completely blended. Pour into foil-lined baking dish. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Cut into bite sized pieces before serving.

#### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Feel free to toss in some chopped walnuts or pecans into the mixture if you'd like! When lining the pan with foil, extend the foil beyond the edges of the pan. This way, after it refrigerates, you can use the foil "handles" to lift the entire block of fudge out of the pan at once. Remove the foil from the fudge and cut into uniform pieces.

For more recipes, tips and videos, check out Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen at [www.RuthiesBitchinKitchen.com](http://www.RuthiesBitchinKitchen.com) or follow the show on Facebook at Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen. Have a recipe you'd like to see published in the Bitchin' Kitchen? Email Ruthie at [DearMsRuthie@yahoo.com](mailto:DearMsRuthie@yahoo.com). If she publishes it, you'll receive a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt

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#### Quest Magazine

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Well here we are again, here to see another month come and go and this one is for the lovers. That's right it is February the month of Valentines Day. And so being this month, I will dedicate this column to the lovers. This month we focus on genital piercings, and everything you did and didn't want to know about it. So with anymore babbling lets get down to it. (Ooooh talk about a good play on words!!)

First let's go with something you all know, the P.A. I hope you all remember what I said in the column a few months back but I will review. The P.A. (Prince Albert for those two people who aren't up on the whole dick piercing thing) goes in your pee hole and out the bottom of your dick. This piercing doesn't really hurt as all it really goes through is soft skin and fatty tissue; this makes this piercing great for beginners just getting into piercing. During sex this piercing is most effective during anal sex, as it will make the penis reach further and hit the mysterious "G-Spot". (I know all of you have searched for that and besides . . . who couldn't deal with a little more "reach" during

sex??? Hmmm?)

Second, I will talk about the Frenum. These are piercings that just go through the skin on the bottom of the penis. They do not hurt because all they do is go through soft skin and fatty tissue, this piercing is also good for starters because it is so easy! This piercing also feels great during sex, the barbells it is pierced with grab the entrance to whatever you might be sticking your dick in and grab just a little bit. Think of it like small speed bumps for your dick. (I need to stop thinking about it otherwise I will never get done with this damn column!)

Next we will talk about a slightly more extreme piercing it is called the ampallang. This piercing goes horizontally and straight through the head of your dick, and yes this does hurt. In fact it is one of the more painful piercings so I do not recommend this to people who have never had a genital piercing before. But hey if you want it come in my store and I will gladly give it to you. When having sex with this piercing the barbell actually begins to spin in the

piercing giving you sensations from the inside of your dick too! (I don't think I can finish the sentence . . . just give me a few moments. . . I'll give you a topic. . . Oops sorry about that I think I just had a Mike Meyers moment. And for those of you who don't know who Mike Meyers is. . . Google IT! hee hee) But I have to say that if you take care of it, it will take care of you if you catch my drift!

Let's see what do we have left to talk about? Oh, how to pick the right piercing for you. Well there is really no easy way to do this, the best thing I can really say is to just think about what you want and ask questions. The more knowledge you acquire the happier you will be with your piercings. So that is about it and don't forget I always accept questions and will answer you!! Despite popular belief. My Email is [avantgarde@voyager.net](mailto:avantgarde@voyager.net) just remember to put "Skin & Steel" in the subject line.

Well it appears I have enough room to answer some reader mail lets see what we have.

#### Dear Brent,

*I just wrote in to tell you that I think what you are doing here is great. I myself find it very informative and I always love the little twists you put in the column. Thanks a lot and keep up the great job!! --Dave*

Well, thank you Dave. I am just glad to know that people are learning from what I do here and to me that is as big a reward as I ever need.

Well it seems we are out of space and time again so until next month have a great February and try not to spend too much on you lover. After all you could spend it on me! j/k. Don't forget to keep those emails rolling in to [avantgarde@voyager.net](mailto:avantgarde@voyager.net) just put "Skin & Steel" in the subject line. Until next time, see you later!

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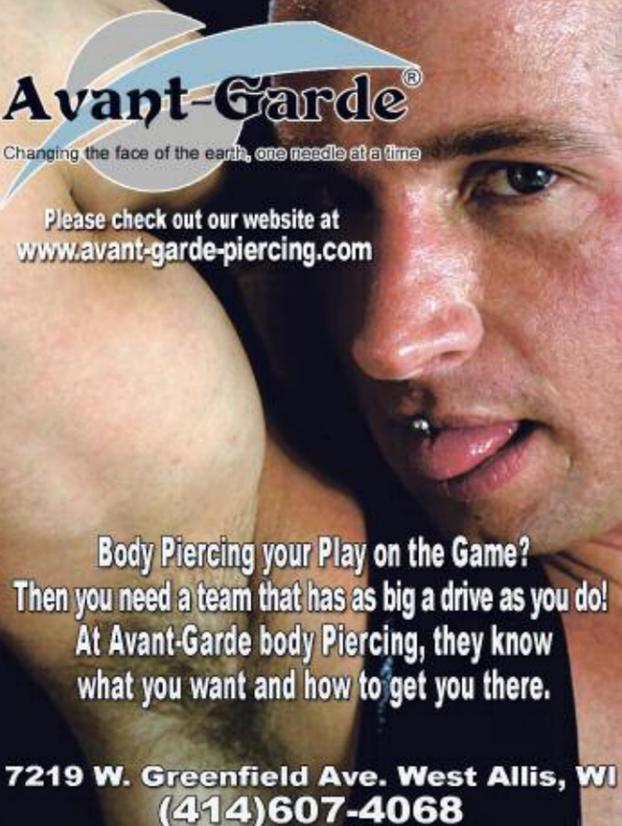
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