

QUEST

MAGAZINE Vol. 22, #11 November 2015

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Milano & Harmony

Pageantry is in their DNA. Interview Inside!

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OUTWORDS BOOKS HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL LESBIAN LITERARY SALON



Above: C.P. Rowlands
Below: Lise MacTague



Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee will host a quartet of extraordinary and eclectic talent for the store's 2nd Annual Lesbian Literary Salon on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015.

The special author event features Kris Dresen, an award-winning graphic artist, acclaimed author/ musician JD Glass, up-and-coming science fiction novelist Lise MacTague plus a true Outwords Books favorite, C.P. Rowlands.

"Outwords Books is always delighted to welcome back C.P. Rowlands, author of the best-sellers, **Lake Effect Snow**, **Collision Course** and **Jacob's War. Hardwired**," stated Outwords owner Carl Szatmary. "Rowland's latest, is a gritty romance set within the world of homeless shelters, focusing on the plights of

small children."

Kris Dresen will offer a presentation of **Have a Great Summer! Don't Ever Change! Max & Lily: The Complete Collected Strips** and **Her Curve**, a collection of Kris' comics work over the past 20 years. Kris' comics are included in the **Lambda Literary Award**-winning **No Straight Lines** and Robert Kirby's **QU33R** anthology.

Lise MacTague will be reading from **Heights of Green**, Book Two of her **On Deception's Edge** series.

Finally, acclaimed novelist/musician JD Glass will offer a unique program around the release

of **Red Light**. JD Glass is the author of **American Library Association** (Stonewall) and **Lambda Literary Award** finalist **Punk Like Me**, **Punk And Zen** and **GCLS** finalist **American Goth**.

Kris Dresen, J.D. Glass, Lise MacTague and C.P. Rowlands will present and sign copies of their novels beginning at 4:00pm on Saturday Nov. 21, 2015 at **Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee**, located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. This is a free event and all are welcome. For further information, please visit www.outwordsbooks.com or call (414) 963-9089.

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A Life in Pageantry: Harmony and Milano Breeze



An interview by Paul Masterson

Photo by Mark Mariucci (Za)

For its competitors and participants, the Miss or Mr. Gay USofA pageant scene is all consuming. It is not only a life style, it becomes life itself. It may begin by simply attending a pageant as an innocent bystander. But, once bitten by the all-possessing allure of a sparkling crown and sash, pageantry's irresistible draw becomes Cinderella's fairy tale for the would-be winner. Only, rather than a Fairy Godmother's magic, the striving contestant must rely on his or her own talents and devices. If lucky enough to have an entourage of helpers, the task may be easier. But what if there's a partner involved? Does one feel jealousy, guilt or Schadenfreude over the other's success or failure? Do the dynamics of a relationship rely on the common reason of being or are they encumbered by them?

Our outgoing Miss Gay Wisconsin, Harmony Breeze, and the ascending Mr. Gay Wisconsin, Milano Breeze, are just that, a partnered couple. QUEST spoke with the power duo to find out just what it's like to be immersed together in the glitz and glamour of national pageantry.

Their back story began, typically, with a chance meeting. Harmony sets the scene. "It was six years ago. We were singing karaoke at a straight bar on a Tuesday night (they had martini specials). I noticed Milano and asked a friend if he was single. He wasn't but was on the verge of being. So, I gave him my number. A month or two later he called. And, like a typical lesbian relationship, we briefly dated and moved in together. The rest is history."

Well, not quite. Milano had a little trepidation. "I was scared about dating someone

younger. I've always dated older. Harmony's just a mature 29 year old and can handle the fact that I'm 18 in the body of a 44 year old." Harmony sees it as a natural balance. "We average out in age. Our age difference has never been an issue. One of first dates we saw *Mama Mia*. We were both singing along and wondering why we each knew the words. It's fun."

They had a discussion about another dynamic of dating, too. Milano explains, "I told him I would never date a drag queen. It was the stigma of drag. But later, in 2009, Harmony did drag for Halloween. When I asked if he wanted to do drag professionally, his answer was evasive but obvious. When he went into it, I asked if he would mind if I went back to entertaining. I had actually performed in the early 1990s. I got out of it because my boyfriend at the time

didn't like me doing it. But I really missed it. At first I was afraid of the competitive jealousy but, the reality is, I absolutely love Harmony performing. He's amazing. And we're not in competition. In fact, we're each other's biggest fans. The biggest thing is loving and supporting each other. For 16 years I was in a relationship and repressed what I wanted to do. Communication makes a relationship. "

And now, Milano has just become Mr. Gay Wisconsin USofA. But it was long process. "It's my first time but it's my fourth attempt. It's a dream I've always had. The first thing I did when I lost in the past is go to Harmony and question if I'm good enough. He gives me most honest feedback and tells me things I don't want to hear," Milano admits.

Harmony has his own philosophy. "The reason we got into pageantry was because we like competition. I say if you're prepared to win you have to be prepared to lose. I learn from my experience. You should be growing and changing with the times. There are times when Milano felt "done with it" but he always gives it one more try. Of course, there's disappointment when you lose but that becomes a drive to com-

pete next time. You brush yourself off and get more bookings. Pageantry is a dog eat dog world. When I achieved Miss Gay Wisconsin, I felt like I was flying. We are there the entire process together and rely on each other. Milano thinks of things I don't and vice versa. We knit pick the details. We work really well together and help each other with our goals as a team."

But, what about the domestic aspects? Harmony explains, "It's stressful. We both have full time jobs we love. But we also love competing and entertaining. Doing both takes a lot of energy. But we're very supportive of each other. We have to devote enough time to everything to reach our goals and find a way to make it all work. We do get stressed with each other. But the number of fights we've had is ridiculously small. We don't have time for conflict. There's so much going on we take one day at a time. We've been very fortunate in finding a way to make it work. We sometimes don't know how, but it happens. We are Team Breeze. The house is a disaster. There are costumes and heels everywhere. It works for us."

Still, when some couples are in business together, their relationship may fray under

the duress. " Asked if they would do it all again, Harmony and Milano's response was the same, although Milano added some surprising thoughts about the future. Harmony began, "I would never change anything. We're so programmed to go 24/7. We don't know what to do in our free time. It's rare anyway. If we did anything different, it would be a completely different relationship. I don't know if I'd like it." Milano agrees, "You know, I wouldn't change anything. It's been an exciting experience. We're always looking forward to the next event. But, we're also looking forward to our wedding. We want to have children. It would change everything. Pageantry will be on the back burners. We're perfections in our trade but we also want to be perfect parents. We look forward to it." And Harmony added, "We're getting married next June."

Meanwhile, Milano is in for San Antonio for the Mr. Gay USofA national finals. So for now, they are focused on Milano's competition and Harmony is on hiatus. "If I'm still Mr. Gay Wisconsin when Harmony gets back into competition, I'll be supportive. That will never change. If I decide to take a break, he can continue and I'll be right there," Milano says.

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BOULEVARD THEATRE OPENS 30TH SEASON WITH A WELL SEASONED COMEDY

By Paul Masterson

In this town, it's rare for any small arts organization to endure for three decades. To persevere through the outrageous fortunes and misfortunes of Milwaukee's meteorologically, politically, and socially fickle climate can only be called miraculous, or, perhaps, masochistic. But, Mark Bucher's Boulevard Theatre has done precisely that. Located on the once sleepy and neglected Howell-KK-Lincoln intersection in Bay View for nearly 25 years, the Boulevard Theatre would become the cornerstone of that neighborhood's gentrification. But then, in part due to that very process, it suddenly closed its door and went on the road. It was a sad loss for Bay View. Still, Bucher's vision of bringing a unique theatrical experience to his audience continues. Now the itinerant troupe performs in various venues but seems to have found a comfortable nest at the Plymouth Church (located on the corner of Hampshire and Hackett at 2717 East Hampshire), on the city's Upper East Side. It is there where you will find Bucher's next production, the Midwest premiere of playwright Jason Odell Williams' romantic comedy, *Handle with Care*.

Always intent on reaching the heart and soul of his patrons, Bucher presents this work in the spirit of the holidays. *Handle with Care* offers themes of love, faith and redemption in a humorous tale of a Jewish grandmother and her Israeli granddaughter. The intrepid pair travels across the American countryside where hilarious and tragic circumstances eventually end in love and affirmation.

The cast of fours features both familiar and new faces to the Boulevard. They include Hugh Blewett, Zoe Schwartz, Mitch Weindorf and Christine Lathrop Horgen.



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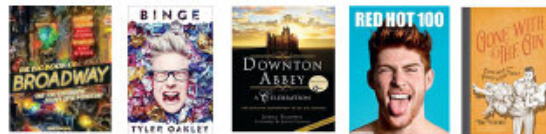
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MILWAUKEE REP ANNOUNCES SIXTH ANNUAL REP LAB

CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL, OPENS JANUARY 8

The Rep presents a one-of-a-kind short play festival returning for its Sixth Season. Featuring several distinct plays acted and directed by The Rep's Emerging Professional Residents, this unique production provides an altogether new type of theatergoing experience. Enjoy a night of laughter and tears. Showtimes are Opening night - Friday, January 8 at 8:00pm, Saturday January 9 at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm, Sunday January 10 at 2:00pm and 7:00 pm and closing night on Monday, January 11 at 7:30 pm

Rep Lab 2015/16 will showcase the work of The Rep's Residency programs across a wide variety of theater disciplines. From actors to directors to designers, The Rep annually welcomes top-level emerging professional artists to spend a full season working alongside recognized masters of their craft as they seek to transition to fully professional careers.

"The Rep is proud to provide the strongest residency program for emerging professionals in American regional theater," says Artistic Director Mark Clements. "These artists spend months honing their skills with us. Rep Lab is the next step in their process: an opportunity for them to take sole ownership of their work. We are pleased to provide this forum, giving Rep audiences the chance to see these talented, emerging artists in fresh, exciting new ways."

Tickets for Rep Lab 2015/16, which runs in the Stiemke Studio are currently available at an Early Bird Special price of \$10.00 until December 1, 2015. Regularly priced tickets for Rep Lab 2015/16 are \$15.00. Tickets (starting at \$10.00 and subject to change) can be purchased online at www.MilwaukeeRep.com, by phone at 414-224-9490 or at the Ticket Office (108 E Wells Street). The Rep is sponsored in part by The United Performing Arts Fund.

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Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents LOVE STORIES

For the holiday season, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents three classic one-acts by three celebrated writers, LOVE STORIES, November 25 – December 20, 2015. The production features VILLAGE WOOLING by George Bernard Shaw, THE JEWISH WIFE by Bertolt Brecht and HERE WE ARE by Dorothy Parker. Real-life married couple James Pickering and Tami Workentin star in LOVE STORIES under the direction of Paula Suozzi. LOVE STORIES performs in the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

The work of three insightful and incisive wordsmiths is showcased in LOVE STORIES. Playwright George Bernard Shaw returns to the MCT stage with VILLAGE WOOLING. In this charming comedy, from the deck of an ocean liner to a village shop, a reclusive travel writer is pursued by a chatty phone operator on a mission to marry him. In Bertolt Brecht's THE JEWISH WIFE we learn how Hitler's rise to power effects a marriage. In the final one-act HERE WE ARE by Dorothy Parker a newlywed couple is travelling by train to their honeymoon - but not without revealing a few of their insecurities first.

In MCT's production of LOVE STORIES, the lines of fiction and reality blur deliciously as real-life couple James Pickering and Tami Workentin rehearse three classic one-act plays. While they juggle the complexities of their own partnership, whimsical wordplay leads to verbal sparring, onstage and off, but ultimately love conquers all in this loving tribute to life in the theatre.

James Pickering and Tami Workentin perform in their first show together since their marriage in 2013. They first met in 2011 during their only previous stage appearance together in Next Act Theatre's THE EXONERATED. Both veteran Milwaukee actors, Pickering is best known as a long time Milwaukee Repertory Theater company member and Workentin has worked with many theatres in Milwaukee including numerous shows with MCT.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was a Nobel-Prize-winning playwright, critic, and passionate socialist whose influence on Western theatre, culture and politics stretched from the 1880s to his death in 1950. He wrote more than 60 plays including PYGMALION, ARMS AND THE MAN, MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION, MAJOR BARBARA and MAN AND SUPERMAN. VILLAGE WOOLING marks the first time a George Bernard Shaw play has been performed by Milwaukee Chamber Theatre since MISALLIANCE in 2005. MCT was co-founded by two great fans of Shaw, Montgomery Davis and Ruth Schudson. MCT's inaugural production in 1975 was his DON JUAN IN HELL and for twenty years (1983-2002), MCT was the only theatre company in the United States to produce an annual Shaw Festival. MCT previously produced VILLAGE WOOLING in 1981.

Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) was a German poet, playwright and theatre director. He is best known for THE THREEPENNY OPERA (with composer Kurt Weill), MOTHER COURAGE, and THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE. Dorothy Parker (1893-



1967) was an American poet, short story writer, critic, satirist and screenwriter as well as a founding member of the Algonquin Round Table. She co-wrote the film A STAR IS BORN with her husband Alan Campbell.

Paula Suozzi makes her MCT directing debut with LOVE STORIES. The former Artistic Director of Milwaukee Shakespeare and Associate Artistic Director of Skylight Music Theatre, her directing credits include work with Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Florentine Opera Company and Forward Theater.

LOVE STORIES is a collaboration with the UW-Milwaukee Theatre Department. Professor Richard Graham will be the Scenic Designer with alumnus Chad Abramowski as Assistant Scenic Designer. Three current UWM students are involved with the show, Acting Intern Robert Knapp, Acting and Dramaturgy Intern Erika Kirkstein-Zastrow and Stage Management Intern Megan Linzmeyer. This collaboration is an example of MCT's mission to nurture the next generation of theatre artists.

For LOVE STORIES Milwaukee Chamber Theatre is partnering with Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church in BayView to support their Divine Intervention ministry for the homeless programs. Actors Pickering and Workentin are active supporters of the church's homeless work and brought their charity programs to MCT's attention. During the run of LOVE STORIES we will be collecting items for the homeless including warm clothing, non-perishable food items and dry goods, as well as \$5 and \$10 gift cards to Target and McDonalds.

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Club Icon, 20th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)

"THE THOMMIE CORNER" A NEW ART EXHIBIT AT OUTWORDS BOOKS

Outwords Books Gifts & Coffee is home to a new art exhibit, "The Thommie Corner," by LGBT collage artist Thom J. Ertl.

"Contemporary urban assemblage" is the theme in this installation. Conventional utilitarian items are utilized in the creation of unconventional, modern, artistic, practical, provocative wall art. "Found" becomes urban, sleek and fun.

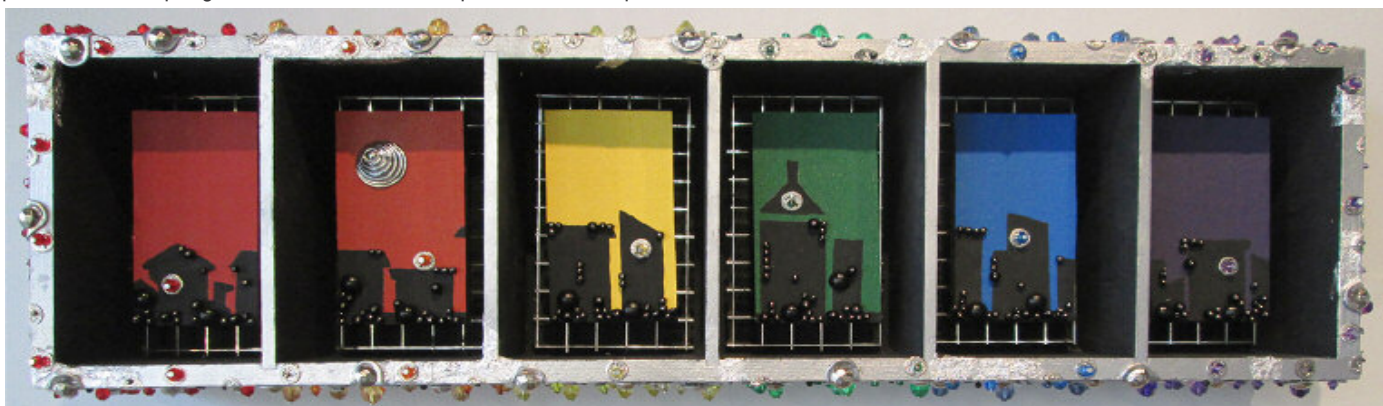
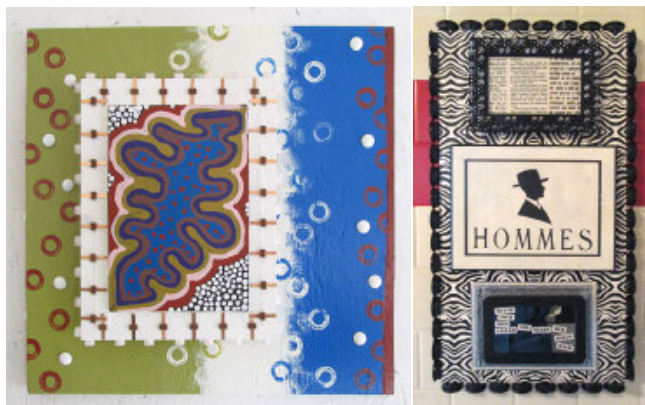
"We are pleased to present The Thommie Corner to the patrons of Outwords Books," said Carl Szatmary, owner and general manager. "It is important for us to spotlight the achieve-

ments of individuals who represent the LGBT community in a positive way."


Need a one-of-a-kind gift for someone for the holidays or a special occasion? Wall art of The Thommie Corner is for purchase and will be available through the end of January. Customized pieces can also be produced.

Learn more on Facebook—Thom J Ertl Designs—or email: thomerl@gmail.com

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The Iron Diaries – Fitness & Health

Most people think the key behind losing weight requires cutting out fats or calories, and removing snacks all together. But the truth is that snacking can actually be very beneficial when losing weight since eating healthy snacks can provide extra energy and help to keep our metabolism rocking. Many so called “healthy-foods” are actually high in sugars, salts, fats and many other crappy ingredients which aren’t helping your cause.

Below is a list of foods you’re made to believe are healthy but NEED to avoid when dieting...

Pre-made Smoothies/Shakes

We all know that eating fruit is healthy right? So why not make it even easier and enjoy a smoothie or shake! They’re quick, taste great, easy to consume and...SLAM PACKED with sugar. You might think store bought smoothies are a healthy choice when it comes to snacking but these sneaky sugar snacks are full of more sugar than you’d believe. One bottle usually contains the same amount of calories as a regular meal.

If you want to enjoy a healthy smoothie/shake - make your own at home, that way you know exactly what’s in it, what’s been added, and you can boost the nutritional value with your favorite protein powder!

Granola

Granola is one of the “go-to” healthy foods, and many people believe a bowl of granola with Greek Yogurt or milk is the perfect snack. Here’s the bad news: half a cup of granola is around a 350-400 calories – roughly the same as a whole meal! Even worse, many store bought granolas are so chock full of added sugar that

you might as well chug down a couple sodas.

Sure, a small handful of granola is okay topped on Greek Yogurt but if you’re looking for a small snack – substitute with regular rolled oats, plain oatmeal, or something else that will leave you fuller without the added sugars!

Flavored Yogurts

Yogurt is a good source of dairy and perfect for when you’re trying to lose weight... but not all yogurts! Low fat and flavored yogurts actually contain a lot of sugar which can counteract or reverse your goals.

When choosing the best yogurt for weight loss try opting for plain Greek Yogurt, which is full of protein and flavor it yourself with your favorite fruits.

“100 Calorie” Snacks

It’s easy to find a small snack pack size of cookies, crackers, or candies that are only 100 calories. Makes an okay snack right... its only 100 calories!? Think again! Oreos, candy, cookies, brownies, etc. are loaded with sugar and saturated fat. Even though these small portions are “healthier” – when was the last time you had only the one pack?

Always be aware that manufacturers and stores are marketing to you! Keep in mind that things are going to be MARKETED as healthy just to get you to buy them.

What may be described as “healthy” and “low fat” can in fact be full of hidden sugars, salts and fats... all of which will ruin your chances of achieving weight loss goals.



Darron Lattomus M.S., C.P.T

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BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 14 #11
November 2015

**Congratulations
Felicia Ashton
Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2016
and
Kendra Banx\$
First Alternate**

Pageant held at LaCage
Photos by William Sharkey





HALLOWEEN WEEKEND AT KRUZ, D.I.X. AND LaCAGE Photos by Will Sharkey







Cordially Yours by Michael Johnston

Turkey, lurkey – an odd reference From a “Chorus Line” to start our thankful month of November and Thanksgiving and if it’s Thanksgiving and Milwaukee – it’s HIT (the Holiday Invitational Tournament). This is the 36th Annual LGBT Bowling tournament – the oldest in the nation, dating back to 1979, dating back when a lot of us weren’t necessarily welcomed home for the Holiday with our partner of choice. And now 36 years later, we can marry them! To progress!

Obviously, you all survived Halloween – hoping your tricking and treating were incredible! The social season is a flutter, as well as the Theater season. Don’t think twice – just go and enjoy!

“Wicked” is bewitching us all starting Wednesday, November 4 – Sunday, November 15. Back by “Popular” demand this musical really questions what really is good vs evil. Every time I see this show and I think it’s been three times – I see something new and fresh – it is multi-layered. Totally Broadway, at its very best! The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 929 North Water Street 414-273-2787. Coming in the New year – “Newsies” debuting here Tuesday, January 5 – Sunday, January 10, 2016. A perfect Holiday gift suggestion -- truly a family-friendly show!

Off The Wall Theatre offers “High Class Horror” for what is left of the Halloween season now through Sunday, November 8. Four Play-lets – “Clowning Around” directed by Lawrence J. Lukasavage, “The Final Torture” directed by James Freeley, “The Kiss” directed by Jeremy C. Welter,

“Pagliaccia” directed by Dale Gutzman with an original score by Joey Katsiroubus. OTWT is located at 127 East Wells Street Please call 414-484-8874 and Donna will get you seated and you’re getting a 4- for -1 value to scare you silly!

Now through Sunday, November 15” The Ballad of Emmett Till” by Ifa Bayeza, directed by Marti Gobel is being brought to life at Renaissance Theaterworks 158 North Broadway. In these troublesome times we’re living in, Renaissance rises to the occasion – telling a tawdry, shameful tale from our recent past. We must learn from our history. Renaissance is committed to eliminating racism and empowering women. To witness this important piece of theater please call 414-273-0800.

“unSilent Night” by John Kishline is offered at the intimate, powerful Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street. Thursday, November 12 – Sunday, December 6. The intimacy of radio, the Holiday season and a troubled, and an unexpected visitor – make sure to see this one, not all is calm... For tix 414-278-0765, complimentary parking!

Friday the 13th fear not, it is a “Really Grand Fridays – Unique People & Places” will make your night one not to fear! “Holiday Spice and Everything Nice” 2328 East Newberry Boulevard. The Band, Fat Pig provides live music! And rumor has it; Mrs. Santa Claus will be among the notables... This is a fund raiser for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Call Brandon at 414-292-3060 – he gives good phone. These Events are not to be missed – only one more after this one!

The Milwaukee Rep offers up “The Mousetrap” Tuesday, November 17 – Sunday, December 20. This play, played London’s West End (their answer to Broadway) for a record breaking 60 + years! Murder, mystery, mayhem and more... 108 East Wells Street 414-224-9490.

“Of Mice and Men” Steinbeck’s classic is next, January 17, 2016 – the rodents are running rampant at The Rep.

London Bridge is falling down ... “My Fair Lady” – a love story by Shaw (Pygmalion) is the Holiday show at Skylight Music Theatre. Friday, November 20 – Sunday, December 27 come and see the electric transformation of a Dolittle to a Higgins, as Eliza evolves for us all. What a great way to pay homage to a great Dame – Julie Andrews on her eighth decade (Dame Julie made her Broadway debut in “My Fair Lady” – 1956). See this Broadway barnstormer and you too “could have danced all night”.

There is always room for romance, as Milwaukee Chamber Theatre brings “Love Stories” to the boards. “Village Wooing” by George Bernard Shaw, “The Jewish Wife” by Bertolt Brecht and “Here We Are” by Mrs. Dorothy Parker – the biggest wit of all, three for one! This celebration of coupling, stars James Pickering and Tami Workentin (real life Mr. & Mrs.) , and Directed by Paula Suozzi (Mrs. Jonathan West). The curtain raises Wednesday, November 25 – Sunday, December 20 Studio Theatre of The Broadway Theatre 158 North Broadway phone 414-291-7800.

And of course the 36th Annual HIT Bowling Tournament will once again close out the month and be commemorated over the long Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. It’s a tradition that has been around almost as long as turkey and pumpkin pie -- hoping you enjoy it all!

November Bucket List

Wednesday, November 4 – Sunday, November 15
“Wicked”

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
929 North Water Street 414-273-2787

Now through Sunday, November 8

“High Class Horror”

Off The Wall Theatre
127 East Wells Street 414-484-8874

Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans Day

Now through Sunday, November 15

“The Ballad of Emmett Till”

Renaissance Theaterworks
158 North Broadway 414-273-0800

Thursday, November 12 – Sunday, December 6

“unSilent Night”

Next Act Theatre
255 South Water Street 414-278-0765

Friday, November 13

“Really Grand Fridays - Unique People & Places”

2328 East Newberry Boulevard
Fundraiser for Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
414-292-3060

Tuesday, November 17 - World Prematurity Day

Tuesday, November 17 – Sunday, December 20

“The Mousetrap”

Milwaukee Rep
108 East Wells Street 414-224-9490

Friday, November 20 – Sunday, December 27

“My Fair Lady” Skylight Music Theatre

158 North Broadway 414-291-7800

Wednesday, November 25 – Sunday, December 20

“Love Stories” Milwaukee Chamber Theatre

158 North Broadway 414-291-7800

Wednesday, November 25 – Sunday, November 29

“HIT – Holiday Invitational Tournament”

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day

Bravo to the Cream City Foundation (CCF) hosting their 7th Annual Business Equality Luncheon. Woodland Dreams Ballroom at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino had 45 tables of Who’s Who of Wisconsin, including the Mayor, Tom Barrett, feasting on salad. Great seeing KRUIZ, DIX, This Is It, Hybrid Lounge and their owners and staff in attendance, honoring them and their dedication to our community. Brian J. King, Global Officer for Marriott Signature Brands and Global Sales was the key note speaker, a great story of local boy doing well. Pinch hitting for Chris Abele, our County Executive, was Eric Peterson, who had quite the commanding presence and speech to share. He stole the show -- very impactful. Who knows one day a run for the White House, at the very least a place in Madison?

Kudos to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) their 26th Annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin was totally



beloved Craig, was great fun! In the mix -- from the Walk Marquette Un and CCF's Paul Milakovich, Charlie Morreale & Todd Bierdemann, Tony Heller, Belair Cantina's Ryan Lieungh, Shia Rodriguez from This Is It and Eddie Candela, as well as Susee Wiechmann and her table of VIPs and many more Walkers and Runners kept Liz and Tara running and the Badgers didn't have as great of an afternoon as us.

NSYNC. Thanks in a major way to co-chairs Lance Bass and husband Michael Turchin. I had the pleasure to meet Lance & Michael -- thanks to Mike Gifford. And unfortunately our schedule didn't allow an interview this time. Definitely next time! I love Lance on The Meredith Vieira Show, where he is a featured panelist and I understand his Sirius Radio talk show, daily for an hour is quite the hit for Pop Culture kids like me! I had a ball walking with Tim Greene & Michael Karl, Jay Reinke, Mark & Ryan and Jennifer -- who won the Dinner with Lance & Michael at Carnevor for being a top fund raiser for the Walk, Team Aurora Vincent Withers & Andy, Jerry Janis & John Heidemann and many, many more.

Once again the dedicated team at DIX won the "Raise the Bar" competition -- third year in a row! The post celebration was at Club Charlies with the welcomed return of Dawn Bloomfield and her

KRUZ has a new Bartender, Harley, to prepare your every need -- rocks optional. DIX has added two Milwaukee faves to their roster -- Dale Miller (LaCage, Hybrid) and Brian Grieser AKA BJ -- (Fluid, Woody's) both are adorable and so fun to sip with, see for yourself.

Thrilled to wish much happiness and my heartiest congratz to the dazzling Steven Sanders & Rand Schmidt as they start life as a legally married couple... they did have a 35 year engagement!

Happy B-Lated (in print) Birthday Brian Buchberger! His NU Decade ushered in bi-coastal celebrations! One in his swanky west side condo and the other out in Palm Springs, nobody does it better or deserves it more!

Speaking of Palm Springs when one doesn't go to the desert -- the desert comes to you... I had a wonderful reunion with R&R (Robert Parrish & Richard Steele) when they came back to the

Mother state the end of this summer. Both are doing very well, very tanned, and very happy! We feasted Italian with Jerry Gin&Tonic- speaking of favorite Italians at Victor's. Suzy, MaryAnn, and Eileen treated us like royalty on a quite Monday night with spaghetti --a-rama. When hungry go to Victor's they can cure the situation and then some!

So sorry to report Milwaukee Icon -- Joe (This Is It) Brehm upon celebrating a birthday, learned he has ALS. Reports are he is facing it with his usual good humor, wit and grit... But keep a kind thought, a prayer if you do and/or send a card to the bar -- This Is It 418 East Wells Street Milwaukee 53202, I know George will see to it he gets your well wishes. I just want to say publicly, in print, thank you Joe for keeping your mother's dream alive all these years -- a successful downtown lounge -- now going on 48 years old -- that just happens to be Gay.

Food time -- Morel Restaurant 430 South Second Street 414-897-0747 is the place for something unique for your palate. Shoua L was our server and she steered us right, what a selection of delectable delights! Jonathan Manyo is the chef/owner and he has a lot to be proud of -- site, staff, food, and drink all five star! Give it a try -- it's not just mushrooms!

So thankful to spend a bit of time with you as I remind you -- it's the glamour, not the grammar, is that my pie I smell burning? As I remain Still Cordially yours,.

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WE THREE QUEENS Performing at Shelter Club Green Bay

Photos by Za



Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

Gobble, gobble! It's time to get out my stretchy pants because comfort-food season is here! I'm so happy this time of year. I'm happier than a Kardashian with a selfie stick. I'm happier than Adele at an all-you-can buffet. I'm happier than my thong when swimsuit season comes to end. I'm just so friggin' happy!

I'm still chowing down Halloween candy, but I'm sure to leave plenty of room for stick-to-your ribs casseroles, buttery breads and stews that make your friggin' toes curl. Thanksgiving dinner? Don't get me started!

This is the perfect time to get into the kitchen and cook up some good, bad-for-you food! There's plenty of other fun to be had in November, too. After all, I don't plan on sitting at home, twiddling my measuring spoons. Come on out and paint the town red with me!

Catch me November 7, emceeing the Denim and Diamonds doggie fashion at Spurs (332 Williams St., Waukesha). In addition to a kooky runway show, we'll enjoy drinks, food, raffles, a silent auction and more. The party starts at 6:30 pm with proceeds going to Seniors Rock dog rescue.

Still want to help out little doggies? Head to Kenosha's Club Icon (6305 120th Ave.) on November 21. The lovely Sheena Rae is hosting the Miss WI Snowqueen Spotlight Show, including yours truly. Best of all, a portion of the proceeds go to help Ruthie's Kennel Club, supporting animal-related charities in Wisconsin. The fun starts at 10 pm. Stop by and say, "Hi!"

If this isn't enough to trip your Ruthie trigger, I'll be eating, drinking and being Mary November 27 at Hamburger Mary's for my Dining with the Divas Show. Catch the 8 pm show, check out the 9:30 performance or stay for both – they're two different shows! Call 414-988-9324 to reserve your table today.

Okay, damn it! I'm hungry! Let's step inside the Bitchin' Kitchen and get cooking. This month, we're simmering up a slow coked supper that's loaded with Southwestern flair, savory taco meat, gooey cheese and more. Best of all, it's so impressive, no one is going to believe you cooked up such a remarkable dish in a slow cooker. I'm also sharing a great idea for individual pumpkin pies, perfect for Thanksgiving, Christmas, coffee breaks, and more. So what are you waiting for? It's time to eat good and shut up!

SLOW-COOKED MEXICAN TORTA

Okay, I admit it. I don't know what the hell a torta is, and I'm too lazy to look it up on the Google. I named this savory, stacked slow-cooked dish a torta, because it sounds fancy even though this recipe is so damn easy, you won't believe it. The cheesy, stacked tortilla layers look impressive, too. I guarantee this will be a new favorite at your trailer home.

- 1 pound ground beef**
- 1 (1.25 ounce) envelope taco seasoning mix**
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chilies, drained**
- 1 (16 ounce) can refried beans**
- 1/4 cup salsa**
- 5 (8-inch) flour tortillas**
- 1 small onion, chopped**
- 2 cups Mexican cheese blend**
- Additional salsa**
- Sour cream**

Use the beef and taco seasoning to prepare taco meat according to the seasoning mix directions. Stir in the diced tomatoes in the prepared taco meat. Meanwhile, combine the refried beans and salsa in a medium bowl.

Tear a sheet of heavy duty alumni foil 29 inches long. Cut three 3-inch wide strips from the foil. (Save remaining foil for another use.) In a slow cooker, lay one of the foil strips across the bottom and up the sides. Fold ends of foil over the outer edge of the slow cooker. Repeat with two other strips, so foil resembles the spokes of a wheel at the bottom center of the slow cooker, each strip hanging out the top of the slow cooker, folded over the outside edge. Spritz the inside of the slow cooker and the foil with nonstick cooking spray.

Set 1/4 cup of the taco meat mixture on the bottom of the slow cooker, over the foil. Top with a flour tortilla. Spread half of the bean mixture over the tortilla. Top with half of the onion and 1/2 cup of cheese. Top with another flour tortilla and half of the remaining taco meat. Top with 1/2 cup cheese. Repeat these two layers. Top with remaining tortilla and remaining cheese.

Cover slow cooker, making sure tips of foil strips are folded over the edge and outside the slow cooker. Simmer on high for 4 hours, then turn off slow cooker, remove cover and let torta sit for 10 minutes. Grab ends of foil strips and quickly lift torta out of the slow cooker to serving dish. Carefully pull foil strips out from underneath torta and dispose. Let sit an additional 5 minutes. Slice and serve with salsa and/or sour cream. Refrigerate leftovers.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Letting the torta sit makes it easier to slice. Don't like those spicy canned tomatoes? Leave 'em out! No biggie. In fact, get creative with this dish overall. Add sliced olives or hot peppers. Leave out the onions if you want or mix up the cheeses. Save just a little of the meat mixture for the very top if you'd like. It's your call, but this dish is even better the next day and it slices better, too.

MINI PUMPKIN PIES

Looking to mix things up this Thanksgiving? Give these individual desserts a try! Easy as pie, these comforting bites rely on pre-made pie dough and a muffin tin. YUM! The perfect way to end your Thanksgiving or Christmas meal, they're also great with coffee in the morning or with milk for a late-night snack!



- 1/2 cup of sugar**
- 1 brick (8 ounces) cream cheese, room temperature**
- 1 cup of canned pumpkin**
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract**
- 3 eggs**
- 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon**
- 2 refrigerated ready-to-roll pie crusts**
- Whipped cream**

Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees. In a mixing bowl, beat sugar, cream cheese, pumpkin, vanilla, eggs, pumpkin spice and cinnamon until smooth.

Roll one of the pie crusts a bit. Using a 4-inch round cookie cutter, cut out 6 circles from each of the 9-inch pie crusts. Place each circle into a pre-greased muffin tin. Repeat with second pie crust. Combine dough scraps into a ball. Roll out, and cut additional rounds, fitting each into a muffin tin. Pour the filling into each crust.

Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Decrease heat to 350 degrees and bake an additional 25 to 30 minutes. Cool. Garnish with whipped cream. Refrigerate leftovers.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Look for the boxed, prepared pie crusts in the refrigerated area of the grocery store. Save time by mixing up the filling a day or two ahead of time. Don't have a 4-inch cookie cutter? No worry, sugar baby! Use a large coffee mug to cut the dough. If you want to be extra fancy, sprinkle a few chopped pecans over the whipped cream garnish.

Got a recipe for Ruthie? Share it with her at DearMsRuthie@Yahoo.com. If she publishes your dish, you'll receive a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt. Learn more about her charity, Ruthie's Kennel Club at www.RuthiesKennelClub.org.



Well October has come and gone and now is time for November to chill us to the bone and make us wonder why we stay in this screwy mixed up state of ours, but alas there is nothing I can do to change it so I will deal with it just like the rest of you.

This month we are going to get back to the heart of what this column really is piercing and tattooing! This month I had a hard time figuring out what to talk about so I just threw a dart at a dart board to guess what I should write about, you know the same way the weatherman does it. And this time we are going to talk about how to find good quality jewelry online. So let's just get to it shall we?

The first step is . . . uhhmmm . . . okay I guess I kind of lied to you, there really is no possible way to find good quality jewelry online. There just isn't I'm sorry to say that the wonderful god of pornography and YouTube has failed us again.

You just can't judge quality by a picture that may not even be the same item you are ordering. A lot of times the jewelry is so horrible that they get one piece that looks good and they use it, and only it, to show the example of the product. Most of the time when you order something online you know what you are getting be-

cause the manufacturing of that product is held to some rules, regulations, or standards of some kind. Guess what, in body jewelry it isn't. I could make body jewelry in my bathroom and call it body jewelry. Now I am not trying to say that all online body jewelry is bad I am just saying that most of it is. And of the jewelry pieces that are out there, there is no way for you, the consumer, to know if it is good or not until you order it. And once you get it and open the pack to look at it you can't return it anymore!

Another thing about jewelry online is that most of it is made in third world countries, thus not supporting our own economy but that will have to be another column, where the manufacturing standards are considerably less than here in the good old USA. Most of the time this jewelry can't even be called implant grade steel once it enters the country because it test so low on the metallurgy (big word for science of metals) tests!

This brings me back to my original point that you just can't find good quality body jewelry over the internet. Now to those of my readers who think they have good quality jewelry from the net I urge them to show it to me and prove me wrong! In 15 years I have never, and I mean never, seen good quality jewelry off the net. So the best advice I have to buy your jewelry locally at professional body piercing stores only!

I say buy at professional body piercing stores for a few reasons. Most of the places in the malls sell that same crap that you see online because they can buy it for about a penny and sell it to you for \$10 and make a big profit, so you really aren't getting around the crap-tastic jewelry that the internet has to offer. Also places in the malls and other stores which are not professional body piercers don't have the proper knowledge in order to educate you as to which type(s) of jewelry are going to work the best with your particular piercing. Also, when you go someplace that doesn't specialize in professional body piercing, you are really just a big dollar sign to them, they really don't care if you have questions about your piercing and even if you asked them they couldn't answer it correctly. So just go somewhere that the people working actually care about you and your body, professional body piercing studios.

Well it seems I have once again run out of room and right now my hands hurt so much from typing that I feel like I just went ten rounds at a "All you can squeeze out" competition. Until next month do your part to beautify our world, get pierced and tattooed! And Have a Great Thanksgiving!!

If you have any questions for Brent or would like to see him talk about a specific topic email him at avantgarde@voyager.net.

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WISCONSIN LGBT BAR GUIDE

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 Players 300 4th St, La Crosse (608)784-4200
 Chances R 417 Jay St, La Crosse (608)782-5105
 Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct Madison, (608)277-9700
 Plan B 924 Williamson Street, Madison
 Shamrock 117 W Main Madison (608)255-5029
 SOTTO 303 N Henry St Madison
 WOOF'S 114 King Street, Madison (608)204-6222 www.madwoofs.com
 Captain Dix (Rainbow Valley Resort) 4124 River Road WI Dells (866)553-1818

NORTHEASTERN WI (920)

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 Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton (920)954-9262
 Round A Bout 1264 Main St Green Bay, WI 54302 920-544-9544
 Napalese 1351 Cedar Green Bay (920)432-9646
 No Limits 500 N. Baird St Green Bay (920)-544-4963
 THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St.Green Bay 920-432-2662
 XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay
 The Remixx 8386 State Rd 76 Neenah 54956 (920)725-6483
 Debs Spare Time 1303 Harrison St Oshkosh (920)235-6577
 Blue Lite 1029 N 8th, Sheboygan (920)457-1636

NORTHERN WISCONSIN (715)

The Lounge 2823 London Rd., Eau Claire, (715) 952-3456
 Scooters 411 Galloway Eau Claire (715)835-9959
 JT's Bar and Grill 1506 N. 3rd Superior (715)-394-2580
 The Flame 1612 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)395-0101
 The Main 1217 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)392-1756
 OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau www.totheoz.com (715)842-3225

MILWAUKEE (414)

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 DIX 739 S 1st Street
 Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843
 Harbor Room 117 E Greenfield (414)672-7988
 Hybrid 707 E Brady St (414)810-1809
 KRUIZ 354 E.National (414)272-KRUIZ
 LaCage (lower & main floor) Montage (Upper) 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
 Riverwest Public House (LGBTQ friendly) 815 E Locust St. 53212
 Studio 200 200 E Washington St
 This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192
 Two 718 E. Burleigh St.
 Walker's Pint 818 S 2nd St (414)643-7468
 Woody's 1579 S 2nd (414) 672-0806

SOUTHEASTERN WI (262)

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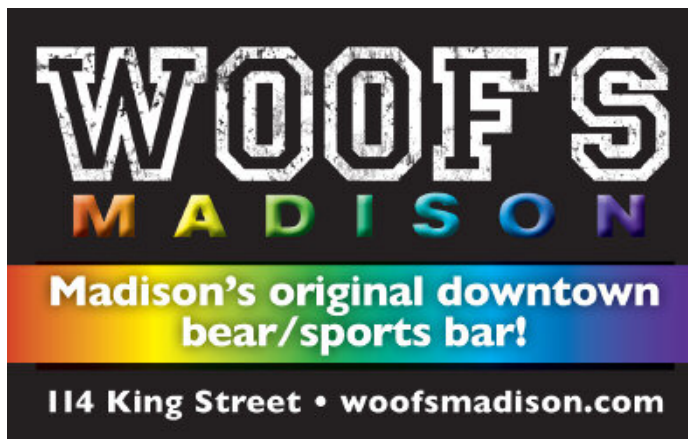
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 for a list of shelters and rescues that Adopt Local.

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