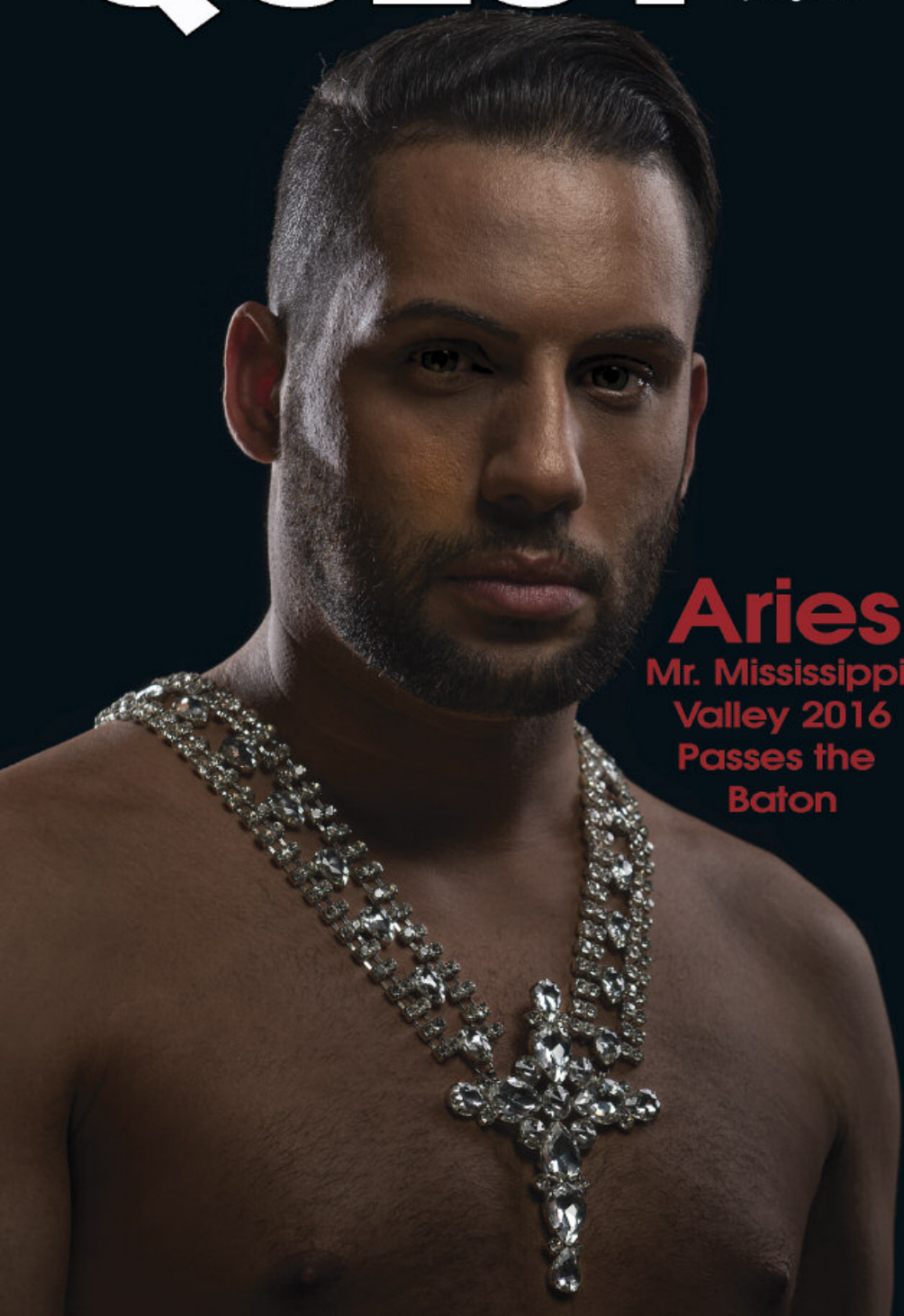


QUEST

MAGAZINE

Volume 24, #2

Spring 2017



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AN INTERVIEW WITH PETER HOLBROOK, OUTGOING CCF PRESIDENT AND CEO

By Paul Masterson



It's just been two years since Peter Holbrook, PhD, became Cream City Foundation's President and CEO. After the departure of CCF's previous leader in May of 2015, it took until the end of that year to find an individual

with the qualifications to lead Milwaukee's LGBT philanthropic organization. Holbrook had served as the Dean of Business Administration and Management at Cardinal Stritch University.

QUEST spoke with Holbrook about his two year term at CCF and his outlook for the organization after his departure.

QUEST: When you were hired in December 2015, CCF had the reputation of being elitist. Its fundraising efforts were focused on soliciting corporate dollars rather than appealing to the LGBT community. You made the rounds to various organizations and explained your intent to change the attitude of the CCF board and integrate the organization into the community it served. Did you accomplish that?

Peter Holbrook: I think yes. We raised the visibility within the LGBT communities as well as beyond. We got people reengaged and we raised more money. That allowed more dollars going out. Over these two years we gave grants to 50 organizations. We wanted to increase relevancy of funding to enhance the community well being. We galvanized the investment in young people through the scholarship programs. For that we had the community's direct support through the

Milwaukee Gay Sports Network as well as corporate donors. We raised over \$70000 and gave out \$45000. By doing so we signaled to LGBT individuals and allies that they matter. When people feel there is confidence in them and they are worthy of investment, they respond positively and will give back.

QUEST: What would you say is your greatest accomplishment during your brief tenure?

PH: There are several. To begin, in a short period of time CCF reengaged our constituencies and created awareness. That led to an increase of donors and increase of giving among older donors. We established the LGBT scholarship program and the momentum that occurred around that brought in a range of corporate and individual support. People could see a tangible impact. I was excited to see how quickly it evolved. The 3rd thing was to understand the post marriage equality needs of the community. We wanted to know what's next and identified a lot of issues around equality, health, and economic justice to be addressed. We also diversified our board. The chair is an African-American lesbian and our treasurer is an African American gay man. So the board is now more reflective of who we are as a people.

QUEST: You mention those three areas disparities in health, education, & economics. How have CCF's strategies been tailored to address these beyond the scholarship program?

PH: Our research in that pursuit came out of the MU Center for Gender Studies. We began to understand we are multiple communities. We are impacted by race, ethnicity, gender, religion and class. It's a rich dynamic but we need to continue to work with others and join forces. Anyone who is different is marginalized. Empowerment develops by changing hearts and minds through visibility and solidarity with others.

One example is the arts. Through Will Radler's Fund we were able to invest in the Milwaukee Repertory Theater around the play *Disgraced*. We were interested in the conversation around it and funding such interconversational projects around identity, race and religion. I was able to join a panel as a LGBT person. It was important to raise awareness in this context with the other communities seeking inclusion.

In the area of health, we need care givers service providers who are culturally competent. That will be the critical thing in these times when anything different, like LGBT people or immigrants, are deemed a threat.

QUEST: With the search on for a new President and CEO, how will that impact the strategies you set in place? Will the CCF's direction shift again with a new personality in your place?

PH: The board is behind our current strategy. Board is engaged in a search for new leadership. They want to build on the investment and accomplishments made in the past two years. They are committed to that. I don't believe they will create another direction. The priorities have been set. There is plenty of work to do. How do we invest

to create more culturally competent leaders, avenues and opportunities? recognized our vulnerable demographics: the seniors, African Americans, youth, among others. They want to be among everyone and continue to do granting, raising awareness and figuring out needs. That is where the board is at right now. How do we take that research we've done and make grants around those three areas in the effort towards social justice.

QUEST: Given the current political situation, has the mission changed?

PH: It's really a great question. There's a role for activism. We became very aware that we are in a precarious time and we can't guarantee things. We felt complacent having achieved so much in a short time and none of us wanted to believe this could happen. The first response is to join forces. That larger voice has impact. All of our rights are in question. It starts by talking and sharing who you are and bringing our full identity to the fore. Being out and proud allows people to get to know you. We can then join forces and continue to live visible out lives. With my new job interviews the first thing I did was come out. It's a trade off to be out. But, we cannot *not* be visible. The future



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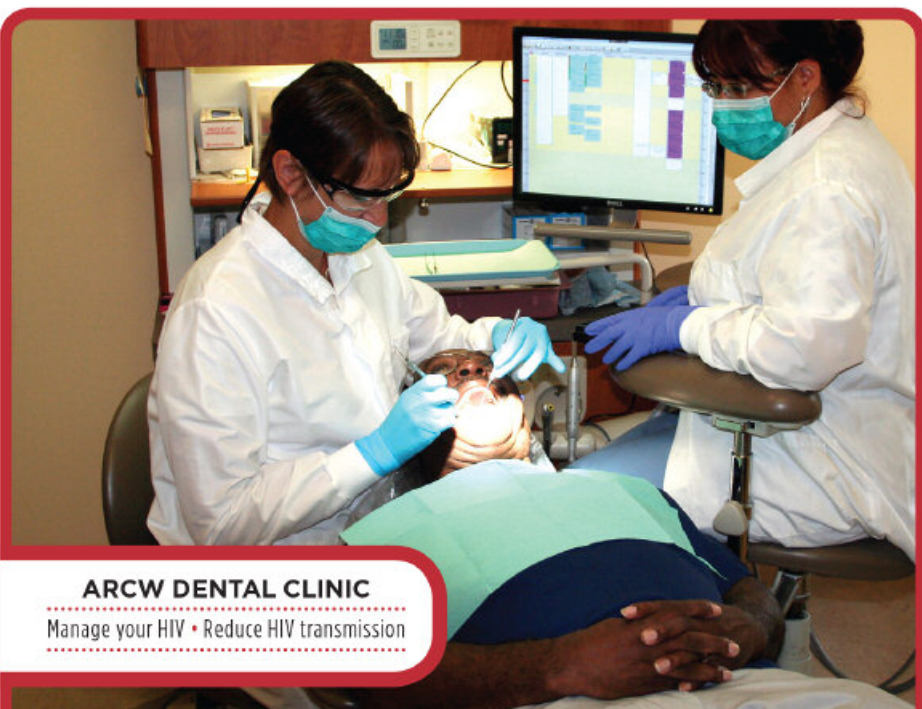
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means standing in that uncomfortable space, having uncomfortable conversations.

That makes us stronger and better at doing what we're doing as a reflection of our community. At the end of the day you see value in having diversity at the table. The whole set of possibilities is the hope for our community. Corporations see it. To have diversity in the work force cannot be ignored or you will be left behind in another ten years.

QUEST: How does the community move forward?

PH: I look for work that is meaningful and impactful. It's all about purpose. It's hard work. The people who are giving front line work need to be sustained. Things were not rosy before. We were just not that aware of how bad it was. We were quickly awakened. Are we willing to stand in the thick of it? Each of us has that identity and influence. It doesn't have to be specific to the LGBT community or about rights; it's about people knowing who you are and what you bring to the table as an LGBT person and giving it value. It's the only way to move forward.



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On Our Cover: Mr Mississippi Valley WI-USofA titleholder

Aries



Aires - Mr. Mississippi Valley

I got my start in entertainment in 2006 when I relocated to the city of Milwaukee. I met my mother Betty Boop whom with an open heart welcomed me under her wing and taught me everything I know through present day. I have so much to thank her for as well as my late Titi Rudi DeAngelo, my good sidekick Joe Aderhold and the legendary Jackie Roberts. As the new generation, we must not forget our roots and how privileged we are to have venues that allow us to grace their stages and all thanks to those whom came before us. We must always remain humble, keep an open mind and willingness to always give our all in all aspects of life, in everything we do. Only then can our goals be achieved. I have come a

long way from where I used to be, a troubled past has really opened my eyes. I have learned to value the little opportunities I have been given. Always remember, never to sell yourself short, it is okay to decline certain things, but remain being yourself. I wish to thank my Glitter Stage family for the memories, friendships and lessons every single member has given me. Making top three at Mr Gay Wisconsin USofA my first time showed me my capabilities and opened so many doors and I'm ready to walk through them again. My time as Mr. Mississippi Valley is soon ending and I hope I have been the best representative I could be. You can catch me performing all over the state, or come join me as I crown and welcome the next brother into the Mississippi Valley family on March 18 at Players in LaCrosse.



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HYBRID BAR SAYS FAREWELL

Article and photos by Paul Masterson

For those enslaved to social media, the real breaking news that scrolled by incredulous eyes on February 13 was a terse announcement that Hybrid Lounge would be closing barely two weeks later, on the 25th. According to the owner's statement, a buyer for the business had been found and all had been arranged for a transfer to new ownership but the landlord decided against renewing the business's lease. It was over.

Hybrid Lounge opened in 2010 and instantly became the go-to place for lower eastside LGBTQs as well as their straight friends as allies. It joined BestD Clinic, a long established Brady tenant further up the street. And Hybrid had it all: a fun, unpretentious atmosphere, friendly (and cute) bar staff, and a really good restaurant. For Sunday brunch I always recommended the biscuits and gravy (the best in town). Among its other amenities were windows! Unlike our few remaining old school bars, Hybrid could boast the unique virtue of connecting to the outside world – just like M&Ms back in the day. And, it had karaoke, darts, DJs, drag, game nights and all the rest. I used to conduct interviews for this magazine right at the bar. I'd meet my subject, order drinks and start the conversation. At 5 pm you could go there for calm after work cocktails and have a mellow conversation without the intrusion of too much ambient noise or blasting music...or a blasting radio which seems so popular in our bars these days.

Like the historic M&Ms, it had a community center vibe. Groups, including the Log Cabin Republicans and SSBL (and even a bunch of DL priests, I've been told), held meetings and threw parties there. SSBL had a closing bash just days

before the final last call. Speaking of which, I once attended a birthday party for the then SSBL treasurer Mona Garcia who borrowed a big hat from another patron that made her look like a grand Greta Garbo of the Kentucky Derby that just happened to be running that day.

Of course, Hybrid had a softball team, the Harlots (no surprise there), that played in the league's recreational division. Often a tad hung over for those Saturday games, they usually made their games.

As the anchor bar at the end of Brady Street, Hybrid had integrated into the diverse night life of the neighborhood. It became part of The Brady Street Festival, of course. It was a natural fit - the festival with its (in)famous drag show with Jackie Roberts performing for a multicultural array of artsy, progressive, trendy and hipster types. But while the festival was the culmination of the summer, the celebration that was Hybrid, was year 'round.

Back when Colleen Carpenter was executive director of the LGBT Community Center, I suggested Hybrid as a possible site for its monthly TGIF. My rationale was since the Center supported gay friendly places, why not actually patronize an authentic gay bar? Yes, it seemed risky, but it just might work, I argued. Sadly, it never happened.

Anyway, conveniently, there were handy bus stops framing the intersection allowing patrons to disperse in their preferred directions. Admittedly, I took advantage of an MCTS ride on occasion.

Considering the recently closing of Brady Street most popular dining destinations, Mimma's and Cempazuchi's, the loss of Hybrid Lounge added yet another seismic event to shock the neighborhood. With the economy bouncing back and

Hybrid Hosting SSBL Events



those long established restaurants gone, new development is apparently underway. What will become of the building at 707 East Brady that housed Hybrid is anyone's guess at the moment. But, rather than another new dining experience or trendy bar, we may soon see another condo complex rise on that famous corner lot. I'm sure it will be quite grand with views of the monotonous rooftops of other condos and the romantic Holton Street Bridge.

Perhaps whoever intended to take over Hybrid will not be dissuaded by fate and will find another spot in the neighborhood to settle into. Hopefully, it will have windows.



Fair Wisconsin Dinner

Photos courtesy of Michael Lisowski, *Queer Program*

“In The Dollhouse With Lina” Returns For Its Second Season

The Magic 8 Ball Brings Back Youtube’s Wildest Talk Show Starring Lina Bradford and Her Collection of Barbies

In *The Dollhouse With Lina*, the rollicking YouTube show hosted by the spirited House Music DJ diva Lina Bradford, returns for its second season this month. In the show, Lina’s quick wit (known as “Linish”...yes, she has her own language) and infectious smile take center stage as she discusses music, fashion and pop culture with her celebrity friends. In season one, her magic 8 ball transported Carson Kressley, Robert Verdi and Bevy Smith (host of “Bevelations” on Andy Cohen’s *Radio Andy*) into the dollhouse. Season Two will welcome guests like Candis Cayne, *NY Real Housewife* and Home Shopping Network jewelry designer Kelly Killoren Bensimon and Whoopi Goldberg. Each episode is shot in Lina Bradford’s Barbie doll room — she has over 600 pint-sized mannequins — and includes hilarious segments like the fan-favorite “Asian Fortune Cookie Kiki” where celebs play the Origami Paper Game with Lina, answering questions no one else would dare to ask.

“The wonderful part about doing a talk show is I get to be my fun, goofball self while doing the two things I most enjoy: learning more about the interesting personalities I adore and making people happy,” says Lina Bradford from *The Dollhouse* studios in New York. “What more could I ask for in a job?”

Lina Bradford grew up as an only child in New York City, across the street from Carnegie Hall. Without siblings, she would spend most of her days alone with only her wild imagination to keep her company. “I would put my Barbies in the craziest scenarios,” she remembers. “Whether they were fighting crime, sailing the French Riviera, or running high powered executive meetings in the boardroom, they always did it with glamour and style.”

Lina’s career in entertainment began early. She studied dance for ten and a half years, performing modern ballet, tap and jazz in several companies throughout New York. The moves she learned would become part of her signature style when, twenty years ago, she left the dance stage for the dance floor, spinning records all over New York and Europe. She would become best known for her ten-year run on *Fire Island*. Lina currently



holds a once-a-month residency Party TBS (*Throwback Sundays*) at NYC’s *The Gilded Lily*.

“I enjoyed a very strong upbringing from very well rounded intelligent Aries women who were all true Rams,” she continues. “They taught me to be confident in who I am.”

Lina Bradford is a trans woman but she does not define herself by it. “I’ve never done labels. I’ve only worn them,” she says.

People are drawn to Lina because of the essence she projects, one of love and light. “I’m an Aries. I’m optimistic and I love a challenge.”

While *In The Dollhouse*, Lina enjoys bringing out new sides of her guests that fans don’t normally get a chance to see. With Candis Cayne, she reminisces about growing up together in the legendary nineties New York scene. In her interview with Janet Mock, a transgender rights activist and author of the New York Times bestseller “*Redefining Realness*”, Lina manages to tap into Mock’s edge-y comedic side. “People tend to think Janet is always very straightforward and serious but in my interview, viewers will witness a wicked sense of humor!”

It’s the reason hoards of viewers tuned into the first season of *In The Dollhouse with Lina*. The show offers Lina, her guests, and viewers too, a rare chance to revert back to a childhood when shaking the Magic 8 Ball, embracing imagination and playing with dolls was acceptable and encouraged. “My show brings us back to our carefree days... if only for ten or fifteen minutes.”

In The Dollhouse With Lina is free at <http://djlina.com>. Follow on Facebook @DJLina.



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418 E. WELLS STREET - MILWAUKEE



"I Am Michael" also "King Cobra"

By
Glenn
Bishop



Whilst preparing for the arrival of the gentlemen of a certain age who comprise the monthly cinema circle, Glenn could not help but wonder is there is a more enigmatic figure in Gay cinema than James Franco?

During the halcyon early days of The New Queer Cinema, so dubbed by B. Ruby Rich in 1992, there were such filmmakers as Gregg Araki (**The Living End**), Bruce LaBruce (**No Skin Off My Ass**), as well as the extraordinary Gus Van Sant (**Mala Noche, My Own Private Idaho**).

Araki is a particularly interesting figure. Following **The Living End** and his **Teen Apocalypse Trilogy**, Araki took on Scott Heim's haunting novel, **Mysterious Skin** to great acclaim. Later this "self-identified gay Asian American" became involved with Kathleen Robertson, an actress from his film, **Nowhere**.

Indeed, Mr. Franco has yet to return to Glenn's good graces following first **Broken Tower**, during which Mr. Franco was to give a blow job and officially went down on a dildo. As a tease, Franco later reported that he

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

It is hard not to find **King Cobra** a disappointment, even for those moviegoers who were fans of Brent Corrigan or of Cobra Studio.

The gentlemen of the cinema circle and indeed Glenn himself, boasting at least a passing familiarity with the real Sean Paul Lockhart found Garrett Clayton a curious casting choice, not believably 17 going on 18. On to **I am Michael**,

Justin Kelly's screenplay follows Michael's anti-Gay journey, a difficult journey made for uncomfortable viewing. Early scenes make Michael and Bennett seem like an ideal gay couple. Once in Halifax, Michael's boredom is easily explained if not entirely fair, still Bennett tries to make their relationship work. Even Michael's forays into the Bible are reasonable enough, initially

But the voice-over Blog entries become increasingly wearying as does his constant brooding and the danger which lies just below the surface.

Glenn in the end wanted ideas about what brought about Michael's change? Sadly Justin's screenplay sheds little light.

Even if the evening wasn't a salute to James Franco, Glenn would put both films in the "rent it" category.

Just the facts...

I am Michael is in English and has a running time of 98 minutes. **I am Michael** is out March 7th on DVD with a SRP of \$24.99 DVD extras include Outtakes, Official Trailer plus commentary with director Justin Kelly

King Cobra is in English and has a running time of 92 minutes. **King Cobra** is out on DVD with a SRP of \$29.99 DVD extras include Outtakes, Official Trailer plus commentary with director Justin Kelly

wished he had the balls to have done it on a real dick.

Far more deplorable is **Interior. Leather Bar**, Franco's excruciating take on the 40 minutes of gay S&M footage rumored to have been cut and destroyed from the 1980 film, **Cruising**.

How fun then for Glenn when the members of the monthly cinema circle chose to plan a James Franco triple feature?

Well, double feature as it happens. So much discussion followed **I am Michael** that there wasn't time enough for **GOAT**,

King Cobra was to be screened first; a film certain to be ever so salacious. Ice tinkled merrily in cocktails as the gentleman of the cinema circle waited for the sure to



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be naughtiness revealed as Justin Kelly's screenplay explored the rise of the once and forever porn phenomenon, Brent Corrigan (Garrett Clayton).

The barely (?) legal twink would very quickly become the Cobra Studios' star attraction and all-around cash cow for its owner. Soon enough Sean Paul Lockhart, Brent's real name, decided he wasn't getting his fair share leading to a split with Cobra Video's producer/director Bryan Kocis, here re-named Stephen (Christian Slater).

Unfortunately for Sean/Brent, Stephen had taken a trademark on the Brent Corrigan name. The result is that no other producers wanted to work with Sean/Brent without the use the stage name that made him such a money-maker.

Still, Sean has another ace up his sleeve: blackmail. He reveals that he lied about his age and was in fact only 17 and illegal when he filmed his first scenes.

The owners of one porn company, Viper Boy, think that all of their problems would be solved and they'd get rich besides, if only they can get Brent Corrigan. When unsuccessful in convincing Bryan Kocis/Stephen Viper's psychotic producer Joe (James Franco) and his partner Harlow (Keegan Allen), brutally murder Stephen.

With nary a moment's rest, the evening leaves the porn industry and Justin Kelly turns his screenplay to anti-Gay conversion in **I am Michael**.

Much like **King Cobra**, Kelly's **I am Michael** is based on a true story, that of Michael Glatze (James Franco), who went from an out and proud gay activist and editor of the iconic **XY**, a gay youth magazine to become a straight, married Pastor in Wyoming.

The film starts in flashback, the year is 1998 and the place is San Francisco. Michael and Bennett (Zachary Quinto) look to be a thoroughly happy gay couple.

Up next is one huge plug for **XY Magazine**, which a few of the gentlemen of the cinema circle mentioned as having

(somewhat) recently put out issue #50, the first issue of **XY** since 2010.

Although he's clearly not happy when Bennett wants to relocate for a major work project, Michael is at best sanguine. In his Blog he writes, "What's more important to me is growing old with the love of my life, Bennett."

Michael makes a nominal effort adapt in Halifax, where at least the sushi is fabulous. Enter Tyler (Charlie Carver), a pleasant, attractive young man; Tyler quickly joins the household and this new three-way relationship seeming to be just as happy as Michael and Bennett had been.

Soon, however there's another exciting new project. Michael, Bennett and Tyler hit the open road for a documentary on gay youth. Although not clearly expressed, this looks to be yet another effort to placate Michael.

All too soon the panic attacks start, Michael is convinced they are in some way connected to the rare heart condition that had felled his father when Michael was thirteen. The panic attacks become more frequent only to subside when one night when he puts his hands together and prays.

Still, Michael remains belligerent about taking a test which would prove beyond a doubt is he had the same condition as his father. When he does, he learns that the result was negative.

Yet somehow, in Michael's mind, God has saved him.

Michael's journey from gay activist to a Pastor of an anti-Gay church continues in excruciating detail, one which begins with an especially heartless parting from Bennett. God continues to charter Michael's progress, For instance, God sends the now Christian to a Buddhist retreat, presumably so he can shag cute Nico (Avan Jogia).



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DAVIS MALLORY ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF HIS NEW EP, "LOUD"

Davis Mallory, the blond-haired blue-eyed fraternity brother who came out nationally on MTV's *The Real World*, will release his first EP, *LOUD*, on April 25, 2017. "The entire EP was written during my previous relationship's climb and fall," he says.

The title track, written with Mitchell Rose and produced by Ricca Vita & J. Hanna, explores the passion Davis enjoyed at the start of the romance. "It's my Marvin Gaye's 'Let's Get it On' or my George Michael's 'I Want Your Sex,'" he laughs, with a shy grin. "It's a bit outside of the norm of what I usually write about."

Two remixes of "Loud" will be included on the EP. The first, by Miami-based producer Landis, will be released later this month by Armada Records. The second remix is by Los Angeles-based producer BPT.

In "Ocean Blue," co-written with Lockwood Barr (winner of Nashville Music Industry Award's "Best Live Country Performer") and produced by Brazilian duo Paulo Ventura & RDR, Davis sings about the great lengths he now knows he would travel for someone he is in love with. "The relationship really tested my boundaries on how far I would go to keep it going."

He sings about struggling to maintain a long distance relationship in "Distance," a song he wrote with Bay Brooks (who competed on TV's *The Voice*). "I tear up when I sing the song live as it's one of the more emotional tracks for me."

"Be Without You" is the darkest song on *LOUD*. "I wrote it right after our final breakup, when I realized we had reached the end. My mom doesn't like the song. She doesn't like sad music, but it was my way of dealing with the pain that comes from the end of a relationship."

Since the split, Davis has strategically taken a break from dating to focus on his music and dedicate his time and en-



ergy to building his legacy. "Music, for me, isn't about making money or becoming famous. It's about creating something that I am passionate about and that I hope will live on even after I die. I listen to music all day. It's the art form I love most."

Davis Mallory's "Under Your Spell" released to iTunes February 7, 2017. The *LOUD* EP releases to iTunes April 25, 2017. **For more information, visit DavisMallory.com.**

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Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Spring is in the air! We've survived the rather mild winter... and now it's time to open windows and doors allowing the fresh air in! My favorite time of the year!

Sunday, February 26 after too long of a hiatus Brian Reinkober and Karen Valentine return to Club Charlies 320 East Menomonee Street in The Historical Third Ward for Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes – 2017! 2 - 7 pm, a great way to usher in The Oscars!

"Time Stands Still" by Donald Margulies is currently center stage at In Tandem Theatre Company – Tenth Street Theatre 628 North 10th Street 414-271-1371 www.intandemtheatre.org playing through Sunday, March 19.

This time of year people start planning their gardens. On that note "Little Shop of Horrors" springs up at Sunset Playhouse – Elm Grove 800 Elm Grove Road. Thursday, March 2 – Sunday, March 19 Furlan Auditorium of the Sunset 262-782-4430. Check out their Seymour! (Puppets designed by The Domes' Burt Gross).

"Beatle Bash" – a British Invasion is scheduled for Friday, March 3 Waukesha County Expo Center 1000 Northview Road starring The Britins. BeatleMania at it's very best – one night only! Celebrate Yesterday and that Long and Winding Road....

Tuesday, March 7 – Sunday, April 9 Tennessee Williams classic "The Glass Menagerie" will be gracing the Quadracci Powerhouse of The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre 108 East Wells Street 414-224-9490. Starring Hollis Resnik who mesmerized everyone a few years ago as Judy Garland, can't wait to see her version of Amanda!

Saturday, March 11 The Parade celebrating the Irish will take place 12 noon! The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and Westown Association really know how to bring the party to the people! Don't let it pass You by!

Later that day stop by This Is It 418 East Wells Street as Dr. Gino De Luca and Karen Valentine return with their seasonal Cabaret. Past Valentine's Day and before April Fool's Day!

Skylight Music Theatre proudly presents "Beauty and the Beast" (Ze Mire Et Azor) – The Baroque Opera, showcasing the well-known fairy tale. Wednesday, March 15 – Sunday, March 26 Cabot Theatre of The Broadway Theatre Center 158 North Broadway 414-291-7800 – Lift your soul for a spell!

The wearing of the green – St. Patrick's Day lands on the weekend! Friday, March 17 – can you imagine a 72 hour party! Please support your local Gay bar – mix a little rainbow in your green beer!

The Historic Third Ward has the smallest St. Patrick's Day Parade – remember size isn't everything...

The Florentine Opera continues their flawless season with "Don Giovanni" Friday, March and Sunday, March 19. Please visit online at florentineopera.org for information, tickets and details or call 800-32-opera. Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 929 North Water Street.

The Florentine has announced their dynamic 2017/2018 Season: "The Merry Widow" October 20 and 22, "Venus & Adonis and Dido & Aeneas" January 26, 28, 31 and February 2, 4, 2018, "Prince of Players" March 16 & 18, and "The Magic Flute" May 11 & 13.

The next day is – One Heartland (Camp Heartland) Fundraiser at The Warehouse/ Hot Water 813 South Water Street kiddy corner from KRUIZ, Saturday, March 18 4 – 8 pm, show time at 6 pm. Karen Valentine femcees – with a cast of thousands: Dear Ruthie, Corky Morgan, Laura Monagle, Gino De Luca, Chester, Wes, and Maple Veneer- to name but a few!



Miss Emerald City WI-USofA 2017

Photos by Za more online at www.quest-online.com



All proceeds go to One Heartland sending children affected and effected to Summer Camp. They'll be a full cash bar – with drink specials, a buffet, a silent auction, and a great opportunity to be reunited a lot friends you haven't seen since last year. Your continuing hosts for the evening, after all these years, Tall Keith and his brother Jim. Remember it's all for the kids!

The first weekend of Spring Friday, March 23 – Sunday, March 26 The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) 700 North Art Museum Drive hosts their annual "Art in Bloom: A Tribute to Art and Flowers". A must for all that appreciate – art, flowers, design and our community, always a visual orgasm! Save the date – Saturday, April 29 is the Bal du Lac MAM's grand gala!

April 1 – isn't only April Fool's Day – Saturday, April 1 is Skylight Night – a benefit for the Skylight Music Theatre. Details are being cemented as of this writing – pencil it in!

Saturday, April 8 brings Mil-M-AIDS, the wonderful Milwaukee and Madison combination Bowling Tournament to strike out HIV/AIDS. Everything is taking place at J.B.'s on 41 (same place as last time) \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Questions please call Debi Vance at 414-418-3324.

This Bowling Tournament is legendary for the good they do and the fun in doing so!

ARCW – AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin has now partnered with The Rocky Mountain AIDS Project of Denver. ARCW is a model of how all AIDS help agencies should be like and now can help another state with this important fight. Who knows how many other states will be looking to our ARCW for direction! Bravo! "Strike a Pose" is the theme for this year's Make A Promise Dinner Saturday, April 22 The Wisconsin Center. I think Madonna would be flattered!

Kudos to The Pride Theatre Company and their outstanding production of James Goldman's "The Lion in Winter". Bill Jackson was phenomenal starring as Henry, II and directing as well. Liz Norton in the role of Eleanor of Aquitaine met Bill's level and they relished every line, like a well-aged cognac. I can only hope to see these two powerhouses on stage together again and soon!

Thank You Lance & Spence for a posh Palm

Springs weekend! Nothing better than time in this delightful desert! SpurLine must be favorite nite spot – I love the show tune videos and seeing former localites – Darren & Jeff now the toast of the town! LuLu's, Mr. Parker's and Melvyn's – what a time!

A lovely brunch was held in my honor by Tom Reed & Jon Martin – including many Wisconsinites that are now enjoying the sun. Jack Balzer & Greg Gowdy, Scott Coleman & Jeff Gadberry, and Robert Parrish all gathered on Super Bowl Sunday – for a truly super brunch! And seeing Bernadette Peters at The McCullum Center enjoying 90 minutes of Sondheim, this is the quintessential recipe for an unforgettable weekend! And yes I did hurt my shin – but I'm still here!

Milestones

Since last we met, the world is a bit duller, not as bright... two dynamic members of our Community have departed. Tom Look the 92 1/2 year old bon vivant, raconteur, and The Ball Game AARP Table Royalty – every inch the gentleman. I always addressed him as Mr. Look – as a sign of respect and high regard. I will miss his wry sense of humor and Broadway anecdotes. Mr. Look had the distinct honor of being school chums with Miss Elaine (At Liberty) Stritch in the suburbs of Detroit. Sleep well dear friend.

Richard Steele – at 75 another dazzling fixture of Milwaukee and Palm Springs society. Richard was always the life of the party – and put so much party into life! An accomplished renaissance man – an educator, gourmet, gourmand, caterer, visionary – when it came to design and decorating. And always on everyone's best dressed list! It's hard for me to share my reflections on Richard without mentioning his partner of 24 years – Robert Parrish. "R&R" as they will always be known as lived "A Wonderful Life" and the gift was ours, because we were always invited, included and loved by them. Even in death, Richard thought of others and directed all memorials to ARCW or The Palm Springs AIDS Project. I'm a better man to have known him ... Everyone's favorite BrewTown Fashionista Tracy shares with me the passing of Rick Finger at 62. Since the death of his husband

Sheldon Schur, Rick had been in failing health and a guest at The Milwaukee Jewish Home. This Super Couple did a lot for our city, state and particularly for our Community. Thank You both and sleep well!

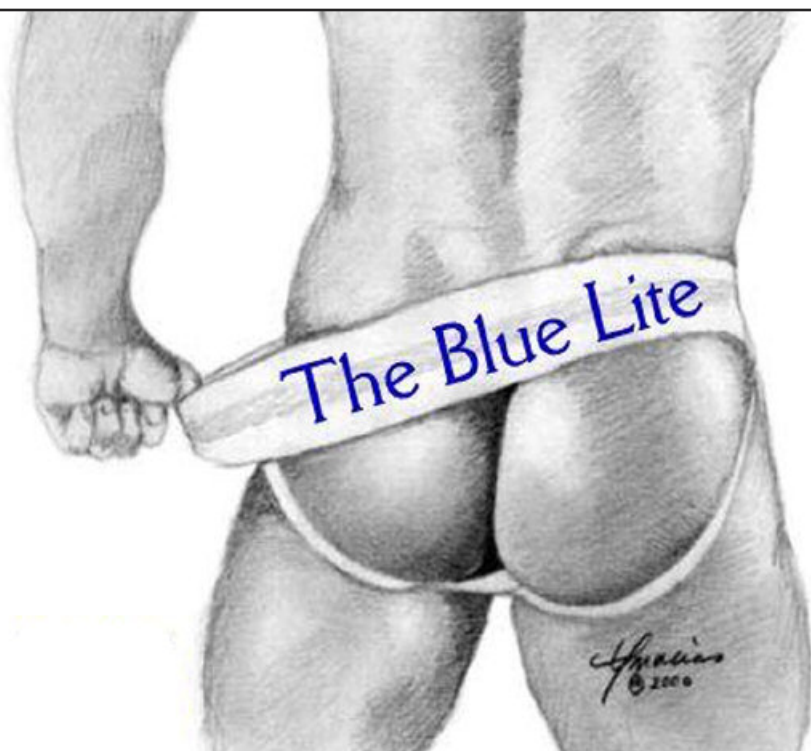
And after seven successful years we bid a fond farewell to The Hybrid Lounge. Where Brady and Van Buren meet – a great corner tap, offering great times. Please patronize your favorite watering holes –before they dry up.

Food Time

No I don't have Richard Steele's tasty recipes to share, unfortunately... maybe one day a cook

book? But I can endorse a great location for food, drink and sleep! A truly great experience – The Journey Man of The Kimpton in The Historic Third Ward. The address to remember is 310 East Chicago Street or visit www.journeymanhotel.com 414-291-3970. The sixth floor balcony is a great way to sip and enjoy a panoramic view of our fair hamlet. Joel my contact at The Kimpton came all the way from Australia to run this gem in our tiara of fine hotels. You will not be disappointed!

Remember, it's the glamor not the grammar – love is in the air, enjoy – it's spring as I remain Still Cordially Yours!



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FREE HIV & SYPHILIS Testing at:

Friday, March 3rd
Kruz, 7-9
Harbor Room, 10-12

Monday, March 6th,
Fluid, 9:30-11:30

Tuesday, March 14th,
LGBT Center, 5:30-8

Wednesday, March 15th,
LaCage, 10-12

Thursday, March 16th,
Woodys, 9-11

Thursday, March 23rd,
D.I.X, 9-11

Friday, March 24th
Club Icon, (Kenosha)
9:30-12:30

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