

QUEST

MAGAZINE

Volume 24, #8

Fall 2017

An Interview With
Mr. Gay Wisconsin-USofA
Dan E Dance



Photography by Mike Hillier

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issue notes

INTERVIEW BY
PAUL MASTERSON

PHOTOS BY
MIKE HILLER



ON OUR COVER: Dan E Dance

Dan E. Dance, the current holder of the prestigious Mr. Gay Wisconsin USofA title, has a long history of pageantry. His story is one of commitment, perseverance and a personal strength to overcome adversity that has brought him to the level of success that few have achieved.

Dan E. Dance spoke with QUEST and told his inspirational story.

QUEST: Before we get to your entertainment career, what can you tell QUEST readers about your background? And how did you discover your talent?

Dan E. Dance: I was born in Milwaukee and have lived here, mainly in the city of Greenfield, all my life. I was educated through the Greenfield public school system & UW-Milwaukee.

I graduated from John Robert Powers Modeling and Finishing

School and have theater and dance training in my background. My entertainment career started shortly after my 21st birthday. I was in La Cage and saw Holly Brown and Company rehearsing in Dance Dance Dance. For those who don't recall, the La Cage main floor was three connecting bar areas. They were La Cage, Dance Dance Dance, and Jazz.

CONTINUED ON
• PG 4 •

CONTENTS

Cover Interview
Page 3

Milwaukee LGBT
Film/Video Festival
Page 6

Cordially Yours
Page 13

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COVER PHOTO BY MIKE HILLER



I watched Holly and Co. through the glass door for a bit and said to myself, "I can do that."

I opened the door and walked in. When Holly and her company noticed me, they mentioned that this was a closed rehearsal to the public and I couldn't be in there. Undaunted, I said, "I understand, but I can do what you're doing." After their rehearsal, Christopher Alex, the choreographer at La Cage at the time, came up to me and said, "So you think you can do what we do. Let me see you dance." I went on the dance floor and started dancing. During the second song I was dancing to, Christopher came up to me and said, "OK, be here at this time and day" and Dan E. Dance was born.

QUEST: What and who influenced your interest in entertainment? TV or other media personalities? Family and friends?

DED: As a child, I was actually influenced by my mom's friends, who were also our neighbors, watching their preparation for, and competing in dance competitions. I was about 12 years old. I remember watching their dance competitions at the clubs called Papagaio and Park Avenue. Back then, underage people could get into bars with their parents. It was only a couple of times my mom took me there to watch her friends. It wasn't a regular thing my mom did. Does anyone remember Papagaio or Park Avenue? (laughs). Those bars were mostly straight except for

Wednesday gay nights at Papagaio and Sunday gay nights at Park Avenue. They caused a lot of controversy among gay bar owners because they were upset over the "competition." Gay bar owners pressured LGBT publications to not accept advertising from them which was partly the reason for the demise of one LGBT publication "Gay Milwaukee." Also, in my youth, Prince and James Dean influenced my interest in entertainment. Currently, Ed Sheeran, Adam Lambert, Bruno Mars and DNCE are very influential to me.

QUEST: What were you doing before you entered the pageant scene?

DED: Gosh, it was many years ago when I entered the pageant scene at the age of 21 (laughs). At that time, I was working at La Cage and a cast member of Holly Brown and Company. Before that, as I still am, I was a father and son, grandson (my grandparents have since passed) and working on my education, building a strong self-foundation and becoming a better person.

QUEST: Okay, you in an ensemble and dancing, having fun, but what inspired you to break out and become a pageant contestant?

DED: It was the love of the art of entertainment, the competition, the family that is built amongst performers, representing the title, the system, the promoters, clubs, cities, and the great State of Wisconsin and all its wonderful residents. The show bookings that come with the pageant scene are fantastic, too, and, I'll admit, the perks are enticing. Jimmy King, also, was a major influence in my becoming part of the pageant world.

QUEST: Do you have any anecdotes, special successes, disasters, or critical moments in your pageant career?

DED: Every title I have held and every pageant I have entered, whatever the outcome was, I consider successes. One of the greatest moments of my pageant career is winning Mr. Gay Wisconsin USofA 2017 and, humbly, when I held three titles at the same time: Mr. Gay Great Lakes USofA, Mr. Gay Wisconsin, and Mr. Gay Indiana USofA. Yes, I have had some disasters and critical moments. In the early years, I was self-medicating my anxiety and depression. This caused me to make mistakes and say and do a couple of things that were not appropriate.

QUEST: And aside from your own perseverance, to whom or what do you attribute your title?

DED: I attribute my current title, Mr. Gay Wisconsin USofA 2017, to hard work and changing myself for the better. Other than my own perseverance, I give credit to my phenomenal backup dancers, the brother and sister duo, David and Anna Sage, Geno Forliti and his Generation Dance Company as well as everyone who has helped and supported me along the way. Even those who weren't so kind, I have to mention. Both, the people who were helpful and kind, and those who weren't so supportive, were great motivation.

QUEST: Who do you admire in the current realm of pageants, drag, and entertainment?

DED: I admire kind people in general, as well as those with individuality and people who are true to themselves. I admire many Wisconsin people

and entertainers, and others from across the nation, but I will keep it local. First, Shannon Dupree is an amazing person. She is always there when I need to chat and is a supportive and strong individual. You have to give credit to someone who has longevity and stays relevant. Second, Randy Bouche' and his troupe Chez Bouche' are wonderful. Randy's professionalism and willingness to lend a helping hand at any time is admirable. You have to give credit to someone who started his own long-running national touring show and who is so helpful to everyone. Finally, Bryanna Banx is incredible. Her representation, commitment, and promotion of the USofA system are outstanding. You have to give credit to someone who is so hard-working and dedicated.

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2017 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival

Tuesday, Nov 2 thru
Sunday Nov. 12

by Glenn Bishop

Despite the extraordinary summer-like weather, the leaves have begun changing color, the days have gotten shorter and shorter and autumn has arrived, all of which signals the start of Film Festival season here in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Film Festival started a week later than usual; The 2017 Milwaukee Film Festival's Opening Night was Sept. 28 with a screening of the astonishing documentary, **Stumped**, a film about a man who, after losing his limbs to a bacterial infection, confronts his fate first with stand-up comedy and then pursuit of a miracle: a double-arm transplant.

The **32nd Annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival** will be illuminating local screens a few weeks later this year, running from Thursday, November 2 to Sunday, November 12.

Now for the October Quest, Glenn has been provided with screening materials for many of the feature films and documentaries which, along with the various assorted programs of short films, comprise **32nd Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival**.



Signature Move

Sadly time and space constraints have somewhat limited what films Glenn could include. Glenn was particularly pleased to have the opportunity to screen the lesbian-interest Opening Night film, **Signature Move** as well as three intriguing gay feature films, **I Dream in Another Language**, **Four Days in the Face** plus John Trengove's acclaimed, **The Wound**.

Many documentaries caught Glenn's eye, particularly David France's **The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson** and **The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin**, author of **Tales of the City**.

With so many terrific films and shorts programs from which to choose, Glenn's best advice is to buy a Festival Pass, grab a sleeping bag and head out to the **32nd Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival**.

OPENING NIGHT SIGNATURE MOVE

Following a few shots establishing the Pakistani-enclave in suburban Chicago, director Jennifer Reeder's **Signature Move** introduces Zaynab (Fawzia Mira), a Pakistani-American lesbian who lives with her devout Muslim mother Parveen (Shabana Azmi). Parveen spends her days glued to the television, incessantly watching her beloved melodramatic, Pakistani soaps. And of course her trusty binoculars are always at the ready to check out any male passers-by in the hopes of spotting a potential suitable husband for her daughter.

It is fair to say that Zaynab is rather stuck in a rut. She goes to work as an immigration lawyer and then it is off to the gym before coming home and preparing dinner for her and her mother. Zaynab wistfully accepts the combative nature of her relationship with her mother; her mother bound and determined to get Zaynab to find a suitable husband.

Glenn found it intriguing that their verbal

sparring featured Parveen speaking in her native tongue whilst Zaynab doggedly responding in English. "Mothers and daughters aren't friends in our culture," Zaynab later admits.

Zaynab's comfortable routine soon faces two challenges. The first comes via the rather unconventional arrangement Zaynab makes with her new client, Jayde (Audrey Francis) who, in lieu of the usual forms of payment for services ren-

dered, offers to train Zaynab in the ways of Lucha wrestling.

Zaynab's life is further upended one afternoon after she finds her way to a small, corner tavern. Even though she's just insisted to her mother that there is no such thing as love at first sight, Zaynab meets Alma (Sari Sanchez) a spirited out-and-proud Mexican-American lesbian who soon has gotten Zaynab drunk on tequila shots and then into bed for a very passionate make out session..

Zaynab is determined to pursue both the wrestling and the girl; she's even more determined to keep both a secret from her mother.

Secrets rarely stay secrets in stories such as these.

Jennifer Reeder's **Signature Move** is just the sort of big-hearted Lesbian romcom that is all too rare in Lesbian cinema and virtually nonexistent in Gay cinema.

Sari Sanchez's Alma and Fawzia Mira's Zaynab gener-

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ate lots of chemistry as the unlikely couple, one a serial-monogamist, the other still taking baby steps to escape the closet. Some very entertaining supporting characters cleverly disguise the thinness of Lisa Donato and Fawzia Mirza screenplay including Mark Hood's delightfully sassy bartender Milo, Shabana Azmi as Zaynab's unexpectedly mischievous mother and most of all Molly Brennan as Alma's delightfully dyky friend, Killian.

Signature Move, already an audience at other LGBT Film Festival will surely be a popular Opening Night film at the 32nd Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival.

--Recommended

Gay Feature Films:

The Wound

I Dream in Another Language

4 Days in France

One of the joys of the annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, in addition to the communal experience of watching LGBT films with other LGBT moviegoers, is the opportunity to see films which are unlikely to make their way to Netflix or Amazon Prime or even onto DVD.

Three extraordinary gay feature films in that category, Glenn reckons, are John Trengove's **The Wound** and Ernesto Contreras' **I Dream in Another Language** as well as Jérôme Reybaud's **4 Days in France** which quite predictably enough is set in France.

The Wound is a raw, often brutal film exploring themes like the importance of traditions, concepts of masculinity and alternative sexual expression. John Trengove's screenplay sets his story within South Africa's Xho-



4 Days in France

sa culture where each year fathers bring their teenage sons to the mountains of the Eastern Cape to participate in an ancient coming-of-age ritual.

Xolani (Nakhane Touré), a rather solitary young man who has gotten a reputation as someone who is good at helping the "softies" get through the ritual which starts with a communal circumcision amidst shouts of "I'm a Man." This year, Xolani is to act as caregiver to Kwanda (Niza Jay), a city boy from Johannesburg, the son of an old family friend. Kwanda's father, believing the boy's mother has spoiled her son, trusts Xolani to take their son safely into manhood.

It is evident right from the start that Kwanda hadn't wished to participate. Still, Xolani is patient with the lad and the two form a tentative bond, especially after Xolani shares his own experiences as an initiate, as one who suffered without a caregiver.

It slowly emerges that Xolani had an ulterior motive for attending the ceremony; he hoped to have a reunion with one of the other caregivers, Vija (Bongile Mantsai). Unlike Xolani, Vija is a big, strong, well-built man boasting not only a wife but children as well. There's nary a moment of foreplay when these two men get together in a bru-

tal encounter reminiscent of the fabled campfire scene in **Brokeback Mountain**.

Yet even as Vija and Xolani are determined to their clandestine relationship a secret, Kwanda sees through their charade in short order. A young man who has clearly accepted his sexuality, Kwanda tries to talk to talk sense to Xolani, insisting, correctly, that there would be no future for Xolani and Vija.

What will happen when the final morning Kwanda spies the very naked, post-coital Xolani and Vija asleep in the woods and their secret has been bared to the world?

Difficult at various times to watch, John Trengove's **The Wound** offers an extraordinary experience in capturing the unease caused by the juxtaposition of long cherished ancient traditions within current societal norms.

Kudos to a fine cast with special mention of Nakhane Touré's solitary Xolani as well as Niza Jay's Kwanda, whose modern notions of gender and sexuality are to Xolani as if spoken in a different language - **Highly Recommended**

I Dream in Another Language

Characters' speaking in another language is in fact the basis for Ernesto Contreras' **I Dream in Another Language**. With a script by his brother (Carlos Contreras), the premise for **I Dream in Another**

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Woodys, Thurs. 19th, 9-11

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

LaCage, Wed. 25th, 10-12

D.I.X, Thurs. 26th, 9-12

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Language is surprisingly simple and straightforward. A young, attractive linguist, Martin (Fernando Álvarez Rebeil) has set off on a quest to record the nearly extinct language Zikril. In order to find the last three people who SPEAK ZIKRIL, Martin has journeyed to a remote part of Mexico.

And before you get your phones out to Google “Zikril”, it is an imaginary language. Curiously, there are no subtitles provided when characters do speak Zikril, which does make a certain amount of sense, mused Glenn.

As portrayed in the film, Zikril is a truly special language, one with which the speaker might actually be able to talk to the creatures of the woods and maybe even the dead.

Anyway, Martin is given a warm welcome upon his arrival to the small village in which the three remaining speakers live. Dona Jacinta (Monica Miguel) whose family is hosting Martin is one of the speakers. The other two speakers are two old men who have lived in this small hamlet all their lives and yet haven't spoken to each other for the last 50 years.

Don Evaristo (Eligio Meléndez) lives with his granddaughter Lluvia (Fátima Molina) while Don Isauro (José Manuel Poncelis) leads a solitary existence having never married.

The sudden (although not unexpected) death of Dona Jacinta leaves Martin with little choice but to find a way to get these two bitter enemies back on speaking

terms. He enlists help from Lluvia with whom he is having a torrid affair.

Still, Martin is determined to get Evaristo and Isauro together. Day after day Martin talks to first one, then to the other, wheedling them, cajoling them and even resorting to a bribe of a new, large screen television. Their first attempt was not a success but eventually their sessions start and Evaristo and Isauro actually seem to be renewing their old friendship.

But the past, their past cannot so easily be dismissed. Even so that Isauro has mellowed enough to be able to recall the days of their youth with a degree of fondness, Evaristo remains ashamed and violently turns on his old friend yet once again.

The truth to what happened that resulted in these two blood brothers becoming the worst of enemies eventually comes out, as such secrets invariably do in stories such as this.

The film's rather enigmatic ending, although admittedly one liberally dusted with elements of magical realism, proves an entirely satisfactory for a film infused with the sadness and regret. How different Evaristo's and Isauro's lives might have turned out had they been able to live their lives according to their true selves.

Recommended
4 Days in France

Screening Jérôme Reybaud's intriguing **A Days in France**, Glenn was joined by the gentlemen who comprise the monthly cinema circle. During the

pre-screening cocktail hour, Glenn shared the film's basic narrative. Many members, Glenn himself in fact, were remaindered of another French film, **The Adventures of Felix**. In that film, Felix (Sami Bouajila) sets off on a quest to find his father after being laid off of his job.

Alternately, **4 Days in France** proves to be rather more 'choose your own narrative.' The film opens with Pierre (Pascal Cervo) having awakened and dressed in what looks to be the wee hours of the morning. Pierre pauses, shining the light from his cell phone on a sleeping man, surely Pierre's boyfriend!? Then he quietly leaves the apartment and hits the open road.

Is the slumbering man Pierre's boyfriend? Why is Pierre leaving with saying a word? Where is he going? Had Pierre forgotten that they had opera tickets that evening?

Amidst such confusion and uncertainty, the group decided to keep the bar open.

Unlike **The Adventures of Felix**, Jérôme Reybaud's screenplay has Pierre aided and abetted by the latest technology. For his search for likely hookup candidates, Pierre has Grindr. And he has GPS in order to find the best route to meet up.

At this point the gentlemen of the cinema were quite frankly intrigued, particularly those who had seen the sexually explicit **Paris 05:59: Théo & Hugo**.

At a rest area Pierre spies a likely phone number written on the wall. Pierre calls the

number, a connection made and in moments Pierre has hit the road, guided by his GPS. Whilst en route Pierre is sidetracked by a woman, Diane (Fabienne Babe) needing a lift after her car breaks down. They chat amicably; Pierre explains to his passenger the ins and outs of the dating app.

It already nightfall when Pierre drops Diane back to her car but for Pierre, the


game is still afoot and in short measure, Pierre has hooked up with a handsome young man (Mathieu Chévê) desperate to leave his small country town. The lad pleads with Pierre to pick him up when he returns home but Pierre declines, insisting he wasn't going back.

Meanwhile, Paul (Arthur Igual), clearly confused by his partner's disappearing act, decides it's time to hit the

road, similarly armed with Grindr and GPS.

Will Paul ever catch up with Pierre? Can Pierre find whatever it is he's been searching before Paul catches him up?

With Jérôme Reybaud's quirky screenplay, moviegoers are left to expect the unexpected. **4 Days in France** proves to be an intriguing if perhaps rather too leisurely paced tour of the French countryside.



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LGBT Documentaries

Glenn has selected to review two extraordinary, marvelously diverse LGBT documentaries to be screened at the 32nd Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival to highlight. The subject of the first doc is famed novelist Armistead Maupin, creator of the wildly popular *Tales of the City* series. The second documentary is from Oscar nominated filmmaker David France recalls Stonewall in the examination of both the life and the death of trans-activist Marsha P. Johnson.

The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin, Jennifer M. Kroot

Filmmaker Jennifer M. Kroot's *The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin* offers an affectionate portrayal of the iconic novelist and activist. Dividing Maupin's life as if chapters in book, marked by animator Grant Nelleson's colorful '70s-style graphics, filmmaker Jennifer M. Kroot has at her disposal a plethora of clips from various Maupin interviews, plenty of footage of Maupin giving readings of his works to audiences that more often than not appear enraptured by Maupin's storytelling, not to mention the many tributes from such notables as Neil Gaiman, acclaimed actor Ian McKellen and Amy Tan as well as Laura Linney and Olympia Dukakis, who played Mary Ann Singleton and Anna Madrigal respectively in the mini-series.

The film's early sections explore Maupin's rather surprising conservative roots, Armistead noting that his father was probably a white supremacist. At least initially, Armistead must have embraced some of

the right-wing rhetoric, becoming, for instance, a Teen Age Republican and later, briefly, an assistant to Jesse Helms, the ultra-conservative, long running Senator from the state of North Carolina.

Kroot's narrative follows Armistead's journey of discovery which takes him to San Francisco where he will begin to write stories about the people around him in his newly adopted home. When a woman alerts Armistead to the fascinating heterosexual mating ritual which took place every Wednesday night at the Marina Safeway, Armistead found it irresistible, later drawing on it for inspiration for the iconic moment in the *Tales of the City* when May Ann cruises Michael Tolliver's boyfriend.

Tales of the City, as we know it today began as a newspaper serial in the San Francisco Chronicle, much as Charles Dickens had. These serial pages would form the basis of the novel, *Tales of the City* and which would be the first entry in what would ultimately become a bestselling series of 9 books, all chronicling the lives of the denizens of that most fabulous of San Francisco address- es, 28 Barbary Lane.

Maupin reflects that much like his protagonist Mary Ann Singleton, very much Armistead's alter-ego, he very much the new girl in town. Likewise, Maupin poured a lot of himself into the character of Michael Tolliver who he characterized as a big romantic with a large slut side. The letter Michael sends home to his parents in order to finally come out was the very same letter Maupin sent to his own parents.

As affectionate a portrayal of Maupin as *The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin* offers, Kroot refuses to shy away from controversy, most notably Armistead outing his friend Rock Hudson even as the actor lay in a hospital dying of AIDS.

Further into *The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin*, Kroot turns her camera inward, revealing the impact AIDS had on Armistead; Maupin being one of first writers to tackle AIDS. And finally, Kroot explores Maupin's current relationship with Christopher Turner, a man nearly 30 years his junior and he met through a dating app called Daddyhunt.

The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin is a warm, generous portrayal of a most cherished LGBT elder. As the credits rolled, Glenn mused that it might be time to revisit Mary Ann, Michael Tolliver and the whole 28 Barbary Lane gang.

The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson, David France

David France's excellent documentary, *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* seeks to find justice, find the truth about the night Marsha P. Johnson, a veteran of the Stonewall Riots and a longtime gay and trans activist, was found, drown in the Hudson River.

The bare facts of the case are that she died in early July, 1992 when her lifeless body was pulled from the Hudson River near the Christopher Street Pier. The New York Police Department's sixth precinct was quick to deem it a suicide; while many trans activists believed that the police just wanted to avoid any deeper inquiry into her death. **continues on p 16**

... cordially yours

**Wishing you all a hauntingly good Halloween!
Tis the month ...What a fun month ahead
– take notes and how can we forget the climax
of October? Halloween!**

This month sets, your social world a whirl!

Come celebrate the 20th year and help secure twenty more... **BIG NIGHT OUT!**

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center hosts their annual gala Sat, October 14 5:00 pm At Bartolotta's at the Italian Community Center (newly refurbished, and a must see!) 630 East Chicago Street. 5:00 pm Reception, 6:30 pm Dinner and Entertainment, 7:15 pm Awards Program and Live Auction Is the evening's schedule – to be apart I strongly urge you to call – 414-271-2656 or visit: mkelglt.org/events/ **BIG-NIGHT-OUT** with Brandon Herr at the helm as event co-ordinator it will be the top!

By the way, congratulations to Brandon on his promotion to Community Outreach!

"The Merry Widow" waltzes in to Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center Friday, October 20 and Sunday, October 22.

In Tandem Theatre Company 628 North 10th Street launching their 2017 – 2018 Season with: "All The Great Books (Abridged) by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor now – Sunday, October 29, described as a high energy comedy – which is much needed these days.

To get in the mood of the month – the Mitchell Park Domes 524 South Lavton

Boulevard offers the city's best indoor Halloween Event "Ghosts Under Glass" is Fri., October 27 6:00 – 9:00 pm a perfect other option to trick or treating. A special display during the "Ghosts" show at the Domes is "Dia De Los Muertos or Day of the Dead". A Mexican celebration believing the dead returns to life – for this special day. Saturday, November 4 the Winter Farmer's Market begins The Next "Behind the Scenes of the Domes" is slated for Saturday, November 18 9:30 – 11:00 am – "The Naughty or Nice Holiday Show – exposed. What better way to see how the Domes get dressed for all their award-winning seasonal looks. This peek provides an ideal opportunity to take in the Domes' resident artist, Burt Gross', fabulous vision.

Currently you can take in "Sister Act" – commemorating 25 years as a successful comedy movie – as the Nuns take over The Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove, 800 Elm Grove Road. You have until Sunday,



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November 5 to enjoy this religious experience. I hear tell that the Sunset will be offering up a late night theater choice of more controversial, thought provoking plays – keep your eyes out for this. Truly the little theater that can! “Beauty and the Beast” Thursday, November 30 – Saturday, December 23 will be their Holiday Show for this year.

Though it is the fall of the year the sweet memories of last season is brought to life at Dale Gutzman’s Off The Wall Theatre with “Midsummer Night’s Dream”. Shakespeare’s classic enthalls Wednesday, October 18 – Sunday, October 29. Starring Laura Mongle and Jimmy (Maple Veneer) Strange.

The Renaissance Theaterworks – Celebrating 25 successful seasons debut this time out with “Sex with Strangers” by Laura Eason Friday, October 20 – Sunday, November 12. Directed by Mallory Metoxen & featuring Marti Gobel and Nick Marcisi, quoting Newsweek magazine this vehicle is “An incisive look at the double-edged quest for artistic validation in the digital era. Subscriptions: 414-273-0800 X 203, box office 414-291-7800.

Wednesday, October 26 – The Pink Hat Party at This Is It! 9:00 – 11:00 pm.

The next night Halloween takes over as Trixie Matel returns to the Cream City and hostesses the This Is IT – Hall-a-ba-loo! IT is the word!

In need of another dosage of Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes at Club Charlies 320 East Menomonee Street your wish is granted on Sunday, October 29 as Brian Reinko and Karen Valentine return – 2:00 – 7:00 pm. Back in August after their wild

afternoon, KV had to rush to The Warehouse and take part in “Red, Hot and Leather” a fundraiser for ARCW by The Brew City Sisters. It’s a treat to play this large venue – Adam is back as the manager – so sexy and Palestine is their DJ. This benefit was great fun and always a pleasure to work with BJ Daniels, Dita Von, Dixie Kuppe, Melee McQueen, Travis Hard, Myami Richards and of course Maple Veneer.

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will allow you to create your own series -- here are just a few concerts to consider: At the Basilica of St. Josaphat “Bach in the Basilica” November 4 and 5 Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony November 10 – 12 Brahms & Bernstein November 17 & 18 A Canadian Brass Holiday – Canadian Brass and MSO Brass November 29 Holiday Pops December 1 – 3. To make your reservations – please call 414-291-7605.

Through Sunday, November 5 The Stackner Cabaret presents “Souvenir”. A fantasia on the life of Florence Foster Jenkins is celebrated in song w/ Jack Ford Wilson on piano.

Friday, November 10 6:30 – 9:30 pm brings the “Holiday” Really Grand Friday – RGF – Unique People & Places to benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Paul Westphal & Lisa Moy graciously open their magnificent manor for an unforgettable soiree. Please call 414-271-2656 to take part.

“The Secret Mask” by Rick Chafe, a U.S. Premiere, opens on Thursday, November 16 – Sunday, December 10 at Next Act Theatre. Almost 40 years after man walks out on his family, it’s his family – his son in particular, that helps his deserting father with his

questionable future.

The Skylight Music Theatre rings in the Holiday Season with a fabulous family friendly fable – “Annie” Friday, November 17 – Sunday, December 23. The sun will come out tomorrow and shine on you in this feel good favorite!

Broadway Across America will be educating us all with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “School of Rock” Tuesday, November 21 – Sunday, November 26. Come get your degree in current theater. This master class will be taking place at Uihlein Hall in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

“Miracle on South Division Street” by Tom Dudzick is The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s year end opus. A spirited comedy that shakes a family’s foundation to its shaken core, you have to see this one to believe it!

Charles Dickens’ Christmas classic – “A Christmas Carol” is once again brought to life by The Milwaukee Rep Tuesday, November 28 – Saturday, December 24 in the elegant Pabst Theatre.

Tis the season – and “Scrooge in Rouge” by Ricky Graham and Jefferson Turner are turning us all on at In Tandem Theatre Company Friday, December 1 – Sunday, January 7, 2018. What better show to take us into the New Year? Come and get your laugh on!

To usher in the last month of the old year – how about a Really Grand Friday (RGF), this time out, Johnson Controls Innovation Center 301 North Broadway Friday, December 1 6:30 – 9:30 pm

The wedding of Andy Reid & Jamie Beauchamp – I could write a complete column on! What a joyous occasion for one and all! The music – The

Squeezettes – power Polka, Pop, Rock & Roll and more – and that is what we got! The flowers – breath-taking Jamie and crew – Dale Servais and Michael Davis – it was like being in a garden with a roof. The food – Saz’s – outstanding, more bacon wrapped shrimp – passed by Rona and Candy Stick – celebrity servers! Champagne! Karen Valentine reports it was a thrill to perform with Maple Veneer and returning to the stage, Goldie Adams in a little reception interlude. Brava Meredith Sipe – Event Planner, Blue Fancy – and no one was blue!

AIDS Walk Wisconsin & 5K Run also took place on Saturday, October 7 Milwaukee’s SummerFest Grounds at noon. This year’s Honorary Chair Jane “Glee” Lynch – award-winning actress, singer and comedian. So thrilled to be asked to host the Finish Line at The Walk! If you would like to make a contribution to The Walk or an additional gift, please call, 1-800-348-WALK.

Farewell Jeffrey Massey – off to Atlanta to make the south rise again! Dr. Beto and DJ Tim gave a 5 star send off from Botanas to their penthouse – what a wild Friday!

Congratulations and a big Cream City thank you to George Prentice & Corey Grubb for taking over and saving their “baby” La Cage. Milwaukee needs a dance club – I would have hated to see this historic club go the way of 219 and The Factory. A gentle reminder to support their business venture and party at La Cage or it too could go down in history. Excited to hear Nova D’Vine is the new Show Director.

Rumor has it Chad (Chasity Belt) will be re-open-ing the ETC kitchen ...

Loved seeing Judy Tenuta

live and in-person at Hamburger Mary’s, they continue to bring in first-rate acts at affordable ticket prices. I hear tell a roster of great acts are coming to grace their stage.

Rest In Peace Michael McCarthy – such a gentle man – deepest condolences to his husband, Ronald Jacquart – on this major loss.

Food Time – Bay View’s Sabrosia Café & Gallery located at 3216 South Howell Avenue (312) 834-1929 is the hottest eatery on Milwaukee’s near south side. Yes, Frank Sanchez is back and better than ever and has people lined around the block to par take. Week days 7:30 am– 3:00 pm and weekends 9:00 am –3:00pm serving breakfast, brunch, lunch and any combi-

nation there of! So happy to know Frank is back celebrating his art of cooking! You will not be disappointed here! Bonus Food Time – Riviera Maya at 2258 South Kinnickinnic Avenue offers up delicious authentic Mexican cuisine. Brunch, Lunch, Dinner -- featuring the best home-made mole and a Bloody Mary with lots of zip, recently Rona – of M&M fame and I feasted on delicious delicacies reminiscing about Acapulco holidays. The food and drink help transplant us for an afternoon – if you need a getaway this is where you have to go!

May your month be bewitching and beguiling and know how thankful we are for all of you as I remain – Still Cordially yours,.



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Jump 20 or so years and there is the indefatigable Victoria Cruz, a Violence Project activist on the eve of her retirement, sets herself quite a quest to learn what truly happened to Johnson. "They're yelling out from their graves for justice," believes Cruz.

Here, The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson takes on the quality of a cold case murder inquiry. Victoria starts by talking to the people closest to Marsha, talking with members of Marsha's family and also with Randy Wicker, Marsha's roommate who has

turned their apartment into something of a shrine.

Even when doors seem closed tight to her, Victoria manages to obtain police records and autopsy reports, her tenacious efforts resulting in new information, new video footage, photographs and even new witness statements.

All those Victoria talks to are adamant that Marsha would not have ever committed suicide, yet none can forward with any new information or possible scenarios as to what happened that fateful night. The autopsy report, when ob-

tained shows no marks on the body suggesting violence.

In the end, justice proves beyond their reach; the agency Victoria worked for eventually deciding that continuing the quest for justice for Marsha is too draining of personnel, time and resources.

If the limited footage of Marsha keeps her an elusive figure, David France definitely shone his spotlight on Sylvia Rivera, another Stonewall veteran and one who has for too long has been relegated to the shadows of LGBT history.

Highly Recommended



Last month's cover boy, Tarl Knight performs regularly at Rum Runners in Green Bay.

Photos by Mark Mariucci (Za)



courage milwaukee celebrates 2017 Gala Homecoming

Courage MKE, a local non profit charged with raising awareness and funds for homeless LGBTQ+ youth in Wisconsin extends a warm invitation to its 2017 gala: HOMECOMING. 100% of all proceeds raised from the event will go directly to the opening of the Courage House - a homeless youth shelter dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ youth ages 10-17.

Homecoming will be held on November 3, 2017 from 6:30pm to 10pm at 1451 Renaissance Place: 1451 N Prospect, Milwaukee, WI.

"This gala will be an incredible opportunity to raise awareness and funds for those who need it most—our LGBTQ+ youth here in the city of Milwaukee and surrounding communities,"

said Brad Schlaikowski, Courage MKE's Executive Director. "Across Milwaukee on any given night there are as many as 500 homeless youth on the streets. We know from our work that roughly 40% of these children identify as LGBTQ+. With fewer than twenty beds across the city, we've identified a gap, and need the community's help to fix it.

...
**Courage House
will be the first
and only shelter
in our community
dedicated to
serving our LGBTQ+
population**

Schlaikowski, along with his husband Nick, founded Courage MKE in August of 2015. Courage MKE is the engine that drives Milwaukee's level of awareness, and positive impact on our disadvantaged LGBTQ+ youth in the state of Wisconsin. By fighting to ensure LGBTQ+ youth have the tools and resources necessary to grow into successful leaders across the community, this 501(c)3 nonprofit is uniquely positioned to change the trajectory of our community by disrupting the racist, classist, and discriminating injustices that impact our LGBTQ+ youth.

When: November 3, 2017
Where: 1451 Renaissance Place, address: 1451 N Prospect, Milwaukee, WI.

What: 2017 Gala, Homecoming, to include a silent auction, Aerial Acrobat artists and Drag performers from across the state, keynote speaker Bjorn Nasett, and celebrity guest host Gregory Patterson from Emmy Award winning show, Project Runway.

For more information, visit
www.couragemke.org

or reach out to Brad Schlaikowski directly.

Tickets are available online at:
www.shepherdtickets.com.

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Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Names Accurate Web Solution LGBT Business of the Year

Every year the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce picks a winner of the LGBT business of the year award in their annual ceremony. This year the honor goes to the Green Bay company, Accurate Web Solution.

"The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce was the first professional affiliation Accurate Web Solution had," says Robert McCarthy, the owner of Accurate Web Solution. "This was largely because of their mission, message and statement. They're like no other chamber out there; we're like no other website company out there. It was the perfect pairing."

The company has a history of serving the LGBT community via their professional services and charitable acts.

A certified LGBT Business Enterprise (through the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce), the company has served as regional ambassador for northeastern Wisconsin on behalf of the WI LGBT Chamber of Commerce. This act is one of their many efforts taken toward building a more inclusive and diverse community in the region.

"At Accurate Web Solution, we're committed to serving all customers," McCarthy says. "We pride ourselves on using our

web design, development, SEO, and digital marketing skills to help others achieve their goals, no matter their background."

As an LGBT-owned business, the company doesn't just serve the LGBT community – they're a part of it.

Accurate Web Solution was founded in 2016. They focus on helping small-to-medium business sites, with a specialty in chamber, directory, e-commerce and brochure websites. Unlike other web development companies, Accurate Web Solution focuses on strengthening the foundation of their clients' web presence, and then building on that foundation. They go beyond web design and development services, by helping clients with digital marketing and process automation. For more information on Accurate Web Solution and their services, please visit accurateweb-solution.com or call them at 920.393.3214.

BAR GUIDE

Quest's list of Wisconsin's foremost LGBT drinking institutions.

LACROSSE & MADISON

Impulse
132 W. Grand Ave., Beloit
(608) 361-0000

My Place
3201 South Ave., LaCrosse
(608) 788-9073

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 St., Madison

Shamrock
117 W Main St., Madison
(608) 255-5029

SOTTO
303 N Henry St., Madison

WOOF'S
114 King St., Madison
(608) 204-6222
www.madwoofs.com

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Blue Lite
1029 N 8th St., Sheboygan
(920) 457-1636

Spare Time
1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh
(920) 235-6577

Hideout (Gay friendly)
2828 N Ballard Rd., Appleton
(920) 830-2137

Napalese
1351 Cedar St., Green Bay
(920) 432-9646

No Limits
500 N. Baird St., Green Bay
(920) 544-4963

Rascals Bar & Grill
702 E. Wisconsin St., Appleton (920) 954-9262

Remixx
8386 State Rd 76 Neenah
54956 (920) 725-6483

Round A Bout
1264 Main Green Bay, WI
54302 920-544-9544

XS Niteclub
1106 Main Street, Green Bay

Triple P's (Gay friendly)
5015 W Greenville Dr Appleton 920-939-3592

NORTHERN WISCONSIN

JT's Bar and Grill
1506 N. 3rd Superior
(715) 394-2580

The Flame
1612 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715) 395-0101

The Lounge
2823 London Rd, Eau Claire,
(715) 952-3456

The Main
1217 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715) 392-1756

OZ
320 Washington St, Wausau www.totheoz.com
(715) 842-3225

Scooters
411 Galloway Eau Claire
(715) 835-9959

MILWAUKEE

Art Bar
722 Burleigh,
(414) 372-7880

DIX
739 S 1st Street

Dorsia
(LGBTQ friendly) 1307 E Brady
414-539-6826

Fluid
819 South 2nd
(414) 643-5843

Hamburger Mary's
730-734 South 5th Street
414-488-2555

Harbor Room
117 E Greenfield
(414) 672-7988

KRUZ
354 E. National
(414) 272-KRUZ

LaCage
801S 2nd,
(414) 383-8330

Riverwest Public House (LGBTQ friendly)
815 E Locust St. 53212

Studio 200 (mixed)
200 E Washington St

This Is It
418 E Wells
(414) 278-9192

Two (mixed)
718 E. Burleigh St.

Walker's Pint
818 S 2nd St
(414) 643-7468

Woody's
1579 S 2nd
(414) 672-0806

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DRINK OF THE MONTH



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