

## BRAUN CHAIRS AIDS WALK

Ryan Braun talks about his role in this year's AIDS Walk, to be held on Sunday, Oct. 6.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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## Defying civil rights activists, Ryan speaks to hate groups



Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan, R-Wis., waves after speaking at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 14.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

To reach the Washington, D.C., hotel where he delivered a speech to right-wing extremists, Paul Ryan had to pass demonstrators waving signs that read, "The TV cameras are on. Fold the white sheets" and "Value love not hate."

Inside the Omni Shoreham Hotel, the Wisconsin congressman and Republican vice presidential nominee hammered at Barack Obama on foreign affairs, health care, abortion, religious freedom and gay marriage before about 2,500 disciples of the Values Voter Summit, which was co-hosted by the Family Research

Council and the American Family Association.

Both organizations have been labeled as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center, and a coalition of civil rights groups had urged Ryan and other public officials to skip the summit.

Civil rights leaders have charac-

terized the annual event that began in 2006 as an extremist affair promoting hate rhetoric and recycling lies about Jews and Muslims, gays and Latinos – and also Democrats.

But for a Republican Party pitched to the right, the summit is seen as a must-do event on the political calendar, something of a

second convention.

For civil rights activists outside the Omni, the issue was less about what Ryan said – which was predictable – and more about his appearance at a hate-group event.

"Congressman Ryan has long been on the very edge of the con-

RYAN page 18

## Anti-gay tweets roil Thompson campaign

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Democrats called on GOP U.S. Senate candidate Tommy Thompson to fire his senior communications adviser who sent out electronic messages on the campaign's accounts attacking rival Tammy Baldwin's "heartland values" because of her sexual orientation.

It was the first anti-gay attack from the Thompson campaign on his Democratic rival, who would become the first out U.S. Senator if she defeats the former governor. Thompson won a hotly contested primary battle in which he struggled to convince the right-wing extremists who dominate today's GOP primaries that he's conservative

enough to advance their agenda.

After not holding public office for nearly eight years, Thompson, 70, appeared stunned by the outrage and media attention that the gay-bating incident generated. He dodged questions from the media for six days until cornered by reporters following a Sept. 11 speech to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. At that

time, he denounced the actions of adviser Brian Nemoir and assured reporters that the operative had been shuffled to a less public role in the campaign.

But that same night, Nemoir sent out emails from the campaign negotiating debates between Thompson and Baldwin under the title of



THOMPSON page 16

PHOTO: AP PHOTO/JEFFREY PHELPS



# News with a twist

## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

### HOMOSEXUALITY'S SECOND-HAND RISKS

The Center for Marriage Policy has seized September as "Marriage Protection Month" and is circulating literature that says homosexuality, like drug abuse and smoking, can be fatal and have second-hand risks. The group also maintains that homosexuality is a greater threat than climate change and same-sex marriage is a tool promoted by feminists to keep women on welfare. WiG can't explain.

### STARRY SIDEWALK CELEBRATION

Ellen DeGeneres has received the 2,477th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She tweeted in advance of the celebration: "I'm getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame today at 11 am. Come watch me! Also, I'd love a ride home. 6270 Hollywood Blvd." At the dedication on Hollywood Boulevard, she quipped, "It is amazing. I spent my entire career trying to conduct myself in a certain way making sure no one walks all over me only to get to a point where

people are going to walk all over me. It means so much to me that everyone showed up."

### HUSTLE FOR THAT MILLION

Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt is offering \$1 million to someone who can expose



**Scholars think a photo shows Emily Dickinson, left, and Kate Scott Turner, long rumored to be the poet's lover.**

presidential candidate Mitt Romney by releasing the Republican's financials. The reward is "a million dollars in cash for documented evidence concerning Republi-

can Presidential candidate Mitt Romney's unreleased tax returns and/or details of his offshore assets, bank accounts and business partnerships." The wealthy Romney has resisted repeated calls that he release more than what he has provided to voters – tax returns for 2010 and an estimate for 2011.

### PRIVATE POET'S PHOTOGRAPH

Scholars at Amherst College in Massachusetts believe a collector may have what would be just the second known photo of the private and prolific poet Emily Dickinson. The photo may also show Dickinson seated with Kate Scott Turner, long rumored to be the poet's lesbian lover. The daguerreotype dates to around 1859 and shows, if it is Dickinson, the poet at about age 30.

### STRIPPING FOR EQUALITY

To promote sales of his 2013 calendar, British rugby hunk and LGBT ally Ben Cohen has released a behind-the-scenes video of its making. The video

shows the 33-year-old married father of two stripping down to a pair of underwear from his custom-designed line and engaging in a sweaty workout for the calendar photographer. Proceeds of the calendar sales will benefit the Ben Cohen Stand-Up Foundation, which fights anti-gay bullying and societal homophobia.

### SEXUALLY ACTIVE CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Here's something Anthony Weiner might appreciate – or not. Indiana University has released the Kinsey Reporter, an app for collecting and reporting anonymous data about sexual and other intimate behaviors. People can use the app – available for Apple and Android devices – to "not only report on sexual behavior and experiences, but also to share, explore and visualize the accumulated data." Kinsey director Julia Heiman said, "People are natural observers. It's part of being social, and using mobile apps is an excellent way to involve citizen scientists. We expect to get new insights into sexuality and relationships today.

What do people notice, what are they involved in, and what can they relate to us about their lives and their communities?"

### ANOTHER PULP FICTION LOVER?

A man claims that he and actor John Travolta had a six-year romantic relationship that began in September of 1981. Doug Gotterba, a 62-year-old pilot from California, told the National Enquirer that he became the star's private pilot in February of that year. A flight to Monterey led to a night of passion and a six-year affair, according to the pilot.

### EAU DE GAGA

Lady Gaga celebrated the release of her debut perfume at the Guggenheim Museum on New York's Upper East Side. When guests arrived, they found the star encased in a replica bottle of the new perfume, with transparent glass. Eventually, she left the bottle and stripped to her lingerie, before having a new tattoo applied to the back of her neck by celebrity tattoo artist Mark Mahoney.

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# UWM denies in-state tuition to gay spouse

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Citing Wisconsin's ban on same-sex marriage and civil unions, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee denied in-state tuition to the husband of a local resident who married him in New York.

The case brings to light a little-known consequence of Wisconsin's ban, which could have been very costly to Dr. Robert Schneidewend and his spouse Jorge Quintero, who was accepted into two programs at the university's Peck School of the Arts. In-state students annually pay \$20,000 less in tuition costs than out-of-state students.

Unable to pay out-of-state rates, Quintero had to drop classes he'd already begun.

Schneidewend has worked in the state for over a year as a resident physician at a Milwaukee-area medical center. During that time, Quintero remained in Chicago, where they met while Schneidewend was in medical school. Quintero completed

an associate's degree during their year apart.

Quintero decided to move to Milwaukee and complete a bachelor's degree at UWM while Schneidewend finished his medical residency.

The couple's rejected request for in-state tuition demonstrates the harm Wisconsin's same-sex marriage ban does to individuals as well as the state, making it an undesirable place for many talented people to live, said Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger. It also contributes to the state's so-called brain drain – the movement of bright, talented young people from Wisconsin to more progressive and diverse areas, according to equality advocates.

"This is just another way in which we're made to be less legal," added Equality Wisconsin executive director Jason Burns.

The state's restrictions on same-sex couples were enacted first as a state law and then as a constitutional

amendment in 2006, when nearly 60 percent of Wisconsin voters approved limiting marriage or any equivalent status to opposite-sex couples. State statute also allows for the criminal prosecution of same-sex couples who marry out of state. Violators can be imprisoned for up to nine months and fined up to \$10,000.

In 2009, Gov. Jim Doyle, D, enacted a domestic registry law that grants some legal rights to same-sex couples, such as the right to visit their partners in the hospital. But the same fundamentalist Christians responsible for pushing the ban are trying to have that law overturned. Gov. Scott Walker and Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen are supporting their effort by refusing to defend the law, forcing LGBT advocacy groups to foot the legal bill.

Right-wing Christians claim that legal recognition of same-sex couples violates their freedom of religion and

**The case brings to light a little-known consequence of the state's ban on same-sex marriages and civil unions.**



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Jorge Quintero and Robert Schneidewend.**

undermines the institution of marriage.

## RUDE TREATMENT

Schneidewend said the run-around and rude treatment the couple received from admissions personnel at UWM were unacceptable.

Quintero initially received a letter from admissions/residency specialist Debbie Freiberg stating, "You do not qualify for the work exemption as gay marriages are not recognized in the state of Wisconsin as legal." The letter advised him to wait 12 months and reapply.

But when Quintero requested an appeals form, the matter turned complicated, according to Schneidewend. He said that during phone calls and finally at an appeals hearing, their requests for information were "often ignored, unresponded to and given inconsistent" responses.

For instance, the couple was told that Schneidewend did not qualify as a full-time, in-state worker because

he's a medical resident. In response, he provided admissions officials with a copy of the 2011 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Mayo Foundation v. United States*, which determined that medical residents must be treated as full-time employees when it comes to taxes and benefits.

Residents earn income and work very long hours, generally 80 per week.

The couple also was told Quintero failed to qualify because the two had lived apart for a year.

Schneidewend said he got the impression that admissions personnel were looking for other reasons to deny the tuition request so the institution would not appear homophobic. But in the process, officials became increasingly dismissive, he said.

"If you're going to say, 'We don't recognize your marriage,' then just say it," Schneidewend said.

Friberg told WiG the application was denied "for

multiple reasons," but said she could not comment due to privacy laws. She referred WiG to residency coordinator Laura Perkins, who did not return a call. Neither did Karen Wrench in enrollment services.

Despite Schneidewend's experience with university admissions personnel, he praised the Peck School of the Arts, which he described as another casualty of the rejected tuition request by losing an unusually talented student.

"The voice department and the dance department were actually fighting over Jorge," Schneidewend said. A professional ballet dancer for 15 years, Quintero decided to study voice. He'd already been cast in the school's spring musical.

"Jorge blew the audition away," Schneidewend said proudly. "The chair of the UWM voice area has actually offered to work with him outside the university."

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# State's high court turns down registry appeal

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has declined to take up a case challenging the constitutionality of the state's domestic partnership registry law until it's gone through the normal appeals process.

The case was initiated when Julaine Appling, head of Wisconsin Family Action, joined with other anti-gay activists to file a suit claiming the registry violated a 2006 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and any similar legal status for gay and lesbian couples.

Former Gov. Jim Doyle, D, enacted the law, which gives registered same-sex couples 41 of the more than 200 benefits the state offers married couples. A Dane County judge ruled last year that the registry does not violate the constitutional amendment because the relatively few rights it affords to couples do not mirror marriage.

Appling appealed that ruling, but the 4th District Court of Appeals sent the case directly to the Supreme Court in July.

"We perceive nothing particularly complicated in

the parties' dispute over the meaning of the marriage amendment and its application to Wisconsin's domestic partnership law," the appeals court wrote. "We therefore perceive no reason why the Supreme Court might benefit from the refinement of issues that sometimes occurs when a dispute first works its way through briefing and decision in the court of appeals. Thus, in light of the statewide importance of the issue and the desirability of a prompt and final resolution, we certify this appeal to the Wisconsin Supreme Court."

The state's sharply divided high court, which has a right-wing majority, sent the case back to the appeals court, however, on a vote of 5-2. The two dissenting judges were liberal Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, who wanted to take up the case.

"This isn't a surprise and we'll defend the domestic partnership law in any court. The law is clear – the domestic partnership law does not violate the Wisconsin Constitution," said Christopher Clark, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Midwest

Regional Office. "The decision upholding the registry in 2011 is correct, and we expect that the Court of Appeals will agree."

Madison insiders say two other justices on the court, conservatives David Prosser and Michael Gableman, are widely perceived to be gay, which could add another twist to the case when it does reach their courtroom. No matter how the 4th District Court of Appeals eventually rules, the losing side is certain to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

The scenario surrounding

the case is already complicated by Appling's personal life. Never married, she has lived for many years with another never-married woman in a Watertown home that the women own jointly.

In a May interview with The Cap Times, Appling acknowledged feeling same-sex attraction, calling it universal.

"There's not a person alive who hasn't said, 'Well, I wonder' (about my sexual orientation)," Appling told Cap Times reporter Jack Craver.

Studies show a strong link between homophobia and repressed homosexual desire.

## Study: 'That's so gay' so bad for students

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A study shows the oft-heard "that's so gay" can be so bad for lesbian, gay and bisexual college students.

The study is in the current issue of the Journal of American College Health and was based on the work of Michael Woodford, an assistant professor of social work at the University of Michigan.

Researchers looked at how 114 LGB students ages 18-25 were impacted by hearing "that's so gay."

"'That's so gay' conveys that there is something wrong with being gay," Woodford said. "And hearing such messages about one's self can cause stress, which can manifest in headaches and other health concerns."

In an online questionnaire, those surveyed were asked how often they heard the phrase on their campus, as well as questions about their acceptance on campus, their physical health, their mental well-being and how willing they are to come out as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

The researchers found a connection between the frequency of hearing "that's so gay" and negative health consequences, especially headaches, eating problems and isolation.

Nearly all the survey participants reported hearing "that's so gay" at least once in the past year, but nearly half said they heard the phrase at least 10 times in the past 12 months.

Nine years ago, parents filed a First Amendment challenge against a California school district after their daughter was disciplined for saying, "That's so gay," described in the suit as an utterance that "enjoys widespread currency in youth culture."

The girl, a Mormon, was often teased by students, including one who asked, "Do you have 10 moms?" She responded, "That's so gay" and was sent to see the principal, who put a warning in her school file.

The girl later said she meant "that's so stupid" when she said "that's so gay." Her lawsuit raised questions for educators dealing with student's speech but was decided in the district's favor.

Woodford suggested schools adopt – or practice – policies that teach staff and students about wounding words.

"There is a lot of attention being given to addressing LGBT bullying on college campuses," he said. "Policies and educational programs are needed to help students, staff and faculty to understand that such language can be harmful."

Other study researchers include Michael Howell, an assistant professor at Appalachian State University; Perry Silverschanz, a University of Michigan lecturer; and Lotus Yu, a University of Michigan graduate student.

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## Ryan Braun steps up to plate for AIDS Walk

Milwaukee Brewers left-fielder Ryan Braun serves as the honorary chair of AIDS Walk Wisconsin, which takes place Oct. 6 at the Summerfest Grounds in Milwaukee. We asked the slugger via email about his involvement with the fundraiser, which benefits the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

### **WIG: Why did you decide to become involved with AIDS Walk?**

Ryan Braun: There are a few reasons I got involved with the AIDS Walk Wisconsin. First, I wanted to help Wisconsin continue to be a leader in the fight against AIDS. When I saw the work Clay (Matthews) did last year as chair of the AIDS Walk Wisconsin, I knew I could help.

So last month I was proud that the Brewers Community Foundation presented AIDS Walk Wisconsin with a gift of \$25,000 just before the game. We had a bunch of the AIDS Walk Wisconsin teams at the park that night as well.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin is a great cause to get behind. I didn't realize that patients with HIV live longer in Wisconsin than HIV

patients in any other state in the country. But there has been a spike in new infections over the past year. That being said, there has to be more work and more attention drawn to the fight against HIV in our state and I wanted to help. We can't take our eye off of this disease.

My mom has also been active in California for the past few years with this cause and has walked in the AIDS Walk in Los Angeles and the AIDS Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles..

Finally, Brewers fans have been supportive of me. I want to use my work with AIDS Walk Wisconsin to give back to the state that has been so good to me.

### **Have you known anyone who's been affected by the epidemic?**

No, I have not.

### **As a role model and local hero, what impact do you hope your participation in the event will have?**

Ultimately I want to inspire more fundraising. I want my participation to encourage more participation and more fund raising for ARCW.



PHOTO: AP

Ryan Braun.

### **What would you like to say to the people of Milwaukee about why they should participate in AIDS Walk and support the critical services provided by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin?**

The message is simple: It takes all of us to make a big difference. So register. Join my team. Raise

pledges. There are still so many people living with HIV and more infections daily. AIDS Walk Wisconsin will help get patients what they need such as health care, food and housing.

With everyone's help we can make sure that ARCW patients continue to be an example to the country.



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# Democratic campaign moves 'forward'



**U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, who is running for the U.S. Senate in Wisconsin, addresses the convention. She spoke of the Wisconsin she knows.**

PHOTO: COURTESY

**By Lisa Neff**

Staff writer

Outside Time Warner Cable Arena on the day before the Democratic National Convention opened, some protesters were expressing their views that the Obama administration is not progressive enough. Others were denouncing individual candidates – of both parties – who cozy up to corporations.

But not Candace Jackson or Benjamin Bearden. Dressed as 1950s throwbacks, they were demonstrating against what they called the backward, regressive Romney-Ryan plan for America.

“They want to turn the clock way back,” Bearden said of the GOP.

Jackson said she liked what Barack Obama promised four years ago – “Change.”

Later in the week, she said she liked another word she was hearing from the convention – “Forward.”

Democrats at their convention hammered the theme, stressing that GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney and running mate Paul Ryan want to dial back the clock on women’s rights and voting rights, to refocus on trickle-down economics and to stop the clock on LGBT rights and immigration reform.

In one of the first speeches at the convention, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, a likely candidate for New Jersey governor, presented the proposed party platform and said, “We choose forward. We choose inclusion. We choose growing together.”

U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a legend in the civil rights movement, said “forward” four times in a convention address that focused on the struggle for equality and freedom.

One of the original 13 Freedom Riders, Lewis recalled a day in 1961 in Charlotte

when “a young African-American rider got off the bus and tried to get a shoe shine in a so-called white waiting room. He was arrested and taken to jail.”

Later that day, Lewis and another Freedom Rider were in nearby Rock Hill, S.C., where they tried to enter a white waiting room. “We were met by an angry mob that beat us and left us lying in a pool of blood,” he said.

Then the fight, in part, was for voting rights.

Lewis said the nation has come far, but “there are Republican officials still trying to stop some people from voting. They are changing the rules, cutting polling hours and imposing requirements intended to suppress the vote. The Republican leader in the Pennsylvania House even bragged that his state’s new voter ID law is ‘gonna allow Gov. Romney to win the state.’ That’s not right. That’s not fair. That’s not just.

“And similar efforts have been made in Texas, Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin, Arizona, Georgia and South Carolina. I’ve seen this before. I’ve lived this before. Too many people struggled, suffered and died to make it possible for every American to exercise their right to vote.”

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino talked repeatedly about going forward, ending his convention speech with a reference to a hometown hero’s famous ride: “Up in Boston, we have a plaque that says: ‘Paul Revere started a ride, which in a way has never ended.’ That’s true about our

country, too. In every generation, the American people have taken up that ride, pushing the United States forward. We’ve never gone back.”

And U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, who is running for the U.S. Senate in Wisconsin against self-avowed conservative Republican Tommy Thompson, said “forward” six times in her address to the convention.

The word, she pointed out, is Wisconsin’s motto, adopted in 1851 and placed over the crest on the state coat of arms. There’s a story that the state was going to repeat New York’s motto – “Excelsior” and considered

“Onward” and “Upward” before “Forward” was chosen.

Baldwin, who would become the first openly gay person in the Senate if she wins in November, began her address, “I know you’ve heard a lot about Wisconsin lately. You’ve heard about Paul Ryan, who wants to end Medicare as we know it. You’ve heard about Scott Walker, who took basic rights away from teachers, nurses and public employees. Maybe you’ve even heard about Tommy Thompson, our former governor, who went to Washington, cashed in on his special interest connections and never really came back.”

Baldwin said she wanted to talk about heartland values, the Wisconsin “where my grandparents raised me, the place where generations of families have worked hard to get ahead, the place where our state motto might sound familiar to you.

“It’s just one word: ‘Forward.’ We believe that if we’re going to prosper, everyone has to have a fair shot, and everyone has to do their fair share. That’s why I’m proud to lead the charge for the Buffet Rule, which makes sure that millionaires and billionaires don’t get to pay a lower tax rate than middle-class families. And, President Obama is standing with me.”

Baldwin also spoke of moving forward on civil rights. “Our president has made historic progress toward equality,” she said. “He repealed ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ so that no American ever again has to lie about who they are in order to serve the country we love. Republicans want to write discrimination into our Constitution. But the Wisconsin I know believes that with each passing year and each generation, our country must become more equal, not less. Mitt Romney, Paul Ryan, Scott Walker, Tommy Thompson – they think they’re the only ones who speak for Wisconsin.”

The congresswoman concluded, “Come November, the Wisconsin I know – the America I love – will speak out loud and clear, and keep us moving forward: forward with a strong middle class; forward on a path to prosperity; forward with President Obama!”



PHOTO: DEMCONVENTION/DONNA BISE

**Delegates to the Democratic National Convention cheer as President Barack Obama talks about driving the nation forward.**



# Dem convention celebrates equality

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

LGBT Democrats say party leadership asked them for years to wait for a dividend on their loyalty – for the time when the party would fully embrace marriage equality.

“The waiting is over” was the oft-heard refrain from LGBT delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., held Sept. 4-6.

In 1996, when Democrats gathered at the United Center in Chicago for the convention that nominated Bill Clinton for re-election, the big question in the LGBT community was whether the president would say “gay” in his acceptance speech.

In Charlotte, the big question was how much attention the party would give to marriage equality.

The answer? A lot.

Speaker after speaker in the convention spotlight reminded delegates and their TV audiences that the party platform supports marriage equality, celebrates the repeal of the ban against gay servicemembers in the military, and strives for equality for all.

In his keynote address, San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro said, “When it comes to getting the middle class back to work, Mitt Romney says, ‘No.’ When it comes to respecting women’s rights, Mitt Romney says, ‘No.’ When it comes to letting people marry whomever they love, Mitt Romney says, ‘No.’ When it

comes to expanding access to good health care, Mitt Romney says, ‘No.’”

In a rousing speech on Sept. 4, Newark Mayor Cory Booker talked about the “emboldened pathway toward the historic hope which has driven generations of Americans forward. It is our most fundamental national aspiration – that no matter who you are, no matter what your color, creed, how you choose to pray or who you choose to love – that if you are an American, first generation or fifth ... who is willing to work hard, play by the rules and apply your God-given talents, (then) you should be able to find a job that pays the bills.”

Gay Congressman Jared Polis of Colorado introduced himself at the convention: “My great-grandparents were immigrants. I am Jewish. I am gay. I am a father. I am a son. I am an entrepreneur. I am a congressman from Colorado. I am always an optimist. But first and foremost, I am an American.”

To sustained applause, Polis said, “Tonight, I don’t just ask my fellow Americans to respect my relationship with my partner Marlon and my role as a father to our son. I also ask them to respect the Christian family concerned about decaying moral values and crass commercialism. I ask them to respect the difficult decision of a single mother to bring a child into this world, because of her heartfelt beliefs.”

In a quite different speech, actor Kal Penn, referring to his work in the Obama White House, said, “My favorite job was having a boss who gave the order to take out bin Laden – and who’s cool with all of us getting gay-married.”

Outside the glare of the podium spotlight at the Time Warner Cable Arena, Democrats still promoted gay equality, whether the audience was the morning gathering of Arkansas delegates at the Hampton Inn by the airport or the LGBT caucus at the Charlotte Convention Center.

LGBT caucus meetings took place Sept. 4 and Sept. 6, with delegates hearing from out legislators Tammy Baldwin and Mark Pocan from Wisconsin, Polis and U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, and openly gay Democratic National Committee treasurer Andrew Tobias and DNC CEO Steve Kerrigan.

At a special luncheon on Sept. 5, first lady Michelle Obama



PHOTO: LISA NEFF

**The LGBT caucus meets at the Democratic National Convention on Sept. 6 in Charlotte, N.C.**

addressed the LGBT caucus: “The one thing I want to point out here today is that we don’t want to make any mistake about it – this election is about even more than the issues that are at stake right now. It’s about even more than the candidates that are on the ballot this year. This election, more than any other in history, is about how we want our democracy to function for decades to come.”

The caucus, chaired by longtime activist and party loyalist Rick Stafford, was the largest in the party’s history, with more than 550 delegates and alternates. Some of the older members of the group remembered decades back, when the caucus could meet in a telephone booth.

“History is being made this week,” Stafford, of Minnesota, said.

Baldwin said, “The sheer size of this caucus is but one example of the progress we’ve made toward equality.”

Gay delegate Darrell Bouldin, over morning coffee on the first day of the three-day gathering, said he was proud to represent Tennessee and is “a big supporter of President Obama.”

Bouldin said he was most looking forward to the business of adopting the national party platform, which states, “We support marriage equality and support the movement to secure equal treatment under law for same-sex couples. ... We oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and responsibilities as other married couples. We support the full repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act.”

“I’m really excited to vote for marriage equality,” said Bouldin, who was sharing a table with Wisconsin delegate Jamie Shiner, who was proud to be a transgender delegate to the convention.

Shiner praised Democrats for the repeal of DADT and supporting marriage equality and the pending Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban workplace bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

“It is critical to transgender people,” Shiner said of ENDA. “I get tired of hearing how

some of my sisters and brothers are treated in employment. Some can’t even go to a rest room.”

Meanwhile, on the streets of Uptown Charlotte, voters and volunteers, activists and protestors mostly embraced the party’s positions on LGBT issues.

“Damn. I think gay marriage is the one thing we’re really agreeing with the party leaders on,” said Hank Webber of Tulsa, Okla., who participated in the Occupy Wall Street South demonstrations that took place during the convention. “The Democrats aren’t perfect on a lot of things, but I’m with them on that.”

Dyanna Johnson of Charlotte, who worked at a barbecue booth at the festival before the convention, said, “Baby, you love who you love. No one should tell you otherwise. I support the president.”

At the Human Rights Campaign’s booth at the festival, there was a long line for festival-goers to spin a wheel and win a prize.

“I’m hoping to win an equality T-shirt for my baby,” said Julie Sawyer of Durham, N.C. “That would be a great way to get into a conversation about marriage with moms on the playground. You probably heard. There was a vote here in May.”

North Carolina voters, in the May primary, approved a constitutional amendment banning recognition of gay marriages and other same-sex relationships.

“I wish the vote had come after the convention,” said Marianne Kracker of Charlotte. “I think the outcome would have been different because, man, Democrats are fired up and ready to go now.”

## CAMPAIGN CONNECTIONS

Obama for America has several tools to connect with LGBT supporters, including:

[www.barackobama.com/lgbt](http://www.barackobama.com/lgbt)  
[www.dashboard.barackobama.com](http://www.dashboard.barackobama.com)  
[www.facebook.com/obamapride](http://www.facebook.com/obamapride)

There are no similar affinity groups for the Romney-Ryan campaign.



PHOTO: LISA NEFF

**Wisconsin delegate Jamie Shiner played a history-making role at the convention – as a member of the largest LGBT caucus and as one of about a dozen transgender delegates.**



## { Editorial }

**Thompson is a relic**

Tommy Thompson's U.S. Senate campaign recently reminded us how far behind the curve he really is.

Senior political adviser Brian Nemoir disseminated a tweet from the Thompson campaign linking to a video showing Democratic rival Tammy Baldwin dancing at a 2010 Pride event. "Clearly, there's no one better positioned to talk 'heartland values' than Tammy," Nemoir wrote in an email, implying that being gay is inconsistent with having values.

Thompson refused to address the incident for six days, until pressed by reporters. Then he said Nemoir had been shifted to another position, saying it was a less public role. But that same night, Nemoir sent out emails from Thompson's campaign account under his original title.

During Thompson's heyday, the press would have ignored such an incident, just as the press looked the other way for years at his personal indiscretions. He looked like a deer in the headlights when confronted about it.

The episode was reminiscent of Thompson's appearance before a conference of Reform Jews a few years ago, when he congratulated the audience on their success at making money. He was astounded later to learn the listeners were not flattered at being stereotyped in a way that's been used to persecute them.

The only area where Thompson's sensibilities intersect with today's politics is in the Republicans' worship of mega wealth. After leaving George W. Bush's administration, where he served as Secretary of Health and Human Services, he cashed in shamelessly on his political connections and is \$13 million richer as a result. Among other things, he lobbied for changes in Medicare to benefit companies in which he had a financial stake – to the detriment of seniors.

For most of Thompson's gubernatorial tenure, the nation enjoyed a prolonged period of economic growth. He took credit for job creation that he had little or nothing to do with, but he never explained the huge budget deficit he left behind.

Blustery and gaffe-prone, Thompson demonstrates a troubling lack of vision or purpose. His idea of leadership is strictly partisan – grandstanding rather than moving the nation forward. "The truth of the matter is I'm not going to compromise," he said at a June Tea Party event in Oconomowoc.

At a recent appearance before the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, he described himself as a moderate at some times, a conservative at others. He bragged at length about being the first Bush cabinet member to visit Ground Zero after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, as if it was a reason to vote for him. In answering questions from the audience, he expressed agreement with key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, which he opposes.

Thompson's plan to reduce the U.S. budget deficit would increase it over the next decade by providing big tax cuts for the wealthy. He believes that allowing the uber rich to bring money they've sheltered overseas back home tax-free would stimulate job growth. That's just another trickle-down fairy tale that would benefit only him and his friends. It was discredited long ago as an effective economic stimulator.

Thompson is a relic from a bygone era of politics. If elected, his style would be a distraction and an embarrassment that would harm the state. He has nothing to offer a nation that has real problems except for a pat on the back and a few empty boasts.

**BY THE NUMBERS**  
**The equality gap**

A coalition of LGBT groups released a survey showing gaps in state laws for LGBT people and the need for comprehensive federal reforms.

- 29** States lack laws banning LGBT discrimination
- 32** States do not recognize same-sex couples
- 37** States say family-medical leave laws don't apply to gays
- 18** States lack laws protecting LGBT students

SOURCE: AN ALLY'S GUIDE TO ISSUES FACING LGBT AMERICANS

## { Voter information }

**ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Oct. 17:** Last day to register to vote by mail (must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m.).

**Oct. 22:** Early voting, known as in-person absentee voting in the state, begins at your local municipal clerk's office and continues through Nov. 2. In Milwaukee, early voting is available 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays at the Municipal Building, 841 N. Broadway. Early voting also is available 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27, and Sunday, Oct. 28.

Voters who need to register and/or make changes to their current registra-

tion must use the Broadway entrance.

If you apply for an absentee ballot in your municipal clerk's office, you must vote immediately, seal your ballot in the proper envelope and return it to a member of the clerk's staff. No ballots may be taken from the clerk's office.

**Nov. 1:** Last day to request absentee ballots by mail (by 5 p.m.).

**Nov. 6:** General and presidential election.

**NO PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR VOTING – YET**

Two different judges, on March 6 and March 12,

issued injunctions preventing the Government Accountability Board from enforcing the photo ID requirements enacted by Republicans in 2011. The Wisconsin Department of Justice has appealed those injunctions, and the law is on hold pending a ruling.

**WHERE TO REGISTER AND VOTE**

Look up your voter registration and polling place at <https://vpa.wi.gov/>.

**REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE**

Online voter registration is at <https://vpa.wi.gov/OnlineRegistration/Default.aspx>.

**CORRECTION:**


The story that appeared in our Sept. 6 issue titled "Guerilla propagandists: Protesters overcome harassment, draw worldwide attention" wrongly stated that Lisa Moline was assaulted and put into a headlock by a Milwaukee County sheriff's deputy on Aug. 24. That assault actually occurred at a different demonstration and was not perpetrated by an officer of the law. The story also reported that deputies attempted to remove signs held by protesters on Aug. 24. That incident also occurred at another demonstration and did not involve law enforcement.

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## ON THE RECORD



“I just want to clarify something because I didn’t (by) any means want to infer or imply anything about Jews and finances and things. What I was referring to, ladies and gentlemen, is the accomplishments of the Jewish religion. You’ve been outstanding business people and I compliment you for that.”

– Current Republican U.S. Senate candidate TOMMY THOMPSON addressing attendees at a 2007 conference organized by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Thompson was trying to apologize for earlier remarks he’d made implying that accumulating wealth is a hallmark of the religion.

“We’ve got a Muslim for a president who hates cowboys, hates cowgirls, hates fishing, hates farming, loves gays, and we hate him!”

– HANK WILLIAMS JR., addressing the audience during a Sept. 2 performance at the Stockyards Music Festival in Fort Worth, Texas.

“I didn’t know you had families.”

– GOP presidential candidate MITT ROMNEY speaking in 2004 with Julie Goodridge, one of the plaintiffs in the case that led to the legalization of marriage equality in Massachusetts, about her experiences with discrimination.

“Even the players who are very religious, some of them understand that it’s a matter of equality and love, and they’re not going to let religion dictate government.”

– Baltimore Ravens linebacker BRENDON AYANBADEJO telling ESPN’s “Outside the Lines” that he estimates 70 percent of NFL players support marriage equality.

“I can assure you that gay people getting married will have zero effect on your life. They won’t come into your house and steal your children. They won’t magically turn you into a lustful cockmonster.”

– Minnesota Vikings punter CHRIS KLUWE writing to Maryland state Del. Emmett C. Burns Jr., who called on the Ravens owner to reprimand Brendon Ayanbadejo for supporting marriage equality.

“Kids who are overweight are sometimes bullied, too. And we might want to make that person feel better. But it would be a mistake to say that overeating is a good thing, right? So tell your friends, in a nice way, that no one needs to be ‘gay’ or pretend to be the other gender. It’s not the right thing to do.”

– LINDA HARVEY, head of the hate group Mission: America, advising parents what to tell their kids about homosexuality.

“We will never have the elite, smart people on our side.”

– Anti-gay crusader and former SEN. RICK SANTORUM telling attendees at the Values Voter Summit that well-educated people will never embrace their hardline fundamentalist Christian agenda.



# ‘Assassins’ a must-see play

## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater’s production of Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman’s musical “Assassins,” which runs through Oct. 7, is a must-see.

“Assassins” is a musical exploration of the men and women who have killed or tried to kill American presidents over the years – from John Wilkes Booth (Lincoln) and Charles Guiteau (Garfield) through Lee Harvey Oswald (Kennedy) and John Hinckley (Reagan).

Staged in a startlingly inventive carnival setting, the play gives each assassin a few scenes and a song to express their backgrounds or motivations. A garish scoreboard marks whether the president targeted was a “hit” or a “miss.”

The play jumps around chronologically but begins with the story of the vengeful and egomaniacal Booth who,

in killing Lincoln, created a sort of template for future assassins. It ends dramatically with the assassination of Kennedy. In a gut-wrenching scene, a kind of countdown to catastrophe, Booth slowly eggs on Oswald as he sits in the Book Depository building in the minutes before the president’s motorcade passes.

The musical score is bookended with the anthem “Everybody’s Got the Right,” with its ironic refrain: “Everybody’s got the right to be happy. Everybody’s got the right to their dream.” While not meant as an endorsement of murder, it expresses the distorted connection between violence and American values.

Along the way, each assassin or would-be assassin sings a ballad about his particular beef. John Hinckley and Squeaky Fromme (who tried to kill Gerald Ford) sing the eerie “Unworthy of Your Love” about the objects of their obsessions, Jodie Foster

and Charles Manson. JFK’s murder (rerun via the horrific Zapruder film) is followed by a haunting lament for ourselves and our country, a song titled “Something Just Broke.”

There is a disturbing amount of loud gunfire and guns pointed at the audience throughout the play. Without any preaching about it, the ubiquity of guns and their devastation to our body politic is made obvious.

At the “talkback” with cast members after the performance I attended, we got into an interesting discussion about the roles that hatred, mental illness and ideology play in motivating assassins.

Despite the dark subject matter, there are some laugh-out-loud scenes. Samuel Byck’s escalating fit of screaming rage against Richard Nixon is hilarious before it becomes really scary. Another scene between Squeaky Fromme and Sara Jane Moore, showing what

bizarre and delusional outsiders they were – incomprehensible even to each other – is a tour de force of comic timing.

As is often said of the work of Stephen Sondheim, this is not your parents’ Rodgers and Hammerstein. Sondheim doesn’t always write catchy, happy tunes you hum while leaving the theater. In the past 50 years he’s taken American musical theater to a whole new level with works that are complicated and challenging both musically and thematically.

I have seen many excellent Milwaukee Rep productions but “Assassins” has to be one of the best. There is not one weak link in the tremendous and large ensemble cast. And the technical aspects – scenic, sound and lighting design – which entail rotating scaffolds and dozens of tricky sound and lighting cues, are carried off brilliantly. It is a production that engages your mind and all of your senses.

# GOP gays settling for too little

## Opinion

MARCUS MAICHLE

Following the Republican National Convention, Log Cabin Republicans and GOProud released statements praising the Republican Party and its candidates. Both groups work within the Republican Party to promote inclusion of conservative LGBT Americans. With both conventions now over, LCR and GOProud are trying to convince LGBTs to vote Republican.

GOProud cites a Harris poll stating that the top issues for LGBTs are still jobs and the economy. Some polls do favor Romney-Ryan on economic issues. But LGBTs, just like the rest of the nation, disagree on which platform is better for the economy, and especially for LGBT people. What good are more jobs if an employer can decide not to hire you because of your sexual orientation? What good are lower taxes

if your health plan doesn’t cover your partner or your partner’s children?

Log Cabin has made some gains in the party. This year, it was invited to participate in the platform committee. Although LCR’s recommendations were heard, the party platform that resulted still opposes equality for same-sex couples. LCR executive director R. Clarke Cooper responded that he was disappointed in the “aggressive and divisive language” used in the platform. Otherwise, he had only glowing words for the RNC.

What GOProud and LCR ignore is that the Republican Party’s opposition to gay rights is a deal breaker to many who might otherwise agree with the conservative approach to the economy. While both groups may have made progress in being heard, and making friends within the party, the message sent by the speakers at the Republican convention was still that we are not welcome. The only mention of LGBT issues from the podium was

to praise the candidates’ support for traditional marriage.

In stark contrast, the Democratic convention was the most welcoming ever to LGBTs. According to National Stonewall Democrats, this year’s DNC reported a record number of LGBT delegates, including for the first time at least one LGBT delegate from each state.

LGBT voices were heard from the podium as well. Several openly gay speakers addressed the convention, including DNC treasurer Andrew Tobias, Reps. Jared Polis, D-Colo., Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Tammy Baldwin, who is running for U.S. Senate. Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout who is taking on the Scouts’ position on gays, spoke about being raised by two moms.

Both Barack Obama and Joe Biden, in their acceptance speeches, acknowledged the basic right of Americans to marry who they love.

A more inclusive Republican Party is a good thing. It would reflect the greater diversity within the LGBT community. It would loosen



the stranglehold that the religious right has on the party. It would push the Democratic Party to step up its efforts toward equality, or risk losing votes it had taken for granted.

I recognize the importance of working within the GOP to affect this change. Unfortunately, these two groups appear to be giving unconditional support to a party and to candidates who actively oppose equality. For them, a conservative economic policy trumps equal rights. For many conservatives who are gay or lesbian, however, the choice is much more of a conflict.

Marcus Maichle is a community organizer, blogger and short story writer from West Allis.



# One year later, no problems with DADT repeal

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A year after the full repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, researchers say they see only favorable results from gays and lesbians serving openly in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"The U.S. military has set an international standard with the smooth transition to openly gay service," said Aaron Belkin, lead author of "One Year Out: An Assessment of DADT Repeal's Impact on Military Readiness."

The Palm Center in California released the report, prepared with help from professors at the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Marine Corps War College, to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the repeal on Sept. 20.

DADT, implemented in the early years of Democrat Bill Clinton's first term, earned its nickname because it banned military officers from

asking about a servicemember's sexual orientation and prohibited servicemembers from coming out as gay. The policy was a compromise — Clinton had wanted to lift the longtime ban on gay servicemembers, but the GOP-controlled Congress wanted to keep the prohibition.

In the 2008 presidential election, every Democrat running for the White House pledged to repeal DADT. President Barack Obama made repeal a White House priority in 2010. The process proved lengthy — with studies and surveys, debates and decisions required by the Defense Department, Congress and the administration.

Opponents of repeal included more than 1,000 retired generals and admirals who signed a statement predicting that open service would "break the all-volunteer force."

But Belkin said the review of the first year found that repeal has not compromised security, readiness or unit

## FOR THE RECORD...

"Don't ask, don't tell" became military policy on Dec. 21, 1993.

"Don't ask, don't tell" ended on Sept. 20, 2011.

cohesion.

The researchers found:

- Only two servicemembers, both chaplains, were identified as having left the military as a result of DADT repeal.

- A Pentagon spokesperson told the study's co-authors that she was not aware of a single episode of violence associated with repeal.

- Pentagon data show that recruitment and retention remained robust after repeal.

- Survey data revealed that service-wide, the troops reported the same level of morale after repeal as they did before repeal.

- Survey data revealed that service-wide, the troops

reported the same level of readiness after repeal as they did before repeal.

The researchers, who surveyed officers, servicemembers, veterans, scholars, and activists for and against repeal, also found that trust among troops improved following the lifting of the ban.

Servicemembers and LGBT civil rights advocates celebrated the one-year anniversary of repeal with small events around the United States and with a gala in New York City hosted by Barbara Walters, with Adm. Mike Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as a special guest.

Meanwhile, the issue of gays serving in the military remains politically charged.

Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan of Wisconsin voted against repealing DADT, while GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney has said he opposed the repeal but reinstatement of the policy would be unnecessary. The Republican Party platform adopted at the national convention in Tampa, Fla., in late August states, "We reject the use of the military as a platform for social experimentation and will not accept attempts to undermine military priorities and mission readiness."

In their platform, Democrats referred to the lifting of the ban as a civil rights



AP PHOTO/GREGORY BULL

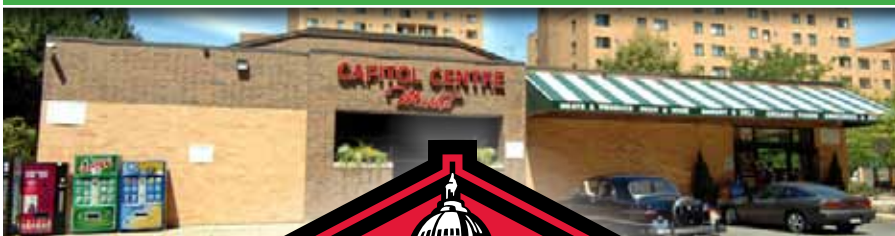
**A soldier wearing an Army T-shirt holds flags during the gay Pride parade July 2 in San Diego. For the first time ever, U.S. service members marched openly in a gay Pride event decked out in their uniforms.**

achievement, and numerous speakers celebrated the repeal.

"Whose leadership, whose judgment, whose values do you want in the White House when that crisis lands like a thud on the Oval Office

desk? A person who wanted to keep 'don't ask, don't tell,' or a president who believes that who you love should not keep you from serving the country you love?" asked Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel in his convention speech.

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## NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank.

## FRANK FEUDS WITH GAY REPUBLICANS

Openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank earlier this month said "Uncle Tom" was the role model for the Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest and most organized LGBT GOP group.

LCR executive director R. Clarke Cooper, shot back, "As far as Log Cabin Republicans are concerned, it's a badge of honor to be attacked by a partisan hack like Barney Frank. We understand that Barney has earned his protected place within the Democrat Party by being their attack dog on gay rights issues,

demonizing Republicans and undermining efforts at bipartisanship that would actually improve LGBT Americans' lives. We expect this kind of bile from Barney, especially when it plays into the Obama campaign's efforts to divide, distract and deceive the American people."

Then National Stonewall Democrats, the largest and best organized LGBT Democratic organization in the U.S., responded.

"Barney Frank is a distinguished and honorable public servant," said NSD's Jerame Davis. "He has faced nearly 40 years of unspeakable hatred and persecution for being the most prominent and outspoken openly gay elected official in the country. Regardless of what he has to say about Log Cabin Republicans, the notion that they would suggest a man as brave and upstanding as Congressman Frank is either cowardly or a bully is both deluded and absurd."

## NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY RELEASED

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention has released an LGBT-inclusive strategy to reduce the number of suicides in the United States.

The alliance, working with the U.S. Surgeon General and other agencies, developed a report that details 13 goals and 60 objectives to accomplish over the next 10 years.

Along with the strategy comes \$55.6 million in new grants for national, state, tribal, campus and community suicide prevention programs under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act and the Affordable Care Act.

## OUTED SHERIFF CLEARED IN ABUSE OF POWER PROBE

Paul Babeu was cleared in a state investigation into whether he abused his authority as sheriff of Arizona's Pinal County, after his former boyfriend, a Mexican immigrant, accused Babeu of threatening him.

State Solicitor General Dave Cole said that nothing indicates Babeu misused his authority or public money to harass or intimidate Jose Orozco. Cole declined to file criminal charges in the case. He also exonerated Orozco, whom Babeu accused of property and identity theft.

The sheriff, who recently won the Republican nomination in his re-election bid, had pulled out of a

race for a congressional seat after news broke of his falling out with Orozco. The two met online in 2006 and had an on-again, off-again relationship.

Babeu is known for his hardline stance on illegal immigration and border security.

## PREACHERS ARRESTED



PHOTO: COURTESY

Paul Babeu, an outed gay sheriff in Arizona, has won his primary for re-election. He's also been cleared in an abuse-of-power investigation.

## FOR PROTESTING AT SOUTHERN DECADENCE

Nine preachers were arrested in New Orleans earlier in September after yelling anti-gay slurs at Southern Decadence, an annual gay Pride celebration in the French Quarter.

The Times-Picayune reported the arrests of Patrick O'Connell, 45; Rolando Igleasias, 31; Cesar Chavez, 22; Daniel Hoogerhuis, 26; Danny Guevera, 20; Larry Craft, 52; Montes Diego, 32; and Gary Brown, 33.

They face charges of aggressive solicitation, an ordinance adopted last year that prohibits "any person or group of persons to loiter or congregate on Bourbon Street for the purpose of disseminating any social, political or religious message between the hours of sunset and sunrise."

The preachers announced that they would be suing, alleging a violation of the First Amendment.

## IOWA SON OPPOSES ANTI-GAY MINNESOTA AMENDMENT

An Iowa man raised by a lesbian couple says arguments against gay marriage ignore the realities of families like his.

Zach Wahls, who spoke earli-



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**NATIONAL BRIEFS**

er this month at the Democratic National Convention, is campaigning against Minnesota's constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

The 21-year-old gained fame in the gay marriage movement in 2011, when he testified against a constitutional amendment to overturn legal same-sex marriage in Iowa. That amendment never made it to the ballot.

Supporters of Minnesota's amendment say it's important because opposite-sex parents are ideal for children.

But Wahls says he never worried his family was less than normal until he was exposed to criticism from opponents of gay marriage.

**POLL: VOTE NEARLY TIED ON MINNESOTA MARRIAGE MEASURE**

A poll on a proposed constitutional amendment against gay marriage shows the vote in Minnesota nearly tied, with 48 percent supporting the amendment and 47 percent opposing it.

Voters will decide the question on Nov. 6 in a state that already prohibits recognition of same-sex

marriages.

PPP, in its latest survey, found that 52 percent of women, 78 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of voters under age 45 oppose the amendment. But 55 percent of men, 80 percent of Republicans, 51 percent of independents and 53 percent of seniors support the amendment, which would define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

PPP polled voters on other matters and found Gov. Mark Dayton's approval rating is at 48 percent while 59 percent have an unfavorable opinion of U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann.

**VOTERS DON'T LIKE SUPER PACS**

Americans don't like all the cash that's going to super political action committees and other outside groups that are pouring millions of dollars into races for president and Congress.

More than 8 in 10 Americans in a poll by The Associated Press and the National Constitution Center support limits on the amount of money given to groups that are trying to influence U.S. elections.

**N.Y. SENATOR CALLED 'POLITICAL WHORE' FOR BACKING GAY MARRIAGE**

An email ad (right) that circulated in early September called a New York senator seeking re-election a "political whore" for his vote supporting marriage equality. State Sen. Mark Grisanti, a Republican from the Buffalo area, was a key vote in the passage of New York's marriage equality bill last year.

The black-and-white ad showed two men, one of them on his knees kissing the other just above the waist. The ad asks, "How far will a politician go to get in your pants? For his gay marriage vote, Mark Grisanti received over \$750,000. Sometimes they're political whore\$."

How far will a politician go to get in your pants?

For his Gay Marriage vote, Mark Grisanti received over \$750,000.

Sometimes they're political whore\$.



A disclaimer said the ad was paid for by the Committee to Save the Erie County Republican Party, which didn't appear to exist as a registered entity.

Grisanti survived a tough primary against Kevin Stocker on Sept. 13. — LN.

But they might have to change the Constitution first. The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in the Citizens United case removed limits on independent campaign spending by businesses and labor unions, calling

it a constitutionally protected form of political speech.

"Corporate donations, I think that is one of the biggest problems today," said Walter L. Cox Sr., 86, of Cleveland. "They are buying the

White House. They are buying public office."

— from WiG and AP reports





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## 'Time to hold Thompson accountable for what his campaign does and says'

**THOMPSON** from page one  
"senior advisor/communications."

Thompson also told reporters that Nemoir had apologized, when in fact he's said that he stands by his attacks on Baldwin, according to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

"Thompson needs to start telling the truth and he needs to show Brian Nemoir the door," said state Democratic Party chair Mike Tate in a prepared statement.

"We are calling on Tommy Thompson to do the right thing and take responsibility for his divisive campaign and reject the personal attacks that are out of touch with our Wisconsin values," Tate said. "It is time to hold him accountable for his record, the positions he takes and what his campaign does and says. If Tommy Thompson is afraid of standing up to his own political handlers then what makes anyone believe he will stand up for us in Wisconsin?"

Nemoir ignited the controversy when he sent out a tweet and email questioning Baldwin's "heartland values" before she addressed the Democratic National Convention on the subject.

His tweet linked to a video of Baldwin dancing with a band playing the "Wonder Woman" theme on stage at an August 2010 Pride event in Madison. In the email, Nemoir wrote sarcastically, "clearly, there's no one better positioned to talk 'heartland values' than Tammy."

"To me, (sexual orientation) is absolutely not an issue," Thompson told reporters on Sept. 11. He added that he was "very upset" about Nemoir's action.

But Thompson's record in office was decidedly anti-gay. He eliminated former Gov. Tony Earl's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues during his first term as governor. During a 2009 Republican primary presidential debate, he said it should be legal to fire employees based on their sexual orientation, although he later claimed that he'd

misunderstood the question.

In 2006, Thompson refused to join a coalition of former governors who opposed amending Wisconsin's constitution to ban legal recognition of same-sex marriages and civil unions.

As Secretary of Health and Human Services under former President George W. Bush, Thompson was charged with politicizing scientific decisions by rejecting respected scientists, including a Nobel laureate, for key positions in favor of lesser-qualified, socially conservative applicants.

During the Bush era, Republicans frequently placed anti-gay marriage laws on ballots in swing states to increase turnout among right-wing voters. They also sent out campaign materials gay-baiting equality supporters as lacking in "family values" and seeking to indoctrinate America's youth into "the homosexual lifestyle."

Tate said he believed Nemoir's attack on Baldwin was a calculated move that reflects this divisive style of campaigning. But with fast-growing acceptance of gay people, today the strategy runs the risk of offending LGBT people and their allies, as well as independents who want leaders to focus on issues such as jobs and health care rather than issues that have no effect on their lives.

As WiG headed to press, Nemoir still held the position within the Thompson campaign that he'd held prior to the incident. The campaign declined to explain why Thompson had told the press otherwise.

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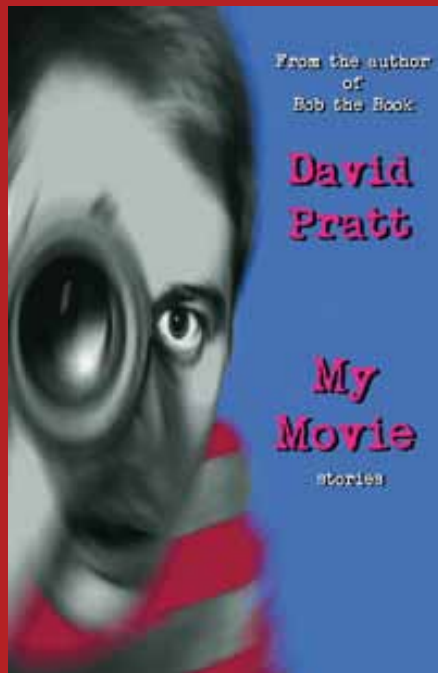
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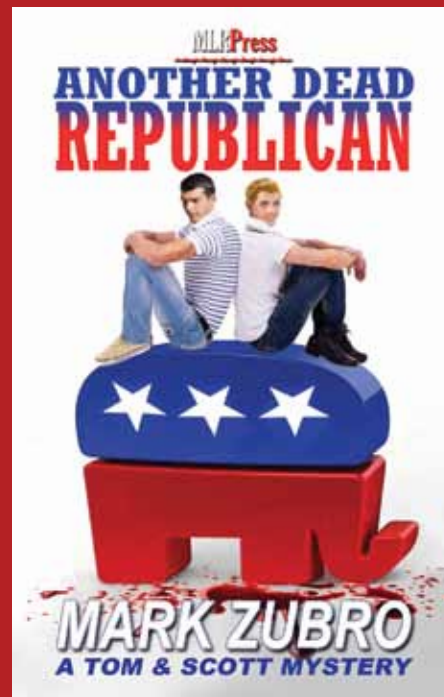
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## Lending prestige to demonizers

**RYAN** from page one

servative Republican party," said Nicole Safar, public policy director for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin.

"American Jews will feel a sense of profound disappointment that two of the most important Republicans in the country have chosen to address – and thus court and legitimize – some of America's most extreme and deeply disturbing social conservatives at today's Values Voter Summit," said National Jewish Democratic Council CEO David A. Harris, referring to Ryan and U.S. Rep Eric Cantor of Virginia, who promoted "traditional marriage" in his remarks.

Harris noted FRC's "infamous history of gay bashing, (as well as) anti-Muslim and intolerant statements, including disgustingly and directly linking homosexuality to the Holocaust. But equally concerning is the history of hate-filled toxic rhetoric that flows from many of its participants year after year. This is above and beyond one of the summit's organizers' calls for Jews to be converted to Christianity."

FRC was launched in 1981 by James Dobson, who created it as a lobbying group tied to Focus on the Family, his early Christian right group formed to block LGBT civil rights efforts and reproductive freedoms.

FRC became its own entity in the early 1990s, with Tony Perkins, a former Louisiana legislator, at the helm. Today FRC is a right-wing powerhouse that lobbies Congress and makes PAC

contributions, including to Wisconsin's Sean Duffy and Mark Neumann. According to Perkins, the group had enough influence to be given the job of writing the anti-gay marriage provisions that are contained in the Republican Party's national platform.

But political positions didn't earn FRC its hate group status, according to SPLC president Richard Cohen. The classification is based on the organization's demonizing of LGBT people, spreading lies and misinformation about a class of people, to incite prejudice and hatred.

FRC "isn't some policy shop that attempts to find constructive solutions to problems facing our society," said Human Rights Campaign vice president Fred Sainz. "Tony Perkins wants you to believe that FRC is a family-focused advocacy organization, but that couldn't be further from the truth. The only thing FRC advocates for is the demonization of those who do not fit into their narrow worldview. They are a hate group that actively spreads blatant lies about LGBT people – with absolutely no regard for the impact of their harmful rhetoric."

Both FRC and AFA, for example, advocate therapy to turn gays straight – a treatment that's not supported by any credible medical or mental health organization.

At the 2011 Values Voter Summit, the AFA's Bryan Fischer said the "homosexual agenda" is the nation's "greatest immediate threat." Perkins, opening this year's summit, compared homo-

sexuality to drug abuse. He also has said pedophilia is a "homosexual problem" and others at FRC have called for recriminalizing homosexuality.

In early September, the SPLC and HRC, along with People for the American Way, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, National Black Justice Coalition, National Council of La Raza and Faithful America, called on public officials not to attend the Values Voter Summit.

"Our message is a simple one," Cohen said. "Public officials should not lend the prestige of their office to groups that spread demeaning and false propaganda about other people."

### 'WAITING LIST'

The news events of the week – the killing of U.S. diplomats in Libya and escalating anti-American violence in the Middle East sparked over an anti-Islam video – dictated the substance of higher-profile speeches. Traditionally, the summit is devoted to challenging reproductive freedom, marriage equality and immigration reform.

U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota, speaking mid-morning on Sept. 14, focused her ire on "radical Islamists ... who seek to impose their set of beliefs on the rest of the world." In an address about foreign affairs and national security, she remembered the Alamo and quoted Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Ryan spoke during the same session, focusing much of his speech on the Obama administration's handling of



PHOTO: GET EQUAL

**Protesters offer a message to extremists at the Values Voter Summit.**

foreign affairs. But he also nodded at domestic issues. He boasted of Mitt Romney's pledge to repeal the Affordable Care Act on day one if he's elected and said Barack Obama has sought to dictate Catholic Church policy on contraception.

To cheers, Ryan attacked Obama's support for the right of women to terminate their pregnancies. "We're all in this together" – it has a nice ring," he said. "For everyone who loves this country, it is not only true but obvious. Yet how hollow it sounds coming from a politician who has never once lifted a hand to defend the most helpless and innocent of all human beings, the child waiting to be born."

In his only reference to LGBT issues, Ryan, who has a consistent anti-gay record, said, "We can be confident in the rightness of our cause, and also in the integrity and readiness of the man who leads it (Mitt Romney). He's solid and trustworthy, faithful and honorable. Not only a defender of marriage, he offers an example of marriage at its best."

The remarks rang familiar to those who have heard Ryan's stump speech in recent weeks, and to those in the congressman's home state.

Safar said that Ryan "would rather appeal to a narrow conservative political view than address the issues that women are facing every day in this country."

She added, "To be clear, Congressman Ryan believes that politicians should ban abortion access – no exceptions, even when a woman will die or is the victim of rape or incest. This is a view that over two-thirds of voters consistently reject. President Obama is clearly on the side of the majority of voters and frankly the side of women when he says that politicians should not be involved in women's medical decisions. Congressman Ryan is out of touch with what women in our country know: We don't consult politicians when it comes to advice about mammograms or cancer screenings or treatment. Politicians should not be involved in a woman's personal medical decisions about her pregnancy."

In the week before the conference, the Values Voter website contained a long list of speakers – many confirmed, but some not, including Mitt Romney. Late in the week, after organizers indicated to the press that the candidate's wife would speak, the Romney campaign said she had no such plan. Catholic Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who delivered prayers at both the Republican and Democratic national conventions, also was a listed speaker but said he never planned to attend.

The summit did feature Ryan, Bachmann and Cantor, as well as:

- U.S. Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Jim DeMint of South Carolina and former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum.
- TV actor Kirk Cameron.
- U.S. Reps. Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska, Tim Huelskamp of Kansas, Steve King of Iowa and James Lankford of Oklahoma.
- Gov. Jan Brewer of Arizona.
- U.S. Senate candidate Ted Cruz of Texas.

American Family Association leaders Tim Wildmon and Buddy Smith also had microphones, as did retired Lt. Col. Oliver North of Iran-Contra Affair fame and anti-choice activist Lila Rose, who has called for abortions to be performed in the public square.

Perkins said the summit is so popular with Republican officeholders that "we have a waiting list of those who want to speak. We've had to turn away members of Congress."

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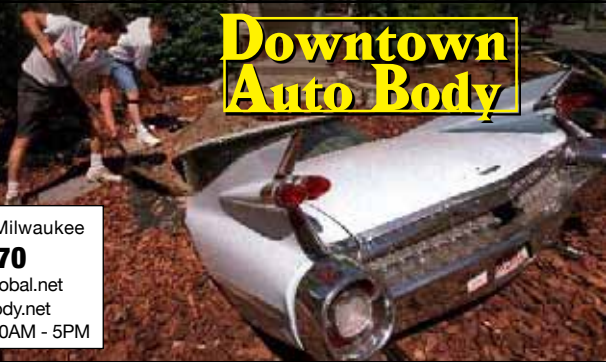
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## Milwaukee childhood informs playwright's budding career



PHOTO: JEFFREY JAMES KEYES

**Jeffrey James Keyes.**

**By Michael Muckian**

*Contributing writer*

For many gay people, coming of age and coming out are synonymous. And together, these two milestones have informed much of playwright Jeffrey James Keyes' work.

His next play, tentatively titled "17" and set on Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, tackles the "out" and "of age" themes more fully than his earlier works. His last play "The End of Days" was performed last month at the Soho Playhouse as part of the New York International Fringe Festival.

"The characters (in "17") are a composite of my childhood friends, but the coming-out aspect of the play has no parallel or reference to my own coming out story," says Keyes, who grew up in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood and now lives in Manhattan's Washington Heights. "The play has a clear-cut

emphasis on brotherhood, which is something I think I longed for in my childhood friendships above intimacy or anything else."

The play's narrative draws on a week Keyes spent some years ago backpacking across Isle Royale, a unique natural environment where moose and wolves maintain a delicate ecological balance. The characters come from an amalgam of Keyes' experience growing up in a Catholic school environment on Milwaukee's South Side. Not all the experiences were bad ones, he says.

"We lived near a forest in Bay View, which is just off of Lake Michigan," Keyes earlier told interviewer Adam Szymkowitz as part of an online series on playwrights. "I spent my childhood climbing trees, diving off the back of sailboats, chasing fireflies and dreaming big. I couldn't think of a better place to grow up."

**Growing up gay in Milwaukee brought challenges. Keyes endured what he calls a typical level of abuse.**

But growing up gay in Milwaukee brought challenges. Supportive friends and family helped Keyes thrive, despite what he describes as a fairly typical level of abuse.

"I went to St. Veronica's, a big Catholic grade school. I was somewhat effeminate and some of the

older kids started picking on me and saying I was gay," Keyes says. "At first I didn't know what that meant. I was a child, after all. I gradually went from not knowing what gay meant to hiding it, and eventually owning it."

During his freshmen year at Milwaukee's Pius XI High School, Keyes became involved in First Stage Theater Academy, the student-oriented subsidiary of a Milwaukee theater troupe. Surrounded with like-minded individuals, his interests and sense of self began to flourish.

"I was accepted into the First Stage work study program and was able to find a home base where I could express myself and meet even more friends who didn't give a damn about the fact that I was a boy who liked other boys," Keyes says. "Weekends and summers at First Stage were the ultimate antidote to any challenges I faced in

school during the rest of the year."

In 1998, Keyes moved to New York City, receiving first a BA from Fordham University College at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and then an MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts. In addition to writing plays and television pilots, Keyes is an accomplished travel writer-photographer, serves as the New York editor of GayCities.com and is a frequent contributor to "Queerty" and "Metrosource Magazine." Keyes' travel writing frequently takes him out of the country one or more weeks per month.

"Travel informs my dramatic and creative writing tremendously," Keyes says. "It was a large component of 'The End of Days,' which was about a travel photographer who seeks out an ex-girlfriend on the last night of the Mayan Calendar."

Keyes credits his family's literary heritage as an influential factor in his life. His grandfather was a second cousin to out writer Glenway Wescott, part of the "lost generation" of American writers who immigrated to Paris in the 1920s. Keyes is currently conducting research at the New York Public Library and the American Academy of Arts and Letters (where Wescott served as president) to write a new play about Wescott's relationship with Monroe Wheeler, one of the first curators of New York's Museum of Modern Art.

"My family has always encouraged me to read and study his work, and I am fascinated with the similarities between us," Keyes says of Wescott, a Kewaskum, Wis., native who died in 1987. "I've become good friends with some of his friends and colleagues in the past few years, and one of my good friends even coincidentally lives in Wescott's first New York apartment."

Keyes hopes to move beyond the Fringe Festival with "17," or whatever he decides to title the play. Several theater companies have expressed interest, he says. The writer also stays involved with a variety of writing groups and theater troupes, including New York Madness, the 15th Floor and the ESPA Program at Primary Stages. He also shows new works through the First Flight Festival and the Boomerang Theater Company, both in New York.



# Gay producers film African-American 'Steel Magnolias'

## Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

"Steel Magnolias" was originally a play that chronicled the friendship of six Louisiana women who congregate at Truvy's Beauty Shop to ponder the mysteries of life and death, husbands and children, hair and nails. The 1989 film version, which starred Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Dolly Parton, Shirley MacLaine and Daryl Hannah, has become something of a gay camp classic for its catty dialogue interspersed within a tear-jerking plot.

On Oct. 7, Lifetime television airs an updated version of the material, with an African-American cast assuming

the iconic roles. I spoke with Neil Meron and Craig Zadan, the gay executive producers of the remake. The two were recently named as recipients of the Visionary Award from the Outfest Legacy Project.

**Gregg Shapiro: How did the idea of remaking "Steel Magnolias" with an African-American cast come about?**

Neil Meron: A while back, maybe two years or so, Craig and I were talking about things that we wanted to do. Where are the great roles for women? Our conversation naturally went to "Steel Magnolias." I thought the only way that we could really tackle "Steel Magnolias," which was so brilliantly done originally, was if we were able to bring something new to it.

Craig Zadan: We know

Robert Harling, who wrote the original play and the original screenplay for the first movie. Robert said it was always his fantasy to have "Steel Magnolias" done again, with an all-black cast and set in a black town in the South.

**Queen Latifah, who plays M'Lynn (the role originated on screen by Sally Field), gives an amazing performance, the kind that has Emmy and Golden Globe written all over it.**

NM: It seemed like a perfect match. I think that a lot of the success (of) projects is how well you cast them. It seemed that she had the strength and dignity and acting chops to really anchor this new production of "Steel Magnolias" and redefine it.



PHOTO: COURTESY

A scene from Lifetime's "Steel Magnolias."

So you start with Queen Latifah and build everything around her.

CZ: We also had the most magnificent experience working with her on "Chicago" and "Hairspray." We felt they were two of the best films she's ever done, and that we've ever done, and we thought we'd love to have the experience a third time together as a team. So, when this came around, it seemed like a natural to involve her. She said yes immediately, because she understood how passionate we were about doing the piece and about her being in it. By the way, we think that she's a wonderful actress, and we've seen her give wonderful performances in the past, but I think that nothing that she's done can prepare the audience for the depth of the acting performances that she gives in "Steel Magnolias."

**You also worked with Phylicia Rashad, who plays Clairee in "Steel Magnolias," on "A Raisin in the Sun."**

NM: We love to work with the same actors over and over again, because you have a shorthand, you know they can deliver, it's more like a family. If you look at a lot of our work, we've been fortunate to have a lot of repeat visitors. One of the great joys is being able to have friends who are incredibly talented that enjoy working with one another, and it's a wonderful environment to be in and it

just spreads throughout the whole production.

**Aside from the familiar faces, "Steel Magnolias" also stars two younger actresses, Adepero Oduye and Condola Rashad, Phylicia's daughter.**

NM: I think part of the satisfaction of being a producer is being able to introduce new talent. Craig and I spotted Condola in a Broadway show, "Stick Fly." She's the only person that we wanted to play Shelby. Adepero, we knew about from "Pariah," of course. Her audition was so spectacular and special that we knew she needed to be in the movie. ... It's incredibly satisfying to have the ability to put new people into the mix and introduce them and have them become part of the extended family.

**Prior to big screen successes such as "Chicago" and "Hairspray," the majority of your production work was in TV. Do you have a preference for TV?**

CZ: I think that we don't have a preference for anything. We wanted to be in every single medium, we didn't want to be excluded from any and we are able to go from one to the other. It allows you to flex different muscles. We love the idea of being able to go from one to another and never get bored, never get tired, never get cynical, never feel like we've

done that a million times. It keeps us fresh and it keeps us curious and it keeps us interested.

**A number of your projects, including "Serving in Silence," "What Makes a Family," "Wedding Wars," "It's All Relative," and most recently "Smash" have dealt with gay subject matter. How important is that to you as gay men?**

CZ: You can stand on a soap box and give speeches all you want. A lot of people find speechifying is a turn off and they push away – they don't absorb what you have to say. However, when you do a piece such as "Serving in Silence" or "Wedding Wars" or "What Makes a Family" or "Smash" or "Drop Dead Diva" – when you do those pieces and entertain the audience, you go into their living rooms and you're welcomed in by entertaining them. While they're being entertained, they're also learning so much and experiencing so much. "Wedding Wars" is a good example, because we were the first people ever to make a movie about gay marriage. Any audience watching it would have a wonderful time seeing that movie without even realizing that we're trying to get a point across about gay marriage. By the end of the movie you can't help but feel like "Wow, what's the big deal?"

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# Braise offers new way of looking at dining

## Dining

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

When Milwaukee's Braise was named one of America's 50 best new restaurants in the September issue of "Bon Appetit," it came as little surprise to those familiar with the Walkers Point eatery. The magazine's brief mention of its only Wisconsin entry brushed across many of the restaurant's unique features, but it failed to paint a complete picture of the Braise model, which is focused on supporting sustainable agriculture, and how it's poised to change the way we think about food.

Braise chef/owner David Swanson is one of Wisconsin's foremost "locavores," a term that describes people who prefer eating locally produced foods. Rather than court passive consumption, as most restaurants do, Braise has the potential to serve as an active bridge between diners and farmers, endowing consumers with the capacity to act as partners with food providers to offer healthy nutrition with a fine-dining flare.

"Growing up in European kitchens, I learned the value of seasonal, local produce and knowing what tastes best," says Swanson, 42, who cooked in France and across the U.S. prior to settling in Milwaukee.

The Lake Villa, Ill., native attended the Culinary School at Kendall College in Evanston, Ill., and Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. He worked at Commander's Palace in New Orleans and La Francais in Wheeling, Ill., before settling in as chef de cuisine at Milwaukee's Sanford restaurant. He launched "Braise on the Go," a traveling culinary school in 2006, and opened his restaurant just last year.

"Supporting sustainable agriculture is important for restaurants and society because it helps broaden our understanding of where our food comes from and helps create a relationship with our farmers," Swanson says.

Braise, located at 1101 S. Second Street, embraces the locavore esthetic with a seasonally changing menu. Comprised of small and large plates, a "butcher board" selection, "Braise bites" and desserts, the menu is a cornucopia of options for diners who are dedicated to eating locally. Each entry appears designed to stimulate the mind as well as the taste buds.

Consider, for example, a roasted bone marrow and pickled radish salad with olive oil jam (\$4) or a Swiss chard tortilla with smoked paprika vinaigrette and crispy ham (\$6). There also is baby beet gazpacho with lime cream (\$7) and game sausage with white bean salad, pickled onions and Romesco sauce (\$22), topped off with rosemary cake, rhubarb-rose conserve and sour cream ice cream (\$8).

Creativity isn't the only factor that goes into creating a menu, Swanson says. Seasonal-



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

**Braise chef/owner David Swanson shows mushroom hunters what to look for on a foraging trip last spring.**

ity, locality and nutrition are equally, if not more important characteristics of the dishes at Braise.

"We strive to make our options a viable alternative for those who choose to eat healthy and support farmers and local sustainable food," Swanson says. "I think the issue will become more prevalent as people learn more about where their food comes from, start raising kids or become aware of health concerns. This in part creates a more informed buyer."

But the restaurant is just part of the equation for the culinary enterprise located in what was once a bowling alley in the shadow of Allen Bradley's "Polish moon." Braise has home delivery services of its fresh and freshly made foods. Fans filled its Sept. 9 "Tour de Farms" culinary bicycle tour to capacity. And Swanson plans to open an on-premise culinary school at the end of September to teach consumers how to cook with local produce.

Most importantly, perhaps, Braise has established itself as a promoter of restaurant supported agriculture. RSAs operate like community supported agriculture, a practice that partners area farms with consumers who make a financial investment at the beginning of each growing season in exchange for weekly or biweekly boxes of organic produce and shares of meats, cheeses and coffee.

Through RSAs, restaurants pre-pay a portion of farmers' food production costs, bringing in immediate revenue for the farmer and mitigating the economic uncertainty of the growing season. Restaurants benefit by gaining a steady supply of quality produce without taking the time to forage for it.

Customers can also participate in Braise's RSA, becoming members and making investments in exchange for meals, cooking classes and other benefits. Swanson estimates that 15 percent of the restaurant's clientele have joined his RSA, and he anticipates the number to grow as consumers become more cognizant of the source of their food.

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# Lovers battle for their man in U.S. premiere

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

In theater, as in life, love triangles can be messy affairs – especially when they involve a vengeful spouse, a soundproof cell and a bottle of poison.

Such is the premise for “The Nightmare Room,” which opens Milwaukee’s In Tandem Theatre Co.’s 2012-13 season Oct. 5 with its U.S. premiere performance. The play, freely adapted by English author John Goodrum from a story of the same name by “Sherlock Holmes” creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, considers what might happen when two women love the same film actor – and one of them happens to be his wife, who is none too happy about the arrangement.

Goodrum, who is also an actor, originally wrote the piece for his own Rumpus Theatre Co. in 1985. The company had already become known for its adaptation of Victorian and Gothic thrillers, including Bram Stoker’s “Dracula’s Guest” and Charles Dickens’ “The Signalman.” Goodrum happened upon the story, which appears in Conan Doyle’s “Tales of Terror and Mystery.”

“I saw at once its potential as a basis for a contemporary thriller,” says Goodrum from his home in England. “After so many period



PHOTO: COURTESY IN TANDEM THEATRE CO.

plays, that was an exciting prospect.”

In Doyle’s narrative, two men vie for the affections of the same woman, a former Parisian dancer who gave up her career to marry one of them. The husband confronts the suitor in an ornately decorated yet stifling drawing room. He offers to play a type of Russian roulette with beverages, one of which contains deadly poison. The survivor, of course, gets the dancer.

### IN TANDEM THEATRE SEASON AT A GLANCE

“The Nightmare Room,” Oct. 5–21

“A Cudahy Caroler Christmas,”

Nov. 30–Jan. 5

“Beast on the Moon,” March 1–24

“Apartment 3A,” April 26–May 19

In Goodrum’s adaptation, the conflict comes between two women, played by actors Mary McLellan and Libby Amato. The drawing room becomes a soundproof cell in which McLellan and Amato alternately hold positions of power. The bottle of clear poison takes on the same role, with a “Twilight Zone”-style twist at the end that gives the play an even stronger appeal, says In Tandem artistic director Chris Flieller, who directed the production.

“The hairpin turns of the plot are exciting, and equally exciting is the energy the characters exhibit in pursuit of their desires,” Flieller says. “It’s sexy and dangerous.”

Keeping a show like “The Nightmare Room” on the proper emotional footing can be challenging, says Flieller, who has added lighting, sound effects and unusual perceptual tricks to draw the audience further into the narrative. More than most other types of shows, suspense thrillers require perfectly timed pacing to keep audiences on edge, he adds.

“You have to keep things moving and can’t let the audience get ahead of you, but even then some clever person will have it figured out before intermission,” says Flieller, who also directed Joe DiPietro’s “The Art of Murder” two seasons ago. “The events that play out in ‘The Nightmare Room’ are inevitable, but (Goodrum’s) plot construction will help in keeping the audience guessing until the pieces of the puzzle coalesce at the very last moment.”

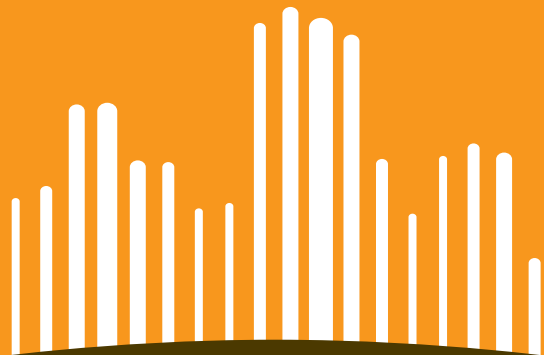
The play employs flashbacks to give the narrative greater dimension.

“My wife said, ‘You always write shadowy, dark scary plays. What about writing a light, bright scary play?’” Goodrum says. “That was the challenge, and the contrast between the intensely bright, starkly lit nightmare room, where nothing is what it seems, and the more mellow flashback scenes proved that this is possible.”

Flieller expects the play, which runs through Oct. 14, to be as successful for In Tandem as “The Art of Murder” was two years ago. In fact, he expects even more from The Nightmare Room.

“Don’t eat too much before the show – you may need a drink at intermission,” Flieller says. “And under no circumstances may you give away the ending!”

If you do, you may be facing your own nightmare (insert spooky laugh here).



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# Family dynamics at the heart of Chamber Theatre season opener

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Madison playwright Kurt McGinnis Brown, like most authors, was originally counseled to write about what he knew. One of the results of that advice is "Broken and Entered," a play with roots in his figurative as well literal experiences.

"One of my grandfathers led a shady life," says Brown, whose play opens Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's fall season. "He did odd jobs, including hitting the road in his Model T to sell matches. He also organized illegal card games and ran numbers."

On the other side of Brown's family were two brothers who never quite made it in the world and ended up moving back to their mother's house. The two influences combined to become the protagonists in Brown's play, which received a Chamber Theatre dramatic reading in 2010 and will have its first fully staged world premiere later this month.

The play about two brothers who move home and embark upon a life of crime has great appeal for director Suzan Fete, who directed the staged reading and makes her Chamber Theatre main stage directing debut with this production. The appeal has less to do with criminal activity than with the relationships among the characters.

"I am very attracted to family-dynamic plays, and the intricate, fragile and often subconscious inner working of families – mine included – fascinate me," she says. "'Broken and Entered' was a natural for me."

In the play's narrative, Vern (Jonathan Leslie Wainwright) and Wally (Andrew Edwin Voss) move back to their family home in a crumbling inner city community. They soon realize that in order to survive, they need to take what they can get. Each night they guiltlessly burglarize houses in nearby upscale neighborhoods.

But Wally falls for wealthy, attractive African-American neighbor Jamila (Marti Gobel, who reprises her role from the 2010 reading), who has returned to gentrify the neighborhood. Her involvement and her outsider's view help Vern and Wally realize how impossible it is for them to fully escape their past or recriminations for their present actions. The two brothers are forced to reexamine their perceptions of race while facing the



ILLUSTRATION: CHAMBER THEATRE

demons of their childhoods.

Despite their nefarious ways, Vern and Wally engender the audience's sympathy in this comic tragedy, primarily because they simply are not very good burglars. The pair is also plagued by their past, resulting in a series of decisions that many of us can relate to, Brown says.

"They'd like to think of themselves as clever professional criminals, but they're bumbler whose mad logic puts them in comic situations," Brown says. "I think people might find them endearing. Wally and Vern are two guys that never had a chance. I don't mean they should be excused for their actions, but all that they really want is to have lived in a family that loved and cherished them. And it's too late for that."

What makes this play approachable for anyone is the truth of the piece and the inevitability of its outcome, Fete says. That truth is something to which Brown as playwright could relate.

"If you're a writer, you can't help but write what you know," Brown says. "The milieu in the play is not the milieu I grew up in, but by pushing my imagination in a certain direction, I can see what our family might have been like. That gave me something fun to play with in creating this world."

Several performances of "Broken and Entered," which runs Sept. 27 to Oct. 14 at the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, will be accompanied by talkbacks with Brown, Fete, Gobel and Chamber Theatre artistic director C. Michael Wright.

Visit [www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com](http://www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com) for more information.

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### MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE SEASON AT A GLANCE

"Broken and Entered," Sept. 26–Oct. 14  
"Collected Stories," Nov. 21–Dec. 16  
"Underneath the Lintel," Feb. 21–March 17  
"Jeeves in Bloom," April 11–28



# Seth Rudetsky deconstructs Broadway for Milwaukee

## Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

In his popular YouTube segments, Broadway maven Seth Rudetsky hilariously deconstructs musicals, songs and performers. His reverence for the Broadway musical and his mastery of stage banter is so infectious that you can't help but be entertained, even if you're not a show-tune queen.

In addition to his YouTube performances, Rudetsky is the Broadway host on SiriusX and recently launched his own Internet TV network. He brings his boundless enthusiasm to Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5 with "Seth's Big Fat Broadway."

**Gregg Shapiro: I want to begin by asking about your YouTube**

**presentation on "Turkey Lurkey," a number written by Hal David for the musical "Promises, Promises."**

Seth Rudetsky: I was very moved when I read his obituary. I was thinking how great his lyrics are and how he captures real feelings in lyrics. How specific they are – running for the bus and putting on your makeup. I was thinking, "Wow, he really is a great lyricist." He was a pop writer, but the lyrics for "Promises, Promises" are musical theater lyrics. He was a great lyricist. It's sad that he only wrote one musical.

**Have you ever heard directly from your subjects, such as Patti LuPone, Idina Menzel or Barbra Streisand, about what they think of your comments?**

Yes, of course. Everything I do is so positive, even if it is dishing the person. I just

did a big concert with Patti LuPone. I showed her that clip from the Tony Awards where she misses linking arms with that guy on stage, and she was like, "I meant to do that." She made a whole joke about it. She thought it was hilarious. People love laughing at themselves. I back it up, because I show crap about myself too. I show this jazz dance video that I did when I was in 11th grade where I thought I was amazing. I watch it nowadays. I'm wearing purple plastic jazz dance legwarmers, white Capezios. It's hilarious. The point is people love busting themselves. I get a lot of people who want to be deconstructed by me. (They say), "I'm waiting for the day when you deconstruct my blah blah blah." The only person I've not heard from is Barbra Streisand. I know a lot of people who know her, and they tell me they want to show her my deconstructing,

but you never know what kind of mood she's going to be in.

**How do you feel about movie musicals?**

I'm not a fan. My whole life I've hated lip-synching. I love live singing. That's why I love theater. (I enjoy) watching a great dance number (on film), especially the way it was done in the old days, when it was one shot. But I literally can't bear those TV shows with pre-recorded singing on them. It's just not me.

**As an author, you recently entered the Young Adult genre with your novel "My Awesome/Awful Popularity Plan." Do you have a favorite Y/A novel from when you were a teenager?**

Oh, my God, I still read Y/A novels. I love Katherine Paterson. She wrote "The Bridge to Terabithia" and "The Great Gilly Hopkins." What's different about mine is that there are very few that are funny as well as being Y/A. I also love the Judy Blume books. "Twilight" gave me a splitting headache.

**You also recently added TV mogul to your credits, with the launch of SethTV.com.**

It's so funny. It's the first time I've ever felt cutting-edge. People don't really understand it, but it's so obviously the new thing. It began with the whole reality show idea. But there's so much



PHOTO: COURTESY

**From "Seth's Big Fat Broadway."**

fakery on the reality shows. I wanted to do a show where people could see what it's like to rehearse for a Broadway show, show them what the Broadway life is really like. I didn't want to do it on a network. I wanted to own it myself and do it myself. Then I began to think, I'm always doing all these performances with other people, what if I film these one-nighters that no one gets to see except the audience (in the theater)? I thought, what if I could have one network where I could show these concerts? Plus there are so many other things I love. There are so many comedians that I love. I wanted a clearing house for my stamp. People look to me, like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval. What if this whole network is things that

I approve of? The stuff that I think is great to watch. It's like pay-per-view. You go to the site and press a button. What's amazing is that within one month of that being up online, I got a write-up in Entertainment Weekly, on their "Must List." It's really taking off. It gives people a glimpse as to what the real Broadway life is like.

**What do you think of all the gay characters that are part of the fall 2012 TV season?**

Yes, I'm over making being gay a character trait. It's not a character trait. Gay characters on TV, ... they come on, they make a sassy comment, "I'm shallow," and they walk off. It all seems very stereotypical.

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# After distinctive career, Smashing Pumpkins carve out new album

## Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

The Smashing Pumpkins arrived on the Chicago (and national) music scene at just the right time. For a city as big as Chicago, there was an embarrassing dearth of cool music coming from Lake Michigan's southwestern shores. As late as the late 1980s, Cheap Trick was still the biggest band to be associated with Chicago (and they were actually from Rockford!). Most of the punk-era bands emerging from Chicago never achieved the kind of crossover success that bands from other major metropolitan areas did. Milwaukee bands, such as the BoDeans and Violent Femmes, fared much better.

All of that changed in 1991 with The Smashing Pumpkins'

full-length debut disc "Gish," recently reissued in a remastered and expanded edition. The Smashing Pumpkins, didn't sound like the '80s, and only vaguely echoed grunge. The music was metallic, but it was saved by Billy Corgan's distinctive and emotive vocals.

Two years later, after grunge had predictably run its course and alternative was the predominant force, Smashing Pumpkins' remarkable "Siamese Dream," also reissued, remastered and expanded, set the standard. Shimmering with the shards of grunge, "Siamese Dream" also dared to go where few others had ventured, as exemplified in the rapturous "Today" and the disarming "Disarm," complete with chimes and a string section. "Gish" and "Siamese Dream" are nothing less than essential.

The considerably expand-

ed deluxe reissue of the Smashing Pumpkins' 1994 B-sides and rarities compilation "Pisces Iscariot" and the latest Pumpkins' full-length recording "Oceania" were released within weeks of each other in 2012. They offer a fascinating history lesson on Chicago's most successful band of the 1990s.

### ON STAGE

Smashing Pumpkins play The Riverside in Milwaukee at 7 p.m. on Sept. 30.

Joining the ranks of the stunningly packaged "Gish" and "Siamese Dream" reissues, "Pisces Iscariot" includes the remastered original album (featuring the glorious cover of Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" and the blistering "Hello Kitty Kat"), a second disc of outtakes, live tracks,



PHOTO: COURTESY

demos and rough mixes, and a DVD that includes footage from the cable access show "Pulse Basement Jam" and bonus live performances. Of particular interest to Pumpkins fans will be the six-song red plastic demo cassette.

The band may have changed its line-up over the

years, but there's no mistaking "Oceania" as a Smashing Pumpkins record. Of course, that's mainly due to the Pumpkins' most consistent factor, front-man Billy Corgan. His distinguished vocals and guitar style are evident right from the start on "Quasar," and the remain-

der of the disc follows the Pumpkins' formula of heavy rockers ("Panopticon," "The Chimera") and pleasant pop numbers ("The Celestials," "Pinwheels"). Heck, there's even a synthy tune, "One Diamond, One Heart," that displays an unexpected side of the band.

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# 2012 Milwaukee Film Festival presents LGBT-themed lineup

The 2012 Milwaukee Film Festival features several LGBT titles in its schedule, ranging from comedies to docs. Visit [mkefilm.org](http://mkefilm.org) for more information. The LGBT lineup includes the following:

## 'GAYBY'

A feature film about a gay man having a baby with his best friend, "Gayby" screens at:

9:45 p.m. on Sept. 28 at Fox Bay Cinema  
 9:45 p.m. on Oct. 2 at the Downer Theatre  
 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 4 at Fox Bay Cinema  
 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the Oriental Theatre

## '3,2,1 ... FRANKIE GO BOOM'

A romcom starring Charlie Hunnam, Lizzy Caplan and Madison native Chris Noth, "3,2,1 ... Frankie Go Boom" screens at:

9:30 p.m. on Sept. 29 at the Oriental Theatre

## 'ME @ THE ZOO'

This story of YouTube sensation and Britney Spears defender Chris Crocker's navigation of fame screens at:

7:30 p.m. on Sept. 29 at the Downer Theatre  
 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 4 at Fox Bay Cinema

## 'HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE'

David France's highly praised documentary about the AIDS epidemic screens at:

5 p.m. on Oct. 1 at the Oriental Theatre  
 4:15 p.m. on Oct. 5 at Fox Bay Cinema  
 7 p.m. on Oct. 8 at the Downer Theatre

## 'LOVE FREE OR DIE'

Filmmaker Macky Alston's documentary about Gene Robinson, the first openly gay Episcopal priest to become a bishop, screens at:

Noon on Oct. 2 at the Oriental Theatre  
 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 8 at the Oriental Theatre  
 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 11 at the Fox Bay Cinema

## 'THE JEFFREY DAHMER FILES'

The critically acclaimed documentary by filmmaker Chris Thompson screens at:

7 p.m. on Oct. 2 at the Oriental Theatre  
 3 p.m. on Oct. 7 at the Oriental Theatre  
 9 p.m. on Oct. 8 at Fox Bay Cinema  
 6 p.m. on Oct. 10 at Fox Bay Cinema

## THEATER LOCATIONS:

**Fox Bay Cinema**, 334 E. Silver Spring Drive in Whitefish Bay  
**Downer Theatre**, 2589 N. Downer St., on Milwaukee's East Side  
**Oriental Theatre**, 2230 N. Farwell Ave., on Milwaukee's East Side

— Gregg Shapiro



MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL



## SEPT. 20, THURSDAY

Forward Theater opens its 2012-13 season with **"44 Plays for 44 Presidents,"** a series of skits developed by Chicago's Neo-Futurists covering the nation's 44 chief executives. The production continues at The Playhouse at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts through Oct. 7. Call 608-234-5001 or go to forwardtheater.com.

**"T.I.M. (The Improvised Musical)"** is a fully improvised, hour-long musical based on audience suggestions. The laughs begin at 7:30 p.m. at ComedySportz, 420 S. First St. Call 414-272-8888 or visit www.SmithereenProductions.com.

American Players Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Road in Spring Green, presents **"In Acting Shakespeare,"** playwright and APT company member Jim DeVita's adaptation of Sir Ian McKellen's 1987 one-man show, through Oct. 4. Call 608-588-2361.

Youngblood Theatre Company presents the Milwaukee premiere of **"[sic]"** through Oct. 5 at Bucketworks, 706 S. Fifth. Visit www.YoungbloodTheatre.com.



Avenue Q

## SEPT. 21, FRIDAY

**"Avenue Q,"** the controversial, Tony Award-winning musical featuring a blend of humans and puppets, opens Skylight Music Theatre's 2012-13 season. The production runs through Oct. 14 in the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800 or go to skylightmusictheatre.org.

Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts welcomes the **Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company** to the Todd Wehr Theater, tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 and 10 p.m. Call 414-273-2787.

The Racine Theatre Guild's 75th season begins with the madcap comedy **"Noises Off,"** running through Sept. 30 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

Stephen Sondheim's **"Assassins,"** directed by Mark Clements, runs through Oct. 7 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

## SEPT. 22, SATURDAY

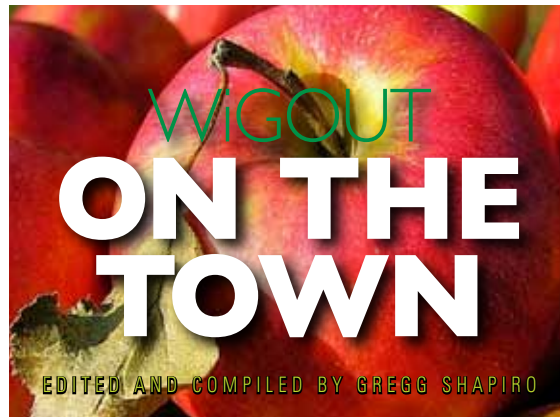
Queer band **Xiu Xiu** is at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, presents comedian/actress **Natasha Leggero**, known for her appearances on "Chelsea Lately" and "Reno 911," at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Queer indie folk goddess **Ani DiFranco** performs at 7 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

## SEPT. 23, SUNDAY

**The Lumineers** play The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.



Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, hosts a 2 p.m. sneak preview screening of the doc **"Corpus Christi: Playing With Redemption,"** followed by a 4 p.m. free Town Hall symposium with special guests and community leaders, culminating in a 7 p.m. performance of the play "Corpus Christi." Call 608-241-2345.

**"Gutenberg! The Musical!"** runs through Oct. 14 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

## SEPT. 24, MONDAY

Eric Simonson's **"Lombardi"** runs through Oct. 14 at Peninsula Players Theatre, 4351 Peninsula Players Road in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287.

## SEPT. 26, WEDNESDAY

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents **"The Mountaintop,"** by Katori Hall, through Nov. 4 in the Stiemke Studio. Call 414-224-9490.

**Freddy Griffith & the Sex Circus** take the stage at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

## SEPT. 27, THURSDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents the world premiere of **"Broken and Entered,"** by Madison-based playwright Kurt McGinnis Brown, through Oct. 14 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Canadian singer/songwriter **Kathleen Edwards** performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

## SEPT. 28, FRIDAY

The Milwaukee premiere of **"[title of show],"** with music and lyrics by Jeff Bowen and book by Hunter Bell, runs through Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. in the Tamsett Theatre at Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania in St. Francis. For more info, visit www.theatricaltendencies.com.

Relive your childhood with **"The Hardy Boys and the Case of the Blankety Blank!"** a completely improvised Hardy Boys mystery performed live on stage, aided by audience suggestions. The show begins at 11:59 p.m. at ComedySportz, 420 S. First. Call 414-272-8888 or visit www.SmithereenProductions.com.

Legendary Boston band **Mission of Burma** performs at 8 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, welcomes Tony winner **Glen Hansard** ("Once") at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

**Crankshaft** plays The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North, at 9 p.m. Call 414-988-4758.

## SEPT. 29, SATURDAY

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents **Joe Jackson** and **The Bigger Band**, featuring **Regina Carter** performing songs from "The Duke," at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The 2nd Annual **PALM (Promoting Academics in Latino Milwaukee) Scholarship Fundraiser** features a comedy show by Gwen La Roka and Elizardi Castro, live music, appetizers and more, from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Boulevard. Call 414-229-6156 or visit rhc.uwm.edu.



Joe Jackson

## SEPT. 30, SUNDAY

**Hospitality** and **Teen** play High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North, welcomes **Calliope** and **Wilder Maker** at 9 p.m. Call 414-988-4758.

## OCT. 1, MONDAY

Folk/punk act **Two Gallants** performs at 8 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North, welcomes **Heidi Spencer** and **The Rare Birds** at 9 p.m. Call 414-988-4758.

**"Autumn Makes Me Sing,"** featuring 12 American Folklore Theatre company members performing an evening of music and poetry, begins at 7 p.m. in The Great Room at Bjorklund Lodge, 7590 Boynton in Baileys Harbor. For tickets call (920) 854-6117.

## OCT. 2, TUESDAY

Queer trio **Girlyman** performs at 7 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

## OCT. 3, WEDNESDAY

Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, presents the Milwaukee premiere of **"Life (X) Three"** through Oct. 14. Call 414-744-5747 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North, presents **Hello Death** and **Hot Coffin** at 9 p.m. Call 414-988-4758.

## OCT. 4, THURSDAY

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts welcomes **"Seth's Big Fat Broadway Show,"** starring Seth Rudetsky, Broadway host on SiriusXM Satellite radio, tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-273-2787.

**"And If Elected,"** a musical look at presidential campaign history, runs through Oct. 14 at Gibraltar Town Hall, 4176 Maple in Fish Creek. Call 920-854-6117.





# MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18-21, 2012



## Cloudburst

OPENING FILM!

(Thom Fitzgerald, Canada, 94min., 2011)

**Thursday October 18, 7:30pm Oriental Theatre**

A winning romantic comedy with Oscar winners Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker as Stella and Dot, life partners together for 31 years...and now on the lam.



## Mosquita y Mari

(Aurora Guerrero, USA, English and Spanish with English subtitles, 85min., 2011)

**Saturday October 20, 7pm UWM Union Theatre**

Yolanda – known affectionately as “Mosquita” – was only interested in getting into college, but then she met Mari.



## Keep the Lights On

(Ira Sachs, USA, 101min., 2012)

**Sunday October 20, 9pm UWM Union Theatre**

A chronicle of a decade-long relationship between two men, a pairing founded on chance (promiscuous; intense) and founded by addiction.



## My Brother The Devil

CLOSING FILM!

(Sally El Hosaini, UK, 111min., 2011)

**Sunday October 21, 7pm UWM Union Theatre**

Two Arab brothers find their loyalties tested in this gripping British drama about masculinity, the lure of gangs and the bravest of declarations.



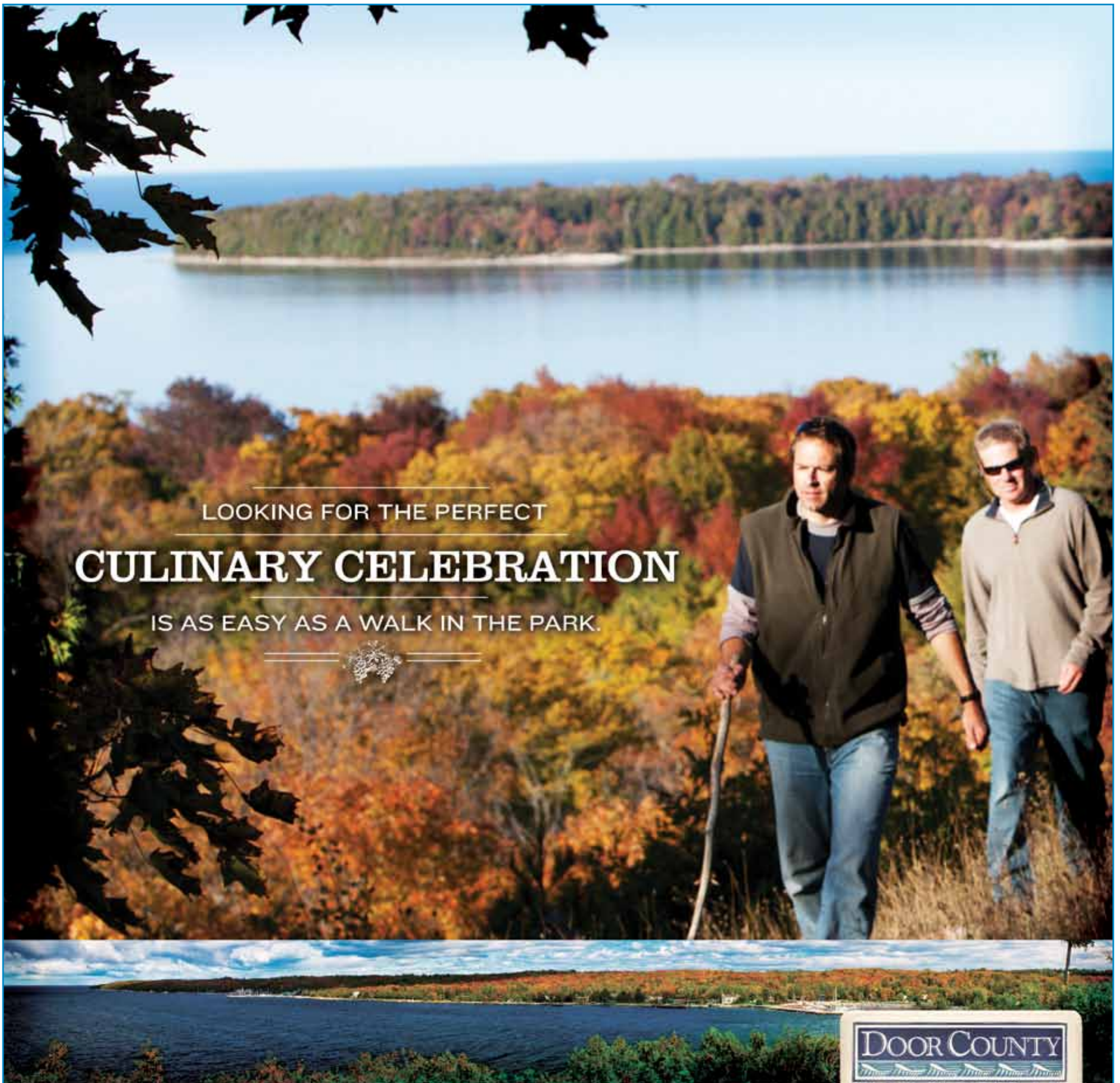
Joseph R. Pabst



FOR MORE INFORMATION: [LGBTFILM@UWM.EDU](mailto:LGBTFILM@UWM.EDU) OR [ARTS.UWM.EDU/LGBTFILM](http://ARTS.UWM.EDU/LGBTFILM)

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