

KEEPING THE BULLIES AT BAY

Emmy-winning out actor Leslie Jordan brings his unique brand of truth and humor to Madison.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

October 4, 2012 | Vol. 3, No. 24

Gay film festival reflects global LGBT diversity

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Aging lesbian partners make a humorous and touching break for the Canadian border. A stirring documentary chronicles one group's struggle against the AIDS epidemic. Gay men and transgenders fight for survival in three different homosexual-intolerant countries.

And that's just for starters.

Thirteen feature films and 21 shorts from 11 countries will comprise the 2012 Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival, presented by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts Department of Film. The "2nd annual 25th anniversary edition" of the festival runs from Oct. 18 to Oct. 21, with an opening night showing of Thom Fitzgerald's "Cloudburst," starring Olympia Dukakis (see interview page 18) and Brenda Fricker at the Oriental Theatre, 2230 N. Farwell St. All other screenings will be held at the UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

The festival's film choice has long served as a barometer for the changing way LGBT groups have viewed themselves — and have been viewed by society. Consequently, the nature of LGBT cinema has changed over the decades, and many of the films no longer bear the burden of having to take a social, political or at least explanatory stance, according to festival director Carl Bogner, a lecturer in the Peck School's film department.

These changes, coupled with the rise of independent filmmaking, have allowed

FILM page 24



PHOTOS COURTESY/COLLAGES BY MMK DESIGN

Dems running strong in Assembly races

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

On Nov. 6, all 99 seats are up for grabs in the Wisconsin Assembly, where Republicans currently hold a 58-39 majority.

With newly redrawn districts that heavily favor the GOP, it's unlikely that Democrats will pick up

the 11 seats needed to regain control of the chamber. But it appears increasingly likely that Democrats will pick up enough seats to help progressives stall the agenda of the tea party extremists who currently command the Assembly. And a new crop of freshmen progressive legislators who won Democratic prima-

ries last month will bring renewed vigor to the minority side of the aisle.

While Wisconsin leaders of both parties have focused on races for the U.S. and state Senate, which Democrats hold by a single-vote margin, the dynamics of Assembly races have been quietly chang-

ing. Seats that Republicans nabbed unexpectedly during the right-wing wave election of 2010 are strongly in play, as are several open seats.

The shift has been most notable in southern and western districts of the state, according to Melanie Conklin, a volunteer for the Assem-

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ENDORSEMENT: Baldwin for U.S. Senate, page 9

News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: BODYSPACE.BODYBUILDING.COM

Evangelical state Senate candidate Joe Macco shows off his faith.

EVANGELICAL SHOW-OFF

Joe Macco, the evangelical, right-wing Green Bay Republican seeking to unseat state Sen. Dave Hanson on Nov. 6, isn't always dressed for church. In fact, the 50-year-old bodybuilder's wife posted pix of her hubby at <http://bodyspace.bodybuilding.com/NurseForHealth/> in which he's wearing hardly anything.

One shot shows him posing onstage at a bodybuilding contest wearing barely-there trunks and sporting a fake tan that even John Boehner would envy. A black-and-white photo, taken in silhouette, shows off Macco's naked butt. Sue Macco has captioned the photo with the single word, "Yum." The legions of gays who devour bodybuilding content, such as Joe Macco's blog at bodybuilding.com, would undoubtedly agree. But he shares a little too much personal information on his blog: "My new favorite breakfast conversation? Colonics," he tells visitors.

BRIGHT LIGHTS, DARK TAN

Speaking of fake tans, ABC/Univision claims to have solved the mystery of the bright orange tan that Mitt Romney sported during an appearance on Univision, the Spanish language network. Liberal bloggers accused the GOP chameleon of darkening his skin to appear more appealing to Latino voters. But a make-up

artist for the network insisted Romney's tan was genuine. The unusual skin color, he insisted, was due to an unanticipated interaction between the lights on the set and the foundation that he used on the presidential hopeful's face. WigWag wonders what shade of makeup Romney will use during his debates with Barack Obama.

HERE'S TO THE CHURCH!

New San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, one of the leading proponents of California's anti-gay Prop 8, was busted for drunk driving last month. He has announced that sexually active gay Catholics should be denied Holy Communion. More sacramental wine for him, we guess.

REALLY LOVE THE COUCH!

A 46-year-old Waukesha man is facing charges after an off-duty cop jogging through the Pebble Valley neighborhood discovered him having sex with an abandoned couch set on a curb on Sept. 3, according to a

criminal complaint. Charged with one count of lewd and lascivious behavior, Gerard P. Streater faces up to nine months in prison and \$10,000 in fines if convicted. Police reports describe the couch only as "yellow," without noting the style. This leads WigWag to conclude that the officer was straight.

EXCESSIVE BORROWING

The Liberace Foundation for Performing and Creative Arts was funded by the now defunct Liberace Museum in Las Vegas, which was founded by the famously excessive entertainer from West Allis. Seems the foundation had to do some excessive borrowing and now, with the museum closed, has defaulted on a \$1.9 million loan from US Bank.

SEAMY CINEMA

Filming continues on Steven Soderbergh's biopic about Liberace, who died in 1987 of AIDS-related complications. The HBO film starring Michael Douglas as the flamboyant and closeted entertainer is due out next

year. Matt Damon stars as young lover Scott Thorson, who filed a palimony suit in 1982 and won a \$95,000 settlement. The film is based on Thorson's seamy, sordid story in "Behind the Candelabra."

CRITICAL FAILURE

Right-wing radio personality Mark Belling hasn't actually seen "Avenue Q," currently playing at Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theatre. But that didn't stop him from going off on a rant about the brilliantly clever and entertaining production, which he essentially denounced as "gay" filth in a Sept. 26 broadcast. As a result, ticket sales have soared. The theater was sold out for the weekend following Belling's review.

APB FOR POOR SPELLER

Police in York, Pa., were searching in late September for a vandal. The only description of the suspect was that he or she is a poor speller and possible thief. The vandal painted "bitch" on a woman's SUV and possibly stole a motorcycle from the property.

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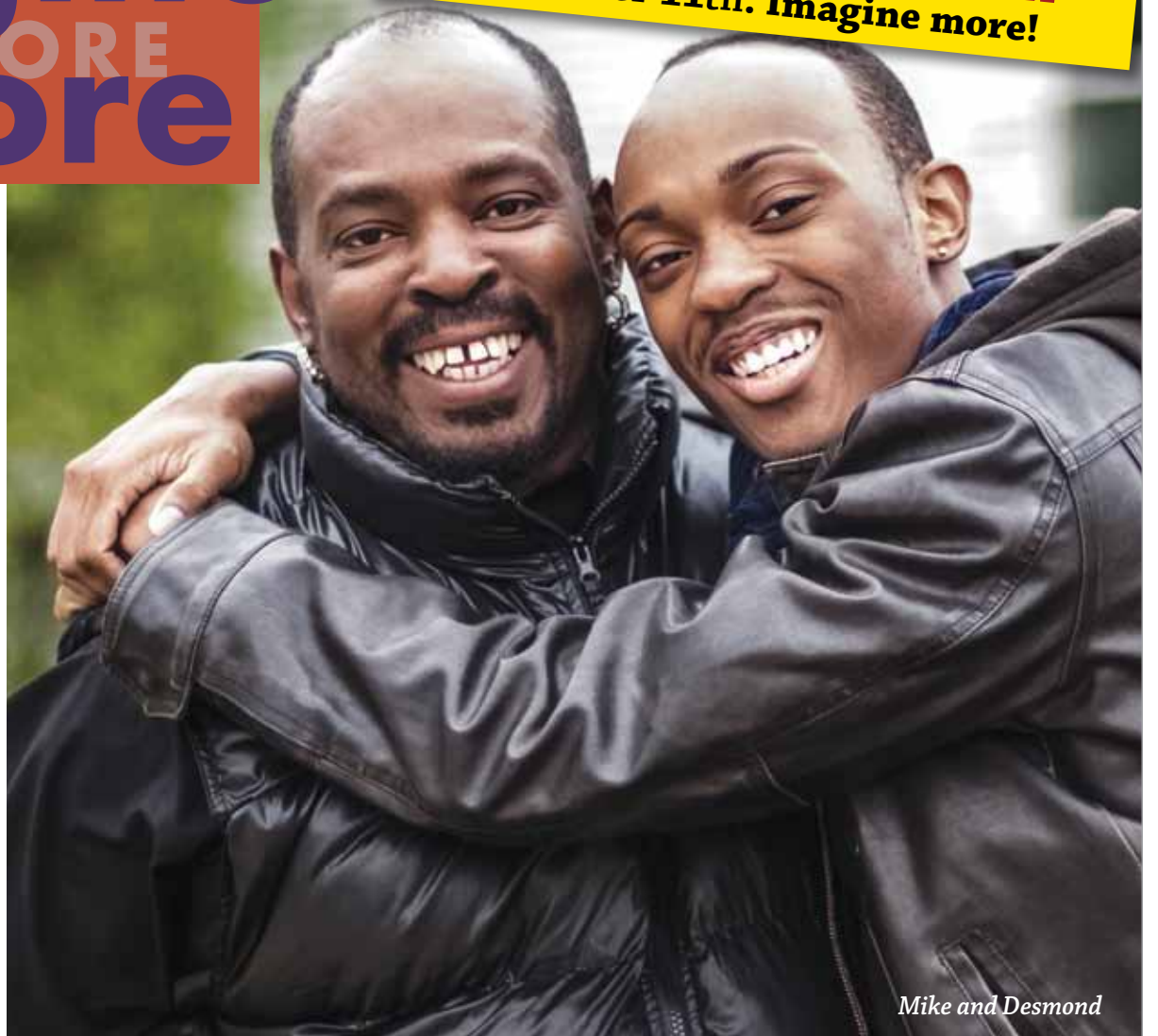
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Fran, Kathy, Laura and Adam

Church won't sell pedophile priest haven to gays

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

James Fairbanks and Alain Beret saw potential in the property — 44 rooms, 26 acres and community zeal for preservation. The stately though deteriorated mansion in Northbridge, Mass., seemed an ideal location for an inn or a special events.

But despite an offer and a deposit, the seller — the Worcester Diocese of the Catholic Church — backed out of the deal.

The diocese says the deal-breaker was money. The couple claims it was discrimination.

The vacant property at the center of the controversy most recently hosted the Oakhurst Retreat and Conference Center, an office for the church's youth ministry.

Before that, beginning in

1973, the mansion was the site of the House of Affirmation, a retreat for "troubled priests" founded by the Rev. Thomas A. Kane. In a notice in a church-affiliated newsletter from decades ago, Kane announced that the center was at "the service of all priests and religious who are not embarrassed to become a more fulfilled and healthier person."

Treatment, he wrote, could help a troubled priest become an "affirmed person," leaving behind "neurosis, emotional and mental discomfort, alcoholism and addiction, erratic homosexuality, compulsive heterosexual behavior, and other symptoms of unhappiness and confusion."

Over the years, with increased attention and disclosures about child sexual abuse in the priesthood,

"troubled priests" would be revealed to mean "pedophile priests." Priests accused of abusing kids were sent to the House of Affirmation in Northbridge for treatment or to hide out.

The House of Affirmation closed in the late 1980s, as Kane was accused of financial improprieties and falsifying a doctoral degree. He was placed on leave after at least one allegation of sexual abuse, which was settled out of court for a church payment of \$42,500 to the victim, who said Kane abused him for 11 years, including at the retreat.

The Bishop Accountability Project, which tracks priests accused of sexual abuse, says several other men have settled suits against priests associated with the retreat. One victim, who received



PHOTO: BISHOP-ACCOUNTABILITY.ORG

A gay couple sued the Church for refusing to sell this mansion.

a \$110,000 settlement from the diocese in 2002, recently called the House a "dirty, dirty place" to the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. Others have described the facility as a boot camp for pedophiles.

In the Worcester area, the property is associated with the scandalous, not the sacred.

But the property's history begins before the House of Affirmation, and it is a history that the citizens of Northbridge have shown an interest in preserving.

The Chester Whitin Lasell family, which made its fortune in the textile-machine industry, built the mansion in 1890. The property is the last of its kind in the area and voters, at a special town meeting in February, elected to zone it into a historic district.

Beret called the mansion a "grand dame" — though she's in need of more than cosmetic surgery.

The couple reduced their offer from \$1 million to \$550,000 after learning the extent of repairs needed.

"We expected that we would continue our dance, but the dance partner left the room," Beret said.

The husbands, in a discrimination suit filed on Sept. 10 in Worcester Superior Court, claim the diocese didn't sell because they are gay and, it was assumed, would hold gay weddings on the premises.

Church officials are only commenting through their attorney, who maintains that the seller was concerned about Fairbanks and Beret coming through with the financing. "It wasn't a case of discriminating against gay people. We didn't even know they were gay," attorney James G. Reardon Jr. told The Associated Press.

He said the couple wanted only to buy a fraction of the property, which didn't make

sense to the church.

However, an email from the diocese dated June 8 — around the time the real estate bargaining ended — lends support to the couple's claim.

"I just went down the hall and discussed it with the bishop," Diocese Chancellor Thomas Sullivan allegedly wrote to his real estate agent. "Because of the potentiality of gay marriages there, something you shared with us yesterday, we aren't interested in going forward with these buyers. I think they're shaky anyway. So just tell them that we will not accept their revised plan and the Diocese is making new plans for the property. You find the language."

Fairbanks and Beret, who are suing for loss of civil rights and dignity and for emotional distress, said that the subject of gay weddings never came up during discussions about their purchasing the property.

"There was never, ever a discussion about gay marriage," Beret said.

The attorney for the couple, Sergio Carvajal, said regardless of whether the business plan included hosting gay weddings, the church broke a state law that prohibits discrimination in housing.

"It was a facility we were extremely interested in," Fairbanks said. "We have made our life by restoring old buildings."

The opportunity is now lost, he added.

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Supreme Court watch continues, marriage cases pending

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Confident San Francisco party planners say the question is when, not whether, same-sex marriages will resume in California.

So a Prop 8 Is Toast celebration is being planned for 5 p.m. at the intersection of Castro and Market streets in San Francisco on the day the U.S. Supreme Court clears the way for marriage equality in the state.

"We will have one heck of a celebration when we win," said San Franciscan Ryan Kruger, who has been waiting four years to marry his partner in their home state.

Will that day be sometime this fall, with the court announcing that it will not hear oral arguments in the case challenging the legality of Proposition 8, the California constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman?

Or will that day be sometime in early summer, after the court hears arguments and renders a decision?

The Supreme Court began its 2012-13 term on Sept. 24 with a conference, a weekly meeting at which the justices reviewed cases and decided whether to let a lower court's ruling stand or to hear arguments.

Those for and against legalizing same-sex marriage eagerly awaited Sept. 25 and the release of a first list of cases the court will consider over the next eight months. About 8,000 cases are filed with the High Court each year but only 70-80 are heard. This year, several cases on the issue are before the court, including the challenge to Proposition 8.

None of the marriage-related cases made the Sept. 25 list of six.

So, plaintiffs and defendants, attorneys and activists, and scores of same-sex couples wait for word from Washington.

Three gay marriage cases currently are before the court — Perry v. Brown, Gill v. OPM and Massachusetts v. HHS.

Perry v. Brown challenges Proposition 8, the ballot initiative that California voters approved in November 2008, halting same-sex marriages

in the state. U.S. district and appeals courts have said Prop 8 is unconstitutional.

The proponents of Prop 8 want a final ruling from the Supreme Court, but the attorneys representing the two same-sex couples that serve as plaintiffs asked the court not to take the case — in legal terms, they want the justices to deny a writ of certiorari.

The two other cases — Gill v. OPM and Massachusetts v. HHS — challenge the section of the 1996 U.S. Defense of Marriage Act that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages, which means that gay couples legally wed in the District of Columbia and six states are denied more than 1,100 federal marriage benefits.

Gay rights victories were won at the appellate level on the cases, with findings that DOMA's denial of federal recognition to lawfully married same-sex couples violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

Legal experts say the justices may not have acted on Perry, Gill and OPM because either:

- They need more review time;
- They decided to let the lower court rulings stand but have yet to make that announcement; or
- They are waiting for written arguments in three additional challenges to DOMA — Golinski v. OPM from California, Windsor v. United States from New York and Pedersen v. OPM from Connecticut.

If the court decides not to hear Perry and lets the lower court ruling stand, same-sex marriages could resume in California within weeks of that announcement.

If the court takes the Prop 8 case, arguments likely will be heard early in 2013, followed by a decision in late June or early July. The justices could reverse, uphold or even broaden the appeals court ruling.

If the court decides not to hear Gill or OPM, the First Circuit Court of Appeals decisions stand, with impact on Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg hinted that the court likely will hear at least one marriage equality case this term.

Island.

If the court decides to hear one or both of the cases, the justices could reverse, uphold or broaden the appeals court ruling. The outcome could be the demise of the federal denial of benefits, including Social Security survivor benefits, to married same-sex couples.

If the court decides not to hear Golinski, Windsor or Pedersen, the cases stay with

the appeals courts. Arguments in the Windsor case were just heard in late September.

The last major ruling from the High Court on a case specific to LGBT equality was in 2003, when the justices struck down state statutes criminalizing consensual same-sex sex.

At a forum in September, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg hinted that the court likely




PHOTO: SUPREMECOURT.GOV


Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

will hear at least one marriage equality case this term when she declined to answer

a question about equal protection and sexual orientation.



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'Souls to polls' seeks to turn out minority vote

It's not just the collection plate that's getting passed around this fall at hundreds of mainly African-American and Latino churches in presidential battleground states and across the nation.

Exhorting congregations to register to vote, church leaders are distributing registration cards in the middle of services, and many are pledging caravans of "souls to the polls" to deliver the vote.

The stepped-up effort in many states is a response by activists worried that new election rules, from tougher photo identification requirements to fewer days of early voting, are unfairly targeting minority voters — specifically, African-Americans who tend to vote heavily for Democrats. Some leaders compare their registration and get-out-the-vote efforts to the racial struggle that led to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

"In light of all this, we are saying just let our people vote," said the Rev. Dawn

Riley Duval, social justice minister at the Shorter Community A.M.E. Church in Denver. "The people are being oppressed by these measures. It has ignited a sense of urgency and collective power that we can take by engaging in the process."

In key swing states such as Florida and Ohio, proponents of the new election rules deny they are aimed at suppressing the minority vote in hopes of helping Republicans win more races. Reasons for their enactment vary between rooting out fraud and purging ineligible voters to streamlining the voting process.

But to some African-American leaders like the Rev. F.E. Perry, a Cleveland-based bishop in Ohio's Church of God in Christ, it's as if the 1960s barriers to black civil rights have returned all over again.

"We've come too far to sit idly by and watch that happen," Perry said. "We want to

get souls to the polls. Whatever it takes to get them there, that's what we're going to do."

With national public opinion surveys showing a close race between President Barack Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney, even a few votes either way in a state such as Florida — a mere 537 votes decided the 2000 contest between Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore — could prove decisive. In 2008, Obama won 95 percent of black voters and is likely to get an overwhelming majority again. He also won among Latinos, a rapidly growing constituency that also tilts heavily toward the Democrats in polls this year.

But any loss of votes would sting.

To be sure, not all clergy are encouraging their flocks to turn out on Election Day: Some black pastors are telling their congregations to stay home, seeing no good



PHOTO: AP/J PAT CARTER

In Miami on Oct. 2, Rev. Richard Dunn discusses plans to motivate church members to vote in the upcoming elections. Exhorting congregations to register to vote, church leaders are distributing registration cards in the middle of services, and many are pledging caravans of "souls to the polls."

presidential choice between a Mormon candidate and one who supports gay marriage. The pastors say their congregants are asking how a true Christian could back same-

sex marriage, as Obama did in May. As for Romney, the first Mormon nominee from a major party, some congregants are questioning the theology of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its former ban on men of African descent in the priesthood.

Those pastors, however, are in the minority.

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Some leaders compare their registration and get-out-the-vote efforts to the racial struggle that led to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Many Democrats see a pattern of partisanship in many of the new election laws, which they contend are intended to hinder minority turnout and boost the prospects of GOP candidates.

"I pray it's not politics, but I don't know. It doesn't look like anything other than politics," said the Rev. Richard Dunn, pastor at Faith Community Baptist Church in Miami.

One organization, the faith-based PICO National

Network, staged a "Let My People Vote Sunday" in September in which about 300 churches around the country held voter registration drives during services and recruited churchgoers to go out and register even more people. The goal was to sign up around 75,000 people, PICO policy director Gordon Whitman said.

"People are stopping in the middle of worship to have people pull out the registration forms and fill them out. It's about the church saying, 'We are going to participate in this process,'" Whitman said.

In many states with early voting, the Sunday before Election Day in 2008 was a church-based political event in which minority congregations went en masse to polling places and cast their ballots. That year in Florida, 33.2 percent of all African-American voters and 23.6 percent of Latino voters cast ballots on that final Sunday, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University.

In Ohio in 2008, Whitman

said about 100,000 people voted during the last weekend before the election. A new Ohio law would have cut off early voting on the Friday before the election, but a federal judge declared it unconstitutional because some groups such as military personnel were exempted. The state is appealing that ruling.

This year in Florida, a new election law eliminated early voting on that last Sunday, although there is a Sunday for early voting about a week and a half earlier. Dunn, the Miami pastor, said he expects most churches will shift to that earlier day, which falls on Oct. 28 this year.

"Sunday in the African-American tradition is one of the biggest days historically in our community," he said. "You have large numbers of people who go to church. Pastors aren't saying who to vote for, but they are saying, 'This is souls to the polls day.'"

Florida's law was also challenged in federal court, but a judge ruled in September there wasn't enough proof

that the change would harm African-Americans' right to vote. The judge also noted that, unlike the previous law, the new rules required at least one Sunday for early voting.

Meanwhile, from the pulpit, some churches are even using a litany that calls upon

congregations to remember the fight to obtain the vote as well as other civil rights. One such script distributed by PICO (it stands for People Improving Communities by Organizing) mentions the Rev. Martin Luther King, the bloody march in Selma, Ala., and many other civil rights

milestones.

"We remember thousands of little towns where countless, unnamed ancestors stood in their dignity to cast a ballot," the script says. "In 2012 we will not be silent or denied the right to vote. For we have come too far by faith."

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GOP candidates are no-shows

ASSEMBLY from page 1

bly Democratic Campaign Committee. Under the best-case scenario, she said, Democrats would pick up a dozen seats, but she acknowledged that's a long shot.

Although a Wisconsin sweep by President Barack Obama would help Assembly Democrats, Conklin said voters are paying unusual attention at the local level this year. The issues topping their concerns are education and jobs, she said — both areas where Democrats hold an advantage.

EDUCATION AND JOBS

"Voters are looking at what's happened in Wisconsin over the past two years," Conklin said. "They want to know why their representatives are taking money away from schools in their districts and sending it to private voucher schools."

Conklin said voters see blue after learning that Republicans gave \$2.3 billion to special corporate interests without tying it to job creation. In fact, after two years of complete Republican control, Wisconsin ranks at or near the very bottom of the states in job creation.

"Voters are asking, 'Why should companies get tax breaks for cutting jobs and shipping jobs to China?'" Conklin said. "If you're going to tell voters that the state is financially broke and then give away \$2.3 billion to wealthy corporations, you'd better have some jobs to show for it."

Voters also are disturbed by the extremist social positions that Republicans have taken on issues such as women's health and pay equity, Conklin said. The GOP killed legislation supporting women seeking equal pay for equal jobs. Republicans also shot down funding for organizations such as Planned Parenthood that provide low-cost and free cancer screenings to women without health insurance.

To avoid answering questions

about these positions, Republican Assembly candidates are increasingly no-shows at forums and debates with their Democratic opponents, according to Conklin. For instance, at a recent forum in Assembly District 85, which includes Wausau, Democratic candidate Mandy Wright showed up to her instead of Republican Pat Snyder, a far-right radio personality. Rather than cancel the event, panelists questioned Wright and the Libertarian candidate. The Wausau Daily Herald covered the event under the headline, "Voter forum turns into Democrat show."

Wright and Snyder are vying for a seat that became open when Democrat Donna Seidel decided not to seek re-election.

KNOCK, KNOCK

A great deal of the momentum for Assembly Democrats comes from the quality of candidates vying for office in this election cycle, as well as the hard work they've demonstrated on the campaign trail.

In Assembly District 44, which includes part of Janesville, Democratic candidate Deb Kolste knocked on more than 11,000 doors during her primary race, and she continues to knock on doors at a prodigious rate. As a result, party leaders believe she has a good chance at taking back a seat that was lost to Republican Joe Knilians in 2010.

District 44 is 60-percent Democratic and voted to recall Gov. Scott Walker earlier this year. Democrat Mike Sheridan held the Assembly seat for more than a decade prior to Knilians' win.

Kolste, who served for three terms on the Janesville School Board, said her constituents are primarily concerned about job growth — or rather the lack of it under Republican leadership.

"I tell them that I'm not sure that the Republican approach of just giving corporate tax breaks

is the way to spur jobs, especially since it hasn't proven to be a job creator yet," she said, adding that the majority of voters she speaks with agree with her.

In Assembly District 51, which includes the bulk of Iowa and Lafayette counties, Maureen May-Grimm, known locally as "Mo," is working to unseat tea party Republican Howard Marklein. Although the district was redrawn to give Marklein an advantage, Grimm's campaign manager Jake Rebholz said it remains about 54 percent Democratic.

Grimm, who's in her second term on the Mineral Point School Board, is focusing on jobs and education.

"Our main campaign point is restoring fair funding to public education," Rebholz said. "Marklein has sponsored bills that send tax dollars to fund private schools in the Milwaukee area — and that doesn't sit well."

In Assembly District 62, which includes portions of Racine, Caledonia and western Racine County, Melissa Lemke is vying for an open seat. If elected, she would join state Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa as an out member of the Assembly. Lemke is a public health educator and a researcher for UWM.

"They redistricted that race to make it tough for Democrats," said Scott Spector, executive director of Wisconsin Progress. His organization recruits and trains progressive candidates for local and state office.

But, he added, "Melissa is just such a hard worker that I believe she will be successful. She's made the seat competitive by raising a lot of money and knocking on a lot of doors."

"It's going wonderfully," Lemke said of her campaign, adding that knocking on doors and meeting constituents is "the best part of the campaign" for her.

"People are responding to me well, and I think it's because of the work ethic they see when I'm out there calling on them again and again."

Although her district includes part of Paul Ryan's congressional district, Lemke said her campaign's success would ultimately depend more on the turnout for U.S. Senate candidate Tammy Baldwin.

"Because that race is so close, it's going to be the big draw," Lemke said. "That is probably the one that is most closely related to our race."

In District 62, education ranks second behind jobs in terms of voters' priorities, Lemke said. Her prescription for the economy is

Analysis

to enact tax breaks for start-ups, small businesses and the middle class rather than the wealthy.

Lemke's opponent Tom Weatherston represents corporate interests. A motorcycle safety teacher, he was hand-picked for the office by state Rep. Robin Vos.

A "family values" leader whose second wife recently left him, Vos has been branded a "slumlord" in his district. He's one of the state's major conduits to the Koch-brothers financed American Legislative Exchange Council, which writes cookie-cutter laws on behalf of the corporate right and disseminates them to state legislatures through locals such as Vos. Weatherston's defeat would be humiliating to Wisconsin's right wing.

Kolste, Grimm and Lemke have all been endorsed by Fair Wisconsin. In addition to Lemke and Zamarripa, Democrat Marga Krumins, who came out on Facebook this summer, is running in Assembly District 97, which includes Waukesha.

OTHER ASSEMBLY RACES TO WATCH:

District 42: Democrat Paula Cooper is taking on second-term Republican Keith Ripp in a district he won by 20 votes in 2008, although the boundaries have been redrawn to favor him. The district includes Columbia County and the towns of Portage and Baraboo.

District 49: Democrat Carol Beals is taking on freshman Republican Travis Tranel in an area of southwestern Wisconsin that includes Platteville.

District 67: Democrat Deb Biebing hopes to unseat freshman Republican Tom Larson, who was honored by the American Conservative Union for his votes in the last Assembly session.

District 68: Democrat Judy Smriga is competing against freshman Republican Kathy Bernier. The district includes Chippewa Falls.

District 69: Democrat Paul Knoff is showing surprising strength against long-term incumbent Republican Scott Suder in this north-central district, which includes Abbotsford.

District 75: Democrat Stephen Smith is mounting a strong challenge to freshman Republican Roger Rivard in a district that includes Rice Lake. Before Rivard, the seat was held by Democrat Mary Hubler, who retired.



Democrat Melissa Lemke, left, speaks with constituents as she campaigns in Assembly District 62.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Baldwin the best choice for U.S. Senate

The progress represented by electing an out candidate to the U.S. Senate is tremendous. But there are many other important reasons to support openly gay Democrat Tammy Baldwin over Republican Tommy Thompson in the race to succeed retiring U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl – reasons that benefit both Wisconsin and the nation.

Baldwin is unimpeachably one of the most genuine, intelligent and committed lawmakers serving in the U.S. Capitol today. Every day of her career as a public servant – and that is quite literally how she views herself – Baldwin has demonstrated her support for the middle class and for such traditional values as social justice, economic opportunity, access to education and health care, individual liberty and tolerance.

Early in her congressional career, Baldwin was one of the few members of Congress to oppose lifting the Glass-Steagall Act, which

since the Great Depression had kept banks from engaging in the kinds of risky practices that led to the worldwide 2008 economic collapse. She stood up for Wisconsin homeowners by stopping the Justice Department from granting immunity to big banks guilty of mortgage fraud. Ultimately, the banks were forced to pay billions of dollars to victims of their unethical practices.

Blustery and boastful in temperament, Thompson is the polar opposite of the warm, soft-spoken Baldwin. In his heyday, Thompson was a moderate whose political success was built on compromise. He created BadgerCare, which helped low-income earners obtain affordable health care coverage.

But the Thompson of today is not the popular governor that older Wisconsinites remember. During the Republican primary, he positioned himself as a hard-line conservative, promising tea party extremists that he

would act as an obstructionist if elected. Since then, he has taken to labeling himself alternately a conservative or a moderate, depending on the audience. He is as disingenuous as Baldwin is authentic.

Thompson left Wisconsin in debt despite presiding over a period of great national economic expansion. He took the position of Secretary of Health and Human Services in George W. Bush's administration. After leaving that job, he capitalized shamelessly on the connections he'd made, shilling for pharmaceutical companies in which he had financial stakes. Among his gifts to the drug industry was changing federal law to make it illegal for Medicare to negotiate with them for lower costs. That put affordable, life-saving drugs out of reach for millions of middle- and lower-income seniors, but it helped to make Thompson \$13 million richer.

Now 70 and somewhat

worse for the wear after years of notorious hard living, he's back in Wisconsin pretending to be a farmer. During the Sept. 28 debate, Thompson had the temerity to depict himself as loving and devoted family man and a Washington outsider, one of the more audacious distortions of reality heard this election cycle.

Tellingly, Thompson has refused to release even one year of his tax returns since 1997. But of even more concern is his inability to articulate why he's running for office, other than to offer the obligatory political promises de jour of wanting to create jobs and lower taxes, without explaining how.

Like GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, Thompson would sacrifice the nation's future as a whole for the short-term financial benefits of a very few, themselves included. Beyond cutting taxes for the uber rich, a strategy that has failed to deliver the promised eco-

Endorsement

conomic bonanza for more than 30 years, Thompson and Romney have not laid a single job-creating proposal on the table.

Baldwin, on the other hand, would help to reinvigorate the economy by investing in critical infrastructure and education needs.

Baldwin, who has released all of her tax returns, has not enriched herself through public employment as Thompson has. Instead, she has enriched the lives of those she has served by faithfully representing their interests, by standing up to the greedy and the powerful and opposing GOP policies that have pushed the American dream farther and farther from the grasp of average individuals.

Baldwin would be a stellar choice for the U.S. Senate regardless of her opponent, but this race is not even



PHOTO: COURTESY DNC

Democrat Tammy Baldwin addresses the Democratic National Convention last month in Charlotte, N.C.

close. Thompson just isn't in the same league. He's running to run, while she's running to make a difference.

Fair Wisconsin announces endorsements for Nov. 6

The following are endorsements by the PAC of Fair Wisconsin, a statewide organization that promotes LGBT equality. The endorsements are based on responses to questionnaires submitted to the campaigns. Candidates who did not respond were not evaluated.

PRESIDENT

Barack Obama

U.S. SENATE

Tammy Baldwin

U.S. CONGRESS

District 2: Mark Pocan
District 7: Pat Kreitlow
District 8: Jamie Wall

STATE SENATE

District 6: Nikiya Harris
District 16: Mark Miller
District 18: Jessica King
District 24: Julie Lassa
District 26: Fred Risser
District 30: Dave Hansen
District 32: Jen Shilling

STATE ASSEMBLY

District 3: Kole Oswald
District 7: Daniel Riemer

District 8:

JoCasta Zamarripa

District 10: Sandy Pasch

District 12: Fred Kessler

District 18: Evan Goyke

District 19: Jon Richards

District 20: Chris Sinicki

District 30: Diane Odeen

District 34:

Merlin Van Buren

District 37: Mary Arnold

District 42: Paula Cooper

District 44: Deb Kolste

District 45: Janis Ringhand

District 46: Gary Hebl

District 47: Robb Kahl

District 48: Melissa Sargent

District 49: Carol Beals

District 51:

Maureen May-Grimm

District 53: Ryan Flejter

District 54: Gordon Hintz

District 56:

Richard Schoenbohm

District 57:

Penny Bernard-Schaber

District 62: Melissa Lemke

District 66: Cory Mason

District 71:

Katrina Shankland

District 72: Justin Pluess

District 73: Nick Milroy

District 74: Janet Bewley

District 76: Chris Taylor

District 77: Terese Berceau

District 78: Brett Hulsey

District 79:

Dianne Hesselbein

District 80:

Sondy Pope-Roberts

District 81: Fred Clark

District 85: Mandy Wright

District 90: Eric Genrich

District 92: Chris Danou

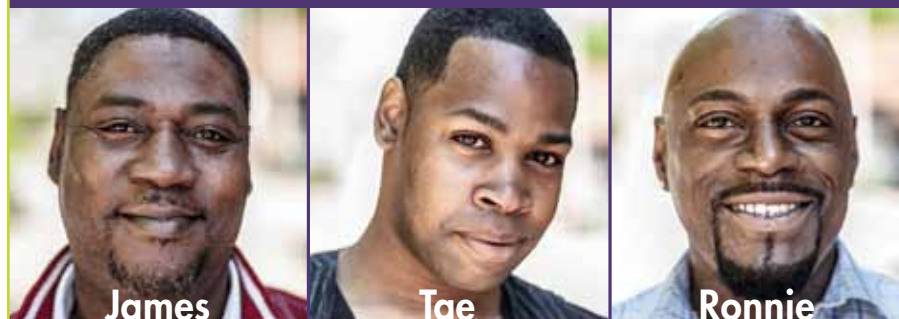
District 94: Steve Doyle

District 95: Jill Billings

District 97: Marga Krumins

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE CYCLE BEGINS

The first presidential debate took place Oct. 3, after WiG went to press with Jim Lehrer of "NewsHour" moderating the Denver discussion between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney on domestic policy.

The vice presidential debate between Joe Biden and Paul Ryan is Oct. 11 at Centre College in Danville, Ky. ABC News chief foreign correspondent Martha Radatz moderates the discussion of foreign and domestic policy.

The Oct. 16 presidential debate is a town meeting focusing on foreign and domestic policy. The debate takes place at 8 p.m. at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., with CNN chief political correspondent Candy Crowley as the moderator.

On Oct. 22 at 9 p.m., the presidential candidates debate foreign policy at Lynn

University in Boca Raton, Fla. The moderator will be Bob Schieffer, host of "Face the Nation" on CBS.

NO RELEASE OF 911 CALL ON FRC SHOOTING

The D.C. police department refuses to release the 911 call made after a shooting at the headquarters of an ultra-conservative Christian lobbying group.

AP requested a copy of the Aug. 15 recording under the District of Columbia's open records law. But the department rejected that request, saying the call was part of an ongoing FBI investigation and the caller was a witness in the investigation.

A Virginia man was arrested and charged in the shooting. Authorities say he went into the Family Research Council headquarters, struggled with and shot a security officer who then restrained him.

Police said the man, who

had previously volunteered with a local LGBT community center and allegedly told the guard he didn't like FRC's views, was in possession of an automatic pistol, ammunition and Chick-fil-A sandwiches.

WOMAN SUES OVER DENIED SURVIVOR BENEFITS

A woman whose partner was shot dead by a disgruntled former employee is suing under Alaska's workers' compensation law for survivor benefits.

Deborah Harris is represented by the national Lambda Legal defense group.

Under the state law, the spouse of a person who dies from a work-related injury is eligible to receive survivor benefits — generally paid by insurance companies. However, same-sex couples are excluded because Alaska bars same-sex marriage.

Lambda filed the lawsuit a

year after the death of Kerry Fadely, a food and beverage manager at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. A former employee she had fired nine days earlier fatally shot Fadely.

Not long after Fadely was murdered, Harris had to leave the home they shared.

"When Kerry was killed, it was like a hole had been punched in my heart," she said. "We loved each other and were together for more than a decade in a committed relationship. But because we could not marry, I was unable to receive the same financial protections that the state provides to married heterosexual couples."

YALE HOLDS CEREMONY TO WELCOME ROTC BACK TO CAMPUS

Yale University welcomed the Air Force and Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps detachments to campus, a return after a decades-

long absence that was hailed as a historic development that would help groom leaders at a prestigious university.

Yale brought the ROTC units back to campus this fall after Congress voted to allow gays to serve openly in the military. ROTC hasn't had a presence at Yale since the Vietnam War era.

ROTC programs left the campuses of several prominent universities in the late 1960s and early 1970s in the fervor of student protests against the Vietnam War. ROTC was kept away more recently because of "don't ask, don't tell," which banned gays from serving openly in the armed services. The universities said the policy violated nondiscrimination rules for campus organizations.

BOURBON STREET PREACHING LIMITS BLOCKED

A federal judge has barred enforcement of a city ordinance restricting religious or



PHOTO: UNICORNBOOTY.COM

political speech on Bourbon Street after dark.

U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon issued the temporary restraining order against the law used to arrest Christian evangelists preaching on Bourbon Street during Southern Decadence, an annual celebration of gay Pride.

The ordinance was adopted in October 2011 and violation is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

Opponents of the ordinance, including the ACLU, say it violates free speech rights. — L.N.

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- Centro Cafe** 808 E. Center St., Milwaukee • CentroCafeRiverwest.com
- Chuck E. Cheese's** 19125 W. Blue Mound Rd., Brookfield • ChuckE Cheese.com
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- The National** 839 W. National Ave., Milwaukee • NationalEats.com
- O'Lydia's Bar & Grill** 338 S. 1st St., Milwaukee • OLydias.com
- Pastiche Bistro & Wine Bar** 3001 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee • PasticheBistro.com
- Red Dot Bar** 2498 N. Bartlett Ave., Milwaukee • RedDotMilwaukee.com
- Sobelman's Pub & Grill** 1900 W. Saint Paul Ave., Milwaukee • MilwaukeeBestBurgers.com
- Tenuta's Italian Restaurant** 2995 S. Clement Ave., Milwaukee • TenutaItalian.com
- Upper 90 Sports Pub** 322 W. State St., Milwaukee • Upper90SportsPub.com
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REGIONAL BRIEFS

PYLON THE SEQUEL

A new walking museum in Chicago's east Lakeview neighborhood opens officially on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, with a daylong series of events.

Displayed along a half-mile strip of North Halsted Street, the Legacy Walk recognizes LGBT contributions to world history and culture. The exhibit consists of a series of bronze plaques attached to the area's celebrated rainbow pylons. Each plaque will bear a laser-cast image of an LGBT person of prominence along with a 300-word paragraph explaining the individual's contributions.

Eighteen plaques will be dedicated as part of the first phase of the project, which will be completed over the next two years.

Eventually the project will feature 34 markers, with each pylon showcasing two plaques.

The project is the first of its kind in the world.

For more, go to www.legacy-projectchicago.org.

— Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: COURTESY
Chicago's rainbow pylons.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DOWN IN WISCONSIN

A new report says the number of deaths involving domestic violence is down in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence says there were 37 homicides and three suicides in 2011. That compares with 51 homicides and seven suicides related to domestic violence in 2010.

Shannon Barry, who directs the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services in Dane County, says it's difficult to draw any conclusions about the lower number of deaths. But, Barry told the State Journal that she hopes it means victims are reaching out for services earlier and getting the help they need to leave abusive situations.

A silent march around the state Capitol on Oct. 1 remembered those who died in domestic violence in 2011.

CARDINAL GEORGE: GAY COUPLES IN 'FRIENDSHIPS'

Cardinal Francis George suggested gay couples seeking to marry are really just friends, unlike heterosexual couples who wed, form unions, have families and build their lives together.

The cardinal, at a special Mass in Chicago for 400 couples celebrating their golden 50th wedding anniversaries, said, "Marriage is what it is, what Jesus said from the beginning: Two in one flesh, for which man leaves his family and joins himself to his wife; and wife leaves her family, and joins herself to her husband."

He added, "There must surely be ways in our civil society, where we can honor friendships, where we can respect other people, without destroying the nature of marriage. It is very important, for your whole lives, to give witness to what marriage truly means. And while civil

laws might change – if they do then society will be the worse for it."

The Mass took place at Holy Name Cathedral, where earlier this year LGBT civil rights demonstrators protested George's comparison of gay rights activism to Ku Klux Klan activities.

SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE SURGES IN ILLINOIS

More than four of every 10 Illinois voters support legalizing gay marriage, a 10-point increase in just two years.

Forty-four percent of those polled said they believe gay and lesbian couples "should be allowed to legally marry," according to Southern Illinois University's Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. When the same institute asked that question in 2010, 34 percent backed gay marriage.

The latest poll found 32 percent of respondents prefer civil unions for gay couples, while 20 percent believe

"there should be no legal recognition." Opposition to any legal recognition for same-sex couples was nearly 27 percent in 2010.

The poll of registered voters was conducted Sept. 4-10 by telephone and has a sampling margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

IOWA TOURS OFFER COMPETING VIEWS ON JUSTICE

Competing campaigns crisscrossed Iowa in September in support of and opposition to state Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins.

Both tours began early Sept. 24 in Des Moines, then headed out for stops throughout the state.

The Iowa State Bar Association joined with other groups for a "Yes Iowa Judges" tour through 19 communities. The tour supports all the judges up for retention in November, including Wiggins. He faces a campaign for his removal for joining in a unanimous 2009 ruling legal-



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izing gay marriage in Iowa.

The Family Leader and other groups seeking Wiggins' removal plan a four-day bus trip through Iowa. The FL led a campaign that resulted in the ouster in 2010 of three justices who support the gay marriage ruling.

MILWAUKEE COUNCIL ADOPTS 'MOVE THE MONEY' RESOLUTION

The Milwaukee Common Council in September unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a redirection of federal spending priorities from military intervention to domestic programs, especially those meeting urban needs.

Peace Action Wisconsin proposed the "Move the Money" resolution citing adverse economic conditions that include "devastated housing markets, high unemployment and poverty, challenges to educational institutions, and the degradation of public infrastructure."

"Peace Action Wisconsin and the Common Council

of Milwaukee, through this resolution, have demanded a change in priorities – money for Milwaukee's needs, not for war," a news release said.

Endorsing organizations included the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, AFSCME District Council 48, Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope, Nine-to-Five Milwaukee, NAACP Milwaukee Branch and Progressive Democrats of America.

MINNESOTA CATHOLICS ASKED TO FUND ANTI-GAY EFFORT

A mailing from church leadership to Minnesota Roman Catholics asked them to donate to the political campaign to ban gay marriage with a constitutional amendment.

The money is for Minnesota for Marriage's television ads urging a "yes" vote on the amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The vote is Nov. 6.

The mailing, which cost the Minnesota Catholic

Conference about \$100,000, went to more than 400,000 Catholic households in Minnesota.

Some people received a request for donations and a vote while others, who don't have a history of giving to the archdiocese, were asked for their "yes" vote.

The church has raised more than \$1 million for the anti-gay initiative – about \$500,000 this year – and \$750,000 last year from the MCC. The largest chunk of money came from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

GWEN MOORE HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING AT MILWAUKEE LGBT CENTER

Congresswoman Gwen Moore hosts a town hall meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 9 at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Moore will update participants on the status of legislation related to equality, health care and other issues of importance to LGBT and progressive voters.



PHOTO: COURTESY
U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore

Moore also will explain new legislation, such as the inclusion of LGBT people in the Violence Against Women Act, new federal policies banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in supported housing or emergency shelters, said center board co-president Paul Williams.

Equality Wisconsin will be on hand with its OUTspoken campaign to register voters, get pledges from community members to vote and promote BeOUTspokenWI.org. "We are delighted to host

Congresswoman Moore at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center," said interim executive director Karen Gotzler. "It shows how important the LGBTQ community is to the whole community of voters."

The center is at 1110 N. Market St. Use the "garden entrance" and go to the second floor.

For more, call 414-271-2656.

CHARGES AGAINST CHICAGO OCCUPY PROTESTERS DISMISSED

A judge on Sept. 27 tossed out charges against 92 Occupy protesters arrested in a Chicago park last October, severely criticizing what the city had proudly held up as a better way for dealing with demonstrations.

Cook County Associate Judge Thomas Donnelly ruled that the city's curfew law was unconstitutional and that the city selectively enforced it.

"The city arrested no one at the Obama 2008 presidential election victory rally,

even though the Obama rally was equally in violation of the curfew," Donnelly wrote.

Roderick Drew, spokesman for Chicago's Law Department, said the city will appeal the ruling.

The protesters and their lawyers said the ruling countered claims by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the city's top leadership that they were upholding First Amendment rights in their handling of the protests.

"It demonstrates beyond any reasonable doubt just what a flagrant violation of people's rights these arrests were," said Andy Thayer, an anti-war and gay rights activist who was among those arrested.

The protests were an offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street movement and a demonstration against corporate greed.

— WiG

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{ Editorial }

**Bias that dares
not speak its name**

High-ranking officials of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee consider their campus to be a model of LGBT inclusivity.

But UWM admission officials denied in-state tuition to a man whose husband – the couple was legally married in New York – has lived in the state for more than a year. The first rejection letter the couple received gave the real reason why: Same-sex marriage and its equivalent are illegal in Wisconsin.

But when the couple protested, the university provided a growing list of other reasons, which we believe are disingenuous. In responding to our coverage of the incident, vice chancellor of student affairs Michael R. Laliberte insisted the in-state tuition was denied because the applicant's partner is a resident physician working at a hospital under contract. But Laliberte was unable to provide even theoretical instances of other spouses of contract workers being denied in-state tuition.

Prior to the contract excuse, the couple was told that resident physicians are not considered workers. That reason appears to have been dropped after university officials were informed that a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year mandated that resident physicians be treated as regular workers under the law.

Bias cloaked in bureaucratese is still bias.

The couple got the runaround when they should have gotten empathy. The university could have made some sort of accommodation for their situation but apparently didn't try, even though the applicant was accepted into two programs and had already begun classes.

Perhaps because they're funded by the state, university officials seemed unwilling to criticize state law discriminating against same-sex couples. But they didn't want to be perceived as complying with blatant discrimination either. In the process of trying to avoid both a conflict with the state and the appearance of bigotry, the university damaged two lives and missed the opportunity to shine a light on a seldom-exposed consequence of anti-gay laws.

That's not very gay friendly, in our opinion. Throughout our contact with the university while investigating this incident, not one admissions or student affairs officer expressed regret or compassion.

Many organizations that claim to be inclusive sometimes behave otherwise. Walgreens, for instance, provides low-profile sponsorships for LGBT events in Wisconsin. But the company refuses to distribute WiG in its stores. Officials have told us that it's not us – it's them. For three years, they've said they're planning to eliminate all publications because they're messy. But with the exception of a couple of stores whose managers have agreed to look the other way, the other publications are still on display and ours are not.

The take-away message from all of this is that the LGBT community has reached the point where overt discrimination against us is frowned on, but it's still permitted under the radar. That represents progress but not success.

BY THE NUMBERS

Percentage answering yes to pollsters' question, "Do you happen to have a family member or close friend who is gay or lesbian?"

60% yes
2012

45% yes
2007

49% yes
2010

41% yes
1998

49% yes
2009

32% yes
1994

SOURCE: CNN/ORC

{ Voter information }

ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Nov. 6: General and presidential election.

REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE

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

WHERE TO REGISTER & VOTE

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

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, but the Wisconsin Supreme Court recently turned down the case for the time being.

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ON THE RECORD



"Gay people are the strongest and most inspiring people I know. It is so wrong when people bully or put down others for being gay. No one should have to go through that."

– PARIS HILTON apologizing yet again to GLAAD after an audio of her making derogatory comments about gay people was posted online. In the recording, Hilton is heard saying gay people are "disgusting" and "most of them probably have AIDS."

"The method of conception doesn't change the definition of life."

– GOP vice presidential candidate PAUL RYAN defending his view that abortion should not be legal in cases of rape.

"I've got a birthday coming up where I'm turning old. I've spent 30 years – or whatever the number is specifically – not talking about my personal life, lying about my personal life."

– KEVIN MCCLATCHY, who owned the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1996 to 2007, coming out to The New York Times. McClatchy said he'd kept his sexual orientation secret due to the frequent homophobic slurs he heard in baseball circles. He turns 50 in January.

"Now that it's done, we should not reverse it. I think that would be a step in the wrong direction because people have already disclosed themselves. I think this issue is past us. It's done. And I think we need to move on."

– PAUL RYAN, who voted against lifting the "don't ask, don't tell" ban on out military personnel, saying that it would be a mistake now to reinstate the policy.

"Civil rights are for blacks. We don't owe the homeless. We don't owe feminists. We don't owe women who are desirous of having abortions, or gays who want to get married to one another."

– Right-wing pundit ANN COULTER speaking with George Stephanopoulos on the Sept. 23 edition of ABC's "This Week."

"We don't believe this is in the best interest of our state, or our employees, and so as a Minnesota-based company we took the position and opposed it."

– General Mills CEO KEN POWELL explaining to shareholders why the company decided to oppose a proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage in the state.

"This kind of support of homosexuality is only engrained in the thoughts of hard-core capitalists and those who support of the growth of capital only, rather than human values."

– Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad offering his take on homosexuality, which he also condemned as "very ugly behavior" to CNN's Piers Morgan.

"Never mind his tax returns. I now want to see Romney's high school diploma. And IQ tests."

– KEITH OLBERMAN tweeting a response to Mitt Romney's misunderstood joke about airplane windows not rolling down.



Milwaukee police strike again

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

I began covering the Milwaukee Police Department in the late 1970s during the dictatorial reign of Chief Harold Breier. More than three decades later, after five subsequent police chiefs and multiple studies aimed at improving police-community relations, the rot remains.

The death of Derek Williams in police custody is the latest stain on a department with a disgraceful history of racism, homophobia, disdain for civil liberties and public input, and just plain incompetence.

New evidence only made public after months of requests by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel compelled the medical examiner to revise his original findings in Williams' death. The mayor, police chief and district attorney concede that a new investigation is needed. Yet Police Chief Ed Flynn has already declared the

investigation will not lead to criminal charges against his officers.

The demand for a federal inquiry into Williams' death is a reasonable one given the apparent shoddiness of the initial investigation and Flynn's bias. Also legitimately driving federal intervention are longtime public suspicions of alleged collusion and cover-ups by the MPD and DA's office.

When I saw the tape of Williams dying, I immediately thought of Ernest Lacy, who died in the back of a Milwaukee police van in 1981. A coroner's jury found the cause of death was interruption of oxygen flow to the brain due to pressure applied by police to Lacy's chest and neck. The Fire and Police Commission found five police officers guilty only of failing to render first aid to Lacy.

My disgust with the MPD predated the Lacy case. In 1979, after a series of rapes in the city and reports that cops were insensitive to victims, Police Chief Breier uttered his infamous line,

"How many of these rapes do you think are really rapes?" Three thousand women took to the streets in the first "Take Back the Night" march that October shouting, "Fire Breier, he's a liar!"

Flash forward to 1991 and the epic incompetence of the MPD – under Chief Philip Arreola – in the Jeffrey Dahmer case. While young men of color were disappearing from gay bars, the police were busting those same bars for strip shows and ignoring the requests of family members to search for their sons. Despite pleas of witnesses, laughing cops returned the fleeing Konerak Sinthasomphone into Dahmer's clutches, where he was murdered. One of those detestable cops later led the police union.

At a public hearing in September 1991, dozens of gays and lesbians told hair-raising stories of abuse at the hands of Milwaukee cops. In the 1980s and '90s, Ralph Navarro led trainings to sensitize cops to the gay community. Navarro felt that most cops and their supervisors treated

Derek Williams' death is the latest stain.

the training as a joke. He detailed the MPD's systemic homophobia in an affidavit included in the Sinthasomphone family's lawsuit against the city.

I haven't mentioned the failure of the cops and DA's office to investigate or charge hate crimes. The Frank Jude beating case. The number of thugs with criminal records who serve as cops. The time I saw cops arrest the wrong man and threaten witnesses with obstruction for pointing out their error. The good ol' boy preferential hiring of Flynn. The strip searches. The deliberate arrest of a credentialed reporter at an Occupy protest. The thousands of crimes misreported in MPD databases. ... Yeah, I'm sure there are good cops, but my confidence in the whole system is shot.

Looking back at looking forward

Opinion

URVASHI VAID

October is LGBT History Month. In observance, below is a partial transcript from activist Urvashi Vaid's speech at the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation on April 25, 1993.

I am proud to stand before you as a lesbian today. With hearts full of love and the abiding faith in justice, we have come to Washington to speak to America. We have come to speak the truth of our lives and silence the liars.

We have come to defend our honor and win our equality. But most of all we have come in peace and with courage to say, "America, this day marks the end from exile of the gay and lesbian people. We are banished no more. We wander the wilderness of despair no more. We are afraid no more. For on this

day, with love in our hearts, we have come out, and we have come out across America to build a bridge of understanding, a bridge of progress, a bridge as solid as steel, a bridge to a land where no one suffers prejudice because of their sexual orientation, their race, their gender, their religion or their human difference."

I have been asked by the March organizers to speak in five minutes about the far right, the far right which threatens the construction of that bridge. ... Language itself fails in this task, my friends, for to call our opponents "The Right," states a profound untruth. They are wrong – they are wrong morally, they are wrong spiritually, and they are wrong politically.

The Christian supremacists are wrong spiritually when they demonize us. They are wrong when they reduce the complexity and beauty of our spirit into a freak show.

... They are wrong because justice is moral, and prejudice is evil; because truth is moral and the lie of the closet is the real sin; because the claim of morality is a subtle sort of subterfuge, a stratagem which hides the real aim, which is much more secular. ...

They care about social control. And their goal, my friends, is the reconstruction of American Democracy into American Theocracy.

It's war all right. It's a war about values. On one side are the values that everyone here stands for. Do you know what those values are? Traditional American values of democracy and pluralism. On the other side are those who want to turn the Christian church in government, those whose value is monotheism.

To defeat the Right politically, my friends, is our challenge when we leave this March. How can we do it? We've got to march from Washington into action at

home. I challenge everyone of you, straight or gay, who can hear my voice, to join the national gay and lesbian movement. ... We have got to match the power of the Christian supremacists, member for member, vote for vote, dollar for dollar. Get involved! Volunteer! Volunteer! Every local organization in this country needs you. Every clinic, every hotline, every youth program needs you, needs your time and your love.

And I also challenge our straight liberal allies, liberals and libertarians, independent and conservative, republican or radical. I challenge and invite you to open your eyes and embrace us without fear.

The gay rights movement is not a party. It is not lifestyle. It is not a hairstyle. It is not a fad or a fringe or a sickness. ... The gay rights movement is an integral part of the American promise of freedom....



PHOTO: COURTESY

DAVEY WAVEY

As part of National Coming Out Week, the UWM LGBT Resource Center is hosting YouTube personality and blogger Davey Wavey at 7 p.m. on Oct. 10 in the university's Wisconsin Room. Davey Wavey will show a multi-media presentation and take questions from the audience. Admission is free. For more information, call 414-229-4116.

WISCONSIN LGBT CHAMBER FORMS

Community leaders in late September announced the creation of a new statewide

group – the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce – for businesses, professionals and individuals throughout Wisconsin.

“While there are other organizations that represent the state’s LGBT community, until now, no organization has represented the LGBT business community,” said founder and executive director Jason Rae. “Our role is to connect LGBT and gay-allied businesses in the state with government and provide economic opportunities for our members.”

For more, go to www.wislgbtchamber.com.

AIDS WALK SET FOR OCT. 6

AIDS Walk Wisconsin takes place Oct. 6 on Milwaukee’s lakefront with Brewer Ryan Braun serving as honorary co-chair of the event.

Sponsors include Miller-Coors, Community Foundation, and RC Johnson.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, the state’s

largest funder of HIV/AIDS-related care, organizes the event.

For more, go to www.aidswalkwis.org.

GAMMA, MGAC HOST POTLUCK, PERFORMANCES

Milwaukee GAMMA and Milwaukee Gay Arts Center present a potluck dinner and open mic performances on Oct. 6.

The dinner is at 7 p.m. at MGAC, 703 S. Second St., Milwaukee, followed by performances at 8 p.m.

Call 414-964-6973 to get time at the mic and for details.

BRADY STREET HOLDS PET PARADE

The 11th annual Brady Street Pet Parade takes place at 11 a.m. on Oct. 7.

Participants – canine and human – are invited to parade down Brady.

Plans include a sidewalk sale, raffles, a blessing of the

pets and a costume contest.

For more, go to www.bradystreet.org.

EQUALITY WISCONSIN PLANS ANNUAL MEETING

Equality Wisconsin, a statewide LGBT civil rights group, holds its annual meeting at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 1110 N. Market St., Milwaukee.

The program includes election of board members and remarks by state Sen. Chris Larson and Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa.

If interested in serving on the board, contact executive director Jason Burns at 414-431-1306 or jburns@EqualityWi.org.

For more, go to equalitywi.org.

GROW GREAT WOMEN HEALTH FORUM ON OCT. 20

Grow Great Women, a project of Diverse & Resilient, hosts its fourth annual

Lesbian & Bisexual Women’s Health Forum on Oct. 20.

A full day is planned, including lunch.

The focus is community building and increased connections among women. Participants will address health care, health disparities, reproductive justice and leadership among lesbian and bisexual women.

To register for the event, which takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., call 414-390-0444.

Diverse & Resilient is located at 2439 N. Holton St., Milwaukee.

CREAM CITY HOSTING EQUALITY LUNCHEON

The 2012 Equality Business Luncheon, hosted by the Cream City Foundation, takes place on Oct. 25 at the Harley-Davidson Museum, 400 W. Canal St., Milwaukee.

The event includes networking at 11:15 a.m., lunch at noon and a keynote address at 12:30 p.m.



PHOTO: DENISE CAWLEY

Cream City Foundation executive director Paul Fairchild, center, at a Sept. 20 performance of “Avenue Q” that benefited the ACLU of Wisconsin. The Tony Award-winning musical continues at the Skylight Music Theatre through Oct. 14.

The keynote speaker is Daniel B. Baer with the U.S. State Department.

For more, go to www.creamcityfoundation.org.

– LN.

Send community news to lmneff@wisconsin Gazette.com.

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WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

LGBT Film/ Video Festival showcases community's global diversity

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

Like previous festivals, the 2012 Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival presents a fascinating array of feature-length and short-subject queer cinema. Beginning with the Olympia Dukakis vehicle "Cloudburst" and concluding with the Arab-themed British movie "My Brother The Devil," the selections are international in scope at the festival presented by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts Department of Film. The festival runs Oct. 18-21.

Following are some of this year's festival offerings.

'UNITED IN ANGER: A HISTORY OF ACT UP'

Combining vintage footage – much of it amateur and personal – with interviews of more than 50 people, this documentary is as inspiring as it is infuriating. It's inspiring in the way it portrays a community affecting change through desperation, organization, affinity, action and rage. It's infuriating because it shows how the ACT UP movement ate itself up from the inside, losing much of its strength 30 years into the HIV/AIDS crisis with still no cure in sight.

"United In Anger" highlights the March 1987 speech in which Larry Kramer calls for a "new AIDS movement." Two days later, Kramer got his wish with the formation of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power or ACT UP. A visible presence at the June 1987 Pride parade in New

York City, ACT UP followed that appearance by the first of its actions at Sloan-Kettering Hospital.

Things escalated from there. ACT UP meetings more than doubled in attendance. People with a history of organizing mingled with newcomers, creating an amazing synergy. ACT UP fearlessly took on cultural, political and religious organizations of all stripes. From the pharmaceutical industry to Cosmopolitan magazine, from New York City Hall to the New York Stock Exchange, from St. Patrick's Cathedral to Grand Central Station, ACT UP was there and made certain that its message was heard.

The interview component of the documentary, featuring firsthand accounts from Kramer, Peter Staley, Maxine Wolff, Michelangelo Signorile, Anna Blum and others, is highly effective. In combination with the remarkable period footage, the results are a powerful cocktail, elevating "United In Anger" to a higher level among the many docs about the AIDS crisis.

'MOSQUITA Y MARI'

Like Dee Rees' well-received 2011 film "Pariah," "Mosquita Y Mari" presents an underrepresented segment of the LGBT community. This effectively told and performed story about two young Latinas is one that we don't often see onscreen.

Yolanda (Fenessa Pineda) lives with her overly protective, traditional parents (Joquin Garrido and Laura



PHOTO: COURTESY

"Facing Mirrors" is a groundbreaking Iranian film with a transgender character.

Patalano) in the Huntington Park section of Los Angeles. A studious high school sophomore, Yolanda is respectful of adults and avoids the negative influences of her peers. But Yoli is unprepared for the changes that occur in her life when she meets new neighbor and classmate Mari (Venecia Troncoso).

Mari's life is the opposite of Yoli's in every way. She has to be the adult in her relationship with her mother (Dulce Maria Solis) and little sister Olivia (Samy Zaragoza). Mari thinks nothing of shoplifting or smoking pot in the girl's bathroom at school. But a teacher pairs up Yoli and Mari in class, and soon they become study mates.

It's fascinating to watch the friendship bud. Each girl brings something unique to the relationship. Mari nicknames Yoli "Mosquita" and is protective of her. Mari, who is not doing well in school, benefits from the study time. But outside influences threaten the relationship. Mari passes out fliers for money to help with the rent and utilities. Yoli's parents don't approve of Mari, especially after the gossipy grocer badmouths her.

But because Yoli's feelings toward Mari are beyond friendship, Mari's negative

influence has an impact on Yoli's grades and her home life. Each girl ends up manipulating the other. The friendship begins to fray at the edges, due to jealousy, parental and social pressure, and the complexities of the girls' feelings toward each other.

"Mosquita Y Mari" has a sting, but it is well-worth enduring.

'FACING MIRRORS'

Following 2011's groundbreaking Iranian film "Circumstances," which dealt with lesbian relationships, "Facing Mirrors" takes on the subject of being trans in Tehran. "Facing Mirrors" vividly depicts the consequences and horrors of living in a repressive society.

Eddie, aka Adineh (Shayesteh Irani), is trying to secure a passport to Germany for gender reassignment surgery. However, Eddie's honor-obsessed father (Homayoun Ershadi) has other plans. A wedding date has been set for Eddie, and the father will do everything in his power to make sure it occurs.

Meanwhile, in another part of the city, seamstress Rana (Qazal Shakeri) is struggling to make ends meet for herself and her young son while her husband serves time in prison for his involvement in

a business deal gone wrong. Even though it is illegal for her to drive, Rana secretly works as a driver, careful to only pick up female passengers.

While on the lam, Eddie crosses paths with Rana, who offers a ride. It is in Rana's car that a life-changing culture clash occurs. Each character impacts the world view of the other, and they come to each other's aid without hesitation.

'LET MY PEOPLE GO!'

In Finnish and French with English subtitles, the modern, campy farce "Let My People Go!" follows young gay couple Ruben (the elastic Nicolas Maury) and Teemur (Jarkko Niemi) as their relationship is threatened by a variety of outside influences. The first and greatest challenge occurs after postman Ruben unwittingly comes into possession of about 200,000 euros. This causes such a rift between the pair that Ruben leaves rural Finland to return to what he thinks is the safety net of his family in Paris.

Arriving just in time for Passover, Ruben can feel the Angel of Death hovering over everything: his nephew Gabriel, his relentless mother Rachael (Pedro Almodóvar

regular Carmen Maura), his unfaithful father Nathan, his sister Irene (Amira Casar), her husband Herve (Charlie Dupont) – even his own lack of sleep. Things become even more complicated when elderly, widowed lawyer Goldberg (Jean-Luc Bideau) becomes enamored of Ruben. As Ruben puts it, his life has become "one bad Jewish joke."

Back in Finland, Teemu learns the truth about the suspicious stash of cash. He hops a plane to Paris to make amends with Ruben. Unfortunately, he's about to make an appearance just as everything goes haywire, including the arrest of Ruben, his brother Samuel (Clément Sibony) and Nathan. Lovesick Goldberg doesn't help matters when he sends Teemu away. However, when Teemu appears at the door on the night of the Seder, like a blond Elijah, it's clear that Ruben's days of suffering are over.

For a full festival schedule, go to http://www4.uwm.edu/psoa/film/lgbtfilmfestival/pdf/LGBT2012_Brochure.pdf.

Olympia Dukakis channels her rebellious spirit in 'Cloudburst'

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

In "Cloudburst," Stella (Olympia Dukakis), a foul-mouthed, old-school dyke and her longtime partner Dottie (Brenda Fricker), a visually-impaired, doughy femme, are threatened with separation after Dottie takes a fall. Dottie's granddaughter tricks her into signing a legal guardianship document and then proceeds to move Dottie into a long-term care facility. But Stella, who will not be deterred, busts Dottie out of the home.

As the couple heads to Canada to get married and gain some kind of legal rights, they pick up hitcher/hustler Prentice (Ryan Doucette). The three embark on a series of adventures that none anticipated.

"Cloudburst" is a sweet comedy with serious undertones, as well as a strong script and performances.

I spoke with Olympia Dukakis last month.

Gregg Shapiro: Stella, the character that you play in "Cloudburst," has, shall we say, a way with words.

Olympia Dukakis: (Laughs) And gestures!

Have you ever played a character with such a vast vocabulary of profanity?

No. I've never played anyone so openly rebellious (laughs). Unfortunately, it's a real part of my nature, so I kind of took to it like a fish to water.

Stella, who lives in Maine, is what I would describe as a classic northern New Englander. As a New Englander yourself, have you ever encountered anyone like Stella?

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

I've encountered people who have insisted on their own lifestyle even against what might be considered the grain, what might be considered the acceptable.

There is a kind of eccentricity that some people have in the New England area. They don't succumb to what's expected, but decide they're going to have the life they want. That I've encountered. But I think that Stella, because of the time she came out and connected with her partner, Dottie, was a time when it was not as it is today. Stella took it on and was rebellious in that way. She was probably one of the few at the time — because she didn't live in a so-to-speak community of people who could then be supportive of each other.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Olympia Dukakis, left, and Brenda Fricker play a longtime lesbian couple in "Cloudburst," which opens the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival on Oct. 18 at the Oriental Theater, 2230 N. Farwell Ave.

Stella is obsessed with k.d. lang and her music. How do you, personally, feel about k.d. lang?

(Laughs) Oh, I love her songs. The movie actually takes its title from one of her songs. I don't hear her songs so much now. I remember once I was in a restaurant and k.d. was there with a younger woman and I could see that there was kind of a thing between the two of them and they were very deep in conversation. I just went up and inserted myself and told her how much I enjoyed her music, and she was very sweet to me and made it clear to me that she wanted me to fuck off (laughs).

Where do you stand on the subject of same-sex marriage?

Stand on it? There's no stand. Everyone should live and be the way they want!

"Cloudburst" takes on the serious subject of aging queer people and how there is the potential of them being separated in their twilight years.

Oh my God, it's a painful, painful thing, which is something that Stella just refuses to accept. That's why she abducts Dottie and takes her off.

You previously worked with writer/director Thom Fitzgerald on "The Event." What do you like about working with him?

He's damn good, that's what I like about working with him. I like the stories he tells, I like the way he shoots. He makes beautiful films. Just to look at them, they're great. The stories are all varied and unique. I was in "The Event," a story about a gay guy who wants to take himself out because he's going into the last phases of AIDS, and he has a party. The mother is the one that actually helps him die. That's an unusual story and a real heart-wrencher. And then "3 Needles." I would do anything in a movie with Thom Fitzgerald. I told him I'll play a small part, I don't care. In "3 Needles" I played this small part of a nun.

Before appearing in "The Event," you had

'They don't succumb to what's expected, but decide they're going to have the life they want.'

already made a considerable impression on the LGBT community with your wonderful portrayal of Anna Madrigal in the "Tales of the City" series. Were you aware of an LGBT following before that?

Oh, no. Well, yes. "Steel Magnolias" to a certain degree — a lot of gay men enjoyed the things that my character said. They loved her humor, her honesty and her phrasing. "If you've got nothing good to say about anybody, come sit by me." Things like that. I think they enjoyed a lot of it.

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Ira Sachs shines a light into the darkest corners of gay relationships

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

"Keep the Lights On," written and directed by gay filmmaker Ira Sachs, is one of the most eagerly anticipated gay films of 2012.

The film shines a light into the darkest corners of gay relationships. In the movie, gay filmmaker Erik (Thure Lindhardt) embarks on a roller-coaster relationship with crack-addicted publishing lawyer Paul (Zachary Booth). Sex, drugs and celluloid combine in a provocative, wrenching film.

I spoke with Ira Sachs last month.

Gregg Shapiro: The title of the movie "Keep the Lights On" comes from Paul's line to Erik toward the end of the film, about not wanting to be in the dark with him. Why did you choose it as the film's title?

Ira Sachs: The title has multiple meanings. In some ways the film's title is a call to arms to the audience to keep the lights on and to share what we do in our lives with each other. There's also a pun around "Keep the Lights On," which is that the film is looking very openly at sex and sexuality.

Is this a personal story?

I began with autobiography. But ultimately I knew I was making a fictional film that was rooted in a very personal kind of filmmaking, so I never intended the film to be biography. I've made four features, and all of them began from a certain kind of intimacy of experience. It's what I offer as a filmmaker.

Erik is addicted to phone sex lines. Was it necessary to give Erik a dependency of his own to achieve a kind of balance?

I think these are characters who are so in desperate

need of connection and love that they search for it compulsively in different ways. There's a great line in an Emmylou Harris song where she says that addiction fits like a glove. I think for both these men their compulsive behavior is very, very comfortable because it's so familiar. I think also ... it's a film about two men who believe that their only sense of worth is in another person.

Telephones seem to become characters in the movie.

That's very interesting (laughs). No one has pointed that out to me. To depict 10 years of a relationship, we did that primarily through the emotional shifts that these characters go through in the course of the story. But, in a way certain props became sort of totems to a changing society. So the cell phone, the ways people hook up, and laptops are three things that define time changing.

The artwork in the opening credit is by Boris Torres (Sachs' husband). Is the character of Igor (Miguel Del Toro) based on Boris?

Yes, it is! Boris and I met toward the tail end of (the relationship depicted in the film). The film in a certain way has a happy ending, not because you know certain characters might get together, but because there's a sense of possibility in both Eric and Paul's future. I am now married to Boris. We had twins seven months ago. We're raising them with our friend, who is a filmmaker, she is the mother of the kids. We have a three-parent household with two kids. I'm very happy that we were allowed to get married and that we could in New York.

The difference in this relationship is that it's a relationship that I lived honestly. From the beginning there was an understanding that deceit and secrets were the most destructive part of my life and that honesty was something new and that I needed

to give a try. The difference between living a relationship that begins on that note is very, very deep. I think having an honest relationship is not something that comes easily to gay people. Because of our history it was very necessary to keep ourselves apart from other people in our lives and to maintain secrets. I think we've actually developed a whole kind of anthropology based on the idea of that. In a way this film urges people to ask what is the residual element of the closet that we still hold on to?

Artwork figures prominently in "Keep the Lights On." Was that the result of Boris' influence?

Boris is a painter. His work is very open, funny, sexual and unabashed. There is a joyousness to Boris that comes through his work and I wanted to include in the film. The film is about very dark times, but there is a level of pleasure. This is central to movies and to the hunger for life that these characters have. In a way a film like "Goodfellas" was a big influence. We watched the film several times, because "Goodfellas" is a film about bad behavior and had great energy and a lot of color. In a way what we wanted to do was depict this behavior, but not judge it and not demonize it — actually just embrace it as well as its consequences. And not shy away from the effect of drugs in our lives and communities and the effects of compulsive behavior. I think the film layers different attempts of different artists to depict what gay life looks like now. So you have Boris' paintings, the filmmaker who is making a film about Avery Willard, the photographer and filmmaker in the '50s and '60s who tried to document gay life at that time. In some ways you could say the film was an attempt to make visible certain elements of gay life and gay history.

The late Arthur Russell's music is heard throughout the



PHOTO: COURTESY

A scene from "Keep the Lights On."

soundtrack.

I had an idea to use Arthur's music the way they used Simon and Garfunkel in "The Graduate" and the way that Aimee Mann's is used in "Magnolia." I thought, "I can take Arthur's tunes and cre-

ate a score from that music."

In a way I think Arthur's music becomes another character in the film. It has great humor and it's messy and it's full of melancholy and full of passion. What's very moving is that most

of Arthur's music was not heard in his lifetime. I hope the film manages to bring back Arthur and make him part of our lives.

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Dining

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Italy's lush, robust flavors flourish in Zarletti's urban-chic dining room



PHOTO: COURTESY

Zarletti's urban-chic dining room looks out on the intersection of Milwaukee and Mason. Specializing in northern Italian cuisine, the restaurant features one of Milwaukee's finest kitchens.

Owner and executive chef Brian Zarletti's seven-year-old enterprise specializes in northern Italian cuisine. It has one of Milwaukee's finest kitchens. The intimate L-shaped dining room and its commanding view of the Milwaukee and Mason streets intersection has made it a mecca of sorts for diners in search of a very special evening.

We arrived 10 minutes early for our 8:30 p.m. reservation on a recent Saturday and found the urban-chic dining room filled and the staff moving briskly through the maze of tables. We sat at the bar and ordered a glass of the evening's featured wine, a 2008 Speri Sant'Urbano Valpolicella D.o.c. Classico Superiore (\$13, or \$52 for a bottle), a wine grown in the Veneto region north of Verona.

The northern Italian wine was produced from single-vineyard, hillside-grown grapes that had dried for close to a month to concentrate their flavors. The wine, primarily a blend of native Corvina, Rondinella and Molinara grapes grown in largely volcanic and chalky soil, boasted rich fruit and a firm body with significant depth and a lingering finish. The same area produces Speri's amarone, one of Italy's very best wines, and this one is similar in style and delivery – but for a much lower cost.

In fact, we enjoyed it so much that we ordered a bottle to accompany our meal once we were seated.

Zarletti's menu is divided into antipasti (appetizers), insalate e minestre (salads and soups), primi (primarily pasta selections) and secondi (entrees). The Italian tradition, our waitress told us, is to choose appetizers and entrees and share a pasta dish, so that's what we did.

Our appetizer of the olive della casa (\$6.95) was a small plate of some 24 different imported un-pitted olives bathed in olive oil and herbs. We admit not to know our olive varieties, but enjoyed every one. The first of several baskets of warm bread, served with Parmesan-laced olive oil, accompanied the appetizer.

We had also heard much about the Calamari Ripeni (\$12.95), which offered four larger pieces of squid stuffed with crab, tomato and bread crumbs sautéed in a white-wine tomato sauce. The components were all present, but they failed to strike up the richness of flavors we had expected. If there was a soft spot to the evening, that was it.

We did share our pasta course, the Ravioli del Giorno (\$23.95), and this is where Zarletti really began to shine. The dish was the restaurant's fall seasonal of roasted butternut squash braised and served in a sage brown butter sauce. Each bite offered a warm, luscious burst of flavor that couldn't have been better.

We were quite satisfied at this point, but the best was yet to come.

Zarletti prides itself on

its veal and our waitress boasted about the Ossobuco (\$29.95), two Strauss veal shanks served in a robust and richly flavored sauce with a side of Risotto Milanese. "I've had several people tell me it's every bit as good as what they tasted in Italy," she enthused.

I don't remember having Ossobuco when I visited Italy, but if Zarletti's preparation is authentic, then I will move the dish to the top of my next visit's must-do list, ahead of the Sistine Chapel and the canals of Venice. The veal was fork-tender, the sauce succulent and risotto sweet and lustrous. The entire dish was an intoxicating blend of flavors and textures, and this was the only time my restaurant service included a tiny fork to spear marrow from inside the bones.

We also tried the Halibut al Pistacchio (\$28.95), the pan-seared fish having been crusted with pistachio nuts and served with a Door County cherry buerre blanc and Gorgonzola mashed potatoes. Good though they were, the potatoes paled next to the richness of the risotto, but the nut-crusted fish and buerre blanc with the dried cherries was definitely one of the best halibut preparations we have ever enjoyed.

Add Zarletti to your dining list and visit soon. The Ossobuco and halibut will always be there, but you don't want to miss the butternut squash ravioli.

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Chicago's Joffrey Ballet opens with program focused on the human experience

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Ballet is enjoying renewed public interest and generating enthusiastic audience responses. But has this classical art form retained its relevance amid the dramatically changing social and artistic landscapes of recent decades?

Ashley Wheeler, artistic director of Chicago's world-renowned Joffrey Ballet, says emphatically "yes." In fact, he believes that ballet couldn't possibly be more relevant than it is today.

Evidence for this belief, he says, can be clearly seen in "Human Landscapes," the mixed repertory of ballets that launches the Joffrey's 2012-13 season. The three works demonstrate ballet's relevance both through their artistic style and social narratives, he contends.

Universal and timeless, "The 'Human Landscapes' program presents the work of three masters searching to understand our place in the world," says Wheeler, a Scottish-born former dancer who joined the Joffrey in 1985 and has served as its artistic director since 2007.

"I was interested in a program of 'modern' dances, created across a span of 80 years, hoping to contrast as well as compare," Wheeler says. "Despite differences among the three works in terms of content and style, each choreographer explores

aspects of the human experience."

The cornerstone of the fall program, which runs for 10 performances from Oct. 17 to Oct. 28 at Chicago's Roosevelt University Auditorium Theatre, is "The Green Table." Choreographer Kurt Jooss' 1932 anti-war masterpiece, it tells the story of war and its many victims. Jooss was a Jew who fled Nazi Germany for England prior to World War II.

While the work seems to offer an unmistakable point of view, audiences at its premiere debated whether its dance-of-death motif was a plea for pacifism or a call to arms. In either case, Wheeler says, the work exemplifies the power of dance as humankind's first art form.

"The Green Table" helped launch "tanztheater," a blend of dance and dramatic elements that grew out of the expressionist dance movement flourishing in Vienna and Weimar Germany in the 1920s and '30s. German Expressionism is usually associated with film, art or architecture. Fritz Lang's film "Metropolis" is the movement's most cited example. "The Green Table" fits neatly into the category.

"The work is modern, sometimes harshly so, with an underlying notion of distorted reality or hyper-realism," Wheeler says. "I think Jooss' choreography, with its unornamented, angu-

lar movements and 'freeze-frame' vignettes, fits this understanding."

Set to the music of Frederick A. Cohen, "The Green Table" also plays a role in the Joffrey's history. Founder Robert Joffrey first saw the dance performed at age 11 and became committed to reviving it when he formed his own company. The Joffrey premiered the work, subtitled "A Dance of Death in Eight Scenes," for American audiences in 1967.

The other two works on the Joffrey's fall program will take viewers' emotions in distinctly different directions, Wheeler says. But they too have great significance for today's audiences, as well as for the ballet company's history.

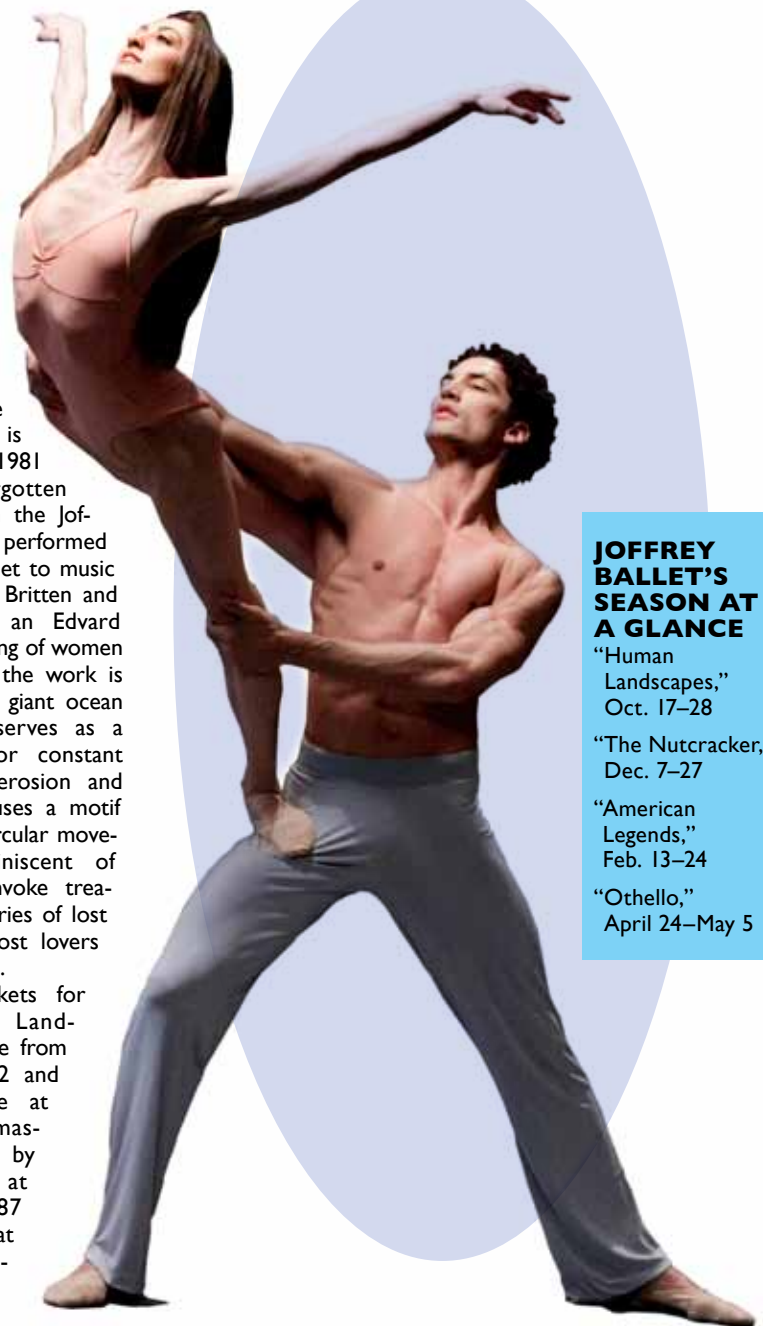
Choreographer James Kudelka's "Pretty BALLET" had its world premiere at the Joffrey in 2010. Set to Bohuslav Martinu's "Symphony No. 2," Kudelka's four-movement work uses demanding phrases full of quick, sharp changes of direction, along with intricate spatial patterns.

The most abstract of the three works, "Pretty BALLET" is full of swirling motion punctuated by lush and fluid pas de deux, Wheeler says. The work explores the subject of ballet itself as a balance between romantic ideals and the discipline it takes to perform. A haunting adagio pas de deux featuring

a ballerina in blood-red pointes serves as a metaphor for this tension.

The third work on the fall program is Jiri Kylian's 1981 work "Forgotten Land," which the Joffrey has not performed since 1985. Set to music by Benjamin Britten and inspired by an Edvard Munch painting of women on a beach, the work is set before a giant ocean wave that serves as a metaphor for constant movement, erosion and renewal. It uses a motif of pulsing, circular movements reminiscent of waves to invoke treasured memories of lost homelands, lost lovers and lost time.

Single tickets for "Human Landscapes" range from \$31 to \$152 and are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, by telephone at 800-982-2787 and online at www.ticketmaster.com.



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"After the Rain," featuring Victoria Jaiani and Fabrice Calmels, was performed by the Joffrey Ballet during the 2010-11 season.

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Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO



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Leslie Jordan appears at the Barrymore Theater in Madison on Oct. 19 and at the Oxford Theatre in Eau Claire on Oct. 21.

Leslie Jordan, the diminutive comic actor with the big Southern drawl, entered our consciousness in a big way with his Emmy Award-winning portrayal of Beverly Leslie on the sitcom "Will & Grace." Before that he worked on stage and on the big and small screens in a variety of productions. Notable among them were Jordan's collaborations with writer Del Shores, with whom he has an incomparable working relationship (as well as a similar background), exemplified by the movie and TV series "Sordid Lives." In addition to his recent role in the movie "The Help," Jordan continues to do sitcom work and tour the country with his one-man show.

Gregg Shapiro: You have performed your own work as well as work written by others.

Leslie Jordan: My first one-man show went to New York in '92. So I've had a 20-year run of my own stuff. You get so spoiled. Last week I did that show "Raising Hope" with Cloris Leachman, and it was a ball. I had a really good time. But to me that's what I do, kind of like waiting tables. I do that so that I can afford my own stuff. I start next week on another new (TV) show called "Neighbors." But meanwhile I'm getting on a

plane in an hour to go to New York to do (my original solo piece) "Fruitfly" at the All For One Festival. Your readers are going to see my standup – there's not a whole lot of difference.

Your current tour includes elements of your solo piece "Fruit Fly"?

Absolutely! It's all the stories of "Fruit Fly," but it doesn't have the music and the slides that accompany it. But I have never had a complaint. Actually, in a cabaret setting they like it better, just me and a mike.

There's an intimacy that you have with the audience in that setting.

Right! It's almost like a musician putting together a set. I hesitate to call it standup, because I don't really fall into what I call standup – (unless) it's a bar and there's a lot of alcohol (laughs). I'm a storyteller, and if you're drunk, you can't keep up and then I fall into more jokes, talk dirty.

Do you have a special place of honor where you keep your Emmy?

It's on my kitchen table! It's in the middle of my kitchen table when you walk in the door. I've downsized. I used

to have this huge loft and lots of beautiful boys who would stay. It was a dog-and-pony show, there were so many people. But I'm on the road now almost eight months of the year. I've downsized to a tiny one-bedroom. When you walk in the door there is a kitchen area and I've got it right there on my kitchen table!

What did it mean to you to be a part of such a groundbreaking network television sitcom?

I was so honored when I won that Emmy. Over the years I've worked on so many sitcoms. I've done good work and maybe could've gotten nominated from other shows. I've always felt there were two ways to combat homophobia. One is through humor. I learned that in junior high school, during dodgeball (laughs). If I was funny, I could keep the bullies at bay. The second is to put a face on it. I think America fell in love with those four characters. They welcomed them into their living rooms. For many people it was the first time they'd seen a gay person. I think we laughed and loved and a lot of progress was made.

What do you think of the gay characters who

have since appeared on television, including this new fall TV season?

I'm pitching a series right now that has me as a gay character, but he's kind of closeted because it's the Deep South. He's not a part of the gay culture. In my series, I pitch it as not having a lot to do with the gay culture. I turn on the TV (today), and it just seems like the same gay character. What I said in my pitch is that there are two types of gay people in the world today. There's the fabulous, which we see on television. Then there's the fearful. There's a whole group of gay people who, for whatever reason, are not caught up in what we call the gay culture. My complaint is that every gay person on TV is fabulous. That's fine, but there's a whole other

aspect to being gay. Even when it's two couples having a baby, one of them is fabulous. One is more like a football-loving gay man that you wouldn't think was gay. But then there's the partner, screaming his head off. And that's fine. But why does everybody have to scream and be so nelly?

Your homeland of Tennessee has been in the news quite a bit in recent years for its anti-gay legislation. What do you think it will take for Tennessee to embrace its LGBT citizens?

For the old people to die. I'm dead serious. You talk to anybody in Nashville – Nashville, the hippest city in the country. You go to Nashville, and it's like L.A. Chattanooga, too, is so progressive, and

Memphis. Anybody under 30, even the Bush twins, could care less. The old people just have to die. You're not going to change their mind in any way or form. They are as firm in their beliefs, and it all boils down to the Holy Bib-iot. They believe it's the word of God, and there's not one thing you can say to dispute that in any way. You can't try to show them the history of the Bible. You can't tell them that Leviticus was not for Christians. Christ railed against the Levitical code. Nowhere in his teachings does he mention homosexuality. And if you do believe that the Levitical code, slaves obey your masters, don't eat shellfish and if your wife's on her period, put her in the backyard, she's unclean. They pick, they choose. But it's like talking to a wall.

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Films run the gamut, from an ACT UP doc to a classic underground feature

FILM from page 1
filmmakers greater freedom to be more expressive and less didactic. The new environment also has fostered the emergence of films from countries historically intolerant to LGBT people, helping to broaden the nature and content of the festival," Bogner says. "In many ways, we see more of a 'mainstreaming' of LGBT films, and I am not talking only about U.S. film production. That is to say, LGBT film – the public, most prominent face of it – is more commercially savvy than one would have imagined two decades ago, when there were tendencies toward a more transgressive edge."

The scope of LGBT films

has broadened to embrace more subtle and evocative storytelling, Bogner says. "Mosquita y Mari," writer-director Aurora Guerrero's 2011 film, successfully explores the loving friendship that grows between two young Chicanas without being burdened by the need to make an LGBT statement.

"Is the word 'lesbian' even mentioned in the film? I can't recall and it doesn't need to be, so sensitive and alert is the filmmaking," says Bogner. "Understanding the feelings of these two girls will be easy for any moviegoer."

"Mosquita y Mari" screens Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at the UWM Union Theatre. Guerrero will be on hand to introduce her work.

Filmmaker Sally El Hosani's "My Brother the Devil," which screens Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., is another film that explores the boundaries of sexual orientation within a greater social context. Set in London's Hackney section, the U.K. film chronicles the challenges facing a family of Egyptian immigrants living at the edge of a growing gang culture. The questions that emerge about role models, masculinity and other social issues helped the film win the Outstanding International Feature award at last year's Outfest.

"The film is a consideration of masculinity, and within that consideration, values and boundaries are tested when gay identity becomes a part of the mix," Bogner says. "It echoes and expands on concerns about identity, family and community that

you will find in other films in the festival."

Other films run the gamut of LGBT issues, including Jim Hubbard's 2012 documentary "United in Anger: A History of ACT UP"; "Facing Mirrors," a 2011 film and the first from Iran to feature a transgender character in the lead role; "Call Me Kuchu," a 2012 documentary about being gay ("kuchu") in Uganda, a country that criminalizes homosexuality; and 1985's "Sparkle's Tavern," the last film of notorious gay underground U.S. filmmaker Curt McDowell.

Past LGBT film festivals have attracted "thousands" of viewers each, Bogner says. He expects the trend to continue this year, despite the busy fall arts season.

"The festival has a very loyal audience, with a lot of generous support from across the community,"

Bogner says. "They also are culturally savvy consumers and I hope this year's selection of film appeals to them."

In addition to this month's festival, the Peck School of the Arts will continue to offer special monthly screenings of LGBT films. The first two screenings in that series are scheduled for Nov. 1 and Nov. 29. Titles and locations have yet to be determined.

To download a festival brochure, visit www.uwm.edu/psoa/film/lgbtfilmfestival.

FESTIVAL FEATURES HISTORIC FILM POSTERS

"Tea and Sympathy," Vicente Minnelli's 1956 film about the love affair between an older woman and a sensitive younger man within the confines of a hyper-masculine boy's prep school, may not be a bellwether of gay cinema. But its undercurrents have earned the film its place in the LGBT canon. A poster for the film, based on Robert Anderson's 1953 play, will be part of a special display held in conjunction with this year's Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival.

Some 30 posters from films as diverse as "The Children's Hour," "The Strange One" and "Lonesome Cowboys" will comprise "25 Years of LGBT Film Festival Posters," which runs in the UWM Student Union Atrium Oct. 8–21 as part of the festival. A selection of those posters also will be on display at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater on Oct. 18 for the festival's opening night screening of "Cloudburst."

The posters are drawn from among 400 movie posters that are part of the UWM Libraries' collection. It is the first poster display to accompany the festival, according to Max Yela, the libraries' head of special collections.

"There will be titles iconic to gay cinema, as well as those from films with gay issues going on under the surface," says Yela, who curates a collection of some 50,000 print pieces that themselves are iconic to the time and place in which they were produced.

Past film festivals have had similar object displays, but none has featured a showcase simply of film posters, which Yela believes will demonstrate the cultural influence of gay elements in cinema over the decades. Copies of the posters are available to anyone visiting the libraries and willing to pay for digital renderings of the images. Although prices will differ based on the complexity of the imagery, Yela estimates an average price per poster of \$50.

Walk-in hours for the UWM Libraries, which are open to the public, are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more, visit www.uwm.edu/libraries/special.

— M.M.

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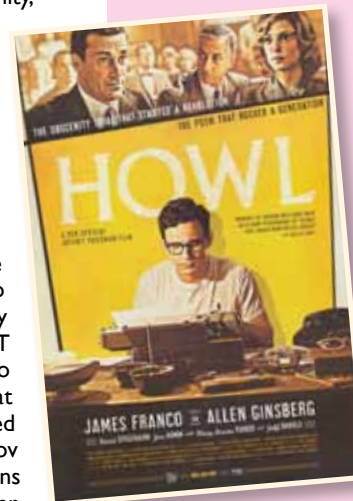
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Callen Harty's new comedy about marriage equality, "**One Man/One Woman**," runs through Oct. 6 at Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson in Madison. Call 608-244-8338.

"**Assassins**," with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, runs through Oct. 7 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Skylight Music Theatre presents "**Avenue Q**" through Oct. 14 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

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

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

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.

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

Taking its inspiration from the 2008 financial crisis, "**microcrisis**" runs through Oct. 21 at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit www.nextact.org.

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

OCT. 5, FRIDAY

Queer band **The Gossip** plays the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

In Tandem Theatre presents the American premier of John Goodrum's psychological thriller "**The Nightmare Room**" through Oct. 21 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th St. Call 414-271-1371.

Early Music Now presents virtuosic early music quintet Ensemble Caprice performing "**Salsa Baroque: Music of 17th and 18th Century Latin America and Spain**" at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 111 E. Main in Waukesha at 7:30 p.m. Visit st.matthiasonline.org or call 262-547-4838.

Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania in St. Francis, presents the Milwaukee premiere of "[title of show]" tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. Visit www.theatricaltendencies.com or call 414-481-2800.

Political humor specialists the **Capitol Steps** are at the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

OCT. 6, SATURDAY

Broadway legend **Barbara Cook** performs at 8 p.m. at the Pitman Theatre on the campus of Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd. Call



414-382-6044.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents **Disney in Concert: Magical Music from the Movies with Wisconsin Pops** at 8 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

Mark Zubro, author of the mystery "Another Dead Republican," and **David Pratt**, author of "My Movie," read from their books at 2 p.m. at Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee, 414-063-9089, today; and tomorrow at 2 p.m. at A Room of One's Own, 315 W. Gorham, in Madison, 608-257-7888.

OCT. 7, SUNDAY

Milwaukee's Festival City Symphony's Symphony Sundays presents "**From the New World**," featuring Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9," and Louis Moreau Gottschalk's "Cakewalk," at 3 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Visit festivalcitysymphony.org or call 414-963-9067.

OCT. 8, MONDAY

The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North Ave. in Milwaukee, presents **MC Oneself** and **Klassik** at 9 p.m. Call 414-988-4758.

Multi-Grammy Award winner **Norah Jones** performs at 7 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.



Ballet Folklórico de México

OCT. 9, TUESDAY

Musled, tattooed Henry Rollins presents "**Capitalism**" at 7:30 p.m. at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison. Call 608-241-2345.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents singer/songwriter **Beth Orton** at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North Ave., presents **I'm Not a Pilot** at 9 p.m. Call 414-988-4758.

Ballet Folklórico de México performs at 7:30 p.m. at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

Blue Man Group appears through Oct. 14 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

OCT. 10, WEDNESDAY

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

Beach House, the hipster duo from Baltimore, performs at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

OCT. 12, FRIDAY

Australian singer-songwriters Chris Pickering and Lachlan Bryan bring their "**Acoustic Aussies**" tour to Madison at the Redamte, 449 State (above Asian Kitchen - next to Wasabi), at 8 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., singer/songwriter **Lucy Kaplansky** plays High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes Milwaukee-native **Tanya Chernov**, author of "A Real Emotional Girl: A Memoir of Love and Loss," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

OCT. 13, SATURDAY

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, presents **leetUP**, the world's first live celebration of all things nerd, hosted by Kevin Pereira, at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Stand-up comedy and sitcom legend **Jerry Seinfeld** is at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Alan Raymond Fine performs his 90-minute original contemporary classical piano composition "Heaven & Earth" at 8 p.m. in Vogel Hall at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

OCT. 14, SUNDAY

Queer performer **Big Freedia** brings his New Orleans bounce music to the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents the one and only **Adam Ant** at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

OCT. 15, MONDAY

Milwaukee Public Library welcomes **Martin Hintz**, author of "Wisconsin Farm Lore: Kicking Cows, Giant Pumpkins and other Tales from the Back Forty" to its Rare Books Room, 814 W. Wisconsin, second floor, at 6:30 p.m. Visit martinhintz.com.

Frankly Music's Musicians of the MSO concert showcases clarinetist **Todd Levy** in a program featuring the music of Brahms and Bartók at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music's Bader Recital Hall, 1584 N. Prospect. Visit franklymusic.org.

OCT. 17, WEDNESDAY

All-American Rejects swing into The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

OCT. 18, THURSDAY

UW-Madison's University Theatre presents a collection of Samuel Beckett's short plays combined under the production title "**I Can't Go On. I'll Go On**" through Nov. 3 in Hemsley Theatre, 821 University in Madison. Call 608-265-ARTS (2787).

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DAVID PRATT Author of *Bob The Book*

appearing with **MARK ZUBRO**

In Milwaukee

Saturday October 6
at 2:00 p.m.

Outwords Books

2710 North Murray Avenue
(414) 963-9089

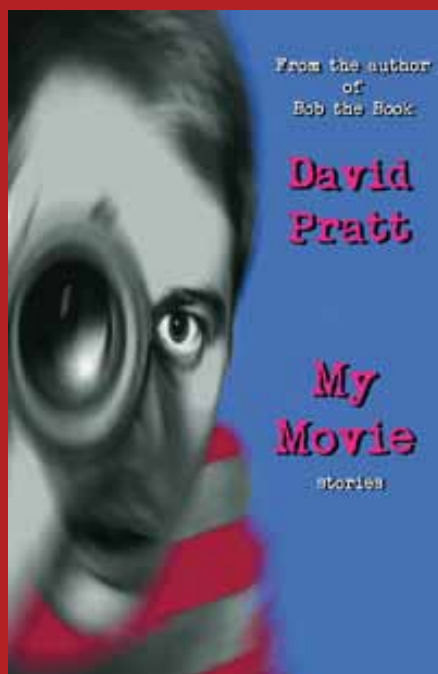
In Madison

Sunday October 7
at 2:00 p.m.

A Room of One's Own

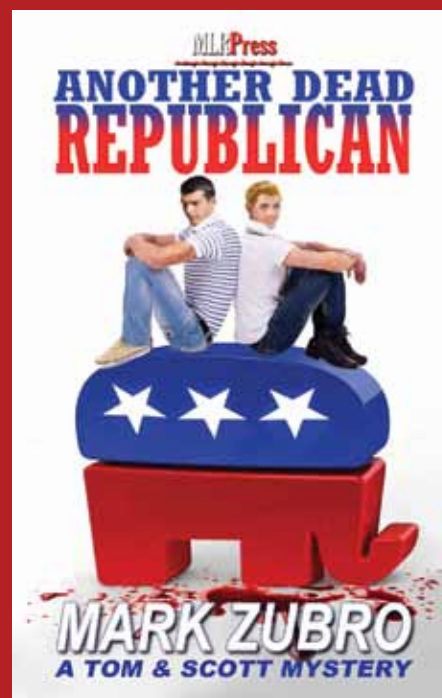
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**TWO LAMBDA AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS
READING FROM THEIR LATEST BOOKS**



David will be reading from his new book *My Movie*. “Carnal and graphic as the best erotica and as elegiac as a finely rendered memoir.” Tom Medicino, author of “Probation”

Mark will be reading from his latest mystery *Another Dead Republican* set during a recall election in Wisconsin.



BEFORE YOU VOTE... *PLAN.*

The election is November 6th. If you want to ensure victories for equality, ask yourself and your friends and neighbors the following questions:

WHEN?



What time of day are you going to vote?
Will you vote early?

WHERE?



What's your polling location?

HOW?



How will you get to your polling location?

**Polls in Wisconsin are open 7am - 8pm.
Make sure you plan your vote.**



For answers, go to wisdems.org/ownyourvote

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