

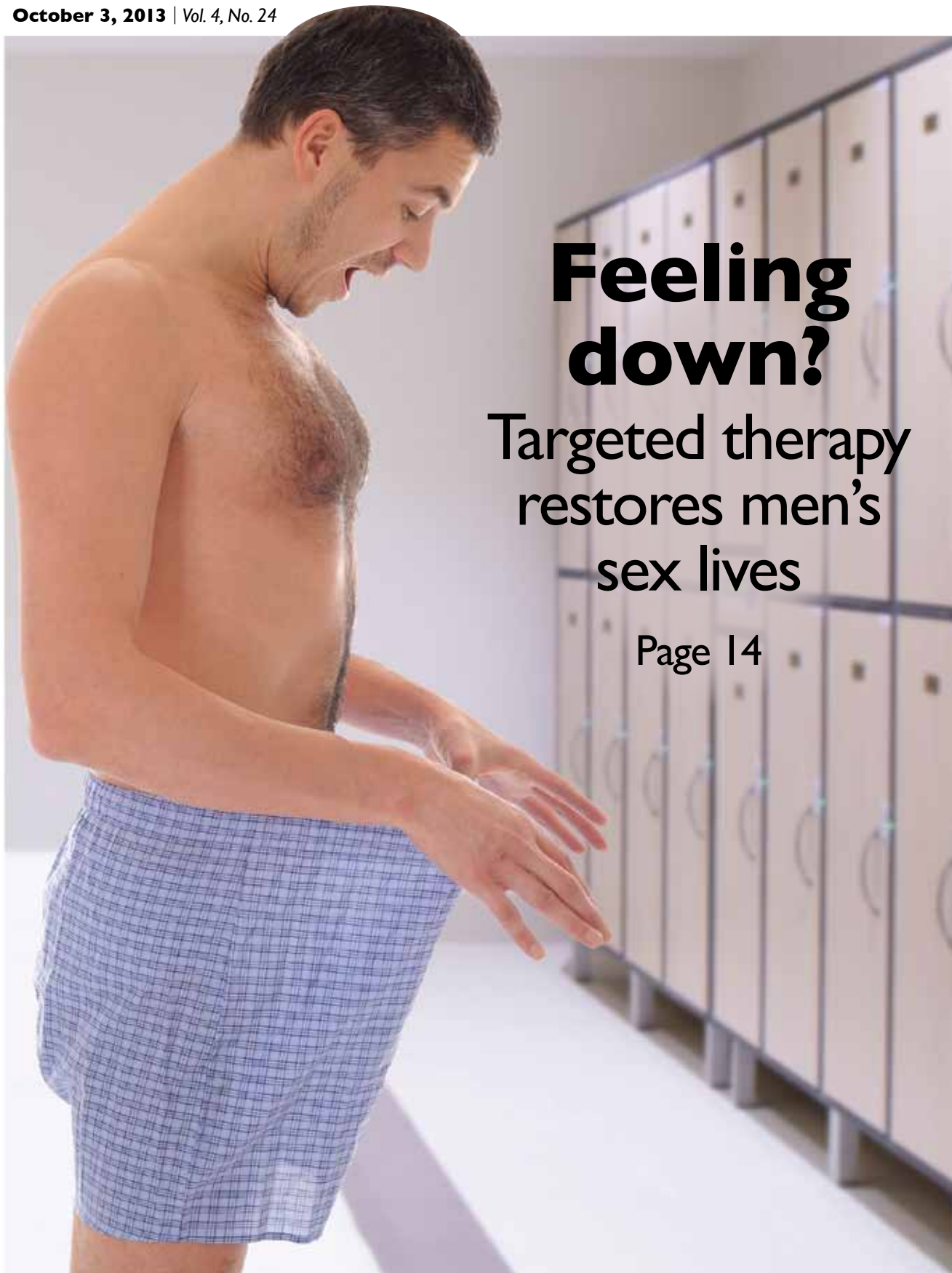
Reeling it in

The much anticipated Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival returns on Oct. 17-20.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



Feeling down?

Targeted therapy restores men's sex lives

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Led by Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson, the county board approves benefit extensions to same-sex partners of workers



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How significant is Pope Francis' more inclusive posture?



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Americans are drenched with sex but at a loss for sexual gratification



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Rare exhibit in Appleton displays the film icon's sense of rebel chic

News with a twist



PHOTO: HBO

SINGING PRAISES

From one piano man, a tribute to another: Michael Douglas and Matt Damon, stars of "Behind the Candelabra," introduced Elton John at the recent Emmy telecast. John praised Liberace for his fashion sense, influence and longevity: "What a difference those 25 years have made to people like me . . . and me."

EATING FOR EDUCATION

Eric "Silo" Dahl, a computer engineering student at UW-Madison is making a name for himself while earning money for tuition. Dahl has raised more than \$18,000 in prize money with competitive eating. He's ranked No. 3 in the nation. And he got his start by beating a food challenge at Madison's Big Red's Steakhouse,

where he chowed down on a three-pound cheesesteak in 5 minutes, 50 seconds.

PUBLISHING RYAN

Grand Central Publishing has plans to release a book by Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan next summer. "Where Do We Go From Here?" will explore the state of conservatism in America – and probably lead to more speculation about the homegrown conserva-



WIGWAG

tive's presidential ambitions. His rep in the publishing deal worked with authors Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

POSH PROPERTY

A business connected to the company that makes Jordache jeans paid \$41.5 million for the South Beach mansion owned by Gianni Versace. The famed designer bought the property for \$10 million and spent \$33 million restoring the estate, adding a south wing and a gold-lined swimming pool. Bidding at auction began at \$25.5 million. Versace was murdered in July 1997 by gay spree killer Andrew Cunanan just outside the mansion's entrance. The new owners hope to convert the property into a hotel, and keep the Versace name.

UGG? UH-HUH

West Hollywood is now the only city in America where it is a crime to sell

fur. After years of debate, the city's ban on the sale of furry apparel took effect Sept. 21. WeHo, marketed as a cruelty-free zone for animals, also bans declawing cats, selling cats and dogs, and wild-animal or exotic-animal performances.

MAKING UP

Diana Taurasi of the Phoenix Mercury and Seimone Augustus of the Minnesota Lynx received technical fouls after Taurasi gave Augustus a peck on the cheek during a tense moment toward the end of Game 1 of the WNBA Western Conference finals. The players were exchanging heated words prior to Taurasi's affectionate action. There had been some pushing and a shoulder check as well. "As far as me and Diana and the tango dance that we had, I always say she just wanted some of my deliciousness," Augustus said after her team's 85-62 win.

BIG YAWN

When the Massachusetts

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

Supreme Court ruled in 2003 that same-sex couples had a right to marriage equality under the state constitution, critics predicted the ruling would have a chilling effect on society. But 10 years later, a poll shows that 85 percent of Bay State voters say the ruling has had either a positive or neutral effect on their lives. According to the PPP poll, Massachusetts voters now support same-sex marriage by an overwhelming 60 to 29 percent margin.

BARILLA BROUHAHA

Guido Barilla of the Barilla pasta company put himself in hot water in late September. The pasta baron told a radio program that his company would never have ads featuring gay families and that if gay people didn't like that, they could go, um, feast on another pasta. There was backlash in Italy and in the United States, where consumers committed to a boycott and shopped for flour and eggs.

FLAT EARTH GOP

A long-awaited international report released in late September said the warming of the planet is "unequivocal" and getting worse. Scientists also said they are more confident than ever that global warming is a man-made problem. Much of the world said no doubt, but a number of House Republicans said, hmm, I dunno.

CLOSED FOR BUSINESS

The federal government shutdown arrived on Oct. 1. The earliest polls showed the biggest losers in this partisan battle were the Republicans. And the chief loser was looking to be Republican House Speaker John Boehner. The showdown over the shutdown did prove to be his defining moment. He awoke to a New York Daily News cover of himself, seated in the Lincoln Memorial, with something brown and icky dripping from his hands and a headline, "House of Turds."

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WISCONSIN

NJ judge orders state to allow same-sex couples to marry

B Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A New Jersey judge on Sept. 27 ruled that same-sex couples must be allowed to marry in the state.

Judge Mary Jacobson said after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages, not recognizing same-sex marriage in New Jersey violates the state constitution.

"The ineligibility of same-sex couples for federal benefits is currently harming same-sex couples in New Jersey in a wide range of contexts," Jacobson wrote.

Troy Stevenson of Garden State Equality, the statewide LGBT group, said, "Today's ruling is historic — there's no doubt," he said. "It affirms what a supermajority of New Jerseyans know: There is no constitutional basis for deny-

ing same-sex couples the freedom to marry."

The order, responding to a request from equality advocates for summary judgment in a case, said same-sex marriages in New Jersey could begin on Oct. 21. The window was to provide the state time for an appeal and to request an injunction.

And that is what Republican Gov. Chris Christie's administration did on Sept. 30.

A spokesman for Christie said on Sept. 27, "Gov. Christie has always maintained that he would abide by the will of the voters on the issue of marriage equality and called for it to be on the ballot this Election Day. Since the Legislature refused to allow the people to decide expeditiously, we will let the Supreme Court make this constitutional determination."



AP PHOTO/JULIO CORTEZ

GARDEN STATE GALA: Cindy Meneghin, center right, hugs her attorney Hayley Gorenberg, center left, during a rally at Garden State Equality in Montclair, N.J., hours after same-sex marriages were ordered legal by a state judge on Sept. 27. Meneghin has been with her partner Maureen Kilian, left, for 39 years. The Christie administration is appealing and seeking a stay.

Citing "far-reaching implications," acting Attorney General John Hoff-

man appealed to the state Supreme Court, which usually does not weigh in on cases until after an appeals court has made a ruling on them.

Hoffman also asked the judge who issued the decision last week to grant a stay, delaying the implementation date from Oct. 21 until the matter can be settled.

Her decision was expected as WiG went to press.

State lawmakers already have passed legislation legalizing same-sex marriage, but Christie, who is in a re-election cycle now and said to have presidential ambitions in 2016, vetoed the measure, saying voters should decide the issue.

That was before the U.S.

Supreme Court ruling and a sweeping change in public opinion on the issue. Equality advocates think they now have the votes to override Christie's opposition.

In 2006, New Jersey's highest court ruled that the state had to provide same-sex couples with rights similar to those of married couples, which led to New Jersey enacting civil union legislation rather than marriage.

"Civil unions are separate and unequal," said Human Rights Campaign president Chad Griffin. "There are no rational arguments why couples in New Jersey should be relegated to second-class status. State officials should not appeal this sound deci-

sion and no longer stand in the way of loving couples being able to make a lifelong commitment with full state and federal recognition."

Garden State Equality, represented by Lambda Legal, was the plaintiff in the case before Jacobson, who is on the bench in Mercer County Superior Court.

This month also could bring advances in marriage equality in Hawaii, where a special session of the Legislature is scheduled to consider a bill, and in Illinois, where a fall session of the Legislature may take up a bill that's already passed the Senate.

In both Hawaii and Illinois, Democratic governors support the equality bills.



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Outagamie County enacts partnership benefits

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The Outagamie County Board voted 19-14 on Sept. 24 to extend employment benefits, including health insurance and bereavement leave, to the registered domestic partners of county workers. The new benefits go into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

County Executive Thomas Nelson proposed the resolution in July, saying the county must provide equitable benefits to same-sex couples in order to compete for high-quality workers. More than 300 private companies and 26 public employers in Wisconsin already offer such benefits, putting pressure on others to do the same in order to recruit and retain the most skilled personnel.

Since July, the county board had kept the resolution bottled up in committee. But Nelson submitted the proposal using an administrative maneuver that required the full board to vote on it within 60 days, said Katie Belanger, president and CEO

of Fair Wisconsin.

The final vote was razor thin. Nineteen votes are the minimum required for passage. Two supervisors abstained from voting and one was absent.

The debate during the Sept. 24 county board meeting was spirited and contentious, according to LGBT community members who attended. An approximately equal number of citizens spoke for and against the resolution, said John Smallwood, Fair Wisconsin's advocacy and organizing director.

Detractors, including Wisconsin Family Action executive vice president James Maillette, raised objections based on their fundamentalist Christian beliefs. Some expressed fears about the cost of implementing the new benefits.

The Appleton Post Crescent quoted right-wing Supervisor Jim Pleuss as saying that offering the benefits would be "legitimizing a lifestyle that goes contrary to family values." He also said

the benefits would lead to fraud, because two same-sex roommates could use it to acquire health insurance.

"You and I both know the costs of health care, nowadays," he added.

Kathy Flores, diversity coordinator for Appleton, said her city encountered no increase in health care costs during the first year after implementing domestic partner benefits. Although Appleton, the county seat of Outagamie County, extended the benefits to its workers three years ago, the surrounding county is much more conservative, encompassing a large swath of rural area.

While great strides have been made toward equality in recent years at the local level in Wisconsin, the Sept. 24 vote could have gone either way. For that reason, Belanger said it was an even "greater victory."

"There definitely was a lot of opposition present at this meeting — more than we normally see at (such) meetings," Belanger said. "There was a

lot of hateful, homophobic rhetoric. But there were also a lot of people standing up for equality. One of the county supervisors stood up and said her sister-in-law is a lesbian, and her family treats her with the same love as everyone else — and that's what these issues are about."

FAIR WISCONSIN'S ROLE

Activists credited Fair Wisconsin with getting large numbers of pro-fairness citizens to contact their representatives on the board and ask for their support. FW's online social network has played a pivotal role in similar votes in other jurisdictions.

Flores said Outagamie County resident Shannon Kenevan delivered the most moving presentation during the public debate. He later recalled what he'd said in a Facebook post.

Explaining that he was thinking of his young daughters when he spoke, Kenevan wrote, "I have no idea what



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson signs the county's domestic partner benefits resolution into law.

their sexual orientations are or might be. But here's what I know: At some point in the future one of them may have a partner who's male, and one may have a partner who is female. Their partners may both work for Outagamie

County. Both of these girls have value and deserve to be treated with dignity, and each should be given equal rights and offered equal benefits regardless of their sexual orientation."

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Icons honored for LGBT History Month

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Philadelphia-based Equality Forum is celebrating LGBT History Month by honoring a gay community icon on each of October's 31 days.

Over the past eight years, the forum has celebrated nearly 250 lives, says Malcolm Lazin, Equality Forum executive director.

The earliest known observance of a history month in the community was in the mid-1990s, when 29-year-old Missouri school teacher Rodney Wilson sought support for teaching students about the roles gays and lesbians have played in history, science, sports and the arts. In 1994, Wilson came out to his high school class after a lesson on the Holocaust.

The first coordinating committee for history month included Johnda Boyce and Jessea Greenman, at universities at the time; Kevin Jennings, a teacher who founded the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and went on to work for the Obama administration; Kevin Boyer at the Gerber/Hart Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives in Chicago; Torey Wilson, a Chicago area teacher and the late Chicago columnist-activist (and former WiG contributor) Paul Varnell.

Varnell, who would prepare what he personally planned to read or study well in advance of each history month, wrote about the observance for the Chicago Free Press in 2001: "Perhaps most obviously, it is a way to



PHOTO: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/MARY BUTKUSPIO

PIONEERING TEACHER: LGBT History Month pioneer Rodney Wilson in his classroom in 1994. That year, Wilson came out to his high school class after a lesson on the Holocaust. He led the establishment of October as a month to celebrate and teach the history of LGBT people.

make clear to skeptical heterosexuals that far from being a threat to Western Civilization, gays and lesbians made some of the greatest contributions to that civilization.

"In short, when you sing a song, listen to a symphony, view a painting, attend a church, read a novel or poem or see a play, they may


well have been written, composed, painted, or designed by a homosexual. Homophobes do not want people to know this; that is why everyone must."

October was suggested as the month for the observance because that's when National Coming Out Day is held, and it's also when

schools are in session. Gay history buffs were also enthusiastic about the month because it includes Oscar Wilde's birthday – Oct. 16.


In 2006, the Equality Forum assumed the lead in promoting history month, and each year the group posts biographies, graphics and other materials to its website – lgbthis-torymonth.com – for teachers, activists, journalists and others to download and share.

This year's 31 honorees in the Equality Forum's celebration were selected from about 500 nominations. They include: South African activist Zackie Achmat, playwright Edward Albee, transgender hero Gwen Araujo, Cuban author Reinaldo Arenas, activist Axel Axcil, author Djuna Barnes, activist Joseph Beam, Holocaust survivor Gad Beck, documentarian Joan Biren, author Patrick Califia, activist Mandy Carter, author Willa Cather, singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman, Apple CEO Tim Cook, journalist Anderson Cooper, Belgium Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo, historian Martin Duberman, artist Tom of Finland, "Mother of Pride" Brenda Howard, actor Nathan Lane, entertainer Queen Latifah, South African activist Simon Nkoli, author Bruce Nugent, "Mother of Blues" Ma Rainey, national hero Sally Ride, filmmaker Marlon Riggs, film historian Vito Russo, activist Jose Sarria, actor George Takei, fashion designer Jason Wu and John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, who won the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned anti-gay sodomy laws.




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National Coming Out Day observed Oct. 11

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Jerri Ruehlmann came out in October, right around National Coming Out Day, so her family would "be over it by Thanksgiving."

Turns out the San Francisco paralegal's relatives needed more than a month, but she's still glad she made the decision to come out to family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. "Deciding to be out — and it is a lifetime commitment unless you are a hermit — is probably the most important step a gay person can take in life," says Ruehlmann.

She and many others can testify to the personal power of coming out and staying out.

Madison stylist George Martinez says when he came out at 22, the strain on relationships lifted.

Activist Mazy Ruiz of Miami says coming out as transgender at age 29 was politically, socially and culturally transformative.

Philadelphia sales executive Brad Kessler says coming out at 18 was like finding Oz.

On National Coming Out Day, which occurs annually on Oct. 11, the personal benefits of coming

out are promoted and celebrated.

So are the political benefits. For two decades, repeated studies have shown that when LGBT people come out, they help build allies who support LGBT equality. In March, the Pew Research Center for the People and Press reported that the rise in support for marriage equality over the past 10 years was among the largest changes in opinion on any policy issue during that period. Of those who said they changed their mind on the issue, 37 percent said the reason was they have gay friends or family.

NCOD is celebrated on the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights, when an estimated 500,000 people gathered on the National Mall to demand justice and equality. Several months after the march, during a meeting in Manassas, Va., activists came up with the idea of an anniversary celebration that promoted coming out.

A year later, Keith Haring donated the now famous image of a person dancing out of a closet for National Coming Out Day.

The themes change each year

— for instance, "Come Out, Vote" in 2012, "Coming Out for Equality" in 2010, "Conversations from the Heart" in 2009, "Come Out, Speak Out" in 2004, "It's a Family Affair" in 2003.

Advocates for the holiday have included activists Candace Gingrich and Donna Red Wing, diver Greg Louganis, author-activist Chaz Bono, reality TV star Sean Sasser, golfer Muffin Spencer-Devlin, celebrity mom Betty DeGeneres, and many musicians — Cyndi Lauper, k.d. lang, Sarah McLachlan, Melissa Etheridge, Ani DiFranco, Michael Stipe, the Indigo Girls, RuPaul, Rufus Wainwright and The Butchies.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of National Coming Out Day, and the Human Rights Campaign is promoting events with the theme "Come out. It still matters."

Still matters? Proponents of NCOD point to this year's advances in marriage equality and the work of openly gay lawmakers in Minnesota, Maryland and Delaware, the presence of openly gay people in the lives of legislators in those states and, also, in the lives of Supreme Court

justices and a former Republican president, George H.W. Bush, who was an official witness recently at a same-sex wedding in Maine.

Advocates of the holiday — and coming out — also point to the changing climate in sports, especially men's professional sports. In April, with the sort of hoopla that usually comes with a championship win, NBA player Jason Collins became the first active player on a major men's team in the U.S. to come out as gay. Soccer star Robbie Rogers also came out and is now with the Los Angeles Galaxy. And, a year ago, boxer Orlando Cruz came out. Cruz now hopes to become professional boxing's first openly gay champion. He's in training for his shot on Oct. 12 for the WBO featherweight belt against Orlando Salido.

Two months after the bout, Cruz plans to marry Jose Manuel, his longtime boyfriend.

He recently told the New York Daily News that he hoped his decision to come out would motivate others to be able to say, "I'm gay, I am free."

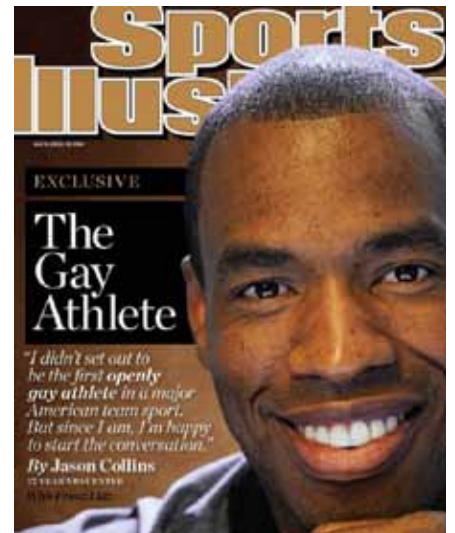


PHOTO: COURTESY

JUMPING OUT OF THE CLOSET: NBA player Jason Collins became the first athlete on a major men's team in the United States to come out as gay.

ON THE WEB

National Coming Out Day is on Oct. 11. The 25th anniversary theme is "Come out. It still matters." For information, go online to www.hrc.org/resources/entry/national-coming-out-day.

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PNC BANK

Tiny Kentucky town sees windfall after coming out against bias

By Bruce Schreiner

AP writer

Out-of-towners occasionally venture well off the interstate to make the trek to Vicco, Ky., a fading coal town of about 330 residents where an aging row of buildings lines one side of the block-long downtown. Railroad tracks run along the other side, though trains rarely pass by anymore.

Visitors pose for pictures in front of the Mayberry-like city hall or shake hands with out Mayor Johnny Cummings, 51, a chain-smoking hair salon operator who grew up in the town, spent some time living on both coasts, and then returned home.

The town, about 130 miles southeast of Lexington, Ky., made national headlines when three of four commissioners voted in January to pass an ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations. City leaders said at the time they simply thought it was the right thing to do. Today they marvel at the attention that has followed.

"I thought the 15 minutes of fame would have been over a long time ago," Cummings said.

Not even close.

The town may become the setting for a reality-based television show. Cummings said he expects to review a contract proposal soon from a production company, but doesn't know which network might be interested.

He said he wants the show to focus on revitalizing the town.

"I don't see us being that entertaining, but somebody else seems to think we're a little unusual," he said.

Vicco was singled out and drew applause in mid-September, when

University of Kentucky president Eli Capilouto described Kentucky as a place "deep in values that show up in unexpected ways and in unexpected places." The event featured U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan on UK's campus.

Perhaps even more welcome since passing the ordinance has been a potential financial windfall for the cash-strapped town that has seen its population steadily decline.

"All this hoopla, we're enjoying it," said Tony Vaughn, the town's police chief and friend of the mayor. "But our main focus is still getting a small town back to having jobs and revitalizing the area."

After passage, letters of support poured in from across the country, along with a handful of letters condemning the ordinance, the mayor said.

Money was tucked into some of the supportive letters, mostly in the range of \$25 donations. A pastor from New England sent \$40 to buy a round of beers for locals who appeared in a segment about Vicco on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report."

A few other supporters are digging much deeper to show appreciation for the town's action.

A mother and son in California pledged to buy all the new playground equipment for a city park, a project that could reach \$90,000, Cummings said. He declined to identify them, but said the gift would greatly expand what was going to have been a very modest new playground. The town had scraped together only enough money to buy a couple of swing sets and a see-saw, he said.

The town is applying for an \$80,000 grant from a private, out-of-state company that encouraged the application, he said. A company

representative reached out to town leaders after hearing about the ordinance. The money would be used to rehab buildings and sidewalks in the downtown area.

A man who runs an out-of-state website company is donating his time to create a site for the town. And an Iraqi-born artist who lives in Louisville plans to paint a mural on an outside wall at Vicco city hall to showcase diversity.

All together, the pledges and grant applications amount to more than \$200,000, approaching Vicco's annual budget of about \$300,000, Cummings said.

Cummings has ideas on how to spend it.

Workers are cleaning up the weed- and trash-infested banks along the North Fork of the Kentucky River, which flows through town. The mayor wants to build a walking path and fishing piers along the river. People currently have to fish off a bridge as traffic goes by.

"They need a safer place to fish," he said. "We're a little short on that budget, so we're working on that."

A more modest update will be a new downtown bench, paid for with a \$1,000 donation from another Californian.

"It was a dead town, but it's looking up," said Vicco City Commissioner Jimmy Slone, who voted for the ordinance.

That isn't to say that all residents have welcomed the ordinance.

Kim Sturgill, for example, said it's divisive. She's heard some residents talk about moving away because of the ordinance, but Sturgill said she's staying put, despite her objections.

"My thoughts were, they should have kept it in the closet," she said. "What people do is their own business, but that really messes with the town."



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/BRUCE SCHREINER

FAIRNESS DIVIDEND: Mayor Johnny Cummings, left, and Police Chief Tony Vaughn sit in front of city hall in the Appalachian town of Vicco, Ky.

Vicco is by far the smallest of the five cities in socially conservative Kentucky to adopt ordinances protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination. The others are Louisville, Lexington, Covington and Frankfort. None appears to have gotten the amount of attention that Vicco has.

Two other Appalachian communities, Morehead and Berea, are discussing the issue, and grassroots efforts are under way in nearly a dozen other communities across the state, said Chris Hartman, director of the Louisville-based Fairness Campaign, a gay advocacy group.

Hartman calls Vicco a "modern-day civil rights leader." He said Vicco's ordinance "helped quash many stereotypes about Appalachia and how rural Kentucky and, really, rural America, feels about" gay-rights issues.

So far, no cases have come up to trigger enforcement of Vicco's ordi-

nance, the mayor said. One landlord worried the ordinance would prevent her from evicting people who fail to pay rent. Cummings said he reassured her that she could evict them.

Similar ordinances have been enforced elsewhere in Kentucky, Hartman said. In Louisville and Lexington, the state's two largest cities, local officials investigate dozens of claims of discrimination each year based on a person's sexual orientation, he said.

Cummings plans to run for reelection as mayor next year. He said he doesn't expect gay rights to be much of an issue.

"There are certain churches and certain people that will never agree with it," Cummings said. "But in general, it's all been pretty calm."

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Pope seeks 'new balance' in approach to gays and lesbians

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Many Catholics rejoiced over Pope Francis' remarks that the Roman Catholic Church has become too focused on "small-minded rules" on issues such as homosexuality, abortion and contraception.

Francis, in an interview published in mid-September, said the church's focus on fighting marriage equality and reproductive freedoms was narrow and driving people away.

Francis said the church "cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods.... The teaching of the church, for that matter, is clear and I am a son of the church, but it is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time."

He also said, "Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of this person with

love, or reject and condemn this person? We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel."

That led Chad Griffin at the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group, to boldly assert that the pope had hit the reset button, "rolling back a years-long campaign at the highest levels of the church to oppose any measure of dignity or equality."

At Dignity, a national group of LGBT Catholics, executive director Marianne Duddy-Burke took heart: "We find much to be hopeful about, particularly in the pope's firm desire that the church be a 'home for all people' and his belief that God looks on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people with love rather than condemnation."

POPE next page

PHOTO: AP PHOTO/ANDREW MEDICHINI

Pope Francis waves to the crowd as he is driven through St. Peter's Square in September.

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POPE from prior page

However, the remarks, made during an interview for a Jesuit publication, did not change church doctrine or teachings and they sparked controversy, criticism and questions along with the praise.

"This will not bring me back to the church," said Jackie Cassidy of Madison, estranged from the Catholic Church since the mid-1990s, when she came out as gay. "It will take a lot more than kind and considerate comments. But I will tell you that my parents and grandparents have agonized over going to Mass. Their faith is deep, but it's been so hard for them. And I think that any moderation by the pope is a blessing after Benedict."

Cassidy said the pope's comments reminded her of her parents' remarks in the months after she came out two decades ago. "It seems like he's at stage two in a PFLAG process - acceptance by avoidance," she said. "But anyone who was ever reject-

ed because of their sexual orientation knows that's truly progress."

But what impact might Francis' views have on church teachings and policies?

"LGBT Catholics and allies will rejoice in the pope's call for church leaders to focus on being pastors rather than rule enforcers," said Duddy-Burke, expressing hope that U.S. bishops would "end their anti-LGBT campaigns, the firings of church workers for who they are, the attacks on people who challenge or question official teachings, and the exclusive and judgmental rhetoric that comes too often from our pulpits."

Griffin said, "At a moment when Pope Francis is re-dedicating the church to tirelessly helping the poor, it's unacceptable for American bishops to continue wasting millions of parishioner dollars on harmful anti-LGBT political campaigns that target members of their own flock. For the sake of LGBT Catholics, it's essential that Pope Francis' inspiring

words lead to transformative change throughout the church hierarchy."

There is hope but also the recognition that Francis was talking about Catholic tenets of mercy and tolerance and not necessarily doctrinal transformation.

And there was no indication that the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, which for years has led well-funded efforts at the national and state levels to prevent gays from marrying and, in some cases, parenting children, was headed for reform.

DOLAN'S SPIN

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the head of the conference,

said the pope's words were welcome, but he interpreted them to mean the church has to become smarter about dealing with the hot-button issues.

"He knows that his highest and most sacred responsibility is to pass on the timeless teaching of the church. What he's saying is, 'We've got to think of a bit more effective way to do it. Because if the church comes off as a scold, it's counterproductive,'" said the former archbishop of Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listeki was not available for comment, according to Julie Wolf, the director of communications for the

Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Meanwhile, the day after excerpts from Pope Francis' interview went viral, so did reports of Francis' remarks to Catholic doctors in which he denounced abortions as a symptom of a throw-away society and news that the church had excommunicated an Australian priest who supports the ordination of women and legalizing same-sex marriage.

"I think, now, we have a change in tone. Do I have faith there will be a sea change among church hierarchy? I just can't say," said Jason Rody, who attends Mass with his husband at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Church in Chicago's heavily gay Lakeview neighborhood. "But I like what I'm hearing. And I love my God."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

ON DEADLINE

As WiG went to press, Francis had convened the inaugural meeting of his eight cardinal advisers for three days of brainstorming on revamping the antiquated Vatican bureaucracy and other reforms. The meeting was taking place behind closed doors.

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{ Editorial }

Does your money support your values?

The golden rule for cooking pasta is 1½ teaspoons of salt, 3.5 ounces of pasta and a gallon of water, according to Barilla, the so-called pasta “choice of Italy.” Apparently, company chairman Guido Barilla likes to stir in some homophobia too.

Barilla, during a recent interview on Italian radio, said that he “would never do (a commercial) with a homosexual family, not for lack of respect but because we don’t agree with them. Ours is a classic family where the woman plays a fundamental role.”

He went on to say what was translated as, if gay people “like our pasta and our advertising, they’ll eat our pasta, if they don’t like it then they will not eat it and they will eat another brand.”

Oh, the things a homophobe can say to push tempers past the boiling point.

In the LGBT community in Italy and here at home in the United States, the focus quickly turned to circulating petitions on Change.org and a boycott of all-things Barilla – the dried pasta of various shapes in the familiar blue box, the microwavable meals, the marinara sauces and the trendy gluten-free products.

Barilla offered an apology to employees and customers that was placed prominently on the company website next to his photograph. He described his comments as “insensitive” and said, “I understand that they were hurtful and they are not a genuine view of my opinion.”

As a WiG reader, you probably were offended by Barilla’s remarks and perhaps you’re not accepting his quick apology and restocking your food pantry with the brand’s spicy marinara sauce and spaghetti.

We haven’t accepted the apology either, and we fundamentally disagree with the corporate chief and his narrow-minded ideas about family.

But before we head to the checkout counter to prove our loyalty to the cause, we ought to take stock of what it means to be progressives and consumers. We believe that it means going beyond rapid responses to headline news and shaming corporate executives until they offer their “sincerest apologies” for jeopardizing their bottom line.

As good progressives and consumers, we should research all the brands we purchase to make sure that we chose wisely. For instance, part of boycotting Barilla should involve looking into whether the brand seeking to capitalize on Barilla’s insensitivity is owned by a conglomerate with a history of discrimination complaints, union trouble and health and safety violations. Or whether it’s owned by a Big Food company heavily invested in a campaign to block labeling food for genetically-modified ingredients.

Money talks – and it speaks loudly. Instead of getting a self-satisfied rush out of participating in the latest boycott trend, we should all think about what our daily purchases are saying. We should put our values into the way we distribute our cash.

With the holiday shopping season around the corner, this is the time to investigate the corporate behavior of the companies you might support.

Refusing to buy Stoli, Chick-fil-A and Barilla won’t change the world. But if we all did our research and exercised mindfulness as consumers, we could have quite an impact.

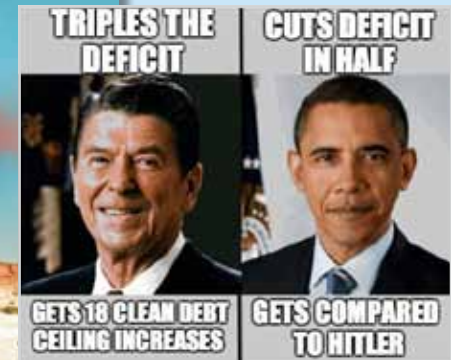
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ON THE RECORD



“This is a two-hander and, Matt, you’re only as good as your other hand. You want the bottom or the top?”

– Actor **MICHAEL DOUGLAS** accepting an Emmy for his portrayal of Liberace in “Behind the Candelabra.” Douglas was addressing co-star and fellow nominee Matt Damon, who portrayed Liberace’s lover. The HBO film also won top trophy in the “best movie or miniseries” category.

“(Chris) Abele should be drug tested. He has to be on heroin to be hallucinating with that wild proposal. He might go to bed at night dreaming about being a sheriff, but when he wakes up he’s the same vindictive little man that he was when he went to sleep.”

– Milwaukee County Sheriff **DAVID CLARKE** responding to Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele’s proposal to cut the sheriff’s budget. Clarke has become infamous nationwide for making outlandish public statements, including asking Milwaukee citizens to purchase guns and become vigilantes to help out his deputies.

“Some people, including the governor, say that the issue of whether same-sex couples should be afforded the same rights as everyone else in our state must be decided by the voters. I urge the reader to consider the following: The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863; The 19th Amendment (Women’s Suffrage) in 1920; the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – none of which were voted upon by the general electorate.”

– New Mexico Attorney General **GARY KING** saying that citizens should not be allowed to vote on each other’s civil rights. King is expected to run for governor next year.

“Hey WBC . . . I’ve got one more sin for ya . . . Blow me.”

– Country music star and “The Voice” mentor **BLAKE SHELTON** tweeting about Westboro Baptist Church, which threatened to picket his Oct. 3 concert in Kansas City over the singer’s divorce and subsequent marriage to fellow country star Miranda Lambert.

“We do not consider state rankings based on the coincident and leading indexes to be valid.”

– **PAUL FLORA**, senior economic analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, warning Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and others that they are misusing a monthly index produced by its top economists in order to trick Wisconsinites into believing the state’s economy ranks second in the nation. Reliable data puts the state’s economy near the bottom.

“I don’t talk about what I do with my vagina, and they’re all intrigued. I’ve never walked the carpet with anyone, so they wonder: What does she do with her vagina? Plus, I play a butchy girl all the time, so they assume I’m a lesbo. Eh, they’re not too far off. I’ve gone both ways. I do as I please. I am too f—ing curious to sit here and not try when I can. Men are intriguing. So are chicks.”

– Actor **MICHELE RODRIGUEZ** responding to a reporter from Entertainment Weekly who asked about her sexual orientation..

Sex-drenched but stupid

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

American culture is schizophrenic about sex: promiscuous and repressed; kinky and coy; salacious, insecure, hypocritical, clueless. We live in a sex-drenched culture that, paradoxically, is sex-stupid. No wonder everybody’s in a muddle.

You’d think the proliferation of sex manuals, sex therapists, sex videos, sex clubs, sex products, sex surrogates, sex drugs, phone and online sex, sex research and sex education would make us more informed and satisfied. A number of studies suggest that it just makes us more anxious and confused: Am I getting too little? Am I doing it too much? How can I tell her/him what I want? Am I too vanilla? Too kinky? What’s wrong with me!

Our pop culture both reflects and feeds this confusion, presenting shallow and

perverse but rarely thoughtful views of sex.

There’s the sophomoric depiction of sex in American films, pegged to the hormones of 14-year-old boys, and its opposite extreme. Most sex on screen is either played for cheap laughs (40-year-old virgins, snickering over nudity) or as a prelude to mutilation and murder sprees (slasher and serial killer movies, torture porn).

Nearly absent in movies are passionate, loving, playful sex and lovemaking by middle-aged and older characters. The last major film I saw with hot and honest sex was “Brokeback Mountain” eight years ago. Last year’s “The Sessions” was a rarity. The whole movie was about sex and dealt with a man’s sexual challenges bluntly, intelligently and entertainingly. It was revolutionary, too, in showing a severely disabled person with sexual desires who was also desirable.

Especially disturbing to me

is the predominance of rape on TV. It’s apparently more acceptable to rape and brutalize women than to show them being loved and loving others. While censorship of nudity and sex has relaxed, censors turn a blind eye to ever more exploitive depictions of sexual violence against women.

Sex has always been part of pop and rock music, but it reached its nadir with the Miley Cyrus twerking episode at the MTV Awards. The constant stripping, bumping and grinding, shaking of boobs and booties and S&M scenes that our pop divas act out moved long ago from “edgy” to tedious. Have we run out of fresh approaches to sex and desire? And why do I hear Peggy Lee singing “Is that all there is?”

Standards of physical beauty and sexual allure purveyed by the advertising, fashion and entertainment industries are attained by few while making most of us feel hopelessly inadequate. The pres-

sure on gay men to live up to a buff, youthful, flawless ideal is particularly damaging. Astute marketers make billions exploiting these vulnerabilities, promising that makeovers, therapy, drugs, surgery, 24-hour gyms, fad diets and large inventories of sex toys or porn will bring fulfillment.

How can anyone locate their authentic sexual self amid this clutter and hype?

Rationing your intake of popular media helps to avoid stupid messaging. It’s important to develop the courage to say “no” to things that don’t feel right, to discover and embrace those that do, and to ignore any ridicule that denies your reality.

Sexuality is dynamic and a lifetime learning experience. Many only achieve clarity and contentment through decades of trial and error. My own catalog of sexual misadventures is like an R-rated, long-running lesbian version of “I Love Lucy.”

I’ll explore these issues further in future columns.

When schools get things dead wrong

Opinion

KATIE BELANGER

“Valentine Road,” a heart-breaking and disturbing documentary screened at the Milwaukee Film Fest, explores eighth-grader Brandon McInerney’s 2008 slaying of fellow classmate Letisha King at EO Green Junior High School in Oxnard, Calif.

Still exploring her sexuality and her gender at the age of 14, Letisha hadn’t openly identified as transgender at the time of her death. The filmmaker, interviewees and the media continue to refer to her as Larry King and use male pronouns, but I am going to refer to her as she requested in her last days.

First-time director Marta Cunningham did more than recount the circumstances surrounding King’s murder. She explored the histories of both kids, their family situations and the myriad ways in which the school district mismanaged nearly every-

thing it possibly could.

King was placed in an “independent educational program” that sought to end her “deviant behavior” in accessorizing her school uniform with make-up and jewelry. Immediately following the shooting, King’s classmates were ushered into a separate classroom and forced to watch “Jaws” while police conducted their investigation. The one teacher who supported King’s gender expression was terminated and blamed for her death.

This screening also provided the opportunity to engage as a community during a discussion panel following the film. Loree Cook-Daniels and Michael Munson from the Alliance School and Syd Robinson from the ACLU participated in the panel, moderated by Mitch Teich from WUWM’s Lake Effect. It was a thoughtful community dialogue sponsored by Cream City Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Panelists and attendees struggled to articulate how

the director’s portrayal of both King and McInerney as victims of a broken system and childhood trauma affected them.

It was a difficult process to witness the deconstruction of both victim and perpetrator. Listening to jurors in McInerney’s first trial express their belief that King’s murder was NOT a hate crime was certainly one of the most unsettling experiences. Though it is difficult to understand how someone would not view the murder of a youth simply because of gender expression and sexual orientation as a hate crime, it is a conversation that I’m sure is not uncommon.

Nor is it unique to Oxnard. Last week, Jason Morgan, a UW-Madison teaching assistant, wrote an open letter to the history department following its mandatory diversity training that explored racism and supporting transgender students.

Morgan wrote, “It is most certainly not my job, though, to cheer along anyone, student or otherwise, in their

psychological confusion. I am not in graduate school to learn how to encourage poor souls in their sexual experimentation.... Everyone is welcome in my classroom, but, whether directly or indirectly, I will not implicate myself in my students’ fetishes, whatever those might be. What they do on their own time is their business; I will not be a party to it.”

Morgan’s frustration with the trainings, which he refers to as “intellectual tyranny” and his characterization of transgender and gender-queer students’ identity as a “fetish,” demonstrate exactly why these diversity trainings are so critically important. As a UW-Madison alum, I am exceedingly proud of my alma mater.

Perhaps if King and McInerney’s teachers were taught the difference between a fetish and the expression of gender identity – if they were given the tools and support to create a truly inclusive school – we would have one less tragedy to mourn.

Clinic is helping men rediscover their groove

Health

LOUIS WEISBERG

Men talk about sex a lot and think about it even more. But researchers have found they engage in sex far less often than their level of interest suggests.

One reason is they simply can't do it. You might say their minds are willing but their flesh is weak. So weak that Viagra and other erectile dysfunction drugs are among the best-selling in history.

Many factors underlie this flaccid situation, according to experts. For one thing, the brain is indeed the body's largest sex organ. And men's brains are bombarded with conflicting messages about sex.

"Young men find it hard to understand when their body is telling them to enjoy (their penis), but their parents or their church or the people around them are telling them it's wrong," said Scott Story, a Janesville-based sex "mentor."

Story and his wife are raising their children to feel comfortable with their bodies, he said. Clothing is optional in his home. A recent family dinner conversation, he told me, focused on the volume of male ejaculate.

Story's clients include a lot of gay and lesbian couples trying to save relationships that have been driven to the brink due to one partner's lack of sexual interest, he said. For LGBT people, sex is especially fraught with psychological complications.



PHOTO: ISTOCK

HARD - TO - TAKE MEDICINE: For many men, pills to treat erectile dysfunction have unacceptable side effects or prove ineffective. A first-of-its-kind clinic in Wisconsin offers a more successful alternative.

In addition to all the ordinary stressors that adversely affect sexual interest and performance – work stress, relationship problems, money issues, depression, poor body images, etc. – gays often are raised to believe their sexual feelings are abnormal and sinful.

Having a healthy sexual experience while your super-ego mind is shrieking, "Shame on you, pervert," is not a cakewalk, say therapists who work with the LGBT community. The subconscious shame that's chiseled into

many LGBT people's brains during childhood is considered the leading factor behind high suicide, drug abuse and alcoholism rates in the community.

Ironically, another factor underlying sexual dysfunction is the pervasiveness of Internet porn – a multibillion-dollar worldwide industry, (Interestingly, Elmhurst, Ill., is the nation's top city for porn searches, Sunday is porn's busiest day online and Utah has the highest online porn subscription rate.)

One of the effects of all

this porn consumption is that people are becoming increasingly insecure about their bodies and sexual capabilities, Story said. This is particularly true for young people, who are learning about sex from porn sites. They believe that the sculpted bodies, gymnastic copulations and copious ejaculations they see online are normal.

With constant exposure to porn star sex and porn star bodies, young and old people alike are sometimes crippled with the fear of disappointing their partners. For

men, this can cause impotence, which leads to depression and relationship problems, which results in more impotence, said Dr. Chris Asandra, a practicing partner at NuMale Medical Center in Wauwatosa. Men caught in this loop wind up feeling woefully inadequate.

For many men, there's nothing more embarrassing than a limp penis during a sexual encounter. An erect penis is the symbol of masculinity and strength, and "men in general, gay or straight, have difficulty dealing with anything that can reflect (negatively) on their sense of masculinity," said John Meier, a Milwaukee counselor with a large gay clientele.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Besides all the psychological factors limiting men's sexual pleasure, there are many physical causes for ED, including aging, declining testosterone levels, nutritional deficiencies and an epidemic of modern illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure. But even when ED doesn't begin as a physical problem, it can become one, according to Asandra.

The penis is like a muscle, he explained. Blood vessels run along both sides of the penis. Sexual stimulation causes those vessels to engorge, flooding the surrounding spongy tissue to create an erection.

Like a muscle, the penis requires exercise or it loses its ability to function. After long periods of inactivity, it atrophies. Asandra explained during a recent visit to his clinic.

At NuMale, doctors

restore the penis to full functionality by giving men a chance to exercise it. Their first step is to administer vasodilators – drugs that relax smooth tissue, causing arteries to open and allow blood to flow in – directly to the base of the penis. Because the procedure is so precisely targeted, it succeeds more than 95 percent of the time.

Although urologists have been using vasodilators to induce erections for at least a decade, NuMale has taken the treatment to a new level. Asandra demonstrated the treatment on a patient who asked not to be identified by name.

The treatment began with an assessment of blood flow to the penis using an ultrasound device. A loud whooshing sound and a strong pulse indicate healthy bloodflow.

The patient, a gay man over 60 we'll call Peter, had audibly healthy blood flow on the right side of his penis. But the blood flow on his left side sounded faint. No wonder he hadn't had a strong erection in well over a year, he said.

After confirming that blood flow was a problem for the patient, Asandra took a detailed patient history and went over the list of medications Peter takes on a regular basis. He said he would use the information, along with the result of the ultrasound test, to determine which vasodilators to use on Peter and at what dosage.

GOING UP

The treatment was handled in a friendly and supportive but thoroughly clinical manner. Asandra quickly put the patient at ease, and soon we were chatting about Peter's Johnson as if it were a separate object.

But "This is very serious medically and not something to be taken lightly," Asandra stressed. "A lot of people say the penis is the window to the body. If you're having trouble getting blood flow down there, it usually signals something else is wrong in the body. It could be bad circulation, diabetes, even heart

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ED next page

ED from prior page disease.”

Not using the penis only adds additional health problems, he added.

“The more you have sex and the more you ejaculate, the more you lower your (chances) of getting prostate cancer,” he said. “You keep your sperm and testosterone levels at a healthier level than if you ignore your penis.”

Ultimately, Asandra believes that men should exercise their penises three or four times a week – “the same as going to a gym,” he said.

TARGETED TREATMENT

Asandra left the room and returned with a concoction of vasodilators specifically chosen for Peter’s age, weight, medical history, and level of dysfunction, he said. He also brought a device that looked similar to an insulin pen. Asandra called it a “micro-applicator.”

“This is not going to hurt,” he promised Peter, who looked a bit scared. “What you’ll feel is like a thunk.”

Peter braced himself for the application, which took a few seconds. But afterward, he was beaming. “It really didn’t hurt,” he said. “It felt exactly like a thunk.”

Peter was told to massage the medicine into his shaft. A few minutes later, he was fully erect and looking awfully pleased.

Peter’s erection lasted 55 minutes, within the 45 minutes to an hour target time that the doctor was shooting for.

In addition to having a higher success rate than ED drugs, physically administered vasodilators have fewer side effects. That’s because the active ingredient in pills circulates throughout the entire body. Because they’re systemic rather than targeted, ED pills affect different areas of the body in different ways that are unique to each individual. Viagra, for instance, can cause headaches, changes in vision that make everything appear bluish and nasal congestion.

A potential side effect from NuMale’s treatment is priapism – a prolonged, painful and potentially dangerous erection. That’s why patients must initially try the medica-



PHOTO: COURTESY

USE IT OR LOSE IT: Dr. Chris Asandra of NuMale Medical says the penis is like a muscle – if you don’t exercise it regularly, it atrophies.

tion in the doctor’s office. Asandra has to ascertain that the erection lasts no longer than desired. An antidote is on hand if the formulation proves too strong.

Once the right dose for the patient has been established, the patient receives an instruction session and a kit to take home, so he can use the therapy at leisure. The applicator is inconspicuous and simple enough to use without detection.

The equipment comes with a 24/7 hotline that provides users of the product support by phone in case questions arise. The cost per treatment is lower than that of Viagra. But, because it’s not mass-produced but rather formulated according to each individual’s unique situation, it’s sold in larger quantities than pills.

Peter purchased a year’s worth, based on a usage rate of three times weekly. Using the product two days in a row is not recommended.

RECOVERY

Asandra said NuMale’s treatment actually cures ED. Regular use returns normal blood flow to the penis, along with increasing its size and girth, he said – and he should know. Asandra said he’s seen patients whose penises have shriveled to mere nubs after decades of neglect.

“I’ve always been interested in men’s health and

vitality, and I wanted to offer a place where men could come to talk about and share their sexual health problems and dysfunction,” Asandra said. “A lot of guys don’t talk to their primary doctors about it. And when they do, they’re just given pills and told, ‘Good luck.’ This treats the condition therapeutically rather than just putting a Band-Aid on it.”

Asandra added: “Nothing is more gratifying to me than when a patient (in an unraveling relationship) says, ‘Doc you’ve restored my relationship and rekindled something we’d lost 20 years ago.’”

Although the majority of Asandra’s patients are in their 50s and 60s, they range in age from their early 20s to 94. His 94-year-old patient has intercourse with his 87-year-old wife twice weekly, thanks to the vasodilators.

“It really only takes about six months to cure ED,” said NuMale president Brad Palubicki. “The vast majority of patients will even say they got their size back.”

“The ultimate goal is penile regeneration,” he said. “It’s a size thing, a confidence thing, a relationship builder. Most people come in either because their wife or boyfriend made them. They want them to engage in sexual activity.”

“The use of this is primarily to save relationships,” Palubicki emphasized.

He said that besides helping men achieve erections, the treatment also helps them achieve orgasm.

“A lot of patients can still get an erection but they can’t have an organism because they’re not hard enough to climax,” he explained. “They go home and use this for the first time, and because they’re hard they have a climax. The phone calls (of gratitude) we get are pretty amazing.”

Palubicki acknowledged that not every patient suffers from ED or is in a relationship. Some men seek the service simply because they’re able to have “mind-blowing” sex with the boost they get.

In a world where everyone is supposed to look like – and have the endurance of – a porn star, vasodilators are apparently able to fulfill at least one of those goals.

Editor’s note: NuMale is a Wisconsin Gazette advertiser.

ON THE WEB

For more, go to numale.com.

Hot off the press: ‘Perv’

“Perv: The Sexual Deviant in All of Us” is about reclaiming the word and getting past condemning what we don’t understand or find disgusting. By chapter two, “Damn Dirty Apes,” a reader might feel free to be seen reading the book on the bus ride from work or at a Colectivo Coffee shop.

Bering – also the author of “Why is the Penis Shaped Like That?” – is the former director of the Institute of Cognition and Culture at Queen’s University in Belfast. He’s a frequent contributor to Slate and Scientific American.

As Bering argues in “Perv,” which comes out on Oct. 8 from Scientific American/Farrar Straus Giroux, we have a moral obligation, in the absence of harm, to recognize that the subjectivity “of sex makes it a matter of private governance.”

Exploring paraphilias ranging from actirasty (the sun’s rays) to zoophilia

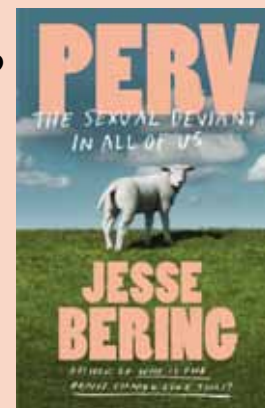


Image: Scientific American/Farrar Straus Giroux

The cover of “Perv: The Sexual Deviant in All of Us” by Jesse Bering.

(nonhuman animals), Bering contends there’s a spectrum of perversion and we all sit, stand or lie somewhere on the scale.

He writes with authority about science, politics, psychology and history, but the author also has a lot of fun in this illuminating, engrossing, kinky hardcover.

Consider just the dedication: “For you, you pervert, you.”

– L.N.

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Wisconsin scores C-minus in 'State of Women'

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Wisconsin's rating in a new analysis on "The State of Women in America" is no better than Gov. Scott Walker's college grades. The state received a C-minus and ranks No. 29 in the study released on Sept. 25.

The report from the Center for American Progress deals with issues such as economic security, leadership and health care. It looks at progress and setbacks in all 50 states.

On economic security, researchers looked at the earnings of women and men, minimum wage standards, poverty rates, paid family leave and sick leave laws, disability insurance laws and pre-K opportunities for children in each state.

On leadership, the researchers looked at the

numbers of women in public office and management positions, among other criteria.

In terms of health, researchers looked at recent legislation on reproductive care and limits on abortions, contraception policy, the numbers of uninsured women, Medicaid expansion policies, infant mortality rates, maternal mortality rates and the number of women for every ob/gyn in the state.

In terms of health care, Wisconsin ranked No. 33, with a D-minus. Its economic ranking was 29 and a C-minus. Its leadership ranking was No. 28 and a C-minus.

In the overall ranking, Maryland scored best, followed by Hawaii, Vermont, California, Delaware, Connecticut, Colorado, New York, New Jersey and Wash-

ington to create the Top 10.

Louisiana came in at No. 50. The Bottom 10 included Utah, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, South Dakota, Indiana, Georgia and Tennessee.

In a close-up analysis, the researchers noted:

- In Vermont, women make on average close to 85 cents for every dollar a man makes. Women in Wyoming make 65 cents for every dollar a man earns.

- The wage gap in Wisconsin shows women, on average, making 78 cents for the dollar a man makes. African-American women in the state earn 65 cents and Hispanic women earn 53 cents for each dollar made by a male.

- Fifteen states have no women representatives in the U.S. House or Senate.

- Less than 10 percent

of women in Vermont are uninsured, but 26 percent of women in Texas lack health care coverage.

- More than 22 percent of women in Louisiana live at the poverty level. The percentage of women living in poverty in Maryland is 11 percent.

- About 58 percent of those who would benefit from increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 in Wisconsin are women.

The analysis estimates that 368,000 women would benefit.

"While women have come a long way over the past few decades, much remains to be done to ensure that all women can have a fair shot at success," said Anna Chu, one of the report's authors. "In many states, it is still difficult for women and their families to get ahead, instead of just

getting by."

The Center for American Progress published the paper. In mid-September, it partnered with American Women, Planned Parenthood Action Fund and the Service Employees International Union to launch "Fair Shot," a campaign to promote policies that improve economic security, leadership opportunities and health care for women.

The campaign launched at a forum featuring White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, MSNBC commentator Karen Finney, SEIU president Mary Kay Henry, National Partnership for Women & Families senior adviser Judith Lichtman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund president Cecile Richards and Spelman College president Beverly Daniel

In overall ranking, Maryland scored best, then Hawaii, Vermont, California and Delaware

Tatum.

Pelosi said the campaign is about "how we value the work of women. It's paycheck fairness, paid leave and having quality, affordable child care. These are steps, not everything, but important steps to helping women and families find a sense of economic security."

HEALTH BRIEFS

HOPEFUL LESBIAN MOMS MEET UP IN MIAMI BEACH

Dozens of women gathered in Miami Beach, Fla., in late September for the annual Gay Women's Gathering and to learn about getting pregnant using methods not taught in their high school sex education classes.

The forum on Sept. 26 at the LGBT Visitor Center in Miami Beach dealt with selecting a sperm donor, deciding whether to get pregnant at home or a doctor's office, and addressing legal concerns before pregnancy.

Ken Meseian, executive director of The American Fertility Association, said the forum – the fourth in a national series of gatherings for lesbians thinking about having children – featured "a top-rate, knowledgeable team of presenters."

Scott Brown, of California Cryobank, said, "Finding a sperm donor, selecting an insemination procedure and protecting both parents' legal rights can all have significant, long-term financial, medical and emotional impact on a lesbian family."

In other health news ...

- **Stand Up to Cancer and the Farrah Fawcett Foundation** are investing \$1 million over three years into research on human papillomavirus-related cancers. HPV is believed to be responsible for virtually all cervical cancers and many anal, vaginal, vulvar, penile and oropharyngeal cancers.

- **Harris Interactive** recently asked Americans, "What is the perfect age?" and found that the answer, on average, is 50.

In a similar poll that Harris Interactive conducted 10 years ago, the answer was 41. Men generally say the perfect age is 47 and women say 53.

- **A national survey of women** who use contraception found that 62 percent would prefer a non-hormonal contraceptive ring over hormonal methods currently available. Major organizations, including the Public Health Institute, recently called for making non-hormonal options for contraception a priority, given their

potential for fewer side effects.

- **U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials** say they'll begin regulating a new wave of applications and gadgets that work with smartphones to take medical readings and help users monitor their health. The FDA said it would focus on apps that turn smartphones into devices such as heart monitors and medical attachments that plug into smartphones, such as arm cuffs that measure blood pressure.

- **Wisconsin Counties Association** recently passed a resolution reaffirming its longstanding position that the state should accept federal money to pay for expanding Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act. More than a dozen counties in Wisconsin also have adopted resolutions opposing Gov. Scott Walker's budget, which rejects a federally funded Medicaid expansion.

- **Planned Parenthood Federation of America's chat/text program** reached 32,589 young people with critical information about sex and health "in moments of intense worry when they were in need of fast, confidential help." That's according to a study published Sept. 20 in the "Journal of Medical Internet Research." The program reached substantial numbers of African-American and Latino youth and was successful in reducing worry, particularly among teens 17 and younger and Latino users.



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— LN.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

WISCONSIN HIGH COURT TO HEAR REGISTRY CASE IN OCTOBER

The Wisconsin Supreme Court will hear arguments this month in a challenge to the state's domestic partner registry.

Members of the right-wing group Wisconsin Family Action filed a lawsuit in 2010 alleging the registry violates a 2006 state constitutional amendment barring gay marriage and anything similar.

But defenders of the registry maintain that it offers no where near the rights, benefits and respect of legalized marriage.

A state appeals court upheld the registry in December, saying married couples have more rights than same-sex couples on the registry.

The Supreme Court announced in June it would take the case.

The justices have set oral arguments for Oct. 23.

MILWAUKEE COUNCIL APPROVES RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RUSSIA'S PERSECUTION OF LGBT CITIZENS

The Milwaukee Common Council on Sept. 24 approved a resolution that condemns the persecution of LGBT Russians and calls on the nation's leaders to repeal anti-gay laws.

"Russian lawmakers crossed the line a long time ago with their infringements on the rights and freedoms of the country's LGBT population," said the resolution's primary sponsor, Ald. Tony Zielinski. "But it's even more alarming that these Draconian laws could allow Russian officials to detain and prosecute gay people and their allies who are visiting from other countries. The international community must come together as one against these abuses."

Earlier this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed legislation that allows police to arrest people – citizens and visitors – who publicly support the right of LGBT citizens to live free from discrimination.

Putin also signed a law banning the adoption of Russian-born children to gay couples and to any couple or single parent living in a

country where marriage equality exists.

The resolution, co-sponsored by Nik Kovac, José G. Pérez and Robert Bauman, says Milwaukee has a long-standing commitment to fighting discrimination.

With committee approval in mid-September, the resolution went to the full council on Sept. 24 and was approved.

In other regional news ...


• **Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan**, the former Republican vice presidential nominee, is headed to New Hampshire, a key state for those courting early presidential primary voters. The visit marks Ryan's first to the Granite State since he campaigned there as Mitt Romney's unsuccessful running mate. A handful of prospective 2016 Republican presidential contenders – Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, among them – have already visited the state, which traditionally hosts the nation's first presidential primary.

• **Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie**, the second-ranking Democrat in the Illinois House, says the debate over same-sex marriage "now has an economic component that we cannot ignore." Currie sent a letter to all Illinois House members saying it's time to approve legislation legalizing same-sex marriage. She noted an effort by the Minneapolis mayor to entice same-sex couples to get married in Minnesota.

• **Caribou Coffee** in Northbrook, Ill., caused a stir by removing a window display created by Glenbrook North High School's Gay-Straight Alliance. The store manager said workers had been ordered to erase the rainbow from windows because Caribou does not want to be perceived as taking a stance in favor of LGBT social equality and ending anti-gay bullying in schools – the primary messages promoted by GSAs.

– LN. and L.W.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



IMAGE: COURTESY

NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL: Jason Rae, executive director of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, and Paul Fairchild, Cream City Foundation executive director, participate in a White House briefing on the Affordable Care Act and other health issues.

WISCONSIN LGBT CHAMBER MARKS ANNIVERSARY, SIGNS 100TH MEMBER

The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated its one-year anniversary by announcing the addition of its 100th member.

MillerCoors has joined the rapidly growing group as a platinum founding member.

Over the past year, the chamber has been reaching out to businesses statewide, hosting 20 events in seven communities, including Milwaukee, Green Bay, Madison, La Crosse, Racine, Appleton and Stevens Point.

The chamber also participated in two White House briefings within the past year.

"It's special to reach 100 members within a year, and it is even more meaningful to do it with a legendary Wisconsin company like MillerCoors," said Jason Rae, executive director of the Wisconsin chamber.

Community and political leaders praised both the cham-

ber and MillerCoors.

"The chamber's growth and success as an organization shows that businesses all across the state are embracing equality and inclusivity in the workplace," said state Rep. Evan Goyke in a congratulatory email. "Their goal of promoting economic opportunity for the LGBT community, and all people, is one that I share."

Wisconsin Senate Democratic Leader Chris Larson said, "By taking this step forward, MillerCoors is signaling to our community that, like a growing number of businesses, it will continue to promote the shared Wisconsin values of diversity, equality and fairness."

Meanwhile, the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is warning corporations worldwide that are sponsoring the International Olympic Committee or the Winter Olympics that there may be ramifications if there's violence against LGBT athletes and attendees at the 2014 Sochi Games in Russia. The organization is urging sponsors to push the IOC to ensure the safety of LGBT athletes and spectators. For more, go online to www.nglcc.org.

AIDS WALK INCLUDES 5-K RUN

For the first time ever, AIDS Walk Wisconsin, set to take place on Milwaukee's lakefront on Oct. 5, will include a 5-K run.

"The fight against AIDS in Wisconsin needs as many allies as possible," says Dan Mueller, chief development officer for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, the organization that produces AIDS Walk Wisconsin. "By adding the run, we are introducing another way for people who support creating a world without AIDS to get involved."

AIDS Walk Wisconsin is the state's largest AIDS fundraiser and has raised \$11.1 million over the past 23 years.

Proceeds support HIV prevention, care and treatment services, including those offered by the ARCW Medical Center, which is Wisconsin's largest provider of medical, dental and mental health care to people living with HIV.

The run will begin and end at the Summerfest Grounds, following a route that will take runners past Discovery World, Milwaukee Art Museum and McKinley Marina. The run begins at 12:30 p.m., and the walk shortly after.

In Wisconsin, 6,549 people have been diagnosed with HIV. Additionally, there are about 1,700 people in Wisconsin who have HIV but do not know it because they have not been tested.

For more, go to www.aidswalkwis.org.

FREEDOM TO MARRY WANTS MORE MAYORS TO SAY 'I DO'

The Freedom to Marry Campaign is enlisting citizens in the effort to encourage mayors to join a broad-based and

nonpartisan group of municipal leaders in backing marriage equality.

To find out if the mayor of a city supports the freedom to marry, go to the Freedom to Marry website, which also contains information on how to nudge a mayor to join the campaign.

In Wisconsin, mayors committed to marriage equality include Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Bayfield's Larry MacDonald and Madison's Paul Soglin.

There are petitions on the FTM site asking Racine Mayor John Dickert, Appleton's Timothy Hanna, Kenosha's Keith Boseman, West Allis' Dan Devine and Green Bay's James Schmitt to join the equality drive.

For more, go online to www.freedomtomarry.org.

In other community news ...

- **Fair Wisconsin** is planning two major events in Madison – Flip Out For Fairness at Plan B on Nov. 8 and the annual holiday auction at the Madison Club on Dec. 11. For more, go online to fairwisconsin.com.
- **Activists nationwide** are promoting Food Day, a campaign on Oct. 24 to promote healthy, affordable and sustainably produced food. For more, go to foodday.org.
- **Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** presents the Big Night Out Cabaret on Oct. 11 in the Woodland Dreams Ballroom at Potawatomi. Tickets start at \$100 for the event, which features dinner, raffles, a silent auction and comedy, song, dance, drama and more. For more, call 414-915-1995.
- **Supporters of Money Out, Voters In** are asking people to join a rally at the Capitol in Madison at 11 a.m. on Oct. 8, for approval of Assembly Joint Resolution 50. The resolution would authorize a referendum on the November 2014 ballot on whether Congress should amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn Citizens United. In that ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that corporations are people and unleashed unlimited election spending by special interest groups. For more, go to www.facebook.com/events/612867685431079.

– L.N. and L.W.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS: Send community announcements to lmneff@wisconsinngazette.com.

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Filibusters adds novel gay venue to Sheboygan's waterfront



IMAGE: COURTESY

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: Filibusters is a new gay bar in Sheboygan, 50 miles north of Milwaukee on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Jeff Weinsrott is looking for a few good bartenders to mix libations and make customers at Filibusters, Sheboygan's newest nightspot, feel at home. Candidates must have a good sense of humor and demonstrate capable mixology skills.

"I'm always looking for competent bartenders," says Weinsrott, who with business partner Dan Senglaub, owns the enterprise housed in what was once a brothel located on Sheboygan's waterfront. "Anyone interested should feel free to contact me at the bar."

Filibusters isn't the only gay bar in Sheboygan, an indus-

trial city of about 50,000 people located 50 miles north of Milwaukee on the Lake Michigan shoreline. But with an entryway flanked by both American and rainbow flags, Filibusters makes a bold statement of its intentions in a way Weinsrott hopes will be welcoming to the entire community.

"Our motto at the bar is, 'We are straight-friendly,'" Weinsrott says. "We should all be able to coexist and we will strive to make a positive impression on today's society so we can all just get along."

Both partners have backgrounds in the hospitality industry, although each has taken the long way around before arriving at their cur-

rent roles.

Weinsrott, a Fond du Lac native who has lived in Sheboygan for 24 years, comes from a bar-owning family. But he also is a certified occupational therapist assistant who works on an as-needed basis and alternates those duties with his role in managing Filibusters. Weinsrott and his domestic partner Jim Junge live near the bar.

Senglaub studied hospitality and tourism at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, where Weinsrott also studied. But he was as an over-the-road truck driver and oil field worker and spent 15 years in Salt Lake City before returning to his native Sheboygan last year

Despite its colorful history and quaint exterior, much of the original space was gutted, enabling the partners to redesign it from the ground up.

after his longtime domestic partner died of brain cancer.

Weinsrott manages the business when Senglaub is on the road, and the pair is currently seeking a third business partner.

Filibusters is housed in a vintage 1860 building across the Sheboygan River from the mammoth Blue Harbor Resort and Spa, one of several hotels within walking distance. Despite its colorful history and quaint exterior, much of the original space was gutted, enabling the partners to redesign it from the ground up.

With its unique copper turret, the building is a Sheboygan landmark that retains so much charm that

the owners are turning the second floor into a bed and breakfast. They plan to open the space to guests as early as next spring. That's when the advantage of Filibusters' location will really come into play, Weinsrott adds.

"I'd have to say the views are breathtaking from the upstairs and the balconies," Weinsrott says. "We also have a spectacular view of Sheboygan's riverfront and harbor directly from the bar."

A comfortable lounge that transforms into La Cage aux Folles after dark, Filibusters has all the basic bar amenities, including a well-fed happy hour crowd and a full selection of cocktails, wines and craft beers. A state-of-the-art dance floor and sound system, a karaoke machine, DJs, an "incredible" light show and progressive slot machines round out the entertainment options.

The name Filibusters, which originated as a suggestion on Facebook, marks the pair's interest in politics. Weinsrott says they would one day like to host local political debates in the bar room. The owners' contrary political orientations should make the debate lively.

"I am the yin to Dan's yang," says Weinsrott, who describes himself as a left-wing liberal Democrat. "Dan says he is independent, but sat in at a Log Cabin Republican meeting here at the bar so it's hard to say about him. But together we make

it work."

Filibusters also contributes to an environment that its owners and other business people would like to think makes Sheboygan a tourism destination growing in popularity. Anchored by the Blue Harbor Resort, the south harbor district has an increasing number of specialty shops, gourmet restaurants and night spots, both gay and straight.

Sheboygan's other gay bar is The Blue Lite, located several block away. Weinsrott believes there is ample opportunity to contribute to the growing revitalization of the city's downtown as well as strengthen the role played by the LGBT community in that revitalization.

"I hope that Sheboygan will become the Saugatuck of Wisconsin," Weinsrott says. "Sheboygan has always had a strong gay community, and I would encourage other gay businesses to consider moving (here). It's a very old town with a lot of charm."

GETTING THERE

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WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

The man behind the fest

Carl Bogner talks about this year's Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

As the out director of the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, Carl Bogner has his finger on the pulse of queer cinema. Thanks to his encyclopedic cinematic knowledge, his impeccable taste and his industry connections, Bogner brings the best to Milwaukee, making the city's festival one of the nation's very best of its kind.

For this year's festival, as for the past 15, Bogner has fashioned a lineup featuring something for everyone – from documentaries to short features to full-length comedies and dramas.

In addition to directing the festival, Bogner is a senior lecturer at UWM's Peck School of the Arts. I spoke with him about the upcoming Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, his efforts to help develop the filmmakers of the future – and more.

Gregg Shapiro: Are you a Milwaukee native?

Carl Bogner: Technically. I was born here. My father was a soil conservation engineer for the Department of Agriculture here (in Milwaukee). Before I was two, we moved to suburban Philadelphia and then on to suburban Washington, D.C. I went to high school and college in Virginia (at the University of Virginia, where he received a degree in writing; later, Bogner attended UWM, where he earned a BFA in film).

What do you like best about teaching?

The thinking (laughs). I teach this experimental media class. It's a real pleasure to get to, on a regular basis, meet forms

Bogner has his hands on the pulse of queer cinema, as well as an encyclopedic knowledge.

and artistic ideas that I find pleasurable to engage with. Learning how to communicate them to a new audience allows me opportunities to consider them or new things about them. Teaching is constantly introducing me to new ideas, new histories, new forms and new students. The interaction with students can be stirring. There's a lot I can learn from ... how they engage with these experimental forms. The best thing about teaching is the shared intellectual work that I'm doing with the students. I get to contend with ideas and art forms.

What is involved in the process of selecting film and video titles for the festival?

Because the (administration of the) festival is mostly me, I do have help programming our shorts programs, which in many ways are kind of like their own festival. Each shorts program will contain maybe nine or more short films, and we have three shorts programs. I do have a very able director of shorts programming who works with a committee to review the shorts entries, which are more numerous

than what we have (for) the rest of the festival. (In terms of the full-length films), I look to see what is playing elsewhere, using other film festivals as my programming committee, if you will. Throughout the year, looking at things that played at Sundance, Berlin, and (also) at the things showcased at the prominent LGBT film and video festivals, starting with London in March, then Miami and Boston in May, and San Francisco, Los Angeles and Philadelphia in June and July. Probably a lot of the titles I learned about through those festivals but then also there's stuff that you listen for and look for. This year, I'm thrilled that we're showing this Philippine film called "Bwakaw." It played at last year's New York Film Festival. I keep my ears open to stuff. I read publications and look online, working to keep abreast of what's out there.

Is Milwaukee or Wisconsin represented in any of this year's screenings?

I don't have any set in Wisconsin. We do have some local talent. The film "Valencia: The Movie/S" is sort of our Wisconsin corner. One of the contributing directors to the film, Jill Soloway, went to UW-Madison. One of the actresses playing the lead character of Michelle (Tea) is Shawna Lipton, a Ph.D. candidate in the English department at UWM.

Which films in this year's lineup especially excite you?

It's tough, given that my fingerprints are on every

feature-length work we are presenting. I don't have any that I'm not excited about. I did mention the Philippine film "Bwakaw," which I'm very fond of. I know in part it's because I'm a dog person – one of those weird people who doesn't own a dog but throws themselves on other people's dogs. The film was a very touching and, I think, very funny film, about a man in his 70s who waited until he was in his 60s to come out as gay. He finds himself at the end of his life sort of wondering about the loneliness that he probably helped sustain. His closest relationship is with this stray dog that he befriends. But it's also a portrait of rural village life in the Philippines, and ... a lot of the comedy comes from in way that this cranky old man interacts with people. It's also something of a tearjerker. Another film I'm excited about, which is also a challenging film, is "Stranger by the Lake," directed by Alain Guiraudie. At Cannes, it won the Queer Palm. It's something of an experimental thriller that takes place in one location – a lakeside park where men cruise each other for sex. It has a sort of observational tone. I think it's a successful film about cruising, in that a lot of it is about waiting and expectations, both thwarted and rewarded. A significant time



PHOTO: COURTESY

"Bwakaw," a film from the Philippines about a gay man who comes out in his 60s and his pooch, is one of Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival director Carl Bogner's favorite selections in this year's line-up.

into the film one of the men witnesses another man committing an act of violence, and the movie gradually become something of a thriller. I found it really fascinating watching this director making the choices he does.

Outside of the film festival, do you have a favorite LGBT doc?

One of my first favorites was "The Times of Harvey Milk." Another film that's really important to me is Marlon Riggs' "Tongues Untied." It's a documentary, but it's also poetry and trib-

ute.

What about a favorite narrative LGBT film?

There's a film I've been thinking a lot about lately but I haven't seen in a while, a coming-of-age film from Québec directed by Léa Pool called "Set Me Free." It's about this girl who runs away from home and discovers her love of film and her love of women as she runs away. It's a portrait of a young filmmaker.

Flicks that click

Selected titles from this year's Milwaukee Gay & Lesbian Film/Video Festival

By Gregg Shapiro
Contributing writer

'I AM DIVINE'

During the past few years, gay filmmaker Jeffrey Schwarz has made some of the most enlightening and entertaining documentaries to hit the screen. In 2008, he released "Wrangler: Anatomy of an Icon," which covered (so to speak) the life and career of the late gay porn star Jack Wrangler. Vito Russo, the legendary AIDS activist, gay journalist and author of "The Celluloid Closet," was the subject of Schwarz's 2011 excellent doc "Vito."

Now Schwarz has trained his lens on Divine, the iconic drag star of some of John Waters' most enduring films.

"I Am Divine" opens in

February 1988 at the Baltimore world premiere of Waters' film "Hairspray." The occasion would prove to be a mere month before Divine's sudden, unexpected death.

"Cinematic terrorist" Divine was born Harris Glenn Milstead. Interviews with his late mother Frances, who died in 2009, are emotional and touching. Their turbulent relationship, which alternated between support and banishment, led to a lengthy period of estrangement that was eventually resolved.

In addition to Divine's mother and Waters, an exhaustive array of people share their Divine memories with Schwarz. Included are childhood friend Diana Evans, longtime friends such as Pat Moran and Sue Lowe,

and co-workers such as Ricki Lake, Mink Stole and Tab Hunter. Among the other personalities who make an appearance are Michael Musto, Holly Woodlawn, Bruce Vilanch and members of the performance troupe The Cockettes.

In interviews with Divine, including with Larry King Regis Philbin, we get to hear his own words about his life and career.

Schwarz makes excellent use of period footage and tosses in enough new information about the star's life to titillate the hardcore fans. We learn about Divine's early obsession with looking like Elizabeth Taylor and see his triumphant appearances at Washington, D.C., drag balls. We come to understand how Divine used food to fill an emotional a void

and how he parlayed his film career into theater and dance music. Perhaps most surprisingly, we learn that Divine was a very sexual person.

'BIG JOY: THE ADVENTURES OF JAMES BROUGHTON'

Awakened by a "glittering stranger" at three years old, Broughton met his "angel," who offered him the gifts of intuition, articulation and merriment, culminating in a kind of big joy. A West Coast bohemian, Broughton said his films were a way for him to see what his dreams looked like. Poet Neeli Cherkovski called him "an outsider's outsider, under the underground."

Broughton, who lived "the pleasures of the flesh" and said things such as, "When in doubt, twirl," survived a difficult California childhood with an abusive mother. He came into his own during the 1947 San Francisco Renaissance, the artistic revolution out of which grew the Beats, led by Jack Spicer, Robert Duncan, Madeline Gleason, Kenneth Rexroth and Broughton.

'Reaching for the Moon' isn't merely one of the best movies of this year's Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival, it's one of the best movies of the year.

Unable to live his dream of becoming a dancer – Broughton admitted in a 1998 interview that he simply wasn't graceful enough – he turned his attention first to writing, co-creating the Festival of Modern Poetry in 1947. Around this time, the bisexual Broughton began a relationship with film critic Pauline Kael and discovered a new life as a filmmaker. Beginning with his short film "Mother's Day," Broughton became a leading experimental filmmaker. He went on to receive the Poetic Film Award at Cannes Film Festival. His hero Jean Cocteau presented it to him.

"Big Joy: The Adventures of James Broughton" is a joyful portrait of an artist, writer, teacher, filmmaker, father, lover, Radical Faerie, and man

whose far-reaching impact still lingers. This excellent doc will inspire viewers to learn more about Broughton's life and his work.

'REACHING FOR THE MOON'

Movies about poets seem inherently risky. There's the good, as in the case of "Stevie," starring Glenda Jackson as poet Stevie Smith. Then there's the fair, such as "Howl," starring James Franco as Allen Ginsberg. Of course, there's also the downright dismal – for proof, watch Gwyneth Paltrow as Sylvia Plath in "Sylvia."


Fortunately, "Reaching for the Moon," starring Miranda Otto as lesbian poet Eliza

FILM FEST next page

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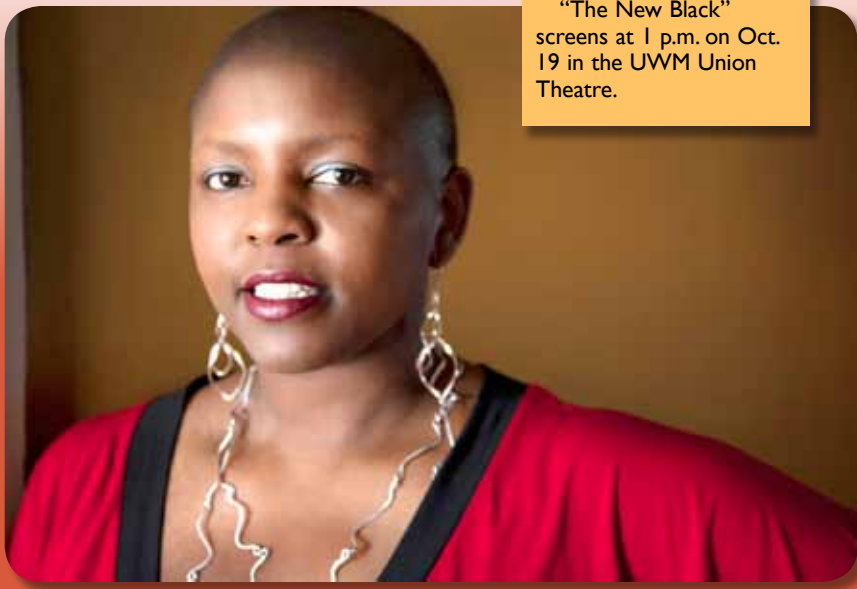
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ON SCREEN

"The New Black"
screens at 1 p.m. on Oct.
19 in the UWM Union
Theatre.



**MILWAUKEE
LGBT FILM/VIDEO
FESTIVAL**

FILM FEST from prior page

beth Bishop, is in the successful category.

Based on a true story, "Reaching for the Moon" begins in 1951 in New York, with Bishop (Otto) reading an early version of her poem "One Art" to poet and confidant Robert Lowell (Treat Williams) in Central Park. Declaring herself the "loneliest person who ever lived," Bishop decides to take a trip to visit Vassar classmate Mary (Tracy Middendorf), who lives in Brazil with her female partner Lota (Glória Pires), a renowned architect.

Because she lives with a woman, Mary has lost contact with her parents back in the United States.

What begins as a three-day visit, made uncomfortable due to Elizabeth's alcoholic social awkwardness and Lota's abruptness, turns into a prolonged stay after Bishop is taken ill due to a nut allergy. Soon Lota starts coming on to Elizabeth, prompting the jealous Mary to leave for Rio. Elizabeth feels bad for hurting her friend, but that doesn't stop her from becoming intimate with Lota.

In an unusual turn of events, Mary returns and the three women set up house together, although Elizabeth is clearly the focus of Lota's attention. Lota constructs a stunning studio for Elizabeth, and the poet is grateful and prolific.

More complications arise, including Lota's plan to adopt a baby for Mary. Nevertheless, Elizabeth says she's never felt more at home in her life, and she completes the manuscript for "North & South: A Cold Spring," a book that earns her the Pulitzer Prize.

Brazilian director Bruno Barreto grounds and enriches the

FILM FEST page 24

ON SCREEN

"Reaching for the Moon" screens at 7 p.m. on Oct. 18 in the UWM Union Theatre.



ON SCREEN

"Big Joy" screens at 5 p.m. on Oct. 18 in the UWM Union Theatre.



ON SCREEN

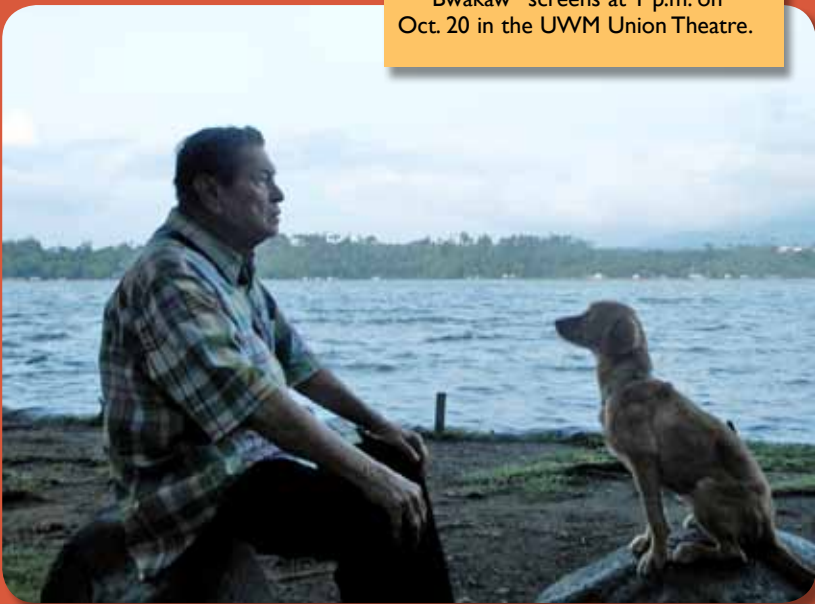
"I Am Divine" screens at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the Oriental Theatre.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

This year's Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival runs from Oct. 17 to Oct. 20.

ON SCREEN

"Bwakaw" screens at 1 p.m. on Oct. 20 in the UWM Union Theatre.



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FILM FEST from page 23

film by weaving the political upheaval of the time into the three women's personal story. Like the country, Elizabeth and Lota's relationship takes a sudden turn for the worse. When Elizabeth accepts an offer to teach at NYU, Lota goes into an emotional tailspin that's made worse by the nation's military coup. Hospitalized following a nervous breakdown, Lota writes letters to Elizabeth and sends her a sizable lock of her hair. But Mary, still in love with Lota, never mails the letters or package.

When Elizabeth and Lota are finally reunited in New York, where Elizabeth is now involved with a woman named Margaret, the story reaches a tragic conclusion. Despite all the drama, "Reaching for the Moon" is not overwrought. Instead, it's respectful of its subjects.

The performances, particularly those from Otto and Pires, are riveting. "Reaching for the Moon" isn't merely one of the best movies of this year's Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival, it's one of the best movies of the year.

'THE NEW BLACK'

The title of Yoruba Richen's doc "The New Black" is a play on fashion, but make no mistake about it, this movie is dead serious.

It begins on the day of the 2012 presidential election, just a few months after Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley had signed a same-sex marriage law in his state. But the law was challenged, and



a referendum turned its fate over to the citizens of Maryland. The subsequent campaign turned the state into a battleground every bit as politically charged and seething with hate as California experienced in 2008 prior to the Proposition 8 vote.

Sharon Lettman-Hicks, executive director and CEO of the National Black Justice Coalition, identifies herself as a "sistah" in the movement, in pursuit of the "unfinished business of black people being free." Determined not to have a Prop 8-style situation in her home state, Lettman-Hicks' commitment to the passage of Question 6 was unflagging.

On the other (or wrong) side of the fence, Pastor Derek McCoy of the Maryland Marriage Alliance did everything in his power to defeat Question 6. Denying a connection to the National Organization for Marriage and the other powerful, moneyed religious groups that succeeded in passing the anti-gay Prop. 8 in California, McCoy was relentless in his failed mission to defeat what he saw as the redefining of traditional marriage.

Richen makes a fair and balanced presentation here, giving both sides of the issue plenty of opportunities to

share their arguments. Even though we know that love eventually triumphed at polls, "The New Black" is still a nail-biter.

'VALENCIA'

This multi-director, multi-actor adaptation of Michelle Tea's award-winning queer cult novel of the same title is as frustrating as it is exhilarating. The segments are alternately rewarding and pretentious, daring and leaden.

Set in San Francisco's Mission District during the early 1990s, "Valencia: The Movie/S" has a narrator/main character named Michelle whose social/sexual escapades are the foundation of the story. Michelle's failed relationships with Willa, Iris and Cecilia provide a fertile source of comedy and drama. The characters, played by an assortment of actors, both male and female, struggle with a range of issues, including sex work, drugs, infidelity, alcoholism, sobriety, sexual experimentation, violence, dating, family, making art and queer pride.

The most successful segments in "Valencia" include innovation and experimentation without sacrificing entertainment value. The shrooming section, which

ON SCREEN

"Valencia" screens at 3 p.m. on Oct. 19 in the UWM Union Theatre.

incorporates claymation, is a good example. Comedy is an important component, and the funniest segment, which involves Iris's sister's wedding and a mishap with Daisy the dog, is laugh-out-loud funny. Equally humorous is a portion of the film in which movies starring Angelina Jolie (including "Hackers," "Gia" and "Girl, Interrupted") are overdubbed with new dialogue and animation.

Not surprisingly, the closing section, directed by Jill Soloway (the UW-Madison grad who won best director at Sundance this year for "Afternoon Delight"), is the highlight of the work.

'BWAKAW'

In "Bwakaw," Rene (Eddie Garcia), a curmudgeonly elderly man who came out as gay late in life, and his obedient dog Bwakaw (the adorable Princess) live in a rundown house in the Philippine countryside. The dog is Rene's closest companion, the only one he doesn't fight with. But he still won't allow Bwakaw to sleep in the house with him.

Retired from his custodial job at the post office, Rene nevertheless shows up

regularly with Bwakaw and continues to do his job as if he never left. He also makes regular appearances in the church confessional, not to confess his sins but to give local parish priest Fr. Eddie (Gardo Versoza) updates to his will.

Other than Bwakaw, Rene avoids social interactions, including those with neighbor Nitang (Beverly Salviejo), who is obsessed with his santo entierro statue; old friend hairdresser Zaldy (Soxie Topacio) and Zaldy's cross-dressing partner Tracy (Joey Paras). Rene does manage to strike up an unlikely friendship with thuggish tricycle/taxi driver Sol (Rez Cortez). Rene also visits Alicia (Armida Siguan-Reyna), an ex-girlfriend with dementia living in a managed care facility.

Writer/director Jun Lana makes good use of comedy and tragedy to balance this story of aging, coming out and companionship. When, near the end of his life, Rene tells Bwakaw a secret — that Zaldy isn't his best friend but rather Bwakaw is, we believe

him. Then we wipe away our tears.

'ALICE WALKER: BEAUTY IN TRUTH'

Lesbian filmmaker Pratibha Parmar directs her lens at lauded African-American writer Alice Walker for a highly revealing documentary. Walker's praises are sung in interviews with a host of her contemporaries, including Sapphire, actor and activist Danny Glover, Ms. Magazine co-founder Gloria Steinem, Quincy Jones, Steven Spielberg, activist Angela Davis, Walker's ex-husband Melvyn R. Leventhal, her ex-partner Robert Allen and many others.

Of course, it's Walker's own words, in recent and vintage interviews, that reveal the most. She contends that being a writer saved her life, which was challenged by "venom" from her own community because people had a problem with her "disinterest in submission," her "intellect" and her "choice of lovers."

FILM FEST next page

**ON SCREEN**

"Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth" screens at 3 p.m. on Oct. 20 in the UWM Union Theatre.

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**FILM FEST** from prior page

From her roots as the great-great-great-great granddaughter of a slave and the daughter of a mother who stood toe to toe with a white landowner, Walker's Southern identity informs every cell of her being. Coming of age as a college student at Spellman in the early 1960s, Walker longed to take part in anti-racist protests but feared losing her scholarship. After transferring to Sarah Lawrence, she wrote poems night and day and found herself part of the emergence of a new awareness.

Incorporating the changes taking place in the South, the 1963 March on Washington and the summer of 1966 when she met her (now ex-) husband Leventhal, the doc takes us through the significant events in Walker's life

**ON SCREEN**

"Born This Way" screens at 7 p.m. on Oct. 21 in the UWM Union Theatre.

leading to the publication of her first novel "The Third Life of Grange Copeland." We follow her through her teaching jobs, the birth of daughter Rebecca, her move to New York (where she wrote for Ms.), the formation of The Sisterhood (with June Jordan, Toni Morrison, Ntozake Shange and others), her divorce, her rediscovery of Zora Neale Hurston, her writing of "The Color Purple," her Pulitzer Prize –

and beyond.

Of special interest to LGBT viewers is Walker's sexuality. As she says in the film, she loves "cuddling" and "it's very nice to have a sweetheart."

Walker says she "went off into adventures with women and loves with women and good times with women and growth with women. It was all marvelous, even the heartache." She shares memories of her relationships

with singer/songwriter Tracy Chapman and other women. Ultimately, Walker states she is "not a lesbian, not bisexual, just curious."

'BORN THIS WAY'

This unsettling doc, co-directed by Shaun Kadlec and Deb Tullmann, looks unflinchingly at the horrors of gay life in Cameroon. Under a strict penal code, same-sex displays of affection can result in harsh jail sentences. Arrests are regularly made using unverified evidence and false accusations.

In other words, to be gay, you have to leave Cameroon.

But a group of young gay men and lesbian activists, including Cedric and Ger-

trude, are doing what they can to make acceptance and visibility a possibility for future generations. Cedric and Gertrude work at Alternatives Cameroon, an LGBT center that focuses on HIV testing, treatment and education. Cedric, who credits Lady Gaga with his courage to be authentic, isn't out to his mother or sister, who live in the countryside. Cedric lives in a dangerous neighborhood in the city, made even more risky because his neighbors, who know he is gay, make death threats and assault him.

Gertrude has a somewhat easier time of it. She has a girlfriend. Her struggle involves her decision to come out to the Mother Superior who raised her in

the convent. Despite the negative messages generated by religious organizations in Africa, Gertrude's coming-out goes better than she expected. In fact, it's one of the most endearing scenes in the film.

Running parallel to Cedric and Gertrude's stories is that of gay rights lawyer Alice Nkom. We see her in action as she takes on the case of two lesbians arrested in Ambam.

This portrait of three pioneers staying and fighting for the cause in the country they love is at turns informative and terrifying.

Theater

ANNE SIEGEL

'Detective's Wife' is filled with suspense

Veteran Milwaukee stage actor Mary MacDonald Kerr fills the intimate Studio Theatre with suspense in the one-woman show "The Detective's Wife."

The play, by Chicago playwright Keith Huff, is a humdinger of a mystery. At intermission, audiences might think they've got the ending figured out. But when the lights finally fade to black, they'll discover that more questions have been raised than answered.

Skillfully guided by director Jim Tasse, Kerr rivets the audience as Alice Conroy, wife of a Chicago police detective. She opens with a tantalizing line: "When my husband died on duty, I lost my voice." She means this literally. Many of her communications are sent as messages written on a notepad (more

on this later).

Kerr addresses the audience directly throughout the play. In an hour and 45 minutes – which seems to fly by – she takes us through the grisly details of her husband's murder and its aftermath. She speaks unflinchingly, as one might expect from a woman who was a police officer's wife for more than 20 years. Now a widow at age 52, Alice decides to solve the case of her husband's death.

In a mystery, of course, one encounters all manner of twists and turns. In this regard, "Detective's Wife" doesn't disappoint. Alice is convinced that her husband, post-mortem, is encouraging her to solve the riddle. Raising tantalizing parallels to "Hamlet," she claims that he's visited her as a

ghost.

Undaunted by the seeming indifference of her husband's police force, Alice tries various paths to discover the truth. With every dead end, she tenaciously redoubles her efforts.

Eventually, she regains her voice.

Kerr is adept at impersonating the various people in Alice's life, such as her husband's former partner, her adult children and her therapist. She transforms into these other roles so effortlessly that her bond with the audience remains unbroken.

The entire play is set in Alice's living room, and Kerr wears only one outfit throughout the performance – an outfit as relaxed as her acting style. A set of large, flat screens at the back of the set appear as windows for most

of the play.

As Kerr struggles to regain use of her vocal chords, she communicates by writing short messages on a notepad. When she slides the notepad across the desk, the image is projected on the screens. It's an engaging device that's used later in the play to project images of her husband's death scene. The enlarged photos are detailed enough to give the audience – as well as Alice – clues about the detective's death.

"The Detective's Wife" should delight longtime MacDonald Kerr fans as well as mystery lovers and those who appreciate a good tale. Milwaukee Chamber Theatre can count "The Detective's Wife" among this season's artistic successes.



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

Mary MacDonald Kerr as Alice Conroy in Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's "The Detective's Wife."

ON STAGE

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents "The Detective's Wife" through Oct. 13 at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. For more, phone 414-291-7800 or go to milwaukeechambertheatre.com.

Hepburn's wardrobe shows off her 'rebel chic'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

A story from Katharine Hepburn's days as a 25-year-old ingénue speaks to her rebel spirit and her impact on haute couture.

Under contract to RKO in 1932, Hepburn was already showing her independence by wearing slacks instead of dresses. One day the Bryn Mawr College grad wore blue jeans and a fur coat to the studio, horrifying executives.

An assistant director was instructed to steal her jeans while she was in the changing room, hoping that she'd have to don a skirt. Instead, Hepburn paraded around the studio lot in her underwear until her jeans were returned.

No one there questioned Hepburn's fashion sense again.

That fashion sense, as well as the actress' independent spirit, are on display in "Katharine Hepburn: Dressed for Stage and Screen," a new exhibit at Appleton's Trout Museum of Art. It's a fascinating look at the acclaimed performer's personality through the lens of some of her favorite dresses, pants suits, shoes and hats. The display includes 30 garments, as well as movie stills, lobby posters and play-

bills from some of the star's best known performances.

The exhibit, part of a permanent collection housed at Kent State University, represents only a small portion of the more than 1,000 pieces of memorabilia that the Hepburn estate bequeathed the university. Many pieces are still in the process of being catalogued and labeled, including Hepburn's personal wardrobe, as well as stage and screen costumes familiar to film and theatergoers.

Off-screen, Hepburn created a stir in Hollywood with her penchant for "mannish" clothes, her disdain for makeup and her refusal to wear uncomfortable shoes. She referred to herself as "the original bag lady," but fashion historians consider her an iconoclast.

On screen, Hepburn projected a sleek elegance that transcended gender stereotypes. She is perhaps best remembered for roles in which she bested her films' male characters with macho confidence coupled with gazelle-like grace. Her costumes, many created by leading fashion designers of the day, often had to gird Hepburn's unique blend of those seemingly dissonant characteristics.

While most actresses didn't own their costumes, Hepburn began acquiring hers almost by happenstance, according to Pamela Williams-Lime, executive director of the 3-year-old Trout Museum.

Hepburn's thin frame — she had a 20-inch waist — presented a unique challenge to designers. Special dummies were created to display her clothes. Early in her career, designers also had to accommodate the gray tones necessary for black-and-white cinematography, which required a blend of subtlety and nuance in neutral tones. Designers such as Cecil Beaton, Walter Plunkett, Edith Head and Valentina would occasionally toss in a bright color to please Hepburn.

Some pieces in the exhibit stand out for the projects they were part of, their aesthetic appeal — or both.

The earliest example from the theater collection is the wedding gown from the 1934 Broadway production "The Lake." With its striking off-the-shoulder, tiered configuration designed to help broaden the actress' slender frame, the Howard Greer-designed costume of duchess lace and satin

appeared in what was reported to have been an otherwise lackluster production.

Designer Plunkett knew how to accommodate Hepburn's athletic build. For her 1949 film "Adam's Rib," he designed a black silk evening gown with sweeps of fabric crossing the bodice from shoulder to waist to give Hepburn's character greater presence. It's one of the most spectacular pieces on display.

It wouldn't be an exhibit of Hepburn couture without the requisite slacks, sweaters and vests, which appear in abundance at the Trout Museum. Some are specific to certain films, such as the slacks-and-vest ensemble worn in the 1967 film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Others are simply examples of the clothes Hepburn wore in everyday life.

In fact, the complete Hepburn collection housed at Kent State includes numerous slacks, mostly in beige and brown, with occasional appearances of red and white. Those on display at the Trout Museum were custom-made.

Hepburn clearly never abandoned the look that she came to define.



ON DISPLAY

"Katherine Hepburn: Dressed for Stage and Screen" runs through Dec. 15 at the Trout Museum of Art, 111 W. College Ave., in Appleton. Find details at www.troutmuseum.org.

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Music

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Frankly Music 'unstuffs' classics

Frankly Music, the revolving chamber group established by virtuoso violinist Frank Almond, is designed to "unstuff" the classics, making them more accessible to a wider audience.

The group opens its 10th season on Oct. 14 with a performance at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

"The idea for the series evolved from my own frustration regarding the protocols and traditions of the classical music 'experience,'" Almond says. "I felt the whole thing was alienating and that there was a way for people to engage with this art form that was more meaningful without dumbing it down."

"At its best, chamber music is like a really important conversation with the audience eavesdropping," he explains. "I knew that if we could combine that (concept) with a decent party afterwards, it could resonate with people, whether or not they knew anything about classical music."

Almond is more than well qualified to act as a classical music ambassador. With double degrees from the Juilliard School of Music, he served as concertmaster for both the Rotterdam Philharmonic and the London Philharmonic. He holds the Charles and Marie Caestecker Concertmaster Chair with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and teaches at Northwestern University.

Almond performs on a 1715 Stradivari violin known as the Lipinski and named for its former owner – the Polish violinist Karol Lipinski. Almond's "Portraits and Elegies" on the Innova label was the first recording on modern audio equipment using the famous instrument.

In order to bring the audience closer to the musicians, Frankly Music concerts are typically set in intimate venues. Introductory discussions precede what are generally exceptional performance from a revolving camp of guest artists. (Almond is the ensemble's only resident performer.) A

glass of wine with the musicians after the performance commonly caps the evening.

This season's opening concert mixes both familiar and unfamiliar pieces under the theme "Flashback!" Mozart's "Duo in G Major for Violin and Viola, K. 423" and his "Divertimento in E flat, K. 563" for string trio are joined by the "Duo for Violin and Cello" by the little-known Jewish composer Erwin Schulhoff. In addition to Almond, violinist Toby Appel and cellist Edward Arron are scheduled to perform.

"The Mozart string trio is an undisputed masterpiece, even by Mozart's own standards, and the only large-scale work he ever wrote for that combination," Almond says. "It's probably the first substantial work ever written for string trio and, at 40 minutes and six movements, requires spectacular virtuosity and stamina from all three players."

The Mozart duo is also a strong work, one that gives the viola a prominent voice, Almond says.

But it's Schulhoff's composition, a relatively obscure work to concertgoers, that might be the performance's most compelling attraction. A Czech composer strongly influenced by his countryman Leos Janáček, Schulhoff blends folk and contemporary elements with technical demands similar to those required in duos by Ravel and Kodály.

Schulhoff was a rising star in the 1930s, but his career was cut short by unwanted attention from the Third Reich. As both Jewish and an avowed communist, Schulhoff was sent in June 1941 to the Wülzburg concentration camp near Weissenburg, Bavaria, where he died of tuberculosis a year later.

"It's gratifying to see his music rediscovered over



PHOTO: BRIAN MCCONKEY

Frank Almond began the chamber music group to make the classics more accessible.

the past 10 years or so," Almond says.

Almond is excited about his co-performers for the season's first concert. Arron, who also studied at Juilliard, has performed with cellist Yo-Yo Ma and serves on the faculty at New York University. Appel has performed with numerous chamber groups, including the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, as well as with jazz artists Chick Corea and Gary Burton.

"We don't really do well with diva types, so the people playing have artistic sensibilities that naturally draw them to this sort of format," Almond says. "We've had some huge names on the series because they like the concept and don't get to do this very often."

In addition to attracting top musicians, the informal format helps fulfill Almond's goal of making classical music more accessible for Milwaukee audiences.

"Classical music isn't a part of most people's lives on a daily basis, but like all great art, it has a way of seeping into your soul once you get bitten," he says. "I'm very happy that it seems to contribute something to the local arts community that is totally unique."

ON STAGE

Frankly Music opens its 10th season Oct. 14 at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, 1584 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. For more information, visit www.franklymusic.org.

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Dish it Out!

Kohler Food and Wine Experience is tasty getaway

By Anne Siegel

Contributing writer

For four days beginning Oct. 17, more than 9,000 visitors, a multitude of celebrity chefs and food vendors will descend upon the normally sleepy town of Kohler.

In fact, the Kohler Food & Wine Experience, entering its 13th year at The American Club, has such strong advance sales that organizers expect record-breaking crowds. Big draws this year include: Food Network star Cat Cora (the first female contestant on "Iron Chef" and co-host of "Around the World in 80 Plates" on the Bravo Channel); Fabio Viviani, owner and executive chef of two noted California restaurants and Siena Tavern in Chicago; and the Beekman Boys, stars of a reality TV show on the Cooking Channel in which they are transplanted from New York City to Beekman Farm in upstate New York.

Local and regional chefs also will be well represented. Familiar names include Michael Feker of Milwaukee's Il Mito, John Coletta of Quartino and Jason Gorman (former chef at Milwaukee's Iron Horse Hotel and Potawatomi's Dream Dance) of Chicago's Terzo Piano, Paul Funk of Milwaukee's Hinterland, Dan Bonanno of A Pig in a Fur Coat, Tory Miller of L'Etoile (both from Madison) and Lynn Chisholm of The Padlock Club in Elkhart Lake.

Celebrity chefs returning to the event include: Jacques and Claudine Pepin; Christopher Kimball of American's Test Kitchen; Tony Mantuano, an event favorite from

Chicago whose restaurants include Mangia Trattoria in Kenosha; Chef Bart Vandaele, of Bravo's "Top Chef"; and Stefano Viglietti, owner of Sheboygan County's Trattoria Stefano.

The event runs Oct. 17-20.

SOME SOLD OUT

Those who plan to attend the experience should waste no time purchasing tickets. Some of the best-known events were already sold out well in advance, including the fun, informal Taste of the Vine at the Kohler Design Center and the Champions Dinner.

But with more than 100 events to choose from, there still are options available, including complimentary events. Most events require tickets, ranging in price from \$15 to \$158, and many of the stage demonstrations range from \$30 to \$40, according to lead event organizer Tricia Rathermel.

"If this is the first time you have been to this event, you may want to purchase just a few tickets," Rathermel says. "This will allow you some time to enjoy the free demonstrations at the Shops of Woodlake and Kohler Design Center, or even stroll around a sculpture garden enjoying the fall color."

The goal, according to Rathermel, should not be to squeeze in as many events as possible, but to approach the event with a sense of fun and curiosity.

Although wine retains top billing at the annual event, it is not the only drink featured here. Tempting liqueurs and liquors – as

well as beer – also are on tap at some demonstrations. New additions to the event include interactive workshops where experts show participants how to mix craft cocktails. Knife Skills with America's Test Kitchen provides a hands-on approach to sharpening and using knives.

Culinary events continue non-stop throughout the long weekend. The best chance to mingle with chefs is during book signings. These are usually held right after a chef's appearance on the main stage. Rathermel says books signed by famous chefs have become popular holiday gifts.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms at The American Club and the Inn at Woodlake are sold out from Thursday through Saturday. But, as of this writing, rooms at both hotels were available on Sunday – although many of the visiting chefs have packed up and are heading home by then. A couple of events are scheduled for Sunday, however, including an elegant variation of the traditional Green Bay Packers tailgate party.

For last-minute lodging, your best bet is to look for accommodations in nearby Sheboygan. The Blue Harbor Resort, a seven-minute drive from the event, has reduced room rates and provides a free shuttle to guests to and from the Kohler events. The resort, located on the shore of Lake Michigan, is a great place to relax and reflect on one's experiences. If the weather is warm, open

KOHLER next page



PHOTO: COURTESY
Scene from the
2008 event.

ON THE WAIST (OR HIPS)

The Kohler Food & Wine Experience runs Oct. 17-20 at The American Club. Some events are sold out well in advance. Call 866-243-8548 or visit www.kohlerfoodandwine.net.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Chef Dan Bonanno

KOHLER from prior page

your balcony doors and let the gentle lake breeze and sounds of the surf lull you to sleep.

LOCAL TALENT

Kenosha-born Dan Bonanno has attended the Kohler event as a visitor, but this year he's scheduled among the presenters. He will demonstrate the preparation of Tuscan gnocchi with braised oxtail sauce, an occasional menu item at Madison's A Pig in a Fur Coat. All of his ingredients are locally sourced, he says – even the flour. "That's what they do in Italy, use what's available in their area," he explains.

Since the sauce alone requires eight hours to make, Bonanno is planning to employ some TV show magic. Just as he's finishing prepping the sauce – voila! Out it will come, ready to serve. One reason he selected this item is that it's "fun to make" and "is appropriate as a fall-

winter dish."

Bonanno says he feels "honored" to be making his first presentation at the Kohler event. He's eager to spend time rubbing elbows with other well-known Midwest chefs. Tickets to his presentation are \$32.

Chef Paul Funk of Milwaukee's Hinterland Erie Street Gastropub is making his second appearance at the event. Last year, he made bacon. This year's presentation will show the "pros and cons" of using meat marinades, rubs and brines. Not surprisingly, Funk also is the butcher at Hinterland. His presentation also costs \$32.

Funk says his audience may be surprised to learn that he uses far fewer marinades than rubs or brines in Hinterland's selection of meats. (The reasons involve tenderizing the meat.)

"I like doing demonstrations at this event, because those who attend are usually

up-to-date in terms of cooking trends," he says. "They want to see what I do, then go home and try it themselves."

The Food and Wine Experience has grown considerably since its early days. Rathermel credits this trend to the growing number of cooking shows on TV.

"When we started, all you had available was maybe a couple of cooking shows on PBS," she says. "Now, there are entire channels dedicated to food preparation. Also, we are always working to take this event to a new level every year. We see a lot of repeat guests."

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Chocolate banana ginger quick bread

Start to finish: 1 hour 15 minutes (15 minutes active)

Servings: 16

INGREDIENTS

1 cup buttermilk
2 eggs
1/2 cup vegetable or canola oil
6 very ripe bananas, mashed
1 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup molasses
2 cups bran
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon ground dry ginger
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

1 teaspoon ground cloves
1 cup finely chopped bittersweet chocolate
3/4 cup finely chopped candied ginger

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 325 F. Spray a Bundt pan with baking spray.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the buttermilk, eggs, oil, bananas, brown sugar, honey, molasses and bran. Let sit for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in another medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and cloves.

Once the banana-bran mixture has sat for 10 minutes, add the flour mixture to it and gently stir just until the dry ingredients are moistened. Gently fold in the chopped chocolate and chopped ginger. Spoon the mixture into the prepared pan and bake for 50 to 60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the center comes out clean.

Let cool for 15 minutes in the pan before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Nutrition information per serving: 380 calories; 13 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 25 mg cholesterol; 68 g carbohydrate (6 g fiber; 34 g sugar); 6 g protein; 370 mg sodium.

— Alison Ladman, AP recipe developer

The greatest thing about quick breads also is the most obvious. They're quick.

Stir together some ingredients, pop it in a pan, throw it in the oven. Your house will be filled with the fantastic smells of baking and you probably didn't do more than 15 minutes work.

This quick bread is no exception. It is equally at home on a breakfast or brunch table, served with coffee or tea mid-after-

noon with a dusting of powdered sugar, or after dinner with a dollop of whipped cream. We've combined the spicy fall flavors of gingerbread with the sweet, moist flavors of banana bread.

For fun, we flecked it with chopped bittersweet chocolate. Be sure to use very ripe bananas for the best flavor.

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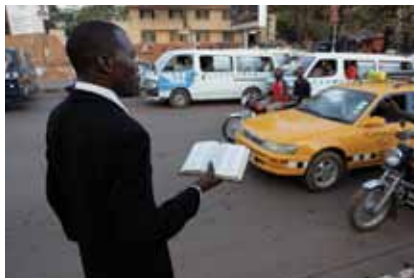


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GOD LOVES UGANDA

DIR: Roger Ross Williams | USA | 2013
A provocative portrait of unintended consequences when evangelical missionaries attempt to convert the highly impressionable population of Uganda, a world still in social upheaval.



LAURENCE ANYWAYS

DIR: Xavier Dolan | CANADA | 2012
A decade-long look at the life of Laurence and his female partner Fred in the wake of his revealing the belief that he was meant to live life as a woman.



BAYOU MAHARAJAH: THE TRAGIC GENIUS OF JAMES BOOKER

DIR: Lily Keber | USA | 2013
A foot-stomping look at the man Dr. John called "the best black, gay, one-eyed junkie piano genius New Orleans has ever produced."



VALENTINE ROAD

DIR: Marta Cunningham | USA | 2012
An incendiary look at a tragic act: the murder of gay eighth-grader Larry King during first period by classmate Brandon McInerney.



ELAINE STRITCH SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

ELAINE STRITCH: SHOOT ME

DIR: Roger Ross Williams | USA | 2013
From Broadway to "30 Rock", Elaine Stritch has remained an out-sized and memorable personality every step of the way.



BLOW OUT

DIR: Brian De Palma | USA | 1981
Blow-Up mixed with *The Conversation* and downed with a Hitchcock chaser in Brian DePalma's classic tale of cinema and paranoia.



WINGS OF DESIRE

DIR: Wim Wenders | GERMANY | 1987
An angel's affection for a beautiful trapeze artist leads him to shed the immortal coil in Wim Wenders' acclaimed city symphony.



2+2 (DOS MÁS DOS)

DIR: Diego Kaplan | ARGENTINA | 2013
Long-married Diego and Emilia expand their sexual horizons with the help of some friends in this sexy Argentinian comedy.

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The 'Boys' gay mentors

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN



PHOTO: JEREMY DANIEL

'JERSEY BOYS' RETURNS: Nick Cosgrove, Jason Kappus, Nicolas Dromard and Brandon Andrussing "Walk Like a Man" in "Jersey Boys," which plays Oct. 16-27 at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

Out production designer Richard Hester has worked on "Jersey Boys" since its inception eight years ago. Still, he didn't know what to expect on the show's opening night in Amsterdam. How would audiences in the Venice of the North respond to the distinctly American musical about the lives and careers of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons?

The answer: with the same enthusiasm that's made "Jersey Boys" not just a jukebox musical hit, but also a theatrical phenomenon.

Hester is sending a decidedly non-Dutch cast to Milwaukee later this month for an 11-day, 16-performance run Oct. 16-27 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. It's not the first time the show has visited Milwaukee, but each performance is special to the 52-year-old Broadway veteran.

"I don't know that any of us can say for sure why 'Jersey Boys' works as well as it does, but it does work," Hester says.

He was the original stage manager for the Broadway production and has since become involved in many other functions, including casting decisions. Growing up in South Africa and New Jersey, Hester first became interested in theater in high school and wanted to pursue it in college.

"My father said he would pay for my college education no matter what I wanted to do as long as I didn't go into theater," Hester says. "I was an English major at Columbia University and took as many theater classes as I could."

Hester began working on Broadway in the evenings, building his knowledge and making connections. Working at The American Place Theatre, his initial interest was in acting, but he quickly found himself more interested in stage management.

As production supervisor, he oversees all touring and "sit-down companies." The latter is a term referring to companies that perform for extended periods of time in larger cities, such as Chicago. In addition to Amsterdam, he has supervised "Jersey Boys" tours in Toronto, London, Australia, South Africa and Singapore.

"Jersey Boys" succeeds wherever it plays for a number of reasons, Hester says.

"Statistics have shown us that this is a show where most of the ticket sales are generated by men," he explains. "It's about four guys trying to figure out how to take care of their families, become successful and survive in the world. It's a show guys can relate to."

Like Hester, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons' producer and major songwriter

Bob Crewe was also gay. Hester doesn't believe the group treated Crewe differently because of his sexual orientation.

"Bob in his day could be very flamboyant, but there was never any doubt that his talent was supreme," Hester said. "He was considered the Fifth Season, and it's great to me that in this musical about four successful guys, the smartest person in the room is the gay guy."

Crewe wrote what is perhaps the world's greatest gay love song – "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You." Watching his lover lying in bed one morning inspired the music.

"How many weddings has that song been played at where the bride and groom don't even know?" Hester asks.

"Bob claimed that nobody at the time knew he was gay," Hester adds. "But if you ask any of the other Seasons, they'd say, 'Oh, please.'"

From Jersey Boys to Midtown Men

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Unable to attend the Milwaukee production of "Jersey Boys"? Need a little more doo-wop? Fuhged-aboutit! The Midtown Men are making two stops in Wisconsin during their current 77-city tour.

One of several groups capitalizing on the runaway Broadway hit about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, The Midtown Men unites the four principals from the original "Jersey Boys" Broadway cast for an evening of vocal harmonies from The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Motown and others.

Tony Award winner Christian Hoff, Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer, Michael Longoria and Daniel Reichard – the original "Jersey Boys" – harmonize seamlessly. They bring the same energy and finesse to The Midtown Men that made "Jersey Boys."

"We're just four guys who have fun and sing our faces off," Longoria says. "The chemistry we discovered during 1,000 performances together is going to bring some magic to the stage."

Longoria, who is 30 and out, played both Joe Pesci and Frankie Valli during the original run of "Jersey Boys." At one point, he played Pesci during evening performances and Valli during matinees. He



PHOTO: COURTESY

Michael Longoria.

met both men, and they gave his performance two thumbs up.

"When Frankie Valli saw me, he said, 'You were fucking sensational,' and Joe Pesci said, 'Pretty fucking great to be able to cuss on stage, right?'" he remembers. "They're Italian boys and they got mouths on them."

Longoria says audiences of all types are drawn to the emotional content of the '60s songs his group performs.

"The music of the '60s in general is so raw in its music and lyrics," he says. "The pain and loss and longing for someone you can't have are emotions that all of us can

relate to, whether we're gay or straight."

The Midtown Men perform at UW-Green Bay's Weidner Center on Oct. 11 and Madison's Overture Center for the Arts on Oct. 12. The concerts are a perfect warm-up for "Jersey Boys," which runs Oct. 16-27 at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information on the Green Bay date, visit www.weidnercenter.com. For the Madison performance, go to www.overture-center.com.

Broadway in Milwaukee

"Jersey Boys" starts an exciting season of the Broadway Across America in Milwaukee series. Other shows on the program scheduled for the Marcus Center's Uihlein Hall include:

- "Irving Berlin's White Christmas: The Musical," based on the popular Bing Crosby song and film, Nov. 26–Dec. 1.

- "War Horse," the internationally acclaimed theatrical blockbuster about World War I, Jan. 7–12.

- "Evita," Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's

early career ode to the wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron, Feb. 4–9.

- "Flashdance: The Musical," which follows the tale of a working-girl welder who dances and get doused with water, March 4–9.

- "The Phantom of the Opera," an even more popular dose of Lloyd Webber's musical magic and the only show in which a chandelier plays a major role, July 23–Aug. 3.



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- 1. Promo piece
- 6. *Ruler of prime time
- 9. Voyeur's glance
- 13. Film director Sergio _____
- 14. Black gold
- 15. It's tops at a beauty pageant
- 16. Multibillion-dollar power company
- 17. *This country's viewers determine winner of "American Idol"
- 18. Bitter
- 19. *It stars Simon Cowell
- 21. *Crime-solving novelist
- 23. Consumes
- 24. "SNL" segment, e.g.
- 25. *UK primetime giant
- 28. French "place"
- 30. Cause to become
- 35. Commuter line
- 37. Abounding with elms
- 39. Red _____ of 20th century
- 40. "_____ the Wild," movie
- 41. Word of mouth
- 43. *America's choice
- 44. Like a lemon
- 46. Opera house box
- 47. Often goes with Scotch
- 48. Silently agreed
- 50. French Riviera city

- 52. "_____ and the City"
- 53. Sleep in a convenient place
- 55. One to one, e.g.
- 57. *Claire or Phil, surname
- 60. *A hit show revolves around this theory
- 64. East Asian peninsula
- 65. Caustic chemical
- 67. *_____ Boo Boo
- 68. Southeast Asian org.
- 69. Campaigner, for short
- 70. _____ poll
- 71. One rotation around sun
- 72. QB exclamation
- 73. Slides or slips

DOWN

- 1. Show the guns?
- 2. Table extension
- 3. I, to a Greek
- 4. *_____ "Nucky" Thompson
- 5. Traveler's mode of transportation
- 6. NCAA's Final _____
- 7. Post-Soviet Union alliance
- 8. "Car Talk" brother
- 9. Scot of long ago
- 10. Between marquess and viscount
- 11. Buffalo's lake
- 12. Often found under a mouse
- 15. Gustatory sensations
- 20. Twig of willow tree
- 22. It's hot in some people
- 24. Court call
- 25. *Canine on "Family Guy"
- 26. "Bank" in Venice
- 27. Commended
- 29. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
- 31. *Mark Harmon/Sasha Alexander show
- 32. Wainscots
- 33. Lose ground
- 34. Chill
- 36. He ruled the flies
- 38. Quotable Berra
- 42. Straight muscles
- 45. Patient's toilet
- 49. *Homer's catchword
- 51. Crazy _____ card game
- 54. Airy spirit
- 56. Kindle download
- 57. 2 aspirin, e.g.
- 58. Carbamide
- 59. Getting warm
- 60. Aaron Rodgers pantomimes this
- 61. Not in favor of
- 62. Opposite of want
- 63. Training spots
- 64. Mary _____
- 66. Texter's u

CROSSWORD

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MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 17-20
UWM UNION THEATRE



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1PM

THE NEW BLACK

(Yoruba Richen, 80min., 2013)

Framed around last November's historic fight for marriage equality in Maryland, powerfully engrossing documentary explores divisions in the African American community around civil rights for LGBT people.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 3PM

VALENCIA

(various directors, U.S., 100 min., 2012)

An adaptation of Michelle Tea's memoir that, like its heroine, is wonderfully and productively restless in its pursuit of a way to be, with 21 different directors adapting different chapters. Milwaukeean Shawna Lipton stars!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 5PM

IN THE NAME OF

(Malgoska Szumowska, Poland, in Polish with English subtitles, 97min., 2012)

A beautiful, chilling story of love and repression about a closeted priest in rural Poland who risks a declaration that challenges the very foundation of his faith and sworn mission.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1PM

BWAKAW

(Jun Robles Lana, Philippines, in English and Tagalog with English subtitles, 110min., 2012)

A tender tale – at times wildly funny, at other times a tear-jerker – of loneliness and old age, and of one man and his dog.

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