

# Xtra!

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Church St bar reopening >11

**POLITICS & PRIDE TORONTO**

Sign-vetting policy turfed >16

**TIP OF THE HAT**

Local milliner honoured >25

TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

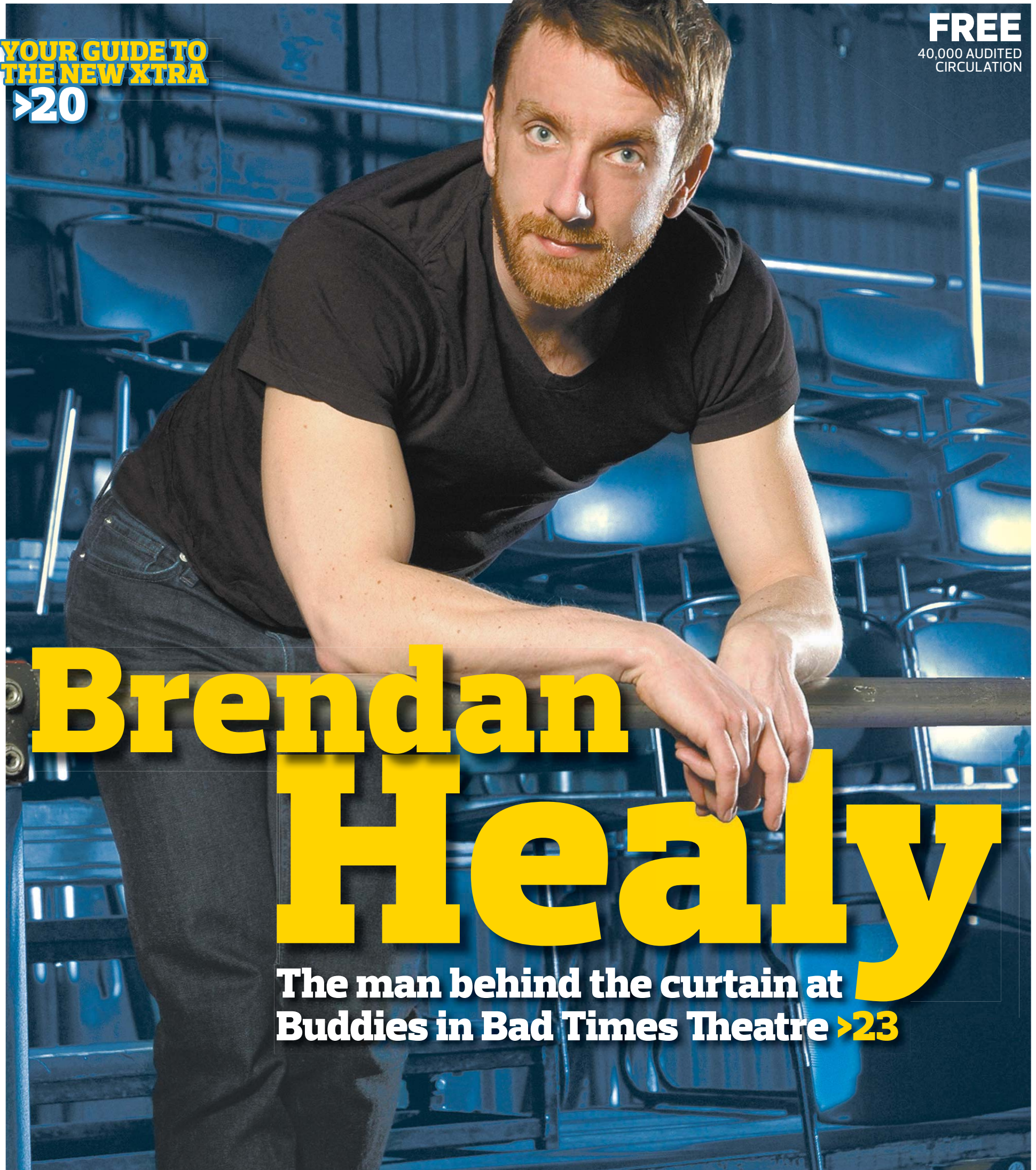
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**YOUR GUIDE TO THE NEW XTRA**

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# Brendan Healy

The man behind the curtain at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre >23

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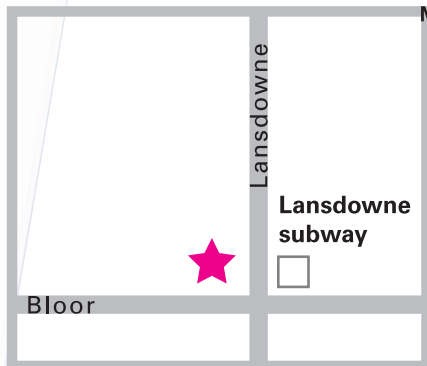
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# Roundup

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## Groove is in the heart

**<30** Brazilian beauty Ana Paula lands in Toronto for one night only. She says — and this is a revelation — that gays are happier on the dancefloor than their straight counterparts. Holla.

**VIDEO**



### Mapping a drag routine

Xtra follows Miss Conception from conception to stage, taking you behind the scenes of her Stage to Screen show. Watch her work!  
[xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca) >toronto

**THEATRE**

### Queer, utopian vision

A year ago, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre hired its fourth artistic director in its 31-year history. A lot rests on Brendan Healy's broad, butch shoulders. Xtra tries them on for size. >23

**MUSIC**

### Strange fruit

The deliciously weird world of Goldfrapp just got a little bigger with the release of pop-heavy *Head First*. >31

**FASHION**

### Mad props for hatter

When the press release came across our desk, it sounded like something from *The Onion*. Who is David Dunkley, and why does the editor of *Hat Life* magazine love him so much? Oh wait, that's why. >25

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**UPFRONT**

### Dance, dance evolution

Crews & Tango, beloved Church St watering hole, will reopen, its new owner says — and it'll serve food. >11

### Getting HardTV

Pink Triangle Press, Xtra's parent company, has purchased a controlling stake in "wounded" gay adult channel HardTV. The first priority? More porn! >12

### Fantino's media lines

OPP chief Julian Fantino has another kiddie-porn mega-sweep under his belt. But if his pattern holds, the follow-through will be much less glamorous than the press conference. >13

### Pride listens

Pride Toronto changes course after fallout from the community for its intention to vet parade participants' signs and messaging. What led to the policy in the first place, and what led to the change of heart? Xtra goes deep. >16

### Organic, fair trade porn

Tristan Taormino — author, director and sex educator — talks about her experiences pushing the boundaries of feminist porn. She portrays real choices and real arousal. How radical. >19

**ONLINE**

### Hookers & DNA

A police campaign to store the DNA of sex workers, apparently to help ID murdered women, has advocates fuming. How about protecting sex workers from being murdered in the first place? >xtra.ca >national

### Axe falls on SexTV

Corus Entertainment is set to rebrand the sex-focused TV channel as a movie-centred spinoff of their W Network women's channel. >xtra.ca >national

### Sexual violence & shunning

When a dyke is accused of rape, the urge to shame and shun her is strong. Quarantine. Isolate. But what if we talked to her instead? >xtra.ca

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# Comment

**"KLINCK CONDONES SINZ'S RACISM BECAUSE HE WAS IN THE ARMY. WOULD YOU EXCUSE GIBSON'S HOMOPHOBIA BECAUSE HE IS CATHOLIC?"**

## The changing face of news

Editorial  
Matt Mills



**M**OST JOURNALISTS ARE insatiably curious skeptics who easily become bored. They're attracted to the craft, often, because every new story arc represents a new and stimulating adventure. One of the really great things about being a journalist today is that the job is changing so quickly. It's anything but boring.

Every once in a while, a story comes along that redefines the entire process of news reportage. Those stories are usually few and far between, but in the last year, *Xtra* has seen a handful.

One Sunday morning last August, as I was checking my news feeds, I learned that a gunman had attacked a gathering of gay teens in Tel Aviv, killing two and wounding many more. I happened at the time to have recently returned from that city's Pride celebration. While there, I had visited the place where the attack would shortly unfold. I had also recently familiarized myself with Twitter. Much more interesting than the BBC, AP and Al Jazeera accounts of the attack and subsequent protest vigil, were the footprints in the aftermath left on Twitter by the gay people living in Tel Aviv.

Along with heart-wrenching expressions of horror and grief, information about the gunman, who was hurt, who had died and what was going to happen next spread, one tweet at a time, from the moment the gunman fled. There was confusion and misinformation, early lack of clarity and knee-jerk expressions of irrational rage. There were also real-time accounts of gay people, groping for some action to take, moving en masse toward the scene. The work of the professional journalists covering the story for television simply couldn't compare to the richness of unfolding events as related, a few tiny characters at a time, by those who were living it.

The next game changer was the story of Chris Skinner. Skinner, you'll recall, was the gay man who, while walking home from a birthday celebration in Toronto's entertainment district on the evening of Oct 18, was beaten to the ground by still-unidentified suspects who then crushed him to death under the wheels of their SUV.

The story is not unique for its horror. Toronto's gay communities are too familiar with tragedy and violence. What made this story journalistically unique was the role played by social media and the web. Skinner's story, as reported by *Xtra*, flashed within hours to gay people around the world. Rather than publishing whole new stories every few days, *Xtra* updated readers as each detail emerged. And the expressions of rage and grief on various social media were an overriding part of the tale. The story unfolded in real time before all our eyes, giving insight into police procedures and community activism, and acknowledging with every step which questions remained unasked.

But that was just the beginning. With a simple, single act, a few key-strokes spawned by an idea fleshed out in casual conversation among friends, two Toronto guys created a Facebook page calling for a candle-light vigil and march in Skinner's memory.

Within a few days, more than 1,000 people, many of them no more than familiar strangers, would gather at Church and Wellesley in one of the most beautiful demonstrations of solidarity I've ever had the privilege to be a part of.

This issue's Pride Toronto coverage is another one of those redefining stories. And, from a journalistic perspective, it's even more interesting. Our print coverage is informed almost completely by work that first appeared online at *Xtra.ca*. Not only did masses of people respond immediately to *Xtra's* report of Pride Toronto's new sign-vetting-by-ethics-committee policy, not only did a Facebook group spring up that would go on to attract more than 1,500 cogent dissenters, but those invested in the story engaged in their own reportage. A flurry of meaningful and important questions and answers, formerly festering as idle gossip, have come roaring to the fore.

What does this say to me? That gay activists are using a whole new set of tools to effect positive change and that readers are, more than ever before, becoming active participants in telling the stories of our lives. It's a wonderful and potentially very powerful evolution.

*Matt Mills is editorial director of Pink Triangle Press*

**> on other pages**

The sound of the furious, concessions from Pride Toronto >16

**"The outcome that we seek is this — gay and lesbian people daring together to set love free."** *Xtra* is published by Pink Triangle Press, at 491 Church St, Ste 200 Toronto M4Y 2C6.

## INBOX

Send your correspondence to: 491 Church St, Ste 200, Toronto M4Y 2C6, fax 416-925-6503 or email [comment@xtra.ca](mailto:comment@xtra.ca). Letters must include the writer's full name, which is published, and telephone number, for verification only. We may edit letters.

### Uganda & Anglicans

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE criminalization of homosexuality in Uganda with deep concern ("Homophobia in the Pearl of Africa," March 11, *Xtra*). The only way we can help stop this happening is with international pressure.

We have tried through the Anglican communion, but the Anglican church in Uganda only contributes to homophobia. Archbishop Rowan Williams — the titular head of the Anglican communion, the Archbishop of Canterbury — appears to be afraid to further antagonize the Anglican Bishop of Uganda by speaking out against the criminalization campaign.

Integrity International and Other Sheep have been putting on pressure but to no avail. Even a recent meeting of the primates of the Anglican communion with the Episcopal church in the USA's presiding bishop in attendance failed to address Uganda.

A partnered lesbian was elected as a suffragan bishop in Los Angeles in December. There is supposed to be a moratorium on the election of gay and lesbian bishops as a result of the Windsor Report and the recent Lambeth conference. If her election is approved by the majority of American Episcopal bishops, the Archbishop of Canterbury will kick the Episcopal church in the USA out of the Anglican communion. One Episcopal church, Christ Church in Savannah, Georgia, has switched allegiance to the Bishop of Uganda.

So the church only contributes to misunderstanding.

*Peter Iveson  
Toronto, ON*

### comment

**"Thank you so much for running this series of articles ("Homophobia in the Pearl of Africa," March 11, *Xtra*). Kaj Hasselriis and your publication are truly commendable for approaching such an important topic head-on while rolling in the dirt of prejudice. This kind of eyewitness journalism can make real changes in a homophobic society. I can't wait to read your next post."**

—Carl Hiehn  
Toronto, ON

**> To comment, go to [xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca).**

### Sweet but racist?

I JUST READ THE ARTICLE ON PORN actor Ricky Sinz written by Todd Klinck ("Porndoggy," March 11, *Xtra*), who seemed to have engaged his crotch rather than his brain when writing the article.

He says of Sinz, "He's got some controversial views — at times even coming across as racist — but he's spent

### comment

**"The kind of thinking this act demonstrates ('Gays cut from citizenship guide,' March 11, *Xtra*) is only the tip of the iceberg. Many Conservative MPs and the Prime Minister are, and are backed by, evangelical fundamentalists. If the Conservatives ever get a majority government, you can kiss your human rights and many of the liberties we have come to expect goodbye."**

—Jim Davis  
Toronto, ON

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some time in the insane US military, so I don't blame him for being a bit of a nutbar." The article then goes on to describe Sinz as a sweet guy.

Really? Since when are bigots sweet? International Hollywood superstar actor, director, producer, movie maker and movie entrepreneur Mel Gibson also has some controversial views, at times even coming across as homophobic. Would you refer to him as sweet? What gets me is that Klinck condones Sinz's racism because he was in the army. Would you excuse Gibson's homophobia because he is Catholic? Besides, is everyone who joins the army allowed to have bigoted views or just the ones covered in tattoos who make porn movies? Furthermore, should these bigoted views extend to homophobia and all the related discrimination towards gays in the military?

Sinz is entitled to his views, but I am appalled that any section of the media — in particular the gay media — would condone these views. Then again, the gay community does have its fair share of racist elements. My opinion is that anyone who condones or excuses racist views more than likely has racist views himself, and I would question if such a person should be writing for a minority publication.

Gay ethnic minorities read *Xtra*, as do Caucasians with ethnic minority partners and children, who were probably disgusted and offended after reading this article. Klinck, you are entitled to your fetish for tattooed ex-army bigots. But if it's affecting your work, the job or the fetish should probably go.

*Ken Kelly  
Toronto, ON*

### Ethics committee review

WHERE CAN I FIND A STATEMENT from this ethics committee so that I can determine what I should be proud of? ("All signs must be vetted with us first," March 11, *Xtra*) In my opinion censorship of any sort is

unacceptable. How sad to see this from Pride. It is both disturbing and unacceptable. It does not stretch credibility at all to see this attitude advance over the coming years to the formation of a Morality Committee and other such nonsense. Pride is about celebration and freedom, not repression. It was once about politics, for many it still is. For most it's a party and parties are meant to be enjoyed, not censored. I hope Pride backs away from this narrow minded attempt to control a message and chooses to leave ethics as an abstract concept that varies with the individual.

*Peter Bochove,  
Toronto, ON*

### comment

**"I believe people in our community need to focus on the real issue here — Jason Kenney's incompetence or dishonesty ('A disaster week,' March 11, *Xtra*). I am not sure which it is, but for either one he needs to be fired. As for Egale and Helen Kennedy, they need full support and encouragement from our whole community. There seem to be too many people complaining about mistakes or delayed action when, in fact, Kennedy is working overtime doing the work of several people — some of whom are happy to spend their time in the bars and at parties when there is work to be done."**

—Wayne Madden  
Edmonton, AB

**> To comment, go to [xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca).**

### Pride lets it go

THIS IS A GOOD MOVE BY PRIDE Toronto ("Pride Toronto withdraws controversial signage policy, March 23," *Xtra*). I can't imagine how the review panel would have actually decided which signs and messages "passed" and which ones would be banned. It's not Pride's role to decide what is hate speech anyway — it's the role of the police. Anyway, looking forward to a wonderful Pride Week 2010!

*Doug Kerr  
Toronto, ON*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIDE

Toronto for recognizing and acting upon concerns by LGBT, queer and community members. Now is an opportunity to continue a conversation and dialogue on the future of our Pride based upon both our history and our future as we move forward to welcome World Pride 2014.

*Suzan Gapka  
Toronto, ON*

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# Xcetera

## QUEERS ABOUT TOWN

### TITS, LEGS, ROCK 'N' ROLL "SEX NERD"



**Hello, my name is:** Babs Vermeulen  
**My aka:** Countess Christmasher  
**Occupation:** Electronic performer, DJ, tit wrangler and all-round sweetheart  
**Status:** Ummm.... seeing people  
**My best feature:** My legs!  
**My signature move:** Lean back, drape self over chair, cross legs in a fetching manner, exhale smoke  
**I would describe my style as:** Sex nerd  
**Favourite gay:** My DJ husband, Andrew Awesome  
**If you want to stay on my good side, you'll:** Buy me a martini.  
**Stuff I have coming up that you should check out:** My DJ crew, Gangbangaz, do a monthly called Trash Hospital with DJ SHE-la @ the Beaver, and we also spin regularly @ the Barn. My synth rock duo, ProCon, are working on new tracks to be revealed in the coming months.

## BOOB TUBE



Cyndi Lauper may have lost the challenge when she was team leader, but she's hung on to her spot on *Celebrity Apprentice* so far. With each celeb competing for a charity, she's picked her own gay-rights-based True Colors Fund. Swoon.

Cyndi Lauper will perform at a free concert at Queen's Park during Toronto Pride 2010.

## LINGO

### Thruple (thru'-ple)

also, throuple. n. A closed relationship of three, rather than two, people. A triad. *Deborah, Jan and Tina were the best-dressed thruple at the polyamory potluck.*

## BUMMER

### Unzipped folds

Another nail in the coffin for porn in print: the cheeky softcore porn mag *Unzipped* ceased publication in mid-March. It will live on only in blog form.



## HINDSIGHT



### Anti-porn feminists battle lezzie sluts

"Anti-porn feminists battle lezzie sluts before top court," we reported, 10 years ago this spring. At the time, Little Sister's, a gay Vancouver bookstore, was making its case before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Little Sister's was the subject of ongoing harassment by Canada Customs (now the Canada Border Services Agency), with books regularly seized and shredded at the border.

The case was argued by Little Sister's, its lawyer, Joe Arvay, and interveners including Cynthia Petersen (pictured here at the Supreme Court in March of 2000) for Equality of Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, as Egale Canada was then known.

Little Sister's won, but its victory was bittersweet. Border guards continue to hold gay material, most recently three films destined for the Inside Out Film Festival.

The headline poked fun at Equality Now's Janine Benedit, who read a gay rape scene into the record during the case. Equality Now, US academic Catharine MacKinnon and others argued at the time that porn is sick and damaging — rather than a healthy, fun part of many people's sexual lives. PHOTO BY SHAWN SCALLEN

## WORDLE

### Tongue lashing



Dan Savage's March 4 screed against philandering Conservative "family values" cabinet minister Vic Toews. WORDLE.NET

To read the full article, go to [thestranger.com](http://thestranger.com).

## ONLINE

The five most-read Xtra news stories

- 1 All signs must be vetted by us first: Pride Toronto
- 2 Artists to Pride Toronto: Free expression should be offensive
- 3 Pride Toronto developing free expression policy
- 4 Game on for 2010 Church St Fetish Fair
- 5 Junction resident challenges Xtra box vandals

Most-read local news stories on the Xtra Toronto tab of [xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca) from March 11-18.

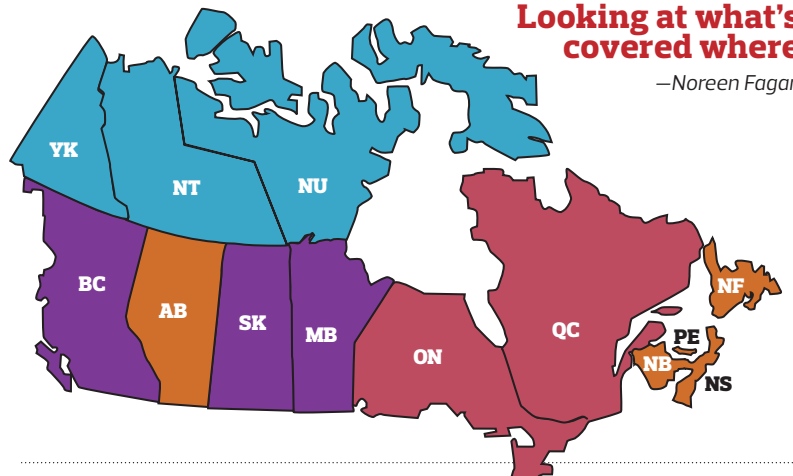
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## TRANS HEALTH

### OVERVIEW OF SRS COVERAGE IN CANADA

Looking at what's covered where

—Noreen Fagan



- MOSTLY COVERED** Ontario: clients must go through CAMH. In Quebec, surgery is covered after referral from Human Sexuality Unit at Montreal General Hospital.
- SOME COVERAGE BUT WITH CAVEATS** British Columbia: most surgeries are done outside the province. Saskatchewan and Manitoba: only direct surgical costs are covered for some surgeries.
- NO COVERAGE**
- UNKNOWN**

Sources: Canadian Professional Association for Transgendered Health; Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; GRS Funding Across Canada (Facebook group); provincial health sites; Transgendered Health Program (BC).



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## LGBTT HEALTH

### OUTSIDE THE LINES

The final group of Outside the Lines, an expressive arts group for isolated lesbians, bi and trans women starts on **April 13th. This is a 12-week group, Tuesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm that ends June 29th.** Registration required. Facilitators are Carole Baker, counsellor in the LGBTT program at Sherbourne Health Centre and Sandy Kappa, expressive arts therapist.

Heartfelt thanks to all the courageous women, including ISIS or TATI students, who have participated in Outside the Lines over the years. Special thanks to Sandy Kappa, partner in facilitation, creativity and trusting.

To register please call Carole Baker at 416-324-4100.



Supporting Our Youth (SOY) seeks to improve the quality of life for LGBT youth (up to 29) through the active involvement of adults working together with youth. Working within an anti-oppression framework, SOY develops initiatives that build skills and capacities, provide mentoring and support, and nurture a sense of identity and belonging.

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## HEY QUEER & TRANS YOUTH!

### PINK INK'S 2010 ZINE - 'NOBODY CAN TELL YOUR STORY BUT YOU':

Call for submissions from queer, trans, and questioning youth (14-29 years old) who want to submit their writing and/or art (about any subject) to our annual zine. **The deadline for submission is Sunday April 1, 2010. Zine launch will be April 28th at the Gladstone hotel featuring YOUR work!** It doesn't matter if you've never been to Pink Ink before and it doesn't matter if you identify as a writer or not - we're still interested in having your work in our zine. **Please send all submissions or inquiries to [ksilverwoman@hotmail.com](mailto:ksilverwoman@hotmail.com) Or mail it to SOY, Attention: Pink Ink Zine Submissions, 333 Sherbourne St - 2nd Floor, Toronto, ON, M5A 2S5**

**ESSENCE:** A youth-centred group where queer, trans and/or questioning youth gather to uncover, discover and recover our deeper selves. Come learn, socialize and share wisdom through workshops, guest speakers and discussions about different non-denominational and queer-positive ideas and practices of spirituality, faith and community. **Wednesdays, March 3 - April 14, 7-9pm at Sherbourne Health Centre. Contact Adam at [adambusch@gmail.com](mailto:adambusch@gmail.com) or 416-324-5077 / [soy@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:soy@sherbourne.on.ca) for more details.**

**ALPHABET SOUP:** **Tuesdays from 4-6pm.** If you are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer or Questioning, under 20 years old and in school or planning to return to school, come by and hang out with us, watch queer and trans movies, have fun debates and discussions, make and eat freshly baked goods and learn more about the LGBTQ community. **Contact Leslie for more details: 416-324-5082 or e-mail [soymentoring@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:soymentoring@sherbourne.on.ca)**

**TRANS\_FUSION CREW:** TFC is a warm, inclusive space for transgender, transsexual, intersex, two-spirit, gender-questioning youth and our allies to chill out, make art, share information, and work on amazing activist projects. **Thursdays, 6:00-8:00pm @ Sherbourne Health Centre, 333 Sherbourne St. Email: [tfc@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:tfc@sherbourne.on.ca) or call Yasmeen at 416-324-5078.**

**NEWCOMER IMMIGRANT YOUTH PROGRAM (EXPRESS):** A safe and supportive space where newcomer and/or immigrant queer youth find a safe space to gather, share ideas, questions, and most of all HAVE FUN! Interested? **Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00pm @ Sherbourne Health Centre, 333 Sherbourne St. Email Suhail: [soynewcomer@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:soynewcomer@sherbourne.on.ca) or call 416-324-5080.**

**BLACK QUEER YOUTH (BQY):** A safe space for Black, Mixed, African/Caribbean Youth under 29, who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and questioning. Come chill, learn and socialize, free food & drinks - Spread the word! **Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm @ Sherbourne Health Centre, 333 Sherbourne St. Email Lorelei: [bqy@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:bqy@sherbourne.on.ca) or call 416-324-5083.**

**QUEER IDOL!** Goodhandy's (120 Church St at Richmond).  
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Cover: \$9 (\$5 before 10pm). Partial proceeds generously donated to SOY. [www.queeridol.ca](http://www.queeridol.ca).

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# Upfront

**FANTINO'S VERSION OF REALITY MAKES FOR ANOTHER GREAT MENACE STORYLINE.**

Fantino's crusade continues >13



**TORONTO NEWS**

## New owner set to unveil revived Crews & Tango

**Despite rumours, 508 Church St will not be torn down**

**Kyle Mooney**

**DISILLUSIONED DYKES AND** dance fiends caught a glimmer of hope in January, in the form of a liquor licence application hanging from the front window of Crews & Tango at 508 Church St.

Nearly a year has passed since the closure of the popular Church St bar. Known for its drag shows, large dancefloors and eclectic mix of gays and lesbians, the two-storey complex was regarded by many as the very heartbeat of Village nightlife. Its closure dealt a blow to the Church St bar circuit.

And so, the nightmarish images of condo towers that kept twinkles awake at night can finally be dismissed. Crews is back...

... almost.

"I know the community is excited," says Paras Prashad, the new owner of Crews & Tango Restaurant and Bar. "There's been so much controversy," he says, referring to the flurry of rumours that have persisted for almost a year.

Prashad, along with co-owner and life partner, Michael, applied for business registration in January 2010. He claims competition for the hot location was fierce, and the couple's business proposal beat out some 60 applicants.

As per Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) regulations, the liquor application was posted for 30 days to allow for community objections. Lisa Murray, media relations person for the AGCO, says none were made.

According to Prashad, only a health inspection is pending, and other than that, he says, "She's good to go."

Bar staff applications have been arriving in the hundreds, he adds.

Prashad says those planning to carouse at Crews will be welcomed by a familiar motif, with an avant-garde flare — "the same concept with more ambience, more exciting innovation."

Prashad, who has a background in events management, plans to entice guests with regular theme nights and cultural events to offer "something new and exciting."

He also hopes to capitalize on Toronto's multiculturalism — something he feels is

insufficiently represented in the gay community.

Eventually, Prashad says, guests won't have to stagger over to Pizza Express to fill their stomachs. As the name suggests, Crews & Tango Restaurant and Bar will offer food to peckish patrons — "mostly tapas and finger foods," Prashad says, adding the restaurant won't be launched right away.

While "keeping the community feel" is an important business objective, Prashad and his partner plan to make Crews the headquarters of Canadian drag queendom.

"We want to make Crews the drag bar in Canada," says Prashad. "We want everyone to have a chance to say, 'I performed at Crews!' That's our goal." He says drag kings will likewise be given room on the main stage.

Although the reasons for the bar's abrupt closure in May of last year remain unclear, insight from the AGCO's Murray and regular Crews performer Amanda Roberts help dispel some rumours.

Despite reports of liquor licence violations, both Roberts and Murray confirm these were not among the reasons the bar shut down.

Murray says the last liquor licence violation happened in June of 2008, when Crews' licence was suspended for 10 days due to "overcrowding."

In May of 2009, Crews' licence "was in good standing with no pending violations." After the bar closed, Murray says, the licence was "surrendered" since, according to AGCO regulations, "If you close [your establishment], you have to surrender your liquor licence."

Roberts says the former owner, Gary Manz, simply decided he was "getting out of the business."

Rug cutters desperate to hit Crews' fabled dancefloors will have to wait a little longer before testing the new digs, since an official opening date has yet to be determined.

But Prashad insists the vexation of villagers will be eased when the time is right.

"Soon," he says with a suspenseful grin, "sooner than later."

Stay tuned for more stories about the changing face of Church St.

**SPORTS**



## LESBIAN COMPETES FOR CANADA'S PARALYMPIC TEAM

Mary Benson competed in the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games as an out lesbian cross-country skier. She placed 12th in the 1km sprint and 14th in the 5km classic. Ten years ago, a severe allergic reaction to anti-smoking meds left part of her brain injured, forcing her to learn how to walk and talk again. Benson credits her partner, Kathy, for getting her involved with skiing.

**TORONTO NEWS**

# RESEARCH IGNORES SEX PIGS

**Shameless sluts could be key to HIV-prevention work**

**Andrea Zanin**

**"ISN'T IT TIME TO CRITICALLY ASSESS** the reasons why gay men take sexual risks?"

That's the key question for Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, program manager for the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.

"HIV organizations have been shamed into not thinking. They're told they're being funded to distribute condoms in the streets," he says.

Along with Peter Hall, a research coordinator at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and St Michael's Hospital, Ibáñez-Carrasco has conducted a meta-analysis of research studies on HIV prevention from Canada and other English-speaking countries.

The results paint a portrait of researchers who lump gay men with straight-identified men who have sex with men (MSM) and who may lead lives of fear and shame. However, they also discovered that some gay men, whom they call sex pigs, have ideas about sex that go against the grain of conventional prevention.

Ibáñez-Carrasco defines "sex pigs" as a fluid group of people, mostly but not always HIV-positive gay men, who may or may not describe themselves as sex pigs.

"Sex pigs would be the bungee jumpers of sexuality," he says. "It's people who are more experimental and take higher risks."

He points to drug use and the fetishization of bodily fluids as examples

of the risky behaviours sex pigs might be gravitated toward.

He says there is no sociological literature or peer-reviewed work specifically focusing on this group. But the premise of this work is that it's nonetheless a group worth paying attention to.

"Not to pathologize or create more stigma around them, but because they are repositories of social memory, sexual memory, and they have very important links in the community. We think of them as people we need to eradicate or control, but culturally, they're part of the fabric of society."

Ibáñez-Carrasco and Hall tout an alternative: what if we placed HIV-positive gay men at the centre of prevention efforts, and affirmed (rather than condemned) their choices, even those of sex pigs?

That approach, what they call "positive prevention" takes into account how positive guys make sexual choices. Those choices may include barebacking with other poz guys (serosorting) and choosing to top or bottom during unprotected sex based on an understanding of what's riskier in terms of transmission (seropositioning).

"Positive prevention would not say to them, 'You must stop that,' although it's always a possibility, and there are techniques to modify your behaviour. But rather, it's to say, 'Under what conditions will you be doing this? What can we do to create the best environment for you to do that?'"

But poz guys aren't at the centre of HIV-prevention work at the moment,

says Ibáñez-Carrasco, for a whole host of reasons: the criminalization of the sexual behaviour of HIV-positive people; the "real apartheid between HIV-positive and HIV-negative" people; the lack of resources to help serodiscordant partners (sex partners who have different HIV statuses) make informed choices; the push toward monogamy and marriage as safeguards against HIV transmission; and the resistance to talking about the emotional allure of unprotected sexual practices.

"Epidemiology just says, 'They had unprotected sex,' and ends it at that, and this trickles down into public health policy. But we never ask, 'Why on earth do you do this; what is the meaning of this? Why do you want to connect or share loads?'"

They're conducting a workshop will invite audience dialogue and explicitly aims to create controversy.

"It's clear that we don't have enough opportunities to talk about this, and certainly we don't have opportunities where sluts and pigs feel they can share their wisdom. Why? Because we don't think they have wisdom."

On the contrary, though, Ibáñez-Carrasco insists we can learn from sex pigs, and now is the time to do it.

"Sex pigs might be generational, and we don't want to have a whole generation die without us knowing."



**the deets**

**THE PROBLEM WITH SEX PIGS**

Ibáñez-Carrasco and Hall will present their research at The Problem with Sex Pigs on Thurs, March 25 at 11am at the Rainbow Health Ontario conference. Registration info is at rainbowhealthontario.ca.

## NATIONAL NEWS

# HARDTV CHANGES HANDS

Building audience first order of business

Allison Martell

**PINK TRIANGLE PRESS (PTP), THE** company that publishes *Xtra*, in partnership with Peace Point Entertainment Group, has bought HardTV, a gay-porn digital specialty channel.

The channel was purchased from OutTV's parent company in a deal valued at about \$70,000.

Shavick Entertainment Group is the majority owner of OutTV, while PTP and Peace Point each hold a minority stake in that channel. Under the HardTV deal, Shavick gives up all interest in HardTV, while the rest of the ownership structure of OutTV remains unchanged.

Under the new ownership of HardTV, approved by the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission in December, PTP secures a 55 percent controlling stake, with Peace Point holding the remaining 45 percent.

PTP is no stranger to gay sexual expression. In addition to the *Xtra* chain of newspapers, *fab* and *Guide* magazines and its share in OutTV, the not-for-profit company also operates hookup services Cruiseline and Squirt.org. As well as their partnership in OutTV, PTP and Peace Point also work together on *Bump*, the international gay travel show.

HardTV was spun out of OutTV (then called PrideVision) when the

current investors bought in, explains Andrew Chang, PTP's chief operating officer.

"We've been putting a lot of work into OutTV, and it still needs a lot of work, but it's come a long way," says Chang. "There just weren't enough resources to also reposition and revitalize HardTV. We decided that we didn't want to lose a major media outlet for the community, so we decided to take it over and do that ourselves."

Since PrideVision was rebranded as OutTV, HardTV has languished.

"We thought once we invested in it we could make it into a successful business," says Les Tomlin, president and CEO at Peace Point. "It was kind of a wounded soldier that was lying there for three years, and now it's going to get the tender loving care that it needs."

Tomlin says some changes are already underway — to start, viewers should notice fewer reruns. Over the longer term, HardTV may expand beyond digital cable.

"We realize that people aren't just watching TV. You've got to be available on different platforms," especially online and on mobile devices, says Tomlin. "We're going to look into ways to expand the brand into multiple platforms."

For more, visit [hardtv.ca](http://hardtv.ca). Call your local digital cable provider to subscribe.

## NATIONAL NEWS

# 'I GOT HIV WHILE IN JAIL,' EX-INMATES SAY

Needle sharing is a 'reality' until feds start a clean-gear program

Kyle Mooney

**LENITA SPARKS, 47, RECOUNTS THE** first time she used a needle, while serving a three-year sentence for fraud.

"The first time I ever shot drugs was at Kingston [Penitentiary for Women]," she says. "I shot speed. I used somebody's needle to shoot it. About 10 of us used the same needle."

Kate and Gordon (not their real names) became HIV positive while serving their respective sentences in federal institutions. Both are convinced they contracted HIV from dirty needles.

"I am 100 percent sure I got infected from sharing used needles," says Kate.

"There is no doubt in my mind that I was infected with HIV from using an infected needle," Gordon says.

Their stories, and others, paint a grim picture of the state of harm reduction in Canadian prisons. In early February, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (CHANL) released *Under the Skin*, a candid report on drug use and needle sharing in prisons.

The report includes the personal testimonies of 50 former and current

inmates in Canada's correctional institutions.

*Under the Skin* was written by senior policy analyst for CHANL Sandra Ka Hon Chu, with help from fellow staff members and various HIV/AIDS organizations.

With drug use common in jails, the scarcity of syringes makes IV drug users more prone to needle sharing — a "principle factor" in higher rates of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) in Canadian prisons. (HIV and HCV prevalence in prisons is "10 and 20 times the estimated prevalence in Canada," according to the report).

The authors of *Under the Skin* call for Prison Needle Syringe Programs (PNSPs), which would provide clean needles to IV drug users in prison.

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has never implemented such a program in a Canadian correctional institution, citing their zero-tolerance policy on drugs in prison.

When asked to comment on the potential of PNSPs being implemented in Canadian prisons, Josée Bellemare, on behalf of Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq, reiterated the Government's mandate of eliminating drugs in prison.

"Our government cares about

preventing people, especially our young people, from becoming drug addicts in the first place," she tells *Xtra*. "That's why we're putting drug dealers in jail: so that our children are safe."

Richard Elliot, executive director of CHANL, says clean-needle programs are "absolutely critical" in preventing the spread of HIV and HCV.

"They say it is not their policy to introduce these things, and that's not good enough," he urges. "They really need to justify why they are taking this position."

Jim Motherall, who spent a total of 32 years behind bars, agrees with Elliot's view. He says government arguments against PNSPs are "ridiculous" since drug use in prisons is simply a reality.

"We have large numbers of prisoners who suffer from addiction," he says. "They're going to get the drug into them anyway they have to."

In 2006, Canadian prison officials flirted with PNSPs. At their request, the Public Health Agency of Canada compiled a report on the effectiveness and potential risks of PNSPs, but the recommendations contained in Public Health's report were never implemented.

Corrections representatives declined to comment for this story.

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ANALYSIS

# FANTINO CRUSADE CONTINUES

Media covers mega-sweeps, ignores what happens next

**James Dubro**

**JULIAN FANTINO HAS STRUCK AGAIN.**

On March 10, in a massive press conference from OPP headquarters broadcast live on many local TV stations, the OPP commissioner, now in his fourth year as Ontario's top cop, sat amongst dozens of police brass to announce a province-wide kiddie porn bust.

It was "a massive, coordinated" police operation involving many police forces across the province and resulting in 122 charges against 35 men and teens.

The language echoed a similar Fantino-chaired OPP press conference 13 months earlier, when 31 men were arrested in what Fantino then called the "largest bust for child porn in Ontario history."

And it was very similar to the press conference of February 2008, when 22 men and one woman were charged with child porn offences. After three high-profile busts over the last two years, very few cases have actually gone to court. When they have, they have received scant media attention. It is the difference between individual cases heard in court and highly orchestrated,

scripted, televised police press conferences after charging a large group. Why does the media cover these charges so prominently, naming names, without any analysis or follow-up?

Mark Bourrie, an Ottawa historian and an expert on media and censorship issues, says this is typical of the Fantino machine.

"Fantino is a tireless self-promoter," he says. "He always leaves the impression these charges involve seven-year-old kids exploited by Mafialike porn-makers."

"Of course, no one in the media says, 'boo.' They don't want to be tagged as defenders of child molesters, and Fantino's version of reality makes for another great menace storyline."

Rob Teixeira, a doctoral student researching sexual regulation, agrees. "It's interesting that many [in the public] are taken in as soon as they read 'kiddie porn' in the press. Critical thinking is shut down, and the media report the police perspective almost exclusively."

Fantino dramatically announced on March 10 — as he did a year earlier — that he would "not rest" until he had "hunted down all the child predators"

out there. This personal pledge has been picked up by many TV stations and some newspapers as "news" several times over the years.

In the current bust, the accused men are mostly accused of internet child-porn possession or distribution. Police call this charge "make available," but the police promotion machine sees no difference between creating kiddie porn and having it on your computer.

The men were from 16 cities across the province. All 35 were charged with what Fantino apocalyptically called "one of the most heinous crimes that human beings can inflict on each other."

Curiously, charges of "sexual assault" appear in much of the press coverage but not in the OPP official list of charges to date. And pointedly, Fantino and the other police brass present gave no specific details of the alleged crimes, the ages or even the sexes of the "victims," or how the police became aware of those charged, or anything else upon which an independent analysis or assessment could be made. One has to take it on faith, as the mainstream media did, that the cops had broken up a huge kiddie porn operation and that the accused were all child abusers.

Surprisingly, most of the 32 formally charged were young people themselves. Nine are teenagers aged 15 to 19 (five are 17 or under); 10 are in their 20s (five of these between 21 and 23).

Just six of the men were 36 or older.

This may be because the younger generation live much of their lives online, and many casually exchange photos all the time, Teixeira notes.

"Child porn offences can be incurred by anyone as easily as clicking on the wrong link. That is considered 'possessing.' Teens can be charged with these offences just for taking images of themselves and sending them to other teens. In that case, they can be charged with making, possessing and distributing. Teens are indeed being arrested under this law."

Fantino had persuaded the then-NDP provincial government to provide London police with funding for a province-wide police program attacking the perceived growing threat of kiddie porn rings. Richard Hudler, a long-time gay activist who closely watched Fantino's anti-child-porn crusade in the '90s, sees reason for hope this time around, as Fantino did not target any particular group — like gay men.

"I'm a little encouraged to see that they don't appear to be creating as much moral panic as previously. My hope is that the public is starting to realize that the hype attached to these massive numbers of charges is exaggerated," says Hudler.

Of course, Fantino isn't the only one in the OPP prone to overstatement. Fred Goldschmidt, the officer in charge of the special child porn section of the OPP, said that one computer seized had six million child porn images on it. This amazing number was particularly hard to believe — who would look at, let alone count, six million photos? And if they haven't looked at all the images, how can they tell they are porn, let alone child porn?

As the individual cases work their way through the courts, a more measured picture is likely to emerge. Following the last three mega-sweeps, there is usually no media exposure when charges are dropped, plea-bargained or prosecuted in the courts. And in the meantime, more than two dozen men have been named and shamed in their local newspapers.

*James Dubro is an award-winning true-crime writer and past-president of the Crime Writers of Canada.*

**FANTINO IS A TIRELESS SELF-PROMOTER. HE ALWAYS LEAVES THE IMPRESSION THESE CHARGES INVOLVE 7-YEAR-OLD KIDS EXPLOITED BY MAFIALIKE PORN-MAKERS.**

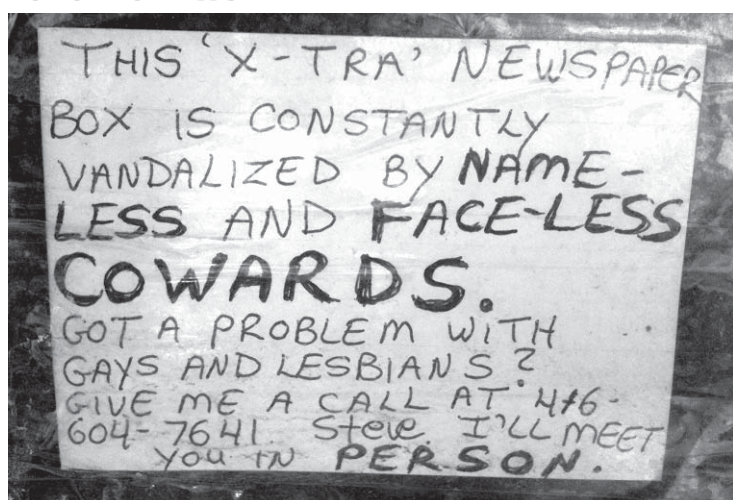
—historian Mark Bourrie

This has been Fantino's modus operandi since his days as the London, Ontario, police chief from 1991 to 1998. There he targeted gay men in "Project Guardian" for involvement in what he called — in highly publicized press conferences — a province-wide "kiddie porn ring."

It was later shown to involve people who mostly didn't know each other, teenaged hustlers and their older johns.

Only two were eventually convicted of pornography offences. But by 1994,

TORONTO NEWS



## PUT UP YER DUKES

**Rob Salerno**

LONGTIME JUNCTION-AREA RESIDENT Steve Maclean has issued a challenge to homophobic vandals who've been tagging an *Xtra* newspaper box at the TTC's Keele Station. "Got a problem with gays and lesbians? Give me a call. I'll meet you in person," reads a poster he taped to the side of the box. He included his telephone number on the sign.

Maclean, a 48-year-old shipping receiver, says he didn't want to be a victim of "homophobic cowards." Maclean says he taped a handmade poster to the box about a year ago and noticed that the vandalism immediately stopped. When the sign

eventually became weathered and came off, the tagging started again, so he made a new sign and pasted it on with warehouse tape. The vandalism stopped again as soon as the new sign went up.

Brandon Sawh, *Xtra's* community relations manager, says vandalism is not uncommon on the 87 boxes *Xtra* maintains around Toronto.

"This one has been hit a few times," says Sawh. "If it's reported to us, we have a distributor go and either replace the box for us, or we have a graffiti removal company clean it for us."

*If you see a damaged Xtra box, please drop Sawh a line at [brandon.sawh@xtra.ca](mailto:brandon.sawh@xtra.ca).*

briefs >

**Dyke Tory to keep up anthem battle**

LESBIAN CONSERVATIVE Senator Nancy Ruth was in the Upper Chamber on March 3 while the Governor General read out the government's plans to make the national anthem gender neutral — one of Ruth's pet causes since being appointed in 2005.

"It was like, 'Yes!'" Ruth says.

The Prime Minister had agreed to look at the 1908 version, which had "Thou dost in us command," rather than "In all thy son's command."

The Senator's elation was short-lived. Just 48 hours later, the government said it was abandoning its proposal.

Cabinet ministers were mum when it came to promoting the issue, including Helena Guergis, minister of state for the status of women.

"I actually hold some of the media responsible," says Ruth. "They didn't once focus on the gender inclusiveness. I was pretty angry at the CBC and other places in the media."

Ruth plans to continue to push the issue, and says she has heard that Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett is planning to move for revised English and French versions of the anthem.

—Dale Smith

Read the full version of this story on [xtra.ca](#).

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### briefs >

#### Gaybasher's wrist slapped

THE EARLY MARCH SENTENCE for a London, Ontario, anti-gay attack wasn't tough enough, say anti-homophobia activists and one of the men who was assaulted.

On Sept 27, 2009, Erik Rozenski and his boyfriend were holding hands as they walked home after a night out at the local gay bar. They were attacked by two men who uttered homophobic slurs. Rozenski and his partner suffered scrapes and bruises.

Michael Gordon, 23, of Richmond Hill pleaded guilty and was given a suspended sentence with two years probation. The other suspect was never identified.

In a note posted on Facebook, Rozenski suggested Gordon should have received jail time.

"After all the hard work many people do to stop hate crimes in our community, the judicial system just comes along and wipes us off the board like a big inconvenience," he wrote. "Once again, the judicial system fails at bringing justice."

The Crown Attorney asked for 60 days in jail on top of probation, but the judge opted for a lighter sentence, reported the *London Free Press*.

—Brent Creelman

Read up on the Rozenski story at [xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca).

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COMMUNITIES

# GRIEVING SPOUSE TO WALK ACROSS CANADA

## Shaira Holman wants to raise money for marginalized queers

**Samantha Sarra**

**"I AM MAD WITH GRIEF," SAYS** Shaira Holman, who lost her partner, Catherine White Holman, in a plane crash last November off Saturna Island. "I am in so much pain, so much grief; I don't know what to do with myself. People in that much grief go on walks and pilgrimages, that's what I am going to do. I just need to put one foot in front of the other."

Departing from Vancouver on April 1, Holman plans to walk more than 100 days across Canada to arrive in Toronto in time for Pride on July 4. She's calling it the Walk for Love.

"It gives me an alternative to suicide," she says. "I don't want to be here without Catherine. We had the biggest love of anyone I've known."

"I don't even like walking," Holman says, "so I think it will be quite an ordeal, penance maybe. I have a lot of guilt, survivor guilt. We had planned on going to the island together. If I had gone, we would have been on the ferry and she wouldn't have died. It's hard to forgive myself for that. Maybe I can let some of the pain go in the wilderness somewhere."

The 4,000-kilometre journey will be a fundraiser for the Catherine White Holman Memorial Legacy Fund for queers living in poverty.

"I wanted a way to continue Catherine's work for marginalized people," Holman explains.

A well-respected counsellor and a founding member of Vancouver's Three Bridges clinic, Catherine wrote the Guidelines for Transgender Care and Care for Transgender Adolescents, considered the benchmarks on best practices internationally. She also helped launch queer health programs

like Prism and helped people get access to funding and resources.

The Legacy Fund will have a very simple application process, Holman promises. "The application for disability is 26 pages. Catherine helped people fill it out and get the money they needed. This fund will continue that work. It's about need; people can use it for education or to help them get out of poverty, whatever they need."

Holman has started the fund by providing \$3,000 seed money and hopes to raise at least \$200,000.

Departing on April Fool's Day because she is a self-professed "fool for love," Holman says she'll be depending on the kindness of strangers along her journey. "Most people who go across the country have a support team, an RV that follows them, etc. I'm hoping

that there will be a network of people along the way who can feed me, shelter me, carry my pack and, of course, donate to the fund."

"I am taking my dog Tilda with me," Holman says. "I don't have a sponsor, but Tilda does. Sophie's Pet Palace will be providing for her needs."

"It's also kind of an art project," adds Holman, who is the artistic director of the Pride in Art Society. "I will have GPS with me so people can track my journey and join in anywhere along the way. I will be walking every day and writing every night."

"I can't make sense of this thing that has happened," she says. "Catherine was my light and my light has gone out. This is me trying to find that light again."

"Her body is not here, but I feel her all the time. I know she will be with me on this journey. She'll be saying, 'Honey, you don't like walking. You're from LA; you drive everywhere.' But she'll also say 'You're my hero,' because that's what she told me all the time."



"I just need to put one foot in front of the other," says Shaira Holman.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAIRA HOLMAN

FEDERAL POLITICS

# FEDS BACK OFF CHRA STUDY

## Hate speech repeal falls off spring agenda

**Dale Smith**

**THE COMMONS JUSTICE COMMITTEE** started a study on Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) in the previous session of Parliament, but the government's decision to pro-rogue killed the committee — and the study.

Now that the Hill's justice committee has resumed, is the study going to come back?

Not necessarily.

"We had a meeting of the steering committee," says Liberal justice critic Dominic LeBlanc. "This didn't come up."

Section 13 of the CHRA governs the transmission of hate speech by telephone or on the internet.

Some, including U of T law professor Brenda Cossman, have called for the section to be repealed. She argues that Section 13 establishes a lower threshold for offences than the two hate speech laws that appear in the Criminal Code.

"We'd sort of begun to scratch the surface [of the study]," says Conservative MP Brent Rathgeber, a

proponent of repealing Section 13. "We'd had two or three days of hearings and heard from the human rights commissioner, and of course from Ezra [Levant] and Mark Steyn."

The NDP's justice critic, Joe Comartin, nevertheless says he has his doubts that the government wants to pursue the study. And while Comartin says he has heard that Conservatives on the committee want to resume the study, they appear to be giving it no priority.

"Given the backlog of bills and other work, studies that we're doing on organized crime, I have a hard time, quite frankly, seeing us doing anything more on that at least in this year, and I expect an election sometime this year, so I think it probably is not going to go anywhere."

LeBlanc says he sees the utility of the study, but isn't anxious to make it a priority.

"If the government decides to let it go, that certainly would be fine with us," LeBlanc says.

➔ Read more coverage of free speech and Section 13 at [xtra.ca](#).

### briefs

#### Kenney dodges, again

**IMMIGRATION MINISTER JASON** Kenney dodged more questions on March 16 about the removal of gay issues from the Canadian citizenship study guide.

At a Commons immigration committee meeting, NDP MP Olivia Chow asked Kenney if gay rights would be added to the next printing. Kenney would not commit, turning instead to his talking points: there was "zero content" on gay issues or same-sex marriage in the

1995 edition of the guide, and the new edition includes a reference to Mark Tewksbury. Of course, the 1995 guide couldn't have referenced gay marriage, which wasn't legalized until 2005.

On March 2, Canadian Press reported that Kenney's office deliberately removed gay references from an early draft of the guide. Kenney's office has not returned Xtra's calls.

More than 8,000 people have joined the Canadians Calling for the Resignation of Jason Kenney Facebook group.

—Brent Creelman

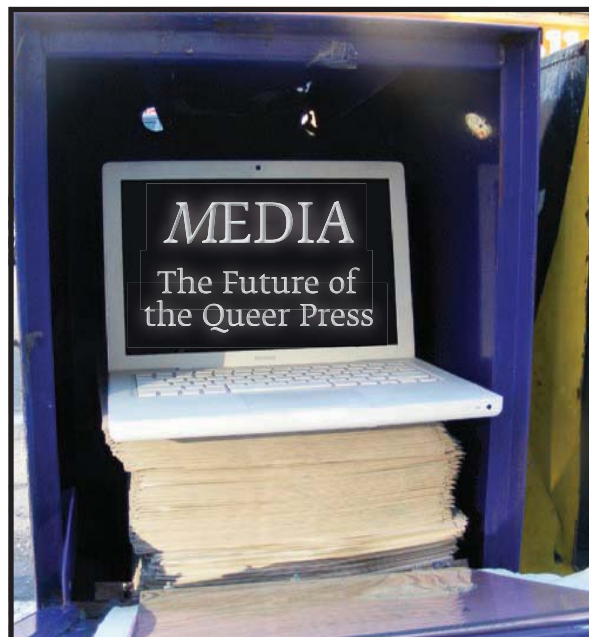
### on the web

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XTRA GOES DEEP



# THE SOUND OF THE FURIOUS

Queer protest wrings concession from Pride Toronto over censorship policy

**Marcus McCann**

**PRIDE TORONTO HAS RESCINDED** its sign-vetting policy, ending a difficult two weeks for the organization.

Responding to community outrage, largely voiced on Facebook and Twitter, Pride Toronto issued an open letter on March 23:

"The Board of Directors of Pride Toronto has listened to feedback from the community, and the proposed plan for an ethics committee to review and approve all messaging prior to the parade, Dyke and Trans March has been withdrawn. The process followed during the 2009 festival will remain in place for 2010."

That statement ends one chapter in a very public spat. But many of the issues that made the sign controversy such a flashpoint — free expression, Middle Eastern politics, the role of small-c and capital-C conservatives in the gay movement,

and the increasing prominence of corporate sponsors at the parade — remain.

It all started two weeks earlier, on March 10, when Pride Toronto released a short, cheerful-sounding announcement.

Everyone marching in the Pride Parade would be asked to "ensure that messages support the theme of the 2010 festival," according to a press release published to its website.

Despite the tone, there was an edge to the release.

"Participating groups must agree... to have their messages and signage approved by the ethics committee of Pride Toronto in advance of the event. Groups who fail to cooperate with the new practices will be denied permission to take part or removed from the line-up if necessary."

Pride Toronto co-chair Jim Cullen was quoted as saying the policy was a way of "promoting freedom of expression and diversity."

Social media exploded. Tweeters turned snarky, and a protest page on Facebook quickly shot up to more than 1,000 members. Members of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) said the policy appeared to be aimed at them.

For most queers who posted their concerns on Xtra.ca, Facebook and Twitter, their anger had little to do with QuAIA or

any other specific group. The issue was censorship.

And those concerns were exacerbated by the slick doublespeak of the announcement, according to writer David Demchuk and others who gathered online.

It wasn't long before all the sunshine had drained out of Pride's communications.

Cullen gave a clenched-jaw interview for *Xtra* online, in which he insisted the new policy had nothing to do with QuAIA.

Tracey Sandilands, Pride Toronto's executive director, tried to rebuff a Facebook group by telling members that "lies and misinformation" were being spread about her organization. Her post sparked more ridicule than reconciliation.

The following week, Sandilands was more upbeat, promising that Pride would circulate a detailed freedom-of-expression policy before adopting it.

But by then, anti-censorship queers had set up a letter-writing campaign, and queers were venting their (sometimes tangentially) related concerns about Pride at several internet hubs. Some members of the Facebook group began tracing the policy back to focus groups run over the winter by conservative PR firm Navigator (see sidebar).

At the same time, Toronto's queer

**Pride Toronto's demand that all signage stay "on theme" echoes earlier calls to exclude political, non-queer messages (like those of QuAIA) from the parade. Xtra has assembled some of the political, non-queer messages that were presented at Pride in 2009.**

PHOTOS BY NICOLA BETTS & PETER BEVAN

literati took up the cause, including novelist Zoe Whittall, poet RM Vaughan and playwright Brad Fraser.

The stakes were raised again when both queers in favour and opposed to the sign-vetting rule began emailing their protest directly to Pride Toronto's sponsors.

Calls for further action — including boycotting the Pride Parade and staging an alternative Pride a week earlier — reached a fevered pitch in the days before Pride Toronto's reversal.

Questions remain about how political signs at the parade will be handled, since the Parade Terms and Conditions still contain a lengthy clause about messaging. While signs will not be vetted in advance, folks with controversial signs can still be ejected on the day of the parade.

Calls to Genevieve D'Iorio and Jim Cullen, the co-chairs of Pride Toronto were not returned by press time. Executive director Tracey Sandilands, when reached at her office, directed inquiries to the board.

"It's the board that's driving the policy," she told *Xtra* on March 23. "I'm not sure if it'll make everyone happy, or if people will think it's too little too late."

—with files from Scott Dagostino, Cate Simpson and Matt Mills

**IF WE START CENSORING MESSAGES, WHERE DO WE STOP?**

—Brad Fraser

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## The unravelling of Pride

**MAY 23, 2009**  
 After being named 2009 Pride Toronto (PT) grand marshal, Toronto lawyer, activist and Salaam: Queer Muslim Community founder El-Farouk Khaki introduces speakers at a Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) event at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

El-Farouk Khaki >

**MAY 28, 2009**  
 After Frank Dimant, executive VP of B'nai Brith Canada, calls for PT to take disciplinary action against Khaki for contravening Pride's anti-discrimination policy, *National Post* runs a story on the kerfuffle under the headlines "Anti-Zionists banned from Pride Parade," and



MATT MILLS

"Protests prohibited." In it, then-new PT ED Tracey Sandilands says Khaki has promised PT that he will "never under any circumstances speak on the Israeli issue from a Pride point of view.... We will be very much more careful this year," she says. "We will make sure that we have a presence to ensure that people don't slip into the parade."



PETER BEVAN

**JUNE 28, 2009**  
 QuAIA, Khaki and scores of other politicians and political groups march in the parade without incident.

**JANUARY 2010**  
 PT conducts a series of focus groups to, it says, "help shape Pride Toronto's strategy for community involvement

and communications from now through to WorldPride in 2014." Third-party emails circulate urging opponents of QuAIA and Totally Naked Toronto Men to apply for the focus groups in an effort to persuade Pride to alienate those groups.



COMMUNITY

## Sandilands defends sign policy

**Xtra spoke with Pride Toronto executive director Tracey Sandilands on March 16.**

We knew nobody was going to be happy with the decision, but unfortunately, we are not going to be banning anyone. But we are tightening up on the messaging simply because we can't afford to have in the parade things like on the March 11 cover of Xtra, "Sodomy equals death." We can't afford on the day to let somebody who may be a volunteer and not necessarily be knowledgeable about whether something is allowed or not. The idea is simply to ensure that we have measures in place to deal with what may come up. The idea is not to sanitize Pride.

I realize that people are getting hot under the collar about the issue before they have all the facts. We are looking at a strategy for clarifying a few things.

## Anatomy of a movement

Xtra published Cate Simpson's story on Pride's new sign-vetting policy on March 11. That same day Rick Telfer registered the Don't Sanitize Pride Facebook group. Since then membership in it has swelled to more than 1,500 members, and Pride Toronto has changed its course. Telfer spoke with Xtra's Matt Mills on March 23.

Here's what he said:

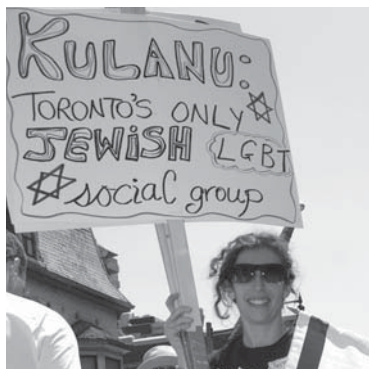
Pride's change of heart reflects a reaction from the wider community. It was such an outcry and outpouring of concern about the new policy, it was clear the board of directors needed to assume its proper role and get back in the driver's seat.

My sense is that the board may not have been entirely involved in the policy development process and once they realized they were asleep at the wheel, they risked losing legitimacy. I think it's a really good sign and it shows that a little online activism can have an impact in a fairly significant way.

I started the Facebook group simply because I learned about this new censorship policy. As we moved ahead, a whole range of other issues came to the fore, including deep community concern about the increasing corporatization of Pride, and the community's democratic involvement in setting the direction for Pride celebrations.

It's literally a case where people need to break down into committees and talk about who's going to tackle which issue and then start working it.

I don't think the overarching goal should be to get anybody. It's not about cutting throats; it's about peering into the organization that runs our Pride and figuring out if it serves the interests of the community, or if it is serving the interests of individuals within the community. Some of it will happen through online activism, but online activism can only go so far. When you want to actually figure out an organization, you have to actually get involved with it on a personal level.



PRIDE TORONTO

# WERE THE FOCUS GROUPS STACKED?

Political messaging was one of the main topics: participant

**Marcus McCann**

Focus groups conducted by conservative PR firm Navigator discussed censoring parade participants less than two months before Pride Toronto's botched signage announcement.

Focus group participant Cathy Gulkin charges that the focus groups were "stacked" and "not representative of the community." She says four of the 10 women in her pool were there to call for the censorship of signs about political, non-queer issues and denounced Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA)'s participation in the 2009 parade.

Although she says she's not a member of QuAIA, Gulkin marched with the group in 2009.

However, her assertion is bolstered by two similar versions of an email obtained by Xtra that suggest there was an effort to fill the groups with people who want QuAIA banned from the parade.

One version of the email appears to be from Toronto lawyer Martin Gladstone, but Gladstone wrote to Xtra to clarify that he didn't draft the letter.

"I never wrote or composed a letter of any nature asking people to attend," he wrote. "There was one email in circulation that encouraged people to participate, which I forwarded to two people, and that was it. So this idea that I stacked and distorted the focus groups has no factual basis."

The emails ask that those who are accepted for the groups get in touch with Carol Pasternak. Pasternak did not respond to Xtra's requests for comment.

Focus groups are one way to find out how people from a group feel about a given topic. They rely on the idea that a part can stand in for the whole. However, if the sample is skewed, it casts a shadow over the results.

Gulkin says she attended a Navigator-led focus group of lesbians over the age

of 35 on Jan 26.

She says it was a group of four participants, not moderator Chad Rogers of Navigator, who introduced the subject of political, non-queer messaging and QuAIA.

"It was introduced by one of the members of the focus group, who said, 'Let's talk about the elephant in the room.'"

She says the group spent half of the two-hour discussion talking about political messages and QuAIA.

Pride Toronto, not Navigator, chose the participants of the focus groups, says Navigator's Chad Craig. Although researchers would normally control the sample group, Pride Toronto conducted that part of the research to save money.

Gulkin, meanwhile, says the results should be considered "null and void."

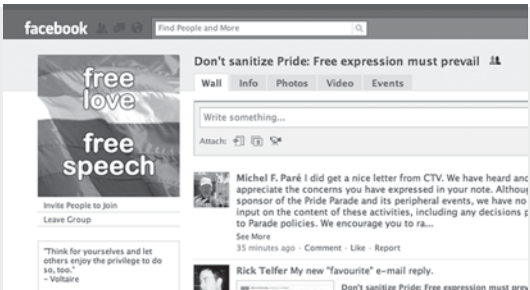
Pride Toronto's Tracey Sandilands told Xtra she thought the focus groups had "a good mix" of people.

"There were a few people that we were able to identify when they applied that were specifically, were particularly, trying to stack the focus group on that particular issue, and we declined them to participate," she says. "So, if the focus groups were stacked, it was done without any knowledge of ours."

**FEBRUARY 11, 2010** PT announces changes to the grand marshal selection process. Final selections will be made by a jury of peers, instead of a public voting process. "We are revisiting a number of our processes to see how we can better advance our mission and vision," says Sandilands.

**MARCH 10, 2010** PT issues a press release about terms

and conditions for participation in the parade. It reads in part, "Participating groups must agree to... have their messages and signage approved by the ethics committee of Pride Toronto in advance of the event. Groups who fail to cooperate with the new practices will be denied permission to take part or removed from the lineup if necessary."



**MARCH 11, 2010** The Don't Sanitize Pride: Free Expression Must Prevail Facebook group is launched. More than 1,500 people join over the next two weeks.

**MARCH 15, 2010** Xtra anonymously receives copies of two emails. The first, dated March 10, from the Simon Wiesenthal Center to Sandilands, offers to help

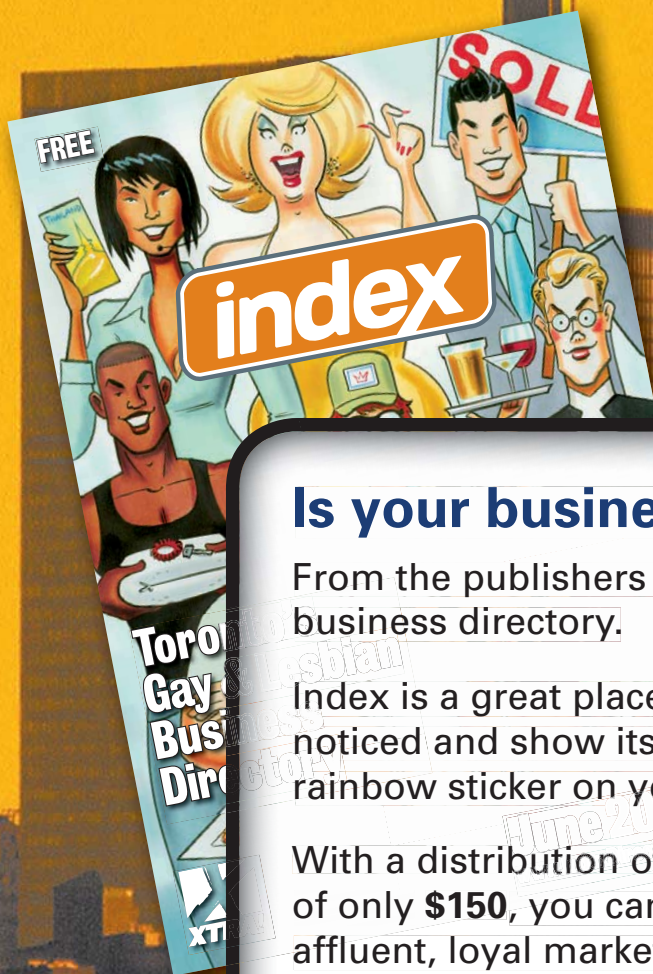
promote Pride in return for a "clearer statement on Pride's position on QuAIA." The second, from conservative PR firm Navigator, advises PT to hold steady in spite of the backlash. It reads in part, "Pride's decisions were not made based on any particular group or term, and we will not prejudice applications. Period."

**MARCH 16, 2010** Sandilands tells Xtra that Pride staffers were aware there was a move afoot to influence the January focus groups, and that the organization moved to keep those people out.

**MARCH 17, 2010** Cathy Gulkin tells Xtra that she participated in a Jan 26 Pride focus group that was "clearly stacked."

**MARCH 23, 2010** PT announces it will drop its policy of vetting signs in advance of the parade. However, a detailed messaging policy remains on the books, meaning offensive signs could still be turfed on the day of the parade.

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SEXUAL POLITICS

# A PIONEER IN PORN

## Tristan Taormino navigates the back passages of sexual expression

Greg Beneteau

**IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO CREATE** sex-positive, empowering porn for women, award-winning sex educator, columnist and feminist pornographer Tristan Taormino says she's learned a lot about what makes porn actors tick.

"For many of them, no matter how much they love their jobs, it's still a job," she says. "They're entitled to show up and have a good experience while they're getting paid."

Ten years after falling into the adult film business, Taormino has carved a successful career producing what she calls "organic, fair-trade porn" through her company, Smart Ass Productions.

Her movies have earned critical acclaim for challenging contrived stereotypes in what is admittedly a boys' club, putting women in charge of their sexual encounters both on- and off-camera.

"For me, feminist porn is all about having a filmmaking process that is intentional, ethical and responsible and creates a really good work environment," says Taormino, who is nominated in four categories at this year's Feminist Porn Awards (see story, page 23).

"It's about respect and choice."

Starting off as a sex educator and "anal sexpert," Taormino had a breakout hit with her book *The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Women*.

Buoyed by the success, she went looking for a studio to produce an all-female video adaptation of *The Ultimate Guide* that was part step-by-step guide, part "feminist gang-bang."

"I wanted to prove that the girl next door can enjoy anal sex," she explains.

Mainstream studios were skeptical about an educational anal-pleasure video for women, but John Stagliano, aka Buttman, who was then a successful porn producer with a line of female ass-worship videos, saw the appeal.

Stagliano is one of the pioneers of "gonzo porn," a genre characterized by short, mostly unscripted clips with a camera-as-observer point of view. He agreed to finance *The Ultimate Guide* as a gonzo shoot with Taormino as director.

Taormino appeared in the final scene of the movie, in which the dozen female cast members test out what they've learned on her.

"I got fucked by who I wanted, how I wanted, with all the toys that I wanted," recalls Taormino, who abhors labels but will settle for being called queer, or an "equal opportunity lover."

The idea of portraying real choice and real arousal is reflected in her filmmaking, which is gonzo in form but captures both the sex and the motivations of the people involved.

In her *Chemistry* movie series, Taormino draws on a certain reality TV show to set the scene: take seven pornstars, put them in a house together for 36 hours, interview them, let them have sex any way they want, and have them film the result.

The couples, who have specifically selected their co-stars, are allowed to talk to each other and laugh. They choose how the sex progresses and for how long, which keeps the action fresh and avoids a common problem in gonzo.

"You don't have to worry about cumming. You just let them fuck how they want to fuck and they'll cum. That's just true," Taormino claims.

You also occasionally get some deep insights from actors who are presumed not to think very hard about what they do or why. In *Chemistry Volume I*, Mr Marcus, a black porn actor specializing in interracial scenes, rants about discrimination in the business while receiving a blowjob from co-star Dana DeArmond. A strap-on dildo session with Kurt Lockwood on the receiving end leads to a conversation about the gay-straight divide in porn.

Taormino tried a similar approach chronicling more aggressive male-female sexual encounters in her latest



Tristan Taormino speaks at Porn Reborn: New Movements and Markets in Pornography at U of T on March 12. PHOTO BY AMY SILVERMAN

series, *Rough Sex*. Stars like Sasha Grey are shown discussing their choice of co-star, the setting and what kinds of punishment they would like to endure, including (consensual) rape fantasies, and then act out the scene.

Though Taormino has raised eyebrows with her approach – "It's a bit of a touchy subject, whether male-dominated sex can be feminist," she admits – female viewers embrace the concept because "consent is very clear, desire is very clear, and who's in control is very clear."

When she's not exploring the boundaries of feminist porn, Taormino maintains a hectic seminar schedule on the US university circuit and in the media, discussing everything from the

sorry state of American sex education to polyamory. A proponent of open relationships, she penned the popular non-monogamy manual *Opening Up* in 2008 and appeared as an orgy "sextra" in John Cameron Mitchell's film *Shortbus*.

She occasionally strays north of the border to teach at Come As You Are and Northbound Leather, where her classes cover decidedly more difficult topics, like advanced anal play.

Does that make Canadians sexperts in their own right?

"I would say you're advanced," she laughs.

Learn more about Taormino and her work at [puckerup.com](http://puckerup.com).

# Butches' guide to getting over her

Loose End  
Ivan E Coyote



**E**ARLIER THIS YEAR, I WROTE a column in *Xtra's* Vancouver edition for my (mostly) straight lady friends, listing 10 steps to getting over your ex.

It was an entirely communal endeavour. I solicited ideas through an open call on my Facebook page, so much of the advice came from recently single women themselves.

This is a relatively new method of research for me, and a fascinating one, because like many folks who work in the public eye, quite a few of my Facebook friends are people I have never actually met in real life. With some, I have developed online friendships of a sort; others not so much. So a lot of the tips I gathered for last month's column came from people I don't really know.

This made me wonder: when it comes to human, heart-related stuff like community, or support, or advice, or friendship, is the quality of the connection forged between people any less real if it happens online? Is the advice given by one stranger to another online any less helpful than that delivered by a neighbour, or an old friend? Is face-to-face consolation somehow more tangible and takeable than that

of Facebook, or a phone call?

All this got me thinking. I haven't come up with any brilliant insights really, but still, there was a bit of thinking happening.

After the advice to recently single ladies came out, I received quite a few requests for a butch version, so I put out another call on Facebook. I am going to pass on the most-repeated tips, and the steps that general consensus revealed to be helpful. But given the nature of some of the comments I received after the first column hit the cyberwaves, I guess I need to include a disclaimer.

When I say going to the gym and getting some exercise will make you feel better, both physically and mentally, I am not insisting that everyone conform to mainstream advertising's ideal body type, nor am I espousing any kind of height/weight-specific standards of what is sexy. I mean that going to the gym or getting some exercise will make you feel better.

And when I say going out for libations with your pals can help you renew old friendships that might have gone to fallow while you were in an unhappy relationship, I am in no way making light of the seriousness of substance abuse, nor am I maligning anyone in recovery. I simply mean that going out for a beverage of your choice with other consenting adults whose company you enjoy could be a pleasurable alternative to staying home by yourself and staring at the dents in the

rug where the furniture used to be.

So, here are some of the tips to getting over a breakup – butch style.

**Get a haircut.** A fresh three-pack of white T-shirts and new boxers were also popular suggestions. Other butch accoutrements can help, too: vintage cufflinks, a pocketknife or a fountain pen can put a little bounce in your step and a sparkle in your eye.

**Go on a road trip.** This one is a must. There was some debate over solo versus with the buddies. I think this is a personal choice. Whether it is a train ride through the prairies alone or five fellows piling into the van for a three-day, mostly naked camping trip, everyone agreed that a change of scenery is in order.

**Eat messy food.** Barbecue, crab, lobster, corn on the cob, fondue, fried things in general. Food that gets on you while you are getting it in you. Food that involves fingerbowl, rolls of paper towels, bibs or even a hot shower afterward.

**Go places with your dog in your truck.** To the hardware store to buy building supplies is a great idea.

This is also the precursor to one of the most important steps of all: **Build something awesome.** Shelves. A woodshed. A loft bed. A combination couch and bench-press station. Doesn't matter what it is; it just matters that you build it. Nails should be pounded. Things should be sawed. Small amounts of blood need

to be shed. This is a rite of passage, a vital ritual.

Building something is also an excuse for another important step, which is: **Buy something pretty.** Such as anything made by Bosch or Snap-on. This is where the discussion got a little heated: Milwaukee and DeWalt fans had to get a word in. Again, I believe decisions like this are a personal choice, and I for one would never get in between a brother and his or her tool preference. Some things are just too sacred.

**Listen to music.** The stuff you want, and loud. Set up the sub-woofer you found in the alley or at that garage sale and crank it. For me, this step is all about classic rock, but that is just me. The same guidelines stated above for tool preference also apply here. What is important is that you create a new soundtrack for your life, starring you.

Singing in the truck is also necessary. When the teenagers at the spotlight point and laugh, roll the window down and explain that your stereo is in fact

yours, not borrowed from your mother, so you are inherently cooler, even if you are rocking out to Fleetwood Mac.

**Manage what you say about your ex.** This will affect the way things go for you. Be a gentleman, no matter how hard she makes it for you. This will pay off in the long run.

The most important step, in my opinion, is also the hardest. **Build the brotherhood of butches.** Reach out to your butch and trans male friends, and consciously seek out new ones.

This is not a tired and sexist bro-before-hos thing – not at all. I am talking about building a strong, healthy community that can be there for each other. We have been taught to see each other as competition for too long, and we have suffered for it.

We need to learn to stick together better. Because single is not such a bad thing to be, when you are not so alone.

Loose End appears in every second issue of *Xtra*.

comment

**"Let me also suggest: Get a new tattoo. I just got a turquoise butch star on my forearm – on a whim – and didn't tell anyone ahead of time."**

—Robin Gordon, Toronto, ON

To comment on this story, go to [xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca).

THE NEW LOOK

# OUTSIDE, INSIDE AND BEYOND

Your guide to the new Xtra

### Join the discussion

Comment is home to hard-hitting analysis by Xtra staff writers and editors. It's also your place to have your say. Whether you leave a comment on Xtra.ca, email your ideas directly to an Xtra editor or write your thoughts out longhand for delivery by snail mail, your comments are critically important. You're not just a consumer of information; you're an active participant in the storyline.



**Xtra!** NEW LIFE AT CREWS & TANGO Church St bar reopening >11

**POLITICS & PRIDE TORONTO** Sign-vetting policy turfed >16

**TIP OF THE HAT** Local milliner honoured >25

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FREE 40,000 AUDITED CIRCULATION

**Brendan Healy**

The man behind the curtain at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre >23

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### The front door

A cleaner and updated cover design allows Xtra to present rich illustration and photography without the limitations of standing elements. Retired is the familiar Xtra logo, formerly in the top left corner of each cover. This allows for cover illustrations and photography unmarred by the logo position.

### A new brand for a bright future

Formerly, each of the Xtra publications and Xtra.ca bore a separate, distinct logo. The new, simplified and iconic logo will mark all of Xtra's work, in your neighbourhood, across Canada and around the world. Also, look for Xtra's mark on promotional material for sponsored community events and organizations nationwide.



### Navigation

Roundup is Xtra's front foyer. It's your guide to all things Xtra, inside the publication and beyond. Roundup not only outlines the selection of news, analysis and arts coverage waiting in the pages of your print edition, it also directs you to great video, audio, photographic and additional print features online at Xtra.ca.

**Xtra! Roundup** MARCH 25, 2010 #663

**Groove in the heart <30**

**Mapping a drug routine**

**Queer, utopian vision**

**Dr. Kevin Rusello + Associates**

**SAME-SEX LEGAL ISSUES**

**JANICE R. WARREN**

**CYNTHIA ROBOVY WARREN**

**BRIAN ELDER**

**ANYWHERE WHERE TO BE?**

**PHOTO CITY BOARDS \$429,900**

## The evolution of Xtra



### 1984

A star is born  
Xtra got its start in January 1984 as a spinoff from the late, great institution of sexual liberation, *The Body Politic*. Xtra was conceived as a marketable and free back-pocket entertainment guide, distributed mainly through Toronto's bar scene.



### 1987

A sister falls  
In February 1987, *The Body Politic* suspended publication. Xtra changed considerably in a short period of time. It remained true to its roots as a light bar-and-culture read, but began also to fill the news and analysis vacuum left by its predecessor.



### Curiosities abound

Xcetera is Xtra's new showcase of compact news-and-culture imagery and pop-cultural tidbits. Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words, and Xcetera offers a way to tell stories more visually. Each installment of Xcetera will look and read differently. Get to know your neighbours and neighbourhood, enter an Xtra contest, learn about your history; Xcetera will guide you there.

**Xcetera**  
NOTEWORTHY UPDATES & PHEMERA

**QUEERS ABOUT TOWN**  
TITS, LEGS, ROCK 'N' ROLL  
"SEX NERD"

**BOOD TUBE**  
Unzipped folds  
Do it Yourself

**LINGO**  
Thruple (three pits)

**HINDSIGHT**  
Anti-porn feminists  
battle lezzie sluts

**WORDLE**  
Tongue-lashing  
Canadian like  
new marriage

**ONLINE**  
The five most-read  
articles on Xtra.ca

**THE FIVE MOST-READ ARTICLES ON XTRA.CA**  
1. All rights reserved: The best  
of the best  
2. America's Pride Toronto  
3. The best of the best  
4. The best of the best  
5. The best of the best

**Out in the City**  
YOU HAVE TO BE COMFORTABLE  
HAVING A CROWN ON YOUR HEAD

**PORN**  
THE BEST IN FEMINIST PORN  
Adult pleasure that doesn't offend while you're getting off

**BACKSTAGE**  
THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN  
As Buddies in Bad Times Theatre faces economic and creative challenges, much of the company's future rests on the shoulders of its new artistic director, Brendan Healy. What does he have in store?

**LISTINGS**  
Good for Her  
Feminist Porn: The Best  
in Feminist Film

**Upfront**  
DISPATCHES • ISSUES • OPINION

**TORONTO NEWS**  
New owner set to unveil revived Crews & Tango  
Despite rumours, 508 Church St will not be torn down

**SPORTS**  
LESBIAN COMPETES FOR CANADA'S PARALYMPIC TEAM  
Mary Benson competed in the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games as an out lesbian cross-country skier. She placed 12th in the 10km sprint and 14th in the 10km classic. Ten years ago, a severe allergic reaction to anti-smoking meds left part of her brain injured, forcing her to learn how to walk and talk again. Benson credits her partner, Kathy, for getting her involved with skiing.

**TORONTO NEWS**  
RESEARCH IGNORES SEX PIGS  
Shameless sluts could be key to HIV-prevention work

**ANDREA ZANIN**  
"ISN'T IT TIME TO CRITICALLY ASSESS the reasons why gay men take sexual risks?"

**FRANCISCO IBÁÑEZ-CARRASCO**  
"That's the key question for Francisco Ibañez-Carrasco, program manager for the Ontario HIV Treatment Network."

**THE RESULTS**  
The results point a portrait of researchers who lump gay men with straight-identified men who have sex with men (MSM) and who may have less fear and shame. However, they also discovered that some gay men, when they call sex pigs, have ideas about sex that go against the grain of conventional prevention.

## Easy on the eyes

Xtra's new body font, Chronicle Text, designed by Jonathan Hoefler and Tobias Frere-Jones, is far more space efficient than Xtra's previous font. This improvement allows us to pack more news and analysis into smaller packages. But just because the new font is a touch smaller doesn't mean you'll need a jeweller's loupe to read it. Chronicle Text is easy to read and appropriate to virtually any application, on any paper stock, in the new Xtra. Also, body copy in the new Xtra is fully justified and presented on a more sophisticated column grid. This gives an orderly and contemporary look to every page.

The display copy is set in Prelo and Prelo Slab, companion typefaces that provide a wide variety of weights, designed by Dino dos Santos.

You'll also notice more and larger photos and illustrations, which make the new Xtra not only easy to read but easy on the eyes, too.

chronicle | 'kränikəl| n. A factual or account of important or historical events in the order of their occurrence; a work of nonfiction that describes a particular event. v. [trans.] Record (a related event) in a factual and detailed way.

Chronicle text was designed in four grades, each optimized for different paper stocks and printing presses

**NEWSPAPERS**  
El Periódico  
Zaoberá sa tiež dizajnom písma, výberom ilustrácií, zalamovaním textu do odstavcov

**Fränkischer Nachrichten**

**Bolsa**  
Art and Culture  
Prelo Slab (top) and Prelo Sans

### News that affects your life

Upfront is your gateway to the same hard-hitting news and analysis you've come to expect from Xtra. Here you'll find more numerous and more concise news pieces than you've been used to. And look for a tighter relationship between Xtra in print and online.

### What's going on near you

Out in the City is your source for arts and culture coverage. You'll read the same great arts and culture stories, reviews and commentary that you've come to expect from Xtra. Listings feature hot happenings next to relevant stories. Choose the party that's right for you in Xtra's Nightclub Listings. Find yourself, your friends and your future exes in Xposed, the scene in pictures.

**THE SYMBOLS AND WHAT THEY MEAN**

**ONLINE** Get more detailed background information and related stories on Xtra.ca.

**CHAT** This is what people are already saying about this story on Xtra.ca.

**MEDIA** There is an online video, slideshow or podcast about this story on Xtra.ca.

**DESIGNED BY** The new look of Xtra was designed and art directed by Lucinda Wallace of Wallace Creative (lucindawallace.com).

**Xtra!**  
NEW LIFE AT CHURCH & BAY  
POLITICS & FAIRE TORONTO  
TOP OF THE RAT  
Local music, restaurants

**Brendan Healy**  
The man behind the curtain at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

COMMENT: XCETERA • NEWS • OUT IN THE CITY • XPOSED • MORE AT XTRA.CA

# 1993

Then there were three

By 1993, Pink Triangle Press, Xtra's publisher, was flourishing, and Xtra prospered along with it. Inaugural issues of Xtra West hit the streets in Vancouver that year, and a few months later, Capital Xtra premiered in Ottawa.

**OUT of IT?**  
Where Queers Conspire

**Local Reader Comment**  
The best of the best

**ELECTION 2008**  
Where the election is: urban ridings to watch this election

**News & Features**  
Arts & Entertainment

# 2010

A new look for a bright future

The next step in Xtra's evolution represents a more contemporary look and reader experience in print, greater integration with Xtra's online incarnation, and a clear commitment to readers that Xtra will maintain the highest standard in gay and lesbian news, analysis, arts and culture coverage for many years to come.



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416-340-8484, poste 452  
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**Xtra!** TORONTO'S  
GAY & LESBIAN  
NEWS

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**Xtra!** CANADA'S  
GAY & LESBIAN  
NEWS

# Out IN THE City

**YOU HAVE TO BE COMFORTABLE HAVING A CROWN ON YOUR HEAD.**

Local hat-maker wins big >25



**PORN**

## THE BEST IN FEMINIST PORN

Adult pleasure that doesn't offend while you're getting off

Regan McClure

**FOR THE UNINITIATED, FEMINIST** porn is an oxymoron, but for those who've attended the Good for Her Feminist Porn Awards (FPA), it's a relief.

The idea behind it is that porn shouldn't make you wince while you jerk it, and the porn industry should offer adult pleasure that doesn't offend while you're trying to get off.

"The Feminist Porn Awards create a unique, welcoming, sex-positive space that recognizes straight and queer representations of sex and sexuality in a very public and proud way," says Alison Lee, manager of Good for Her and FPA organizer.

"It's an event that brings a really fun and lighthearted side to porn," says Dylan Ryan, a Toronto performer who won the 2009 FPA Heart-throb of the Year. "Because there's so much taboo and stigma, people have a very isolated experience in relation to porn. The Awards don't take themselves too seriously, and they are the only venue that discusses and promotes feminist porn. Sometimes porn can be intimidating, and there's nothing intimidating about the Awards at all."

Unique to North America, the Awards were created to inspire, recognize and serve the ongoing demand for porn with feminist sensibilities. This is the fifth year for the FPA, and there are 54 nominations, including movies from Great Britain, Spain, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

The Awards — with VIP party, featuring burlesque and, of course, lots of performers and directors — are Friday, April 9 at Berkeley Church.

"I heard some kinky awesome things happened last year after the show," says Dylan, "and there will definitely be some good afterparties this year, as well. People should come and check it out."

The festivities get going the night before with Provocative, Public Porn: The Year's Best in Feminist Film. The



CoCo La Crème graces the stage at the 2009 Feminist Porn Awards. PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOD FOR HER

event comprises a smutty screening followed by a roundtable discussion with various directors and performers, moderated by well-known Toronto burlesque performer CoCo La Crème.

Scheduled for the discussion are April Flores, a feminist pornstar who has had her body cast for the first plus-size sex toy; Shine Louise Houston, who directed industry favourite *Crash Pad* and remains one of the only queer, women of colour porn directors with a distribution deal; Nica Noelle, creator of Sweetheart Video and Sweet Sinner Films with Jon Blitt of Mile High Media; and Tristan Taormino, a porn director who has written six books on sexuality and has her own adult film production company, Smart Ass Productions.

"It's a great opportunity to scope out a bunch of hot pornstars and porn directors," says Lee, "and to see the very best of the best in steamy feminist porn that's come out in the past year."

**on the web**  
Learn more at [goodforher.com](http://goodforher.com)  
Check out our video report from last year's FPA at [xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca)

**BACKSTAGE**

## THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN



**As Buddies in Bad Times Theatre faces economic and creative challenges, much of the company's future rests on the shoulders of its new artistic director, Brendan Healy. What does he have in store?**

Gerald Hannon  
photos by David Hawe

**H**E'S THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE A GENDER-ambiguous little boy with fingernails painted blue (applied by his openly bisexual dad), a little boy who loved to play with dolls and dollhouses, who made those dolls part of an "insanely rich and detailed dynasty," a little boy in a rough part of town who got beat up a lot, whose hippie parents split before he was born, who spent a lot of time alone, who

had a rich imaginary life, who grew up bilingual in Montreal. That may not have added up to a "lovely, pastoral childhood," as he puts it, but it does read like the perfect background for a career in the arts. Today, Brendan Healy is the artistic director of Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. He's only the fourth to hold that position in the company's 31-year history, and he's the youngest. That's a description that makes him just a little uncharacteristically grumpy. "I'm fucking 34," he says. "I'm not young. I know what I'm doing; I have life experience. I'm not some kid." He's no longer gender-ambiguous >24

**listings >**

FEMINIST PORN

**Provocative, Public Porn: The Year's Best in Feminist Film**

Thurs, April 8, 9:30  
Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor St W  
\$12 advance/door. 516-2331  
[goodforher.com](http://goodforher.com)

**Good for Her Feminist Porn Awards**

Fri, April 9. VIP Party, 8-9pm; doors, 9pm; show, 9:30pm  
Berkeley Church, 315 Queen St E.  
\$25, awards + screening; \$75, VIP (includes awards, screening, pre-party, priority seating and \$250 gift bag) 588-0900.  
[goodforher.com](http://goodforher.com)

>26

## >23 Brendan Healy

either, with his mildly caffeinated masculinity, his crisply ironed shirts and his conservative ties. Don't let those externals fool you, though. He's as queer as they come.

I'm in the main space at Buddies, watching him rehearse *Breakfast*, which opened March 19. It's a remounting of a collectively devised show that scored three Dora nominations when it played at the Theatre Centre two years ago. He directed it then and is tackling it again with the same cast, though he says they have collaborated to produce a new and stronger ending. There are some 11 people milling around, but there are only three actors, all women (the others are techies — it's a tech-heavy show). The comfort level among them, and with him, is very high. There is much light-hearted banter about the repeated request "to set a sound level for the orgasm," which sends one actor into several extended — and convincing — sighs-and-moans arias.

He's not a director with a reputation for tantrums or incivility. If Healy wants some adjustment on the set or lighting, he's likely to phrase the request as, "I don't know how you'd feel about..." Performer Nina Arsenault, whom he directed in *The Silicone Diaries*, describes his technique as "generous, empathetic, supportive and smart. If we ever had disagreements, I had so much trust in him that we could just talk it out. It was so clear that he is committed to his love of performance with all of his being." Daniel Brooks, artistic director at Necessary Angel, met Healy when the latter was a student at the National Theatre School in Montreal and remembers him as a "bit of a control freak who can get very emotional if he feels things are slipping out of his control, but directors are often like that. He is also an incredibly sensitive and personable artist with an attraction to the real human process that theatre is. He gets very alive, human performances from his actors — and dictators don't get that."

Performance helped lift him out of the gawkiness and insecurities of his childhood. In his early teen years, he got involved with an inner-city youth project in Montreal. The city had turned over an abandoned hangar to a bunch of kids and encouraged them to create, direct and perform new plays, and it was there, he says, "that I came into my own. I'd been lonely and isolated, and this gave me a way to connect with others. I came out, got laid, got drunk and started smoking." (He has yet to quit, and periodically takes a cigarette break during rehearsal.) He had his first sexual experience at 14, with a girl. He has had other sexual experiences with women and says his greatest love (of the non-sexual variety) was a woman, who came out at the same time he did, was his muse, and is currently "a very lean, very muscular, very queer performance artist who lives in Los Angeles." Still, he prefers men, sexually and romantically, and loves "the companionship of men. I like being around men. I like their masculine energy." (He is currently in a long-term relationship with Gregory Prest, an actor with Soulpepper). He's queer enough not to shut any doors, and though he's never had sex with a trans person, he enjoyed the almost stereotypical male/female dynamics that informed his collaboration with Nina Arsenault.

"For the first time in a long time," he says, "I allowed myself to feel really attracted to a woman. I like feminine women, and she really embodies that — lighting her cigarette and opening doors for her, those man/woman rituals. She's very good at making you feel like a man. I can get into those gender roles. They're fun, and playful. I don't war against them."



**I'D STRAIGHTENED MYSELF OUT WHEN I WAS 12 OR 13, BECOME KIND OF UBER-MASCULINE AND ATHLETIC. SUDDENLY, I HAD TO DEAL WITH MY OWN INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA, AND THAT WAS HARD FOR ME.**

— Brendan Healy



Though he studied directing at the National Theatre School, he began his career as an actor, most memorably playing the kind of queer little boy he once was in a drama called *Girls! Girls! Girls!* He describes himself as an actor of limited range, but he found that role particularly challenging.

"They wanted me to be really faggy. I'd straightened myself out when I was 12 or 13, become kind of uber-masculine and athletic. I got a kick out of people thinking I was straight. Suddenly, I had to deal with my own internalized homophobia, and that was hard for me." It did help him realize, though, that he was a much better director than he was an actor, an awareness fortified by his experience interning in Manhattan under the legendary Richard Maxwell, of the New York City Players.

In rehearsals at Buddies for a remount of the Dora award-nominated production *Breakfast*.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HAWK

"He had a huge impact on me," Healy says, "through the uniqueness of his voice and the purity of his pursuit as an artist. It was really inspiring. He's an auteur, and I gravitate towards auteurs, people who are on some kind of investigation larger than the work. I like to think that what motivates me as a creator is more than just getting the show up, that I'm asking questions about existence, about life, about theatre and performance, about what theatre means, about why it's important to society."

Asking those sorts of questions in a queer context is part of his mandate at Buddies, where queer is defined as considerably more than gay, lesbian, bi and trans. According to the company's official mandate, it includes "work that is different, outside the mainstream, challenging in both content and form." Healy, who cites influences ranging from Foucault ("his *History of Sexuality* rocked my world") to Derek Jarman and Jean Genet, has an articulate take on what he calls the three fundamental queer values: a true celebration of difference, a rejection of assimilationism, and a rejection of essentialism.

"We say people are different from one another, and that's okay and it's important. It keeps society rich and open and dynamic. We reject assimilation — being accepted doesn't mean fitting into the status quo. It's the status quo that should adapt itself to difference. We reject essentialism because, though queers celebrate difference, it doesn't mean that we can't get along. Maybe your difference will rub

off on me, and make me a little more different, like you."

If that all sounds crazy hopeful and pie in the sky, that's because Healy also believes queers are utopian.

"We believe," he says, "that one day homophobia, sexism and racism will disappear. That the queer liberation movement is also about liberating straight people. Queers are happy, self-actualized individuals, and we look at straight society and we see really contrived relationships and pre-determined modes of behaviour. We're all about liberating you. We're all queers. It's just that some of us are more open."

That's unashamedly 1970s-era gay lib talk, and it's good to hear it from someone who wasn't even born then. He'll need that passion and all his smarts, energies and enthusiasms to cope with the challenges facing theatre in general and queer theatre in particular. Buddies has experienced bad times of late. Audiences get smaller. People are busier. There are more forms of entertainment than ever. Healy is pleased that Buddies has the youngest audience base in the city, but that won't mean dumbing down, or less risk-taking. He wants to work with young creators who are interested in a collectivist approach (as unfashionable as that might be in an ego-fixated, celebrity obsessed world). He wants to produce content-driven work. "I want meaning," he says. "We have to go back to ideas."

A tall order. It's good to know it's in the hands of a one-time more or less fucked-up little kid with blue fingernails and a crazy fantasy life, a kid who grew up but never quite lost that queer edge. Just right for Buddies in Bad Times.

Gerald Hannon is a Toronto writer and member of the board of directors of Xtra's publisher, Pink Triangle Press.

on the web

More on Buddies and Healy at [xtra.ca](http://xtra.ca)  
Visit Buddies for tickets and information at [artsexy.ca](http://artsexy.ca)



FASHION

# LOCAL MILLINER WINS BIG

Hat Life magazine picks Toronto's David Dunkley as 2010 Hatty Award recipient

**Rob Salerno**

**TORONTO DESIGNER DAVID DUNKLEY** joined the ranks of the international hat-making elite this year when he received the prestigious Hatty Award from *Hat Life* magazine.

Dunkley, who launched KC's Hats six years ago, says he got into the hat-making business "by accident." He opened his shop, Studio 998, on Bathurst St two years ago and now works full-time as a milliner — that's a hat-maker, for the uninitiated.

"This is my third career and my most favourite," Dunkley says. "I was working at a job I was unhappy with, and my partner signed us up for a hat-making class the school board offered at night, just down the street at Central Tech."

That class sparked something in Dunkley, and he hasn't stopped making hats since.

"I was a scientist. I'd never designed before," he says. "Because my background is not art, I had to mature and grow as an artist."

Part of that growth has included learning with the luminaries of the field. He's studied with theatrical milliner Barbara Hobbs and is off to England soon to study under former royal milliner Rose Cory, who designed hats for the Queen Mother.

Dunkley's classically handmade headwear runs the gamut — top hats,

bridal veils, headbands — and he works with everything from felt to furs, silver wire, beads, feathers and more.

"I love feathers," he says. "They're my favourite embellishment."

Since opening his studio, his work has been featured in national magazines and at Toronto Fashion Week and Fashion Cares. He recently designed a hat for Cheryl Tiegs to wear at Hats On for Awareness, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's gala fundraiser.

But hats aren't just for fashionistas and hipsters, and there's no such thing as a head that's not suited for hats, Dunkley says.

"Hats are like great clothes. If the proportion and size are correct, they'll look great," he says. "The colours and embellishments have to match the face, and you have to be comfortable having a crown on your head."

Dunkley is one of just 30 milliners around the world to receive a Hatty, which *Hat Life* publisher Denise Keller says "serve[s] to intensify the spotlight on the headwear industry in a manner that not only honours individual contributions, but draws international attention to the exciting developments occurring in this extremely dynamic fashion segment."

See Dunkley's designs at [kcshats.com](http://kcshats.com) or at Studio 998 at 998 Bathurst St.



David Dunkley shows off some of his latest creations in his Bathurst St shop. PHOTO BY ROB SALERNO

briefs >

## New club opens on Church St

Kyle Mooney

**ROBERT BORDEN**, FORMER bartender at Alibi and Crews & Tango, is the new owner of Elevate, Toronto's "hottest new dancebar."

Occupying Statler's former space at 487 Church St, Elevate — a two-storey complex — features multiple stages and dancefloors. Regular DJs and drag shows are scheduled, and Sofonda and Divine, both of whom Borden counts among his besties, are already pinned for weekly slots.

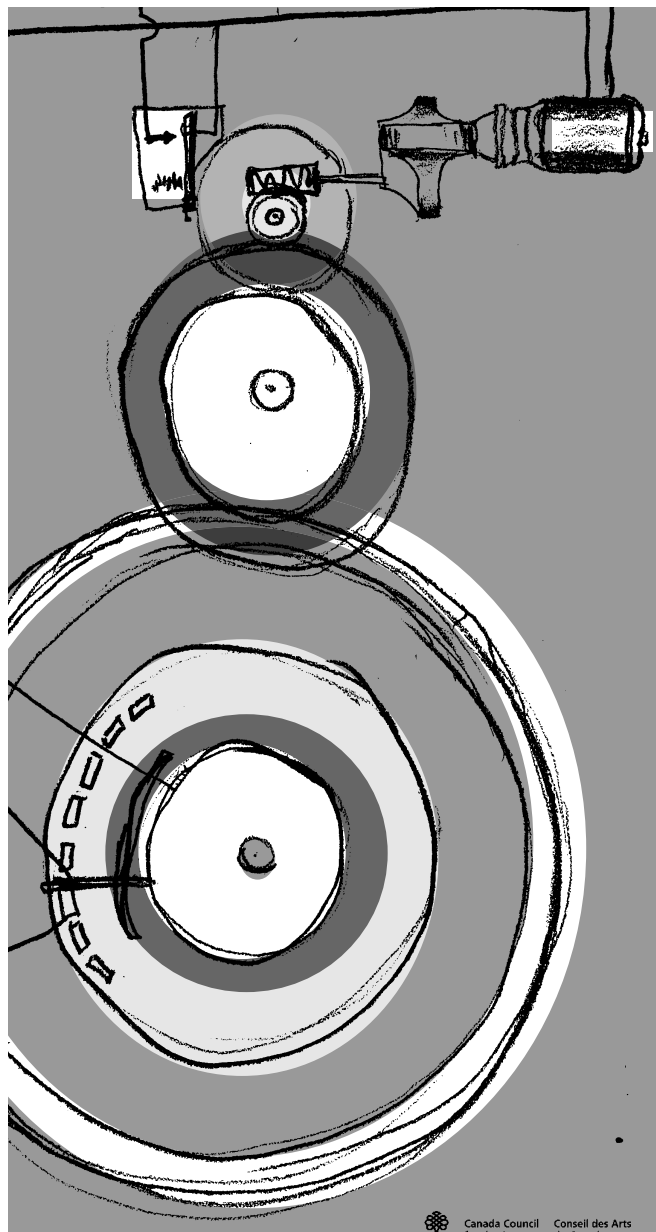
Though the owner plans to preserve Statler's "elegance," he says guests won't find any elderly drag queens sprawled across a baby grand at Elevate.

"It's a beautiful space, but it's not a piano lounge," he says. "The goal is to be classy and not trashy — a place where everyone can get along and have fun."

The grand opening, entitled Boys Nite Out and set for March 24, will be hosted by Sofonda with a performance by international sensation Girlicious.

Borden says plans to take over the property got underway last year, when the economic recession appeared to be choking out businesses on Church St.

When asked about the imminent reopening of Crews, Borden barely bats an eyelash. "Competition is good," he says.



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In honour of **Daniel Barrow's** *Emotional Feelings* exhibition at the AGYU, join us for a free bus ride to the gallery hosted by **Allyson Mitchell**, followed by a party at the AGYU. Everyone on the bus gets a free ticket to an Images Festival screening!

Thursday April 1, 7 PM

**OPENING NIGHT GALA** featuring *Covered* by **John Greyson** preceding the feature, *Port of Memory* by **Kamal Aljafari**.

Friday April 2, 3 PM

**ARTIST TALK: Kamal Aljafari & John Greyson**

Join the filmmakers from our opening night program for a discussion about their films.

For complete program information and tickets, please visit our website!



IN PERSON

# THE LIFE AND WORK OF PETER FLINSCH

Holocaust survivor, artist and lover of the male form

**Alistair Newton**

**PETER FLINSCH WAS BORN IN LEIPZIG,** Germany, in 1920. He grew up surrounded by his family's collection of Dutch Masters and Italian Renaissance masterworks. He travelled frequently as a child, receiving a classical education at prestigious private boarding schools. But after the collapse of the Weimar Republic and the Nazi seizure of power in 1933, he was forced into the Hitler Youth and then into the anti-aircraft division of the Luftwaffe.

In 1942, he was arrested for kissing a boy at a Luftwaffe Christmas party. He was court-martialled and imprisoned for violating Paragraph 175, Germany's anti-gay law.

After the war, Flinsch briefly returned to Leipzig and took a job painting official portraits for the local branch of the Communist Party. He honed his craft as a visual artist, creating state-approved images of party luminaries like Marx and Lenin.

He eventually immigrated to Montreal, which is where I visited him in January. He's lived in the same apartment since 1968, and it's a fantastic museum.

Photos of some of his favourite models – gorgeous naked men – gaze from the walls. Scrapbooks sit on low shelves. Peter's home studio is stacked nearly to the rafters with canvases and framed works; bursting sketchbooks sit on the worktable – truly a testament to a prolific working artist.

Peter, now 89, marched at the Nuremberg Rally, met Hitler twice, threw a party for Jean Cocteau, co-founded the Vancouver Ballet and experienced the birth of Montreal's gay community. He has been a theatre designer, visual artist and proud witness to gay history in the 20th century.

**ALISTAIR NEWTON: Were exhibitions of your work ever shut down because they were considered obscene?**

**PETER FLINSCH:** Oh yes, sure, that happens, but I don't care. I don't mind. When somebody buys a piece of my work, I know there's no censorship. They like it, you know. Money talks.

**AN: When you gained some fame for your work, did you use that opportunity to talk about gay rights?**

**PF:** Well, of course, the very fact that I exist and the things that I make exist, is a fact, you know.

**AN: Yeah, there's something inherently political about the fact that those images were made.**

**PF:** Yeah, what they say in French is a *fait accompli*. I mean, nobody would say while looking at my work, "Oh god,



Artist Peter Flinsch made a gift of one of his watercolours, *En Vitesse*, to writer Alistair Newton during their visit in Montreal in January.

Learn more at [peterflinsch.com](http://peterflinsch.com)

listings >



STAGE

**Loving the Stranger, or How To Recognize an Invert**

A new musical cabaret directed by Alistair Newton and inspired by the life of Peter Flinsch, a German-born, Montreal-based artist and one of the gay victims of Nazi persecution. The piece examines the life, work and contemporary political impact of sexual researcher and early gay rights activist, Magnus Hirschfeld. It explores parallels among his struggle against the infamous German sodomy laws, California's anti-gay-marriage legislation, Proposition 8, and Alberta's Bill 44. Tues, March 30. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. PWYC. 12 Alexander St. 469-5225. 975-8555. [artsexy.ca](http://artsexy.ca).

>28



the deets

**PETER FLINSCH: THE BODY IN QUESTION**

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# Death comes to Facebook

Trending Topics  
**Mariko Tamaki**



**O**UTSIDE THE CAFÉ WHERE I'm typing, two anarchist punks with dissatisfied looks on their faces are engaged in a furious and philosophical debate. What happens when we die, essentially, is the topic of their conversation (though, so far, no real progress has been made toward an answer to this ageless question). It's a fitting noise for the background, given my current area of interest — specifically, celebrity death.

Seriously, not to be macabre or callous, but is it me, or are celebrities (both minor and major) dropping like flies these days?

You know it's a problem when the Oscars' *In Memoriam* segment, nicely accompanied by music from the (still alive) James Taylor, omits acting icons like Bea Arthur and Farrah Fawcett. According to Academy sources, there were just too many people to include this year, so some names were left off.

I would have liked to have been in on that meeting, where the mucky mucks of the Academy picked their

"important" celebrities to include in the annual tribute, people whose contribution merited 20 seconds of air time. Question: How is it that Michael Jackson, star of *The Wiz*, made the cut? Would we even describe that guy as an actor?

I guess you can't blame the Academy for being overwhelmed. The number of recent celebrity deaths makes you wonder if there isn't something in the water over at Celebrity Village. Indeed, it seems like a strange poison is causing mysterious deaths. And mysterious deaths mean waiting and waiting for the final report, which never comes (not that any of us really need to know).

Just in the past month, Corey Haim, Peter Graves (of TV series *Mission Impossible* and film series *Airplane!*), Merlin Olsen (from *Little House on the Prairie*) and Andrew Koenig (whom you might recall from the sitcom *Growing Pains* if you were at home a lot in the '80s) all passed away. That, in case you are wondering, is just a selection.

I have a friend who suggests that with tools like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, the news of celebrity death travels much faster and further. By this theory, the situation is not that more celebrities are dying, necessarily. We just hear more about it through the newsfeed that stretches under and

consumes the very fabric of our lives. At the very least, my Twittering friend tells me, because everyone has to post an RIP or favourite movie clip, our awareness of celebrity demise lasts longer.

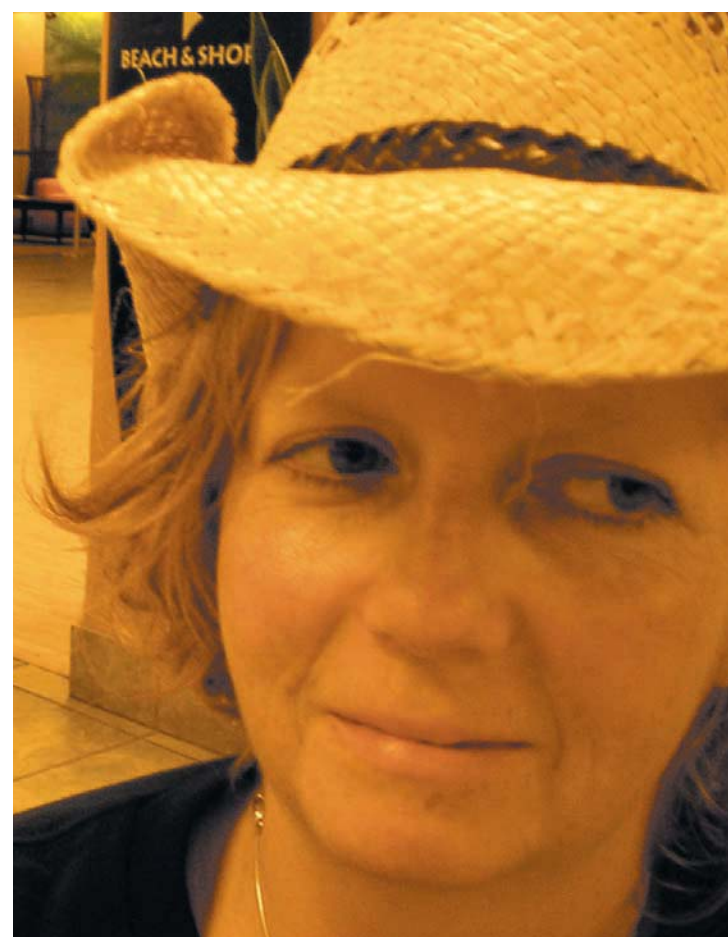
The interesting thing with all this Twittering about death, to me, is it means I get to see what the celebrities in question meant to my friends. I, for example, couldn't even recall who Corey Haim was until my friend put up a *Lucas* reference on her Facebook page. I'd completely forgotten Brittany Murphy was the voice of Luanne on *King of the Hill* until someone else posted a clip (all I could remember of her was that she was the skinny, slutty girl in *8 Mile*).

Perhaps the blog-o-sphere/Facebook universe is the better place for celebrities to get their due, a place where even the D-est of the D List can have a fan page. Who even watches the Oscars any more, anyway?

In the meantime, here's hoping for happier celebrity news in the next few months! I, personally, am sick of all this death. It's almost April people, time to cast off our dark clothes and get our Spring on!

.....  
*Mariko Tamaki's* Trending Topics column appears in every second issue of Xtra.

## ROCK CLIMBING



### YOU'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG, KELE FLEMING

**REMEMBER THE EARLY '90S? BRIAN MULRONEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT** on Television and a wave of serious, crafty Canadian indie pop. Lesbians might remember a powerful little pop outfit called Hazel Motes, fronted by a righteous dyke. Kele (pronounced "Kelly") Fleming gave up on the artist's life in 1998, but now she's back with a straight-up rock album, *World in Reverse*, and a tour that lands in Toronto at Slacks (April 8) and the Tranzac (April 10).

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CASEY HOUSE

## Casey House Board of Directors

### Seeking applicants to join the Board and Board Committees

Marking 22 years of service to the community, Casey House is a specialty hospital with community programming that provides exemplary treatment, support and palliative care for people living with HIV/AIDS. This dynamic health-care organization is developing a new standard of care for clients in collaboration with dedicated staff, volunteers and the broader community for whom compassion is a calling. The Board of Directors is reaching out to a whole new generation of volunteers to fill a limited number of Board positions. Casey House invites applications to join the Board of Directors and Board committees (i.e. Quality, Finance and Foundation).

The ideal candidates would have the following knowledge, skills and experience:

- Understanding of board governance practices
- Experience on corporate or non-profit boards
- Interest in fundraising
- Commitment to the Casey House mission and strategic directions
- Experience researching, planning or delivering programs for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) is also an asset.

Casey House welcomes applicants from all communities but particularly encourages people living with HIV/AIDS to apply.

Interested candidates are invited, but not required, to attend an Open House at Casey House on Tuesday, April 6 from 5 to 8 pm. Applications will be accepted until Thursday, April 15th and should be submitted to:

**Diane Pinchak**  
Casey House  
9 Huntley Street  
Toronto, ON M4Y 2K8  
416 962-4040 x237  
dpinchak@caseyhouse.on.ca

For more information about governance requirements for hospital directors, visit [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com)

To obtain further information about Casey House, and to obtain an application form, please visit our website at [www.caseyhouse.com](http://www.caseyhouse.com)

## listings >

### STAGE

#### Opera Night at Gio's

The dinner-and-opera screening night returns with a 1988 production of Puccini's *Turandot*, designed by Franco Zeffirelli, starring Plácido Domingo, Eva Marton, Leona Mitchell and Paul Plishka. Conducted by James Levine. \$50. 6:30pm cocktails; 7pm dinner and screening. Thurs, March 25. Gio Rana's Really Really Nice Restaurant. 1220 Queen St E. 469-5225.

#### Gowntown

The monthly contest ball for the upcoming drag queens among us is on, bitches. With special guests Ian Lynch and pop duo Karamel. Hosted by the B-Girlz. \$8. 10:30pm. Fri, March 26. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. 12 Alexander St. 975-8555. artsexy.ca.

#### Balls Out

An Evening of Stand-Up Comedy. Comedy Cares, the new charitable brainchild of comedian Vong Sundara, partners with the Toronto Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association to support queer athletics in Toronto with an evening of queer laffs. I have ready money that says none of these guys have been anywhere near anything resembling a sporting event since high school gym class. Featuring Andrew Johnston, Ian Lynch, Ted Morris, Steven Sharpe, Doug Taylor, Alan Kliffer,



Marco Bernardi and Vong Sundara. \$10. 7pm. Sun, March 28. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. 12 Alexander St. 975-8555. supercute.ca/balls-out.

#### Get Cracked

Mr Bunny LeBlanc's Easter Special. A drag show for the history books: Mr Bunny LeBlanc and Bitch Diva delight and dazzle with a set of live singing and witty banter. Free. 7pm-10pm. Sun, March 28. Zelda's Living Well. 692 Yonge St. 922-2526. zeldas.ca.

### ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

#### 20th-Century Design Auction

Pieces by Frank Gehry, Brett Lundy and Thomas Lamb are featured in Waddington's upcoming Decorative Arts auction. Preview. Noon-4pm. Sun, March 28. 3pm-7pm. Mon, March 29. 10am-noon. Tues, March 30. Auction. 6pm. Wed, March 31. Waddington's Auctioneers and Appraisers. 111 Bathurst St. 504-9100. waddingtons.ca.

#### Emotional Feelings

A new installation by queer Canadian art star Daniel Barrow. Opening reception 6pm-9pm. Wed, March 31. The AGYU Performance Bus takes you to and from the opening, free of charge, and features a performance by Allyson Mitchell. Departs from Ontario College of Art and Design (100 McCaul St) at 6pm sharp. 10am-4pm. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 10am-8pm. Wed. Noon-5pm. Sun. Till Sun, June 6. Art Gallery of York University, Accolade East Building, York University. 4700 Keele St. 736-5169. yorku.ca/agyu.



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**FILM & VIDEO**

**Images Festival**

Experimental cinema queens rejoice! Your time has come. Queer highlights of the art- and alt-film festival include the opening night gala screening, featuring John Greyson's short *Covered*, which deals with the violent controversy surrounding the inaugural 2008 Sarajevo Film Festival. Greyson's film is paired with Kamal Aljafari's *Port of Memory*. Other queer and queer-interest highlights: curated programs that include work by Barry Doupe, Emily Roysdon and others; spotlights on Ross McLaren and New York-based queer filmmaker Tom Chomont; and talks by Barbara Hammer and Yvonne Rainer. And then there are the parties. Advanced tickets for special events available at Soundscapes (572 College St) and Queen Video (412 Queen St W) or online. For full schedule of screenings, lectures, off-site installations and events and online ticket purchasing, see website. PWYC-\$15. Thurs, April 1-Sat, April 10. Various locations. 971-8405. imagesfestival.com.

**HEALTH & ISSUES**

**Out @ Work Career Fair**

Network your pinstriped pants off, business queen! Meet representatives and potential employers from companies like the Royal Bank, TD Bank, KPMG, Xerox Canada and others. Free. 11am-2pm. Thurs, March 25. Thomas Lounge, Oakham House, Ryerson University. 55 Gould St. 979-5255 x7527. ryepride.ca.

**Wholistic Health Fest**

A Well-ebriation of LGBTQ Women's Sexual Health. A day-long extravaganza of sexual health workshops and fairs for queer women of all shades, shapes, sizes and genders. If you're a woman of any kind who has sex with other women of any kind, then you're welcome. Workshop topics cover the gamut from body image to cervical health to empowered health care to pap smears to yoga. Registration required. Free. 11am-6pm. Sun, March 28. Sherbourne Health Centre. 333 Sherbourne St. 961-0113 x123. check-it-out.ca.

**Bent**

An Evening of Queer Expressions. This month's panel discussion focuses on queer media: good old-fashioned newspapers, new-fangled social media, TV, radio, the whole magillah. With panellists Shaun Proulx, Andrea Zanin, Serafin LaRiviere, Justin Stayshyn, Jesse Stong and Matt Mills.

Moderated by Andrew Vail. Free. 7pm-9pm. Tues, March 30. Gladstone Hotel Art Bar. 1214 Queen St W. 531-4635. themarsbar.com.

**LEISURE & PLEASURE**

**Play Piercing**

If you've got a hankering for a piercing, or if you're trying to figure out whether there's any place left on your body to hang some jewellery, than Six (of Exotix Studios fame) has the workshop for you. The piercer extraordinaire covers safety techniques, cleanliness, sterility, supplies and play-piercing. And there will be an opportunity to try it all out yourself. \$10. 6pm. Thurs, March 25. Northbound Leather upstairs. 586 Yonge St. 972-1037. 2bkinky.com.

**Midnight Mayhem**

Stock up on sex toys at rock-bottom prices. Like a Bad Boy Clearance Sale, but with dildos, and nicer people. Featuring DJ Winnie. Free. 9pm-midnight. Fri, March 26. Come As You Are. 701 Queen St W. 504-7934. comeasyouare.com.

**Toronto Gay Football League**

Get out there and toss some pigskin, mary! The queer football league is seeking new players. Everyone welcome. Registration 3pm-7pm. Sun, March 27. Pegasus Bar. 489B Church St. info@torontogayfootball.com. torontogayfootball.com

**Gay Rugby Player Search**

Does the word "scrum" give you a semi? If being jostled, tackled, chased, thrown in the mud and violently pawed by a bunch of roughhouse gay men is your idea of fun, then maybe you should be playing rugby. Try out for Toronto's gay rugby team, the Muddy York Rugby Football Club, at one of their weekly practices (indoors for the moment, natch - getting thrown around in the cold is a whole other sport). 3:30pm-5:30pm. Sat. Jarvis Collegiate. 495 Jarvis St. info@muddyork.ca. muddyork.ca.

**PRINT & READINGS**

**Oral**

Adventures in Erotica. The erotic reading series returns, featuring open mic and Quickie, a five-minute erotic writing contest. PWYC. 7pm-9pm. Mon, March 29. Renegade. 1266 Queen St W. oralerotica@gmail.com.

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Brazilian DJ phenom Ana Paula is set to fire up the Government on Friday, April 2.  
PHOTO BY PASCALETHÉRIEN.COM

ON THE DANCEFLOOR

# ANA PAULA HEADS FOR TO

## Smouldering DJ to set Canada's circuit crowd alight

**Chaos McKenzie**

**FRESH FROM MIAMI'S WINTER Beach Party,** DJ and Brazilian beauty Ana Paula is putting finishing touches on a new album, her first under the Star 69 Records label. The project emerged out of an invitation from dance music legend Peter Rauhofer.

Paula is gaining popularity quickly. Her busy schedule regularly takes her around the world. As *Xtra* catches up with her by phone, she's rushing from airport to gig, with style and a smile. She's on her way from her home in Rio to Sao Paulo for a set at Flexx Nightclub, before heading back to Rio for another set the next day.

"I want to see happy people," she says. "That is how I know I have done a good job. I love to play with the crowd.... When I play, I want to bring love, music, good energy and happiness to the dancefloor."

Paula started spinning on Rio's Jovem Pan Radio, where she quickly attracted attention. That gig led to numerous invitations to spin in some of the largest clubs in a city known for

its parties. Not just a DJ, Ana gained a reputation as a producer, too.

"Good DJs and good producers need to believe in themselves," she says. "They both need inspiration and need to have a connection with the people."

Coming in under the gay party radar, she was resident DJ at X-Demente (Rio) from 2003 to 2007, a gig Paula refers to as a "watershed event in Brazilian gay circuit party history." From that came an invitation to spin with DJ Offer Nissim in Israel, which created a splash for her on the gay party scene. She's a smouldering lesbian who's been embraced by the gay circuit crowd with the same passion gay partiers reserve for gorgeous, muscle-bound DJs.

"I like my music to bring the sexiness out of the people moving to the beats, but that has nothing to do with my sexuality," she says. "Gay house parties are different from straight house parties because gays are happier on the dancefloor. They are more connected to the music and the rhythm - they let me tell my story."

### \* the deets

#### ANA PAULA

Ana Paula is scheduled to play Government's Orange Room, 132 Queen's Quay E, Toronto, on Fri, April 2, for the Canadian launch of her CD, *Take Me Higher*. Then she's off to Montreal for Bal en Blanc on Sun, April 4. She is scheduled to return to Toronto for Prism Events' AQUA party on Sat, July 3.

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MUSIC

# THE HEART OF GOLDFRAPP

Bandmate talks of love and ambition on the eve of new record

**Kevin Ritchie**

**GOLDFRAPP HAS NEVER BEEN FOND** of categorization. Throughout their 10-year career, the British duo of Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have earned a reputation for pop ambiguity, shifting from the ambient cinema of their 2000 debut, *Felt Mountain*, to the icy new wave and glam of 2003's *Black Cherry* and 2005's *Supernature*, and the lush folk-pop of *Seventh Tree* in 2008.

Their fifth full-length album, *Head First*, was released on March 23 on Mute Records.

Goldfrapp has become a little less guarded, plunging into the colourful disco fantasia of the 1980s to produce an unambiguously euphoric album — territory they've flirted with before, oddly enough.

On Goldfrapp's 2001 tour, the band punctured a set list of *Felt Mountain*'s eerily romantic soundscapes with a cover of Olivia Newton-John's "Let's Get Physical." This time, the perky pop icon's melancholic musical *Xanadu* was a direct inspiration.

"I love Olivia Newton-John," front-woman Alison Goldfrapp says over

the phone from London. "Probably because I feel like when I look at her, she's completely the opposite of me: she's kind of sweet and lovely and looks really innocent and fresh and gorgeous, and she's probably really nice and wholesome."

"I'm the complete opposite!" she laughs.

Written and recorded over six months in a West Country house, *Head First*'s nine songs mix acoustic instrumentation, synthesizers and spacy sound effects with breezy melodies and breathy, intimate vocals that float and drift over pared-down propulsive beats.

"These songs are all quite optimistic and celebratory, anthemic at times," she says. "I think they're quite unselfconscious."

Asked if the music of the band's previous four albums was more self-conscious, Goldfrapp pauses and chooses her words carefully.

"I think the music we've done in the past has maybe been more ambiguous and more thoughtful in its sentiment," she says. "[Head first] means] to go into something without fear — head first in love. It's not trivial. I think it's



Goldfrapp's *Head First* hit stores March 23.

more celebratory. Maybe music we've done in the past hasn't been as celebratory or as direct."

*Head First*'s lead single, the cheerfully caustic "Rocket," has drawn comparisons to Van Halen's "Jump," while its video casts the singer as a sultry sadist who gleefully straps a victim to a glittering, purple-tipped rocket and launches it into outer space.

Only on the final track does

Goldfrapp cut loose from the pop format, with an ambient choral sound-piece called "Voicething."

Goldfrapp is planning a live show in support of *Head First*, but says it's too early to reveal any details. She is busy overseeing artwork, designing costumes and prepping for TV appearances in Europe. All of that leaves little time for side-projects, though she and Gregory did manage to clock studio

time with Christina Aguilera in Los Angeles last year.

The pop starlet tapped Goldfrapp and several other indie acts to work on new material, but the results remain shrouded in mystery. Goldfrapp penned one song but never finished it and has no idea whether it will see the light of day.

"She was very lovely and very relaxed, and it was all in her little room at the back of her garden," she says. "I thought we were going to go into this big, flashy studio with her people around, and it wasn't like that at all."

As Goldfrapp's music has become less ambiguous, so too have the details of her personal life. In an article from December 2009 (ridiculously called "The rise of mid-life lesbians"), the UK's *Times* newspaper outed Goldfrapp's relationship with film editor Lisa Gunning. When a reporter from the same paper asked if she was a lesbian two months later, she replied: "My sexuality is the same as my music and my life. Why does it need a label?"

"I've always been like that, since I was a kid," she says. "It's always been an instinctive, natural thing. I've always had that sense that anything's possible, anything goes and that there are no black and whites."

For more on Goldfrapp, check out [goldfrapp.com](http://goldfrapp.com).

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# The music of the night

Toronto at night  
**Ryan G Hinds**



**P**ARDON ME IF I TALK ABOUT myself for a second. A few weeks ago, while most of Canada was losing its collective mind over the final hockey game of the Olympics, I was performing the finale of the show I co-created for the Rhubarb Festival at Buddies in Bad Times. Closing night, decked out in a costume made from purple velvet and thousands of mirror bits (I should know, I glued them all by hand), I watched as rays of light reflected from my body and lit up the room. The beams played around the audience, made up mostly of members of Toronto's queer creative community.

From my vantage point on the stage, I could make out drag queens, DJs, actors, producers, club kids, singers, writers, performance artists, dancers, activists and promoters — all fellow denizens of the dark.

Creatures of the night, we are. We dress up to play and work when the sun goes down. We look best under candles or strobe lights, black lights, follow spots and other artificial lighting. We wake up when most people are having lunch, and instead of being out on the street screaming for "our" hockey team (last time I checked, Sidney Crosby played for an American

team the other 50 weeks of the year), we were in a theatre/club space reveling in queerness.

This is an incredible time to be in Toronto.

I didn't always feel this way. I spent a few years living out my New York City dream and came back thoroughly convinced Toronto was the last place I wanted to be.

It seemed like the city was in retrograde. The boom days of the '90s theatre scene went bust along with Livent. Club life was repetitive and in need of something new and exciting. The village was minutes away from flat-lining,

**"SLOWLY, QUIETLY, BUT IMPRESSIVELY, OUR BELLE EPOQUE HAS ARRIVED, AND IT'S NO COINCIDENCE IT'S MOST VISIBLE AT NIGHT."**

and then where would we go? I was jealous of other cities that had visible movements and identifiable movers and shakers who stayed out past 2am.

Why were all the cool parties in other cities? How come there wasn't an explosion of late-night art and culture and fierceness? And by fierceness, I mean aggressive and wild, not the watered-down gay-speak of "this moisturizer is fiiiiiiiiieeerce, hunny."

Where was a scene that wasn't homogenous, but diverse and exciting?

Well, it turns out our mothers were right: patience is a virtue.

If I had known that a sexy venue like Goodhandy's was coming just around the corner, I wouldn't have complained. If I had known that Les Blues collective would shake up politics and performance so beautifully; if I had known the queer community would expand way beyond Church St to Parkdale, Danforth, the Junction and beyond; if I knew that my fellow creatures of the night were about to make Toronto the place to be, I would have chilled out.

After all, what other city has Buddies and the AGO and the Gladstone and Fly and Queen's Park and Pussy Palace and Kensington Market and the 3am Queen streetcar and more club promoters than you can shake a flyer at?

Slowly, quietly, but impressively, our belle epoque has arrived, and it's no coincidence it's most visible at night.

Look at the explosion of the vogue scene over the past few years. Look at all the queer burlesque groups. Look at the musicians who are touring and putting out CDs. Look at the smaller club nights that are proving more fun than the mega-clubs. Look at the people who stay up until wake-up calls on CP24 to give you a good time.

Anyone who can't see that a queer culture renaissance is happening is missing out. Whether I'm skulking in the shadows or on centre stage, I'll be soaking it all in. See you in the dark.

*Ryan G Hinds' Toronto at Night column appears in every second issue of Xtra.*

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# XPOSED

Anna Pournikova

▶ Alana Stewart from Everything All the Time owned the stage at Steamwhistle's Unsigned show. Basically, every few months they get a bunch of shit-hot bands together who are "unsigned" and put on a show at the brewery. It was filled to the gills with all sorts of people, but it was Alana on stage that made my head turn all the way.



◀ Fun Bobby and I go way back to my MuchMusic days. In fact, Bobby worked at a desk across from me, separated by only a cubicle faux-wall. We made many a sex, fart and celebrity joke. In this pic, en route to the Puma party, I asked him to make the gayest face he could. And you know the thing about Fun Bobby? He always comes through.



◀ People started calling it CM-WTF this year for Canadian Music Week, since they changed the name last year to Canadian Music Fest without much of a coming-out party. There were some dope fringe shows, including Nadas-trom at Cobra (which, by the way, has THE best sound system in the city). I shot this pic of Jay, who I assure you is stunning but somehow manages to look old and sweaty in every pic. If you squint, you can see Andrew Ross from local DJ/producer duo Nacho Lovers creeping in the background.



▲ This is not Noah telling me to go blow a goat. This is him tryna hi-five and also hide from the flash. It was only the first day of CMWTF and already he was done with cameras, hos and late-night sausage on Queen St.

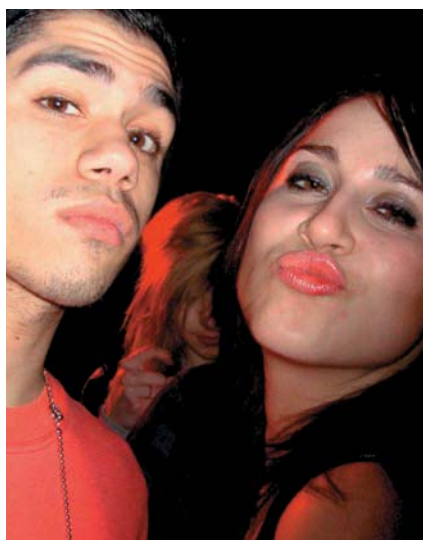


▲ Shiva is a club chick. She asked me for a lighter. I said, in exchange for her snap for this column. She agreed. Then, once I got photo approval, I was like, "It's a gay magazine, just want to be crystal here." And girlfriend leaned in close and sorta sexy whispered, "I heard you the first time." That's what I am talking about people. CMWTF is like oysters and champagne for some peeps.

▼ Since a Redbull DJ competition (3Style) has got to be the macho-ist, straightest, most boyish, hip-hop spot to be, I didn't think I'd get any snaps at all when I went, but lo and behold, I kept running into mid-town boys lurking for the same reason. Like Marc Andrew Smith here. He knows where to go for that holy grail of cock.



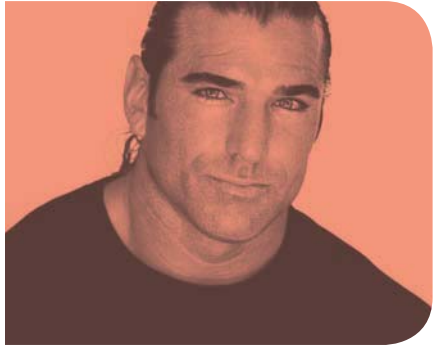
▶ Matt Barker had a birthday last week. He turned some ungodly young age. And I know I put him in here enough that he should be Maha-banned. But look at this pic closely. You see it? Yup, grey hair, motherfucker. Matt got so drunk that when I asked him the next day to remind me what his friend's name is in the pic, he replied, "Céline Dijon." Somehow I don't think that's her Christian name.




◀ Whatever, Charlie Irani, so you have good taste in art and you're always making the best jokes. Who cares if you're always in a good mood and you roll the best joints? All I want to say is congrats on being so beanpole fantastically thin you can pull off mom-jeans up to your neck and still look fresh at 4am.

▲ I don't normally get the camera out at the boozecan. Let's face it, pie-eyed is not the state you want to be in trying to take a photo, but puh-lease people, look at Gabby over here. I practically spilled my drink all over the crowd, all running through a dark down-the-alley sorta after hours to get this girl's pic. Lady Gaga meets American Apparel girl next door. Boner-city.


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**briefs >**

**Lady Gaga returns to Toronto**

**Brent Creelman**

HOT OFF THE RELEASE OF HER EPIC "Telephone" video, Lady Gaga announced the second leg of her North American Monster Ball tour on March 15. Tickets for her July 11 Air Canada Centre show went on sale March 19. Gaga's official website lists three other Canadian cities on the 2010 tour: Montreal (June 28), Vancouver (Aug 23) and Edmonton (Aug 26).



PHOTO BY DREW ROWSOME.COM

**Batty Boy's revenge**

TORONTO SINGER AND MAN-about-town Troy Jackson has released a full-length video for his song "Batty Boy's Revenge." It's a rallying cry for queer people to unite against homophobic violence.

Among the images in the video: anti-gay newspaper headlines from Uganda; a gay youth executed in Iran; and the faces of Puerto Rican gay teen Jorge Mercado, murdered in November 2009, and Toronto gay man Chris Skinner, murdered in October 2009.

"In Vancouver I was spit on once, but Toronto was the first time I was called a batty man," Jackson told *fab* magazine's Drew Rowsome last year.

Jackson says seeing gay guys fight back in Toronto inspired him to write the song.

See the video on Jackson's YouTube channel, enjoytroy, and check out enjoytroyjackson.com.

**NIGHTCLUB LISTINGS**

**THURS, MARCH 25**

**BARS > Buddies in Bad Times.** Smack with Tomboyish and guest, with DJ following live performance. Free before 11pm; \$5 after. 9:30pm  
**> Beaver.** Trash Hospital presents Walk-in Clinic. Glitter and gore with DJs SHE-La, Gangbangaz, Daddy K, performance by Fay Slift. Free pregnancy tests to the first 30 guests. No cover. 10:30pm  
**> Gio's.** Opera Night. Screening of Puccini's *Turandot*. \$50 (includes dinner). 6:30pm. 1220 Queen St E  
**> Lee's Palace.** Loveshot performs live. \$8 advance. 9pm  
**> Play.** Kendall on the keys at 6pm, followed by the Michelle Ross show at 9pm, and the Double D Show with Dolly Jones and Dusty at 11pm. No cover. 6pm  
**> Woody's.** Best Chest Contest hosted by Sofonda and Miss Conception. Midnight  
**DANCING > Tattoo.** The In Crowd. Motown and funk with DJs the In Crowd. \$5; free with student ID before midnight. 10pm

**FRI, MARCH 26**

**BARS > O'Grady's.** Bear Night. No cover. 10pm  
**> Pegasus.** Video Night with VJ Blue Peter. Retro, rare and favourites. No cover. 9pm  
**> Play.** The Michelle Ross Show at 7pm, followed by Texas legend Lawanda Jackson and Chris Edwards at 9pm, and the Sasha Montenegro Show at 11pm. No cover. 6pm  
**> Rivoli.** Pop with Brains. Music by Fantasy Defender, Cut Throat Britva, Sounds Like BS and more, with art by Zaiden, Devon Sioui, Vega. \$5 with proceeds to CAMH. 9pm  
**> Samovar.** Spring Swagger with DJ D-Styles and fundraiser for QPOC. No cover. 10pm. 51A Winchester St  
**> Tallulah's.** Gowtown. Amateur drag contest with the B-Girlz, DJ Dwayne Minard, Ian Lynch and Karamel. \$8. 10:30pm  
**> Voglie.** Loose! Forever Plaid. DJs Chiclet, Darren Marshall, Kris Hernandez, Preacherman and Glitch. No cover. 10pm  
**> Xyclo Lounge.** Essential Fridays. Tag Team with DJs Sumation and Gary P spinning top 40 and performances by Isa Scandalosa, Tiffany Birks and Min XXX. No cover. 10:30pm

**DANCING > Barn.** DestinAsian. DJ Quinces spins Asian pop, top 40, house, with guest performers. \$5. 10pm  
**> Drake** (in the Underground). Sophisticated. DJs Lucie Tic, Barbi and Annalyze. \$5. 11pm  
**> Fly.** Dance Camp. All vocals with DJ Mark Falco and host Daniel McBride. \$5 before 11pm; \$10 after. 10pm-3:30am  
**> Slack's.** Lesbian Mayhem with DJs Cozmic Cat and Katey. No cover. 10pm  
**BATHHOUSE > St Marc Spa.** Flesh Fridays. Deep and dark beats with DJ Jimi LaMort. Regular rates. 10pm

**SAT, MARCH 27**

**BARS > Beaver.** Hot Nuts. Stevie Nicks night with performance by Crystal Visions, DJ Produzentin and host Mary Messhausen. \$5; free in drag. 10:30pm  
**> Goodhandy's.** I Love Sex Parties, Dude Edition. DJ San Fran spins with all-dude sex areas and dancefloor. No cover. 9pm  
**> Grasp.** Bathhouse Bitches and Skin Tight Saturday. With Amanda Roberts and Daytona Bitch, followed by DJs A&R. No cover. 9pm-4am  
**> Xyclo Lounge.** Fun Night

with DJ Gary Pang. No cover. 10:30pm  
**> Woody's.** Best Ass Contest hosted by Miss Conception and Nicolette Brown. Midnight  
**DANCING > Fly.** Montreal DJ/producer Stephan Grondin, with warm-up set by Shawn Riker and host Walther. \$10 until 11:30pm; \$15 until 1am; \$20 after

**SUN, MARCH 28**

**BARS > Beaver.** Power Bottom Sundays. Bass and beats with DJs Alzka and Leatherdata. No cover. 11pm  
**> Buddies in Bad Times.** Balls Out. Comedy with Ian Lynch, Doug Taylor, Vong Sundara, Ted Morris, Andrew Johnston, Alan Kliffer and more. \$10 with proceeds to Comedy Cares. 7pm  
**> O'Grady's.** Crazy Karaoke. 10pm  
**> Rivoli.** Laugh Sabbath Comedy Night. \$5. 8:30pm  
**> Tota.** Sunday Deep. Deep house with DJs Matty Ryce and Mike Viera. No cover. 9pm. 592 Queen St W  
**> Zelda's Living Well.** Get Cracked Easter Special. Bitch Diva and Bunny LeBlanc perform live. 7pm  
**> Woody's.** Miss Conception's Stage to Screen Show at 6pm, followed by Michelle Ross's Drag Legend Show with Amanda Roberts at 9pm, and Donnarama with Georgie Girl and guests Daytona Bitch and Olive Mee at 11pm. 6pm

**MON, MARCH 29**

**BARS > Beaver.** Heartache: What's Yo Iz. Erykah Badu album launch with prizes and Baduoke. No cover. 11pm  
**> Goodhandy's.** T-Girls Go Wild. T-Girl performances after midnight. No cover. 10pm  
**> Pegasus.** Village Pool League. 7pm  
**> Play.** Million Dollar Karaoke with Big Kris and DJ Y2Jay. 9pm

**TUES, MARCH 30**

**BARS > Gladstone (in the Art Bar).** Bent. Q & A panel with Shaun Proulx, Matt Mills, Jesse Stong, Andrea Zanin and more. No cover. 7pm  
**> Smiling Buddha.** Candy Machine with live music by Polynesian Bride and DJ Robrrt. \$2.50. 9pm. 961 College St  
**> Woody's.** Bad Boys Night Out. DJ Robb T spins rock, retro. 10pm

**WED, MARCH 31**

**BARS > Augusta House.** Kink of Kensington presents Better with Age. Retro dance with DJs BJ, Slaughter, 4est and Snickers. PWYC. 8pm  
**> Goodhandy's.** Boy Party. DJ Rolls Royce with hosts the Scorpio Twins. No cover. 10pm  
**> Play.** Kendall on the piano at 6pm, followed by the Steve Roseland Show with Al Kenny, Gary Morin, Richard Delamar and Mark Jacob at 9pm, followed by Chris Edwards's She-male Night at 11pm. No cover. 6pm  
**> Woody's.** Hump Day with DJ Mark Falco. 10pm  
**DANCING > Gladstone.** Vitamin G with DJs Nik Red and Daddy K. No cover. 10pm  
**BATHOUSES > St Marc Spa.** Campus Wednesdays. Regular rates; free with student ID.

**THURS, APRIL 1**

**BARS > Boston Pizza.** April Fool's Eve. Comedy at Dufferin Mall with Miss Conception and Richard Ryder. 9pm. 900 Dufferin St  
**> Lo'la.** Red Light. Sexy beats with DJs Dwayne Minard

and Mike Viera. No cover. 10pm  
**> Rivoli.** Lentic, featuring Ember Swift with the Stephanie Braganza Trio. \$12. 9pm  
**> Voglie.** Fool's Gold. DJ Matty Ryce spins you into the long weekend. No cover. 10pm  
**DANCING > Tattoo.** The In Crowd. Funk, soul and Motown with DJs the In Crowd, Trevor, live show by Ride the Tiger. \$5; free with student ID before midnight. 10pm  
**> Wrongbar.** NYC's Designer Drugs with DJs Paul Revered and Tapedeck Bros. \$10 advance. 10pm

**FRI, APRIL 2**

**BARS > Beaver.** Lisp. Open format with DJs Pat C and CTV News. No cover. 11pm  
**> Goodhandy's.** Dirty Sexy Friday. DJ VIVI Diamond spins beats with pornstars, go-go boys and host Sofonda Cox. \$10. 10pm  
**> Margaret.** Speakeasy, DJ Cozmic Cat and host Jen Neales. No cover. 10pm  
**> O'Grady's.** Bear Night. No cover. 10pm  
**> Rivoli.** Brit, electro and classics with DJ Stu. No cover. 10pm  
**> Xyclo Lounge.** Essential Fridays Diva Easter. DJ Sumation with show by Robyn DeCradle. No cover. 10:30pm  
**DANCING > Fly.** Besharam with DJ Amita. \$10 until 11pm; \$15 after. 9:30pm  
**> Government** (in the Orange Room). Brazil's DJ Ana Paula spins a launch party for her new album with DJ Jeremy Khamkeo. Cover TBA. 11pm  
**> Straight.** Odd Man Out with DJ/producer Dwayne Minard and Michael Boyuk, with host Charles Pavia. \$5 after midnight. 10pm  
**> Supermarket.** Rollin' and Scratchin'. Electro dance mania with R&S, DJs and more. 10pm  
**> Tallulah's.** Rendezvous: Kings and Queens Mashup Edition and One-Year Anniversary. DJ Quinces spins with drag shows by Mahogany Brown, Justin Rockhard, Olivya Chin and Hawaiian Dance Troupe. \$5 before 11pm; \$7 after. 10:30pm

**SAT, APRIL 3**

**BARS > Goodhandy's.** Northbound Leather Fetish Night. DJ Jimi LaMort spins. \$5 before 10pm; \$15 after. 9pm  
**> Harlem Lounge.** Denim and Diamonds Easter Jam. DJs Blackcat and Unruly twin-spin. \$10 before midnight. 11pm. 67 Richmond St East  
**> Play.** Kendall on the piano at 6pm, followed by Chris Edwards and Georgie Girl in Legends at 9pm, and DJ Oscar at 11pm. No cover. 6pm  
**DANCING > Fly.** DJ Deko-ze, Matty Ryce and Michael Viera, with host Charles Pavia. \$10 until 11:30pm; \$15 until 1am; \$20 after. 10pm-6am  
**> Revival.** Shell Toe Live. Live performance by Detroit's Invincible, Philly MC Benni E, Chile's La Bomba, Airheart and DJs Cozmic Cat, Denise Benson and Yes Yes Y'All Crew. \$12 advance. 9pm  
**> Tallulah's.** DJ K-Tel spins retro, top 40, with Donnarama performing on the stairs. \$7. 10:30pm

**SUN, APRIL 4**

**BARS > Play.** Joel Lightman on the piano at 6pm, followed by TICOT's Easter Extravaganza at 9pm, and the Maria Delmonte Show at 11pm. No cover. 6pm  
**> Rivoli.** Kickass Karaoke with Carson T Foster. No cover. 10pm

**TUES, APRIL 6**

**BARS > Beaver.** Heartache: Fleetwood Mac Edition. DJs Miss Margot, Keith Cole and video screening for Gentleman Reg's Wild Heart. No cover. 11pm  
**> Century Room.** Pink or Punk. Industry night with DJ Jedi and Pink Mafia in the front room. \$10. 10pm. 508 King St W

**WED, APRIL 7**

**BARS > Beaver.** DJ on a Dime. DJs battle with \$10 of vinyl. No cover. 11pm  
**DANCING > Gladstone.** Vitamin G with rotating DJs and hosts Daddy K and Shane MacKinnon. No cover. 10pm

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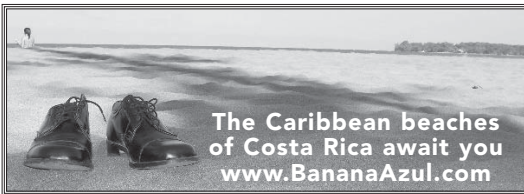
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# The spread-em-wide web

**Pornodoggy**  
**Todd Klinck**

**PAY FOR PORN. I ADMIT IT. EVEN** though I write this column, I don't pull out the media badge and beg for free passwords. I get drunk and horny and want to jerk off, and it's 4am, so I buy memberships to sites.

EricDeman.com has been a pleasure of mine for years. A friend tipped me off about it, so I bought a membership and shared it with her. We took turns raping the site (as everything is downloadable and collectible). I often will let the membership expire, but then I'll re-subscribe to catch up.

The site has always been somewhat ghetto in its layout but well worth the price of admission. Almost every day it's updated with a collection of cock-centric media that turns me on. It's really fucking eclectic and hard to categorize. Still, there are recurring themes:

**REALITY TV.** There are often clips from the *Big Brother* franchise: the segments where you see cock, the obscure online-only clips where someone from *Big Brother Norway* fucks one of his co-reality-stars on cam.

**LOCKER ROOMS.** This is bizarre to me as a North American, but on European television, it's really normal for sports



television crews to walk right into the locker room after a soccer game and interview the players while they are naked. Eric Deman meticulously captures all the moments of athletes walking naked in the background, and there are even times when the guys do interviews buck naked with cock showing, no attempts to cover up. It's a European thing, and I like it.

**TRUCKERS PISSING** and similar outdoor clips. There seem to be a whole lot of clips on Eric Deman that focus on people pissing outside. It's not really for the piss fetishist (although I'm sure they would enjoy it), but it's the whole "seeing someone's cock from afar without their knowledge" trip. Hot.

**RANDOM HOME VIDEOS.** Emphasis on "random." We're talking straight college guys in some random dorm getting hammered and stripping for each other, or dudes having a street fight where one of them loses his pants and you see a bit of cock.

**MILITARY CLIPS.** Pervy clips from the homoerotic institution that is the

global military complex. Love it. Guys with guys, doing medical exams. Being punished in front of each other. Taking showers. Fun, fun and more fun.

**OBSCURE AND MAINSTREAM CELEBRITY SHIT.** It's one thing to see the latest Colin Farrell sex scandal (which is included on Eric Deman). It's another to see an obscure — to me, but super-fucking-famous in Brazil — soap opera star in a 45-minute solo webcam exploit. It's not that he's the hottest shit in the world: it's that he's a famous Brazilian who got caught that makes it a turn-on. Eric Deman has all kinds of shit like that. Beckham, Ronaldo, Prince William — it's all covered.

With the changing global porn climate, only the truly unique and established sites are going to survive — the ones with lower budgets and most importantly, longevity. Like EricDeman.com: I've known about the site since at least 2002, and it's now 34,000 clips, and counting.

Pornodoggy appears in each issue of Xtra.

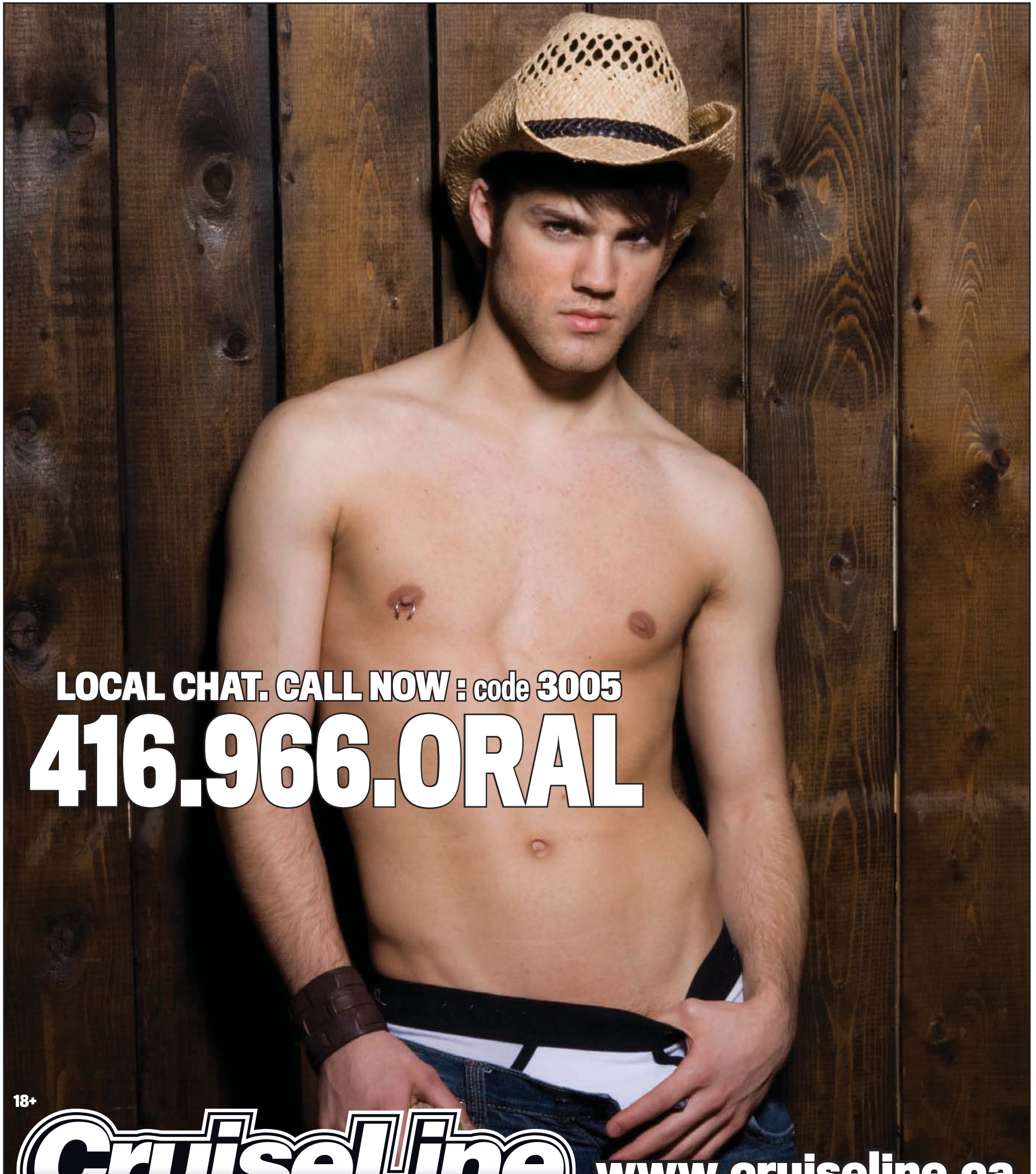
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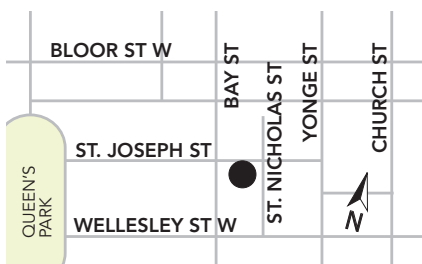
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