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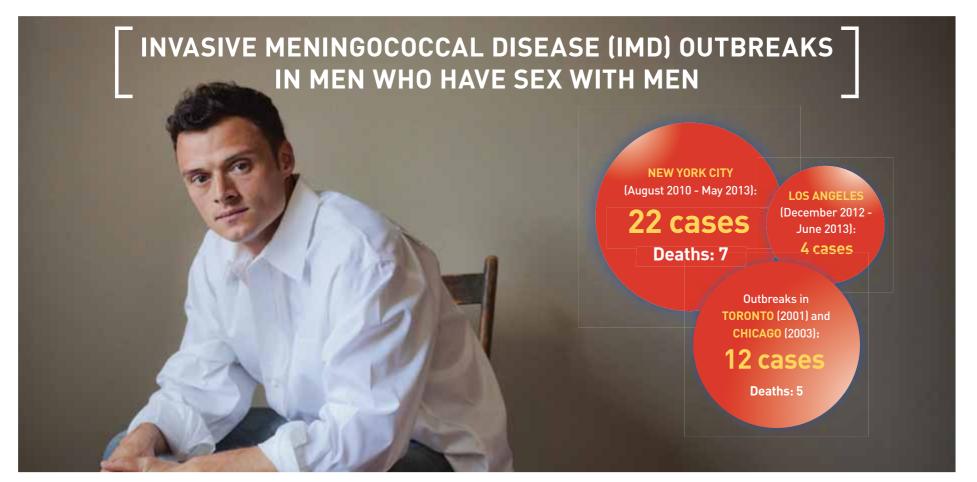


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OUR ANNUAL Ultimate Pride Guide

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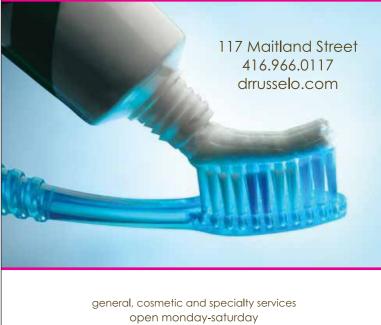
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These walls can talk

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on dailyxtra.com 🕁

Oilers captain Andrew
 Ference to march in
 Edmonton Pride parade

 Safe schools among top issues for LGBT Ontarians

► Use of 'gay' and 'queer' varies among US cities

Comment

Lighten up yourself



EDITORIAL PHIL VILLENEUVE

Readers may or may not know that in addition to

being Xtra's arts editor, I'm also a DJ here in Toronto. I've been playing music — in wonderfully filthy dive bars all the way to an opening gig for Robyn at Echo Beach for almost nine years. I like to dance while I spin and play everything from dancehall to disco, and I also like to be involved in making a party happen. That often means working with images and words and fonts to create a poster, then quietly plastering it around the gayer streets of Toronto. It's always a fun process, usually done with friends, all looking forward to a night where everyone can come together for a good time.

Just the other week, I sat down with two friends to make a poster for an event we're throwing during WorldPride. It's a party we call Fit Primpin' (the combination of two dance parties — Fit and Big Primpin'), and this year, along with a tight list of local DJs, our favourite drag queen and some go-go boys, we're bringing in TS Madison.

If you're not on the Vine social media app, then you probably have no clue who TS is. TS is the original Vine superstar, also known as the Big Dick Bitch. She's a bodacious babe who identifies as a "heterosexual transsexual" and also happens to have an extra large penis. She's wild and outspoken and isn't afraid to speak her mind (through her various social media channels) about her sexuality and how she lives her life. She makes most of her money through porn - she knows exactly what she's doing with that body - and she's got the smarts to build a successful brand around it. She also has a great sense of humour and has put out several dance singles that have me shaking what my mama gave me on a regular basis.

After we finished the poster, all three of us stood back to look at our gorgeous creation. We clapped (I also jumped a bit and made some squealing noises), but one friend tilted his head and grunted. "What!?" I asked. He said he was worried some people might take offence at

the tagline: "big dick bitch." I couldn't believe my ears, but after a few minutes, I understood what he meant. Would we offend the trans community? Gay men to and women of colour? People with small penises? Eventually, we had to move in ahead believing that we can't please to everyone and that TS is TS, and there's nothing we can do about that. And that's ile why we love her.

I don't want to name names or battles within the gay community - that's not the point I'm trying to make. What I am trying to say is that TS, like many artists visiting our city for WorldPride, is a kind, generous, business-minded person who wants to come and celebrate with all of us. Pride, for me, has always been about coming together and meeting new people on the streets and at parties, all in the name of unity and celebration. There is a party for everyone, and that's what makes this Pride so great. Who cares if there's a "menonly" bash or a "female-identified only" event? There are a dozen other parties for all other types of party people. Don't waste time and energy getting angry - just get out there and live your life! It sounds cliché, but it couldn't be more true at Pride.

Because of TS, I can't help but think of the recent Rupaul "trannygate" (as it's been dubbed) controversy. Photographer David LaChapelle had this to say on the topic: "I really think that gay people can call people whatever the fuck they want to. We've been called enough names by other people and attacking is bullshit. Haven't we been attacked enough as a group? Gay, transgendered, bi, whatever. Do we really need to be throwing stones at each other, honestly? Let us call each other queers or faggots or shemales. That's our business. Lighten up. There are bigger issues going on here."

He sums things up nicely. To some, it may seem a simplistic view of the world, but to me, sometimes simple is good. Let's lighten up and enjoy what everyone around has to offer. I'll be spinning at three different parties in three different parts of the city, with three completely different musical genres and crowds, and I can't wait. See you out there!

Phil Villeneuve is Xtra's arts editor.

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 2 Carlton St, Ste 1600, Toronto, M5B 1J3.

FEEDBACK

Cawthra Park renos

The article states that the cost of the renovations to Cawthra Park is now budgeted at \$1.6 million ["Cawthra Park Renos 'Down to the Wire,'" dailyxtra.com, June 2]. It's really extravagant to spend so much taxpayer money just to make The 519's grounds look palatial for one week of WorldPride 2014 - especially since The 519 previously received millions of dollars in taxpayer funding for the most recent renovations to its building. It's even more shocking that self-styled social justice advocates like Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and The 519 management would favour spending \$1.6 million when that taxpayer money could have instead been spent on a shelter for homeless LGBT youth.

STEVE P TORONTO, ON

Bisexual revolution

As a bisexual. I have always felt like I am in the queer community on sufferance - one wrong move and I will have my queer card ripped up ["Vive la Bisexual Revolution," dailyxtra. com, June 5]. This is especially because I present as straight with the wife and kid. Neither the mainstream nor the queer community is quite sure what to do with us bisexuals, except treat us with suspicion. I often feel like I am lounging against the doorframe between two great parties, not entirely welcome at either. In such a scenario, it would be much better to knock the separating wall down.

EDMUNDO CONNOR TORONTO, ON

Village club closures

This is such a sad state of affairs ["We Should Be Dancing," *Xtra* #772, May 29]. When I came out, there was a plethora of dance bars, like Boots, Komrads, The Barn, and the list goes on. Now, with the closings of Fly and Zipperz, what's left in the Village? Crews & Tangos (sort of) and the recently renovated backroom of the Black Eagle (and that's only during select events). It does tend to diminish our claim to be a world-class destination for LGBT travellers. SHANE DELORME TORONTO, ON

11 often feel like I am lounging against the doorframe between two great parties, not entirely welcome at either."

RE: BISEXUAL REVOLUTION



House/Maison opens

It's great that new restaurants and a super-large patio are opening up at the corner at 580 Church St, rendering that stretch of the street a little less depressing ["House/Maison Opens in Former Old Vic Mansion," dailyxtra.com, June 8]. But word on the street has it that House and Maison only plan to be there for two years. A condo high-rise is scheduled to be built on that site, which would incorporate the facades of these heritage buildings (similar, I guess, to what they did with the Knights of Columbus building on Sherbourne Street). Can anyone verify this? MOONDOGGLE

DAILYXTRA.COM

Toronto Centre candidates

Thank you for including the Green candidate in this article ["Who Deserves Your Vote in Toronto Centre?" dailyxtra.com, June 3]. It's important that viable options are made known beyond the circus of red, blue and orange. Voting Green is not a throwaway vote. Will the Greens win this time around? No, but growth must start somewhere, and they are the party that is approaching all issues with tough-to-swallow truth and a foreign concept in politics: logic.

JOHN TORONTO, ON

Kathleen Wynne fumbled her only

chance to persuade Ontario voters she deserved to govern in the first 20 minutes of the leaders' debate, June 3. Glen Murray probably has more reason to sweat now than he did last week, not because he won't win Toronto Centre again, but because he might be demoted from cabinet minister to regular old MPP if Toronto Centre becomes an opposition riding by voting night. The premier's seat is anyone's game.

RYAN TORONTO, ON

Which politician can you trust? They are all crooks! But do remember what happened whilst the Conservatives were in last time: rent control was gone and the city was crippled by taxes, taxes, taxes! Let's hear it for the "debt retirement charge" on your hydro bill! How about we let the Conservatives in for another go at reaching into your pocket and taking what they want?

MICHAEL M TORONTO, ON

Dyke March

There's nothing radical about the new route ["Dyke March Route to Change," *Xtra* #772, May 29]. A radical change would be for the Dyke March to begin in Parkdale, then march along Queen Street, from the Queer West Village to Church Street. Why? Because more dykes live in Queer West than any other area in the city. Even the Pride parade should consider this route.

MICHEL F PARÉ TORONTO, ON

TORONTO, ON

WorldPride rainbows

It is such a shame that people and businesses feel like June is the only time they can display pride ["Rainbows Everywhere as Toronto Readies for WorldPride," dailyxtra.com, June 5]. Once July hits, it's all taken down and washed away. ADAM BEAUDOIN (FACEBOOK)

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IMAGING HOME: RESISTANCE, **MIGRATION** CONTRADICTION

Curated by Karen Stanworth

Making the invisible visible, documentary videos and photographs raise significant questions about the meaning of "home" in a world that keeps refining homophobic and racist oppression. The CLGA's WorldPride exhibition premieres video portraits of LGBT activists in Africa, India and the Caribbean that are drawn from the Envisioning LGBT Human Rights project. These are shown alongside archival photos and documentaries of Latino and Black communities in Toronto, and new work by Guyanese photographer, Ulelli Verbeke.

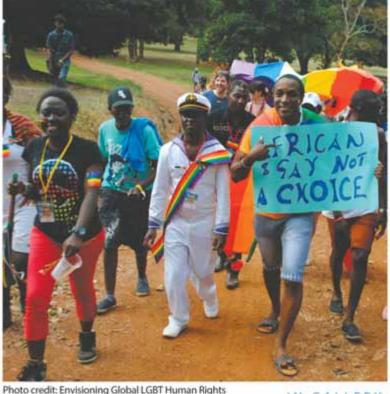
Opening Reception Guest speakers:

Namela Baynes-Henry, Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD), Guyana

envisioning global LGBT human rights

- Richard Lusimbo, Research and Document Manager at Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG)
- Brayo Bryans, Singer/performer and Executive Director, Icebreakers Uganda

Stall poppy



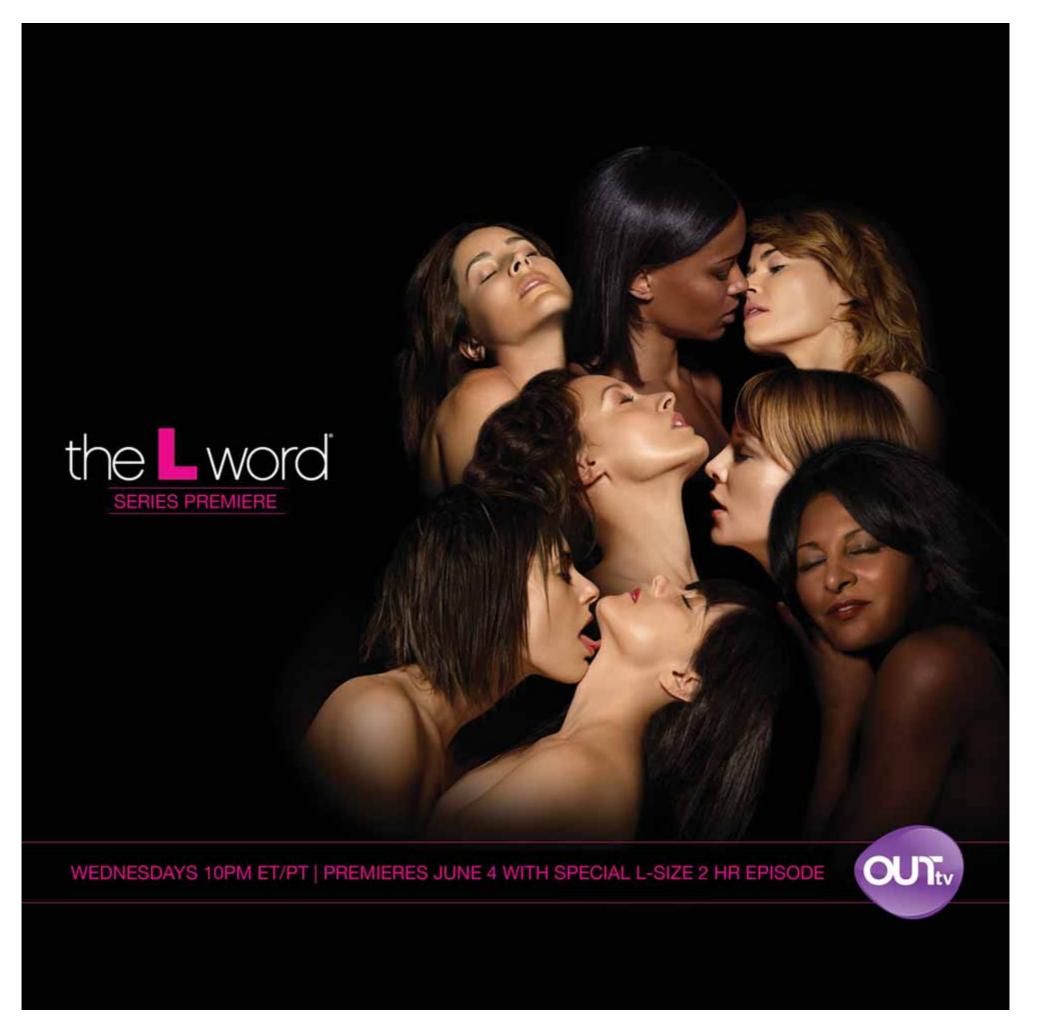
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XCETER

FROM THE ARCHIVES 15 YEARS AGO

XTRA #382, JUNE 17, 1999

Just in time for Pride, Xtra publisher David Walberg examines gay and lesbian "biological exuberance," how "we're switching from a movement of anger and rebellion to a movement of bliss." John Wimbs Jr explores the hedonistic life of modern gays, with images by John Webster.

OUT ON THE STREET BY KYLE BURTON

Who are you celebrating WorldPride with?





Spence SALES AND

MARKETING MANAGER I'm bringing I have about 20 friends from all over the place coming to Toronto for Pride this year. It's going to be a good one! can't find anything.

loe REAL ESTATE AGENT CUSTOMER RELATIONS I have friends here my partner and in the city who I'll probably run into recruiting a bunch of friends to come. at Pride, and I'll be going to a few We are looking for a place to stav but events with my

fiancé



Chela MUSICIAN

I'm not bringing anybody. I'm just assuming the people I know will be there!

QUOTABLE (AND EDIBLE)

66 We are honoring everything that makes each of us special and adds color to our world — just like the marshmallow charms in our cereal. We are celebrating everyone who is proud to live life on their own terms and love every second of it. 77

Krista

A statement from General Mills about its rainbow marshmallow Lucky Charms cereal, created to celebrate LGBT month in the US.





OF POP CULTURE, SERVED À LA CARTE

June 9, 2014

Date Laverne Cox appeared on the

cover of Xtra.

Number of months

later Time magazine featured the trans

activist and actress

Roland Emmerich The film's director. a major Hollywood player, is also a gay rights advocate.

Princess Diana Emmerich owns a photograph of Di flipping the bird by artist Alison Jackson

Middle finger Also known as the "gay ring finger," according to urbandictionary.co





Melissa Etheridge **Recently married** her partner, Linda Wallem, and will perform at WorldPride.

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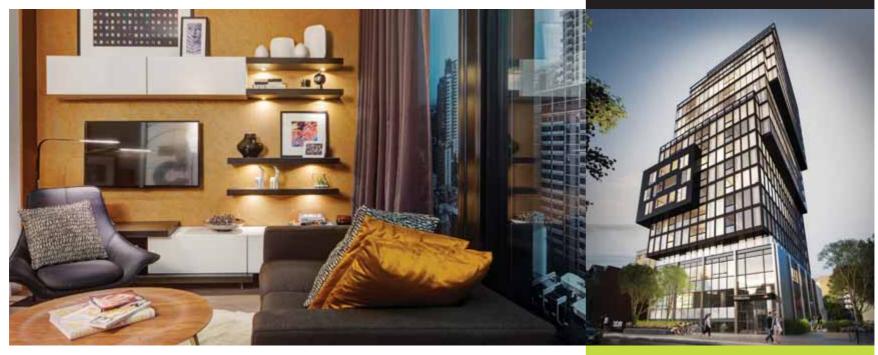


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<u>Upfront</u>

Toronto readies for WorldPride

Businesses, neighbourhoods and streets get rainbow treatment as anticipation builds

PRIDE NEWS ROB SALERNO

Toronto has erupted in a celebration of colour as rainbows spread across the city in anticipation of WorldPride, which takes over the city from June 20 to 29.

The first of two rainbow-coloured crosswalks was installed at Church and Alexander streets overnight on June 3, with the second painted at Church and Isabella streets the following night.

Also June 4, Toronto Public Health unveiled the city's first official condom. The CondomTO has an illustration of the street signs for Coxwell Avenue, Wood Street and Cummer Avenue and carries the message "No matter which way you go, put it on." The condoms are being deployed around the city, particularly in the Church-Wellesley neighbourhood, in advance of WorldPride.

Meanwhile, the Church and Wellesley branch of TD Canada Trust unveiled a rainbow vinyl wrap on its building and around its ATMs.

The first of 200 lamppost banners that will be deployed across the city in celebration of WorldPride also hit the streets in the Village and along King Street West. The simple banners feature a rainbow flag and tell people to "Feel welcome. Everywhere."

Ryerson University deployed Pride banners in its district, as well, boasting, "Your pride is our pride."

Up the street from the Village, the Yorkville branch of the Toronto Public Library has its four front columns wrapped in rainbows. The branch is hosting a queer comedy night on June 12, featuring Danz Altvater, Catherine McCormick, Paul Hutcheson and Dawn Whitwell.

Go to dailyxtra.com to see a photo gallery of some of Toronto's many rainbows.

Right, Toronto's first official condoms are being deployed around the city. Far right, the Church and Wellesley branch of TD Canada Trust unveiled a rainbow vinyl wrap on its building and around its ATMS. ROB SALERNO



PRIDE NEWS

Ugandan speakers one step closer to conference

After some confusion, things are on track to get 10 Ugandans to the University of Toronto this month to tell their stories.

It was recently reported that a number of scheduled speakers for the WorldPride Human Rights Conference would be unable to make it into Canada because government officials had denied their visas. But after some communication with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), it seems that things will be fixed in time for the conference.

Brenda Cossman is "cautiously optimistic." Cossman is a professor of law at the University of Toronto and co-chair of the conference. She says the letters from the Immigration Ministry started showing up in March. They've refiled the applications and expect everything to be sorted in time for the conference.

The visas were not rejected, per se; the problem is that Ottawa wanted more details about the applications — and, in a few cases, they wanted financial backing for the Ugandans. Immigration law stipulates that prospective visitors prove substantial ties to their home countries, have adequate finances for their stays and their return home, and show a legitimate purpose for entering Canada.

The government says that it recognizes the importance of these activists coming to Toronto to share their stories and that it is working with the conference organizers to get everything squared away in time. "CIC will continue to do everything it can, under our immigration laws, to make this conference a success," CIC Minister Chris Alexander said in a statement.

But as Cossman points out, each day

her group is stuck navigating the bureaucratic maze is another day the participants' airfare goes up. And one big roadblock for getting those activists to Canada is the pricetag.

The conference is already sponsoring numerous speakers and can't stretch its budget any further. If money can't be found for some of the Ugandan speakers — not all of whom are coming from Uganda — their applications might ultimately be denied.

Conference organizers are exploring options to see whether private sponsors can be arranged.

Ottawa has made efforts to underline its commitment to the queer commu-

nity in Uganda. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has challenged leadership in Kampala and has committed money to advocating for queer rights throughout central Africa.

Activist group #EndHateLaws has demanded that the federal government put its money where its mouth is and ensure that Ugandan delegates can get to the convention. *—Justin Ling*

The WorldPride Human Rights Conference runs June 25–27 at the University of Toronto.

Cawthra Park renos 'down to wire'

A contingency plan's in place for Queer Family Pride, but 519 is optimistic for AIDS Vigil

COMMUNITY NEWS ROB SALERNO

Despite initial promises that construction would be finished well before Pride festivities begin, the long renovation project that has closed Cawthra Square Park since last August is well behind schedule and may not be complete before WorldPride begins.

The 519's Green Space is one of the most popular Pride venues, and the parties there and at the Ryerson University quad welcomed 35,000 partiers and raked in \$300,000 for the community centre in 2013.

The project, which has ballooned from an initially proposed \$500,000 budget to a reported \$1.45-million project when construction began to its current \$1.6-million budget allotment, has fallen behind schedule because of the unusually harsh and long winter but is still on budget, according to city staff.

"I understand we're going down to the wire on this. The 519 has their first event on the 17th of June. Our schedule puts us

to be done right about that time," project manager Dave Nosella says. "What we can't say with certainty is will we get decent weather [for the next two weeks]."

Staff are considering paying the contractor extra to work overtime to get the renovation substantially complete before June 15, which would give the city two days before the first scheduled Pride event in the park – The 519's Queer Family Pride. The additional money would come out of the project's contingency fund.

"We're not going to risk it. If we need to spend a bit of money for [the contractor] to work longer, we'll do it. It will come in under budget," Nosella says.

Still remaining to be completed is installation of new dynamic LED lighting, gardening, reconstruction of the sidewalk in front of The 519, carpentry work, adjusting the irrigation system and installing furniture like wastebaskets and benches. Staff are considering putting off some of these elements until after Pride in order to have the park cleared for festivities.



Cawthra Park's \$1.6-million facelift has been set back by the long winter and may not be finished before The 519's Pride festivities are scheduled to begin. KEN POPERT

Also to be completed is a new mural on the north wall of The 519. The mural project is not part of the city's project.

Despite construction having slipped from an original "mid-May" completion deadline to "end of May" and finally "June 15," 519 staff members are not worried that the project will affect their Pride festivities. If necessary, Queer Family Pride will be moved into the open areas of the park — the splash pad and playground. There is no contingency plan for the AIDS Vigil on June 24 or for the Green Space parties, which take place from June 26 to 29. A Nuit Rose event is also scheduled for June 21, but The 519 is not organizing it.

"We're confident that the city's going to deliver a venue for the events at least beginning with the vigil on the 24th," says Matthew Cutler, director of strategic partnership initiatives at The 519.

Although the park is still a construction site, Cutler says 519 staff have been able to enter the site to get a feel for how it will function with its new layout. But organizers still need to understand how the park's new lighting and electrical systems will work.

"Our electrician and AV team haven't been able to get into the venue, but those are things we'll be able to troubleshoot quickly in a couple of days," Cutler says.

Pre-Pride block party planned for Village

Church Street will close June 20 to 22 to kick off WorldPride

PRIDE NEWS CHRIS DUPUIS

The Church Wellesley Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) recently announced it will be closing parts of the Village to traffic and hosting a "neighbourhood block party" as part of WorldPride 2014. From Friday, June 20, through Sunday, June 22, Church Street will be closed from Wood to Gloucester streets, with bars and restaurants offering extended patios on the street.



Pride revellers will take over Church Street from June 20 to 22 in advance of the larger WorldPride street closure at the end of the month. ADAM COISH

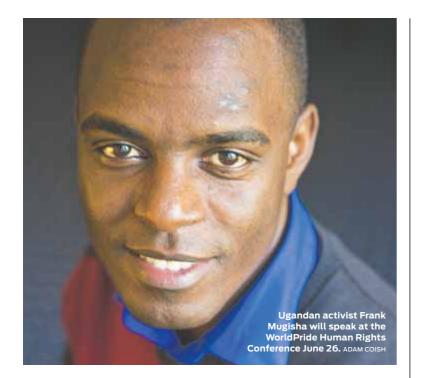
A stage at the northwest corner of Church and Maitland will host drag queens, DJs and other local performers throughout the weekend. Individual establishments are booking the talent, so attendees can expect appearances by many of the regular Church Street fixtures.

Though WorldPride is arranging the traditional Pride weekend in the Village, nothing was scheduled for the previous weekend, so the BIA seized an opportunity to promote the neighbourhood in a different way.

"I don't think a lot of people have a chance to experience the real Church Street on the regular Pride weekend, when there are so many people," says BIA general manager Mychol Scully. "We felt it was important to showcase the Village neighbourhood itself, which is why we're presenting it as a neighbourhood block party. It's a chance for people to see the Village *au naturel* and offer a neighbourhood version of Pride that acknowledges its roots at LGBT ground zero."

For Torontonians who've summered in Montreal, the measure feels overdue. La Belle Ville has been closing its Village to traffic every summer for nearly a decade. Three days is a baby step for Toronto. But is it possible we might one day see a summer-long closure?

"I love the idea, and I'm very fond of how Montreal manages its Village during the summer," Scully says. "That said, this has been quite an undertaking. The impacts it has on traffic and dealing with security issues aren't trivial. We'll be doing a post-mortem, which will give us a better idea of how well the event functioned and what, if any, changes we can make in the future."



WorldPride Human Rights Conference comes to town

LGBT rights at tipping point internationally, organizer says

PRIDE NEWS HG WATSON

Organizers of the WorldPride Human Rights Conference are hoping the growing visibility of LGBT rights will bring them a fresh audience.

"We are at this weird tipping point in terms of LGBT rights internationally," co-chair Brenda Cossman says. "The bizarre thing is in different places they are tipping in different directions. In the United States, they are tipping towards marriage equality, and trans rights seems to be having a moment."

Hosted by the Mark S Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto, the three-day event will shine a spotlight on LGBT activists and advocates worldwide. Cossman and co-chair Doug Kerr looked across the world to find their speakers, eventually whittling down 400 workshop proposals to 180.

Cossman is still "cautiously optimistic" that the 10 Ugandan delegates denied visas by the Canadian government will be able to attend the conference. Ugandan activist Frank Mugisha is already confirmed; the executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda made headlines for his vocal stance against Uganda's anti-gay bill, passed



Former Icelandic prime minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir will also speak

earlier this year, and has been granted a visa in the past.

Mugisha and a number of other dignitaries, including HIV/AIDS activist Cleve Jones, Russian LGBT activist Masha Gessen and former Icelandic prime minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir will speak at a series of afternoon plenaries open to the public.

"I think it's an incredible opportunity on different levels for folks from around the world to come together to share their stories of resistance and their stories of hope," Cossman says.

Jamaican daily deems marriage provision an 'assault' on equality

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Movin' on up to the east side

Habitat for Humanity Pride Build to construct six new homes in Toronto's east end

JP LAROCQUE COMMUNITY NEWS

It has been said that Pride is rooted in community — a sense of shared experience and, perhaps most importantly, space. But for many in the city's LGBT community, finding a safe and affordable living space can be a challenge.

"We have seen that LGBT communities disproportionately contend with inadequate housing at critical points in their lives, namely in their youth and elder years," says Enloe Wilson, manager of faith and community development at Habitat GTA. "[Our organization's] work helps to relieve those related challenges through assisting low-income families in building and financing the ownership of homes."

On June 21, Habitat for Humanity GTA will host Canada's first Pride Build. The event, which is affiliated with WorldPride, encourages community members to aid in the physical construction of six new affordable homes in Toronto's east end.

"Given the celebratory nature of WorldPride, Pride Build promises to be a bit of an upsized soirée," Wilson says. "It will be held in our dedicated home-building factory in North York, and participants can expect fun décor, music, games, catered lunch, prizes for top fundraisers and a visit or two by VIP guests."

At the build site, new volunteers are matched up with skilled volunteer crew leaders, who deliver training and oversight. No experience is necessary, and the organization provides all tools, safety gear, lunch and other support through an eight-hour shift.

"By the end of the day, our volunteer crews go home a bit spent but absolutely invigorated by the tangible product of their teamwork and the gratification of knowing they have substantively contributed to the transformation of families' lives."

Pride Builds have gained traction over the last decade, with Habitat affiliates holding popular events in Portland, San Francisco, Tucson and Washington, DC.

According to Wilson, roughly one in five families in the GTA live in overcrowded, substandard or unaffordable housing, with more than 77,000 families currently on a waiting list



44 Given the celebratory nature of WorldPride, Pride Build promises to be a bit of an upsized soirée.**11** ENLOE WILSON, MANAGER

OF FAITH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT HABITAT GTA

Pride Build will engage community members to aid in the physical construction of six new affordable homes in Toronto's east end. for subsidized housing. Through a combination of strategic partnerships and outreach, the organization has been able to build more than 270 affordable homes across the city, and they hope to deliver home ownership to 100 more low-income families every year by 2020.

"By providing affordable, no-profit, no-interest mortgages ... [we try to] break the cycle of social dependence and benefit our local economy as Habitat homeowners contribute to municipal revenues through the payment of their own property taxes."

Alongside Pride Build, Habitat GTA has introduced other initiatives that directly address disenfranchised members of the LGBT community.

"We have partnered with such programs as the 519 Church Street Community Centre Summer Camp

to educate early on about the need for adequate shelter for all," Wilson says. "And through our year-round Adopta-Day program, we also have enjoyed the partnership of countless commu-

nity organizations, faith groups, elected officials and other individuals who work closely with LGBT communities to assist in the hands-on building of homes at our construction sites."

PRIDE BUILD

Sat, June 21, 8am–4pm Habitat GTA Home Building Facility 1100 Caledonia Rd

Free with fundraising challenge

of \$250 per participant

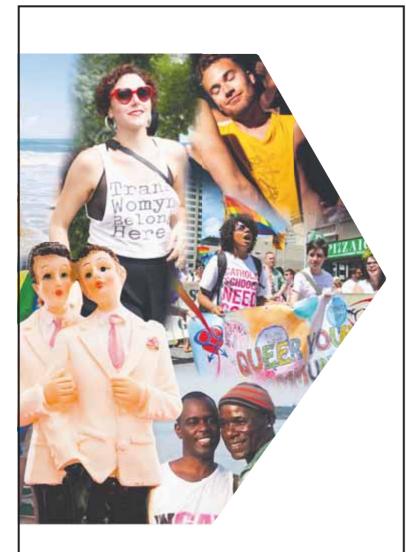
enloe.wilson@habitatgta.ca or 416-755-7353 x242

Still, with the world watching as Canada hosts WorldPride, Wilson sees the Pride Build as integral to both the

organization and the LGBT community.

"Our hope is that through this firstever Canadian Pride Build, we might further grow these important partnerships, bringing visibility to the broad need for af-

fordable housing in our area and, more particularly, to the empowerment of LGBT communities in making the availability of such housing a reality."



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New sex-work bill considerably stricter than Nordic model

Communication still illegal if minor might be present

NATIONAL NEWS JUSTIN LING

The Canadian government has introduced new sex-work legislation, and newspapers, johns, pimps and massage parlours are all in the crosshairs. Sex workers and their advocates are furious.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay introduced Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, on June 4. It was expected that the Conservatives would adopt some version of the Nordic model, which criminalizes buyers rather than sellers of sex. What was introduced, however, is substantially stricter.

The bill makes the purchase of sex illegal. But it does not leave the selling of sex entirely decriminalized. C-36 makes a criminal of any sex worker who communicates with a client in a public place where anyone under 18 might be present. A "public place" can include the inside of a car. That means two 17-year-old sex workers working a corner could both be committing a crime simply by being near each other. In that scenario, MacKay agreed, they could be arrested and fined.

MacKay was asked if that compromises the sex workers' security. "Not at all. We're not making them do anything. We're not forcing them to sell sex," he said.

The one component of the bill that sex workers might appreciate is its explicit permission to hire a bodyguard or driver. However, the parameters around hiring staff are very narrow. The bill makes it illegal for someone to make a living off the income of a sex worker — unless they are a family member or they are providing a legitimate service.

The bill explicitly criminalizes pimps, as well as anyone who provides drugs or alcohol to the sex worker. "If they're not exploiting the individual, then it would not be considered a criminal offence," MacKay said.

The bill also makes illegal any business where sex is purchased. That could mean that vice squads will be kicking down a lot of doors to massage parlours across Canada. *Xtra* asked the minister what that would mean.

"As for the places where we know very often prostitution does take place, including strip clubs and massage parlours, the police will have the same powers they do now to carry out inves-



Justice Minister Peter MacKay dismisses concerns that the new bill jeopardizes sex workers' safety. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

tigations, surveillance operations that are aimed at, again, going after those who are perpetrating the offences around the selling of sexual services," MacKay said.

While law enforcement agencies have sporadically enforced common bawdyhouse provisions, mostly targeting low-key brothels and massage parlours, this bill sets out a clear mandate for police services across Canada.

The section of Bill C-36 that caught everybody by surprise is at the very front of the bill - it makes illegal any advertisement of sexual services. While it's unclear just how that section might be applied, MacKay did vow to go after publications and websites that carry these advertisements. MacKay acknowledged this, saying the bill "prohibits advertising the sale of sexual material in print or online." The bill empowers police to order such advertisements be taken down and carries jail time of up to five years for anyone who places or publishes the advertisement.

While the bill technically states that advertising one's own sexual services is not a crime, MacKay said the opposite. Asked whether a sex worker could be prosecuted for listing an ad for their services in a newspaper, MacKay replied, "If there is a direct connection to the selling of sex that does not present itself in a public way, then it would be legal, but if it is done so in a way that is perceived as public, or as being available to those under the age of 18, it would be illegal."

NDP justice critic Françoise Boivin finds this new provision alarming. "They may have opened up other problems in view of the Charter."

Activists are outraged by the legislation. "I am horrified. I am terribly upset," says Jean McDonald, executive director of Maggie's Toronto Sex Workers' Action Project. "I am very worried about how this is going to impact the people I work with."

McDonald says the bill will be fought and eventually struck down as unconstitutional. In the interim, she says, sex workers will not be safe. "With this new legislation, we're going to see more murdered and missing women," she tells *Xtra*.

The Supreme Court of Canada, in striking down the country's previous prostitution laws in 2013, ruled that the laws criminalizing street soliciting, living off the profits of prostitution, owning a brothel and pimping were overly broad and disproportionate to the purpose they were intended to serve.

"They're repeating the same mistakes of the past, but in a different version," says Sarah Leamon of PACE, a group that works with street-level sex workers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Leamon is particularly concerned about the continued criminalization of communicating in "public" with potential clients, which will undermine sex workers' ability to screen johns before leaving with them. "What we hear from members of the sex worker community, especially survivor and outdoor sex workers, time and time again — that period that they require in order to screen clients is critical to their safety," she says.

"This is exactly the kind of situation that allowed Robert Pickton to kidnap and murder women for decades," Mc-Donald says.

Leamon, who also practises criminal law, says the changes will have a huge impact. "Certainly. Definitely. They're a major, major problem."

MacKay dismissed their criticisms. "What I say to that is what I've already indicated, and that is we are going after the individuals who are exploiting them, who are putting them in dark places, who are forcing them to be reliant on this trade," he said.

PREVIEW OPENING SATURDAY, JUNE 21st

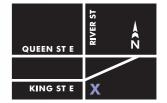
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Guess who has eyes for you

How the government's surveillance bill will invade your privacy

MATTHEW DIMERA



E CAN EITHER STAND with us or with the child pornographers."

With that infamous statement, former public safety minister Vic Toews sparked an inferno of public outrage in 2012 against the controversial Bill C-30, which ostensibly promised to protect children from internet predators.

Twelve months later, the Harper government dropped the bill after its first introduction to the House of Commons. Then-justice minister Rob Nicholson said it was dead and wouldn't be coming back.

"We will not be proceeding with Bill C-30, and any attempts that we will continue to have to modernize the Criminal Code will not contain the measures contained in C-30," he promised reporters in February 2013. "We've listened to the concerns of Canadians, who have been very clear on this."

The Conservative government kept that promise for almost 10 months. In November 2013, Justice Minister Peter MacKay resurrected parts of Bill C-30 and slipped them into the newly packaged Bill C-13, this time under the auspices of combating cyberbullying. Opponents are concerned that these bills will allow the government to invade your privacy. The truth is, it's been happening for years.

he federal government asks Canadian telecommunications companies for private customer information an average of 1.2 million times a year, according to documents released in April by the federal privacy commissioner. Those numbers were obtained by the commissioner's office in 2011 and represent the responses of nine telephone and internet companies that "represent a substantial proportion of Canada's telecommunications customer connections."

The nine companies provided their responses in aggregate through an intermediary law firm so that none of their answers could be attributed to any individual company.

From those 1.2 million requests, the telecoms handed over private customer information at least 784,756 times. The real number is likely higher, since only three of the nine companies disclosed how many times they had complied with government requests. It's also unknown how many of those requests were made without warrants.

In March, the House of Commons also learned that the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) made 18,849 requests for customer data between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013. Of those, the majority were requests for "basic subscrib-

er information," and 99 percent of them were provided without warrants. That basic subscriber information includes names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, internet protocol addresses and local service providers.

Other information requested by the CBSA included geolocation (cellphone tower locations), call detail records (date/time of calls, calling number, called number, redirecting number, length of call), text message content, voicemails, cell tower logs, websites visited and personal identification info like dates of birth. In all but 13 of the cases, the individual customers were not notified that their information had been accessed. The CBSA disclosure came after NDP MP Charmaine Borg made an official inquiry in Parliament as to how, why and how often federal agencies accessed Canadian telecom data.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) did not disclose how many requests their agencies had made. The RCMP said they were unable to answer because they don't keep centralized records of the requests they make to telecoms. CSIS also declined to answer Borg's questions.

"For reasons of national security and to protect CSIS' ability to collect intelligence and provide advice to Government, CSIS does not disclose



details of its operations and tradecraft," their written response explained.

In January, the CBC reported that classified documents released by American whistleblower Edward Snowden showed that Canada's electronic spy agency tracked thousands of airline passengers for days after they left a Canadian airport by using WiFi information from their wireless devices.

Despite these revelations, the Conservative government insists that concerns over invasions of privacy are unfounded and that Canadians have nothing to worry about.

"What we do say is that privacy laws are respected by the government," Prime Minister Stephen Harper told the House of Commons in April.

"Law enforcement and other investigative agencies always seek warrants when they are required to do so," he continued. "There is independent surveillance, independent oversight, to make sure that these laws are respected."

The government maintains that while warrants are needed to read the contents of emails and texts, or to listen to voicemails, they aren't needed for what they claim is information more akin to what might be written on the outside of an envelope or in a phonebook.

Critics aren't so quick to dismiss the importance of snooping through our digital crumbs. hen we use telephones, mobile phones, desktop computers, laptops, tablets or other computing devices, we leave behind a digital trail of metadata. Metadata is information about other information. It's the data created by communications devices and telecom service providers.

In her paper "A Primer on Metadata: Separating Fact from Fiction," Ontario's

What secrets

would your

cellphone

reveal about

you right now?

What about

history?

your internet

privacy commissioner, Ann Cavoukian, explains the significance of these digital crumbs. "Metadata includes information that reveals the time and duration of a communication, the particular devices, addresses, or numbers contacted, which kinds of communications services we use, and at what geolocations. And since virtually every device we use has a unique identifying number, our communications and internet activities may be linked and traced with relative ease - ultimately back to the individuals involved," she writes. Government officials in both Canada and the

US have repeatedly defended the collection of this information as "only metadata." Their position is that while the content of

emails or phone calls should be private, the rest is fair game.

But many experts argue that metadata is far more revealing than the actual content of our calls and emails. Even supposedly aggregate metadata isn't that anonymous. A 2013 MIT study showed that only four time-and-location data points were needed to uniquely identify someone in 95 percent of cases.

Sometimes whom you call is just as revealing as what you're saying. What if you call a rape hotline, a domestic violence hotline, an addiction hotline or a support line for gay teens?

What secrets would your cellphone reveal about you right now? What about your internet history? The more data someone can access, the more that person can learn about you. In isolation, a few bits of data may not say much, but start to piece them together and they begin to paint a vivid picture: where you live, what time you wake up, what time you leave for work, where you work, how you get to work, who your friends are and how often you talk to them, how close you are with your family, what time you go to bed. When you then pair that information with a second or third person's data, that image can reveal much more.

If your phone spends every night at the same location as another phone, then it likely indicates you have some kind of relationship with the other phone's owner.

If you make a call to a gay men's health centre and then later that week your phone visits that centre, what could that say about you? Or if you start making regular phone calls to a doctor

> who specializes in HIV, or one who specializes in cancer? Or if you visit a psychiatrist frequently?

> What if you're making latenight calls to someone who isn't your spouse?

> If every Saturday night you visit a gay nightclub and afterward your phone spends the night at a different location, never at the same place twice, what could someone infer about you or about your personal life? What could they infer if you never call back the people at whose places you stayed overnight?

> Do you use any dating or hook-up apps? OkCupid? Grindr? Squirt? Scruff? All of the above? How often? Whom do you communicate with? Do you have a type?

Now take all that information and combine it with your internet history. Which news sources do you read? The *National Post*? Sun News? *The Globe and Mail*? Do you visit gay-themed websites?

What about porn? Do you have specific tastes or fetishes? Twinks? Bears? Twinks who dominate bears? How often do you watch porn and for how long?

Privacy experts say that all sorts of details about people's personal lives can be inferred by where they go and how they interact with others, both in person and online: including but not limited to health/medical history (abortions, HIV status), sexual orientation, sexual practices, religion and politics.

The futurists who predicted Orwellian government-owned surveillance were partially wrong. Governments don't need to create their own massive surveillance apparatus when they can just compel corporations to turn over what they know about their customers.

In this current data age, information has become a valuable and monetized commodity to big business. Many companies you deal with — from the supermarket to your bank — collect swathes of information about you so they can learn how to make more money from you. But once that information is in the hands of corporations, it takes only a short jump for governments to access it as well.

MORE AT DAILYXTRA.COM

▶ continued from previous page

ot surprisingly, Bill C-13 and its predecessor, Bill C-30, have awoken opponents from all directions of the political spectrum. Even after public outrage forced the government to kill Bill C-30, privacy advocates remained on guard that the Conservatives would try again.

Last fall, more than 50 Canadian organizations joined the Protect our Privacy coalition, under the coordination of openmedia.ca. Members include the right-leaning Canadian Taxpayers Federation and the Canadian Constitution Foundation, as well as a slew of more progressive groups, including *Xtra*'s publisher, Pink Triangle Press (PTP).

"More than ever, Canadians need strong, genuinely transparent, and properly enforced safeguards to secure privacy rights. We call on Government to put in place effective legal measures to protect the privacy of every resident of Canada against intrusion by government entities," the coalition's founding statement reads.

When the controversial Bill C-30 was first tabled, it was briefly called the Lawful Access Act before being retitled the Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act. But aside from the title, the bill didn't actually include any mention of children or predators.

So when MacKay introduced C-13, the Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act, last November, championing it as a much-needed tool to combat the scourge of cyberbullying, for many privacy advocates there was a distinct sense of déjà vu.

"[Cyberbullying] is clearly a case of the worst form of harassment, intimidation and humiliation of young people, which resulted in a feeling of hopelessness, that there was no other way out, and they took their lives," MacKay told Parliament.

Openmedia.ca's executive director, Steve Anderson, welcomes the sections of the bill directed at cyberbullying but says there's little in the bill to address it. Instead, he says, the bill focuses, once again, on government access to private information.

"There are proposals in this legislation that are common sense and that nobody would disagree with. Yet by having most of this legislation consist largely of failed online spying proposals that Canadians have already clearly rejected, the government is doing great disservice to an issue many citizens care deeply about," Anderson said in a press statement.

"Our consultation with legal experts suggests that this legislation could enable state authorities to force telecoms to keep our sensitive private information in giant unsecured databases," he said. "What's more, it could give a range of authorities access to the private lives of almost any Canadian, even if they are not suspected of any wrong doing. It could open the door to suspicionless surveillance. That why it's so important that the government address the concerns Canadians have by strengthening the privacy safeguards in this draft legislation and removing all the off-topic content."

NDP justice critic Françoise Boivin worries that the Conservatives are using a popular and sensitive issue to shield some of the bill's other provisions from criticism.

TIPS TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS ONLINE

Between the potential threats of government surveillance, criminal hackers and corporations, protecting your online privacy can seem like a daunting task (especially if you're starting from scratch). Here are four beginner tips to start shielding your data from prying eyes.

Use a personal virtual private network (VPN).

For a monthly fee, you can subscribe to a VPN service, which creates a secure tunnel online between the VPN server and your computer or device. It masks your IP address and encrypts all your internet activities. Any websites that you visit will see the IP address of the VPN server and not yours. It also allows you to use public WiFi safely. Be sure to

"Nobody is against giving better tools to the police to make sure there is no cyberbullying happening," Boivin tells *Xtra*. "But that bill is so much more than that."

She accuses the Conservatives of stonewalling critics' valid concerns about privacy intrusion. "With this government

it's so hard to get the actual answers," she says. "It's more like [they're] laughing at the opposition for even raising the issues."

he government claims that Bill C-13 is entirely different from its predecessor and that the contentious portions have been removed.

Xtra's request for an interview with Justice Minister Peter MacKay was declined. Instead, a spokesperson provided links to an online statement called "Myths and Facts."

According to the Department of Justice, "The Bill does not contain the former Bill C-30's controversial amendments relating to warrantless access to subscriber information and to

scriber information and telecommunication infrastructure modification. It simply aims to provide police with the necessary means to fight crime in today's high-tech environment while maintaining the judicial checks and balances needed to protect Canadians' privacy."

do some research to find a provider within your budget that doesn't keep logs of your activity and will protect your anonymity.

Disable GPS and WiFi on your phone until you need them.

While your cellphone company can figure out your approximate location using cell towers, GPS can provide your exact location. When WiFi is enabled on your phone, it broadcasts detailed information about your device, so turn it off when you're not using it.

3 Stop using public WiFi.

While public WiFi may be convenient and free, it also leaves your information vulnerable to hackers.

66 Nobody is

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NDP JUSTICE CRITIC

FRANÇOISE BOIVIN

than that. 77

cyberbullying

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Never ever use public WiFi to access private information such as banking, social media or email.

4 Reconsider what you share on social media sites.

Facebook's entire business model is based on collecting and using your personal information, and if they have it, then they can share it with the government. If you're not prepared to give up all social media just yet, then do your best to stay anonymous. Use pseudonyms when you sign up to make it harder for searchers to find you. Also, create a new email account for each website you join. so all your accounts can't be connected or identified through a common email. -Matthew DiMera

Two of the most controversial elements from C-30 — warrantless mandatory disclosure of basic subscriber information and the requirement for telecoms to build intercept capabilities in their systems — have been removed. Privacy advocates like Michael Geist still say that C-13

should raise alarms for Canadians. A University of Ottawa law professor, Geist is one of the country's leading experts in internet law.

"We now know that many of the kinds of surveillance capabilities that I think people were envisioning and concerned about, when they were thinking about Bill C-30, may already be in place," Geist says.

He notes that the government has been trying to introduce similar and related measures for years; first under the spectre of fighting terrorism, then combating spam, then child endangerment and now cyberbullying.

According to Geist, Bill C-13 has two significant issues that would affect Canadians' privacy. First, it lowers the evidentiary bar for the government to get a

warrant for your metadata. Under C-13, these warrants would be available if officials have "reason to suspect" that an offence has or will be committed, instead of the current "reason to believe."

Second, it grants immunity to telecoms that

provide your personal information voluntarily. As it stands now, companies can either provide your information voluntarily during a normal police investigation or they can tell police that a warrant is needed before they will cooperate. This immunity would eliminate the threat of lawsuits launched by consumers concerned about their privacy and essentially give corporations no reason not to hand over your information when requested by the government.

Ken Popert, the president and executive director of Pink Triangle Press, thinks that gay Canadians should be especially concerned about the government's push for increased spying powers.

"The deeper issue here is that the whole politics of equality do not address the content of our sexual and emotional lives, and those are the things that remain vulnerable to surveillance abuse," he told *Xtra* in October.

"There is a reason why Facebook has privacy settings and a reason why people use them," he continued. "The very fact of what Grindr actually is would upset a lot of straight people if they understood it. It's treated in the press as a humorous thing in a way but could be put to other purposes."

Popert thinks the mere suggestion of surveillance could scare people into silence. "We belong to a community that has a long history of being subjected to unbenevolent surveillance by government agencies," he points out. "Now they want to keep an eye on everyone, not just us."

"There's a deeper question of why the government wants to know anything about us, let alone to the extent it seems it's willing to go into the details of our personal lives," he says.

He dismisses the common argument that only people who have done something wrong should be worried about heightened government surveillance.

"Anybody who says that sincerely is stupid, and I think that an awful lot of people just say it cynically as an easy way of characterizing people who are opposed to this kind of surveillance as having criminal intentions," he says.

"What you think is wrong might not be the same as what the government thinks is wrong," he notes. "There's an awful lot of things that aren't wrong that we do that we might not want everyone to know about."

He also worries about the potential for abuse by individual police or government employees who could use the system for their own personal gain, pointing to recent instances of police officers caught using databases to spy on former romantic partners.

> ill C-13 made it through its second reading in Parliament at the end of April and is now under the scrutiny of the House's justice committee.

Earlier this year, MacKay told reporters that he hopes the new bill will pass this spring and become law before Parliament recesses near the end of June. While that timeline may be overly ambitious, the government has indicated that it's willing to extend Parliament's sitting hours to prioritize its passage.

So far, MacKay has shown no signs of willingness to amend or remove the bill's most contentious components.

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Getting to the bottom of anal sex

Why are we so reluctant to discuss the dirty details

SEX JP LAROCQUE

"If he tells you his apartment is messy, that's usually a sign."

I have vague memories of a friend breaking it down for a group of us during university. Crowded around the bar, we were already well into our second pitcher of cheap domestic and - as topics tend to go at that point in the night – the focus had shifted to matters of a more personal nature.

"Messy means that he's not clean... down there," he continued. "That he didn't douche before he went out."

"Douche! You're supposed to douche?" One of my roommates was horrified. "You don't? Well, that would probably

explain your track record."

There was uncomfortable laughter, and the conversation shifted to some other long-forgotten topic. Still, that particular exchange stayed with me in part because it was such a rarity. For a common sexual practice within the LGBT community, anal sex remains a largely unaddressed topic. The mechanics of "bottoming" are straightforward to anyone with access to the internet, but the preparation that goes into it is rarely, if ever, addressed — even within some of the more sexually progressive circles.

"The available information makes it abundantly clear that anal sexuality is, and always has been, an important feature of the human erotic landscape," Jack Morin notes in his seminal book *Anal Pleasure & Health.* "Yet when we compare this information with the plentiful and detailed data about other sexual activities, it's obvious that we are heirs to an unmistakable and potent conspiracy of silence."

Morin argues that the general reluctance to discuss anal sex is part of a deeply rooted taboo that serves a series of social functions, including enforcing cleanliness, affirming a division

between mind and body, reinforcing gender differentiation and encouraging homophobia. These functions are key within patriarchal and religious societies, but with the advent of science, shifting ideas around gender and sexuality, and the repeal of key sodomy laws, the anal taboo has become less pressing.

Still, shifting attitudes around a cultural taboo is considerably more difficult than merely changing laws. "Taboos have an all-encompassing quality... which makes them highly resistant to logic, scientific inquiry or even firsthand experience," Morin argues. "Although taboos develop from within a culture, it seems as if they are externally dictated from on high."

So even as queer culture has accepted certain elements of anal play and the sexual revolution has shifted attitudes around various sex acts, these pervasive taboos have nonetheless affected our ability to openly discuss them. As such, many gays are forced to learn about bottoming through whispered conversations between friends or, in certain cases, during their very first encounter.

"My first experience bottoming was when I was 15," adult film star Blake Daniels says. "As I was so young and inexperienced, I didn't make any preparations, [and] thankfully, there were no issues there. [But] I was apprehensive, and the experience was painful and not all that enjoyable."

Daniels, who has built a career performing at such studios as NakedSword and Lucas Entertainment, considers himself to be sexually versatile and finds personal value in experiencing both sexual positions.

"I do like to bottom and really like the intimate connection I feel with a guy when I bottom," he says. "When I top, I like to be dominant and take control of the person and the situation. Conversely, when I bottom, I like to submit to the other person and lose a bit of my control." But that loss of control comes with a fair bit of advance preparation.

"In the adult industry, bottoms are required to arrive all clean and prepared, [and] most studios have you arrive early and provide a space where additional cleaning and touchups can be done," he notes. "This is essential, [as] a scene can last anywhere from three to 12 hours, and you can't hide that sort of thing from an HD camera."

"If things are less than clean during filming, the scene must stop and everyone waits for the bottom to go get cleaned up properly."

Of the handful of websites that address the topic, most consider bulb douching to be the most common and effective method of bottoming prep, particularly for those who wish to engage in straightforward play involving the anus and rectum. But for anyone interested in more intense play, like fisting or deep penetration with toys, many experts suggest a shower douche that will allow water to get into the colon. The benefit of the latter is that the bottoming partner will remain cleaner for a longer period of time (between four to eight hours), while the former is ideal for more immediate sexual activity (roughly within a two-hour window).

But not everyone agrees that douching is a necessary step for anal play. Some experts caution that overdouching can strip the bowel of beneficial bacterium and mucus that are necessary in the digestive process and help to fight off infections. And certain commercial douche products contain chemicals that can irritate the lining of the anal cavity and make the bottoming partner more susceptible to sexually transmitted infections.

"In real life, people's rectums aren't always as clean as a freshly laundered of butt play?

ANAL SEX: A PRIMER

Being a good bottom takes a certain amount of planning.

Bulb douching

The whole process can take about half an hour, with the key focus being on cleaning the anus and rectum. Bulb douching is ideal for a quick hookup or any situation where sex will happen within a relatively short window of time. But if you're leaving the house in the early evening and returning with a hookup at 2am, it won't be as effective.

Fill a sink with lukewarm water (this is important, as cold water can irritate your rectum). Fill the douche until full. Lube up both the anus and the douche wand and insert. Squeeze the bulb until it is completely empty and remove while keeping your sphincter closed. Try to hold it for five minutes and release into the toilet. Repeat until the water is clear.

Deep cleaning (shower douche)

A bulb douche is commonly used to

clean the anus before anal sex, while

a shower douche can be used before

bath towel," argues sex columnist and

blogger Andrea Zanin. "Some people

like to do a bit of douching before anal

Zanin, who has been writing about

queer sexuality, non-monogamy and

BDSM/leather for more than a de-

cade, advocates safe-sex preparation

continued next page ▶

sex, but it's by no means mandatory."

deep penetration.

The whole process can take about an hour and a half and involves cleaning the anus, rectum and beyond. This type of cleaning is ideal for deep penetration and lasts between four to eight hours.

Attach the wand to the shower hose and adjust until the temperature is appropriate (again,

continued next page 🕨

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▶ continued from previous page

but thinks that far too many people are concerned with time-consuming physical preparation.

"I think a minimalist approach is most respectful of our bodies' natural processes. Our systems are designed to excrete feces safely and at the appropriate time, as long as we're eating healthily and staying hydrated. They really don't need help, and overdoing it can interfere with your system's natural instincts to excrete all by itself."

Key to that is taking cues from your body and not forcing anything too quickly.

"The anal tissues are sensitive, and many people hold stress and emotions in the sphincter muscles, which results in physical tension ... that can make anal penetration challenging or painful. Go gently, establish trust [and] respect your body," Zanin says.

She suggests using your own fingers and sex toys before having anal sex with anyone else. "That way you'll be more familiar with what feels good to you, you'll be able to tell your tops what you like best, and you can teach yourself how to relax without the pressure of anyone else in the room."

Moreover, she emphasizes the importance of respect for your partner and the understanding that sexual positions don't always reflect power dynamics.

"Enjoying the bottom position in anal sex doesn't necessarily mean you're submissive — although the two can go together nicely if that's your bag. [And] bottoming also doesn't make you more feminine, unless you want to make it mean that to you. All that bottoming means is that you enjoy the sensation of having your anus stimulated."

Daniels agrees. "I find that many people associate bottoming with being feminine and do not consider the act masculine. I am a masculine guy and I love to bottom as much as I like to top, so I don't fit neatly in the perceived roles of gay society."

Still, he feels that cleaning is an important step in anal play. "If I had some tips for someone new to bottoming, I would tell them to learn about and practise proper douching technique... [and] that poppers make things go much easier if it's painful at first."

But Zanin is sticking to her guns. "Look, I'm all for cleaning out if that makes you feel more comfortable. As long as you don't do it so often that it interferes with your body's natural excretion processes, knock yourself out. But sometimes I wonder if all that flushing is an anxious attempt to control what's essentially a messy reality. Our bodies don't always obey. Our fluids leak out at the wrong moments sometimes. We produce smells other than soap and cologne. C'est la vie." X

continued from previous page

lukewarm). Turn off the wand, lie in the bath, insert and turn on. Keep the water pressure fairly light and fill until it feels right. Some suggest a minute or two, but it really depends on the individual. Turn off, and keep your sphincter closed. Wait five minutes and then release. Repeat until the water is clear. After 20 minutes, return to the toilet to expel any residual water.

Don't over-douche, as this can strip the bowel of beneficial bacterium and mucus that are necessary in the digestive process and help to fight off infections. Experts say no more than two or three times a week.

Anal 101

- Be patient, use lots of lube, and breathe.
- The anal sphincters are muscles. Just like any other muscle in the body, exercise makes them stronger and stretching makes them more flexible. Anal sex does both of these, so if anything, it's good for your muscles, not bad.
- Use plenty of lube, don't numb your skin with numbing creams (sensation tells you what's safe for your body!), and don't force anything in there if the muscles are resistant — the anal tissues are delicate. If you go without lube, deliberately dull sensation or otherwise push past your body's "no," you may create tears in the anus.
- If you bareback, don't use an enema, as this may also cause tearing during sex and increase your risk of STIs.
- Relax muscles during insertion and stop if you feel any pain. With practice, you'll become more familiar with your specific sphincter muscles and will be able to tense and release in a manner that can stimulate your partner.
- Try out different positions

 especially if there is any discomfort, if your partner has a curved penis, or if you want more stimulation of the prostate.
- If you participate in fisting, keep your nails short and be aware that many fisting oils will degrade the latex in gloves. Go slowly!



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Kiss of the spider scientist

Ferdinand Karsch-Haack challenged theories of same-sex love through his studies of nature

As a natural scientist, Ferdinand

pathologizing same-sex love.

Haack, on all publications.

Karsch-Haack rejected the idea of

added his mother's maiden name,

At the end of the 19th century, there

was widespread social panic about

decadence. Austrian social critic Max

Nordau wrote of "degeneration," an

erosion of traditional values he saw

within and influencing art. Another

popular idea was that homosexuality

was the product of *überkultur*, or ex-

cessive civilization. Published in Ger-

man sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld's

Yearbook for Sexual Intermediaries in

1900, Karsch-Haack's "Pederasty and

Tribady Among Animals Based on

Literature" debunked the assumption

that there was no homosexuality in the

natural world, refuting the idea that

being gay is a social disease.

I don't know when my soft spot for spiders developed. While I'm not the kind of person who would ever keep an arachnid as a pet, I have been known, on occasion, to grab a jar and a piece of paper, scoop up a wayward spider and set it free outside. Spiders are, after all, one of nature's pest controls.

HISTORY BOYS MICHAEL LYONS

In a world of humans who deny their own nature, turn-ofthe-19th-century scientist Ferdinand Karsch-Haack pushed back. Karsch-Haack was not only an incredible force in the intellectual movement of sexual emancipation, but was a renowned arachnologist and entomologist who studied spiders and bugs.

Karsch-Haack was born in Münster, Germany, on Sept 2, 1853. The son of a physician, he went on to study zoology in Berlin, where he published his thesis on the gall wasp in 1877. From 1878 to 1921 he worked as a curator at the Humboldt Museum of natural history.

His work as an arachnologist included creating a catalogue, documenting the spiders of a region of eastern Germany, and publishing articles on species that the museum would receive from all over the world.

While he spent more than four decades with the museum, Karsch-Haack is better remembered for his widely published work as an ethnologist, with a number of works on homosexuality and same-sex love, both in the animal kingdom and among "primitive" peoples. Unlike other authors who published works about homosexuality under pseudonyms, he not only kept his own name, but, from 1905 onward, A similar project was Karsch-Haack's Investigations of Same-Sex Love, which he planned as a five-part series investigating same-sex occurrences among primitive populations in what we now understand to be East and South Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and mid-European peoples. He published two volumes, The East Asians: Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans in 1906, and The Sexual Life of Primitive Peoples in 1911, but because of the death of his publisher he adapted his next work, on homoeroticism in Arabic societies, for Hirschfeld's publication instead. As a natural scientist - un-

As a natural scientist – unlike his contemporaries – Karsch-Haack rejected ideas of pathologizing same-sex love. He rejected medical terms like "homosexuality" and ideas of the "third sex," preferring terms like *homoërotische* or *gleichgeschlechtliche liebe* (homoeroticism and same-sex love). Part of his work specifically targeted Paragraph 175 of the German penal code, which criminalized homosexuality.

While he lived quite openly in Berlin, he published his last essay, about the gay affairs of Prince Henry of Prussia, in 1933, the same year Hitler seized power in Germany. Karsch-Haack's writing was likely among the books burned when Hirschfeld's Institute of Sexual Research was purged by the Nazis. He died three years later at 83.

In a world that shuns the strange and misunderstood, Karsch-Haack knew that nature is nothing to fear. Unfortunately, his respect for the true nature within each of us was ahead of its time, and many sought to work against his knowledge. Karsch-Haack taught me one thing, though: that the sacredness of life starts with the lowly spider.

History Boys appears in every issue of Xtra.



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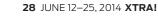


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TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

BIG'N' THICK If country stars and pop duos aren't your thing,

don't despair: WorldPride will also play host to Chicago queer rapper Big Dipper.

Out in the City

The self-described cute, thick and ambitious MC is known for his sexually charged lyrics and tongue-in-cheek humour. With tracks like "Summertime Realness," "Dick Hang Low" and "Meat Quotient," it's not hard to imagine what makes him so popular with listeners.

"I think the mixture of sex and humour just comes naturally to me," BD says of his unique style. "I am in awe of artists who have the drive to push forward, make a name for themselves

and do something different; that's all I'm trying to do."

From dropping it low with a shopping cart, in his video for "Dick Hang Low" ("It was in [director] Wayne's garage ... so I just pulled it out and started to dance"), to hosting dick-bounce dance

contests during his live shows, BD loves what he does. The raunchy mix of overt sexuality and high energy lends itself well to unforgettable shows.

"They're sweaty, and there is a fair amount of stripping," he says. "I always know I've been successful if at the end of the show everyone is really horned up and looking to have a good time on the dancefloor.

"I'm also recruiting some local beef in Toronto to take the stage with me and dance. Basically, everyone in the place should be in their underwear dancing with me by the end."

Beyond the goal of getting the city into its skivvies, BD is eager to take in the sights of Pride. "I'm so excited! I've played in Canada before but never in Toronto. I've never even been to Toronto, period. I really can't wait. Can I go for a bike ride?'

He can ride our bikes any day. - Andrew Jacome

Big Dipper performs at the Thick Life party, Wed, June 25, at the Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W. \$10 advance tickets available at eventbrite.com.

LIFE ON THE EDGE

When Sholem Krishtalka settled on the moniker That's So Gay for the Gladstone Hotel's Pride exhibition five years ago, it was a cheeky act of protest. Reclaiming the tired homophobic insult as an affirming and inspiring label became not only an act of rebellion, but a template for how the event would ultimately be programmed.

In 2013, That's So Gay moved to having a new director each year. For 2014, curator Syrus Marcus Ware chose the theme On the Edge. Wanting to challenge what he considers a "narrow understanding" of what it means to be a queer artist, he's built a show designed to deconstruct the notion of a simplified LGBT community. The artists

> he's collected all somehow embody notions of being on the edge, either through choice or through experiences of marginalization.

"I wanted to examine what it means to have a queer and trans art show in 2014," he says. "The show examines what these terms mean more broadly and how they play out through the act of creating new work." Anna Jane Mc-Intyre's Portraits of Another Mother plays with fetish and kink while speak-

Paris Hiltons of the Renaissance

Jay Whitehead is no stranger to controversy. As artistic director of Lethbridge's Theatre Outré, he made headlines earlier this year because of the forced closure of their new venue, Bordello. The queer performance space attracted the ire of some homophobic neighbours in the conservative Alberta community. "It was a highly traumatic experience," says Whitehead, who eventually reopened the venue under the name Club Didi. "The media and social-media firestorm that accompanied the situation was scary at the time but ultimately helpful.'

Chicago's Big Dipper is so suggestive. BRYAN WHITELY

Perhaps his brush with online notoriety was the prefect preparation for bringing his play Unsex'd to Buddies for Pride. The Theatre Outré production (which Whitehead co-wrote and performs in) reimagines the "boy players" of Shakespeare's stage through the lens of TMZ and Perez Hilton. "I have always been fascinated by drag performance and the historical practice of men playing women onstage," Whitehead explains. "I long imagined what it would be like if the boy players were the 'celebutantes' of their day - the male Paris Hiltons of the Renaissance, if you will."



As Shakespeare in Love fans can attest, it was standard practice for the Bard's heroines to be portrayed by teen boys. But don't go to Unsex'd expecting a history lesson. "I'm reimagining Shakespearean England as if these actors had their work reviewed by Plebians Magazine and walked thatched carpets at play premieres," Whitehead says. "There's a real combining of modern-day celebrity excess and interests with Shakespearean language and costume. I was interested in exploring a time when effeminate men were leading ladies and not told by their agents to butch it up if they ever cared to work."

After an opening in Lethbridge, Unsex'd comes to Toronto hot on the heels of successful runs in Dublin and Halifax, where it won Best of Fest at the Atlantic Fringe. According to Whitehead, though, the trickiest audience to play so far has been Calgary, where a prudish critic was so scandalized by the play's use of crude language and bare buttocks that she asked on Twitter, "Is there such a thing as a gay play? I think not." "She didn't get the camp," Whitehead laments - a problem it's safe to assume a Buddies audience won't be burdened with. - Johnnie Walker

Unsex'd runs Fri, June 13 and Sat, June 14 at Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Fracking by Anna Jane McIntyre.

ing about her experiences of motherhood through an interactive foosball table. Hazel Meyer's Intestinal Anarchy! looks at pleasure and pain through reimagining labels like "artist," "jock" and "diseased." Filipino artist Jo SiMalaya Alcampo's Beneath the Barong challenges the idea of gender-specific pronouns by exploring Tagalog (the traditional Filipino language), which doesn't differentiate between he, she and they.

"I wanted to consider the experience of life on the edges, the notion of edging forward and addressing the sense of being on the edge of a new understanding of communities," Ware says. "I'm hopeful it's a show that really pushes our understanding of our communities and helps us think differently about the world we live in." - Chris Dupuis

That's So Gay: On the Edge runs Fri, June 20-Sun, July 27. Opening reception is Thurs, June 26. 7–10pm, at the Gladstone Hotel, 2nd floor gallery, 1214 Queen St W. gladstonehotel.com



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WORLDPRIDE INTERVIEW BY JP LAROCQUE

There can be no doubt about it — Bachir and Fabiano Mendez Maroff are beautiful.

With flawless skin, impressive musculature and stunning green eyes, the twin brothers are like anatomy drawings brought to life through potent erotic magic. But as physically stunning as both men are, it is their ability behind the turntable that has been getting them the most attention. Born in Brazil but based in Russia, the brothers have become fixtures on Moscow's underground music scene, and in the three short years since their debut, they have already played large-scale music events across continental Europe and South America and collaborated with some of the genre's top artists.

The brothers sat down with *Xtra* to talk about their upcoming headlining performance at WorldPride 2014 — their first gig in North America.

XTRA: You're originally from Brazil but are now settled in Moscow. When did you move to Russia, and what made you leave Brazil?

BACHIR & FABIANO: That happened in 2011... We were feeling bored in Brazil and thinking about making some changes. So we decided to [pursue] a new experience in a place that could be as different as possible. Moscow is an eccentric city with a rich and complex history that always sounded very interesting for us. This experience was something we wanted so that we could learn a new language and experience a different culture. Besides that, Moscow is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

What do you consider to be the biggest difference between Moscow and Brazil?

We probably would say the weather ... but in fact, the biggest difference between the countries is certainly the people. Brazilians and Russians are very different. In Brazil, we have a huge multiethnic mix of people, and we like that because it enriches our culture and us individually. We can accept and live with such a mix of different cultures, understanding that we are not the same but we can be all one. In Russia, people are not like that. They don't know how to get along with [those who are different]. That's why the country

[experiences] some terrorist attacks, like the latest two before the Olympic Games in Sochi. They just don't understand or accept each other. Brazilians are more friendly and easygoing. Russians are without a doubt very difficult to get along with.

How would you describe the party scene in Moscow?

The party scene in Moscow is warm, and the city is a big metropolis with several options for all tastes. The underground scene is very

strong, with plenty of rock and roll and techno, but there are also great trendy club parties from Ibiza and enjoyable after-parties.

When did you start DJing? How did that happen?

We started DJing in São Paulo, but there it was only a hobby. We have always loved DJing and electronic music. After moving to Moscow, we decided to take it

more seriously. It was sort of the natural evolution. Because of the language barrier, we could not work in any traditional profession, but music is a universal language. We also wanted to do something that could make us happy...

Where else in the world have you performed? And how would you describe your musical style?

Over the past three years, we have played in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Ireland,

Greece, the Czech Republic, Spain, Ukraine, Turkey, Brazil [and] Italy... Besides that, we also play regularly in Moscow and other cities of Russia, like St Petersburg, and not only in commercial straight parties, but also in underground gay parties. WorldPride will be our first

time in North America. We are thrilled to be headlining. [As for] our musical style, it's intense, energetic and happy. Our signature sound is also characterized by plenti-

ful vocals and sexy rhythm.

Some people say that twins share a special connection that is unlike anything else. Is this the case between the two of you? How are you similar and how are you different from one another? What's it like to work with a sibling?

Yes, that's true! We experience that almost every day, and it's always about having the same ideas or feelings at the same moment. Sometimes one of us comes to the other to tell something new, and when he

does it, the other was already thinking about [that very thing]. That happens also when one of us thinks about eating something special in the kitchen, and when he goes there, the other is already eating what the other

had in mind. About similar points, we have a lot of them. Because of that, we fight a lot because we always want the same things. But for sure, we have also some different points. To give [another] example, we have different personalities and points of view about a lot of things. One likes blue, another grey.

About working with a sibling, there are lots of advantages but also some disadvantages. Working in a pair or in a group requires flexibility. We are together all the time, working together, and when the work is done, we are still there, together. Therefore some misunderstandings are inevitable, but it gives a good spice.

You are both very handsome and clearly work very hard on your bodies. Do you follow a specific workout regime? Any tips for folks looking to get fit?

Yes, we do it! But having a beautiful body is not our goal — it's just our sport. We really like fitness! We usually work out every day during the week, including Saturdays. Besides that, we do a special diet based on a big source of protein and not so much carbohydrates.

For those who want to get fit, it's indispensable to work out as many days as possible, always keeping in mind that your body needs one or two days of break for recovering during a full week. And that is not all. It's extremely necessary to cut some kinds of food. Fat, fried food, soda and sugar [don't] fit in a great body. No pain, no gain.

Have you ever been to Canada before? When you think of visiting Canada, what do you expect to see?

It will be our first time in Canada, and we are very excited! We expect to see a beautiful country with a lot of nice and friendly people to spend a great time together. We have some great friends in Toronto. Do you know Mathieu Chantelois and [his husband] Marcelo? We have been partying around the world with them. If everybody is as fun as them, we should have the time of our life!

What can folks attending your set at Green Space expect?

They can expect the finest house music and a lot of fun. We always turn out a great performance, and this time it won't be different. We love DJing and having fun with our crowd, and this combination is fantastic. We are certain to give all of you guys a lot of fun and pleasure! So be ready!



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35 YEARS OF BUDDIES INBAD TIMES THEATRE

BAD TIM

CELEBRATING THE WORLD'S LARGEST & LONGEST-RUNNING QUEER THEATRE

Maurice Velleneor 2014



HOW FOUR ARTISTIC DIRECTORS CREATED CANADA'S MOST CHALLENGING AND VIBRANT QUEER THEATRE COMPANY

REBELS WITH ACAUSE

ALISTAIR NEWTON

IDEALLY, A THEATRE'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR strives always to strike a balance of risk and reward, challenge and celebration, prudence and provocation. It is the artistic director's duty to keep the financial wolves from the door, certainly, but also to be the artistic, philosophic and political engine that drives an institution forward. In the case of Buddies in Bad Times, four extraordinary minds have stewarded the company throughout its 35-year history, navigating political scandals, financial crises, sociocultural shifts and the occasional court order.

For Sky Gilbert, Sarah Garton Stanley, David Oiye and Brendan Healy, the marking of 35 years of Buddies rewards each with an opportunity to take stock, to look back on their tours of duty, and to consider Buddies' contemporary resonance as both artistic institution and seminal queer cultural hub.

Sky Gilbert — who describes himself these days as "an unrepentant, sex-positive, lefty, shit-kicker, drag queen" — founded Buddies with a mandate that was not expressly LGBT focused, but rather to perform "poetry onstage." "The first Buddies production," Gilbert explains, "was *Angels in Underwear*," a piece based on the Beat poets that Gilbert wrote and directed. He continued to create pieces that combined his own original writing with existing poetry, and it wasn't until 1980's *Art/Rat* — which used the poetry of Patti Smith — that the company made its first foray into queer subject matter.

In 1981, Gilbert directed a piece based on the poetry of Frank O'Hara, and Buddies' identity as a gay theatre took shape. "The big turning point in terms of public perception," Gilbert says, "was that I put 'based on the work of gay poet Frank O'Hara' on the poster for that show. Basically, from that point on, I was out and gay and I wanted to do gay work."

During Gilbert's time as artistic director, he introduced many voices to Toronto audiences — including Darren O'Donnell, Daniel MacIvor, Edward Roy and Sonja Mills — and several other of Toronto's brightest theatrical lights created early work at Buddies — Ann-Marie MacDonald, Daniel Brooks, Tracy Wright, Hillar Liitoja, Moynan King, Ellen-Ray Hennessey and Don McKellar, to name only a few. For Gilbert, Buddies' most revolutionary — and under-reported — importance lies in its radical politics. "Theatre in general," he says, "has always been a place for gay men to hide, be closeted, express themselves without owning up to being gay." Even now, he says, Buddies "threatens the closet that 'straight' theatre is. A 'gay theatre' always remains outside."

At the end of Gilbert's stint as artistic director, the company had moved into its current home on Alexander Street, and the institutional challenges left the company in desperate financial times. "The company almost folded just before I left," Gilbert says. "I went through some personal changes that made me realize I wasn't happy being the artistic director of a big theatre any more. I did my best to make sure the company would not fold after I left, then I left. It was the best decision I ever made."

Director, dramaturge and theatre maker Sarah Garton Stanley — currently associate artistic director of English theatre at the National Arts Centre — was tasked with taking over when Gilbert stepped aside, and she quickly realized her main task was to keep the doors open. Stanley felt the intense pressure of community scrutiny and the crush of an uncertain time in the history of Toronto theatre. "The rest of the Toronto theatre community was kind of under attack because of the change in the economic landscape," she says, "and the city wasn't in great shape, so a lot of the institutions were really struggling."

Although she would lead the company for only two seasons, Stanley's efforts not only saved Buddies, but also saw the initial creation of the Youth Program and the thriving of the Rhubarb and Strange Sisters festivals. Under Stanley's guidance, Tallulah's Cabaret – Buddies' popular bar and nightclub – was restructured to become a more potent money generator. Stanley also directed several productions, instigated Sonja Mills's legendary *Dyke City* cycle and presented Quentin Crisp on the Buddies stage.

Stanley quickly grew frustrated by the bureau-

cratic side of her duties and decided to leave to pursue her own theatrical activities. She says she "hadn't ever considered becoming an artistic director of Buddies in Bad Times, so once it felt secure, I didn't know what my task was anymore and I felt confused as an artist ... once it was stable I thought now was the time to bring someone in."

Former Ryerson film student David Oiye had gained experience as the leader of Toronto's Cahoots theatre. Oiye initially saw his task as artistic director of Buddies as building on the financial and institutional stability his predecessor had begun. "Sarah had put the company in order, so the books were balanced, the company was solid, it could produce, it had a reputation that was building," he says.

In the middle of his decade as artistic director, with Buddies on firm footing, Oive realized the folly in the company following a traditional subscription-based model. "It's the dilemma of a company that's trying to be – or is perceived to be - all things to all people ... so trying to say that this theatre company is the be-all-and-end-all of all things LGBT is impossible to attain, and Sky clearly didn't have that in mind." Spurred on by then-Rhubarb Festival director Erika Hennebury and producer Jim LeFrancois, Oiye began to shift the focus toward supporting Toronto's thriving alternative and experimental theatre artists, expanding Buddies' mandate to incorporate queer aesthetics, as well as strictly LGBT work. Under Oiye's tenure, not only were successful plays such as Salvatore Antonio's In Gabriel's Kitchen and Greg MacArthur's Snowman mounted, but alternative companies were also showcased, including Small Wooden Shoe and The Scandelles.

Although his time at Buddies would end in another financial crisis that nearly shuttered the doors — brought on by factors beyond his control — Oiye's shift in programming toward a more performance-art-based practice continues to bear fruit in Toronto's theatrical ecology. "I still think it was one of the more exciting elements of my time there," Oiye says. "It made Buddies a relevant company." Brendan Healy's route to the artistic helm of Buddies began when director and playwright Peter Hinton suggested he contact Oiye. Buddies had previously existed in Healy's mind as "kind of a mythical El Dorado," and with Oiye's encouragement, he began directing projects at Rhubarb and eventually on the mainstage. Much like Stanley and Oiye, Healy never imagined himself running a company like Buddies, but — on the urging of colleagues — he responded to the call for submissions after Oiye stepped down. "I wanted to stay true to [Buddies'] understanding of queer as not only being about LGBT-specific stories — although that's a big part of it — but also the experimental and avant garde."

Healy's personal politics share the iconoclasm and pro-sexual stance on which Sky Gilbert founded Buddies. Queer people, Healy asserts, "sit outside so many of the boxes that society imposes on people ... and that outsider perspective allows us to be really critical, observant, creative," he says. "Equal rights doesn't mean sameness."

For Healy — who not only put the company back on stable financial ground but also established a thriving residency program for the development of new work — the role of artistic director of a company with such a complex legacy is an allconsuming gig, a lifestyle more than a job. Despite the long hours, he has a passion for the company, a deep respect for his predecessors, and a vision for the future that all flow from his belief in the liberating rebellious nature of queerness itself. "The thing I love the most about the company," he says, "is freedom ... around having ownership over my body, over my soul, my story. That's what I'm interested in, and that's what I believe in, and that's what I wish for everybody."

"If you distill everything down," he adds, "it's freedom for all people to just be who they feel they need to be at the moment, [and] freedom and pleasure are inexorably linked."

With the artistry and ferocity of Gilbert, Stanley, Oiye and Healy to draw on, Buddies in Bad Times is sure to continue to blaze a trail for many decades to come.

A HISTORY OF BUDDIES

1979

Sky Gilbert, Matt Walsh and Jerry Ciccoritti start Buddies in Bad Times Theatre with a production of Gilbert's poetic Angels in Underwear staged at the Dream Factory, an old brewery on Queen Street East. Later that same year, along with playwright Fabian Boutilier, they hold the first Rhubarb! Festival of Canadian Plays, under the sponsorship of Theatre Passe Muraille. Walsh, an actor, and Ciccoritti, a filmmaker, eventually move on to other projects, leaving Gilbert as the company's primary artistic force.

1980

Buddies produces Gilbert's Lana Turner Has Collapsed! Despite getting the company's first mainstream press review, in The Globe and Mail, and, more importantly, Gilbert's first profile in The Body Politic, the Toronto Star refuses to come, saying, "We are a family newspaper."

1983

Gilbert asks Trent University professor Sue Golding to join the board of Buddies. She later becomes president, a position she holds until 1995. Gilbert credits Golding with introducing him to feminist politics and social constructivism and for encouraging him to fall in love with his dirty side by declaring, "Sex is one of the most important things in your life. And that's okay."

1985

Sky Gilbert's *Drag Queens on Trial* is performed at the now defunct Bloor Street porn theatre Metro Cinema. The staggering success of this production launches Buddies into the mainstream. Its sequel, *Drag Queens in Outer Space*, travels to Seattle and San Francisco five years later.

1985

Buddies programs its first 4-Play. The festival features four new Canadian plays that focus on the gay and lesbian experience, bringing the company even closer to Toronto's growing queer communities. Plays that come





out of this annual festival include Alec Butler's *Black Friday*, which is nominated for a Governor General's Award four years later.

1989

Conservative revenue minister Otto Jelinek launches a campaign to convince the federal government to abandon arm'slength funding for the arts in Canada. He singles out Buddies as being "dumb," "ridiculous" and a "stupid use of taxpayers' money." Public outrage leads the government to reaffirm its commitment to arm's-length funding.

1990

The first Strange Sisters lesbian cabaret is launched at the El Mocambo. Betty Bratty, the festival's first director, describes the performances on display as ranging from "buttercup dew drop sex" to "cunt and fisting her ass every second sentence." In 2013, artists/activists Kim Katrin Milan and Gein Wong take the helm and rename the event Insatiable Sisters.



1985 Leonard Chow in Sky Gilbert's Drag Queens on Trial.



1991

Buddies acquires its first home of its own at 142 George St after the tireless efforts of Gilbert, Golding and general manager Tim Jones. This location becomes the site of the infamous Dungeon parties, which experiment with SM performance and demonstrations. Gilbert later says, "I cannot stress enough how important these





1991 Sky Gilbert's *Suzie Goo Private Secretary* wins the Dora Award for Outstanding Production

DRAG QUEENS NOUDERSPACE

1985 Poster from Sky Gilbert's Drag Queens in Outer Space.



1994 Sky Gilbert, dressed as his drag alter ego Jane, protesting city funding cuts.



Dungeon parties were ... It made for unity between dykes and fags that was terribly important to our concept of the company." This same year, Gilbert's *Suzie Goo Private Secretary* wins the Dora Award for Outstanding Production.

IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

2009 Dylan Smith and David Ferry in Blasted.







2002 Polaroids from the Friday Superstar Series

2008 Waawaate Fobister in a promotional shot for Agokwe.



1994

Buddies meets with harsh criticism from the Toronto Sun, led by columnist Christine Blizzard. who attempts to have the company's city funding rescinded. She writes, "Oh good, just what we need. A taxpayer-supported theatre that shows violence and perversion." Gilbert, dressed as his drag alter ego Jane, leads a protest march that ends at the

Sun's headquarters. Despite Blizzard's protestations, Buddies moves into its current home at 12 Alexander St and becomes the largest queer theatre in the world.

1997

Sarah Garton Stanley is appointed artistic director. Her time at the company sees many successes, including productions of

Brad Fraser's Martin Yesterday (1998) and Robin Fulford's Steel Kiss and Gulag (1998/99) and the launch of the youth program under the leadership of Franco Boni.

1999

David Oiye becomes artistic director. His tenure is marked by an increased dedication to queer youth and successful produc-



director Laura Nanni.

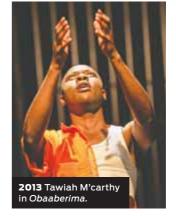
tions such as Damien Atkins's Real Live Girl (2001), Arthouse Cabaret (2007) and Waawaate Fobister's multiple-Dora-winning Agokwe (2008).

2000

The first-ever Half Cocked, a monthly trans party, is held. "I think they're cool kids." bartender Patricia Wilson says. "Years ago, there was me and another. But now it's a whole different generation."

2002

This year sees the launch of a late-night program in the Cabaret dubbed the Friday Superstar Series that features the outrageous and ultra-queer talents of



such folks as Sasha Van Bon Bon, Kitty Neptune, R Kelly Clipperton, Pretty Porky and Pissed Off, Will Munro and Kids on TV.

2003

Buddies associate artist Moynan King launches Hysteria: A Festival of Women alongside Nightwood Theatre. This multidisciplinary festival of female artists features readings, performances, panel discussions and art installations.

2009

Buddies commits its entire season to work by women creators in response to a scathing report on the lack of gender equity in Canadian theatres from the Canada Council for the Arts. The season includes trans artist's Nina Arsenault's The Silicone Diaries. This

production goes on to tour nationally, with stops in Montreal. Vancouver and Ottawa for the Magnetic North Theatre Festival. Brendan Healy becomes the company's fourth artistic director. His provocative productions, including Sarah Kane's Blasted and Tim Luscombe's SM-laced Pig, reaffirm Buddies' reputation as the city's preeminent space for cutting-edge theatre.

2010

The Rhubarb Festival gets a new head in artist and curator Laura Nanni, who expands the festival to include performance artists like Keith Hennessy. Sook-Yin Lee, Justin Vivian Bond and Heather Cassils. She also launches Mobile Works, a new initiative for performances that occur in public spaces across the city, reaching more than 30,000 Torontonians. Mel Hague is named to take over the festival in 2015.

2013

Tawiah M'carthy's Obaaberima, directed by Evalyn Parry, wins three Dora Awards, including Outstanding Production. It is scheduled to tour Canada in 2015.

Compiled by Brendan Healy, with contributions from Chris Dupuis, Mark Aikman, Dr Paul Halferty, Cathrin Winkelmann, David Roche and David Bateman

THE FUTURE OF BUDDIES LOOKS BRIGHT, THANKS TO SOME SHINING NEW TALENT

GENERATION NEXT

RYAN KERR

CAN YOU IMAGINE TORONTO'S QUEER community without Buddies in Bad Times Theatre? Since its founding in 1979 by Sky Gilbert, Matt Walsh and Jerry Ciccoritti, Buddies has evolved from a forum for staged poetry at a former East End brewery to its current hub of queer culture on Alexander Street. And it's about to unleash its 36th season of daring, sexual and unapologetic queer programming.

Some of next season's notable curators and creators talked to *Xtra* about what they're most looking forward to in the coming year and their gratitude to Buddies for preventing some artistic bad times.

Dramaturge Mel Hague thinks of Buddies fondly as more than just an artistic space. "I'm pretty damn gay, so Buddies has meant different things to me at different times in my life," she says. "It's a dance club, a theatre space to see shows and was part of my own process of coming out and figuring stuff out."

Now beginning her first year as Rhubarb Festival director, Hague is about to access the institution from her most creative angle yet: "The wonderful thing about Rhubarb is the chance to create theatre that's so immediate, with productions that meld so many people and so many minds."

The Rhubarb Festival is a theatrical incubator that has seen enormous growth in scale and influence over its years. As director, Hague will curate the collection of submissions and may end up fostering another actor/director extraordinaire like Tawiah M'carthy, whose first incarnation of his now smash-hit *Obaaberima* (part of Buddies' 34th season) had its world premiere there in 2009.

This season, in between performances of *Obaaberima* at the National Arts Centre and in Vancouver, M'carthy will be in residence at Buddies developing a brand new work entitled *Black Boys*. He and two actors — Thomas Olajide and Stephen Jackman-Torkoff (currently at the Stratford and

It's a dance club, a theatre space to see shows and was part of my own process of coming out and figuring stuff out. *Mel Hague*

spectively) – will look at "the black queer history of men in the metropolitan environ-

Shaw festivals, re-

ment," he says. "It's a revision of history to what they are seen as now and a prediction of what they will look like in the future." *Black Boys* will be a multidisciplinary project, using the black male body as an inspiration for film, movement and music.

"It's so exciting to be a part of the Buddies family; they're so supportive of all the work that I do," M'carthy says. "It's a company I believe in giving me the courage to be able to say and feel what I need to write and not be afraid of it."

Gein Wong, presenter and co-creator of two 36th-season works (and recent Ken McDougall Harold Award winner for emerging director)

35 YEARS OF BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

It's a company I believe in. Giving me the courage to be able to say and feel what I need to write and not be afraid of it. Tawiah

M'carthy

of it. is also no stranger to Buddies' artistic ethos: "Buddies in Bad Times has a legacy of graphic desire in

a queer institution that influences all of North America," she says. "It's one of the reasons I'm in Toronto — having a theatre that's lasted so long, in a highly visible place for younger folks, identifying as queer. Buddies is a light at the end of the tunnel."

Wong will be directing *The Femme Playlist*, by Catherine Hernandez, which chronicles Hernandez's life as a queer, femme woman of colour. According to Wong, "it's a laugh-so-hard-yourbelly-hurts funny" immersive experience that also incorporates traditional fan dancing and singing. *The Femme Playlist* will open right before

A theatre that's lasted so long, in a highly visible place for younger folks, identifying as queer... Buddies is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Gein Wong

the landmark reinvention of what Wong calls a "super cabaret performance experience." Insatiable Sisters is a collection of performances

grouped around a similar theme this year it's witches! — and rehearsed together to make a seamless, singular cabaret.

"Historically, witches and magical healing people were queer and trans people, and there's lots of our history in that lineage," Wong says. "Witches as we know them today are the result of colonization and the church. It's time to bring back the real magic."

With hundreds of artists, curators and contributors involved in this 36th season at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, finding something evocative, titillating and downright entertaining will be as easy as it's always been.

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE 2014 / 15 SEASON





Fabulous nobodies

Photographer John Simone's NYC party photos come to WorldPride

PHOTOGRAPHY SISSYDUDE

The photographer once dubbed NYC's "paparazzo from hell" has two photo retrospectives happening in Toronto during WorldPride. The shows feature New York club-culture icons from 1987 to 1990, including RuPaul, Leigh Bowery, Quentin Crisp, James St James, Divine and, of course, "Party Monster" Michael Alig.

John Simone — who from 1995 to 2005 was the writer of *Xtra*'s Xposed column, under the *nom de plume* Johnny Paparazzo — left Toronto for New York in 1986 and started working for Club 10-18 (now The Roxy), *Details* magazine (including *Details*' influential nightlife column by Stephen Saban), *Vanity Fair* and *The Village Voice*. The magic really started happening when Alig appointed Simone chief photographer for his *Project X* magazine.

Sissydude recently visited Simone in his Toronto studio apartment to get a glimpse of his gorgeous photos and to talk about his subjects.

Sissydude: A young Harry Connick, Jr. He's a baby!

John Simone: Yep... wait... wait... performing at Peter Allen's birthday party! He was 21 years old. Now here's Leigh Bowery with the It Twins, who were famous for never wearing the same outfit more than once.

Did you hang around with these guys?

Yeah, we were all friends. This is the night I hired RuPaul for a birthday party of the first Caucasian person who was in the House of Extravaganza: Marlon De La Ungaro.

Throughout our conversation, Simone runs around the apartment searching for photographs that are perfectly organized in neat piles on his pink diningroom table or framed and stacked on his hardwood floor. Practically every picture is a winner.

How different is your show at The





Gladstone from the one at Buddies over Pride?

Twelve big images at the Gladstone. Over 50 images at Buddies. Here's Divine's last club performance at 10-18. He was dead a month later. Here's Miss Perfidia; she won an Emmy Award for HBO's *Pee-Wee Herman Show on Broadway*, and she's now doing the wigs for *Hedwig*.

Did you have to tell these girls how you wanted them to pose? When you took my picture at a party at Buddies recently, you said, "Move your head to the left," "neck up," and I looked great.

That's because I spent five years at Princess Cruises. No, but these people are professionals. Here's Sister Dementia.

Yay! Pickle Surprise!

You know Pickle Surprise? This is the night she won the Queen of Manhattan contest — her and John Sex. Here's event producer Susanne Bartsch's discovery of Lady Hennessy Brown — flames in the pussy — pulling out magicians' hankies from her pussy. Hundreds of them. She would lactate on the audience.

Nice.

Oh, here's Michael Alig.

Did we like Alig?

Oh, Michael was not on drugs when I worked with him. He gave me my start as a promoter. We're in contact. I'm going to

GENDS OF NY NITELIFE OPENING RECEPTION Sat, June 21, 3pm Jddies in Bad Times Theatre 12 Alexander St EXPLODING PINK INEVITABLE, PART OF NUIT ROSE Tues, June 24, 7pm-4am; artist talk, 10:45pm The Gladstone Hotel 1214 Queen St W buddiesinbadtimes.com, nuitrose.ca be providing him with photos for his memoir, *Aligula*. A filmmaker named Ramon Fernandez is in the middle of making a documentary about him called *Glory Daze*.

Did you have a favourite subject?

Leigh Bowery. There are more shots of him in my shows than any-

one else. It's not a coincidence that Leigh Bowery is considered a patron saint of the club kids. He led the way in so many aspects of inventing a new reality for yourself. You are never limited if you believe that there are no rules in art and fashion. Leigh lived that.

On to another picture...

John Stamos! I heard he's a swinger.

He told me he had sex with Paula Abdul and she was a lousy lay!

So many great photos, John. What do they mean to you?

They represent crazy memories, wild personalities and a time in New York when the city was still gritty and real. It was before mayors Giuliani and Bloomberg actively campaigned against nightlife. I've got enough pictures for 20 more shows! X Church Street Mural Project brings queer stories to life

THESE WALLS CAN TALK

THE VILLAGE RYAN KERR PHOTOS BY ADAM COISH

At a time when the City of Toronto lacked political leadership and the character of its Church-Wellesley neighbourhood was threatened by an influx of corporate chains and community apathy, Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam proposed the ambitious Church Street Mural Project.

Wong-Tam used a model of community engagement and consultation that saw government, sponsors, storytellers, community residents and artists work together to bring this vision to life. And now, despite a few bumps along the way, the Church-Wellesley Village has a shiny new facade just in time for WorldPride.

In January 2013, artist and activist Syrus Marcus Ware joined James Fowler as co-curator of artistic submissions and general overseer of the project's development. Ware helped to organize the early planning meetings, where storytellers associated with the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA) were invited to highlight some of the founding characters and key incidents of the gaybourhood as potential inspiration to the artists in attendance.

He also helped to sift through all 69 submissions — an enormous number, given the complexity of the applica-



Intersections, by Meera Sethi.



Kiss and Tell, by Natalie Wood.

TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS





Love Makes Community, by Alex Flores.

tion process — some from as far away as Italy and California. "The idea of creating a graphic history of a community and of storytelling," he said, "combined with large-scale public art — building an entire village of public art — really appealed to people."

Meera Sethi applied to be part of the project from Australia. Her enormous wall, at the corner of Church The Dandelions: Queer and Trans* Performers in the Wind, by Nadijah Robinson and Elicser.



and Wellesley, on the building that houses Rexall pharmacy, uses bright colours and reflective mylar to pay homage to the textiles of the nomadic Rabari tribe of India and Pakistan.

"Being able to transform that space into a visual marker of South Asian identity was incredible," she says. And sure enough, as the first days of winter approached, unbeknownst to her, members of the South Asian community organized at the base of her mural to protest Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (the recent ruling that made gay sex illegal in India).

Artist Natalie Wood also chose to represent less-told queer stories in her mural, located in a quiet alleyway

continued next page ▶

MURAL Project list

Love Makes Community Alex Flores

89 Church St, north wall

Homage

HA

Tristan Whiston and Anna Camilleri (Red Dress Productions) Associate artists: Katie Yealland and Chantelle Gobeil 399 Church St, south wall

The Bathhouse Raids Christiano De Araujo and Troy Brooks 418 Church St, south wall

The Dandelions: Queer and Trans* Performers in the Wind Nadijah Robinson and Elicser 508 Church St, east and south walls

Lupus Inter Homo Rocky Lawrence Green 518 Church St, panels to be installed on second floor

Intersections Meera Sethi 552 Church St, south wall

Platinum China Anniversary Patrick Thompson and Alexa Hatanaka 552 Church St, north wall

Kiss and Tell Natalie Wood 66 Wellesley St E, alleyway, west side, nearest road

UltraChurch, 50 VIP Party People 1948–2014 Lily Butter Land 66 Wellesley St E, alleyway, west side, furthest from road

Pin Button Pride

William Craddock 66A Wellesley St E, alleyway, east side, nearest road

The 519: LGBTQ History & Community Designer: John Kuna Painter: Christiano De Araujo 519 Church St, north wall

continued from previous page

between two buildings just west of Church and north of Wellesley. Her piece is a collage of images, inspired by New York artist collective Gran Fury's Kissing Doesn't Kill poster series from 1989, that depicts the reallife silhouettes of Annette Clough and Krin Zook, who founded the Lavender Conception Conspiracy in 1984.

"I've been around for quite some time," Wood says. "Having came out in the late 1980s, it felt like an honour to find a way to make sure the voices of the people who came out around me were present. People stopped me to say, 'This brings back memories – I remember when this [book] came out and the conflict and uproar it caused,' and that's what I wanted – for people to remember and to see themselves in my work."

William Craddock's mural depicting early activist pin buttons is directly sourced from the extensive collection at the CLGA. Already, public response has been overwhelming: "People have been stopping and taking photos with their favourite buttons, which is exactly what I wanted. Everyone is so engaged with the buttons. It's a great conversation starter, especially with youth who don't know the origin of the slogans."

Craddock's collaboration with the CLGA will continue beyond the completion of his wall - he's preparing to release an interactive version of his design in the fall, using his website to link buttons in the mural to the originating conflict or event.

Artists Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson were similarly inspired by the CLGA. "We ended up leafing through many old Body Politic magazines until something jumped out at us," Hatanaka wrote in an email from her current location in the Arctic. She discovered a half-page, nondescript personal ad that read "Happy 10th Anniversary Joe, From Dave" and based her design on that simple, but significant sentiment. "We took that Body Politic inspiration to be historically significant because, as discussed in the meetings with elders and important figures in the community, non-heterosexual classified ads were not allowed to be published in the mainstream newspapers."

As Alex Flores was completing her mural, she turned to the residents she saw every day to ask whether they preferred fish or whales in the final product. "They all said fish," she said. "So I switched my design to incorporate what they wanted. I was very





by John Kuna, painted by Christiano De Araujo.

impressed by these women. The very first day, I had a confrontation with a resident who said, 'You can't put gays and lesbians on my building!' but we soon started talking every day – I'm a very happy painter - and now she's my friend. I'm going to miss her."

Christiano De Araujo, the only person charged with executing two murals, felt similarly embraced by the community. "I thought I would be discriminated against because I was not gay or no one would accept me," he says, "but I learned that it's not like that; we are all one. I learned that Pride and the Village are not only for gay people. It was a great experience." De Araujo's first mural, co-designed



The Bathhouse Raids, by Christiano De Araujo and Troy Brooks

by Troy Brooks, took form on the enormous southern wall of a building at Church and Granby streets, the old Barn location. It depicts the uprising of community members against the police bathhouse raids, alongside a statuesque Madonna-like woman overseeing the drama. The second mural, designed by John Kuna, is on the north side of the 519 Church Street Community Centre and highlights milestones in the queer liberation movement, with photorealistic portrayals of two-spirit First Nations Pride celebrations, ratification of gay marriage law in Toronto and even the famous "steps" at the original Second Cup location, which was a popular cruising hangout.

Wong-Tam couldn't be more pleased with the result of years of hard work. "The stories of the Church and Wellesley neighbourhood go beyond architecture. The community connection is cultural, belonging to every one of us in the LGBTQ2spirited community and beyond. Seeing these murals fosters a soulful, political and cultural connection to the Village."

According to the paint sponsor, Dulux, the murals will last at least 25 years. Wong-Tam isn't the only one excited to imagine where the community will be a quarter century from now.

"It's exciting to think that the murals will outlast the storytellers, creating a visual archive of what's happened here and will continue to do so for the next while," Ware says. "When I walk around other cities, I see the old-timey murals – now just shadows of paint - and they're a window into a moment of time." X



MORE AT DAILYXTRA.COM

GRAPHC CONTENT This Pride, wear black and white and nothing in between



STYLE LIFE DIEGO ARMAND

WorldPride this year will no doubt be the biggest fashion show of all time; hotties with bodies will be strutting their best assets draped in some sickening street style. And while we'll see an army of rainbows and brights, an unexpected way to show your true colours is to dress in high-contrast black and white – it is anything but basic and is guaranteed to catch attention. Combine sex and sport by mixing classic athletic stripes and prints with textures like leather and mesh. Finish your look with an element of luxury by investing in a pair of sunglasses - but only if you're good at not losing them on parade day.

Our model is hunk Petro from HIM male burlesque review. Pick up Xtra's Pride issue to see the second part of this series, starring the foxy Julia.









46 JUNE 12-25, 2014 XTRA!











1. Knit baseball shirt, American Apparel, \$52, American Apparel stores and online. Kool short, American Apparel, \$58.

2. Pelot sunglasses, Mykita, \$560, Rapp Optical, 788 College St. Perforated leather tank top, price upon request, Northbound Leather, 586 Yonge St.

3. Mesh slip-on shoes, Joe Fresh, \$29, Joe Fresh stores.

4. Tiger-print swim trunks, Diesel, \$80, Out on the Street, 551 Church St. Sunglasses, \$145, Sheriff & Cherry, kavut.com.

5. T-shirt, Joe Fresh, \$12, Joe Fresh stores. White shorts, Teamm8, \$58, Out on the Street.

6. Pelot sunglasses, Mykita, Rapp Optical. Baseball cap, APC, \$95, ssense.com. Shirt, KTZ, \$190, LAB & iD, labandid.com.

7. Everlast x Reigning Champ tank top, \$55, Gravity Pope, 1010 Queen St W. Athletic stripe leather shorts, Northbound Leather, price upon request.

8. Sunglasses, Sunday Somewhere, \$240, Rapp Optical.

GREEN GREENSPACE TORONTO WORLD PRIDE EDITION

IN SUPPORT OF THE 519 CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE

CAWTHRA SQUARE PARK (519 CHURCH STREET) FREE EVENTS

FRIDAY JUNE 27 5PM-MIDNIGHT

ONE WORLD TO FRANKIE WITH LOVE

HECTOR ROMERO PAULO & JACKINSKY NEILL MACLEOD SATURDAY JUNE 28 IPM-MIDNIGHT



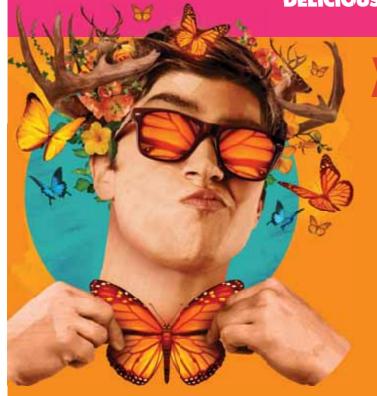
FRANCESCA LOMBARDO KIM ANN FOXMAN TIZI DELICIOUS SUNDAY JUNE 29 1PM-MIDNIGHT

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SATURDAY JUNE 28 1PM-1AM

MAIN EVENT

THE CUBE GUYS ROSABEL FREEMASONS O'HALLEY BROTHERS

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY THE TOP 4 QUEENS OF **RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE** SEASON 6 PRESENTED BY OUTTV SUNDAY JUNE 29 1PM-1AM

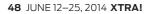
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THE GREEN SPACE FESTIVAL World Pride Edition June 26-29 Greenspaceto.org

FREE EVENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE 519 CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE

<text>

The 2014 NXNE festival boasts one of the best lineups in years. If scheduled wisely, this year's experience can serve as a nice segue into the WorldPride onslaught a week later. For the music fans who prefer a little something queer or transgressive, we delved into the schedule with gaydars set to full power and put together this cheat sheet of NXNE acts who are either queeridentified or whose music has queer appeal.

Kirin J Callinan

The Australian musician explores the more terrifying aspects of masculinity on his debut LP, *Embracism*, with equal amounts of minimalism, ferocity and homoeroticism. His music has been compared to early Nick Cave — another menacing Aussie performer who also crossdressed in his formative years.

Wed, June 18, midnight, The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St W

Lelf

The New York rapper, producer and dancer has become a *cause célèbre* in the music press as an out gay rapper, but his sneering and clever rhymes and futuristic sound is the real story. After releasing a steady stream of mixtapes and EPs, he signed to indie XL/Terrible Records, which put out the EP *Hey* earlier this year.

Thurs, June 19, 7:15pm, Vice Island: House of Vans, 333 Lakeshore Blvd E Fri, June 20, 11pm, Mod Club, 722 College St

Fri, June 20, 1am, NXNE Festival Village at Edward Day Gallery, 952 Queen St W

88 Days of Fortune presents Leaders of the New School

DJ Sassy Black (aka Cat from Seattle hip-hop group THEESatisfaction) and Brooklyn MC Latasha Alcindor help local underground music collective 88 Days of Fortune celebrate their fifth anniversary.

Thurs, June 19, 9pm, Weldon Park, 569 College St

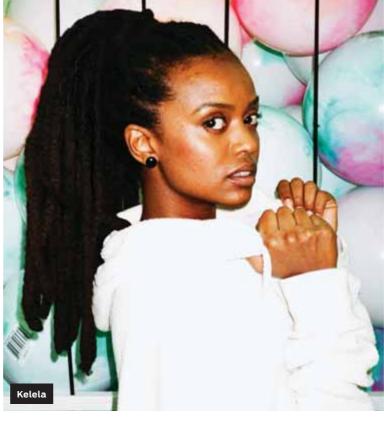
Light Fires

Hard-working Toronto queen Regina the Gentlelady's synth-pop outfit will no doubt bring the glamour to the annual west-end backyard barbecue's lineup.

Fri, June 20, 4:45pm, 159 Manning St

Χίυ Χίυ

If each NXNE band were a movie, Xiu Xiu would be the bleak, impenetrable art film. The LA-based duo's latest LP, Angel Guts: Red Classroom, delves into racialized sex, double penetration and criminality, among other confrontational topics.









Fri, June 20, 7pm, 159 Manning St Fri, June 20, 10pm, The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St W

St Vincent

Guitar virtuoso Annie Clark's eponymous fifth studio album is one of the best-reviewed records of the year so far. Following impressive performances on *Saturday Night Live* and at Nirvana's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, she will add some much-needed female power to this year's list of NXNE headliners.

Fri, June 20, 9:10pm, Yonge-Dundas Square, Yonge and Dundas streets

My Darling Fury

Fronted by singer Danny Reyes, the Richmond, Virginia, four-piece makes dreamy, emotionally charged post rock. Their album *Licking Wounds* came out earlier this year. *Fri, June 20, 11pm, Handlebar, 159 Augusta Ave*

Kelela

Kelela opened for Solange in Toronto last year, but NXNE marks the inventive R&B singer's first local appearance since the release of her otherworldly *Cut 4 Me* mixtape on queer-friendly label Fade to Mind.

Fri, June 20, midnight, Wrongbar, 1279 Queen St W

Sat, June 21, 9pm, Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St

Courtney Barnett

Courtney Barnett's double EP A Sea of Split Peas stood apart for its swirling guitars, conversational charm and wit, and non-traditional approach to songwriting. It earned the Australian singer, songwriter and guitarist comparisons to vintage Bob Dylan, a deal with indie label Mom + Pop and a performance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

Fri, June 20, midnight; Sat, June 21, midnight; and Sun, June 22, 10pm, Silver Dollar Room, 486 Spadina Ave

Perfect Pussy

Fans of Riot Grrrl-era punk should have Perfect Pussy circled on their NXNE itineraries. The Syracusebased noise punks are fronted by the fearless and incendiary Meredith Graves, whose honesty — in interviews and in song — has helped the group transcend buzz-band status. *Fri, June 20, Iam, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W*

Idgy Dean

Idgy Dean is the psychedelic dreampop alter ego of Brooklyn musician Lindsay Sanwald. Her forthcoming debut LP *Ominous Harminus* is a heady concept record about "apocalypse optimism," or "the renaissance after the Black Death," as she puts it. *Fri, June 20, Iam, Handlebar,*

159 Augusta Ave Sat, June 21, 8pm, Baltic Avenue, 875 Bloor St W

Lakes of Canada

CanLit fans might want to check out this Montreal choral folk-pop band whose latest is a concept album based on Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. They plan to play it in full at NXNE.

dailvxtra.com

Sat, June 21, 10pm, Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Ave







#news
#arts
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#cvents





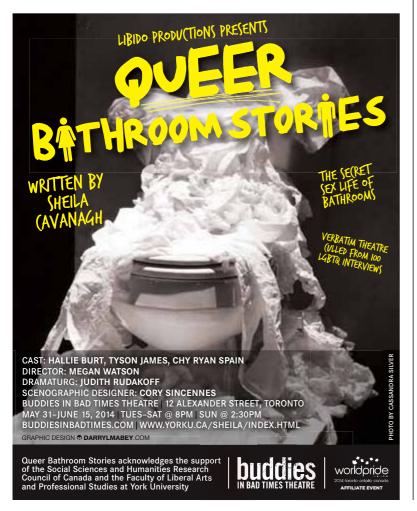
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WorldPride wisdom

Sweet & sexy advice ahead of our biggest Pride yet



for WorldPride.

Be a bridge. No matter how old you are, connect with someone younger than you and make sure they understand a little bit of what queer life was like before they came of age; make sure they learn something useful from the past. Find an older person and thank them for making it to whatever age they are, and tell them you are grateful for what their generation did. See if they have any lessons or wisdom they want to impart, and regardless of whether you agree with it, listen respectfully.

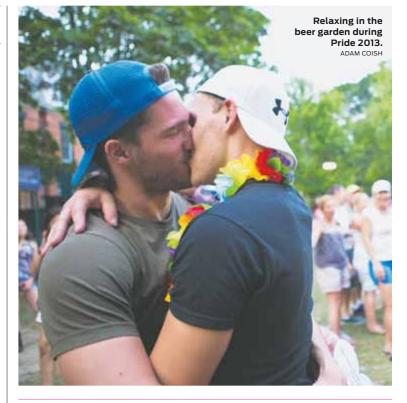
Have sex. Be liberal with your make-outs and conservative with your rejections. Fuck someone you ordinarily wouldn't. Be sexual in a way that's new to you. Discover. Play. Be safe and responsible (by which I mean use condoms or do something non-penetrative). Make whomever you're with feel like they're the sexiest thing in the world. Don't hold back or feel shame. Obtain consent. Enjoy your body.

I also want you not to have sex. Save your body for the one person you want to give it to, and if that person doesn't exist or materialize, cherish your body and nurture it in other ways. It's yours to keep for yourself; there are myriad ways besides sex to connect with the people around you, and they are just as valid and important. Celibacy can be its own reward.

Stay calm when you run into an ex. It's going to happen, probably often, and you're a mature person who has better things to do than rehash the past. They do not own you or your emotions, so don't let them spoil your weekend.

Be daring. Apologize to someone you hurt once upon a time. Forgive someone. Go somewhere that's not your scene before you end up where you really want to go. Eat something you've never eaten before. Take a chance and ask out/kiss someone you like and give them a chance to see your awesomeness; if they say no, accept it and know it's their loss.

Tip your queens. They work hard for the money (so hard for it, honey). They're hot, sweaty, and they re-



11 Be liberal with your make-outs and conservative with your rejections. Fuck someone you ordinarily wouldn't. Be sexual in a way that's new to you.

hearsed long hours. I don't care how flawless or busted her look is; if you see a queen onstage, throw \$10 at her, no questions asked.

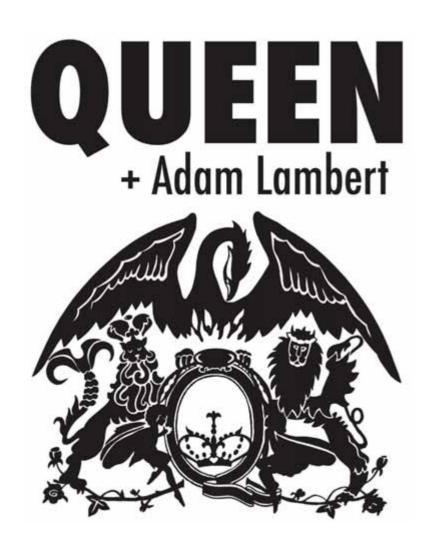
Pace yourself. Get some proper sleep before the weekend and eat healthfully and regularly. Holler party people: don't drink the whole bottle or do all your drugs at once. Drink lots of water. If you're overheated, sit the hell down and dance to the next song. If you're staying sober, I am too! We can chill together at the substance-free zone.

Get over yourself. Don't complain if it's too hot, a line is too long or the street is too crowded. We're all dealing with the same issues, and you'll have a better time if you go with the flow. By the same token, I want you to stop worrying about your body. It's fine as it is, you look fine as you are, and nobody but nobody cares about the weight you think you need to lose or the muscles you think you need to tone. Pride's still going to happen either way, dear.

Cherish your friends but not to do the weekend in big roaming packs; it's harder for you to stay together and annoying for everyone else. You will definitely run into old friends and do that screamy/huggy thing, so hold them tight and make sure they know you love them. You will cross paths with people who are celebrating Pride for the very first time; it's your job to give them a Pride they'll remember. You will also cross paths with people who are celebrating Pride for the last time; it's your job to give them a Pride worthy of their years on Earth.

Last, but not least, stay up late, get yo' life and be the best self you can muster up. After all, the world is watching!

Toronto at Night appears in every other issue of Xtra.



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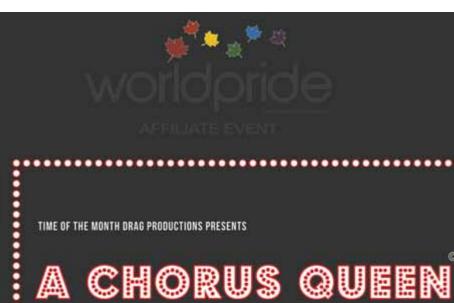
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TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

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ART & LITERATURE

Queer Writers

Presented by Plenitude Magazine, this evening features readings by Vivek Shraya, Dani Couture and Shawn Syms. Thurs, June 12, 9pm. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. Free. thesteadycafe.com

Bent Lens: Pride on Screen

This exploration of queer stories through cinema includes a gallerv exhibition, retrospectives, outdoor screenings and special guests Laverne Cox and John Cameron Mitchell. Thurs, June 12–Sun, Aug 17. For more info, visit tiff.net/bentlens.

Archiving Public Sex

Made up of material from the Sexual Representation Collection. this exhibit includes photos, video. posters and pulp novels. Runs until

MORE AT DAILYXTRA.COM

Ross Watson Exhibit -IX Gallery, Wed, June 18-Sun, June 29



Sat, June 28. University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle. Free. utac.utoronto.ca

Ross Watson WorldPride Exhibition

Watson's fusion of classical European art references and contemporary imagery, including sexy surf twins and lifeguards, has found favour with Sir Elton John and Stephen Fry. Wed, June 18-Sun, June 29, 11am-6pm. IX Gallery, 11 Davies Ave, Unit 101. Free rosswatson.com

Fan the Flames: **Queer Positions** in Photography

This exhibit focuses on gender and queer identity and features work by Canadian and international artists. Runs Wed, June 18-Sun, Sept 7. Art Gallery of Ontario. 317 Dundas St W. \$11–19.50. ago.net

Building a New Bi Anthology

People are invited to come and help decide which pieces to include in this collection. To submit a piece for consideration, email erickson@gladdaybookshop.com. Sun, June 22, 7pm, Glad Dav Bookshop, 598 Yonge St. Free. gladdavbookshop.com

Naked Boys Reading

In an event that's as naughty as the title suggests, several boys gather to nakedly read stuff. Readers are Justen Bennett, Michael Lyons, Taylor J Mace, Josh Middleton and Wrong Note Rusty. Thurs, June 26, 8–9pm. Videofag, 187 Augusta Ave. PWYC-\$10. videofag.com

COMEDY & CABARET

Scott Thompson Returns

An intimate performance by the actor and comedian known for his role as Buddy Cole and as Jimmy Price on Hannibal Fri June 20 7pm and Sat, June 21, 9pm. The Flying Beaver. 488 Parliament St. \$20 advance, \$25 door. pubaret.com

Hypnotixxx: A Slightly Naughty **Comedy Hypnosis Show**

Brandon the Hypnotist takes audience volunteers on a risqué and slightly rude iaunt into the subconscious. Sun, June 22, 7:30pm. The Flving Beaver, 488 Parliament St \$10 advance \$15 door pubaret com

Laugh Out Proud

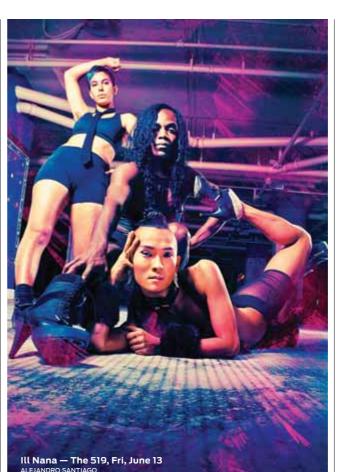
vukvuks.com

Robert Keller hosts a night of queer comedy at Yuk Yuk's, with special guests James Adomian, Andrew Johnston Ted Morris and Martha Chaves, Wed, June 25-Sat, June 28.

Yuk Yuk's 224 Richmond St W \$8

Gavin Crawford and Sharron Matthews are Vicious Bitches

The sketch-comedy wizard and cabaret queen team up for a night of comedy, music and idle gossip. Sun June 22 10pm Second City 51 Mercer St. \$25. secondcity.com



Viva Cabaret: Tribute to the **Greatest Divas**

In a mesmerizing tribute to fabulous divas - costumes, dancing and singing included — Yury Ruzhvey conjures up everyone from Cher to Liza to Freddy Wed June 25 8pm The Rivoli, 334 Oueen St W. \$20. rushow ru

Transdangerous Cabaret

An evening of comedy, readings and music with S Bear Bergman, Tom Cho, Dot Dot Dot, Scott Turner Schofield and more. Sat, June 28, 8pm. Glad Day Bookshop, 598 Yonge St. PWYC. gladdaybookshop.com

HEALTH & ISSUES

SOY Monday Night Drop-In

Queer youth ages 14 to 29 gather to watch movies, participate in art projects and workshops, and chat with Supporting Our Youth's community mentors. For more info. contact icafferv@sherbourne. on.ca. Every Monday, 5:30-8pm. Sherbourne Health Centre. 2nd floor, 333 Sherbourne St. Free. sovtoronto.org

Immigrant and Refugee Self-Care Workshop A workshop centred on body

awareness, breathing and movement exercises, and selfmassage. Registration required. For more info contact edu@griffincentre.org. Wed. June 18. 6-8:30pm. Centre for Women and Trans People, 563 Spadina Ave, Rm 100. Free. paulinehwang.ca/selfcare

FTM Support Group

Trans men share their experiences in a supportive environment. Takes place the first and third Friday of each month. For more information contact ftmtoronto@vahoo. ca. Fri, June 20, 7:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. the519.org

LEISURE & PLEASURE

May I Have This Dance?

Salsa, square dancing, swing, merengue — this dance has it all, including lessons and a performance by Ill Nana. Fri, June 13, 6–10:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. PWYC-\$7. swinginout.ca/pridedance

The Village Welcomes the World

During this block party, the Village will be pedestrian-only, allowing restaurants to extend their patios into the street. Fri June 20-Sun June 22 various times churchwelleslevvillage.ca/bia

WorldPride Opening Ceremony

Melissa Etheridge, Deborah Cox and Steve Grand perform at this call for peace, love and celebration. Includes the City of Toronto's official rainbow flag raising. Fri, June 20, 7pm. Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St W. Free. worldpridetoronto.com

Queer Axe Folk: Edition 3

At this axe-throwing event for beginners, participants compete to win their very own wood-burned hatchet. For more info. contact newbieaxethrowing@gmail.com. Fri, June 20, 8–11:30pm. BATL, 213 Sterling Rd. \$40.

AIDS Candlelight Vigil

A chance for people to remember and celebrate the lives of people who have died of AIDS and honour those affected by and living

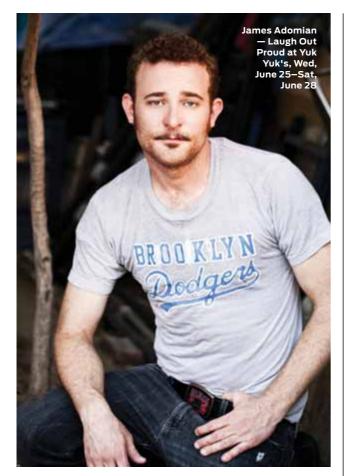
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"The mind-blowing comedic hypnotist Brandon reaches into subconscious minds and pulls out hilarity and hijinks." — blobe ? Mail

SATURDAY, JUNE 21. Pride in the 1,000 Islands. Firehall Theatre. Gananoque, Ontario. SUNDAY, JUNE 22. 7:30. Flying Beaver Pubaret. 488 Parliament St. SATURDAY, AUGUST 30. ILSb/ICBB. Dallas, Texas SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4. Capitol Theatre, Port Hope, Ontario

Show info and online advance tickets available at: nTheHypnotist.com @BrandonHypnosis

f facebook.com/BrandonHypnosis



continued from previous page

with HIV/AIDS. Tues, June 24, 9pm. Cawthra Square Park, 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free, the 519.org

WorldPride Gala and Awards

Including performances by kd lang and Lea DeLaria, this unforgettable evening honours leaders of queer movements around the world. Wed, June 25, 6:30pm. The Arcadian Court, 401 Bay St, 8th Floor. \$1,000; proceeds go to Pride Toronto and Camp FYrefly. worldpridetoronto.com

SEX & BURLESQUE

Pleasure Palace

Women and trans people enjoy a pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and sexpositive environment. For more info contact pleasurepalacetoronto@ gmail.com. Tues, June 17, 9pm-2am. Oasis Aqualounge, 231 Mutual St. \$25 advance, \$30 door. pleasurepalacetoronto.com

Trans Bodies, Trans **Sexualities**

Tobi Hill-Meyer hosts a workshop geared toward transgender, genderqueer and gendernonconforming people who want to learn a bit more about caring for and enjoying their dangly bits. People of all genders welcome. To register, call 416-504-7934. Thurs, June 26, 7:30–9:30pm. Come As You Are, 493 Oueen St W. Free. comeasyouare.com

THEATRE

A Chorus Queen

Three drag queens get loud, hilarious and melodious in their pursuit of fame on the stage. Runs Thurs. June 19–Sat. June 28. various times, Hart House Theatre, 7 Hart House Circle, U of T. \$49, \$45 matinee, \$25 students; benefits the Toronto PWA Foundation. achorusqueen.com

MSM [men seeking men]

The cast of this critically acclaimed theatre piece, in which online personas are deconstructed through titillating dance to electronic beats, includes Louis Laberge-Côté. 9:30pm. Runs Mon, June 23-Sun, June 29, various showtimes. Winchester Street Theatre 80 Winchester St \$5-20 lemontreecreations ca

A reading of Sarah Schulman's new play about two women battling for the role of Hamlet in 1920s New York City, Wed, June 25, 8pm, Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. PWYC: proceeds go to Wychwood Open Door. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Truth/Dare: A Satire

Created by Adamo Ruggiero and Salvatore Antonio, this staged reading and multimedia presentation revives the 1991 cult classic Truth or Dare, about Madonna's Blond Ambition World Tour. Runs Wed, June 25–Sun, June 29. 8:30pm. The Citadel. 304 Parliament St. \$20 advance \$25 door.

CLUBSCENE

Thurs, June 12

Late to the Prom Proud FM and Nth Degree Entertainment Group turn back time in support of Rainbow Camp, a summer camp for LGBT youth. Shuttle from the Village to the Distillerv District available. Music, dance and a chance to win a Mexican vacation, 8pm, The Mill Street Beer Hall, 21 Tankhouse Ln, \$20 suggested donation, proudfm.com/ latetotheprom

Remington's 21st Anniversary

Toronto's all-male strip club celebrates a big birthday with a special performance from Remington's it-boy, Ashton. 8pm. Remington's, 379 Yonge St. remingtons.com

Fri, June 13

May I Have This Dance? LGBT Dance, Triangle Squares, Rainbow Ballroom, Toronto Wranglers and Swingin'OUT present an evening of salsa, square dancing, merengue, swing and line dancing. Mini dance lessons available; guest appearance by Ill Nana. An all-ages, scent-free and wheelchair accessible event. 6-10:30pm. The 519, 519 Church St. \$7 or PWYC. swinginout.ca/ pridedance

XXX Men Only: The Final

Chapter DJs Alain Plamondon and Shawn Riker spin for a naked Friday the 13th. Live porn models and a stage show at midnight. Darkroom in full effect, Men 19-plus only. 10pm–4am. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. \$10 before midnight, \$15 after. tvaxxx.com. flvnightclub.com

DFMO DJs John Caffery and Phil V spin dancefloor make-out beats. Performance by Nancy Bocock. 10:30pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$5. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Show Byz DJ Geoff Kelleway on decks; hosted by Daniel McBride. 11pm. Byzantium, 499 Church St. No cover. bvz.ca

Sat, June 14

Deep Endz 8 Huglife DJs Cindy and Sean, DJs Eytan Tobin, Nick James and Internet Daughter spin booty bass, sensual beats, UK garage and juke, 10pm-2:30am. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteadycafe.com

Trade DJs Scooter, Dave Picard and Russia's own Sveta spin deep house and techno; hosted by Abeardedboy and Patty, International Ms Leather 2014. 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. \$5 before midnight, \$10 after. blackeagletoronto.com

Sun, June 15

Woody's Sunday Hollywoody Broadway Show, with Miss Conception, at 6pm; Old School, hosted by Georgie Girl, with Mahogany Browne and Tynomi Banks, at 9pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Mon, June 16

Zipperz/Cellblock Monday Toronto Wranglers country-andwestern line dancing, 7–10pm; Mama Roxxie's Cabaret, 10pmmidnight. Patio until 10pm. Zipperz-Cellblock, 72 Carlton St. No cover. facebook.com/zipperz Wed. June 18

St. woodvstoronto.com

thesteadycafe.com

Supermodel Birthday Enza

celebrates her 50th with all the

Village boys and girls. DJ Mark Falco

on decks. 8pm. Sailor, 465 Church

Queer as Fuck: Leave It to Beaver

Pride Show Catherine McCormick

preview their sets before taking it to

the Pride crowd. A couple of lottery

spots are available. 9:30-11:30pm.

The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. PWYC.

hosts as pro and amateur comics

Tues, June 17

Fooftastic Karaoke Foofer lays down the tracks for divas, crooners and queers taking the mic. 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. No cover. facebook.com/waylabarnounge





Gay Bartender II A one-nightonly event! DJ Phil V serves dark and stormies behind the bar while playing gay hits from his phone. Pop in for a laid-back Hump Day drink. 10pm. The Fountain, 1261 Dundas St W No cover

Thurs, June 19

Naked Night A diverse group of men take it all off and get to know each other the third Thursday of every month. Separate area for clothed folks. 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover; \$2 clothes check. blackeagletoronto.com

Woody's Thursday Opening-night party for A Chorus Queen at 10pm; the Smirnoff Best Chest Contest. hosted by Georgie Girl, with Devine Darlin, DJ Mark Falco and \$300 in cash prizes at midnight Woody's 467 Church St No cover woodystoronto.com

Fri, June 20

El Convento Rico Friday Dance lessons with Alexmar and Michita at 11:30pm: Trent Ruban, Sofonda Cox and Fabulous Russella perform drag at 1am. 9pm. El Convento Rico, 750 College St. \$10. elconventorico.com

Queer Slowdance DJ Sherwin spins slow and romantic, with occasional fast breaks. Designated dancers coax wallflowers onto the dancefloor. An all-inclusive and respectful event. 9:30pm–3am. The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W. \$10. gladstonehotel.com

Pop Asia DJ Sumation spins faves in the main room, while VJ Gary

continued on page 59

The Lady Hamlet



Xtra and Neitgeist Entertainment bring you a chance to win a pair of tickets to opening night of the world premiere of Truth/Dare: A Satire, on Wednesday, June 25 at 9pm

More info at facebook.com/truthdareshow. To enter, send your name and phone number to contest@dailyxtra.com, with "Contest: Truth/Dare" in the subject line, before Friday, June 20.

Some restrictions apply. Only winners will be contacted.





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continued from page 56

White blasts the vids in the Lounge. Performances by DestinAsian Dance Crew, plus guests the Girls Club and Boys Club. 10pm–4am. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. \$5 before 11pm, \$10 after. flynightclub.com

Bromance Pre-Pride DJ TLA spins for the boys and their BFFs. Hosted by Benjamin Gibson. 11pm–2am. Byzantium, 499 Church St. No cover. byz.ca



Sat, June 21

Pride of Bloor-Yorkville The Bloor-Yorkville BIA celebrates WorldPride 2014 with an open-air concert in support of Fife House, with headliner Mia Martina, drag performance by Miss Conception and more. 7:30–10:30pm. Village of Yorkville Park, Cumberland St. No cover. pridetoronto.com

Cherry Bomb: 7th Anniversary

DJs Cozmic Cat and Denise Benson celebrate seven lucky years of spinning for queer women and their friends. 9pm–3am. Andy Poolhall, 489 College St. No cover before 10pm, \$8 after. andypoolhall.com

Junkyard: Transguys and Guys Who Love 'em DJs Dislexia and L Rock spin for the dudes. All identities welcome. 10pm–2:30am. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteady.cafe.com

Prism WorldPride Kick-Off

DJs Serving Ovahness (NYC) and David Picard spin house, tech and progressive to get the Pride club beats started. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. No cover for first 200 people before midnight. flynightclub.com

Barbershop: Shirts vs Skins

Toronto's ho-Motown party, with DJs Michael K and Miceberg spinning Motown, soul and retro for the frisky dudes in collars, cuffs or nothing at all. 10pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover before 11pm, \$5 after. henhousetoronto.com

Gitch Pride Underwear Party: Porn Swimwear Edition Solo shows by Tyler Sweet and Hunter Page at 11:30pm; underwear and swimwear contest, hosted by Mandy Goodhandy and Colby Jansen, at midnight; X-rated VIP show by Colby Jansen, Tyler Sweet and Hunter Page at 2am. DJs Jay&J on decks all night. 10pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$10; students no cover before 11:30pm, \$5 after; add \$10 for XXX-rated show in the VIP room. Club120.ca

Le Kif Kif DJs Sticky Cuts and Delicious spin for the ladies at the monthly Toastr mixer. 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. \$5; people named Tina get in free. facebook.com/waylabarnounge

Sun, June 22

Sweetness Pride Beach Party DJs Sara Sims, Sheldon Dixon, Lexi Tellings, Sara London and the BPM Krew throw down sunny beats on the sand. Part of the Redpath Waterfront Festival. Noon–6pm. Sugar Beach, Queens Quay E and Jarvis Street. towaterfrontfest.com/ pride-party

Afternoon T-Dance DJ Cheena spins for the chillaxing folks. 3–7pm. Boutique Bar, 506 Church St. No cover boutiquebar ca

Sapphic Aquatica DJ Cozmic Cat spins for the monthly sex-club event exclusively for women and trans-identified people. Live music by Zee and Raindrops; burlesque performance by Amber Frost; kink demo by Ms Leather Toronto 2014. 8pm. Oasis Aqualounge, 231 Mutual St. \$20. oasisaqualounge.com

Mon, June 23

Red Carpet Pride Prom DJs Quinces and Nik Red spin for queer and trans high-school students and their friends. Presented by the Triangle Program and SOY; hosted by Vivek Shraya. Cover includes finger foods and soft drink. 8pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$20. triangleprogram.ca

Tues, June 24

Woody's Tuesday Miss Conception's Big Star Birthday Show, 9–11pm; Woody's Best Men's Ass Contest, hosted by Georgie Girl, with Michelle Ross, Bunni Lapin, DJ Chris Steinbach and \$300 in cash prizes, at midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Mile High Tuesday: Pride Edition DJ True Wind spins top 40, house and requested tracks. 9pm. Boutique Bar, 506 Church St. No cover. boutiquebar.ca Breaking Binaries: Trans

Cabaret Comedy and vaudeville.

featuring Renae Odo, plus

Lexi Tellings at Sweetness Pride Beach Party — Sugar Beach, Sun, June 22

DJ Regina the Gentlelady. 9pm. The Bovine Club, 542 Queen St W. bovineclub.com

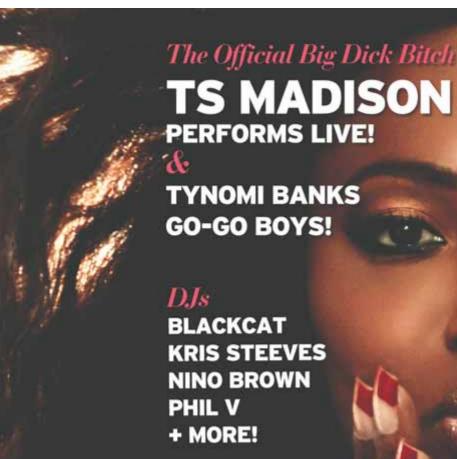
Wed, June 25

A Laugh a Minute: WorldPride Edition Mandy Goodhandy presents an open-mic comedy night with up to 30 standup, sketch and improv performers. 8pm. Club120, 120 Church St. No cover. club120.ca Disco and Divas The Village People take the stage, with Canadian sensation Addictiv and more. Presented by PFLAG and 103.9 Proud FM. A portion of proceeds goes to PFLAG. 8pm. The Phoenix, 410 Sherbourne St. \$45. phoenixconcert theatre.com

Play DJ Foxx Trot spins for the women mixing and mingling on three floors. 9:30pm–2am. Smith, 520 Church St. \$7. girlplaytoronto.com Thick Life Chicago queer bear

with DJs Sammy Royale and Phil V on decks and performances by Fluffy Soufflé and Fay Slift. 10pm–3am. The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W. \$10. gladstonehotel.com

Submit your event listing to listings@dailyxtra.com. Deadline for the June 26 issue is Wed, June 18.



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XPOSED

ANNA POURNIKOVA PHOTOS BY BECCA LEMIRE

Derivation Aldo does this art party that is always changing (and I will forever be changed by the vulva drawings on wooden spoons I saw at his Sex Show last year), and it's always themed and it's always well attended. So it's Candyland time, which means art inspired by Candyland. What an incredibly colourful way to usher in the summer!

2> And obviously, where there's good art, there are hot babes. Like, duh. In keeping with the Candyland theme of colour on colour, Aviva,
Sarah, Rory and Kelly (from left) provide some of the brightest window dressing for those 1,000-watt smiles I've ever seen.

3• I mentioned babes at Candyland, right? God, just say it out loud. It is *so* dirty. It feels dirtier in my mouth than the word "cunt." Just whisper it to yourself under your breath while you look at this picture of **Daniel** and **Miguel** ... "Candyland."

4 And then **Mysterion** took out **Sadie**'s tooth with pliers from the '50s and the whole Candyland party went up a notch. It takes just one cray to make a room of crays.

5 Becca really nailed it this time. Lining up the ladies from the House of Filth in front of that neon hair-and-nail-salon sign outside the Henhouse says everything

you'll ever need to know about this saucy foursome of cunty-laced show-women. (From left) **Allysin Chaynes**, **Igby Lizzard**, **Judy Virago** and **Nancy Bocock** are the airand Tic Tac-eating dinnerparty hosts and performers for the weekly *Drag Race* at Henhouse. Oh the hairspray, the lip-gloss, the wisecracks. Give. Me. More.

6> What else happened at the Henhouse on *Drag Race* night? Some fucking total hilarity: **Peter** got going as he watched Nancy wrap her lips around the sax à la Rob Lowe (but less butch) in *St Elmo's Fire*. **Bill** was more interested in pilsner and bad tucks.

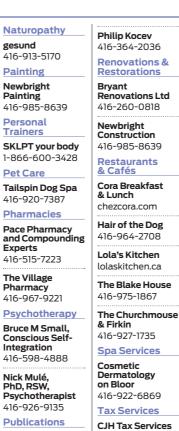
7 Cass and Ally (far left and far right) are related, right? I never did find out if it was true, but they sure do look a lot alike, like twins alike, so they better be, or maybe my eyes have finally gone fucked. In the middle is Ashley, the woman I imagine they share like matching outfits from their youth. Too far? Or never far enough?

8 Everything good about men's fashion in the city is happening here. Mikey and his glasses and 'stache and, of course, the staple black leather jacket; **Steven** has a hoodie and beard on lock; and Johnny, my little firebush special on the right, has the Buddy Hollys that are so hot right now. I'd also like to point out that they are smoking rollies – still taboo in Canada and totally normie in Europe. I bet a foursome with these three is a pretty nice way to spend your mom's birthday away from home. Mmmhmm, I made you think of cocks and then your mom. That happened.

Xposed appears in every other issue of *Xtra*. For this week's Deep Dish column, by Rolyn Chambers, go to dailyxtra.com.

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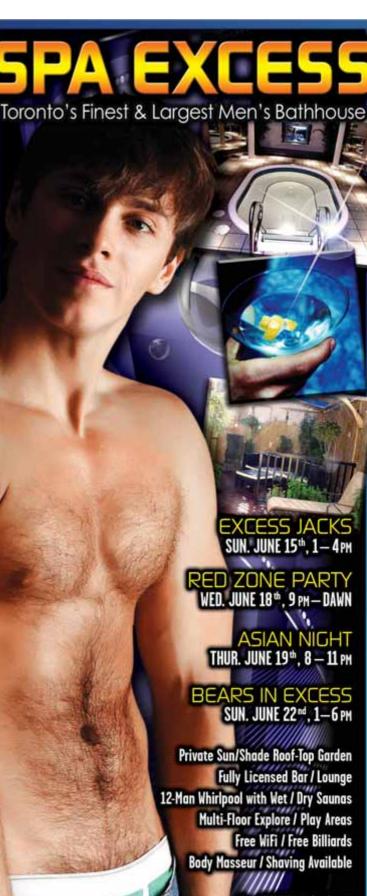
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A world of gay adventure

Grape escapes

10 great wine destinations in North America AEFA MULHOLLAND

If you're looking for a grape escape, don't trot off to Tuscany, sashay to Sancerre or race to Rioja. Those in the market for a vine time can stay this side of the Atlantic; the varieties and vintages of North American wines get ever more extensive as more states and provinces become the toast of the wine world. You'll now find tasting flights much closer to home, many of them in places you mightn't have imagined — from Nova Scotia to Texas.

Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia

Wine country: Vines have been growing in Nova Scotia since the 1600s, and there are more than 70 vineyards across the province's seven wine regions. Vintage: Try a cool-climate classic: burnt amber Pomme d'Or dessert wine from Domaine de Grand Pré. Visit: Wines sparkle at L'Acadie Vineyards, an organic winery in Wolfville. Wine pairing: Wolfville's Blomidon Inn serves local vintages and seafood in a stately Victorian room.

2 Leelanau Peninsula, Michigan

Wine country: Didn't think of the Midwest as a must for wining and dining? Michigan has more than 100 wineries in four wine regions. Try the ice wineries of Upper Michigan's Leelanau and Old Mission peninsulas, where riesling and cabernet franc grapes grow at the same latitude as Bordeaux and Piedmont. Vintage: Give Chateau Grand Traverse's medal-winning 2011 dry riesling a swirl. Visit: It has to be Madonna's family's vineyard, Ciccone Vineyard and Winery, where tastings cost \$5. Wine pairing: Finish the peninsula

tour at Leland's octogenarian Bluebird Restaurant & Bar, where Leelanau and Grand Traverse wines complement local walleye, perch and trout.

3 Texas Hill Country, Texas

Wine country: With 32 wineries and a wine region almost as big as Nova Scotia, Texas has made good use of cabernet sauvignon, sauvignon blanc, chenin blanc and riesling grapes during the state's brief 38-year wine career. Vintage: Becker Vineyards' spicy red blend Prairie Rôtie captures the essence of Hill Country heat.

Visit: Try southwestern ports, cabernetsyrah blends, cabernet sauvignons and chardonnays at Becker Vineyards, outside rustic Fredericksburg.

Wine pairing: Tuck into Thai-Texan

fusion fare at August E's in Fredericksburg. The owners also have a bed and breakfast — Ebers' Rock House — on an old homestead just outside town.

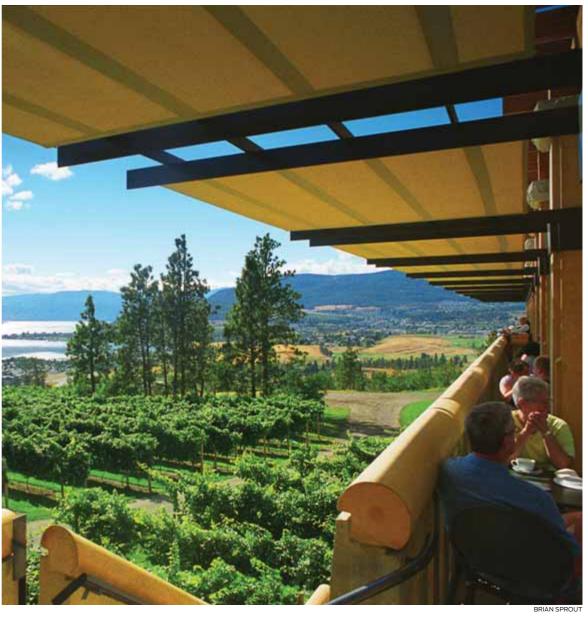
Eastern Townships, Quebec

Wine country: At just over 40 years old, the wine industry might be youthful in La Belle Province, but with an enticing selection of dry, sparkling, fortified and late-harvest wines made over six wine regions, it's a fine place to hit the wine trail.

Vintage: Savour L'Orpailleur's vanillanuanced white Reserve, made from seyval blanc and vidal grapes.

Visit: Try whites, reds and sparkling delights at L'Orpailleur in Les Cantons de l'Est – the Eastern Townships – in Dunham, just north of the Vermont border. Wine pairing: Dunham's Homei Bistro, and its Asian-influenced Québécois fare, makes a perfect wine-route stop.

continued next page ▶





Top: Diners at Mission Hill Winery in West Kelowna, BC, enjoy a picturesque view of the Okanagan Valley. Bottom: Hip Hammondsport is home to Dr Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars, the original Finger Lakes winery.



▶ continued from previous page

Finger Lakes. **New York**

Wine country: There are three distinct wine trails to explore in the Finger Lakes - Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake – and more than 100 wineries.

Vintage: The area is known for producing the United State's best riesling. Try a deliciously dry and floral bottle from Ravines Wine Cellars in Hammondsport.

Visit: Hip Hammondsport is home to Dr Frank's Vinifera Wine Cellars, the original Finger Lakes winery, open year-round.

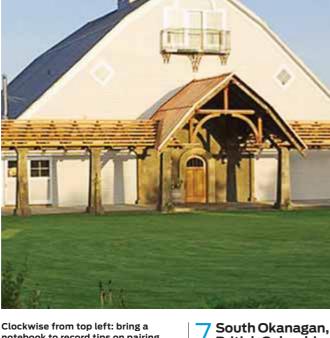
Wine pairing: You'll find the best local wine list at the Village Tavern in Hammondsport.

Walla Walla, Washington

Wine country: It's not all coffee and craft brews around here; a new winery opens every two weeks in the second most productive wine state in the US. Vintage: Sample sumptuous 2009 Walla Walla syrah from Trust Cellars. Visit: Make an appointment to quaff sig-

nature cabernet sauvignon at converted farmstead Abeja Inn.

Wine pairing: The quaint yet slick Whitehouse-Crawford Restaurant in Walla Walla has a huge list of local vintages and a tasting room next door.



notebook to record tips on pairing wines with cheese and other foods; take time to tour producers' cellars and learn about different maturation techniques, from stainless steel tanks to new oak barrels; Abeja winery and inn is located on a converted farmstead.

British Columbia

ABEIA NET

Wine country: Stretching from Kelowna to the US border; don't miss wine towns Osoyoos, Oliver and Penticton.

Vintage: Taste the unusual tannat-syrah blend Dead of Night from Moon Curser Vineyards.

Visit: Small but stunning Painted Rock Estate Winery offers syrahs, chardonnays and several Bordeaux-esque reds.



Wine pairing: Hester Creek is where the first valley wines were planted in 1968, so they know a thing or two about wine. Terrafina restaurant is a beautiful place to soak up the ambiance over a cabernet franc or late-harvest pinot blanc.

Sonoma, California

Wine country: Of the two most famous American wine regions, Sonoma offers a more laid-back, less expensive take on wine tasting than neighbouring Napa. Vintage: Of Sonoma's 72 wine grapes, chardonnay stands out. See what you think of La Follette's Sangiacomo. Visit: Save money to buy bottles with free tastings at Cline Cellars. Take a picnic and eat on the grounds.

Wine pairing: Every Wednesday night at Scopa, in chic Healdsburg, a local winemaker works the floor as a server, closing the circle between producer and connoisseur.

Niagara-onthe-Lake, Ontario

Wine country: One of Ontario's four established wine areas, Niagara-onthe-Lake is where winemaking began in the province. Three dozen wineries

sit within minutes of each other, making for easy touring.

Vintage: One of Niagara's best bottles is Hidden Bench's 2009 chardonnay. Visit: Tiny Five Rows Craft Winery is hard to find but worth the effort. Wine pairing: Newly located to the lakeshore, farm-to-table classic Treadwell has a huge patio right on Queen Street.

Willamette Valley, Oregon

Wine country: This is pinot noir country; luscious reds abound in the 300 wineries and six appellations of the valley. Vintage: If you can find a bottle, savour lush, bold pinot noirs from Miura. Visit: Head away from the hordes and explore the range at A Blooming Hill Vineyard, a winery in Cornelius, north of Portland.

Wine pairing: Southwest of Portland, Dundee Bistro boasts the best Oregon pinot noirs along with similarly local edibles.

Access this story on dailyxtratravel.com for web links to select featured businesses and attractions.

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Wickedly good theatre in Old Blighty

London's West End strikes a distinct chord with gay audiences

TED FLETT

As home to some of history's most revered playwrights — William Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde — it should come as no surprise that Old Blighty's capital boasts an impressive theatre scene. North Americans might be spoiled for choice, with Toronto's theatre district and New York City's Broadway, but London theatre promoter Jonathan Mountford says his home impresses in its own distinct way, justifying the trans-Atlantic trip for theatre buffs.

"London's West End has always been and continues to be the world centre for theatrical excellence," Mountford says. "The standard of theatre is high, given the massive pool of producers that are eagerly queuing up to get their work into a venue to replace a struggling show, and London's well-versed audiences are always looking for something new and exciting."

Mountford's passion for theatre is evident. As he describes the scene and what's hot onstage, a deep smile forms. He rubs his palms and his heel begins to tap beneath the table. He says London's ideal combination of talent supply, audience standards and history make the city "the hands-down best place to create new work and revive classics."

Classics onstage in the West End the nucleus of London's theatre scene — include *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables* and *The Mousetrap*, which have been attracting a stream of theatregoers for decades.

New works help to mix up the London theatre offer. *The Bodyguard*, a musical adaptation of the famous Whitney Houston flick, stormed onto the Adelphi Theatre stage in late 2012 and has been impressing audiences ever since. Updated choreography, song performance and additional Houston hits give the production a modern feel without upstaging the vacillating love story between megastar Rachel Marron and her bodyguard, Frank Farmer.

atre, you bring your

own experiences to

it, and there are ele-

ments of a play that will

resonate with you as a

gay person rather than

a person next to you

based on what you've

been through in your

Matthewman at-

tributes the quality

of London theatre to

its breadth. While the

West End is the fo-

cal point for tourists,

there are also fringe,

off-West End and rep-

ertory theatres like

Shakespeare's Globe.

"The one thing that

characterizes the Lon-

don theatre scene is

the size of it. The West

End is massive, but all over London there are

lots of theatre spaces

producing really great

"Also, the lines be-

tween West End and

off-West End are

blurred because some playhouses are

just as big as West End theatres. If you

go further afield, you can see something

just as good in a more intimate setting for

Above the Stag Theatre sustains it-

self by catering specifically to the gay

market with queer productions, from

dramas to comedies to pantomimes.

"We are the only full-time professional

LGBT theatre in the UK," artistic direc-

less money and have a great night out."

stuff," he says.

life," he says.

Musical adaptations of Roald Dahl's Matilda and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory have quickly become big hits for families and children at heart. Matilda impresses with eye-popping sets and a talented cast of youth, but centre-stage is the evil head mistress, Miss Trunchbull, played as hideously wicked as her chin mole by Montrealer Alex Gaumond in drag.

Despite the absence of a big gay production in the West End since *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, which closed in 2011 after a three-year run at the Palace Theatre, Mountford insists there is still plenty to appeal to a gay audience. He points to *Miss Saigon*, which opened this spring in London.

"Any play or musical that deals with the idea of repression or a hidden secret seems to relate strongly to a gay audience," he says. "*Miss Saigon*, for instance, tells the story of forbidden love and the battle for the right to love anyone you choose — a right the gay community is still fighting for."

Theatre critic and blogger Scott Matthewman agrees that the post-*Priscilla* scene resonates for gay audiences. "*Wicked*, for example, has a huge gay following, partly because it features two divas but also because it's a story about accepting difference," he says. "So it doesn't have to be a great gay show; it can be just a great show to make that connection with a gay audience.





Top: With two divas and a story about accepting difference, *Wicked* has great camp appeal. Above: Walking tours by the Society of London Theatre weave through Soho, the Strand and Covent Garden, where you'll find the stage door of the famous Drury Lane, also known as "The Royal." tor Peter Bull says. "We are primarily a producing house, although we occasionally welcome visiting productions.

"The most important people at our theatre are the audience," he says. "We must give them what they want, which is to be entertained. That doesn't mean we can't present something controversial or challenging, but it must be of a high standard." The company's summer show is a revival of *Bathhouse: The Musical*, which, Bull says, "doesn't pretend to be high art, but is just a feel-good summer audience pleaser."

In a city that sets such a high standard for theatre, paying attention to audience response is critical; Londoners value steak over sizzle. Remember that this is where Andrew Lloyd Webber's highly anticipated 2011 *Phantom* sequel, *Love Never Dies*, was coined "Paint Never Dries" and closed within 18 months. And *Viva Forever*, the superhyped 2012 Spice Girls musical, closed within seven. Meanwhile, on Broadway, musicals like *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* will blunder along filling seats despite negative reviews.

Londoners, Bull notes, are not easily impressed. "We tend not to applaud the scenery and every entrance, which seems to happen whenever I see a Broadway show."

Even when their stages are empty, London's theatres are noteworthy attractions. Walking tours by the Society of London Theatre weave through the theatre areas of Soho, Covent Garden and the Strand, highlighting the architecture and personalities behind all sorts of theatres, from Victorian to modern. Some, like Theatre Royal Drury Lane and the National Theatre, also offer backstage tours.



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TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

NAME: NICOLAAS SMIT AGE: 44 SIGN: GEMINI

XTRA HO1

DRASKO BOGDANOVIC

Nicolaas is a South African-born New York resident who visits Toronto often. He is turned on by "a man who knows what he wants and is just a little bit on the wild side." One of the wildest things he has done was join the leather boat in the Canal Parade during Amsterdam Pride: "I was outed to all my colleagues on TV the next day! Don't regret a thing, though."

Nicolaas wishes for "a cure for AIDS, more freedom for gay people living in oppressive African countries, and that all my Middle Eastern gay friends can be themselves." Two of his favourite places to hang out are "Boy's Town" in Toronto and 9th Avenue in Hell's Kitchen in NYC, and he has this advice for *Xtra* readers: "Stand up if you fall down; tomorrow will be a much better day and you'll not even remember what happened yesterday."

Instagram: Nicolaassmit

To comment on or become an Xtra Hot guy or gal, email Drasko at xtrahot@dailyxtra.com.



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