Xtra!
VANCOUVER'S GAY & LESBIA
#546 JULY 31–AUG 13, 2014

SHARING OUR Pride

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▸22



TRISH KELLY DUMPED
▸9

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SERGEI BACHLAKOV

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Lessons from WorldPride



EDITORIAL
ROBIN PERELLE

The sheer volume of people blew my mind. Thousands and thousands of people meandered freely down Church Street, enjoying a nine-block, three-day street party in the heart of Toronto's gay village, without a barricade in sight.

Sure, there were a few waist-high fences tucked discreetly around bar entrances, reminding people to consume their alcohol within the makeshift patios before venturing back into the street, but they cast no shadow over the uninhibited expanse of vibrant pedestrian space.

There were no gates to control this street fair, no admission fees to pay. Instead, donation pillars dotted the intersections, inviting participants to contribute as much or as little as they wanted.

My walk back to the hotel each night was punctuated by bursts of song from at least five open-air stages as headliners like Carly Rae Jepsen invited us to call her, maybe, and people in all states of dress and undress weaved in and out of the carefree crowds.

Undeterred by the final night's downpour, one group of Church Street revellers broke into an impromptu rendition of Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'," serenading a gaggle of nearly naked people partying wetly on the roof above them, who were only too happy to chime in on the chorus.

The previous day I'd been moved to tears by the sheer volume of WorldPride's Dyke March: a 45-minute full-on parade of proud, noisy women reclaiming the downtown thoroughfares ringing the gay village. Friday night's trans marches were equally inspiring — the largest I've ever seen, with both an official march and the independent community gathering invited to lead the way.

Only the Pride parade itself was a disappointment. With 12,000 marchers and about 300 floats, it clocked in at nearly six hours in the hot sun.

Had the parade, like the street party, celebrated an uninhibited expression of community culture, presence and joy, I might not have minded. But aside from a few inspired contingents, like the Catholic-school teachers who defied their colleagues to support gay students, the parade was long, tame and boring. And barricaded!

Though the street party presented an enviable example of largely fence-free fun, the parade was disconnected from its community by tall metal fences that penned people 10-deep on the sidewalk and cut them off from the participants marching by.

By the end of the first hour, I missed Vancouver.

Though our parade can be long and tame, too, it's still more connected to the community it's intended to celebrate. Few barricades separate us from our friends and neighbours marching by, and though corporate floats are staking an increasing claim to our parade, too, the Vancouver Pride Society makes a conscious effort to stagger their presence so they don't overshadow the smaller community groups.

Unchecked in Toronto, the pressures from corporate, union and police groups eager to show their support submerged what should have been the biggest gay parade Canada has ever seen.

Sheer volume can be a powerful force. Bursting from within our community, it can fuel a vibrant street party — provided the organizers create a minimally regulated space, then step back to let the celebrations unfold. But coming from external forces, it can inundate a once-community parade and strip its spirit.

The challenge is knowing which volume to contain and which to stoke, then set free. Vancouver has room to grow in some areas; Toronto has cause to scale back in others. The lessons from WorldPride go both ways.

We may not come close to the volume of WorldPride, Vancouver, but we have reason to be proud. Here's to our continued growth, checked and unchecked in all the right places. X

Robin Perelle is the managing editor of Xtra *Vancouver.*

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

A new generation of 'queer'

I read with interest Matthew DiMera's guest editorial ["Queer: Echoes of Hate, and Pride," *Xtra* #545, July 17), where he discusses those of us older folks who identify as gay/lesbian/bi and those younger folks who identify as queer. He very eloquently explains why he and his generation identify as queer instead of gay or lesbian, and that started me thinking.

I'm a gay man over 50 (well, closer to 60), and when I came out back in the day we called ourselves gay. It was positive, uplifting, and in our minds it was us actively defining who we were, rather than letting our opponents do so. As Mr DiMera rightly points out, the term queer was held with such disdain it was akin to using the N-word.

Nobody denies we were the generation who fought on the frontlines, particularly through the 1960s. We celebrated our victories in Canada by dancing to the Village People, Donna Summer and the Bee Gees in the 1970s, and just when we thought things couldn't get any better we found we had to fight on the frontlines again, this time for our very lives in the 1980s.

The one thing I understand very deeply about life is that change is the only constant. My generation of LGBT warriors are now retiring from the nine-to-five workforce, some of us are long-term survivors of AIDS, some of our partners are going through various stages of Alzheimer's, and some of us are concerned about having to go back into the closet in nursing homes. We're thinking about writing our wills and collecting our pensions. We also understand that



it is our time to pass the rainbow flag on to a generation of younger queers who inhabit a new world where everything has changed yet again.

The younger generation has reclaimed the term queer, and I get why. Our younger queers face new challenges on a whole new playing field.

I have a message for our younger queers from us older LGBTs: it's your day. My generation, although still very active, are now very aware that all too soon we will be preparing to ride with Charon across the River Styx.

As you prepare to make this old world a better place for all of us to share, please remember that for now, us old queers are still here and we've got your back. If you need advice, remember, we've been there. Come and talk with us. When you need support, or when you need a father, mother, and sister or brother figure in your lives, we're here.

I have a lot of faith in you younger queers. I know you'll hold that rainbow flag high and you'll do us all proud. Our queer communities are in good hands with you younger queers at the helm.

RON KEARSE
VANCOUVER, BC



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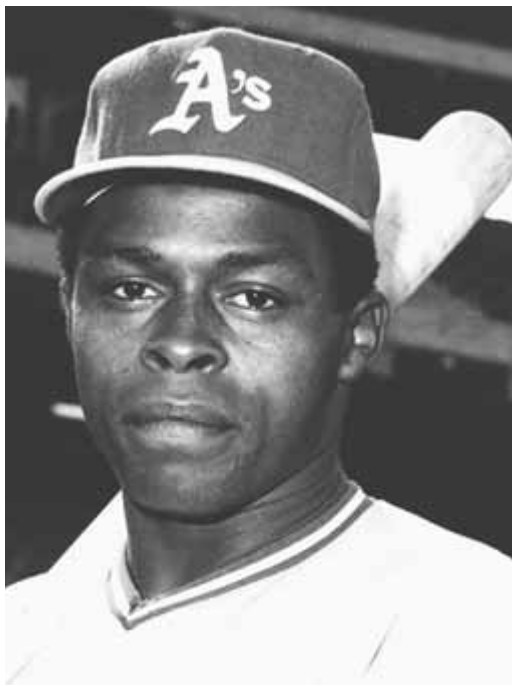
SPEEDO TRAP

In early July, a Louisville, Kentucky, police officer reportedly called gay pornstar Jessie Colter "queer" and threatened to arrest him if he didn't leave a city water park for wearing red brief trunks.

SOCIAL MEDIA STINGS



Number of lashes a Saudi Arabian court has ordered a 24-year-old man receive for using a Twitter account to try to meet gay men, Gulf News reports.



GAY PIONEER

"He used to sleep in his baseball uniform, and Mom used to have to peel it off him. But make sure that other little boys get a chance to live out their dream. Glenn would be very proud. Something good has come out of it in the end."

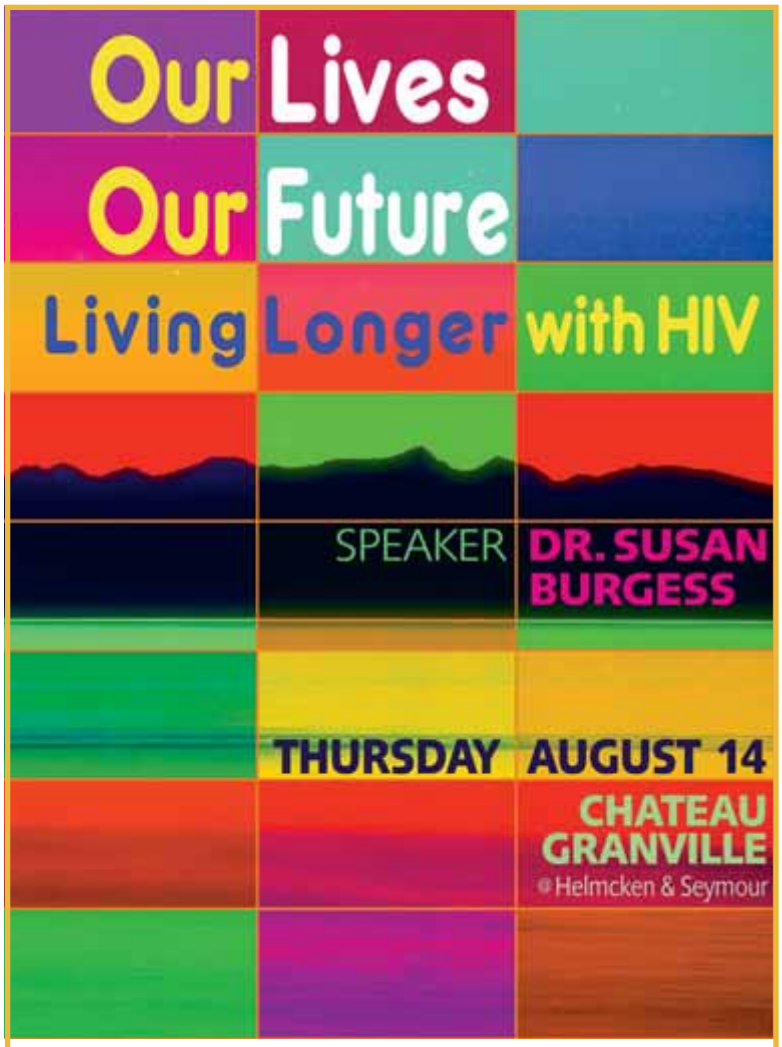
Lutha Burke, sister of the late Glenn Burke, hailed as the first baseball player to be out while active in the game. Major League Baseball honoured Burke as a gay pioneer at the All-Star Game July 15, nearly 20 years after he died of AIDS-related causes.



PIXEL PARADE

Gaymer Pride

To mark the decision by Japanese game developer Square Enix to allow same-sex marriages in its *Final Fantasy XIV: A Realm Reborn*, LGBT gamers' guild Rough Trade Gaming Community staged a virtual Pride parade within the game.



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“I am so glad that the kids in the Vancouver Catholic schools won’t have to go through what I went through.” Tracey Wilson ▸11

Pushed out of parks board race

Vision dumps candidate Trish Kelly because of sex-positive video

POLITICS
NIKO BELL

Vision Vancouver candidate Trish Kelly stepped out of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation race July 17 to protect her party from more attacks based on her sex-positive activism, she tells *Xtra*.

Kelly withdrew her candidacy after a Vancouver political blog posted an eight-year-old video of her performing a monologue about her sex life as a single person and the art of masturbation.

“It was clear that this was just the beginning of more attacks, pulling out my work piece by piece,” she says. “My body of work and the way it is sensationalized has the possibility of derailing the entire conversation in the lead-up to the election.”

The video, posted July 14 on the blog vanramblings.com, is a monologue from a queer-themed theatre production. It shows Kelly walking through a park, sharing stories of self-love. Three days after the video was posted, Vision sent out a press release saying Kelly would step down.

Vision co-chair Maria Dobrinskaya says the video prompted a discussion with Kelly. “It was only the tip of the iceberg,” she says. “We stand by her work, but we also stand by the goals of Vision Vancouver, and we’re concerned about the future of our city.”

Dobrinskaya says Vision was concerned that attacks on Kelly would distract from the party’s overall message.

“It wouldn’t even allow for a full discussion in which we could engage on some of these important issues, because the four-second sound-bite or pullquote would not allow for the discussion she wanted to have,” Dobrinskaya says. “It was a very tough decision, and none of us is very pleased with where it all ended up.”

Dobrinskaya says Vision did not force Kelly to step down. Kelly agrees, saying the decision was “mutual.”

“Vision painted a pretty vivid picture for me of what was going to happen over the next couple of months over the lead-up to the election,” she says. “I don’t want this to be the reason the NPA wins.”



“We stand by her work, but we also stand by the goals of Vision Vancouver, and we’re concerned about the future of our city.”
MARIA DOBRINSKAYA, VISION CO-CHAIR

Trish Kelly, pictured above, wants to have a broader discussion on how potential queer and sex-positive politicians can participate civically without being hampered by their own activism or art. BELLE ANCELL

Kelly says she does not know why Vision thought the attacks would continue.

Raymond Tomlin, the blogger who posted the video, says he was blindsided by the reaction. In his original blog post, he praised the video and said he was posting it so that it would not be used as a dirty trick later in the campaign.

“I honestly did not anticipate that there would be this groundswell negative reaction to what initially seemed like a humorous, instructional, educational and necessary video,” he tells *Xtra*. He says Vision Vancouver should have been prepared to deal with the video when it appeared.

“Why not get this out of the way now, before this becomes an issue in the campaign?” he says. “Come on. It’s 2014.”

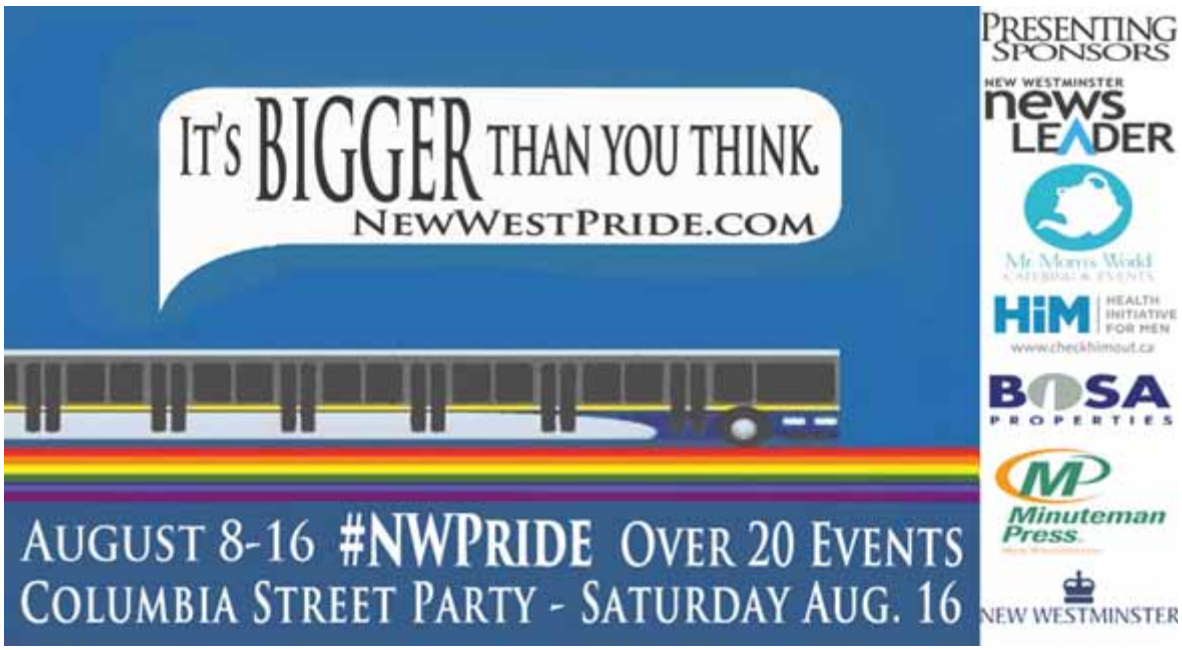
Vancouver writer and queer activist Billeh Nickerson agrees that Vision should have stood by Kelly.

“I’m quite disappointed that Vision didn’t stand up to folks who I think were bullying and slut-shaming,” he says. “Why would any woman or gay artist ever want to run in politics if they’re going to be held to a much higher standard?”

“I think it’s about power,” he says. “They got spooked, and they threw her under the bus.”

Kelly says she now wants to turn her attention to how to stop queer and sex-positive politicians from being sunk by their own activism or art.

“If we can have a conversation about sexual agency and address the stigma that’s attached to people being honest about their histories and their desires,” she says, “then I’ll take that as a win.” X





City of Vancouver launches Pride Week

Make city safe haven for LGBT refugees, advocates say

PRIDE
NATASHA BARSOTTI

Several LGBT advocates called on city council to make Vancouver a sanctuary for gay refugees as the city prepared to launch Pride Week and raise the rainbow flag July 28.

Chris Morrissey, who has worked on LGBT immigration and refugee issues for more than 20 years, said a committee has been investigating the idea of establishing Vancouver as a safe haven and urged city councillors to support the initiative.

"People who come based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and HIV status face more barriers and more challenges and difficulties than other refugees," Morrissey told city council in a special session prior to the mayor's Pride Week proclamation. "We don't like to pit one against the other, for sure, but it is also important for us to acknowledge that queer refugees face additional barriers."

She would like to see the entire Lower Mainland become a sanctuary for LGBT refugees and hopes other mayors will support the proposal, too.

Claiming refugee status is already a difficult process for many people, who have to prove both their sexual orientation and that they were persecuted for it, Morrissey pointed out. Easier access to information, resources, support and safe housing would be helpful on arrival, she said.

She'd like the City of Vancouver to set aside some of its social housing units now under development for gay refugees seeking asylum.

It takes careful thought to make a safe haven, lawyer barbara findlay noted. Otherwise, "you are likely to end up making the mistake of having a house for refugees where you put queer refugee claimants with other refugee claimants from the same country, who will kill them," she warned.

"We are really, really lucky — we are incredibly lucky — we are so privileged to live in a city where city hall is having a proclamation of gay pride," she added.



Joan-E emcees the City of Vancouver's Pride Week launch July 28, with (from left) Dean Nelson; Stewart Gonzales, from the Squamish Nation; vice-president Chrissy Taylor and president Tim Richards, of the Vancouver Pride Society; and Mayor Gregor Robertson. NATASHA BARSOTTI

After the special council session, Mayor Gregor Robertson proclaimed July 28 to Aug 3 Pride Week in Vancouver.

The proclamation recognizes that diversity, equality, acceptance and pride make "us so much stronger as a city." It also states that the City of Vancouver is "resolutely committed to ending homophobia and transphobia in all of their forms."

"When we create an environment that is supportive, we create a community that fosters new ideas, arts and culture," Dean Nelson, one of this year's Pride grand marshals, told the crowd. "We have to share the enormous privilege we have living in Vancouver with queers here and abroad, so we have a city of sanctuary, a city of welcome and a city of Pride." X

Most new HIV cases in BC are gay men: report

Gay men born after 1980 seeing new diagnoses climb

HIV
JEREMY HAINSWORTH

New HIV diagnoses have been steadily increasing among gay and bisexual men born between 1980 and 1999, says a report released by BC's chief medical health officer July 14.

Overall, the report notes, gay and bisexual men of all ages still account for a disproportionate number of new HIV cases in BC when compared with other risk groups. In 2011, they accounted for 57 percent of new HIV infections and 45 percent of all people known to be living with HIV in BC.

"While many communities in British Columbia are seeing a dramatic decline in HIV infections thanks to harm reduction and prevention programs, and advancements in diagnosis and treatment, the sub-population of gay and bisexual men is not experiencing this reduction," provincial health officer Dr Perry Kendall says in a press release.

"The aim of these recommendations is to renew the focus on prevention and treatment of HIV in this population, better address underlying causes of this epidemic, and work together to create meaningful decreases in HIV incidence and prevalence," he says.

Vancouver's Health Initiative for Men (HIM) applauds the report and the work of Kendall and Dr Mark Gilbert, its lead researchers. "We think this report is fantastic," HIM program manager Jody Jollimore says.



"Now we have to see how the government responds," says researcher Olivier Ferlatte. NATHANIEL CHRISTOPHER

Olivier Ferlatte, of the Community-Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health, agrees. "The HIV epidemic is complex . . . and requires a very complex response," he says.

Gilbert says the best way to prevent HIV infection is to reduce the stigma related to both HIV and sexual orientation, which he notes are among the drivers of the epidemic.

EDUCATION

Catholic schools approve trans policy

The Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) said July 16 it has approved a new policy to accommodate gender expression and students with gender dysphoria.

Lawyer barbara findlay, who represented 11-year-old student Tracey Wilson, hails the policy as a first in North America. "This is enormous," findlay says. "We believe nobody's going to have to go through what Tracey went through."

"I am so glad that the kids in the Vancouver Catholic schools won't have to go through what I went through," Wilson says. "It was really hard for me because I did not feel accepted at school. Now, kids like me will hopefully be supported."

The policy was developed after Wilson's family filed a human rights complaint. CISVA superintendent Doug Lauson says Catholic teaching does not recognize that a student can change his or her sex or gender. But, he says, CISVA is committed to providing an inclusive school environment for students and reasonable accommodation for their gender expression. The new policy covers the same issues as those in the Vancouver School Board policy adopted in June, he adds.

"The focus of the individual accommodation plan is always the best interests of the child — spiritually, intellectually and physically — which is the mission of Catholic schools," Lauson says. "We have apologized to Tracey and her family for not being in a position to meet her needs," he adds. "This policy will ensure her experience is not repeated." — *Jeremy Hainsworth*



Bill C-36 'stuns and horrifies' sex-work advocates

Witness list stacked against prostitution at bill's hearings

SEX LAWS
JUSTIN LING

"You were describing a scenario where you were being raped, I believe, by three Russians…"

Robert Goguen is stumbling into his ham-fisted question. "Let's suppose the police authorities would have broken in and rescued you…"

You may have seen the transcript by now, but the words don't quite capture the way in which his breathtakingly stupid question punctuated the otherwise stifling quiet in the room.

"Would your freedom of expression have been in any way breached?" Goguen concluded.

Lots of hay has been made about the Conservative MP's question, but little attention was paid to the underlining theme of the committee hearings that it betrayed.

The MPs were back in Ottawa for rare summer hearings as Parliament rushes to pass Bill C-36, the Conservative government's prostitution bill. The hearings proved thorny, with a bevy of former and current sex workers decrying the bill as a jeopardy to their safety but without any overt opposition from the New Democrats or Liberals.

But what became clear over the 20 hours of hearings held July 7 to 11 is that the Conservative position remains firm: sex workers are victims, prostitution is exploitation, and freedom doesn't come into it.

Goguen's question didn't come out of the blue. He was teeing up his government's response to an issue raised by lawyer Leo Russomanno, from the Criminal Lawyers' Association.

"The evidence is very clear: sex workers communicate in order to protect themselves," Russomanno told MPs. "This, in my view, goes to the core values that underlie the freedom of expression that we all are supposed to be guaranteed." But Goguen didn't buy that.

"What I'm saying is that you weren't freely expressing yourself by being raped by three men," he continued in his questioning. "Now this Section 7 [of the Charter], there's the life, liberty and security of the person. When you're being coerced to do sexual acts, you're not doing it freely; that definitely goes against your right to life, liberty and freedom of the person. You're not participating in this freely, right?"

Some former sex workers echoed the government position, saying they never had a choice not to enter the trade. Timea Nagy, founder of Walk with Me Canada Victim Services, who was the recipient of Goguen's bumbling interrogation, was lured into Canada on false pretenses and forced to work in a massage parlour, where it was expected that she would have sex with clients. She escaped, only to return to the industry after finding herself in dire financial straits.



Though Canada has laid virtually no human trafficking charges since the laws were implemented in 2005, several MPs, including Justice Minister Peter MacKay, are leaning on the need to curb human trafficking as justification for passing Bill C-36. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Prostitution always involves a power imbalance between a customer who pays to have their pleasure met and a person who is hired to act like a sex puppet," Nagy told the committee. "Prostitution is rarely, if ever, about two consenting adults."

Those duelling narratives muddled the committee's work and caused headaches for the MPs studying the bill. "I grew up with two solitudes," NDP justice critic Françoise Boivin said. "I used to think it was English and French. Now I'm convinced it is prostitution." Which take on the sex trade is more accurate, MPs wondered: the one where women in confinement and desperation are forced to ply their trade under duress, or a less monolithic reality where some women consent and others end up there because of their circumstances.

"These can both be true," said Christa Big Canoe, legal advocacy director at Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto. "This committee should mostly be worried about the impact of the law on the second group."

The witness list, however, was largely stacked with anti-sex-work activists. Of the 60 hours of testimony, MPs heard mostly about positive outcomes in Sweden after the government implemented a ban on purchasing sex in 1999, as well as from women who worked in the sex trade in Canada and made it out and who now work to warn others away from the same fate. They also heard from groups that "rescue" sex workers and victims of human trafficking, more than a dozen of which endorsed the bill as effectively combating human trafficking.

Yet, despite $6 million in annual funding, a dedicated RCMP team and coordination centre, and several amendments that stiffened Criminal Code sanctions, Canada has laid virtually no human trafficking charges since the laws were implemented in 2005. As of the end of 2013, only 97 individuals have ever been convicted of human trafficking "and/or [human trafficking] related offences (ie forcible confinement, sexual assault, procuring, conspiracy, participating in a criminal organization)," according to the RCMP's own numbers.

> "Canada, like so many countries around the world, has a long and misguided history of criminalizing sexual activities on the basis of morality."
> UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TRUDEAU SCHOLAR KYLE KIRKUP

Nevertheless, human trafficking dominated much of the discussion around Bill C-36.

Sex-work groups like Ottawa's POWER, Victoria's Peers Resource Society, Montreal's Stella, Maggie's in Toronto, and Vancouver's PACE dispensed with the human trafficking angle and blasted the new laws as having a real impact on the working lives of the workers they represent.

"This shocking new bill stuns and horrifies me," said Sheri Kiselbach, coordinator of violence prevention at PACE. "It lacks insight, totally disregards evidence-based research and is a deliberate, unrealistic attempt to abolish prostitution in this country."

The sex-work organizations that testified said their members cautioned Parliament about an overly paternalistic view of sex work. "Although I feel like I had to become a sex worker to support my little girl, it was still my choice, and if I had to do it over again I would," said Rachel Phillips, executive director of Peers, quoting one of the society's members.

"When women like myself proclaim they are in the business by choice, but people insist on viewing it as victimization, it insinuates that we are not capable of making decisions for ourselves," she quoted another.

Sex-work advocates say C-36 does little but criminalize their industry and leave them in unsafe working conditions. They also expressed concern with the bill's original intent to criminalize sex workers who communicate with their clients anywhere that someone under the age of 18 "can reasonably be expected to be present."

However, in a committee meeting on July 8, Conservatives amended the bill to remove the broad public solicitation ban and instead criminalize only those sex workers who communicate with their clients in public view of a school, playground or daycare centre.

"The underlying logic behind Bill C-36 is not new," says University of Toronto Trudeau scholar Kyle Kirkup. "Canada, like so many countries around the world, has a long and misguided history of criminalizing sexual activities on the basis of morality."

Emulating Sweden's attempts, which have had inconclusive results, will not work, he continues. "We might call this 'made in Canada' approach the Nordic model's bigger, deadlier cousin." X



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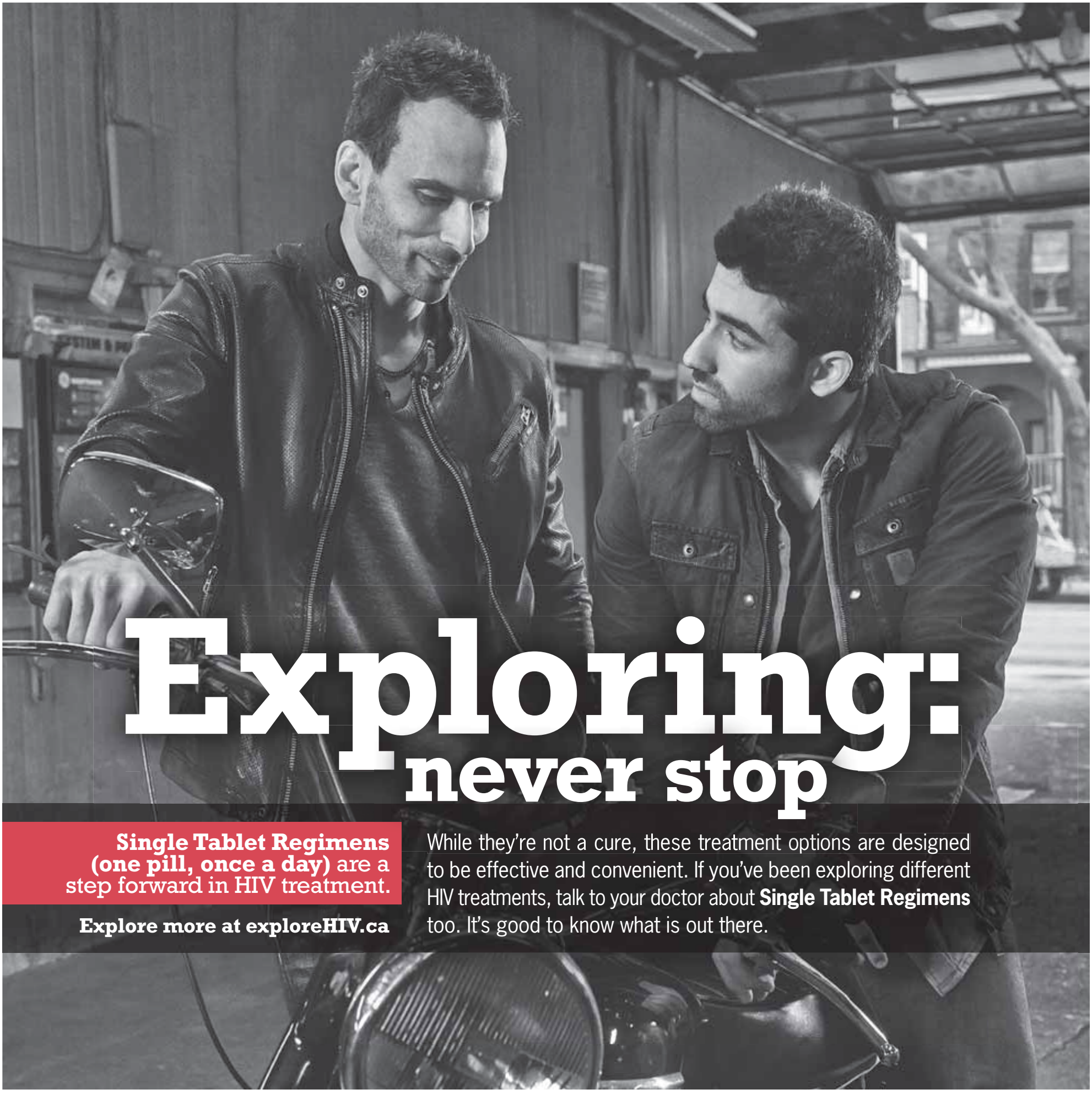
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Getting to the bottom of anal sex

Why are we so reluctant to discuss the dirty details of butt play?

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 bath towel," argues sex columnist and blogger Andrea Zanin. "Some people like to do a bit of douching before anal sex, but it's by no means mandatory."

Zanin, who has been writing about queer sexuality, non-monogamy and BDSM/leather for more than a decade, advocates safe-sex preparation

continued next page



A bulb douche is commonly used to clean the anus before anal sex, while a shower douche can be used before deep penetration.

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.

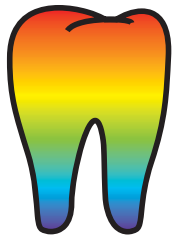
Fill a sink with lukewarm water (this is important, as cold water can irritate your rectum). Fill the douche until full. Lube up both the anus and the douche wand and insert. Squeeze the bulb until it is completely empty and remove while keeping your sphincter closed. Try to hold it for five minutes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

Deep cleaning (shower douche)

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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FROM THE STAFF OF Xtra!
VANCOUVER'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

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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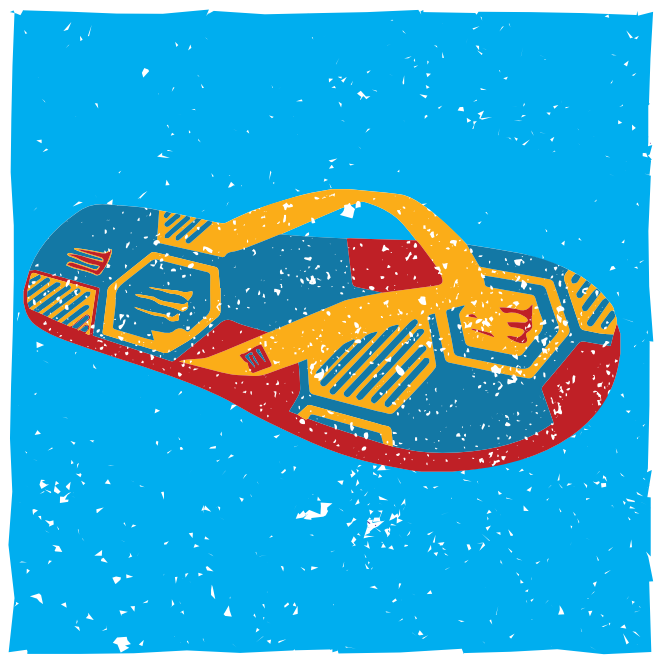
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The evolution of Oliv

From biker chick to empress to Fossil, but (almost) never drab



Oliv's very full life has included stints as a DJ at Champagne Charlie's, a den mother to a hippie commune, a heroin addict, a tireless volunteer, a biker chick, a drag queen and so much more. TALLULAH



STILL QQ
KEVIN DALE MCKEOWN

"Batshit crazy."

That's what many would reply if Oliv's name came up in a word association game. But as Krishnamurti put it, "It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society." And Oliv Howe is one who truly understands just how sick our society has become.

A little eccentricity might be forgiven in light of Oliv's personal history. "Just a New Brunswick farm girl," Oliv was born into a fanatical Jehovah's Witness family and recalls sitting at the kitchen table, aged five, while her father aimed a loaded rifle at his "sissy boy," screaming threats and calling him "Lucifer's child."

"I remember sitting there dead quiet, not giving the bastard the satisfaction of seeing me cry, thinking to myself, 'Go ahead, shoot me. You can't make things any worse than you have already.'"

Small wonder that Oliv ran away from the farmstead numerous times before finally, at 14, winding up in Montreal's thriving 1960s nightlife scene. Through wit, talent and the guidance of a loving mentor, little Oliv found her way into a madcap career, developing stage and cosmetic skills that have served her well through the decades.

Hopping a freight car across Canada, working in theatre and film, denmothering a hippie commune, hanging out with San Francisco's notorious Cockettes at the height of the Haight-Ashbury era, or zipping around Vancouver on the back of a Harley, a bona fide "biker chick," Oliv always looked fabulous.

When Oliv arrived in Vancouver in 1969, she was sufficiently entranced by our town to return a year later, landing her first local gig as a DJ at Champagne Charlie's.

From the tiny DJ booth at Charlie's, Oliv's Vancouver career continued the in-your-face adventurism that she'd refined in Montreal and San Francisco. Though often considered a "famous drag queen" back in the day, Oliv's public appearances and evolving personae (and I do mean the plural) were always more about performance art than traditional drag. My own earliest memory of Oliv involved a lot of balloons that were rhythmically popped throughout her show, to finally reveal… well, Oliv!

As for those evolving personae, the name we know her by today had its origins in her war-surplus camo phase, where she showed us just how colourful "olive drab" could really be. Olive Drab became Olive Pink, became just Oliv.

Today a new generation has embraced yet another identity for this one-woman show. "I started telling the kids that I used to be a dinosaur, but now I'm a fossil," she explains. "So now a lot of folks just call me Fossil, and I'm good with it!"

I've been trying to come up with an apt descriptive for Oliv's most recent evolution and have settled on "albino Goth meets Byzantine empress." It's as close as I can get.

You don't get to be a standout like Oliv without having explored and been exploited by the seamier side of life. Drugs have played their part and taken their toll, and Oliv is candid in discussing that part of her past.

"I grew up near an army base where heroin was easier for a kid to get hold of than cigarettes. The soldiers were coming and going all the time, and drugs were the currency. I'd had my first 'taste' before I was 10 and marked my 41st heroin-free anniversary last November."

Decades of living with HIV, finding a personal epiphany through LSD ("it saved my life"), opening up a new decade as Vancouver's Empress X, a close call with some razor blades and a bathtub that led to a full acceptance of herself as a transgender woman, and a serious stroke 20 years ago that caused her to push the pause button on some of life's excesses and find treatment for AIDS, are all parts of the Oliv story that could each be their own full-length column.

Never mind trying to squeeze in the tremendous amount of volunteer work that Oliv has done, and continues to do, including a weekly stint "waitressing" at the Positive Living Centre. All that and a thrice-weekly bike ride around Stanley Park — just to keep busy!

Among those who knew the person behind the performance was the late Empress of Canada ted northe. According to another family friend, Reg Manning, Oliv would visit with ted's family in Chilliwack and go fishing with ted's dad, who once said, "That boy is strange, but he is very smart and he has a good heart."

I think ted's dad nailed it. X

Kevin Dale McKeown was Vancouver's first out gay columnist in the early 1970s. Email stillqq@dailyxtra.com.

Common sex injuries

A little blood and bruising generally okay for men under 40



ASK THE EXPERT
DR PEGA REN

Dear Dr Ren,
I had oral sex not too long ago and found it difficult — and somewhat painful — to ejaculate. Afterward, my partner mentioned blood in my semen. I then noticed a big purple bruise on the head of my penis. Later I had to strain to pee. It burned a little and was a bit bloody. Do you know why this happened? Do I need to do anything about this? How can I prevent it happening again?

–Alarmed

Dear Alarmed,
Finding blood in semen, called hematospermia or hemospermia, can certainly make a man anxious. Fortunately, it generally doesn't signal a major problem if you are under age 40, with no related symptoms and no other risk factors for underlying medical conditions. It will likely resolve itself and prove to be a singular event.

Actually, this situation may be more common than we suspect, as men generally don't examine their semen for blood. It may be a fairly typical response to vigorous sex, as the male reproductive system contains copious amounts of tubing and the source of bleeding could be anywhere in the system. Still, thrombosed lymphatic vessels make a big show but rarely signal serious trouble.

But the news changes for men over 40, especially those who have repeated episodes of bloody semen, have experienced related symptoms while urinating or ejaculating, or are at risk for cancer, a bleeding or coagulation disorder, or other related conditions. In these situations, a medical assessment is advised.

Note: if the blood is red or pink, it likely originates in the urethra; if it is dark, it may come from the prostate or the seminal vesicles.

Because one of the most common causes is inflammation in the urethra or prostate gland due to an infection, it is sensible to check this out if you experience repeated episodes, regardless of your age.

As to the bruising on your penis, you'll probably find a matching blue patch on the soft palate of your lover. Sounds like you probably got a bit carried away with the thrill of the moment and the increased pain-dulling endorphins from arousal overrode your pain receptors. You feel less pain when aroused. Had you not been having so much fun thrusting, you'd have felt the irritation. Not to worry; this bruise will likely fade like any other.

Injuries from sex are more common than you might think. A bruise can be caused by something as simple as donning too tight a cockring. We don't realize the commonplace nature of such injuries because we aren't comfortable talking about "those" matters. Many of the issues presented on a popular TV show about sex and the emergency room could be resolved easily if we could only eliminate sexual shame and misinformation.

The message, then, is twofold. First, understand how common, albeit alarming, minor sexual injuries are — and relax a bit. Second, be aware that repeated injuries may signal systemic issues that warrant a medical assessment.

In a very small percentage of men (approximately three percent), bruising can cause a heavy scar that makes the penile shaft bend or curve when erect. This is called Peyronie's disease (it's a condition, not a disease). Occasionally, this can become so severe and painful that sexual activity becomes impossible. Mind you, even Peyronie's can be reversed in many cases, but this is one situation where prevention is definitely preferable.

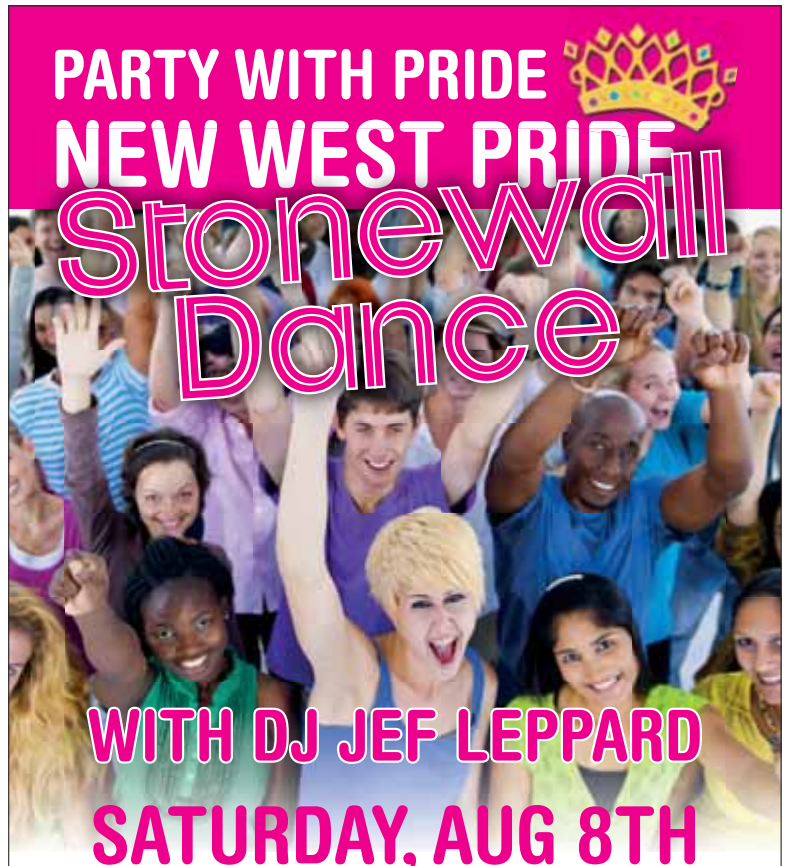
If you want to minimize the opportunity for injury, consistently use lots of lubrication during sex. Most injuries that follow vigorous activity are caused by skin getting abused. Lube will prevent or minimize the chances for pulling and chafing.

And try to be a bit gentle with your sensitive bits. After all, you want them to last a lifetime. X

Have a question for Dr Ren? Send an email to asktheexpert@dailyxtra.com.











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“It’s much easier to seduce straight men... when they are getting dazzled by all the nudity and gender confusion.” Boulet Brothers ▸28

Amazing buds

Ryan and Rob are this season’s bartender ‘bros’ on The Amazing Race Canada

TV
RAZIEL REID

“They haven’t outed us yet,” Rob Goddard says. “I think they’re just waiting.”

“It’ll be interesting to see where it goes,” Ryan Steele adds. “They have photos of me in drag from my [Ryan and Amy Show] comedy persona, and also Rob’s Mr Gay Canada platform, so I’m sure that’ll pop up sometime this season.”

For now, best friends Steele and Goddard are being portrayed as the beefcake on Season 2 of *The Amazing Race Canada* rather than the token gays. Is the show trying to capitalize on their stud status without disappointing female viewers? Are the producers planning to play up the element of surprise? Or is it simply a matter of their homosexuality being irrelevant to the game?

Maybe it’s because this season of *The Amazing Race Canada* is already gay enough. There are three homo teams competing, including bickering gay couple Rex Harrington and Bob Hope and married lesbian couple Laura Takahashi and Jackie Skinner.

Whatever the reason for Goddard and Steele’s “bro” portrayal, both seem to be enjoying the ambiguity.

“It’s refreshing that our sexuality isn’t the focal point and we’re just being seen as the boys,” Steele says.

Goddard, who works as a bartender at Five Sixty, is getting a kick out of all the straight guys who recognize him from the show and have no idea he’s gay.

“It’s funny working in a hip-hop nightclub,” he says. “All these guys come up to me and say, ‘Oh, you’re that guy from *The Amazing Race*’ with all this bro energy because we’re being portrayed as these masculine guys — and then they’re going to find out about Mr Gay Canada and all that stuff.”

Not that anyone needs the show to reveal Steele and Goddard’s sexuality. It doesn’t take much digging to discover that they are popular members of Vancouver’s gay community (and if you’ve seen them without their shirts on, you know why). And although their sexuality has yet to come up on TV, it is casually referenced in their online team biography.

The home team is so popular in Vancouver’s gay village that more than 150 people joined them for a screening of the premiere episode of *The Amazing Race* at The Junction on July 8.

Beneath the duo’s impressive pecs are big hearts and a deep affection for each other. But they insist the affection is strictly platonic because, as Steele puts it, “Rob likes old daddies.”

It’s this solid (and teasing) friendship that got them through the adventure of a lifetime without a single meltdown.

“We didn’t fight once,” Steele says. “We got short with each other when we were in stressful situations, but we didn’t fight. Rob was the one, when I was under pressure or about to freak out, who remained calm and helped me keep it together. I couldn’t have done it with anybody else.”

The two became friends several years ago while working together as bartenders and quickly became workout buddies and then travel partners. Their previous experiences on the road together may have helped them during the race, but surprisingly, the same can’t be said for all that pumped iron.

> “It’s refreshing that our sexuality isn’t the focal point and we’re just being seen as the boys.”
> AMAZING RACE CONTESTANT RYAN STEELE

“We’re active guys,” Steele says. “I run regularly, but that didn’t really help me much. [The game] is much more mental.”

Just ask Goddard, who in the first episode was challenged to memorize and recite a traditional high tea menu at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, a task that took him a few tries to complete.

“I work in the industry having to memorize drinks, so for me to take so long at that...” he says with a laugh. “A lot of people were like, ‘Really, Rob, you should’ve nailed that!’ so that was kind of embarrassing. They just don’t understand the pressure we were under!”

Although they’re under contract to stay tight-lipped about their *Amazing Race* journey until the episodes air, Steele and Goddard hint that there may be more surprises in store for viewers than just their outing.

Asked about the highlight of his experience, Goddard simply says, “Making a comeback...” X

THE AMAZING RACE CANADA
Airs Tuesdays at 9pm PST on CTV



Ryan Steele and Rob Goddard are the best-friend beefcakes on this season of *The Amazing Race Canada*.
THE AMAZING RACE CANADA

MORE AT DAILYXTRA.COM

COVER STORY

A year after fleeing Montenegro, Zdravko Cimbaljevic celebrates Vancouver Pride as a legal resident

PROUD NEWCOMER

SHAUNA LEWIS

It's been eight months since 30-year-old Zdravko Cimbaljevic started his new life.

Originally from the small Balkan state of Montenegro, where he faced continual death threats as a prominent gay activist, Cimbaljevic was granted asylum in Vancouver last fall and has been trying, successfully, to adapt. But building a new life, however welcome, is not without its challenges.

"It's hard when you start life from zero, and it seems like you never existed and you have to prove yourself again," he says. "It's like having to jump into a new circle and you don't have family. You don't have anyone."

Cimbaljevic is thankful for the support he has received from the men he calls his "Canadian uncles" — men who took him in, gave him a place to stay and stood by him through a year of adjustments.

"I've been lucky for those people who have supported me," he says. Others fleeing persecution often aren't so lucky, he notes.

Cimbaljevic's public efforts to host his country's first Pride parade and to create a gay rights forum, though dangerous, made it easier for him to prove to Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board that he is gay and was in jeopardy. But, he says, people living outside the international spotlight often have a more difficult time proving their sexuality when seeking refugee status.

He believes more can be done locally to help potential gay refugees struggling around the world. "Vancouver Pride is actually a gateway to raise an issue," says Cimbaljevic, who helped lead last year's parade as its international grand marshal. "As a refugee, I want to bring up the issue that refugees who are trying to come to Canada are faced with in their countries. Being grand marshal opened the door for me."

Despite its annual call for nominations, the Vancouver Pride Society (VPS) received no suggestions this year for an international grand marshal to help lead the parade. (Local community pioneer ted northe will be honoured posthumously, along with WinterPride co-founder Dean Nelson and trans filmmaker Gwen Haworth.)

As much as Cimbaljevic appreciates the warm reception he received here last year, he says he wishes "our Pride could be more community-based and more about raising issues around us. We need to give others hope that they can do it — hope like the VPS gave me."

He would like to see the VPS organize an international human rights conference for Pride, similar to what was held in Toronto during WorldPride.

"That sounds like a fantastic idea," says VPS general manager Ray Lam.

"A lot of people see Pride as a big celebration and a party, but it's really about a focus on our issues," Lam says. "The VPS has produced conferences in the past and will continue to do so again if the conditions were right," he says, remembering the national Fierté Canada Pride conference in 2007 and the InterPride conference the VPS hosted in 2008, in addition to the more local BC Prides Summit in 2011.

"So long as we're not competing with the other conferences within our network, because we all essentially attract the same groups of people," he adds.

Cimbaljevic recently returned from WorldPride in Toronto, where he marched in the nearly six-hour parade and participated in the human rights conference. "It was amazing!" he says.

"It was a really good experience. I saw friends and fellow activists that I hadn't seen in a long time, and I met so many connections and so many people that can help me and other refugees," he says. "It's not only important to gather refugees together for support. It's important to get all Canadians on board to help with the issue because we need the help."

Having been granted his own asylum, Cimbaljevic is now determined to assist others seeking asylum. "I'm trying to give back and help those who come to Canada and must go through the same process that I did," he says. "There are so many other [refugees] that come here and have a language barrier and who are not activists. They are regular people who are trying to escape persecution, and they don't have the treatment that I did because people don't know about them."

For his part, Cimbaljevic is looking forward to his first Vancouver Pride as a legal resident of the city. "It's a very strange feeling for me to have been a guest last year at Pride and now, a year later, to be a refugee in the same city," he says.

"I feel more a part of society. I feel more settled, but I'm still lost in regard to my professional career," he admits. "It's very hard for refugees, even ones like me who finish university, to start a life here because many of us need to go through education again, and we need to start with basic jobs."

He says he plans to continue his education and has applied for permanent residency, a decision he hopes to hear this fall. X

ZDRAVKO'S PRIDE PICKS

Asked which Pride events he's most looking forward to attending this year, Zdravko Cimbaljevic starts with the **official Pride Week launch** at city hall on Mon, July 28.

He also recommends the **Queer Arts Festival**, and particularly its refugee mural, which runs until Sat, Aug 9. And, he says, he's planning to attend the **Davie Street Block Party** on Fri, Aug 1, then the **Untoxicated party**, presented by the Last Door Recovery Society, and **Reset**, at Heaven's Door, both on Sun, Aug 3.



“It’s a very strange feeling for me to have been a guest last year at Pride and now, a year later, to be a refugee in the same city.”

Nearly a year after fleeing persecution, Zdravko Cimbaljevic is grateful for the support he received from his “Canadian uncles,” who took him in, gave him a place to stay and stood by him through a year of adjustments.

SHIMON KARMEL



Can we have a word?

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PRIDE PICKS

For the art lovers

GREG ARMSTRONG-MORRIS

If you want to know what Pride means to me, go see *The Normal Heart*, running until Sat, Aug 16 at the Jericho Arts Centre, staged by the Ensemble Theatre Company. Did you see the HBO film? Good. Now go see the play. This is the kind of script that was meant to be seen live. It's a powerful, not-so-distant history lesson. See it, then cover yourself in glitter and dance your queer ass off for Pride Week.

Wed, July 30

Queer Arts Festival With an always surprising array of visual and performing arts, Vancouver's three-week Queer Arts Festival, which runs until Sat, Aug 9, is one of my favourite summer dos.

Thurs, July 31

Alien Sex I'll go to anything David Bloom concocts. This time it's a mix of whimsy, savage poetry, heartbreaking vulnerability and B-movie joy that fearlessly explores the strange, beautiful and sometimes inexplicable territory of human sexuality. Alien sex? Bring it! One night only at the Queer Arts Festival.

Gay Agenda After the intergalactic weirdness of *Alien Sex*, I'm heading for Eastside sex and a little Gay Agenda at The Cobalt! Eager Cobalt boys will be going bare as they dare in a dick-a-licious tourney for the title of Mr Pride RainBro!

Fri, Aug 1

Davie Street Block Party As much as I hate to be caged when I drink, I'll go. Pride organizers can't be blamed for archaic liquor laws, but could we please, please do something about the lacklustre selection of beers on offer? Granville Island Brewing Company is, like, right there!

Sat, Aug 2

Queer Bash Pride Edition I'll be returning to The Cobalt in search of my dignity, which I will have undoubtedly left at the sneakered feet of some lithe, boy-toy cum stripper the night before.

Sun, Aug 3

Pride parade Brunch and too many mimosas will lead to the parade and too many snide comments, for which I will be punished with my annual bout of Pride sunstroke.

Big Gay Sing If the sunstroke hasn't knocked me flat, I'll be on my feet for the Vancouver Men's Chorus's maxi-gay sing-along. After all, "I am what I am." Hosted by humpy Jamie Foster and adorkable Mok Escueta.

Mon, Aug 4

Corona Recovery Patio Party I'm glad The PumpJack has expanded — I'm gonna wanna let it all hang out and then spread it around some.

For the ladies

ALEXANDRA CHUBA

Trying to find a Pride lesbian event in Vancouver is like trying to locate your G-spot. You know it exists, you've heard the stories, seen the pictures, but no one has correct documentation or instructions. Here are my top tips to help you hit the spot:

Wed, July 30

For the cultured queer Pride starts for me on July 23 when the Queer Arts Festival opens. My iCal is synched until the festival's closing party on Sat, Aug 9.

Fri, Aug 1

For the sailors Whether you choose Flygirl's Chicks Ahoy boat cruise or Crema's Hot & Wet boat cruise on Fri, Aug 1, I've got a few tips to share. Ladies, though you look really hot in your stilettos, please don't wear them on the damn boat. I am still pissed at the girl in the white go-go boots who took me out two years ago. It's a small, wet boat with usually one working toilet 20 minutes in, so leave the heels at home and bring tons of cash, because the only thing included are the hot chicks who can't run away from you.

Sat, Aug 2

For the dykes Sat, Aug 2 is our day. Hot dykes on bikes, women marching together, tiny tank tops, freshly spiked hair ... I can smell the BO and vegan hotdogs already! Join the sea of beauties at the Vancouver Dyke March and Festival as we walk down Commercial Drive to Grandview Park, starting at noon. This is the day where you can bring your fur children and snuggle out all the guilt you're likely to build up as the weekend wears on. Tip: Bring sunscreen, a blanket and tofu jerky. All three will help you meet new friends.

Sun, Aug 3

For the laid-back partier After sitting in the sun all day swatting away the screaming idiots trying to steal a corner of your flannel blanket, count down the minutes until Chicas, the infamous lesbian midday dance party on Sun, Aug 3. Sure, you decide every year after Pride that you're done going to Chicas, but really, are we ever? It is the top party of the weekend. Plus, you get to duck out of the parade early to get your money's worth at Chicas because you spent your rent on tickets.

For the hardcore partier If you are still standing and have not passed out during the three hours of dead time since Chicas ended, head down to Hershe at the Plaza of Nations, where Flygirl will wrap up Pride with a full-on club scene. Not for the old at heart.



For more information on these events and many more, check out *Xtra's Ultimate Pride Guide* at upgvancouver.com.

For the shameless

RAZIEL REID

From the West End to East Van to Blood Alley to my toilet bowl, I'll be celebrating my Pride all over this town! And because I'm always a step ahead of the shame, I've written down where I'll be so that post-Pride, I can remember where I lost my dignity.

Thurs, July 31

Alien Sex Artists, writers, filmmakers, dancers, musicians and other multidimensional creatures will be coming down to earth for some *Alien Sex* and creation. I always say I like a little culture during Pride, and I don't just mean sleeping with tourists. The Queer Arts Festival presents a night of "tentacles wrestling the status quo." I'm not sure what to expect — octopus porn?

Fri, Aug 1

Davie Street Block Party I fill with rage every time the Vancouver Pride Society promotes Pride events as being for "families." Pride is for my vodka bottle more than for your chillun. Got it? Luckily, those snotty-nosed brats (and no, I'm not talking about drag queens) won't be able to get near me in the 19-plus beer garden.

Papa Party World Tour I joined this event page before I read the description. Papa party? Hello. Then I discovered it's even better than a bunch of daddies. Big Roger is introducing Tel Aviv's Eliad Cohen to Vancouver. His show has toured the world, with Cohen's pecs leaving quite the impression.

Sat, Aug 2

El Hangover If getting day-drunk in an East Van parking lot is an expression of Pride, I celebrate year-round.

BassMassage Surprising to no one I'm sure, I'll be dragging myself from a parking lot to an alley for BassMassage, which promises to be thick and jackin'. I hope they're not just talking about the house beats by DJs Nancy Dru and Taffi Louis! The party is being held in Gastown's Blood Alley Square, named, according to local legend, for all the blood spilled on the cobblestones by butchers at the turn of the 20th century. But after Pride, it might just have to be renamed Glitter Alley. Get ready to drain!

Sun, Aug 3

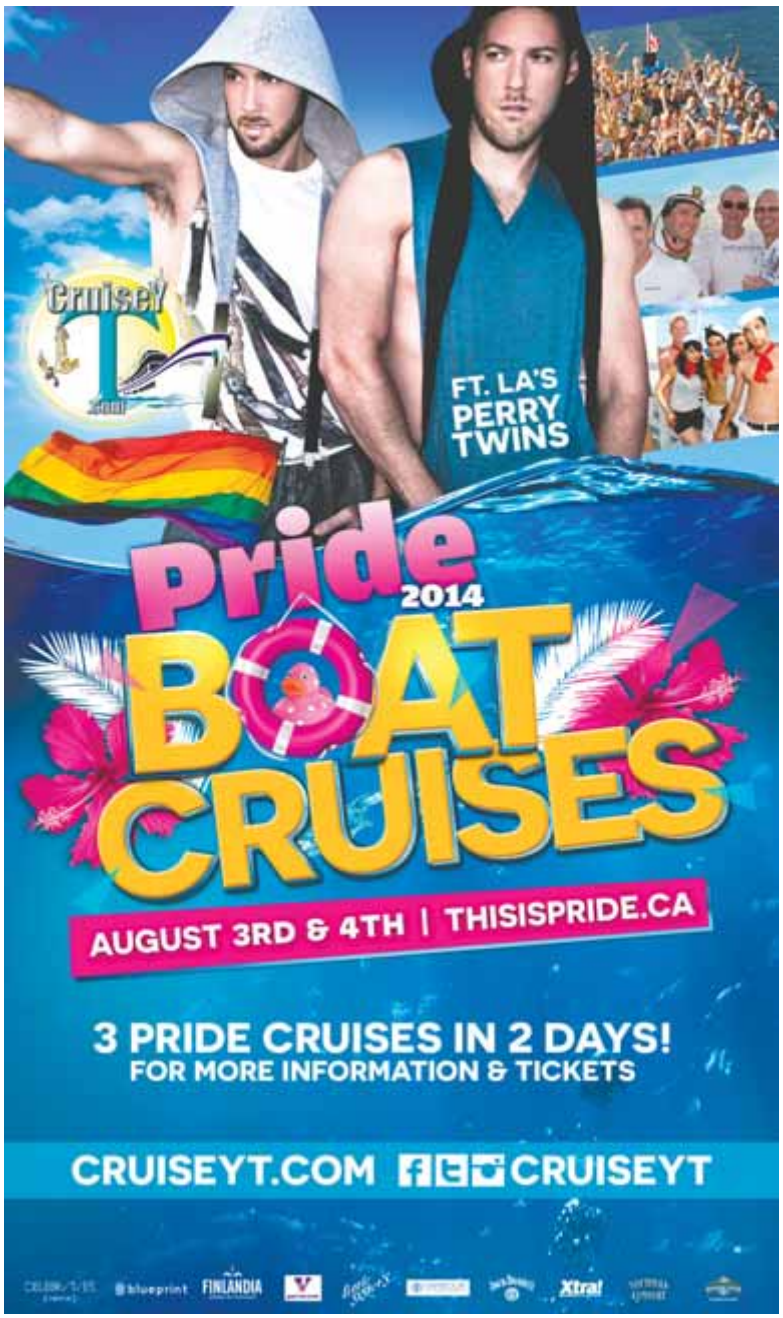
Pride parade Come find me on Denman Street, where I'll be with a crew filming the parade (aka holding it up as I sexually harass police officers). If you're as naked and drunk as I intend to be, I may just put you in front of the camera.

PumpJack on Water One of the best aspects of Vancouver Pride is the chance to get out on the ocean. My yacht of choice is the PumpJack on Water, a cruise in more ways than one. It's finally time to fulfill that fantasy of fucking a boat full of harnessed sailors! Who says you can't be productive during Pride?


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J'ADORE

RuPaul's Drag Race runner-up Adore Delano comes to town for Pride

RAZIEL REID


Drag Race star Adore Delano has a special love for Vancouver. AUSTIN YOUNG

There hasn't been a breakout star from *RuPaul's Drag Race* quite like Adore Delano. The Season 6 runner-up is so busy, she's a day ahead of me! I catch up with her by phone as she tours Australia and New Zealand.

"The crowds are freaking brutal here!" she exclaims. "They're really hardcore, man. There's fans outside my hotel. They think I'm more famous than I am!"

Or do they? Delano's debut album, *Till Death Do Us Party*, debuted at number three on the *Billboard* Dance/Electronic Albums chart, leaving Iggy Azalea in the dust and setting a new record for a *Drag Race* queen.

"I'm just myself," Delano says, when asked for the recipe to her success. "Pride yourself in being true to who you are. And have a purpose and a reason for everything you're doing, and be aware of timing. If you want to be successful, you have to work your ass off."

Although Adore is adored all over the world, she has a special place in the hearts of Vancouverites, having filmed the video for her third single, "Party," in the backyard of Vancouver's own Isolde N Barron and Peach Cobblah.

"I'm not lying; Vancouver is one of my favourite places that I've been to," Delano says. "When I was on Davie Street it was so gorgeous. I love Vancouver more than I love Chicago, and I love Chicago a lot!"

The affection is obviously mutual, with Delano being brought in for two gigs this summer. First, she'll be performing at Battle of the Seasons during Pride on Aug 2, then on Aug 21, she'll bring her solo show to Fortune Sound Club.

"I'm really nuts, so basically, expect a cat with rabies onstage," she says. "I'm a wild cat. I work off the energy, so that's why the shows here in Australia and New Zealand have been so successful."

"[*RuPaul's Drag Race*] is opening the eyes of so many people," she says.

> "Fuck it, man. You have to strike it while it's hot and do what you got to do. You can't hate the hustle."

"It's showing people that we're human beings and we do this for a living; this is a career choice. Usually, the straight couples at the shows are partying the hardest. They just want to have a good time and aren't taking it too seriously. We're like anime characters or superheroes to them!"

Like a superhero, Delano has some impressive talent. But when I ask if she feels more legitimate as a singer/songwriter (her first foray into reality television was on *American Idol*) than some of the other *Drag Race* girls, she's quick to defend her fellow queens.

"I think we all have different purposes in life," she says. "I wouldn't say 'legitimate' artist because that would be kind of mean. Some girls love performing in the bar scene, and I love the club scene, too — don't get me wrong. I love it; it's the most punk rock you can get as a drag queen. But I want to break boundaries; I want to be mainstream and carry on the legacy of RuPaul."

"Fuck it, man," she says, "you have to strike it while it's hot and do what you got to do. You can't hate the hustle. If you want to release a dance single that makes people shake their ass, more power to you."

The loyalty between sisters is strong, especially for the Season 6 top four, who share the same management and often travel together.

"I don't know any other season where the girls actually really genuinely love each other and like each others' company," Delano says. "After the shows or a night of clubbing, we all hang out in one of our rooms and are, like, cuddling and drooling all over each other. It's awesome, the love that we have. Since all three of them are old men, I always say I'm like the little sister that's, like, 'Mom said I can come — I'm tagging along!'"

OUTtv DOCS ON TUESDAYS



THIS AUGUST, GET REAL.

See OUTtv.ca for details and schedule

PAPA COMES TO PARTY

Israel's Eliad Cohen brings his world tour to Pride

RAZIEL REID

Israeli beefcake, producer and model Eliad Cohen's Papa Party has toured the world, landing on five continents and playing everywhere from the biggest cities to smaller towns in Europe and South America. Now, Big Roger Events brings him to Vancouver for its Pride weekend lineup.



"Pride is the self-confidence to be who you truly are," says model and Papa Party producer Eliad Cohen. ELIAD COHEN

XTRA: What is the inspiration behind the Papa Party?

ELIAD COHEN: The initial inspiration for the party was to fuse the sexy and masculine energy of the Middle East with a high-energy musical experience driven by a collaboration between myself and the top DJs in the scene.

What is Pride about for you?

Pride is the self-confidence to be who you truly are… To be proud of your sexual orientation is to block out any negativity, any obstacles that may stand in your way, and to move forward living an authentic life. No regrets, no shame, no turning back. Just unabashed pride in the person that you are.

PAPA PARTY
Fri, Aug 1, 9pm doors
The Imperial
319 Main St
bigrogerevents.com

What's the craziest memory you have of one of your parties?

I think the memory that stands out most for me was being in Florianópolis, Brazil, during the last Carnival. When I walked out onstage for the Papa Party, I saw over 3,000 people stretching back as far as I could see.

KINKY BROTHERS

The Boulet Brothers brought their 'perverse pansexuality' to Fetish Weekend



Legendary New York/LA party promoters and performers the Boulet Brothers hosted Vancouver's second annual Fetish Weekend to kick off Pride. BOULET BROTHERS

RAZIEL REID

The Boulet Brothers draw inspiration from Bozo the Clown, Disney villains and Faye Dunaway, as Joan Crawford in *Mommie Dearest*, who, as the brothers put it, "taught us what good morals were and what it really took to get ahead in life." They've made Los Angeles the playground for their "perverse pansexual monster" fetish parties and brought the latex across the border for Vancouver's 2014 Fetish Weekend.

XTRA: How did you start in the fetish party scene?

BOULET BROTHERS: Back in the old days when we lived in New York and were just starting out, Mayor Giuliani was cracking down on all of the wild clubs and ruining everyone's fun. Club promoters were getting fined, and all the good clubs were getting shut down, and we finally just decided to move to Los Angeles and do something different.

When we got here, everything seemed very segregated as far as sexuality and parties went — the gay clubs were over here and the straight clubs were over there and the fetish clubs were somewhere else, and it was just making it hard for everyone to hook up and have sex, so we decided to throw our own parties and just mix everyone together.

Do you get something out of fetish events that you don't find in other areas of nightlife?

Absolutely! We find there is a certain freedom of expression that comes with fetish events that we love being a part of. People are really wearing, doing and acting however they want with no fear of judgment, and we live for that kind of energy and freedom. Also, it's much easier to seduce straight men into becoming our concubines when they are getting dazzled by all the nudity and gender confusion that comes with a fetish party, so that is a bonus, of course.

What is the most memorable party, look or performance you've conceptualized?

Oh, it's all memorable and outrageous… Last month we had garden hoses hid in the ceiling and turned them on onto the crowd while a drag queen performed to Donna Summer's "Mac-Arthur Park." Someone had a seizure from the strobe lights we used to make lighting, and a lot of cellphones were ruined, so I imagine it was a pretty memorable night for some people.

Read the full interview on dailyxtra.com.





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The name may get you in the door, but it's Fatburger's fresh made-to-order fare that has inspired such fierce loyalty since the first restaurant opened in Los Angeles in 1952.

Since its arrival in Canada in 2005, starting at the foot of the Village on Denman Street, Fatburger has grown to more than 40 licensed quick-casual, takeout and sit-down restaurants across the country. With its fresh, certified AAA Angus beef burgers with more than 25 premium toppings and sauces, hand-scooped milkshakes and crispy skin-on fries, Fatburger really does live up to its promise of higher quality, greater variety and better value.



CANNIBAL CAFÉ



LEAH BROMLEY

Vera's Burger Shack

1030 Davie St, 1181 Denman St and various locations around the Lower Mainland
verasburgershack.com

Yes, Virginia, there really is a Vera. Born from humble beginnings in 1977 at West Vancouver's Dundarave Pier, under the watchful eye of Vera and her husband, Frank, Vera's Burger Shack has grown to 16 fully licensed locations across the Lower Mainland. With its fresh, cooked-to-order burgers, top-tier ingredients, double-fried fries and monthly burger specials, it comes as no surprise that Vera's Burger Shack has been named Vancouver's top burger joint 11 years running. As the slogan says, you really can't beat Vera's meat.

The Cannibal Café

1818 Commercial Dr
cannibalcafe.ca

When was the last time you ate a burger cooked exactly the way you want it in a living testament to our city's punk-rock heritage? While most burger joints in Vancouver are able to offer up only a well-done patty, at the cheekily named Cannibal Café (named after the song by local band SNFU), you really can have it your way.

"We hand grind our beef every day to very specific standards," general manager Jen Temple explains, "so we can cook our burgers medium. It is all part of our quest to serve the best burger in Vancouver." If the BC-grown, grass-fed, hormone-free and certified organic meat isn't enough to get you salivating, Cannibal Café also offers a new featured burger each month. And soon, patrons will have the opportunity to suggest their own burger creations, like the recent Bacon Bad burger that commemorated the end of the *Breaking Bad* television series.

While burgers are the ultimate draw here, the warm and inviting café invites patrons to enjoy its many concert posters from Vancouver's punk-rock heyday. Come reminisce, savour the food, and, if you're lucky, you might just be the special of the day.



CANNIBAL CAFÉ

Splitz Grill

4242 Main St
splitzgrill.com

It's not every day that you have a Four Seasons–trained, Red Seal chef making and flippin' burgers. But that is exactly what you get at the family-run Splitz Grill on Main Street. Alongside his wife, Miriam, and their daughter, Chef Trevor Jackson has been innovating with his burger recipes since the family opened its first location in Whistler in 1997. With nine different patty choices, 30 toppings and their legendary $3.99 weekday lentil or Splitz burger special, they really do mean it when they say, "You get to choose what goes on between your buns."



SPLITZ GRILL



DEACON'S CORNER

Deacon's Corner

101 Main St
deaconscorner.ca

Gastown's original Southern-style diner, Deacon's Corner, is best known for its legendary all-day breakfasts, but its burgers are nothing to sneeze at. Made with only fresh, quality prime-cut meat in six- or 12- ounce versions, these classic beef burgers nestle next to Deacon's equally audacious single- or double-breast chicken burger on the menu. And what Southern diner would be complete without fried chicken, pulled pork, grits, and biscuits and gravy? With its Texas-size portions of classic comfort food, combined with a casual and friendly atmosphere, Deacon's Corner is more than just breakfast these days.



Ticketing	Regular	Discounted*
Membership	$5	$2
Single & Gala Film Ticket	$12	$8
Six Pack	$66	$42
Scotiabank Super Pass	$165	$135

*Discounted memberships are for youth only. Discounted ticket/SUPER PASS prices available for students and seniors with valid ID, and underemployed patrons [no verification required.]

Ticket Outlets

queerfilmfestival.ca

Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium
1238 Davie Street
Open daily, 10am – 11pm
Tickets available until 11pm the day before the screening.
Wheelchair accessible.

Questions?

Call the Box Office info line
778.875.8363 powered by Caya

At the Door

Based on availability, tickets may be purchased at the theatre where the film is screening. The box office opens 30 minutes prior to the first screening of the day.

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THURSDAY | AUG 14
Opening Gala



The Way He Looks
7pm | Vancouver Playhouse | CC
As a blind teenager in a small Brazilian town, Leonardo is weary of his overprotective parents and bullying classmates. Everything changes when a new boy, Gabriel, transfers into his class, and Leonardo's struggle for identity and independence takes on new direction.

FRIDAY | AUG 15

BOYS (Jongens)
7pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
Training together for a relay track championship, Sieger begins to feel a mutual attraction with Marc. He immediately distracts himself with a new activity, motocross, and pursues a relationship with Jessica. Will the boys have another chance at romance before the race is over?

Appropriate Behavior
7pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
Shirin is closeted to her progressive yet traditional Persian family, self-absorbed and socially clueless. After a break-up with her girlfriend, she rebels on a pansexual exploration to figure out just what went wrong.

Eastern Boys
9pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
A seductive drama/thriller/love story about a middle-aged businessman, Daniel and a beautiful young hustler, Marek.

A Street in Palermo
930pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts | CC
En route to a wedding, Rosa and Clara are on the verge of breaking up—and they're lost. In the confines of a narrow street, the modern couple drives smack into a right-of-way standoff with the Calfiore family. To budge would be to concede defeat. Not an option!

Opening Gala Party
10pm | FanClub
$5 Membership required
Join us in this unique space for special performances by Liz Milton on the grand piano and Madame Mae | on the whiskey bar. DJ G-Luve will keep your feet moving with pop-up performances by Kira Schaffer on aerials! Enjoy delicious snacks from the FanClub kitchen.

SATURDAY | AUG 16

Secrets of Successful Crowdfunding
2pm| Tides Canada | FREE
What strategies and resources do you need to make crowdfunding successful? Learn from someone who's done it well! Writer/director/producer Maureen Bradley takes us through all the stages of her successful crowd funding campaign for the micro-budget feature, Two 4 One.
Register by emailing workshops@outonscreen.com

Aquaporko! + Grrrls in Space
430pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
Dive into a world of sisterhood, queer community and radical body politics! Presented alongside **We Won't Wanna Marry**, **Little Vulvah and Her Clitoral Awareness**, **Waack Revolt**, **Orbitas** (a Pixar-like dreamscape of intergalactic femme romance) and so much more.

Crashing the Porn Party
7pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
What kind of porn do pornographers like to watch? Feminist Porn Award's "Visionary" and Pink & White Production's founding director Shine Louise Houston in collaboration with queer porn star Jiz Lee curate a show-and-tell of erotic short films slanted towards a lesbian persuasion.

GRIND: Hookup Shorts
715pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
One cute awkward guy asks his suave friend to imitate him on hookup sites—and even better yet, it all takes place as a musical! Gaysian delivers pure comedy gold as it pokes fun at those who declare "No Asians" in their dating profiles.

The Foxy Merkins
9pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
Neurotic, schlumpy and the least likely of a line-up of lesbians to be an escort, Margaret finds her way to sex work with the help of the wry, seasoned pro Jo. They cruise upscale New York neighbourhoods awkwardly, looking for rich Republican tricks outside of women's clothing stores.

Club King
930pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
Mario Diaz knows how to throw a party and he's been doing it for decades. He's hot, his friends are hot and his go-go boys are hotter. This energizing documentary by Jon Bush features colourful tales of pissing contests, costume crises—and unending respect for the man they call the Party Master.

Funk 'n Grind with Queer as Funk
10pm | The Imperial
$5 Membership required
Queer as Funk brings together nine of the city's hottest queer musicians in an explosive, high-energy dance band. Drag diva Anna Propriette and burlesque star Just Call Her Heather start off a night of sexy visuals by Erica-Lapadat Janzen and music by DJs Daniel Pitout and Kasey Riot. Watch for guests Mario Diaz and Jon Bush from Club King and Shine Louise Houston from Crashing the Porn Party.

SUNDAY | AUG 17

Queer Families Picnic
1030am | Granville Island | FREE
Blast a rainbow assortment of kazoos and sing along with the Dukes of Uke, then dance to the beats of Disco, Baby! Bring a blanket and some snacks, and join us for a queer families' picnic on the grassy field behind the False Creek Community Centre, beside the Granville Island Waterpark.

KinderKino: Films for Kids!
12pm | Studio 1398 | FREE
Hey Kids! Bring your families to this fun collection of whimsical short films—there's animation and music, and plenty of stories about kids like you from around the world!

Not Your Parents' Poetry
330pm-5pm | Studio 1398 | FREE
Join Out On Screen and Poetry Is Dead for a youth-focussed workshop on writing poetry for the page and the stage. Facilitators will lead youth ages 15-25 through writing prompts and creative writing exercises to produce a variety of poems, to be presented at the Poetry Isn't Dead Youth Showcase (see below.)

Through a Lens Darkly
430pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
Gay artist and filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris presents a fascinating exploration of the history of African Americans in pictures and the power of self-expression in reclaiming a national identity. Allen assembles a collection of rare portraits dating back to 1840, and moves forward in time.

Poetry isn't Dead
7pm | Studio 1398 | FREE
Slamming poetic talents and the voices of today and tomorrow. Leading Vancouver-based poets join forces with young wordsmiths from the Not Your Parents' Poetry youth workshop who have so much to say—about gender, love, and the exhilaration of sharing one's voice and stories.



Drunktown's Finest
Spotlight Director: Sydney Freeland
7pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
Explore the intersecting stories of three seemingly disparate young people of the Navajo Nation: obedient Nizhoni, winsome Felixia and unruly Sick Boy. In her breakout role, transgender actress Carmen Moore artfully portrays Felixia, a two-spirit or Nadleeh woman whose dreams of being a model overlap with her desire to be respected in her own community.

Test
7pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts | ASL
This is San Francisco, 1985. HIV has invaded the city, bringing with it headlines speculating on gay quarantines. Todd offers unexpected support to Frankie, but his boasts of risky sexual adventures tangle suspicion and resentment into their developing friendship.

Bad Hair (Pelo Malo)
9pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts | CC
As Marta becomes increasingly embittered under the weight of

economic inequality, she reacts more cruelly to her son Junior's antics, who wants nothing more than to straighten his hair and become a performer.

A Self-Made Man
930pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
From the tattoo parlour to his work as a gregarious trans youth support group facilitator, Tony Ferriaolo generously invites us into his life, sharing reflections about his own masculinity and story of gender transition. Youth voices feature strongly in this refreshing, short documentary.

MONDAY | AUG 18

Young 'n Fierce 'n Fabulous
4pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
An eclectic mix of shorts featuring a grrrl-fuelled rock 'n roll bang in Dreamworld Waiting, the thoughtful local Asian activists of Radicalizing Intimacy, some sweetly Crushed skateboarders, and the Princess himself. Out in Schools facilitators will make an appearance too!

BOYS (Jongens)
7pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
See AUG 15 for film details.

Sins Invalid
7pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts | CC | ASL
Live performance meets mesmerizingly sexy as Sins Invalid provides us "an un-shamed claim to beauty in the face of invisibility." Highlighting the voices of artists of colour and queer and gender-variant artists, this richly evocative documentary brings to light the rarely discussed topic of sexuality and disability, and a history of marginalization.

My Child
9pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
A documentary told from the perspective of a handful of parents in Istanbul who've taken the journey with their children as they've come to terms with their queer and trans identities.

Out in the Night
930pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
A fun night out in New York City's West Village changed the lives of seven young African-American lesbian women forever in August 2006 when an act of street harassment turned violent. This gripping documentary explores how public perceptions related to the race, sexuality, gender and class of the accused women significantly impacted their case and trial.

TUESDAY | AUG 19

I Feel Like Disco
+ panel, "Hey Hey My Kid is Gay" with Alumni UBC
630pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
Florian is everything his stern swim coach father wishes he were not: tubby, a dreamer, and gay. But when illness strikes Florian's mom, they must band together and work through their differences.

Boy + Sikat + Das Phallometer
715pm | Vancity Theatre
Caught between the dreams of others, this undocumented Filipino immigrant, "Boy," exists behind the scenes working as a caregiver for a wealthy Dutch man, financially supporting both his family back home and his lover, who pursues his ambitions as a dancer in erotic clubs.



Love is Strange
930pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
After 39 years together, Ben (John Lithgow) and George (Alfred Molina) take advantage of the new marriage laws. On account of their vows, Ben gets fired from his longtime job as a choir director for a co-ed Catholic school. Left with no savings, the couple finds themselves depending on their friends for support.

Pierrot Lunaire
930pm | Vancity Theatre | CC
In this gender-bending operatic thriller, our butch dandy hero is consumed by passion, willing to forgo all reason to find the thing that will make him worthy in the eyes of his lady's father. Seductive and haunting, it is a gruesome and compelling tale that takes its place among some of the world's best melodramas.

WEDNESDAY | AUG 20

Changemakers
6pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
Our newest local showcase covers issues ranging from advocating for the agricultural land reserve (Hands in the Dirt) to exposing the military's shameful treatment of LGBT soldiers (Citizen Jane), and queers living in poverty (Under the Rainbow)—as well as an intimate portrait of trans poet activist Antonette Rea (A Woman With a Past).

Test
630pm | Vancity Theatre
See AUG 17 for film details.

The Coast is Queer
815pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
Lovingly and queerly crafted shorts from the ones we love the most—our local artists! From poignant to downright weird, this homegrown selection offers a tiny bit of nudity and plenty of words of wisdom. Followed by the Meet Your Makers Party!

Kate Bornstein is a Queer and Pleasant Danger
9pm | Vancity Theatre | ASL
Join Kate on her latest tour! As a trailblazing artist-theorist-activist who inhabits a space between male and female with wit, style and astonishing candour, she adheres to her own motto, "Do whatever it takes to make your life worth living. Just don't be mean."

Meet your Makers Party
1030pm | Club 23 West
$5 Membership required
Following The Coast is Queer join us for thumpin' music by DJ Furiousgreencloud and DJ ManyBothans with VJ Sister Danielle Gotell. Plus Tin Can Studio—a unique mobile project space housed in a vintage 18-foot trailer to greet you in Blood Alley. Don't miss this chance to celebrate our fab local artists!

THURSDAY | AUG 21

Appropriate Behavior
430pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
See AUG 15 for film details.

Centrepiece Gala



Children 404
7pm | Vancouver Playhouse | CC
In response to Russian leader Vladimir Putin's 2013 outlawing of "gay propaganda," activist Elena Klimova created Children 404, an online forum for Russian-speaking LGBT teens. For this, Klimova is currently awaiting trial. Last year, Russia's teen suicide rates were ranked the highest in Europe. For subscribers to Children 404, it's a lifeline.

The Way He Looks
7pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
See Opening Gala for film details.

Eastern Boys
915pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
See AUG 15 for film details.

FRIDAY | AUG 22

Tru Love
7pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
Tru is a serial bed-hopping lesbian who cannot commit to a relationship or a job for long. She meets Alice, a widow who has come to town to visit her daughter, Suzanne, a too-busy corporate lawyer, and Tru's ex. When sparks fly between Tru and Alice, Suzanne resorts to sabotage.

The Third One (El Tercero)
730pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
Young Fede agrees to meet older Franco and his boyfriend at their downtown apartment for some intimate fun. The evening doesn't start off quite as you might expect, but all three know where it is leading.

Salvation Army
9pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
Hailed by the Moroccan press as the first man "to have the courage to publicly assert his difference," in a country where homosexuality is still a crime, this award-winning feature debut is Abdellah Taïa's cinematic retelling of his roundly acclaimed autobiographical novel.

Quick Change
930pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts | CC
Enter the sketchy world of Manila's back-alley collagen buys and underground breast implants. Although the community of transwomen relies heavily on these services, 'affordability' comes at a cost, and that cost is both safety and quality of product.

Friends & Co VQFF Mingler
10pm | 1181 | $25
Tix at: friendsandcompany.ca
Get your Festival flirt on! This special event is presented by Friends & Company, Vancouver's leading network for LGBTQ-friendly business people, professionals and allies. Benefits Out in Schools. With DJ Quest, door prizes and silent auction. Hosted by Joan-E.

SATURDAY | AUG 23

Casting Essentials
1pm | Tides Canada | FREE
This workshop will address essentials of casting for emerging and mid-career artists. Edward Rea and Richard Bell will use their newest project Brotherhood as a case study.
Register by emailing workshops@outonscreen.com

POWER
430pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
An edgy, hip hop cabaret show featuring refugee, immigrant and indigenous youth struggling with everything from racism and sexism to gang violence and parental abandonment. POWER is a soaring testament to the transformative power of art.

The Dog
645pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village
Described as an "unapologetic, sex-crazed bank robber," John Wojtowicz (aka "The Dog") takes us to the New York bars and parks where he cruised for sex while married to his first wife, to the Marriage License Bureau where he protested for the right to same-sex marriage, and even to the bank he famously robbed.

Of Girls and Horses
7pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts | CC
Sixteen-year old Alex is sent to a remote horse ranch in an attempt to keep her out of trouble for the summer. When Kathy, a privileged teenage rider, comes to stay at the farm to improve her horsemanship, a playful summer friendship turns into romance.

Winter Journey
9pm | Cineplex Odeon at International Village | CC
When a violent street thug, Lyokha, steals Erik's phone, the refined conservatory student becomes captivated rather than repelled. When the thief gets in touch with Erik later, Erik willingly steps right out of his own rigidly disciplined world into chaos.



Anita's Last Cha Cha (Ang Huling Cha Cha ni Anita)
9pm | SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts | CC
Twelve-year-old Anita spots a mystery woman, Pilar, during the Bulacan fertility fiesta and declares, "That's the woman I'm going to marry!" Amidst celebration, song and food, the local gossips are fixated on figuring out which demons lurk in Pilar's past.

SUNDAY | AUG 24
Closing Gala



GIRLTRASH: All Night Long
7pm | Vancouver Playhouse
You know when you just want to rock but your bass player is up to her elbows in groupies, your little sister just turned gay today, and your ex is going to be at the party with her new girlfriend? What's a future rockstar to do when the criminal underlord comes knocking and she carries a big stick? Rock, of course!

Closing Gala Party
10pm | The Junction Pub | $5 Membership required
Wrap up the Festival among friends! A lantern procession lead by The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence takes you from the Closing Gala film to the Closing Gala at Junction Pub. Featuring: Isolde N Barron, the Digital Boys, Lady Jem, Ryan & Amy and DJs Jay Douglas and Extra Feeling.

For more information and full film listings:

queerfilmfestival.ca | VancouverQFF | @queerfilmfest | #festies2014

Fragile & fabulous

From gracious gurls to brilliant camp and Redneck drag



BLITZ & SHITZ
RAZIEL REID

Some drag queens can't take a joke.

I criticized Carlotta Gurl, Joan-E and Conni Smudge in my last column about Wiggle 20 (oh yes, hunty, dig that shitz outta your recycling bin), and then joked about how I'd have to hide from the irate seven-foot men in dresses. Only I wasn't kidding! It can be a little awkward running into a self-professed legend about whom you've just written a bad review.

I have to shout out to Carlotta Gurl, though, because after 20 years of performing, she isn't fazed by a mouthy little cunt like me. I saw her again at the relaunch of Redneck at The Cobalt and risked having my eyes poked out by her stilettos to say hello to her in the dressing room. And you know what? The gurl was gracious!

Maybe it was because she had just come from performing as Madonna at Absolutely Dragulous at The Junction, but she just smiled and sort of looked at me like I was Britney Spears or something. Like I had a lot to learn if I thought I was going to bring her down. And like I needed to cut back on the Cheetos… Then Carlotta transformed from Madonna to Reba McEntire — and killed it. She had Reba down, especially that thin-lipped honky smile.

She wasn't the only performer who amazed at Redneck. It was good to see Kamelle Toe back onstage, and when Jaylene Tyme performed Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You," there wasn't a dry face in the haus.

Also held at The Cobalt is the monthly Electric Circus. I stopped by the Salt-n-Pepa versus TLC edition, hosted by Lady Jem, who has improved on the mic and was very entertaining, if a little racist. But who likes a PC drag queen?

Jem was joined by Cobalt bartender Tadia Rae for a choreographed routine of "Push It," and although I've seen Rae dance before, this was my first time seeing her lip-sync a number. Get that girl out from behind the bar and on the stage more often!



Ginger Bush, Raziel, Beardoncé and Tora Wholes call on fresh talent to try their hands at the new amateur drag night, Sistah Fistah, held July 19 at The Astoria. ROB TRINH

After Electric Circus I walked up to The Fox for my favourite monthly, Rough Trade 5. I thought it was everybody's favourite! Where were you? You missed the adorable middle-aged Asian man in a suit slaying the dancefloor to those dirty disco beats. And you missed Jane Smoker, who gave the best performance of her career.

Jane performed Geri Halliwell's "It's Raining Men" and then got a bunch of boys to jump onstage and take over the show while she ducked down to the dressing room for a quick change. When she finally returned, her wig was on sideways and her bra was unfastened. It worked, though, especially since she came back out to have a jug of water poured over her head by the DJ. She then took to the mic and was funny, loose and a little crazy, in an oh-my-god-I-want-your-autograph kind of way.

When she left the stage, Peter Breeze got on the mic to shove his latest party down everyone's throat (oh yeah, the Spice Gurls are back for Pride, and they're pissed they haven't been on the cover of *Xtra* yet), and he made a joke about Jane's onstage "meltdown."

Then the real meltdown happened. Doesn't Breeze know a lady only disses a drag queen in print? Jane's tuck was up her ass over that remark, but that's just because she couldn't see her own brilliance. Her performance was campy and fun. I couldn't take my eyes off her or that slanted wig. Scoop!

Nothing is more fragile than the drag ego, and every performer needs a little boost sometimes, which is why I love Anna Propriette's new monthly, Sistah Fistah at The Astoria. It's a night designed to give amateurs a chance to define themselves in front of a crowd.

It might've been amateur hour, but Evita Versace, who debuted at the Mr/Ms Cobalt competition, is quickly proving herself to be a major scene player — although it was Shameless Amus as Elvis Presley who was the highlight of my night. Boy sure doesn't swing those hips like a novice! X

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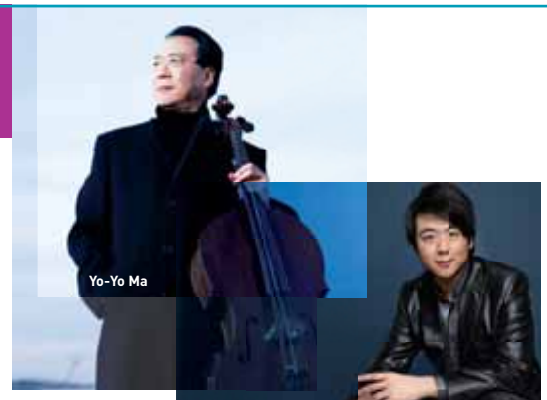
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RGP Law Group is pleased to announce **Brian Koh** has joined our firm as an associate lawyer.

Brian practices mainly in the areas of immigration, family law, and general litigation.

He is also fluent in Spanish, and Korean.

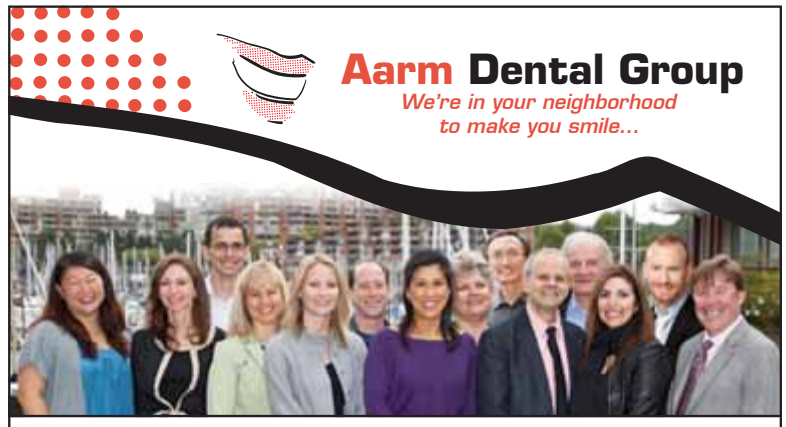
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VANCOUVER'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS





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WHAT'S ON

FOR MORE LISTINGS, GO TO **DAILYXTRA.COM**



Trans & Genderqueer March — Clark Park, Fri, Aug 1
JEREMY HAINSWORTH

Thurs, July 31

Pride Lunch and Milk Enjoy lunch and a screening of *Milk* for $5. Lunch at noon, movie 1pm. Gordon Neighbourhood House, 1019 Broughton St. RSVP to 604-683-2554 or welcome@gordonhouse.org.

Underwear Pride Pull on your sexiest, cleanest or dirtiest underwear and party with DJ Quest. 1pm–4am. PumpJack Pub, 1167 Davie St. Free before 9pm, $3 after. pumpjackpub.com

The Normal Heart A searing drama about public and private indifference to AIDS and one man's lonely fight to awaken the world. 8pm. Jericho Arts Centre, 1675 Discovery St. $20–25. Runs alternate nights until Sat, Aug 16. ensembletheatrecompany.ca

Foreplay DJ Pierre Fitch launches a new gay night featuring international DJs. 9:30pm–3am. Aura Nightclub, 1180 Granville St. $10 no shirt, $12 with shirt. matttroy.net

Fri, Aug 1

Retro Pride Enjoy classics from the 1970s to the '90s in the pub's newly renovated space. 1pm–4am. PumpJack Pub, 1167 Davie St. No cover. pumpjackpub.com

Trans & Genderqueer March Trans, genderqueer, two-spirit people and allies are invited to express their pride and uncage their rage at this march, political protest and celebration of gender diversity to kick off Pride weekend. 5:30–9pm. Assemble at Clark Park, 1500 E 14th Ave at Commercial Drive. March starts at 6pm. transpridevancouver.wordpress.com

Fabulous After Dark Celebrate Pride under a sparkling geodesic dome at this Pride-inspired adult evening, with live science shows, drag performances and dancing. Hosted by Isolde N Barron, with music by Top Less Gay Love Tekno Party. 7–11pm. Science World, 1455 Quebec St. $18 at tickets.scienceworld.ca.

Man Up: Bonafide Pride The Pride edition of Vancouver's popular drag-king show features DJs Mr Jackson (San Fran), Airick X (Portland) and Lisa DeLux (Vancouver). Doors 9pm, show 10:30pm. The Cobalt, 917 Main St. $16 advance at Little Sister's, 1238 Davie St, or eventbrite.ca. thecobalt.ca

Powell Street Festival Enjoy traditional and contemporary Japanese-Canadian culture at Vancouver's longest-running community celebration. Featuring taiko drumming, sumo wrestling, martial arts, bonsai and ikebana, folk and modern dance, historical walking tours, tea ceremonies and more. Festival runs until Sun, Aug 3. powellstreetfestival.com

Love Ball Part party, part runway, Portland's Love Ball is bringing its brand of Pride to Vancouver. 9pm–3am. Club 23, 23 West Cordova St. $15 advance at loveballvancouver.simpletix.com.

Pop Princess Pride Happy Ending Fridays and Pop Princess present the Spice Gurls Drag Show, hosted by Peter Breeze. 10pm–2:15am. Fortune Sound Club, 147 E Pender St. $10 advance at Little Sister's, 1238 Davie St, or fortunesoundclub.com.

Night Supply A mysterious late-night house and techno party, featuring some of Vancouver's best afterhours DJs, is keeping Vancouver's sexy deviants dancing all night. This edition takes over a unique East Van industrial location, with bar service going late. 11pm–5:30am. 1480 Frances St. $15. matttroy.net

Sat, Aug 2

Blackout Pride A rubber, leather and fetish party featuring DJs Nark (Seattle) and Jay Douglas (Vancouver). 1pm–4am. PumpJack Pub, 1167 Davie St. Free before 9pm, $5 after. pumpjackpub.com



RuPaul's Drag Race: Battle of the Seasons — Commodore Ballroom, Sat, Aug 2 upgvancouver.com

Drag Relaunch Tina Turner impersonator Larry Edwards helps relaunch Christopher Logan's *drag* book. 2–4pm. Chapters Robson, 788 Robson St. Free. Search "Bookthefilm" on Facebook.

Tomboy Scissor Kiss presents Tomboy's official Pride party, with DJs, burlesque, drag and an all-girl oil-wrestling competition. 9pm–1:30am. Fox Cabaret, 2321 Main St. $8.50 advance at eventbrite.com.

Sun, Aug 3

Reset Pride Patio Party Ivana Phoque hosts Twister on the patio with lots of prizes. 2pm until late. Heaven's Door, 1216 Bute St. $20 advance at eventbrite.ca.

Backdoor Pride Edition A hot, sweaty, pop-up party where anything goes and everyone is welcome. 10pm. 650 Industrial St. $20 advance at Stratosphere, 1259 Granville St, and JD's Barbershop, 235 Abbott St. $30, $40 after midnight. Search "Backdoor Pride Edition" on Facebook.

Mon, Aug 4

Recovery Pride Kick back, relax and kiss your Pride boyfriend goodbye. 1pm–late. PumpJack Pub, 1167 Davie St. No cover. pumpjackpub.com

Tues, Aug 5

Queer Arts Festival: Épopée In collaboration with grunt gallery, the Queer Arts Fest presents a collection of short films by Rodrigue Jean, who worked with male sex workers and drug addicts in Montreal to help them share their stories. 7:30–9:30pm. Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews. $10; $8 youth, seniors, underemployed; tickets available at Little Sister's, 1238 Davie St. queerartsfestival.com

Shame Spiral Peach Cobblah and some hot messes bring Eastside debauchery to their favourite West End cocktail lounge for a night of drag, perverse games and true shame spiral stories. 9:30pm. 1181, 1181 Davie St. No cover. 1181.ca

Wed, Aug 6

Queer Mindfulness Meditation Group Especially well suited to beginners, this supportive drop-in meditation group helps participants learn to focus their attention in the present moment. 7– 8:30pm. Qmunity, Room #1, 1160 Bute St. Free. qmunity.ca

Queer Arts Festival: Kickstart Reverb In a co-presentation with KickstArt and the Reverb queer reading series, the Queer Arts Fest presents readings from communities united against normalcy. Featuring work by Irit Shimrat, Seema Shah, Jotika, romham padraig gallacher and Alex Lu. 7:30–9:30pm. Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews. Free. queerartsfestival.com

Thurs, Aug 7

Queer Yoga This friendly, welcoming weekly class helps beginners build strength and focus on meditation, relaxation and body awareness. 6–7:15pm. Dharmalab, 1814 Pandora St. $5–25, cash only; sliding scale, but no one turned away for lack of funds. communityyogavancouver.com

Queer Arts Festival: Planning Meeting Meet the people behind this year's Queer Arts Fest and help brainstorm next year's theme. The organizers welcome artists and art lovers of all ages, orientations, backgrounds and abilities to participate in the festival's ongoing planning and preparation. 7:30–8:30pm. Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews. Free. queerartsfestival.com

Fri, Aug 8

Queer Arts Festival: Deaf-Queer Dialogue 101 In conjunction with the British Columbia Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, the Queer Arts Fest invites members of the hearing and deaf-queer communities to a panel discussion on accessibility. 7:30–10pm. Roundhouse Community Centre, Room C, 181 Roundhouse Mews. By donation. queerartsfestival.com

New Westminster Pride Kick-Off New West is planning a nine-day Pride festival this year, opening tonight with the Stonewall Dance. 9pm–1am. Metro Hall, 759 Carnarvon St in New Westminster. $10 at eventbrite.ca. For more info, search "New West Pride" on Facebook.

Sat, Aug 9

Queer Arts Festival: Loud & Queer The Queer Arts Fest's closing party, with refreshments, two silent auctions and performances, including the culmination of QSong, a 16-week songwriting workshop for queer, trans and allied youth ages 14 to 25. 7:30–11pm. Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews. $5–10 suggested donation, but no one turned away for lack of funds. queerartsfestival.com

Babe Bang Rent Cheque's Abby Normal and Lex Gray present an all-women play party: a sexy open-house gathering for any and all lady-types. 10pm–2am. 8x6, 1775 Haro St. $15 advance at Little Sister's, 1238 Davie St, or eventbrite.ca. facebook.com/babebangme

Okanagan Pride Okanagan Pride opens tonight in Kelowna

continued next page



For all our Pride weekend listings, check out Xtra's *Ultimate Pride Guide* at upgvancouver.com.



with an art exhibit exploring the theme of Local Pride, Global Love. Events run until Sat, Aug 16, and include a golf tournament, a drag competition, a rally, a march and the Global Love Dance Party. For the full schedule of events, venues and tickets, go to okanaganpride.com.

Sun, Aug 10

HP Sauce Heaven's Door presents house and patio time. Spend Sunday afternoon with friends, tunes, cocktails and laughs. 3–8pm. Heaven's Door, 1216 Bute St. $5. Search "Heavens Door Official" on Facebook.

Mon, Aug 11

Condom-Packing Party All that Pride must have cleaned them out, so the guys at the Health Initiative for Men will need a hand packaging more condoms and lube for distribution. This social group is known for its lively conversation and donated free meals. 6–9pm. HIM office, #310, 1033 Davie St. checkhimout.ca

Naked Yoga for Men Join this playful 75-minute yoga class for men who want to bond in a unique way: naked and connected, spiritually, mentally and physically, in the absence of sexual tension. 6pm. 1775 Haro St. $20/class; six classes for $90. z360.org

GPS: Gay Poz Sex Positive Living BC presents a weekly sexual-health program for gay and bisexual HIV-positive men facilitated by gay, HIV-positive men. Every Monday, 6:30–8:30pm. Positive Living BC, 1107 Seymour St. Contact Michael or Jonathon at 604-240-7205 or gps@positivelivingbc.org.

Hominum This informal discussion and support group for gay, bisexual and questioning men struggling with the challenges of being married, separated or single meets every Monday in locations around the Lower Mainland. 7:30-9:30pm. For meeting places in Vancouver, New Westminster, Coquitlam and Surrey and to register, go to hominum.ca.

Tues, Aug 12

Dear John, I Love Jane Qmunity's bimonthly discussion for women to explore their identities and relationships. 7–9pm. Qmunity, 610-1033 Davie St. Free. qmunity.ca.

Royal Family Bowling Night Everyone is welcome at this night of bowling hosted by the Royal Family Bowling League. Try it out, and, if you enjoy it, think about joining the league in September. $2 per game; free shoe rental. 7:30pm. Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes, 1205 Sixth Ave. newwestpride.com

Submit your event listing to oitc.vancouver@dailyxtra.com. Deadline for the Aug 14–27 issue is Wed, Aug 6.



Okanagan Pride — opening party in Kelowna, Sat, Aug 9
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PRIDE RUN & WALK

The Vancouver Frontrunners hosted their 10th annual Pride Run & Walk on July 26 in Stanley Park, drawing more participants than ever and introducing a new category for gender-variant runners and walkers.

1› Phillip Rockerbie came fourth in the five-kilometre run with a time of 22 minutes and 48 seconds. 2› Tayla, Jacob and Mark Rozenberg. 3› Ryan Bird, Michael Frolick, Candice Wright, Christepher Wee, Ben Van Exan and Rohan Hare. 4› Nick Hastie wins the 10-kilometre run with a time of 34 minutes and 59 seconds. 5› Team Danger Zone: Ryan Sang, Kevin Kraussler, Sam Stiegler, Jean Cueta and Edward Juan.

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