

# Xtra

TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN

**SEX WORK  
RULING**  
▶11

**DIVERSIFYING  
VIDEO  
GAMES**  
▶14

#761 DEC 26, 2013—JAN 8, 2014

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

## XTRA

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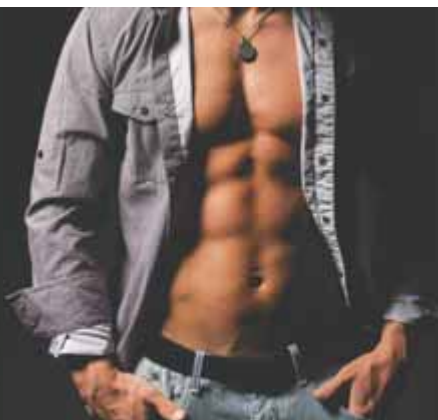
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TECH

## The pixel is political

A growing number of developers are pushing for greater diversity in video games ▶14



American author Anna Anthropy is the creator of *Dys4ia*, a video game that draws on her experiences with hormone replacement therapy.

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▶ The Vic on Church Street closes its doors

▶ Video roundup of 2013's sexiest men

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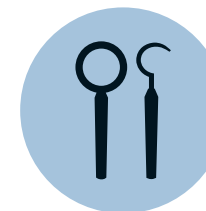
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## Fighting Trinity Western

**GUEST EDITORIAL**  
**MARCUS MCCANN**

It was not that long ago — just 20 years — that Janine Fuller and her friends piled into an old van and drove out of Vancouver, embarking on a multi-city road trip. They were raising money for a court challenge to oppose the seizure at the Canadian border of books and magazines destined for Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium.

Little Sister's held benefit readings and screenings from Toronto to San Francisco. In one delightfully irreverent fundraiser, Cleis Press released an anthology excerpting material that had been seized at the border. They called it *Forbidden Passages*.

A decade before that, Torontonians struck the Right to Privacy Committee, which helped defray the legal costs of gay men charged in the 1981 bathroom raids. It also sent volunteer observers to court proceedings and lobbied governments to make sure that such police abuse never happened again.

It's worth remembering that most of our victories haven't been won because our political leaders have been gracious or taken our best interests to heart. No: by and large, they've been cowardly and risk adverse. Our victories have come through protest and sit-ins and letter-writing campaigns. And, sometimes, by suing the bastards.

The latest controversy was sparked by Trinity Western, an evangelical Christian university in Langley, BC (see story on page 10). The school makes students sign an anti-gay pledge, and students can face discipline or expulsion for "same sex intimacy." Trinity Western wants to launch a law school, and in December, it won important approvals from the BC government and from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

Some have said that the decision of the BC government will inevitably be challenged in court. I think that's probably true, but it depends on what you mean by "inevitably." In this case, "inevitably" doesn't mean "with no work" or "without people pitching in." It means, rather, that we can count on

gay and trans communities to oppose the decision and to rally.

That's why a group of people — myself included — are crowd-funding a legal challenge to the accreditation of Trinity Western Law. Prominent lawyers like Clayton Ruby and Angela Chaisson have expressed interest in the case. I suspect lawyers who care about this issue will put in a lot of free or deeply discounted time. But there are fixed costs that cannot be waived, including disbursements and filing fees.

Taking legal action is not my first preference. My first choice is for the BC government and the law societies to refuse accreditation, as they ought to. For more than a year, people who care about this issue — law students especially — have been protesting and writing letters to push decision-makers into doing the right thing.

Court challenges are not the best way to challenge bigotry. They're protracted, expensive, messy things. Even if justice prevails, courts can't undo past harms. Even victories can result in bad precedents, which haunt the law for years to come. They can sap the energy out of an otherwise vibrant movement.

And they can't get at many of the wrongs faced by gay and trans people. No court case can cure the Catholic Church of its history of homophobia. No court case will make parents accept their transgender child.

Indeed, formal legal equality is a narrow thing. It can address only the most basic of wrongs. But Trinity Western Law's sexuality-based admissions policy is just such a case. It is a basic and obvious wrong.

Crowd-funding this legal challenge is a slight twist on an old theme. Gays have been taking the government to court for years. But thanks to technology, Ruby, Chaisson and I — and our allies — won't need to embark on a road trip to get the job done, as fun as that would be.

To donate to the legal challenge, visit [gofundme.com/twulegalchallenge](http://gofundme.com/twulegalchallenge)

*Marcus McCann is a law student at the University of Toronto and the former managing editor of Xtra.*

**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

### LGBT youth shelter

Well done, sir. After so many years of working with homelessness, and as a formerly homeless youth myself, one of the most heartbreaking issues is when a trans person fleeing violence is made to feel unsafe in the shelters ["Toronto Moves Closer to Creating a Homeless Shelter for LGBT Youth," *Xtra* #760, Dec 12]. We need anti-homophobia and anti-transphobia training, and we need to keep that as a top priority and value for all of our public services. Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep, and everyone deserves to be respected as they identify. Kudos to you, Mr Abramovich.

LIA GRIMANIS  
TORONTO, ON

### 519 rec centre

I am baffled about where the demand for this is coming from ["The 519 Proposes LGBT Sports and Recreation Facility," *Xtra* #760, Dec 12]. My friends and I go to the gym all the time. We have less than zero interest in this place. We certainly aren't going to head out to the middle of nowhere to use rec facilities. If there are particular communities that need to be included or accommodated, then existing facilities should be upgraded and the money put towards the good of everyone where most of them live: downtown.

This is going to benefit only those people with cars who live in the suburbs. It is nice that the donor is giving money, but this is not a project that has any widespread community support. It's a building with a name on it in search of reason to be built.

FERN  
TORONTO, ON

### Mississauga GSA posters

If the Catholic school board is so concerned about inclusiveness, will they then begin teaching the doctrines of all religions ["Mississauga Catholic School Says No to Harvey Milk Quote on GSA Posters," *dailyxtra.com*, Dec 16]?

Will they include Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist teachings? If their concern is truly to be so very inclusive, will they teach the views of atheism? Didn't think so. Good luck, Christopher, with your case to the Human Rights Commission.

ELLIOTT ROYLE  
TORONTO, ON

**“Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep, and everyone deserves to be respected as they identify.”**

[RE:LGBT YOUTH SHELTER]



I hope the student in the story goes to a supportive adult to look into a complaint to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. This is blatant discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation" and "age." The Catholic board lost the case and alliances were required; now they don't want to accept the reality of their decisions. If you don't have the money, any community legal-aid clinic will advise you for free. You really don't have to accept this limitation on your freedoms. Wish you well.

BARRY DENNISON  
TORONTO, ON

This is one more screaming example why public education in Canada (especially in Ontario and Alberta) needs to be 100-percent secular. No more public money for religious indoctrination centres masquerading as schools.

LESLEA SMITH  
(FACEBOOK)

### Indian court ruling protest

I began to realize that the wafting back and forth by the Supreme Court of India did serve a purpose ["LGBT South Asian Vancouverites to Protest Indian Court Ruling," *dailyxtra.com*, Dec 12]. The Parliament will now have to make the ruling on whether all Indians have the same equal rights or not. I'm betting that it rules in our favour.

India wants to be recognized on the world stage as a leading democratic country. Heterosexual men in India have to look at their own track record: rape in public places, rape in families, availability of child brothels where a

child can service up to 2,000 men a year, wife-burning "accidents" that allow for a new wife and dowry, et cetera. Everyone has to look at the caste system, which, while outlawed, still exists and permeates all of Indian society.

PAULA KEY  
TORONTO, ON

It's great to see South Asian LGBT people try to do something about this horrific ruling. Let's see Canadian gay Olympic medal holders follow their lead against Russia — and don't stop there: the African-Caribbean LGBT community of Canada has lots of opportunity to do the same in regards to their dangerous situation from their home countries.

COLIN SITO  
TORONTO, ON

### Dean Blundell Show

What I like about open debate is that it quickly allows us to figure out who the idiots are ["Toronto Talk-Radio Host in Hot Water over Gay Jokes," *dailyxtra.com*, Dec 9]. Phrases such as "so gay," unless within the confines of a traditional Christmas song, will seal the deal for me.

I actually like good talk radio. Maybe somebody can use this as another example of why men don't report sexual assault and assault in general. As difficult as it is for women to report being victimized, it is much harder for men, whether the perpetrator is a male or a female. It may not be taken seriously, but once reported, there are few support services.

CAELAN  
TORONTO, ON

### The Vic

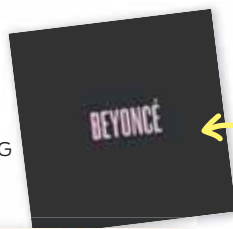
After four truly terrible meals with apathetic service, I stopped going here ["The Vic on Church Street Closes Its Doors," *dailyxtra.com*, Dec 20]. The only advantage it had was the location and patio (with droppings from poorly placed flower baskets raining down into my food), but it wasn't worth it.

KEVIN JOHN McDONALD  
(FACEBOOK)

# XCETERA

## Sushi

A BIWEEKLY HELPING OF POP CULTURE, SERVED À LA CARTE



**828,773**

Number of copies of **Beyoncé's** new album that sold on iTunes in its first three days.

**104**

Number of countries in which the album shot to number one.

### Madonna

Top-grossing musician or celebrity of 2013, according to *Forbes* magazine.

### Mariah Carey

Number 10 on the *Forbes* list, tied with Nicki Minaj.

### Myx Fusions

Name of the moscato wine beverage Minaj endorses and co-owns.

**2005**

Believed to be the year moscato was first rapped about, in Lil' Kim's "Lighters Up."

### Washington, DC

Lil' Kim headlined this city's Pride festival in 2013.

### Christian Lezzil

DC gay magazine *Metro Weekly's* 2013 cover boy of the year.

### Stripper

Lezzil's main occupation.

**83**

Age of the Hollywood woman thought to be the world's oldest stripper.

### Methuselah

According to the Hebrew Bible, the oldest person ever to live was 969 when he died.

### Bristlecone pine

This 4,841-year-old California tree, the world's oldest, is also named Methuselah.



FROM THE PTP ARCHIVES 15 YEARS AGO

## XTRA #370, DEC 31, 1998

Olympian Mark Tewksbury takes to the stage at Buddies with a one-man autobiographical show. For the gold-medal-winning swimmer, this was the "next layer of out."

OUT ON THE STREET BY KYLE BURTON

## Do you have a new year's resolution?

For our ultimate New Year's Eve guide, turn to page 20.



**Laura**  
REGIONAL SERVICE COORDINATOR

To stop spending so much money. Today I'm returning a sweater... I feel guilty for buying it.



**Adam**  
SALES ASSOCIATE

I'm going to be more spiritual. I'm not religious, but I'd like to expand my spiritual world.



**Peter**  
RETAIL SALES

Cutting out refined sugar. Cold turkey. I eat way too much.



**Lindsay**  
EVENT PLANNER

I don't have one yet. But last year I made a plan to travel more, and I did.

### QUOTABLE

“I still define myself as a bisexual even though I have chosen to be with Grant. I'm sexually attracted to the female form even though I am with a man and I just feel that bisexuals have a bad rap.”

— actor Alan Cumming, who's married to a man, discusses his sexuality in an interview with *Instinct* magazine



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## LGBT HEALTH

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

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### FLAME: FRUIT LOOPZ ART MENTORING PROJECT!

If you want to gain more skills in art-making and more space to make art and to connect with other queer and trans youth, then join FLAME! FLAME is a series of FREE ART programs for LGBTQ2S\* spectrum youth under 29. FLAME is rooted in self-care and community-building. Tokens and snacks will be provided. **If you are interested in learning more, please connect with Sonny at [Fruitloopz2013@gmail.com](mailto:Fruitloopz2013@gmail.com).**

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# ‘I’m sorry,’ says U of T prof who provided false information on HIV

## HIV-positive student wants discussion about social stigma concerning gay men and HIV

**HIV/AIDS EDUCATION**  
**ANDREA HOUSTON**

A University of Toronto professor of virology plans to apologize to his class after he gave inaccurate and stigmatizing information about gay men and HIV.

Mounir AbouHaidar made the comments during a Dec 3 lecture in front of approximately 300 students.

Rodney Rousseau, a gay biochemistry and sexual diversity studies student who is HIV-positive, objected to the remarks, which he called “really triggering for a positive person.”

“So that’s why it’s extra offensive to me,” says Rousseau, noting that a small group of students are planning an educational protest for the beginning of January when classes resume.

Rousseau provided *Xtra* with an audio recording of the lecture, in which AbouHaidar states, “The guy will have a resistant strain, or resistant strains, of the virus to most of the drugs which are available; then he will sleep with his boyfriend, which is, as we call it, men sleeping with men, MSM, and then give his boyfriend the best gift, give him a strain of the virus, which is resistant to all the drugs. That’s what he has, that’s what it is, that’s probably 90 percent, 90 percent... HIV has millions of people, 90 percent from homosexual.”

Rousseau says that when he heard this misinformation he raised his hand and objected. HIV infections among men who have sex with men in fact account for 50 percent of all HIV infections in Canada, according to CATIE (formerly the Canadian AIDS Treatment Exchange). “Nowhere near the 90 percent Professor AbouHaidar has claimed,” Rousseau says, noting he also told AbouHaidar he is

unfairly stigmatizing men who have sex with men as “HIV gift-givers.”

Rousseau says AbouHaidar is framing the virus as a “gift” between “boyfriends,” and by using male pronouns and gay men as examples, he seems to be telling his class that HIV is a gay issue. “He told me that he didn’t need correcting, that he wasn’t giving misinformation,” Rousseau says, noting he’s also noticed that AbouHaidar only ever talks about a person with HIV as a gay man. “Throughout the whole class he uses the term ‘boyfriend’ to define the partner of another man. That’s done specifically to say HIV is a gay issue... he never uses ‘partner,’ ‘they’ and he definitely never uses ‘she.’”

Rousseau wants to see AbouHaidar apologize, correct the misinformation in class and perhaps undertake some education on the social impacts of HIV.

For his part, AbouHaidar, who has been teaching HIV virology for about 30 years, tells *Xtra* that he plans to correct his statements and provide his class with accurate information. “Well, if I said 90 percent, I’m wrong,” he says.

Regarding the use of male pronouns, AbouHaidar says students shouldn’t read so much into it. “I’m not anti-gay or pro-gay. It’s not my business who sleeps with who. It’s my job to tell students how the virus is transmitted.”

AbouHaidar says he wasn’t aware that referring to HIV as a “gift” — which implies that the person being infected with HIV is asking for it — could be seen as problematic. “It wasn’t meant to be against any group,” he says. “Now, because there are many viral drugs that are used, there are resistant strains circulating around. Sometimes in lectures I am known to be funny, and make jokes, in order to make stuff stick [with stu-



Rodney Rousseau, a gay and HIV-positive U of T student, raised concerns about misinformation given in class by Professor Mounir AbouHaidar.

“The guy will sleep with his boyfriend... and then give his boyfriend the best gift... HIV has millions of people, 90 percent from homosexual.”

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
PROFESSOR MOUNIR ABOUHAI DAR

dents) ... these are education methods.

“It’s obviously not a good gift,” he says. “I can see how it’s [derogatory]. But we are all adults.”

AbouHaidar says that if students have concerns or wish to challenge his information, they could raise the issue during the tutorial sessions or schedule a meeting after class. It’s also possible, he says, that part of the problem is a language barrier. He says he has a thick Lebanese accent.

AbouHaidar maintains he is apologetic and doesn’t want to stigmatize anyone. “I feel really bad. We want to clear this virus from the world. We work in vaccines so hopefully in the long run we might end HIV. When you see the millions of people dying, you are scared... I am not afraid to say I am wrong, and I am sorry. If I said 90 percent, that’s wrong. I will correct [the information] for the class.”

While Rousseau is pleased that AbouHaidar will correct the record in class, he still plans to hold a demonstration after the holidays.

“I definitely think there needs to be some discussion because it’s still a problematic situation that it occurred at all,” he says. “Do I want to point my finger at [AbouHaidar]? No. He seems to be accepting fault in this rather quickly, and that’s really good. So I have to consider the best way to create a more broad discussion around this issue.” X

# Metro Theatre 'closed for good'

Koreatown's notorious Metro Theatre porn palace has closed its doors and will soon be turned into a big-box retail outlet. But for now, the only outward sign of the demise of a cinema best known for its burned-out marquis, faded posters and overall dilapidated charm is a small, handwritten sign inside its window that reads "Sorry theatre is closed for good."

The Metro came under new ownership in 2012, when it was bought by Jonathan Hlibka and Nadia Sandhu, partners in the Studio Film Group, which also operated the Projection Booth Cinemas on Gerrard Street East. The pair has since had a falling out, with Hlibka claiming ownership of the company and Sandhu pursuing a legal case against him. At the time of the purchase, the cinema was listed for \$3.8 million. Neither party responded to *Xtra's* requests for comment.

The theatre's closure does not appear to be related to the legal dispute. Neighbouring business owners say that the landlord is forcing out tenants and has plans to turn the entire building into a large-format retail outlet, like the Factory Direct store across the street. "I've been told I have to be out in one month," says Shumon Ghale, owner of Kantipur



The Metro Theatre  
ADAM COISH

Krafts, which is next door to the Metro. "I don't have a new location yet."

While the Metro had begun to attract a mainstream audience under the new management by screening independent and foreign films in the evenings, it continued to screen porn in the afternoons, serving a devoted clientele of men looking to get their rocks off in a semi-public

place in the company of other men.

"I've been going to the Metro since the mid-'80s, when they were showing censored soft-core celluloid porn films. I got my first blowjob there," says *Xtra* reader "Tully Sorensen" in a comment on [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com). "It was a great place to suck a limp 70 year old cock. I'll miss it." —*Rob Salerno*

## Explanation demanded for federal cut to Buddies' Rhubarb Festival

Two weeks after the team at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre announced it had lost a \$20,000 festival grant from Canadian Heritage, more than 1,200 supporters have signed a petition calling on the government to explain why the funding was cut.

Specifically, the change.org petition demands that Minister of Canadian Heritage Shelley Glover "publicly state the specific reasons why the Rhubarb Festival no longer meets the funding criteria for the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage program."

"It's amazing to see this amount of support from all different levels," says Brendan Healy, Buddies' artistic director.

With Parliament risen for the Christ-

mas break, it's unlikely that the federal Conservatives will face flak over the funding cut any time soon, but NDP MP Peggy Nash did ask Glover for an explanation during question period on Dec 10, the last day that the House of Commons sat.

"Canadian Heritage is responsible for actually providing funding to over 11,000 festivals across this country from coast to coast to coast. In fact, all of them go through a rigorous procedure to meet the criteria that are set, and as always I will continue to work with the very capable public servants in the Canadian Heritage department to ensure that those festivals that qualify get the funding that they require," Glover said in response to Nash's question.

That response doesn't satisfy Healy. "It wasn't really a response. I found it very insulting," he says.

As for the Rhubarb Festival, which runs Feb 12 to 23 at Buddies and other queer spaces in the Church-Wellesley Village, Healy says it will go ahead as planned, although the funding cut has forced the theatre to scale back some of its plans. —*Rob Salerno*

## NATIONAL NEWS

# Ruby will sue BC for Trinity Western law school approval

Toronto lawyer Clayton Ruby says he'll be seeing the BC government in court after it approved, on Dec 18, a law school for Trinity Western University (TWU).

"It's immoral and unconscionable and we think unconstitutional," Ruby says of the law school that, like the rest of TWU, will force students to sign a covenant promising to uphold Christian values — and refrain from gay sex — upon enrolment.

"We will be taking them to court," he says. Ruby wants the approval struck down.

In approving TWU's law school, Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk said BC's Degree Quality Assessment Board reviewed the proposed law degree and found it met the degree program quality assessment criteria

for private and out-of-province public institutions.

"Trinity Western University is a faith-based, private university that does not receive operating or capital funding from government," he points out.

The law school received preliminary approval from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, an umbrella group for territorial and provincial regulators of the legal profession, on Dec 16. In granting approval, the federation said it examined only whether the proposed law school's graduates would meet professional requirements for knowledge and competencies needed for entry to the bar admission programs in the Canadian common-law jurisdictions.

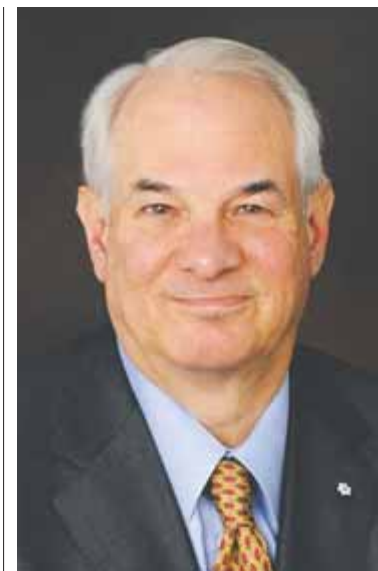
Ruby said earlier he was waiting to see what the BC government did before

making any announcements about a lawsuit. Now, he says, he will seek a court order striking down the provincial approval.

He says that crafting the suit could take weeks or months. "It takes time to do it right," he says.

He believes TWU's law school will make gay students second-class citizens. "The door has moved a little more tightly closed against gays and lesbians becoming lawyers and judges," he said. "A crucial part of democratic life is the openness of this profession."

Ruby says TWU's law school would impose a "queer quota" on incoming law students by limiting the number of law-school seats they can apply for. He estimates that there are approximately 1,600 places in law schools across Cana-



Lawyer Clayton Ruby says he believes Trinity Western University's law school will make gay people second-class citizens.

da and that the 60 new places proposed by TWU would be off-limits to openly gay students.

David Eby, provincial NDP opposition critic for advanced education, tells *Xtra*

he will be writing a letter to both Virk and Premier Christy Clark to protest the TWU approval.

"The covenant is clearly discriminatory, and in this day and age to approve a law school at an institution that doesn't treat gays and lesbian students the same as everyone else that goes to the school is bizarre," Eby says.

Eby, former executive director of the BC Civil Liberties Association, says the decision indicates that discrimination against queer people is still acceptable in some quarters.

"I'm trying to circle the square of a government that says it's against bullying but approves a school that discriminates," he says. "It's completely bizarre and indefensible."

Eby was also dismayed by the federation's preliminary approval. "I think it's something we're all going to look back on . . . as an embarrassment for everyone," he says.

"The government should be saying to Trinity Western, 'Please fix the covenant to treat everyone the same,'" he says. —*Jeremy Hainsworth*

For more on these stories, go to [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com).

SEX WORK

# Supreme Court strikes down laws regulating sex work

Over-broad and grossly disproportionate. That's what the Supreme Court calls Canada's laws related to sex work, in a landmark ruling that has started the clock on fully decriminalizing sex work.

In one year, the court's ruling will take effect, striking down all laws that currently criminalize everything but sex work itself — street soliciting, living off the profits of prostitution, owning a brothel and pimping — but, until then, prostitution in Canada will remain an indictable offence.

While the clock ticks down on the 365 days until Canada loses the power to arrest and prosecute sex workers, the justices have left the door open for Ottawa or the provinces to step in and lay down new laws to combat prostitution. But the court put a limit on the state's power.

"Parliament has the power to regulate against nuisances," wrote Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin in the unanimous decision. "But not at the cost of the health, safety and lives of prostitutes."

The court repeatedly found that Canada's laws put sex workers in jeopardy, violating Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which protects Canadians from laws attacking their life, liberty and security. "A law that prevents street prostitutes from resorting to a safe haven such as Grandma's House [in Vancouver]

while a suspected serial killer prowls the streets, is a law that has lost sight of its purpose," McLachlin writes.

The laws were vigorously defended by the Government of Canada, with its provincial counterparts at its side, which argued that prostitution is a "lifestyle choice" and therefore the government has the right to regulate the nuisance and ensuing social ill.

The Supreme Court repudiated that idea, calling the laws — which do not criminalize sex work itself — the equivalent of banning cyclists from wearing helmets. "Realistically, while they may retain some minimal power of choice — what the Attorney General of Canada called 'constrained choice' — these are not people who can be said to be truly 'choosing' a risky line of business."

The court's ruling is about as serious a loss as can be imaginable for the government, which is now put in the awkward position of either trying to tackle the thorny legal maze of regulating prostitution or simply leaving the laws to fall on their own.

An Ontario superior court had previously passed down a similar decision to the Dec 20 ruling, but that was overturned partially by the Court of Appeal, which found the law against communicating for the purposes of prostitution to be reasonable. —Justin Ling



**Terri-Jean Bedford, the applicant who argued that Canada's sex-work laws are unconstitutional.**  
MARCUS MCCANN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Ugandan parliament passes anti-gay bill

Ugandan lawmakers passed a bill Dec 20 that would further criminalize homosexuality, including life imprisonment in some cases, according to the BBC.

The infamous "Kill the Gays" bill had originally proposed the death penalty for cases of so-called aggravated homosexuality, but lawmakers removed this penalty after intense international pressure.


Cases of "aggravated homosexuality" will now be punishable by life imprisonment.

The BBC reports that Ugandan Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi had tried to prevent the vote, arguing that parliament did not have quorum.

MP David Bahati, the politician who

first tabled the bill, told AFP news agency that the passage of the bill is a victory for the central African country. "I am glad the parliament has voted against evil," he said.

Bahati first proposed the bill in 2009, but it was shelved after pressure from world leaders, including Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who conveyed his opposition to the bill to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni during a Commonwealth leaders' meeting that year. Museveni has yet to sign the bill into law. —Xtra staff

 For more on these stories, go to [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com).

Scott Lively reacts to passage of Ugandan anti-gay law

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CENSORSHIP

# Gay Sikh's photo of kiss removed from Facebook

Facebook removed then reinstated a photo of a gay Sikh man kissing another man during a Toronto protest against an Indian Supreme Court ruling. Spokespeople say the image was "mistakenly" removed, BuzzFeed reports.

Kanwar Anit Singh Saini, who was taking part in a Global Day of Rage against the court decision that upheld a law that criminalizes gay sex, posted the photo of himself on his page, Sikh Knowledge, with an accompanying message.

It read, "Last night my uncle told me if they knew i was gay before 20 they would have killed me. He also said im gay cause i was molested as a kid and im on 'the wrong path' ... and when was i getting married? ... i laughed

**Facebook took down, then put back up, a photo of Kanwar Anit Singh Saini (left) kissing another man at a Toronto protest.**

and hung up. He comes from the same backwards place a whole minority were just recriminalized... Fuck my uncle. Fuck section 377. Im very proud to be illegal in any context. I owe that to my sikhi heritage and my mom. Also, for all the ranting about genocide i hear... i rarely see solidarity. So... fuck em all. #sikhknowledge #baagi #377 #section377 xoxox"

According to BuzzFeed, Facebook said the photo violated its terms and policies and suspended Saini's account for several hours. The photo was later reposted, with Facebook apologizing for "any inconvenience," the report adds.

Some criticized Saini for posting the photo, saying that it was "disrespectful" to Sikhism and he should take off his turban and that he was protesting for his "own selfish lust." Many others came to Saini's defence, posting supportive messages. — *Natasha Barsotti*



WORLDPRIDE

## World's first openly gay government head to attend WorldPride

Toronto will welcome prominent and prolific activists, thinkers and human rights leaders this summer for the WorldPride Human Rights Conference.

The list of confirmed speakers includes the world's first openly gay head of government, former prime minister of Iceland Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir.

Sigurðardóttir will join presenters from more than 60 countries who will gather at the University of Toronto June 25 to 27, says organizer Brenda Cossman, director of the Mark S Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies. "The conference is such a wonderful opportunity to have important discussions around global human rights," she says.

Sigurðardóttir, who was elected in 2009, plans to attend the conference with her wife, Jónína Leósdóttir, an author, playwright and journalist. Leósdóttir is also scheduled to speak.

Cossman says the conference will be "a who's who" of international LGBT



Jóhanna Siguroardóttir

leaders, including Russian activist and journalist Masha Gessen, Ugandan activist Frank Mugisha, Kenyan human rights lawyer Justice Monica Mbaru, Venezuelan trans activist Tamara Adrián and Canada's Stephen Lewis.

The full schedule for the WorldPride Human Rights Conference will be announced early in 2014. Speakers and panellists will address issues that include HIV/AIDS, sex work, trans rights, employment, aging and intersectional human rights. — *Andrea Houston*

SOCHI GAMES

## Stephen Harper joins growing list of leaders who won't be at Olympics

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has joined a growing number of world leaders who won't be heading to the Sochi Winter Olympics in February.

The announcement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was made in an email released Dec 18. *The Globe and Mail* says the PMO noted that Harper's decision not to go is not related to Russia's anti-gay laws; he usually doesn't attend, with Vancouver's 2010 Games being "an exception." The Canadian delegation to Sochi will reportedly be announced soon.

The announcement comes on the heels of news that neither American President Barack Obama nor Vice-President Joe Biden will attend the Games. The White House has said that Obama's busy schedule prevents him from attending but that he'll be "cheering" from Washington.

While Biden was at Vancouver's 2010 Winter Games, Michelle Obama led

the American delegation to London's Summer Games in 2012. The US is sending what has been described as a "high-level delegation" that includes gay athletes.

French President François Hollande, German President Joachim Gauck, European Union commissioner Viviane Reding, Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo and Minister-President of Flanders Kris Peeters have also indicated they won't attend. — *Natasha Barsotti*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Indian Supreme Court rules to uphold law that criminalizes gay sex

The Indian Supreme Court has overturned the Delhi high court's 2009 ruling that decriminalized gay sex, saying Dec 11 that only the country's parliament can change the 1861 law, widely known as Section 377, that prohibits "carnal intercourse against the order of nature."

*The New York Times* reports that it is unlikely that legislators will move to act on the Supreme Court's ruling.

The Naz Foundation, an NGO dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS and the promotion of sexual health, brought the challenge against Section 377. Its executive director, Anjali Gopalan, who expressed disbelief over the ruling, is quoted as saying that justices "let down" the LGBT community and the country's constitution.

The long-awaited ruling has angered India's LGBT community, with many vowing to continue the fight to strike down the measure. According to an NPR report, a lawyer for the Naz Foundation has said the group intends to ask for a review of the Supreme Court's decision, labelled a major setback for human rights in the country.

Meanwhile, Section 377's supporters, many with links to conservative and religious organizations, hailed the Dec 11 decision, maintaining that homosexuality is unnatural and that a family constituting a father and a mother is key to children's "normal" development, NPR notes.

In the weeks leading up to the Supreme Court's ruling, a *Times of India* report noted that Section 377 is still being used to arrest LGBT people. On Nov 4, police in the city of Hassan, in Karnataka, arrested 14 people believed to be homosexuals, a move that angered activists. — *Natasha Barsotti*

# Mabel the Big Bear

Black lesbian activist Mabel Hampton fought for community and freedom



**HISTORY BOYS**  
**MICHAEL LYONS**

The gay community has a disturbing habit of erasing its own history; actually, a more appropriate metaphor would be the generous use of Wite-Out. Despite the contributions of non-white people from all walks of life, the gay rights movement has long been depicted as deceptively white. Photos of the Mattachine Society (gay men) and the Daughters of Bilitis (lesbians), pre-Stonewall organizations considered early gay rights organizations, show lineups of (undeniably brave) white people. Even the banner image for the current Lesbian Herstory Archives website, founded in 1974 to discuss sexism in another group, the Gay Academic Union, depicts a congregation of white women. This, despite the fact that a vital supporter and donor to the archives was a proud African-American community member and black lesbian activist named Mabel Hampton.

Hampton was born in May 1902 to Lulu Hampton, who died of poisoning two months after her daughter was born. Hampton spoke about an idyllic childhood, raised by her maternal grandmother on a farm in North Carolina. When her grandmother died of a stroke when Hampton was seven, she went to live with her aunt and uncle in New York City.

Her uncle, a minister, treated her cruelly, physically abusing and raping her, and after less than a year she ran away to New Jersey. There she was taken in by a kind white family, whose surname was White.

At 17, Hampton was wrongfully charged with prostitution (“I hadn’t been with a man no time”) and spent three years in the Bedford Hills reformatory for women. She was released early on the condition that she stay out of New York, but the temptations of the city’s nightlife, and a girlfriend she’d met in Bedford, eventually led to a neighbour raving on her indiscretions, forcing her back to the reformatory to serve the remainder of her sentence.

Once out of prison, she worked as a



Black activist Mabel Hampton, a patron of the arts and various charities, lived openly as a lesbian long before the term was widely used. ERIC WILLIAMS

cleaner for white families by day and danced in a women’s troupe in all-black theatres by night. She continued doing cleaning work before getting permanent jobs later in life but didn’t stay in show business for long. Asked why, she said, “I like to eat.”

Hampton lived openly as a lesbian long before the term was widely used. She partied with other lesbians, bringing along girlfriends both white and black. In 1932, she met Lillian Foster, a black woman originally from Virginia, and they became as good as married. During a spat, Hampton referred to Foster as “Little Bear”; Hampton was short and Foster shorter, so this became an affectionate nickname, with Hampton matched as “Big Bear.”

Early in their relationship, Hampton was often away for extended periods searching for work. “Everything is OK at home. Only I miss you so much, I will be glad when this time is up. There is nobody like you to me,” Foster once wrote. They were together 46 years until Foster’s death from heart failure in 1978.

Hampton was a patron of the arts and supporter of many charities, including the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Foundation and many gay and lesbian organizations. She also kept her own archives, including everything from playbills to news clippings. While working in the housekeeping division of Jacobi Hospital (where

some co-workers called her “Captain”), she met the pioneering transsexual Christine Jorgensen; Hampton’s archives include a famous 1952 *Daily News* article about Jorgensen, “Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty.”

Hampton marched at the first demonstration for gay rights in Washington in 1979 and in every single NYC Pride parade that occurred during her lifetime. When she could no longer walk the whole parade, other lesbians fought for the honour to push her wheelchair down Fifth Avenue. Hampton always marched under the Lesbian Herstory Archives (LHA) banner. Joan Nestle, one of the founders of the LHA, a writer, biographer and close friend of Hampton’s, wanted her story known and made sure it was never erased.

Nestle remembers Hampton as a woman of integrity who was dedicated to creating community and a life of freedom. As Hampton said at the New York Pride rally in 1984, a few years before her death, “I, Mabel Hampton, have been a lesbian all my life, for 82 years, and I am proud of myself and my people. I would like all my people to be free in this country and all over the world, my gay people and my black people.”

For more on Hampton, see Joan Nestle’s essay “I Lift My Eyes to the Hill: The Life of Mabel Hampton as Told by a White Woman.”



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# THE PIXELS

## A growing number of developers are pushing for diversity in video games

TECHNOLOGY  
DAVE YIN

*Lim* is a deceptively simple game. I was confused when I first booted it up. Dull brownish squares make up the title in large capital letters — it all looked almost too minimalistic.

I pride myself on the number of games I've played over the years, so I was a bit abashed that I couldn't immediately clue in to what to do. There are no points. No timer. There is no heterosexual, dark-haired white male protagonist in his 30s. In *Lim*, I controlled one of the squares, and the vague goal seemed to be to navigate through the winding pathway in which I was trapped.

But the task isn't easy. Other coloured squares of either brown or blue would perceive me as the opposite colour — as the enemy — and before long they were attacking from all directions. The screen shook violently as each square slammed into me. I was weak and easily pushed around, unable to fight back.

I didn't immediately see the option of pressing “Z to blend in” — perhaps I chose to ignore it. There is no timer, after all, and no “lives”; even if I was knocked around, my square was invincible.

Except I wasn't.

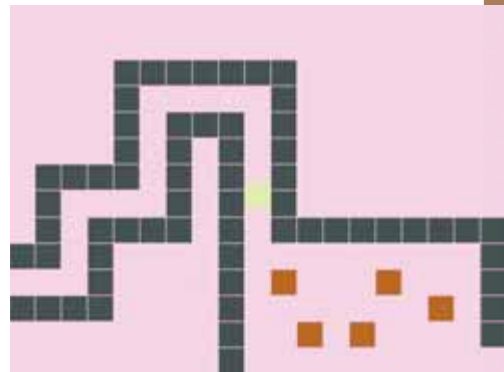
It didn't take long for the endless assaults to become grating. Not blending in became increasingly difficult until finally, progress became impossible. I betrayed my instincts and hit Z.

Few would guess just from playing *Lim* that key parts of the game draw on Merritt Kopas's experiences of choosing a public bathroom early in her transition. Since she created the game in August last year, the Toronto native, currently based in Seattle, has come to be regarded as one of several key people pushing the boundaries of the types of experiences video games can deliver, and the types of voices they can represent.

Among them, some of the most visible — and vocal — are queer women like Kopas.

“I wanted to inspire that feeling of self-questioning and self-doubt in the player,” Kopas tells me over Skype, recalling her first summer moving through the world as a trans woman. At the time, she was doing graduate studies in sociology at the University of Washington.

She tries to convey the split-second, random and often unconscious decisions she has to make to try to maximize her safety in any given



situation. She equates playing *Lim* to “walking into a space and having no idea how people are going to treat you.”

The same sense of dread returned when I played *Mainichi*, created by game critic and San Francisco State University student Mattie Brice. While *Mainichi*'s gameplay is different — it uses human sprites to simulate the everyday barrage of putdowns Brice faces as a trans woman of colour — it clearly explores similar themes. As with *Lim*, the message derived here was largely up to me.

The only title in the same vein to offer its audience an explanation is perhaps also the most well-known among flash-game enthusiasts and one of the genre's earliest entries. *Dys4ia*, by American game designer and author Anna Anthropy, first appeared last year on Newgrounds, the do-it-yourself game community website. Shortly after, it was featured on the front page, and today the game has garnered nearly 450,000 views and 800 player reviews.

Anthropy's disclaimer reads, “This is an autobiographical game about my experiences with hormone replacement therapy.”

It came as no surprise to the designers when the hyper-personal nature of their games and their unusual subject matter garnered attention.

Some notable reaction came from Samantha Allen and her students. The instructor and PhD student at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, decided to incorporate *Lim*, *Mainichi* and *Dys4ia* into her first-year gender-studies course.

When she speaks with me, she has just returned from a trip to Vancouver, where she



presented at the second annual Feminists in Games workshop.

“Traditionally, the format of the classroom is that I'm up there lecturing,” Allen says. “I'm responsible for guiding [students] through it and offering them possible interpretations of the material.”

During the past term, she had expressed concerns that her classroom presentations would be reduced to “a display, a spectacle that my students could observe but not one that would require their active engagement.”

Teaching with video games gave them a tool to learn and explore for themselves rather than being lectured to, she says.

Allen describes one particularly touching moment when a girl playing *Mainichi* encountered in-game street harassment. “It looked like she



# POLITICAL



DAVE YIN



Clockwise from top left: a graphic from *Lim*, a video game that reflects the frustrations faced by trans people in choosing a bathroom; David Gallant, a Brampton-based game developer; a graphic from *Dys4ia*, a game about hormone replacement therapy; Merritt Kopas, a Toronto native who designed *Lim*; a graphic from *Dys4ia*; game critic Mattie Brice; a screenshot from *Mainichi*, a game designed by Brice that simulates the everyday putdowns Brice faces as a trans woman of colour.



was about to cry,” she says. “For me, this was such a powerful moment of empathy, where playing this game had really allowed the student to identify with the character. As a transgender woman myself, it was encouraging to see her for a few moments really understanding what my day is like.”

For Ivan Metzger, who was also in Allen’s class, these games bridge cultural gaps that “interfere with people’s abilities to relate and empathize.” He says *Dys4ia*, in particular, opened his eyes.

As tempting as it would be to slap a “queer” label on these short interactive experiences, doing so would not do them justice, Kopas says.

The label would also pose a barrier to those interested in trying their hand, Brice says. “People have started to think because they aren’t queer, they can’t make these games,” she writes in an email. “Nothing’s further from the truth!”



Few have been more instrumental in pushing for diversity in video games than Anthropy.

In her book *Rise of the Videogame Zinesters: How Freaks, Normals, Amateurs, Artists, Dreamers, Drop-outs, Queers, Housewives, and People Like You Are Taking Back an Art Form*, she argues that it is people in marginalized groups who must help the medium mature.

“If video games are compared unfavourably to other art forms such as novels and songs and films ... it is likely a result of how limited a perspective [they] have offered up to this point,” Anthropy writes. “If a form has attracted so many authors, so many voices, that several of them come from experiences outside the social norm ... can’t that form be said to have reached cultural maturity?”

Anthropy, Kopas, Brice and Allen are only a few of a growing choir of voices calling for greater diversity in video games. Yet to the industry, they are decidedly outsiders.

This fight is also taking place in the world of mainstream gaming, but rebels like David Gallant are few and far between.

The day I meet Gallant in Toronto, he has an air of defeat about him. The Brampton-based game developer is known in some circles as the creator of *I Get This Call Every Day*, a satirical game about working at a customer service call centre — a game that got him fired from the Canada Revenue Agency. A bearded man in his early 30s, Gallant looks the part of someone you’d imagine to be very active in Toronto’s indie game sphere.

And he was until this past May, when he took to the gaming website Gamasutra to denounce the community for what he described as “exclusionary behaviour.”

■ ■ IF VIDEO GAMES ARE COMPARED UNFAVOURABLY TO OTHER ART FORMS... IT IS LIKELY A RESULT OF HOW LIMITED A PERSPECTIVE THEY HAVE OFFERED UP TO THIS POINT. ■ ■

GAME DESIGNER & AUTHOR ANNA ANTHROPY

“The more I have reached out into the community, the more I have come up against people who are in less privileged positions than myself,” Gallant says.

He says he began to notice prejudice from friends and colleagues, some he had long admired. He cited one example in which a friend from the local indie scene harassed and eventually drove a female colleague out of town while the community stood by.

For the first time, Gallant says, “it shook my faith.”

This culture is all too familiar to Anthropy, who says she, on the other hand, has no misgivings about influencing mainstream gaming. Instead, she focuses her efforts entirely on getting newly available game-making tools into the hands of marginalized people. “Our discussions of politics seem to always be focused on ... images of marginalized people, rather than on the people themselves and on helping them gain power,” she says. “Building a culture where anyone can make a game and not be silenced ... that’s a change that will transform our culture.”

Within the last few years, a number of alternative game conferences and workshops have sprung up, including the Queerness and Games, Different Games and Feminists in Games conferences, all of which offer views on new directions in which the medium can head.

Similarly, Toronto’s Dames Making Games organization, of which Gallant is now a member, provides programming workshops to minorities, including members of the queer community.

As recently as March, the *Tropes vs Women in Video Games* web series launched, having raised 26 times its initial fundraising goal. As of writing, it has already produced several videos analyzing sexism in games.

Even if judging solely based on the number of people doing work similar to Kopas, Brice and Anthropy, change is coming.

“I’m heartened,” Kopas says. X



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## In the pantheon of all-time greats

“I find that dancing around in my underwear really loosens people up.” With this cheeky remark from John Caffery comes good news and bad news.

The good news is that Toronto club-scene darlings Kids on TV have released their much-anticipated second full-length album, *Pantheon*. This digital download features 10 songs, with contributions from such artists as Diamond Rings, Katie Stelmanis, Julie Fought, Gentleman Reg and Snax.

The final incarnation of KOTV, shape-shifters for a decade, comprises Caffery, Roxanne Luchak and Minus Smile. The energetic group has done shows in arcades, bathhouses, music festivals, warehouses, farmhouses, art galleries and basements. Innovative performances with unique visuals have been their trademark since Caffery launched the group in 2003.

With the release of *Pantheon*, which was mastered by Bob Weston (best known for his work on Nirvana's *In Utero*), several new videos have popped up on the internet featuring KOTV and dozens of Toronto's glitterati interpreting the stuff of *Pantheon* with wild abandon.

Caffery recalls the debut gig with then band mate Mike Barry, back when KOTV was a duo. “Paul Petro booked us for a *C Magazine* launch party in the spring of 2003 at Bar Italia. Mike and I performed two songs on a mattress in the middle of the floor surrounded by people. The crowd was on fire.” A spark was lit. The rest is history. KOTV was on its way.

And now the bad news. Unknowingly, KOTV's



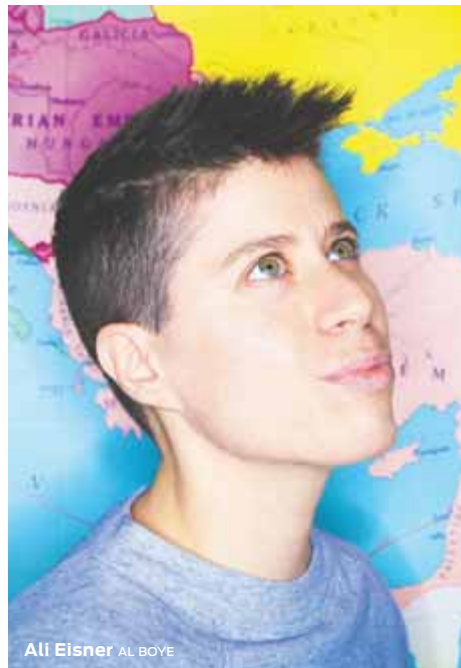
Kids on TV's final lineup: Roxanne Luchak, John Caffery and Minus Smile. KID WITH CAMERA

last performance was in February 2012 at The Great Hall. “That was a really great gig,” Caffery says, “but we have decided on creative closure. After a decade, Kids on TV officially disbanded in the summer of 2013.”

KOTV's adoration of real or possibly-could-be-real queer mythological characters is something Caffery is particularly proud of: “KOTV has

a long history of archiving and preservation, collaboration and homage. We celebrated The Cockettes, General Idea, Klaus Nomi, Dazzler, Jasper Johns, Fifth Column, Holly Woodlawn, Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam and many others who have influenced us.” —Keith Cole

*Pantheon is available now on iTunes.*



Ali Eisner AL BOYE

## A few of her favourite things

Ali Eisner, the creator and moving hand behind Kensington Market's favourite talking yam puppet, Mamma Yamma, is closing up shop to create magic through a new kind of lens.

After a successful six-year run on Kids' CBC, Eisner is busy with new creative projects, one of which will debut this January. The puppeteer, writer, musician, director and composer will add “photographer” to her roster with a debut exhibit entitled *Favourite Things*.

Images of nature, children, architecture, candid moments from her TV work and behind-the-scenes photos with musicians Serena Ryder, Ron Sexsmith and Feist all made the cut. “I didn't love taking photography at school because I wanted to take pictures of things that hit me,” says Eisner, who's experimented with the art form since she was a kid. She used her father's camera until he gave her a Canon of her own and built a darkroom in her parents' basement.

It seems that kid never really grew up. Eisner's work captures life from a childlike perspective. “The way they see the world and the way they process things; what you see is what you get with them,” she says. Appreciating the “fun, fearless and goofy” side of life, Eisner is the kind of gal who still sits at the kids' table at family gatherings.

“I feel like I get something with kids that I don't get when I hang out with adults. [Kids] are so in the moment, not thinking about the past or the future,” she says. “Before a certain age, they are just naturally artists until they feel otherwise. To me, that's a magic I want to keep alive in myself and tell their stories to the world.” —Lauryn Kronick

*Favourite Things runs Thurs, Jan 9–Sun, Jan 19 at the Gladstone Art Bar, 1214 Queen St W. alieisner.com*



Patrick Moote sizes up a statue.

## COCKUMENTARY

When comedian Patrick Moote's girlfriend rejected his marriage proposal at a basketball game, he was forced to confront a problem. His girlfriend explained later that one of the reasons she wouldn't marry him was, to make a long story short, his small dick. In a new documentary that asks, “Does size matter?” Moote walks the path of the *Unhung Hero*.

The “cockumentary” is a raunchy existential journey exploring penis size and the curious world of the penis enlargement industry. Along the way, Moote learns about things some people (read: gays) take for granted. “The gay community is so much more open about everything sexual,” he says. “There's a good amount of people who do explore these things, but I'd say the average boring, sexually frustrated straight person is not willing to dive too deep into the world of cockrings and fisting. That would force them to be honest with themselves, about who they are sexually, and we were all taught at a young age doing that is very, very bad.”

Unsurprisingly, gay guys have their members on the mind, but Moote says it's equally a straight fixation. “Gay guys are definitely more vocal about it, though, especially if they're ‘size queens,’ so we did talk to a lot of them,” he says. In the film, he sits down for a sobering conversation with sexpert Dan Savage and even walks through The Castro in San Francisco, getting the gay say on penis size. “I loved how open they were. The honesty was refreshing... and a little brutal at times. I really think the gay community has responded more to the journey of self-acceptance in the film.” —Michael Lyons

*Unhung Hero is available on DVD in Canada, at bgpics.com, and will be released Feb 1 on iTunes.*

# No T, no shade

2013's best concert T-shirts



**PLAYLISP**  
**KEVIN RITCHIE** PHOTOS BY BLAKE MAWSON

Fashion tip: band shirts are good conversation starters. For a mere \$15 to \$40, you can bond spontaneously with strangers in coffee shops and on public transit over your shared love of a pop or rock star. The next time you want to turn heads on the TTC, forget that pricey Comme des Garçons leather bunny-ear hat. Pick up a sexy Beyoncé T-shirt instead.



**FLEETWOOD MAC**

A favourite among baristas, confused baseball fans and floppy-haired teens waiting at streetcar stops, this sporty Fleetwood Mac tee looks and feels straight outta 1977. The Mac knows what their fans want: faux vintage all the way.



**SAVAGES**

This shirt, acquired from the British post-punk group's online merch store, occasionally elicits a sneering look or remark from passersby on the sidewalk. In light of the band's abrasive live shows and uncompromising interviews, it is highly possible I am being paid a compliment. I'll take it.



**HUNX AND HIS PUNX**

West Coast punk rockers Hunx and His Punx's double-sided, spun polyester Girls All Over Me tee is covered in illustrated faces of famous female singers — from Françoise Hardy to Sade to Debbie Harry — and easily inspired more envious reactions than any other band shirt I bought this year.



**VAG HALEN**

The all-lesbian cock-rock band's shirt scores points for the badass symmetry of the Vag logo as well as comfort (it's American Apparel's "track shirt"). I wore this tee to recent screenings of *Dead Ringers* and *Blue Is the Warmest Colour* — by sheer coincidence. If *Basic Instinct* gets re-released, I'm on my way to a three-peat.



**BEYONCÉ**

From bus drivers to bikers, random older men never fail to say something borderline inappropriate when I'm wearing this curvaceous Mrs Carter Show tour creation. Confession: I wore this shirt for an entire week without noticing an unfortunately located chocolate ice-cream stain. From T-shirt to T-shirt.



**TIMBER TIMBRE**

The artistest band shirt I bought this year was designed by fashion darling Jeremy Laing and artist Niall McClelland for local label Arts & Crafts' 10th anniversary. As *Canadian Art* put it, I'm "investigating the indeterminate zone between natural and man-made detritus" each time I wear it.



"Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder."

- Unknown



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

# NEW YEAR'S

BY EDUARDO SABATE

There are a lot of things to manage on New Year's Eve: outfit, hair, makeup, song-of-the-year playlists, twerking rehearsals and, most importantly, where to party? *Xtra* can be of service by guiding you through the city's gay New Year's celebrations. We've highlighted the most promising parties and asked some of the DJs what made their 2013 special. Stay warm, be patient, have fun — and see you in 2014!

## BLACK AND WHITE BALL

**DJs Deko-ze and Kevin Bailey**  
Fly Nightclub, 8 Gloucester St  
flynightclub.com

### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**DJ Deko-ze** What made 2013 special for me was starting the Jungle Funk label with Jerome Robins, having my first appearances in the Beatport Top 100, doing my fourth German DJ tour, meeting my boyfriend, Barry, and witnessing *American Horror Story* — so good!

## GO HARD

**DJs Blackcat and Pleasure**  
The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W  
thesteadycafe.com

### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**DJ Blackcat** Being asked to close Central Stage on Pride weekend Saturday night was a special moment for me. I love Central Stage, and it's where I first got to DJ, in 1995.

## THE BEAVER

**Igby Lizzard, Judy Virago and DJs Regina the Gentelady and Boy Pussy**  
The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W  
beavertoronto.com

### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**Boy Pussy** I threw eight Pussy parties. Do you realize how much time I spent downloading and burning trans porn for the projections? I should just make porn; it would take less time. Also, I collaborated with Melleefresh on an EP, I photographed and was photographed by Nina Arsenaault and Lexi Sanfino, and I grew a pair of tits.

**Regina the Gentelady** My band Light Fires released our debut album, *Face*. I performed all over Canada for it and in New York City. And my one-woman show has been accepted into Rhubarb for 2014. Regina's theatrical debut!

## PITBULL: RED LIGHT DISTRICT

**DJs Brian Maier, Sumation, Robotic Kid and John Caffery**  
Phoenix Concert Theatre  
410 Sherbourne St  
pitbullevents.com

### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**DJ Brian Maier** I travelled more this past year than I have ever travelled before, visiting Seattle, Portland, London, Paris and Los Angeles to DJ events and see this amazing planet. I also fell in love with Kyle Krebs. *Mascular Magazine* asked me to start contributing, and I finally started a monthly residency in San Francisco called Stripped.

**DJ Sumation** 2013 was special for me because of my fans', friends' and family's support to help me be able to DJ full-time. I was featured on BlogTO and in *Fab* and *Xtra*. Internationally, I played in Rio, Ho Chi Minh City and at Splash in New York.

**DJs Recklez and Lady Supa**  
KRIS STEEVES

# EVE PARTY GUIDE



## IVORY INVITATION

### DJs Recklezz and Lady Supa

Eight Wine Bar at Cosmopolitan Hotel, 8 Colborne St  
cosmotoronto.com

#### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**DJ Recklezz** Playing for bigger crowds and amazing parties, such as Back to Church, Big Primpin' and Yes Yes Y'all, is indescribable. Being able to feel all that energy and control the atmosphere with every song I drop — it's why I love what I do so much.

**DJ Lady Supa** I love how the club scenes had many new anthems and theme songs. Drake made this year very interesting, especially for the ladies, with tracks like "The Motion," "Hold On, We're Going Home" and "Girls Love Beyoncé."

## EL CONVENTO RICO

### Vitality Black, Mr Rico, Fabulous Russell, Sofonda Cox, Trent Ruban, Anahi Batista and DJ Level

El Convento Rico, 750 College St  
elconventorico.com

#### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**Vitality Black** I got what I wanted to achieve, which was not only winning the crown for El Convento Rico, but also winning Woody's Miss Czarina. I'm truly blessed, and what a great new year it will be. Reach for the stars and live the dream.

## STARLIGHT

### Ivory Towers, Carlotta Carlisle, Tyler Uptight and Jada Hudson, plus DJs Quinces and Alex

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St  
crewsandtangos.com

#### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**DJ Quinces** The year 2013 was filled with great fun and spectacle. News of Toronto hosting WorldPride in 2014, the third year of my weekly residency at Crews & Tangos and partying with truly amazing partygoers in the Church and Wellesley neighbourhood.

## CHURCH

### DJs Ticky Ty and Chez

Church, 504 Church St  
churchonchurch.com

#### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

**DJ Chez** For me, 2013 was a year of growth and community. Getting to learn who I am and getting close with the people around me.

## BEST OF THE REST

### NYC 90s

Scarlett Bobo and DJ Mark Falco  
WAYLA, 996 Queen St E  
waylabar.com

### Crush Party

Caitlin, Jesse Rae and Khadeja  
Club120, 120 Church St  
club120.ca

### Rock Through the Ages

Kiss of Life crew  
Henhouse  
1532 Queen St W  
henhousetoronto.com

### Big Prickin' Big Ass

DJ Chris Steinbach and eight hot bartenders  
Woody's, 467 Church St  
woodystoronto.com

### Mega Bash

DJs Amita, Jiten and K Square  
Courthouse  
57 Adelaide St E  
liveatcourthouse.com

### Zipperz/Cellblock

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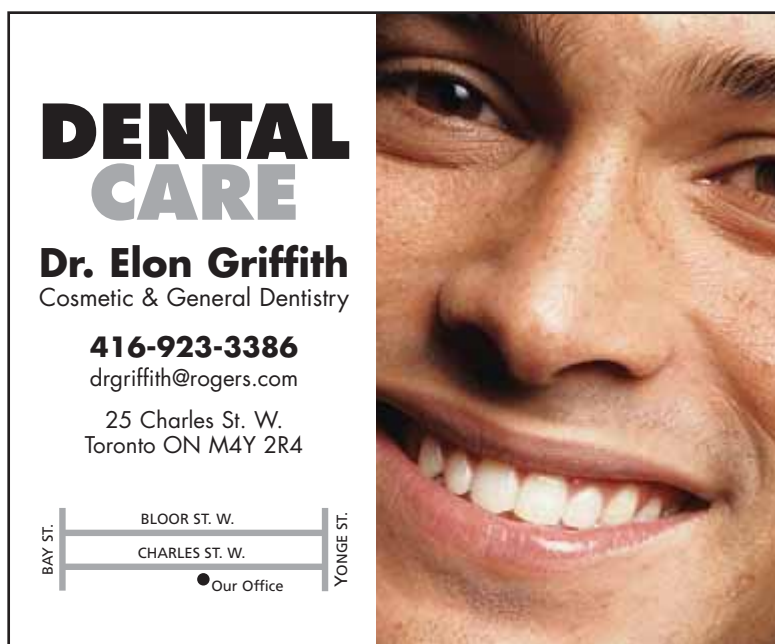


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# In with a bang

## Celebrating the new year with pride, parties and queers



**TORONTO AT NIGHT**  
**RYAN G HINDS**

'Twas the week before New Year's and all through the city, every gay man and lesbian stayed home, looking pretty. The bi-folk and trans-folk lay snug in their beds, and all of us dreamed of the good times ahead. With 2014 all shiny with promise, our New Year's Eve parties had better be flawless. Visions of Church Street loomed large in some heads, while west-ender parties filled others with dread.

The end of a year creates much celebration, but looking back gives us cause for elation. We live in a town ruled over by a lord, a buffoon of a mayor named Robert Bruce Ford. He's tried to cut funding, for AIDS and for Pride, but all us queers gave him a helluva ride. From club life to theatre to athletics and all, we always come in like a wrecking ball. Our numbers are many, our accomplishments grand... so cheers to these queers, the best in the land:

James Fowler's a gentleman, a curator and artist, whose idea for murals was simply the smartest. From heroes to history to club kids at balls, he's the one responsible for our community's walls. Look in alleys or storefronts in the Village today, and you'll see his creations celebrating the gay. The Church Street Mural Project should make us all smile — and serve beautification, at least for a while.

When Mandy Goodhandy turned 60 this year, the doyenne of nightlife simply smiled with cheer. She rules Club120 with a velvet-gloved fist and is first to welcome you with a hug and a kiss. She doesn't suffer fools and won't tolerate your mess, but loves to show off in a hot low-cut dress. She's part mother, part stripper, part comedian, part whore, and if you're curious about T-girls, she'll help you explore.

To Maggie Cassella and her Flying Beaver, all revellers flock and become devout believers. It's a cabaret, it's a pub and is all-the-way gay; the best shows in town are at her Pubaret. Re-ceiving a strip of Parliament Street, The



**When Mandy Goodhandy turned 60 this year, the doyenne of nightlife simply smiled with cheer.** TONY FONG

Beaver's made Cabbagetown en vogue and in heat. For comedy, for music, for drag and for more, a night at The Beaver leaves you begging for more.

And speaking of drag, we've got the best in the country; our queens and our kings are sickening, hunty! Drag is an art and a calling for some, and magic abounds with these daughters and sons. To name just the best is a difficult thing, there's so many divas with wigs in the ring. A rise to the top takes strength, guts and luck, but to reign on the scene needs an industrial tuck. Whether lip-synching, singing or voguing away, these queens are all worthy, so shanté... you stay:

*Tynomi and Bunni and Donnarama*

*Michelle Ross and Jenna Syde and Jade Elektra*

*Divinesque and Igby and Fay Slift (so hairy)*

*and the regal matriarch: our Michelle DuBarry*

*Ivory and Nikki and Nicolette Brown and Atmos Fierce, a fab newbie on the town.*

*And then there's the kings who are cock of the walk*

*King Flare and Tyler Uptight — my gawd, you guys rock.*

And so with a bang, the new year begins! Let's start off with romance, adventure and friends. I wish you good parties and short lineups a-plenty, and wallets with condoms and shiny new 20s. For 2014, we have potential to fill, dreams to succeed at and much tea to spill. "No shade" and "one love" are goals that are mine, and whatever you do, I hope that you shine. You'll find me on dancefloors and onstage in high gear, so happy new year, my queers, and to all a great year! X

*Ryan G Hinds's column appears in every other issue of Xtra. He wishes all his readers a happy and gay new year.*



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or  
**Crisped Panko Crusted Prawns**

served with a spicy horseradish relish

or  
**Puree of Roasted Carrot and Ginger Soup**

topped with creme fresh

2nd Course

**Roasted AAA Strip Loin**

served with roasted Yukon gold potatoes, root vegetables and merlot au jus

or  
**Butternut Squash Ravioli**

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[Uganda: Students expelled for 'recruiting' others into homosexuality](#)

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# WHAT'S ON

FOR MORE EVENT LISTINGS, GO TO [DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

## ARTS & LITERATURE

### Pride. Passions. Portraits: Male Toronto Artists

Photographer Brian Bantugan's portraits of creative types give a sense of the many exciting endeavours being pursued in Toronto. Runs until Tues, Dec 31, various times. Urban Gallery, 400 Queen St E. Free. [princerama13.wix.com/poeticpixels](http://princerama13.wix.com/poeticpixels)

### Gay Men's Art Project

Artists of all skill levels drop in to make art and schmooze in an informal environment. For more info, contact [info@gmaptoronto.org](mailto:info@gmaptoronto.org). Mon, Jan 4, 2–4pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. [gmaptoronto.org](http://gmaptoronto.org)

## COMEDY & CABARET

### SOY Holiday Variety Show Benefit

Community-minded folk venture out to a gala variety show benefiting Supporting Our Youth. Sat, Dec 28, 7pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. PWYC—\$20 suggested. [pubaret.com](http://pubaret.com)

### Singular Sensation: A Musical-Theatre Open Mic

Jennifer Walls invites amateur crooners to perform their favourite songs accompanied by a live band. Every

Monday, 9:30pm–12:30am. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover. [statlers.ca](http://statlers.ca)

### Because I Said So: The Year in Revile

Maggie Cassella rings in the new year by making light of the old. Tues, Dec 31, 8pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$25. [pubaret.com](http://pubaret.com)

### Paul Bellini's Liar Liar Pants on Fire

Guests tell dubious tales and audience members are challenged to decide whether the stories are true. Thurs, Jan 2, 7:30pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. No cover. [pubaret.com](http://pubaret.com)

### Queer Cab

Queer youth 25 and under flaunt their special talents — anything from drag to juggling — at this monthly open mic. Wed, Jan 8; 7:30pm sign-up, 8pm show. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. PWYC. [buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com)

### Kristen Becker's Dykes of Hazard Comedy Hour

The inaugural night of a new monthly showcase of up-and-coming queer comics. Sat, Jan 11, 7pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. [pubaret.com](http://pubaret.com)

## HEALTH & ISSUES

### The 519 Legal Clinic

A free, accessible service for low-income people. Volunteer lawyers provide legal advice, referrals and help with forms and letters. The confidential and private visits are first-come, first-served. Bring any necessary documents. Every Thursday; registration 6–6:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. [the519.org](http://the519.org)

### Bisexual Women of Toronto

A peer-support and discussion group focused on community and solidarity. Thurs, Jan 2, 8–10pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. [torontobinet.org](http://torontobinet.org)

### FTM Support Group

Trans men share their experiences in a supportive environment. Takes place the first and third Friday of each month. For more information, contact [ftmtoronto@yahoo.ca](mailto:ftmtoronto@yahoo.ca). Fri, Jan 3, 7:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. [the519.org](http://the519.org)

### SOY Monday Night Drop-in

Queer youth ages 14 to 29 gather to watch movies, participate in art projects and workshops, and



*I Am Divine* — Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, Fri, Jan 10–Thurs, Jan 16

seek the support of Supporting Our Youth's community mentors. For more info, contact [jcaffery@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:jcaffery@sherbourne.on.ca). Every Monday (except Dec 30), 5:30–8pm. Sherbourne Health Centre, 2nd floor, 333 Sherbourne St. Free. [soytoronto.org](http://soytoronto.org)

### Positive Routes to Recovery

A peer-led support group for gay men working through substance abuse issues. Takes place the first and third Tuesday of each month. Tues, Jan 7, 6–8pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. [pr2r.org](http://pr2r.org)

## LEISURE & PLEASURE

### Strip Spelling Bee: The Furry Edition

It's much like strip poker, but it's a spelling bee and there's an audience of horny hollers and hecklers. Fri, Jan 3, 10:30pm–2am. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. \$10, free for competitors. [buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com)

### Toronto Gaymers January Social

Queer gaming enthusiasts congregate to enjoy video games, board games and tabletop games in a geek-friendly environment. Sat, Jan 4, 1–9pm. Marquis of Granby, 418 Church St. Free. [facebook.com/torontogaymers](http://facebook.com/torontogaymers)

### Happy New Queer Slowdance

Booty-shakers make dance dates with one another, while designated dancers coax out the wallflowers. Sat, Jan 4, 9:30pm–3am. Dovercourt House, 805 Dovercourt Rd. \$10 includes dance-card booklet.

### I Am Divine

A documentary about the status-quo-smashing Divine, aka Harris Glenn Milstead, who

through his collaborations with filmmaker John Waters became an internationally recognized drag superstar. Runs Fri, Jan 10–Thurs, Jan 16, various showtimes. Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W. [bloorcinema.com](http://bloorcinema.com)

## PLAYS & MUSICALS

### Les Misérables

Cameron Mackintosh's production of the musical about the redemption of ex-convict Jean Valjean includes the stirring songs "I Dreamed a Dream" and "Do You Hear the People Sing?" Runs until Sun, Feb 2, various showtimes. Princess of Wales Theatre, 300 King St W. \$35–130. [mirvish.com](http://mirvish.com)

### Avenue Q

The musical coming-of-age story starring Rod the closeted puppet features such memorable hits as "If You Were Gay" and "The Internet Is for Porn." Runs until Sun, Feb 23, various showtimes. Lower Ossington Theatre, 100A Ossington Ave. \$49–59. [avenueq.ca](http://avenueq.ca)

### Next Stage Theatre Festival

Next Stage's diverse offerings include pieces performed at previous Fringe festivals and new works by established Fringe artists. Runs Wed, Jan 8–Sun, Jan 19, various showtimes. Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. \$10–15. [fringetoronto.com](http://fringetoronto.com)

### Manon, Sandra and the Virgin Mary

In parallel monologues, the pious Manon contemplates her purchase of an extravagant new rosary, while Sandra, an irreverent drag queen, tries to decide what she will wear tonight. Runs Sat, Jan 11–Sun, Feb 2, various showtimes. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. PWYC—\$32. [buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com)

### Anything Goes: The Cole Porter Songbook

The Talisker Players kick off the New Year in style with a high-spirited concert of Cole Porter favourites, with new arrangements for two singers and a string quartet. Sun, Jan 12, 3pm and Tues, Jan 14, 8pm. Trinity St Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St W. \$15–35. [taliskerplayers.ca](http://taliskerplayers.ca)

### Unintentionally Depressing Children's Tales

If you're looking for a fable to make you feel better about life, this isn't it. Erin Fleck hosts three workshop performances of shadow puppetry, projections and stop-motion storytelling. Runs Mon, Jan 13–Wed, Jan 15, various showtimes. Videofag, 187 Augusta Ave. PWYC. [videofag.com](http://videofag.com)

## SEX & WHATNOT

### Naked Yoga for Men

Gregory Saliba hosts a gathering for yoga enthusiasts who prefer their downward dogs in the buff. For more info and to register, contact [phillip@phillipcoupal.ca](mailto:phillip@phillipcoupal.ca). Tues, Jan 7 and Tues, Jan 14, 8–9:30pm. Awaken Studio, 270 Carlaw Ave, Unit 102. \$20. [phillipcoupal.ca](http://phillipcoupal.ca)

### Open Relationships for the Open Hearted

Lorraine Hewitt's workshop explores what it takes to start and maintain an open relationship, from emotional safety to setting boundaries. Tues, Jan 7, 7–9:30pm. Good for Her, 175 Harbord St. \$33. [goodforher.com](http://goodforher.com)

### South Asian Night: Kotha

In addition to the usual amenities, horny guys enjoy a 50/50 draw, a safe-sex workshop and Tel-Malish (a type of relaxing head massage). Thurs, Jan 9, 8–11pm. Spa Excess, 105 Carlton St. Regular rates apply. [spaexcess.com](http://spaexcess.com)



*Manon, Sandra and the Virgin Mary* — Buddies, Sat, Jan 11–Sun, Feb 2 TANJIA-TIZIANA



# CLUB SCENE



Yes Yes Y'all  
— Annex  
WreckRoom,  
Tues, Dec 31

## Thurs, Dec 26

### Old-School Boxing Day Blowout

Shed those Christmas dinner pounds with old-school dance anthems from DJ Dan, Honey Dijon, Cevin Fisher and Matt C. 9pm. 794 Bathurst, 794 Bathurst St. \$30 advance, more at the door.

**Crews & Tangos Thursday** The Butch & The Bitch, with Tyler Uptight and Daytona Bitch, at 9pm; DJ Craig Dominic in Tangos and Vocal Rehab karaoke on the main floor, with Elyse, both at 10pm; Drama Queens, with Ivory Towers and guests, at 11:30pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. No cover. crewsandtangos.com

### The Smirnoff Best Chest

**Contest** Brooke Lynn Hytes and Tynomi Banks perform and give away \$300 in cash prizes, with DJ Mark Falco on decks. Midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

## Fri, Dec 27

### Regretro: Holiday Hangover

**Sweat Pants Edition** Queer scream/sing-along dance party, with all the hits you're embarrassed to know the words to. DJs Ace of Case, Wei Back and Party McFly. 10pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

**Deep Endz** DJ/producer Eytan Tobin and guests spin UK grime, trap and techno. 10pm–3am. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteadycafe.com

**Leather Night** Featuring a sexy crowd in black hide. 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. \$5. blackeagletoronto.com

**El Convento Rico Friday** Fabulous Russella and Mr Rico play early show games, with prizes, at 11:30pm; Devine Darlin and Xtacy Love perform at 1am. El Convento Rico, 750 College St. \$10. elconventorico.com

## Sat, Dec 28

### Screech Karaoke: Crowd Edition

Vanessa Robak hosts the crowd sing-along, with video dance party intermissions. 10pm–3am. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteadycafe.com

**Fly Saturday** DJs Shawn Riker and Mark Falco spin house and tech beats for the boys on the dancefloor. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. No cover before midnight. flynightclub.com

### Toronto's Ultimate Mixed Sex

**Party: Holiday Edition** DJs Jay & J on decks; hosted by Mandy Goodhandy and Todd Klinck and featuring spontaneous



New Year's Day Hangover Party  
Woody's, Wed, Jan 1 DAVID HAWE

exhibitionists' shows and orgies. 10pm. Club120, 120 Church St. No cover with pass phrase "Xtra magazine sent me." club120.ca

## Sun, Dec 29

**Crews & Tangos Sunday** By Request, with Michelle Ross and Carlotta Carlisle, at 6:30pm; Sexy Sunday, with Devine Darlin and guest, at 9pm; Sultry Sunday, with Farra N Hyte and Jada Hudson, at 11:30pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. No cover. crewsandtangos.com

## Mon, Dec 30

**WAYLA '90s Trivia Night** Kaleb Robertson and Miss Fluffy Soufflé test the audience's '90s knowledge; topics include television, music and dance moves. 7pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. No cover. waylabar.com

## Tues, Dec 31

See our NYE party guide on pages 20–21 for more listings

**Starlight: NYE** VIP cocktail reception for advance VIP ticket holders at 8pm. General admission at 9pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. \$25 advance VIP, \$20 door. crewsandtangos.com

**Rivoli's NYE** DJs Paul E Lopes, Mike Tull, Blueprint, Moreno, Jason Palma, General Eclectic and Stuart Li on decks. 9pm. Rivoli, 334 Queen St W. \$25. rivoli.ca

**Night of Stars** With Vitality Black, Mr Rico and Fabulous Russella, Trent Ruban, Anahi Batista, Sofonda Cox and DJ Level on decks. 9pm. El Convento Rico, 750 College St. \$20. elconventorico.com

**Go Hard: NYE Party** DJ Blackcat plays hip hop, R&B, dancehall and soca. 10pm–4am. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. \$15, \$10 for groups of six or more. thesteadycafe.com

**Church NYE** With DJs Ticky Ty and Chez. 10pm. Church, 504 Church St. facebook.com/churchonchurch

**Crush Party** With hosts Caitlin, Jesse Rae and Khadeja. Dress code: silver and white. 10pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$10. \$15 includes glass of bubbles. club120.ca

## Wed, Jan 1

### New Year's Day

**Hangover Party** DJ Mark Falco keeps it going. Noon–2am. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

### Crews & Tangos

**Wednesday** Soul Sistas, with Michelle Ross and Jada Hudson, at 9pm; Foreplay, with Devine Darlin and guest, at 11:30pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. No cover. crewsandtangos.com

## Thurs, Jan 2

### International Invasion

DJ Todd Klinck on decks for visiting T-girl sensations Skyler St Coxx (UK) and Keianna Hartford (US). 8pm–2am. Club120, 120 Church St. No cover for ladies; gents \$8 before 11pm, \$15 after. club120.ca

**Random Play** DJ Dwayne Minard and guest spin all '70s and '80s disco, yacht rock, new wave and more. 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. No cover. waylabar.com

**Retro Night** Dancers and bar staff gear up in retro threads, plus patrons in '70s, '80s and '90s style have a chance to win a prize. 5pm–2am. Remington's, 379 Yonge St. remingtons.com

## Fri, Jan 3

### Coven: Rock, Poetry, Scissoring

Hosted by Alex Tigchelaar and Damian Rogers, with tarot readings by Carolyn Taylor. 9pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

**Decade: Music from 2000 to 2009** DJs What's Her Problem and Short Shorts spin their faves from this millennium's first decade. 10pm–3am. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteadycafe.com

**Pop Friday** DJ Sumation spins top 40 and dance faves on the main floor. Live streaming on outtv.ca. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. No cover before midnight, \$4 after. flynightclub.com

**Big Pimpin': Set It Off Edition** DJs Kevin Ritchie, Blackcat and more spin hip hop for the homos, friends and admirers. 10pm–3am. Wrongbar, 1279 Queen St W. \$5. wrongbar.com

## Sat, Jan 4

**Tapette** DJ Phil V spins faggy French beats on the ouest side. 10pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover before 11pm, \$5 after. henhousetoronto.com



Play  
Again —  
Henhouse,  
Tues, Jan 7  
CHAD COOMBS

**Tramp** DJ Jacquie Jaguar spins for female-identifying folks and their friends. 10pm–3am. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteadycafe.com

**Fly Saturday** Australia's DJ Kitty Glitter returns to TO. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

**Rise** DJ David Picard on decks; hosted by Chris Munro and Dale C. 10pm. Church, 504 Church St. \$10. facebook.com/churchonchurch

## Sun, Jan 5

**Diva Brunch** Scarlett Bobo and Brooke Lynn Hytes pour the bubbly and perform as DJ Phil V spins diva classics. 11am–3pm. Ganzi, 504 Jarvis St. ganzi.ca

**Woody's Sunday** Hollywood Broadway Show, with Miss Conception, at 6pm; Old School, with Georgie Girl, Michelle Ross and Mahogany Brown, at 9pm; Five Smokin' Hot Divas, with Georgie Girl, Devine Darlin, Cassandra Moore, Brooke Lynn Hytes, Katinka Kature, Lexi Tellings and DJ Blue Peter, at 11pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

## Mon, Jan 6

### Crews & Tangos

**Monday** Glitz & Glam, with Carlotta Carlisle and Katinka Kature, at 9pm; Dirty Monday, with Devine Darlin and Daytona Bitch, at 11:30pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. No cover. crewsandtangos.com

### Singular

**Sensation: A Musical-Theatre Open Mic** Amateur crooners perform their favourite show tunes with a live band every Monday night. Hosted by Jennifer Walls. 10pm–1am. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover.

## Tues, Jan 7

**Play Again** DJ Kid Sis and hostess Allysine Chaynes are gatekeepers for the classic board gamers, with a performance at 11pm. 8pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

## Wed, Jan 8

**Drake Trivia** For the west-end know-it-alls. 8pm. The Drake, 1150 Queen St W. \$2. thedrakehotel.ca

Submit your event listing to listings@dailyxtra.com. Deadline for the Jan 9 issue is Thurs, Jan 2.

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# XPOSED

ANNA  
POURNIKOVA  
PHOTOS BY  
BECCA LEMIRE



**1** Allysin Chaynes gets that cleavage way up there, doesn't she? For real, how does she do it? It's mesmerizing. Similar to a living Chia Pet from my youth, there's something comforting and wholesome, like apple pie and Grandma's house, there. At Bad Tuck, she definitely had the most lift.

**2** It was Judy Virago's bday, as well, and what a celebration they gave her. Performances featured satanic babies, DIY abortions, unprotected sex with Santa, and Santa's babies born out of wedlock. The usual holiday cheer. Also, Judy got a cake in the face that pleased everyone, including her.

**3** The theme for Bad Tuck was Pro Choice, and after the dizzying array of performances, any Catholic would have surely fainted. Except, of course, these two: Niklas and Sam look ever so holy in their priest and almost-choir-boy garb.

**4** Bad Tuck is a monthly that Regina the Gentlelady often hosts. There's always a theme (we love themes, don't we?), but the fashion that comes out to prance around is worth a look, too. Matthew, Steve and Cody are pulling off so much of what's in right now it's almost painful to see: the plaid-on-plaid with Steve Zissou toque on Matthew, the dark lips on platinum hair with a spot of fur and more plaid-on-plaid on Steve, and finally the half dark-framed glasses and light-pink

lips on Cody. Not to mention there are two fine mustaches in this photo as well. The Canadiana is overwhelming — death by gorgeous.

**5** Bad Tuck took place the night of the big snowstorm that Torontonians won't stop talking about like we've been dragged across the coals by the same damn winter we see every year. It didn't stop the glamorous ones from making it out, though. Igby Lizzard even wore her finest holiday sweater.

**6** Where do I even begin with Spence and Nancy? There's a real craft-drag feel in these two, but less applied-after-a-bottle-of-Ciroq and more circus-fun. It was a feast for the eyes at Bad Tuck this month. Becca was twirling around like a maniacal kid in a candy store at the magic everywhere.

**7** We are including only one photo from City of Craft; it just wasn't queer enough for our taste. But Yigi Chang took the fucking cake with his designs. His and hers cum rags (Becca bought a set of his for fun) and the pixelated vagina tote bag? What? Oh lordy, this man captured my little black heart. I say 2014 should be the year that vagina art finally takes over (or takes back, depending on which feminist you speak with) for all the dicks we've been seeing for decades. He has an Etsy store: look that shit up!



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# XTRA HOT

DRASKO  
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NAME: CHY RYAN SPAIN, AKA AXEL BLOWS  
AGE: 35 SIGN: SCORPIO

Chy moved to Toronto from Philadelphia shortly after Bush got reelected. He drinks Jack Daniel's and has an expensive shoe habit. You can find him onstage at Buddies in Bad Times during WorldPride in a remount of Sheila Cavanagh's *Queer Bathroom Monologues*, along with Hallie Burt and Tyson James. Chy is a burlesque and pole dancer who performs under the stage name Axel Blows. He recently snatched the title at the first-ever Bent Beauty Supreme Pageant at the Gladstone Hotel.

facebook.com/axel.blows

To comment on or become an Xtra Hot guy or gal, email Drasko at [xtrahot@dailyxtra.com](mailto:xtrahot@dailyxtra.com).

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