

QUEST

Volume 15 Issue 13 August 28 - September 10, 2008



Quest Fall Arts Preview Part 2

**The 21st Milwaukee LGBT
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half!**

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BURNED OUT GAY CLUB OWNERS: "WE'LL BE BACK" FIRE SEVERELY DAMAGES CENTRAL WISCONSIN'S CLUB NIGHT OUT

Stevens Point - Club Night Out partners Dan Wrycha and Scott Sohn will rebuild the burned out central Wisconsin gay nightspot. "We'll be back," Wrycha told *Quest* August 19. "Our insurance coverage was designed to replace a loss like this."

A late afternoon fire caused serious damage to the club August 16. A passerby noticed the fire just before 5 PM and called emergency responders. The building was unoccupied at the time of the blaze. "We had just left to go to a family reunion," Wrycha said. "I don't think much more than twenty minutes had gone by before the fire was spotted."

The greatest damage to the nearly century old wood-frame structure occurred in the second floor living quarters, where the fire appears to have started. The main bar area also suffered smoke and water damage. Local authorities did not estimate the loss or damage to the building.

The cause of the fire has not been determined. The Portage County Fire Investigation Task Force is conducting an investigation. "From what they've told me there doesn't look to be anything suspicious thus far," Wrycha said. "We had fired up the wood boiler outside the building earlier in the afternoon. I think that maybe some sparks somehow might have gotten onto the siding."

Wrycha told *Quest* that two recent incidents did give him pause when he first heard about the fire. "We've been here for five years but it was only a couple of weeks ago that we had two harassing things occur - a phone call and a letter," he said. Wrycha said a late night phone call by "two teenagers making rude remarks" about gay people in early August was followed a week later by an anonymous letter.

"It was unsigned and looked like it was written by the hand of an old lady," Wrycha said. "She demanded that we 'clean up the place' - calling it a 'pig pen or a pig sty' - and to do it before the upcoming church picnic." The bar is located just west of St. Batholomew's Roman Catholic Church, and the bar's parking lot is adjacent to the church grounds.

"She also wrote that 'we know what goes on inside the bar there' but didn't use the word gay," Wrycha



said, noting he believed the two incidents were just an "odd coincidence." Wrycha turned the letter over to the investigators after the fire.

The letter survived the fire but Wrycha and Sohn's personal possessions did not. "We lost everything upstairs - our clothes, our furniture - just everything," Wrycha said. "And that was not covered by the insurance, only the business. We did not have a personal policy."

The couple are staying at a local Stevens Point motel. "Several people have talked to us about a place to stay for a night or two, but nothing firm has been offered so far," Wrycha said, noting that a retired married couple who live down the road from the bar who the gay men had never met prior to the fire were among those who have made tentative offers. "I found that to be pretty amazing."

The fire has interrupted more than the bar business, according to Wrycha. "It's completely disrupted our in-

come stream temporarily," he said. "We've been working non-stop with everyone since the fire happened to get estimate, plans and so on made, neither Scott nor I have been able to work at our other jobs. That makes it hard because we still have to pay the mortgage on the bar and our day-to-day living expenses. People may not realize that just about every dollar that comes in the door each night goes out the door for business and inventory costs the next morning!"

Wrycha told *Quest* that preliminary examinations by insurance adjusters suggest that the fire area is beyond repair and will have to be torn down and replaced. "We're not sure what that will all mean at this point," he said. "But I suspect new building likely won't look the same as it does now."

Wrycha said that plans by local polka musicians just got under way to have a "memorial" fundraiser. "They're talking about doing an event in the parking lot on September 21," he said. For decades the bar had been known as Club L & A and was the home to countless Polish weddings, polka festivals and Sunday afternoon polka dances promoted by local radio stations.

Following the publication of the fire story online at QNU, *Quest* received multiple requests from community members around the state as to how they could help out. In cooperation with Rainbow Over Wisconsin, the LGBT charitable foundation that serves central, northeast and eastern Wisconsin's LGBT community, *Quest* has been able to set up a "relief fund" for Wrycha and Sohn. Donations may be made by check to the order of ROW-CNO Relief Fund and mailed to *Quest* CNO Relief, P. O. Box 1961, Green Bay, WI 54305-1961. Plans are to deliver all donations received at the September 21 fundraiser in Stevens Point.

Located about two miles west of downtown Stevens Point in the town of Mill Creek, Club Night Out has served the area's LGBT community for five years. The bar recently co-sponsored the Central Wisconsin Pride festival held at the Portage County Fairgrounds on August 2.

munity," he added. "Those people often said they didn't feel welcome in Fond du Lac County."

Supervisors also debated the issue before the vote to postpone. "All this talk can bring negative attention to our community," Supervisor Richard Stokely said, referring to the entire conduct of the diversity debate over the last six weeks.

QUEST READERS' CONSUMER VIEWS SOUGHT

San Francisco - *Quest* is partnering with one of the premiere LGBT market research firms in the United States to conduct a short online survey of Wisconsin gay consumers over the next three weeks. At least 200 entrants are needed. Several lucky *Quest* print or online readers may end up with iPods or the "big kahuna" prize: two round-trip airline tickets!

To link to the online survey visit the home or QNU pages of the *Quest* website at: www.quest-online.com. Deadline for taking the survey is September 14. Only one survey per Wisconsin-based computer is eligible for the prize drawing.

FOND DU LAC COUNTY BOARD SHELVES DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Fond Du Lac - An effort to adopt a statement of principles endorsing the area as supportive of all those who live and work there died here August 19 when the County Board of Supervisors voted to postpone the matter indefinitely by a vote of 12-6.

The move essentially killed the initiative that had been strongly supported by the business and educational communities in the county. It also thwarted an "on the record" vote by the supervisors on the merits of the issue. The motion to postpone came following several hours of parliamentary wrangling and emotional debate of the two-page long Comprehensive County-wide Diversity Initiative (CCDI) statement of principles that encouraged support of diversity. A standing-room-only crowd witnessed the proceedings.

CCDI supporters argued that it would attract skilled workers to the area and send a clear message that Fond du Lac County welcomes all people. Opponents claimed that creating a welcoming environment is not the business of county government and that the

statement was a subversive attempt to advance the "homosexual agenda."

"This is just a smoke screen," CCDI opponent Vern Voight told the supervisors. "Their goal is same-sex marriages. We don't want Fond du Lac to be another San Francisco or Sodom and Gomorrah."

Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation President Brenda Hicks-Sorensen disagreed. "CCDI is about the community coming together to be proactive in our approach to talent attraction," she said. "CCDI is about choosing the future for Fond du Lac County."

Former Mercury Marine executive Jim Hubbard also touted the benefits of the statement. "This statement sends a positive message about the leaders of our community. It may not change behaviors, but it will change mindsets," he said.

Hubbard then told him of his recruiting experiences for what is one of the area's largest employers. "Too many times, people had a bad experience in our com-

IDOL CHART TOPPER KIMBERLY LOCKE TO SING AT AIDS WALK

Milwaukee - American Idol star Kimberly Locke will perform live at AIDS Walk Wisconsin on Saturday, October 4 at the Summerfest grounds. Locke will entertain walkers with several of her *Billboard* chart-topping hits during the opening ceremonies, and will lead the exciting countdown to the official AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2008 send-off.

An American Idol Star, Locke finished in the top three of the hit show's second season and since has been hitting the top of the music charts with songs like "8th World Wonder" and "Change". The Curb recording artist most recently topped *Billboard*'s Hot Dance Club Play chart with a remix of "Fall". She has had eight Top 20 Adult Contemporary hits, three number one Dance hits and eight number one songs across various *Billboard* charts.

Throughout her career, Locke has embraced HIV/AIDS charities and organizations to help build awareness around the cause. In addition to her commitment to AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2008, she has also offered her talents and devotion to the cause for several charitable initiatives benefiting Wisconsin-based One Heartland, formerly known as Camp Heartland.

Registration is now open for the 18th annual event which now covers a 5K route along the Lake Michigan and through Lakefront State Park. For more information and to register for this year's Walk, call 800-348-9255, email at: aidswalkwisconsin@arcw.org or visit the Walk website at www.aidswalkwis.org.

ACT 6 AIDS RIDERS RAISE \$287,420

Madison - Riders participating in the sixth annual AIDS Network Cycles Together (ACT 6) brought in \$287,420 August 8-11 here, falling just shy of this year's event goal of \$300,000. 139 riders took part in the four-day event, which covered 300 miles. Over a hundred additional volunteers supported the riders.

Proceeds from the event will benefit AIDS Network, which serves 16 counties in southern Wisconsin. In addition to fund raising the ride sought to provide a challenging but fun ride for the participants and educate the community and raise awareness about the ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Wisconsin.

"The four days really gave me an opportunity to get to know the people, the people affected by HIV and AIDS," AIDS Network Executive Director Karen Dotson told the Capital Times. "The love that people showed and expressed within those four days was really amazing - the commitment as far as giving their



all. The sincerity and the loyalty. It's just so amazing."

An online push to make the goal is underway. To donate to this year's ACT 6 Ride, visit the event website at: www.actride.org.

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY FOR EQUALITY SET FOR SEPTEMBER 21

Milwaukee - Center Advocates PAC is proud to welcome "Upfront" host Mike Gousha as their Guest Speaker at their signature find-raising event the "Garden Party For Equality," Sunday, September 21 from 1-3 PM.

Gousha is a distinguished Fellow in Law and Public Policy at Marquette University. In his role at Marquette, Gousha organizes and coordinates forums and conferences which address important public policy issues. He also brings newsmakers and political debates to campus, acting in the role of interviewer, moderator, and facilitator on his "Upfront" political talk show aired in syndication weekly throughout

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The event is sponsored by Center Advocates PAC, an organization dedicated to electing candidates who will publicly work for and defend equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. For more information about the Garden Party visit the PAC's website at: www.centeradvocatespac.org



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QNU Bi-Weekly Update

Here are the gay stories you may have missed from around the nation and around the world since the last print issue of *Quest*. You can catch up on all the latest every day online on the QNU: *Quest News Update* page at www.quest-online.com.

Zogby Poll: 6-10 Americans Would Vote For a Gay President: A poll conducted by Zogby International has found that over 60% of U.S. voters would support an openly-gay president, and more would support an openly gay cabinet member. The pollster conducted the survey of 1,089 American adults from 13-15th August for the Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute (GLLI).

The poll revealed particular support for idea of a gay presidential candidate, provided they were suited to the job, amongst people between the ages of 18 and 24, people living in the east of the U.S., Democratic voters, Asian-Americans, and Jewish voters.

67% of voters would support an openly-gay vice president, 69% would support a gay senator, and 71% would support a gay cabinet-level secretary.

GLLI President Chuck Wolfe believes the poll proves that most Americans want to be fair to gay people. "Our aspiration is to always see each other as individuals first, and though we may not always succeed at that, our underlying fairness and decency means that one day soon we will," he said. "This marks tremendous progress for our community and for the voting public."

Gay Aussie Diver Grabs Olympic Gold: Openly-gay Australian diver Matthew Mitcham stunned China with a set of spectacular dives August 23 which earned him Olympic gold. Mitcham's performance in the Men's 10m Platform final – culminating in a 'near perfect' final dive – came as a shock to the Chinese who were hoping for their 50th Olympic gold to round out their hosting team victory. Chinese athletes had taken gold in all the other diving categories.

Mitcham's gold medal win capped a highly successful Olympiad for LGBT athletes. Six of the 13 out lesbian and bisexual women competing at the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics ended up winning gold, silver, or bronze medals in handball, soccer and softball.

Gay Candidate Wins Colorado Congressional Primary: Jared Polis, a 33-year-old openly gay entrepreneur from Boulder, beat two opponents on August 12 to win the Democratic primary to fill Representative Mark Udall's seat in Congress. Udall is running for the Senate.

Polis is expected to win his heavily-Democratic district this November. If he does so, Polis will be the first openly gay man to be elected to Congress as a non-incumbent. He would join openly gay Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) and Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) in the House of Representatives.

Polis, who poured more than \$5 million of his own money into the campaign, narrowly defeated Joan Fitz-Gerald, the former Colorado State Senate president, and Will Shafroth, a conservationist, winning just over 40% of the vote.

Karl Rove: "Gay Marriage Not A Big Issue In 2008": The political strategist who used the backs of gay and lesbian people to re-elect President George Bush in 2004 now thinks same-sex marriage won't be as powerful an issue in this year's presidential election. "It has a lower profile, but it will be an issue in people's minds," Karl Rove told the Los Angeles Times August 17. "The bigger issues will be the economy, terrorism, health care, energy."

However, Rove said the same-sex marriage issue in the 2008 election still will be part of "complicated algorithms" voters will use to choose between likely Republican candidate John McCain and Barack Obama, his probable Democratic opponent.

Three states - Florida, California and Arizona - have initiatives banning same-sex marriage on the November bal-

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lot. But unlike 2004, analysts say the issue won't have much of an impact on the presidential races in those states.

Hallmark Offers Gay Wedding Cards: Most states may not recognize gay marriage yet, but now Hallmark does. Following recent pro-gay marriage developments in California and Massachusetts, the nation's largest greeting card company has rolled out a same-sex wedding greetings line.

The cards have designs featuring two tuxedos, overlapping hearts or intertwined flowers. Inside the cards offer such sentiments as "Two hearts. One promise." The language inside the cards is purposely neutral, with no mention of wedding or marriage, to make them also suitable for any type of commitment ceremony.

Hallmark claims the move is a response to consumer demand, not any political pressure. "It's our

goal to be as relevant as possible to as many people as we can," Hallmark spokeswoman Sarah Gronberg Kolell said.

On The QNU Tube: Gay couch potatoes are clucking over the goings on in LOGO's over-the-top comic soaper "Sordid Lives" featuring former *Golden Girl* Rue McLanahan, 70's thrush Olivia Newton-John and former *Will & Grace* regular Leslie Jordan - who spends most his time in Tammy Wynette drag... Meanwhile gay icon Margaret Cho is back in her own semi-scripted reality comedy series "The Cho Show" on VH-1. The first episode offered the Korean comic in a spray painted dress with only rhinestones covering her tropic zones - though the basic cable music channel ultimately decided to pixilate Cho's bottom. Apparently baby had a little too much back...

QUEST FALL ARTS PREVIEW CONTINUES...

THE 21ST MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL PART ONE

Opening Night: Thursday, September 4 Landmark's Oriental Theatre

(7:30 pm) "Were the World Mine"
(Tom Gustafson, USA, video, 95min., 2008)
(Please see accompanying review)

Highly Recommended

Day 2 Friday, September 5 UWM Union Theatre

* (5:00 pm) FREE "It Is Not the Homosexual
Who Is Perverse, But the Society in Which
He Lives" (Nicht der Homosexuelle ist pervers,
sondern die Situation, in der er lebt)



The story of Daniel, the shy country boy who comes to Berlin for romance but who sabotages his

chances by succumbing to the avid gay scene, is a self-conscious pastiche of clichés and assumptions about a monolithic "gay lifestyle": from gay bars and promiscuity to tea rooms and mustaches (it's 1971). With characters dubbed into English and the men and décor looking like they are from, well, 1971, the movie has the authenticity of another planet. But the film's Fassbinderian bluntness is tempered by a countercultural sense of possibility. Denounced from all corners of the political spectrum for its explicitness and perceived sensationalism, the film nevertheless inspired the formation of gay collectives and gay activism across Germany. (Not screened) *with MANSFIELD 1962* (William E. Jones, video, 9min. 2006)

In the summer of 1962, the Mansfield, Ohio Police Department used a hidden camera to film men having sex in a public restroom. This surveillance footage—which was used to convict over 30 men—was later made into an instructional film called *Camera Surveillance*. Jones re-edited a found version of that film, and *Mansfield 1962* is his haunting, silent act of historiography.

* (7 pm) The New World (*La Nouveau Monde*)

(Etienne Dhaene, France, in French with English subtitles, video, 90min., 2007)



One of the most refreshing attributes of foreign films, in Glenn's humble opinion, is how marvelously ordinary and believable are their cinematic characters. In this year's festival, one need look no further than those in Etienne Dhaene's **"The New World,"** a thoughtful French film which follows a young lesbian couple struggling to start a family. Lucie (Natalia Dontcheva) hears her biological clock ticking more and more loudly and manages to persuade her decidedly hesitant girlfriend Marion (Vanessa Larré) that the time is right to try and have a baby. Neither can possibly imagine what they have in store for them. First, they discover the option of artificial insemination is unavailable because French law permits it only for heterosexual couples. So now what? The two women begin interviewing possible suitable (and unsuitable) donors, offering plenty of comedy at the expense at some of their more unlikely prospects. In

the end they choose Marion's dear friend Hugo, his willingness they believe a gift of the fertility gods. But Hugo has a change of heart with regard to his role as surrogate dad. To everyone's surprise, he is resolute to become the best Daddy in the world, leading Lucie and Marion to find out, rather unexpectedly, that sometimes baby makes four.

* (9pm) YOU and HIM: AN EVENING OF MEN'S SHORTS

Ever dream of walking hand-in-back-pocket with your rocker boyfriend at the county fair? How about tango dancing at the local pub? This program of wistful, celebratory, amorous and poignant short films finds men falling in and out of love, applying for marriage licenses, and coming out by the pool. To screen: *Dish* (David Quantic, USA, 8min., 2007), *For a Relationship* (Jim Verburg, Canada, 4min., 2007), *El Primo (The Cousin)* (Nick Oceano, USA, 16min., 2008), *Tango Finlandia* (Hannu Lajunen and Tomi Riihelä, Finland, 6min., 2006), *Asian Boyfriend* (Wayne Yung, Canada, 1min., 2006), *Rock Pockets* (Trevor Anderson, Canada, 5min., 2007), *Functional Design* (Christian Robinson, USA, 4min., 2007), *Uropop* (Benny Nemerofsky Ramsay, Canada, 1min., 2006) and **more!**
(Not screened)



Day 3 Saturday, September 8
UWM Union Theatre



*** (1:00 pm) *She's a Boy I Knew***

(Gwen Haworth, Canada, video, 70min., 2007) Gwen Haworth explores her journey as well as that of her family on her path to gender reassignment surgery in the affirming documentary, "***She's a Boy I Knew.***" Although blessed with astonishingly supportive family and friends, at the start of this auto-ethnography – not a word Glenn actually understands but feels compelled to use here – Gwen, born Steven, reveals that his/her earliest nightmares were of "being ostracized, of being left behind... rejection and abandonment, those were my nightmares." Having spent years putting his gender identity carefully behind barriers, Steven fell in love with and later married Malgosia. Finally in 2000 Steven began realized that he could no longer continue being untrue to himself regardless of the very frightening possible consequences. Armed with a wealth of family home movies, revealing interviews with wife Malgosia, with family members and friends plus delightful animation from Michael Mann (Malgosia's second husband) and Diego Maclean, Gwen's story is sure to prove to be a festival favorite.

*** (3:00 pm) *An Island Calling***



(Annie Goldson, New Zealand, in English & Fijian with English subtitles, video, 75min., 2008)

Following his book, "**Deep Beyond The Reef**," Owen Scott continues to probe the mysterious and disturbing circumstances of the brutal murder of his openly gay brother John in the compelling documentary, "***An Island Calling.***" Two fourth-generation, white Fiji Islanders, John and Owen Scott both grew up amidst much colonial privilege. The sons of a much revered WWII war hero, both brothers would live much of their lives in New Zealand. John, who had always longed to go back to Fiji, finally did so with his partner Greg Scrivener, later becoming Director-General of the Fijian Red Cross. Much had changed on Fiji, particularly a good deal of political turmoil leading to two different political coups. Still, John and Greg endeavored to take the extraordinary step to live openly as a gay couple. Then on July 1, 2001 John and Greg were brutally murdered in their home by a young man named Apete Kaisau, a one-time intimate of John and Greg. Owen Scott and film's director Annie Goldson explore at length the Owen family backstory, the battle for post-colonial power, as well as the influence of fundamentalist evangelical Christianity but frustratingly little time on the nature of the relationship John and Greg had with their assassin.

*** (5:00 pm) *La León***

(Santiago Otheguy, Argentina, in Spanish with English subtitles, 78min., 2007)

Often believed synonymous, the very real difference between "movies" and "cinema" becomes strikingly evident in a film like Santiago Otheguy's "***La León***," a dark, deeply disturbing story of a solitary gay man living in the wilds of the Paraná Delta in northeastern Argentina. Much like the others in his community, Alvaro (Jorge Román) lives by harvesting reeds, fishing and by re-binding the library books he retrieves on trips to a nearby city. To meet his sexual needs, Alvaro occasionally manages clandestine encounters with strangers. Mostly, though, Alvaro is content keeping to himself. This becomes increasingly impossible thanks to El Turu (Daniel Valenzuela), captain of the local ferry boat, La Leon. Railing against changes he sees taking place around him, fueled by alcohol and driven in no small measure by some decidedly unwelcome sexual desires of his own – note the hypnotic scene where Turu watches spellbound as Alvaro showers – Turu takes to tormenting Alvaro with taunts

of "faggot." Although many images of this black & white film are extraordinarily beautiful, much of the film (at least Glenn's screener) is impossibly dark and while director Otheguy thoroughly captures Alvaro's sense of isolation and otherness, "***La León***" nonetheless makes for some rather wearisome viewing.

*** (7:00 pm)**

Butch Jamie

(Michelle Ehlen, USA, video, 86min., 2007)



Definitely the most unexpected pleasure of the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival's opening week is film-making impresario Michelle Ehlen's delightful "***Butch Jamie***." In this madcap lesbian take on the classic comedy "***Tootsie***," Jamie (Michelle Ehlen) is doing her damndest to be a working actress, going so far as to go to auditions donning a wig (absolutely hideous), fake nails and loads of make-up. The result? Her bi-

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sexual roommate's cat gets more jobs than Jamie does. Ouch! After yet another rejection, her best friend David (David Au) tells her to just try being herself and so she does, going to her next audition with short, spiky hair, a heavy-gauge chain around her neck and a studded leather wristband and belt. Success. Sort of. The good news is that she wins a role. The bad news is she is playing a straight man. No, really. Plus, she's to keep her actual gender under wraps. Please, the movie she's been cast in surely has a budget less than one of Glenn's typical bar tabs. This conceit does allow for some gender-bending romance as the now dubbed "Male Jamie" is wooed and soon won by Jill (Jessica Lange wannabe Tiffany Anne Carrin), the cute wardrobe girl. Boasting a fabulously wacky, unpredictable screenplay and kick-ass performances, particularly from the multitalented Ehlen and the perfectly cast Huey the Cat – check out their hilarious audition together for a food a Catsup Cat Food commercial – **"Butch Jamie"** is Glenn's MUST SEE pick of the festival's first weekend.

Highly Recommended

* (9:00 pm) **Save Me**

(Robert Cary, USA, video, 96min., 2007)

There are few issues more polarizing within the LGBT community than that of the ex-gay movement, subject of Robert Cary's unwaveringly committed **"Save Me,"** the first feature film from a new gay-focused production company, Mythgarden. In the film's rousing opening, Mark (Chad Allen) is off again on a sex and drugs binge that goes terribly wrong, one that ends in a botched suicide attempt. Not his first attempt. His thoroughly fed-up family decides to send Mark to Genesis House, a Christian 12-step "recovery"

facility "specializing in sexual brokenness" under the leadership of Gayle (Judith Light) and her husband Ted (Stephen Lang). Once there, Mark finds purpose – something he's long lacked. He also finds Scott (QAF's Robert Gant). The film's low-key approach deliberately offers no easy answers, not even the one back-hearted villain. All of the film's central characters are crafted with respect, no matter how misguided they are or how questionable the nature of the proposed treatment. Gayle in particular is portrayed as well-meaning in her efforts to cure and thus "save" these young men from homosexuality, so many of whom remind her dead son. Mark arrives at Genesis House in desperate need of help, his destructive behavior surely destined to lead to tragedy. But what of the poor, shy young teen driven up to Genesis House's front gates as the credits begin to role?

* (11:00 pm) **The Lollipop Generation**

(G.B. Jones, Canada, video, 80min., 2008)

"The Lollipop Generation" was shot and edited on Super-8 over a period of 15 years — the result is an image both beat-up and marvelous, mirroring the lives of the film's characters. It stars a gang of under-age porn stars and hustlers, all refugees from phobic parents. The juvenile delinquents shoplift, get busy in public places, and search for their faces on milk cartons, all the while armed with lollipops of various sizes and shapes. The "Dick and Jane" dialogue and candy-sweet delivery belies the undercurrent of hostility towards adult hypocrisy. The kids are pursued by "playground pervs" and guys with video cameras claiming to be artists. One of their exploiters, who meets a boy outside a Catholic school, is played memorably by Vaginal Crème Davis. (Not screened)

Day 4 Sunday, September 7 UWM Union Theatre



* (1:00 pm) **Call Me Troy**

(Scott Bloom, USA, video, 100min., 2007)

In attempting to capture the extraordinary life of Reverend Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church on film, director Scott Bloom faced a rather daunting task in **"Call Me Troy."** A fearless, pioneering gay activist, Perry's accomplishments are far too many to name here but include performing the first public same-sex marriage (way back in 1969), conducting a celebrated hunger strike in 1978 to raise to raise \$100,000 to fight the Briggs Initiative and with Robin Tyler, helped organize the first LGBT March on Washington in 1979. Although there's plenty of fascinating historic footage in **"Call Me Troy,"** Bloom's camera relentlessly returns time and again to the charismatic Perry. And indeed, Perry is wonderfully candid about his life, particularly his difficulties in reconciling his sexuality with his faith. Nor can anyone watching **"Call Me Troy"** question Perry's sincere commitment to the LGBT community. Less comfortably, Bloom fleshes out his documentary with hefty doses of the Reverend Troy Perry in action, preaching to his faithful flock and unfortunately making **"Call Me Troy"** feel at times like an MCC recruitment film.

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* (3:00 pm) **FREE Affinity**
(Tim Fywell, UK, video, 94min., 2008)

Surely too hot for PBS's re-imagined **Masterpiece!**, Sarah Waters is back and once again is busy transporting viewers to Victorian England in "**Affinity**." This superb adaptation by Andrew Davies, also screenwriter for the recent "**Brideshead Revisited**," reveals the barely suppressed lesbian desire lurking beneath the traditionally accepted façade of Victorian sexual repression. Margaret Pryor (Ana Madeley) is a deeply unhappy soul is introduced. While wealthy, attractive and single, she is past the age respectable young women of a certain social class would have gotten married. Curiously enough, Margaret does have a suitable and most ardent suitor in the rather dreadful Theophilus Finch (Vincent Leclerc). Theophilus is a suitable suitor at least in her mother's eyes. But Margaret's heart remains constant, even if the love of her life, Helen, has actually just married Margaret's own brother. Following the death of her father, Margaret begins doing good works at a women's prison, where Margaret soon meets Selina (Zoe Tapper), a mysteriously attractive spiritualist arrested for fraud and assault. Their attraction is both immediate and mutual. Margaret's love for Selina grows quickly, as objects begin appearing and disappearing. First a vase of flowers no one has seen before materializes in Margaret's room and then Margaret's prized possession, a locket containing a cutting of Helen's simply vanishes. These two unlikely lovers might plan a future together but is Selina is hiding something?

Highly Recommended.

* (5:00 pm) **A Horse Is Not a Metaphor**

(Barbara Hammer, USA, video, music by Meredith Monk, 30min., 2007)

In her new experimental film, "**A Horse is Not a Metaphor**," Barbara Hammer confronts ovarian cancer with visions of horseback riding and river swimming. Identifying herself as a "cancer thriver as well as survivor," she here shares a densely layered work, personal and hopeful. (And with music by Meredith Monk.) Hammer writes: "Freedom is movement, freedom is ease; freedom is a horse galloping with mane and tail flying in the wind. Freedom is my eye and mind following the flow of expression through movement. Freedom is riding my horse on a trail exploring the unknown and seeing with fresh eyes as the world becomes new again." "**A Horse Is Not A Metaphor**" is about the power of living in the present to the fullest and with the greatest freedom." Hammer's new work will screen with two earlier 16mm experimental shorts—"Vital Signs" (9min, 1991) and "Sanctus" (19min., 1990)—that intermingle found footage and texts with dazzling optical play to meditate on the body and medical practice, life and death.

(Not screened)

(7:00 pm) **XXY**

(Lucia Puenzo, Argentina/Spain/France, in Spanish with English subtitles, 35mm on video, 91min., 2007)

(Please see accompanying review)

Highly Recommended

Day 5 Monday, September 10 – UWM Union Theatre

* (7:00 pm) **Derek**

(Isaac Julien & Tilda Swinton, UK, video, 76min., 2008)

Although not quite the very first gay film Glenn ever saw, Derek Jarman's homoerotically-charged "**Sebastiane**" (1976) nevertheless would have certainly removed any doubts young Glenn might have had about being gay. Not that Glenn actually had any. Jarman's cinematic exploration of the life of St. Sebastian placed the future saint adrift in a sun drenched, indeed rather barren landscape peopled solely by strapping, virtually naked Roman soldiers whose burning homosexual desire simmering barely beneath the surface. "**Sebastiane**" would be merely Jarman's first film in which he celebrated male beauty and love between men long before anyone coined the phrase, queer cinema. In "**Derek**," acclaimed director Isaac Julien and actress and longtime Jarman collaborator Tilda Swinton have crafted a loving portrait of the iconoclastic filmmaker. Framed by extensive interview footage Jarman filmed in 1990, "**Derek**" boasts generous clips from Jarman's feature films, Jarman's home movies plus Swinton's haunting voice-over narration of her "Letter to an Angel" written for Jarman long after his death from AIDS in 1994. A perfect introduction for those who might be unfamiliar with this early gay filmmaker, "**Derek**" is a marvelous portrait of an artist, activist and most of all a remarkable man.

(Recommended)

* (9:00 pm) **FREE Derek Jarman's The Angelic Conversation**

(Derek Jarman, UK, Super8 blown up to 35mm, 78min., 1985)

A curious film choice, thinks Glenn, to accompany Isaac Julien's superb documentary

and with which to highlight the cinematic career of this trailblazing gay filmmaker. But then again, "**The Angelic Conversation**" is, according to Jarman himself, "My most austere work, but also the closest to my heart." Inspired by fourteen of Shakespeare's sonnets—each of which is addressed to a young man—and shot in Super8 blown up to 35mm, Jarman's "**The Angelic Conversation**" is more poetic cinema than feature film, inspired perhaps by Jarman's early days as a painter. With a near hypnotic quality, Jarman strings together a stunning sequence of "lyrical tableaux" accompanied by the sonnets haunting read by Dame Judi Dench. "**The Angelic Conversation**" is indeed a lovely Jarman offering but next year, how about "**Caravaggio**" or the filmmaker's wildly original take on "**The Tempt**?"



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Day 6 Tuesday, September 9 – UWM Union Theatre



*** (7:00 pm) *A Jihad for Love***

(Parvez Sharma, USA, in English, Farsi, Urdu, Hindi, Turkish, & French, with English subtitles, video, 81 min., 2007) The vast majority of Americans know little if anything of life in Muslim nations, particularly for gay men and lesbians. Sadly Glenn must admit to being included amidst these ignorant masses. Only the occasionally horrific atrocities, like the public hanging of the two Iranian teens, ever manages to crack the headlines of the better LGBT (and mainstream) press, thus threatening to disturb our otherwise cluelessly cozy daily life. All this makes "*A Jihad for Love*" surely the most intriguing and compelling of this year's documentaries. From first-time filmmaker Parvez Sharma, "*A Jihad for Love*" is the first film which attempts to explore the lives of gay men and lesbians in Islamic nations. Sharma, a Muslim, captures on film lives of individuals from India, Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, South Africa and Iran. The majority of Muslims believe homosexuality is expressly forbidden in the Quran, some even demand torture or execution for those found guilty. Yet while the gay and lesbian Muslims whose stories Sharma has captured may have been forced to flee their homes and their families all are determined to reconcile their lives and sexuality with their faith. "*A Jihad for Love*" proves enlightening, profoundly moving and ultimately inspiring.

Highly Recommended

**Day 7 Wednesday, September 10
Landmark's Oriental Theatre**

*** (3:30 pm) *FREE Equality U***

(Dave O'Brien, USA, video, 90min., 2008)

A stirring portrait of the young activists who are fighting to rid campuses of homophobic inequality. *Equality U* rides the bus with a group of 33 young activists on the landmark Soulforce Equality Ride, a Freedom Riders-inspired, two-month, cross-USA tour to confront antigay discrimination policies at 19 conservative, religious, and military colleges. In the hope of fomenting dialogue with other young people as a way to create safer, more tolerant places, these young people—some seasoned activists, some newbies—struggle with the challenges and personal toll of making change. In the daily confrontations with administrators that don't want them on their campuses, they risk harassment, violence, and arrest—as well as a sense of failure and resignation. With personal video journals from six of the Riders, *Equality U* details the alarming situation for LGBT students on many American campuses today while offering an inspiring portrait of the activists who will change it.

(Not Screened)

**Day 7 Wednesday, September 10
Landmark's Oriental Theatre**

FESTIVAL CENTERPIECE

*** (7:00 pm) *Water Lilies***

(*Naissance des pieuvres*)

(Céline Sciamma, France, in French with English subtitles, 35mm, 85min, 2007)

As this year's "Centerpiece" selection, Festival Direc-

tor Carl Bogner has selected "*Water Lilies*," a charming French coming of age film capturing the lives of three 15 year-old girls as they begin taking their first tentative steps in exploring their sexuality. There's Anne (Louise Blachère), a raucous, big-boned girl who performs on one of the local synchronized swimming teams. Best friends with Marie (Pauline Acourt), Anne is truly, madly, deeply in lust for an adorably cute lad ever so enchantingly named François (Warren Jacquin). As is so often the case in stories such as this, the beguiling François's attentions lie elsewhere. Marie, a rather somber young woman, has her eyes set in a very different direction—that of gorgeous Floriane (Adèle Haenel). The reigning star of the little synchronized swimming team, Floriane hides her virginity under a carefully constructed cloak of pretend promiscuity. Along the way, she made more than a few enemies amongst her teammates and soon welcomes Marie's duly determined overtures of friendship, unaware of the depth of Marie's attachment. Lesbian filmmaker Céline Sciamma is sadly unable to resist setting up the rather predictable romantic triangle which finds Floriane uncertainly fending off both François's blatant attentions as well as Marie's subtler efforts. But what of poor Anne? *with*

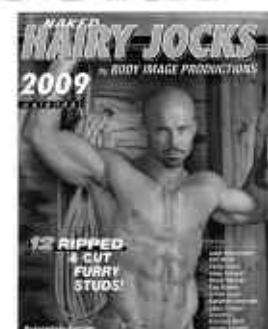
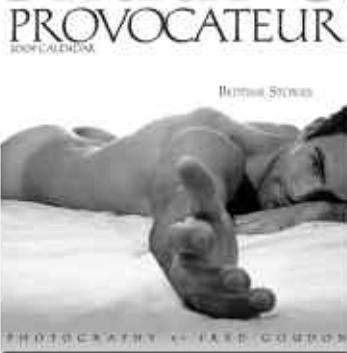
No Bikini (Claudia Morgado-Escanilla, Canada, 35mm, 9 min., 2007)

Seven-year-old Robin puts one over on her summer swimming class and has the time of her life.



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OPENING NIGHT AT THE MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL

WERE THE WORLD MINE & XXY

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop



WERE THE WORLD MINE

For some in Glenn's acquaintance, each year's **Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival** means just one thing: the invariably fabulous Opening Night film selection. More than a few folks thrown for a loop when Festival Director Carl Bogner programmed the engaging **lesbian** romantic comedy, "**Nina's Heavenly Delights**," last year?

Worry not, loyal **Quest** readers, as you are in for a treat with this year's selection, Tom Gustafson's simply magical "**Were the World Mine**," a sprightly comic twist on Shakespeare's "**A Midsummer's Night Dream**."

Like so many young gay lads before him and surely for many yet to come, high school is perhaps not the best of times for Timothy (Tanner Cohen). The elite, all-boys school at which Timothy is enrolled, places athletics, in this particular instance rugby, far above all else. Sound familiar? Not fitting into the jock model, Timothy often finds himself tormented by his classmates during gym. Although there is one amongst the brawny rugby players, Jonathon (Nathaniel David Becker), who has not only caught Timothy's eye but actually seems like he might be different from the others.

Sadly, any glimmer of hope Timothy might have possessed that Jonathon might be different, might be interested in him vanishes in the instant that he sees Jonathon making out with his cute, cheerleader girlfriend. Making out, what a delightfully nostalgic expression.

Still, there's magic in the air, if the film's cute musical numbers offer any indication. And with the an-

nouncement of the Senior Class Play, William Shakespeare's enchanted "**A Midsummer Night's Dream**," the stage is set. Glenn is wont to add here the ever so fitting line from Shakespeare, "All the world 's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" but it turns out it is actually from "**As You Like It**."

Cast as the mischievous fairy, Puck, Timothy seizes his chance when he is mysteriously guided into concocting a love potion, "Cupid's Love Juice" to be precise which, when sprinkled into the eyes of the other boys cast in the play and later, into those of most of the town folk, turns the quaint little hamlet into a veritable gay and lesbian playhouse or rather, playground.

Best of all, Timothy finds himself truly, madly, deeply loved by the boy of his dreams, Jonathon. But could this all, perchance, be merely a dream?

As an opening night Film Festival selection, "**Were the World Mine**" is truly "such stuff as dreams are made on." (**The Tempest**)

Few films could be any further from "**Were The World Mine**" in substance



XXY

Just the facts...

"**Were The World Mine**" opens the 2008 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival on Thursday, September 4th at 7:30pm at Landmark's Oriental Theatre.

"**XXY**" will be screened on Sunday, September 7 at 7:00pm at the UWM Union Theatre.

Find complete schedule information at arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm.

and intent than "**XXY**," a profoundly disturbing drama about a very different sort of teen.

Alex (Ines Efron) is not your typical 15 year-old. Born intersexed, Alex's parents resisted their doctors' recommendations to operate on her as an infant to remove her secondary sexual organs. Instead, her marine biologist father Nestor (Ricardo Darín) was determined to leave the decision for Alex to make, when the time came.

And now, at 15 years old, the time would seem to have come. Alex has decided to stop taking the regiment of female hormones preventing the growth of a beard amongst other things and which has allowed Alex to live in the small coastal Argentine village as a girl. The onset of adolescence has brought changes in Alex which she either doesn't fully understand or perhaps simply does not have the vocabulary with which to articulate. Instead she has expressed herself in other, rather less constructive ways, the fight for instance she has with her best friend Vando which broke the boy's nose and has led to her being expelled from school.

With the decision clearly at hand, Alex's parents invite some friends to visit, plastic surgeon Ramiro (German Palacios), Erika (Carolina Pelereti), and their sweet, rather awkward adolescent son, Alvaro (Martin Piroyanski), a lad with issues of his own but blissfully unaware of Alex's condition.

Alex knows why Alvaro's plastic surgeon father has been asked the visit but the poor boy is clueless. How curiously apt then is his response to Alex's charges that his father is little more than a butcher, "He doesn't butcher people. He fixes them."

We in the audience, just as Alex herself knows, hers is not a situation allowing for any simple, easy fix.

Director Lucia Puenzo is occasionally a bit heavy-handed on the symbolism – please, Glenn didn't really see that character chopping a carrot to bits, did he?? Still, "**XXY**" emerges as a deeply moving drama and one indeed well beyond the simplistic approach such topics invariable receive from American filmmakers – particularly the especially loathsome efforts Glenn often finds on the Lifetime cable network when searching instead for some comforting reruns of "**The Golden Girls**."

NEW ON STAGE

THE MISANTHROPE BY MOLIERE

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Following what did in fact seem to be weeks in seclusion diligently screening the fabulous offerings of the upcoming Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival, some friends urged Glenn, in no uncertain terms really, to join a theatre party to see Moliere's *"The Misanthrope,"* the season opener for Bay View's delightful Boulevard Ensemble.

Now, many of Glenn's dearest friends are hardly what one might call "theatergoers." Not unless regular pilgrimages down to Chicago to see *"Naked Boys Singing"* count. Glenn thinks not.. Here, however, Boulevard Ensemble's Artist Director Mark Bucher promised an intriguing twist: the central romance, that of the misanthrope, the forthright Alceste and the object of his obsession, Cesarmene, were both to be played by men.

Bucher has also updated the setting for this classic comedy, the time is now the present, the place a contemporary art gallery.



Alceste (David Flores) is a rather heroic, if sadly misguided misanthrope. Contemptuous of the hypocrisy he sees around him, Alceste boldly rails against hypocrisy, of artifice over substance. He is quickly given the opportunity to do so when a handsome performance artist, Oronte (Joe Fransee) shamelessly strips down to an indecently tight pair of red Speedos whilst reciting his latest sonnet, "Hope." Alceste might have been forgiven had he refused to offer his critique, distracted by Oronte's flirtatious manner and muscular torso. But no, Alceste gives the young poet both barrels.

Oronte, who is just another of the many would-be suitors for Cesarmene (Cesar Gamino), then files a lawsuit against Alceste for his condemnation of his poem, seeking retribution. The die, as they say, is cast.

If Alceste proves inflexible with regard to Oronte's lawsuit, he is positively obstinate with regard to the love of his life. Recognizing all of Cesarmene's faults, particularly the lad's constant

Full Price, Half Price or Worth a Skip

Glenn is invariably impressed with the work Artistic Director Mark Bucher continues to offer in his intimate (read "tiny") store front theatre. Here casting a mix of familiar faces David (excellent) Flores, the always wonderful Mark Hagen and Beth Monholen with fresh faces (and more) like Joe Fransee. Glenn is rarely persuaded to visit the classics but was absolutely delighted with the Boulevard's *"The Misanthrope,"* a classic with a twist

Just the facts...

"The Misanthrope" runs through August 24 at the Boulevard Ensemble, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. For ticket information call (414) 744-5757 Next up for the Boulevard, *"The Constant Wife"* by Somerset Maugham Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - Sunday, October 05, 2008

indiscretions, Alceste nevertheless cannot help but love him. In Alceste, there is perhaps no better embodiment of one who has fallen truly, madly deeply in love.

But what of Cesarmene, usually played as a impulsive, changeable coquette. In the hands of Cesar Gamino, Cesarmene takes a darker, crueler turn. Knowing the older man's devotion, Gamino's Cesarmene capriciously toys with Alceste's affection. Admittedly, he is no kinder to any of his many gentleman callers. Then in a delicious final twist, Cesarmene is left, for once, all alone, in a stunning moment evoking Glenn Close's haunting final image in *"Dangerous Liaisons."*

"BABY" JANE HENRY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY AND FUNDRAISER FOR ARCW IN SUPPORT OF AIDS WALK WISCONSIN 2008

This announcement is sponsored by Quest Magazine



FLORENTINE OPERA'S LGBT-FRIENDLY CAMERATA ENCOURAGES OPERA ENTHUSIASM

Milwaukee - The Florentine Opera Company has introduced the Florentine Opera Camerata, an LGBT-friendly affinity group that presents a variety of opera-related social events for members of the LGBT community and their supporters. The group's focus is to generate enthusiasm for opera within the LGBT community and beyond. The term "Camerata" comes from an old Italian word meaning fellowship society. Today, it has come to describe an informal gathering, usually for the purpose of literary, philosophical or artistic discussion.

In celebration of Florentine Camerata's founding, new members will be offered an exclusive ticket package, which includes seats to the Florentine's November production of *Madama Butterfly*, ad-

mission to a Camerata Intermission Reception and the Florentine Opera's 08-09 Overture CD.

Florentine Opera Camerata will also host gatherings before each Florentine main stage production at The Room in Milwaukee, giving members the opportunity to enjoy beverages, hors d'ouevres, fellowship and insights from Florentine Opera staff and cast members about the fascinating world of opera.

In fulfilling our mission of bringing world-class opera to regional audiences, the Florentine is committed to ensuring that patrons from all walks of life are able to experience the melody, drama and intrigue of grand opera in a comfortable and inclusive setting.

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Camerata, contact Lindsey Denil by phone at: 414-225-1946 or or by email at: Idenil@florentineopera.org.

The Florentine Opera Company's productions reflect the highest musical and theatrical standards, while supporting community and educational programs. As a leader in Wisconsin's art community and the nation's sixth oldest opera company the Florentine Opera seeks to establish a significant presence in the cultural, educational and civic life of the state of Wisconsin and beyond. Main stage performances are held at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown, Milwaukee - home to the Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Ballet, Broadway and Off-Broadway series.

Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Saturday, August 30

Madison Gay Video Club "Houseboy" (TLA Rel., dir. Spencer Lee Schilly, 2007) "Some Like It Big" (Bel Ami, dir. Marty Stevens, 2008) 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org>, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Thursday, September 4 - Sunday September 14 The 21st Milwaukee LGBT film/Video Festival

Saturday, September 6

Boom & The ROOM (Milwaukee) Mr. Midtow Milwaukee Contest See Midtown Sap fmi
Shelter (Green Bay) Mr & Miss Titletown prelims for Mr Gay Wisconsin USofA & Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA pageants. 10:30 pm

Tuesday, September 9

The Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwords (Milw) 7 pm The book to be discussed is Megan Cater's new romance, *Midnight Melodies* All interested readers are always welcome to join in.

Friday, September 12

SoHo Art Gallery (Milwaukee) LIFE, a benefit for AIDS Walk Wisconsin. 8pm Complimentary cocktails from Three Olives at an open bar and nibbles from Gaffa. After party at Fluid

Saturday, September 13

Miramar theater (Milwaukee) 9 pm Miltown Kings Go Vaudeville. Drag show featuring special guests Dead Man's Carnival. \$7 cover. Raffle with donations from Tool Shed, Art Bar, Halo, Fuel, A Classic Slice, and many more. This is an 18+ event.

Sunday, September 14

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Castaways MC Beer/Soda Bust 3-7pm "Fall" into something Good prizes will be given away donation \$ 1.00 a tickets or \$ 5.00 crotch to floor

Las Palmas Restaurant (Greenfield) 8pm Baby Jane Henry celebrates the big 50 with a special show and fundraiser for ARCW's AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

Sumi-e Ink Painting Classes September 15th - Oct. 20th

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Introduction to Japanese Sumi-e ink painting class (with some watercolor). Local artist/educator PJZ will present a six week class introducing the history, development, philosophy, materials and exercises of the sumi-e ink painting. The class will combine a short meditation (Maggi Cage will be leading some meditations around chi and chi gung) lecture and instruction along with studio time. Guest speakers on focusing chi announced closer to the class date. PJZ (BFA and Art ED from UWM) has explored and practiced sumi-e painting for the last 7 years, teaching and learning along the way. Monday's 7-8:30pm, September 15th - October 20th. Class fee \$20.00. Class size limited to 15, so sign up early! To register, please contact Dave, Lizzie, or Robin at 414.271.2656

Thursday, September 18th, 2008

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Mix N' Mingle Floral Design Experience 6pm Check in for registered Guests 6:30pm Floral Design Workshop LGBT Member rate: \$25.00 Non LGBT member rate: \$30.00 Join Whole Foods Market's Floral Specialist Mari Traffic for a lesson on working with the unusual flowers unique to the harvest season. Mari will provide the education and inspiration to make floral arranging at home easy and enjoyable... To RSVP (with payment) no later than Sept 2 or fmi contact Patrick Price, Director of Philanthropy, at (414) 292 - 3065 or pprice@mkelgbt.org. Please RSVP as early as possible.

Saturday, September 20

Madison Gay Video Club "Four-Letter Word" (TLA Rel., dir. Casper Andreas, '07) "Hotter Than Hell" (Raging Stallion, dir. Ben Leon & Chris Ward, '08) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (eve)

Monday, September 15

Outwords Book Club (Milwaukee) 7 pm In the Book Club will discuss Kevin Sessums's outrageous memoir, *Mississippi Sissy* New members are always welcome.

Tuesday, September 23

Outwords Books (Milwaukee) 7 pm AUTHOR! AUTHOR! Outwords is delighted to host a publication party for C.P. Rowlands to celebrate the release of her debut novel, *Lake Effect Snow*. This is a free event and everyone is invited.

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Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie

Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist)

Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie at: askunclebarbie@aol.com



A sophisticated frenzy of intellectual information.

A Perverted Playground in the Human Psyche

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I was verbally abused and occasionally touched in a sexual way as a child by members of my family. Now, as a grown woman, my sexual experiences have been in a BDSM relationship. I enjoy being submissive and sexually abused. Is this because of my childhood or just the type of sex I enjoy?

Signed, Ms. Puzzled

Hello Ms. Puzzle,

I'm sorry to hear about the verbal abuse and incest that you experienced in your family. Unfortunately, that type of familial problem is all too common in our society (and worldwide, too, for that matter). When incestuous relationships are multigenerational (in other words, having gone on for many generations), the family members may start to think that this type of behavior is acceptable, especially if they were raised that way, learning from parents and grandparents. When this happens, the dysfunctional dynamics of the sexual behavior can start to feel "normalized" within the confines of that particular family. Although the abuse is still destructive, it often becomes a predictable pattern, which can be mistaken as a "normal" familial experience by the participants.

Based on your question, it sounds as if you have already made great strides in understanding the abuse, and hopefully have started your healing process. The fact that you have identified the inappropriate behavior in your family as abuse tells me that you recognize that it was destructive. Now, perhaps, you are also better able to understand and recognize the destructive patterns of behavior in your current sexual relationships that involve bondage, sadism, and masochism (BDSM). I'm not saying that all S&M activities are destructive for everyone. However, in your particular case, you might want to closely look at your motivation for saying, "I enjoy being submissive and sexually abused." If you don't mind my rephrasing your statement a little, perhaps what you really mean to say is that you are used to being abused.

Here is how I understand the process of the formation of sexual associations. We learn to make associations based on our personal experiences. (By the way, developing a sexual association is a much different process from your sexual orientation because sexual orientation is based, in part, on genetic, biochemical and pre-natal development interacting with social learning). So when you learn to make an association whereby you pair pain with pleasure, you are basing this association on past sexual behaviors that have become familiar (and therefore comfortable) to you. Basically, what I am trying to explain here

is that you seem to have linked up the experience of abuse with the experience of sexual expression. You have been taught since childhood to sexualize an abusive situation.

Now, in your adult life, you look for these "comfortably familiar" experiences because, not only do you feel content with what is predictable, but you also feel a certain false sense of control with what you perceive to be a ordinary sexual

experience. After all, you did say that you "enjoy being sexually abused." A couple of sentences back, I used the phrase, "false sense of control." I chose those words because you are really not in control of your S&M encounter. Rather, you are surrendering your personal power over to the other person/s. (From what I have been told by people who practice S&M, the exchange of power and control is usually shared equally between the individuals involved. Of course, those people I talked to were only sharing their personal experiences, and not speaking for all people who practice sexual bondage. So I'm sure there is some degree of variation.)

You asked, "Is this because of my childhood or just the type of sex I enjoy?" Actually, it is both. You apparently enjoy this type of sex because you formed sexual associations to S&M experiences that stem from your roots as an abused child. The really big question, which you did not ask, is how to express your sexuality in a more healthy way. I suggest breaking the old pattern of S&M bondage, and developing some brand new sexual associations to romantic intimacy that involves gentleness, tenderness, and kindness. Obviously, this change will take a lot of time and therapy. And since the type of therapeutic support you require goes beyond the boundaries of this advice column, I strongly suggest you seek individual (as well as group) counseling from your local mental health service center. I recommend cognitive/behavioral therapy because, based on research studies, it tends to be the most effective form of therapy for your type of situation.

Shout, Shout, Let It All Out, Barbie

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**NEXT DEADLINE: Tue., September 2
Runs September 11-24, 2008**

The Unholy Trinity

Leather, Levi, Bear, Fetish

Here we are ready to em "bark" on another realm of the BDSM community. We figured that we should throw a "bone" to our readers and try to get them to really "wag their tails" in anticipation. In case you haven't guessed this column is about Puppy Play, or more accurately human animal role play. Once again we have found a wonderful definition of this on Wikipedia they state the following.

Human animal role play (also called pet play, pony play, ponyism or pup-play) is a form of erotic sexual role-play where one or more of the participants takes on the role of a real or imaginary animal in character, including appropriate mannerisms and behavior, and sometimes a partner will act as another animal, or, in a sexual context, may take the role of rider, trainer, or caretaker (or even breeding partner).

The principal theme of human-animal role play is usually the voluntary or involuntary reduction (or transformation) of a human being to animal status, and focus on the altered mind-space created. The most common examples are probably canines (pup, dog, wolf), felines (cat, kitten, lion) or equines (pony, horse). Human-animal role play is also used in a BDSM context, where one person may be a 'slave', treated or used as an animal by their Mistress/Master.

Now that all of us know what we are talking about lets once again dive into the thick of it!

TOP- I have gotten into a few puppy/animal play scenes in my time and I have to say they are extremely fun. As the Top in the scene there is really not a whole lot that you are doing except caring for a pet! In puppy play this means washing them, feeding them (from a dog bowl!), playing with them, petting them, and of course letting them outside to use the bathroom. Now for some people letting your human pet outside to use the bathroom may not be a viable option due to close proximity to neighbors or other reasons. In this case I would suggest toilet training your pet as soon as possible! Unless you don't have a problem with them going on some newspaper there will always be a need for the pet to act like a human some of the time. I do have to say that recently **BOTTOM** turned me to dog shock collars which are "safe" to use on human pets but I would not recommend that you use them unless you have had experience with them yourself. Please keep in mind that not all pet training devices are going to work well transition to a dungeon scene. Most are too strong to be used on humans and can result in major harm to your play partner. I cannot stress enough that you discuss your scene, and limits, with your partner. Speaking with someone who "specializes" in this type of play can also be extremely helpful.

SWAP- Awww! A puppy!!!! CUTE!!!! Here pup! Here pup! Awww good boy! Does puppy want a bone? *UNZIP* Here ya go! Good boy!! No, not bestiality, puppy play! It's a great fetish and lots of fun. I remember "back in the day" when "no one" had heard of pup play, and only a few of my internet friends were into the scene and they felt like outcasts because of it. Since then, puppy play has become a well accepted and practiced fetish to the point of there being an annual puppy party at IML. The first time I did a serious puppy scene with someone as the puppy, I felt a bit weird, but the old adage "It's only kinky the first time" really came into play the next time I did a pup play scene. Ever since then I've never looked back and puppy play is one of my favorite fetishes now.

BOTTOM-Woof-woof-bark-woof-grrrr...oops I'm not in character. Puppy play is awesome! It allows me to think and react with my SIR on a much simpler level. A lot can be learned from just watching a dog. A lot of the fun comes from the limited ability to communicate and also having limited dexterity, just like a real dog. It is a good place for the bottom to loose himself/herself for a while. I happen to eat actual dog treats (Milkbone please) but for those less brave I would recommend getting treats from a high-end dog bakery, they are human safe. Cans of beef stew can be used to simulate dog food though there are also real dog foods on the market that are human safe. Be warned, a dog with a messy face will spread the joy. Some dog kennels are large enough to crate humans, heavy steel cages are also available. Other favorite toys include leather dog mitts, a butt plug with a dog tail on it and a muzzle but none of that is essential. Use your imagination, it is all about having fun. I have had my hands encased in plaster casting material to make them into paws. While that was fun leather is more comfortable and less messy. One very important thing to remember, human knees were not meant to support your weight long-term and rug-burns can end the scene fast. Invest in a good quality set of knee-pads before you play. I like the ones carpet layers use. In order for this play to last any amount of time comfort is of the essence. Yes I did introduce TOP to dog shock collars, a fact I am sure I will

regret soon enough, with any luck!

Well it sure seems like put this subject down like so many old yellers. Until next time keep the play safe, sane, and consensual. If you have any questions for us or want us to talk about a specific topic let us know by emailing us at unholytrinity08@yahoo.com.

EVENTS

Kinky Kollege September 19-21 Chicago, IL (Pansexual event)
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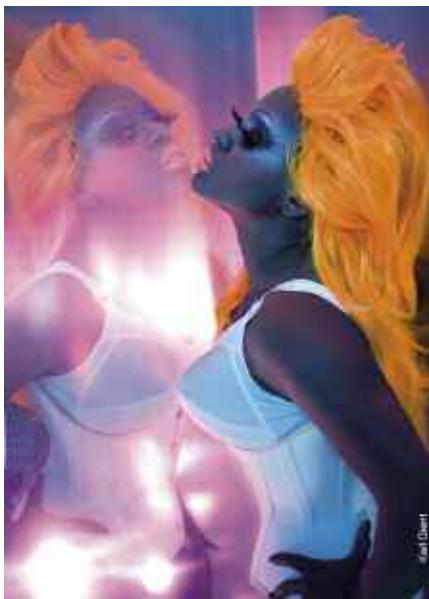
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EAR CANDY: ULTRA NATÉ STRIKES GOLD WITH ALCHEMY: G.S.T. RELOADED

and tossing in "Twisted," a redo from 2001's *Situation: Critical*. The first CD is a set of 2008 remixes, that includes sassy new reimaginings of both her 2007 hits plus a powerful new mix of the diva's "Love Is The Only Drug," which reached #2 in 2006. The remixes - most by Ultra's longtime collaborators such as J. Louis and Ferran (the current Basement Boys' line-up) and Mood II Swing (who created the hit mix for "Free") - let both the beat and the diva-penned lyrics shine. They're also largely free of those annoying beat-less breakdowns currently in vogue in remixes elsewhere.

The second disc highlights Ultra Naté's DJing talents, and offers for the first time at retail a nonstop mix of most of the songs on disc one in their once promo-only club versions. Most of the fans of the diva outside

of Baltimore may not know that she regularly spins the wheels of steel at the Paradox there when she's not out touring the planet (in the next month alone she'll be appearing in Italy and Russia as well as U.S. dates). The vibe of the second set largely reflects the diva's dance philosophy - "bumping four to the floor straight up deep house, no funky no chunky" - though several of the mixes have an almost jazz-like feel in places.

If the old saying that "life begins at 40" is true, perhaps Ultra Naté's *Alchemy: G.S.T. Reloaded* might be the vehicle to help the diva live it in the reflected glory of mainstream acclaim - the album certainly has the chops to make it happen. For fans, it's a must-have and for the buy-curious it's a bargain (currently on sale at Amazon.com and other sites at \$14.99).

Reviewed by Mike Fitzpatrick

2008 has been the year of the Resurrected Diva. Boomer-aged club goers have been dragging their arthritis-riddled bones back on the dance floor to "Stamp Their Feet" with Donna Summer, rehash the "Same Old Fucking Story" with Cyndi Lauper and wondering if "This Is Not Real Love" with George Michael, certainly the biggest drama queen of the bunch.

It seems only fitting that veteran U. S. dance diva Ultra Naté - who turned 40 this year - should join the parade. After all, it was nearly two decades ago - 1989 to be exact - that gay ears first perked up to Naté's signature vocals on the Basement Boys' club classic "It's Over Now." Following a six year absence from the summit, the diva stormed back to the top of the Billboard dance charts twice in 2007 with a fierce remake of the Pointer Sisters' "Automatic" and her own "Give It All You Got" featuring fellow house hottie Chris Willis.

Always adored far more by Europe's taste makers than by the U.S. music industry types who wanted her to "funk it up," Ultra Naté elected to languish in indie label land for more than a decade and as a result has only hit the mainstream once with 1997's mid-charter "Free." The release of this Tommy Boy/Silver Label double CD may finally get this under-appreciated diva the recognition she so richly deserves.

Released August 19, *Alchemy: G.S.T. Reloaded* is actually an all-remix album, revisiting ten of the fourteen songs from Naté's 2007 release *Grime, Silk And Thunder*,



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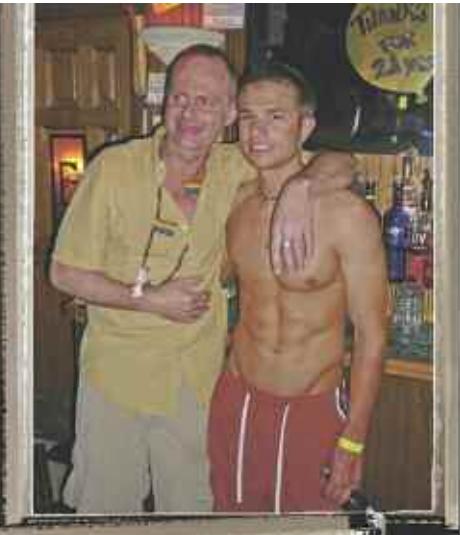
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Roomate wanted Waupaca County country home; rent \$350 + half utilities. 4 berooms, lots of rooms, run of the whole house. I am 57 yo in great shape and looks. Call for more info. Need someone now, so don't wait, must see. (715)281-2930 or leave message. [1]

Wausau area roomate wanted to share 4 bedroom country home. Prefer non-smoker, must like animals, be tidy & clean. \$400/mo including utilities. references required. (715)432-4785 [2]

FOX VALLEY/GREEN BAY

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Green Bay eastside roomate wanted to share nice 2 bedroom duplex, fenced in back yard, cental air. \$300/mo and 1/2 utilities. Call Don (920)257-6684 [2]

DePere-GreenBay historic home to share: Professional sharing home, private bedroom, telephone, cable, internet, kitchen, living-dining rm. w/fireplaces, movie-TV room w/weight machine, sunbed, washer-dryer, utilities included, \$400/mo. w/references Skyking_Concorde@hotmail.com 920.217.7598 leave message

Roomate wanted to share FULLY FURNISHED, 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, **Appleton Duplex** with gay white male. Nice place, all appliances, dishwasher, garbage disposal, patio. Only \$295 plus 1/2 utilities (gas, electric & water, Direct TV & Roadrunner) 920-858-7172

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538 Broad Street. - 1 BR upper, Menasha Nice Large clean 1 BR apartments available in quiet neighborhood with large yard and off street parking. \$300 - \$385/month. Overlooks Lake Winnebago. Close to Appleton and near bus lines and many amenities! Call 414-384-9999 for more in-

formation or to arrange a showing or send an email to jasrentals@aol.com

1061 E. Kimberly Ave. - 1 BR upper, Kimberly Nice clean 1 BR apartment in quiet neighborhood with large yard and off street parking. \$300/month. Call 414-384-9999 for more information or to arrange a showing. [2]

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PERSONALS

MESSAGES

The NWUPM Bruins are hosting a night at the Shelter, Green Bay on Wed., Sept 10 5:30pm till 9pm. There will be food & prizes from drawings that include such things as stereos & DVD players. Meet the new bears on the block and find out about us and while your at it have fun doing so. remember fun??? [1]

Cheerleading coach looking for individuals to form a Green Bay team to cheer on a volunteer, non-profit squad. The purpose of this squad would be to perform, have fun, and raise money for

charity at events such as parades, benefit walks and local festivals. This squad would be a "cheerleading for charity" organization much like Cheer New York or Chicago Spirit Brigade. No experience necessary, ages 21 and up. Please contact cheergreenbay@yahoo.com

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Hi a cute part time girl here. I love to dress cute & try my best to be hot. I live south of Kenosha. I love to dress for myself & for other CDs. I am looking only & I say only other CDS OR TGS or couples. for friendship & hopefully a lot more. Please no men. I'm looking for out-going people & maybe

another CD for a LTR. Please only serious people. Call me, I'd love to meet you. (847)309-9125 lynn [2]

MEN looking for MEN

Bi BM, attached, in mid 20's, 5'11 195lbs 7in uncut, seeking oral active white males 18-40 for hot sexual times, must be in descent shape, looking for versatile men, prefer bottoms. Racine, Milwaukee & Kenosha areas unless you can travel, Looking for afternoon fun 3pm-5, send pics & replies to boybe24@hotmail.com [1]

Alpha SGWM. middle age, clean, healthy, HIV neg, professional, looking for Beta SGM, 30 - 45, cute, who is interested in being sex buddys, friends or possible relationship. I have my own apt, flexible schedule. Call with stats & we can chat about interests. I have many interests. (414)225-9683. Please be considerate of time. Let's unlock the success in a gay relationship. [1]

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Bi-male white looking for 18-25yo Bi-White males. (Loyalty, trust, honor, respect and courage a must.) 130-165lbs & under 6'tall. Write to Lee Horacek, 6207 W. Decker Rd., Ludington, MI 49431 or call (231)239-9904 [1]

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GBM 45 167# 5'8" smooth skin seeking to meet a GWM top guy for relationship. Someone single around 30's -40's. am not into bars much. I like art & jazz & romantic times. James (414)578-1657 [2]

Will bring car to intimate location and suck on passenger seat or at my home. must be clean. (262)639-4171 or cell (262)994-5977. Don in Racine [2]

WM 60 5'9", 165# seeking dominate abusive top men, any age/race. Also getting rid of years of porn. free videos, magazines, etc. Call/write Karl 515 E. Judd St. Woodstock, IL 60098 (815)338-9137 [2]

SWGM 40yo 5'9" 145# Green/Brown very handsome Fox Valley man looking for others who may be: a bear, hairy, athletic, into leather, bad boys at times, romantic, good looking, relationship minded, able to rock my world. Andy (920)713-8943 [2]

Looking for buddy! caring, loyalty, a+! love Vegas, beaches, walking, playing cards, talking nutrition or travel! (773)569-6333 Tom 3658 W. 79pl., Chicago. pen pal wanted! [2]

Come to Racine truck stop. I will signal you to my white minivan, you will get in & I will drive to a secluded parking lot while you unbutton your pants and get hard in the passenger seat. When I stop the car, I'll suck you good. Don (262)639-4171. cell (262)994-5977 [2]

Younger gay male to help out slightly handicapped man with male needs in Appleton area. Call (920)540-0014 after 6pm to 9:30pm [2]

W/M 60 - 5'9" 195# I enjoy being serviced orally ISO orally talented individuals for discreet encounters. Submissive a plus. Send phone # and best time to contact to: PMB#143 1528 S. Koeller Oshkosh, WI 54902 [3]

GWM senior bottom looking for GBM top in the Kenosha, Racine area who is married, or divorced for occasional get-togethers. discretion is assured. email: dickkerl@att.net [3]

I am an early retiree, 50's in Johnson Creek looking for gay or bi male(s) for some daytime fun. I can be top or bottom and entertain...just looking for some great hot sex and fun. You won't be disappointed! jduchow@tds.net. [3]

Hi there, I'm a bisexual male 30 years old in Stevens Point. I'm seeking a discrete top man who can host, I would really prefer a man who likes to rim/eat hot clean butt. Let me know we can trade pics. Email me at lovewopunish@yahoo.com [3]

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Players 214 Main St, La Crosse (608)784-2353

Rainbow's End 417 Jay St, La Crosse

CLUB Impulse 132 W. Grand Ave. Beloit, (608)361-0000

Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct Madison, (608)277-9700

Shamrock 117 W Main St., Madison (608)255-5029

WOOF'S 114 King Street, Madison (608)204-6222 www.woofsmadison.com

Captain Dix (*Rainbow Valley Resort*) 4124 River Road WI Dells, WI (866) 553-1818

NORTHERN WISCONSIN (715)

Diversions 202 Gibson Street Eau Claire (715)514-2337

Scooters 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire (715)835-9959

JT's Bar and Grill 1506 N. 3rd Superior (715)-394-2580

The Main 1217 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)392-1756

OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau www.totheoz.com (715)842-3225

Club Night Out 2533 Cty. Rd. M, Stevens Point (715)342-5820 www.club-nightout.com

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN (920)

Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wis., Appleton (920)954-9262

Ravens (NEW) 215 E. College Ave Appleton (920)364-9599

Napalese 1351 Cedar Street, Green Bay (920)432-9646

SASS 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay (920)437-7277

THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay 920-432-2662 • theshelterclub.com

XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay

Club 1226 1226 Oshkosh Ave Oshkosh, (920)651-1226

Blue Lite 1029 N 8th, Sheboygan (920)457-1636

ROCKFORD, IL (815)

The Office 513 East State Rockford, IL (815)965-0344

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Club ICON 6305 120th (Off I-94) Kenosha, (262)857-3240 www.club-icon.com

JoDee's 2139 Racine St, Racine (262)634-9804

MILWAUKEE (414)

Art Bar 722 Burleigh, (414)372-7880

Ballgame 196 S 2nd (414)273-7474

Babylon @ Redlight (Thurs only) 1758 N. Water St 414-272-0250

Boom (& The ROOM) 625 S. 2nd St (414)277-5040

Boot Camp 209 E National (414)643-6900

City Lights Chill 111 W. Howard Ave (414)481-1441

Club 200 East (Formerly Fannies) 200 E. Washington (414)389-3596

ETC (Below LaCage) 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843

Harbor Room 117 E. Greenfield Ave. (414)672-7988

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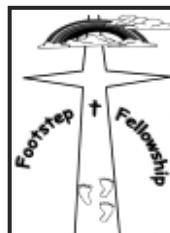
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