

Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 17 Years

QUEST

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Cover Photo: iO Darling

INSIDE
LOOK OUT JOAN JETT
TOMMY BOY RECORDS DYNAMIC DIVAS
HUNTER VALENTINE
ARE MOVIN' IN
INTERVIEW BY MICHAEL JOHNSTON

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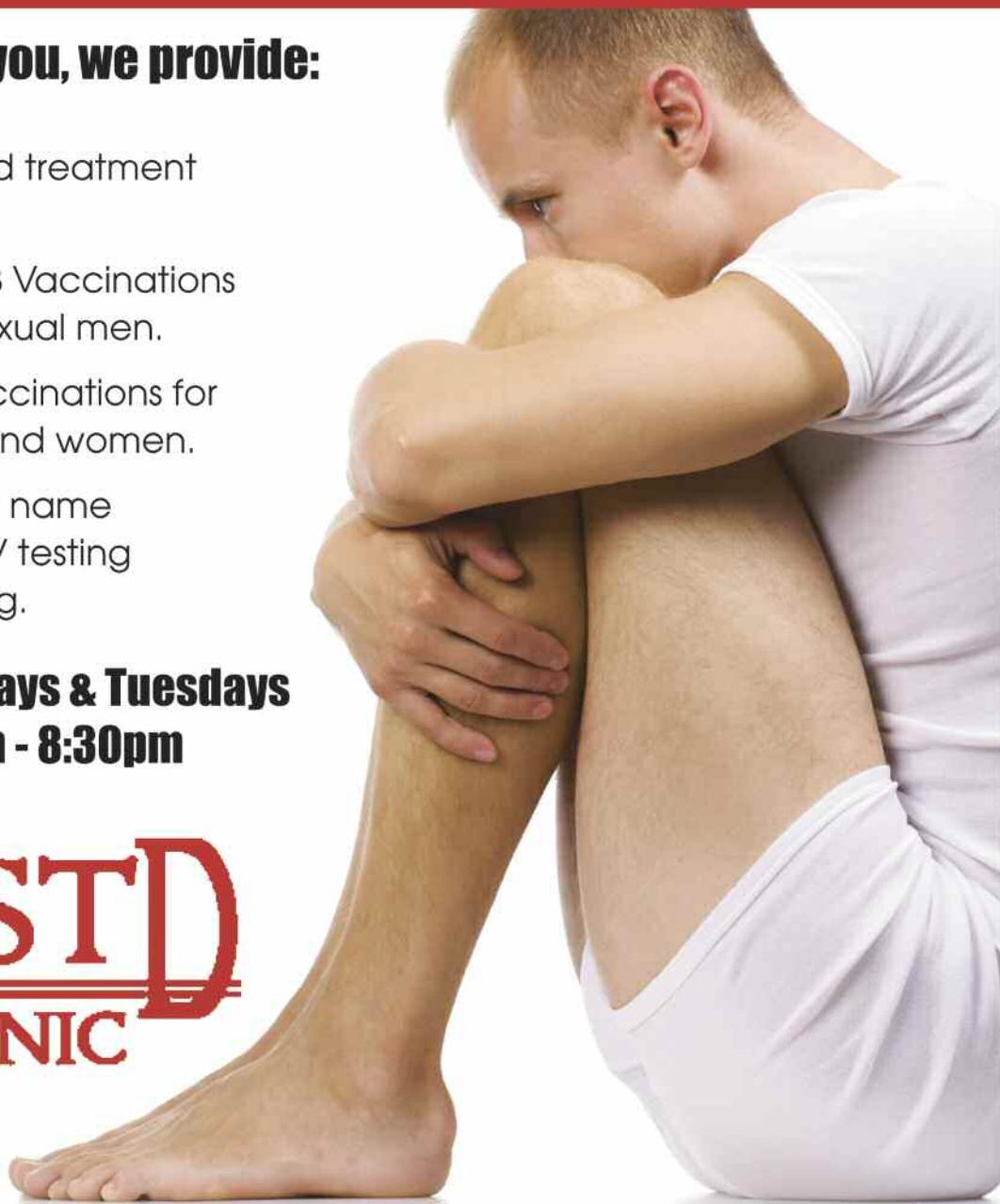
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MARQUETTE WITHDRAWS OFFER TO LESBIAN DEAN CANDIDATE SPARKING OUTRAGE AND CONTROVERSY

Milwaukee - Thursday, May 6 both the Seattle Times and The Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel reported a lesbian scholar who has published works on gender and sexual orientation will no longer be offered a job as dean for the college of arts and sciences. Seattle University professor Jodi O'Brien has written scholarly works on gender and sexual orientation. The rescinded offer has sparked criticism from faculty and a protest by students.

Marquette University stated in an official news brief it has closed its search for dean of the Klingler College of Arts & Sciences without identifying a candidate for permanent appointment. "While three candidates visited campus and an offer was made to one individual, in the final analysis it became increasingly clear that no candidate was the ideal fit to represent the college at this time" stated the brief. The university says the offer to O'Brien was done prematurely "without as much due diligence as was

warranted." As a result of this search they will now revise some aspects of their search process.

Marquette spokeswoman Mary Pat Pfeil stated the decision to withdraw an offer to hire professor O'Brien wasn't about her sexual orientation or the quality of her scholarship. It did have to do with some of O'Brien's published writings "relating to Catholic mission and identity."

Faculty members are raising concerns about academic freedom. They accuse the school of being more concerned with O'Brien's published work instead of looking at issues of quality.

The Marquette Warrior in an article also published May 6 hinted that Diversity at Marquette today is not about race, but homosexuality. They claim the search committee listed O'Brien as the first choice who "apparently wanted to strike a blow for 'diversity'."

In the end it was Father Wild who intervened to

rescind the offer. A key factor may have been individuals outside the university. A transcript of a video of Father Wild quotes, "I want to say strongly, clearly and directly what this decision is not about. It is not about sexual identity. That's important to say." "We have a variety of men and women here who are homosexual who work in all sorts of venues at this university, holding a variety of positions. They do great work. They make a variety of contributions to this university. It is certainly not about sending a negative message to these men and women." he continues. Father Wild however said in an interview in the New York Times the offer was withdrawn after he and other university leaders read academic writings by the candidate. "We found some strongly negative statements about marriage and family," Wild said.

Already more than 1000 people have joined a facebook group to complain called "Marquette: Do Not Discriminate Against Jodi O'Brien."

GOVERNOR JIM DOYLE SIGNS HIV MEDICAL HOME BILL ENABLES WISCONSIN TO CAPTURE NEW FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDS FOR HIV CARE AND TREATMENT

Milwaukee - Wednesday May 5 Governor Jim Doyle signed into law Senate Bill 647 - Medicaid HIV Medical Home legislation - at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. The law SB 647 will enable Wisconsin to generate much-needed new federal Medicaid revenue to ensure access to medical, dental and mental health care for the growing number of HIV patients in Wisconsin without raising taxes or creating a new assessment. "Access to health care is often the difference between a long and healthy life for people living with HIV and rapid disease progression. Today, more than 7,000 Wisconsin residents are living with HIV - an all-time high", stated a prepared press release sent to Quest.

Under SB 647, MA service providers that receive funding from the state-funded Mike Johnson Life Care Grant will be eligible to receive a monthly per-patient fee for the provision of care coordination services for their MA patients. The state share of this payment will come from already existing Mike Johnson Grant funds.

In addition to the Governor, State Representative Jon Richards, State Senator Tim Carpenter, members of the media and other guests were present to witness the signing of Senate Bill into law.



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EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE OF RENT AT SKYLIGHT OPERA BENEFITS ARCW HOUSING PROGRAMS

Milwaukee - The Skylight Opera Theatre and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) have joined together to offer a private performance of the Broadway hit musical *RENT* on Sunday, May 23rd at the Cabot Theatre. Special priced tickets for the performance and a pre-show party are \$25, in honor of the 25th anniversary of ARCW and will provide financial support of ARCW housing programs for people with HIV.

"Even though *RENT* debuted in 1994, major themes from the performance continue to resonate in the fight against AIDS," said Doug Nelson, ARCW President and CEO. "Homelessness and difficulty accessing health care remain significant barriers to achieving a long and healthy life for HIV patients, many of whom live in poverty. We are

grateful to everyone at the Skylight Opera Theatre for their strong support of ARCW and our housing program."

ARCW annually provides housing counseling and rent assistance to more than 850 HIV patients. In 2009, ARCW provided \$739,000 in rent assistance and 11,600 overnight stays at its two residential facilities.

"Our production of *RENT* provides us with an ideal opportunity to partner with ARCW," said Amy S. Jensen, managing director of the Skylight Opera Theatre. "It's important for organizations like the Skylight and ARCW to work together in promoting the health and well being of our communities."

FMI about *RENT* or to purchase tickets, contact Tad Gospodarek, ARCW Director of Special Events, at (414) 225-1598.

RICFEST LGBT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM AT MONTAGE MAY 23

Milwaukee - An awards night at Montage, the second floor of LaCage will feature a buffet style dinner with entertainment provided by Wisconsin Cream City Chorus and Justin Moore among others in a pre-show. Doors open at 6 pm with dinner and pre-show at 6:30. The actual awards program will begin at 8 pm. The awards recognize the bars and businesses that supported the fall and spring fundraisers, Tenuta's Restaurant in Bayview for helping with the cost of the program, and the committee that worked to bring you Ric Fest. Most of all the current recipient, Katharine Fowler will be honored at this time. A drag show will follow promptly at 9 pm with a few numbers coming from Glee and other high school musicals.

The newest recipient of the Ricardo Correa Scholarship Foundation. Katharine Fowler is a senior from

West Bend East High School. She ranked in the top twenty of a class of 300 students. Upon graduation from college, she hopes to be a foreign service officer for the United States government, working at an embassy in South America, or the Middle East to better relations there. She was a Womens International Scholarship Nominee, a Rotary Club student of the week, and an active member of her school's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) for the past four years.

The show will be hosted by Channel 6 news, Mike Lowe. Tickets are \$25 ticket for food and entertainment, purchased ahead of time, or \$30 at the door. Tickets can be purchased any night after 4 pm at Frank's Power Plant in BayView on California and KK, at any of the sponsoring bars, the weekend of May 7-8th or by mail by e-mailing krashmilwaukee@yahoo.com.

BESTSELLING NOVELIST ANDREW GREY APPEARS AT OUTWARDS BOOKS, JUNE 2

Milwaukee - Outwards Books has announced an appearance with bestselling romance novelist Andrew Grey for Wednesday, June 2nd at 7:00pm. Andrew Grey will read from and sign copies of "An Expected Vintage," the third title in his popular series which began with "Bottled Up."

Andrew Grey grew up in western Michigan with a father who loved to tell stories and a mother who loved to read them. Since then he has lived throughout the country and traveled throughout the world. He has a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and works in information systems for a large corporation.

Since releasing "Master of the Revels" in



2008, the prolific Grey has released 10 romances for Dreamspinner Press. In addition to his fanciful "Children of Bacchus" trilogy, Andrew has several books set in Milwaukee, including the bestselling, "Best Revenge."

He considers himself blessed with an accepting family, fantastic friends, and the world's most supportive and loving partner. Andrew currently lives in beautiful historic Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Andrew Grey will read from "An Unexpected Vintage" beginning at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 2nd, 2010 at Outwards Books. The event is free and open to the public. You should arrive early since seating will most likely be limited.

Quest has the #1 LGBT Website in Wisconsin!
www.quest-online.com

Featuring Quest News Update
with links to stories across the globe concerning LGBT issues.

OFF THE WAGON OFFERS FUN FOOD AND A GREAT PLACE TO PARTY



Janesville - In the heart of downtown Janesville lies Rock County's largest dance bar. Off The Wagon Bar and Grille takes up a city-sized block in a pre-Civil War historic building. Opened in February this year to cater to the LGBT

community in the Janesville area, the club hosts weekly events such as Tuesday and Thursday Night Karaoke, weekly drag shows hosted by the well-known and popular Kandi Barr and Friday night "Burlesque Bingo" with Lady T-Bag. Burlesque and male dancers round out that night.

Unusual for a Wisconsin gay bar in a smaller community is the food menu. Off The Wagon offers a full kitchen with Friday Night Fish Fries all you can eat style for just \$9.95. Saturday they have Prime Rib all you can eat for \$12.95 and a Midnight Scramble Friday and Saturday Nights for \$5 per plate piled as high as you'd like.

Manager Christian Schmidt told Quest, "We also offer a HUGE live music venue for live music with area bands monthly. We cater to all in the LGBT community and anyone else who wants to stop in and have a bite to eat or dance the night away!"

The bar is located at 18 S River St. in Janesville. The phone number is (608)359-5445. Small town gay bars are harder to come by these days and this one certainly deserves your support. Stop in and say hi.



QUEST COVER FEATURE Interview by Michaael Johnston



Hunter Valentine: (Kiyomi McCloskey, Adrienne Lloyd, Laura Petracca) • Photo: iO Darling, TheMusicBox.net

Not since Joan Jett bombasted on the scene has there been so much buzz, excitement, and electricity about a female Rock band. Just like all good things – Hunter Valentine has found their time. Classic Rock, which has been dominating the airwaves for the last four decades, is usually male dominated. Well Readers take note three uber-talented women from Canada have something to say, or rather sing.

Originally from Toronto, now based out

of Brooklyn, NY - Hunter Valentine is taking the States by storm! Recently they have signed with Tommy Boy, the innovative recording company that is making sure we are taking notice. We are in season, and Hunter Valentine is going to get us!

Their latest CD, coming out this month, "Lessons From The Late Night" is going to rock your summer. With tracks that include such intriguing titles as: "The Stalker", "Treadmills of Love", and "Revenge" these three She-Rockers will be on everyone's Hit Parade.

Hunter Valentine is made up of three dynamic divas: Kiyomi McCloskey is the vocalist/guitarist, Adrienne Lloyd, the bassist, and Laura Petracca is on drums, remember these names, soon to be household names – I'm quite confident of.

Look out, and listen up – they are on their collective climb up the Charts, and onto your I-Pods. How could I not be intrigued with a Valentine?

Michael Johnston: First off, Ladies, what was your parent's reaction when you told them you were forming a Rock band?

Adrienne: My parents sort of had a soft introduction to where I am now. When I was 17 I told them I wanted to apply to classical music programs at university. It wasn't until I got to university that I started playing in rock bands. I think by the time I started playing in Hunter Valentine they were really supportive because they could see how much I loved it and how serious I was about making it my career.

KIYOMI: "Of Course you are!"

Laura: Well first they thought it was just a hobby. Then it started to became more than just battle of the bands Saturday afternoons. When Hunter Valentine became a group (almost six years ago) there was a different kind of feeling, one I can't really explain, they just knew this wasn't going to be a hobby anymore.

MJ: How has the transition been for you – moving from your native land to New York City?

AL: Truthfully, the honeymoon period of being in New York definitely hasn't worn off yet so I guess I'm still in the best part of that transition. But I've actually wanted to live in New York from the first time I visited - which was over ten years ago, so I guess it's been a personal goal of mine for a while now. Luckily Kiyomi and Laura also shared this love of New York, so professionally we were able to make this decision together last summer when we started working with Tommy Boy based out of New York. There are a lot of challenges in doing what we're doing, but I think we're really fortunate because we get to split our time between Toronto and Brooklyn, and both cities offer really vibrant music scenes and communities right now.

KIYOMI: It's been pretty smooth and amazing. Waking up every day in New York City makes you feel like you are a very lucky individual. It also presents new and exciting challenges, which is a huge reason for us moving here. We wanted change and we wanted challenge.

Laura: This move was inspirational and deserved. It pumped gallons of excitement and musical thrill in my life. Toronto has been an amazing place to live and I thank it for giving me everything I needed. I love New York and it felt like home the first time I stepped foot here.

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MJ: As a member of the LGBT Community, it is thrilling to see that the Stonewall Inn was featured in your maiden voyage USA release – “We’re Here To Recruit You”. Could you please share with my Readers the significance of including the Stonewall Inn?

AL: Last summer we had the great honor of performing at the Stonewall Inn on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in Greenwich Village. The anniversary concert celebrated and commemorated all the men and women who were stood up and were a part of the riots in 1969, which inspired the gay and lesbian activist movement in the United States.

KIYOMI: The Stonewall Riots to me represents an uprising for the Gay and Lesbian community in the late 60's that changed everything for our community. Within six months of the riots there were two of the first gay activist organizations formed in New York, three newspapers were established to promote rights for gays and lesbians and within a few years, gay rights organizations were founded across the U.S. and the world. When we were asked to play at the Stonewall to celebrate their 40th anniversary we jumped at the chance! We felt honored that we could be a part of celebrating history that has paved the way for the GLBT community.

Laura: It just so happens that the DVD was filmed on the 40th anniversary of the Stone Wall Riots. The Riots took place on June 28th 1969 against police raids. This date marks the first time that LGBT community fought back on a government sponsored system. This gave birth to the gay rights movement around the world.

MJ: Seeing you filmed at the Stonewall – may I ask if there is a specific message? Perhaps a subliminal message you are sharing with your fans?

AL: There's definitely a message, but not it's not really that subliminal. I think coming down to New York last June to be a part of the Stonewall Riots anniversary served as an important reminder that many of the same issues all those people were fighting against 40 years ago are still relevant today. As a Canadian it's easy to become complacent, but I have this sense that it's a really important and exciting time to be a part of some of the equal rights movement that is happening in the United States right now.

KIYOMI: I think a message that I try and send out into the world is: “We are nothing without our voice. Stand up for what you believe in and who you are.” If the people of the riots hadn't believed in that, I am not sure where we would be today.

Laura: We also filmed all over New York City, let's see if you can pick out the message in the park scene.

MJ: Any plans of playing any PrideFest or LGBT celebrations this summer?

AL: Yes! We're spending most of June out on the west coast playing at LA, Portland & San Francisco Prides, and then back to Toronto for Toronto Pride in early July.

MJ: Who influenced you as you were coming up in the world of music? You seem to have such a reverence of times past with inflections of Motown, Pop, lending a familiarity about your sound – who do you credit?

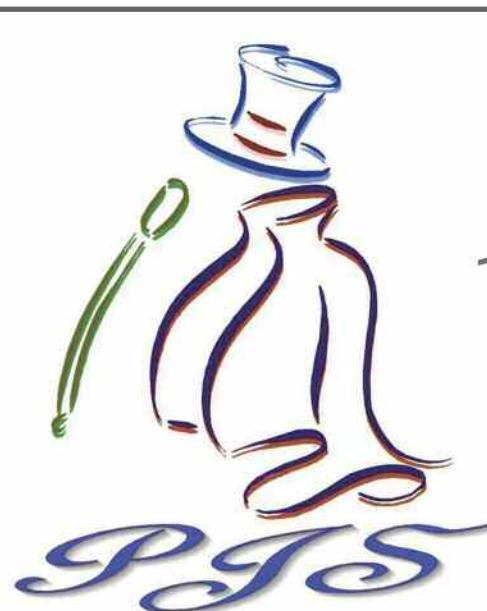
AL: I'm flattered with your Motown reference to our sound. I think we all bring a variety of influences to the Hunter Valentine sound, but I think some of those classic references (...James Jamerson's bass playing!) are still really relevant. We actually have a new song on the go where Laura's and my parts closely references the feel in “You Can't Hurry Love”. I think you'll hear some development of the Hunter Valentine sound from our last album to “Lessons From the Late Night” and even in some of the new-new songs we've been working on lately.

KIYOMI: There are way too many influential genres to lay the credit on one group/singer or sound. I definitely love the simplicity and catchiness of a good Motown song, I love the Strength of a Janis Joplin ballad, the dirtyness of a Distiller's hit and the complexity of the lyrics in a Lucinda Williams song.

Laura: I grew up in a classic rock household so if I was to choose musicians that influenced me it would have to be Keith Moon, Stewart Copeland, Peter Gabriel and John Bonham.

MJ: Since taking on the music scene in both your birth land and here – what has been your most pleasant surprise? And what has been your biggest disappointment?

AL: I think at the time it was all happening, I felt disappointed in how things were evolving around what was happening around the release of our first record in Canada. But truthfully, what happened from this same exact experience turned into a really great surprise. After we found ourselves with no management, no label but ready to record a new record, we regrouped as a band and went into the studio with a producer



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named Ian Blurton to record independently. By that point we were really focused and moving forward, which eventually led to our relationship with Tommy Boy and the release of those songs on "Lesson From the Late Night" around the world this May 11th.

KIYOMI: The most pleasant surprise has probably been the receptiveness of new audiences. It's so amazing to play in front of a crowd who knows nothing of you and have them so enthusiastic to listen.

KIYOMI: The biggest disappointment has been some of the sexism that we have experienced while either being on the road or just day to day business exchanges that we have had with some of the "big boys" in the scene. It's astonishing that female rock bands can still be perceived as a gimmicky, sideshow rather than a professional touring rock band. You would think that bands like Sleater Kinney demolished any kind of ignorant mentality like that, but I guess we have a long ways to go, especially when it comes to things like rock radio.

Laura: Canada loved us from day one. We had all sorts of support and we are very lucky to still have support that grows every single day. We are still having one night stands down here in the USA. Soon enough it will become a full time relationship.

MJ: When was the first time you had that incredible feeling of "We've made it" and could you share with us that specific moment?

AL: One thing I think Hunter Valentine has always been good at is setting goals and working our asses off to try and accomplish these goals. So one of the greatest things about playing in this band is that I'm always having these kind of moments as we work towards these goals.

KIYOMI: I don't think that we have ever had a specific moment where we knew we have made it. I think having a career as a musician in a band is all about consistent, little victories. It's important to maintain momentum, set new and refreshed goals and NEVER give up. Every anniversary that we celebrate as a band sort of represents that we have "made it". It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to keep a band moving forward together and I am very proud of us for achieving that.

Laura: To be honest it was our very first show together! We actually played horribly BUT I knew it that day, the feeling we create on the live stage just

gets stronger and stronger every show.

MJ: Do you have any plans of playing the Midwest in the near future? I would love the exclusive and to share in this interview when we can see You LIVE!

AL: We actually just got some good news about American touring, and so yes, you will definitely see HV coming to the Midwest soon. I'm not 100% sure when all the dates will be released but they'll be going up on our myspace site as soon as we know.

KIYOMI: We are making plans for a National U.S tour as we speak!

Laura: We would love to play live for you.

MJ: How did you come up with the interesting band name of Hunter Valentine?

AL: When we played our very first show together we actually didn't have a name yet. But soon after we came up with the idea of this fictitious character who represents the ultimate heart breaker. We like to think that everyone has a little bit of Hunter Valentine in them.

KIYOMI: It was actually Adrienne's stripper name. Just kidding! We wanted to create a fictional character that was reminiscent of James Dean, but represented the ultimate heartbreaker. This is the kind of person who you love to hate, but hate to love.

MJ: Care to weigh in on this country's mania for "American Idol"?

AL: Idol-mania has hit Canada too, but in many ways I feel like I'm accessing the music industry in almost an opposite way than what is conveyed on Idol shows. With Hunter Valentine it feels like first and foremost we are a band in the most traditional sense of the word. And a big part of that for me is being not just music and business partners with Kiyomi and Laura, but also best friends and family.

KIYOMI: Is that show still on? And has Ryan Seacrest come out yet?

MJ: Where do you see Hunter Valentine, ten years from now?

AL: I guess I hope that in ten years Hunter Valentine making great music and touring around the world.

KIYOMI: Touring around the world but on bigger buses with babies running around.

Laura: Touring our 10th album worldwide. I will also be the next food network star.

MJ: Could you please share with us what you feel to be the advantages/disadvantages of being an all girl group

AL: I think one of the biggest advantages is that in the genre we're playing in we still stand out a bit as three girls playing instruments in a rock band. An amazing aspect of this is that when we're playing to all-ages audiences, we have a great responsibility to show all the girls in the audience that they can, and should start their own bands. I'm not sure why there are still so few women playing rock music as role models, but I think we're really going to see that start to change very soon.

KIYOMI: The advantages are that you have an amazing network of support from other female musicians and that there is nothing like the shared bond of playing loud, hard rock music with other women. The disadvantages are the sexism that you may face throughout the industry. It can be difficult to have your band heard or be taken seriously, but the feeling of conquering a crowd that may of questioned you when you first walked on stage is like no other.

Laura: There aren't any disadvantages because we are so tough that we can handle anything. There are many advantages that I see everyday.

MJ: And finally, your chance Hunter Valentine, an open forum, what would you like to share with our "Quest" Readership?

AL: We try to take in as much of the local culture as we can when we're on tour, so having never really toured through the Midwest before, what are some of the must-see sites for us in Wisconsin this summer? Find us on myspace, facebook or twitter to send us your favorite places and things in your hometown.

KIYOMI: We are loud, ambitious and eager to come and play for you.

Laura: I would like to recommend coming to a live show any chance you get cause I can promise you will fall in love!

Thanks so much for your time, talents, and wishing you all that is attainable!

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OUTWORDS TOP 5 LGBT CINEMA - MAY 2010

For the Boys: (Available at Outwords (414)963-9089)
1. "The Big Gay Musical" Paul and Eddie have just begun previews for the new Off-Broadway musical "Adam and Steve Just the Way God Made 'Em." Their lives strangely mirror the characters they are playing. Paul is looking for the perfect man and Eddie is dealing with how his sexuality and faith can mix. But after musical numbers with scantily clad tap dancing angels, a retelling of Genesis, tele-evangelists, a camp that attempts to turn gay kids straight, and a bunch of show tunes, everyone realizes that life gets better once they accept who they really are.

2. "Edgar Allan Poe's House of Usher" This juicy gay adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's classic "House of Usher" is the latest film from homoerotic horror master David Decoteau. When Victor visits his first love Roderick Usher at his crumbling family estate, he finds Roderick and his sister decaying before his eyes. Soon Victor learns the terrifying secret that's been keeping them alive. With its barely-clad studs and a gay romance at its core, this one looks to be one of David's best.

3. "Watercolors" Beginning in the present day, we meet boyfriends Danny and Allan at the opening of Danny's first New York City gallery show, which consists of erotic paintings of Danny's first love, Carter. Triggered by memories of their romance, Danny takes us back 15 years to high school.

4. "College Boys Live" In a quiet Orlando, Florida, suburb three young men struggle to escape the wreckage of their pasts and create new lives for themselves as performers on **CollegeBoys-Live.com**, a voyeur webcam house rigged with 32 cameras. The neighbors insist it's a pornographic whorehouse and sue to have them evicted. This intimate and provocative documentary examines the complex subculture of gay exhibitionists and voyeurs.

5. "The Art of Being Straight" Adorable newcomer Jesse Rosen writes, produces, directs and stars in this sexy and thought-provoking comedic drama about a previously "straight" twenty-something guy who tests the waters with another man. "**The Art of Being Straight**" is a must see for anyone who has ever felt that the lines of sexual attraction are not so black and white.

For the Girls: (Available at Outwords (414)963-9089)

1. "And Then Came Lola," This wonderfully fun and sexy lesbian romp takes a whiz bang tour through the streets of San Francisco as photographer Lola (Ashleigh Sumner) races to get to a crucial meeting on time. As usual, Lola is running late. Her job and her girlfriend Casey (Jill Bennett) are on the line and Lola has three chances to make it right. Will Lola make it in time?

2. "The World Unseen," In the pressure cooker of apartheid South Africa, free-spirited Armina meets Miriam, a traditional wife and mother. Their unexpected attraction pushes Miriam to question the rules that bind her, forcing both women to face outrage and violent disapproval. Starring Lisa Ray and Sheetal Sheth.

3. "Training Rules" "Training Rules" examines how a wealthy athletic department, enabled by the silence of a complacent university, allowed talented athletes who were thought to be gay, to be dismissed from their college team. The film follows the lawsuit filed in 2006 against Portland and Penn State by student athlete Jennifer Harris. This high profile case ignited the world of women's collegiate sports.

4. "Baby Formula" In this feisty, fun and fantastical comedy two lesbians in love become pregnant at the same time (with sperm created from one another's stem cells) and embark on a wild adventure - with a bit of unexpected family drama as their parents respond to the news!

5. "The Lovers & Friends Show - Seasons 1 & 2" Join six charming, funny and bright women as they explore life, love, heartache and laughter. Lisa, Kai, Dre, Tori, Yasmin and Mercedes are six minority lesbians navigating through life's obstacles, making new friends and experiencing new drama!



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REGISTRATION FORM

The DATING DIET by Anthony Paull

Target Practice

Hi. I'm single. I'm announcing it to the world because my ex-boyfriend decided it would be best for us to declare it quickly – with an easy sweep. That way, we don't have to share the same, old story a thousand times. For those wondering, that's why he updated his relationship status on Facebook to 'single' before I had the chance to say single aloud.

I guess I shouldn't be complaining; I'm the foolish one who ended it. We'd been separated for some time, trying to make it work, because it was good... once. Still once is the past – not the present – and once I realized that I no longer liked holding his hand – I knew I had to end it.

It's not been easy; we're trying to be friends, whatever that means, and I'm trying to not call him *baby* or say the word *love* when I'm with him. Inside, I'm sad, mad, dazed, hollow, and horny all the time, but I know that I'm not ready to kiss or even look at a new guy. So lately – to pass time – I head to Target, where I rummage through aisles of knick-knacks I don't like or need. My preference is the craft section, where I reach for wooden shelf ornaments carved into inspirational words like 'marriage', 'baby', and 'love'. I have this delusional idea that if I purchase one, that word is what will await me at the exit door. But no instead, I head to the parking lot, where exhausted, I nap alone in my car, afraid to turn on the radio.

"Awww, how...pathetic," declares my friend Jasmine, who instructed me to stay away from Target last week after I confessed that I had lingered in their bathroom for too long. It all started off as harmless. First, I was peeing. But then, I was refusing to let go – a habit I learned from being in a safe, comfortable

relationship. "You know, you can get arrested for that," Jasmine says, over the phone.

"For jacking off?" "No, for being a pussy! Now go home and take a shower. We're going out tonight. Just a few friends."

This is Jasmine's idea of a quick-pick-me-up: her acceptable answer for anything. Just a few friends, just a few cocktails, until the point where everyone is drunk enough to forget they're friends and make-out. But tonight, I agree, because she has been attempting to help me. Her technique: usually, a play-by-play conversation in regard to how hard her sexy boyfriend nailed her the night before. And then there are her typical text messages. How her weekend was 'hot-t-t' and how her man's penis is so mac-daddy she can't cross her legs because of the razor burn. "You think you're torn up?" She lifts her wine glass to salute my single hood. "Try dating Italian. Cheers!"

Her friends erupt in laughter as I wander over to the DJ spinning low-tempo house records. In the VIP room of the middle-eastern lounge, silver, shimmering curtains dance under a wealth of ceiling fans and everyone – except Jasmine – talks in a whisper.

Taking a seat at the bar, I ask the bartender to pour Sprite into my stout so I won't head to a drunken state, where I find being single funny before getting depressed about it.

"You're not mingling," Jasmine observes, finding me. She points to a muscle-man with greasy black hair she knows from yoga. He's wearing sunglasses



at night. "That one has a crush on you."

"I'm not ready." "Nonsense," she says. Then calling him forward, she tells him not to mind me for being a bitch; I'm just grumpy because the gay press has been blogging in jest about my break-up. "He needs someone to kiss him and make it better," she coos.

"Aw. No worries. You should get drunk!" he tells me. And soon, I learn that's the limited amount of English he knows. Each time I escape, his robotic arms find me, taking me to him, where he sings it again. "Get drunk. Drunk! You should really get drunk." He only shuts up when he starts kissing some girl in front of me. And that's when I bolt.

"No! Why are you leaving?" Jasmine asks. Grabbing my hand at the entrance, she cradles a cigarette while balancing herself on one heel. "That guy likes you!"

Speechless, I'm boiling with anger. I can't do this again. I'm rusty at dealing with idiot men; I have no game and little patience to practice.

"Are you mad because he kissed that girl? He probably thought you would find it sexy," Jasmine states. But I don't find it sexy. All I see are his sunglasses at night and his hairy tentacles around me, and as I walk – no – run away, I hear her scream about getting laid, but I'm not listening. I'm racing along an empty downtown street, and I find a dark alleyway leading to my car, where I fall asleep for twenty minutes before waking up with the flooring thought that I haven't progressed in a month. I don't know who I am without my ex. I'm in the same place. I'm afraid of movement, of touch. I don't if what I've done is right, but I know that staying in this same spot is wrong. So bracing myself, I turn on the car, and press the power on the radio – the first act I can think of to begin welcoming in all the others who have been wronged by love.

MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW FORMAT

By Paul Masterson

It's not your mama's LGBT Film/Video Festival anymore...

Milwaukee - In a special meeting and reception held at the upper eastside home of Milwaukee philanthropist, Joseph R. Pabst, UWM Peck School of the Arts Dean Wade Hobgood announced a dramatic change to its LGBT Film/Video Festival. An assembly of UWM marketing and development directors, Film Department chair Rob Yeo and festival director Carl Bogner greeted LGBT community leaders who had been invited to learn about the new changes and the strategy behind them.

Beginning this year, its 23rd anniversary, the LGBT Film/Video Festival consists of an abbreviated four-day festival from October 21st through the 24th followed by a "bountiful array of film events all year long." Those events take place monthly on Thursdays in the form of a LGBT film screening at the UWM Union Cinema.

According to Hobgood, the concept is "to move away from the bigger and towards the better." Recognizing the LGBT Film/Video Festival as one of the treasures of Peck School of the Arts, Hobgood indicate the purpose was to "professionalize the program." He also lauded Carl Bogner, the festival's director for his "genius"

Carl Bogner spoke of the year-round presence



as means to present films of "different voices." He articulated the reality of the "neutron bomb" effect of a single event that gave the old festival a sense of "being done" when the last film was shown. Keeping LGBT films available and accessible throughout the year creates sustainability, balance, and establishes a continuous entity, Bogner said. Collaboration with other festivals is also a possibility.

The economics of an 11-day festival was also

a consideration. The concentration of films made it difficult to people to attend and fill the cinema. The year-round format gives more people better opportunities to see more films, according to Bogner. The budget for publicity is also more manageable for the extended program. UWM's director of Development Diane Grace cited the new program as an "affordable model." Sponsors also increase their exposure by supporting a year-round event.

Film Department chair Rob Yeo also indicated the new format would better align with resources and spread out the workload of staff, while, at the same time, actually raising the festival's profile and community participation.

LGBT leaders embraced the concept of the festival's constant presence. UWM's Cathy Seasholes saw the change as advancing the cause of the LGBT arts in general. "Monthly film programming increases LGBT cultural visibility and ultimately serves the greater good not only for the LGBT community but also for UWM students," Seasholes said.

Quest publisher Mark Mariucci promised continued media sponsorship, increasing donated ad space in to cover all twelve months. Host Joseph Pabst also stated his ongoing financial commitment. "I see this as a family growing ever larger," Pabst said.

PrideFest announces PridePost

Post Card

Milwaukee - PrideFest and the United States Postal Service are collaborating to produce the first PrideFest postal cancellation and postage stamp.

The special USPS cancellation comes as a result of an ill-fated LGBT display at a downtown city post office. Shortly after its installation, it was removed because “proper official procedures were not utilized as specified in guidelines for lobby displays,” according to an official USPS statement.

In a gesture of good will, Milwaukee Postmaster Charles Miller issued an apology to the local LGBT community. He also suggested creation of a pictorial postmark cancellation to commemorate PrideFest 2010 to be provided at a staffed USPS kiosk. A postal worker will cancel stamps on letters and postcards during the three-day festival.

Taking the idea one step further, PrideFest board member Paul Masterson offered to design a special PrideFest postage stamp to be sold at PrideFest. Alan Piotrowicz, MGAC board president, worked the design into a stamp. It shows the PrideFest logo over 2010 on a fluttering Pride flag background.

The pictorial cancellation features the PrideFest Milwaukee logo and the date.

Sheets of 20 stamps will be available for purchase through the PrideFest website www.pridefest.com. The PrideFest Merchandise Booth will offer sheets and individual stamps. The special USPS postal cancellation may be obtained on mail at the PrideFest USPS Kiosk on Friday, June 11 from 3-6pm as well as Saturday and Sunday, June 12-13, from noon to 6pm.



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THEATRE REVIEW by Paul Masterson

John McGivern's one-man show at Renaissance Theatreworks, *American Fiesta* is a metaphor of a different color...or colors, as the case maybe, the rainbow colors of Fiestaware, that 1930's answer to grandma's fine china, that gave cash strapped Depression era families the option to purchase their table settings piece by piece and in an array of colors.

That's the basis for Steve Tomlinson's play about gay marriage and why it should work. The premise is a gay couple's odyssey through life: Steven, son of typical red-state Oklahoman parents, obsessively collects perfect condition vintage Fiestaware and his laid back Mexican-American lover who'd rather use the ever-growing multitude of bowls and dishes to serve dinner. In their quest for marital bliss, of the kind seemingly enjoyed by straight folks, the couple deals with rednecks (Steven's parents), a sage antique dealer, oblivious relatives, and other resolute collectors, whose collective Fiesta-inspired wisdom eventually resolves the blue and red state gay marriage debate. Marriage equality is for the greater human good, of course, but it also fulfills every child's right to cut the maternal umbilical cord and pursue happiness with another human being. It's about relationships and the memories they create to pass on to the next generation, like passing the gravy at Thanksgiving dinner.

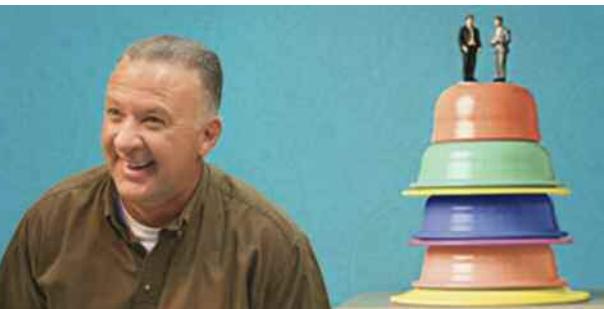
Unlike the spate of solo shows in recent theatre seasons in which one famous person like Clarence Darrow or Kate Hepburn tells his or her story, *American Fiesta* demands its performer play 20 roles.

For McGivern this is a very particular challenge. His classic storytelling is persuasive and honest. It's what he does. But this play's cast of characters creates a tentative juggling act of voices and accents, often with several in a single scene. One has to marvel when McGivern, as Steven, adroitly manages a four-way phone conversation with his mother and father on the line and Leon, in the background, chirping in. But the ping-pong effect requires rapid delivery at the cost of timing and that further obscures the play's limited emotional arc.

McGivern's follows director Jenny Wanasek's take on each character's distinct personality. Some work better than others. Obviously, contrasts are key, like differentiating a coarsely patriotic all-American father from Steven's masculine, pragmatic Mexican-American partner. The mother...well, there's something familiar about her voice and mannerisms that makes one recall a famous female impersonated movie role.

American Fiesta takes on the task of making same-sex marriage make perfect sense. Familiar scenes offer red and blue state arguments in and out of their standard contexts. It gets sentimental as a play about love and marriage inevitably will. Ultimately, it's about getting people over prejudice and to recognize that love matters, not the same gender partners. Marriage is a cultural fixation and, as in any marriage, both sides of the debate have to

The case for Gay Marriage in a Bowl *American Fiesta, a review by Paul Masterson*



make concessions. It's all about that message and for that, we don't learn much about the characters.

However, there are wonderful and clever moments of humor and awkward family confrontations. We can identify with the confrontations...and the realization that a red Fiesta bowl, though radioactive, is not lethal. Still, the obligatory why-can't-we-

all-get-along-just-like-colorful-Fiestaware protestations that win out in the end seem like too much wishful thinking, especially in a state with a constitutional marriage ban. Still, there's hope.

The set consists of an icy blue wall in front of which are tables full of Fiestaware like in an antique shop or collectors' convention. The individual pieces migrate to the shelves of the gay couple's feature wall and eventually to the dinner table. It's a smart device that traces the progress of Steven's journey from self-recognition to acceptance.

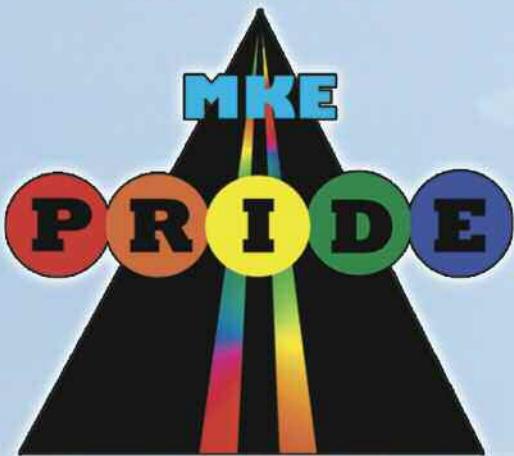
The message is there. McGivern accomplishes its delivery sincerely.

American Fiesta continues through May 23 at the Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. For tickets, call (414) 291-7800 or go online at www.r-t-w.com.

TITLE TOUR MODELS

A photograph of three shirtless male models. Two are Black and one is White. They are posing together in a close, intimate manner. The background features logos for "MIDTOWNE SPA MILWAUKEE", "Citi Boy Next Door", "Pride Fest MILWAUKEE", and "QUEST".

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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 questions to askunclebarbie@aol.com

NEGATIVE NANCY

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I hate people who hate people. There seems to be so much negative energy in the air these days. I know everyone has problems, but why do people have to be so full of hate? Maybe it is all the politics. I don't know. It just seems as though everyone is talking crap about everyone else. I get overwhelmed by it all. Then, I just sit and stew. I get upset and hold in all my emotions. The problem is that I get so angry that I start to hate those people that are talking hate. You know what I mean? It's like all those depressing TV ads and trash-talk shows. What should I do with my anger? I'm really upset about what is happening in the world.

Signed, Nancy O.

Hello Oh, Nancy O.,

It's only natural to want to emotionally withdraw from life when you are inundated with negative messages. However, I will say to you the same thing I say to my clients in therapy, "Don't mope, cope." When you are emotionally overwhelmed, you don't think clearly. It's what we called distorted cognition. Your view of the world is distorted because you are focusing on the problems, not the solutions. Ask yourself one questions: What can I do to make the situation better?

Let me put this into a metaphor for you. If you press grapes, grape juice comes out because that is what is inside. Likewise, if you are being pressured, your emotions come out. Your true character emerges because that is what is inside you. If your heart is full of anger, then you will respond to hate with hate. If, however, your heart is full of love, then you will respond to negative energy with positive energy. Based on what you are saying, you are full of anger. It is time to turn that mindset around.

Here are some suggestions on how you can turn your negative energy into positive energy:

- 1) focus on the positive qualities of the people around you
- 2) tell others what you appreciate about them
- 3) make peace of mind your goal
- 4) focus on the things you want, not what you do not want
- 5) have an attitude of gratitude
- 6) you cannot fix people by criticizing them
- 7) accept other people's differences

There is one other point I would like to make: anger is a moralistic emotion. In order to get angry, you have to first believe that you are right and someone else is wrong. Otherwise, you would not get so upset. If you want true peace of mind, stop being judgmental. Instead, adopt an attitude of live and let live. You are not going to change the world by being angry. Take a deep breath and relax. If you follow all these suggestions, I think that you will discover that you are less overwhelmed and more peaceful. Remember, when you change your attitude, it changes the way you view the world. Cope or Collapse, Barbie

DON'T DO ME ANY PARTY FAVORS

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I feel uncomfortable at mixed parties where everyone puts on a fake face. For instance, there is this one girl that I met at a social event. She smiled, kept touching my arm, laughed at all my jokes, and seemed to be flirting with me. But, get this...she was doing the same thing to everyone else. She spent the rest of the evening ignoring me. Every time I approached her, she would pretend to be happy to see me. Then, she would turn around and greet other people by faking a cheek kiss but without actually touching



A mental taffy pull of the mind.

them. She was just one of many people who were acting this way. I want to know why so many people act so phony at parties.

Signed, Sick of Fake Friends

Hello My Sick Friend,

These toxic impersonators are only pretending to be caring. Their outer shell can be seen as a simulation of graciousness. At any party, you can find these social climbers voicing their bogus claims of high status without actually doing any real work to earn it. I think the reason they act this way is because of their attitude. They have convinced themselves, in their self-righteousness, that they are automatically gracious and, therefore, do not have to put forth any effort.

On the bright side, you seem to have developed a keen sense of social awareness. Your astute ability to recognize the superficial attitudes and insincerity of people may have something to do with why you are feeling mismatched when in their presence. Think of it as a learning experience. Now, you know that what you really want is to be in the company of honest and sincere people. I think you have learned your lesson. It's time to look for new friends.

Keep It Real, Barbie

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DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

Saturday, May 15

Club ICON (Kenosha) A Night of Comedy with standup comis from H.A.C.K.

Fluid (Milwaukee) 12th Anniversary Party!

Madiosn Gay Video Club "End of Love (Cantonese w/subtitles)" (China, Breaking Glass, dir. Simon Chung, '09) "Distraction" (Titanmen, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (eve)

Mirmar Theatre (Milwaukee) Miltown Kings annual Royal Ball, a formal masquerade and drag show 9 pm, 18+ \$5 cover

PJ's (Oshkosh) Boys Will BNe Boys? Showtime 10:30pm

Sunday, May 16

Fluid (Milwaukee) BINGO!

Kruz (Milwaukee) Castaways Beer Bust 3-7 pm "Boots & Boxers" \$7

Triangle (Milwaukee) Pride Parade Party (afternoon party)

Tuesday, May 18

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (Milwaukee) Share-A-Bration an open house to share all the good going on around town. Meet new people, network! 7-9 pm

Thursday, May 20

Tropical (Milwaukee) "Cabaret Nights"

Friday, May 21

LaCage (Milwaukee) Above and Beyonce, a tribute to Beyonce 11pm Montage showlounge

Women's Voices Milwaukee Rhythm of Life, 7p.m. with cash bar, Marian Center for Nonprofits, 3211 S Lake Drive, Saint Francis. \$12 reserve tickets call 414-483-2430, \$15 at the door.

Saturday, May 22

Ballgame (Milwaukee) A memorial party for Sue Luke 2 pm

Boom (Milwaukee) Adult film star Brandon Lewis

Club ICON (Kenosha) Titile tour Male Dance Revue

Napalese (Green Bay) Turnabout 2010 10:30 pm

Perfect Harmony (Madison) Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus Presents BROADWAY, OUR WAY, 7 pm, Mills Hall, 455 North Park Street in Madison, WI.

Sunday, May 23

LaCage (Milwaukee) Ricfest Awards Ceremony 6 pm Tickets \$30 at door, \$25 advance by emailing krashmilwaukee@yahoo.com

Thursday, May 27

Tropical (Milwaukee) "Mr Gay Latino 2010 Birthday Party"

Saturday, May 29

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) Food Drive & Porn Swap. Donate at least 4 food items to ARCW and get a free ticket to PrideFest

Sunday, May 30

LaCage (Milwaukee) Memorial Day Weekend Party No Cover! Show in Montage at 11

Tropical (Milwaukee) "The Circus Party"

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

Boom (Milwaukee) Cookout. Open 1 pm Beer bust and brats. Food at 3 pm



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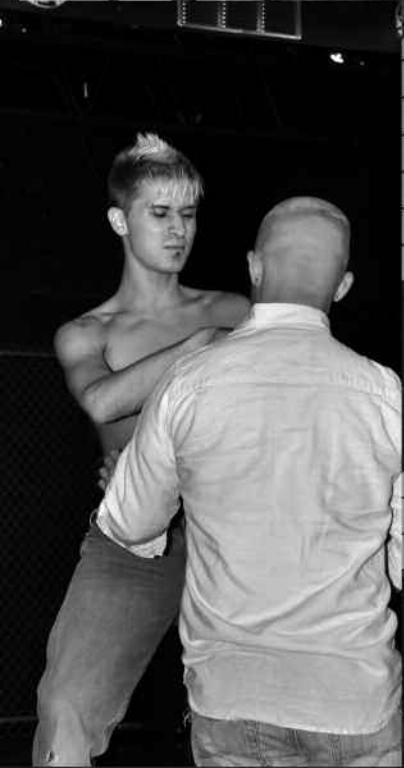
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Robyn explains: "I got all these great songs so why not? It's been 5 years since **Robyn**, and I didn't want to wait with a release until they are all recorded, so I decided to start putting them out right away. I also can't wait to play live again and this enables me to tour and record at the same time. I just want to keep making music." Robyn has worked with the best producers around to make these ambitious plans a reality. Diplo, Roysopp, Kleerup and Klas Ahlund (amongst others) are all on board. "None of Dem" is now available on iTunes along with "Dance Hall Queen" and "Fembot."

**'Body Talk 1'
Tracklisting:**

1. Don't Fucking Tell Me What To Do
2. Fembot
3. Dancing On My Own
4. Cry When You Get Older
5. Dance Hall Queen
6. None Of Dem
7. Hang With Me (acoustic)
8. Jag Vet En Dejlig Rosa

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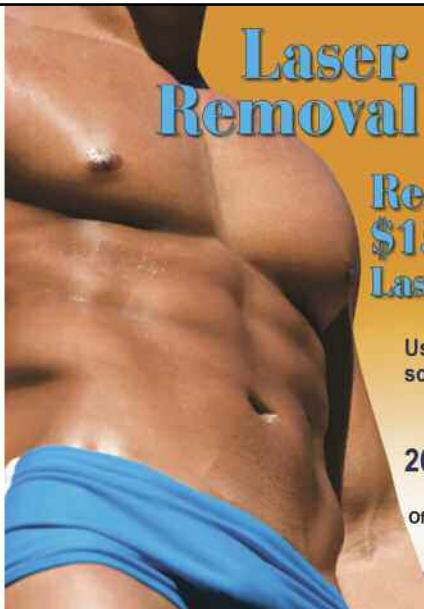


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NEW LGBT FILMS ON DVD

by Glenn Bishop

College Boys Live & Greek Pete

All too often happy hour finds Glenn holding up his end of the bar, sipping his signature Sidecar Cocktail contemplating the really big questions. Questions like: will Glenn live long enough to see Patricia Nell Warren's seminal novel, *"The Front Runner"* finally make it to the big screen? On which level of hell do directors Arthur Hiller and Mike Nichols deserve to spend eternity for subjecting LGBT audiences to the cinematic disasters known as *"Making Love"* and *"The Birdcage?"* Why have Fannie Flagg and Rue McClanahan conspired to keep Mervyn Nelson 1971 classic *"Some of My Best Friends Are"* languishing in virtual obscurity?

Not until his third Sidecar dare Glenn even consider the biggest question of all, the question concerning the future of Gay Cinema, a genre increasingly mired in the twilight world of "direct-to-DVD." Contemplation of this question proved inordinately apt as a rather bewildered Glenn prepared for this review of two new documentaries: George O'Donnell's *"College Boys Live"* and Andrew Haigh's *"Greek Pete."*

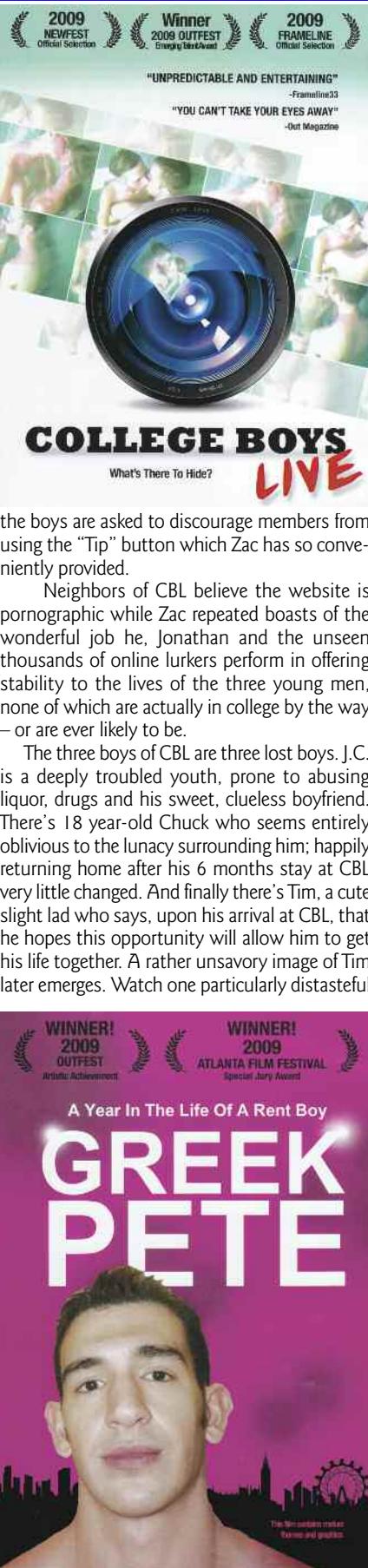
Long ago Glenn learned that the process of reviewing documentaries to be a decidedly slippery slope. Imagine Glenn, a younger, kinder and more gullible Glenn, sent off to review Dirk Shafer's *"Man of the Year."* Then a third-string cub critic, Glenn fell hook, line and sinker for the lantern-jawed gay hottie who become the magazine's "1992 Man of the Year" and in the process fooled both Playgirl and America. Glenn had even forgiven Shafer for coyly stringing his audience along with nary an intention to actually produce the goods.

Surely there's no need to spell out just what "goods" to which Glenn refers. Glenn never suspected that this so-called "documentary" was an artfully created fiction. Indeed, the facade of authenticity relied heavily upon clips from talk show appearances with the likes of Joan Rivers and Phil Donahue to make up for the fact, for example, that actors impersonate Shafer's actual parents.

Jump many years and Glenn isn't so easily fooled.

Glenn initially thought to dismiss *"College Boys Live"* as merely a wickedly clever means to promote the popular website that allows paying members total access, 24/7, to a house offering three fresh, just-off-the-bus twinks as the main attraction as well as a webcam in every room, in every nook and cranny.

Founder Zac Adams and husband/partner Jonathan sign the three young men to six-month contracts. Despite the fact that the website generates more than \$20,000 a month, the boys in fact receive no financial remuneration. In exchange for room and board, the boys are required to perform some basic household chores, hold down jobs or go to school plus chat with members for 2 hours, 5 nights a week. As one additionally requirement, the boys must spend the last 30 minutes of every chat session naked. What they do whilst naked, Zac demurely adds, is entirely up to them. Now, that statement is just about as believable as Zac's insistence that



Buy it, rent it or forget it...

From Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller to Debbi Fields and JK Rowling, we all love a good rags-to-riches story. Young entrepreneur Pete Pittaros aka LondonBoyPete is determined to write his own success story, one paying client at a time if need be. Andrew Haigh has been quoted as having sought to make a truly authentic chronicle of life on the streets. By incorporating candid sequences of full-on sex as well as scenes of recreational drug use, *"Greek Pete"* is blessedly free of the usual sanitized coyness. Haigh's subject proves an engaging if shallow protagonist, a young man who merely sees this film as just another opportunity to top up his coffers.

Another success story of sorts is *College Boys Live.com*. For those loyal *Quest* readers possessing an interest in the website, this DVD is essential viewing. Director George O'Donnell eschews the straightforward voyeurism that characterizes the website; those looking for naked collegiate hijinks therefore need to look elsewhere. Instead, O'Donnell reveals what the myriad of webcams cannot: the absolute and utter tawdriness of *College Boys Live.com*. Whether depicting the three damaged boys Zac readily exploits or profiling the site's various obsessive online lurkers, O'Donnell's film proves at once both thoroughly compelling and yet entirely disturbing.

Just the facts...

"College Boys Live" running time of 94 minutes. *"Greek Pete"* is a swift 75 minutes. *"College Boys Live"* is available on DVD with an SRP of \$29.95. *"Greek Pete"* is available on DVD with an SRP of \$9.95. Neither DVD offers any extras other than a Trailer.

episode as a crazed member named Charlie, he himself infatuated with Tim, accuses the lad of meeting other members in exchange for money.

And yet all the while the slightly sinister founder Zac continues to admonish his audience that *College Boys Live.com* is not a porn site.

Andrew Haigh's *"Greek Pete"* purports to chronicle a year in the life of LondonBoyPete (Pete Pittaros), a London paid escort, a year which culminates with Pete being named "Escort of the Year" at the prestigious Rentboy.com Hookie Awards.

Pete's only goal in life, it would seem, is his quest to make as money as he possibly can. A cheeky lad, Pete is always horny, is always up for it in addition to possessing "8 and a half, 9 inches thick and uncut." His choice of a career as a rent boy, then, is surely a no-brainer. The streets of London may not be paved with gold but for an enterprising lad like Pete, there's definitely the opportunity to make some serious dosh.

Alternating with sexually explicit scenes of Pete working hard for the money are the tender moments he shares with waif-like boyfriend Kai. If an extraordinarily intimate scene of Pete bathing Kai doesn't tug at your heart-strings, then a Christmas dinner straight out of Dickens surely ought to do the trick.

Watching *"Greek Pete,"* it is impossible not to feel like those anonymous voyeurs of *College Boys Live.com*. With a cast culled from the roster of London rent boys, director Andrew Haigh brilliantly exploits our fascination with these young men and their choice of profession.

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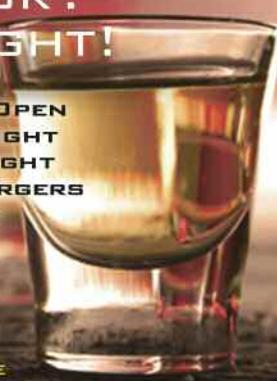
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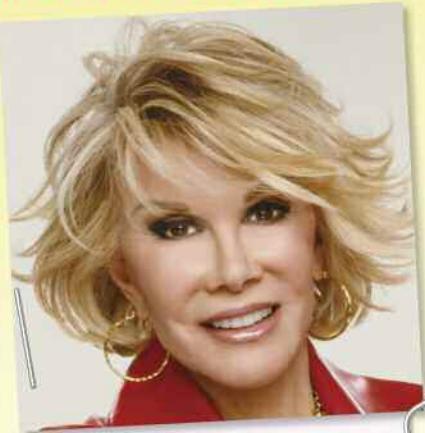
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