

QUEST

MAGAZINE

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29th MILWAUKEE
LGBT FILM/VIDEO
FESTIVAL COMPLETE
GUIDE INSIDE!

STEVE RINER
AKA: THE WOLFMAN

PHOTOGRAPHED AT
TERROR ON THE FOX

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MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 16-26, 2014



— OPENING NIGHT! —

Thursday, October 16, 7:30pm

Oriental Theatre

BLACKBIRD

Patrik-Ian Polk's lively and moving coming-of-age story of one high school student's coming out in the evangelical, American South.



— CLOSING NIGHT! —

Sunday, October 26, 7pm

UWM Union Theatre

52 TUESDAYS

The compelling drama of a year – 52 Tuesdays in fact – in the life of a parent and teenage daughter as the mother starts to transition from female to male, and daughter gains her footing as an adult.

The Festival is presented by the UWM Peck School of the Arts Film Department and made possible thanks to Festival Sponsor Joseph R. Pabst.



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QUEST

29th Annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival October 16-26, 2014 arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm By Glenn Bishop

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 Oriental Theatre

(7:30 pm) **BLACKBIRD**

(Patrik-Ian Polk, US, 99min., 2014)

Opening Night at the always fabulous Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival invariably offers a film that draws eager moviegoers from across the wonderfully diverse LGBT community. Acclaimed writer/director Patrik-Ian Polk's **Blackbird** is sure to continue this trend.

In fact, **Blackbird** boasts an extraordinary pedigree staring with the talented Patrik-Ian Polk, responsible for the groundbreaking Logo™ series **Noah's Arc**, **Punks** and most recently, **The Skinny**. The uniformly excellent cast includes Mo'Nique, in her first screen role since 2009's **Precious**.

Finally, **Blackbird** is based upon a classic LGBT novel; admittedly not one Glenn has had opportunity to read. Still, **Blackbird** is a classic nevertheless, at least according to those wonderful folks at Little Sister's Bookstore and Arsenal Pulp Press who are dedicated to reviving lost and out-of-print gay and lesbian classic books. First published in 1988, Larry Duplechan's **Blackbird** is widely considered to be the first Black gay coming out tale.

And a Black coming out tale **Blackbird** remains on the screen. At its center is Randy (Julian Walker), a 17-year-old high school choir boy with an angelic voice, a heightened sense of melodrama and predilection for nocturnal emissions. Randy's journey to self-acceptance of his sexual orientation is set against one truly dysfunctional family. Randy's estranged father (Isaiah Washington) is supportive; clearly thinking his son is gay. Randy's mother (Mo'Nique) is crippled with grief and loss over her missing/abducted daughter, implicitly blaming Randy.

All of Randy's friends assume Randy is gay; their causal acceptance put Glenn in mind of **Big Eden**, another classic gay coming of age tale.

The film's best scene has Randy and his father taking jokester (openly gay) Efrem (Gary LeRoi Gray, excellent) halfway across the state to a STD clinic. This scene packs an emotional wallop sorely lacking from Randy's increasingly angsty professions of straightness.

As engaging as **Blackbird** invariably is, Patrik-Ian Polk's feverous screenplay (with Rikki Beadle Blair) is filled with too many sexually-charged dream sequences, nor is there sufficient time to explore such themes as a same-sex Romeo & Juliet, family life with an absent father, teen pregnancy and child abduction before wrapping up all the narrative loose-threads with an

extraordinary Deus Ex Machina, a nocturnal epilogue (of a sort) and finally, a scene which couldn't help but recall the 1960s sit-coms of Glenn's youth.

(Recommended)

Director Patrik-Ian Polk invited to attend

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 – UWM Union Theatre

(5:00 pm) **FIFI HOWLS FROM HAPPINESS**

(Mitra Farahani, Iran, in Farsi with English subtitles, 96min., 2013)

"I will tell you my life story myself. So that no idiot can write a biography on my behalf." Bahman Mohasses, one of the great Iranian visual artists of the 20th century, was heralded as the "Persian Picasso," his acclaimed paintings and sculptures dominating pre-revolutionary Iran. Later, he would meet censorship, oppression. From his perch in exile in Rome, this irreverent and uncompromising gay artist regales documentary filmmaker Mitra Farahani with stories and laments about his life, just as a new commission promises a final and grand opportunity. (Not available for preview)

(7:00 pm) **APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

(Desiree Akhavan, US, 82min., 2014)

If Glenn has a guilty pleasure it is watching films featuring characters that possess even less of a clue in getting their life on track than indeed, Glenn can himself. Shirin (Desiree Akhavan), in **Appropriate Behavior** is just the sort of character with whom Glenn is always happy to share his popcorn.

The daughter of a well-to-do Iranian family, Shirin is something of a misfit, particularly in comparison to her annoyingly over-achieving brother. Her parents, who dream of Shirin meeting and marrying a nice Persian boy, cannot understand why she's moving into a squalid little apartment. In fact, Shirin has just broken up with her girlfriend Maxine (Rebecca Henderson).

Over the scant 82 minutes, Shirin is on something of a quest, although she's not sure what she wants, other than perhaps Maxine back. In her mind, she and Maxine were an "it" couple, as she later tells her befuddled friend Crystal (Halley Feiffer). Clearly Crystal knew otherwise.

Shirin is bisexual but is forever waiting for that right time to tell her parents. She has a Journalism Degree but just flits from one dead-end job to another. In one of the film's hilarious set pieces, Shirin takes a job teaching young kids to use movie cameras. Her half a dozen charges are not at all what she expected or at all like the perfect little would-be filmmakers from the class across

the hall. Yet given the chance, her little boys do her proud, managing to make the funniest film about zombies and farts this reviewer has yet to experience.

Desiree Akhavan invests Shirin with an agreeably wry sense of humor and a killer deadpan delivery. Not everything works; an ill-fated three-way is even less funny than when Grace tried it on during a *Will & Grace* episode. Yet at its best, the charming scene when Shirin first meets Maxine for instance, **Appropriate Behavior** proves positively beguiling. (Recommended)

(9:00 pm) **SOMETHING MUST BREAK**

(Nånting måste gå sönder) Ester Martin Bergmark, Sweden, in Swedish with subtitles, 81min., 2014)

Deep down, transgendered Sebastian/Ellie (Saga Becker) is a romantic, which proved something of a surprise to Glenn, considering Ester Martin Bergmark's **Something Must Break** is decidedly edgy in ways good and bad as well as being seriously, sexually explicit.

One need look no further than an early scene when Sebastian comes home to find his roommate Lea distraught: she's in love and the gal is on her way over. Quickly sizing up the situation, Lea is bundled off to the shower whilst Sebastian brings order to where once there were only dirty plates and overflowing ashtrays. It is Sebastian's turn to become truly, madly, deeply in love when the handsome Andreas (Iggy Malmborg) comes to the rescue during a violent restroom encounter. Soon they are inseparable; always out for a goodtime, never mind a bit theft and good-natured chicanery. True, the trick they left tied up naked, spread-eagled and blindfolded probably wasn't terribly amused.

Of Andreas, Sebastian muses, "If I find home in him, I'd get completely lost."

Yet, as often happens in stories such as this, it turns out Andreas isn't nearly all that cool with their relationship. One morning after, he confronts Sebastian, "I'm not gay." Sebastian claims similar territory. Later, Andreas finally gets to the heart of the matter, "Then get yourself a pussy for fuck's sake."

Please keep in mind Glenn claimed Sebastian to be a romantic, not Andreas, who is capable of the most extraordinary compliments, "You're so beautiful I want to vomit."

Becker's Sebastian is never less than compelling and brave. Malmborg's Andreas is suitably pretty in conventional "matinee idol" fashion as well as deeply shallow. Director Ester Martin Bergmark mines an impressive catalogue of film styles and references, ranging from early Araki and Bruce LaBruce to vintage 1940s Holly-



SOMETHING MUST BREAK Friday, Oct. 17, 9 pm



SAN DIEGO SURF free movie on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7 pm

wood. There may not have been a kitchen sink thrown in for good measure but there is the decidedly bizarre slow-motion golden shower scene, what with Sebastian posed ala Pieta and all to the warbling of Miss Peggy Lee.

SATURDAY, OCT 18 – UWM Union Theatre

(1:00 pm) **WHAT NOW? REMIND ME** (E Agora? Lembra-me)

(Joaquim Pinto, Portugal, in Portuguese with English subtitles, 164min., 2013)

A beautiful, epic video diary of a year spent undergoing an experimental treatment for HIV, **What Now? Remind Me** is an enthralling personal essay both expansive and intimate from celebrated Portuguese filmmaker Joaquim Pinto. Undergoing a series of clinical trials, he ruminates, in voiceover and

through his imagery, on the ravages of his body and his psyche, and on the scarcities (economic, environmental) of a depleted planet. He finds sanctuary in his relationship with his beloved husband Nuno, with whom he works the land in the company of their pride of big, goofy-with-amiability dogs. Meditative, warm with feeling, and lovely to behold **What Now? Remind Me** conveys more than anything the joy of being alive. (Not available for preview)

(4:00 pm) **AN AFTERNOON OF FORBIDDEN LOVE – fashion show + film screening FREE**

First: The 2014 FORBIDDEN LOVE FASHION SHOW, a celebratory response to looks butch and femme in the style of, and tribute to, the glamor of the film *Forbidden Love*. Thanks to Cheryl Kader and her friends for instigating and realizing this ef-

florescence of voguish sophistication! **Second: FORBIDDEN LOVE: THE UNASHAMED STORIES OF LESBIAN LIVES** (Aerlyn Weissman & Lynn Ferie, Canada, 85min. 1992) A landmark work of lesbian cinema, now digitally re-mastered on the occasion of its 20th anniversary and as richly enjoyable as ever. Compelling, often hilarious, always rebellious, the women interviewed here recount stories about their first loves and their search for the places where openly lesbian women gathered in the mid-20th century. Against a backdrop of pulp novel covers, archival footage, and tabloid headlines, these women's coming-of-age experiences in the 1950s and '60s are explored with grace, humor, and irreverence. The women here offer an affecting portrait of a community once consigned to silence and exile. (Not available for preview)

(7:00 pm) **THE CIRCLE** (Der Kreis)

(Stefan Haupt, Switzerland, in Swiss German and German with English subtitles, 102min., 2014)

Perhaps drawing upon Thom Fitzgerald's excellent *Beefcake* for inspiration, director Stefan Haupt utilizes a similar docu-drama approach in crafting **The Circle** (Der Kreis).

In *Beefcake*, Fitzgerald focused on Bob Mizner and his groundbreaking publication *Physique Pictorial*, first published in 1951. At heart of **The Circle** is another such groundbreaking gay publication, *Der Kreis*, the often provocative, multilingual magazine founded in 1942 by actor Karl Meier. *Der Kreis* contained news, short stories, poems, and suitable photographs. Meier and his colleagues at *Der Kreis* also organized weekly meetings and were famous for their internationally known Circle Balls which drew gay men from across Europe and even the United States.

At one such Circle Ball sometime during the late 1950s a young literature teacher named Ernst Ostertag met and fell truly, madly, deeply in love with drag artiste Robi Rapp. The Circle Ball, with its fetching nautical theme and scantily-clad, well-oiled young men decoratively grouped in the background, were surely inspired by Mizner and his AMG Studios.

Anchored by Ostertag and Rapp's love story, **The Circle** explores the clandestine gay underground in Switzerland. Initially, Switzerland seemed a safe haven for gay men at least until a series of brutal murders within the gay community causes police to limit social events and to put increasing pressure in demanding the names of members of *Der Kreis*. Nor were Ernst and Robi immune to the dangers.

Thanks in part to the appealing performances of Matthias Hungerbuehler (Ernst) and Sven Schelker (Robi), director Stefan Haupt might well have just jettisoned the present day talking heads interviews in favor of fashioning the material as simply a period drama. But as that would have meant moviegoers missing out on the real life Ernst and Robi, just the most adorable septuagenarian couple you'd ever want to meet, Glenn feels Haupt has made the right decision.

(Highly Recommended)

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(9:00 pm) PARTYCRASHERS AND OTHER

RE-ORDERINGS: An Evening of Women's Shorts

Femmes fatales, cat burglars, and trespassers (literally) stuck in the closet, tonight's program includes a roster of women in situations somewhat compromising. Party on girls! Titles include **One Night Stand** (Ryan Logan, US, 5min., 2013); **Bombshell** (Erin Sanger, US, 14min., 2013); **Social Butterfly** (Lauren Wolkstein, France/US, 14min., 2012); **The Kiss** (Filip Gieldon, Poland, in Polish with English subtitles, 21min., 2013); **Jellyfish** (Rosie Haber, Malaysia, in Tagalog with English subtitles, 11min., 2013); **Natives** (Jeremy Hersh, US, 20min., 2013); **What Keeps Me Here** (Danielle Wright, US, 6.5min., 2014) and **Dykes on Bycycles** (Bettie Allen & Andi Woodward, US, 2014)

(Not available for preview)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 – UWM Union Theatre

(1:00 pm) REGARDING SUSAN SONTAG

(Nancy Kates, US, 100min., 2014)

Following screenings at various leading LGBT Film Festivals and in advance of its HBO premiere, **Regarding Susan Sontag**, Nancy Kates' intimate biography of the admittedly polarizing writer/ thinker is surely the must-see doc at this year's Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival.

For a Sontag neophyte as Glenn must admit to being, **Regarding Susan Sontag** offers a fascinating look at the writer, not "woman writer" (in case Susan is reading this from over Glenn's shoulder). Sontag is responsible for such extraordinary and influential works as her essay, *Notes on Camp* plus such books as **On Photography**, **Aids and its Metaphors**, and her much derided first novel, **The Benefactor**, which even her closest friends would describe as "awful."

The strength of Kates' documentary is linking Sontag's personal life, her early marriage, her various (mainly women) lovers and three bouts with cancer to her with her writing and political activism. If **Regarding Susan Sontag** isn't exactly a "warts and all" reveal, Kates nevertheless interviews a number of former lovers who portray Sontag as both passionate and difficult. Only one Lucinda Childs, the eminent postmodern dancer/choreographer, talks of Susan Sontag with more than a touch of coldness. More amusing is the anecdote from Harriet Sohmers Zwerling, her first lesbian lover who found occasion to take a pop at Susan at a party where the couple seems to have been over-served.

Technical credits are excellent with Patricia Clarkson doing yeoman's work reading from Sontag's work. Sophia E. Constantinou's busy visuals occasionally overwhelm. **(Recommended)**

(5:00 pm) DRUNKTOWN'S FINEST

(Sydney Freeland, US, 95min., 2014)

Drawing for inspiration upon a **20/20** segment that dubbed Gallup, New Mexico as "Drunktown, USA," debuting writer-director Sydney Freeland's **Drunktown's Finest** brings together three narratives all with Navajo roots. Sick Boy (Jeremiah Bitsui) has a pregnant wife to support and is hoping to stay out of trouble (i.e. stay sober) the four days until he leaves for basic training. Despite her Navajo roots, Nizhoni (Morningstar Angeline Wilson) has spent most of her adolescence in private boarding schools far away from the reservation thanks to her well-meaning adoptive Christian parents. Finally there's Felixia (Carmen Moore), a trans-woman who lives with her sweet, authentic and accepting family. Without declaring herself, Felixia is hoping to be featured on a "Women of the Navajo." calendar and in meanwhile turns tricks to make some extra money.

As interesting as these characters are individually, they seem to have only their Navajo roots in common. Yet each is on their own, deeply personal quest. For Sick Boy, joining the military is the best, perhaps the only way for him to provide a better life for himself, his pregnant girlfriend and his entire family. Nizhoni's quest for her biological family and indeed her Navajo roots is clearly articulated. Less clear in Freeland's screenplay is what motivates Felixia. She is forever arranging hookups online; wanting the money for what?

Bitsui's Sick Boy is the film's most engaging character which is perhaps surprising given how potentially unsympathetic the character might have been. Bitsui brings out Sick Boy's very real commitment to his family and also how far short he continually falls. Nizhoni's grandparents are played by Richard Ray Whitman and Toni C. Oliver with both warmth and honesty.

A chance meeting between Sick Boy and Felixia at a convenience store feels both forced and unnecessary as each character's narrative arc is brought together in a sweet and most satisfactory ending.

7:00 pm) LITLING

(Hong Khaou, UK, in English and Mandarin with English subtitles, 86min., 2014)

Perhaps the most surprising film Glenn has screened from this year Festival is **Litling**, a gentle drama starring Ben Whishaw, one of Britain's young acting phenoms. Loyal **Quest** readers might recall the Whishaw from the recent cinematic adaptation of **Brideshead Revisited**.

Litling opens with Junn (Cheng Pei Pei) receiving a visit from her handsome son Kai (Andrew Leung). Quite clearly Junn is residing in a transitional care facility; her room is pleasant but austere, livened up with a scant few

framed photos, the expected knickknacks plus a vase filled with blue hydrangeas. Their conversation feels familiar, punctuated with recriminations from Junn, guilt from Kai. Kai's friend and roommate Richard (Whishaw) is at the center of Junn's resentment; she blames him for Kai not having room for her in his flat and indeed, no time for her in his life. When an attendant comes into her room to change a light bulb, Kai has mysteriously vanished. Ghost? Perhaps a spectre of memory?

That the relationship between Richard and Kai was rather more than one of being friends and roommates will be obvious to most moviegoers even if Junn never knew (or simply refused to accept it). Too caught up in her grief, Junn is unable to see that Richard too is grieving the loss of Kai. Wanting to make some connection with Kai's only family, Richard visits Junn. Unable to speak Mandarin, she speaking no English, there's little hope for them to communicate, although she signals her resentment in plain enough terms. Still, Richard is determined to break through to her, enlisting Vann (Naomi Christie) to help translate for him and Junn and then later for Junn and Alan (Peter Bowles), a fellow resident she's sweet on, one who thinks her still an exotic beauty.

If a rather slight story from Cambodian director Hong Khaou, **Litling** bravely, thoughtfully explores notions of grief, of solitude and aloneness but most of all of love and loss. The performances are excellent throughout, particularly from Whishaw, who invests Richard with extraordinary grace and vulnerability in his grief. Cheng's Junn, unable to make a connection with the young man who also loved her son, is a woman even more alone, whose sense of not belonging has made her wary of all those around her. **(Recommended)**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 – UWM Union Theatre

(7:00 pm) ONE DAY PINA ASKED FREE

(Chantal Akerman, France, in German and French with English subtitles, 57min., 1983)

One great artist considers another in this meditative immersion into the methods and achievements of revered choreographer Pina Bausch (1940-2009) by the celebrated filmmaker Chantal Akerman. Filmed while her German-based dance company fulfills a European tour, this portrait through process generously shares quite beautiful passages from Bausch's mesmerizing tableaus, pausing for testimony from the dancers on all, from their own lives, that they bring.

Preceded by: **SHOULDER**

(Andy Warhol, US, 16mm, 4min., 1964)

A silent portrait of Lucinda Childs, or that is, her shoulder; or, that is a dance piece of characteristic minimalism (Child's; Warhol's). **(Not available for preview)**

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 - UWM UNION THEATRE**(7:00 pm) SAN DIEGO SURF FREE**

(Andy Warhol, Paul Morrissey, 16mm, 90 min., 1968/1996)

A movie both outrageous and louche, *San Diego Surf* is the film Andy Warhol & Co. made after completing *Lonesome Cowboys*, all involved repairing to La Jolla, CA to fashion this sequel of sorts, a movie as much about surfing as the previous was a Western. Warhol axioms Viva and Taylor Mead play a married couple, unhappy yet also recent parents. (An actual baby plays the baby.) They open their beach house to a bunch of surfers and desires crest. The film remained without a final edit until 1996 when the Warhol Foundation, the story goes, commissioned collaborator Paul Morrissey to make a final edit, the film only screening again in the last few years. (The film would be the last on which Warhol was directly involved, the artist, seismically, shot by Valerie Solanas one month after filming was completed. The film, however, ends with a christening of sorts, a newly anointed Mead proclaiming, "We're all surfers now...." **(Not available for preview)**

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22 - UWM UNION THEATRE**7:00 pm) GOODBYE GAULEY MOUNTAIN:****AN ECOSexual LOVE STORY FREE**

(Beth Stephens, with Annie Sprinkle, US, 70min., 2013)

The true tale of art professor Beth Stephens and her partner, feminist porn star Annie Sprinkle, who join forces with environmental activists in a quest to save the Appalachian Mountains, waters, skies, and animals from the coal industry's corporate greed and devastating ecological disregard. Beth was born and raised in West Virginia, in the bosom of Gauley Mountain, which is under siege by mountain top removal (MTR) coal mining. This eco-documentary chronicles these activists' fight for environmental justice, a struggle whose tactics include queer art making practices, sexy fun, and other surprising (and most serious) strategies. For instance, and crucially: Beth and Annie have a wedding to marry the mountains, in a performance art platform of a ceremony where they vow to take the Earth as their lover. *Goodbye Gauley Mountain* raises awareness about the devastation of MTR while celebrating the Earth in all its sensuous, ecossexual glory. **(Not available for preview)**

THURSDAY, OCT. 23 - UWM UNION THEATRE**(7:00 pm) SALVATION ARMY (L'armée du Salut)**

(Abdellah Taïa, France/Morocco, In Arabic and French with English subtitles, 84min., 2013)

Abdellah Taïa's groundbreaking autobiographical novel, *Salvation Army* is one which Glenn has actually read, surely due to its evocative cover and scant 143 pages. In it, Taïa provides wry, warm insight into his

story of growing up Gay in what is presumably a fairly ordinary Moroccan household. This Abdellah is an inquisitive youth; he's a veritable clean slate upon which he's eager to fill with all of his experiences, recorded as much for the reader as for himself. Much of the first half of the novel concerns his infatuation with his older brother Abdelkébit.

Acting as both director and screenwriter, Taïa has, for the most part, kept the novel's basic fragmentary narrative arc in the film, the opening segment again focusing on Abdellah's home life, one rendered, for the most part with a marked austerity. Here there is much more emphasis on Abdellah's sexual awakening, although encounters are kept discretely off-screen. Gone, however, is the engaging youth from the novel. Young Said Mrin's Abdellah countenance remains ever inscrutable. His large dark eyes appear to take in everything around him but reveal little.

Indeed, nothing much changes as Taïa's narrative catches up with Abdellah ten years later; Agnes Godard's sober cinematic palette remains. Karim Ait M'hand has taken over as the adult Abdellah. Mrin's inscrutability is gone, replaced by an angry sullenness. This is especially evident when Abdellah takes a fluky ride with his Swiss friend Jean. The boatman susses out their relationship immediately, which he makes clear to Abdellah. Abdellah, for his part is clearly uncomfortable, readily agreeing to triple the boatman's usual charge. His sullenness continues as Abdellah reaches Switzerland, a month early before his grant is due to begin. After an angry encounter with Jean, Abdellah is left penniless, homeless; arriving at a Salvation Army, a chance encounter with another Moroccan offers both Abdellah and moviegoers a brief respite of rare tenderness.

(9:00 pm) SCORE

(Radley Metzger, 35mm on Blu ray, USA/Yugoslavia, 90min., 1974)

The exploitation genre of the late 1960s and early 70s had its auteur in Radley Metzger, whose filmic soft-core roundelay stirred a following among the then new movie-going class of porn-curious swingers, heterosexual couples, mostly, whose pursuit of faddish liberation included sampling new cinematic positions. Romanticized for its unfettered bisexuality, *Score* is perhaps Metzger's most polymorphously amorous film. The worldly, been-there duo of Elvira and Jack are engaging in bets over who can seduce whom. Up next: newlyweds Betsy and Eddie. Elvira hopes to seduce Betsy by midnight, while Jack plays downstairs with Eddie (played here by gay porn star Casey Donovan). **(Not available for preview)**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 - UWM UNION THEATRE**5:00 pm) KATE BORNSTEIN IS A QUEER AND PLEASANT DANGER FREE**

(Sam Feder, US, 72min., 2013)

Artist/theorist Kate Bornstein explodes binaries while deconstructing gender—and her own identity. Transdyke. Reluctant polyamorist. Sadomasochist. Recovering Scientologist. Pioneering gender outlaw. Sam Feder's playful, meditative documentary joins Bornstein on her latest tour, capturing rollicking public performances and personal revelations as it bears witness to Kate as a trailblazing artist-theorist-activist who inhabits a space between male and female with wit, style and astonishing candor. We unfurled this so great, really lovely film last February and we bring it back at audience insistence and also in anticipation of Bornstein's visit to the UWM campus on October 30, to be hosted by the UWM LGBT Resource Center!

(Not available for preview)**(7:00 pm) THE FOXY MERKINS**

(Madeleine Olnek, US, 82min., 2013)

Many have fled small town America for the bright lights and promised anonymity of New York City. Frederick Weller's Matty Dean hoped a Greyhound and made it to New York just in time to order a cocktail at the Stonewall Inn before the riots started. Joe Buck (Jon Voight) left Texas, heading to New York City to become male prostitute for women in the Academy Award-winning *Midnight Cowboy*. And now the plus-sized Margaret (Lisa Haas) has come to New York to become a female prostitute for women in Madeleine Olnek's *The Foxy Merkins*.

Once Margaret arrives, just barely missing out on a lucrative "date," she is taken under the wing of another working girl Jo (Jackie Monahan). Jo is experienced, allegedly straight and not exactly trustworthy. The two become inseparable. Whether they are sleeping on the floor of one of the Port Authority's restroom or "motorboating" for two prim and proper conventioneers, Margaret and Jo are two gals just getting by the best they can.

There are some hilarious scenes, none more so than when one of Margaret's clients attempts to pay with a gift card from a Talbots Department Store, which proves to be something of a sanctuary for lesbian prostitutes. Some other fall flat; Glenn wearied of the trio of hotel dates raided by the police which are increasingly mean-spirited and at odds with the film's otherwise quirky outlook.

Needless to say, Glenn will never be able to face *Midnight Cowboy*, *Stonewall* and especially his favorite merkin, in quite the same way.

BTW: Gold star to everyone who knows that a merkin

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is a pubic wig originally worn by prostitutes after shaving their genitalia, and are now used as decorative items, erotic devices, or in films, by both men and women.

Lead actor and co-screenwriter Lisa Haas to be in attendance.

(9:00 pm) NOT, LIKE, A LIFETIME MOVIE

MOMENT: An Evening of Men's Shorts

The stuff of gay romance! Rachet poets; cinephilic go-betweens; fan fiction writers; horror movie fans coated in fake blood; one particularly annoying elephant, and more. This isn't your average after school special. Titles include: **A Day For Cakes and Accidents** (Steve Reinke & Jessie Mott, US, 4min., 2013); **Trunk** (Jack Taylor Cox, Australia, 12min., 2013); **Monster Mash** (Mark Pariselli, Canada, 21min., 2014); **Cakes Da Killa: No Homo** (Ja'Tovia Gary, US, 12min., 2013); **Swimming Trunks** (Le Maillet de Bain) (Mathilde Bayle, France, in French with English subtitles, 20min., 2013); **Human Warmth** (Chaluer Humain) (Christophe Predari, Belgium, in French with English subtitles, 11min., 2012); **Slash** (Clay Liford, US, 9min., 2012); and **BTW** (Brennan Johnston, US, 10min., 2014). **(Not available for preview)**

SATURDAY, OCT 25 – UWM UNION THEATRE

(1:00 pm) OUT IN THE NIGHT

(blair dorosh-walther, US, 75min., 2013)

The "New Jersey Four" are four young black lesbians who ventured to the gay-friendly West Village neighborhood in New York City one ill-fated night. As Renata Hill, Patreese Johnson, Terrain Dandridge, and Venice Brown and three of their friends walked past an IFC Theatre (Located on the Avenue of the Americas and West 3rd), they were verbally harassed and taunted by 29-year Dwayne Buckle. The situation escalated, an altercation quickly followed. A few bystanders even joined the scuffle. In the end Patreese Johnson took out a steak knife and stabbed the man. Even though Buckle's injury was minor, 911 was called; the police soon followed. The women were dubbed a "gang" by legal definition rather than from any actual gang-affiliation. All seven women were arrested.

The next day the tabloid headlines screamed: "Attack of the Killer Lesbians" and "Lesbian Wolf Pack."

Director blair dorosh-walther's **Out in the Night** follows the fortunes of the four women previously named; the other three women who pleaded guilty in exchange for reduced sentences are neither identified nor interviewed for this documentary. When the lengthy trial concluded, New York Supreme Court Justice Edward McLaughlin pronounced sentences ranging from 3½ to 11 years.

Renata Hill, Patreese Johnson, Terrain Dandridge, and Venice Brown believe that they were not fairly treated by the Judicial System simply by being black and lesbian. Prominent political activist Angela Davis even spoke out publicly. **Out in the Night** proves a rare, harrowing cautionary tale.

(5:00 pm) CATEGORIAL REFUTATION:

An Evening Of Trans* Shorts

Definitions claimed and ignored in this energetic conflation of characters engaging with disclosure, athletics, dating, postmodernism, robots (possibly), mothers, trans* history, and a bling bedecked walker as vehicles for getting where and who you need to be. **Bradley Manning Had Secrets** (Adam Butcher, UK, 5min., 2011); **Dating Sucks: A Genderqueer Misadventure** (Sam Berliner, US, 12:40, 2013); **Gender Games** (Meg Smaker and Veronica Lopez, US, 9min., 2013); **Black is Blue** (Cheryl Dunye, US, 21min., 2014); **MyMy** (Anna Helme, Aus-

tralia, 15min., 2014); **The Heart's Mouth** (Erica Cho, US, 3min., 2013); two from Zackary Druckart: **Fish: A Matrilineage of Cunty White-Woman Realness** (US, 2min., 2008) and **She Gone Rogue** (with Rhys Ernst, US, 22min., 2012).

(Not available for preview)

(7:00 pm) THE WAY HE LOOKS (Hoje Eu Quero Voltar Sozinho) (Daniel Ribeiro, Brazil, in Portuguese with English subtitles, 95min., 2014)

A beguilingly sweet story of high school romance swirling around the resourceful and sturdy teenager Leonardo, who already has to endure bullies — and also overprotective parents, understandably worried about how their blind son negotiates the world. While the limits placed on him can frustrate, Leonardo has being blind down. It is his crush on new student Gabriel that confounds him. That and the fact that his best friend Giovanna has a crush on Gabriel too. What makes Daniel Ribeiro's award-winning feature so uncommon is that Leonardo's coming out is part of his in-general desire for independence, for the opportunity to be the author of his own world. The sunny **The Way He Looks** takes the foibles it portrays seriously but also delights in — and roots for — the pleasures these young people can find in each other's company. **(Not available for preview)**

(9:00 pm) DUAL (Dvojina)

(Nejc Gazvoda, In Danish, English, and Slovenian with English subtitles, 102min., 2013)

Iben is bound for Greece from her homeland of Denmark, her travel a form of denial, or maybe an outright rejection, of a secret that's a part of her baggage. Tina is at her last night of her summer hotel job, shuttling guests here and there; tomorrow she is going to nail this job interview. But, unexpectedly stranded in Ljubljana in the middle of the night, Iben asks the helpful driver for a tour of the city, and Iben and Tina light out on a lark, a nighttime frolic that feels like a prolonged dare, whirling in its impromptu itinerary, in the discovery of desire. Most impressively, Nejc Gazvoda's bypasses its screwball comedy formula to move towards the morning after — something sharper, more resonant in its inevitable melancholy. The story is lovely in its incident — there is song, language lessons shared, party hats — but the film weaves gravity within its whimsy, mapping, ultimately, a more general portrait of the twenty-somethings emerging from today's economically embattled Europe, a generation lost, maybe, or perhaps defiantly adrift.

(Not available for preview)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

1:00 pm) CUPCAKES (Bananot)

(Eytan Fox, Israel, in Hebrew with English subtitles, 90min., 2013)

For those moviegoers familiar with director Eytan Fox's **Yossi & Jagger**, **The Bubble** and finally, the supremely depressingly, **Yossi**, a delightful cinematic confection such as **Cupcakes** is sure to raise an eyebrow or two.

Six friends, all neighbors, have gathered to watch an international singing competition called UniverSong, think "Eurovision" without the licensing restrictions. This endearing group of wayward twentysomethings includes primary school teacher Ofer (Ofer Schecter) who delights in performing in drag for his kindergarteners whilst hoping daily that his gorgeous boyfriend Asi (Alon Levi) will come out to his family. Lesbian singer-guitarist Efrat (Efrat Dor) lives in hope for that one big break. Yael (Yael Bar-Zohar) is a former beauty queen turned lawyer and who is desperate to gain the respect from her ex-

ploitive boss. Shy Keren (Keren Berger) has turned to cyberspace in attempting to get over her lisp. To please her Orthodox father, Dana (Dana Ivgy) works as an assistant to a conservative female Cabinet Minister and feels trapped in a soulless existence. And finally there's Anat, rather older than the rest, is the baker of delightfully festive cupcakes.

A pallor quickly descends over the proceedings. Israel, it is true, has landed at the bottom of the scoring. Then Anat reveals that her husband has just left her. The completion forgotten, her friends look to console her. Efrat starts strumming her guitar; Ofer dons a wig. Lyrics, words of support for the fragile Anat, quickly morphs into an impromptu musical number titled, "It'll All Work Out."

It is providence that Ofer had the foresight to record the occasion. Still, his friends are none too pleased to learn not only that Ofer has taken the initiative to submit the song to UniverSong, but against what are surely impossible odds, "It'll All Work Out" and the newly dubbed Anat-Ofah Band has been selected as Israel's official entry.

Will, Ofer, against all the odds, convince his friends, not to mention his closeted boyfriend, to take a chance? First, each must break out of their respective shell. Later, they will have to muster up the courage to prevent the so-called professionals from transforming the Anat-Ofah into yet another standard issue, run of the mill pop group, ridging "It'll All Work Out" of the charm and simple joy that made it so special in the first place.

Eytan Fox's deft screenplay (with Eli Bijaoui) is a winning mash-up of **A Star is Born**, those delightful 1930s Mickey and Judy musicals and yes, even **The Partridge Family** and is sure to leave moviegoers with a smile and a craving for cupcakes. **(Highly recommended)**

(7:00 pm) 52 TUESDAYS

(Sophie Hyde, Australia, 109 min., 2013)

There is surely no more challenging film at the Festival than **52 Tuesdays**, which closes the 2014 edition of the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival. Over the course of one year, debut director Sophie Hyde sets off, at least initially, to chronicle Jane's (Del Herbert-Jane) gender transition, a decision not lightly or, it would appear, hastily taken. While ex-husband Tom (Beau Travis Williams) offers a nice mix of support and exasperation, the reaction from 16-year old Billie (Tilda Cobham-Hervey) proves to be another matter entirely. Narrative conflict emerges as Jane/James decides that during a period of adjustment, it might be best that Billie move in with her father, a condition Billie accepts only reluctantly. During her year-long exile, James and Billie will meet every Tuesday, all 52 Tuesdays, without fail, naively in quest of what used to be, and perhaps still is known as "quality time."

Jane's transition to James is immediately compelling, portrayed with appropriate gravitas from the actor who is non gender specific in life. There is a real power in these early scenes, when for instance James must confront the fact that his testosterone injections, T, are in fact poisoning him. Fascinating, too, are James and Billie's first few Tuesdays, as Billie attempts to reconcile herself with the changes to James and her life.

Then Matthew Cormack's screenplay begins to shift focus to Billie's sexual exploration with two older classmates, Jasmine (Imogen Archer) and Josh (Sam Althuizen) and her increasingly compulsive desire to film them baring first their souls and later rather more. Eventually the film takes off in a decidedly melodramatic fashion as Billie's amateur filmmaking causes problems both at school and at home. By then James' transitioning seems all but forgotten.

MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL RETURNS TO FORMER FORMAT

by Paul Masterson

For Milwaukee's LGBT community October means the LGBT Film/Video Festival. This year, aside from celebrating its 29th anniversary, the festival is special. After a brief experiment during which a densely scheduled launch weekend was followed by monthly screenings, the festival returns to its traditional 11-day format. Festival director Carl Bogner explains the change, "We want to get films out to the community as resourcefully as possible. But packing everything into one weekend made it difficult for people to see things. The return to 11 days gives a visible sense of quantity and the opportunity to take advantage of it," Bogner said.

The marquee is loaded with 25 programs and dozens of titles. As always selections reflect the ever changing face of LGBT life. They also include reflections on our past. Of course, the ever-popular Men's, Woman's and Trans Shorts return along with a broad spectrum of national and international features. Along side offerings from the United States, the international nature of the LGBT point of view includes films from Iran, Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, Navajo, UK (featuring Chinese), Belgium, Morocco, Brazil, Slovenia, and Israel. There are also shorts from Poland and Malaysia. "The range of foreign films testifies to the ease with which films can traffic internationally" Bogner said. "Today there is no reason for the festival not be global."

As much as the festival has grown "globally," it has also matured in its perspective. With political and social progress being made, so to the themes explored by LGBT filmmakers are evolving as well. Although many issues are intrinsic to the LGBT experience, today's subjects are not so entrenched in agendas and the "urgent bulletins" about identity, HIV/AIDS, or the struggle for equality. "Queer filmmakers now expand the issues that LGBT film should be talking about to include topics that are no longer distinct from LGBT life. They are making films in a broader context," Bogner said.

We'll see some of those films in this year's festival. Bogner cites examples. "The richness of today's films is about the number of things they think about simultaneously. A Portuguese film provides a video diary of a man in a long term relationship and the clinical HIV/AIDS trials he went through. The film is ruminative and intimate about domestic life and outlooks for the current generation. Realities of HIV today are seen within other realities. It's about partnership but it's not a marriage equality movie. Another film is about a queer performance artist joining forces with environmentalists. It's set in West Virginia that has been laid waste by industry. It couldn't be more queer but camp. It's performative involving humor

and sexuality but the point is to provide people with a thought process about our relationship with the earth," Bogner explains.

"In the past, LGBT film festivals weren't quite underground but they were marginalized. Today we are part of the Milwaukee film landscape. We get coverage in mainstream press. Our programming and audiences are pretty remarkable and recognized as part of our greater cultural texture. The festival aspires to be part of that texture," Bogner said.

Closing night feature: "52 Tuesdays"



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MAKE IT WORK, an Interview with Tim Gunn

by Michael Jonston

Please join Tim Gunn in the fight against HIV/AIDS and unite with all of Wisconsin for AIDS Walk Wisconsin – 25 on Sunday, October 12th Summerfest Grounds

Of course I'm going to get to some fashion questions but let's start with your reason for coming to Milwaukee in the first place: Can you share with our Readers your commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS and coming here to honor our 25th Anniversary of AIDS Walk Wisconsin by serving as Honorary Chair?

My reasons have multiple prongs – I believe in giving back! This is Profoundly important to me. Three causes very dear to me are: HIV/AIDS Education, the LGBT Community-at-large, and Domestic Violence. I do whatever I can for these organizations.

I've been to Milwaukee a number of times and love it! I look forward to returning for the AIDS Walk.

I know you were part of the "It Gets Better Campaign" What words of encouragement would you give to today's LGBT Community?

It gets better – still relevant, do your best – to understand who you are and accept it and yourself. Life is conglomeration - - seek out who you trust or professional – a therapist and go forward. Things are different today – better. When I was growing up there was Paul Lynde "Uncle Arthur" – cartoons – something I wasn't and didn't want to be. The world has improved and it is getting better!

What is the most important ingredient in one's wardrobe?

Knowing everyone has jeans and t-shirts most importantly - - a blazer! A classic styled blazer for a man and for a woman the same thing, but hers can be more fitting to her lifestyle and taste.

Are there any clothing items or styles that make you cringe when you see someone walking down the street?

How much time do we have? LOL Cargo Capri pants do nothing to compliment, they make a woman look shorter and wider - - and isn't the ideal to look taller and slimmer? Why do they wear the unflattering? Also Legging – as a pant! When did underwear become the norm? It exposes the mid-section no one should see that and does nothing to compliment or flatter.

The fall season is here what should everyone be wearing?

No trends, out of policy. Nothing bothers me more than trends. Please don't buy to wear, because everyone else is! Don't chase fads. It will result in a fashion disaster! Know yourself and dress accordingly. Don't become a fashion disaster!

Who is a designer you can't get enough of and why?

Diana Von Furstenberg, she is extraordinary from the "Wrap Dress" of the 1970's to today. She tugs at my heart and brain strings. Politically and otherwise, she currently is and has been since 2006 the President of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. (CFDA)

What is your favorite "Fashion Era"?

The 1960's incredible, revolutionary, it started out so quiet and the fashion barometer went from sedate to surprise, experimental, Granny Dress, paper dress and braless look. Fashion reflected the decade.



Photography by
Scott McDermott

Looking over your impressive career, do you think of yourself as a Style setter or a Teacher? – it seems the common thread (pun intended) is mentoring... your thoughts?

I believe they're all intertwined - making me who I am. They all work together for me. 29 years in a classroom provided the background for me to do "Project Runway". 7 1/2 years at Parsons – it provided me the vocabulary to speak.

You are known as a fashion expert. What do you find most challenging? The

sense of responsibility in carrying this moniker...

You flatter me, not making judgments, unless you know the person. What are they trying to project? The Red Carpet is different, now they have "experts" dressing people - - clothes, accessories – gives one cause to wonder.

Was there ever a time in fashion, be it a season or year that you were just mortified by the style/look?

The 1980s – need I say more?

CINDERELLA OPENS SKYLIGHT SEASON ABSOLUTELY FABULOUSLY!

by Paul Masterson

The Skylight Music Theatre opened its 2014-15, Fairy Tale and Fantasy themed season with *Cinderella* (*La Cenerentola*). It's Rossini's 1817 updated, operatic take on the classic bedtime story. Artistic and musical director Viswa Subbaraman's equally updated production may forever change your cerebral visualization whenever you here the name "Cinderella".

Even before the curtain rises, we're introduced to the evil stepsisters. They appear, sucking smokes and intoxicated, in an Ab Fab homage to Patsy and Edwina, and snap the obligatory selfie. Projected photos of the two with requisite empty Champagne and Stoli bottles set the stage as the curtain rises, revealing the passed out pair amongst heaps of designer dresses. The multilevel set (by scenic designer Lisa Schlenker) is arrayed like a fashionista's orgasm. Angelina (the Cinderella role sung by Sishel Claverie) tidies up and serves espresso to the waking stepsisters (Erin Sura and Kristen DiNinno). Jolted back into reality and another day of self-indulgence with Cafe Bustello shots, the sisters' scene is interrupted with the arrival



Photo Credit: Mark Froehn
Cinderella, 2014

of half a dozen princely pages announcing "The Ball" and the prince's quest for a bride. Prince Ramiro (Luke Grooms) accompanies the entourage disguised as his valet, Dandini. It's mutual love at first sight when he and Cinderella meet. The plot unfolds accordingly. Rossini's altered version dispenses with the familiar magic, mice, and glass slippers. Instead, the fairy godmother is the prince's mentor, the handsome Alidoro (LaMarcus

Miller) and Cinderella dresses with a pair of matching bracelets – one of which will later become the clue to her identity. Then it's off to "The Ball".

In a nod to Truman Capote's famous black and white Masquerade Ball, the palace fete is all about runway fashion fetishism replete with paparazzi (one with a vintage bulb flash and bellows camera... Fellini's Paparazzo from *La Dolce Vita*, perhaps?). The stepsisters' devious devices and their fortune seeking father Don Magnifico (Andy Papas) fail to win the prince in the face of true love, passion and compassion.

So, the production...it's Rossini, of course.

Musically vigorous, the 12 piece orchestra sounded brighter and stronger due to the renovated pit, kept the score's sometimes frenetic pace like a wild but controlled carriage ride. The dozen singers are well cast, their singing uniformly blended throughout. At the Skylight's season preview last spring, someone moaned the lack of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera in the line up. This should suffice. From the sprightly overture to the full cast renditions of machine gun staccato choruses, the extravagant personalities, and serious message tempered by silliness, Subbaraman's production should entertain any G&S aficionado. The extreme vogue fashion provided by New York City's Cesar Galindo's extravagant contemporary costume design is the icing on this delicious Italianate cake.

It would be hard to pick a favorite among the leads. Claverie sings her Angelina sweetly yet rich with conviction and emotion. Grooms' tenor is powerful and yet sensitive. Baritone Dmitrie Lazich gives his over the top dandy Dandini a delightful balance of buffo and sovereign control. Miller sings a deeply velvety, almost seductive voice for his Alidoro while Papas, Sura, DiNinno and the male sextet round out this wonderful blend of vocalists.

Cinderella runs through Sunday, October 5. For tickets go to www.skylightmusictheatre.org



Cinderella (*La Cenerentola*), 2014
Photo Credit: Mark Froehn

OCTOBER IS CHOCK FULL OF AUTHOR APPEARANCES AT OUTWORDS BOOKS

On Monday, October 6 at 7:00pm, Outwords Books is pleased to bring to Milwaukee acclaimed writer, Gregg Shapiro, who has just released his first collection of short stories, entitled "Lincoln Avenue: Chicago Stories." With its twelve sharply observed stories filled with memorable characters and dialogue imbued with the pop music of the day, Gregg Shapiro reflects on what it meant to grow up gay in Chicago during the 1970s and 1980s. Relationships —family, boyfriends, and otherwise—are explored in stories such as "Lunch with a Porn Star," "Marilyn, My Mother, Myself," and "Your Father's Car."

Bestselling M/M Romance writer Andrew Grey makes a return visit to Outwords Books at 4:00pm on Saturday, October 11. Andrew Grey will read from and sign copies of "Love Comes Around," the third title in his popular Senses series which began with "Love Comes Silently." Andrew will also read from "Under the Stars," a Young Adult title written under the pseudonym Geoff Laughton. Andrew Grey grew up in western Michigan with a father who loved to tell stories and a mother who loved to read them. He has a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and works in information systems for a large corporation.

Next up at Outwords Books is Lambda Literary Award-winning novelist David Pratt stops in on Saturday, October 18 at 4:00pm. David will read and sign copies of the hilarious *Looking After Joey*, recently released from Wilde City Books. **David Pratt** won a 2011 Lambda Literary Award for his debut novel, *Bob the Book*. His story collection, *My Movie*, from Chelsea Station Editions, includes new work and short fiction originally published in *Christopher Street*, *The James White Review*, *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly*, *Velvet Mafia*, *Lodestar Quarterly* and in the anthologies *Men Seeking Men*, *His3* and *Fresh Men 2*.

October Happenings wrap up on Saturday, Oct. 25 (@ 4:00pm) with a quartet of some of the most popular Lesbian novelists. The lineup starts with Outwords Books favorite Anne Laughlin who will read from and sign copies of *The Acquittal*. Another regular visitor to Outwords Books is Chris Paynter who will read from her latest romance, *To Love Free*. Reading group member Sheila J. Connolly will be reading from her well-received first murder mystery: **Maggie's Mechanics**. Rounding out this incredible Literary Lesbian line-up is Angela Koenig, who will read from *Rendezvous in the Himalaya*, the second book in her popular *Refractions* series.

All of the above events are free and all are welcome. Please arrive early since seating is limited.

Outwords Books is located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. For further information, call (414) 963-9089 or go to www.outwordsbooks.com

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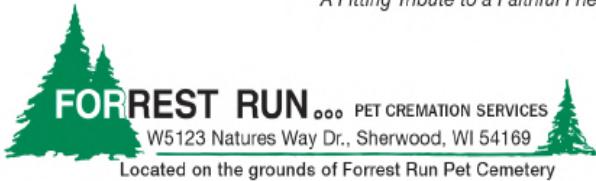


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This year's luncheon will be held at:

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Keynote speaker

Neil Giuliano CEO, San Francisco AIDS Foundation



Neil G. Giuliano served as mayor of Tempe, Arizona for four terms, from 1994-2004. Giuliano served as President of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) from 2005-09, and has served as CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation since being appointed in December 2010.

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OUT'N'BOUNDED MAGAZINE

Volume 13 #10 October2014

RIGHT: LGBT Chamber of Commerce 2nd Anniversary
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All photos on this page courtesy of Michael Lisowski (Queer Program)



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Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

October is here and the Social Season is at full tilt! Are You all enjoying our autumn? Hopefully we will be compensated with mild weather, sunny, warm days as we start harvesting towards the Holidays. This month we acknowledge Yom Kippur (Oct. 4), Columbus Day (Oct. 13) and Halloween (Oct. 31).

The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) welcomes the new exhibit – “Of Heaven and Earth 500 years of Italian Painting from Glasgow Museums” Thursday, October 2 – Sunday, January 4, 2015 in The Baker/Rowland Galleries. MAM After Dark: Redux – Fall edition takes place on Friday, October 17 from 5 – 11 p.m. come and see the Museum after the sun sets... MAM also has a flawless Gift Shop – perfect with the upcoming gift-giving season!

Sunday, October 5 from 2 – 6 p.m. Club Charlies, in The Historical Third Ward, will present a special edition of Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes – as a benefit for AIDS Walk Wisconsin. All proceeds will be going to the continuing fight against HIV/AIDS in our Community. Please come join Brian Reinkober, Craig & Dawn, and Cordially Yours as we give you one bonus dosage of fun and frivolity otherwise known as ShowTunes! Do you think Allen will do his “Bar Raising Number”?

Currently through Thursday, October 9 The 2014

Milwaukee Film Festival is in full bloom. Take the time to be enriched! For all the details please visit Mkefilm.org or call 414-727-8468.

Later in the month The LGBT Film/Video Festival will be raising their curtain – make sure you're in the audience! Thursday, October 16 – Sunday, October 26 for all the details – lgbtfilm@uwm.edu

Wondering what Milwaukee's Crown Prince of Comedy us up to? John McGivern is taking over Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in a limited run of “Shear Madness” – America's hilarious whodunit! Chase those fall blues away by letting Mr. McGivern tickle your funny bone. Northern Lights will never be the same! After all, their stunning new hotel does need a salon... to make your reservations: paysbig.com/shows

Elm Grove's crown jewel of Theatre – The Sunset Playhouse has up on their boards a fascinating cabaret series: Side notes: “Red Hot Mama! A Tribute to Sophie Tucker”. Becky Spice brings to life the sassy singer/comedienne who our Divine Miss M, Bette Midler, patterned her early illustrious career on. To see the incomparable Soph check your calendars: Thursday, Oct. 9-Saturday, Oct. 11 (Thur. 7:30 p.m., Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. two shows- a matinee at 3 p.m. and an 8 p.m. performance). To partake – www.sunsetplayhouse.com I took in and

was thoroughly amused with “Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets” running now through Sunday, October 5 as part of their Cabaret Series. Reginald T. Klurschner, Don Lobacz, L. Thomas (Tommy) Lueck, and Aaron Schmidt make perfect harmony, humor and a perfect trip down memory lane - a trip worth taking!

Big Night OUT, City of Lights Cabaret to benefit The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is happening on Saturday, October 11 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. The Expo Center – Potawatomi Hotel & Casino 1721 West Canal Street. This is the Community Center's major fund raiser and there is lots of fun in this fund raiser! As the legendary song goes – Come to the Cabaret – enjoy the inspiration of Paris with a palate-pleasing multi-course plated dinner, cash bar, silent auction, and an entertaining cabaret of comedy, song, dance, drama and more! You also will be celebrating National Coming Out Day! And Sweetest Day! I came out on this date 35 years ago – 1979! For more information, please call 414-271-2656 and you will be assisted personally in making your mini Parisian holiday!

What a weekend – the following day, from your dancing shoes to your walking shoes, you're going to have to lace up and turn up for the 25th Anniversary of AIDS Walk Wisconsin & 5K Run! Honorary Chair Tim Gunn the dashing Emmy Award winning Host of “Project Runway” awaits You Wisconsin! You must answer the call for the most “Fashionable” Walk of the Season! Please register today and take part in this historic Walk, one step at a

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Now through Sunday, October 19, you can be mesmerized by Angela Iannone as she interrupts one of Tennessee Williams most complex heroines, Amanda Wingfield and her family and home, otherwise known as "The Glass Menagerie". In Tandem Theatre Company 628 North 10th Street delivers "A Season with lots of Heart!" 414-271-1371/www.intandemtheatre.org Angela received rave reviews for her take on Maria Callas in "Master Class" earlier this season, you don't want to miss this classic character of Theatre.

I've got a recipe for fun, theater, music and all they'll need is you to complete a comedy feast of biblical proportions in "Cooking with the Calamari Sisters – Mangia Italiano!" The Calamari Sisters (Delphine and Carmela) bring laughs to the Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall Wednesday, October 29 – Sunday, November 2. As co-host of public-access cooking show that is not so well-done... Has this whetted your appetite? To make your reservations for this must see, call 414-273-7206 or go online: MarcusCenter.org. Bon appetit!

Florentine Opera Company starts their season with Richard Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" Der Fliegende Hollander – sung in German, with English super titles, projected above the stage. Friday, Oct. 24 and Sunday, Oct. 26 two performances only – book now! Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Please call 414-291-5700 # 224 for personalized assistance with ticketing or www.FlorentineOpera.org Larger than

life drama with all – new productions at a great price! Please don't forget The Camerata Party taking place the Sunday before each opening night! This season there will be a new locale! Congratulations on the recent nuptials of Sarah Lewis Jones Martin & Chris Jones here is hoping only high notes and standing ovations!

BMO Harris Broadway at The Marcus Center and Broadway Across America – The 2014/2015 Broadway Season opens next month with a family favorite, the return of "The Lion King" the world's #1 Musical. The Milwaukee Theatre will host this special celebration – Tuesday, November 11 – Sunday, December 7. Gorgeous puppetry brings the African Pride-lands to life in Broadway's landmark musical event. MarcusCenter.org/414-273-2787 – This way, You will Feel the Love Tonight!

Congratulations to The BestD Clinic (Brady Street East STD Clinic) on 40 years of outstanding, life-saving service! Todd Slusar & John George, Jim Moore & Paul Stabel, Kevin Lynch & Dan Bialzak, Ken Cutts, Ken Babeau, Linda McCabe, Dr. Jason & Ted, Ken – the Photographer, all made a wonderful night of acknowledgment and appreciation for what this Clinic means to our Community, City and State! Special acknowledgment to Leslie of Hi Hat Garage for opening her doors and her great Staff - featuring Corey, Katie, Brian and many others who made us all feel so welcome with a delicious buffet and plenty of drink specials. In the mix enjoying the festivities were: David & Jackie, Si Smits, Paul Williams, Paul Milakovich,

Stuey Feider, Jerry Warzyn a volunteer of the Clinic for over 35 years, Lou & Scott, Chris Francis, Bart Smith, Jim Schleif, David & Jennifer Moore among many other revelers. I had the pleasure to be part of the Show, hostess-ed by the delightful Dear Ruthie, and starring the saucy Shawna Love, delectable Diva Von, luscious Lauren Phillips and Karen Valentine – we all did 1970's music complimenting the opening date of this life-saving service. It will always be the BestD Clinic, but the building will now be known as The Dr. Roger Gremminger Building, the man who bought and gave the structure to the Community. Dr. Gremminger is doing well and enjoying life in our 50th state – Hawaii. What a great honor for a great gift and legacy to our world! A shout out to all the other Pioneers who worked tirelessly to get this clinic opened and operating – Sue Dietz, Chuck Poulson AKA Princess Charlotte Lorraine, Ross Walker & Erv Uecker, Jerry Warzyn, Dr. Kelly Balfiet and so many others – congratulations and continued success – this would not be here or available if not for the commitment of all these dedicated volunteers. I shudder to think how many lives have been saved due to this institution...

I'm having a blast doing "Finally Fridays" every Friday 5 – 8:30 pm at The Red Star Cocktail Club above The Trocadero. Come visit Lance, John and me – show tunes, hand-crafted cocktails, a lounge to lull you into the weekend – mellow you out and then rev you up for your life at play! Due to a prior commitment The Red Star Cocktail Club

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will be dark on Halloween – Friday, October 31 -- until 10:00 p.m. – then the Public will once again be most welcome. We'll resume the usual zaniness the following Friday, November 7 at 5:00 p.m.

The Dairyland Classic has come and gone as has summer... The Minneapolis team took top honors – Bravo! Not sure of the sporting element – but I loved the post party at La Cage. Roger and I walked in with Kris & Michael (the owners) – Dale and Danny took care of us, as only they can – at the bar that is! Dear Ruthie, my sister-in-print, was the fem-cee providing some hysterical "schtick" to warm up the audience and all those Jocks – including Jim from Canada (a well-seasoned athlete still getting home runs in his upper sixties) and many Local-ites as well – so good seeing the old dance palace crowded! Jimmy James the renowned cabaret entertainer sang live – sans make-up (OK a little) and drag – (OK – a sequin pant outfit) to everyone's enjoyment. Starting the Award presentation was our very own Corky Morgan singing the Anthems to much acclaim and appreciation – you could've heard a pin drop! Thanks Boys and Girls of Summer for a fun season of Softball!

Milestones – Happy, happy 90th Birthday, albeit, belated to Mr. Tom Look. A Notre Dame Graduate, WWII Veteran, Sports Enthusiast, Classical Music Patron, Bon Vivant, a true and genuine Gentleman and classmate to Elaine Stritch! When

I grow up, I want to be Tom Look!

Like everyone else out there I was devastated by the death of Joan Rivers. Even though she was 81 and in an induced coma for a week, we all were pulling for her... she was indestructible! Her memory, talent and funny quips, like she, will never truly be gone. The day the fashionable laughter died – Can we talk? Sure, just not right now.

Thinking of Joan, how can I not think of fashion? Looking for something special with the Holidays? Why not look at Gg Collections 5201 West North Avenue 414-630-5360, Deborah Render has the most creative and exciting selections in all sizes for all occasions. I treated myself to some must haves! She also can do custom designs as well.

Food time, thanks to my dear friend Rona I was invited to The Potawatomi Hotel and Casino to feast at their new restaurant Locavore. Locavore is located right off the lobby of the hotel, the left wing. You enter to a huge bar, with a super selection of drink specials, then a host station – where you are welcomed, warmly and then into the dining room – a combination of tables and booth. I loved our booth! Everything is "Green" not in color – Eco-Friendly and repurposed – very stimulating The lobby is decorated very retro, Rat Pack meets Rob & Laura Petrie and throw in a little space-aged Jetson's. Jamie, the manager of Locavore was kind enough to give me a VIP tour

– she was simply beaming and rightfully so – she is so proud of this gem! Amanda our server was friendly, helpful with suggestions and very familiar with the bounty they were offering. Amanda's timing as well as the meal was perfect- and our selections were generous in portion and the temperature was also perfect. I started with underground meats charcuterie and cheese plate – flawless! I chose the Pan-seared scallops with organic faro risotto for my flavorful entrée – even now writing about it I am salivating. And for dessert – the chocolate bar – complimenting my repast exceptionally. Rona ordered and shared the Clock Shadow Creamery fried goat cheese curds, broiled Alaskan wild caught king salmon – another delicious selection – which I'll probably order upon my return visit. Locavore offers Brunch seven days a week! Therefore every day is the weekend! There is a private dining room off the main restaurant that can accommodate about 35 – perfect for rehearsal dinner, engagement party, and the alike. Other niceties too – the Northern Lights Theater, the Casino, the Hotel, complimentary valet service -- give it a try. Let's try all the latest and make them the greatest!

And so ends another effort for October! Remember it's the glamor, not the grammar – enjoy a chilling Halloween and don't forget Sweetest Day – as I remain Still Cordially Yours,



Welcome to Ruthie's **Bitchin' Kitchen**

Holy crap...I love October! Even though I hate people who say they like fall because they "love all the colors" (go buy a box of crayons, damn it!), I truly do enjoy the season.

To me, it's the best of both worlds...sweater weather coupled with men dressed as scantily clad cowboys, cops, construction workers and more. I mean, you have to give these guys credit; they've mastered the art of dressing up for Halloween by wearing next to nothing...and, honey, I'm not complaining! From seductive sailors to suggestive superheros, Halloween always brings the sexy back. In fact, I actually have a friend who went to a Halloween party dressed as a sexy bee. No lie. A friggin' bee. Everyone wanted his number...and he was dressed like a Goddamn bee! A bee!

Speaking of bringing sexy back, don't miss The Big Night Out event at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino on October 11. Hosted by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the fun runs 5:30 to 9:30 pm. I'll be in the cabaret that night with several of Milwaukee's top entertainers, so be sure to say hi...and buy me drinks.

While we're talking about top entertainers, check out Nova D'Vine's October bash. "The Bling Fling" hits La Cage on October 26. The night promises to be a lavish event with gorgeous entertainers...and me. Proceeds benefit the Lesbian Fund and the Community Center (they're everywhere!), so come on down for the 8:00 pm show.

If that's not enough glam for your Halloween buck, don't miss "Ruthie's Halloween Spooktacular" at Hamburger Mary's on October 31! I'm putting on two whacked out shows (8:00 and 9:30 pm) with my gal-pals Trixie Mattel and Veruca Voorhees. We'll also have costume contests, drink specials and "Scary-Oke" with hottie Chad at 10:15. Don't miss this fright fest! Call 414-988-9324 for your reservation to the hottest Halloween spot in town.

In addition to the raunchy men and fantastic parties, October also kicks off a season of good eating. It's time to skip the salads, bypass the berries and forget the fruit. Let's dig into some cheesy, buttery comfort food.

Comfort food means something different to everyone, but bubbling casseroles, creamy chowders and cheesy delights top the list of stick-to-your-ribs specialties. I like to toss hot

and hearty sandwiches in that mix, too!

Yes, yes...you might have turned to the Bitchin' Kitchen this month for some pumpkin recipes. I thought you may need a flavor break from pumpkin spice lattes, pumpkin spice cookies, pumpkin spice bars, pumpkin spice creamers, pumpkin spice Hershey Kisses (yes...they're out there) and every other God forsaken pumpkin spice nibble. I'm leaving out exact measurements from the following recipes because they're sandwiches, damn it! This way, you can make one or two or seven or whatever. That said, toss on your favorite fall sweater and let's whip up some toasty sammies that'll make you eat good and shut up!

GRILLED BRIE-TURKEY SANDWICH

You don't have to be a Little Miss Fancy Pants to enjoy Brie. You can get a small wedge at just about any mom-and-pop grocery store, and a small wedge is all you need to create several sandwiches from this recipe. Once you try my grilled cheese, you won't want it any other way again!

Butter, softened

Sliced bread

Shaved or sliced deli turkey

Brie cheese, cut into thick slices

Fig spread

Spread butter over one slice of bread. Top with turkey and Brie slices. Spread fig spread over another slice of bread. Set bread, fig side down, on Brie. Butter top of sandwich.

Spritz a skillet with no-stick cooking spray. Heat skillet over medium heat on stovetop; add sandwich, butter side down. Carefully butter top of sandwich. Flip sandwich when bottom is golden brown (about 3 minutes). Grill until both sides are golden. (Ruthie tested this recipe with Honey-Maple Turkey and Dalmatia Fig Spread.)



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Ruthie's Culinary Clues

You don't need to remove the rind from the Brie, making this sandwich even easier! I'm not a fig lover...at all. That said, you must try fig spread. It's perfect on nearly any sandwich, offering a lovely touch of sweetness that most guests can't decipher. It's perfect on warm sandwiches, but it's also wonderful on a cheese and cracker platter or served alongside a round of baked Brie. Look for fig spread in the deli or specialty cheese section at the grocery store.

HAM & VEGGIE STROMBOLI

Who doesn't love Stromboli? I say no one. And if they don't love Stromboli, they're clearly evil, black-hearted Nazis hell bent on destroying America and everything in it. That said, check out this hot and hearty sandwiches shared by Todd of West Allis. I've left the measurements off the recipe so you can customize it. "You can get the veggies at the supermarket salad bar to avoid paying for it all separately, and it's already chopped," writes Todd.

1 tube refrigerated pizza crust
Brown mustard
Sliced ham
Sliced Swiss cheese
Sliced green peppers
Sliced onions
Broccoli florets
Sliced mushrooms
Shredded cheddar cheese
Grated parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spritz a baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray. Unroll pizza crust on a baking sheet and spread into a 12 x 8-inch rectangle. Spread mustard over dough. Top with the next seven ingredients in the quantities of your choice.

Fold both sides of dough over center of Stromboli fillings. Pinch seems to seal. Pinch edges to seal and/or fold under Stromboli. Spritz with nonstick cooking spray. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over Stromboli. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until crust is golden. Let Stromboli sit for 10 minutes before slicing.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Again, I've left the quantities off so you can customize the sandwich to your likes. You can also leave out some ingredients or add a few extras. Just remember that you have to fold the dough over the toppings so don't go crazy! "I like to add a little blue cheese and Chipotle Gourmaise spread," adds Todd.

Send YOUR favorite recipes to Dear Ruthie! If she publishes them, you'll get a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt. Simply email her at DearMsRuthie.com. AND...don't miss her hilarious web series at www.RuthiesBitchinKitchen.com!

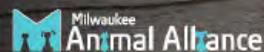
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LOCAL PRIDE
JUST AS WELL
AS SHE DOES.



Photo courtesy of Dear Ms. Ruthie

Adopted dogs Roxie & Rocco and entertainer Dear Ruthie believe local pride starts with local pets. They support shelters and rescues that do, too.

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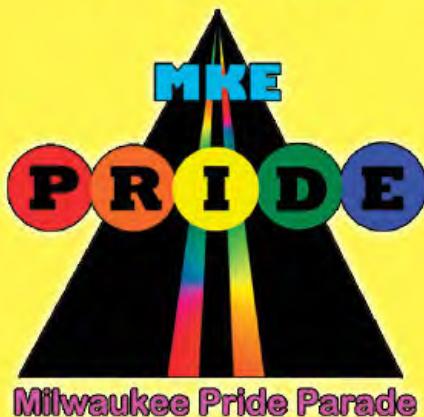


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