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Chorale does Broadway with salute to Kander and Ebb  
Gay men's chorus tackles 'Cabaret,' 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' ... and all that jazz

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## From silence to safety

Judge denies asylum to gay refugee from Jordan but allows him to stay in Dallas with his partner, in case that highlights discriminatory laws

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## Advocates rally in red at DART meeting to demand DP benefits

About two dozen LGBT advocates attended DART's board meeting Tuesday night, April 9, most wearing red to support equal benefits for the transit agency's gay and lesbian employees.

Four people addressed the board during public comments to call members out on their inaction and delay on offering domestic partner health benefits after discussion began last July. The board voted two weeks ago to delay any action until this July after the U.S. Supreme Court decides two marriage equality cases.

John Selig spoke as a former DART employee who said that while he loved working for DART for three years, "the entire time I was here I felt like a second-class employee."

He urged them to consider embracing true diversity by adding DP benefits, adding that he spoke for DART's gay employees because "no gay employee will speak for fear of retribution."

Perhaps the most moving speech was by Resource Center Dallas' Rafael McDonnell, who passionately spoke about how uninformed the board was during their months of discussion.

He handed out a letter the center sent all board members and DART's executive leadership last July with financial information from state entities that offer DP benefits, saying it was outrageous that members were still bringing up cost at the last meeting in an effort to delay a vote.

"If the board continues with its current timeline, DART will have been dealing with domestic partner benefits for one year," he said. "The agency has shown that when it wants to it can move quickly. Just look at what you did with the deal with Arlington on transit."

McDonnell also spoke about the Austin Independent School District adding DP benefits the day before DART voted to delay discussion.

"What does the Austin ISD know that DART doesn't? It's about fairness and equality in the workplace and has nothing to do with marriage equality," he said, adding that AISD knows any opinion from Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on the issue won't be legally binding. "It's not a law. It does not carry the force of law and should have no bearing on what this agency does."

When the board called another speaker on an unrelated issue, activists raised a banner and Shannon Kern shouted a chant that others repeated before marching out of the meeting with the banner.

"We call on DART to consider integrity, to consider the lives that are impacted by delaying, avoiding and ignoring the vote to a domestic partner benefits for LGBT employees," Kern shouted. "We

demand justice. We demand equality. And we will keep showing up until our demands are met. History is watching. Domestic benefits now!"

Daniel Cates, regional director for GetEQUAL TX, said the organization planned to attend every board meeting with some type of action until July.

— Anna Waugh

## Mayor Mike Rawlings defends visit to anti-gay First Baptist

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings says he chose to attend a service at the anti-gay First Baptist Church of Dallas on Sunday, April 7, because he believes in tolerance.

Rawlings joined Texas Gov. Rick Perry and others at the service to dedicate First Baptist's new \$130 million facility downtown. Robert Jeffress, First Baptist's senior pastor, is well known for his extreme anti-gay views and has called homosexuality "unnatural," "filthy," "perverse" and "abnormal."

Rawlings, whose support for the LGBT community has been tepid since he took office in 2011, told Instant Tea on Monday afternoon that he does not agree with Jeffress' teachings about homosexuality.

"I've prided myself on really being a tolerant person of people who don't live the same way that I live, or think the same way I think, and that's one of the factors of me being there yesterday," Rawlings said. "We're in a different place. I'm a Christ-driven human being but do not read Christian dogma the same way they do. ... I think we've got to reach out and have dialogue with people we're not in the same place with, and that's one of the reasons I was there."

Rawlings added that his wife grew up going to First Baptist and said the church is an important part of the city. Unlike Gov. Perry, Rawlings did not speak at the service. The mayor, who is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, said he sat next to City Councilman Sheffie Kadane, who is a member of First Baptist.

Rawlings acknowledged that although he believes in tolerance, he probably wouldn't meet with Kim Jong-un or Adolf Hitler. However, he said he would attend a service at a mosque even though Islam is misogynistic.

"Tolerance should be our No. 1 focus on this, and we should tolerate people that have different points of view than we have," Rawlings said. "And if we don't do that, we are speaking, I think, in a hypocritical fashion."

Asked whether he should tolerate intolerance, Rawlings said: "I'm not here as mayor to judge people. I'm here to bring the city together, and that's what I'm trying to do."

— John Wright

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# From silence to safety

Judge denies asylum to gay refugee from Jordan but allows him to stay in Dallas with his partner, in case that highlights discriminatory laws

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

If Khalil is forced to return to his native Jordan, he says he'll have a choice: go back into the closet, or risk imprisonment or death because of his sexual orientation.

Fortunately, Khalil recently won a reprieve from an immigration judge in Dallas, who denied his application for asylum but granted him a waiver of removal from the U.S.

Khalil is one of 44,170 people who applied for asylum last year — and one of 63 from Jordan. The U.S. Department of Justice doesn't track how many are LGBT. However, Khalil's case exposes a major problem for gay and lesbian asylum seekers: They must apply within one year of arriving in the U.S., but for many, it takes much longer before they come out.

"I appreciate the freedom of speech," Khalil said outside the Earle Cabell Federal Building in downtown Dallas. "People take it for granted. I left family, friends, career, education for my freedom of speech and to be who I am."

While Judge Richard R. Ozmun's order allows Khalil to stay, it does not allow him to seek a green card, which he could get if it weren't for the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

He can apply for a work permit, return to school, get a driver's license and remain with his partner, Alex. But he won't see his parents or have a path to citizenship.

Khalil's last name is being withheld to protect his identity because he fears possible reprisals.

## 'I should be dead ...'

As a teenager, Khalil thought something was wrong. While all of his friends were talking about girls, he didn't care.

Although that story is common among LGBT teens, discussing how he felt simply didn't seem possible for a Saudi-born Palestinian with Jordanian citizenship living in Amman.

In 2007, after meeting an Austin man online, Khalil applied for a student visa and enrolled at the University of Texas.

"It was the happiest time of my life," he said. "I realized it wasn't a phase."

Although things didn't work out with the man he met online, Khalil soon met Alex, who lives in Dallas. After visiting every weekend for months,



**RELATIONSHIP RECOGNIZED** | Khalil, shown outside the courthouse after the hearing, can't apply for a green card because his relationship with Alex isn't recognized by the federal government. But a judge recognized their relationship in granting an order withholding his removal from the U.S. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Khalil moved here.

As he began living as an openly gay man, he realized he couldn't return to his previous life. But his visa had expired.

If the federal government recognized same-sex marriage, or if gays and lesbians could sponsor their partners as heterosexuals sponsor theirs, Khalil could have gotten a green card.

Instead, he lived with Alex in Dallas, unable to work. But he became a close, integral part of that family as he cared for Alex's mother and brother, who both died of cancer. Not until after his brother's death did Alex suggest Khalil apply for asylum.

"How is gay connected to being a refugee?" Khalil said. "I didn't think that asylum was an option for someone just because they are homosexual and fleeing abuse. I should be dead for thinking this way. Being gay in the Middle East isn't possible."

In 2012, Alex and Khalil consulted with immigration attorney Stacy Webb, who suggested applying for asylum based on his fear of attacks and reprisals if he were to return to Jordan as an openly gay man.

Asylum based on sexual orientation was first granted in the U.S. in 1994 under Attorney General Janet Reno.

Asylum applicants are required to apply within a year of arrival in the U.S. That one-year rule can be problematic for someone still coming to terms with his sexual orientation after growing up in a society that suppresses any gay life.

Immigration Equality spokesman Steve Ralls said while the U.S. does the right thing by granting asylum based on sexual orientation, the one-year rule is strict and can be waived only with a change in circumstance.

"Coming out after arriving in the U.S. is not applicable for seeking a waiver," he said.

But Webb used the changed circumstances ex-

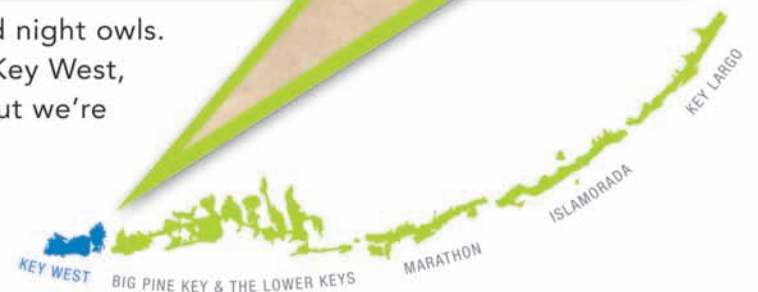
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DGLA to host candidate forum

The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance will host a Meet the Candidates forum at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 14, in the Vixin Lounge at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

Candidates in Dallas City Council races will answer questions and address issues of importance to the LGBT community. DGLA's PAC has been privately interviewing candidates but won't make its endorsements until after the forum.

DGLA President Patti Fink said the endorsement committee will meet next week after the forum and vote on its endorsements for the May election. At press time, PAC chair Damien Duckett said candidates expected to attend include Scott Griggs and Delia Jasso from District 1; Vern Franko, Adam Medrano and Herschel Weisfeld from District 2; Leland Burk from District 13; and Bobby Abtahi, Kevin Curley, Philip Kingston and Jim Rogers from District 14.

Unlike Stonewall Democrats, which made endorsements in March, DGLA is nonpartisan and can endorse candidates with Republican Primary voting histories.

Rainbow LULAC sets meet and greet

Dallas' LGBT chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens will host a meet and greet for City Council and school board candidates at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, at Havana Lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs Road.

The evening will also include a new officer induction ceremony for LULAC #4871—The Dallas Rainbow Council.

Candidates Scott Griggs, Delia Jasso, Monica Alonzo, Herschel Weisfeld, Luis Hernandez, Rafael Narvaez III, Linda M. Wilkerson-Wynn, Eric Cowan and Lew Blackburn are among the candidates who have agreed to attend.

"The purpose of this Meet and Greet is to give candidates an opportunity to meet with their constituents in the LGBTQ Community," said chapter President-elect Jesse Tafalla Jr. "As we all know, marriage equality and immigration reform are at the forefront in our country at this time, and it is important for candidates to meet with people who are affected by those issues as they run their campaign for May's elections."

The LULAC meeting is open to the public.

Death

John E. (Josh) Rayshell passed away April 8, 2013, after a brave battle with cancer.

Josh was born Nov. 12, 1968, in Greenville, Texas. He lived in Dallas for the last 29 years.

Josh is survived by his partner of 12 years, Glenn Jaspers, and his loyal dog, Shadow, whom he rescued from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Josh was a most noble soul, who faced the adversities of life with courage and dignity.

Although diagnosed with AIDS in 1984, and several times disabled by the disease, he was a fearless soldier in the ongoing struggle against it.

Josh regularly volunteered and was a welcome visitor at area nursing homes and AIDS hospices, where he cooked, cleaned, read and wrote letters for those who had lost the ability to do so on their own.

Josh assisted in numerous AIDS-related causes, bringing comfort to the sick and suffering, and companionship to the lonely.

He had great compassion for people, especially the elderly, with whom he was particularly gifted. His gentle understanding, attentive listening and helpful

actions made him a favorite of senior citizens everywhere.

Josh was also outgoing, fun-loving, gregarious and personable.

From 2002 till 2012, Josh participated as a volunteer in the Dallas Area Rapid Transit's light rail expansion. At rail station openings he handed out brochures, answered questions, and worked side-by-side DART employees to inform and educate the public about the benefits of mass transit.

Josh was a familiar face at DART's headquarters, too, where for several years he personally made and delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve dinners to night duty and security staff who had to work during those holidays. He never met a stranger and was blessed with a magnetic personality and penetrating steel-blue eyes.

Despite grave risk, Josh pursued treatment of his disease without fear. He was at peace and ready when the Lord called him home.

He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Brenda and Tony Willaby; his grandmother, Kathryn Gable; his sister, Kathy Rayshell; his aunt, Debbie Gable; and his faithful Labrador rescued from Katrina, Shadow Rayshell.

A service will be at 3 p.m. April 14 at Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St.



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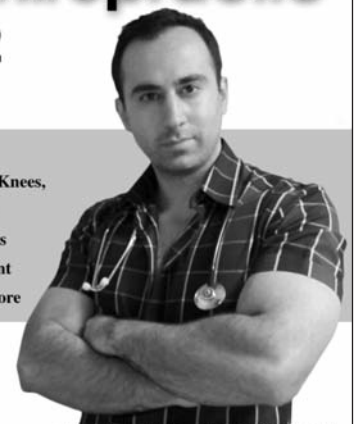
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**EQUALITY FORWARD** | LGBT state Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, speaks during a panel at Stonewall Democrats' Equality Forward summit in Austin April 6. Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso, left, is among four senators who voted to advance a pro-LGBT bill this week. (Jessica Borges/Dallas Voice)

# Pro-LGBT bill advances for 1st time in 12 years

Senate panel OKs 'Romeo and Juliet' measure that would provide legal protections for gay teens; Republican John Carona votes yes

**ANNA WAUGH** | News Editor  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

AUSTIN — Advocates are hoping the historic advancement of a pro-LGBT bill in the Texas Legislature this week will build momentum for other measures as the session moves into its final months.

The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice voted 4-1 to advance SB 1316 — a so-called "Romeo and Juliet" bill that would provide legal protections for sexually active gay and lesbian teens.

Three Democrats and one Republican, Sen. John Carona of Dallas, voted in favor of the bill.

The bill is the first pro-LGBT bill to make it favorably out of committee since 2001, when the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which includes protections based on "sexual preference," passed out of committee and was signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry.

Daniel Williams, field organizer for Equality Texas, said he wasn't surprised Carona voted for the bill to get it out of committee because he is an "extremely reasonable person who listens to mainstream views of his party." He said the overall mainstream values in Texas are to let people live without inference from the government.

"I think it's indicative of the attitude of the Texas Legislature and the will of the people," he said. "It is historic."

Carona, who came out in support of LGBT rights during an interview with Dallas Voice in the fall before going silent on the issues, told Dallas Voice in an email that he backed the bill because, "I have consistently supported Romeo and Juliet

laws tailored to ensure that young people are not the victims of unintended consequences."

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said three moms, a dad, two social workers and a representative from the Harris County District Attorney's office testified in favor of the bill.

"The parents made very effective witnesses," Smith said. "They spoke to the issue that needs to be addressed between parents and kids."

Only anti-gay group Texas Values sent in a written note opposing the bill. President Jonathan Saenz told Dallas Voice he thought it "is a symbolic way to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, transgender community."

"I seriously doubt that any Senate Republican other than Sen. Carona will support this bill," he said.

Despite clearing the Senate committee, the measure still faces long odds. It would need a two-thirds majority vote from the full Senate before it can be considered on the floor.

The House version of the bill, HB 2403, was also heard this week by Criminal Jurisprudence committee, but Smith said there was not a quorum for a vote and Equality Texas needs to work to secure votes from the committee in the next few weeks.

Pansexual state Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, is the House version's author. She said getting her bill out of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee would be a "tough fight" during a panel last weekend at the Equality Forward Summit. But she added that instead of pro-equality lawmakers being on the defensive for anti-gay bills, it's time to educate lawmakers on issues that affect LGBT Texans.

"While we are now moving from being on the defensive to educating people, we continue to encourage the leadership to support these bills," Gonzalez said.

Anti-gay HB 1568, authored Rep. Drew Springer, R-Muenster, also received a hearing this

■ LEGISLATURE, Page 15



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**COUNTING VOTES** | Seven members of the Dallas City Council (with green check marks) have said they support resolutions backing marriage equality and a ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination. Eight members (with blue question marks) either said they're undecided or did not respond. One member, Vonciel Hill, is expected to vote against the measure based on previous statements. (Graphic by Michael Stephens/Dallas Voice)

# Griggs finalizes pro-LGBT resolution

Measure calls for marriage equality, statewide employment protections, but only 3 council members have signed memo to place it on agenda

**ANNA WAUGH** | News Editor  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Almost four months after Scott Griggs announced a pro-LGBT resolution, it remains unclear whether the support exists on the Dallas City Council to pass the measure — or even bring it before the body.

Griggs said he's been circulating drafts of the resolution he authored that would state the council's support of marriage equality and a statewide ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination.

He sent council members a final draft of his resolution this week and began circulating a memorandum to add it to the council agenda. Griggs originally planned two separate resolutions, but said he decided combining them would be easier.

Council members who told Dallas Voice they supported the concept of the measure previously were Angela Hunt, Pauline Medrano, Delia Jasso, Monica Alonzo, Jerry Allen and Dwaine Caraway. However, as of press time, only Hunt and Jasso had signed Griggs' memo — with Jasso listed as a co-author of the resolution.

Other council members didn't respond this week to inquiries about whether they would support the measure.

Mayor Mike Rawlings told Dallas Voice on Monday, April 8, he hadn't "seen anything so it's hypothetical at this point" for him to voice an

opinion of whether he'd support the resolution. In response to questions about whether he'd support the measure, Rawlings also rhetorically asked what openly gay candidate Leland Burk, who's running for City Council in conservative District 13, thought of the resolution.

In response to a question about supporting the resolution on a Dallas Voice candidate questionnaire, Burk wrote, "While I personally support both marriage equality and bans on any type of discrimination, I believe the Dallas City Council needs to concentrate its time and energy on governing and moving our city forward."

After Griggs sent the mayor's office a copy of his final draft on Tuesday, Rawlings' chief of staff, Paula Blackmon, said Thursday that the mayor "plans to visit with his council colleagues on how they would like for him to proceed." Blackmon

added that the mayor's office hadn't received a memo with the five signatures needed to place the item on the council's agenda.

Griggs said he wants to have at least eight signatures on the memo to ensure the resolution's passage before bringing it before the council in a couple of weeks.

"I don't want this to fail," he said.

Griggs said he worked with Equality Texas on the resolution, which includes mentions of pro-equality bills filed in the Texas Legislature this session, as well as the two same-sex marriage cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He said it'd be difficult to finish the draft and speak to council members because of the winter break during the holidays and another break in spring. But he still thinks the support exists to pass

■ RESOLUTION, Page 14



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**MARRIAGE PENALTY** | Sterling's Bookkeeping and Tax Service owners Gilbert Castillo, right, and Jon Chester have no plans to marry even if DOMA is struck down — because they'd end up paying higher taxes.

## The end of tax inequality?

Supreme Court's DOMA ruling could mean married gay couples file jointly next year — or maybe not, depending on where they live

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Gilbert Castillo and his partner Jon Chester, who have been together for more than 20 years, own Sterling's Bookkeeping and Tax Service.

Like most LGBT people, Castillo and Chester would love to see the Defense of Marriage Act struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. However, even if DOMA is ruled unconstitutional, Castillo said the couple has no plans to get married, because they would be required to file jointly and end up paying higher income taxes.

"It's extremely punitive for married couples," Castillo said.

It sounds counterintuitive, since the DOMA case heard by the Supreme Court in March involved a \$365,000 tax bill that Edie Windsor would not have owed had her spouse been male. But that was inheritance tax.

Income tax law was written to benefit the 1950s TV sitcom family — dad works while mom stays at home with the kids. The law rewards a couple with one higher-income breadwinner and one non-working or lower-income spouse.

When both partners have relatively equal in-

comes, filing separately is usually cheaper. This is commonly referred to as "the marriage penalty."

Same-sex couples aren't subject to the marriage penalty because DOMA prevents the federal government from recognizing their relationships. So gay and lesbian couples must file separate federal income tax returns.

As this year's April 15 tax deadline approached, experts said it could be the last year under the current rules for same-sex couples.

If the Supreme Court rules DOMA unconstitutional, tax inequality could end, and married same-sex couples might be required to file jointly. Or they might not, depending on where they live.

Ken Upton, Lambda Legal supervising senior staff attorney in Dallas, said for tax purposes, the federal government has always recognized marriage based on state of residency.

For benefits such as Social Security and Medicare and immigration rights, Upton said he'd expect the federal government to treat all marriages equally. But he pointed to a friend-of-the-court brief in the DOMA case filed by former cabinet members that relates to how the government historically handled marriage and income tax.

Upton said if DOMA falls, same-sex couples might fall into three categories — those who are married and live in marriage-equality states; those who are legally married but live in non-marriage-equality states with state income tax, such as Oklahoma or New Mexico; and those who are married but live in states without state income

tax, such as Florida or Texas.

Married same-sex couples who live in marriage-equality states would file joint federal and state income tax returns.

Married same-sex couples in states like Oklahoma, where they must file state income taxes separately, would also file federal income taxes separately.

Upton thinks married couples in Texas would be handled like couples living in marriage-equality states. Because there's no state income tax, he said, Texas wouldn't have a stake in the fight. Although the Texas attorney general might prefer to deny same-sex couples federal recognition, he'd just have to live with the satisfaction of knowing those couples mostly would pay higher taxes.

Local CPA Ron Allen said he thinks that if DOMA is struck down, the IRS will recognize all same-sex marriages and require couples to file joint income tax returns. He said the indication is in a recent IRS ruling relating to California and Washington state.

"Both states are strong community property states," Allen said. "And income is joint community income."

He said in 2008, the IRS ruled that people with registered domestic partnerships in those states must total their incomes and deductions, split them in half and file identical individual returns.

He said since the IRS is already recognizing some state laws in non-equality states relating to how same-sex couples file, he thinks the IRS will recognize same-sex marriages across the country, no matter what the state of residency.

Human Rights Campaign spokesman Michael Cole-Schwartz said estate tax isn't the only tax inequality same-sex couples endure. Partner benefits offered by most large companies come at a steep price when paying income tax.

On its website, HRC illustrates the tax liability of healthcare benefits for gay and lesbian couples that heterosexual couples receive tax-free.

Gay and lesbian employees earning \$32,000 who put their partners on health plans costing \$6,800 annually would pay more than \$1,500 in additional income tax. Straight married employees would incur no additional liability on the same plan. Some companies are "grossing up," or paying the DOMA penalty for their married same-sex employees. So striking DOMA would also benefit these companies.

"We're preparing for a post-DOMA world," Cole-Schwartz said.

HRC is identifying all areas of federal tax and benefit inequality to be ready to advocate for LGBT people should DOMA fall, he said.

But how would a couple from Texas know whether to file joint or separate returns?

Cole-Schwartz said the Supreme Court's ruling should be illustrative but could leave as many questions as answers.

So, should same-sex couples expect a ruling from the IRS this summer on how to figure their income taxes next year if DOMA falls?

Allen said don't count on it. It took three years before the IRS issued a ruling on community property for those with domestic partnerships in California and Washington. ■

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## ■ texasnews

■ **RESOLUTION**, From Page 11

the resolution, adding that he's open to editing the draft to get to eight votes.

"I think we're going to be able to do this. There's been a big shift not only in the city and state but in the country on marriage equality," Griggs said.

"I'm committed, the city of Dallas is committed, to marriage equality and what an important institution marriage is for everyone."

Meanwhile, in Denton, local activists are trying to get the Denton City Council to support a resolution for marriage equality.

Tyler Carlton, a member of the Denton County Democratic Party, helped plan Denton's marriage equality rally on March 25 before the U.S.

Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the two marriage cases.

He said 243 people attended the rally, so he decided to have a rally before the City Council meeting Tuesday, April 16, to build momentum and attendance when he presents a citizen's report before the council in support of a resolution. More than 200 people have signed Carlton's print and online petition in support of the resolution.

"If we have 243 people come to rally for marriage equality at the Supreme Court, then we could get that number to rally for the City Council resolution," Carlton said.

The Denton rally is 5:30 p.m. April 16 at the Courthouse Square, 110 W. Hickory St. and participants will march to City Hall for the 6:30 p.m. council meeting. ■

### Full text of resolution by Scott Griggs

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has held more than a dozen times that marriage is a key right of the American people and in the 1967 landmark case *Loving v. Virginia* wrote, "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival"; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Constitutional Bill of Rights in Article I, Section 3 states "all free men, when they form a social compact, have equal rights, and no man, or set or men, is entitled to exclusive separate public emoluments, or privileges, but in consideration of public services";

WHEREAS, the Texas Constitutional Marriage Amendment appears as Article I, Section 32 of the Texas Constitution Bill of Rights and undermines Article I, Section 3 of the Bill of Rights by denying equal rights to a specific group of Texans; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that allowing same-sex couples to marry is now supported by a majority of Americans and in 2010 a University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll showed that 63% of Texans now support some form of legal recognition for same-sex couples, either marriage or civil unions, thereby demonstrating a major shift in public opinion on this subject among Americans, and Texans in particular, since the Texas Constitution Marriage Amendment was adopted in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Dallas Morning News editorial board recently publicly stated, "We urge the Supreme Court to affirm the right of gay couples to marry based upon the fundamental American ideal of equality before the law"; and

WHEREAS, State Representatives Villarreal and Marquez have introduced HB 238 relating to the prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS, State Representative Johnson has introduced HB 1146 relating to the prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Van de Putte has introduced SB 237 relating to the prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS, the matters of *Hollingsworth v. Perry* and *United States v. Windsor* are currently before the Supreme Court of the United States of America, oral arguments having been presented; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas (hereinafter "the City") proudly embraces the diversity of all its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a series of non-discrimination ordinances in the areas of housing, public accommodation, and employment, grounded in a policy that is established upon a recognition of the inalienable rights of each individual to obtain housing, to obtain goods and services in a public accommodation, and to work to earn wages and obtain a share of the wealth of this City through gainful employment, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, student status, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the denial of such rights through considerations based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, student status, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age, is detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of the government to prevent; and

WHEREAS, further to these ends, on May 8, 2002, the City of Dallas passed Ordinance No. 24927 (the "Ordinance"), to enact a non-discrimination ordinance that prohibits discrimination in public accommodations and employment based on sexual orientation, the Ordinance amending Chapter 15B of, and adding Chapter 46 to, the Dallas City Code "to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in City of Dallas contracts; to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations; to provide a complaint, investigation, conciliation, and enforcement process; to provide exceptions; to define terms; and to provide a criminal penalty of not less than \$200 or more than \$500"; and

WHEREAS, marriage provides legal and economic protections including access to health care, parenting rights, property rights, and other protections which are vital to the safety and security of every family; and

WHEREAS, marriage is a powerful and important affirmation of love and commitment and a source of social support and recognition; and

WHEREAS, all couples in loving and committed relationships should be given the opportunity to create stronger and more successful families through civil marriage; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS, that we support marriage and workplace equality in Dallas and beyond.

week, but the bill was left pending in the Public Education Committee. The bill would cut state funding for school districts that offer domestic partner benefits. Since the bill's filing, the Austin Independent School District joined Pflugerville ISD in deciding to offer DP benefits.

Smith said proponents of the bill had disgruntled complaints against Pflugerville for deciding to add DP benefits.

"This is a local control issue that if someone is upset about what Pflugerville did, it should be dealt with in Pflugerville," Smith said. "I'm hopeful that it will be left pending."

Former state Rep. Warren Chisum and Saenz also testified in person on the bill's behalf.

"I certainly expect HB 1568 to pass out of the Public Education committee chaired by Republican Jimmie Don Aycok and be eventually signed into law," Saenz said. "I would think their constituents would be shocked if any Republican opposed HB 1568."

Smith said bills need to get out of committee and hearings for other bills need to happen within the next two weeks in order for the bills to pass through one chamber by the end of April. That leaves time for them to make it through the other chamber by the end of the session on May 27.

Of the 28 pro-equality pieces of legislation that have been filed, Smith said two have a strong chance of passing this session.

HB 2240 by Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, has passed out of committee and would study the number of and solutions to youth homelessness, of which a high percentage are LGBT.

SB 831 by Sen. Larry Taylor of Friendswood, which passed the Senate this week, would help establish mental health, suicide prevention and substance abuse programs for public schools.

Other bills seem less likely to pass, but Equality Texas wants to at least get them out of committee.

SB 237, filed by state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, had a hearing last week but was left pending in committee. The bill is the first Senate version of the anti-LGBT workplace nondiscrimination bill and is the companion to San Antonio Democrat Mike Villarreal's HB 238, which has not been scheduled for a hearing yet.

Equality Texas is still trying to get a hearing for HB 201, authored by Dallas Democrat Rafael Anchia, to allow same-sex couples to sign an adopted child's supplementary birth certificate.

Smith said the bill had a hearing in the Public Health Committee the last two sessions, but this year it was referred to the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee so advocates are working with a new committee for consideration.

Smith said people personally affected by legislation and constituents of people on committees hearing pro-equality legislation should contact their representatives to secure hearings and passage out of committee.

"There is a sense of urgency," he said. "At each step of the process, different people have the power."

To find who represents you, visit [www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us). To follow the pro-equality legislation, go to [TinyURL.com/EQTX13](http://TinyURL.com/EQTX13).

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# What will be 10th marriage-equality state?

Legislatures in Illinois, Rhode Island on track for final votes this month; one-third of Americans may soon live where gay nuptials are legal

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

The race to become the 10th marriage-equality state just got more interesting, as both the Illinois and Rhode Island legislatures are on track to take final votes this month.

In a surprise development, Rhode Island Senate President Teresa Weed acknowledged to a Providence Journal reporter that she would allow a floor vote on the marriage-equality bill by the end of the month. Weed, who is opposed to the bill, had previously promised only to allow a Senate committee vote if the bill passed the House. The marriage-equality bill passed the Rhode Island House in January on a 51 to 19 vote.

Weed press spokesman Greg Pare confirmed this week that Weed plans to bring the bill to a vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee soon after the legislature returns from its spring break next

week. He said Weed also committed to allow a floor vote a "couple of days after that," before the end of this month.

Meanwhile, the Illinois House is also looking at the real possibility of taking its historic vote on marriage equality this month. The Senate passed the legislation in February on a 34-21 vote.

As of Tuesday, April 9, Equality Illinois leader Bernard Cherkasov said he didn't have a timeline for when the House vote might happen, but added, "I do feel confident that the marriage bill will pass with strong bipartisan support."

The Illinois House has 118 members, 71 Democrats and 47 Republicans. The bill needs 60 votes to pass. According to the Associated Press, Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn told reporters Monday, April 8, that supporters of the legislation are "very close" to getting the votes they need.

Both Quinn and Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, an independent, have said they will sign the marriage equality legislation. While either state would represent another success for LGBT civil rights supporters, passage in Illinois would put the nation's fifth-most populous state in the victory column. That would make Illinois the second-most populous of the marriage-equality

states, behind New York. It would also mean that 15 percent of the U.S. population would be living in states where same-sex couples are allowed to marry. If Rhode Island and California come on-board this year — as they could (California through a U.S. Supreme Court decision) — that figure would jump to nearly one-third of the population.

The Illinois Legislature has been in recess for the past several weeks and reconvened Monday, but both supporters and opponents of marriage equality have been busy during recess.

Several local websites have reported escalating use of robo-calls by opponents of allowing gays to marry. One Chicago neighborhood website, dnainfo.com/Chicago, said constituents of at least one House legislator were receiving robo-calls saying that same-sex marriage "denies children the right to know who their real parent is." The website said the recording was produced by Family-PAC. An earlier robo-call message said "homosexual activists" were demanding marriage regardless of its consequences, adding, "Children are not playthings or social experiments." It was recorded by a local conservative talk show host, Sandy Rios.

But there have been high-profile supporters, too. National civil rights leader Julian Bond issued a statement in support of Illinois marriage equality last week. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Urban League CEO Andrea Zopp, Hyatt Hotels Corp. President Mark Hoplamazian, Latino Policy Forum Executive Director Maria Pesqueira, and the two local daily newspapers are also supporting marriage equality. And the LGBT newspaper Windy City Times reported that four well-known sports stars sent a letter to House members urging their support for marriage equality. They included Chicago Cubs' Baseball Hall of Fame shortstop Ernie Banks and three former players with the Chicago Bears football team.

Even the head of the Illinois Republican Party, Pat Brady, announced support for the bill. That move, in January, put him at odds with many in his party — so much so, the state party held a caucus March 8 to consider ousting him from his position as chairman of the state party. But the Chicago Tribune reported that the meeting was later cancelled when opponents failed to identify enough votes (60 percent of the membership) to replace Brady.

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■ ASYLUM, From Page 6

ception to build a case for not returning an openly gay man to Jordan, despite its perception as a progressive Middle Eastern country.

"Does the Jordanian government have an officially stated policy on homosexuality?" Webb said. "No, but in reality Sharia law controls, and that's where we get into trouble."

Nancy Stockman, professor of Middle Eastern history at the University of North Texas, who has traveled and lived in Jordan, agreed being gay in Jordan is not illegal per se.

But Stockman said the governor of Amman has made public statements that he wants to eradicate homosexuality. Someone can be arrested and held for up to two months without charges or harassed with prostitution charges.

Because Khalil is Palestinian, she said, he's automatically a second-class citizen in Jordan.

"Even successful Palestinians don't have access to power," she said.

Stockman said if his family cut him off, he would not be able to create a new life. "Everything is embedded in your social connections," she said.

That includes family, tribe and social contacts. Without his family, Khalil would not be able to get an apartment or a job. So simply returning to Jordan and moving to another city is not feasible.

Khalil said even his father, a medical doctor,

needed connections to get his job.

While Khalil is not afraid of his immediate family, Stockman said he could fall victim to an honor killing. He has an extended family of hundreds.

"And that would seem normal," she said. "It [his being gay] would reflect on their honor."

'Take my picture with Obama'

In October 2012, Khalil filed his petition for asylum. After a preliminary hearing, the court date was set for March 25 — coincidentally, the same day the U.S. Supreme Court began hearing oral arguments in two key marriage equality cases.

At his March hearing, Khalil went to the Earle Cabell Federal Building with friends, members of Alex's family and Stockman, prepared to testify that returning to Jordan could be dangerous for an openly gay man. During pre-trial motions, the judge and government attorney offered a compromise.

Khalil would withdraw his petition for asylum. The judge would enter an order for him to be removed from the country, but concurrently enter a second order permanently withholding removal.

Khalil would not be eligible for a green card, but he could apply for a work permit, go to school and get a driver's license.

If DOMA is struck down, the judge said Khalil may apply for a green card based on his relationship with Alex, but until then he has no path to



**YES HE CAN** | Khalil poses in front of a portrait of the president in the lobby of the courthouse after the hearing. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

citizenship.

After Webb explained the terms of the offer, Khalil said, "Let's do it," knowing he might never see his immediate family in Jordan again.

The judge praised Khalil for presenting an honest document and account. He acknowledged his loving, committed relationship and how he had become part of a family.

Khalil was stunned that a judge would recognize his relationship — even though the law does not.

Although asylum may be granted based on sexual orientation, the provision for changed circumstances doesn't allow waiving the one-year rule even if the person hasn't come out and fully understood his circumstances until more than a

year after arrival.

Congressman Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, who has made immigration reform a key issue since arriving in Washington in January, said any changes to asylum law must be comprehensive.

"That means we need to include all groups, from Latinos and Asians to Africans and the LGBT community," he said. "[We need to address] our country's asylum system so that persecuted and displaced individuals receive needed protection under the law. President Obama is committed to aiding refugees and I fully support his initiative to improve our asylum system."

Although asylum was denied, Khalil left the court ecstatic he could begin moving forward with his life and talked about how accepting his new city has been.

"Take my picture with Obama," he said, pointing to the portrait hanging in the lobby of the federal building.

Next on his list of things to do now that he was a permanent resident was upgrading his iPhone. He'd been putting off signing a new phone contract in case of deportation.

And he worried about what he was going to tell his parents. Friends suggested that like many parents, they might already know he's gay. For now he's only told them that he was given the right to stay in the U.S. and to go to school. And that he wouldn't be returning to Jordan anytime soon. ■

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# viewpoints

# Still proud to be an Aggie

LGBTQ high schoolers considering Texas A&M can rest assured that senators behind anti-gay bill don't reflect university's core values

In a way, Texas A&M was forced on me. The school was nowhere on my radar, but it seemed like every adult I looked up to as a high school senior was pushing me in that direction.

"A&M would be a perfect fit for you," they said.

Through the decision-making process, I heard two types of stories about the university. Outsiders told me about the lack of diversity and how conservative it was. Stories from Aggies, however, were expectedly and substantially different.

They recounted their experiences, and, mainly, I saw the love and pride they had for their school and for each other. Of the schools I had applied to, no alumni spoke about their alma mater in this way.

I took a chance and accepted my admissions offer without ever having visited campus.

I've heard a lot of folks refer to A&M as "cult-like." You know, I don't deny it — we're crazy about our school and traditions. But I firmly believe that it is this uniqueness that also instills a sense of pride in our community, knowing that there is no college in America where a student will receive an experience in and out of the classroom like you will at Texas A&M.

Today, it is that same pride that compels me to stand up for myself, and Aggies everywhere, in a completely different way.

Last week, the A&M Student Senate voted on

a "Religious Funding Exemption Bill" that, had it not been vetoed by the student body president, would have allowed students to opt out of paying a portion of their fees on religious grounds. Make no mistake, despite its title, the resolution was a direct attack of A&M's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community — and unfortunately, it wasn't the first.

Gay Americans have experienced a history of marginalization, but fortunately there's a shifting tide. While our generation shares its differences, we still join as a united front against anyone who perpetuates discrimination toward a particular group.

In the face of hostile discourse, Aggies were anything but complacent. After all, it is the university that stresses the importance of developing leaders of character, yet we continue to see negative rhetoric aimed at fellow students.

The backlash that was a result of these actions was fueled by sentiments that *this A&M* and *these student senators* did not represent the core values and convictions that we are taught to be paramount. Aggies made phone calls and wrote emails to the administration. Some removed their Aggie rings and vowed to cease donations to the University. Ultimately, the bill was vetoed, and

there will be no future attempt to override the decision. While this outcome is welcomed, it came at an unfortunate price: Our school's reputation was once again tarnished by a group of students who do not represent the welcoming community we take so much pride in.

I, too, was angered by the actions of the senate, but what bothered me the most was the idea of a prospective student seeing this dialogue and adopting a negative, disjointed perception about the type of people who call themselves "Aggies."



Danny Hernandez  
Guest columnist

## Feedback

From the looks of his April 5 column in Dallas Voice, "Dressing up the elephant," poor Hardy Haberman seems frustrated that we can't return to the days of the Stonewall Rebellion and Harvey Milk, days when activism was a gay man's civic duty.

Unfortunately for Haberman, most younger gay men today no longer feel a personal connection with Stonewall or Milk.

Gratitude, yes. Obligation, no.

This apparently angers Haberman. Otherwise, he wouldn't appear so bitter when faced with a positive movement inside the Republican Party

toward tolerance and acceptance, a movement that gay Republicans like myself have been working on for quite sometime while rage-blinded activists like Hardy threw stones.

The sadness is that for people like Haberman, being gay has become nothing except activism, agitation, argumentation, demonstration and character defamation. And when that's all being gay means to you, finally being accepted by your former foes can leave you feeling awfully empty, and instead of being encouraged, you find yourself cross-armed in the corner pouting by yourself.

It's no wonder Haberman wishes for us to huddle with him in that corner. It must be terribly lonely.

Russ Hargraves  
Oak Cliff

After all, it was at A&M where I came to terms with being gay, where I started coming out, where I had my first serious relationship, and where on many Friday nights, I'd join a group of about 10 fellow cadets and head to the gay bar. I had a positive experience, and I wanted to convey that in a letter to a prospective student.

After writing it, I asked a handful of friends to co-sign. Mainly, it was a way to check myself: Was I simply drinking too much of the maroon Kool-Aid?

The handful of friends quickly turned into 50. Now, hundreds of Aggies stand in solidarity behind this letter in support of a future LGBTQ student. It is just one experience, but that experience was based off of a foundation that a community provided me with — a community that has once again come together in a true testament of the Aggie Network.

It's unrealistic for me to expect a change in everyone's perceptions. But if a kid from Paradise, Texas — who happens to be Latino and liberal and gay — can fit in and thrive at Texas A&M, then there is no doubt that within the student population of almost 50,000, there is also a place for others who are different.

I'm not here to argue that A&M is perfect; I realize that there are many friendships that need to be made and conversations that must occur, but our voice is growing stronger with every passing moment.

Simply, it is my hope that if there's a kid out there with hesitations about applying to A&M, they now know that the family that welcomed me is already standing behind them.

To read "An Open Letter to LGBTQ High School Students Considering Texas A&M," go to [TinyURL.com/TAMUletter](http://TinyURL.com/TAMUletter).

Danny Hernandez is an LGBT activist, a J.D. candidate at Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia and a former staff member at Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

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Turtle Creek Chorale plums the musical genius of B'way songwriters Kander and Ebb

MARK LOWRY | Special Contributor  
marklowry@theaterjones.com

You might assume that musical theater composers would prioritize the “singability” of their songs, but to Trey Jacobs, artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale, that’s not always the case. Still, the tunes by the long-running composing duo of John Kander and the late Fred Ebb *do* lend themselves to singability, and that’s one of the reasons Jacobs chose their work for the Turtle Creek Chorale’s upcoming concert series at City Performance Hall.

“One of the things that I really appreciate is that [Kander’s] tunes are very singable,” says Jacobs. “From a musical standpoint especially, it’s the diversity that you see in his music. He’s so good at that quick ‘patter song,’ but then he can soar with these gorgeous lines that just rip your heart out.”

Those songs include several from the partners’ best-known musicals (*Chicago* and *Cabaret*), but also from lesser-known shows from the first half of their 40-year career (*The Rink*, *Zorba* and *Flora, the Red Menace*), as well as some from more re-

cent titles like *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *The Visit* and *The Scottsboro Boys*, which was the final book musical billed as being by both men (there have been several revues of their music, including a forthcoming new one). Ebb died in 2004; Kander is still working, with his newest musical, *The Landing*, set to debut off-Broadway next season.

Jacobs has long been a fan of Kander and Ebb, and was constantly introduced to their songs that *weren’t* from *Cabaret* or *Chicago* when his voice students in his former home in Michigan would often perform them, prepping for auditions for productions and college admission. He’d been thinking about doing such a showcase from their catalogue for a while.

Giving Kander and Ebb their due falls not only on the 220-member chorale but also stars from the local musical theater community: Actresses Cheryl Allison, Linda Leonard and Amy Stevenson will take part in the showcase, which will use costumes, set and lighting changes and “lots of moving around.” On only a few of the 25 songs will the entire chorus be onstage at once.

For many of the numbers, Jacobs looked for different arrangements that would work in a choral setting, or at least a different one from how they’re usually performed.

“[We] put together this duet with these two men singing together, the song ‘Only Love’ from *Zorba* and ‘We Can Make It’ from *The Rink*,” Jacobs says. “[We] pair those two together and it is just a wow-wow moment. The soloists are perfect. I also found in my search a really fantastic arrangement of ‘Life Is’ from *Zorba*.”

“I think the wonderful thing about Kander and Ebb is that they write about relationships, and they write stories really beautifully and the stories can apply to anyone,” Leonard says. “You can change up the gender on any relationship and it still works. To me, that’s what’s attractive about Kander and Ebb and the forward movement of their music.”

Leonard is no stranger to K&E herself. A director, actress and choreographer, she will be play the Master of Ceremonies from *Cabaret* soon, as well as revive her performance as the title character in Uptown Players’ revival of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, which she first played for the company in 2003. She says Kander and Ebb’s music, which she finds the most comfortable fit for her voice, is perfect for this kind of arrangement with the chorale. She has also performed

several K&E songs in Uptown’s annual *Broadway Our Way* benefit, in which actors sing songs originally written for the other gender; her rendition of “Mr. Cellophane” from *Chicago* was particularly memorable.

That song will be included in TCC’s tribute, as will “Coffee in a Cardboard Cup,” “Arthur in the Afternoon,” “My Coloring Book” and what Jacobs calls “an exquisite arrangement” of “A Quiet Thing” (from *Flora*), as well as a mash-up of the *Chicago* and *Cabaret* tunes “When You’re Good to Mama” and “Don’t Tell Mama,” to name a few.

“I chose every single song that went into this show, and I knew exactly what I wanted,” Jacobs says. “I spent a lot of time going through their catalogue, looking not only from a musical standpoint, but also at the text with what I thought would resonate, not only with the audience but with the guys in the chorale.”

Jacobs hints that this concept of a show dedicated to a musical theater composer, such as Jerry Herman or Stephen Sondheim, could follow in future seasons if this one works out. To that idea, we say *Willkommen! Bienvenue! Welcome!*

## TCC: KANDER &amp; EBB

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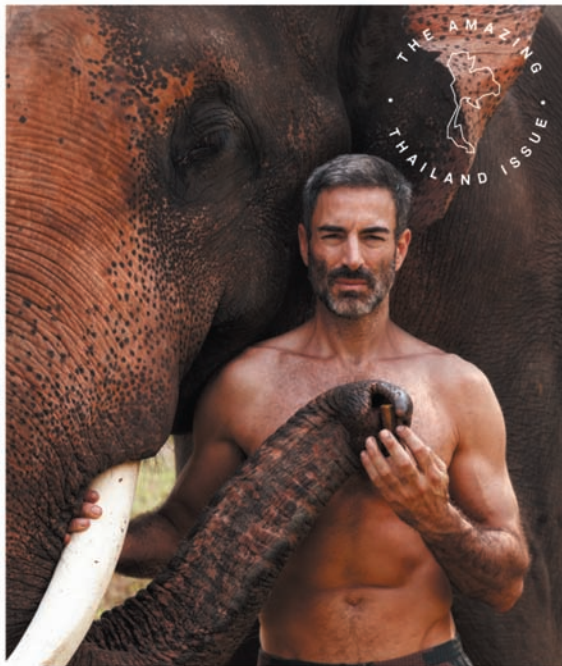


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L+S stage

# Boot camp

Cyndi Lauper shows  
her true colors with  
Broadway's new hit  
musical, 'Kinky Boots'



**THE QUEERFECTA** | Gay director-choreographer Jerry Mitchell and gay writer Harvey Fierstein teamed with gay icon Cyndi Lauper for the campy toast of the B'way season, the rollicking musical 'Kinky Boots.'

**LAWRENCE FERBER** | Contributing Writer  
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

Cyndi Lauper isn't sounding like herself these days. Instead, she's sounding like a sassy black British drag queen; a young, vanilla man tasked with saving his family's business, his disgruntled fiancée; and a homophobic blue-collar worker, among many others.

These are characters in Broadway's exuberant new musical, *Kinky Boots*, for which Lauper made her first foray as stage musical composer. Enlisted by *Kinky Boots'* librettist, Harvey Fierstein, Lauper immersed herself in the show's characters, written so specifically for their individual voices that the songs were initially devoid of Lauper's own distinctive sound.

"We had to almost say, 'You're Cyndi Lauper, give us a fucking Cyndi Lauper song!'" Fierstein laughs. "Because she has this real love for musicals, she just abandoned what most other [theater] composers are too precious about — they want it to sound like them more than the characters. 'What sound would this character have?' is the question she asked, and we got an eclectic score with lots of different sounds and each character really does have their own voice."

The Grammy and Emmy Award-winning Lauper's own thick Queens accent is evident as she speaks about *Kinky Boots* and Fierstein, whom she credits for both having inspired her prolific LGBT activism — she co-founded the

True Colors Fund, which runs programs dedicated to eradicating LGBT youth homelessness — as well as landing her the gig.

"I love Harvey dearly," she says. "He calls me Christina — as in he's *Mommie Dearest*. To actually work with him now is a big honor. He's really funny, a good guy and storyteller, and he understands the stage. He's been doing it all his life. He invited me into this, and I took it on the basis I always wanted to work with him. He's great."

Based on the 2005 film, in turn based on a real-life story of a Northampton, England, shoemaker who carved a niche by making sexy, funky women's boots in men's sizes (with a steel-reinforced heel for support) *Kinky Boots* stars Dallasite Stark Sands as Charlie Price, who inherits his family's near-bankrupt shoe factory. Reluctant to fill his father's (ahem) shoes, and in fact recently moved to London with his fiancée Nicola, Charlie has an "A-ha!" moment when he meets Lola, a brassy drag queen (the fabulous, out Billy Porter) in need of fierce, sturdy, sexy footwear. Charlie enlists Lola as a shoe designer, and while some close-minded workers initially balk at this potential savior, a common bond between the two men helps forge what could save not only soles, but souls.

Directed and choreographed by Tony Award-winner Jerry Mitchell (*Hairspray*, *Legally Blonde*),

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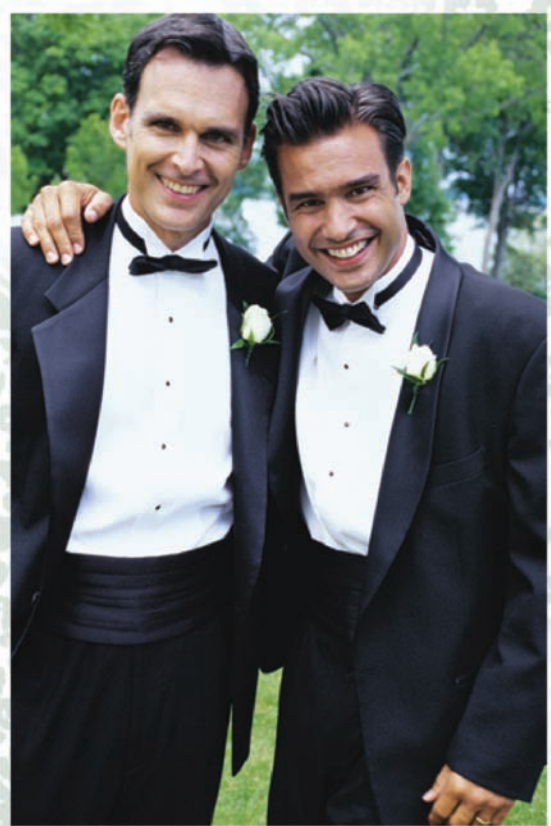
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*Kinky Boots* opened last week to rave reviews. It's an exuberant production indeed filled with witty banter, incredible dance numbers — some involving Lola's clique of fellow drag queens, a couple of whom are downright acrobatic — ingenious sets and staging, emotional moments that bring tears to the eyes (or at least a gulp and heavy sigh if you're stone-hearted), and Lauper's superb songs, which sound like the work of a seasoned showtune pro ... and are as catchy as her best pop tunes.

The show's pre-Broadway test-run in Chicago last fall was captured in Lauper's recent WE network reality series, *Still So Unusual*, which aired this winter. Also chronicled was her guest appearance on *The Voice* (a "Money Changes Everything" duet with a contestant), the release of her self-titled memoir, and domestic life with actor-husband David Thornton and 15-year-old son Declyn.

Parent-child relations are a powerful theme in *Kinky Boots*. Lola's professional boxer father, unsurprisingly, takes issue with his child's homosexuality and penchant for female clothing. Lauper, whose sister is queer, insists that sexuality and gender identity would play no issue in her love for Declyn.

"Let me tell ya something," she says, "I just want my kid to be healthy and happy. I don't give a hoot what he turns out to be. You want them to be who they are and help them as best they can to succeed in the world of who they are. You can never tell a kid, 'You can do this or that.' It's my job to be there and help him."

Providing a safe space for queer youth abandoned by their parents and hostile home situations has been a priority for Lauper. She visited Washington, D.C., last year to accept an award for her efforts to help end LGBT youth homelessness (which includes the True Colors Residence in Harlem, NYC's first permanent housing development for young, previously homeless LGBTs) and to lobby on Capitol Hill on the issue and drum up support for former Sen. John Kerry's Reconnecting Youth to Prevent Homelessness Act.

"Well, a lot has come of it," she says of the latter effort, which included a meet with Nancy Pelosi. "A lot has been going on with people at Capitol Hill. It made some noise and people are actually able to do something. But I'm not gonna

lie to you. [The process] is an onion and you peel away each layer. It certainly was a good poke in the eye to do that and listen to what the hell they're doing and who the hell's doing it and who the hell isn't."

One person Lauper doesn't care to court support from is Donald Trump. Lauper appeared on Trump's *The Celebrity Apprentice* in 2010, making it to sixth place and donating her winnings to True Colors Fund and Stonewall Community Foundation. Trump's openly stated opposition to same-sex marriage and civil union rights as well as virulently anti-Obama behavior and Tweets during the election — to boot, Trump called Cher "a total loser" after she Tweeted: "I don't know if I can breathe the same air as [Romney] & his Right Wing Racist Homophobic Women Hating Tea Bagger Masters" — left her deeply "disappointed."

"I felt that what he said about the gay community was disappointing because a lot of gay people work for him," Lauper admits. "It's just sad. I thought he could have done better for his country than just go to the lowest common denominator and stir up the crap. It's our country, it's not wrestling. If you try and make our president fail, it doesn't matter who he is, you make our country fail. And if you really are a patriot, if you really give a shit about our country, you don't do stuff like that. First of all, you're an entertainer, and you make ugly buildings, and you're famous for it. And you have a reality show with very high ratings. Don't step into the forum like that. Become educated with all the facts. Don't just be a shit-stirrer. Our country is in trouble and he keeps wanting to make [Obama] fail. Let's call a spade a spade. The guy's a black man and that's your issue? What kind of idiot are you? Come on."

While *Kinky Boots'* audiences have been disappointed with one aspect of the show so far — its official Broadway cast album isn't available until May — one of its songs, "Sex Is In The Heel," has already carved a spot on Billboard's dance chart (iTunes stocks a 6-remix EP). And yes, that's her own voice on the track.

"I'm trying to get songs from the play to the people," she enthuses. "Some of the stuff sung by Billy and Stark might be really cool to get out to the clubs, too."

To learn more, visit [KinkyBootsTheMusical.com](http://KinkyBootsTheMusical.com).

### New York theater season is, of course, super gay

It's not just *Kinky Boots* — gay director, writer, producer, star and subject matter — that give queer appeal to the current B'way season. As usual, the new crop includes numerous gay-interest productions, among them:



**Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche**, left — Since opening last fall, this off-Broadway comedy (Performed only one weekend a month) has become a cult hit, as the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein gather in 1956 for a little nosh and gossip.



**Breakfast at Tiffany's**, pictured right — The stage adaptation of Truman Capote's acclaimed novella, with the gay gigolo once again gay (he was neutered and heterogenized in the 1962 movie version).

**Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike** — Gay scribe Christopher Durang enlists best pal Sigourney Weaver plus David Hyde Pierce for this modern-day farce.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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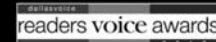
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L+S books

# Lingua franca



Texas-born gay Latino poet Dan Vera touches all the hot-button issues

Poet T.S. Eliot told us that "April is the cruellest month," but it's also National Poetry Month. And ever since gay poet Richard Blanco was chosen to write President Barack Obama's second inaugural benediction, poetry has been an unexpected topic of popular conversation within the LGBT community.

Dan Vera, a Texas-born gay poet, is happy about *all* of that. His second full-length collection of 45 poems, *Speaking Wiri Wiri* (Red Hen Press 2013), was the winner of the inaugural Letras Latinas/Red Hen Poetry Prize. Taken as a whole, there is a cohesive voice and message to this volume: Latino, queer, the son of immigrants, fascinated with language and memory (two of the five sections in the book are "The Trouble With Memory" and "The Memory Of The Tongue"), Vera's volume couldn't come at a better time, especially with immigration reform and LGBT issues on everyone's mind.

Writing with authority, assurance and passion, *Speaking Wiri Wiri* earns Vera his rightful place alongside his poetry heroes, living and dead. We spoke shortly before publication of Vera's book.



—Gregg Shapiro

**Dallas Voice: At what age did you seriously begin to write poetry and how did you come to it?** Dan Vera: I began writing poetry in college during the lead up to the first Iraq war — 1989. The country was gearing up for the war and although the news was filled with reports, including talk of the possibility of a draft, there seemed to be little conversation among my circle of friends about the impact the war could have on my generation. As it turned out, the war was short, but as the subsequent years have revealed, it

proved to be a skirmish in a longer war that we are still involved in almost 25 years later. That region has defined our generation in a way.

Back then, poetry allowed me a way to express my own concerns about this war. I don't know why it was poetry, but it arose through poetry and when I shared it with friends they seemed to find a resonance with the fears and questions I was raising. I kept writing, mostly as a solitary act, and didn't seriously begin to write poetry, to dedicate myself to it, to immerse my-

**YOUR POETRY MAN** | Since Richard Blanco became the first gay and Latino poet tapped to read an Inauguration verse, poetry has been of renewed interest in several communities, and Dan Vera is grateful.



self in it, until many years later.

In your poem “The Interrogation of Poetry,” you write about the poet Pablo Neruda. Who do you consider your poetry heroes? Well, Neruda is certainly one of them. I used to joke that my life was like the first 19 minutes of *The Wizard of Oz* until the day I picked up a volume of Neruda [William O’Daly’s translations of *Libro de Preguntas*] and my life went Technicolor [laughs]. I’d been writing [for] a few years but that volume unlocked something inside of me somehow. My other poetry heroes would include Emily Dickinson for her persistence to write in solitude and her engagement with the world through her writing. There’s something rather heroic about that. Now there are other poets whose work has inspired or influenced me from time to time and for a variety of reasons: Nemerov, Ginsberg, Doty, Seiferle, Nye. But my reading tastes are rather broad.

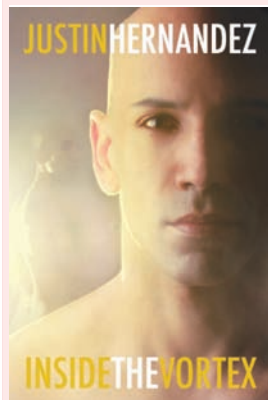
Two dog poems, “Cadúco” and “My Double,” close section three. Can you say something about the role that dogs play in your life? To the extent that, aside from my husband, I spend the bulk of my time with dogs, these creatures that connect me in some way to a world outside of my human-centered experience of the world, they play a huge role in my life. We are crazy dog people [laughs] — there’s no reason to be shy about that. I didn’t grow up having dogs; I came to have dogs as an adult and as a writer. So dogs have been a source of contemplation for me about how we go about in the world. And having lost my first dog rather suddenly, the loss taught me invaluable lessons about mortality and about being present in the midst of suffering and being open about grief.

The poem “Ambrosia on Four Legs” opens with an epigraph by gay Cuban poet Richard Blanco. As a gay poet of Cuban heritage yourself, what do you see as a tradition of queer Cuban writers, which also includes Achy Obejas and the late Reinaldo Arenas. Those three poets have been sources of great pleasure and reassurance for me. Certainly as a gay Cuban kid who grew up in South Texas, their being gay and Cuban meant a lot to me. I remember finding an immediate resonance with Obejas’s *We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?* Here was a writer mediating these multiple identities. I came to Richard’s work much later and found a kindred writer exploring mixed identity and sifting through family memory. Our similarities may be more aptly a part of the immigrant writers’ tradition, certainly first-generation writers that are struggling to mediate these multiple identities here in the United States.

As for Arenas, his memoir *Before Night Falls* served as a priceless testament of the repression faced by queer people like me in Cuba. It certainly wasn’t new for those knowledgeable enough to remember Allen Ginsberg being kicked off the island for being a “perverse” influence on Cuba’s young people. But to my mind, Arenas belongs to that rich tradition of gay Cuban writers like Lezama Lima, Virgilio Piñera and Severo Sarduy. As in all cultures, gay people have been among the central pillars in Cuban culture. Unfortunately they’ve been largely sidelined or silenced in the last 50 years.

What did you think of the poem that Blanco read at President Obama’s inauguration in January? I loved Blanco’s ability to thread the personal with the aspirational in that poem. That’s never been done in an inaugural poem and [it’s] a hell of an accomplishment. He managed to find a way to be communal and meditative at the same time. I loved what Elizabeth Alexander, the last inaugural poet, said about creating a moment of quiet in the midst of the pomp and pageantry. Richard did that but he also found a way to express the myriad and the shared. Just lovely.

## Justin Hernandez is the gay stripper we dreamed about



*Inside the Vortex* by Justin Hernandez (2013, CreateSpace), \$14.95; 158 pp.

Just last week, we wrote here about a book written by two straight men who strip for women. But that’s not all the guys who drop trou for some bucks — not by a longshot.

Justin Hernandez should have been a tough, masculine kid: He grew up in the Bronx during the heyday of hip-hop in a Puerto Rican family. But raised by women, the machismo wasn’t foisted on him, and he very early on identified with his feminine side.

Surviving sexual abuse by a vicious stepfather, Hernandez struck out on his own early. He eventually moved to Miami (then back to New York), started dancing (and sleeping around) before becoming a successful stripper, escort ... and, now, memoirist.

Hernandez has already established himself as a popular chronicler of his escapades with his blog *Naked in New York*, which started just over two years ago. His book, *Inside the Vortex*, is a continuation of the blog, with Hernandez starting from Square 1 and working his way up, fairly linearly, to the present. (The current edition, released last month, is a revision of an earlier one that had fewer details of his personal life; he says in a preface that this is the complete story.)

Hernandez is no Samuel Pepys — or even Anne Frank — but he writes (not using a ghost writer it appears) with a clean, declarative style. It’s conversational and casual without being indulgent or rambling. And because he’s not afraid to paint a warts-and-all picture of himself — not that the sexy Latino former rentboy has any warts — *Inside the Vortex* packs an immediacy. He speaks frankly of his addictions (pills, risky sex) his bad encounters and his (mostly failed) relationships without seeming dishy.

Which is not to say the book doesn’t have some racy bits. Hernandez doesn’t go for titillation, but it’s difficult to read his accounts of encounters and not imagine the buff dancer (and self-described formerly chubby teenager) in a passionate embrace. What Hernandez doesn’t do is romanticize his adventures. There are HIV scares, bad behavior and worse decisions. I imagine *Inside the Vortex* speaks to a lot of experiences and feelings gay men have had for a long time — maybe not all became strippers, but many did struggle in ways similar to Hernandez. It’s enlightening to see someone come out on the right side of that.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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# Phoenix on fire

A mix of tomorrow and yesterday, Phoenix offers gay travelers a host of options, outdoorsy and elegant

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer  
getrichindallas@gmail.com

The old and the new are at peace together in Phoenix, which embraces its burgeoning modernity with new developments but never loses its identity of heritage.

Gay travelers are not at a loss here — in fact, last week the city celebrated Gay Pride with its annual festival. Already steeped in cultural diversity and artistic diversity, Phoenix's LGBT community enjoys clubs, restaurants and shops speckled throughout the city that are either gay-

owned or gay-friendly. But beyond that, Phoenix is breathtaking in its fantastic convergence of modern luxury and gritty outdoors. For city boys and nature girls — and vice versa — there is much to behold.

When fall hits, the weather settles into perfection. Street fairs appear and patio eating dominates many of the city's hip eateries.

In North Central Phoenix, The Windsor oozes hipness whether inside its small walls or on its

huge patio. The food is upgraded pub fare but its vibe rings loudest with mustachioed waiters and a wall plastered with audiocassettes. After the two-hander pulled pork sandwich with housemade chips, step next door for dessert at Churn with its home-made ice creams.

Angels Trumpet in the artsy Roosevelt District serves up a fresh and eclectic menu thanks to local purveyors (as most restaurants tout), but their attention to beer is their pride. With a rotating list of 31 taps, the best bet is their \$9 flight of six beers, the prime way to taste seasonal flavors like their standout pumpkin ale and the marionberry hibiscus.

For a simpler beer experience, hit up the 41-year-old gay bar the Nu Towne Saloon for its crowded Sunday afternoon dollar beer bust. Without much fanfare, the patio packs up the cruisy spot with bears and the men who love them. The kitschy inside offers zero pretension and the image of a huge cock is a photographic must.

Without a centralized gayborhood, Phoenix counts an astounding number of queer nightspots. More than 20 dot the landscape, catering to all demos, but Charlie's is a priority visit. The club combines country and west-



WALL OF SOUND | The hip Windsor boasts a wall bedecked with old-school audio cassettes — and a great pork sandwich.





**THE WRIGHT STUFF** | The still-magnificent appointments of the 1929 Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Arizona Biltmore lend an air of old Hollywood glamour to the Sonoran desert.

ern music with drag queens on the patio, an on-site taqueria and the best-lit bathroom ever. They line dance the hell out of the floor from country hits to dance mixes and vintage Ricky Martin. Leathered muscleguys, twinkly preps and fruit flies all mix among the friendly, high-energy crowd.

The bears head to Pat O's Bunkhouse Saloon in the Melrose District while the dance crowd hits up Amsterdam downtown, the leather peeps hit up Anvil, lesbians go to Cash Inn Country, and celebrity drag queens like Raja and Delta Work from *Drag Race* headline The Rock.

For the adventurous, head to the sky with Hot Air Expeditions and studly head pilot Patrick Stevens. You unofficially join the mile high club and see Phoenix and beyond in its postcard-like glory — and discover mesas really are that flat. And when the balloon swoops in to land, the natural denizens scamper through low-lying hills and cacti.

For a direct approach to the scenery, head north to Scottsdale for Green Zebra Adventures' Tomcar tour of the Sonora Desert on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Reservation. A guide leads an ATV caravan giving a stunningly up close and beautiful view of the landscape including the only home to the saguaro cactus. Wild steer and horses can be seen drinking along the Salt River washout and mesquite trees provide a distinct aroma in the more flowered parts of the desert.

Phoenix isn't short on cultural offerings but the Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art highlights Native American culture as a living museum of both historic and contemporary work. Its kachina doll collection is astounding. (Tip: plan on lunch at the Heard's café for the tepary bean hummus and frybread.)

The handsome Musical Instrument Museum, which opened in 2010, houses more than 15,000 instruments from around the world. The hands-on room is a must because it may be the one time to hit an actual gong or play some kind of music on the trippy Theremin. Next year, the museum will feature Lady Gaga's meat dress as part of a "women in music" exhibition.

Ultra-cool accommodations can be found at the high-rise Westin Downtown with spacious rooms in warm colors and floor-to-ceiling windows. The view of downtown with mountains in the distance impresses. Province, the resto in the Westin, is big for drinks on the patio. Its sister hotel, the Sheraton Phoenix, is a massive complex blocks away geared toward convention goers with 1,000 rooms. But the restaurant that stands out as a major treasure is District American Kitchen and Wine Bar, which features a rich menu of comfort food elevated to five-star levels.

The new Palomar pulsates with modern vibe in the heart of the new CityScape development of restaurants, shops and nightlife. It is walking distance from USAirways Arena for major sports games and concerts, but its snazzy insides make it fulfilling to stay in.

The poolside bar Lustre looks on downtown from its open third floor and below is the stellar gastro-lounge Blue Hound Kitchen. Executive chef Stephen Jones has created a simple menu that is hardly short on complexity. The cheddar-scullion biscuits with quail eggs are hefty starters but worth a taste. He bombards both the eye and the taste buds with his gigantic BBQ'D Kobe beef short ribs that look like they came from the opening credits of *The Flintstones*. But the meat comes off easily with a fork before passing to your dining neighbor.

■ Next Page

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**UP UP AND AWAY** | Hot-air ballooning is a popular activity for locals and tourists; closer to the ground, culinary offerings (including a yummy butterscotch pudding) make Phoenix a foodie heaven as well.

■ From Previous Page

Hit the trendy Breadfruit Rum Bar for dinner. The tiny resto is cool on all the right notes with dark décor, cozy seating and a lively vibe in both the bar and dining room. The Jamaican-inspired menu knocks out the palate but the stealthy weapons here are the drinks. Rum punch flavors like the strawberry passion fruit are refreshing while their pina colada redux turns up the volume leaving behind any trace of 1980.

If there were a stunning gem of Phoenix it would have to be the legendary Arizona Bilt-

more. The 1929 Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired resort defines luxury and sprawl with heavenly gardens and gorgeous lawns and eight pools including the Catalina, which Marilyn Monroe deemed her favorite. The architecture invites guests to remain in awe at the grand hallways leading from the lobby to Wright's, the dining room, which serves a rich Sunday brunch buffet. Paradise Pool is spectacular with three pools combined including a bar, cabanas, a 90-foot water slide and palm trees overlooking the water under the Arizona sun. It's hard not to feel like a Hollywood star yourself. ■



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## Friday 04.12

### Sugarbakers gets spoofed by Uptown Players at Rose Room

Jamie Morris' latest parody of a TV show is rolling along at Station 4, with a cast of men in drag — just what you'd expect to see at the Rose Room. The show gets a long run with Morris himself as the matriarch in this camp adaptation of the sassy '80s sitcom *Designing Women* — called, of course, *Re-Designing Women*. Fasten your girdles, fellas!

**DEETS:** The Rose Room at Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Through May 19. UptownPlayers.org.

## Saturday 04.13

### It's men in tights in Waxahachie!

We wouldn't exactly call what you see walking around at Scarborough Faire cross-dressing, but really, it's just drag of a different kind. Cool, often hot nerds show up for the annual Renaissance Festival in tights and codpieces and jester hats to enjoy the beautiful weather; fun food like steak on a stake and huge turkey legs; nifty vendors of fantasy artisan crafts from candles to die-cast chess seters; and clever entertainers, including men covered in mud and large-breasted women in bustiers. It's a grandly enjoyable trip back a few hundred years.

**DEETS:** Scarborough Renaissance Festival Grounds, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Weekends through May 27, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. \$10–\$22. SrFestival.com.



## Saturday 04.13

### Paul Taylor Dance spins into Eisemann

At 82, the bisexual choreographer Paul Taylor is still going strong, with two companies performing his dances around the globe. The main company, Paul Taylor Dance, will *plie and enchechat* into the Eisemann Center again with three pieces, including his 1980 piece set to Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, plus *Brandenburgs* and 2011's *The Uncommitted*.

**DEETS:** Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. \$45–\$65. EisemannCenter.com.



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## calendar



WingSpan's 'The Pleasure of Seeing You' by gay playwright Michel Tremblay gets a staged reading twice on Friday.

DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**The Pleasure of Seeing You.** WingSpan Theatre Co. and One Thirty Productions present a two-day, four-performance staged reading of this fun and heart-breaking play about the complex relationship between parent and child in this play by the gay French-Canadian author Michel Tremblay. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. April 12 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$10. WingSpanTheatre.com.

**Re-Designing Women.** Cross-dressing spoof of the '80s sitcom, performed by men. (Reviewed this week.) Presented by Uptown Players in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Through May 19. UptownPlayers.org.

**Rx.** Kitchen Dog Theater presents this regional premiere, a dark comedy about Big Pharma. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through April 27. KitchenDogTheater.org.

**A Wrinkle in Time,** Dallas Children's Theater presents the Newberry Award-winning sci-fi classic for its 50th anniversary. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. *Final weekend.* \$12-\$40. DCT.org.

## ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

### THEATER

**Avenue Q.** Theatre 3's hit from last summer and fall returns for an unlimited run in its Theatre Too space with most of the original cast. A puppet show, but not for kids (there's lots of sex). Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Ongoing. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. \$10-\$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Big Love.** Charles L. Mee's updating of the Aeschylus drama *The Suppliant Women*. Presented by the University of Dallas. Margaret Jonsson Theater, 1845 E. Northgate Drive, Irving. *Final weekend.* \$10. 972-721-5314.

**A Bright New Boise.** Gay playwright Samuel D. Hunter's comedy about life in an Idaho big box store. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* CircleTheatre.com.

**The Ghost Sonata.** August Strindberg's haunting chamber play of the living and the dead. Presented by Pantagleize Theatre Company, 1115 W. Rio Grande, Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* \$10-\$17. 817-810-0850. PantagleizeTheatre.org.

**The Grapes of Wrath.** WaterTower Theatre presents the Tony Award winner about the Joads, Oklahoman's making a life for themselves in Cali. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 28. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**The Futility of Hope.** Mark-Brian Sonna's new play, about a conservative girl who meets her biological father, only to find out he's gay. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 20. MBSProductions.com.

**John Michael and the Order of the Penix,** a one-man show about Dallas, Harry Potter and HIV. Magnolia Lounge at Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. *Final weekend.* Nouveau47.com.

**The Odd Couple.** Neil Simon's classic comedy of mismatched messy Oscar and prissy Felix. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. *Final weekend.*

**Wicked.** The bewitching hit musical returns, courtesy Dallas Summer Musicals. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through May 5. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

### OPERA

**Turandot.** Puccini's final work, containing the most famous tenor aria in the canon, "Nessun Dorma." Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 5, 10, 13 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and April 7 and 21 matinees. The April 13 performance will be simulcast at Cowboys Stadium for free. DallasOpera.org.

**The Aspern Papers.** The 25th anniversary staging of the English-language opera that received its world premiere from Dallas Opera in 1988. In repertory with *Turandot*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 12, 17 and 20 at 7:30 p.m., April 14 and 28 at 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org.

### FINE ART

**Marc Chagall: Beyond Color.** The groundbreaking surrealist's work, from early posters to costumes to sculpture, are exhibited in a splashy exhibit. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through May 26. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**Cindy Sherman.** Massive collection of massive photographs from the influential artist are on display. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through June 9. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**China Through the Lens of John Thomson 1868-1872.** The vanished world of Imperial China preserved on glass plates. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through May 5. Free. CrowCollection.org.

**Gold on Black: Japanese Lacquer from the Jacqueline Lavant Collection.** The beauty of lacquered finishes is highlighted. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Sept. 15. Free. CrowCollection.org.

**Connecting Dallas to the Holocaust.** A temporary exhibit at the Old Red Courthouse in cooperation with and curated by the Dallas Holocaust Museum. 100 S. Houston St. \$8 admission, \$4 special exhibit fee. Through July 14. OldRed.org.

**ModArtists.** More than a dozen artists exhibit at the ilume Gallerie, with an opening night artists' reception Friday. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, suite 107. Through May 11. ilumegallerie.com.

browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit](http://Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit).



### ICE MAN COMETH

Val Kilmer takes on three unlikely roles — humor, a character part and play-wrighting — in his new one-man show 'Citizen Twain,' opening Thursday at the Wyly Theatre.



**Dallas Art Fair.** 80 galleries represented at this weekend-long showcase. Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. April 12-14. \$25-\$50. DallasArtFair.com.

### FILM

**Dallas International Film Festival.** The final days of screenings, many with gay interest. Visit DallasFilm.org for a schedule, and DallasVoice.com for more.

### FRIDAY 04.12

#### COMMUNITY

**High Tech Happy Hour.** A mixer for those in the tech industry — and anyone else. Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY 04.13

#### FINE ART

**Dan Rees.** Work from the man just designated the first artist in residence at the Goss-Michael Foundation, 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. April 13-July 27. GossMichaelFoundation.org.

#### BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly,** radio show addressing LGBT issues. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m.

**Louis C.K.: Om My God.** The comedian's new standup airs on HBO at 9 p.m. *Reviewed this week.*

### SUNDAY 04.14

#### WORSHIP

**Cathedral of Hope.** Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

#### BROADCAST

**Game of Thrones.** Intrigue among the Lannisters, Baratheons and Starks. HBO at 8 p.m.

### MONDAY 04.15

#### BROADCAST

**Dallas.** J.R. is dead, but the Ewings continue their conniving in the season finale. TNT at 8 p.m.

**RuPaul's Drag Race.** The new season continues. Logo at 8 p.m., followed by the behind-the-scenes series *Untucked.*

### TUESDAY 04.16

#### COMMUNITY

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas meets the third

Tuesday of each month. Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-506-3367. Omar@stonewalldemocrats.org.

**Log Cabin Republicans Dallas** meets the third Tuesday of each month, Texas Land & Cattle Co., 3130 Lemmon Ave. 6:30 p.m. Dallas@logcabin.org.

### WEDNESDAY 04.17

#### COMMUNITY

**Dallas FrontRunners** fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FronrunnersDallas.org.

**FUSE Connect,** a weekly social and decision making group for gay and bi guys up to 29. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 2367. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4-9 p.m. 214-879-0400.

### THURSDAY 04.18

#### THEATER

**Citizen Twain.** Film star Val Kilmer wrote and stars in this one-man show about America's most quotable humorist. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. April 18-21. \$45-\$125. ATTPAC.org.

#### COMMUNITY

**Free Third Thursdays.** Every month, the Trinity River Audubon Center offers free admissions for a variety of activities that respect the environment. Trinity River Audubon Center, 6500 Great Trinity Forest Way. 9 a.m. Free. TrinityRiverAudubon.org.

### this week's solution

T	O	M	S	C	E	R	T	S	A	S	S
E	U	R	O	A	G	E	E	A	L	E	E
X	T	R	A	R	A	P	S	M	I	R	E
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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**



**Ed O'Neill** turns 67 on Friday. The actor destined to go down in history as star of the crass sitcom *Married ... With Children* found new iconic status late in his career as Jay Pritchett, the patriarch with a gay son on the smash *Modern Family*.

**ARIES: Mar 21–Apr 20**

If you're OK with letting others give you the shirt off their back, you might want to try on the strings that go with it. Just Say No is a huge theme right now, especially to those who keep killing you with kindness.

**TAURUS: Apr 21–May 20**

If others try to pressure you, ask them to give you a reason. It looks like a few of your associates keep stacking the deck in their favor. Their machinations could lure you into thinking that you need their support when they need you more.

**GEMINI: May 21–Jun 20**

You have to figure out how to do it all and stay clear. Keep your nose to the grindstone and be careful not to sink into a sense of over-confidence. You've got tons of support but what really matters is your ability to stay humble and keep the light on.

**CANCER: Jun 21–Jul 20**

You may be dealing with people who have finally shown their true colors. Before feeling disappointed, look at whether it makes sense to carry on. Give it two weeks to get a clearer sense of the truth.

**LEO: Jul 21–Aug 20**

It would be great if you could step back and give everyone a chance to show you how they really feel and what they really meant when they stuck their foot in their mouth. A dose of forgiveness and a willingness to let things go will help you to see that there is nothing but love here.

**VIRGO: Aug 21–Sep 20**

What comes next should get poured into your big plan, dream or creation. But before you can continue with the heart of this vision, you need to come down from the clouds and get real about a few things.

**LIBRA: Sep 21–Oct 20**

For more than one lifetime your spirit has been calling you to search out the truth, and have the courage to define it in your own terms. There's tremendous pressure to make your life look like everyone else's, while your seeker is dying to set you free.

**SCORPIO: Oct 21–Nov 20**

Turn off the control switch and return to the place that knows that this is neither about you nor anyone involved. Everything that's happening right now, from the large to the small, needs to be viewed as an opportunity to open your heart and remain centered in a place of unconditional love.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21–Dec 20**

For someone who thought they had it all figured out, you are now wondering how much you will have to sacrifice before this is over. This never needed to get nuts. Maybe it's time to go back to square one and tune in to what's true for you.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 21–Jan 20**

Be concerned less about staying on top than taking what you've created and allowing it to walk on its own. The next few months will see the best of what you have to offer being birthed and ultimately open the space for you to change the world.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21–Feb 20**

Things will be going back and forth for about six months. You will be sitting on the fence until it becomes clear that you've got to get around the issues that keep you stuck in limbo, looking at the same old thing.

**PISCES: Feb 21–Mar 20**

You haven't got the answers but you see enough about what's going on to know that it needs to change. Keep in mind that even though you have the broader view, no one knows what's best here.

**JANE'S WORLD**



Jane's World © Paige Braddock 2013

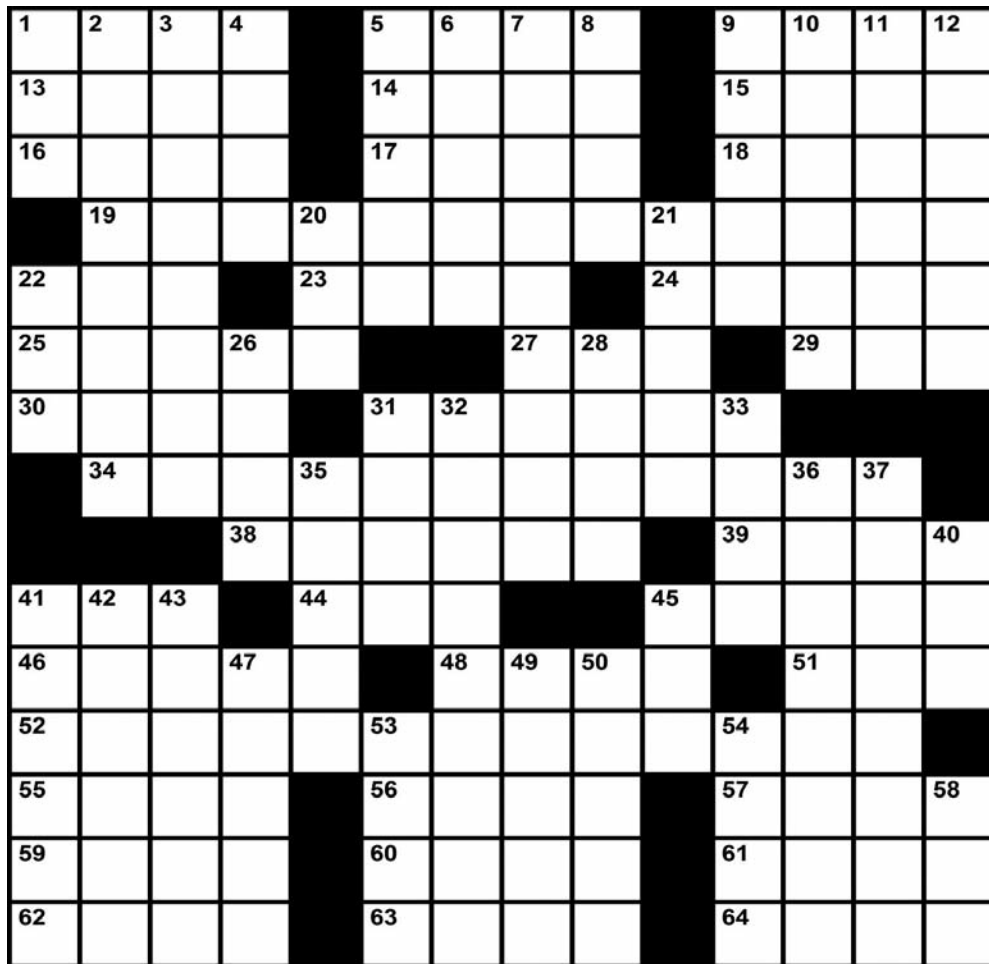
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# The Big C, as in ...

Solution on page 33

**Across**

- 1 Bianchi and Hulce
- 5 Part of a breath mint pack
- 9 Give some lip to
- 13 Continental coin
- 14 *The African Queen* author
- 15 Protected from the wind
- 16 Pink Triangle Press publication
- 17 Light licks
- 18 Marsh, marsh, marsh
- 19 Role of 34-Across
- 22 Chow down
- 23 Lucie's pop
- 24 Perineum, in slang
- 25 Muslim faith
- 27 No. 6 to P-town
- 29 Saint, in Rio
- 30 Deity to Debussy
- 31 Have a thing for
- 34 *The Big C* actress with C as an initial
- 38 Prickly
- 39 Lesbian character in *No Exit*
- 41 Some sex-toy batteries

**Down**

- 44 Cyclops's singleton
- 45 Places for commercial intercourse
- 46 Military muff
- 48 Where pirates moor
- 51 '70s abductors
- 52 TV series with 34-Across
- 55 Welcome response after a tumble
- 56 Serengeti sound
- 57 "\_\_\_ lay me ..."
- 59 Trig function
- 60 Blows it
- 61 Rep in the 'hood
- 62 Pravda provider
- 63 Sailing the Pacific
- 64 David \_\_\_ Pierce
- 1 Cowboy moniker
- 2 Network for gay songwriters
- 3 Highsmith character played by Damon
- 4 Head for the heavens
- 5 "Flesh" in an Almodovar title
- 6 "Holy crow!"
- 7 He whips out his tool on the job
- 8 New Age musician John
- 9 Brazilian dance
- 10 "I was at my mother's," and others
- 11 Samantha's witchy cousin
- 12 Looks after
- 20 Abbr. after "rear," in the navy
- 21 Funny Cheri
- 22 Caesar, for one
- 26 Em, e.g.
- 28 Elton John's "\_\_\_ Dancer"
- 31 "Hi, sailor!"
- 32 Adam Shankman and Gus Van Sant
- 33 Come out
- 35 Country club?
- 36 Like the shortest buildings
- 37 One bride or the other
- 40 Half of a Hollywood name
- 41 Lend a hand
- 42 No zip
- 43 Early invaders of England
- 45 Agcy. that sued Martha Stewart
- 47 Pretends to have an orgasm
- 49 Terminal in Chicago
- 50 The end of vice?
- 53 De Matteo of *Desperate Housewives*
- 54 Move a little at a time
- 58 Chemical ending





Jennifer and Randy at Best Friends Club.



Friends at BJ's NXS!

The Dallas Diablos present **Sins of the Flesh Bachelor Auction** at Woody's Sports & Video Bar on April 14 at 4 p.m. ... Gary Floyd performs on Woody's Back Patio on April 12 with special guest **Peggy Honea**. ... The weekly darts tournament at the **Hidden Door** begins at 9:30 p.m. every Monday. ... On April 12, **Soundlike and Diamond Deep** present **The Come Up (Rooftop Party)** at **Eden Lounge**. ... Sue Ellen's has a weekend of entertainment with **Hey What's Up** on April 12, **The Bright** on April 13 and **Barefoot Hippies** on April 14. ... On April 18, **The Dallas Way** presents **Outrageous Oral 5** with **Cordell Adams, Steve Atkinson, Darryl Baker, Nell Gaitner, Hardy Haberman** and **Candy Marcum** in **The Rose Room** at 7 p.m. ... **Mi Diva Loca** performs at **Best Friends Club** on April 12. ... **National Leather Association** holds its monthly bar night at **Dallas Eagle** on April 13. The **Ms. Texas Leather** send-off party and fundraiser takes place that night as well. On April 14, **Delilah Devasquez** and **Larry Finch** emcee the **United Court of the Lone Star Empire's Celebrating Family Show** benefiting **AIDS Interfaith Network**. ... **Mark Alan Smith** performs at **Alexandre's** on April 12. **Sheila P and Infinity** have the mike on April 13. ... **Avicii vs. Nicky Romero's** hit single **I Could Be The One** is featured at **JR.'s Bar & Grill** on April 16. ... **Garlow's** in Gun Barrel City hosts a salute to **Whitney Houston** and **Donna Summer** on April 13. Proceeds benefit the **Greg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Fund**. ... Pool tournaments begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at **1851 Club** in Arlington. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos).



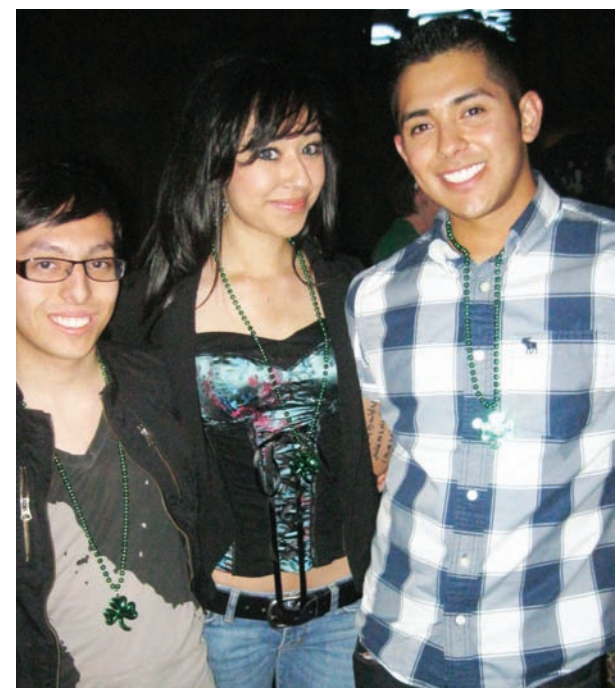
Jerry and Jack at the Dallas Eagle.



Mark and Lee at Alexandre's.



Clark and Harvey at Station 4.



Friends' night out at Sue Ellen's.

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