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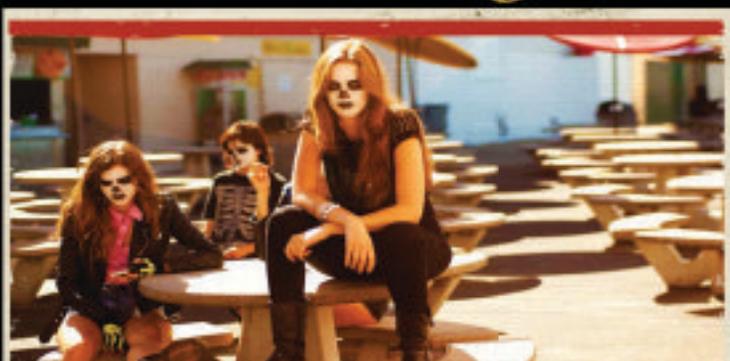
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ON THE COVER

Chrissy Coble (left) and Iliana Gonzalez hit the dance floor at Arizona Ballroom Champions in Chandler. Photo by Fernando Hernández. Cover design by Paul Braun



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42 **There’s No Place Like Home** Go behind the scenes of Mulligan’s Manor for a glimpse at Arizona’s only LGBTQ group home.

think it's safe to say that the holiday season is officially upon us. And because this means so many different things to so many people, we've got a little bit of everything in store for you in this issue.

But first, don't forget that today marks the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and community members will gather at Arizona State Capitol Nov. 23 to honor the lives lost to anti-trans violence throughout the past year. See page 28 for details.

In observation of World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, the Phoenix AIDS Candlelight Vigil will meet at Phoenix Pride LGBT Center and continue on to the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS before ending at Margaret T. Hance Park (see story, page 16). World AIDS Day will also be observed in Tucson at Hotel Congress and you can find more information at EchoMag.com/world-AIDS-day.

This time of year is ideal for getting out and about, too. You'll find Team *Echo* at COOK Phoenix, at the Sway Swagger Awards and at Arizona State University's Equality Night — all taking place Nov. 22.

And then we move into the most wonderful time of the year: The season of giving.



If you're looking for a way get involved, give back or make someone else's holiday wish come true, we have a whole roundup of ideas waiting for you in *Pay It Forward* (page 24) and then we go behind the scenes of Mulligan's Manor for a glimpse at the giving taking place at Arizona's onlyGBTQA group home in *There's No Place Like Home* (page 42).

Last but not least, we've kept the marriage equality celebration going and have an up-close and personal

interview with Joe Connolly and Terry Pochert, lead plaintiffs in *Connolly vs. Jeanes*, in *A Faith-Fueled Fight* (page 38).

For couples looking to add a perfect first dance their future wedding, we have an exclusive *Echo* offer for ballroom dancing at the newly opened Arizona Ballroom Champions in *The Romance of Dance* (page 34).

Don't forget that *Echo* wants to share your wedding or engagement announcement with our readers. Get details at EchoMag.com/announcements.

Kara J. Philp is managing editor of *Echo Magazine*. She can be reached at editor@echomag.com.

Notes From the Managing Editor

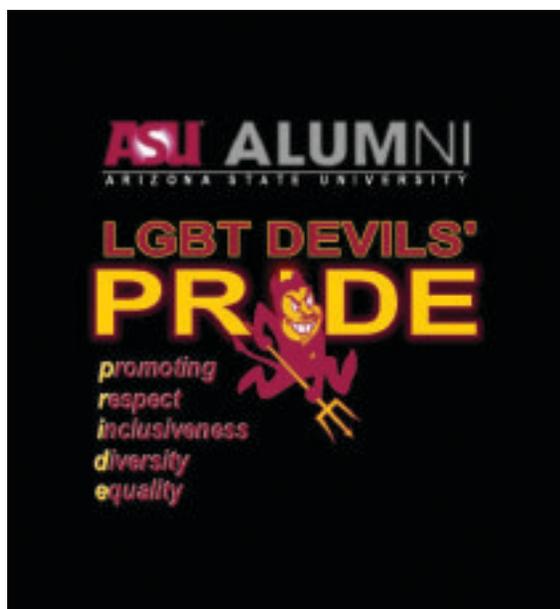
By Kara J. Philp

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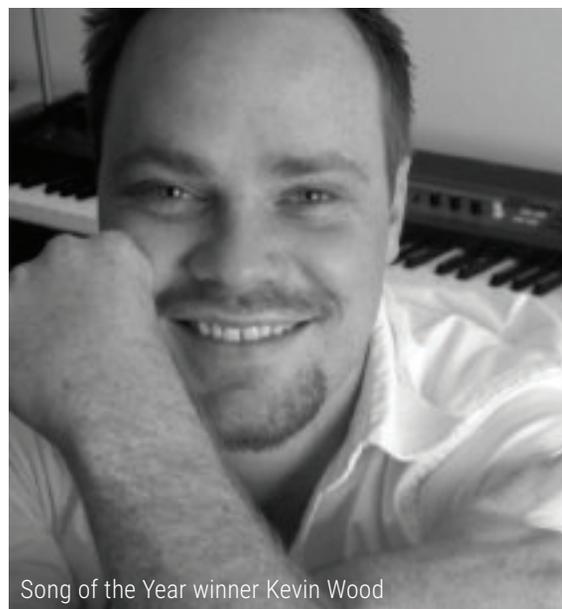
- **Holiday Happenings:** Find out where to feast, volunteer and donate this season. echomag.com/community-calendar
- **Olive Kitteridge:** Lesbian filmmaker Lisa Cholodenko presents HBO's four-hour miniseries. echomag.com/olive-kitteridge
- **Lambda Legal's Jael Humphreys** sounds off about LGBT immigrants in detention facilities. echomag.com/immigration-issues
- Did our *Echo* cameras spot you out and about? Find out in our photo galleries! echomag.com/gallery



Show Your Pride

Sun Devil Athletics and Phoenix Pride present Equality Night, as Arizona State University hosts the Washington State Cougars Nov. 22. Get discounted ticket information online.

echomag.com/equality-night



Song of the Year winner Kevin Wood

An LGBT Playlist

The fourth annual RightOutTV Music & Video Awards, showcasing the best original musical works coming out of the global LGBT community, announces its 2014 winners.

echomag.com/rightout-awards

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“I’d like to call and congratulate the other big winners of tonight’s race, but frankly a lot of the big winners are unknown, undisclosed, and out-of-state.”

– Democratic gubernatorial candidate Fred DuVal referencing the dark money at play in Arizona’s midterm election in his concession speech Nov. 4.

ON THE RECORD



TELEVISION



Last month Starbucks teamed with LGBT network OUTtv to release a commercial featuring Bianca Del Rio and Adore Delano, fan favorites from the sixth season of *RuPaul’s Drag Race*. The ad, entitled “Coffee Frenemies” features the queens in line for coffee – serving up attitude while waiting to be served – and ends with “saving friendships since 1971.”

MOVIES



Eddie Redmayne, known for his portrayal of Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything* (which hit theatres Nov. 7), announced earlier this month that he will portray Einar Wegner, the first transgender woman to have had gender reassignment surgery in the 1930s, in the forthcoming film *The Danish Girl*.

BY THE NUMBERS



The number of names on the Transgender Day of Remembrance “Memorializing 2014” list (tdor.info) representing the lives lost in the past year to anti-transgender violence. For information on the Phoenix TDOR observation, see page 28.

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Three Arizona Cities Earn Perfect Scores in HRC's Equality Report

The Human Rights Campaign's 2014 Municipality Equality Index report, released Nov. 12, revealed perfect scores for Phoenix, Tempe and Tucson.

The report, which graded how 353 U.S. municipalities from all 50 states treat lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents, presented only 38 perfect scores nationwide.

"People are taking notice that Phoenix is one of the most diverse and friendly cities in America, and that's good for everyone," Mayor Greg Stanton said. "We are a more vibrant and more economically viable city when we treat every person equally under the law."

In February 2013, the City Council passed a sweeping anti-discrimination ordinance that made it unlawful to discriminate against someone based on sexual orientation, gender identity or disability for the purposes of employment, public accommodations, housing and government contracts.

Over the past year, Phoenix doubled housing grants awarded to the non-profit organization one-n-ten to provide hous-

ing for LGBT youth and the City Council called on Gov. Jan Brewer to veto S.B. 1062, the so-called "right to discriminate" bill, with an 8-to-1 vote.

"I am proud that the City of Phoenix supports equality and inclusion for all of our employees and residents," Councilwoman Laura Pastor said. "I applaud the Mayor's leadership on this issue and look forward to continuing the progress the City has made."

Arizona rankings

The average score for cities in Arizona is 68 out of 100 points, which falls above the national average of 59. Municipalities in Arizona that were scored include:

Chandler: 72

Gilbert: 43

Glendale: 36

Mesa: 59

Peoria: 33

Phoenix: 100

Scottsdale: 65

Tempe: 100

Tucson: 100

Source: Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index report

GLSEN Survey Reveals Anti-LGBT Remarks and Harassment Occur Regularly in Arizona Schools

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network released state-level data Nov. 13 from its biennial National School Climate Survey report that show that schools remain unsafe for the majority of LGBT students.

The latest edition of GLSEN's *National*

School Climate Survey includes four major findings: schools nationwide are hostile environments for a distressing number of LGBT students; a hostile school climate affects students' academic success and mental health; students with LGBT-related resources and supports report better school experiences and academic success; and school climate for LGBT students has improved somewhat over the years, but remains quite hostile for many.

Specifically in Arizona, the survey found:

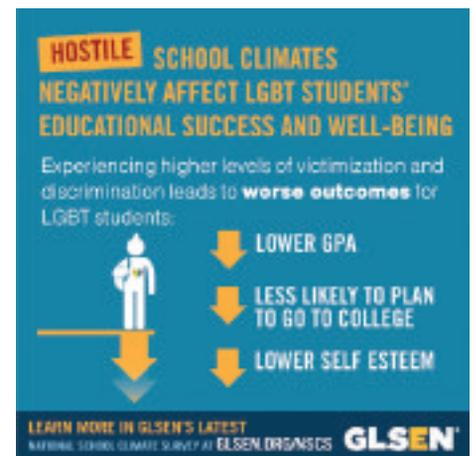
— Ninety-five percent of LGBT students regularly heard "gay" used in a negative way (e.g., "that's so gay"), while nine in 10 heard other homophobic remarks.

— The majority also experienced verbal harassment: eight in 10 based on their sexual orientation and six in 10 based on the way they expressed their gender.

— Many experienced physical harassment and physical assault. For example, nearly four in 10 were physically harassed (e.g., pushed or shoved) based on their sexual orientation, and more than one in 10 were physically assaulted (e.g., punched, kicked, or injured with a weapon) based on the way they expressed their gender.

— Only 16 percent were taught positive representations of LGBT people, history and events, and less than half could access information about LGBT communities on school Internet.

For more information, visit glsen.org/nscs.



Arizona's Larry Trachtenberg elected to Lambda Legal's Board of Directors

Lambda Legal announced it has elected three new leaders to serve on its board of directors, including: Larry Trachtenberg, member of the board of directors of Tempe-based Mobile Mini, Inc.; Wendy Chang, director of the Dwight Stuart Youth Fund in Los Angeles; and Carol Meyer of Dallas, senior partner of The Meyer Group,

part of Merrill Lynch/Bank of America Private Client Group.

"We are tremendously pleased to welcome these three new members to our board," Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart said.

Larry Trachtenberg, currently a member of the board of directors of Tempe-based Mobile Mini, Inc., previously

served as chief financial officer and interim chief executive officer for the leading provider of portable storage in North America and the U.K. There, he contributed to the company's growth from eight to more than 100 cities in three countries, along with significant increases in revenue and asset base, since joining

Mobile Mini in 1995.

"Since its inception, Lambda Legal has led the litigation effort for LGBT rights," Trachtenberg said. "Because of Lambda Legal's work, LGBT people will eventually be treated as equal citizens in this country. I am proud to be a part of an organization that is doing such important work." 

Thank You!

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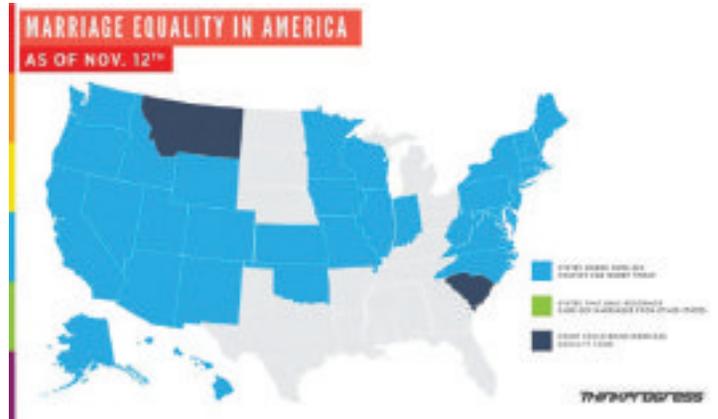
MARRIAGE ON THE MOVE

Same-sex couples in Kansas are now free to marry, after the U.S. Supreme Court lifted its stay and allowed a federal court ruling striking down the state's ban Nov. 12. U.S. District Judge Daniel Crabtree overturned the state's ban on same-sex couples marrying, following to the 10th Circuit precedent set in the Oklahoma and Utah cases. Kansas state officials tried to argue on many technicalities that the judge should consider their ban differently, but he dismissed them all in his opinion. He stayed his order to give the state a chance to make its case on appeal.

The order comes on the same day that a federal judge in South Carolina overturned that state's same-sex marriage ban — a ruling on hold to give that state time to make a similar appeal. U.S.

District Judge Richard Gergel ruled the state's ban unconstitutional, but implemented a stay on the ruling until November 20 at noon. When it takes effect, the ruling will prohibit state officials from enforcing the state's constitutional amendment and statutory prohibition banning same-sex marriage.

Although West Virginia's Attorney General had already conceded that the state's marriage ban was unconstitutional and marriages began last month, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia made it official Nov. 7, ruling in favor of Lambda Legal's plaintiffs and striking down the discriminatory marriage ban as mandated by the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals earlier ruling striking down a similar ban in Virginia.



In the opinion, Judge Chambers also offered a critique of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *DeBoer v. Snyder*, which upheld marriage bans in Ohio, Michigan, Tennessee, and Kentucky, stating that the Sixth Circuit “fail[ed] to recognize the role of courts in the democratic process. It is the duty of the judiciary to examine government action through the lens

of the Constitution's protection of individual freedom. Courts cannot avoid or deny this duty just because it arises during the contentious public debate that often accompanies the evolution of policy making throughout the states. Judges may not simultaneously find a right violated, yet defer to an uncertain future remedy voluntarily undertaken by the violators.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

The Straight Out Report, starring Stephen Guarino (*The Big Gay Sketch Show*), who is gay, and Mike E. Winfield (*The Office*), who is straight, launched on Logo TV Nov. 7. The program, billed as the first to feature two men of different sexual orientations and races as co-hosts of a weekly TV show, includes both men's perspectives on the week's headlines as well as guest appearances.

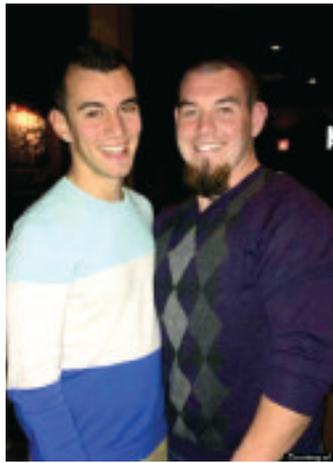


“By spotlighting each host’s distinct and hilarious viewpoint, *The Straight Out Report* not only offers a fresh perspective on the headlines and newsmakers of the day, but also underscores that comedy is the perfect device to emphasize our similarities and differences,” said Pamela Post, Logo TV’s vice president of programming.

SPORTS

Early this month professional Strongman champion Rob Kearney, 25, publicly came out as gay and revealed a photo of him and his boyfriend, Joey Aleixo. In an interview with Huffington Post he described Strongman competitions as like a family, and said he did not think there was a problem with homophobia.

“I hope people realize that being gay doesn’t change the athlete/person I am. I am still the second strongest 105kg Professional Strongman in America and I am still the same Rob Kearney they knew before this news,” he said.

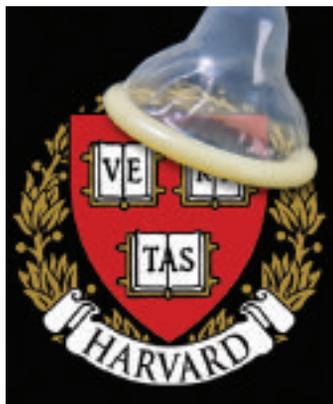


Rob Kearney (right) with boyfriend Joey Aleixo.

Not only is Kearney ranked as the second strongest middle-weight champion in the world, but his coming out makes him the first openly gay man to actively compete in a strongman competition at a professional, international level.

EDUCATION

As part of Harvard University’s annual Sex Week initiative, which ran Nov. 2 through 8, the Ivy League school hosted, for the first time, “What What in the Butt: Anal Sex 101, a workshop intended to “dispel myths about anal sex and give you insight into why people do it and how to do it well.”



Topics covered during the class included: anal anatomy; basic preparation and hygiene methods; anal penetration for beginners; how to talk about anal sex with a partner; lubes, anal toys and safer sex education.

World AIDS Day

Aunt Rita’s Foundation sponsors 15 Sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt

As part of its annual observation of World AIDS Day, Aunt Rita’s Foundation is sponsoring the 15 sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, developed by the NAMES Project Foundation.

The eight panels, each measuring 3 feet by 6 feet, represent 120 lives — many from Arizona.

The panels will be on display for public viewing at The Parsons Center for Health and Wellness from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 1 for World AIDS Day.

For anyone interested in making a panel to add to the national quilt, Aunt Rita’s Foundation will be accepting panels until Jan. 12, 2015. For instructions on how to construct the panels visit auntritas.org or call 602-882-8675.

VITAL STATISTICS

Aids Memorial Quilt Panels
On Display for World AIDS Day
9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Dec. 1
The Parsons Center for Health and Wellness
1101 N. Central Ave., Phoenix

WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS:

The Phoenix AIDS Candlelight Vigil will take place Dec. 1 at Margaret T. Hance Park. See page 16 or visit phoenixaidsandlelightvigil.org for more information.

World AIDS Day will be observed in Tucson from 4 to 9 p.m. Dec. 1 at Hotel Congress. Visit EchoMag.com/world-AIDS-day.





Getting to Zero

World AIDS Day events aim to raise awareness, unite community

By Laura Latzko

The impact of HIV and AIDS is not limited to the lives of positive individuals; it reaches families, circles of friends and entire communities.

Which is why World AIDS Day events continue to gain momentum and visibility with each passing year.

Celebrated since 1988, World AIDS Day takes place globally Dec. 1. And, according to aidsmap.com, the international theme for World AIDS Day from 2011 to 2015 is “Getting to Zero,” namely zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Around the world, some 34 million people are living with HIV and AIDS.

According to RJ Shannon, a member of the Aunt Rita’s Foundation board and 2012 and 2013 AIDS Walk Phoenix and 5K Run

chair, it is important to change political, economic and social disparities for communities affected by HIV and AIDS in order to address the issue and have a chance to stop the spread of HIV.

“These are folks least likely to have their rights recognized, and we can’t be truly successful until we change that,” Shannon said. “We need to create an environment for all people that creates equity.”

Shannon said that World AIDS Day brings attention to progress such as the increasing access to HIV treatments and testing services, but it also shows the need for continuing education, change and community involvement.

“There’s still a lot of work to be done, but we are doing better than we were. That’s something to be celebrated on World AIDS Day,” Shannon said. “I can tell you from a personal aspect, I’m not burying as many friends as I was in the late ’90s ... I’m not going to the number of funerals I did in the late ’90s, and that is a big deal.”

Shannon worked for a decade with communities with HIV as

the Minority AIDS Coordinator of the Arizona Department of Health Services. She first interacted with patients with HIV and AIDS in the 1990s through AIDS Project Arizona.

Shannon said her initial work in the community made her see the importance of teaching others, spreading awareness about HIV and AIDS and helping to reduce the stigma of HIV and AIDS.

Shannon said that even within the LGBT community, gay men living with HIV can feel excluded and unwanted.

“The gay community around the country has been trying to remove itself from the virus, and they can’t do that. They need to stop. It creates their own stigma, and there are people living with the virus who are gay who feel they aren’t wanted within their own community, and that’s never ever OK,” Shannon said. “I hope the LGBTQ community really opens its arms again and realizes that HIV folks need them, that their only sense of family shouldn’t just be other folks who have HIV.”

In an annual effort to raise awareness and unite communi-

ty, a walk and candlelight vigil is scheduled to take place in central Phoenix on World AIDS Day. The event will pay tribute to those who have lost their lives and provide an opportunity for attendees to share their own personal stories or experiences or make others aware of issues impacting people with the virus and disease, Shannon said.

Members of community organizations such as the Joshua Tree Feeding Program, Aunt Rita’s, the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS and Phoenix Pride have come together to organize the event, but it is ultimately community-driven.

The walk leading up to the vigil starts at the new Phoenix Pride LGBT Center, stops at the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS and ends at Margaret T. Hance Park, the proposed future site of an AIDS memorial. **E**

VITAL STATISTICS

Phoenix AIDS Candlelight Vigil

6 p.m. Dec. 1

Meet at Phoenix Pride LGBT Center, 801 N. Second Ave., Phoenix
Ends at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. Third St., Phoenix
phoenixaidsandlelightvigil.org

TAKE IT ONLINE

For more World AIDS Day events in Phoenix and Tucson, visit EchoMag.com/world-aids-day.

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Divorce Equality

Marriage equality eliminates “legal limbo” for couples seeking a split

By Megan Wadding

When Arizona’s anti-same-sex marriage amendment was ruled unconstitutional, not only did same-sex marriage become legal in the 31st state, but so did same-sex divorce.

Prior to Oct. 17, if a same-sex couple had been legally married in state that recognized their union, they would have rendered themselves unable to divorce anywhere except the state in which they had originally married. This left many once-married couples stuck in a legal limbo.

“If a person was married to someone they are no longer with, or a couple wants to undo their marriage, the moment the marriage was legally recognized in Arizona, they [now have] the same right as anyone else to get a divorce,” said Claudia D. Work, an attorney with the Campbell Law Group in Phoenix who specializes in family law.

In effect, marriage equality means divorce equality.

“Arizona does not treat marriages that occurred out of state any differently than marriages entered into in Arizona,” Work said. “If you followed the marriage law in the other state or country, then you are married in Arizona and entitled to a divorce.”

Carlos Inostroza, a social worker who has lived in Phoenix

for more than a decade, represents half of one such couple. Inostroza married his long-time partner in Massachusetts once same-sex marriage became legal in the state in 2004. Together, they moved to Arizona to be close to family, although their marriage was not recognized here.

After 13 years together, Inostroza and his husband separated and would quickly find out that divorcing would be tricky.

“I looked into [filing for divorce] and was told it was not possible,” Inostroza said. “At the time, the only way to [get divorced] was that one of us [would have] had to move back [to Massachusetts] to establish residency for one year before being able to apply for a divorce.”

Because neither Inostroza nor his (then) husband could move back to Massachusetts just to fulfill the state’s residency requirement to file for divorce and they had to put off getting divorced until the laws changed.

If the marriage is not recognized, neither is the petition for divorce.

Inostroza said that being able to divorce legally was always one of his biggest reasons for hoping that the same-sex marriage ban would be overturned in Arizona.

“I think this only shows how important equality for all is,”

he said. “We are all the same [and] we should be allowed to marry who we love, but also be able to divorce and have all the legal and financial protections from the law.”

Still, same-sex couples may find some situational legal hurdles.

“Divorce proceedings should remain substantially the same,”

said Cody L. Hayes, Hayes Esquire PLLC family law attorney in Phoenix and founder of the Arizona Center for Divorce Education. “Same-sex couples may encounter additional legal issues, [such as] confirming that both spouses are legal parents of the children, for example, but the process is the same.”

Work emphasized the significance of domestic partnerships and civil unions, too.

“Some of the complications LGBT couples will face are if they entered into a domestic partnership or civil union with each other or someone else before or during this marriage, all of which must be properly dissolved before you are free to marry again,” Work said. “Expe-



“I think this only shows how important equality for all is.”

– Carlos Inostroza

rienced legal advice or representation may be necessary to ensure that you are protected.”

Both Hayes and Work encourage couples to seek legal counsel prior to filing for dissolution. Hayes also recommends looking into nuptial agreements to protect assets, whether prenuptial or postnuptial, for which he runs a free monthly seminar (visit hayesesquire.com for more information).

“Now we have marriage equality ... and we can participate in the divorce system with all of the heartache and expense that comes of it,” Work said. “The old joke ‘let gay people marry so they can be miserable like the rest of us’ has come true.”

26th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival of Life

Nov. 8 at the Tuscon Chinese Cultural Center.

Photos by Kym Jones

For more photos of this event
visit echomag.com/gallery.



FASHIONED IN AMERICA

Phoenix Art Museum exhibit takes a closer look at domestic apparel production

By Laura Latzko

For American designers who choose to operate within the United States, manufacturing has its own set of challenges, moral issues and processes.

“Fashioned in America,” an exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum through March 15, is presented in tandem with director James Belzer’s related film, *Make It In America: Empowering Global Fashion*.

Together the exhibit and the film explore how the U.S. manufacturing industry drives and influences established and emerging designers, including openly gay designer Ralph Rucci.

The New York-based designer has produced his brand of luxurious, artistic, architectural and minimalist women’s fashions for more than two decades under the label Chado Ralph Rucci.

Dennita Sewell, Phoenix Art Museum’s curator of fashion design, said a number of the designers, including Rucci, Wes Gordon, Nanette Lepore, Anna Sui and Yeohlee Teng, appear in both the film and exhibition.

The film and exhibit explore the dynamics of the U.S. manufacturing industry, including incu-

bator programs that help designers to get established, the role of factories that produce U.S.-made designs and the collaborative process of American-based designers and manufacturers.

For the duration of the “Fashioned in America” exhibit, a shortened version of Belzer’s film will be showing on a loop, and the museum will screen the full version Jan. 2.

Initially the focus of Belzer’s documentary was on the garment districts, but he found that factories and designers in other parts of the country, including Los Angeles and Miami, faced similar challenges with operating in the U.S.

Through this project, Belzer said he hopes to raise consciousness and gain support for local manufacturing by providing a behind-the-scenes look at the work that goes on in factories that support and sus-

tain the American fashion industry.

“A lot of people don’t think about what they buy or where it is made, so the whole goal was to explain that there’s an economy and people’s livelihood connected to these factories,” Belzer said. “That’s the core mission of the film, to show the factories up and running and the people who work there.”

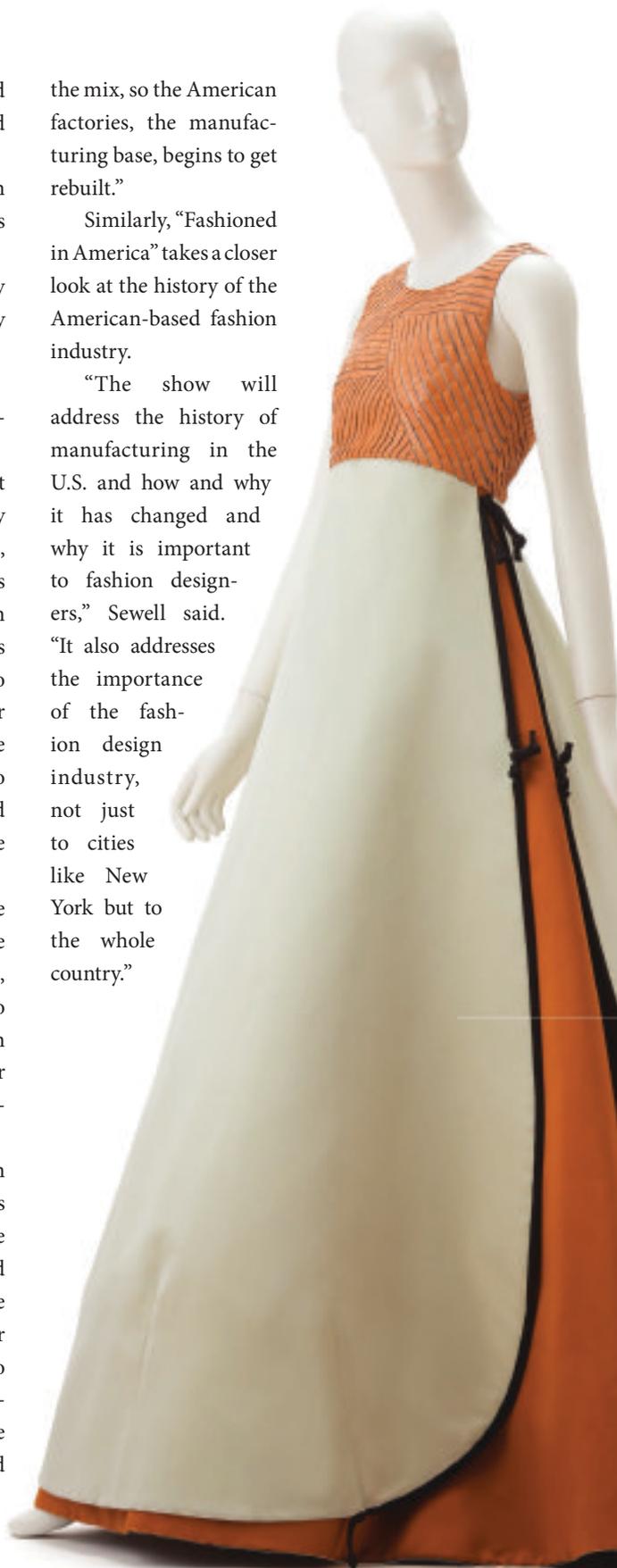
Belzer added that he isn’t trying to discourage global manufacturing, but instead he wants to help facilitate interest in related careers and foster growth of the U.S. manufacturing industry.

“The American fashion industry has built factories all over the world, and it helps build the economies of these other countries,” Belzer said. “We don’t want to tell people to stop manufacturing overseas. The goal is really to rebuild our factories. It’s more about adding to

the mix, so the American factories, the manufacturing base, begins to get rebuilt.”

Similarly, “Fashioned in America” takes a closer look at the history of the American-based fashion industry.

“The show will address the history of manufacturing in the U.S. and how and why it has changed and why it is important to fashion designers,” Sewell said. “It also addresses the importance of the fashion design industry, not just to cities like New York but to the whole country.”



VITAL STATISTICS

“Fashioned in America”

Through March 15
Phoenix Art Museum
1625 N. Central Ave.,
Phoenix
Admission: Adults, \$15;
seniors, \$12, students
with ID, \$10; children 6-17,
\$6; children under 5 and
museum members, free.
602-257-1880
phxart.org

In the 1960s, around 95 percent of clothing in the U.S. was made in the New York Garment Center. Today, only around 3 percent of the country's clothing comes from the area. Sewell added that the film and exhibition raise questions about how and why designers produce in the U.S. today.

"I'm hoping people will leave the gallery with a raised consciousness of the considerations that go into making clothing, and the vast support system that is needed to produce garments," Sewell said.

In coordinating the exhibition, Sewell worked closely with designers to obtain pieces reflecting their individual styles and diversity. As a result, the museum features more than 40 ensembles and accessories from well-known and emerging designers from different parts of the U.S., including The Elder Statesman founder Greg Chait, an LA-based designer originally from Phoenix.

"We have tremendous talent and creativity in the U.S., and I wanted to show the different points of view and the strength of our designing and manufacturing capabilities," Sewell said.

For the duration of the exhibition, the museum will run special programming, including a visit from The Elder Statesman designer Greg Chait Dec. 13 and the "Made in America" symposium Jan. 17. 

Chado Ralph Rucci (American, born 1957), "Motherwell" Infanta Gown, Spring 2005. Alligator leather on silk tulle, duchess silk satin. Gift of Chado Ralph Rucci in honor of the Museum's 50th Anniversary.

Photo by Ken Howie



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Magical Traditions

You're invited to Community Church of Hope's annual holiday celebration

By Kara J. Philp

No matter how you celebrate this time of year, you likely have a tradition or two that's stuck with you through the years.

Whether it involves an undying appreciation of the festive aesthetics the season has come to be known for or simply the chosen family you wine and dine with year after year, traditions make this season magical — just ask Patrick Stout, Community Church of Hope's pastor and entertainer extraordinaire.

For the fourth year the community is invited to CCH's annual holiday show: *Magical Traditions*. According to Stout, this year's show, set for Dec. 5 and open to everyone, will differ slightly than the

variety-style shows he put on in previous years.

"This year will feature just me on the piano sharing Christmas music, memories and fun," he said. "The evening will be all about Christmas ... It might even be called 'A Christmas Evening on Steroids!'"

And Stout has a wide variety of songs and stories to share.

"This year's concert will be a sharing of my Christmas journeys and experiences growing up," he said. "It will also be a time that the audience will be brought into the sharing as I ask them to share their favorite gifts they've received (or did not receive) and some of their own Christmas traditions that are funny or sentimental. There will be time for tears and laughter."

Stout will be joined by a few special guest performers and ask for audience participation during sing-a-longs, holiday readings as well as a few surprises.

"Ruth Carter will be performing my very favorite Christmas song of all time, Santa is making an appearance," he said, "and a special reading of the story, *Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus* will be shared by Robbyne Archuleta."

"This is definitely a night of entertainment, reflection and fun," he said. "This is not a 'religious' church service. This will be a great way to share those warm and cozy feelings about Christmas and get the audience in the mood to get their decorating and shopping started hopefully with a new excited attitude about Christmas this year."

Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase holiday wreaths and centerpieces, made by community members and businesses, and all proceeds benefit the church.

"CCH is solely funded by attendees, fundraisers and our community," he said. "This money will go to keep the

church alive and available for the community."

Additionally, CCH will host Christmas Eve services at 7 and 9 p.m. on Dec. 24. Following the services at the church, Stout will make his annual trek to Charlie's at midnight for another candlelight service. Everyone is welcome at all three services.

"This also allows the attendees at the church and members of the community see me in a different light than as the 'preacher' that they see on Sunday mornings and at special events during the year," he said. "The performances always open the door for people to visit with friends who might not otherwise visit the church [for] Sunday morning services. It's a great time to laugh, cry and let it all loose as we share our hearts, music and fun. This is also a great way to raise needed funds to continue to be available for our community." 

VITAL STATISTICS

Magical Traditions

7 p.m. Dec. 5

Community Church of Hope
4121 N. Seventh Ave., Phoenix,

Tickets: \$15

communitychurchofhope.com

Certified Local Fall Festival presented by Local First

Nov. 8 at Portland Parkway in Downtown Phoenix.
Photos by Fernando Hernández

For more photos of this event
visit echomag.com/gallery.



Pay It Forward



Local community welcomes donations and volunteers as the season of giving begins

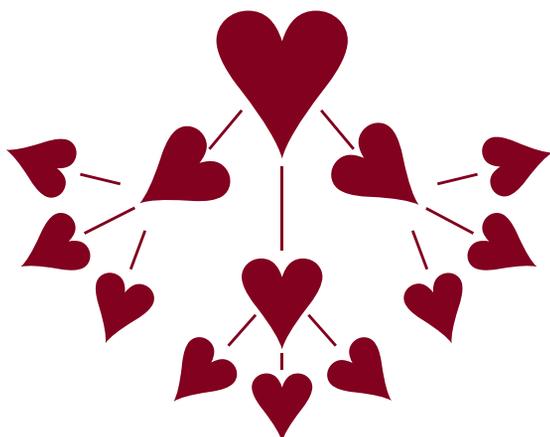
By Desi Rubio

The holiday season is upon, and that means the hustle and bustle of the retail industry and the spirit of togetherness is, too.

For some community members this means culinary masterpieces and time spent surrounded by loved ones, but for others the festivities and merriment that accompany this time of year underscore an ever-present void or need.

The season of giving does not have to be limited to Black Friday shopping and white elephant gift exchanges. From meals and time to gifts and clothing, donations — big or small — are an important way to pay it forward.

Because *need* comes in many shapes and sizes within our diverse community, a wide variety of local organizations exist to address it. Whether you're interested in volunteering your time or simply regifting that sweater from your in-laws, here are a few groups and organizations that will be inviting volunteers to unite and pay it forward in the coming weeks.



♥ Affirmation Gratitude and Service Gathering, **Nov. 22**

As a part of the annual Affirmation Gratitude and Service Gathering, Phoenix-area LGBTQ Mormons, families, friends and guests will share in thankfulness and socializing by conducting a beautification project from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Phoenix one n ten youth center (2700 N. Third St. #2011) as well as a local park. Following the community service, all are welcome join in on a Thanksgiving dinner from 4 to 7:30 p.m. — main dish provided with potluck sides — at William Barnhardt Art Studio (506 N. Center St., downtown Mesa).

For more information, email trevorcook@affirmation.org or to RSVP, visit Phoenix Area Affirmation Gratitude and Service Gathering on Facebook.

affirmation.org/event/gratitude-service-gathering-phoenix-az.

♥ The Eighth Annual Super Saturday Turkey Drive, **Nov. 22**

As part of its yearly Super Saturday Turkey Drive, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance will be set up at various food bank locations as well as 15 Albertsons locations throughout the Valley, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., accepting nonperishable food donations in hopes of meeting what St. Mary's is anticipating to be "an unprecedented need for the 2014 holiday season." This is the largest annual event St. Mary's hosts and last year's donations totaled 100,000 holiday food boxes for families in need. All donors are invited to register for a chance to win one of two \$500 US Airways cash value gift cards on the day of the event. For a list of locations where donations will be accepted, visit firstfoodbank.org.

♥ Thanksgiving Food Box Delivery, **Nov. 22 and 27**

From the cost of one meal (\$1.92) to volunteer opportunities, Phoenix Rescue Mission has many a variety of ways in which community members can help it reach its goal of providing 78,000 Thanksgiving meals. Volunteers are also welcome to assemble food boxes and deliver them to Valley families in need from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Nov. 22. And, on Thanksgiving Day, volunteers are invited to put together sack meals for the mission's community kitchen from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteer are asked to fill out a volunteer application, contact the volunteer hotline at 602-346-3363 or email volunteer@phoenixrescuemission.org in advance. Visit phoenixrescuemission.org for more information.

♥ Rebel & Divine UCC's Undie Drive

In support of Rebel & Divine UCC's annual Christmas Day new shoe and underwear gift giveaway for LGBTQ at-risk and homeless youth and young adults, the community is invited to donate underwear, bras, binders and socks and shoes for youth ages 14 to 24 each Sunday night from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 917 E. Sheridan St. in Phoenix. Additionally, Kobalt is hosting its third annual Undie Run Nov. 28 and underwear donations can be dropped off at the bar (and used to decorate the tree). For more information, visit rebeldivineucc.org or look for the "3rd Annual Undie Run — Fundraiser For Homeless & At Risk LGBTQ Youth" event on Facebook.

♥ #HashtagLunchbag, **Nov. 23** and **Dec. 28**

On the fourth Sunday of every month The Change Society hosts #HashtagLunchbag – a movement dedicated to utilizing social media to bring awareness to and eliminate hunger in local communities – from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sky Lounge (132 E Washington St.) in Phoenix. Together, volunteers prepare brown paper sack lunches for the homeless. Items such as sandwiches, fruit, toiletries and letters are placed in the bags and distributed to homeless youths and adults. For more information on donations or volunteering, visit hashtaglunchbag.com.

♥ Community Fall Feast, **Nov. 26**

As a small way of say thank you to the community for all its support, one n ten is opening its doors to everyone of all ages for a festive celebration and fall feast – served by the Phoenix Storm rugby team – beginning at 5 p.m. at the Phoenix youth center (3660 N. Third St.). The following day (Thursday) the Phoenix youth center will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and everyone is invited for leftovers and movies. For more information about making donations to one n ten, call the admin office at 602-400-2601 or visit onenten.org/donation-of-goods.

♥ The Third Annual Low Rider Car Show and Toy Drive, **Dec. 7**

This annual car show isn't just about showcasing the latest low rider trends, it's about uniting culture and charity. Event sponsors – Barrio Café, Mercer Mortuary, PHX Cab and Viejitos Car Club Arizona – are asking guests to bring new, unwrapped toys, which will be donated, to the Children's Crisis Nursery just before Christmas. The gathering, which will include raffles, Mexican food and a DJ, will begin at 11 a.m. on 16th Street, south of Thomas Road in Phoenix, where low-riders will be stuffed with toys and cruise Calle 16. For more information, visit facebook.com/ViejitosCarClubArizona.

♥ The Third Annual Reindeer Hustle:

Making Wishes Come True Fun Run & 5K, **Dec. 13**

For the third year, the Reindeer Hustle: Making Wishes Come True Fun Run & 5K is raising money for children during the holiday season. As participants register for the race, proceeds will benefit New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc. (NHYH), a nonprofit agency that specializes in a residential group home and outpatient clinic program, and be used to provide gifts to children in Phoenix. The race begins at 10 a.m. at Kiwanis Park in Tempe and fees range from \$15 to \$25 (prices go up Dec. 1). To register or to sponsor a youth, visit nhyh.org.

♥ Shoebox Ministries, through **Dec. 14**

This year the Community Church of Hope is supporting Shoebox Ministries with such donations as socks, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes and other personal hygiene items for distribution at one of the Valley's homeless agencies or shelters. Donations are welcome at the Community Church of Hope (4121 N. Seventh Ave., Phoenix) with or without a shoebox; however, empty shoeboxes are also a requested item. For more information, visit communitychurchofhope.com or shooboxministry.org.

♥ Winter Wonderland Gift Drive, **Dec. 13** and **20**

Phoenix Rescue Mission is hosting a Winter Wonderland Gift Drive and is welcoming all volunteers and donations needed. Donations of unwrapped toys as well as household and personal care items are due to the Phoenix Rescue Mission warehouse (1801 S. 35th Ave) by Dec. 13 and volunteers are needed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 20 as parents and children visit the warehouse to select and wrap gifts for each other.

Volunteer are asked to fill out a volunteer application, contact the volunteer hotline at 602-346-3363 or email volunteer@phoenixrescuemission.org in advance. Visit phoenixrescuemission.org for more information.

♥ Queermas: Adopt-A-Diva, through **Dec. 21** and **Dec. 25**

At various locations throughout Phoenix, one n ten event organizers will post holiday trees, decorated with tags bearing gift requests for Valley youth, ages 14 to 24. Anyone interested in donating is welcomed to pull a tag and make a holiday wish come true by dropping gifts off at the Phoenix one n ten administration office (2700 N. Third St. #2011) by Dec. 21. For specific tree locations, visit onenten.org/queermas.

Additionally, one n ten invites community members of all ages to its annual Queermas party from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Phoenix youth center (3660 N. Third St.) on Christmas Day. Food will be served and the youth will receive their gift donations. To volunteer at the Queermas party or for more information about making donations to one n ten, call the admin office at 602-400-2601 or visit onenten.org/donation-of-goods.

'TIS THE SEASON

Share your food or clothing drive, holiday event or volunteer opportunity with our readers at EchoMag.com/community-calendar.

Compete Sports Diversity Awards

Nov. 15 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tempe
Photos by Fernando Hernandez

For more photos of this event
visit echomag.com/gallery.



Phoenix AIDS 2014 Candlelight Vigil

Remembering the Lives Lost due to HIV and AIDS

Dec 1st
6pm

Meet at the Phoenix Pride
LGBT Center and walk
to the location of proposed
AIDS Memorial at
Margaret T. Hance Park.

801 N. 2nd Ave

phoenixaidsCandlelightvigil.org





Photo courtesy of Voices of the Desert

Voices of the Desert — Arizona's only diverse choir consisting of straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual and allied members — presents *Afternoon Delights*, a concert fundraiser to benefit the 2014-2015 performance season. Tickets include a lively blend of music and performance and a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception. The event will also include a silent auction, raffle and a chance to win a complete Thanksgiving dinner.

Voices of the Desert present Afternoon Delights

7 p.m. Nov. 23
Phoenix Center for the Arts
1202 N. Third St.
Tickets: \$20-\$25; 602-753-6005
voicesofthedesert.org

EVENTS: NOV. 20 - DEC. 3

• Nov. 21: The monthly **LG-BTQ Consortium** general meeting will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at Phoenix Pride LGBT Center, 801 N. Second Ave., Phoenix. lgbtconsortium.com.

• Nov. 21 and 28: The **Lesbian Social Network** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Phoenix Pride LGBT Center, 801 N. Second Ave, Phoenix. phoenixpridelgbtcenter.org.

• Nov. 22: Sun Devil Athletics present **Equality Night Out**, as Arizona State University hosts the Washington State Cougars, at Sun Devil Stadium, 500 E. Veterans Way, Tempe. For a link and promotional code tickets purchases, visit echomag.com/community-calendar-event/asu.



• Nov. 22: SWAY Events presents the fourth annual **SWAGGER Awards** beginning at 7 p.m. at DOMUS, 4445 N. 36th St. in Phoenix. swayevents.com.



• Nov. 22: Human Rights Campaign presents the third annual **COOK Phoenix** at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. Third St., Phoenix. cookphoenix.org.

• Nov. 23: Phoenix's annual **Transgender Day of Remembrance** gathering will take place at 5 p.m. on the lawn of the Arizona State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix.

• Nov. 25 and Dec. 2: **Men's Discussion Group** at 7 p.m. at the Phoenix Pride LGBT Center, 801 N. Second Ave., Phoenix. phoenixpridelgbtcenter.org

• Nov. 26: The **LGBTQ Consortium's Safe Out meeting** general meeting will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at TERROS Central Office, 3303 N. Central Ave., #200, Phoenix. lgbtconsortium.com.

• Nov. 26: one n ten is opening its doors to everyone of all ages for a **festive celebration and fall feast** beginning at 5 p.m. at the Phoenix youth center, 3660 N. Third St. The following day (Thursday) the Phoenix youth center will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and everyone is invited for leftovers and movies. oneten.org.

• Nov. 26 and Dec. 3: **Coffee & Conversation for Older LGBT Adults** meets for coffee, conversation and board games from 10 a.m. to noon at the Phoenix Pride LGBT Center, 801 N. Second Ave., Phoenix. phoenixpridelgbtcenter.org.

• Nov. 27: Rebel & Divine UCC is hosting a **Thanksgiving Feast** for homeless and at-risk youth and young adults from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Rebel & Divine UCC, 917 E. Sheridan St., Phoenix. facebook.com/RebelAndDivineUCC.

• Nov. 28: Kobalt is hosting its **third annual Undie Run** in support of Rebel & Divine UCC's Undie Drive for Underwear donations can be dropped off at the bar (and used to decorate the tree). rebeldivineucc.org.

• Dec. 1: The procession for the **Phoenix AIDS Candlelight Vigil** will meet at Phoenix Pride LGBT Center, 801 N. Second Ave. at 6 p.m. and continue on to the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS before ending at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. Third St. phoenixaidsandlelightvigil.org. (See story, page 16.)

LOOKING AHEAD

• Dec. 5: Community Church of Hope presents **Magical Traditions**, beginning at 7 p.m. Community Church of Hope, 4121 N. Seventh Ave. in Phoenix. communitychurchofhope.com (See story, page 22.)

• Dec. 6-21: Center Dance Ensemble presents **Frances Smith Cohen's Snow Queen** at the Herberger Theatre Center's Stage West, 222 E. Monroe St. in Phoenix. herbergertheater.org.

• Dec. 19: Arizona Ballroom Champions present its first **Student Showcase** beginning at 7 p.m. at Apollo's Ballroom, 3002 N. Arizona Ave. Ste. 10, in Chandler. 480-442-9188. azballroomchampions.com. (See story, page 34.)



• Through Dec. 21: Participate in **Queermas: Adopt-A-Diva** program by pulling a gift requests for Valley youth off a one n ten holiday trees. Gift donations can be dropped off at one n ten's administration office, 2700 N. Third St. #2011, Phoenix. For specific tree locations, visit oneten.org/queermas.

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All Other People's Money Over the Map

By
Liz Massey



The documentary *I Am Divine*, was partially crowdfunded with an IndieGoGo campaign.

Liz Massey is a writer and editor who lives in Glendale. She has been involved in LGBT community-building activities in Kansas City and the Valley of the Sun, and is a former managing editor of *Echo Magazine*. She can be reached at lizmassey68@gmail.com.

ONE of the great lies told by those who resist LGBT equality, and American social reform movements in general, is that the legal and social “playing field” on which we live our lives is already level. Those of us who are LGBT are well aware this is not the case.

Social inequality is often expressed through dollars and cents and is reinforced by discriminatory laws. Our financial well-being has been threatened by a lack of inclusion in federal employment discrimination laws; by inheritance laws that, before the *Windsor* case in 2013, kept us from accessing our spouse’s assets after death without paying a heavy tax penalty; and by

prejudicial grant allocation, which keeps funds away from artists and social reformers doing great work, simply because the granting agency does not like the fact that the grant-seeker is openly gay or trans.

Our civil equality movement is working hard at the ballot box and in the courts to erase the financial “punishment” that often results from coming out. Another way in which this discrepancy is being addressed is through new funding strategies that subvert the old order of things.

Crowdfunding, in particular, holds great promise as a way to make everyone — LGBT people included — less dependent on the approval and favor of the “one percent,” and more trusting of the generosity and camaraderie of the 99 percent.

Crowdfunding has its origins in activities as old as rent parties and passing the hat to support a friend. Throughout the past decade, it’s become very big busi-

ness: Crowdfunding platforms financed \$2.7 billion in projects in 2012, and are poised to surpass the size of the current global investment market by 2025.

Two of the most popular funding platforms in the United States — Kickstarter and IndieGoGo — provide cash for creative projects, but the concept is being used to fund civic initiatives through sites like Neighbor.ly, and to provide loans to people wanting to convert their residences and buildings to solar power through the Mosaic platform.

LGBT projects are everywhere on crowdfunding sites. Director Jerry Schwarz was able to partially fund his documentary of Harris Glenn Milstead, *I Am Divine*, with an IndieGoGo campaign that netted more than \$38,000. Queer-themed films, children’s books, even dance performances with gay themes have been the subject of recent crowdfunding initiatives.

Traditionally, during the last two months of the year, there is a heavy emphasis on giving. We’re encouraged to think beyond the narrow confines of our personal lives and interests and reach out to help others.

For LGBT persons and their allies, getting involved with crowdfunding, either as one seeking funding or as someone seeking to give money to a good cause, is a great chance to “pay it forward.”

Here are just a few reasons why crowdfunding could build a better LGBT community if we embraced it wholeheartedly.

• **It cuts through institutional bias.**

Although we’ve made progress in making corporations, nonprofits and government institutions more friendly to LGBT needs and projects, much work remains to be done. Crowdfunding circumvents prejudice and takes the seeker’s proposal directly to those most likely to be supportive of it.

• **It allows seekers to “test” new ideas.**

Not every project idea will gain popular traction, no matter how good it sounds in theory. Since it costs very little to set up a crowdfunding campaign, it’s easy for a seeker to set up several proposals and see which one attracts the greatest interest and the most cash.

• **It connects queer artists/entrepreneurs/social reformers directly with their audience.**

Before an artist, business or organization can claim to have “raving fans,” it needs to know the needs of

those fans on an intimate level. Creating incentive items for donors (including one-on-one time with them or other individualized treats) can help the seeker understand what their supporters want and need from *them*.

• *It promotes a feeling of togetherness and empowerment.*

It's great to have experts picking the stocks in your retirement portfolio, but when you invest/donate money through a crowdfunding campaign, there's a delicious sense of clarity that comes from knowing

“When you invest/donate money through a crowdfunding campaign, there's a delicious sense of clarity that comes from knowing exactly what you're helping to create.”

exactly what you're helping to create. And those conducting a crowdfunding campaign can feel the sense of empowerment that comes from knowing they can find support from ordinary people all around them.

Crowdfunding is a great way for us to create an appealing LGBT future in which we want to live. While we're making significant strides in restructuring mainstream society to allow LGBT people to access the funding they need to achieve their dreams, we don't have to wait for our full legal equality to make important projects happen.

As the old saying goes, “You get what you pay for.”

If we aren't willing to invest in bringing about a queer-friendly culture that provides the books, arts, music, clothes and social services that meet our unique needs, how can we expect anyone else to do the same? **e**

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Coming Out

After years writing for the LGBT community, it's time for my headline

Searching for Common Sense

By
Bruce Christian

WHEN Apple CEO Tim Cook disclosed his sexual orientation “publicly” in a *Bloomberg* column a couple weeks back, the story received HUGE headlines globally. Yet, just about everyone in the corporate, political and media world already knew about his sexual orientation.

Where was the story?

I suppose the story did take some people by surprise, however. Like those who asked, “Who is Tim Cook?” when they first heard or read the story.

Believe me, I don't want to diminish the importance of Cook's coming out, especially because of the weight it may carry for pushing passage of the

feel we have to proclaim it to the rest of the world.

Covering media when former Arizona Rep. James Kolbe and former Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano came out, I understand why that was news. First, it was in the mid-1990s, before the age of society's LGBT enlightenment. They were elected officials who were serving successfully in high political offices. Because politics are ugly and opponents were threatening to out them, each decided to get ahead of the story and come out on his own terms. Each was praised for his action, and each won re-election after coming out.

Prior to their coming out, reporters would write around the suggestions and innuendo. After Kolbe and Giuliano acknowledged their orientation, reporters automatically always threw in the caveat: “openly gay.”

I never got the chance to come out on my own terms. I was outed by a woman I was dating. She felt scorned, so she decided to get revenge. Of course, I shouldn't have been dating her in the first place. I always knew the relationship would go nowhere. I used her to provide cover for who I really was, and that was selfish of me.

Sure I felt betrayed when she announced to the newsroom that we weren't going together anymore because I told her I was gay. But imagine how she must have felt the



Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). However, public statements of being gay or lesbian just don't seem to have the oomph they once had.

As one friend said to me: “Everyone is gay, they just don't know it yet.”

Well, that's not true, but Cook's life, before coming out, was a perfect example of the kind of life I've always believed LGBT people should be able to live. In the column he wrote for *Bloomberg*, he said: “Throughout my professional life, I've tried to maintain a basic level of privacy. I come from humble roots, and I don't seek to draw attention to myself.”

It seems to me the majority of LGBT people fit that description. Few of us want our sexual orientation to be how people define us. Few of us want to hide who we are, but we also don't necessarily

night I told her, after the many nights we had spent together in her bed.

Every LGBT individual should have the right to control his or her coming out — just as Kolbe, Giuliano and Cook did. All of them admit the people close to them already knew, and their orientation didn't make a difference. That really seems to be a universal truth. Sometimes the only reason we don't come out is the fear of losing a friend or a job, when in reality, coming out often strengthens friendships and enlightens work colleagues.

With that in mind, it's time for me to come out on my own terms. So after all these years writing for *Echo*, I want my headline. I want all *Echo* readers to know I'm gay and I'm proud.

There I said it. Now, where is CNN?

Bruce Christian is a former managing editor of *Echo Magazine*. He can be reached at btrethewy@yahoo.com.

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The Romance *of* DANCE

By Laura Latzko

Arizona Ballroom
Champions open
new studio, invite
LGBT couples to hit
the dance floor



Dance Fever:
Chrissy Coble
(left) John
Holzworth, Iliana
Gonzalez and
Shawn Nerdahl.

Your hands and hips touch, your eyes lock and your body heat begins to rise as you and your dance partner intimately glide across the ballroom floor in perfect unison.

Forget dinner and a movie, ballroom dancing is one of the most romantic activities a couple can experience together.

“When you dance, a true intimacy develops,” said John Holzworth, instructor at Arizona Ballroom Champions (ABC). “It is very electric when someone you have feelings for takes you in their arms and moves you around the dance floor.”

While ballroom dancing has typically been a hetero-centric activity, ABC has set out to change that by reaching out to and embracing the LGBT community.

“Basically we want to share this amazing activity with everyone,” Holzworth said. “We are ready to break down those barriers and let everyone experience this type if dancing.”

In the not so distant past, Holzworth recalls, same-sex couples would have to learn how to dance during off hours or a separate room.

“That is all changing and we want everyone to be comfortable to come and learn,” he said. “[Our community] typically missed out on dancing with a partner of the same sex. We went to prom and homecoming with someone of the opposite sex. We didn’t get to experience what it’s like to slow dance with our partner. We want to change that. We want everyone to have that experience.”

EASY AS ABC

After more than eight months of planning and preparation, ABC formally opened Oct. 10 inside Apollo’s Ballroom in Chandler. The studio is the culmination of the passion, experience and friendship of five instructors — Holzworth, Shawn Nerdahl, James Weathers, Iliana Gonzalez and Chrissy Coble — who all consider themselves “lifers” when it comes to dancing professionally.

“Between the five of us, we have close to 40 years experience of dancing and teaching,” Holzworth said, adding that the unique blend of personalities and learning styles helps perfectly pair up students and instructors.

“The passion of dance, the passion of teaching and the

passion of inspiring is something that is deep within us,” Holzworth said. “Not only do we believe that learning how to dance can be a life-changing event, we all have had dance profoundly change our lives. We love to share the ‘secret’ of dancing with everyone, and it shows through our work.”

According to Holzworth, ABC’s five instructors — all of whom worked together at Chandler’s Fred Astaire dance studio — have formed a pseudo family throughout the years, so opening a studio together made sense.

“I CAN SEE WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO FIX IN THEIR LIVES JUST BY TALKING TO THEM. SO, I HELP THEM WITH DANCING [TO] REALIZE WHAT THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL IS.”

— SHAWN NERDAHL

“We’re a very dynamic group of people, which made us the top professionals in the Valley through Fred Astaire,” Holzworth said. “Everyone has such as dynamic trait they bring to the team, so if you talk about who does what, we are all equal in what we do, but everyone brings a different trait to the table.”

The instructors have each danced competitively in various categories of ballroom dance and have won in countless state competitions individually.

Nerdahl, who has been dancing for eight years, has danced in two of the winning pairs for Sway’s annual Dancing with the Bars competition and still he continues to take two lessons a week to continually improve and grow in his profession.

CHOREOGRAPHING A FAMILY

But beyond all the technique perfecting and award winning,

this team of instructors is family at the core.

“A few years ago, we started having a ‘family’ dinner night once a week,” Holzworth said. “We knew we had to stick together if we wanted to be truly successful [and] our friendship is what makes us special and unique from other companies. This was our dream, and we are quickly making it a reality.”

The family concept has already carried over to ABC’s students, a dynamic Holzworth simply describes as amazing.

“From our students to the

staff, you always feel like you are at home when you come into our studio,” Holzworth said. “Every student that walks through our doors remembers what it was like to be a beginner, and they will help new students feel comfortable while they are going through those first couple weeks of dancing.”

The friendships our students create with each other, as well as with us, contribute to the overall supportive and successful atmosphere, he added.

“Every student that has taken lessons with us has mentioned about the ‘magical’ chemistry that is between the five owners, and they want to be around that ‘magic,’ Holzworth said.

Though the studio has only been open a month, the team has already seen significant signs of success.

“We have had a lot of really big opportunities come our way, most of which are still in

the negotiations phase, so I can’t announce them just yet,” Holzworth said. “Our goal is to become a steady figure within the LGBT community.”

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Holzworth said the ABC instructors have proven they can help people who’ve never danced in their lives into competitive dancers with hard work.

Because each of the instructors overcame their own shyness or fear at some point in their

dance careers, Holzworth said they’re better equipped to help students through any obstacles standing between them and the dance floor.

Nerdahl, a former go-go dancer, said growing up as a shy kid has helped him relate to more introverted students. And, as an instructor, he works with students on self-confidence, self-acceptance and intimacy issues.

See Dance, page 36

VITAL STATISTICS

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DANCE LIKE EVERYONE'S WATCHING

At every wedding there are a certain number of memorable and traditional elements you can count on – vows, flowers, toasts and cake, for example. And now that same-sex wedding bells are ringing all over our great state, the instructors of Arizona Ballroom Champions have one message: Don't forget the dance.

"The first dance is one of the most important parts of a wedding," said John Holzworth, ABC instructor. "The dance represents the first time you are announced as a couple, and now that gay marriage is a thing in Arizona its significance is huge."

ABC's five instructors – three of whom identify as gay – want to give LGBT couples the opportunity to have the same romantic experience of dancing together as straight couples.

"There's just something special and magical about dancing with someone that you have even the slightest feeling for," said Shawn Nerdahl, ABC instructor. "There's just something different about holding on to somebody, looking them into the eyes and leading or following them around the dance floor."

Both instructors agree that dancing can take a relationship to an entirely new level – and what better way to kick off a marriage?

"One thing that has been proven time and again, when the gays move in, they make things bigger and better," Holzworth said. "So I can't wait to see all of the amazing same-sex wedding dances. We are on the verge of seeing this trend, and it really makes us happy."

Additionally, Holzworth said that same-sex couples have so many possibilities on the dance floor, such as switching up who leads and who follows.

In an effort to become more accessible by the LGBT community, and to support Arizona's future brides and grooms, **ABC is offering free 45-minute wedding consultations to any interested Echo readers.** The session will introduce couples to a few basics steps and include a conversation about their dream wedding routine.

"I had been ballroom dancing for years before I tried it with someone I had feelings for, and WOW was it different," Holzworth said. "I finally got it. I knew why all the couples I had taught were addicted to it. It was electric, kind of like your first real kiss. The time and money you spend to learn how to dance will be totally worth it."

Whether couples simply want to learn to dance or has aspirations of putting together a choreographed number, the studio has different packages to accommodate any wedding day.



Photo by Fernando Hernández

John Holzworth (left) and Shawn Nerdahl are instructors at Arizona Ballroom Champions.

"[When] people can relate to where you came from, they are more inclined to listen to you," she said. "I can really make my students feel very comfortable and safe in my hands,"

Coble said that because her students have witnessed her growth as a dancer and instructor throughout the past three years, she's better able

Dance, from page 35

"One of the big things I believe in is dancing is a very healing thing to do, and it changes your life on a very grand scale," Nerdahl said. "I can see what people need to fix in their lives just by talking to them. So, I help them with dancing [to] realize what their true potential is."

Similarly, Coble, a single mom who started doing ballroom dancing almost three years ago under the tutelage of Holzworth, said dance has helped her to open up, become more expressive and turn her life around.

"I used to be very cold and short with people all the time and just mean. I didn't really want interaction with people. I was very shy and super nervous and introvert," Coble said. "Dancing really brought me out of that and fast. After that, I wanted to hug everybody and talk to everybody."

Coble said that as a teacher, she can empathize with situations others are in and always tries to be a positive force for her students.

to show them what they are capable of accomplishing.

"I got to feel so empowered through dance that I want to give other people that same feeling," Coble said. "We change lives. It changed mine, and I know we can give them the same gift."

ABC instructors offer beginner group classes for anyone who's never done ballroom all the way up to advanced classes for competitive dancers. Students, who have ranged in age from 6 to 105, can also take private lessons from the instructors.

Every Friday, the instructors expose students to different styles of dance during their weekly practice parties. But, on Dec. 19, the studio will host its first student showcase with performances from dancers at all different levels, as well as instructors.

Holzworth and Nerdahl share the goal of getting people who don't traditionally do ballroom dancing, including members of the LGBT community, more interested in this intimate style of dance.

"This is something I'd like for more LGBT couples to experience," Nerdahl. "It's a whole another level of intimacy." 

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A Faith-Fueled Fight

Spiritual principles undergird
couple's decision to press
Arizona marriage lawsuit

By Liz Massey

Joe Connolly and Terry Pochert are a Valley couple whose legal 2008 California marriage formed the cornerstone for one of the two cases that brought marriage equality to Arizona on Oct. 17.

Their marriage is now considered valid in the eyes of Arizona's laws, and the lawsuit for which they were the lead plaintiffs (*Connolly vs. Jeanes*) was based on secular arguments.

But to hear Connolly and Pochert tell it, their decision to take a stand for equal relationship recognition is one deeply rooted in their faith and supported by their faith community.

"This lawsuit has been a grassroots, faith-based effort," Connolly said, adding that, for them, the legal proceedings centered on experiences related to their church, University Lutheran Church in Tempe.

As it turns out, attorney Shawn Aiken has also attended the church, and some of the earliest efforts to recruit additional plaintiffs relied on current or past church affiliations.

IN THE BEGINNING

The couple's California wedding, on July 4, 2008, was the culmination of years of commitment. They originally met in 1995 in Michigan, where both of them held jobs in the media industry.

They quickly fell in love and moved to Arizona in 1998 after Pochert retired to work on various business projects. When California began offering same-sex marriage in June 2008, Connolly and Pochert jumped at the chance to obtain legal recognition for their bond. At the time, marriage equality in Arizona seemed light years away.

"We wish we could have been the first couple in Arizona to legally marry,"

Pochert said. “But we wanted to seal our relationship as soon as possible.”

The couple was pleased that they had been able to marry during the four-month window in which same-sex marriages were being legally performed in California — before the passage of Proposition 8.

When that marriage-blocking initiative was invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2013, and their marriage was once again clearly recognized, at least in one state, the two began discussing what they could do to push marriage forward in the Grand Canyon State.

ACTION IN ARIZONA

“We’re a couple that’s just lived our lives,” Pochert said. “We’re not activists. But after the Supreme Court decisions, we began talking to each other, saying, ‘What can we do to help?’”

Their motivation was further stoked by their friendship with a same-sex couple at University Lutheran, who each had a child from a previous relationship and became parents to another child.

They had mentored the children of this couple, and after the court’s decision, they realized how vulnerable the family was, since only one member of the couple could legally be considered the parent for each of the children.

After looking into a few other options, Connolly and Pochert turned to church acquaintance Aiken, hoping he could recommend an attorney willing to represent them in the lawsuit. To their surprise, Aiken

told them he’d take the case himself. The suit, with its four initial plaintiffs, was originally filed on Jan. 6, 2014. Several more plaintiffs were added shortly thereafter, and the suit was re-filed in February.

Aiken said that he agreed to take the suit, in part, because he was looking for a significant, interesting case to work on, and because the outcome could potentially impact so many same-sex couples in Arizona. He also said he agreed to represent Connolly and Pochert because he knew they had the commitment to see the legal proceedings through to the end.

“Joe and Terry (and all of the plaintiffs) agreed to give up the last shred of their privacy in service of this lawsuit and other Arizonans,” Aiken said. “Their strength and patience led to the unwavering commitment needed to see this through. Others may not have withstood the pressure or scrutiny brought on by the case.”

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Religion — Connolly’s and Pochert’s, specifically — played a key role in their decision to invest themselves in an action as public as a lawsuit.

They originally sought to include a “freedom of religion” argument for marriage equality in their case, along with the Constitutionally based equal-protection and full-faith-and-credit arguments that eventually prevailed.

“When we started, I wanted the suit to be about religious freedom,” Connolly explained. “We were planning on using the arguments advanced in *Windsor* (the federal case that dismantled a large portion of the Defense of Marriage Act), but they were preventing us from marrying within our faith.”

University Lutheran is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a denomination that affirmed in 2009 that its clergy may officiate same-sex marriage ceremonies. But not all religious groups are so open minded, they’d learn.

“We were very upset that the state of Arizona hired attorneys from the Alliance Defending Freedom, an ultra-right religious organization, to defend the suit,” Pochert said. “They didn’t represent *our* faith in the least.”

THE STATE OF THE UNIONS

One of the aspects that made Arizona’s marriage equality court battle unique was that Connolly and Pochert’s suit was not merged with a similar suit in the state that had been filed by the Lambda Legal team (*Majors vs. Jeanes*, formerly

Majors vs. Horne).

However, attorneys from both cases met and had friendly interactions throughout the time when their cases were being decided.

Connolly said that he and Pochert had not met any of the other plaintiffs in their suit until a week after their case was filed, and didn’t get a chance to meet some of them until the ruling was handed down last month. But, he said, the couple felt they had a connection with all of the LGBT persons represented in both cases.

“It’s amazing that 33 people came together in two lawsuits to fight for marriage in Arizona,” he said. “All of them had compelling stories, and had a good mix of similarities and unique situations.”

See A Faith-Fueled Fight, page 40



Attorney Shawn Aiken represented Connolly and Pochert in their suit.

“We’re a couple that’s just lived our lives. We’re not activists. But after the Supreme Court decisions, we began talking to each other, saying, ‘What can we do to help?’”

— Terry Pochert

The couple said that they have been “overwhelmed” by the positive response that has come their way in the aftermath of the ruling.

Connolly, who started a new technical writing job the day the lawsuit was initially filed, said that his boss had been understanding about the legal process and that he had received almost 100 percent positive feedback from those in his workplace who recognized his name in news reports on the ruling.

THE NEXT STEPS

Despite the joy and celebration that followed their court case’s role in bringing marriage equality to Arizona, Connolly and Pochert are adamant that the battle for LGBT equality isn’t over, citing employment,

education and adoption laws as three areas where laws need to be changed in order to ensure people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are treated fairly.

As a first step, Connolly and Pochert are working with others to develop a marriage enrichment course for same-sex couples at their church and hope to play a role in facilitating discussions in churches about LGBT relationships.

Connolly credited a relationship-enrichment class that he and Pochert attended at Faith Lutheran Church in central Phoenix when they first moved to the Valley with helping them enjoy their long and happy relationship.

“Pastor Richard ‘Dick’ Staats and his wife, Linda, gave us the tools to manage our relationship, including the tough spots,” he said. “That’s a real gift. Our



Dotting i's: Making things official at the couple's California wedding.

hope is that every same-sex couple gets that chance.”

Pochert noted that Rev. Staats (now retired) provided a good example for believers in how he treated the couple more than a decade ago — one that could be helpful for faith communities welcoming newly married same-sex couples into their midst now.

“Pastor Dick would wait

for us both to get to the communion rail before serving us. That tiny little statement to Joe and I was so powerful,” he said. “As we go into the future, watching the words that we use, the way we shake hands, matters — we can speed along healing with these small gestures of respect to same-sex couples.”



My favorite quote is from J.R.R. Tolkien “Little by little, one travels far.”

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Photos by Fernando Hernandez

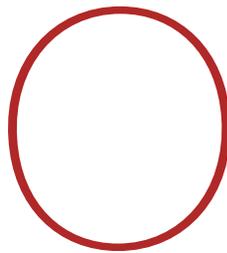
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There's No Place Like Home

Go behind the scenes of Mulligan's Manor for a glimpse at Arizona's onlyGBTQA group home



On one of my first visits to Arizona's only group home forGBTQA youth, I walk through the front door full of journalistic swagger. But not long after stepping inside the comfy south Tempe residence, it's painfully clear this isn't going to be about digging up facts so much as not looking away.

The truth, as it turns out, is a thing equally beautiful and painfully excruciating, yet brimming with hope.

I hunched down on the floor of the sunken den, shoulder-to-shoulder with three of the teenage boys parked in front of a widescreen TV playing Halo on the house video game system. My arrival produces less fanfare than I expected. Somebody casually steers me to the den, introduces me, and then after my *hey-kids-I'm-a-writer* spiel one of them perks up and asks, "So... do you play Xbox?"

Like all the boys I eventually meet at Mulligan's Manor, the lanky blonde is more wary than shy, and exudes a world-weariness that belies his young age. He offers me a controller and quick rundown of the endless moves you have to do.

Quietly, my confidence wanes.

After about a half an hour, it's obvious I totally suck. Each time I get killed our progress stops for the other three players to revive my character. And each time the rescuer seems to be the kid sitting next to me, a burly teenager with longish jet-black hair and dark, soulful eyes. He half turns from the TV, and in a low murmur says, "Don't worry, dude. I'll save you."



MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

Established in 2011, Mulligan's Manor is Arizona's only group home, and one of few in the country, caring for youth ages 12 to 17 who identify as gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning or allies.

That's GBTQA without an L because state rules prohibit male and female residents living together in group homes. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Mulligan's Manor only houses up to eight residents at any given time, and despite having fewer resources than most for-profit group homes common in the Arizona system, provides a level of care that exceeds state requirements.

Residents can rely on "house parents" available 24 hours a day for help with things like homework or personal issues, or just for one of the hugs exchanged so freely.

But with that support comes personal accountability, as Mulligan's Manor seeks to lay a foundation for successful lives after their kids age out of the child welfare system at 18.

Yet Mulligan's Manor tends to exist on a shoestring budget: Their 2013 filing with the Internal Revenue Service shows the group home operated at nearly a \$22,000 loss that year. To make ends meet, they rely on charitable giving or, when things get really tight, staff members dig into their own pockets, charge credit cards or refinance mortgages.

Jenny Diaz, co-founder and executive director, offered up her own house to start the group home. For Diaz, a licensed social worker, Mulligan's Manor is a full-time job, seven days a week, between 10 and 15 hours a day.

"My entire retirement fund and much of my husband's have gone to establishing and maintaining the manor. That's just financial," Diaz explains. "My husband has spent the last two-and-a-half years building our foundation with hard work and learning how to handle the social service system."

Diaz takes home a biweekly paycheck of \$1.83 after taxes. It's just a token sum to comply with state rules.

"At times it is the most fulfilling job ever, and other times it is the most challenging," she said. "Each boy is as lovable as the next in their own way, and every one of them has experienced pain beyond belief that they need help overcoming."

FAMILY VALUES

Tonight for dinner, Diaz has whipped up a batch of taco pies. The residents shuffle into the dining room and take seats around a large table where they eat together each night.

Before we dig in, everyone takes a turn sharing highlights of their days. As our meal winds down, one of the youth remains engaged in the after-dinner conversation.



He's a tall, handsome and very open about being transgender. He recently transferred here from a large, for-profit group home that houses hundreds of kids in a boarding school-type setting.

This young man seems proud of his time there, and shows off a broken wristwatch he earned for taking a leadership role. Somewhat vaguely, perhaps deliberately, he also describes a history of getting harassed and bullied for his identity. He never says exactly what brought him to Mulligan's Manor.

Another kid, a jaded teen who perpetually wears earphones and keeps to himself, notes he just stays plugged into his music ignores what's happening around him.

"Yeah, like living in a bubble," he agrees.

Youth land in group homes when circumstances usually involving abuse or neglect by parents lead a judge to place them in the care of the Arizona Department of Child Safety. DCS then looks to house the youth in, according to agency reports, one of about 3,500 group homes licensed by the state.

NUMBERS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Group homes range in size from a handful to hundreds of residents. The state negotiates a set amount with each group home for each kid.

There are more than 14,000 Arizona children in foster care, according to an August 2013 DCS report. Overseeing this population — about the size

"Each boy is as lovable as the next in their own way, and every one of them has experienced pain beyond belief that they need help overcoming."

— Jenny Diaz

See Home, page 44



Mulligan's Manor executive director Jenny Diaz.

“If they [legislators] had a 12- to 17-year-old, and we said, ‘Here, gimme your kid, and let’s put them in the system for 90 to 120 days.’ Let’s see what you think, I bet you they’d change all the rules.”

— Chuck Hawkins

Home, from page 43

of Payson, Ariz. — is an agency reorganized from the beleaguered Child Protective Services.

CPS was formally abolished by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer amid a fracas that included reports of failing to investigate some 6,500 child abuse cases. Brewer’s executive order, signed in January 2014 notes, “...the current Arizona child welfare system is broken and is not meeting expectations of prior reform efforts and it is time for significant reform.”

As children meander through this broken system,GBTQA kids typically find themselves at Mulligan’s Manor after problems fitting in at other group homes, or if a particularly diligent or intuitive caseworker provides a proactive nudge in this direction.

There are no official numbers measuring the population served by Mulligan’s Manor, while broader statistics and some basic assumptions suggest a need that is enormously underserved.

According to a 2013 Gallup poll, 3.9 percent of adults in Arizona self-identify as LGBT. Meanwhile, reports such as a 2006 study by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute suggest that figure jumps as high as 40 percent among homeless youth throughout the United States.

So by janky logic, there might be 550 to 5,600 LGBT youth in the system on any given year. And with state rules forcing a choice between sexes, the only group home than can provide a safe place for the boys is turning out its pockets to house eight of them at once.

It’s a dilemma that consumes Chuck Hawkins, Mulligan’s Manor co-founder, CEO and husband of Executive Director Jenny Diaz.

LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

Before he started the group home with his wife, Hawkins was a successful businessman and entrepreneur. He also frequently mentions his military service, but tends

to steer discussions away from that topic. Sometimes when he talks about the kids, Hawkins will abruptly pause, look away and weep silently into his hand.

Today, his life is dedicated to advocating for kids in danger of falling through cracks in the state’s child welfare and court systems. With his no-bullshit demeanor, it’s not surprising Hawkins has been held in contempt of court — twice, so far — for letting his outspokenness get out of hand during proceedings.

“So, what, you’re going to put me in jail and send me to live in a tent?” Hawkins once tells me. “Okay, fine. I already lived in worse places than that.”

As for his long days hopping around agency offices and courtrooms, managing operations at the house, and taking phone calls at all hours on the earpiece he’s always wearing, Hawkins doesn’t get a cent.

One day I find Hawkins in the kitchen with the dark-eyed kid who saved me from the zombies. Hawkins barely acknowledges me; he’s focused on showing the kid how to iron shirts, military style. His pupil is patient and attentive, though, even when Hawkins instructs him to re-iron a few and make sure they all hang neatly with sleeves folded in the same direction, just like soldiers do.

It’s tense at the house today. Even the kids seem worried. One of them has gone missing during a visit to his parents after he was caught with drugs, and then fled to avoid consequences. His safety now, wherever he might be, is an obvious concern. But the incident also puts Mulligan’s Manor in a difficult position: The group home can only hold the young man’s bed vacant for seven days before another resident takes his place, and he must again be processed through the system.

Hawkins’ take on the whole mess seems less about a broken system, though, and more like he’s looking for someone, anyone to confront.

“It’s amazing to me that the legislature can give themselves a raise ... So where’s that money coming from that’s going into their pockets? I just don’t understand,” Hawkins says. “I would go without to give to these kids, and that’s the part that doesn’t ... doesn’t make sense to me. If they had a 12- to 17-year-old, and we said, ‘Here, gimme your kid, and let’s put them in the system for 90 to 120 days.’ Let’s see what you think, I bet you they’d change all the rules.”

ONE DAY AT A TIME

The young man who fled, I later learn, didn’t return in time and had to be placed at another group home.

On one of my last visits to Mulligan’s Manor, the place is a flurry of activity as kids get home from school and percolate through the house looking

for ways to stay entertained until dinner. One of them, a confident, athletic type, seems to be having a crappy day.

First, he's hungry, noting he didn't eat lunch at school because he was distracted by extracurricular activities. Then, his Xbox privileges got yanked because teachers reported that, while he was a satisfactory student, it's obvious he's only been trying hard enough to get by.

As he sits with his face in hands while Hawkins explains the big picture — accountability — the kid frequently interrupts with a teenaged sigh followed by, "Oh my *gaaaaaahd!*"

Beyond ensuring kids do their best in school, Mulligan's Manor also requires them to do chores around the house and maintain progress in areas including cooperation, respect and morality. Whiteboards posted in the kitchen track how they're doing.

Along with all the stuff that already totally sucks to a teenager comes a lot of the things most of us would take for granted — such as group outings, a swimming pool, even snacks — but they roll into providing a better quality of life. For example, last fall everyone went camping.

Among the campers was Shannon O'Connor, the



daughter of Jenny Diaz and a full-time staff member at Mulligan's Manor. For O'Connor, it seemed natural to assume boys would be familiar with the great outdoors and wouldn't need a girl to demonstrate baiting a fishing hook and casting lines.

"Silly me just assumed teenage boys would know how to do that," she remembers. "Instead, I had to rely on what my dad taught me when I was a kid to pass along to these boys instead of their fathers."

"Every one of these kids deserve and want a forever home, whether that means returning to their families or being adopted. But most wouldn't know what to do or how to prep themselves for that new reality after everything they've been through."

"Our goal is to complete that circle." ■

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Bobby-Q

In the same spot that housed the old Bobby McGee's, which was best known for staff who served and entertained while wearing costumes bearing a likeness to comic book, movie, TV, or well-known historical and contemporary personalities, Bobby-Q opened in 2005.

It was early on a Sunday evening when my partner and I decided to check out what Bobby-Q had to offer. Although it is quite visible when headed south on the I-17 just north of Dunlap Avenue, it took a few twists and turns to finally find the parking lot.

The vintage neon signs and weather-worn wood added charm to the outside, as did the wafting, smoky aromas that clued us in that we were indeed headed into a great barbecue smokehouse.

The hostess advised us there would be a 20-minute wait, or we could take a seat at the bar, which also served a full menu. We chose to take the second option and ordered a couple of ultimate house margaritas (\$9) and the Cajun shrimp (\$12) appetizer.

Shortly thereafter, the Cajun shrimp arrived. One half dozen plump crustaceans submersed in a buttery beer bath, with garlic bread strips for dipping. There was just enough heat that built up as we enjoyed the shrimp and discussed how to narrow our dinner options from the many menu offerings.

The burgers and sandwiches were tempting. Pulled pork (\$11) and sliced barbecue brisket (\$11) had both been smoked over Tennessee hickory wood for 18 hours and included one side dish.

Side dishes run the gamut of smokehouse favorites, including mac and cheese, shoestring potatoes, ranch beans, pecan coleslaw, potato salad, roasted corn, mashed potatoes, grilled vegetables and loaded baked potatoes. Guests may also order sautéed mushrooms, sautéed onions or a combination of the two (\$4) a la carte.

We were here for a big Sunday night

dinner and my partner was primed for some prime rib. Here, prime rib roasts are avail-

able after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday. There are several different ways to get the succulent slow roasted treat, including the 10-ounce cut (\$22) and the 14-ounce cut (\$27).

Under the winning combination section, touted as "big enough to share," guests can pair an 8-ounce cut of prime rib with either a half a smoked and roasted chicken, an 8-ounce top sirloin or even the 8-ounce prime rib with five jumbo shrimp with a chimichurri topping.

Chimichurri is a green sauce originally from Argentina and is used much like pesto for grilled meats and fish. It is based on finely chopped parsley, minced garlic, olive oil, oregano and white or red wine vinegar.

All of these combos come with one baked potato and two sides (\$33).

Since I had my mind made up on having some ribs that evening, the combo platters were not given much thought other than to take note for a future visit. That being said, the wood-fired barbeque platter options included so many varieties I found it difficult to pick one.

There are three types of smoked ribs here, baby back pork (half, \$20; full, \$26), St. Louis, also referred to as spareribs (half, \$19; full, \$26), which tend to be more marbled with fat than the previous, and also jumbo Texas beef ribs (\$25). Other choices include smoked sliced beef brisket (\$17), pulled pork (\$15) and spicy smoked hot link Sausages (\$14).

Just to make things more fun for everyone, there are numerous combinations under this header, such as two types of ribs (\$26), two meats (\$22), three meats (\$25) with two sides each or the whole hog heaven (\$44) with two rib choices, three meats and



Cajun shrimp appetizer (top), 14 oz. Prime Rib, and a two-rib combo with baby back and jumbo Texas beef ribs.

three sides that will certainly put anyone in quite the carnivore quandary.

Fresh cornbread, complimented by whipped butter, accompanies all meals, and arrives warm and moist. My partner ordered the ranch house salad (\$5.50). Although it was a basic house salad, it seemed to fit the style and price point of the establishment.

My partner selected the 14-ounce prime rib (medium-rare, at my insistence) with mashed potatoes and the ranch beans. The cut was cooked beautifully. Hints of rosemary and other savory herbs could be detected with each bite stood out. The mashed potatoes were whipped to a surprising creami-

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ness and the ranch beans were chock-full of bits of flavorful meat.

I chose the two-rib combo with baby back and jumbo Texas beef ribs. The pork fell off the bones and was seasoned so perfectly that I didn't need any of the three barbecue sauce offerings. I was impressed

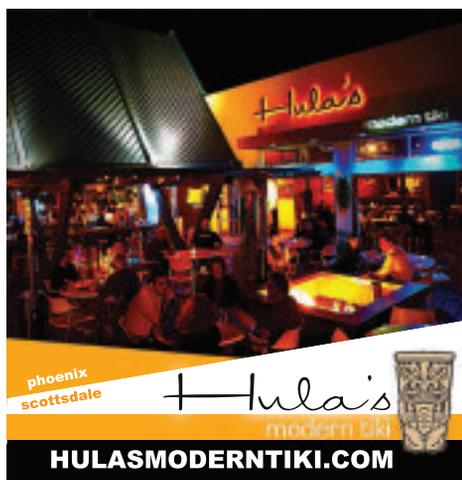


with the beef ribs; they were not as greasy as I was expecting. My sides included the mac and cheese, which I found to be rather generic and the pecan coleslaw, which was balanced just right between salty and sweet. The crushed pecans added a pleasant texture.

If you have the foresight to save room for dessert, enticing options are available. Sub-zero banana cream square, fresh seasonal cobbler, death by chocolate and Miss McGee's mud pie are each priced and six and a half bucks ... sadly, we were too replete to even consider taking one home.

Planning a get-together? From delivery service to catering, Bobby-Q provides a lip smackin' good time for you and your guests Valley-wide, including servers, chefs, serving dishes, buffet tables, linens, and, of course, delicious barbecue. **e**

Mark Ogle is a graduate of the Scottsdale Culinary Institute who has experience working in Valley restaurants.



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The Third One

Available on home video Nov. 18



Being praised both for its originality and naturalism, this film from Argentina opens with the chat room discussions between a college student and a gay couple in their 40s. Ultimately they meet for a sexual encounter that will change the way the 22-year-old loves. With a lot of genuinely sexy scenes, this film, directed by Rodrigo Guerrero and co-starring Carlos Echevarria (*Solo*), also boasts a 10-minute dinner conversation (meandering into *My Dinner With André* territory), but it ultimately addresses the possibility of threesome relationship in a believable way.

The Overnighters

In theaters Nov. 28 | PG-13 | 102 minutes



This documentary captures how thousands of people showed up in a small North Dakota town hoping for six-figure salaries during a domestic oil boom, and wound up without any work, or even a place to stay. When local Pastor Jay Reinke allows the unemployed folks to sleep in his house of worship, members of the neighborhood and many folks in the congregation dislike the arrangement. Ultimately, it's revealed that one guy is hiding his sexual orientation from the world and family while professing to be a true Christian, a level of deception that seems strikingly un-Christian.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1

In theaters Nov. 21 | R | 123 minutes



Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) has shattered the games forever. Now, with help from her friends, she must fight for a new nation with a new leader, President Coin (Julianne Moore). But she also may have to help Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), whose allegiance would seem to be in question. If you somehow missed *Catching Fire*, it's on Netflix, so you've got time to catch up for this third installment, co-starring Elizabeth Banks (who identifies her character Effie as gay), Liam Hemsworth, Jeffrey Wright (*Basquiat*) and Philip Seymour Hoffman, who died during the filming of *Part 2*.

Four Moons

Available on home video Dec. 2 | 110 minutes



The Mexican film *Cuatro Lunas* features four different tales, each set at a different stage in life. These four unique stories follow an 11-year-old boy trying to hide his secret feelings for a male cousin; a love connection blossoming between two young men who were friends as kids; a longtime relationship between two gay men being threatened by another guy; and a gay senior citizen scrounging up some cash so he can splurge on a young male hustler he's been eyeing. Directed by Sergio Tovar Velarde, this movie has also picked up a few film festival nominations.

Hans Pedersen is a freelance writer based in Phoenix.

Corpus Christi: Creating Community On Stage

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

What if Jesus were a gay man living in Texas? *Corpus Christi: Playing With Redemption*, a documentary by James Brandon and Nic Arnzen, offers one possible answer.

Following a troupe of gay and gay friendly actors, playwright Terrence McNally and audiences across the U.S. and around the world as they embark on a five-year journey of the passion play, the film not only captures the hate and love they encounter along the way, but also the bonds they form with each other.

As the acclaim for their little production grows, film viewers get to see bits and pieces of the play and this band of hearty thespians speak on camera (as themselves) about such issues as marriage equality, HIV, civil rights, gay rights and racism.

Filmmaker James Brandon, who also stars in *Corpus Christi*, spoke with *Echo* about this “journey of a lifetime.”

Echo: Did you ever consider filming the play instead of making this documentary?

Brandon: The play itself is such a visceral theatrical experience, it would be hard to fully capture on film. We were only meant to do eight performances of the play when we revived it in a small church in North Hollywood in 2006. What we created as a family of actors through the visionary genius of our director Nic Arnzen was nothing short of theater magic.

The play was instantly recognized by audiences as a transformative and healing experience ... [and has become] a great catalyst of



A scene from the documentary *Corpus Christi: Playing With Redemption*.

growth emotionally and spiritually for everyone involved. The stories we were sharing with our audience after every performance organically led us to pick up a video camera and just start capturing this powerful and truly unique journey we found ourselves traveling.

Echo: What are you working on at the moment?

Brandon: Right now we are focusing on the I Am Love campaign [which] we created to deepen the dialogue. In each city we visit ... we will perform the play, screen the film, hold educational- and art-based workshops with our company and culminate in a town hall open forum with local LGBT, religious and community leaders to have a larger dialogue about the issues within the play that directly connect to the issues within the community.

Echo: Has the Corpus Christi cast stayed in contact?

Brandon: We still perform together eight years later. A true family was created from this experience like nothing any of us has ever experienced before. Although we don't perform the play as much as we used to, we all stay in touch and get together whenever we are called to do the play again.

It's a testament to what this play is all about, what playwright Terence McNally created, and what we all created together. We don't get paid for this experience, we just believe that strongly in the importance of this message of inclusive love for all people, and we are told over and over again how healing the experience was for an

audience member. It's hard to ignore that.

Echo: Tell us who James Brandon is.

Brandon: Growing up in St. Louis, I honestly didn't even know that being gay was a possibility. But I remember connecting all the dots when I had my first experience in high school with another guy and realizing why so many things didn't make sense to me. As I began coming out to myself, a resurgence of pain was brought to surface because of all the old tapes and stories I was told by my church that I was either “going to hell” or “just didn't belong.”

This turned me to years of self-destructive behaviors and patterns that could have ended my life, but actually allowed me to eventually see the light.

There were many people and places along the way that helped me see it, and I immersed myself in many forms of religious and spiritual practices to deepen my connection to self — from one extreme to the other — and over time I began forming my own family and community.

I know I was lucky and blessed. I had many friends at the time who were experiencing the same pain I was who are no longer with us. I keep their spirit alive with me everywhere I go, and it's exactly why I continue to do this show.

For more information on *Corpus Christi* and the I Am Love campaign, visit iamlove-campaign.org.

David-Elijah Nahmod is a freelance writer based in San Francisco who follows entertainment trends.

Old Dogs & New Tricks: 50 Is the New 50



The cast of *Old Dogs & New Tricks*: Curt Bonnem (left), Jeffrey Patrick Olson, David Pevsner and Leon Acord.

Since 2011, *Old Dogs & New Tricks* has been one of the web's more popular gay offerings. The "dramedy" follows the mad adventures of four gay men living in the enclave of West Hollywood California.

The series has amassed quite a following throughout its first two seasons (which are now available on DVD) and for season 3, which made its online debut Nov. 12, the guys have all turned 50 in a town where 30 is considered over the hill. Undaunted, they continue to look for love in all the wrong places, just like their younger counterparts.

"There has never been a show with gay men my age," said Leon Acord, show's creator, writer and co-star. "So I thought, let's write a show about people who talk the way people I know talk, who still have sex and are flawed."

As a result, *Old Dogs* has earned overwhelmingly positive, especially among many older gay men who say the show speaks to them. And, as the acclaim spread to mainstream Hollywood circles, the series attracted a star-studded list of celebrity guest cameos, including Kathryn Leigh Scott who is best known for her role as Maggie Evans on the classic TV series *Dark Shadows*.

"Kathryn Leigh Scott appears in our season 3 finale," Acord said. "She was such a pleasure to work with. She is so down to earth and a total pro. Her performance is amazing, so true and moving. I can't wait for folks to see it."

Scott plays Lily Anne, mom to Al "Muscles" Carter (Jeffrey Patrick Olson), who needs some motherly advice while going through a personal crisis.

As a *Dark Shadows* fan, Olson said working with Scott was a delight.

"The scenes with her were so real and tangible and show how we all turn back into little boys and girls, falling into family patterns once that threshold is crossed," Olson said. "I can't wait to see them."

This wasn't the first time the two actors met.

"We actually have a mutual friend and after the casting announcement we all went out on a double date in Beverly Hills for happy hour," Olson said. "She is elegant, poised and considerate. We formed a fast comfortability with each other which of course helped our onscreen relationship with each other as mother [and] son."

Other season 3 guest stars include Rutanya Alda, beloved by gay audiences for her role as Carol Ann in *Mommie Dearest*.

"I loved working on the set because everyone was so friendly and supportive," Alda said. "They were well organized and the crew had all worked together before so

they were all in sync. Leon wears many hats, as writer, actor and producer. He is supportive and happy to have people there — he was lovely to work with."

It's a mutual admiration society.

"Rutanya is amazing," Acord said. "Not only did she fly herself out and put herself up to do our show, but apparently she put a lot of work into her character before she even arrived. I think her fans will love seeing her in such a change-of-pace role."

Acord promised the third season, which also features comedy icon Mo'Nique, will delight viewers.

"If season two was a soufflé, season 3 is a rich, sweet pound cake," he said. "Episodes run a little longer. The season is very story driven, and delves into the guy's professional lives as well as their love lives."

Plot twists, including a sex tape scandal, a gay divorce, a surprisingly new partnership, a professional comeback and a financial crisis, will keep viewers coming back for more.

"I hate to use the word blessed, because it's used way too much," Acord said. "But that's exactly how I feel."

For past seasons, as well as new episodes of *Old Dogs & New Tricks*, visit odnt.tv. **E**

David-Elijah Nahmod is a freelance writer based in San Francisco who follows entertainment trends.

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THEATER BY RICHARD SCHULTZ

Wait Until Dark

Arizona Theatre Company

In a new stage adaptation of the classic 1966 Frederick Knott play, this ground-breaking thriller follows a blind Greenwich Village woman who finds herself in the middle of a con ... and a murder. The question that looms large is: "Who is in on it?"

Desperate and depraved thieves believe Susan Hendrix is in possession of their big score and set in motion a manipulative psychological war on her vulnerable state. That is, until Susan plunges herself and the audience into the dark in which she exists using it to her advantage.

Set in a new time and setting, *Wait Until Dark* is newly adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, and directed by Arizona Theatre Company's artistic director David Ira Goldstein. The action is moved from the mid-1960's to 1944 as America fought in World War II, heightening the stakes for all the characters and placing the story in a world that reflects associations with the terse, lean language of the period and the play of light and shadows of film noir.

"The play is about darkness and light — about the hidden and the seen — qualities we strongly associate with film noir and the classic Hollywood movies of that era," Goldstein said.



Photo by Tim Fuller

Ted Koch (left) and Brooke Parks in Arizona Theatre Company's *Wait Until Dark*.

Making their Arizona Theatre Company debuts are Craig Bockhorn as Carlino, Ted Koch as Roat, Brooke Parks as Susan, Peter Rini as Mike, Lauren Schaffel as Gloria and Remi Sandri as Sam.

Knott's play inspired a film and multiple Broadway productions earning Tony and Academy award nominations for many of the actors involved — including the film's star, Audrey Hepburn.

Richard Schultz is a playwright, actor, director and freelance writer based in Phoenix.

Mary Poppins

Phoenix Theatre

Everyone's favorite flying nanny lands in Downtown Phoenix and there's magic in the air. This Tony Award-winner for best musical wouldn't be complete without crowd favorites such as "Chim Chim Cher-ee," "A Spoonful of Sugar" and "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." (Yes, you may find it difficult *not* to sing along to these timeless songs made popular in the 1964 Disney film starring Oscar-winner Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke.)

Author P.L. Travers knew this special kind of magic and poured it all into her prodigious 1934 novel, *Mary Poppins*. Now, 80

years after this book first dazzled families, Phoenix Theatre brings this musical fantasy to the stage an enchanting mix of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breathtaking special effects and a message about hope, optimism and perseverance.

Its well-known plot follows rambunctious siblings Jane and Michael who have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family how to value each other again.

"My goal with *Mary Poppins* is to make the ordinary seem extraordinary," said Michael Barnard, the show's producing artistic director. "This show is all about the power of imagination and allowing yourself to see through the eyes of a child."

Trisha Hart Ditsworth stars in the title role with Toby Yatso as Bert, the lovable, tap-dancing chimney sweep. Look for show-stopping choreography by Sam Hay.



Photo courtesy of Phoenix Theatre

Tommy J and Sally

Black Theatre Troupe

A passionate debate about race relations is laid bare in this compelling drama by Mark Medoff, winner of the Tony Award for *Children of a Lesser God*.

Tommy J, a young African American man, forces his way into the Manhattan loft of Sally Hemmings, a famous white pop singer whose latest anthem is about racial harmony.

He insists her real name is Madeline Rosenberg, a girl shaped by her Jewish culture, who's since reinvented herself and taken on the name of Thomas Jefferson's black slave mistress. He also claims that, as

a teen in Phoenix, he was taken in by the Rosenberg family and watched her fledgling attempts at songwriting.

Janet Arnold, founder of the Arizona Jewish Theater Company, directs this powerful two-person production starring Roosevelt Watts and Sarah Chapman. **E**

VITAL STATISTICS

Wait Until Dark

Through Nov. 30
Arizona Theatre Company
Herberger Theater Center
222 E. Monroe, Phoenix
Tickets: \$36-\$67; 602-256-6995
arizonatheatre.org

Mary Poppins

Through Dec. 28
Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell Rd, Phoenix
Tickets: \$30-\$80; 602-254-2151
phoenixtheatre.com

Tommy J and Sally

Nov. 28-Dec. 14
Black Theatre Troupe
The Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center
1333 E. Washington St., Phoenix
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blacktheatretroupe.org

TAKE IT ONLINE

For a preview of *On Golden Pond*, which runs Nov. 28-Dec. 14 at Theatre Artists Studio, visit echomag.com/opening-nights-nov-20.



Kristin Chenoweth
Coming Home
Concord Records

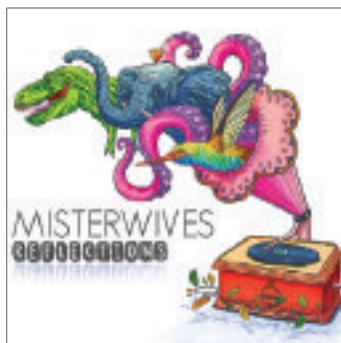


Kristin Chenoweth has graced the stage for years, but she's never graced us with a proper live album until now. Recorded in her hometown of Broken Arrow, Okla., (at the Kristin Chenoweth Theater, no less), this career-spanning collection of pop, folk and Broadway favorites crackles with the sparkling wit, good humor and boundless energy of her stage performances.

"I Could Have Danced All Night" starts it off, and truer words were never sung. Chenoweth offers up strong new versions of "For Good" and "Popular" from *Wicked*, and visits other Broadway showstoppers along the way, including "Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables* and "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again," from

Phantom of the Opera. It's not all show tunes, though; Chenoweth does a particularly lovely version of Dolly Parton's "Little Sparrow," digs back into the 19th century for Stephen Foster's "Hard Times Come Again No More" and digs out a totally left-field take on the Barbra Streisand/Donna Summer's disco duet "No More Tears (Enough Is Enough)."

If it seems like Chenoweth is bringing an extra layer of emotion here, she is. The entire performance was recorded in front of an audience that included family and lifelong friends, and that added resonance packs a wallop. The concert was also filmed for broadcast on PBS in late November as well as release on DVD.



Misterwives
Reflections EP

PhotoFinish Records



Misterwives' Mandy Lee's powerhouse voice will smack you around and make you like it. Lee and cohorts Etienne Bowler and Will Hehir make up the core of Misterwives (a play on "sisterwives"), and though they've been together only a little over a year, their indie pop/dance/ska sound has already earned them a substantial fan base. Their energetic and fun six-song debut, *Reflections*, is likely to build on that considerably.

The title track is an irresistible indie dance stomper, with Lee's soaring voice over a killer beat and (though, let's face it, a little bit incomprehensible) chorus. Better still, though, is "Kings and Queens," with Lee

spouting mile-a-minute staccato lyrics over gorgeous analog synth riffs and great rhythm breaks.

The EP showcases some nice downtempo material too, like the elegiac "Coffins" and the chanting, swirling "Imagination Infatuation." Lee, who studied songwriting and opera at a specialized performing arts school growing up, puts both skills to work, to great effect.

Misterwives' full-length album is in the works, but for now, with its joyous melodies and great vocals, *Reflections* is the perfect thing to keep the seasonal blues away.



Aretha Franklin
Sings The Great Diva Classics
RCA



She's the original Queen of Soul, but it's been a while since Aretha Franklin truly contended for the throne. Backed by some major-league talent, Franklin has returned to make her mark on a set of all-time classics originally made famous by other female divas, from Streisand to Beyoncé. The results are mixed: often surprising, sometimes great, and occasionally a little awkward, but they prove Franklin's still got the pipes — and the guts — to take on the world.

Produced by legendary music impresario Clive Davis, *Diva Classics* kicks off with a faithful reading of Etta James' "At Last," before Franklin digs in to a fierce, fiery take on Adele's "Rolling In The Deep." Aretha circa '72 would have crushed it, but Aretha at age

72 can't quite get it. Still, you have to admire the nerve, and a cool interpolation of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" adds bonus fun to the mix. That playfulness pays off again with a mashup of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" and Destiny's Child's "Survivor"

Perhaps most unusual is Franklin's cover of the Prince-penned Sinead O'Connor hit "Nothing Compares 2 U." Franklin swings it like a hot jazz number, frenetic and wild; surely his Royal Badness will be smiling. A legendary lifetime has taken its toll on her voice, but she's still got the power to work it, and with a playlist that would be at home in any diva's lineup, it's a welcome return from one of music's greatest voices. **e**

Cait Brennan is a singer/songwriter and freelance writer based in Phoenix.

BOOKS BY TERRY SCHLICHENMEYER

“You look great!” When you’re dieting, there are no sweeter words. Losing weight is work, sacrifice, and lots of self-control. For sure, it’s not for wimps.

But how much is too much? Can you shed your past while you shed pounds, too? In *My Thinning Years: Starving the Gay Within* by Jon Derek Croteau, you’ll read about gains and losses that have nothing to do with a scale.

From a very young age, Jon Derek Croteau feared his father; a salesman who traveled a lot. The man was loud, controlling, and abusive to the entire family, both physically and mentally.

Croteau remembers when he was small, and his father screamed at him for singing in front of family friends. When Croteau confessed to playing dress-up in preschool, his father withheld food. Years later, after the family moved from Ohio to the Boston area, Croteau’s father forced him into sports, vowing to “make ... a real man” of him.

Croteau fiercely hated sports but he played anyhow. He desperately wanted his father’s approval, and football, basketball, and baseball seemed the way to get it.

But the older Croteau got, the more relentless the abuse became. He started staying with friends as much as possible, avoiding his own home. By then, he’d “internalized” his father’s homophobia and, in doing so, began to fear his own feelings and his confusion about his sexuality. He prayed to God to deliver him from being gay. He developed an unrequited crush on his best guy friend.

Disgusted with himself, loathing his father but unable to stop trying

to win his love and approval, Croteau became depressed and, he said, “I started thinking about killing myself.”

He couldn’t, so he began running. When he realized that exercise and weight were things he could control, he ran even more. He cut fat from his diet entirely, then he avoided almost all foods and began to starve.

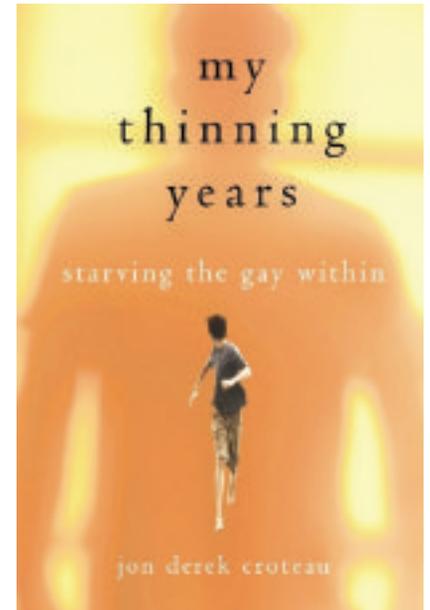
“I knew that my father would rather I be dead than be gay,” he said. “There was nothing I could do but obey the orders I was given, until I disintegrated into nothingness ... and no one was going to stop me.”

In his preface, Croteau (who obviously lived to tell the tale) said that he almost didn’t write this book, until he realized that it might inspire others to “let hope in” when faced with abuse for being gay.

For sure, victims who start this emotional rags-to-riches story will know they’re in the company of a kindred spirit because of what Croteau bravely shares.

Those heartbreaking recollections make this a hard book to read for anyone (including LGBT allies, who will be horrified). But at the same time, it’s also hard to turn away from the firm promise of triumph we’ll get in the end. “It gets better” was never more apt than here.

I think that if you’ve taken an anti-bullying stand, you will surely appreciate what’s inside this book. It may not exactly be a *pleasure-read*, but *My Thinning Years* is thick with meaning. **e**



*My Thinning Years:
Starving the Gay Within*
By Jon Derek Croteau
Hazelden, 2014 | \$14.95



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Terri Schlichenmeyer is a book reviewer based in Wisconsin.

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The Fine Print: When Is Marriage Not Enough?

MELISSA MYERS: So now that same-sex marriage is legal in Arizona, I am noticing that some couples I meet have been lulled into believing that marriage is going to resolve all their financial and legal problems.

MICHAEL TUCKER: I've noticed that sort of magical thinking from time to time myself.

MYERS: More than a few couples have let me know that now that they are married, their property is "protected."

TUCKER: At least they will have partial or complete intestate heirship if they are legally married to each other.

MYERS: I've been suggesting that the couples consult with their advisers as to the legal and financial effect of their marriage.

TUCKER: Wisely so. Folks tend to presume that the automatic effects of marriage are in complete alignment with the legal and financial results they want. That's not always the case.

MYERS: Give our readers an example.

TUCKER: Well, for example, if a couple gets married, they might both presume that their assets will automatically pass to each other by law even if they haven't signed any wills. That could be true if the spouse who dies first doesn't have children. But if the deceased spouse had children from a previous relationship, those children would typically be entitled to an intestate share of the estate.

MYERS: And the couple's Last

Wills and Testaments could change that result.

TUCKER: That's right. The same principle can work in reverse as well. Federal law gives a spouse special rights to inherit a 401(k) plan upon the employee spouse's death. Some folks are surprised to learn that marriage may restrict their ability to leave their 401(k) plan account balance to whomever they wish.

MYERS: How does Arizona community property law come into play here?

TUCKER: Fundamentally, community property law provides that all assets acquired and income earned during the marriage are owned one-half by each spouse.

MYERS: So that means that my spouse owns half of my paycheck?

TUCKER: Yes, and vice versa. The community is also obligated on joint debts contracted during the marriage, even in cases in which one spouse enters into a debt obligation without the other spouse even knowing about it.

MYERS: I've talked to a few couples that are counting on their marriage being legally recognized to protect their home if something should happen to one of them.

TUCKER: The analysis doesn't end with the mere fact that a couple's marriage is legally recognized. Also it matters how the property is titled and the survivor's responsibility for any mortgages on the property.



MYERS: So, in some ways, marriage simplifies life and provides automatic rights and benefits that are appealingly uncomplicated. But, in other ways, marriage can create results that the brides or the grooms didn't expect.

TUCKER: That's a good way of putting it. It gets more complicated for those couples that have minor children. The rights that each spouse has by virtue of the marriage do not line up precisely with the parental rights that each of them may enjoy or expect.

MYERS: Parents may find that Arizona law on parental rights has some catching up to do in ways that won't be resolved by marriage alone.

TUCKER: In the coming months, some couples will consider marrying due to a financial opportunity that is "for a limited time only." For example, if an employer terminates domestic partner health insurance coverage or if particular income tax

reduction planning techniques will be available only if the couple is married.

MYERS: It's important for couples to look at the big picture, legally and financially as well as emotionally and culturally, when making those choices.

TUCKER: Know what you're looking at. And have coffee before you get married. 

Melissa Myers is a certified financial planner with Camelback Retirement Planners, in Phoenix, a registered representative with Commonwealth Financial Network and a registered investment adviser.

Michael Tucker is an attorney with Michael Tucker, P.C., in Phoenix, and is a certified specialist in estate and law. For more information, see their ads in this issue.

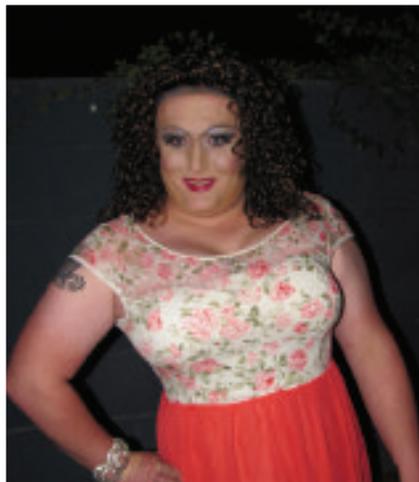
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Phoenix Metropolitan Men's Chorus Turnabout Show

Nov. 12 at The Rock.

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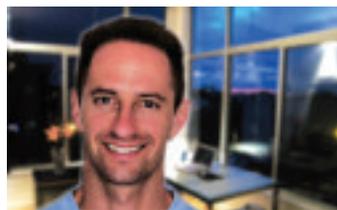
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3 BAR 1 3702 N. 16th St.	M, N, E 602-266-9001	17 OZ 1804 W. Bethany Home Road	MF, N 602-242-5114
4 BS WEST 7125 E. Fifth Ave., Scottsdale	M 480-945-9028	18 PLAZMA 1560 E. Osborn Road	MF, N 602-266-0477
5 BUNKHOUSE 4428 N. Seventh Ave.	M, N 602-200-9154	19 REBAR/BLISS 901 N. Fourth St.	MF, N, R 602-795-1792
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14 THE MIDNIGHT MINE 2237 N. Seventh St.	M, F 602-754-3121		

DAILY BAR SPECIALS & EVENTS



BUNKHOUSE		SEE AD P. 62				
\$1 drafts and HH prices all day and night	7 and 10 p.m.: Free-to-join poker. HH prices for participants. Winners get \$10 Bunkhouse bar tabs	7 and 10 p.m.: Free-to-join poker. HH prices for participants. Winners get \$10 Bunkhouse bar tabs	9 p.m. Karaoke	Underwear night: \$1 off all drinks if in skivvies!	8 p.m.-close: \$2.25 Miller family products	8 p.m.-close: \$2.25 Bud family products

CHARLIE'S		SEE AD P. 8				
Super HH 4-7 p.m., \$3 pitchers; \$3 Long Islands open to close	2-8 p.m. 2-for-1 well and domestic bottles, \$3 pitchers; 8 p.m.-close, 1/2 off cocktails and beer in underwear, \$3 Jack Daniels	2-8 p.m. 2-for-1 well and domestic bottles, \$3 pitchers; 2-for-1 cocktails and beer 8 p.m.-close	2-8 p.m. 2-for-1 well and domestic bottles, \$3 pitchers; \$3 Three Olives vodka flavors, 8 p.m.-close	2-8 p.m. 2-for-1 well and domestic bottles, \$3 pitchers; 2-for-1 cocktails and beer open-close	2-7 p.m. 2-for-1 well and domestics, \$3 pitchers; HH 7-9 p.m.; \$1 well and domestics, \$1 drafts 10 p.m.-midnight	Noon-7 p.m. 2-for-1 well and domestics; HH 7-9 p.m.; \$1 well and domestics, \$3 Absolut and Bacardi flavors 10 p.m.-midnight

KOBALT		SEE AD P. 65				
HH 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Bar Match Buy-In Dart Tourney 2 p.m.; 2-4-1 call drinks 7-8 p.m.; karaoke 9:30 p.m.	HH 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Drag Race viewing at 7 p.m.; \$4 Absolut cocktails	Karaoke 9:30 p.m.; HH open to close	HH 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Martinis & Massage 6 p.m.; \$5 Martinis, \$5 Bacardi flavors; Garden Variety Revue with Olivia Gardens 9 p.m.	HH 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Trivia Night w/cash prize 9 p.m.; \$4 Stoli cocktails 8 p.m. - midnight	The HH Hotspot \$3 signature cocktails, \$2.75 domestics, 2-4-1 call drinks; 10-11 p.m. video bar	HH 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Showtune night 7 p.m.-close; Taylor Made Show (every 1st Sat. at 9:30 p.m.)

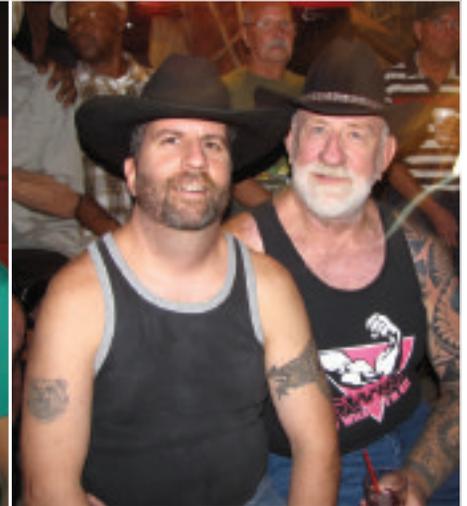
STACY'S @ MELROSE						
Sunday Funday, ALL DAY; \$1 draft pint and well drinks; \$3 monthly charity shots; live DJ, top 40 and dance, 4 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.-close; HH and \$3 monthly charity shots ALL DAY	HH, 4-8 p.m.; \$1 draft pint, \$3 monthly charity shots, \$4 Mojitos and Caipirinhas ALL DAY; live DJ	2-4-1 ALL DAY; \$3 monthly charity shots ALL DAY; live DJ, top 40 and dance	Thirsty Thursday; HH and \$1 draft pint, 4-8 p.m.; \$1 draft pint AND wells, 8 p.m.-midnight; live DJ, top 40 and dance, 8 p.m.-close	HH, 4-8 p.m.; \$3 monthly charity shots ALL DAY; \$2 Kamikaze shots ALL DAY; live DJ, top 40 and dance, 8 p.m.-close	HH, 4-8 p.m.; \$3 monthly charity shots ALL DAY; \$2 Kamikaze shots ALL DAY; live DJ, top 40 and dance, 8 p.m.-close

(Subject to change without notice; check with bartender when ordering.)

Charlie's 30th Birthday Bash

Nov. 8 at Charlie's Phoenix.
Photos by Gregg Edelman

For more photos of this event
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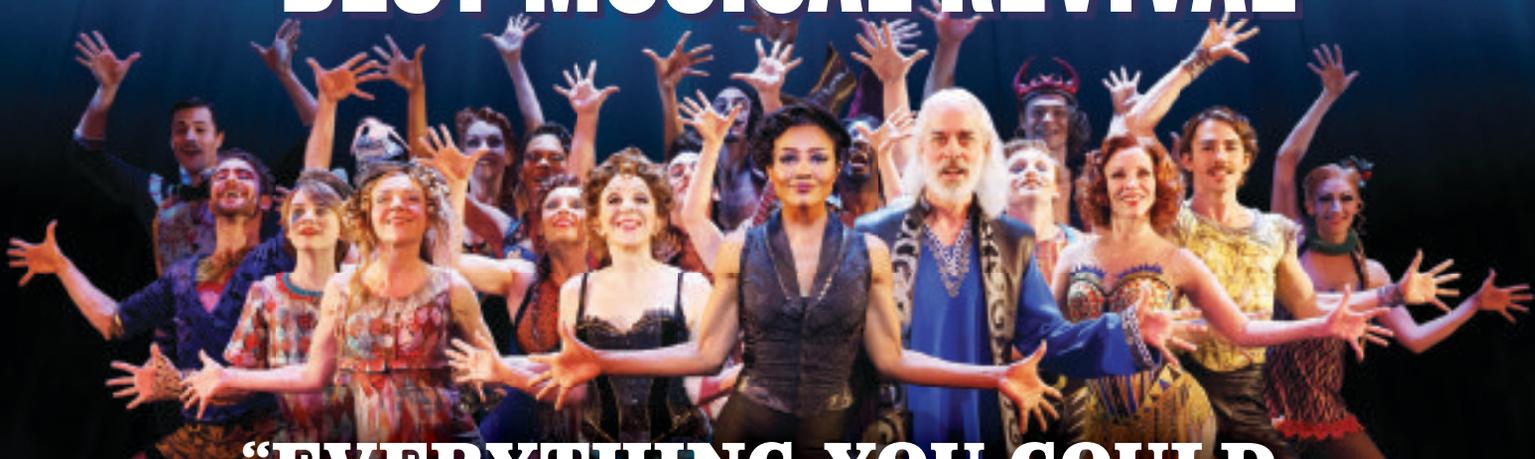
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