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June / July 2016





# PRIDE WEEK 2016

Mon June 27 10pm - 12am

Roxxie Terrain & Adam Weinmann  
in the Zipperz Lounge



Tues June 28 9pm - 1am

Natasha Buckridge & Kevin Wong  
in the Zipperz Lounge



Wed June 29 10pm-1am

In Zipperz Lounge: Natasha Buckridge  
and Mark Kersey. Cellblock: TBA



Thurs June 30 10pm-4am

Heaven Lee Hytes in Zipperz Lounge  
DJ Cory Activate in the Cellblock



Friday July 1st Canada Day

In Zipperz Lounge: Roxxie Terrain  
& Adam Weinmann (7pm-9pm)  
Kendall on Piano (9:30 till close)  
In the Cellblock:  
Canada Day / Pride Celebration!  
With DJ Cory Activate (10pm-4am)



Saturday July 2nd

In Zipperz Lounge:  
Xposed! w/ Georgie Girl & Sofonda (6pm-8pm)  
James Quigley on Piano (10pm till close)  
In the Cellblock:  
Anthem Saturdays - PRIDE Edition!  
With DJ Cory Activate (9pm-4am)



Sunday July 3

In Zipperz Lounge:  
Sunday Funday: Unzipped!!  
w/ Sofonda Cox & Donnarama (6:30-8:30)  
In the Cellblock:  
Retro Drama PRIDE Celebration!  
With DJ Alain Plamondon (10pm-3am)



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Mychol Scully

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**Sales Representatives:**

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**Events Editor:**

Sherry Sylvain

**Counsel:**

Lai-King Hum, Hum Law Firm

**Regular Columnists:**

Cat Grant, Paul Bellini, Boyd Kodak, Sherry Sylvain, Donnarama

**Feature Writers:**

Daniela Costa, Raymond Helkio

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**Mailing address**

205-1691 Pickering Parkway

Pickering, ON L1V 5L9

416.926.9588

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# The Editor

Here we go again. It's summer, and time to show our Pride. Here in Toronto we're lucky enough to have one of the biggest Pride festivals in the world, and this month the organization has declared June as the first ever Pride Month.

In celebration of this milestone we've had our Events Editor compile a special selection of Pride related events in the city for our Wigged Out column. This is in addition to our extensive regular events listing. Scan through as there will certainly be something for everyone from partiers to parents.

For our feature articles we had Daniela Costa chat with Tegan Quin, from the queer twin Canadian music duo Tegan and Sara. They have a new album out that includes the catchy single, "Boyfriend", and you can find out how to attend their private show here in Toronto the end of this month. As well, Raymond Helkio chatted with Detox from RuPaul's Drag Race about the gender myth, pride and living life large. Be sure to catch Raymond's new play RAID: Operation Soap June 29th, part of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre's Queer Pride.

Our columnists bring us their unique look at Pride as well. Cat Grant profiles Hey Lady! Productions, where girls rule. Paul Bellini chatted with gay dads to find out why its great being out and proud parents, and Boyd Kodak hit up Taylor K. Gesner (TK), an independent culture programmer, music producer, and arts advocate. Finally, Zack Rosen tells us about Queen's End, a lovingly named pocket of the city on the far west reaches of the city, which will be having its own alternative queer festival June 24th to 26th.

Happy Pride Toronto. Let's show our love to all the visitors who make their way here to be part of the biggest outdoor party of the summer.

**Bryen Dunn**

Editor-in-Chief

[bryen@thebuzzmag.ca](mailto:bryen@thebuzzmag.ca)



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# Twinning with Tegan and Sara



By Daniela Costa

"We tend to think our music isn't about being gay, or for gay people. We think about music as just being music", proclaims Tegan Quin, one half of Canada's twin music duo Tegan and Sara.

We've heard similar words before, but we believe them this time because when Tegan Quin says it, she has the track record to back it up. Tegan and Sara are commercial and critical darlings and more mainstream than they've ever been. This truth just so happens to coincide with the release of an album that's their queerest yet, even if they wouldn't say so themselves. You need look no further than "Boyfriend", the first single off of Love You to Death, for proof of that.

Written by Sara Quin, the song includes lines like "You treat me like your boyfriend" and "You kiss me like your boyfriend". Add to this the fact that two openly gay women sing this tune and you really can't get any queerer. "We felt that it was broad enough and relatable enough, but also exciting for us because it was absolutely going to be reaching the mainstream and it was going to be bringing a theme that isn't that often heard in the mainstream," says Tegan Quin.

"Boyfriend" made an immediate impact on Canadian radio and was the most added song in late April. But it only hit the U.S. on May 16 and just how popular it'll become is still unknown. If it's not a roaring success, there will surely be questions about how a single like Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl" could hit number #1 despite its queer themes.

Those quick with an answer will probably point out that Katy Perry is straight and therefore easier to embrace. You're unlikely to hear that from Tegan though. "I do think that songs like 'I Kissed a Girl' by Katy Perry have helped queer the mainstream," she says.

That's not to say she wasn't worried about how people would respond to "Boyfriend". "Is it too gendered?", or 'Is the deeper meaning of the song going to make it less attractive, or less relatable to the mainstream audience that we're hoping to



**"That a band like us can share the stage with Katy Perry, or that gay marriage is legal, or that we're now talking almost daily about trans rights in North America. It's an exciting time."**

reach?", she recalls thinking. All valid concerns, but ones she quickly pushed away.

She explains, "The truth is that I think in 2016 we're not really worried about it as much as we may have been even a few years ago. The world's changed so much. I mean, it's crazy. Like can you believe we're even having this conversation? That a band like us can share the stage with Katy Perry, or that gay marriage is legal, or that we're now talking almost daily about trans rights in North America. It's an exciting time."



Even so, she admits there still are limitations for those who are openly queer in the music industry. "But that's why Sara and I are fighting so hard to reach more people. It's because we want to help diversify the mainstream. There are no other queer women on the pop charts, and we want to help change that", she declares.

They are. In 2016, it's almost impossible to find an act as out and as successful as Tegan and Sara. And yet, with all this success and life on the road, they continue to stay connected to the queer community. "We've certainly never shied away from doing LGBT events and, certainly as our success has happened and our star has grown, we definitely try to align ourselves as much as we can with the LGBT community, raise money and awareness, and do our part", she states.

That brought them back to Canada in 2014 for WorldPride. "We were so overjoyed and thrilled to be a part of Toronto WorldPride," she says. Besides Toronto, Tegan and Sara have played Canadian Pride events in Vancouver, Edmonton and, of course, their hometown of Calgary. Unfortunately, they haven't witnessed things getting better in this regard. "We're in a time where it feels like some of these Pride events are getting smaller. I don't know if it's that people simply don't need them as much, or there's just less funding", she continues.

"We get asked every once in a while if we'll come and play Pride and, unfortunately, they can barely even scrape together the money to get a plane ticket for us. So it's too bad, but I guess it's a sign of the times. As LGBT people become more accepted

and loved and beloved in our communities, there doesn't seem to be as much need for the parade. I completely disagree with that and would love the parades and the Prides to get bigger, which is why we opted to go to WorldPride. We wanted to ensure that there was still a huge amount of attention on celebrating LGBT people, but also recognizing that there's still so much work to be done", she concludes.

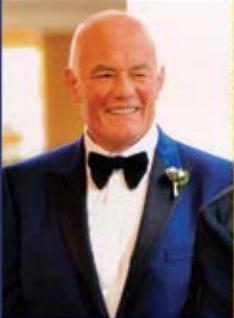
With their upcoming album release, recently announced tour, and continued visibility, Tegan and Sara are more than doing their part. [www.teaganandsara.com](http://www.teaganandsara.com)

The duo recently played Canadian Music Week here in Toronto, and are doing a private and intimate show featuring JR JR on June 25th at Toronto's Hilton Hotel on Richmond Street. Hilton Honors reward program members can redeem points for tickets. [www.auction.hhonors.com](http://www.auction.hhonors.com)

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Born and raised in Toronto, Daniela Costa graduated from Ryerson University's journalism undergraduate program in 2013. Since then, her writing has focused on matters concerning the LGBT community. More recently she's begun reviewing movies and recapping television shows that feature queer characters.





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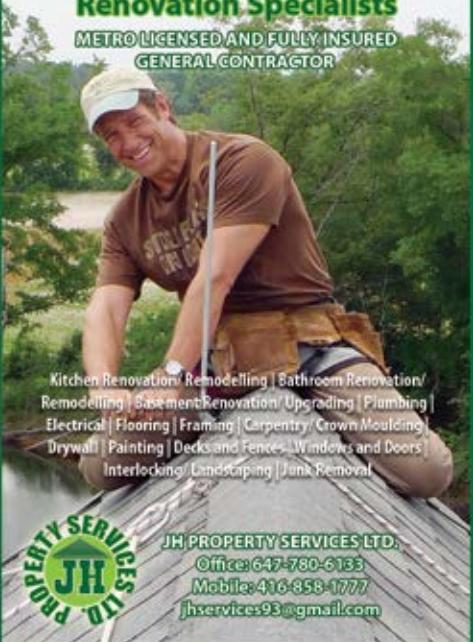


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# DETOKIFYING Gender

By Raymond Helkio

Detox Icunt is an actor and performance artist who originally made a name for herself as a drag artist in Southern California. She has appeared in music videos with Ke\$ha, Rhianna, and Lady Gaga, and is part of Dreamgirls Revue, the longest-running female-impersonation show out of California.

Not to mention she has a handful of her own cover hits, including; That Boy Is A Bottom, This Is How We Jew It, and Silicone, which is a pop anthem glorifying her many silicone surgeries and injections.

"Somebody said my face ain't right. Half assed boy by day, but fish at night. There's a big ass scar up on my forehead. It will fade with time is what the doctor said (sure). F\*\*k that, I'll make myself flawless. And not just with some cosmetically. I'm in a backroom falling on needles."

*--lyrics from the song parody Silicone, featuring Detox Icunt, William Bell and Vicky Vox--*

No stranger to plastic surgery, in 2009 she was in a car accident and had to have her forehead reconstructed. "It's a constant part of my life, it taught me to be petrified of everything. I'm in constant fear of death, but not in a bad way as it made me appreciate the gift that life is. It's why I try to fully live and be in the moment", she divulges.

Some argue that learning to love ourselves the way we were born is a more realistic ideal, but it negates the reality that who we are is largely self determined. So having a hand in shaping how we look makes a bold statement within a culture that





viliifies silicon injections and Botox pick-me-ups, yet dedicates billions of dollars to enhance our butter appearance in much subtler ways.

Detox has publicly boasted about having silicon injected into almost every part of her body, so when I asked if there was anything she would have done differently, she replied with a definitive "Nothing." That earns her role model status for owning her choices despite what some of her harshest critics have said. It takes a whole lot of moral courage to stand up to a world by redefining the boundaries for yourself despite what is acceptable or normal by societies standards.

Just like Toronto's legendary Nina Arsenault, Detox has turned her body into a living canvas and is the manifestation of our war over gender. While everyone argues about who gets to use which washroom, the larger cultural shift is that we are just waking up to the fallacies we've been perpetuating about

gender. It's been harmful to our psyches and that of each new generation of kids

Detox says, "It's still strange, and will always be strange to me, the impact I (and we) have on people. I love it so much. For as much as I am to people, they're just as significant to me. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I'd make as big of an impact on people just by being myself. Be unique. Be different. Be unabashedly YOU. If no one gets it, then it's not for them to get."

Consider the damage that can be caused by just saying this seemingly harmless declaration - blue is for boys and pink is for girls. While it may be a cute way to categorize kids, the expectations that come with being a "boy" or a "girl" can feed a lifetime of anxiety and pain for a boy who wants to wear a pink dress to school. Our society treats gender non-conformists as something that is deviating from normal, when they are in fact closer to normal than most of will ever come. It takes guts, moral courage and a whole lot of self-determination to live in the moment as the full expression of yourself.

Now more than ever we need people like Detox, because they challenge and are a reminder that our fight has never been to convince society at large to accept LGBT people and to change others, but we can change ourselves and set an example for how we can all live our lives with more pride, conviction, and self-determination, not just at Pride but all year long!

Detox recently played RuPaul's Battle of the Seasons After-Party at Fly 2.0 in Toronto with DJ's Mark Falco and Kris Steeves, along with the legendary Thorgy Thor plus Toronto's own Donnarama.

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/TheOnlyDetox](http://www.facebook.com/TheOnlyDetox)

Subscribe to Detox's new YouTube channel, The Only Detox to see her web series "Eat It Up with Detox". Yum! [www.youtube.com/user/Detoxlcuntng](http://www.youtube.com/user/Detoxlcuntng)

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Raymond Helkio is an author, director and filmmaker. He graduated from the Ontario College of Art & Design University and is co-founder of The Reading Salon. [www.raymondhelkio.com](http://www.raymondhelkio.com) [www.thereadingsalon.ca](http://www.thereadingsalon.ca)





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# WIGGED OUT

BY SHERRY SYLVAIN

For this special Pride Edition of Wigged Out, our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain compiled a list of must-attend Pride themed events and happenings around the city. Enjoy!

## Go West – Alt Queer Fest

Parkdale, Roncesvalles Ave/Queen St. W./Dundas St. W., Toronto  
June 24 @ 10:00 p.m. to June 26 @ 3:00 a.m.

A weekend of queer-themed events in Toronto's West Queen West area of Parkdale. Three different nights, three different experiences.  
[www.facebook.com/events/483549448500527](http://www.facebook.com/events/483549448500527)

## PRIDE Toronto: An Evening With George Takei

Ryerson Theatre, 43 Gerrard St. E., Toronto  
Sunday, June 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

Pride Toronto's innovative Queer Icon series returns. Armed with an inimitable wit and critical insights on just about everything, George Takei gets right to the point on topics that truly matter.  
[www.facebook.com/events/275336982807182](http://www.facebook.com/events/275336982807182)

## PRIDE Toronto: Night At The aQUEERium

Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, 288 Bremner Blvd., Toronto  
Sunday, June 26 @ 8:00 p.m.

Your official deep-sea adventure awaits at Ripley's Aquarium of Canada with an evening of music, drinks and roaming entertainment that will get your gills flapping.  
[www.facebook.com/events/1243264689017064](http://www.facebook.com/events/1243264689017064)

## 10 Minute Talks: A Very Short History of LGBT Issues in Toronto

Mackenzie House, 82 Bond St., Toronto  
Wednesday, June 29 @ 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Four micro talks will explore the history of LGBT issues in Toronto. The atmosphere will be casual and intimate, occurring throughout the home of Toronto's Rebel Mayor, William Lyon Mackenzie.  
[www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/affiliate-events/10-minute-talks-short-history-lgbt-issues-toronto](http://www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/affiliate-events/10-minute-talks-short-history-lgbt-issues-toronto)

## Viva Cabaret – Tribute to the Greatest Divas

The Rivoli, 334 Queen St. W., Toronto  
Thursday, June 30 @ 7:00 p.m. and @ 10:00 p.m.  
Following the sold-out World Pride run and US/Canada tour, Yury Ruzhnev brings back Viva Cabaret, an electrifying tribute to the most fabulous divas of all time.  
[www.facebook.com/events/490766641128214](http://www.facebook.com/events/490766641128214)

## PRIDE Toronto: Mariposa

Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto  
Friday, July 1 @ 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Lila Downs, Mexican-American superstar and 3 time Grammy winner, has earned global accolades by fusing traditional Latin rhythms, her own fiery style, and indigenous influences and languages.  
[www.facebook.com/events/1740124356201442](http://www.facebook.com/events/1740124356201442)

## Mandy Goodhandy's Musical Comedy Cabaret Event

120 Diner, 120 Church St., Toronto  
Friday, July 1 @ 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

"Comedy Kapow" presents "Mandy Goodhandy's Musical Comedy Cabaret" at 120 Diner.  
[www.120diner.com](http://www.120diner.com)

## PRIDE Toronto: Lez Get It On

Bud Light South Stage, Church St. just north of Carleton St., Toronto

Saturday, July 2 @ 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.  
The official Dyke March post-celebration with the hilarious Deb "Dirk" Pearce hosting the hottest women-loving-women party and showcasing fierce women in music.  
[www.facebook.com/events/888926371217898](http://www.facebook.com/events/888926371217898)

## PRIDE Toronto: Yalla Barra

Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto  
Saturday, July 2 @ 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

A landmark celebration of Middle Eastern culture, where traditional meets modern at Yalla Barra (Arabic for come out/get out).  
[www.facebook.com/events/1074223205954042](http://www.facebook.com/events/1074223205954042)

## Pride and Remembrance Run

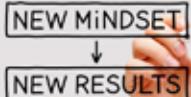
Church and Wellesley Sts., Toronto  
Saturday, July 2 @ 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Pride and Remembrance Run is an annual tradition promoting and fostering community spirit, goodwill, volunteerism and sportsmanship in the LGBTQ+ community. 5k run / 3 k walk.  
[www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/affiliate-events/pride-remembrance-run/www.priderun.org](http://www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/affiliate-events/pride-remembrance-run/www.priderun.org)

Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to), and currently is proud to hold the title of Queen Mum to The Imperial Court of Toronto for 2015/2016.



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SHE BEAT

# Hey Lady! Productions

BY CAT GRANT

**"Hey Lady! Productions Event Management and Catering"** provides a space for women to network and share events that are of interest to the lesbian community. theBUZZ chatted with Founder, Suzanne Christie, about Pride, and DJ's, and upcoming events.

## When did you start and what kind of events do you do?

Although the Hey Lady! Groups have been on-line for a couple of years, I have been hosting events in the community for many years. In addition to women's dances, I'm an event manager and caterer contracted by various organizations and individuals for events anywhere from fundraisers to private dinners at home.

## How many Prides have you been involved in both with Hey Lady and personally?

This year will be my 20th year participating in Pride. The first year I came out I held the Dyke March banner walking down Yonge Street. That was just the beginning. I became Media Co-Chair of Toronto's Pride Committee for three years, and hosted an annual community karaoke contest for five years with the finals being on stage at the Pride Festival. The committee was nervous at first, but it was a huge success. In amongst those years I hosted a number of community events and fundraisers. I worked for MCC Toronto managing their annual Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thomson Hall, Pride Service at Church & Wood St., and numerous fundraisers. During those fourteen years I've continued to host community events from time to time and currently giving my attention to the Hey Lady! Events and self-employment.

## Your personal thoughts views on Pride and the Dyke March?

Looking past all the commercialism, Pride Toronto (including the Dyke March and Trans March and all of the other Pride affiliated events) is an opportunity to express ourselves, educate others and simply, to have fun. I think that's what it's all about.

## What are you looking forward to the most?

When I'm not hosting a Hey Lady! Event, I look forward to spending time with friends at Pride. This year I'll be attending a private event on Saturday hosted by DJ Dallas and on Sunday I am visualizing a pitcher of Sangria on a patio with friends ...



people watching. Next year... look out. A big event is on the horizon.

## And your favorite part?

There's so many stories between events that I have hosted and that I have attended. The best year attending other events was a couple of years ago at WorldPride. I attended the Melissa Etheridge concert at Nathan Philips Square. I worked myself through many familiar faces and managed to get myself almost close enough to touch. The concert ended with an amazing fireworks display. I stood in awe with my eyes facing up to the sky. A group of friends then headed off to Church Street and we parked ourselves on a patio for some good laughs.

## How about your DJ's and special plans for Pride events?

They say that the DJ can "make" the event. Let's just say I am really happy to have brought DJ Lynn & Company on board. They are loved by the women in Durham. DJ Jerica joins DJ Lynn at our events. They have fun with the music and crowd and are really excited to participate in our Pride event. I've heard nothing but great comments and look forward to bringing them with me to Toronto in the near future.

Check out the Hey Lady! Productions website for more info - [www.hey ladyproductions.com](http://www.hey ladyproductions.com)

Cat Grant OCAD is a multimedia artist. A published poet currently writing a book. She contributes to Home Life, Jingobox and her blog for theBUZZ. Check out Cat's blog, Kitty Indacity, on our website at [thebuzzmag.ca](http://thebuzzmag.ca). Cat is also a reporter for On the Couch.



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## GAY WITH KIDS



Gay men of my generation usually never considered fatherhood an option. We were considered sex deviants, not caregivers. So we didn't bother.

But younger gays have come to realize that they can have their cake (kids) and eat it (gay lifestyle), too. It helps that they have men like Brian Rosenberg and Ferd van Gameren. The two gay dads run a big website called Gays with Kids. There are some fascinating entries, including one in which a gay couple meet Prime Minister Trudeau, and another where sexy dads show off their tats. Mostly, though, it connects like-minded people. This is their mission, to help any gay man who wants to be a father.

"When you become a parent, it becomes apparent that you are no longer number one," they told me by phone. "But you don't have to give up nightlife. One year, we went to a party at The Guvernment and we were in a circle of ten guys who we didn't know, but we found out that every single one of them was a gay dad. You need sitters, and often you are too tired to go out. But you don't have to give up being gay."

The two men recently published a very handy pocket guide called **Find Your Path**. It looks at the many ways gay men can become parents - fostering, adoption, surrogacy, or co-parenting, but also how to become a step dad or a sperm donor. There are even entries dealing with HIV-positive and trans dads. "Most of us don't come to parenting by accident - it's a well thought out and expensive process. Heterosexuals can get

drunk and get pregnant, but gays and lesbians don't have kids by mistake." The process remains fraught with legal issues and discriminations. It isn't easy, but it is getting easier.

The two men wanted to concentrate on gay men's issues because "the parenting world is focused on moms, of any orientation. We found that there was nothing out there for gay dads, so that's why we focus on them." But there are even greater rewards than just the love of a child. "Since we've become dads, our parents and siblings have become closer to us. This, they can relate to."

Gay dads still have a lot of stuff to deal with, like annoying questions from people who ask How much did you pay for your child? Or, why do you have a child of colour? "Gays tend to date much more across racial lines, so we adopt more across racial lines. A straight couple may want their child to look like them, but no one expects that of gay men."

Many people also worry about the impact on the children themselves. But kids are kids. "As soon as she sees any kind of affection, our five and a half-year old daughter says 'Kissing is disgusting'. But that's not a gay thing. Kids say that about every parent."

FIND YOUR PATH, A GUIDE TO HELP GAY MEN BECOME DADS is available for free at [gayswithkids.com/path](http://gayswithkids.com/path)

Paul Bellini is an award-winning television comedy writer (*Kids in the Hall*, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*). He also teaches comedy writing at George Brown College in Toronto.

PHOTOS: Mitchel Raphael



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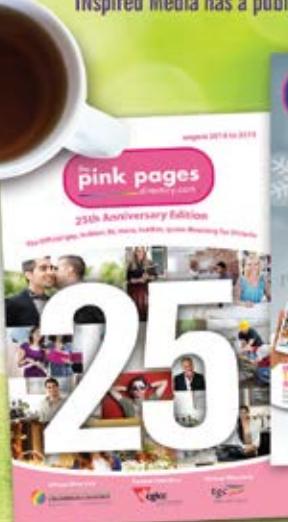
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In this issue I have the pleasure of interviewing one of my all time favorite people Taylor K. Gesner (TK), who is an independent culture programmer, music producer, and arts advocate who aims to empower, entertain, and challenge the culturally rich. He has worked with both Pride Toronto and Nuit Blanche, among other well-known events.

**BK Kodak – Tell us what you have been doing over the last year?**

**TK** - The Pride Toronto Arts & Culture festival took up most of 2015 and was worth every second spent. Since my departure last November I've been catching up on a lot of projects that I had shelved. I've had opportunity to do some solid work on some soundtrack projects and indie music projects, see some old friends and start working on a few shows for the summer. I'm also currently fulfilling a contract with Pride to project manage the Trans\* March for the 2016 festival.

**BK - Which event was the one most exciting for you?**

**TK** - Pride for sure has always been a highlight for me every year. For me it has always been the excitement in those last few hours before the festival officially opened. You've got things in-hand, folks are starting to fill the streets, and you can hear the bass gently thumping from a patio a block away. There is an electricity in the air, an anticipation, like the whole city just breathed in and then...exhale! The stages open, the first power chord is strummed, and three days of mayhem have begun.

**BK - You have done so much fantastic and much appreciated work. What are you looking forward to doing over for the next year?**

**TK** - I'm really looking forward to working on a variety of projects both independent and collaborative. Having time and energy to explore feels liberating.

**BK - Where can we see your work?**

**TK** - You can look for announcements of a couple of short films I'm involved with coming in the fall. There will be three upcoming shows this summer, also to be announced shortly, and, of course, the Trans\* March takes place on Friday, July 1.



PHOTO: Cat Grant

**BK- Tell us your plans for the future.**

**TK** - I'm continuing to work in the music and culture sector, advocating for queer and trans artists, and presenting some interesting shows as always. I'm looking to reconnect more with my own production and DJ practice, as I've felt pretty lost without that means of expressing myself over the past few years.

**BK - Any other message you would like to put out there?**

**TK** - Be mindful, ask for support when you need, take risks, and take the time to celebrate your victories.

**BK - Finish the following sentence: If I could have 3 wishes, they would be -----**

**TK** - 1. That folks would recognize that you do not need to tear someone else down to build yourself up.

2. That trans folks could find a restroom with ease.

3. That people could be more mindful of one another in general.

Pride Toronto Trans\* Rally & March: The Trans\* Rally and March takes place on Friday July 1st beginning at 7pm – [www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/trans-march/](http://www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/trans-march/)

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Boyd Kodak is an award winning trans activist, musician, writer, activist, filmmaker, curator, and festival/entertainment director. Boyd put together both educational and artistic programs for festivals worldwide. In 2012 he was inducted into the International LGBT Hall of Fame.



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# Where The Parkdale Ends



The neighborhood around the last two blocks of Queen Street West has officially outgrown its identity crisis.

On the far western outskirts of Parkdale proper, the formerly-unmonikered stretch between Dowling and Roncesvalles has quietly coalesced into a tight-knit community and haven for arts-oriented independent businesses. To celebrate, the people who live there have dubbed it "Queen's End."

BUZZ readers might know the area as home to Cardinal Rule, the queer-owned bar/restaurant that is a perennial city-favorite that just celebrated it's fifth anniversary. Queen's End also hosts the Canna Boss marijuana dispensary, hair wizard Steve Pella, North Standard clothing boutique, 96 Tears vintage fashion, gallery/party space The Roncey Hotel, Coriander Girl floral studio and much more, offering a little something for everybody.

"Our customers range from young artists to families with new babies, stopping by for a drink, a bite, a business meeting, or just to hang out," says Cardinal Rule's owner/operator Katie James. "[The neighborhood] is welcoming to everyone and that's what made it a great fit for us, being misfits ourselves."

Katie and her Life/Business partner Marta Kusel can frequently be seen around the corner at Jinks Art Factory, a coffee shop with an extensive food menu, a rotating display of for-sale work by neighborhood artists, and most uniquely, a tattoo studio. The shop is owned by twin sisters Jen and Sarah Wetmore (the shop name means "Jen Ink Sarah") and has functioned as a second living room for their "Queen's End Kids" since 2012.

"We chose Queen's End for Jinks because we have lived and worked around [the area] for quite a few years," says Jen, who

is the resident tattoo artist. "This is our home! Queen's End was just beginning to get on the map, so commercial rents were reasonably priced which was a big draw. We also love this neighborhood for its minimal corporate stores and restaurants."

In terms of nightlife, The Grand Trunk is another queer-friendly spot, and one of the neighborhood's newest additions. Alison Barrie, Michelle Waldman and James Speedy bought the bar last August when previous tenant, much-loved local watering hole 1718, shut down. GT features an extensive beer and sandwich selection, a friendly, welcoming environment, exhibitions by local artists and a dedication to supporting the other local businesses.

"We do all our shopping locally," says Barrie. "When our customers are looking for anything nearby we always have somewhere to send them. We have great relationships with all the local businesses and I think that is something really special. We all support each other!"

Be sure to check out Go West - Alt Queer Fest, a weekend of queer-themed events in Toronto's Parkdale area, happening June 24th to 26th at various locations

[www.facebook.com/events/483549448500527](http://www.facebook.com/events/483549448500527)

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Zack Rosen was the editor-in-chief and co-founder of the now defunct queer cultures website [TheNewGay.net](http://TheNewGay.net), and has written for Out, The Advocate, Huffington Post, Nylon.com and many other quality outlets. He is currently studying Art and Design at George Brown College.



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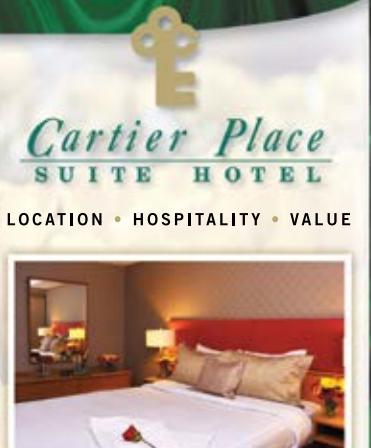


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# COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

## Kendall Partington

Wednesdays – 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Kendall demonstrates his mastery of the keyboards and vocals

Statler's, 487 Church St. Toronto

[www.statlers.ca](http://www.statlers.ca)

## Lash Wednesdays

Wednesdays from 9:00 p.m.

Michelle Ross dazzles with Jada Hudson & DJ Jay followed by Russell Palloo's College Night. Dance the night away with some of Toronto's hottest DJs! Hosted by Devine Darlin & Joey Monda

Church on Church, 504 Church St. Toronto

[www.churchochurch.com](http://www.churchochurch.com)

## King of Queens

Thursdays from 9:00 p.m.

HYPE! – Talent Thursdays Open Stage hosted by Devine Darlin & Tynomi Banks with weekly \$75 cash prize! Followed by The King Of Queens with host Clint Lyckher and special guests.

Church on Church, 504 Church St. Toronto

[www.churchochurch.com](http://www.churchochurch.com)

## Best Ass Contest>Show

Fridays – from 10:00 p.m.

Raise your GLASS to Georgie Girl & Raise your ASS to Woody's Men's ASS Contest and SHOW, \$300 in cash prizes, Steamworks Toronto giveaways, Toronto's hottest staff. No Cover.

Woody's and Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto](http://www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto)

## Sanctuary

Sundays from 6:30 p.m.

Michelle Ross & special guest, followed by Girls Gone Wild with Devine Darlin, Heaven Lee Hytes, and Tynomi Banks. DeeJay Alex spins a blend of Latin, Soca and today's biggest hits late into the evening.

Church on Church, 504 Church St. Toronto

[www.churchochurch.com](http://www.churchochurch.com)

## Massive Talent Sundays

Sundays from 9:00 p.m.

Georgie Girl with special guests, followed by Old School Glama & Drama with DJ Peter W. Elie

Woody's and Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto](http://www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto)

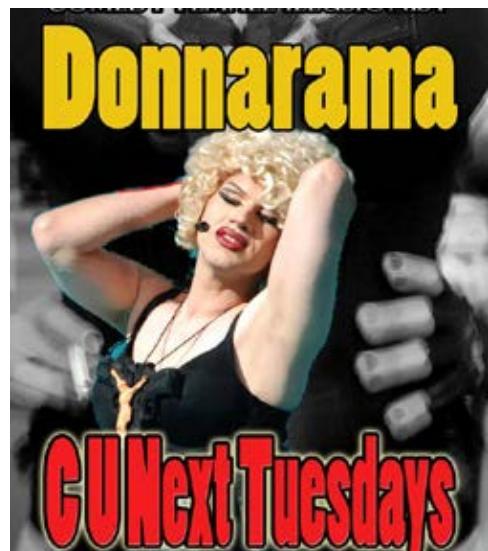
## C U Next Tuesday

Tuesdays from 11:00 p.m.

Donnarama with her crazy costumes and ridiculously entertaining performances is not to be missed!

Statler's, 487 Church St. Toronto

[www.statlers.ca](http://www.statlers.ca)



## Don't Just Wing It, Wig It

Tuesdays from 7:30 p.m.

Jada Hudson and Guest entertain with a fabulous show. Wings - half off --- \$4.00 Drink specials

Church Street Garage, 477 Church St., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/churchristgarage](http://www.facebook.com/churchristgarage)

## First Time's The Charm

June 25 – 7:00 p.m.

First Time's The Charm aims to actively include women, queer-identified folks, trans\* people, people of color, and musicians playing a new instrument or in a band for the first time, and encourages inclusion and diversity in the music community.

D-Beatstro, 1292 Bloor St. W., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/events/835236009918060](http://www.facebook.com/events/835236009918060)

## Rock The Park Music Festival

July 13 to 16 – 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

A broad selection of bands from country, pop and rock take over each day to rock the park!

Harris Park, Ridout St. N @ Dufferin St., London, ON

[www.rockthepark.ca](http://www.rockthepark.ca)

# CHARITY BUZZ PICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

## 6th Annual Yorkville Exotic Car Show

June 19 - Noon to 5:00 p.m.

See over 110 classic and exotic cars, including, Porsche, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Super Cars and more. The event supports Prostate Cancer Canada to raise funds for prostate cancer research.

Bloor-Yorkville, Cumberland St., Toronto

[www.yorkvilleexotics.com](http://www.yorkvilleexotics.com)



## Annual Chas Parkway Salute to Pride

June 24 - 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The annual variety show! \$10 suggested donation at door. All proceeds to Reign 29 Charities of Choice - The Rainbow Railroad and PWA Food Programs

Erotico Lounge, 461 Church St., Toronto

[www.ticot.ca](http://www.ticot.ca)

## Pride at Placebo Space

June 25 - 8:00 p.m.

A celebration of Toronto Pride in the west end Lakeshore Village community with various entertainers. Benefiting SAFE – Social Action For Equality

Placebo Space, 2877 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/events/1186900254677444](http://www.facebook.com/events/1186900254677444)

## TICOT Charity Bingo

June 26, July 31 – 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Join Empress 29 Morgan James, Emperor Hunter James and The Imperial Court of Toronto for a FUN filled afternoon. This event is a fundraiser for the Reign 29 Charities of Choice.

Erotico Lounge, 461 Church St., Toronto

[www.ticot.ca](http://www.ticot.ca)

## 2016 Toronto AIDS Candlelight Vigil

June 28 – 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The Toronto AIDS Candlelight Vigil is an open community event held annually at the AIDS Memorial to REMEMBER, HONOUR and CELEBRATE the people who have died of AIDS.

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Toronto

[www.the519.org](http://www.the519.org)

## Spearhead's Annual Canada Day Cruise

July 1 – 12:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Kick off Pride weekend with SPEARHEAD's Annual Canada Day Cruise. Tickets are \$65 and include a chicken buffet brunch and great door prizes.

Obsession III, West Pier, Queens Quay West, Toronto (between Rees St. and Lower Simcoe St.)

[www.spearheadtoronto.com](http://www.spearheadtoronto.com)

## Green Space Festival: One World

July 1 – 5:00 p.m. to midnight

An essential fundraising activity for The 519 Church Street Community Centre, the hub of the Toronto LGBTQ community. All funds raised are in support of The 519's community programs and services.

Barbara Hall Park, 519 Church St. Toronto

[www.the519.org](http://www.the519.org)

## Pride Toronto - Treehouse Party

July 3 – 1:00 p.m.

Join the world's most legendary outdoor party with both local and international DJ's in support of The 519 Community Centre.

Fido Ryerson Quad, Toronto

[www.pridetoronto.com/treehouse](http://www.pridetoronto.com/treehouse)

## Queer and Trans Family Event: Riverdale Park Fun Day

July 9 – 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy outdoor family fun in Riverdale Park, with group games and summer snacks. Meet in Riverdale Park at the entrance to Riverdale Farm.

Riverdale Farm, 201 Winchester St., Toronto

[www.the519.org](http://www.the519.org)

## Event Editor

Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to), and currently is proud to hold the title of Queen Mum to The Imperial Court of Toronto for 2015/2016.



# GENERAL BUZZ PICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

## Na-Me-Res Traditional Pow Wow 2016

June 18 from Noon

Native Men's Residence Traditional PowWow is held to recognize National Aboriginal History Month. The event features traditional dancing, drumming, feast, giveaway, kids' area, and craft vendors.

Fort York, 250 Fort York Blvd., Toronto

[www.nameres.org/annual-traditional-pow-wow/](http://www.nameres.org/annual-traditional-pow-wow/)

## Nuit Rose

June 25th from 7pm

Festival of queer art and performance that showcases provocative, cutting edge work by diverse local and international artists. Be sure to catch the light parade at sunset. Free to attend.

Various locations around Church-Wellesley Village and Queen Street W.

[www.nuitrose.ca](http://www.nuitrose.ca)

## Go West – Alt Queer Fest

June 24 to 26

Three nights of queer-themed entertainment in the west end of the city. Friday is Ladies Night at Cardinal Rule, Saturday is a gender-bender for all at Grand Trunk, and Sunday is ALT CNTRL DLT with live entertainment at the Cadillac Lounge.

[www.facebook.com/events/483549448500527](http://www.facebook.com/events/483549448500527)

## Daryl Hall & John Oates

June 26 – Doors @ 6:30 p.m.

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Molson Canadian Amphitheatre, 909 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/hallandoates](http://www.facebook.com/hallandoates)

## Friends Central Perk Pop-up Shop

From June 24, 6:00 p.m.

Our pop-up shop will be meticulously detailed to recreate the experience of one of the most popular shows of all time, Friends in a parody form.

Venue TBA on King St. W., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/events/1334902889860547](http://www.facebook.com/events/1334902889860547)

## Pride Toronto - Cabana Pool Party

June 29 – 6:00 p.m.

This party hosted by none other than high fashion queen Naomi Smalls of RuPaul's Drag Race season eight; this is the official kickoff to your sexiest summer yet.

Cabana Pool Bar, 11 Polson St., Toronto

[www.pridetoronto.com/events/cabana-pool-party](http://www.pridetoronto.com/events/cabana-pool-party)

## Pride Toronto - Two-spirit Electric Pow Wow

July 1 – 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

For a night of Indigenous art, culture and music, join us in celebrating our Two-Spirit community members at the Village Stage for singing and dancing through nightfall.

TD Village Stage, 77 Wellesley St., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/PrideToronto](http://www.facebook.com/PrideToronto)

## Pride Toronto - Alterna Queer

July 1 – from 7:00 p.m.

It's about to get wild in here, with the infamous Judy Virago in an evening of boundary-pushing and gender-bending performances, including The House of Filth's The Trash Cabaret, Christeene, JD Samson, and Vag Halen.

Bud Light South Stage, 423 - 425 Church Street, Toronto

[www.facebook.com/events/1368756879816773](http://www.facebook.com/events/1368756879816773)

## Pride Toronto - Drag On

July 2 – Noon to 11:00 p.m.

This year, the stakes (and heels) are higher than ever. Be a part of drag history as DRAG ON! snatches the official Guinness Book of World Records title for Largest Drag Stage Performance.

Yonge-Dundas Square, 1 Dundas St. E., Toronto

[www.facebook.com/PrideToronto](http://www.facebook.com/PrideToronto)

## Pride Toronto – Music

July 2 & 3 from 4:00 p.m.

Justify your love of music, sex and Madge as Pride Toronto and Hot Docs team up to present a very special screening of Madonna's landmark tour documentary, Truth or Dare.

Fido Ryerson Quad, Toronto

[www.facebook.com/PrideToronto](http://www.facebook.com/PrideToronto)



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**South Scarborough**  
Eglinton Town Centre  
905-750-7979

**Pickering**  
Brock Rd. & Kingston  
905-239-7922

**Whitby**  
Dundas & Thickson Rd.  
905-444-9500

**Oakville**  
Hwy 403 &  
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