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The Editor

We're halfway through winter, and here in Toronto we've been lucky enough so far to have been given a sidestep from the usual shenanigans brought forth on us by the dynamic duo of Mother Nature and Old Man Winter. While spring is not so far away, we still have a few more weeks to contend with before we're in the clear. With that in mind, there are plenty of events happening in the city to help get you out of hibernation, many of which are noted in our Events Listings compiled by Sherry Sylvain.

Our two Features this issue showcase Toronto's powerful LGBT history, the first which Sherry has also contributed to. She spotlights Toronto's lovely Michelle DuBarry, who recently received the prestigious designation from the Guinness Book of World Records for being the Oldest Drag Queen in the World. Our second feature is about the 37th Annual Rhubarb Festival happening at the beloved Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. This multi-day arts and cultural festival bills itself as Canada's Oldest Performance Festival, and presents a variety of new works from artists both local and far and wide. Jonathan Hiltz chatted with Festival Director Mel Hague, and Resident Artist Ted Witzel to get the scoop on what's hot this year.

Our regular columnist's once again bring us insight into various aspects of the community. Donnarama highlights the hip and happening in the bar scene, while Cat Grant had a chat with a few recently married lesbian couples to gather their thoughts on the whole wedding process. Paul Bellini looks at the newly launched trans modelling agency Slay Model Management, Boyd Kodak caught up with multi-tasker Nik Redman to find out more about his roles with Blockorama and Inside Out, and Daniela Costa introduces us to the musical sounds of the Queer Songbook Orchestra.

Finally, just a quick reminder not to forget your loved one on Valentine's Day, and if you don't have someone special, then it's the perfect opportunity to see what Cupid might have in store for you!

Bryen Dunn

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Michelle Dubarry

The World's Oldest Drag Queen

By Sherry Sylvain

A couple of months ago Michelle DuBarry was honoured in the Guinness Book of World Records with the title of “World’s Oldest Drag Queen”. Michelle is definitely well known throughout the Toronto LGBT community, and beyond. What very few people will know though is the life story behind the living legend.

Michelle was born as Russell on November 23, 1931 to a blacksmith/welder and a nurse in Bowmanville, Ontario. He grew up with two older sisters with whom he sang at local hospitals and high school musicals. By the age of 9 he was drawing figures for which he designed and cut out dresses as paper dolls. At about this time he also took his first run at drag, when his three girl cousins dressed him up. He recounted his first public experience of drag at 14, at his high school Hallowe’en dance. He and another boy dressed as French apache dancers, and Russell was asked to dance by an older boy. He was quite surprised to discover Russell’s true identity (and gender), and then (sadly) wouldn’t talk to him again.

It was only a few years later that Russell moved to Toronto where his singing and acting background, along with training in ballet, put him into a role in professional theatre touring during the 1950’s with the cast of “The Baroness of Wimpole Street”. He also later performed in “Shakespeare In The Park” with the late, great Lorne Greene. Although Russell wasn’t cast in either lead role, he would later prove that the background was not where he belonged.

As the 1950’s progressed, Russell stepped away from theatre to a position selling women’s shoes at “Antonio’s Bootery”, a store which specialized in shoes made locally, and always sold with a matching purse. Working in this position, Russell recalls that he was always



in a suit and tie, looking respectable and kind of straight, although he would frequent the underground gay hangouts, like the Ford Hotel, sporting his lovely cashmere topcoat. He recalls that Murray Burbidge made his first dress, despite that it was illegal to dress in drag at that time.

In 1954 he moved in to the new City Park building at 31 Alexander Street, where a nice one-bedroom cost the sum of \$100.00 per month. He shared the place with another guy with whom he and friends had private dress up parties. In 1957, Russell married (a woman), though the union lasted only five years.

In 1962, Russell moved in to share a place in the east end with three other guys and started to frequent “The 511”, at 511 Yonge Street. This is where he learned about proper drag and became “Anita Modes”, making appearances throughout the 60’s. In the 70’s, Russell / Anita started to attend “The Manatee” and met a group called “The New York Playboys”. Anita was asked to join their new touring group “Phase 1” travelling near and far, with bookings from Sudbury to Halifax.

In Halifax, Anita met a lovely naval officer who took her for dinner and dancing at a chic little



spot called "The Lobster Trap". Alas, the brief romance came to an abrupt end when the officer took Anita back to her room and grabbed one of her breast. He then grabbed his coat and RAN. During the touring days of "Phase 1", the group often had the late Craig Russell as a guest performer.

After returning to Toronto around 1980, Russell / Anita met Rusty Ryan, then called "Big Bob". When the other members of "Phase 1" took off to Vancouver, Anita was left with a plethora of show tapes and costuming, and approached Rusty Ryan to form a new troupe which became "The Great Imposters". It was then that Anita Modes became Michelle DuBarry.

In the early 80's, Michelle became involved with the original DQ shows, raising funds for Casey House, and thus began Michelle's involvement in community work. Michelle later went on to become Empress VI of what is now The Imperial Court of Toronto, where she dedicated herself to fundraising for her community, which she still does to this day.

Today, she's still active at 84, and doesn't appear to be slowing down any time soon – though she does admit to having quite a "tired day" at home after a busy night out. Michelle can often be seen out in full regalia at various events in Toronto, as well as Imperial Court shows both here and in other cities. The local Toronto community also recently raised funds for her to attend Pride in Puerto Vallarta this year, something she has yet to do.

All photos: David Hawe Photography

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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buddies

IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

Rhubarb Canada's Oldest Performance Festival

This year, the long standing Rhubarb Festival held at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre turns 37, and remains a staple of the Toronto arts scene and LGBTQ community. It actually bills itself as Canada's Oldest Performance Festival, and began simply as an artist gathering at various venues along Queen Street. The artists were challenged to create new works that pushed the boundaries of their own artistic limits, and was designed to be a showcase of theatre, performance, dance, visual art and other experimental work.

Mel Hague is the Festival Director and this is her second year running the event. "In my work as a dramaturge and



curator I have always been interested in the development of new works and new ideas, and even the question of what 'new art' is in a contemporary context. This is what pushes me to seek out artists who wrestle with questions of themselves, their art, and their audiences in different and intriguing ways." Hague is also quick to point out the ingenuity and diversity of the event when describing what we can expect to see that's new and cutting edge this year. "Words like 'new' and 'different' are deceptive – Rhubarb is engaging, it is challenging, it is hilarious, it is tragic. When you bring together nearly 100 individual artists creating 25 works, saying that it will be one thing becomes impossible. The clash of the many things that Rhubarb is - that is what makes it exciting."

Over the years Rhubarb has developed a reputation of sorts





for 'pushing the envelope' when it comes to artistic works, and this upcoming year is no different. "Trance Symphony" by **Loose Leaf Tea Collective** brings an Orchestra and a Trance DJ together to remix Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, the **Femmes des Feu** perform an aerial movement piece on a suspended ladder, and Buddies' own Resident Artist **Ted Witzel** showcases his exploration of sexual deviancy and society in "Lulu v. 4".

Speaking of Ted Witzel, he was on hand to talk with theBUZZ and had this to say. "Rhubarb is a thrilling event because it's hands-down the most experimental festival in the city—the closest thing Toronto has to a new-forms festival. I am always so curious to see the questions that all the artists are grappling with there. It's the event where the Buddies mandate is clearest to me, where Queerness is not just a question of sex, but also of art."



When asked to describe his performance, he feels it's a complicated description but still does his best to outline the fascinating details. "Lulu is a little femme-fatale figure, who fucks her way through a series of lovers and husbands that have a strange habit of ending up dead when she's done with them. Some self-destruct, some are killed out of jealousy and then (because bad things happen to bad girls) she ends up working the streets of London in 1888, which is a pretty bad time to be doing that, because there's this guy named Jack lurking in the shadows with a knife."

Ted is also looking forward to attending various performances and taking in the art with an open mind. "Some stuff is really not to my taste, but there's always a question throbbing behind what I'm seeing, and I really dig that." He is also very pleased to be working with Hague again this year. "Mel is a remarkably thoughtful curator and a great dramaturge, and I'm really excited to see what she's curated."

Hague has her own favourite aspects of the event that she is itching to bring forth, and this year among many other things, visual art is what is getting her motor running. "I am very excited to be exhibiting the work of the talented local artist **Rajni Pererra**, who will be bringing her "Afrika Galaktika" collection to show throughout the festival, and will be painting a mural on one of our walls for our Festival."

If there is one message that should be out there about this important event, Hague has the last word to say on the subject in regards to what audiences should be expecting. "Think of Rhubarb as a tasting menu for new performance — multiple works exploring a variety of ideas, styles, forms, and ways of connecting with the audience."

Whatever shocking, thought provoking and heart-warming pieces come out of this year's event, Toronto should celebrate and be proud of the fact that such a unique and experimental festival exists within its borders, as it is the perfect spice in an already diverse city. At 37, the festival just might have a midlife crisis, and because the event thrives on drama, it could be the best midlife crisis witnessed anywhere.

Jonathan Hiltz has been a journalist, TV producer and painter for over fifteen years. He writes mainly lifestyle, food, travel, and entertainment pieces. Find his writing at www.jonhiltz.wordpress.com and his artwork at www.rocknrollartshow.com



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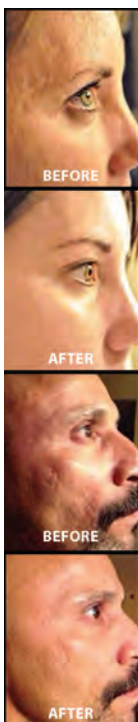
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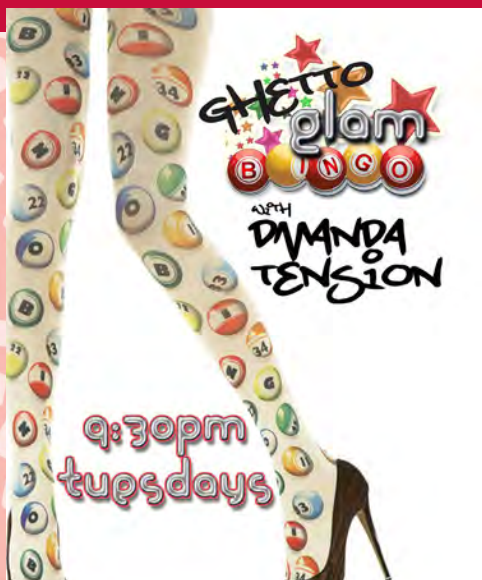
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WIGGED OUT

BY DONNARAMA



Valentine's Day is on our minds and here are a few great events and finds.

The Underground Cafe and Social Club (670 Queen Street East) is the place for exotic taste as "Thigh High -The Kush of Kabaret" strips down Saturday March 19th 9PM-12AM. Hosted by Adam Tupper and featuring vaudeville and burlesque entertainment with sexy resident performers Lucy Loop and Bella.M.Eurta Every third Saturday of the month. Special guests offering up seductive and exciting performances include the sexy and legendary Tanya Cheex, Dottie Dangerfield and Zyra Lee Vanity in a show to amaze as you burn and blaze. \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Showtime 10 PM.

Pegasus on Church (489b Church Street) gets filthy with glam and shazam with hostess the hilarious D'Manda Tension every Tuesday with "Ghetto Glam Bingo" featuring fun and wacky prizes. 9:30 PM the balls are out. No cover. Bingo!

The sensational Sofonda Cox and yours truly take over the Zipperz/CellBlock (72 Carlton Street) cabaret stage with crazy drag and gorgeous swag every Sunday with "Sunday Funday: Unzipped". Disco, dance, retro, Broadway and camp. It's a night of fantastic gymnastics, costumes and shenanigans. DJ Corey Activate spins. Showtime 6:30 - 8:30, No Cover.

Church on Church (504 Church Street) brings us "F@#K Boy Fridays", every third Friday of the month. Host Joey Monda welcomes boys who like to show off their toys. Superstar spinster DJ Craig Dominic provides the tunes for dudes who

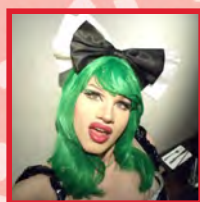
are in the mood and get into the groove. Featuring spotlight performances from some of Toronto's top drag queens. \$5 dolla will make you holla with 10z bar rails till midnight. Free before 11PM.

Saturdays are sweet and sassy so get your ass to Byzantium (499 Church Street) for the ongoing weekly "Sultry Saturdays". International deejay/producer Cajimere Wray is the dance music seducer. Dance the night away as featured performers hit the spotlight and get the crowd going. The night has featured star performers such as Vanity, Boa, Ala Mode, Jada Hudson and Scarlett Bobo to name a few who slew. No cover. Dance all night, alright?

Back and ready to bring the Latin heat. El Convento Rico (750 College Street) has reopened its doors and the party continues at the legendary venue. "Fabulous Fridays" lights up the night featuring the hottest late night drag show in town. Dance lessons at 11:30 with dance duo Alexmar and Michita. Queens in gowns lift your frowns and the hottest Latin men pack the space. Saturdays feature a hot male strip show featuring the boys of Magic Male Revue who'll make you faint and rub your taint. Friday cover \$10 before midnight and \$15 afterward. \$20 Saturdays after midnight.

Cheers my lovelies! See you on the dance floor Buzztters!

Donnarama is a wild and crazy ride, and a senior writer for PinkPlayMags and theBUZZ.





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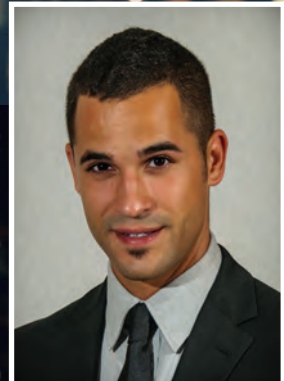
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The Marrying Kind

I Do. These two simple words combined conjure up the fairy tale of happily ever after!

I do love women, I do love commitment, I do love family, and now since 2005 I do have the right to marry the woman of my dreams. When I came out there was no legal marriage for queers. In fact, many of us boo-hoed the entire institution of marriage. Who needs it? Why? Can a piece of paper legitimize love?

Here in our true north strong and free, we have a larger number of same sex couples than any other country in the world. The numbers of same sex marriages have tripled within the past five years. That's a lot of cake!

I spoke with three couples who coincidentally were all introduced through mutual friends. Nobody harassed any of the couples while searching for venues et al. We've come a long way!

When Shelby moved to Toronto, she was advised to look up Katie to show her around the city. "The night her plane landed she showed up at Crews and Tangos, where I was bartending, and we've been together since. Katie laughed when she popped the question "She really gave me no choice!"

Crystal asked Dallas three times in two years before Dallas called her and said "Let's set the date!" Angie asked her girlfriend Rachel on Christmas Day 2011 and were hitched this past September.

Preparing any wedding has some challenges. Angie explained. "Planning the wedding was fun but...budget and guest list was most stressful." Shelby and Katie said, "It was like a full-time job. Do we both wear dresses? How do we walk down the aisle without any sort of gender roles?"

Crystal was reticent about inviting her family and took the easy way out by letting Dallas do all the work. She chose a queer venue and reached out to Crystal's family, "It was the best decision ever."

Having survived long term loyal relations for years, I questioned why get married at all? Angie and Rachel stated, "We got married for all the same reasons straight people get married. To show our love and commitment to each other." Dallas explained, "I am very grateful for the people who fought and continue to fight for our rights. That includes our straight allies who show so much support in our battles."



Rachel claims, "I think everyone has the right to love and to publicly declare their commitment to each other. Katie surmises, "This summer was such a big win for gay marriage for the United States, and we can only hope the rest of the world follows. Getting married was one of the most monumental moments in my life, and no one should be deprived of it."

How has married life changed the couples? Angie comments, "Emotionally our love is stronger than ever", while Katie and Shelby feel that there's a stronger sense of security, problems are shared and, "You become very protective of each other." Crystal sums it all up, "I feel that I am home no matter where we are, secure and very blessed to have my family."

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. Cat is also a reporter for On the Couch.



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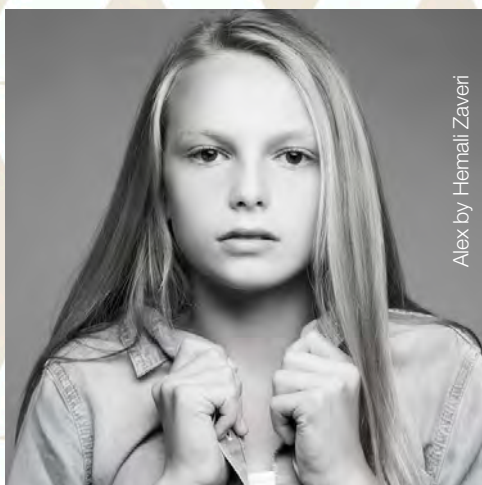
Cecilio Asuncion

"Trans models have always been around," said Cecilio Asuncion by phone from L.A.

"For instance, there's Tracey Africa, Loren Foster, Caroline Cossey, but they could not necessarily disclose their transness before because it would make them lose opportunities."

We were speaking about Slay Model Management, which Asuncion opened just a few months ago, and already his roster is swelling. Obviously, there is a need for such a thing. Peche Di, a former model, just opened a similar agency called Trans Models New York. Is it much longer before someone in Toronto follows suit? Asuncion is excited but cautious. He almost describes it in terms of activism. "There are certain things that the trans community really needs, like equal laws and employment. I really just wanted to do something that directly translates into help. There are people who picket and lobby for laws, but I'm not good at that. This is my way of helping."

The gay Phillipino film director first spent time with the trans community when he made the 2012 documentary *What's the T?* Recently, four of his models were chosen to be in New York's Fashion Week. "My girls aren't divas because they are appreciative of the opportunities. Diva! That's the caricature, but the truth is, they know that they will have to work doubly hard to prove that they can do this. In fashion, there is lots of tokenism, like in a show where a trans model comes out on the runway and everyone goes 'Ooooh, look, it's the trans girl'. I want to get beyond that. I really want my models to



Alex by Hemell Zaveri

get commercial jobs, like billboards for The Gap, Old Navy, or Target or Wal-Mart. It shouldn't be a big deal, they're beautiful."

Lots of Asuncion's models are striking (check them out at <http://www.slaymodels.com>) but it was news when his newest model signed on. Her name is Alex, and she's just 12 years old.

"She looks young, so that's how we're marketing her. I'm hoping she can get print ads for clients like Clean & Clear, or Hollister, or The Gap. She's a good kid."

Alex transitioned at age 4. "She was blessed with parents who listened," said Asuncion. "Alex only knows that she's a girl. Her mom is amazing, not a stage mom at all. They're both very appreciative of the opportunity."

Alex seems ready to make the leap. "I haven't been in a professional runway show yet," she told me via e-mail, "but from what I hear and see, it's fun!" Fashion is in her blood. When I asked her what she would do if she wasn't modelling, she told me, "I think I would like fashion design. I learned some sewing and loved it. It's just one of those things that makes you smile."

Finally, I asked Asuncion why he chose to call the agency Slay. "Because my girls slayed," he exclaimed, "and they are here to stay!"

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.



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One of the best times I've had at Toronto Pride was many, many years ago. I attended a Blockorama event held at the 519, where my friend **Nik Redman** was the DJ. Today he's helping to program the stage for Pride Toronto, in addition to his work at Inside Out LGBT Film Festival.

Boyd Kodak - Can you tell us about your work at Pride Toronto and Inside Out.

Nik Redman - As a member of Blackness Yes!, I have started to meet with other members to see what kind of fierceness we can bring to Blockorama this year. Blockorama, or Blocko, as some of us like to say, is a unifying powerful space that currently takes place on Pride Sunday at the Main Wellesley Stage. It is programmed by community members in Blackness Yes! to engage our communities through musical performances, words, images and dance. We offer 11 hours of solid programming!

At this time of year, I also start watching submissions to the Inside Out LGBTQ Film festival, where I have been one of the programmers for many years. I look at most of the submissions relating to the trans community and by trans filmmakers, as well as a wide array of other work. I stated volunteering at the festival shortly after I moved to Toronto from Ottawa in 1993, and this year marks the 26th anniversary of the festival which runs from May 26 to June 5.

BK - Tell me a bit more about the Blackness Yes! Collective.

NR - Blackness Yes! is a community-based committee that works year-round to celebrate Black queer and trans history, creativity, and resistance. Our mandate is to create a space for LGBTQ folks of African descent, along with their friends, loved ones and supporters. We work to affirm, celebrate and ensure visible Black LGBTQ communities within Pride, to create a Black cultural space within Pride that any Black or Black affirming person can be a part of; and to create a vehicle for HIV/AIDS information dissemination. We create spaces of resistance and celebration. I'm proud to be part of Blocko from the very beginning as a DJ and a volunteer, and I still manage to squeeze in a few DJ gigs, as spinning music for others is still one of my favorite creative outlets



BK - I've had the pleasure of meeting your lovely family, and I know you find time for them as well. Do you have any plans for Valentine's Day?

NR - My partner and I usually celebrate a couple of ways, so we may do something that just involves the two of us, and we also celebrate with our four-year old with all the love we share as a family.

BK - What are you looking forward to doing over the next year?

NR - I look forward to making and producing new music, podcasting a new music show, creating visual art, and perhaps a short film.

BK - Where can we see your work?

NR - You can hear some of my DJ mixes on Facebook and Soundcloud.

BK - Finish the following sentence - Life wouldn't be the same without...

NR - ...our wonderful differences.

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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The QSO



The Queer Songbook Orchestra (QSO) is an 11-piece chamber ensemble based in Toronto that performs all over the city and country.

Its founder and artistic director, Shaun Brodie, came up with the concept in late 2013 and called upon fellow queer and allied musicians to join him.

“We present a songbook of the significant queer songwriters who never got to tell their stories in their own time, or live their own truth in their day. It’s a way to have those narratives shared and to pay respect to these people who were hugely talented and influential musicians, but that had to live this secret life,” explains Brodie.

The QSO has highlighted such musicians as Joe Meek, Billy Strayhorn and K.D. Lang. The songs they perform are a mix of music from LGBT artists and songs that simply resonate with queer people. Overwhelmingly, however, the QSO provides a platform to celebrate LGBT musicians and to provide audiences with more to think about. “I think it allows the audience to hear these songs from a new perspective.”

There are 11 core members, along with guest singers participating, and at times another instrument player joining in as well. Live narration is always a part of the shows too. The QSO often brings in actors, musicians and other performers for the role of narrator, but also invites ordinary community members to take on this role. “That’s sort of my goal with that part of it, is to have the stories told by people who represent the community.”

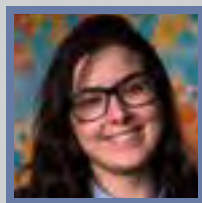
If you’re wondering how the QSO knows that musicians dating to 100 years back were indeed LGBT, it’s all about research. Most of the musicians are well known to have been queer anyway, but the QSO also does additional research at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA) in Toronto, with which they have a partnership.

“What the Queer Songbook Orchestra does is that it’s generating a history today,” says Rebecka Sheffield, executive director of the CLGA. “In looking through the historical records for these kinds of materials, Shaun would also be producing a new archive of queer songbook,” explains Sheffield.

In many ways, the QSO is still in its infancy. Brodie says support is “fairly tenuous” in terms of funding and opportunities, so the future is unclear. But it’s also true that they’re playing at bigger and bigger venues and building a following. For Brodie and his plans for the QSO, that’s incredibly important. “I want it to be here for the long haul.”

The QSO is playing at the Long Winter series at the Great Hall (1087 Queen St W) the weekend of Mar. 18-19, 2016. Visit www.queersongbook.com to find out about future shows.

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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COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS

Voulez-Vous Valentine - The Nude Wave of Burlesque

February 12 & 14

Toronto's premiere burlesque troupes, Skin Tight Outta Sight and Boylesque T.O. are tantalizing once again this year for Valentine's Day.

Revival Bar, 783 College St., Toronto
www.voulez-vousvalentine2016.eventbrite.ca

Marvelous Mondays **Mondays from 8:00 p.m.**

Join the wonderful line up of Divas tonight for a blend of comedy, live singing, and your favorite hits from yesterday and today.

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Toronto
www.crewsandtangos.com

Werk Tuesdays

Tuesdays from 9:00 p.m.

Join the wonderful line up of Divas tonight for a blend of comedy, live singing, and your favorite hits from yesterday and today.

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Toronto
www.crewsandtangos.com

Vocal Rehab

Thursdays from 10:00 p.m.

Let's Sing. Put on your shoes and let's dance. Come out and join the fun in The Zone at the back or Crews & Tangos.

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St., Toronto
www.crewsandtangos.com

Bear Day Sunday Social **Sundays 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

A great place to relax and meet some furry dudes

The Lodge (above O'Grady's), 518A Church St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/1054480047925854/

Men's Chest Contest & Show **Thursdays after 10:00 p.m.**

Sofonda Cox Hosting The Smirnoff Men's Chest Contest & Show. DJ Mark Falco. \$300 cash prizes, Steamworks giveaways with Toronto's hottest staff and contestants. Never a Cover Charge

Woody's and Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto/

Heaven Lee Thursdays **Thursdays from 11:00 p.m.**

Heaven Lee Hytes and her special guests heat up the lounge from 11:00 p.m. to close. No Cover and the hottest Thursday night in the Village.

Zipperz Cellblock, 72 Carlton St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/Zipperz/

Sweet Ass Saturdays

Saturdays after 10:00 p.m.

Sofonda Cox hosts The Squirt.org Men's Ass Contest & show. With guests and DJ Chris Steinbach. \$300 in cash prizes and Toronto's hottest guys. No Cover Charge

Woody's and Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto/

Exposed - James Quigley - Anthem Saturdays **Saturdays from 6:00 p.m.**

EXPOSED in Window Show from 6 to 8pm. James Quigley from 10pm to Close. DJ Sumation in the Cellblock at 10pm for Anthem Saturday's. No Cover, Great Times

Zipperz Cellblock, 72 Carlton St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/Zipperz/

Sunday Funday: Unzipped **Sundays 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Sofonda Cox and Donnarama from 6:30 to 8:30pm. RETRO DRAMA - the best of the 70's, 80's, and 90's with DJ Cory Activate from 10pm to close! No Cover and Great Times!

Zipperz Cellblock, 72 Carlton St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/Zipperz/

Northbound Leather's 26th Anniversary Party **February 20 from 7:00 p.m.**

Celebrate the birth of Canada's original fetish night. Originally a small underground scene that has grown so beautifully in so many ways. Tickets from \$20

Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/1517151741916938



CHARITY BUZZPICKS



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The St. Valentine's Day Mascara

February 12 from 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by Empress 27 Teran Blake of Toronto and Empress 1 Chrissy Snow of St Catharines/Niagara, this is an evening not to be missed! Donations accepted at the door. Raffle Prizes. \$100 cash prize to the winner of the Lip Sync Battle.

Erotico Lounge, 461 Church St., Toronto
www.ticot.ca

Queer & Trans Family Event: Love = Family

February 13 - 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Celebrate love, family and diversity at the annual Queer and Trans Family Valentine's event. These monthly events are designed for queer and trans families and celebrate LGBTQ diversity.

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Toronto
www.the519.org

King & Queen of Hearts Pageant

February 14 from 10:00 p.m.

Hosted by the Dowager Monarchs - Emperor XX Robert George & Empress XX Jill/Munro

Embassy Night Club, 54 King St. E., Hamilton
www.facebook.com/events/1500206823637461

Bloor-Yorkville Icefest

February 20 & 21

Fall in love with Bloor-Yorkville at the 11th Annual Icefest fundraising with participating partners and sponsors in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Bloor-Yorkville, Cumberland St., Toronto
http://www.bloor-yorkville.com/icefest



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GENERAL BUZZPICKS

Valentine's Concert With Jackie Richardson and Micah Barnes

February 13 & 14

Two of Canada's most beloved Jazz vocalists join forces for an evening of romantic music and a celebration of all things Valentine's, featuring an all-star band!
Tickets: \$28 Advance / \$32 Door

Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. W., Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/580101042137052

37th Annual Rhubarb Festival

February 17 to 28

For two weeks, hundreds of artists transform Buddies into a hotbed of experimentation, exploring new possibilities in theatre, dance, music, and performance art.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto
www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/the-37th-rhubarb-festival

Contemporary Female Artists

Through April 10

The Ryerson Image Centre (RIC) celebrates contemporary female artists with three exhibitions featuring work by Wendy Snyder MacNeil, Spring Hurlbut and Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof.

Ryerson Image Centre, 33 Gould St. Toronto
www.ryerson.ca/ric

2015 Notable Awards

February 17 @6:00 p.m.

Thousands of people were nominated, tens of thousands voted, and a select few were lucky enough to be crowned Notable Award winners.

The Carlu, 444 Yonge St., Toronto
www.2015notableawards.eventbrite.ca

Anything Goes

Through March 6

ALL ABOARD! One of the greatest musicals in theatre history, Cole Porter's first-class musical comedy is sailing into Toronto!

Lower Ossington Theatre, 100 Ossington Ave., Toronto
<https://embed.ticketwise.ca/event/anything-goes>

2016 Toronto Winter Brewfest

February 19 & 20

The inaugural edition of the Toronto Winter Brewfest will take place February 19-20, 2016. \$20 presale, \$25 @ door

Enercare Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto
<http://brewfest.ca/toronto/buy-tickets.php>

Claiming Our History 2016

February 20 from noon

Celebrating Black History Month 2016

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/724640370970100/

Doc Soup Sundays

Through June 26

Doc Soup Sundays features premieres of the world's hottest art, culture and design documentaries with special guest Q&As from January through June.

Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W., Toronto
www.bloordocsinema.com/responsive/content/doc_soup_sundays

Workshop: Ink in Arabic and Persian Manuscripts

February 28 10:00 a.m to noon

An expert in print-culture history, the University of Alberta's Ted Bishop shares his professional secrets. \$70, \$63 members, \$40 students and seniors. Preregistration required.

Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wyndford Drive, Toronto
www.agakhanmuseum.org/learn/event/ink-arabic-and-persian-manuscripts

Toronto ComiCon 2016

March 18, 19, 20

Toronto ComiCon is a comic, sci-fi, horror, anime, and gaming event that is packed with exciting family-friendly activities and celebrity guests.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto
www.comicontoronto.com/tickets/

LGBT Friendly Business Network 1st Free Event

February 24 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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Signs Restaurant, 558 Yonge St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/121703754875278/



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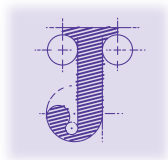


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