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IN THIS ISSUE

- 06 **Bob The Drag Queen** – Raymond Helkio
- 10 **LAL** – Zack Rosen
- 14 **Wigged Out** - Donnarama
- 16 **She Beat** - Cat Grant
- 18 **Bumble-ini** - Paul Bellini
- 20 **A Kodak Moment** - Boyd Kodak
- 22 **Beyond the Village** – Daniela Costa
- 24 **Community BUZZPICKS**
- 25 **Charity BUZZPICKS**
- 26 **General BUZZPICKS**



The Editor

Well here it is. Our first Music issue of theBUZZ. Something I'm very passionate about, and happy to have worked with a great roster of writers who also enjoyed working within this theme.

As you will notice from the cover, we are thrilled to bring you an exclusive interview with **Bob The Drag Queen**, a contestant on the current 8th season of RuPaul's Drag Race. Many of you may have caught her show recently at Fly 2.0, part of her never-ending tour schedule. Our second feature story is on local Toronto band **LAL**, a long time staple on the music scene, and strong advocates of all things political and queer. I had the privilege of working with them several years ago, and they are back after a short absence with a new album, and a slew of live shows across the country, including the official album release party for "Find Safety" at Lee's Palace here in their hometown on April 29th.

Our regular columnist's also take a music spin. Donnarama has selected a few prime events that she recommends for the inner vocalist in us, while Cat Grant chats with drummer **Cathy Marchese** in her "Chicks With Sticks" piece. Paul Bellini gets up and close with himself, and Scott Thompson, explaining their re-emergence on the music scene with their band "**Mouth Congress**". Boyd Kodak spoke with the forever busy **Jade Elektra** about her burgeoning music career, and Daniela Costa checked out **Lezervations**, an event where gals network and socialize.

Wow, if that's not enough music to awaken your ears (and eyes), then our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain, will be sure to have a recommended outing for you here in Toronto, and beyond.

Thanks for picking us up, and be sure to check out our annual Pride issue coming out in June

Bryen Dunn

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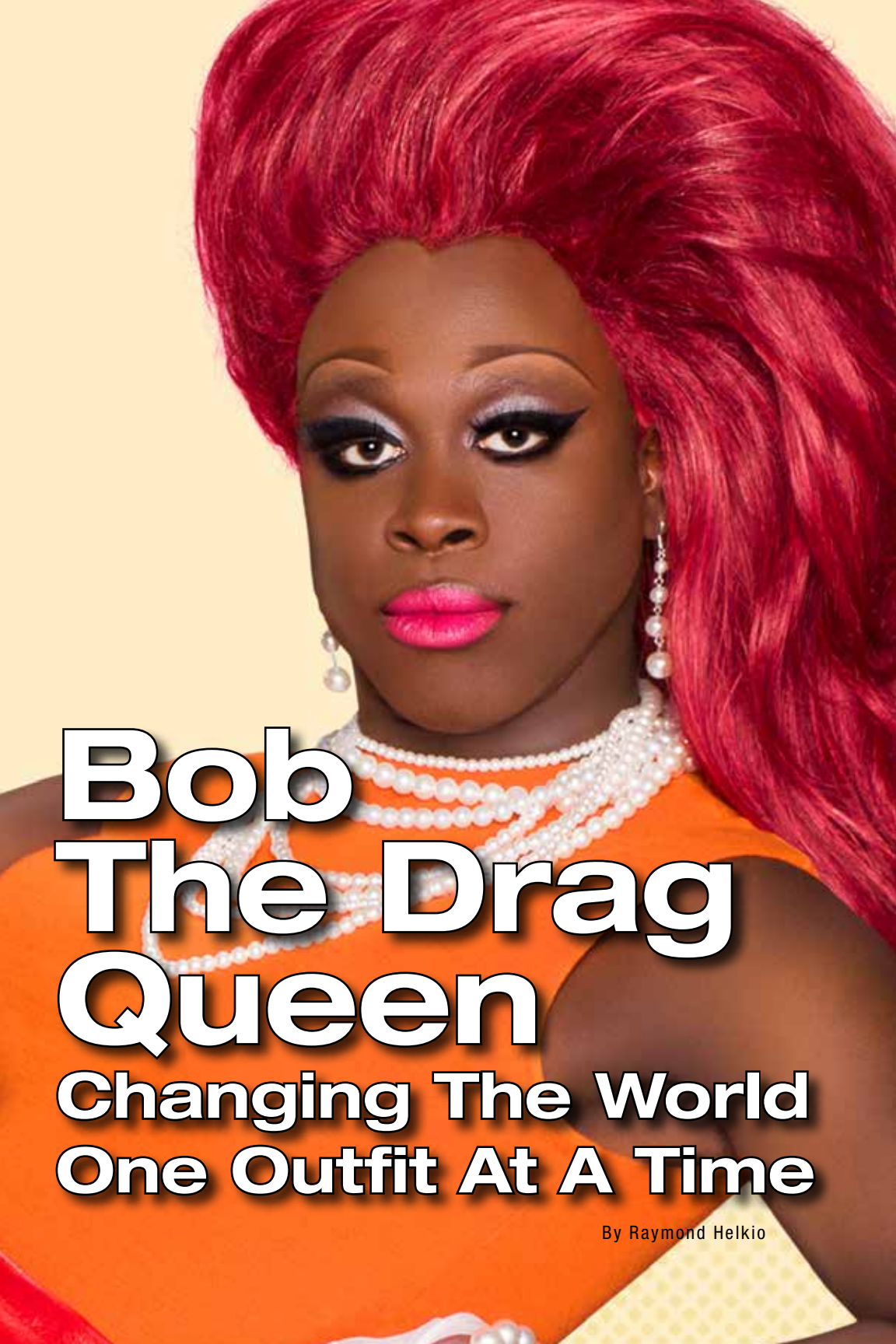
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Bob The Drag Queen

**Changing The World
One Outfit At A Time**

By Raymond Helkio

If The Daily Show's Jessica Williams had sex with Patti LaBelle their offspring would be a lot like Bob The Drag Queen. First name 'Bob', last name 'The Drag Queen', Bob is the comic creation of Christopher Caldwell and if she wins this season of RuPaul's Drag Race it will be an extra sweet victory, because she'll be the only other black person to have won since Tyra Sanchez back in Season Two.

A native of New York, Christopher's first appearance as Bob was on RuPaul's Drag Race, and since then she's blossomed into the nation's most irreverent queen. Her character is especially ironic considering how it came to be. "I was watching Season One and I thought I can do that!", she says.

"I'm a comedian not a drag perfectionist. A lot of people might not go on stage until everything is perfect, but I just don't care because it's not at all what I'm trying to do. My point in doing what I do is to be unique", she explains. These days, creating a point of difference as a drag performer is imperative, especially if you are going heel-to-heel with renowned drag legends. "I'm learning what it means to be a part of the international drag scene. It's one thing to be a local big deal, and even in New York that's pretty big, but you're still just a local girl", she mentions.

Almost overnight, Bob's schedule has exploded with performances in major cities around the globe, including Chicago, Seattle, South Beach, London, Glasgow and yes, oh yes even a few visits to our beloved Toronto, where she recently took stage at Fly 2.0 as part of Pride Toronto's #TeamBob campaign. Despite her globetrotting lifestyle Bob is keeping it humble and remains true to her original intentions of becoming a drag queen for the people, and says "I'm just trying to do two small things - have fun and change the world."

On the latter point she continues to use her celebrity status to provoke change. Her performances



"A lot of queens don't want to mix politics into their shows, but I think it's important and if you're not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem."

generally infuse politics as a way of directing the community's attention to issues that matter to her, like LGBT homeless youth, women, and the lived experiences of the trans community.

"A lot of queens don't want to mix politics into their shows, but I think it's important and if you're not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. I know that sounds black and white. but the queer community can benefit by actively taking a closer look at ourselves. There's a lot that we can do, and as drag queens for example. we can start by looking at women's issues, what a trans woman has to go through, or a cis- gender woman for that



“I’m just trying to do two small things - have fun and change the world.”

matter. There is just so much we can change for the better, and it starts with understanding one another. Especially for the guys; if you’re not going to use your male privilege to stand up for somebody else, then you shouldn’t even have it”, she explains with only a hint of humour in her voice.

In keeping with Bob’s mission to have fun, she’s on the bill for the two day DragCon at the Los Angeles Convention Centre in May. The explosive success of last year’s event attracted over 10,000 attendees. and this year will be bigger; with over 100 exhibitors, screenings/workshops and drag herstory discussion groups. “I’m really excited to be among all those fans. This is huge for me”, she remarks. Bob will also be in among the dozens of notorious celebrity boundary pushers at the show

like Jeffree Star, Acid Betty, Big Dipper, Henry Rollins, James St. James and Trixie Mattel.

Bob’s latest pet project is her Charity 4 The People Tour, which are charitable shows in cities where she’s touring, and it’s complemented by an online auction selling her outfits and memorabilia she’s created and worn on RuPaul’s Drag Race. With all proceeds benefitting local organizations, Bob has aggressive plans to raise at least \$40,000 by this coming DragCon, and another \$100,000 every year after that. Having only started a few weeks ago, she is well on her way to changing the world, one outfit at a time.

Watch Bob The Drag Queen on season eight of RuPaul’s Drag Race, Mondays on Logo. Episodes are posted the next day at LogoTV.com

RuPaul’s DragCon, May 7 & 8, 2016, LA Convention Centre - rupaulsdragcon.com

Official Website - bobthedragqueen.com

Check out the Closet Case vlog on thebuzzmag.ca for a video interview with Bob.

Title page photo courtesy LogoTV.
RuPaul’s Drag Race group photo courtesy LogoTV.

Raymond Helkio is a writer, director and graduate of the Ontario College of Art & Design. Toronto is his home, but he currently lives in New York City.

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LAL

Right Back Where They Started From



As frontwoman for celebrated local band LAL, bi-identifying artist Rosina Kazi has been on the forefront of the Toronto queer scene for the better part of two decades. Currently preparing for the April 29th release party of their new album *Find Safety* at Lee's Palace, Kazi is quick to explain that Toronto has offered her just as much as she has given back.

"I grew up in Brampton in the '80s and '90s - I've always known I was genderqueer, but it wasn't a language I was around," says Kazi in a phone interview. "I started understanding through language when I worked at the Toronto Women's Bookstore in

the early 2000s. I'd always been around the queer community with the band, but the bookstore gave me a sense of myself I hadn't been able to find the words for. As I understood my queer side and who I was, our audience has grown as I've grown."

LAL's fan base has in fact grown so large that it's reached Kazi's front door, and Kazi, ever the good host, has let them in. She and her long-time bandmate/life partner Nicholas Murray bought a Bloordale warehouse space in 2009. Kazi, who is Bengali, re-evaluated her life priorities the next year after the death of her mother, and decided to turn their new home into a community venue.

She said, "Let's organize shit for folks who don't have a lot of money, that's physically accessible, [that's for] queer folks of colour who just wanna have a show and dance, and not be harassed, or bothered with gender shit, whatever. We've built it all, it's all word of mouth besides Facebook. We're not promoters — we're space holders."



Unit 2, on Sterling Road, is a house for music — both local and “all kinds of queer POC bands from the states” - but also holds group-minded events, like a fundraising party for a patron’s chest surgery. Additionally, for those who like their nights a little drier, the venue’s Facebook page says that last month even hosted a sober party.

“It’s about creating something that’s more holistic. Each event is quite different, and we have a mix of people from the indigenous scene, the queer scene, a real hodgepodge of people coming together, artists who normally wouldn’t come together, all dancing. When you dance ... you build trust in a different way. You can start to have harder conversations, hopefully, and build and bridge communities”, Kazi explains.

LAL’s long-awaited upcoming release, “Find Safety,” builds and bridges sounds. The album is a heady melange of hip-hop, jazz, trip-hop, Bengali music, pop, and much more, making for a cohesive statement for dancing, chilling and thinking. The band

has been busy with recordings, live shows and other projects since 2012’s independently-released eponymous album.

The years off have found the band - which has had up to six members in the past - returning to their roots as a duo of just Kazi and Murray. Those two will be joined by a LAL-family who’s-who of special guests like Too Attached, Marshia Celina and DJ DurtyDabz at the Lee’s Palace Show. The band hosted their first CD release party there 18 years ago, marking this a long-coming full circle accomplishment. “We’ve been around so long, and things have changed so drastically — we feel like a new band, which is amazing”, Kazi confides.

Songs to watch for from the defiant and expansive Find Safety include lead single “Stand in my Way”, opening track “Dead Happiness”, and “Rules Were Meant to Be Broken” which is among Kazi’s personal favourites. It was inspired by a trip to Berlin that saw the band, among other highlights, playing a party called “Pork” at the city’s oldest gay club.

“It’s about that feeling of coming out of the closet, feeling really great. Berlin’s not just a queer haven, it’s political. It’s amazing to be around, and to be reminded of that. The song’s not just about Berlin, but it started there and resonated. It’s like a mantra for myself to just break the rules. I’m a bit of an anarchist, so it goes with my anarchist tendencies”, Kazi proclaims.

For more information about the album release party, visit www.Universe.com/LalSafety. Lee’s Palace is an accessible venue.

Facebook: LALWorld / Unit 2

Photo courtesy of Calvin Hudson Hwang.

Zack Rosen was the editor-in-chief and co-founder of the now defunct queer cultures website 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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WIGGED OUT

BY DONNARAMA



Goodbye cold and hello spring. Let's shed our layers and say our prayers. It's warmth and fun, welcome back the sun! Let's find out what our fair city is offering. Where will you dance, where will you sing, who will you bring, who will be seen?

The Randolph Centre for the Arts (736 Bathurst St) beckons you to carry a tune at the **"Brew and View: Moulin Rouge Sing-A-Long"** on Sunday April 16th 7:30 PM. On screen lyrics will help you along to sing your favorite songs from the ingenious musical favorite.

Licensed 19 + \$15 All inclusive. Tickets available at randolphcentreforthearts.com

If you miss out on the scream and shout, catch the **"Chicago Sing-A-Long"** on April 23rd, also at The Randolph.

Sunday April 24th get the balls rolling for **"TICOT Bingo"** at Flash On Church (463 Church Street) 2:30 - 5PM. The House of F.U.R.S (Friendship, Unity, Rhinestones and Service) invites you to join Empress 29 Morgan James, Regent Emperor Hunter James and the Imperial Court of Toronto

for some F.U.N (Friendship, Unity and Nonsense). The last Sunday of every month this charity fundraising event benefitting the Reign Charity of Choice will hit the spot, with a dabber. Expect raffles, prizes and brochures in plus sizes.

If I could reach the stars, I'd give them all to you, boo. **"Turn Back Time: The 80's Retro Video Dance Party"** gets footloose Friday, May 20th 10 PM - 2 AM at The Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen Street West). VJ Sean Caff lets the music play and you won't get away. Strike a pose with Michael, Madonna, Prince, Annie too, Cyndi Lauper we love you and get those crenelines crinkling. More info gladstonehotel.com

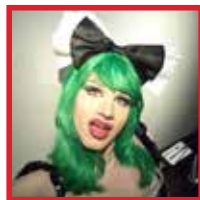
Get ready because **RuPaul's Drag Race "Battle Of The Seasons"** sashays into town in a fierce gown hosted by RuPaul's Drag Race series star judge Michelle Visage, on Friday May 27th 8PM at the Danforth Music Hall (147 Danforth Ave). Featuring past winners, and popular fan favorites from all seasons with drag and performances galore for you to adore. Featuring an incredible line up (may be subject to change) with appearances and performances by Violet Chachki, Manila, Muzon, Sharon Needles, BenDeLaCreme, Ivy Winters, Jinkx Monsoon and my favorite, Katya Zamolodchicova. To get your Ru on, visit TheDanforth.com.

Heads up! It's already on its way so plan ahead today. The all new **Prism 2016** is happening June 30th -July 4th with six events in one incredible weekend. Matinee Circuit, Bootcamp, Aqua, Resist, Dip and revival are major events with top notch DJ's and performers that are sure to amaze. Tickets available in advance prismtoronto.com or in store at The Men's Room (465 Church Street).

It's musical fun second to none here in Toronto, so dance and sing, get up and do your thing, time after time, dear friends of mine.

Have a wonderful spring and enjoy everything Buzzsters!

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



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Chicks With Sticks

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Our heart beats speed up in anticipation, when we see a special someone, and as queers we dance to the beat of a different drummer.

There is evidence from 6,000 years ago about using drums for communication played with bare hands. The first woman drummer I knew of was Karen Carpenter. There was also Maureen Ann "Moe" Tucker of Velvet Underground, and Sandy West of The Runaways. The 80's brought us Gina Schock (The Go Go's), Debbi Peterson (The Bangles), and of course the wonderful Sheila E. Women drummers were almost mandatory for the alternative 1990's, with Hole, White Stripes, The Donnas, and many more.

Toronto born Cathy Marchese gravitated towards drums by age 12, after studying music theory from the age 6 (playing clarinet and piano) at the Ontario Conservatory of Music. "The fact that I was using my entire body to play had something visceral about it", she explains. By 15 years old Cathy was playing underage in clubs before touring around the globe with numerous acts including a 6-year tenure with Jane Doe, and many amazing bands such as Random Order and Crackpuppy.

Although being a woman in rock, her musical inspirations are male, and include David Bowie and Led Zeppelin's, John Bonham. A career highlight was providing a soundtrack for a movie called 'A Short Film About Falling' by Peter Lynch, that was based on a concept by artist Max Roach. It was chosen as one of the featured shorts at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2007, and had its premiere at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Marchese says, "Another source of inspiration is seeing an elderly couple out and about holding hands. Not sure there's anything more incredible than seeing two people who probably have some of the most amazing stories to tell, together still. It's inspiring and beautiful." Cathy told me her mom is front row and centre inspiration because, "She's the strongest, most resilient, warmest person on the planet to me. She continues to support me no matter what."

The best part of playing live for her is the symbiosis between musician/audience members that happens when a show starts reaching certain levels of intensity. "I really start to feel a connection between myself and whoever's on the dance floor.



They're moving to the rhythm and sounds of the band. There's nothing hotter than that." Well except for maybe Cathy herself.

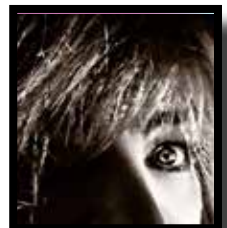
So what is the driving force that keeps Marchese banging on? "The mechanics behind each drum, the hardware, wood/plastic/metal - different materials working together to make sound. How easily it is to force out a certain level of self expression through body movements in a rather confined space and limited amount of space, trapped on a drum seat sort of deal. Plus, the aggressive, LOUD aspect of the acoustics themselves, and they're fun", she exudes.

Her next project is Black and Blonde, with partner in crime singer/guitarist Carm Lamont, who Cathy describes as, "An awesome chick with great energy. We're currently in writing mode and the tunes are on the heavier side of the tracks - raunch, aggression, loud and crazy."

She's also currently part of Grace, Toronto's own all female funk/soul band, bringing you R&B, funk, soul, disco, and a whole lotta love. You can catch the band at Eton House on the Danforth, April 30 2016. www.facebook.com/gracemusicTO/

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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MOUTH CONGRESS



PHOTOS: Michel Rapihal

On February 21, at the Rivoli on Queen Street West in Toronto, Scott Thompson and myself performed with our punk rock band "Mouth Congress" for the first time in 24 years! Why, most people would ask, would two old queers, who could be grandfathers, front a punk rock band now? And secondly, were they any good?

The answer to that second question is yeah, fucking yeah. We rocked our cocks off, as the yung'uns like to say. As to why, that is more complex. Back in our 20s, Scott and I were openly gay men dedicated to writing and performing comedy. I started the band in November of 1984, and we performed about a dozen shows over the next few years, and recorded over 600 songs... yes 600!

Then, Scott joined "Kids in the Hall", and the rest is history. The Kids went on to make a fabulous TV show, and "Mouth Congress" was all but forgotten. Then one day about five years ago, I started digitizing our old cassette tapes and playing the tracks for Scott. He suggested that we revive the band for one night only and shoot the whole thing for an upcoming documentary.

Easier said than done. It's hard, at the age of 56, to be performing punk music in front of a drummer bashing away, and amps throbbing with sound. Most mornings after rehearsals, I felt like I had been in a prize fight the night before.

Luckily, it all turned out just like we hoped. We performed our 12 songs and 11 costume changes in front of a capacity crowd, that was made up of people who were too young to ever see us perform in the 80s. They enjoyed our campy songs, like the one about a middle-aged housewife who learns how to strip

for her husband, and our cri-de-couer about the toll of AIDS. Then there was my solo about gerbiling (told from the gerbil's perspective), and Scott's heartfelt love song, called "Be My Hole".

Perhaps our most daring, and most easily misunderstood song is "She Male". Written in 1987, long before that term became politically incorrect, it combines fetish kink with the cartoon character of She-Ra, and depicts a vengeful deity with both a penis and a vagina who dare not be defied. We performed it in Wagnerian opera costumes. It probably only makes sense to us, but the crowd loved it anyway.

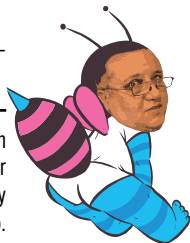
So that's what "Mouth Congress" was - a bold musical experiment celebrating the sexual diversity of the human condition. We were out gay guys playing with heterosexual musicians, and working in a field where gay men seldom tread.

Let this be an inspiration to any young gay man - you can have your own rock band. Rock N Roll is not just for straight boys and lesbians.

So to answer the real question on everyone's minds - did either Scott or myself ever get laid by a groupie? Nah. We only did it for the music, man.

Grab a listen to the band here - mouthcongress.bandcamp.com/

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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Jade Elektra is a talented performer, and a Toronto LGBTQ community champion, Ber'lin Records artist, actor, producer and HIV activist and organizer of POZ-TO events. Jade is also known as DJ Relentless, probably best known for a genre called Bitch Tracks (Underground Gay Urban Dance Music). 2016 has found Jade with three major single releases, "Karma" and "Scared Of Evolution" on Ber'lin Records, as well as her Canadian release "Come Get This Education" on Posse Up Records.

Boyd Kodak What have you been up to over the last year?

Jade Elektra It was a year of change as I found myself unemployed right before Christmas. So I regrouped and made a bold decision to focus on my dreams. I took it as an opportunity to start fresh for 2016 and give full attention to my recording career.

BK Which was the one most exciting event for you?

JE Most definitely shooting my first music video for "Karma" was exciting. Another highlight was to work with Canadian producers such as The Philthkids. We have one track out, but are working on more.

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

JE I guess the catalog of my new tracks and a better resume of venues that I will have performed or DJ'd for. It is a great feeling to finally get to a point in your life when all of your past work actually means something, and people respect you for your ideas and contributions to the industry and community.

BK Where can we see your work?

JE I have just started a new dance party as DJ Relentless at The Duke Live.com in Leslieville called MIXOLOGY FRIDAYS. I'm looking forward to the challenges of reprogramming and formatting this local watering hole into a place where everyone is welcome to come hit the dancefloor. I love bringing people together. My videos can be seen on YouTube, just google me.



PHOTOS: John Richard Allen

BK Future plans?

JE I am currently working on a revue called FAUX GIRLS which will be a dinner and show at a restaurant in Leslieville. On a bigger horizon, my label in New York City, Ber'lin Records, feels I have enough material to produce a studio album as my alter-ego, Jade Elektra. So, I am really excited about that! Plus, my husband and I are continuing our event called POZ-TO.

BK Any message you would like to put out there?

JE All I can say is it all begins with you. It's as simple as the message was in "The Wiz" for Dorothy, "all you gotta do is believe in yourself". I dared to believe that I could do better and trust me, I've done even more than what I even imagined possible. Stop living in fear.

BK Finish the following sentence for us - The last thing I do before I go to sleep is...

JE Make sure that I am happy with the decisions I made that day. That's the only way to live a happy life.

www.jadeelektra.com

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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BEYOND THE VILLAGE

By Daniela Costa

RSVP for Lezervations



“Feel free to pretend it’s a secret lesbian society.” Intrigued?

Well you should be, because this is how the minds behind Lezervations choose to promote their event, and believe me when I say they put the best in best-kept secret.

Having just wrapped its 11th event (only its second in Toronto), Lezervations is less of a secret and more of a growing phenomenon these days. Co-founder Isabelle Swiderski describes it best: “It’s a series of social events where LBQT women can congregate in a setting that allows for conversation, typically those seeking something different than the club scene and the distant atmosphere of networking events.”

That’s how she and co-founder Dara Parker came up with the idea for Lezervations almost two years ago. “We started having conversations around where women like us might be,” she says. “Women who are maybe mid-career, who have a network, who want to contribute, who want to give back, and who also want to build community and be more visible to each other.”

A mutual love for dinner parties provided an answer and a business idea. Lezervations, a Canadian not-for-profit, was born. Vancouver, Toronto and San Francisco have all hosted the event, which is looking to expand to New York City, Miami, Seattle and Halifax in 2016. Montreal is also a potential future candidate, as are Paris and London. “Our vision is to have a global network.”

Lezervations always partners with a local not-for-profit. In Toronto, they’ve joined forces with The 519 Church Street Community Centre. While these partnerships have been great, corporate sponsors are just as important. TD Bank is the event’s sponsor in Vancouver and Toronto.

Held in restaurants that close down for the evening, Lezervations runs for three hours, with open networking at the beginning and end, and dinner and dessert in the middle. To encourage conversation, there’s different assigned seating for the main course and dessert.

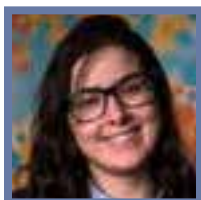
At its core, Lezervations is a mix of socializing and business networking, and it’s been successful at this. In fact, according to Swiderski, couples have met through the event, and some women have even landed jobs because of new connections.

“I had a great time. It’s a different opportunity to connect with a different crowd of people,” says Kristina Flynn, who attended the first Toronto event. “Lots of Bay Street was represented there, but one of the most interesting conversations I had was with a female firefighter”, she recalls.

That said, there’s no need to worry about cliques if you plan to attend. Swiderski says 50 per cent of attendees are new because she and Parker strongly encourage their guests to introduce Lezervations to others.

They have an ambassador in Flynn. “It would definitely be a priority for me to bring somebody new that hasn’t experienced it so that they can get to see the positivity that I keep talking about.”

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

By Sherry Sylvain

Dralms

April 15 7:30 p.m.

Catch the latest musical project from Vancouver's Christopher Smith, who teams up many collaborators to create experimental tunes.

19+ Event - Tickets at tickwew.ca/embrace, Rotate This, Soundscape The Drake Hotel, 1150 Queen St. W.
www.thedrakehotel.ca

Mixology Fridays with DJ Relentless

Fridays from 10:00 p.m.

NO COVER, free parking, Queen Street Streetcar right on the corner. Great menu, free pool tables, friendly staff and a spot reserved for you on the dance floor!

The Duke Live, 1225 Queen St. E.
www.facebook.com/Mixology-Fridays-831852780259555

Brew & View: Moulin Rouge

April 16 7:30 p.m.

Grab a buddy and grab a beer as we sing (and drink) along to MOULIN ROUGE! 19+ \$15 Randolph Theatre, 736 Bathurst St.

www.facebook.com/events/1682857141985482/

Statler's Country Night

Sundays from 9:30 p.m.

Amanda Jean and John Bridgens bring you a selection of fabulous live country music weekly.

Statler's, 487 Church St.
www.statlers.ca

A Village Cabaret

Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

Starring Guy Moreau with James Quigley on piano. Come out for some great music and get up and sing as well. It's a show and an open mic!

Zipperz Cellblock, 72 Carlton St.
www.facebook.com/groups/4853730993/



C.U.Next Tuesday

Tuesdays 11:00 p.m.

Donnarama with her crazy costumes and ridiculously entertaining performances is on every Tuesday. Watch for guest performer appearances.

Statler's, 487 Church St.
www.statlers.ca

Kendall Partington

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

The talented Kendall is on keyboards and vocals performing all the tunes we know and love.

Statler's, 487 Church St.
www.statlers.ca

D-Beatstro - One Year Birthday Party

April 21 - 24

Throw on some black and make your way over to Bloor Street West to celebrate the one-year anniversary of this tiny all-inclusive vegan-friendly, punk café.

D-Beatstro, 1292 Bloor St. W.
www.facebook.com/events/1728004834142358/

Superbutch

May 14 8:30 p.m.

Through live music, a fashion show, a panel, and projected photographs, Superbutch looks at the history of working-class butch-femme culture. \$15/PWYC

The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St. W.
www.facebook.com/events/1033464230054419/

Turn Back Time: An 80's Video Dance Party

May 20 10:00 p.m.

If it was acceptable in the 80s then we're into it. Whether you lived through it, were born during, or are just nostalgic for a time you never knew, check out this night of 80's celebration.

Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W.
www.gladstonehotel.com

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.



CHARITY BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Queer & Trans Youth Arts Programmes: Scarves and Storytelling

April 15

Think of a story, something from your background or community that's unique to your life. Simplify that story as much as possible until you have only the essential details. Kids 8 - 11

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



LGBTQ Volunteer Fair

April 16 11:00 a.m.

Attend the LGBTQ Volunteer Fair at The 519 showcasing volunteer opportunities from organizations across the GTA. It's your chance to network and connect.

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

Flair For Life

April 20 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a signature cocktail and bid on fabulous silent auction items, all in support of Fife House, an organization that provides services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Greater Toronto Area.

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

TICOT Bingo

April 24, May 29

Join Empress 29 Morgan James, Regent Emperor Hunter James and The Imperial Court of Toronto for a FUN filled afternoon of Friendship, Unity and Nonsense. A fundraiser for Reign XXIX Charities.

Flash, 463 Church St
www.ticot.ca

What's So Queer About Dying?

April 30 2:30 p.m.

Join The 519 and The Senior Pride Network for this Opening "The Closet On Aging Community Forum: What's So Queer About Dying?"

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

13th Annual East Coast Charity Ball

April 30 6:00 p.m.

Flagship fundraising event in support of the IWK Foundation. The evening will include live entertainment and a silent auction with over 500 guests expected.

Design Exchange, 234 Bay St.
www.dx.org



TICOT's King Father and Queen Mum Appointments

May 8 8:00 p.m.

Show 9-11, \$10 suggested donation at door. Featuring Stepdowns of Sherry Sylvain and Popper Smurf. Fundraiser for the charities of Reign XXIX.

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

Buffalo, NY Coronation XXVI Weekend

May 20, 21, 22

Featuring the Out of Town Show @ Club Marcella – Friday @ 7pm; The Grand Ball @ The Adam's Mark Hotel Ballroom – Saturday @ 6pm; Brunch @ The Adam's Mark – Sunday @ 11am

Club Marcella, 622 Main St., Buffalo, NY/Adam's Mark Hotel, 120 Church St., Buffalo, NY
www.facebook.com/ImperialCourt-OfBuffalo-899270026802377/

Colour Durham with PRIDE

June 3, 4, 5

Kick-off Party – Friday @ 7pm – Club 717; Vendor Market – Saturday @ 10am; PRIDE Parade – Sunday @ 10:30am; PRIDE Events in the Park – Sunday @ noon

Various venues in Oshawa
www.facebook.com/events/206655476356700/

Becel Heart & Stroke Ride For Heart

June 5.

Join the 29th Becel Heart & Stroke Ride for Heart, or stride for heart in the new run/walk. It's an experience of a lifetime, and a chance to help create more survivors.

Gardiner Expressway, Toronto
www.heartandstroke.ca

GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Submission Call – Too Queer: A Bi Visibility Cabaret

April 17

“Too Queer” is looking for art and performance by artists who identify as bisexual/pansexual, and/or whose content addresses themes of bisexuality/pansexuality.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street
www.facebook.com/TooQueer/

Showcase Performance: Earwitness 2016

April 21

How can a piano become a visual instrument as well as a musical one? Pianist-composer Eve Egoyan partners with renowned Canadian artists to debut a live multimedia performance.

Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wyndford Drive www.agakhanmuseum.org/

TAFFI2016

April 23-24

Toronto Animation Arts Festival International 2016 offer workshops with famous animators, such as Aladdin, Pocahontas, Anamaniacs, and Hanna-Barbera

Toronto Animation Arts Festival International, 25 Dockside Drive
www.facebook.com/attthetafi

Disney's The Little Mermaid

April 2-24

In a magical kingdom beneath the sea, a beautiful young mermaid named Ariel longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above.

Randolph Theatre, 736 Bathurst St.
www.randolphtheatreforthearts.com

Tori Kelly – Unbreakable Tour

May 3

YouTube darling and American Idol contestant, Tori Kelly breaks out on her own - Doors 7:00 PM, All Ages

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St
www.masseyhallroythomsonhall.com



North American Indigenous Cultural Festival

May 21 & 22

1st Annual North American Indigenous Cultural Festival with pavilions, food, Indigenous vendor market, entertainment, music, and more.

Downsview Park, 35 Carl Hall Rd
www.ncct.on.ca/north-american-indigenous-cultural-festival



INSPIRE Awards

May 27 6:00 p.m.

Join the LGBTQ community, friends and allies for the 6th Annual INSPIRE Awards, one of the most magical and inspiring yearly events of our community.

Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle
www.facebook.com/events/1223226757707098/

Niagara Falls Comic Con

June 3, 4, 5

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Niagara Falls Comic Con, 6815 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls
www.niagarafallscomiccon.com

Ever After Music Festival

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Bingemans Park, 425 Bingemans Centre Drive, Kitchener
www.everafterfest.com/

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www.bestival.ca

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