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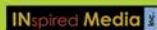
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# The Editor

Greetings and salutations! Our summer issue of theBUZZ is beaming with sunshine and superstars. As you've likely noticed, our cover features Jane Wiedlin from legendary 80's pop band The Go Go's.

I had the opportunity to chat with her about the band's Farewell Tour happening this month, which brings the ladies to Toronto for one last hurrah. She speaks about what fans can expect, as well as her personal involvement with animal rights activism, and her other career as an ordained wedding officiant.

In our second feature, Raymond Helkio takes a look at what it's like to be “Gay Beyond the GTA”, with a roundup of gay establishments in Hamilton, Simcoe, Niagara, and elsewhere.

New this issue is the introduction of our rotating roster of writer's who will be contributing to our regular “Wiggled Out” column. In this issue, Eve Summers brings us her hot tips on where to go and what to do. Cat Grant's “She Beat” column spotlights two lesbian authors—Eva Tihanya and Joie Lamar—about what it's like being a poet. Paul Bellini recalls his Toronto encounters with legendary actor Udo Kier who was in town shooting a new film, and Boyd Kodak caught up with transgender model Caroline “Tula” Cossey to discuss her memoir, “My Story”, her upcoming HBO special, “The Trans List”, and her most recent Playboy interview. Finally, Daniela Costa gives us the rundown on lesbian-owned east end pub, The Old Nick.

Thanks for picking us up. Enjoy the read!

## **Bryen Dunn**

Editor-in-Chief

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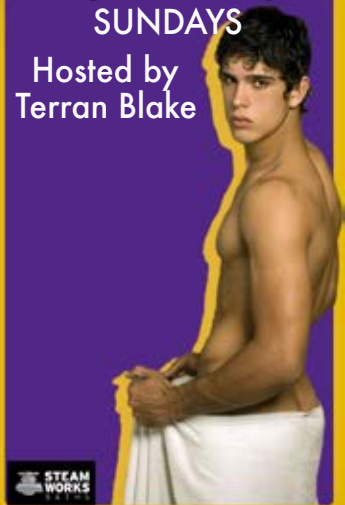
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# Going, Going, The Go Go's Farew



The Go Go's were the first all female pop band to write their own songs, play all their own instruments, and top the Billboard album charts, without the aid of outside composers, session players or creative compromise.

Nearly four decades later, the band is performing one final time with the key original lineup intact, including a stop in Toronto August 16th at Massey Hall. The Go-Go's live shows continue to deliver every bit of the raw energy of their Los Angeles punk beginnings, along with all the pop hits that put them at the top of the charts.

theBUZZ caught up with guitarist/vocalist Jane Wiedlin to chat about the current tour, her work around animal

activism, and her other career as “Reverend Sister Go-Go”.

The first time the band played a gig in Canada was nearly 35 years ago to the date, back on August 23rd 1981 at the Police Picnic at an outdoor field dubbed The Grove. They performed on stage with the likes of Killing Joke, The Specials, Nash The Slash, The Police, and bad boy Iggy Pop. Wiedlin still recalls that show from her younger punk days when the elder Mr. Pop walked up to her backstage and blurted, “Hey, we could have a party little girl”. And, what a party it has been.

On this final tour Wiedlin said fans can expect, “all the hits, obscurities and B-sides, along with a few surprise cover tunes.” The ladies got together over the past two weeks for rehearsals in Los Angeles, the city where it all began back in the late 1970's. They've come a long way from the days they jumped on stage with little to no musical experience, but with a lot of



# Gone Farewell Tour

PHOTO: Carl Timpone

## Catching Up with Jane Wiedlin

By Bryen Dunn

attitude, hairspray, and makeup. They soon found themselves on tour in the UK with several English bands topping the charts at the time.

With no recording in place, their management asked them to put together an EP for Stiff Records, which included a raw demo version of the now classic "We Got The Beat", so that they would have something to sell at their live shows. The song was later refined, and re-recorded with an additional section added, and went on to become their biggest "money-maker", according to Wiedlin. One of their other big hits was "Our Lips Are Sealed", which Wiedlin co-wrote with her then boyfriend and Fun Boy Three/Specials frontman Terry Hall. Both songs appeared on the triple-platinum selling I.R.S. album, "Beauty and the Beast". Fun Boy Three also recorded and released a separate more Ska-influenced version of the single.

As with any band, the Go Go's had a tumultuous career. Personality conflicts, creative differences, and personal matters lead to Wiedlin announcing her departure from the group in October 1984. The following year the remaining members of the band disbanded completely. After a short hiatus, the classic lineup reformed in 1990 to perform at a benefit, as well as record a cover tune for a greatest hits compilation. Then in 1994, three more new recordings were released, followed by a few select live gigs. A full album of material followed in 2001, and they played a tribute gig for Brian Wilson.

The Farewell Tour was originally scheduled to take place in 2010, but was cancelled when Wiedlin injured her knees on a California hiking trip. In 2011, a "Ladies Gone Wild" tour was launched to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the release of "Beauty and the Beast". Midway through 2015, the new musical "Head Over Heels" opened to great reviews and strong audience support at the Oregon



Shakespeare Festival. The band continued to play sporadic shows, including double-bills with The B52's, leading up to the rescheduled Farewell tour this month.

As a child, Wiedlin liked to listen to 1960s pop music, especially songs by The Beatles and The Monkees. Wiedlin also once worked at a fashion design house where she created song lyrics by scribbling down ideas on clothing patterns, and later became known as "Jane Drano", creating her own designs of punk clothing. Over the years Wiedlin's kept herself busy by releasing several solo albums, starting her own record label, taking on movie acting roles, doing cartoon voiceovers, writing a comic book about herself, and appearing on a reality television show.

**Asked what she's been listening to lately, she quickly quips, "I've only been listening to David Bowie since his death, as I'm in a full year of mourning."**

She's currently working on a new recording with Italian artist Pietro Straccia, tentatively set for release later this year. "I've always been a fan before a musician, and he's a great musician. We're already four songs into the album", she admits. Asked what she's been listening to lately, she quickly quips, "I've only been listening to David Bowie since his death, as I'm in a full year of mourning."

It seems anti-climatic to be doing only 18 shows over the course of one month as the swan song departure for such a legendary act, but as Wiedlin mentioned, the band all have other life and career commitments to contend with. "I would have liked to have done a longer tour, but such is life", she says.

Wiedlin has always been an animal rights activist, as far back as the late 1980's working with PETA. In 1990 her and the band performed a benefit concert for the California Environmental Protection Act, and for the last stop on this tour she's donated a pair of tickets to the show and after-party as a giveaway for a Tiny Loving Canines fundraiser in Los Angeles. She's also heading to Aruba soon with Animal Balance to volunteer at a massive spay/neuter clinic.

Relocating to Hawaii last year, she's continued her animal advocacy work there. She realized there were no legislations in place to protect stray animals on the streets, and began lobbying for this by way of presenting proposals to her local politicians. She started fostering dogs and cats, and organized a fundraiser to benefit a local animal rescue group, Aloha Ilio Rescue, that raised \$5,000 with all proceeds going directly toward animal rescue. Her current furry family includes four "permanent" pets, two cats and two dogs, all seniors.

Born into a Catholic family, Wiedlin now identifies as an atheist and is also an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church, a mail-order religious organization that offers anyone semi-immediate ordination free of charge. She acts as a wedding officiant, performing ceremonies as "Reverend Sister Go-Go". She explains the reasoning behind this decision. "I have lots of gay friends, and the band has always had a great fan base within the LGBT community. I decided back in 2008 when there was all that debate about gay marriage and Proposition 8, that I wanted to do this for my friends, and all others who love each other and want a life commitment." She's since married hundreds of couples of all genders and sexualities.

For those who missed these ladies the first time around, this is your last chance. The Go Go's play Massey Hall in Toronto on Tuesday August 16th, with special guests Kaya Steward and Best Coast.

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Bryen Dunn is Editor-in-Chief of theBUZZ and PinkPlayMags. He is an accomplished travel and entertainment writer with a diverse portfolio of regional, national and international stories to his credit.





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# Gay Beyond The GTA

By Raymond Helkio

Our fight for equality has gifted us many things but it's also backfired in ways many of us could not have anticipated. Take for instance the raising of the rainbow flag in cities, towns and municipalities across Canada. It's an epic moment when any community demonstrates a commitment to it's LGBT citizens, yet at the same time the battle to be treated 'just like everybody else' has, in many ways, got us just that.

Today, many within the LGBT community feel comfortable being open about who we are in public spaces, bars, restaurants, theatres, grocery shops and pretty much anywhere that our heterosexual counterparts used to dominate. This is a testament to our progress as a community, but it also calls into question the value we place on LGBT businesses, not just as

a means for someone to make a living, but as a year-round bricks-and-mortar reminder of our existence. There is power in that.

Is it possible that the more mainstream and accepted we become, the less space we'll have for our own? While smaller cities and towns may have a reputation for moving slower, the opening and closing of LGBT establishments is anything but. The rainbow lining in the silver cloud is that some spaces are not only surviving, they are thriving and providing that community connection point where none had existed before, such as spaces like Hamilton's The Embassy, The Werx, Marquee Nightclub and it's newest offering, Steel Lounge which has been around a few years.

Hamilton resident, playwright and artist Sky Gilbert has seen the ever shifting landscape of queer spaces, "When I first moved to Hamilton there were six bars and a gay bookstore named Sodom. Even this place (referring to Steel Lounge) is new, but before this it was also a gay bar." In it's previous incarnation, Steel was called The Junction Cafe owned by Ronn Mattai, who was once attacked on his way home from an after work drink with friends at The Werx. This incident forever changed Hamilton for the better, because politicians, clergy, the police and even Mayor Larry Di Ianni got involved. The Hamilton LGBT community took this as a call to action that later spawned a network of resources including The Well,





an LGBTQ resource centre, Positive Space training throughout the city, public displays of support by the police, and the cities first LGBT advisory group. Most triumphantly, Hamilton elected Aidan Johnson, the city's first openly gay councillor.

Emily Groom, owner of the Steel Lounge has previously told CBC that "It's fine that we as a community have grown, and that we're accepted in many spaces," she said. "But it's nice to have some place to call your own, a place you feel comfortable to be out." Gay bars, clubs and theatres are not what define a community, they make up a part of it that in the larger scheme of things makes us more a vibrant and stronger both as a community and as individuals.

Just outside of Toronto there are dozens of bars and clubs carving out a space for us and even if it's just to take in the vibe of the city or municipality, it's worth dropping into some of the more interesting spaces like the community of Oshawa's Club 717 which operates as a non-profit event space, or The Den Nightclub. Then there are communities like Simcoe, where legendary DJ Cashmere Wray originates from, that have celebrated a Pride Day for the past five years, but still don't have a dedicated bar or space. Niagara region has held Pride events for twice as long, but are also lacking in any dedicated queer spaces.

As well, up in Grey-Bruce County, Duffy's in Southampton raised the rainbow flag out front for the month of June, and it hangs inside above the piano throughout the rest of the year. This popular restaurant-by-day is open late night on weekends, attracting both locals and visitors with the best karaoke in the area on Fridays, along with an eclectic mix of entertainment on Saturdays. This makes for a great weekend getaway, especially if you stay at the gay-owned Huron Haven, conveniently located within walking distance of the beach and Duffy's.

So while acceptance continues to grow beyond larger metropolitan centres, the challenge remains on how to balance our right to publicly be who we want to be, with our need to retain our own individuality.

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.

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# WIGGED OUT

BY EVE SUMMERS

The summer months are always hot in Toronto. Hot weather, hot guys, and hot entertainment!

Most notable is the annual **Crews & Tangos Drag Race** competition, happening every Sunday at Crews & Tangos (508 Church Street) at 9pm, with the finals being held on August 20th. This competition takes some of the city's brightest new drag talents to new heights, as they compete for the title of "Crews & Tangos' Next Drag Superstar!" There are twelve contestants and four mentors: **Daytona Bitch**, **Ivory Towers**, **Farra N Hyte**, and **Heroine Marks**. I'm lucky enough to be on #TeamBitch with my team mates: Atmos Fierce, and Lucy Flawless!

I mentioned "hot guys," right? Well, if you're looking for hot guys, you'll want to go to **Woody's & Sailor** (467 Church Street)! This legendary institution is great every night, but my favourites are the weekly **Best Ass** and **Best Chest** contests! Twinks, daddies, and bears alike compete for the adoration of the crowd, and a hefty cash prize, sandwiched by performances from some of the city's greatest drag talents. So, whether you want to compete, or just watch the show, get your ass (and your chest) to Woody's this summer.

**MoJo Toronto** is also ready to entertain you all summer long! They're hard at work with their two amazing weekly events: **FML Mondays** and **Sultry Saturdays**, which are hosted at Flash (463 Church Street) and Byzantium (499 Church Street), respectively. Both nights feature two drag performances each week from some of Toronto's most sickening queens. Also keep an eye out for their amazing dance parties: **Back to Church**, hosted every 3rd Friday at Church on Church (504 Church Street) and **Flexx Fridays**, hosted quarterly at the same venue. MoJo Toronto has made a commitment to exclusively promoting local talent, including their roster of incredible DJs. So make sure to come out, support local talent, and have a great time doing it.

At **Statlers** (487 Church Street), there are events every day of the week, and I highly recommend **Donnarama's C. U. Next Tuesday** (Every Tuesday, 11PM,) which is a hilarious comedic drag show, in which I am a monthly regular. Also on Wednesdays, there's the **The BoBo Show**, hosted by the one and only **Scarlett Bobo**. If you're a lover of drag, you'll want to make sure you check out Statlers on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Garage** (477 Church Street) also has nightly events, hosted by a sickening cast of queens. Check out **Wig It Tuesdays** with the dancing diva **Jada Hudson**. She serves you high energy



all night long, while the bar staff serve you great drinks and deliciously discounted chicken wings. Mm... Chicken wings.

Last but not least, on August 21st at 7PM, the fundraiser "Purpose" happens at **El Convento Rico** (750 College Street). This event brings the community together to raise awareness and funds for Multiple Sclerosis of Canada. There will be an incredible drag show, 50/50 draw, silent auction, and raffle.

**Eve Summers** is a Toronto drag performer and freelance illustrator. She likes long walks on the beach, Jagermeister, and McDonalds.





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# She Writes in Beauty

Here we go into fall, left with summer's adventure tales at the ready tip of our tongues, waiting to catch up with each other next. It's no wonder many school teachers continue to ask students to write their "My Summer Vacation" essays.

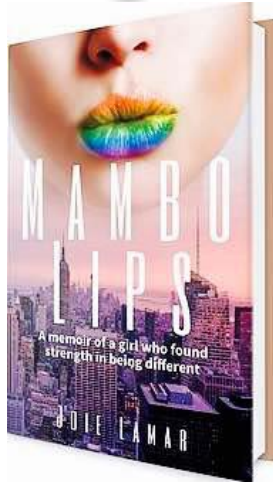
Our creative writing could make even the most mundane day seem magical. For some reason I personally loved to rhyme everything; Poetry...or so my child's brain thought. Upon studying more, I discovered Sappho the heralded Greek poet as revered as Homer in her day and still a source of gorgeous prose.

I recently asked two fellow lesbian poets, **Joie Lamar** and **Eva Tihanyi**, a few questions on their love of Poetry.

Eva started with Dr. Seuss in Grade 2, "English was my favourite class throughout school", she says. Joie remembers discovering the beauty of the rhythm of words on paper around the age of eight when she also wrote her first story. "My first published poem was in my middle school yearbook. My lesbian awakening was captured in complicated poetry that my family could not decipher", she laughs.

When I ask about inspiration Eva told me that when she discovered the poetry of Margaret Atwood she was blown away by it. "She (Atwood) and Gwendolyn MacEwen were my first serious poetic influences, although I had read and loved E.E.Cummings before then." Joie is generally inspired by everyday people. "The survivors, authentic and raw individuals that do good in the world, lovers of life...both the bohemians and the genius logical thinkers. While I'm amazed by many of the greats and more famous, it is truly ordinary everyday people who inspire me the most."

I think poetry is the dance of our language and when I inquired about why Eva and Joie have chosen to write poetry Eva said, "My brief answer is that poetry can express thoughts, ideas



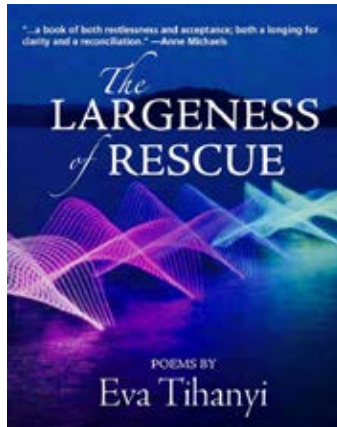
and emotions that cannot be expressed in any other way." "I wish that I had a more educated or sophisticated answer for this" Joie comments, "It flows from within. It helps me deal with life sometimes. I love that you can synchronize words on paper to your heartbeat."

Eva has published nine books; the most recent is *The Largeness of Rescue* (Inanna, 2016). Her future projects include a screenplay and first novel, the latter of she admits, "It's slow

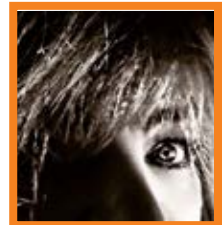
going, and I don't expect it will be done for some time yet." Joie's first novel *Mambo Lips* is currently being considered for a Stonewall Literary award. "I'm also going to bring *Mambo Lips* to stage...chasing that dream. *Salsa Lips* is the second book being revamped and I am in the midst of finishing "G." a crime novel set for release in early 2017", she divulges.

A complete list of their fabulous work can be found at the websites listed below. Sounds like more lovely, exciting stories and prose ahead for us all to enjoy. Happy reading!

[www.evatiyani.com](http://www.evatiyani.com)  
[www.joielamar.com](http://www.joielamar.com)



Cat Grant is a multimedia artist. She is also 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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## UDO KIER



PHOTOS: Michel Raphael

I just met Udo Kier. If your response is a shoulder shrug rather than a raised eyebrow, listen up. Udo Kier is one of the most accomplished film actors from the past five decades, and he's a proud gay man.

For a few weeks in June, Udo would often drop by Woody's mid-afternoon for a beverage. He was in Toronto to shoot in Alexander Payne's new movie *Downsizing*, in which he co-stars with Matt Damon and Christoph Waltz. My boyfriend Georges recognized him from the 90s vampire epic *Blade* and introduced himself.

Udo told Georges that he has been in 228 movies, which is a lot. He began his career in Germany in the 60s but shot to fame when he starred in the Andy Warhol produced movies *Flesh for Frankenstein* and *Blood for Dracula*. Georges and I watched the latter, and later told Udo how much we liked it. In the movie, he has to puke blood, a lot. "It must have been difficult to shoot," I suggested. Udo smiled and told us that an actor must always commit to the role no matter what it entails.

I was most impressed with Udo's work with the brilliant gay German film director Rainer Werner Fassbinder. "I knew all the German directors, like Werner Herzog and Wim Wenders, but if you worked for Rainer, you worked for no one else", he divulged. He's also worked extensively with Lars von Trier, Gus van Sant, and most recently with Guy Maddin. This is a career to envy, although the 73-year-old star still expresses a bit of regret.

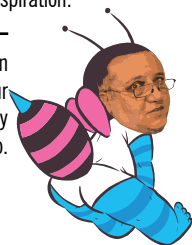
"Christoph Waltz made seven movies and has two Oscars. Me, I have no Oscars." Yet.

However, he does have fans. Within a few days, Udo became a fixture at Woody's, delighting staff and patrons alike. I would have visited more often, but I was in rehearsal for the play *Operation: Soap*, by Raymond Helkio and David Bateman, which played *Buddies* in *Bad Times* on June 29. In it, I played the gay basher. I had to stalk the character played by Johnny Salib and yell "fuckin' faggot" and then hit him repeatedly with a baseball bat.

Needless to say I was conflicted over this role. As a child, I must have heard the words 'fuckin' faggot' a thousand times, so I knew how it sounded, but I've never hit anyone. To raise a weapon with the intent to harm or kill was beyond me. Could I do it? Should I do it? I almost quit, but then I remembered the words of Udo Kier: "An actor must always commit to a role." Whether that role involves puking blood, or shedding it.

I hope to see Udo again one day. He shows no signs of either slowing down or retiring, so hopefully filmmaking will take him to Toronto once again. Until then, I will continue to enjoy his movies. Prost, Udo! And thanks for the inspiration.

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

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



Caroline ‘Tula’ Cossey is a successful model who has appeared in *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, and she was also the first transgendered model to be featured in *Playboy*. Her book, “My Story”, is the candid account of her struggles, as she shares her journey from being bullied as a child in East Anglia (England), to becoming a showgirl and top international model.

After being exposed (as transgendered) by the tabloid, “News of the World”, her career plummeted and her marriage to multimillionaire Elias Fattal was annulled. In 1989, she appealed to the European Commission of Human Rights for the legal validation of her marriage, and the right to have her birth certificate amended after GRS (Genital Reconstruction Surgery). Her activism led to appearances on numerous national and international television and radio programs.

**Boyd Kodak** – Tell us what you’ve been doing over the last year?

**Caroline Cossey** – I received a call for an interview from *Playboy*, 24 years after I had been featured the first time, and the timing coincided with the launch of the Kindle version of “My Story”. I was also approached by the avant-garde magazine, *Candy*. It was my first photo shoot in 20 years and was great fun. I also shot an HBO special, *The Trans List*, which is due out this autumn.

**BK** – During that time, which was the one most exciting event for you?

**CC** – With everything that happened last year, I would have to say the Candy shoot was the most exciting, considering it was a glamour shoot and me being 61. I wasn’t sure how the whole thing was going to turn out.

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

**CC** – I’m negotiating the movie rights to “My Story” and I’m looking forward to seeing how that plays out. I would really like to see progress made through the Supreme Court on transgender rights and bathrooms issues, similar in a fashion akin to what transpired in this country (USA) in regards to

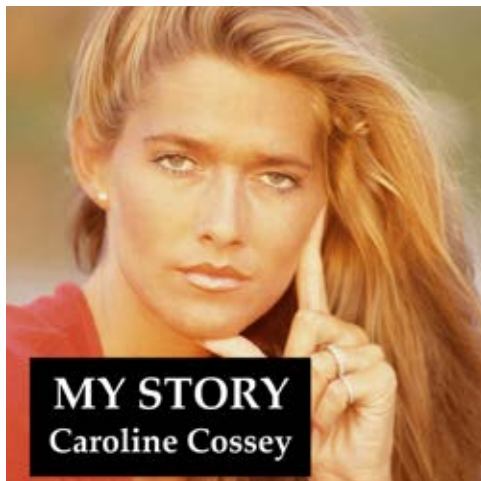


PHOTO: Victor Hromin

same-sex marriages. The alarming amount of trans people being murdered, especially trans people of colour, and the horrific massacre in Orlando are stark reminders of the widespread bigotry that’s still so prevalent in the world. This reflects the dangers that we the LGBTQ community face every day of our lives. Hopefully the next year will see progress made in LGBTQ acceptance and more laws in place to protect us from persecution and affording us equal rights.

**BK** – Where and when can we see your work?

**CC** – My work can be found as the Kindle edition of “My Story” on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and as an audiobook on [audible.com](http://audible.com)

**BK** – Complete the following sentence. Life wouldn’t be the same without...

**CC** – ...my loving, supportive mother. She raised me and stood by me through all my gender dysphoria issues and never faltered. Being 90 and severely disabled, I know our remaining time together is short, but I cherish every day we have and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to care for her and give something back for all she has given me.

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 Old Nick: A Queer Hub and Pub*



The name “The Old Nick” might not scream “gay”, but anyone who’s frequented the Riverdale pub in the last 10 years knows it’s a beloved local queer hub. Kristine Lukanchoff, the establishment’s lesbian owner, is the woman to thank for creating this safe and vibrant space.

“As somebody that lived in the neighbourhood, I knew there was a very large gay and lesbian population in Riverdale,” says Lukanchoff. “There’s a lot of queers around here and they need places to go.”

When she bought the place in 2006, she decided The Old Nick would be that space. It was quite the change from the pub’s early days. Originally opened in 1993, The Old Nick was one of more than a dozen Empire Pubs in the city. Its name is British slang for “the old jail”, and its client base used to reflect that.

“It was a different place,” shares Lukanchoff, who worked at the pub for three years and ended up being a manager there before buying it. “Different clientele. Little rougher. Wasn’t necessarily the kind of place you’d want to hang out at.”

As manager, she would change that. “I just started making little changes. Putting candles on the tables, playing some cool music, and the clientele started to change and it became a nicer place.”

Music has always been important to Lukanchoff, who instituted open mic nights at the pub 12 years ago. “I love music,” she says. “I’ve always had a spot in my heart for musicians.” Unsurprisingly, she ended up falling for one (musician) with her own connection to The Old Nick.

Elana Harte and Lukanchoff met just over five years ago. A mutual friend introduced them after realizing a professional partnership might be good for them both. Harte would end up speaking to Lukanchoff about starting a Monday night music series, and shortly after M Factor Mondays was born.

“There’s been some incredible music that has come through that,” says Harte. M Factor Mondays sees Harte and two other musicians (local, national or international talent) performing mostly indie or original songs for patrons. It’s a popular early week attraction at the pub.

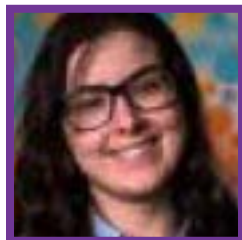
“Kristine believes in live music,” she says. “She continues to ensure that there is quality entertainment at the bar that’s available to everyone, and supports people who are up and coming and/or need a leg up.”

If accessible live music is important to Lukanchoff, so is providing affordable menu options. Dropping in at The Old Nick is not about breaking the bank. “I cook here, I serve here, I buy all the ingredients”, says Lukanchoff. “I try to keep it at a price point that’s not crazy.”

Business has more than doubled since she took over, so she must be on to something. As for her future with The Old Nick, she makes it clear: “It’s my baby. It’s a part of who I am, and as far as I can see in the future, it’s going to remain with me.”

The Old Nick - 123 Danforth Ave, Toronto - (416) 461-5546  
[www.old-nick.com](http://www.old-nick.com)

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

## Ghetto Glam Bingo

**Tuesdays from 9:30 p.m.**

Fabulous prizes from The Men's Room Shop, and as always D'amanda Tension has fabulous anecdotes from the weekend, or at least what she can remember of it

Pegasus On Church, 489B Church St. Toronto  
[www.facebook.com/GhettoGlamBingo](http://www.facebook.com/GhettoGlamBingo)

## Don't Just Wing It, Wig It

**Tuesdays from 7:30 p.m.**

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

Church Street Garage, 477 Church St., Toronto  
[www.facebook.com/churchstgarage](http://www.facebook.com/churchstgarage)

## C U Next Tuesday

**Tuesdays from 11:00 p.m.**

Donnarama with her crazy costumes and ridiculously entertaining performances is not to be missed. Special guests every week No Cover!

Statlers - 487 Church St. Toronto  
[www.statlers.ca](http://www.statlers.ca)



## Vocal Rehab Karaoke

**Thursdays from 10:00 p.m.**

Sing your heart out, and give your vocal chords a test at this weekly fun-fest hosted by Elyse in "The Zone" at Crews and Tangos.

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Toronto  
[www.crewsandtangos.com](http://www.crewsandtangos.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, and Toronto's hottest staff. No cover.

Woody's and Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto  
[www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto](http://www.facebook.com/WoodysSailorToronto)

## Massive Talent Sundays

**Sundays from 9:00 p.m.**

Georgie Girl hosts with a slew of talented guests. 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)

## CNE Concert Series 2016

**Evenings August 19 to September 4**

A plethora of performances in a gaggle of genres. From "Randy Bachman" on August 19 to "Walk Off The Earth" on September 4.

CNE, 210 Princes' Blvd., Toronto  
[www.theex.com](http://www.theex.com)

## Turn Back Time Sundays

**Sundays from 10:00 p.m.**

After an incredible 18 year run at Zippers, Retro Drama is on the move with a new name, new venue, same ole vibe. DJ Alain spins tunes from the 60's to 80's.

CLUB 120 - 120 Church St. Toronto  
[www.facebook.com/TBTSundays](http://www.facebook.com/TBTSundays)

## Culture Club

**September 3 @ 8:00 p.m.**

See Boy George and Culture Club as they take stage with classic hits like "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me," "Karma Chameleon," "Time (Clock of the Heart)" and "I'll Tumble 4 Ya."

Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino, 310 - 4th St., Niagara Falls, NY  
[www.senecaniagaracasino.com/events/culture-club](http://www.senecaniagaracasino.com/events/culture-club)

## Rebel Rebel: The Music of David Bowie

**September 9 @ 8:30 p.m.**

Various musicians pay tribute to the Spider Man From Mars, featuring Ariana Gillis / Lori Cullen / Dani Nash / Quique Escamilla / Micah Barnes / Michael Occhipinti & Special Guest / The Jessica Stuart Few /

Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. W., Toronto  
[www.hughsroom.com](http://www.hughsroom.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

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### Sweetery Toronto Food Festival

**August 20 & 21 from 11:00 a.m.**

Sample culinary delights from exceptional local shops, taste a variety of distinctive award-winning treats, and partake in interactive, fun-filled activities that will benefit the Second Harvest.

David Pecaut Square, 55 John St., Toronto

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

### 5th Annual Yogathon Toronto

**August 20 from 9:30 a.m.**

Get ready to get your yoga on and rise for a cause by doing 108 Sun Salutations, and help raise funds and awareness for Care for Children.

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

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

### Leather, Lace and Latex

**August 20 – 3:00 P.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Wear your favorite gear – leather, lace or latex! Join in a fun afternoon with prizes drag and the famous Black Eagle BBQ. This is a PWYC fundraiser for Rainbow Railroad and PWA.

The Black Eagle Toronto, 457 Church St. Toronto

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

### Dog Tales Festival 2016

**August 20 & 21 – 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

An opportunity for friends and families of all ages to celebrate rescue animals with a fun weekend filled with live entertainment, animal-related vendor booths, a beautiful backdrop, and animals of all sorts.

1405 - 19th Sideroad, King City, ON

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

### TICOT Drag Bingo

**August 28, September 25 – 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Fundraiser for the Reign 29 Charities of Choice. Open to everyone.

Flash, 463 Church St., Toronto

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

### Daddies & Papas 2B - Fall 2016

**From September 7 – 7:00 p.m.**

A 12-week course for gay, bisexual, and queer men who are considering parenthood. This course emphasizes adoption, surrogacy, and co-parenting.

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Toronto

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

### Hike, Run, Ride for the River and Trails

**September 10 – 9:00 a.m.**

Fundraiser for community based projects to preserve, protect, restore, and improve the Grand River and related water bodies and adjacent lands in Brantford, the County of Brant and Six Nations.

Brant Park Conservation Area, 119 Jennings Rd., Brantford

[www.raceroster.com/events/2016/8044/2016-hike-run-ride](http://www.raceroster.com/events/2016/8044/2016-hike-run-ride)

### First Annual NevilleLake Walkathon

**September 10 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Five kilometer family-friendly walking fundraiser benefitting Many Hands Doing Good. Includes music and BBQ.

Chinguacousy Park, 9050 Bramalea Rd., Brampton

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

### Daffodil Dash

**September 11 – 9:00 a.m.**

Run to Fight Cancer. Whether you're looking for your very first competitive race or you're training for that big fall run, the Canadian Cancer Society has got you covered.

Erindale Park, 1695 Dundas St. W., Mississauga

<http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR>

### Oasis ZooRun

**September 24 – 8:15 a.m.**

Raising funds for the Toronto Zoo with a choice of a 10k, 5k & Cub Run.

Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Toronto

[www.canadarunningseries.com/zoorun](http://www.canadarunningseries.com/zoorun)



# GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain



## **African Fashion Week Toronto**

**August 18 to 21**

AFWT showcases local, national, and international designers by providing a progressive environment for them to promote their creative designs.

Design Exchange, 234 Bay St.,  
Toronto  
[www.afwt.ca](http://www.afwt.ca)

## **Alvaro Siza: Gateway To The Alhambra**

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the Alhambra in Granada, Spain is an architectural masterpiece. Discover the vision — and artistic challenge — of Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza in this exciting exhibition.

Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wyndford Drive, Toronto  
[www.agakhanmuseum.org](http://www.agakhanmuseum.org)

## **A Midsummer's Dream - Chapter 5**

**August 20 — 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

An interactive arts, culture, and music festival. Each colour symbolizes how people from all over the world can come together and create something beautiful, no matter what background. The throwing of the colour is steeped in ancient roots.

Gage Park, Gage and Main Sts., Hamilton  
[www.midsummersdream.ca](http://www.midsummersdream.ca)

## **Scarborough Afro-Carib Fest**

**August 20 & 21 from noon**

A two-day community event for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds to come together and celebrate the diversity of our amazing city. Free to attend.

Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Dr., Toronto  
[www.scarboroughafrocaribfest.com](http://www.scarboroughafrocaribfest.com)

## **Canada's Third Annual Coconut Festival and Marketplace**

**August 27 — 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The Coconut Festival is produced by Coconut Festival Canada which aims to bring the community together to learn about the many health benefits of coconuts as well as its diverse culinary uses.

David Pecaut Square, 55 John St., Toronto  
[www.coconutfestival.ca](http://www.coconutfestival.ca)

## **MuslimFest 2016**

**August 27 & 28 from noon**

MuslimFest strives to build bridges of understanding and share the multicultural heritage of Islam with all Canadians through art, culture, and entertainment.

Celebration Square, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga  
[www.facebook.com/MuslimFest](http://www.facebook.com/MuslimFest)

## **The Dreamers Ever Leave You**

**August 31 to September 10**

The Art Gallery of Ontario and The National Ballet of Canada come together to co-present an immersive new ballet inspired by the work of iconic Canadian painter Lawren Harris.

Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas St. W, Toronto  
[www.ago.net](http://www.ago.net)



## **HUGE Antique Sale**

**September 2 to 4, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Dealers and vendors from all over Ontario are selling their wares at Paris Road Antiques all weekend long.

Paris Road Antiques, 548 Paris Rd., Paris, ON  
[www.facebook.com/Parisroadantiques](http://www.facebook.com/Parisroadantiques)

## **RCMP Musical Ride**

**September 10 — 1:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.**

Adults - \$10.00 (including HST), Children 12 and under - \$5.00 (including HST),

Family Pack - \$25.00 (2 Adults, 2 Children) (including HST)  
Erin Agricultural Centre, 184 Main St., Erin, ON  
[www.eventbrite.ca/e/rcmp-musical-ride-tickets-23730379203](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/rcmp-musical-ride-tickets-23730379203)

## **13th Annual Traditional Pow Wow**

**September 24 — noon to 5:00 p.m.**

The Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre facilitates the sharing of Indigenous knowledge, and provides culturally relevant information and support services for all members of the University of Waterloo community.

Waterloo Park, 50 Young St. W., Waterloo  
[www.facebook.com/WaterlooAboriginalEducationCentre](http://www.facebook.com/WaterlooAboriginalEducationCentre)



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