

Holy Oak Cafe • Chris Edwards • Sunny Drake

ON THE GO?
**TAKE US
WITH YOU!**

Download the
theBLUZZmag PDF
from our website.

**EMERGING ARTISTS EDITION:
SCOTTY DYNAMO +
JORDAN ALEXANDER**



**the
buzz**

Presented by PinkPlayMags

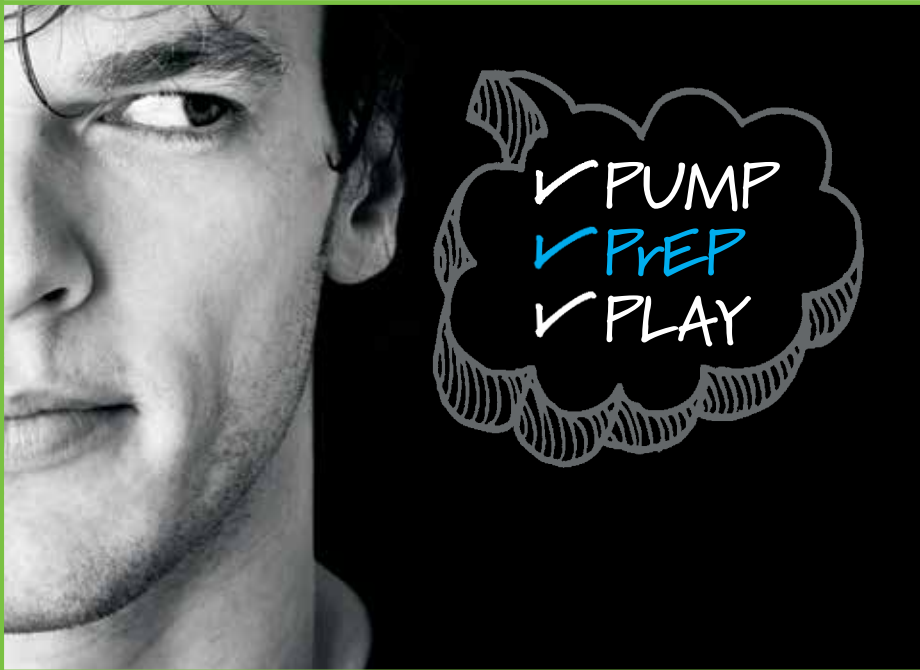
For daily and weekly event listings visit
www.thebuzzmag.ca

October / November 2016



the village
pharmacy

PEP
PrEP
HIV+



PrEP4Pride.ca

473 Church Street
In the heart of the Village
416.967.9221



With host
Antoine Elhashem

and Reporters
Cat Grant
Lorenzo Pagnotta
Ryan Boa

ON THE COUCH



the **BUZZ**TV
WWW.THEBUZZ.TV

You **Tube**

ROGERS™

Now also on Roger's TV Toronto Channels 10 & 63

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CHANNELS



FACEBOOK.COM/VISITUSONTHECOUCH

SHOT ON LOCATION AT EROTICO IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE

Publisher + Creative Director:

Antoine Elhashem

Editor-in-Chief:

Bryen Dunn

Art Director:

Mychol Scully

General Manager:

Kim Dobie

Sales Representatives:

Carolyn Burtch, Michael Wile

Events Editor:

Sherry Sylvain

Counsel:

Lai-King Hum, Hum Law Firm

Columnists:

Cat Grant, Paul Bellini, Boyd Kodak, Raymond Helkio

Feature Writers:

Dylan Kulcher, Melissa Kalef

Cover Photo: Marie Wilson

Published by

INspired Media Inc.

Operating: INspired Creative, Publishers of
The Pink Pages Directory, PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, and The Local
Biz Magazine. Producers of On the Couch

www.theBUZZmag.ca

www.PinkPlayMags.com

www.thepinkpagesdirectory.com

www.onthecouch.ca

Mailing address

205-1691 Pickering Parkway

Pickering, ON L1V 5L9

416.926.9588

IN THIS ISSUE

- 06 **Scotty Dynamo – Dylan Kulcher**
- 10 **Jordan Alexander – Mellisa Kalef**
- 14 **Wigged Out – Chris Edwards Dedication**
- 16 **She Beat: Liron – Cat Grant**
- 18 **Bumble-ini: John Mitchell – Paul Bellini**
- 20 **A Kodak Moment: Sunny Drake
– Boyd Kodak**
- 22 **Beyond the Village: Holy Oak
– Raymond Helkio**
- 24 **BUZZPicks – Sherry Sylvain**



The Editor

Well, how was that for the hottest summer ever recorded in Toronto? I for one am ready for fall, and our Emerging Artists issue of theBUZZ.

I am a real fan of music and the arts, and always take the opportunity to discover someone new who's doing what they love. In this issue I discovered a few individuals for the first time, and others I rediscovered after my first encounters a few years back. I also had the good fortune to work with a couple emerging writers as well, each of whom contributed a feature article.

To begin with, we must pay condolences to the loss of a beloved entertainer from our community. It was sad news for many to hear of the sudden passing of Chris Edwards. A staple in the community for many years, Chris was one of Toronto's most endearing drag performers to really shine and make a name for themselves, as well as to inspire and provide guidance and encouragement to countless others who have since emerged on the scene. Our "Wigged Out" column in this issue is dedicated to Chris.

Dylan Kulcher starting blogging with us this past summer, and has a real passion for getting his thoughts into words. For his first print feature, we had him chat with the multi-faceted musician and actor, Scotty Dynamo, who's featured on our cover. I had the opportunity to work with Scotty a couple years back when booking him to perform at the Alterna-Queer stage at Pride Toronto, so it was great to find out he's still following his dream, stronger than ever.

Our second feature is on singer Jordan Alexander, who recently released an album and is working on videos to accompany a couple of the songs. It was my first time listening to her, and her voice captivated me right away. Melissa Kalef asked her a few questions to find out more about what motivates this young lady, and what's next on the musical horizon.

Not to be undone, our columnists have all equally provided great content on a variety of different artists who are contributing immensely to our community. Cat Grant interviewed rising singer Liron, Boyd Kodak caught up with performer Sunny Drake, while Paul Bellini chatted with filmmaker John Mitchell. In addition, Raymond Helkio gives us the dish on the west end queer-friendly venue, Holy Oak. Finally, our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain, provides us with plenty of options to get out and enjoy these clearer, crisper days of autumn ahead.

Thanks for picking us up. Enjoy the read!

Bryen Dunn

Editor-in-Chief

bryen@thebuzzmag.ca





**HOT MALE DANCERS
DAILY 5PM-CLOSE**

**2017 MEMBERSHIP CARDS
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE @
www.flashonchurch.com
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**

The UPS Store 
North & Mainland - branch 415



flashonchurch



463 CHURCH ST



Flash On Church

SCOTTY DYNAMO

Dance Music Expert

By Dylan Kulcher



If you're looking for a fresh local artist to check out, look no further than rapper/singer-songwriter Scotty Dynamo. Having beginnings sharing music back in the days of MySpace, he's now a well-known YouTube personality that regularly covers and remixes artist like Ke\$ha, Eminem, and even the Rugrats theme song.

His video for "Show Me Yours" has close to 200,000 views on YouTube, while his popularity as a DJ and original musician only appears to be getting bigger. The self-proclaimed "dance party expert" currently has over 4.8 million YouTube views and 39,000 subscribers.

I had the chance to catch up with Scotty and find out about his creative process, influences, and personal life. What I found is a down-to-earth personable musician that doesn't take himself or his art too

seriously. Furthermore I found that his sexual identity isn't some big secret as I initially thought, and he has no qualms about sharing his fabulousness with curious onlookers. Always in the process of creating new music, either for himself or helping others with their technique, his work ethic can only be described as tireless. He's also dabbled in acting and is currently lending his likeness to a TV show or two, but that's only skimming the surface of what this artistic entrepreneur has hidden up his sleeve.

The best way to start talking about Scotty and his accomplishments would probably be to address the elephant in the room: yes Scotty Dynamo is gay. His video for "Show Me Yours" is his self-professed coming out video, and as Scotty puts it, his content is "relatable to most people regardless of their sexual orientation." He goes on to say, "if someone has an issue with me holding hands with a guy in a music video, they aren't the kind of person I care to hang around with anyway."

The video which Scotty describes as a "colourful 90's workout tape", features attractive girls and boys in equal numbers, and in the end sees Scotty forgoing



the girls and the guys clothed in Pride prepped attire for a geeky twinkish boy. In lesser hands this coming out video might have seemed contrived and exclusionary, but Scotty handles the grey areas with a sexual ambiguity that may leave even the most hardline straight person questioning their sexuality.

When discussing influences, I had a chance to ask if Seattle hip-hop and its host of pop friendly rappers had any bearing on his musical output. While he didn't claim to have any extended influence from that scene, he did sing praise for Macklemore, his live performances, and his "ability to laugh at himself and not take himself too seriously". Some critics have been dismissive of Macklemore having received a Grammy for a song about being gay whilst not being a member of the community, but talent is talent and it's good to see Scotty falls in the latter camp of people who see that. I guess it doesn't hurt either that Macklemore has a song called "Thrift Store", when Scotty's style influences include "80's and early 90's fashion."

I also asked if pop punk had any bearing on his music, particularly the Pop Goes Punk compilations

(which is essentially what Scotty does with remixing hip-hop to pop songs), but he hadn't heard of them, although he "used to love" Blink-182. In addition he says that "Sir-Mix-a-Lot is pretty iconic", and his influence from both these artists can be heard in the way Dynamo infuses his content with youthful and boastful sexuality in the time-honoured tradition of radio-friendly pop music.

When asked about his progression as an artist, Scotty cites his experience as a DJ as having "definitely helped with the creative process". Not just a side-gig that he does for the money, Scotty sees DJing as an opportunity to read crowds, and see "how they react to specific songs and sounds". This also factors into the remixing aspect of his career, as he says "there are definitely times where I've remixed songs that I wasn't necessarily crazy about, but they seem to be doing really well". He continues on to say that he "always tries to add his own twist to it", and to find a balance between mainstream appeal and personal interest.

When he isn't at home working on music, Scotty frequents Los Angeles where he does DJ sets and

works with out of town talent to hone his craft. "It's always a wild adventure", he says in regards to visiting LA, a city that will no doubt shape him into a celebrity if he continues to carve a niche there. When not recording music he also spends a lot of time vlogging his escapades, such as when he started a dance party in the Toronto subway "on the hottest day of the year", or more recently with his "DIRTIEST SNAPCHAT EVER" Q&A that culminates with a pie in the face.

Having started making music in second grade, and sharing it with his friends in the schoolyard via iPod shortly after, Scotty Dynamo has come a long way to the multimedia artist that commands presence on the stage or in videos today. Though the band he started in elementary school that broke up by lunchtime, didn't become the next One Direction, his musical roots have blossomed into a solo artist with potential greater than any pop group that comes to mind. If he can continue to successfully bridge rapping with pop, he's well on his way to becoming a renowned self-made pop figure that bridges the gap between genres like none before. I look forward to what the future holds from this bright young star, as hopefully he's only getting started.

He's currently shooting a music video for his new single, "Not Like You", as well as a pilot episode for the series "My Gay Roommate", and is recording more new music in the near future.

All photos courtesy of Scotty Dynamo.

Connect With Scotty Dynamo:

iTunes: www.itunes.com/scottydynamo

Facebook: www.facebook.com/scottydynamo

Twitter: www.twitter.com/scottydynamo

Instagram: www.instagram.com/scottydynamo

Snapchat: [scotty.dynamo](https://www.snapchat.com/add/scotty.dynamo).

Dylan Kulcher lives in Hamilton, and enjoys writing about music and his community. He's contributed a few previous articles under his blog, The Paper Plane, and this is his first print submission.

www.thebuzzmag.ca/column/the-paper-plane



 <p>Welcome to SIGNS RESTAURANT & BAR</p> <p>558 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON</p> <p>SIGN & DINE WITH US TODAY!</p>	 <p>signsrestaurant.ca (647)349-7446 RESERVE NOW!</p> <p> </p> <p>Enjoy our delicious food, refreshing drinks and the opportunity to learn American Sign Language from our Deaf servers!</p>	 <p>Mention this ad and enjoy a 15% discount on our menu.</p> <p><small>*On regular food items only. Not valid with other offers.</small></p>
--	--	---

 <p>Consolidated Moving + Storage Ltd. the Professionals www.movingtoronto.com</p>	<p>Specialists in Residential, Corporate & Institutional Moves Estate Distributions, Storage, Furniture Bank Pickups and more Packing & Moving Services / Both local and long distance</p>	<p>Now in our 36th Year!</p>
<p>542 Mt. Pleasant Rd., 416-922-9595</p>	  	<p>2877 Bloor St. W. 416-239-3737</p>
<p>Special Discounts to Repeat Clientele! Pricing for Supplies 30-40% LESS than our Major Competitors! One Quick Stop for all your Packing, Moving & Storage Needs FREE PARKING • FREE DELIVERY</p>		
<p>Fully Licensed & Insured WSIB Certified</p>		
 <p>THE BOX SPOT Packing & Moving Supplies www.boxspot.com</p>		

RED CHAIR HYPNOSIS

NEW MINDSET
↓
NEW RESULTS

QUIT SMOKING • REDUCE WEIGHT • ELIMINATE BAD HABITS
SPECIALIZING IN LGBT ISSUES • WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES
PROGRAMS CUSTOMIZED TO EACH CLIENT

REDCHAIRHYPNOSIS.COM

JEWELLERY
—
ACCESSORIES
—
BATH & BODY
—
BOOKS

CARDS
—
HOUSEWARES
—
BABY TOYS
—
GIFTS

red pegasus

628 College Street
416-536-3872 redpegasus.ca

✓ Full service Pharmacy with a focus on **HIV, Hepatitis C** and other specialty medication

✓ We offer services such as **FREE**, discrete **delivery** right to your door anywhere in Ontario

To learn more, visit www.mapleleafmedicalpharmacy.com

 **MAPLE LEAF MEDICAL PHARMACY**
— LIVE HEALTHY. LIVE LONG. —

14 College St., Toronto, ON M5G 1K2
Phone: (416) 926-9696
Located in the Maple Leaf Medical Clinic Building

Other Location:
MAIN DRUG MART
399 Church St., Unit 1, Toronto, ON

 **MY Prosthodontic Dental Clinic**

814 Warden Ave, Unit F1, Toronto, ON M1L 4W1
P 416 285 8105 E info@myprosdental.com
myprosdental.com

DENTISTRY, DONE DIFFERENTLY

Board certified dental specialist in esthetic & restorative dentistry, crowns, veneers and dental implants

Get Healthy! * Lose Weight! * Have More Energy!

Programs for 18 to 35 Year Olds! * Anti Aging Products!

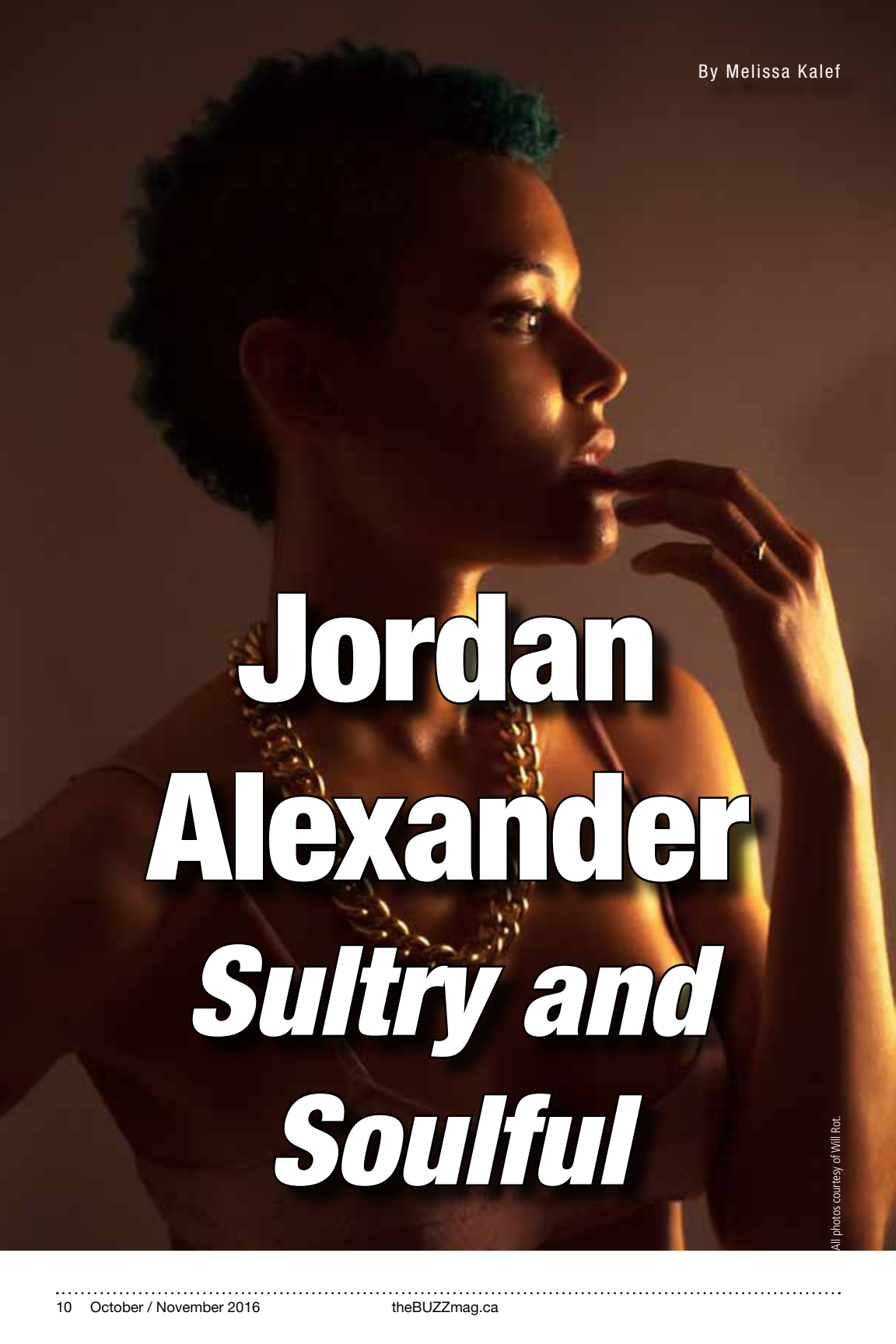
Athlete's Program! * Opportunity to earn residual income!

Kim Dobie—416.529.1118 * Kim.dobie@sympatico.ca * Kimvdobie.isagenix.com

 **ISAGENIX**
INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATE



*Weight loss should not be considered typical. **Income level achievements are dependent upon the individual Associate's business skills, personal ambition, time, commitment, activity and demographic factors.



Jordan Alexander *Sultry and Soulful*

All photos courtesy of Will Rot.

As an emerging writer, I had the incredible opportunity to interview the up and coming artist, Jordan Alexander, as my first assignment. She is a Toronto based singer-songwriter originally from Vancouver, who has been carving a path in the music industry since first winning the Sprecra Talent Competition back in 2013.

Jordan stepped into the Toronto music scene by performing at Honey Jam, Ebonnie Rowe's all-girl music showcase. That experience connected her with Juno award winning producer Gerald Eaton (aka Jarvis Church). When Jordan met Bif Naked and her manager Peter Karroll at Bif's book launch, they immediately hit it off. Peter now manages Jordan and she'll be opening for Bif Naked on her Canadian book tour this November.

After listening to Jordan's debut album *The Lonely Hearts Club*, released June of 2016, I was immediately fascinated by Jordan's smooth, sultry singing voice, heartfelt lyrics and catchy choruses, and I'm overjoyed to be able to call this amazing styling chartreuse a homegrown talent. The depth of her lyrics and beautiful, soulful delivery will draw in anyone who listens to her album or goes to see her perform.

I asked Jordan a few questions to find out a bit more about what makes her so great.

How long have you been making music and writing poetry?

I wrote a song when I was 18, and I was writing poetry a little before that.

How does it feel to be called the next gay pop star, and being compared to Tegan and Sara?

I love it. I think it's so cool. Tegan and Sara were a huge part of my "coming out" phase. I listened to their music all the time and watched all their interviews, so it's very nice to be compared to people you kind of idolize. They're so smart and funny.

Do you now feel like you have a responsibility towards the LGBT community?

I don't feel responsible, but I want to be a positive member of the community and make people feel good about their selves.

After listening to your EP, it sounds to me like you might have been working through a break up. Does the angst of those emotions fuel your creativity?



Not a break up, but a really tough time. Emotion definitely helps me write, I'll get worked up about something and then I'll write. I like that I can create something I enjoy out of a bad situation.

Do you have any words of advice for gay youth entering or dealing with new relationships?

I've only had one real relationship so I don't have a lot of experience, but I think being with someone who lets you see yourself and the world in a positive way is a good start.

How about entering the music industry?

Just do it. I was very nervous to perform, but I just did it. Then I did it again and it was (a little) less nerve racking. Also if you bomb a gig, don't let it dismantle what you're doing, as life goes on and you have music to make.

I know you just released an album this past summer, so I'm wondering what's next? Any videos? New music, remixes on the horizon?

Yes! I just finished shooting the music video for my first single "Take Me Out Tonight". It was so fun, and my grandma Penny is in it! It should be out in October.

How about any live shows coming up where people can see you perform?

I am opening for Bif Naked's cross-Canada book tour in November, which has me in sensory overload, I think.

What is your next creative goal, or any goal that you would like to share?

I want to make a music video for my song "Cool", which will be my next single, write songs for a second album, and hang out with my girlfriend and her ever growing posse of cats.

...now go out and buy Jordan's album and do not pass up the opportunity to see her perform.

Connect With Jordan Alexander:

Website: www.jordanalexandermusic.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/jordan4music

Instagram: www.instagram.com/jordanalexandermusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jordanalexandermusicxx

Soundcloud:

www.soundcloud.com/jordanalexandermusic/sets/the-lonely-hearts-club/s-Dcl47

Melissa Kalef recently moved from Toronto to Vancouver Island to pursue her dreams. A lover of the outdoors and random road trips, this is her first foray into writing.





BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

Age-Defying Cream

Prevent & Reduce the Appearance of Aging



Facial Cream
Night Cream
Firming Body Contouring Cream

For more information or to order, contact:
Roland Desgrosseilliers
Independent Brand Partner
416-389-8474
roland.desgrosseilliers@gmail.com
www.fabforlife.nerium.com
www.fabforlife.neriumproducts.com
Distribution Agent Opportunities Available



Arabic Knights

lgbtq

FRIDAY
October 21st
HALLOWEEN

Ker's Birthday Bash edition

120 Church Street, Toronto Ontario
2nd Floor (south of Richmond St)
Cover: only \$10 all night!
Doors open at 10pm, party till 3am

WWW.ARABIANKNIGHTSLGBTQ.COM

f ARABIANKNIGHTSLGBTQ

AKLGBTQ



*Satisfy
his needs*

Cook him fine dining with letsnom.ca **Let's nom.**

SAVOUR THE EXPERIENCE

Roasted sea bass with preserved lemon, quinoa, braised leeks, and hibiscus sauce.



pg presidential gourmet
CATERING

416 • 466 • 7272
www.presidentialgourmet.ca
info@presidentialgourmet.ca



The Toronto LGBT community lost a lovely legend from the drag community recently. Chris Edwards died unexpectedly doing what s/he loved best, preparing to perform for an adoring audience. Chris is fondly remembered by many, and the following individuals recall just some of their many memories below.

Jeanette Dupree

Soon after meeting in 1988, Chris suggested I enter the New York State Continental. Mama had held this title previously and I wanted for her to crown me when she stepped down, but sadly I missed that opportunity as I came in as the first runner up on that attempt. I eventually did win it in 1993, made it to the Nationals in Chicago, and was the first Canadian to make the top 12. All I could hear was Chris screaming, "That's my daughter!!!!"

Amanda Roberts

There would be no Amanda Roberts if a young gay man named David had never met a drag queen named Chris Edwards. Along with Jeanette Dupree, Chris convinced me to shave off my beard and let them put me in drag. Chris inspired me. He taught me a lot. He was a very giving person that helped mold a lot of entertainers. I will cherish my memories of our many adventures. The after show visits to the Golden Griddle and the Thorncliffe bowling alley, our drag queen pot luck dinners, watching Continental videos, all of our trips to Chicago, and performing with Chris in Bermuda. Backstage at the pageants were so full of laughter. I have always loved working with

talented people, and Chris was one of the best. I am so blessed to have had him in my life.

Michelle Ross

Chris was a beautiful person. Inside and out she was quick to laugh, silly at times, warm and loving all the time, and incredibly giving. In the 30+ years we knew each other, we never had one upset word with each other. If you ever saw us together we called each other sisters, and that was not for show, that was genuine love between us. I pray that on some level Chris is aware of the outpouring of love that was being sent to her, the way the community came together because of her. Even now my heart is still breaking that I will never see my friend again. Where ever she is, I hope she knows she is loved and will never be forgotten.

Roger MacIntosh

I met Chris Edwards in 1991 at Club Colby's while he was performing, and I noticed right away his positive interaction with the audience and his outstanding stage presence. Chris and I started hanging out as friends, and shortly after he considered me his best friend away from his stage impersonator family and friends. Chris taught me to care and be more loving towards others, and generally to be more humble. For the last 25 years Chris and I drove to Chicago together to see the Miss Continental Pageant, and his navigational and sense of direction skills always amazed me for someone who never had a driver's license. I will miss shopping at Walmart and going for Chinese food, which has been our tradition for the last two or so decades. I will also miss coordinating and supporting Chris in his business affairs. Chris was a remarkable person in my opinion in every way. I will miss him dearly and he will always be in my heart.

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Chris Edwards was an amazing performer, one of the best, and an integral and celebrated member of the LGBTQ community for so many years. All of us at Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto have fond memories of Chris's humour, talent, courage, generosity, professionalism and commitment to 'raising up,' issues and causes that were often controversial.

Bryen Dunn is Editor-in-Chief at theBUZZ and PinkPlayMags magazines.



HERNDER ESTATE WINES



your stress free wedding includes...

All your set-up and clean-up
Wedding consultant (to help you prepare your day)
Event co-ordinator (to help you the day of)
Standard table & napkin linens and chair covers
Cheese & crackers ~ cocktail hot hors d'oeuvres
7 hour bar including unlimited wine during dinner
Plated dinner or buffet with hand carved meat station
Late night server to slice your wedding cake
10:30 pizza with coffee & tea
D.J. ~ dinner music and dance music till 1:00am



- OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK YEAR ROUND - 10-5
 - COMPLIMENTARY TASTINGS
 - WEEKEND TOURS AT 1 PM
 - LARGE GROUPS AND BUS TOURS
WELCOME WITH NOTICE

On-line packages complete with pricing,
calender availability and photo gallery
905-684-3300 or wine@hernder.com

www.hernder.com



Liron Has Stars In Her Eyes



Photo courtesy Avi Zarem

I must confess to being totally addicted to television programs that discover emerging talents. The known fact that Canada births world class female talent is a given. Local young queer singers I have enjoyed hearing recently, such as Iskwé, Shawnee, Lexi Tellings, are all working hard to get their talent noticed.

I had an opportunity to chat with 17-year-old singer/songwriter Liron recently, who told me that her first music memory is from around the age of two or three, when she recalls was, “performing little shows for my parents”.

When Liron’s parents divorced a few years later, she dealt with her pain by singing quietly in her room, and it was there that she realized she wanted to be a performer. “The only thing that ever got me through painful experiences in my life was singing (sometimes bawling my eyes out at the same time), and expressing how I felt in that moment through my music”, she divulged.

This tiny dynamo has not just talent, but ambition as well. She has competed in various music competitions, placing second in the Juvenile Division at the Long & McQuade Singing Contest, and then winning Hidden Talent Toronto. Today, it’s not enough to just be talented, as starting in the music business isn’t easy, particularly for a young girl who doesn’t know the industry. Liron recalls, “I just finished high school, and while all my friends were in college, I was at home trying to figure out how to get everything organized, and what I was even doing.”

Fortunately Liron has her biggest inspiration, her mother, at her side. “She raised me and my two brothers on her own, and made me feel like I could accomplish anything ever since I was a little girl. Her believing in me helped me believe in myself, and helped me to chase after this dream of mine. Singing and songwriting are kind of my biggest passions. Music is my entire world. I don’t really do much else”, she explains.

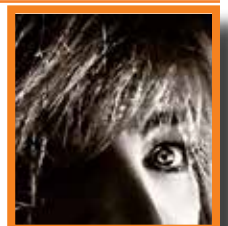
Despite her devotion to her chosen path, Liron is a typical teenager who gets nervous on auditions, enjoys fashion, and listening to music. “My favourite performers currently are Frank Ocean, Rihanna, Ariana Grande, Demi Lovato, and others. My biggest style influence would have to be Kylie Jenner. I love what she wears and how she is so bold with her hair”, she says.

While Liron had written poetry, short stories, and even attempted a novel, her first songwriting experience was only a couple of years ago. “When I write, I always have to hear the music first, whether that be four chords on a piano or a fully produced track. The minute I hear the music and I get the feel for it, I allow myself to just let the lyrics pour out of me. It’s kind of like taking the emotions from the instrumental music and putting them into words”, she explains.

I inquired what’s next for this little songbird, and she replied, “Just getting my music out there and see what happens I guess, but I don’t think I will ever do anything but music”.

www.lironmusic.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. Cat is also a reporter for On the Couch.





Not every kid grows up in a loving home.
The street shouldn't be their only option.



Covenant House
Donate at CovenantHouseToronto.ca

Are You a Woman in a Same-Sex Relationship? Join Our Community Today

Through our website, we offer advice and emotional comfort to women in same-sex relationships. Our ultimate goal is to foster an understanding of mature love; so that like-minded people can experience happiness, love and intimacy.

Our experts provide help and understanding to women in same-sex relationships. Visit us today!

www.lesbian-relationship.org 



PFLAG CANADA

PFLAG CANADA has over 87 peer-support chapters across Canada for members, friends and family of the community.

**Remember when you no longer need PFLAG, it needs you.
Your charitable donation of \$10 can change lives.**

Find your chapter by **visiting pflagcanada.ca today.**

INSPIRE CHANGE. POUR LE MIEUX.
PFLAGCANADA.CA

PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL MONOGAMIST



Every now and then, a movie comes along which just strikes that chord. One such movie is *Portrait of a Serial Monogamist*, a charming Canadian tale about a lesbian who dumps her current lover to explore her other options. Being back on the dating scene at an older age is difficult, but it all works out in the end.

POASM is the brainchild of Christina Zeidler and John Mitchell. Both newbies to feature films, they wanted to create something that reflected the current state of lesbian dating life. They decided from the start that Toronto would play Toronto - no fake New York here - and they also decided to fill up the cast with some of the best local talent they could find, like my good friend Diane Flacks, who is still sexy at her age. They also had the good sense to cast Carolyn Taylor, who has since shot to fame with *Baroness Von Sketch*, the best comedy show the CBC has produced in years. Not content with these two gifted performers, they filled out the supporting roles with Shoshana Sperling, Sabrina Jalees, Vanessa Dunn and Robin Duke.

"Christine had just watched *High Fidelity* and had an idea to do something similar with a female protagonist," explained Mitchell. "We also were inspired by *Alfie*, the way he speaks to the camera and tries to rationalize his poor behaviour. And finally, we were inspired by that old joke - What does a lesbian bring to a second date? A U-Haul."

Those inspirations worked. The movie has a lovely wistful quality and is often laugh-out-loud funny, particularly the great Dawn Whitwell. We feel deeply for these women. "Diane is a real thinking actor and that comes across in her performance, and Carolyn has a down-to-earth quality," commented Mitchell. "Both should be big stars."

Mitchell has had good luck in the past, beginning with his first comedy troupe Brock and John. Then he had the luck to originate the role of the groom in the first incarnation of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. "It was fun and then it went on to have this other life on Broadway", he stated. Currently, he is working on a documentary called *Waiting for Ishtar*, about the legendary Dustin Hoffman-Warren Beatty flop from 1987. "As someone who was involved in a musical comedy duo, *Ishtar* was an inspiration," he said.

POASM took five years from inception to completion. "We wanted the movie to have a sense of community, and an element of truth to it," he said. It is also hysterical. The cat funeral might be the funniest scene in an LGBT movie in ages. "We got a great reaction from the lesbian community," said Mitchell. However, a great comedy should reach all people. *Portrait of A Serial Monogamist* will make everyone laugh. You need to see it.

Portrait of A Serial Monogamist is available in Canada on TMN On Demand, and is available to rent or own in the US and Canada through wolfevideo.com. It is also available on US iTunes.

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.



**Your Home / Condo
Renovation Specialists**
METRO LICENSED AND FULLY INSURED
GENERAL CONTRACTOR



Kitchen Renovation | Remodelling | Bathroom Renovation/
Remodelling | Basement Renovation | Upgrading | Plumbing |
Electrical | Flooring | Framing | Carpentry | Crown Moulding |
Drywall | Painting | Decks and Fences | Windows and Doors |
Interlocking | Landscaping | Junk Removal

JH PROPERTY SERVICES LTD.
Office: 647-780-6133
Mobile: 416-858-1777
jhservices93@gmail.com

JH PROPERTY SERVICES LTD.

RELENTLESS ENTERTAINMENT/POZ-TO
presents

**2016
POZ-TO
AWARDS**

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER
1ST
(WORLD AIDS DAY)
AT
EROTICO
LOUNGE**



EROTICO

OutNPoz
OUTNPZ.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/OUTNPZ

POZPLANET

pinkplaymags

If it's LGBTQ it's in one of our magazines!

Whether it is showcasing businesses, exposing new talent or bringing you the latest entertainment news...
INspired Media has a publication for you! Grab yourself a tea and check us out today.




pink pages
25th Anniversary Edition

winterplay!
Looking Back Goodbye
Händel bis
Vino gere
Fremdlands Auf Wieder

buzz

www.thepinkpagesdirectory.com www.pinkplaymags.com www.thebuzzmag.ca

Sunny Drake



Photo courtesy of Tania Anderson

Sunny Drake is a theatre creator, writer, performer, and producer. He has toured his theatre shows to over 55 cities in Canada, the US, Australia, and Europe, and his plays have been translated into four languages. Born in Australia, Sunny has lived in Toronto for over five years. He is also the Director of the Emerging Creators Unit at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

Boyd Kodak -Tell us what have you been doing over the last year?

Sunny Drake - Creating several new theatre works, mentoring emerging theatre artists, putting a show on in Toronto, and writing my first feature length screenplay. Topics range from cyber-bullying and harassment, the mainstreaming of queerness, a teen queer coming of age story, and various trans themed stuff.

BK -Sounds great! During that time, which was the one most exciting event for you?

SD - It's been really great to have time to create new work. For the few years before this year I was heavily focused on touring, which was super fun but very intensive, and now I have a backlog of ideas I want to sink my teeth into. A highlight: doing a month long writing residency by a lake in upstate New York. It was dreamy to get to create out of the city in such a supported space, alongside outstanding artists - and to go jump in the lake anytime I needed head space.

BK - Ha ha, that's terrific! What are you looking forward to over for the next year?

SD - I'm particularly excited about finishing a draft of a new play called "Men Express Their Feelings". It's going to be silly and fun, yet deep as well. I get to go to hockey matches as research!

BK - We will look forward to it. Where and when can we see your work?

SD - My next tour stop is Montreal at Théâtre Espace Libre for a week in March. I'll be doing some work in progress showings of various new works in Toronto next year too. More details coming soon.

BK - Tell us your future plans?

SD - Ideally I'd like to do a 6-12 month sabbatical and get to experiment with different elements of my practice, and take some time out from the massive admin workload required to be an independent artist, in trying to figure out the money reality of that. Other plans: actually pick the apples off the backyard tree instead of picking up the rotting ones after they've fallen.

BK - Finish this sentence for me. Life wouldn't be the same without...

SD - ...spreadsheets. My life would be a disaster.

BK - Any message you would like to relay?

SD - Check out my blog or some videos of my work.

Connect with Sunny Drake:

Website: www.sunnydrake.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sunnydrake.creations

Twitter: www.twitter.com/sunny_drake

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sunny_drake

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.



Take Your Business Higher!

Join other GLBT business owners and professionals in Ontario and help create a stronger voice for our community.

Combine knowledge, resources and economic influence with a broader business network that shares your unique perspective.

Visit our website for more info about Membership and Networking events
www.oglcc.com



ONTARIO GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WWW.UGLCC.COM

OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

Is your business **51%+ LGBT owned & operated?**

Corporations in Canada are diversifying their supply chains and want to buy goods & services from companies just like yours.

Learn more about LGBT supplier diversity certification at

www.cglcc.ca



cglcc

Canadian Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce

CANADIAN EMPLOYMENT LAW

LITIGATION

PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE



HUM
LAW FIRM
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

LAI-KING HUM *Principal / Senior Lawyer*

lhun@thehumlawfirm.ca / 416.642.8892



THE WORKPLACE

• THE PROFESSIONS

• THE LAW

Holy Oak Cafe



Photo courtesy of "Tapette"

Remember when size mattered? It was about a decade ago when raves, circuit parties and even Pride-related events were getting all super-sized.

Attendance could be expected to be anywhere from a few thousand up to Montreal's Olympic sized Black & Blue which, in its heyday was attracting upwards of 15,000 people. Then in 2007, Toronto's party scene welcomed club giant Peter Gaten who opened the 55,000 square foot mega-club Circa. He quickly hired up the cities nightlife talent, including Rolyn Chambers, who helped manage the epic experience.

But then it happened, the party scene in Toronto started to change, going from several multi-day competing large scale parties down to a squabbling few who were competing over the same homogenous crowd. "The big party has seen its day" Rolyn told me well over a decade ago during the party scene climax. He wasn't suggesting that the big party would go completely extinct, but in this post 9/11 era people crave more intimate experiences that can take them beyond just the club's concept of fun.

Events like Vaseline, Hot Nuts, FEMINISTRY, Tapette!, and many of the parties happening out of Buddies In Bad Times Theatre have long since known this. DJ Phil Villeneuve is the brains and DJ behind the queer Franco-Fete event Tapette!, who for years has been bringing his concept to alternative spaces. "When The Henhouse closed, the party was suddenly homeless. I've been moving it around every month since then to venues in the west, east and central gay village. It's fun to try new queer-friendly spaces, and introduce gays to them at the same time." he said. Phil's adventures include provocative spaces like his recent nights at Remington's strip club and the Holy Oak Cafe

on Bloor Street West. Villeneuve says, "The size of Holy Oak is perfect for a sweaty dance party, and the venue has many new genre-defying queer nights, so it was an honour to throw the party in that space". Chambers agrees that their space has become "all the rage".

Their weekly homo hangout series Meow Meow is indicative of their culture, avoiding pretence in favour of nurturing the social experience, "It's an easy going queer social but with a DJ", says Justin Oliver one of the founders of the space. Even the name Holy Oak was picked "in response to much of what Toronto is with its straight lines and predictability. It came from wanting to be un-obvious, yet self-evident. It was hard for a lot of Torontonians who were used to being spoon fed, but enough people have figured it out and get what we are doing now. If you rolled all of the customers into one, they'd be someone sweet, creative, and open minded: an androgynous looking and acting person who comes across as quiet, but turns out to be the life of a party."

Catch Meow Meow at Holy Oak Cafe every Wednesday night with host DJs. In October catch Tapette! at Glad Day Bookstore, and then Phil's annual Celine Dion party at the Gladstone.

Holy Oak Cafe, 1241 Bloor Street West, www.holyoakcafe.com

Photo, Tapette! street poster with two cats, Raymond Helkio

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



Midtown Dental

**Dr. Ramlaggan has been proudly
serving the community since 1997.**

"Our team strives to give you the best oral care in a relaxed environment. They genuinely care for our patients' well-being and jump at the opportunity for continuing education to ensure they're at the top of their game."



Call us for a
FREE
Consultation!

Comprehensive General Dental Care!

Jaw and Sleep Disorder Treatments

Experienced in general cleaning
to full mouth reconstruction

Dr. V. Ramlaggan & Associates
20 Bloor Street East, Unit R4
Bloor/Yonge Subway Concourse
Toronto, ON M4W 3G7
416.966.DENT (3368) midtowndental.ca

COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Sweet Ass Saturdays

Saturdays from 9:00 p.m.

Starring Sofonda Cox, hosting the Squirr.org Men's Best Ass Contest and Show. With DJ Chris Steinbach. \$300 cash prizes, Big Talent, Beautiful Bums and No Cover!

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

Sensational Saturdays

Saturdays from 6:30 p.m.

Main stage: Michelle Ross and special guests; Devine Darlin, Jada Hudson, Lady G; Carlotta Carlisle, and more. DJ Quinces spins upstairs in Tangos, while DJ Craig Dominic spins in The Zone.

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



Massive Talent Sundays

Sundays from 9:00 p.m.

Show Georgie Girl and guests begin the evening, followed by the Six Smokin' Hot Divas Show at 11:00 p.m.

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

Marvellous Mondays

At 9pm join Carlotta Carlisle and Katinka Kature with DJ Tootsie for some fun. Then stick around for Daytona Bitch and guests, with DJ Quinces at 11:30pm on the main stage.

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

FML Mondays Industry Night

Mondays from 11:00 p.m.

Join the fun at Church Street's only Monday Night Dance Party! Drop the drama, and join the party. Featuring: DJ Craig Dominic Hosted by MC Mama Mojo, with Barbie Jo Bontemps and Lily Belanger

Flash, 463 Church St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/MoJoToronto/

Ghetto Glam Bingo

Tuesdays from 9:30 p.m.

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

Pegasus On Church, 489B Church St. Toronto
www.facebook.com/Ghettoglambingo/

C U Next Tuesday

Tuesdays from 11:00 p.m.

Donnarama with her crazy costumes and ridiculously entertaining performances, with equally talented special guests every week No Cover!

Statler's - 487 Church St. Toronto
www.statlers.ca

College Night

Wednesdays from 11:00 p.m.

The hottest spot on a Wednesday in the Village. Weekly guest DJs with party hosts Devine Darlin and Joey Monda. \$4 1oz Jager at the bar all night!

Church on Church, 504 Church St. Toronto
www.churchonchurch.com

Smirnoff Men's Chest Contest

Thursdays from 9:00 p.m.

Smirnoff Men's Chest Contest and show, hosted by Georgie Girl, with DJ Mark Falco. \$300 cash prizes and Steamworks Toronto Giveaways. Toronto's Hottest Staff and Never A Cover!

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

Karaoke

Fridays from 10:00 p.m.

Every Friday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Elyse Douglas is your host for Karaoke. Have a bite, have a beverage, belt out a ballad - or butcher a ballad. Just have a blast.

Fox & Fiddle, 27 Wellesley St. E., 2nd Fl. Toronto
www.facebook.com/FoxWellesley



CHARITY BUZZ PICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Half-marathon, and 5k

October 16 @ 8:45 a.m.

The flat and fast features of this event have consistently been the reason for so many people achieving a personal best. Benefiting several charities.

264 The Esplanade, Toronto
www.raceroster.com/events/2016/6374/scotiabank-toronto-waterfront-marathon

Meal Trans

Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (except Stat. holidays)

Meal Trans is a drop-in program serving nutritious meals to lower-income, street-active, homeless and sex-working trans women, trans men, genderqueer, and questioning people.

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

Among Friends LGBTQ Refugee Support Group Wednesdays

Among Friends is The 519's weekly program for LGBTQ refugee claimants. A great way to socialize and make new friends, build community networks, and access info to help with settlement in Canada.

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



Light The Night Walk Toronto

October 19 @ 5:30 p.m.

Join the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada's walk at twilight, and help make a difference in the lives of more than 110,000 Canadians affected by blood cancer.

Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.lightthenight.ca/walks/toronto

OktoberFEAST Markham

October 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Fill your belly with the best food and drink Ontario has to offer, and warm yourself with the knowledge you are helping fund cancer research and support services for cancer patients and their families.

Markham Museum, 9350 Markham Rd., Markham
www.eventbrite.ca/e/oktoberfeast-markham-tickets-26591377526

Hallows' Eve of Horrors

October 29 from 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by ICP Miss Demeanor! All performers welcome, and costumes are encouraged. Benefit for the charities of Reign XXII

Embassy Night Club, 54 King St. E., Hamilton
www.facebook.com/events/1322609637757615

People and Pets Taking Steps Against Cancer

November 6 @ 10:30 a.m.

A family and pet-friendly event to raise funds for important, life-saving cancer research and services in the Durham region. When you register, you direct funds to one of the six cancer programs.

Heydonshore Pavilion, 589 Water St/Whitby, ON
www.facebook.com/CanadianCancerSociety

LipOffKW

November 16 from 6:30 p.m.

Attend Kitchener's first ever Lip Sync Battle at Cork Hall @ McCabe's Kitchener in support of the YWCA K-W's Living Large Campaign.

McCabe's Irish Pub, 352 King St. W., Kitchener
www.lipoffkw.ca

Toronto PFLAG Fundraiser

November 17 from 7:30 p.m.

Join for an incredible night celebrating 25 Years of Toronto PFLAG. This is a special fundraiser looking back through Decades of Unconditional Love and the volunteers of Toronto PFLAG families.

The 519 Community Centre, Ballroom, 519 Church St. Toronto
www.facebook.com/TorontoPFLAG

Bower Power Euchre Tournament (Reign XXX Edition)

November 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Emperor 26 RICKY Lake Ontario (Richard Durk) presents BOWER POWER Euchre Tournament, raising funds for TICOT's Charities of Choice (Reign 30)

Bumpkins Restaurant, 21 Gloucester St., Toronto
www.ticot.ca

GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Exhibition: AlvaroSiza: Gateway To The Alhambra **Through January 8**

Enjoy architectural objects from the Alhambra's own collection, and understand why the Alhambra has inspired countless artists and architects since the 14th century.

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

Why The @#&! Do You Paint? Go Figure **Through November 28**

Drawing from the human form is an act of observation and an action that creates human empathy. Utilizing the figure as a subject matter is where some of the earliest human marks were made.

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

Read All About It: The First World War As Front Page News **Through January 29**

The crisis of the First World War transformed Toronto's media. Demand for information had never been greater, but newspapers could be shut down by for war stories deemed too negative.

Mackenzie House, 82 Bond St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/historictoronto/

Niagara Falls Oktoberfest **October 15**

Celebrate two days of everything German, including handmade German fare like bratwursts and schnitzel and plenty of authentic cold German beer!

Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls, ON
www.niagarafallsoktoberfest.com

OktoberFair **October 15 – 16**

OktoberFest meets Fall Fair! Carnival Rides, Midway Games, Marketplace, Delicious Food, Baking, Bratwurst Competitions, and more.

Memorial Park, Park Dr, Whitchurch-Stouffville
www.facebook.com/events/1665240797128435/

Cask Days

October 21 – 23

Cask Days celebrates the love for cask ale: unpasteurized, unfiltered and naturally carbonated beer that is served direct from a cask barrel.

Evergreen Brickworks, 550 Bayview Ave., Toronto
www.festival.caskdays.com/tickets



Bon Soup Fest

October 22 from 11:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Attendees will be treated to signature soups, divine wine, fresh baked goods, craft beer, live entertainment and a fascinating array of demonstrations.

Bingemans Park, 425 Bingemans Centre Drive, Kitchener
www.therecordstore.ca/collections/shows/products/bon-soup-fest

Vegan Oktoberfest

October 22 from 7:30 p.m.

A celebration of great friends, vegan fare, music and beer at Vegan Oktoberfest 2016. Showcasing some of the city's best and brightest local vegan vendors. \$20.00

Nest, 423 College St., Toronto
www.vegheads.org/products/oktoberfest-2016-october-22nd-2016

Retropath presents "The Haunting"

October 31 @ 7:00 p.m.

Specializing in the most bizarre oddities to stumble onto the screen, this series is guaranteed to deliver the weirdest and wildest that cinema has to offer.

The Royal Cinema, 608 College St., Toronto
www.universe.com/events/retropath-the-haunting-tickets-7GW9PB

Berliner Philharmoniker

November 15 & 16

Founded in 1882, this has long been regarded as one of the world's greatest orchestras, and its Digital Concert Hall, launched in 2009, demonstrates the organization's firm 21st-century footing.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St. Toronto
www.facebook.com/soundboardTO/

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.



**NORTH
BOUND
LEATHER**

XXX
30 YEARS OF NORTHBOUND LEATHER

SATURDAY.OCTOBER.22

FETISH FASHION SHOW & PARTY

DOORS OPEN AT 9PM ★ FASHION SHOW 11PM ★ DANCE & PLAY 'TIL 3AM

info: 416.972.1037
NORTHBOUND.COM

TICKETS

\$45 In Advance

\$55 @ Door

FETISH FASHION SHOW

Performance By MIDORI

DUNGEON

PHOTO AREA

PLOUNGE

And Much Much More!

MAC

SOLO BACE

THE
PHOENIX
CONCERT THEATRE
410 SHERBOURNE ST

STRICT FETISH DRESS CODE ENFORCED

We encourage guests to express themselves with their outfits. Please wear:
LEATHER ★ RUBBER ★ PVC ★ FETISH ★ COSTUMES ★ DRAG ★ LINGERIE ★ UNIFORMS ★ GOTH

Serving our communities to

LIVE LIFE HEALTHY

Mississauga
Dixie & Dundas
905-361-1020

Brampton
Hwy 410 & Queen St.
905-457-6565

Etobicoke
Islington & Queensway
416-259-5197

Danforth
Danforth & Carlaw
416-465-9998

Richmond Hill
Yonge & Elgin Mills
905-884-8771

North York
Bathurst & Sheppard
416-398-2444

Markham
McCowan & Hwy 7
905-209-7474

Scarborough
Parkway Mall
416-510-8576

South Scarborough
Eglinton Town Centre
905-750-7979

Pickering
Brock Rd. & Kingston
905-239-7922

Whitby
Dundas & Thickson Rd.
905-444-9500

Oakville
Hwy 403 &
Dundas St W.
905-829-0999



Healthy Planet

Health Foods . Supplements . Sports Nutrition . Beauty

healthyplanetcanada.com

