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The Editor

Greetings and salutations!

Ah winter, what a wonderful time of year. No really, I'm serious. Why fight it, when you can get out and enjoy it? After all, "We Are The North," n'est-ce pas? To help get you started, open up and flip directly to the back pages for a three-page comprehensive look at some cool events happening over the next couple of weeks that you won't want to miss, all warmly compiled by our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain.

Then it's up to you if you want to flip back to the beginning, and read our two great features, or peruse our regular columns that are all fantastically delightful. Cat Grant chatted with actress/writer Joanne Vannicola, who has a slew of projects coming up including the release of her memoir, a television series, a young adult novel, and a short screenplay. Our second feature is written by noted Montreal writer Richard Burnett who gives us an early look at Canada Pride, which will be taking place in his home city next summer.

For our regular columns, we have three guest writers this issue. Hailing from The Big Apple, Shirley U Jest is our guest writer for Wigged Out, and she tells us why we shouldn't adore and support drag queens, especially herself. Daniela Costa is the guest writer for our She Beat column, and she caught up with Andria Wilson, the new Executive Director of Inside Out LGBT Film Festival.

Our regular columnist Paul Bellini spotlights G. Elliott Simpson and his new book Transformation, Boyd Kodak treats us to a chat with trans writer and artist Morgan M. Page, and finally our third guest writer, Leslie MacLeod, popped into Striker, Canada's First LGBT Sports Bar, to give us a first-hand account of her experience.

I've also had the honour of working with Leslie as my Associate Editor for this issue. She's a student in George Brown's Editing program, and also works in television at places like the CBC. It's been a pleasure having someone else to bounce ideas off and most importantly help compile all the wonderful content we've been able to put together for you, our readers.

Wishing you and those you love all the happiness for this festive season, and beyond. May you eat, drink, and be Mary until your heart's content.

Thanks for picking us up. Enjoy the read!

Bryen Dunn
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Joanne Vannicola

Canada's Homegrown
Thespian Lesbian

By Cat Grant

When you think of Canadian stereotypes, beside our reputation for politeness, you must surely think of talent. We're world-class exporters and incubators of innovation, socially conscious, creative minds our planet appreciates. Award-winning actor Joanne Vannicola embodies the very ideal of these attributes.

From *Sesame Street* to *Degrassi* to *Stonewall*, her talent has permitted a long career, garnering industry respect with an Emmy (*Maggie's Secret*, 1991), and nominations for a Gemini, (*9B*, 1988), a Genie (*Love and Human Remains*, 1994), and an ACTRA award (*Toot and Puddle*, 2009).

Hailing from Montreal, Joanne's first memories are auditions with her mother. "I loved tap dancing... making music with your feet... I still do." She started acting; learning the craft on stage and on film sets. "Everything seemed so magical... it amazed me how

studios could transform... just with sets and make-believe."

Joanne also recalls influential adults from her youth: a childhood tap instructor named Kathy who loved her, and Kate McKenzie a high school educator, who took a personal interest in this young professional artist when Joanne was 15 and living alone and working in Toronto.

"She knew I was in trouble somehow and gave me extra support and care. I also had a tutor back when I was thirteen who used to read poetry to me while we smoked from a pipe and drank Amaretto. I know, not conventional and not recommended, but he taught me to love words."

Being a lesbian has been hard professionally. "No one wanted me to be out. I was expected to 'behave' or 'act' straight, to hide. I was told to wear more makeup, put on a dress, grow my hair out... people would try to blame me for being 'difficult.' I was just a young lesbian who didn't want to be sexualized... just be as true to myself as I could."

Joanne did have a few favourite people she enjoyed working with over the years, like Whoopi Goldberg, Wendy Crewson, Helen Shaver, Ally Sheedy, Marlo Thomas, Brooke Shields and the late Anne Meara.

"She was special, a true friend, and funny as hell, as was Al Waxman. He was a true support and had my back", she recalls.

When nominated for an Emmy at 20 years young, Joanne didn't realize her name had been called at the ceremony, and director Al Waxman had to give her a little push. It had never occurred to her that she would win. She stood out in a rented tux. "Everyone else wore long, lavish, expensive dresses and only the men wore nice suits."

With some success under her belt, Joanne headed for Los Angeles, keeping busy with auditions, agents and managers but also coping with anxiety over not fitting the mould. "I didn't fit the image of 'woman' [that] the industry was expecting me to conform to... I didn't know who to turn to, how to cope."

Needing to get away, Joanne cruised to San Francisco, where surrounded by other queer people she felt safe and comforted, but she realized at some point she had to get back to her life and career.

"I needed to make a choice about where to live. Hollywood at the time had no lesbians or gay men who were out. I was choking on homophobia and sexism. It was devastating not to see reflections of myself in the culture and I didn't know where to turn. At least in Canada I knew I had people in my personal life who were LGBTQ. Confused and upset by invisibility and by an industry that tried to make me more invisible. I think I would have ended up self-destructing at that time."

There were few parts written for lesbians, or characters where heterosexuality wasn't presumed, or even parts where sexuality was not important to the role.

With perseverance, Joanne tried to find ways to insert who she was; showing up dressed in pants and short hair, hoping her auditions might be good enough that whoever was casting the part might consider hiring her because she was "different." Because she could bring something new to a part, sometimes people changed the characters to reflect who she was.

"In *Being Erica*, my role as Dr. Naadiah became lesbian. The writers used that part of me to enhance the character, and the show *PSI Factor* did the same thing. People sometimes wrote parts for me, like Denys Arcand for *Stardom* and Aaron Martin for *Slasher*. I recently was offered a part in a new Lifetime

CG: Besides acting, what are your passions?

JV: I like to take photographs, I love music and writing. Standing with LGBTQ, Women, Black, Muslim and Indigenous peoples politically and socially is as important to any job, role or photo. I hope we all do something to help each other in these difficult times.

CG: Why have you taken a stand on how you are portrayed in your work now ?

JV: I don't want to play roles that degrade girls and women or sexualize them, denigrate them- that has always been first and foremost and you would be surprised (or not) how many horribly written parts there have been through the decades for girls and women.

CG: You started a not-for-profit organization, YOUTH OUT LOUD, with a large annual event held at Dundas Square. What was this about?

JV: After working with a friend, Sharon Simone, (around sexual violence and child abuse), I wanted to do something in Toronto allowing for creative and political outlets for youth or survivors of violence. I wanted child abuse to be something that the population paid more attention to, I wanted to acknowledge young people's experiences. I hoped it would grow and get bigger but I just couldn't sustain it working for years without pay and hours that were not human.

CG: Is there a particular actor you would love to perform with?

JV: Many! Who wouldn't want to work with Meryl Streep? Jessica Lange, Gena Rowlands, Viola Davis, Judi Dench, and fellow country woman, Ellen Page, whom I think is so brave and intelligent.

show called *Sea Change*. Director, Chris Grismer, asked if I wanted to play the part of the sheriff." The role, although originally written for a man, had no intrinsic reason to be male, so now Joanne is the Sheriff.

Joanne has also been doing some writing of her own including her upcoming memoir, *Walking Through Glass* (Cormorant Books), which will be released in 2017. "I think it's important to share what happens to girls in our culture... that it's okay to challenge, take up space, speak our stories. I'm a feminist and I believe writing this memoir is not just a personal act but a political one.

"Sharing is cathartic in some ways, but requires me to be open so who knows what may come my way as a result of revealing so many intimate details and traumatic events. However, because there is also transformation in the book, perhaps it will help others, open eyes and minds to experiences they haven't thought of. We all look for reflections of ourselves through books, movies, television, art and music. I hope my memoir will be one of those books that can be what someone else needs, or at the very least or best, be a good read!"

Joanne has even more projects in the works: an LGBTQ-themed TV pilot with friend Richard Jutras, a young adult novel about a lesbian teenager, and a short

screenplay, *His Name Was Steven*, about addiction and homophobia. "I really have a lot of stories that include LGBTQ people and the lives of women. I have many tales running around in my head; characters screaming out at me for their attention."

The next year looks to be a very creative and exciting one for Canada's Joanne Vannicola. Watch for her coming soon to a screen or book store near you, and keep up to date with all of her escapades at www.joannevannicola.com.

Cat Grant is a multimedia artist. She is also a published poet currently writing a book. She contributes to *Home Life* and *Jingobox*.



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By Richard Burnett

Montreal To Host Inaugural Canada Pride Festival in 2017





Montreal will host the inaugural Canada Pride festival in 2017, as the city celebrates its 375th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Expo 67, and Canada marks 150 years of Confederation, in what is projected to be one of the largest Pride celebrations in the world.

Modelled on EuroPride and WorldPride, the 11-day Canada Pride will feature a sports tournament, an international conference on LGBTQ rights, as well as a series of indoor and outdoor parties and concerts, Trans and Dyke Marches, and a massive Pride parade that will feature contingents from some 80 Pride organizations across Canada. In all, Canada Pride is

expected to draw over 750,000 spectators and will present 150 events and activities from August 10 to 20, 2017.

“What excites me most about Canada Pride is we will get to showcase Montreal to the rest of Canada and the world,” says Éric Pineault, President of Montréal Pride. “There is no other city in this country that has a Village like we do, and there is no city that has a history like ours. Remember Montreal was home to Canada’s very first Stonewall, when police raided the gay nightclubs Le Mystique and Truxx in October 1977.”

In response to that infamous police raid, Quebec in December 1977 became the second jurisdiction in the world (after Denmark) to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Truxx and other seminal LGBTQ moments from Montreal’s rich 375-year history will be on display at a special exhibition during the festival, along with an extraordinary photo exhibition chronicling each of Canada’s Prides in the House of Pride pavilion, which will host live entertainment each day.

Canada Pride will also host a two-day sports tournament and three-day LGBTTIQ2S+ human rights conference whose themes include diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and realities faced by women, youth and seniors, ethno-cultural communities, Aboriginal communities, trans persons and non-binary persons.

"This will be the first time that LGBTQ community activists, Pride activists and university academics from the sexual diversity departments of all Canadian universities will get together," Pineault says. "We will also have speakers from around the world, from Africa, from South America. Participants will reflect on our past to better gauge where we are headed."

The family-friendly Canada Pride will also host a Kids Day and a Pride Day at La Ronde, one of North America's top amusement parks. Families also march with community groups in the parade, which in 2017 will feature Montreal 375th Anniversary Tributes, a contingent for each Pride in Canada, as well as 10 Grand Marshals who, Pineault says, "will be chosen by a distinguished committee and announced in Spring 2017. These Grand Marshals will represent all of our communities, English and French, from across Canada."

Pride in Montreal isn't complete without its lively outdoor parties, so Canada Pride will host a series of free concerts showcasing dance, music and drag superstars on two different outdoor sites, Place Émilie-Gamelin and Parc des Faubourgs, where there will also be a post-parade Mega T-Dance with

international deejays and a Disco T-Dance with "A-list Canadian artists."

Says Pineault, "We are still working on the Disco T-Dance, have already booked some very big names — and the biggest name is very big, never before seen at a Pride in Canada."

Between the two outdoor sites is Montreal's iconic "Boules Roses" — a.k.a. Pink Balls — installation featuring 170,000 suspended pink resin balls covering the terrace-filled one kilometre-long pedestrian mall at the heart of all the celebrations in the Village.

"Canada Pride is the only LGBTQ event that is officially part of Montreal's year-long 375th anniversary celebrations," says Pineault, "and we're putting together one big party!"

For more information, visit www.fiertemontrealpride.com

Montreal journalist Richard "Bugs" Burnett knows his hometown like a drag queen knows a cosmetics counter. twitter.com/bugsburnett



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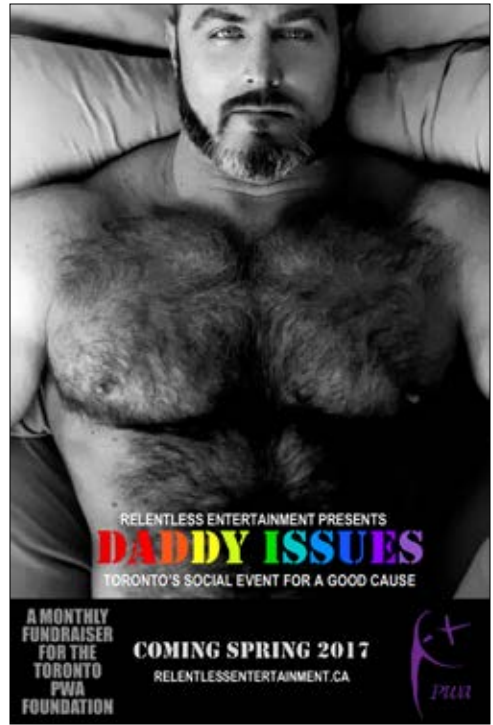
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Why Won't You Hate Me?

With the holiday season upon us, and the end of 2016 near, we begin to look back on the many impressive accomplishments of our sisters this past year.

Bianca Del Rio continues to sell out theatres around the world on her second successful comedy tour, Lady Bunny gave a return engagement run of her *Trans-Jester* show, this season's cast of RuPaul's *All Stars* made a red carpet debut at the VMAs, and Willam even published her own book (because reading is what? Required by state education benchmarks). The world continues to support new drag endeavors and laud queens for their bravery. I have one thing to say: Stop it.

For decades, our most beloved queens were dragged through the mud and oppressed for being who they were. There's a reason RuPaul rose to network TV prominence and it wasn't because people were nice. We've woken up from our beautiful nightmares of being arrested for being mistaken for prostitutes to live in a world where producers and publishers want to make our dreams come true. You can't open your Facebook feed these days without hearing about a new movie starring a popular queen or some girl who's the new ambassador for a charity organization. For God's sake, I'm even disgusted with the fact that they let me write this column.

Doesn't anyone know that we do our best work when we're reviled by civilization at large? Look at the characters of *To Wong Foo*. No one wants to see a movie about three queens on the easiest road trip through Middle America. That narrative

would've been over after the first 20 minutes and we would have never gotten to see Wesley Snipes crotch-grab a redneck. How are we supposed to be strong, sassy, glamorous creatures if people find our ideas highly creative and marketable?

I went to my own ten-year high school reunion in full face and a dress thinking I could stir the pot. You think I liked it when people applauded my bravery? You think I liked it when my former classmates were genuinely interested in my work as an entertainer? You think it's so lovely that people from my own hometown welcomed me with open arms? At this rate, I'm actually going to be successful with my new web series *Behind the Seams*, because people are going to watch it. Thanks, America. You too, Canada.

That's why I urge everyone this coming year to do their best to tear down the drag community, whether that be in New York City, Toronto, or anywhere beyond. Go out to a show and snatch a weave right off some queen's head. Whip a battery at the headliner of a drag rock concert. Tell a girl right to her face that she should give up and start selling crack on the streets.

We need to return to the good old days when drag was the lowest rung of society. Do your part in 2017: don't watch episodes of *Chopped* with queens for contestants, say no to tickets to Peaches Christ's new parody musical, and tell Shangela that she has no business popping up in the *X-Files* reboot. If we don't know we're human garbage, how else are we going to succeed?

Shirley U. Jest is the winner of *New York's Next Top Drag Queen 2016*, writer and producer of her cabaret *Jest a Girl*, and a nominated New York nightlife entertainer for Breakthrough Artist at the NYC Nightlife GLAM Awards.





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Andria Wilson

Executive Director - Inside Out LGBT Film Festival



Picture it: it's a Thursday night in the middle of November and the TIFF Bell Lightbox lounge is packed. Someone comments that there are a lot more women attending than usual, including some new faces.

In fact, there seems to be more women than men, an unusual occurrence for many, if not most, LGBT events. But this isn't like most events: these women are here to meet Andria Wilson, a young queer woman who's just become the new Executive Director of the Inside Out LGBT Film Festival.

"It's most definitely the dream job at exactly the right time for me," says Wilson, who started the new job in October.

In joining Inside Out officially, Wilson now completes the festival's Halifax contingent, which includes director of programming Andrew Murphy, whom she worked with at the Atlantic Film Festival, and programming manager Jenna Dufton, whom she co-founded the OUTeast Film Festival with, a queer festival they're both still involved in.

"It was kind of inevitable in a way that we would, the three of us, end up at another queer organization in another market," says Wilson. "We had all been able to do a lot of fabulous work with fabulous festivals in the Atlantic region, but were looking for larger opportunities."

That search for bigger opportunities led her to quitting a "really great" salaried job with a cultural organization in Halifax to go back to festival freelancing. That was a year and a half ago. During that time, she has worked with over ten festivals.

"That was what really was getting me to Toronto a lot more," she says. "It reached kind of a tipping point where I knew this was the direction that I wanted to be going."

And yet when Inside Out's executive director position opened up a year ago, she didn't jump at the chance to apply, wanting instead to continue freelancing with as many different festivals as possible. "I didn't feel like it was the moment for me to do that." But it was almost as if the job was waiting for her.

"After the year went by and the search was still ongoing, things had settled down a lot for me," she says. Still, she was completely unprepared for the email she received from a search firm responsible for finding qualified candidates for the position.

"I just stopped moving and sat down and read it and processed what it could mean for me," she recalls. "Someone asking you if you're interested in your dream job — it's almost unbelievable."

That was in July. It would be a couple of months and a few interviews later before she landed the role.

So while it's still early days to discuss too many concrete goals, among those she's established is a commitment to work with more female filmmakers and to showcase even more films of interest to queer women.

"I think that through the interview process and coming into the role, I certainly was very, very clear about who I am as a woman, as a person, as a feminist," she says. "That's part of who I am and that's part of how I'm going to be looking at the festival." The next Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival takes place May 25 to June 4, 2017, www.insideout.ca

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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Jordan Browne, *Untitled 2*

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TRANSFORMATION - G. ELLIOTT SIMPSON



An 'un-person' is someone who, for political or ideological reasons, is 'erased' from the public record. Joseph Stalin loved erasing people; just one of the many terrifying inspirations for George Orwell's *1984*. It's also the same concept behind the work of G. Elliott Simpson.

The photographer is about to release his first book, *Transformation* (Bruno Gmünder). For those not familiar with his striking approach, Simpson paints his models black, dresses them in fetish gear, and sometimes even hangs them upside down. His photographs are visually harsh, strikingly monochromatic, and awe-inspiring.

Years ago, after emerging from a coma, he began studying photography and decided to present himself with a challenge. "I thought, what's the hardest thing I could possibly photograph? And it turns out to be black on black on black." He began with still lifes of black objects. "I wasn't trying to make a statement, it was a technical exercise."

Eventually, he switched to live models. Most models are required to coat themselves in a mixture of black body paint and baby oil, then they are sponged and sprayed for extra sheen. "The black is very democratizing, it makes big muscular guys look lean and thin and it makes lean guys look defined, so people often confuse which model is which."

Such work evokes strong feelings. "I came of age during AIDS and I strongly associate sex with danger, so there's a darkness to my work," he said. "I've used models of every colour. To me, my work is about the obliteration of identity, so it doesn't matter what they are, they still get painted midnight black. That doesn't mean I'm not aware of how it might be perceived. A woman once complained that my work was racist. I didn't ignore her, I thought about it. There are photographs where I used silver body paint instead, but it communicates something

different." Brad Fraser, a former subject who also wrote the book's foreword, agrees. "This is not the black of race. This is not the black of skin. It is the black of oil, the black of decay, history and oblivion; the black of anonymity," writes Fraser. "I am transformed into another being entirely, one that might exist in old negatives, where the dark and light are transposed."

Simpson has also done some portrait and product work, but he can afford not to. "I've hung a guy upside down, and that for me was less work than shooting a food spread." He did several notable FAB covers, including the controversial one of the sexy dead underwear models spread out on mortuary tables. His favourite photographer is Czechoslovakian artist Jan Saudek, whose work he finds "spectacularly beautiful."

Simpson's work is similarly beautiful, both dark and disturbing, dream-like and frightening. So, the question is, are **you** ready to step into the world of G. Elliott Simpson?

The official launch takes place December 15th, 7pm-10pm at Glad Day Bookshop, 499 Church Street. Complimentary movie-style promotional posters will be given out to the first 20 customers who purchase a copy of *Transformation*

gelliottsimpson.com/

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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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Morgan M. Page



Photo: Tania Anderson

Morgan M. Page: is a trans writer and artist in Montreal. Her writing has been featured in numerous publications including *Plenitude Magazine*, *GUTS*, and *Feministing*, as well as Cleis Press's *Best Sex Writing of the Year (2015)* anthology. She was a 2014 Lambda Literary Fellow.

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

Morgan M Page: I appreciate any question where I get to brag a little! This year I launched a podcast called *One From the Vaults*, a narrative show about trans history in North America and Europe. My artwork has shown in four countries this year, too. I've also had a lot of writing published this year, with news pieces coming out in *GUTS Magazine* and the *Montreal Review of Books* in November. As you can see, it's been a busy year!

BK: I'll say. During that time, which was the one most exciting event for you?

MMP: This past spring, some of my collaborative works about HIV with artist-activist Jessica Whitbread were featured in the *Agitprop!* exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum. It was very exciting! Somehow I ended up not making it into the gallery to see the work myself, despite repeatedly being in Brooklyn while it was up. I am easily distracted by the boys of Brooklyn, apparently.

I also had a very powerful event with my friend, writer Sarah Schulman, here in Montréal. The event discussed queer suicidality, conflict, and the duty to repair relationships as suicide prevention. It was standing room only for two hours and I think it was well-received.

BK: Wow, that's amazing! What are you looking forward to over for the next year?

MMP: I live by the old saying "loose lips sink ships," so I'll leave this one a bit of a mystery. But, here's a clue: Something very fun will be coming soon to a theatre near you!

BK: Where can we see your work?

MMP: My website is the best place to find my artwork and links to my writing. It's Odofofemi.com.

BK: Future plans?

MMP: I'm always writing something, and scheming something. Right now I'm working on several major projects that hopefully I'll get to share in the coming months.

BK: We'll be looking forward to it. Any message you would like to put out there?

MMP: Sex work is real work!

BK: Tell us your favourite TV show of all time.

MMP: Probably *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. I've definitely watched the entire series at least a dozen times by now. Dressed up as a teen supernatural thriller, Buffy secretly gave us one of the most compelling and nuanced looks at sex, gender, and what it means to be a hero. I quote Buffy on the daily, often without even noticing it.

Visit Odofofemi.com for more on Morgan.

Boyd Kodak is an award-winning trans activist, musician, writer, activist, filmmaker, curator, and festival/entertainment director. Boyd has 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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STRIKER - CANADA'S FIRST LGBT SPORTS BAR



Downtown Toronto now has its own gay sports bar. What struck me right away as I walked in to meet my friends was the casual friendliness. You are warmly and sincerely greeted by staff as soon as you sit down.

The atmosphere reminds me of a small-town gay bar in some ways (a good thing in my books). It's a bit of a mix between dance bar, restaurant, and sports bar - pulling triple duty like many bars do in smaller markets.

There's a long bar right as you walk in where there were a few individuals watching the games and chatting with the servers. It should be noted that there's a good mix of all genders who go here. Directly across are some taller tables with benches and short-backed tall stools. The look overall is quite sleek and modern, almost dance club-like, with grey, silver and glowing blue light accents, plus black subway tiles along one wall. There are flags hanging for all the Toronto teams, plus a piece of sports-themed art here and there as well. Both times I visited there was dance music playing in the background or foreground, however on game nights it's all sports first. During playoff games and other prime matches, the games are broadcast and music is only pumped up during commercials.

The beer selection was fairly average, stocked with mainstream domestics and imports, and my friends were hoping for at least some craft beers to choose from. There's also Pommies Cider, and the creative cocktail list with sporty themed names is a bit expensive (\$10 to \$14), however most average around two ounces of alcohol. The "Knockout Punch" is one of the top sellers, consisting of Gin, Elderflower liqueur, Creme de Cassis,

and Sparkling Wine. There are also daily rotating specials that include both food and alcohol.

The food menu was varied but limited, with items such as salads, sandwiches, pizza, wings and nachos. By far, the nachos (\$16) rule supreme. My friend declared them "EPIC" and "possibly the best I've ever had." I have never seen such exquisite dicing and chopping of nacho ingredients: olives, peppers, tomatoes, onions, black beans. There was also a thorough coating of four kinds of cheese on all layers of the perfectly salted corn chips: regular and Buffalo mozzarella, aged cheddar and queso fresco.

Be sure to look closely for this place, as it is discreetly unassuming with no prominent signage, and the windows are covered to not allow a view in from the outside. Earlier opening hours might help as well if they want to operate as a sports bar, since important sporting matches often happen during the early afternoon. Overall this is a great addition for the LGBT sporting community, players and fans alike, and I'll definitely be back for the nachos and friendly service!

Striker - 31 St. Joseph Street, Toronto - 4pm to 11pm/1am
strikertoronto.com - 416-929-9595

Fully wheelchair accessible, including washrooms.

Leslie MacLeod is a freelance copy editor and proofreader and has worked in the television and film industry for over 20 years. Obsessions include soccer, trivia, cycling and finding good food in downtown Toronto.



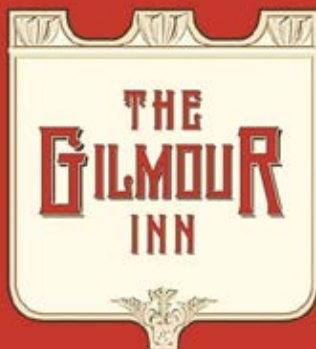


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COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Ultimate Thursdays

Thursdays from 9:00 p.m.

9pm — Katinka Kature & Baby Bel Bel dazzle/1130 p.m. — Ivory Towers & special guest Tynomi Banks Tangos: 10 p.m. — DJ Craig Dominic spins til close! Zone: 10pm — Vocal Rehab Karaoke

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

Smirnoff Men's Chest Contest

Thursdays from 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by Georgie Girl and DJ Mark Falco. \$300 cash prizes and Steamworks Toronto Giveaways. Toronto's Hottest Staff and NEVER A COVER CHARGE!

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

Exposed

Saturdays — 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Legendary Georgie Girl and sensational Sofonda Cox are being Exposed on Church Street at the village's newest Nightclub/Bar.

Blyss, 504 Church St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/BlyssToronto/

Sensational Saturdays

Saturdays from 6:30 p.m.

Main stage: Michelle Ross & special guest; Devine Darlin, Jada Hudson, Lady G; Carlotta Carlisle & special guest. Tangos: DJ Quinces spins til close. Zone: DJ Craig Dominic spins til close.

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

Massive Talent Sundays

Sundays from 9:00 p.m.

MASSIVE TALENT SUNDAYS 9PM Show, Georgie Girl and guests at 9:00 p.m. Followed by Six Smokin' Hot Divas Show at 11:00 p.m.

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

Subversive Sundays

Sundays from 10:00 p.m.

The new weekly show Subversive Sundays hosted by the one and only Jacklynne Hyde and special guests.

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

Marvellous Mondays

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

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

FML Mondays Industry Night

Mondays from 11:00 p.m.

Join us inside Church Street's only Monday Night Dance Party! DROP THE DRAMA - JOIN THE PARTY! Featuring: DJ Craig Dominic and hosted by MC MAMA MOJO, Barbie Jo Bontemps & 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 fab anecdotes from the weekend or at least what she can remember of it.

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





CHARITY BUZZ PICKS

By Sherry Sylvain



Holiday Fair

Through December 23

Nathan Phillips Square will be transformed into a magical holiday experience! Enjoy the charm and elegance of a traditional European Christmas market in support of Epilepsy Toronto.

Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.facebook.com/epilepsytoronto/

Winter Soulfest for Charity

December 16 from 6:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the event go to oneROOF Youth Services to support programs and services for at-risk youth in the community. \$20 – all ages

Cork Hall Live, 352 King St. W., Kitchener
www.evensi.ca/winter-soul-fest-for-charity-cork-hall-live/190615627

Queer and Trans Family Event: Light Fantastic Children's Party

December 17 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice, with craft-making, snacks and games. These monthly events are designed for queer and trans families and celebrate LGBTQ diversity.

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

Mr. & Mz. Waterfall Pageant

February 11 @ 9:00 p.m.

The College of Monarchs presents the new Mr. & Mz. Waterfall ~ Empire Ambassador Pageant. An event to raise funds for the charities of The Imperial Waterfall Empire.

Embassy Night Club, 54 King St. E., Hamilton
www.facebook.com/events/1835718383366235/



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GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Transformation: Book Launch

December 15 – 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Official Launch - Complimentary movie-style promotional posters will be given out to the first 20 customers who purchase a copy of *TRANSFORMATION*.

Glad Day Bookshop, 499 Church St., Toronto
www.gelliottsimpson.com/news/
www.facebook.com/events/1830741410546207/

It's a Wonderful Life - A Live Radio Play

Through December 24

Be a part of the live studio audience; take a journey through the most important evening in one man's life. The perfect holiday outing for the entire family and, who knows, an angel might even get his wings!

Lower Ossington Theatre, 100 Ossington Ave., Toronto
www.facebook.com/lotheatre/

Christmas in the Valley

December 24 to January 8

Experience two different eras of Christmas at Todmorden Mills as we explore the holiday traditions of the 1890s and 1940s. Sample festive treats on a guided tour of our holiday-decorated historic homes.

Todmorden Mills, 67 Pottery Rd., Toronto
www.facebook.com/TodmordenMills/

Boxing Week Market

Dec. 27 to Jan. 8

Check out the sales in Classroom A where selected discounts will range from 10 to 50 per cent and as always, current museum members receive an additional 10 per cent off of their entire purchase!

Waterloo Region Museum, 10 Huron Rd., Kitchener
www.facebook.com/WaterlooRegionMuseum/

Dancing with the Stars LIVE

January 7 – 2:00 p.m. OR 7:00 p.m.

In this all-new production, the dancers are freed from the ballroom to bring you a 90 minute action-packed live show with new choreography never before seen on the television program.

Casino Rama, 5899 Rama Rd., Rama, ON
www.facebook.com/casinoramaresort/

Batsheva: Decadance

January 14 – 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Batsheva Dance Company has been critically acclaimed and popularly embraced as one of the foremost contemporary dance companies in the world. Price range: \$55-\$145 plus applicable service fees.

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Front St. E., Toronto
www.sonycentre.ca

A Divine Evening at Peller Estates Winery

January 14 – 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Kick off the Bravo Winter! Series with a launch party in the Peller Barrel Cellar featuring Canada's Queen of R&B Divine Brown, plus 80 Empire, and Canadian-Brazilian singer Juliana Capuleto!

Peller Estates Winery, 290 John Street East, RR#1
Niagara-On-The-Lake
www.facebook.com/bravoniagarafestival/

Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball

January 21 – 1:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

A ball which recreates an early 19th century social gathering, including instruction in period dance, a lecture, an authentically prepared Georgian supper and an evening of English country dancing.

Fort York, 250 Fort York Blvd., Toronto
www.toronto.ca/fortyork

An Intimate Look at "Oscar" with Love

January 27 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Celebrate the legacy of jazz piano legend Oscar Peterson with performances preceded by a screening of the documentary *Oscar Peterson: Keeping the Groove Alive*.

Shaw Festival, Studio Theatre, Niagara-on-the-lake, ON
www.bravoniagara.org

Dita Von Teese - "The Art of The Teese" Burlesque Revue

February 11 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tickets (incl. HST) \$49.50, \$89.50, \$99.50 and \$125 / Reserved Seating / Ages 18+ / VIP Meet & Greet Experience

Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 190 Princes' Blvd., Toronto
www.artoftheteese.com

Measha Brueggergosman: Songs of Freedom

February 12 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Award-winning Canadian soprano performs a special live concert in an intimate setting, featuring selections from her forthcoming album *Songs of Freedom*.

Harbourfront Centre Theatre, 231 Queens Quay West, Toronto
www.facebook.com/soundboardTO/

Events 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.





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