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The Editor

Greetings and salutations!

Yowsa, what was that September? Toronto broke record high temperatures throughout the tail end of summer and into early fall. Now as temps eventually begin to chill down, it's the perfect time to gather indoors and listen to live music, right? In this, our special Music Issue, we've got you covered with where your dancing shoes should be taking you.

Our cover feature is on none other than famed musician, *Melissa Etheridge*. This lady has been kicking it for nearly three decades, and on her latest album release, "Memphis Rock and Soul" she goes back to the roots of rock and soul music by honouring some of the greats. We also chat about her "Know Label" cannabis-infused wines that she's producing out of California. Fans can hear her live onstage at Casino Niagara, October 19 and 20.

Our other two features are written by guest contributors, Suzie Sultress and Danny Danger. Suzie looks at the upcoming **Sextreme Fest** party happening at the Opera House on October 30. Just in time for Halloween this goth-industrial-rave showcase features *Combichrist, Christian Death, En Eschm, Wiccid*, and the legendary *Lords Of Acid*. Danny delivers us a preview of what to expect at **Indie Week Toronto**, and the special LGBT music showcase happening November 8 at The Baby G, featuring *Girl on Girl, Justyn Joli, Tokyo Taboo, Partner,* and *DJ Triple-X*.

Our regular columns bring insight into so much that's happening out there, beginning with our Wigged Out guest columnist, Divinesque, who has a few things to say about making it in the drag industry. Cat Grant looks at a wonderful organization called, *Body Confidence Canada*, and their upcoming *Body Love Ball* event happening at The 519 on October 26. Boyd Kodak chats with Cyn Lubow about their film "*A Womb of Their Own*." Paul Bellini took a trip beyond the city limits up into northern Ontario and had a gay ole time, while Raymond Helkio took a trip of a different sort to Toronto's west end to have a peek into what's going on at *Kink Toronto*.

Finally, Sherry Sylvain has compiled her BUZZPICKS, a selection of top events across the city and beyond, including a special music section for this issue, and our designer Mychol Scully dolled everything up so shiny and nice for your viewing pleasure.

Thanks for picking us up. Enjoy the read.

Bryen Dunn

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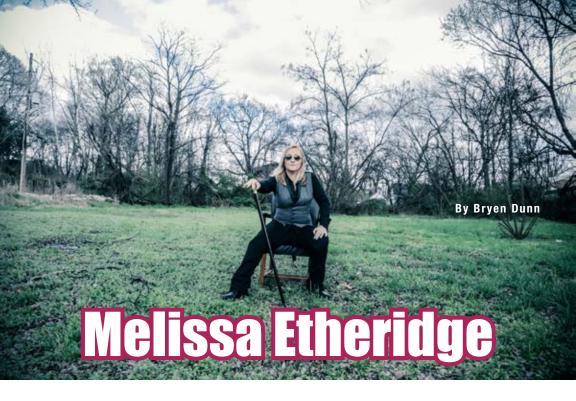
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Melissa Etheridge is undoubtedly one of the forerunners of advocates within the LGBT community. Looking back over the years, many consider her a survivor – coming out publicly, a lesbian in the music industry, a cancer survivor, wife, mother, and touring musician. The long journey to where she is today was not an easy one, even when trying to gain support from within the LGBT community itself.

In 1985, prior to her major label signing, Etheridge sent her demo to lesbian owned recording label, Olivia Records, only to receive a rejection letter that was simply signed by "the women of Olivia". However, it was her gigs at lesbian bars around Los Angeles that led to her discovery by Island Records

head-honcho Chris Blackwell. It wasn't until nearly a decade later, in 1993, that she publicly came out as a lesbian at the Triangle Ball, an event organized for President Bill Clinton's inauguration.

Loud and Proud

In a 1994 article in The Advocate, she stated, "I think one of the many fears people have about homosexuality is around children. I think that the more gay parents raise good, strong, compassionate people, the better the world will be." Today, she's living in California, happily married to her wife Linda Wallen since 2014, and proud mother to four children. Her eldest two are in their early twenties, from her first partnership with Julie Cypher, and fathered by famed musician David Crosby (Crosby, Stills, and Nash). She was later in a relationship with Tammy Lynn Michaels, and the pair had twins via an anonymous sperm donor in 2006.

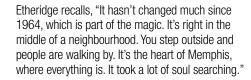
Since then she's become an iconic figure within the LGBT community. In 2009, she was named the "Celebrity Marshall" for Boston's Pride Parade, and performed at her first Pride event in 2012 at Pittsburgh Pride's — Pride in the Street. In 2014, she was one of the performers at the opening ceremonies

of WorldPride in Toronto, playing alongside fellow gay-rights activist Tom Robinson, and newcomers Deborah Cox and Steve Grand. She was touring her latest release, This is M.E. which had been released earlier that year. She described her appearance at WorldPride as, "Amazing on so many levels."

Her recording career has spanned nearly 30 years, beginning with her self-titled debut album that was released in 1988, becoming somewhat of an underground sensation, with the lead single, "Bring Me Some Water", garnering her a Grammy Award nomination. Today, she's still known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, which is quite evident on her latest album that pays tribute to some of the greats in the rock and soul genre.

Paying Respect to The Greats of Rock and Soul

Memphis Rock and Soul, released late last year via Stax Records, features her own unique renditions



This was the music that had an impact on the rock bands she embraced, such as the Beatles, the





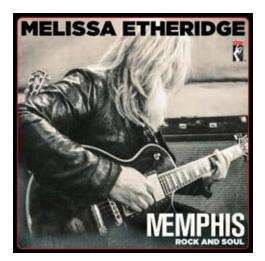
of song by legendary musicians. "Memphis Train" opens the album, while "Wait a Minute" pays tribute to another long forgotten classic. Other tracks include the Staple Singers' "Respect Yourself," Otis Redding's "I've Been Loving You Too Long (To Stop Now)" and "I've Got Dreams to Remember," Sam and Dave's "Hold On, I'm Coming," Albert King's "Born Under a Bad Sign," and Johnnie Taylor's "Who's Making Love".

Recorded at the historic Royal Studios, the album was completed over 10 days with only live vocals, and most were done in no more than three takes.

Stones, Led Zeppelin. "It's something that directly and indirectly influenced me," she says. "It's so much a part of what I've always wanted to be and wanted to sing, showing that emotion, that intensity that knows no colour. It comes from your soul."

The album spotlights the vital role Stax Records played in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s. "Respect Yourself" was written by Luther Ingram and Mack Rice and became a radio hit for the Staple Singers. Etheridge thought it was not proper for her to sing the original words, and instead she enlisted songwriter Priscilla Renea to team with her on a reworking of the song's words, to address the matters in ways that were true to both the original's context, and the world we live in today.

"For me to sing that word for word right now would somehow dilute the energy of the (civil rights) movement from the time," she says. "It's very similar to what we're still working through, this fear of the other, the racism and homophobia, fears of religious extremism. I wanted to take that song and infuse it with those energies, repeating what was true then is true today, and that begins with respecting yourself. You've got to look inside and start with respecting who you are, and when you can find gratitude and



respect for yourself, you can see it in the world and believe in the good in the world, and that helps you too. I love what they wrote back then: Respect yourself. That's how you stop the cycle."

Cancer and Cannabis

In October 2004, Etheridge was diagnosed with breast cancer, a health battle that she won. Despite losing her hair from chemotherapy, she appeared at the 2005 Grammy Awards to sing "Piece of My Heart", in tribute to Janis Joplin. She was also very open in discussing her use of medical marijuana while she was receiving chemotherapy treatment, saying that the drug improved her mood and increased her appetite. She's still a strong advocate for the medicinal use of the plant.

With medical marijuana being legal in the state of California, Etheridge partnered with a California medical marijuana dispensary, Greenway Compassionate Relief in Santa Cruz, to make cannabis-infused wine. They started small, making a few barrels of reds infused with CBD, which is THC's medical non-high inducing counterpart. "The vineyards were afraid the white wines would turn green and that no one would want to drink a green wine," Etheridge laughed. She has since expanded her selection of "Know Label" wine tinctures to include a Shiraz, a Grenache, and eventually a Cabernet. The initial shipments back in 2014 were personally signed, and the wines are still only currently available to California residents with a valid cannabis ID.

Four Fun Facts

At Canada's 20th Annual Juno Awards in 1990, Etheridge won International Entertainer of the Year

In 1997, she appeared as herself on the sitcom Ellen in "The Puppy Episode"

In 2002, Etheridge released her autobiography titled "The Truth Is: My Life in Love and Music."

On September 27, 2011, Etheridge received her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

It appears Etheridge is stronger than ever, determined to continue being an advocate for what she believes in, while keeping her music fans happy. Catch Melissa Etheridge at the Avalon Ballroom in Casino Niagara, on October 19 and 20, 2017. www.melissaetheridge.com

Photos by Myriam Santos.

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities.







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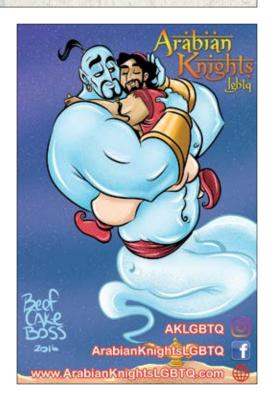
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By Suzie Beaulieu

Beware! What you read may frighten you... or at least make you dance.

The Sextreme Fest 2017 tour is coming to Toronto on Devil's Night, October 30, with a horror-iffic line up of acts that includes headliners Lords of Acid, along with opening acts Combichrist, Christian Death, En Esch (ex-KMFDM), and Wiccid.

Lords of Acid exploded onto the burgeoning rave scene with the sex-sleaze single "I Sit on Acid" in 1988. Praga Khan is the Belgian electronic musician that founded the band with fellow band mates Jade 4U and Olivier

Adams. He's one of the leading pioneers of the early new beat/rave/hardcore electronic dance music scene, who also ventured out on his own with solo work that included the underground late 90s club anthem, "Injected with a Poison".

Khan stated, "2017 has been an exciting year for the band. We're happy to be re-releasing our out of print classic albums *LUST, Voodoo-U, Our Little Secret*, and *Farstucker*, and this tour will be a great experience for our fans to see *Voodoo-U* (1994) performed in its entirety, along with our other classic hits."

Wiccid is an electro-industrial synth-pop/Futurepop project out of Sacramento, California comprised of Erie Loch and Crash. Loch has quite the musical repertoire, and is known for his songwriting, video, remix and studio work with bands (and members of bands) like Ministry, Revolting Cocks, Rob Zombie, Skinny Puppy, Front Line Assembly, NIN, Marilyn Manson, Gary Numan, Peter Murphy, Mission UK, and more.

The original incarnation of **Christian Death**, dates back to the early 1980s in Los Angeles, however with band member changes and a relocation to London (UK), the band only started to gain international notoriety in the mid to late 80s. The band has since gone on to release a staggering 17 studio



albums and two live albums, including their current release, "The Root Of All Evilutionan", which they will be performing on this tour

Combichrist is an aggrotech band that was formed in 2003, and is based in Atlanta, Georgia. They are fronted by Norwegian born Andy LaPlegua, and have released eight albums, including their 2016 album, "This is Where Death Begins." The sound of this album has the band moving further away from

their original electronic sound towards a more rock and metal heat

En Esch, the multi-instrumentalist, programmer and composer, was born in Frankfurt, Germany and is currently living in Berlin. He's best known as the vocalist for industrial pioneers KMFDM, who combined

high energy techno synth sounds with the beating drums and electrifying guitars of heavy metal. The band went on to release 10 full-length albums, before disbanding in 1999. Today, En Esch fronts his own band, Slick Idiot, and records with Mona Mur. He also has a cameo appearance in the film, *Scumbag*, which will be screening at the Hollywood Film Festival on October 26th.

Sounds like quite the party of darkness for those looking to get a jump start on their Halloween festivities. Goth, Fetish, and Cosplay attire strongly encouraged...or just wear black!

Sextreme Fest 2017 - Sunday Oct 30th, Opera House, 735 Queen Street E., Toronto — Doors 7PM

Event Page - www.facebook.com/events/417450128641646

Suzie has been blogging about her love of music for a few years now, after completing a degree in journalism. This is her first published piece, which she is thrilled that the BUZZ allowed her to write.











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theBUZZ Presents...

Indie Week Toronto's LGBTQ Live Music Showcase

By the BUZZ Editorial Staff

Indie Week Toronto takes place November 7 to 12 at various venues throughout the city, with a focus on independent musicians of all genres. This year theBUZZ presents a special

LGBT music showcase happening on Wednesday November 8 at The Baby G (1608 Dundas Street West). featuring Girl on Girl, Justyn Joli, Tokyo Taboo, Partner, and DJ Triple-X.

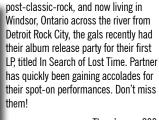
Girl on Girl are a three-piece power outfit from Toronto, who describe themselves as melodic-alternative. Lauren Heenan rips the guitar riffs while Katie Rawn bangs the drums, both contributing to the vocals, as Brando Heens goes

deep with the bass. The band was named Toronto's Best Indie Band at the Toronto Independent Music Awards in 2016., and also released a 3-track EP.

Androgynous Artist Justyn Jolie is a singer/songwriter from Toronto who's self-produced music is an experimental blend of alternative-pop and electrojazz. They have released several singles via YouTube, and are working on an E.P. release in the near future.

London (UK) duo Tokvo Taboo's debut album 6th Street Psychosis was released in March of this year, and features ten tenacious, in-vour-face tracks that combine the band's rock and pop punk influences. The duo is comprised of singer Dolly Daggerz and guitarist Mike, who are joined by a band for their live shows. Dolly takes inspiration from iconic performers from Heart to David Bowie and Karen O and Mike simply loves a good riff. Tokyo Taboo hope to bring their own brand of modern pop punk kicking and screaming into the public consciousness.

Partner hail from Sackville. New Brunswick, comprised of BFFs Lucy Niles and Josée Caron. The duo offer up a disturbing merging of special talents, created so that they may freely explore topics as varied as time, memory, intimacy, friendship, Canadiana, and sexuality. Self described as



There's over 200 artists performing at some 25+ venues, and a festival pass will only put you back \$30 for the entire week, including a headlining show by veteran

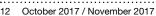
rockers Rusty and **Dearly Beloved** on Friday November 10th, There's also a separate Indie101 Conference pass for \$29 and an All Access pass for \$60 that allows entry into everything including the schmooze-fest launch

party November 7th where you can mingle with musicians, while sipping Jack Daniels and drinking beer from Hop City Brewing, www.canada.indieweek.com

Justyn Jolie

Finally, who wouldn't want to check out a show by a band called the Revolting Cocks (Big Sexy Land)? They'll be performing along with Canadian industrial mainstays Front Line Assembly and Athens, Georgia punk outfit, Dead Dog on Sunday November 19 at the Danforth Music Hall (147 Danforth Ave.) www.facebook.com/events/498379927180827

This article was written through the combined efforts of theBUZZ editorial team, who are excited to be presenting this unique music showcase as part of Indie Week Toronto!



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SCHOOL OF Drag — LEARN FROM THE LEGENDS

For anyone who pays attention to which queens have the greatest longevity, get the most bookings, and make the most money, it should be pretty clear you got to make your audience laugh. If the bar, club owner/ manager and other hiring powers sees the crowd having a rocking good time and laughing, and furthermore, if you can make your hiring power laugh too, then I'll venture to say you'll be asked to come back again and again.

Some examples of the queens that have great longevity that have honed the fine art of making them laugh (on a more current and local level) are Georgie Girl, Miss Conception, and the late Chris Edwards. On an international level, Bianca Del Rio is [arguably] the most internationally and financially successful of all of RuPaul's cronies. Could the reason for that be because she makes people laugh?

There are many other great queens from our history as queer buffoons that need to be examined, and have their body of work considered as well. It's worth your while to look up and examine and study the work of Danny La Rue or Charles Pierce. Jim Bailey was another who walked the fine tightrope of balance between bawdy comedy, satirical impersonation, and serious tribute impersonation. Right here in Toronto we had some of the best comedy drag queens ever, and their careers have now moved into the realm of "mythology" in our community. The names include but are not limited to great comedy genius queens like Craig Russell, Danny Love, and Rusty Ryan and The Great Imposters.

The common denominator throughout all of these performers that stand the test of time and make them historically relevant, highly paid, and always-engaged queens, was that they never let their egos, their "looks", their [apparent] dignity, glamour, or any other ego-driven quality get in the way of



giving their audience a laugh. Spare no expense. Get those laughs.

The term "fierce" is so over-used these days it's lost any impact in my opinion. You wanna be fierce? Make 'em laugh. Do your homework. Study the legends of comedy for example, people like Lucille Ball, Carol Burnett or Fannie Bryce. Study the greatest drag queens that paved the road and proved how it could be "fierce" and funny. then learn it well.

There's a Facebook page for DQ The Legacy that is an incredible reference library of video on how gueens make 'em laugh. Laughter is not old school. It's something we all need everyday - like air, water, vitamins, food. If you deliver, you become a great dealer of something we all need. If you're dealing something really good, they'll want more. So make 'em laugh, children.

Bryan Greenwood has at various times in his 36 year drag

career been known as Amy Gallagher, Dana Gallagher, Bryan Greenwood, and most recently Divinesque. During the 36 years he's been a queen, he's been a member of several professional full-time casts of queens including The Great Imposters, The Imposters, Evening At La Cage, Guys in Disguise, and the original 1991-2 cast of Lads and





SHE BEAT Body Confidence Canada Every Body's Beautiful

What woman has not found something to dislike about her body? Aisha Fairclough. co-founder of Body Confidence Canada which produces the Body Confidence Canada Awards, told me she "was bullied as a child based on her body size, facial features, and the colour of her skin."

She met her partner and co-founder of BBC, Jill Andrew, at a bus terminal. "She was strikingly beautiful and I know it sounds corny, but I love her more everyday."

Jill didn't always feel beautiful however, and stated,"It's really important to realize that body-shaming and body-positivity is not just about body size. If body-positivity isn't also addressing ableism, racism, homophobia, transphobia and the many other ways that people are discriminated against because of the skin they are in and how they define themselves, then that brand of body-positivity isn't positive at all. It's got to be all or nothing. In my adult life, similar to Aisha, I have also experienced body-based discrimination in public spaces. In fact I did a TED Talk on Fat Shaming and the Thin Epidemic based on my terrible experience as a teenager."

Since 2013, past recipients of BCC Awards are from a wide range of fields, including fashion, law, policy, education and media. Jill informed me, "In the early years we recognized trailblazers in the plus-size community like Glenora Joseph the creator of Canada's first plus-size pageant, Angel Kasparian the editor and publisher of Canada's first plus-size magazine, and Liis Windiishmanone of Canada's first plus models. Alicia Vianga the founder of After Breast Cancer, Catherine MacKinnon, our Vanguard Winner is founder of TIDFAF (Toronto International Deaf Film & Arts Festival)." Aisha continues, "Last years recipients included Louise Green (Big Girl Fit), Anika Reid, style blogger, Akio Marroon, activist, Abby Green youth activist, and Kaley Roosen, disability activist."

They are inspired by the inequity from all the stories of hate and exclusion that they hear. Aisha said, "Heck you can barely turn on the television without seeing some racist, sizeist, sexist ad, phrase, or otherwise questionable content. It's everywhere, and if we don't do our best to work against this, then all we're doing is helping to normalize it."



Jill commented. "We are both inspired by our inner child. We're doing the work today that we needed done 20-30 years ago when we were young girls in need of guidance and positive role models. Our bodies matter, yet in too many ways the message screams otherwise - that our black bodies, fat bodies, disabled (including INVISIBLY disabled) bodies, women's bodies, and the list goes on - don't matter. So our work screams "THEY DO!"

When I ask what they would say to a young girl who is struggling today, they told me, "We should all be seen and heard! You are are perfect exactly the way you are."

The Body Love Ball happens October 26, 2017 at The 519.
For more information about Body
Confidence Canada, visit
www.bodyconfidencecanada.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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Maynooth, Ontario. The name does not necessarily conjure up images of 'fun' and 'gay.' My old buddy Roy Mitchell lives up there. He bought a 100-acre farm with his friend Ken Fraser, and the two of them have transformed the area into a hotbed of gay creativity.

They not only win awards for their vegetables and flower arrangements, they also produce a vlog on YouTube called *Hybla Today*. Since moving there four years ago, they have attracted a constellation of creative queer people. When I recently visited, I felt like I was in a rural-setting of a Canadian sitcom peopled with adorable eccentrics.

I met Roy and Ken in 1987 when we all volunteered on a CIUT-FM radio show called *Gaywire*. I bumped into Roy when he was here for Toronto Pride this year, and he asked me if I would consider doing a one-day comedy writing workshop in nearby Maynooth. I said sure, if you can find anyone who is interested. Within weeks he signed up a dozen people.

This is deep country. There are no Tim Horton's or McDonald's anywhere in sight. Why is it then that when I arrived, I wasn't surprised to see the ubiquitous Keith Cole helping Ken cover the garden with plastic? (There was a frost warning in effect. Wasn't it just August the week before?) That night, after dinner, Keith regaled us with a list of celebrities he's had sex with as Roy's dog, whose left front leg is in a splint, loped around their cozy living room sounding like an old man with a cane. Of course the conversation eventually turned to talk of

local boys. When I asked Roy what to expect, he said "there are seven or eight who look like Willie Nelson".

The next day, I held my class in the bar of The Arlington Hostel and Pub, whose proprietor is an amiable chap named Ro. My registrants were interesting. There was young Vlad, whose catchphrase "Basically" proved infectious to the group; There was handsome Bob, who runs the gas station; there was Joyce, an Ojibway woman who was taken from her home when she was three, sent to a residential school, and told that her parents were dead. (She just recently reconnected with her family through Facebook); there was jovial Joey who told me that he left Toronto 28 years ago and never looked back; there was Monica, who told me about her healing arts store in North Bay, where she connected with Scott Thompson during his cancer treatments, and there were cool dykes like Lee and Marcia and Joanne; a straight couple, Shannon and Matt; and Mark, who drove all the way from Barry's Bay.

That night, we went back to The Arlington to put on a big fun sloppy show. They all brought costumes and props and gave great performances. My personal favourite was Jim Henry, whose angel costume was a thermal onesy, a sheet, and a white dickey. I may have taught them how to write comedy, but they taught me that small town queers rock.

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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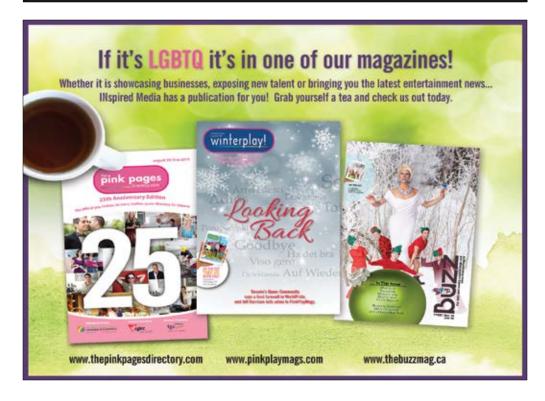
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A KODAK MOMENT Cyn Lubow

Cyn Lubow, the director of the documentary "A Womb of Their Own", went exploring the "in-between spaces of gender." Her hope was to help herself and others feel comfortable in their identities, and call into question passionately held beliefs people have about gender. The subjects of the film are so open and engaging, that even the resistant find themselves laughing with and getting comfortable with people they might not have otherwise encountered.

Her lifelong fascination with people and what we struggle with emotionally led her to a 30-year career in psychotherapy. The need to express all the pain she absorbed led her to a second career as an independent filmmaker. This is Cyn's second film—a feature-length documentary about gender complexity as seen through the eyes of masculine-of-centre pregnant people.

Boyd Kodak - What have you been doing over the last year?

Cyn Lubow - I've been responding to requests for the film from film festivals, colleges and universities, queer community organizations and groups of birth professionals. I've travelled to screenings nationally and internationally to answer questions and facilitate discussions about the emotionallycharged responses people have to the film.

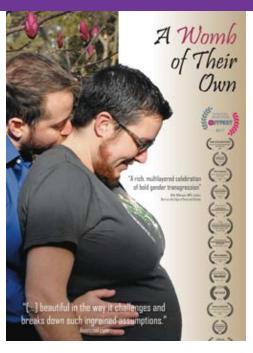
BK- During that time, which was the one most exciting event for you?

CL - I guess if I had to choose one, it would be screening at Outfest film festival in Los Angeles. Not only was it eleven wonderful days of films, networking events, workshops, friends, awesome fellow filmmakers, and stars, but best of all was that I got to meet Jill Soloway--and she gave me her contact information. Doesn't get much better than that!

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

CL - I hope to get the film to as many people who can benefit from it, while hopefully automating the system of getting it to them, so I have plenty of time to travel with the film, see my friends and family, and maybe even start working on a new creative project.

BK - Where can we see your work?



CL - Go to SeriousPlayFilms.com, where I announce all screenings. You can watch the trailer and contact me if you want to host a screening in your community.

BK - Future plans?

CL - After five years of working on this film, I'd like to spend some time relaxing and letting the next creative project bubble up and burst out of me.

BK - Any message you would like to put out there?

CL - I made this film to help shift the world toward safety and acceptance for those of us perceived as "other." In the United States we need as much of this effort as possible, urgently, and more than ever from everyone who's willing to participate.

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

CL - My children whom I adore and love with every cell in my body!

Boyd Kodak is an award-winning trans activist, musician, writer, activist, filmmaker, curator, and festival/entertainment director.



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



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BEYOND THE VILLAGE BDSM IN THE CITY: KINK TORONTO



Marie LeBreto and Andy Prosserman own a boutique sex shop at Bloor and Dovercourt in the heart of the area known as Dovercourt Park. Both have a strong history and connection within the BDSM community. Marie, a sexologist by trade, explains, "While there's a decent selection of traditional sex shops, the BDSM selection has tended to be lacking. One reason is a simple lack of expertise, but another is that when you focus on everything it's hard to specialize in 'niche' areas. With this being our main focus, we're able to focus more on finding high quality, body safe, and as much as possible Canadian-made, artisan-ally crafted products."

Their team includes Bethany, a sex educator who has worked in adult stores for years, Se7en and Allura who are talented rope artists, whose recent workshops include 'Intro to Playful Domination' (Taylor J. Mace), 'Mindful Masturbation' (Caitlin K. Roberts & Cosmo Meens), and an all-female comedy show (Borana Makri). They are currently working on including rope workshops for couples, a POC-focused poetry reading, community exchange, and partnering with a local dungeon. Marie also notes that, "another goal is to reduce the stigma and misunderstanding that still surrounds not only sexuality. but BDSM and kink specifically."

Andy says, "We see customers who are completely new to BDSM, experienced Kinksters who have seen it all, and everybody in-between. One thing they all share is a sense of awe when they come into our store. We enjoy helping out those who have no idea what they're looking for, AND seeing how excited more experienced Kinksters get when looking at our selection."

"We try to actively foster an atmosphere of inclusivity, both in our store and the community as a whole; as it's so important

to us that everybody feels welcome in the kink community. We love educating people who may be newer to BDSM, and of course helping out regulars within the community," Andy shares. "I do have a sweet spot for one of our regular customers who runs errands for his Mistress. He's always eager yet terrified to find out what new items we have that will be used on him. His courage warms my kinky heart", says Marie.

As for the neighbourhood reception, Andy explains, "Our neighbours have been incredibly friendly, and our customers have been filled with excitement. There will always be those who don't approve simply due to the nature of who we are and how open we are about it." Marie agrees, "Sometimes the challenges can be tough. We've had vandalism on our storefront window, people yelling at us that we're disgusting, and those telling us that we should hide our display altogether. But overall we've had an overwhelmingly positive reception from our neighbourhood!"

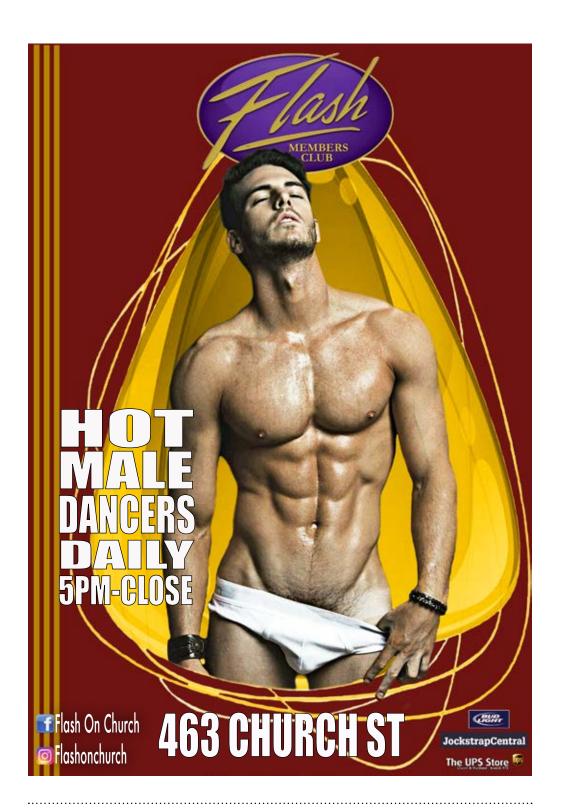
Kink Toronto

975 Bloor Street West, Toronto (647) 350-BDSM kinktoronto.com #KinkTO

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





Special Music Issue BUZZpicks October 15 – December 15, 2017

Adi Braun - Moderne Frau CD Launch

October 22, 7:30 p.m.

Adi Braun, one of Canada's leading jazz vocalists launches her fifth recording, Moderne Frau, inspired by the music of 1920s Weimar, Berlin. Tickets are \$25.

Temerty Theatre, Royal Conservatory of Music, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto

www.performance.rcmusic.ca/event/1718/moderne-frau

RuPaul's Drag Race: Werq The World - Halloween Edition

October 25, 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Michelle Visage with haunting performances by Alyssa Edwards, The Only Detox, Kim Chi, Miss Peppermint, Shangela, Valentina and Violet Chachki.

Danforth Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave., Toronto www.vossevents.com

Rock the Horror Show October 28 from 9:00 p.m.

Drag show and dance party with Troyboy Ent. And DJ Dallas. Costumes are encouraged. Finger food, fabulous music and prizes.

Eton House, 710 Danforth Ave., Toronto www.troyboyentertainment.com



Tickled Pink - PinkPlayMags 10 Years

November 3, 9:00 p.m.

A high energy party night with Toronto's top DJs and most popular queens. Supporting Rainbow Railroad & Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention. \$10.00 Suggested

Church on Berkley, 315 Queen St. E., Toronto www.eventbrite.ca/e/tickled-pink-tickets-37550627939

Indie Week Canada

November 7 to 12

Week long festival featuring independent bands of all genres.

Special LGBT music showcase on Wednesday November 8 at The
Baby G (1608 Dundas St. W.) featuring Girl on Girl, Justyn Joli, Tokyo
Tattoo, Partner, and DJ Triple-X. Special presentation of theBUZZ.

Various Venues www.canada.indieweek.com

Women's Blues Revue

November 18, 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening honouring the contributions from women in blues with some of Canada's finest musicians. Tickets \$25- \$65.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto www.torontobluessociety.com/womens-blues-revue

Diana Krall: Turn up the Quiet World Tour November 24, 25 & 27

A Canadian jazz pianist and singer, known for her contralto vocals, she has sold more than 6 million albums in the US and over 15 million worldwide.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto www.dianakrall.com

Diamanda Galás November 26. 27

Galás is a singer, pianist, activist, painter, and one of the most revered artists of the late 20th Century, known for her politically charged performances. Catch her in performance November 26 at the Danforth Music Hall, then again at a special AGO talk presentation on November 27 to hear all this lady has to say.

Danforth Music Hall $-\,147$ Danforth Ave / AGO $-\,317$ Dundas St. W. www.diamandagalas.com



Kenny G - The Miracles Holiday & Hits Tour December 14,8:00 p.m.

He will perform some of his greatest hits, including songs from his 1994 smash album Miracles: The Holiday Album, which ranks as one of the most successful holiday albums ever.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto www.kennyg.com

Sultry Sunday Karaoke Sundays from 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy a night of song with your friends, or meet new friends who share your love of music. Great food and drinks.

O'Grady's (Main Floor), 518 Church St., Toronto www.ogradyschurch.com

Charity BUZZpicks October 15 – December 15, 2017

Light The Night Walk

October 19, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLSC)'s Light The Night Walk funds vital patient support services, advocacy, and lifesaving research across Canada.

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

IPF Freedom Gala

October 20, 7:30 p.m.

Canadian jazz vocalist Eileen Joyce presents the inaugural IPF Freedom Gala, benefiting the Pulmonary Fibrosis Freedom Society. Tickets are \$150.00.

The Capitol Event Theatre, 2492 Yonge St., Toronto www.pf-freedom.org

Halloween Hustle 5K

October 28, 9:30 a.m to 11:30 a.m.

The Halloween Hustle 5K and the Mini-Monster Mile is a fundraiser for the FOLD Foundation -- a Brampton-based organization that promotes diverse Canadian literature and literary artists.

Brampton Union St. YMCA, 20 Union St., Brampton www.events.runningroom.com/site/?raceld = 14692

Misery Loves Company

November 25 from 8:00 p.m.

A variety of drag performances featuring entertainers of the Waterfall Empire and friends. Kicking off the annual Food Drive for the AIDS Network. Donations of non-perishable food and personal items

The Staircase Cafe Theatre, 27 Dundurn St. N., Hamilton www.facebook.com/groups/10543610502

General BUZZpicks October 15 – December 15, 2017

30th Annual Toronto International Snowmobile ATV & Powersports Show

October 20 to 22, from 10:00 a.m.

Snowmobile, ATV and all around Powersport enthusiasts, as soon as you step foot on the show floor, you'll be blown away with the incredible roster of exhibitors and special presentations.

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga www.torontosnowmobileatvshow.com

Canada's Baking and Sweets Show October 28 & 29, from 10:00 a.m.

North America's first and biggest baking and sweets event takes you on a gourmet grand tour of the most delectable and hottest trends in the world of baking and beyond.

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga www.canadasbakingandsweetsshow.com

Canada All Star Ballet Gala

October 28, 7:00 p.m.

Featuring star-studded dancers from the world's elite ballet companies and organized by a team of globally recognized curators, this event is the most ambitious tribute to this art form to date in Canada.

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Front St. E., Toronto www./canadaallstar.com/

Carol Burnett: An Evening Of Laughter And Reflection

October 30, 7:30 p.m.

A great evening of fun, nostalgia and true reflections where legendary comedian Carol Burnett shares memorable clips and moments from her illustrious career. Carol will take questions from the audience.

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



Cloth Cultures: Future Legacies of Dorothy K. Burnham

November 9 to 11

An international conference to explore the material culture of textiles through the work and legacies of Dorothy K. Burnham, internationally renowned textile scholar.

Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto www.rom.on.ca

Café Bilingue FrancoQueer

Sundays, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Are you interested in learning French or English in an LGBTQ positive and safe space environment? FrancoQueer is offering Discussion Circles for the casual learner in a social environment

Glad Day Bookshop, 499 Church St., Toronto www.gladdaybookshop.com

Community BUZZpicks October 15 - December 15, 2017

Masc4Mascara

Mondays, 10:00 p.m. to midnight

An interactive drag show where participants get to compete in drag on team BoBo or Team Mode to win fabulous prizes. Hosted by Scarlett Bobo and Ala Mode.

Church Street Garage, 477 Church St., Toronto www.churchstgarage.com

Scream Pub Quiz

October 17, 7:00 p.m.

Questions heavily based on Wes Craven's Scream series, and his other horror classics. \$5.00 per person, maximum five persons per team.

The Beaver, 1192 Queen St. W., Toronto www.thebeavertoronto.com

Tuneful Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m. to midnight

Natasha Buckeridge and Philippe Escayola perform every Tuesday from 9pm till 12pm covering all genres. No cover charge.

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

HUMP NIGHT Honeys

Wednesdays from 11:00 p.m.

Carlotta Carlisle AND Katinka Kature welcome special guests. plus low day prices all night long. Classy Talent and sassy prices.

Woodys & Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto www.woodystoronto.com



The BoBo Show

A weekly drag and variety show with hostess Scarlett BoBo and special guest. No cover. \$4.50 Fireball. Monthly open mic night.

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

Jock Night Thursdays

Thursdays from 8:00 p.m.

DJ dJon in the booth at 8 PM, prizes and surprises with your hostess Morgan James at 10 PM

Drink specials, hot dancers, a witty and beautiful hostess sponsored by Jockstrap Central.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto www.jockstrapcentral.com

Fabulous Fridays

Fridays from 8:30 p.m.

830pm - Goddess Girls drag show, 1130pm - FlamBOYant Showgirls drag show.

Tangos: 10pm - a blend of soca/hip hop/party anthems. Zone: 10pm - a blend of dance/deep techno house.

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

Church Street Hallowe'en October 31 from 7:00 p.m.

Every year. Church Street celebrates Hallowe'en like no place else becoming known as the biggest Hallowe'en party in North America. Thousands of people put on their most creative and outrageous costumes and join the outdoor street party. Bars and restaurants participate in this unique experience with costume contests and Hallowe'en night events.

Church Street Village, Church St., Toronto www.churchwelleslevvillage.ca

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).



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