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Bryen Dunn

Art Director

Mychol Scully

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Counsel

Jerry Herszkopf Law

Feature Writers

Bryen Dunn, Daniela Costa

Columnists

Katinka Kature, Cat Grant, Boyd Kodak, Paul Bellini, Raymond Helkio

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Mailing address

205-1691 Pickering Parkway

Pickering, ON L1V 5L9

416.926.9588

IN THIS ISSUE

- 06 Christopher Rice – Bryen Dunn
- 10 Glad Day Bookshop – Daniela Costa
- 14 Wiggid Out: Life's a Drag
– Katinka Kature
- 16 She Beat: DJ Cozmic Cat – Cat Grant
- 18 Bumble-ini: Chris Gudgeon – Paul Bellini
- 20 A Kodak Moment: Eva Simone
– Boyd Kodak
- 22 Beyond the Village: Queens on King
– Raymond Helkio
- 24 BUZZPicks – Sherry Sylvain

Greetings and salutations!

In this, our special Literary Issue, we take a look at what's new in books for the upcoming winter reading season. Our main feature is with Christopher Rice, who has co-authored a book for the very first time with his mother, Anne. The pair collaborated on *Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra*, which is both a sequel to Anne's 1989 novel, *The Mummy, or Ramses The Damned*, and also a stand alone novel. He also provides an update on some other exciting collaborations they are working on, including a television adaptation of *The Vampire Chronicles*.

Our second feature is written by Daniela Costa, who had a chat with Michael Erickson, one of the co-owners of **Glad Day Bookshop** on Church Street, in Toronto. Originally opened in 1970 in the apartment of one of the founders, it's now the oldest surviving LGBT bookstore in North America. Today, it not only operates as a bookstore, but also as a community hub with a multitude of special programming and parties. Daniela looks at some of these events, as well as the latest new book releases you should be reading.

Our regular columnists bring us the latest exciting entertainment news, and as always we begin with our Wiggid Out guest columnist. This month we welcome **Katinka Kature**, who tells us about her journey to get to where she is at today, and offers a few tips to those who might be considering doing drag. Cat Grant chats with the wonderful **DJ Cozmic Cat**, who has a new album out, Boyd Kodak caught up with activist and performance artist, **Eva Simone**, while Paul Bellini spoke with **Chris Gudgeon**, founder of *It Gets Better Canada*. Raymond Helkio went Beyond The Village to take a look at Scarlett Bobo's weekly drag and burlesque cabaret, *Queens on King*, and Sherry Sylvain has compiled her carefully selected BUZZPICKS, a selection of top events across the city and beyond that are worth checking out.

Thanks for picking us up. Enjoy the read!

Bryen Dunn

Editor-in-Chief

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CHRISTOPHER RICE

Co-Authoring With His Mother For The First Time

By Bryen Dunn

It seems fittingly natural that the son with an acclaimed author as a mother, and established poet as a father, would end up with a career in writing himself. Now nearly two decades after publishing his first novel, he's embarking on yet another of his journeys in life, co-authoring a book with his beloved mother.

Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra, is both a sequel to Anne Rice's 1989 novel, *The Mummy*, or *Ramses The Damned*, and also a standalone novel. Former lovers Ramses and Cleopatra have been resurrected by the same ancient elixir of immortality. While at odds over the use of their powers, the two are both hunted by an immortal queen, who is even older and more dangerous than themselves.

Rice explained how this collaboration came about. "Ramses was always intended to be a series, but she never got around to writing another Mommy. One day we sat down at her house in the California desert, mom with her coffee and me with my tea, and things

gradually evolved from there.” This is the first time he has fully co-authored a novel, however he did mention he’s contributed to anthologies in the past.

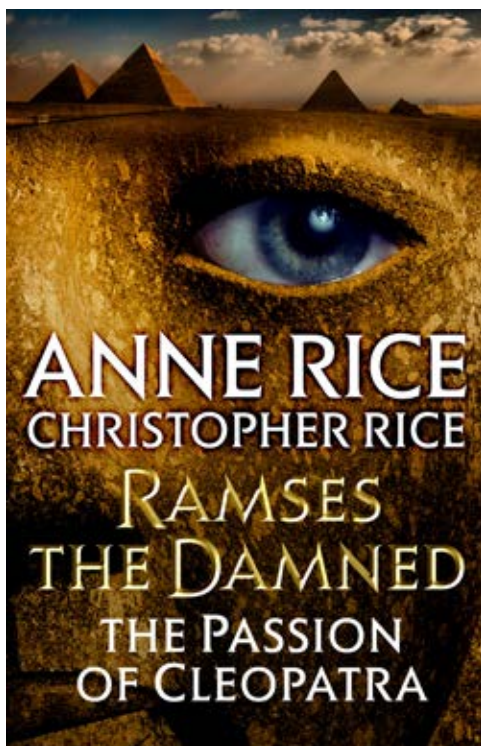
“We had some differences about the path of the characters, especially with Cleopatra, and sometimes we met in the middle, while other times mother knows best. She wrote the original, and in the end she had the final say on the completed copy for this one. It’s all very much written from her world and in her voice,” he confided.

The new novel has been termed historical horror, but Rice added he thinks it might be more fittingly referred to as “historical Gothic horror”, in a similar style as *Stranger Things*, which he admitted to being a huge fan of. With regard to it being a standalone novel, Rice explains, “It picks up where the first novel left off, but there’s no reason to read or re-read the first one, as the first couple of chapters do a great recap leading into the new story line.”

He divulged that readers will find out where the elixir came from, and who invented it. As for queer content, he explains that bisexual character Elliott is back and incited by dark forces. “They’re immortals so of course there’s going to be lot’s of good food and great sex happening. There’s one part where Elliott has an intimate same-sex romance.”

He wrote his first novel, *A Density of Souls*, in New Orleans back in 1998 during a time when he was going through some difficult times with his mother being seriously ill. It revolves around the main character Stephen’s homosexuality while attending an exclusive New Orleans prep school. It was published in 2000 and went on to become a New York Times bestseller that resonated with both queer and mainstream readers. He also was the recipient of a Lambda Literary Award.

The book was actually based on a short story that he had already written, and he also drew inspiration from several screenplays he had started, but eventually abandoned. “With this being my first novel, I wrote the main character as being a victim.” Although some have cited it as autobiographical with its parallel similarities to Rice’s own life, he once confessed, “I did physically model Stephen after myself: I gave him blond hair, I made him tall, I gave him blue eyes. And he is gay. But I wasn’t subject to half the brutality he is in the book.”



He further explained, “This was actually quite easy to write as critics had nothing to base anything on with it being my first book. It was entirely driven from confronting my mother’s illness, as it gave me a time to vent when not in the hospital. Writing was a form of distraction and a therapeutic tool for me. I needed an environment I could control.”

As he once explained in an interview, “I think the first book is the one you’ve been waiting to write, and the second book is not. The second book is the one you have to write with the voices of a bunch of critics in your head.” His second novel, *Snow Garden*, was published in 2002 and is a murder mystery set on a snowbound New England college campus. Although there were gay characters here as well, Rice explained that it was more about identity than sexuality.

His third novel, *Light Before Day*, was his first piece of work written in the first person. He wrote it in memory of his father, who passed away in 2002. The novel is set within the predominantly gay West Hollywood section of Los Angeles and centres around a young gay journalist. “It was easier than I thought to write. I really got into the voice of the character, as



if it was really my own. Before my father died he told me he didn't trust the first person voice. There was a certain noirness to all of it," he recalled.

He has since gone on to write seven novels, including ***The Heavens Rise***, which was nominated for a Bram Stoker Award, but lost to Stephen King's novel, ***Dr. Sleep***. If you're going to lose, you might as well lose to one of the best. He also wrote, ***Blind Fall***, a suspense thriller about gays in the military, and ***The Moonlit Earth***, a psychological thriller set mainly in Hong Kong about terrorism and the manipulation of the media when a gay flight attendant is considered a prime suspect in a hotel bombing. He's also written several works of erotic romance as part of the *1,001 Dark Nights* series. The first of them, ***The Flame***, was published in November 2014, and there are now currently five books in the series.

Beyond the excitement of working with his mother on their new novel, the pair will also be collaborating on yet another exciting project, an upcoming television series based on ***The Vampire Chronicles***. There are 11 books in the series, which have sold over 100 million copies worldwide. Anne's first novel ***Interview with the Vampire*** which was published

back in 1979 and was the basis for the 1994 Hollywood blockbuster film of the same name, starring Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Kirsten Dunst and Antonio Banderas.

"Yes this is definitely happening, and we've worked out a deal with Paramount Television, and Anonymous Content, who are the creative developers. More details will most likely be announced in early 2018, and fans can stay on top of things by following along on our Vampire Chronicles fan page," Rice happily announced. He will pen the series and serve as executive producer alongside Anne, and Anonymous Content's David Kanter and Steve Golin.

Anne Rice said, "This is a dream come true, both for me, Christopher, and the fans who have been asking to see the Brat Prince Lestat in this medium for years." Christopher added, "The first great day for me on this project was when my mother asked me to partner with her on it, and we're confident this exciting deal will result in many excellent things for Lestat in the universe of television." Rice also mentioned that there's currently some interest as well in adapting his ***Density of Souls*** novel into a television series, produced by K Period Media, the same team behind *Manchester by the Sea*.

Rice, who will be turning 40 in March of 2018, confessed that at an earlier point in his career he had committed to himself to write more often, as who knows how long we'll be around. By the sounds of it, there's definitely some exciting times ahead for Mr. Rice.

Ramses the Damned: The Passion of Cleopatra

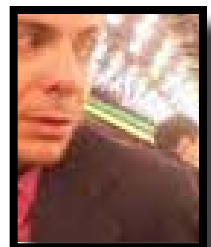
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www.christopherricebooks.com

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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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Glad Day celebrates one year on Church Street

By Daniela Costa

Glad Day Bookshop describes itself as the “oldest LGBTQ bookstore in the world”. But looking at its new Church Street digs, you would never guess that Glad Day has been around since 1970.

Prior to moving to Church, Glad Day was located in a rented space on Yonge Street just north of Wellesley. That's what Erickson and another 22 owners (that number has since grown to 33) bought into in 2012. One of the major issues with the Yonge Street location was that, despite renovations, its two flights of stairs meant it was never fully accessible.

“It wasn't truly open to the community because of accessibility,” says Erickson. “If we ever moved, we absolutely had to have a space that had an accessible entrance and an accessible washroom.” Although the old space hosted book launches, talks, cabarets and more, it was becoming apparent that the available revenue streams weren't doing enough to keep Glad Day going.

“After trying to break even for five years at the Yonge Street location, it became pretty clear to us that even though we had increased book sales by over 30 per cent, the continuing drop in magazine sales and DVD sales, and the high cost of rent, was going to mean that we were realistically never going to break even at that location.”

“So the only options left to us were to either close, or to try a new model with new revenue streams,” says Erickson.

“The revenue streams that make the most sense with books is coffee and cocktails.” That's where Byzantium, a popular bar and restaurant on Church Street for 23 years, came in. Erickson heard from a friend that the business was quietly up for sale — its liquor license intact and an accessible entrance already in existence. “We were in a competition for it, but luckily the former owners Paul and Pierre advocated for us with the landlord, so we were chosen as the best match for the space.”

While the move ended up being a quick one, it had been thought about for years. Yet a spot in the Village wasn't a guarantee. Erickson says they looked at neighbourhoods like Parkdale and Leslieville where LGBTQ communities had formed.

“The trick with those areas is that we would end up just serving a very small community,” he says. “We didn't want to be a queer and trans-positive space in a predominantly straight neighbourhood. We wanted to be in a queer and trans-dominant space.”

“The neighbourhood that's still as queer as it's ever been is the Church and Wellesley neighbourhood,” he continues. “We really felt that people were hungry for something a little more indie, a little more diverse, right in the heart of the Village.”

So after a year into the big move, what's changed for Glad Day? The answer is a lot. “People are kind of getting used to it, and once they get their head around it they're pretty excited about the space,” says Michael Erickson, lead owner of Glad Day.

Today, Glad Day still hosts the book launches, talks, signings, and so on, that customers have gotten used to over the years. And, yes, they're of course still in the business of selling books.



"We've done five times the number of book launches this year as the previous year," says Erickson. "The audiences for the book launches are almost 10 times as large as they were in the old space."

Patrons can also now purchase drinks and food, and enjoy a whole new batch of programs. "People can play a board game; or they can read on the patio. We usually have a lot of people on first dates at Glad Day. It's really cute. With all of our programming too, there's a little bit of something for everyone in the course of a month."

Unsurprisingly, their most popular events are their Friday and Saturday night dance parties. "We really rely on those sales to make rent." It's also become a regular sight to see poetry readings and drag performances outside of Glad Day, its retractable glass windows making this a genius bet. "A lot of the art that happens in the space spills out onto Church Street."

It all just further cements one simple fact for Erickson: "We're actually a part of the community."

Born and raised in Toronto, Daniela Costa graduated from Ryerson University's journalism undergraduate program in 2013. More recently she's begun reviewing movies and recapping television shows that feature queer characters.



Upcoming Events

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Showcasing yet-to-be published authors. Second Monday evening of every month.

Tell Me Something Good

A night of dirty storytelling. Second Wednesday evening of every month.

Tipsy Knitting

Every Monday at 5:30pm.

"A House of Prayer for All People"

Book launch. Jan. 4, 2018, 8pm.

New Book Releases

"The Marrow Thieves"

Cherie Dimaline. Dancing Cat Books

"The Cosmopolitan Nomad"

Karim G R Ladak

"Meanwhile, Elsewhere"

Edited by Cat Fitzpatrick and Casey Plett. Topside Press

"Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer"

by (many contributors). Coach House Books

"A Brief History of Over Sharing"

Shawn Hitchins. ECW Press

"Scarborough: a novel"

Catherine Hernandez. Arsenal Pulp Press

"The Bone Mother"

David Demchuk. ChiZine Publications

"Lesbian and Gay Liberation in Canada"

Donald W. McLeod. Homewood Books



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WIGGED OUT

BY Katinka Kature

DRAg DREAMS REALIZED

I often encounter people who tell me that they want to start doing drag and wonder if I have any advice for them. I usually respond with a simple, “don’t!” In part, because I mean it and also because it makes me chuckle. Baby queens are looking to find out how they can make it ‘big’ and be a regular, working drag queen. There is no handbook or how-to guide. My real advice is simple: believe in yourself.

Years ago, when I decided that being an entertainer was something I was passionate about, I found drag and it was the perfect outlet. At that time it was different than it is today, and even harder to get your start. YouTube, which is full of tutorials on everything from doing makeup to styling wigs, had not taken off, so being inspired meant going to shows and seeking out entertainers. You would hope that perhaps they’d befriend you and help you, allow you to watch them and do their makeup, then when you showed up at the bar looking like a monster, they’d allow you to do one song during their own show.

Looking back, a lot of things seemed impossible. I never thought I’d ever end up with a regular show or be like the entertainers I had looked up to and learned from. I’d never be pretty or have costumes and wigs that didn’t look like I got them from a discount store. I encountered countless critics who told me that I couldn’t do certain things, that I wasn’t funny or pretty, etc.

“All Our Dreams can come true if we have the courage to peruse them.”

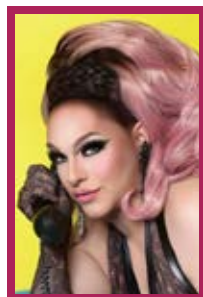
- Walt Disney

Somewhere, deep down I had hope that I could become the goddess that I had imagined myself being. So I worked toward making that a reality for myself, and not for anyone else. Now, I am lucky and privileged to host four regular shows a week (five during the winter), along with working a full time job. Drag granted me the opportunity to travel to places around the world (something I love doing), the ability to continue to work on my craft as an entertainer, and to do a multitude of other things.



I couldn’t even begin to to dream about any of this as I stood on stage for the very first time in a flat wig, with awful makeup, and a t-shirt I fashioned into an outfit that said “I love hot dogs”. I preformed Diana Ross’ “I’m Coming Out” and boy did I ever! Now I look ahead, and I see myself as a fully realized version of what I hoped I could be. It was only achievable because I believed it was possible through my own hard work and dedication.

Katinka Kature performs weekly in Toronto at the following events. Monday and Thursday at Crews and Tangos at 9pm, Wednesday at Woody’s at 11pm for Hump Night Hunnies, and Saturday’s at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre at 10:30pm.



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DJ Cozmic Cat

Paula Burrows (aka DJ Cozmic Cat) has a new album (stocking stuffer!), #CozmicLove that features 12 tracks of house music for the dance floor inside your head. I spoke with her about her life and what the future holds for this Toronto born artist.

She has lived around the world with her traveling family, and learned early on to have an appreciation for music. "My father played the flute and the guitar, so my sisters and I all had music lessons." She began spinning in Philadelphia, and her continued success has made her a global hit from Iceland to NYC.

"I'm very grateful to be (what I call) a successful artist living off my music, and my DJing. However, it's the journey of becoming what and who I want to be that is the real success. I'm always trying to improve and expand on what I do, so there are many successes in my world, and I'm grateful for all of them."

Her path was not always easy, but perhaps her biggest challenge was her own inner critic. "The hardest part is actually NOT the late nights, the racism or misogyny in the industry, or lack of the right gear or the right vocals, or having enough fans on social media, or signing a major label deal, or a marketing plan, or the weeks and months in the studio. The hardest part always has been and always will be that little voice that says, 'It isn't good enough.' At some point, you just gotta say fuck it, trust your instincts and put it out there regardless of what others (or that little voice) say or think."

Not just a talent, DJ Cozmic Cat has a beautiful presence and a smile that lights up any room. It's a reflection of who she is. This generous soul volunteers her time by mentoring youth. "I like the glamour side of the music biz for sure, but I get my real sense of significance from giving back. People I have mentored have changed my life and made me look at things completely different."

Also, she started her own recording label, Jupiter Productions, as well. "It helps you do your own thing a bit faster by maintaining control, and even though it's harder financially, you learn a lot."

What's coming up next? "I have a few new tracks with different vocalists coming up, a remix for local singer songwriter Jordan B. Wright, and a slew of gigs in support of



Photo credit - Cat Grant

the album release. Then it's back in the studio over the winter, and oh ya, chocolate., always lots of chocolate, which is very important for the creative process."

When I asked Paula what she would do if not a DJ, she told me she is a Music Producer first. "To this day I haven't found anything that gives me the joy I get from making music, so I would say being a music producer is my true calling, and I wouldn't choose anything else."

Lucky for us!

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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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CHRIS GUDGEON



A rash of gay teen suicides in 2010 prompted syndicated sex advice columnist Dan Savage to go on YouTube with his boyfriend Terry Miller to tell gay youth not to despair - "Life Gets Better."

Their message obviously hit a nerve. Within weeks, dozens of celebrities, even President Obama, contributed their own It Gets Better clips. The message was clear - gay youth are not alone, and hopefully as they age they will find supportive communities, and learn how to deal with detractors.

At the time, a group of Canadian celebrities produced a 12-minute video featuring people like Brad Fraser, Diane Flacks, and Rick Mercer talking about how it got better for them. But it was only this past February when someone - namely author Chris Gudgeon - actually founded **It Gets Better Canada**. The new foundation is in its fledgling stages, and much work still needs to be done. Gudgeon has to incorporate, get a Board of Directors, and build a structure for the organization. He also needs to produce YouTube content, form agreements with major organizations, and do some fundraising. But expect "It Gets Better Canada" to become a major player on the queer landscape in the coming years.

"The name of this organization is also its slogan, so that can sometimes seem like we're simplifying things," explained Gudgeon. "To be fair, it didn't start as an organization, it began with a concerned person and an organization started up around him. Dan Savage is no Pollyanna, but he saw the need to connect with positive stories. The fact is, it does get better. You never have to be alone in your struggle."

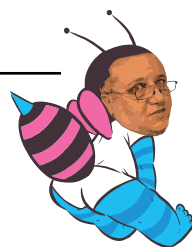
Gudgeon is a busy person even without his philanthropic work. He is an author with 14 titles to his name. His latest book, the short story collection, "The Encyclopedia of Lies", is a knock-out. He moved from British Columbia to Toronto earlier this year to be closer to his two sons, who attend school in Ontario. A bisexual father of three, he lost one of his sons last year. "I know the pain of losing a child. It wasn't a suicide, but was nevertheless terrible."

Though he has yet to meet Dan Savage, Gudgeon is enthusiastic about his new role helping queer youth. "Our focus is on telling positive stories, and our target audience is young people. We have to give them hope, connect them to the community, and provide them with resources. We also need to decelerate what's going on in their minds, especially if HIV is involved. One difficulty is learning how to negotiate gay culture and the gay world. On the one hand, you're engaging with this community sexually, but you also need this same community to support you. It is confusing, and we'd like to help. We can help youth negotiate their first Pride, for instance. I want them to see it all with joy and wonder."

"It's super easy to make the world a better place," he summarizes. "Just do something nice for somebody."

www.facebook.com/ItGetsBetterCanada
www.itgetsbetter.org

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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A KODAK MOMENT

Eva Simone

BY BOYD KODAK

Eva Simone immigrated to Toronto from Jamaica, and has become a vibrant addition to our community. She first organized the performing arts group Rainbow Gleeques Coalition, and has now expanded her advocacy and activism efforts.

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

Eva Simone - I have expanded my work from my own intersections as a Black, Immigrant, Trans*Woman. I have immersed myself in a number of LGBTQI+ and more Trans and Gender specific focused initiatives at The 519 Church Street Community Centre, which includes focus groups and discussions. I have also participated as an Advisory Committee member in two City of Toronto initiatives around Trans*Identities and Transphobia, namely the 'Toronto for All' - (T4A) Anti-Transphobia Campaign launched in summer of 2017 (an initiative in collaboration with Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention - 'BlackCAP'); and the Toronto Youth Empowerment Project - (TYES) around Policy Development for Service Agencies dealing with Trans*people in Toronto. Also 'TRANScending Love' (T-Love), another BlackCAP led arts based initiative for and by African and Caribbean Trans*Women that focuses on journeys to self-love and acceptance. Additionally, I have become an active member of the Board of Directors for both BlackCAP and theTrans* Human Rights Coalition.

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

ES - To participate as a member of the Advisory Committee of the 'Toronto for All' campaign, and helping to determine the creative direction and final outcome of the campaign was exciting for me. It gave me a firsthand experience of how advertisement campaigns are developed.

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

ES - Finding more creative opportunities as a performing artist, to immerse myself more into community organizing, and more advocacy work as much as time allows. Travel and see more of the world, fall in-love and maybe break some hearts, or be heart-broken while I'm at it. Fingers-crossed that I'll find some stability and consistency finally. Oh, and it wouldn't hurt to get rich too... giggles

BK - Where can we see your work?



Photo Credit Ken Kenigma

ES - So far most of our previous work as a group has been live performances. Whether recorded versions exist and/or are publicly available, I couldn't say for sure.

BK - Future plans?

ES - Born out of a personal need, I have aspirations of venturing into the apparel industry, which is still in its incubation stage. We'll see.

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

ES - Sometimes finding personal and collective harmony and cohesiveness in an ever increasing divisive world is seemingly a challenge. However, for me it is important to afford myself love, respect and acceptance, and then be able extend the same to others, even if we don't always agree with each other.

BK - Terrific work, thank you Eva! Now finish the following sentence for us: Life wouldn't be the same without ???

ES - Curried-chicken, chocolate and cheddar.

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



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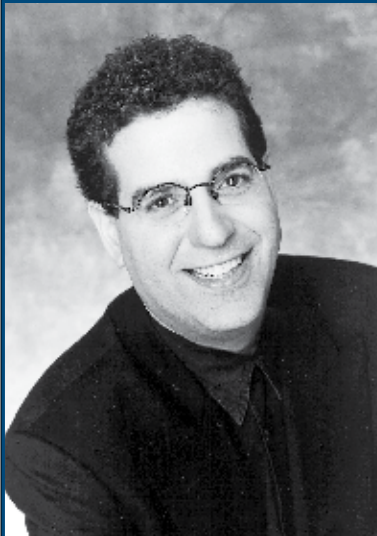
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BEYOND THE VILLAGE

QUEENS ON KING

By Raymond Helkio



Scarlett Bobo - Photo Credit David Hawe

The Church/Wellesley Village has always been the crowning jewel of gay Toronto, but in recent years our venues have moved out to other areas of the city as well. Some argue that as we lose the close concentration of LGBT spaces we forgo a certain amount of power and safety as a community, but the flip side is that by being in traditional spaces we expose others to our unique brand of entertainment.

Scarlett BoBo has been hosting a fabulous night at The Red Tomato on King Street West in the heart of the theatre and entertainment district for a few months now. **Queens on King** is a fun cabaret-style show, and the brainchild of Scarlett, her boyfriend Peter, and Dean Maher from 416 Mag.

I asked BoBo about her experience performing for this new crowd of people, "I've actually noticed a difference in the crowd on King Street. I love Church Street to death, don't get me wrong, but because people are so used to seeing drag everywhere, which is amazing, they take advantage of it and it doesn't seem as important or special. I find sometimes we become background noise. The lovely thing about this new area and crowd is that this is all so new and exciting to them. Some of these people have never seen a drag or burlesque show, so it's a whole new world to them and they are so involved in the show. Everyone has eyes on you and they are loving every second of it. It's refreshing because the queens

and burlesque performers in this city work so hard, so it's nice to feel appreciated for the hard work we do."

Fred Luk, the owner of The Red Tomato and sister restaurant Fred's Not Here, gave BoBo full creative control over the show, which is every producers dream. However, as BoBo notes this comes with its own challenges. "Throwing a weekly show is insanity. By the time the Friday show is done I'm already pumping out the poster and my guests for the following week, and trying to get all those people who loved it to come back. It keeps me on my toes and keeps my creativity flowing, so I'm grateful to have a show like this that is pushing my limits."

"My favourite thing is joking around with all the straight guys, and then when I bring out the burlesque performer I get to watch their jaws hit the floor as they swing their nipple tassels around Chicken Parmesan," Bobo laughs.

Catch Scarlett Bobo & friends at Queens On King 321 King St W, Toronto, Friday's 8-10PM.

www.facebook.com/queensonking

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





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By Sherry Sylvain

Men's ASS Contest & Show

Fridays from 8:00 p.m.

Georgie Girl Hosts The Woody's Men's ASS Contest & Show with special guests and DJ Chris Steinbach. \$300 cash prizes, Steamworks Toronto Giveaways, and no cover charge.

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

Sensational Saturdays

Saturdays from 6:30 p.m.

6:30pm — Michelle Ross and Carlotta Carlisle; 8:30pm — Devine Darlin, Jada Hudson & Tynomi Banks; 11:30pm — Ivory Towers & Katherine Hytes Dior. Dancing in Tangos and The Zone.

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

OMG - The Saturday Night Drag Show

Saturdays from 11:00 p.m.

Join your hosts every Saturday Night from 11:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. and enjoy their fun and amazing show — various performers.

O'Grady's, 518 Church St., Toronto
www.ogradyschurch.com

Bear Day Sunday Social

Sundays from 4:00 p.m.

\$5 Steamwhistle; \$5 Mixed Drinks; Half Priced Wings; Beers and BEARS. Amazing RETRO music with Kyle hosting.

The Lodge, 518 Church St. (second floor), Toronto
www.thelodgetoronto.com



Women Your Mother Warned You About: Resistance & Resilience

December 18, 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

An explosive evening featuring the best trans women and Assigned Male At Birth (AMAB) non-binary writers in the country.

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

Marvelous Mondays

Mondays from 9:00 p.m.

9PM — Glitz & Glam — Carlotta Carlisle & Katinka Kature dazzle; 11:30PM — Allysin Chaynes dominates the stage with special guests.

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

Tuneful Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m. to midnight

Natasha Buckenridge 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 with Low Day Prices ALL Night Long! CLASSY Talent and SASSY Prices

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

Jock Night Thursdays

Thursdays from 8:00 p.m.

DJ dJon in the booth at 8 PM.. Drink specials, hot dancers, prizes, and surprises, along with your witty and beautiful hostess Morgan James at 10PM. Sponsored by Jockstrap Central.

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

Pimp My Party - New Year's Eve Bash Lgbtq2sqqis

December 31, 2017 from 9:00 p.m.

Food, door prizes, cash prizes for the best 'PIMPED OUT OUTFIT!', fun, party favours and midnight toast. Tickets - \$31.50

Eton House, 710 Danforth Ave., Toronto
www.etonhouse.ca

NYE Featuring TROYBOY Entertainment

December 31, 2017 from 9:00 p.m.

A NYE night of shenanigans with Troy Caplan Troyboy Entertainment, with one hell of an entourage. \$20 at the door, includes buffet.

Club 717, 7-717 Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa
www.club717.ca



By Sherry Sylvain

Holiday Fair

Through December 23, 2017 – closed Mondays

Artisan market, food, drinks, live entertainment, and a winter midway, bringing excitement and charm to the hustle and bustle of downtown Toronto, all in support of Epilepsy Toronto.

Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.fairinthesquare.ca



TICOT Brunch

Sundays - 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A weekly brunch show featuring an open stage and varying themes. All performers donate their time and their tips to help raise funds for the charities of Reign 31 of The Imperial Court Of Toronto.

Church Street Garage, 477 Church St., Toronto
www.ticot.ca

TAD 80th Anniversary Holiday Grand Ball

December 16, 2017 - 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Fundraising dinner and dance. Tickets for dinner/dance \$80.00 ea., dance only after 9:00p.m. \$30.00. Proceeds to support Toronto Association of the Deaf non-profit organization.

Montecassino Hotel & Event Venue, 3710 Chesswood Dr., Toronto
www.deaftoronto.ca



The Power Never Quits Fundraising Gala

December 20, 2017 from 6:00 p.m.

Supporting the fight against Osteosarcoma, the Gala will be a full-plated dinner, with entertainment, speakers, silent auction, and screening room premiering the Power Never Quits documentary series.

Mattamy Athletic Centre, Alumni Lounge, 50 Carlton St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/powerneverquits

Women on the RISE Christmas fundraising Gala

December 22, 2017 - 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

A night of gift giving, fun, entertainment, food and information. The event will be raising funds to help support sheltered individuals and families who have experienced domestic abuse.

Weston Banquet Hall, 2125 Weston Rd., York
www.nicnatseventscatering.com



GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Christian Dior Exhibition

Through March 18, 2018

Over 100 pieces drawn from the ROM's extensive collection from Christian Dior haute couture era, 1947 to 1957, offering captivating insights into the creative process and mechanics of the fashion industry.

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

Toronto Christmas Market

Through December 23

This annual event captures all of the tradition, heritage and charm of a European Christmas Market, while showcasing hundreds of unique and local handcrafted products.

Distillery District, Toronto
www.torontochristmasmarket.com

Winter Festival of Lights

Through January 31, 2018

The 35th season of the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights in Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls. Always an exciting event, with thousands of light displays, entertainment, and more.

Queen Victoria Park, 6345 Niagara Pkwy, Niagara Falls
www.wfol.com

Jurassic Park: Live In Concert

December 29, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

Audiences can experience this ground-breaking film as never seen before, projected in HD with a full symphony orchestra performing Williams' magnificent score live to picture.

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

New Years Eve at Toronto City Hall

December 31, 2017 -, from 8:00 p.m.

An exhilarating evening of entertainment with dynamic DJ's, live electronic music, site animations, a DJ skating party, and a stunning fireworks display at midnight. Free admission. Alcohol-free event.

Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.facebook.com/Toronto-New-Years-Eve-2018-2015093765371660

ROM New Year's Eve

December 31, 2017, from 9:00 p.m.

Dance the night away while enjoying great bites and drinks. Celebrate with special access to the spectacular exhibition Christian Dior, live bands, DJs, and a sparkling toast at midnight.

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

Toronto Book Launch - A House of Prayer for All People

January 4, 2018 - 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The book maps the effective dimensions of the politics of contesting citizenship in a queer church at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto (MCCT). For nearly three years, author David K. Seitz regularly attended services, and explains how community and citizenship are formed there.

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

42nd Annual International Motorcycle Supershow

January 5 to 7, 2018

Over 500 exhibitors and over 1,000 motorcycles on display; this show has firmly established itself as the pinnacle of North American motorcycle shows.

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga
www.motorcyclesupershow.ca

Toronto International Boat Show

January 12 to 21, 2018

Canada's Largest Boat Show features Canada's largest indoor lake and hundreds of amazing exhibitors to get you ready for spring.

Enercare Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto
www.torontoboatshow.com

Abilities Expo Toronto

January 19 to 21, 2018

For nearly 40 years, this has been the go-to source for the Community of people with disabilities, seniors, veterans, healthcare providers, and their families.

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

Classic Albums Live: Eagles - Their Greatest Hits (1971-1975)

February 9, 2018 - 8:00 to 11:00

Their Greatest Hits (1971-1975) became the first album ever certified platinum. Over 40 years after its release, the album is now one of the most influential recordings in music history. All live reproduction

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto
www.roythomsonhall.com

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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905-239-7922

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10520 Yonge St., Unit 20
905-884-8771

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85 Ellesmere Rd., Unit 1
416-510-8576

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Eglinton Town Centre
8 Lebovic Ave., Unit 3B
416-750-7979

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Stock Yards Village
1980 St. Clair Ave. W., Unit C109
416-902-7750

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