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# Where In the World IS Miss Conception?



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# The Editor

Greetings and salutations!

I'm excited to present our spring issue that throws the spotlight on some of our own Toronto talent, with both of our main features taking a look at drag artists who are turning heads, and for good reason.

Our cover feature is on none other than the fabulous **Miss Conception**, who recently left her long time residency of hosting shows at Woody's to focus more on her worldly adventures, including her long-running winter residency in her second home of Puerto Vallarta. After performing her new show, *Where in the World is Miss Conception*, to sold out audiences, she's bringing it to Toronto for two nights only at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

Our second feature takes a look at what the eager and enthusiastic team behind **Pretty Munny Productions** are doing here in the city and beyond. Spencer Munny and Pretty Rikki have been shaking up the Drag King scene by putting on fantastic shows that challenge everything from gender roles to politics. Their monthly *Kings and Classics* show at Buddies is getting rave reviews from attendees.

Barbie Jo Bontemps returns as our Wigged Out guest columnist, taking a look at drag etiquette. Cat Grant takes a look at the work of three talented female filmmakers, while Boyd Kodak caught up with **Leon Tsai**, trans activist and educator. Paul Bellini spoke with good friend **Scott Thompson** on the resurrection of his *Kids in the Hall* character, **Buddy Cole**, and Raymond Helkio heads east to discover **Farside** bar and artist gallery. Flip to the back pages for Sherry Sylvain's selection of entertaining BUZZPICKS, to find out where you need to be seen on the scene.

Thanks for picking us up. Enjoy the read!

**Bryen Dunn**

Editor-in-Chief

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# Pride

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By Brian Simpson

**Giving up Miss Conception's coveted Sunday afternoon time slot at Woody's late last year was not a decision Kevin Levesque made lightly. But Miss C., as she's known to her fans, isn't retiring anytime soon. On the contrary, there are bigger things on the horizon, and she (and Kevin) are busier than ever.**

# Where in the World Is Miss Conception?

Toronto has seen little of the drag star around town since leaving Woody's, as Kevin has been busy travelling the world, literally and artistically. He recently debuted his sixth original show – **Where In The World Is Miss Conception?** – this past January at *The Palm Cabaret* in his second home of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

The show takes audiences on a live singing, dancing and comedy trip around the world. Miss C. visits 11 different countries, performing as *Lady Liberty*, *Cleopatra*, and *Queen Elizabeth II*, to name a few, and in typical Miss C. style, she changes costumes right on stage.

The inspiration for the show came from Kevin's own travels around the world, where, over the past several years, he's been in high demand from LGBTQ tour



and travel companies, including Toronto-based *Out Adventures* on their Mekong River cruise trip from Cambodia to Vietnam, and *Brand G Vacations* on their Danube River cruise. Imagine a tour through Salzburg with Miss Conception in full Maria von Trapp drag, drawing lots of attention, and even stopping to pose for photos.

"I've been touring the world a lot with great companies like *Brand G Vacations*, *Concierge Travel*, *Aquafest*, *Dan Howell Travel*, and *Out Adventures*," Kevin told me. "Seeing all these incredible countries and their beautiful clothes, I thought about putting on a show that could feature the various cultures I experienced."

"The first idea for the show actually came from me wanting to sing 'Blame Canada' from *South Park*, while dressed as a Canadian Mountie. From there the ideas kept flowing," he continued. "I started my career in Toronto and it will always be home for me. I can't wait to bring my latest show back to my friends and family," he said.

Hometown fans will have a chance to catch *Where In The World Is Miss Conception?* in the Cabaret at **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre**, April 20-21.

Last fall, I had the opportunity to attend the first-ever **Caribbean Pride** at CHIC Punta Cana Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, where Miss Conception was the host and featured entertainer. Despite having to cut the trip short due to incoming Hurricane Maria, Miss C. kept up the energy level and vibe and made everyone laugh while hosting

numerous events throughout the week. (She'll be back for the second annual *Caribbean Pride* at CHIC Punta Cana, September 15 – 22, 2018)

I first met Kevin about five or six years before that, after a friend invited me to see Miss C.'s Woody's show. His unique style of drag, performing a mix of popular, obscure, hilarious (and often dirty) numbers had me leaving that night thinking, "This isn't any regular drag queen."

"I am a drag queen so let's say that," Kevin laughed. "But I refer to myself as 'female delusionist extraordinaire' and my shows differ from other queens with my ability to change 13 costumes before your eyes, and sing a two-hour live show with energy and dance and comedy. I don't think it makes me different from them all, but it sure makes me stand out."

Kevin has now been performing as Miss Conception for 18+ years, from his early beginnings winning Drag Idol at *Zelda's* and performing in *Bar 501's* famous (and infamous) Sunday evening window shows. He progressed to booking his own gigs that ranged from *Elliott Lake Pride*, the Kingston stop of the *Friends for Life Bike Rally*, the gay campground circuit, his 10 year run at *Woody's*, and working with the likes of Lorna Luft, Leslie Jordan, and Jennifer Holliday.

"Kevin was a riot the minute he was born. The amount of energy that kid had blew everyone's minds," his older sister, Nicole Levesque told me. "He put on productions as soon as he was walking."



Kristina (the eldest of the three Levesque kids) could get him to do anything as long as there was a video recorder around. He was such a little ham.”

“I love Kevin! He is a force to be reckoned with,” said Kevin’s good friend and the entertainment director at *The Palm Cabaret*, Amy Armstrong, who herself has performed for LGBTQ crowds around the world. “In a world of drag he offers so much more than a typical drag queen. ...and he cares about his audience and brings them into his world! He raises the bar and keeps pushing himself. Any performer could learn from him.”

Next up for Kevin is a gig he’s been working towards for years.

“For seven years I’ve been fighting so hard for a job of a lifetime and I just signed a contract,” he told the crowd at Woody’s when he announced he was leaving. “I’m gonna be performing now from June to September at a wonderful place called *The Art House* four nights a week in Provincetown. I’ve been working hard for a long time to try to get that job, and it’s been so amazing.”

For his first Provincetown run at Mark Cortale’s *The Art House*, Kevin will be remounting *The Wonderful World of Miss Conception*, with a new name, new lyrics, and a new twist on the characters.

“I am producing a changed show for Provincetown 2018,” he told me. “The characters are all gonna have a different twist to them, and I’m rewriting all the lyrics to the show with a sassy, dirty wit. The show will still feature your favourite story book characters with live singing, audience participation, and costume changes on stage before your eyes.”

“All I wanna do is make people smile and laugh and forget the crazy world we live in,” Kevin told me in closing. “Take the negativity out of your life and you will be happier.”

Toronto-based Brian Simpson is a freelance journalist with a focus on travel. Brian’s stories have been featured on Huffington Post Canada and travel-industry website, TravelPulse Canada.







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# Pretty Munny Productions

By Joey Viola

**Not long ago, before the historic Zipperz/Cellblock at Carlton and Church Streets was turned into a construction site for yet another condo development, Drag Kings, Pretty Rikki and Spencer Munny, performed at a weekly Wednesday night event featuring a rotating guest list of Drag King performers.**

Munny explains, “We’ve known each other for eight years throughout our individual drag careers, and we came together to create a new monthly King space after Zipperz closed. We’re just a tiny entertainment company, like a tiny love project. We started together and it’s grown into this community event that even now if one of us weren’t able to work it, somebody would be willing to help carry it on for both the King and Trans communities.”

Pretty Rikki and Spencer Munny arranged a meeting at at Chipotle Mexican Grill on Bloor Street one afternoon, and left with a solid plan to start Pretty Munny Productions. They’ve been leaving their royal footprint across the province of Ontario ever since. Starting out with a monthly event in Toronto at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre called Kings and Classics, they’ve impressively formulated a very necessary space for genderqueer performers and enthusiasts.

Since the popularity of Kings and Classics, Pretty Munny Productions has expanded with a bi-monthly show at Club 717 in Oshawa called Kings of the 6ix, a Queer/

Trans positive open mic night at Black Rock Coffee (co-produced with Gay Jesus) in the Bloor Street West area of Toronto, and are currently working on shows in both Barrie and Kingston, Ontario. Pretty Munny Productions has also produced the Kings at Toronto Pride stage for the past three years running. What may have started as a “tiny love project” has grown into an impactful love affair with inclusivity and representation.

“I moved on from my career at local drag bars because it just wasn’t the same for me anymore,” Rikki says of his time working at other establishments on Church Street. “It was very white-washed, super misogynistic, racist... it was always the same kind of thing. Great performers, but we [Pretty Munny Productions] really want people to come with a concept and costume - like if you want to do a Gender performance, you can, if you want to do Draglesque - which is like burlesque but in drag - you can! We offer a very open-minded space.”

When asked if they’ve experienced any negativity at their shows since producing, Munny says. “we’re very inclusive of everyone that comes here, and even the gay (cis) men say it’s so wonderful!” Rikki adds, “Even straight people! They usually don’t think they’d be comfortable in this environment, but we want to create safer spaces within our community. A place for Kings and Gender performers to express their art, and whatever that means to them.”

“This is theatre, it’s a real production. Everybody helps each other out, it’s not a competition,” Rikki explains. Munny nods and is eager to add, “we try to stay away from misogyny, rape culture, and white supremacy. It’s even in the form when you sign up to work for us. We have a bunch of rules, and if you get past us somehow with a misogynistic or racist number like blackface, we will cut your song the minute it happens and we



Photo: Sly Feliceira

will be addressing that immediately. There is no need for that, we need to be uplifting POC and genderqueer performers, not tokenizing them.”

As individual performers, Pretty Rikki and Spencer Munny typically grace the stages of their own productions, but they also get booked separately throughout the city of Toronto. “We try to advocate for other Kings and Gender performers to be booked at these shows too, because they wouldn’t otherwise hire them,” Munny explains. “We want them to be the easiest people to book because there is a low expectation of Kings, but our Kings are great! We’re on time, ready, efficient. Our Kings don’t drink at shows, they aren’t messing around, they’re ready to go on stage and give you a sex and body positive experience!”

“We’re using our art to start discussions on topics people don’t normally talk about,” Rikki says proudly. “I’m very open about my transition, talking about my top surgery, or non-binary subjects, sex and body positivity, even political numbers. Just real life stories. Lip syncing

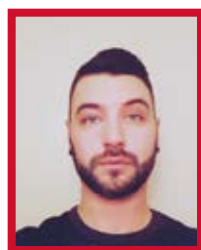
Sum 41 in DC shoes is fun and all, but it’s time to use our art for more than that.”

Munny smiles and adds, “our art, in its own sense, is our resistance.”

Their next Kings and Classics show at Buddies is April 27, and Kings at Toronto Pride will be at the Yonge-Dundas Square stage on Wednesday June 20 during Toronto Pride Week. Or catch them at one of their many diverse events across the province.

[www.facebook.com/groups/prettymunnyproductions](http://www.facebook.com/groups/prettymunnyproductions)

Joey Viola is the Co-Founder of MoJo Toronto and an LGBTQ community leader who utilizes his passion and flair for the art of writing by bringing a fresh perspective in reviewing entertainment and advocating for equality, tolerance, and social/ political justice.







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# WIGGED OUT

BY BARBIE JO BONTEMPS

## Can I TOUCH YOUR HAIR?

**Loud music thumping over the speakers, a scantily clad queen on stage, lights flashing and the smell of beer and cocktails in the air. Just your typical day at the gay bar.**

Until suddenly, you spot a group of somewhat short, Tolkien-looking creations hanging out by the stage. Your hands tremble, your eyes water from the explosion of pink, cheap feather boas and cartoon dicks. The cackling fills your ears with high-pitched whines about something so-and-so just said that was, totally, like, fetch. You've just witnessed a bachelorette party.

The bachelorette party is one example of clueless visitors to our fair village, and while I have painted a rather Wagnerian picture of what is reality, I promise the imagery is only mild hyperbole. Visitors in any diaspora are often unaware of the rules and societal norms that govern a space — even some regulars are blissfully unaware. I believe, and I'm sure others do too, that it is everyone's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the accepted customs of their environment. How much do I tip? Do I get on the stage? Do I ask people what they're doing in the "wrong" washroom? Can I touch your hair?

Here are some tips to help anyone navigate the gay bar with ease.

**First and foremost: tipping.** Tipping is not compulsory, but it would be rude to ignore the custom entirely. As a rule of thumb, you should be tipping \$1 per drink if the order is simple or fast. If you have ordered something more complicated you should be tipping accordingly: typically, \$2 or more is appreciated for drinks like mojitos, margaritas or martinis (to name a select few). Pro tip: never wave your money at the bartender, as you are likely to be ignored.

**Secondly: don't touch the drag queens.** I get it, you're excited, we're exciting, everyone's having a good old time. The fact remains a lot of effort, time and money goes into getting all dolled up. Do not touch the hair! A drag queen's hair is usually not able to withstand even the most playful of tugs. It is customary to keep your hands to yourself unless otherwise invited. Pet us with your eyes, darling! Other than hair, the second most important thing to remember is our stage is not



your seat, your coaster or yours to step on — unless of course you got some money, honey.

**Finally, have a lot of fun!** Don't leave your drinks unattended. Don't act like you own the joint — because let's be honest only the owner truly does. Bask in the awesomeness that is the gay party life, and live it up!

Barbie Jo Bontemps, lovingly known as BJ, has been a drag queen and philanthropist in the LGBTQ community of Toronto for over three years. Self-described as Toronto's foremost plussized hand model, BJ has been hosting and promoting FML Mondays (at Flash) for almost four years. She is particularly interested in community politics, mothering strippers and downing an ice cold glass of Guinness. [www.facebook.com/BJBontemps](http://www.facebook.com/BJBontemps).







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# Taking The Shot

## *Female Forward Filmmakers*

Spring is in the air, which means the annual Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival (May 24 to June 3, 2018) is almost here! There's no better pastime than sitting in a crowded theatre watching LGBTQ representation with kindred spirits.

The parties and features are the draw, but I'm more a lover of the short films. I had the opportunity to chat with three amazingly talented women filmmakers who are making things happen in a variety of movie making genres.

"A good short film is a slice of life," says Actor/Director **Emily Schooley** "A well-executed short film can, and ideally should, cause the viewer to feel things just as deeply as if they were watching a full feature film. I'm also a huge fan of flawed characters - people who are allowed to be messy and imperfect in a way that is genuine, and not a caricature of what emotion *should* be." Emily knew in grade two that she wanted to make movies a daunting task. She currently has a short film called *Life and the Art of Lying* that's making the film festival rounds.

Feature film director **Kate Johnston** (*TRU LOVE*), started her directing career with an award winning short film called *Stormcloud*. "Short films are usually a required stepping stone for emerging filmmakers to make feature films. But not always," explains Kate. "They are also an art form unto themselves. Some stories are better told in a few brave minutes without the luxury of time that a feature film allows. This is where talent shines, and where hidden gems are to be found."

In Canada we are blessed to be able to stuff ourselves with hot buttered popcorn while watching movies of our collective journeys, but in 75 other countries being queer is illegal.

**Karin Hazè** (*CERCLES*) is the Creative Director of *Cinema Feast*, a boutique production company based in Montreal, that specializes in international collaborations advancing humanitarian causes.

Her latest endeavour is incredible. Karin explained, "75 SHOTS is a mentorship/film project that addresses the issues of homophobia, and finds solutions in countries where homosexuality is a criminal offence that's punishable by law." How does she do this? By providing cell phones, data plans,



Karin Hazè

Photo: Sandra R. Green



Kate Johnston

Photo: Kate Johnston Selfie



Emily Schooley

Photo: Shereen Mroueh

and other donations. And by teaching film basics she's arming our fellow global queers with the skills to tell their own stories.

So what does the future hold for these talented women. Karin continues her fight for our global LGBTQ family to be able to speak their truths proudly, Emily is working on a horror film and comedic series, and Kate is in pre-production on three feature films. Amazing!

So get out to a film festival, and be sure to check out a shorts program. You'll be doing yourself a favour while supporting independent filmmakers, and you'll never know what you might discover.

Karin Hazè – [www.cinemafeast.com](http://www.cinemafeast.com)

Kate Johnston - [www.tomgirlfilms.weebly.com](http://www.tomgirlfilms.weebly.com)

Emily Schooley - [www.patreon.com/EmilySchooley](http://www.patreon.com/EmilySchooley)

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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## BUDDY BABYLON

**Back in 1998, Scott Thompson and I collaborated on the writing of a novel, called *Buddy Babylon*. It was to be the ‘autobiography’ of Buddy Cole, a character we had created for *The Kids in the Hall* show. Buddy was an old-style queen, with elaborate coiffed hair, a velvet smoking jacket, and a martini.**

He represented an earlier era, but his philosophical pronouncements were meant for the ages. Buddy was our attempt to reclaim and redeem the sissy. It disappointed us that so many gay men failed to get the joke, believing Buddy to be a negative stereotype, but this was the mid 90s, when the decimation of AIDS left no one in the mood for laughs. Ultimately, Buddy’s greatest fans seemed to be women, who clearly loved the idea of an effeminate as a su-perior being.

The other thing about the 90s was that every comedian had a book deal. There were books by *Paul Reiser*, *Ellen DeGeneres*, *Roseanne*, *Jerry Seinfeld*, and *Whoopi Goldberg*. So like them, Scott Thompson was offered a six-figure advance from Dell Trade Paperbacks in New York. We got to work shortly after wrapping the fifth and final season of *The Kids in the Hall*. It took about a year to write. We weren’t seasoned novelists and had to find our way through our own material, but *Buddy Cole* is magical, and so were his adventures. In the book, he becomes a zombie waiter, is rescued by a flying fish, and single-handedly invents synchronized swimming, the high five, and the bear movement. For us, finding the comedy was never an issue.

When the book was released, it did reasonably well, selling over 20,000 copies in its first run. Scott toured 40 cities in character, appearing as *Buddy Cole* on talk shows like *Late Night with Conan O’Brien*. Scott acquired some interesting fans, including *Johnny Rotten*, who said that if anyone ever made a movie about the *Sex Pistols*, he would want Buddy Cole to play him. We had high hopes for *Buddy Babylon*, even toying with the idea of turning it into a musical.

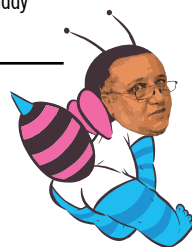
Eventually, we moved on to other pursuits. Scott continued to perform as Buddy over the years. Last year, a new publisher



approached us, as the original contract had expired, and asked if would we be interested in re-releasing the novel? We said yes of course, and not just because of the pay cheque. We finally had a chance to include the chapter where Buddy defeats an evil *Imelda Marcos*, which had been cut from the earlier edition. To support the release of the book, Scott created a new *Buddy Cole* show, *Après le déluge*, which is currently touring the States, and on April 2, we went to New York to launch the book at - where else? - the *Stonewall Tavern*.

So Buddy Cole has a new life. Let’s hope he finds new fans. I think that the world is finally comfortable with the idea of a powerful flamboyant gay man. To quote Buddy himself, “It’s ssssssexy!”

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

## Leon Tsai

BY BOYD KODAK

**Leon Tsai is a proud Asian-Immigrant Transgender Woman, a Feminist, a LGBTQ+ Advocate, and a Body Positive Activist. She started her Human Rights Activism in high school, working with schools to spread awareness of Equity and Inclusion.**

Born in Taiwan, Leon immigrated to Canada at the age of 12, came out and identified as a gay boy at the age of 13, and at 16 finally came out as a proud Transgender woman.

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

**Leon Tsai** — I'm in my first year at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus, majoring in Women's and Gender studies with a minor in Creative Writing: Poetry. Also, I've been working on campus as the External Coordinator at the UTSC Women's and Trans Centre.

**BK** - That's terrific! During that time, which was the one most exciting event for you?

**LT** - My very first acts of public speaking and activism on campus, where I represented the Women's and Trans Centre hosting and teaching a workshop on my experiences as a transgender woman of colour titled, *Trans is Beautiful: Justice, Survival, and Healing*. Also, it was absolutely an honour to speak at Toronto City Hall and Queen's Park during the flag raising on Trans Day of Remembrance back in November 2017.

**BK** - You did a great job! What are you looking forward to over the next year?

**LT** - To continue my work promoting equity and inclusion in this community. Since I've only been in the GTA since September 2017, I am still trying to ground myself and put myself out there, networking and building connections. I look forward to gaining new experiences and my personal growth. I'm also looking forward for Pride Toronto 2018 now that I live in the GTA. I hope to get involved and volunteer.

**BK** - Where can we see your work?

**LT** - As a student, a lot of my activism and art is on campus and school related. I like public speaking, and I'm open for any opportunities to put myself out there and to use my voice for



Photo: U of T Scarborough Campus Student Union

the better. I also have a website where the public can reach out to me and get access to my new radio show and podcast in collaboration with UTSC's *Fusion Radio: Trans Girl Magic*, Mondays 5-6 pm.

Listen online at [www.fusionradio.ca](http://www.fusionradio.ca)

Website Link : [www.leontsai.wixsite.com/blossom](http://www.leontsai.wixsite.com/blossom)

**BK** - Future plans?

**LT** - Hopefully I can successfully finish my undergraduate program and get to gain more experiences in public speaking, and maybe even get involved with the school board to start programming around Trans acceptance and inclusion. My passion is to work alongside with the educational systems to promote a safer space for marginalized identities.

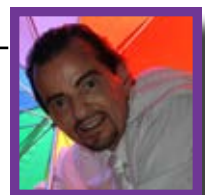
**BK** - That sounds fabulous! Any message you would like to put out there?

**LT** - Trans is Beautiful, and Stay Soft, as our strength lies within our sensuality, and because we are resilient.

**BK** - Complete the following sentence. My favourite TV show of all time is ...

**LT** - RuPaul's Drag Race.

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





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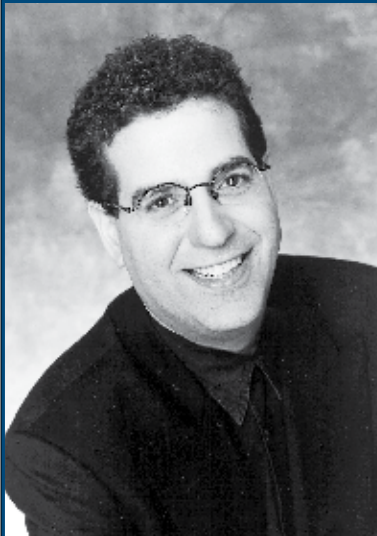
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## THE FARSIDE IS NEAR



**For many Torontonians, leaving our comfort zone means travelling beyond the city centre to the east or west sides, and for those daring enough to make the trek, the destination options often give the downtown core a run for its money.**

If you already frequent the west end, or if you live there, then you know how many hidden gems lay behind storefronts that are as unassumingly original. However, the east is starting to take on a character of its own as well. **Farside** in East Chinatown is one part bar, two parts art space, and while they've only been open a few years, they've already won the hearts of locals with their discount domestic beer prices, \$3 Jameson shots, Ontario craft sours, ciders, and the *Danforth Viaduct IPA*.

For the more adventurous, the cocktail menu boasts oddities such as the *Chili Gonzalez*, which is a Thai chilli-infused tequila, egg white, lemon juice and agave nectar, or the *Nutty Ranks* cocktail, which is named after the sharp-tongued reggae **MC Cut**, that's mixed with Nicklebrook ginger beer and lime. These go down nice at any one of their all-day VHS events, dubbed the **Turbo Video Zone**, with relic movie classics like *Police Academy*, *The Fast and the Furious*, *The Big Hit*, and *Loaded Weapon*. Also noteworthy is **Stereo Ferment**, with DJ Oreku spinning Global Grooves and Afrobeat for the monthly Saturday night party.

What makes *Farside* unique is their studio spaces that the public can rent out, and they also offer residency programs where successful artists receive two months of studio space to work on or create a creative project that engages with the

surrounding community. With six studios available, each studio takes up approximately fifteen hundred square feet, and includes twenty-four hour access to a large communal work table, kitchenette, WIFI, and comfy couches. While all of the rooms are open concept, they are window-less so if you need natural lighting, this may not be ideal.

Owners *Mike Reynolds* and *Rachel Conduit* are no strangers to the bar/art business, having run the successful **Handlebar** in Kensington Market. While the two spaces have similarities, *Farside* feels like the hipper sister who moved out from her parents basement apartment and into her first loft-style condo, decorating it with vintage everything. It's all blended together with an original wall mural by *Dmitry Bondarenko*, who was *Farside Studio's* first artist in residence.

Incidentally, the bar's name is a reference to the reluctance Toronto downtowners and West-enders have to crossing the river into what has turned into the newest hot spot for a night out. While East Chinatown still has its Asian charm, the rise in hipster hangouts and French patisseries has infused new life into this aging neighbourhood, making it worth crossing the river for.

#### **Farside**

600 Gerrard E, Toronto, ON  
647-347-7433  
[www.farsideto.com](http://www.farsideto.com)

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



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By Sherry Sylvain

## **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](http://www.thelodgetoronto.com)

## **Hollywoody BROADway SHOW and MASSIVE TALENT SUNDAYS**

**Sundays from 6:00 p.m.**

Two huge shows starting from 6:00 p.m. A broad selection of queens and other talent with various hosts and guests. Always full of surprises and loads of entertainment.

Woodys & Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto  
[www.woodystoronto.com](http://www.woodystoronto.com)

## **Marvelous Mondays**

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

9PM – Glitz & Glam – Carlotta Carlisle & Katinka Kature dazzle; 1130PM – Allysinn Chaynes dominates the stage with special guest(s)

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Toronto  
[www.crewsandtangos.com](http://www.crewsandtangos.com)

## **Tuneful Tuesdays**

**Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m. to midnight**

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

Statler's, 487 Church St., Toronto  
[www.statlers.ca](http://www.statlers.ca)

## **Corona Wednesdays**

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

9pm: Michelle Ross & Jada Hudson; 11:30 p.m. A weekly showcase of some of Toronto's brightest rising drag stars with a special guest host and guest performers; 10:00 pm: Tangos - College Night

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Toronto  
[www.crewsandtangos.com](http://www.crewsandtangos.com)

## **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](http://www.woodystoronto.com)

## **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](http://www.jockstrapcentral.com)

## **THIRSTY THURSDAY - Men's Chest Contest**

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

Georgie Girl Hosts The Smirnoff Men's Chest Contest, with special guests and DJ Mark Falco. \$300 cash prizes, Steamworks Toronto Giveaways, Toronto's Hottest Guys and never a cover charge.

Woodys & Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto  
[www.woodystoronto.com](http://www.woodystoronto.com)

## **Fabulous Fridays**

**Fridays from 8:30 p.m.**

830pm – Goddess Girls; 1130pm – FlamBOYant Showgirls; Tangos: 10pm – a blend of soca, hip hop and party anthems; Zone: 10pm – a blend of dance and deep techno house.

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Toronto  
[www.crewsandtangos.com](http://www.crewsandtangos.com)

## **Bear Night**

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

Join your hosts for a fun night of Beers and Bears. Full bar and full kitchen.

The Lodge, 518 Church St. (second floor), Toronto  
[www.thelodgetoronto.com](http://www.thelodgetoronto.com)



## **Sensational Saturdays**

**Saturdays from 6:30 p.m.**

630pm – Michelle Ross & special guest Carlotta Carlisle; 830pm – Devine Darlin, Jada Hudson & Tynomi Banks; 1130pm – Ivory Towers & Katherine Hytes Dior. Dancing in Tangos and The Zone.

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Toronto  
[www.crewsandtangos.com](http://www.crewsandtangos.com)



By Sherry Sylvain



### **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](http://www.ticot.ca)

### **TICOT Drag Bingo - February Edition**

**April 29, May 27, 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Join The Imperial Court of Toronto on the last Sunday of each month as they present "TICOT Drag Bingo" with a variety of hosts and special guests. Proceeds go towards the Reign 31 Charities.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto  
[www.ticot.ca](http://www.ticot.ca)

### **A Taste For Life**

**Wednesday, April 25**

Participating Taste restaurants open their doors and donate 25% of their evening sales to AIDS Service Organizations in their community.

Various restaurants in 26 communities.  
[www.atasteforlife.org](http://www.atasteforlife.org)

### **Art Gallery of Mississauga Benefit Art Auction**

**April 26, 7:00 p.m.**

All proceeds of the Benefit Art Auction will make it possible for the AGM to expand and connect their FREE community-engaged programs with children and youth in Mississauga.

Art Gallery of Mississauga, 300 City Centre Dr., Mississauga  
[www.artgalleryofmississauga.com](http://www.artgalleryofmississauga.com)

### **Leather and Lace Invasion**

**April 28, 9:00 p.m.**

Spearhead LDSC and TICOT join forces to bring a Leather and Lace Invasion to Oshawa. \$5.00 donation at the door. Raffles, Leather, Drag Kings and Queens and so much more.

Club 717, 7-717 Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa  
[www.club717.ca](http://www.club717.ca)

### **Regal Beagle Bingo**

**May 6, June 3, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Join Randy Spearhead for an early evening of Bingo. Drink purchase gets you one bingo card - capped at 4 cards per patron. Raffle. Proceeds to Imperial Court Reign 31's charities.

The Black Eagle Toronto, 457 Church St., Toronto  
[www.ticot.ca](http://www.ticot.ca)

### **2nd Annual March for Mental Health**

**May 12, noon to 3:00 p.m.**

This peaceful march will start and conclude at Nathan Phillips Square, to raise awareness for mental illness and addiction, and call for improvements to mental health and addictions services.

Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto  
[www.mfmhto.com](http://www.mfmhto.com)

### **Annual TICOT King Father & Queen Mum Appointment Show**

**May 12, 7:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Salute King Father George Palmer and Queen Mum Bunni Lapin on a year of charitable service. Come see who will be the next King Father and Queen Mum. A fundraiser for the Reign 31 Charities.

Woodys & Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto  
[www.ticot.ca](http://www.ticot.ca)

### **6th Annual Count Me In! March**

**June 14, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

A Disability Pride Event brought to you by Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region. Family-friendly activities, inspirational speakers, entertainment, snacks and refreshments, and a community march.

Kitchener City Hall, 200 King St. W., Kitchener  
[www.eafwr.on.ca](http://www.eafwr.on.ca)

# GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

## K-W Hydro Classic Albums Live: Rush

**April 19, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

Classic Albums Live takes classic albums from the 60s and 70s and recreates those albums live on stage – “Note for note. Cut for cut”.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener  
[www.centreinthesquare.com](http://www.centreinthesquare.com)



## Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Through May 20

Retelling the story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colours, this magical musical includes such great songs as “Those Canaan Days”, “Any Dream Will Do” and “Close Every Door”.

Lower Ossington Theatre, 100 Ossington Ave., Toronto  
<http://lowerossingtontheatre.com>

## Classic Albums Live: Bob Marley and the Wailers – Legend

**April 20, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. \$29.50 to \$59.50**

This 1984 album, Legend, has become reggae’s best-selling album with songs like “No Woman, No Cry,” “Redemption Song,” “One Love/People Get Ready,” “Is this Love” and more.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto  
[www.masseyhall.com](http://www.masseyhall.com)

## Makeology Spring Craft Market

**April 29, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. \$3.00 adults**

Makeology is a community of crafters, artisans and designers who love the craft of making and selling. A broad selection of handmade arts and crafts will be available for sale.

Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King St. W., Hamilton  
[www.makeology.ca](http://www.makeology.ca)

## Etsy Made in Canada: Spring

**May 5, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Shop local artisans and find something to love just in time for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Featuring 85+ Etsy Shops, Free Parking, Free Admission.

Rim Park, 2001 University Ave., Waterloo  
[www.etsywaterlooregion.com](http://www.etsywaterlooregion.com)

## Stars on Ice

**May 6, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

An ice skating extravaganza show featuring an extensive list of current and past Olympic and National medal winners, including Tessa Virtue & Scott Moir.

Budweiser Gardens, 99 Dundas St., London  
[www.budweisergardens.com](http://www.budweisergardens.com)

## Canadian Music Week

**May 7 to 13**

A celebration of Canadian music at various venues throughout the city, featuring performances, workshops, discussion groups, and more.

Various venues throughout Toronto  
[www.cmw.net](http://www.cmw.net)



## The Butter Tart Festival to Kick Off ALL Butter Tarts Festivals

**May 19, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Everyone loves butter tarts...especially when they are homemade, ooey-gooey, bursting with flavour, and beautifully finished with a flaky crust. Butter tarts of all kinds will be available.

Orillia Fairgrounds Farmers’ Market, 4500 Fairgrounds Rd., Severn, ON  
[www.orilliafairgroundsfarmersmarket.ca](http://www.orilliafairgroundsfarmersmarket.ca)

## Niagara Falls Comic Con

**June 1 to 3, \$25.00 ea. Plus**

Celebrities: Michael Rooker, Jonathan Frakes, Jaleel White, Dee Snider, Ric Flair, George Wendt, John Ratzenberger, Dawn Wells, Chris Sarandon, Sean Gunn, Dean Cain, Michael Biehn, Wilford Brimley +

Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls, ON  
[www.nfcomiccon.com](http://www.nfcomiccon.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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Garden Party Hosted By

Anastarzia Anauway

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