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Bryen Dunn

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Events Editor:

Sherry Sylvain

Counsel

Jerry Herszkopf Law

Feature Writers

Bryen Dunn, Allison Kugel

Columnists

Priyanka Love, 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

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Greetings and salutations!

It's summertime in the city once again, which means street festivals, concerts, patio afternoons, and lazy days at the beach in skimpy summer fashions. It's about time, right!

One thing that most definitely adds to summer vibes is music. Our cover feature is on **Erasure**, one of the top pop bands of the later 80s and 90s, who are still as relevant today as they were then. They're currently in the middle of a world tour promoting their latest album release, *World Be Gone*, which has them doing two shows here in Canada, one in Vancouver and the other right here in Toronto. We caught up with band members, **Vince Clarke** and **Andy Bell**, to chat about the new album, tour, and what else they have on the go outside of the band.

On the topic of skimpy fashions, our second feature is on burlesque beauty, **Dita Von Teese**, who discusses her views on fashion, feminism, and femininity with first time BUZZ contributor, Allison Kugel. Known for her extravagant outfits, and over the top performances, Von Teese is currently touring the United States, Canada, and Europe with her latest show.

We also welcome Toronto's own **Priyanka Love** as the guest columnist for *Wiggled Out*, where she recalls her rise to the top, and offers some tips for emerging drag queens. Cat Grant caught up with **Hey! DW** to chat about her DJ persona, DJ web series, and DJ parties, while Boyd Kodak caught up with radio host and singer **Mark Tara**. Paul Bellini recently visited New York City and suggests looking for accommodations beyond Manhattan, and enjoy a stay at the beautiful **Magnolia House** on Staten Island. With Pride upon us, Raymond Helkio goes *Beyond The Village* confines to offer up a look at alternative Pride options in the city. As always, 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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**THE
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Erasure:

Mixing Politics With Pop

By Bryen Dunn

Vince Clarke and Andy Bell have been working together since Erasure was formed in 1985. The duo have since released nearly 20 albums, penned over 200 songs, and sold millions of albums worldwide, with their most recent full-length album being released last year.

World Be Gone is a bit more realistic, and perhaps darker in terms of its political overtone, as opposed to many of their earlier more pop driven releases. The lyrics dive into world politics like Trump and Brexit, both of which are quite familiar to each of the members, having both been born in the United Kingdom, and now each living in the United States. Titles like, *Be Careful What You Wish For!* and *Oh What a World* reflect on England's vote to leave the European Union. As well, *Lousy Some Of Nothing* is described as "a ballad for our post-truth age." I

caught up with each of the gentlemen to discuss the new album, tour, and what else they have on the go.

Clarke describes the new album as, "A more cinematic, soundtrack type of album, something a bit more reflective. The tone of these tunes warranted something more to be said than just, *I love you*, or *I'm leaving you*. We've never been overtly political in our writing, but with all the stuff going on in the world right now, it sort of leant itself to be included in our lyrics. We've both had strong political views, but we never felt confident enough to express it in our lyrics, although we'd express it at the pub," he laughs.

The track, *Still It's Not Over*, looks at where things stand today in terms of LGBT issues, post-Stonewall. Bell divulged, "We're not doing it on tour as it's a hard song to do live. It's kind of like a thank you to all who were part of Stonewall. It might not be particularly that obvious, but it was a really enlightening period for me when I just came out. I admired those people who put their lives on the line." Another album track, *Black Hole of Space*, was recorded as a tribute to the AIDS activist group Act Up, something Bell is passionate about, being an openly gay musician who has been HIV positive for two decades now. "My



health is really amazing. It's important for me to show people that living with HIV is possible," he shares.

This new album has now become a trilogy of sorts – the original, the re-imagined, and live - *World Be Gone*, *World Beyond*, *World Be Live*. The second album was re-imagined by a Brussels based group called Echo Collective, who gave the entire album a post-classical rework, describing the process as a deconstruction and re-purposing. The result is a slimmed down, bare roots sound that highlights the harmonized vocals of singer Andy Bell, giving him freedom to explore more dynamics and vocal range. They then released a third component, *World Be Live*, which was recorded during the band's recent London shows.

They're currently touring the globe, which began in the U.K. and Europe this spring, before they trekked through Mexico and South America. They are now in the midst of a summer full of shows throughout North America, including two Canadian stops, one here in Toronto, and the other in Vancouver.

Clarke shared that the current tour set list is approximately 30% new material and 70% of the

older stuff, with a couple of obscure tracks thrown in as well. "It's about keeping us interested as well, by setting yourself challenges to try something new," he explained. Tracks from the new album that they're performing live include, *Take Me Out of Myself*, *World Begone*, and *Just a Little Love*.

So what's behind the success of all those Erasure hits? Clarke says, "A pop song needs to have some kind of emotional twist, which could be in lyric, chord change, or melody. Something that jars you slightly, then you go back into resolution." Outside of the band, both are continuing to work on their own side projects as well.

"As I've gotten older, I'm really enjoying collaborating with other people. There's usually a gap between Erasure projects, and I'm a bit of workaholic, so if good opportunities come along, I'll grab them," he states. He recently remixed a track for Ladytron, and he also has a bi-weekly radio program called The Synthesizer Show on Maker Pop Radio based out of Staten Island, where he says, "we play really obscure stuff from the 1940s to current day."



Bell has released two solo albums under his own name, *Electric Blue* (2005) and *Non-Stop* (2010), and two others as offshoots from his one-man theatre project, *Torsten The Bareback Saint* in 2014, and *Torsten The Beautiful Libertine* in 2016. "We are two-thirds of the way through, with part three being planned for a performance in London, in early 2019," he says. He's also worked with US producer and remixer Dave Audé, to produce two Billboard Dance

Chart hits, has worked alongside the legendary French songstress *Amanda Lear*, and he's currently collaborating with Mexican artist *Alec Synthes* on an upcoming release, as well as UK trans musician *Lana Pella*.

The venues for this current tour are more intimate than past stadium size shows, which should work well to reflect the intimacy of this new album, however they do promise there will still be a lot of dancing, ridiculous costumes, and humour. As for what's next for Erasure, Clarke said he and Andy were "getting together at the beginning of next year to start writing again." Cheers to longevity!

July 24, 2018 - Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Toronto

Aug 15, 2018 - Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver, BC

www.erasureinfo.com



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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Burlesque Icon Dita Von Teese Touts Her Own Brand of Feminism

By Allison Kugel

Born out of a time capsule from Hollywood's golden era, glamour girl and burlesque goddess, Dita Von Teese has been captivating imaginations around the world since she burst onto the scene in the early 2000s, first on the cover of Playboy Magazine, and then draped on the arm of controversial rocker, Marilyn Manson.

Since then, Dita has carved out an iconic reputation for herself as the most famous and sought after burlesque performer in the world.

I sat down with Dita Von Teese to discuss everything from her captivating appearance and stage performances, to her thoughts about femininity, feminism, and her creative spirit.

Allison Kugel: How do you define femininity?

Dita Von Teese: I grew up admiring movie stars of the 1940s and 1950s. To me, that was always the epitome of feminine, and it made a mark on me from a very young age. I guess I have always associated that

exaggerated femininity with the definition of feminine; the way a woman enhances herself with the tools in the beauty box, so to speak. I've always thought of glamour as feminine. That's what I love for the outwardly feminine. On the other hand, I have a different closed door feminine as well, where I can remove those layers and get to the essence of what we are trying to exaggerate with the hair and makeup and the high heels and all the things we do to be hyper feminine in public.

AK: You've been quoted as saying that burlesque is a new kind of feminism. How so?

DVT: The feminist movement must be respectful of other women's ideals of what it is, and what it means. More than ever, we as women have to respect each others choices. My audience is mainly female, and my social media following is about 85% female. When I started in the 1990s I had a lot of male fans, and when I was a Playboy model I had a lot of male fans. It shifted in the early 2000s when I came out with a book and told my story about why I loved pinup, why I loved burlesque, and what it meant to me to have that to look to for my beauty icons. That resonated with a lot of people and I could feel that was when it all started to shift, when I exhibited my vulnerability about why I love this. I like to say that it's an alternative feminist movement.

AK: What do you say to the women who cry out that burlesque is objectification?



DVT: I think that idea has been turned upside down when my audience is mainly female. They're getting inspiration from this and feeling like they can harness their own sensual power in a different way and be in control of it. I have always loved things that walk that fine line, where one person looking at it thinks it's inspiring and magical, and another person thinks it's dirty and bad. It's interesting to me the way people see things. I find things that are polarizing to be interesting.

AK: In watching you perform, you truly look like you've stepped out of a time machine from the 1940s and 1950s. Are you comfortable performing in this time period?

DVT: There was a time in my life when I only wore vintage lingerie, I only drove my vintage car, I only wore clothes from the 1940s, but I've kind of evolved from that. The burlesque shows we produce are much different than a show you would have seen in the 1940s. We're trying to capture the essence of those times, but the whole point is to evolve into something much different than it ever was; to evolve the history of burlesque.

AK: You brought burlesque to the forefront during a time when it wasn't part of the mainstream pop culture vortex. What advice do you have for other creative pioneers?

DVT: I think I had it better in some ways back then. I feel lucky that I didn't have the Internet to influence me

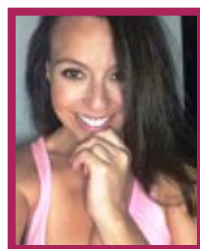
when I started. I had to use my imagination. I didn't have anyone to watch, except ladies from the past. There wasn't YouTube. I had to really forge my own path, and I'm grateful for that. I think one of the things getting in people's way now is the feeling that everything has already been done, because they're scrolling through Instagram. Or they'll look through social media and just copy what other people are doing. They don't have to rely on their imagination. I didn't have others to measure myself up against. I'm not saying you shouldn't be inspired by other people, and even if it appears that everything has been done before, there are ways of making it better or making it different.

Dita Von Teese is currently touring throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Purchase tickets to see Dita Von Teese and the Copper Coupe at www.dita.net/shows



Allison Kugel is a syndicated entertainment and pop culture celebrity journalist, and author of the book, *Journaling Fame: A Memoir of a Life Unhinged and on the Record*, available from Amazon.

www.amazon.com/Journaling-Fame-Memoir-Unhinged-Record/dp/1635056004

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WIGGED OUT

BY PRIYANKA LOVE

NEW QUEEN ON THE BLOCK

It just all happened so fast. Just before celebrating my 26th birthday (May 2017) I'm at Crews & Tangos watching Xtacy Love perform, and I say to my friend Amanda, "Wouldn't it be so cool if I had a Drag Queen perform at my Birthday Party"?

I then ask Xtacy Love, and she said to me, "You should start drag." Cut to July 2017 and I'm entering *Crews & Tangos Drag Race*, Cut to September 2017 and I'm in the final round, and then BOOM my entire drag career blows up.

Nowadays with *RuPaul's Drag Race* being such an iconic show and bleeding into the mainstream, everyone wants to be a QUEEN. The oversaturation of Drag Queens isn't a bad thing - I think it's great. Being a Drag Queen is a creative outlet. You get to come up with your own ideas and perform them on various stages. But how do you get onto those various stages? Well I'll tell you how I did it....

COMPETITION: There are various competitions within in the Toronto Drag Scene. There's *Queen of Halloween* at Woodys, *Crews & Tangos Drag Race*, and *Empires Ball* hosted by Scarlett Bobo & Juiceboxxx. The thing about competitions is that it's your chance to really put your name out there and show people what you got. Come with your best and leave a lasting impression on the audiences.

OPEN STAGE: The first time I ever performed was at the *BOBO Show* at Statlers (it's now moved to The Drink). Scarlett Bobo is so good for taking young/new performers under her wing and helping them get a start. The minute I messaged her and said I wanted to perform, she was so easy and fun to work with.

INVEST: You can do drag on a dime, people do it all the time. When I say invest - it's a time thing. I spent hours practicing lip syncing, walking in heels, doing my make up, styling wigs, watching tutorials, and just indulging myself in drag culture.

LISTEN: As a new queen in the Toronto Drag Scene it's very important that you listen. People will throw you all kinds of advice. Take it and apply it.

WATCH: Take one or two nights out of your week and go watch and meet drag queens. I'm not saying you have to be IN

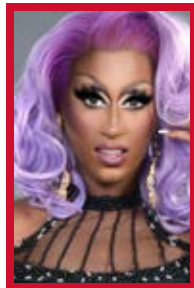


drag but it's good to meet and be in the community. Queens remember when people come check out their shows - it's important you go and tip!

ONLINE PRESENCE: A big part of my drag aesthetic was also my online presence. A lot of my bookings come through Facebook or Instagram. If you want to be a drag queen, especially in 2018....it's time for you to open an account.

Drag is a commitment and a lot of hard work. But honestly, it never feels like work because it's so fulfilling. Get yourself out there and maybe I'll be in a show with you very soon. P.S. Thank you to the drag community for welcoming me with open arms!

Priyanka Love got her start in *Crews & Tangos Drag Race 2017*, where she won Miss Congeniality, and she also came 1st runner up in *Queen of Halloween*, a coveted contest on Church St. Priyanka lights up any stage she walks in and is a force to be reckoned with!





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Hey! DW is a multi talented Canadian DJ, drummer, writer/director, and an award winning web series creator, *That's My DJ*.

From the cheerleader attire, gorgeous wide smile, and her full on drumming while mixing, the physicality she exudes during her DJ sets is electric and what makes her unique from most spinners.

Despite not hailing from a creative family, DW knew at a young age she had a spark. "When I was ten, I picked up my toothbrush and toothpaste and starting banging them on the bathroom sink. I immediately ran outside and told my dad that I was a drummer."

Despite her father laughing, DW begged for four years for a drum kit, but also being tenacious she saved every penny of her own money until she succeeded in getting a drum kit, on which she then honed her skills. She later ended up a drummer in a rock band before moving onto Toronto.

"I remember there was a jock at this party who was impressing girls by DJ'ing on his computer, and I was like, / can do that. So I downloaded the program and spent the next 48-hours learning how to DJ, and I've been hooked ever since. It's like an extension of drumming.

"I was sick of DJ's just standing around mixing tracks. I knew I wanted to do something different. I started to think of what live instruments I could try while mixing, so I started with bass (which I also play), but kept thinking of my first love, drums. At *Home Brew 003*, I played drums in my set for the first time and I knew I was onto something."

"One year for Halloween I was dressed as Gwen Stefani from the Hollaback Girl video, and I had DJ'd the party. The next morning everyone was commenting on the Facebook group, *Who was that cheerleader DJ? She was awesome*. I clocked that what had stuck in everyone's minds was the cheerleader uniform. I've worn it since. I also don't take myself too seriously, and see myself more as the party captain."

"My favourite venue to play so far has been the Phoenix in Toronto, when I opened for Peaches for a Pride event. They had amazing sound and the crowd was so open and receptive to a new act. A close second fav would be Subterranean in Chicago, when I went on my debut North American tour with *Mystery Skulls*."

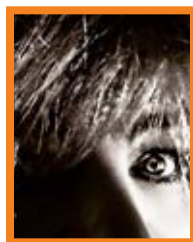
"On the film front, I'm currently working on my debut feature film as a director, as well as continuing to travel globally to film festivals with my web-series, *That's My DJ*." Also DW's party, *Home Brew*, is turning four years old, with a big party June 2nd at the Baby G in Toronto. "It'll be my 2018 debut and I've got a lot of things in store. I'll also be playing Pride NYC June 23rd at the TEAZE event, and opening for DJ Shub at Pride Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square event on June 29th."

Stay Up To Date - www.heydw.com

That's My DJ - www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5X25HT-Q6o

Home Brew Tickets -
www.eventbrite.com/e/home-brew-4-year-anniversary-tickets-45124796481

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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MAGNOLIA HOUSE – STATEN ISLAND'S PRIDE

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The mansion loomed before me. It was Gothic, built on Staten Island in 1827 on a slope. The property around it was expansive. The whole thing gave me a very specific sensation, like I was in a black and white movie while suspenseful music played in the background.

It's called Magnolia House, and it is run by author Darwin Porter, and publisher Danforth Prince. I arrived on a Saturday afternoon, direct from the Newark International Airport. The cab ride cost about 60 bucks. I rang the doorbell and Darwin answered. He looked surprisingly youthful for a man of 80. "Come in," he said, embracing me. Though we had never met, I had interviewed him several times in the past, and read all his books. Darwin has literally hundreds of publishing credits. Aside from his juicy Hollywood tell-all biographies, he's written several novels, and both he and Danforth used to write the *Frommer Guides*. For those of you too young to remember, they were handy travel guides, whose valuable information can now generally be found online.

The main floor is devoted to guests. There are two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and two living rooms, all filled with wild and esoteric artifacts from around the world. Everywhere I looked there were bookshelves, filled with both their own publications and other people's books. Both men live on the upper floors, which is also where Danforth runs the *Blood Moon Publishing* empire. The basement houses a lovely comfortable kitchen, where Darwin prepared me several delicious meals. These two really gave me the royal treatment.

Then Danforth took me for a tour of the grounds, a huge terraced backyard overlooking the river. From across the way, I could see the Manhattan skyline. A quick free ferry ride will take you to Battery Park, so Staten Island isn't that far from the action. Danforth tells me that a lot of film crews have been using both the house and the grounds for movie shoots. It's not surprising, as the place is all atmosphere.

That night, Darwin and I get into a four hour conversation about old Hollywood movies stars. He is surprised that I can keep up with him, but he definitely knows a lot more than myself. In his life, he was good friends with Tennessee Williams, among others. There aren't many people in either Hollywood, or the literary world that he hadn't met at one point. He's heard all the gossip and he kept notes. His

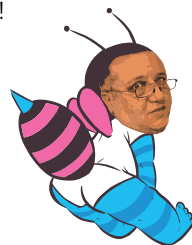


biographies are fun and sensational, the most recent one being about Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher.

I was sad when I had to leave Magnolia House. It was so comfortable and charming, and both Darwin and Danforth are truly great gentlemen. All I can suggest is that if you are planning on spending time in New York this summer, like maybe for Pride on June 24th, forget the over-priced hotels. Cross the river and book a room at Magnolia House. It's a lot less pricey, and much more fascinating!

www.bloodmoonproductions.com
www.magnoliahousesaintgeorge.com

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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THE GEEK ISSUE

A TRIBUTE TO WILL & GRACE
 KATHY WALKER & WILL THOMSON

A KODAK MOMENT

Mark Tara

BY BOYD KODAK



Photo: KENIGMA

I've had the pleasure of working with Mark Tara a number of times over the last couple of years. Mark is a unique person, non conforming to anyone's rules, or appearance stereotypes.

He's an LGBT Content Creator, always ensuring representation of all under the spectrum, whether it be in music, video, or radio. After having a successful song in the early 2000's called Different Love, in rotation both on radio and on Much Music, Mark shifted into video production and later becoming a radio host.

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

Mark Tara I have a little GAY radio show called RAINBOW COUNTRY that airs Tuesdays at Midnight on CIUT 89.5 FM, and starting in June this year my show will expand to two hours on the FM dial! Most recently I got to interview Academy Award nominee filmmaker David France. We talked about his two documentaries, How To Survive a Plague, and The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson. That interview was the one I was MOST nervous in but Mr. France could not have been nicer. In late 2017 I also got to do an in person interview with Grammy Award winning musician. Emily Saliers, from INDIGO GIRLS. She was amazing! Tuesday's Midnight to 2AM. I hope you'll tune in!

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

MT In 2017, I got to interview Mayor John Tory on Church Street during Pride month. That was pretty exciting. I asked him about Toronto Police and Pride, and I have to give Mayor Tory credit as he was very honest and candid.

BK What other exciting things have you been up to?

MT In March I got to do a MeMT-dia Challenge for Big Brother Canada. It was such fun and the people at Global TV & Corus Entertainment could not have been nicer. I never saw that opportunity coming.

BK Where can we find your work?

MT You can see and hear my work on my YouTube channel when I have my online show spotlight, plus you can hear my radio show RAINBOW COUNTRY on Tuesdays at midnight on CIUT 89.5 FM.

BK Long term future plans?

MT Honestly to keep on KEEPIN ON!

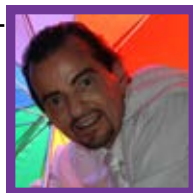
BK Any message you would like to put out there?

MT Be KIND. To yourself and others.

BK Finish the following sentence for us - My favourite TV show of all time is...

MT Are You Being Served! Love it!

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



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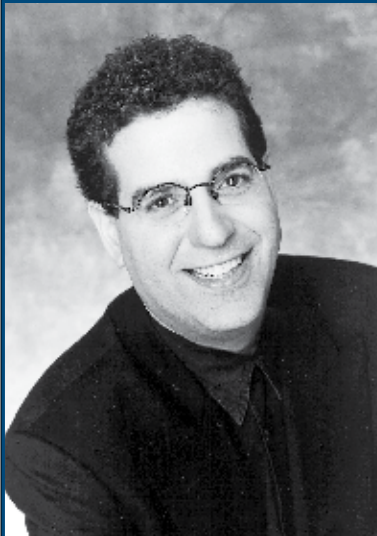
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YOUR GUIDE TO THE ALTERNATIVE SIDE OF PRIDE



With so many parties, events and outrageous experiences to take part in during Pride, how does one choose? Step one, grab the **Official Pride Guide** and using a pink highlighter, note anything that looks interesting. Step two, separate the glitter from the gold by applying the process of elimination until you're down to a manageable list of things to do. Step three, repeat this process using the handy list of websites at the bottom of this page.

A few things you won't want to miss include; **QueerPride** at **Buddies In Bad Times Theatre**, a week of extra queer offerings that includes **Oasis Love** on June 16, written and performed by the musically gifted **Johnny Salib**, who brings a love stricken Damien to the stage navigating his first real relationship with a charming, yet manipulative boy named Jason. For alternative performance, music and mayhem, Pride Toronto's **Alterna-Queer** stage offers programming that can range from rock n' roll and opera, to burlesque and belly dancing.

LIGHTS: If you're looking for light beyond the downtown rainbow, **Luminato** is holding a **RIOT** you might like. Flashy, trashy and fused with social commentary, **RIOT** promises a thrilling, uplifting and unforgettable night out. A disorderly cocktail from some of Ireland's greatest artistic hooligans who combine dance, drag, circus and gut-punching spoken word into a wild ride, from June 5-16th, 2018.

CAMERA: What's Pride without a little Madge? On June 15 join **Hot Docs** for a candid view into super stardom with a documentary about how **Madonna** paved the way for female artists to speak their mind and push boundaries. Part of a six-film documentary series called, **Game Changers: Inspiring Women**, which profiles international icons and unsung heroes who changed the rules in politics, art, civil rights and beyond. **Ted Rogers Cinema**, 506 Bloor Street West.

ACTION!: June 16, legendary New York writer and cultural luminary **Fran Lebowitz** takes centre stage in the delightful documentary, **Public Speaking**, from Oscar winner **Martin Scorsese**. Drawing on highlights from her career, the film weaves together Lebowitz's hilarious monologues with footage of her speaking engagements from the seventies to today. **Public Speaking** shines a light on her trademark wit and singular observations of modern life. Screens with **!Women Art Revolution**, that provides a journey back to the sixties and seventies where a "secret history" of feminist art unfolded.

GO WEST: West end treats include the family-friendly **Pride Paint Party** on Sunday June 10 at **Burnt Brick Café** (529 Dundas West), and **NUIT ROSE** festival of queer-focused art and performance that runs from dusk til dawn on Saturday June 18. Now in its fifth year, this multi-installation event showcases provocative, cutting edge work from a diverse local and international pool of artists at various queer-friendly spaces throughout the city.

pridetoronto.com
luminatofestival.com
hotdocscinema.ca
queerwest.org
nuitrose.ca
buddiesinbadtimes.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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Flash on Church



flashonchurch

COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS

PRIDE EDITION

By Sherry Sylvain

Kings and Classics: Existence is Resistance

June 15 from 10:30 p.m.

A safer inclusive space for new and established Drag Kings and Gender performers to explore and express themselves in whichever way they feel comfortable. \$18 advance, \$25 at the door.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto
www.buddiesinbadtimes.com

Gay Day Goes "Wet 'N' Wild"

June 16, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

\$50 admission includes All You Can Eat BBQ/ All You can drink(POP) the whole day. Lots for the kids. Gary Levy of Big Brother Canada is doing a meet and greet.

Wet 'n' Wild, 7855 Finch Ave. W., Brampton
<https://brampton.snapd.com/events/view/1139933>

Pride Hamilton: Park Day

June 17, noon to 6:00 p.m.

Last year's event attracted thousands of attendees, and offered a range of activities and entertainment strongly rooted in the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

Gage Prk, Gage and Main Sts., Hamilton
www.bentq.ca/category/hamilton-pride

The Queer Songbook Orchestra: Anthems & Icons

June 17, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The QSO have grown tremendously since their first show at Videofag in 2014, and this evening is an opportunity to bring to the stage a selection of the best material the ensemble has developed to date. \$20 advance, \$25 at the door, \$16 students & seniors

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto
www.buddiesinbadtimes.com

AIDS Candlelight Vigil

June 19, 9:00 p.m.

An event many in the community look forward to as a place to come together, talk about the people they love and have loved, and honour those lost.

Barbara Hall Park, 519 Church St., Toronto
www.the519.org

Leila Live

June 20, 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Real life Persian Princess seeking a real guy who is trusting, healthy, and has his Canadian citizenship. Must enjoy authentic middle eastern cuisine, hypnotic dance moves, and little bit of fluff and scruff.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto
www.buddiesinbadtimes.com

Pride in Business

June 21, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

An exciting all day experience packed full of educational opportunities, panel discussions, facilitated networking, youth business mentorship, business trade-show, community organizations market place.

Berkley Bicycle Club, 504 Jarvis St., Toronto
www.prideinbusiness.lgbt

Pride Toronto 2018 Festival Weekend

June 22 to 24

Culminating in the 38th annual Pride Parade on the 24th, over 1 million people attend each year to take part in one of the world's largest LGBTQ festivals. Kelanhi and Brandy are some of the featured entertainment.

Various locations throughout Toronto and the Gay Villages
www.pridetoronto.com

Juicebox: Pride

June 22 from 10:00 p.m.

A seriously pimped out space with award winning sound, lights, dance floor, bars, women and good vibes. Advance: \$25 Door: \$35. VIP BOOTHS AVAILABLE. This is a woman-centric event.

Nest, 423 College St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/1874934682806656

DJ Dallas - Toronto PRIDE Party

June 23, from 9:00 p.m.

An all inclusive Pride party outside of the village. Snacks, prizes, draws. \$15.00 advance. Bring your friends and your shiny, queer love to share while you dance and party.

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

BONER 2018 Pride Edition

June 23, from 11:00 p.m.

Toronto's hottest party for Men Only is bringing you a special PRIDE Boner with their sexy brothers Joey and Travis. Extended liquor service until 4:00 a.m. After hours party from 4:00 a.m.

Club 120, 120 Church St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/BONERToronto

15th Annual Peel Pride Festival

July 8, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Join the Pride Committee, PHAN, and City of Brampton at the 15th Annual Peel Pride Festival, and the first in Garden Square, Downtown Brampton; an afternoon of performances, art and community fair.

Garden Square Brampton, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton
www.facebook.com/groups/2267893128



CHARITY BUZZ PICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Songs My Sister Taught Me

June 15, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Featuring a set list comprised totally of songs written and composed by female artists, the men of Forte will sing in tribute to and in honour of women from around the world.

Trinity St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto
www.fortechorus.com



AIDS Candlelight Vigil

June 19, 9:00 p.m.

An event many in the community look forward to as a place to come together, talk about the people they love and have loved, and honour those lost.

Barbara Hall Park, 519 Church St., Toronto
www.the519.org

Relay For Life

June 22 and various dates through October 27

The Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life is a nationwide event that brings communities together to celebrate survivors, honour those we've lost, and commit to raising funds to fight all types of cancer.

Various Venues/Cities across Canada
www.facebook.com/RelayForLifeCanada



TICOT Drag Bingo

The last Sunday of each month

Join The Imperial Court of Toronto for "TICOT Drag Bingo" with a variety of hosts and special guests. Proceeds go towards the Reign 31 Charities of Choice: PWA Food Programs and Rainbow Railroad.

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

Regal Beagle Bingo

The first Sunday of each month

Join Randy Spearhead for an early evening of Bingo. Drink purchase gets you one (1) bingo card - capped at four (4) cards per patron. Proceeds from this event will go to Reign 31's charities.

The Black Eagle Toronto, 457 Church St., Toronto
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com

Splash for Hope

July 7, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A charity event to raise money and awareness for ALS Canada. The life expectancy of ALS is 2-5 years and 200,000 Canadians have been diagnosed with this disease.

Fort York National Historic Site, 250 Fort York Blvd., Toronto
www.splashforhope.ca



Mariachi Mystique ICP Ball

July 14, from 5:00 p.m.

Performances will feature past and present ICPs and invited guests. Wear your favourite Mexican outfit, enjoy the festive Mexican food or visit the vendor table to add to your jewelry collection.

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

Paws in the Park

August 11, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Paws in the Park is The Toronto Humane Society's yearly fundraiser featuring food and fun activities for you and your pet with all proceeds going toward helping animals in need.

Woodbine Park, 1590 Lakeshore Blvd. E., Toronto
www.torontohumane.com

GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Alan Cumming: Legal Immigrant

June 16 at 10:00 p.m. Tickets \$39.50 to \$149.50

Tony Award-winning actor and activist Alan Cumming is many things to many people – renaissance man, style icon, social activist, bon viveur – but to himself, he is a storyteller and provocateur for hire.

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

The Trinity Bellwoods Flea - Pride Market

June 17, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The market is dedicating half of its vendor spaces to LGBTQ artisans and small business owners, in an effort to support, promote and foster the LGBTQ's wealth of small business talent.

The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.trinitybellwoodsflea.com

Bud Light Dreams

June 23 & 24

Outdoor music festival featuring Armin Van Buuren, Galantis, Kaskade, Tchami X Malaa with special guest Richie Hawtin and more. 19+

RBC Echo Beach, 909 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto
www.dreamsfestival.ca



TOPS presents Do The Right Thing

June 17 from 7:00 p.m.

Toronto Outdoor Picture Show opens its summer-long series, "Cinematic Cities". Culture, politics, music, race, and gender collide in the late Reagan-era masterpiece DO THE RIGHT THING.

Fort York National Historic Site, 250 Fort York Blvd., Toronto
www.topictureshow.com/fort-york

Trackside Music Festival

June 30, July 1

Dierks Bentley & Dustin Lynch invade London, and they're bringing: Dean Brody, Tim Hicks, Chase Rice, LANCO, Emerson Drive, Jojo Mason, Eric Ethridge, Midnight Shine and more.

Western Fair District, 900 King St., London
www.tracksidefestival.com

Bollywood Monster Mashup

July 20 and 21

Featuring FREE performances from international Bollywood stars, a fusion of cultures, and sizzling food, plus free Bollywood dance lessons, a KidZone and unforgettable performances.

Mississauga Celebration Square, 300 City Centre Dr., Mississauga
www.mississaugacelebrationsquare.ca

The Eco Lifestyle Market - Summer Market

July 22, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Find a curated selection of 50 of the city's best eco-friendly, natural, wellness and local vendors, artisans and small business. Admission is FREE.

The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.theecolifestylemarket.com

Tony Orlando

July 28 at 3:00 p.m.

Starring on popular sitcoms, to multiple #1 hits and millions of record sales, he brings his exhilarating energy, warmth and humour with his biggest singles. Must be 19+

Fallsview Casino, 6380 Fallsview Blvd., Niagara Falls
www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com

David Byrne: American Utopia World Tour

August 4 at 8:00 p.m.

His extensive world tour with a 12-piece, untethered band in support of his forthcoming solo record, American Utopia.

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

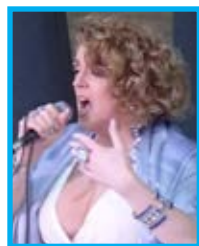
Vegandale Food Drink Festival

August 11 & 12

Returning for the fourth summer here in Toronto, and this year bringing you even more vegan than ever. They're gearing up for Toronto's first two-day Vegandale Festival.

Fort York National Historic Site, 250 Fort York Blvd., Toronto
www.vegandalefest.com/toronto/tickets

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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