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# Special Music Issue: Featuring Icons Cyndi Lauper & Gwen Stefani



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Greetings and salutations!

Music is one thing that seems to bond people together, no matter what beats they bounce to. In this special summer music issue, we take a look at two musicians who started in the business as “girls”, and are still continuing to entertain fans decades later with both their musical talents, and other creative outlets. We caught up with 80s “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” sweetheart, Cyndi Lauper, and 90s No Doubt “Just a Girl” starlet, Gwen Stefani, to find out what they’re up to in 2018.

Lauper is well known for her 80s top 40 pop smash hits, and has had success within the genres of jazz and country as well. Beyond that she penned her owned memoir, had roles in several television series and movie features, composed the songs for the Broadway smash, *Kinky Boots*, and is now working on a follow up Broadway production that’s based on the film, *Working Girl*. As for Stefani, she continued her career as a solo artist, outside of the successful run of *No Doubt*, and also branched out into fashion with her clothing line, *L.A.M.B.* All this while raising a family of three, and continuing to tour, which now takes her to Las Vegas with a residency show that is all about lights, dazzle and costume changes.

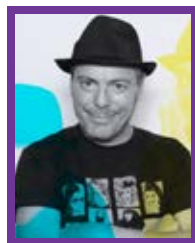
As always, our columnists bring us all we need to know from the streets of Toronto and beyond. Our Wiggled Out guest columnist is *Crystal Queer*, who looks back at *Pride*, and all that it means for a gal from the east coast of Canada. Cat Grant caught up with musician *Sandra Bouza* to chat about her growing career and new album release, while Boyd Kodak chatted with the creatively minded *Xica DaDiva* to find out about all their upcoming artistic projects. Paul Bellini had the joy and pleasure of lunching with the *Pansy Boys*, musical twins turning out tunes and ready to release their first album of material, and Raymond Helkio went west to discover some establishments that are going genderless, as he visits *Cool Hand of a Girl Cafe* and *H Bar*. 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

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# Cyndi Lauper:

## A Working Girl Who's Still Having Fun

By Bryen Dunn

**Cyndi Lauper has continued to remain creative and relevant for the past three decades in an industry that's more volatile today than it ever was. The 80s girl who just wanted to have fun, is currently on tour with another legend, Sir Rod Stewart, which included a recent stop in Toronto earlier this month. Stewart and Lauper are true music legends, who have been awarded nearly every industry award and honour for their songwriting, as well as their works of activism.**

"Rod and I actually have a lot in common... we love to perform, love talking about music, and of course fashion. He's an amazing singer and it's so much fun

every night. He is quite the charming gent too. It's always one big party when we get together. We are lucky to have the most loyal fans ever. They are the reason why we continue to do what we love to do on the road," Lauper explains. Asked about her favourite Stewart song, she replies, "I have a lot of faves. I used to sing all of Rod's songs with my old band. I love them all. I can't wait to see him performing all my fav songs on stage. I am planning to be sitting side stage every single night! But if I had to pick one it would be, *Every Picture Tells a Story*."

Lauper began writing her own songs by the age of 12, and was a founding member of a band called Blue Angel, who released their debut album in 1980 to critical despair, causing the band to break up and Lauper to file for bankruptcy. Putting all that behind her, in 1983 she gained instant fame with her first solo album release, *She's So Unusual*, which earned her a Grammy Award for Best New Artist, and she became the first female in history to have four top-five singles from a debut album. With a string of unique follow-ups, Lauper has continued to push her own boundaries, exploring electronic dance music,

American standards, Memphis blues, and country classics.

In 2012, she wrote her autobiography *Cyndi Lauper: A Memoir*. The following year she took her talents to Broadway writing the music and lyrics for ***Kinky Boots***, which was based on the 2005 British film of the same name, and a book by Harvey Fierstein. *Kinky Boots* is about Charlie Price, the protagonist who inherits his father's failing shoe factory and partners with a drag queen named Lola to produce a line of high-heeled boots.

"I had to write for these other voices not just my own. When I perform these songs I often pretend to be someone other than myself to bring a certain emotion or intent to a song. In a way it wasn't a huge stretch to put myself in other people's shoes to write songs for them. I resonate with all the characters," she states. *Kinky Boots* won six Tony Awards, including best musical and best original score, which makes Lauper the first female to win this category by herself. It also debuted on stage exactly 30 years after the release of her record-breaking debut album.

Now, Lauper has teamed up with her *Time After Time* co-writer Rob Hyman to work on composing the score for an upcoming stage production of ***Working Girl***. A book is being written by TV writer and playwright Kim Rosenstock (*New Girl*, *Tigers Be Still*), and original film screenwriter Kevin Wade will also be involved. The show is being produced by Robyn Goodman (*Aged in Wood Productions*), who recently was involved with the Broadway production of *Angels in America: Preestroika*, and Bob Cohen, founder of the *New York Musical Festival* and current head of *Fox Stage Productions*, which is also producing stage adaptations of *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *The Devil Wears Prada*, featuring the music compositions of Elton John.

*Working Girl* was a groundbreaking film that depicted a working-class woman determined to succeed in the male-dominated corporate world of the 1980s, and starred all the top actors of the day, including Melanie Griffith, Harrison Ford, Sigourney Weaver, Alec Baldwin, Joan Cusack, Oliver Platt, Kevin Spacey, Jeffrey Nordling, Olympia Dukakis, and David Duchovny. In today's current #MeToo movement, it's the perfect time to bring this subject matter to the stage.







"It's a beloved film. We are going to make a great theatrical adaptation of this movie that everyone loves so much, at the same time making it come to life on stage as a musical. We are in the middle of it. I'm sorry I can't divulge too much, but the piece is in great shape and I'm excited about it. It's going to have it all - heart, a message, and uplifting music to make you cry, laugh and dance," Lauper divulged. She also revealed that she was asked to be part of the original movie, but in an on screen acting capacity.

As a passionate supporter of LGBT rights, she is known to campaign for various charities and attend Pride festivities, including her free concert at Queen's Park here in Toronto as part of the 2014 WorldPride programming. She once cited her sister Ellen, who is a lesbian, as one of her reasons for support. Through her music, *True Colors*, has become an LGBT anthem, while *Above the Clouds* was written to honour Matthew Shepard.

In 2008 she co-founded the **True Colors Fund**, an organization that works to end homelessness among LGBT youth, thereby creating a world where all young people can be their true selves. Today, she remains a board member at the organization that celebrates their 10th anniversary this year.

"I am inspired everyday by the work of the team at the *True Colors Fund*, the young people who partner with us, the service providers and communities we engage with, the leaders in government who are stepping up to do the right thing, and the list goes on

and on. I'm also happy to announce that we will soon be taking our work to Canada," she reported.

Today she remains as powerful as ever, juggling her career, activism work, and family life. So with all that she's accomplished, is there anything else she's wanting to do? Of course there is! "I'd love to be in a scripted TV comedy, and I need to write a song for a movie so I can get that EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony). I love films, and would love to write songs for film next." And what about new music? "As far as song writing goes, I'm always writing so yeah expect a new album from me sometime in the next year or so."

As we conclude our interview, I asked if she were granted only one wish, what would that be, and she replied, "Love and acceptance felt in the heart of every being." I believe this is truly something that she's helping propel universally through her continued creativity.

[www.cyndilauper.com](http://www.cyndilauper.com), [www.truecolorsfund.org](http://www.truecolorsfund.org)

*All photos courtesy of Chapman Baehler.*

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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Photo: Yu Tsai

**There's *No Doubt* that Gwen Stefani has been at the top of her game, since commandeering the lead vocalist slot of that seminal 1990s ska/punk/rock band. Since then, she's held up her own as a successful solo artist, racking up several pop dance club hits. Her first solo album, 2004's *Love. Angel. Music. Baby.* and *L.A.M.B.* fashion label, catapulted her into the music and style icon stratosphere.**

With lyrics torn from the pages of her personal diary about falling in love, breakups, makeups and mending a broken heart, her music has always drawn in listeners with its raw vulnerability. Now the hit-making mom is taking on her Las Vegas Residency. *Gwen Stefani: Just A Girl* is in reference to her first single to make the Billboard Hot 100 Chart, and her own personal anthem that she cites still holds true today.

Allison Kugel caught up with the Hollaback Girl to discuss this new chapter in her life and career.

**Allison Kugel:** Was this Las Vegas Residency a family decision?

**Gwen Stefani:** It's hard with the kids, because they're in school and I'm not home schooling, and you can't pull them out. It's not fair on them. So, I've been thinking about doing the Vegas show for a while now. The Las Vegas Residency will really work for me as a mom, because it's these little chunks of time where you can fly in and out, and it's workable.

**AK:** What does performing live give you, personally and energetically?

**GS:** Being on stage for me, I always forget how much it's a part of who I am. I've done it for my whole life, pretty much. I always think I don't want to do it. I always think it's fine if I never do it again. Then when I get on stage, even when I'm sound checking, I'm like, "Oh My God, I love this!" I love my music, I love being up there, I love the attention and I love being able to share that love with people and get that exchange. I don't understand why I like it so much. I'm obviously at the end of my journey of being a musician.

**AK:** Why would you say that?

**GS:** Well because of my age, and I've been doing it for thirty something years. It's perfect for me to be able to do a Las Vegas show, because not only does it work for me as a mom,



but it also works creatively. It's a new challenge. It's going to be a way to express myself and do my whole catalogue of music that defines every single period in my life; all the crises and all the joys. Creatively, I couldn't have done it any sooner. I had to have all these songs. It just feels like the perfect next chapter for me.

**AK:** What are you presenting to the audience, artistically, with this new show? You're also a fashion designer and you have a strong aesthetic vision. Between the sets and the costumes, how will everything tie together on stage?

**GS:** I've really tried to put together a show that has a nostalgic feel. The show is full of hit songs that are recognizable and take you back to that time period in your life. And of course, the real reason for doing Vegas is the costumes. I'm working with Rob Zangardi and Mariel Haenn who I've been working with now for, I don't know how many years. I think there's going to be about five costume changes, which is a lot for me considering that with No Doubt I never did any.

**AK:** The title of your Las Vegas show, *Just A Girl*, is the title of one of your biggest hits, but it has a double meaning for you. You're always saying, "I'm just a girl from Orange County..." Is that your way of keeping yourself grounded?

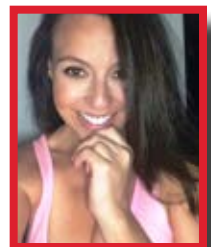
**GS:** Honestly, I think if you really knew me or saw my family and how I grew up, I am 100% the same person I have always been. When I wrote that song, *Just A Girl*, I was twenty-five years old, going to college, still living at my parent's house, and I was very naïve. I had a boyfriend at the time that lived

at his parent's house. I was driving one day and I'm thinking, "Wow! I really have a different position in this world, being that I'm a female."

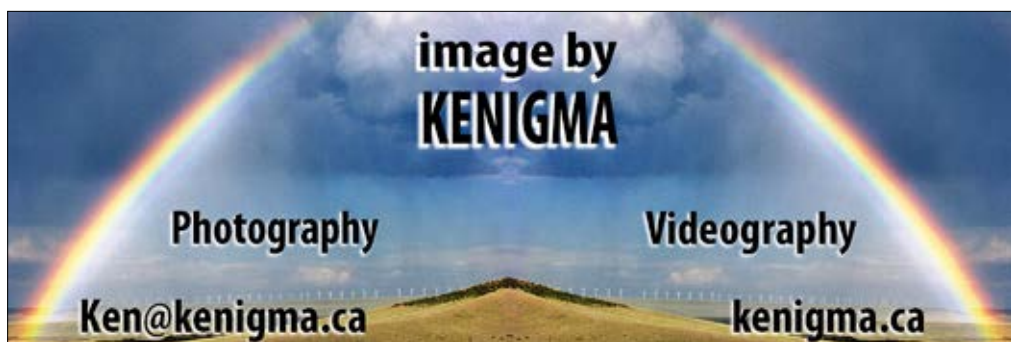
In addition to her fashion and music ventures, Stefani launched her first children's animated television series *Kuu Kuu Harajuku* on Nickelodeon. Co-created and executive produced by Stefani, the show follows the adventures of the all-girl band HJ5 - Love, Angel, Music, Baby and G-- through their super cute fantasy world of music, fashion and style. Stefani wanted to create an animated series for young girls that celebrate creativity, imagination and individuality.

**Gwen Stefani - *Just a Girl*** is on now through March 2019 at the intimate Zappos Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. Order tickets at [www.caesars.com/planet-hollywood/shows/gwen-stefani](http://www.caesars.com/planet-hollywood/shows/gwen-stefani). \$1 of every ticket sold will go to, Cure 4 The Kids Foundation, a local Las Vegas non-profit, medically helping children who are facing life threatening diseases.

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







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# WIGGED OUT

BY CRYSTAL QUEER

## MY PRIDE

**Hello my name is Crystal Queer.**

**I created my drag persona Crystal back in Newfoundland four years ago, but it has only been during the past two years living in Toronto that I've taken things more seriously and realized that performing is something I'm extremely passionate about.**

My drag is influenced by pop divas and today's latest trends with a touch of avant garde fashion; while always trying to include my East Coast charm and aesthetic. I love interacting with my audience while I perform, making them feel important and noticed, and always showing them how much I appreciate them being there.

This year has been the best Pride I have ever been part of. I had so many amazing opportunities, and I will always remember it as the year I really found my place in our queer community.

Earlier in June, I was honoured to be part of a Pride Campaign for Ikea Canada, where we created a garment out of an everyday Ikea product. We had a fashion show and a photoshoot, and the final project was featured on billboards in Toronto, and as a commercial on select Canadian television stations. I also had the opportunity to perform on various stages for Pride, including the Yonge - Dundas stage for Empire's Ball - a yearly competition produced by Scarlett Bobo.

Back where I'm from in Newfoundland - the queer community is quite tiny and Pride is small in comparison to Toronto. We all knew each other there and the support we had for each other didn't have to be conveyed as strongly.

In Toronto however, the drag scene is extremely competitive and I felt like I would never be part of it fully. However, lately I strove to develop stronger friendships in my community, make connections, and support my sisters aggressively. And in turn, I learned so much and became a stronger queen, and so many amazing opportunities have come from that.



Photo: IKEA Canada

Pride has made me realize that regardless of how diverse we are, we are all celebrating the same thing and we are brothers and sisters. When we are all together, supporting each other and teaching each other, we are powerful.

Pride was hard, busy, and made us face the longest hours in drag.

To survive Pride my advice would be to not overdo it. Remember we can be proud every day of the year, so you don't need to push yourself as hard as you'd think. Drink lots of water and wear sunscreen. It's easy to forget about self-care when you're focused on entertaining others.

You can catch me every Tuesday at The Drink - Coffee Whiskey Social at 7:30 for my self produced show Games with Drag Queens! Follow me on Instagram for all of my upcoming shows and projects! @fthelyer



Photo: Quimton Cruickshanks



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# Sandra Bouza



## Vocalist/Songwriter Sandra Bouza was in mid-production of her solo album when I caught up with her.

Toronto born, she spent much of her childhood travelling to Spain, which prepared her well for her extensive globetrotting. “For it’s physical beauty and the kindness of the people, I truly loved Senegal. I spent almost three years in Morocco, I love the diversity of their culture and language. For art and diversity, I love London! One of my favourite places for music has got to be New Orleans. The music in that city is astonishing. It just hits you in the face when you step onto Frenchman Street, and it doesn’t stop.”

Sandra’s family was musical, with her mom playing old records and then quizzing her on songs that were being played on 1050 CHUM radio in Toronto. Sandra and her sister took piano lessons, and their grandfather and uncle were musicians, playing the trumpet and saxophone.

Her first paid gig, was at age 9 or 10. The owner of *La Contessa Ballroom* heard Sandra and her sister sing and hired them to play for his wife’s birthday party. “He paid us \$100. I thought I was rich!”

Sandra continued on her own, learning guitar, and in her 20’s started going to open mic and coffeehouses. “I think I really had that feeling of ‘I don’t want to do anything else’, while I was on stage in Scotland at a *Battle of the Bands*. It was just such a great feeling, playing original music to a crowd. There was no rush that felt as good, I still remember that feeling.”

When I ask about her inspirations, she states that her grandfather is number one. “He treated everyone so well. If I could be half as good and kind as him, I’d be grateful.”

Musically she admires too many to mention. “I love so many genres. I think music in general is my inspiration. Humans have such magic inside of them. The fact that they can create these sounds and atmospheres that are so unique to each artist, yet at the same time speak directly to millions of people, is just astonishing. I think humans are capable of such incredible communication with other worlds, and it’s sad that we block those conduits.”

Her dream gig? “Small venues like the *Jazz Cafe* in London, or the *Danforth Music Hall* in Toronto, playing my own music.”

She has a new album in the works. “I’m used to just gig non-stop, but I am looking forward to a different path. I’ve been working with a new producer on my solo material, which is a little more R&B, so it’s a bit of a stray from my *Redbrick* material (referring to her band which has a more stripped-down, funk, soul, and rock & roll sound). We jokingly dubbed it *Motown Tarantino*, so we’ll see if it holds up to that.”

If she couldn’t be a singer Sandra thinks she would have turned to something naturopathic. or even a motorcycle mechanic! I’m glad she chose music, and I highly recommend checking out her live performances. You can find her on Facebook and [sandrabouza.com](http://sandrabouza.com).

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

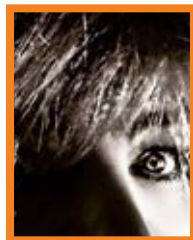


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# BUMBLE-INI

## PANSY BOYS

BY PAUL BELLINI



**I had breakfast with Pansy Boys, and it was such fun. They're twins, they make beautiful music, and they are very cool.**

Lyle and Joel Curry grew up in Ottawa and went to school in Montreal. Like everyone else, they first came to my attention when they graced the cover of NOW, just a month after arriving in Toronto, which has to be some sort of record. They've also been covered by VICE and OUT, and All-Caps Media love them! How can they not? There's no denying that the sight of handsome 22-year-old twins wearing big red sweaters, their cheeks glowing with rouge as they snugly embrace, just about stops traffic.

They live together, and always have. "Our mother was a teacher. She put us in separate classes because she wanted us to have individuality, but then we also got regular hug breaks to alleviate separation anxiety," said one of them. (Forgive me, but the audio quality of the tape does not allow me to distinguish Joel's voice from Kyle's voice. It should be noted, however, that this similar vocal tone is what makes them sound so great together.)

"We were very feminine when we were young. We used to pretend we were Mary Kate and Ashley. We were always writing musicals together. There was no question that this is what we always wanted to do with our lives." Pansy Boys have yet to perform live, and have yet to assemble a band, but both promise that it will happen before the end of this year. They cite *Simon & Garfunkel*, *Lana Del Rey*, and *The Smiths*

as influences, among others. When I ask about the band's name, one of them tells me that "the pansy is dreamy."

It makes sense. Their sound is like an expensive pillow that one loves to lie upon. It's lush, melodic, layered, 60s influenced, and with a hint of analog sound quality. The brothers recorded their debut EP, *In Days of Yore*, in Montreal. It features three complete knockouts - *All Is Well*, *Empty Pools*, and *Pretty Thoughts*. Since moving to Toronto they have recorded their new song *Under the Weather*, with producer Alex Lane. "He's a brilliant guitarist, very creative with the pedals. His vast knowledge helped us out." It's true that the shimmering guitar chords add an even glossier layer to the textured sound.

Still, the magic is in the writing. "We write on piano, individually, not together, then we bring it to the other. We share a creative vision, but write separately." One of them told me about a time when he was feeling infuriated with Trump news, but it happened on such a beautiful summer's day that it was hard to feel bad for very long. He realized that this collision of feelings is what they need to bring to music. No wonder it works so well.

"All we want to do is add a drop of beauty into the world," they said. They already have!

Check them out on Facebook @pansyboysmusic

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.

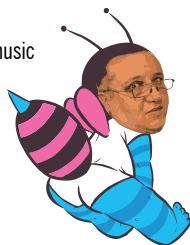


Photo: Yannick Fornacciani

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# A KODAK MOMENT

# Xica DaDiva

BY BOYD KODAK

**Xica DaDiva is a multi-performance Artist/Singer, and Anti-Bully/Trans Advocate. She has studied the art form and participated in numerous plays and projects since an early age, attending various dance schools in Toronto, including the National School of Ballet adult program, the Toronto School of Burlesque, Brass Vixens, Rainbow Ballroom, Ilana Dance Group, DragonFly Belly Dance Studios, and Ecstatic Dance Toronto.**

She continues to learn other modalities, including circus arts such as Lyra and Silks. Her love for interpretive dancing has allowed her to combine all her modalities into a unique one.

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

**Xica DaDiva** - I've been trying to heal by empowering myself through education on a wide range of topics and art forms, such as dance styles, writing techniques, singing lessons, acting, drumming, even pole dancing to name a few. Social Justice issues have been on my radar, and I am loving where my activism is going.

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

**XD** - Trans March Day was exciting because it's our day to get together with friends and shine, and represent! I had to be up early for a modelling audition, and from there straight to set up the Trans Latinas Ontario Booth at the Community Fair before the March. After the most amazing show ever, I felt so accomplished to have been able to get through it all!! Thank you to my volunteers and friends who helped me.

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

**XD** - After the concussion I suffered earlier this year in the midst of dealing with PTSD and all the uncertainties of our world, I look forward to another day when I can still dance, sing and laugh, and enjoy a bike ride.



Photo: Alejandra Land

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

**XD** - Soon I'll be posting updates and videos to my Xica DaDiva Fan Page on Facebook and Instagram accounts. I also have a very short but meaningful part in the upcoming romantic comedy short, "What If", starring Buck Angel.

**BK** - Future plans?

**XD** - More water, more dancing, more singing, definitely more writing, and hopefully the most incredible role about the life story of a Transgender woman pioneer from New York.

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

**XD** - Let's talk about fear, it seems to be the force that runs the world and feeds another. My darlings, fear is good for nothing. It's all an illusion, you do not have to be scared, the world is a show, so get out there and razzle-dazzle 'em!

**BK** - If you could have three wishes, what would they be?

**XD** - To reunite with my entire family, live in a true ethical world, and inner peace for all.

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





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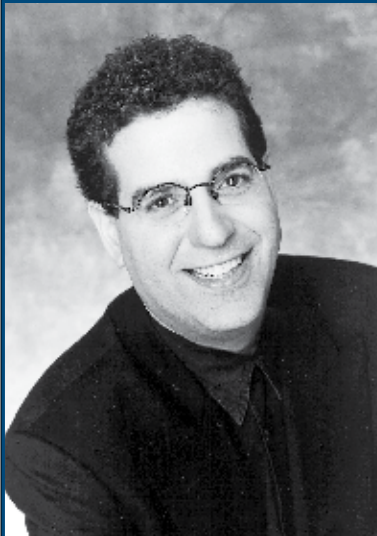
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## GOING GENDERLESS



**“Why does it matter, as long as they’re clean?!” *Lucia Maceda* says in response to my question about which washroom I should use.**

Lucia is the owner of **Cool Hand Of A Girl Cafe** in the Junction, part of an ever growing expansion of establishments beyond downtown’s village core.

As condominiums and big box retail outlets replace the mom and pop community feel that makes a neighbourhood, queers are taking up space elsewhere, and in the process helping to remove gender barriers.

*Cool Hand Of A Girl Cafe* comes from a scene in the philosophical essay, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, by Albert Camus. It suggests that when life’s burdens become too much, all you need is the cool hand of a girl to set things right. In Lucia’s space the approach is simple, there is only a sign over both washroom doors reading **WASHROOM**, leaving the customer to choose. In fact, the vast majority of washrooms in this city could easily follow suit, from gyms, restaurants, bars and clubs, to theatre and other spaces open to the public.

Going a step further is Queen West’s **H Bar**, which boasts an all-gender washroom with only stalls, and in the middle is a communal washing area with mirrors. It’s simple, works perfectly, and arguably is much safer since the sinks are flanked by a row of single stalls on each side.

Conventional arguments for keeping washrooms separate are largely based on false notions of safety. Gay guys using a washroom filled with straight men can be equally intimidating. Remember gym class? Or fathers who want to accompany their young child into the women’s washroom. A sign on the door is not a replacement for safety, but it does create disconnect for those of us that don’t buy into the restrictions imposed by enforcing binary gender opposites.

Many spaces have just two washrooms, both sporting a toilet and sink, so assigning gender to them really doesn’t make a whole lot of sense. Especially when so very often there’s a line-up for one gendered washroom, while the other is free.

If you own a business and can afford to renovate or upgrade the washroom then do it, but if you don’t have the extra cash, there is a simple solution. Instead of a sign that decides who the space is for, it should merely indicate what’s on the other side. This way everyone can choose for themselves, and no one has to feel left out.

Cool Hand of A Girl Cafe, 2804 Dundas Street West  
coolhandofagirl.com

H Bar, 859 Queen Street West  
hbartoronto.ca

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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# COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

## Open Mic Wednesdays

**Wednesdays from 9 p.m.**

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WAYLA Bar, 996 Queen Street East, Toronto

[www.waylabar.ca](http://www.waylabar.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](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, and 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.**

George 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)

## 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)

## Beaver Karaoke

**Sundays from 10 p.m.**

Hosted by a rotating cast of charismatic people. Always Busy, Always Sunday, Always Weird. Come sing your heart out. Everybody is a star.

Beaver Cafe, 1192 Queen Street West, Toronto

[www.thebeavertoronto.com](http://www.thebeavertoronto.com)

## Marvelous Mondays

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

9PM – Glitz & Glam – Carlotta Carlisle & Katinka Kature dazzle;

1130PM – Allysin 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)

## Moondance - LGBTQ+ Dance Cruise

**September 2; 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.**

3 decks, 2 DJs, 1 fabulous evening: Cruise for 4 hours; Boarding at

6:30. Sail 7-11. Food service included. Cash Bar.

Yankee Lady 111, 249 Queen's Quay W., Toronto

[musicandfriendsdanceparties@hotmail.com](mailto:musicandfriendsdanceparties@hotmail.com)





# CHARITY BUZZ PICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

## Run for Palestine - Toronto Run/Walk

**August 18; 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

A family oriented, fun filled day welcoming everyone to walk or run 5 Km, or the newly introduced 10 Km walk or run to raise funds for much needed humanitarian projects helping the Palestinian people. Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, 2001 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto  
[www.runforpalestine.com](http://www.runforpalestine.com)

## Toronto Easter Seals Regatta

**August 19; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The Toronto sailing community will gather at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, where cruisers will take Easter Seals families for a great day on the water. Cruisers are encouraged to help families fundraise. The Royal Canadian Yacht Club, 150 Cherry St., Toronto  
[www.eastersealsregatta.org](http://www.eastersealsregatta.org)



## TICOT Drag Bingo

**August 26, September 23; 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Join The Imperial Court of Toronto as they host their monthly TICOT Drag Bingo. All proceeds to Reign 31 Charities of Choice - The PWA Food Bank and Rainbow Railroad. Everyone welcome. Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto  
[www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com](http://www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com)

## Regal Beagle Bingo

**September 2, October 7; 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 (four cards per patron). Raffle draws. Proceeds to Reign 31's charities. The Black Eagle Toronto, 457 Church St., Toronto  
[www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com](http://www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com)

## GWN Dragon Boat Challenge

**September 8 and 9**

This festival is proud to be in support of Canadian Cancer Society. Running for over 20 years, this event is a highlight of the racing season, with teams coming from all over Canada and the US. Marilyn Bell Park, Lakeshore Blvd. W. @ Jameson Ave., Toronto  
[www.gwndragonboat.com](http://www.gwndragonboat.com)

## Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope

**September 9; 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Where people affected by this disease come together to support one another and raise funds that spur change. The Walk is the largest and most powerful event of its kind in the country. Woodbine Park, 1590 Lakeshore Blvd. E., Toronto  
[www.ovariancanada.org](http://www.ovariancanada.org)

## 2nd Annual Dinner at the Farm

**September 13; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

A fundraising dinner in support of Black Creek Community Farm featuring live music, Toronto's premier chefs, and the farm's fresh vegetables. Black Creek Community Farm, 4929 Jane St., Toronto  
[www.picatic.com/dinneratthefarm](http://www.picatic.com/dinneratthefarm)

## Switch - Postcard Show and Fundraiser

**September 21 to 23**

Art show and fundraiser featuring one-of-a-kind postcard-sized works of art by established and emerging artists, from around the world. Each original work will be sold for \$40 (CAD). Beaver Hall Gallery, 29 McCaul St., Toronto  
[www.biartsfestival.com](http://www.biartsfestival.com)

## Koerner Hall 10th Anniversary GALA: Kathleen Battle

**October 2; from 8:00 p.m.**

Kathleen Battle will perform classical songs and arias, selections from Porgy and Bess, and spirituals. Proceeds from the evening support Resounding!, The Campaign for The Royal Conservatory. Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto  
[www.rcmusic.com](http://www.rcmusic.com)

## Coronation 32: The Crowns That Care Gala

**October 6; 8:00 p.m.**

Join The Imperial Court of Toronto at their Annual Black Tie Event. A wonderful evening to benefit the PWA Food Programs and Rainbow Railroad. Cocktails, dinner, entertainment, silent auction. Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, 525 Bay St., Toronto  
[www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com](http://www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com)



# GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

## Come From Away

Through January 2019

The rippling impact of 9/11 across the world is felt in a Newfoundland town, when no less than 38 transatlantic flights are ordered to land, is recalled in this award winning musical.

Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St. W., Toronto

[www.mirvish.com](http://www.mirvish.com)

## Canadian National Exhibition

August 17 to September 3

Attractions include the midway rides, games, live entertainment, agriculture and livestock, and various exhibits. Every year, the CNE food vendors push the boundaries on what seems to be possible.

CNE Grounds, 210 Prince's Blvd., Toronto

[www.theex.com](http://www.theex.com)



## Open Streets TO

August 19 & September 16: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Street closed to vehicles so you can walk freely in the streets and meet your neighbours. Activity Hubs along the routes will be programmed with free and fun activities for people of all ages and abilities

Yonge St. (Boor to Queen), Bloor St. (Christie to Sherbourne), Toronto

[www.openstreetsto.org](http://www.openstreetsto.org)

## Summer Music in the Garden

Through September 16

Most Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 4:00 p.m., approximately one hour in length. Bench seating is limited, so bring lawn chairs, also hat/umbrella/sunscreen as shade is limited.

Toronto Music Garden, 475 Queen's Quay W., Toronto

[www.harbourfrontcentre.com](http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com)

## Toronto International Film Festival

September 6 to 16

Mandatory for film aficionados and star-gazers; featuring premieres of noteworthy films with star-studded red carpets. One of the largest publicly attended film festivals in the world.

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[www.tiff.net/tiff](http://www.tiff.net/tiff)

## Kensington Market Jazz Festival

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Kensington Market, Toronto

[www.kensingtonjazz.com](http://www.kensingtonjazz.com)

## Joan Baez

September 18; 8:00 p.m.

The acclaimed artist, activist and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee presents her forthcoming album *Whistle Down The Wind*.

Tickets: \$59.50 - \$129.50.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

[www.roythomsonhall.com](http://www.roythomsonhall.com)

## Bi Arts Festival

September 18 to 23

The world's largest celebration of bisexual voices in art and culture offers six days of vibrant and original programming - visual art, craft, storytelling, performance, theatre, video, dance and more.

Various Venues in Toronto

[www.biartsfestival.com](http://www.biartsfestival.com)

## Fall for Dance North

October 2 to 6

Features three unique dance programmes across six exciting performances for only \$15 for any seat. Immerse yourself in some of the most exhilarating dance that Canada and the world has to offer.

Sony Centre and Ryerson Theatre, Toronto

[www.ffdnorth.com](http://www.ffdnorth.com)

## Casino Royale in Concert

October 11 & 12

Audiences will experience *Bond* on the big screen accompanied by the power of a full symphony orchestra performing composer David Arnold's thrilling musical score live and in sync to the picture.

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

[www.sonycentre.ca](http://www.sonycentre.ca)

Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to).





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