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Special Music Issue II: Featuring Jake Shears & David Guetta


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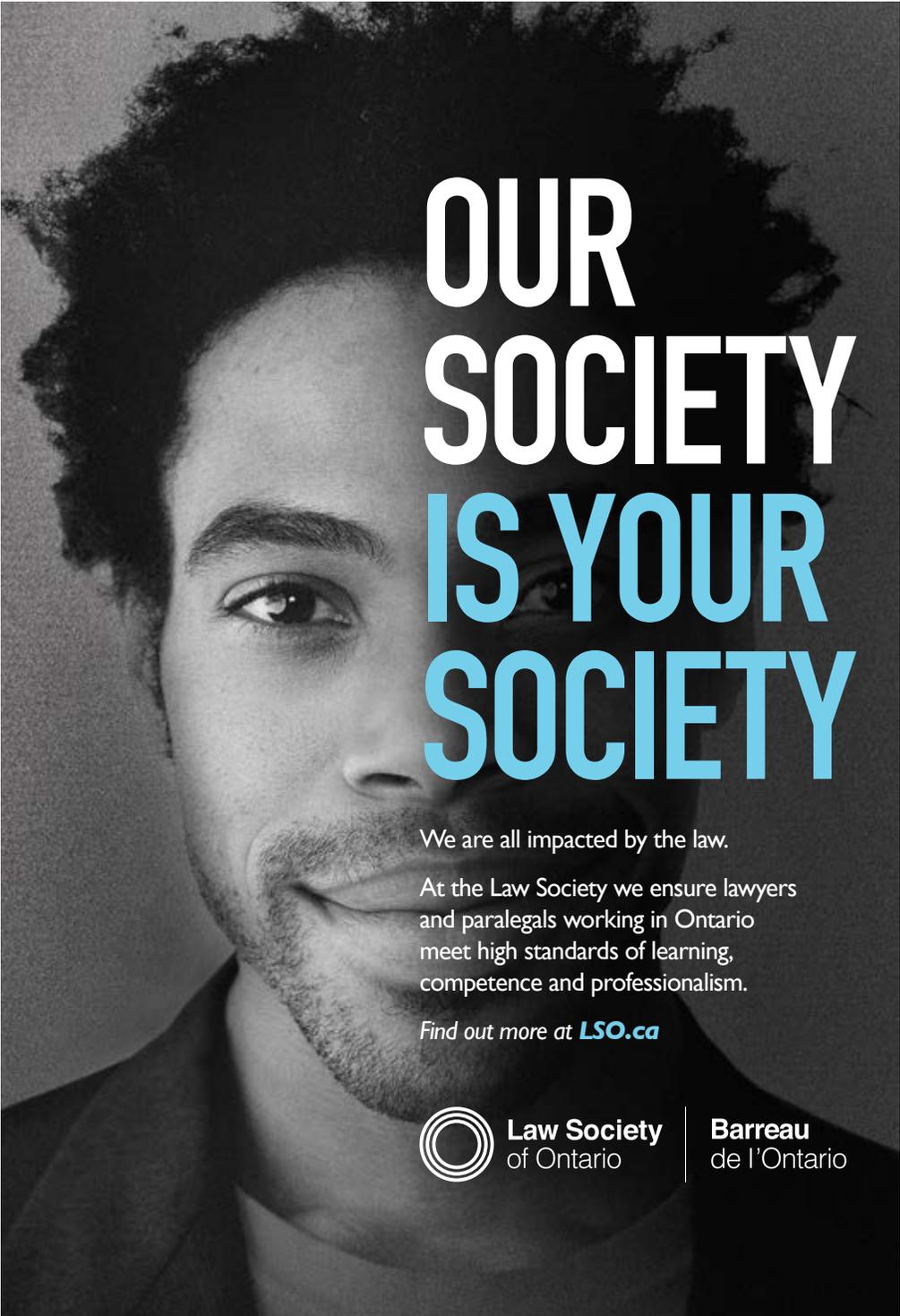
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IN THIS ISSUE

- 06 **Jake Shears – Bryen Dunn**
- 10 **David Guetta – Allison Kugel**
- 14 **Wigged Out: Scene Queens – Boa**
- 16 **She Beat: Rita Colucci – Cat Grant**
- 18 **Bumble-ini: Mandy Goodhandy – Paul Bellini**
- 20 **A Kodak Moment: Marcus Syrus Ware – Boyd Kodak**
- 22 **Beyond the Village: Wasted Youth – Raymond Helkio**
- 24 **BUZZPicks – Sherry Sylvain**



Greetings and salutations!

In our last issue, we featured female music icons Cyndi Lauper and Gwen Stefani, so for this issue I thought we should shine the spotlight on a couple of well-known male musicians who have been shaking things up in the music industry for quite some time.

Jake Shears burst into the spotlight back in 2004, as the lead vocalist with the campy New York City outfit, *Scissor Sisters*. Since then, he's become internationally known for his falsetto-like vocals that catapulted that act to superb success, with such hits as "Comfortably Numb", "Tits On The Radio", "Filthy Gorgeous", and the sing-a-long smash, "Let's Have a Kiki". He opens up about his recovery from a bad breakup that helped propel him to going solo after the band went on hiatus. His new album is as catchy, and campy, as ever, offering up everything from disco and funk, to country and rock. Catch him here in Toronto on November 5, where he promises to throw in all those classic *Scissor Sisters* tunes, along with his new solo stuff.

David Guetta has been a staple on the house-music DJ scene for decades, one of the original pioneers that brought DJs to the forefront of large-scale festivals. He's toured the world playing to mass crowds, and collaborated with top musicians in the industry, such as Sia, Flo Rida, Nicki Minaj, Rihanna, and The Black Eyed Peas. He's recently released his seventh studio album, and chats about how he created his own rules to achieve success, and how he's gone back to his electronic roots for this new album, "7."

Our special guest Wigged Out columnist for this issue is **Boa**, who provides a great update from several queens who are making their mark on the scene. Cat Grant spoke with film and television director **Rita Colucci** to discuss the importance of family, and what she's currently working on. Boyd Kodak chatted with Toronto artist, educator, and activist, **Marcus Syrus Ware**, about his current work and upcoming exhibitions in Vancouver and Guelph. Paul Bellini caught up with the wonderful **Mandy Goodhandy** to discuss her new memoir and CD release, while Raymond Helkio spoke with Mike Taylor, owner of **Wasted Youth**, the newest queer venue along Bloor Street West. 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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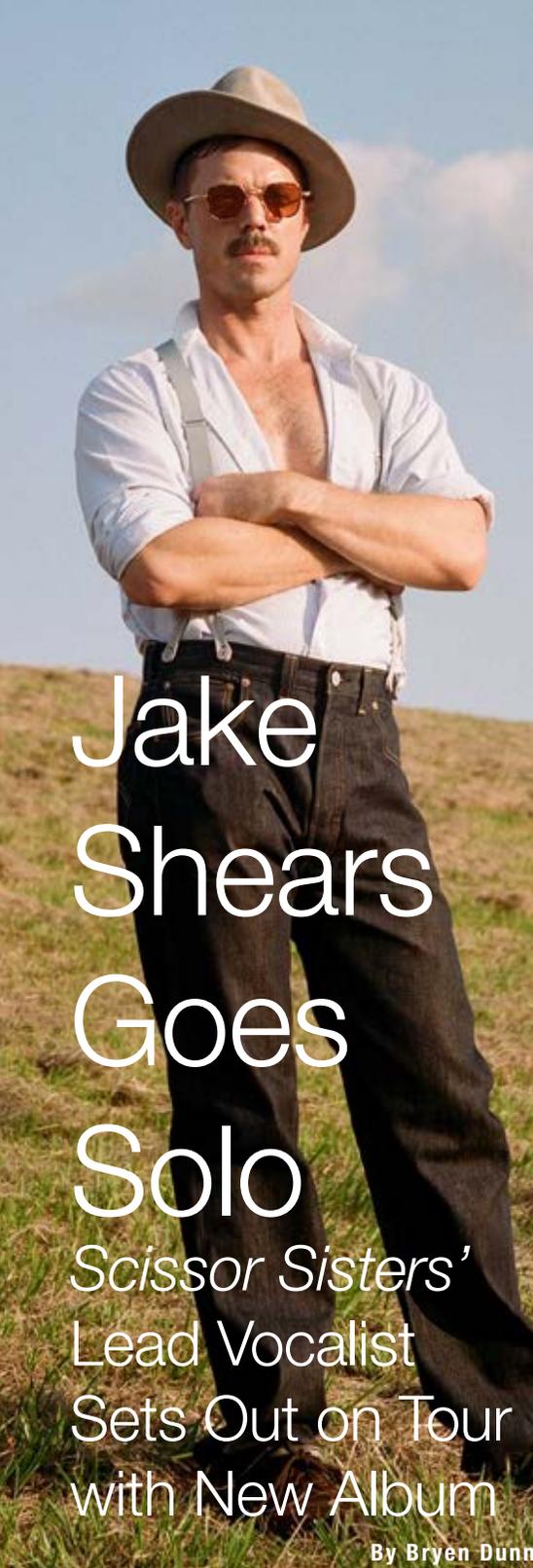
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Jake Shears is in a happy place, with thoughts of a busy and creative future ahead of him. The lead vocalist for the uber popular *Scissor Sisters* has just released a solo album, and is embarking on his first major solo tour this fall with a stop here in Toronto.

Prior to this current state of happiness though, it was a rough relationship break-up with his longtime partner back in 2015 that took him through some of the darkest periods in his life, and allowed him to write this debut solo album. He decided to relocate to New Orleans, and begin anew. "I had so much fun creating this album. Writing songs makes me happy. There's no other joy like it. I actually had the whole record written before I knew who would produce it," he states.

It was in *The Big Easy* that Shears connected with producer Kevin Ratterman, a veteran in the music industry. The two decided to go back to the roots of music recording, collaborating with well-known musicians from the area, and recorded each song in a live take using reel-to-reel technology. "Once we found each other, we recorded the album from the ground up. I wanted to make it like all my favourite records from the past were made. The majority of songs were recorded live in one take. It was scary starting out, being a production nerd and all, so I put a lot of trust in Kevin. He's an amazing producer," Shears continues.

To guide the vibe of this new release, Shears and Ratterman selected two monumental albums, each significant to pop culture, yet exceptionally different musically - *Lou Reed's* "Transformer" (1972) and the *Bee Gees'* "Odessa" (1969). Ratterman then assembled a cast of musicians from the likes of *LaMontagne*, *My Morning Jacket*, and *Afghan Whigs*, while Shears brought in *Christian Hebel* (Barbra Streisand) and *Lance Horne* (Alan Cumming) to do string and brass arrangements, before returning to New Orleans to capture the city's sound with the *Preservation Hall Jazz Band* and *Sturgill Simpson's* brass section. The result is a polished recording that's a mix of twang, jazz, disco, funk, and soul.

Jake Shears Goes Solo

Scissor Sisters'
Lead Vocalist
Sets Out on Tour
with New Album

By Bryen Dunn



Gorgeous,” and over five years since the band went on hiatus after achieving worldwide success.

Speaking about his solo effort, “It was a complicated record to make, the biggest undertaking I ever had as it was self-funded as well, yet it was so much fun making this album. All musicians were in the same room, where we could actually see each other, and laugh with each other. It was like summer camp, as I was living in the studio for months, sleeping and eating there. It was my whole world for a while,” he smiles.

“I like taking my favourite sounds in music and combining them altogether. Although they don’t feel like they should go together, I still like to do it. During this recording I was able to really solidify what my sound is, that sound that I’ve been aiming for and reaching for a long time. I realized I didn’t have to shy away from being me, and not feeling like I had to reinvent myself after leaving my band and going solo.”

*I want a big bushy mustache
And a silky carpet with the drapes to match
I'd grow one if my girlfriend let me but she thinks
they're trash
I want a porn star handlebar
And a neon pink Mustang as my second car
Takes a bushy mustache to show them who you
really are*

Born in suburban Mesa, Arizona before relocating with his family to Washington State, he later moved from Seattle to New York, Brooklyn, and Williamsburg, before settling down in Los Angeles, and most recently New Orleans. He came out to his parents at the age of 15, based on advice from sex columnist, Dan Savage. He’s always been a glam rock admirer, and a huge fan of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which most likely accounts for his over the top gender-blending stage persona. During his time in New York City, he took odd jobs as a writer at *Paper Magazine*, waited tables at various restaurants, and was a go-go dancer at a gay strip club called *IC Boys*.

It was ten days after Sept. 11, and shortly after his return from a European backpacking trip, that he and his pal Scott Hoffman performed for the first time under the name of *Scissor Sisters*. It’s now been 14 years since that band released their debut smash album, featuring hits, “Comfortably Numb” and “Filthy

The video for the catchy lead single, “Big Bushy Mustache,” is as campy as you can get. It also features a cameo appearance by *Josh Homme*, founder and lead singer/guitarist with *Queens of the Stone Age*. Shears also wrote another track for Homme called, “The Bruiser,” and he dedicated his recent memoir to Homme and his wife, *Brody Dalle*. In 2013, Shears also appeared on the *Queens of the Stone Age* album, “Like Clockwork,” providing backing vocals on the song, “Keep Your Eyes Peeled.” Just two of many celebrity pals he’s made acquaintance with.

He’s collaborated on songs with Cher (*Take It Like A Man*), Kylie Minogue (*I Believe in You, Too Much*), Erasure’s Andy Bell (*Thought It Was You*), and Montreal’s Tiga (*Hot In Here*). He’s also likely distantly related to Dolly Parton, and he dated Anderson Cooper a while back. However, one of his biggest



collaborations was with none other than *Sir Elton John*, who played piano and co-wrote the *Scissor Sisters* hit, "I Don't Feel Like Dancin'." *Elton John* also contributed to the song, "Intermission," and played piano on a demo of the song, "Bad Shit."

So it should come as no surprise that Shears and John are collaborating on a musical which he was unable to share many details on. "We've been working on it for a while. We set it down, pick it back up again, and eventually we'll get there. I love writing musicals, even though it's one of the hardest things to create. It's like a big puzzle putting it together." Shears has previously dabbled in acting, starring in the Los Angeles production of *Bent*, playing the part of Greta, followed by his New York City Broadway debut as Charlie Price in *Kinky Boots*. Previously he was part of the writing team for the musical version of Armistead Maupin's novel, *Tales Of The City*.

Despite his connection to many famed musicians, he chose to stay clear from collaborations on this new

album. "It was important for me to do it on my own. It was important for me to figure out how to do that, to go with the stuff I'm good at. It's very theatrical style, yet definitely has a lot of *Morning Jacket* blood and DNA on this album."

Shears recently turned 40 on October 3, and couldn't be happier to be in the space he's at now. "I feel really good about it. I'm proud of my accomplishments, and I worked very hard for them. I'm imagining what the next ten years will look like, and I have some pretty big dreams ahead. I'm always working on stuff, and currently have a movie in development as well. I like remaining creative, planting seeds, and not knowing what's going to grow next."

Toronto is the only date on this current North American tour, and he was quick to state, "I'm super excited to be playing Toronto. I love that city." As for what fans can expect, "The show is a combination of *Scissor Sisters* music and my new solo work. We take some of the older deeper cuts and put them in the context of the newer tunes. I can't turn my back on the past, as I'm proud of it, and it makes fans really happy to hear it."

In terms of a possible *Scissor Sisters* reunion, Shears shrugs and says, "Maybe after I do three more of my own albums. Although there is great magic within a group, I'm really enjoying the freedom of being on my own as well."

Fans should also take note that he recently penned his memoir, *Boys Keep Swinging* (www.simonandschuster.com), for those who want to know more about this talented mind.

Jake Shears plays the Mod Club in Toronto on November 5, 2018.

www.jakeshears.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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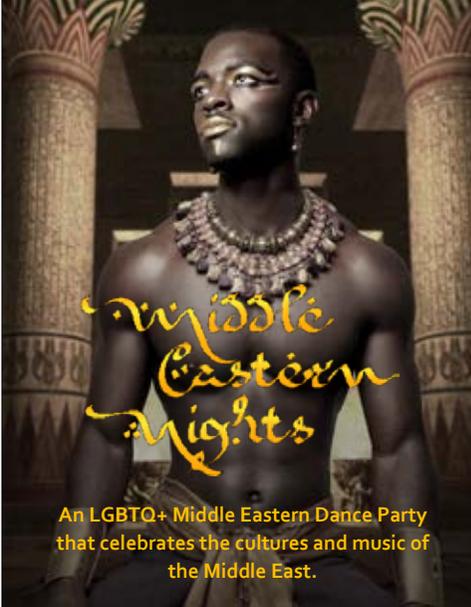
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David Guetta has become a music impresario, churning out beat-banging, genre-busting pop songs that have been topping the charts for nearly a decade, with mega hits like *Titanium* featuring Sia; *Where Them Girls At* featuring Flo Rida and Nicki Minaj; *Club Can't Handle Me* featuring Flo Rida; *Who's That Chick* featuring Rihanna, and *I Gotta Feeling* featuring The Black Eyed Peas.

Guetta is the King of Collabs. His creative input on a song almost assures chart topping status and his fans have dubbed his music, "Guetta-blasters," an homage to his bold immersion into hip hop culture, and his constant and effortless ability to blend hip hop and pop music with an addictive beat.

Born in France to liberal intellectuals who shunned materialism, Guetta says he yearned for a more glamorous life, which he soon discovered in Europe's underground club scene where he began deejaying as a teenager. He also fell in love with all things American, as he described to me, delving into American books, movies and music, while yearning to conquer the stateside music scene.

During our conversation, we discussed his seventh studio album, simply titled, "7." It's an eclectic, genre-fluid collection of emotionally charged lyrics and hypnotic melodies. Of course, the album is full of Guetta's famous collaborations, with the likes of *Sia*, *Jason Derulo*, and Canadian *Justin Bieber*.

Was your creative vision of merging electronic dance music with urban music there from the start, or did it evolve into that because of the opportunities that came your way?

This may sound crazy, but when I was a kid and I began deejaying, there was no electronic music (*laughs*). When I was a teenager I was playing funk, and then I went to hip hop and then house music. That's why for me, it's kind of natural, because I come from this culture. Then I just moved to a different style, and one day I was able to merge them altogether. I love music, in general. I like to create emotions with my music, and I like to make people dance.

You're the first deejay I've seen that has been able to transcend, not just across various musical genres, but you have been able to get to the point where you're

David Guetta Talks Hip Hop Culture and Lucky Number "7"



considered a mainstream recording artist in your own right. How did you create this space for yourself that really didn't exist before?

That's what is so interesting to me. The world is a certain way, the music industry is a certain way, and if you want to be part of a certain "family," you're told, "This is the way things are done." To me, you don't have to follow those rules. I created my own rules. At that time, I was extremely criticized for this. And then everybody did the same. I want to create my own rules, basically. That's how I have always been doing it, and that's how I'm doing it now.

Every song on your new album has a completely different sound and emotional tone to it. From your perspective, is there any one theme that ties the album together?

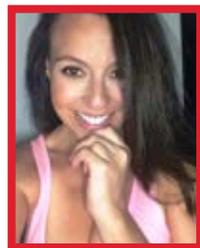
This album is called "7." It is my seventh album, but the number seven also represents the end of a cycle; a week is seven days, the creation of the world in the Bible is seven days and my birthday is on [November 7th]. That number is kind of magic to me. What I did with this album, we were talking about how I merged different styles in the past and created a new style of pop music. I wanted to go back to my roots and do a full pop album in different styles. I'm going to do a full electronic album that is completely going back to my roots and being completely underground. So basically, instead of compromising, I'm going to create those magic moments with an album that I could play in the festivals, in the clubs, and be able to have played on the radio. It came down to either being very pop or hip hop for the radio or being underground again in the clubs. I wanted this album to be real.

What is the difference, culturally, between how your music is received in Europe versus North America?

It's extremely different. There was this magic moment in my career where I brought people together and opened doors for this kind of music in the U.S. It was a special moment of pop music that transcended genre, around 2009, 2010 and 2011. Now, in the U.S., it's mainly hip hop. Among the biggest deejays in Europe, I am probably the one that is in the middle, culture-wise. The bigger deejays in Europe could probably not be as successful in the U.S. Hip hop has absorbed every culture there was, in the United States. Hip hop stars are the new rock stars in the U.S. They act like it and they dress like it. They don't use the old hip hop codes; they use the rock n' roll codes. I think that kids who would have in the past been into rock or alternative music, those same kids today are into hip hop. They relate to that rebellious, provocative culture. I think it's very interesting how they absorbed this. In Europe, if you want to be cool and different, you would likely be into underground dance music.

David Guetta's seventh studio album, "7," is available now at www.davidguetta.com. Follow on Twitter @davidguetta.

Allison Kugel is a syndicated entertainment columnist and author of the book, *Journaling Fame: a memoir of a life unhinged and on the record*. Follow her on Instagram @theallisonkugel and at AllisonKugel.com.



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BY BOA

SCENE QUEENS

Gay Christmas is right around the corner and that of course means the annual Queen Of Halloween competition at *Woodys* is approaching as well. This annual Halloween on Church Street staple has been going on for over a dozen years, with only the best looks and most creative performances, and the night is sure to be another absolute monster mash!

This years competition will be hosted by **Sofonda Cox** and **Heroine**, and takes place October 23. As always it will be sponsored by *Mike's Hard Lemonade*.

Heroine's Dinner Party is hosted by local comedy queen *Heroine*, who has once again reinvented herself and set the bar higher in the local and online scene by creating her very own lifestyle website. It's full of comedy, with tips and tricks on how to be a perfect host, as well as delicious Italian recipes that are sure to dazzle your guests. The fun doesn't stop there, as the new website is also accompanied by her very own YouTube channel, with videos of all her favourite tips, recipes, and drink mixtures! Check out www.HeroinesDinnerParty.com

Toronto's **Death Drop Queen**, *Eve Summers*, one of Toronto's skinny legends, has taken Toronto drag culture by storm after premiering her latest self taught *death drop*. What started as a night of Jagermeister indulgence, ended with a video of the icon on the floor of an *A&W* doing her newest signature move. "For me, it's been the single greatest endeavour that I've decided to embark on. I'm planning on changing the way drag is looked at on a national scale," she threatens.

#WithSephora - local queen *Ivory Towers* has teamed up with well-known cosmetic company *Sephora Canada* on a new campaign about different kinds of beauty. The ad is streaming all over the internet as well as in ads across Ontario, including on the massive LED screen above the Toronto Eaton Centre. "I take my insecurities out as a boy and put it into my drag. I don't know where I would be without drag and I don't want to think about it," she smirks.



Photo: Sephora

The Diet Ghosts are a family of miscreants that haunt Toronto's nightlife. Alternative drag done right, this troupe delivers a full production with their over-the-top performances, even completely transforming their venues to fit the theme of their show! Follow @DietGhosts on Facebook and Instagram for show updates..

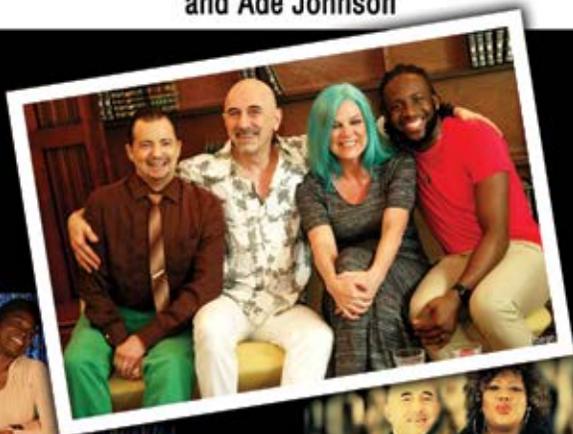
Boa is a performing drag entertainer in the GTA regularly performing on *Church Street* and *El Convento Rico*. Known for outlandish looks, Boa finds her inspiration from movies, television, and all around pop culture.



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Rita Colucci



Photo: Teresa Pavlinek

A thread of creativity runs through director Rita Colucci's family. Her brother's an artist, her sister a chef, and her mother sings, gardens, and cooks.

She told me how she was shocked about one of her mom's hand-painted eggs during an Easter celebration. "I'll never forget her tiny painting of St. Patrick on an egg, and he was just gorgeous with his brown hair dressed all in green with a gold trim and shepherd's crook. It was just an image from her mind."

Rita grew up in Malton, Ontario and loved film of every genre. "I really love utopian/dystopian films that entertain what our world would be like in the future *if...* like the classic film *Metropolis*." She also loves comedies, and foreign films as well. "We get to see and hear the people and artists from other parts of the world. Watching films that are not mainstream North American are so eye opening, and provide a window to the entire world we live in."

Rita ended up working in Los Angeles as a story editor. While there, she studied screenwriting and directing at *UCLA Extension*. Her very first directing project was one she created herself. She wrote, directed, and produced a short/commercial film called *Tylemol*, with her aunt's video camera. She borrowed the \$70 application fee from her brother, who also starred in the film, but initially had doubts about submitting the application at all.

Rita laughs, "We won the *Silver Remi Award* at *WorldFest Houston* that year, for best short commercial film. I framed the award, and gave it to him. I couldn't have made that film without him. The first time I was asked to direct was on a TV series called *Nikita*." She was first Assistant Director, and one day the Director had to catch a flight so he told Rita, "It's all yours, Colucci. I trust you. You're gonna be great."

She has since gone on to work on many other films and series including: *Four Brothers* (2005), *The Perfect Man* (2005), and *Carrie* (2013), to name just a few.

Her most fulfilling experiences as a director are the ones she writes herself, including a play called *Harriet Tubman: The Way to Freedom*. Created for a school in Malton, it featured a cast of Grade 3 to 8 students.

"They were incredibly talented, open, honest, and giving. An older Jamaican woman, a grandmother of one of the students, held my hand at the end of the play and said, 'That was the most moving play I have ever seen.' I will never forget that time."

Rita credits her partner, an actress and comedian, and her daughter, with providing her with inspiration.

"I can also get inspired by the dark things that exist in our world... our politics, sexual harassment in the workplace, bullies, etc. They get me on a level of angry that makes me want to write, and I do."

As for the future, she says, "I'm writing a feature and reading features that some other writers have submitted to my production company, *Redbank Entertainment*, as well. It's a very exciting time!"

www.vimeo.com/redbankent
www.instagram.com/redbank
 Facebook: Rita Colucci.

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





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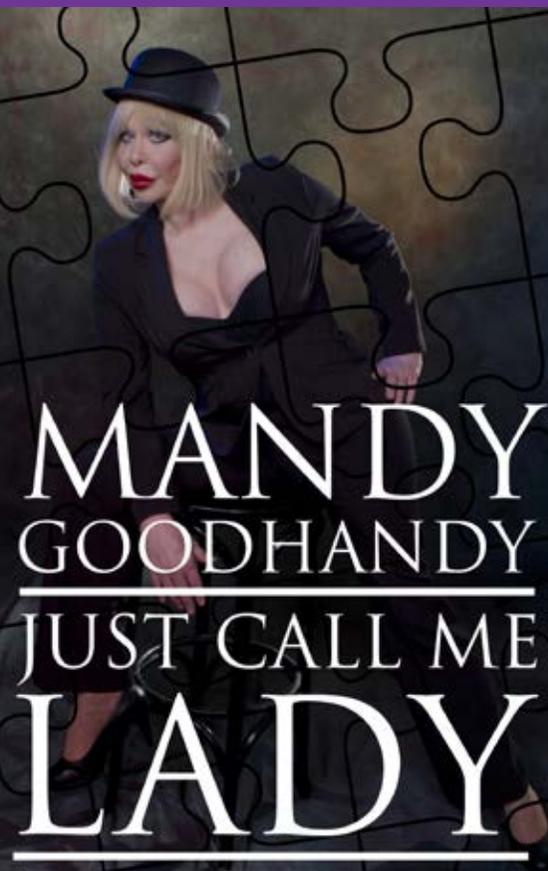
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MANDY GOODHANDY



***Just Call Me Lady* is the autobiography of Mandy Goodhandy. Some people regard Mandy as a weirdo or a hooker, but it's impossible to read this book and not see the full humanity and soul of this remarkable person.**

For the record, Mandy is a transwoman who, along with Todd Klink, runs the popular bar *Club 120* (and lover level *120 Diner*). Before that, it was a sex club called *Goodhandy's*, where I spent the better part of the last decade. Wednesday nights, she'd host while good-looking boys wandered around naked, quite possibly the most fun atmosphere ever.

I interviewed Mandy three times for *fab* magazine, and I thought I knew everything about her. But *Just Call Me Lady*

is a revelation. She begins her life journey in Scotland as a bairn (Scottish for 'child'), showering with other girls after a swim and not realizing that they all thought she was in the wrong place, because of her male genitalia. She talks about her family life, her stern but loving Scottish parents, and the people she grew up with after moving to Ontario. She talks about being a Sea Cadet, and how she had to practice being a boy because nothing about it came naturally to her. We follow her journey as a young man having gay relationships and hanging out in gay bars, and how she eventually became an erotic dancer, and then the proprietor of an all-male stripper agency.

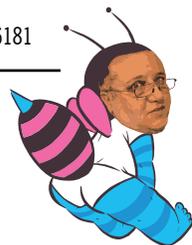
Then came the transition, which is actually the most natural part of the book. Mandy talks about turning her bar into a safe space for both male prostitutes and T-girls, as well as hosting functions for all kinds of sexual outlaws. Eventually, she was honoured to be named Grand Marshall for the 2010 Pride Parade, although that was the year fraught with QAIA (Queers Against Israel Apartheid) bullshit, so it wasn't all that much fun for her. She briefly touches on the fact that she became Canada's first transwoman stand-up comedian, and has now transitioned into a credible jazz singer. She also just released a CD of jazz standards. Is there anything she can't do?

It ends with her health scare, when she almost died a few years ago from a silicone injection gone wrong. It's a great book: a story of a transwoman who shaped her own identity, lived by it absolutely, and found fulfillment both as a woman and as an artist. It's written in her voice, and the honesty and passion is on every page. What's even better is that she is ours, a part of the Toronto queer community who is both a leader and a keen observer. The full title of the book is *Just Call Me Lady: A Work of Completion*. It is complete, but let's hope it's not the last of Mandy Goodhandy. And frankly, I can't wait to hear that CD.

Just Call Me Lady is available at Glad Day Bookshop, 499 Church St., Toronto.

Join Mandy as she celebrates her 65th birthday at Club 120 (120 Church St.) on Nov. 28 from 6 PM to 8 PM, followed by Girls Night Out Jazz.
www.facebook.com/events/2151698741746181

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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*Weight loss should not be considered typical. **Income level achievements are dependent upon the individual Associate's business skills, personal ambition, time, commitment, activity and demographic factors.



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Syrus Marcus Ware

This issue I have the honour of interviewing the incredibly talented and truly amazing, Syrus Marcus Ware, who is a Vanier Scholar, PhD Candidate, Artist, Educator, and Activist.

He's a facilitator/designer for the *Cultural Leaders Lab* (Toronto Arts Council & The Banff Centre), and was the inaugural artist-in-residence for *Daniels Spectrum* (2016/2017). As a visual artist, Syrus works within the mediums of painting, installation and performance to challenge systemic oppression.

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

Syrus Marcus Ware - I've been busy making art and curating exhibitions. I am also an activist with *Black Lives Matter Toronto*, and have been busy with direct action. I've done two month-long artist residencies (in Vancouver and Santa Fe) and have exhibited my work widely. It's been a busy year!

BK - Wow, outstanding achievement. During that time, what was the one most exciting event for you?

SMW - I was thrilled to have had the chance to be part of Liza Balkan's *Out the Window*, directed by Sarah Garton Stanley and Tanisha Taft. This play explored police brutality, madness and disability justice, and was part of the *Luminato* 2018 season. I also did two projects for last year's *Nuit Blanche* and had the most excellent time exploring social movements through art.

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

SMW - I have a solo show opening at the *grunt gallery* in Vancouver (opens November 1, 2018) based on the research from my residency last year. I'm also working to finish parts of my PhD studies, and am looking forward to spending some quality time with my 8-year-old daughter.

BK - That's lovely, your daughter is so adorable. Terrific year lined up. Where can we see your work?

SMW - I have some drawings on display at the *Art Gallery of Guelph* this fall as part of the *Critical Mass* exhibition. The show runs September 13, 2018 to January 6, 2019.

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

SMW - Art and activism are such a beautiful pairing. Keep creating and keep dreaming of a world wherein we all get to be free.



Photo: Jalani Morgan

BK - Perfect. Finish this sentence for us. The last thing I do before I go to sleep at night is...

SMW - Check my schedule for the next day, kiss my daughter on the forehead and text my identical twin good night!

Find out more about Syrus, including past projects and activism work, at www.syrusmarcusware.com.

Also, listen in on the airwaves, Resistance on the Sound Dial – CIUT 89.5 FM
www.ciut.fm/events/resistance-on-the-sound-dial

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



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WASTED YOUTH



Over the past several years, the west end of Toronto has become something of a queer hub. However, there's one space in particular at 834 Bloor Street West, that has seen its share of hardships. **Less Bar** provided a safe space for queers to party, offering everything from ecliptic local band nights to non-alcoholic events that attracted a crowd that was as hip as the space itself. Faced with escalating operational costs the bar unfortunately closed up after three short months in business, but just like a little engine that could, the space reopened as **Wolf Like Me**, which also met its fate. Now it's back third time strong, recently reopened as **Wasted Youth**.

Mike Taylor, former manager of *Wolf Like Me*, had run a successful Kickstarter Campaign for that bar which raised over \$12,000 in under two weeks, proving that the community still places high-value on spaces to play. Taylor has now taken up ownership of *Wasted Youth*, with the plan to create a similar experience to *Wolf Like Me*, but also raising the

cocktail bar experience by providing high quality drinks at affordable prices. The common link between all these spaces is their willingness and desire to create spaces that are welcoming to our community, which is crucial at a time when dedicated LGBT venues are on the decline.

"Our opening night saw many familiar faces come in, some that I haven't seen in years. All coming out to support this thing. The room was packed and the energy was just what I needed to remember that this is a place the neighbourhood loves. I knew we were going to have something special again," says Taylor.

He continues, "The most challenging part about opening the bar has been trying to re-establish the brand that went away with *Wolf Like Me*. I got more than my fair share of raised eyebrows after leaving before it's closure. I had a vision for the place as bar manager and was very much the core visionary of what the bar was conceptually, from a menu and vibe aspect, and the owners and I didn't always align with what that was." So when the owners wanted to turn the space into a sports bar, Taylor took this as his cue to leave.

Inexpensive craft beers and cocktails, such as the "Wasted Manhattan" and the "Tearonto", are combined with soul nurturing tunes to create a vibe that few queers can resist. In looking to the future Mike hopes to become a local hub for the community, adding "That place you know will be a fun time, great music will be playing, and you can leave the place at the end of the night knowing you got some good value to go with it. I would like it to be a spot where local musicians and artists, service friends and shift workers, and everybody in between will know that when they come through the door they will be in a place that they can unwind and chat to your neighbour. Put your phone away and just have a good time talking to like-minded people. I feel like we are well on our way to establishing that."

Open daily from 5pm until 2am.

Wasted Youth
834 Bloor Street West, Toronto
wastedyouthbar.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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COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

FML Mondays

Mondays, 11:00 p.m.

Church Street's only Monday Night Dance Party. Featuring all the best hip hop, top 40, and dance. Plus, the weekly FML Drag Extravaganza. No cover.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto
www.facebook.com/MoJoToronto

Tuneful Tuesdays

Tuesday, 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

The Bobo Show

Wednesdays, 10:00 p.m.

Drag starlet Scarlett Bobo and her special guests tear up the stage for you, every Wednesday. Drag, live singing, dancing, comedy... and anything else they can come up with.

The Drink, 459 Church St., Toronto
www.drinkatthedrink.com

Ultimate Thursdays

Thursdays, 9:00 p.m.

Crews: 9 p.m. — Katinka Kature & Guest(s) then at 11:30 p.m. it's Ivory Towers with special guests; Tangos: 10 p.m. — DJ Craig Dominic spins until close. The Zone: 10 p.m. — Vocal Rehab Karaoke

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

GORGE

Sundays, noon to 4:00 p.m.

Join Scarlett Bobo and Ivory Towers at Church Street's newest, biggest buffet on the block. Book your reservation and enjoy the delicious spread while being entertained by two delectable beauties.

The Drink, 459 Church St., Toronto
www.drinkatthedrink.com

Black Rock Slam: Trans and Queer Positive Open Mic Night

October 24, November 28; 8:30 p.m.

East King Productions, Gay Jesus, and Adam from Black Rock Slam, work together to create a safer inclusive space for trans and queers of all ages that are interested in Open Mic.

Black Rock Coffee & Bar, 677 Bloor St. W., Toronto
www.facebook.com/groups/345877289236198

Backdoor Toronto - Underground Queer Warehouse Party

October 26, 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Backdoor Toronto is a one night queer pop-up party where anything goes and everyone is welcome. Leave your labels behind as you go harder, deeper, and longer. No ATM on site, no tickets at the door.

Secret Location
www.facebook.com/perfectloversss

Damn Fine Party

October 27 7:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

You've stumbled upon a small, kitschy town stuck in the 1990s. It seems perfectly normal, but that's precisely what a small town with secrets would feel like... think Twin Peaks. **\$35 - \$42.** No tickets at the door.

Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.eventbrite.ca/e/damn-fine-party-tickets-49293481129

Hollywood Halloween

October 27, 9:00 p.m.

LGBTQ Halloween party with celebrity style - dress code definitely includes glamour. Featuring DJ Dallas.

Eton House, 710 Danforth Ave., Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/273941063443982

Halloween on Church

Oct 31, 6:30 p.m.

Watch as The Village transforms into the city's most wicked street party on Halloween night, Tuesday October 31st. The pedestrian-only boulevard opens up at 6:30pm, and almost instantly the wave of Halloween-dressed revelers begins. Expect thousands of people filling up six blocks along Church Street (Wood Street to Gloucester Street).

www.churchwellesleyvillage.ca

Ms. Opulence

November 2, 5:30 p.m.

Dynamic drag pageant to provide exposure and employment for Toronto's drag queens. Categories: Presentation, Swimwear, Evening Gown, Talent, Question & Answer. Over \$2,500 in prizes! VIP reception 5:00 p.m., General admission 5:30 p.m. Tickets starting at \$30.

The 519 Grand Ballroom, 519 Church Street, Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/1952516711477964





CHARITY BUZZ PICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

Cooking with TPOC

Tuesdays through November 27, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Drop-in Program. Inviting trans people of colour to cook, share a meal, and talk about sexual health in an affirming environment. No registration required. All cooking tools and ingredients will be provided.

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St., Toronto
www.the519.org

Light The Night Toronto

October 18, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fundraiser to support vital research and other programs related to blood cancer. Join thousands of people walking with an illuminated lantern to show your connection to the cause.

Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.lightthenight.ca/walk-locations/ontario/toronto

Toronto Soup Festival

October 20 & 21, from noon

A two-day outdoor festival serving up some of the best soups in the city in support of Second Harvest food program. Recovering fresh, surplus food and delivering it to 253 partner agencies.

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

United for Autism - Funk Disco Halloween Bash

October 26, 7:00 p.m.

A night of funky fun dressed up in the spirit of Halloween. Three amazing bands to take you back to retro nights and good times. Boogie for Autism and have a bash.

The Pilot, 22 Cumberland St., Toronto
www.ausumcharity.org

Break Free 5K

October 27, 11:00 a.m.

Break Free 5K is not your typical run and is a celebration of healthy lifestyles that allows you to play along the way. Walk or run a 5K and partake in the optional Play Stations.

Ashbridges Bay Park, 1561 Lakeshore Blvd. E., Toronto
www.runtoquit.com/break-free-5k-toronto-2-p199864

Men Having Babies

October 27, noon to 6:30 p.m.

Men Having Babies (MHB), in partnership with Toronto's "The 519" LGBTQ Community Centre, are offering their first Canadian mini-conference dedicated to Surrogacy.

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St., Toronto
www.the519.org

TICOT Drag Bingo

October 28, November 25; 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

Monster Dash

October 28, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Entertainment before and after the run, fun aerobic warm-up, costume contest, awards, and loads of activities for an amazing evening. Supporting Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital Foundation.

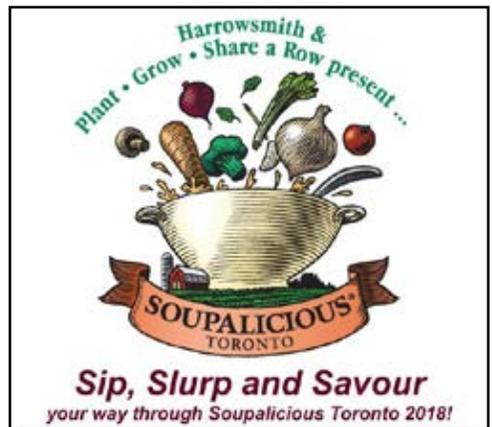
Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd., Toronto
www.monsterdash.ca

Souपालicious Toronto

November 4, noon to 3:00 p.m.

Now an annual treat of Toronto's food event scene, that has the added flavour of supporting local food-growing and sharing through the Plant a Row – Grow a Row program.

St. Archangel Michael Church, 212 Delaware Ave., Toronto
www.souपालicious.ca



Regal Beagle Bingo

November 4, December 2; 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 with maximum four cards per patron. Raffle draws. Proceeds to Reign 31's charities.

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

GENERAL BUZZPICKS

By Sherry Sylvain

The Trinity Bellwoods Flea - Autumn Market

October 21, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A stellar lineup of Toronto's best local, handmade, fashion, art, food, and vintage vendors. Bringing you the best goods this city has to offer with over 50 vendors to choose from. Admission is free.

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

Haunted Market 2

October 21, 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Get in the Halloween spirit. A ghoulish selection of vendors offering Arts & Crafts, Collectibles, Clothing, Toys, Posters and more. Free Admission.

Eyesore Cinema, 1176 Bloor St. W., Toronto
www.toindiehorrorfest.com

Classic Albums Live: The Beatles The White Album

October 26, 8:00 p.m.

A roster of A-list musicians from across the country perform rock favourites exactly as you remember hearing them, note for note, cut for cut.

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



The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

November 2 to 11, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy ten days of world-class livestock and horticultural competition, dining, shopping, entertainment and the country's best Horse Show.

Enercare Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto
www.royalfair.org

Voices of Freedom Concert hosted by Céline Peterson

November 3, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Bravo Niagara!'s Voices of Freedom Concert will bring together some of the best in Canadian jazz and soulful music, to highlight inclusiveness, empowerment, and the importance of freedom.

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines
www.firstontariopac.ca

The National Women's Show

November 9 to 12

Over 450 exhibits with everything from food and wine sampling, fashion shows, celebrity guests, free makeovers, health, wellness and beauty secrets, cooking demos, home renovation advice, and more.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building,
222 Bremner Blvd., Toronto
www.mtccc.com

Winter Festival of Lights

November 3, 2018 to January 31, 2019

Canada's largest lights festival features a beautifully decorated 8 km long lighting route, and attracts over one million visitors annually.

Various sites around Niagara Falls, ON
www.vfol.com

Toronto Christmas Market

November 15 to December 23

Featuring hundreds of unique and locally handcrafted products, stunning light canopies, family friendly entertainment, heated mulled wine, beer and hospitality gardens, and of course, Santa and his elves.

Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Toronto
www.torontochristmasmarket.com

Women's Blues Revue

November 16, 8:00 p.m.

The Women's Blues Revue returns with its 32nd edition, featuring some of Canada's finest musicians, backed by the all-star Women's Blues Revue Band.

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

Toronto's Chanukah Market

November 25, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A new festive festival takes place one week before the 8-day Jewish observance of Chanukah. Check out a selection of vendors offering a profusion of delicacies unique to Jewish heritage and tradition.

The Warehouse, 2-35 Carl Hall Rd., Toronto
www.facebook.com/events/2072374069671371

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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