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The Editor

Greetings and Salutations!

Margaret Cho has been making people laugh for over four decades now, beginning at a very early age doing the college circuit, before rising to stardom working alongside the likes of Jerry Springer and Arsenio Hall. She's also dabbled in so many other projects, including acting, writing, burlesque, and her most recent venture into the world of podcasts. Not one to shy away from anything, Canadian fans will have an opportunity to catch her "Fresh Off The Bloat" tour during a stop at Montreal Pride, and later in the fall in Winnipeg.

Our second feature takes a look at the illustrious career of Linda Manzer, a woman many may never have heard of, but perhaps have heard the sounds of her work through the musicianship of others who own one of the many guitars she has made over the years. After attending a performance by Joni Mitchell in the 1960s, and inspired by the instrument she was playing, Manzer decided to build something similar from a kit she purchased. After attending art college, she continued on the path of guitar making, and has collaborated with some of the greatest names in the music industry, such as Pat Metheny and Paul Simon. She's currently working on a series of Adventurous Guitars out of her Toronto studio.

As for our columns, they are all just as equally exciting! Our guest Wigged Out columnist is Montreal's madame, Rita Baga, who gives us the scoop on all the drag happening in her wonderful city as they celebrate Pride this month. Cat Grant speaks with DJ Dallas, a staple in the clubs for many decades who will be launching a new party night this fall, while Boyd Kodak goes behind the scenes with Director, Jennifer Walls, to find out about a new Rocky Horror Show production she's involved with. Paul Bellini caught up with hilarious potty-mouth, Pam Ann, to discuss her new tour that stops here in Toronto in September, and Raymond Helkio spoke with a former Toronto couple who moved to Prince Edward County, and recently opened up 2 Gallery, a wonderful space that's already gaining recognition within the art world.

Don't forget to flip to the back pages for our popular BUZZpicks events listings, where you'll find an eclectic mix of Toronto events and Road Trip suggestions, all compiled

by our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain. As always, thanks to our designer, Mychol Scully, for making us all look so beautiful!

Thanks for picking us up. Keep it cool, and enjoy the read!

Bryen Dunn Editor-in-Chief









Margaret Cho grew up in San Francisco, where her parents ran a bookstore that specialized in gay literature, so it comes as no surprise that many of her friends and supporters are from within the LGBT+ community. "I grew up and went to grammar school on Haight Street during the 70s. There were old hippies, ex-druggies, burnouts, drag queens, and Chinese people. To say it was a melting pot — that's the least of it. It was a really confusing, enlightening, wonderful time," she says.

She dabbled in a variety of interesting jobs, including a phone sex operator and dominatrix, before she started doing the stand-up comedy college circuit. It was in the 80s that things started to change for her, as she began getting gigs working alongside notable names as *Jerry Seinfeld, Arsenio Hall*, and *Bob Hope*. By the 90s she was the first Asian-American woman to have her own network sitcom (*All-American Girl*), and since then she has dabbled in burlesque, music, writing, acting, and fashion along the way, during her four decade career path to where she is at today.

Cho is playing a couple of upcoming Canadian dates on her most current tour, *Fresh off the Bloat*, that includes Montreal Pride on August 16, and Winnipeg on October 4. Launched in the fall of 2017, the tour has travelled worldwide, and is somewhat based around her time in rehab in 2016 for drug, alcohol, and sex addictions, and an attempt at suicide. Dark topics for comedy, yet it has been described as her "sickest show to date, providing razor sharp insight with her takes on addiction, abuse, activism, and Asianness."

When asked if there were any topics that might be considered too taboo to discuss on stage, she simply answered, "No, none that I can think of." She's not afraid to discuss her sexuality openly, and in her current show she proudly boasts, "I'm bisexual, so I am the B in the LGBT," joking that the "B is often silent... except in porn." She was quoted in Huffington Post as stating, "Maybe pansexual is technically the more correct term, but I like bisexual because it's kind of 70s." She also once told Rolling Stone magazine that she's a "dick widow,"

referring to herself as a woman whose friends are primarily gay men.

She cites her comedic inspirations were Joan Rivers, Robin Williams, and Kathy Griffin, and now she's an inspiration for many up and coming women. Some of her accolades to date include, being ranked as *Rolling Stone* magazine's *50 Best Stand-Up Comics of All Time*, and CNN named her one of the 50 People Who Changed American Comedy.

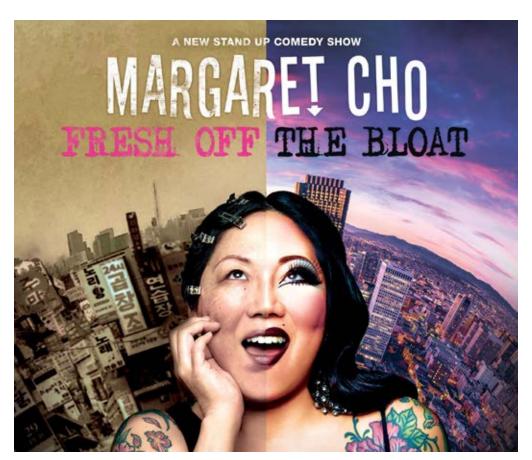
Television viewers may recall her role as Kim Jong II and Kim Jong Un on 30 Rock. The similarities don't stop with this portrayal either. Her Korean name is Moran, which was the name of Kim Jong II's production company when he was a film director, before a dictator. Wait, what? She was also a contestant on Season 11 of Dancing with the Stars, paired with dancer Louie Van Amstel. Always one to stir things up with a no holds barred approach, she wore her Rainbow Dancing Dress on one episode, and proclaimed, "I am very proud to have been able to wear a gay pride dress on a show that is so conservative."

With a reach of over a million on her various social media outlets, she uses her voice to challenge and advocate for various causes, including politics, bullying, racism, and LGBT rights. In 2007, Cho hit the road with *Cyndi Lauper, Debbie Harry, Erasure, The Dresden Dolls*, and Toronto indie-rockers, *The Cliks*, to host the True Colors Tour benefiting the Human Rights Campaign, which made a stop here in Toronto.

"I love Toronto and can't wait to go back," she exclaims. She's also had a long affiliation with the city. She worked with The Cliks on their video for "Eyes in the Back of My Head," in which she appeared as Lucas Silveira's lover. As a guest on the now defunct CBC show, *The Hour*, she told host *George Stroumboulopoulos* that she loved the Canadian indie-rock outfit, *Broken Social Scene*, and wanted to be part of the band. Right then and there, Stroumbo called band member Kevin Drew live on the air to pass along her message.

Recently she was working on *Highland*, a dramedy about a woman fresh out of rehab who has to oversee her very needy, very dysfunctional, Korean-American family. Sounds like something she might have some knowledge on, but she advised that it has been shelved for the time being, but not dead.

Cho's latest venture is her new podcast with Earios launched last month, simply titled, *The Margaret Cho*, where she interviews a variety of interesting individuals. The 36-episode first season features guests such as celebrity stylist *Jonathan Van Ness*, legendary tattoo artist *Kat Von D*, and fellow comedian *Michael Yo*, to name a few. New episodes are released each Tuesday.



"I am a big fan of all sorts of podcasts and I thought it was about time to put my own hat into the ring! I really think it would be good for you to have my voice in your ear talking about all sorts of things while you clean your house or drive in soul crushing traffic," says Cho. "It wouldn't just be me, but also my famous friends talking to you while you sort and fold, and drive, and bathe. Basically, we have a really interesting conversation and in the end, we will all be better people with clean homes that we don't mind driving to and from. I'm going to have some well known names, as well as others that people should know about, or soon will," she states.

Always one to support the LGBT+ community, she recently hosted the closing ceremonies at *WorldPride* in New York City earlier this summer, that featured musical guests, *Jake Shears, Deborah Cox*, and *Melissa Etheridge*. "I had such an amazing time. There's no place I would have rather been than onstage representing my community," she said. She is also taking part in the upcoming *Voice for the Animal Foundation* fundraiser on September 27 in Santa Monica, with *Lily Tomlin* and *Kevin Nealan*.

Speaking of animals, her adorably cute adopted chihuahua, Lucia, is a bit of a star herself. She travels with Cho around the world, attending events, and garnering her own notoriety on social media sites. "I bring her everywhere with me. She's my baby," Cho proclaims.

Make sure to keep your eyes, and ears, open for what Ms. Cho and Ms. Lucia get up to next!

www.margaretcho.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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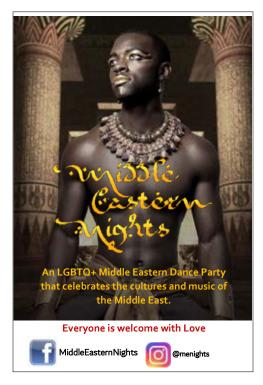
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Linda Manzer is a talented master luthier (a maker of stringed instruments), and is internationally renowned for her archtop, flat top, and harp guitars. Born and raised in Toronto, Linda has lived on both coasts of Canada for short periods of time.

Her parents were in England for WW II, with careers that got short changed by the war. Linda said, "They had fire in their belly for whatever they did so maybe I inherited that. Both of them loved the arts in their own way, and my dad always had an incredible record collection."

As a teenager Linda went to see Joni Mitchell performing at the Mariposa Folk Festival in the mid 60s and she was playing a dulcimer, which is an Appalachian folk instrument with three strings. "I was fascinated with it, and went to purchase one at the Toronto folklore centre, but discovered it was too expensive. The fellow in the store convinced me I could make

one from a kit for half the price. Thank you, thank You!" Linda exclaimed. "He talked me into buying it, and once I put the strings on, I discovered the magic of creating something that makes music."

After attending art college Linda eventually realized her calling was to hunt down someone, anyone who could teach her how to make this skilled craft her own. Linda explains, "I was incredibly fortunate to have studied with two of the best guitar makers of our time. I studied arch top guitar making in the mid-eighties with the late James D'Aquisto (who studied under John D'Angelico), and I started my guitar making career in 1974 as an apprentice with Canada's own Jean Claude Larrivee, the father of guitar making in Canada."

Linda doesn't play guitar much anymore. She told me, "At one point I wanted to be a folksinger but I'm pretty sure I'm not very good at it. Luckily I redirected my love of music into guitar making. I play a lot less now because I'm so busy building, and I realize to be a better player I really need to apply myself. Listening to some of my clients play makes me know I have a lot of work to do before I can even come close to their skill level... I just enjoy listening."

After building musical instruments for over 40 years Linda has a pretty strong opinion about how to design her guitars,

but also loves working with musicians to have a clear musical idea of what they want. "It really varies how much interaction I have with my clients." Linda elaborates, "Collaboration with them can be very exciting. Some people just let me do my thing, while others have a strong opinion, and in essence I become their hands to make the instrument that they are dreaming of."

Linda has Studios in Almonte and Toronto, where she handcrafts from the finest of Rosewood. Spruce, Maple, Cedar, Ebony and Mahogany trees. It's hard for her to pick a favourite, as whichever guitar Linda is working with at the moment is the one most interesting to her. "A few notable guitars in my career are the Pikasso, which has 42 strings and was made for Pat Metheny in 1984. the baritone guitar which was also made for Pat, and was the first acoustic baritone guitar that I know of. I also made him a Sitar Guitar. which sounds like a combination of a guitar and a sitar." Linda confided that a project she's very proud of is the Group of Seven guitar project. "This brought together myself and six other guitar makers who were the original apprentices of Larrivee."

Most recently Linda made a guitar in honour of her recently deceased mother. "I did a drawing in the peghead of a Heather flower (which was her name.)", explains Linda, "I wanted to make a guitar that honoured her, so I made an elegant parlour guitar, which is slightly smaller, simple and understated, but makes its voice known - just like her."

"Lately I've started using watercolour pencils to sketch on my guitar, incorporating my few years at art college before I became a guitar maker. I've been making a variety of guitars over the years, but I've become quite interested in focusing on two specific areas. One in particular is my love of arch top guitar, which is a more difficult style of guitar to build, and I think incredibly rewarding if you nail it and get it right. The other is that I want to incorporate more of my sketches into the guitar in the form of art. The number one thing about

a guitar is that it has to sound good. Then it has to technically feel good, play good, and the last thing is that it has to look good. There's always room for improvement in those three areas, but I think I've got a handle on making a good sounding and a good feeling guitar. The last aspect, the visual, is where

you can have some fun, that's what I want to explore more. The Lawren Harris guitar in my Group of Seven Guitar Project is a prime example of that." she states.

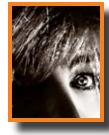
> Linda received a lifetime achievement award from the Woodstock Invitational Guitar Show in Woodstock. New York in 2018. She was honoured and generously shared her limelight by bringing the other women luthiers up on stage with her. Currently Linda is working on a series of Adventurous Guitars. and just finished a very complex and extensive depiction of the universe on all sides of one of the instruments. It took a year, and she named it Dark Universe, which was playfully based on a Star Trek episode called "Mirror, Mirror." Linda concludes, "Once you nail how the guitar sounds and how it feels, then you can play with the artistic side of it, which I am enjoying."

www.manzer.com

Facebook: Linda Manzer / Manzer Guitars

Twitter: Linda Manzer @manzerguitars

Cat Grant (OCAD) is a multidisciplinary fine artist, with a focus on photography, multimedia portraiture, and illustrating children's books. She's also a published poet, and senior reporter for On the Couch LGBTQ TV show.
Facebook @grantedarts















WIGGED OUT

Montreal's Drag Scene

Montreal is really special, we all know that. But when it comes to drag, it's more than special: it's unique. artistic and fierce!

When I first started to perform, twelve years ago (she is experienced, not old, thank you!), we were about 20-25 drags in total, not counting the Halloween drags or the I am a drag queen but I do one show a year. Now, in our little private Facebook group community, we are more than 100!

As a Booking Manager for Cabaret Mado and for Montreal Pride, I try my best to get to know everyone, but it's getting harder. For the past couple of years. Montreal has been running some amazing events outside the village, with scenes and stages exploding everywhere across the city.

I've been labelled a "Drag du Village" for years. Even though I don't like labels (other than the anti-label QUEER), I do appreciate this one. Cabaret Mado is my home, it is where I first started doing this wonderful job, where I host Haus of Baga every Tuesday night, and where I feel safe.

The drag scene is no longer exclusively white gay malecisgender owned. It's more inclusive, in terms of gender identity, sexual orientation, and race. A picture in the dressing room from 12 years ago, versus one from last week, will clearly show that difference.

So, what do we do in Montreal today? What's our typical drag act/style? Let's just say it is atypical! There are so many different styles of drag, it's hard to identify one in particular. We have club kids, pageants, gender blendings, illusionists. classical, artsy, and so many more. In the past, some venues have been known to showcase a style in particular, but it tends to change as the drag scene is changing and evolving.

Our big Pride celebration is coming up this month, and on August 15. Drag Superstars features 12 RuGirls and four local drags. Then the next evening, in the Casino space at Parc des Faubourgs, a new 100% drag night happens. This night will showcase a different casting all night, a singing drag, drag kings, afro drags and the Drag Syndrome crew from the UK. So be prepared to have some fun!

Montreal Pride — www.fiertemtl.com/en Cabaret Mado - www.mado.gc.ca/

[Editor's Note] Montreal Pride happens throughout the city until August 18. Other celebrity entertainment includes Steve Grand and Ciara, along with many local talents, making Pride the queerest party of the year. Events take place outdoors



at Parc des Faubourgs, and also at Casino de Montréal. with many being free to attend. Be sure to stroll along the pedestrian-only Ste. Catherine Street East, the heart of the Village, to support local businesses and local talent. It will be the last year to walk beneath the 1-km long canopy of 180,000 multi-coloured rainbow balls that hang above the street, making a visit to the Village a truly festive experience!

Rita Baga is a fierce, determined and audacious drag queen from Montreal, Quebec, Often called the blessed child of the queer village. Rita has been featured on national television many times, including an eight-episode documentary showcasing her life in and out of drag, "Ils de jour, Elles de

nuit." Powerhouse hostess, she is also a singer, a comedian and has written her own Christmas play that has been touring in five different cities. Instagram: @ritabagaz





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DJ Dallas

Hailing from small town Foxtrap,
Conception Bay in Newfoundland,
Dallas Noftall moved to Toronto in
1986. By 20 she could be found
dancing at The Chez Moi Tavern, a
popular lesbian dance bar, which
is where she was when she was
unexpectedly plucked from the dance
floor to be asked to DJ.

By accident she wound up being their top talent. "I was hired to play music in the dungeon, the holding tank for the lineup. On the second night of my experience, the upstairs DJ fell out of the booth and broke her shoulder. The owner said "We need you upstairs now!" I went upstairs and had to face the music, literally..."

Dallas has been spinning ever since. Besides Chez Moi she played various clubs including, The Rose Café, Decos, The Best Little Warehouse, and even the Men's club, Trax. She's done Pride celebrations in Guelph, Tri-Pride, Toronto, and Newfoundland. She also DJ's for weddings, special events and private parties.

As the women's clubs closed their doors, Dallas settled down, and became a successful Real Estate Agent (CNE CRE) for C-21 Dreams Realty Inc, and currently serves the GTA and surrounding areas. She also married her love, Krissy, and had a son.

When a pal asked her to attend a Chez Moi reunion she realized that a vast demographic was missing out on enjoying their peers, community, and a positive fun space to socialize together. "I walked in and the place was packed! I had not seen hundreds of these women in years, and many others hadn't either, since the early 90s really."

Dallas observed them connecting and reconnecting. "I was like wow, it should actually be called "The Connection", because it just became about that. I thought we need to do this again and again."

DJ Dallas now hosts many fun dances and events throughout Ontario. "It's years later and I'm still doing it everywhere, in as many places as possible. If there are people wanting to dance, then I'll go to their town and venue, and bring the party."



Dallas was shocked to be nominated and then win the Inspire Award for Best Business (2018). She gave a charming and humble acceptance speech. "I never ever thought of my work as being a consideration, so for my colleagues and peers to deem me worthy...! was truly honoured."

A future dream for Dallas is to open a sanctuary type place for older abandoned animals. "We will grow our own food and maybe even have like-minded women share our lives and support each other in our Golden and Glorious Years...like a large family or small village."

Catch DJ Dallas on the Sunset Cabaret Cruise, on Sept 1, 2019. These amazing parties always sell out, so grab your tickets early. Also watch for her Halloween and New Years parties, and a brand new bi-monthly event she announced, Krazy Karaoke Dance Party, beginning September 28 at The Eton House on Danforth Avenue. "I'm so excited! I only have so much room in my home, and it's time to bring that show on the road!"

Facebook: @djdallasrocks

Cat Grant (OCAD) is a multidisciplinary fine artist, with a focus on photography, multimedia portraiture, and illustrating children's books. She's also a published poet, and senior reporter for On the Couch LGBTQ TV show.
Facebook @grantedarts



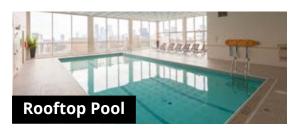
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DAM HUL



Who says you have to be a guy to do drag?

Strictly speaking, drag is character work, and the best queens know that. So it should come as no surprise that there are women who do drag as well. Probably the most famous, internationally, is Pam Ann. The Australian comedian has built an awesome career as a callous, but composed flight attendant. The brainchild of Caroline Reid, Pam Ann was born at a house party where she went dressed as an airline stewardess. She loved the shtick she was doing, and the next morning came up with the character's name. Now, two decades later, she is returning to Toronto. So, fasten your seat belts, ladies and gentlemen, and shut the fuck up during this brief safety demonstration.

I interviewed Pam Ann recently, and asked if she ever actually wanted to be a flight attendant. "Had I been a real flight attendant, many unruly coach passengers would've died!" She's become a sort of a hero to real-life flight attendants, who not only get her humour, but take pleasure in it. "I feel sorry for the flight attendants who start talking to me and invite me to the galley, because I just won't leave, I love chatting so much and sometimes over-stay my welcome, especially after a few Gin and Tonics!"

The amazing thing is not how she has been embraced by audiences, but by airline companies. She's done advertising campaigns for British Airways, Qantas and JetBlue. "I recently became the Proud Ambassador of the brand-new international carrier Air Italy. They have hired me to not only fly their LGBTQ flag, but I will be starring in their brand-new safety video which we will be rolling out in October this year."



Pam Ann's shows are events, with dancers and huge sets. She's also done YouTube parodies of The Sound of Music and the Airport movies. But signature characters, like Dame Edna or Pee Wee Herman, can become a 'trap' for the comedian. Does Caroline feel that way about Pam Ann? "Pam Ann is to me what Mary Poppins was to P.L. Travers. So I'm excited to finally do a show in honour of Mary Poppins, by channelling the magic of her into Pam Ann!" Will there ever be a Pam Ann feature film? "Absolutely, when all the stars align."

I thought it was interesting that Caroline does other characters. According to her Wikipedia page, she does several non-Caucasian characters, like Lily, who is Chinese, or the Latina Conchita, or Air Jamaica's Marcia. In this day and age, where some people cannot wrap their head around the idea of white comedians doing characters of colour, how can she still get away with it? "I've never been booed! The characters are loved by so many people, especially Lily!"

So what is it that makes Pam Ann so beloved by her audiences? "She says what people think, but are too afraid to say. That's what makes her so funny!"

Catch *Pam Ann Returns* at the Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto on September 18th, 2019. Other Canadian dates include Montreal, Calgary, and Vancouver.

www.pamann.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.



A KODAK MOMENT Jennifer Walls

Jennifer Walls is a performer, impressionist, voice actor, producer and director. Her performances have earned critical acclaim across North America and the UK. She's worked with Andrew Lloyd Webber, Ben Vereen, Rebecca Caine, and Colm Wilkenson.

Well known for her contributions to the Toronto Fringe Festival and theatre community, Jennifer recently made her directorial debut at Hart House Theatre, directing "Heathers The Musical", and most recently directed "Just Call Me Lady", with Mandy Goodhandy.

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

Jennifer Walls - Working in the arts I'm always doing a hundred things! I've expanded from performing and voice acting, to directing and teaching. Also, my musical theatre open stage "Singular Sensation"" was relaunched at the 120 Diner.

BK - Which event was most exciting?

JW - I had the privilege of working with the amazing Mandy Goodhandy directing her show "Just Call Me Lady" at Club 120, for Pride this year. She is such a pioneer, and a huge inspiration. I felt truly honoured to bring her incredible story to the stage.

BK - It was terrific! What are you looking forward to next?

JW - I'm currently directing a production of "The Rocky Horror Show". I'm excited to bring a new flavour to this production that focuses on celebrating our differences, and questions the standards that society places on us. The writing in this show is challenging because, in my opinion, it's outdated and alienating. It is important for me to present a show that our LGBTQ+ community, who is still fighting for visibility on a number of levels, feels seen, heard and respected by. We are exploring pronouns used in the show, and how we can turn it on its' head to achieve this. In this production I am inviting audiences to rethink the definition of the "trans" as "transcendent", rather than "transitional" in the context of our story. To me, this changes the character of Frank N' Furter, and makes them more relatable, and doesn't come at the expense of personal identity or orientation. My goal is to



hoto: JZak Kearns

tell a story that follows the journey of a being from a planet of transcendent beings who comes to earth in search of the connection they lack (as well as the understanding of human emotion which they also come to learn). In the process, it opens the minds of conservative Brad and Janet, and challenges them to rethink their ideas of who they are, versus who society has made them believe they should be.

BK - Sounds great! Where can we see your work?

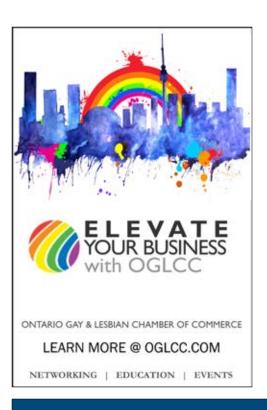
JW - "Singular Sensation" is the third Monday of every month at the 120 Diner, and "Rocky Horror" opens on September 27th at Hart House Theatre (www.harthouse.ca)

BK - Nice. Finish the following sentence for us. The last thing I do before I go to sleep is...

JW - Practice gratitude. The world can be a dark place, so focusing on the good and abundant definitely makes it easier to sleep at night. Oh, and I also hug my popple. Yes, I still have a popple

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







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2 GALLERY



Some may know Jim Turner and Craig Daniels from their incredible work within the Toronto LGBTQ+ community. Between them, they have played a significant role in building the infrastructure behind some of our communities most beloved charities, including the CommunityOne Foundation, Casev House, and the LGBT+ Giving Network. While both are highly skilled in business, anyone who meets them can instantly pick-up on their insatiable creativity and curiosity. It's perhaps these qualities that keep propelling them into newer, more rewarding ventures all the time.

Having recently packed up and moved out of the city to Prince Edward County (PEC), the pair are more than savvy business partners, they've been together as a couple for over 23 years as well. In that time they have garnered a reputation as thoughtful community leaders, whose real magic is being able to foster projects they truly love. Enter 2gallery, their latest venture, which is already a huge hit with PEC locals, and fast becoming a must-see destination for people travelling to PEC for the summer tourist season. In a recent interview with the couple. I asked them about what it's been like building a business with your significant other, as well as the challenges of curating work.

How did 2gallery come about?

The gallery really wasn't a lighting-bolt idea, but rather something that grew organically over the long term. We were introduced to Prince Edward County about a decade ago by close friends who were looking for property out there. The idea of a gallery was always in Jim's mind as a second career, after many years of being involved in the art scene in Toronto.

What do you look for in artwork that make you want to curate and show it?

The big thing is being unique. Creating something I haven't seen before. Something that challenges the viewer, rather than creating a "pretty picture". Also, having a body of work that represents a solid idea and an ongoing exploration of that idea. We really want to show work where the average person can say, "I recognize that specific artist, and I appreciate what they do, they're unique." We like to find work that makes people think, and finding that can sometimes be harder than you think. Also, we are trying to discover what will appeal to our marketplace, both visitors to the brick and mortar gallery and online. That's going to be a process of discovery that will evolve over time. Being collectors, we know what we like, but will anyone else? That's the big question. You also have to ask vourself, what do you want the gallery to be known for?

Expressing their sentiments so far, they commented, "There's so many rewards. Being at the starting point of creating something new in our lives - a new focus for our energies. It's daunting and exciting at the same time. Meeting so many new and exciting people, and adding to our already wide and varied circle of friends.

2gallery, 256 Main Street West, Prince Edward County Wed-Sun, 11am - 5pm www.2gallery.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. www.ravmondhelkio.com www.thereadingsalon.ca







BUZZ Local Picks

CNE

August 16 to September 2

The annual fall fair featuring midway rides and games. exhibits, shows, food and even agricultural events. This is the 140th year of the Canadian National Exhibition - Canada's largest annual fair.

CNE Grounds, 210 Prince's Blvd., Toronto www.theex.com

Xanadu (1980)

August 16, 7:30 p.m.

One of the most notorious flops ever, this film starring Olivia Newton-John and Gene Kelly, is a sheer delight from beginning to end, with a score by ELO (the Electric Light Orchestra). So bad, its good.

The Royal Cinema, 608 College St., Toronto www.theroyal.to

In The Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings from MFAB

Through September 15

Discover the Dutch Golden Age with an exceptional collection of 70 powerful paintings, including works from worldrenowned artists, Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Jan Steen, and Jacob van Ruisdael.

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

Pan American Food and Music Festival

August 17 & 18

Canada's only event that brings together the 41 countries that make up the American continent. With more than 20 chefs. 40 performances and over 600 artists on stage, there is something for everyone.

Yonge-Dundas Square, 1 Dundas St. E., Toronto www.panamfest.com

Summer Music in the Garden

Through September 15

FREE outdoor concerts featuring outstanding artists and a wide range of musical styles. Most Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 4:00 p.m. weather permitting. 416 973 4000 for up-to-the-minute rain call.

Toronto Music Garden, 475 Queen's Quay W., Toronto www.harbourfrontcentre.com/

Anne of Green Gables: The Musical

August 16 to October 6

This beloved show invites you along on one charming adventure after the next, as Anne stumbles her way through a series of scrapes, makes a bosom friend, and searches for kindred spirits.

Lower Ossington Theatre, 100 Ossington Ave., Toronto www.lowerossingtontheatre.com



MuslimFest

August 30 to September 1

MuslimFest strives to build bridges of understanding and share the multicultural heritage of Islam with all Canadians through art, culture, and entertainment.

Mississauga Celebration Square, 300 City Centre Dr., Mississauga

www.mississaugacelebrationsquare.ca

Toronto International BuskerFest

August 30 to September 2

Magicians, musicians, fire acts, jugglers, acrobats and clowns. A Midway, licensed beer garden, fire shows, photo contest. Admission is by cash donation to Epilepsy Toronto. Woodbine Park, 1695 Queen St. E., Toronto www.torontobuskerfest.com

Sunset Cabaret Cruise

Sept 1, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy this two-level party on Lake Ontario, with food, drinks, lounging, and dancing, with the Toronto skyline as your backdrop. DJ Dallas and DJ Hattie mix it up with all music genres, along with performances by Sassy Ray and Troy Boy, and hosted by Jackie O'Fabulous. Tickets, \$50 in advance. 333 Lakeshore Blvd. East at Parliament St. www.facebook.com/events/2295717214013907

FashionTech Toronto

September 10: 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

FashionTech Toronto is Toronto's first, largest, and most respected organization dedicated to connecting Toronto's fashion, retail, and technology leaders with the global fashion-tech industry.

Design Exchange, 234 Bay St., Toronto www.fashiontechtoronto.com



Flamingo Market - Fall Edition

September 15; 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Toronto's only independent bi-monthly market for LGBTQ2SIA+ business owners and makers. FREE admission market that is an all inclusive, child friendly event. Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto www.buddiesinbadtimes.com

Pam Ann Returns

September 18; 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

A brand new show starring the perfectly-inappropriatein-every-way air-hostess Pam Ann. Pam Ann's barbed wit has seen her hilariously negotiate even the most politically incorrect flight path.

Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St., Toronto www.heritagetrust.on.ca/en



Bi Arts Festival

September 19 to 23

CRUSH zine launch w/ readings, Pop-up Art & Craft Fair, Author Showcase, Bi+ Fest, Bi Arts Cabaret, Celebrate Bisexuality Day potluck.

Various Toronto Venues www biartsfestival com

IFL42

September 19 to 29

JFL42 features some of the most hilarious, riveting and relevant comedians they could find, over a 10-day period, plus there are 42 other amazing comedy acts for you to experience.

Various Toronto Venues www.jfl42.com

Bianca Del Rio "It's Jester Joke"

September 26; 7:00 p.m.

A self-proclaimed "clown in a dress" with a raw and racy edge, Bianca Del Rio is a costume designer and theatrical performer, as well as the familiar wisecracking artist from RuPaul's Drag Race.

Danforth Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave., Toronto www.thebiancadelrio.com

Carol Burnett: An Evening Of Laughter And Reflection

September 26; 7:00 p.m.

Burnett will take questions from the audience and show video clips from her shows in a format that harkens back to the legendary openings of 'The Carol Burnett Show'.

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

Cannabis Living Expo

September 28 & 29; from 10:00 a.m.

Showcasing the medicinal properties of cannabis with information and presentations by leading producers and advocates of natural cannabis remedies.

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

Fall For Dance North

October 2 to 6

A striking line-up of 12 works from 11 of the world's most innovative dance companies across three unique programs, featuring a special focus on international Indigenous artists. Various Toronto Venues

www.ffdnorth.com

Shady Queens: The Last Shade - A Benefit For Fife House

October 10: 7:00 p.m.

Part of Fife House's Spotlight program, their largest signature fundraiser has raised more than \$1.3 million since its inception. Funds directly support their programs and services. Danforth Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave., Toronto www.fifehouse.org

RuPaul's Drag Race: Werq The World Tour Oct 17 and 28, 8:00 p.m.

Michelle Visage is on a journey to save the universe with the help of her intergalactic queens, including

Aquaria, Kameron Michaels, Asia O'Hara, Kim Chi, Naomi Smalls, Violet Chachki and many of the queens from Season 11!
Sony Centre, 1 Front Street E, Toronto
www.weratheworld.com



BUZZ Road Trips

Grand River Rodeo

August 16 to 18

Action-packed live sport of rodeo, with events including barrel racing, bareback and saddle brong riding, and the world's most dangerous sport, bull riding.

Under the Water Tower, Highway 25 at Fife Rd., Grand Valley www.facebook.com/GrandRiverRodeo

Line Dancing

1st and 3rd Friday of each month through January 3, 2020

Join DJ Wayne and one of the many instructors to learn a few new dances and then dance the night away with old favourites. Great for beginners and seasoned dancers alike. \$5.00 each.

The Bell Tower, 575 Central Ave., Fort Erie www.thebelltowercommunitv.com

Barrie Artists' and Makers' Market

August 17/ September 21; 8:00 a.m to noon

With a different array of local artists and crafters at each event, you're sure to find something unique and special for yourself, your friends, and your family.

Barrie Farmers' Market, City Hall, Collier & Mulcaster Sts.,

www.barriefarmersmarket.ca

Craftadian - Made in Hamilton

August 17: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A market that celebrates a curated roster of 80 Hamilton-area makers, homemade gourmet food, and lively tunes by DJ Aerlie Wild.

McMaster Innovation Park, 175 Longwood Rd. S., Hamilton www.craftadian.ca

Etsy Visits Stratford

September 8; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Over 50 remarkable Etsy sellers. It will be a fun day to shop and enjoy the most highly curated Etsy shops around. Shop from local Stratford sellers as well as sellers from the Waterloo Region Etsy Team.

Stratford Country Club, 53 Romeo St. N., Stratford www.etsywaterlooregion.com

Sweet Honey Festival

September 21; 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hands on with honeybees; Honey tasting; Honey, wine, cheese, pairings; Make "seed balls"; Local honey and products for sale: Honey Tasting Contest (\$250 prize from Innisfil Creek Honey).

Canadore College West Parry Sound Campus, 1 College Dr., Parry Sound

www.parrysoundapiary.com

Cheech and Chong's O Cannabis Tour

September 26; 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Iconic comedy duo Cheech & Chong defined an era with their hilariously irreverent, satirical, counter-culture comedy routines. They have been entertaining fans for more than four decades.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener www.centreinthesquare.com



Twist and Shout

October 3 to 10

Take a magical mystery tour to the '60s, where peace, love and flower power ruled the day. Relive the greatest hits from many iconic bands and artists of the swinging '60s. Fallsview Casino, 6380 Fallsview Blvd., Niagara Falls www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com

Rumours of Fleetwood Mac - 50th **Anniversary Tour**

October 12: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Encompassing nearly five decades of legendary music and channelling the spirit of Fleetwood Mac at their very best, Rumours of Fleetwood Mac offers a unique opportunity for fans, both old and new.

Budweiser Gardens, 99 Dundas St., London www.budweisergardens.evenue.net

Million Dollar Quartet

October 12; 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

This Tony Award-winning smash-hit musical is inspired by the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins.

Casino Rama Resort, 5899 Rama Rd.. Orillia

www.casinorama.com

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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