

Justin Toodeep • Lez Go • Lucas Silveira • Pride Photos • Lox & Schmear

ON THE GO?  
**TAKE US  
WITH YOU!**

Download the  
theBUZZmag PDF  
from our website.

**Leslie Jordan**

*Lovin' Life on Call Me Kat*

**Uncoupled**

*Neil Patrick Harris is Single*

**Bee Bertrand**

*Trans Comedian Making Us Laugh*

**Soft Cell**

*New Album and Tour*

the  
**BUZZ**

For daily and weekly event listings visit  
[www.thebuzzmag.ca](http://www.thebuzzmag.ca)

AUGUST 2022 / SEPTEMBER 2022

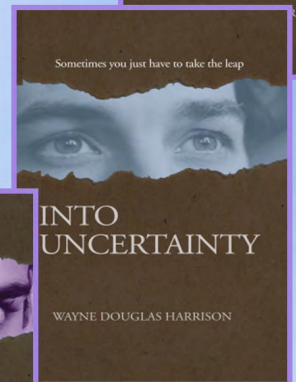
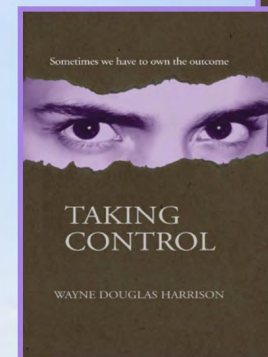
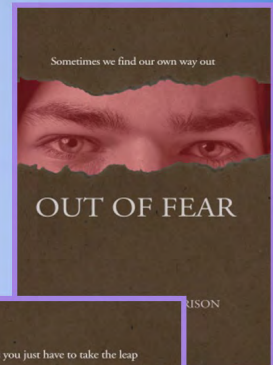
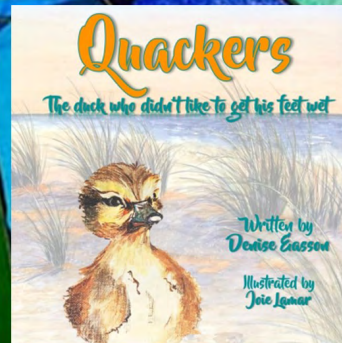
\*\*\* free \*\*\*



# Get YOUR QUEER summer reading ON

Visit our online  
bookstore and stock up  
on titles by queer  
authors from our  
growing library

Keep on reading  
and stay PROUD



Authors, and aspiring writers, talk to us about how we can help you  
realize your dreams. CLICK the SUBMISSIONS tab on our website

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



## Publisher + Creative Director

Antoine Elhashem

## Editor-in-Chief

Bryen Dunn

## Art Director

Mychol Scully

## General Manager

Kim Dobie

## Sales Representatives

Carolyn Burch

## Events Editor

Sherry Sylvain

## Counsel

Jerry Herszkopf Law

## Feature Writers

Bryen Dunn, Melissa MacMullin, Aaron Rothermund

## Columnists

Justin Toodeep, Cat Grant, Boyd Kodak, Rolyn Chambers, Sherry Sylvain

## Cover Photo:

Showcase/Peacock

## Published by

INspired Media Inc.

Operating: INspired Creative, Publishers of The Pink Pages Directory, PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, and The Local Biz Magazine. Producers of On the Couch

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

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

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

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

## Mailing address

205-1691 Pickering Parkway

Pickering, ON L1V 5L9

416.926.9588

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 06 **Leslie Jordan** – Bryen Dunn
- 10 **Uncoupled** — Aaron Rothermund
- 14 **Bee Bertrand** – Melissa MacMullin
- 18 **Soft Cell** – Bryen Dunn
- 20 **Wigged Out: Drag King Success In New Brunswick Drag** – Justin Toodeep
- 22 **She Beat: Lez Go** – Cat Grant
- 26 **Deep Dish: Post Pride Parties** – Rolyn Chambers
- 30 **A Kodak Moment: Lucas Silveira** – Boyd Kodak
- 32 **Beyond the Village: Lox + Schmeat** – Sherry Sylvain
- 34 **BUZZPicks** – Sherry Sylvain



Greetings and Salutations,

We are excited to present you with our wonderful summer issue featuring a variety of talented individuals, including the lovable actor **Leslie Jordan** on our cover, talented television personalities **Darren Star** and **Jeffrey Richman**, along with up-and-coming trans comedian **Bee Bertrand**, and an interview with the legendary 80s synth band, **Soft Cell**.

In our main cover feature, Jordan discusses his current role on the CTV comedy series, *Call Me Kat*, as well as his recent tell-all memoir, and country gospel album that he recorded with a multitude of celebrities. The out actor gained notoriety during the pandemic for his hilarious social media feeds, garnering him 5.8 million followers on *Instagram*. Aaron Rothermund had the opportunity to interview the showrunners (Star, Richmond) of the new *Netflix* limited series, *Uncoupled*. These queer television pioneers chat about how on-screen representation has changed over their storied careers.

Trans comedian Bertrand describes his works as a mix of absurd and weird, but humble and wholesome. The fresh face on the scene has already had success performing at several festivals, and sharing the stage with the likes of **Sean Cullen** and **Bif Naked**. He's also a published writer, and is working on a scripted comedy series that he will also act in. There likely aren't many people who haven't heard the song *Tainted Love* by **Soft Cell**. The duo of **Marc Almond** and **Dave Ball** rose to international success with that 1981 recording, and now in 2022 they have just released a full album of new material and are touring select cities in North America.

Our guest *Wigged Out* writer is New Brunswick Drag King, **Justin Toodeep**, who explains what it's like to create a safe space for everyone, even if that means building your own community. Cat Grant caught up with partners in life and passion, **Jennifer Tennant** and **Kris Rochard**, who started the Ottawa social group, *Lez Go*. Boyd Kodak spoke with **Lucas Silveira**, former frontman for *The Clicks*, who has just released a new album of solo material. Rolyn Chambers takes us back to his favourite festivities at **Pride Toronto** this year with a special photo wrap. Sherry Sylvain once again does double duty, penning our *Beyond The Village* article spotlighting the non-binary owned and socially conscious **Lox & Schmeat** bagel shop, and also compiling our BUZZ Pick Event Listings of the very best the GTA has to offer.

Enjoy the read!

Bryen Dunn  
Editor-in-Chief



# Inspire

## AWARDS

### 11th ANNUAL

**Hart House,  
University of Toronto**

**September 16th, 2022**

**VIP \$100 - 6:00PM**  
**General \$40 - 6:30PM**

Available at  
[www.inspireawards.ca](http://www.inspireawards.ca)

#THANKYOUfrontlineworkers  
#INSPIRElove

**Cocktail Reception**  
*featuring*  
The Naked Harpist  
Forte - Toronto Gay Men's Chorus

**Awards Ceremony**  
*Host*  
Deb Pearce  
*Ceremony Stage Opening*  
2Spirit/trans drum group  
"Circle of Cedar Singers"

*Featuring*  
Tucker & Dancers  
A Bollywood EXTRAVAGNZA  
featuring QUEENS Mallika, Paddy Nabra, and Rimi Heart

**Garden Party**  
*Host*  
TBA  
*featuring*  
Elana Harte  
Danny Dymond

*And*  
**Simone Denny**  
**Dancing until closing with DJ Black Cat**

**CELEBRATING OUR lgbtq2s+ COMMUNITY**

Person . Youth . Business . Community Organization

Community Heart Award

Charles Roy Award for Activism in HIV/AIDS

LUX Award for the Art

Accenture Innovator Award

Lifetime Achievement

International Icon

**PLUS Special Presentation: Front Line Workers**

PRESENTED BY COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*PinkPlayMags & The Pink Pages Directory, Pride Toronto, AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black CAP), Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP), Canadian Independent Grocery Buyers Alliance (CIGBA), and Toronto Trans Alliance*

PRESENTING SPONSOR Accenture





Out actor [Leslie Jordan](#) became a household name playing the role of the Beverley Leslie, socialite and frenemy of Karen Walker, on *Will & Grace*. Snappy and spunky, he's well known for his Southern drawl, and his sweet demeanour.

During COVID, he gained throngs of new fans when he started sharing his mundane, yet hilarious, thoughts online via his social media channels. TheBUZZ recently caught up with him to chat about all that he's been up to since, including releasing a memoir, an album, and his recurring role as the flamboyant Phil on the FOX comedy series, *Call Me Kat*. Not bad for a 4-foot-11, 67-year-old gay man!

Jordan was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee within a Southern Baptist family. He would continue to embrace this upbringing throughout his life, aiding in his recovery from addictions, and putting him front and centre stage in *Southern Baptist Sissies*, a play about growing up gay in a conservative Baptist church. He also made his mark on stage with an autobiographical stage show titled, *Hysterical Blindness and Other Southern Tragedies That Have Plagued My Life Thus Far*. The production, in which Jordan was backed by a gospel choir singing satirical songs about racism and homophobia, was produced off-Broadway and ran for seven months. Next, he distilled his experiences into an autobiographical one-man show, *My Trip Down the Pink Carpet*.

## Call Me Kat

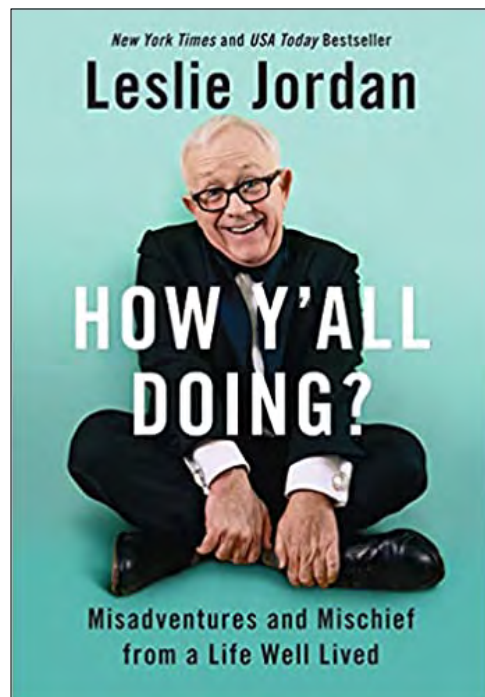
He's currently starring in a recurring role on *Call Me Kat*, which is largely based on the British sitcom *Miranda*, by **Miranda Hart**. The series is written by **Darlene Hunt**, with **Mayim Bialik** playing the lead role, along with **Cheyenne Jackson**, **Kyla Pratt**, **Julian Gant**, and **Swoosie Kurtz**. The premise for the show is based around a 39-year-old single woman named Kat who left her job as a university professor to open a cat café in Louisville, Kentucky. Jordan plays Phil, a newly single gay man who works as the head baker at the café. Premiering on January 3, 2021, the series has just been renewed for a third season, which debuts on September 29, 2022.

Jordan seems to be having the time of his life portraying this character, whom he states, "is very close to myself. I think it's my most favourite character I ever played because it's me." As for Jordan's ability to bake and cook, he giggles, "I can, but I don't." The Phil character was originally written for a female named Phyllis, a sad woman who was recently divorced. After a number of failed auditions, show writer Hunt approached Jordan for the role, and it was rewritten for him.

Jordan says it's like one big family at the studios. "We have so much fun, our dressing room doors are always open, and us troublemakers are on the top floor," he laughs. The series came about as a replacement for *Mom* which was not being renewed. Jordan divulged that many of the cast and crew went over to the *Call Me Kat* production.

As for him having any say in how the character is portrayed, he offered some words of wisdom. "I learned a long time ago that film is a director's medium, stage is an actor's medium, and television is a writer's medium. *Will & Grace* once had





25 writers. I'll sometimes make tiny suggestions where I can maybe touch it up laugh wise, but they basically told me *You'll get the laugh where we put the laugh*," referring to the laugh track, given that there is no audience.

## How Y'all Doing?

The idea behind penning his cleverly titled memoir, *How Y'all Doing?* stemmed from his sudden rise as a viral sensation based on his quirky video clips recorded during the initial days of the pandemic. He recorded himself at all hours of the day, in various states of disarray, and racked up millions of viewers as the days lingered on. Now, fans can indulge further into his hilarious wit with this collection of intimate and sassy essays. Whether he's writing about his brush with a group of ruffians in a West Hollywood Starbucks, or an unexpected phone call from legendary Hollywood star **Debbie Reynolds**, Jordan infuses each story with his fresh and saucy humour and pure heart. He explained how it all came together. "*Harper Collins* approached me and said they loved my Instagram posts, then offered me a book deal for X amount of money and told me they needed it by a certain date. It was that easy," he divulged.

## Canadian Connection

In 1967, a young Jordan had an early brush with show business as a member of the **Chattanooga Boys Choir**, when the group travelled to Montreal for the *Expo 67* world's fair, and the centenary celebrations for Canada's Confederation.

"I remember everything about it. We went through New York City on the way there and I got to see my first Broadway show." He's since been back to Canada many times. "We shot in Edmonton, and I can't tell you how many shows I've shot in Vancouver over the years. I think Canadians are like old hippies. They are so laid back. I never met a Canadian I didn't like."

Fast forward to 2022, and the senior-age Jordan is suddenly back singing his heart out again, releasing his own gospel album, *Company's Comin'*, with a slew of celebrity guests that includes duet partners, **Dolly Parton**, **Eddie Vedder**, **Tanya Tucker**, **Brandi Carlile**, **T.J. Osborne**, and more. **Travis Howard**, who is also involved with *Call Me Kat*, produced the album. The pair are friends and have known each other for nearly four decades. Jordan explained that all of the songs were done separately. "I laid down my tracks, and sent to the others to record theirs. I wanted it to sound like we were all there in the living room. We had some of the best musicians around. That was never on my list. I can sing hymns, but I don't think of myself a singer," he confesses. As for his favourite off the album he chose his duet with **Dolly Parton**, *Where The Soul Never Dies*, the only hymn on the album he said he hadn't sung in church.

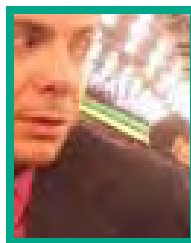
## A Night in Jail With Robert Downey Jr.

So, with such a fun-filled life and career, what would he recall as his most outrageous moment to date? "I once spent a night in a jail cell with **Robert Downey Jr.** It was before I became sober, and we were both arrested separately and held in the same holding tank. It was October 11, 1997, and I realized that the gig was up. It was time to put the plug in the jug. I drank for 33 years and have been sober ever since. For anyone struggling, there's hope."

So, what's next? "I feel I have accomplished everything I wanted to since I stepped off that bus in Hollywood back in 1982. It's just kind of gravy from here on out. I can pick and choose. I'm fairly set financially, so I'm at a point where I can turn things down. My dream is for *Call Me Kat* to run for a few more years," he confides.

With so much accomplished over the past couple of tumultuous years, Jordan hilariously jokes, "Give me a good pandemic and I'll flourish." No truer words have been spoken!

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.



Specialists in Residential, Corporate, and Estate Moves, Local and Long Distance, Heated Storage, Quality Packing Supplies, On-site and In-Home Packing Services. Totally a Full Service Company!

Fully Licensed & Insured and WSIB Certified

Now in our 41<sup>st</sup> Year!

542 Mt. Pleasant Rd.  
416-922-9595

THE BOX SPOT  
Packing & Moving Supplies  
www.boxspot.com

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

### Advertising Account Consultant

**INspired Media Inc.**, the publishers of **The Pink Pages Directory** (Canada's largest and most trusted LGBTQ Business Directory for 28 years), along with **theBUZZ** and **PinkPlayMags** magazines, and producer of the talk show **On the Couch**, has openings for an **Advertising Account Consultant in Toronto.**

**Contract position**  
**Commission-based**  
**Independent**

Includes prospecting to and connecting with potential new clientele on both a local and national level

Minimum 2 years experience in sales with print/online or other forms of media preferred

Proven strong sales skills, excellent verbal, written and interpersonal skills

Please submit resume to **INspired Media Inc.**  
**inquiries@inspiredcreative.ca**

### DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Have a you ever wanted to be a blogger for a very successful print magazine and website read by thousands of readers?

**theBUZZ** and **PinkPlayMags**, two of the LGBTQ community's most loved **Entertainment & Lifestyle** publications, are looking for enthusiastic bloggers to join our media family.

A fun, playful attitude is more important than experience.

**GET IN TOUCH**  
**editor@pinkplaymags.com**



# Netflix Unleashes UNCOUPLED

Showrunners Jeffrey Richman and Darren Star  
Discuss The Limited Series

By Aaron Rothermund

**Prolific showrunners, Jeffrey Richman and Darren Star have joined forces to create the brand-new streaming series, *Uncoupled*.**

The 8-episode Netflix show focuses on Michael Lawson (Neil Patrick Harris) as he lives out his (seemingly) perfect life alongside his dashing partner Colin McKenna (Tuc Watkins).

Although a successful New York real estate agent, Michael's world turns upside down when Colin tells him that after 17 years of being together, he would like to end their relationship. Now Michael must navigate his emotional trauma, while starting over in his mid-forties. Over the course of the series, Michael rediscovers his sense of self after learning to let go of his pain and find clarity in his life.

"I think for us, two gay creators, it was extremely important that our leading man in *Uncoupled* be an out gay actor because they have not had the same opportunities that straight actors have had," Richman tells me. "The playing field has not been level for a long time. I think that straight actors had been traditionally hired to play a part like this, and lauded for their bravery in taking that part. Neil is so unbelievably authentic and truthful in this character that no other actor, gay or straight, could have done that."

## Gaying The Way

Star raised awareness for the queer community by introducing one of the first openly gay roles on prime-time television. **Matt Fielding** (played by straight actor, Doug Savant) appeared on *Melrose Place* from 1992-1998. This complex character was the target of homophobic abuse, including losing his job (twice), because of his sexual orientation and being gay bashed (twice), because of his appearance and mannerisms. Matt functioned as the show's amateur detective until he eventually became a doctor, and he also married a female coworker to help her, and her daughter stay in the country.

"We were circumscribed in terms of stories we could tell about Matt. There was fear about what advertisers accepted. There was a gay kiss that was filmed, and then it was cut by Fox at the last minute," Star recalls. "But we did see him hold hands with another man that was in the military (during) 'don't ask, don't tell.' Those were the stories of people that were hiding and those were the stories we were telling because there weren't any examples of gay men 30 years ago that were living their lives in an open way."

Although *Melrose Place* won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Drama Series in 1993, Star tells me he was "basically sitting at an empty table because no one wanted to show up, but that to me is a testament to how far things have come, and that we're just living in a different world that allows us to do a very honest, frank, real show about a gay relationship that hopefully is going to resonate with everyone."



Star is also well known for creating *Sex and the City* (1998-2004) in which he explored sexual fluidity in the provocative character Samantha Jones (played by **Kim Cattrall**) and continuing this study into last year's *And Just Like That...* in which we saw the character Miranda Hobbes (played by openly queer actor, **Cynthia Nixon**) come out as lesbian. Most notably Star meditated on the juxtaposition of newer and older generations in the workforce, and the resurgence of gender and sexual fluidity in his LGBTQ2S+ inclusive hit *Younger*, which ran from 2015-2021.

## The Modern Gay

Richman is no stranger to openly gay actors portraying gay characters. In fact, he created the 2003 TV series, *Charlie Lawrence* starring **Nathan Lane** as an actor turned congressperson that also happens to be gay. "There just were no out gay actors," Richman recalls. "Nathan was basically one of the first. He had just done *The Producers*, and that was a sweepstakes, because everyone wanted to develop for that actor because he had exploded once again. But the year before that I did a pilot called *Say Uncle*, about a gay man who inherits children. We could not find an actor to play that part. **Ken Olin**, an actor who was in *Thirtysomething* and is now a producer/director, was my hero because he was straight, but he took the part."

Most recently Richman created the widely popular television comedy, *Modern Family* that ran from 2009-2020. *Modern Family* displayed a complicated and loving relationship



between Mitchell Pritchett (played by the openly gay actor **Jesse Tyler Ferguson**) and Cameron Tucker (**Eric Stonestreet**).

Both of these successful showrunners are breaking down barriers between the queer community and the mainstream media. "That's the thing about being on streaming networks, you're not subject to what advertisers think," Star mentions. "So that opens things up to the kind of stories you can tell."

*Uncoupled* proudly displays openly queer actors as out gay characters living fully realized lives in New York City. We've been patiently waiting to see the often-underrepresented population of middle-aged gay men and lesbians as they learn to adjust to modern marvels, such as cancel culture, vacuous dating sites, and borderline manic social media mavens.

See how Michael grieves for his old life as he celebrates the next steps in his journey of healing and self-discovery. *Uncoupled* is now streaming on Netflix.

Aaron Rothermund is a freelance writer, theatre creator, and filmmaker. Aaron has worked on articles for The Courier, Culture Days, theBUZZ, and PinkPlayMags.







Are you on track to achieve your retirement goals?

At IG Wealth Management, we believe in retirement planning that goes beyond RRSPs. With an IG Living Plan™ your retirement goals are synchronized with your whole financial picture.

**Let's review your retirement goals today.**

Helene Ata CFP1, RRC®  
 Division Director/Financial Consultant  
 Cell 416 919 3669 Office 416 292 7229  
 Fax (416) 292-7230  
 Email [helene.ata@ig.ca](mailto:helene.ata@ig.ca)  
 #701- 305 Milner Avenue, Toronto, Ontario. M1B 3V4

| Risk Management | Retirement | Investment | Tax | Estate Preservation |

Trademarks, including IG Wealth Management, are owned by IGM Financial Inc. and licensed to its subsidiary corporations.  
 © Investors Group Inc. 2019 MP2101 (11/2019)



4<sup>th</sup> EDITION

# carnaval des couleurs

**OCT. 7-9**  
MONTREAL

ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT and more +  
**CARNAVALDESCOULEURS.ORG**



# INspired Media inc.

Your "Feel Good" Media

Check us out at  
[www.inspiredmediainc.ca](http://www.inspiredmediainc.ca)

LGBT Friendly Business Network



# BLACK & BLUE 360°

B&B weekend ALLIANCE  
 BAD BOY CLUB MONTREAL  
 DISTRICT PITBULL!

**OCT. 9**  
MONTREAL  
 TOHU  
 circus venue & more  
**BBCM.ORG**



# TORONTO TRANS COMEDIAN BEE BERTRAND TICKLING THE FUNNY BONES WITH LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS

By Melissa MacMullin

Toronto-based comedic writer and stand-up performer, Bee Bertrand, is a trans talent to look out for. Dishing out humour on stage and online soaked in relatable hilarity, he's simply the bee-st.

Bertrand (he/him) was born and raised in the part of east Scarborough he jokes is, "always on the news." He got his stand-up start with *Queer and Present Danger*, Canada's touring LGBTQ+ Comedy Showcase, and has since performed in *Crimson Wave*, *Shade*, *Church Street Comedy*, *Black Sheep Comedy*, *Cara Connors' I'll Be Seeing You*, and was the co-host and co-producer of *Gender Outlaws* with Alice Rose.

"I did a handful of shows my first year and then set out to do 100 shows in my second year," Bee laughed. His brand of material is a self-proclaimed mix of absurd and weird, but humble and wholesome. In 2019, he had been selected as one of the *New Faces of Just for Laughs Montreal*, having opened for Rhea Butcher and Sean Cullen. Bee was close to being at

the top of his game until of course, COVID hit — and that was no laughing matter.

His long-time crush and fairly recent bestie, popular Canadian 90s musician, Bif Naked, pulled him out of his pandemic-induced melancholic head-space by asking him to perform at or host the *Bif Naked Invitational Concert Event* during *Canadian Music Week* this past June. As thrilled as Bee was, he had tested positive for COVID the same day Bif called, and also just found out his estranged father was dying in a nearby hospital. Bif encouraged him to come out and do whatever he could, and so he did, having tested negative in time. The pair originally bonded over their terminally ill pets a few years back when life-long fan, Bee, reached out to Bif offering sympathetic words, and now they're inseparable. "Actually, when I was younger, Bif was the reason my mom asked me if I was gay. I had to think about it because I was like, did she? I was definitely crushing hard. [laughs]"

He got his feet wet in comedic writing during the beginning stages of social media about a decade and a half ago, writing drawn-out, hilarious reviews on random products or places. "If I had a really good experience at a store, or a special drink that I liked, I would write elaborate, obnoxious, but overtly positive reviews that no one asked for and was just honestly wasting people's time. It was to see if anyone would respond



to them, and they did," shared Bee. "I decided to self-publish my reviews and letters in a book, and when I held parties around Toronto as a DJ, I sold them out of my backpack."

Originally schooled for radio broadcasting, Bee worked as a Production Assistant for commercials, loading gear, driving trucks, and taking out garbage. His experiences allowed him to write content for his first-ever performance at a local pool hall's queer comedy night.

Fast forward to 2019, a promoter from *Just for Laughs* attended one of the shows Bee was performing at that night, and about a month later he got a call which would send him on a life-changing course. He was asked to do *Just For Laughs* in Montreal and to test out his material to an 800+ person crowd on a larger-than-life stage. "I felt like I was finally coming into my own and figuring out what comedy was and meant to me, and then COVID happened. I thought maybe I'm done now, maybe this wasn't meant for me," Bee expressed with a hint of disheartened residual feelings.

"One night shortly after, I picked up a kid's book out of the piles I've been carting around from childhood and decided to start reading bedtime stories online to whoever wanted to watch and listen." Soon after *Bedtime Stories with Bee* was born, it garnered a massive response. In fact, he landed a weekly slot on *Bad Dog TV*. "People were engaged, and I had kids sending me videos, it was nice."

He's now writing a wild book of compiled Facebook marketplace ads created from ridding his estranged father's space of peculiar belongings. "The way that my father died in itself was quite comedic in a dark sense. My brother and I had been trying to contact him for so long. There had been many broken promises, a lot of hurt, and no closure. We found out he was dying and heavily sedated in a hospital down the street. He had a moment with my aunts who we've been reunited with, and he could talk. My brother and I decided it was time



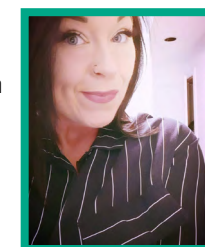
Photo: Natalia Pavlovskaya

to go say goodbye to him. I called him to let him know we'd be visiting the next day, but he said he wasn't feeling well, and he'd call us back. But he didn't. He fucking died. I couldn't believe it. We were devastated, but then laughed until we cried. We're like, how fitting is this? It was everything we had been used to. Absolutely bananas."

Like the rising star he is, Bee plans on getting back to stand-up and is already back at his craft working on writing a 10-episode comedic mini-series with his close friend, Cleo. "We're almost done writing it. It's called *Insufferable*. We're going to act in it ourselves and I can't say I've ever acted before, so I don't know if I'm any good at it. [laughs]" Bee has also been transitioning over the past year. "I've been out as trans for a while with people at work and my friends. But last year was the first time I told my family. I got to the point where I felt like my comedy was really suffering because I wasn't being authentic. It was a secret that is such a large part of me. My mom, grandma, brother, and my girlfriend, Carly, have been amazing supports in my life. And I've been writing new material about being trans. There's just so much comedy in it, weird things happen all the time."

The truth is, you can't make a joke without a wicked twist, and life is full of them — Bee is a master at spinning those twists into purely relatable, raw to the bone, punchy comedy gold.

Melissa MacMullin is a freelance content writer and journalist for leading publications. A strong distinct queer Canadian voice with pride and purpose. Author. Screenwriter. Performer. Part-time adventurer.





# I CHOSE TO

CONFIDE IN A FRIEND

GO TO THE HOSPITAL

CALL A HOTLINE

GET LEGAL ADVICE

GET COUNSELLING

CALL THE POLICE

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, you have choices.

Find out what your choices are at  
**YOURCHOICE.TO**



This project has been made possible by a grant from the Government of Ontario

**Ontario**



LGBTQ2S+ Support  
yourchoice.to/  
lgbtq2s.php



Indigenous 2-Spirit Support  
yourchoice.to/  
indigenous-two-spirit.php

LOCATION HOSPITALITY VALUE

## Fall Fever Specials! **Cartier Place** SUITE HOTEL



BOOK DIRECT FOR DISCOUNTS\*



**Downtown Ottawa**, walking distance to the Rideau Canal, shopping, restaurants and the Byward Market

RECOMMENDED ON



WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

**BOOK NOW: 1.800.236.8399**  
**SuiteDreams.com** | 180 Cooper St.

*Big Daddy's*  
BOURBON STREET BISTRO

WE ARE PET FRIENDLY!

\*Subject to Availability

# OUT NOW

*the new hit single*



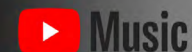
*from the book of my life*



Lyrics  
el Hashem  
Music  
Caroline Akwe  
Producers  
el Hashem & Caroline Akwe  
Executive Producer  
Elana Harte

Instagram @elhashemmusic  
Facebook.com/elhashemmusic

available on these and other music services worldwide







**Marc Almond and Dave Ball initially met back in 1977, and shortly after began collaborating on music. The duo eventually became known as Soft Cell, releasing a synth version of the 1965 Gloria Jones single, *Tainted Love*, in 1981. Their cover of that infamous northern soul track made them worldwide sensations, before calling it quits in 1984.**

Yet, here we are in 2022, and the band are back once again with a new album and a short tour of North America that includes Toronto as the only Canadian stop. During those years between, the pair have maintained their musical careers separately, yet always remained in contact, releasing sporadic Soft Cell material. They also reunited briefly in the early 2000's for a series of live dates, before hitting the stage in 2018 for their "Say Hello, Wave Goodbye" gig at the O2

Arena in London, which was supposed to be their swan song. However, they recently announced that once again they would be treating fans to a series of live dates in support of their new album, *\*Happiness Not Included*.

The initial idea for these new songs began during lockdown when Dave started sending Marc suggestions based on his experiences throughout the pandemic. "In this album I wanted to look at us as a society: a place where we have chosen to put profits before people, money before morality and decency, food before the rights of animals, fanaticism before fairness, and our own trivial comforts before the unspeakable agonies of others. But in the album there is also a belief that there is a utopia if we can peel back the layers and understand what really matters," states Almond.

Highlights include popstastic **Pet Shop Boys** collaboration of *Purple Zone*, contrasting its uplifting beats with Almond's darkly doomed lyrics, while *Light Sleepers* drifts with a daydream elegance. Also noteworthy are *Nostalgia Machine*, *Bruises On My Illusions*, and *Polaroid*, a semi-fictionalized account of Soft Cell's encounters with Andy Warhol in New York City in 1982.

Almond explains, "We never really went back into the studio together. Dave sent me ideas and tunes, and then I wrote lyrics and recorded vocals, and sent them back. Dave and I



Photo: Andrew Whitton

have drifted creatively towards each other over the years, and have written some great songs, not always for Soft Cell. There is a song on the album called *New Eden*. I wrote it for older people who feel lost in this current world, outliers I suppose in this polarized black and white world. I wanted to evoke that feeling of optimism that comes with at least a belief of a better place, or world, maybe even spiritualism."

With regard to their "farewell" tour, Almond clarifies, "There was every intention that it would be the last show. It felt the right time, honestly, and when I sang there it felt like a line being drawn under it, knowing I wouldn't sing them again as Soft Cell. But then the world changed with COVID. To be truthful, the O2 show never really felt like a true Soft Cell show. The scale of it meant it felt difficult to connect with fans given the distance. There were truly magical moments, such as 20,000 people singing *Say Hello Wave Goodbye* while holding up lights, but it felt too long as we tried to please too many of the fans, and yet ironically it felt incomplete. Soft Cell are not an arena band, and it just felt like hard work."

On this current tour incarnation, the band is back once again performing at more intimate venues. Almond reiterates, "Soft Cell for both of us is only part of our journey, and it feels good to be able to pick it up when we have something to say or feel inspired. The show is the *Non Stop Erotic Cabaret* show, and the whole stage world is created through stunning films that takes you back to the early 80's. I've always been incredibly theatrical, so it lends itself to a great deal of our earlier work and experiences. In many ways the show has transgressed and is now the experience. We also use **Phil Larsen** who



Photo: Andrew Whitton

produced the album. Between either Dave or Phil they take over the music and leave me to get on with performing."

"I think the need for us as individuals to find some meaning to our lives is the greatest challenge, and for me, and this is just for me, it is about acceptance that this thing called life, this brief firework should be appreciated for being just that – a moment to rejoice in. I hope the album (and tour) shines a light towards that."

Catch **Soft Cell** at **History** in Toronto on August 31, 2022. The show is comprised of a live performance of the entire classic 80s album, *Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret*, along with other known hits, and songs from their new album. Almond also shared that he is about to start a workshop for an original theatre piece based on the book *Against Nature* by **Karl Huysmans**.

**Editor Note:** On August 11, Soft Cell announced via social media that their Toronto tour stop has been cancelled "due to circumstances completely beyond our control."

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.





# WIGGED OUT

BY JUSTIN TOODEEP

## DRAK KING SUCCESS IN NEW BRUNSWICK



My drag career has been one long series of proving that I deserve space. The first booking I got didn't pay me because they wanted to see if I was "worth it" and if I would be a "lazy king". I resolved to "do everything queens did" so they couldn't say I was lazy. Soon I was on the receiving end of back-handed compliments, such as the common "Wow, I have never seen a king who puts in so much effort."

Over the next seven years, I got a bit of experience here and there, but it came to the point where I wanted regular experience. How was I to build up a wardrobe and find wigs without any regular drag money coming in. There's a sports movie where they stated, "if you build it, they will come," and I thought, what a good idea. So I decided to step into the world of producing. I reached out to a ton of non-queer businesses and after SO MANY rejections from other places, *Club Rewind* in Saint John, New Brunswick gave us a home.

These first steps of reaching out to businesses that are not queer owned was a crucial one. As many people from rural parts of Canada know, it is ALWAYS a gamble to figure out who is open-minded and who isn't. But any queer space that doesn't value drag kings and queens equally, is NOT a safe space. Any producer that would purposefully exclude other entertainers on the basis of their art "not being valid or not as good as X" is not a safe person. Do NOT rely on these people for bookings. Sometimes, the safe option is to reach out to an ally that respects your art, over people who feel they can be a gatekeeper to queer spaces.

I am now one of the largest producers of drag entertainment in New Brunswick. So that is my advice to you Kings, Things and Queens who might not have the respect of their "polished" peers. Build it. Because when you build it, you can make sure that everyone who shows up is included. You can push for truly safe spaces. Don't rely on a system built to keep you out. Build your own damn system that is inclusive and safe. Break the glass ceiling and then turn around and help everyone else underneath it up.

Photos by [Hailey Faille](#)

Justin Toodeep is a seasoned Drag King of 12 years. He is based in Saint John, NB where he lives with his partner and their five beautiful cats. He is the head of the Haus of Toodeep and currently produces shows throughout New Brunswick and PEI. Insta/Tiktok/Twitter/Facebook @justintoodeepg



I have been a drag king for 12 years in Saint John, New Brunswick, and let me tell you it hasn't been easy. I go by **Justin Toodeep** and I am sure that very few people in Ontario and beyond have ever heard of me. I, however, am one of the most successful drag entertainers in my region, aka Atlantic Canada. Usually when people hear "Atlantic Canada" and "Drag King" they don't think very much of success. Drag is unsurprisingly a male dominated profession, and even for a non-binary person with boobs it can be painstakingly difficult to get ahead in the world of drag.

# STREAM UNLIMITED LGBTQ+ MOVIES & SHOWS

## AND SOOOOO MUCH MORE!



# fearless

Start your free trial today  
at [fearless.li/thebuzz](https://fearless.li/thebuzz)



# SHE BEAT

## Lez Go

### Ottawa's Lesbian Event Leaders

BY CAT GRANT



**Jennifer Tennant** (Ottawa) and **Kris Rochard** (Toronto) met through an online site. Jen admits that when she saw Kris' profile ad she had to act fast. "On our first date, she came to pick me up, looking like a million bucks, and literally took my breath away! It was the first time we were meeting in person due to COVID, and I was at a loss for words. She had a big bouquet of flowers and a gift for my pup, Vimy. I instantly knew I was going to marry her one day."

Now living together in Ottawa, the couple felt there was a need for more lesbian events. Kris had liked *Toastr* dances, and both had enjoyed *Queers & Beers* events in their respective cities. Separately, they had both wanted to produce a Women's event, but didn't want to go it alone. Inspiring each other to pursue their common goal together, they co-founded *Lez Go*. It's just the two of them running things with occasional help from friends and family for larger events.

With a goal to create more exciting events for Ottawa's Lesbian+ community, they initially had a Launch Party with close to 300 people dancing to the music of Vocalist/DJ **Sandy Duperval**, and local favourite DJ **RoxySunset**. "After being locked up with two years of pandemic measures, everyone seemed happy to be dancing and interacting with people again. The energy was electric," Kris stated.

They have also held Billiards and Mixer nights, Movie Nights, Mexi's Mixer, and a Picnic in the Park featuring singer, **Tara Holloway**.

*Lez Go* is obviously filling a need, as they have already surpassed 1500 members in just a couple months. The biggest challenge is the financial risk. They explain, "Many people commit to plans last minute. Venues expect a certain minimum spend and there is no way to guarantee that without advanced ticket sales." So, remember to show your support and get your tickets early!

A big dream event for them would be a women's/queer friendly music festival. In five years Jennifer and Kris want to have *Lez Go* holding events on a larger scale, and maybe organizing group travel destinations for members.

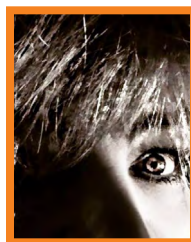
"*Lez Go* has become such a pivotal part of our lives," explains Jennifer. "We literally lie awake in bed for hours brainstorming, excited about the endless potential for the group. I couldn't imagine sharing this experience with anyone but her! It's so special to share this unique opportunity with someone who is as equally enthusiastic."

Coming up August 23rd is *Lez Go's* Pride Night with the *Ottawa Titans Baseball Club*. "We have reserved a box for our group with a great view," Kris informed. "Our big Pride event, *BLISS*, is slated for Friday August 26th. Sandy and Roxy are back and we plan to have some other surprises in the works."

Keep up to date on the [Lez Go Group Facebook page](#).

Cat Grant (OCAD) is a multidisciplinary artist. Starting her career in dance and music, painting and photography are her main focus now. As a published poet, Cat is also the Executive Director for Toronto's *Goddess Day Arts Festival*.

[Facebook @grantedarts](#)



# Pride 2022

## Reflections

BY CAT GRANT

After two years of lockdown, the girls longed for contact, and took to the streets. The **Toronto Dyke March '22** was cheerful, colourful, political, and feminine smart as ever. If women ruled the world, there would be no wars, and healthy people would build our Mother Earth, our Home. It was a Happy Pride!



*All Dyke March Photos by Leila Swirl.*

Pride, the noun, the event, the feeling. All are as important today as they have ever been, not only for us gals, but our whole community. We can never rest and believe that our fight is over as long as our foes exist. We stood strong in the past and we must remain formidable if we are to keep our people safe, protected, and righteous. Socially, personally, and politically. So, yes...Pride. One of the most important things is to believe in ourselves and share in expression, because we do belong where ever we choose to stand. My favourite place



Photo: Dallas Nofall by Cat Grant





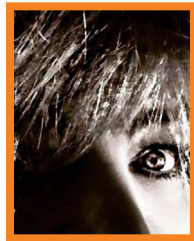
is when we gather, by the millions and celebrate our pride at the 'event' called Pride!

*All Cruise photos by Cat Grant unless otherwise noted.*

Thanks to contributors, **Leila Swirl** and **Dallas Nofall**.

Cat Grant (OCAD) is a multidisciplinary artist. Starting her career in dance and music, painting and photography are her main focus now. As a published poet, Cat is also the Executive Director for Toronto's Goddess Day Arts Festival.

[Facebook @grantedarts](#)



# DOES YOUR BMW NEED A TUNE-UP?

- BMW Factory Technicians On Staff!
- The owner, formerly a BMW Service Manager at Beach BMW
- Make an appointment - [info@autotrend.net](mailto:info@autotrend.net)
- See our website for **specials**

**AutoTrend** SPECIALIZING IN BMW'S  
 1203 Broadview Avenue  
 (just South of O'Connor)  
 416.696.2277  
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.autotrend.net](http://www.autotrend.net)

**PUNK ROCK REALTY INC.**  
 BROKERAGE  
 Serving our Community in  
 Toronto, GTA and all of Southern Ontario  
[www.punkrockrealty.ca](http://www.punkrockrealty.ca) | 888-999-9731 | [info@punkrockrealty.ca](mailto:info@punkrockrealty.ca)

Affordable weekly classes:  
**MANIFEST A LOVING RELATIONSHIP**  
 LGBTQsingles.ca

**FRONTENAC**  
 SINCE 1845 CLUB KINGSTON  
 Playful. Elegant. Unexpected.  
 Kingston | [frontenacclub.com](http://frontenacclub.com) | 613.547.6167



## A Look Back at Pride Toronto 2022



Like *The Cat In The Hat*, Pride came back. This is how mine went down, in our T-Dot town.

*"I know some good games we could play," said the cat. "I will show them to you. Your mother will not mind at all if I do."*



bestowed upon Van Goth, Steak, Perla, Aurora Matrix, and Jelly, Absolut presented \$10 000, \$5000, \$500 and \$250 to Rainbow Railroad, The 519, Black Cap and Speak Easy Twitch, respectively.

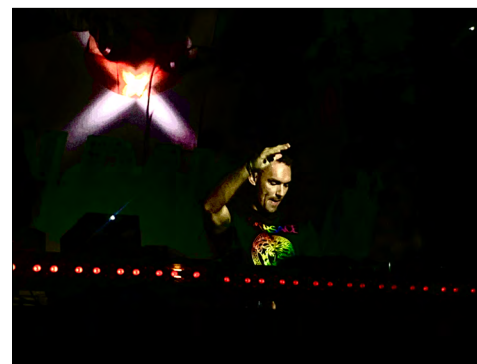
*"He should not be here. He should not be about. He should not be here, When your mother is out!"*



House mother and founder Scarlett Bobo was back to help kick of the first in person Pride in two years, for the third Absolut Empire's Ball at Phoenix Concert Theatre. After weeks of preliminaries, the final four (House Of Bontemps, House Of Diamonds Haus Of Injustice, Phag House) battle it out under the watchful eyes of the night's judges, including Canada's Drag Race choreographer Hollywood Jade. In the end Phag House's choreographed caricatures of wild women through the ages captured the crowd. As well as the grand first prize

I should not have been here. It takes a lot to get me out of bed before noon, but Empress Brunch organized by Drag Academy ([dragacademy.ca](http://dragacademy.ca)) and held in the sunlit Fermenting Cellar of Toronto's Distillery District was different. The event featured Drag Race stars Jasmine Kennedy, Detox, and Call Me Mother, along with cast members Sanjina DaBish Queen, and Calypso Cosmic, plus local stars Manny Dingo, Kreme Inakuchi, Miss Shay Dee and Miss Fiercalicious (Canada's Drag Race 3,) and MC'd by Carlotta Carlisle. Money raised helps fund various charities. The talent in our community is simply inspiring. For instance, Call Me Mother star HeruSleaze performed with and ate a banana. No, not like that.

*"And they ran to us fast. They said, 'how do you do? Would you like to shake hands, With Thing One and Thing Two?'"*



As two straight-outta-the-barracks GoGo guys provide eye candy, DJ's Alex-Lo and hunky headliner Ben Bakson march us through some boot stomping beats at Prism Boot Camp at Axis. Celebrating their 20th anniversary year, this Pride Thursday party was a good warm-up workout to get us ready for the madness ahead.

*"Look at me! Look at me now!" said the cat. 'I can hold up the fish! And a little toy ship! And some milk on a dish!'*



At times it appeared that Prism's LaLeche (which means milk in Spanish) held at Rebel, was drowning in milk. According to Prism Executive Director Gairy Brown, Matinee Group, who produces and tours this party around the world, they like to bring light to the party. As giant white inflatable Romanesque columns circle above the dance floor, partiers adorned in white frantically frolic to DJ's Anne Louise, Phil Ramano, and Allison Nunes. If only this visual masterpiece was not bathed in a sea of bright white lights every time the shows (including Woody Fox and Ryan Stephenson's daring and dreamy aerial acrobatics) took place, it would have felt less like a sporting event and more like a cruising event. Moo.

*"And then something went BUMP! How that bump made us jump!"*

Prism's Eden event, held in at The Concert Hall was unfortunately ill-equipped to handle the amount of men bumping-and-dumping, and huge lines for stalls lasted longer than the Old Testament. Gloriously though, DJs Mauro Mozart, Isaac Escalante and Izak Salazar played the most cohesive set of all seven Prism parties. Added to this was the sultry show by Madam Lola as Eve, sexy animal handler Seth Falk as Adam, and his pet Boa Constrictor. Hallelujah.

*"Look at me! Look at me NOW! It is fun to have fun, But you have to know how."*





After 12 years, Pitbull knows how to bring it for their Mega Pride at The Phoenix. With DJ Sumation and headliner DJ Hector Fonseca on deck, the capacity crowd feasted on Grade-A Pride anthems all night while a ferry boat load of GoGo dancers surrounded by inflatable pride flags, sassy unicorns, and rainbow balloon trees entertained on stage. The performances by Stacey Kay of Canada's Got Talent and Suki Doll of Canada's Drag Race even distracted from the lack of bar staff. One booze tender per bar does not quick service render.

*"I can hold a red fan! I can fan with the fan, As I hop on the ball! But that is not all. Oh, no, that is not all."*



Oh no, Prism's Revival (with DJs Micky Friedmann and Las Bibas From Vizcaya,) had much more in store. As the crown jewel of this summer event series the choreographed main shows are eagerly anticipated. Vita Love's dance skills were put to use in an energetic undersea orgy of flips, dips,

and synching of lips. Sofonda's spectacular six-minute set involving a team of backup dancers, octopus tentacles, underwater projections, seahorse heads, confetti cannons, flag dancing, smoke blasters, and a huge sea horse which carries her above the crowd, left us flushed and finished.



Jamaican born Rolyn Chambers grew up in the suburbs of Mississauga, before attending Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD). In 2001, he began his Deep Dish column with fab Magazine, which ran for a full decade, allowing him to interview everyone from clubbers and promoters, to celebrities and politicians. Deep Dish has now been resurrected once again here in theBUZZ. Chambers is also the author of, The Boy Who Brought Down A Bathhouse, self-published by himself via YumEee! Communications. IG @rahrhrolyn



THE IMPERIAL COURT OF TORONTO PRESENTS  
**EMPRESS XX NIKKI LEBLANC'S BIRTHDAY  
 NIGHT OF A THOUSAND STARS**  
 A FUNDRAISER OF TRIBUTES TO

*Michelle Ross*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**  
**SHOW AT 8:00 P.M.**  
 FEATURING  
 A SELECTION OF GUEST HOSTS AND  
 AN ARRAY OF SPECIAL SURPRISE PERFORMERS  
**FLASH ON CHURCH 463 CHURCH ST. TORONTO**  
**\$5.00 SUGGESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR**



# A KODAK MOMENT

## Lucas Silveira

The Cliks Frontman Releases Solo Album

BY BOYD KODAK



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

**LS** - By far, recording the album with my producer/engineer, **Jason LaPrade**. My favourite thing in the world is to record the music I've written, and seeing the vision of its entirety come to life. There is nothing more satisfying to me.

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

**LS** - I've stopped the looking forward to next year mentality. Not because I don't think there are good things coming, but after I got clean and started my substance abuse recovery, I learned that living one day at a time is the healthiest way to live. I want to be in the here and now, and when the good things come I will value them in the present moment.

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

**LS** - Right now, you can find my album on [Bandcamp](#), and it will be released shortly to every other streaming platform, *iTunes*, *Spotify*, etc...

**BK** - Future plans?

**LS** - I don't do plans anymore. I just go with what I feel I want to be doing at the moment, and I move towards those projects or life choices. I always think of what my dad told me once when I was younger, "If you want to see God laugh, make plans." I used to think it was such a pessimistic way of thinking, but as I grew older I realized what he meant. Move towards your inner peace and joy, but don't "plan". I just continue to make daily choices that I feel will better my future.

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

**LS** - Being authentic is the greatest gift you can give yourself.

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

**LS** - ...sing to my dog.

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



Photo by Jack Jackson

**Lucas Silveira** is a multidisciplinary artist, well known for forming the band *The Cliks* in 2004. He was the first out transgender man to be signed to a major label. Lucas now performs acoustic sets on guitar and piano, and just released a solo album.

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

**Lucas Silveira** - As soon as 2022 began, I went into the studio to continue recording my solo album, *The Goddamn Flowers*. I've also been working on writing a teen novel, which was originally supposed to be a younger kids book. The novel will be loosely based on the experiences I had as a youth within my transgender identity. I've also continued to write music. That never stops. And honestly, trying to recover from the effects of the pandemic and attempting to normalize again. Which is something I don't think I'm alone in, and most folks are working through.

## CONNECTING ARTISTS & AUDIENCES!

# Q REVIEW

LGBTQ MUSIC NETWORK

The fastest growing music network devoted to promoting the global LGBTQ+ music community



PODCAST



RADIO SHOW



PLAYLISTS



INTERVIEWS



MUSIC CHART



CALENDAR



QREVIEW.CA



@THEQREVIEWS



@QREVIEWS



## Lox + SCHMEAR



**Lox + Schmear** is a small batch fish smoke house located in central Toronto. So, what is the name in reference too? Lox (Yiddish) is a fillet of brined and/or smoked salmon, while schmear (Yiddish) is a generous slathering of cream cheese. Put the two together and you get a traditional Jewish-American staple.

The LGBTQ2S+ owned business on St. Clair Ave West has become quite popular for their unique offerings. Owner **Lev Levine**, who openly identifies as non-binary, noticed that most lox and bagel offerings were outsourcing their fish, while focusing more on the bagels. Lev believes that the fish is as important as the bread portion of this delicacy, so it made sense for them to focus on offering small batch, hand-sliced, fresh farmed Atlantic salmon, smoked on site in a four-day, start-to-finish process.

The bagels at Lox + Schmear are sourced from the Bathurst St. and Eglinton Ave. location of *St. Urbain Bagels*, where they are first poached in honey water before being baked in wood-fired ovens, creating a traditional Montreal-style bagel. The cream cheese is churned to order weekly by *Global Cheese* in Kensington Market. Most of their other menu items are also prepared in-house, including pickling, baked goods (excluding the gluten-free bagel option), and savory treats.

Best-selling sandwiches are *The Fancy Fancy*, a Montreal bagel, house lox, cream cheese, capers, cucumber, seasonal tomato, pickled red onions, raw red onions, alfalfa sprouts and fresh dill; and *The OG*, a Montreal bagel, house lox, cream cheese, capers, seasonal tomato, and thinly sliced red onions, topped with fresh dill. As well, watch for specialty menu items like fresh babka (cinnamon cheese cake, chocolate), potato and onion knish, and challah lox bites. There are also themed creations based around celebratory holidays.

**Lox + Schmear** is definitely openly LGBTQ2S+ friendly, with their gender neutral washroom facilities, and signage to share their pronouns to reinforce the feeling that using correct pronouns is important in making people feel seen and accepted. They also address all customers in a gender neutral manner. Lev tells us that they have found the neighbourhood to be accepting and supportive of their practices, and seem happy to have a queer business in the community.

**Lox + Schmear** is also participating in the *CafeTO* programme, and hope to continue hosting drag performances, along with other special events such as *Pride*, *Pink Shirt Day*, *Trans Day of Remembrance*, *Trans Day of Visibility*, and *International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia*.

Lev also makes a practice of sending out social media posts about such events, along with news articles to educate and enlighten their customers. Further, they support and donate to various queer organizations such as *LGBT Youthline*, *Insight Ukraine*, *2-Spirited People of the First Nations*, and *Ten Oaks Project*.

**Lox + Schmear, 1030 Saint Clair Avenue West, Toronto**

**Open Friday-Sunday, 9:00am-2:30pm**

The online store opens every Tuesday at noon for pick up every Sunday between 9:00am and 2:30pm.

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).



It's a VACATION in your MOUTH!

**Monfriesie**  
RUM CAKES

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

**LGBT youthline**  
youthline.ca

**Confidential, non-judgemental, informed LGBTQ2S+ help line for youth by youth**

1-800-268-9688  
TXT 647-694-4275  
Online Chat  
askus@youthline.ca

**cglcc**  
Canadian Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

**Supporting LGBT+ Businesses & Entrepreneurs across Canada**

**Advocacy  
Supplier Diversity Program  
Networking & Events  
Education**

**Learn more at  
cglcc.ca**

1-866-300-7556 x33 | office@cglcc.ca

**“PROTECT YOURSELF!”**

**Criminal Defence**

- Bail Hearings
- Drug Offences
- Drunk Driving
- Assault, Theft
- Robbery

**Lawsuits**

- Civil
- Commercial
- Collections
- Wrongful Dismissal
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Real Estate Litigation
- Family Law

**Tel: 416.869.0707 Fax: 1.905.433.0507**  
**Cell/Text: 416.442.5888**  
**e-mail: jhershkopf@on.aibn.com**

Yonge Eglinton Centre 2300 Yonge Street, Suite 1600, Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

**FREE CONSULTATION**

**Jerry Herszkopf - Barrister & Solicitor**





## Hump Night Honeys

Wednesdays from 10:00 p.m.

Hosts Carlotta Carlisle and Katinka Kature welcome an array of special guest stars with DJ Chris Steinbach, and Toronto's sweetest staff.

Woody's, 467 Church St., Toronto

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

## Jock Night Thursdays

Thursdays from 10:00 p.m.

Join everybody's second favourite drag queen, hostess Morgan James, and the semi-clad (or less) men of Cock Bar for an evening of feisty fun and frivolity. Drink specials, prizes, and surprises. 19+ Men only.

Cock Bar, 461 Church St., Second Floor, Toronto

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

## Courtyard Comedy - Headliner Hisham Kelati

August 20: from 2:30 p.m. weather permitting

Enjoy some hilarious stand-up in the beautiful gardens of the Campbell House Museum.

Featuring: Vong Show, Melanie Dahling, Dylan Mahaney, Hillary Yaas, and headliner, Hisham Kelati. Hosted by Canadian Comedy Award winner Robert Watson.

Campbell House Museum, 160 Queen St. W., Toronto

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/courtyard-comedy-headliner-hisham-kelati-saturday-august-20-tickets-367095672037](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/courtyard-comedy-headliner-hisham-kelati-saturday-august-20-tickets-367095672037)



## TICOT Drag Brunch

August 21; September 4, 18; October 2, 16; Noon to 3:00 p.m.

A drag brunch show with a twist. This is an open stage, so if you have a talent you wish to share, all are welcome. All tips from all performances are donated to the charities of The Imperial Court of Toronto, Rainbow Railroad, and PWA Food Programs. August 21 will feature a special birthday celebration for regular host, Billy Blake.

Church St. Garage, 477 Church St., Toronto

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



## Flamingo Market

August 27; 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Toronto's Award-Winning LGBTQ2SIA+ Market returns.

Featuring, promoting, and fostering the diverse small businesses and artisan talents that the LGBTQ2SIA+ community has to offer. Flamingo Market is FREE to attend and is an all inclusive, child friendly event.

Buddies In Bad Times, 12 Alexander St., Toronto

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



## Comedy Bang! Bang!

August 28; 7:00 p.m.

A high-spirited get-together between host Scott Aukerman and his funny friends is a strange combination of interviews with both real people and improvisational comedians performing as fake characters. Every episode is as different as it is unscripted.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto

[www.masseyhall.mhrth.com/tickets/cbb](http://www.masseyhall.mhrth.com/tickets/cbb)

## MuslimFest 2022

September 2 through 4

Three full days of Muslim art, culture, and entertainment.

Celebration Square, 300 City Centre Dr., Mississauga

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/london-muslimfest-2022-tickets-367611484847](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/london-muslimfest-2022-tickets-367611484847)

## ALYSSA EDWARDS: Life, Love & Lashes Tour

September 9; 8:00 p.m.

The smash hit show direct from London's West End, "Life, Love & Lashes" is a must see tell-all story about Alyssa's life growing up, her drag career, and finding love. Audiences are raving. All ages welcome.

Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St., Toronto

[www.ticketmaster.ca/alyssa-edwards-life-love-lashes-tour-toronto-ontario-09-09-2022/event/10005CC9C39944E5](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/alyssa-edwards-life-love-lashes-tour-toronto-ontario-09-09-2022/event/10005CC9C39944E5)

## Night Of A Thousand Stars: Tributes To Michelle Ross

September 18; from 8:00 p.m.

Celebrating the birthday of Empress XX, Nikki Leblanc, with a variety of guest hosts, and an array of special performers featuring tributes to Michelle Ross. All proceeds to PWA Food Programs, and Rainbow Railroad. Present by The Imperial Court of Toronto.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto

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

## Just For Laughs Toronto

September 22 through October 1

After taking two years off due to world-wide "reasons", the festival is back and better than ever. On top of a ton of shows, there's also the acclaimed ComedyCON, a daytime series with In Conversations, podcasts, cast panels, and more. Various venues in Toronto

[www.toronto.hahaha.com/en](http://www.toronto.hahaha.com/en)

## Brampton Concert Band with Micah Barnes

September 24; 8:00 p.m.

Brampton Concert Band performs with one of Canada's most beloved vocalists, chart-topping jazz artist Micah Barnes.

The Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton

[www.tickets.brampton.ca/Online/default.asp](http://www.tickets.brampton.ca/Online/default.asp)

## Coronation XXXVI Weekend

September 29 through October 2

Join The Imperial Court of Toronto as they celebrate the close of their 35th year of raising funds for community charities. Enjoy all the glitz and glam of local luminaries, and visiting dignitaries from across North America. Shows Thursday to Saturday, with the victory party on Sunday evening.

Various venues including The Well Toronto, Flash On Church, Marriott CF Eaton Centre.

[www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com/coronation](http://www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com/coronation)



## Star Wars: The Force Awakens—In Concert

October 6 through 9

Enjoy this installment of the Star Wars film series, with the full score performed live by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Featuring actors Daisy Ridley, Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Adam Driver, and Carrie Fischer.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

[www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/star-wars-the-force-awakens-in-concert](http://www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/star-wars-the-force-awakens-in-concert)

## Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

October 6; 8:00 p.m.

With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and guest artists spanning genres and generations, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of performance, education, and broadcast events globally, led by Chairman Clarence Otis, Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, and Executive Director Greg Scholl.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto

[www.masseyhall.mhrth.com/tickets/jalco-wynton-marsalis](http://www.masseyhall.mhrth.com/tickets/jalco-wynton-marsalis)



## Joshua Weilerstein conducts the Royal Conservatory Orchestra

October 7; 8:00 p.m.

Joshua Weilerstein is the Artistic Director of the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne and enjoys a flourishing guest conducting career. He has been praised for "intense, eloquently moving, and spectacularly knife-edge" performances.

Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto

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

## Gala Concert: Jan Lisiecki with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

October 15; 8:00 p.m.

Juno Award winner, UNESCO Ambassador, and alumnus of The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School, Jan Lisiecki is "perhaps the most 'complete' pianist of his age". Program includes Mozart Piano Concerto No. 9 and other works.

Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto

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





By Sherry Sylvain

## Road Trips

### After Werk

August 19 and 20

Two dance parties in "The Barn". Friday night will include an evening bonfire in the front field, and a dance party is themed "Cosplay" – dress as your favourite character. Saturday dance party is themed "Neon Toga" - Greek god/goddess, with lots of skin and neon.

Cedars Campground, 1039 Concession 5 W., Millgrove  
[www.cedarscampground.com](http://www.cedarscampground.com)



### Summer Sundays and Sunday Concert Series

Sundays from 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy award-winning wines and hand-crafted charcuterie, and listen to outstanding musicians or speakers on the terrace as weather permits, or in the Music Hall of the Chateau when weather is less favourable.

Windrush Estate Winery, 3100 Concession Rd. 3, Adjala, ON  
[www.windrushestatewinery.com/local-events](http://www.windrushestatewinery.com/local-events)

### Queers & Beers: Pride Edition

August 25; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. \$10.00

Get together and explore the craft brew scene in Ottawa, and create a safer space for queer and trans pub lovers. All genders and sexualities are welcome. Featuring OK Naledi and Kira on drums.

Overflow Brewing, 2477 Kaladar Ave., Ottawa  
[www.overflowbeer.com](http://www.overflowbeer.com)

### The Return of: Queens of the Cave

August 27; 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by Cira Flexion, with special guests from Toronto: Katherine Hytes Dior, Vitality Black and Jenna Seppa. Tickets MUST be purchased in groups of two and are Non Refundable. Don't forget to bring tip money for your hard-working queens.

Science North, 100 Ramsey Lake Rd., Sudbury  
[www.eventbrite.com/e/the-return-of-queens-of-the-cave-tickets-372528882917](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-return-of-queens-of-the-cave-tickets-372528882917)

### Boy George & Culture Club

September 3; 8:00 p.m.

With a career spanning over 30 years, Grammy Award-winning group Culture Club, led by flamboyant front man Boy George, shot to international stardom in the 1980's as one of the UK's biggest exports, changing pop culture forever. Be ready to dance!

Casino Rama, 5899 Rama Rd., Orillia  
[www.ticketmaster.ca/boy-george-culture-club-rama-ontario-09-03-2022/event/10005CD08BF04BA2](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/boy-george-culture-club-rama-ontario-09-03-2022/event/10005CD08BF04BA2)



### Supercrawl

September 9 though 11

Hamilton's premier multi-arts festival, fusing new and independent music with art installations, fashion, performance, literature, theatre, and artisanal craft. Supercrawl's diverse multi-disciplinary program of sound, performance, visual and media arts is staged along a pedestrian-only creative corridor in the heart of downtown.

James St. N., Hamilton  
[www.supercrawl.ca](http://www.supercrawl.ca)

### Alyssa Edwards

September 21; 7:30 p.m.

P1 tickets include meeting Alyssa Edwards in person at 6pm before the show, plus taking pics with her and getting autographs. These fans will also receive the official tour poster along with a souvenir laminate and lanyard. The Meet & Greet ends by 7pm.

Thunder Bay Community Auditorium, 1 Paul Shaffer Dr., Thunder Bay  
[www.ticketmaster.ca/alyssa-edwards-thunder-bay-ontario-09-21-2022/event/10005CC9C53345C7](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/alyssa-edwards-thunder-bay-ontario-09-21-2022/event/10005CC9C53345C7)

### Trixie and Katya Live

September 24; 7:00 p.m.

Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime event, where drag's dynamic drag duo deliver unparalleled feats of theatrical eroticism and hilarious ingenuity right before your very eyes. This is sure to be unlike anything you've ever witnessed.

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

NEW.....Virtual Episodes of the show are being rolled out weekly, view them at  
[www.facebook.com/JoinusOnTheCouch](http://www.facebook.com/JoinusOnTheCouch)

# SEASON EIGHT

The longest running LGBTQ talk show  
 Hosted by Antoine Elhashem



ON the COUCH | Emerging Artists



ON the COUCH | Simone Denny



ON the COUCH | Community Parties



ON the COUCH | Miss Conception



ON the COUCH | That's Funnny



ROGERS tv

Durham, Uxbridge, London, Owen Sound, Orangeville, Georgina, Kitchener/Waterloo

theBUZZTV YouTube

WWW.THEBUZZ.TV  
 WWW.ONTHECOUCH.CA





Healthy  Planet®

*Be Yourself*

**STAY FIT AND HEALTHY**

---

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

**LIVE LIFE HEALTHY**