

Tifa Wine • Born Bae • Stacey Maltin • Jacklin Falconer • Sweaty Betty's

KEEP FREE



**Courtney Act**  
*Caught in the Act*  
**Patricia Resnick**  
*Still Working 9 to 5*

**the buzz**

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

OCTOBER 2022 / NOVEMBER 2022

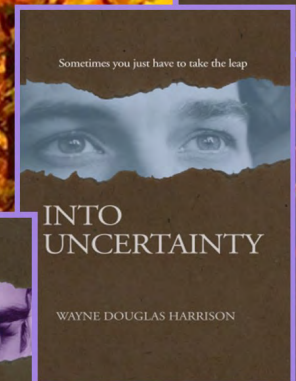
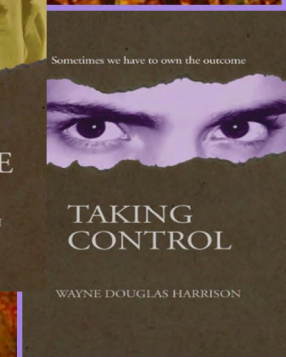
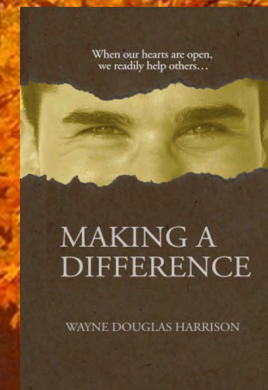
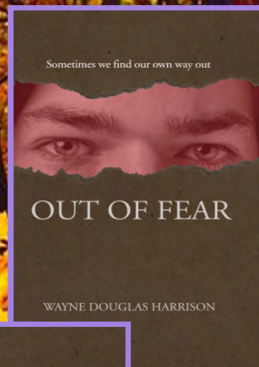
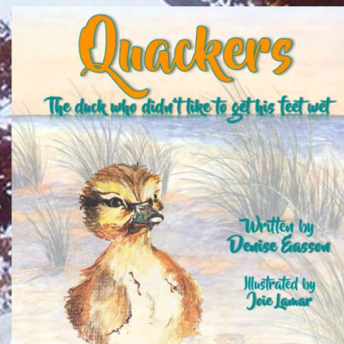
\*\*\* free \*\*\*



# Fall into your QUEER reading

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**

Aaron Rothermund, Melissa MacMullin

**Columnists**

Tifa Wine, Cat Grant, Boyd Kodak, Rolyn Chambers, Sherry Sylvain

**Cover Photo:**

Courtney Act by Joseph Sinclair

**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 Courtney Act – Aaron Rothermund
- 10 Patricia Resnick – Melissa MacMullin
- 14 Wiggled Out: Bom Bae – Tifa Wine
- 16 She Beat: Stacey Maltin – Cat Grant
- 18 Deep Dish: Drag Queen Franchising – Rolyn Chambers
- 20 A Kodak Moment: Jacklin Falconer – Boyd Kodak
- 22 Beyond the Village: Sweaty Betty's – Sherry Sylvain
- 24 BUZZPicks – Sherry Sylvain



# The Editor

Greetings and Salutations,

Autumn, the most wonderful time of the year. Sunny skies, crisp air, vibrant foliage, and comfy clothes. It's also the perfect time to snuggle up with a new novel.

Our main feature is with Australia's drag superstar, **Courtney Act**, who recently released a tell-all memoir appropriately titled, *Caught in the Act*. Aaron Rothermund chatted with **Shane Jenek**, who IRL is also an advocate for human rights and a musical theatre performer. The book is written from the perspective of both Shane and Courtney, and includes details on growing up down-under, to making it on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and hosting television shows.

Our second feature is with famed Hollywood talent, **Patricia Resnick**, who wrote the original screenplay for classic film, *9 to 5*, back in 1980 while still in her 20s. Melissa MacMullin spoke with this lesbian legend, who continues to work in the industry today with recent credits including HBO's *Mad Men*, FX's *Better Things* and Netflix's queer limited-series, *Tales of the City*.

Our guest Wiggled Out writer is **Tifa Wine**, who spoke with **Bom Bae** about how they incorporated politics and pushbacks into their appearance on *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Cat Grant interviewed actor and filmmaker, **Stacey Maltin**, who recently released her first feature film, *Triple Threat*, a queer millennial love story. Boyd Kodak spoke with **Jacklin Falconer**, a professional stage conductor and Assistant Artistic Director with *Singing Out Toronto*. Rolyn Chambers takes a look at how drag queens are taking up space in the world of media, gaining major product endorsements and franchising opportunities. Sherry Sylvain spotlights the legendary queer-owned Ossington Street bar, **Sweaty Betty's**, and also compiled our BUZZ Pick Event Listings of the very best the GTA has to offer.

Enjoy the read!

**Bryen Dunn**  
Editor-in-Chief



# BLACK AND WHITE GALA

DON'T STOP US NOW!

**November 11, 2022**  
**6 - 11 pm EDT**  
**Toronto, ON**

[cglcc.ca/gala](http://cglcc.ca/gala)

**#BlackAndWhiteGala**  
**#DontStopUsNow**  
**@theCGLCC**

unshakable. undaunted. unflinching. undefeated. unconstrained. uncontrollable. unrestrainable. uncompromising. unbroken. unyielding. unstoppable.

LOCATION
HOSPITALITY
VALUE

## Fall Fever Specials!

**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.

WE ARE PET FRIENDLY!

\*Subject to Availability



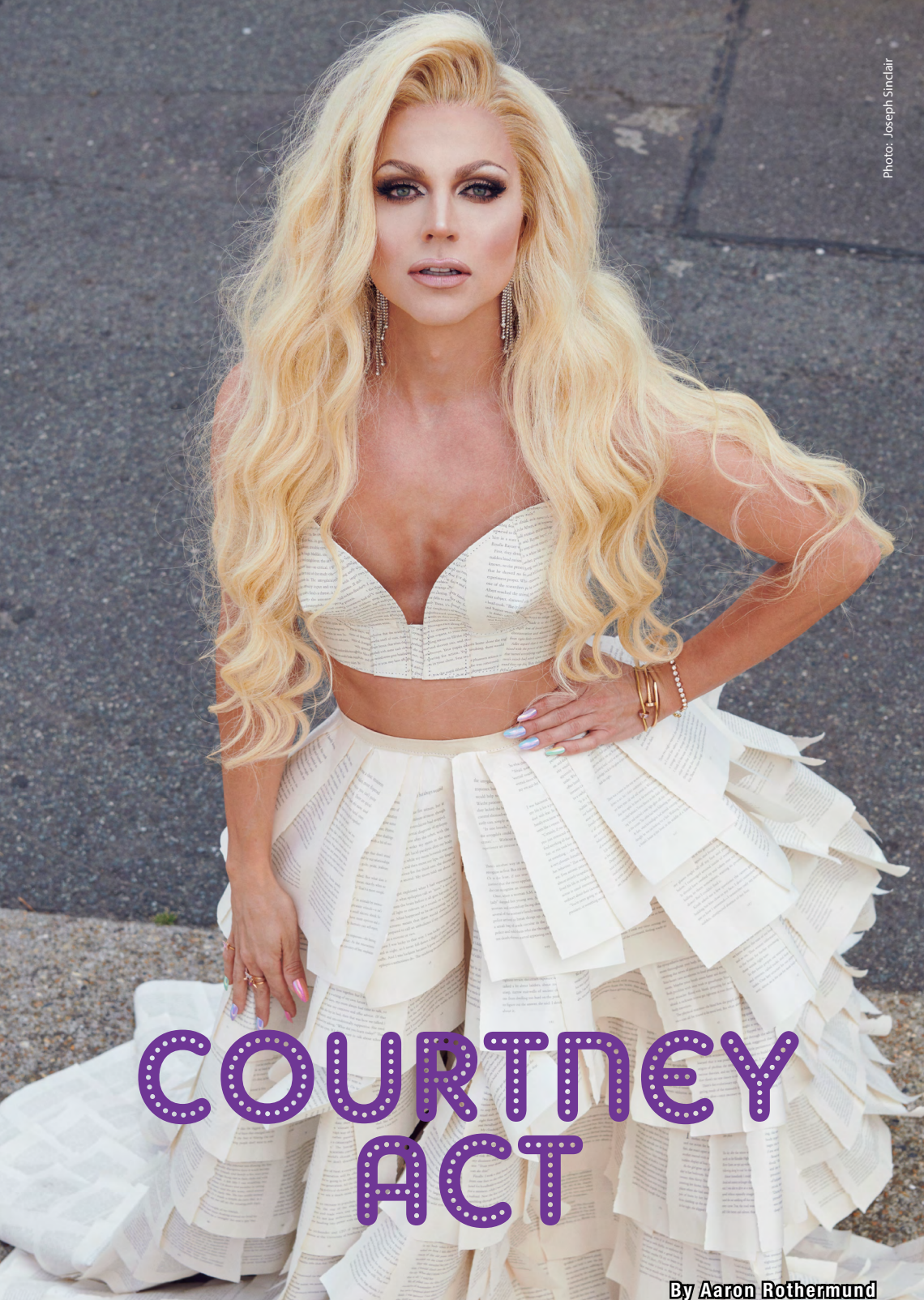


Photo: Joseph Sinclair



Photo: Joseph Sinclair



Photo: Joseph Sinclair

## Shane Jenek is an advocate for human rights and a sensational musical theatre performer, but he's probably more widely recognized by his alter ego, [Courtney Act](#).

When Jenek presents as male he prefers masculine pronouns, and when Act presents herself, she prefers feminine pronouns. With this in mind, it seems fitting that they combined their personal stories to write a tell-all memoir appropriately titled, [Caught in the Act](#) (Pantera Press, 2021).

"One of the earlier titles for the book was *It's All an Act*, which referred to the expectations that society places on us," Jenek tells me over Zoom. "They're just ideas that we all consensually agreed upon, so we can actually make our own choices for our own identities."

With help from his friends Jenek saw how the mainstream audience could misinterpret the title as referring to him as artificial, so after a series of working titles he landed on the eponymous, *Caught in the Act*. "I've had my show name for 22 years," Jenek reveals. "I've never used it before, so I guess I was saving it for something special."

The cheeky title not only explains the play-on-words within the drag artist's stage name, but also describes how Jenek feels about gender, sexuality, and the illusion of reality television.

*Caught in the Act* juxtaposes Jenek's traditionally wholesome upbringing in Brisbane, Australia, and the constant bullying he endured there at the hands of his peers. Jenek moved to Sydney at the tender age of eighteen, and he quickly discovered a queer bubble of creativity and community. This is where he details how he fought for his place within the Sydney drag scene, including meeting his dear friend and drag inspiration **Vanity Faire**.

"Originally I wanted to be the redheaded shag-cut, smokey-voiced lounge-singer, **Ginger Le'Bon**," but Jenek tells me that Faire helped him to discover the blond-bombshell Courtney Act persona that we all know and love. "Faire was like no. You're young and cute. You need a name like... Courtney. Then I started to say it slowly and added Act... Caught.in.. the.. Act! That was the origin of the name, and it wasn't until many years later... that my mom pointed out that often 'caught in the act' refers to being caught in act of sex."

Through Jenek's trademark wit and candor, we delve into the world of hilarious reality television stunts, and scandalous affairs, including seedy stories of free-wheeling sex and substance abuse. We also learn about successful auditions and some auditions that went sideways quickly, but which eventually led Jenek to international stardom.

All of those competition reality shows gave me access. It was a cattle-call. We went into a room, and if you gave them something that would make good television, then you got the opportunity," Jenek recalls. "In Australia, we're not as invested in the conversation around race equality but most of the cast of the first season on Australian Idol was people of





Photo: Magnus Hastings

UK *Celebrity Big Brother* with the popular vote. In 2019, Courtney finished fourth place in *Eurovision* with her song "Fight for Love," and she and her dance partner, **Joshua Keefe** were runners-up on the Australian version of *Dancing with the Stars*, that saw the second same-sex pairing in the history of any version of the show.

"I was doing the show as Courtney, so it was always a same-sex couple from the beginning, but then I did one dance where I stripped out of drag during the number and finished as Shane. It was one of my favourite performances artistically," Jenek reveals. "There was another dance in the season where I did it as Shane from the beginning, and weirdly that was more of a thing. You think it would be more subversive to be a boy dressed as a girl dancing with a boy, but somehow it was more subversive to be two guys presenting as boys dancing together."

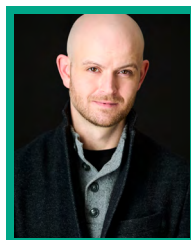
Recently Jenek was nominated for an AACTA award for facilitating a series of in-depth interviews for *One Plus One* on ABC. This 2021 landmark in mainstream media saw Courtney Act steering away from drag as a gimmick to present herself as a serious host without any mention of the presentation of gender. This change in tone opened the door for other gender performers to appear without cause, and encourages non-binary, gender-fluid, and two-spirited people to present as they please.

"I think the thing that has always driven me has been the idea of disrupting people's ideas of attraction to gender," Jenek says thoughtfully. "I remember **Amanda Lepore** once said to me, 'men are very visual creatures,' and the difference between Courtney and Shane is visual. I'm always the same inside. The world looks the same to me regardless of how I dress, but the world looks back at me differently depending on how I dress," Jenek sighs. "For straight men I can be something repulsive, but as Courtney I can be an object of affection. I'll always find that fascinating."

Although not one for strict labels Jenek is living in his own reality as a proud vegan, pansexual, genderfluid, polyamorous queer icon that made a name for themselves within the cultural landscape on an international level, splitting his time between Sydney, London, and Los Angeles.

To find out more about Shane/Courtney's exciting adventures in life, pick up a copy of *Caught in the Act* through online retailers, or at your local bookstore (if you can still find one.)

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



colour because everyone was so talented, and that couldn't be denied. So, it was this equalitarian format where the person who wasn't normally afforded a seat at the table could get a foot in the door."

Jenek's first appearance on a reality competition was as Courtney Act when she won the *Diva Rising Star* competition in 2002. Later Jenek would appear as both himself and as Courtney Act on *Australian Idol* in 2003, and is known to be the first openly queer person to appear on a reality television program there. In 2014, Courtney premiered on American television, and finished as one-of-the-top-three contestants on season six of *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

"The point of reality television is to entertain, and *Drag Race* does that so brilliantly, which is why it's so successful. But I guess when you're..." Jenek trails off. "...the human collateral," I impulsively offer. "Yeah, the human collateral," Jenek answers, and then smiles. "See! You just story produced. You said it, and I agreed." Jenek chuckles, then thinks for a minute and adds, "I did think about it first... is that the word I want to use? I now know how it works. If you were on reality television for the first time you would just say the word because the facilitator said it, and you might want to please them," Jenek laughs.

*Drag Race* was followed up by the first ever collaboration between *American Apparel* and a group of drag queens called **The AAA Girls**, who also featured **Alaska** and **Willam** from *RuPaul's Drag Race* stardom. The following year Courtney released the extended play *Kaleidoscope*, that included the title track which quickly became the official song for the 2016 *Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras*.

In 2018, Jenek asked **Bianca Del Rio**, **Adore Delano**, and **Darrienne Lake** to reunite on *The Courtney Act Show*, which was broadcast on Christmas Eve to rave reviews. That same year, Jenek and Courtney both appeared as the host for a bisexual dating show, *The Bi Life*, and they won the

**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 42nd Year!**

542 Mt. Pleasant Rd.  
416-922-9595

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

**Special Discounts to Repeat Clientele!**

**Pricing for Supplies 30-40% LESS than our Major Competitors!**

**One Quick Stop for all your Packing, Moving & Storage Needs**

**Free On-site Parking & Free Delivery**

**ISAGENIX**  
THE ART OF WELLBEING.

Lose Weight \* Have More Energy \* Anti Aging Products  
\* Opportunity to Earn Residual Income \*

Kim Dobie, Independent Associate 416.529.1118  
kim.dobie@sympatico.ca kimvdoobie.isagenix.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**





# PATRICIA RESNICK

9 to 5 Still Has a Lot to Say

By Melissa MacMullin

**Influential LA-based screenwriter and producer, Patricia Resnick, wrote the original screenplay for the top-grossing film *9 to 5* in 1980, at the age 26, and has been working in film, television and theatre for ever since.**

It might have historically been a “rich man’s game,” as Dolly Parton sang in the title song she wrote for the film, but Patricia Resnick gave men in Hollywood a run for their money in the 70s as a young lesbian screenwriter ‘cutting her teeth’ in show business. When asked at what age she came out of the closet, she replied, “I’ve never been in!”

In 1979 she wrote a comedic script spotlighting women’s rights and workplace injustice, centred around three clerical workers who come together in solidarity to get even with their sexist, bigot of a boss. Little did Resnick know that her screenplay-turned-film would blow the windows and doors off of every box office in America, earning over 103.3 million dollars! Now 69 years old, she has two grown adult children and a rescue dog named Rufus. Recent credits include HBO’s



*Mad Men*, FX’s *Better Things* and Netflix’s queer limited-series, *Tales of the City*.

Resnick had her heart set on the film industry for a long time. “I loved movies, I loved theatre. The only job that I knew about was being an actor. I was 16 when I went to an acting class in New York. One, I didn’t like it. Two, I realized I wasn’t particularly good,” she shared. But it didn’t end there. “I was volunteering at the democratic convention in Miami Beach when I was about 17. I picked up a hitchhiking delegate. She was from Los Angeles and was the assistant to the director, **Elliot Silverstein**. I knew of Elliot as he had directed *Cat Ballou* with **Jane Fonda**. She asked if I wanted to come hang out on the set of a movie they were going to shoot in New Orleans, and that I could stay with her.” Resnick soon headed off to New Orleans. “I realized there’s a lot more jobs in this business than I thought. I asked them how do I get into this? What do I have to do? They told me to go to UCLA or USC and major in film. And that’s what I did.”

American film director, screenwriter, and producer, **Robert Altman**, gave Resnick her break into the movie business back in the mid-70s. Resnick was attending USC at the time when she stopped by one of his sets. She was writing a paper on Altman and waited for him to come out of his office so she could introduce herself. “At USC, we had to do a little of everything. You’d have to edit, you’d have to write, you’d have to direct, and you’d have to shoot. It quickly became clear to me that what I liked was writing. It was what I was good at. I then decided that’s what I’m going to pursue.” She dropped off her finished paper to Altman and he hired her through a

90-day grant program to be the assistant to the publicist. The rest? Pretty impressive history.

How Altman came to realize the extent of Resnick’s writing talents was through an off-chance writing opportunity given to her by seasoned actress, **Lily Tomlin**. Tomlin was working on a production during the time Altman was out of town. Resnick didn’t have anything to do, so, she hung out on the set to learn what she could. “Lily was asking and shouting to people, for improv direction. What could I say here? Or what would be funny? And I started yelling back suggestions,” shared Resnick. “She eventually came back behind the camera to see who that was. She took me to lunch, and we became friends. She asked me to write a sketch for what was going to be her first Broadway show, *Appearing Nitely*. She liked it. She asked me to write another one. Altman went to see it on Broadway and said, ‘oh, the kid can write.’ It led me to co-writing, the 1978 film, *A Wedding*, at age 24.”

Getting a leg up, or a foot in the door, wasn’t always something handed to females by other females in Hollywood, believe it or not. “Women back then didn’t have the same gay mafia. We called it the gay mafia, well, the gay guys in show business did. They all knew each other and worked together. Women back then, with most of them being straight, didn’t help each other, or younger women that much. I think they were worried that if they helped, and you didn’t do a good job, they would be to blame. They had their own foot in the door, and they wanted to protect that.” But Tomlin wasn’t your average Hollywood starlet, she saw Resnick’s potential and wanted her to shine. To be noticed as a female writer or director, especially queer, amongst a sea of men, wasn’t easy to do. “So definitely, as a





young woman who wanted to direct, it just wasn't happening back then. No, no. Even right after *9 to 5* was released, and all the success of the movie, it still wasn't a thing. It was the mindset of the time."

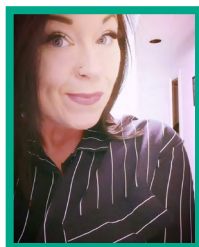
Ironically enough, there were *9 to 5*-esque matters happening behind the scenes of the movie before the cameras started rolling. She didn't know until recently, but for *9 to 5* they had trouble getting a director during the little window that Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and **Dolly Parton** could get together. "There was this writer, **Colin Higgins**, who had directed one movie, but Jane Fonda wanted a bigwig like **Mike Nichols**. They were running out of time, so they hired Colin Higgins. He told me right away that he didn't write with other people. He made it clear he was the captain of the ship. Colin told me I could visit the set once. That's it." Robert Altman always had the writers on the set, and that was Resnick's experience up until then. "So, I realized I was kind of erased from the narrative in favour of the male," she expressed.

Resnick also explained how women through the years, including herself, have continued to face similar issues experienced in the context of *9 to 5*. "Doors closed on me when I hit my 40s. It became very, very hard to sell a movie. But I had these two kids that I had to support." *9 to 5*'s political stance on the rise of the empowered female is still as relevant today as it was back then.

"I did the Broadway musical of *9 to 5*, that took us about five years. Before we opened in 2009, we had male journalists asking how contemporary audiences were going to relate to all those problems that had been fixed. They quickly realized oops, no, they hadn't been fixed," said Resnick. "I started thinking after the 'me too' movement, okay, this would be a good time for a *9 to 5* sequel." She teamed up with Rashida Jones to write a more diverse version and sold it to Fox. Fox has since been bought out by Disney, and there's been no further movement.

Resnick, however, is still writing and working on various upcoming projects because there will forever be a need for a voice as important and empowering as hers.

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.



## 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)

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](http://LGBTQsingles.ca)

# FRONTENAC

SINCE 1845 CLUB KINGSTON

Playful. Elegant. Unexpected.

Kingston | [frontenacclub.com](http://frontenacclub.com) | 613.547.6167



# WIGGED OUT

BY Tifa Wine

## POLITICS and PUSHBACKS on Canada's Drag Race



queen, and Bom the RuGirl. No longer able to do a marathon set of numerous songs on loop at a drag bar for big laughs, marketing to a national and international audience requires professionalizing your aesthetic, your brand, and the type of drag you want to present as classically yours.

As Bom noted: "I had to change who I was because I knew I would not be viewed by my ideal audience. To be a fan favourite, you must be liked. I had to change parts of me. I had to become more mainstream so you can go on the show and represent who you are. Do I do every look as a club kid, or do I look more human?"

Moving between showcasing authentic representations of her authentic club kid drag self and the marketable RuGirl-self became an obstacle for Bom, particularly in the lead-up to the airing of the show. However, before leaving to film Drag Race, she gave herself three affirmations of what she wanted to present:

1. Bring your culture
2. Be happy with what you're wearing
3. Be uncomfortable, both in the drag and ideas you present

While her politics were often vocalized through a parlance of sarcasm and comedy, Bom's words starkly disrupted the notion that Canada is the land of queer freedom, multiculturalism, and asylum from injustice, while also noting how she seemed to be slotted into an archetype as the liberal South Asian immigrant.

Perhaps what the show producers didn't expect were her multiple push-backs on white supremacy and xenophobia, and the consequences of speaking out against marginalization widely experienced by multiple groups in Canada. Yet, Bom articulated that her lived experiences, whether they be joyful or harmful while living in Canada, simultaneously have cultivated the birthing of her drag.

On a closing note, she offered an important message based on her CDR experience, "If you're going to get on Drag Race, don't be afraid of calling out systems of injustice. The people who understand you, will get you. If you ever have seven cameras pointed at you, say what you mean, say it in an impactful way."

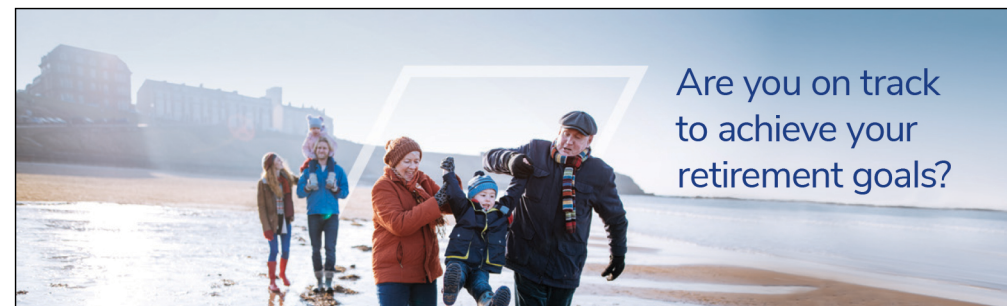
Tifa Wine is the drag persona of Ryan Persadie, an artist, educator, and writer based in Toronto.



Despite only being launched two years ago, [Canada's Drag Race](#) has quickly become one of the most celebrated versions of the - now global - phenomenon that began with self-identified "glamazon" **RuPaul Charles**. Mobilized to the "North", the show features LGBTQI+ artists across various experiences, histories, and aesthetic realms to compete for the title of Canada's Next Drag Superstar.

I recently sat down with Season 3 contestant, and self-proclaimed "club kid", "supermodel", and "human disaster" [Bom Bae](#) to reflect on her journey during the show as a Toronto local, specifically exploring her transition from a well-known city artist to television personality.

While *Drag Race* attempts to show the internal realness of queer life in Canada, for Bom Bae, there was a clear distinction between Bom the Toronto



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.

**IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

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)

**INspired Media inc.**

**Your "Feel Good" Media**

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

the pink pages  
directory.com

pinkplaymags

the Buzz TV

LGBT Friendly Business Network

ON THE COUCH

the Buzz REVERO



# Stacey Maltin



"I think there was always a part of me that knew that I wanted to have some kind of creative control in the stories I was telling, and helping to get important stories told. I really got into film when I was living in Tel Aviv, and when I moved back to New York we created our production company. I started directing just after our first feature *Landing Up* wrapped. I directed my first short *Head* that fall, and loved it so much. I learn so much on each project and can see how each one has shaped me as an artist."

*Triple Threat* is Stacey's favourite project, as it combines two of her biggest passions, film and musical theatre. It's a queer millennial musical love story that she describes, "It's a film exploring the creation of art, and it also presents a fresh perspective on gender roles when it comes to creating life and family. More women want their dreams to come true before they start the journey towards motherhood, and more men don't want to wait. This feature creates a beautiful and believable world that gives a fresh perspective to the societal gender binary—in an inclusive way."

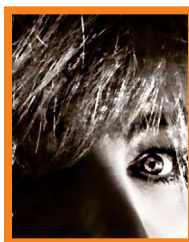
As for the future, Stacey remarks, "As an artist, there's never an end to achieving your dreams. I have projects I'm currently developing that I'm really passionate about, but one isn't necessarily a bigger dream than the other. Directing episodes of series that align with my style and hopefully directing features for larger streamers with budgets that can really elevate the work, would also be great. I'm also always going to be a multi-hyphenate, so I also see myself running my production companies with multiple projects in development and sometimes acting in projects as well."

Up next for Stacey is finishing post-production on a film she just directed, about the first female magician called, *Queen of Magic*. "I also have a rom-com I'm writing, as well as a horror feature. You gotta cover all aspects of the genre spectrum," she laughs.

*Triple Threat* is now streaming on Apple TV and other VOD platforms. Watch the trailer [here](#).

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](#)



Award winning actor and filmmaker [Stacey Maltin](#)'s first feature film, *Triple Threat*, was released this past June. Born and raised in San Francisco, her parents were art focused, so Stacey took ballet, enjoyed musical theatre soundtracks, and VHS Broadway recordings.

"I saw *Phantom of the Opera* when I was eight years old and I was like, "That. I want to do that."

Stacey begged her mom to sign her up for theatre school, and just a short time later, Stacey was performing as Fagin in *Oliver Twist*. Her passion continued and eventually she graduated from NYU, Tisch School of the Arts.

She admired directors **Gina Prince-Blythewood**, **Sofia Coppola**, and **Lin Manuel Miranda**, and believed she could have a career in directing. However, her dad is her personal inspiration. "He always encouraged me to follow my dreams and not let anything stop me. He taught me to be independent and own my power and I'm very grateful to him."

## 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



## Drag Queen Franchising



The third season of **Canada's Drag Race** has come to a crowning close. Those on the show, including new Queen of The North, Montreal's Gisèle Lullaby, are now tasked with the process of making their 15-minutes of fame last into a career. A career that pays coin.

Now armed with agents and PR teams, the task seems easier than it was in the past. Performing around the world is one way that purses are filled, but the most lucrative and least time consuming will be securing an endorsement deal with a bold brand. For over a decade, brand deals, once the domain of Hollywood celebrities, have extended down to online pseudo-celebrity influencers, and now drag queens.

The *Drag Race* franchise itself is of course heavily sponsored and carefully product placed. *Absolut Vodka* was one of the first major brands to come on-board and provide their wares, which was more of a service as it loosened up tongues and provided viewers with boozy banter between the queens. *Absolut* has since teamed up post-show with many of the top queens for print ads and sponsorship opportunities. In Canada, the company even came on as the presenting sponsor of the *Absolut Empire's Ball* and competition created by drag queen **Scarlett Bobo** who would go on to earn a spot as one of the final three on the first season of *Canada's Drag Race*.

Based in Toronto, **Sofonda**, is a business savvy queen who has performed around the world. Though she has not appeared on any of the *Drag Race* seasons, she has managed to parlay her own celebrity (and staying power of twenty years) to secure paid deals and lucrative sponsorships with brands like *Shoppers Drug Mart*, *L'Oréal*, *Kraft*, *Heinz*, *Skip*



*The Dishes*, *Skyy Vodka*, *SodaStream*, and even the *Toronto Blue Jays*.

But Sofonda does not accept these endorsements simply for the exposure or the money. "These companies also hire me to do private shows and interviews for their employees in order to raise awareness and positively reinforce an LGBTQ2+ safe environment in the workplace," Sofonda says. "It feels wonderful to be part of these initiatives and I am grateful that they do happen."

The best example of the drag queen spokesperson, and perhaps the first, is of course **Rupaul** himself. In 1994 he became the first drag queen to be the face of a major cosmetic company, *MAC*. The same might be possible for the Canadian drag queens who, through talent and hard work, have made a name for themselves. Ca-ching!

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



## STREAM UNLIMITED LGBTQ+ MOVIES & SHOWS AND SOOOOO MUCH MORE!



# ⚡ fearless

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



# A KODAK MOMENT

## Jacklin Falconer

BY BOYD KODAK



**Jackie Falconer** - A year ago we were still in the planning phases of Singing Out's Trans & Non-Binary ensemble's first performance. We talked a lot about the importance of what we were doing, on choosing meaningful music, and developing the language we wanted to use around our work. I began networking with Trans Choirs in the United States and expanded my online voice studio to focus on creating more spaces for people to explore gender expression in their singing and speaking voices.

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

**JF** - Singing Out put on two live performances last year and in Spring 22 the *Trans & Non-Binary Ensemble* made their debut. It was powerful and emotional for everyone involved.

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

**JF** - I'm looking forward to working with more singers, growing our ensemble with the choir, and partnering with [The Other Team](#) - an organization that provides LGBTQ+ youth in transitional housing with access to music lessons and instruments.

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

**JF** - Check out Singing Out's music on our [YouTube channel](#). And see us live! Tickets for our upcoming December show can be found [here](#). For info on lessons you can check out my [website](#), and find me on [Instagram](#).

**BK** - Future plans?

**JF** - I want to continue to shape vocal and choral music in Canada to be a more inclusive place. I'm developing workshops and training for educators and choir leaders.

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

**JF** - Every voice is valid and good.

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

**JF** - ...play little puzzle games on my phone (dimmer and blue light filter on!) until my mind can stop thinking about what I'll get up to tomorrow..

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



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

Photo by Jack Jackson



**If it's LGBTQ it's in one of our magazines!**

Whether it is showcasing businesses, exposing new talent or bringing you the latest entertainment news... INspired Media has a publication for you! Grab yourself a tea and check us out today.

[www.thepinkpagesdirectory.com](http://www.thepinkpagesdirectory.com) [www.pinkplaymags.com](http://www.pinkplaymags.com) [www.thebuzzmag.ca](http://www.thebuzzmag.ca)



## SWEATY BETTY'S



Nestled along bustling Ossington Avenue, just north of Queen Street West, is the cozy little dive called [Sweaty Betty's](#), a community safe space and watering hole that has firmly held its ground for nearly two decades as the area around it grew and gentrified. **May Brand** has owned the bar for the past 4 years, and managed it for 11 years before that. That dedication and experience is reflected in the supportive and committed staff and clientele.

The crowd changes depending on the day of the week, the time of the day, or for special events. There is a significant contingent of regulars who stop by for after-work drinks during the week, and a young, LGBTQ2S+ crowd who support the weekend drag shows. As well, in a neighbourhood of establishments that generally close by midnight, there is usually a flow of people down Ossington for after dinner cocktails on weekends.

With a décor of mismatched furniture, eclectic artwork, imaginative mirrors, and an intimate interior capacity of only 30, *Sweaty Betty's* is a great gathering spot for friends or to saddle up to the bar on one's own. There is also a large welcoming covered patio out back, with heaters in the cooler weather, that doubles the overall capacity and is a great place for afternoon drinks at any time of the year. There is also now additional seating in the CafeTO curb lane space, weather permitting.

Although there is no food service, outside food is welcome, and they even welcome food deliveries from your favourite local eateries. They highly recommend Soos, a Malaysian restaurant just up the street. May is vegan and encourages this practice by always offering vegan options for various cocktails, such as using vegan Worcestershire in Caesars, or vegan eggnog during the holiday season.

And, when you're ordering drinks, check the drink specials that are often generously sponsored by suppliers and reps, with 100% of the proceeds going to charity. Since March of this year, they have raised almost \$16,000 for multiple charities, including Ukrainian relief efforts, local LGBTQ+ charities, Residential School Survivors, and rescue dog organizations. After two years of pandemic lockdowns, where the bar was supported by its community of friends, neighbours, and regulars through a "GoFundMe" campaign, Sweaty Betty's is committed to paying it forward.

During the summer, they had weekly weekend drag shows outside on the front patio sidewalk, along with special event nights, such as their recent "Dyke Night", featuring authors reading their work, multiple DJs, and video screenings. Every few weeks, they also have a guest DJ play on a weeknight. All their entertainment and event offerings are listed on their [Instagram](#).

So, next time you want a change from The Village, and a departure from the crushing crowds, check out Sweaty Betty's, and enjoy a different neighbourhood and community environment.

[Sweaty Betty's](#) – 13 Ossington Ave. @ Queen St. W., Toronto

Monday to Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.; Saturday/Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

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!

[www.MonfrieseRumCakes.com](http://www.MonfrieseRumCakes.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: [jherszkopf@on.aibn.com](mailto:jherszkopf@on.aibn.com)**

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

**FREE CONSULTATION**

**Jerry Herszkopf – Barrister & Solicitor**





By Sherry Sylvain



By Sherry Sylvain

## TICOT Drag Brunch

October 16 & 30; 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. However, take note that all tips for all performers are donated to charity.

Church St. Garage, 477 Church St., Toronto

## Opera Atelier presents: Dido and Aeneas

October 20, 22, 23

An opera in a prologue and three acts, by the English Baroque composer Purcell, with libretto by Tate. It recounts the love of Dido, Queen of Carthage, for the Trojan hero Aeneas, and her despair when he abandons her.

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



## Julie et L'univers

October 20 – 22

From the Fleck Dance theatre. Inspired by Jean-Paul Lemieux's painting, and set in a wintry landscape reminiscent of his childhood in Quebec City, the work explores the lives of three young women on the cusp of adulthood.

Harbourfront Centre, 207 Queens Quay West, Toronto

## Solar Eclipse Drag Night

October 21; 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by the stunning and marvellous, Solar, this night is sure to be a ton of fun! Solar is joined by August Talent Show winner, Big D'Elle, and 717 favourite, Kali Kontour!

\$5 cover for non-members.

Club 717, 7-717 Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa



## Sarah Millican

October 21; 7:30 p.m.

A stand-up comedy show by the raucously and irreverently funny British comedienne, Sarah Millican, saying things you think about but rarely say.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto

## Dance Floor Darlings: A Kylie Minogue all night dance-a-thon

October 22; 10:00 p.m.

Limited tickets at the door on the big night. DJs Phillippe and OMGBLOG play Kylie hits, misses, remixes, and rarities all night. Big Shows from Fay Sift and Luna Dubois.

The Rivoli, 334 Queen St. W., Toronto

## HAUNTED Flamingo Market

October 23; 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Featuring, promoting and fostering the diverse small business and artisan talent that the LGBTQ2SIA+ community has to offer. This is an all inclusive, and child friendly space, with no cover charge. Masks, Proof of Vaccination, contact tracing protocols in effect.

Buddies In Bad Times, 12 Alexander St., Toronto



## 100 Years of Epic Film Scores

October 25, 26

Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke and the TSO will perform music from such silver-screen spectacles as The Godfather, Lawrence of Arabia, Pirates of the Caribbean, and The Avengers.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

## Night at the Bronze: A Buffy The Vampire Slayer Tribute Party

October 28; 7:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. dance party

A cast of comedians and actors read and sing-through the entire episode of Once More With Feeling. Lyrics will be provided so you can sing along. Costumes encouraged.

Buddies In Bad Times, 12 Alexander St., Toronto

## Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert

October 28, 29

"This is Halloween—everybody make a scene!" Tim Burton's cult classic comes to life like never before, projected on the big screen with Danny Elfman's delightfully quirky score performed live by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto



## Pitbull – Halloween

October 29; 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

International Superstar DJ Sam Gee will be headlining the decks while Toronto's own Sumation opens the night. Get ready to be blown away by spectacular production that will make this the ultimate Halloween party. Superstar drag shows, a costume contest with a \$250 prize, and a squad of creepy dancers will keep you going all night long.

The Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne St., Toronto

## Cinderella

November 3 to 13

With a new book by Douglas Carter Beane, this Tony Award-winning musical is delighting audiences with its surprisingly contemporary take on the classic tale. This lush production features incredible music, jaw-dropping transformations, and all the moments you love, plus some surprising new twists.

The Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton

## Jazzmeia Horn and her Noble Force

November 5; 8:00 p.m.

A winner of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition, the New York-based jazz vocalist performs songs from her Grammy Award nominated record, Dear Love, accompanied by an all-star Toronto big band.

Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto

## 7th Annual Black & White Gala

November 11; 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

There's no stopping these winners now - they are UNSTOPPABLE! Celebrate the incredible achievements of Canada's LGBTQ+ community. Hear stories from some of our fearless leaders and enjoy an evening of fabulous entertainment.

The Carlu, 444 Yonge St., Toronto

## Women's Blues Revue 2022

November 25; 7:00 p.m.

The Women's Blues Revue will be returning to the newly revitalized Massey Hall for its 35th year. Come together with blues lovers for an evening with some of Canada's finest female blues musicians.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto

## Laila Biali: Wintersongs & Holiday Classics

December 3; 8:00 p.m.

Laila Biali debuts her Wintersongs project accompanied by an all-star ensemble that includes special guests. The evening features original material, alongside arrangements of beloved secular and sacred classics, inviting you into the magic of winter and the holiday season.

Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto

## Christmas at the Movies with the Amadeus Choir of Toronto

December 4; 2:00 p.m.

Orchestra Toronto is taking you to the movies, with music from such holiday favourites of the big screen as Home Alone, It's a Wonderful Life, and Polar Express. Amadeus Choir of Toronto will help bring in the holidays with seasonal songs.

Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St., Toronto

## TSO Holiday Pops

December 6, 7, 8

Treat yourself and your loved ones to a bowlful of jolly. The TSO and Broadway stars Nikki Renée Daniels and Paul Alexander Nolan shine brightly beside Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke, and Lucas Waldin, as they make merry with holiday hits and classic carols.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

## ELF in Concert

December 9, 10

Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler, and raised among Santa's elves. This holiday season Buddy travels to New York with a live symphony orchestra. Experience John Debney conducting his wonderful score as the full film plays on the big screen.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

## EPIC 80s Sing-Along

December 9; 6:00 p.m.

The 80s had it covered when it came to EPIC pop hits, from Prince, Madonna, and George Michael, to Bon Jovi, Whitney, and Journey. Sing along to some of the greatest songs of the 80s by some of the greatest stars of the 80s.

The Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton





## ROAD TRIPS

### BURLESQUE

October 15; 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Drag King Seth Wood Do-Ya Davenport, and featuring stunning performances by Miss J, Sweet AzPie, Adelyn Vain, V.V., and Echo Noir. This show brings a bevy of beauties to the stage for an evening of burlesque.

**Sir Monty's Brewing Co., 1540 Durham Rg. Hwy. 2, Clarington**

### Nightmare On Richmond Street: Halloween Drag Show

October 22; 8:00 p.m.

The spookiest drag show you've ever seen. Hosted by London's Nicki Nastasia, and featuring Lillith Nox, Anne-tique Doll, Phoenix Black, and Jessie James. \$15 advance / \$20 at the door.

**The Rec Room, 1680 Richmond St., N. London**

### Miloš: Reflections & Reinvention

October 23; 2:00 p.m.

Miloš Karadagli was named by BBC Music Magazine as one of the six greatest classical guitarists of the last century, alongside guitar legend Andrés Segovia, to whom this program is dedicated.

**First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines**



### Rocky Horror Picture Show Screening

October 29; 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m..

Dress up in drag or as your favourite Transylvanian partygoer. No confetti, rice, glass bottles, super-soakers, lighters, or food from the outside will be permitted, but singalongs and shout outs will be.

Age: 16+ Prizes for best costume. Admission is PWYC donation at the door

**Stratford Pride Community Centre, 24 Downie St., Stratford**

### Measha Brueggergosman-Lee

November 5; 7:00 p.m.

Motivated and hungry for new experiences, award-winning Canadian soprano, Measha Brueggergosman-Lee's career effortlessly embraces the broadest array of performance platforms and musical styles and genres.

**First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines**



### Trans Day Of Remembrance 2022

November 20; 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Share/educate, get together to mourn and celebrate the Trans Lives Lost. There will be performances and speakers, with karaoke between sets. Admission includes a ticket for a draw prize, and additional tickets will be available for purchase. Cover will be a canned good donation to the Community Pantries/Fridges in Hamilton.

A Candle Light Vigil will be held outside at 8:30pm – weather permitting.

**Tracie's Place, 592 Upper James St., Hamilton**

### O Christmas Tea: A British Comedy

November 30; 7:30 p.m.

Off-Broadway Comedians and London's three-time IMPRESARIO Award-Winners, James & Jamesy, return with their outrageously funny and brilliantly inventive Christmas comedy classic. An astonishing show that delights thousands of hearts every holiday season.

**Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener**

### The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra

December 18; 7:30 p.m.

The Count Basie Orchestra directed by Scotty Barnhart, has won every respected jazz poll in the world at least once, performed for Kings, Queens, and other world Royalty, appeared in several movies, and at every major jazz festival and concert hall in the world. Don't miss this opportunity.

**First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines**

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

# SEASON NINE

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

the **BUZZTV** YouTube

[WWW.THEBUZZ.TV](http://WWW.THEBUZZ.TV)  
[WWW.ONTHECOUCH.CA](http://WWW.ONTHECOUCH.CA)





Healthy  Planet®

*Be Yourself*

**STAY FIT AND HEALTHY**

---

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

**LIVE LIFE HEALTHY**