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Cover Photo: Hayley Kiyoko by Trevor Flores

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

www.PinkPlayMags.com

www.thepinkpagesdirectory.com

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cglc

The Editor

Greetings and Salutations, and Hello 2020!

Wow, it's hard to believe we're now in the second decade of the new millennium. This little magazine called *theBUZZ* has quickly become a must read for the community since it's launch back in the summer of 2014, and we are grateful for your adoration.

In this first issue of the new decade, we once again spotlight two outstanding female artists. Our main feature is with pop sensation and LGBTQ+ icon, **Hayley Kiyoko**. She's just released her second full-length musical project, *I'm Too Sensitive For This Shit*, a collection of songs that are a bit darker than her previous offerings, yet still with a dance groove. She talks about what inspires her, how she expresses herself through music, being an icon to her growing legion of fans, and her future aspirations to direct a feature film.

Our second feature is on local musical project, **Witch Prophet**, a queer duo who have been community activists and artists for many years now. They're latest project, *DNA Activation*, a deeply personal work for vocalist Ayo Leilani, an ode to her Ethiopian/Eritrean roots. Along with her partner, Sun Sun, the pair recorded the tracks at their farm/studio where they live/work, after recently relocating to Caledon from Toronto. The album release is planned for March, with local release party shows to follow.

Our guest Wigged Out columnist in this issue is **Mx. Wolverine**, who provides us with an interesting perspective of how they combine their indigenous culture with drag culture. Our regular columnists once again bring us in-depth interviews, reviews, and perspectives. Cat Grant chatted with author and Theta Healing practitioner, **Angela Tsounis**, who offers advice and support for parents who are raising challenged children, while Boyd Kodak caught up with local singer and show curator, **Tobaron Waxman**, who has had performances and exhibitions around the world. Paul Bellini gives his take on the recent **Judy Garland** resurgence after **Renee Zellweger**'s portrayal of the gay icon in the film, *Judy*. Lastly, Raymond Helkio popped into **Craig's Cookies** to give us all the yummy goods just in time for Valentine's Day.

Don't forget to flip to the back pages for our popular BUZZpicks events listings, where you'll find an eclectic mix of Toronto area happenings and Road Trip suggestions, all compiled by our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain. As always, kudos to our designer, Mychol Scully, for making us all look so beautiful!

Thanks for picking us up. Enjoy the read!

Bryen Dunn
Editor-in-Chief



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Hayley Kiyoko

The Lesbian Jesus of Pop Music

By Bryen Dunn

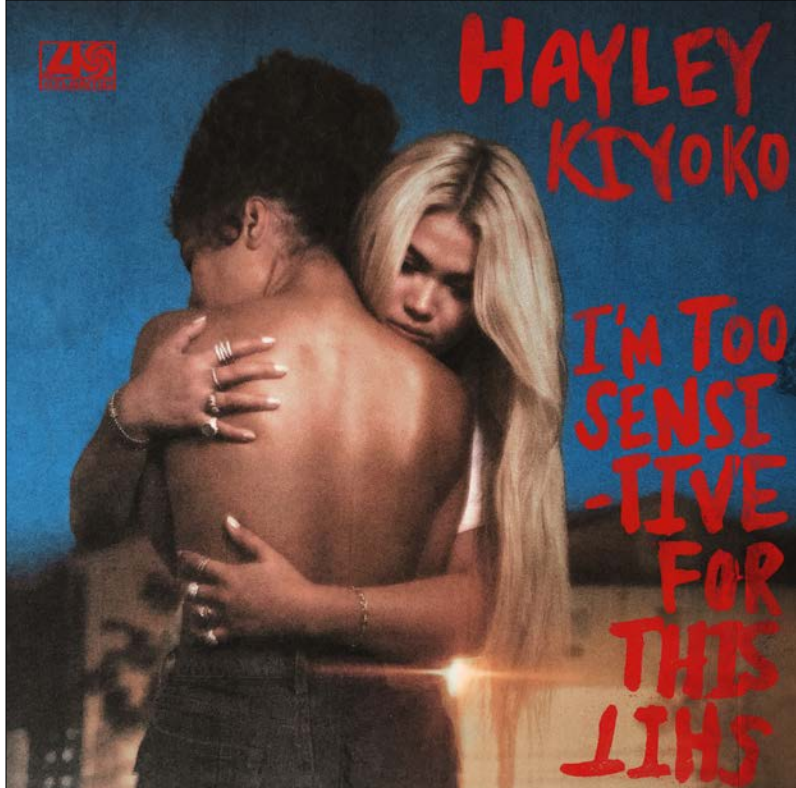
Many independent artists today have to juggle a multitude of responsibilities, and 28-year-old Hayley Kiyoko is a perfect example of such an individual. The multi-talented actress, singer, and songwriter, has appeared in numerous films and television shows in the past, and her music career is bigger now than ever.

From a very early age Hayley has had musical ambitions, beginning drum lessons at age six, writing drum charts and selling them, and she even wrote a song when she was 8-years-old called, *Notice*, that her father still urges her to release. Much of Kiyoko's music is focused on her life story and the emotions she's experienced while coming to terms with her identity as a lesbian. The *This Side of Paradise* music video focused on her

struggles with expressing her true self, and the *Gravel to Tempo* music video draws on her experiences with having crushes on girls while growing up. She also cites Canada's **Tegan and Sara**, and **Katy Perry's** *I Kissed a Girl* song and video as turning points and inspiration to focus more on pop music.

Kiyoko released her debut EP, *A Belle to Remember*, in 2013, followed by, *This Side of Paradise*, in 2015, that contained her highest charting single to date, *Girls Like Girls*. Although she came out to her family at a young age, she didn't come out publicly until her music career had started taking off, and in particular with the song, *Girls Like Girls*.

"I felt like *Girls Like Girls* was a song that spoke my truth, and I didn't think it would be considered a coming out song, but obviously the title alone is pretty self-explanatory. I tend to be private about my personal life in general, because some matters are meant to be kept private. After the song and video went viral and people started to see themselves represented in the story, I began to feel more accepted and less judgmental of myself. I always felt really isolated and misunderstood when I was younger, and so it felt incredible to let go of a lot of insecurity once the song became so widely embraced," she divulges.



After co-directing the video for *Girls Like Girls*, Kiyoko assumed full directorial responsibilities for her next music video, *Cliff's Edge*. Her next EP, *Citrine*, was released a year later, along with her third self-directed music video for the song, *One Bad Night*. "I started directing my videos out of necessity, because I didn't have huge budgets to afford hiring big name directors. I wouldn't say the transition was smooth, but I realized how much I love being behind the camera pretty quickly. Directing definitely has its challenges, especially when I have to do double duty on and off camera, but that's what motivates and inspires me the most! I love being able to envision an idea that starts with the song, and then see it all the way through to the finished visual product," she explains.

She cites nature as being one of the inspirations for her creativity. "Being in nature really gets my creative juices flowing, and most of these songs were written at a house in the middle of the desert in Joshua Tree, CA. A lot of the time I am inspired by life experiences, my relationships, and heartbreaks. For instance, my song *She* (released Jan 2020) is my anthem song about embracing your true self, and not being afraid of becoming who you want to be," she informs.

She is from her most recent release, *I'm Too Sensitive For This Shit*, which is also her most personal project to date. It's a follow up to her 2018 debut full-length studio album,

Expectations, and has been described as darker than her previous musical releases, particularly the song *Demons*.

Please forgive me I've got demons in my head, trying to feed me lies until I'm dead.

~ Lyrics from *Demons* ~

"*I'm Too Sensitive For This Shit* is probably one of the most raw and honest moments in my career thus far. I've experienced so much in the short time since *Expectations* was released, with all the ups and downs of being in a really tough industry, and tackling mental health issues while trying to stay sane through it all. *Demons* is a song that I'm super proud of because the lyrics came from such a vulnerable, honest place, yet the song itself is catchy and dance-y. This collection of songs showcases all these different emotions that most everyone can relate to," she expresses.

She's as appreciative of her fans, as they are of her, lovingly referring to Kiyoko as Lesbian Jesus. "Every day I am in awe of the bravery of my fans, all these beautiful people who are so open-minded and caring towards one another. I'm grateful to be a part of this (LGBT+) community and I hope to continue representing them



in the best way possible, by encouraging hope through sharing my truth", she admits.

She's also become an advocate for various LGBTQ+ organizations, recently being honored with the *Youth Innovator Award* at *The Trevor Project's, TrevorLIVE Los Angeles Gala*, for her work using her voice in the music industry to shine a light on marginalized communities. "I'm a big supporter of the life-saving work that organizations like *The Trevor Project* continue to do within the LGBTQ community. It was an amazing honour to be recognized by them this year, and I try to be as active as I can be in helping their cause. I'm also inspired by the work that both *GLAAD* and *Free Mom Hugs* are doing," she comments.

She was featured on *Billboard Magazine's* cover this past summer, along with several other queer artists, including **Tegan Quin, Adam Lambert, Big Freedia, and IloveMakonnen**. Last summer also saw her march in her first-ever WorldPride Parade in New York City, as the float ambassador for *W Hotels Worldwide*.

So while she continues to make a name for herself, and continues self-directing all her own videos, are there any aspirations to focus on larger scale projects? "It's a big dream of mine to be able to direct a feature film

some day, and possibly even develop and direct projects for television. So we shall see!" she concludes with confidence.

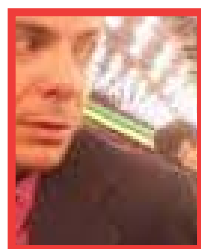
Kiyoko was scheduled to start a North American tour on January 29 to promote her new album, which included a stop here in Toronto on February 22. However, on January 18 she announced via Instagram that the entire tour has been cancelled as the timing didn't go as planned due to a lot of factors. She also stated that she'd use the time to work on another new album, but didn't mention the possibility of any rescheduled tour dates. Full refunds are being offered.

www.haylekyikyokoofficial.com

Photos — Trevor Flores

Album Artwork — Amanda Charchian

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities.





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Witch Prophet

By Raymond Helkio

Things have gotten a lot louder in the countryside since the band *Witch Prophet* moved into a 4,000 square foot farm in Caledon, Ontario, where they have been reinventing it into an artist residency, venue, and studio rehearsal space.

The move has been positive for both their personal and professional lives which have blossomed since immersing themselves in acres of forest and farmland.

Led by Toronto based Ethiopian/Eritrean singer-songwriter **Ayo Leilani**, and her partner **Sun Sun**, *Witch Prophet* takes you on a cerebral and airy journey that's as magical as their relationship. During a recent interview with Ayo she elaborated on how country living is impacting their creative projects.

"It's allowed us to focus on what we really want to do without the noise from the city distracting us. Living on the farm has brought a peace that I didn't realize I needed, and my body was craving. The country is great for when you need to sit down and work on things more in-depth, and because there is no sound limit you can blast the music as loud as you want and not worry about the neighbours," she explains.

"The city's loud, but you can be louder in the country."

- Ayo Leilani of *Witch Prophet*

Using her surroundings as spiritual inspiration, Ayo is harnessing the creative and spiritual energies around her and transforming it into new works. "I'm spiritual in the sense that I believe in spirits and I do believe in a higher power. I just don't know what that is exactly. I believe that tapping into the unknown realms is where my music comes from, that it is a gift from above. The lyrics that come out from me could

be understood as Christian messages, but I'm not Christian. I just believe in the power that the energy you put out will come back to you, and energy is a real thing. It's a scientific fact, so it's not a wish or a dream, this is a physical thing. It can be seen, you can use it for good or for bad. So I try and use the energy that I have to send whatever message is supposed to be sent into this world, and usually that comes with meditation, burning incense, and praying."

Mixing business and their romantic relationship has also enabled them to use the countryside as a studio to create, develop, and produce work on their own terms. Their most recent album, *The Golden Octave*, layers seemingly disparate elements with rich harmonies, smart beats, and vocal samples to create sound experiences that elevate the storytelling process. The album contains collaborations with ultra-queer **Rosina Kazi**, Polaris Music Prize winner **Lido Pimiet**a and Toronto legend **Lucas Silveira** (The Clinks), who Ayo was introduced to through a friend at the *Toronto Arts Council*.

"I had written the song, *Listen*, which was inspired by a friend of mine who was dealing with suicidal thoughts and mental health issues. So I just wrote Lucas and asked if he'd be interested in collaborating," she says. What began as a creative collaboration on a music track has evolved into a meaningful friendship for the both of them. "Since then we've helped each other with music, spiritual, and health advice."

The Golden Octave is so perfectly balanced that it begs the question, how can they top this? With their *Ontario Arts Council* funded sophomore album, *DNA Activation*, releasing this spring, we'll soon find out. The new album promises to be a deeply personal work for Ayo, an ode to her Ethiopian/Eritrean roots. "Every song is named after a family member. It's really a very personal album, especially since I'm not just singing in English. I want to be able to connect more deeply with my community, so it's a very vulnerable album for me. Just like with any culture where you don't speak the language fluently, there will always be someone judging you for being a child of the diaspora."

Witch Prophet's musical journey is not unlike artists such as **Tegan and Sara**, who have been navigating the industry primarily on their own, and self-producing in a largely straight, male-dominated industry, yet making it big. So how are they doing it? After-all, self-producing is hard work, and then add being a queer artist to the mix, and things are all the more challenging. As Ayo explains, "It's also a challenge for people to see me as a queer artist when I'm also a black African woman. That also comes with a lot of misconceptions about who is allowed to be part of queer culture and who isn't."

Defining success on one's own terms may be an uphill battle, but as Ayo is quick to point out, it has come with life lessons that have ultimately shaped their career. "I now know all the steps that it takes to make it in the music industry, and it takes more than one or two posts online. I wish someone had



told me that a lot of the people who I think are independent artists actually aren't, and have a team behind them. It will probably take ten years to break through as an independent artist, but now I understand the actual process of doing an album."

WITCH PROPHET ALBUM RELEASE

The official album release is expected on March 23, 2020 with a Toronto showcase to follow at a later date.

Details TBA here witchprophet.com

Raymond Helkio is an author, director filmmaker, and graduate of Ontario College of Art & Design. He currently lives in both Toronto and New York. His most recent play, LEDUC, is now available in paperback. www.raymondhalkio.com



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WIGGED OUT

BY Mx.WOLVERINE

DAG KING OR DAG CHIEF?



When I started playing with my masculinity in the form of drag, a small part of me felt that I needed to wear a wig.

You see, my hair is long, and the majority of drag kings that I know of and have seen, have short hair. I quickly realized that my own understanding of masculinity and masculine energy was very colonized – in the sense of mainstream white culture. The reality though, is that in many Indigenous nations, traditionally long hair on men was considered very masculine and very sacred. As an Indigenous king, I wanted to stay true to my roots, and be as actively visible as I could in portraying good Indigenous representation, which is especially important given that I am currently the only active Indigenous drag-king identified performer in Toronto.

When one thinks of an Indigenous man, what comes to mind? I am convinced that the words coming to the forefront are 'addiction', 'poverty', 'violence', 'death', 'horseback'. From old Western movies to present day news headlines, widespread social knowledge of Indigenous men is often rooted in stereotypes, fear, and discrimination. People are either exposed to the violent war-crying Indian with feathers on his head, or media coverage of the body count from drug

and death crises across Indigenous communities. Similar to Indigenous women who are most often harmfully portrayed as either hyper-sexualized or battered victims, the mainstream understanding of Indigenous men is also harmful and problematic.

Mx.Wolverine is a drag king who rocks a long braid. The braid may be my signature, but really it is an act of resurgence, decolonizing understandings of masculinity and advocating the pride of identity down my back. My drag name is another homage to the power and magic that is Indigenous culture. The wolverine is an animal native to my own territory, often known as a fierce, powerful and secretive being. For millennia, Indigenous men trapped wolverine as a source of survival, bringing home fur, meat and bones for warmth and tools. Men were providers; strong, fit, and capable, taking care of their whole communities.

In being Mx.Wolverine, I am owning not just Indigenous masculinity, but the sacred sensuality of Indigenous masculinity. Sensuality is not limited to femininity. In fact, many Indigenous worldviews believe that everyone carries a balance of both masculine and feminine energies. Through this balance, we are whole, we bring balance to everything around us, and we respect everyone and everything around us.

As Mx.Wolverine, I get to play with that balance of energy. Through drag performance, I get to choose how people see me, and I choose for people to see me as a strong, capable, proud, and sexy being. This also means carrying a sense of fluidity in my performance and identity. Mx.Wolverine is very queer, and that does not undermine his masculinity.

Being Indigenous is sacred. Healthy Indigenous masculinity is sacred. Indigenous men are sexy and beautiful beings. Queer Indigenous men are sexy and beautiful beings!

Also known as Midnight Wolverine, Mx.Wolverine is Tkaronto's midnight tease, trickster and shapeshifter. They are an indigiqueer burlesque and drag performer using their 2spirit identity to politicize and sexify stages everywhere. Having debuted as a performer in 2018, they have performed at events like the Fierce Queer International Burlesque Festival, Bagel Burlesque Expo in Montreal, and Pride Toronto. They will be featured in CBC Gem's Canada's A Drag series, season 3 airing in 2020.



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Angela Tsounis

Born and raised in Scarborough, Theta Healing practitioner and author Angela Tsounis, has written a trilogy of successful books called, *Different From The Other Kids: A Book of Interviews for Parents of Challenging Children*.

Angela defines it as, “A story about a mother who went looking for help, and made it her mission to share what she learned.”

The help needed was for a daughter, and the mother was Angela herself. “At 17 my child tried to overdose. She was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, and hospitalized, Angela shares. “Upon her release, I went seeking answers. How do I parent this child who I barely recognize in her psychosis, dangerous behaviour and emotional issues? Feeling misunderstood and judged (as was her child) by in her words, “Pretty much everyone,” Angela had nowhere to turn for specialized parenting support and help. “I needed an education, and so did the other parents out there with kids who had similar challenges, who, like me, couldn’t find it.”

Angela started a podcast called *DFTOK*, interviewing people (care takers, psychologists, holistic health practitioners, etc.) in order to share the information with others in need. The books followed naturally as a complement to the podcast. Angela hopes that the books achieve support through shared experiences. “Many of these parents are physically exhausted and financially stressed beyond measure. They need to know there are others out there surviving, and how they are accomplishing that.”

This lioness mama has no new writing in the works presently, but is continuing with her podcast.

“I believe there is always room for more stories that are hard to hear, but that support and bind those together in the mental health community.”

Angela also is creating essential oils and prepares oil application techniques for those who want a layering of these oils for mind and or body issues. “Essential oils were part of my daughter’s tool box in taking control back and getting off pharmaceutical medication (not typical, but possible for some).



As a natural alternative, essential oils gave enough plant based medicine to support her body and mind when learning a new way to self-regulate.”

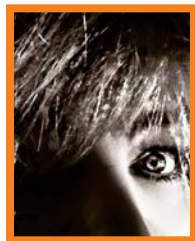
Looking ahead positively is a practice and choice Angela makes every day. “I follow my heart – it’s intuitive. My question is always: Does it FEEL right? I am resilient. I believe it’s one of the most under rated attributes a human can have. We all get knocked down, but what matters most is how you get back up.”

Next challenge for Angela? “I am going minimalist... wish me luck,” she laughs. “I am getting rid of all of my ‘stuff’ to go and live on a small houseboat for eight months of the year, while the other four months I will be at friends. It has been an interesting process. The more I get rid of, the better I feel. I want to live a simple and uncomplicated life with less stuff and more adventure.”

You can reach Angela for oils and healing via email - angelatsounis@gmail.com
Facebook: Angela Tsounis
DTOK podcast is available on your fave podcast app.

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

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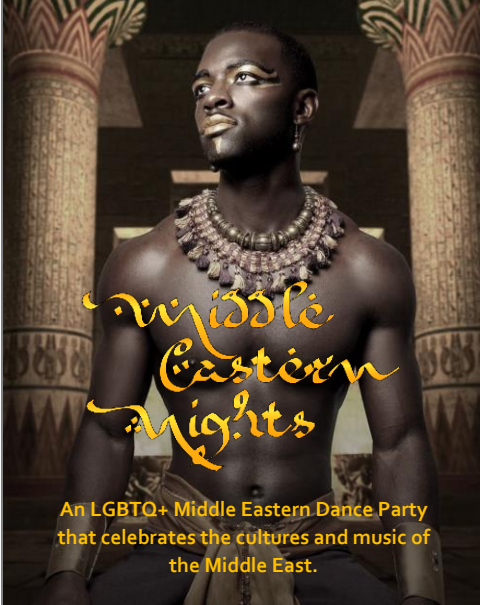
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A HOMAGE TO JUDY GARLAND



Renee Zellweger won a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress, Drama, for her portrayal of Judy Garland in the movie, *Judy*, and was a nominee for an Academy Award, which she may well have won by the time you read this.

She completely erases herself in the service of the character, and she does a damn good job of portraying Judy's pain, talent, and confusion. If you haven't seen it yet, what kind of a gay man are you?

Which is exactly the point. Older generations of gay men revered Judy Garland. I recall visiting the late Steve Roseland's apartment, which was a shrine to all things Judy. He wasn't the only one. In an earlier era, when discretion was absolute, many gay men would use the phrase "a friend of Dorothy's" to indicate who was gay. The reference, if it is lost on you, comes from Garland's iconic character in *The Wizard of Oz*, a movie from 80 years ago that people still watch and love.

Born in 1922 to a gay vaudevillian and his wife, she made her stage debut as Baby Gumm. She wisely changed her name once her singing career started to take off. She made over 35 movies and recorded hundreds of songs, including *Over the Rainbow*, which was chosen as the number one song of all time by the *Recording Industry Association of America*.

As great as Zellweger's performance is, she does not quite have Judy's gifts in the singing department. One only need watch Garland perform the song, *The Man That Got Away*, in the film *A Star Is Born*, to understand why people generally

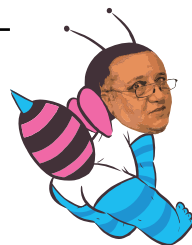
regard her as the greatest female singer of the last century. Even Maria Callas said that Judy had, "the most superb voice she had ever heard".

Garland's voice was both supple and powerful, but more importantly, she could convey emotions. In an era where most of the songs on the radio feature slutty young girls whining about their shitty boyfriends (Ariana!), it is refreshing to hear a woman who could sing her pain in a way that made you understand your own pain as well.

Garland died in London at the age of 47 from an accidental overdose. Co-star Ray Bolger proclaimed at her funeral that she had, "just plain wore out." It has long been suggested that Garland's funeral, held in New York City on June 26, 1969, was the catalyst for the Stonewall Riots. Like every other myth about Stonewall, it might be true, it might be false. But there is no denying that gay men buried a patron saint on that day.

This woman, who sang her heart out, had five marriages (including one to a gay man, Vincente Minnelli), struggled with alcohol and drug abuse, felt insecurity about her 'ugly duckling' appearance, and always seemed to be at odds with something - the studio, her family, the audiences. Yet, she still created a legend that looms large. More than any other singer on earth, Judy Garland actually means something to gay men. She is our patron saint, and the best effin' singer that ever was.

Paul Bellini is an award-winning television comedy writer (*Kids in the Hall*, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*). He also teaches comedy writing at *George Brown College* in Toronto.





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A KODAK MOMENT

Tobaron Waxman

BY BOYD KODAK



Tobaron Waxman is an artist who sings, and a show curator who works in video, photography and performance art, interrogating how borders and notions of citizenship make moral and ethical claims on our bodies.

Tobaron's artworks have been exhibited in museums and galleries across the USA, EU and Asia, and has produced curatorial projects of dance, video and art internationally as well. In Toronto, Tobaron directs *The Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency* as a combined curatorial, relational/live art, and socio-political praxis.

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

Tobaron Waxman – Many personal firsts! I'm very fortunate to have exhibited, performed, collaborated, and published internationally this year. This included a duet in Brooklyn with Kim Doan Quoc, that featured her live image mapping and my vocal performance. We sublimely fit together on eco-sexual themes.

I developed *Gender Diasporist* in Warsaw, combining the history of my family's escape from Poland with contemporary Polish trans activism, as a study of how the state imposes itself on our bodies. This involved crossing borders into Belarus, the last communist dictatorship in Europe, where my mother was born. Together with the Belarus clandestine LGBTQ+ activist group, we found her childhood house. *Gender Diasporist* will be performed in Krakow in June.

This past fall I exhibited work in India and visited Mumbai for the first time. My project *Fear of a Bearded Planet* was in a fascinating show about the political implications of sound and listening. I expanded my performance research on queer

resistance to ethno-nationalism and extractivism under these complex circumstances.

In Canada I've been supporting other queer and trans artists, both via *The Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency*, and by developing the *Trans Collections at The ArQuives*, that included the *Retrospective Exhibition: The Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency* (2013-2019), curated by Syrus Marcus Ware. ILGBTAR is also a curatorial consultancy to galleries and museums.

In June, I curated *A Little Sugar in My Bowl* for *Power Ball: Club 21 at Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery*. The project featured many of Toronto's most iconic drag acts performing in the round, under a chandelier designed and hand fabricated by ILGBTAR alum Michel Dumont.

BK – Wow that's one busy schedule, during that time, which was the one most exciting event for you?

TW – Too many to mention! One highlight was my first ever visit to Mexico City. I was invited to collaborate with ethno-musicologists and composers at *Hemispheric Institute's* international conference on performance and politics in the Americas.

BK – What are you looking forward to next year?

TW – March: *U of T Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies*, where I'll be speaking about queer artists' decolonial strategies at, *Sex Salon*.

April: I'm composing a hybrid exhibition of contemporary art combined with artifacts, interactive tour, and panel discussion. It's called *ActiVisions: Trans Histories and Activism 1970s-2010s*, hosted by *Myseum Toronto* and *The ArQuives*.

May: ILGBTAR will host an interdisciplinary exhibition at *Tangled Art + Disability*, featuring fabulous alumni.

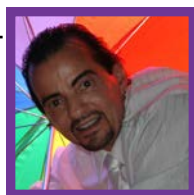
August 4 – 17 at the *Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency*

BK – Where can we see your work?

TW – The *Livush Project* in TSQ, *Trans Religion*, or an interview I did with *Image Journal*.

www.tobaron.com

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





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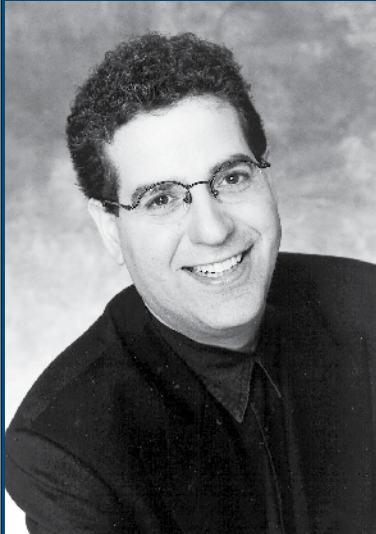
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CRAIG'S COOKIES

THE LITTLE COOKIE THAT COULD



Craig Pike is one smart cookie. From cookie maker to cookie master, he has taken a small idea and turned it into something sweetly delicious, that has earned him a following of devoted social media fans who devour each and every delicious post. Promoted mostly through social media channels like Facebook, Craig's first attempt at cookie sales saw him personally hand delivering cookies to customers.

With his newly earned confidence, he tried venturing into the world of flea markets, baker's fairs, and pop-up shops in existing retail locations, such as Nordstrom and Williams-Sonoma. This eventually led to the opening of his first bricks and mortar outlet, located on Queen Street West in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood. Founded in 2013, **Craig's Cookies** celebrates the yum factor in the chocolate chip cookie and beyond!

The tiny shop is arranged to sufficiently display their full line of baked goods, and little else except for coffee or espresso, depending on the buzz factor you are aiming for. The walls are lined with kitschy photos, film memorabilia, handwritten menus, and a small bakers rack that gives the location it's cozy feeling, along with the thick air wafting from the ovens. Using only the best ingredients, Craig bakes with a recipe taught to him by his Mom when he was a youngster.

Robert, one of Craig's Cookies super staffers, has watched the business expand in new directions, and highlights how popular the cookies have become, especially during holidays like Christmas and Valentine's Day. Considering much of their sales come from local Uber deliveries, they are in an ideal residential area in Parkdale..

Having not just survived but thrived, they've recently expanded to a second, much slicker outlet on Church Street. While the space is considerably more upscale, it maintains its original eclectic charm. They also boast some non-cookie

treats like the framed cross-stitch of **Patricia Wilson** (Buddies In Bad Times Theatre), by Ashes Marcus, that hangs on the wall as a reminder of all the things good within our community. In addition, with doing-good ingrained in their identity, they've supported organizations like **The 519** with initiatives that donate a percentage of sales, thereby turning cookie dough into real dough.

The secret to their success is in their ability to deliver one thing really, really well, along with Craig's insatiable need to keep inventing new and novel takes on the traditional chocolate chip cookie. Toblerone, peanut butter M&M's, Mars bar, Reece's Pieces, Pride Cookies, and Nutella are just some of the stuffings baked into each batch, that can be ordered individually, or by the dozen which will be delivered the next day. Yum!

Pike is also an actor and founding conductor of Toronto's, "That Choir". www.thatchoir.com

CRAIG'S COOKIES

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www.craigscookies.com

Raymond Helkio is an author, director filmmaker, and graduate of Ontario College of Art & Design. He currently lives in both Toronto and New York. His most recent play, LEDUC, is now available in paperback.
www.raymondhelkio.com



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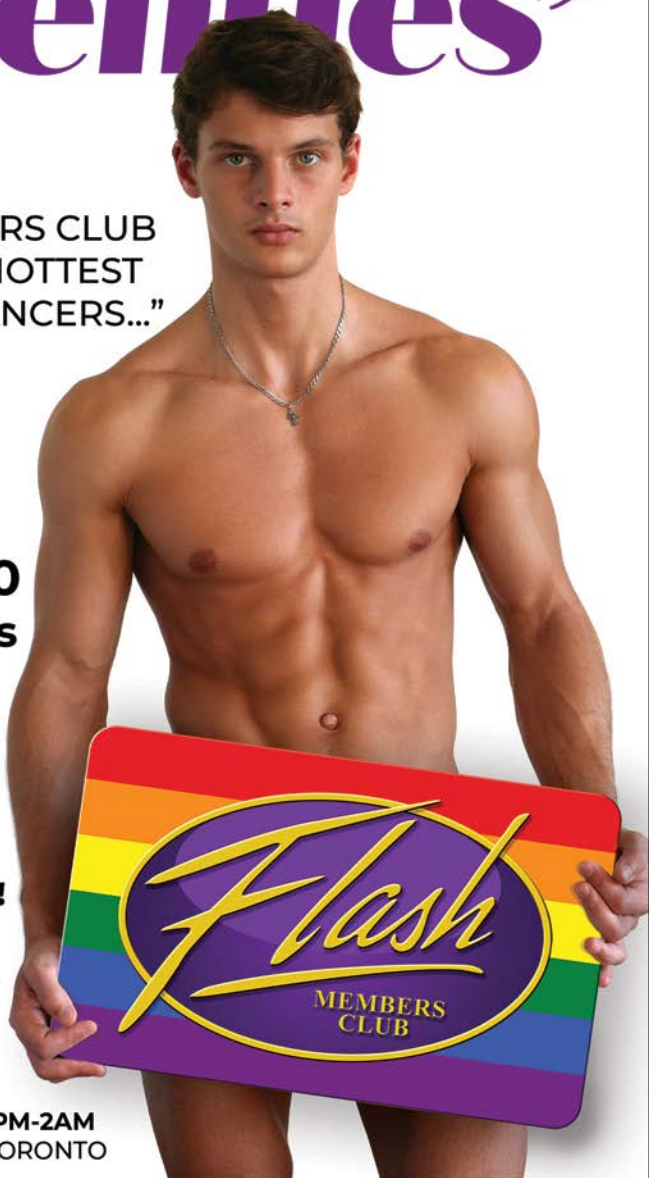
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By Sherry Sylvain

BUZZ Local Picks

GTA Home & Reno Show

Feb 14, - Feb 17

Get advice from industry professionals, hands-on experience with power tools, and see how you can add value to your home. Everything you need to get your next project started is waiting for you at this show.

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

Karaoke Tuesdays with Scotty

Every Tuesday through Dec. 23, 2020

Hosted by Scotty Newlands. Take the stage and sing. Take advantage of drink specials and the popcorn machine. Show off your vocal chops – or lack thereof.

WAYLA, 996 Queen St. E., Toronto
www.waylabar.ca

Jock Night

Every Thursday; 8:00 p.m.

Special guest performers! Giveaways! Prizes and Surprises! Nude Male Dancers! Your hostess Morgan James hits the stage at 10:00 p.m. This event is restricted to men only.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto
www.flashonchurch.com

Sunday Scene

Most Sundays; 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Whether focusing on a single work/artist or on multiple exhibitions, guest presenters draw provocative connections between gallery programs and broader cultural and intellectual debates.

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery,
231 Queens Quay W., Toronto
www.thepowerplant.org

Skyfall in Concert

February 21 & 22; 7:30 p.m.

Experience composer Thomas Newman's BAFTA-winning original score performed live by the Motion Picture Symphony Orchestra in sync to the movie.

Meridian Hall, 1 Front St., Toronto
www.meridianhall.com

Classic Albums Live: Pink Floyd The Wall

February 21; 8:00 p.m.

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

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

Oh Fudge 5

February 22; 7:00 p.m.

TICOT's Annual Comedy Show in Honour of Empress 9, 14, 17 & 25 Candice Kelly. \$10 suggested donation at the door; \$5 with a non perishable food item. Proceeds to the charities of Reign 33.

Cock Bar, 461 Church St., 2nd Floor, Toronto
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com

Rangeela presents: JOBAN

February 22; 10:00 p.m.

Come through with your nails, hair, hips, and heels, as DJ Aman works up the HOTTEST BOLLYWOOD beats, with the SASSIEST classics. Anyone in (full) drag gets in FREE before 11:00 p.m.

Club 120, 120 Church St., Toronto
www.club120.ca

Freak Like Me

February 28; 10:00 p.m.

A sex positive, freak forward, gender inclusive party where everyone is a VIP, loved and welcome. \$5 before 11:00 p.m. - \$10 after 11:00 p.m.

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



1st Annual Pride in Love and The Love is Love Ball

February 29; from 3:00 p.m.

Wedding and romance show operated by, and focusing on the LGBTQ2S community. Featuring various vendors and exhibitors, a fashion show, and followed by a FAB dance party.

Fantasy Farm Event Centre & Banquet Hall, 50 Pottery Rd., Toronto
www.prideinlove.lgbt



BUZZPICKS

Toronto International Bicycle Show

March 6 to 8

A large selection of vendors, suppliers, speakers, and exhibitors. Plus a Bike Polo Tournament, and an indoor riding track that works for testing every type of bike. The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga
www.bicycleshowtoronto.com/spring-show

Branford Marsalis Quartet

March 7; 8:00 p.m.

Saxophonist Marsalis, pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Justin Faulkner are each bold personalities with strong opinions, equally intense in musical exchanges. Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto
www.rcmusic.com

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

March 7 & 8

The world's foremost all-male ballet company slyly skews the classics, including audience favourite Swan Lake, in this uproariously funny performance. Yes, it's drag ballet! Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St., Toronto
www.heritagetrust.on.ca

Summer: The Donna Summer Musical

March 10 to 22

Discover the story of disco icon Donna Summer. This show has been praised as being not just a celebration of Summer, but of women as a whole, and features all her greatest hits. Princess of Wales Theatre, 300 King St., Toronto
www.mirvish.com/theatres/princess-of-wales-theatre



Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox - Welcome to the Twenties 2.0

March 19; 8:00 p.m.

Started by Bradlee in 2009, Postmodern Jukebox (PMJ) has gone on to amass over one billion YouTube views with 3.5 million subscribers, and has chalked up more than 1.7 million fans on Facebook.

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

The Spring Cottage Life Show

March 26 to 29

600 exhibitors showing boats, docks, builders, contractors, innovative building products, green solutions, decor and style, arts and crafts, food and entertaining, water toys and more. The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga
www.shows.cottagelife.com

Kitten Kaboodle's April Fools Follies

April 1; 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

A curated drag show fundraiser hosted by the current and past Queen Mums, Kitten Kaboodle and Endora St. Moorehead. With fabulous raffle prizes and a possible open stage if time allows.

Woody's & Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com

Backyard Living Expo + Barbecue & Beverage

April 3 to 5

Whether you are looking to design an outdoor kitchen, create a relaxing space for your family, create the landscape of your dreams, or entertain guests in style, head to the Backyard Living Expo.

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



Flamingo Market - Spring Has Sprung Edition

April 5; 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A FREE ADMISSION Market with an all inclusive, child friendly environment. All are welcome to attend. Have a gay ole' time supporting the local talent that lives within our community. Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto
www.buddiesinbadtimes.com



BUZZPICKS

BUZZ Road Trips

Sobey's Comedy Night

February 15; 8:00 p.m.

Host David Green puts together another hilarious round of comedians, featuring headliner Ronnie Edwards. David will be joined by other up and coming comedians for a night of laughter.

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

Gaokoe Karaoke

Sundays through April 27; 8:00 p.m.

Karaoke every Sunday at this all welcoming gay bar. No cover.

T's Pub, 323 Somerset St. W., Ottawa
www.tspub.ca

Thirsty Thursday

Every Thursday, until November 6; 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy a game of pool or catch the latest game on the dedicated sports TVs. Always a welcoming and safe place to just chill and enjoy the tunes. Check out the new low bar prices and weekly drink specials.

Club 717, 7-717 Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa
www.club717.ca

Ballet Jazz Montreal: Leonard Cohen's Dance Me

February 19; 8:00 p.m.

Dance Me is an exclusive creation inspired by the rich and profound work of Montreal-based poet, artist and songwriter, Leonard Cohen.

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

Disney on Ice presents Celebrate Memories

February 20 to 23

Sail along with Moana on her high-seas adventure and dance with Woody, Buzz and all the Toy Story friends. Feel inspired when love wins in Frozen and dreams come true for the Disney Princesses.

Budweiser Gardens, 99 Dundas St., London
www.budweisergardens.com

That's My Drag

February 22; 7:00 p.m.

A professional traveling Drag Show that originates in Guelph, and is Ontario's leading drag troupe showcasing some of Ontario's most talented Drag performers.

United Steel Workers Hall, 66 Brady St., Sudbury
www.reseauaccessnetwork.com

Kitchener-Waterloo Comedy Festival Opening Gala

February 27; 8:00 p.m.

The KW Comedy Festival opening night gala features Graham Chittenden, Tom Green (host), Ron Josol, Alex Falcone, DeAnne Smith, Rob Bebenek, Shayne Smith, and Bri Pruett. Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener
www.centreinthesquare.com

Riverdance

March 3 & 4

A powerful and stirring reinvention of this beloved favourite, celebrated the world over for its Grammy Award-winning score and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance.

Budweiser Gardens, 99 Dundas St., London
www.budweisergardens.com

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March 15; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron St., Niagara-On-The-Lake
www.bravoniagara.org

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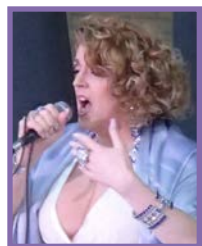
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Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to).



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