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The Editor

Greetings and Salutations,

Happy Pride! Although we're in a time of change and uncertainty, we still must remain hopeful for a brighter future, and we're here to offer some uplifting, and positive stories to kick start your summer.

Feature one spotlights the incredible work of Brooklyn's **House of YES** collective, an incubator for the creation of awesome parties, cabaret shows, and outrageous events. While their live events are notorious, they too have had to move into the digital world, where they've been hosting Saturday night interactive dance parties, deep house yoga, drag shows, burlesque and dance classes, and their video project, *HoY TV*. Our writer, Raymond Helkio, caught up with *HoY* to find out what's up, and he also attended one of their online yoga classes, which apparently was quite tantalizing.

Feature two is on Los Angeles-based musician, author, and artist, **Alice Bag**. Stage diving into the East LA punk music scene in the late 1970s, she's back with a new album that's as edgy as ever. The collection confronts some of the most pervasive problems troubling our world today. The lead single "*Spark*" features **Vander Von Odd**, Season One winner of *Dragula*. During self-isolation, Bag has also been creating *Fit for the Apocalypse* videos for her YouTube channel.

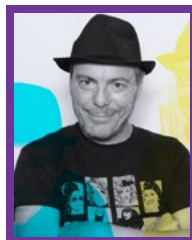
Our guest Wigged Out columnist in this issue is **Dminda Tension**, who gives us a run down on what various Church Street performers have been doing with their time in *QuarantQueen*. Cat Grant chatted with the multi-talented actor and playwright **Margo MacDonald**, who has a couple of new productions she's working on. Boyd Kodak caught up with **Leah Allyce Canali**, a pop, R&B, soul, and dance vocalist, who's currently working on a new album. Paul Bellini spoke with **Roy Mitchell**, resident of Hybla Hastings, near Bancroft, Ontario. He's been involved in organizing a local Pride event, housing artists at *The Hybla Residency*, and also hosts a podcast, *The Hybla Minute*. Raymond Helkio took a pandemic pause from visiting local establishment to bring us (Virtually) Beyond The Village, with online programming from **Deb Pearce**, **Nathaniel Bacon**, and **Glad Day Bookshop**.

Our popular BUZZPicks events listings are now virtual as well, where you'll find an eclectic mix of happenings across the WWW, all compiled by our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain. As always, kudos to our designer, Mychol Scully, for making us all look fabulous!

Thanks for picking us up.

Enjoy the read!

Bryen Dunn
Editor-in-Chief



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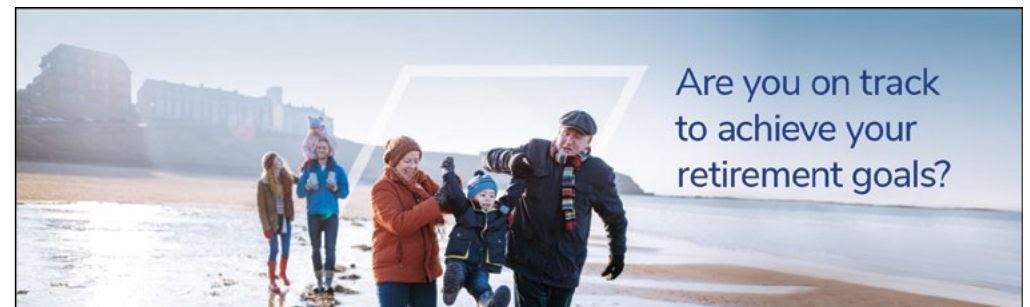
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House of Yes (HoY) is a collective of creative types who support artistic expression through community-centric performances and nightlife. Founded in 2007, the concept began as a live/work artist circus theatre and creative event space conceived by Anya Sapozhnikova and Kae Burke.

The pair still maintain a sewing studio in Bushwick, and most of the costumes used in club performances and theatre shows are hand-made. The core community is made up of artists, performers, creatives, and Burning Man attendees. All different types of people who like to contribute creatively to social gatherings. Many of their weekend parties over the past four years have been themed, and costumes have always been encouraged.

Currently based out of Brooklyn, their venue acts as an incubator for the creation of spectacular entertainment, awesome parties, cabaret shows, and outrageous events. The space looks much like a collaboration between Toronto's *Gladstone Hotel* and Peter Gatien's legendary *CIRCA* nightclub, complete with themed performance

rooms that are nestled within a maze of smaller theatre and artist spaces.

However, in their first year of existence the original space was lost to an eight-alarm fire. Not losing hope, they began an aggressive fundraising campaign, and within months the community had pulled together enough money to put a deposit down on a dilapidated ice-house located just off of Grand Street L train in East Williamsburg.

After extensive work taking down walls, installing kitchens, studios, and stages, they were now twice the size with the capability to host fashion shows, movie screenings, a variety of creative classes, aerial theatre, and circus spectacles. The place was a huge success attracting a dedicated volunteer base of supporters, fans, and participating artists. Five years had passed, and while their creative model was hugely successful, skyrocketing rents forced them to once again close their doors. Ironically, they then managed to open up again six months later back in the neighbourhood where it all started.

“We have created this space as a temple of expression, that’s dedicated to connection, creativity and celebrating life. We believe in the creative energy of every person who enters this space. We believe that performance, dance and art can inspire and heal us. We believe the



world can be a better place. We believe that weird is wonderful. See you on the dance floor.”

- House of Yes -

A fairy tale for sure, *HoY's* story continues to evolve as they respond to the new era of social distancing. The shift from live events to digital streaming was first inspired by the bi-weekly party on Zoom, run by a group called *Social Distance*.

According to **Jacqui Rabkin**, who spearheads the social and digital arenas for HoY, “*Social Distance* was the first group we saw bringing dancers together using video conferencing tools. Myself and **David Kiss**, our Music Director, took the idea and started building out a digital dance program with the blessing of the House of Yes owners.”

To date, they've been hosting Saturday night interactive dance parties, deep house yoga, drag shows, burlesque and dance classes, and the off-the-wall funny video project, *HoY TV*. “It felt good to throw ourselves into a new project during a time of immense uncertainty when we’re not sure what the future of nightlife holds. It’s so important to keep creating during these times and find new ways to foster connection between people. We knew our audience would be hungry to connect digitally and dance together in whatever way possible,” explains Rabkin.

I joined in one of their Thursday 4 PM workshops on Instagram Live which I pre-registered for through Eventbrite. It’s not always necessary to sign-up in

advance, but in this case, I wanted the email reminders as the hour got closer. Some workshops require tickets in advance, which can be purchased through HoY’s website, and while my class was free it’s always nice to tip your host artist \$5 or \$10, which in this case was **Blaine Petrovia** from uptown NYC, a professional dancer and advocate for sex workers and pole dancing.

With my yoga mat stretched out on the floor I logged on and attentively followed Blaine’s techniques until my booty was moving and my heart was pounding, while Blaine added layer upon layer of moves to work out. While the workshop was a ton of fun, really, one could have had an equally great time joining as a voyeur considering this host is young, cute, tattooed, and wears just enough to keep his private parts, private.

Madame Vivien V is one of *HoY's* resident artists, who is also host of one of New York’s largest drag events, *Hot Mess*, a free night of queens, kings, queerdos, and weirdos. Along with moving this show online, Madame Vivien V also guest hosts on *HoY TV*, that features notables such as comedian **Ohene Cornelius** who writes a segment called, *The Post Daily Weekly News*, which is a mix between current news and stand-up. There’s also, *Etymologies With Professor Nate*, the Ivy-League doctor who dispenses hysterical straight-faced explanations for buzz words of the day. But perhaps the crown and glory of the show are the wildly popular digital dance parties which bring together dancers, costumes, and truly outrageous performance art served up in the form of a socially distant nightclub.



Photo: One of HoY's theatre and performance event rooms

There's a growing demand not just for online content, but content that people can connect into as a way of easing the void left by attending real-life performances or events. "Now, people all over the world can tune in to our parties, whereas beforehand they couldn't be physically present at the club. Also, now people of all ages can attend our parties - and bring their pets! It's been really heartwarming and inspiring to see entire families dancing together in their living rooms. People want to keep dancing and we want to keep dancing with them," Rabkin shares.

What makes *House of Yes* truly unique is their dedication to fostering the talents of fellow artists, and nurturing a culture of collaboration, which Rabkin is clearly proud of. "Internationally, the House of Yes is recognized for holding the culture of nightlife to a higher standard with its dedication to consent culture, fostering self-expression, and nurturing emerging performance artists." The need for connection and community will likely keep people searching for new ways of interacting.

House of Yes's shift from in-real-life (IRL) to online (URL) presents a host of technical challenges as well, because in this new era of socialized entertainment there are few best practices for event revenue models. Instead of seeing this as an insurmountable task, the group has been fully embracing the challenge to move from IRL to URL with open hearts, and looking at it as an opportunity to bring even more people together.

Rabkin adds, "Our setup is dynamic and will continue evolving. Some of the platforms we are using to broadcast

(e.g., Twitch) have restrictive community guidelines and heavy censorship. The House of Yes community feels really strongly about self expression and sex-positivity, so it's really important that we find a digital platform that can allow us to full express ourselves."

Plans are underway for a virtual Pride (June 24 to 27) that includes partnerships with queer DJs and producers, with a full schedule to be announced soon, because as Rabkin is quick to note, "We have to keep moving, dancing, creating, and connecting. It's part of our core fabric as humans."

The current schedule for *House of Yes* can be found here: www.houseofyes.org/calendar

[Check out the Digital Dance Party on YouTube here.](#)

[The House of Yes TV channel on YouTube is here.](#)

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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Alice Bag is a singer/songwriter, musician, author and feminist, who was lead singer and co-founder of *The Bags*, one of the original punk bands to form in the mid-1970s in Los Angeles.

Today, she's carrying that same punk ideology forward with her latest album release, *Sister Dynamite*, an unbridled celebration of community and the undeniable power in embracing your own truth. The collection confronts some of the most pervasive problems troubling our world today: unchecked privilege and wilful ignorance, systemic inequality, and fragile masculinity.

Bag has released two previous solo albums, her self-titled debut (2016), and *Blueprint* (2018). She has been featured in the seminal documentary on punk rock, *The Decline of Western Civilization*, and has two published books to her credit, her memoir *Violence Girl -- From East L.A. Rage to Hollywood Stage, A Chicana Punk Story*, and the self-published, *Pipe Bomb For the Soul*, based on her experiences in post-revolutionary Nicaragua. Later on in Bag's life when she made the connection between punk performances and

ranchera ones, she created the genre "punk-chera", which she performed by mixing aspects of each separate genre.

Reflecting on the new album, Bag comments, "I think this is a more streamlined album. I wanted it to sound true to what we present live. I feel like my core band is more present on this record. The past two albums were much more eclectic in terms of arrangements and instrumentation, whereas this album is leaner and meaner, and for the most part is just drums, bass, guitars and vocals. It's more of a rock album in that sense. I've evolved as a songwriter. Age has made me a lot more confident, and that confidence enables me to take more musical and lyrical risks. There are songs which celebrate queers, women, rule breakers, and gate-crashers. There are also songs that question privilege and assimilation. The album is about affirming, questioning and dancing."

Throughout her new album, Bag reveals her incredible ability to turn nuanced political statements into impossibly catchy punk songs. The lead single "Spark" lights a fire against the haters, and features **Vander Von Odd**, Season One winner of *Dragula*. It's a song about self-acceptance and self-love Bag shares, "For the 'Spark' music video, I reached out to director **Rudy Bleu Garcia**, who along with **Hex Ray Sanchez** run *Club SCUM*, a favorite nightclub/performance space for queer punks in East LA. In the early days of SCUM, Rudy invited me to do a DJ set with **Allison Wolfe** (*Bratmobile*). The turntables were in a tiny backstage area which also served as



the queens' dressing room. I literally bumped into Vander Von Odd in that little space and was immediately smitten by this beautiful, charming queen. I can say this about Spark's leading lady: nobody represents the beauty and strength of being your own weird self better than Vander Von Odd!"

Her influence on popular music is highlighted in the Smithsonian travelling exhibit, *American Sabor*. In 2016, Alice's original portraits of female punk musicians were included in *Heads Will Roll*, a group show at *Coagula Gallery* in Los Angeles, and has since begun exhibiting her oil paintings in other gallery showings. In 2018 she was officially recognized by the City of Los Angeles for her profound influence on music and the punk rock scene in Los Angeles and her activism for the LGBTQ community, and speaking out against social injustice.

"I stumbled into punk in the mid-seventies. For me it felt like a natural transition from the glam rock scene that was thriving just a little earlier. Early punk was about community even more than it was about music; the music was a result of the trust, support and celebration of differences. Those things created an atmosphere where people felt they could express themselves freely, without censorship, and without expectations of technical ability. Punk is a way of looking at the world that makes you feel empowered to change it. It comes with a strong feeling of community that supports differences and is inclusive. Punk encourages creativity and uniqueness. It doesn't matter if you're wearing polyester, a leather jacket or a hand-me-down dress because punk is about what's on the inside, not what you're wearing on the outside," Bag claims.

Today, she's still an activist at heart, rallying for equality in terms of gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. "Those struggles have been a constant interest of mine, and in the past few years my daughters have really forced me to start paying more attention to global warming and climate change."

As with most everyone, the current COVID-19 situation caught Bag by surprise, and like many she found herself spending time lounging, reflecting, and eating more comfort food than

is necessary. "All the lounging was making me feel sluggish so I decided to get off the couch and make up some workout routines to the music that makes me happy," she says. So she set up her camera, threw on some tunes, and performed some moves. The result is *Fit for the Apocalypse*, a collection of exercise videos she's been uploading to YouTube. "As far as the song selections, I'm constantly listening to new music and I'm especially interested in highlighting bands that feature women, since they are typically under represented. I'm aware that most workout videos favour dance or house music, so I decided to focus on upbeat punk," she shares.

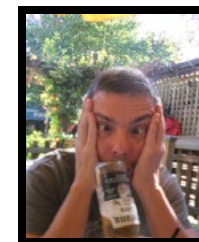
As for what her future might hold, she offers the following thought. "I just want to be an agent of positive change. When I was a school teacher, I would take my students on field trips and we'd usually picnic somewhere during the trip. We had one rule, to leave the place better than it was when we got there. I want to be like them. I want to leave this planet better than it was when I got here.

Like most other performers, her current tour had to be postponed. Toronto wasn't included on the original schedule, and she did divulge, "I've never played Toronto and I would love to do it." Let's hope when things start rolling again, Toronto will make it on the list, so fans here can finally get a chance to see this wonderful woman.

Sister Dynamite is available via *In The Red Records* www.intheredrecords.com

[Watch the video for Spark here.](#)

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



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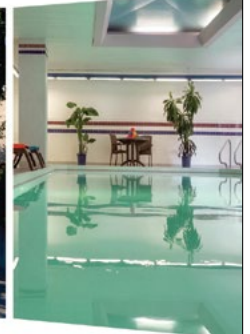
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others. Hanging out with our friends through the means of video conferencing is now the new norm now. It's not uncommon to chat with fellow performers, some of whom actually adjusted their living space into a makeshift studio complete with ring lights, webcams, and microphones for the best possible experience, or at least quality viewing. This has been a means for many to generate some form of income, an income they no longer have with the closing of bars and restaurants. Thanks to the extreme generosity of those who have e-transferred and/or tipped performers online. Sometimes that donation amount in these difficult times has helped make all the difference.

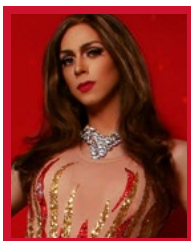
With all these changes we've all been forced to go through, learn, and adapt to an entirely new way of delivering our performance. Quarantine shifted drag for the time being. Who would have thought? And it's not just lip-syncs anymore. There are full blown talk shows with people popping in to say hello, and other Queens have produced segments on cooking and dining with **Devine Darlin**, baking with **Scarlett Bobo**, and makeup tutorials with **Helena Poison**. **Miss Conception** has been doing some wonderful live shows online as well with donations going to charity. We're sharing our skills, our personalities, and our thoughts, because we enjoy what we're doing and we want to do it.

Everything we've been sharing and doing online has been great. It's been a fun experience to see people showcase their talents by connecting with others we wouldn't have seen otherwise. It's also been a way of coping with being cooped up indoors away from the usual social connections we're all used to.

I'm very proud and happy that people have managed to make the best of things in these very trying and uncertain times, however no matter how great all the online performances have been, I honestly can't wait until I get to see a drag show in a bar again!

Dmnda Tension is a Toronto Drag Queen/Costume Designer who has worked with many well known local and international performers. She has also created such elaborate outfits as giant ruffle coats, gowns for pageants, character costumes for impersonations, and replica character costumes for Comic-Con and Anime North. She's just your fun loving crazy drag Aunt "D"

www.instagram.com/DmndaTension



As with most everyone, I was caught off guard with this quarantine and self-isolation. The adjustment from working almost daily to not working at all was at first jarring, but then I realized we just have to keep moving forward.

This is something that a large part of our community has done. I'm speaking specifically about the performers on Church Street who keep the community alive by hosting viewing parties of our most coveted shows, like our RuPaul viewing party at **Pegasus on Church**, best ass contests at **Woodys**, **Bingo with Boa** or **Jada Hudson's** Tuesday show at **Garage**.

The first major thing I noticed was that a lot of performers have taken to social media as a way to keep performing, hopefully garnering tips and entertaining the masses. The nightlife of Church Street has gone completely digital. Now all these events have all become tune in/ Log in viewing parties on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Zoom, and many

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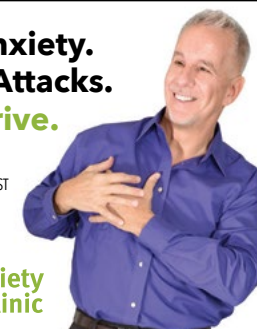
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Margo MacDonald



Born in Ottawa, and the youngest of seven children, multi-award winning actor and playwright Margo MacDonald knew she wanted to act after her parents took her to see a production of *Oliver!*, at the tender age of 5.

"It's the first time I realized theatre was something you could do with your life. I came home saying that's what I wanted to do and never changed my mind," MacDonald confessed.

Also influenced by nostalgic Hollywood, she wanted to be Shirley Temple! Margo explains, "I fell in love with actors like Katharine Hepburn and Grace Kelly. I used to stay up late and sneak back downstairs to watch the old black-and-white movies on television." MacDonald's first acting role was "Ma in her kerchief" in a Grade One production of, *I was the Night Before Christmas*.

Margo received her BA with a Concentration in Theatre at the University of Ottawa. "Many years later, I did my Post-Grad in Classical Acting at the *London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art* (LAMDA) in England."

Since then, she has collectively created many shows with, *A Company of Fools*, a Shakespeare-based performance

company she co-founded after university. "The company is still going strong, but I left to pursue other types of theatre that interested me, and to tell the stories that were becoming personally more important to me - bits of lost queer, women's history," she explained.

While researching, she felt the connection and spark she needed to write about a true tale of a 19th-20th century British all-female crime syndicate. *The Elephant Girls*, her one woman tour-de-force, and first solo show, is perhaps her most celebrated work thus far. Premiering at the *Ottawa Fringe Festival* in 2015 it sold out and won three awards. It later toured a few cities in Canada, and overseas. MacDonald elaborated, "We performed for a month in Edinburgh in 2016, and were invited back the next year to take the show to London, Brighton, and Dublin. We still tour it here and there when we can."

Margo has also written and produced a play about lesbian theatre maverick, **Eva Le Gallienne**, called *Shadows*. "Most recently, I performed that play at the *RADA Festival* in London, England."

So, what does her future hold? She's just completed a massive, epic of a play (which took a decade to complete) about **Julie d'Aubigny Maupin** - a cross-dressing, sword-fighter, opera singer, and duellist in 17th century France.

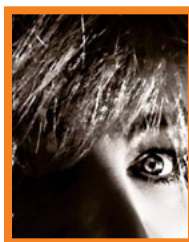
"It'll be a challenging show to mount as it features time-slips, swordplay, singing, dancing, and four actors playing a total of about 30 characters," she divulges. "Next is a punk rock play called *The Persistent Stain*, and if all goes well, that show will be premiering in February 2021."

MacDonald is crossing her fingers, "As you can imagine, the festivals have sadly now all had to cancel, and since being in self-isolation I haven't been able to write a word. I'm hoping to write and produce this new show next year, though, if the state of the world allows it."

Keep up to date at www.ParryRiposte.ca
Instagram & Twitter @Margo_thespian
Facebook: [Parry Riposte Productions](https://www.facebook.com/ParryRiposteProductions)

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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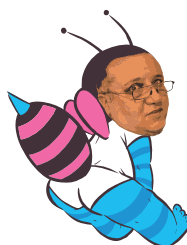
of old hippies, activists, and queers. When you do mushrooms and go for a walk in the woods with good people it will change your life." So, with the help of his lifelong friend, but never lover Ken Fraser, they bought a farm in nearby Hybla Hastings. "Up here when you see two men grocery-shopping together, they got to be queer and they got to be lovers. We just let it go because there's something sweet about the cashier at *No Frills* asking me, 'Where's your friend?'"

Still, it's not all hearts and flowers. "This summer, in a special meeting of 100 or more, the council voted against raising the rainbow flag in Maynooth. We organized like crazy to see it happen but got pushed back big. That was hard on so many people here. Later, I was yelled at in the *No Frills* parking lot, and called an 'agitator' by someone I didn't see. I was impressed by the choice of words, but not threatened. A few days after that, Ken and I went swimming at a nearby lake and saw that someone had spray-painted the N-word across a bridge. Who was that for? We went back the next day and painted over it. We talked about leaving. But after the Pride celebrations went on without the support of council, we changed our minds. Almost 200 people showed up, and there was music, food, and socializing. There is potential here."

Two summers ago, Roy invited me to Maynooth to conduct a comedy writing workshop. Since then, Roy has created something called *The Hybla Residency* on his homestead, a place where artists like Keith Cole, Laurie Townshend and Ashley McIsaac can work and connect with the locals. He also produces and hosts a podcast called *The Hybla Minute*. Though he keeps busy as an artist and community organizer, does Roy entertain any political ambitions? "No," he tells me. "All that work to get elected and then by a slim chance I'd get in, I'd have to sit through some fucking boring meetings and then maybe get a rainbow flag up? I'd rather be a fly in the ointment."

Find more on Facebook:
[@TheHyblaResidency](https://www.facebook.com/TheHyblaResidency) [@HyblaMinute](https://www.facebook.com/HyblaMinute)
www.maynooth.on.ca

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.



In 1987, I volunteered at CIUT-FM in Toronto, on a queer radio show called *Gaywire*. Roy Mitchell was one of a dozen contributors, and we kept in touch over the years. I loved both his eccentricity and his activism. When we played at *Pride Day* in 1998 he performed in a flower print dress and played the ukulele.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Roy was always a Torontonians, but in 2014, he made a decision. "I came home one night and found that squirrels had made a big enough hole in the roof that I could stick my head through. I loved that house, but didn't have the money to fix it."

Then some friends invited him to the annual *Labour Day Party* in Maynooth, a small community north of Bancroft. "People would tell me about this great alternative community made up

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A KODAK MOMENT

Leah Allyce Canali

BY BOYD KODAK



Leah Allyce Canali is a pop, R&B, soul, and dance vocalist, and is well on her way to becoming a gay icon.

Originally hailing from Boston, Leah has been performing, writing, and living in Toronto since 2009. With extreme crossover appeal her messaging is about positivity and staying true to oneself, all wrapped up in ear-catching dance hooks. The music is a disco/soul/house throwback with a modern pop twist, that is vocally driven. One of Leah's proudest career moments was performing in her hometown of Boston, with a live feed to Washington, for the inauguration of Barack Obama.

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

Leah Allyce Canali – I have been in the studio working on my upcoming EP, *The Light*, which is an ode to the LGBTQ+ community. I have also been performing, working on new music arrangements, and fine tuning everything before I put out the EP, which is now scheduled for release this fall.

BK – What are some of the most recent exciting events for you?

LAC – I have shared the main stage of *Pride Toronto* with drag legend, **Tynomi Banks**, and I was a featured performer for *ACT Toronto's* amazing *FLUID* fundraising event. I was also honoured to be included in *Digital Drag Fest* earlier this year, the largest drag show in online history.

BK – What are you looking forward to next year?

LAC – Once the COVID dust clears, there is going to be a bit of a renaissance among live performers. Throughout history, following large scale tragic events, art tends to thrive. I am looking forward to seeing where live performance will evolve to, and also going back to my roots of smaller, more intimate performances.

BK – Where can we see your work?

LAC – I am available for download/stream on all the major streaming sites, *Spotify* being the main one. Follow me there, and you'll be the first to hear all the new music. You can also check out *YouTube*, *Instagram*, *Twitter*, and my website - www.leahcanali.com

BK – Terrific, future plans?

LAC – I plan on releasing a full album, as well as working on more original video content. It will definitely be magnificent and feature a lot of local Toronto talent!

BK – Any message you would like to put out there?

LAC – I have been very, very fortunate to be immersed in and inspired by my relationship with my LGBTQ+ family. Call me *BathHouse Betty* for a new generation. I want to honour, protect, and represent them as a proud Ally. People who live their truth, take chances, and never apologize for who they are, that deeply inspires me. I want to bring this inspiration to life.

BK – Finish the following sentence for us. My favourite TV Show of all time is...

LAC – *The Golden Girls*! It tackles feminism, LGBTQ+ rights, racial issues, and sex positivity.

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



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Since social distancing has become the new norm, superstars from Lady Gaga and Elton John to late-night comedy hosts have been generating content from their homes, effectively stripping away the laughing audiences, lights, and glamour, and leaving us with unedited talent.

In our LGBT community a similar shift has been taking place, in that much of the online content and programming is being delivered in real-time from the artists themselves. Authentic content that helps bridge the gap between us and entertainer, with the entertained giving a sense of being part of something larger than oneself. For some true, homegrown local Toronto talent tune-in to the living rooms of some of my favourite indulgences.

Get Pearced with Man Murray

Sundays, 8 pm www.youtube.com

Deb Pearce (Proud FM, FoQus, Jack FM) has been hosting a new weekly Youtube live performance as their alter ego, *Man Murray*, a tribute to the legendary *Anne Murray* and every bit as Canadian as butter tarts and back bacon. The shows theme song was created by *Lucas Silveira* and features

interviews with actors, artists, comics, influencers, and musicians, all streaming live.

As a lifelong fan of Anne Murray, Deb's impersonations are satirical, but come from a place of deep respect and admiration for Murray's talents. As Deb explains, the idea to revive the character came to her one Sunday afternoon while watching the B-Girlz on Facebook. "I reached out to them while they were online to say hi and they saw my message and replied 'Man Murray is watching, hi Man Murray!' I thought that was sweet and the wheels instantly started turning, and four hours later, my first live show was announced. I scrambled to create a 'set' and whipped together a list of songs to perform."

Nathaniel Bacon, #SongOfThe Day

Facebook @nathaniel.bacon.9

Instagram @nathanielbaconx

From *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* to *Zombie* by *The Cranberries*, Toronto actor and model Nathaniel Bacon has been singing a new song every day since the pandemic began. These thoughtful renditions and some originals provide short glimpses into Nathaniel's mood, creating a sense of connection for his fans. "I'm touched by how many people say they watch most or all of them, regularly and that it brightens their day a little bit."

Glad Day TV

www.gladdaylit.ca/gdty

Writing workshops, erotic readings, vogue workshops with *Twisted Miyake-Mugler*, DJs, puppetry, crafting, and drag king bedtime stories. Glad Day TV has kicked off their programming with an eclectic serving of community realness and a live connection point for our community to participate in, which according to GDTV's off-the-wall puppet show host *Zackey Lime* says, "LGBTQ+ kids content is still pretty niche, so partnering with Glad Day TV felt like a perfect opportunity to bring a family-friendly show to LGBTQ+ families."

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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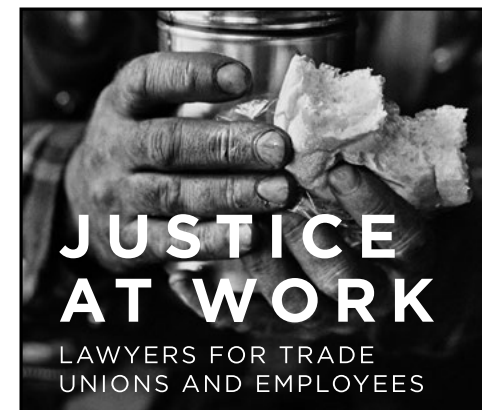
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In response to COVID-19 and the closure of venues due to restrictions on social gatherings, all events, festivals, and other group activities have either been cancelled or postponed for the immediate future.

In the meantime there have been several creative virtual events taking place online.

Please check our listing of events that are happening from a screen near you - www.thebuzzmag.ca/events

Our regular events print section will return as soon as venues start reopening.

Let's all stay safely connected.

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www.facebook.com/JoinusOntheCouch

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