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The Editor

Greetings and Salutations,

Our start of summer issue is here, and while Pride festivities maybe revoked to taking place virtually online again this year, we continue to bring you the latest and greatest in culture and entertainment. We're especially excited to be featuring none other than the glamorous diva, **Dolly Parton**, on our cover. We have a special interview from Mick Brown, a writer who has interviewed numerous celebrities, and written several books. Dolly reflects back on her career, recounting some memorable highlights, favourite songs, and owning her look. We've also compiled some Fun Facts, Career Milestones, Fundraising Initiatives, and her gay appeal.

We also have two other exciting features. Micheal McNeely chatted with **Chella Man**, a Deaf, genderqueer, Chinese/Jewish individual, who has firmly established himself in a career as an actor, writer, fashion designer, and artist. He shares details of his experience on the set for the superhero flick, *Titans*, as well as his new book, upcoming video, and clothing accessories he's designed. In our third feature, Geri Atrick catches up with Indigenous musician **Logan Staats**, to discuss his experience on CTV's *The Launch*, his music career, and his struggles with addiction.

In our regular columns, Cat Grant spoke with bisexual comedian **Kate Willett**, on being female and queer in comedy, and sharing news of her album, podcast, and Netflix special. Boyd Kodak chatted with **Dimitria Sparrow**, a trans YouTube fashion specialist offering tips to other trans, cross dressing, and other individuals who want to perfect their female persona. Jon Pressick gives us the scoop on the soon-to-be-opened **Lavender Menace**, the lesbian owned bar/restaurant in Leslieville that pays homage to our LGBTQ+ history.

As well, we must say a few goodbyes. First to our long time columnist, **Paul Bellini**, who has decided to end his column with a great reflective piece on all that he has contributed over the past several years. We also dedicate our Wigged Out column to the late **Michelle Ross**, by having some of her closest friends and community leaders share their most memorable moments, wonderfully compiled by Sherry Sylvain, our esteemed Events Editor. Finally, another great loss to Toronto's LGBTQ+ community came with the news of the passing of long time Buddies in Bad Times Theatre bartender, **Glenn Dwyer**.

May we all cherish the memories we have, and look forward to promising times ahead.

Bryen Dunn
Editor-in-Chief



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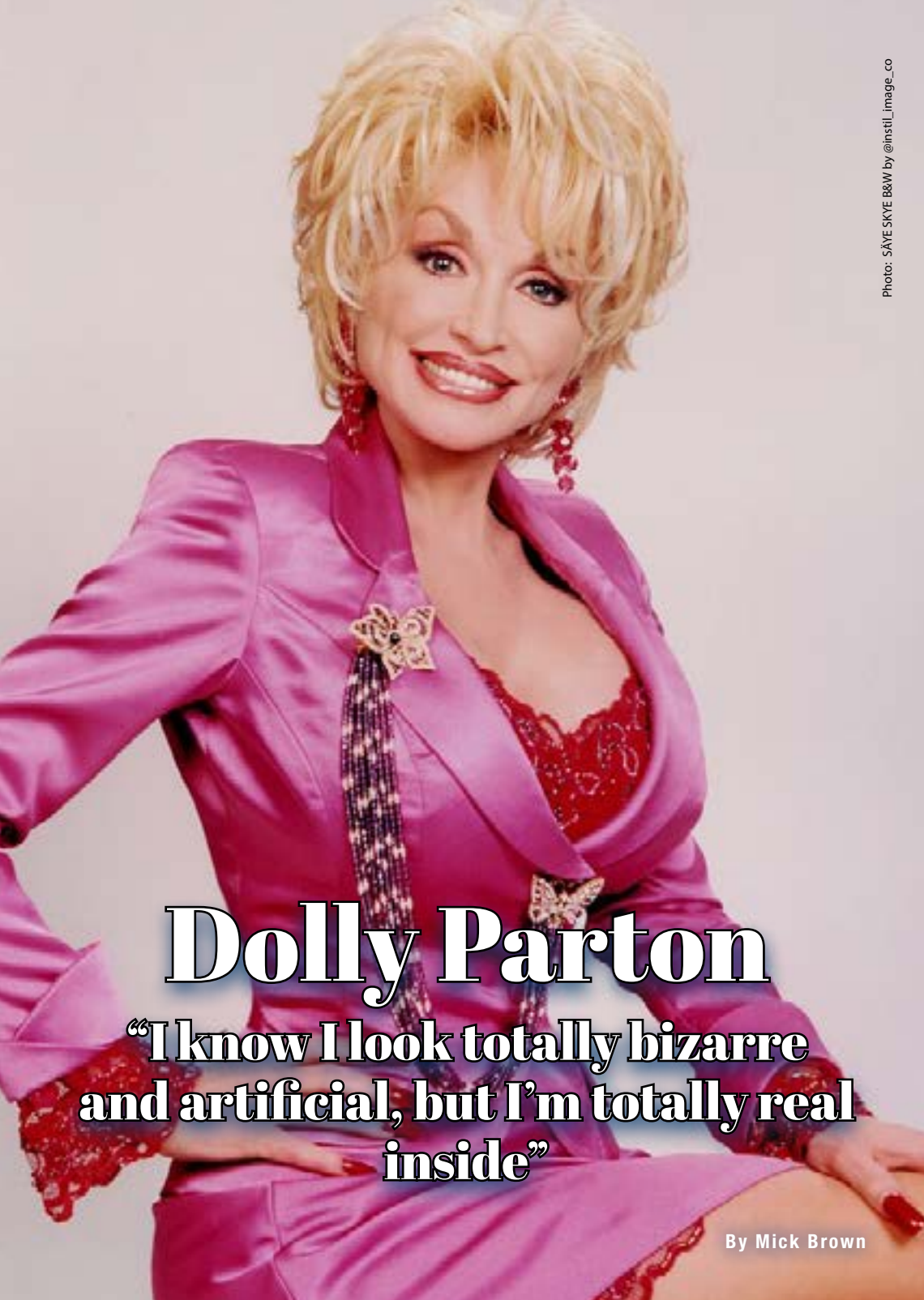


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Dolly Parton

“I know I look totally bizarre and artificial, but I’m totally real inside”

By Mick Brown

Dolly Parton, the woman famous for proclaiming, “It costs a lot of money to look this cheap,” has proven to be a powerhouse singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, actress, author, businesswoman, and philanthropist.

This 75 year-old singing sensation is the best-selling female country-music star ever, and recently gave \$1 million towards COVID-19 research, just one of the many charitable ventures she’s supported over the years. Her [Imagination Library](#) children’s gift-giving book program was launched in her home state of Tennessee in 1995, and has since expanded to Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and Ireland. In 2020, the library had gifted it’s 150 millionth free book.

Not one to sit idle, Dolly has continued to release new music for over five decades, has written best-selling books and spearheaded several television specials, and has appeared in top-grossing films like *Steel Magnolias*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and *9-to-5*, which has been rumoured to have a sequel in the works with her and the other two original cast members, Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda. She later clarified that the sequel may no longer be in the cards, but she did reveal that she and her former co-stars are also open to future collaborations.

In our feature article by famed UK journalist, Mick Brown, Dolly reflects back on show business, her writing career and influences, and mentions a song she says she wishes she’d have written herself.

Dumb Blonde

In a career spanning 56 years, Dolly Parton has written, by her own estimation, more than 5,000 songs. She has never, she says, ‘been someone who gets writer’s block’. But there is one song in particular that Parton says she wished she had written, and that might summarize her career best of all. The song is *Dumb Blonde*, written by a Nashville songwriter Curly Putman, which gave Parton her first country hit in 1967. ‘Just because I’m blonde don’t think I’m dumb, because this dumb blonde ain’t nobody’s fool.’

Never a truer word... Parton may be the self-described ‘backwoods Barbie’, but the spiky heels, hourglass figure

and towering wigs - the whole candy-floss confection - conceals a heart of gold and a character of pure grit.

The fourth of 12 children, Parton grew up in a one-room shack in Tennessee – forced to share a bed with three or four siblings. At the age of 10 she was singing on a local radio station and by 13 she’d recorded her first single, *Puppy Love*. In 1964, the day after graduating from high school, she caught a bus to Nashville, ready to take the city by storm.

Show business, as Parton once observed, “is a money-making joke - and I’ve always liked telling jokes.” And they’ve always been good ones. Gags about her appearance, leering remarks about her figure - whatever joke anybody could make about Parton, she’d thought of it first. “I know I look totally bizarre and artificial,” she once said. ‘But I’m totally real inside.’

The reality lies in her songs. The great songwriter Harlan Howard once described country music as “three chords and the truth”, and it is a maxim that Dolly Parton has lived to the full, whether the songs be *Jolene* or *Coat of Many Colours*, conjuring vivid pictures and drawing on the hard-won truths of her impoverished childhood, or *I Will Always Love You*, the song of choice for tens of thousands of wedding first dances.

Written in 1974, that song also illustrates something beyond her genius; her canniness and determination to control her own destiny. Porter Wagoner, the singer and producer who was her mentor in her early days in Nashville, liked to claim that she wrote the song after he had told her that love songs would be a better commercial proposition than ditties about mother’s old black kettle.

Her version was that she wrote it for him as a fond farewell when she finally broke his hold on her. “He was the boss. He didn’t have all the creativity, but he had all the control.” Elvis desperately wanted to record it, but Parton balked at his manager Col Tom Parker’s stipulation that she give him the copyright. A wise move. Eighteen years later, Whitney Houston’s version of the song went on to sell more than 12 million copies.

Intimacy, of a kind, has been her gift. No one leaves a Dolly Parton concert feeling that she has not been talking to them personally. But as much as we might feel we know her through her songs, we don’t really know her at all. Her private life has always been just that; not a single public blemish, not a whisper of scandal. She lives in Brentwood, Tennessee, and has been married for 54 years to Carl Dean, whom she met outside the Wishy Washy laundromat in Nashville.

“All my life all I ever wanted was to be a big star.” And she has fulfilled her dream - spectacularly and unapologetically, while at the same time remaining

completely down to earth. So, Dolly, at 75, we salute you. And we will always love you.

Original interview was conducted by Mick Brown, and first appeared in the *The Telegraph Magazine*

Editor's Notes:

The thing about Dolly Parton is that she's constantly reinventing herself, and staying relevant to current times, without any need for recognition. It's this humbleness and honesty that has garnered her lifelong fans of all persuasions across the universe. While her passion fully comes out through her creativity, she has learned how to take her artistic pleasures and turn them into a multi-media empire.

The Dollywood Company in Tennessee has morphed into a collection of other entertainment and lodging facilities, such as Dollywood Theme Park, Dream More Resort, Smoky Mountain Cabins, Stampede, and Splash Country Water Park. She's also put her name on a new line of [perfume](#), released a book titled [Storyteller](#) that documents the meaning behind many of her greatest hits, and recently was graced in *TidalWave Comics* new book, [Female Force: Dolly Parton](#).

Be sure to follow along for all the [latest news](#) from Dolly, as one never knows what she'll be up to next!

Fun Facts

She has sold more than a hundred million records worldwide.

She's the godmother to singer Miley Cyrus.

Her net worth is estimated at \$500 million.

Dolly has been married to her husband Carl Dean for more than 50 years.

Career Milestones

She has had 25 songs reach number one on the Billboard country music charts, a record for a female artist. She has 44 career Top 10 country albums, a record for any artist, and she has 110 career-charted singles over the past forty years, from the over 3,000 songs she has composed.

She has been nominated and has won awards from almost every organization in music and show business.

Released in late 1973, her song Jolene topped the country chart in February 1974 and reached the lower regions of the Hot 100, before eventually charting in the U.K. reaching number seven in 1976, representing Parton's first U.K. success.



1977's *Here You Come Again* became her first million-seller, topping the country album chart, and reaching number 20 on the pop chart. It also won her a Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance.

In 1981, she topped the country, pop and adult contemporary charts with her soundtrack single, *9 to 5*.

Fundraising, and the gay appeal

Parton has been publicly vocal in her support for the LGBTQ+ community since at least 1991. Dolly's album from that year, *Eagle When She Flies*, contained the song, *Family*. Even then, her lyrics were trying to portray unity among all, no matter who you are. "Some are preachers / some are gay / some are addicts, drunks and strays / But not a one is turned away when it's family."

She once randomly entered a Halloween drag look-alike contest of herself at a West Hollywood bar. She stated, "All the guys were dressed up like me and I just over exaggerated my look and went in and just walked up on stage. ... I didn't win."

The Dollywood Foundation is funded from Parton's own profits, and not only generates jobs and income to a previously depressed region in her home state of Tennessee, but has also raised money for several other causes, including American Red Cross, and various HIV/AIDS charities.

On May 27, 2020, she released a brand new song and video for, *When Life Is Good Again*, in reference to the current pandemic situation. Later that year she released, *A Holly Dolly Christmas* album, which was accompanied by a CBS Christmas special of the same name.

Mick Brown is a freelance writer and broadcaster who has written on music and other cultural affairs. He is also the author of several books, including *Richard Branson: The Inside Story*; *American Heartbeat: A Musical Journey Across America from Woodstock to San Jose*; and *Tearing Down The Wall of Sound: The Rise and Fall of Phil Spector*.



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Chella Man (he/him or they/them) is Deaf, genderqueer, Chinese, and Jewish, and also a YouTuber, an actor, a writer, a fashion designer, and a painter.

MAKING ART

Chella has just moved into a new studio as part of an artist residency, and he was super excited to start something in his new space. “For painting, right now, for whatever reason, I’m gravitating a lot towards very colourful things,” he states. He confided that the figures he painted are more androgynous, reflective of the gender identity he felt inside, but didn’t have the language yet to articulate. “It’s kind of a mix between realism and abstract painting,” he explains. Chella is also working on directing a very special video that’s coming out soon, and only shared, “It’s something I never thought I would do ever. It kind of came out of the blue.”

CONTINUUM

He also mentioned he finished recording his audiobook, for his novel, [Continuum](#). “I think it was the first time in a very long time that I sat down and read my book page-by-page.

It’s basically about the continuum of things, whether that be disability, gender, sexuality, or race, and how there are binaries for all of that, and none of them exist. It’s completely fine to exist outside of those binaries and beyond that.”

Chella continued, “I kind of go through my life story and explain situations in which I felt stuck by and traumatized by those binaries. Maybe because of the way I was thinking, or the socialization I was around, and how it’s in the culture we’re in. There are also sketches throughout the book, which are things I drew on what I was going through at the time.”

TITANS

In the second season of the superhero series [Titans](#), Chella plays Jericho, a young, mute man whose father is the Big Bad of the season. Much of the season addresses whether or not Jericho can be trusted due to his (perhaps, misguided) loyalty to his father. Chella got involved on *Titans* with the help of mentor Lauren Ridloff who is a Deaf actress in *Children of a Lesser God*, and who will be in Oscar-winner Chloe Zhao’s *Eternals*. Chella admits, “Lauren has been this incredible light and mentor in my life. I feel like she’s showed me what the Deaf family could look like.” Filming *Titans* in Toronto also gave Chella the chance to visit his roots, as his father was born there, and he had never been before.

Even though Chella was playing a character that was not Deaf, he is still Deaf, and required accommodations on set. During scenes where someone would call for him from a distance, there was someone close by to assist. For some scenes, he was not able to wear his cochlear implants due to the character he was playing, and had to rely on lipreading and memorization of the layout of the set. A difficult task, which he did stupendously.

TRANS IN TRUMLAND

Director Tony Zosherafatain and producer Jamie DiNicola, who are both trans, and the creators of the docu-series [Trans in Trumpland](#), e-mailed Chella to get involved. “It was just so incredibly authentic and real that I was, like, ‘Yeah, what can I do, how can I be part of this?’”

After watching a few episodes, Chella stated, “it was so healing to see that someone went out of their way to document what we went through as trans individuals, and the diversity that they had cast.” Furthermore, the creative team was receptive to Chella’s feedback about accessibility. “They were so incredibly open across the board to any kind of feedback, that it was just truly such a collaboration of a project,” he adds.

OPENING CEREMONY

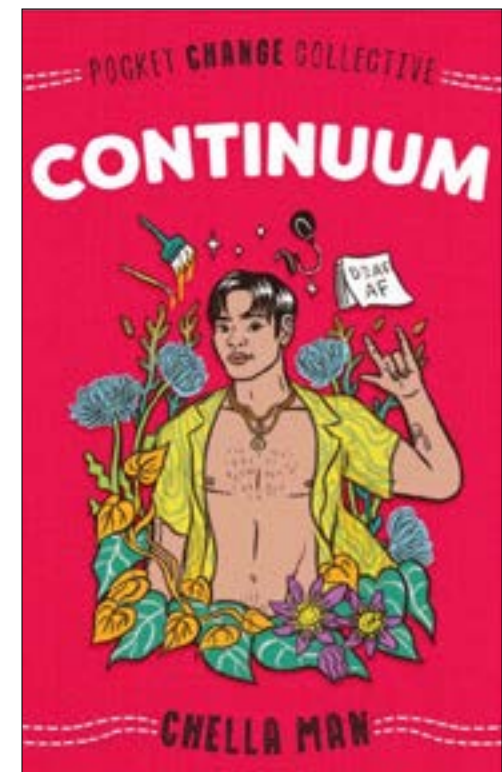
Chella recently collaborated with [Opening Ceremony](#) to design a clothing line. Each piece is very different. The first section was mass-produced, screen printed black sweatshirts with his own handwriting in white, with the words, “Love is real, you just have to find it on your own terms.” The B&W T-shirts have this sketch that basically looks like a lot of chaos, with a room full of figures flailing around.

For the other section he took a year, going to a lot of different thrift shops and curated, “some really wacky pieces of clothing that I could wear without feeling dysmorphia,” he explains. “There were some purple pants with green and white lines on them, a blue top that I made like a wire sculpture, and sort of embedded that into the shirt, and there’s also a vintage Renaissance type dress that belonged to my best friend from high school, that I drew all over.”

Chella is open to continuing to design clothes, and, in fact, spontaneously creates designs on many of his clothes. The shirt he was wearing to the Zoom interview said “FAG” on it, and he drew that himself. “Sometimes I just get bored, and draw on my own clothing. So, technically I am still creating clothing!”

PRIVATE POLICY

Chella indicated that the jewellery he designed in collaboration with [Private Policy](#) was intended to put people at ease who may feel embarrassed about wearing hearing aids and cochlear implants. However, he explains, “the jewellery is also for people who don’t wear cochlear implants or hearing aids as well. I wanted to wear some jewellery that wouldn’t conceal



it, you know? On the contrary, we wanted it to be amplified and embellished and beautiful, and it turned out exactly how I imagined. I think it’s one of my favourite projects I’ve done so far.”

REPRESENTATION

One of the most important conversations Chella and I had on a life-changing day for me was the importance of being seen, and seeing yourself, in media representation. As he stated, “In general, I think that representation allows you to imagine a future. It shows you the potential of what you can possibly become. I never saw someone with all of my identities, so this is why I’ve always repeated to myself, ‘Be your own representation, because no one’s going to do it for you.’ I think that applies not just to people who have mixed identities such as me, but literally everyone.”

The world belongs to Chella Man and we are simply living in it.

Michael McNeely (he/him) is a Deaf-Blind Law Master’s graduate, entertainment and accessibility critic, writer, filmmaker, and aspiring actor.





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Photo: Royalty Gnomes

Logan Staats

By Geri Atrick

You may remember [Logan Staats](#) from CTV's show, [The Launch](#). Logan won the inaugural season in 2018, based on the hit single [The Lucky Ones](#), and was later mentored by Shania Twain.

Most people automatically think that they are on their way to being famous, with everyone screaming their name when they win a show like this, but that's not always the case. Logan saw some amazing success, having shared the stage with the likes of Buffy Sainte-Marie, Keith Secola and Mumford and Sons, and collaborated with artists like, Terra Lightfoot.

It's no surprise that Logan received a nomination for a [Juno Award](#) in 2020, under the category of Producer of the Year, for the work of Jack Richardson on the single, "[Fear of the Flame](#)." He's also won three [Indigenous Music Awards](#) – Best Radio Single (2109) for "[The Lucky Ones](#)", and Best Folk Album / Best Producer/Engineer to Derek Miller (2017) for "[Goodbye Goldia](#)."

Logan is Mohawk and was born on Six Nations of the Grand River, and raised in nearby Brantford, Ontario. Logan recalls being called "An Apple" when on the reserve, for being *red* on the outside and *white* in the middle, while also hearing many

racial slurs going to school in Brantford. The struggle to find a place to belong was challenging in so many ways.

Speaking with Logan, it's easy to tell how humble he truly is, and how open he is about his life story, including struggles he has had and still has today. It can be hard sometimes to remember that artists are human beings just like us. We find ourselves looking to them for inspiration, but just being human can be a lot of inspiration, and Logan is just doing that.

Logan recalls his grandfather, a son to a residential school survivor, telling him, "Do not put your Indian last name on anything." This was completely said out of the fear that his family had about being Indigenous in Canada. We are only now truly realizing the generational trauma that is still being handed down to each generation from these residential school systems.

Logan explains, "We are really the first generation that has reached out and tried to explore our culture. My mom still has this tremendous fear that has never left her, that prevents her from joining us on this part of the journey. To not have a sense of belonging, to community, history, and family can cause many things. I think for me, this has helped create my addictions and taken me down dark paths with my own mental health. I am struggling still today, but music helps me so much. I have always known there was something missing for me."

There is not doubt that Logan is on a path, and on occasion has gone down a dark path. But, like many people, he is trying to find ways to cope, learn about himself, and his culture.

He continues, "To see residential schools and the long-term effects it has on generations is sad. We visited one of the last residential schools in Canada, which was still operating until the 1990s. We filmed a video there and you could feel the horror in those voices that still roam the halls. To have your culture ripped away and to be taught that everything about you is wrong, can dismantle you from being your true self. That has happened to me."

"The process of finding balance in my life is going to be lifelong journey. I do not think this is something that is cut and dry. Once you are in it with something like drugs, it becomes a fight everyday for the rest of your life. I could be a year clean, and it's still a struggle everyday. As soon as you let your guard down and you slip, you start sliding down the mountain, and before you know it you are at the bottom trying to claw your way back up again," he admits.

"When you are on drugs and stuff, you are not yourself. Win or lose, right or wrong, I fight to be myself. You need people in your corner. I cannot stress the importance of my sister Layla in my life. I love my family, especially my daughter, but if it were not for Layla, I probably would not be here," he claims.

Logan has a new album coming out, "A Light in the Attic", which will also be the title of the lead single. "The name came to me one night, and I thought that's perfect. It's vulnerable. It's honest. I do not have to hide behind anything, it is just the truth. That is the one thing about my music, it is relentlessly honest," he explains.

I had the pleasure of seeing some music work sessions and songs that Logan has been writing. We sat in on some rehearsals with other major musical artists. He has this amazing ability to adapt to any type of music, whether it be a love song, a rock song, or even a Christmas song. He has the talent you don't see everyday. To watch Logan just sit down and write a song is mind boggling for me, as I have trouble writing a well thought out article. He just sat down and wrote a song with another artist, working within their area of comfort, and they finished the lyrics before I had finished my coffee.

Logan enjoys playing live, and is looking forward to returning to the stage when the time is right. "During the pandemic, I have had many opportunities to play virtual events. One of my favourite opportunities was with North Bay Pride. Pride attendees, especially the BIPOC community, can understand the oppression Indigenous folks have faced over the years, which only makes us all better. It gives Pride folks the opportunity to learn about our culture, and others the opportunity to learn about the LGBTQ+ community," he explains.



Photo: Royalty Gnomes

If you like truth telling from the soul, you must hear [Logan Staats'](#) music. Watch out for his new album "A Light In The Attic", which no doubt will be award winning.

Geri Atrick is co-host of [Str8 Talk](#), a show that focuses on marginalized & 2SLGBTQ+. Geri also organizes national events around music and the arts, is deeply passionate and active in politics, and is an advocate on many social justice issues.





Growing up, her comedy idols included Margaret Cho, Laura Kightlinger, Wanda Sykes, and Caroline Rhea. She has since gone on to much success herself, making her network television debut on [The Late Show with Stephen Colbert](#). She's also appeared on the Netflix show, [The Comedy Lineup](#), released an album, [Glass Gutter](#), maintains a podcast, [Reply Guys](#), and has an audiobook on Audible called, [Dirtbag Anthology](#).

Being on the road touring often requires some comforts and routines. Kate likes to have Kombucha, chocolate, and a pen backstage. She adds, "I sometimes carry a little satchel of lavender. I know this sounds corny, but smelling lavender for a second really helps me relax. Before I go onstage, I make a list of my jokes usually in one word. If someone found my notes they'd be very confused. "Human Resources. Skateboarding. Dicks."

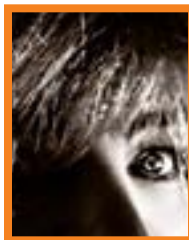
Kate is a great cook and loves plants, but these topics don't find a way into her routine. "I talk a lot about the wilder aspects of life in my stand up, but I truly love wholesome domestic stuff too. It's just not that funny."

If a career in comedy didn't work out, her second choice would have been journalism. "I think both require an intense curiosity. I love to investigate things, write, and try to persuade people to see things the way I do. Comedy can be similar, except the topics you're investigating are like, 'men in their 30's who skateboard.'"

One of Kate's best loved gigs was her co-produced show called, *The Mission Position*, which took place in the basement of a video store called, *Lost Weekend Video*. "There were only about 30 seats, and it was perfect for stand up, with low ceilings and everyone sitting super close together. You could try the weirdest jokes there. The audience was willing to go on the journey no matter how strange it was, and I think everyone who performed there regularly had the opportunity to stretch and grow. The store closed in 2015, and to this day I miss it. It was my favourite place to perform of all time."

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

[Facebook @grantedarts](#)



Comedian/Actor/Writer, [Kate Willett](#), was born in Southern California, and recalls one of her first stage performances while in elementary school. "I got to be *The Apple* which was of course the star of the nutrition play," she divulges. Kate later learned that she could make people laugh in high school. "I wrote really serious art poems, and when I'd read them to people, they'd laugh. I decided to change tactics and get in on the joke."

Kate knew right away that comedy and performing would be her future. She explains, "My first time doing an open mic was in a laundromat, *The Brainwash Cafe*. This was a totally unearned level of hubris, and I had no idea how not funny I was when I started doing open mics. I think getting started in comedy involves believing that you can do it, long before there is evidence that you actually can."



THE LONG GOODBYE



I'm ending it all!

This column, that is, not my life.

You see, I started writing for magazines about twenty years ago. I started at a time when gay publishing still meant something to people. Every Thursday, we'd eagerly pick up free copies of *Xtra* or *Fab* along with *NOW* and *Eye Weekly*, but nowadays print media is simply vanishing.

I started writing for magazines in the late 90s. My writing, which up to that point consisted mostly of comedy sketches for *The Kids in the Hall* and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, got significantly better due to weekly deadlines. My first editor, Mitchel Raphael, insisted that I track down a story, conduct interviews with all concerned, transcribe everything, and deliver at least a second draft with verifiable quotes and relevant photo visuals. It was a lot of work, but I loved it, and I delivered two columns a month for exactly 11 years. Then, in 2012, *Pink Triangle Press* bought *Fab* and drove it into the ground, leaving me stranded.

I was lucky to bump into Antoine Elhashem in a club one night. He was starting a new venture, called *theBUZZ*, and asked if I would contribute a column. I enthusiastically said yes, and started writing for the first issue, released June 2014. The workload was only a quarter of what I was used to, but my column, with the tongue-in-cheek title *Bumble-ini*, allowed me to keep writing about Toronto's queer scene.

Over time, I got to profile many local artists like photographer **Geoff Simpson**; comedian **Gavin Crawford**; filmmakers **James Fanizza**, **Jean-Claude Lafond**, and **Mars Roberge**; activist **Roy Mitchell** (and all his cool friends living in Hybla

Hastings); poets **David Bateman** and **Steve Keil**; pop stars **The Pansy Boys**; theatre director **Joel Greenberg**; and playwrights **Sky Gilbert** and **Brad Fraser**.

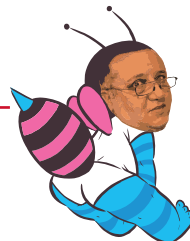
I covered local organizations like the **Spectra Singers** and **It Gets Better Canada**. I wrote about famous queer icons like **Paul Lynde** and **Judy Garland**, and I got to interview legendary actor **Udo Kier**, renowned recording artists **My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult**, and one-woman-show sensation **Pam Ann**.

I also wrote about a modelling agency created exclusively for trans models, the political gains of gay dads, the closing of one of my all-time favourite establishments, **Goodhandy's** a/k/a **Club 120**, and a weekend I spent chatting with prolific gay biographer **Darwin Porter** at his gay guest home, **Magnolia House** on Staten Island.

The editors also indulged my own pursuits, allowing me to promote my namesake beer the **Paul Bellini Peach Wheat Ale**, my rock band **Mouth Congress**, the play I was in called **Hamlet in a Hot Tub**, and the book launch for the novel I wrote with **Scott Thompson**, called **Buddy Babylon**. To sum it up, I had a lot of fun, and I hope the writing reflected that.

But now, after two decades, I'm exhausted. I just hope the door doesn't hit me on the ass on the way out.

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

Dimitria Sparrow

BY BOYD KODAK



lol), how to soften and feminize one's hands, tutorials on how to conceal a beard shadow with makeup, and explaining the gist of how concealer, foundation and primers work. People are very concerned about not being passable enough in society, and I'm here to show you how.

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

DS - The most exciting was actually figuring out how to retaliate against facial hair as a trans woman. It's the worst! Hormones do nothing! Researching for my videos on facial hair I came to realize not only was my makeup method to cover it not working, but my shaving routine was subpar and actually unsanitary. I've received comments from viewers about how much my content has alleviated their dysphoria of a five o'clock shadow.

BK - What are you looking forward to next year?

DS - I'm hoping 2022 will be the year we can burn every mask we wore last year, so that I can strut into the most expensive shopping mall with luscious glossy red lips and high heels, and buy everything in it.

BK - Future plans?

DS - I'm looking to cement myself by tackling the barebones of presentation: tucking, breast forms, and frankly, put up content about wigs; not just for crossdressers, but for closeted trans women I know of who are balding.

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

DS - Being out for two and a half years, I'll tell you: just because you've come out as gay/queer/trans, it doesn't mean you have everything figured out. Coming out needs to happen, but it won't fix or end all of your problems. Be incredibly careful of where you show vulnerability. When you're a minority, people will eat you alive on any mistake you've made.

BK - Finish this sentence for us - I couldn't live without...

DS - Femininity. It's what I know as truth, beauty, and freedom.

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



Dimitria Sparrow, is a 22-year-old trans woman living outside the Toronto area. She is a *YouTube* beauty expert specializing in helping trans women, crossdressers, and those who want to pass in society as women. She provides fundamental knowledge in makeup, fashion, and overall aesthetic. Feminizing one's appearance is exciting, but often overwhelming if you don't know where to start. As someone who's been out for two years, Dimitria is there to let you in on the tips, tricks, and hacks.

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

Dimitria Sparrow - Since June 2020 I've been hyper-focused on my [YouTube channel](#), putting out queer beauty content, like experimenting if conditioner is a good shaving cream (it's not

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LAVENDER MENACE



and it's an homage to those women, but also to all the LGBT history we have, including all the activist groups since."

As long-time residents of the neighbourhood (Viv grew up not far from the bar), the couple saw significant changes in Toronto's nightlife because of the pandemic, particularly in the east end, and especially for the queer community. They've taken the lockdown time to rework their space and revamp their menus. They look forward to opening when lockdowns are lifted, and hopefully in time for Pride season this summer.

When the time is right, folks will be treated to new signature *pussytails*, such as their own *Lavendar Menace*, as well as favourites such as the *Nancy Cardenas* (the first public figure to come out as lesbian in Mexico), and *Bye Bye Beaver*, a tribute to the [west end bar](#) that closed due to COVID.

Lavender Menace

Butterfly Pea-Infused Georgian Bay Gin, Housemade Creme-de-Violette, Sage & Elder Flower Cordial, Citrus, Lavender, Black Cherry, Lemon Riesling Foam

Viv is also very excited for people to try Lavender Menace's "Free Spirits"—non-alcoholic cocktails that give people a cocktail experience without the booze. "It's a pet project we've had around a while that I've always felt is often over-looked at bars."

The diverse menu is inspired by the home-style kitchens of the American south, complete with a palette of Creole and Cajun spices using traditional ingredients, featuring Nashville Hot Wings that really bring the heat, Aggie's popular vegan mac and cheese, and salmon cakes. "There is honestly going to be something on the menu for every sort of person, and it's all been developed to go well with our cocktails and diverse beer list, which is all local craft brewers."

Whether it's a patio party, cozy lounge night, or loud night on the town, they have an open and inclusive policy where everyone is welcome. except bigots. Cheers to that!

Lavender Menace
1062 Gerrard Street East, Toronto - (416) 469-0969

Jon Pressick is a writer who focuses on sex and sexuality. View his work at [sexinwords.ca](#)



Leslieville hotspot *Yard Sale* is undergoing a change. Viv and Aggie, the married couple who brought the popular, inclusive bar to Toronto's east end are reclaiming their own space, and reinventing it as [Lavender Menace](#).

"I have no doubt that Leslieville will embrace this new take on our bar," explains Viv. "It's been nothing but positive feedback in the past, and I can't imagine that will be changing. The neighbourhood is very open, welcoming, and loves sharing its local gems with Toronto at large. It's just such an accepting neighbourhood."

Named after the [lesbian feminist group](#) of the 1970s, Viv, who works front-of-house and Aggie, the chef, looked to the past with their new future-forward venture. "The colours, the vibe, the time period, and the fact that it's something very important to lesbians in our history, and the history of feminism. There's always something to learn from our history,

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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.

NEW.....Virtual Episodes of the show are being rolled out weekly, view them at www.facebook.com/JoinusOnTheCouch

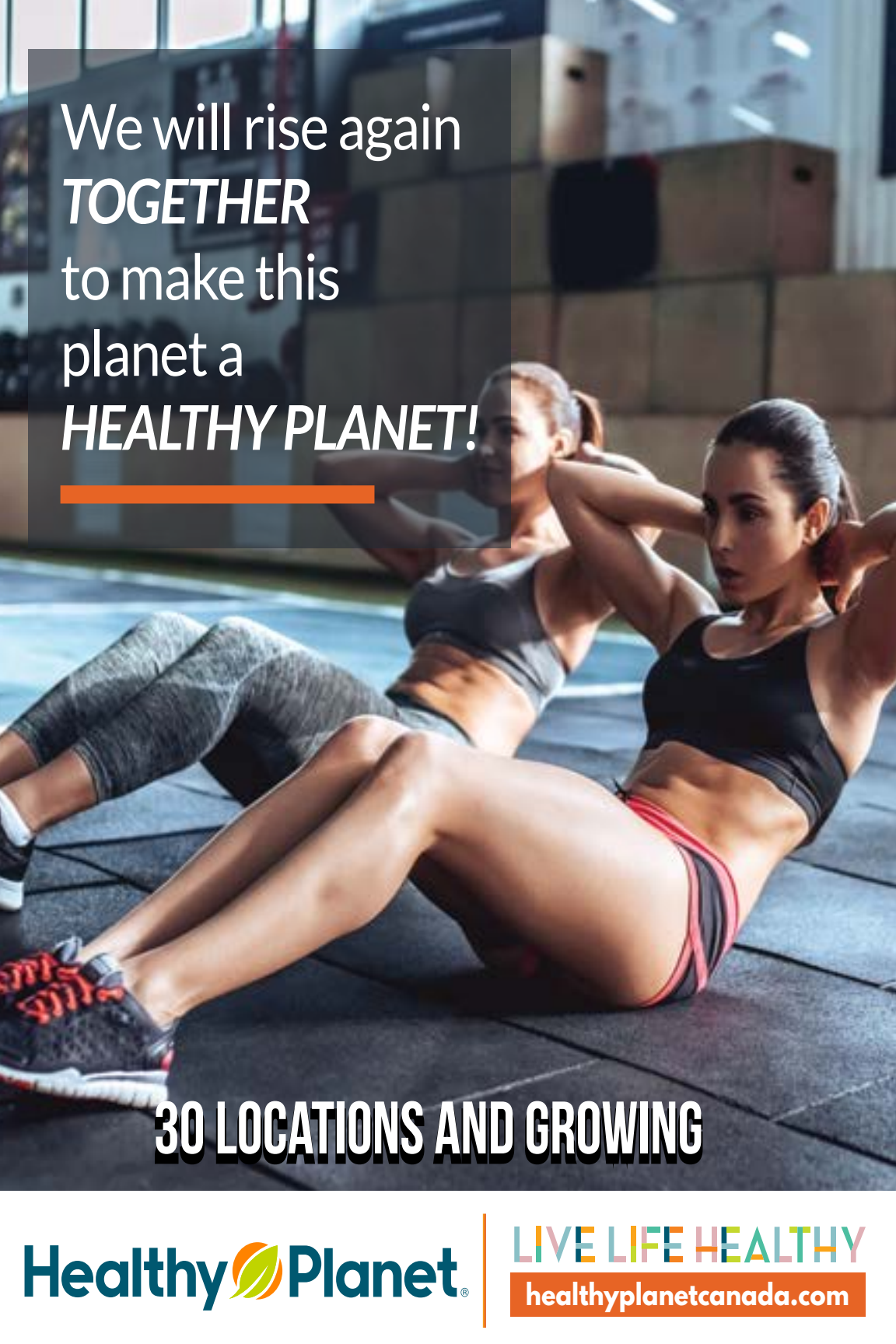
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A photograph of two women in a gym setting, performing sit-ups on a dark mat. The woman in the foreground is wearing a black sports bra and red and black shorts, with her hands behind her head. The woman in the background is wearing a grey sports bra and grey leggings. In the background, there are wooden boxes and gym equipment.

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