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A LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF PRIDE
WE CATCH UP WITH CAROLE POPE
WE INTRODUCE OUR NEW
COLUMNISTS INCLUDING
PAUL BELLINI &
DONNARAMA



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Welcome to the first edition of theBUZZ. I am so excited to be a part of this new journey and hope that all of the LGBTQ community can find something in the magazine for them.

The idea for the magazine actually started about a year ago with a discussion with our publisher, Antoine Elhashem, about how it would be great to find a way to recognize all our community artists and entertainers, while supporting our communities businesses. We did a lot of research before launching the magazine and spoke to a lot of community members, it was clear that more of the community needs to be celebrated.

There are so many diverse and gifted people that make up our community, as we tried to relate with our first cover. Our community is unique, as it is also made up from members, of so many other communities. We come in so many different colours, shapes, ages, cultural backgrounds, abilities, and so on ... when brought together makes some of the most interesting and creative people on earth!

Our mission with theBUZZ is to also the positive voice of having fun. Whether you like circuit parties, piano and jazz bars, cinema, fine art or burlesque, theBUZZ will be sure to have something for everyone.

There is so much to celebrate this year with WorldPride, taking place in our city. We welcome the world and our community to our new exciting magazine and look forward to celebrating all of you!

Brandon Bent

On The Cover



We wanted to show you what to expect from theBUZZ on our first cover. We brought together some of Toronto's best LGBTQ artist and something amazing happened ... the artists became the art!

KATE JOHNSTON is a Toronto based independent filmmaker and owner of TomGirl Films (www.tomgirlfilms.com). Her feature film "TRU LOVE", which she co-wrote, co-directed and co-produced is distributed by Wolfe Releasing and is currently touring the international LGBT film festival circuit.

CHARLIE ANDREWS A remarkable Arts Administrator and Musician: she is the Executive Director of Singing OUT - Toronto's LGBTQ Choir, and a freelance french hornist, performing in multiple ensembles within Ontario. Learn more about her by visiting: www.singingout.com.

BOYD KODAK is a trans activist, musician, writer, filmmaker, curator, and festival/entertainment director. Boyd has put together both educational and artistic programs for festivals worldwide. www.facebook.com/boyd.kodak

STEVEN JOSEPH is a pro makeup artist, alternative model, and performer/song-writer. You can check him out at: www.facebook.com/stevenjosephmakeup or follow him on instagram at @sjcvt

NIAMH MALCOLM Stilter, photographer, queer activist, daughter of two moms, world traveling vagabond.

GLENN DIXON is a media personality and interior designer. He defines himself as a true design junkie. He hosted "Take This House and Sell It" on the W Network

and can be currently seen on "Daytime Toronto" on Rogers.

DAVID DIXON enjoys tremendous media acclaim and stands out among that of his Canadian contemporaries as one of the leaders in women's fashion design. www.daviddixon.ca

SHANNON MCDONOUGH, Actor, writer and Producer. Her McComedy Show videos have been chosen by Roseanne Barr to be featured on her comedy site: www.DomesticGoddessstv.com

CAT GRANT OCAD is a multimedia artist. A published poet who is currently writing a book. She contributes to Hone Life, Jingobox and her blog Kitty Indacity for theBUZZ. [Facebook.com/Tygerfysh](https://www.facebook.com/Tygerfysh)

JO SIMALAYA ALCAMPO is an interdisciplinary artist born in the Philippines who explores cultural memory, healing, and love through community storytelling, art installations, and electroacoustic soundscapes. Website: www.josimalaya.com

JAMES FOWLER is an artist, curator, community organizer, and bon vivant. His belief of community and value at: www.jamesfowlerart.com, www.10x10photographyproject.com

JADE ELEKTRA is a Recording Artist and HIV Activist Be on the look out for the new gay anthem cover of "I Was Born This Way" And don't forget to check out her alter-ego, DJ Relentless' PWA fundraisers "POZ-TO" and "SUNDAY NIGHT FEVER" www.jadeelektra.com

LORENZO PAGNOTTA is a performer, writer, and drama facilitator who is passionate about creating theatre with seniors, and dealing with themes related to cultural diversity and sexuality.

DONNARAMA The beautiful and legendary has graced the stages of T.O with outrageous costumes and comedy skits, and there is never a dull moment! www.facebook.com/donnarama.italiana

DOUG KERR is a consultant, Vice-Chair of Sherbourne Health, Co-Chair of the LGBT Giving Network and Co-Chair of the "WorldPride Human Rights Conference".

MALAKI KERR-WENT loves his two daddies, lollipops and playing at the 519 Church St Community Centre.

MICHAEL WENT works for the Ontario Public Service (OPS) and has volunteered with OPS Pride Network, the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention. In addition, they are both co-owners of Glad Day Bookshop. www.gladdaybookshop.com

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TORONTO WORLDPRIDE

A LOT TO CELEBRATE!
BY KENDALL PARTINGTON

Homosexuality was only decriminalized in 1969. The last person to be charged, convicted and imprisoned, under said law, was George Klippert in 1965. A mechanic from the Northwest Territories, he admitted to four separate cases of consensual sex with men and was found guilty of "gross indecency." The court-ordered psychiatrist deemed him "incurably homosexual." It wasn't until Pierre Trudeau presented the Criminal Law Amendment Act, that gay sex was decriminalized among consenting adults. Kippler remained in prison until 1971 but he lived 25 more years until his death from kidney disease.

So that's arguably the most eventful turning point in Canada's LGBTQ history, and naturally Ontario's by default. We couldn't have had a Pride event of any kind when simply admitting to having gay sex would have landed you in jail.



Gay Picnic Retro by Alan Light

1970's

So this brings us to the 70's and it's post-Stonewall. They had their riots in New York the same year as our decriminalization. So did Toronto have an official Pride parade in the seventies? The answer is no, and the reason why is a very good question.

Essentially the reason Toronto did not have an official Pride celebration was that neither the media, nor the general public were outright supportive of the initiative of the Gay and Lesbian movement at that time, as it was known. LGBTQ, transgendered, two-spirited and many other common buzzwords by today's standards were not in vogue at the time.

It was also a formative period between males and females as their differing views on how to approach change in society was varied and many times polarizing.

In the early 1970's "Gay Day Picnics" were held at Hanlon's Point. The picnics included a festival, film night, dancing and a rally at Queen's Park to present a brief to the Ontario government. Permission to officially march on Yonge Street was denied.

The seventies finished with memories of constant raids and shakedowns of local establishments by police who were it's fair to say, overstepping their own lawful bounds and institutionalizing many forms of homophobia through their actions.

In relation to this article, theBUZZ conducted a fascinating video interview with a long-term Toronto resident, Ron Forster, who answers many such questions from his personal recollections. Being a part of Toronto's first Pride, Forester recalls, the struggle to launch the city's first official Pride.

Forster says, "Every June Gay people used to go to Toronto Island. There were speeches, but nothing radical to what was to become in the future. There was harassment from the police, there was no doubt about that and they have been doing that for years. They wouldn't allow us to do anything in the main part of the city so we had to go to the island. It was like Woodstock."

Forster recalls the first official Pride in Toronto. "The first official Pride was supposed to be in 1981. Because of the steambath raids in February it was cancelled for that year so 1982 was actually the first (official) Pride. Back then there was zero support from the straight community. Gays were labeled as criminals. Never in my imagination did I ever think back in 1982 that there would be a WorldPride in Toronto, because all we wanted was equality back then."



Photo by Eduardo Lima

Be sure to see the complete video interview with Ron Forster on our website: theBUZZmag.ca

1980's

Toronto was planning a Pride parade to be held in 1981, but instead something happened that completely blew the lid off the simmering anger and resentment that was keeping the community from losing their cool and taking a stand. The police conducted a large-scale destructive and deliberately embarrassing raid on February 5th, 1981 at a local bathhouse called the Richmond. Operation Soap resulted in over 300 men being arrested and held the distinction of being the largest mass arrest in Canada since the 1970 October Crisis.

This precipitated many suicides and firings of people when it hit the media, and a 4000 strong angry mob descended on 52 division chanting "Fuck you 52" on Feb 20th. This led to calls for a general inquiry into the police and there were demands of charges and firings but not a single policeman was ultimately punished.

A major demonstration was held at Yonge and Wellesley the next day by hundreds of Toronto queers, closing down the street. Activists start working, and the group Gays and Lesbians Against the Right is formed. Lesbian and Gay Pride Day Toronto is legally incorporated. 1,500 celebrate on Sunday, June 28 at Grange Park. In spite of the politically charged atmosphere that year, the day is billed as a time to relax, celebrate, and as "an afternoon of fun and frolic." Toronto's version of Stonewall, in 1981, led to subsequent yearly marches and festivities held every June.

1990's

Pride parades were happening to some extent every year after the 1981 protest and heading into the 1990's we had acceptance of gay employees and benefits being offered by progressive corporations. Sponsorships grew from major banks and companies, and LGBTQ community organizations were firmly in place.

In 1991, Toronto followed Ottawa's lead and formed the LGBT Police Liaison Committee, with members of both the city's LGBT community and the Ottawa Police force, sitting on it, as well as Canada's first police unit specifically dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

In 1999, George Smitherman become the first openly Gay man to be elected to represent the provincial riding of Toronto Centre. The nineties also saw the first Dyke March. The March is now a yearly engagement, a beacon to Lesbians everywhere, and an affirmation that Lesbians are a valued and welcomed part of the LGBTQ community. The Dyke March has now become a tradition in most major cities across North America.

2000

In the turn of the century, Gay marriage becomes legal nationwide. The Court of Appeal for Ontario rules in 2003, in *Halpern v. Canada*, that the common law definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman violates section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The decision immediately legalizes same-sex marriage in Ontario, and sets a legal precedent – over the next two years, similar court decisions legalize same-sex marriage in seven provinces and one territory before the federal Civil Marriage Act is passed in 2005.

Also that year, on the 25th anniversary of Toronto's Pride Week, Bill Blair becomes the first chief of police in the city's history to participate in the Pride parade.

Pride theme's change from rights for LGBTQ here and now to "We March for Those Who Can't" and Toronto is internationally recognized as one of the beacons of progressive LGBTQ rights. So we had a great deal of progress in an incredibly short time as civil rights fights go. The first Trans March took place in 2009. The Trans

community in Toronto had seen resistance to the idea of a Trans march for years, and in 2009 a group of activists decided to create a march for themselves. Toronto Pride attempted to confine the newly formed Trans March to the sidewalks of Church Street up to Wellesley Street. Instead, participants took to the streets and marched past the barriers on Wellesley Street. After several years of contention, the Trans March is now an official event of Toronto Pride.

2014

Which brings us to the year 2014. Toronto has a solid 33 years of Pride festivals and the city is awarded the honour to host WorldPride. Toronto will be only the fourth city to hold the honour respectively after Rome, Jerusalem and London, England. The International event is held every 5 years to commemorate the anniversary of Stonewall.

Toronto has a lot to celebrate this year. We have Melissa Etheridge as one of our main headliners, so that's awesome entertainment factor primo right there! We have the very easy-on-the-eyes Chicagoan Steve Grand coming to town who went viral with his "All-American Boy" video that he released last year to international success that landed him on Good Morning America and Ellen. Deborah Cox, Martha Wash, Carly Rae Jepsen, and DJ's David Morales and Quentin Harris are also some of the artists performing at the largest global LGBTQ celebration.

So from a city that went from little pride in 1969 to WorldPride in 45 years, our community has a right to pat itself on the back and say job well done. Lets make this one a real party!

HAPPY WORLDPRIDE TORONTO!

Toronto WorldPride takes place from June 20 to June 29, 2014. For more information visit: www.worldpridetoronto.com

Kendall Partington is a Toronto born singer who performs as a one-man band in the village 4 nights a week at Zipperz and Statlers. He has written for Naked News, and XTRA. He is currently blogging on UNVAILED in PARTING SHOTS. He is honoured to be added to The Buzz. Be sure to check out Kendall's blog, Behind the Kendallabra, at theBUZZmag.ca



photo by NickyRowbottom

photo by GuillaumePaumier

The No. 1 Market in the World welcomes World Pride 2014





Carole Pope by Leida Resurreccion

CAROLE POPE

BONDAGE, POLITICS & SONGS FOR LESBIANS

Before Britney and Rihanna had an S&M tryst, before Katy Perry kissed a girl and before Miley showed the world her tongue, there was Carole Pope.

Well before the pop stars of today, Carole was an artist who broke through the walls of conformity with outspoken lyrics of high school lesbianism and donned bondage attire on stage.

As the voice of the Canadian New Wave rock band "Rough Trade", Carole went where very few people were willing to go. Their 1981 hit "High School Confidential" was the first explicitly lesbian-themed Top 40 hit in the world! After multiple Juno awards, and a Genie award, Carole took to Los Angeles to pursue more film and television soundtrack work. She's appeared on multiple soundtracks, appeared in the Toronto production of "The Vagina Monologues" and is an Ambassador for the Harvey Milk High

School as well as being on the Board of Directors for the Songwriters Association of Canada.

We caught up with Carole to discuss her last solo album "Landfall", her upcoming work, and how much the music industry has changed. And through it all and over the years, Carole is still a voice that will echo through with a real message.

Brandon Michael Lee: What was the inspiration, or overall message of your latest album, Landfall?

Carole: There's a terrible wonderful scary upheaval going on with nature and patriarchal society, and governments who are really corporations, stripping away our rights. We're in a state of flux, which may or may not turn out well. I think most people feel this seismic shift regardless of how unconscious they might seem so in essence we're all searching for a Landfall or inner peace.

Brandon: As an artist who has always stood out, broke down walls and boundaries, do you find it harder to maintain a relevant voice with these issues in a world where these subjects are now used as marketing ploys?

Carole: I think people know when you're being honest. I have nothing to prove which is extremely freeing so I say what I want. Most indie bands are so insipid and formulaic. I can't think of any who are really political.

Brandon: How would you say Carole Pope today, has evolved personally and artistically, from Carole Pope of Rough Trade?

Carole: As I said earlier I have nothing to prove so I do what makes me happy and my audience gets it. So it's not that much different from Rough Trade in that respect.

Brandon: How do you feel about people like Madonna, or Cher, who are transforming themselves to stay in competition with younger artists? As an artist, do you think this kind of diminishes the persona and voice they once had?

Carole: I think in the case of Madonna she should stop trying to be all hipster and ghetto or whatever the hell it is she's going for. She should try to grow as a fifty something rad outspoken woman. As for Cher, She can do no wrong. She is what she is and her music is timeless. I've seen her in Vegas even though I'm not a fan of dance music she really puts on a great show and doesn't give a fuck, which I can totally relate to.

Brandon: As a Board Member of the Harvey Milk High School, do you see a change in the acceptance of young gay students in terms of their safety and mass acceptance, as opposed to how it was years ago?

Carole: I think straight kids today are more open and accepting and have experimented more sexually, so it's more of a non-issue.

Brandon: If the fate of the Human World depended on you having to perform a duet with one female pop star of today, who would you choose?

Carole: Oh God. If it has to be a pop star I'd pick Beyonce, but if I could choose an anti-pop star it would be PJ Harvey.

Brandon: How do you feel about shows like American Idol, and the Voice, and their impact on the music industry?

Carole: Those shows are so unrealistic I never watch them. Get out there and play in a band! That's the only

RAPID FIRE

- Brandon: Coffee or Tea?**
Carole: Tea
- Brandon: Last Book you read?**
Carole: Skimmed through the Morrissey auto biography
- Brandon: Favourite Take-Out Meal?**
Carole: Thai
- Brandon: If a state of emergency was declared and you could only grab one thing from your home, what would it be and why?**
Carole: Whomever I'm sleeping with; it's the humane thing to do.
- Brandon: What's the last movie you watched that made you cry?**
Carole: Philadelphia

way to get heard.

Brandon: What can we expect from you in the future?

Carole: I'm releasing a new EP this June entitled "Music 4 Lesbians", but it's for everyone. Two of the tracks "Lesbians in The Forest" featuring Peaches, who is beyond brilliant, and "Francis Bacon" are already available on iTunes.

The other two tracks are very orchestral driven parodies. "Vagina Wolf" is a Bond-like extravaganza with me attempting to channel Shirley Bassey, and I'm recording a cover of "Some Velvet Morning" with Sara T Russell the lead singer of Sapphic Musk.

Carole Pope will be performing at WorldPride the Friday 27 June at the Bud Light South Stage. Her show is scheduled for 10PM. Find Carole online at: www.carolepope.com

Brandon Michael Lee is a Toronto based Award Winning Event Designer, Writer and Filmmaker. He spends his days surrounded by his two dogs, cupcakes and coffee and one day dreams of having a big fat gay wedding. While on the outside, he is a fabulous and stylish gay man... on the inside he is a tool belt wearing, shelf building, Tori Amos listening lesbian. Oh and he loves beards and tattoos. Check out Brandon's blog, Cupcakes and Beards, on our website: www.theBUZZmag.ca



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WIGGED OUT

BY DONNARAMA

The beautiful and legendary Donnarama has graced the stages of T.O with outrageous costumes and comedy skits, and there is never a dull moment! A scene queen and Canadian drag staple, her dedication, pioneering originality and uniqueness have scored her numerous awards, bar titles and visits to therapy. Check out Donnarama's blog, Wiggid Out, at theBUZZmag.ca

Make A Splash

For each and every color of the rainbow, there is a different origin and meaning. The rainbow comes together mystically and magically to form a super unit of bold visual conglomeration.

The color orange is uninhibited, green is seen as rebirth and renewal, red suggests passion and yellow is what happens when you pee in the pool. After this cruel cruel winter you know it's time to get out your trunks and make a splash!

One of the cities most beloved Pride festivities swims it's way back into Dundas Square on Saturday June 28th at 12 PM noon. Prism's Aqua T- Dance features DJ Kitty Glitter spinning the mix along side other purrfectly selected deejays who are swimmingly swell.

The hottest acts under the sun such as Kelly Rowland, Carmen Electra and Lena Love are followed this year by Sofonda Cox who surfboards into the spotlight with the fierce Tynomi Banks in a Beyonce tribute show extravaganza.

At 11PM, the party continues at The Sound Academy at Prism's Main Event "La Lette" which in Spanish means 'milk' so expect attendees to be clad in white and possibly carrying burrito's. Sofonda returns alongside Gia Cox for the main show, most likely featuring insane futuristic cutting edge costumes, sharp bitching choreography, and possibly a glass of milk.

If you have a thirst for the thrilling, the stage has been set for a plethora of beasts and beauties offering up their goods for your entertainment this WorldPride Week.



Photo credit: Sofonda Cox

Expect this year's outdoor stages to feature the very best of musical, drag, and live entertainment. Expect to catch sight of acts such as Tegan & Sara and Carly Rae Jepsen.

Melissa Etheridge kicks off WorldPride and rocks it out for the Opening Ceremonies at Nathan Phillips Square June 20th at 8PM alongside House diva Deborah Cox. 2014 Juno winning duo Tegan & Sara bring us back to Dundas Square for the closing ceremonies June 29th.

With all this running around ... somebody bring me some water! Rain or shine, your favorite weather girl Martha Wash will also be bringing her thunderous pipes to the festivities with her impressive repertoire of club hits. Everybody dance Now - Liza Minelli? Check, Chita Rivera? Check, Annie doing a cartwheel? Check.

Crowds seeking a fun musical theatre experience can watch Miss Conception tap her way onto the stage at Woody's/Sailor on Sundays, at 6pm, for her legendary Broadway Show. The show tune crowd claps along to favorites and the show features live singing as well. Miss Conception is just back from a four-month stint in Mexico so expect rivers of tequila to be flowing at the bar from one of the many hot and sexy bartenders.

YOU are hot and sexy so let your colors shine. Get on out there with your world-class pride and passion and be uninhibited. Just don't pee in the pool ;)

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SHE BEAT

BY CAT GRANT

Cat Grant OCAD is a multimedia artist. A published poet currently writing a book. She contributes to Hone Life, Jingobox and her blog for theBUZZ. Painting, sculpture, photography/video, choreography/dance & costume design also make her days. Cat has worked with Deadmau5, Panasonic, Sony, Konami and volunteers for many queer organizations. Check out Cat's blog, Kitty Indacity, on our website: www.theBUZZmag.ca

**WALK
THIS
DYKE MARCH
WAY**



I have fond memories of the first Dyke March. I was a producer on QTV for ROGERS Television covering queer events including Pride, in 1996. That particular year was stellar for the Toronto Lesbian community as it was the year The Dyke March came into existence.



This was to be a separate event held the day before the Pride Parade whereby Women and Trans people were encouraged to come out and show their political strengths. "Great" I thought, after all, this had been touted as more inclusionary for the marginalized and hot women everywhere? I was definitely in!

What I wasn't expecting was so much debate over this decision. Groups of women were passionately discussing the issues of division and separateness. The pitch table at QTV was a hotbed of ideas and confusion. It didn't seem anyone was blasé about the matter either and the most common discussion ... why is this necessary?

Had we not won the right as queers to strut our stuff during the Pride parade? Is Gay not Gay if you are a woman? Does this mean Lesbians only join the march on Saturday and no longer walk on Sunday? Where do Trans, Bisexual and other Queer identified peeps participate now? "This will never take off" expressed one director. Boy was he wrong!

The afternoon was beautiful, weather and spirit wise. A first time all Women and Trans crew! To my ears here was a wondrous joy and laughter cadence that soundtracked the day. It is hard to believe the trepidation shown prior.

Yes I had been to Pride many times, including watching as a teen from the sidelines on the sidewalk the early 80's. Wow, a group of gays, men, women, drag queens, I admit I knew nothing, but my stomach did a flippityflip turn of happy. Despite my girlfriend not coming with me (we were not out), I had felt proud when I finally used that gut and heart pounding, walked a couple blocks.

Forward to '96 where 5000 beaming smiles shone from women's faces showed solidarity I had never seen before. It was life changing to see that many women filled with such purpose and enthusiasm, a euphoric experience.

Watching my mother's generation on television, burning their bras while demanding equal rights, was the only place I remembered observing such unity between women. I recalled the different points of view dividing friendships and families I overheard then too, but now with a new clarity.



In speaking with different women recently, I was struck by just how many told me they haven't attended lately due to other summer holiday plans. In some ways we take women's spaces for granted. This year it is different! WorldPride Baby!

The largest one ever, meaning a huge influx of women from around the planet, coming here to celebrate with all of us Canadian gals. Personally I am looking forward to soaking it all in. The stage is set. This year's Dyke March will be the ultimate women's community event Toronto has ever seen and the world will be watching.

Will I see you there?

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BUMBLE-INI



BY PAUL BELLINI

Paul Bellini is a comedy writer who has worked on such TV shows as The Kids in the Hall (where he played The Towel Guy), This Hour Has 22 Minutes and Locker Room. He was also a FAB magazine columnist for 11 years. He currently teaches comedy writing at George Brown College and the Second City Training Center in Toronto.

THE SPIRIT OF PRIDE

It's Pride time and honey, I've been there from the very beginning. I remember a time when the only gay was Marvin Gaye, back when if you took drugs and had sex all night it was just called Friday, not Pride Day.

I was at Stonewall that hot summer night in 1969. Judy Garland had just died and we wanted to celebrate her life by getting really wrecked, like she would have, but the cops showed up and ruined it. So we thought, what would Judy do? She would probably get all angry and throw shit at them, like pennies and shoes and barbiturates. Wait, not the barbiturates. What a riot, I mean, literally. Our emotions were right on the surface, where they belong.

There weren't many Pride marches in the seventies, because everybody was just too damn busy boogying. But then, one night in 1981, I was at a bathhouse right here in Toronto, having a bath, and once again the cops burst in and ruined the fun. There was no riot that night, though. I mean, we were all in towels. Although, we did have a little bit of fun in the back of the paddy wagon.

Afterwards, my righteous indignation roiled to the surface, so I rounded up a bunch of my friends and said, "Let's have a picnic!" So we did, and we bragged about it all year long until the following summer, every gay person in the city wanted to come to our little get-together and it grew and grew.

I loved those early Pride days. I remember one of the very first, in the parkette behind the 519, consisting of all the same guys who went to Chaps. The only thing that was different was that this was broad daylight,

sheesh! It was hot but there was a wading pool just sitting there, but for some reason lesbians with headsets kept yelling at us not to use it. So right from the beginning, everyone had found their niche.



photo by Sarah Menace

Over the years I've done it all. Flounced around in a bridal gown with a big sign around my neck that said "gay bride," rode with the Dykes on Bikes, handed out condoms while wearing a fright wig, did tuff-drag on rollerblades, marched with both QUIA and the Jews - I don't take sides, sister, I even marched with the totally naked men.

Oh Pride. You mean so many different things to so many different people. But the one thing Pride always was and always should be is a party. Our party. So, on Pride day, as you yell 'woo woo' with your shirt off as the Rogers Mobility float passes by, remember your ancestors who started it all. The reason you get to be bad is because the gang at the Stonewall and the guys at the baths and gay bride and Dykes on Bikes and the totally naked men were all bad first.

I am the spirit of Pride, and I rock!



Devin Mullen

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A KODAK MOMENT

BY BOYD KODAK

Boyd Kodak is a trans activist, musician, writer, activist, filmmaker, curator, and festival/entertainment director. Boyd put together both educational and artistic programs for festivals worldwide. Boyd was a INSPIRE Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient in 2011, and in 2012 was inducted into the International LGBT Hall of Fame.



Photo by Saxe Chevillon

Lucas Silveira

Transgendered icon and front-man of Canadian band The Cliks.

I have been living in the country for 11 years, I admit to only ever seeing Lucas Silveira and The Cliks once in recent years...but, once is all it took to become a big fan of both the solo artist, and the band. Very excited to see both on the stages of WorldPride 2014.

Lucas Silveira is best known as the front man, songwriter and founding member of the rock band The Cliks. Lucas has become a leading force in the LGBTQ community for the promotion and visibility of transgender people in the mainstream music industry. He is the first out transgender male to be signed to a major record label deal and has toured with music icons including Cyndi Lauper, The Cult, Debbie Harry and The New York Dolls.

Boyd: Tell us what you have been doing over the last year?

Lucas: Promoting the last Cliks release 'Black Tie Elevator'. We went on two tours and after the last I took some time off to prepare for festival season.

Boyd: Where did you tour and who with?

Lucas: Toured all over the US. From the North East Coast to the West Coast and all the way around and back. We toured with a local band called Hot Peach.

Boyd: During the last year, what was the one most exciting event for you?

Lucas: The time off I took to get a hysterectomy! Doesn't sound like fun but it was the first time I had time off with no guilt involved.

Boyd: No guilt time is good.

Boyd: What are you looking forward to over for the next year?

Lucas: Change. I'd like to try new things this year.

Boyd: In any specific area of your life?

Lucas: Yes. Mainly in how I connect to my music and art overall. I just want to try new things and not have to think about the industry side of things. Experiment with new styles of music. Maybe start a new band. Who knows? Write a book even.

Boyd: Where can we see you at Pride?

Lucas: The Cliks are performing on the main stage Friday, June 27th and I will be playing a solo acoustic set on Sunday June 19th but still don't know which stage.

Boyd: Just for fun tell us your favorite TV show of all time?

Lucas: Seinfeld.

Boyd: Any message you would like to put out for WorldPride 2014?

Lucas: Remember that we are not all free. This Pride is extremely important to show the rest of the world that we must have solidarity with our brothers and sisters in countries where they are undergoing horrific human rights violations. We must be vocal about it.

Be sure to check out The Cliks' current album, "Black Tie Elevator," and read more about Lucas at: www.thecliks.com

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BEYOND THE VILLAGE

BY OWEN SHEPPARD

Owen Sheppard is a writer, artist, and award-winning filmmaker based in Toronto. His independent media work in Canada and Kenya informs a partisan creative approach exploring class struggle, racism, and the limits of freedom. He is now writing an historical fiction novel. You can find his website at www.owensheppard.com

10X10 Exhibition SHOWCASES QUEER CANADIANS IN THE ARTS

10x10 Koplex, photographed by Mikka Gila

10X10 is a yearly portrait exhibition of queer Canadians in the arts. The reception for this year's show is June 26 at 7pm at the Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St. W.). I caught up with Toronto-based artist and exhibition curator James Fowler by email.

Owen: What is 10X10? How did you come up with the idea?

James: Each year I ask ten queer Canadian photographers to each take ten portraits. The resulting 100 portraits are exhibited at the Gladstone Hotel. I started the project in 2011. After asking photographers David Pike, Joey Bruni and Paul Buen if they might want to shoot some portraits, I realized I knew a lot more queer photographers so I put the first group together in a tiny space in Kensington Market.

Owen: What support and feedback have you received from the queer and non-queer community?

James: The turnout in the first year was overwhelming. There were more people on the street than could fit into the space. I knew I had hit a nerve and knew there was an appetite for visual art programming during Toronto's Pride celebrations. Since then it has been a learning experience balancing community and criticality. I get great feedback about ways to better mine the queer and arts communities to ensure a diverse representation of photographers and subjects.

Owen: Who do you hope will visit the exhibition?

James: 10X10 is really for anyone who wants to see interesting and diverse approaches to portraiture by some of Canada's most notable photographers. The opening night is anything but quiet, though. Not only is it a night for celebration, it's a night when you get to see the people who are making arts and culture events happen in Toronto and across Canada. We get to see familiar faces, people we haven't seen in a while and a chance to make new friends.

Owen: Does this year's exhibition have a specific theme?

James: There's never been an overarching theme, but some photographers' portrait sets have been thematic. Each photographer comes from a different professional background so it's always interesting to see how each chooses to approach the project.

Owen: What are your hopes for the future of 10X10?

James: What started as a single year project has grown significantly. I'm committed to it for ten years. By 2021 I will have produced ten books and exhibitions, worked with 100 queer Canadian photographers and collectively documented 1000 LGBTI Canadians in the arts. It's ambitious and the project is bigger than one person can manage, so I'm assembling a working board to help make an event like this grow. Vancouver has a successful Queer Arts Festival, which I think Toronto should have. I hope 10X10 can be part of a bigger queer arts festival in the future.

You can find the 10X10 exhibition at the Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St. W.) from June 5 to August 18.

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Top 15 LGBT Community BUZZPICKS

THURS JUNE 19

LGBT SUPPLIER DIVERSITY FORUM - WORLDPRIDE 2014 TORONTO The LGBT Supplier Diversity Forum will be a half-day, internationally-inspired business event to showcase the CGLCC's supplier diversity program, certified suppliers and partners during WorldPride 2014 Toronto / 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm / The Carlu / 444 Yonge Street, 7th Floor, Toronto / www.cgllc.ca

FRI JUNE 20 - JULY 27 THAT'S SO GAY

That's So Gay is a celebration of new projects created by LGBTTT2QQ artists about their experiences of disability, radicalization, class, and other intersectional experiences of identity / 12pm -5pm daily / Gladestone Hotel, 2nd Floor Gallery / 1214 Queen St West / www.gladstonehotel.com/spaces/thats-so-gay/

FRI JUNE 20

MARCO ROGERS - LESBIANS WHO WEAR LIPSTICK: THE MIDDLE AGES (Redux) Marco brings back her popular show to kick off WorldPride! / 9pm The Flying Beaver Pubaret / 488 Parliament St / \$10 advance / \$15 door // www.pubaret.com

SAT JUNE 21

THE B-GIRLZ: PRIDE NATION! In this exclusive, one night only event, the B-Girlz present PRIDE NATION! - their World Pride Tribute to gay life around the globe and at home / 8pm / Buddies in Bad Times Theatre / 12 Alexander St. \$25 in Advance/ \$28 at the Door www.b-girlz.com

SUN JUNE 22

QUEER FAMILY BRUNCH Our regular Acoustic Family Brunch takes on a Space Themed queer twist celebrating families of all types. We'll keep the family happily entertained while you all enjoy selections from our buffet brunch. 10am - 2pm / Gladestone Hotel /

1214 Queen St West buffet brunch: \$16/adult, \$10/kid www.gladstonehotel.com/

MON JUNE 23

BURSTING WITH PRIDE Our Pride Week extravaganza only gets larger each year, with fabulous furnishings, captivating company and colourful cocktails that'll have you happy before DJ Sikh even gets spinning. / TBA / The Spoke Club / 600 King Street West, 4th Floor www.thespokeclub.com/event/bursting-with-pride-2

WED JUNE 25-26

VIVA CABARET WorldPride Show Viva Cabaret is an electrifying tribute to the most fabulous Divas of all times: Cher, Tina, Liza, Madonna, Freddy, Kylie, Michael, Judy, Gaga, and 25 more / 8pm / The Rivoli 334 Queen St W / \$25 door / \$20 online www.rushow.ru

THURS JUNE 26 DRAGBALL

The Dragball is the event for professional female impersonators and new comers featuring miss Canada world pageant and miss Canada world new comer pageant 2 pageants in one night / 7:30pm / Hard Rock 279 yonge St. / \$20 at the stag shop 532 Church St or at the door if available / www.facebook.com/ThelmpostorsEntertainment

STARRY NIGHT Don your finest wig, most flamboyant hairpiece, or even just your subtle, paste-on moustache and sashay on over to our beautiful park for an elegant, fun, and sure-to-be-chic evening of cocktails, canoodling, and fabulous entertainment from superstar talent, all under the stars / 7pm - 12am / The 519 Church Street Community Centre / www.greenspaceto.org

FRI JUNE 27

"PITBULL - WORLDWIDE PRIDE" Featuring: Chris Cox (US), Del Stamp (Vancouver), Deko-ze (Toronto) & Dwayne Minard (Toronto) 9PM - 4AM / LIBERTY

GRAND / 25 British Columbia Rd / \$65 / www.pitbullevents.com

SAT JUNE 28

PRISM AQUA T-DANCE Prism Festival is North America's largest gay circuitmusic festival / 12pm - 8pm / Yonge-Dundas Square www.prismtoronto.wix.com/prism-toronto/#!prism-aqua/c1jxf

VAZALEEN Presents SHAME Featuring Performances By SHADOWY MEN ON A SHADOWY PLANET, Jenna Syde With DJ's-Michael Comeau, Vee Stun & Max Mohenu & Host Andrew Harwood / 9:00 p.m. / Wrongbar / 1279 Queen St W / \$15 / www.wrongbar.com

STEAMWORKS PRIDE

CRUISE Featuring: Nick Bertossi Performances by Hot & Hunky Guys: Ray Gunn, Aleks Buldocek, Jon Shield 11:30am - 4:30pm / River Gambler \$75 (incl FREE locker at Steamworks Toronto Sunday June 29 between 12pm and 4pm) Hours: 11:30am - 4:30pm / www.facebook.com/events/374088599397144/

SUN AUG 3 - 10

TORONTO LEATHER PRIDE WEEK This year the TLP competitions, including the 25th anniversary of the Mr. Leatherman Toronto title, and the 29th anniversary of Leather Ball will be held at the Phoenix Concert Theatre / 410 Sherbourne Street / doors opening at 6:30 pm on Saturday, August 09, 2014. torontoleatherpride.ca

THURS AUG 7 - 10

TORONTO QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL Every summer in August, Queer West celebrates its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered artistic community with the Queer Arts Festival- a week-long event that includes a film festival, spoken word events, concerts, art gallery tours by bicycle, and more. Take in art that challenges and explores the concept of sexuality / Various locations and events / See website for details / www.artsfestival.queerwest.org

Top 15 Charity/Non-Profit BUZZPICKS

THURS JUNE 19 - 28

A CHORUS QUEEN

Back in its second year of production, A Chorus Queen is revamped with new plot twists & an almost new score of music selections. Supporting the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation, the girls are bigger & louder than ever / 2pm and 7:30pm / Hart House Theatre / University of Toronto / \$45 - \$49 www.aChorusQueen.com

THURS JUNE 19 CAMP OUT

Come enjoy all the fun & first times that come along with summer camp, without the swim tests and mosquitoes! Fundraiser for PFLAG Durham Region's Youth Leadership camp / 5pm - 9pm / The Pilot Tavern / 22 Cumberland St. / Min \$5 Donation / facebook.com/events/285983058230091

SAT JUNE 21

OLIVIA CHOW'S WORLD PRIDE PARTY Join Olivia Chow to celebrate WorldPride with special performances and exciting guests! 9pm - 11pm / Woody's 465-467 Church Street / Free www.oliviachow.ca

TUE JUNE 24

WORLD PRIDE AIDS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL This year marks both the 30th Anniversary of the AIDS Candlelight Vigil and the celebration of World Pride in Toronto / 9pm @ 519 Community Centre / 519 Church Street / Free www.the519.org

PUMP

A WEEKLY fundraiser for PWA. Go-go boy contests, \$100 prize. Music: Relentless Host: Devine Darlin / 10pm / Zippers Cellblock 72 Carlton St facebook.com/zipperz.cellblock

WED JUNE 25

FUNNY LADY KAREN WILLIAMS - A BENEFIT FOR "THE HEALING PLACE Karen Williams has been performing stand-up

since Sonny broke up with Cher (that was the mid-eighties right?) and has been known to go on a tear for hours at a time. They're funny tears, which lead to tears, but tears nonetheless / 7:30pm / The Flying Beaver Pubaret / 488 Parliament St / \$20 advance/\$25 at the door www.pubaret.com

THURS JUNE 26

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE: A GRAND PRIDE WEDDING AT CASA LOMA TORONTO 2014 The City of Toronto, Tourism Toronto, Egale Canada Human Rights Trust and Casa Loma extend an invitation to LGBTQ couples to participate in a free celebration of marriage equality and love at the beautifully restored Casa Loma. 2:00pm to Midnight / Casa Loma 1 Austin Terrace, Toronto, ON M5R 1X8 / Free / www.egale.ca

SAT JUNE 28

PRIDE AND REMEMBRANCE RUN With over 1,100 participants, this 5k run or 3k walk is the largest of its kind in Canada and is one of the most popular running events in the GTA. It's also the largest single fundraising event during Pride week / 10am / Church & Wellesley Streets / No fee. The pledge system is used to raise money. <http://priderun.org>

THE BIG PRIDE SINGALONG:

Get Loud. Get Proud Chorus members from Singing Out join together to perform a musical delight / 7pm & 9:15pm / The Betty Oliphant Theatre / 404 Jarvis St / \$15 www.singingout.com/performances

SAT JUNE 28 - 29

FAMILY PRIDE WEEKEND During Pride Weekend come find a child-centred oasis of music, activities, food, play, respite and resources at Church Street Public School / 11am - 6pm / 519 Community Centre / 519 Church Street / Free / www.the519.org

SUN JUNE 29

FRUIT LOOPZ: BETTER

RELATIONSHIPS Fruit Loopz Youth Stage is a festival of arts, words and ideas for spectrum youth, by spectrum youth. Presented by SOY in partnership with Pride Toronto. All day / Buddies and Bad Times Theatre / 12 Alexander Street Free / www.soytoronto.org/current/fruitloopz.html

SUN JULY 06

POZ-TO VIDEO/DANCE PARTY

POZ - T.O. Monthly Dance Party with DJ Relentless is Toronto's monthly night out for the HIV+ Queer community and our allies to enjoy music videos and mixed sets programmed by DJ Relentless in 'The Zone' at Crews & Tangos / 9pm / Crews & Tangos / 508 Church St. \$2 Cover / www.facebook.com/events/1492638520950812

SUN JULY 27 - AUG 01

FRIENDS FOR LIFE BIKE RALLY

The Friends For Life Bike Rally is the sustaining fundraiser of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation 5:30am - 10pm / Toronto - Montreal // Route See website for more details. www.bikerrally.org

SAT AUG 2

THE QUEER FAMILY MIXER

Our monthly family resource program for LGBTQ parents, grandparents, caregivers, their partners and children (0 to 6 years) and families with young gender independent children / 10:30 am - 1:30 pm / 519 Community Centre / 519 Church Street / Free / www.the519.org

SAT AUG 9

DADDY, PAPA, & ME

Our monthly gathering for Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Trans fathers/ parents & their children (age 0 to 6) and dads with young gender independent children / 10:30 am - 1:30 pm / 519 Community Centre / 519 Church Street / Free www.the519.org



Top 15 General BUZZPICKS

THURS JUNE 12

SIP & SAVOUR ONTARIO

every successive Thurs. ending Thurs Oct 30 // Farm & Artisan Market Sip & Savour Ontario Farm & Artisan Market will showcase and bring awareness to the best that Ontario has to offer in the categories of both food and artisan products / 3-7pm / Avenue Rd. and Roe Ave / No cover
www.sipandsavourontario.ca

THURS JUNE 12 - 15

10TH ANNUAL TORONTO

TANGO FESTIVAL Toronto Tango Festival is a four day celebration of Argentine Tango, with workshops for all levels, practicas, milongas, performances, live orchestras, and more / Lithuanian Hall / 1573 Bloor St W / \$15-\$30
www.TorontoTangoFestival.com

FRI JUNE 13 - 15

NXNE – North by Northeast. Take in a variety of music and films during the 19th annual NXNE festival when it rocks Toronto to the core. NXNE showcases the best new music and film by predominantly independent creators and producers / Various Nightclub Locations / www.nxne.com Age: 19+

THURS JUNE 19 - 28

TORONTO DOWNTOWN JAZZ

FESTIVAL The TD Toronto Jazz Festival will kick off its 28th edition. A must for anyone that loves Jazz. / Nathan Philips Square & Various Locations / Ranges from No cover-\$69.50 torontojazz.com

SAT JUNE 21 - 22

26TH TORONTO

INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT

FESTIVAL A two-day fun-filled event that brings sports, team spirit and community spirit to Toronto Centre Island Centre Island
www.dragonboats.com

SAT JUNE 21

SUMMER SOLSTICE BBQ

What better way to celebrate the arrival of summer than a smoking

hot country-style BBQ on our North Rooftop patio? Join us as we provide you with a fingerlickin' BBQ feast with themed drinks and live entertainment / The Spoke Club 600 King Street W., 4th Floor / Varies / www.thespokeclub.com/event/summer-solstice-bbq-2

WED JULY 2 - 13

TORONTO FRINGE THEATRE

FESTIVAL The Toronto Fringe Festival is an annual theatre festival, featuring un-juried plays by unknown or well-known artists, taking place in the theatres of Toronto. Varies / CSI Annex / 720 Bathurst St / \$10. Value Packs also available
www.fringetoronto.com

WED JULY 8 -

SAT AUG 2

CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

TORONTO Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Toronto is an exciting three-week cultural explosion of Caribbean music, cuisine, and revelry as well as visual and performing arts / Various Locations / No cover on some Others TBA
www.torontocaribbeancarnival.com

FRI JULY 11 - 13

10TH ANNUAL WATERFRONT

BLUES EXPERIENCE blues artists and genuine soul singers at Metro Toronto's only genuine blues festival. Varies Woodbine Park/Northern Dancer Blvd. & Lake Shore Blvd. E. / No cover
www.waterfrontblues.ca

THURS JULY 17

TORONTO INDIE ARTS MARKET

Customers looking to support local designers, artists, writers, musicians and performers should head to the Indie Arts Market. Whether it's art, self-published books and magazines, music, or crafts, the marketplace boasts Toronto-area creative types selling their wares / 7-11pm / Gladstone Hotel Ballroom / 1214 Queen St W. / No cover / www.torontoindieartsmarket.com/upcoming-markets/

FRI JULY 18 - 27

BEACHES INTERNATIONAL

JAZZ FESTIVAL "The Beaches International Jazz Festival has grown steadily since that first year of an afternoon of Jazz in the park into a world-class event that attracts an annual audience of 1 million people / Varies Queen Street East / Woodbine Park / Kew Gardens and The Boardwalk / No cover
www.beachesjazz.com

SAT JULY 19

GREEN TORONTO FESTIVAL

Bigger, better and greener than ever, this year's Green Toronto Festival will transform Yonge-Dundas Square into a celebration of all things green! 11am-8pm / Yonge-Dundas Square / No cover
www.toronto.ca/greentorontofestival

TUES JULY 22 -

TUES AUG 12

TORONTO SUMMER MUSIC

FESTIVAL Entering it's ninth year of bringing outstanding classical music experiences to the city in the summer. Varies Walter Hall (Faculty of Music) at the University of Toronto / Koerner Hall (Royal Conservatory) / 80 Queens Park, 273 Bloor St W. / Single tickets \$20-99 / Festival Passes also available.
www.torontosummernusic.com

THURS JULY 24 -

SUN JULY 27

TORONTO BURLESQUE

FESTIVAL Now in its seventh year, the Toronto Burlesque Festival is four day whirlwind of performances, parties and workshops – not to be missed! / The Virgin Mobile Mod Club / 722 College St.
www.torontoburlesquefestival.com

FRI AUG 8 - 10

TASTE OF THE DANFORTH

GreekTown Taste of the Danforth is one of Toronto's signature events, showcasing Hellenic cuisine and culture / Danforth Ave. / East of Broadview Ave. / No cover
www.tasteofthedanforth.com



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July 18.... Dinner Cruise with Cliff Edwards and Dan Kasaboski

July 19.... "Night Fever", a tribute to the Bee Gees

July 26....Retro Bash and Rockstar Live Karaoke

Aug. 2....Abbamania - Aug. 9 Tribute to Elvis with Gino Monopoli

Aug. 15....Dinner Cruise with Maruicio Montecinos

Aug. 16....Tribute to Bon Jovi with Crush

Aug. 24....Tribute to Motown Dinner Cruise

Aug. 30....Tribute to the Beatles with "FabFour"

Sept. 6....Tribute to Johnny Cash with Blair Harvey

Sept. 14....Dinner and Dancing Cruise with Tribute to Buddy Holly

Sept. 20...Dinner & Dancing Cruise with Tribute to Michael Jackson, Bishop Soul



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