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**IN THIS ISSUE WE GO  
ON A JOURNEY WITH  
A LEATHER NOVICE  
AND WITNESS HIS  
TRANSFORMATION**

**WE CHAT WITH A PANEL OF OUR  
COMMUNITY'S  
DRAG ARTISTS**

**PLUS A MIX OF COLUMNS ON  
ARTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, BOOK REVIEWS  
AND OF COURSE EVENTS LISTINGS.**

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With each edition of theBUZZ we hope to celebrate the diversity of our community. This edition we choose to focus on leather and drag for our main features. Both communities have a long history within queer culture.

The leather community can be traced back to the 1940's, which grew out of the "biker" culture. Leather clubs, for gay men, started in the 1950's in Europe. I remember when I was a kid; some of the first imagery of being gay I saw, in media, was gay men with big mustaches in leather. Today the community is much more inclusive of practitioners including: gay, lesbian, straight, trans, bisexual and drag artists.. On our cover we tried to feature some of this diversity and celebrate those who gave visibility to our community for over 70 years!

Drag queens and kings are the celebrities of our community and Toronto is lucky to have so many talented ones. Drag goes back to ancient Roman literature and classical Chinese theatre. Since women were generally banned from performing on stage, men had to perform all of the parts. The drag queens, of which we speak today, first started in the 1950s and 60s. Even though the drag scene started around that time, it didn't properly flourish until the liberation of the LGBTQ community in North America. As we all know, the queens "kicked ass" the night of the Stonewall raids, in 1969, and started a revolution so that today we're able to invite the world to Toronto to celebrate how fabulous our community is!

Thanks to these communities for making life more colourful and interesting and for standing out and making the world take notice!

Brandon Bent

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014 VOLUME 2 PRESENTED BY PINKPLAY MAGS



## On The Cover

**Fabulous Russella** Initially inspired by Cat-Woman and Mary Poppins, a young Russell would paint his sisters Girl's World with giant glittery lips before backcombing it's blonde hair in to a giant bouffant. He then turned the attention on himself and Russella was born. Dancer, Writer, Model, Singer, Comedienne, Emcee - Russella really is Too Fabulous... [www.fabulousrussella.com](http://www.fabulousrussella.com)  
(not pictured above)

**Monica Forrester** Since 1999 Monica has worked in various agencies to educate and make services accessible for trans\* folks. She produces a bi-monthly zine called "Trans Pride Toronto," and co-produced a short video on the lives of 2-spirit Indigenous sex workers. This year she was named "Trans Pride Honoured Individual" and led the Trans Pride March at WorldPride.

**Randy Boyd** joined SPEARHEAD Leather Denim Social Club (L.D.S.C.) in October of 2011 after witnessing the camaraderie and brotherhood shared by Members of the Club. Randy was Mr. Spearhead 2013 and is now the President of SPEARHEAD L.D.S.C. which is the longest continuously running gay organization in Canada of it's kind (Established 1970). As a Member of Spearhead, Randy enjoys giving back to the community by holding social and fundraising events for charities. Randy is also a member of Heart of The Flag Federation.

**Robert Miller** was Mr Leatherman Toronto 2013, and placed 3rd at international Mr Leather 35. He has enjoyed leather for over 20 years, and was recently elected President of "Heart of the Flag Federation", the largest leather, kink and fetish back patch group in Canada. His kinks are wrestling, flogging, single tail whip, bondage and psychological domination.

**Brandon Michael Lee** is an Award Winning Wedding & Event Designer, Writer and Blogger. As an avid cupcake aficionado he has opted to explore changing cupcakes for leather... or have them both together. The cover shoot scared him... then aroused him... now he owns six pieces of leather.

**Antoine Elhashem** is our Publisher & Creative Director of theBUZZ, our mother publication PinkPlayMags, and our directory The Pink Pages Directory. His concepts for the looks and covers of our magazines are always

received with applause. He is currently busy planning a mega party for the 25th anniversary of The Pink Pages Directory, which will take place at Crews & Tangos. It should be a fabulous party and you are all invited, stay tuned for details.

**Novice Sister Twisted Fister** of the Holey Christco is the current Reverend Mother of the Toronto Sisters - an official Mission of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence™. Part of her ministry in the LGBT community includes encouraging safe, sane and consensual exploration of kinks and fetishes free from the chains of sexually-transmitted guilt. One of the areas that interests her is the ongoing blurring of lines between the traditional hyper-masculine or butch approach to leather by gay men and more gender-fuck based looks that help include lesbian, drag and trans folk to the fold.

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**Novice Sister Marrygold le Beaujolais**, one of the founding members of the Toronto Sisters, once followed a handsome stranger to France where their love of fine wine and a firm baguette formed a union of sorts. Now back in Toronto, Marrygold has immersed herself in community work with her fellow Sisters and the occasional squeeze of a Leatherman's thigh. Marrygold is proud to see the Toronto Sisters ally with various leather and kink leaders and organisations in the city including Spearhead and Heart of the Flag Federation.

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**Alex Canning** entered the leather community in 2009, shortly after coming out to his family. It was the warmth, the acceptance and the support of his fellow leatherfolk that helped him along his journey to accepting who he was as a gay man. In 2012 he won the prestigious title of Mr Leatherman Toronto, and spent his year working hand in hand with his title-wife Tarna and his boyfriend Nathan to bring support and awareness to new kinksters looking to explore the life of leather.

**Jeremy Feist** is a comedian, writer and leather pup from Toronto, Ontario. He works as a salesperson over at Northbound Leather, and is responsible for the New Wave, a monthly event dedicated to educating new and young people about kink. When he's not doing nasty things for fun, he's usually at the gym or at home watching Gravity Falls.



# CUPCAKES FOR LEATHER

During the Inside Out Film Festival this year, I had the pleasure of watching a documentary film called "Folsom Forever." There was a lot of detail and explanation into how much the Leather and Fetish communities have given and supported others.

I will be honest, I've also found that "pit-bull" look on a guy quite attractive, but like most people, I've assumed that those wearing leather (or rubber, latex, etc.) are all part of a hard-core sex culture, that I may be a little too vanilla for. So I've always steered clear. However, with all the upcoming, and past (by the time this goes to print), leather and fetish events and festivals happening in Toronto... I've decided to trade in my Red Velvet cupcakes for a leather harness and see if leather life is for me.

I spoke to Master Jack Pearce to get some more information regarding how one would go about joining the Leather Community, and through our talk, I've learned that there is so much more than just referring to it as "The Leather Community"!

It's a diverse community of men, women and Trans people. It can be sexual or it can be the enjoyment of wearing leather. There is freedom in whatever you choose, but there are rules... respect, honour, humility and integrity and everything else is based on interoperable traditions and customs. There is freedom in whatever you choose.

The next two stops on my "leather-u-cation," took me to Randy, President of Spearhead Toronto, for some insight and knowledge. And Northbound Leather, for some styling, because let's face it, I can't exactly head on up into the community wearing my Nautical Loafers and a Bow-tie!

I've learned so much valuable information in the past couple of weeks regarding the Leather, those that wear it, and how to figure out if the community is for you, that I could quite frankly fill this entire second issue with the tip of this iceberg...

Randy gave me insight into both Spearhead Toronto as well as the comradery that is found within the Leather Community.



## There is freedom in whatever you choose

Jeremy Feist at Northbound dressed me in various outfits while scratching the surface of rules, regulations and etiquette.

Master Jack Pearce taught me that even just calling it "The Leather Community" pretty much just keeps it in a box way too small for all its diversity and wonder!

But alas, there is only so much I can fit into this article, and so much more I want to say and learn. As such, this exploration, as well coverage of some great leather events in Toronto. My interviews with Randy and Jeremy, will be put up on my blog column for theBUZZ called "Cupcakes & Beards"... though now I'm thinking we might need a slight name change...

Now to touch on the subject that I'm sure a lot of you have been waiting and hoping to read about... the sex... let me say this:



It would be naïve of me to say that sex is not a part of the Leather Community... but sex is a huge part of your everyday gay community! So none of these articles or posts are going to be that way inclined, or so I imagine at this time.

These posts and articles are about exploring a culture and community, and covering their events.

Now with that being said, there will be some mention of things, because as I learned at Northbound Leather, what you wear and how you wear it may give someone the impression that you are into something that you truly aren't, if you don't know what you are doing. So I'll give the guidelines as I learn them.

And P.S. I'm the proud owner of my first Leather Harness!!!

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Photo Credit: Devon Poole

# THE PHILOSOPHY OF DRAG

— WHAT'S BEHIND A FACE?

BY BRYEN DUNN

For several seasons, RuPaul's Drag Race has continued to draw viewers to the dressing rooms of drag queens to get a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to make it in the business. From mud wraps to mudslinging, it's a never ending spectacle.

theBuzz caught up with a few of Toronto's very own slew of queens...and kings, to get a better understanding of who these entertainers are. In this series we ask each of them the same 10 questions to find out what's behind a name, first forays into the scene, most embarrassing moments, grand aspirations, and tips of the trade. We ask the questions you want to know.

Stay tuned as we get the scoop on Donnarama, Cassandra Cheapeasy, Miss Conception, Jade Elektra, Maximum Capacity, and Flare.

In this article we feature our first question with each queen/king, but for several more juicy details, please visit our online feature at [thebuzzmag.ca/2014/08/philosophy-of-drag](http://thebuzzmag.ca/2014/08/philosophy-of-drag) to read the full interviews.

.....  
**TO BEGIN WITH, WE ASKED OUR PANEL:** How did you come up with your stage name, and what's the meaning behind it?

## Donnarama

"In 1996 I performed alongside legendary queen Chris Edwards, and being Italian I said 'I'm a Donna', which means lady or how you address a woman. Originally I was using Donna ROMA, but I didn't want people to think all I do is eat pasta, read tarot cards, and steal wallets."

## Cassandra Cheapeasy

"I was hanging out and getting stoned with my best friend and we started talking about a crack-addicted prostitute who was so cheap-easy. Cassandra comes from the tragic prophet and from Cassandra Peterson, Mistress of the Night."

## Miss Conception

"I got my drag name from a guy at a party in NYC. I wanted to start my name with Miss because it was classy. The meaning is kind of the definition of drag...a misconception."

Photo Credit: Sarah Khan

## Maximum Capacity

"One evening on a random drunk adventure I was riding in an elevator with my friend looking at the buttons, and I saw Maximum Capacity 1200lbs. I started laughing and exclaimed that is the best drag name. The next day my friend texted me that he loved my new drag name, and once I actually thought about it being a name and representing me on stage I was amped to start becoming my persona. As per the meaning of it, I think we all know where I was going with it!"

## Jade Elektra

"My drag name is a homage to 'The Electrifying Grace', the queen who took me in when I first arrived in New York City back in 1992. Before I moved there my drag name was 'Ebony'. There was already a queen in NYC who called herself 'Ebony Jet', so I decided to change my name. I wanted to be the daughter of Grace, but I wasn't going to call myself 'The Electrifying Jade', so I came up with 'Jade Elektra' instead."

Photo Credit: Ken Vegas

## Flare

"Before I was a drag king, and before I was out of the closet, I was given the nickname Flare by the first love of my life. We were best friends and were heading out to the bar, when I sashayed down the stairs and she laughed and said 'You have too much Flare to be a Clare', and it stuck. The rest of my college life I was known as Flare, and when I did drag for the first time and was asked for my stage name I stuck with it."

Article continued at [thebuzzmag.ca/2014/08/philosophy-of-drag](http://thebuzzmag.ca/2014/08/philosophy-of-drag)

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

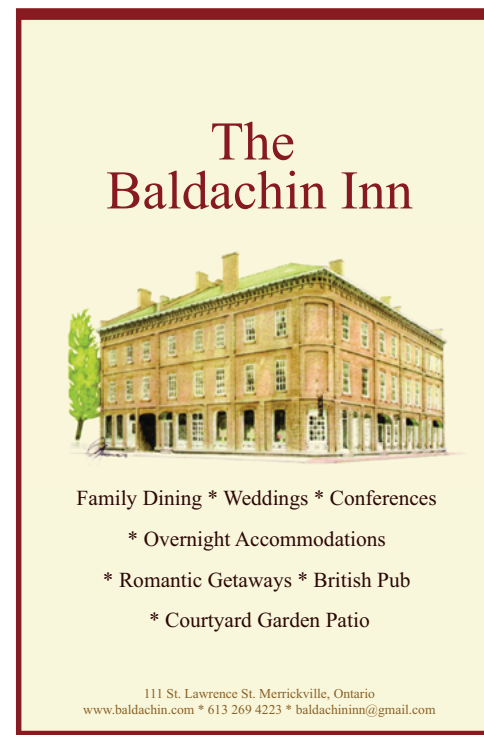



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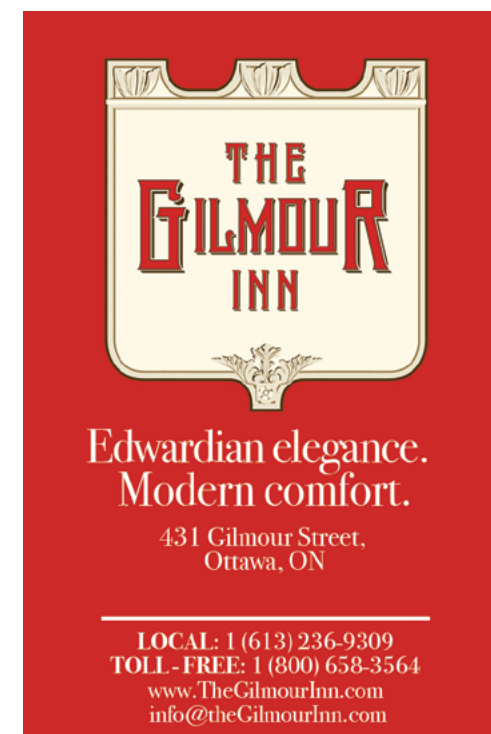
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## WIGGED OUT

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



Oh the mascara ran and the veils were on last month as the legendary nightclub FLY shut its doors for good. Toronto's famous dance floor playground played host to most of the cities greatest monthlies and events: Grapefruit, Dance Camp, Asian Xpress, all were absolute tops. Raise your glass to the memories and adventures of this unforgettable discotheque, bottoms up!

Our fly is down, heads up! Zipperz/Cell Block (72 Carlton Street) serves up Toronto's original Pussy Cat Doll Heaven Lee Hytes every Thursday at 11 PM featuring special guests. Heaven Lee is marvelous and usually decked out in Gwen Stefani's signature line L.A.M.B. You can't get that shit at the Goodwill so someone's tipping. Asked what her favorite drink is she replied a double vodka and water ... tall, like her!

High temperatures bring us outdoors in scores. It's time to down sangrias and eat tortillas. It's patio season! O'Grady's, Garage, Churchmouse and Firkin, Hair of The Dog (I would just DIE if I found one in my martini) offer space and a place to hang with pals and people watch. One particularly stylish patio is the Screen Lounge (20 College Street). The ultimate rooftop patio with a retractable roof is ready rain or shine, like a mini Skydome beneath the stars for the stars. I caught the classy ad featuring Sofonda Cox and some finely dressed gentleman I want to bang, nice deck.

The AGO - Art Gallery Of Ontario (317 Dundas Street West) hosts, "1st Thursdays" a monthly art/dance/fabulous night out. Featuring interesting events, live entertainment, and lord knows what else. Ladies and gents dance the night away while the gallery of hung masterpieces captivate. July's event "Queer's on Fire" featured the ever flamboyant and ground breaking Keith Cole and his queer rant and rave soapbox. Raise your voice!

Sing aloud at Statler's (487 Church Street) for



"SINGular Sensations," the music theatre open mic hosted by Jenni Wallis, Donavon LeNabat, and Jamie Bird at 10 PM Mondays. Have you heard Jenni Wallis sing? Can we talk? Liza Minnelli could only wish for that range! Followed the next night is, gasp, "C U Next Tuesday's," hosted by yours truly. What's better than a super crazy, super drag show? Absolutely nothing! Pop in after your Toonle Tuesday meal at KFC and have a gas.


Don't miss Pegasus (489b Church Street) bullseyes Mondays at 10 PM with "DManda Tension and Friends." So in other words, it's a one woman show ... just kidding! Pal around as she struts her stuff in couture the talented seamstress creates herself, my favorite being a bronze Joan Of Arc cocktail dress. No war here darts fly through the air and the beer flows like springs, so come on out and be aghast at all there is to offer. Just be careful with that dropped jaw, there's still a fly, or two around.



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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](http://www.theBUZZmag.ca)

# WE WERE THE WORLD



This is a peek on a week that was positive, uplifting and fun. Extraordinary... it's not a word I use often, however it is how I feel about the most incredibly open and inclusive Pride celebrations I have ever attended.

Toronto brought Joy to WorldPride, there was a tremendous spirit in the atmosphere as if our Canadian air had some happy magic ingredient added and although cheesy it may read, lots o'love.

Part of the thrill was sharing the experience with a great team of gals, checking out the streets, vendors, shows, clubs, parks, events, marches, the parade, all with glee.

Opening ceremonies at Nathan Philips Square with throngs of people waving rainbow flags, shoulder to shoulder, never minding the heat or lineups... everyone was simply generous. Is there such a thing as collective kindness?

"The energy is amazing!" I heard this repeatedly by those closest to us, and strangers alike.

Wendy Kelloway, a newbie to Pride, enjoyed being "welcomed with open arms" especially when hearing "take my picture!" from so many beautiful women.

Sweating glitter dancing on the INSPIRE Awards Float and taking part in the NOH8 campaign were my highlights.

"I have never been so proud to be a Torontonion as I was in the weeks leading up to Pride," said our youngest photographer Shelby Russell. "Seeing how much support we have all over the city was just amazing!" This was Shelby's first time at Pride, she felt the love, met tons of people and not to mention, the food, because yes, a girl's got to eat! Her mama, Cindy Russell was also part of our crew and old pro of Pride. One favourite spot was the 519 splash pad with children "having a blast" playing alongside the adults doing the same. Another great event was the Palais Royale Ballroom dances.

Sunday after the Parade, there was a lull just before 8 pm, crowds were lazily shuffling along, it was sticky, humid, a typical Ontario Summer evening when suddenly the sky went dark and then a torrent of rain that was almost tropical poured down.



What we observed people do next was not typical, there was cheering! D.J.'s cranked up the bass and people ran, leaped, jumped, danced in the cooling rain, laughter rang out everywhere. Packing gear, I glanced up the sunset now pink thinking "Oh how appropriate" when a collective gasp and hundreds of fingers pointing up caught my attention. A rainbow? No... a double rainbow arching across the Village appeared. There was murmuring admiration, smiles & tears both. "It's like a miracle," someone said.

I don't know about miracles, I do know that this symbol of light and colour graced our city during a moment in time where we had been rejoicing our diversity, sharing peace and our great pride with the rest of the planet.

I like to think this was our hostess gift, a meaningful & heartfelt Thank You.

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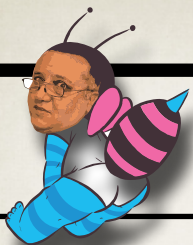
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## BUMBLE-INI

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.

## (( GAY BOOKS ))

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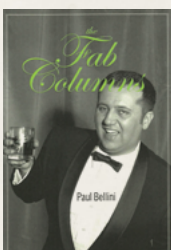
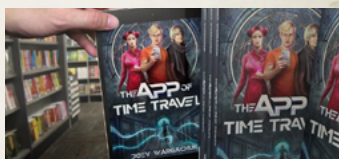
As a kid, I had an aunt who was a librarian. I always credit her for making me love books, and now, I am one of the few gay men I know who maintains a home library, a whole wall of books, mostly purchased but also acquired. For instance, last year, when John Scythes was dumping the overstock from when he ran Glad Day Bookshop, he invited me over to help myself to as many gay books as I could carry. I left his place with about 60 titles. Thank you, John. You and my aunt really helped fill my shelves.

Recently, two gay authors, both friends, published new books. The first is Jeffrey Round, whose new mystery novel is called Pumpkin Eater. Like his previous book, the Lambda award-winning Lake of the Mountain, it features a gay detective named Dan Sharp who investigates a series of murders targeting sex offenders, with a rock star next in line. So how does one write a mystery?

"Create a good plot with not too many loopholes," he tells me. "When I start, I know what was done, but not necessarily who did it. Halfway through, I realized the killer was not who I thought, but then I found a way to make it even more delicious. A mystery writer is always looking to create a maximum surprise at the end." Jeff is busy churning out books four and five of the series. Book three, called The Jade Butterfly, is due in February 2015. "It's quite a little assembly line my publisher has me on," he jokes. I mention the blurb on the cover, referring to him as 'the gay Margaret Atwood.' He laughs. "That references my ability to jump from genre to genre, as I do mystery, literary, comedy, and poetry." Busy guy.

Then there's young Joey Wargachuk, whose novel, The App of Time Travel, sold a staggering 3,000 digital downloads in its first month of release. "I hesitated to be part of this article because my book is not the least bit gay – well, maybe some gay drama, but no gay characters or plotlines," he tells me. Like Jeff, it is part of a continuing series, with the next installment, An Army of Self, due in December of this year. "I watch and read way too much science fiction," he says. "I'm a big nerd."

So how did Joey become a best-selling author? By making his digital downloads affordable, at 99 cents a copy. Joey is part of the self-publishing movement, people who use on-line publishers like Book Baby to create digital books and make them available at various on-line stores. The only promotion he did was on social media, so



aside from hiring a designer, it's pure profit, though it will be a while before he, or even Jeff, will see a royalty cheque. Such is the world of publishing.

I suppose now is as good a time as any to remind you that I too, gentle reader, am a self-published author. My book, The Fab Columns, came out two years ago. There are still a few copies left at Glad Day, if you're interested, and seeing how gossipy it is, you probably should be. And even if not, do something constructive and buy a book from a gay author today. Every writer needs readers.

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## A KODAK MOMENT

BY BOYD KODAK

Boyd Kodak is an award winning trans activist, musician, writer, activist, filmmaker, curator, and festival/entertainment director. Boyd put together both educational and artistic programs for festivals worldwide. In 2012 he was inducted into the International LGBT Hall of Fame.

# TRANS / 2SPIRIT / INTERSEX PLAYWRIGHT ALEC BUTLER AND FILMMAKER

I have had the pleasure of knowing Alec Butler and experiencing his great work since the 90's. His work provides both education and entertainment, with his intelligent writing and sharp wit.

Alec Butler is an award winning playwright and filmmaker. His play "Black Friday," was a finalist for the Governor General's Award in 1991. His animated trilogy about growing up trans, "Misadventures of Pussy Boy," has won awards and been screened at numerous queer film festivals, most recently in Berlin, Amsterdam, and Vancouver.

I had a chance to catch up with Alec recently and find out what other projects he has been working on.

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

Alec: Over the last year I have been very busy writing my novella "Rough Paradise" which was just published by Quattro Books, it is a "slime volume thick with insight" According to a recent review in the book section of NOW. "Rough Paradise" is a story about an intersex teen discovering their identity and love for the first time, based on my own experiences of growing up a gender transgressor in the 1970's. I have also been travelling a lot to film festivals for screening of my films, most recently the Vancouver Queer Film Festival where my short experimental doc called "Audrey's Beard" was screened, the Enzaubert DIY Queer Film Festival in Berlin and TranScreen, the International Transgender Film Festival in Amsterdam, where my film "Misadventures of Pussy Boy: First Period" won the Best Short/Audience Favorite Award. Traveling

I have met queer people who are doing amazing things in their communities to foster and support their own communities, I have been making soul connections with members of my soul tribe all over the world and that has been very healing. Having my work screened at MIX Copenhagen in Denmark last week to enthusiastic audiences is very rewarding for a trans/2spirit/intersex filmmaker like myself, I hope to inspire others like me to tell their story or at least see themselves in my work on some level.

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

Alec: Over the next year I am looking forward to doing readings from my novella, going on a book tour to the west coast, hoping to make it to San Francisco, where I have yet to sojourn and attending more screenings of my films, also thinking about getting on the stage once again, my first years in Toronto were spent in the theatre, I came here from a small town on the east coast in the 1980's so I could volunteer at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, where I wrote a number of plays, most notably "Black Friday" a play about a lesbian who goes back home to her small town to come out, that was nominated for the Governor Generals Award for Drama in the early 1990's of the last century. I have

also written and performed in solo shows, people would be surprised to know that I am an actually an introvert most of the time in real life so getting onstage is like therapy for me. As in art really has saved my life.

Don't miss Alec's upcoming reading at the Press Club for the Queer West Arts Festival on August 10th. Coincidentally it is his "double nickel" birthday the same day. Happy Birthday Alec and good luck with your reading!



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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](http://www.owensheppard.com)

Jearid Moldenhauer, Demonstration on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, August 28, 1971, gelatin silver print. Collection of the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, Toronto. 1982— 001/02P(01).



## LENSES ON QUEER HISTORY

Sophie Hackett is curator of two queer photography exhibitions, *Fan the Flames: Queer Positions in Photography* at the AGO and *What It Means To Be Seen: Photography and Queer Visibility* at the Ryerson Image Centre. She spoke to me about the meanings and impacts of these related shows.

**Owen:** Sophie, tell us about these shows. What are they about?

**Sophie:** Both shows were created on the occasion of WorldPride 2014, and both look at the relationship of photography and queer visibility, or queer identity. *Fan the Flames* is more about individual expressions of gender identity, and how photography has been used as observation, appropriation, and reinterpretation of images in a queer way. *What It Means To Be Seen* looks more at how photography has served collective ends, activist ambitions as well as more personal experiences.

**Owen:** What's the importance of displaying these historical queer images today?

**Sophie:** This idea of visibility, either to ourselves [as queer communities] through pictures of family and friends or to the public through pictures disseminated to the press by activists who felt that we needed our own voice, has played a key role in the way we have seen ourselves over the past number of decades. It reminds us how far we've come and also points out what there still is to be done.

**Owen:** What feedback have you received?

**Sophie:** The feedback's been amazing. Gerald Hammond, one of the founding collective members of *The Body Politic* and a photographer for them for a long time, said to me how surprised he was that things have changed so quickly. I had a Ryerson alum who graduated from the School of Image Arts fifteen or so years ago say to me that she never thought she'd see the day when we'd have this show at her home institution. A couple from Atlanta spoke about how they would never see this in the US, and how moved they were. In both shows, people are visibly moved, and some people were crying or getting choked up. I knew these shows were important to do, but through the feedback people have given me I've realized actually how important. I hope to be able to continue to work on this in the future.

*Fan the Flames* runs at the AGO (317 Dundas St. W.) until September 7th. *What It Means To Be Seen* runs at the Ryerson Image Centre (33 Gould St.) until August 24th.

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## Top 10 Community BUZZPICKS



The Hilton Pride Umbrellas



Nathan Phillips square opening ceremony revelers

### 17 AUG

#### SWEAT SOCKS ON COCKS

"Who doesn't have a pair of SWEAT socks? Well you just need ONE for this event. 5PM - 10PM / Spearhead Toronto LDSC / 473 Church Street, Suite 231 / No Cover  
www.spearheadtoronto.com

### 19 AUG

**C U NEXT TUESDAY'S DRAG SHOW** C U next Tuesday's is a new weekly show with the scandalous Miss. DONNARAMA / 10PM / Statler's / 487 Church Street Free  
www.statlers.ca

### 22 AUG

**LUCAS SILVEIRA** Frontman for "The Clicks", Lucas sings his classics and new hits from his latest release "Black Tie Elevator". 7PM / Flying Beaver Pubaret / 488 Parliament Street \$15 advance / \$20 door / www.pubaret.com

### 23 AUG

**SODOM THROWBACK: 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY** From Atlantis to Zombie Circus, Sodom looks back at the best themes from nearly 50 parties / 10PM / Club 120 / 120 Church Street / \$10, \$5 / students www.sodom.ca

### 29 - 31 AUG

**PRISM'S "WORKIT" WEEKEND** After an amazing PRISM WORLD

FESTIVAL! We are excited to bring you a new weekend. "WORKIT" Weekend will be the perfect way to end your summer. 4 party's in 3 days. Prism / 10 Alcorn Ave. Suite 304 / Weekend Passes starting at \$79 / www.prismtoronto.com"

### 09 SEP

#### JOIN SINGING OUT

Singing Out is Toronto's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\*, and Queer+ Community Chorus is holding auditions. Everyone welcome regardless of your singing experience / 7PM / 662 Pape Street / www.singingout.com

### 20 SEP

**END OF SUMMER** Join the Mix Bag Krew for more good vibes than a day at the beach! 9PM / Club 120 / 120 Church Street / \$5 / www.club120.ca

### 28 SEP

**JEM FLASH AND SIZZLE BURLESUE SHOW** Remember to bring your bikinis, boardshorts & sunglasses. 7PM / Revival Bar / 783 College Street / \$25 at door, \$20 in adv. www.facebook.com/events/892334710783864

### 08 - 14 OCT

**BLACK & BLUE** theBUZZ is a proud media partner of Montreal's Black & Blue Festival. The Black & Blue Festival is the world's largest gay-benefit dance festival, attracting

thousands of tourists to Montreal every Canadian Thanksgiving weekend, which raises money for HIV/AIDS and the gay community. It is organized annually by the Bad Boy Club Montréal (aka BBCM and Fondation BBCM) See website for details / Montreal / \$80 - \$120  
www.bbcm.org

### 09 - 10 OCT

**CORONATION XXVIII - IN TOWN SHOW** Their Majesties request your attendance for Coronation XXVIII held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada the weekend of Canadian Thanksgiving / 8PM / Flash on Church / 463 Church Street / www.facebook.com/events/1386911844882812



Melissa Etheridge performs at the WorldPride opening ceremonies

## Top 10 Charity/Non-Profit BUZZPICKS



Taylor Dayne



Brandon and Olivia Chow with our debut issue



At the WorldPride Parade

### 20 AUG

#### ARTIST SHOWCASE

**FUNDRAISER** The Meet Me in Africa team will be focusing on two major projects, donations from the event are 100% donated to the cause / 9PM-1AM / SpeakEasy 21 / 21 Adelaide St.W / \$30 / \$40 at the door / www.greedygiver.com/campaigns/MeetMeInAfrica

### 23 AUG

#### TORONTO WOMEN'S 10K/5K

Pick your race and come set the pace! The Toronto Women's 10k/5k presented by GoodLife Fitness for Women is an ideal way to keep you motivated and fit throughout the summer / 8AM / Sunnybrook Park  
www.towomensruns.com

### 24 AUG

#### ART IN THE PARK AND RIVER

**WALK** Come raise awareness for eating disorders at the River Walk and Art in the Park show! 10A - 12PM / Tom Taylor/Nokiida Trail 465 Davis Drive www.edoyr.com

### 19 AUG

#### SCOTIA BANK BUSKER BALL

Scotiabank BuskerBall is an exciting gala fundraiser which raises much needed funds for Epilepsy Toronto and kicks off North America's largest street performer festival, the Scotiabank BuskerFest! Mattamy Athletic Centre 50 Carlton St. / \$150 www.torontobuskerfest.com/buskerball

### 06 - 07 SEP

#### WEEKEND TO END WOMEN'S

**CANCERS'** Be part of a life-changing, world-changing event. During one amazing weekend, you will unite with thousands of women and men to walk through the neighbourhoods of Toronto, fighting all women's cancers, step by step. www.to14.endcancer.ca

### 06 SEP

**NIGHT RACE** is a 5K and 10K run/walk through city parks at night. The annual party for runners is returning across Canada. This spectacle of lights and sound is a great way to celebrate your running achievements/8:05PM Sunnybrook Park www.nightrace.ca

### 07 SEP

**MS BIKE RIDE** MS Bike - Toronto is a perfect fit for cyclists of all levels! Centrally located at Centennial Park in Etobicoke, you will cycle along scenic bike trails and city streets before returning to the park for a BBQ lunch / 8:30PM / Centennial Park Ski Chalet 256 Centennial Park Road / www.ms biketours.ca

### 12 - 13 SEP

**OUT ON BAY STREET ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014** Out on Bay Street Annual Conference featuring industry workshops and panels, inspiring keynote speakers and scholarship award winners / Sep 12 at 5:00pm to Sep 13 at 10:30pm / Marriott Toronto Downtown Eaton Centre / 525 Bay Street / \$40 - \$60 www.outonbayst.org

### 13 SEP

#### THE SCOTIABANK AIDS WALK

**FOR LIFE** The 26th annual Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Toronto is an annual charity event with all proceeds benefitting the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) / 11AM-6PM / Yonge-Dundas Square www.aidswalktoronto.ca

### 07 OCT

#### ART WITH HEART

An exciting opportunity to take home a significant piece of art while helping people with HIV/AIDS in our community / 5:30PM / The Carlu 444 Yonge St. / \$175 / www.artwithheart.ca



Roxie at the 519



## Top 15 General BUZZPICKS



Opening Ceremony Party



Deb P at World Pride

### 19 AUG - 02 SEP

**CITY CINEMA** Watch movies outdoors including: August 19 at 8:30 p.m. Across the Universe, August 26 at 8 p.m. Tommy Boy and September 2 at 8 p.m. / Rush Yonge-Dundas Square Free [www.ydsquare.ca](http://www.ydsquare.ca)

### 21 - 24 AUG

#### SCOTIABANK BUSKERFEST

Spontaneous, colourful and bursting with the unexpected, the festival is a showcase for over 100 of the most remarkable street performers on earth. Yonge Street (Yonge/Dundas St area, downtown Toronto) Admission: Donation to Epilepsy Toronto [www.torontobuskerfest.com](http://www.torontobuskerfest.com)

### 04 - 14 SEP

**TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** Hundreds of films of every genre and on every topic imaginable bring filmmakers and film-lovers alike to the downtown core for ten days of screenings, panels and parties. Get the scoop on one of Toronto's biggest events of the year. Various Venues [www.tiff.net](http://www.tiff.net)

### 05 - 07 SEP

#### VEGETARIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

It's the time of year for Toronto vegetarians to rejoice and head down to Harbourfront Centre, which is putting on the annual Vegetarian Food Festival again.

It's the 30th anniversary of this meatless event. See website for details / Harbourfront Centre 235 Queen's Quay West Toronto / Free [www.festival.veg.ca](http://www.festival.veg.ca)

### 06 - 07 SEP

**CABBAGETOWN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS** The festival begins Saturday at 10am with an opening ceremony in the afternoon and continues Sunday at 11am until 6 pm with a closing ceremony. Over the 2 days, enjoy the one-of-a-kind artisan vendors, delicious food and buskers / Carlton Street from Parliament to Berkeley Streets [www.oldcabbagetown.com](http://www.oldcabbagetown.com)

### 14 - 16 SEP

#### QUEEN WEST ART CRAWL

Explore the Outdoor Art Show and Sale at Trinity Bellwoods Park, plus enjoy walks, talks and other events taking place around the neighbourhood / Free [www.queenwestartcrawl.com/](http://www.queenwestartcrawl.com/)

### 18 - 27 SEP

**JFL42** The third annual JFL42 Festival is set to take over Toronto again this fall with its biggest and most star-studded lineup to date featuring eight headlining performances by Seth Meyers, Lena Dunham, Nick Offerman, Amy Schumer, Joe Rogan, and Wanda Sykes and many more. See website for location and times / \$49 - \$299 [www.jfl42.com](http://www.jfl42.com)

### 21 SEP

**WORD ON THE STREET FESTIVAL** A book and magazine festival used to be held at Queen's Park (behind the Legislative Building) where it attracts crowds of over 2,000. Exhibitors offer specials and promotions Performances are held on the stages positioned throughout the park / 11AM-6PM / Free / [www.thewordonthestreet.ca](http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca)

### 30 SEP

**ERASURE** The English synthpop duo, consisting of singer and songwriter Andy Bell and songwriter and keyboardist Vince Clarke, perform their favorite hits / 7PM / The Danforth Music Hall 147 Danforth Ave / \$67 - \$46 [www.erasureinfo.com](http://www.erasureinfo.com)

### 04 OCT

#### SCOTIABANK NUIT BLANCHE

Toronto's free all-night contemporary art event. From sunset to sunrise the magic of Scotiabank Nuit Blanche returns to Toronto to light up the city. Experience Toronto transformed by artists for one night only / All night long / Citywide Free [www.sciotiabanknuitblanche.ca](http://www.sciotiabanknuitblanche.ca)



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