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The Editor

Dear theBUZZ readers,

I'm not usually the author of the Editor's Letter however I wanted to pen this piece for a special occasion.

In this issue we "officially" welcome our two fabulous new Co-Editors-in-Chief's, the very community involved Bryen Dunn and the always fabulous Donnaramma.

I have worked with these two for a long time on many projects. Bryen has written our travel articles for our parent magazine PinkPlayMags for many years, and recently took over as Editor-in-Chief of that magazine. Bryen and myself also volunteer on the INSPIRE Awards team. He is someone I respect and appreciate his vision of the community, and really enjoy his penmanship, and his little eccentricity.

Donnaramma, well that's quite a history there. From modeling on two covers of our PinkPlayMags to performing at numerous events we have had over the years, to even hiring her to dress as Barbara Streisand and have her picture taken with shoppers at a grocery store, Donnaramma and I have worked on some interesting and sometimes "too crazy it's laughable" kind of projects.

So when it was decided to have Co-Editor-in-Chief's, these two were an obvious match.

With this April issue it is now a year since we started working on this project of giving our community a diverse, fun, happy, entertainment, party-minded magazine. I hope you have enjoyed it so far, because we certainly had a blast working on all the copies.

This issue is even more special, because we feature two incredibly wonderful community institutions, Inside Out and Singing Out, as our main features.

This year Inside Out celebrates its 25th Anniversary. How time passes by when you're looking up at a movie screen! Congratulations to the amazing work this organization has done over the years. Singing Out is a community choir that is a joy to experience, and we have the inside scoop on what makes them so unique. Plus, we feature all your favourite columns and columnists.

I hope you enjoy reading, and wish you a happy spring!

Antoine Elhashem





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THE EVOLUTION OF QUEER CINEMA:

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

BY LARA THOMPSON

In 1991, Inside Out Film and Video Festival celebrated its first event with a small community of people who yearned to see productions by and about lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. Over the next two-and-a-half decades, the Festival has grown in scope as well as in attendance, becoming the largest event of its kind in Canada and one of the top five LGBTQ film festivals in the world.

This year the Festival presents a retrospective series from the past 25 years including audience favourites, LGBTQ classics, and hard-to-find seminal work by outstanding Canadian LGBTQ artists. This series is screening on various dates prior to the annual festival, and continues during the event as well. Ticket prices are a nostalgic \$5.50, the cost of a ticket at the first Inside Out festival in 1991.

Paying tribute to the 25th anniversary of Inside Out Film and Video Festival, Lara Thompson takes a look at the past and the future of LGBTQ film with Scott Ferguson (Executive Director of Inside Out), and Winnie Luk (Director of Operations and Events).

Lara: Inside Out has reached a milestone. What highlights have there been in the past 25 years?

Winnie: A couple of years ago we had a screening of *Cloudburst* (dir. Thom Fitzgerald) starring Olympia Dukakis. I remember being there for the Q & A and the standing ovation afterwards. The audience was so engaged with her, she came to our centerpiece gala and was just such a sweet down-to-earth person. We've had some great pop-ins at our parties too. Michael Stipe attended one of our Gay Flambé parties many years ago (the LGBTQ party we used to throw during TIFF). That was definitely a highlight because he came with his entourage—just a really fun time. Oh, and Matt Bomer. The boys loved him. He created quite a stir. This was a year before my time, but Tilda Swinton attended one of our parties too back in the day.

Lara: 25 years means Inside Out has triumphed over what is quite possibly the most challenging hurdle in any festival—the beast of consistency. What do you think has been the biggest challenge in getting to this point?

Scott: It's always about making sure you have the resources to do what you want to do. There've been periods of organic growth and the resources and the infrastructure have had to catch up with that. You can burn out people; you can have financial issues. You have to temper your expectations with the reality of running a non-profit organization.

Lara: What makes film festivals still relevant?

Scott: One of the reasons Inside Out exists is to bring the LGBTQ community together to experience film. There are many ways to access video at home, but it's still important and relevant to gather and be in the same space to watch a movie, and then to go out and talk about it. To this day that's a fundamental value of the festival. Watching video alone can be an isolating experience, even in a metropolitan city like Toronto, so it's great to get out and find a venue that's welcoming to the diversity of our community. It's not just our job to curate film. We create memories for the audience. We bring in talent to present their own films; we have panel discussions. All these things add value (for lack of a better word) to what could just be watching a film.

Lara: What is the Queer Video Mentorship Project?

Winnie: Until 2010, our Queer Video Mentorship Project was a three-and-a-half month program. We took youth with very little video and film experience and gave them access to all of our state-of-the-art equipment for free. We taught them how to create a short video and we premiered it at our festival. We would compile it onto a DVD and distribute it to other festivals as well. Then in 2010, technology and the accessibility of technology for youth had changed so much that we decided to include elders in the program. Both groups would work together collaboratively, but at the same time create their own videos. It was an intergenerational program. We are launching the reformatted version of the Video Project this festival, and applications will be available after that.



Lara: Do you see a trend in Canadian queer filmmaking? With the sheer size of the country, the diversity of filmmaking must be extreme.

Scott: I don't know if it's a Canadian thing, but there's a quiet evolution going on in queer film. When the festival started, we so desperately needed our stories to be told that when it came to the films: the characters, the setting, and people's work, everything was all-encompassing queer. Now we see a shift to where the sexual or gender identity of a person is just one facet of the larger story being told. It's a fundamental part of our being, but it's also just one facet of who we are. In many ways the story telling is becoming more three-dimensional.

Lara:

How did you go about selecting the films that are going to be showcased at this year's retrospective? In your opinion, is there a prevailing theme?

Scott: We started with a list of over 200 films. We wanted to look beyond the 25 years of Inside Out to reflect various time periods and eras. The cultural impact these films had was what led to them being chosen for the festival. A sneak-peek of our next five films is that most, if not all, of them will be by contemporary directors and talent. We want to draw a link between our past and present as we consider the future.

Inside Out Film and Video Festival – May 21st to 31st, 2015 – www.insideout.ca

Lara Thompson is an expert babler, movie addict, and aspiring fashionista. She's thrilled to be contributing to theBUZZ and helping bring exposure to Toronto's vibrant LGBTQ community.



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SINGING OUT

BY BROCK HESSEL

I was 11 when I auditioned for a community theatre production

of one of my favorite musicals “The Music Man”. I could carry a tune, or so I believed, so I sang out with all my might, a musical force to be reckoned with was I! I sang aloud what gay kids today might call Lady Gaga’s “Edelweiss,” but I couldn’t even score a spot in the production as a random townspeople. No Lady Gaga was I, my career was over.G

Today if I ever wanted to reclaim that role as the rejected and denied musical theater loving small town boy and do it justice, I know that Toronto’s LGBTQ choir, Singing Out, would welcome me with open arms and golden pipes. With no experience necessary and no auditions to get in, Singing Out helps those who either want to revisit their roots, love to sing and song or help find such aspiring singers and songsters a forum and a voice to satisfy the desire.

One of the people to help new and recovering singers is Executive Director, Charlie Andrews, from Singing Out:

During my graduate studies, I was working within the arts and culture sector in various capacities. Upon completion of my studies, I was seeking a new opportunity, which led me to engage with Singing Out Chorus. Working with the Chorus has given me the opportunity to engage with the LGBTQ+ community, in addition to being

part of an organization that empowers the lives of people that are passionate about singing and finding a mutually supportive community. The mission of Singing Out is unique, and the organization is truly a community that strives to change the world, one song at a time. In a community that sometimes focuses on drinking and dancing to stay a community, Singing Out offers the opportunity to use the vocal prowess as well as a means for community event and participation. If we can master a conversation of thunderous club beats and pounding dance floor anthems, I take a shot at toppling my obstacles and master my Edelweiss.

This is not to say that the members of Singing Out do not know how to party—they have been known to reinterpret the very hits that Church Street drags and dances to. From “the sacred to the silly,” this choir will do anything from a Madonna and Lady Gaga Medley to songs inspired by the elements Earth, Wind and Fire to Gloria Patri or even take a stab at melodious beautiful French Canadian Folk songs. Be sure to check out their YouTube channel for the beautiful evidence.

Singing Out is part of a larger LGBTQ choral movement—

a musical genre in itself—that started in Philadelphia, New York, and San Francisco in the late 70’s. The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (aka Gala Choruses) helps 180 LGBTQ choruses

(8,000 singers) throughout North America stay administratively, artistically, and politically effective. I can only imagine what their quadrennial festivals sound like and if their homophones have converted any churchgoing homophobes in the near vicinity.

Misunderstanding towards the LGBTQ community of course does not always mean understanding within the LGBTQ community. Singing Out is 23 years strong and has strived to lessen the (sometimes) large gaps between the letters of the queer and trans alphabet. What better way to achieve political harmony than through musical harmony, an often-successful tactic that civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois noted of the historic Fisk Jubilee Singers, an African-American a cappella ensemble. In terms of the political work the choir has done in its long run, Charlie Andrews proudly reveals 23 years ago, the choir was singing ‘out’ at Queen’s Park as a way to advocate for equality and social change.

In our 2014 spring concert, we performed a song that was composed in honour of Matthew Shepard. During our last holiday concert, we performed a song and honoured the women murdered in the Montreal Massacre. These performances allow Singing Out to advocate against gender-based violence and other forms of discrimination. We have continued to do this through our music for 23 years, and we will continue to promote acceptance through our music.

Members of Singing Out are a mix of the younger and queer-pioneer generations and the background of every member of the Singing Out board of directors and staff is as diverse as the songs they sing. From president, Howie Dayton, a baritone who works in municipal government as a senior leader in community recreation development to accompanist/curling fanatic/former elementary school music teacher, Beth Hanson to artistic director/ counselling psychology academic/ Downtown Abbey enthusiast, Jody Malone.

Rehearsals are every Tuesday at 7 pm at Riverdale Presbyterian Church (662 Pape Ave, just south of Pape station). You can be new and tone deaf and don’t have to know how to read music. Its seasoned members will lovingly whip you into shape. Membership is \$280 per year (\$140 per term), but that is nothing compared to the amount we spend on liquid courage at the bars on the weekend. A friend of mine was a member and raved about how much singing out with Singing Out did for her courage—she gained enough to try out other theatrical opportunities, such as a successful crack at comedy.

Through song, voice and determination, there comes a level of what we call success.

It’s done with a combination of welcoming and considering all with fair and just cause, to help build up each other and to encourage each other to realize our passions and possibilities. This may be where words such as “community” come from. It’s definitely something worth singing about.

Singing Out’s shows often sell out and the next one seems to cater to that 11-year-old musical theatre lover in me. SHOWSTOPPER: TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY is happening on June 6th at the Glen Gould Studio in the CBC Building. Tickets are \$25. Tickets will be available on April 1st at www.singingout.com/buy-tickets



Brock Hessel is a Toronto based freelance writer who also volunteers at Glad Day Bookshop.

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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, *Wigged Out*, at theBUZZmag.ca



As I daydream of ice cream and thaw out my bra, greens, sports teams and scene queens come out of hybernation. The echo of fun in the sun rings through the nation. Beautiful spring is beginning to sing! And what could be better than the beautiful weather? Why, cash of course!

Stuff your face and stuff your wallets Wednesday nights as **Church St.Garage (477 Church Street)** invites you to holla for your dollas at "Cash Karaoke" as singing queens come out of the shadows and hit the patios.

Cover your favorite songs in your own register and the best collects a cash prize from theirs. Hosted by Danny Reddey, \$50 dollar cash prize and other prizes to be won. 10 PM - 2 AM, no cover.

Take a seat for the screening of 'RuPaul's Drag Race' every Monday also at the **Church St.Garage**, 8 PM-11 PM hosted by the delectable and delicious Devine Darlin who also performs a number or two to get the crowd in the mood.

In addition to the drag competition, enjoy the \$5 Ice Berg Vodka deals while you watch the ladies in heels. Hang with your pals and root on the gals!

It's also a RuPaul Drag Race celebration and screening at **The Black Eagle(457 Church Street)**as punk princess Jenna Syde and guest host 'Dirty Drag Race' every Monday at 8PM. The \$3 shooter and \$4 draught will flip your wigs and curl your lashes. Prizes and giveaways abound so don't frown and get on your gown. No cover, all tuck.

Igby Lizzard and Judy Virago are back once again for the hilariously titled monthly "Bad Tuck". Fresh off celebrating their 2 year anniversary, it's insanity, profanity and double calamity as the two host and roast their way through a scandalously fun evening of hijinx and tall drinks at **The Drake Underground (1150 Queen Street West)**.

Hallelujah! Back from performing in sunny Puerto Vallarta after long days on the beach, avoiding diarrreah and scraping sand out of her clam, one of Canada's most famous show girls is back in hometown T.O.

Join Miss Conception at **Woody's/Sailor (465-467 Church Street)** 6 PM -9 PM for her "HollyWoody Broadway Show", where some of the greatest film and Broadway musical numbers find their way to praising gays. Her upcoming all new all live singing one woman show "The Wonderful World Of Miss Conception" is set to hit **Buddies In Bad Times Theater(12 Alexander Street)** July 12 and 13th and tickets are on sale in advance through buddiesinbadtimes.com or available at the box office. It's a Disney themed glam and shazam as your favorite Disney characters come to life and it looks to be a wonderful night out with absolutely amazing costumes and of course a lot of fun audience participation. Be her guest, be her guest!

Live aloud and proud as **Statler's ((487 Church Street)** plays host to 'The Original Sunday Night Live Music Industry Night' every Sunday 9:30 PM to close.

Day priced drinks all night to go along with songs from live musical guests throughout the month, such as Brooke Nichols, John Bridgens and Daniel Gagnon who play their instruments and sing of love and sing of spring. Their \$3 dollar Jager shots will hit the spot.

Let there be light and let there be sun! Let there be fun and let there be rum! Let it be told, goodbye to the cold! Have a sunny time this spring Buzzsters!



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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

PLAYING THE GENRE

I recently attended a few live theatre events that were in sync with this issue's film noir theme because there were Femme Fatales everywhere, including a few sassy bad gals attending.

The Wild Party (Berkley Theatre) a musical about a showgirl Queenie, whose character is particularly parallel to the femme fatale's mandatory display of socially inappropriate behaviour.

"So for a long, awkward while. At last she smiled a contemptuous smile at nothing. She yawned. She rose. She pulled on a pair of sheer black hose. She rouged her lips. She powdered her nose"
-The Wild Party,

My fellow audience member Donna Pacifici's observation on these sexy archetypes was "They are dangerous because they can get what they want"

Wow that sounds like a great type of woman to be until you realize these glorious icons drain, consume and destroy whatever or whoever stands in their way no wonder we are both repelled and fascinated!

Here she comes You better watch your step She's gonna break your heart in two, it's true It's not hard to realize Just look into her false colored eyes
-The Velvet Underground, "Femme Fatale"

In the fabulous one woman show Lesbians Who Wear Lipstick part deux one femme fatale gets hers, as she is chopped up and unceremoniously dumped into a suitcase by a tough detective.



The fact that writer/performer Marcy Rogers inhabited all the characters, including the detective was delicious! Wrapped in trench coat, flask in hand while bathed in shadow and light brought the audience into a world I've only ever experienced in movies before.

With it's Intellectual ironic twists, guns, cigarettes, gangs, & Femme Fatales who have the power to cause destruction or redemption, this classic genre definitely continues to have a hold on us.



We want more of these bold broads!

Lucky for us coming soon from another talented writer actress, Rosemary Doyle is promoting a version of Mamet's play Glengarry Glen Ross. Like film noir, the play hinges on great performances of desperate characters.

Rosemary said " This is a play where everyone has secret motivations, everyone is lying to everyone else, trying to vie for the top spot, the ends justifies any means."

She opened the Red Sandcastle Theatre in Leslieville on a leap of faith and gave a year's rent to secure the space because she was tired of people not being able to do productions when they were inspired to do them. "Without spending a ridiculous amount of money, I wanted "ANYTHING TO BE POSSIBLE" and it's proven quite true."

Now she is giving us some dapper dames as the entire cast in her production of Glengarry Glenross is female! Rosemary's version of this show will flash you back to the fierce females in that film noir classic Mildred Pierce.

Rosemary pointed out "In the Maltese Falcon, everyone was fighting over a golden bird, in Mamet's play, it's the want of a Cadillac. It is a thoroughly satisfying drama well worth being watched"

"She was bad. She was dangerous. I wouldn't trust her any farther than I could throw her. But she was my kind of woman." The Bandwagon

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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.



There is an uneasy relationship between gays and film. Gays naturally gravitate towards film, a world of pretend and make-believe and erotic possibilities. But gays in the film industry also had to closet their sexuality for decades, even if they worked in the hair and make-up departments.

So thank the gods for the Inside Out Film and Video Festival, an annual Toronto event that brings us the best in gay cinema. I submitted a film to the festival this year, a 12 minute B&W experimental film about me driving around in the rain. Called *Bellini's Rain*, I still haven't heard if it has been selected for screening. Fingers crossed.

One such guy who knows his film will play the Fest this year is James Fanizza. A local actor, James produced and starred in a short film last year called *Sebastian*, about a guy on vacation who has a brief poignant romance with a Toronto boy. The film won a Best of Local prize, providing James with the financing to make a second short film. Called *You Are Free*, it's the story of a drag queen, and it will premiere at this year's Inside Out fest in May.

"There isn't a lot of queer content out there, so I wanted to make something substantial," said James. "But there are lots of gay movies that you can rent at 7/24 Video," I suggest. "All direct to video," explains James, and I get his point. Where are the big gay movies? We both carped about *The Imitation Game*, the story of a gay hero in which you never see the gay hero talk to anyone but the pretty girl. Disappointments like this are what

spurs James on. *You Are Free* will be a big leap forward. It co-stars Tynomi Banks and James has started a crowdfunding campaign to help boost the budget.

"It's the first time I've done drag," he admits to me. I ask him why he didn't cast a real drag queen. (I mean, aside from the fact that most are so reliable and punctual.) "No one questions you when you play a doctor," he explains. "No one asks 'Why didn't you cast a real doctor?'"

James hopes to expand the short into a feature. Like me, he believes that the cinema needs more queer content. He expresses admiration for *Hedwig* and the *Angry Inch*, and I gush about Xavier Dolan, who, after shooting a half dozen feature films under the age of 25, has become something of a Canadian Fassbinder.

But now, the most we have is the Inside Out fest. Keep queer cinema alive by catching one of their screenings, like *You Are Free*. Or possibly *Bellini's Rain*. Or any one of the hundreds of other films they will screen. At least you will see gay heroes talking to someone other than just the pretty girl.

Inside Out Film and Video Festival – May 21 to 31, 2015
www.insideout.ca

James Fanizza - www.jamesfanizza.com



Save the Date

Pride Durham Pride Festival runs June 3rd to June 7th

www.facebook.com/pridedurham



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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.



Photo Credit: Ash Jahromi

I first met Curt almost a year ago, and immediately felt the warm and kind presence that Curt radiates. Curt was a speaker at the first Trans flag raising at City Hall in 2014, where they were bravely speaking about trans youth and non-binary issues.

Curt is a genderqueer & pansexual abstract artist, clown, actor and musician. They studied Comedy at Humber College, and performed at Yuk Yuks, Second City, Rivoli, Black Swan and more. They also did Art and Design at GBC, and were one of the first members of MariProject, a group of artists who put on art shows. Curt has had their abstract art displayed at *Ben Navaee Gallery*, Studio 561, *The Artful Dodger*, The 460, and more.

Curt also makes music and music-videos with their genderqueer band *Sarah's Nightmare Land*. The themes of their art revolve around: gender, kink, being queer, healing & social justice.

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

Curt: I've sold some art and performed at some shows. I also finished the second CD for my band *Sarah's Nightmare Land*, called "Maybe I'm a Deviant". The artwork and music revolve around ideas of embracing our inner deviants, and breaking away from the constant gaze of neoliberal society that polices and judges those who choose not to abide by societal norms.

Boyd: During that time, which was the one most exciting event for you?

Curt: The most exciting thing was *Artistic Abominations 2* at *The Devil's Cellar* where I showcased my abstract art and performed music. I was able to use my art as a tool for social change, exposing the ways in which we are all capable of oppressing or normalizing one another depending on our own power and privilege in particular situations.

Boyd: Tell us what are you looking forward to over for the next year?

Curt: The next year I want to find new ways to use my art as a tool to challenge the structural and systemic issues that are facing queer and trans communities.

Boyd: Where and when can we see your work?

Curt: You can go to my website, or buy some art. You will be able to find me on Queen West, where I'll be selling art on the street, as I have done for many summers in the past. I will also be donating a piece of work to the INSPIRE Awards, May 29, 2015 at Hart House.

Boyd: Any message you would like to put out?

Curt: Let us use our creativity to break down the barriers that create fear in our communities, to expose the truth, and transform our realities.

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

Curt : *Six Feet Under*. There's an awesome gay couple in it, also some Radiohead songs, and it's very dark and creepy. I also balled my eyes out on the last episode. <3

WEBSITES

Art: wix.com/abstractdinosaur/curtpullan
Music: facebook.com/genderbenderz

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PRODUCTION



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BEYOND THE VILLAGE

BY LEXI SANFINO

Toronto based transgendered artist, writer, performer, and activist.



Cardinal rule is a mom and mom shop. “We wanted to take a modern spin on the concept of a family-run diner with fresh ingredients and homemade taste.

I always joke that the secret ingredient in everything is love and magic, that’s why it all tastes so good”, laughs co-owner Katie James.

In reality the secret ingredient is Marta Kusel (Katie’s wife and head chef). “She is super talented, passionate, and humble about the incredible food she produces, which is part of why I love her. I’ve never tasted anything that she has made that hasn’t been amazing”, confides James.

The restaurant has gained great reviews and a loyal following over the course of their four years in business. They pride themselves on offering alternatives to the mainstream, all the while accommodating health and dietary needs. There are plenty of vegan and gluten-free items on the menu, are kid-friendly with free Wi-Fi and offer a full bar service. James adds, “When I met Marta we had no idea that we would be opening this restaurant. Both being strong women, we decided to make a go of it and bam! *Cardinal Rule* was born.”

“We have many popular dishes from the braised brisket sandwich and squash quesadilla, to our ever popular brunch offerings. We switch up a few items on the menu every season with added specials to keep it fresh for both staff and customers alike. We feel like we have really made a space for ourselves in the far west end of the city. People like knowing us as a couple, which we own and operate together”, James divulges.

Along with quality food, top notch service and a queer-friendly atmosphere, communities in need are also a priority. “Community is important to us, which is why we reach out by donating gift certificates, food, and our time. We support Sherbourne Health Centre, PARC and Queer Youth Prom, as well as other Pride related events.

Amy Muli, Hepatitis C Outreach Worker at the Sherbourne Health Centre says, “Cardinal Rule has been incredibly generous and supportive with communities in need. Not only have they catered special events for community groups, such as the Bad Date Coalition’s AGM, but they have provided

endless support to the Toronto Community Hepatitis C Program. Katie James and Marta Kusel understand the importance of providing food with dignity.

Sherbourne Health Centre’s women’s Hepatitis C group, Blood Sisters, has benefited from their compassion and generosity. Not only has Cardinal Rule donated full holiday meals, but they also share their time to serve and meet with community. Katie and Marta understand that the clients who attend Blood Sisters live complex lives and have survived immeasurable trauma. Nutritious meals can be an unattainable luxury when survival is top priority. Katie and Marta go above and beyond and we are grateful for all that they do”, remarks Muli.

“It’s definitely a challenge to run a restaurant with your wife, but at the end of the day neither one of us would want to be doing this with anyone else. It’s a queer marriage of food, and the love for each other and our community”, states James.

Love is the key ingredient in all their food and that’s what comes through when any of their tasty morsels hit your table. Beyond fabulous service they also play host to some of Toronto’s queerest events. So don’t be surprised if you find a 6 foot tall a drag queen serving you their most popular brunch item, while lip signing to Donna Summers “Bad Girls!”.

Events take place most weekends and are always queer friendly and positive. There’s Nitty Gritty (ho)Motown, disco dance parties featuring drag performances, rotating art on the walls, live acoustic shows, and tons of themed parties as well.

Expect the unexpected at Cardinal Rule. Where flamboyance meets home cooked flavour.

Now if you don’t know why Cardinal Rule rules the roost, you must visit them soon, as they get my five-star approval!

www.facebook.com/pages/Cardinal-Rule
www.cardinalrulerestaurant.com
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Loungevity

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TOP 10 COMMUNITY BUZZPICKS



FTM Drop-in **April 3/17, May 1/15, June 5/19**

FTM support group at the 519 Community Centre on the first and third Friday of every month. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St., Toronto
www.the519.org

SAFE: Social Action For Equality

April 21, May 19, June 16
SAFE aims to provide an inclusive, welcoming, and positive space for the LGBT community in South Etobicoke and beyond. LAMP CHC, 185 5th St., Etobicoke, ON 416-252-6471
www.lampchc.org

A Taste For Life **April 22**

Participating restaurants will donate a percentage of sales to help Fife House provide residential programs and housing services for men, women and families living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto. 60 Restaurants across Toronto
www.fifehouse.org

Bingo with the Regent **April 26**

Monthly Bingo party with Regent Empress Lauren Michaels, in support of local charities: The PWA Food Programs, The 519 Community Centre, and The Sergio Appoloni Scholarship Fund.



Flash on Church, 463 Church St., Toronto 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
www.ticot.org

POZ-TO **May 3/ June 7**

Monthly video dance party in The Zone at Crews and Tangos on the first Sunday of each month. Proceeds to Toronto PWA (People With AIDS) Crews & Tangos, The Zone, 508 Church St., Toronto Doors @ 9:00 p.m.
www.crewsandtangos.com

2015 Ontario Police Memorial **May 3**

"Ceremony of Remembrance Each year, the Memorial honours those police officers in the Province of Ontario who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Queens Park Crescent E. And Grosvenor Street, Toronto 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
www.facebook.com/events/343617642511557/

Imperial Court of Buffalo **Coronation XXV: Out of Town Show** **May 15/16**

Coronation Night May 15 – 7:00 p.m. Guests perform for one and all. Club Marcella, 622 Main St., Buffalo, NY

May 16 – 6:00 "A Night in OZ" Coronation of the new Monarch(s), Adam's Mark Hotel, 120 Church St., Buffalo, NY. All

proceeds to the charities of Reign XXV of Buffalo.
www.facebook.com/events/330285507164047/

Annual Mr. and Miss Trillium Pageant **May 22**

Join Regent Empress 28 [Lauren Michaels](#) and The Imperial Court of Toronto for our annual Mr & Miss Trillium Pageant. Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St., Toronto Cocktails @ 7:00 p.m.
www.facebook.com/events/314440475346751/

5th Annual INSPIRE Awards **May 29**

Join members of the LGBTQ community and friends as we celebrate the great work of wonderful individuals, businesses, and community organizations. Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto 6:00 p.m.
www.inspireawards.ca

OK2BME 10th Anniversary Pride Prom **May 30**

UPLIFTING LIVES is the theme of this special Pride Prom which celebrates the 10th anniversary of the OK2BME program for LGBTQ youth and their families. Fed Hall, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, ON
www.facebook.com/events/414290158740091/

TOP 10 CHARITY/NON-PROFIT BUZZPICKS

T-Girls XXX Social Club

April 15/16/17/18

A safe playground for T-girls and those who love them. Wednesday through Saturday every week.

Erotico Lounge, 461 Church St., 2nd Floor, Toronto (above Pizzaiolo) – Membership/guest charges.

www.erotico.ca

The Dinner Show

April 16/23/30, May 7/14/21/28, June 4/11

A selection of drag queen hostesses stir things up at The Dinner Show at O'Gradys on Church. Scarlett Bobo/Carlotta Carlisle/Alisha Van Horne/Devine Darlin/Bunni Lapin/Juice Box. O'Gradys on Church, 518 Church St., Toronto Show @ 7:30

www.ogradyschurch.ca

El Convento Rico 23rd Anniversary Party

April 17

Nicole Batista, Donnarama, Miss El Convento Rico Jasmine Black, and surprise guests. Complimentary Ecuadorian cuisine all night, gifts for all patrons.

El Convento Rico, 750 College St. Toronto Doors @ 9:00 p.m.

www.elconventorico.com

Once Upon a Crown – The Miss Crews & Tangos Pageant

April 19

Fairy tales come to life Sunday April 19th, 2015 - Hosted by Farra N. Hyte and reigning Miss Crews & Tangos, Xtacy Love.

Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St., Toronto Start time: 9:00 p.m.

www.crewsandtangos.com



The Original Sunday Night Live Music Industry Night

April 19/26, May 3/10/17/24/31, June 7/14

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www.statlers.ca

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April 21/28, May 5/12/19/26, June 2/9/16

Hosted by the Twisted Dmanda Pegasus on Church, 489B Church St., Toronto

www.pegasusonchurch.com

Tia Maria Tuesday Trivia

April 21/28, May 5/12/19/26, June 2/9/16

Every Tuesday @ O'Gradys on Church have an EPIC Tuesday trivia night sponsored by TIA MARIA!!! Starts @ 9pm!! FREE TO PLAY!!

O'Gradys on Church, 518 Church St., Toronto

www.ogradyschurch.ca



Effervescence Tuesdays

April 21/28, May 5/12/19/26, June 2/9/16

Effervescence with the talents of Donavon LeNabat starting at 9pm and joined by Natasha Buckeridge at 10pm. Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St., Toronto.

www.facebook.com/Zipperz

Bass & Voice & Sax

April 24, May 29

Featuring the Voice of Ori Dagan, Bass by Jordan O'Connor, Sax by Christopher Weatherstone. 120 Diner, 120 Church St., Toronto. Shows @ 6:00 p.m. Full menu from 5:00 p.m. – late night.

www.120diner.com

Club Lite Fridays

April 24, May 1/8/15/22/29, June 5/12

Every Friday in The Zone at Crews & Tangos, DJ Relentless spins great tunes. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St., Toronto. Doors/Music @ 10:00 p.m.

www.crewsandtangos.com

TOP 10 GENERAL BUZZPICKS

Erika Defreitas presents The Work of Mourning **April 15 – May 17**

Erika DeFreitas investigates ideas of absence, loss, and memorialization through textile-based practices, and performative actions. Art Gallery of Mississauga, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga. Check website for gallery hours. www.artgalleryofmississauga.com/

Dame Edna's Glorious Goodbye – The Farewell Tour **April 15 - 25**

Performance Schedule: Tues. Sat. @ 8:00 p.m., Sat./Sun. 2:00 p.m. \$29.00 to \$99.00 Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St. W., Toronto. Check the website for ticket info. www.mirvish.com/shows/damevsfarewelltour



Sweet Charity **April 17 – October 30**

Book by Neil Simon, Music by Cy Coleman, Lyrics by Dorothy Fields. The Shaw Festival, Festival Theatre, Niagara-on-the-lake, ON. Check the website for times/prices. www.shawfest.com

Visions of Mughal India - Howard Hodgkin : One Man, Two Passions

April 18 – August 16

These two exhibitions showcase the two passions of one of Britain's best painters, Howard Hodgkin and his deep fascination with India. Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wyndford Drive, Toronto. Check the website for gallery hours. www.agakhanmuseum.org

The Kids in the Hall – Live **April 23/25/26**

The Kids perform new material, revisit cult characters and revive classic sketches from their deep and expansive archive. Danforth Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave., Toronto. 4 shows in total, including a matinee April 25. www.thedanforth.com

The Kids in the Hall – Live **April 27**

The Kids perform new material, revisit cult characters and revive classic sketches from their deep and expansive archive. Hamilton Place Theatre, 10 McNab St. S., Hamilton. Show @ 8:00 p.m. www.hamiltonplace.com



The Kids in the Hall – Live **April 28**

The Kids perform new material, revisit cult characters and revive classic sketches from their deep and expansive archive.

Centennial Hall, 550 Wellington St., London, ON. Show @ 8:00 p.m.

www.centennialhall.london.ca

Canadian Music Week **May 1 – 10**

Canada's biggest music festival is bigger than ever. Get ready for 10 days packed with music, talks, film, comedy, and more! Various Venues Across Toronto. Check the website for details <http://cmw.net/music> Or check out www.thebuzzmag.com for our complete Events listings.

Top Girls **May 23 – September 12**

A play by Caryl Churchill, directed by Vikki Anderson, with original music by Thomas Ryder Payne. Shaw Festival, Court House Theatre, Niagara-on-the-lake, ON. Check website for tickets/pricing www.shawfest.com

Kinky Boots **June 16**

Don't miss the opening of this Broadway smash from Harvey Fierstein and Cyndi Lauper! Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St. W., Toronto. Check website for tickets/pricing www.mirvish.com/shows



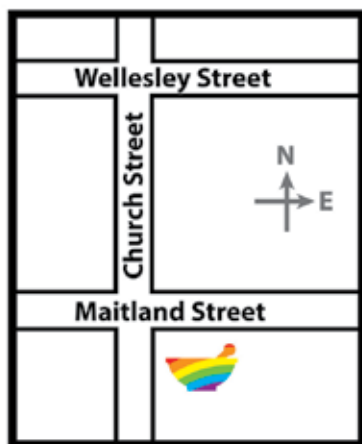


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905-239-7922

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