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Aidan Moreno

Heartland's First LGBTQ+ Character

Deanne Taylor

Remembering Co-Founder of VideoCabaret

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 08 Aidan Moreno
– Melissa MacMullin
- 12 Deanne Taylor
– Aaron Rothermund
- 16 Deep Dish: Queer Black Protesting
– Rolyn Chambers
- 20 Wiggled Out: Messy Margaret
– Messy Margaret
- 22 She Beat: Vanessa Dunn – Cat Grant
- 24 A Kodak Moment: Felicia “Fefe” Minor
– Boyd Kodak
- 26 Beyond the Village: Fox and Jane Salon
– Sherry Sylvain
- 30 BUZZPicks – Sherry Sylvain



Hello Friends!

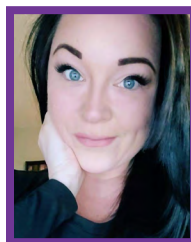
Do you remember what your very first dream was? I don't mean the type of dream you have while sleeping, I'm talking about what you were first passionate about being. For me, I wanted to be a country music singer for the first 20 years, and no, I'm not kidding. Clearly, it didn't pan out, plus, as much as I love cowboy boots, they hurt my feet, haha – I realized that being a writer was who I was meant to be, so I put my energy into that for the last 20 years. Yes, I'm almost 40. Spring to me signifies the chance to start anew, and to create new dreams or to reawaken old ones regardless of who or where you are, or what your age is. Go get 'em, tigers!

Our first feature puts the spotlight on Aidan Moreno who you might know as Rick Adderly from CBC's, *Heartland*. He's the series' first LGBTQ+ character and he's been knocking the role out of the park, or better yet, out of the ranch. Like myself, his first dream was to be a singer, but destiny wanted him on our TV screens – however, he had not lost sight of his first dream, having put out his debut record, *My Kind of Trouble*, in 2021. The more dreams, the merrier! Aaron Rothermund reflects on the work of late Toronto stage artist, Deanne Taylor, co-founder of *VideoCabaret* and *The Hummer Sisters* in our second feature. Taylor's dream was to push the limits in the realm of underground theatre on creating and performing in satiric shows overlapping art, media, and politics, which she did – long live the original “Queen of Queen St.”

In this issue's Deep Dish, Rolyn Chambers walks us through the power and impact of queer Black protesting from Zami to BLM in the 80s up to present day. Our Wiggled Out feature was written by Toronto's premiere dragtress and whirlwind of a queen, Messy Margaret, of *Messy Margaret Productions*. Cat Grant touched base with Vanessa Dunn, lead singer of feminist queer rock band, *Vag Halen*, in *She Beat*. Boyd Kodak caught up with entertainer and podcast host/producer, Felicia Fefe Minor, who is making a substantial difference in the community. If you're ready to turn those hair dreams into reality, head over to **Fox and Jane Salon** – Sherry Sylvain gives us the rundown on this Leslieville gem. Plus, we've got a long list of great upcoming events for you to check out!

Happy reading, my queerlings xx

Mel MacMullin
Editor-in-Chief



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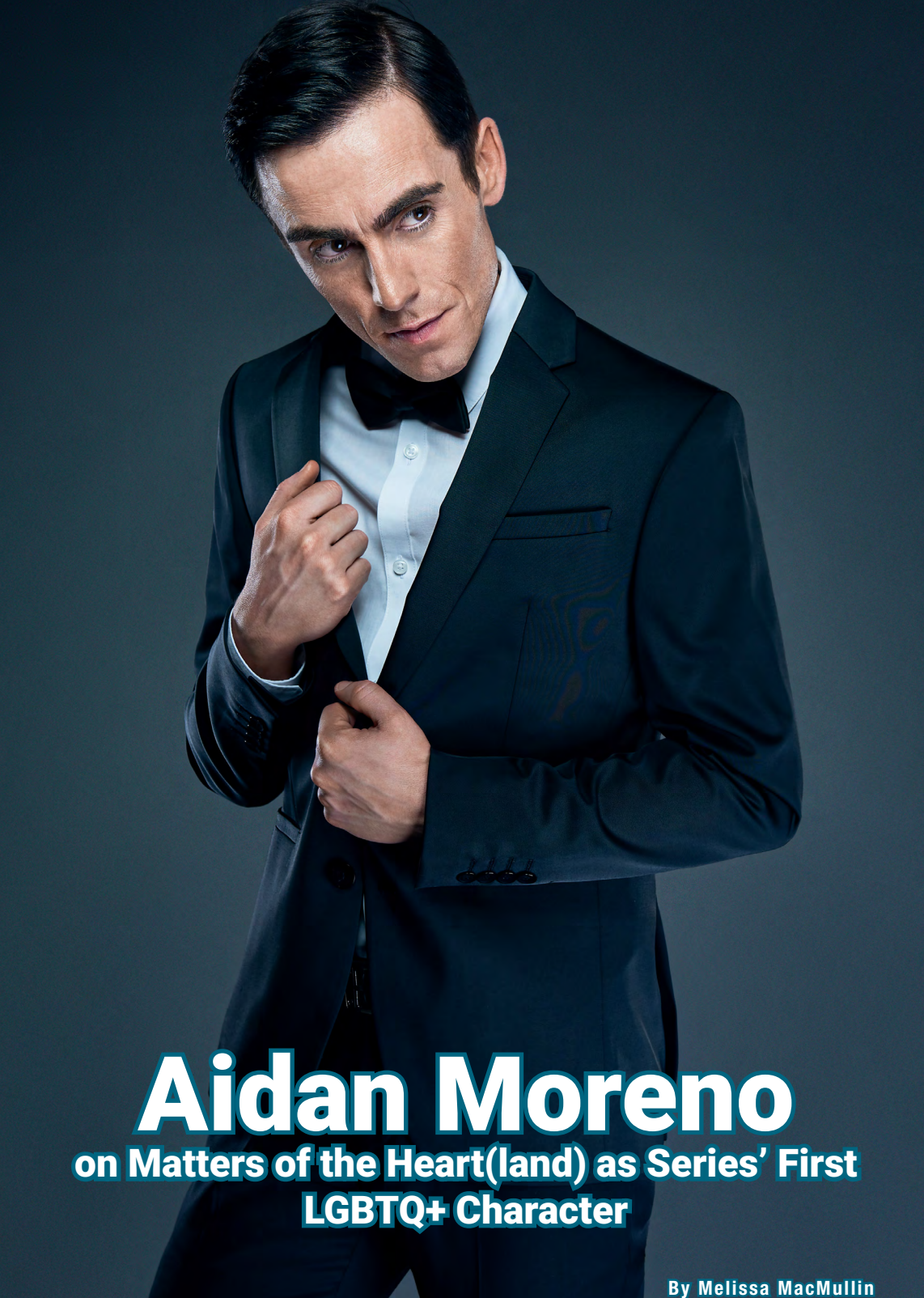
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Aidan Moreno

on Matters of the Heart(land) as Series' First LGBTQ+ Character

By Melissa MacMullin

If you've watched CBC's *Heartland* the past few seasons, you'd recognize British Canadian actor, Aidan Moreno, who plays the Canadian hit series' first openly out LGBTQ+ character in the show's history, Rick Adderly, a "much-needed and brave addition considering its target audience."

Heartland is known to be Canada's longest running one-hour drama with the first season having aired back in 2007 – it's a beloved Canadian staple, and it's also on *Netflix*. In 2021, it became one of the top 5 most streamed series in the world, watched by over 120 countries. Toronto-based UK-born, actor and singer/songwriter, Aidan Moreno, has starred in a variety of popular television favourites such as CW's *Supernatural*, Guillermo del Toro's *The Strain*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, Jann Arden's comedy *Jann*, as well as in the film, *Let Him Go*, having played alongside Kevin Costner – you might even recognize him as the character Albert on *Wynonna Earp*. His role in *Jann* gained him a nomination for Best Performance by an Actor at the Alberta Film & Television Awards in 2020. A graduate of London University, he majored in English Literature to boot.

Based on the book series by Lauren Brooke, *Heartland* follows the Fleming family, who live on a ranch in the fictional town of Hudson, Alberta. It focuses on how tragedy can glue people together to get through the good times and bad times, the thick and the thin, and there's plenty of horses and heartbreak. *Heartland* has been praised for its realistic portrayal of life on a ranch, with its strong female characters, and positive messages about family and community. "I'm thrilled to be able to bring LGBTQ+ representation to this series based on traditional values – for me, as I'm sure for others, representation is crucial. To be able to watch a television show especially in a setting where you wouldn't expect to see a gay person necessarily, and to relate or see a bit of yourself in that character or situation, it's wonderful," Moreno shared.

His character, Rick Adderly, is the CAO in the Mayor's office and Lou Fleming's (Michelle Morgan) unofficial part-time therapist. Lou is Amy Fleming's older sister, and the eldest daughter of Marion and Jack Fleming. Lou and Rick have what some viewers may call a feisty and sarcastic relationship, but it is one where love and respect is apparent. It's safe to say a majority of us have that type of relationship with at least one person in our lives. "Honestly, I just feel so blessed to be part of such an amazing show which has the ability to bring people together through the power of telling stories, centered around



the true grit and strength of family. Also, getting the chance to learn and work with great people, like Michelle – from the very first day I stepped on set, I felt welcome. Even the fans have been amazingly supportive. It's been and continues to be an exciting journey."

Playing the show's first LGBTQ+ character, Moreno felt a heavy sense of responsibility when factoring in the target audience of a series that is deeply infused with traditionalism, but it was an undertaking that was successful, inevitably embraced, and his performances in each riveting episode have been well-received. Moreno's hope and wish is that the character, Rick Adderly, will continue soldiering on in future seasons of *Heartland* as to provide even more representation for the LGBTQ+ community. It's up to the writers to determine where Rick will be taken, and what he will get up to next, but you'll have to keep tuning in to find out. Moreno's main mission is not to try and change the minds of people, he is laser-focused on representing those who do not feel seen, and he wants nothing more than for people to love and accept themselves for who they are. "To show that LGBTQ+ people are everywhere, and have been a part of our families, is important to me."

Moreno auditioned for *Heartland* at the start of the pandemic during the initial phase of lock-down. He created a makeshift self-tape set-up in his basement with his cat and five dogs while wearing jogging pants for the audition. He originally thought he wasn't going to get the part but he got a call-back from the producers which was a surprise to him and the rest is history as we know it. "From that point on, I continued working to improve my skills and confidence as an actor, I prepared myself to bring to the role of Rick Adderly what no one else could through tapping into other parts of who I



was.” For Moreno, it’s about not trying to be like everyone else or what he thinks others may want him to be. He’s about letting his talent, abilities, and personality shine through the characters. Also, understanding people and emotions, and what drives them – it all works together to channel into any given role.

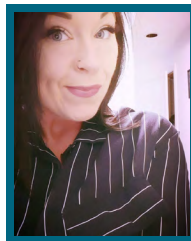
Believe it or not, he didn’t originally set his sights on acting as something he wanted to pursue, but upon working background for the CW show, *Reign*, he got a chance to catapult his career in the television and film industry, so Moreno took it and ran with it. “Falling into acting was somewhat accidental. I remember being on set and thinking I might want to do this, watching the actors around me, the cameras, the costumes, the atmosphere, the creativity, I felt it was something I could do. Mind you, this is quite different from the career path of teaching which was what I moved to Canada for.” Moreno came from a working-class family in England and was raised by a single mother, he’s a man who doesn’t forget his roots and where he came from – he’s down-to-earth, grateful for the opportunities life has thrown his way, but he also firmly believes in hard work and perseverance.

Moreno is also a singer/songwriter, and you should know that his debut record, written in 3 months during the pandemic, with 18 self-penned tracks, *My Kind of Trouble* was inspired by the western influences of *Heartland*. It’s available for

streaming on *Amazon Music*, *Apple Music*, and *Spotify*. He worked on the record which delivers a pop and country infused sound during his time spent living and filming in Alberta. Upon it’s initial release, Moreno gained over 500,000 streams within the first couple of weeks - yeehaw! “Music has been a big part of my life, the first love of my life really, since I was young, and I had big dreams that I didn’t realize were possible until they actually started coming true,” he said. “The album was written after a break-up, and you can hear the hurt and the pain in each song, the journey of a relationship’s highs and lows – writing it was therapeutic in a way.”

“Whether it’s acting or singing or song writing, I’m getting to do what I love and I feel like I’m giving back or contributing to the world, it’s an honour for me, and I encourage others to do the same. Dreams do come true. Just be yourself.”

Melissa MacMullin is a freelance content writer and journalist for leading publications. A strong distinct queer Canadian voice with pride and purpose. Author. Screenwriter. Performer. Part-time adventurer.



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PARADISE LOST WITH DEANNE TAYLOR

By Aaron Rothermund

“In the venerable Cameron House on Queen West hangs a simple sign made by sculptor Tom Dean: it reads THIS IS PARADISE. Most of Toronto’s residents know that in their neighbourhoods they have found the ‘good place,’ found the sweet spot, found as perfect a utopia as possible under the circumstances so far. They enjoy and renew the city’s heritage of built forms and social values, shaping the prosperity and harmony of their communities and the city-at-large.”

**– Deanne Taylor
(vital writer, activist, producer,
director, performer, and mentor.)**

Taylor was born in Berkeley, California and she was raised in Calgary, Toronto, and Vancouver. By age nine, she outperformed countless hopefuls and landed the titular role in the widely popular CBC television show, *Maggie Muggins*. “Nobody was encouraging me to go on and be an adult actress,” Taylor told *Toronto Life* in March 1986. “They sort of figured I should be a brain surgeon and an actress.”

After spending her youth on set, Taylor pleasure-travelled to Europe, the Middle East and India. While studying filmmaking in England, Taylor co-founded Electric Cinema, London’s first experimental repertory 16/35mm picture house. After co-creating a multi-media series, *Implosion*, at the Roundhouse, Taylor would return to Canada in 1972. Upon her arrival, Taylor joined forces with writer **Marni Jackson** and eight other women to create Women & Film, which mounted an international film festival in 1973 at the St. Lawrence Centre that featured 130 films, with free programming, workshops, and childcare.

By 1975, Taylor considered herself the “founding aunt of the Hummer Sisters, keeper-of-the-chronicles, press-releases, and author of the video-performance scripts.” Taylor’s other crowning achievement would be co-creating the genre-smashing [VideoCabaret](#) style of performance in the glow of

fifty television monitors at an art gallery and speakeasy aptly called, *A Space*, in 1976.

Other founding and rotating artistic members of VideoCabaret included the playwright **Michael Hollingsworth**, the Hummer Sisters performance troupe (**Deanne Taylor, Janet Burke, Marien Lewis, Bobbe Besold, and Jennifer Dean**), art-rock composer **Andrew Paterson**, and video-prodigy **Chris Clifford**. Together VideoCabaret created some of the first theatrical productions integrating video cameras, televisions, and a live rock ‘n’ roll band. These multi-media spectacles were sought after and staged across Canada and travelled to New York and London.

As a member of VideoCabaret and the Hummer Sisters, Taylor would write and perform in *The Patty Rehearsal Story* (1976) billed as “the Tidal Pirouette in the Image War.” The show, a pioneering satire of television’s power to create cultural icons, was co-produced in other venues by Theatre Passe Muraille and the New Yorker Cinema. Between 1977-1978, Taylor wrote and performed in *The Bible (As Told to Karen Ann Quinland)*, a full-length video-play which specifically required a video-proscenium to frame the action. “*The Bible* is about media-as-maintenance, media-as-priest, and about sit-com manners, production line mating rituals.”

In a political move that shocked the nation, ‘A. Hummer’ a.k.a. the Hummer Sisters officially ran for mayor of Toronto against **Art Eggleton**. The Hummers placed second with almost 12,000 votes and their campaign slogan and art exhibition, *ART vs Art* (1982) foretold a future where entertainment and politics were forever entwined with each other.

By 1982, Taylor and Hollingsworth had developed their innovative “black box” style of theatre while working on Hollingsworth’s epic 21-play cycle, *The History of the Village of the Small Huts*. While still in the formative years of the company, Taylor and Hollingsworth were compelled to further define VideoCabaret’s style by pulling together some-of-the finest actors, artists, and designers including **Bob Nasmith, Jackie Burroughs, Bongo Kolycius, Alan Bridle, Brad Harley, Andy Moro, Richard Feren, Astrid Jansen, and Alice Norton**. Then, for almost five decades, VideoCabaret rehearsed and performed forty-character plays in a fifty-seat theatre built in the backroom of [The Cameron House](#).

VideoCabaret and the Hummer Sisters presented *Tory Tory Tory*, which served as a 35-minute satire of the television coverage of the 1983 Conservative Leadership Convention. The Hummers used this time to poke fun at **Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark, John Crosbie, and Peter Pocklington**, all the while simulating the action within a ‘hospitality suite just off the Ottawa convention floor.’ *Power Play* (1984) was created as a 28-minute video that posed the questions, “after Trudeau, what’s left? What’s right?” to shine a light on “made-for-TV politics.” *Hormone Warzone* (1984) was presented as an 11-minute video at *The New Work Show*, exhibited at Theatre Passe Muraille. “Humorous in execution



and serious in intent, the tape surveys birth control methods.” *Dressed to Kill* (1984) premiered at Ontario Place as part of Video / Culture, a high-tech trade show and art festival.

“With their stylish ability to transform obvious sarcasm into hilarious satire, The Hummers’ roles as a high-tech sales team threw a neat sidelong glance at Video / Culture’s tradeshow aspect, writes **Bart Testa** (The Globe and Mail, 1984.) “Between the day’s several performances, The Hummers played a selection of their recent election comedies — ART vs Art, Tory Tory Tory, and Power Play — that give final proof that the droll trio are really Canada’s premier TV (or maybe anti-TV) satirists.”

Taylor was one of the first Canadian artists to be directly responding to government follies. She produced *CB-TV* (1984) and *Vox Pop Cabaret* (1985) to engage communities and speak directly to political strategies. Also in 1985, Taylor activated artists from Trinidad and Tobago and from Toronto’s Caribbean and Indigenous communities to create *Island to Island* to help develop performances for Toronto’s Caribana Festival. One of Taylor’s most experimental and influential works was *2nd Nature*, which ran at the New Theatre Centre in 1990, and *Theatre Passe Muraille* in 1991. This musical journey followed the “natural (bio)logical continuation of the theatrical metaphors that characterize the art and politics of the Hummer Sisters.” The play also “tracks the evolution of the species from vegetable matter to God and sings the world into existence.”

Then in 2012, *Stratford Festival* co-produced Hollingsworth’s *The War of 1812* for two sold-out months. VideoCabaret

remounted the show at Soulpepper in Toronto and the Magnetic North Festival in Ottawa. This production kicked off a five-year association with Soulpepper that expanded the scale of theatrical productions and altered their vision for the future. By 2019, Taylor in association with the board of directors of VideoCabaret (specifically **Margie Zeidler**) were able to source and secure the Busy Street Theatre (rebranded posthumously as the Deanne Taylor Theatre) for future community building multi-platform events.

Taylor passed away from cancer in December 2020. Her work as co-creator of the Hummer Sisters and VideoCabaret was “both entertaining and uncompromising in the way it targeted the intersection of local and national politics, popular culture, the news media, and the life of the body,” writes long-time ally, Marni Jackson. Taylor inspired countless artists by infusing new energy into old forms of performance while embracing technology and sparking debates over our governing systems.

“Utopia is a destination so beautiful and beneficial for all that quite a few must be hideously sacrificed on route.”

— Deanne Taylor, *Between Utopias*

Aaron Rothermund is a freelance writer, theatre creator, and filmmaker. Aaron has worked on articles for The Courier, Culture Days, theBUZZ, and PinkPlayMags.



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The Impact of Queer Black Protesting from Zami to BLM



The 1980s saw dozens of groups formed to combat problems from the "queer establishment." **Zami** was one of those. Named after a Creole word for lesbian sex and founded in 1984, Zami was Toronto's first Black queer group. Founded by lesbian activists, **Debbie Douglas** and **Sylmadel Coke**, and gay activists **Douglas Stewart** and **Deryck Glodon**, the group became not only a support system but also a means of Black queer organization visibility, education, and protest. The group took part in Pride Day marches, held social events, and was the Black presence in lesbian and gay community events.

Stewart was one of the first people in Canada to speak out publicly against the exclusion and racism that queers of colour, specifically black men, faced from the overall queer community. In 1986, **The Body Politic**, enraged queers of colour when they published an ad from a white gay man who was seeking "a young, well-built BM [Black Man] for a houseboy." The Body Politic, based in Toronto, was one of Canada's first important queer activist magazines. Stewart's response to this publication for allowing such an ad to run stated that racism among gay men "forces gay men like me to prioritize my concerns. Black gay activists define

themselves first and foremost as Black and as gay second."

Over time, while women remained involved, Zami became largely a men's group. The women branched off and became more involved in organizing around Black feminist issues, working across intersections of gender, race and sexual orientation that would lead to the formation of the *Black Women's Collective*. Many of Zami's male members eventually became involved in starting the **Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention** (Black Cap) in 1989 and Zami eventually ceased to exist in that same year.

While Zami (and other groups since) made progress along a few fronts, some remained the same while others have become increasingly worse for queer Black people. Because of this, in the last eight years, Black people have increasingly been actively protesting all over the world against anti-Black racism. This also includes queer and trans Black people who are demanding that queer spaces in Canada be challenged and transformed. Almost 40 years later, the fight remains the same.

The infamous **Black Lives Matter** sit-in during the **Pride Toronto** parade of 2016 was a jarring awakening to this fact by some members of the queer community. Designed not simply for show but to create change, the sit-in sought a resolution to changes that had been asked for and were in the works for several years. Some of those changes included providing space for Black queer youth and asserting that Pride be more inclusive. **BLM-TO** also demanded that police forces marching in uniform (or full regalia and carrying guns) be banned from the parade. This was the most controversial of all nine of BLM-TO's demands, though many didn't understand it. Most thought it was an all-out ban on police while it was actually a ban on police in the parade wearing their uniforms (which to some is a glaring symbol of oppression and brutality against both Black and queer communities). The demands from BLM-TO were agreed to and later endorsed by Pride's membership and board. It is now 2023 and tension is still high in the Black queer community. The work that Zami started in 1985 is clearly not finished. For this

reason, some Black queer folks are still forced to see themselves as Black first and queer second.

SELECT DATES OF NOTE

- 1985** Zami marches in its first Toronto Pride parade as out Black lesbians and gays. The group holds its first queer Caribana party. The Gay and Lesbian Appeal accepts Zami as a gay and lesbian group.
- 1988** The first International Lesbian and Gay People of Colour Conference is held in Toronto. In attendance are guests from the Caribbean, England, and the United States of America.
- 1990** Activist groups, AYA, Young Ebony Sisters, and Black Cap are formed. The first Toronto Black lesbian and gay retreat is held.
- 1998** The collective, Blackness Yes!, is created. Blockorama, its first BIPOC event is held in response to Pride Toronto's discriminatory practices.
- 2016** Black Lives Matter is the honorary group chosen to lead the Pride Toronto parade. They use the platform to stop the procession and protest anti-Black racism within the queer community and Canadian police brutality.

Jamaican born Rolyn Chambers grew up in the suburbs of Mississauga, before attending *Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD)*. In 2001, he began his *Deep Dish* column with *fab Magazine*, which ran for a full decade, allowing him to interview everyone from clubbers and promoters, to celebrities and politicians. *Deep Dish* has now been resurrected once again here in theBUZZ. Chambers is also the author of, *The Boy Who Brought Down A Bathhouse*, self-published by himself via YumEee! Communications. IG @rahraholyn



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WIGGED OUT

BY MESSY MARGARET

MESSY MARGARET



Messy Margaret is a Toronto-based high-energy drag performer with a personality you'll not soon forget. She's part actress, part comedian and completely delusional. Her name was inspired by the fact that she wasn't very good at makeup in the beginning and wanted something that would give her space to grow.

She started drag just as the pandemic took over the world, so she set her sights on [TikTok](#) where she has built herself up to over 85K followers. Her TikTok is a character study on what it's like to work in the restaurant industry as a server/manager. Messy started getting more stage time as the world began to open back up. She took advantage of the many open stages hosting around the city and through this she started to get booked on shows.

As a theatre graduate Messy learned that it is essential to create your own opportunities; so, with her drag mother, **Hillary Yaas**, she started her own production company. [Messy Productions Canada](#) has quickly shot up as one of Toronto's leading production companies producing drag content. They run comedy and fun-focused entertainment spanning across the city limits and beyond, performing at queer-friendly cafes and bars around town. Originally having started with one monthly show, they're now up to 5+ per month.

You can find Messy hosting monthly bingos at C.C.'S Bar and Grill and Super Bargain. She also produces a bi-weekly drag brunch at Bampots Bohemian House of Tea. Messy and Hillary will also host their first event

at Toronto's Rec Room: *Drag Bingo-Stravaganza* on Sunday, April 23 at 6pm – [get tickets here](#).

Outside of Messy Productions Canada, Messy Margaret has also worked in television. She will appear on one episode of *SLIP* starring Zoe Lister-Jones on Roku TV. She also wrote and acted in her own solo sketch called *The Penne Barn* which won the first tri-annual sketch competition produced by Toronto Sketch Comedy on Instagram in May 2021.

Messy Productions Canada is also available for private parties and corporate events. You can visit their website www.messyproductionscanada.com and be sure to check out their socials:

Instagram - @messymargaretqueen and @messyproductionscanada

TikTok - @messymargaretqueen

Toronto's premiere dragtruss and comedy queen who likes to channel your drunk aunt at a wedding while performing onstage. CEO, Head of Marketing, Promotions and Making a Mess at Messy Productions Canada.




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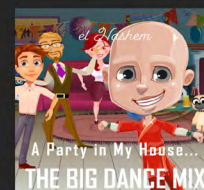
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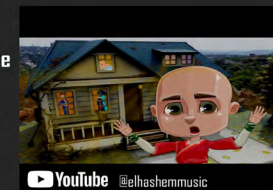
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AND check out the latest releases



From UK producer Hectic, comes the dance mix you're going to want to play on repeat at your next house party



From Toronto film maker Davina Hader comes the hopping, twerking, boozey music video

Vanessa Dunn



about 80s music videos, Tawny Kitaen from Whitesnake had an immeasurable impact on her along with Debra Winger, Madonna, and Freddy Mercury to name a few. Interested in acting, Vanessa took part in high school productions, “but my high school wasn’t arts-focused, so they were never a big affair.”

After moving to Toronto, she got an agent and eventually booked some commercials and small roles in tv and films. Vanessa’s first audition was for a sci-fi show, “I think it was Deep Space Nine. I remember doing my hair up in Bjork-style buns (it was 1995, I was 15) and hanging out in the waiting room with about 100 other people. It wasn’t a great time to be a queer woman auditioning for mainstream gigs.”

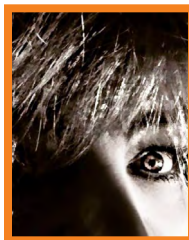
Vanessa met her wife, Katie Richie, working at The Common, they were married in 2010, and shortly after, [Vag Halen](#) was born. Vanessa is the lead singer with Katie on bass, Stephanie Markowitz on keys, vocals, and percussion, Jo Snyder on guitar, Heather Kirby on guitar, and Morgan Doctor on drums – they’re still having a blast 10+ years later. “To me, so much of the ‘rock cannon’ was rooted in queer sensibilities – particularly around the aspects of spectacle, bad taste, and costume.”

It might surprise fans to know that Vanessa is not a wild child in daily life. “I’m a mum who loves a hardcore routine and reality tv. I have my own eLearning business and I’m also involved in community work. All of which is important to me!”

Vanessa acknowledges that the industry is still tough on young women artists. “If I could speak to my younger self, I would tell her to get medicated and forge your own path. Now, there seems to be more opportunities to create your own work via social media, on *YouTube*, etc. When I was younger there was only theatre, tv, film – all of which had intense gatekeepers. Overall, I think it’s about having confidence in who you are and not giving a fuck about what the gatekeepers say.”

Cat Grant (OCAD) is a multidisciplinary artist. Starting her career in dance and music, painting and photography are her main focus now. As a published poet, Cat is also the Executive Director for *The Toronto Women’s Arts Festival*.

[Facebook @grantedarts](#)



Vanessa Dunn is an actor, mom, and rock goddess who’s proud to have been born and raised in Scarborough. “I wouldn’t say we grew up, nor made time, for the arts specifically. There was more of a focus on working hard and paying bills.” Vanessa’s family home during her childhood was filled with music and her first introduction to performing was through television.

“I remember being very young and watching 80s wrestling (WWF) with my older brothers and having the concept of performance emerge and being intrigued by it.” Enthusiastic



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A KODAK MOMENT

Felicia “Fefe” Minor

BY BOYD KODAK

Photo by Scotty Kirby



BK - Wow, amazing work! During that time, which was the most exciting event for you?

FFM - I enjoy being part of the community and entertaining people from diverse backgrounds, bringing a smile to their faces. I particularly enjoyed my involvement with Drag Story Hour - Arizona and Drag Story Hour and was thrilled when we were able to resume in-person events after the pandemic lockdown.

BK - That sounds great. What are you looking forward to next year?

FFM - A few months into the year, I'm excited to continue the Let's Have a Fefe podcast with Freddy Prinze Charming and special guests. I'm also looking forward to participating in special events and engagements.

BK - It's a terrific podcast. Where can we see your work?

FFM - Join the Wednesday night conversation with Freddy Prinze Charming on Let's Have a Fefe at 8:00pm Arizona time on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, or Twitch. You can also catch the replay or subscribe to the podcast. For those in Phoenix, check out my show listings at feliciaminor.com/shows.

BK - Future plans?

FFM - Can't wait to raise my future glam babies and give them a world that sparkles with openness and acceptance! Here's hoping the world they grow up in is bursting with love and embraces all kinds of fabulousness.

BK - Awe, that would be great. Any message you would like to put out there?

FFM - You are enough. Trans folx are enough. Everyone matters, and we must acknowledge the role of queer people of colour in shaping the current path. Learn about the community's history beyond superficialities like pool parties, bars, and gym selfies, and educate others too.

BK - Excellent, and so true. Finish this sentence for us, "if I could have 3 wishes, they would be . . ."

FFM - Safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ to be themselves without question. Politicians should address important issues instead of scapegoating LGBTQIA+. Desire to leave the world a better place with accountability and acceptance of diversity.

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



Felicia "Fefe" Minor is a drag queen, entertainer, co-host, and producer of the *Let's Have a Fefe* podcast for more than ten years. She has raised money for non-profit and community organizations, including over \$5,000 during COVID-19. Fefe has also been an official billboard diva for the LGBTQ+ Consortium and participated in [RipplePHX's Ripple Briefs](http://RipplePHX.com) campaign. She mentors up-and-coming entertainers, helping with pageants, makeup, and teaching them how to embrace their unique fierceness.

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

Felicia 'Fefe' Minor - I am a content creator and co-host/producer of the podcast *Let's Have a Fefe* for 10 years. I participate in Drag Story Hour as part of the Arizona chapter. Through storytelling, I promote diversity and encourage children to live authentically. Additionally, I am a part of the culturally diverse cast of *Majik* hosted by Mia Inez Adams on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at Stacy's at Melrose in Phoenix.



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FOX AND JANE SALON



A collective of owners started Fox and Jane, a particularly inclusive and supportive environment, in NYC. Ownership, management, and staff represent a rainbow of sexualities and gender identities, with owner, **Kristin Rankin**, as the founder of [Dresscode Project](#), an organization which promotes safer spaces, and gender affirming hair styling services which help clients look the way they feel, locally and internationally. Directly related to this project is the slogan “hair has no gender”, and the salon’s hashtag, #greathairforall, results in the practice of charging for services based on hair length, not client gender, and offering hair styles outside the gender binary, without hetero-normative judgement.

Fox and Jane Salon offers an extensive selection of hair services, including: barber and advanced cuts, keratin and other glossing/smoothing/cleansing/moisture treatments, single process colour, highlights; foil and freehand/hand painted, full bleaching and full colour change, and special event styling, such as updos. For fellow drag and performance artists, wig work is not on the menu, though some extension services are available.

Something big that is included with almost every menu item is that Fox and Jane Salon is a green-oriented space, participating in [Green Circle Salons](#), an award-winning project which empowers salons to recover up to 95% of their beauty waste, including previously unrecoverable materials and hard-to-recycle items such as hair clippings, foils, excess hair colour, aerosol cans, and colour tubes.

Fox and Jane Salon is located at 1022 Gerrard St. E, Toronto, easily accessible by TTC, with a stop directly outside the front door for the 506 Carlton streetcar, or with free parking on nearby side streets. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The space is relatively handicap accessible, though there is a large step at the main entrance, and no power-assisted door.

For those of you who sorely desire a stylist who will provide hair services without concern to your gender, or the perceived gender norm of your chosen style, Fox and Jane Salon just might be for you.

Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ+ community for too many years to count (or admit to).



What do you do when your hair won't do? Well, if Gerrard St. E in Leslieville, between Jones Ave and Carlaw Ave, is accessible to you, you might want to call and book an appointment with one of the stylists at [Fox and Jane Salon](#). If you are at all familiar with Leslieville, you will know that this is a culturally diverse and inclusive collection of neighbourhoods and communities in which 2SLGBTQ+ people can feel reasonably safe.

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By Sherry Sylvain

LOCAL PICKS

Jock Night Thursdays

Thursdays from 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by Morgan James and sponsored by JockstrapCentral.com. Meet the newest entertainers, and existing favourites in the field of male striptease. A male-only venue. Located above Flash.

Cock Bar, 461 Church St., Second Floor, Toronto
www.flashonchurch.com

Just For Laughs

April 20; 8:00 p.m.

The Just For Laughs Road Show is bringing along four hilarious comics for an entertaining night filled with belly laughs and busted guts.

Lester B. Pearson Theatre, 150 Central Park Dr., Brampton
tickets.brampton.ca/Online

Maanomaa, My Brother

April 11 to 30

When childhood friends Kwame and Will reunite in Ghana for the funeral of a loved one, they realize just how much has changed since the events that separated them 25 years earlier.

Canadian Stage, 26 Berkeley St., Toronto
my.canadianstage.com/overview/8295

Rock of Ages

Through May 20

One of Broadway's longest running hit musicals, is exploding on this Toronto stage before embarking on its international tour. Featuring earworm 80's chartbusters from iconic artists.

Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St., Toronto
www.heritagetrust.on.ca/ewg/ewg-home

Lumière: The Art of Light

Through May 7; dusk to 11:00 p.m.

This free light exhibition allows visitors to explore the park and experience art developed by Ontario artists. The curated theme is "Renewal", celebrating the change of seasons from winter to spring.

Trillium Park, Ontario Place, 955 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto
ontarioplace.com/en/special_programs/lumiere

The Red Dress Ball - 6th Anniversary

April 22; 8:00 p.m.

Go all-out in your best red look and dance the night away to live music and drag performances.

Since its inception, The Red Dress Ball Foundation has raised over \$215,000 in support of people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS.

Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas St. E., Toronto
thereddressball.ca

New

April 25 to May 14

The year is 1970 and the arrival of a Bengali bride to a small university town shakes up a tight-knit group of Indian immigrants, including the husband she's never met.

Canadian Stage, 26 Berkeley St., Toronto
my.canadianstage.com/overview/8389

Hump Night Honeys

Wednesdays from 10:00 p.m.

Hosts Carlotta Carlisle and Katinka Kature welcome an array of special guest stars with DJ Chris Steinbach, and Toronto's Sweetest Staff.

Woody's, 467 Church St., Toronto
<http://woodystoronto.com>

Impact Fridays

Fridays from 10:00 p.m.

The last Friday of every month features the best drag entertainment Toronto has to offer. Food and beverage available. Drag show: Icons, Legends, & Stars. Pay what you can.

Impact Lounge, 238 Parliament St., Toronto
www.instagram.com/impactlounge

TICOT Drag Brunch

April 30, May 28; 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A drag brunch with a royal twist. Hosted by Empress Teran Blake and ICP Billy Blake. This is an open stage, so if you have a talent you wish to share, all are welcome; however, all tips for performers are donated to the charities Rainbow Railroad and PWA Food Programs.

The Well, 487 Church St., Toronto
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com

Punchlines On Parliament

April 30, May 28; 8:00 p.m.

A stand-up comedy show that will fill your evening with laughter and hilarity. Enjoy affordable food and drinks. Striving to bring you the most diverse and funny lineups in the city.

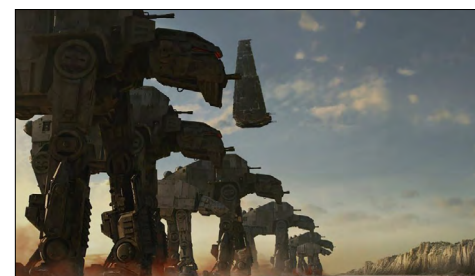
Impact Lounge, 238 Parliament St., Toronto
www.instagram.com/impactlounge

Star Wars: The Last Jedi—In Concert

May 11 to 13

In Lucasfilm's Star Wars: The Last Jedi, the Skywalker saga continues as the heroes of The Force Awakens join the galactic legends in an epic adventure that unlocks age-old mysteries of the Force and shocking revelations of the past.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto
www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/star-wars-the-last-jedi-in-concert



TICOT Charity Drag Bingo

May 14, June 11; 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Join TICOT for an afternoon of fun and friendship! Proceeds go to the Reign 36 Charities of Choice: Rainbow Railroad and The Toronto PWA Food Essentials Market.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com

VIDEODROME (Video Dance After Party)

May 12, June 16; 11:00 p.m. - no cover

Toronto's home of pop, hip hop, disco, club, house and LGBT music videos mixed by DJ Relentless. Just you, the videos, and the dance floor. Requests are welcome—if the DJ has it, they'll work it into the mix.

Buddies In Bad Times, 12 Alexander St., Toronto
buddiesinbadtimes.com

Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown

May 16 and 17

Immerse yourself in soulful sound as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra performs the enduring music of Motown.

Conductor Jeff Tyzik leads the Orchestra through some of Hitsville, U.S.A.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto
www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/dancing-in-the-street-the-music-of-motown

Electric Island 2023 Season Opener

May 20 and 21

A fully licensed concert and picnic series taking place over eight magical days (in May, July, August, and September) this summer on Hanlan's Point.

Hanlan's Point Stadium, Hanlan's Point, Toronto Islands, Toronto
www.ticketweb.ca/event/electric-island-2023-2-day-hanlans-point-tickets/12928015

Green Space Festival 2023

June 21 through 25

The best alfresco parties of the summer are back with enticing music, queer performances, delicious food and drinks, and a whole lot of love. An exceptional lineup of world-class DJs, legendary music producers, extraordinary performers, drag royalty and more. Free of charge. All ages.

Barbara Hall Park, 519 Church St., Toronto
greenspaceto.org



ROAD TRIPS

Serena Ryder & KT Tunstall

April 20; 8:00 p.m.

An amazing double bill featuring hitmakers Canadian Serena Ryder, and Scottish KT Tunstall.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener
centreinthesquare.com/event/serena-ryder

Spring Queening

April 22; 6:00 p.m.

A dinner and a show with everyone's favourite, the Haus of Devereaux. Join the dolls for a night of music provided by DJ Mixx and dinner catered by Casal Catering.

Lions Gate Banquet Centre, 386 Blake St., Barrie
Tickets@DevereauxDolls.com



Spring Fling Cabaret

April 22; 6:00 p.m.

A sexy, sultry, comedic, variety show celebrating and bringing one sensational spectacle hitting the stage. Prepare yourself for the 'Spring Fling Cabaret' that will leave you speechless.

Bonfire on Queen, 342 Queen St. N., Paisley
www.tickettailor.com

The Monkees Celebrated By Micky Dolenz

April 25 and 27

The Monkees were an American rock and pop sensation. Join the only surviving original member Micky Dolenz as he revisits some of The Monkees greatest hits and fan favourites.

Fallsview Casino, 6380 Fallsview Blvd., Niagara Falls
fallsviewcasinoresort.com/events-and-promotions/schedule-of-events/the-monkees.html

Disco Divas - Get your Groove on!

May 5; 9:00 p.m.

A direct fundraiser for Cira Flexion to compete in the National pageant on Labour Day Weekend 2023.

This drag show will be the biggest Sudbury has ever seen with 8 performers, including Canada's Drag Race alum Kimora Amour, and Jenna Seppa from Call me Mother.

Caruso Club, 385 Haig St., Sudbury
www.eventbrite.com/e/disco-divas-get-your-groove-on-tickets-514401397427

"We Will CHOIR! You" - An Epic QUEEN Sing-Along

May 6; 9:00 p.m.

Get ready to sing some of the biggest songs of all time, by one of the biggest bands of all time, with one of the biggest voices of all time. All Queen, all the time.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener
centreinthesquare.com/event/choirchoirchoir

Legally Blonde - The Musical

May 7; 8:00 p.m.

Based on the novel Legally Blonde, and the 2001 film of the same name. This tells the story of seemingly vapid Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner.

Budweiser Gardens, 99 Dundas St., London
www.broadwayinlondon.com

Queen: It's A Kinda Magic

May 17; 8:00 p.m.

Featuring Dominic Warren reprising his role as 'Freddie Mercury', performing vocals, piano and guitar of Queen's greatest hits, all live and in the original keys.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener
centreinthesquare.com/event/queen

Pride HN PRIDE DAY 2023

May 27; noon to 5:00 p.m.

An extraordinary lineup of entertainment, DJs, food trucks, great local vendors, family activities, and more for Pride in Haldimand-Norfolk.

McKinnon Park, 100 Haddington St., Caledonia
www.facebook.com/haldimandnorfolkpride

2nd Annual Amazing Drag Race

June 17; 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A full day of market, entertainment, food, skateboarding and a 5 km drag race. Celebrate PRIDE, and dressing in drag is encouraged. All racers will receive a swag bag of goodies by local sponsors.

North Bay Waterfront, Memorial Dr., North Bay
outloudnorthbay.com