

outword

No. 636 • November 14, 2019 • outwordmagazine.com

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*No purchase necessary. Giveaway begins on 11/16/19 and ends on 11/16/19, while supplies last. Only 50 apple pie gift-certificates will be given away. Once all gift-certificates are distributed, there will be no substitute prizes given. Approximate value of apple pie gift-certificate is \$10. To receive your apple pie gift-certificate, present this ad at the sales center at the following community (ies): Windrow at The Cove. Only one apple pie gift-certificate per family or group traveling together, or one individual traveling alone, may be earned at a community as determined by the sales representative at his or her sole discretion. Prices, plans and terms are effective on the date of publication and subject to change without notice. Depictions of homes or other features are artist conceptions. Hardscape, landscape, and other items shown may be decorator suggestions that are not included in the purchase price and availability may vary. Plans to build out this neighborhood as proposed are subject to change without notice. Map is not to scale. See New Home Counselor for complete details. Map is not to scale. ©2019 Beazer Homes. BRE License # 01503061. 159701 BH SAC NOV_4

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outword
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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Stonewall Foundation Builds Pipeline for LGBTQ Leadership

by Charlene Jones, Board of Directors

The Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento welcomed more than 150 friends to its third annual fundraising event in late September at the Sterling Hotel. Honorary chair Dennis Mangers welcomed Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and supporters who enjoyed wine tasting paired with fabulous cheeses and chocolates, and a lively LGBTQ history wine pull. Funds raised nearly doubled that collected last year, all aimed at cultivating the next generation of LGBTQ leaders through scholarships, student conference supports, and high school internships.



Special guest CSUS President Robert Nelsen highlighted the depth of need so many college students currently face, citing scholarship opportunities as central to relieving barriers to success.

"Forty-nine percent of CSUS students come from families making under \$38,000 a year..." reported Nelsen. "You doubled the scholarships this year for our LGBTQIA students, you did it!"

As noted by President Nelson, the Foundation was able to award two McBride Scholarships (honoring longtime LGBTQ advocate Laurie McBride) this year to Clara Silva and Nathalie Mendoza who described the impact of receiving amounts totaling nearly the cost of annual tuition.

"I was able to move onto campus from Stockton," said Silva, who volunteers at both the CSUS Pride Center and Sacramento's Gender Health Center.

"The scholarship made it possible to attend my final year," added Mendoza who co-founded Advocates Creating Safer Spaces in Sacramento to cultivate a community that does not tolerate sexual assault, homophobia or discrimination.

To honor the 50th year since the

Stonewall Inn Uprising, the Foundation was especially pleased to announce plans to establish a new scholarship in the name of Sam Catalano, founder of the Stonewall Foundation, within the Los Rios Community College District.

With support at high school, community college and university levels, the Foundation continues its work to build a pipeline of LGBTQ leadership development. It was the principal underwriter again of the Sacramento City Unified School District's LGBTQ youth leadership conference, and supported the student PRIDE PAK educational conference at San Juan Unified School District.

The Foundation also partnered for the second year with Sacramento's LGBT Community Center to fund a high school internship.

The September event was sponsored by an array of generous organizations, businesses, and individuals (see www.facebook.com/sacstonewallfoundation).

Working together the Foundation and its partners will empower queer youth in the struggle for rights, protections and advancement of the LGBTQ community.

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Thank you, Broadway Sacramento. Your refusal to take significant funding in exchange for your endorsement of Dignity Health (a perpetrator of mass harm against the LGBTQ+ community and those seeking reproductive healthcare) is what community looks like. Your action is what solidarity looks like. Your stance is what love in action looks like. Sacramento is better both because of your fantastic productions and because of the example you just set. With love and excitement to see your current production: "A Christmas Story: The Musical,"

- Evan Minton



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Covered California Begins Statewide Marketing and Outreach Campaign

Covered California is beginning its statewide marketing and outreach campaign to educate consumers about the open enrollment period for 2020 and the new state subsidies that are available for the first time.

New television ads titled "You Shouldn't Have To," will begin airing today and focus on the idea that consumers should not have to choose between the life they have built and the care they need. "Consumers need to take action now during open enrollment," Lee said. "This is when people can sign up to get health insurance and avoid the potential of a big surprise when they

file their taxes in 2021."

Consumers will need to sign up by Dec. 15 in order to have their coverage begin on Jan. 1, 2020. Those interested in learning more about their coverage options can visit: www.CoveredCA.com or call (800) 300-1506.

Open enrollment runs through Jan. 31, 2020.

Billy Porter, Cheyenne Jackson, Megan Hilty & More The Stars Come Out To Celebrate The Holidays In SF

If your holiday plans include shopping at Union Square or otherwise enjoying the season in the Bay Area, there are several upcoming concerts in San Francisco that are sure to jump start your holiday spirit.

I know I am tempted to join the fun at Davies Symphony Hall after seeing the starry lineup of talent scheduled to appear there this holiday season.

On December 4, Broadway stars from stage and screen Megan Hilty ("Smash") and Cheyenne Jackson ("American Horror Story") team up for an intimate holiday concert at Davies Hall. (The SF Symphony does not appear at this concert.)

On December 7, the SF Symphony presents "Holiday Gaiety," a fabulously festive holiday variety show co-emceed by conductor Edwin Outwater and San Francisco's premiere drag sensation Peaches Christ, featuring iconic guests including Billy Porter, Coco Peru, Courtney Act, Patricia Racette, Beth Clayton, Elliot Franks, and Fou Fou Ha!, with special appearances by Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Kylie Minono as Mrs. Claus.

Tickets for both events (and many more) are available at www.sfsymphony.org, by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office.



Billy Porter will perform with the SF Symphony as part of "Holiday Gaiety."

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Beazer Homes Hosts Grand Opening Event At The Cove In Sacramento

Beazer Homes, one of the nation’s largest homebuilders, is excited to announce its newest community, Windrow at The Cove, with homes starting from the low \$400,000s. The grand opening will be held Saturday, November 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The festivities will feature tours of beautiful model homes, gourmet catering, desserts, and refreshments in the 80-acre master-plan community under development in Sacramento. Providing an amenity-rich lifestyle, The Cove features four distinct neighborhoods, each with architectural highlights and intelligent design. This master-plan will be home to 590 residences, offering trendy single-family and townhome living.

Windrow is the second neighborhood to open at The Cove, featuring detached homes with approximately 1,567 to 1,960 square feet, with three bedrooms, two and a half baths, and two-car garages. Windrow residences are alley loaded floorplans with open living rooms off gourmet kitchens, covered patios for entertaining, and exteriors which showcase urban charm and earthy textures in various color choices. The streetscape is reminiscent of historical California neighborhoods with uninterrupted pathways blending into the landscape.

“Windrow was designed as a perfect fit for first-time buyers, young professionals, or for buyers looking to make things a little

simpler. It’s an up-and-coming place to live, close to outdoor amenities, and less than three miles from downtown,” said Laura Stickelman, Sacramento division president. “The Cove will bring much needed housing to this area of Sacramento and residents will enjoy a unique lifestyle.”

The hub of the community is Cornerstone, an exclusive clubhouse with a state-of-the-art fitness room, multi-purpose lounge, an outside living area with fireplace, and a junior Olympic-size pool. Connected by walking and bike trails in and around the community, Cornerstone is adjacent to an upcoming public neighborhood park with play area, covered seating, and a half-court basketball court.

With the addition of this parcel to Beazer’s land portfolio, the Company now has ten communities in various stages of development across the Northern California metro area.

Windrow at The Cove is located at West El Camino and Orchard Lane just north of downtown Sacramento. For more information, please call (916) 420-0197 or visit beazer.com.

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Stunning Reds From Blankiet

words and photo by Diana Kienle

Sometimes it is just appropriate to enjoy world class red wine. Such is the case from Blankiet (pronounced Blank-e-a) in Yountville. This winery does things to extract the most flavor and deliver smooth texture in each bottle of wine. It starts with the management in the vineyard and extends through each step of the harvest to cellaring.

Blankiet (pronounced Blank-e-a) winery in Yountville, CA.



Our visit to Blankiet was impressive as the views are simply gorgeous. The winery sits up on the western slope of the Mayacamas Mountains that create part of the western edge of the Napa Valley. The ride up from Highway 29 was a gentle slope yet up a gravel road. The approach to the winery was a bit deceptive as the winery itself is contained in a cave that is well carved from the mountain, not visible from the road. All you see are vineyards.

Our tour of the production process spoke to the quality and care that the grapes receive during and after harvest. For example, the crates that are used throughout the harvest are half the size of most other wineries. This limits the amount of crushing from the weight of the grapes before sorting. The sorting of the grapes (with the intent to only use the grapes of right quality and size) is done by an optical sorter which mechanically removes grapes too small or not fully developed. This winery uses not only one but two optical sorters in a row to ensure that only the best grapes make it into the flagship wines.

The wines are remarkable. They make three flagship wines: 100 % Cabernet, a Red Bordeaux Blend and a Merlot driven wine. These wines show tremendous richness and lush fruit flavors. The 2016s from Blankiet received high scores from Antonio Galloni whom I regard as one of the most discerning critics in the business. The Cabernet was given 100 points, the Red Blend 98 points and the Merlot-dominate wine, 98 points. This was truly a wonderful line up.

For years, I have been purchasing Blankiet's "second" wine - Prince of Hearts. The grapes are those that do not make it into the flagship wines and each year, it is an admirable wine. To again reference Galloni, he calls the 2016 Prince of Hearts "super-refined, brilliant entry-level offering. Readers who can find the 2016 are in for a real treat, as the wine is truly special." While you may want to join the mailing list for Blankiet, you can find this wine from previous vintages at Total Wine. It is worth the effort.

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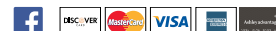
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Drag Queens on Ice Returns November 20

Sharpen your skates and get ready to perfect your triple axel, the 28th season of the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink is back!

Hostess on skates, Miss DoMe Moore will be back again this year! Photo by Fred Palmer.

Downtown is transforming into a fierce and festive winter wonderland when the iconic holiday tradition, Drag Queens on Ice, returns on Wednesday, November 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. Created in 2010 by Fred Palmer, owner and publisher of *Outword Magazine*, Drag Queens on Ice has become one of the City's most anticipated seasonal events, drawing bigger crowds and bigger talent every year.

Queens and Kings will skate and twirl into the hearts of skaters who will also have the opportunity to join the dress up fun with boas, wigs and more. Featuring a live DJ, this fabulous holiday tradition is sure to please and delight. And, with downtown's growing dining and retail scene now home to a dizzying array of new businesses that surround the rink, it's the perfect time to make it a day of fun this holiday season!

Drag Queens on Ice is open to all ages. All proceeds from the suggested \$15 skate admission price will benefit Rainbow Chamber Scholarship Fund, NorCal AIDS Cycle and Front Street Animal Shelter.

Located just steps from Golden 1 Center at 7th and K streets, the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink is open daily through January 20, including all holidays. Hours and events vary by day, so plan ahead at www.GoDowntownSac.com/icerink and be sure to follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for discounts and daily updates.

Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink
WHERE: 701 K Street Sacramento, CA
WHEN: Open Daily -- Nov. 1, 2019 -- Jan. 20, 2020
INFO: GoDowntownSac.com
The Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink is produced by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership, a not-for-profit PBID.

Out & About With Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

The holidays are officially here and with them comes an emphasis on the importance of family. Many in our community face biological family members who are antigay and think their opinion matters. Thankfully many of us have found our chosen family of friends, partners and even furbabies who love us for who and what we are without condition. This year if you find yourself alone take a leap of faith and get involved or open your home to friends with nowhere to go. You might find family you never knew you had.

Come make connections at another amazing business building Mixer & Reception from the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber. This month's event will be November 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. at FACES Nightclub, 2000 K St. Admission is free for members and \$10 for non-members. Rainbowchamber.com

Take to the ice with the drag queens of Sacramento during the 9th annual Drag Queens on Ice presented by *Outword Magazine*. Enjoy a live DJ, group skate with your favorite queens and giving to your favorite charities! Join us on November 20 from 6-9 p.m. at the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, 701 K St. 100% of skate admissions will be donated to your choice of one of three charities: Rainbow Chamber, NorCal AIDS Cycle, Front Street Animal Shelter.

LOLGBT returns November 17 at 7:30 p.m. with An Evening of Queens and Comedy, an exciting evening of drag queens and some of Sacramento's finest comics! Suzette Veneti hosts this night of laughs at Punch Line Sacramento, 2100 Arden Way. Punchlinesac.com

Openly gay singer and Chicago native Steve Grand is currently on his 2019 Pink Champagne Tour and will be performing at Harlow's Restaurant and Nightclub, 2708 J St. Come swoon to the tunes and getting lost in those eyes on November 18 at 7 p.m. Harlows.com

Congratulations to Golden Rule Services for being the 2019 Heroes of Human Services Award recipient. The award was presented by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the Human Services Coordinating Council to honor those who have touched the lives of others through their advocacy, dedication and efforts in human services within Sacramento County.

Experience the vibrant palette of the changing seasons at Kennedy Gallery as local artists play tribute to Autumn and the magic it brings. The Autumn Leaves Exhibit runs Nov. 5 - Dec. 8 at Kennedy Gallery, 1931 L St. KennedyGallery.net

CGNIE is going big this month with two fun events. The first event is the Annual Thanksgiving Celebration on November 24. Doors at 5 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m. and a show at 7 p.m. Then comes the Annual Turnabout Ball on November 30 at 9 p.m. to raise funds for the LaKish Memorial Scholarship fund. The ball will be hosted by Paul Domemoore Crouch and Uneke Chanel. Both events will Faces NightClub, 2000 K St. cgnie.org

outwordmagazine.com



Autumn Leaves Exhibit courtesy photo (Pumpkins)

There's only a few days left to see "A Christmas Story: the Musical!" The songwriting team behind the smash hit Tony Award®-winning musical "Dear Evan Hansen" and the Academy Award®-winning film "La La Land" brings the classic 1983 movie to hilarious life on stage! Nominated for three 2013 Tony Awards including Best Musical, come get your holiday spirit jump-started! Performances run through November 17. Broadwaysacramento.com

Celebrate the season at the Holiday Milk & Cookies Reading on December 6 from 7-9 p.m. at the Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. The Queer Sacramento Authors Collective invites the community to two hours of sweet treats, milk and readings by local authors. www.qsac.rocks

Happy birthday to Shawn Nash-Jackson, Oddrey Heartburn, Ronnie Scharffer, Steve Thompson, Shawn Krebs, John Ewing, Jared Hamilton, Jake Spike Vance, and all the other November birthday folks!

Sincerest condolences to the family and friends of our beloved Charles "Cal" Abel-Leer, and most of all to his husband, Scott. Charlie was a amazing man with a good heart and always a kind word. He inspired so many to be true to, and love, themselves against all odds. He will be truly missed.

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com. Check out his books at JustKissTheGuy.com

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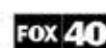
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Comedian Aida Rodriguez to Headline Hope Cooperative's "Stand Up Sacramento" to Help the Homeless

by Jody Dahms

Aida Rodriguez's journey has taken her from fashion model to the wife of an NFL player to living in her car with her two children, and finally, to one of comedy's rising stars.

Aida Rodriguez is an Afro-Latina comedian best known as an outspoken commentator on The Young Turks and for her appearance as a contestant on the eighth season of Last Comic Standing. Born in Boston, as a child Rodriguez was kidnapped twice; first taken from her father in the Dominican Republic by her mother and brought to America, and later taken and raised by her grandmother and uncle in an effort to protect her from her mother's romance with a murderer.

In the 90s Rodriguez was recruited by a modeling agency, but left that career to marry Omar Ellison of the San Diego Chargers, with whom she has two children. After a bout with anorexia and a divorce that led her to Los Angeles, she turned to comedy for healing. She and her children had become homeless, living out of her car and staying in hotel rooms, when she was finally offered her big break – a spot on NBC's Last Comic Standing.

Shortly before starting the show, Rodriguez's grandmother passed away. Weeks later, she received the devastating news that her Uncle Raymond, a gay man,

had been murdered in a hate crime. Doing Last Comic Standing while dealing with unimaginable grief meant that every night she'd steel herself to be funny onstage, and break down into tears the moment she was offstage. Rodriguez brilliantly and candidly weaves her life story into her routine that takes the audience on an emotional journey, using comedy as a way to "laugh instead of cry," as she puts it.

In August 2019 she released a Netflix special, They Ready, with fellow comedian Tiffany Haddish. When asked how the special changed her life she commented, "You know, ... it's given me some peace on the grief and loss I felt when I lost my relatives. They live on in these stories. People have been sending me messages, saying, 'My grandmother was crazy, too!' Specifically within the Latino community, a lot of LGBTQIA+ people have contacted me saying, 'Thank you for fighting for our community and telling people this story,' because my uncle was murdered in a hate crime. He was my world. He will live on forever, and I will make sure that those who took his life are brought to justice, and



Aida Rodriguez

that we use that as an example to save lives."

Aida is giving back to support Sacramentans experiencing homelessness as the headliner for Stand Up Sacramento at the Golden 1 Center on December 10.

Proceeds benefit programs and services for people experiencing homelessness in our community, and it's an incredible testament to that fact that homelessness does not mean hopelessness. Tickets on sale at hopecoop.org/events.

A large advertisement for Ernesto's Mexican Food's 28th anniversary. The background is a photograph of the restaurant's interior, showing a sign that says "ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD". Overlaid on the image is a large, stylized "28TH" with a sombrero icon inside the "8". Below this, the word "ANNIVERSARY" is written in a bold, blocky font. Further down, the hashtag "#ernestosturns28" and the dates "11/15 to 11/18" are displayed. To the right, there are images of a margarita and a plate of food. Below these, the text "• Live Music, • Food & Drink Specials!" is shown, followed by social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. In the bottom right corner, there is a section for "LIVE Mariachi MUSIC" with the dates "FRIDAY, NOV. 15TH 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM" and "MONDAY, NOV. 18TH 6 PM - 8 PM". At the very bottom, the address "1901 16TH STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95811" and phone number "(916) 441-5850" are listed, along with the website "www.ErnestosMexicanFood.com/28".

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Kimberly Matlock considers her horses as friends and manages a retirement sanctuary for the horses who no longer harness race. Through her love for animals, she strongly supports the conservation work of Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) and its president, Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, who has worked tirelessly for almost fifty years to rescue and rehabilitate hundreds of wild-born ex-captive orangutans to life in the wild. Read more about the work of Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas at www.orangutan.org

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Sexy Steve Grand Returns To Harlow's

by Chris Narloch

The deliciously talented (and just plain delicious) artist Steve Grand brings his “2019 Pink Champagne Tour” to Harlow’s in Sacramento this Nov. 18 for one show only, so act fast if you want to purchase tickets to see the sexy singer-songwriter.



The hunky musician had his fans in a fever last time he played Harlow’s -- I finally gave up on getting an autograph because the “meet and greet” line was so long after the show.

Mr. Grand’s “Pink Champagne Tour” features crowd favorites from all of his albums, as well as cover versions of songs by some of the most iconic gay artists of all time, including Elton John, Freddie Mercury, and George Michael.

Steve Grand burst on to the scene in 2015 with the self-funded viral video for the title track from his first album, “All American Boy.” That catchy single became a signature song for the openly gay Grand, who hails from Chicago, and he hasn’t looked back since.

Tickets for Steve Grand’s Sacramento show start at just \$25 and can be reserved at: www.harlows.com/event/steve-grand-2019-pink-champagne-tour.

A Free Symphony Concert In Rancho Cordova

Being a fan of the arts can be expensive, especially considering the prices for live theater and concerts nowadays. A free show is a cause for celebration, and that’s just what Rancho Cordova’s Symphony d’Oro has planned for this Nov. 16.



From the beautiful sounds of the natural world found in Beethoven’s beloved “6th Symphony,” to the primal and mysterious sounds of a solo Native American flute in “Lake That Speaks,” to the powerful and percussive music in the world premiere of “Burning” by local composer Ryan Suleiman, it promises to be a wonderful evening of

orchestral music.

Join Symphony d’Oro for this free concert celebrating the majesty, power, and mystery of planet Earth, on Saturday evening, Nov. 16, at Cordova High School’s Performing Arts Theater.

For more information, visit: www.symphonydoro.org/2019/Earth.

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“Doctor Sleep” & “Harriet” At The Movies Plus “Last Christmas” & “Ford v Ferrari”

by Chris Narloch

If you can find a theater in the Sacramento area that is still playing “The Lighthouse,” don’t miss your opportunity to see this fascinating freak-out from Robert Eggers, the director of “The Witch,” on the big screen.

A bizarre, black-and-white psychological thriller starring Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson – both excellent in it – “The Lighthouse” is a must-see if you like your movies on the (very) dark side.

Speaking of the dark side, “Doctor Sleep,” the long-awaited sequel to “The Shining,” is currently in theaters, and I also review three other big films below that are vying for your movie dollar.

Last Christmas

I had to take off my critic hat and just wallow in the wackiness of this new holiday flick, a strange love story starring Emilia Clarke (“Game of Thrones”) and Henry Golding (“Crazy Rich Asians”) and co-written by their costar Emma Thompson.

Since I have a thing for beautiful Asian men and for British accents,

stage or on the big screen, Erivo is a powerhouse performer, and her supporting cast, which includes Janelle Monae, Leslie Odom Jr., Jennifer Nettles, and Joe Alwyn, also shines. Thanks to strong work by director Kasi Lemmons, “Harriet” honors a real-life female superhero.

performance by Jack Nicholson.

“Doctor Sleep,” on the other hand, features an oddly muted turn by Ewan McGregor as the grown-up Danny plus pedestrian filmmaking by Flanagan.

The suspense-free sequel – which is two-and-a-half long hours in duration – only really gets going in its last 30 minutes, when the



Ewan McGregor stars in “Doctor Sleep”



A still from “Harriet”

director tries (and mostly fails) to recreate the Kubrick magic by returning to the Overlook Hotel.

Ford v Ferrari

American automotive designer Carroll Shelby and fearless British racecar driver Ken Miles battled corporate interference, the laws of physics and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary vehicle for the Ford Motor Co.

Together, they planned to compete against the racecars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966. Director James Mangold nails this true story,

Golding is my idea of the perfect guy. Clarke is also super-cute as the holiday elf that falls for his character, and Thompson and Michelle Yeoh provide superb support.

The movie has a whopper of a tearjerker twist that I won’t spoil, and the humor is hit-and-miss, but the whole thing is so bright and Christmas-y looking, that I couldn’t resist it. Best of all, the entire soundtrack is filled with vintage George Michael hits – including the title song – in a lovely tribute to the late, great singer.

Harriet

This terrific biopic about Harriet Tubman could bring star Cynthia Erivo an Oscar nomination for her moving performance as the American abolitionist and political activist who helped free some 70 slaves via the Underground Railroad.

Whether she’s on the Broadway



Matt Damon and Christian Bale star in “Ford v Ferrari”

Doctor Sleep

This movie, directed by horror hack Mike Flanagan, was a huge disappointment for me, especially since “The Shining” is one of my favorite scary movies from the ‘80s. That movie boasted amazing direction by the late, great Stanley Kubrick and an unforgettable

and Matt Damon and Christian Bale star in the movie -- a total stud-fest from start to finish. What more do you need to know?

See “Ford v Ferrari” at Sacramento’s Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street, beginning Nov. 14. For show times and to purchase tickets, visit www.imax.com/imax-esquire-00.

Two Terrific Films Arrive On DVD

by Chris Narloch

Two of the finest films from this past summer are now available for home viewing on DVD and Blu-ray, and both titles are must-see movies that many fans will want to own. Read on for my thoughts about “The Farewell” and “The Peanut Butter Falcon.”



Zhao Shuzhen and Awkwafina star in “The Farewell”

The Farewell

After her hilarious supporting role in “Crazy Rich Asians,” I knew that Awkwafina could act, but I was unprepared for the depth and vividness of her dramatic work in this moving dramedy about a Chinese family that declines to tell grandma that she is terminal. Based on actual events in writer-director Lulu Wang’s own life, “The Farewell” surprises at every turn – including its twist ending – with a resonance and a gentle sense of humor that could potentially earn Oscar nominations next year. I am definitely rooting for Awkwafina to at least get nominated this time, after she was robbed of an Oscar nod for “Crazy Rich Asians.”



Zack Gottsagen and Shia LaBeouf star in “The Peanut Butter Falcon”

The Peanut Butter Falcon

Aside from Jennifer Lopez’s stunning return to form in “Hustlers,” the most surprising comeback by an actor this year was that of Shia LaBeouf, the formerly troubled actor who totally redeemed himself with his touching work in this film and in the semi-autobiographical movie “Honey Boy” (which had yet to open in Sacramento when I wrote this). In “The Peanut Butter Falcon,” LaBeouf plays a small-time outlaw who becomes the mentor to a spirited young man with Down syndrome who has run away from a care home to fulfill his dream of attending a pro wrestling school. This movie is incredibly sweet – but not in a cloying way – and it has a superb supporting cast that includes Dakota Johnson, Thomas Haden Church, John Hawkes, Bruce Dern, and the amazing Zack Gottsagen, who plays the unforgettable title character.

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Don't Miss "The Threepenny Opera" At UC Davis



The Threepenny Opera by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill is considered a masterpiece of 20th-century musical theatre. It will receive a rare area production courtesy of UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance this Nov. 14-23.

Described by Brecht as a "play with music," the 1928 masterwork is a criticism of capitalism and middle-class morality -- set in a world of corruption -- with a score that draws upon opera, jazz and cabaret.

"The Threepenny Opera" focuses on the exploits of Macheath, an amoral criminal in Victorian London, who manipulates women and the law with equal dexterity.

The work has been translated into 18 languages and has amassed more than 10,000 performances internationally. The opening song about Macheath's murderous ways, "Mack the Knife," became an unlikely pop hit in the 1950s for both Louis Armstrong and Bobby Darin.

"The Threepenny Opera," which contains adult themes and language, was adapted from a translation by Elisabeth

Hauptmann of John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera." The UC Davis production uses an English translation with dialogue by Robert MacDonald and an English translation of the lyrics by Jeremy Sams.

The musical is co-directed by Peter Lichtenfels, professor of theatre and dance, and performance studies doctoral student Regina Maria Gutierrez Bermudez. Music direction is by Granada Artist-in-Residence Jeffrey Saver, who has conducted "Chicago The Musical," "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Into the Woods" on Broadway.

"The Threepenny Opera" will perform in the Main Theatre, Wright Hall, on the UC Davis campus. To purchase tickets, visit: <https://arts.ucdavis.edu/seasonal-event/threepenny-opera>.

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Comedian Vicki Barbolak Performing In Sacramento

Comedian Vicki Barbolak, fan favorite and Top 10 finalist on America's Got Talent (AGT), will be appearing at the 24th Street Theatre in Sacramento on Thursday, December 12, 2019. Doors open at 6:00 pm, show starts at 7:15 pm. Opening acts include local comedians Melissa McGillicuddy and Suzette Veneti. The show will benefit Sunburst Projects, a local non-profit organization that has been providing essential services to children and families living with HIV/AIDS for over 38 years.

Comedian Vicki Barbolak



Barbolak's "Trailer Nasty" comedy show is selling out venues across the country, including Tuesday Nights at the Jimmy Kimmel Theatre in Las Vegas. Barbolak took the comedy world by storm when she was a top 10 finalist on Season 13 of America's Got Talent in 2018. She was also featured on the 2019 AGT Champions show. Before AGT, Barbolak was a writer for Rosanne Barr and was a member of Jay Leno's Laugh Squad.

"I am so grateful to help my friends at Sunburst who recognized over 30 years ago that support was needed to be offered to children and families affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. I hope you'll join us in this busy season to spend an evening laughing, de-stressing, and relaxing while giving a gift that means so much to so many - support and encouragement," said Vicki Barbolak.

Sunburst Projects, a 501(c)(3) organization, is well known for Camp Sunburst, a residential summer camp for children and teens living with HIV/AIDS. Camp Sunburst has been used as a model for similar therapeutic camps around the world. In addition to Camp Sunburst, the organization


provides family centered Medical Case Management, Mental Health Services, HIV Education and Prevention, and Maternal and Child Health Services. "We are thrilled to have a star like Vicki here in Sacramento to support our mission," said Geri DeLaRosa, Founder and Executive Director of Sunburst Projects. "We provide essential services to over 300 families affected by HIV/AIDS here in the Sacramento area and Vicki's very generous gift of a comedy show will help us tremendously, especially as we head into the holiday season," she added.

Ticket prices range from \$25 for general admission, \$35 for preferred seating, and \$55 for VIP.

Wine and beer will be sold along with holiday gifts and a wine pull. Vicki Barbolak will hold a live auction at the end of her performance. Guests will have the opportunity for photographs with Vicki at the end of the show.

To purchase tickets go to <https://trailernastycomedyshow.brownpapertickets.com>

Or visit: www.sunburstprojects.org



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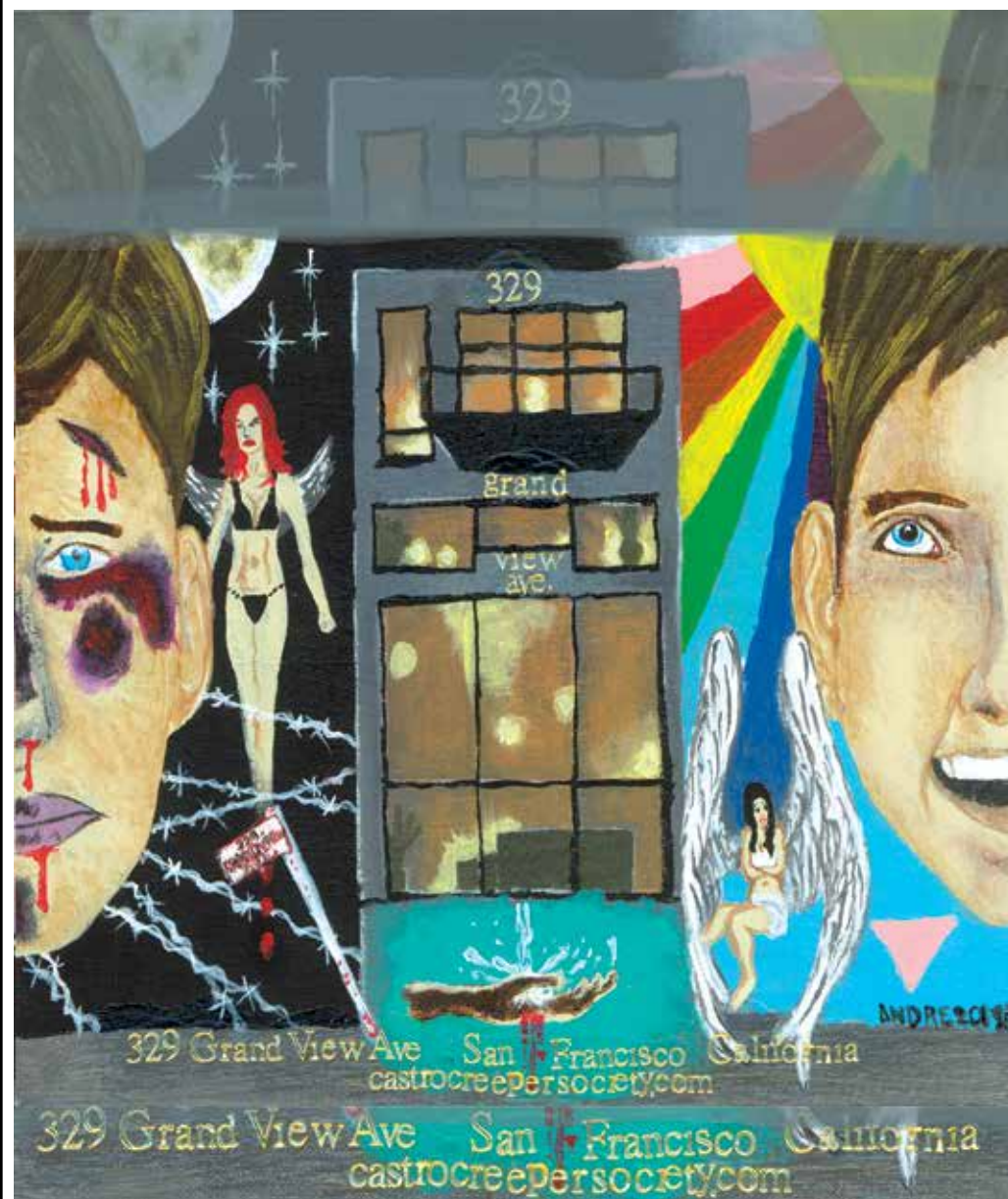
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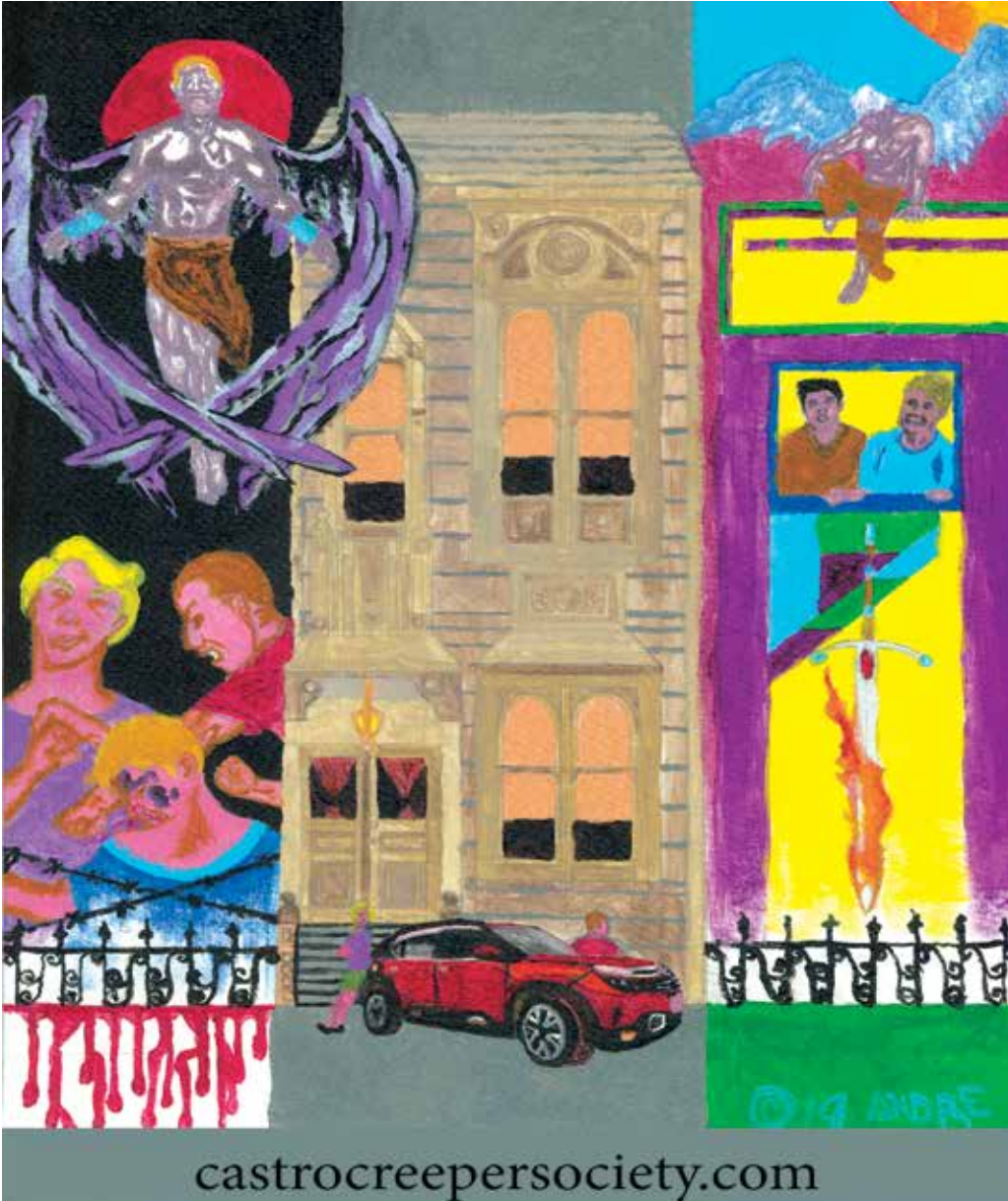
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Heavenly Dance Music From Dolly Parton, Whitney Houston & More

by Chris Narloch

If you haven't seen the music video for "Faith," a delicious new dance track featuring Dolly Parton and Galantis (a Swedish EDM duo), you need to YouTube it immediately.



That marvelous mini-movie has Parton driving a party bus and singing Christian disco -- it's heaven on earth for Dolly fans and disco fans alike.

Another legendary singer -- the late, great Whitney Houston -- also recently "collaborated" with a famous DJ, Kygo, who was handpicked by her estate to remix Houston's dynamite cover of Steve Winwood's classic hit "Higher Love."

I haven't reviewed any disco music in ages, so here are some other recent dance-pop releases you might like. If you feel the urge to bust a move and shake your groove thing, I can't be held responsible.

Avicii -- Tim

This posthumous CD by the troubled Swedish DJ Avicii, whose real name was Tim Bergling, has as its centerpiece the prophetic song "SOS," a collaboration with the sensational soul singer Aloe Blacc that is almost as good as their megahit "Wake Me Up."

"SOS" isn't the only terrific track on "Tim," however. The disc also teams Avicii with Chris Martin of Coldplay for "Heaven," and Imagine Dragons appears on "Heart Upon My Sleeve." The album is a must-have for Avicii's millions of fans.

Sofi Tukker -- Dancing on the People

Try as I might, I just can't get into this popular dance duo, who had a hit with the wacky song "Batshit" last year. The pair is back with a six-song EP that features more oddball tunes, such as "Playa Grande" and "Purple Hat." If you enjoyed their previous record then you'll probably like this one too. I didn't care for either.

Mika -- My Name Is Michael Holbrook

This 36-year-old English singer puts a smile on my face with his bouncy dance-pop, which is disposable pop music at its most addictive. Mika's new songs, including "Ice Cream," "Tiny Love," "Dear Jealousy," and "Ready To Call This Love," are just as catchy as former hits like "Grace Kelly," "Lollipop," and "Popular Song."

Gryffin -- Gravity

This full-length debut from the L.A.-based artist/producer Gryffin is a success from start to finish and features guest vocals from such talented singers as Carly Rae Jepsen ("OMG"), Aloe Blacc ("Hurt People"), Zohara ("Remember"), and Maia Wright ("Body Back"). If you're a fan of dance music, this album is essential listening.



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AUGUSTEN BURROUGHS TOIL & TROUBLE

“Toil & Trouble”

by Augusten Burroughs

Halloween is over this year, but not for you. Your decorations are still up because the season is young. There's plenty of time left for skeletons, monsters, and wind that howls like a banshee. You can still hear spirits high-stepping in your upstairs. Most important of all: as in the new book, “Toil & Trouble” by Augusten Burroughs, witches walk among us.

At just eight years old, Augusten Burroughs learned that he was a witch.

Riding the bus home from school, he'd had the sudden realization that something happened to his grandmother; he knew without knowing, saw without seeing, and he rushed to his mother in a panic. Matter-of-factly, she calmed him; she was a witch, too, and had sensed that her younger son had the “Gift.”

“It was the strongest bond my mother and I had when I was young...” Burroughs says.

Most people think of Hollywood magic or crones on brooms when they think of witches but those are just myths, he says. The truth comes in three parts: witches have existed for as long as have humans. They've “always been misunderstood.” And yes, “witches are real,” and each is a little different, as Burroughs learned when his Aunt Curtis (a witch) introduced him to a root woman (another witch) who told him something about his future.

Witchcraft isn't perfect, though. It didn't help much while Burroughs was bullied as a boy. Sometimes, spells took longer to work than he hoped they might. It isn't for revenge or hurtful purposes, although there is a way to influence how things turn out and patience is key. “Magick” worked when he wanted to move from Manhattan to his beloved New

England; it didn't work when he wanted to talk to a friend on the phone. It warned him of a possibly-bad situation near his new home, but there were no details. It helps find lost objects, but not lost confidence.

And when his magick went missing as his husband fell seriously ill, Burroughs learned that “Things are not as they appear. They are much, much more.”

When starting “Toil & Trouble,” you could be forgiven for thinking that author Augusten Burroughs is pulling your leg. He does, after all, write with humor and this witch stuff is conjured, right? Isn't it?

After a few more pages, it won't matter. You'll be so engrossed by this tale of the magick of life and so caught up in the stories Burroughs tells, that witchcraft really becomes no big deal, no less normal than blue eyes or brown hair. And while it's the main reason for this book and everything attached to it, it's more of a magically delightful, meaningful backdrop for tales of family, growing up gay, falling in love with a man, finding home, and forgiving.

“Toil & Trouble” is not a dark-and-stormy-night kind of book, and it won't make you jumpy. There are, however, a few hair-raising pages that'll make you squirm but mostly, it's funny and sweet and charming, a cauldron full of goodness.

CONDOM SHORTAGE?

Yes, many community organizations in Sacramento no longer receive free condoms from traditional sources. This puts lives at risk.



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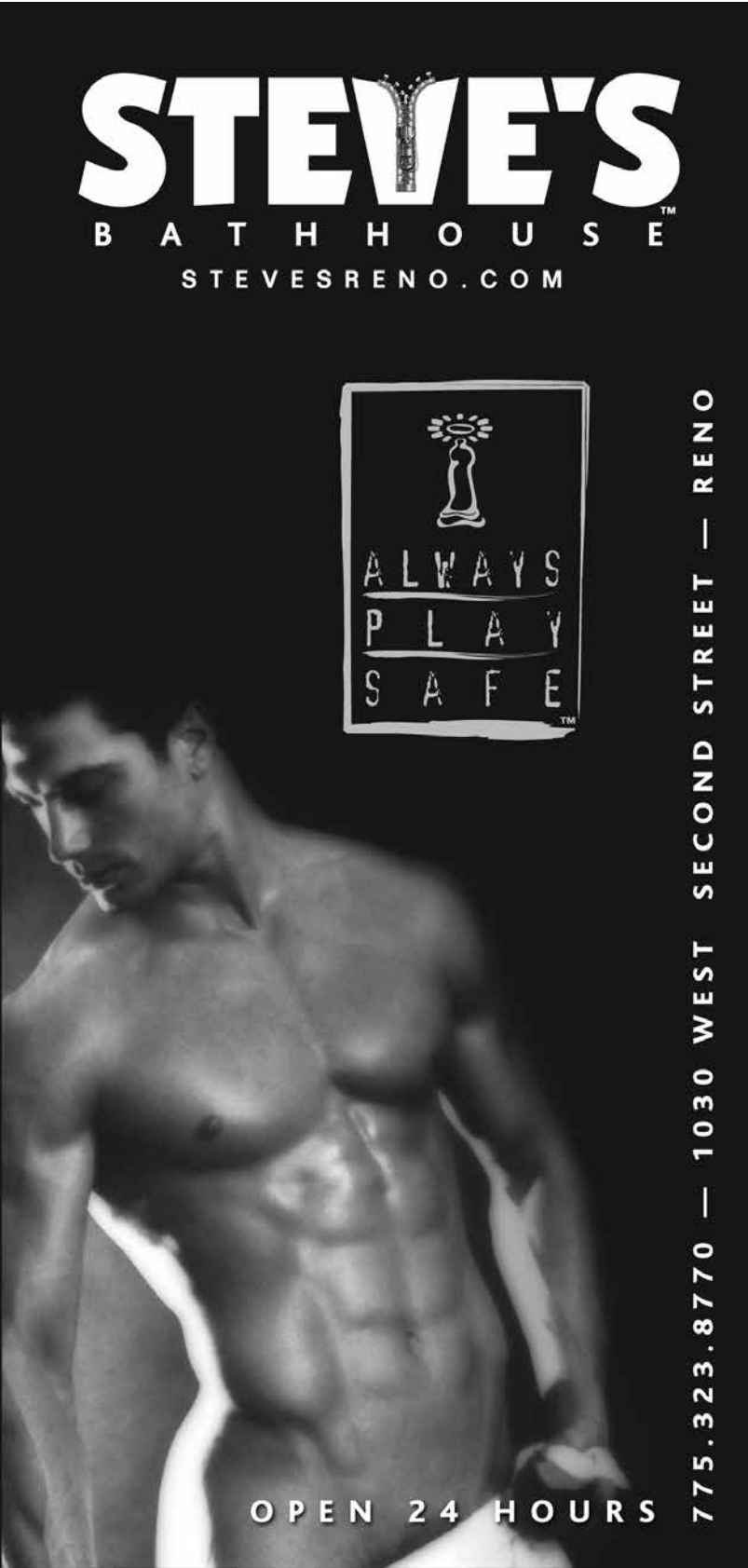
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The Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief, January 2014



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