

Outward



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LGBTQ+ Study on Youth and Young Adult COVID-19 Vaccination Finds Surprising Results

Out Boulder County in partnership with El Centro AMISTAD and Unwoven Ventures with the leadership of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth created what may be the nation's first LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth-led survey on COVID-19 vaccination uptake, acceptance, hesitancy, and resistance. A key finding of the survey is that economic disadvantage and race make a meaningful impact on vaccination rates and levels of acceptance.

"LGBTQ+ and BIPOC young people are too often ignored by the medical establishment and society. It was important to Out Boulder County and our partners to have youth lead the survey and to elevate voices in these too often ignored communities," said Mardi Moore, Executive Director of Out Boulder County which provides advocacy, services, programs and support to LGBTQ+ communities in Boulder County and beyond. "Understanding their views and attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccination is crucial to managing and ending this pandemic."

There were 420 respondents who met the criteria for inclusion in the survey. It consisted of 37 questions, was offered in both English and Spanish, and targeted youth ages 12 to 17 and young adults between the ages of 18 to 24.

"Studying vaccination rates as well as views, attitudes, and barriers to vaccination at these intersections of identities revealed valuable data that should inform efforts to promote vaccination," said Michal Duffy, Director of Education and Research at Out Boulder County. "The data clearly reveal that a person's socio-economic status and identity impacts their views toward vaccination and their successful uptake of the vaccine."

When it comes to understanding COVID-19 vaccine reluctance, this information is crucial to an effective community vaccination program, which requires participation by people of every age group and demographic.

Key Survey Findings Economic Status Impact on Vaccination Rates

A key finding of this study is that economically disadvantaged respondents have lower rates of vaccination overall. Economic disadvantage made a much more significant impact on LGBTQ vaccination rates as compared to non-LGBTQ vaccination rates. The following bulleted data points illustrate this key finding.

- 40% of economically disadvantaged LGBTQ young adults ages 18-24 are vaccinated, where as the vaccination rates jump to 86% for those who are economically resourced. 70% of economically disadvantaged LGBTQ youth ages 12-17 are vaccinated compared to 81% who are economically resourced.
- All non-LGBTQ respondents ages 18-24, whether economically disadvantaged or

resourced, have a 78% vaccination rate. For youth ages 12-17, economically disadvantaged non-LGBTQ respondents are vaccinated at a slightly higher rate of 61% than those who are economically resourced at a rate of 58%.

The results also showed a significant relationship between race, economic advantage, and vaccination rates. Economically disadvantaged Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) respondents have a significantly higher vaccination rate than economically disadvantaged White respondents.

- For financially disadvantaged respondents ages 12-17, BIPOC youth reported a 68% vaccination rate compared to 57% for White respondents. For ages 18-24, the difference is even greater at 80% of BIPOC respondents compared to 27% of White respondents.

Vaccine Acceptance, Hesitancy, and Resistance

While economically disadvantaged respondents revealed lower vaccination rates overall, they reported higher rates of vaccine acceptance (50% vs 30%) and hesitancy (23% vs 11%) and lower vaccine resistance (27% vs 59%), than those who are financially resourced.

This demonstrates an opportunity to reach economically disadvantaged, unvaccinated youth through innovative community-based strategies.

Another important finding is that BIPOC respondents have a significantly higher rate of vaccine acceptance and lower vaccine resistance than White respondents; this trend also holds true for Hispanic/Latinx respondents in comparison to non-Hispanic/Latinx respondents. White, non-LGBTQ respondents reported the lowest vaccination rate compared to both LGBTQ and Non-LGBTQ BIPOC.

Additional cited concerns that present opportunities for educational outreach to youth and young adults include: impacts on fertility, interactions with other conditions, associated costs, and accessibility and availability of vaccines.

Regardless of vaccination status, all respondents have concerns. Overall, mental health (65%) and physical health (58%) are the greatest concerns. Misconceptions could remove the primary barriers facing vaccine-accepting youth and young adults.



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Engaged to My Best Friend

By Kae Ragas She/They, and Judah Joslyn He/Him

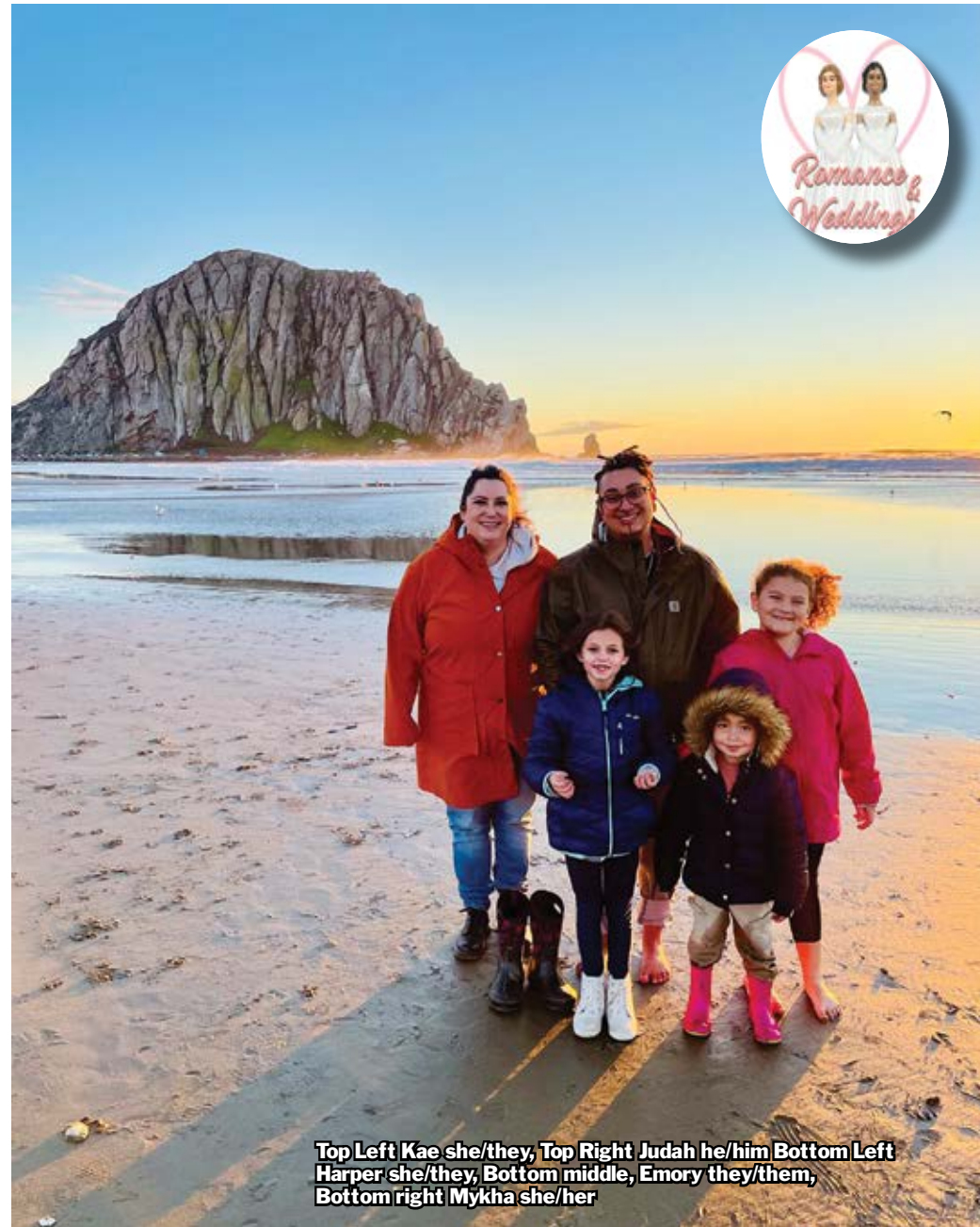
Six years ago, I was working my first job in social services. I had an amazing supervisor who showed me how to be empathic, support my community, and love myself. She often asked me to help new employees settle in, which I loved. But this new employee, Judah, was not happy to be at our site, and despite their outward display of annoyance for being in our office I did my best to get to know them and show them the ropes.

One day I was called into my supervisor's office. She told me Judah was going through a really hard time and asked that I check on them. So I called every day they were out of office, and offered my love and support as they slowly returned after being discharged from the hospital for thoughts of suicide. We began to create a deep connection, and started to open up. We supported each other in being single parents, sober, and let go of our toxic ex-partners; moving forward with being healthier, happier parents. We started to become best friends and have almost all aspects of our lives intertwined. I'll let Judah take it from here.

I later moved into Kae's apartment building one floor above them. Between our children getting closer and us relying more on each other for just about everything, we formed a great support system for each other. It was also around this time that I came out as trans and Kae supported me through every magical and difficult step of my transition.

Up to this point we had only ever acknowledged each other as best friends. Kae was not out as queer and there were moments where I wondered if they would ever come out. But then the pandemic happened, and our worlds changed forever. It became clear to me that in whatever capacity we chose it to look like Kae would be a forever partner in my life.

I had been in love with Kae since the



Top Left Kae she/they, Top Right Judah he/him Bottom Left Harper she/they, Bottom middle, Emory they/them, Bottom right Mykha she/her

beginning, but I had resigned myself that if they didn't feel the same way, then I would gladly accept their friendship. The day they came out I knew if nothing else, I had to at least tell them. Throughout our friendship Kae always said I was the perfect guy. If only they could find someone like me to be with. I told them, and we began to see if just maybe we could make this thing work.

Here we are now almost a year later engaged, living in a home we bought, raising our children and animals together. Loving each other and healing with each

other. I couldn't have imagined that life would turn out like this, but with a lot of hard work we are building a beautiful family. A magical life full of love and trust, built on a foundation of friendship. A lot of people say they married their best friend, but in our case, we truly did end up with our best friend.

You can see more of our love story on IG @Katie.Ragas or TikTok @Katieareyouup • Check out TQYC.org or @TQYC on IG to see what Judah's new work adventure is all about.

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Finding the Right Venue

by Kelle Collier

Private Event Director Granite Bay Golf Club

Choosing your wedding venue is one of the most important decisions you will need to make once you begin the planning stages of your wedding. Without your venue, date and time, you really can't begin to make any other wedding plans. It's all contingent on the venue.



Finding the right venue can be tedious, time consuming and frustrating. There is a lot of research required to find the perfect space that fits within your selected vision and budget. Most weddings book 12-16 months in advance; however, if the client is motivated weddings can be planned in 3 months or less without too many hiccups. The more short term your wedding is, the more leverage you hold for negotiating price. Most venues would rather fill the date and take less money for the space, then allow it to sit open and unoccupied.

When you start gathering menus, pricing and rates from different venues try to make sure you are comparing apples to apples. All venues are priced differently. Some are inclusive packages (meaning includes service charge and sales tax)

and some allow you to build your own packages. Always read the fine print and be sure to ask about service charge and tax. Planning a wedding is a lot like buying a car, you start off with a sticker price and after a bunch of taxes and fees you end up with an out the door price.

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Citizens Who Care is now the volunteer arm of this shared community treasure. Our volunteers assist with patient care, provide respite for caregivers, work in the office or answer phones, host fundraisers and golf outings, help maintain the Mastick Therapy Garden, or serve on the Board of Directors.

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Celebrate Black History Month With Music

By Chris Narloch

From Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye back in the day, to Miguel and John Legend today, soulful male singers have made significant contributions to music history.

Of course, you don't have to be black to be a brilliant soul singer, as Adele, Sam Smith, Dusty Springfield, Joe Cocker, Van Morrison, and many others have shown.

Although soulful singers can come in any color today, soul music itself originated in the black community throughout the United States in the '50s and '60s, when performers like James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and all the amazing Motown artists reigned supreme.

To celebrate Black History Month this February, I decided to spotlight recent recordings by The Weeknd and also Anderson .Paak with Bruno Mars, three artists who definitely put soul in to their music. Here are those reviews.

The Weeknd - Dawn FM

The artist known as The Weeknd was born in Toronto, Ontario and is of Ethiopian descent. He is also one of the most successful and talented singer-songwriters making music today, in any genre.

He recently released his fifth studio album, and it's a doozy, with wacky spoken word passages in between killer beats and confessional lyrics.

The Weeknd is nothing if not adventurous, and when you take chances like he does, not everything is going to work. (There are several songs on Dawn FM that are more interesting lyrically than musically.)

Still, the good outweighs the so-so on the disc, and I especially enjoyed two passionate pleas that showcase The Weeknd's vulnerability: "How Do I Make You Love Me?" and "Don't Break My Heart."

Other standout tracks on Dawn FM include "Gasoline," "Take My Breath," "Best Friends," and "Less Than Zero."

The artist, whose real name is Abel Makkonen Tesfaye, likes to change up his look and his public persona -- sometimes in provocative ways -- but he creates music that is ready-made for both the radio (or Spotify) and the club.

On Dawn FM's best tracks, The Weeknd sounds like he is ready for the weekend.



Silk Sonic - An Evening with Silk Sonic

This soulful supergroup is a collaboration between two of our finest male artists, Anderson .Paak and Bruno Mars, who toured together and then decided to make music together.

Anderson .Paak was born in Oxnard, CA and is of mixed African-American and Korean heritage. Mars, who some music fans mistakenly think is Black, hails from Hawaii and can claim Spanish, Puerto Rican, Filipino, and Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

Since I am less of a hip-hop guy and more of a retro-soul fan, I absolutely loved An Evening with Silk Sonic, which leans more toward Mars' polished, pop-soul sound. Silk Sonic brings old-school soul into the 21st Century thanks to the duo's skill and attitude.

The pair shrewdly take the braggadocio that is so prevalent in hip-hop, apply it to '70s soul, and the result is a CD that sounds like today and yesterday at the same time. The three well-chosen singles from the album are probably the best examples of this.

The first single, "Leave the Door Open," is a hilarious come-on from a player to one of his beloveds, and it includes these classic lyrics: 'If you smoke, I got the haze / And if you're hungry, girl, I got filets.'

On "Skate," the second single from An Evening with Silk Sonic, the two men flatter a woman with this crazy compliment: 'Mmm, you smell better than a barbecue.'

The third single, "Smokin' Out The Window," dissas an errant girlfriend with this amusing putdown: 'got her badass kids runnin' round my whole crib / like it's Chuck E. Cheese.'

Mars has been attacked by some haters for sounding karaoke, and there are moments when the cleverness on An Evening with Silk Sonic wears thin. Yet the duo's love for soul music is so genuine, and their musicianship so undeniable that I couldn't help but have a smile on my face while I listened to this CD.





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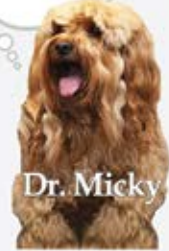
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Queer-ish V-Day Gifts for the Queer You Love-ish

By Mikey Rox



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Eat Me Guilt Free Brownies

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Meathearts

Where's the beef? It's in this bag of flirty jerky that offers a savory spin on holiday-staple conversation hearts, featuring laser-etched phrases like "Meat Me," "XoXo" and "Beef Mine." \$23, manlymanco.com



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Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels



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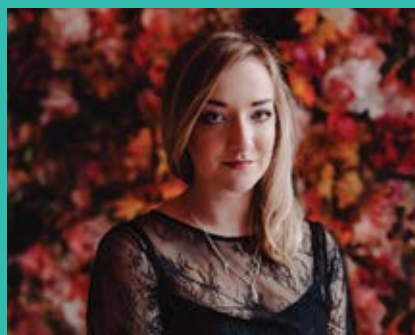
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Super Smart Trans Woman Amy Schneider Takes Jeopardy By Storm

By Chris Narloch



Outword salutes Amy Schneider, the incredibly fast and smart trans woman who recently ended her historic run on the popular game show Jeopardy, after 40 wins. The first transgender contestant to make it to the Tournament of Champions, Ms. Schneider won close to \$1.4 million in the second-longest winning streak in the quiz show's history. Amy, who lives and works in Oakland, CA, is also the eleventh highest-earning contestant ever, across all American game shows. Congrats Amy!

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SCAN ME





Peter Dinklage Is Larger Than Life In "Cyrano" Plus Halle Berry Heads To Space In "Moonfall"

By Chris Narloch

My movie reviews this issue include three films with Oscar potential and a new sci-fi action flick with Halle Berry and Patrick Wilson that could sweep the Golden Raspberry (Razzie) Awards next year. Read on for all the juicy details.



Moonfall

Not since the heyday of Irwin Allen in the '70s has Hollywood produced a shlocky big-budget film this fun. (Allen was the producer of "The Poseidon Adventure" and "The Towering Inferno," the two finest disaster movies made during the decade when that genre was at its peak of popularity.) "Moonfall," which stars Halle Berry and Patrick Wilson as two former NASA astronauts who must return to space to keep the moon from leaving its orbit and crashing into Earth, is one of those rare movies that is so bad it's good. The entire film is preposterous from start to finish, and my jaw felt like it was on the floor by the end. Many of the effects in "Moonfall" are amazing and some are cheesy, but the energy and the entertainment never fail. Every time I thought that this crazy movie couldn't get any more ridiculous, the filmmakers surprised me and topped themselves. "Moonfall" is currently in wide release in theaters, and it's a hoot.



Cyrano

The great Peter Dinklage gives an Oscar-caliber performance as the title character in the latest adaptation of Edmond Rostand's timeless tale of a selfless guy who helps another man woo the woman that they both love. This version of the story is based on a recent stage musical by Dinklage's wife that follows Rostand's play very closely. The new "Cyrano" is still a period piece (this time with stunning Italian locations), but it's also a musical now which makes it the most fun and fresh interpretation since Steve Martin's "Roxanne" in 1987. The lovely music in "Cyrano" was written by members of the band The National, and the fact that Dinklage is vertically-challenged makes for a very effective change from previous versions, in which an enormous nose kept Cyrano from having the nerve to pursue his beloved. Don't miss this terrific film and its superb lead performance. "Cyrano" is currently scheduled to open at the Tower on Feb. 25.



The Worst Person in the World

By the time you read this, "The Worst Person in the World" is likely to be a nominee for the best foreign film Oscar, which is now called "Best International Feature Film." (The nominations were scheduled to be announced on Feb. 8, the day this issue of Outword hit the streets.) This Norwegian film already won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival for Renate Reinsve's stunning performance as a young woman in Oslo who drifts from job to job and man to man trying to find meaning in her life. Co-written and directed by the very talented Joachim Trier, "The Worst Person in the World" explores love, life and death with a depth rarely seen in American movies. Fans of foreign films should not miss it. The movie is currently scheduled to open at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on Feb. 18.



Nightmare Alley: Vision in Darkness and Light

Whether I like it or not, we are living in a Marvel world now -- one where millennial moviegoers have no interest in old-school Hollywood period pieces like "Nightmare Alley" and "West Side Story." That makes me sad, but I'll keep going to bat for these underdog film flops that ought to be blockbusters. ("Nightmare Alley," which was originally wide-released on December 17, returned only about one-sixth of its \$60 million budget at the U.S. box office before disappearing from theaters.) I will admit that the movie is long and dark, but it's also beautifully directed by Guillermo del Toro and features one of the finest casts of any film in recent memory. Bradley Cooper stars as a soulless drifter headed to hell, and he finds it in the film's shocking final scene. After the movie bombed, del Toro decided to re-release it in this beautiful black-and-white version, and it has an even grittier film noir feel now. It's unheard of these days for a color film to be back in theaters in black-and-white, and "Nightmare Alley: Vision in Darkness and Light" will no doubt disappear fast all over again. I urge you to check it out if it's still playing anywhere around Sacramento.

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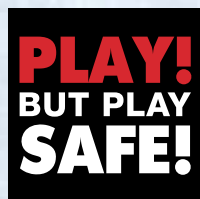
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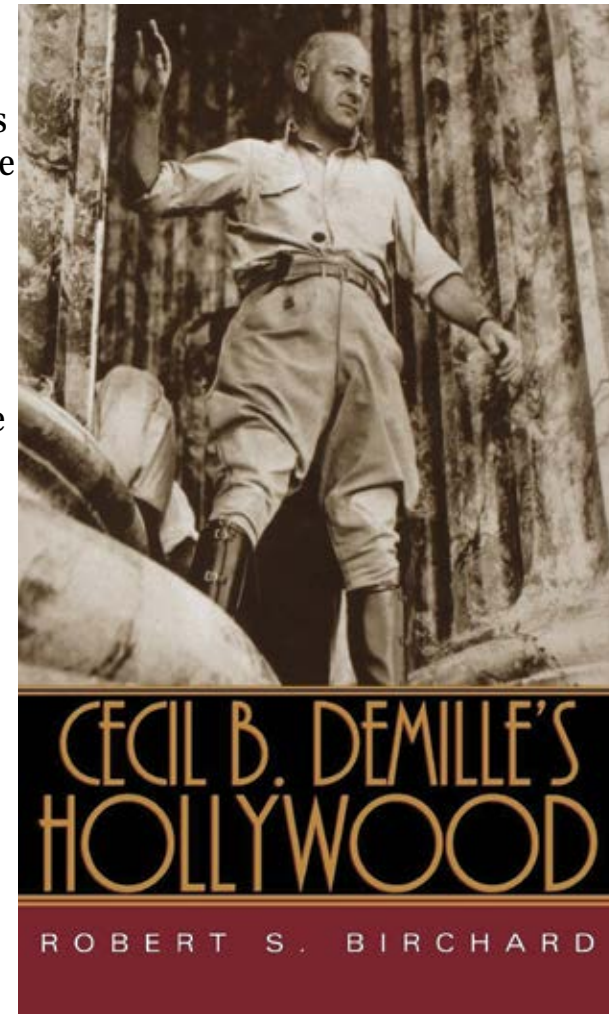
* New California law for 2022, requires all insurance to cover the cost of at-home STD testing.



University Press of Kentucky Loves Movies

By Chris Narloch

If you love movies like I do, you should check out the University Press of Kentucky website, where you can find a variety of scholarly books about everything under the sun. The Film & TV section is my favorite, as it features non-fiction titles that delve into the lives and careers of some of the greatest artists in the history of film, including brilliant directors such as Alfred Hitchcock, Orson Welles, and Cecil B. DeMille, plus iconic stars like Natalie Wood, Joan Crawford, and John Gilbert. For a complete list of available titles, please visit: www.kentuckypress.com



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Fran Lebowitz Will Crack You Up At The Mondavi Center



Fran Lebowitz will be at the Mondavi Center.

As of our deadline, the very funny Fran Lebowitz was still scheduled to perform in Davis this Feb. 24, at the Mondavi Center, and there were still tickets available. In a cultural landscape filled with endless pundits and talking heads, Ms. Lebowitz stands out as one of our most insightful social commentators, with essays and interviews that offer her acerbic views on current events, the media, and her many pet peeves. For more information, please visit: www.mondaviarts.org



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For 26 years, we have been Sacramento's resource for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and we have helped connect and maintain our community.

Because of the continuing trauma being caused by COVID, many of our advertisers are doing everything they can to stay afloat - that includes Outword Magazine. At the onset of the pandemic we changed our distribution model to an online-only affair. That helped us weather the storm, but we have since returned to both online as well traditional, printed copies. Thankfully, the response we have received after returning to print has been fantastic!

Once again we are asking that you, our readers and advertisers help us with a contribution that will be used to help keep the presses rolling. This money will assist with publishing costs, both in print and online, and help pay our staff, distribution costs and a few of our writers, among other things.

We have established OutwordRainbowFund.com for our readers and/or local businesses, should you wish to support us. If you consider us a valuable and vital resource for our LGBTQ+ community, please send some financial Love. As a Supporter, at any level, we will give you a listing in our full page ad with the Supporter level you are in, in upcoming issues (see next page for the list of those that have already contributed). If you have any questions, or comments, please feel free to drop us an email: sales@outwordmagazine.com

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Out & About

With Matthew Burlingame

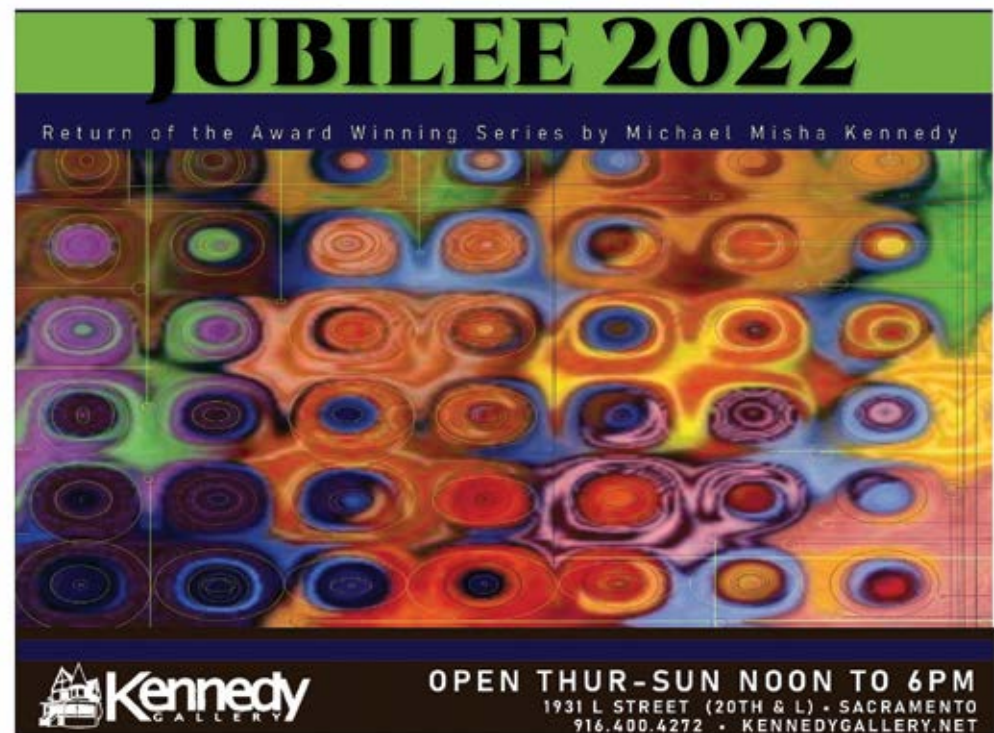
When I was a young'un imagining my perfect wedding I didn't want to walk down the aisle—I wanted to descend like an angel (or Captain Marvel) to a crowd of oohs and ahhs. Alas, I grew up to happily be a sworn bachelor. Yet I write romance novels and am a sucker for a good rom-com movie. I also always look forward to *Outword's* annual Romance and Weddings issue.

But before romance it is vital we recognize Black History Month. The Imperial Court of Sacramento (CGNIE) is doing so by inviting the community to come together as one to raise funds for local charities. Show your support at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. on Friday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. Cgnie.org

Sacramento Rainbow Chamber is playing it safe with their February 2022 Virtual Mixer. Bring your favorite cocktail or mocktail and be ready to share with us why it is your favorite drink! The Zoom event will take place, Feb. 15 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. RSVP is required. The mixer is free to members and non-members! Rainbowchamber.com

As love is in the air no doubt there are untold numbers of couples wanting to plan their nuptials (in whatever form they may take) this spring, Sunday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. the bridal showcase will be the place to plan it all! Held at Cal Expo the 7 hour event will be the place to find the best bridal professionals in the wedding industry. DJs, bands, bridal salons, gowns, tuxedos, cakes, photographers, videographers, florists, honeymoons, reception sites and everything else you haven't even thought of yet. Bridalshowcase-ca.com

Care to see something completely different? The new exhibit Ghost Dementia



Due to an abundance of caution and safety concern the February Drag Queen Bingo benefiting 916 Ink has been moved to March 3. Rainbowchamber.com

Take a break from work and come play with us at our monthly Happy Hour! Ain't nothin' gonna stop us from gettin' our drink on or just coming out to hang with friends and community! Maybe even finding that Valentine's Day date! Outword & Badlands Happy Hour resurges Friday, Feb 11 at 5:30 - 7 p.m. This is a vaccination required or a 72-hour negative test to enter the event. Badlandssac.com

Do you WOOT? Do you PWN the noobs? Elysium Cards and Games, 11725 Fair Oaks Blvd, in Fair Oaks is where you'll want to be Saturday, Feb. 12 at 1:30 p.m. for the 2 Headed Giant prerelease event for Kamigawa: Neon Dynasty 2HG. Grab a friend and go check out the return to Kamigawa as you team up against other pairs of Planeswalkers. Elysium is an LGBTQ safe space and welcomes everyone to the gaming table. Spots are limited so pre-register ASAP. elysiumcag.com

may be right up your alley! You can attend the Gallery Exhibition and Reception at The University Union at Sac State on Monday, Feb. 21 from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The exhibit features art by Jose Di Gregorio as he explores the ongoing theme of pattern repetition and saturation and brings attention to the subtleties discovered within identical paintings. Theuniversityunion.com/gallery

We never get our fill of art and the premier art show in Sacramento is currently looking for submissions for their 2022 showing and competition. Kennedy Gallery's annual Twenty20 event is open for submissions for artists of any media. This year with the generosity of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and the CA Relief Grant there will be no entry fees. The Twenty20 Show is one of the most renowned and prestigious exhibits in the region. Only the best 20 artists are selected for spots in this exhibit based on the creativity of their theme. Kennedygallery.net

Events? Announcements? Birthdays? Anniversaries? Send them to me at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.

Thank You Outword Supporters!

Current as of December 30, 2021

Once again we would like to thank those that have become sponsors of Outword Magazine! Your contribution will help us keep the lights on and the closet doors wide open. Here are a list of our Sponsors at the level they participated, so far. We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.

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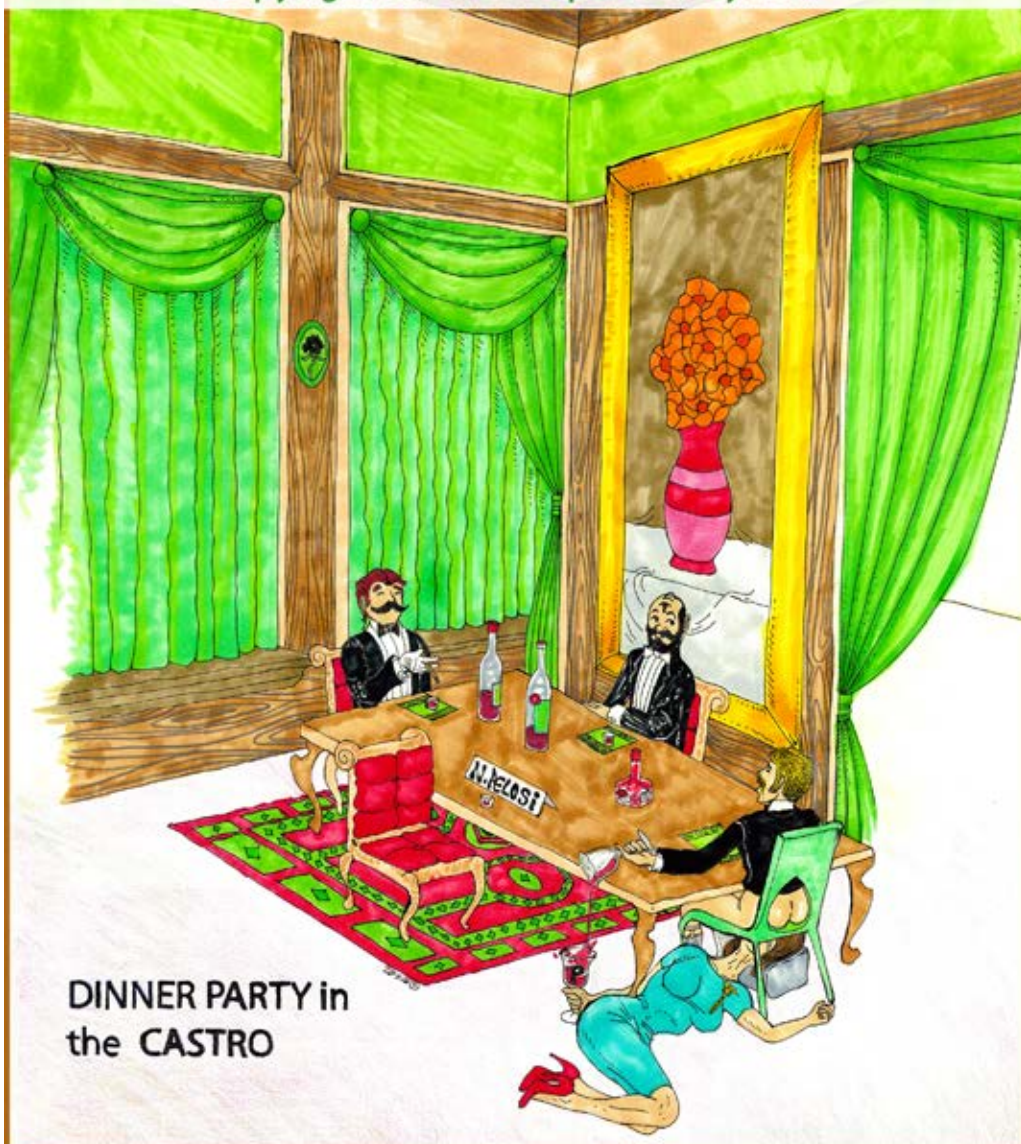
Lil Nas X Gets The Comic Book Treatment

By Chris Narloch

If anyone deserves a comic book, it's Lil Nas X. The gay Black rapper wasn't content with spending a record 19 weeks at #1 with his gazillion-selling single "Old Town Road." The progressive performer fearlessly 'came out' at the height of that run on the charts – a very risky move in the rap world – and then doubled down with one of the queerest music videos ever, for "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)," the first single off his debut, full-length CD. Lil Nas X gave the devil a lap dance in that sexy vid, and now he has his very own comic, entitled "FAME," a 22-page book tracing the journey from his childhood in Atlanta to international superstardom. For more information, visit: www.tidalwavecomics.com



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DINNER PARTY in the CASTRO

Mike Ruiz launches "The Leatherman Project"

During this season of love, *Outword* decided to show some love to the leather community with a nod to photographer Mike Ruiz, who has made it his mission to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the leather community. "The Leather Men Mike Ruiz Project" will continue to capture the stories and photos of a wide range of men who love leather (and other men). Ruiz, who is anti-fur and pro-PETA, also aims to educate the queer community about vegan alternatives to animal leather. To see more of his photography, visit: www.mikeruiz.com



Raif and Mark from the book "The Leatherman Project" by Mike Ruiz

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