

# outWOrd

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# Governor and Feds Declare Monkeypox Emergency as Vaccines Ramp Up

by Ted Ross

The number of people getting monkeypox vaccines has jumped significantly in the last two weeks, as Sacramento infections continue to rise at an alarming rate. And, with more than 1,200 cases statewide, California Governor Gavin Newsom was prompted to declare a monkeypox State of Emergency on August 1.

The virus was first reported in Sacramento on May 24. Since then, infections have steadily climbed in the region and spiked in major cities throughout the state. In the last 14 days, another 37 people have contracted the virus in Sacramento. That brings the total cases to 64, as of this writing. Given an incubation period of up to three weeks, more are expected.

According to Dr. Phil Peters, Medical Officer with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), nearly all cases are among gay and bisexual men and most infections are occurring during sex or very close physical contact. "The most common mode of transmission is direct contact with a rash, scab or bodily fluids," said Peters.

Experts agree the current outbreak first took hold during large pride-related gatherings in May and June. Since then, monkeypox has maintained a firm grip on gay and bisexual men. The CDPH cautions against stigmatizing affected groups, saying monkeypox can infect anyone.

In recent weeks, LGBT+ health advocates have loudly protested the slow government response. California-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) called out all levels of government for "failing gay men on monkeypox." On July 27, out-State Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) called on the governor to declare a State of Emergency. "Given that gay and bi men and trans people are the most impacted, it's sadly becoming clear that we are being left behind once again," said Wiener. The governor's declaration followed four days later and the federal government declared a public health emergency on August 4.

State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan says the State of Emergency will allow California to address monkeypox with an

"all-of-government approach," and implement many of the best practices learned during the COVID response. One such practice is to provide waivers allowing more people to administer vaccines. Still, the number of "vaccinators" isn't as big of a problem as the small amounts of vaccine available.

The smallpox vaccine, Jynneos is effective against monkeypox, but it is in short supply, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The New York Times reports the U.S. has ordered nearly seven million doses in total, but most of them will not arrive for months.

With many gay and bisexual men clamoring for vaccine jabs locally, Sacramento County health officials appear to be moving aggressively to put shots in arms as soon as they arrive. As of Aug 4, the county had received 3,198 doses and nearly all had been administered by the county or other local health providers. Long lines and waits have been common at providers like Pucci's Pharmacy in midtown and the Sacramento LGBT Center. Pucci's and Sunburst Clinic take appointments on their websites, when they receive a supply of vaccine. The LGBT Center has conducted pop-up vaccine clinics, with lines often wrapping around the block.

Welcome news arrived in conjunction with the governor's emergency declaration, when the federal government said another 800,000 vaccine doses were ready for immediate shipment to states and local jurisdictions. Also, the state and county health departments announced no vaccines would be held back for future second doses. The goal is to ensure more high-risk people get a first dose right away. First doses reportedly give a high level of protection within 14 days and that protection lasts as

long as two years.

Meanwhile, with vaccines in short supply, prevention and education are extremely important. If you experience symptoms, "take a break from bars, gyms, large gatherings and parties," said Dr. Eric Tang, Chief of the STD Control Branch at CDPH. He also says to ask sex partners and people you live with if they have experienced any monkeypox symptoms. Finally, Tang urges anyone exhibiting unexplained lesions or rashes to contact their healthcare provider immediately.

Let's talk **MONKEYPOX**

Monkeypox is on the rise in California. This disease is commonly spread through touching, kissing, and sex and is especially impacting gay, bisexual, trans, and other men who have sex with men.

**— KNOW THE SYMPTOMS\* —**

Rashes, sores, bumps, or blisters that appear on your genitals or other parts of your body, fever, headaches, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes.

**— STAY SAFE —**

Before close contact with others, check to see that you and your partner/s are free from unusual sores or rashes.

**— IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS —**

If you have symptoms, take a break from seeing others, wear a mask, cover sores/rashes, and call a health care provider or local clinic about testing and treatment.

[LEARN MORE](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)  
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\*Symptoms can start 5-21 days after being exposed

## Want a Monkeypox Vaccine?

Both the state and county health departments are moving quickly to distribute and administer vaccine jabs as soon as new doses arrive from the federal government. New shipments arrive regularly, but demand is far outpacing supply.

Locally, the County Health Department, Pucci's Pharmacy, the LGBT Center, Sunburst Clinic, Golden Rule Services, and One Community Health have administered shots. Check their websites for eligibility requirements, availability, dates and locations. Long lines or waits may occur, so be patient.

Monkeypox vaccines are administered just under the skin, rather than into the muscle like COVID or other vaccines. So, many people say the shot is almost painless, with very little soreness in the days following.

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# Abstract to Pop Art, Live Music and More, Midtown Offers Plenty to See & Do on Second Saturday

A center for culture, creativity and vibrancy, Midtown Sacramento is an exciting Second Saturday Art Walk destination where local art galleries, creatives and participating businesses collaborate to host a popular evening open house each month. Midtown guests will enjoy viewing art exhibits, meeting local artists, listening to live music, experiencing artistry in motion, and much more.

A sampling of the Second Saturday offerings presented by Midtown art galleries and local creatives includes the following:

The Art Studios (1727 I Street) – art enthusiasts will be treated to “A World of Light,” a special show of art glass and expressive painting in the big gallery at The Art Studios on Second Saturday in August. The show features the works of glass artist Eli Pitts and expressionist painter Lori Franz with their complementary views of light and the world. Blown glass is the medium of light, light refraction and light magnification, creating a world of shape and color while painting illuminates the world of people, space and emotion. For more, visit [www.theartstudiossacramento.com](http://www.theartstudiossacramento.com).

vendor sharing how-to information about candle making, soap making, floral arranging, succulent planting, cooking, and more. For details, visit [www.midtownfarmersmarketsac.com](http://www.midtownfarmersmarketsac.com).

• Self Designs Art Gallery (1117 18th Street) – the community will enjoy local artwork plus live music during a special Second Saturday celebration in August. Guests will enjoy a Courtyard Concert with live performances from local singers, poets, string and key musicians including Ninfingers, Yvette Couvson, Nici Martin, Vs. The Girl, Chuck Mullen, Dan Bednarczyk, and AJ Kelley. Plus, in the 1801 L Street courtyard located behind Saigon Alley, guests will enjoy access to live music, amazing wire sculptures, historical artworks, handmade jewelry, and acrylic pour paintings by talented local artists. Advance tickets available via Eventbrite.

• Viewpoint Photographic Art Center (2015 J Street) – from the abstract to the historic, Second Saturday guests can enjoy a variety of artistic experiences in August. In the Main Gallery, the Huntington Witherill: Enigmata exhibit will be on display that invites viewers to use their imaginations, memories, and visual sensibilities to interpret mysterious images created by the artist. Then in the Step-Up Gallery, enthusiasts will enjoy the Les Allert: Iron Horse exhibit featuring some of the artists’ passions – historic places and things, and historical methods of photographic printing. For more, visit [www.viewpointgallery.org](http://www.viewpointgallery.org).



Cantina Alley (2331 K Street) – a lively, fun and family-friendly Second Saturday Vendor Fair, Food & Live Music activation will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. on Second Saturday. Guests can enjoy shopping from 12+ vendors, meeting local artists, enjoying cultural art displays, and more. For details, see this Facebook event.

• Kennedy Gallery Sacramento (1931 L Street) – an always-popular art destination in Midtown, the Kennedy Gallery is excited to present The Pop Art Festival as part of Second Saturday in August. Guests can expect to experience and enjoy a modern spin as local artists use current topics and items to create bright fun masterpieces. Plus, guests will have the opportunity to see a signed Andy Warhol original signed Marilyn Monroe print on special display. For more, visit [www.kennedygalleriesacramento.com](http://www.kennedygalleriesacramento.com).

• Midtown Farmers Market Art Demo (20th Street between L and Capitol) – market shoppers will enjoy a fun and free demonstration about how to create art with recycled materials that is being offered by The Reclaimist beginning at 11:30 a.m. Second Saturday demonstrations and classes will continue each month with a different

A perfect complement to an amazing array of art galleries, Midtown also offers plentiful vintage, local and unique shopping boutiques to round out a memorable Second Saturday experience, a number of which include Freestyle Clothing Exchange (1906 L Street), Heart Clothing Boutique (1903 Capitol Ave.), Mas Bueno Boutique (2231 J Street), Peek a Boo at Prevues (1417 K Street), to name just a few.

A user-friendly map of Midtown Sacramento destinations is available at [www.exploremidtown.org/explore/map/](http://www.exploremidtown.org/explore/map/). In addition to offering numerous public transportation options, Midtown Sacramento is walkable and bike/scooter/car-share friendly. For additional information, you can also follow on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/exploremidtown/](http://www.facebook.com/exploremidtown/) and @ExploreMidtown on Instagram and Twitter.



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# Transgender Fashion Models Navigate Their Individual Paths to Stardom on Here-TV's "Road to the Runway"

“Road to the Runway,” Here-TV’s new docu-series premiering Friday, August 5, examines the roles that gender, race, socio-economic status, and familial approval play in the lives of young, beautiful women charting their course toward fashion’s latest frontier: the transgender supermodel.

The series profiles the twenty hopefuls competing in this year’s annual Slay Model search. Cameras follow the women to their hometowns to uncover their roots: the environments they were reared in and the circumstances that helped shape them into the beautiful, statuesque, fashionable young women they are today. Executive produced by GLAAD-award winner, Cecilio Asuncion and Phil Anthony, RD Alba and produced by Emmy-award winner David Millbern, Paul Colichman, Stephen P. Jarchow and John Mongiardo, “Road to the Runway” is an important reminder that these Trans models are more than mannequins: they are daughters, friends, and partners in love, with stories that deserve to be heard.

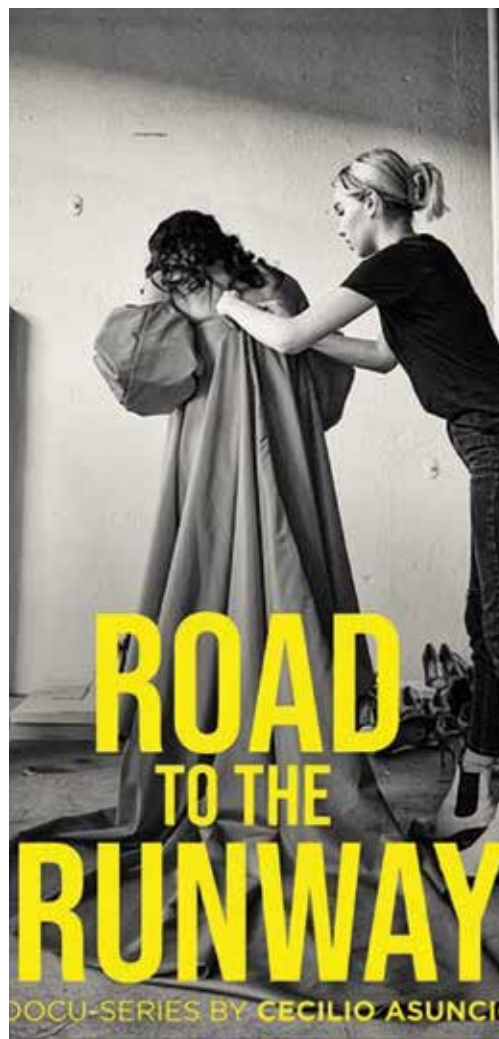
Among the cities visited in “Road to the Runway” are Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, and Florida. In Azle, TX, viewers meet Mylla James who comes from a highly conservative family, yet they support their daughter, joining her at photo shoots and even traveling with her to model opportunities in Los Angeles. “Most home

towns we visit on “Road to the Runway” are not in areas people would consider progressive,” Slay Model founder Cecilio Asuncion reflects. “It’s interesting that in many of the cases, we often find with parents that when it comes to loving their daughters, politics takes a back seat.”

It was evident culturally, as well. Ayden Yee is a 15-year-old track star who ranks second in her state of Wisconsin. She is of Chinese descent, a culture where sons are traditionally deemed as more valuable. Cameras show the Yee family embracing Ayden for who she is.

Sadly, not all of the women are so lucky. “The reality is a majority of our models have struggled their whole lives with living as their authentic true selves,” Asuncion continues. “They live in a world where simply walking out of the house takes incredible courage.”

Still, their anguish could prove an advantage in the harrowing world of fashion. It takes more than beauty to be a bookable model. It takes determination, grit, and a visceral understanding that the



woman is a model first, and Trans second. “As is often the case in model competitions, the real challenge is an internal one,” Asuncion says. “It used to be that women reshaped themselves to fit the industry standard; striving to match the idealized version of a Barbie doll. Today’s fashion industry wants to see the real, unfiltered woman beneath the lashes and lipstick.”

What Trans models have in their favor today – unlike any other time in history – is that clients are looking for diversity and representation. Slay Model Management models have appeared in campaigns for M-A-C Cosmetics, Hyundai, Harper’s Bazaar, Vogue Germany, Macy’s, to name just a few. The urge for diversity even accounts for why the show was picked up by the network. “At Here-TV, diversity and inclusion remain the central focus of our programming strategy,” says Emmy-winning actor and producer David Millbern.

The winning model of this year’s annual Slay Model search earns a spot in a M-A-C Campaign, a trip to London to shoot a Carmen Liu Lingerie campaign, a Colors of Love ring and a social media campaign from Faberge’, shoes from Lidia Talavera, and a year contract with Slay Model Management.

“Road to the Runway” is showing not on Here-TV

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## Yountville Boasts the Most Outdoor Dining Per Capita in Wine Country

Open-air dining is more popular than ever, as locals and visitors are eager to get back to a favorite restaurant and once again enjoy the culinary scene in wine country.

Yountville, the culinary heart of the Napa Valley, boasts the most outdoor dining spots per capita in wine country, with all of its restaurants and cafés offering open-air dining. Increasingly, many prefer outside seating, which offers an additional level of enjoyment while taking advantage of Napa Valley's natural beauty and ideal weather from early spring and until late autumn. The Town of Yountville is the perfect location to dine in the sunshine or under the stars.

From Chef Thomas Keller's Ad Hoc on one end to Bouchon Bistro on the other end, dining establishments in SoYo (South Yountville) that feature outdoor dining spaces include Keller's La Calenda, Bouchon Bakery, Regiis Ova Caviar and Champagne Lounge and Addendum, along with Mini Model Bakery, Bistro Jeanty, and Ottimo, Coqueta and Bottega from Chef Michael Chiarello. Velo Deli & Pizzeria Yountville also offers picnic tables for a quick, house made sandwich or slice of pizza between wine tastings.



**Bouchon patio in Yountville, CA. Photo by Sara Davis.**

In NoYo (North Yountville), options for open air dining include a variety of establishments, including R&D Kitchen, RH Yountville and Southside, each offering a variety of cuisines, wine, beer and cocktails to be enjoyed al fresco by fountains and fire pits alike.

Resorts with on-site dining also offer the option of enjoying a meal outdoors. The lush patio at Lucy Restaurant and Bar at Bardessono is perfect for enjoying cuisine from ingredients selected fresh daily from the resort's certified organic farming garden, North Block Restaurant is thrilling patrons with its exciting menu and outdoor dining options, and the menu at the Hotel Villagio Lobby Bar is ideal for enjoying a lite bite either by the fire pits or poolside.

Just north of town, Mustards Grill has tables amidst their culinary gardens, so diners can truly experience farm to table up close. Nearby, Brix Restaurant & Gardens offers ample patio seating offering beautiful views of the restaurant's culinary gardens complete with a backdrop of Napa Valley vineyards and the Mayacamas Mountains. Just southwest of town, the Lakeside Grill at Vintner's Golf Course offers upscale casual dining with a picturesque view of the ninth hole and lake.

Finally, all the public parks in town also offer picnic tables, bring your own wine...no reservations required!

Visitors from around the world journey to Yountville for a chance to dine at cafes and restaurants that have impressed even the toughest food critics, serving artisanal, farm-to-table meals perfectly paired with regional fine wines. What better way to return for the award-winning cuisine and wines of the Napa Valley than outdoors in one of the most beautiful towns in America.

### About the Town of Yountville

The culinary heart of Napa Valley, the Town of Yountville is the ultimate wine country get-away. A walk-able village with gorgeous mountain views, a constellation of Michelin starred restaurants, luxury accommodations, and many of the Napa Valley's most celebrated wineries, Yountville marries a breath-taking setting and small-town ambiance with a sophisticated wine country lifestyle. The site of Napa Valley's first planted grapevines, Yountville offers hot air ballooning, five sites on the National Register of Historic Places, unique shopping, golf, art galleries and performing arts. For further information, visit [www.yountville.com](http://www.yountville.com), and follow Yountville to "Taste Life Here" on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

# Lizzo vs. Beyonce! Who's the Winner?

by Chris Narloch

Two of the finest living female soul singers on the planet recently put out new albums, two weeks apart, and music fans were over the moon with excitement, waiting impatiently like kids on Christmas morning. Read on for my thoughts on the party discs of the summer.

## Lizzo – Special

Who doesn't love Lizzo? Male, female, queer, straight, young, old, Black, white – and every other color of the rainbow. The singer erases all of pop music's divisions with her sassy, empowering songs.

The first thing to be said about "Special" is that Lizzo has made a very entertaining record. On first listen, the CD may not pop to the extent that 2019's "Cuz I Love You" did, but that amazing album set the bar very high indeed.

Coming after disappointing discs from the likes of Lady Gaga and Harry Styles, I am happy to report that there is no need to hit Skip at any point on this record.

Lizzo kicks the CD off in style with the very first cut (the short but sweet "The Sign") and then keeps the party going with perhaps my favorite song on the CD, an upbeat



dance track entitled "About Damn Time" that announces in no uncertain terms that Lizzo is back ("It's bad bitch o'clock, yeah, it's thick-thirty").

The album alternates between party songs ("Birthday Girl" and "Everybody's Gay"), lyrics that explore the ways in which

love can be

simultaneously thrilling and scary ("2 Be Loved" and "I Love You Bitch"), and body-positive anthems that promote self-care ("Naked," "If You Love Me," and "Special").

There's a reason that Lizzo has broken through to the top of the charts that goes beyond her considerable musical talent. Yes, she can play the flute and write a song, but (unlike Nicki Minaj) she seems humble, relatable, and likable, and (unlike Cardi B, who is a talented rapper) Lizzo can really sing.

## Beyonce – Renaissance

"Renaissance" is Queen B's highly-anticipated foray into dance music, and – no surprise – she has come up with a groove-alicious gem that can stand alongside dancefloor masterpieces like Robyn's "Body Talk" CD, Michael Jackson's "Off the Wall" record, and Donna Summer's double-disc concept albums ("Bad Girls" and "Once Upon A Time").

Like Lizzo, Beyonce is fond of songs that promote empowerment, self-love, and body positivity ("I'm That Girl" and "Cozy"), and, also like Lizzo, her swagger often employs a sense of humor. (Beyonce's "Alien Superstar" takes the braggadocio that is so much a part of today's pop music to a hilarious extreme: "I'm too classy for this world, forever I'm that girl").

"Renaissance" wouldn't be a Beyonce record without sex, and our favorite Naughty Girl does not disappoint when it comes to the bedroom – or wherever else she wants to get it on. Bey turns up the



temperature on "Virgo's Groove," "Thique," "America Has a Problem," and even "All Up in Your Mind."

Almost every song here grooves hard, but if I had to pick my favorites, they would be the defiant disco anthem "(You Won't) Break My Soul," the rowdy party-starter "Cuff It," and the final track, "Summer Renaissance," which borrows the beat and a line or two from "I Feel Love," the iconic, Giorgio Moroder-produced classic by Donna Summer.

Amidst all the sex and swagger, Beyonce can still hit you in the heart with a song like "Church Girl," which includes this lyric: "Nobody can judge me but me, I was born free."

So, who is the winner here? Beyonce or Lizzo? Well, "Special" is definitely more accessible, the commercial album, but "Renaissance" is the more daring disc and probably points to the future of soulful dance-pop.

It may sound like a cop-out, but the winners are the artists' fans, because both records are dynamite.

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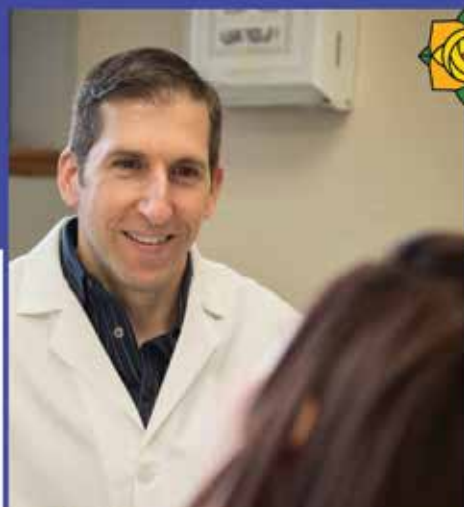
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# Reese Witherspoon Goes "Wild" in Auburn



Reese Witherspoon broke out of rom-com jail with a vengeance in 2014 when she starred in the highly-acclaimed movie version of "Wild," Cheryl Strayed's 2012 memoir about a solo backpacking trip Strayed undertook on the Pacific Crest Trail in 1995, after numerous personal issues had left her life in shambles. Thanks to her gutsy and gritty performance, Witherspoon was nominated for an Oscar, as was her costar, Laura Dern. The talented director of "Wild," Jean-Marc Vallée, went on to helm both "Big Little Lies" and "Sharp Objects" for HBO before his untimely death late last year, at the age of 58. You can see "Wild," back on the big screen this August 18th, at the Auburn State Theatre. For more information, visit: [www.auburnstatetheatre.org/on-screen](http://www.auburnstatetheatre.org/on-screen)



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# Homo Horror from Blumhouse Plus, A Tale of a Trans Teenager

by Chris Narloch

Queer movies and shows are coming at us so frequently nowadays that I can't keep up with it all. Below are reviews of two very different LGBT-friendly films that I did watch recently. One is a mostly light romantic dramedy about a trans teen, and the other title gives slasher movies a queer makeover.

## Anything's Possible

Billy Porter makes his feature film directorial debut with this entertaining romantic dramedy about a teenaged trans girl (the lovely Eva Reign) who falls for a cute boy in her class (Abubakr Ali), and – surprise! – nobody dies, and nobody gets rejected by their family.

That's not to say that there are no obstacles to the central love story. Not everyone at school is supportive, and our young trans heroine does get into a serious row with her mother (an excellent Renee Elise Goldsberry, of "Hamilton" fame) over the girl's public posts on social media.

Porter keeps things moving, and he gets fine performances out of his multi-racial cast. Some critics have knocked the movie for being glossy and formulaic, but the director wanted to create a trans version of those fun John Hughes films from the '80s, and he has mostly succeeded.

"Anything's Possible" is now available via Amazon Prime Video.



They/Them

## They/Them

Kevin Bacon adds class to this trashy but fun horror movie from Blumhouse that I found more original and interesting than recent junk from Blumhouse like "Halloween Kills" and "Firestarter."

Bacon plays the leader of a conversion camp for queer teens, who receive a week of programming to "help them find a new sense of freedom." Of course, that programming includes increasingly disturbing methods intended to chase the

gay away.

Bacon is perfect as a smiling but sinister homophobe, and the queer campers are played by a talented and diverse group of young actors.

I never would have guessed the identity of the killer if the press notes hadn't spoiled it for me, and although the film is no classic, I must admit that I enjoyed seeing a bunch of homo-haters get what's coming to them. The movie is a gay guilty pleasure. "They/Them" is currently streaming on Peacock.

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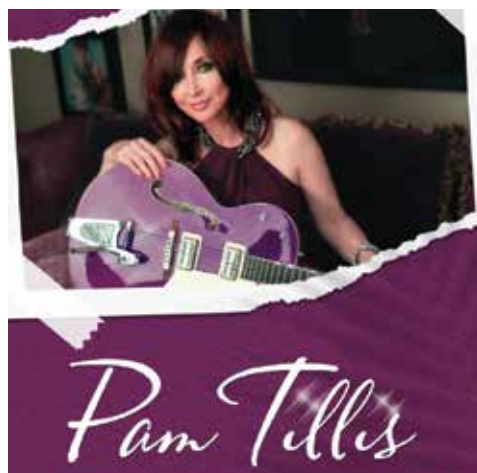
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MONDAY | SEP 19



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**SHARP STICK**  
(2022)

FRIDAY, AUG 12, 7:00PM

**MISERY**  
(1990)

SATURDAY, AUG 13, 7:00PM

**SPACEBALLS**  
(1987)

SUNDAY, AUG 14, 3:00PM

**UHF**  
(1989)

SUNDAY, AUG 21, 3:00PM

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FESTIVAL SEATTLE:  
BEST OF THE FEST!**  
ANIMATION

SUNDAY, AUG 28, 1:00PM

**CHILDREN'S FILM  
FESTIVAL SEATTLE:  
BEST OF THE FEST!**  
LIVE ACTION

SUNDAY, AUG 28, 2:30PM

**NOSFERATU  
CENTENNIAL TOUR WITH  
THE INVINCIBLE CZARS**  
(1922)

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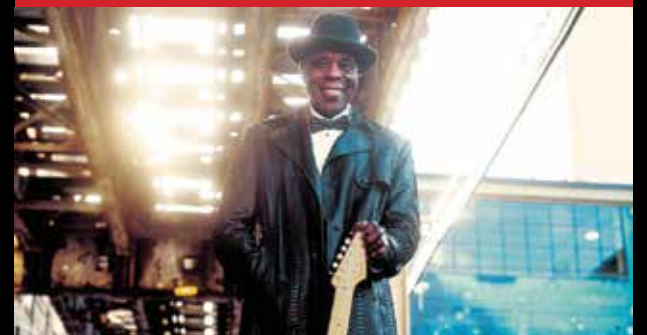
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# Mucho gusto, Perú! Highlights From a Two-week Jaunt to South America

text and photos by Chris Allan

It's been years since I've traveled solo anywhere outside of North America. As a single dyke and former Peace Corps Volunteer, I've traipsed all over the world. Coming out of COVID, I knew I wanted to spend my money in a developing country, work on my lame Spanish, and knock something off my bucket list. Most people think of Machu Picchu when visiting Perú, but the Amazon was calling me instead.

## Lima

Nearly 11 million people live in Lima's 42 distritos. The city is massive, and the living conditions vary widely. Like most touristos, I stayed in Miraflores, an upscale area. My Airbnb apartment was just a few minutes' walk from bars, shopping, and restaurants. There was even a gay club (ValeTodo Downtown) near the language school I attended. Four hours each morning, I engaged in non-stop grammar and conversation practice. Mi excelente profesora even had a gay cousin and let me know where and when Gay Pride was happening!

In the afternoons, I took my growing linguistic confidence into the streets. I took two excursions with Haku Tours. Besides the delicious stuffed street churros, I enjoyed learning about the beautiful historic center (including the catacombs, eek). Meeting a community leader and seeing some of the grimmer realities of her Belle Horizontale "shantytown" was also a powerful learning experience.

Lima is an easy city to get out and about. I used bikes, buses and taxis and made my Fitbit very happy. One highlight was snacking at a crepe stand with an ocean view, along the beautiful malecón walkway. The nearby Museo de Arte Contemporáneo had an interesting exhibit of living artists interpreting traditional Peruvian themes, while another day, I hiked up the supercool, 1500-year-old Huaca Pucllana pyramid.

Most unforgettable however, was being caught up in the sea of red-and-white jerseys for the World Cup quarter finals. Sadly, Perú lost by one penalty kick to Australia and like many Limeños that night, I imbibed a blissful Pisco Sour, the country's national cocktail. (It's a tangy, frothy concoction that goes wonderfully with Perú's national dish, ceviche.)

## Iquitos

After my week of cross-cultural adventures, I left town on Latam Airlines. We soared northeast over the endless, stark Andes to the endless green Amazon. Everywhere I looked, there were only miles of jungle rainforest.

And then, appearing from nowhere, was Iquitos. It's technically a "metropolis" of nearly half a million people, but there's no high-rise skyline in this remote jungle outpost. The city lies in the Amazon Basin, fed by the Amazon, Nanay, and Itaya rivers and is only accessible by plane or boat.

Hot and humid, Iquitos is a slower-paced, tropical town full of honking tuk-tuks and wooden buses. Most visitors stay near the Plaza de Armas, which has a small selection of tasty restaurants, bars, and museums in the neighborhood, along with gorgeous views of the river basin.

As I explored the area (taking numerous ice cream breaks in air-conditioned cafes), I marveled at the crumbling but formerly exquisite mansions. As the fascinating Museum of Historic Boats explains, Iquitos' rise and fall is due to the 20th century rubber trade, which was in turn made possible by the steamboat and labor (with gross mistreatment) of indigenous peoples.

While in town, I also took a tour of the gritty Belen market area and enjoyed the festivities of La Fiesta de San Juan. I left Iquitos appreciating the town as a vibrant, unique place, albeit one with many challenges.

## Amazonia

The main reason tourists go to Iquitos is as a launching point for jungle tours. The Amazon River originates in Perú, and the surrounding rainforest is the stunning home of pink dolphins, huge iguanas, piranhas and much more.

As I discovered on my four-day journey, the lodges are generally no-frills. No climate control, no hot water and solar electricity for just two hours at night. We were served excellent, fresh meals of river-caught fish cooked over a wood fire, with fresh jungle juices to drink.

Each day there were multiple outings, some very physically demanding given the heat and humidity. Our guides had all grown up on the river, spoke very good English, and were experts at spotting shy sloths and ginormous black snails.

My highlight was visiting La Isla de Monos. The police bring orphaned monkeys taken from wildlife poachers to this sanctuary. The workers raise them for years until they can be safely released as adults. It was very special to see how bonded the playful monkeys are with the dedicated staff.

By the time my trip had ended, I realized how wonderful it had been to experience such a different and fascinating country. Mucho gusto, Perú - such a pleasure to meet you!

To see more photos, please check out Chris Allan's Peru gallery at [imagesbychrisa.com](http://imagesbychrisa.com)



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## Diane Keaton & Leonard Cohen Plus, Brad Pitt in “Bullet Train” *by Chris Narloch*

August tends to be a cinematic dumping ground, as families wrap up end-of-summer vacations and busily prepare for kids to go back to school. If you do your homework, however, worthwhile films can still be found, including a couple of the movies reviewed below.

### Mack & Rita

If anybody deserves to capitalize on the popularity of *Glammy-Grandmas*, it's Diane Keaton (of “Annie Hall” fame) who was already dressing like a chic grandmother in the 1970s and still dresses like one to this day.

Covered up from chin to toe once again, Keaton has found the perfect role for her unique fashion sense in “Mack & Rita” which is a cute but not classic comedy about a young woman who wishes she was older.

Thanks to a New Age hippie with a “regression pod,” Mack gets her wish, and (voilà!) 30-year-old actress Elizabeth Lail is replaced by 76-year-old Diane Keaton, who pretends to be Mack's Aunt Rita rather than tell people she has been transformed into an old woman. The movie is less complicated and funnier than it sounds, although the material is thin, even at just over 90 minutes.

The film does have a terrific supporting cast, however, and Keaton has never been afraid to look ridiculous. That's part of her charm, and here she gets to make a mockery of a Pilates machine, set her long grey wig on fire, and kiss the cute guy next door (who is half her age).

“Mack & Rita” opens on August 12th at the Palladio Cinemas in Folsom and the Country Club Cinemas in Sacramento.



### Bullet Train

In the future, when people express envy that I get to review movies for free, I will remind them that the downside of being a film critic is having to sit through cinematic excrement like “Bullet Train,” a snarky, high-concept, uber-violent action flick set almost completely aboard a speeding train in Japan.

The plot, which is just an excuse for a bunch of bloody death scenes, involves hitmen and a briefcase filled with money.

This is the sort of movie where characters pause before killing someone (or being killed) to crack jokes, because we all know that murder is soooooo funny.

Somehow, Brad Pitt manages to be entertaining and funny amidst all the chaos, and darned if he isn't sexy too – even wearing geeky glasses and a bucket hat. To be fair, the movie also has some amazing special effects that should give action junkies a hard-on.

I, on the other hand, looked at my watch after an hour and wanted to cry that the film wasn't even half over yet. “Bullet Train” is currently playing in wide release, in way too many theaters.



### Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song

One of the greatest American songwriters of the rock era, Leonard Cohen is responsible for writing such classic tunes as “Bird on the Wire,” “Suzanne,” and “Hallelujah.”

That last song provides the title and inspiration for this fascinating documentary, which traces Cohen's journey from unknown, struggling tunesmith to an idolized singer-songwriter and ladies' man, with a several years' stay in a monastery along the way.

Cohen lived the vivid lyrics of “Hallelujah,” a great song that has been abused by umpteen contestants on TV singing competitions in the U.S. and abroad. This movie, which was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as *Outword* went to press, returns that song and its late, great songwriter to the place of honor they deserve.



## Theater For Days in NorCal *by Chris Narloch*

Two popular musicals will grace NorCal stages this month: “Follies,” by the late, great Stephen Sondheim, and “The Secret Garden,” based on the novel of the same name by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

If musicals aren't your thing, you can check out a queer one-man show, intriguingly titled “Versatile,” in Rancho Cordova.

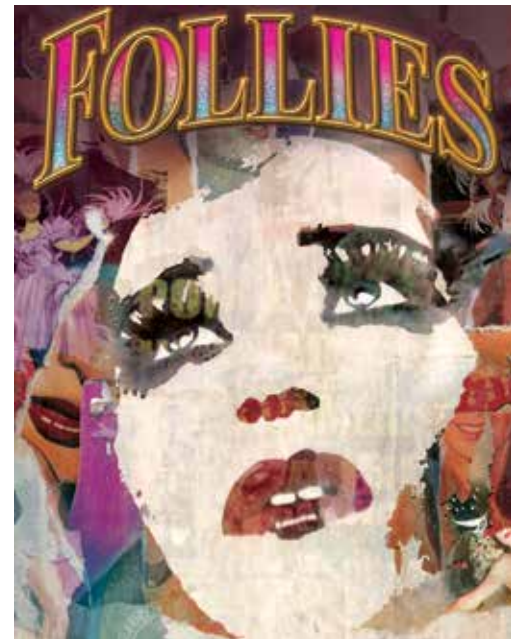
### Follies

“Follies is a 1971 musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by James Goldman. Several of its songs have become standards, including “Broadway Baby,” “I'm Still Here,” “Too Many Mornings,” “Could I Leave You?,” and “Losing My Mind.”

The story of “Follies” concerns a reunion in a crumbling Broadway theater, scheduled for demolition, of the past performers of the “Weismann's Follies,” a musical revue (based on the Ziegfeld Follies), that played in that theater between the world wars.

“Follies” focuses on two couples attending the reunion whose marriages are on the rocks. “Follies” will perform through this September 10th at San Francisco Playhouse. Visit:

[www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2021-2022-season/follies](http://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2021-2022-season/follies)



### The Secret Garden

This musical's script and lyrics are by Marsha Norman (“The Bridges of Madison County”), with music by Lucy Simon (“Doctor Zhivago”). It premiered on Broadway in 1991 and ran for 709 performances.

Set in the early years of the 20th century, “The Secret Garden” follows Mary Lennox, an English girl born and raised in the British Raj, who is orphaned by a cholera outbreak when she is just ten years old.



The Secret Garden

Mary is sent away from India to the moors of Yorkshire, England, to live in the manor of a brooding uncle she has never met. There, her personality blossoms among the other residents of the manor as they bring new life to a long-neglected garden.

“The Secret Garden,” featuring Tony nominee Max von Essen, will play through Sunday, August 14th in Sacramento, at Broadway at Music Circus. For more information, go to: [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com)

### Versatile

Los Angeles-based theatre and film artist Kevin Neighbors brings his award-winning solo show to Rancho Cordova's CalCap Black Box Theatre, located in the historic Old Mills Winery building, for one weekend only, this August 19-21.

“Versatile” is a journey through intersectionality, as Kevin shares the ups and downs of growing up mixed-Black and queer and being adopted out of foster care.

Searching for the meaning in identity politics, Kevin, with the help of characterized African wildlife, brings 20+ characters to life during a performance that touches on systemic racism, education, police encounters, sexual discovery, shame, and ultimately pride.

To see “Versatile,” visit: [www.calcapblackbox.com](http://www.calcapblackbox.com)



Kevin Neighbors

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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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# The Top 10 Funniest Dating Turn-Offs According To Americans

**G**reetings card marketplace, thortful.com reveals people's funniest dating turn-offs to determine the factors that really make us cringe - 'using kids' bedding' and 'having a goatee' are among Americans' stranger turn-offs.

Have you ever enjoyed a date until you're turned off by their behavior? You aren't alone. In fact, with over 5 million people searching for 'dating turn-offs' on Google!

Greetings card marketplace, thortful.com has set out to find the people's funniest dating turn-offs! According to the study, nearly two in five (39%) have been turned off by their partner after one month of being together!

## So, what are the top 10 funniest turn-offs?

- When their mom washes their clothes for them
- Mullets
- Goatees
- Asking the bartender what the cheapest beer is
- When they type 'hehe' in a text message
- Having kids' bedding
- When the elevator shuts on them
- Wearing a vest
- Dropping some coins and running for them as they roll away
- Replying to your IG story with a flame emoji

Apparently, typing 'hehe' in a text is no longer funny, as it causes people to 'get the ick'. Goatees and mullets are also on the list of things certain people have problems with on a date. In fact, over 1 in 4 (29%) have ended a relationship with their partner due to being turned off and getting the ick! A third of females (34%) tend to leave their partner due to being turned off, compared to 24% of males.

Commenting on the study, a spokesperson at thortful.com said: "It's interesting to see the funniest dating turn-offs and the number of people deciding to leave their partner after getting the ick. We hope that our study helps people avoid doing something that will make their lover's toes curl!"

# Out & About with Matt Burlingame

**A**ugust is here and those of us who love autumn are slowly starting to come out of their summer coma in anticipation of the first whiff of pumpkin spice carried on a cool breeze. But with it being Sacramento and factoring in climate change, the first cool breeze isn't due until about Nov. 9. But any moment Halloween decorations will start springing up in the stores, and social media ads will start asking if you've ordered your personalized holiday cards yet.

While summer is still in full swing come beat the heat and have a little happy on Friday, Aug. 12. with drink specials and giveaways at *Outword's* Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St.

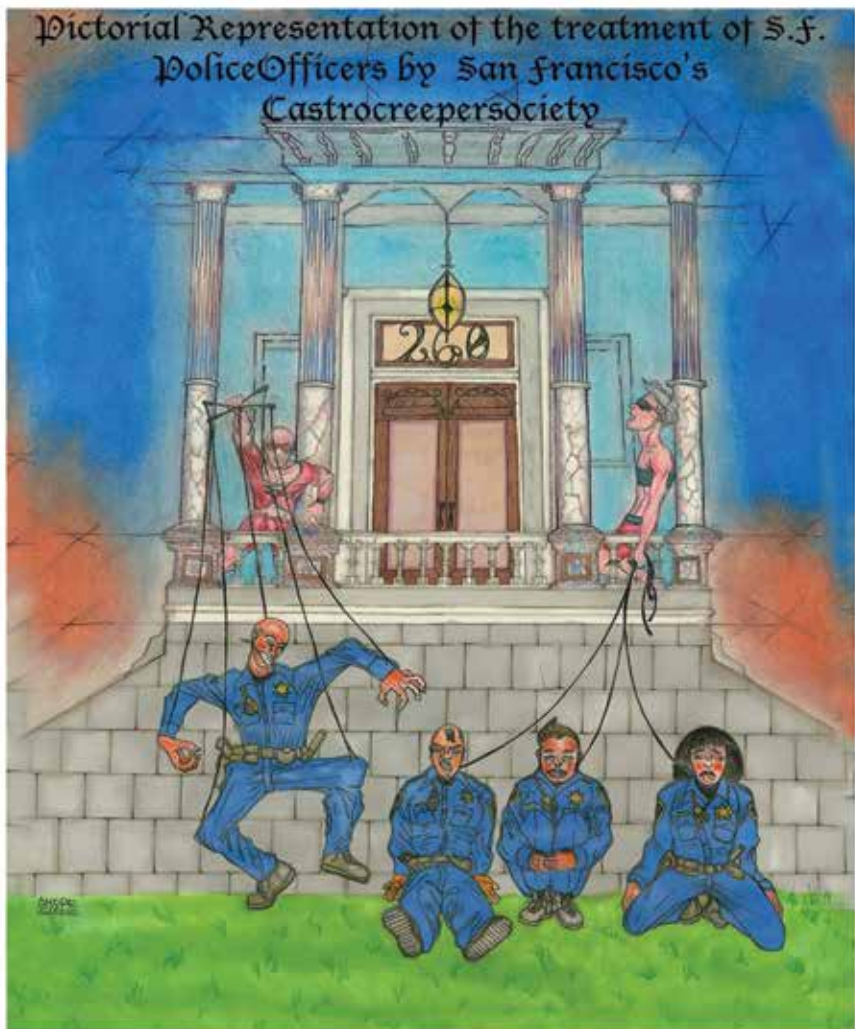
Scott's on the River, 4800 Riverside Blvd, is going all out for the August Rainbow Chamber Networking Mixer Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. RSVP is required and chamber member tickets are free. A great opportunity to check out this amazing restaurant and bar. [Rainbowchamber.com](http://Rainbowchamber.com)

It's Rainbow Chamber Night at Cirque Du Soleil on Aug. 18 at 7:30 p.m. "Alegría" is a quintessential Cirque du Soleil spectacle under the Big Top Sacramento, 400 Ball Park Dr. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Rainbow Chamber. [Rainbowchamber.com](http://Rainbowchamber.com)

One of the cornerstone organizations in our community is PFLAG Sacramento and this year it celebrates 40 years. Come celebrate this major milestone on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. [Pflagsacramento.org](http://Pflagsacramento.org)

Dance the night away at The Crocker, 216 O St., on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. during "ArtMix: Strike a Pose" a dynamic synthesis of photography and music. The Shawn Thwaites Rebel Quartet sets the mood with a soul-meets-steel fusion of Caribbean, R&B and jazz. Enjoy live painting and vibe to alt-pop electronic performances. Immerse yourself in the experience of the seven young male dancers who joined Madonna on her controversial "Blonde Ambition" tour with a special screening of the award-winning documentary Strike a Pose. [Crockerart.org](http://Crockerart.org)

Sacramento Stonewall Democrats annual Four Freedoms Reception will be held Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I St. The fundraiser will welcome Mayor Derrell Steinberg and SMUD Board Member Rosanna Herber as they honor State Senator Scott Weiner and Palm Springs Mayor Lisa Middleton. [Sacstonewall.org](http://Sacstonewall.org)



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Cirque Du Soleil

OMG! A Food Market! I'm there! The FoodieLand Night Market Aug. 19-21 at the California State Fair offers something for everyone! A must-attend for foodies this exclusive festival is inspired by the Night Markets of Asia. Bring your friends together for late-night sounds, tastes, and scents where you can experience a street food festival this summer in the Sacramento area. Enjoy authentic multicultural street foods and discover talented local artisans from dozens of local booths including jewelry, clothing, artistic paintings, candles, home decor, and more. Event tickets are available only through Etix and must be purchased online prior to arriving at the event.

Possum & Two Rivers may sound like a night out in the Bayou, but it's really an amazing event on Monday, Aug. 15 by Two Rivers Cider Company, 4311 Attawa Ave. and Possum playing all the hits you know and love. [Tworiverscider.com](http://Tworiverscider.com)

Kennedy Gallery's new exhibit is as full of whimsy as it is artistic genius! The Pop Art Festival: The Bright Art of Popular Culture allows viewers to experience our culture through the eyes of Sacramento artists. The show runs Aug. 11 - Sept. 4. [Kennedygallery.net](http://Kennedygallery.net)

Some of the best local LGBTQ stand-up comedy hosted by Cory Barringer and featuring Melissa McGillicuddy, FC Sierra, and TammyTea Love is back at Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th St. #130 on Friday, Aug. 12 at 9 p.m. [Saccomedyspot.com](http://Saccomedyspot.com)

Happy birthday wishes to Clarmundo Sullivan, Tom Swanner, Stephan White, Joyce Mitchell, John Hancock, Juan Ramos, Sam Catalano, Jake Bradley Rowe, and Lanz Nalagan. And a birthday memorandum to the late Jerry Sloan.

Events? Announcements? Birthdays? Anniversaries? Send them to me at [matthew.burlingame@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.burlingame@gmail.com).



## Please Support the Outword Rainbow Fund

*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](http://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](mailto:sales@outwordmagazine.com)*

*Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.*

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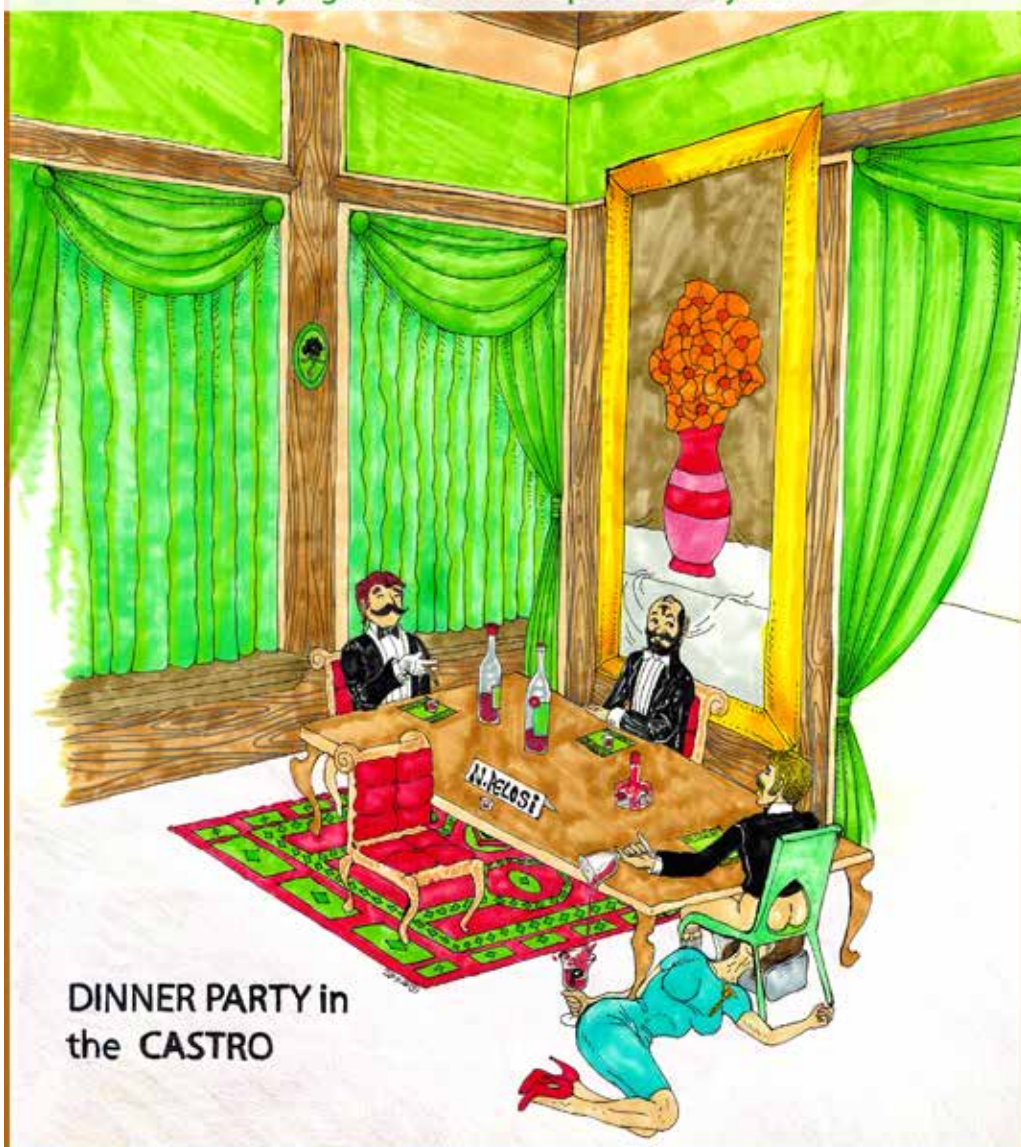
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