

PRIDE

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
InterPride
2018

**SPECIAL
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE**



Twenty Years
of

L O V E

*Exclusive
interviews with...*

♥ **Nico Tortorella**

Alan Cumming
Dan Reynolds
Years & Years
Hayley Kiyoko
Jussie Smollett
Tyler Oakley
Hannah Hart +
More!

Life



Pride

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What is BIKTARVY®?

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking BIKTARVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take BIKTARVY?

Do not take BIKTARVY if you take:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

What are the other possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

Serious side effects of BIKTARVY may also include:

- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%). Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

- ▶ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ▶ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all of your other medicines.
- ▶ **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.



Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Get HIV support by
downloading a free app
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KEEP SHINING.

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BIKTARVY is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for adults who are either new to treatment or whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with BIKTARVY.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

LOVE
WHAT'S
INSIDE®



(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider all your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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WHO SHOULD GET TESTED FOR HIV? EVERYONE.



See how often testing is recommended.
Visit HelpStopTheVirus.com

STOP THE VIRUS.



Twenty Years...

Twenty years ago, I was an intern working my first job out of college. I was starting my first long-term relationship, going out every weekend at my local gay bar, meeting people and becoming a true member of my community for the first time.

Twenty years ago, the Defense of Marriage Act was in full effect, limiting all government recognition of LGBT relationships and defining the only valid marriages as being one man plus one woman.

Twenty years ago, Matthew Shepard and Rita Hester were brutally murdered, simply because of their LGBT status; Ellen had just come out on the cover of *Time*; and *Will & Grace* was in the throes of production for a fall premiere on NBC.

Twenty years ago, this magazine, known then simply as *Pride*, was just getting its start as a regional city-focused advocacy publication.

Twenty years. In some ways, it can seem like an eternity. But in many others, it's just a blink of an eye. A huge chunk of any individual's life—but a momentary blip in the history of mankind.

This year, as we celebrate all the progress we've made and focus on all the work still left to be done—take a few moments to think about your own past 20 years on the planet. Are they what you've wanted? What would you change?

Then let us help inspire you. From the incredible activists we profile to the images of strong trans women to the story of Syrian freedom fighter Ayman Menem, there's so much good in the world we can celebrate. Just think of the amazing things we can accomplish when we all work toward a better tomorrow. Happy Pride! Meet you back here in another 20, and let's see how it all turns out...

BRIAN GOOD



Keep the conversation alive. Email us at PrideLife2018@gmail.com or tweet what Pride means to you at #pridemeans.

PRIDE

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A TIP FROM A
**FORMER
SMOKER**

TM

**HIV alone
didn't cause the
clogged artery
in my neck.
Smoking with
HIV did.**

Brian, age 45, California

Brian had his HIV under control with medication. But smoking with HIV caused him to have serious health problems, including a stroke, a blood clot in his lungs and surgery on an artery in his neck. Smoking makes living with HIV much worse. You can quit.

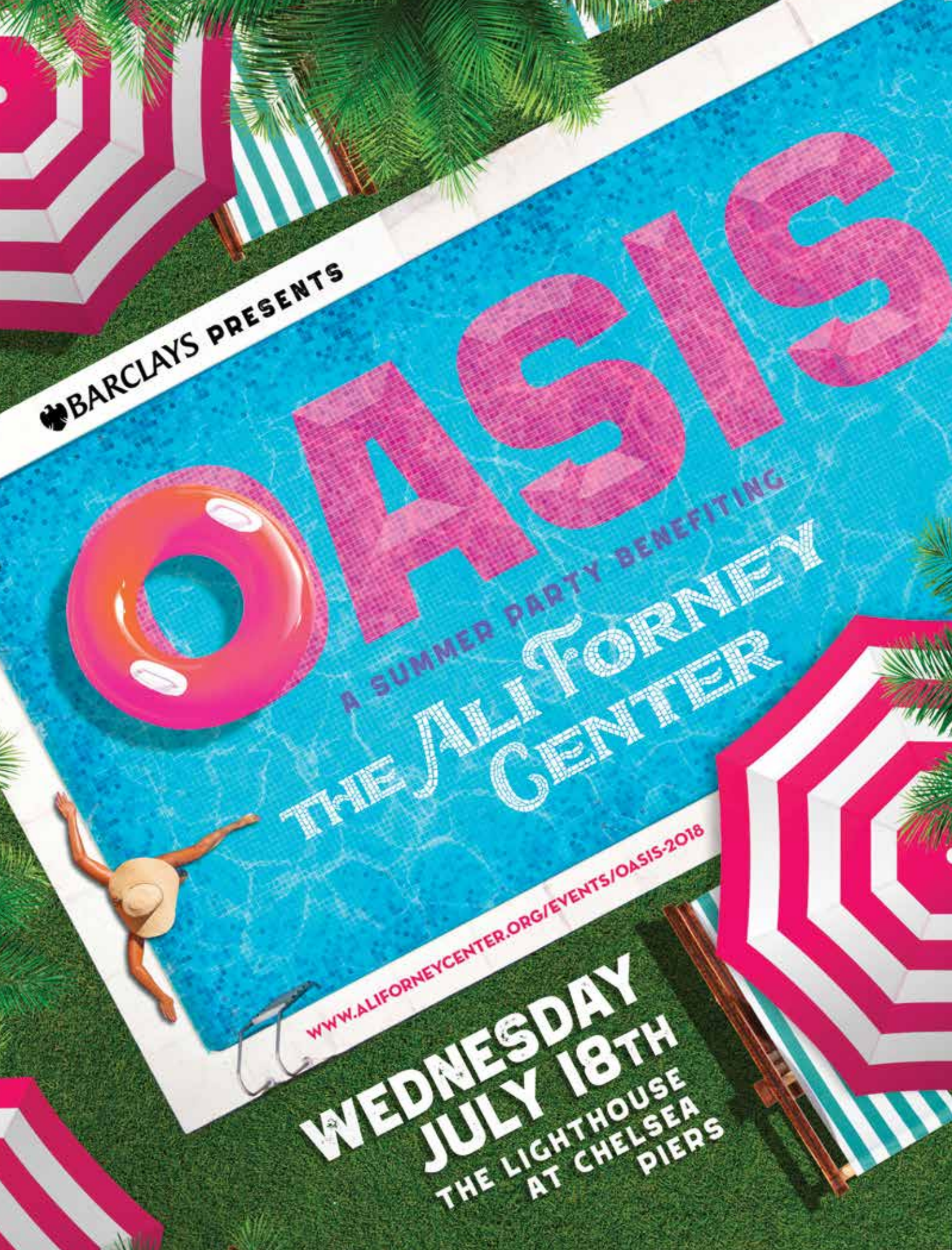
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Cumming Undone

The man. The myth. The living legend. Our one-on-one talk with the amazing Alan Cumming.

You obviously know his face. In his 30-year-plus career, Alan Cumming has racked up more than 300 IMDB credits alone. Trek over to AlanCumming.com for a glimpse at his bio, and the legend of Cumming becomes even more impressive. In his own words, lifted from the site, this is a man who has “performed with Jay-Z and Liza with a Z; won a Tony, hosted the *Tonys* and been nominated for an Emmy for doing so; has a soap called *Cumming in a Bar*, and a bar called Club Cumming; made back-to-back films with Stanley Kubrick and the Spice Girls; played God, the Devil, Hitler, the Pope, a teleporting superhero, Hamlet, all the parts in *Macbeth*, General Batista of Cuba, a goat opposite Sean Connery, Dionysus, a Smurf (twice), the EmCee in *Cabaret* ➡

(thrice), a *James Bond* bad-die, and political spinmeister Eli Gold on seven seasons of *The Good Wife*, for which he received multiple Golden Globe, Emmy, and SAG award nominations.” Then there are his five books (one that hit No. 1 on the *New York Times* charts), 40-plus awards for humanitarianism and social activism, three honorary doctorates, plus being made an Officer of the British Empire for his contributions to the arts and LGBT equality by the queen. And you thought you were busy.

With a recent new movie, *After Louie*, available on video on demand, a history-making TV show (*Instinct* on CBS), plus a live musical performance series called *Illegal Immigrant* in the works, he also shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon. *PrideLife* spoke to the in-demand Scottish-American actor recently for a few quick questions on his recent film work, plus his secrets for multitasking, making a difference in the world, and living a life without regret.

After Louie got great reviews. How’d the film come about? How’d you get involved in it?

I knew Anthony Johnston, who’s the co-writer and is also in the film. We had lunch one day, and he told me he’d been asked to come in and work on it. And then he suggested that I read it. I did—and I instantly felt this great connection to the story. I really understood the two sides that kind of form the central argument of the film—this older gay man who is stuck in the past and is resentful of the changes that are happening around him, and then a younger



person who is also sort of just getting by in his own way but doesn’t understand why people are making such a fuss about things that he considers ancient history. I felt I understood both sides of their story—and I’d never seen anything that really voiced it. So I took it.

You’ve said in interviews that this is something you’ve seen in your real life as well, right?

Yes, definitely. There are lots of younger people who are political, but they sometimes get dismissed by older generations who don’t understand them. And they end up having to say, “Don’t push me away. Don’t make it so hard for me. Don’t be smug. Don’t try and exclude me. I’m here, and I want to be a part of things.” Sometimes older generations can get very short-sighted and say, “Oh, they’re young, they don’t understand, they don’t include us.” But then neither side is really listening to the other or trying to understand. That’s what the film is trying to address.

The character you play is based on Vincent Gagliostro,



After Louie, Alan Cumming’s 49th film in an incredible career, is available now on iTunes or streaming on demand.

who was a founding member of ACT UP and also directed the film. Is it difficult going into a role where the story is autobiographical and you know the person you’re playing?

Not really. I don’t think I approach it differently. Maybe you have more access to certain things, but my character, Sam, is such an unlikable ghoulish person, and Vincent is this gentle, amazing individual. Having a person you’re playing around every day can be kind of intimidating if you’re playing someone real, but at the end of the day I didn’t really feel like I was playing Vincent.

Whether it’s a real person or a fictional individual, do you have a process to sort of get into character whenever you take on a new role?

I think the word “process” is really pretty awful actually. I always say when people bring this up with me that I’m not a cheese, I have no process. [Laughs] I think that there’s a huge problem in acting where it has become overmethodized. People spend so much time talking about process rather than just acting. It’s a very simple thing. You just have to pretend to be someone else and mean it. It should be just arming yourself with information and then embodying someone. It should be like kids playing.

You’ve obviously mastered it. Your IMDB file is insane—you’ve done so many projects. Do you have a favorite role—or a least favorite?

No. Not really. There are certain things that I’ve done that I had a miserable time on, of course. [Laughs] And there

are other things where I kind of got tricked into doing a role, or where everything wasn't all peachy on the set. But there's nothing I've done that I regret. I think regret is a really useless emotion, because if you're happy with where you are both in your life and in your career, then everything that you've done leading up to this point has made you who you are. So you can't have regrets.

Has that outlook made it easier to jump around among such varied roles?

When you are known as an eclectic person, people are more likely to ask you to do eclectic things. So my résumé may seem kind of crazy in some ways, but you've also got to remember that I've been working as an actor for more than 30 years. In that time, I've met lots of other people from other fields and been inspired by their work. I mean, if I were just doing play after play after play, that would be a little boring after 30 years.

True! And you do so much more than just films and TV. You sing. You've written books. You own a business. You perform onstage. It's kind of a cliché question, but how do you juggle all of that?

It's been a little nuts, but I have people to help me, and I'm a very focused person. If I'm writing a letter about something that's going on at my bar, I focus on that. When I'm doing this interview, I focus on you. I think that's the important thing—you can do lots of things as long as you have clarity and focus. I also focus on having fun and relaxing as well. It can be a little overwhelming, but I still

manage to have fun and to have a life, and I'm really fulfilled by all the different things I do.

You're also very active politically and work with a lot of different causes, which has got to be fulfilling in its own way.

I just try to amplify into the world the changes I'd like to see and promote the things I'm feeling and doing. I just hosted a fundraiser at my bar recently for Jeff Beals, a Democratic candidate for District 19, which is upstate in Hudson Valley. He's a great guy and a progressive and very much how I feel the Democratic Party needs to go. I've done some stuff recently with the United Nations, and I went to Lebanon and made some films talking to refugees from Syria. And then I go on talk shows or do interviews and talk about the things that I'm just doing—and that's a kind of activism as well.

Even my role on *Instinct* has some activism behind it.

Right. You're not only an out gay actor with a lead role on a police procedural—you're also playing a gay, married character on the show.

It's a first for network TV. That's big. It can make quite a big difference to people's perceptions.

Will there be more seasons?

We just got renewed for a second season. I feel like we're just getting into a groove with it, and I can't wait to do more!

You've been an out gay actor from the start of your career. Has that made things tougher along the way?

That's a good question. I mean, I sort of feel like I never even really came out of the closet.

I just got a boyfriend instead of a girlfriend. At one point, I kind of publicly discussed my sexuality, but I haven't felt in my life that I've had to really hide things. But also, I don't think you have to issue a press release every time you shag a boy.

Last question: Will you be going to any Prides this year?

I was the Grand Marshall at the Tel Aviv Pride parade last year, and that was amazing. I've done the San Francisco one and loved it. And luckily I'm going to be here in New York for Pride this year. I love the celebration and sense of joy over that weekend. That's what we're fighting for—so people who wouldn't otherwise have the chance can celebrate like that always. ☺



The Pride List

Four essentials to read, channel, binge, and fall in love with over the summer months.



EZRA FURMAN

On his seventh album in 11 years, *Transangelic Exodus*, Furman tears up the rule book and, in the process, makes one of the best albums of 2018. Combining outsider lyrics ("Angel, don't fight it. To them you know we'll always be freaks!"), Hedwig-style delivery, punk rock power chords, and a concept he calls part-memoir, part-queer outlaw saga, the album is destined to soundtrack countless warm-weather road trips and boozy late-night dance parties.

BLOODLIGHT AND BAM!

Words like “icon” and “diva” were coined with Grace Jones in mind. Few other performers even come close to the force of nature that is Grace. In this new doc from director Sophie Fiennes, we see all sides of the androgynous superstar: performance artist; hedonistic partier; fierce businesswoman; and, in the role perhaps least familiar to her fans, devoted lover, daughter, mother, sister, and even grandmother. Through it all, she proves what we already all knew—there can be only one Grace Jones!



THE BOYS OF FAIRY TOWN

In his new book, Jim Elledge painstakingly reconstructs the lives of gay men living in Chicago during the late 1800s using actual diary entries and newspaper stories from the time. With chapters on a reporter who copiously documented his numerous trysts to female impersonators who were so good onstage, they were arrested over fears they might turn their audience queer, there's much to learn about our gay forefathers.



POSE

Set in the drag ball scene of 1986 New York City, this eight-part saga from Ryan Murphy and Steve Canals stars the largest transgender cast—and the largest LGBT cast—ever assembled for one television series. Expect a healthy serving of legendary drama, realness, and 10s, 10s, 10s across the board.

New Queer Cinema

FIVE MUST-SEE FLICKS FOR SUMMER 2018.

From teenage rom-coms like *Love, Simon* to Oscar winners like *Call Me by Your Name*, it's clear: Moviegoers of all genders and sexualities are ready to see films that highlight a more inclusive world. This summer offers plenty of great options, including seven of our faves. They range from drama to romance to documentary and are all worth searching out in theaters or through your favorite streaming service.



Clockwise from top left:
Scenes from *Duck Butter*;
Mapplethorpe; *How to Talk to Girls at Parties*; *The Gospel According to André*; and *Disobedience*.

The Gospel According to André

Documenting fashion A-lister André Leon Talley's journey from religious childhood in the South to the red carpet of the Met Gala, the film is a must for fashion aficionados and novices alike. Featuring cameos from everyone including Anna Wintour and Marc Jacobs to Rihanna, it's full of humor, style, and memorable catchphrases, while still taking a serious and thoughtful look at the man behind the cape to examine his rightful place in fashion history.

How to Talk to Girls at Parties

In the new sci-fi rom-com from John Cameron Mitchell (the mind behind the incredible *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), the story is simple—boy meets girl. Boy falls in love with girl. Boy soon discovers girl is an alien and must fight for her love against all odds. Starring Alex Sharp and Elle Fanning as the curious alien who escapes her unworldly pack, the film depicts London during the height of it '70s punk rock movement. And when the couple inadvertently set into motion the ultimate battle between aliens and punk rockers, they end up having to take on none other than Nicole Kidman in what is perhaps her most colorful role to date.

Mapplethorpe

Starring Matthew Smith in the titular role, the biopic explores the

photographer's rise to controversial fame, the eroticism his career thrived on, and ultimately his tragic death in 1989. Through it all, we get a powerful testament to a pivotal moment in New York City history and the power of one man's iconic imagery.

Disobedience

Based on an award-winning novel, *Disobedience* stars Rachel Weisz as Ronit, a woman who returns to her small, religious community after being exiled for her same-sex attraction to a childhood friend. She soon finds herself struggling with her desires when they meet once more and begin an intimate relationship. A story of reconciling faith with sexuality, the film has received rave reviews for its portrayal of love and loss and for both Weisz' and Rachel McAdams' stellar performances.

Duck Butter

If every relationship started with total honesty, would anyone ever go on a second date? *Duck Butter* attempts to answer that question, challenging the constructs of modern dating as we know them. Alia Shawkat stars as Naima, who picks up a woman at a nightclub. The two decide to spend 24 hours together, free of deception. As their time nears its end, they must determine if the romance that's blossomed can ever see the light of day.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH BY HILLARY SPERA; COURTESY OF BLUE CREEK PICTURES; PHOTOGRAPH BY DEAN ROGERS, COURTESY OF A24; PHOTOGRAPH BY © COLIN GRAY; PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES; COURTESY OF BLEECKER STREET

Out and about.

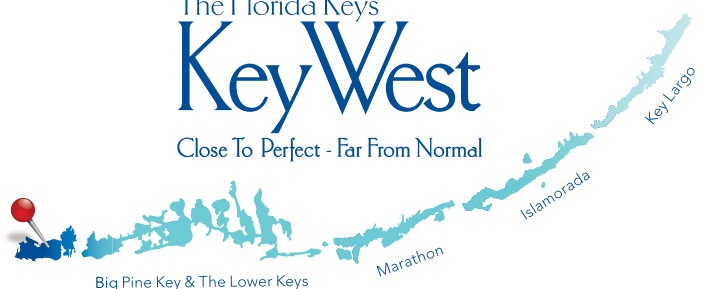
Key West Pride
June 6-10, 2018
keywestpride.org

Here in anything-goes Key West, we don't wait around for annual LGBT events to celebrate diversity and pride. We're out and about 365 days a year. In fact, with everything from gay tours, clothing optional resorts and risqué cabaret to an eclectic art scene and abundant natural wonders, you might say we were out before it was in.

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The Florida Keys
Key West

Close To Perfect - Far From Normal



Breaking Boundaries

With a big new Hollywood movie, a groundbreaking television series, and other film projects in the works, trans director Silas Howard has truly hit his stride.

By Anne-christine d'Adesky

How does it feel to be smack in the center of a zeitgeist moment, your own star rising fast? To trans director Silas Howard, the swirl of life is a combination of exhilaration and exhaustion, but mostly, he says, it's amazing. It's mid-April. He's made time for a short interview about his newest movie. A mere 24 hours ago, he was onstage at the Castro Theater, basking in audience applause for a sold-out opening night of the San Francisco International Film Festival, where his latest, *A Kid Like Jake*, received an enthusiastic reception. Now he's jet-lagged, riding around inside a van somewhere deep in Brooklyn, location scouting for another groundbreaking trans project, *Pose*, the much-anticipated series about the '80s New York City ballroom scene featuring a breakthrough trans cast.

"It was so awesome," Howard says of the Castro screening. "People loved it. But I had to jump right into something else here. I'm not complaining; I'm excited to have the work. But I've barely had time to process what just happened." That's the way



Howard on the set with Jake, played by newcomer Leo James Davis, who makes clear his preference for Barbie Dolls over GI Joes.

the film business works: Strike when you're hot. And right now, Howard's career is on fire, so he's pushing himself to take advantage of all big opportunities finally coming his way after years of struggle.

Today, Silas is among the best-known trans directors around, and *A Kid Like Jake* represents a move to the mainstream. "It's the biggest movie with the most money and the biggest cast I've worked with," he says. "It's also a union movie; people were paid a living wage. That might be the best part of making it."

Artistically, *Jake* allowed him a chance to stretch some creative muscles as well. Based on the 2013 play by Daniel Pearle, the film's drama centers on a 4-year-old boy who dreams of being *The Little Mermaid's* Ariel at Halloween. His parents,

played by Claire Danes and Jim Parsons of *The Big Bang Theory*, are left struggling with his newfound gender identity while also managing their conflicted desire to get him into an elite private school. The film highlights the couple's evolving awareness of Jake's identity along with their own desire to do right by their son. "The film is really about their reaction to the social constructions of gender. We don't let them have the catharsis through Jake."

Howard hopes the film will stimulate public conversation about trans lives, at a time when they're under renewed attack by the Trump administration and conservative lawmakers. "The timing of the film is important," he agrees. That's another reason he jumped at the chance to direct it.

A definite game changer for Hollywood, *Jake* is hardly Howard's first trans film or his most radical one. He's been making and producing small, independent projects for years, including *Bambi Shorts*, about a trans hustler, and his first big 2001 feature, *By Hook or By Crook*, co-directed with his trans best friend, Harry Dodge.

Before that, Howard's first taste of fame came as a guitar-shredding member of the dyke punk band Tribe 8, alongside writer-poet Lynn Breedlove. He joined the group in the '90s after moving to San Francisco from his birthplace of Vermont.

He was a butch lesbian back then and, along with Dodge, was also co-owner of the Bearded Lady, a popular lesbian cafe. But it wasn't until he began making

short films, recruiting his friends as actors and crew, that he knew he'd found his true calling. He moved to Los Angeles and attended UCLA, graduating with a degree in directing in 2008.

That's also when he began transitioning into his new identity. "I'm trans; I'll always have that," he says of his own gender evolution. "I lived as a butch. I never identified as a lesbian but a butch dyke. I lived that way a long time, and I value that. Everyone is different. I have a different relationship to it."

His career breakthrough came in 2011, when he was invited to direct an episode in the second season of the pioneering series *Transparent* by showrunner Jill Soloway.

Pose, the latest television offering from Hollywood heavyweight Ryan Murphy and Steven Canals, is set in New York City in the '80s and explores the drag ballroom scene made famous in the pioneering '90s documentary *Paris Is Burning*. "It's the first show that has five trans women of color at the heart of the narrative," says Howard, noting the series "is gonna have a lot of firsts. Janet Mock is in the writers' room," he adds, excited to work with the best-selling author of *Redefining Realness*, a TV host and transgender activist. "There's a lot of authentic voices at work."

His duties will also be new. He's slated to direct an episode and will work with incoming trans directors to support them, helping others get a foot in the door, creating the next generation of talent.



Looking back, Howard says he hasn't lost touch with that struggling artist he once was: "If you've been outside all your life, you still are in many ways. That's why I'm excited about new voices finally getting to tell their story. When you think about who has been controlling the narrative, I think what trans film is opening up is a conversation about the nature of gender that we all need."

As for what's next for Howard, he says that, whatever happens after *Pose*, "I'm just going to keep telling the stories that interest me, and those stories are always going to be rooted in my community."



By working with up-and-coming talent, Howard hopes to stimulate public conversation at a time when it may be needed most.

A next step for adults with HIV who have been undetectable* for at least six months.

*Undetectable means keeping the amount of HIV in the blood at very low levels (less than 50 copies per mL).

What is JULUCA?

JULUCA is a prescription medicine that is used without other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults to replace their current anti-HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

It is not known if JULUCA is safe and effective in children.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Do not take JULUCA if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or rilpivirine.
- are taking any of the following medicines: dofetilide; carbamazepine; oxcarbazepine; phenobarbital; phenytoin; rifampin; rifapentine; proton pump inhibitors (including esomeprazole, lansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole sodium, rabeprazole); St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*); or more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate.

What are the possible side effects of JULUCA?

JULUCA can cause serious side effects including:

- **Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with JULUCA. **Stop taking JULUCA and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with JULUCA. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or "tea-colored" urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away or get medical help if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless; feeling anxious or restless; have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **The most common side effects of JULUCA include:** diarrhea and headache.

These are not all the possible side effects of JULUCA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking JULUCA.

Before you take JULUCA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had a severe skin rash or an allergic reaction to medicines that contain dolutegravir or rilpivirine.
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have ever had a mental health problem.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if JULUCA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take JULUCA.** You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if JULUCA can pass to your baby in your breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines interact with JULUCA. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with JULUCA.
- Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take JULUCA with other medicines.

Important Safety Information continued on next page.

Please see Important Facts about JULUCA on the following page.

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fewer medicines in my HIV pill.**

Rodney†
Undetectable
since 2008

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viral load. And whenever I become aware of
other treatment options, I talk to my doctor.
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rilpivirine

JULUCA is the only once-daily complete HIV-1
regimen that combines 2 medicines in just 1 pill.

Ask your doctor about JULUCA.

Learn more at **JULUCA.com**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (cont'd)

How to take JULUCA?

- Take JULUCA 1 time a day exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- Always take JULUCA with a meal. A protein drink alone does not replace a meal.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

†Real patient diagnosed with HIV-1. Individual compensated for his time by Viiv Healthcare.

 **Juluca**
dolutegravir 50 mg/
rilpivirine 25 mg tablets



IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about JULUCA and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

(Jah-LOO-kah)

ABOUT JULUCA

- JULUCA is a prescription medicine that is used without other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults to replace their current anti-HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements.
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BEFORE TAKING JULUCA

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have ever had a mental health problem.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if JULUCA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take JULUCA.** You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if JULUCA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with JULUCA.
- Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF JULUCA

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- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with JULUCA. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or "tea-colored" urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away or get medical help if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless; feeling anxious or restless; have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.

The most common side effects of JULUCA include:

diarrhea and headache.

These are not all the possible side effects of JULUCA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking JULUCA. You may report side effects to FDA at www.fda.gov/medwatch, or at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about JULUCA. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to JULUCA.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.



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1.



5.

Rainbow Bright

Amp up your game—and show your true colors—with these five Pride weekend essentials.

2.



1. Mignonne Gavigan
Love brooch
mignonnegavigan.com

2. Mignonne Gavigan
Tassel earrings
mignonnegavigan.com

3. Pride Narwhal
Pool float
target.com

4. Dr. Martens
Tie-dye Pride boot
drmartens.com

5. Gay AF
Trucker cap
headlineshirts.net



3.



4.



“My secret to confidence is taking an objective look at my life and then eliminating anything that seems to be holding me back.”



A Brief Encounter

Show your true colors this summer with the first-ever Pride collection from underwear giant 2(x)ist, modeled here by actor and author **Max Emerson**.

To celebrate the launch of its new Pride collection, 2(x)ist has made a donation to the Trevor Project to help further all the work it does. To buy the products shown here or other items in the line, go to 2xist.com.

For more on Max, follow his Instagram [@maxisms](https://www.instagram.com/maxisms).



COURTESY OF 2(X)IST





Three Truths and a Lie With Jussie Smollett *By Josh Ocampo*

He's a child actor turned prime-time star on Fox's *Empire*. Whether you met him as a *Mighty Duck* or love his fiery relationship with Cookie, how well do you actually know the man playing Jamal Lyons? *PrideLife* spoke with the star at the party announcing his recent partnership with Crown Royal. Can you spot the lie mixed in with these truths we uncovered during our whiskey-fueled talk?

1 He's a reality-TV fanatic and is close friends with stars from his favorite unscripted show.

2 He once starred in a Mariah Carey music video and received pivotal career advice from her.

3 He doesn't remember much of his time on *The Mighty Ducks* and hasn't kept in touch with his co-stars.

4 He loves to tease his co-stars on *Empire*, including Taraji P. Henson for her hairstyles.



Smollett with his ride or die, Taraji P. Henson, on the set of *Empire*.

Which item is the lie and which three statements are true? Read on to find out...

#1. True! "I love *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Cynthia Bailey is a good friend. After every episode, sometimes even after a commercial break, I'll FaceTime her and ask, 'What the fuck? How the hell could she do that?' I'm so annoying. I have such a love-hate relationship with that show, but I have a love-love relationship with Cynthia."

#2. Also True! "Mariah is one of the kindest people that I've ever met. I remember she sat on the phone with me for three hours talking about publishing and the importance of ownership of your projects and your products. Yes, she's beautiful. Yes, she can sing her ass off. Yes, she's one of the biggest, most iconic divas of our time, but at the same time, she's actually really fucking smart."

#3. False! "I remember spending four months in the dead of winter in Minneapolis and had an amazing camaraderie with my co-stars. Paula Abdul was married to Emilio Estevez at the time, so I also remember her visiting the set. This was the '90s, so she was it. I still keep in contact with Brandon Adams and Aaron Schwartz. Whenever I see Josh Jackson, it's all love."

#4. True! "I tease Taraji a lot about her wigs because Cookie wears so many damned different ones. There's this one in particular that I always say looks like Nicki Minaj made love to the Dragon Princess from *Game of Thrones* and they had a baby named Cookie Lyon. I both love and hate that wig. We clown Terrence Howard all the time, too, on set. We always imitate his voice, 'I'm Terrence Howard, motherfucker.'" [Laughs]



Screen Test

How well do you know your LGBTv history? In honor of *PrideLife*'s landmark b-day, we're teleporting to the way, way back of our collective community's era-defining moments on the small screen. The 20-question LGBTv Challenge: Survive multiple levels of difficulty to prove your Q rating. And remember, don't Google. That's cheating!

By Rob Bailey-Millado

BARELY LEGAL

- 1 What late-night gay guru first played a shoe salesman on *Sex and the City* in 2004?
- 2 Name the tatted bisexual Brooklynite who makes Sutton Foster hunger.
- 3 Who was the first trans series regular to lock down an acting Emmy nod?
- 4 List the first names and expertises of *Queer Eye's* original (2003–05 era) Fab Five.
- 5 Before launching *Drag Race*, RuPaul hosted 100 episodes of a talk show on what cable network?

MEDIUM QUEER

- 1 America has the U.K. to thank for this pioneering omnisequal cable series.
- 2 Name the daytime diva who birthed Bianca, recipient of the first same-sex soap smooch in 2003.
- 3 Who are the two out gay actors currently going where no man has gone before on CBS All Access?
- 4 What Oscar-nominated, Emmy-winning HBO star played Ellen's first-ever sitcom love?
- 5 What is the name of the trans parent in *Transparent*, formerly played by Emmy winner Jeffrey Tambor?

GOLDEN GAY

- 1 Here's the story of an all-American TV dad who tragically died from complications of HIV without ever getting to proclaim his sexuality. Who was he?
- 2 Who is Stern, Lockhart & Gardner's leather-loving, bisexual secret weapon?
- 3 This famous blonde's ex-hubby was daytime's first gay teen in 1992.
- 4 Name the Oscar-nominee with literary lineage who "lips" Roseanne at a gay bar in 1994.
- 5 This queen of comedy played a stalked apartment seller on Seasons 3 and 4 of *Will & Grace*.

LGBTV PRO

- 1 Which current TV gay dad co-starred with TV's first gay dad in a landmark 1972 *Movie of the Week*.
- 2 This cis actress played TV's first trans woman in 1975, years before fame as a drunk prime-time wife.
- 3 Who was the loud and proud reality-TV trailblazer who first came out on cam in 1973?
- 4 Name the original Studio 54 doorman who played a tortured gay bearded by Heather Locklear.
- 5 ID the outspoken Brit thesp who aced trans icon Dr. Renee Richards in a highly controversial 1986 telefilm.

ANSWERS

BARELY LEGAL

- 1: Watch *What Happens Live* host (and SJP BFF) Andy Cohen
- 2: Our cover guy, Nico Tortorella
- 3: Laverne Cox, star of *Orange Is the New Black*, in 2014
- 4: Thom/Interior Design; Kyan/Grooming; Jai/Culture; Carson/Fashion; Ted/Food & Wine
- 5: VH1 (1996–98)

MEDIUM QUEER

- 1: *Queer as Folk* (1999–2000, U.K.; 2000–2005, USA)
- 2: Erica Kane, aka Susan Lucci, on *All My Children*
- 3: Anthony Rapp and Wilson Cruz of *Star Trek: Discovery*
- 4: Laura Dern, in 1997's coming-out two-parter
- 5: Maura (2014–17)

GOLDEN GAY

- 1: Robert Reed, *The Brady Bunch* (1969–74)
- 2: Kalinda Sharma, aka *The Good Wife's* Emmy winner Archie Panjabi
- 3: Reese Witherspoon; her ex, Ryan Phillippe, played Billy Douglas on *One Life to Live*
- 4: Mariel Hemingway, granddaughter of novelist Ernest Hemingway
- 5: Sandra Bernhard, as herself

LGBTV PRO

- 1: Martin Sheen, of *Grace & Frankie*, opposite Hal Holbrook in *That Certain Summer*
- 2: Linda Gray, aka Sue Ellen on *Dallas*, in Norman Lear's *All That Glitters*
- 3: Lance Loud, in PBS' groundbreaking *An American Family*
- 4: Al Corley, Steven Carrington to her in *Dynasty* (1982)
- 5: Vanessa Redgrave played the doc turned tennis pro in *Second Serve*



Great Scott

Meet Calum Scott, England's next great superstar voice.

Before he got his start on *Britain's Got Talent*, U.K.-born Calum Scott was a struggling musician in a Maroon 5 cover band (cleverly named the Maroon 4). But following his historic 2015 Kelly Clarkson/Carrie Underwood/Adam Lambert-style audition before Simon Cowell—the kind dreams really just might be made of—Scott became an almost overnight viral sensation. His performance, a cover of the track “Dancing on My Own” originally made famous by Swedish diva Robyn, has since gone on to notch up more than 160 million views on sites like YouTube and become a

top 20 hit in more than a dozen countries around the globe.

Scott followed it up with a well-reviewed debut album, a sold-out international club tour, and a few killer dance remixes from the likes of DJs like Tiesto and Don Diablo.

PrideLife caught up with the up-and-coming star recently to find out what makes him tick. And, as you might expect for someone on the crest of such a rising wave of popularity, he had nothing but appreciation for his newfound success. “Honestly,” he says with a laugh, “it’s been such a good period, my face is in pain from all the smiling I do on the daily.”

Scott's latest single from Only Human, "You Are the Reason," a duet with X-Factor winner and fellow Brit Leona Lewis, is out now.

How do you feel looking back on your audition today?

It's absolutely crazy. I mean, 160 million views. I can't even really fathom, in my mind, how many people that is, you know? People come up to me all the time and say how touched they were by it, or how much they enjoyed it. It's just unreal.

What's the reaction to the full album been like?

I watched as midnight rolled around in the U.K., and the album was officially released. One minute past midnight, I saw people sending out screen-shots on social media. Honestly, it just moved me to tears. I was so happy it was finally out there for people to enjoy.

Where does the title *Only Human* come from?

The trend in all my favorite tracks I wrote for the album was the idea of being human. Falling in love with somebody. Not being able to help but fall in love with somebody. The heartbreak. The romance. Even the jealousy and frustration. So it seemed like the perfect title.

Your version of “Dancing” uses same-sex gender pronouns, and you've never shied away from your sexuality in your songs. Why?

The gay perspective is one we don't see too much of in the industry, so I feel it's important that we're represented. In the end, I've never felt more proud of who I am, or felt more strongly about wanting to try and make a difference. To be thrown into that role and know that I have purpose in life, even if it's just for one person—there's nothing like it! ☺

Now Hear This

INTERNET SINGING SENSATION SAM TSUI'S
ULTIMATE SUMMER 2018 PRIDE PLAYLIST.



With more than 500 million views on his YouTube channel, singer Sam Tsui definitely knows a killer track when he hears it. His latest album, *Trust*, however, is a bit different. It's a collection of a dozen originals carefully honed over the past few years. "I put out so much music online week to week, but while I do it, I've been picking away at these songs, trying to make each one really special," he says. "It's an incredible honor getting to be a representative for LGBT people around the world who might otherwise not have a voice," Tsui continues. "The songs that follow are perfect for any party but also show the incredible talent that exists within our community."



1. Janelle Monáe, "Q.U.E.E.N."

"Her new tracks are great, but this song is old-school Janelle that shows that she's been making fierce, inclusive, queer music forever."



2. MUNA, "About U"

"I love their vibe, their whole sound. This is the title track off their album, and I love the synthy atmospheric feel and the fact that they're singing about really raw, relatable, honest queer experiences."



3. Robyn, "Get Myself Together"

"I have not met a gay person who doesn't love Robyn. This is one of my favorite lesser-known tracks. It's classic Robyn: super-driving and peppy, but the lyrics are still introspective and vulnerable. I just love it."

4. Hayley Kiyoko, "Wanna Be Missed"

"I love that she's not only a queer artist but also an Asian-American, which is something that I think is still an under-

represented demo in pop music. I'm always excited to empower and share new Asian-American voices."

5. Alyson Stoner, "When It's Right"

"When this song came out, she released a statement opening up about her sexuality. The single is about her relationship with a woman. In addition to her being a friend of mine and a frequent collaborator, the track is incredible. It's got this sort of synthy vibe, and it's supercatchy."

6. Big Freedia, "Rent"

"You can't have a Pride playlist without Big Freedia. This is her latest. It's superfun, bounce, awesome. It's just everything."

7. Jesse Saint John, "Move"

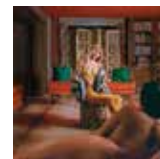
"As a songwriter, Jesse's worked with Britney and Sia and Charli XCX—this is his first track on his own. And I'm obsessed. It's fun and funky—there's a real DNCE vibe that I love."

8. Tegan and Sara, "I'm Not Your Hero"

"Tegan and Sara's *Heartthrob* is one of my favorite albums ever. There are some more obvious choices from it, but this one is so anthemic and was superinfluential to me as a songwriter."

9. Scissor Sisters, "Running Out"

"I have a soft spot in my heart for Jake and the Scissor Sisters. They were my first concert I ever went to back when I was in high school.



I love the funky disco and the absurdity that is the Scissor Sisters."

10. Todrick Hall, "Dem Beats [ft. RuPaul]"

"Todrick is one of the most talented, insanely amazing people around. 'Dem Beats' is the first big track off the album, and it's so good. And of course RuPaul! I'm a huge *Drag Race* fan, so this track gave me everything."

11. Betty Who, "Ignore Me"

"A bunch of songs on my album *Trust* were co-produced with Peter Thomas, who does a lot of Betty's stuff. That whole camp and team of people is so amazingly talented, and the song is great—especially the one-take video."

12. Sam Tsui, "Just for Tonight"

"A shameful plug. [Laughs] It's inspired by my high school days—figuring myself and my identity out and discovering the freedom of a night out with friends. I wanted it to be anthem, synthy, poppy, and, most of all, fun."

True Believer

One-on-one with ally, activist, and Imagine Dragons front man **Dan Reynolds**.

ELIOT LEE HAZEL

More than just the lead singer of one of the biggest bands in music today, Dan Reynolds holds an interesting and relatively unique spot in popular culture. He's a staunch and avid supporter of LGBT rights and equality like musicians ranging from Miley Cyrus and Cyndi Lauper to Jack Antonoff of the band Bleachers. But he's also an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—a religion known for its fiercely antagonistic views toward gays and lesbians. And getting those viewpoints to align has been a lifelong battle of faith for the musician. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Reynolds moved in front of the camera to tell his story for the new documentary *Believer* (airing June 25 on HBO). We spoke with Reynolds in the weeks leading up to the release of the impactful, emotional, and ultimately inspiring film to get the backstory on its production:

How did *Believer* come about?

I've known that I was going through a crisis of faith for quite a while. I think anybody who listens to Dragons records, and knows me on a personal level, knows that I've always been really conflicted with how I was raised and the effects of that on my life. I've been searching to find myself. But it's just been over the past few years that I really started to explore my own life and how I felt about things. When we started talking about making a film, I knew I wanted to go on that journey and document the process.

What was filming like?

It was definitely the most intense, emotional period of my life. It

was almost like therapy. It was like sitting down with someone who I felt safe with [director Don Argott] and actually speaking my truth for the first time. And doing that, I started to dig up a lot of what my own issues were; where I wanted to go with my life; what I wanted to do; and how I wanted to use my voice. I have daughters now, and I want to stand for something and be more than just that song that plays on the radio.

You're such an adamant supporter of LGBT rights and equality today. Was your wife, Aja, a big part of that?

Definitely! She's a badass activist. And the most incredible human being I've ever met. Most outsiders look in at Mormonism, and they say, "This guy must be batshit crazy." But even with all these crazy beliefs, she was able to see me for me. When I met her, she was living with her two best friends, who are gay, and they were tying themselves to federal buildings and leading all these equality protests, and I was this Mormon boy who just got off a mission. I was just looking to run away from everything and try to find myself. That said, my beliefs are also something that developed circumstantially from how I was raised and who my friends were growing up. Many of them were of orthodox faith, and a few of them were gay and conflicted about faith and their life. Seeing that from a young age, and the conflict that was there, and then seeing how disaffected the gay community was from religion as I got older, and how destructive it had been in their lives—it all kind of just came to a head.



"I've come to not really care what anybody thinks as long as, in my heart, I know that I'm doing all I can do."

Believer culminates with the first LoveLoud festival, an event you organized to promote unconditional love, understanding, acceptance, and support of LGBT individuals by all religions, but especially the Mormon faith. What was that moment like?

It was so intense. The whole process was just so overwhelming, scary, and new to me. I was putting on a show, bringing together a lot of people who come from very different backgrounds, and nobody knew just how it would all come across—if it was going to work. If people were going to yell at each other. If people were going to feel safe. If we were going to do more harm than good. There were so many questions in my mind. So at the end of the day, to have it be the most magical, beautiful day of my life, it renewed my faith in humanity and people. It was incredible! And I'm so excited for us to do it again this year. I had a really interesting talk with the head of church public affairs. He told me that he talked to the apostles, and they talked about the film and the issues we raise, like LGBT suicide rates within the Mormon faith. That alone for me is a rad thing, because that's how change comes about.

At the end of the day, what does it mean to be a believer?

The main thing I've learned from all of this is to be your true self; to always speak your truth, even if it's going to offend people. There will always be obstacles, but it's part of the journey; it doesn't define you. And always do your part so that together we can all make this world a better place. ☺



Poetic Justice

You don't need rhymes and couplets to write an outstanding poem. Just ask poet Tommy Pico.

We first met Tommy Pico last year when *PrideLife* profiled the breakout poet as one of the alums from NYC's Queer|Art|Mentorship program. One year later, the Brooklynite who grew up on the Viejas Indian Reservation in California has just released his latest project, titled *Junk*. Named by NPR as one of the most anticipated poetry collections of 2018 (following his previous releases *IRL* in 2016 and *Nature Poem* in 2017), the book-length epic poem tells the story of Teebs—a young, queer, urban-dwelling American Indian (or as he puts it, NDN). A mash-up of humor, cutting-edge language, and shattered stereotypes, Pico's work paints a whole new portrait of queer identity. Read on for one of our favorite passages from the truly incredible *Junk*...



When he's not busy writing funny yet disruptive poetry, Pico co-hosts the podcast *Food 4 Thot*. Follow him @heyteebs on Twitter.

"Control" by Janet Jackson is one of the greatest songs in the nation Warm hearts sparkle in the colonial afternoon Control is a reaction to something smacking that cracks the future w/ no precedent We call this a paradigm shift — say we were totally blindsided Janet wants to take control from her parents From the loss of a first love Control of the narrative Janet wants to Black Cat in boxy military garb Janet wants to show you her midriff and introduce J.Lo to the general public in a few albums Shock is a kind of collision A booming confusion The shudder and the shot are almost indistinguishable Shock has its electric correlate, but is also itself by what surrounds the event: a quiet dinner party vs sweaty racing thoughts And what do you make of it My friend said he found out his crush graduated college in 2014 n hates himself And I'm like wait til yr my age thinkin, *I totally still look like I'm in my 20s* Then it turns out the dude you were makin out with was born the year *Janet*, the album, came out What the literal fudge An hour ago you were singing "That's the Way Love Goes" at karaoke In my defense, taller dudes always look older How to negotiate control and the lack of control When yr slap hand gets itchy OK whenever anybody dumps you just think of them as a gif of a white dude wilding out to Wu-Tang in a cardigan then suddenly falling into the Grand Canyon — Dating is all the way dumb I don't know what, if any of this, will reach yr peepers but I want to ask you this (and I am guilty of making ppl wade thru some bullshit b4 getting to my point): What do you turn to when breath dashes from yr body like it's on the lamb? Cindy Crawford says lighting is everything Take a selfie from the sun-blown window Even supermodels say "lighting" It's comforting! But there's also value in exposing yr engine #BadSelfie Archaic but also so fresh: self-expression Trust is a thing that guides you thru a feed The voice like a handshake I'm in front of you There is paper and a trade-off This is ancient, like pixel drift What's under the hood of irritation We call complication a knot A knotted life that doesn't get to be undone Who here has a clear, linear rope? Denial! You have to love yr knots You have to shout them out Curate if need be Janet turns her knots into songs Sonic beauty (tho fuck beauty) Knot is the response A manager is like a politician Not the minutiae but the orchestration The dark forest It's hard not to inhale The cave is where to turn when you've no other recourse This isn't a discussion This isn't a mandate (lol man date) This isn't an answer This is a lineage: Lascaux, Keith Haring, Rihanna How do you draw breath? In and down Heel to crown Janet says I'm in control and ends Don't make me lose it As if she knows what's to come. The battle of control is in learning to make, and giving it up

What will you remember?



The best gay men's resort in the world

Clothing-optional private compound. 24-hour poolside restaurant and bar. Heated pool, two Jacuzzis, gym, sauna, steamroom and erotic video lounge. Deluxe rooms. Free WiFi. Free parking.

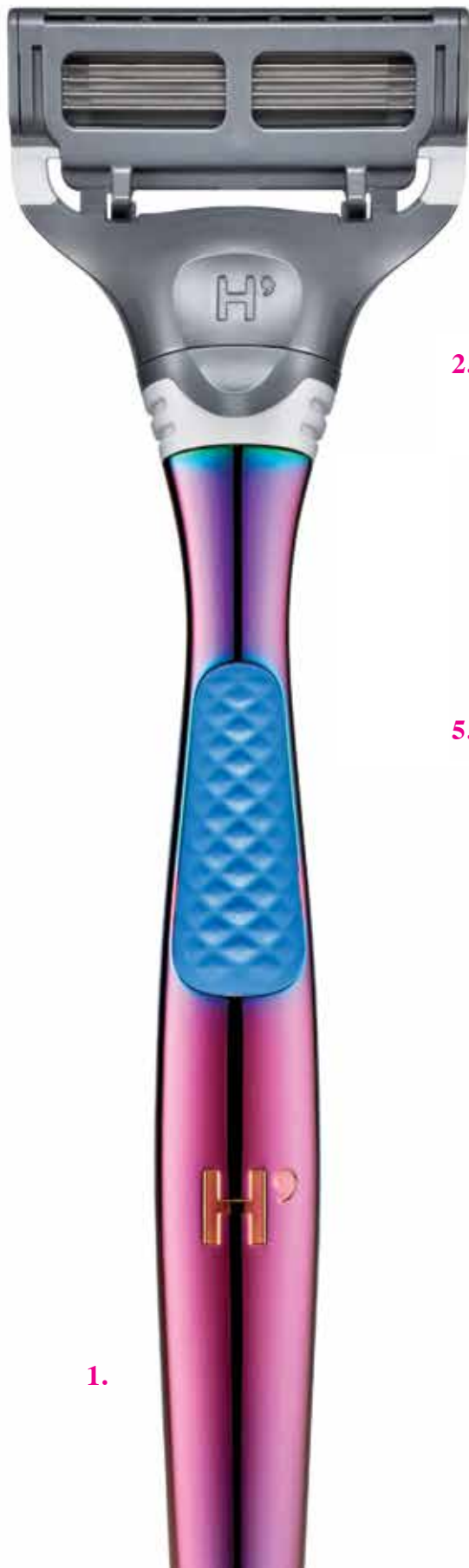


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Just Cause

These seven beauty essentials can help you look good and—because they also benefit LGBT charities—leave you feeling even better. *By Barret Wertz*

Each of the brands highlighted here not only donates to help LGBT causes but also lives the life, working year-round for a more positive, more inclusive world. So go ahead and make the most of the skin you're in with these Pride-promoting products.

1. Harry's Pride Shave Set, \$25

This summer, Harry's debuts “& Proud,” a campaign that helps spread messages of individuality and acceptance through notable members of the LGBT community, including Queer Eye's Jonathan Van Ness, writer and activist Darnell Moore, actor Charlie Carver, and trans-rights activist Angelica Ross. The total profits of each shave set sold in the U.S. are being donated to GLAAD and other LGBT nonprofit organizations. harrys.com

2. Rudy's 1-2-3 Bundle, \$55

Since 2012, Rudy's Barbershop has had an ongoing partnership with the It Gets Better Project to help provide showers to gay homeless youth. For every purchase of its 1-2-3 shower product set, the same products will be donated to a shelter like My Friend's Place in Los Angeles. With almost 40 percent of homeless youth identifying as LGBT, it's nice knowing something as simple as a clean start to your day can also help someone in need. rudysbarbershop.com

3. Soapwalla Soap Bar, \$13

Founded in her NYC kitchen, Rachel Winard's small gender-neutral skin-care company has a workforce in which almost half the employees proudly self-identify as queer. In addition to giving donations this year to the Astraea Foundation, the Ali Forney Center, and SAGE, the company will also be marching in both NYC and Brooklyn Pride. soapwallakitchen.com

4. Kiehl's Age Defender, \$28

A proud regular supporter of Pride, Kiehl's is yet again working hard to benefit the LGBT community. This year, the company will be donating \$15,000 to the Hetrick-Martin Institute for the empowerment and education of LGBT youth. kiehls.com

5. M.A.C. Viva Glam Sia, \$18

You can't mention LGBT pride without mentioning M.A.C.—a company known for breaking societal norms. This year, Sia has been tapped as the face (as covered as it may be) of the new collection—Viva Glam Sia. Every cent from M.A.C. Viva Glam goes to helping women, men, and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. maccosmetics.com

6. Formula Z Cosmetics, Mission Z, \$18

This teen-owned and -operated brand (yes, its creator isn't even old enough to drink) is making a serious beauty mark in the no-boundaries beauty space. Founder Zach Dishinger created this moisturizing, long-wearing, matte lip color in a universally fabulous shade of mauve. For every tube sold, Formula Z will donate 50 percent of net proceeds to the Trevor Project, the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention to LGBT youth, ages 13 to 24. formulazcosmetics.com

7. The Motley Burning Love Candle, \$48

Perfect for the bathroom, the bedroom, or anywhere you want to create a Zen-like vibe, this new limited-edition Burning Love candle from the Motley is hand-poured in L.A. and has fragrant notes of sandalwood, myrrh, cannabis, and bergamot. Even better, profits from its sale go to benefit a variety of human rights and LGBT-equality campaigns. themotley.com

“LIKE” YOUR LOOK

Five ways to look and feel your best Pride weekend—and all summer long!

With 9.7 million followers on Instagram alone, beauty vlogger **Bretman Rock** knows a thing or two about looking and feeling your best at all times. We asked the 20-year-old social media phenom (whose new highlighter palette line with Morphe, called “Babe in Paradise,” is available now at [Ulta Beauty](http://UltaBeauty.com) and morphebrushes.com) about the biggest trends for summer, his dos and don'ts for social media, and how to live up to his tagline: “Doing the least, but looking the most!”

Planning Your Look

“Prepare for the weekend by thinking, ‘Just how gay can I get?’ Rainbows and definitely glitter! You can never, ever go wrong with rainbows when it comes to Pride. You can look a hot mess, but you can't go wrong! And don't forget to wear something that you can twerk and dance in. You don't want to be sweating because you're wearing six piles of clothing.”

Getting Ready

“I see a lot of people wearing glitter highlighters, and it's such a cute look. It adds a pop of shimmer on your face and that extra needed gayness. Do your eyeshadow and make sure you have a great shade of lipstick. When it comes to colors, I just go crazy, honestly. You cannot wear black. It's all about colors and that Pride spirit. Honestly, I would just paint my whole body rainbow and go naked if I could.”

Feeling Your Best

“I was already accepted for being gay at a pretty young age. So my confidence when it comes to being out there or doing whatever I want has always been pretty high. But my No. 1 piece of advice to people who do lack confidence is just learning to believe in yourself, no matter what. Forget what anybody else says or does—as long as you feel good and you're smiling, then that's all that really matters.”

Capturing Memories

“One key to a great post is the time it goes up. Look for that sweet spot when you know you will get the most engagement from your friends. And don't overdo it! There's a fine line between keeping people updated and updating every second. If you've been watching me for more than two minutes a day, it's too much. Don't abuse your postings and post to the point where my thumb gets sore scrolling.”

The Perfect Selfie

“Good lighting is most important for a good pic. But the biggest mistake people make is overediting. They end up not even looking like themselves—or even human. And some people just put on way too many effects. It makes the picture a mess. Brighten if you need to and then post. That's it. Keep it real. Your social media account is not a magazine ad, girl. You don't need to fake the size of your nose and thin it out!”

My Favorite Things

The ever iconic Amanda Lepore opens up on the things that make her happiest in life.

With the self-proclaimed “most expensive body on earth,” Amanda Lepore has been an out and proud trans woman and nightlife fixture for more than two decades. In that time, she’s clearly seen and done it all. Since she’s a regular at so many LGBT parties and events (“Every day is Gay Pride for me,” she says with a laugh), we were thrilled to catch up with her for the inside scoop on the things she loves the most.

Favorite nightlife era?

Today, actually. When I started out, I was shy, and I just go-go danced. Now I really get to meet people and talk to them and take selfies. I love it.

Worst nightlife trend of all time?

Definitely '90s grunge. It was so anti-glam. It was a really hard time for me—I wore a lot of black.

Favorite musician?

There are so many. One of the biggest has to be David Bowie. I adore him! I cover his song “The Jean Genie” on my new EP (Lepore). I’m really proud of it.

Favorite celebrity encounter?

Pamela Anderson! When I was getting started, so many girls tried to look like her. Most tragically failed. She’s done *Playboy*; she’s blonde; she has that exaggerated body. She’s just a legend!

Biggest inspiration for your look?

Marilyn Monroe singing to the president. I went through a period where I tried to look like Traci Lords in *Crybaby*, but I usually end up back at that 1950s-style Marilyn Monroe blonde.

Best ever makeup tip?

Use setting spray! When I found it out, it was definitely a game changer. And lots and lots of lipstick. I probably average five coats.

Thing that makes you feel the sexiest?

Being naked. I love taking my clothes off. Except for the high heels. The five-inch heels can stay on. [Laughs] 🗨





Bear Necessity

No matter your gender, beauty really is more than a killer set of abs.

There's room for all kinds of beauty in the world—male and female, big and small. That's the message of a new platform called Riot Bear. It's designed to celebrate men of all sizes, ethnicities, and ages, and Riot Bear founder James Anthony says his goal is to help everyone remember “the body-pride movement is not a passing fad; it's here to stay, and real body types are not a trend, they are our reality.”

Riot Bear started in 2007 as Anthony's personal blog exploring his thoughts on body image. Today, it's all about inspiration. “I want to empower men of size toward personal style, to represent real male body types in fashion and beauty.

“I just got a DM from an 18-year-old who thanked me and said our images give him hope for his future. I imagine myself as a kid seeing this kind of message. It would have blown my mind and changed my life.”

Riot Bear has its share of female fans as well. “Oh, honey, the reaction has been amazing,” Anthony says. “Women love bears! There are definitely some mama bears out there, too!”

For more, go to riotbear.com.

We'll Drink to That

Improve your home bar game with a few easy tricks.

No one knows cocktails better than Shannon Ponche, head bartender at Brooklyn staple Leyenda, a perennial nom on most lists of the best bars in America. We asked Ponche for some tips on making a classic margarita, plus her other must-try cocktails for the season.

Margaritas are a summer staple. How do you like yours? I'm kind of a purist—I like them with lime juice, three-quarters of an ounce, with about an ounce of Cointreau. Mix those two with two ounces of tequila. It's a little dry, so if you have a bit of a sweet tooth, you can add some agave nectar.

Flavors—yea or nay? Watermelon is my favorite twist. You can either muddle it

in there [use a wooden muddler to crush the melon in a shaker before prepping your drink] or just make a regular margarita and then top it with an ounce or two of watermelon juice. Taste as you go. Watermelon can either be superpowerful or pretty light, so just make sure it doesn't get lost in the drink.

What's the secret for running the bar during a house party?

One easy trick is to make some different agua frescas or nonalcoholic bases. Try orange-lime or pineapple-lime, for example. Then buy different bottles of whatever base spirit you want to serve and set everything out for your guests. That way, you have nonalcoholic options for people who aren't drinking, and those who are can mix the base with tequila or mescal or even rum or vodka—so everyone's happy!

4 Must-Know Marg' Essentials

1. Always use agave syrup or fruit in place of sour mix. Typical mixes are made with corn syrup, so they're way too sweet—and high-calorie. To make your own agave syrup, boil equal portions of agave nectar and water (letting the mixture cool before use).

2. Use fresh ingredients whenever possible. The fresher and higher the quality of the ingredients in your drink, the better it will taste.

3. Don't be afraid to experiment. For inspiration, look at the color of your tequila. Clear tequilas (blancos), go better with melons or herbs. For reposados (tequilas aged two months to a year), berries and heavier citrus flavors partner nicely. And for añejos (dark tequilas aged over a year), opt for 'ritas made with coffee, figs, apples, or even sweet vermouth.

4. Blend it right. Add one cup of ice to the blender for each drink you are making. You also need extra sugar in there to help with consistency—otherwise, your drink can end up a watery mess. An extra splash of Cointreau or agave syrup will do the trick.



YOUR SUMMER HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS

THE SUMMER SHIFT

Small pinch of salt
½ oz fresh lime juice
¾ oz ginger liqueur (Canton)
½ oz pineapple juice
1 ½ oz Codigo 1530 Rosa tequila (this new pink tequila is created when blanco tequila is aged for 30 days in oak barrels that had previously been filled with cabernet)

To make: Add all ingredients to an ice-filled shaker and shake until cool. Pour over ice and garnish with a wedge of lime.

SILENCIO BELLINI

Small pinch of salt
¼ oz fresh lime juice
1 tsp pomegranate molasses
½ oz peach nectar
1 ½ oz Silencio Espadín mescal
Prosecco or sparkling wine

To make: Add salt, lime juice, molasses, peach nectar, and mescal to an ice-filled shaker and shake until cool. Pour over ice and top with prosecco or sparkling wine to taste.



Host the Perfect Pride Party

AUTHOR, ACTRESS, AND INTERNET CELEB
HANNAH HART WALKS YOU THROUGH HER BASICS
FOR A GREAT AFTERNOON WITH FRIENDS.

You may know her from her hit YouTube show, *My Drunk Kitchen*; her Food Network show, *I Hart Food*; her two *NY Times* best sellers; or her new self-help podcast, *Hannah-lyze This*, but there's one thing for sure: No matter where you met her—Hannah Hart knows food...and knows how to have a good time. Asked whether she'd rather throw a party or attend one, she's taking on the role of party planner every time. "I really, really like hosting," she says. "I love having people over. And I love not leaving my house—so what could be better!" Her other go-to party rules:

PLAN THE PERFECT MENU

When I go to a party or I'm hosting an event, finger food is key. You want foods that have some assembly required but that are good for walking around and drinking and hanging out. Start with a plate of cheese and nuts. Pigs in a blanket are ideal. And I'm a huge, huge sucker for a bread bowl. Anytime you put some spinach artichoke dip in a bread bowl, I'm there!

PICK EASY RECIPES

There are a million options for every dish online, so look for recipes with the word "simple" or "fun" in the title. Another great word to search for is "colorful." My girlfriend makes this really great burrata, peach, and pine nut salad that is so delicious and vibrant. You want things like that, that are pleasing for both the eyes and the taste buds.

FIRE UP YOUR GRILL

I'm all about that grill life. I really like to be able to do a meal in waves. And as a host, I can get kind of anxious when people come over. The good thing about grilling is that it can leave you semioccupied so you can kind of dip in and out of the party, while still participating and letting the party flow around you.

CHOOSE ENTRÉES IN PAIRS

For every protein, have a vegetarian option. Don't just have one vegetarian dish and three meats. That doesn't mean all salad or tofu, either. Try halloumi cheese, black bean burgers,

portobellas—vegetables are delicious, and they're not just for vegetarians.

FOR DESSERT, FILL UP YOUR FREEZER

Cakes and cookies are fine, but Popsicles are way more interesting and refreshing. And there are some really great gourmet flavors now, like sour hibiscus. Take one of those and put it in the glass with any sour ale, and you have a really delicious instant dessert.

DON'T STRESS OVER THE SETUP

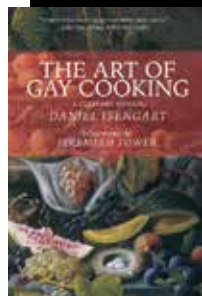
Don't put too much pressure on yourself over presentation if that's not something you enjoy. I have a lot of friends who are way better cooks than I am, and I'm always like, "Hey, I'll make you drinks for free if you come over and help me set up." And if there are people who are gonna care about how your presentation looks, maybe they're not the best people to be hanging out with!

PLAN THE CLEANUP WHILE YOU'RE DOING THE PREP

I do my post-party shopping at the same time I'm buying items for a party. Get some eggs and tortillas. Gatorade or electrolytes. Because you know when you wake up in the morning and you've got a mess in front of you, all you really want is that egg.

FINALLY, THE BIGGEST SECRET FOR A GOOD EVENT?

Just be present. People like it when the host is having fun, too!



THE ART OF GAY COOKING

Part cookbook, with more than 250 easy-to-follow recipes; part memoir, with stories from Daniel Isengart's life as an in-demand NYC private chef plus his food-filled upbringing in southern Germany and Paris, *The Art of Gay Cooking* is as funny as it is useful. Isengart espouses what he calls "the

gay approach" to cooking—exploring new foods and flavors, improvising, taking risks, and all the while indulging as you cook. And in the book's anecdotes of his life, he re-creates memories so vividly you'll swear you were there. A delicious read, whether you know your way around a kitchen or not.





Out & About

FIVE OFT-OVERLOOKED TRAVEL HOT SPOTS THAT DESERVE A SLOT ON YOUR MUST-SEE LIST. BY JOSH OCAMPO

San Francisco. New York. Berlin. The list of major gay travel destinations is a familiar one. But with changing times, burgeoning pockets of nightlife, and thriving food scenes, more and more cities are joining that ever-growing list.

Since all travelers are not created equal, we asked the experts, bloggers, tour guides, and our friends over at the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association about their favorite up-and-coming hot spots—and how you can make the most of your time out of office and on the ground.

FOR THE SINGLE PERSON:

Madrid, Spain

Let's face it: Traveling is as much about meeting new people as it is about seeing new places—and few cities compare to Madrid in terms of a bustling nightlife. A combination of old and new, the Chueca neighborhood is the heart of the city's gay scene, with streets lined with rainbow-flag-adorned bars, "alternative" shopping, and late-night tapas. Plaza Chueca is the area's central square, and during the



summer, it's the ideal place to barhop and people watch. Just a few blocks south is Museo Chicote, Chueca's oldest cocktail bar. Dating back to 1931, it is said to have once served both Frank Sinatra and Grace Kelly during their travels through Spain. Accordingly, the cocktail menu pays homage to Hollywood's greatest flicks, with drinks dedicated to everything from *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* to *A Clockwork Orange*. Fulanita de Tal is one of the multiple lesbian bars in the area and is equal parts lounge and live music venue. If you're looking for something a little rowdier, check out its counterpart, Fulanita V.I.P. Club, just a stone's throw away, where DJs spin records and drinks flow freely until 6 a.m.

FOR THE FOODIE: *Mexico City, Mexico*

Whether you're visiting for a week or stopping by for a layover, Mexico City is worth traveling to for the food alone—though its rich history and culture offer extra incentive to stay a while. Maximo Bistrot is one of the city's highest-rated farm-to-table restaurants, with a menu highlighting local produce from the area by head chef Eduardo Garcia, who formerly

worked under renowned chef Eric Ripper. Pujol is another must-see (and eat) by chef Enrique Olvera, hailed by those in the know as one of the top restaurants in the world. The modern, stylish eatery offers a six-course menu, including fresh seafood and mole. You also can't miss their famous eight-course taco tasting—yes, tacos—with pairings included. If you have your sights set on something a little more casual, look no further than El Tizoncito, a no-frills joint home to the self-proclaimed “creators” of tacos al pastor. With the limitless amount of restaurants to try in Mexico City, sometimes the easiest way to try it all is to book a walking tour with a company like Eat Mexico or Gentle Tours, which offer specialized culinary itineraries where you can stroll through food markets and familiarize yourself with delicacies firsthand. Don't forget to check out the Zona Rosa area of Mexico City, either. It's a gay district with rowdy bars and restaurants. It's also home to the city's annual Pride parade, which takes place every June.

FOR THE SOLO TRAVELER: *Tokyo, Japan*

Sometimes, the most worthwhile vacations are the ones you take alone. After all, planning a trip with friends can be a hassle, and the last thing a vacation should be is work. In many ways, Tokyo has become the ideal place for solo adventurers due to its safety and ease of transit. In fact, navigating the Tokyo metro is a cinch, given the number of apps with transit maps you can download for free (though the last trains run around midnight, meaning you'll need to find a ride for those after-hour activities). A Wi-Fi connection can be difficult to find in such an enormous city, which is why many hotels and airports offer pocket Wi-Fi devices that allow you to travel and stay connected. Tokyo is also easily accessible without any knowledge of the language, provided you have some form of translation available to you for those trickier situations. (We recommend the Google Translate app.) Whether you're venturing through the electric lights of Akihabara or people



Opposite page:
Tokyo's Shibuya Crossing.
Above: Madrid's famed Museo Chicote bar.



Left: The herb garden at Pujol in Mexico City. Above: Its signature octopus entrée.

watching at the Shibuya crosswalk, there's plenty to check off your list during a trip to Japan's bustling capital. Shinjuku Nishime is the city's gay district, with a nearly endless number of cozy bars and clubs that cater to just about every audience. While some bars limit themselves to Japanese speakers only, the district is largely foreigner-friendly, and there's never any shortage of both locals and visitors strolling the streets as the sun comes up.

FOR THE ADVENTUROUS:
Queenstown, New Zealand

For some, a vacation means ditching the spa treatments for high-flying sports—and Queenstown is just the place for the adrenaline junkie in all of us. The Kawarau Bridge is considered the first commercial bungee jump site in the world, where participants can dive off the 141-foot bridge over the Kawarau River. If a bridge isn't high enough for you, Queenstown is also the ideal place to skydive and witness the rugged terrain from above. There's an almost infinite number of water spots in the area worth a visit. Some of the best occur along the 52-mile-long Lake Wakatipu, the perfect place to fish, kayak, or hop on an extreme jet boat ride. Weather can change dramatically in Queenstown based on season, so with the mountains nearby, the area also becomes a major skiing destination in colder climates. Queenstown's biggest LGBT event is its annual ski week in September, with an itinerary that includes parties, bar crawls, and, of course, ample time to hit the slopes.



Left: The birthplace of bungee jumping—the Kawarau Bridge in Queenstown. Above: The Yoga Centrum retreat in Curaçao.

FOR THE OVERWORKED:
Curaçao

There's truly no feeling like lying on a beach while ignoring your in-box. Only a short flight away from most East Coast cities, Curaçao has become the latest trendy escape for nine-to-five warriors, with plenty of sandy shores and spas for every taste. Only 38 miles long, the Caribbean island is gay-friendly and organizes its own annual Pride festival held over four days in September, with nonstop parties and beach activities. The 72-room Floris Suite Hotel & Spa is among the island's most LGBT-friendly, adults-only hotels, offering a private beach club and some much-needed spa amenities. Or head to the waterside Sensi Spa, where you can get a deep-tissue massage right on the beach. For the extra ambitious, consider a weeklong yogi retreat at Yoga Centrum Curaçao. The package offers seven days of hiking, meditation-silence walks, yoga on the beach—and plenty of encouragement to forget about your 8 a.m. meeting on Monday.

FOR THE FAMILY: ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Traveling with the kids? When it comes to family vacations, especially with youngsters, there really is no better option than Florida. Just remember that there is more to the Orlando area than its amusement parks and tourist traps, and plan accordingly. Winter Park, for example, is just a short drive away and is an art and culture haven with a number of museums and public parks, worth at least a day trip. If you're adamant about venturing into Disney territory or anything adjacent, purchase a Go Orlando card in advance of your trip and pay a onetime price to visit all the main tourist attractions. You can also buy a SunPass, a prepaid toll card, to avoid the hassle while driving, but rush hour is very much a real obstacle, so be prepared.



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Life-Changing Advances

From new medications to managing exposure, scientists are continuing to battle HIV—and make it easier than ever to live a long, healthy life.

By
ALYSSA SHAFFER

There was a time not so long ago that a diagnosis with HIV could be considered a death sentence. Thankfully, like smallpox and polio and many other diseases before them, HIV has been dealt a serious blow over the past two decades. While it's not yet fully eradicated, we're getting closer and closer to a day when the virus no longer walks among us.

Until then, science keeps pushing forward, looking for a cure and developing an ever-expanding range of treatments. Continued advancements in drug therapies are helping to make the virus nearly undetectable in the blood—with few to no side effects. But there's still much that researchers wish they knew about how to keep the virus from being transmitted, as well as preventing it from replicating in the body. And the battle to fight the stigma that persists for those who've contracted the virus continues to rage on as well.

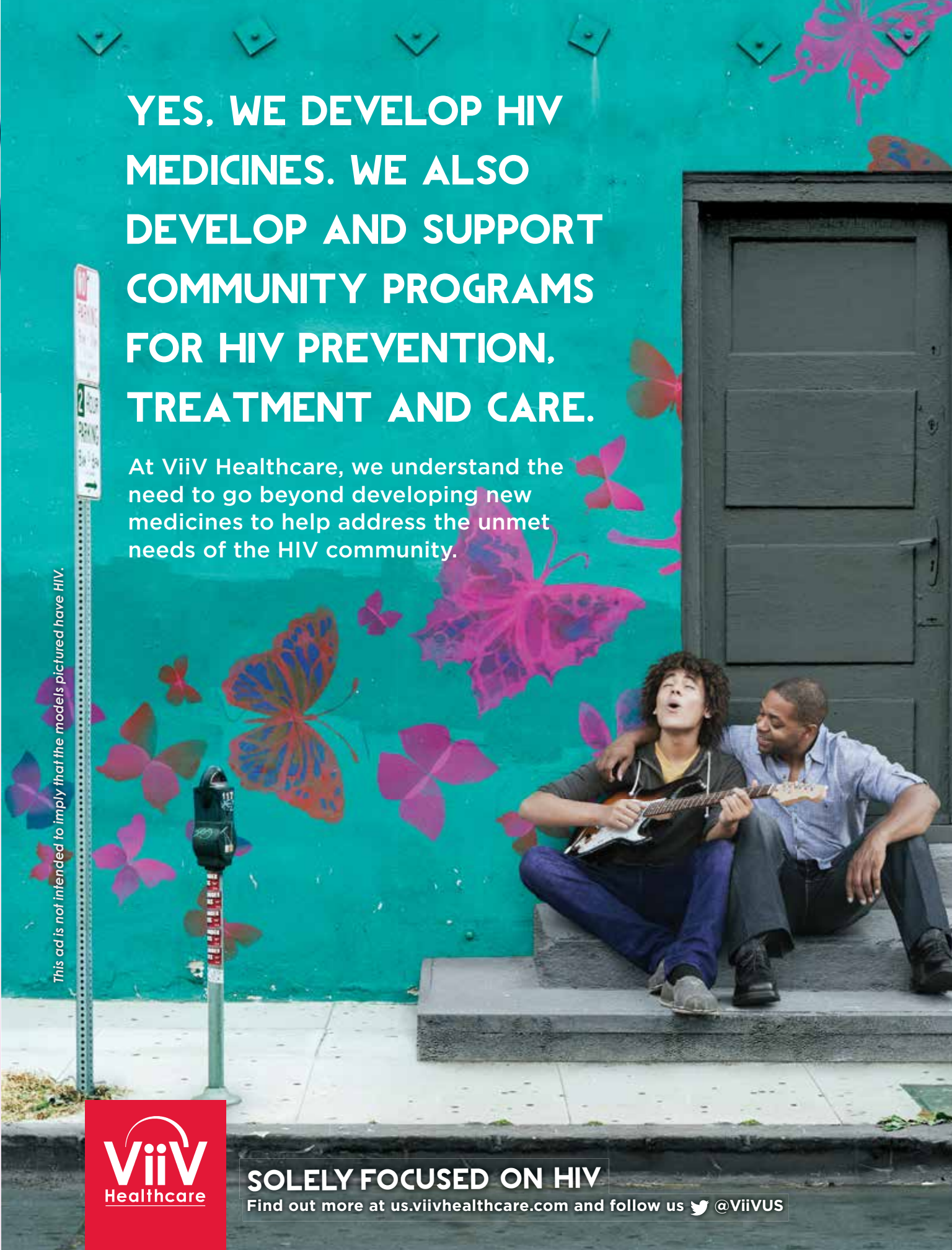
“Much of the attention today within the scientific community is centered on prevention, and there's a lot in our toolbox we can use to make a real difference,” notes Marguerita Lightfoot, Ph.D., a professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Prevention Science at the University of California, San Francisco.

So while researchers are still working on trying to find a cure for HIV, expect to see more and more progress being made around helping those who already have HIV live longer and more easily with the disease, while also reducing the spread of new infections across different populations.

Here, a look at the areas in which we've already seen success, and what you can expect in the near future.

1. Fewer meds to swallow.

Gone are the days when you'd have to take more than a dozen pills each day to manage HIV viral loads. “We now have several single-tablet regimens that require just one pill, once a day,” notes Judith Currier, chief of the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases and the chair of the AIDS Clinical Trial Group. “It's much better tolerated and has fewer side effects as well.” And if patients aren't able to tolerate the medication they've been given, they have more options to turn to, she adds. “We've →



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really made extraordinary progress in treatments, and we will likely continue to do so in the coming years.”

2. Injectables are coming.

Researchers continue to make progress on developing injectable antiretroviral therapies (ART) that may be administered monthly or every other month as an alternative to oral medications. “HIV-positive patients who have trouble taking pills will be able to come in once a month and get an injection that will provide the same benefit in maintaining viral suppression,” explains Rachel Rutishauser, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Division of Experimental Medicine at UCSF and HIV provider at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital’s Ward 86 clinic. In addition to adding to the ease of treatment, getting a monthly shot rather than taking a pill every day can also help reduce the stigma many patients feel.

Similar to cancer immunotherapies, much of the research being done in that area today focuses on helping to boost the body’s own immune cells to fight off the virus. One type of immune cell, known as CD8+ T cells, can recognize and eliminate cells that have been infected with the HIV virus. “Often the immune system can become dysfunctional when exposed to HIV; the hope is that we can develop a treatment that will overcome that exhaustion so the immune system can do its job and destroy the virus in the body,” says Rutishauser.

3. Reduced transmission.

If you’ve been taking ART and your blood work shows that

you have a consistently undetectable viral load, the HIV virus can not be transmitted sexually. This message (known as “u = u,” or “undetectable equals untransmittable”) has been gaining traction in the past year and is now promoted by more than 400 organizations from 60 different countries, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We’ve long suspected that if you have a sustainably negative viral load that has been suppressed for at least six months that you can not sexually transmit the virus,” says Gail Shust, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatric infectious diseases at New York University School of Medicine. “Now we have the scientific evidence to back that up.” This can go a long way toward reducing the stigma surrounding HIV, especially for those who are in a relationship with a partner who is negative.

4. “Treatment as prevention” is still an important concept.

“In the past, discussion around safer sex tended to focus only on condoms and regarded partners of HIV-positive individuals as being at really high risk,” says Shust. “We now have the evidence that shows treatment as prevention works.” This means that in addition to using condoms, taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (known as PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) should be part of every safe-sex discussion.

PrEP medications are for those who are at very high risk for HIV and involve a daily regimen to lower their chances of actually getting infected. The medication is highly effective

EXPECT TO SEE MORE AND MORE PROGRESS BEING MADE AROUND HELPING THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE HIV LIVE LONGER AND MORE EASILY WITH THE DISEASE.

when used as prescribed in helping to stop HIV from taking hold. Research shows daily PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90 percent; for those who inject drugs, it can reduce the risk by more than 70 percent. PEP medications are meant to be taken on an emergency basis after being potentially exposed to HIV; they must be started within 72 hours after a possible exposure and need to continue being taken for four weeks. Researchers are also working on injectable PrEP medications that may make it easier to adhere to the drug regimen, adds Lightfoot.

5. Chronic diseases associated with HIV are being minimized.

While life expectancies of those who have been diagnosed with HIV are close to those of a non-infected population, there are some ailments that seem to be on the rise among HIV-positive patients. “There is evidence that some of the common diseases associated with aging, like heart disease, dementia, osteoporosis, and certain types of cancers, may be elevated in people living with HIV,” explains Peter Hunt, M.D., interim chief in →



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the Division of Experimental Medicine at UCSF.

For example, those with HIV (even with restored T-cell counts) have a five to six times greater risk of developing pneumonia compared with a non-HIV population. They also have about a 50 percent increase over the general population in developing heart disease, and at an earlier age, and a four to six times greater increase in developing non-Hodgkin lymphoma, as well as an increased risk of HPV-related cancers such as cervical cancer in women and anal cancer in men who have sex with men.

Health experts speculate that persistent inflammation and immune activation in those who are living with HIV may make them more susceptible to these diseases. “We are trying to figure out novel ways to reduce some of this immune activation and decrease some of these age-associated complications,” says Hunt. Among the most positive options so far are lifestyle changes, such as not smoking, following a healthy diet and exercise, as well as using already-approved medications such as statins, which may help curb inflammation in the body whether you have high cholesterol levels or not.

Other research is looking at the role HIV may play in increasing leaky gut syndrome, in which bacteria in the gut lining can seep into the rest of the body, causing inflammation. “The next generation of intervention will be to work on reducing some of this inflammation and studying the interaction between the gut microbiome and gut barrier,” adds Hunt. ◻

Essential Resources

No matter what health condition you might be dealing with, these are the most helpful, useful places to turn for news and guidance.

American Psychological Association

This portal has vital information to improve the lives of those struggling with sexual orientation and gender identity. apa.org/pi/lgbt/

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC offers a treasure trove of information, resources, data, and links to other resources for sexual minorities at risk. cdc.gov/lgbthealth

Center of Excellence for Transgender Health

Trans communities are often neglected by health-care providers. This organization within the University of California, San Francisco, provides plenty of resources not available elsewhere. transhealth.ucsf.edu

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

The largest and oldest of the health-care professionals dedicated to improving the health of LGBT communities, it strives for equality in care and features an extensive provider directory. glna.org

The Fenway Institute

This interdisciplinary center focuses on giving underserved communities, like the LGBT community, access to quality medical and mental health care. fenwayhealth.org/the-fenway-institute

National Coalition for LGBT Health

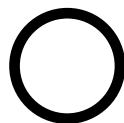
This coalition is focused on eliminating the disparities in health care that occur within the entire LGBT community. healthgbt.org

Debunking the Risk Myth

Do LGBT communities really suffer from a higher risk for certain health conditions—or is the medical community too quick to assign blame to our suspected “outsider” status?

By

ADAM BIBLE



ne of the most widely held assumptions about sexual minorities like LGBT men and women is that the behaviors prevalent within the community naturally place these individuals at higher risk for chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance abuse. While numerous stats and studies conducted in the past appeared to support that conclusion, newer research that focused on the general population as a whole and not just “at-risk” communities have shown that things are not quite as simple as previously theorized.

“I don’t talk about LGBT populations being at high risk for certain health conditions anymore, because I don’t think that’s an appropriate framework to present findings within,” says Barbara Warren, Psy.D., director of LGBT programs at Mount Sinai Health System’s Office for Diversity and Inclusion and assistant professor of medical education at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. “I don’t like to single out queer people as being at higher risk for things like heart disease or depression,” she says, “because we are all at risk for these things equally.”

“One of the things we are finding out, however,” she adds, “is that even with people who are doing well economically, who have good forms of social support, who are out and have access to really good medical care—there do still seem to be some disparities at play.” But rather than arising from genetic factors or other areas beyond a person’s control, these risks may actually be the result of something researchers have dubbed sustained minority stress.

In other words, while not naturally predisposed to an increased risk for heart disease or dependency or depression, there are certain stressors for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer-identified that develop over time, and you need to watch out for them because they can impact on your health.

Born This Way

The term “minority stress” was first created by health professionals to provide a concept that would both reflect the psychological and health-related impact

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• Health

of stigma and discrimination on queer communities, and to allow researchers to explore how low levels of everyday stress affect and impact an individual's health, health risk, and health status.

The concept has changed over time, though. Today, says Warren, the focus of minority stress in the medical community has shifted to: What's the impact of being LGBT in today's world? And how does it affect an individual's health and behavior over time?

One example Warren cites of these changing beliefs in medicine is the supposedly well-established notion that indicated that gay men and lesbians smoked cigarettes at significantly higher rates than straight men and women. Recent research on the wider population reports that lesbian smoking rates have declined and could be lower than among some straight women, depending on segments of the population you measure. That, she cautions, turns years of research on its ear.

But the medical community as a whole is still slow to change its beliefs. Not only is there incredible willingness to assign piecemeal research to populations without proper mediation, she says, but the very act of doing so also results in an even worse problem—another type of stigmatization for the community as a whole.

"I think that LGBT individuals become so tired of hearing research that warns, 'Oh, we drink too much, we smoke too much, we fuck too much,'" says Warren. "It can just make people feel even more stigmatized and make them even less

willing to want to seek proper health information."

The Bottom Line

So what's it all mean? Physically, LGBT individuals have the same risk for illness as any straight person. So take care of yourself. Eat right, exercise, and try to find someone who can help you along the way. Look for a doctor you can comfortably address all parts of your life with, including your sexuality.

"I think being able to talk to people who do identify as gay, lesbian, bi, or trans about risk and about prevention and wellness, in a context that's relevant to them, is very important," says Warren. When some health-care providers give advice, it can quickly turn into a type of blame game where they cite studies and warn, "Oh, you are more likely to do X and Y, and it's your fault." That's not helpful for anyone, cautions Warren. "Sexual minorities are not inherently more flawed."

In addition, remember that psychologically, minority stress is a real thing. Pressures from coming out or trying to fit in or feeling you don't belong can screw with your mind and really can cause lasting physical harm. Remember that your journey is your own, on your time frame, and you don't have to please anybody but yourself.

Fight back with support in whatever form it may come in: family, friends, a significant other, a therapist, support groups, or even by joining online communities—whatever makes you feel supported, loved, and accepted. The prouder you are of your identity, the less you feel like a minority, and the healthier you just might be overall. ☺

WHAT'S THE
IMPACT OF BEING
LGBT IN TODAY'S
WORLD? AND
HOW DOES IT
AFFECT AN INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH
AND BEHAVIOR
OVER TIME?



REACHING OUT

From fighting HIV and the stigma of illness to battling the effects of minority stress, here are a few of the innovative approaches being used to spread the message of love and acceptance within our community:

Live theater: An immersive theater experience called "As Much As I Can" is part of the ACCELERATE! Initiative from Viiv Healthcare. The show, which features real-life dialogue culled from outreach groups in Baltimore, MD, and Jackson, MS, has played to more than 1,500 attendees.

Neighborhood outreach: Peer groups are a way into communities that might not otherwise come in for testing or care. A recent study from the AIDS Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, used peer recruiters to distribute self-test kits among gay men—and offered support for those who tested positive. "By using peers, we can tap into social and sexual networks that we can't necessarily reach through other outreach methods," says Marguerita Lightfoot, who led the trial.

Safe injection sites: Although still in the planning stages, cities such as New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Seattle are looking into opening supervised injection sites, where trained staff members would be on hand to administer medications to counteract drug overdoses; at the same time, social workers would be able to reach drug users about addiction treatment as well as HIV prevention and testing. "We think this will be a huge way to keep injection drug users engaged," says Lightfoot.



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Portrait of an American Family

Move over, Norman Rockwell. The Crone-Barons represent the new face of our ever-evolving family—and parents who support trans lives. By Anne-christine d'Adesky

Meet the Crone-Barons: They're a family of five living in Seattle, busy with work, school, and community. But they're also busy navigating the tricky shoals of parenthood, gender identity, bathrooms, and puberty, as they support their 12-year-old Luna's evolving trans adolescence.

Even before age 2, Luna's parents recall, the child born as Joaquin wanted to be a girl—something

that's never wavered since. "Luna came roaring out, almost 10 pounds at birth," says Tyler—the Crone side of the duo—with a laugh. "They always had a very big presence, very creative and dramatic. They wear their heart on their sleeve."

For the couple, both 45 and lawyer-activists, the journey into parenthood has always focused on a priority question: how to best support each child,

"YOU HAVE TO QUESTION WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW; GET AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN FOR YOURSELF AS A PARENT; FOLLOW YOUR GUT; AND FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR YOUR KID."

— TYLER CRONE-BARON

allowing them to express an authentic self, and how to protect and nurture them. "Maybe even before age 2, Luna was just drawn to traditionally female things," says Jorge—the Baron. He initially thought Joaquin might simply be emulating older sister Isabella by donning her dresses. The shift to "fancy clothes"—colorful leggings worn at school, dresses at home—began as soon as Joaquin could get

dressed on their own, and never ended. “It was always very clear—Joaquin was always very different,” adds Jorge. On gender, he says: “We held the box open.”

A progressive-minded couple from the start, Jorge and Tyler met in law school in 2000 and shifted from best friends to romantic partners years later. He was born in Colombia and came to the U.S. at age 13, when his mother moved to pursue a psychology degree. She was born in upstate New York as the baby of five siblings. Her father worked in the steel industry; her mother was the civic-minded type who got her law degree when Tyler was in college.

“We dated for a month before we got pregnant,” says Tyler. Isabella was born in 2003; Luna—then Joaquin—in 2006; Luca in 2013. “We started having social bumps very early on,” says Tyler of the emergence of Luna’s inner girl in kindergarten. In first grade, Joaquin had a teacher who supported them, and it was the first time Joaquin drew self-portraits in a school setting wearing a skirt. The bathroom became a fraught, unsafe space, mimicking the nation’s battles over transgender bathrooms. Other children would demand to see Joaquin’s private parts before permitting them to use the toilet, leading to avoidance and accidents. By third grade, says Tyler,

“they couldn’t ever use the bathroom safely,” she remembers. “They had been tormented by boys and girls, too. It’s incredible how little girls police each other’s bodies.”

Fortunately, a slew of media articles about trans kids came out around the time Joaquin was 2, with pointers on how to raise children on a “gender rainbow”—the couple’s preferred term. “They were beautiful stories; they definitely resonated,” Tyler says. “We had always been searching for resources, talking to folks. My work world of HIV, gender equality, and human rights activism has been one of the greatest sources of support.”

Luna’s parents have struggled to balance their desire to protect Luna and support their independent navigation in an often harsh world. “I look back at my own life and what shaped me, and it’s often the hard experiences,” says Jorge. “I’m very proud that, at a very early age, Luna’s taken that step of owning that identity and being very proud of it.”

Luna officially took their new name at age 10, after a trial year. By then, they’d connected with other trans kids in Seattle and online, too. (See box.)

The new battleground is puberty—and middle school. “We’ve had to tackle the question of hormones and puberty blockers, and that was hard,” Tyler

admits. Here Luna guides them, and their happiness—or misery—is the compass. “Life is going to be hard. Sometimes there’s anger and frustration,” says Tyler. “Luna has to learn to persist in order to survive and thrive.” Compared with her other children, trans issues demand extra focus: “The stakes are high. If we screw up with Isabella, she’ll tell us about it,” says Tyler. “If we screw up with Luna, you read about suicide and violence, and you hear from parents on Facebook about how trans kids are getting harmed at school. We are doing everything we can to keep them safe; however, the risk of violence and harm is real.”

So far, the family’s journey has yielded some hard-won lessons. “I’m always fascinated that people think it’s how you raise your children that affects how they turn out,” says Jorge, adding: “All of our kids have been raised similarly, and they’re very different. The idea that we did something to turn Luna transgender is ludicrous. Your children are who they are; you just have to support them.”

Tyler is even more blunt: “You have to question what you thought you knew; get as much information as you can for yourself as a parent; follow your gut; and fight like hell for your kid. If we weren’t being loud and proud we would be doing a real disservice to Luna and our entire family.”



LILITH POWER

They say 12 is the age of reason. Tell that to Luna Lilith Crone-Baron, who’s cute and poised yet wise and self-possessed beyond their years. Now 12, Luna is also a budding activist on the Truth Council, a nascent platform for trans youth that marks a collaboration between the national Transgender Law Project and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (formerly known as the Gay Straight Alliance).

“I would describe myself as kind but sometimes kind of fiery,” says Luna, who chose their new middle name after Lilith, the powerful figure of Jewish mythology who’s fierce, misunderstood, and often demonized but who also represents love, beauty, fertility, and war. “I like to be creative and have very strong opinions.” In addition to loving books, movies (horror), and the theater (dramas and musicals), Luna finds that activism is a major release and provides a chance to meet other trans kids.

“I like being able to educate people on being trans and how it’s not a huge deal; you were just born into the wrong body.”

As for the future, Luna also has a message for the world, cut straight from an episode of *Oprah*: “I would say don’t listen to what anyone else says and be who you want to be. Just be you. Make sure you are your full self, even if people tell you something else.”



Advice for the Queer Community

*Author Michelle Tea offers up seven life-changing tips on how to not be a queer douchebag, in our adaptation from her hilarious—and insightful—new collection of essays, *Against Memoir* (in stores now).*

Dear People,

Hi. I'm here to give you advice you have not asked for. Why? Because! Because no matter our ages, our genders, or our sexualities, everyone can benefit from a bit of advice. For real—whether you want to hear it or not! Besides, I'm here, and I enjoy telling people what to do, so here we go.

1. Stop policing each other like little queer police officers. I have never seen a quadrant of people so ready to tear each other's faces off as queers. I'm going to actually narrow my focus here and say queers who were assigned female at birth. Are we all on the same page here? Okay, good. Listen, we're sensitive! I get it. We've been that way our whole lives. And listen, I get that being called on your shit is a special and

I THINK WE HAVE A GREATER AWARENESS AND THAT THIS CAN BRING ABOUT TRANSFORMATION ON ALL LEVELS OF OUR LIVES AND CULTURE. I WANT US TO BEGIN BY BEING NICER TO ONE ANOTHER.

important part of becoming a good, healthy, socially conscious person. We're all good-hearted people, right? But we grow up with these huge blind spots because we were raised entirely among white people or rich people or rich white people or we've never heard of transgender people before. So it's important to point out to people when they are fucking up.

What I ask is, can we not enjoy it so much? I think

we've all had the experience of telling someone that what they said or did is wicked sexist/racist/ageist/biphobic/what have you. And it can feel really good because, if you're like me, you probably feel like your head is up your ass all the time. It can feel so awesome to be like, "YES! I KNOW that is fucked up! Hey you, don't say that!"

"Now I am the HERO! I am the CHAMPION of knowing how to BE in the world!" But you know, you're going to fuck up too. I'm going to fuck up. I think it's really important to be humble, and forgiving, and not, like, totally get off on shaming a person for not knowing everything yet. Get it? Amazing. Let's be gentle with each other. Let's try not to be defensive when someone steps up and schools us. Let's listen to the schooler, and let's be compassionate toward the more ass-headed among us. I guarantee that in your long career as a queer you will have many occasions to be on both sides of this dynamic. Let's make it as pleasant and helpful as possible, shall we?

2. Don't fall in love with a person you have never met but only know from the internet. You guys, this happened to me! I was so embarrassed, but then I learned that it has happened to others too, so now I'm all empowered and speaking out. I don't mean, don't meet someone on the internet, go have coffee with them, and then fall in love. That's great.

I mean, don't meet someone on the internet, never have coffee with them because in fact they live across the country in their mother's sewing room because they are recently out of rehab and taking opiate blockers so that in case they relapse on heroin for the sixteenth time they don't get high from it, and their license got revoked for driving the getaway car for some drug addicts who were holding up a liquor store with dirty needles, and oh, they are also on probation and can't leave the state of Massachusetts—and then fall in love.

I know there are some of you right now thinking, Oh my god that sounds like my dream girlfriend. Am I right? You are sick people. Why do queers like gigantic disasters so much? Here are some people whose problems I have romanticized and involved myself in: girls who like to bang their heads on walls, depressed people not on medication, people who like to pop Xanax for their anxiety—aka pillheads who think they are being healthy—surly genderqueers unable to find employment, suicidal trans men, handsome rascals with borderline personality disorders, unfaithful potheads, cranky people who are annoyed all the time and talk to you (me) like you're stupid, anxious people who get angry, angry people who get anxious, radical activist sociopaths (they make great activists because they don't care about hurting people), and more! In every

instance, I sort of hugged these problems to my scant bosom, thinking: The poor things! They have had such a hard time! Because they are queer/genderqueer/female/not really female/too smart for this world/too sensitive for this world/need therapy so bad but will never, ever go because why should they when I am here to deal with their bullshit all day long?

Some of these people were sweet messes and some were actually sort of abusive. I see people stay in relationships like this because they don't want to be a bad ally. They don't want to betray someone, not stick around for the hard stuff. They know how hard it is to be queer, and they want to be supportive.

Listen, love makes everyone go against their own best interests and I know we all have our own process with this stuff, but next time you find yourself having a moment with some hot, troubled individual who is being a total asshole and then giving you some sort of sob story about why you don't understand what's going on for them, remember this moment. Wonder, Is this what Michelle was talking about? Yes, it is.

And you, hot, troubled individual, next time you are trying to make your date pay for all the genuinely horrible and inexcusably fucked-up things you have survived, may you experience a moment of clarity in the midst of it and think: Oh my god, I really have to go to therapy. May you both go to

therapy and learn how to be in healthy relationships, to not be doormats or tyrants. May you break up with one another. Not because you don't deserve love, of course you do! But because there are times in our insane queer lives when it is better for us to be alone with ourselves, figuring out our shit, not putting another person through it or allowing ourselves to be dragged around, boundary-less, crying all the time.

3. Already in a bad relationship? Just break up. Awesome things happen because of breakups. Here are some things that I have done specifically because a breakup gave me the time, energy, space, and/or money to do it: I went to Paris, started smoking, quit smoking, bought a really expensive purse, started a writing retreat, had affairs with Parisians, went to Paris Fashion Week. Basically, the best thing you can do for yourself when you're going through a breakup is go to Paris. Do it. The queers in Paris are so into you, I promise. Go and have sex with them, they are all very promiscuous. French people are like, "Sex? Pfffff." That's what they do when something is like not a big deal. Pfffff. It's like whatever, but more sophisticated. So, okay, the point of this tangent is, stay away from painfully dramatic relationships, and if it's too late and you're already in one, break up and go to France. And if you are the painfully dramatic person, go to therapy and start

getting better. You don't need to be in pain all the time.

4. Remember—you are not the only person in the world having sex. Dudes. I know, it's exciting—sex is pretty much my favorite thing in the whole world. I am with you. But there is this phenomenon in the queer world, I think maybe because being sex positive has been so important to us, right, because people try to oppress our sexuality and they pretty much force us to rebel and shove it in their face, which is fun, I get it, but sometimes it seems like queers think no one else is having sex and guess what? They are. Totally normal-seeming squares are getting it on. Sometimes very perversely. My first real boyfriend, who I dated when I was eighteen, before I even knew I was queer, he liked to be fisted in the butt. I mean, I wasn't queer yet so I didn't know about such practices and I was freaked out. But I did my best to accommodate, because that's what friends do. Friends who are having sex with each other. Of course, it's worth noting that you don't have to do anything you don't want to do, sexually speaking, ever. But it's nice to be open-minded.

To be real, I was horrified at the thought of sticking my hand up my boyfriend's butt. He was horrified at spanking my ass. But that's what we both wanted—we were both freaky perverts but in totally mismatched ways! So tragic! Perhaps some of you are in this situation right

now. What's great about life is that you can absolutely find someone who is into the same twisted fun time you are into. Like Madonna said, "Don't go for second best, baby," stick it out for someone you're compatible with. Because check it: eventually your relationship will come upon hard times, eventually the love chemicals that are flooding your system and causing you to be totally obsessed with this person, they will fade. This person will start to annoy you just a little. Every now and then. But if you have rad earth-shattering mind-blowing



THERE ARE TIMES IN OUR INSANE QUEER LIVES WHEN IT IS BETTER FOR US TO BE ALONE WITH OURSELVES, FIGURING OUT OUR SHIT, NOT PUTTING ANOTHER PERSON THROUGH IT OR ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BE DRAGGED AROUND, BOUNDARY-LESS, CRYING ALL THE TIME.

consciousness-expanding sex, you will be able to stick out these gloomier moments.

5. No matter what they say, polyamory is not better than monogamy. There, I said it! Guess what, a lot of people don't like for the person they're in love with to be screwing eight other people and that's okay. It's also okay if you need to screw eight other people, that's awesome, I want everyone to screw as many people as they need to screw! But this thing happens in queer scenes where it's like the most unconventional way becomes the only way and frankly it's just as rigid, punishing, and unrealistic as enforced heteronormativity—which, really, some people are just into. It's just their way. They're super into being heteronormative. You'll never be able to change them, you'll only succeed in making them feel bad about themselves, which is sort of sad because they're just trying to, you know, live and whatnot, be happy.

Some people are totally wired to be polyamorous and some other people will always want to die in the midst of such arrangements. They are not less evolved or intelligent or fun, they are just different. Let's not pathologize each other's differences. This tendency to want to champion the most radical way while tearing down or deriding the many other ways is such a bummer. It makes people feel stupid and insecure, which is so weird, right, because

as queers and people who are sort of activist-minded, aren't we wanting a world where people can be happy and safe and healthy and feel confident and whole? So, yeah, I highly recommend you know, trying polyamory, but just know that if you sort of hate it and it makes your life miserable it's not because you're less evolved, you're just differently wired, so go find another monogamous person and settle down and have cats together.

6. Femininity is not an aberration and masculinity is not the norm. I can't believe this still happens but it really does. In the fight to destroy sexism, we turn on femininity. It seems like there is this subconscious belief that left to our own devices, without television or the gender binary or Barbie or patriarchy, all female humans would be sort of androgynous or masculine. A belief that anyone engaging the trappings of femininity and enjoying them—I'm talking about feminine dress for sure, and makeup and heels, and I'm also talking about the way little girls play, like, with dolls and shit—is under the sway of false consciousness. No one checks in with boys to make sure they really want to be throwing a ball around, or if they've been brainwashed by our culture to climb a tree when maybe they would like to be having a very fussy tea party.

I hate that masculinity is seen as the norm and femininity, even and especially high femininity, is seen as

this deviation, a sinister imposition on girls who really want to be wearing sweats but just don't know themselves, poor brain-washed dears. This is so annoying. My fight is to get everyone in tutus, metaphorically speaking. Femininity stresses a lot of people out, so there is a real movement in queer and feminist culture to undermine it, rather than see it as the rich, creative, fun, deep expression of gender that it is. Let's be aware of the tendency to want to just get rid of what stresses us out and fight it.

7. Don't be an alcoholic. Okay, if you are, you probably can't help it. I mean, I couldn't help it either for a long time. Enjoy it while it lasts. It is fun for a while. But really, there is no douchebag like a drunken douchebag. Here are some suggestions: if people have implied that you're too drunk all the time, if people have broken up with you because of it, if you've smashed a front tooth or gotten arrested or fired from your job, if you fucked up something you really wanted because you were wasted, you indeed might be an alcoholic. Don't wait for your drinking to go back to when it was fun because it won't. Deal with it.

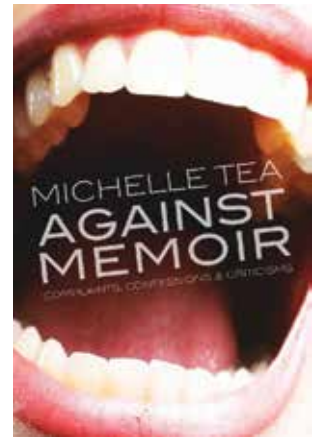
Don't doubt that people are where they say they are. Like if someone says they aren't gay, maybe they aren't. If someone doesn't want to transition, maybe that's real for them. If someone is telling you they are actually

a man, they probably are. If someone is claiming to be bisexual, it is entirely possible they are not a timid and self-loathing homosexual, they're actually bi.

In conclusion...

Maybe it's dumb for me to want queers to be less rigid and less controlling and policing than the rest of the world. My point is that we are the rest of the world. We're not so different, so let's lighten up. I also believe—really believe—that we're special. We occupy a special place in our cultures. We always have and we still do. I think we have a greater opportunity to transcend bullshit and be generous people. I think we have a greater awareness and that this can bring about transformation on all levels of our lives and culture. I want us to begin by being nicer to one another.

The reality is that everything is imperfect and evolving. We are making up whole new lives and identities; new ways of being human and new ways of relating to each other as humans; new ways of having sex and talking about sex. We are making all of it up right here right now and isn't it an exciting time to be queer? To be a smart, kind, intelligent, sexual queer person engaged with the world, alive in our genders and our costumes, playing and experimenting along the way to a deepening authenticity that we'll spend our whole happy lives excavating? Isn't it just the best time to be queer and aren't you glad we all are? I am. ☺





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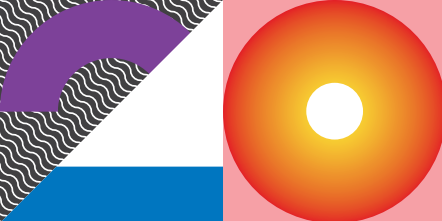
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Life



Pride

Celebrating how far we've come in the past two decades—and the new voices driving our future.

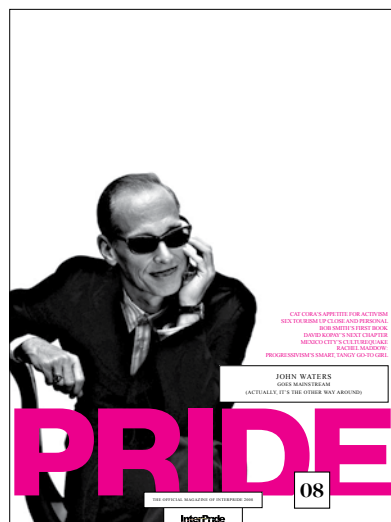
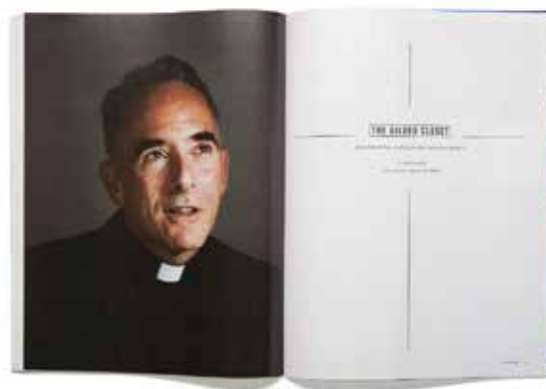


PrideLife has always been a magazine about optimism, activism, and change. When we started out, we were known simply as *Pride*. Our mission at the time: to spread the voices and promote the efforts of individuals targeting massive change in the country. Marriage equality. Gay rights in the military. More HIV research.

Thankfully, through hard work, support, and dedication, our community has enacted significant progress in many of those core areas. Yes, we still have much to do. But for gay men and women, America in 2018 is vastly better than it was in 1998.

And, just as the name of our magazine has changed over the years to bring in the word "Life," our efforts and focus are continuing to evolve as well. Today, we aim to empower all people and promote equality for all lives, based on not just sexuality (whatever form or letter of the alphabet yours may take) but also gender expression, age, nationality, physical ability, or anything else that might lead someone to feel like an "other."

We celebrate Barack Obama, Edith Windsor, Rachel Maddow, Dan Savage, Dan Choi, Cyndi Lauper, and all the other activists who have graced our pages over the past 20 years, and we look forward to all the new voices and advances still to come.





SPECIAL
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE



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Activist. Musician. Actor. Scientist. Politician. Social media phenom. The individuals who follow, all of whom are in their 20s, prove that our future isn't just alive—it's bright and vibrant and headed in numerous positive directions. In celebration of our 20th year, PrideLife presents 20 in their 20s: our rundown of some of the most influential, outspoken, and optimistic individuals on the planet, all helping to make the world a more varied, more inclusive, more loving space for everyone.





NICO TORTORELLA

29, ACTOR/AUTHOR

If you know Tortorella only from TVLand's hit series *Younger*, you may not know this Illinois-born actor at all. Tortorella, who has also appeared in films like *Scream 4* and on the Fox series *The Following*, is at the forefront in our ongoing discussion of sexuality and gender roles. He identifies as bisexual and gender fluid, and his work outside of acting includes 44 episodes of a podcast called *The Love Bomb* and a recently released book of poetry called *All of It Is You*. "The coming-out story for me is about so much more than what happens between your legs," he says. "It's what happens between your ears. And your journey doesn't need to look like anybody else's or sound like anybody else's in order to be valid."

Nico on our need to label gender and sexuality...

"It's our Western culture and how we're raised. People like putting people in boxes because it's how you find each other. It makes things comfortable and easy. I used to be obsessed with breaking labels down. Now I think those terms are evolving, so hopefully we can all get to that point of acceptance, no matter what label we use."

On experimenting with gender dress...

"We don't always have to take everything so seriously. We should be allowed to play and figure things out. That's what I'm trying to represent with my fashion choices right now. If I wear a dress on the red carpet and operate in the nonbinary space, that's my right. Gender fuckery—that's really what it is. Breaking down a construct and showing that there are other options out there and that we don't all have to be the same."

On being part of the resistance...

"We need the people on the street fighting every single day. We need the people screaming at the top of their lungs. That's how change is made. But putting on a dress, and loving who I want, and being happy, and being myself unconditionally—that's a form of resistance, too, and it's just as important."

Nico Tortorella photographed
exclusively for *PrideLife*
by **Marius Bugge**

Styling by **Karen Schiljman**

Grooming by **Laila Hayani**

Jumpsuit (left) and feather jacket
(right): NORMA KAMALI

Resin necklace (right):
ALEXIS BITTAR

PREVIOUS PAGE:
Navy tuxedo suit: DAVID HART

Lurex tank: CHRISTIAN SIRIANO

Tie necklace: ALEXIS BITTAR



KEHLANI

23, SINGER

We like our women like we like our honey—and Kehlani is as sweet as they come. SZA calls her a “living goddess.” Demi Lovato—who took her on tour and locked lips with her onstage—raves she’s “cool as fuck.” But the queer singer-songwriter’s relatable self-assessment? “I’m a beautiful wreck, colorful mess,” she croons with her easy, breezy vocals on her hit “Honey”—which also featured an androgynous love interest in the music video. In a refreshing case of art imitating life, Kehlani sings her truth. One day she’s giving \$50,000 to LGBT centers across America; the next she’s calling out Rita Ora and Cardi B’s “Girls” for its “harmful lyrics.” And after a string of stand-alone hits and features with the likes of Eminem and Calvin Harris, we can’t wait to hear more from this rule-breaking R&B powerhouse.



ADAM RIPPON

28, OLYMPIAN

Out—and outspoken—figure skater Adam Rippon courts controversy wherever he goes: from publicly shading VP Pence at the Olympics to sporting a BDSM harness on the Oscars red carpet. But make no mistake, his talent grabs headlines, too: His flawless routine at the team event in Pyeongchang boosted Team USA to bronze—making Rippon the first openly gay American athlete to compete in and win at the Winter Olympics. His humor and sass have made him a fan favorite with the likes of Reese Witherspoon and Sally Field—who wanted to set him up with her gay son! And queen Cher herself has said that “Adam is a skater who happens to be gay, and that represents something wonderful to young people.”



EMMA GONZALEZ

18*, ACTIVIST

She’s not quite 20 yet, but we’re willing to asterisk this inspiring gun-control advocate. Back in February, Gonzalez survived a heinous high school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, FL—but 17 fellow classmates and faculty members were not as lucky. Since then, she’s been one of the leading voices of a new generation, calling “BS” on lawmakers during a passionate speech just four days after the shooting. Gonzalez helped organize March for Our Lives in D.C.—the largest rally ever in the Capitol’s history—and she spoke out again following the recent shooting in Santa Fe, TX. An encouraging sign for her #NeverAgain movement: @Emma4Change has nearly a million more Twitter followers than the NRA.



RAYMOND BRAUN: DILLON MATTHEW; TYLER OAKLEY: RICK BHATIA

TYLER OAKLEY

29, SOCIAL MEDIA STAR

He's met President Obama and done a video on education with Michelle. He's partnered with Ellen DeGeneres on various projects. He's captured 7.8 million Twitter followers, and his online videos have surpassed 650 million views. He's even appeared on a season of *The Amazing Race*. Big stuff for a Michigan-born Midwesterner with 12 siblings who originally joined social media on a whim. Since then, the affable and charismatic Oakley has deftly perfected the ideal blend of activism and entertainment, showing that social media doesn't have to be vapid and mindless—and can help impart true and lasting change.

Tyler on maintaining the best of both worlds...

"Look, I originally joined YouTube just to have fun.

I joined YouTube to make dumb videos and be an idiot on the internet. And I still want to do that. But at the same time, I can't look away from the fact that I have an opportunity to use my platform for good. Honestly, once you realize just how much good you can do helping other people, it's hard to turn back from that."

On a favorite moment from his past...

"Campaigning with Hillary! I feel like I found my voice as an activist. It made me feel like I could truly have an impact and get people interested in learning and trying to make a positive change."

On coming out...

"There's no rush. It's brave to be out and loud and proud—but it's your journey. Do it when it's right for you."



RAYMOND BRAUN

28, YOUTUBE TRAILBLAZER

Before hitting the Big 3-0, he's already been named one of *Forbes*' "30 Under 30: All-Stars," MTV's "Social Stars to Watch," *Financial Times*' "young global LGBT leaders," and *Out* mag's "100 Most Influential LGBT People." The reason everyone loves Raymond: Fresh out of Stanford, this millennial landed a job in the marketing department at YouTube, where he pitched a concept called #ProudToLove. It took off—big-time, pulling in millions of views and kudos from countless human rights activists. Today, the campaign is an annual fixture on the site every June and has helped Braun become LGBT marketing lead at the channel. When he's not hard at work raising awareness online, you can find this pop culture fiend covering red carpets for VH1, Logo, and Amazon and working on a documentary called *United States of Pride*, scheduled for release next year.



GABRIEL ZAMORA

25, IPSY CREATOR/BEAUTY VLOGGER

A self-proclaimed “first-generation Mexican-American guy who wears makeup on the internet proudly and fully,” beauty guru Gabriel Zamora boasts a YouTube channel with more than 300,000 subscribers, and views on his videos (which cover everything from secrets to using concealer to tricks to make your eyes look bigger) number in the millions. But there’s a deeper message under all that foundation and lip gloss. Born into a rural, conservative region—he didn’t immigrate to the U.S. until he was 17—Zamora is out to show that world that, whether you buy his products or not, the norms that define gender and sexuality have changed, and we’re all a little bit more beautiful because of it.

Gabriel on breaking boundaries...

“I feel like we’re slowly but surely coming to a time where the definition of gender isn’t so black-and-white. It’s no longer true that to be masculine, to be a male, you have to be buff and you have to be rugged and you have to build stuff and do all these things. The traditional definitions of gender are being slowly whittled away to where, even though there’s a blueprint, you can now create your own definition of it. You no longer have to be just a man or just a woman. And even if that’s how you identify, you no longer have to follow the exact rule book.”

On living each day with pride...

“I love that I get to live in a time where I’m fully able to express myself in a way that truly makes me happy and fulfilled. And I know that took a long time. There are so many people who have fought for this—so for me to be this lucky, I try to embody that with as much pride as I possibly can. ‘Hey, I am a man. I am a gay man. But I also wear makeup, and I do what makes me happy.’ If this isn’t for you, that’s fine. Create your own idea of who you are. But let me do my own thing so that I can be happy as well.”

On finding yourself...

“It’s OK if you don’t know who you are right now. It’s OK if you don’t know who you are tomorrow, next week, next month. It’s perfectly fine—as long as you start taking the approach of being open to the world and open to yourself and figuring out what makes you happy. If you want to run toward your happiness, do it. But if you wanna take your time, that’s fine as well. Figure out who you are and really have those conversations with yourself. Like, ‘Who am I? What makes me, me? And what makes me happy? What’s gonna make me happy in this life?’ Because, at the end of the day, you only live once—so make it count!”

OLLY ALEXANDER

27, MUSICIAN

As an actor in his teens with roles on the U.K. hit *Skins* and a starring role in a West End production of *Peter Pan*, Alexander always knew it would just be a matter of time before he turned to music. That day came in 2010 when a friend happened to hear him singing in the shower and asked him to join his newly formed band, Years & Years. Just five years later, the group was topping charts around the globe with its hit song “King” and its supporting album, *Communion*. *Palo Santo*, the group’s follow-up (named after a fictional genderless dystopian society populated by androids), is out July 6.

Olly on using same-sex pronouns in his songs...

“I’ve really gained a lot of confidence in my own voice as a songwriter since our first album. My songs are from my experience and my life. My eyes—my gay eyes looking at the world—so I want that to translate into the music.”

On being out in the industry...

“I’d imagine there are some artists who are really fearful to come out. But I’m very encouraged by how many queer artists I see coming up now and how much love they get and support they get from fans. I think the next wave is gonna be even more honest and open about their identities.”

On becoming the male pop star he always wanted to see...

“I fell in love with songwriting through Bob Dylan. As I learned to play music, it was Stevie Wonder. And then the visuals of Britney and the Spice Girls fed into my brain. I think I’ve become a little bit of all of them.”

OLLY ALEXANDER: STEPHEN HALLOWES; GABRIEL ZAMORA: COURTESY OF GABRIEL ZAMORA



JEFFREY CHEUNG

28, SKATE COLLECTIVE FOUNDER

Skateboarding culture had always embraced outcasts. But somewhere along the way, it became too “macho-bro,” with slur-spewing homophobes, says skater Jeffrey Cheung. It just wasn’t a safe environment for him to come out in. So Cheung created his own queer skate collective in Oakland, CA—Unity Queer Skateboarding. Unity began as a two-piece band with boyfriend Gabriel Ramirez but has since evolved into a multimember group and a company that sells zines, custom boards, art, and apparel. It also holds monthly skate gatherings in the Bay Area for LGBT and other nonconforming skaters. The group’s motto—“You are not alone”—is emblazoned loud and proud on its official site (unityzines.com).



PHILLIPE CUNNINGHAM

29, POLITICIAN

Politics isn’t all bad news. A Midwesterner made history in 2017 as one of the first openly trans men elected to public office in the U.S. by winning an embattled seat on the Minneapolis City Council. A native of rural Illinois, DePaul University grad Phillipe Cunningham segued into special education in the Chicago Public Schools system before relocating to Minneapolis. There, his public profile rose as a mayoral appointee to the Youth Violence Prevention Committee and as a senior policy aide handling education, racial equity, and LGBTQ-plus rights. Onward and upward, councilman!



BRIAN FALDUTO

26, ACTOR/LIFE COACH

Playing an out, proud student in the 2003 film *School of Rock* may seem like the ideal way to start a career. But for Falduto, the role of Fancy Pants had the opposite effect. The character came to define him. And as a teen still trying to figure himself out, he felt being known as “the gay kid from that movie” was almost too much. “I shut everything down and closed myself off to the world for the longest time,” he says. First love finally struck in college and helped Falduto to come out, but the path was rockier than expected. Today, however, the aspiring country singer and life coach looks back with gratitude at the experience. “The thing that caused me so much grief for so many years has finally opened up something beautiful.”



ELENA DELLE DONNE

28, WNBA PLAYER/AUTHOR

She may be a key member of the Washington Mystics and a gold medalist from the 2016 Summer Games in Rio, but that's only one chapter of this Delaware native's story. Over 6 feet tall by the time she was in eighth grade, Delle Donne was inevitably drawn to basketball. But off the court, she also developed an intense love of writing—something fulfilled twice over this spring with the simultaneous release of not one but two books—her memoir, *My Shot*, detailing her ups and downs in the sports world, plus the first in a series of children's books about a girl named Elle and the challenges of growing up different.

Elena on being an out and proud athlete...

"I feel like the WNBA is the greatest league in terms of being ahead of the game

and so welcoming. We have so many fans who are part of the LGBT community. It's a league that wants you to be yourself and helps you in that way—playing there I feel like I just became part of an even bigger family."

On her dream wedding and its historic appearance on *The Knot* (a first for a same-sex couple)...

"It was amazing. We were so excited; we thought it was so important to reach everyone and let everybody see what a same-sex wedding looks like and show that it's no different than any other wedding."

On self-acceptance...

"My biggest message is just to be your unique self. There are so many different people out in the world; why should we all be the same? Be who you are and be proud of it!"



TRIXIE MATTEL

28, DRAG SUPERSTAR

Third time's the charm for America's best (and only) folk drag musician. After getting eliminated twice during Season 7 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Trixie Mattel sashayed back to win *Drag Race All Stars* Season 3. But Mattel (or Brian Firkus, out of drag) is more than just a campy queen with Divine makeup and a bone-dry sense of humor. Mattel's earnest, autoharp-laden second album, *One Stone*, actually hit No. 1 on the iTunes chart, the same night she snatched the drag race crown. "It's weird," she was quoted as saying later of her musical chops. "Nobody thinks I'm gonna actually play that fucking guitar. People think I'm gonna lip-synch with it or, like, pretend to do a bump off it." Catch her uproarious sold-out song-and-stand-up tour, "Now With Moving Parts," across America this summer. Or watch her wax poetic with fellow *Drag Race* alum Katya over such important topics as family, fear, and porn on their *Viceland* talk show.



HAYLEY KIYOKO

27, SINGER/ACTRESS

The daughter of a comedian and a figure skater, L.A.-born Kiyoko was discovered at the age of 5 when she attended a photo shoot with a friend. Within months, she'd landed her first national print ad campaign. But despite additional commercials and TV and film roles, music was always her first love. Her first band, the Stunners (which included future pop star peer Tinashe), opened for the Biebs. It wasn't until her 2015 viral hit, "Girls Like Girls," though, that Kiyoko broke into the mainstream. Her full-length debut, *Expectations*, continues that exploration of unabashedly queer lyrics and themes over an urban, dream pop beat.

Hayley on the success of the "Girls Like Girls" video...

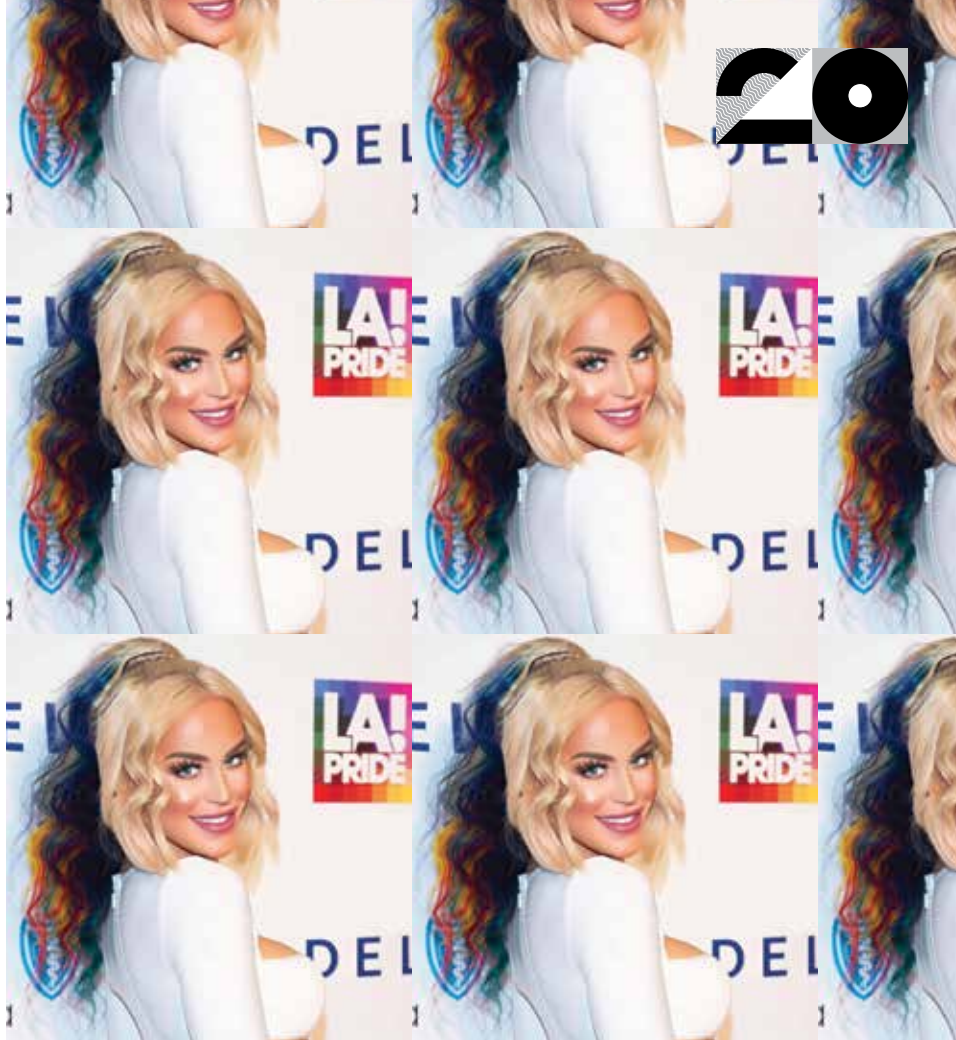
"Growing up, there was nothing I could connect with. Everything that involved any kind of romantic story between two women would either end in suicide or depression. So I was like, 'I need to do something that ends in a positive way, because there *is* hope. I need to spread that.'"

On being an inspiration...

"I don't like labels. I really don't. I just wanted to be an artist. Then I realized there really is no gay pop star out there. So I was like, 'Fuck it. This has to be me!' I just assumed the position. And now I feel even freer to be myself."

On being dubbed "Lesbian Jesus" by her fans...

"I didn't get it for the longest time. I thought it was just a new expression—like, 'Oh, people are calling each other Lesbian Jesus now.' Then I realized that I was the only person being called that. I love it. It's the highest honor."



GIGI GORGEOUS

26, MODEL/TV PERSONALITY

When she announced that she was transitioning on her YouTube channel in 2013, Gigi Gorgeous had no idea the impact that decision would make not just on her own life but on the lives of unknown thousands of her followers. At the time, she identified as a gay male (Greg) and was posting makeup tutorials. But as she transitioned, views skyrocketed and subscriptions topped 1 million by January 2015. The reason? Gigi's unmistakable charm and star magnetism and a message that resonated across platforms. A 2017 documentary (*This Is Everything*) only helped to spread the Gigi gospel, driving fans of the channel to an amazing 2.7 million

and counting. Her message: Even when it comes wrapped in supermodel form, true beauty *really* is what's on the inside. Although a designer dress and a few hair extensions never hurt!

Gigi on life after her documentary...

"I feel like I have a lot more responsibility to be a role model now. The film affected a lot of people, and I've heard a lot of positive stories and feedback. When it comes to the community, I want the best for us all, because it isn't just my fight; it's everyone's fight."

On why labels still matter...

"I get asked all the time if I mind being introduced as a transgender woman. I prefer

it. I want people to know. I don't think we're at a point yet where it doesn't matter. Visibility is key. We need to see trans people in positions of influence, and we need to know they're trans. You've got to show people there's possibility. There's still a fight to be fought—representation matters!"

On how to best offer positive support...

"Words of encouragement are so important. I feel like that's what helped me—just hearing 'you're beautiful; you're amazing; you're unique.' Know that whatever you're feeling is not the end of the world. And you're not alone. Ever! The moment you feel that, things will immediately look up."

BRANDON ROGERS

29, COMEDIAN

For the king of no-holds-barred sketch humor, there are few places California-born Rogers won't go for a laugh. But what makes his brand of comedy unique is its dark, twisted, decidedly gay approach to language and stereotypes. Take his video for "Hall Monitor Helen," which has nearly 25 million views. She's crass. She's offensive. But watching Rogers run around a school with a red bob wig and bullhorn, you also get that she's in on the joke. And when she says something off-color, it's just for the laugh—there's no true malice or hate. It's a tricky line to walk, and one that can easily be botched—but with dozens of successful characters in his repertoire and a site Rogers controls completely on his own (he writes, directs, edits, and stars in each of his skits), he's created an anything-goes world of comedy that keeps viewers rabidly coming back for more.

Brandon on the origins of his comedy...

"It all comes from everyday life. I spent most of my childhood getting made fun of and being bullied. So I devote my work today to making fun of that world I grew up in. My site is kind of the freak show of the internet. It's a place where characters say things and do things that I, quite frankly, think most of the internet is afraid to do. There needs to be a place for the

macabre, for the weird, for the strange. And that's where people will find me."

On playing female roles in his skits...

"Some of my characters are women, and some of my characters are men. Women make up half the human race, and quite frankly I feel like they make up the more interesting half. I mean, I'm a man every day. To play a woman and have an emotional range that most men don't even know exists—that's a great character to play. In 20 years are people gonna look back and be like, 'Oh, look at him playing a woman. How offensive was that?' Probably. But I don't care as long as it's not too grotesque or over-the-top. And even if it is, you know what? Fuck it."

On the risk of going too far...

"I grew up in a very small town. I'm no stranger to the straight white man's world. But in my head, I was also a twisted faggot my whole life. So I know both sides. And I like to make fun of both sides. I have some friends who are Hispanic, and they never make Hispanic jokes; friends who are Asian, they never make Asian jokes. I think if you're a comedian, you've gotta make fun of yourself—and the people on the other side of the fence. But more so yourself, since that insight is usually the funniest."



KEIYNAN LONSDALE

26, ACTOR

Love, Simon broke ground as the first mainstream teen rom-com featuring a gay lead character. Australian-born Lonsdale played popular kid Bram Greenfield, whom Simon believed to be his online gay crush "Blue." But Lonsdale himself didn't actually come out on his own until after the film wrapped. When he revealed to his 700K-plus Instagram followers, "I like girls & I like guys," all his insecurities were instantly left in the rear view. Lonsdale has since released a single, "Kiss the Boy," and assured his fans (closeted and not) in a heartfelt post: "As much as we all encourage you to come out & be yourself—it's gotta be in YOUR time, no one else's."



BRITTANY FERRELL

29, ACTIVIST

In the wake of the "woke" revolution spawned by the polarizing police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, Ferrell was a familiar face at rallies and city council meetings and on social media. A growing sense of social injustice inspired her to co-found Millennial Activists United, a self-proclaimed "activist collective created by queer black women." The overall mission: increase awareness about the disproportionate number of women and LGBT in leadership positions. BTW: She's married to Alexis Templeton, a fellow MAU co-founder. The couple met while protesting.



MATT BELLASSAI

28, AUTHOR/PODCAST HOST

This Chicago-born Northwestern grad may have landed the literal perfect gig: He hangs out and complains about stuff while enjoying a drink. And he's good at it. So good, in fact, that his everyman routine has carried him from a job at BuzzFeed, where his show, *Whine About It*, attracted more than 3.5 million weekly views, to his own weekly podcast (*Unhappy Hour*) and Web series (*To Be Honest*). His quirky personality and viral wit helped him land the first-ever People's Choice Award for Favorite Social Media Star in 2016, which he then followed with book deals and a live tour. But perhaps most impressive is the fact that Bellassai did it all without ever hiding or apologizing for his sexuality. It's simply part of who he is, and his fans love him all the more because of it.

Matt on his work...

"I guess I'd say I'm an internet drunk. I like to look at everyday stuff and complain about it. And living in New York City, it's not hard. I just have to walk down the street, and I can come up with about 30 things I hate because everybody is terrible."

On being an unexpected role model...

"It's sort of refreshing to be able to be this sloppy and sort of mean, grumpy, gay guy—which is not often a version of a gay guy that many people get to see. Because so much of my audience is Middle America, they also might not be exposed to a lot of gay people in their everyday lives, so it's nice to be able to reach people and show them that, in all the fundamental ways, we're not really any different than they are."

MATT BELLASSAI: TIM BECKFORD AND KAREN SEIFERT; JACK ANDRAKA: COURTESY OF JACK ANDRAKA



JACK ANDRAKA

21, INVENTOR

Ostracized for being gay in middle school, Andraka overcame severe depression and a suicide attempt. But it was the death of a close family friend from pancreatic cancer that drove the whiz kid to invent a prototype sensor that could help detect cancer earlier, faster (under five minutes), cheaper (costing just three cents), and more accurately (about 90 percent versus 60 to 70 percent) than current methods. Oh, and did we mention he was only 15 at the time of his discovery? No big deal. Clinical trials of the test are under way. In the meantime, Andraka isn't resting on his laurels. Now a junior at Stanford, he also gives speeches to inspire other LGBT kids to get into medicine. Take that, bullies!



THE GRAND OASIS

In his decades-long career, French journalist and writer Frédéric Martel has visited more than 50 countries around the world in an effort to capture and document the ongoing globalization of LGBT rights. But it's Books@Café, a sparkling jewel of a bar and restaurant he found nestled in Amman, Jordan, that may be one of his most surprising and unexpected discoveries.

● “You’re looking for ‘the Queen of Amman’? Well, you’ve found me.”

Madian Al Jazerah is finishing an Americano. He waves me over to sit at his table. A man in his fifties, with a high forehead and a well-groomed goatee, he makes me think of Randy Jones, the cowboy from the Village People.

I’m at Books@Café at the corner of Omar Bin al-Khattab and Rainbow Street in downtown Amman, the capital of Jordan. “I know I’m called ‘the Queen’—it’s my nickname—but I can guarantee you that I don’t go around proselytizing here. I’m openly gay, but I don’t make too many waves.” Madian Al Jazerah is one of the most emblematic homosexuals in the Arab world, and his bar, the Books@Café, is a miracle in an Islamic country—an oasis, an exception, a mystery. Perhaps a mirage.

And the name of the street! “Rainbow Street used to be like the Champs-Élysées of Amman. Then there was the Depression, and the neighborhood lost its charm. Prices fell, then artists moved in and with them galleries and movie theaters... and gay people. Little by little, the neighborhood became trendy again, and even got a makeover—it got gentrified. But the name of the street has no relationship to the gay flag; it’s purely coincidental,” explains Al Jazerah. I offer not to use his real name in my book so as to keep from putting him at risk. “No, you can use my name. I’m not afraid. My notoriety protects me. And after all,” he says, giving me a big smile, “the Queen of Amman does not hide.”

In order to get to Books@Café, you have to walk through a courtyard shaded by blossoming orange trees on the ground floor of a posh house. You first enter by way of a bookshop. (The @ in the name is there because it is also a cyber café.) The shelves hold books in Arabic and English as well as CDs and DVDs. I spot *Brokeback Mountain* by Taiwanese director Ang Lee, *Farewell My Concubine* by the Chinese Chen Kaige, and Stephen Frears’s *My Beautiful Laundrette*. Farther down is a DVD of the HBO series *Angels in America*. “It’s not a gay bookshop,” argues Al Jazerah, who shows me tourist guides, best sellers, and an aisle of comics for kids. Among the books, I find Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* (but not *The Satanic Verses*), some of Edward Said’s works on “orientalism,” and a book on AIDS by Susan Sontag. And up on one shelf I see a prominently positioned copy of the magnificent novel *The Yacoubian Building* by Egyptian author Alaa Al Aswany, which tells the story of an opulent and cosmopolitan art deco residence in Cairo: a

social microcosm where people of all generations and social classes live together—both Pashas and Jews and, of course, both gays and straights. I think to myself that you could write a novel that takes place at Books@Café, and the shop would be a sort of modern Yacoubian building.

Behind the bookshop’s cash register, there is a discreet stairwell. The café is on the second floor, and although the ground floor is narrow and rather confined, the bar turns out to be immense. It is composed of a succession of four rooms enlarged by two large terraces that are decorated with asymmetrical glass atriums on different levels and that have been built on surrounding rooftops. In the summer, it is cool and shady; in the winter, it is sunlit and sheltered. Sometimes the terraces are open air; sometimes they’re cocooned in eccentric fabrics. You can take in the white-and-ocher city of Amman from up here, with its hills and its mosques lit in green, its bourgeois neighborhoods—and its Palestinian camps.

Madian Al Jazerah is of Palestinian descent. His family, descended from Bedouins, comes from Akka, now known as Acre, to the north of Haifa. His parents were forced out of Israel in 1956 and moved to Kuwait, where Madian was born. Forced out of their home once again, his parents immigrated to Jordan. “That’s part of what it is to be Palestinian,” he says. “You’re always a little bit of an exile, without a country. You’re never home.”

In the 1970s, Al Jazerah ended up in the U.S.—“naturally,” he says—where he studied architecture at Oklahoma State, then lived in California before moving to the East Coast. “When you’re Palestinian, you don’t stay in place. And the U.S.—it’s the promised land. It’s like in America, America by Elia Kazan—I believed in the American dream, too.”

In the 1980s in New York, the “sexual liberationist” Al Jazerah opened Le Frisbee, an Arab bar in a gay-friendly neighborhood. Ten years later he would go on to do the reverse in Amman and open a gay-friendly, Americanized café in a Muslim city.

Books@Café is an extract of the gay Arab world. In the daytime, it looks like any alternative coffee shop. An Iraqi exile spends his afternoons checking the internet, waiting to get his papers for Beirut. A Syrian who grew up in Dubai reviews his coursework for classes at the University of Amman. A young man from a good family—and who, so I’m told, was raised in a harem and might be a prince—wears an Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirt and suggests

**BOOKS@CAFÉ
IS AT ONCE
THE PAST AND
FUTURE OF
GAY RIGHTS,
BOTH PREGAY
AND POSTGAY.**

• International



Frédéric Martel, above, is a French researcher and journalist who has written nine books, including his latest: Global Gay: How Gay Culture Is Changing the World.

"I AVOID EXCESSIVE DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION, AND THEY LEAVE ME ALONE SO LONG AS I DON'T CROSS BOUNDARIES."

we rename the café "You Mecca Me Hot," a joke I can't help but laugh at. A British Airways steward, a "hummus queen" (the local label for whites who hit on Arabs), chats with a group of young men, one of whom is studying to become a dentist at the American University of Cairo. And then there's Mohammed, who wears a red-checkered kaffiyeh. He lives in the Jabal el-Hussein refugee camp in Amman and tells me that he refuses to drink Coca-Cola or eat ketchup because he's boycotting Israeli and American products. He also shows me a photo of Che Guevara that never leaves his wallet and declares that he's a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the nationalist movement founded by Georges Habache, a Marxist and Christian leader—as well as a terrorist. Mohammed has large black eyes that shine cheerfully and extremely dark brown hair: He is the quintessence of Arab beauty. He is not gay and hasn't had his "coming out," but he does admit that he's "wondering about some things." There's a word for this in America—not gay or bisexual but "questioning." As with the other young men here, this café is helping him "learn" how to become gay.

Between the hookah and the Wi-Fi, the café continues to fill all afternoon. At 5:00 p.m., the waiters are relieved by the night shift. No fewer than forty bartenders are now bustling about, proudly sporting black T-shirts bearing the Books@Café brand despite the fact that they're rather poorly paid (not counting tips, they earn an average of 150 Jordanian dinars per month—about \$200).

"We're in a deterritorialized café here, as if there's no territory. We're in Jordan, but we

could be anywhere else in the Middle East. People come here when they have no 'home.' Everyone is dreaming of Beirut or Dubai or Istanbul. And beyond that, everyone really wants to go to the United States," explains Al Jazerah.

The multiethnic youth of the changing Muslim world before me has grown denser and is relaxing in staggered rows of club chairs. I'm not in Amman anymore—I'm in Santa Monica! A bouncer delicately mans the door and checks everyone, both straights and gays, with a metal detector. Older couples come, too, having reserved their tables. Most of the women don't wear veils, though I do see one veiled young woman on her iPhone. A lithe, supple model tells me he's in the running for "Mister Jordan"—and if it were up to me, I'd certainly give him the prize. But he's still only one of ten finalists, and as he smokes, he tells me of his hopes to win at the finals in Beirut. Suddenly his cell phone breaks into "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor.

"In the beginning, I didn't want to open a gay venue," Al Jazerah confesses. "At first, the concept was that it would be a bookshop, an internet café—an alternative space. My mission is to advocate for tolerance, not activism. But little by little, almost against my will, it became a gay-friendly café."

Five times a day the muezzin's call to prayer reaches the bar's terraces. His voice—today it's an audiocassette broadcast via loudspeaker—mingles with Lady Gaga's latest hit, leaving the café's clientele completely indifferent. Not a single patron turns toward Mecca.

Thursday night, the night before the weekend in Arab countries, is the most popular. A crowd arrives and bustles about. The bright-orange, slightly tacky lounges, with their Vasarely-style wallpaper, fill up with people, as does the large veranda, with its "seventies-colored" floral walls. The cool café becomes a trendy restaurant, with menus written entirely in English. It serves up to 400 dishes a day—club sandwiches, omelets, Caesar salads, and even a veggie burger. The desserts: carrot cake, cheesecake, and pancakes—not one Middle Eastern specialty. At 9:00 p.m., a westernized, not exclusively gay elite lines up at the entrance and wanders through the bookshop as they wait for tables. The speakers are now pumping out "I Got a Feeling" by former Parisian gay bar DJ David Guetta. I see stylish straight couples pretending to have fun and gay couples really having fun. "The truth is that it's a lot easier to be gay in Amman than to be straight. A gay man

finds partners pretty easily, whereas it's nearly impossible for a young straight man," remarks Al Jazerah as he points to the nocturnal fauna that has descended upon the bar. In a grouchy, sometimes grumpy mood, Al Jazerah watches over his little community—his sultanate.

Unlike the cool and friendly restaurant, the bar inside is more strictly gay. Clients press in around a big wooden bar, and laughter bursts out in the colorful, alcoholized atmosphere—another exception in this Muslim city. "The people here aren't clients, they're friends," Al Jazerah ventures, repeating his marketing lesson. But it's a fact: Everyone moves about, dancing and calling out to one another. A young man named Adam holds his boyfriend's hand as he tells me that he comes here "every night." Life for him seems to be joyous and easy.

I find myself thinking Books@Café may be the most beautiful gay venue in the Arab world. And there's nothing in Paris or New York that can compare. It's Facebook with a hookah, Lady Gaga with camel drivers—it's the Yacoubian building, every night. And in this story, Madian Al Jazerah is the Bedouin lost on Rainbow Street, the Palestinian exile turned socialite owner of a gay bar, the heir of date farmers transformed into a veggie burger vendor. Lawrence of Arabia would have loved him.

Why does the Jordanian Hashemite monarchy, which is not at all gay-friendly, tolerate this extravagant café? It's a mystery. Some say that Madian Al Jazerah has connections in Abdullah II's clientelist, anti-Islamist regime and that he is even a friend of Queen Rania al-Yassin, a Kuwaiti-born Palestinian like him. He also seems close to Queen Noor, King Hussein's American-born widow and the legendary protector of Amman's gay artists. His relations in the media also appear to be useful: His brother hosts *Good Morning, Amman*, a very popular television show in Jordan despite its being broadcast from Dubai.

This oasis is naturally the subject of particular community policing. The police don't let the Arab jet set and young princes of royal blood rove about without a certain degree of surveillance. I notice undercover policemen passing in front of the bar at night: They occasionally catch a minor exiting the bar, arrest a prostitute, or during Ramadan crack down on alcohol consumption. "Everything is under control here," says Al Jazerah, declining to get into specifics. And he plays his part, making sure, for example, that nobody kisses publicly.

"I avoid excessive displays of affection, and they leave me alone so long as I don't cross boundaries. What protects me is the alternative, countercultural aspect to the place. Even though we're well established, it's the 'underground' attitude that makes the café acceptable in Jordanian society." In 1999, a whisper campaign in the press almost led to the space being shut down. Al Jazerah let the storm pass without reacting, all while—one never knows—requesting political asylum in the Canadian embassy of Jordan. Things seem to have calmed down since then, and the café has even obtained its liquor license, to the delight of gay and straight patrons alike. And this is how Madian Al Jazerah, by way of his stance at the intersection of gay-friendly and elitist, was able to find his economic model: A uniquely gay locale would be not only politically risky in Amman but bad business, too. By uniting these two communities, the café has multiplied its commercial possibilities. Al Jazerah isn't a philanthropist or even an activist—he is a businessman. And at the same time, Books@Café is at once the past and future of gay rights, both pregay and postgay. It's this atemporal atmosphere that makes the place so fascinating: pregay because we're here, quite obviously, before "gay liberation" in the Arab world—if we can even talk about such a thing—and postgay because we're also past the gay issue, in that modernity that's come into being in the East Village in New York, in West Hollywood in Los Angeles, and in the cities of northern Europe—the modernity of a community that is no longer just "gay" and not even "gay-friendly" but simply "friendly," the word "gay" being implicit. Books@Café is a place beyond unique identities and closed communities. It is unconventional, undivided: postgay.

But can a single bar change a city? Or a country? Can it change the Arab world? Of course not. This privileged, cosmopolitan oasis is still far from the reality of the gay Arab world. More than a taboo, homosexuality here is still an offense—and sometimes a crime. It can lead to prison and even to death. Madian Al Jazerah is perhaps a trailblazer, but there is still a long way for his country to go. But in the land of Islam, he's created a beautiful oasis stop along the long road still left to travel. ☺



From Global Gay: How Gay Culture Is Changing the World by Frédéric Martel, translated by Patsy Baudoin, ©2018 by the MIT Press. Reprinted by arrangement with the MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.



THE FIGHTER



*Surviving ISIS and the war in Syria:
A PrideLife special spotlight on
activist Ayman Menem.*

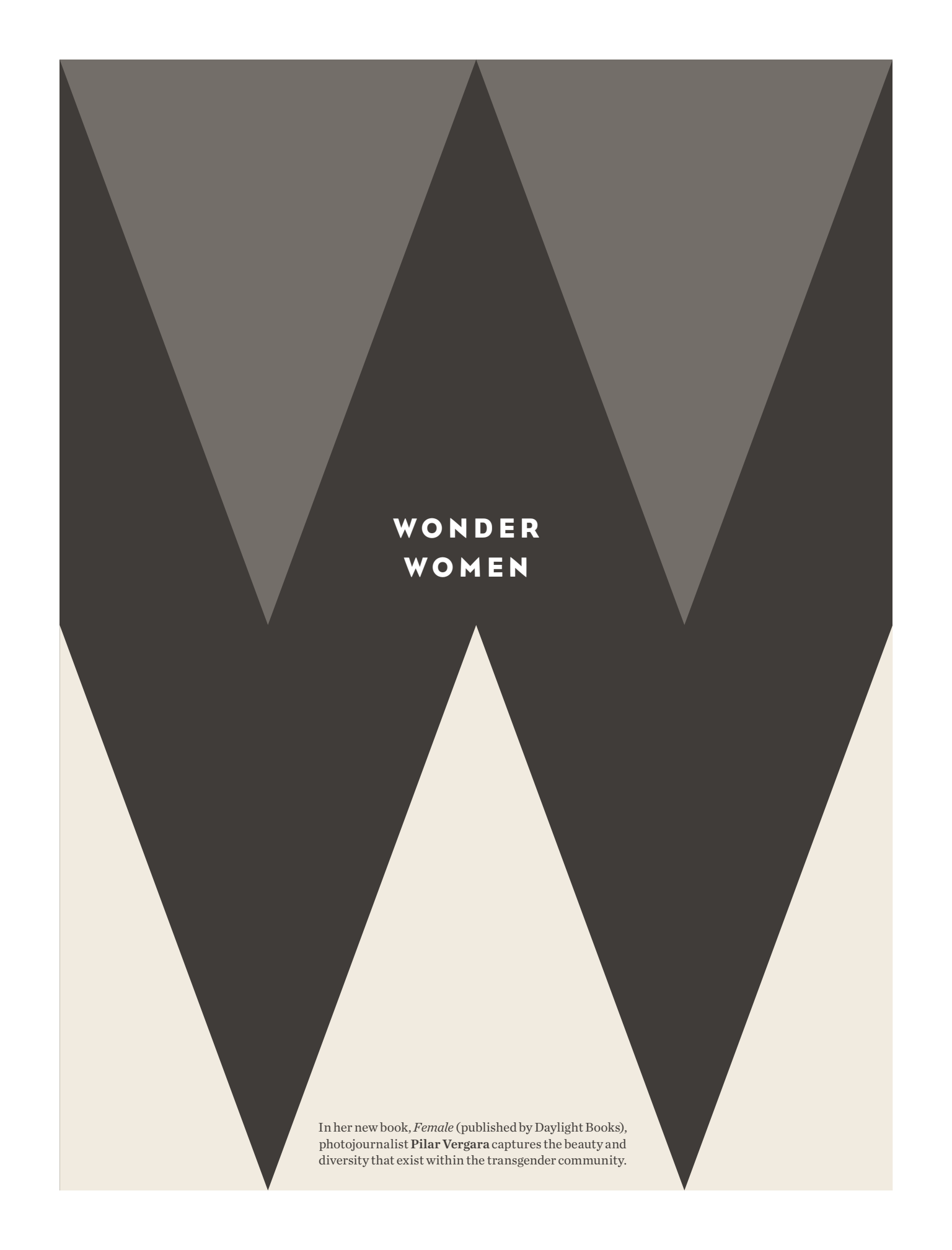
By Anne-christine d'Adesky

Photographs by Bradley Secker

 Traveling by car, the route from Aleppo in northern Syria to Istanbul, the modern capital of Turkey, is a 550-mile stretch of hardscrabble terrain, dotted by herds of goats, sheep, and cows. That route is a familiar path for Ayman Menem, a well-known Syrian gay rights activist who has emerged as a hero among human rights groups for his frontline role in helping his fellow LGBT citizens escape ISIS and Assad and the Syrian conflict. It's the route many have taken to escape

Activist Ayman Menem with signs he and fellow refugees crafted for Istanbul Pride. In the middle, in Arabic, it says: "I'm Arab, I'm gay."





WONDER WOMEN

In her new book, *Female* (published by Daylight Books), photojournalist **Pilar Vergara** captures the beauty and diversity that exist within the transgender community.

“I wanted to show that no matter how you are born—straight, gay, cisgender, or trans—as women, we’re all human, we’re all beautiful, and we’re all the same,” she says.

Vergara, who was born in Chile, rose to prominence in that country as a human rights photographer during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in the 1980s. “It was an incredible experience but also very scary at times. Colleagues were killed. It was terrible. But the organization I was working with did what we could to make a difference.”

When she relocated to Washington, D.C., she began working as a photographer for *The Washington Post* and numerous other newspapers and magazines. It was during that time that the idea for *Female* was born.

“I started to learn about the struggle for acceptance that many trans women go through,” she says. “And I wanted to try and help in some small way.”

An activist friend gave Vergara a list of women who might be interested in being photographed for the project. Thrilled, she then began the yearlong project of capturing their stories, traveling to each woman’s home and working to create the perfect image.

She shot in black and white only, using natural light. “I let each woman choose where we shot—I wanted it all to be as simple and natural as possible.”

The lesson she learned from meeting these amazing individuals and helping tell their stories: “It’s so simple. We’re all just looking for acceptance and understanding and our own place in the world. And that’s something we all deserve.” *Female* is available to order online or in stores now. ☺



Previous spread: Kay, receptionist.
This spread, clockwise from top: Claire,
electrologist; Charlene, minister;
Kathie, communications professor;
Brandi, hairdresser.





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Remember the Past, Create the Future

On behalf of the entire Board of InterPride, we are pleased to present the 2018 issue of *PrideLife*—the official magazine of InterPride.

Over the past 12 months, whilst some areas still live in uncertain political and social times, some significant advances in freedoms and rights for our community have occurred. During WorldPride 2017 in Spain, the announcement was made that Germany had achieved marriage equality. Australia joined this growing list of countries, recognizing equality later in 2017. Significantly, these political recognitions of our community's freedoms will be truly celebrated as (arguably) the beginning of the modern Pride movement celebrates its 50th anniversary with a joint Stonewall50 and WorldPride 2019 event next year in New York City. InterPride will continue to advocate for equality throughout the world and support our members in the ongoing quest to achieve this.

InterPride, the International Association of Pride Organizers, strives to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender visibility internationally through conferences, communication, education, and Pride events. Our members span six continents, with a combined reach of more than 20 million people. We work closely with our International Pride Partners—EPOA (the European Pride Organisers Association) and FCP (Fierté Canada Pride). These relationships allow us to expand our reach to LGBTQ+ communities around the world, enabling InterPride to be a global Pride organization. This year, we also welcomed the Consolidated Association of Pride Inc. (CAPI) as our first U.S.-based partner.

InterPride relies primarily on membership fees and donations to fund our organization. We, in turn, distribute these funds in two major ways: through the Solidarity Fund, which assists emerging Pride projects in countries throughout the world that are operating in hostile environments; and the Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance for members from around the globe to attend our Annual General Meeting and World Conference.

Whether the event is small or large, new or established, Prides help build and enrich communities and increase visibility and acceptance for LGBTQ+ people in both large cities and small towns. We applaud the board, members, and volunteers of all Prides, who donate their time and work tirelessly to make Pride happen. Thank you for your work and your contribution to the global Pride movement.

We invite you to join and make us stronger, adding your valuable energy and ideas to the global Pride movement. Visit our website at interpride.org to find a Pride near you, to attend an event or help plan one, to find out how your Pride organization can join InterPride, or to make a donation to support our work. We hope you're able to join us in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, for the 2018 InterPride Annual General Meeting and World Conference in October.

Yours in Pride,

Brett Hayhoe & Linda DeMarco

CO-PRESIDENTS, INTERPRIDE

About InterPride



SANTIAGO



DALLAS

What is InterPride?

InterPride is the International Association of Pride Organizers. Our members produce Pride events all over the world to celebrate the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) cultures and communities. InterPride ties Pride together around the globe.

What's the vision; what's the mission?

Our vision is a world where there is full cultural, social, and legal equality for all. InterPride's mission is empowering Pride organizations worldwide. InterPride exists to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride on an international level; to increase networking and communication among Pride organizations; and to encourage diverse communities to hold and attend Pride events and to act as a source of education.

InterPride is a voice for the LGBTI community around the world. We stand up for inequality and fight injustice everywhere we can. Our member organizations share the latest news so that we are able to react internationally and make a significant difference.

What is a "Pride event"?

Pride events celebrate the LGBTI community and can include parades, marches, rallies, festivals, art festivals, or other cultural activities dedicated to people identifying as LGBTI and/or other emerging sexual identities.

What does InterPride do?

InterPride accomplishes its mission with regional conferences and an Annual General Meeting and World Conference. At the General Meeting and World Conference, InterPride members network and collaborate on an international scale and take care of the business of the organization.

Regional conferences are organized annually in North America, Europe, and the United Kingdom to strengthen local relationships among our members.

WorldPride, owned and licensed by InterPride, is held every couple of years by a member organization. Each WorldPride host vies for the right to hold the global Human Rights and Pride event.

PrideRadar is a world map owned, produced, and maintained by InterPride. Listing all Prides around the world (currently more than 1,000 included), PrideRadar is our global societal, social, political, and event calendar.

InterPride has two financial support projects. Our Scholarship Fund is specifically for members to attend our General Meeting and World Conference. The Solidarity Fund helps assist Prides in hostile environments to realize their dreams and support their local LGBTI community. Application forms for both funds can be found on the front page of our website.

Where is the next WorldPride?

Past WorldPride celebrations were held in Rome (2000), Jerusalem (2006), London (2012), Toronto (2014), and Madrid (2017). WorldPride 2019 will be held in New York City coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

International outreach

Fierté Canada Pride (FCP) and the European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA) are InterPride's international Pride partners in Canada and Europe, respectively. This year an identical relationship was established with Consolidated Association of Pride Inc. (CAPI), covering the southwest of the USA and Mexico. Members of FCP, EPOA, and CAPI are automatically members of InterPride.

How can we/I join?

We'd be delighted to have you join InterPride as a member organization or as a volunteer to support the work of Prides around the world! Contact us through our regional directors (available at interpride.org) or via social media (Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram).

- > **WORLDPRIDE 2019/STONEWALL 50, NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 2019**
- > **PRIDE IN LONDON, LONDON, ENGLAND, JUNE 9–JULY 7, 2018**
- > **EUROPRIDE, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, JULY 27–AUGUST 5, 2018**
- > **FIERTE MONTREAL, MONTREAL, CANADA, AUGUST 9–19, 2018**
- > **INTERPRIDE AGM & WORLD CONFERENCE, SASKATOON, CANADA, OCTOBER 4–7, 2018**

GLOBAL
PRIDE
EVENTS



NEW YORK

Calendar

PRIDE EVENTS 2018

Arizona

PHOENIX
PHOENIX PRIDE
April 7

SEDONA

SEDONA PRIDE

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK
CENTRAL ARKANSAS PRIDE
September 22

California

CATHEDRAL CITY
CATHEDRAL CITY LGBT DAYS
March 30

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

DIVERSITY DHS
November 18

GUERNEVILLE

SONOMA COUNTY PRIDE
June 1

LONG BEACH

LONG BEACH LESBIAN & GAY
PRIDE
May 19

MODESTO

MODESTO PRIDE
September 1

OCEANSIDE

PRIDE BY THE BEACH
October 13

ORANGE COUNTY

ORANGE COUNTY LGBT PRIDE
PARADE & FESTIVAL
June 23

PALM SPRINGS

PALM SPRINGS PRIDE
November 2

PASADENA

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY PRIDE
October 13

SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO PRIDE
July 13

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE
June 23

SAN FRANCISCO

FOLSOM STREET FAIR
September 30

SANTA BARBARA

PACIFIC PRIDE FESTIVAL
August 25

VENICE

VENICE PRIDE
June 1

WEST HOLLYWOOD

CHRISTOPHER STREET
WEST-L.A. PRIDE
June 9

Colorado

DENVER

DENVER GLBT PRIDEFEST
June 16

Connecticut

NEW LONDON

OUTCT
August 23

District of Columbia

CAPITAL PRIDE ALLIANCE
June 7

Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE

PRIDE FORT LAUDERDALE
February 11

GAINESVILLE

GAINESVILLE PRIDE
October 20

LAKE WORTH

PALM BEACH PRIDE
March 24

MIAMI BEACH

Miami Beach Pride
April 2

ORLANDO

COME OUT WITH PRIDE
October 13

SARASOTA

SARASOTA PRIDE

ST. PETERSBURG

ST. PETE PRIDE
June 22

ST. PETERSBURG

COME OUT ST. PETE
October 4

WILTON MANORS

WILTON MANORS PRIDE
June 16

YBOR CITY

TAMPA PRIDE
March 24

Georgia

ATLANTA

ATLANTA PRIDE
October 12

AUGUSTA

AUGUSTA PRIDE
June 21

VALDOSTA

SOUTH GEORGIA PRIDE
September 15

Illinois

CHICAGO

PRIDE CHICAGO
June 24



Indiana

FORT WAYNE
FORT WAYNE PRIDE
July 27

SPENCER
SPENCER PRIDE
June 2

Kentucky

LOUISVILLE
KENTUCKIANA PRIDE
June 15

Massachusetts

BOSTON
BOSTON PRIDE
June 1

MANCHESTER
NORTH SHORE PRIDE
June 23

MASHPEE
CAPE COD PRIDE
June 24

NORTHAMPTON
NOHO PRIDE
May 5

WORCESTER
TWENTY FIRST CENTURY
WORCESTER PRIDE
September 5

Michigan

ANN ARBOR
ANN ARBOR PRIDE
August 3

DETROIT
MOTOR CITY PRIDE
June 9

Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS
TWIN CITIES PRIDE
June 23

Missouri

KANSAS CITY
KANSAS CITY PRIDE
June 1

LAKE ST. LOUIS
PRIDE ST. CHARLES
June 16

ST. LOUIS
PRIDE ST. LOUIS
June 23

Nevada

LAS VEGAS
LAS VEGAS PRIDE
October 19

RENO
NORTHERN NEVADA PRIDE
July 28

New Jersey

ASBURY PARK
JERSEY PRIDE
June 3

New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque Pride
June 8

LOS RANCHOS
LOS RANCHOS PRIDE
June 3

SANTA FE
SANTA FE PRIDE
June 30

TAOS
TAOS PRIDE
August 9

New York

ASTORIA
OUTBRONX

CLIFTON PARK
CLIFTON PARK PRIDE

JACKSON HEIGHTS
QUEENS LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE
June 3

NEW YORK CITY
HERITAGE OF PRIDE
June 23

ROCHESTER
ROCHESTER PRIDE
July 14

STATEN ISLAND
STATEN ISLAND PRIDEFEST
May 11

WOODBURY
LONG ISLAND PRIDE
June 8

North Carolina

ASHEVILLE
BLUE RIDGE PRIDE
September 29

CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE PRIDE
August 18

WINSTON-SALEM
PRIDE WINSTON-SALEM
October 13

Ohio

CLEVELAND
CLEVELAND PRIDE
May 31

COLUMBUS
STONEWALL COLUMBUS
June 15

Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY
OKC PRIDE
June 22

Pennsylvania

ALLENTOWN
ALLENTOWN PRIDE
August 19

ERIE

ERIE PRIDE
June 30

NEW HOPE

NEW HOPE CELEBRATES
May 18

Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND PRIDE
June 16

South Carolina

GREENVILLE
UPSTATE PRIDE SC
October 27

Texas

AUSTIN
AUSTIN PRIDE
August 25

DALLAS
DALLAS PRIDE
September 15

EL PASO
EL PASO SUN CITY PRIDE
May 28

HOUSTON
PRIDE HOUSTON
June 16

PLANO
NORTH TEXAS PRIDE
June 9

INDIANAPOLIS



SAN MARCOS
SAN MARCOS PRIDE
September 9

Utah

SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH PRIDE
May 31

Virginia

MCLEAN
NORTHERN VA (NOVA) PRIDE

NORFOLK
HAMPTON ROADS PRIDE
June 24

RICHMOND
VIRGINIA PRIDE
September 28

ROANOKE
ROANOKE PRIDE
April 8

Washington

BREMERTON
KITSAP PRIDE
July 21

OLYMPIA
CAPITAL CITY PRIDE
June 9

SPOKANE
OUTSPOKANE
June 9

Wisconsin

KENOSHA
KENOSHA PRIDE
July 15

MILWAUKEE
MILWAUKEE PRIDE
JUNE 8

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales

SYDNEY
SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARDI
GRAS
March 2

SYDNEY QUEER IRISH
facebook.com/SQIrish

Victoria

SHEPPARTON
GOULBURN VALLEY PRIDE
November 4

OUT IN THE OPEN FESTIVAL
November 1

AUSTRIA

BREGENZ
CSD BREGENZ
June 30

VIENNA
VIENNA PRIDE
June 10

BELGIUM

ANTWERPEN
ANTWERP PRIDE
August 8

BRUSSELS
THE BELGIAN PRIDE
May 4

CANADA

Alberta

CALGARY
PRIDE CALGARY
August 24

EDMONTON
EDMONTON PRIDE FESTIVAL
June 8

British Columbia

KAMLOOPS
KAMLOOPS PRIDE
August 23

KELOWNA
OKANAGAN PRIDE
August 11

KELOWNA PRIDE
April 6

VANCOUVER
VANCOUVER PRIDE
August 5

WHISTLER PRIDE AND SKI
FESTIVAL
January 21



GUATEMALA



LONDON



TRONDHEIM



ZAGREB

ATHENS





REYKJAVIK

Manitoba

FLIN FLON
FLIN FLON PRIDE
August 17

MITCHELL
STEINBACH PRIDE
July 21

THOMPSON
PRIDE NORTH OF 55
September 16

WINNIPEG
PRIDE WINNIPEG FESTIVAL
May 25

New Brunswick

CARAQUET
LE RENDEZ-VOUS DE LA FIERTE
ACADIE LOVE LTEE
July 11

MONCTON
MONCTON'S RIVER OF PRIDE/
RIVIERE DE FIERTE
August 18

Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE
NWT PRIDE
August 8

RAINBOW COALITION OF
YELLOWKNIFE
April 8

Nova Scotia

HALIFAX
HALIFAX PRIDE
July 19

Ontario

BARRIE
BARRIE PRIDE
June 3

GEORGIAN PRIDE
March 19

BRACEBRIDGE
MUSKOKA PRIDE
July 20

LONDON
PRIDE LONDON FESTIVAL
July 19

NORTH BAY
NORTH BAY PRIDE
July 18

OTTAWA
CAPITAL PRIDE/LA FIERTE DAN
LA CAPITALE
August 20

THE CENTRE FOR GENDER &
SEXUAL DIVERSITY
April 25

RODNEY
ST. THOMAS-ELGIN RAINBOW
ALLIANCE

THUNDER BAY
THUNDER PRIDE
June 6

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION
February 12

TORONTO
PRIDE AT WORK
June 1

PRIDE TORONTO
June 1

WAUBAUSHENE
FIERTE SIMCOE PRIDE
July 30

Prince Edward Island

CHARLOTTETOWN
CHARLOTTETOWN PRIDE
July 22

Quebec
MONTREAL
FIERTE MONTREAL
August 9

SHERBROOKE
FIERE LA FETE
August 23

Saskatchewan

MOOSE JAW
MOOSE JAW PRIDE
July 22

PRINCE ALBERT
PRINCE ALBERT PRIDE
June 3

REGINA
REGINA PRIDE
June 8

SASKATCHEWAN
SOUTHWEST SASKATCHEWAN
PRIDE
June 3

SASKATOON
SASKATOON PRIDE
June 10

CHINA

HONG KONG
HONG KONG PRIDE

CZECH REPUBLIC

PRAGUE
PRAGUE PRIDE
August 6

DENMARK

AARHUS
AARHUS PRIDE
June 2

COPENHAGEN
COPENHAGEN PRIDE
August 13

FRANCE

MONTPELLIER
FIERTE MONTPELLIER-TIGNES
PRIDE

STRASBURG
GAY PRIDE DE STRASBURG
June 10

GERMANY

BERLIN
BERLIN PRIDE
July 28

BRAUNSCHWEIG
BRAUNSCHWEIG PRIDE
July 18

COLOGNE
COLOGNE PRIDE
July 6

DUSSELDORF
DUSSELDORF PRIDE
June 1

HAMBURG
HAMBURG PRIDE
July 27

KONSTANZ
KONSTANZ PRIDE
July 11

MAGDEBURG
MAGDEBURG PRIDE
August 25

MONCHENGLADBACH
MONCHENGLADBACH PRIDE
July 16

OLDENBURG
NORTHWEST/OLDENBURG PRIDE
June 16

GREECE

ATHENS
ATHENS PRIDE
June 9

THESSALONIKI
THESSALONIKI PRIDE
June 23

HUNGARY

BUDAPEST
SZIVARVANY MISSZIO
ALAPITVANY (RAINBOW
MISSION FOUNDATION)-
BUDAPEST PRIDE
June 29

ICELAND

REYKJAVIK
PRIDE REYKJAVIK
August 7

ITALY

CASERTA
RAIN ARCIGAY CASERTA ONLUS
June 16

MILAN
ARCIGAY MILANO/MILANO
PRIDE
June 30

ROME
CIRCULO DI CULTURA
OMOSESSUALE MARIO
MIELI/ROMA PRIDE
June 9

TORINO
TORINO PRIDE
June 16

VARESE
ARCIGAY VARESE/VARESE
PRIDE
June 9

KENYA

KISUMU
MEN AGAINST AIDS YOUTH
GROUP
June 29

LATVIA

RIGA
MOZAİKA-LGBT AND THEIR
FRIENDS ALLIANCE/RİGA

LIBYA

TRIPOLI LGBT DEFENDER

LITHUANIA

LITHUANIAN GAY LEAGUE-
VILNIUS PRIDE

LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG
ROSA LETZEBUERG EVENT ASBL
July 14

MALTA

VALLETTA
ALLIED RAINBOW COMMUNITIES
September 15

MEXICO

GUADALAJARA
GUADALAJARA PRIDE
June 2

TIJUANA
TIJUANA PRIDE
June 16

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM
STICHTING AMSTERDAM GAY
PRIDE-AMSTERDAM GAY PRIDE
July 28

JOOPEA
July 27

ROTTERDAM
ROZE ZATERDAGEN NEDERLAND
July 23

NORWAY

BERGEN
BERGEN PRIDE
June 2

OSLO
OSLO PRIDE
June 22

POLAND

WARSAW
WARSAW PRIDE
June 9

PORTUGAL

LISBON
PORTUGAL GAY PORTO-
PORTO PRIDE

PUERTO RICO

SAN JUAN
PUERTO RICO PRIDE-COA
June 3

SAINT LUCIA

SAINT LUCIA PRIDE

SERBIA

BELGRADE
BELGRADE PRIDE
September 11

SPAIN

ARGUINEGUIN
ISLA MUNDIAL SL
November 5

BARCELONA
BARCELONA PRIDE
June 23

BILBAO
BILBAO PRIDE
June 21

IBIZA
IBIZA GAY PRIDE
June 13

MADRID
MADRID PRIDE
July 7

SWEDEN

GOTHENBURG
WESTPRIDE/GOTHENBURG
August 14

KRISTIANSTAD
RFSL KRISTIANSTAD
June 27

LUND
LUNDA PRIDE
June 15

MALMO
MALMO PRIDE
June 7

STOCKHOLM
STOCKHOLM PRIDE
July 27

UGANDA

MPIGI KAMPALA
OUR PRIDE FOUNDATION
UGANDA
July 18

UKRAINE

KYIV
NGO KYIV PRIDE
June 4

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIDGEWATER
BRIDGEWATER PRIDE

CUMBRIA
CUMBRIA PRIDE
September 29

ISLE OF WIGHT
ISLE OF WIGHT PRIDE
July 21

LONDON
PRIDE IN LONDON
June 9

MANCHESTER
MANCHESTER PRIDE
August 24

OXFORD
OXFORD PRIDE
May 25

WALES
CARDIFF PRIDE CYMRU
August 24

WARWICKSHIRE
WARWICKSHIRE PRIDE
August 18



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY NEEDS YOUR HELP

InterPride's Solidarity Fund provides financial support to enable and develop Pride and LGBTQ+ events and projects in disadvantaged and hostile territories.

In many countries, our LGBTQI+ family faces persecution, arrest, and even death—simply for being who they are. Our Solidarity Fund provides important financial assistance and demonstrable support for critical projects and events that create hope and build solidarity for our people, who face adversity in their daily lives.

In 2017, we received 38 grant applications and were able to provide thousands of dollars to some of those very worthy causes. Our support extended across five continents, supporting projects in Kenya, Tonga, Malaysia, Lithuania, China, Croatia, Nicaragua, Honduras, the Philippines, and South Africa. In 2018, we would like to do more. Much more.

Every donation will be acknowledged, and you will receive information on the events our fund supports this year. Every dollar counts! Even \$10 makes a large difference for the organizations the Solidarity Fund helps support.

For more information or to make a donation, go to interpride.org.





What Pride Means to Me...

By

Michael Blume,

*singer-songwriter
and equality advocate*

I am a gay man, and for much of my life, I accepted the false narrative that I was not worthy of love. I accepted the idea that I wasn't allowed to have the traditional love that I saw on TV and in the movies.

As an emerging queer artist, sometimes I put too much weight on what others thought. "Are the gay boys gonna like this? Is this going to scare away the straight boys?"

But a lot has changed in the past 10 years. I realized I couldn't be mad at the world for my whole life. Anger gets you only so far. You've got to get out of it with a heavy dose of self-love and understanding: "OK, this bullshit happened, but I'm gonna make it better for myself."

Pride means acknowledging everyone is different, everyone is unique. Let's all be exactly who we are meant to be, without worrying about what other people think. 🌈

*Blume's latest single, "R U Mad" from the EP **Cynicism & Sincerity**, is out now. For more, go to mblumemusic.com.*

BRIAN YU

amfAR's **Countdown to a Cure for AIDS** is a research initiative aimed at developing the scientific basis of a cure by the end of 2020.

Will you help? Join the Countdown. Visit us at curecountdown.org

#BeEpic

amfAR
MAKING AIDS HISTORY

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GIVE THE
EPIDEMIC
AN EPIC
ENDING.

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