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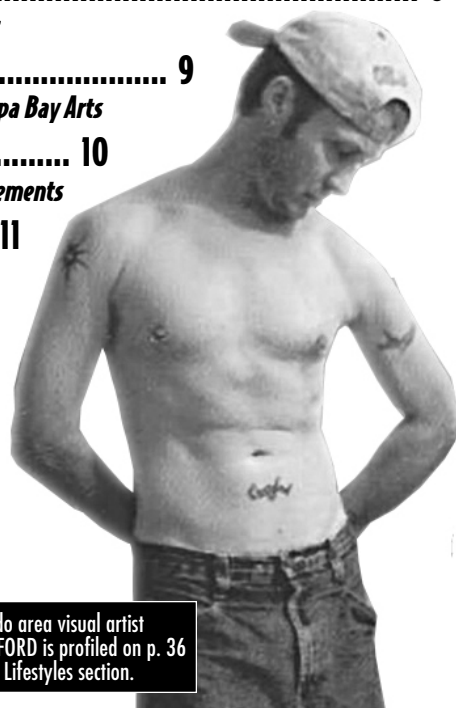
## PREVIEW

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On the cover: Tampa Bay filmmakers  
AMY NESTOR (standing) and JULIE HILL.  
Photo by Christine Reynolds

Orlando area visual artist  
CRAWFORD is profiled on p. 36  
of our Lifestyles section.



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## EDITOR'S DESK

By Scott Jackson Smith

I like to tease our creative director Dana Hill about her resistance to change. Which is sort of ironic — it was only three years ago that she started living her life as a woman.

The last time I ribbed her about her reluctance to try anything new, she swatted me with a particularly weighty edition of *Watermark*.

"How can you say that?" she asked. "I used to be a man, remember."

"I know," I said. "And I think that all attempts to try anything new stopped there."

Boy, did she prove me wrong.

This issue of *Watermark* is Dana's last. The self-described "big, beautiful transsexual" has taken a position with a mainstream publisher in Nashville. She has no idea how much I'm going to miss her.

But I'm very proud of Dana for taking this step. Not only do I think a change of scenery will be good for her, but in her own apolitical way she's making strides for all transsexuals by entering the corporate world.

Dana, I applaud you for your decision to move on. And I also wanted you to know how much I appreciate all the work you've done for *Watermark* — the paper looks better than ever. If you ever need me, my cell phone is (almost) always on. Thank you for enriching our lives.

OK, with the sentimental stuff out of the way, let's move on to the *Orlando Sentinel's* new policy that will allow the publication to run same-sex announcements in its "Celebrations" section every Sunday. Can you picture it? One week Ted and Allen will have a notice in the paper announcing their upcoming commitment ceremony. The next week, look for a paid advertisement from Ted's employer congratulating the happy couple on their new life together. It might read something like this:

"Ted, we were shocked to see you and Allen were getting hitched. All this time we thought the two of you were just good friends. That notwithstanding, we here at Nevermind Corp. wish you two all the best. And by the way, faggot, you're fired."

Yep, that's Orlando.

And what's all this about the proposed language change to Chapter 57 being pushed back again? How much do you want to bet that the decision to add "sexual orientation" to Orlando's list of protected classes won't be decided on

until November? During that time, with the elections overshadowing everything else, I wouldn't at all be surprised if the City Council pulls a slight of hand and passes the ordinance while people's guards are down.

Sarasota is doing this the right way by having the issue of protected classes put forth to the voters. If Orlando did the same, early indications say that it would pass with roughly 57 percent of citizens approving the measure. In any election in this day and age, that's a landslide. Why does Mayor Hood see it as a controversial issue? Don't be afraid, Glenda — nearly 60 percent of the city is behind this one.

This Editor's Desk is running a little long, but I still have one more thing I'd like to say to that cultish clique of guys at Lava Lounge on Friday, Aug. 23: Don't hide *Watermark* anymore.

It's our third annual Arts Issue, jam packed with profiles of creative types in our readership area that are changing the face of Florida. In our Lifestyles section, you'll meet a Disney animator, a couple of filmmakers, a cartoonist, a few visual artists, a theater owner, a clothing designer, and much more. We've also laboriously assembled season schedules, including art exhibits, dance, theater, opera, and music.

In our Water Colors pullout section, we introduce you to the producer of this year's Headdress Ball, Douglas White. White gives us a sneak peek at what's in store for the outrageous evening and clues us in to a few of the changes he's instated. And just who is "Zelda," Headdress's poster granny? Greg Triggs tackles that one, shedding light on an otherwise overlooked superstar.

Headline News in this issue takes a look at Tampa's Bill Kanouff, owner of A Different Grind and Toms and Treasures. Will he be forced to close his businesses? If community support doesn't change A Different Grind's current financial status, he may have to.

There's a lot more to read in this voluminous edition of *Watermark* — too bad Dana won't be around to swat me with it. As always, we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we've enjoyed putting it together for you. Let us hear from you. ▼

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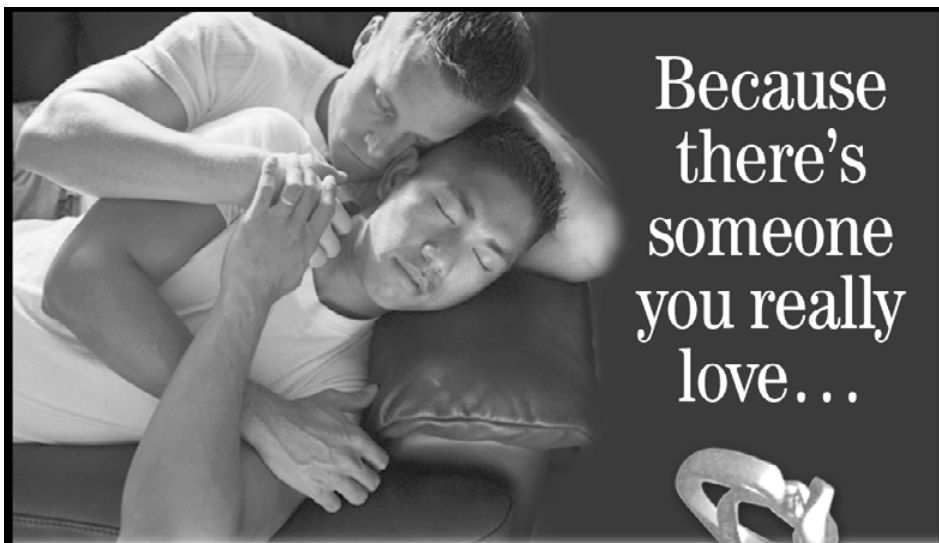
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## P R E V I E W

# Water Cooler

PEOPLE ARE TALKING



## BACK TO SCHOOL WITH LARRY KRAMER

The launch of the Larry Kramer Initiative for Gay and Lesbian Studies at Yale University will make the school the first Ivy League institution to have a sexual minorities studies program. The New Haven, Conn. school has hired Jonathan Katz, overseer of the nation's first sexual minorities studies program at San Francisco's City College, to head the Kramer Initiative. Katz was also the nation's first tenured faculty member in sexual minority studies and is the founder of the Harvey Milk Institute, an organization that offers educational opportunities to sexual minorities. The Larry Kramer Initiative is named after the playwright who founded the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power. Kramer, a Yale

alumnus, is also one of the few HIV-positive people to receive a liver transplant. Kramer has fought with the school for more than five years for the creation of a sexual-minority studies curriculum. Larry and his brother, Arthur Kramer, had given the school \$5 million for the program but until recently the school had declined to accept the money. The first students are not expected to enroll in the program until spring.

## "QUEEN OF MEAN" EATS HER WORDS

On July 31 a Manhattan judge ordered real estate mogul Leona Helmsley to pay a fine of \$10,000 and ordered a trial on how much she will have to pay her former escort and chief operating officer for defaming him. State Supreme Court Justice Walter Tolub said he ordered Helmsley to pay the fine based on

her willful attempts to avoid giving a sworn statement to lawyers for Patrick Ward. Ward was briefly Helmsley's CEO and sometime companion at social events before he filed a \$10 million lawsuit against her. He claims that she libeled and defamed him during an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* in which she stated that he had endangered her life. On Apr. 2, 2001 the *Journal* reported that Ward "suggested that he and a household employee of his get involved in administering her

medications," scaring the scandal magnet into throwing all her pills down the toilet. Ward, who only worked for Helmsley for three months, alleged in an earlier lawsuit that he was fired when she discovered he was gay. Perhaps because of her reputation for being an outspoken, equal opportunity offender, part of that suit's settlement included a confidentiality agreement. Lawyers for Ward say that the *Journal* interview violated the terms of that agreement and are ready to take it to the courts.

## WAVE BALLOTS NOW ONLINE

It's time once again for *Watermark's* annual WAVE awards, and you can cast your vote by visiting <[www.watermarkonline.com](http://www.watermarkonline.com)>. WAVE stands for *Watermark's* Award for Variety and Excellence and it gives readers the chance to vote for their favorite people, places and events in Daytona, Central Florida, Tampa Bay and Sarasota that exemplify all that gay Florida has to offer. Categories include everything from "gayest grocery store" and "best community service organization" to "friendliest bar staff" and "favorite place to pick up *Watermark*."



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# SWAN SONG FOR A TAMPA GAY LANDMARK?

With health concerns and mounting debt, owner Bill Kanouff appeals to the community. **By D.J. Holt**

**TAMPA** - When Bill Kanouff purchased Tomes & Treasures in 1988, he knew that he was not going to make a fortune. He wanted to give something back to the local GLBT community. More importantly, as a person living with AIDS, he wanted a business that would be fun and relatively stress-free.

But now the local gay landmark is teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. Cultivated as "a place for everyone to be" and "the destination for all things," the bookstore and coffee shop has seen profits dwindle and debts soar over the past four years. Without immediate support from the community, Kanouff describes the future of the business as "precarious at best."

Kanouff is not alone. Over the last three years, close to half of all gay and lesbian bookstores in the U.S. — including Out & About Books in Orlando and Affinity Books in St. Petersburg — have been forced to close their doors.

Despite this alarming trend, Kanouff decided to expand Tomes three years ago by building A Different Grind, an upscale coffee shop catering specifically to gays and lesbians. The spacious neo-modern chalet was completed in 2000 and features a wide patio and room enough inside for entertainers to perform, artists to display their works, and visitors to chat next to a cozy upstairs fireplace.

Kanouff believed the comfortable and attractive shop would become central to gay life in Tampa Bay. He offered the upstairs lounge to various organizations for meetings, and he courted members of the Tampa Bay Business Guild. But

A Different Grind has yet to show a profit, and frequently falls far short of that mark.

The expansion seemed strangely cursed from the start. The building contractor went far over budget, causing Kanouff to be "financially crippled from the outset." And while the coffee shop increased overall sales, it also multiplied overhead.

Since breaking ground for A Different Grind in 1999, Kanouff estimates that he has sunk over \$300,000 of his own money into the venture. In addition, he says the business itself is more than \$100,000 in the red since opening. Kanouff claims he has been unable to take a paycheck in that time, and he remains solely responsible for ongoing mortgage, insurance and tax payments for the impressive building.

To attract more business, Kanouff has invited authors for book signings,

**Continued Page 23**

BILL KANOUFF says no permanent decisions regarding his A Different Grind coffee house will be made until after the holiday season.

Photo by Christine E. Reynolds.



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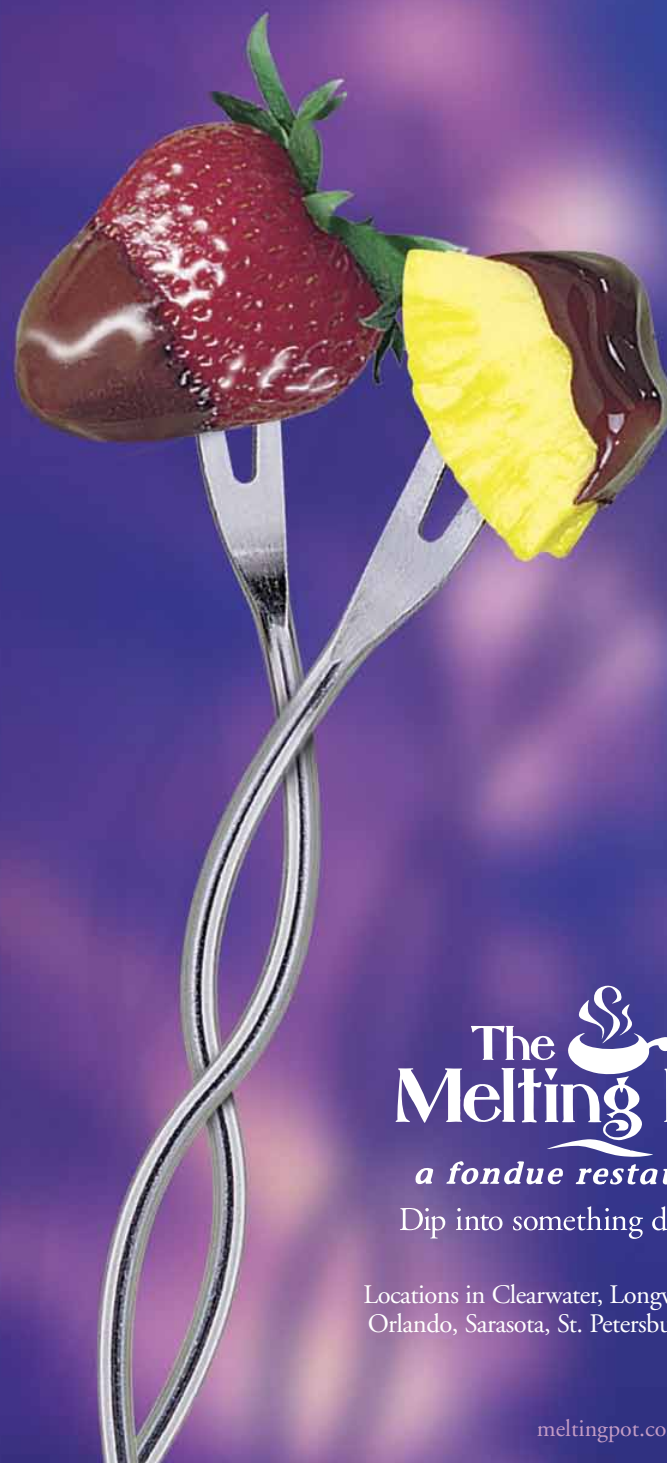
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## SARASOTA NEWS

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
HONORS ACTIVISTS

SARASOTA - Three activists who spearheaded the addition of a non-discrimination clause to Sarasota's City Charter were recognized at the quarterly Sarasota Unity Leadership Conference on Sunday, Aug. 18. The meeting took place at the Waldemere Fire House, and attracted more than two dozen community leaders.

Plaques were awarded to Rev. Jim Merritt for first bringing the issue to the city, Al Leach for serving on the Charter Review Board that approved the measure, and Michael Shelton for providing important drafting and legal guidance.

Residents of Sarasota will vote on the non-discrimination clause, which includes sexual orientation, in the upcoming November election. City Commissioner Mary Quillin told Unity Leadership attendees that grassroots organizing and personal communication will be key in approving the charter amendment. She stressed the

importance of each vote, noting she won her seat on the City Commission by just 44 votes.

Merritt announced formation of the Sarasota Equality Project, a Political Action Committee that will lead the campaign for

passage of the amendment. The steering committee for the project will be chaired by Rev. Nancy Wilson, pastor at Church of the Trinity MCC and a nationally acclaimed author and community activist.

"This amendment is not just about the GLBTQ community," Merritt said. "It is about all the citizens of our city. It's time for all of us to come together and unite to make Sarasota a safe, welcoming place for all people."

To become involved contact (941)

920-1521 or send donations to: Sarasota Equality Project, P.O. Box 2121, Sarasota, FL 34230-2121. The next Sarasota Unity Leadership Conference will take place on Sunday, Nov. 17.



Sarasota City Commissioner MARY QUILLIN said that every vote will count in passing non-discrimination protections.

LESBIAN MOM REJECTS  
VISITS BY GAY SPERM DONOR

SARASOTA - In a groundbreaking case dealing with artificial insemination, the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Lakeland has rejected a contract providing visitation rights for a sperm donor.

Lori Lamaritata, who is lesbian, gave birth in 1994 to twin boys using sperm donated by Danny Lucas, a Bradenton nurse who is also gay. A mutual friend introduced them for the sole purpose of facilitating artificial insemination.

An agreement executed at the time the children were born provided Lucas with supervised visits when convenient for Lamaritata and her partner, Mary Ellen Hindman. But soon thereafter, Lucas sought increased involvement with the children. He sued in 1997, and last year Circuit Judge Becky granted him unsupervised, overnight visitation on alternating weekends, telephone calls from the children, and the right to meet with the boys' teachers and attend school events.

"He sought partial custody," Lamaritata's attorney, Doris Bunnell, told the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*. "My client was devastated. She didn't want this intrusion into her life."

Lamaritata was apparently unconcerned about the ramifications of granting Lucas limited visitation rights at the time of birth. It is unusual in such situations, and is contrary to Florida law, which states that sperm and egg donors must "relinquish all maternal or paternal rights and obligations with respect to the donation or the resulting children."

Lucas argued that the agreement between he and Lamaritata was nonetheless valid. The District Court disagreed, stating that such contracts are contrary to law and thus "not enforceable."

Lamaritata and Hindman moved out of state last year, but may move back to the Sarasota/Bradenton area after the court ruling in their favor according to the *Herald Tribune*.

Lucas hasn't seen the twins, who are now in second grade, in more than a year. **▼ Tom Dyer**

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## SARASOTA BRIEFS



## MEN'S CHORUS HOLDS AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Gulf Coast Men's Chorus were held on two consecutive Mondays, Aug. 19-20. Prospective members demonstrated range, voice quality and ability to match pitch, and also sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" or a similar simple song. No prior singing experience or music reading skills are required. The chorus rehearses each Monday from 7-9:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 3975 Fruitville Rd. Those still interested in joining should contact Music Director and Conductor Gregory Ruffer at [maestro@bgsu.alumlink.com](mailto:maestro@bgsu.alumlink.com) or visit [www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org](http://www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org).

## OFF-WHITE PARTY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CEREBRAL PALSY

Playing off the wildly popular "White Party" held annually in Miami's South Beach, the Sarasota chapter of United Cerebral Palsy will host the first "Off-White Party" on Friday, Nov. 8. "This will be the wildest party Sarasota has ever seen," said UCP executive director Wendy Resnick. "We will support everyone's right to choose their own lifestyle — and at the same time help those with developmental disabilities gain access to the programs and services they so desperately need." The party begins at 9 PM at Michael's On East Ballroom. Attire is "whatever you can dream up" in white or off-white. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door. For more information call (941) 957-3599 or email [ucpwendy@aol.com](mailto:ucpwendy@aol.com).

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## CHORUS MEMBERS THREATEN SPLIT WITH TAMPA BAY ARTS

ST. PETERSBURG — “Creative differences” is the catch phrase being used to describe a dispute between some members of the Tampa Bay Gay Men’s Chorus and its parent non-profit group, Tampa Bay Arts, Inc. But there are differing perspectives as to whether the two organizations may sever their relationship.

At the very least, certain chorus members are expected to hand in their resignations this week.

“The chorus is deeply in debt,” said a TBGMC administrative council member who asked not to be identified. “Tampa Bay Arts has not monitored the people they have hired in the past, and they have taken no responsibility for the situation whatsoever.”

According to this source, TBGMC has been carrying nearly \$50,000 in debt since the mid-1990s — the result of several personal loans — and TBA has done little to try and pay it back. He also said that TBA remains behind on even the chorus’ most recent bills.

The chorus has also lost some creative control — something that hit home when TBA recently fired artistic director John Phillip Mullinax without consulting the chorus first.

TBA is the “umbrella” non-profit organization that oversees the men’s chorus and handles the group’s finances. TBA raises money for the chorus, pays its debt and supervises the group’s paid employees.

The chorus and TBA signed a new affiliation agreement earlier this year, but it was later rescinded when TBA asked the chorus to sign an amended agreement that would give TBA more artistic control and power to hire and fire employees.

According to TBA president Richard Waugh, the change made sense.

“Part of the problem, we found, is that when you have artistic differences — two

boards of directors with two different ways of thinking — it can never work,” Waugh said. “It becomes a two-headed beast. We had problems with (the chorus) not wanting to do what we wanted to do, and at the same time we were seeing a continual drop in our audience base as well as a continual drop in our donor base.”

Waugh said that firing Mullinax was an effort to redirect the chorus back to a more financially sound path.

“John Phillip did a wonderful job,”

Waugh said. “He’s a phenomenally-gifted man, but his musical vision was not the same as that being sought by our audience. His contract was up on Aug. 14, and we opted not to renew it.”

Waugh noted that the situation spotlighted problems with the old affiliation agreement.

“Our old agreement didn’t allow us any control,” he said. “We could let people go, but we had no input in the hiring of the director nor the type of musical program that

director would produce. But at the same time, we had all the financial responsibility.”

When Mullinax was fired, some members of the chorus felt strongly that the group should sever ties with TBA. However, the upstart group changed its mind when they realized that the newly separated chorus would assume sole responsibility for the \$50,000 debt.

Waugh believes the Tampa Bay Gay Men’s Chorus will be part of TBA for some time to come. Scheduled auditions to augment the group’s membership — now down to just 30 — were recently postponed, but will be rescheduled.

“Stephen Allen, our former artistic director, and Jeff Rouch, a former choreographer, have agreed to come on board,” Waugh said. “Some chorus members may decide to leave, but we’re hopeful that everyone will stay.” ▼ Michael Blake



The contract for Tampa Bay Gay Men’s Chorus artistic director JOHN PHILLIP MULLINAX was not renewed by Tampa Bay Arts.



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## WET PARTY BASHERS CHARGED WITH HATE CRIMES

TAMPA - While bruises continue to heal, a man accused of beating up three men as they left the Wet Party has been charged with hate crimes.

Devin Scott Angus, 21, of Clearwater now faces three counts of aggravated battery evidencing prejudice and four counts of battery evidencing prejudice in connection with the July 7 attack.

“The prejudice bumps the felonies up to first degree, so the penalty on them doubles,” said prosecutor Pam Bondi.

The aggravated battery charges carry

a maximum sentence of 30 years each.

The assault occurred after the Wet Party in a parking garage near the Florida Aquarium. Sonny Gonzales, 34, Stephen Hair, 25, and Scott Boswell, 24, were walking with a friend to their limousine when Angus allegedly yelled a gay slur at them, dropped his pants, screamed obscenities and then punched and kicked them. Hair suffered a skull fracture, and both he and Gonzales required medical treatment.

Angus is currently free on \$6,000 bail.

## ORLANDO NEWS

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE  
ON HOLD — AGAIN

ORLANDO - The Orlando City Commission hearing on amending Chapter 57 to add "sexual orientation to the city's anti-discrimination" language has been postponed for another week.

The hearing, which was originally scheduled in August and subsequently pushed back to Oct. 7, is now tentatively changed to Monday, Oct. 14 at 2 PM.

The official date change will be announced at a Sept. 9 workshop held in Council Chambers at 10 AM. Attending the workshop will be Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood, the City Commissioners, and the Human Relations Board.

At the workshop, the City Council will discuss the proposal, and will be given the opportunity to ask questions of the City Attorney and the Human Relations Board to determine if other information is needed.

"[The gay and lesbian community] is strongly encouraged to attend both meetings," said Orlando attorney Marty Chapman. "Our presence at the meeting is crucial to show our interest in the City's actions, even if we are not allowed to speak."

The workshop will not allow for public comment, but attendance will be recognized.

The community will have the opportunity to speak at the hearing on Oct. 14.

"Unlike the fact-finding hearings held by the Human Relations Board, the speakers at the City Commission hearing do not need to tell personal stories of discrimination, although any which are persuasive would be helpful," said Chapman. "This is the time to show the City that the entire community — gays, lesbians, bisexual, and straight people — is in support of this amendment." ▽

Scott J. Smith

SENTINEL TO START RUNNING  
SAME-SEX ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORLANDO - On Aug. 24, the *Orlando Sentinel* announced that the newspaper will accept ads from gay couples wishing to announce their unions or commitment ceremonies.

In Sunday editions of the *Sentinel*, the newspaper runs announcements for weddings, birthdays, engagements, b'ah mitzvahs and other events under "Celebrations." Same-sex unions will be added to this section of paid announcements in the *Sentinel*.

According to the *Sentinel*'s publisher, Kathleen M. Waltz, a formal policy outlining the specifics of which ads will be accepted was still in development. But she said that the end goal is to accept "celebrations of many different kinds."

The decision to start running same-sex unions advertising comes on the heels of the *New York Times* announcement last week that they will begin running such notices. (See World News on p. 12.)

Five days after the *New York Times* announced it would begin listing same-sex unions in its Sunday Weddings/Celebrations section, the number of newspapers known to have gay and lesbian-inclusive union announcement policies climbed from 69 to 111.

"Since last Sunday, we've been

hearing from people across the country who are tipping us off to local newspapers that have inclusive announcements policies," said John Sonogo, GLAAD's director of communications. "We've also been hearing from newspaper editors who want to make sure their paper is on the list. But the best calls we received this week were from papers that want to include gay and lesbian union announcements and asked for suggestions on how to design and implement such guidelines."

In Florida, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* has run same-sex announcements for over three years. The *Miami Herald* said that they will begin accepting same-sex announcements. But the *St. Petersburg Times*, the largest daily publication in the state, said it does not currently have plans to publish such announcements. ▽

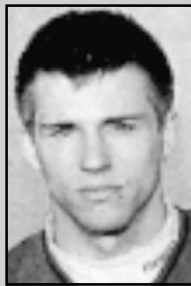
Scott J. Smith

## ORLANDO BRIEFS



## GAY MAN MURDERED BY "HOUSEKEEPER"

Andrew J. Patterson, a well-known gay man, was found dead in his Winter Park apartment on Aug. 16. Joshua P. Smith, identified as Patterson's "housekeeper," was arrested on Aug. 21 for first-degree murder. The 30-year-old Smith confessed to repeatedly stabbing Patterson in the head. Thirty-nine year-old Patterson, who stood 5'11" and weighed nearly 600 pounds, was an unmistakable presence at Parliament House, where he was a regular. Parliament House held a memorial for Patterson on Aug. 26.



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## STATE NEWS

## JACKSONVILLE TRANSGENDER MURDER NOT LABELED "HATE CRIME"

**JACKSONVILLE** - On the morning of Aug. 8, a man walking his dog along Spring Grove Road on the north side found 28-year-old Deasha (Gerald) Andrews slumped over in her car. She had been shot more than once and apparently died on the spot.

According to Rusty Mead, the GLBT community liaison for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, this is not being investigated as a hate crime.

Based on information that Mead has been given by the JSO, some of which she could not reveal, there is nothing that suggests a hate crime had been committed. Part of the reason that leads police to believe this is that Andrews had been found in a very violent part of town,

an area that has had several murders in the past. Andrews has been known to frequent this area regularly.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has also ruled that the Andrews murder is not related to the murder of Terrianne Summers, a transgender activist who was shot in Jacksonville last December.

On Aug. 12, violence struck again when two Washington D.C. transgender youths, Ukea (Deon) Davis, 18, and Stephanie (Wilbur) Thomas, 19, were found shot to death in the front seat of Thomas's Toyota Camry. According to witnesses, a car drove up beside the two youths, and a gunman fired shots from an automatic weapon.

## FOUR PEOPLE CHARGED IN MIAMI ANTI-GAY RIGHTS PETITION PROBE

**MIAMI** - A notary public is the fourth person to be charged in a state investigation into whether a petition drive to repeal Miami-Dade County's gay rights ordinance was fraudulently conducted.

Nayibe Bousse, 44, was charged on Aug. 21 with unlawful use of a notary commission for allegedly notarizing her own signature, said Chip Thullbery, a spokesman for the Polk County State Attorney's Office, which was appointed as special prosecutor in the Miami case.

Bousse faces up to five years in prison if convicted of the third-degree felony.

Three others were arrested last week, accused of falsely certifying the petition organized by Take Back Miami-Dade and

the Miami-Dade Christian Coalition. The groups led the petition drive to put the county rule banning discrimination against anyone based on their sexual orientation up for a vote on Sept. 10.

Anthony Verdugo Jr., chairman of the Miami-Dade County Christian Coalition, was charged with one count of false swearing. Ralph Patterson was charged with unlawful use of a notary commission. And a campaign volunteer, Christian Montoya, 17, was charged with seven counts of false swearing.

Miami-Dade County approved an amendment to its human rights ordinance in 1998 that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation.

## STATE BRIEFS



### EQUALITY FLORIDA CALLS ON BUSH TO RESCIND CHILD WELFARE APPOINTMENT

Equality Florida expressed grave concern about Gov. Jeb Bush's hastily announced appointment of Jerry Reiger to head the state Department of Children and Families. In an essay he's credited with co-authoring titled "The Christian Worldview of the Family," Reiger rails against gay people, declares that "man's authority over his wife is delegated to him by God," and states that spanking children to the point of causing "bruises or welts" is Biblically sanctioned.

### BLACK MIAMI LEADERS SUPPORT LOCAL GAY RIGHTS ORDINANCE

A group of black community leaders showed support on Aug. 13 for Miami-Dade County's gay rights ordinance, which two religious groups want to repeal in a September referendum. "Once we start to discriminate and allow discrimination against homosexuals, when do we draw the line?" asked state Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Miami. "This issue is not about gay rights, it's about human rights," said Miami civil rights leader Bess McElroy.

### DADE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION TO HONOR CLINTON

On Oct. 19, the Dade Human Rights Foundation will present New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton with HGRF's National Impact Award at their sixth annual Recognition Dinner in Hollywood, Florida. "Senator Clinton is recognized worldwide as an advocate for democracy, human rights, religious tolerance, and equal rights for gays and lesbians," says Cindy Brown, DHRF board member, "DHRF is saluting her efforts and her unwavering passion."

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## NEW YORK TIMES TO RUN SAME-SEX COMMITMENT NOTICES

**NEW YORK** - The *New York Times* plans to begin publishing announcements of same-sex commitment ceremonies along with its wedding announcements.

The announcements of formal gay and lesbian unions will begin next month in the paper's Sunday Styles section, Howell Raines, executive editor of the newspaper, said in the Aug. 18 edition.

"In making this change, we acknowledge the newsworthiness of a growing and visible trend in society toward public celebrations of commitment by gay and lesbian couples — celebrations important to many of our readers, their families and their friends," Raines said.

"We recognize that the society remains divided about the legal and religious definition of marriage, and our news columns will remain impartial in that debate," he said.

## NEW YORK CITY EXTENDS DP RIGHTS TO VISITING SAME-SEX COUPLES

**NEW YORK** - The City Council approved a bill on Aug. 15 extending domestic partnership rights to legally sanctioned, same-sex couples visiting New York.

Supporters said the bill was needed because such couples are sometimes denied rights taken for granted by gays and lesbians in the city, such as hospital visitation. The law is intended to cover gays from cities such as Los Angeles that have domestic partnership laws and nations such as Holland which recognize gay marriages.

Visitors would have to show a certificate indicating they have legally registered their relationship.

The measure, which passed 34-7, must be signed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

## PENNSYLVANIA HIGH COURT ALLOWS SAME-SEX ADOPTIONS

**HARRISBURG, Pa.** - A child may be adopted by a parent's legal partner in cases where the partners are the same sex, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled on Aug. 20.

The court, in a 6-0 decision with one justice abstaining, found that one partner in a gay or lesbian relationship can adopt a child without forcing the other partner to give up parental rights. Previously, the parent would have had to give up rights to the child in order for the adoption to proceed.

The decision means children in gay and lesbian families could now qualify for health insurance, inheritances and other benefits that they did not get before.

Pennsylvania adoption law allows only for a legally married person to become the adoptive parent of the other spouse's children and does not recognize same-sex marriages.

## DAUGHTERS COME HOME AFTER PROTESTING MOTHER'S LESBIANISM

**HOUSTON** - An agreement between a mother and her two teenage daughters would reunite them after the girls ran away from home in protest to their parent's homosexuality.

Kimla Green and her two daughters, ages 16 and 17, went into a family courtroom in Houston on Aug. 20 because the two teens had asked a judge to declare them independent following objections they had to their mother's gay lifestyle.

Green said she would "no longer practice that lifestyle" in front of her daughters. The girls said they will stop attending the church that allegedly took them from their home.

The deal still needs to be approved by a judge in Fort Bend County, where the case was transferred. A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 28.

## WORLD BRIEFS



### GAY PARTNERS OF 9/11 VICTIMS WILL GET BENEFITS

About 20 lesbian and gay survivors whose partners died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center will receive workers' compensation under a state law that took effect on Aug. 22. The new provision will give all domestic partners of Sept. 11 victims — gay and straight — the same benefits surviving spouses receive under the state's Workers' Compensation Law.

### GOVERNMENT TO APPOINT NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST OPENLY GAY CABINET

Prime Minister Helen Clark is planning to appoint New Zealand's first openly gay Cabinet minister when she announces the makeup of her government later this month. Former teacher Chris Carter, a Labor lawmaker from the northern city of Auckland, said on Aug. 12 that he hoped his sexuality would not be an issue. Carter, who won his seat in western Auckland with a huge majority in July's election, has not yet been assigned a portfolio in Clark's new Cabinet.

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## THEATRE COMPANY TO STAGE SHOWS TO HELP FIGHT AIDS

**SARASOTA** - The Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project will present their second annual Night of Alternative Theatre, Monday, Sept. 30 at the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre, 25 N. Pineapple in Sarasota.

The Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project is a group of people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, who present staged, play-readings to raise awareness and funds to assist PWA programs. The program is sponsored by Bethesda House, caretakers of the Sarasota/Manatee AIDS Memorial Quilt. All proceeds will go to support P.W.A. programs at Bethesda House.

The Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project will perform an edited staged reading of a work in progress from *And the Band Played On*.

Theatre artists from the Sarasota/Manatee area will donate their time and talents to participate in musical selections from Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly* and a stage reading from Moises Kaufman's *The Laramie Project*, the theatrical portrait of town that was challenged by the murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard.

Desserts and coffee will be served at 6:30 PM and a cash bar will be available. The shows will begin at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 and \$20 and can be purchased at the Golden Apple or at Bethesda House, 1670 4th St. For further information call the Sarasota AIDS Theatre project director Garry Allan Breul at (941) 365-6348 or e-mail garallan@msn.com.

## BROWARD AIDS PATIENTS WORRIED PRIVACY MAY BE VIOLATED

**FT. LAUDERDALE** - Patients at Broward County's largest private AIDS clinic are concerned that the government may violate their privacy rights now that their health records have been confiscated.

On Aug. 14, investigators from the Florida Medicaid Fraud Control Unit seized patient files at the Community Healthcare/Center One offices. The state's attorney general's office is conducting a criminal investigation into the office's billing practices.

"This is outrageous," the clinic's attorney, Sharon Kegerreis, told PlanetOut.com. "This is a gross lack of sensitivity and a complete violation of the patients' right to privacy — we had a courtroom full of the clinic's patients worried about the clinic's ability to get to

their records."

Kegerreis was aware of the investigation prior to the seizure, but said that the clinic's administrators were still trying to figure out a manner in which to hand over the files while protecting their clients' anonymity.

"We have been cooperating with the investigation," said Kegerreis, "whereas the government did not follow the legal procedures put in place to protect patient privacy. If someone wants their records, they have a right to a privacy hearing, they have a right to be notified, and there are other laws protecting others from learning someone's HIV status. These rights were all violated."

A privacy hearing on the records will be held on Sept. 6.

## HEALTH BRIEFS



### BROADWAY CAFE SOCIETY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS

On Sept. 3, The Broadway Cafe Society will present a concert version of the musical *Working* at the Improv Comedy Theater as a fundraiser for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Using local talent, the free-flowing musical party is designed to be an entertaining evening for the performers and the audience alike. The Improv Comedy Theater is located at 1600 East 8th Ave., in Ybor City. Contact Michael Senesac at (800) 743-5592 or The Improv at (813) 864-4000 for more information.

### GLBT YOUTH MARKETERS ARE WORKING FOR "TRUTH"

Approximately 70 Truth campaign youth marketers, including two who self identify as lesbian or gay, will take part in the 2002 INFKT Truth Tour. The marketers, ranging in age from 18 - 26, connect with teens on their own terms to spread the word about tobacco and the tobacco industry's targeted marketing practices toward youth, including GLBT youth. Running through September, the tour will hit teen events and venues in 200 U.S. cities. To find out more about the INFKT Truth Tour, go to <www.thetruthpress.com>.



It's that time of year again! Time for you to cast your vote for the people, places and things in your area that exemplify all that gay Florida has to offer. Log onto WatermarkOnline.com and cast your vote today!

Special bonus exclusively for Watermark readers! When you cast your votes on our website, you will have the opportunity to purchase tickets to **RENT** at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre (October 22-27) for \$35 each.



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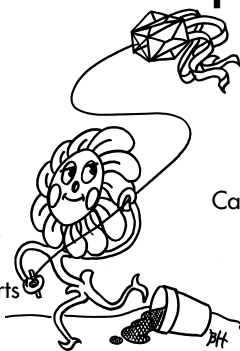
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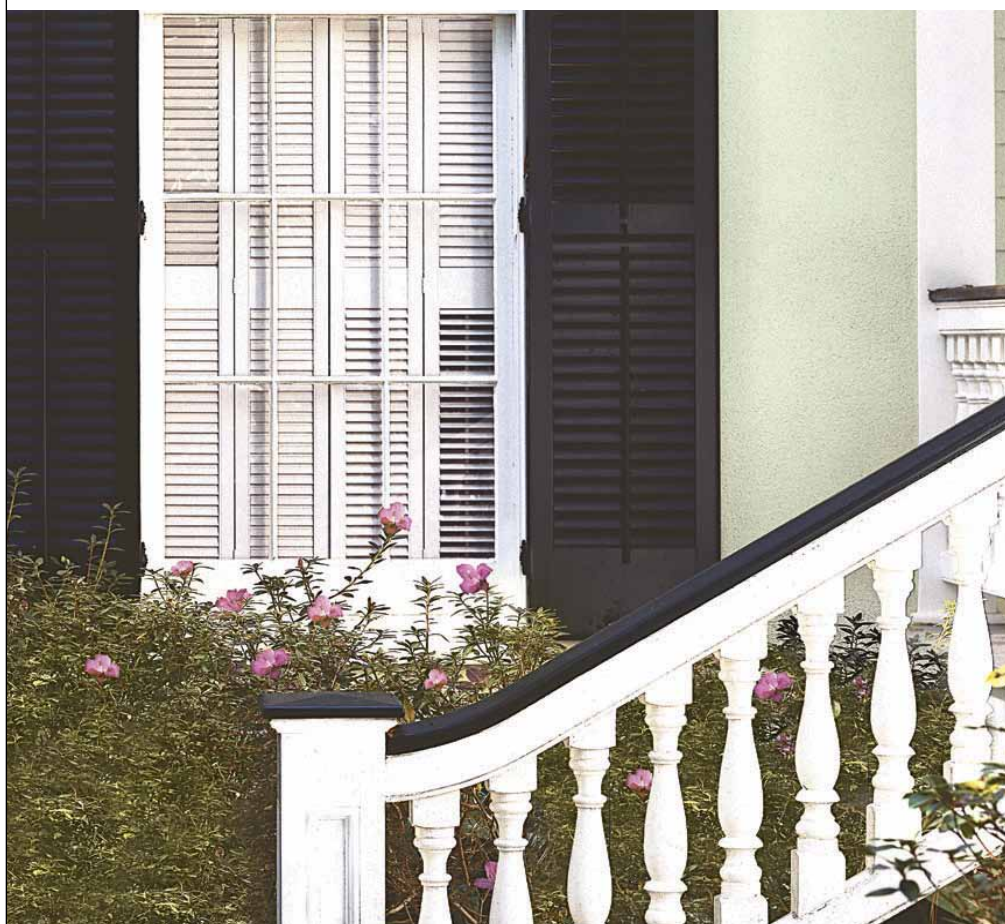
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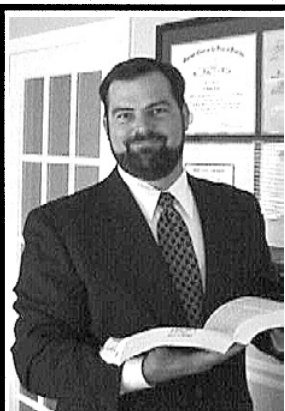
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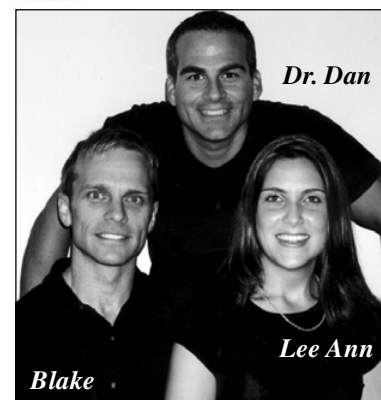
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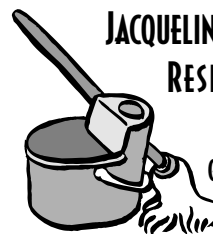


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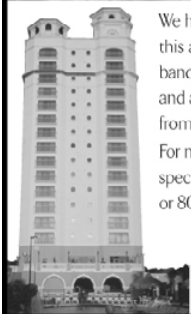
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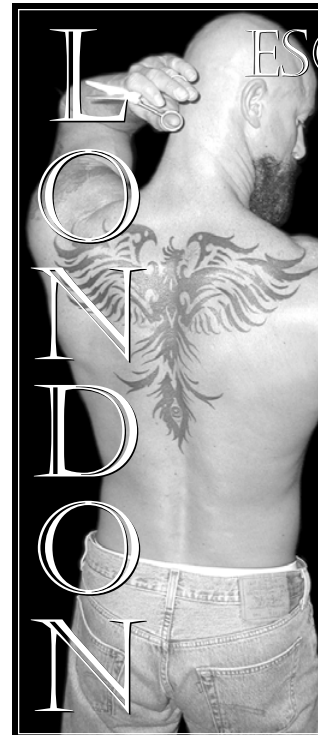
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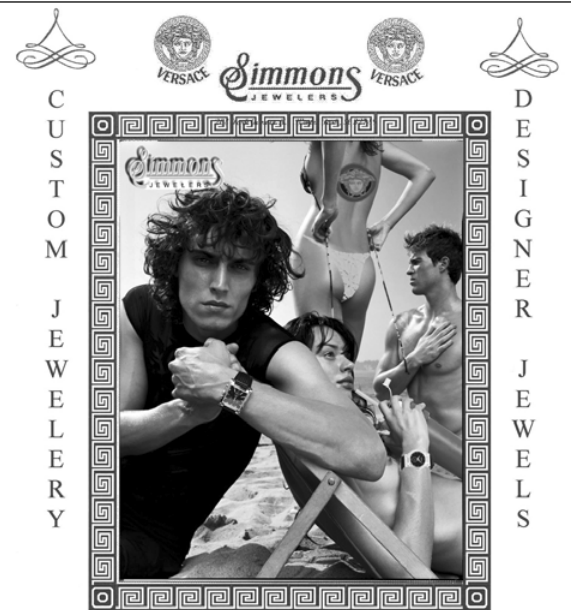
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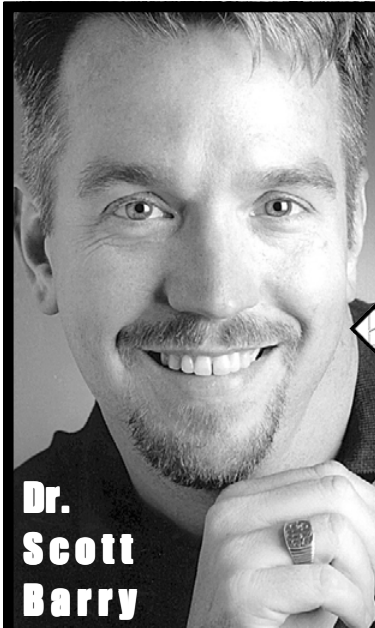
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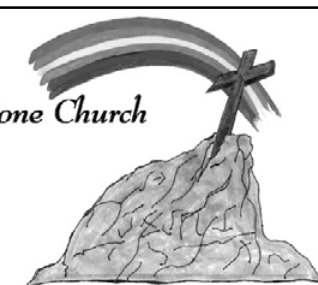
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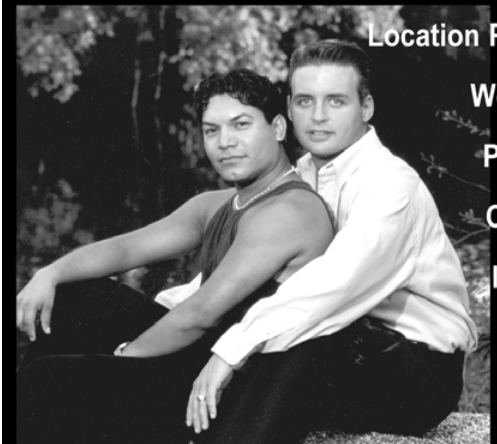
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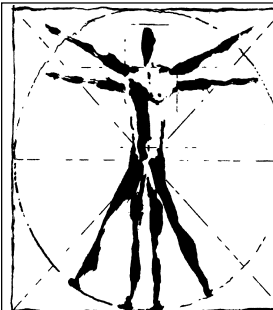
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## HEADLINE NEWS

## TAMPA GAY LANDMARK

From Page 6

musicians for jam sessions, and held open-mike nights. He says the events have failed to attract enough business to justify their continuation. Even when the Tampa Bay Business Guild shared expenses to bring in renowned author Patricia Nell Warren (*The Frontrunner*), costs far exceeded revenues.

In an attempt to discover what the community wants, Kanouff even sent out a customer survey. He wanted feedback on how to improve a business that was always envisioned as "a healthy, positive, alcohol-free, drug-free, smoke-free environment." The most common response he received was to serve beer and alcohol, and make adult movies available.

"So, I guess if I became a bar that sold porn....," Kanouff speculates, leaving the sentence unfinished.

This past January, Kanouff consolidated Tomes and A Different Grind into the new building to cut costs. The businesses continued to lose money, so Kanouff also began cutting staff hours and working the coffee and book counters himself. The increased workload landed Kanouff in the hospital. His doctor bluntly told him that he was lucky to be alive, and that he had to reduce stress, begin sleeping more and working less.

"I'm thinking what the hell world does he live in?" Kanouff now laughs.

In order for the business to remain

viable, Kanouff claims he must sell \$35,000 worth of books, merchandise and coffee each month. Currently, the shop falls short of that benchmark by several thousand dollars. He candidly states that he does not know how much longer he can sustain the business at this rate.

The next few months, including the all-important holiday season, will likely determine the fate of Tomes and A Different Grind. In the meantime, Kanouff says further labor cutbacks are being contemplated and he may close the coffee counter during daytime hours.

Asked about his biggest problem, Kanouff's response is immediate. "The mainstreaming of gay culture," he says. "There is an apathy that didn't exist even six years ago."

He notes that even though stores like Borders or Blockbuster have less than five percent of the gay-oriented stock that Tomes carries, customers seem to be drawn to those chains because of greater overall selection. As if to reinforce Kanouff's theory, one Tomes patron who asked to remain anonymous said, "It's a great place and I go there sometimes, but there is such a thing as too gay. And that's its biggest problem — it's all gay, all the time."

Equality Florida counts some 68,000 lesbians and gay men living in the Tampa Bay area. Kanouff estimates that he has a loyal customer base of around 300. In other words, less than one-half of one percent of the community actively

supports his business.

Kanouff is bemused by this statistic, but is also quick to commend his regular customers, and the numerous patrons who crowd the coffee shop and bookstore on Friday and Saturday nights.

"But 300 wonderful, dedicated people who visit for four hours a week will not maintain a business," he says.

Despite these sobering numbers, Kanouff remains dedicated to his dream. He says that no permanent decisions will be made about the fate of Tomes and A Different Grind until January 2003.

"I want it to exist and continue," he says. "But at this point it's the community's choice." ▼



Earlier this year, owner Bill Kanouff consolidated Tomes & Treasures (right) and A Different Grind to reduce overhead. Photo by Christine E. Reynolds.

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## INTERNET &amp; TECHNOLOGY



## MY DOCUMENTS GAY TOONS GET TECHNICAL

Queer computing by Erin J. Chisman

I have collected comics since my teen years. I never really got into Marvel comics like Batman and Green Lantern, but I do enjoy the alternative ones like DC Comics' Vertigo line. Definitely dark, Vertigo features anti-heroes and incarnations named Morpheus and his kid sister Death.

I like the underground alternative themes. The comic also sits better with the little feminist in me that the girls in the Vertigo line aren't just damsels in distress but part of the story. And sometimes they are even the heroes.

Once puberty hit and I realized *exactly* why I noticed all the girls in school, comics held less of an interest for me. It took me a year or two before I stumbled on to the sub-genre of gay comics, but once I found them, I was addicted.

The first comic I found was Alison Bechdel's *Dykes To Watch Out For* <[www.dykestowatchoutfor.net](http://www.dykestowatchoutfor.net)>. I identified with her cast of characters. And being in high school, I thought, "Hey this is what hanging out with lesbians would be like!" Although the archetype of good vs.



Gay-themed cartoons like *Dykes on Dykes* have entered the computer age.

bad was not apparent — I mean c'mon, could Mo really be a superhero? — I thoroughly enjoyed the two dimensional characters. The growing pains they went through in their lives mirrored what the community was going through and what having a relationship was all about. I liked it so much that my senior year I brought in a picture of Lois to show my hairdresser just how to cut my hair.

The advent of the Internet opened my horizons to the other comics out there. *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green* <[www.ethangreen.com](http://www.ethangreen.com)> became a regular in my life as I cast my college roommate Kevin as Ethan. They both were struggling single men weighing the choices critical to many gay guys: clothes, hair, and boys. As they both went through the tons of available bachelors the only one they could settle for was the fantasy version in their heads.

Now with programs like Macromedia's Flash that allows real-time animation on the Web, gay cartoonists have really begun to branch out. Katrin Kremmler, the author of the comics *Pussy Rules* and *Dykes on Dykes*, makes her strips interactive. When you visit <[www.dykesworld.de](http://www.dykesworld.de)> you can click on either strip and from there load each episode. (Warning: Kremmler's strips take awhile to load because of all of the interactive elements, but they're well worth the wait.) Although not presented with 3D graphics, both *Pussy Rules* and *Dykes on*

*Dykes* gives the Web surfer the opportunity to meet the characters featured in the strips.

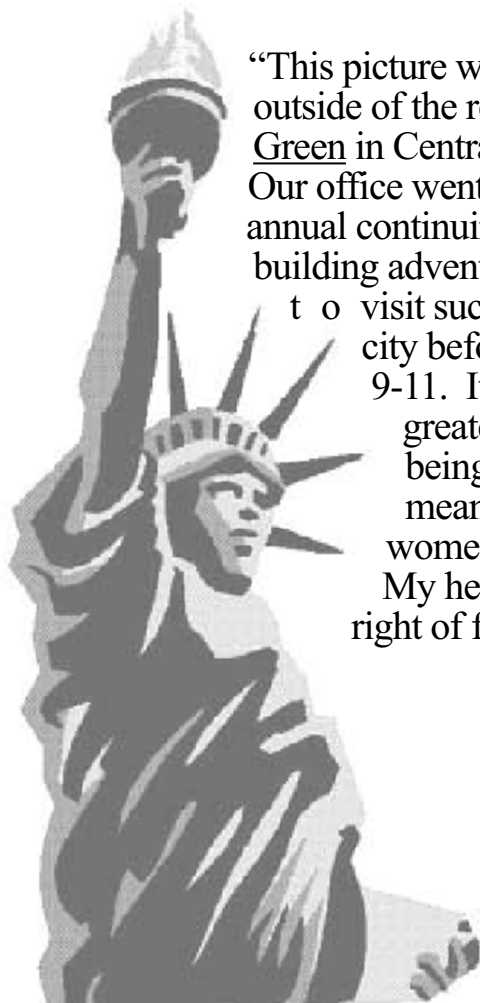
My favorite gay Web-toon to come out in the past few years is *Queer Duck*, which can be viewed at <[www.sho.com/queerduck](http://www.sho.com/queerduck)>. *Queer Duck* is a Showtime presentation, and co-created by animator Xeth Feinberg and Mike Reiss, one of the creative geniuses behind *The Simpsons*. The movie intro allows you to meet the animated cast of gay characters, watch past episodes and even send postcards. The actual cartoons, of which there are twenty episodes currently available, are warped and hilarious. Check out the episode where the Ducksteins try to have *Queer Duck* reprogrammed. Then watch the one where the *Queer Duck* gang attends a funeral — it's well worth your time.

Although a relatively new phenomenon, gay-themed Web-toons are proving to be well-written and artistic endeavors. For a fairly complete listing, go to <[www.gaytoon.com](http://www.gaytoon.com)>. ▼

## COMPUTING BRIEFS

### NEW ALL-MALE WEB SITE WANTS TO BE DISTRACTING

MyDistraction.com launched on Aug. 1 as a Web site for "guys to meet guys." The developers of the Minneapolis-based Internet site said that their team researched and analyzed Web personals portals to create a magasite dedicated to original design, an intuitive user experience, innovative features, and a targeted, all-male audience. "MyDistraction.com provides a classy, upscale environment where sex isn't shameful or dirty... just natural," says MyDistraction.com president Troy Adamson. Basic membership is free. Enhanced memberships are available for \$9.95.



"This picture was taken in July of 2001 outside of the restaurant Tavern on the Green in Central Park, New York. Our office went to New York for the annual continuing education/ team building adventure. We had the privilege

to visit such a kind and beautiful city before the terrible events of 9-11. It has given our office a greater appreciation for what being an American actually means. To ALL the men and

women who have died giving the right of freedom for us, I would like to say thank you.

My heart goes out to all the friends and families that have suffered due to the invasion on our right of freedom. May God bless America, and all the innocent people around the world!"

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## BUSINESS

## WORKPLACE EQUALITY CONFERENCE SET FOR SEPTEMBER

**ORLANDO** - Advocates for gay and lesbian equality in the workplace will gather in Orlando on Sept. 13-15 for Out & Equal's 12th annual conference. The conference will be held at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World. More than 500 people from across the U.S. are expected to attend.

The decision to hold this year's event in Orlando came more than a year ago when Ed Baklor, a Walt Disney World vice president, approached the group and asked what it would take to bring the conference to the city. Although Orlando offers employment non-discrimination protection to city workers, the proposed ordinance to give the same protections to all of Orlando's citizens has yet to be passed.

"When we made the decision it felt like Central Florida was the perfect place to hold a conference on GLBT workplace issues," says Selisse Berry, Out & Equal's executive director. "We want to let the community know that GLBT issues are important to the major employers even if they are not important to local, state or federal government."

Some of the summit's sponsors include Motorola, Walt Disney Resorts, Proctor & Gamble, American Airlines and Charles Schwab.

The theme of the 2002 workplace summit is "Transforming Our Workplace, Changing Our World." Some of the



The Out & Equal conference in Orlando will feature (L-R) co-chairs STAN MADRAY, BETTY MARTINEZ LOWERY, Orlando City Councilperson PATTY SHEEHAN, and Out & Equal's SELISSE BERRY.

workshops being presented include Out or In: The Pros and Cons of Being Out in the Workplace, Queer Law 2002: The State of the Law, and Urban Cowgirls: How Lesbians Learned to Succeed in Corporate America.

This year's summit will feature keynote addresses by Patricia Ireland, former president of the National Organization for Women, and Governor Howard Dean of Vermont.

Out & Equal's goal is to provide services and programs that promote equality for all individuals in the workplace. For more information on Out & Equal or this year's summit visit <[www.outandequal.org](http://www.outandequal.org)>. ▼ John Sullivan

## HRC FINDS MOST CORPORATIONS HAVE INSTATED PRO-GAY POLICIES

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Most major U.S. companies have policies prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians, and more than two-thirds offer health benefits to same-sex domestic partners, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) said on Aug. 16.

HRC surveyed 319 companies, each of which employ at least 500 people. It found 92 percent of the companies had written statements barring discrimination because of sexual orientation, and 69 percent offered health insurance benefits for same-sex partners of employees.

A total of 13 corporations earned 100 percent on HRC's first Corporate Equality Index. The index rates large corporations on policies that affect their GLBT

employees, consumers and investors.

The 13 companies that scored 100 percent are: Aetna Inc., AMR Corp./American Airlines, Apple Computer Inc., Avaya Inc., Eastman Kodak Co., Intel Corp., J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Lucent Technologies Inc., NCR Corp., Nike Inc., Replacements Ltd., Worldspan L.P., and Xerox Corp.

At the other end of the scale, three companies scored zero: CBRL Group Inc./Cracker Barrel, Emerson Electric Co., and Lockheed Martin Corp. None of the three have any policies aimed at treating their GLBT employees fairly and all three have resisted shareholder resolutions urging them to include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### OPENLY GAY FORMER ENRON EXEC PLEADS GUILTY

A former top executive in Enron Corp.'s finance division pleaded guilty on Aug. 21 to money laundering and wire fraud, becoming the first to be convicted in the aftermath of the former energy behemoth's implosion last year. Openly gay Michael Kopper was managing director of Enron Global Finance. As part of his agreement to cooperate with the government, he agreed to surrender \$12 million in illegally obtained assets.

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## VIEWPOINT



## PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE CHANGES IN ATTITUDES, CHANGES IN LATITUDES

Viewpoint By Syd and Enid Jackowitz



### ENID SAYS:

An elderly relative and I had an interesting conversation after she found out her friend's eighteen-year-old grandson was gay. I listened patiently to a familiar story, surprised by my relative's openness. She knows Michael is gay and about our involvement in PFLAG but this was the first time she ever brought up the subject.

"What was your reaction?" I asked.

"I told my friend, he's still your grandson and you have to let him know you love him regardless. Truthfully," She continued, "I really didn't know what to say, so mostly, I just listened. Did I do the right thing?" "Yes. What you said was perfect," I assured her. "The best thing you could have done was to listen in a non-judgmental way." I was curious if she told her friend that Michael was gay. When I asked, she said, "Not yet. You know by the things people say whether you can tell them or not."

"Yes," I nodded in agreement. I

understood that quite well, remembering years ago when a woman said to me, "Everyone knows children are gay because they have a domineering mother."

Excuse me? A disconcerting comment at best since she knew Michael was gay. Imagine the grief her remark could have

caused me if I did in fact believe it was my fault my son was gay? When first finding out, mothers, including this mother, often buy

right into that — big time. But, luckily Michael came out to me long before this woman's comment and I had already done my own work. So by then I knew Michael being gay wasn't because of anything I did or didn't do.

Not letting her statement throw me, I said, "The theory of the domineering mother and passive father is passe, old thinking that went out with Victrolas and 78-r.p.m. records. Current thinking according to the American Psychological Association is that people are born gay or straight."

She was unconvinced. "I don't believe that," she said. Then, perhaps realizing she may have crossed a line, said, "Well, that may be the way it is in your case, but I have a friend who is very domineering and I'm sure that's why her son is gay."

OK. Not someone I'd want to have a heart-to-heart with, so I changed the subject. Many years have passed since that conversation, but I'm still amazed by the lack of sensitivity of that comment. I mean, what was she thinking?

The interesting piece is this woman had the most domineering mother on the planet. Really. If I could go back (don't we all want to do that sometimes?) and have that conversation today, I would say, "Considering the mother you had and with that kind of logic — why aren't you gay?"

Some people see what they want to see; we can't change anyone. But, people can change. Even my elderly relative, who's pretty set in her ways, was able to get a new perspective and re-examine long held and outdated opinions.

### SYD SAYS:

Talk about changes in attitude, there was a short article in a recent *Newsweek* about Allan Gilmour. In 1995, at age 60, Gilmour retired as vice chairman of Ford Motor Company. He was gay, but kept it a secret while at Ford.

After leaving Ford in 1997, Gilmour came out publicly saying he didn't disclose he was gay while at Ford

because he feared hurting the company's reputation. While many thought being gay probably blocked Gilmour from becoming CEO, he was told that the issue didn't come up in board deliberations.

Gilmour's story is an interesting one about a gay man who climbed way up the corporate ladder at a major corporation and stayed closeted for all of his corporate life. It's probably not unlike a lot of other corporate tales. But, as Paul Harvey likes to say, "Here's the rest of the story."

A few months ago, Bill Ford, chairman of Ford Motor Company, brought Gilmour, now 67, back to be chief financial officer to help fix the ailing automaker. Ford felt Gilmour's experience during less-than-great times in the '80s and early '90s could help the company now. So it seems Ford wasn't concerned that Gilmour was gay and apparently neither was Wall Street.

The results: Ford's stock price shot up at the time, and according to *Newsweek*, previously bearish Wall Street analysts issued buy recommendations. The times, they are a-changing. ▽



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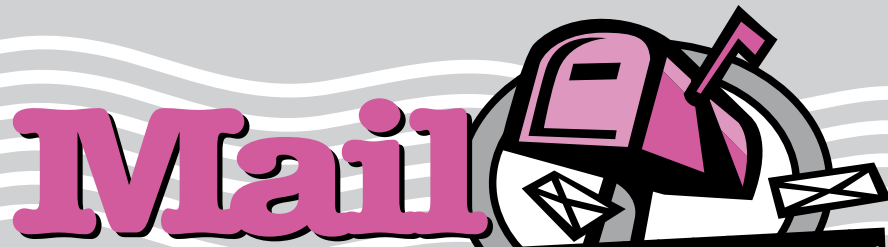
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## VIEWPOINT / MAIL



EDITOR@WATERMARKONLINE.COM

## A FRIEND IN NEED...

I find it very disheartening at how much bickering has been going on in relation to State Rep. candidate Patrick Howell. As a gay moderate Democrat working in the field of higher education, my needs are pretty simple; I want to feel safe, I want people to get a good education, I want a secure future, and I want people to stop hating me simply because I'm gay.

It's not that I'd vote for Patrick Howell because he's gay. I'd vote for Patrick Howell because he's my friend. He's my friend because I believe him to be a good person that wants good things for other people.

Chris Zacharda  
Winter Park

## IS A FRIEND INDEED

While I appreciate your article covering Patrick Howell's campaign, I take opposition to Patty Sheehan's negative comments on subjects she knows nothing about.

Does she honestly believe that Sheri McInvale will stand up for each of us as gays and lesbians and represent us to the fullest extent? I seriously doubt it. The aforementioned candidate has been endorsed by Allen Trovillion, the most fervent anti-gay member of Florida's House of Representatives and a Republican.

As a somewhat obnoxious gay/equal rights activist, through knowing Patrick personally and being able to call him a good friend, I completely support him in his endeavor to become Florida's first openly gay House representative and will work tirelessly to make sure the

rest of the gay and lesbian population of District 36 feel this way too.

Ryan Carver  
Orlando

## SELF DEFENSE

I just finished reading the "Watercooler" section in your 9.16 edition, and I want to address the criticisms lodged in that article.

First of all, the reason that I did not have a picture of my partner up on the campaign Web site is to honor a request for privacy from my partner. Until the article in the *Sentinel* "outed" Scott at work, it has been his desire to remain very low profile. Now that he is out at work, he is very interested in taking on a higher profile position.

Second, the photo at my campaign Web site that you disparage is a picture of myself, my campaign manager (Angie Langley), and my son. I did not think twice when my Webmaster posted that picture. However, perception is very important to some people, so to add clarity to the situation we have now added captions identifying everyone in my photos.

Third, please keep in mind that I will not be able to address any of the issues that our community cares about unless I also focus attention on the broader issues that effect everyone (gay and straight) in Central Florida. My campaign is following a proven track record of success laid out by The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. It is the very same scripted plan that Orlando City Council Member Patty Sheehan followed during her campaign.

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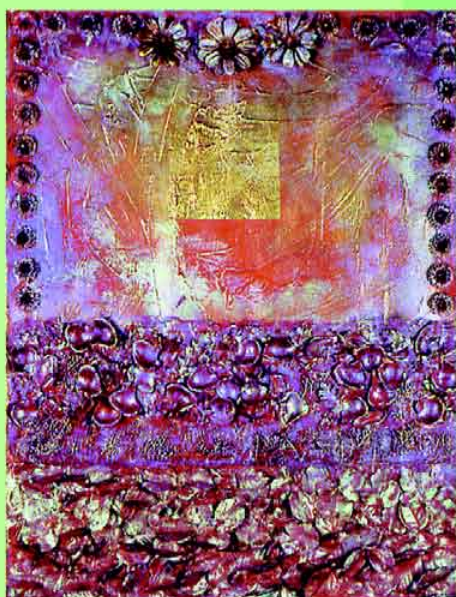
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### **Music in the Garden**

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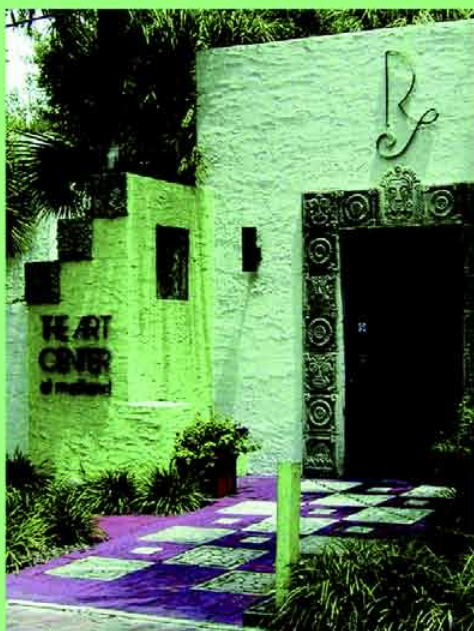
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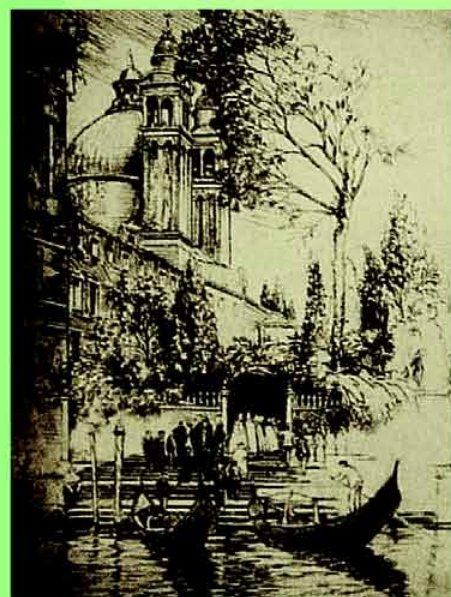
begin the week of  
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### **Summer Term Studio Art Classes**

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Ruth Gilbert, Slipping Away



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# Lifestyles

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Issue 9.18 Aug. 29 - Sept. 11, 2002

Tampa filmmakers AMY NESTOR (left) and JULIE HILL are the co-producers and directors of *Butch Spa Day*, which debuts at the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Photo by Christine E. Reynolds.

## A PASSION FOR FILM

Independent filmmakers Julie Hill and Amy Nestor will debut *Butch Spa Day* at the Tampa Film Fest.

Profile by Tom Dyer

**TAMPA** - A creative project is considered "high concept" when its essence can be boiled down to a single sentence, or even just a title. Think *Planet of the Apes*, or *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*.

*Butch Spa Day*, the hilarious new work by filmmakers Julie Hill and Amy Nestor, is definitely high concept. The title itself evokes laughter, and provides a tantalizing preview of the comedy short that will debut at the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in October.

"Julie and I were brainstorming with our friend and collaborator Victoria Colouer, and I started telling them about spending a whole day shopping for bras with my partner, Michele," says Nestor. "Finding the perfect sports bra is no easy task — we went everywhere from Saks to Target, and it was hilarious. So I suggested we make 'Butch Bra Day,' and that quickly became *Butch Spa Day*."

Nestor and Hill are no strangers to the Tampa Film Fest. *Losing Lois*, which Hill co-produced with Kathy Richter and Barbara Rosenthal, was the emotional highlight of last year's event. The 19-minute documentary about the death of Tampa Police officer Lois Marrero was also named "Best Documentary" by the HBO Presents PlanetOut Best Short Movie Awards.

Nestor's *Deseo*, a romantic short about the price of misplaced desire, also debuted at last year's Film Fest. It has since received accolades at festivals in Miami and San Francisco.

### BLUE HAIR AND DYKE CAFES

Julie Hill grew up in upstate New York, but first "cut loose" and began developing her creative persona

Continued Page 51

## I WAS A CLEANUP IN-BETWEENER

Byron Howard is one of Disney's up-and-coming animators. His is a success story, but also a love story. Profile by Tom Dyer

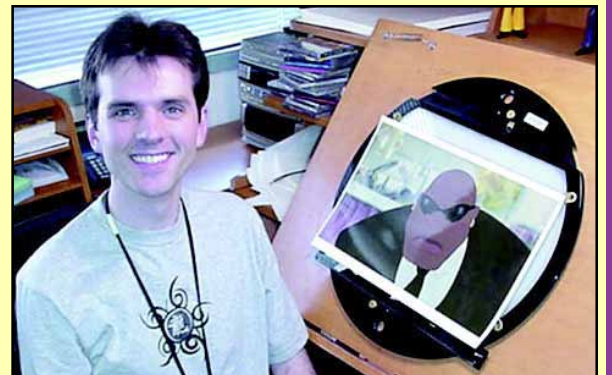
**CELEBRATION** - At Disney's Florida animation studios, thin, white, endearingly soft-spoken Byron Howard is the acknowledged expert on one particular type of character — big, brawny black men.

"Everyone jokes about it," laughs Howard.

The skill was first identified when he worked on the 1999 short, *John Henry*, about the mythical railroad worker. But it was further honed when

Howard was tapped to supervise animation for Cobra Bubbles, the intimidating social worker in Disney's latest full-length animated feature, *Lilo & Stitch*.

"Once I knew the character's voice — actor Ving Rhames — it was easy to fill out this big, solid, imposing character," Howard says.



BYRON HOWARD with *Lilo & Stitch* character Cobra Bubbles at the Walt Disney World animation studios. Photo courtesy the Walt Disney Company.

Continued Page 34

## LIFESTYLES



## WATERCRESS FRIENDS, ROMANS, AND KEY WESTERS

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

**KEY WEST** was grand this year, especially considering how murderously hot and rainy it's been in Orlando lately. Yes, I know we need the rain — but do I need the inconvenience? No. And so I go to Key West where it sprinkles only enough in the afternoons to water everyone's orchids.

I like to call it "Designer Rain."

Kirk and I had company in the Keys this time: Steve and Mark and

Richie and Dave and Jim and the Other Mark were all there. And then of course we saw Paul — now a Key Wester — and Eddie from New Orleans. It was quite a gathering of the clan, and among us we ate enough conch fritters to feed Norway for the rest of eternity.

The only downside of meeting up with buddies on vacation is that they tend to tell you their life stories for the millionth time. (That's why I always invent a new one each year, to keep myself interesting and fresh.) So while all my vacation friends frolicked in the pool and indulged in childish bits of

play like nude water volleyball, I hopped on my bike and cruised the island, visiting my old secret haunts.

I'm sad to report, though, that I neglected to pay a visit to Robert this time around. He must have grown angry because I could swear he was following

me while I toured the cemetery.

Every once in a while I'd see a long, dark shadow cross the path behind me. See

how he is? He didn't dare show up at Island House, which is where we roomed for the eight days, because Robert doesn't do things like happy hour.

The outdoor bar area at Island House was amazing; there would be a dead, somnambulant silence at 5:59 PM, but as soon as the minute hand began to sweep toward 6 PM, people began swarming. It reminded me of Hitchcock's *The Birds*, when the seagulls eerily appeared on the monkey bars behind Tippi Hedren. And precisely at 6 PM we would be awash in free Merlot — okay, so I played nude

water volleyball twice — and chortling zantly while deciding where to next find conch fritters.

On a lighter scale, proof-wise, we discovered a shop called The Winery, where owners Scott and Lynn sell tasty, colorful libations distilled from fruits and vegetables... and boy do they serve samples! After a good half-hour there, we all had quit the buzz — a healthy one but a buzz nonetheless.

We also visited a condiment shop called Peppers of Key West. We were sent there by a woman we met in a laundromat who insisted owner Tom Luna was my identical twin. Well, we laugh alike and walk alike, at times we even talk alike, but I'm afraid the resemblance ends there. Okay, we do both have big, beautiful brown eyes, but still.

The pepper sauces at Peppers are really good; we sampled a lot and even splurged and brought home a few bottles. None broke in the car, thank God. Speaking of Whom, on the wall facing the bed in our room was a giant, very ornately framed painting of *The Scourging of Christ*.

**THE BUZZ.** Every time we visit the Keys, we have to do something hysterical — I mean historical. So this year we drove 77 miles to reach the boat for Lignumvitae and Indian Keys. We were told to swathe ourselves in repellent because Lignumvitae is covered with standing water and, hence, mosquitoes. Can you say West Nile Virus?

A ranger took us through the woods

and explained the biology of every plant, tree, and insect on the island as we stood in the broiling heat fanning away clouds of buzzing creatures. There's a house there in which the original settlers lived; did you know there was no air conditioning in 1840?

"And this is the window they leapt from," as my dear friend John always says while touring colonial abodes.

Indian Key has no standing water, and thus no 'skeeters. Instead there was a winsome young ranger who gave us a detailed tour and history of the island, and we hung on his every word until he made a reference to some early explorers called "the early Romans." Suddenly, six sets of gay ears twitched indignantly, but we were too polite to correct him.

The boat rides were fun, though. We stopped so that dolphins and porpoises could romp around the hull, and I felt like I was an extra on *Flipper*.

**FINALLY, A GRACIOUS NOD TO** Jon and Martin, the owners of Island House, who have done a fabulous job redeveloping this property. ▼

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## LIFESTYLES



## THE LIBERAL ARTS LESBIAN LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

Speaking Out by Sarah Viren

In life there is give and take — some bad along with the good. A lesbian's life is no different. We have the mullets, but then we have k.d. lang. There are the bigoted, close-minded conservatives, but are also wonderful and caring queer-friendly allies.

Recently, I've given a lot of thought to the way in which being a lesbian has made a difference in my life — and not just because I sleep with women every now and then. I am different because I know what it's like to be discriminated against. I am also different because I have the security and comfort of belonging to a strong and close-knit community.

I am proud to be gay, much more so than when I first came out, but I have to deal with internalized homophobia every now and then. I try to be honest about the joys I take in being a lesbian and the discomfort I have being part of a marginalized community. And this is all I can do. So in light of that, here are a list of some of my personal pros and cons of being gay.

### FIFTEEN REASONS I LOVE BEING A LESBIAN

1. Being part of a unique, fun and almost invariably supportive community. This is one of my favorite parts of being gay. I love going to GLBT events and just feeling the camaraderie. I love meeting new gays and lesbians and feeling our immediate connections as well as our inevitable differences.

2. Having my mother save newspaper clippings on GLBT issues for me. She started doing this as soon as I came out to her six years ago. Each time she gives me a new article I am touched, because of her thoughtfulness and because it just shows me, once again, the GLBT presence in our world and our media.

3. The wonderful relationships I've had, including the last one: a five-year honest, open and loving partnership.

4. Knowing that I am a stronger person because of the adversity I've faced.

5. Discovering places like Sacred Grounds in Tampa, which became a home away from home for me. Sacred Grounds is a queer coffee shop I found in high school. It's owners, Karen and Adrienne, made me feel that I could belong somewhere — and somewhere "cool" — at a time when I needed to know that most of all.

6. Knowing I have at least one thing in common with legendary women like

Gertrude Stein, Audre Lorde, Martina Navratilova, Ellen DeGeneres and k.d. lang.

7. Meeting people who think because I am young, blonde and sweet I must be straight and then proving them wrong.

8. Getting to write for a paper like *Watermark* and receiving so much support and feedback from readers.

9. Befriending older lesbians and learning from their lives: their triumphs and setbacks. I have met so many older, incredible women

who went through life in times much harder than today. I feel proud to know them and proud of how their actions have made my life an easier one to live.

10. Coming out and realizing what a politically powerful act it is, one that helps others come out as well.

11. Getting to form close, buddy-buddy relationships with men without any sexual undertones. This is one of my favorite things about being a lesbian because I really like men, but not "in that way." When they realize I am gay it gets all that out in the open right away.

12. Feeling I really know and am comfortable with myself.

13. The sense of camaraderie there exists between lesbians, especially in homophobic situations.

14. The support I get from the most unexpected people.

15. Being happy.

### AND FIVE REASONS I DON'T LIKE BEING GAY

1. Bigoted, close-minded people who judge me for my sexuality alone.

2. Recognizing that some people assume my lesbianism is something shameful that I should keep to myself instead of sharing it with the world.

3. Knowing that my relationships, even if they are long term and committed, will never be fully legitimized or accepted by some people.

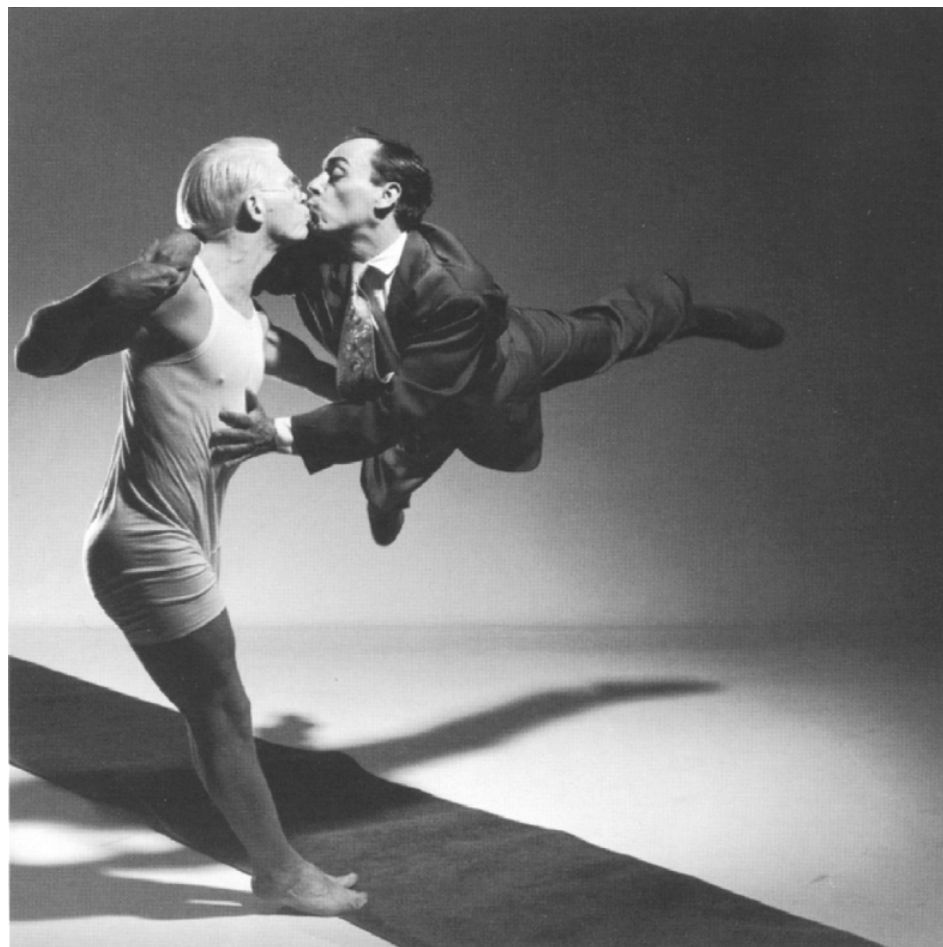
4. Realizing that, unless I miraculously change into Ellen DeGeneres, the coming out process is never going to come to an end.

5. Knowing that some still consider my basic rights to be "special" rights. ▽



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## LIFESTYLES



## PAST OUT WHAT WAS THE BLOOMSBURY GROUP?

Gay and Lesbian History by Paula Martinac

Soon after their father's death in 1904, Vanessa Stephen, a painter, and her sister, Virginia, an aspiring novelist, began to host regular meetings for other wealthy young intellectuals at their London home. Known simply as Bloomsbury — the neighborhood in which the sisters lived — the salon became a haven for artists and writers, including many gays and bisexuals, who wanted to break free from the artistic and sexual restrictions of the era.

Bloomsbury's first members were the Cambridge University friends that Thoby Stephen brought to his sisters' home for dinner: historian Lytton Strachey, economist John Maynard Keynes, and writers Clive Bell and Leonard Woolf. The guests in turn invited others to the group, including artist Duncan Grant, who had been sexually involved with both Strachey and Keynes. Within Bloomsbury, these gay men found support for their sexual orientation at a time when the imprisonment of playwright Oscar Wilde in 1895 for sodomy was still a very fresh memory.

The Bloomsbury group has gone down in history for the many contributions its members made to literature, art, and the

social sciences. The group's intellectual core was Virginia Stephen, who became Virginia Woolf when she married in 1912. Today she is recognized as one of the great modernist novelists. She and her husband, Leonard, founded Hogarth Press, a publishing house that brought some of the most significant literature of the era into print when no one else would, including T.S. Eliot's *The Wasteland*. In other fields, Keynes became one of the pre-eminent economists of his day, while Strachey achieved renown as a biographer.

But the romantic record of the group's members is also noteworthy, because they demonstrated a sexual freedom and fluidity that was remarkably ahead of their time. Beginning in 1925, Virginia Woolf had a passionate affair with the dashing Vita Sackville-West. In the first flush of romance, Woolf wrote what has become a classic of queer fiction, the experimental fantasy *Orlando* (1927), which argued that love and passion ignore gender, and that gender itself is fluid.

Others in the Bloomsbury group exhibited similar ambisexual tendencies. Although Vanessa Stephen married Clive



Until her suicide in 1941, author VIRGINIA WOOLF was the intellectual core of the Bloomsbury group.

Bell, the great love of her life was Duncan Grant, who was primarily gay and had been sexually involved with her brother Adrian. During World War I, they lived together at a country estate with David "Bunny" Garnett, who was lovers with both.

Triangular relationships with a queer twist were common within the Bloomsbury circle. Strachey was gay, but in the early days of Bloomsbury, he proposed marriage

to Virginia Stephen. In the 1920s, he lived in platonic bliss with surrealist painter Dora Carrington. When they both fell in love with the same man, Carrington married the object of their mutual desire, and the three set up housekeeping together. The cross-dressing Carrington had affairs with women, confiding to a friend that she had "more ecstasy" with female lovers than with men — "and no shame."

In the early years of Bloomsbury, Keynes was also exclusively gay. But in 1923 he shocked the group by marrying Russian ballerina Lydia Lopokova. The happy marriage seems to have made an ex-gay out of Keynes — according to one intimate, he never again pursued men sexually.

By most accounts, Bloomsbury lost its soul and its force when Virginia Woolf — who was plagued by mental illness throughout her life — drowned herself in 1941. Some

members met sporadically until the 1950s, but without the same zeal. Today, their haunts and homes in the Bloomsbury district are part of the University of London. ▽

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author. She can be reached care of Watermark or at [POcolumn@aol.com](mailto:POcolumn@aol.com).



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# HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN BLASTS ORLANDO-BASED EX-GAY MINISTRY

**ORLANDO** - An Orlando-based ministry that claims to convert gays to heterosexuals is being criticized by human rights advocates.

Exodus International North America is under attack by advocates for gays and lesbians who say such efforts are unethical and warn that it could lead homosexuals to become depressed and even attempt suicide.

"To try to teach a person to be a different sexuality is cruel and immoral," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a nonprofit agency seeking equal rights for lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

Smith says he doubts Exodus' claim that its efforts have gained momentum, and he said his group hasn't been able to obtain documentation of the number of people Exodus has helped.

Exodus officials said they help about 1,200 people each year and are in the process of documenting their success. They

estimate that 25 percent of those people end up marrying and having families while others struggle through their program.

Alan Chambers, Exodus' executive director, said the group has about 140 ministries across North America and it's making a difference.

"I look at this issue more like I look at alcoholism or drug addiction," Chambers said. "People go to organizations for help, for sobriety."



HRC spokesperson **DAVID SMITH**: "To try to teach a person to be a different sexuality is cruel and immoral."

## SURVEY FINDS SIGNS OF A GAY SUBCULTURE AMONG PRIESTS

A survey of U.S. clergy has shed new light on the extent of homosexuality in the priesthood. Many Catholic priests say there's a gay subculture in their dioceses, religious orders or seminaries, according to the mail survey, released on Aug. 17.

Nineteen percent of respondents questioned said there was "clearly" a gay subculture in their dioceses or religious orders, and 36 percent said there "probably" was. Asked the same question about the seminaries they attended, 15 percent said "clearly" and 26 percent "probably."

Many of the victims of abuse by clergy have been young males, leading some high-ranking Catholics to conclude that actively gay priests are an important aspect of the church's problem. However, experts note there's no evidence that homosexuals are more likely than heterosexuals to molest children.

## SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS



### SARASOTA MCC TO OFFER BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Church of the Trinity MCC of Sarasota will offer an eight-week bereavement support group beginning on Sept. 9 and continuing through Oct. 28. The new support group, which is targeted toward members of the GLBT community who have experienced recent loss of significant others, will meet every Monday evening. Deadline for sign-up is Aug. 31. For more information, call the church office at (941) 355-0847.

### REV. TROY PERRY TO SPEAK AT YALE UNIVERSITY

The Rev. Troy Perry, an openly gay cleric, human rights activist and founder and moderator of the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Churches, will speak at Yale Divinity School of Yale University on Sept. 13. Rev. Perry will preach at the Chapel Service of Yale Divinity School and will participate in a question and answer session with Yale students during an informal luncheon. Later in the day he will make a formal presentation to Yale students addressing "The Role of the Church in the Gay Civil Rights Movement."

## SPIRITUALITY LISTINGS

### DAYTONA BEACH/SPACECOAST

#### COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Open and welcoming congregation is located at 1124-FF Beville Rd., Daytona Beach. Contact Chris at (386)441-8431.

#### HOPE MCC

All faiths are welcome at 500 S. Ridgewood Ave. Services are Sunday at 11 AM and Thursday at 7 PM. (904) 254-0993. Rev. Jim Lynch, Pastor.

#### SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CATHOLICS

Meets the first Saturday evening of each month at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Palm Bay. Call (407) 452-2436.

### ORLANDO

#### FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ORLANDO

Worship in a gay-friendly environment every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Downtown location at 1901 E. Robinson St. (407) 898-3621. Rev. Marni Harmony, Minister.

#### GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORT GROUP

Nondenominational support group open to anyone affected by HIV/AIDS. Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 PM at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 5900 Oleander Dr. (407) 277-3939.

#### INTEGRITY

Monthly meetings for gay Episcopalians. Newcomers always welcome. Call Irv at (407)895-4749.

#### JOY MCC

All are welcome at worship services held each Sunday at 8:30 AM, 10 AM, 11:30 AM, and 7 PM at church building, 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave. Taize meditation and prayer on Wednesday at 7 PM. (407) 894-1081 or <www.joymcc.com>. Rev. Carol Trissell, Senior Pastor.

#### LAMBDA CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

An affirming environment for gay men who wish to begin or continue their faith journey. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at First United Methodist Church, 142 E. Jackson St. (407) 895-5368.

#### MEN'S INNER JOURNEY

A spiritually-based transformation-oriented workshop for gay and bisexual men. Community activities include monthly meditations, pot luck dinners, brunches, pool parties, BBQs. Contact MensJ Orlando@aol.com or call (407)895-8832.

#### ORLANDO CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

Everyone is welcome at Sunday Celebration, 10:30 AM at the Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. Bookstore, youth church, classes, counseling available. (407) 673-3030. Cath DePalma and John DePalma, ministers.

#### PATHWAYS MINISTRIES & CHURCH

A non-liturgical bible-based church for all, held at the GLBCC Center every Sunday at 6 PM. (407) 425-4527.

#### SOUL-UTIONS

Every Mon. from 7-9 PM at the Center. Non-denominational. Personal empowerment group that's fun and enriching. (407)484-8751.

#### UNIVERSITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSLIST SOCIETY

Religion for open minds. Sunday: religious education 9:30 AM, service 10:30 AM. 11648 McCulloch Rd., East Orlando. (407) 737-4018 or <www.uuus.orlando.fl.uua.org/>.

#### UPLIFT MINISTRIES, INC.

Minority-focused spiritual ministry meets Sundays at 10:50 AM at the House of Power, 750 S. Orange Blossom Tr. Liberation discussion Tuesday at 8 PM. HIV counseling/testing Wednesday at 6 PM. (407) 839-5051 or email upcenter@bellsouth.net.

### TAMPA BAY

#### AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gay-affirming liturgical church meets for Sunday Mass at 10:30 AM, 7813 N. Nebraska Ave., Tampa. (813) 238-6060.

#### BETH RACHAMIM SYNAGOGUE

Growing reform congregation with special outreach to the gay and lesbian community. Sabbath services are every Friday at 8 PM, 719 Arlington Ave. N, St. Petersburg. (727) 822-7503 or <www.bethrachamim.org>.

#### DIGNITY OF TAMPA BAY

Mass for GLBT Catholics, their families and friends on Sundays at 6 PM at King of Peace MCC, 3150 5th Ave., St. Petersburg. A social follows. (813) 238-2868 or <info@dignitytampabay.org>.

#### CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE CHURCH

All are welcome at this Christian church that offers a variety of ministries and counseling services. 1025 7th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. (727) 823-1806 or <www.christcornerstone.com>. Rev. Joyce Stone, Pastor.

#### FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNEDIN

Part of the "More Light Presbyterians" seeking full participation of GLBT people of faith. Services are Sundays at 10:30 AM at 5 Patricia Ave., Dunedin. (727) 733-2956 or <www.faith-pc.org>.

#### FRANCISCAN CENTER

Mass for the lesbian/gay community on Sundays at 7 PM at the Franciscan Center, 3010 Perry Ave., Tampa. A social follows. (813)229-2695.

#### FRANCIS HOUSE

A non-profit, interfaith day respite center for those affected by HIV/AIDS. (813) 237-3066 or <www.francishouse.org>.

#### INTEGRITY OF TAMPA BAY

All are welcome at this support group for members of the GLBT community within the Episcopal church. Meets the 1st Sunday of each month at 6 PM at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Temple Terrace. (813) 988-5283.

#### INTERWEAVE OF CLEARWATER

Giving support to GLBT Unitarian Universalists and their heterosexual allies. (727) 531-7704.

#### KING OF PEACE MCC

Worship services are at 10 AM each Sunday at 3150 5th Ave N., St. Petersburg. Prayer/Communion service is at 6:30 PM each Thursday, followed by dinner and bingo. (727) 323-5857.

#### MCC OF TAMPA

Liturgical and Evangelical Christianity. Worship services Sunday at 10:30 AM. Mid-week dinner on Wednesday at 6 PM, with worship at 7 PM. 408 E. Cayuga St. (813) 239-1951 or UFMCC Tampa@aol.com. Rev. Glenna T. Shepherd, Pastor.

### POTTER'S HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

Spirit-filled ministry offering hope and the love of Christ for all people. Sunday services are at 10 AM at 2119 West Gray Street. (813) 238-6330 or <www.pottershousfellowship.com> or PoHoFellow@aol.com.

### SPIRIT OF LIFE MCC

Worship service at 10:30 AM each Sunday at 4133 Thys Rd., New Port Richey. Night services of prayer and praise on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. (727) 849-6962 or <www.jord1.com/Spirit> or pastorandy@earthlink.net. Rev. Andy Sidden, Pastor.

### ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Evangelical Anglican Church — a progressive gay-affirming church in the Anglican tradition. Call (813) 258-0750.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BROOKSVILLE

Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM at the Pines Conference Center, 7029 Cedar Lane, Brooksville. Call (352) 796-4457 or rbkeim@gte.net. Chaplain Bob Keim.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF TAMPA

Worship services are at 11 AM each Sunday, 11400 Morris Bridge Rd.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

Open and welcoming congregation worships Sundays at 10:30 AM at 2470 Nursery Rd., Clearwater. (727) 531-7704.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ST. PETERSBURG

Worship services are at 11 AM each Sunday, 719 Arlington Ave. N. (727) 898-3294.

### UU RAINBOW OUTREACH OF TAMPA BAY

Outreach by Unitarian Universalists to the local GLBT community. For more information call (727) 531-7704, ask for Rev. Abhi Janamanchi.

### UNITY CHURCH OF TODAY

Sunday meetings at 9:45 AM, service at 11 AM. 710 Crenshaw Lake Rd, Lutz. (813)909-9590 or visit <cttampa.tripod.com>. Rev. Bob and Ruth Fatur, ministers.

### SARASOTA

#### CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC

Rev. Nancy Wilson leads traditional worship services at 9:15 AM, and a contemporary service at 11 AM. 7225 N. Lockwood Ridge Rd. (941)355-0847 or Trinity1srq@aol.com.

#### DIGNITY OF SARASOTA

Mass for GLBT Catholics, their families and friends on Sundays at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL. (941)359-9504 or <www.dignitysarasota.com>.

#### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

This welcoming congregation with an openly gay minister features worship services at 10:30 AM each Sunday, 3975 Fruitville Rd. (941) 371-4974. Rev. Don Beaudreault, Minister.

#### SUNCOAST CATHEDRAL MCC

Meets at 11 AM on Sundays for Worship & Celebration with Rev. Dr. Sherry L. Kennedy. 3276 East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL (941)484-7068 or e-mail scmcc@mindspring.com.

Send news about your local church or spiritual organization or photos from recent events to:  
**mail@WatermarkOnline.com**

## LIFESTYLES

## I WAS A CLEANUP IN-BETWEENER

From Page 29

Helping create Cobra Bubbles may have been easy, but Howard's path to the much-prized position of supervising animator at Walt Disney Studios was anything but. Ultimately, it's a story about tenacity, self-determination, and the supportive power of love.

## FROM TOUR GUIDE TO TALENT

Howard, 33, was born on an Air Force base in Japan and grew up first in Philadelphia and then near Seattle. As a child, his room was filled with characters from Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" comic strip, and Howard dreamed of some day working with his idol. He was crushed when he learned that Schultz did all of the drawing for the strip himself, and diverted his attention to film.

On his first day at Evergreen State College — an experimentally liberal school in Washington with no grades or required curriculum — Howard met Shephard Summers, the man who would become his lover and life partner of 16 years. The two now live in a charming Celebration village home filled with memorabilia from Howard's career. Summers, a writer, is just

completing his first science fiction novel.

"I can't imagine that my path would've been the same without Shephard," Howard says. "There's a spark — an energy — that occurs when we communicate, and that's led me to places I probably wouldn't have ventured myself."

Howard's initial course of study at Evergreen was live action film, but his first project proved disastrous when he broke an expensive camera. He and Summers escaped by driving to Florida with their friend, Robin Towers, to visit Disney World.

"We were pixie-dusted," recalls Summers. "We loved it."

At the just-opened Disney-MGM Studios, an

unlikely series of events changed their lives.

"Someone gave us free tickets to see Carol Burnett, and on the way out we were offered a tour of the animation studios," remembers Howard. "They were working on *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* at the time, and I was transfixed. It was the first time I'd actually observed animation in progress, and the first time I experienced its freeing quality."

The bible of Disney animation, *The Illusion of Life*, had just been released, and Howard devoured it on the long drive back. At Evergreen, he changed his major to animation and set about creating a course of

study that would prepare him for a career in the field. The goal was as clear as the glass in Cinderella's slipper — to return to Disney's animation studio in Florida.

"Our dream was to work for Disney," says Summers, "and *not* live in California."

With no introduction, Howard wrote several of Disney's most respected animators in Los Angeles. Some wrote back, and Howard established a long-distance mentoring relationship with David Block, one of the creators of the

Winnie the Pooh character. Howard sent drawings, and Block critiqued them and offered further guidance and focus.

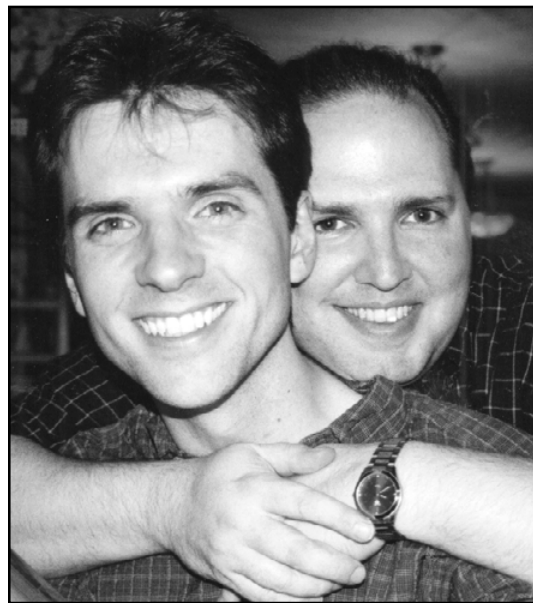
In 1990, Howard, Summers, and Towers packed two U-Hauls and moved to Kissimmee. But as luck would have it Disney World had just instituted a rare hiring freeze, so they found jobs in convenience stores and fast food restaurants and lived off their combined seven credit cards.

"We didn't answer the phone for two years," laughs Summers. "But Robin worked at Pizza Hut, so we never starved."

After a year and a half, a position as a tour guide at Disney's Florida animation studios opened. Howard jumped at the opportunity, and remained in the position for two years.

"It's ironic," he says. "I was one of those people saying, 'Don't tap on the glass and bother the animators,' and now I sit on the other side and watch the same thing. But it was good for me, because I'm kind of introverted and it taught me some valuable people skills."

Meanwhile, Howard submitted animation samples to the studio every six months or so but was repeatedly rejected. Bitterly discouraged, he sought out manager of training Frank Gladstone for advice. Gladstone gave him some tips on portfolio



BYRON HOWARD (left) and SHEPHARD SUMMERS at their home in Celebration: "I can't imagine that my path would've been the same without Shephard." Photo by Tom Dyer.

# Orlando's City Museums

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**DAVID REESE: A Retrospective**



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## LIFESTYLES

presentation, and allowed him to sit in on figure drawing classes with experienced animators. The next time Howard applied, he was awarded one of just 15 coveted Disney Animation Internships.

"He'd just been sending them piles of drawings," recalls Summers. "This time we spread everything out and did the whole tape, glue and black construction paper thing. We learned the language of presentation."

### CUTE, SQUISHY CHARACTERS

The former tour guide was thrown in with trained artists from established feeder schools like Cal Arts, Rhode Island School of Design, Pratt and Ringling. And if that wasn't intimidating enough, Howard was also the only openly gay animator on staff.

"It was uncomfortable for a while," he says. "Shephard and I were a little afraid of office parties."

When the internship was over, Howard was designated as "hirable," but there were no positions so he went back to giving tours. The studio was riding the enormous success of *The Lion King*, and Howard began to see new animators occupy empty desks. Then one day he got the call. He had been hired as an entry level "cleanup in-betweeners" for the upcoming feature film *Pocahontas*. That was nine years ago, and Howard has since developed into one of Disney's most promising young animators.

Cleanup in-betweeners take rough animation and meticulously fill in all the gaps to make it beautifully camera-ready. But Howard was also known to be "good at humans," and during some down time he amassed enough animation for a filmed test reel that impressed his supervisors.

"They didn't see it coming," says Summers proudly.

On *Mulan*, the next big Florida



Actor VING RHAMES provided the voice for Cobra Bubbles in *Lilo & Stitch*.

Photo Courtesy the Walt Disney Company.

animation project, Howard moved up the ladder to animating assistant for the Harvey Fierstein-voiced character, Yao. From there he was chosen as one of just two supervising animators for the *John Henry* short.

On *Lilo and Stitch*, Howard was supervising animator for Cobra Bubbles, but he was also given his first coveted opportunity to design what turned out to be some 90 small characters.

"My drawing style is really compatible with director Chris Sanders," Howard laughs. "We both draw cute, round, squishy characters."

Sanders' co-writer and director on *Lilo*, Dean DeBlois, is openly gay and was recently profiled in *The Advocate*. Both Howard and Shephard appreciate Disney's open support of its gay and lesbian employees.

"If we were uncomfortable at first, it was mostly in our own heads," notes Summers. "But I've been to every wrap party, and when Michael Eisner thanks the families of the animators for their sacrifices and contributions I feel very included."

Howard observes that when he is forced to work long hours to meet production deadlines, Summers often packs a picnic meal and a book and joins him in the studio.

"Having that kind of love and support makes all the difference in the world," Howard says.

And what's next? Disney is notoriously secretive about upcoming animation projects, but Howard noted that he isn't aware of any big, brawny two-dimensional black men in his future. ▽

## Join Us For Our 6th Season



### The Fantasticks by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt • September 26 - October 27, 2002

The miraculous little musical that became New York's longest running show of all time. This timeless story of love and the loss of innocence features the songs "Try To Remember" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain", and invites us all to recapture "the kind of September when life was slow and oh so mellow."

### Moles Homecoming: A Holiday Tail by Trudy Bruner and Katrina Ploof December 6 - December 22, 2002

In December, *Mole's Homecoming: A Holiday Tail* returns to delight families at this special time. Based on Kenneth Graham's "The Wind In The Willows", the season is given its true spirit by Mole, Ratty, and a plucky bunch of field mice.

### Loot by Joe Orton • January 30 - February 23, 2003

Take a bank robbery, add a funeral, an oversexed nurse and an under sharp police inspector, mix in a hip sixties wit and you have a recipe for outrageous farce from Joe Orton, comic heir apparent to Oscar Wilde.

### Candida by George Bernard Shaw • April 3 - April 27, 2003

A delightfully funny, poetic love triangle between a minister, his wife, and the over-zealous young poet they have befriended. Set in turn-of-the-century England, this "comedy of ideas" will delight both the eye and the ear.

### Lobby Hero by Kenneth Lonergan • June 5 - June 29, 2003

*Time Out* called Kenneth Lonergan's *Lobby Hero* "A masterpiece. The best comedy, the best drama, and the best romance of the year, rolled into one." The hit of last year's Off-Broadway season, *Lobby Hero* plays out scenes of love, lust, betrayal, and loyalty in the lobby of a Manhattan apartment building.

### The Life of Galileo by Bertolt Brecht • July 17 - August 10, 2003

This season concludes with Bertolt Brecht's monumental *The Life Of Galileo*, in a brand new translation by David Hare. Hailed as one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th Century, Brecht revolutionized the art of theatre. *Galileo* presents the great inventor and theoretician pitted against the Catholic Church over the fundamental question - Is the Earth the Center of the Universe?



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## LIFESTYLES

# Self Expression

From Orlando to Tampa Bay, gays and lesbians are making enormous contributions to the arts.

What is art? That's a tough question, one that has been tossed around in courtrooms and classrooms for centuries. And only one thing is certain: an easy answer is impossible to formulate.

While compiling our third annual Arts Issue, we've learned something: art, it seems, is as diverse as those who create it. And forms of expression are as varied as the individuals who deem themselves artists.

So once again, we'd like to introduce you to some local gays and lesbians who have helped beautify Florida. All of the people we profiled this year have different ideas and approaches to creating



The gay and lesbian community has liberally contributed to the local art scene, including Lakeland artist Gary Gessford (profiled on p. 39).

their pieces of art. Featured in this issue are artists that range from painters to clothing designers to cartoonists.

But these people, from pianists to directors, also share some things in common. For instance, you'll notice that every individual is extremely passionate about his or her artistry. You'll also see that all of our featured artists are driven by a desire to challenge themselves and others. Perhaps, after reading about these diverse artists, you might even find yourself inspired to create.



Orlando pop artist CRAWFORD has a bold style all his own and isn't afraid to say that he wants to be famous.

## CRAWFORD VISUAL ARTIST

ORLANDO - "Yeah, I want to be famous," says visual artist Crawford on his decision to go by one name only. "I want to rule the world. I mean, hey, it worked for Madonna."

Crawford, a self-proclaimed pop-culture whore, says he is a product of the 1980s. He was born and raised in the Midwest "amongst corn and soybean fields." But that didn't stop the impressionable child with an artistic flair from identifying a world beyond the waves of golden grain.

Continued Page 38

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The Pearl Fishers - 2000  
photo: Frank Atura





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| <h3>KISS ME KATE</h3> <p>APRIL 16 - JUNE 1</p>                                            | <h3>1776</h3> <p>JUNE 4 - JULY 13</p>                                          |
| <p>"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN"</p> <p>JULY 16 - AUGUST 24</p>                       | <p><i>My Fair Lady</i></p> <p>AUGUST 27 - OCTOBER 12</p>                       |
| <h3>Fiddler on the Roof</h3> <p>OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 30</p>                              | <h3>HAPPY HOLIDAYS</h3> <p>DECEMBER 3 - JANUARY 11, 2004</p>                   |

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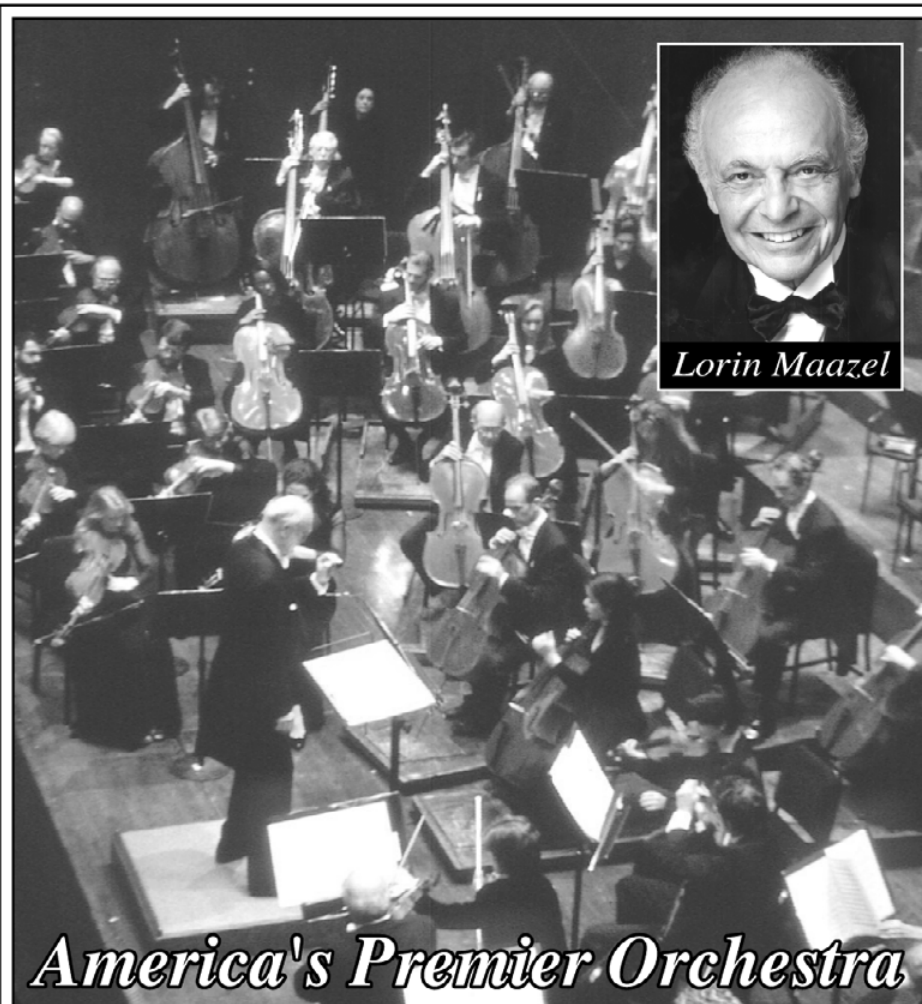
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## LIFESTYLES



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**Hungarian National Philharmonic**  
Sun., Feb 23, 2003, 3 p.m.  
Zsolt Hamar, Conductor  
Gergely Boganyi, Piano Soloist

**National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland**  
Sat., Apr. 5, 2003, 8 p.m.  
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### SELF EXPRESSION

*From Page 36*

"I found myself ingrained with the things that flashed before my eyes on television," he says. And even though the small town he grew up in didn't carry MTV — and still doesn't — Crawford found visual stimulation in the form of *Friday Night Videos*.

"While my peers were painting kittens and barns in art class, I was dismaying my teachers with my renderings of Boy George, Madonna, and the sinking of the Titanic."

Crawford says he eventually "escaped" his hometown and relocated to Miami. He only spent a short time down south before moving to Orlando to go to college. It was here that he heeded some advice that changed his life.

"No one wants to buy art from the boy next door," a professor told him. So Crawford began creating works that he felt adequately defined who he was. He started to infuse his art with "glamour, artifice, and style."

But Crawford continued to lurk in the background of Orlando's art scene for several years while he honed his craft and bulked up his portfolio. In fact, it's only been within the last couple years that he began exposing his art to the world.

Most recently, Crawford was a featured artist at the *Erotica* show at



Subjects of visual artist Crawford's works range from pop idols to the *The Lion King* to local performers.

Parliament House, had a solo show at the now-defunct Boom Bar, and just wrapped up a show at GLBCC.

"Fates willing, I hope to teach a continuing education class at The Center which focuses on my two great loves: art and film," says Crawford.

Although he's openly gay and has painted since early childhood, Crawford wasn't sure if he wanted to be known as a poster boy for gay art. But with subject

## 2002-2003 ART EXHIBITS

### ORLANDO

#### CORNELL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

(407) 646-2526 or <www.rollins.edu/cfam/>  
ROLLINS' OWN: FACULTY ARTISTS Aug. 16-Oct. 6  
CONTEMPORARY FIGURATIVE PAINTING Oct. 4-Jan. 5  
INTROSPECTIONS & REFLECTIONS: PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS BY RIMA JABBAR Oct. 18-Dec. 1  
WALKER EVANS & JAMES AGEE: "LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN" Jan. 17-Mar. 2  
HONORE DAUMIER! PAINTINGS, SCULPTURE & PRINTS FROM THE UCLA HAMMER MUSEUM and DAUMIER'S WORLD: REALISM TO IMPRESSIONISM FROM THE COLLECTION March 7-April 20  
2003 SENIOR ART SHOW May 2-May 11  
ARTISTS' RESPONSES TO THE COLLECTION May 30-Sept. 21

#### CREALDE SCHOOL OF ART

(407) 671-1886 or <www.crealde.org>  
PHOTOGRAPHY FELLOWSHIP STUDENT EXHIBITION Aug. 20-Oct. 12  
THE ST. JOHNS RIVER VALLEY Sept. 1-Nov. 1  
PSYCHOMETRY Sept. 6-Oct. 26  
6th ANNUAL CREALDE BENEFIT AUCTION Sept. 21  
CERAMIC SCULPTURE WORKSHOP Sept. 28-29  
PIZCANO SUENOS-HARVESTING DREAMS Oct. 21-Jan. 11  
ANNUAL STUDIO YARD SALE Nov. 9  
3rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART SALE Dec. 7  
DIRGE: FIGURATIVE PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS BY ROBERT DILWORTH Jan. 13-Feb. 22  
8th BIENNIAL JURIED COMPETITION IN SOUTHEASTERN PHOTOGRAPHY Feb. 28-April 12  
LUMINOUS NIGHTMARES: MARK MESSERSMITH April 18-May 31

#### HOUSE OF BLUES

(407) 934-2011 or <www.hob.com>  
4th ANNUAL HOB FOLK ART FESTIVAL Nov. 8-10

#### ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART

(407) 896-4231 or <www.OMArt.org>  
A BREED APART: SELECTIONS FROM THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

AND THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB MUSEUM OF THE DOG Nov. 16-Jan. 5

AN AMERICAN ANTHEM: 300 YEARS OF PAINTING FROM THE BUTLER INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN ART Dec. 7-Feb. 9  
CONSTRUCTED REALITIES: TEN CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHERS March 8-May 18  
CELEBRATING A DECADE OF GROWTH: SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTIONS May 31-Aug. 17  
ELIOT PORTER: THE COLOR OF WILDNESSE Sept. 6-Nov. 23

#### MAITLAND ART CENTER

(407) 539-2181 or <www.maitartctr.org>  
ART THREE BY... Sept. 13-Oct. 27  
DUO: QUE THROM AND CICERO GREATHOUSE Nov. 2-Dec. 23  
ONE MINUTE MORE OR LESS: THE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION OF J. WILLIAM LOVING, JR. Jan. 11-Feb. 23  
THE GLORY OF VENICE Feb. 28-April 27  
CREATIVE EXPLORATIONS: RUTH GILBERT May 9-July 6  
RECENT ACQUISITIONS July 14-Aug. 29

#### MENNELLO MUSEUM OF FOLK ART

(407) 246-4278 or <www.mennellomuseum.com>  
RALPH FASANELLA'S AMERICA Aug. 16-Nov. 10  
ABCD: A COLLECTION OF ART BRUT Nov. 22-Jan. 26  
BILL TAYLOR: WORKS ON PAPER/JESSE AARON: SCULPTURE/SAM DOYAL: WORKS ON TIN Feb. 14-Mar. 31  
SELECTIONS FROM THE HEMPHILL COLLECTION June 11-Oct. 19  
HANNALORE BARON July 12-Sept. 7  
TESTIMONY: VERNACULAR ART OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SOUTH Oct. 31-Feb. 29

#### MOUNT DORA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

(352) 383-0880  
10th CENTRAL FLORIDA JURIED ARTS SHOW Oct. 11-Nov. 11  
THE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW Nov. 15-Dec. 7  
JOURNEY INTO DREAMS Dec. 13-Jan. 18  
ARTS FESTIVAL 'BEST OF SHOW' WINNERS Jan. 24-Feb. 8  
LOVE IS IN THE AIR Feb. 11-Mar. 15  
EXPLORATIONS 2 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
YOU CAN'T SPELL SMART WITHOUT ART Apr. 25-May 10



## LIFESTYLES

matters in his work ranging from Joan Crawford and Wonder Woman to Boy George and RuPaul, he became more and more aware that he had better get used to the concept.

"I've never set out to create great art, but rather to express what I feel inside myself and hopefully connect with an audience who has those same feelings," he says. — *Scott J. Smith*

## RENEE LUKAS CARTOONIST

ORLANDO - Renee Lukas freely admits she has a runaway brain. "Whatever works" is the working style of the creator of the comic strip "Over the Rainbow."

"What if you're driving to work and you see a scene in your head?" she asks. "You have to pull over. Sometimes I get home from work and type away until late at night. You do it when you're inspired. And just when I think the well is dry, I'll be folding laundry and I'll get an idea. I have no idea when it's going to come to me."

With her sunny blonde hair and sparkling blue eyes, Renee might seem more suited to writing out a recipe for apple pie than her darkly

humorous, quirky comic strips.

"I always get ideas for stuff - ideas that are kind of loony - that I can't do anything with." So she started drawing cartoons. "It doesn't work in any other medium," she said. "My comic strip is like a bizarre snapshot."

It started in 1995 when Renee entered one of her cartoons in Sarasota's annual comedy festival. Nationally syndicated cartoonists Mike Peters (*Mother Goose and Grimm*) and Chris Browne (*Hagar the Horrible*) were among the judges sifting through hundreds of entries. Renee won for best single-panel comic strip.

"I've never considered myself an artist," says Renee. "I'm a writer first." For the past ten years, she has had a day job as a copywriter. "And my first drawings were so awful." But she started reading about famous cartoonists and soon developed her own style.

"What I love about it is that you don't need fancy technology," she says. "All you need is paper and a Magic Marker. You can do it anywhere. And it's just fun! That's how I feel about cartooning. I love

Gary Larsen and *The Far Side*. His sense of humor is dark, but I don't think about it that way. Giving voices to animals and

inanimate objects... that's funny."

Other role models of the young cartoonist include Ellen DeGeneres (for her humor, the risks she has taken, and fantastic writing), Nora Ephron (for her screenplays), and Hilary Price (creator of the comic strip *Rhymes with Orange*).

When Lukas first thought of doing a cartoon, she noticed that all the comic strips in gay publications were about relationships. She decided to do something different: a single panel comic strip that combined gay sensibility with dark humor, two things she loved. She bounced the idea off her mom and dad, and found her niche.

"I'm a what-if person," she says. "I love to juxtapose things that don't seem to have a relationship."

What lies over the rainbow for Renee? She plans to keep drawing her comic strip and hopes to be syndicated one day. And she's working on a novel, a dark comedy (what else?) about a snowbound family having to deal with each other. Is there a gay theme?

"There is a gay character," she says. "I have to write about things that interest me."

Renee compares being gay in our society to being in traffic that's all going the other way.

"You have to laugh about it," she says. "Everywhere you read about bad news: oppression, discrimination, gay bashing. I don't want to downplay it, but what are your choices? What am I going to do? I'd rather laugh." — *Drew Westveer*

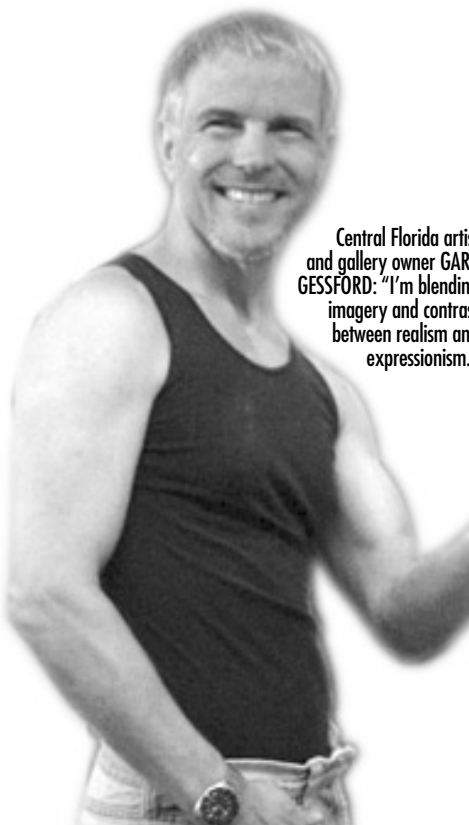


Central Florida cartoonist RENEE LUKAS: "I've never considered myself an artist. I'm a writer first."

## GARY GESSFORD VISUAL ARTIST

LAKE LAND - Central Florida is lucky to have the creative talents of Gary Gessford. Gessford is the owner and artist in residence at The Gessford Studio in Mulberry.

Born in St. Petersburg, he began his



Central Florida artist and gallery owner GARY GESSFORD: "I'm blending imagery and contrast between realism and expressionism."

## 2002-2003 ART EXHIBITS

cont.

A CLOSER LOOK May 16-June 14  
MOMENTS IN TIME June 20-July 21  
THE BENEFITS OF SENIORITY July 25-Aug. 16  
POINT OF VIEW Aug. 22-Sept. 6  
NEXUS Sept. 12-27

### MORSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

(407) 645-5311  
TIFFANY'S FOUR SEASONS WINDOW Opening Oct. 9  
THREE WOMEN OF TASTE AND STYLE: THEIR HATS FROM THE 1870'S THROUGH THE 1940'S Oct. 15-Sept. 28  
THE ILLUMINATED VISION: TIFFANY LAMPS Feb. 4-Jan. 4  
ART NOVEAU IN EUROPE AND AMERICA: FROM THE MORSE COLLECTION Through Jan. 5  
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK Dec. 5  
CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE Dec. 24  
EASTER WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE Apr. 18-20

### OSCEOLA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

(407) 846-6257 or <www.ocfa.com>  
ORLANDO SENTINEL'S FEATURED ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS SHOW Sept. 27-Nov. 2  
STEVE VAUGHN'S PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OF SCENES OF OSCEOLA COUNTY Jan. 10-Feb. 8  
A FLORIDA CRACKER RETROSPECTIVE Feb. 14-Mar. 9  
13th ANNUAL OSCEOLA STUDENT ART SHOW Mar. 14-Apr. 6  
A HISPANIC PERSPECTIVE Apr. 11-May 11  
2003 JURIED ART SHOW May 16-June 8

### SCC FINE ARTS GALLERY

(407) 328-2039  
CATHERINE DWORE: RANDOM FABRICS WORKS AND FIBER Through Sept. 26  
FLORIDA ART EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION EXHIBIT Oct. 3-20  
ANNUAL SCC ART FACULTY EXHIBITION Nov. 5-Dec. 12  
AMY BOUSE: OIL ON CANVAS Jan. 14-Feb. 13  
WOMEN'S CAUCAS FOR ART Feb. 18-Mar. 14  
3RD ANNUAL JURIED SCC STUDENT ART EXHIBIT Apr. 1-June 13

ANNUAL SCC PERMANENT ART COLLECTION EXHIBIT June 24-31

### TERRACE GALLERY AT ORLANDO CITY HALL

(407) 246-4279  
THE CREATIVE PAIR Through Sept.  
VIDA Y COSTUMBRES DEL PERU Sept.-Dec.  
ALBERT PALEY: SCULPTURE, DRAWINGS, GRAPHICS, AND DECORATIVE ARTS RETROSPECTIVE Jan.-Apr.

### UCF ART GALLERY

(407) 823-2676

### VCC EAST CAMPUS GALLERY

(407) 299-5000 ext. 2298  
KEVIN HARAN AND DAVID CUMBIE Through Sept. 21  
MICHAEL SMITH CURATED EXHIBITION Oct. 5-Nov. 16  
SEVENTH ANNUAL FACULTY INVITATIONAL Dec. 7-Jan. 11  
RON LARNED — RETROSPECTIVE Jan. 25-Mar. 29  
STUDENT EXHIBITION Apr. 19-May 24  
SEVENTH ANNUAL SMALL WORKS INVITATIONAL June 7-Aug. 9

## TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

### CITY OF IMAGINATION-GULFPORT, FLORIDA

(727) 384-9064  
TOTAL RISK II: THE BIRTH OF NOW-A SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY ART TRENDS Sept. 6-29  
THE ABSTRACT HEART Nov. 1-29  
ENDURING POP Jan. 3-31  
NEW FOCUS Mar. 3-28  
CLICK May 2-31  
A SITE SPECIFIC WORK BY NANCY CERVENKA July 3-31

### L'ATTITUDE GALLERY

(941) 373-0767  
OUTDOOR SHOW Sept. 6-Oct. 31  
EMERGING FROM DOWN UNDER Nov. 1-27  
GLASS INVITATIONAL Nov. 29-Dec. 31

### POLK MUSEUM OF ART

(863) 688-7743 OR <www.polkmuseumofart.org>

KENT HAGERMAN: ETCHINGS OF FLORIDA Through Sept. 8  
LOOKING BEYOND NATURE: ALTERNATIVE PERCEPTIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE Through Sept. 8  
THE NARRATIVE PAINTINGS OF HUNG LIU Through Oct. 27  
UNTITLED: WHAT'S IN A NAME? Through Oct. 27  
SCOTT REED: SO CLOSE TO WAKING Through Sept. 29  
LUISA BASNUEVO: THAT WHICH IS UNSEEN Oct. 5-Dec. 15  
CARMEN LOMAS GARZA: A RETROSPECTIVE Nov. 2-Jan. 12  
LIFE SCULPTURES BY RIQUERTO TORRES Nov. 2-Jan. 12  
ANCIENT ART OF THE AMERICA Continuing exhibition  
SCULPTURE GARDEN Permanent exhibition

### MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

(727) 896-2667 or <www.fine-arts.org>  
WEST MEETS EAST-ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF DECORATIVE ARTS Through Nov. 10  
ANSEL ADAMS: NATURE AND ART Through Sept. 15  
INTRODUCING THE CONTEMPORARY COLLECTION THE ARTIST AS GUIDE Through Sept. 15  
FAMOUS FACES: CELEBRITY PORTRAITS IN PHOTOGRAPHY Sept. 21-Dec. 8  
RED GROOMS: THE GRAPHIC WORK Sept. 29-Jan. 5  
LITTLE LUXURIES: BABY RATTLES AND TEETHERS FROM THE 18TH TO 20TH CENTURIES Nov. 23-Apr. 27  
ROBERT DEISNEAU Dec. 14-Mar. 9  
DRAWN TOWARD THE AVANTE-GARDE: 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY FRENCH DRAWINGS FROM THE ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, COPENHAGEN Jan. 25-Mar. 23  
THE PENNY AND ELTON YASUNA COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY GLASS SCULPTURE Jan. 25-Mar. 23  
THE POWER AND PASSION OF DANCE: THE CAROL HALSTEAD DANCE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION Apr. 6-June 15  
AFRICAN AMERICAN WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE WES AND MISSY COCHRAN COLLECTION Dec. 21-Feb. 15

### SALVADOR DALI MUSEUM

(727) 823-3767 or <www.salvadordalimuseum.org>  
IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, SPRING: JACQUELINE LAMBA (1910-1993) Nov. 8-Feb. 24

### TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART

(813) 274-8130 or <www.tampamuseum.com>

RAFAEL VINOLY: ART PROJECT Through Jan. 19  
UNDERCURRENT/OVERVIEW 6 Through Sept. 22  
WOMEN OF VISION: AN EXPERIENCE IN SEEING BY THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED Through Sept. 15  
PHOTOGRAPHY'S MULTIPLE ROLES Oct. 6-Jan. 5  
I SEE RHYTHM: PAINTINGS BY MICHELE WOOD Nov. 10-Feb. 2  
MAGNA GRAECIA: GREEK ART FROM SOUTH ITALY AND SICILY Feb. 2-Apr. 20

## DAYTONA/SPACE COAST

### ATLANTIC CENTER FOR THE ARTS

(386) 427-6975 or <www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org>  
COLLECTION OF MASTER ARTIST-IN RESIDENCE PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK MITCHELL Ongoing through Dec.  
DYSFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES Sept. 7-28  
INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS Sept. 7-Oct. 19  
MASTER ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM #100 Sept. 19-Oct. 13  
SPONTANEOUS ENCHANTMENT Oct. 5-26  
SELECTIONS FROM BREAKING BOUNDARIES Nov. 1-Jan. 10  
A LITTLE SLICE OF LIFE Nov. 2-23  
UNDER WRAPS XII Dec. 7-21

### BREVARD MUSEUM OF ART AND SCIENCE

(321) 242-0737 or <www.artandscience.org>  
PASSION ON POINTE: ERNST OPPLER AND THE RUSSIAN BALLET Sept. 8-Oct. 28  
HUNG LIU Nov. 3-Feb. 3  
VISIONS FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM: PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLYDE BUTCHER Feb. 9-Mar. 17  
JOHN ALEXANDER: WORKS ON PAPER Mar. 23-May 19  
BARBARA SORENSON AND CHRYL TALL May 25-July 21  
PACCIONE: MASTER PAINTINGS July 27-Oct. 13

### MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

(386) 255-0285 or <www.moas.org>  
THE AMERICAN GEMSTONE COLLECTION Through July 8  
SOUTH PACIFIC SELECTIONS Through Nov. 3  
BRITISH PORTRAITS Through Nov. 10  
THE MARZULLO GIFT Dec. 14-July 6  
AFRICA IN THE EUROPEAN IMAGINATION Jan. 4-Mar. 30

## LIFESTYLES



Artist Gary Gessford says of his paintings, "I'm trying to express my perspective of life through my eyes while interpreting and embodying my spirituality and sensuality."

## SELF EXPRESSION

From Page 39

art education in elementary school at the Alexander School in Washington D.C., where he was immersed in music, dance and visual arts. Growing up in D.C., Gessford had access to all of the classical figurative and landscape art housed in the many museums in the nation's capital. He continued his tutelage under retired New York artist and teacher Henry Fink at Northeast High School in St. Petersburg. He was profoundly affected by Fink's influential colleagues who were among some of the greatest contemporary artists of the mid-twentieth century. After a year

at the Ringling School, Gessford returned to D.C. to study at the Corcoran School of Art at George Washington University. And by the time he was eighteen, Gessford was a freelance studio artist out on his own.

After many years working as an architect and illustrator in Atlanta, Gessford returned to St. Petersburg, driven by his inner desire to paint. He attended the University of South Florida where he studied painting and printmaking. Shortly after returning to Florida, Gessford was offered a position as a special project liaison between a Lakeland architectural firm and a Newport, Calif. design firm. At the age of 27 he opened his own studio and shortly thereafter was invited to become an adjunct professor at Florida Southern College.

Gessford is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Otto Flath Fellowship, the All Florida Biennial and Mainsail and has an impressive client list. He has traveled extensively, and has had exhibitions in France, Germany, Washington D.C. and several around Florida. But, he says, Central Florida will always be home. He is currently showing some of his paintings and drawings

at the Adrian Howard Gallery located at The Suncoast Resort.

Gessford's current work is focused on a medley of all of his experiences.

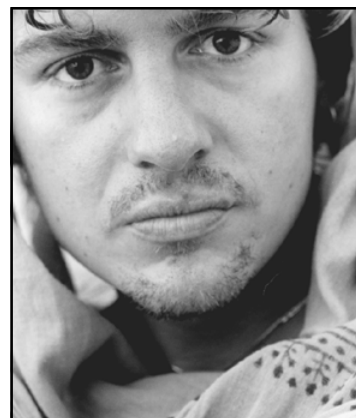
"I'm blending imagery and contrast between realism and expressionism, transitions from physical to non-physical," says Gessford.

"Through my work I'm trying to express my perspective of life through my

eyes while interpreting and embodying my spirituality and sensuality, all of the things that are in and have been throughout my life," Gessford says.

The studio is also an art resort with continuing classes, live lectures, workshops and demonstrations accessible to the general public. Guest studios are available.

—Rick Walen



JAMES JACOB PIERRI: "Pricing your art must be what it feels like to prostitute one's children."

## JAMES JACOB PIERRI PAINTER

ORLANDO - Painter, fortuneteller, mack-daddy pimp. All apt descriptions of one of Orlando's up-and-coming artists, James Jacob Pierri.

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November 15 – 23, 2002 **The Diary of Anne Frank**  
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January 31 – February 1, 2003 **Ailey II**

February 21 – March 1, 2003  
**Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde**  
By Moisés Kaufman (This production contains adult content. Discretion is advised.)

March 21-22, 2003 **Rollins Dance XVII**

April 18 – 26, 2003 **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**  
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## LIFESTYLES

Pierri is a world-traveled creative type who sidelines in reading palms and looking into people's futures. And the pimping? It's how he himself describes selling his paintings.

"Pricing your art — well, it must be what it feels like to prostitute one's children," says Pierri. "And selling it is like watching your kids go off to college. You hope they end up OK and don't end up in the streets."

It's unlikely, though, that any of Pierri's work will ever be found curbside, as his works grow in value with each new showing. An artist with a flair for painting life-like representations of the human anatomy, his most recent work branches in a different direction. It is a collection of three paintings expressing various religions and ancient philosophies he has been studying for more than a decade.

Pierri describes the works as "earthly satellites of the astrological zodiac," a title even he admits sounds dramatic.

The pieces will be part of a one-evening show at a invitation-only grand-opening reception of the Echelon, a new office building downtown. The building owners were looking for something unique to offer during their door-opening celebration. From there, the new pieces will move to a two-week showing at the Prima Gallery for the first two weeks of October.

Not a bad gig for a 28 year-old with no formal training — and he even failed high school art class in his native Hoboken, NJ. Pierri recalls drawing at an early age, but didn't limit himself to tools commonplace for most pre-schoolers, such as crayons and chalk. Instead, James used his mother's colorful nail polishes to create his first works, giving new definition to the concept of finger paints.

As a child, James had a passion for drawing mermaids which developed into a fondness for painting human figures. But it wasn't just the legs that he added into his drawings. He received criticism and often censorship from teachers who described Pierri's art as "too nude."

"A lot of artists neuter their art," James says. Even today he's not shy to



James Jacob Pierri, whose nudes have been viewed around the world, says he doesn't understand when artists neuter their works.

include a complete portrait of the human body. Considering the statues found in the Catholic churches Pierri attended and the reproductions of ancient art seen in the predominately Italian neighborhood where he grew up, it's no surprise that the human nude would have such a large impression on his work.

Despite being raised Catholic, his latest works explore various religions and philosophies. He believes the latest pieces will also serve as a meditative tool.

For these new works, Pierri built frames for wood that he had anointed with scented oils. While he was assembling the canvases and creating the art, he played meditative music and chants and lit incense to fuel his creative soul. It's a pleasing scent of sandalwood that follows him wherever he goes. The music and scented oil "accessories" used to create the art will be given to whomever purchases the paintings in order to keep the spirit of the works alive.

Pierri has and — although he hasn't gone himself — his art has traveled to Germany.

For some reason or another, several German collectors have developed a keen interest in Pierri's works.

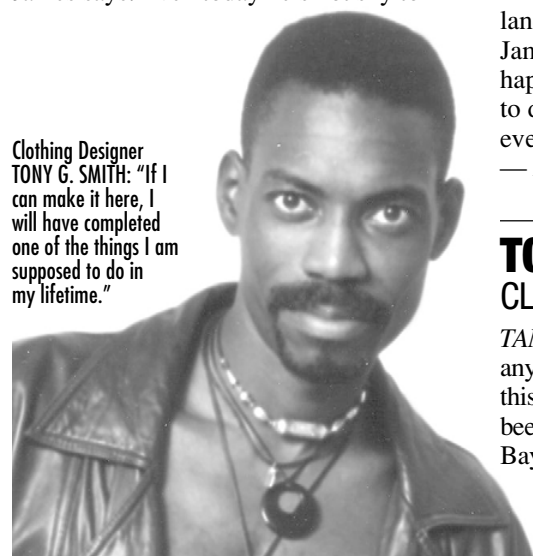
Seeing his art travel to such distant lands is both joyful and bittersweet for James. But, like any good nurturer, he's happy. Parents always want their children to do better than they themselves did... even if they had to sell them off to do it.

— Kirk Hartlage

## TONY G. SMITH CLOTHING DESIGNER/ARTIST

TAMPA BAY - "My life is no different than any other person's who is trying to fit into this world," says Tony G. Smith. Smith has been a part of the local art scene in Tampa Bay since his return to Florida in 1998.

Born in Sarasota and raised in Tampa



Clothing Designer  
TONY G. SMITH: "If I can make it here, I will have completed one of the things I am supposed to do in my lifetime."

Continued Page 43

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"A complete triumph" — New York Observer

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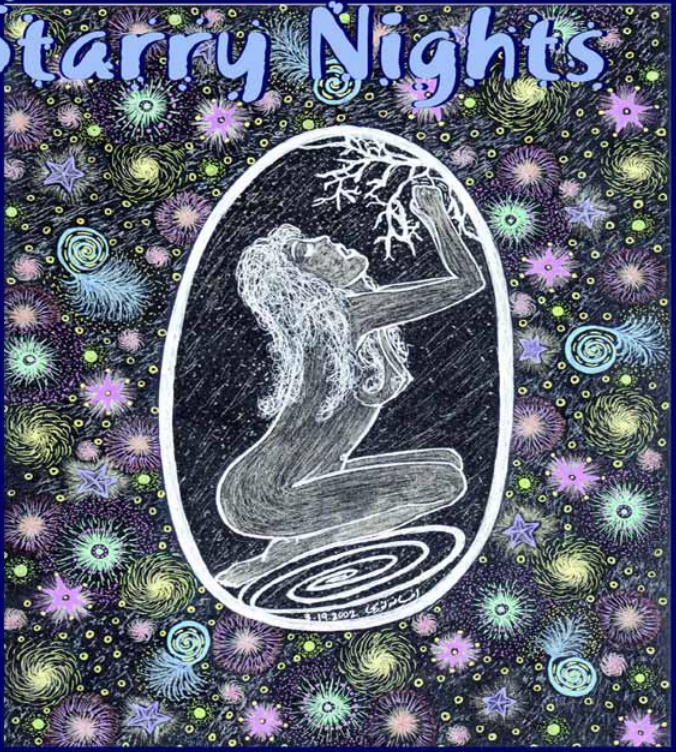
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## LIFESTYLES

## SELF EXPRESSION

From Page 41

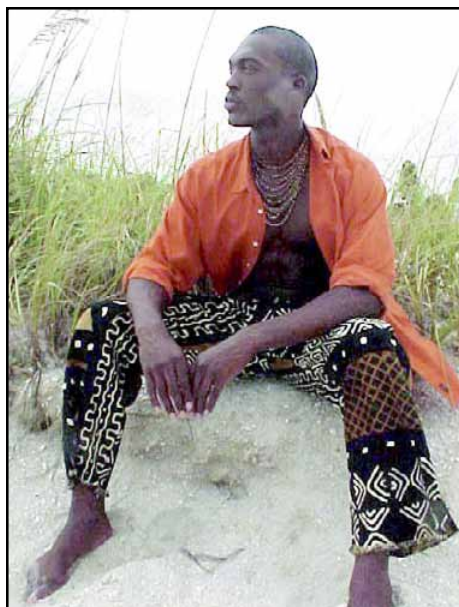
and Plant City, Smith credits his creative designs and sewing ability to his late mother, an artist in her own right. Smith was a student of design at the University of Alabama where he honed his knack for painting on silk and canvas. His work runs the gamut from painting, sculpture, porcelain and ceramics to a new collection of clothing and jewelry.

Smith's work has been shown in Los Angeles and Tokyo and his first one-man show was in Florida at Tomes and Treasures in 2000. He also exhibited two paintings as part of the Vitally Brothers "No Show" at the Tampa Museum of Art in October 2001. His designs combine his many experiences as a black, gay male with the influences of his mentors including Japanese pop artist Shimamoto Shozo.

"My experience in Japan changed my life and made all of the bad things that a black person goes through on a daily basis a little easier to deal with," Smith says. He also claims that he had no problems related to his blackness or artistic limitations until he moved back to Florida.

"This is where I am from," he says. "If I can make it here, I will have completed one of the things I am supposed to do in my lifetime."

Smith's design concept, Contemporary Details, an African American Gallery, is located at 2414 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg. His clothing line is fashioned primarily of mud cloth. These hand-made,



TONY G. SMITH's designs combine his experiences as a black, gay male with the influences of Japanese pop art.

versatile, textured fabrics can be used in clothing manufacture as well as for pillows and throws. The earth tone colors are all hand-dyed in Africa. At this time mud cloth fabric is a special order item so each piece is a unique one-of-a-kind creation. All garments can be made to order. The completed line will include jackets, shirts, tank tops, hats, belts and shoes. Within the next several years Smith hopes to expand to include a full line of fine home furnishings and accessories that are casually elegant at an affordable price.

"Details is not just an ideal, it's a lifestyle," he says. — Rick Walen

## ABEL MATUS PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

ORLANDO - At his desk tucked away behind the box office of the Orlando Ballet, Abel Matus is in the middle of things. Months before the first show of the season is set to open, the office is already buzzing with activity.

A seamstress is busy at work at a sewing machine next to him. Young dancers in leotards moist with sweat form a constant parade, interrupting to ask advice, report a problem, or check on a costume fitting. With his jet-black hair and soft smile, Abel is intense, thoughtful, and even a little shy. But he's also crackling with energy.

"I'm the answer guy," he smiles.

Preparing for the



Orlando Ballet's ABEL MATUS makes some alterations: "I don't call it creative; I just put things together."



## 2002-2003 Season Information



December 14 at 7:35 PM  
and December 15 at 2:05 PM and 7:35 PM

John and Rita Lowndes Shakespeare Center  
Tickets: \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door

The Orlando Gay Chorus' annual holiday show is always full of surprises, and this one will be no exception. A hint of what to expect - an audience participation sing-a-long complete with props. For the eleventh consecutive year OGC will again participate in the Marine Corps "Toys For Tots" campaign.



March 22 and 23 at 7:35 PM

John and Rita Lowndes Shakespeare Center  
Tickets: \$15 in advance,  
\$18 at the door

Featured in this concert will be music based on Tomie dePaola's classic children's book "Oliver Button is a Sissy". Oliver Button is a heartwarming story about a boy who is ridiculed by his parents and peers simply because he'd rather sing and dance than play sports or engage in activities "normal" boys enjoy. It is a simple story that teaches a powerful lesson about embracing differences, nurturing talent and striving to achieve one's dreams.



June 14 and 15 at 7:35 PM

John and Rita Lowndes Shakespeare Center  
Tickets: \$18 in advance,  
\$21 at the door

*Songs we've always wanted to sing, but...*

An example would be the song, I'm Gong To Wash That Man Right Out Of My Hair from "South Pacific". Although a beloved musical, why would a lesbian want a man in her hair in the first place? Not necessarily politically correct, and probably not rated PG, this show will be strictly by the numbers.

## Season Information

Here's the information you need to take full advantage of everything the Orlando Gay Chorus offers. Just complete the attached order form and mail it to us; place your order on-line at [www.orlandogaychorus.org](http://www.orlandogaychorus.org), or call (407) 841-SING and tell us how we can help you.

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Odd Numbers • \$18 (\$21 at the door)

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Continued Page 45



## LIFESTYLES

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 THE BLUE ROOM Oct. 3-6  
 THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK Nov. 15-23  
 WAITING FOR GODOT Nov. 21-24  
 NECESSARY TARGETS Feb. 20-23  
 GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE Feb. 21-Mar. 1  
 THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE Apr. 18-26  
 NEW WORKS Apr. 24-27

## HELEN STAIRS THEATRE

(407) 321-8111 or <www.helenstairstheatre.com>  
 TWILIGHT AT MONTICELLO Sept. 7  
 SOUND OF SUNSHINE SHOW CHORUS Sept. 28  
 OLIVER Oct. 4-20  
 MICKEY ROONEY AND JAN CHAMBER Oct. 8  
 SLEEPING BEAUTY Oct. 31  
 BARBER OF SEVILLE Nov. 9  
 THE FAB FOLLIES-LOOKING GOOD Oct. 25-Nov. 3  
 ETHEL MERMAN'S BROADWAY Nov. 16  
 MYRA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL Dec. 7-8  
 THE NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS Jan. 23  
 ODD COUPLE-FEMALE VERSION Jan. 31-Feb. 8  
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 MERRY WIDOW Mar. 15  
 MY FAIR LADY Mar. 28-Apr. 13  
 AN EVENING WITH GROUCHO Apr. 26  
 HELLO DOLLY June 13-29

## MAD COW THEATRE COMPANY

(407) 297-8788 or <www.madcowtheatre.com>  
 THE FANTASTICKS Sept. 26-Oct. 27  
 MOLE'S HOMECOMING: A HOLIDAY TALE Dec. 6-Dec. 22  
 LOOT Jan. 30-Feb. 23  
 CANDIDA Mar. 27-Apr. 19  
 LOBBY HERO June 5-29  
 THE LIFE OF GALILEO July 17-Aug. 10

## MARK TWO DINNER THEATRE

(407) 843-6275 or <www.themarktwo.com>  
 ANNIE GET YOUR GUN Aug. 28-Oct. 13  
 GUYS AND DOLLS Oct. 16-Dec. 1  
 SUGAR BABIES Dec. 4-Jan. 12  
 THE SUNSHINE BOYS Jan. 15-Feb. 23  
 THE MUSIC MAN Feb. 26-Apr. 13  
 KISS ME KATE Apr. 16-June 3  
 1776 June 4-July 13  
 YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN July 16-Aug. 24  
 MY FAIR LADY Aug. 27-Oct. 12  
 FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Oct. 15-Nov. 30  
 HAPPY HOLIDAYS Dec. 3-Jan. 11

## ORLANDO BROADWAY SERIES

(407) 423-9999 or <www.broadwayseries.com/orlando/>  
 RENT Oct. 22-27  
 DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN Nov. 5-10  
 ELTON JOHN AND TIM RICE'S AIDA Dec. 26-Jan. 5  
 JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR Jan. 14-19  
 THE FULL MONTY Jan. 28-Feb. 2  
 CATHY RIGBY IN SUESSICAL, THE MUSICAL Feb. 25-Mar. 2  
 42ND STREET May 6-11

## ORLANDO-UCF SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

(407) 893-4600 or <www.shakespearefest.org>  
 THE TEMPEST Oct. 11-Nov. 3  
 THE WINTER'S TALE Nov. 20-Dec. 22  
 TARTUFFE Jan. 17-Feb. 9  
 THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU Feb. 28-Mar. 30  
 THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA Apr. 11-May 4

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 PROOF Jan. 2-19  
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 WEST SIDE STORY Feb. 14-Mar. 2  
 OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS Apr. 4-20  
 SOMETHING'S AFOOT May 23-June 8  
 MY WAY: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA Apr. 26-27

## PLAYWRIGHTS' ROUND TABLE

(407) 788-9428 or <www.playwrightsroundtable.org>  
 THIS SIDE JORDAN Sept. 15  
 CHERRY STREET THEATRE LAUNCH FESTIVAL Oct. 20

## SCC FINE ARTS THEATRE

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 DRACULA Oct. 3-13  
 AN EMPTY PLATE IN THE CAFE DU GRAND BOEUF Nov. 7-24  
 TEN BY TEN Dec. 5-8  
 PROOF Jan. 2-19  
 BLOOD BROTHERS Feb. 13-23  
 INCORRUPTIBLE Apr. 3-13  
 CHESAPEAKE May 8-25  
 CITY OF ANGELS Summer 2003

## THEATRE DOWNTOWN

(407) 841-0083 or <www.theatredowntown.net>  
 BOY GETS GIRL Sept. 6-28  
 A CHRISTMAS CAROL Nov. 22-Dec. 21

## THEATRE UCF

(407) 823-1500 or <pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~theatre/>  
 AH, WILDERNESS! Sept. 12-22  
 WAITING FOR GODOT Oct. 3-13  
 FAME, THE MUSICAL Oct. 17-27  
 IMPOSSIBLE MARRIAGE Oct. 31-Nov. 10  
 THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Nov. 14-24  
 CEREMONIES IN DARK OLD MEN Jan. 16-Feb. 2  
 NORA Feb. 6-16  
 THE MIKADO Feb. 27-Mar. 9  
 THE BALCONY SCENE Mar. 13-30  
 5TH OF JULY Apr. 3-13

## VALENCIA CHARACTER COMPANY

(407) 275-1503  
 DARK OF THE MOON Oct. 11-19  
 THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND AND AFTER MAGRITTE Nov. 14-24  
 PETER PAN Feb. 21-Mar. 2  
 WINNER OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL FLORIDA PLAYWRIGHT COMPETITION Apr. 3-6  
 NOISES OFF June 6-15

## TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

## AMERICAN STAGE

(727) 823-PLAY or <www.americanstage.org>  
 THE PAVILION Sept. 20-Oct. 13  
 OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS Nov. 1-24  
 THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Jan. 31-Mar. 2  
 PARALLEL LIVES May 23-June 15  
 MERE MORTALS AND OTHER PLAYS July 11-Aug. 3

## ASOLO THEATRE COMPANY

(941) 351-8000 or <www.asolo.org>  
 INHERIT THE WIND Nov. 1-Feb. 22  
 BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS Nov. 15-Apr. 5  
 YOU CAN NEVER TELL Nov. 8-Feb. 23  
 A CHRISTMAS CAROL Nov. 30-Dec. 28  
 THE CORN IS GREEN Jan. 17-May 24  
 FILUMENA Mar. 14-May 24  
 THE PHILADELPHIA STORY Mar. 21-May 25  
 THE BLUE ROOM Nov. 27-Dec. 15  
 LE MALADE IMAGINAIRE Mar. 5-23  
 THE HEIRESS Apr. 9-27

## BROADWAY AT THE BAYFRONT

(727) 892-5798  
 BARRAGE Oct. 25  
 GREATER TUNA Nov. 2-3  
 FOSSE Dec. 16-17  
 AIN'T MISBEHAVIN Mar. 7-8  
 JACK KLUGMAN IN ON GOLDEN POND Apr. 11-12



## LIFESTYLES

## SELF EXPRESSION

From Page 43

Orlando Ballet's upcoming season, the young production director gets involved in every detail, from checking the fit of costumes to set construction and lighting design.

"To me it's a personal challenge," says Abel. "Every show has to be better than the last; it has to have its own magic. I want people to walk out with a smile on their face, to come out of the theater dancing."

Yet even with years of experience under his belt, the former ballet dancer admits to getting nervous at every performance.

"Every show is like a new baby," he

says. "Sometimes painful, but so pleasing to hear the applause after the final curtain!"

Abel had never seen a dance performance until he was a high school student in his native Mexico. He was assigned a project to report on the dance and instantly found his passion. So he started taking classes and was soon invited to attend the national dance school. From there, he joined the newly formed Ballet de Monterrey and danced with them for four years. But even though he was living his dream, there were difficulties along the way.

"Being a male dancer in Mexico is a total disgrace," says Abel. "It's tough for society to accept." And leaving for Monterrey also meant making a break

with his family. "I was coming out, trying to be independent. And all the while trying to figure out how to incorporate all this into my dance."

As an artist, Abel says he is not traditional and likes to leave the door open to new things. This openness to change brought him to the Orlando Ballet where he is now starting his third season with the company.

"My favorite part of the process is the dreaming part," says Abel. And he reaches into a file drawer and pulls out a fistful of cocktail napkins with hastily drawn sketches of costumes and sets. "I don't call it creative; I just put things together. Everything is already there; you

just have to place it correctly. A tree is a tree, a blouse is a blouse - and they have been for centuries."

In Mexico, there is an expression: "to face the black wolf." This is when the dancers stand on stage, looking out on a darkened auditorium and face the audience.

"It's the same when I face an empty theater," says Abel. "When I have to translate what is on paper to the stage, when I take an empty space and decide how to make the show happen."

When asked if he ever misses the spotlight of dancing on stage, Abel motions to the activity going on around his desk and levels his intense gaze.

"I never stopped dancing," he replies.

## 2002-2003 THEATRE EXHIBITS

cont.

**THE CENTER THEATER COMPANY**

(813) 229-STAR or <www.tbpc.org>  
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THE PIANO LESSON Feb. 26-23  
THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE Mar. 27-Apr. 13  
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**THE GORILLA THEATRE**

(813) 879-2914 or <www.gorilla-theatre.com>  
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SHAPE OF THINGS Oct. 10-27  
PIAF Nov. 21-Dec. 15  
TRU Feb. 6-23  
DESPERADOES Mar. 27-Apr. 13

**TAMPA BAY BROADWAY SERIES**

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MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE Oct. 29-Nov. 3  
DISNEY'S THE LION KING Dec. 13-Jan. 26  
THE FULL MONTY Feb. 18-23  
ELTON JOHN AND TIM RICE'S AIDA Mar. 4-15  
CATHY RIGBY IN SUCESSICAL THE MUSICAL Mar. 25-30  
42ND STREET Apr. 29-May 4  
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CIRQUE ELOIZE Nov. 14  
AN EVENING WITH BURT REYNOLDS Nov. 20  
TONY CURTIS IN SOME LIKE IT HOT Dec. 31-Jan. 5  
CABARET Jan. 17  
RENT Jan. 31-Feb. 1  
CINDERELLA Feb. 14-15  
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Apr. 19

**VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL**

(941) 953-3368 or <www.vanwezel.org>  
CELEBRATE SARASOTA: THE SARASOTA STORY Oct. 14  
CIRQUE ELOIZE: NOMADE Nov. 20  
AN EVENING WITH BURT REYNOLDS Nov. 22  
FOSSE Dec. 15  
MUSIC MAN Dec. 26-27  
SWING! Dec. 29-31  
SOUTH PACIFIC Jan. 3-4  
CABARET Jan. 14-15  
RENT Feb. 3-4  
BILL COSBY Feb. 8  
PIRATES OF PENZANCE Feb. 9

**VENICE LITTLE THEATRE**

(941) 488-1115 or <www.venicestage.com>  
ANIMAL CRACKERS Oct. 1-20  
THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES Nov. 19-Dec. 8  
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THE WIZARD OF OZ Feb. 18-Mar. 16  
THE TAFFETAS Apr. 1-19

THE MIRACLE WORKER May 13-25  
THE VAST DIFFERENCE Feb. 6-20  
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THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA May 30-June 8

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(407) 242-2219 or <www.kingcenter.com>  
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LATE NIGHT CATECHISM Dec. 10-22  
FOSSE Dec. 10-11  
GEORGE CARLIN Dec. 12  
SWING! Jan. 4-5  
LES MISERABLES Jan. 14-19  
CINDERELLA Feb. 20  
RICH LITTLE STARRING IN THE PRESIDENTS Feb. 21  
TIM CONWAY AND HARVEY KORMAN Feb. 23  
LEGENDS OF TV COMEDY Mar. 16  
SOUTH PACIFIC Mar. 26-27  
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Apr. 8-9  
CARROT TOP Apr. 15  
AFTER THE STORM Jan. 7-12

**PHOENIX PRODUCTION COMPANY**

(321) 952-5717 or <www.phoenixtheatre.com>  
ANTON IN SHOW BUSINESS Sept. 13-Aug. 12  
GLENGARRY GLENN ROSS Oct. 25-Nov. 23  
HOLIDAY SHOW Dec. 6-22  
BOY GETS GIRL Feb. 7-Mar. 8  
FUDDY MEERS Mar. 28-Apr. 26  
THIS IS OUR YOUTH May 16-June 14

**SANDS THEATER CENTER**

(386) 736-7456 or <www.sandstheatercenter.com>  
KISS ME KATE Sept. 6-22  
THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO Nov. 8-17  
THE ART OF DINING Jan. 17-26  
SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN May 2-18  
WHAT'S YOUR ACT Feb. 13-16  
GOODBYE MARIANNE Oct. 12-20  
THE SECRET GARDEN Dec. 6-15  
STORYWAGON: FLORIDA STORIES Feb. 8 & 22  
THE HOBBIT June 13-22  
OZMA OF OZ: A TALE OF TIME July 18-27  
DO NOT GO GENTLE Aug. 15-18  
MARK TWAIN: STORMFIELD DAYS Oct. 25-Nov. 3

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(904) 252-6200 or <www.seasidemusictheater.org>  
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# ORLANDO BALLET



## ANNA BRENNEN "DRAMA MAMA"

TAMPA BAY - Anna Brennen founded Stageworks in 1984 as a multi-racial, multi-cultural and social-issue-oriented theater to nurture original work and to develop and showcase local talent. Her mission has not wavered since then.

Stageworks aims to provide the highest quality local professional theater that respects, ignites, and celebrates the human spirit by challenging the thresholds of intolerance and insensitivity.

Many folks assume that Anna Brennen, who is affectionately known as the "Drama Mama," is a Jewish New Yorker who grew up in "The City." Nothing could be further from

the truth. Brennen was born on an Indian reservation near Elko, Nevada. After two years at a private school in Tacoma, Brennen went to Berkeley and enrolled at the Elizabeth Holloway School of Theater. She was formally trained in theater at Carnegie Mellon and the University of California, Berkeley.

A year before-graduation Brennen got married. Her then-husband Stephen was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, so two weeks before her daughter Lisa was due she boarded a flight to London. She stayed in England for two years while Stephen worked on his Ph.D. During that time the only thing that interested her was the theater.

One afternoon, Brennen went to the National Theater and asked to speak to Sir Laurence Olivier. She had written a letter

introducing herself as an American-trained actress who would volunteer for him if he would allow her to observe his rehearsals. A doorman took her note and shortly thereafter the man she'd recognized from every film of his she'd ever seen, walked out and asked her to become his tea girl.

"It was an amazing time," says Brennen. "Sir Peter Hall, Glenda Jackson, Peter O'Toole, Joan Plowright, Sybil Thorndike, Vanessa Redgrave, Maggie Smith, Colin Blakely, Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Diana Rigg, Sir Alec Guinness, Sir John Gielgud... I watched all of them work. I was the little fly on the wall."

Upon her return to Berkeley, Brennen finished her degree. Over the course of one summer she directed *Twelfth Night*, *The House of Bernada Alba* and *The Lesson*. She realized that directing was her passion, but only if she started her own theater company could she do what she wanted to do in the way she wanted it done.

Thus Stageworks was born. Brennen's theater has always showcased main stage productions that contain controversial material. Next season is no exception. Brennen will produce *Angels in America* in July of 2003.

"*Angels* is a play where history meets social issues in an empathetic, educational and entertaining way," Brennen says. Stageworks has supported the GLBT community through arts and education for years with the production of shows such as: *Telling Moments*, *Love! Valor!*



The Stageworks cast of last year's *The Laramie Project*. "As long as being gay is a stigma in our society it is important to keep doing this work."

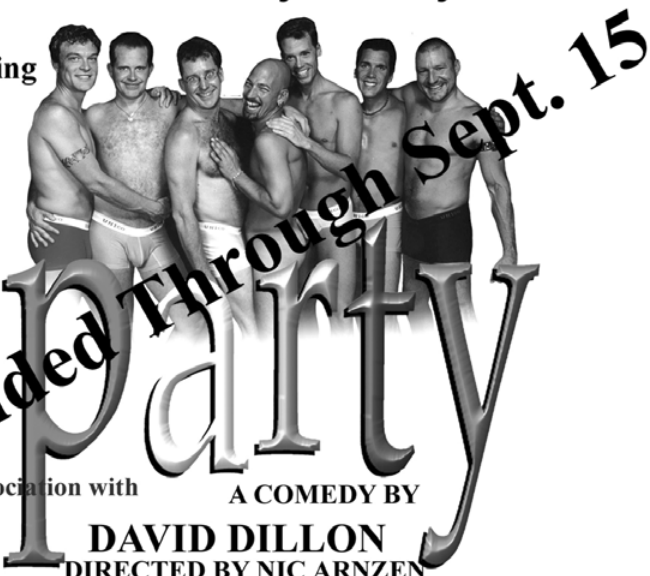
*Compassion!*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Greater Tuna* and *The Laramie Project*.

"The gay community has been among the most supportive and generous group as a community," Brennen says of producing so many gay-themed plays. "As long as being gay is a stigma in our society it is important to keep doing this work until there are no more walls." — Rick Walen

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## 2002-2003 DANCE SEASON

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#### ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE

(407) 646-2145 or <www.rollins.edu/theatre>  
LIMON DANCE COMPANY Oct. 18-19  
AILEY II Jan. 31-Feb. 1  
ROLLINS DANCE XVII Mar. 21-22

#### CENTRAL FLORIDA BALLET

(407) 876-8234 or <www.centralfloridaballet.org>  
THE NUTCRACKER Dec. 21-22  
CARMAN May 10-11

#### HELEN STAIRS THEATRE

(407) 321-8111 or <www.helenstairstheatre.com>  
THE NUTCRACKER Dec. 1  
DANCING IN ONE WORLD Apr. 27  
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Apr. 19

#### ORLANDO BALLET

(407) 426-1739 or <www.southernballet.org>  
GISELLE Oct. 4-6  
THE NUTCRACKER Dec. 13-15  
THE NUTTY NUTCRACKER Dec. 22  
OVATION! Mar. 14-16  
SPARTACUS May 23-25

#### VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(407) 275-1603  
CHOREOGRAPHER'S SHOWCASE Dec. 5-7  
SPRING DANCE CONCERT Mar. 28-29  
VALENCIA DANCE THEATRE REPERTORY CONCERT July 18-19

### TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

#### DANCE AT THE MAHAFFEY

(727) 892-5767  
NORTH CAROLINA DANCE THEATRE: A STREETCAR NAMED  
DESIRE Feb. 13

MOMIX: MOMIX IN ORBIT Mar. 2

#### TAMPA BAY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

(813) 229-STAR or <www.tbpac.org>  
STEP AFRIKA! Oct. 15  
MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE Oct. 29-Nov. 3

#### RUTH ECKERD HALL

(727) 791-7400 or <www.rutheckerdhall.com>  
THE NUTCRACKER Dec. 6-8  
MOSCOW CLASSICAL BALLET IN SWAN LAKE Jan. 25  
RIVERDANCE Feb. 4-Feb. 9  
LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTREAL Feb. 13  
LES BALLETS DE TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO Feb. 28  
LIMON DANCE COMPANY Apr. 15

#### VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

(941) 953-3368 or <www.vanwezel.org>  
RIVERDANCE: THE SHOW Nov. 26-Dec. 1  
TANGO BUENOS AIRES  
LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTREAL Feb. 12  
MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE Feb. 14-15

### DAYTONA/SPACE COAST

#### CIVIC BALLET OF VOLUSIA COUNTY

(386) 676-0602  
THE NUTCRACKER Dec. 1-2

#### MAXWELL C. KING CENTER

(321) 242-2219 or <www.kingcenter.com>  
CIRQUE ELOIZE: NOMADE Nov. 15  
JULIO BOCCA AND BALLET ARGENTINO Nov. 17  
THE GEORGIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY Dec. 1  
MOSCOW BALLET'S GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER Dec. 6-7  
BIG BAND DANCE PARTY Feb. 2  
MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE Feb. 16  
PEKING ACROBATS Feb. 19  
AEROS Mar. 20



## JEREMY GLOFF SINGER/SONGWRITER

**TAMPA BAY** - Born in 1975 in Fredonia, New York, Jeremy Gloff began singing and writing songs at a very early age. He remembers pretending the vacuum cleaner hose was a microphone and crooning like Christine McVie from Fleetwood Mac. He entertained family members with "Jumbo Jukebox," one of the first songs he recalls composing.

Times certainly have changed for this gifted, self-taught musician. *The Weekly Planet* awarded Gloff a "Best of the Bay" accolade for his 2000 album *Spin Girl Spin*. The album was also voted one of the

top five best local releases of 2000.

Gloff describes his own music and lyrics as those of "a boy trying to figure it out through writing songs." Having been "out" in the community for a number of years, he considers his songs and albums a personal diary of his experiences. For example, *America Is Lonely Tonight* contains a variety of songs about dating and the Internet. One of his signature pieces from that album is "The Sound Of My Crashing," an intimate account of being stood up by a date.

Gloff credits mostly female singers as his main influences, though he quickly states that none of them "sound anything like my music." He particularly enjoys

listening to Donna Summer, Emmylou Harris, Madonna, Stevie Nicks, Marianne Faithfull and the band Sonic Youth.

The biggest concern that Gloff has with the Tampa Bay arts scene is making sure that all artists have a voice. He would like to see the general public more informed and more excited about all of the musical opportunities that exist in the area. His own desire is "to play out more and keep my enthusiasm up."

Currently, Gloff is planning his next album. He normally records his albums under his own label, RiotBoy Productions, but several production companies have courted him. He would like to sign with one eventually, but he feels very strongly

about retaining his individual voice. "The music industry is getting more and more commercial, and it's important for people to stay true to themselves."

You can catch Gloff frequently at the Orpheum, "In the Raw" open-mike night at the State Theater, or in his living room. Gloff loves throwing concerts for 50 or so of his closest friends and fans. It gives him the opportunity to try out new songs and styles, such as his 2001 album *Valentine*, a techno collaboration with Susy Martian. You might better recognize the duo by their assumed identities, J-Glo and Sassy. And you can find his albums in most local music stores, including Vinyl Fever and Sound Exchange, in addition to his Web site, <www.jeremygloff.com>.

Gloff is beginning classes in sociology at Hillsborough Community College this fall, but he remains focused on his music. He is determined to find the proper recording label for his brand of folk & indy-rock, and his dream of success perseveres.

"Of course, I want to be a star," he says. "But I want to be real." — *D.J. Holt*



Musician JEREMY GLOFF in his living room where he often throws concerts for 50 or so of his closest friends and fans.

## 2002-2003 MUSIC SEASON

### ORLANDO

#### THE BACH FESTIVAL

(407) 646-2182 or <www.bachfestivalflorida.org/>  
EMPIRE BRASS Nov. 3  
THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING Oct. 26-27  
EROICA TRIO Dec. 1  
CHRISTMAS IS COMING Dec. 14-15  
BACH FESTIVAL 2003 Feb. 28-Mar. 9  
PHILHARMONIA VIRTUOSI Apr. 6  
CARMINA BURANA Apr. 26-27

#### FESTIVAL OF ORCHESTRAS

(407) 896-2451  
ORQUESTRA DE SAO PAULO Nov. 17  
BUDAPEST FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA Jan. 10  
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC Feb. 6  
HUNGARIAN NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC Feb. 23  
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF IRELAND Apr. 5

#### HARRY P. LEU GARDENS

(407) 246-2620  
FALL MOON STROLL Oct. 19  
HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT Dec. 8  
VALENTINE'S STROLL Feb. 14  
SPRING MOON STROLL May 17

#### HELEN STAIRS THEATRE

(407) 321-8111 or <www.helenstairstheatre.com>  
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON Dec. 6  
RITA COOLIDGE Dec. 14  
AMHERST SAXAPHONE QUARTET Mar. 1  
SANFORD'S MOMENTS IN HISTORY- EVENT May 8  
THE SOVEREIGN BRASS May 11  
XTREME SHOWCASE 2003 June 7

#### ORLANDO GAY CHORUS

(407) 841-SING or <www.orlandogaychorus.org>  
OUR HOLIDAYS TOGETHER Dec. 14-15  
SISSIES AND STARS Mar. 22-23  
ODD NUMBERS June 14-15

#### ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

(407) 896-6700 or <www.orlandophil.org>  
OPENING NIGHT GALA EVENT Sept. 21  
O'CONNER: MASTER OF THE STRINGS Oct. 29  
MOZART: HIS FINAL YEAR NOV. 16  
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Nov. 30  
GIVE MY REGARDS Jan. 25  
COMPLETELY CLASSICAL: SCHUMANN AND BRAHMS Feb. 22  
A NIGHT OF FIRSTS! Mar. 29  
WILD WOMEN OF THE HARP Apr. 12  
MARVELOUS MOZART Nov. 5  
BACH HUMBAG Dec. 10  
MUSICAL PICTURES: VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS Mar. 11  
WHIMSICAL WINDS Oct. 27  
FRENCH FLUTE AND FRIENDS Jan. 12  
CLASSICAL STRINGS Apr. 6

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Dec. 4, Feb. 6, Mar. 27, Apr. 24

### TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

#### TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

(727) 865-9004 or <www.tampabayarts.com>  
RED, HOT AND ON FIRE Oct. 18 Tampa-Oct. 20 St Pete  
TRINKETS, TIES, AND TREASURES Nov. 23  
CANDLES, CAROLS, & CANES Dec. 16 St Pete-Dec. 21 Tampa  
INNOCENCE OF YOUTH Mar. 15 Tampa-Mar. 16 St Pete  
SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES July 12 Tampa-July 20 St Pete

#### TAMPA BAY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

(813) 229-STAR or <www.tbpac.org>  
AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2003: WHAT A WONDERFUL  
WORLD-LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND THE EVOLUTION OF JAZZ, A  
MULTI MEDIA ARTS AND HUMANITIES FESTIVAL Jan. 20-Mar. 9  
CLASSICALLY JAZZ FEATURING THE IRA STEIN TRIO Feb. 4  
PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND Mar. 9

#### THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA

(813) 286-1170 or <www.floridaorchestra.org>  
MASTERWORKS: PINES OF ROME Sept. 29  
RAYMOND JAMES SUPER POPS: SALUTE TO AMERICA Oct. 6  
MASTERWORKS: ALL BEETHOVEN Oct. 13  
RAYMOND JAMES SUPER POPS: MANCINI AND MORE Oct. 20  
MASTERWORKS: HAYDEN'S THE CREATION Nov. 10  
RAYMOND JAMES SUPER POPS: POPS GREATEST HITS Nov. 17  
MASTERWORKS: TCHAIKOVSKY VIOLIN CONCERTO Nov. 24  
MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM MESSIAH  
AND BEETHOVEN'S 9TH Dec. 15-16  
RAYMOND JAMES SUPER POPS: THE KINGSTON TRIO

#### RUTH ECKERD HALL

(727) 791-7400 or <www.rutheckerdhall.com>  
LEE ANN WOMACK Oct. 4  
THE TEMPTATIONS AND THE FOUR TOPS Oct. 12  
THE MOODY BLUES Oct. 18  
MICHAEL BOLTON Oct. 19  
ELVIS COSTELLO IN CONCERT Nov. 3  
CLINT BLACK Nov. 8  
PETER, PAUL, AND MARY Nov. 9  
HALL AND OATES Nov. 12  
KENNY LOGGINS Nov. 25  
THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS WITH PEABO BRYSON, JODY  
WATLEY, OLETA ADAMS, AND JON SECADA Nov. 29  
WYNONNA Dec. 1  
GEORGE CARLIN Dec. 14  
MANDY PATINKIN IN CONCERT Apr. 1

#### VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

(941) 953-3368 or <www.vanwezel.org>  
EDDIE MONEY, SURVIVOR, AND LOVERBOY Sept. 12  
MICHAEL BOLTON Oct. 17 SPYRO GYRA AND AVERAGE WHITE  
BAND Oct. 27  
PETER, PAUL, AND MARY Nov. 8  
HALL AND OATES Nov. 11  
NEIL SEDAKA Nov. 21

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS: PEABO BRYSON, JODY WATLEY,  
OLETA ADAMS AND JON SECADA Dec. 2  
TAJ MAHAL Dec. 10  
MICHAEL FEINSTEIN Jan. 2  
JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Jan. 22  
VIENNA BOYS CHOIR Feb. 10  
HOLLYWOOD FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS  
Feb. 20  
TIM CONWAY AND HARVEY KORMAN Feb. 21  
VICKI LAWRENCE AND MAMA: A TWO-WOMAN SHOW Feb. 27  
SOME LIKE IT HOT WITH TONY CURTIS Feb. 28-Mar. 2  
SANDY DUNCAN CELEBRATES BROADWAY Apr. 6  
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Apr. 10-11  
CARROT TOP Apr. 12  
JOSE FELICIANO AND ARTURO SANDOVAL Apr. 27  
GREASE May 28-29

### DAYTONA BEACH/SPACE COAST

#### BREVARD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(321) 242-2024 or <www.brevardsymphony.com>  
A MUSICAL SEANCE Oct. 12  
CLASSICAL ELEGANCE Nov. 2  
BEETHOVEN & SIBELIUS Jan. 11  
BROADWAY AND BEYOND Feb. 1  
MAJESTIC BRAHMS Mar. 15  
SYMPHONIC METAMORPHOSIS Apr. 5

#### MAXWELL C. KING CENTER

(407) 242-2219 or <www.kingcenter.com>  
LEE ANN WOMACK Oct. 3  
PETER, PAUL, AND MARY Nov. 7  
THE IRISH TENORS CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Nov. 24  
THE IRISH ROVERS CHRISTMAS PARTY Dec. 14  
SALUTE TO VIENNA Jan. 3  
HARRY BELAFONTE Jan. 12  
ITALIAN-AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL Feb. 14  
JOHNNY MATHIS Feb. 6-7  
THE CHIEFTAINS Feb. 26  
NEIL SEDAKA Mar. 6  
THE TEN TENORS Mar. 13  
STEVE LAWRENCE AND EYDIE GORME Mar. 22  
PAUL ANKA Apr. 4

#### DAYTONA BEACH SYMPHONY SOCIETY

(904) 253-2901 or <www.dbss.org>  
DAVID JOLLEY-HORN Nov. 1  
JOSHUA BELL-VIOLIN Nov. 23  
GIL SHAHAM-VIOLIN Dec. 8  
CRISTINA ORTIZ-PIANO Jan. 11  
JOSEPH KALICHSTEIN-PIANO Jan. 25  
CATHERINE MALFITANO-SOPRANO Mar. 21

#### DAYTONA WINTERFEST 2003

(904) 253-2901 or <www.dbss.org>  
THE BOSTON POPS-KEITH LOCKHART, CONDUCTOR: MY  
FAVORITE THINGS-A RICHARD RODGERS CELEBRATION Feb. 7  
AMERICAN BANDSTAND DINNER DANCE FEB. 8  
BOURBON STREET BRUNCH Feb. 9  
PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND Feb. 9

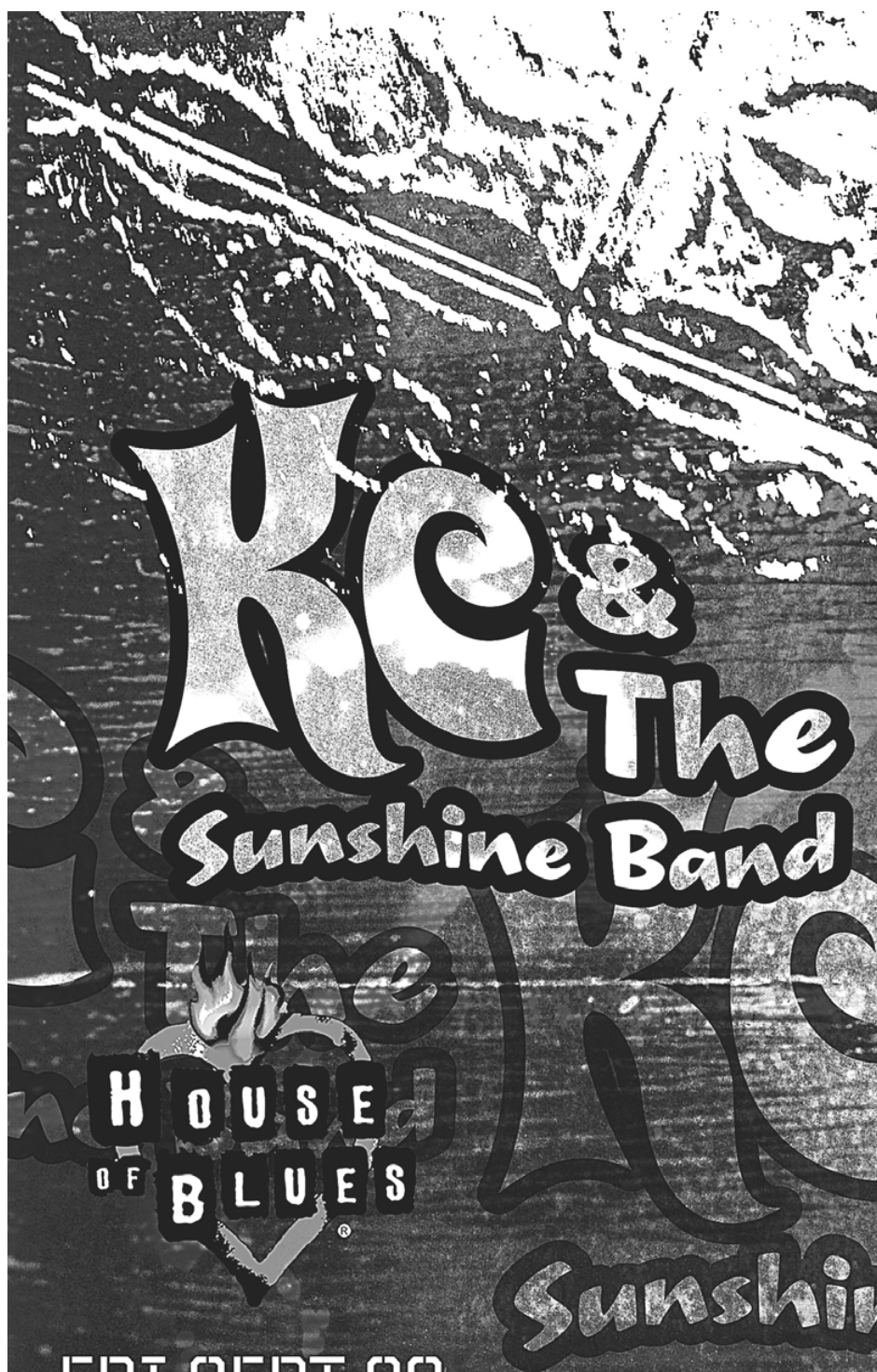
## LORI SURRENCY MUSICIAN/SINGER

**TAMPA BAY** - When Lori Surrency was five, her mother decided to take piano lessons. Surrency recalls the day that the instrument was delivered to her home and how she climbed into the moving van to play. Her mother noticed the way in which the keyboard enchanted her, and they began learning at the same time. That moment was a decisive one in Surrency's life and led to a career deeply immersed in music in every respect.

Surrency's early lessons paid off, and she was recognized as a gifted pianist almost from the start. When she wanted to participate in her seventh grade school chorus, the teacher, upon learning of her musical talents, immediately removed her from the singing ensemble and established her as the group's accompanist. A precedent for her later career, this action prepared Surrency for her work with such local



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groups as The Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus, Crescendo: The Women's Chorus of Tampa Bay and Bay Bridges Chorale — all organizations with whom she has served as principal accompanist.

Having moved to Tampa in 1997, Surrency made some difficult decisions concerning her career and has not been performing as actively as she did in her hometown of Lakeland, where she is very well known as a singer and a songwriter.

"I was listening to a lot of country, and my first song was called 'My Dog

One of the first songs musician LORI SURRENCY remembers writing was a little ditty called "Don't You Go Bitchin' At Me."



**SURRENCY'S MUSIC COULD BE LUMPED INTO THE NONDESCRIPT CATEGORY OF ADULT CONTEMPORARY, BUT SHE CONTINUES TO DEFY ALL LABELS.**

Has Fleas,'" Surrency laughs as she remembers her earliest song efforts. Another song she fondly recalls is "Don't You Go Bitchin' At Me."

Surrency's music could be lumped into the nondescript category of adult contemporary, but she continues to defy all labels. Influenced by the classical composers Claude Debussy and Sergei Rachmaninoff, she is also a huge fan of Nina Hagen, Kate Bush and Elton John. She likes to think of herself as

"kind of jazzy...[with] a country flair."

Having recently accepted the position of Education Manager at Mars Music, Surrency has decided to end her longstanding association with Crescendo: The Women's Chorus of Tampa Bay. She has worked with them since 1993.

"Lori is a phenomenal musician," Kim Callan, the Executive Director of Crescendo, says. "We appreciate her sharing her gifts with us, and we wish her the best as she enters a new phase of her life."

Surrency says that her concern for the Tampa Bay arts scene is a need for "more interaction, more integration and more outreach."

Although the area has many creative venues, commercialization is taking its toll on original artists. It all comes back to one philosophical truth for Surrency.

"When art becomes all about money, it suffers," she says. — D.J. Holt ▼

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MADAMA BUTTERFLY Feb. 19  
IL TROVATORE Mar. 8

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DIE FLEDERMAUS Feb. 15-Mar. 30  
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THE PEARL FISHERS Mar. 8-29

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STANISLAVSKY OPERA COMPANY: LA BOHEME Nov. 23  
RUSSIAN STATE OPERA: TOSCA Feb. 5  
TEATRO LIRICO D'EUROPA: MADAMA BUTTERFLY Feb. 24

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## LIFESTYLES

## A PASSION FOR FILM

From Page 29

when she moved to Atlanta at age 20. She went to art school, became involved in a vibrant underground art and music scene.

Another fruitful period for Hill began in 1994, when she moved to San Francisco. She adopted a striking blue crew cut, and plugged into a thriving lesbian arts and film scene as manager of The Chat House — “a dyke cafe if there ever was one.”

“A lot of things happened at that time,” she remembers. “I discovered distinct subcultures within the gay community, and I learned that just about everyone has a fascinating story to tell. And I went to film school and discovered the beauty of film.”

In 1998, Hill moved to Tampa to help with an ailing grandmother and reconnect with her family. She decided to use the time to finish college at the University of South Florida. She obtained her Bachelors degree in television production just last year.

Today Hill freelances as a filmmaker and video producer and editor. She supplements her income by selling broadcast equipment on eBay.

Both Hill and Nestor have been profoundly influenced by lesbian and gay film festivals - primarily Tampa's and San Francisco's. For Hill, that translated into a growing passion for documentaries. *Losing Lois* was her first hands-on project in this most personal of film motifs, and she's still absorbing lessons from the experience.

“Mostly, I learned what a collaborative process it is,” she says. “Barbara and Kathy and I each brought different unique skills and energy to the project. And I didn't realize the importance of that until I saw the final edit.”

Hill also notes that it was difficult being so close to such an emotional situation.

“I got discouraged doing the film,” she says. “Not only by Florida's whole ridiculous domestic partnership bias, but by how difficult it is for our people — the gay and lesbian community — to just be

on the same side. As a filmmaker it's difficult to cultivate trust, and I'm not sure I ever fully achieved it. It's uncomfortable being around all that fear.”

Ultimately, Hill would like to create films like the groundbreaking 80s documentary, *The Times of Harvey Milk*.

“Seeing that movie was life-changing for me,” she says. “It demonstrated how people can be enlightened by an hour of film. I want to enlighten people like that.”

## THE WILD BLUE YONDER

Amy Nestor learned basic videography at a local television station in her hometown, Steubenville, Ohio. She also attended the acclaimed Triangle Institute of Photography in

nearby Pittsburgh, and when she moved to the Tampa area in 1987 her first job was taking pictures for *Auto-Trader/Boat-Trader* magazine. When the magazine expanded to cable, she transferred to video.

The company was eventually sold, and the owner started a video production facility that became the largest in Florida. As a senior editor at Diamond P Production Group, Nestor worked on hundreds of shows, ranging from infomercials to the Super Bowl.

“I really cut my teeth there,” she says.

But when business slacked off last summer, Nestor decided it was time to go independent. She sold her house, downsized, bought a Sony Mini DV camcorder, and started scouting around for projects.

“I was afraid to leave the security of my job, but I'd been at it for 10 years and could do it in my sleep,” she says. “I knew what I wanted to do and so I mustered some courage and bit the bullet. And yes, it's scary as hell, but overcoming the fear is what keeps you moving and changing and growing. Now here I am... out in the wild blue yonder.”

To make ends meet, Nestor freelances and also shoots “weddings, bar mitzvahs, birthdays... you name it.” But her passion is clearly filmmaking.

*Deseo* was her first independent



*Butch Spa Day* was filmed with no budget and local friends as actors. Photo courtesy of Amy Nestor.

directing and editing project. The three-minute short required almost no budget and was filmed with all natural lighting in a friend's bedroom. It was applauded at film festivals in Tampa, Miami and San Francisco, and is now being sought for events in London and Germany.

Nestor says she'll never forget watching the film with an audience at the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Her partner, Michelle Charles, a breast cancer nurse at a local hospital, was convinced *Deseo* would be chosen by the “Cannes of gay film fests” and bought plane tickets months in advance.

“I had goose bumps, my heart was pounding out of my chest, and I couldn't swallow,” Nestor laughs. “But afterward a

stream of women — many of them accomplished filmmakers — told me I had captured something. It was really rewarding, and I was pretty damn proud.”

*Butch Spa Day* is Nestor's fourth film project, and it evidences Nestor's attraction for comedy.

“My dream project would be to develop a lesbian *Seinfeld* or *Sex In the*

*City*,” she says. “I'd also like to create gay and lesbian music videos... I think putting gay couples in that setting would be a powerful expression.”

But in the meantime, Nestor hopes to develop a local network of women filmmakers and creative types who could collaborate and support each other in their artistic goals. Both Hill and Nestor experienced that kind of community in San Francisco, and they believe it can be replicated in rapidly growing Tampa Bay.

“Making movies is a great way to meet chicks,” Hill laughs. “You'd be surprised... tell people you want to make a movie and they want to be in it.”

Says Nestor, “Anyone out there want to make a movie?” ▼

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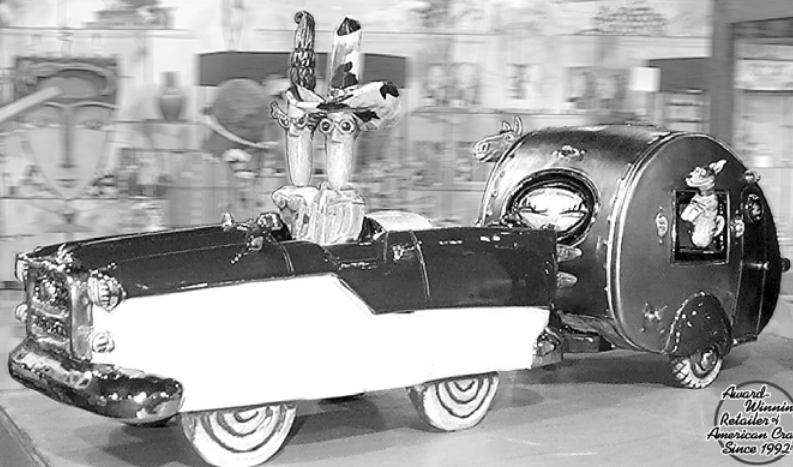
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## ADVICE-O-RAMA REPUTATION SUFFERS WHILE LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT

Advice by Keith Baber, M.Ed.

Dear Keith,

I'm a 34-year-old SGWM. I'm fine with the last three letters of my title; it's the "S" I'd like to drop. While I haven't really dated any one person significantly in quite awhile, I have sowed some oats while playing the field — as it were.

My friends and co-workers have been giving me a hard time lately, using such terms of endearment as "tramp," "easy," "ho," and, as my roommate affectionately refers to me on occasion, "dirty stay-out." In many ways I look at life as a smorgasbord (something I blame on being a Sagittarius) and enjoy nibbling my way through life. But the nibbling is getting tiresome and I have a need to enjoy a good, long-term, sit-down meal.

When I date a guy I enjoy the time I spend with him, and if the time calls for a little romantic action then so be it. I've found myself "dating" several guys at once, only to be chastised by my peers.

Despite my actions, I truly do want to settle down, but when I date somebody I tend to find at least one (or more) of their faults to be so serious that it prevents me from seeing past it to consider making the situation more long term. The overall things I want in a guy include the typical ideal husband qualities, but I'll admit I find myself placing a stronger emphasis on the atypical "more" and "better" physical attributes. You know: more muscular, better looking.

Am I making too big a deal out of nothing? Or am I just telling my friends too much about "what I did last night," and suffering the consequences?

Signed,  
Searching for Stability

Dear Searching,

The statement, "Insanity is doing the same behavior over and over and expecting a different result," may offer insight into the importance of changing one's methods and approaches in order to create an alternative and positive outcome.

Locating a short-term sexual lover is usually easier to do than finding a long-term committed partner. How you view the dating process is extremely important. Looking at dating as an opportunity for selecting a potential partner is a healthy and productive way of thinking. This experience can be most beneficial by knowing in advance what you are looking for. It is certainly wise to formulate which qualities are unacceptable and, on the flip side, the ones that you find most appealing. Having an idea about the qualities that you don't have adversity to can be helpful when minor faults surface as the relationship progresses.

Experimenting with new ways of connecting with a man can be refreshing, stimulating and rewarding. For instance, if you normally have sex with the person on the first meeting, then move away from that behavior by exchanging phone numbers with promises for a future date.

Kiss-and-tell among social groups sometimes produces consequences that inevitably cause friction and misunderstanding among friends. Therefore, it is best to share intimate experiences with only close and trusting friends.

Sometimes it is necessary to change the way we think in order to improve the behavior. There is a book titled *Love Connection* by Dr. Burns that may be helpful to you in understanding your thoughts, feelings and actions as they apply to ultimately finding a healthy relationship. ▽

## Transitions

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Master of all things odd **WEEGO** (9/2)

**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS:** Irish patriot **SIR ROGER CASEMENT** (9/1), chef **CRAIG CLAIBORNE** (9/4), critic **CYRIL CONNELLY** (9/10), writer **D.H. LAWRENCE** (9/11)

**DEATHS:** **ROBERT BARNES**, one of San Francisco's most influential gay political consultants, died on Aug. 11 at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. He was 42. Barnes, a San Francisco native, died of complications from Guillain-Barre syndrome, a neurological disease similar to multiple sclerosis. He is credited with helping win seats for more gay and lesbian candidates than any other political consultant in the country. Barnes helped the likes of Mayor Willie Brown, Assemblywoman Carole Migden and Supervisor Mark Leno get elected.



ROBERT BARNES

## BIRTHDAY? ANNIVERSARY? PROMOTION?

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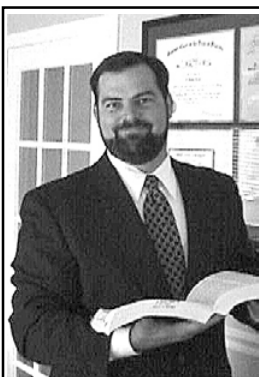
## SURVEY SAYS MOST AMERICANS WOULD SUPPORT GAY ATHLETES

ROCHESTER, NY - In a national opinion study, 65 percent of Americans said that they would not change their opinion of a "favorite" male or female professional athlete if he or she was gay or lesbian.

Public acceptance of openly gay athletes seems apparent through the responses of a separate survey question that asked individuals to use a word to describe an active, popular male athlete who reveals that he is gay. Three-quarters of all responses used positive expressions and labels, such as "honest," "being himself," "courageous," "heroic" or "fair-minded."

Almost half of GLBT respondents said they would have a "favorable" opinion of any athletes who disclose their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian.

"Clearly, the 'last closet' — the door to the locker room — is opening up," said Dan Woog, author of the upcoming *Jocks 2: Coming Out To Play*. "Americans understand that gay men and lesbians are truly everywhere, and the world continues to rotate. The biggest problem, it turns out, is not homophobia, but perhaps the perceived negative reaction of others — fans, sportswriters and sponsors."



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## GAY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GEARS UP FOR 18TH YEAR

ORLANDO - Orlando's gay and lesbian bowling league will begin its 18th year on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at Bowl America in Winter Park.

The Orange Blossom Bowling Association (OBBA), is the oldest and largest gay sports organization in Central Florida. Part of the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO), OBBA hosts two seasons annually and also holds an annual national tournament.

Four-person teams will be formed on Sept. 3. Teams can be all-male, all-female, or mixed. The organizational portion of the

evening begins at 8 PM; bowling starts at 9 PM.

"OBBA is also a handicapped league," said league president Keith Brown. "This means that all players — from experts to novice — start out equal."

Brown said that those wishing to participate in the fall/winter season, must join the American Bowling Congress (ABC).

For more information on OBBA, contact Brown at (407) 826-0348 or call Bowl America at (407) 644-2244. Bowl America is located at 1111 W. Fairbanks Ave. in Winter Park.

## SPORTS BRIEFS



## OUTSPORTS DEBUTS NEW CLUBHOUSE

Outsports.com, an Internet site dedicated to providing news and information to gay and lesbian sports fans, announced the launch of their new "Clubhouse" last week. This new version is complete with automated registration, searches by location and keywords, and a brand new feature, "Pop-A-Jock." Registration is free. The Clubhouse can help users find a new teammate, friend, or romance. The site is located at <http://www.outsports.com/newclubhouse/clubhouse1.cfm>.

## SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

## ORLANDO

## CENTRAL FLORIDA SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Adult softball league open to both gay men and lesbians of all abilities. (407)893-4966.

## G.L.B.L. BOWLING

Orlando's fun bowling league. Bowls Saturdays, 7 PM at the BowlAmerica in Winter Park. (407)875-5045. Ask for Peter.

## GAY BIKE ORLANDO

New gay bike group meets at Winter Garden Station of West Orange Trail, Sundays at 9 AM. For info write to GayBikeOrl@aol.com or call Mike at (407) 230-6798.

## GAY &amp; LESBIAN ORLANDO WATER SKIERS (GLOWS)

Orlando's water ski headquarters for bi, gay, and lesbians. Bi-weekly adventures will continue through winter. Contact Gary for info (407)855-4866.

## ORANGE BLOSSOM BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Tuesdays, 9 PM at Bowl America in Winter Park. All interested teams and individuals call (407)644-2244.

## ORANGE BLOSSOM TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Round robins on Sundays at 10 AM. All are welcome. For more information please contact (407)896-9766.

## ORLANDO FRONT RUNNERS &amp; WALKERS

Meets at the red pagoda, Lake Eola. Mondays, 6:30PM; Wednesdays, 7:30 PM; Saturdays, 9 AM. Call (407)897-6940; <www.orlandofrontrunners.org>.

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Meets every Tuesday at 7 PM. (407)894-3765.

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## FRONT RUNNERS TAMPA BAY

A not-for-runners-only club oriented to the gay and lesbian community. Meets every Saturday at 9AM in Old Hyde Park

Village at the fountain and Wednesday 6:45 PM at Fred Ball Park on Bayshore at Rubideaux (across from the "Slinky"). (813)202-2105.

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Harold, (813)933-7144. hharkins@mindspring.com.

## SAGA (MIXED) - RAINBOWLING LEAGUE

Wednesdays at 9 PM. Ten Pin Lanes in S. Pasadena. (727)381-1010.

## SOUTH TAMPA GLBT BOWLING

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Pinarama Bowling at 5008 S. Dale Mabry (just south of Gandy). (813)879-2095.

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## TAMPA BAY WOMYN'S SOFTBALL

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## TAMPA GAY VOLLEYBALL

Pickup games, teams, league currently being formed. Contact Mark at (813)655-5167 or visit <www.geocities.com.tampagayvball>.

## TEN PIN PRIDE LEAGUE - RAINBOWLING LEAGUE

Sundays at 6:30 PM. Ten Pin Lanes in S. Pasadena (727)381-1010.

## TWEDT'S PRIDE - RAINBOWLING LEAGUE

Fridays at 6:30 PM, Twedt's Lanes in Largo. (727)581-4102.

## WOMEN ANGLERS

New group for women anglers to get together weekly, bi-weekly and monthly to plan weekend day trips, weekend overnight trips for deep sea fishing. Contact them at <keywest2300@yahoo.com>.

## SARASOTA

## A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN

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- Feb. 4-9 Riverdance
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- Nov. 13 Puccini's La Boheme
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- Nov. 14 Cirque Eloize presents its Newest Creation: Nomade
- Nov. 30 The Georgian State Dance Company
- Jan. 29 Tango Buenos Aires
- Mar. 2 Marcel Marceau Farewell Tour
- Mar. 15 Band of the Grenadier Guards with The Scots Highlanders
- Mar. 22 Aeros - All New Show
- Mar. 26 The Trinity Irish Dance Company

## DANCE

- Jan. 25 The Moscow Classical Ballet in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake
- Feb. 13 Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal
- Feb. 28 Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
- Apr. 15 Limn Dance Company

## POP, JAZZ & COUNTRY

- Oct. 4 Sparkle Paper Towels presents Lee Ann Womack
- Oct. 12 The Temptations & The Four Tops
- Oct. 18 The Moody Blues - Sold Out
- Oct. 19 Michael Bolton
- Nov. 3 Elvis Costello - Sold Out
- Nov. 7 Boney James & Fourplay
- Nov. 8 Clint Black Part of the Verizon Music Festival
- Nov. 9 Peter, Paul & Mary
- Nov. 12 Hall & Oates
- Nov. 22 Kenny Rogers
- Nov. 25 Kenny Loggins
- Dec. 1 Wynonna
- Jan. 10 New York-New Jersey Reunion
- Jan. 14 Harry Belafonte
- Jan. 19 The Righteous Brothers
- Jan. 23-24 Johnny Mathis

## COMEDY

- Nov. 16 Blue Collar Comedy Tour II with Jeff Foxworthy & Bill Engvall
- Nov. 20 An Evening with Burt Reynolds
- Dec. 14 George Carlin

## HOLIDAY

- Nov. 23 The Irish Tenors Christmas Spectacular
- Nov. 29 The Colors of Christmas
- Dec. 6-8 Miami City Ballet & The Florida Orchestra in George Balanchines The Nutcracker
- Dec. 9 Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol The Musical
- Dec. 13 The Chocolate Nutcracker
- Dec. 17 Linda Eder's Holiday Concert
- Dec. 29 Salute to Vienna

## St. Petersburg Times FAMILY SERIES

- Sept. 29 ETC's Woodland Tales
- Oct. 27 One Monster After Another
- Nov. 17 ETC's The Snow Queen
- Dec. 14-15 The Chocolate Nutcracker
- Jan. 12 Leland Faulkner's World of Wonder
- Feb. 9 The Little Engine That Could
- Feb. 16 The Peking Acrobats
- Mar. 16 Go, Dog. Go!
- Apr. 12 The Florida Orchestras Symphony Safari
- Apr. 27 Franklin the Turtle

## ADULTS AT LEISURE

- Nov. 26 The Spencers Theatre of Illusion
- Dec. 9 Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol The Musical
- Dec. 16 The Irish Rovers Christmas
- Dec. 19 A Scottish Christmas
- Jan. 7 The Pied Pipers
- Jan. 21 Glenn Miller Orchestra
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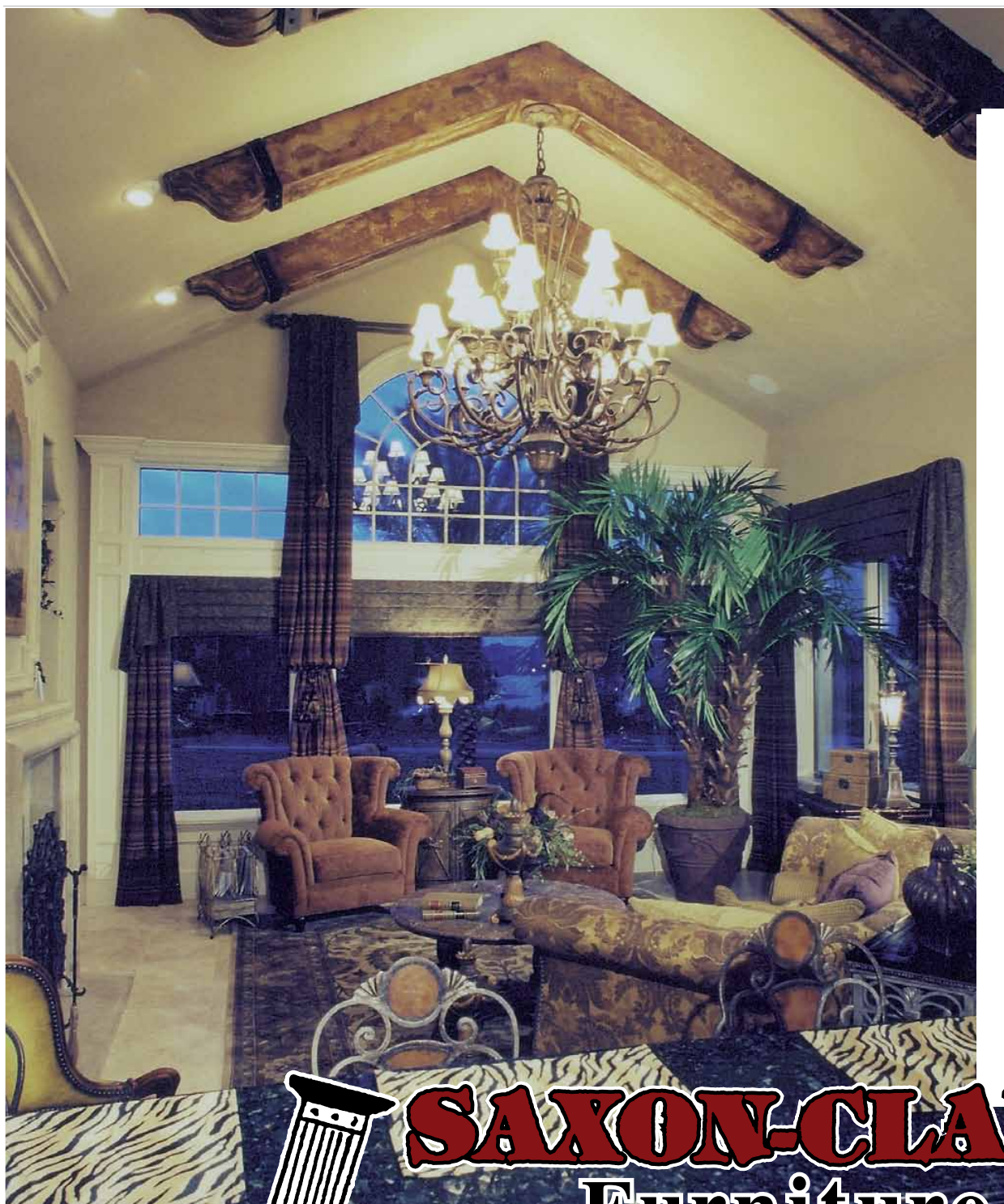
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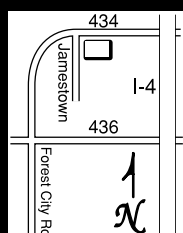
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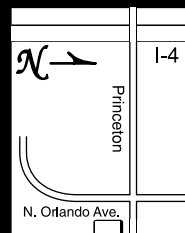
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# WATER COLORES

ENTERTAINMENT & DIVERSIONS

## THE GREAT WHITE WAY

DOUG WHITE PUTS ANOTHER FEATHER IN HIS CAP AS THE PRODUCER OF THIS YEAR'S HEADDRESS BALL.

BY SCOTTIE CAMPBELL

**ORLANDO** - Now in its 13th year, Headdress Ball has become one of the most anticipated annual events in Central Florida. The black-tie affair treats guests to an evening of style and grace while raising thousands of dollars to benefit AIDS service organization the Hope & Help Center. This year's Headdress Ball will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Universal Orlando's new resort, the Royal Pacific.

The quality entertainment that has become a Headdress tradition will have a Broadway flavor this year. Looking to breathe fresh air into the event, Hope & Help turned to Douglas White and his

Orlando-based production company, D2 Productions. A longtime theatre buff and performer, White recognized the theatre community's devotion to the HIV/AIDS cause and felt Broadway's inherent entertainment value was a natural fit. The theme will likely strike a chord with Headdress guests who have in the past paid as much as \$800 for signed posters from Broadway shows.

D2 Productions was not the only company interested in producing Headdress Ball, so White's first step was to present Hope & Help with a proposal. He and his team gave a detailed account of how the event would unfold in D2's hands. Though White has gained a reputation as a determined person, friends witnessed him attack the proposal with an unprecedented fervor.

"I've always wanted to be a bigger part of Headdress Ball," says White. "I saw this

wonderful happening in our community and felt that I could take it one step further."

### DANCING FEAT

Born the second son in a family of four children, Doug White was raised in West Branch, MI in the house his grandfather built and his father inherited. His parents still live in the house.

"So going home is really cool because you *really* go home," relates White.

He attended the high school where his father was a teacher and then moved on to Central Michigan University. Although he attended CMU to achieve a Bachelor of Science in Theatre Interpretation in order to teach on a secondary level, a chance audition changed the course of White's career and his life.

CONTINUED PAGE 16



ZELDA (with ERROL FLYNN) as the Virgin Queen: "The picture was shelved because of 'serious doubts.'"

## CELEBRATED DIVA EXPOSES HERSELF!

Who is "Zelda?" And how did she land the coveted gig as host of this year's Headdress Ball?

By Greg Triggs

**ORLANDO** - There's a new girl in town and she's lookin' down her nose at you — that is, on a poster that's plastered all over Central Florida.

Says Zelda, "Gravity is a bitch. Throw your head back ladies. It is harder to see the scars from the old nip-and-tuck!"

Legend of stage, screen and the Home Shopping Network, Zelda is the Grande Dame of this year's Headdress Ball.

Benefiting Hope & Help of Central Florida, the Ball is *the* fundraising gala of the season and many local celebrities will be in attendance honoring Orlando's newest diva.

Continued Page 10



Headdress Ball producer Doug White says the headdresses will be bigger and better than ever at this year's event.





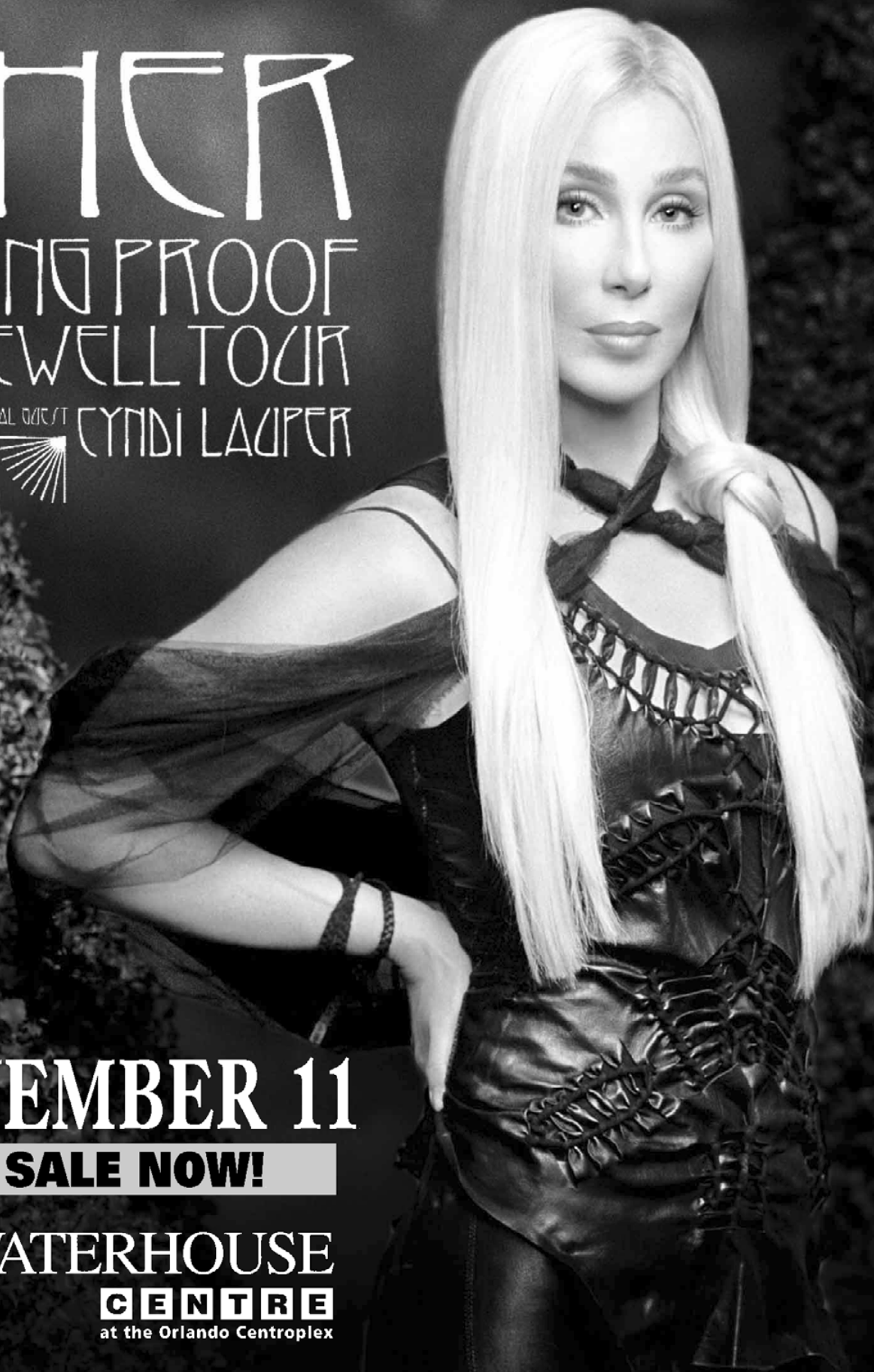
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2 August 29 - September 11, 2002

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## Water Picks

EVENTS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS



### ORLANDO

**SAT., SEPT. 7**

**THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE** is the perfect setting for the updated and expanded version of the runaway hit comedy of the 2000 and 2001 Orlando International Fringe Festivals, **THE NEVER BEFORE TOLD LIFE OF CAROL CHANNING**. Join Matthew Arter, as Carol Channing, as he/she takes you on a riotous romp recounting the Broadway legend's climb to stardom, and the roles Carol was meant to play. The fact that Miss Channing never did appear in *Peter Pan* or *Evita* doesn't keep her from performing songs from those shows in which she believes she should have been cast. Under the direction of the one and only Michael Wanzie, the show includes two additional songs and never before heard material. Tickets are only \$10 and there will only be five performances so call now for reservations. (407) 509-9899.

**SEPT. 13-15**

With all the hubbub surrounding Orlando's non-discrimination ordinance, this is a perfect time to attend **OUT & EQUAL'S 12TH ANNUAL WORKPLACE SUMMIT** being held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. This is the pre-eminent conference for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees and human resource professionals concerned about GLBT workplace issues. For more information check out the Business News on page 25.

### TAMPA BAY

**FRI., SEPT. 6**

**SIEGFRIED AND ROY's** larger-than-life film, **THE MAGIC BOX**, makes its way to **CHANNELSIDE CINEMA's** five-story-tall IMAX screen for an engagement that is scheduled to run for three to six months. Presented in eye-popping 3D, the film

follows the dreams of two boys from war-torn Germany as they combine a love of magic with a love of animals to become the world's greatest illusionists and Las Vegas' favorite couple. Narrated by Academy Award-winner Anthony Hopkins and packed with some of the most innovative digital special effects ever shown in an IMAX film, *The Magic Box* teaches us that if you dream big enough and hard enough anything can happen. For show times call (813) 221-0700 and for more on the illusive illusionists go to [www.siegfriedandroy.com](http://www.siegfriedandroy.com).

### SARASOTA

**THURS., SEPT. 19**

**SARASOTA OPERA** will hold auditions for the 2003 Apprentice Artists Program at the Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., downtown Sarasota. The program runs from Jan. 4 to Apr. 3, 2003 and the 12 men and 12 women accepted into the program form the chorus for Sarasota Opera's 44th season. In addition to Florida, auditions will be held in Chicago, San Francisco, and New York throughout the month of September. Complete audition information as well as application forms are available by contacting Christy Talbot at (941) 366-8450 ext. 422 or by visiting [www.sarasotaopera.org/apprentice](http://www.sarasotaopera.org/apprentice).

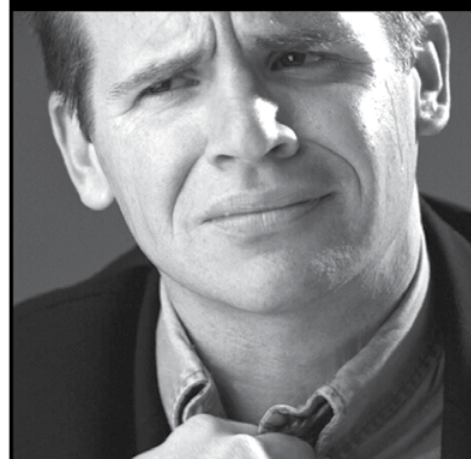


SIEGFRIED and ROY bring their *Magic Box* to Tampa's IMAX — and stop to raid Cher's closet along the way.



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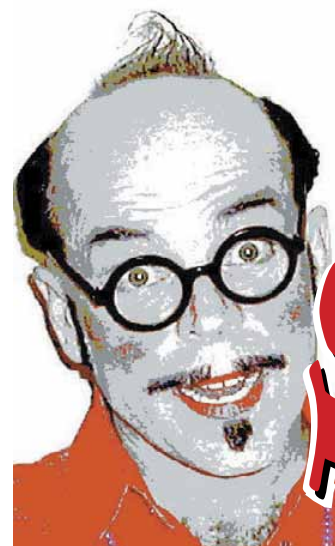
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## The Art of Living with Sterling Powell

# Sterling!

August 1977: 25 years ago **ELVIS PRESLEY**, The King, died, heralding the end of rock 'n' roll's innocence. During August 2002, tributes to Elvis were everywhere. More than 600,000 people will visit his Graceland home in Memphis, Tenn. during this year, and The King remains unmatched as a rock 'n' roll icon. But what did Elvis really do to make him this godlike figure in America's history? Why do we still love The King?

First, Presley appealed to working class America. Before he was famous, Elvis drove a truck, and he espoused his love for his momma and the good ol' USA. He was spirited, but not threatening like bad boys James Dean and Marlon Brando. Elvis was the boy next door. And when he shook his hips and sang rock 'n' roll, his joyful freedom became America's freedom. That spirit is why I believe we love Elvis.

Twenty-five years after Elvis's death, the rocker is getting a hi-tech revitalization: the first authorized reworking the original recordings. This year RCA, in the footsteps of Capitol Records and their release of The Beatles' *Ones* — is releasing an anthology of 30 remastered No. 1 hits by The King, like "Heartbreak Hotel" from way back in 1956. But the prize for collectors and listeners alike is a new cyber-Elvis single, a remake of "A Little Less Conversation" from the 1968 movie *Live a Little, Love a Little*. "A Little Less Conversation" skillfully revives Elvis at his best. Remixed by the Dutch DJ JXL, it sounds like a Fat Boy Slim single, lowering Elvis's voice and beefing up the 1968 guitars and horns with a looped funk riff, a cowbell and siren-like synthesizers, carrying Elvis's hunk-a-hunka burnin' love into the

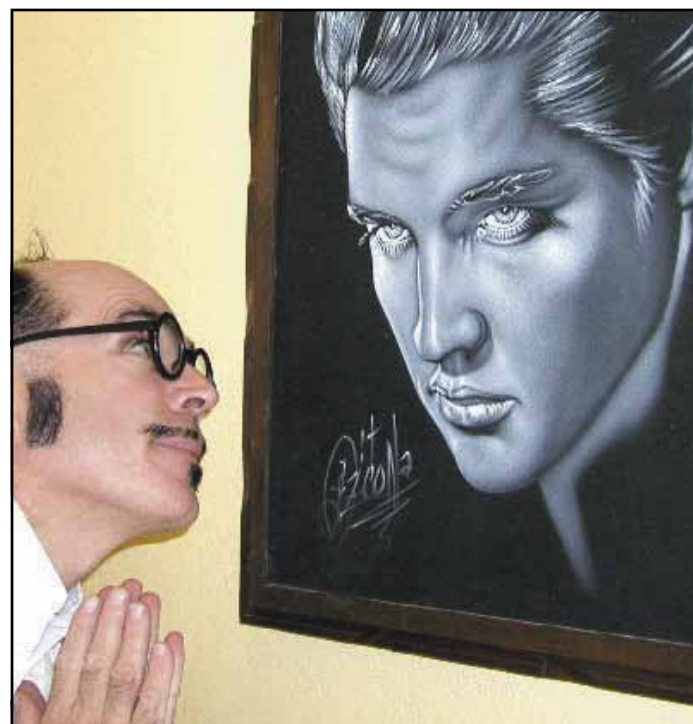
21st century dance bar.

Speaking of 21st century hunks, how about that **VIN DIESEL**? What a man! He's hyping himself as the century's first big action hero. Plus the part-Italian, part-African-American beefcake is packaging himself as America's first multiracial superstar. What Elvis did for music, Diesel wants to do in the movies: free us from certain boundaries.

Diesel is a fusion of brute force, bravado, and actual acting talent. He's not as handsome as The Rock, the preceding "next big action hero," who is also multiethnic. But there's something about all those muscles and tattoos that has hooked young moviegoers of all backgrounds.

Born Mark Vincent, Diesel grew up in New York's Greenwich Village and was acting by the time he was five. The acting, however, began accidentally. In a children's production of *Cinderella*, Diesel was cast as a horse while his fraternal twin Paul had the role of Prince Charming. Paul got stage fright, Diesel covered, and a Prince was born.

Already a hunk of burnin' love as a teen, Diesel got a job as a club bouncer between after-school acting gigs. It was then he took on his slick nickname.



The King will never really die: STERLING worships the velvet Elvis.

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Before there was *XXX*, VIN DIESEL wrote, starred in, and directed the film *Multi-Facial*.

The thespian-bouncer went on to college, majoring in English so he'd have a good background for writing screenplays. But he dropped out to write, direct and star in his own independent movies. One, a short autobiographical film called *Multi-Facial*, ended up playing at Cannes. **STEVEN SPIELBERG** saw the critically acclaimed mini-movie and cast Diesel in *Saving Private Ryan* as the Italian kid from New York, Private Adrian Caparzo. The exposure helped catapult Diesel into bigger roles in action movies such as *Boiler Room* and *Pitch Black* before he hit it big in last summer's *The Fast and the Furious*.

Industry insiders say Diesel couldn't

have come along at a better time. Hollywood's reigning action stars will soon be eligible for senior citizen discounts at McDonald's as **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER** hit 55 this year and **SYLVESTER STALLONE** turned 56. Energetic at 35, Diesel is the hip, young filmgoer's new action hero. He has several big projects coming up, including an epic about Carthaginian general **HANNIBAL** (I am so excited by this) and three spin-offs of *Pitch Black*. Plus, it appears as though *XXX* will be a multi-picture franchise. I know I can't wait for more Diesel.

In *XXX* he plays Xander Cage, an extreme-sport aficionado who is recruited by the government to infiltrate an underground Russian spy ring. The mission, of course, requires Diesel to engage in all sorts of death-defying stunts, all the while showing off rippling muscles covered in tattoos. I would have loved to watch this flick with my first boyfriend Tim, a grease monkey fag if ever there was one, at a drive-in. Oh, my god! This is so a drive-in movie.

Diesel says he'll steer as far away from a 007-type role as possible. Instead, he likes playing the heavy with a heart of gold.

"We don't learn anything from the whitewashed heroes," he told *The*

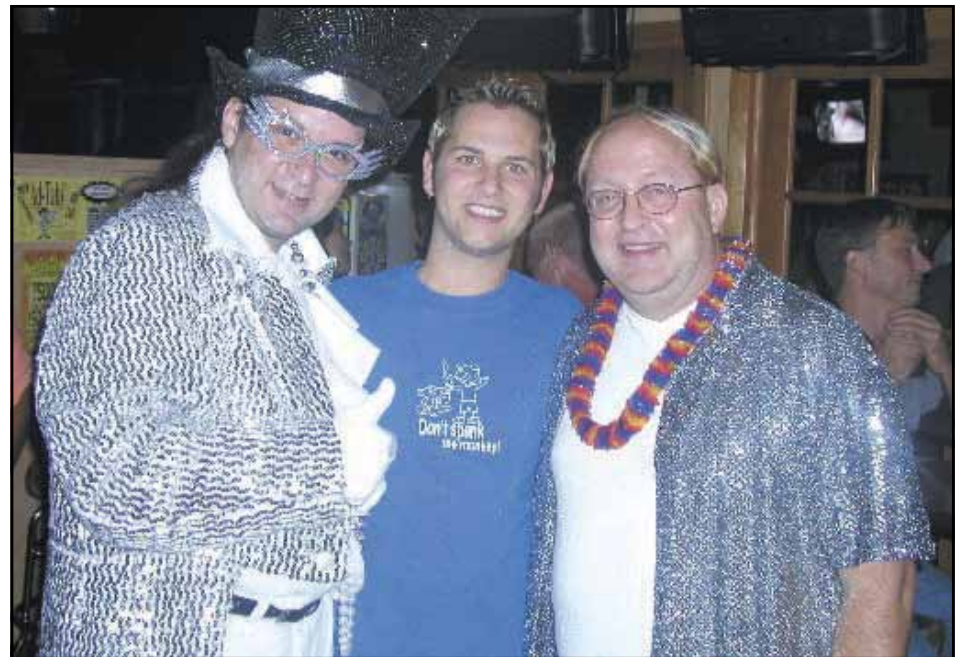
*Guardian*. "We learn from the imperfect." Remember we love Elvis.

**PARTY**, a perfect comedy about imperfect heroes, opened triumphantly at the brand-new Central Stage Theatre. The play was a good laugh, the theatre — wonderful. Can't wait to see the next show on Sept. 19, *Me & Jezebel*. Central Stage Theatre is located at 2235 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg.

After **PARTY**, I stopped by **GEORGIE'S ALIBI** where I ran into

long-time community supporters **MARK BIAS, KEITH FRY** and **CARRIE WEST**, also known as the MC Film gang. Talk about perfect heroes. I love these guys.

Let me know what's going on — art openings, parties, any upcoming event you think will be fun. You can e-mail me at [Sterling@SterlingPowell.com](mailto:Sterling@SterlingPowell.com). Remember fun begins with your willingness to seek it out. Until next time please take some time to seize the moment and enjoy the scene. ▼



MARK BIAS, KEITH FRY and CARRIE WEST, a.k.a. the MC Film guys, were spotted at Georgie's Alibi after a Party.

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6 August 29 - September 11, 2002



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# CALENDAR



## ORLANDO

### ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

Aug. 28 - Oct. 13 at the Mark Two Dinner Theater. Irving Berlin's rip-roarin' musical of the Wild West. It's a sharp-shootin', heart-poundin' tale of romance and rivalry. For more information call (407) 843-6275 or visit <www.themarktwo.com>.

### BONES

Aug. 15 - 31. Have you ever had to bury a dog? Mad Cow Theatre hosts this tragicomic mystery set in a pet cemetery. An original play by former canine cemetery gravedigger Robert Florence. For ticket information call (407) 298-9727.

### HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

Through Aug. 29 at The Parliament House. The twisted tale of a young East German boy who gets a botched sex change operation. Call Fall River Productions for reservations at (407) 509-9899.

## TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

### SIEGFRIED & ROY: THE MAGIC BOX

Sept. 6 - Nov. 25. Presented in 3D on the IMAX screen at Channelside Cinemas. Narrated by Anthony Hopkins. Featuring the dynamic duo

of illusions and their beastly companions. (813) 221-5882.

### THE ZOO STORY

Sept. 6 - 22 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Edward Albee's harrowing portrait of a man alienated from the human race is presented by Dog & Pony Productions. (813) 222-7827 or <www.tbpac.org>.

### PARTY

Through Sept. 15. Central Stage Theater's inaugural performance will be the presentation of this David Dillon play, featuring the playwright himself in the role of Ray the priest. This edgy new theater is located at 2235 Central Ave in St. Pete. Call (727) 327-PLAY for more information.

### STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Through Sept. 1. Presented by Yo Soy Irini Productions, Inc. at the Italian Club in Ybor City. Come see the play that the hit film was based on. For ticket information and show times call (813) 719-2019.

### FILUMENA

Through Aug. 30 at Florida Studio Theatre, Sarasota. This Italian comedy blends biting humor and sorrow to tell the story of a former prostitute and the lover she tricks into marrying her. (941) 366-9000.

### SHEAR MADNESS

Through Sept. 1 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. The story of Tony Whitcomb, proprietor of the Shear Madness salon and Barbara De Marco, the gum-chewing manicurist. Lives change after the murder of a concert pianist. (813) 222-7827 or <www.tbpac.org>.



## TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

### CHER: THE LIVING PROOF FAREWELL TOUR

Sept. 2 at the Ice Palace Arena. Diva and legend Cher says goodbye after a four-decade career with what she says will be her final tour ever. Special guest Cyndi Lauper will warm up the crowd, making the show more like a double dose of divas. For tickets call (813) 287-8844.



## DAYTONA/SPACE COAST

### INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sept. 7 - Oct. 19 at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Exhibition featuring the works of photographers Andrew Cross, UK; Torben Eskerod, Denmark; Stephen Lawson, Scotland; Elaine Ling, Canada; and Yuri Nagawara, Japan. For more information visit <www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org>.

### COLLECTION OF MASTER ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK MITCHELL

Ongoing exhibition at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in the Hester Merwin Ayers Gallery. Mitchell is well known for his photos of celebrities as well as dancers. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information call (386) 427-6975.

### SOUTH PACIFIC SELECTIONS: WORKS BY PAUL JACOULET

Through Nov. 3 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona. Selections to complement the Micronesian folk art exhibiton. (386) 255-0285 or <www.moas.org>.

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West Oaks Mall  
407-294-2199

Oviedo Marketplace  
407-977-3791







## WORKS BY JANINE ANTONI

Through Aug. 31 at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna. Janine Antoni is participating in the Center's Master Artists-in-Residence program. (386) 427-6975 or <www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org>.

## CITY OF WONDERS

Through Sept. 1 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. A 2,500-square-foot interactive exhibition that teaches the ins and outs of municipal services. (386) 255-0285 or <www.moas.org>.

## TRADING WITH TRADITION

Through Sept. 8 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Twentieth century Micronesian art from the Wavell-Lamberty collection. (386) 255-0285 or <www.moas.org>.

## ORLANDO

### HOLOCAUST PROJECT: FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

Through Nov. 3 at the Orlando Museum of Art. This exhibition takes visitors on a journey into one of the darkest periods of modern history through a series of works which include a tapestry, two stained glass pieces and 13 large scale tableaux. (407) 896-4231 or <www.OMArt.org>.

### THE ART OF INDIA

Through Aug. 30 at the Maitland Art Center. This exhibition will feature two most unique and creative artistic endeavors, one is the batik works of Abdul Majeed, the other is works by Harsh Chhajer, the only known artist to use natural dried sea froth as his medium. (407) 539-2181 or <www.maitartctr.org>.

### TIMELESS BEAUTY

Through Sept. 22 at The Cornell Fine Arts Museum on the campus of Rollins College. Watch keys and other decorative arts from the museum's collection. Call (407) 646-2526 for more information.

## TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

### OUTDOOR SHOW

Sept. 6 - Oct. 31 at the L'attitude Gallery 1219 First Street, Sarasota. The best of steel, glass, and stone to turn a corner of your yard or patio into a focal point. For more information call (941) 373-0767.

### PENCIL, PAPER, PASTELS AND MORE

Aug. 30 - Sept. 29 at the Adrian Howard Galleries. Included in this exhibit are the imaginative graphite interpretations of Jay Herres, Vince Pizak, Michael Chestnut, John Mowder and the figurative and animal drawings of Jennifer Hough. Also included are pastels by one of our featured artists, Gary Gessford. Located at the Suncoast Resort in St Petersburg. Call (727) 865-6906 for gallery hours.

### TOTAL RISK II: THE BIRTH OF NOW-A SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY ART TRENDS

Sept. 6 - 29 at the Catherine Hickman Theater in the Gulfport Public Library. Featuring local artists Sarah Thee Capagna, Nancy Gable, Frank Hibrandt, Hugo S. Porcaro Jr., Steven Reigns, and Vespa. Meet the artists at the opening reception. For further information call (727) 384-9064.

## WOMEN OF VISION: AN EXPERIENCE IN SEEING BY THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Through Sept. 15 at the Tampa Museum of Art. This exhibit is a dream come true for twelve women who felt that being blind should not impair their artistic expression. Works in the exhibit range from a collaborative clay installation, paintings inspired by the landscape, still-life paintings, charcoal drawings, baskets, and relief prints. (813) 274-8130.

## SUMMER SALON

Through Sept. 3 at Hyde Park Fine Arts. An invitational group exhibition, featuring multiple works by each of the participating artists. (813) 258-8883 or <www.hydeparkfineartsgallery.com>.

## UNDERCURRENT/OVERVIEW 6

Through Sept. 22 at the Tampa Museum of Art. An annual exhibition which highlights work created by both prominent and emerging artists from the Tampa Bay area. (813) 274-8130.

## ANSEL ADAMS

Through Sept. 15 at the Museum of Fine Arts. Photographs by one of American's great photographers. (727) 896-2667.

## FORMS OF CUBISM: SCULPTURE AND THE AVANT-GARDE

Through Sept. 8 at the Salvador Dali Museum in St Petersburg. For more information, visit <www.salvadoralimuseum.org>.

## ORLANDO

### WALT DISNEY ENTERTAINMENT

Auditions for singers, dancers, musical theater performers, face characters, acrobats, gymnasts, tumblers and aerialists for their stage shows and events will be held Sept. 3 - 5. For more information and audition requirements visit the audition site at <www.disneycareers.com> or call the audition hotline at (407) 397-3220 and press option 5.

### MAD COW THEATRE

Sept. 7 & 8. General auditions for the remainder of 2002-2003 season. Information on auditions can be found at <www.madcowtheatre.com/pasture/auditions>.

## TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

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"Calendar of Events" is provided on a space available basis and events are listed at Watermark's discretion. Press releases may be mailed to Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32853-3655; faxed to (407)481-2246; e-mailed to mail@watermarkonline.com. Deadline for next issue: Sept. 3.

## ALL THE DRAMA



### Business of Fancydancing Saturday, Oct. 12th 9:00 pm

Audience Award - San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Film Festival  
Outstanding Actor Award (Evan Adams) - OUTFEST  
Outstanding Screenwriting - OUTFEST  
Meet star Evan Adams at the Tampa premiere!

### Claire Wednesday, Oct. 9th 8:00 pm

Film Festival Special Presentation  
Magical silent film screening with live orchestral accompaniment



### Ruthie and Connie Every Room in the House Sunday, Oct. 13th 5:00 pm

"They're Jewish. They're grandmothers.  
They're lesbians. And they're HOT!"



### Lianna Thursday, Oct. 10th 8:45 pm

"From John Sayles comes the best lesbian drama you've never seen!"



## Tickets On Sale Now

For more information, or to buy tickets online visit our website at [www.pridefilmfest.com](http://www.pridefilmfest.com)

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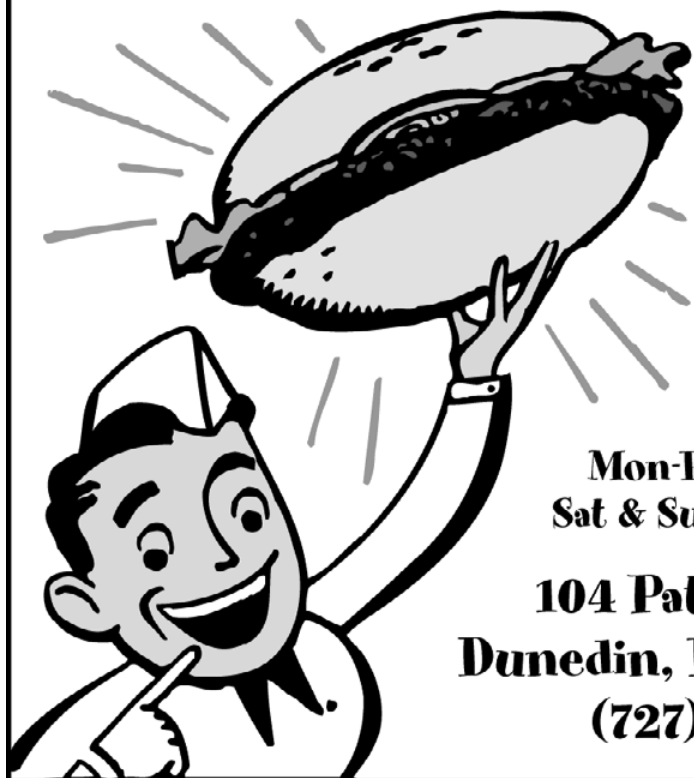
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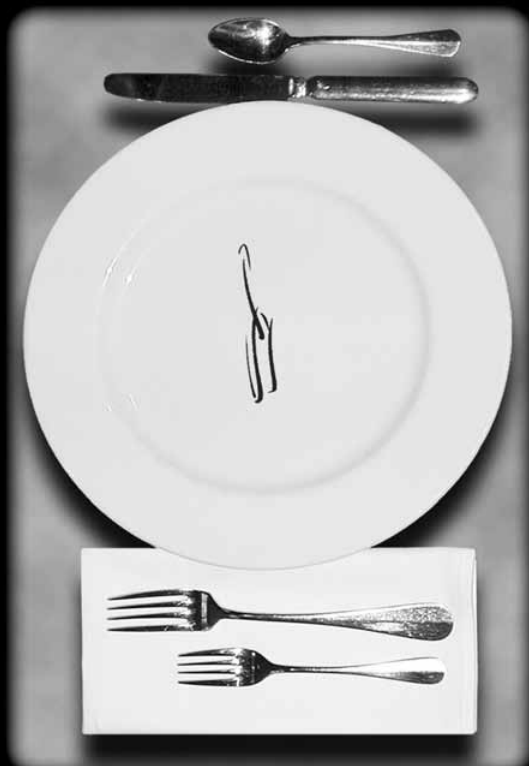
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## THE PARTY'S NOT OVER YET

Central Stage's production of gay play *Party* has been extended due to popular demand.

Theater Review by Rick Walen

**ST. PETERSBURG** - Hats off to Brett Lassiter and the folks at the Central Stage Theatre Company for turning an empty warehouse into a great little performance space in the heart of St. Petersburg's Grand Central District. Lassiter's theatre made its debut with the opening of David Dillon's internationally acclaimed *Party* on Aug. 2.

The theatre itself is small and unobtrusive. It still has a bit of the warehouse feel, but is very functional. There are still some issues to be worked out related to cooling the facility. Unfortunately, all of the doors lead directly to the outside with no buffer, but hopefully with continued community support this can be corrected. Logistics aside, this is still a phenomenal venue and an opportunity to showcase real theatre and local talent.

What is very interesting about this particular play is that even though it was written in 1992, it is still very current and works in a contemporary setting. Most of the jokes and asides are still commonplace among gay men. And regardless of your age group, I'm sure you will relate to the material.

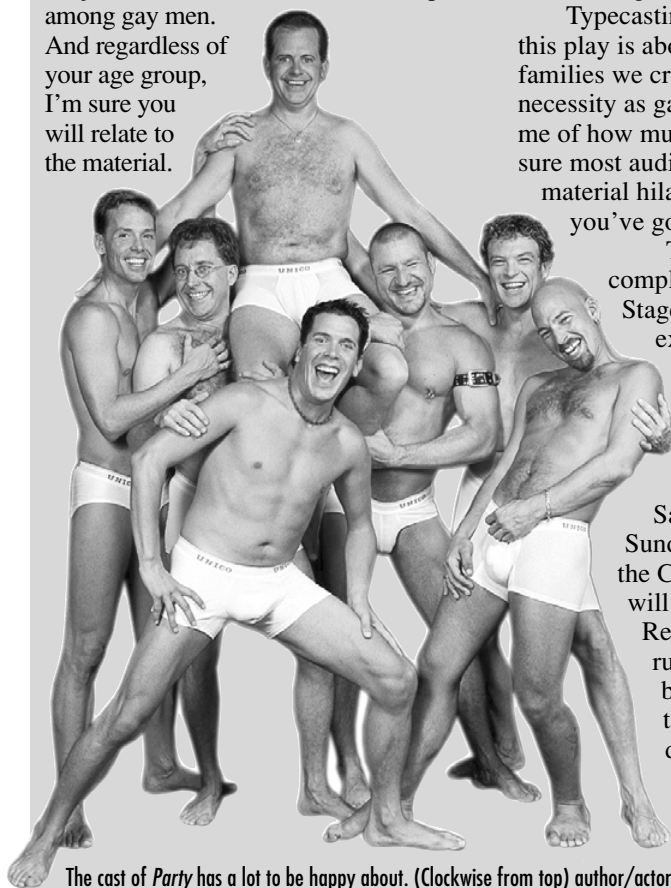
The writer has done a wonderful job of capturing a group of characters who at one point or another definitely reminded me of friends or people I'd met along my journey. There is surely someone in this show that all who see this production will identify with or recognize. The play takes us through a range of emotions and is heavy on laughs, especially for a gay audience.

The nudity is for the most part a non-issue and after a while just becomes part of the game. For the art-critic-turned-theater-maven in this community, it is painfully obvious by her review that she just didn't get it. This play is not about sex. It incorporates sexuality into the story line because we're talking about seven gay men. Hello!

The acting overall was very good, sometimes over the top, but still believable. These actors did a nice job of bringing these characters to life. And after meeting a couple of them, I had to wonder where the acting stopped and real life began (wink, wink).

Typcasting and stereotypes aside, this play is about family. It is about the families we create by choice and necessity as gay men. It also reminded me of how much I love being queer. I'm sure most audiences would find this material hilarious, but if you're gay, you've got to see this play.

The initial run is now completely sold out. Central Stage Theatre Company is extending the show for two weeks, six performances only, through Sept. 15. The final two weeks' performance schedule will be Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM and Sundays at 3 PM. Following the Central Stage run, *Party* will move to the Suncoast Resort for an open-ended run where the owners are building a theater to house the show. Performance dates and times will be announced soon, but it is anticipated that there will be little or no gap between the runs. ▼



The cast of *Party* has a lot to be happy about. (Clockwise from top) author/actor DAVID DILLON, DAVE ALAN THOMAS, JEFF RAY, DANIEL J. HARRIS, CHRISTOPHER KNOTT, SLAKE COUNTS and DON DUPREE. Photo by Jeff Bynum.





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10 August 29 - September 11, 2002



ZELDA in a very early ad for Depends — "Don't Leave Home Without 'em!"

## CELEBRATED DIVA EXPOSES HERSELF!

From Page 1

Perhaps some of you are unfamiliar with Zelda's many and varied accomplishments.

Once described by Rock Hudson as, "the one that got away," she got her start in a silent film as Cleopatra's mute sister Hitinkhanum.

"Of course, I was a fetus when I began," claims our revisionist hostess.

From there it was an escalator ride straight to the middle. Infamous for lip-synching in many movie musicals, Zelda claims her favorite dance partners were Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and Marlene Dietrich.

"A gal like me always has to lead. I don't follow," claims our E! True Hollywood Story waiting to happen.

Among the projects that our icon-on-life-support almost participated in is *The Women*, but lost out when Daryl Zanuck said, "The title is *The Women*, and if that dame has female plumbing I'll bottom for Louis B. Mayer!" Undaunted, our plucky heroine kept going.

When close-ups started making her look like a geriatric bloodhound, Zelda conquered Broadway. Before being let go in an out of town try-out in Sun Prairie, Wis. she was Guenivere to Richard Burton's King Arthur in *Camelot*.

"Of course with Burton and I in the same room, it should have been called *Came A Lot*," says The First Lady of Kissimmee.

After working for years as a stand-in and lighting double for all the biggies in Hollywood, she turned her fortunes to television. She lost the role of Anne Marie in *That Girl* to Marlo Thomas after a long-forgotten ABC executive said, "If that broad is a girl, I'll end up working for Disney someday!"

But Zelda always gets the last laugh.



ZELDA with her favorite leading man, "Oscar" (oh — and MIKE TODD, too!)

And now this lady who lunches is conquering Central Florida. This year's theme for the Headdress Ball is "Broadway Today," and the woman who actually knew Michael Wanzie before he started drinking will stand in the center spotlight.

While some claim an uncanny resemblance to Orlando's own Miss Sammy, another local Broadway legend, don't let the Divine Miss Z hear you make the comparison. She is unique and a creation all her own.

Come meet Zelda and a buffet of other performers at Hope & Help's annual gala. Just as the posters promise: "It ain't your mama's Headdress Ball. It's a walk on the naughty side and Zelda will be leading the parade on Sept. 14 at the Royal Pacific Resort.

Call Hope & Help at (407) 645-2577 or visit the Web site at <[www.hopeandhelp.org](http://www.hopeandhelp.org)> for more details or to make a reservation. And baby you better hurry, because unlike Zelda and Burton, this show only comes once a year! ▼



ZELDA dances with an unsuspecting sailor in *The Big Tease*.

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12 August 29 - September 11, 2002

## ORGANIZATIONS &amp; MEETINGS

## DAYTONA BEACH/SPACE COAST

## BREAKTHROUGH

Networking organization for gays and lesbians in Seminole and Volusia counties. (407)668-6112.

## BREVARD LESBIANS

Lesbian social group. (321)951-2172; <www.brevardlesbians.com>.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Member of HIV/AIDS Florida Community Planning Group. Meets at Volusia County Health Department. (904)238-4727.

## DAYTONA BEACH REGIONAL BEARS ASSOCIATION

Social group of bears, cubs and other friends who congregate, not hibernate. <www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm> or e-mail at gntlbear@comcast.net.

## FUN COAST BEARS

Social group that meets the 3rd Sun. of the month at 3 PM at Rumors on Nova Rd., Holly Hill. E-mail bears@funcoastbears.org or go to <www.funcoastbears.org> for more information.

## GALBA

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University student group. (904) 226-7222 voice mail 333-3000; <www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/clubs/galba/index.html>.

## GAY/BI MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP

Peer counseling and support group. Meets the last Mon. (407)777-9833.

## GREATER DAYTONA BUSINESS GUILD

Guild of gay-friendly businesses. Meets every third Mon.; 7 PM. (386)322-8003; <www.gaydaytona.com>.

## OUTREACH, INC.

HIV/AIDS service organization. Offers testing, counseling and support groups. (904)255-5569; <www.outreachinc.org>.

## OVER THE RIVER

GLBT and supporters social group for those living in Volusia and Seminole counties. Meets second Fri. (407)400-2879; <http://hometown.aol.com/nolikehypocrites/index.html>.

## PFLAG DAYTONA

Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Tues.; 7 PM; Hope MCC in Daytona, 500 South Ridgewood Ave. (US1). (386)322-4169; support@pflagdaytona.org; <www.pflagdaytona.org>.

## SPECTRUM

Social group for GLBT and supporters. Meets every other Thurs. (904)228-8187; rapunzel69@hotmail.com.

## ORLANDO

## AA WAKE UP CALL

Twelve-step program. Meets each Sun.; 10 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Social group for bears and their admirers. Meets second Sun.; 4 PM; Full Moon Saloon. (407)896-0239; <www.bocf.org>.

## BLACK &amp; WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Social group for black and white men — all are welcome. Meets second Sat.; 2 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## BMCO

Big Mans Club of Orlando. Social club for big men and their admirers. Visit <communities.msn.com/BIGMANSCLUBOFORLANDO/\_whatsnew.msnw> or call Ricky at (407)422-6040 or (407)310-7612.

## BOOKLOVERS

American Association of University Women social group for those who love to read and talk about books. Meets first Tues. (407)677-1186.

## CENTAUR

Central Florida AIDS United Resources. Offers counseling, support groups, educational programs and HIV testing. Phone (407)849-1452. Hotline: (407)841-2437.

## CODA

Twelve-step program dealing with codependency. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## COLAGE

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. A youth support group for ages 13-20. (407)897-2266; BardMerlin@aol.com.

## CONQUISTADORS M.C., INC.

Levi/leather social club. Meets first and third Sun.; 4:30 PM; Full Moon Saloon. (407)647-4604.

## EVOLVE

Support group for transgender, transsexual and transvestite persons facilitated by a certified sex therapist. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## FAMILY VALUES

GLBT radio program on WPRK 91.5 FM. Each Fri.; 2-3 PM. (407)646-2915 or 2241.

## FREEDOM OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Twelve-step program for overeaters. Meets second and fourth Mon.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## GALA

Gay and Lesbian Association. Valencia Community College student group. Meets each Thurs.; 1 PM; east campus. <www.geocities.com/vccgala>.

## GALIXY

Social/support group for gay and lesbian youth and their straight friends. Call Mike McKee for meeting time. (407)282-9685; <www.galixy.org>.

## GAP

Gay Asian Pride. Social/support group for GLBT Asians and Pacific Islanders and their friends. Meets first Mon.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## GAY SKATE

Rollerskating night for GLBT and straight people of all ages. First Mon.; 9 PM; Semoran Skateway.

## GIRTH AND MIRTH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Social club of big men and their admirers. Second and fourth Tues.; 7 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## GLBCC-THE CENTER

Gay Lesbian Bisexual Community Center. Hosts various social groups and offers programs assisting the GLBT community. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## GLBT PARENTS GROUP

Arranges social events for GLBT parents and their children. Initial meetings GLBCC. (407)301-8070; mbwboyfl@aol.com.

## GREATER ORLANDO COUPLES

Local chapter of the Couples National Network. Various meeting times and locations. Call Michael at (407)282-0090 or more information.

## HARBOR HOUSE

Orange County Center Against Domestic Violence. Crisis Line: (407)886-2856. Community Outreach: (407)895-6099. Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline: (800)500-1119.

## JOYRIDERS

GLBT motorcycle riding group. Meets fourth Mon.; 10 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## LAMBDA CAMPING

Gay and lesbian campers. Camping rallies once a month. (407)831-4926.

## LOG CABIN CLUB OF ORLANDO

"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." Meets fourth Tues.; 6 PM. (407)923-4000; LogCabinOrlando@iname.com.

## LONG YANG CLUB

International friends social group for single men and couples of various ethnic backgrounds. (407)324-1846; iflor@aol.com.

## MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

Twelve-step program and support group for recovering marijuana addicts. Meets Sun.; 11:30 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8172; <www.glbcc.org>.

## MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP

Support group for men 18 and over dealing with coming out. Meets Wed.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

General meeting first Thurs. (407)420-2182.

## MISHPUCHA

Jewish gay and lesbian group. Meets at the Center Monday night, 7 PM. Please call 407-895-0706 or e-mail Mishpuchamail@yahoo.com for info.

## OPEX

Pansexual support group. Meets third Sat.; 11 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## ORLANDO GAY CHORUS

Community chorus; welcomes everyone. Meets Wed.; John & Rita Lowndes building. (407)841-SING; <www.orlandogaychorus.org>.

## ORLANDO MEN'S DISCUSSION

Discussion group for gay men. Meet Thurs.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS

O-QUAC. Social/resources group for GLBT academics and intellectuals. cschippe@mail.ucf.edu; tpugh@mail.ucf.edu.

## ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB

A gay men's group to network with other professionals meets monthly at different establishments. Beach outings, parties, and community building activities. Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/flausaguy/myhomepage/club.html> for more.

## OWLS

Support group for women over 40 and the people who love them. Last Thurs.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Wed.; 7:30 PM; First United Methodist Church. (407)236-9177.

## POLY-CENTRAL

For those interested in the concept of loving more than one person. Meets once a month. <www.PolyCentral.andmuchmore.com>; polycentral@mail.com.

## POSITIVE SUPPORT

Support group for individuals who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Meets Thur.; 6:30 PM; Congregational Church of Mount Dora. (352)589-1300.

## PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Social/support group for gay and bisexual men over 50 and younger men who admire them. Meets last Sat.; 3:30 PM; Parliament House Footlight Theatre. (407)884-9834; PRIMETIMECFL@aol.com.

## PRINCIPLE BEFORE PERSONALITIES

Twelve-step AA program geared towards diversity and fellowship. Meets Fri.; 7 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## PRISM-EA

Emotions Anonymous. Twelve-step program for one's individual progress and movement towards health and emotional recovery. Meets second and fourth Sat.; 9:20 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## RAIN

Rights and Integration Now. Social/support group for any gender or orientation 18 and over. Meets Tue.; 6 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

GLBT group of Democrats and Independents. Meets fourth Mon.; 6:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## RAINBOW NA

Twelve-step narcotics recovery program geared toward gay community. Meets Wed.; 8 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## RAINBOW SPIRIT

Discussion group for gay and bisexual men about lifestyle choice and spiritual development. Meets at Center of Light Church & Spiritual Center. (407)228-0101.

## REFLECTIONS

Social/support group for men and women of any gender or orientation ages 20-30. Meets Wed.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## SISTAH CIRCLE

Support group for lesbians of color. (407)443-6696; <www.mysistahcircle.bizland.com>; littleafrica77@hotmail.com.

## SUNSHINE RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

Social group for both hearing and non-hearing gays. (407)852-0515.

## TEEN ACT (AIDS COMMUNITY THEATER)

Group of teens and young adults 13 and older who use theatre to educate others on HIV/AIDS. Meets Thurs.; 6:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sun.; 2 PM; GLBCC. (321)549-0713; <www.tridentcfl.org>.

## UCF GLBSU

University of Central Florida Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union. Meets Tue.; 8 PM; Student Union Building on Main Orlando Campus. ucfglbsu@ucf.edu.

## WILLOW

Social group for women who live in Lake County. Meets second Sun.; Mt. Dora Chamber of Commerce. (352)383-2165.

## THE WOMYN'S EXCHANGE

Social/support group for all womyn of all orientations. Meets Thurs.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## WE 2 HAVE PARENTAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

Group formed to bring awareness to same sex parenting issues. Meets bimonthly; 7 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

## TAMPA BAY AREA

## BAMACT

Bay Area Men of All Colors Together is Tampa Bay's local chapter of the National Organization of Black and White Men Together. We are a gay interracial group with a social, political and educational focus. Call (727)461-2617 or visit <www.geocities.com/bamact\_fl> for more information.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Support group for friends and family who've experienced a recent loss of a loved one. Meets second and fourth Thurs.; 7 PM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)871-2232.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





**BROT HassPEAK**

Discussion group that touches on issues that are germane to same-gender-loving men of color. Meets the second Sun. of each month, 5 PM at the Equality Florida Offices, 3708 Swann Ave., Tampa. (813)236-8809.

**CRESCENDO: THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS**

Lesbian, feminist chorus. Meets Sun.; 6:15 PM; MCC Tampa. (813)679-7585; CrescendoSings@aol.com.

**THE CENTER OF TAMPA BAY**

GLBT community center. Offers phone referrals, meeting space, re-source center and more. Located next to Equality Florida, 3708 Swann Ave. (813)875-8116; <www.tampacenter.org>.

**EQUALITY FLORIDA-HILLSBOROUGH**

Meets third Thurs.; 6:30 PM; 3708 W. Swann Ave.. (813)870-3735.

**EQUALITY FLORIDA-PINELLAS**

Meets last Thurs.; 7 PM; Positive Expressions. (727)527-3197.

**EZRA GROUP**

S.A.G.E. sponsored support group for GLBT persons who have experienced a recent death or loss. Meets second Sat.. (813)932-4359.

**F.A.C.T. AND FICTION WORKSHOP**

Writers workshop for PLWAs. Meets Thurs.; 6 PM. (727)327-2969

**FACT HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tues., from 6:30 - 8 PM at 136 4th St., N., St. Petersburg. (727)895-4439.

**FACT SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV/AIDS GROUP**

Meets the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 136 4th St., N., St. Petersburg. (727)895-4439.

**FACE TO FACE YOUTH GROUP**

Youth group for GLBT and their supporters ages 14-21. Meets Sun.; 7 PM. (813)935-4101; Fce2FceYouth2aol.com.

**FACT TRANSGENDER HIV/ AIDS GROUP**

Meets the first and third Friday of the month at 136 4th.St.N. St. Pete. For info call (727)895-4439.

**FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB**

Playing card variety. (813)832-2999.

**FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP**

Central Florida Region Lambda Car Club International. <www.hometown.aol.com/flamingoautogrpf/>.

**FLORIDA GULF COAST COUPLES**

Social group for same gender couples. (813)360-6852; (727)347-7412.

**FREEDOM RINGS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Pasco County's only AA meeting for GLBT individuals. Meets Sun.; 7 PM; Spirit of Life MCC. (727)849-6962.

**FRIENDS CLUB**

Gay men's social club for non-alcoholic gatherings. (813)960-1664.

**FRONT RUNNERS OF TAMPA BAY**

Not-for-runners only club orientated to the gay and lesbian community. Meets Sat.; 9 AM; Old Hyde Park Village and Wed.; 6:45 PM; Fred Ball Park. (813)891-7098.

**GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**

Meets Wed.; 7 PM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

**GAY & BISEXUAL SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**

Meets Fri.; 10 AM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

**GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Meets every evening; 8:15 PM; 3644-A Henderson Blvd.. (813)273-8741.

**GAY FUN CLUB**

Movies, amusement parks, dinig out, water parks, beaches, picnics, etc. 18 and up. Contact Steve at (727)344-0512.

**GAY SINGLES**

Gay Singles for Health and Monogamy. Social group for sober non-smokers seeking a lifemate. (727)410-6687.

**GAY SKATE**

Tue.; 9 PM; United Skates of America. (813)876-5826; <members.aol.com/tampagayskate>.

**GLBT PARENTS**

Support group for GLBT parents. Meets second Thurs.; Equality Florida. (813)831-8207; <www.glbtparents.homestead.com>.

**GLSEN TAMPA BAY**

Organization working to end anti-gay bias in Hillsborough County schools. Meets third Fri.. (813)872-6393; GLSENTB@aol.com.

**GREATER TAMPA BAY PRIDE**

Meets third Wed.. (813)960-3022.

**HIV/AIDS SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT GROUP**

Sponsored by Works of Mercy, Catholic Coalition of People with AIDS. Meets Thurs.; 7 PM; Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church. (813)237-3421.

**INTERWEAVE/ST. PETERSBURG**

Meets at UU Church of St. Petersburg. (727)898-3294.

**L.I.G.H.T./FACT**

Free dinner on the first Tues. of the month. 140 4th St. N at the St. Petersburg Cathedral Parish Hall. (727)895-4439.

**THE LINE**

Gay & Lesbian Crisis/Service of Tampa Bay, Inc. Phone volunteers 7-11 PM; computerized system 11-7 PM. (727)586-4297.

**LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF TAMPA BAY**

Inclusive, diverse Republicans, dinner/coffee 2nd Tues., 7 PM at HoHo's chinese/9 PM at Different Grind. Misc. social and political events. (813)789-8212, <www.lcrtampabay.com>, or LCRTampaBay@yahoo.com.

**L.O.L.A.**

Lesbians On the Lookout Association. Social club for womyn. (813)948-0659; pianolez@aol.com.

**METROPOLITAN CHARITIES**

A community services organization offering HIV/AIDS case management, counseling services, referrals and thrift store. In Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. (727)321-3854. <www.metrocharities.org>.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

Open meeting for gays and lesbians. Meets Thurs.; 8:15 PM; GALAA Club. ecg@tampabay.rr.com.

**OUT OF THE CLOSET THRIFT STORES**

All proceeds benefit AIDS and breast cancer patients in St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay areas. Donations of clothing and household items are needed daily. Located at 631 4th St. North, St. Pete. (866)250-1959.

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB**

Gay, lesbian and bisexual friendly outdoor activity club. (813)962-8459.

**PFLAG**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets second Tue.; 7 PM; 5800 Nebraska. (813)831-8207; onecoolguy@hotmail.com.

**OPERATION H.O.P.E. OF PINELLAS, INC.**

St. Petersburg AIDS organization dedicated to the needs of the minority community. (727)822-2437; POCAS@aol.com.

**PFLAG PINELLAS**

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets fourth Sat.; 10 AM; Piccadilly Cafeteria. (727)345-7688; (727)821-2140; PFLAG@tampabay.rr.com.

**POSITIVE COFFEE**

Alcohol-free social group for HIV+ people, their friends and family. Meets Sat.; 6 PM; Positive Expressions Gallery. (727)384-9305.

**POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS**

Non-profit organization working to empower HIV+ individuals by developing and supporting their self-expression and educating the public through presentations of creative work. (727)384-9305; <www.positiveexpressions.org>.

**PRIDE AL ANON FAMILY GROUP**

Support group for anyone who has a realitive, friend, partner, co-worker, etc., who has a drinking problem that is affecting their lives. Meets Fri.; 6:30 PM; King of Peace Church. (727)323-5857.

**PRIDE ALLIANCE**

Meets second and fourth Thurs. during the summer; every Thurs. in fall; 8 PM; USF Marchall Center. (813)974-4297.

**PRIDE TAMPA BAY**

The general meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month. (813)854-8160 or <www.pridetampabay.com>.

**PRIME TIMERS OF TAMPA BAY**

Social group for mature gay and bisexual men and those younger men who admire them. (813)231-8817; <http://www.primetimerswww.org/tampabay/PTTB\_c.html>.

**PWA COALITION OF TAMPA BAY**

AIDS service organization dedicated to disseminating updated and accurate information about HIV/AIDS. (813)238-2887; <www.pwactampa.homestead.com>.

**RAINBOW CHIPS INVESTMENT CLUB**

Investment club for the GLBT community. Meets monthly. (813)962-8459.

**RAINBOW FILM SERIES**

A series of GLBT films, 7 PM, 2nd Saturday of each month except Oct., in the social hall of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, FMI (727)531-7704.

**RAINBOW READERS**

Discusses a new book each month. Meets second Mon.; 7:30 PM. (813)221-1423.

**RAINBOW SURF 'N' SAFARI CLUB**

Monthly gay days in Tampa. Busch Gardens: fourth Sun.; Adventure Island: second Sat.; Brandon restaurant tour: second Sat. at 5:30 PM. carl813@hotmail.com; <http://www.geocities.com/southbeach/wharf/6587>.

**RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB**

Florida's largest gay and lesbian travel organization. (813)414-9933; (800)881-3600.

**SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (SLAA)**

A twelve-step program that helps hetero and homosexual men and women understand and recover from unhealthy compulsive sexual behavior. (727) 896-SLAA or <www.tampabayslaa.com>.

**SOUTHERN EXPOSURE**

Gay male non-sexual nudist group. Meets monthly. (813)237-2436.

**STARBURST OF PINELLAS PARK**

Starburst of Pinellas Park, support group for cross-dressing and transgendered persons, regardless of stage. Meetings at 7 PM on the third Saturday of every month. Call Georgia at (727)523-8760 for more information.

**SUN COAST LEATHER CLUB**

Levi/leather social club. Meets second and fourth Fri.; 9:30 PM. Member SECC. (727)586-5847; Sncdtthr@aol.com.

**SUNCOAST PRIDE**

Meets third Tuesday, Waterside Lounge, Port Richey. (727)841-7900.

**TAMPA BAY BEARS**

Bears social club. Meets second Fr.; 7:30 PM; Suncoast Eagle Bar. <www.TampaBayBears.com>.

**TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD**

Meets second Tue. (813)237-3751; <www.tbbg.org>.

**TAMPA BAY GAY COOKING CLUB**

Meets monthly in the Tampa Bay Area. For more information visit <www.alexfrades.com/tampagaycookingclub>.

**TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

Meets Mon.; 7 PM; Old Springs Theatre. (727)865-9004.

**TAMPA BAY NATURISTS**

Gay male non-sexual nudist group. (813)265-4005. tbn@tampabay.rr.com <www.tampabaynaturists.org>.

**TRI-COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, INC.**

Pasco and Hernandez chapters. Meet first Sun.; Oakhill Hospital. Citrus County chapter. Meets second Sun.; Cellar Pub. (727)863-6112.

**TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF**

Periodic social gatherings for both hearing and non-hearing gays. (813)236-3123.

**TRUE EXPRESSIONS**

Offers weekly support groups and recreational and social activities for young people dealing with issues concerning sexual orientation with gay, lesbian and straight advisors. (727)586-4297.

**WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS**

Bear club. Meets first Sun.; DTs. (727)824-7810; info@westfloridagrowlers.com; <www.westfloridagrowlers.com>.

**WOMYN'S EXCHANGE TAMPABAY**

A diverse mix of womyn that do not support intra-community prejudice, separatism, or discrimination of any kind. Meets Sundays at 3 PM at Gulfport Beach. Check their Web site for activities, polls and other discussions <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WomynsExchangeTampabay>.

*Watermark publishes information regarding organizations as a service to the local GLBT community. We cannot guarantee the legitimacy of any organization, and in many cases have no knowledge of the organization. Requests for listings or changes to listing must be submitted in writing to Watermark.*

## RESTAURANT LISTINGS

**ALEX'S RESTAURANT**

Homestyle cooking better than mom's! 104 Patricia Avenue, Dunedin. (727)736-6163

**FLAMING-O RESTAURANT & CAFE**

An elegant restaurant featuring fine dining at the SunCoast Resort. 3000 34th St South, St. Pete. (727)867-1111

**GEORGIE'S ALIBI**

This upbeat video bar and restaurant with huge windows and a streetfront patio draws patrons from Tampa and Sarasota. Dance floor, pool, darts, shows, and good food. 3100 3rd Ave. N., St. Pete. (727) 321-2112. <www.georgiesalibi.com>.

**HOT OLIVES**

"Family" friendly neighborhood cafe with extensive wine menu and outdoor dining in beautiful garden setting. 463 W. New England Ave., Winter Park. (407)629-1030

**HOUSE OF BLUES**

Mississippi-Delta inspired cuisine is featured in the restaurant next door to the world-famous concert hall in Downtown Disney. 1490 Lake Buena Vista Dr. (407)934-2583

**LOGAN'S BISTRO**

Quaint bistro dining just outside the Virginia/Mills district. Happy hour 5:30 to 7:30. 802 Virginia Dr., Orlando. (407)898-5688

**MELTING POT**

The perfect date restaurant where you cook you own four-course fondue meal.

*Clearwater* -

25822 US Highway 19 North  
(727)797-4426

*Longwood* -

145 Wekiva Springs Rd. #161  
(407)862-8773

*Maitland* -

500 E. Horatio Ave. (407)628-1134

*Orlando* -

7549 W. Sand Lake Rd. (407)903-1100

*Sarasota* -

1055 S. Tamiami Tr. #112 (941)265-2658

*St Petersburg* -

2221 4th Street North (727)895-6358

## SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

**AIDS MANASOTA**

AIDS service organization. Offers peer counseling, testing, activities, support groups and social events. (941)954-6011; aids-manasota@prodigy.net; <www.aidsmanasota.com>.

**ALSO**

GLBT youth group. (941)252-2576; jbalso@aol.com; <www.alsoyouth.org>.

**GAY & LESBIAN INFOLINE**

Provides information about local faith, social, support organizations and events to the GLBT community. (9941)923-INFO.

**GULF COAST LOG CABIN CLUB**

"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com or jimbofla@yahoo.com.

**GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS**

Meets Mon.; Universalist Unitarian Church, Sarasota. (941)377-9043; <www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org>.

**PFLAG SARASOTA**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Tue.; 7:30 PM; Unitarian Church. (941)378-3536.

**PRIMETIMERS SARASOTA**

Social group for mature gay and bisexual men and those younger men who admire them. (941)359-8212; ptimes@tampabay.rr.com; <http://home.tampabay.rr.com/ehurley/ehurley/>.

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS GUILD**

Meets third Mon.; 6 PM; Quay. (941)953-8419; <www.swfbg.org>.

**MELTING POT *cont.***

*Tampa* -

13164 N. Dale Mabry (813)962-6936

**MISE EN PLACE**

Neo American food and wine. Open for lunch and dinner. 442 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. (813)254-5373

**PARLIAMENT HOUSE RAINBOW CAFE**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner served in the comfortable cafe of this Orlando landmark. 410 N. Orange Blossom Tr. (407)425-7571

**RESTAURANT K**

Formerly Cafe Allegre, located in the heart of College Park, this restaurant is truly a food, wine and art experience. 2401 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)872-2332

**THE COFFEE HOUSE OF THORNTON PARK**

A great spot for lunch or for a cup of their specialty coffee and a pastry. 712 E. Washington St., Orlando. (407) 426-8989

**TOOJAY'S**

Popular deli style restaurant. Try the potato pancakes.

*Orlando locations* -

Marketplace at Dr. Phillips (407)355-0340  
Colonial Plaza (407)894-1718  
Waterford Lakes Town Centre  
(407)249-9475

*Altamonte Springs* -

Palm Springs Shopping Center  
(407)830-1770

*Lake Mary* -

Lake Mary Centre (407)833-0848

**TROPICS**

Popular and upscale gay restaurant and lounge in Palma Ceia neighborhood of South Tampa. The food is great, and expect to see friends. Open 4 PM - midnight. 2801 S. MacDill Ave., Tampa (813) 837-1836

**WHITE WOLF CAFE**

Experience the atmosphere, antiques and food that have made this cafe a dining institution for over 12 years. 1829 N. Orange Ave., Orlando. (407)895-9911



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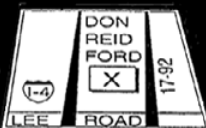
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## MS. KNOW IT ALL KEEP YOUR COOL THIS MONTH

Astrology by Diane Wilde

*Conflicting energies are competing for your attentions this month. Don't fret, though. This gives you an opportunity to fine-tune yourself and achieve a balance between being too aggressive and too passive. Even though you're aching for a major change in your life, this is not the right time to force the issue. Don't start any new projects until October.*



### PISCES FEB 20 - MAR 20:

Relationships of all kinds come under scrutiny this month, and the need for better communication, cooperation, and compromises have never been greater. Make every effort to control your anger. Remember that the reward for patience is patience. Trust me, it will be worth it.



### LIBRA SEPT 24 - OCT 23:

Your popularity will soar this month. The sky's the limit romantically, financially, and professionally. You will need to be more social than you've been lately, but you'll find that you actually enjoy it. Still, it won't be all fun and games. Expect to have at least one serious revelation about the direction that your life is taking.



### VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 23:

When you wish upon a star your wishes can come true — so be careful what you wish for. You'll have to multi-task, but your energy level is at an all time high — just don't expect others to try and keep up. There's a lot to be done, so get enough rest and fuel your body properly.



### ARIES MAR 21 - APR 20:

Use your legendary energy to get your body into shape — it will help you to set aside some health issues you've been having. Don't let glitches in your plans make you give them up, just wait until next

month to move forward with them. Still, it's an ideal time to socialize and network.



### SCORPIO OCT 24 - NOV 22:

So what are you going to do with all the opportunities and all the possibilities that will present themselves to you? You have permission to aggressively pursue your goals. Just make sure you make peace rather than war and use your communication skills to avoid conflicts.



### TAURUS APR 21 - MAY 21:

You need to start enjoying all that you have worked so hard to achieve and all the good things that life has to offer. You can move forward in your professional aspirations as long as you don't bite off more than you can chew — or spend more than you can afford in pursuit of pleasure.



### SAGITTARIUS NOV 23 - DEC 21:

You're all revved up and need somewhere to go. Focus your energy on career and financial issues, even though you don't usually give them much attention. Go with the flow this month — you may find a new and wonderful place in the Universe.



### GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 21:

You're in the mood to roll up your sleeves and get to work on household projects. But don't expect much enthusiasm or help from family members. Don't fight; just do it yourself. And don't rush to throw things away. Also, learn to compromise instead of insisting that your way is the only way.



### CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20:

Use your famous brainpower to think up new and different ways to make more money. However, be careful not to limit your possibilities. Why not be open to change? Be sure to put your best foot forward as you attend networking functions, and promote yourself and your ideas.



### CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 22:

Your emotions will guide you now, but you should still use some good old common sense. Slow down to avoid accidents. Be wary of people who try to interest you in "get rich quick" schemes — all that glitters ain't gold, baby. And don't lend anyone money.



### AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 19:

It promises to be a rather dreamy month for you. Your pursuit of pleasure, romance, and fun will leave you winded but you'll love every minute of it. Look forward to meeting some potentially influential people that can assist your career and secure your financial success.



### LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22:

You've got charm and charisma to burn this month, just don't let it go to your head. Your love life will get a boost, so expect to enjoy some romantic time with a special someone. You may find that your family also demands a lot of your time, so work out a schedule with them. ▼





## DAYTONA/SPACE COAST

### DRAMA CLUB:

Bar and entertainment center located in historical Cocoa Village. 9 Stone St., Cocoa. (321)639-8228.

### MICHAEL'S PATIO BAR & GRILL:

Located at 116 Madison Ave., Michael's is a full service restaurant, and bar. Call (386)323-0607 for more info.

### THE OTHER PLACE:

Daytona/Ormond Beach's largest gay and lesbian nightclub. 642 South Atlantic Ave. Ormond Beach, FL. (904)677-1006 or <www.theotherplaceneiteclub.com>

### RUMORS NIGHTCLUB:

Live shows, games, DJ, and a piano bar. 1376 N. Nova Rd. (386)252-3776.

### STREAMLINE HOTEL AND LOUNGE:

Open from 11 AM to 3 AM every day. Free parking. The hotel has 50 rooms with A/C. 140 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach. (386)258-6937.

### TOMBOYS BAR AND GRILL:

Pool, darts, jukebox, happy hour 4-6 PM nightly. 322 Seabreeze Blvd., Daytona Beach. (386)257-6464.

### WANNABES:

Drink specials, shows, and dancing. 231 Minuteman Cswy., Cocoa Beach. (407)868-1898.

## ORLANDO

### BOOM BOOM:

At Faces, enjoy the Tiki Bar, Open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, open on Sunday at 4 PM for T-Dance. Frozen drinks and a full bar. Every Sunday is Margarita Madness. Call (407)291-7571 for more information.

### CACTUS CLUB:

Mixed clientele. Pool, darts, and a back patio. 1300 N. Mills Ave., Orlando. (407)894-3041.

### CLUB ORLANDO:

State of the art exercise place... and much, much more. Swimming, sauna, hot tub and private rooms. 450 E. Compton St. Orlando (407)425-5005. <www.the-clubs.com/orlando>.

### THE CLUB AT FIRESTONE:

Gay night on Saturday. Popular local dance club. 578 N. Orange Ave., Orlando. (407)948-5598 or <www.theclub-online.com>.

### CLUB QUEST:

R&B, hip-hop, house and reggae. Everyone welcome, 18+. 745 Bennett Rd., Orlando. (407)228-8226.

### FACES:

Womyn's bar. Pool, darts, pinball, dance floor, DJ. 4910 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)291-7571.

### FULL MOON SALOON:

Bears, Levi's, leather. Sunday afternoon tea dance. 500 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, (407)648-8725 or <www.fullmoonsaloon.com>.

### HANKS:

Juke box, darts, pool. Happy hour starts at noon every day. 5026 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)291-2399.

### HEAVEN:

After-hours club. 360 State St., Orlando (407) 872-7188 or <www.heavennightclub.com>

### LAVA LOUNGE:

Classy video bar in the space that used to be Art's Cigars. Features an artistic flair and a congenial staff. Patio seating available. 1235 Orange Ave., Orlando. (407)895-9790.

### NEW PHOENIX:

Mixed neighborhood bar. 7124-A Aloma Ave., Winter Park (407)678-9070.

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE:

Piano bar, show bar, disco, country/western bar, cocktail lounge, and hotel. 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando. (407)425-7571 or <www.parliamenthouse.com>

### THE PEACOCK ROOM:

Mixed. Artsy decor and low-key atmosphere. 1321 N. Mills Ave. (407)228-0048 or <www.peacockroom.com>.

### SOUTHERN NIGHTS:

Mixed. Dance floor, show bar, and patio. 375 S. Bumby, Orlando. (407)898-0424 or <www.southern-nights.com >.

### STUDZ:

Leather bar. Pool table and darts. 4453 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)222-7695.

### WYLDE'S:

Neighborhood bar that welcomes everyone. 3535 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando. (407)835-1889.

## BARs & NIGHTCLUBS

## LAKELAND

### CLUB DOCKSIDE:

Happy hour and drink specials daily. 3770 Hwy 92 East, Lakeland. (941)655-2590 or <www.dockside.cegi.net>.

### GREEN PARROT:

Drink specials every night, strippers on the weekends. 1030 E. Main St., Lakeland. (863)683-6021.

## TAMPA

### BAXTERS:

Karaoke Tuesdays, Fantastic Fridays featuring "dancers on the rise." 1519 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa. (813)258-8830.

### THE CHAMBERS:

Gay six nights a week! 1701 N. Franklin, Tampa. (813)223-1300.

### CHANTILLY LACE:

A spacious club with pool tables and a sand volleyball court. 13415 N. Nebraska Ave. (813)971-8481.

### THE CHEROKEE CLUB:

One of the nicest women's club in the state. Open Fri. and Sat. only. 1320 E. 9th Ave. (813) 247-9966.

### CITY LIMITS:

Nightclub offers drag shows, karaoke, and darts. 902 E. Brandon Blvd. (813)571-7200.

### CITY SIDE:

Attracts an upscale, mixed crowd. Pool table, patio. 3810 Neptune St., Tampa. (813)254-6466.

### JOEY'S:

Neighborhood karaoke bar, drink specials. 9002 N. Florida Ave, Tampa. (813)935-9771.

### THE JUNGLE:

Upscale nightclub featuring a daily happy hour. 3703 Henderson Blvd., Tampa. (813)877-3290.

### KEITH'S LOUNGE:

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### KI KI KI LOUNGE:

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### LA FEMME BUVETTE:

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### CLUB TRIANGLES:

Drink specials and shows. 1330 MLK Way, Sarasota. (941)953-5945

### D&C'S PLAYHOUSE:

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### THERAPY:

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## Over The Rainbow

by Renee Lukas





16 August 29 - September 11, 2002

## THE GREAT WHITE WAY

From Page 1

As odd as it may seem, CMU's dance company was part of its athletic department — in fact, the school didn't offer a dance major. Still 250 people were at the audition that White happened upon. Prior to auditioning, he had only danced in musical numbers at community theatres, but he knew from those experiences that movement came easy for him.

"Fortunately for me, they are always short on guys in the ballet world — they never have enough," White says. "They saw potential, they saw natural talent and they kept me."

Within three years, he worked his way

up to soloist in the company and even found himself performing a pas de deux at the Kennedy Center. Though he would go on to attend Pointe Park College in Pittsburgh for a year, an audition for several theme parks made White decide to leave his thoughts of teaching behind and pursue a career as a performer.

"It was the first real audition processes I ever went through. I auditioned for Disney, King's Island, Busch Gardens and Cedar Pointe and I got everything I auditioned for, so I had to decide where it was I wanted to go," says White. "But you know, 'I'm going to Disney World.'"

## THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

D2 Productions was originally formed

to offer dancing and Cirque-like talent for corporate events. White admits that it is a fledgling company. In other words, when Hope & Help approached him with the possibility of producing Headdress, it wasn't like he could whip out a magic wand and presto a ball into being. So White wisely surrounded himself with six other people to form what he has dubbed "The Magnificent Seven."

White asked local entertainer and club entrepreneur Sam Singhaus to come on board as the event's associate producer. Although each person on the team has the theatrical background, White felt it was necessary to give the evening the right feel and Singhaus had experienced the Broadway spotlight first-hand in *La Cage Aux Folles*. The White/Singhaus partnership has provided planning with an important checks and balance system: Singhaus spouts endless creative ideas and White considers their feasibility and appropriateness.

White also enlisted the help of such community notables as Tom Zaizar, Ellen Flynt, Russell Dyer, Greg Triggs, and Rob Lyon.

White is adamant about making it clear that none of the aforementioned people are getting one penny for their efforts. Why would they give their time and energy so willingly?

"I would love to say that it is all about me," White says then pauses. "It's not. These good people are doing it because they believe in the cause. They're doing it because we all have friends who are infected and affected by HIV and AIDS — we all have friends that have died."

Headdress Ball producer DOUG WHITE: "I saw this wonderful happening in our community and felt that I could take it one step further."

## MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

Fiercely protecting the element of surprise, White is tight-lipped about specific details of the show. However, D2 may have managed to achieve the impossible and make everyone happy by addressing and considering all complaints and suggestions.

Guests who may not have been happy about the placement of their table at past Headdress Balls will be happy to learn that this year there are three stages which will be surrounded by tables. Such logistics will give each attendee a prime seat. Fans of the element that gave the event its name in the first place will be happy to learn that four local artists are designing headdresses which are required to have 80 percent of their weight on the head.

White is proud of the production team's plans to make the entire evening seamless from the moment the guest steps out of their vehicle. Every aspect will be flavored with the Broadway theme — complete with Broadway caliber performances.

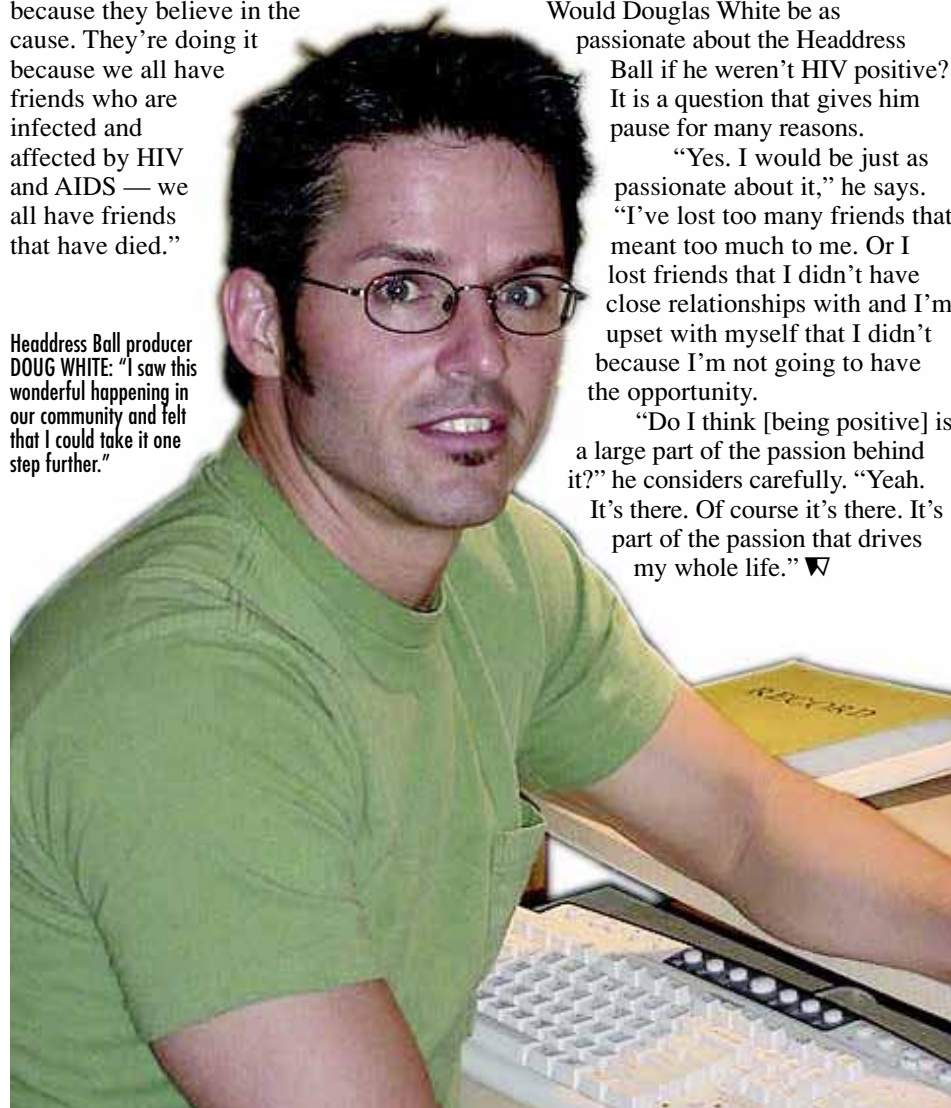
Adding a celebrity touch to the evening will be stage, television and film star Jo Marie Payton. Best known for her role on TV's *Family Matters*, White says it was clear from his first phone call with Payton that she has "a heart as big as Orlando." Despite her career achievements, Payton will participate in all aspects of the production — even when the spotlight is not on her.

## THE HOPE TO HELP

Would Douglas White be as passionate about the Headdress Ball if he weren't HIV positive? It is a question that gives him pause for many reasons.

"Yes. I would be just as passionate about it," he says. "I've lost too many friends that meant too much to me. Or I lost friends that I didn't have close relationships with and I'm upset with myself that I didn't because I'm not going to have the opportunity."

"Do I think [being positive] is a large part of the passion behind it?" he considers carefully. "Yeah. It's there. Of course it's there. It's part of the passion that drives my whole life." ▼



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## FILTH WHAT READERS WANT TO KNOW

Celebrity Gossip by Billy Masters

As I continue my obsession with *American Idol*, I'm seriously considering setting up an 800 number of my own to see if I can get enough people to vote **PAULA ABDUL** off the show. This may be irrelevant, since my sources tell me that she will not return next season. Fine by me — the old Laker Girl has overstayed her welcome as far as I'm concerned. Who should replace her? Is **NIA PEEPLES** busy?

In a related story, *AI* host **RYAN SEACREST** revealed that he loves "The Four Tops." I'll bet he does! He doesn't specify which "tops" are his favorites, but I'm thinking that whoever shows up will do.

I recently spent a few days in Los Angeles and was thrilled to be able to attend **WILL CLARK's** Bad Boys Pool Party. Although I co-hosted the last event with drag diva Momma, this time around I simply basked in the baskets of the porn boys while Momma effortlessly kept the party moving along. Among the revelers were the uproarious **BRUCE VILANCH** and a tousle-haired **DAN RENZI** — fresh from his triumphant San Francisco run as the "comedic find" in **RONNIE LARSEN's** hit *Sleeping With Straight Men*.

And, now, to a few reader questions: Demetrius from Dallas echoes something that many fans have been asking: "What is the status of your play *Hollywood Uncovered*?" I was so disappointed to miss it and was wondering if you will be

bringing it back."

Yes indeedy, *Hollywood Uncovered* is coming back. Although I had fun with the project and the audiences were extremely enthusiastic, there were some changes that I wanted to make — both on stage and off. Therefore, I thought it best to shut down and tackle the show anew in the fall. I believe that we'll hit San Diego before the end of the year and then resurface in San Francisco, Miami, and Ft. Lauderdale in early 2003.

Terry from San Diego writes: "Am I going insane or did I see circuit **DJ RA** in a phone sex ad? If not, then there are two of these gorgeous blonds out there."

You're not insane — RA is indeed featured in an ad that asks, "Need a little romance? Or a hot all-night fuck-fest?" Not only that, but RA is *naked* in the photos! OK, so you can probably see that any day of the week in LA — probably at that "all-night fuck-fest" — but who remembers the face of the guy in the sling? I'm told that RA did the ad before he started to become popular in the circuit and is kinda embarrassed that it's out there. Funny, I thought that he became popular *because* of the ad!

Jimbo in Burbank comments: "I love your blind items although I almost never get them. Where do you get your stories? And why do you do blind items at all?" Many of my items come from performers or other insiders. Other times, I witness



MOMMA (center), pictured with DEREK CAMERON (L) and MICHAEL BRANDON, flew solo as hostess of this year's Bad Boy Pool Party in LA.

these incidents myself. When it comes to blind items, many times, someone will call me with a story and say, "Don't use any names" or, "You have to keep this vague." Here's my favorite blind item in eons — and it's chock full of clues:

Could it be that one of Hollywood's most intriguing paternity puzzles has been

solved? Like a story out of *Unsolved Mysteries*, people have been wondering who sired the child of that multi-award-winning actress. Although she's never been known as a foxy mama, her Sapphic ways didn't stop her from becoming a biological mama. Freaky as it sounds, she only had to open up her old address book to find a suitable donor. While we all know that she rekindled her friendship with that former boytoy to the rich and famous, I've now learned that the reunion was at full tilt *before* her conception (well, this guy ain't known for saying no). Intimates with poisoned pens tell me that it's mighty fortunate that our fraternal fellow made those deposits oh so long ago. They came in handy when he was asked to make two hasty withdrawals — one for our sunburned sweetie and the other for that bicoastal bitch. I'm told that he's a presence in both children's lives. Now if only these gals could come up with a maternal figure!

When Ryan could vie for "Best Bottom" at the next porn awards, it's time to end yet another column. In another Seacrest quote, he says, "I am so highlighted. I have an hour-long paint-on process once a month." Highlighted spiky blond hair? Gorgeous tan? See-through shirts? Late 20s? Oh my God — I'm a slightly less attractive, slightly less successful, and slightly older Ryan Seacrest!

As always, feel free to send me an e-mail me at [Billy@filth2go.com](mailto:Billy@filth2go.com). So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible. ▽

## Ethan Encore



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Dear reader—I'm recovering from a back injury, will be back with new episodes in October. In the meantime I hope you'll enjoy these Ethan Encores. Love, Eric





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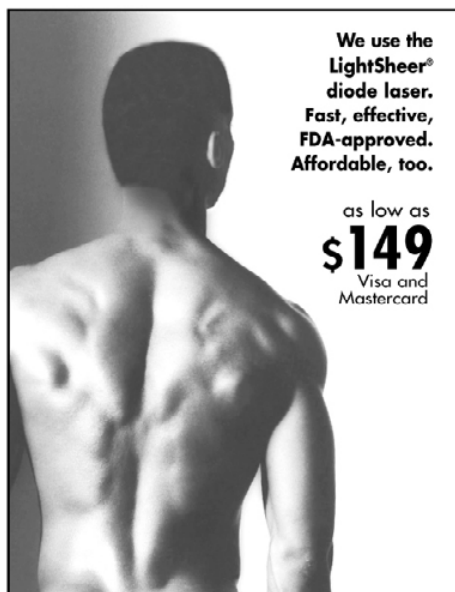

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