

ISSUE 12.17

2005 **Fall Arts** PREVIEW  
AUGUST 25 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2005



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# EVERYBODY'S GIRL

**ALSO INSIDE:**

- Gay-Bashing in St. Petersburg
- Orlando's Q Television Connection
- Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

**Tampa Bay-bound musician  
Jen Foster — and other  
highlights of the upcoming  
season in our Fall Arts Preview**

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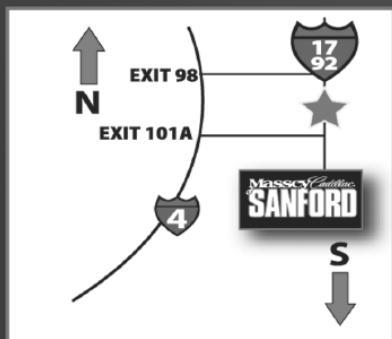
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## PREVIEW



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Openly lesbian musician Jen Foster brings her tunes to Ybor City Sept. 2.



Choosing the right assortment of beads was very important on the ride to Key West's Hillsborough Pride in Exile. See the story and photos on page 14.  
Photo by Rex Maniscalco



# Editor's Desk

By DAVE WIETHOP

The air in Florida was thick with violence a year ago as we were between hurricanes Charley and Jeanne, two "weather incidents" that taught many of us the value of candles, plywood and liquor.

Today, we're living in another violent time, a time full of the ill winds of prejudice. Lately, *Watermark's* pages have been jammed with stories of beatings, fires, accusations and other threats to our community. Consider this the "Mean Season" in many ways.

Take, for example, the story of Bert Roberts, a St. Petersburg man who was visiting a sports bar one night. Recognizing that another bar patron might be having a "bad night," Roberts and his partner, Arthur DeLaGarza, didn't expect to see him in the parking lot later that evening.

According to the police reports, the other bar patron beat Roberts severely in that parking lot, breaking bones in his face and shattering his spirit — all because the guy was upset at seeing Roberts and DeLaGarza casually embracing.

A couple of weeks later, vandals burned Christopher Day and Paul Robertson out of their home in Lakeland. Police aren't saying much about the investigation, but the image of the words, "Die Fag," on their steps remains a chilling reminder how prevalent hatred against our community can be.

This all comes on the heels of the national media attention drawn to Tampa Bay as investigators await further DNA results that could link the 2003 disappearance of Jason Galehouse and the death of Michael Wachholtz to two men they may have met in chat rooms. (One of the accused men has categorically denied the charges, but this doesn't negate the horrors that the younger men likely faced in their final hours.)

Yet the most disturbing story that we've run in a long time is another Tampa Bay-based tale of injury and hatred. Ron Paris Jr. was recently sentenced to 30 years in prison for beating his 3-year-old son to death. Paris, the defense attorneys suggested, was afraid that the youngster had gay tendencies and he didn't want the boy to become a "sissy."

Thus, the beatings began. And a month after the Florida Department of Children and Families returned the baby to Ron and his wife — who had to prove the successful completion of

state-mandated parenting classes — the father became so enraged one night that he killed his 3-year-old with one deadly smack to the head.

So much for the Radical Right's sanctity-of-marriage and one-man-and-one-woman-nuclear-family rhetoric. Despite having a mother *and* a father, Ronnie Paris likely died because one hated gay people.

No one expects an act of violence to happen to them — not Jason Galehouse or Michael Wachholtz, not Bert Roberts, not Christopher Day and Paul Robertson, and certainly not tiny Ronnie Paris.

These stories should make us angry and if anything else, they should cause us to become a little more cautious in our lives. While the GLBT community continues to make progress every so slowly, incidents like these may represent significant steps backwards. We can't let the bad guys win.

In addition to updates on most of these stories, this issue of *Watermark* offers a few more cheerful topics. After all, this is our Fall Arts Preview and we again stuffed the issue full of previews that look ahead to art openings, concerts and film festivals.

Staff writers Steve Blanchard and Kirk Hartlage and I offer a list of what we most anticipate for the 2005-06 season (without a single mention of Elaine Stritch, mind you — and I resisted).

It is, indeed, a great season ahead, what with performances by Lily Tomlin, Eartha Kitt, Liza Minnelli, Dave Koz, Whoopi Goldberg and openly lesbian singer Jen Foster, productions of *Wicked*, *Putting It Together*, *The Book of Liz* and *Mamma Mia!*, the music of Benjamin Britten and an exhibit of pop art on tap throughout the next nine months. We also chat with the fascinating Foster, bearish painter Virgil and local filmmaker Tom Murray.

We also celebrate the kickoff of the Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, which will spotlight Murray's documentary, *Fish Can't Fly*. We also note the third year of Gay Days Tampa Bay, scheduled for Labor Day Weekend.

Perhaps all is not lost. We just have to be wary that bad things happen sometimes — and how to make our reactions count. With that in mind, we know that you'll find this issue of *Watermark* to be insightful, informative and entertaining. ▼

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## PREVIEW

# Water Picks

Events You Shouldn't Miss

## ORLANDO

### THROUGH AUG. 26

The talented **WANZIE AND CO.** have done something that's unusual — even for them: They've announced closing dates for shows. Catch **DRAGNESS OF GOD AND THE NAKED HOLY GHOST** through Friday, Aug. 26, at the Parliament House's Footlights Theatre and **THE LADIES OF EOLA HEIGHTS** — which had more extensions than Britney Spears — on Saturdays through Sept. 17. Call (407) 540-0317 or visit the on-line box office at Wanzie.com for ticket information.

### THROUGH AUG. 28

Some 61 women artists will compete in the **MAITLAND ART CENTER's** juried exhibition *Revisioning*, now through Aug. 28. Offered as part of the Women's Caucus for Art's Florida chapter 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the show was juried by New York sculptor **NANCY AZARA**. The MAC is located in the former artists' colony, Research Studio, located at 231 W. Packwood Ave.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

Openly gay former *American Idol* contestant **JIM VERRAROS** will appear live and in person at Orlando's **CLUB @ FIRESTONE** on Saturday, Sept. 3. Promoting his new CD, *Rollercoaster*, Verraros is undoubtedly one *Idol* who never got Paula's cell phone number. Admission to Verraros' show at Firestone on Sept. 3 will cost \$10.

## TAMPA BAY

### THURSDAY, AUG. 25

**RONDA STORMS** and her cohorts on the **HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION** (along with the rational and gay-friendly **KATHY CASTOR**) will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Progress Village Middle School, 8113 Zinnia Drive in Tampa. The school is in Castor's district, but all of the commissioners are expected for this monthly meeting. If you want to address the commission, get there early.

### SATURDAY, AUG. 24

Just in time for cooler weather — as if — The **2005 FALL FASHION SHOW AND EXPO** will be held from noon until 4 p.m. at the TradeWinds Resort in St. Pete Beach. Ten dollars will get you in the door and appetizers and light beverages will be served. After the expo, QuickBooks fashion scouts will be available for spot interviews.

### SEPT. 2-5

Here's another chance to wear those

red shirts you bought earlier this summer: A scaled-back **GAY DAYS TAMPA BAY** will be held on Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2-5. The organizers have teamed with Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina for discounted hotel rates and Sept. 3 is Gay Days at Busch Gardens and Adventure Island. Sept. 4 is Gay Day at the Florida Aquarium. For discounted tickets, visit [GayDaysTampaBay.com](http://GayDaysTampaBay.com).

### AUG. 26-SEPT. 18

How popular is the film, **SORDID LIVES**? We've even heard people laughing at a DVD of it during a camping trip to Venus, Fla. This over-the-top family farce, which offers the fey "Brother Boy," comes to the live stage at the **SUNCOAST THEATRE** at the Suncoast Resort, courtesy of the brave and reliable **GYPSY PRODUCTIONS**. Tickets available at the box office or by calling (727) 456-0500. For more information, visit [GypsyProductions.org](http://GypsyProductions.org).

## SARASOTA

### AUG. 26-29

**SARASOTA FILM SOCIETY'S GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL** offers glimpses into queer life from across the globe this year. With such titles as *El Favor*, *Wilby Wonderful*, *Mysterious Skin* and *Unconscious*, as well as the home-grown documentary *Fish Can't Fly* (read about filmmaker **TOM MURRAY** on page 29), the film festival also offers some parties and a chance to meet like-minded film buffs. For details, visit [FilmSociety.org](http://FilmSociety.org) or call (941) 364-8662. A complete list of films appears on page 45. ▼

# Water Cooler

People are Talking

### THE NIGHTS THAT THE MUSIC DIED

At least two gay clubs have had a significant change in their entertainment offerings.

In either a one-year anniversary salute to last year's hurricanes or, more likely, an oddly timed case of misfortune, **CLUB FREEDOM** at Kissimmee's Freedom Resort and Spa is closed for several weeks due to a massive roof leak.

Front desk representatives said the club would be closed for at least two more weeks but to stay tuned for some new entertainment offerings once the facility reopens. Word has it that popular area spinner **DJ ANTHONY** has moved on to other work in Tampa.

And proving that real men don't eat quiche or apparently dance, the **FULL MOON SALOON**, Orlando's bear/Levi's/leather/latex/western/uniform bar has ceased providing live DJ music, except for special events. The outdoor open patio dance area tends to only fill up during large-scale events, such as October's annual Bear Bust; other nights it seemingly serves as a stand-and-pose area for bar attendees who'd rather been seen in the light as opposed to the much darker back area.

We find the demise of the area's only outdoor dance area as quite sad — apparently more locals couldn't embrace truly dancing in the dark. However,

the bar does appear to be continuing its monthly country night — with live DJ intact — held each last Friday of the month.

### ON HER WAY DOWN, SHE CALLED HER PUBLICIST

Believing that she is really more like the refined **EMMA THOMPSON** and less like publicity whore **PARIS HILTON**, the aging **MADONNA** celebrated her 47th birthday astride several hundred pounds of throbbing meat before landing in the hospital.

The Material Girl fell from a horse in yet another desperate plea for attention. She and husband **GUY RITCHIE**, who is a genuine British person and therefore can truthfully use the **MARY POPPINS** accent, celebrated her birthday at Ashcombe House, her estate outside of London. She broke several ribs, some bones in her hand, and apparently the speed of light in getting out the news about her injuries.

### ELLEN'S BACK AT THE EMMYS

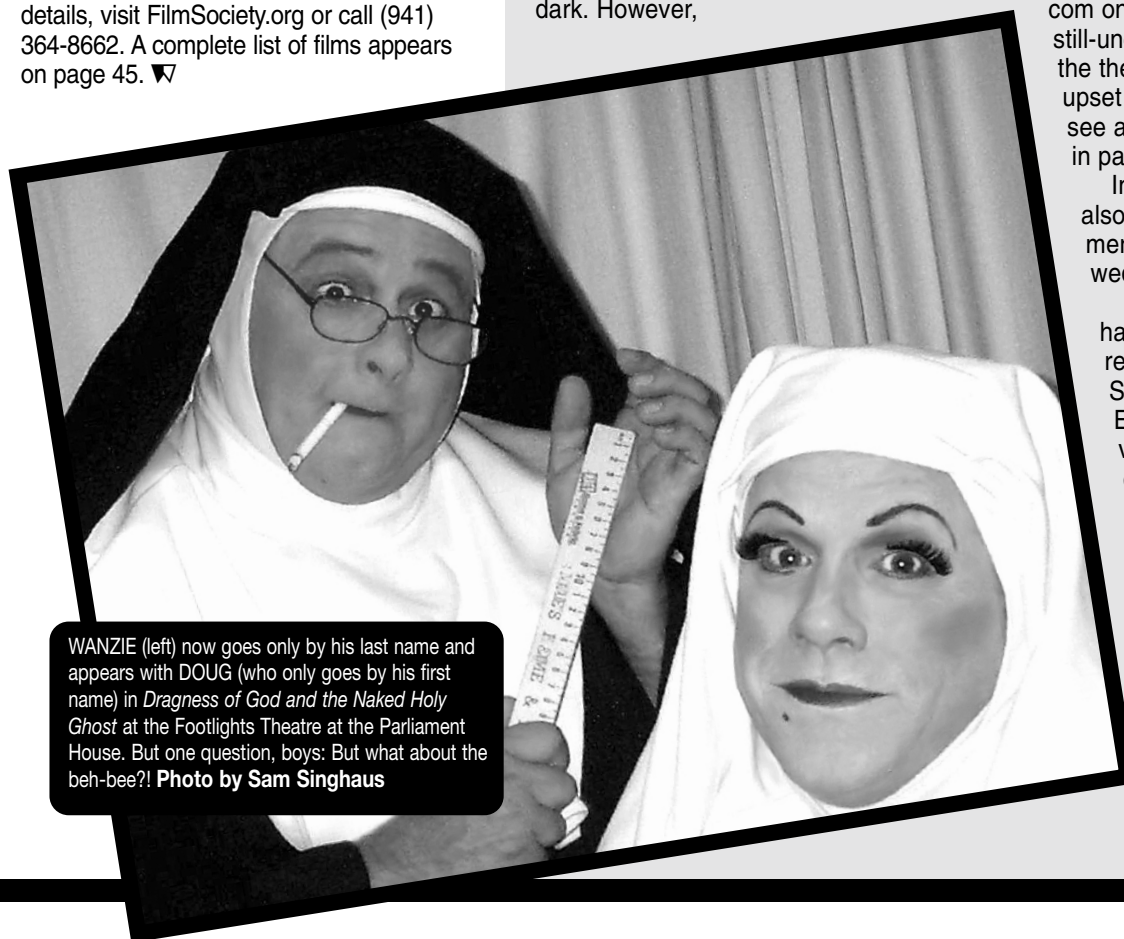
One of the best moments in recent award-show history came in weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The **EMMY AWARDS** were postponed twice before settling in for a low-key affair (most notable for the choice of footwear by the nominees) hosted by **ELLEN DeGENERES**.

The comedienne, who was launching a very funny and ill-fated sitcom on CBS at the time, told the still-uncomfortable audience in the theater that nothing should upset the terrorists more than to see a successful lesbian woman in pants hosting the show.

Incidentally, her appearance also came within weeks of former lover **ANNE HECHÉ's** wedding to an actual guy.

DeGeneres, who no longer has a sitcom to promote, returns to CBS on Sunday, Sept. 18, to host the Emmys. While she's less visibly lesbian now, the dancing lady will certainly bring a welcome sense of irreverence and class to the affair, as usual. We can't wait.

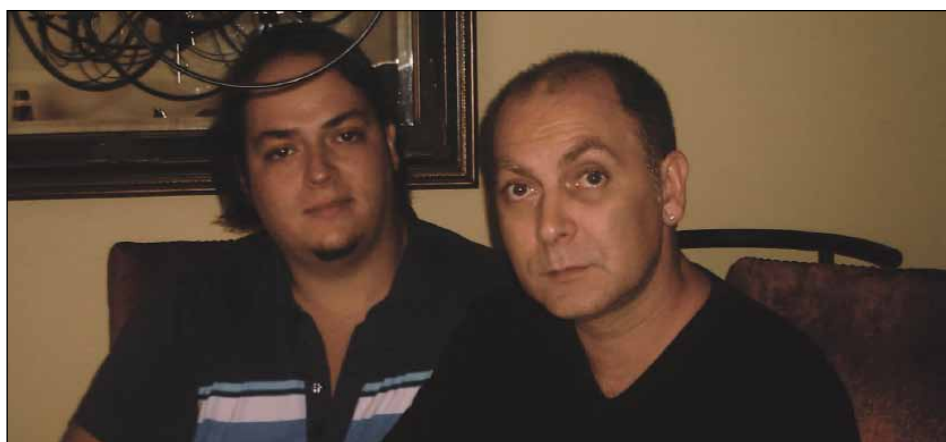
And if girlfriend **POR-TIA DE ROSSI's** show, *Arrested Development*, wins — watch out. ▼



WANZIE (left) now goes only by his last name and appears with DOUG (who only goes by his first name) in *Dragness of God and the Naked Holy Ghost* at the Footlights Theatre at the Parliament House. But one question, boys: But what about the beh-bee?! Photo by Sam Singhaus



## HEADLINE NEWS



Arthur DeLaGarza (left) and Bert Roberts look up from paperwork from the Pinellas County District Attorney's Office. Roberts was attacked outside a St. Petersburg bar July 10 and suffered bruise and cracked bones. The couple believes it was a hate crime. **Photo by Steve Blanchard**

## 'THIS CHANGES THINGS'

A recent attack against a St. Pete man follows the growing trend of hate crimes toward gays **By Steve Blanchard**

**ST. PETERSBURG** - When Arthur DeLaGarza put his arm around his partner, Bert Roberts, it was just a simple gesture so common among committed couples.

But it was enough to enrage Jason E. Pagan, 23, who later allegedly beat Roberts severely in the parking lot of Rookie's Sports Café on Fourth Street on July 10.

DeLaGarza said that he and Roberts

noticed Pagan earlier when he threw down a beer bottle near the couple after they had put their arms around each other.

"We didn't think much about it," DeLaGarza said. "I remember saying something about that guy having a bad night."

It wasn't just a bad night that caused the attack. DeLaGarza remembered hearing Pagan utter, "fucking faggots" when he threw the bottle. Neither Roberts nor DeLaGarza thought more about the incident.

However, when the couple finished their evening, they had to face it. Roberts went outside while DeLaGarza paid the tab. When DeLaGarza walked outside, he was horrified.

"I saw Bert's cell phone laying on the ground," he recalled. "Then I saw Bert on the ground."

Roberts suffered a laceration to the head, a cracked nose and a broken ocular bone. He also had bruises on his arms and a footprint embedded on his back.

"I really don't remember much so I think I must have passed out," Roberts said. "The doctors think he hit me over the head with something."

After making sure his partner was OK, DeLaGarza said he saw Pagan get into a car and stood behind it so Pagan couldn't leave.

"I dialed the police and stood there and relayed the tag," DeLaGarza said. "The police were there in less than a minute."

Police charged Pagan with simple battery, although the Pinellas County District Attorney's office may intensify the charges as a hate crime. He has been released on bond.

According to the St. Petersburg Police Department, Pagan is no stranger to jail with several drug-related charges on his record. He was charged with possession and sale of cocaine and most recently was charged for trafficking in it. Pagan had just been released from prison a week prior to the attack, according to some sources.

Even though his wounds have healed for the most part, Roberts is still treating his emotional scars since the attack.

"This definitely changes some things



BERT ROBERTS was beaten severely after leaving a St. Pete sports bar several weeks ago.

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Continued on page 25



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## ORLANDO

## ORLANDO MAN SELECTED AS GAY CABLE NEWS ANCHOR

ORLANDO - Local broadcaster Josh Fountain, who once served as a field reporter for WOFL Fox 35 in Orlando, has been selected as the news anchor for Q Television, the first 24/7 network for the GLBT community.

"I'm so proud to be the voice and face to provide news to the gay and lesbian community," said Fountain in his first interview since being hired for the position. "I want to be the gay Dan Rather."



Former Orlando broadcaster JOSH FOUNTAIN now anchors QTN Worldcast on Q Television.

Fountain, 28, will anchor *QTN Worldcast*, a half-hour news show on the burgeoning gay cable channel as

well as *Q in Focus*, a show focused on political issues important to the community.

A Florida native, Fountain brings many years of behind the scenes and on-air experience to his new position. His career in news started at the age of 15 when he interned at WJKS, an ABC affiliate in Jacksonville. He got his start at a local home and garden show where the station was allowing convention attendees the opportunity to take on the role of a news anchor and read the day's news.

His work impressed the station's producers who hired the high schooler as an intern. Relying on his father for transportation to and from the station, Fountain eventually ran the assignment desk and later wrote stories for the station's news anchors.

As a student at the University of Florida, Fountain became the youngest paid television reporter in Gainesville when he was hired at the local ABC affiliate, WCJB TV-20. When Fox started its local news divisions, Fountain signed on as a general assignment reporter for WOFL in Orlando where he covered hurricanes, space shuttle launches, executions at the state prison and the 1998 wildfires that ravaged the area.

"Working in news had its challenging moments," Fountain said. "My friends would be off having hurricane parties, and there I was covering the storms, right in the middle of it." Fountain said that he had to hide his sexuality while he was with the Fox station and was only out to two coworkers.

"Obviously, I'm much more comfortable with myself now," Fountain

said. "I even got a congratulatory e-mail from a previous boss of mine, joking how he remembered me as a 21-year-old running around the newsroom."

Electing to take a break from TV news, Fountain became a VIP manager at Pulse nightclub while hosting *Orlando Wedding TV*, a weekly cable access show.

While working at Pulse, Fountain met several producers from Q TV, in town this summer covering local events during Gay Days Weekend. Encouraging him to audition for their planned news show, Fountain accepted and later flew to Dallas to visit the company's studios.

"I missed being in news," Fountain said. "They threw me onto their Q TV news breaks and my first stories were on the marriage initiative that passed in Canada. I was interviewing representatives of the Canadian embassy as part of my audition."

Jumping in feet first to the deep end, Fountain found that returning to news reporting gave him a "huge adrenaline rush."

"I was nervous about going back into news - I hadn't read news in a while," Fountain said. "But thankfully it was like riding a bike. It felt good to feel like a journalist again. It's something that's just in your blood. For reporters, it's something we're destined to do."

Fountain said that while growing up his friends knew him as "the nosy one."

"They used to joke with me, 'Telephone, telegraph, Tell-a-Josh,'" Fountain said.

Though he was closeted while working at the Fox affiliate in Orlando, he no longer has that concern working at Q TV. The main feedback he received from his audition, however, was that his black Donna Karan suit was seen as slightly conservative and "not gay enough."

"The network president has already taken me out shopping for a new wardrobe," Fountain laughed.

Since his audition, Q TV has relocated to Los Angeles and has moved into the studios where *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy* once taped.

"I have Alex Trebek's old dressing room!" Fountain said, laughing. He said his time in Orlando provided him with many valuable friends and contacts whom he plans on utilizing as sources for his reporting.

"Patty Sheehan has become one of my dearest friends and I've already warned her that I'll be looking for her help as a political analyst," Fountain said about the openly lesbian city commissioner.

Though Q TV is not currently available in the Central Florida area, Fountain expects it to be part of the Bright House lineup within a few months. *W Kirk Hartlage*

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Long-time friends and colleagues the REV. JIM MERRITT (left) of Joy MCC hugs UFMCC moderator-elect the REV. NANCY WILSON, along with MICHAEL SHELTON at an Aug. 14 dinner in her honor. Photo by John Munera

## FRIENDS, ADMIRERS PRAISE TRINITY'S NANCY WILSON

**SARASOTA** - Nearly 200 people gathered Aug. 14 at the Longboat Key Club to pay tribute to the Rev. Nancy Wilson, moderator-elect of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Wilson led the congregation of Sarasota's Church of the Trinity MCC for four years.

Wilson's diverse group of admirers included Sarasota Mayor Mary Anne Servian, a long-time supporter of the GLBT community.

Servian praised Wilson's lengthy list of accomplishments since moving to Sarasota, saying that the pastor's efforts helped the region overcome years of mistrust to better celebrate its diversity and cultures. The mayor also proclaimed Aug. 1 as Rev. Nancy Wilson Day in the city.

"Nancy is an outstanding example of excellence," Servian said, as she showed the proclamation to the crowd.

Speakers from throughout the state acclaimed Wilson for her tenacity and drive. Sarasota nutritionist and friend Eve Prang Plews joked with the long-time church leader, but noted earnestly that Wilson "never refuses a challenge" — particularly when it comes to finding creative ways to solve problems.

Other tributes came from within the UFMCC. Regional elder the Rev. Gill Storey, who lives in Bradenton, reflected on

her work and friendship with Wilson.

"She is a high achiever — when she becomes focused, things start to get done," Storey said.

The Rev. Jim Merritt of Joy MCC presented Wilson with a plaque and picture signed by the members of the Orlando church to celebrate her election to the highest post of UFMCC.

In a voice filled with emotion, Merritt told the crowd Wilson "always had my back." Wilson helped Merritt "cross over" from a traditional Southern Baptist affiliation to becoming a minister at Trinity MCC and later at Joy MCC.

This celebration dinner was hardly the last step in Wilson's move to the top of the GLBT-friendly denomination. As she succeeds the Rev. Troy Perry, the church's founder, Wilson will be formally installed as the moderator on Oct. 29 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The public, as well as church clergy and laypeople, are invited to attend.

Wilson plans to maintain her base of operations in the Sarasota area while working with the West Hollywood, Calif.-based UFMCC. In the meantime, the Rev. Mona West officially took the pulpit at Trinity MCC on Aug. 7. West moved here after years in Dallas, Texas. ▼ *Bryan L. Middour*

### SARASOTA BRIEFS

#### BEAUDREAULT TO PERFORM AT HIV-AIDS BENEFIT SEPT. 23

Trinity Charities will host *An Evening With Don Beaudreault*, a benefit dinner and concert for HIV and AIDS service organizations through the Smart Ride on Friday, Sept. 23. Beaudreault, who is the pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Sarasota, will perform in a variety of musical styles, including jazz, Dixieland, blues, standards and show tunes. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$20. For more information, contact Trinity Charities at (941) 355-0847



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## TAMPA BAY

# EQUALITY FLORIDA OFFERS 'BOYCOTT'

**TAMPA** - The meeting did not receive the attention as some of its successors had, but the message was the same: We will not stand for bigotry.

On Aug. 15, organizers of the Hillsborough County "buycott" gathered to discuss the intricacies of the economic fight against businesses that side with a recent county law banning gay pride recognition. The plan is simple – spend money at businesses that celebrate diversity.

The buycott allows GLBT and gay-friendly consumers to know which businesses have fully inclusive anti-discrimination policies.

Equality Florida has spearheaded the mission for equality in Hillsborough after a June 15 meeting where commissioners passed a policy preventing the county from acknowledging or participating in gay pride events.

Commissioner Ronda Storms introduced the policy and capped it with a follow-up motion requiring a super majority of 5-2 to repeal it. The initial policy passed 5-1 with Commissioner Kathy Castor as the only dissenting vote. The follow up motion passed 6-1, again with Castor disagreeing with the commission.

"The Hillsborough County Commission may ignore how morally repugnant, discriminatory and anti-democratic their actions have been, but they seem to be paying attention to the economic peril caused by their actions," said Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida. "Business leaders, city council members and those involved in wooing major companies and sporting events such as the Super Bowl 2009 are worried that the hostile message may chase away those who have a commit-

See photos from Key West's Hillsborough Pride in Exile on page 14.

ment to inclusion and diverse employees and customers."

A poll on Equality Florida's Web site overwhelmingly favors a boycott rather than the buycott, but Equality Florida leaders believe supporting gay-friendly businesses rather than boycotting all businesses is the moral highroad.

"A buycott that focuses on spotlighting and encouraging businesses to stand against discrimination is a more positive and effective way to respond that builds long-term support," said Brian Winfield, Equality Florida's communications director. "While they share the same anger, they argue that a boycott would hurt friends as well as those who oppose equality, especially in a city where the mayor and city council members have spoken up so forcefully for justice."

Immediately after the June 15 decision, representatives of the city contacted the county to voice their opposition to the new policy. Mayor Pam Iorio is seen as a friend to the GLBT community and is largely responsible for the city of Tampa's human rights ordinance, which includes sexual orientation. She also battled for domestic partnership rights for gay and lesbian employees of the city.

## HOW IT WORKS

Implementing the buycott seems easy enough. Equality Florida has set up another Web site to list gay-owned and

gay-friendly businesses that celebrate diversity. Buycottfl.com allows business owners to register their business and it also lists businesses by category and city so patrons know whether or not to spend money there.

"But we need people to tell businesses about the buycott," Winfield says on the new Web site. "Simply go to places where you shop and ask them to join. All they do is fill out a form, provide a copy of their non-discrimination policy or adopt a sample policy we can provide."

Companies joining the buycott will receive stickers to place on their windows to alert shoppers of their anti-discrimination stand. More than 35 businesses from throughout the county were among the first to be listed among the GLBT-friendly firms to register with the Web site.

Patrons are also encouraged to give a "thank-you card" to participating businesses. If a patron finds a company that is discriminatory, "No-thank-you cards" are also available. Both cards can be

Continued on page 13

## SCHOOL LIBRARIAN GETS HEAT FOR E-MAILS

**TAMPA** - Bart Birdsall has been a school media specialist at Greco Middle School for eight years. Now, his future is uncertain.

The school board questioned Birdsall about several mass e-mails sent July 8 to other media specialists about the county's anti-gay policy. His e-mails suggested, "This opens the door to banning any type of display that some people disagree with. It sets a horrible precedent." The 38-year-old's message also encouraged participation in last month's protest

rally in Downtown Tampa and closed it with his personal e-mail information.

Birdsall, who is gay, is now in the hot seat for using school equipment to publicize his political views. However, he contends that officials are on a "witch hunt" and are reading e-mails without appropriate cause.

Board members contend the ruckus between Birdsall and the board was informative in nature, not disciplinary. Thus far, Birdsall remains employed by the school system.

## BOARD TO ASK COMMISSION TO REVISIT DECADE-OLD LAW

**TAMPA** - The Hillsborough County Commission may get one more chance to show some compassion.

The county's Human Relations Board voted to ask commissioners to revisit an early 1990s decision to remove sexual orientation from its anti-bias law. The 13-member citizens panel hears complaints of discrimination in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

Board member Al Giraud requested the action and said he has filed a complaint with the city of Tampa because he believes the county is stomping on human rights.

In 1993, the Hillsborough Commission voted to include sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination policy. Two years later, that provision was removed and repeated requests to have it restored have been rejected.

Giraud based his board's decision on news that most Fortune 500 companies have adopted similar policies, including Raytheon Defense Agency, which has a facility in Pinellas County. While the request is to have the commission reconsider the 1995 ruling, it will not ask commissioners to restore the phrase "sexual orientation."

## BLUE JAYS HOST DIVERSITY NIGHT

**DUNEDIN** - The Dunedin Blue Jays had no problem showing their support of diversity in the work place Aug. 13. The baseball team opened its home – Brighthouse Field – to families, friends and co-workers of the GLBT community.

The Blue Jays' employment policy includes sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination policy. The evening game against the Tampa Yankees

offered a way to celebrate all differences within all communities.

Parents were invited to bring their children to run the bases after the game and the Blue Jays dedicated a VIP room to Equality Florida members. Proceeds raised from the nighttime event were given to the organization, which has spearheaded the fight to repeal Hillsborough's recent policy change. ▽

Compiled by Steve Blanchard



The "thank-you card" can be downloaded from Equality Florida's BuycottFL.com.



## TAMPA BAY

## KILLER WHO USED 'GAY PANIC' DEFENSE SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS

**TAMPA** – Convicted child killer Ron Paris Jr. will spend the next 30 years in prison on second-degree murder charges. Judge Barbara Fleischer sentenced him Aug. 19.

In July, a jury convicted Paris, 22, of murdering his 3-year-old son, Ronnie, earlier this year. During the trial, witnesses told the jury Paris "rough-housed" with his son regularly because he didn't want the boy to grow up to be gay.

During the trial, Paris' defense attorney Kenn Litman attempted to shift the blame to the mother and even went as far as to hint at "gay panic," especially when trying to explain his client's motive. Paris believed, Litman argued, that his 3-year-old might have had gay tendencies and that he had to correct them.

Ronnie died Jan. 28 after spending nearly a week at St. Joseph's Hospital. The fatal injuries were from severe blows to the child's head, according to an autopsy report.

Prosecutors said that abuse was common in young Ronnie's life. The Department of Children and Families had removed the child from his home before when he was 5 months old because of similar abuse accusations. He was returned to his parents in late December 2004 after the couple completed parenting courses – just one month before he died.

The jury found Paris guilty in little more than three hours after hearing from the youngster's mother, Nysheerah Paris, who detailed the beating.

The abuse began shortly after the child was returned to the couple in December, according to the mother's testimony. She said Paris would hit the boy on the back of the head so hard that they had to rush the young boy to the hospital because of vomiting spells. She said she didn't tell authorities of the abuse until later because she didn't want to lose her son to DCF again.

The elder Paris "came into the

kitchen. He was upset and slammed the baby against the wall," she said. The following day, she remembered the child did not want to eat and was acting lethargic.

Thinking the child was just feeling ill, the Parises went to a friend's house for Bible study later that day. The toddler spent most of the day sleeping on the couch, but eventually his mother noticed something was out of the ordinary.

"We were quoting Scriptures and stuff and I looked over at my baby and saw he wasn't breathing," she told the jury.

Ronnie's parents rushed him to the hospital and even found a police officer on the way who administered CPR.

Unfortunately, it was too late. Ronnie remained on life support six days before he finally died.

During his sentencing, Ron Paris' older sister, Ronika, pleaded for lenience. She told the judge that Paris "loved that baby more than anything" and then asked to hug her brother. Fleischer allowed the request.

Paris said he loved his son and never did anything to hurt or abuse the child in any way.

"I'm not a drug dealer. I don't wear my pants off my butt. I work hard for everything," Paris told the judge, according to court reports. "I'm still mourning for my son's death. I'm sorry, ma'am, I don't have an answer for a cause or who did what."

Fleischer told Paris she didn't think he was an evil man, but she didn't fully believe he was remorseful.

"I think for a father to kill his own child is an unforgivable act," Fleischer said. But she added that Paris was "salvageable" and ordered him to undergo mental health treatment before ever having contact with another child.

Authorities charged Nysheerah Paris with felony child neglect. She could face 15 years in prison. **Steve Blanchard**

**EQUALITY FLORIDA** from page 12

downloaded at [BuycottFl.com](http://BuycottFl.com).

Volunteers to canvass businesses around Hillsborough County are needed, contact Equality Florida at (813) 870-3735.

### THE ECONOMICS OF THE ANTI-GAY POLICY

While locals are encouraging a buycott rather than a boycott, several businesses have already begun looking at other areas for conventions and other moneymaking events in the county.

According to a story in the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*, no conventions have yet pulled out of Tampa this year. However, the Tampa Bay Convention and Business Bureau admitted many companies contract directly with hotels rather than through the bureau.

The *Journal* also goes on to say that Mini Systems of Sardis, Miss., has decided to pursue other cities for its upcoming convention when commissioners failed to respond to a request for clarification of the new policy. Now, that convention's 2,000 participants and estimated \$1 million in spending could be spent in Jacksonville.

Tampa Bay Convention and Business Bureau officials said that since many businesses have already paid for their conventions in Tampa this year, an economic backlash may not be noticeable until 2006, when conventions could

## HILLSBOROUGH COMMISSION

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 25.

**WHERE:** Progress Village Middle School at 8113 Zinnia Drive in Tampa.

**WHO:** The meeting is in Commissioner Kathy Castor's district, but the entire board is expected to attend.

**TO SPEAK:** Get there early so you can sign up.

refuse to return to the area.

Even though the issue of Hillsborough County's anti-gay policy is more than two months old, Equality Florida members say the momentum to repeal it is still very strong. Friday evening rallies are held at Brandon Square Mall within the heart of Storms' district. Photographers are portraying families of all types for an upcoming exhibit showing diversity in Hillsborough County.

"And it's important to show you care," Winfield said.

For more information on the buycott and on Equality Florida's upcoming events, visit [EqFl.org](http://EqFl.org). **Steve Blanchard**



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## TAMPA BAY BRIEFS

### BENEFIT SCREENING OF 'HARVEY MILK' SET FOR SEPT. 1

Just Say Know, formed as the arts community's response to the political attack against Hillsborough County's GLBT community, will co-host a benefit screening of the documentary, *The Times of Harvey Milk*, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 1, at Sunrise Cinemas-Old Hyde Park Village, 1609 W. Swann Ave., in Tampa. The cost for tickets, which will benefit the efforts to combat the county's ban against gay pride displays, is \$9. The Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is co-sponsoring the screening. For more information, contact Margaret Murray at (727) 688-4894. Just Say Know's community portrait of GLBT families and the people who love them, which will be exhibited at Covivant Gallery beginning Sept. 9.

### TRADEWINDS RESORT TO HOST FALL FASHION SHOW

If you're wondering what's hot and what's not for the upcoming fall and winter seasons, check out the fall fashion show at the TradeWinds Resort Aug. 28. The Fashion Show begins at noon and will run until 4 p.m. Appetizers and light beverages will be served. Following the show, on the spot interviews will be held by Quickbooks Fashion scouts. If you want to know what is hot this season or if you're ready for the spotlight, the show promises to be worth the \$10 admission.

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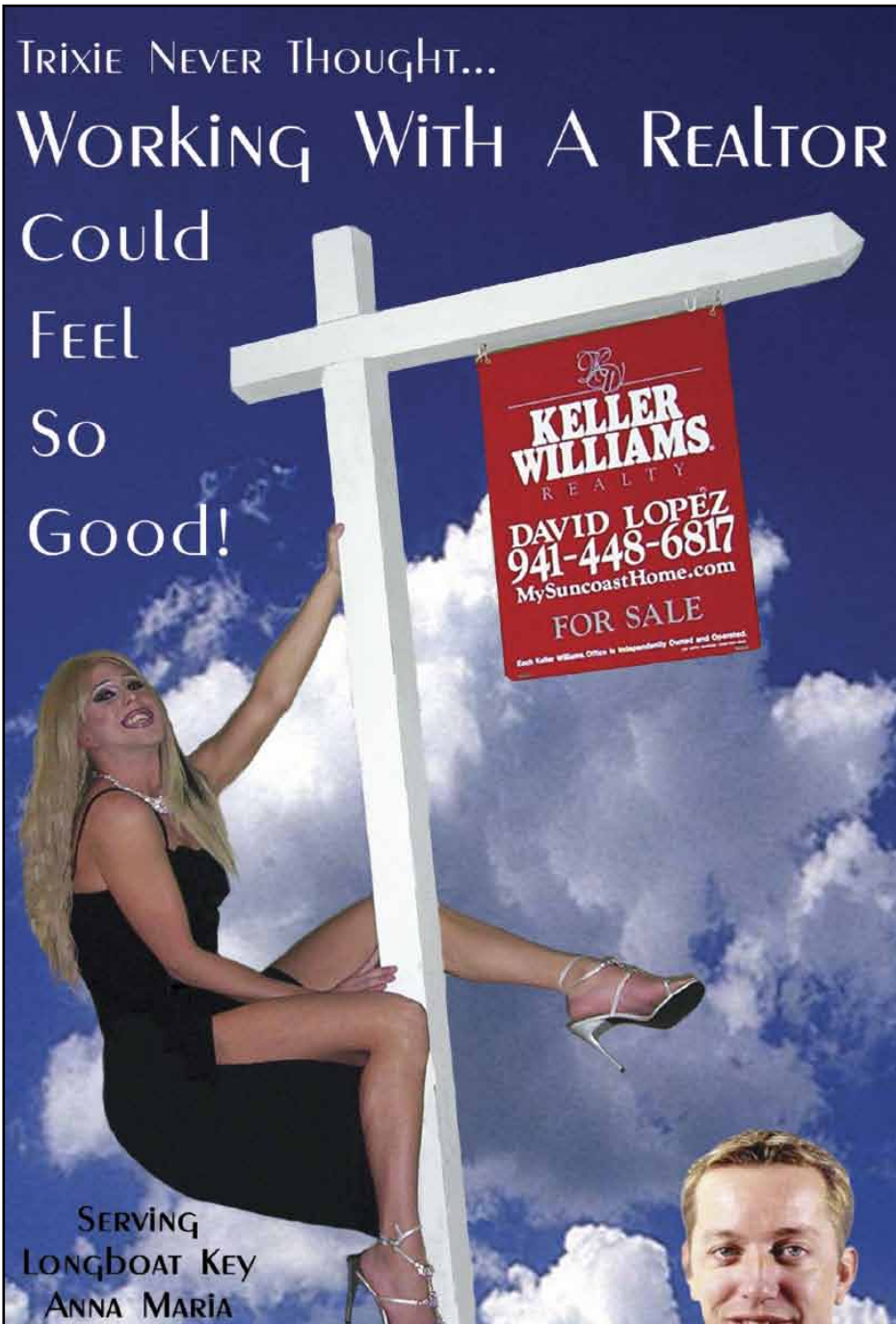
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Tampa Bay bon vivants CARRIE WEST (second from left) and MARK BIAS (right) carried signs in protest of the Hillsborough County's actions. **Photos by Rex Maniscalco**

## HUNDREDS PARTY IN KEY WEST FOR HILLSBOROUGH 'PRIDE'

**KEY WEST** - Monroe County officials turned their backs on their Hillsborough County counterparts and invited Tampa area friends to fly their rainbow flags from wherever they chose Aug. 13-15. The Hillsborough Pride in Exile attracted hundreds to the Conch Republic.

Tampa residents — many who partied their way down to Key West aboard a luxury bus — helped fill the island city's Duval Street as they carried the 100-foot gay pride flag in a solidarity march that was endorsed by the city and the county. Among those appearing at the rally: MCC

Tampa senior pastor, the Rev. Phyllis Hunt, Key West Mayor Jimmy Weekley and Monroe County Mayor Dixie Spehar. Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter, Lorraine Hemingway, could be spotted in the crowd as well.

The event was conceived after Hillsborough County Commission's June 15 vote to ban county agencies from acknowledging, promoting or participating in gay pride recognition and events.

"We hope county commissioners realize we're not a threat to anyone (and) that we're a very great group of people," Tampa resident Matt Bachman said. "It's unfortunate we have to travel 400 miles to Key West in order to celebrate diver-

sity."

"Up in Tampa and St. Pete, people have been calling us expressing their gratitude that a community of strangers has reached out to them in a positive way and supported their cause," said event co-organizer Jim Gilleran.

With parties throughout the weekend, actors parodied the Hillsborough Commission, with several of them ending up the Bourbon St. Pub's pool.

Both the Monroe County and Key West City commissions proclaimed the weekend as Hillsborough Pride in Exile, a sharp contrast to the move by the Hillsborough commission's efforts.

"Our strength is our diversity and we accept everyone in our community," Key West Mayor Jimmy Weekley said. **Staff and wire reports**

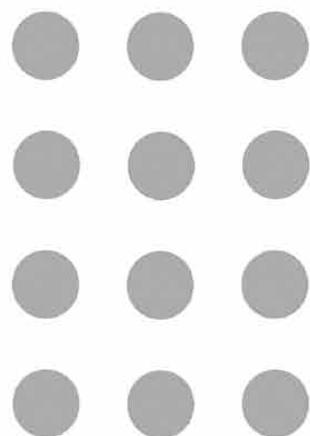


BRIAN SPRAGUE helped organize the trek to Key West.



BRIAN LONGSTRETH (below, left) and friends grip the flag as they pull it along





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## NATION/WORLD BRIEFS

## ONE OF MATTHEW SHEPARD'S KILLERS SEEKS APPEAL

Russell Henderson, one of the two men serving life sentences for killing gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard in 1999, should not be allowed to appeal his conviction and sentence because his rights were not violated, an attorney for the state argues. Henderson contends his trial attorney never advised him that he could appeal his conviction and sentence, causing him to miss the deadline to appeal either. Henderson and Aaron McKinney beat Shepard and tied him to a fence outside Laramie in October 1998. He is serving two consecutive life sentences after pleading guilty in 1999 to first-degree-murder.

## JAPANESE POLITICIAN COMES OUT DURING GAY PRIDE EVENTS

A Japanese assemblywoman came out during Tokyo's gay pride in mid-August, saying that too many people have remained silent in fear of discrimination and prejudice. Kanako Otsuji said that "By declaring I'm homosexual, I would like to highlight the problems and put an end to a vicious circle." Otsuji, 30, is a member of the Prefectural Assembly in Osaka. She is expected to publish her autobiography in Japan later this year, detailing more aspects of her sexuality and her coming out.

## CHINESE UNIVERSITY OFFERS COURSE IN HOMOSEXUALITY

A university in Shanghai is offering China's first class on homosexuality and gay culture, and several hundred students have applied for the 100 openings. Professor Gao Yanning, who is teaching the course at Fudan University said that it aims to break down widespread prejudice against gays in China. Gays were strongly persecuted after China's 1949 communist revolution, condemned as products of decadent Western and feudal societies. In 2001, the China Psychiatric Association ceased listing homosexuality as a mental illness. Looser enforcement of laws on homosexual behavior has allowed small but thriving gay scenes to emerge in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities in the east.

## KANSAS LAWMAKERS LOOK AT GAY ADOPTION BAN ISSUES

Now, Kansas lawmakers will consider adding a ban on gay adoptions. Rep. Steve Huebert, R-Valley Center, asked legislative leaders in July to put adoption criteria on list of topics to be studied before the Legislature begins Jan. 9. He believes adoption should be limited to homes with a mother and father. His proposal has received criticism from GLBT advocacy groups, and many lawmakers said they weren't eager to take on such an emotional issue.

## TEEN WINS \$250,000 FROM LAWSUIT OVER BULLYING

**KANSAS CITY, Kan.** - A Kansas teenager was awarded \$250,000 in his federal lawsuit claiming that he was so badly bullied by classmates that he quit school. Dylan Theno, now 18, claimed Tonganoxie school district officials knew about the taunting and did nothing to stop it.

The district said it dealt with all the incidents Theno reported, noting that the harassment stopped before Theno dropped out. He has since earned a GED and plans to enroll in community college this fall.

The lawsuit, heard in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan., sought \$700,000. Theno claimed the harassment deprived him of an education.

Theno's attorney, Arthur Benson, said he is unaware of any other verdicts in same-sex, student-on-student harassment cases in federal court won by a student.

The lawsuit was filed under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. The verdict is important, Benson said, in that the law has been used mainly to curb discrimination in athletics on the basis of gender.

"That is what this case is about," Benson said. "Dylan Theno was for years called very ugly terms based on what was the stereotypical expectations of the masculine student and Dylan Theno did not meet

those expectations."

Theno testified that a rumor started in seventh grade by another student that he was gay continued into high school, where classmates called him derogatory names for gay men. Theno testified that he is not gay.

Benson told the *Kansas City Star* that Theno was small for his age and wore his hair differently than other students, including for a time with a rat-tail. Theno was one of a few who participated in tae kwon do, which fueled taunts of "karate girl."

"It just was getting worse and worse and worse," Theno testified in court. "The kids kept getting on me."

Because school administrators didn't stop the harassment, the name-calling eventually became part of the school's culture, Benson argued.

Theno testified that he stopped complaining to school administrators because they didn't do anything, the *Star* reported. When his parents would intervene with parents of the harassers, school administrators and other school officials, Theno testified, the harassment got worse.

The school district's attorney, J. Stephen Pigg, of Topeka, said in closing arguments that name-calling and crude comments are something that boys — and men — do all the time. (AP)



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## NATION / WORLD

## RADIO JOCKS FINED FOR HANDING OUT GAY PORN

CONWAY, Ark. - A pair of former Little Rock radio station employees have been sentenced to community service and will have to pay \$250 in fines after pleading guilty to charges they distributed a gay porn video to a minor during a gay rights parade in Conway last year.

Phillip Beard pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of distributing pornography to a minor; Christine Brown pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor criminal attempt charge. Each was sentenced to 24 hours of community service and fined \$500 with \$250 suspended. Their court costs also were waived.

Beard said his intent was never malicious and the case was a misunderstanding.

Brown characterized their behavior at the parade as "a joke" and said "there was never a case to begin with."

The two were accused of handing out obscene material during the June 2004 parade in Conway. A boy, then 16, said Beard gave him the video while dressed

only in a skimpy black swimsuit.

Jurors watched television news coverage of the parade, showing Beard waving a DVD and saying, "Gay porn. Gay porn."

Before testimony began, Prosecutor H.G. Foster said the case was important "as a societal statement. There are very few who would disagree that when it comes to distribution of explicit materials, generally as a society, we think that's unacceptable."

Arkansas has a separate charge for distribution of explicit material to minors, but Foster said it was more appropriate to charge the pair under the state's general obscenity statute. Penalties for both felonies are the same - fines of up to \$2,000 and a maximum of five years in prison.

The radio station for which Beard and Brown worked said after the stunt that the pair no longer worked there.

The parade also drew a protester who dumped cow manure along the route. (AP)

## COUPLES CHALLENGE RULE ON DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

LANSING, Mich. - Attorneys for 21 gay couples and Gov. Jennifer Granholm asked a judge to rule that Michigan's constitution does not prevent governments and universities from providing health insurance and other benefits to partners of gay employees.

Circuit Court Judge Joyce Draganichuk heard arguments centering on a constitutional amendment approved by voters last year. It made the union between a man and a woman the only agreement recognized as a marriage "or similar union for any purpose."

Republican Attorney General Mike Cox issued a legal opinion in March saying those six words bar public employers from offering domestic partner benefits in

future contracts.

But an attorney for the couples said that health insurance is simply a benefit of employment and argued that granting it in no way recognizes a union similar to marriage. Deborah Labelle also said backers of the ballot proposal consistently claimed it was only about marriage - not benefits.

"This goes way beyond the stated purpose of the amendment ... and far beyond the drafters' and voters' intent," she said of Cox's interpretation.

The Granholm Administration has decided not to offer state employees same-sex benefits, included in new labor contracts, until a court rules on their legality. Kalamazoo has announced it will eliminate same-sex benefits as of Jan. 1. (AP)

## LIBRARY: CHECK OUT A LESBIAN

STOCKHOLM - A Swedish library, realizing that books are not the only things being judged by their covers, gave visitors a different opportunity recently - to borrow a lesbian, Muslim or a Dane.

The city library in Malmo, Sweden's third-largest city, let curious visitors check out living people for 45-minute chats in a project meant to tear down prejudices about different religions, nationalities or professions.

The project, called Living Library, was introduced at Denmark's Roskilde Festival in 2000, librarian Catharina Noren said. It has since been tried at a Copenhagen library, as well as in Norway, Portugal and Hungary.

The people who were to be borrowed

also included a journalist, a gypsy, a blind man and an animal rights activist.

"There are prejudices about everything," Noren said. "This is about fighting those prejudices and promoting coexistence."

Interest in the project has been high, Noren said, particularly among people who are trying to understand their prejudices.

"It could be that you're about to belong to one of these categories yourself, such as someone losing their eyesight," Noren said. "Or it could be someone who just found out their child is a lesbian. But then there are people who just want to unload a lot of anger. These people (who get borrowed) were ready for anything to happen." (AP)

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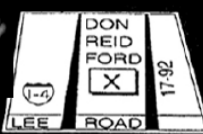
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## HEALTH

## LAWSUIT CHALLENGES VALIDITY OF RULE FOR AIDS PREVENTION

WASHINGTON - Social conservatives have long tried to impose their moral views upon AIDS prevention activities and organizations — and the Bush Administration has found a new way to do just that.

Federal officials now want to require that international groups providing family planning and HIV prevention activities certify that they have a policy “explicitly opposing prostitution.”

That policy has been challenged in a lawsuit filed against the U.S. Agency for International Development on Aug. 11. It claims the provision is a gag order that restricts the free speech of the organizations involved.

The suit was brought by DKT International, a non-profit organization that provides social marketing for family planning and HIV prevention services to nearly 10 million people in 11 countries. It receives about 16% of its funding from the U.S. government either directly or indirectly through grants and contracts. The remainder comes from other national governments, private donations and groups such as the Gates Foundation.

In July, Family Health International said it could not renew a USAID subcontract with DKT for continued work making lubricants and condoms available in Vietnam unless the organization signed the anti-prostitution pledge.

“DKT has no policy on prostitution and does not wish to adopt one. It believes it has a First Amendment right not to do so,” the organization argues in its lawsuit.

“The government can tell us what to

do with their money, that is not in question,” says DKT president Philip D. Harvey, “But it is reprehensible, and we believe unconstitutional, to tell us what to do with private money.”

Humanitarian organizations “should not be mouthpieces for government officials whose opinions, in many cases, they do not share. Freedom of speech means that Americans may, without risking punishment, express their opinions freely and not be forced to express the opinions of others,” Harvey said.

The policy also doesn’t make much sense, observers said. HIV is transmitted sexually and educating people in the sex trade to risk reduction is a crucial part of trying to control the epidemic.

Concern over the regulation has been growing among non-governmental organizations that work internationally in AIDS prevention activities. Harvey said that many groups are spending tremendous amounts of time and energy with USAID trying to find out what is a definition of prostitution, what is meant by “promoting” prostitution, what must be the extent of an organization’s policy of opposition, and must that be put in writing.

Harvey is the founder of Adam & Eve, one of the first mail-order suppliers of condoms in the US. He started it to help support his international interests and the business has grown to become one of the largest direct purveyors of contraceptives, sex toys and adult videos in the country. A portion of the profits supports DKT’s international activities. ▼ *Bob Roehr*

## SCIENTISTS ENCOURAGED BY NEW ANTI-HIV DRUG STUDY

LONDON - A new treatment strategy has shown promise in helping to transform HIV into a curable infection.

Preliminary research published in *The Lancet*, a Britain-based medical journal, outlines how scientists used an anti-convulsant drug to awaken dormant HIV hiding in the body, temporarily invisible but dangerous.

HIV infection is incurable because current drugs only work when the virus is multiplying. The virus only multiplies when it is in an active cell. However, HIV sometimes infects dormant cells, and when it does so it becomes dormant itself.

While the virus poses no threat in its resting state, the problem is that the sleeping cells sporadically wake up, reactivating the virus, causing it to multiply. Patients must continue to take the medications for life so that they can fight the virus coming out of the reawakened cells. Only if every last infected dormant cell is wiped out — or the virus purged from all of these cells — can patients be free of medication and be cured, experts say.

Over the last few years, a handful of

other drugs have been shown to decrease the size of the dormant HIV pool, but they were subsequently abandoned as impractical because their effect was either too weak or the side effects too toxic.

The latest drug, valproic acid, shows more promise, said Dr. Warner Greene, director of the Gladstone Institute for Virology and Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco.


“It’s a first baby step, showing that maybe the use of (this type of drug) — far more likely in combination with one or two other agents — might be a viable approach for tackling this latency problem,” said Greene, who was not involved with the research but is conducting similar studies.

The study, led by Dr. David Margolis at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, tested the ability of valproic acid to reduce the number of infected dormant cells. Four patients on standard therapy were given the pills to take twice daily for three months. The size of this pool of infected dormant cells decreased by 75% in three out of the four patients. (AP)

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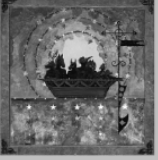
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Traditional worship services at 9:15 a.m., and a contemporary service at 11 a.m.. Friday services at 7 p.m. with a 6 p.m. social. 7225 N. Lockwood Ridge Road. (941)355-0847 or [Trinity1srq@aol.com](mailto:Trinity1srq@aol.com).

## DIGNITY OF SARASOTA

Mass for GLBT Catholics Sundays at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. (941)359-9504 or [www.dignitysarasota.com](http://www.dignitysarasota.com).

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Meets the first Tuesday of each month at the ALSO drop in center, 1624 Ringling Blvd. Contact Luann Conaty at (941) 493-9036, e-mail [Soulforce.swflorida@verizon.net](mailto:Soulforce.swflorida@verizon.net), or visit [www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org).

## SUNCOAST CATHEDRAL MCC

9 a.m. traditional services and 11 a.m. contemporary services on Sundays with Rev. Dr. Sherry L. Kennedy. 3276 East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL (941)484-7068 or e-mail [scmcc@mindspring.com](mailto:scmcc@mindspring.com).

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Welcoming congregation with openly gay minister. Services at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, 3975 Fruitville Road (941) 371-4974. Rev. Don Beaudreault.

## BROCK NAMED TO FULL-TIME POST AT KING OF PEACE MCC

*ST. PETERSBURG* - Lorraine Brock has been named as the new director of worship and congregational life at King of Peace MCC in St. Petersburg.

She joins the Rev. John Gill, the church's senior pastor, as the second full-time staff member for the congregation.

Brock has earned master's degrees in both theology and divinity, is a certified spiritual director and is a grief recovery specialist. Over this past year, Brock completed her clergy candidacy process within the UFMCC and will be ordained a minister within the denomination at 10 a.m.,

Sunday, Oct. 16.

Her job at King of Peace comes after serving 20 years in the Pinellas County school system. With the relocation of Equality Florida into office space on the church grounds, Brock is becoming involved with the need for a "safe schools" or anti-bullying bill in the state Legislature.

Brock said that she's concerned as a former educator with the need to protect GLBT youngsters, as well as the children who have gay or lesbian parents. She has been meeting with Pinellas school board members to determine if the county's school policies adequately protect GLBT and gay-parented students from harassment.

The new worship director said that she feels "very comfortable" with creating and worshipping in a traditional church service, but she also enjoys the monthly contemporary services at King of Peace.

"I like some of the old hymns but I love to clap and celebrate with some of the newer contemporary songs," Brock said. ▽ *Staff reports*

## RENEGADE CHURCHES CAN KEEP PROPERTY

*SANTA ANA, Calif.* - A judge has ruled that the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles cannot confiscate the property of a congregation that has broken with the diocese and national denomination to protest consecration of openly gay bishop the Rev. V. Gene Robinson.

Orange County Superior Court Judge David C. Velasquez dismissed a lawsuit brought by the diocese against the dissident St. James Church in Newport Beach, saying the parish's actions were protected by freedom of speech.

The significant ruling means that St. James retains legal possession of its buildings, other property and financial records. The ruling comes at a point when Episcopal congregations in other states have been leaving the denomination over the gay issue or are considering doing so.

Two other California Episcopal parishes — All Saints' Church in Long Beach and St. David's Church in North Hollywood — are also challenging lawsuits the diocese filed against them. Those cases will be heard in September. (AP)



LORRAINE BROCK will be ordained at King of Peace on Oct. 16.



# SPIRITUALITY

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## FORMER TEMPE, ARIZ., MAYOR NAMED AS GLAAD PRESIDENT

**NEW YORK** - The openly gay four-term mayor of Tempe, Ariz., has been named as the president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Neil G. Giuliano, 48, takes the helm of the GLBT advocacy organization on Sept. 1. take the helm of the nation's lesbian, gay,

Giuliano succeeds Joan M. Garry, who stepped down from GLAAD in June after leading the organization through eight years of sustained financial and program growth.

"During such a critical time for the GLBT community, I am honored and excited to lead one of our movement's most vital and respected organizations," Giuliano said. "From anti-defamation campaigns to media trainings that directly serve our community's leaders, GLAAD brings our stories to life in the very places that hold the key to winning our quest for equality."

A successful regional leader in the generally conservative state of Arizona, Giuliano has been one of the nation's most visible gay elected officials. A seasoned public administrator, Giuliano also brings to GLAAD 25 years of experience at

Arizona State University, where he served as director for federal government relations, director for community relations and most recently as the co-chair of the final 2004 presidential debate held at ASU.

Giuliano was the non-partisan elected representative of the largest city in America with an openly gay mayor between 1996 and 2003, and, as a progressive Republican, was endorsed by the Victory Fund in each of his last three campaigns. Giuliano has consistently received overwhelming public support, winning his fourth term in 2000 with 70% of the vote and beating a subsequent recall effort spearheaded by anti-gay political organizers by a similar margin. **▼ Staff reports**



NEIL G. GIULIANO says he will bring his experience in public administration to his new role with GLAAD.

## GAY MAN SUES REAL ESTATE FIRM FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**WICHITA, Kan.** - Lambda Legal announced a lawsuit against Coldwell Banker Americana and one of its female employees arising from the termination of Tim Watchous who was fired from the company for being a gay man.

"Imagine being fired for something that has nothing to do with the value of your work," said Ken Upton, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's office in Dallas. "While Kansas unfortunately doesn't have a law expressly prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the workplace, the company has its own rules about fairness in the workplace. They were ignored here."

Watchous is suing the company on the grounds of breach of contract and Scofield for improper interference with the contract. The lawsuit states that in handling the harassment the way it did and in firing Watchous, Coldwell Banker Americana violated its own anti-discrimination and harassment policies.

Watchous worked for Coldwell Banker Americana as a marketing director

for three years. His suit alleges that although office manager Laurie Scofield knew that he was gay, she developed romantic feelings for him and started making unwanted advances toward him. She also told Watchous several times that she could change his sexual orientation if they were intimate just once.

Scofield's ongoing harassment of Watchous included writing and giving him a "poem" that read, "Twist the lock, get ready to rock, I want to go for a ride on your cock."

When Watchous complained to the franchise owner about the harassment, she fired him. In an e-mail to Watchous, the company admitted that he was fired because of a "bump in the road" with Scofield and because of "some of the concerns other agents had with your lifestyle."

Coldwell Banker is a subsidiary of the Fortune 500 company, Cendant Corp., which has a policy that strictly forbids harassment or discrimination because of sexual orientation or sexual preference. **▼ Staff reports**

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### MAN WINS \$270,000 AFTER RADIO SHOW OUTS HIM

A San Francisco man who says he was devastated after he was outed on a national Spanish-language radio show will be paid \$270,000 by Univision Radio, an arbitrator has ruled. Radio ad sales associate Roberto Hernandez, 45, was driving to work in 2002 when he received a phone call from a man who said that he met Hernandez at a San Francisco gay bar. The call was broadcast on a Texas-based radio program. Hernandez worked for the local station that broadcast the show, and sold advertising for the program. He said that he had been discreet about disclosing his sexual orientation.





BERT ROBERTS (left) and ARTHUR DELAGARZA say they thought the alleged assailant was just having a bad night before Roberts was attacked. **Photo by Steve Blanchard**

#### **HATE CRIME** from page 6

for us," Roberts admitted. "I haven't been back to that bar yet, and we have some good friends there."

DeLaGarza agreed. He said he and Roberts are more careful when they leave

their home.

"Now, if we go out, it's always with a group and we never leave anyone alone," DeLaGarza said. "It's sad that we have to do that, but this shows that something crazy like this can happen to anybody." ▼

## **REPORT: HATE CRIMES TOWARD GLBT COMMUNITY INCREASING**

**TALLAHASSEE** - According to Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist, hate crimes like the one that Bert Roberts endured have steadily increased in the GLBT community over the past five years.

Recent reports showed a clear growth in hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation and identity. In the last four years, Florida law enforcement agencies reported more hate crimes in 2003 — the most recent year for the study — motivated by sexual orientation (194) than the combined total for the first eight years of hate crimes reporting (193).

While the overall statistics show a 10% decline in the number of hate crimes reported throughout Florida, Crist said he

is concerned about the rapid rise of hate crimes based on sexual orientation.

"Hate crimes are among the most insidious offenses and are a cancer on a civilized society," Crist said. "The effort to eliminate hate-based crime will take community involvement, law enforcement activity and the commitment of individuals throughout Florida. There can be no place in our state for people who target others out of prejudice and hatred."

Another notable trend in hate crimes seems to be a shift away from individuals as targets. Instead, antagonists have targeted property. According to the report, crimes against people accounted for 68% of all hate crimes, which was down 72% from the previous year. ▼

## **NO ARRESTS YET IN ARSON TO GAY COUPLE'S HOME**

**LAKELAND** - The arson of a gay couple's Lakeland home remains under investigation after more than a month. While authorities remain tight-lipped, the investigation continues, despite the lack of suspects.

The double-wide mobile home of Christopher Day and Paul Robertson was torched July 25 and the words "Die Fag" were spray-painted on the steps. So far, the incident has not been categorized as a

hate crime. When an incident is classified as a "hate crime," it is enhanced with possibly stronger punishments. So far, no one has been charged in the July arson.

The Polk Gay and Lesbian Association has set up a benevolent fund at the Washington Mutual Bank, 335 Cypress Gardens Blvd., Winter Haven FL 33880. The bank can be reached at (863) 299-9759. ▼ **Steve Blanchard**

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## VIEWPOINT



## OUT OF THE BOX THE EXECUTIONER'S SWORD AND GAY MARRIAGE

By Greg Burton

Anne Boleyn was always causing trouble for poor Henry VIII. First, he had a devil of a time making her his queen, only to have even more trouble when he decided to get rid of her. The result of those troubles still resonate with us today. For in the Anglo-American system, the government decides who can get married and it is all because of Anne.

Before Henry got the hots for her, all matters involving marriage, divorce, inheritance, etc., were decided not by the king's law courts but by the church's ecclesiastical courts. When Henry decided to break from Rome, marry Anne, declare himself head of the Church of England, seize the monasteries, move into Cardinal Wolsey's palaces and behead anyone who got in his way, he got the church's courts and their cases as well. Now all issues regarding marriage were heard by the king's chancellor. In England and Wales, the state assumed control of the church.

How different was France where yet another queen, Marie Antoinette, lost her head. (I am certain many readers know queens who have lost their heads, but I digress.) In both cases the execution of the queen was part of a rather messy govern-

mental reorganization. What few in this country know is that Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI were just two of many who lost their heads in the French Revolution. Many bishops and other princes of the church did too.

The power of the church was broken. No longer could it decide who got married. The state would simply grant civil marriages to citizens. As the flames of the revolution died, many desired to have a religious sanction to their union, and the church — for a fee — was happy to oblige. And so it is today in France and other parts of the continent. You can only have a religious ceremony *after* you have had the civil one. In France, the state eliminated the church.

As former British colonies, the American experience has been limited by the English model where the state and religion are fused. Our national myth that the country was founded on religious freedom is just that — more myth than fact. As of

July 1776, only Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and arguably Maryland enjoyed what we would consider religious freedom today.

The year is 1789, the Continental Congress is meeting in Philadelphia. The U.S. Constitution has been drafted yet many individual states are refusing to ratify the document until the powers of the new Federal government were circumscribed to ensure that many of the freedoms that the individual states had provided in their separate constitutions would not be proscribed by the new Federal. And so the delegates drafted the first 10 amendments that we call the Bill of Rights. It is there that the doctrine of separation of church and state is enshrined.

What does the prohibition of a national religion or of laws limiting the free exercise thereof mean? How much can religion play a part in state policy-making? Is it a complete wall of separation as some would have it? Or is this a country founded by those who believed in a personal god and deference to such beliefs is completely acceptable in

policy making? The latter is the position Justice Antonin Scalia voiced in his recent dissent in the freedom of religion cases decided this last term. The problem is that the Bill of Rights merely protects freedom

of religion.

The French Revolution, which occurred a decade after the Bill of Rights was written, went further by giving people not only freedom of religion, but the freedom *from* religion as well. The revolutionaries recognized that the functions that the church had provided must be replaced by a different — yet similar — state entity for people to be truly free. Otherwise, the church will always have undue influence on the lawmakers. And so all citizens must now have a civil union. The religious ceremony is just an option.

This distinction is key, yet it has been overlooked in the gay marriage debate by those advocating in its favor. When I read the arguments of some of the prominent gay writers, I get the feeling that they want gay marriage so that their childhood denominations will at last accept them. Such thinking is not only wishful, it is actually self-destructive.

By seeking to impose a definition of marriage that is state-sanctioned, the issue becomes overwhelmed by its religious connotation. That's why the church has been given the opportunity not only to frame the debate, but to increase its influence in other aspects of government as well.

Instead, imagine a nationwide effort to require all states to treat its citizens equally by recognizing stable two person households as being legal unions. Every denomination would then be able to exercise its freedom of religion by determining who could get married according to its beliefs.

A national debate framed in this way would shift the focus to individual rights and personal freedom. It would also highlight the insidious role organized religion seeks to exercise in civil affairs. For true individual freedom, including freedom of religion, can only happen in a state where civil authority is completely free from religion. The gay community has been duped by those who want to be accepted by denominations that have rejected them into thinking that civil unions are less worthy than marriage. In reality, it is the opposite.

Greg Burton is a Tampa Bay pundit and recovering lawyer who can be reached at [explnbear@aol.com](mailto:explnbear@aol.com).

I get the feeling that some gay writers want marriage so that their childhood denominations will at last accept them.

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## VIEWPOINT



## ON YOUR BEHALF WELCOME TO THE GAY STUPID CLICHE CLUB

By Anthony Paull

Dear Friend:

Congratulations. You did it. You fell in love with your straight best friend. And now, not only are you a card-carrying member of the Gay Stupid Cliché Club, you've recently been elected to the board!

But first, a few questions:

- What are you thinking?
- Are you developmentally delayed?
- How many wrongs make a right?
- Are you flat-out retarded?
- Will you ever learn from your mistakes?

Please don't hesitate to answer each question in full. We here at the Gay Stupid Cliché Club need to

know that you're just as challenged as the rest of us. We have standards, we do. And as leaders of this fine fellowship of men, we find it our duty to take the background of each board member into careful consideration.

You'll be happy to know that confidentiality is paramount here at the Gay Stupid Cliché Club. We fully understand the humiliation that can result in falling in love with your straight best friend and shall only release your name strictly with your approval.

As our long tradition of ignorance suggests, we here at the GSCC were

founded on principles that defy rational beliefs. We fully understand that straight men have no interest in us whatsoever, but that has not discouraged us in any way from pursuing heterosexuals that simply wish to be no more than friends. Call us overachievers if you must, but we firmly stand by our motto: Never take no for an answer.

Please note: As a board member in good standing, the bylaws of the GSCC specifically state your presence will be required at each weekly chapter meeting. At such meetings, please feel free to join in as we hoot and howl over that age-old question: What is it about straight men that we find so darned appealing?

Is it their disinterest that interests us? Is it their inability to coordinate colors? Enquiring members believe the truth is within reach.

We're delighted to inform you that being a board member is not without its privileges. Immediately following the commencement of your induction, members of the Welcoming Committee will take pleasure in joining your celebration by issuing you your very own pair of signature fuzzy bunny slippers. As fellow members will agree, these fun and furry companions are the perfect fit when shoelaces are simply not an option. (Your local crisis counselor will explain this in further detail upon your

What is it about  
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we find so  
darned  
appealing?

admission to the unit.)

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As a board member, you're also entitled to a complimentary glass jar to proudly display the broken heart you're bound to inherit.

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tops. Just know that we here at the GSCC are always around for support.

And finally, thank you for being you.

Sincerely,

Anthony Paull  
President and Founding Member  
The Gay Stupid Cliché Club

*Anthony Paull is a Sarasota writer who can be reached at [anthony@watermarkonline.com](mailto:anthony@watermarkonline.com).*



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# Watercolors

entertainment & diversions



A man praises God in the upcoming documentary, *Fish Can't Fly*, which will be screened at the Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

## SARASOTA GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL DOCUMENTARY, *FISH CAN'T FLY*, EXAMINES THE RELIGIOUS LIVES OF LOCAL GAYS

BY STEVE BLANCHARD

**SARASOTA** – When Tom Murray began filming his new documentary, no one was sure about the subject matter – including Murray himself.

So the Sarasota resident said he let the story within the film present itself, and what he ended up with was the powerful *Fish Can't Fly*, a look at being gay and Christian in America. The film is among seven GLBT films to be highlighted during the four-day event. (See the complete list on page 45.)

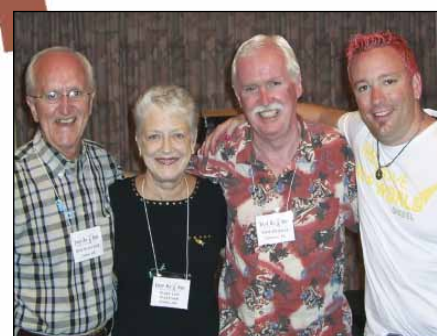
"This is about people of strong

faith who just couldn't put being Christian and gay together at the same time," Murray said. "Most of the people in the film are coming from ex-gay groups."

Murray said one of his original plans for the documentary was a feature-length film about the ex-gay organizations, their successes and their failures. But as he continued collecting interviews from GLBT people, he realized there is more than the "us versus them" tactic.

"I realized the human stories behind this issue," Murray said. "Plus, it was difficult to find 'cured' ex-gays to speak to me. But the story revealed itself and it was about these people, not about the ex-gay programs."

*Fish Can't Fly* is Murray's second full-length documentary. His first film, *Farm Family*, which dealt with GLBT people living in rural areas, was screened at last year's Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Even though Murray is originally from a farm in rural Illinois, he said he's not extremely religious and is surprised he even made a film about



*Fish Can't Fly* participants BOB WALLNER (left), MARY LOU WALLNER and SHAWN O'DONNELL (far right) smile for the camera with filmmaker TOM MURRAY during the San Francisco screening of the documentary.

religion. But the more people he met who have combined being gay with religion, the more fascinated with the subject he became.

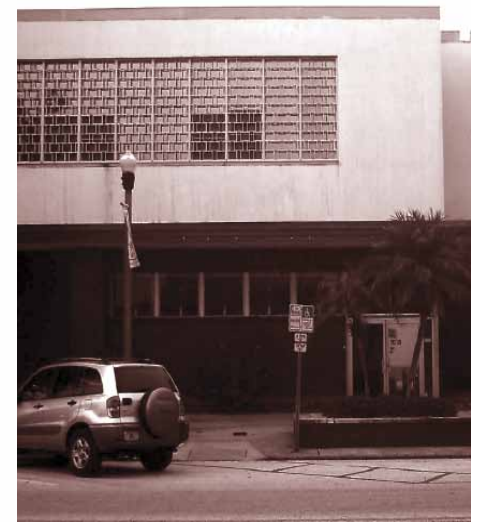
"Many think you can't be gay and Christian," Murray said. "These people put it all together."

### THE EX-GAY 'FALLACY'

Several of the people interviewed in the documentary have local ties.

Jennifer Baggerly, a Tampa counselor,

Continued on page 44



The Bank, nestled in St. Pete's Grand Central District, has been the subject of rumors about homophobia, which the owner denies. Photo by Steve Blanchard

## DOLLARS AND NONSENSE?

The owner of The Bank in St. Pete says there is no need for the drama surrounding the club

By Steve Blanchard

**ST. PETERSBURG** – The Bank, a popular night club and concert venue in the heart of St. Petersburg's Grand Central District, has seen its fair share of turmoil this summer.

Yet another "straight" club that offered a weekly "gay night" — The Bank found a degree of success with the "Vault Fridays." Then, the rumor mill began churning.

Stories began to circulate in late June that owner Bill Hillman fired all of his gay staff members only to replace them with straight staff. Then, "Vault Fridays" were cancelled and the talk began to focus on alleged homophobia emanating from the former bank building on Central Avenue.

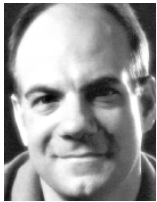
Hillman, who is straight, confirmed that he did fire some staff members and that the Vault Fridays are no longer occurring — but said strongly that he's anything but homophobic. The dismissals, he said, had nothing to do with anyone's sexuality and the gay night ended for reasons beyond his control.

"I don't want to feed into all of this," Hillman said while stocking his

Continued on page 41



## WATERCOLORS



## WATERCRESS HAS ORLANDO FINALLY MANAGED TO GROW UP?

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

A HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY to chorus member Rick, who threw a very lively "house selling" party recently. He and his roommate, Bobby, supervised the baking of mini pizzas, the toppings of which were scooped up and assembled by the many rubber-gloved guests. It looked like a convention of gynecologists at a Las Vegas buffet!

Later there was a chocolate fudge cake, which we all groaned at and then had huge slices of. I was happy to see so much gray hair at this event, which only tells me that Orlando is finally growing up.

And I had the distinct pleasure of being mistaken for Commander Coconut by a very handsome real estate broker named Dave, who asked how I felt about "my" column being morphed from the Prologue into the Epilogue of the *Sentinel's* Calendar. I tactfully corrected him, and then the writhing began. What fun!

MY CELL PHONE DIATRIBE led to another *Sentinel* staffer's calling to ask my views for a column she was doing about the hated devices. The power of the press! I still don't have need for a cell phone: See

below.

WELL, WE MADE IT TO KEY WEST and back with nary a mishap, and no reason at all to have to pull off the side of the road and dial O'Malley for help.

This was truly a charmed trip! Avoiding the turnpike and the interstate, we went all the way down U.S. 27 to Krome Avenue, which took us directly to our first guest-house: the gay-owned and operated Grove Inn outside of Homestead, in a really lush, tropical area.

It's near Coral Castle and a plethora of huge orchid nurseries. We had breakfast in Lake Placid, at a place called the All-American, and that was truly a red state experience, though the waitress could not have been nicer. It's impossible to eat healthy in places filled with 300-pound 10-year-olds stuffing sausages into their mouths, but we managed to live to tell of the experience (as I'm doing now).

We continued in the morning down

**It's impossible to eat healthy in places filled with 300-pound 10-year-olds stuffing sausages into their mouths.**

Krome to U.S. 1, arriving at Island House in Key West just in time for lunch. I tell you, I can't say enough good about Island House and they don't even pay me! I pay them, actually, and the experience is well worth it. The place is snazzier than ever, exceptionally clean, and the staff is matchless.

Manager Jerry, a force to be amazed by, makes your stay effortless. You want a bike? A bike shows up in a half hour. More free bottled water for the room? Done. Free postcard mailing? Done.

Their full bar and restaurant is really, really good, and it's difficult to leave the convenience of that behind in order to sample the island's other great restaurants. But, one night we did venture out for dinner at Pepe's, and enjoyed the company of Charlie, our favorite waitress. She loves to take a load off, slide into

your booth and shoot the breeze.

Speaking of seating, the restaurant also has one of the last bona fide telephone booths you'll ever find. See? If I needed to make an emergency call, Central was mere steps away! Another great place for breakfast or lunch is the Dennis Pharmacy down on Simonton Street, where you can blend in with the natives as you inhale grilled cheese sandwiches. After all the walking

we did, it was good to soak in the pool back at Island House, where I scraped both sets of knuckles on the bottom after body surfing too deeply ... oh, the blood! It looked like a prize fighter's stigmata.

Did I tell you we had Orlando company? Our buddy Aaron arrived midweek with his roommate, Michael, and a crazed time was had by all. Often, we could hear notes of rising hilarity as Aaron and his new-found buddies paraded through the guesthouse grounds. Along for the ride was a set of twins from up north, which is something you don't see much, especially at gay guesthouses. (No, I didn't ask them.)

We also trooped over to Tennessee Williams' house for a moment of silence, and an unnerving (for me) trek to Butterfly World, where butterflies flutter around your face and in your ears. We saw the slave cemetery which the city recently discovered next to the West Martello fort, and the AIDS Memorial on the White Street pier.

And the bike always takes me to my favorite haunts and alleyways out there under the hot sun. I like stopping in at Saint Paul's Episcopal Cathedral on Duval Street, which is a cool and serene break from the tourist crowd outside.

We love Key West so much. I'm always amused when we are told that "gay people don't go there anymore." We beg to differ!

*Jim Crescitelli is Watermark's oldest living contributor. He can be reached at [Watercress@watermarkonline.com](mailto:Watercress@watermarkonline.com).*

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## WATERCOLORS



## AMAZONS MAKING MY TREK TO THE LESBIAN MECCA

By Karen S. Murray-Parker

By the time this column runs, I'll be on my way back home from the Michigan Women's Music Festival, exhausted but rich in estrogen-fed energy.

I find it hard to explain this experience. My mind runs immediately to the image of hundreds of naked women standing under open outdoor showers, bathing and cooling off from the sun that broils down on you even in the shade of hundreds of trees.

I also remember past cool moonlit nights under hundreds of stars in an open field before a huge stage, watching dancers, jugglers, drummers and musicians perform. There is a magic to Michigan, a magic you have to experience for yourself because words are too puny.

I'm going with my partner, Alta, and my friend Claudia this time, which will make the experience even more special for me. The last time I visited the festival, I was by myself and on the verge of breaking up with my then-partner of seven years. I was confused and seeking the company of other women to help me sort through my feelings and decide where I wanted to go with my life.

I wasn't alone. Thousands of women come from all over the world to celebrate women's music and women's energy.

I had to travel a long, dusty road to get to "The Land" as the 650 acres on which the festival is held is called. As luck would have it, my trip in 2001 occurred during a record heat wave in Michigan. It hadn't rained in weeks and the land was parched and dry.

I set up my campsite in the dark because it took 10 hours to make my way down that dusty road, through the gates and through the orientation before packing my camping gear onto a bus headed into the woods. I lucked out and met an Ojibwa Indian woman, sitting across from me, who offered to help me set up mine next to hers. Imogene was also a shaman and had one of the most serene faces I'd ever seen. I felt immediately drawn to her and trusted her. Nothing seemed to faze her, least of all one sweaty, tired, irritable Floridian who was ready to roll out her sleeping bag and just crash under the oaks — tent be damned.

With her help I hauled my gear to a nice spot on high ground perfectly located under some trees between the showers on one side and the performing stages on the other. We set up my tent with the help of a flashlight, and I piled all my gear in one spot then splayed out on top of my sleeping bag. That's all I remember until the next morning. I had

no real idea where I was, but my new friend next door knew of the lay of the land, having attended the festival since its inception. She hadn't let me down and I was ideally located within easy walking distance to everything.

Imogene headed off to a sweat lodge and invited me along, but I found the heat of the lodge too much and I soon left for the cooler shade of the trees. I met the other women camped around me and watched all day as more and more women trailed into the woods around me and set up camp.

I had arrived a day early so I had time to walk through the woods and figure out the trails and how the festival was laid out. Along the way I met new women, some of whom joined me in my wandering.

I had a sort of serendipitous attitude about choosing what workshops to do. That's how I wound up learning how to do the hula and sing in Hawaiian. Another day I took lessons on the didgeridoo

from an Australian woman, learned how to drum from Ubaka Hill and then did a theater improv class in a leafy glen. One of the oddest things I did was participate in a kissing class where I spent two hours kissing different women and experimenting with tonguing each other. The days and evenings are filled with concerts and performances.

I'm looking forward to new memories and adventures. Michigan is never dull. I know that Michigan will have its usual life-changing effect on me, Alta and Claudia, and I can't wait to see what they are.

Karen S. Murray-Parker is a Sarasota writer and nursing student who can be reached at [amazons@watermarkonline.com](mailto:amazons@watermarkonline.com).

Imogene was also a shaman and had one of the most serene faces I'd ever seen.



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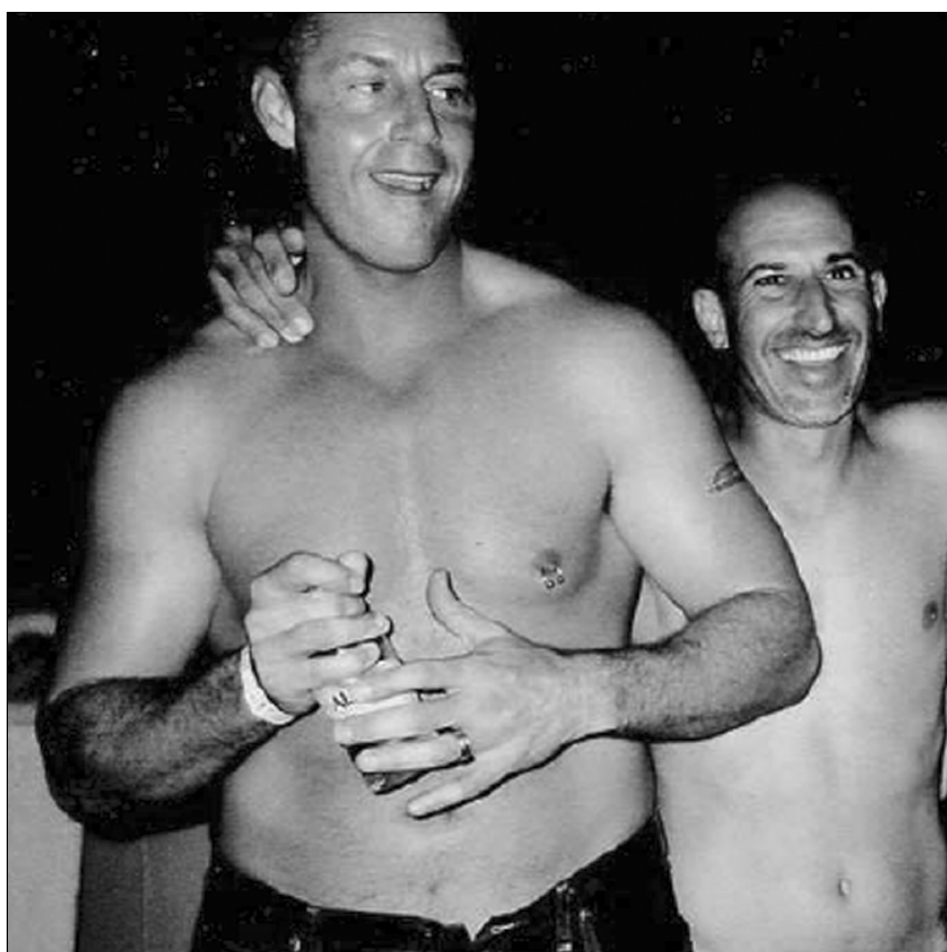
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## WATERCOLORS



Gay Days Tampa Bay 2005 won't have the circuit parties like last year's Victory Party, instead focusing on daytime entertainment. **File photo**

## ONE MORE TIME

The third annual Gay Days Tampa Bay nixes circuit parties, but keeps the entertainment discounts **By Steve Blanchard**

**TAMPA** - Robert Bromwell isn't sure if the third time is going to be a charm, but he's hopeful Gay Days Tampa Bay will at least provide some fun for the GLBT community.

The 2005 event kicks off Labor Day weekend and Sept. 3 is Gay Days at Busch Gardens and Adventure Island. Sunday, Sept. 4, is Gay Days at the Florida Aquarium. Tickets, schedules and discounted hotel rooms are available at

GayDaysTampaBay.com.

Bromwell started Gay Days Tampa Bay in 2003 as a way to propel the Tampa area into a GLBT hot spot. After learning some valuable lessons that first year, Bromwell felt he was prepared for anything in 2004. He was - except some hurricanes got in the way.

"After that first storm a decision had to be made as to whether I should cut my losses and call it a day or reschedule in an attempt to keep the event alive," Bromwell said. He decided to reschedule the event, which was met with another hurricane.

"The event was rescheduled three

weeks later in spite of a 95% cancellation of hotel rooms and thousands of dollars in ticket refunds," Bromwell said. "But I was pleased with the celebration."

The Victory Party aboard the SS American Victory was a circuit party to end all circuit parties, Bromwell said. But after taking such a huge loss last year, Bromwell has decided to focus on discounted theme parks rather than such

extravagant events.

**"There's no reason why Tampa can't be one of the great gay cities."**

"The bottom line for me is that I just couldn't invest in the circuit party end of it anymore," Bromwell said.

"That's the part of the equation with

the biggest potential for pomp but carries the biggest risk. It was the business end of Gay Days Tampa Bay that drained me personally and financially."

Despite those losses, there is plenty for residents and visitors to do in Tampa Bay over Labor Day Weekend.

Bromwell has secured a limited number of discounted tickets to several area attractions, including the Florida

Continued on page 51

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## WATERCOLORS

## KNOCK-OUT PUNCH

Aimee Mann takes on Rufus, rednecks and rock-star style By Lawrence Ferber

Call her Cinderella Woman. Everybody thought former 'Til Tuesday frontswoman Aimee Mann was down for the count when her first solo albums – 1993's *Whatever* and 1995's *I'm With Stupid* – were beaten down by label troubles and low sales.

But the gay fave has since hit critics and record buyers with a dazzling series of knockouts like 1999's *Magnolia* soundtrack (one track, *Save Me*, was nomi-

nated for an Oscar), 2002's *Lost in Space* and her latest moving, melodious disc, *The Forgotten Arm* (SuperEgo Records).

Mann's first concept album, *The Forgotten Arm* follows a drug-addicted boxer – its title in fact references a boxing move – and his Virginian girlfriend as they take a dark, dysfunctional road trip across America.

The slender and earthy (she prefers “faggy”) Mann discussed her album, rock-star style and putting the hurt on Rufus Wainwright.

**WATERMARK:** Like your characters in *The Forgotten Arm*, you hail from

Virginia. Does it live up to the redneck stereotype?

**AIMEE MANN:** I don't know. I don't spend time there now. There certainly was a redneck element when I was there in the 1970s. But the other Southern element

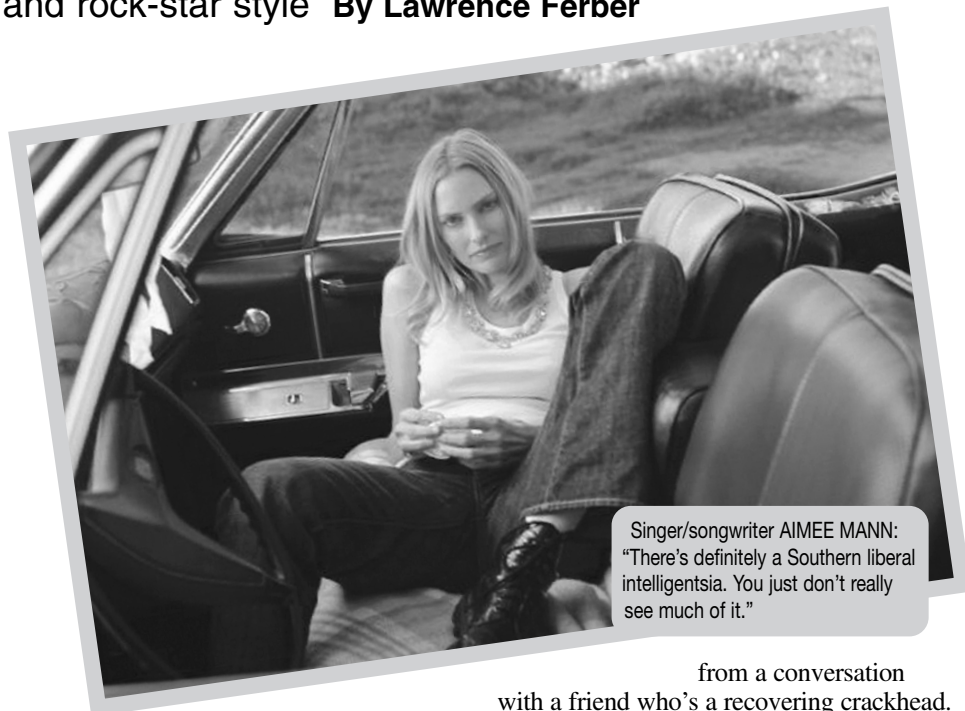
nobody really talks about is the Southern intelligentsia. There's definitely a Southern liberal intelligentsia. You just don't really see much of it.

**“I don't know how people who don't go to therapy walk around.”**

**What's your favorite aspect of the relationship between the album's protagonists?**

I think they have the same misguided ideas about what's going to make them happy. The same ideas everybody has. Keeping it on the move somehow. Literally running ... either brings them somewhere or gets them away from something. It's such a sweet naïve idea that by leaving town you can leave all your problems behind you. Writing the record was like watching a movie in my head.

**What's the most f'ed-up song on the album?**



Singer/songwriter AIMEE MANN: “There's definitely a Southern liberal intelligentsia. You just don't really see much of it.”

Probably *Cleaning up for Christmas*. It's a really true and horrible picture of someone who has completely hit bottom in their drug addiction and has no hope at all they can ever get sober, which is taken exactly

from a conversation with a friend who's a recovering crackhead. He'd been living on skid row and (called me and) said “I'm gonna try and clean up for Christmas and spend a week with my family and go back out because I have no

Continued on page 35

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## WATERCOLORS

hope that I can learn to live sober anymore."

He's overdosed several times and it's not a good situation. He keeps going in and out of rehab his whole life. I know some people think my songs are depressing or disturbed, but you can't get as disturbed as real people are. That song is a chipper little party number next to the reality of that situation.

**Would you say you've had a comparatively good relationship life?**

"Good" meaning ...?

**Mostly not dysfunctional.**

Constantly dysfunctional! I can absolutely not say I have had a non-dysfunctional relationship.

**Typical artist, eh?**

I think typical *person*. I don't know anyone I wouldn't call dysfunctional. I don't know how people who don't go to therapy walk around. But they probably came from a more stable environment than I did.

**What does your husband and fellow singer/songwriter, Michael Penn, think of the album?**

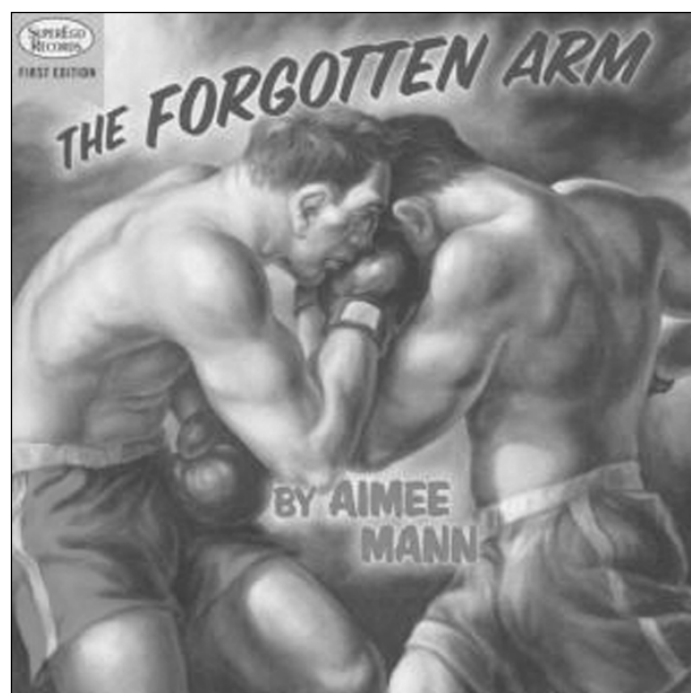
He's only heard it once. He thought it sounded good. We didn't really talk about the characters that much, more about technical stuff.

**He's kinda gentle and fey. Does he ever get mistaken for gay?**

Gay men love him. Rufus (Wainwright) really is after him in a big way. Maybe that's worn off but ... I saw Rufus a couple of years ago and he was like, "Omigod, I love your husband."

Rufus has an awesome sense of style. That's the way a rock star should dress — male or female. The Britney whatever, the high-end women singers, they wear the short dresses and high heels. That's not rock star stuff. I don't even know what you call it. When you're on stage you're working. You need something both flamboyant yet practical. Platforms maybe, but not stilettos.

**Interesting that**



Aimee Mann revisited her Southern roots to pen her concept album, *The Forgotten Arm*.



Aimee Mann says that few rock stars have the style of RUFUS WAINWRIGHT.

**you chose a boxer as a lead character.**

I started boxing about a year ago. When you're interested in stuff you have to throw it in.

**Would you spar with Rufus if he got too close to Michael?**

I'd spar with anybody. But I'm guessing Rufus is more the wrestling kind. In the singlet. The little tights, the leotard. I could see it. ▼

Visit [AimeeMann.com](http://AimeeMann.com) for more information.

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## WATERCOLORS



## 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. E-mail penny@digital.net or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrevardLesbians>.

**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**

[www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm](http://www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm) or e-mail us for more information at [gntlbear@comcast.net](mailto:gntlbear@comcast.net).

**FUN COAST BEARS**

Social group that meets the 3rd Suns each month at 3 p.m. at Rumors on Nova Road, Holly Hill. E-mail bears@funcoastbears.org or go to [www.funcoastbears.org](http://www.funcoastbears.org) for more info.

**GALBA**

GLBT group. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University student group. (904) 226-7222. [www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/clubs/galba/index.html](http://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 p.m. (386) 322-8003; [www.gaydaytona.com](http://www.gaydaytona.com).

**OUTREACH, INC.**

HIV/AIDS service organization. Offers testing, counseling and support groups. (904) 255-5569; [www.outreachinc.org](http://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 & Gays. Meets third Tues.; 7 p.m.; Hope MCC in Daytona, 500 S. Ridgewood Ave. (US1) . (386) 322-4169; support@pflagdaytona.org; [www.pflagdaytona.org](http://www.pflagdaytona.org).

**SPECTRUM**

Social group for GLBT and supporters. Meets every other Thurs. (904) 228-8187; [rapunzel69@hotmail.com](mailto:rapunzel69@hotmail.com).

## ORLANDO

**AA WAKE UP CALL-FRIDAY**

Twelve-step AA program geared towards diversity and fellowship. Meets Fri.; 7 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**AA WAKE UP CALL-SATURDAY**

12-step AA group. Saturday evenings at 7 p.m.; GLBCC (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**AA WAKE UP CALL - SUNDAY**

Twelve-step program. Meets each Sun.; 10 a.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Social group for bears and their admirers. Meets second Sun.; 4 p.m.; Full Moon Saloon. (407) 896-0239; [www.bocf.org](http://www.bocf.org).

**BOOKLOVERS**

American Association of University Women social group for those who love to read. 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) 835-4130.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA GAY & LESBIAN LAW ASSOCIATION**

Networking group for GLBT legal professionals. Meets second Thursday of the month. Contact Larry Smith (407) 838-4052; [LSmith@Cabaniss.net](mailto:LSmith@Cabaniss.net)

**CODA**

Twelve-step program dealing with codependency. Meets Tues. at 7 p.m. at the Center. (407) 228-8272.

**COLAGE**

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. A youth support group for ages 13-20. (407) 897-2266; [BardMerlin@aol.com](mailto:BardMerlin@aol.com).

**COUNTRY SATURDAY NIGHTS**

GLBT country music, dancing, refreshments. For more info: visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~countrysaturdaynight/>

**CRYSTAL CLEAR**

Crystal Meth Anonymous provides support, fellowship, and creation of a safe environment in which to stay clean. Saturdays 4-5:30 p.m., GLBCC, 946 N. Mills Ave., Orlando. (407) 228-8272

**DIGNITY**

Meets every Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Center. Come and celebrate mass and enjoy a social hour afterward.

**FLORIDA GREAT OUTDOORS**

A social outdoor recreation group for the GLBT community. Check [www.floridagreatoutdoors.org](http://www.floridagreatoutdoors.org) for a schedule.

**GBT MEN**

Meets at the Center every Weds. at 7:30 p.m. We are a support / discussion group for adult gay, bisexual, or transgendered men.

**GLBCC-THE CENTER**

Hosts various social groups and offers programs assisting the GLBT community. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**GLBT DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY**

Meets at 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month at GLBCC; [kenkaz@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kenkaz@cfl.rr.com).

**GLBT YACHT CLUB**

Meet other GLBT boat owners for day trips to Disappearing Island and other destinations. Call John (407) 353-5529.

**GNOMES**

Gay Naturist Orlando Males Evolving Socially. For information visit [www.naturalmales.org/gnomes](http://www.naturalmales.org/gnomes) or call (407) 540-9391.

**GREATER ORLANDO COUPLES**

A social group for same-gender couples. Call (407) 246-4726 or visit [www.greaterorlandocouples.org](http://www.greaterorlandocouples.org).

**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.

**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**

Largest national lobbying group for GLBT rights. Socials fourth Tuesday of the month, location varies. HRC-Orlando@cfl.rr.com.

**LAMBDA CAMPING**

Gay and lesbian campers. Camping rallies once a month. (407) 831-4926.

**LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF ORLANDO**

Inclusive, diverse Republicans. Meets first Tues.; 7 p.m.; Orange County Republican Headquarters, Royal Oak Village Shopping Center, 148 S. Semoran Blvd. (407) 896-7745; [www.lcrorlando.com](http://www.lcrorlando.com).

**LONG YANG CLUB ORLANDO**

International social group for single men and couples of Asian and various ethnic backgrounds. Visit [www.longyangclub.org](http://www.longyangclub.org), email [orlando@longyangclub.org](mailto:orlando@longyangclub.org) or call Billy at (407) 908-1122.

**METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

General meeting first Thurs. (407) 420-2182.

**NA RAINBOW RECOVERY**

Twelve-step narcotics recovery program geared toward gay community. Meets Wed.; 7:30 p.m.; First United Methodist Church, 142 E. Jackson. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**OPEX**

Pansexual support group. Meets first Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at the GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**ORLANDO GAY CHORUS**

Community chorus; welcomes everyone. Meets Wed.; John & Rita Lowndes building. (407) 841-SING; [www.orlandogaychorus.org](http://www.orlandogaychorus.org).

**ORLANDO GAY PARENTS GROUP**

Play groups, social events, networking for parents. Meets first Saturday of the month. (407) 420-9955; [boyds@earthlink.net](mailto:boyds@earthlink.net).

**ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS**

O-QUAC. Social/resources group for GLBT academics and intellectuals. [cschippe@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:cschippe@mail.ucf.edu); [tpugh@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:tpugh@mail.ucf.edu).

**ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB**

A gay men's group to network with other professionals meets monthly. Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/flausaguy/myhomepage/club.html>.

**ORLANDO YOUTH ALLIANCE**

Central Florida's GLBTQ youth group meets each Tuesday night at 6:15 p.m. For meeting location, call (407) 599-7453.

**PFLAG**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Wed.; 7:30 p.m.; First United Methodist Church. (407) 236-9177.

**POLY-CENTRAL**

For the polyamorous, poly-curious, poly-friendly or those interested in the concept of loving more than one person. Meets once a month. [www.polycentralfl.com](http://www.polycentralfl.com), (321) 984-8463 or [polycentral@mail.com](mailto:polycentral@mail.com).

**POSITIVELY SOBER**

A twelve-step recovery/support group for people living clean and sober with HIV. Sun. 7 pm at GLBCC. [PozSoberOrlando@aol.com](mailto:PozSoberOrlando@aol.com).

**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 p.m.; Parliament House Footlight Theatre. (407) 884-9834; [PRIMETIMECFL@aol.com](mailto:PRIMETIMECFL@aol.com).

**RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

GLBT group of Democrats and Independents. Meets fourth Mon.; 6:30 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://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 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**S.O.E.L. -- SISTAHOOD OF EBONY LESBIANS**

African-American women come together to grow socially and emotionally. Meets first Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Center. <http://lesbianlit.meetup.com/85/>.

**TRANS CENTRAL STATION**

A transgender, transsexual, transvestite, cross dressers, & gender benders discussion group meets first Tues., 7 p.m., The Center. (407) 228-8272.

**TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sun.; 1 p.m.; GLBCC. (321) 549-0713; [www.tridentcfl.org](http://www.tridentcfl.org).

**UCF GLBSU**

University of Central Florida Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union. Meets Tue.; 8 p.m.; Student Union Building on Main Campus. [ucfglbsu@ucf.edu](mailto:ucfglbsu@ucf.edu).

**THE WOMYN'S EXCHANGE**

Social/support group for all womyn of all orientations. Meets Thurs.; 7:30 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**TRIANGLE TEES**

A gay & lesbian golfing group that works with area courses to get special tee times and group rates. [www.triangletees.com](http://www.triangletees.com).

**TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sunday of the month; 1 p.m.; GLBCC. (321) 549-0713; [www.tridentcfl.org](http://www.tridentcfl.org).

**WILLOW**

Social group for Lake County women. Meets 2nd Sunday, 4 pm at Tangerine Improvement Society Bldg, 7101 Wright Ave., Tangerine. Contact Box 1047, Sorrento, FL, 32776 or [FloridaWillow1@aol.com](mailto:FloridaWillow1@aol.com).

**WOMEN HERE AND THERE**

A group of lesbians and gay-friendly women. To learn more about WHAT, visit [www.WHATorlando.com](http://www.WHATorlando.com)

**ZEN SITTING GROUP**

A place for GLBT Zen Practitioners. Second and fourth Tues. of each month at 7 p.m. at Avalon on Hillcrest. For more info visit [www.lonekimono.org/ZenAtTheCenter](http://www.lonekimono.org/ZenAtTheCenter).

## POLK COUNTY

**FOUR CORNERS RAINBOW FAMILY SOCIAL**

Dining out, meditation, movies and more. For more info, visit: [www.geocities.com/caulhunter\\_98/BNAS.html](http://www.geocities.com/caulhunter_98/BNAS.html)

**POLK COUNTY GAY LESBIAN ALLIANCE**

Check its Web site, [www.pcgla.org](http://www.pcgla.org), for activities and announcements.

**POLK COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN INFO LINE**

For the GLBT community in Polk County, (863) 229-8126.

**POLK COUNTY HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at The Mission, 180 E. Central Ave., Winter Haven. Call Gary (863) 401-3204 or Merry at (863) 606-9288.

## SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

**A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN**

Weekly Bowling at Gulfgate Lanes. [Jimphl@aol.com](mailto:Jimphl@aol.com), [hometown.aol.com/srqbowling](http://hometown.aol.com/srqbowling)

**ALSO OUT YOUTH**

GLBTIQ group for youth between the ages of 13-21. Drop-In Center. Email: [program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org](mailto:program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org), (941) 951-ALSO (2576). Youth crisis pager (941) 952-ALSO (2576)

**ELLEN PARTY**

Social Dinner once a month at various restaurants. (941) 358-1917. [Dophinwahini@aol.com](mailto:Dophinwahini@aol.com)

**GAY & LESBIAN INFOLINE**

Provides information about local faith, social, support organizations and events to the GLBT community. (941) 923-INFO.

**GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS**

Meets Mon.; Universalist Unitarian Church, Sarasota. (941) 377-9043; [Gulfcoastmenschorus.org](http://Gulfcoastmenschorus.org).

**PFLAG SARASOTA**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Tue.; 7:30 p.m.; 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](mailto:ptimes@tampabay.rr.com); <http://home.tampabay.rr.com/ehurley/ehurley/>.

**READING GROUP**

Gay men's reading group; fourth Weds. each month. (941) 359-8212.

**SARASOTA PRIDE, INC.**

Year-round events culminating in a yearly festival. [SarasotaPride.com](http://SarasotaPride.com)

**SERVICE ACADEMY GAY AND LESBIAN ALUMNI**

Local chapter that serves as social organization and advocacy group for GLBT issues relating to military service. [midn88@aol.com](mailto:midn88@aol.com), [AcademyGALA.org](http://AcademyGALA.org)

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS GUILD**

Meets third Mon.; 6 p.m.; (941) 953-8419; [www.SWFBG.com](http://www.SWFBG.com).

**SUNSET BEACH WALK**

Meet Wednesdays by 6:30 p.m. (Daylight Savings Hours only) at the Siesta Beach Pavilion.

**TRINITY CHARITIES, INC.**

HIV/AIDS service organization. (941) 355-0847; [www.trinitycharities.org](http://www.trinitycharities.org).

## TAMPA BAY

**AIDS AWARENESS**

An HIV education group. (727) 502-0188 for more information.

**BAMACT**

Local chapter of the National Organization of Black and White Men Together. Call (727) 461-2617 or visit [www.geocities.com/bamact\\_fl](http://www.geocities.com/bamact_fl).

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets second and fourth Thurs.; 7 p.m.; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813) 871-2232.

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# WATERCOLORS

## BOAT AND SCUBA WEST OF TAMPA BAY

A social and recreational club of GLBT outdoor enthusiasts. Meets the first Weds of the month. Visit [www.boatand-scubawest.com](http://www.boatand-scubawest.com).

## BROTHAS SPEAK

Discussion group for same-gender-loving men of color. Meets second Sun., 5 p.m. at the Equality Florida Offices. (813) 236-8809.

## CHICK HAPPY HOUR

Women get together for cocktails and socializing. Meets second Thurs. of the month, 6-9pm. (813) 389-8136; ChickHappyHour@aol.com

## CRESCENDO: THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS

Lesbian, feminist chorus. Meets Sun. 6:15 p.m. MCC Tampa. (813) 679-7585; CrescendoSings@aol.com.

## THE CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

Located next to Equality Florida, 3708 Swann Ave. (813) 875-8116; [www.tampacenter.org](http://www.tampacenter.org).

## EQUALITY FLORIDA-HILLSBOROUGH

Meets third Thurs. 6:30 p.m. 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 870-3735.

## EQUALITY FLORIDA-PINELLAS

Meets last Thurs. 7 p.m. at 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.

## FACT HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tues. from 6:30-8 p.m. at 136 4th St. N., St. Petersburg. (727) 895-4439.

## FACT SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV/AIDS GROUP

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday 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 p.m. (813) 935-4101; Fce2FceYouth2aol.com.

## FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB

Playing card variety. (813) 832-2999.

## FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP

Central Florida Region Lambda Car Club International. [www.hometown.aol.com/flamingoautogr/](http://www.hometown.aol.com/flamingoautogr/).

## FLORIDA GENDER EQUALITY PROJECT

An education and advocacy organization for the trans/gender community and our allies. Meets 2nd Sat. at Equality Florida. (813) 870-3735 or [www.forge.8m.com](http://www.forge.8m.com).

## FLORIDA GREAT OUTDOORS

A social outdoor recreation group for the GLBT community. Check [www.floridagreatoutdoors.org](http://www.floridagreatoutdoors.org) for a schedule.

## FLORIDA GULF COAST COUPLES

Social group for same gender couples. P. O. Box 7925 Tampa, FL 33679-7925 email: [chaircouple@fgcc.com](mailto:chaircouple@fgcc.com) web: [www.fgccouples.com](http://www.fgccouples.com)

## FREEDOM RINGS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Pasco County's only AA meeting for GLBT individuals. Meets Sun. 7 p.m. Spirit of Life MCC. (727) 849-6962.

## FRIENDS CLUB FOR GAY MEN

Gay men's social club. A wholesome, healthy atmosphere to make new friends. (813) 960-1664.

## FRONT RUNNERS OF TAMPA BAY

Not-for-runners only GLBT club. Meets Sat. 9 a.m. Old Hyde Park Village and Wed. 6:45 p.m. Fred Ball Park. (813) 891-7098.

## GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Wed. 7 p.m. at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave.

## GAY & BISEXUAL SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Fri. 10 a.m. at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 875-8116.

## GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets every evening; 8:15 p.m.; 3644-A Henderson Blvd. (813) 273-8933.

## GAY FUN CLUB

Movies, amusement parks, dining out, water parks, beaches, picnics, etc. 18 and up. Contact Steve at (727) 344-0512.

## GAY MEN'S OUTDOOR GROUP

Biking, hiking, canoeing, diving. (813) 961-6871

## GAY SKATE

Tue. 9 p.m. United Skates of America. (813) 876-5826; [members.aol.com/tampagayskate](http://members.aol.com/tampagayskate).

## GIRL TALK

Tuesdays at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 645-2213; [Girtalkers@aol.com](mailto:Girtalkers@aol.com).

## GLBT PARENTS OF TAMPA BAY

Social group for GLBT parents (custodial and non) and their children. Meets monthly. [Cathy\\_James@yahoo.com](mailto:Cathy_James@yahoo.com).

## GLSEN TAMPA BAY

Organization working to end anti-gay bias in Hillsborough County schools. Meets third Fri. (813) 258-8817; [GLSENTB@aol.com](mailto:GLSENTB@aol.com).

## HIV TAMPA BAY

A Web site devoted to helped those living with HIV and AIDS in the Pinellas and Hillsborough counties area. [www.hivtampabya.net](http://www.hivtampabya.net).

## INTERWEAVE/ST. PETERSBURG

Meets at UU Church of St. Petersburg. (727) 898-3294.

## KAPPA XI OMEGA SORORITY

Natiowide community-based sorority for professional adult lesbians headquartered in Tampa. Meets every other Monday 9 p.m. online. [membership@kappaxiomega.org](http://membership@kappaxiomega.org) or [www.kappaxiomega.org](http://www.kappaxiomega.org).

## 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 p.m.; computerized system 11-7 p.m. (727) 586-4297.

## LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF TAMPA BAY

Meets 3rd Weds of each month. 7 p.m. at HoHo's chinese, 9 p.m. at Different Grind. (727) 455-9866, [lortampabay.com](http://lortampabay.com)

## L.O.L.A.

Lesbians On the Lookout Association. Social club for womyn. [pianolez@aol.com](mailto: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. [metrocharities.org](http://metrocharities.org).

## THE METRO CENTER

Pinellas County's GLBT center. [Metrocharities.org/](http://Metrocharities.org/) or call (727) 321-3854.

## NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Open meeting for gays and lesbians. Meets Thurs.; 8:15 p.m.; GALAA Club. [ecg@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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. 631 4th St. North, St. Pete. (866) 250-1959.

## PFLAG TAMPA

Meets second Tues.; 7 p.m.; The Center in the Equality Florida Building, 3708 Swan Ave. (813) 239-2070; [PFLAGW@aol.com](mailto:PFLAGW@aol.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](mailto:POCAS@aol.com).

## PFLAG PINELLAS

Meets fourth Sat at 10 a.m. at Saffron's Restaurant, 1700 Park St. N. St. Pete. (727) 345-7688 or email [Pflag@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Pflag@tampabay.rr.com).

## POSITIVE CONNECTIONS

Social group for HIV positive community. (727) 458-1249, [Romeo8Juliette@aol.com](mailto:Romeo8Juliette@aol.com)

## POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS

Empowering HIV+ individuals by supporting their self-expression. [www.positiveexpressions.org](http://www.positiveexpressions.org).

## PRIDE AL ANON FAMILY GROUP

Meets Wed. and Fri.; 6:30 p.m.; King of Peace Church. (727) 323-5857.

## PRIDE ALLIANCE

Meets second and fourth Thurs. during the summer; every Thurs. in fall; 8 p.m.; USF Marchall Center. (813) 974-4297.

## 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](http://www.primetimerswww.org/tampabay/PTTB_c.html).

## PWA COALITION OF TAMPA BAY

AIDS service organization. (813) 238-2887; [www.pwac-tampa.homestead.com](http://www.pwac-tampa.homestead.com).

## RAINBOW FILM SERIES

GLBT films. 7 p.m., 2nd Sat. 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 p.m. (813) 221-1423.

## RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

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## SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (SLAA)

(727) 896-SLAA or [www.tampabayslaa.com](http://www.tampabayslaa.com).

## SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Gay male non-sexual nudist group. Meets monthly. (813) 237-2436.

## ST. PETE PRIDE

For updates on upcoming events, visit [www.stpetepride.com](http://www.stpetepride.com).

## STARBURST OF PINELLAS PARK

Support group for cross-dressing and transgendered persons. Meets at 7 p.m. on the third Sat. of each month. Call John and Leo at (727) 523-8760.

## SUNCOAST SQUARES

Tampa Bay GLBT square-dancing. Classes Tuesday evenings at the Suncoast Resort, Room C-104. Call John and Leo at (727) 343-8466; [suncoastsquares@yahoo.com](mailto:suncoastsquares@yahoo.com)

## TAMPA BAY BEARS

Bears social club. Meets second Fr.; 7:30 p.m.; Suncoast Eagle Bar. TampaBayBears.com.

## TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD

Meets second Tue. (813) 237-3751; [www.tbhg.org](http://www.tbhg.org).

## TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Meets Mon.; 7 p.m.; Suncoast Resort. (727) 865-9004.

## TAMPA BAY LESBIANS

Social, sporting, cultural activities. <http://escape.to/TBL>

## TAMPA INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Committees include planning, finance, marketing/PR, programming and development. Information on volunteering or events and screenings at (813) 879-4220 or [www.tigff.com](http://www.tigff.com).

## TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

Socials for both hearing & non-hearing gays. (813) 236-3123.

## TRUE EXPRESSIONS

Tues. 2 to 6 p.m., Thurs. and Fri. 6 to 9 p.m., Sun. from 4 to 9 p.m. (727) 898-TRUE or visit [www.true-expressions.org](http://www.true-expressions.org).

## UNA-VOCE: THE FLORIDA MEN'S CHORALE

Meets Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m. at MCC Tampa, 408 Cayuga Street. Anyone is welcome to join. Una-Voce.com.

## WESTCARE TRANSGENDER SELF-AWARENESS

Educational group. Meets Wed. at 7 p.m. at 1735 MLK St. S. in St. Pete. For information call (727) 502-0188.

## WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

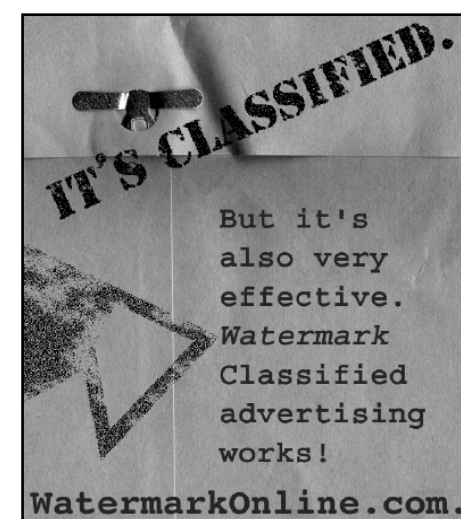
Bear club. Meets first Sun.; DTs. (727) 824-7810 [info@west-florida-growlers.com](mailto:info@west-florida-growlers.com); [Westfloridagrowlers.com](http://Westfloridagrowlers.com).

## WOMYN'S EXCHANGE TAMPA BAY

A womyn's mix. Sundays, 3p.m. at Gulfport Beach. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WomynsExchangeTampabay>.

## YES (YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES)

Provides free HIV testing. In Pinellas, at WestCare Florida, 1735 Martin Luther King Jr. S., #125, St. Pete. (727) 502-0188. In Hillsborough, at THAP, at 712 W. Ross Ave., Tampa. (813) 226-2141.





## WATERCOLORS

# CALENDAR of Events

## ART & EXHIBITS

### ORLANDO

#### AN AMERICAN SAMPLER

American folk art is the art of the people — often forgotten men and women. The Mennello Museum of American Art focuses on folk art at its beautiful location on a small lake in cultural Loch Haven Park. The museum's current exhibit features portraits and landscape paintings by major American artists from the late 19th and early 20th century. Works by Lilla Cabot Perry, John White Alexander, John Sloan and Rockwell Kent will be shown through Sept. 25 alongside the museum's permanent collection of works by Earl Cunningham. The museum is located at 900 E. Princeton St. For more information, call (407) 246-4278 or visit [MennelloMuseum.org](http://MennelloMuseum.org).

#### M.C. ESCHER: RHYTHM OF ILLUSION

Get a new perspective when you explore the creative process of one of the world's most popular and intriguing artists of the 20th century, Maurits Cornelis Escher.

Escher has earned worldwide renown for his precisely rendered visual illusions that range from an image of never-ending steps to a flock of geese flying in two directions at once. His art, often seen as trippy mind puzzles, challenges and captivates. Escher created in two dimensions a world of fantastic spatial and planar geometric rhythm - precise illusions of his own making. The show runs through Oct. 30 at the Orlando Museum of Art. The museum is located at 2416 N. Mills Ave. For information, visit [omart.org](http://omart.org).

### TAMPA BAY

#### FLORIDA HIGHWAYMEN

An exhibit featuring African-American artists who captured the colorful landscapes of Florida will run through Sept. 11 at Studio@620 in St. Petersburg. The collection of artists originally came together in the 1950s and features their own cultural heritage by abandoning the formal academic approach to representation. The exhibition will include lectures by scholars and visits and demonstrations by the artists. Admission is free and open to the public

Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### SARASOTA

#### SARASOTA FILM SOCIETY GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Sarasota Film Society's annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival has announced an impressive lineup of films and parties for its annual presentation of movies for and by the GLBT community. Taking place Friday through Monday, Aug. 26 to Aug. 29, at the Burns Court Cinema, this year's films are set across the globe, including Argentina, Japan, Germany, Spain, Canada and the U.S. The festival's highlight will be local filmmaker Tom Murray's presentation of *Fish Can't Fly*, a documentary filmed in that explores the lives of gay and lesbian people of faith as they recall their journeys to put their sexuality and spirituality in harmony. The festival's closing night party, to be held at Club Tri-Angles, will benefit Murray's efforts in seeking mass distribution for his film. Burns Court Cinema is located at 506 Burns Lane. For more information, call (941) 364-8662 or visit [FilmSociety.org](http://FilmSociety.org).

### TAMPA BAY

#### GAY DAYS TAMPA BAY

A scaled back Gay Days Tampa Bay is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-5. The event has teamed with Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina for discounted hotel rates and Sept. 3 is Gay Day at Busch Gardens and Adventure Island. Sept. 4 is Gay Day at the Florida Aquarium. For discounted tickets, visit [GayDaysTampaBay.com](http://GayDaysTampaBay.com).

#### AIDS WALK ST. PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg will put its best red shoe forward during this year's AIDS Walk slated for Sept. 25. The event will be at North Shore Park in downtown St. Petersburg regardless of weather conditions. Registration is at 9 a.m. and the walk begins

at 11 a.m. promptly. The walk will benefit the clients of For AIDS Care Today (FACT). This year's grand marshal is publisher and bon vivant Sterling Powell and the master of ceremonies will be Jan Gentry of *Survivor: Thailand*. For more information and for registration forms, visit [AIDSWalkStPetersburg.org](http://AIDSWalkStPetersburg.org).

## THEATER

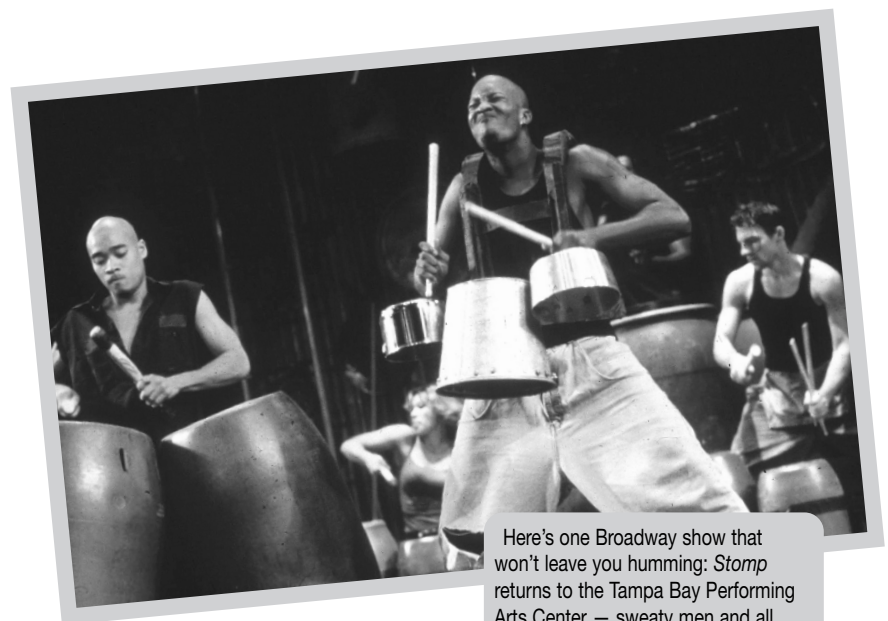
### TAMPA BAY

#### SORDID LIVES

Family. Funerals. Feuds. Food. Fidelity. Fanatics. Female Impersonators. It's the stage version of the hit cult movie send up of the whitest of everything that is white trash. Even if you're not from the Bible Belt or have never been in a Trailer Park, *Sordid Lives* just might make you want to tease your hair up a little higher and wear a little more make-up. The play has been called "The most delicious combination of emotion and laugh out loud hilarity to come along in the new millennium." The show takes the stage Aug. 26 to Sept. 18 at the Suncoast Theatre at the Suncoast Resort, 3400 34th St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets available at the box office or by calling (727) 456-0500. For more information, visit [GypsyProductions.org](http://GypsyProductions.org).

#### STOMP

The original pots and pans entertainment offering, this Broadway encore returns to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center after playing to sell-out crowds for more than 11 seasons. Music, dance, theatre, choreography, performance art: it's all here in this percussive movement, of bodies, objects, sounds — even abstract ideas. What makes it so appealing is that the cast uses everyday objects, but in non-traditional ways. There's no speech, no dialogue, not even a plot. *Stomp* takes the everyday sounds of pipes and brooms, lighters and garbage pail lids, and creates the extraordinary. *Stomp* plays Sept. 6-11, in Carol Morsani Hall. Tickets available at the box office, at (813) 229-STAR or at [TBPAC.org](http://TBPAC.org).



Here's one Broadway show that won't leave you humming: *Stomp* returns to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center — sweaty men and all.

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## WATERCOLORS

**BANK** from page 29

bar for an evening of live entertainment. "I can't stop people from saying things just because it's convenient (for them)."

### ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

The drama began with the June 24 Mad Hatter's Ball, a benefit for the AIDS Service Association of Pinellas. According to organizer Tony Smith, Hillman hindered the event by bringing in his own performers and then would not turn over money for the charity.

However, ASAP confirmed that money was donated.

According to a letter written by ASAP project coordinator David Karst, Hillman made a "generous" contribution, but he did not specify a dollar amount. Records also show the benefit was never authorized by the AIDS service organization, which Hillman later admitted may have caused some of the turmoil. He would not elaborate.

In the wake of the charity event, the popular gay night, Vault Fridays, was also cancelled at The Bank. The show's promoter, Steve Donahue, said in a mass e-mail that it was cancelled because of homophobia.

Hillman responded that Donahue simply wanted to change his venue.

"What happened is simple," Hillman said. "Fridays was his creation and he wanted to restructure it and change the location to Tampa."

About the same time, a handful of The Bank's staff members were fired. Hillman would not elaborate on the dismissals.

"Three people were fired and they happened to be gay," observed John Sweeney, a former Bank DJ. "I don't know why they were fired and it's nobody's business. But a lot of the staff was still there after the firings."

Sweeney, who is gay, has known Hillman for several years and believes the accusations of homophobia are nonsense.

"I've talked to a lot of people who are saying the gay community needs to boycott The Bank," Sweeney said. "But people need to use their brain. That whole letter seems fishy. It had extreme language and that's a red flag. But no one seemed to question the message. But people really do like the drama."

Donahue, who could not be reached for comment, sent out a mass e-mail in earlier this summer suggesting that clubgoers forego the St. Pete nightclub and travel into Tampa.

According to Hillman, whatever the GLBT community decides to do is beyond his control.

"I live in (Historic) Kenwood and I am part of the community," Hillman said. "We were open during St. Pete Pride and everyone had a great time and we stayed pretty busy. Everyone is welcome here."

### EXPLORING OPTIONS

A new GLBT night is not out of the question. With the four-month-old Vault Fridays now out of the equation, Hillman has been brainstorming ideas. Several options have surfaced, including a Latin night and evenings geared strictly toward live performances.

Hillman's nightclub is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and there may be another GLBT-themed night by the end of the year, he said.

"Right now, I don't want to say anything concrete because we're still negotiating the situation, but there is a plan to cater to the gay and lesbian community," Hillman admitted. "But people are on vacation and we don't want to start something prematurely."

Instead, The Bank will focus on establishing itself as a concert venue.

"We want to bring in local bands and musicians and we've teamed with the Southeastern Music

Alliance," Hillman said. With that partnership, The Bank will present live bands every Thursday. Bands may be local, regional or national.

"This is a great building," Hillman said of the 11,000-square-foot structure at 1919 Central Ave. "We have two stages, a great dance floor and just a nice atmosphere. Anyone is welcome to use this space and we're here for the community-at-large."

In addition, The Bank will remain a place for visual artists to display their works.

Since The Bank opened in the fall of 2004, Hillman said several artists have taken the opportunity to hang their work at no charge. The Bank's owner said he hopes to attract established and aspiring artists.

"All of the pieces of art here are done by people I know or have met," Hillman said. "It's everything from modern to industrial. I don't charge the artists to put up their work and it's a great way for them to get some exposure."

For more information on The Bank and for a calendar of upcoming events, visit [AtTheBank.com](http://AtTheBank.com). ▼



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*FISH CAN'T FLY* from page 29

tells her story of being lesbian and Christian within the Assembly of God Church. She says in the film that she thought she had it figured out by her senior year of high school until planners of an approaching missionary trip asked participants to divulge their sexuality. When she told them she was a lesbian, she was not allowed to attend the trip to several Eastern Bloc countries and was placed in an ex-gay program.

Local pastors also get a chance to speak in the film. The Rev. Nancy Wilson, the new moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and the Rev. Robert Morgan of Potter's House, a gay-friendly Pentecostal-based church in Tampa, each speak of their congregations and as gay and lesbian religious leaders.

Wilson speaks of the ex-gay movement as a "fallacy and a failure" in Murray's film and says those who use such a ministry poorly interpret the Bible. The unique clergy who take part in MCCs and other gay-friendly denominations interpret the Bible differently. God didn't create homosexuals to be hated, Wilson says.

*Fish Can't Fly* made its debut in June at Newfest in New York, where it received many positive reviews from mainstream and alternative media. Since that debut, Murray and several of the documentary's participants have attended screenings throughout the country. On Aug. 28, Murray plans to have a question-and-answer session during the screening and hopes to have at least two or three of the film's stars attending. However, he is unsure who will be on hand for the questions or the "Local Boy Makes Good" party afterwards.

"Film festivals are an incredible

experience," Murray said. "Seeing your film up on that screen is surreal. There's no other way to describe it. The exposure these festivals give you as a filmmaker and your hard work is just amazing."

### COMING TO TERMS

Murray said he took some filmmaking classes in college in the 1960s, but didn't produce his first film until moving to Sarasota eight years ago with his partner. It was his involvement with the Gulf Coast Men's Chorus that first motivated him to make his first documentary – which was seven minutes long and featured members of the chorus and their participation in the group.

The response was enough to change Murray's life. He began working on documentaries full time after a life of working construction and renovation jobs.

"The group really liked it and I was proud of the work," Murray said. "I decided 'I can do this,' and here I am."

Even though *Fish Can't Fly* deals directly with religion in the GLBT community, Murray doesn't believe the movie is directed solely toward gays or religious people. The film is for all facets of life to promote an understanding of what it means to face such a challenge in life.

When asked what his proudest moment concerning *Fish Can't Fly* is thus far, Murray only needed a moment to recall a message from a Swedish man who used the film to come out to his family.

"It was amazing," Murray said. "It let this young man's family see the GLBT community in a light that's never shown on television or in the movies. We are a multi-layered community. This film shows that people can lead happy lives when they discover who they were and coming to terms with that." ▼



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PETERSON TOSCANO talked about his relationship with Christianity in Tom Murray's documentary.



## WATERCOLORS

## 2005 SARASOTA GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

— **UNCONSCIOUS**, Spain  
Friday, Aug. 26, at 8:30 p.m.

Described as a Sherlock Holmes type of adventure, set in 1913 Barcelona.

The opening night party costs \$20 and includes the movie as a benefit for ALSO Out Youth.

— **FEAR AND TREMBLING**, Japan  
The *New York Daily News* described this film as a cross between *Secretary* and *Lost in Translation*.

Friday, Aug. 26, at 2:30 p.m., and  
Saturday, Aug. 27, at 5:45 p.m.

— **WILBY WONDERFUL**, Canada  
The life and times of the colorful residents of a tiny Canadian island community.

Friday, Aug. 26, at 5:45 p.m., and  
Sunday, Aug. 28, at 2:30 p.m.

— **EL FAVOR**, Argentina  
A farce about a lesbian couple that hatches a plan to conceive a child.

Saturday, Aug. 27, at 2:30 p.m.,  
and Monday, Aug. 29, at 5:45 p.m.

— **SUMMER STORM**, Germany  
Friends on a rowing team test their relationship and consider their sexualities.

Saturday, Aug. 27, at 8:15 p.m.,  
and Sunday, Aug. 28, at 5:45 p.m.

— **FISH CAN'T FLY**, U.S.  
Survivors of the ex-gay movement talk about their relationships with God.

Sunday, Aug. 28, at 8:15 p.m.,  
followed by a discussion with filmmaker Tom Murray and the "Local Boy Makes Good" Party at the Metro Coffee and Wine at 711 S. Osprey Ave.

Also on Monday, Aug. 29, at 2:30 p.m.

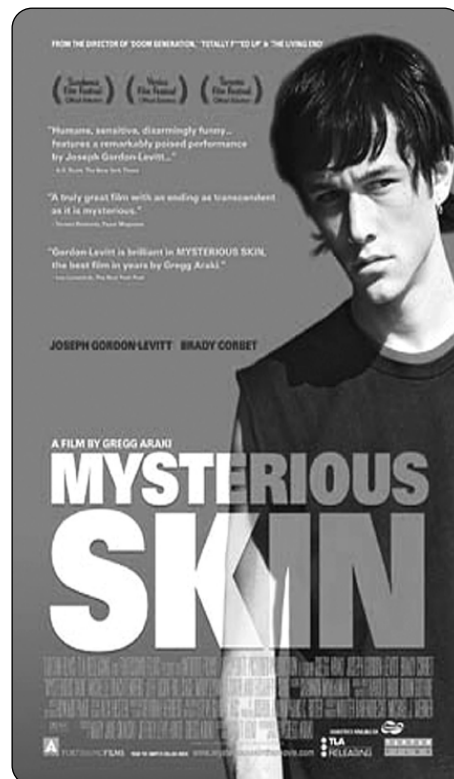
— **MYSTERIOUS SKIN**, U.S.  
A portrait of two teenage boys living in a small Kansas town as one becomes a successful hustler to the area's older men.

Monday, Aug. 29, at 8:30 p.m.,  
followed by the closing night party at Club Tri-Angles, 1330 Dr. Martin Luther King Way. The \$15 admission includes the movie and entry into the party.

All of the films will be shown at

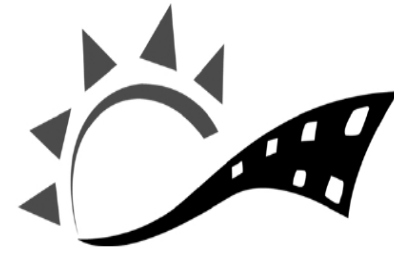


The Argentinean farce, *El Favor*, looks at a lesbian couple's plan to have a baby.



Gregg Araki's *Mysterious Skin*, which will be screened Monday, Aug. 29, stars JOSEPH GORDON-LEAVITT.

the Burns Court Cinemas at 506 Burns Lane. For more information, visit the Burns Cinema Web site at FilmSociety.org. ▼



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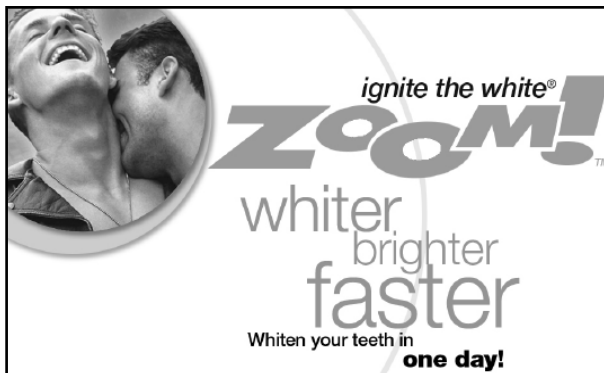


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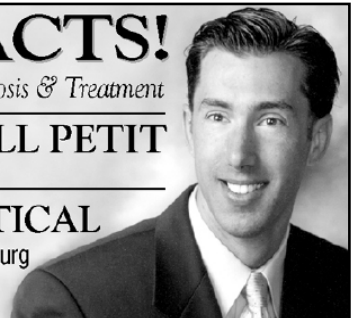
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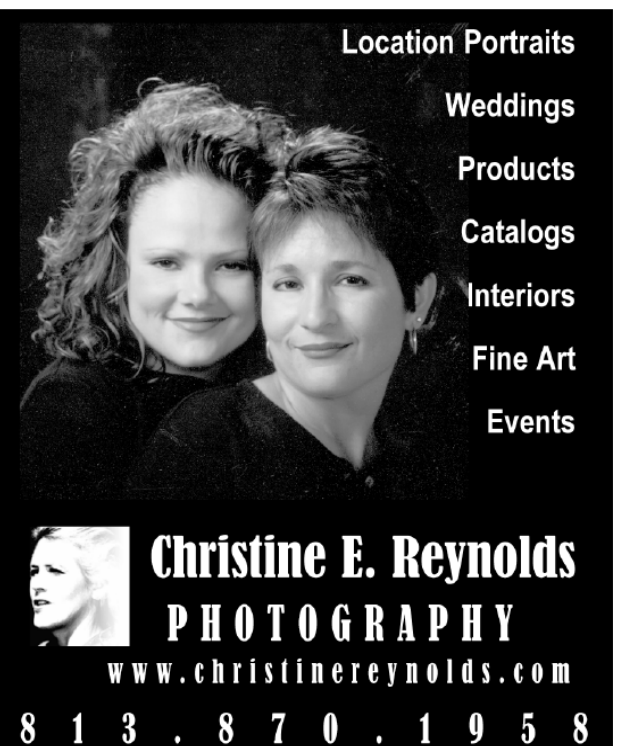
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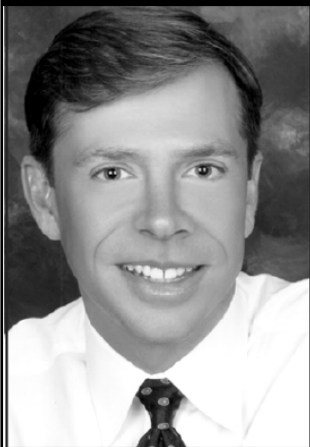


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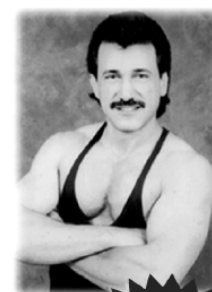
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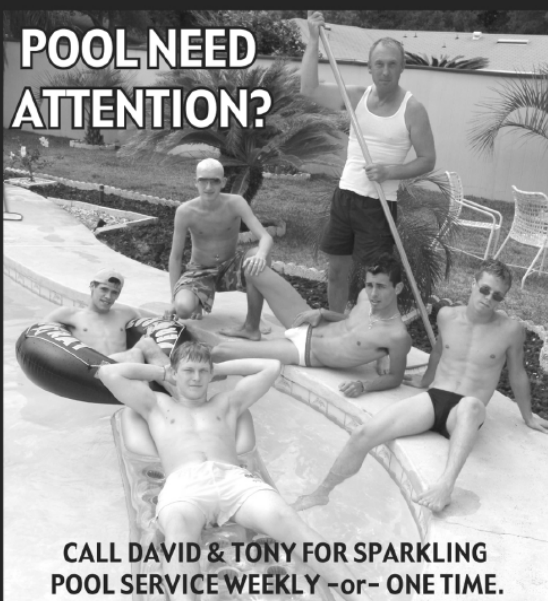
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GAY DAYS from page 33

Aquarium and Adventure Island. While Adventure Island tickets have already sold out, there are still plenty available for the aquarium, according to Bromwell.

"I'm pleased with the interest again this year," Bromwell said of the ticket sales. "We've also secured the Tampa Marriott Waterside for \$79 rates. That's a great deal and rooms are selling at a pretty good rate."

Before the previous two years' events, Bromwell advertised Gay Days Tampa Bay locally and nationally. This year, he didn't do any of that advertising this year - and still hotel rooms and discounted tickets are selling. It's that kind of response that keeps Bromwell motivated.

He said he wasn't motivated to pursue a third Gay Days Tampa Bay because of recent decision by Hillsborough County commissioners.

"My personal opinion is that people like (Commissioner) Ronda Storms are just noise," Bromwell said. "I don't base any of my decisions based on the actions of bigots or bigotry. I believe in Tampa as a destination spot. We have all the elements we need and there's no reason why we can't be one of the great gay cities. Tampa needs and event like this."

Since Gay Days Tampa Bay has been a one-man operation so far, Bromwell hopes area community groups will step up to offer assistance in organizing the event so a 2006 event can take place.

"I've received some responses from people telling me to keep my chin up and to stick with it," Bromwell said. "I appreciate those words of encouragement but I haven't received much response from the formal groups in town. I'd certainly like to see those groups get more involved." ▼



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## ADVICE-O-RAMA TEXT-MESSAGING PAL NEEDS BETTER MANNERS

By Keith Baber, M. Ed.

Dear Keith,

One of my dearest friends, "Rod," has just discovered the world of text-messaging — and it's cute. Or, at least it was.

Now, he text- messages two of his other friends non-stop during parties, lunches, even at a concert the other night. It's like he's 12 and just discovered his dick. We've been polite with him about the constant interruptions.

Do you have any "behavior modification" techniques that would work to break him of this, like using a sharp stick?

Peevish in Pinellas  
Park

Dear Peevish,

It is not uncommon for someone to find something new in their life that they love and then take it to the extreme. It appears

that Rod has joined this group of people who just can't get enough of something that they just discovered.

I doubt if any structured behavior modification program is required at this point in time. I like to give people the benefit of doubt and assume that they just need a little education. Rod may need some Etiquette 101 as it pertains to text-messaging. Someone needs to sit down and explain what is acceptable and what is inappropriate.

His behavior should change immediately and if not, then as a group, don't answer his text messages. If he sends messages at inopportune times and people respond to his messages, then guess who is to blame? You got it ...you guys are!

Dear Keith,

If one more straight person tells me that I wouldn't understand something because I don't have children myself, I'm going to bend them over my knee and spank them.

But that's almost what happened the other night at the movies. Three of us were sitting in the theater quietly, enjoying that nonsense known as *The Fantastic Four*. About 15 minutes into it, Little Eloise, two rows behind us began to fidget — and chatter — and kick.

We smiled wanly at one another, realizing that kids will be kids and she would eventually tire out. But, no. She had just woken and didn't care as much for "Johnny Storm" as did the three of us.

So, after a half-hour, I said some-

thing to Mommie Dearest. Big mistake. I got an earful about how her little brat had as many rights as I did. For once, I was speechless. Two questions: What is with these parents who can't control their spawn in public (and it's never the two daddies and never the two mommies, I've noted); and how could I have handled it better?

Offspring-Free in Oldsmar

Dear Offspring-Free,

There are many children in our society who have personal and social difficulties because they are misdirected by their parents or adult caretakers. When you encounter one of these children during your travels in life, pay close attention to the parenting skills of the adults watching over them and

you will then understand the reasons behind their misbehaviors.

When attending a children's movie there is an expectation that there will be some noise from the audience. However, that noise should be at a minimum and the parents should be setting limits on the children so that they are learning to be respectful of the other movie viewers.

The child that you speak of in your letter is receiving all the wrong messages. She is learning from her mother that it is OK to be entitled, selfish, disrespectful and rude. There are clear rules around attending movies in a public theatre and if "Little Eloise" can't understand that, than she needs to stay at home with her irresponsible mommy and watch a DVD.

Next time you might try getting the manager. Although many people simply change their seats because how these conflicts are mediated depends on the skill of the theatre manager. Wouldn't it be fantastic if adults had to pass a parenting test before they became parents? This might be extreme thinking, but it would certainly eliminate some societal problems. ▼

*Advice-O-Rama is written by Keith Baber, LMHC, a certified clinical supervisor. If you have questions for him, drop a note to editor@watermarkonline.com or to Advice-O-Rama, Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32803. Baber is accepting LMHC interns in need of clinical supervision. For details, call him at (407) 579-7001.*

Wouldn't it be fantastic  
if adults had to pass a  
parenting test before  
they became parents?



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## DAYTONA

### ROOMMATES

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## WATERCOLORS



## FILTH MARCH OF THE MEN WITHOUT THEIR PANTS

By Billy Masters

This is a column filled with people caught with their pants down, doing naughty things with their pants down, or simply looking for their missing pants! First up is little **WILL YOUNG**, the first UK *Pop Idol* winner (and openly gay cutie).

Will is a giver – so much so that he’s selling many of his tour clothes and personal items on eBay to benefit several charities: *Mencap* (supporting people with learning disabilities), *Positive Action South West* (supporting people with AIDS and their families), and *Women’s Aid* (supporting victims of domestic violence).

Maybe he should have donated his clothes *after* the tour was over because, on one fateful night in Manchester, England, the show had to be delayed because Will could not find his lucky pants. After 30 minutes, he begrudgingly went on stage with a pair that he borrowed from one of the guys in the band.

**ANNA NICOLE** is quite a fan of **COLIN FARRELL** – and she’d like to see exactly how big a star he is with his pants down. She’s put out the word that she would be very interested in a private screening of his 15-minute porn tape. Since

Anna doesn’t have Colin’s number (smart boy), the buxom widow has released a public plea to him: “I can understand you don’t want the world to see your tape. But what about a private screening for me? I’d like to find out if you really are Hollywood’s biggest leading man. If you’re interested, you know where to find me.”

How many of you are into gay porn from Thailand? I’m not, but I suppose there’s a market for it. Unfortunately, that market has proven costly for Thai boxer **SIRIMONGKOL**

**SINGWANCHA** (hopefully that’s not his porn name). The allegedly famous boxer posed for photos that appeared in *Heat*, a magazine targeted towards men interested in gay Thai porn (which, if we were in a restaurant, would likely be called *Porn Thai* – which is yummy!).

Because of this “indiscretion,” Siri was sentenced to six months in prison (which would have likely resulted in more male-male activity – although cameras probably wouldn’t be present). Happily, his sentence

was suspended, and he was given two years’ probation and had to pay a fine. He also promised not to go near other men with that big ol’ dick, which we proudly promote on Filth2Go.com. Come and get me, Thailand!

Ever since he was charged with rape, **MIKE TYSON**’S penis has taken on mythic proportions. According to one report, it is “at least 14 inches long”. If that is indeed the case, porn vixen **JENNA JAMESON** has a job he could fill – to say nothing of a slot or three.

The only problem is, we have a nude photo of Tyson on Filth2Go.com, and he appears to be significantly smaller than 14 – more like a four. Now, admittedly, some guys are growers, and some are showers. But I’d be surprised if he can grow *that* much! Check him out and judge for yourself.

Let’s give you a duet of Broadway items. Everyone’s talking about **ROSIE** going into *Fiddler* starting on Sept. 20 – but here’s a scoop for you. Although she’ll be playing “Golde,” **HARVEY FIERSTEIN**’s “wife,” the role she really wanted was that of the matchmaker “Yente” – which was played by **BEA ARTHUR** in the original production.

He may have ended up with second place on *Dancing with the Stars*, but **JOHN O’HURLEY** may end up on the Great White Way. The *Seinfeld* alum is in discussions to play “Billy Flynn” in the hit musical *Chicago* sometime this fall. Fortuitous timing, since the no-longer-depressed **BROOKE SHIELDS** joins the cast on Sept 9.

Our Ask Billy question this issue comes from Henry in Chicago, who asks: “Do you remember **ASHLEY ANGEL**? He was on *Making the Band* and a member of O-Town. What’s he up to? He was *so* hot!”

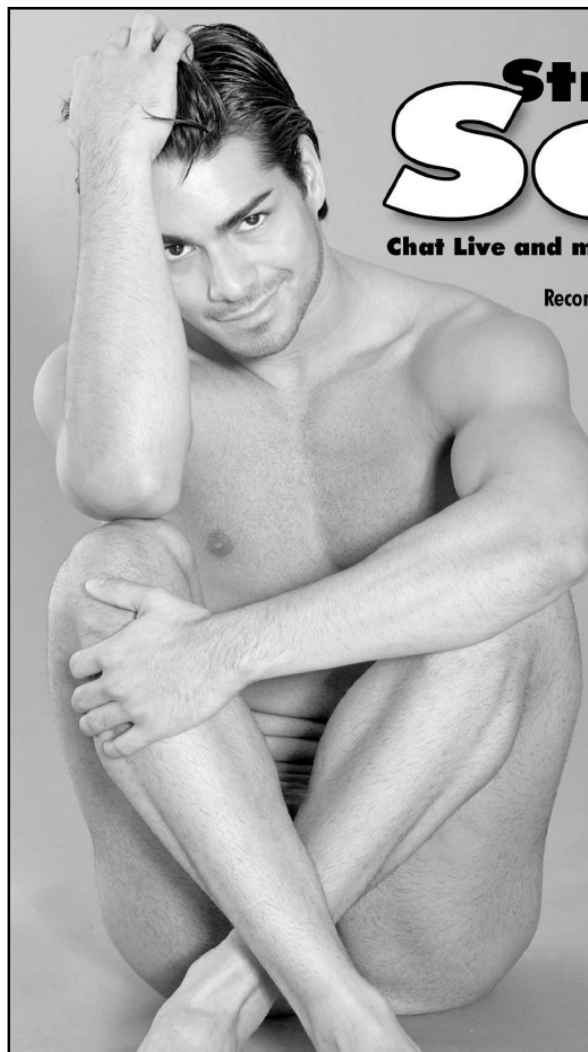
Of course I remember Ashley. Ash was the one member of O-Town I expected to have some kinda career. But, sadly, nothing happened. The band died. He tried acting. Nothing clicked. Now he’s broke. He’s recording a solo album. He’s engaged. And his fiancée is pregnant. Ashley convinced the brass at MTV that seeing him either succeed or fail would make a great show. *There and Back* is currently in development.

Many, many fans have written in asking if I have the photos of openly gay ex-

baseball player **BILLY BEAN** from Australia’s *Blue* magazine. Yes, I have them. Yes, he looks hotter than ever (shirtless with a hint o’ pubes). And, yes, I’ll post ’em on Filth2Go.com.

Could it be that a certain pop pup is inching back into his cedar closet? So say sources close to the crew cut kid, who has reverted to his roots. I’m told that those rumblings about him coming out are decidedly premature. Not only is he staying put, but he’s bringing that well-known fag hag in to keep him company. Don’t be surprised if rumors surface of a wee one en route – although we’d be awfully surprised if it ever arrived.

I guess my work here is done. Well, I can remind you to check out Filth2Go.com for the best gossip anywhere – period. And, of course, you can send in your queries, questions, and quips to me at [Billy@filth2go.com](mailto:Billy@filth2go.com). Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible. **W**



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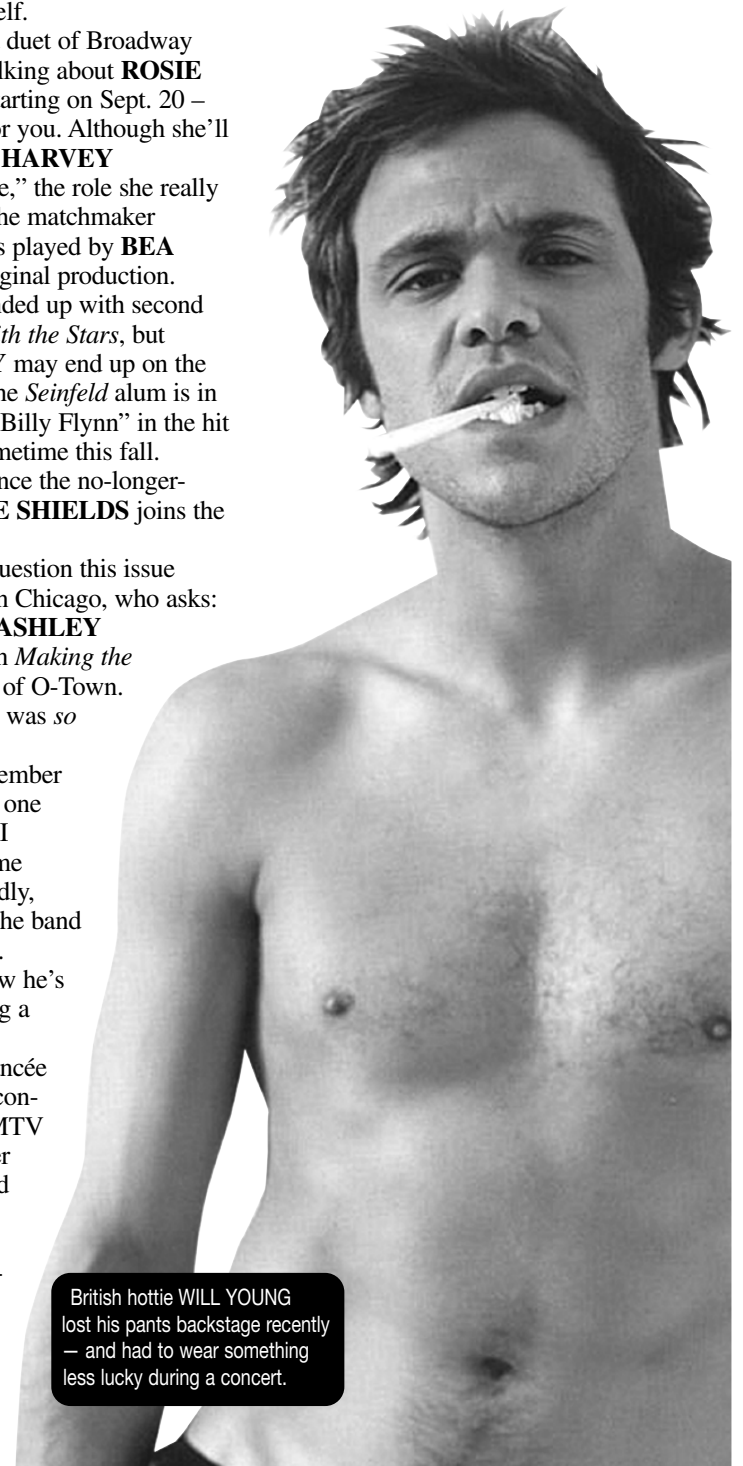
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British hottie **WILL YOUNG** lost his pants backstage recently – and had to wear something less lucky during a concert.



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WATERMARK'S  
2005

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PREVIEW

AUGUST 25 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

12.17



Singer-songwriter JEN FOSTER says that she's "kind of like the gay performer" in her home base of Nashville.

## JEN FOSTER WILL TOUT HER UPCOMING CD, *UNDERDOGS*, AT YBOR CITY'S FLIRT ON SEPT. 2. By Steve Blanchard

TAMPA - Jen Foster knows that everyone has considered themselves an underdog at some point in life and she's banking that music focusing on that theme will relate to everyone who hears it.

The openly lesbian singer/songwriter will release her sophomore 11-song CD *The Underdogs* in February 2006 and has already begun promoting with a tour that takes her to Flirt Nightclub in Ybor City Sept. 2. The show begins at 11 p.m. and the doors open an hour before. More information, including ticket prices, will be posted at [JenFoster.com](http://JenFoster.com).

While Foster has performed in Tampa Bay before, this will be her first appearance at Flirt. With each visit, her fan base grows a little more, but it may

also be fueled by the awards and recognitions her debut album *Everybody's Girl* received in 2004.

Foster, 32, was recognized as the Best Debut Recording Female at the 2004 OutMusic Awards. Her first single, *Used Black Cars*, debuted at the third most added track on AAA Radio, trailing only Dave Matthews and Lyle Lovett.

The Texas native took time out to speak to *Watermark* from her home in Nashville about her recording career, her upcoming album and her future.

**WATERMARK:** Thanks so much for taking the time out to talk to us. I'm sure your schedule is crazy enough without doing publicity.

**JEN FOSTER:** It's no problem. Early

**JEN FOSTER**

**WHEN:** 11 p.m., Friday, Sept. 2. Doors open at 10 p.m.

**WHERE:** Flirt Nightclub, 1909 N. 15th St., Ybor City.

**WITH WHOM:** Steph from Halcyon.

**VISIT:** [Flirtybor.com](http://Flirtybor.com) or [JenFoster.com](http://JenFoster.com).

in the week I'm pretty mellow. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays are our busy days. I toured about 200 gigs last year, mostly on weekends. So early

Continued on page 18

## JUST CAN'T WAIT

*Watermark's* staff offers its picks for the most anticipated events of the 2005-06 arts season

*Will & Grace* is on its last legs. *Hairspray* has been here and gone. And most of the great lesbian performers are choosing Olivia cruises instead of mainstream venues on land, or so it seems.

Still, there are some nice surprises ahead for the queer arts patron, including juicy bits in classical music, theatre and visual arts. *Watermark's* Steve Blanchard, Kirk Hartlage and Dave Wiethop offer some ideas of what they're looking forward to the most.

### WICKED

ABC's morning bitchfest's, *The View*, offered an intriguing taste of the musical, *Wicked*, the backstory to *The Wizard of Oz*. During its annual Halloween spectacular, the show featured a performance by the Tony Award-winning production's leads.

*For Good*, the show's closing number, is meant to stick in your craw so you can hum it all the way to the record store to purchase the cast soundtrack. Note the dual meanings of the lyrics: Not only have the witches influenced each other for the duration of their lives, but for the betterment as well. If that doesn't hit you, nothing will.

*Wicked* appears at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center from Jan. 18 to Feb. 5. — KH

### FALL FILM FESTIVALS

Fall is the perfect time to relax with friends and celebrate the passion of filmmaking. The Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival kicks off Aug. 26 and will feature Sarasota resident Tom Murray's *Fish Can't Fly* about religion and homosexuality. Sarasota's Film Festival is at Burns Court Cinema. Couple that with October's Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and you've got plenty of cinema to check out and to eventually fill your home DVD

Continued on page 12



## FALL ARTS

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## SEPTEMBER

- 1-25 *Satchmo – The Life and Times of Louis Armstrong*  
6-11 *STOMP*  
Broadway Encore  
21 *Lizz Wright*

## OCTOBER

- 1 2005 Broadway Ball  
2 Lewis Black  
6-23 *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series  
8 Eddie Griffin  
9 Symphony of the Americas  
11 Henry Rollins  
11-16 *Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan*  
Suntrust Broadway in Tampa Bay  
13 Shapiro & Smith Dance  
17 Christine Lavin  
Club Jaeb  
22 Plena Libre  
23 *The Magical School for Wizards*  
Kid Time Series  
29 *Rumpelstiltskin, the Musical*  
Wee Folk Series  
30 Beijing Modern Dance Company

## NOVEMBER

- 1-6 *The One-Man Star Wars Trilogy*  
8-13 *Evita*  
Suntrust Broadway in Tampa Bay  
14 Jen Chapin  
Club Jaeb  
25-30 *Christmas Cabaret*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series

## DECEMBER

- 1-18 *Christmas Cabaret*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series  
2 & 4 *Carmen*  
Homes by Helen Opera Series  
2-4 *David Parker and The Bang Group in Nut/Cracked*  
3 *Mammoth Follies*  
Kid Time Series  
5 *David Jacobs-Strain*  
Club Jaeb  
10 *Jerry Seinfeld*  
10 *MerryChriskwanzanukah!*  
Wee Folk Series  
11 *The Gift of the Magic*  
Kid Time Series

- 13-18 *Annie*  
Suntrust Broadway in Tampa Bay  
21-23 *Orlando Ballet's The Nutcracker*  
28-31 *My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy*  
29-31 *Lord of the Dance*  
Broadway Encore

## JANUARY

- 1 *My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy*  
12-31 *Forever Plaid*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series  
14 *Kathleen Battle*  
Homes by Helen Opera Series  
18-30 *Wicked*  
Suntrust Broadway in Tampa Bay  
20-31 *Phyro-Giants!*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series  
23 *Patty Larkin*  
Club Jaeb  
26-31 *Topdog/Underdog*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series  
28 *Quartetto Gelato*

## FEBRUARY

- 1-5 *Wicked*  
Suntrust Broadway in Tampa Bay  
1-5 *Forever Plaid*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series  
1-5 *Phyro-Giants!*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series  
1-12 *Topdog/Underdog*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series  
1 *Soweto Gospel Choir*  
9 *BoccaTango*  
10 *Kathleen Madigan*  
14-19 *Movin' Out*  
Broadway Encore  
17-26 *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series  
17&19 *The Elixir of Love*  
Homes by Helen Opera Series  
20 *Catie Curtis*  
Club Jaeb  
21 *Christopher O'Riley*  
24-26 *Nappy Journeys*  
25 *Patel Conservatory*  
Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra  
*The Sounds of America*  
Kid Time Series  
26 *Bebe Neuwirth Sings*  
*Weill and Kander & Ebb*  
26 *The Frog Prince*  
Wee Folk Series

## MARCH

- 1-31 *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series  
3-5 *Omstrab*  
5 *Russian National Ballet*  
*The Sleeping Beauty*  
7-12 *Little Women – The Musical*  
Suntrust Broadway in Tampa Bay  
15-19 *Capitol Steps*  
22 *DanceBrazil*  
23-31 *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series  
25 *Best of Tampa Bay*  
31 *The Girl of the Golden West*  
Homes by Helen Opera Series

## APRIL

- 1-30 *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series  
2 *The Girl of the Golden West*  
Homes by Helen Opera Series  
2-9 *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series  
15 *Nrityagram Dance Ensemble*  
18-23 *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*  
Suntrust Broadway in Tampa Bay  
23 *The Stinky Cheese Man ...*  
Kid Time Series  
29 *The Rainbow Fish*  
Wee Folk Series  
29-30 *David Copperfield*

## MAY

- 2-7 *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*  
Cadillac Cabaret Series  
9-14 *Mamma Mia!*  
Broadway Encore  
9-21 *Dave Gorman's Googlewhack! Adventure*  
17 *Garrison Keillor*  
19-21 *N.E. 2nd Ave.*  
19-20 *Sex and the Second City*  
21 *Cherish the Ladies*  
21 *Jack and the Beanstalk*  
Wee Folk Series

## JULY

- 1-18 *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*  
Jobsite Theater Play Series

## AUGUST

- 11-27 *Grimm's Faery Tales*  
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## FALL ARTS

## BEAR-HANDED ART

Orlando artist Virgil bares his soul – and his bear art – throughout the area to critical acclaim **By Kirk Hartlage**

**ORLANDO** - If you've been out and about recently in town, chances are you've seen the works of one of the area's up and coming artists, Jimmie Rice, also known as Virgil. His paintings are being seen by both the clubbers and non-clubbers alike, who've seen his works at the trendy Savoy as well as Orlando's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Center.

A bear of a man and an artist, Virgil specializes in male nudes and abstracts; producing each style may take different paths, but the end products are often seen as inspirational.

Virgil describes his style as romantic, as evident in a small series of works entitled *Kisses*. He keeps his paintings more sculptural in nature, not focusing on details but more on form. Loose brush strokes imply motion and movement, while more solid lines help to pull out the shadows on a well-toned model's body.

"The male body has more definition," Virgil says. "It's more muscular and easier to capture."

#### NUDES TO HIM

His emergence on the local art scene is still relatively new, having only begun to explore his artistic career within the last few years. Though he has a degree in art education from Florida State University, he decided not to teach. He put his own creative artistic abilities on hold, but while working at Sam Flax, a local art supply store, he began to become more inspired with each work brought into the shop's framing department.

"I could see what direction the Orlando art scene was going, and I knew I wanted to be part of it," Virgil says.

Attending various Nude Night events also encouraged him to heed his inner musings, especially since he had noticed a significant lack of male nudes at the naked art exhibitions.



This red-based portrait from Virgil is appropriately entitled *Ecstasy*.

"There still seems to be a stigma with full frontal male nudity," Virgil sighs, admitting that even he has had to shy away from the amount of detail he shows in his more current works as opposed to previous efforts. He's found many people have enjoyed his art, but have commented that his early works are not to display in the atypical living room, nor are there many public places that are comfortable exhibiting male nudes.

Virgil also says that most people, when they think of the classic nude in art, that they immediately envision a female form.

"Unless you think Greek," he laughs. "I prefer the male form, so obviously I paint what I like."

Gay male art, Virgil says, has its history in early porn where the traditional Tom of Finland works appeared in various gay men's publications. Competing with photo spreads often meant over-emphasizing various features or attributes

— sometimes to near comical proportions. Virgil says he tries to keep his work far more realistic in order to keep people within their own comfort zone.

Yes, the challenges of being an artist go far beyond what color to use. There are issues of keeping true to one's vision, while still producing work that can be sold. Budgetary restraints can mean a decision to purchase additional supplies or registration and entrance fees to join various shows and competitions. It's all part of the struggle to keep from becoming a literal starving artist.

Virgil has sold several of his pieces, including one to a collector in Germany. Still, he laughs at the notion that now he can consider himself an "international" artist. He admits that parting with his work can be bittersweet, but that it also gives validation to his work.

"There's a fine balance between working with your artistic skills and your own personal marketing skills if indeed you

want to make art a career," Virgil says.

#### A BROADER AUDIENCE

One of the best venues for Virgil has been North Orange Avenue bar Savoy, which has led to an even wider audience. Despite his fondness of painting the male body, thanks to the increasing popularity of Saturday evening's Lesbo-a-Go-Go, Virgil has been asked to paint more female pieces.

Besides nudes, Virgil also specializes in abstracts. His current show at the GLBCC, *Free Your Mind: A Collection of Abstract Musings*, also contains some works by Virgil's partner, Dan, an artist/illustrator who Virgil describes as much more reserved in his styles.

Virgil also says his preparation varies widely from painting males nudes versus abstracts. When painting a figure, he takes a more architectural approach and has everything planned out before his brush hits the canvas. For abstracts, though, he says his work is more intuitive.

"My abstract work is a more free-form expression, more textural and more

Continued on page 17

#### VIRGIL AND OTHER BEAR ARTISTS

**WHAT:** Bear art exhibit at the Bears of Central Florida's Bear Bust 2005.

**WHEN:** Oct. 20-23.

**WHERE:** Radisson Downtown.

**TO EXHIBIT:** Artists in any medium are asked to send an e-mail to David at [cub4bigbears@vmbear.com](mailto:cub4bigbears@vmbear.com).

**FOR MORE INFO:** Visit [BearBust.org](http://BearBust.org).

"There still seems to be a stigma with full frontal male nudity."



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## FALL ARTS

2005 - 2006

## arts SEASON SCHEDULES

## DAYTONA/SPACECOAST

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45 Seconds from Broadway - Sept. 9-18  
 I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Nov. 4-20  
 Greetings! - Jan. 20-29  
 Murder Among Friends - March 17-26  
 Harvey - April 21-30  
 P.S. Your Cat Is Dead - May 26-June 4

KING CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS,  
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(321) 242-2219  
KingCenter.com

Loggins and Messina Reunion Tour - Sept. 28  
 Trisha Yearwood - Oct. 20  
 Bjorn Again - The ABBA Experience - Oct. 21  
 Chris Botti and David Sanborn - Oct. 22  
 An Evening with Whoopi Goldberg - Nov. 3  
 Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt, Joe Ely, Guy Clark - Nov. 4  
 Holiday Oldies Ball - Dec. 1  
 Glen Campbell Christmas Show - Dec. 2  
 Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra - Dec. 5  
 Space Coast Ballet: The Nutcracker - Dec. 10  
 A Peter White Christmas - Dec. 14  
 Oklahoma! - Dec. 16  
 Broadway's Spirit of Christmas - Dec. 18  
 Bowfire - Jan. 7  
 Chicago - Jan. 10-11  
 Jekyll and Hyde: The Concert - Jan. 13  
 Golden Dragon Acrobats - Jan. 17  
 The Helikon Opera Company - Jan. 19  
 Cats - Jan. 24-25  
 Steven Wright - Jan. 26  
 Earl Klugh - Jan. 29  
 Soweto Gospel Choir - Feb. 2  
 Al Martino - Feb. 9  
 Michael Feinstein and Linda Eder - Feb. 10  
 Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons - Feb. 11  
 Ed McMahon's Tonight Show Memories - Feb. 16  
 Joshua Bell and The Brevard Symphony Orchestra - Feb. 25  
 Tony Kenny's Ireland - Feb. 26  
 An Evening with Jack Klugman - March 1  
 Engelbert Humperdinck - March 4  
 Carl Rosa Opera Company: The Mikado - March 5  
 Paul Anka - March 9  
 Hayley Westenra - March 17  
 Cirque Productions: Cirque Dreams - March 19  
 Space Coast Ballet: Sleeping Beauty - March 25  
 The Manhattan Transfer - March 31  
 Johnny Mathis - April 6  
 Thoroughly Modern Millie - April 13  
 The Sax Pack - April 22

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LittleTheatreOfNSB.org

Over The River and Through The Woods - Oct. 7-16  
 Victoria's House - Nov. 11-20  
 Chapter Two - Jan. 13-22  
 Meshuggah-Nuns! - Feb. 17-March 5  
 Who's In Bed With the Butler - March 31-April 9  
 The Sugar Bean Sisters - May 5-14

MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,  
DAYTONA BEACH  
(386) 255-0285  
MOAS.org

More than Meets the Eye - through Sept. 4  
 Audubon Works - through Oct. 2



Baby Boomers, rejoice: *Mamma Mia!* returns to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center May 9-14 and Orlando's Bob Carr Performing Arts Center May 23-28.

Bodies of Work: The Human Figure in Graphic Art - through Oct. 2005  
 Glories of Ancient Egypt - Nov. 18-May 7

SEASIDE MUSIC THEATRE, DAYTONA BEACH  
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SeasideMusicTheater.org

Always ... Patsy Cline - Oct. 27-Nov. 20  
 Disney's Beauty & The Beast - Jan. 27-Feb. 5

## ORLANDO

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Rollins.edu/theatre

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 Starting Here, Starting Now - Sept. 23-Oct. 1  
 Pack of Lies - Nov. 11-19  
 All My Sons - Feb. 17-25  
 Lend Me a Tenor - April 21-29

SECOND STAGE  
 Sexual Perversity in Chicago - Sept. 29-Oct. 2  
 The Trojan Women: A Love Story - Nov. 17-20  
 The Book of Liz - Feb. 23-26  
 The Last Five Years - April 27-30

DANCE  
 Rollins Dance XX - March 17-18

BACH FESTIVAL SOCIETY  
(407) 646-2182  
BachFestivalFlorida.org

Elijah - Oct. 29-30  
 Thomas Hampson - Nov. 19  
 Holiday Choral Masterworks - Dec. 11  
 Preservation Hall Band - Jan. 27  
 71st Anniversary Bach Festival - Feb. 24-March 5  
 Moscow Chamber Orchestra - March 10  
 Ensemble Galilei - April 2  
 Duke Ellington: Sacred Music & Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue - April 29-30

CORNELL FINE ARTS MUSEUM  
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www.rollins.edu/cfam/

The galleries are currently closed for renovation until late fall.

FESTIVAL OF ORCHESTRAS  
(407) 539-0245  
FestivalOfOrchestras.org

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - Jan. 8  
 Cleveland Orchestra - Jan. 26  
 Jerusalem Symphony - Feb. 16  
 Russian National Orchestra - March 19  
 Rotterdam Philharmonic - April 7

GALLERY Q AT THE CENTER  
(407) 228-8272  
GLBCC.org

Larry Davis: Rhythms - September  
 Keith Theriot: Disconnected Synapses - October  
 Bump in the Night: Florescent and Phosphorescent Media - Oct. 28  
 L. D. Brown: Global photography - November  
 World AIDS Day Exhibit - Dec. 1  
 Season of Light - Dec. 3-31

HELEN STAIRS THEATRE  
(407) 321-8111  
HelenStairsTheatre.com

B.J. Thomas - Sept. 17  
 Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra: Britten - Sept. 18  
 Camelot - Sept. 23-Oct. 2  
 Motown Review - Oct. 8  
 Fab Follies: In The Pink - Oct. 22-23  
 Juice Newton - Nov. 5  
 The Stories of Scheherazade - Nov. 11-20  
 Elsberry Hobbs Drifter's Christmas Concert - Dec. 3  
 The Nutcracker - Dec. 9-11  
 Grandpa Hangs the Holly - Dec. 16-18  
 Toxic Audio - Dec. 28-29  
 Johnny DeRose - Jan. 7  
 John Anderson - Jan. 14  
 Orlando Gilbert and Sullivan Players - Jan. 15  
 Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra:  
 Mozart/Beethoven - Jan. 22  
 Guys and Dolls - Jan. 27-Feb. 5  
 Benny Goodman Songbook - Feb. 25  
 Flowers for Algernon - March 3-12  
 Gary Puckett - March 18  
 Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra: Haydn - March 26  
 Pirates of Penzance - March 31-April 9  
 Central Florida Dance Festival - May 13  
 Don't Rock the Boat - June 16-25

THE HISTORY CENTER  
(407) 836-8500  
TheHistoryCenter.org

Beauty Queens in the Sunshine - through Aug. 29  
 Journalist, Activist Joseph L. Brechner: Changing the Status Quo - through Nov. 1  
 Orlando Remembered - Sept. 29-Oct. 2  
 Hispanic Heritage: Cuba Under Castro - Sept. 30-Jan. 2  
 Once Upon a Time: Victorian Illustrated Children's Books - Nov. 21-Jan. 9  
 Quilts as Texts: Storytelling with Fabrics and Pixels - Dec. 7-March 5

JESTER THEATRE  
(407) 928-5860  
JesterTheater.com

Gumshoe Rendezvous - Sept. 9-25  
 Greater Tuna - Nov. 25-Dec. 18  
 The Musical of Musicals - March 3-19  
 (f)ives - May 18-29

MAD COW THEATRE COMPANY  
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MadCowTheatre.com

STAGE LEFT  
 Urinetown - Sept. 22-Oct. 23  
 Bus Stop - Nov. 17-Dec. 11  
 Humble Boy - Jan. 26-Feb. 19  
 Antigone - March 9-April 2  
 A Delicate Balance - May 11-June 4  
 The Constant Wife - June 29-July 23





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## ORLANDO

## LUTHERANS CONTINUE BAN ON NON-CELIBATE GAY CLERGY

ORLANDO - Despite protests by a group of GLBT-sympathetic Christians in Orlando in mid-August, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America rejected a measure to allow non-celibate gay and lesbian clergy.



The REV. JAY WIESNER of Minneapolis, Minn., hoped the ELCA would re-think its policies for GLBT clergy but said he remained realistic.

The national assembly, meeting at the Marriott Orlando World Convention Center, also approved an ambiguously worded measure that neither approved or disallowed the blessing of same-sex unions.

Though the ELCA has officially welcomed GLBT members since 1991, it has refused to ordain sexually active homosexual ministers and blessing same-sex couples.

"Today's votes were very predictable with no great surprises," said the Rev. Nate Gruel of Welaka, who was protesting with Goodsoil, a joint alliance of several groups advocating the open acceptance of gays and lesbians within the church. "I did not expect that the church was going to make

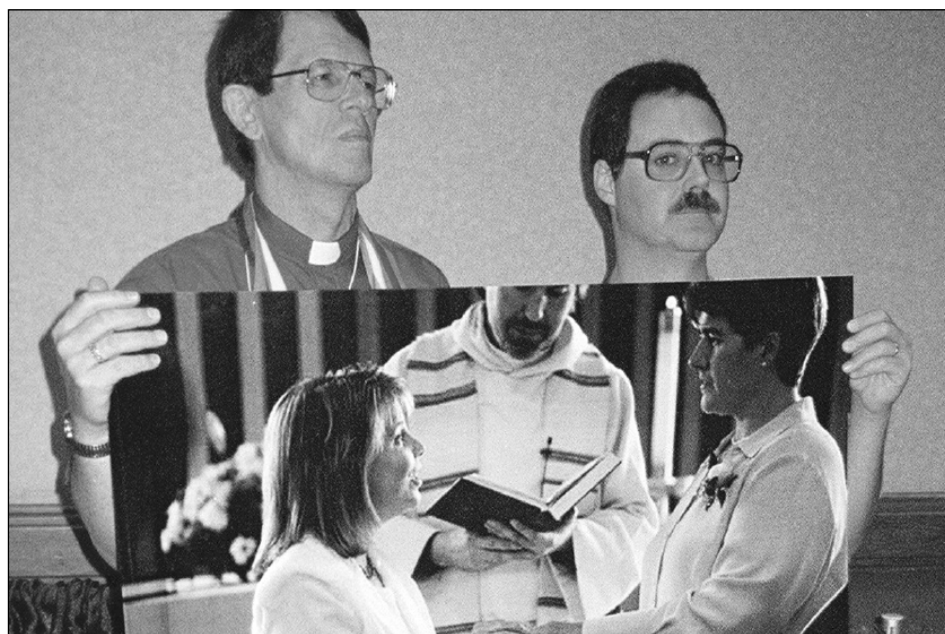
the moves that were fought to being made - to a full welcoming of gay and lesbian people."

Two main resolutions were presented to the 1,000 voting members that meets every two years to set church policy. The first resolution would have allowed churches to openly bless same-sex unions. However, an amendment changed the phrase "same-sex couples" to "all to which they minister." The ambiguous wording let stand a previous rule prohibiting the blessing of same-sex unions; however, pastors would not be disciplined if they performed holy union ceremonies.

The second resolution would have allowed non-celibate gay clergy to serve openly in the church. Currently, GLBT clergy may serve the 4.9 million-member denomination, the sixth largest Christian denomination in the U.S., but they must take a vow of chastity to do so.

When a motion to remove all barriers to gay clergy failed, more than 100 Goodsoil protesters wearing rainbow-colored sashes moved to an area between the main podium where presiding Bishop Mark Hanson stood and the 1,000-plus voting delegation.

The protesters held large photos of same-sex couples taking part in holy union ceremonies. Throughout the debate, the group stood on the far-left side of the convention hall in an area designated for visi-



The REV. NATE GRUEL (left) and partner PAUL MONAGHAN of Welaka, held a sign at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly as part of Goodsoil's silent protest of the denomination's separate policies for gay clergy members. Photos by Kirk Hartlage

tors, but later moved in silent protest to the front of the hall.

A call to return to the visitors' section went unanswered and after several discussions on how to proceed, the voting delegates continued their debate of the proposed amendments.

Though the vote to allow gay clergy to openly serve was defeated 490-503, church rules required the measure to pass by a two-thirds majority. The vote was preceded by a lively debate during which a poorly timed afternoon thunderstorm caused the lights in the hotel ballroom to flicker.

One delegate questioned why the church was discussing rules for a "special" population and asked whether special rules would later be adopted for alcoholics and other populations who are born with other "afflictions."

One young man said he felt he received more discrimination from his church than from anywhere else in the world. He was considering becoming a member of the church's clergy, but that the day's vote would weigh heavily on his decision.

Some protesters said they feel the best method for changing church policy is to stay active within the church.

"I for one will stay involved in the ECLA and attempt to make that change a reality,"

Gruel said. "A change that will really affirm our relationships."

Gruel became an ordained pastor within the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church 16 years ago and moved to Florida two years ago with his partner, Paul Monaghan.

The Rev. Jay Wiesner of Minneapolis, Minn., joined the Goodsoil protest as a member of a GLBT ministry group that does not follow the church's chastity clause and is not recognized by the ECLA.

"We had hoped the ban would be lifted so that the GLBT community would be fully accepted into the church," Wesner said. "As it is now, we are seen as a second-class of pastors."

Though Gruel said he knows that that there could be possible disciplinary actions, he still hopes to encourage his church's pastor to break the rules and allow Gruel to fill in when the minister takes vacation. Gruel said he anticipates the discipline would be light as he knows of non-celibate gay clergy serving their churches who have not been subjected to such discipline.

"They've said over and over that gay and lesbian people are fully welcomed, but we're very well aware that the welcome isn't a full welcome," Gruel said. "We want a thumbs up to our blessings and our unions." ▼ Kirk Hartlage

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## ORLANDO BRIEFS

### OPENLY GAY REP. FRANK TO APPEAR IN ORLANDO SEPT. 10

Tickets are now on sale for *An Evening With Rep. Barney Frank*, a Sept. 10 benefit for the ACLU of Florida. The openly gay congressman has been regarded as the funniest lawmaker in Washington by Capitol Hill staffers. The event begins with a VIP reception at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$50 for VIP admission and \$100 for premium VIP admission. For more information, call Elaine Ozrovitz at (305) 576-2337, ext. 13, or send an e-mail to eozrovitz@aclu.org.



## FALL ARTS

ARTS LISTING from page 8

## LAKELAND

POLK MUSEUM OF ART  
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PolkMuseumOfArt.org

An American View: Forty Years of Richard Florsheim – through Aug. 28  
 Juane Quick-to-See-Smith: Made in America – through Oct. 9  
 Rebecca Sexton Larson: Another Time, Another Place – through Oct. 9  
 Little Treasures from the Permanent Collection – through Nov. 20  
 Maria Brito: Realizations – Sept. 3-Nov. 6  
 Beauty Overlooked: Pattern and Decoration Artworks from the Permanent Collection – Oct. 15-Nov. 27  
 Life as Art: Wood and Fiber from the Permanent Collection – Nov. 5-March 5  
 David Maxim: Natural Force – Dec. 2-Feb. 22  
 Carrie Mae Weems: The Louisiana Project – Dec. 10-Feb. 12  
 Pop Art 1956-2006: The First 50 Years – Feb. 18-April 16  
 Views from Within: Three Miami Artists – March 5-May 14  
 Pictures of Words: The Use of Text in Art – March 11-June 25  
 Aftermath: Joel Meyerowitz – April 22-July 9  
 Inside the Outsider World: Folk Art from the Permanent Collection – May 20-July 17

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 Wicked – Jan. 18-Feb. 5  
 Movin' Out – Feb. 14-19  
 Little Women – March 7-12  
 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – April 18-23  
 Mamma Mia! – May 9-14

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 Beethoven's Symphony N. 7 – Oct. 22-24  
 Brahms, Bartok and Beethoven – Nov. 6-7  
 Tenor Daniel Rodriguez – Nov. 11-13  
 Dvorak's Requiem – Nov. 19-21  
 Holiday Pops – Dec. 2-4  
 Too Hot to Handel: The Gospel Messiah – Dec. 7-8  
 Five By Design: Club Swing – Jan. 13-15  
 Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 – Dec. 17-19  
 Mahler's Symphony No. 9 – Jan. 7-9  
 Respighi's Pines of Rome – Jan. 21-23  
 Strauss, Britten and Beethoven – Feb. 11-13  
 Beethoven's Eroica – Feb. 18-20  
 Patti Austin: A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald – Feb. 24-26  
 Russian Extravaganza – March 4-6  
 Bravo Broadway – March 17-19  
 Keith Lockhart Conducts – March 25-27  
 Vaughn Williams' A Sea Symphony – April 8-10  
 Garrick Ohlsson Plays Dvorak – April 29-May 1  
 Ellen Ivers: Irish Fiddle on Fire – May 5-7  
 Beethoven's Pastorale – May 13-15  
 Pink Martini – May 19-21  
 Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 – May 25-27

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 Alan Jackson – Nov. 4  
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GorillaTheater.com

A Number – Sept. 8-25  
 To Be Announced – Oct. 27-Nov. 13  
 Stop Kiss – Jan. 5-22  
 Ye Olde Oxford Opera and the Stratford Hoedown – Feb. 23-March 12  
 Young Dramatists' Competition '06 – April 27-May 7  
 To Be Announced – June 1-18

## JAZZ AT THE GORILLA

October 2  
 December 4  
 January 29  
 February 12  
 March 26  
 April 9  
 May 21  
 June 25

JOBSITE THEATER  
(813) 222-1092  
JobsiteTheater.org

Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune – Oct. 6-23  
 Phyro-Giants! – Jan. 20-Feb. 5  
 Topdog/Underdog – Jan. 26-Feb. 12  
 The Goat or Who is Sylvia? – March 23-April 9  
 We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay! – June 1-18  
 Grimm's Faery Tales – Aug. 11-27

OPERA TAMPA  
(813) 222-1030  
OperaTampa.org

Carmen – Dec. 2-4  
 Kathleen Battle – Jan. 14  
 The Elixir of Love – Feb. 17-19  
 The Girl of the Golden West – March 31-April 2

ST. PETE TIMES FORUM  
(813) 301-2500  
IcePalace.com

The Scream Tour IV – Sept. 2  
 Reggaeton Explotion – Sept. 3  
 Foo Fighters and Weezer – Sept. 11  
 Paul McCartney – Sept. 17  
 The Rolling Stones – Oct. 19  
 Neil Diamond – Oct. 20  
 Nine Inch Nails – Oct. 22  
 U2 – Nov. 16

STAGEWORKS  
(813) 251-8984  
StageworksTheater.com

A Number – Sept. 7-25  
 Collected Stories – Oct. 27-Nov. 13  
 Stop Kiss – Jan. 4-22  
 To Be Announced – April 20-May 7  
 The Memory of Water – July 6-23

TAMPA BAY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
(813) 229-STAR  
TBPAC.org

Satchmo: The Life and Times of Louis Armstrong – through Sept. 25  
 Viva Sevilla ... y ole Viva Madrid – Sept. 10

Lizz Wright – Sept. 21  
 Fire & Ice Spectacular Ballroom Stars Live – Sept. 24  
 Broadway Ball – Oct. 1  
 Lewis Black – Oct. 2  
 Sesame Street Live – Oct. 7-9  
 Eddie Griffin – Oct. 8  
 Symphony of the Americas – Oct. 9  
 Henry Rollins – Oct. 11  
 Shapiro and Smith Dance – Oct. 13  
 Christine Lavin – Oct. 17  
 Plena Libre – Oct. 22  
 Beijing Modern Dance Company – Oct. 30  
 The One Man Star Wars Trilogy – Nov. 1-6  
 Yolanda Adams – Nov. 3  
 South Pacific – Nov. 5  
 SRO 2005 – Nov. 5  
 Jen Chapin – Nov. 14  
 Christmas Cabaret – Nov. 25-Dec. 18  
 Nut/Cracked – Dec. 2-4  
 David Jacobs-Strain – Dec. 5  
 Moscow Ballet: The Nutcracker – Dec. 6-7  
 Jerry Seinfeld – Dec. 10  
 Orlando Ballet: The Nutcracker – Dec. 21-23  
 My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy – Dec. 28-Jan. 1  
 Lord of the Dance – Dec. 29-31  
 Forever Plaid – Jan. 12-Feb. 5  
 Patty Larkin – Jan. 23  
 Quartetto Gelato – Jan. 28  
 Soweto Gospel Choir – Feb. 1  
 Bocca Tango – Feb. 9  
 Kathleen Madigan – Feb. 10  
 Catie Curtis – Feb. 20  
 Christopher O'Riley – Feb. 21  
 Ayinde Hurrey's Nappy Journeys – Feb. 24-26  
 Bebe Neuwirth Sings Weill and Kander & Ebb – Feb. 26  
 Omstrab – March 3-5  
 Russian National Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty – March 5  
 Capitol Steps – March 15-19  
 DanceBrazil – March 22  
 Best of Tampa Bay – March 25  
 Nrityagram Dance Ensemble – April 15  
 David Copperfield – April 29-30  
 Dave Gorman's Googlewhack! Adventure – May 9-21  
 El Conde de Luxemburgo – May 13  
 Garrison Keillor: Lake Wobegon Days – May 17  
 Sex and the Second City – May 19-20  
 Teo Castellanos' N.E. 2nd Ave. – May 19-21  
 Cherish the Ladies – May 21

TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART  
(813) 274-8130  
TampaMuseum.com

The Big Picture: Photographer Laureate Suzanne Camp Crosby – through Sept. 25  
 From Myth To Life: Images Of Women from the Classical World – Sept. 18-Dec. 31  
 Georgia O'Keeffe – Oct. 2-Jan. 8  
 Who am I? (Exploring Identity) – Oct. 9-Jan. 8  
 Wild Things: The Art of Maurice Sendak – Jan. 29-April 23

UNA VOCE — THE FLORIDA MEN'S CHORUS  
(813) UNA-VOCE  
Una-Voce.com

Appearance with Crescendo at Friday Morning Musicale in Tampa — Sept. 23  
 Appearance with Crescendo at King of Peace MCC in St. Pete – Sept. 24  
 Appearance at Tampa Bay Bears Fund-Raiser — Nov. 11  
 Our Holiday Journey at USF — Dec. 3  
 Our Holiday Journey at King of Peace MCC — Dec. 4  
 When We No Longer Touch, appearance at Carnegie Hall in New York — Feb. 19

## ST. PETERSBURG

BROADWAY AT THE BAYFRONT  
(727) 892-5798

MahaffeyTheater.com

Closed for renovations until March 2006

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
(727) 896-2667  
Fine-Arts.org

A is for Ambrotype: An Introduction to Photographic Processes – through Sept. 11  
 Wedgwood Pottery: From Ancient Greece to Fairyland – through Sept. 18  
 Splendors of Meiji Japan – through Oct. 23  
 John Scott: I Remember Birmingham – through Oct. 23  
 Spotlight on the Collection: A Selection of Post-1950 Art – through Oct. 23  
 Untangling Intaglios and Other Print Processes Made Plain – through Oct. 23  
 Understanding the Nude in Photography – Sept 17-Dec. 11  
 Art, Love and Life in the East Village: Weegee's Wild New York – Nov. 5-Jan. 22  
 The Sixties Show – Nov. 5-Jan. 22  
 Peter Max – Nov. 5-Jan. 22  
 Photography Past/Forward: Aperture at 50 – Feb. 4-April 29  
 From the Fire: Contemporary Korean Ceramics – Oct. 7-Dec. 31

## CLEARWATER

RUTH ECKERD HALL  
(727) 791-7400  
RuthEckerdHall.com

Meatloaf – Sept. 12-19  
 Loggins and Messina Reunion Tour – Sept. 30  
 Ron White – Oct. 5-8  
 REO Speedwagon and Styx – Oct. 15  
 ZZ Top – Oct. 20  
 Trisha Yearwood – Oct. 22  
 Jethro Tull – Oct. 24  
 Doctor Doolittle – Oct. 26-30  
 Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt, Joe Ely and Guy Clark – Nov. 3  
 An Evening with Whoopi Goldberg – Nov. 5  
 Bill Maher – Nov. 11  
 Bill Engvall – Nov. 12  
 Munich Symphony Orchestra – Nov. 17  
 Buddy Guy's BluesFest – Nov. 19  
 My Fair Lady – Nov. 27-26  
 Kenny Rogers Celebrates the Season – Nov. 29  
 Die Fledermaus – Nov. 30  
 Debbie Boone's Holiday Tribute to Rosemary Clooney – Dec. 1  
 Jay Black and the Americans – Dec. 2  
 Oklahoma! – Dec. 3  
 Glen Campbell Christmas – Dec. 4  
 Dave Koz and Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas – Dec. 5  
 Ottmar Liebert Christmas – Dec. 6  
 The Chocolate Nutcracker – Dec. 9-11  
 Andy Williams Christmas Show – Dec. 13  
 Irish Rovers Christmas – Dec. 15  
 Peter White Christmas – Dec. 16  
 Michael W. Smith Christmas Concert – Dec. 17  
 Lee Greenwood and Crystal Gayle – Dec. 18  
 My Sinatra Christmas – Dec. 19  
 The Nutcracker – Dec. 22-24  
 Clay Aiken Christmas – Dec. 30  
 Salute to Vienna – Dec. 31  
 An Evening with Liza Minnelli – Jan. 12  
 Carmina Burana/Ravel's "Bolero" – Jan. 14  
 The Glen Miller Orchestra – Jan. 17  
 Jim Brickman – Jan. 20  
 Pilobolus – Jan. 21  
 In the Mood – Jan. 24  
 Steven Wright – Jan. 28  
 Sing! Sing! Sing! – Jan. 24  
 Alexander Kobrin, Van Cliburn Gold Medalist – Feb. 4  
 Steve Lawrence – Feb. 7-8  
 Itzhak Perlman – Feb. 11  
 Italian American Music Festival – Feb. 12  
 Frankie Valli and the 4 Seasons – Feb. 16  
 Larry the Cable Guy – Feb. 17-18  
 Ed McMahon's Memories of *The Tonight Show* – Feb. 19  
 Donna Summer – Feb. 21

Continued on page 10



## FALL ARTS

## ARTS LISTING from page 9

Our Sinatra – Feb. 22  
 Sleeping Beauty – Feb. 23  
 An Afternoon with Jack Klugman – Feb. 27  
 Englebert Humperdink – March 1-2  
 Brandenburg Ensemble – March 3  
 HMS Pinafore – March 4  
 Doo Wop Reunion VI – March 7  
 Dame Edna: Back with a Vengeance – March 8-12  
 Paul Anka – March 17  
 Lucia Di Lammermoor – March 18  
 Black Watch – March 20  
 Prisoner of Second Avenue – March 21  
 Tony Kenny's Ireland – March 22  
 Hayley Westenra – March 23  
 Natalie Cole – March 24  
 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – March 29  
 Pat Boone – April 4  
 Thoroughly Modern Millie – April 12  
 Bombay Dreams – April 19-23  
 Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra With Wynton Marsalis – April 27

## SARASOTA

ASOLO THEATRE FESTIVAL  
(941) 351-8000  
Asolo.org

Laughing Stock – Nov. 11-Feb. 2  
 Enchanted April – Nov. 18-Feb. 26  
 A Christmas Carol – Nov. 25-Dec. 29  
 Trying – Jan. 6-April 8  
 Anything to Declare? – Jan. 20-April 27  
 To Kill a Mockingbird – Feb. 24-May 6  
 Lady Windermere's Fan – March 10-May 7  
 Crowns – March 13-June 11  
 Rounding Third – May 12-June 18  
 String of Pearls – May 12-June 18

GOLDEN APPLE DINNER THEATRE  
(941) 366-5454  
TheGoldenApple.com

I ? NY – Sept. 27-Nov. 13  
 Sweet Charity – Nov. 15-Jan. 15  
 Urinetown – Jan. 17-March 12  
 Disney's Beauty and the Beast – March 14-May 28  
 Big – May 30-July 23  
 Goldiggers of 1633 – July 25-Sept. 3

GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS & WOMEN'S  
ENSEMBLE  
(941) 957-0404  
GulfCoastMensChorus.com

The Power of Music Holiday Concert – Dec. 11  
 ARTS Day Downtown – Jan. 15  
 Spring Concert/Cabaret – May 6

THE PLAYERS THEATRE  
(941) 365-2494  
ThePlayers.org

Grease! – Sept. 29-Oct. 9  
 The Pirates of Penzance – Oct. 27-Nov. 6  
 Oliver! – Dec. 1-18  
 The Most Happy Fella – Jan. 12-29  
 Man of La Mancha – Feb. 23-March 12  
 Putting it Together – March 30-April 9

SARASOTA BALLET  
(941) 351-8000  
SarasotaBallet.org

Eva Peron: A Dance Portrait – Oct. 14-22  
 Swan Lake – Nov. 25-26  
 The Fantastic Toyshop: La Boutique Fantasque – Dec. 22-23  
 Ballet NY – Jan. 27-29  
 Anne Frank – Feb. 10-13  
 XV Anniversary Gala Performance – March 21  
 Carmina Burana – March 24-26  
 Season Finale Festival – April 21-23

SARASOTA OPERA  
(941) 366-8450  
SarasotaOpera.org

Up Close, Informal, On Stage – Nov. 11  
 Opera and Overtures – Nov. 17-19  
 La Bohème – Feb. 4-March 25  
 The Marriage of Figaro – Feb. 11-March 25  
 Artists Concert – Feb. 12  
 I Masnadieri (The Robbers) – Feb. 25-March 18  
 Die Fledermaus – March 4-26  
 The Apprentice Artists in Opera Scenes – March 14-21  
 Spring Gala Concert – March 26

VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL  
(941) 953-3368  
www.vanwezel.org.

Drew Carey and the Improv All-Stars – Sept. 17  
 Bjorn Again – Oct. 25  
 David Sanborn & Chris Botti – Oct. 27  
 Billy Idol – Oct. 31  
 The Full Monty – Nov. 1  
 Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular – Nov. 3  
 Gallagher – Nov. 4  
 Drum! – Nov. 5  
 The U.S. Army Field Band And Soldiers' Chorus – Nov. 5  
 The Bacon Brothers – Nov. 15  
 An Evening with Eartha Kitt – Nov. 20  
 Stomp! – Nov. 25-27  
 Czech Opera: Die Fledermaus – Nov. 28  
 Circus Sarasota – Dec. 3  
 Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra – Dec. 4  
 Oklahoma! – Dec. 5-6  
 Dave Koz and Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas – Dec. 7  
 The Irish Rovers Holiday Show – Dec. 11  
 Christmas with the Mantovani Orchestra & Chorus – Dec. 12  
 Garrison Keillor: Lake Wobegon Days – Dec. 12  
 Blast! – Dec. 14  
 Lee Greenwood and Crystal Gayle – Dec. 15  
 Broadway's Spirit of Christmas: A Magical Holiday Celebration – Dec. 16-17  
 The Beach Boys Holiday Show – Dec. 18  
 Babes in Toyland – Dec. 19  
 Forbidden Broadway: Special Victims Unit – Dec. 19-24  
 Broadway on Ice – Dec. 27-28  
 Perlman Music Program Celebration – Dec. 29  
 Salute to Vienna: The World's Greatest New Year's Concert – Jan. 1  
 Bowfire – Jan. 3  
 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – Jan. 4  
 Jo Dee Messina – Jan. 9  
 Mandy Patinkin – Jan. 10  
 Linda Ronstadt – Jan. 12  
 Sinbad – Jan. 13  
 Dave Brubeck Quartet – Jan. 14  
 The Glenn Miller Orchestra – Jan. 15  
 Jackie Mason: Freshly Squeezed – Jan. 15  
 Forever Tango – Jan. 16-17  
 Roberta Flack – Jan. 16  
 Liza Minnelli – Jan. 17-18  
 The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial – Jan. 19  
 Pilobolus – Jan. 22

The Helikon Opera from Moscow: A Russian Evening of Opera – Jan. 23  
 The Cleveland Orchestra – Jan. 27  
 Steven Wright – Jan. 29  
 Michael McDonald – Jan. 30  
 Tap Dogs – Jan. 31  
 Arlo Guthrie – Feb. 1  
 Sing! Sing! Sing! – Feb. 1  
 Michael Feinstein and Linda Eder – Feb. 3  
 Steve Lawrence and Edie Gorme – Feb. 4  
 The Incredible Acrobats of China – Feb. 5  
 Movin' Out – Feb. 7-12  
 Kenny Rogers – Feb. 14  
 The Will Rogers Follies – Feb. 16  
 Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons – Feb. 17  
 Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra – Feb. 20  
 Dance Brazil – Feb. 21  
 Mark Russell – Feb. 22  
 Donna Summer – Feb. 23  
 Our Sinatra – Feb. 26  
 Engelbert Humperdink – Feb. 28  
 Polish Chamber Orchestra – March 1  
 Russian National Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty – March 3  
 An Afternoon with Jack Klugman – March 5  
 An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin – March 5  
 HMS Pinafore – March 6  
 The Philadelphia Orchestra – March 7  
 Martha Graham Dance Company – March 10  
 Russian National Orchestra – March 13  
 Black Watch – March 15  
 Paul Anka – March 16  
 Tony Kenny's Ireland – March 19  
 Marvin Hamlisch – March 19  
 Natalie Cole – March 28  
 Jane Fonda – April 3  
 Duke Ellington Orchestra – April 8  
 Dick Hyman and Friends – April 8  
 The Ten Tenors – April 10  
 Thoroughly Modern Millie – April 11  
 Scrap Arts Music Mainstage Spectacular – April 14  
 My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy – April 18-23  
 David Copperfield – April 20-21  
 Nana Mouskouri – April 22  
 Sex and the Second City – April 25-30

VENICE LITTLE THEATRE  
(941) 488-1115  
VeniceStage.com

MAIN STAGE  
 The Cocoanuts – Oct. 11-30  
 Disney's Beauty & The Beast – Nov. 15-Dec. 4  
 The Underpants – Jan. 10-29  
 Singin' in the Rain – Feb. 14-March 12  
 Greater Tuna – March 28-April 15  
 Little Women – May 2-14

STAGE II  
 Cops – Nov. 3-20  
 Cabaret – Jan. 9-Feb. 12  
 The Dunes – March 16-April 2  
 The Vagina Monologues – April 13-30



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FALL ARTS



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## FALL ARTS

## EVENTS from page 1

collection. The 16th annual TIGLFF runs Oct. 6-16 at the Tampa Theatre. — SB

## MUSIC OF BENJAMIN BRITTEN

The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra kicks off a rather traditional season on Sept. 20 with the music of a rather untraditional composer: the openly gay Benjamin Britten. Though friends and associates long knew of the British Britten's long-term relationship with pianist Peter Pears, it wasn't until the 1990s — years after his death — that any serious discussions began about the relevance of his sexuality upon his music.

(Besides, didn't we get a clue when Britten wrote the opera, *Death in Venice*,

about an older man's infatuation with the latest spring chicken?)

Concert-goers can draw their own conclusions about the complicated, beautiful and seemingly under-performed pieces by a most interesting fellow. — DW

## AN EVENING WITH EARTHA KITT

When Eartha Kitt toured in *Cinderella* a few years ago, her *legs* earned one of the first rounds of applause. Kitt — the sexy, sultry, evocative chanteuse who once ended up on Nixon's enemies list — will visit the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center in Sarasota Nov. 20.

Wonder if she'll sing anything from *Cats*? Get it? (And don't forget that Liza heads to the Van Wezel on Jan. 17 and Lily

Tomlin performs there on March 5.) — DW

## RENT: THE MOVIE

Is *Rent* far overdue? Fans of Jonathan Larson's musical will see the movie version and adore it (just as fans of *Phantom of the Opera* managed to do), but the 1990s world of AIDS may be too different in 2005 for relevance.

Still, you've got to hand it to director Chris Columbus for hiring many of the original stage production's stars (including the openly gay Anthony Rapp, Tony winner Idina Menzel and *Law & Order*'s Jesse L. Greene) for roles that they may — perhaps — be a little too old to play.

Expect the *Seasons of Love* in theatres

Nov. 11. — DW

## COUCH POTATO THEATER

It's theater, but for people who like the comfort of home! Orlando's favorite comedy duo presents Couch Potato Theater this winter at the Studio Theatre in Downtown Orlando. The studio gets becomes a giant family room filled with sofas, loveseats, easy chairs, rockers, tT tables, throw rugs, microwave ovens for free popcorn and even TV dinners!

A rotating schedule of shows includes the ever popular *The Naked Guy*, the duo's raunchy game show *Do I Make You Horny?*, and late-night slumber parties featuring B-movie send-ups. Guests are encouraged to wear more than their boxers to most performances.

Couch Potato Theater runs from Jan. 13 to Feb. 18. — KH

## LEWIS BLACK

Anyone who has seen Lewis Black's segment on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart knows the comedian tells it like it is while appearing to need a large dose of antacids. Now it's your chance to check out the veteran comedian when he comes to Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center Oct. 2.

The hilarious comedian's show promises to cover political and topical issues with opinions that we all think, but never really share. — SB

## POP ART 1950-2006: THE FIRST 50 YEARS

The under-rated Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland may help art lovers decide the difference between kitsch and pop art with this curious exhibit, scheduled for Feb. 18-April 16. What's exciting is that this is a museum in a conservative town that offers the occasional surprise, like exhibits of paintings for hanging over the sofa, or pieces all called *Untitled* or a collection of pink works.

So, why is this new show relevant? Gay people practically *invented* pop art. Or did we invent kitsch? Or was that our mothers ...? — DW

## PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Thousands and thousands of queers in Sarasota, Tampa Bay and Orlando — and the 2005-06 arts calendar features fewer than two or three shows by the great gay composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim.

Players Theatre offers one of his latest pastiches of previously used show tunes, *Putting It Together*, March 30-April 9. It's a lovely, elegant and fine show, but c'mon, producers: Give us another *Company* or *Merrily We Roll Along*. Be decadent and do a decent production of *Follies*.

But in the meantime, we'll be happy with this sharp little revue. — DW

## BARBRA STREISAND'S GUILTY PLEASURES

That *Meet the Fockers* role was just a tease. What we really wanted was to hear Babs sing! And that she will with the release of

Continued on page 14

*Just a short drive east to the coast!*

Trisha Yearwood

CHICAGO

Michael Feinstein

Linda Eder

Whoopi Goldberg

CATS


Bjorn Again "The ABBA Experience" • Chris Botti & David Sanborn • Oklahoma! • Spirit of Christmas  
Jekyll & Hyde, The Concert • Earl Klugh • Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons • Jack Klugman  
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## FALL ARTS

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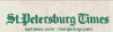
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## OCTOBER


22 Trisha Yearwood 


26–30

**Doctor  
Dolittle**



## NOVEMBER

3 Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt, Joe Ely and  
Guy Clark – The Songwriters 

5 **WHOOPI GOLDBERG:  
DIRECT FROM BROADWAY** 

11 An Evening with Bill Maher

12 Bill Engvall from *Blue Collar TV*

17 Munich Symphony Orchestra  
with Philippe Entremont 

19 Buddy Guy's Bluesfest with  
Indigenous & Damon Fowler Group

22–27







29 Kenny Rogers and Friends Celebrate  
the Season Featuring Rebecca Lynn  
Howard and Billy Dean

30 Strauss' Opera *Die Fledermaus*

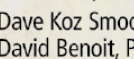
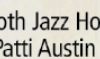
## DECEMBER

1 Debby Boone's Holiday Tribute  
to Rosemary Clooney 

2 Jay Black and The Americans,  
Little Anthony and The Imperials,  
Kenny Vance & The Planotones


3 **OKLAHOMA!**  

4 Glen Campbell Christmas

5 Dave Koz Smooth Jazz Holiday with  
David Benoit, Patti Austin & Jonathan Butler  
 

6 Ottmar Liebert Christmas


13 The Andy Williams Christmas Show

15 Irish Rovers Christmas 

16 Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair  
& Rick Braun

17 Michael W. Smith Christmas Concert  
with 60 piece Symphony Orchestra

18 Lee Greenwood & Crystal Gayle  
"Tennessee Christmas"

19 "My Sinatra" Christmas 

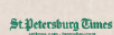
22–24 George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*™


31 Salute to Vienna

## JANUARY

10 Linda Ronstadt


12 An Evening with Liza Minnelli 


14 *Carmina Burana*/Ravel's *Bolero*


17 The World Famous  
Glenn Miller Orchestra 

20 Jim Brickman

21 Pilobolus


24 In The Mood, A 1940's Musical Review 

28 Steven Wright 


31 Sing! Sing! Sing! A Tribute to  
Benny Goodman 

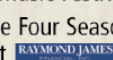
## FEBRUARY

4 Twelfth Van Cliburn Gold Medalist,  
Alexander Kobrin

7&8 Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme 

11 Itzhak Perlman and Pianist  
Rohan De Silva


12 In Concert Al Martino with  
Fred Travalena and Dick Contino in an  
Italian American Music Festival 

16 Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons  
with Gary Puckett 


17&18 Larry the Cable Guy from *Blue Collar TV*

19 Ed McMahon's Memories of  
*The Tonight Show*

21 Donna Summer In Concert

22 Our Sinatra 

23 Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* Ballet

27 An Afternoon with Jack Klugman 

## MARCH

1&2 Engelbert Humperdinck

3 Brandenburg Ensemble

4 Royal Carl Rosa Opera in Gilbert  
& Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*


7 Richard Nader's Doo Wop Reunion VI –  
Johnny Maestro & The Brooklyn  
Bridge, Charlie Thomas' Drifters,  
Kenny Vance & The Planotones,  
Fred Parrish & The Five Satins,  
The Crests with Tommy Mara

8–12

**DAME  
EDNA**


  
  



  


17 Paul Anka 


18 Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*


20 The Black Watch and The Band  
of the Welsh Guards

21 **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE –  
Starring Jobeth Williams  
and Hector Elizondo** 


22 Tony Kenny's Ireland 

23 Hayley Westenra In Concert

24 Natalie Cole In Concert 

29 Alvin Ailey American  
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## APRIL

4 An Afternoon  
with Pat Boone 

12 **THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE**  


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## FALL ARTS



You just be changed For Good if you see *Wicked* this winter at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

## EVENTS from page 12

her new album *Guilty Pleasures*, available in a few short weeks. She's reunited with producer/songwriter/vocalist Barry Gibb — 25 years after the duo's first multi-platinum album *Guilty*, which helped define the emerging Adult Contemporary pop music genre following its release in 1980. A special DualDisc release of the new album will feature videos and special behind-the-scenes footage filmed during its recording.

A few highlights from the CD: Barbra revisits her brief but successful forays into dance music on the supercharged track *Night of My Life*; and the album's final track, *Letting Go*, was recorded (in one take, no less) in the same studio where Judy Garland had recorded *Over the Rainbow*. The album is already being heralded as a work of "sophisticated pop elegance." *Guilty Pleasures* will be available in stores Tuesday, Sept. 20. — KH

## BEBE NEUWIRTH SINGS WEILL AND KANDER AND EBB

Or, "Why doesn't Lilith lighten up?" Bona fide show tune queens will recognize Kurt Weill as the guy that Kander and Ebb struggled to emulate with their score for *Cabaret* — and Bebe Neuwirth as a Tony winner for Kander and Ebb's *Chicago*.

The Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center deserves a lot of credit for booking this concert on Feb. 26. While the ticket price is worth just seeing some of the best gamms to hit a stage since Gwen Verdon, the familiarity of Kander and Ebb may make new fans for Weill as vell. Er, as well. — DW

## WAR OF THE WORLDS

It seems every other year or so there's a remake of Orson Welles' infamous broadcast that caused panic across the northeastern U.S. Now, we get a chance to hear the actual broadcast recreated in the comfort of the American Stage. The "news broadcast" about Martians invading New Jersey and New York is better left to our imaginations than Tom Cruise and Dakota Fanning. The recreation runs Oct. 20-30. — SB

## LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO

These boys may act silly in their tutus, but they're likely much better and more

skilled than those whom they parody. The Trocks, brought to Central Florida by the Maitland Art Center Jan. 19, will perform at Hard Rock Live.

And you don't even have to enjoy ballet to like them — or *get* them. — DW

## TWINS

No one actually watches The WB on Friday nights, but it's one of the more diva-friendly blocks of television on the dial: Fran Drescher overacts at 9:30 p.m., Reba McEntire underplays at 9 p.m., and Jennie Garth somehow still has a show on the air at 8 p.m.

Sandwiched into this mix this fall will be *Twins*, featuring the quietly lesbian Sara Gilbert (so, she's never done an *Advocate* cover but she talks a lot about her "partner" in the same way that Lily Tomlin did for years). Gilbert, who deadpanned so brutally on *Roseanne* that it left many to wonder if she had a birth defect, plays one-half of a sister act who runs a lingerie factory founded by her designer mother portrayed by Melanie Griffith.

Absurd as it sounds, it's still a far cry from Jennie Garth in ... anything. And, the show's produced by the creators of *Will & Grace*. That may or may not be good news. *Twins* premieres Sept. 16. — DW

## A CREDIT CARD CHRISTMAS

The Orlando Gay Chorus enters its post-Terry Thomas era with a holiday concert entitled *A Credit Card Christmas* Dec. 10-11. If the future of the chorus is anything like it's most recent past, this is one gift that's sure to please. — DW

## BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

There is talk about a nude scene with star Heath Ledger, but we'll believe it when we see it in this homo-on-the-range epic, directed by Ang Lee.

Featuring a rodeo cowboy and a ranch hand who fall in love — the sexy Jake Gyllenhaal is the other — this is one Western that could answer the age-old question about how the phrase "cowpoke" was invented. This could be an Oscar contender with Lee, who directed the sweet *Wedding Banquet*, at the helm. It premieres Dec. 9. — DW

## UNA VOCE AT CARNEGIE HALL

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice ... with Una Voce: The Florida Men's Chorus. This always-reliable group will perform at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19, in the venue of venues. They deserve to. — DW

## THE ONE-MAN STAR WARS TRILOGY

If it's one thing we know well it's the definition of campy. In steps *The One-Man Star Wars Trilogy* created and performed by Canadian actor Charles Ross. The unique one-man show is said to be a celebration of the über-popular series and has been received with such high praise that Ross performed at Lucasfilm's official movie release convention of *Episode 3*. It's good

## FOCUS ON LINDA EDER

She's not a talent I've followed closely, like the mainstream A-list divas. But I figured I should give the gal a listen when two friends from polar-opposite ends of my spectrum of acquaintances were nearly foaming at the mouth when I told them about Linda Eder's upcoming projects. Eder has a Judy Garland tribute CD planned for October and a concert tour with stops in Sarasota and Melbourne in February.

Trina, my 36-year-old stylish lesbian pal, loves Eder's velvety singing voice. As a singer herself, she appreciates Eder's style and ability to take standards and make them all her own. She even thinks Eder's version of *Over the Rainbow* is better than Judy's — Trina's already prepared for the scrutiny she'll receive from a number of guys for making such a brash statement.

John, my 35-year-old burly muscle-cub buddy has seen Eder in concert and was transfixed by her incredible energy from each song she performed. Apparently, Eder actually stopped the concert after the first few notes she sang because she could tell the piano was out of tune. Rather than take the atypical diva-like "hmph" approach, she apologized and entertained the audience with stories and jokes while the piano was correctly tuned. Obviously not fearing the wrath of other gays either, John calls Eder "the new Streisand."

Linda Eder's *By Myself: The Songs of Judy Garland* arrives Oct. 4; she appears at Sarasota's Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall Feb. 3 and Melbourne's King Center for the Performing Arts Feb. 10. — Kirk Hartlage

to know the galaxy far, far away is actually in Downtown Tampa. The comedy runs Nov. 1-6 at the Jaeb Theater at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Hall. — SB

## MAMMA MIA!

When a musical with the songs of ABBA packs more emotional punch than nearly anything else touring the country, then something has gone dramatically wrong in American theatre. Or it could just be that *Mamma Mia!* is just that damned clever.

Baby Boomer-aged dancing queens will enjoy the show again when it appears at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center May 9-14 and Orlando's Bob Carr Performing Arts Center May 23-28. — DW

## THE ART OF THE MOTORCYCLE

Face it — each spring, when Bike Fest comes around in Daytona Beach, you get a little chill up your spine. The raw power of a motorized two-wheel machine, the rev of

the engine, the sharp, sleek lines of chrome ... it gets to you.

It obviously gets to the folks at the Orlando Museum of Art too. Just in time for Bike Week, they've scheduled *The Art of the Motorcycle*, a world-class exhibition based on the Guggenheim's landmark presentation. With more than 70 historic and contemporary motorcycles on display, the exhibit features the evolution of motorcycle design as shown through a cultural context.

Guggenheim Foundation Director Thomas Krens describes it best: "The motorcycle is a perfect metaphor for the 20th century...Invented at the beginning of the industrial age, its evolution tracks the main currents of modernity. The object and its history present the themes of technology, engineering, innovation, design, mobility, speed, rebellion, desire, freedom, love, sex and death..." We say: Grrr! The show will run Jan. 22-July 23. — KH

## THE BOOK OF LIZ

A great choice for the Annie Russell Theatre at Rollins College, *The Book of Liz* (scheduled for Feb. 23-26) is a giddy tale of girl from an Amish-like family who finds her way in the wide open world.

The best part: The play was written by the deadly funny openly gay David Sedaris and his sister, Amy Sedaris, the best talk-show guest ever. *Liz* reeks of their sensibilities, odd as they may be. — DW

## URINETOWN

Several local theater troupes are mounting this splashy musical — but we nearly peed ourselves when we heard that Sarasota's Golden Apple Dinner Theatre has included the show as part of their 2005-06 season. Isn't that like the Arkham City Mental Hospital Players staging a production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*?

*Urinetown* plays at Orlando's Mad Cow Theatre from Sept. 22 to Oct. 23 and at Sarasota's Golden Apple Dinner Theater from Jan. 17 to March 12. — KH

## THE PRODUCERS

Nathan Lane and Sarah Jessica Parker's husband reprise their roles as straight guys who produce theater and sing about it. *The Producers* was a film, then a stage musical, now a movie musical. Who says that Hollywood has run out of ideas?

We'll see *The Producers* anyway, likely on the day it opens: Dec. 23. — DW

## P.S. YOUR CAT IS DEAD

Shortly after he wrote the book for *A Chorus Line*, gay wordsmith James Kirkwood penned a book about a homo who's tied up by a burglar and falls in love with him.

Years later, the book became a play, which most recently became a Steve Guttenberg film (shudder!). The Daytona Playhouse brings the play to its stage May 26-June 4. We've been advised that no actual kitties or homosexuals will be harmed during this production. — DW ♡

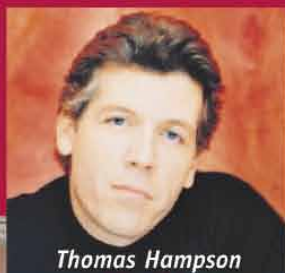


## FALL ARTS

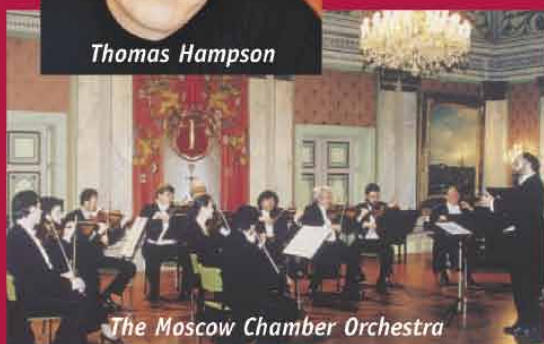
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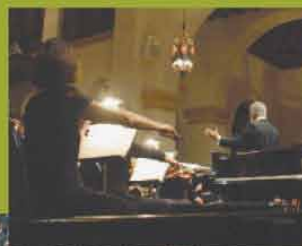


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## FALL ARTS

**VIRGIL** from page 3

organic," Virgil says. His figure work is often based on photographs he's found interest in, specifically in ones that show a creative use of light. Virgil cites famed photographer Tom Bianchi as an inspiration, as well as the occasional piece of pornography.

Virgil says that the Florida Queer Art Collective has provided the most solid motivation for his work. The group is comprised of gay and gay-friendly artists who work to bring GLBT art to the mainstream, as well as providing social, networking and marketing support for its members. Virgil says there is a great balance between career artists and hobby artists. With the strength of the "Q Collective," Virgil has been able to display his work at the GLBCC and the Gay Days Weekend expo this summer.

QUACK has a continuous exhibition at the GLBCCC, which changes monthly, as well as special events. Virgil is working on a Saturday, Oct. 28, show, *Bump in the Night*, which will explore the use of florescent and phosphorescent media – plus, all work will be displayed in black light. The event runs from 8 to 11 p.m. and admission will be free though donations will be accepted at the door.

Despite his success at the GLBCC and Savoy, he's most looking forward to



Virgil's Soukiss represents the type of erotica that fans have come to enjoy.

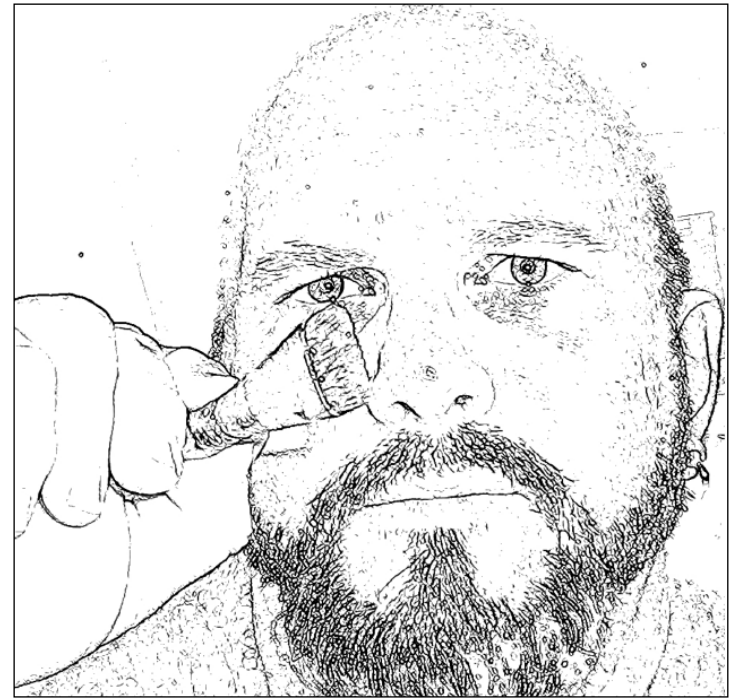
displaying his nude male art at the Bears of Central Florida's Bear Bust, an audience he knows and understands best. This year's ursine gathering will feature their first full-on art exhibition focusing on bear art and bear artists Oct. 20-23 at the Radisson Downtown, the group's host hotel. The show will feature works

in various mediums, including painting, sculpture, stained glass and more.

So where did "Virgil" come from? It's actually Rice's middle name and he says that once he started to become more involved in art and his desire to create increased, passions both that had previously gone untapped, he realized he

was also becoming more true to himself. He'd kept his middle name hidden from most, just as he had his artistic musings.

Exploring and marrying the two seemed like the right partnership; considering the accolades his work has and continues to receive, it appears to be a match made in heaven. ▼



JIMMIE RICE, also known as VIRGIL, offered this self-portrait.

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Lilla Cabot Perry (1848-1933), *Japanese Children*, oil on canvas, ca. 1898-1901  
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JEN FOSTER from page 1

in the week I have time to catch my breath.

**On your Web site you say you want to be considered a great songwriter but you don't see yourself as to that point yet. What type of progression does becoming a great songwriter take and how do you achieve that label of a "great songwriter?"**

Wow, nothing like starting with the tough questions!

I think, like anything in life, you become better at something as you grow as a person. The same goes for songwriting. Just doing it and being out there on the road and connecting with people and seeing what works and doesn't work is part of that progression. If you approach it like that, you're bound to get somewhat better at what you do.

There's a craft to songwriting. A lot of it to me is a magic that works when I'm able to be vulnerable and to dig deeper. It develops over a lifetime and you develop what is important to you and you push away the external issues.

**Are you one of those artists who will grab a napkin to start furiously writing down lyrics before they escape you, or do you take a more laid-back approach?**

I've always thought it was pretty important to put lots of thought into lyrics. I was an English major and I learned that when you're telling a story there's always a beginning, middle and an end. I try with my songs to really tell a compelling story the listener can relate to. That's actually the reason I became an English major. I knew it would help my songwriting.

**You write most of your songs yourself, but there are some shared writing credits on there as well. How does that process go for you?**

Well, I get an idea for songs from any number of places. Someone will say a line in a conversation or one of the people I co-write with regularly will have a great idea. Either way, when an idea comes out I take it home and really think on it. I write out my ideas on the original concept and come up with a way of telling the stories. There have been plenty of times (when I'll think about a song as) I lie in bed.

I'll get up and play it to see if it works and then go back to bed and think some more.

**I'll bet your girlfriend loves those night-time concerts.**

(Laughs) I play the songs in another room so she's not bothered, but I run a lot of ideas past her.

**With so many performances last year, you'd have to enjoy all the traveling that comes with performing for an audience.**

I love performing live. I love the craft of songwriting, but I know I can shine on stage and connect with people. Traveling can be tough but the best part for me is taking these songs to people and feeling that give and take when on stage. That's just not something you can do in the studio.

**What's your most memorable live performance?**

It would have to be this year's Olivia Cruise in April. What an amazing opportunity that was. There was between 2,000 and 2,500 women on the ship and Melissa Etheridge opened it up in Florida before we set sail. I had never done anything like that before. I bonded with other songwriters on the ship. Everyone was there for a great time and it was so laid-back.

**You don't hide that you're a lesbian and a songwriter/performer and even sing a love song to a woman on your single *She* from your first album. Are you afraid you'll be compared to Melissa Etheridge, or does that even bother you?**

Melissa is an amazing pioneer for artists like myself. I'm always compared to her, Sheryl Crow and Joan Osborne. Of course, since I'm gay, I'll always be compared to Melissa.

I think what I do is mainstream. The music itself is compelling and mainstream and I can see how people would make that comparison. It's a compliment. But I see myself as a songwriter first and a lesbian second. You never hear straight artists referred to as a "straight songwriter." I'm not ashamed of being gay, it's just part of who I am.

**How does an artist, who happens to be a lesbian, manage to grow up in the south and land in the capital of country music only to perform rock?**

I have to admit it's been a challenge here in Nashville, but I'm always up for a good challenge.

Since I'm from Texas, I can relate to that southern-hospitality attitude. But I have my liberal side as well so I'm always trying to balance both sides of myself. This is definitely a country music town but there are a bunch of singers and songwriters doing rock and other genres.

There is a gay segment of this town that I'm very tied into. I'm kind of like *the* gay performer here. I have found it's better to be a big fish in a small pond than the other way around like it was in LA when I started. It's a very competitive environment

Continued on page 20



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## FALL ARTS

JEN FOSTER from page 18

in California and it's not as relaxed as it is here. Overall, Nashville is pretty supportive.

Since you went to a Catholic high school, I'd assume your family is conservative. How did your parents react to you being so open about your sexuality in songs like *She*, which is undoubtedly directed at a woman by a woman?

Overall they're pretty supportive. The first time my dad heard that song he thought the chorus said "sheep" instead of "she." I'm not sure which he would have preferred me to be saying, actually. (Laughs)

It's always been important to me as a

listener to know that the artist on stage or on that album is being real with me. I want to know they've lived that experience, and I feel I owe that to the audience. Since my songs are biographical, my parents seem to handle it OK.

There seems to be a lot of that biographical element in *The Underdogs*' title track. It mentions the characters by name and then recounts your experiences with those people. Are those true experiences and do those people know they're mentioned on an upcoming album?

All of the stories within that song are absolutely true but I did change a couple of names since not everyone wants to have

their business out there. It's a very personal song.

Choosing that song as the title of the CD made sense because there's a theme throughout the record of alienation and sort of feeling a bit on the outside. For example, *Sun in Seattle* has elements of depression and outsidership and labeling the album *The Underdogs* tied all of that together for me. I've always loved records where there's thought put into all aspects of that record.

Does your girlfriend ever feel like she's on the outside? It has to be tough traveling just about every weekend when you're in a relationship.

First off, let me say that I love my times at home. I love the contrast of being home compared to performing on the road, being social and finding new experiences. At home, I relax on the couch with my girlfriend and the dog. It's a neat lifestyle, but you have to learn how to balance personal and professional responsibilities. It was a learning process, but we've got the hang of it now. Things are going well in both areas.

Does she travel with you?

It depends on the show. She works with me and is my business partner so she's involved with bookings and Web site updates and that kind of day-to-day stuff. It's nice to have that and be with her and have her with me.

What can your Florida fans expect when they see you at Flirt Sept. 2?

I love the Florida fans. They've always been enthusiastic. There are lots of lesbians down there and I definitely want to get to that state much more often. But the music isn't strictly for a lesbian audience. Males and females can relate to the performance and we're all in the same boat together.

It'll be my guitar and me on stage with some slight percussion backing me

up. It's a pretty intimate setting. I used to travel with a full band but I felt like it was hard to get the message of the songs across. A big rock-and-roll band is perfect for an arena concert, but that's not what I'm doing. I do smaller venues and I like to socialize with the fans while on stage. If someone hasn't heard me before, they usually find they can relate to what they're hearing.

Is that in part the underlying motivation behind *The Underdogs*?

Yes. The underlying message of the whole record is that we're all underdogs. Even the popular kids in high school are lonely on some level. You could always

see part of them struggling with their insecurities.

We're sensitive to all those struggles because we all have struggled with the same issues whether you're a gay or straight, male or female. That's the neat thing about the concept of *The Underdogs*. I've

played that title track live before and have seen people crying. It's an amazing feeling to know you've hit home with so many people. What you realize as you grow up is you never really know who you are. It's a constant journey.

So what is the next step on your journey? Do you see a lot more music in your future even after *The Underdogs* is released in February?

I believe music is my destiny and I'm sticking it out no matter what happens with mainstream success. This is what I love to do and I'm in it for the long haul.

What would you say to every fan if you had a chance to shake their hand and talk to them directly?

I always love to thank people for supporting independent music. This is how we make our living and to keep doing what we do, we need the fans to come out. I can say this to the Florida fans: You won't regret the two hours we spend together. ♥

"I see myself as a songwriter first and a lesbian second. You never hear straight artists referred to as a 'straight songwriter.'"

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## FALL ARTS



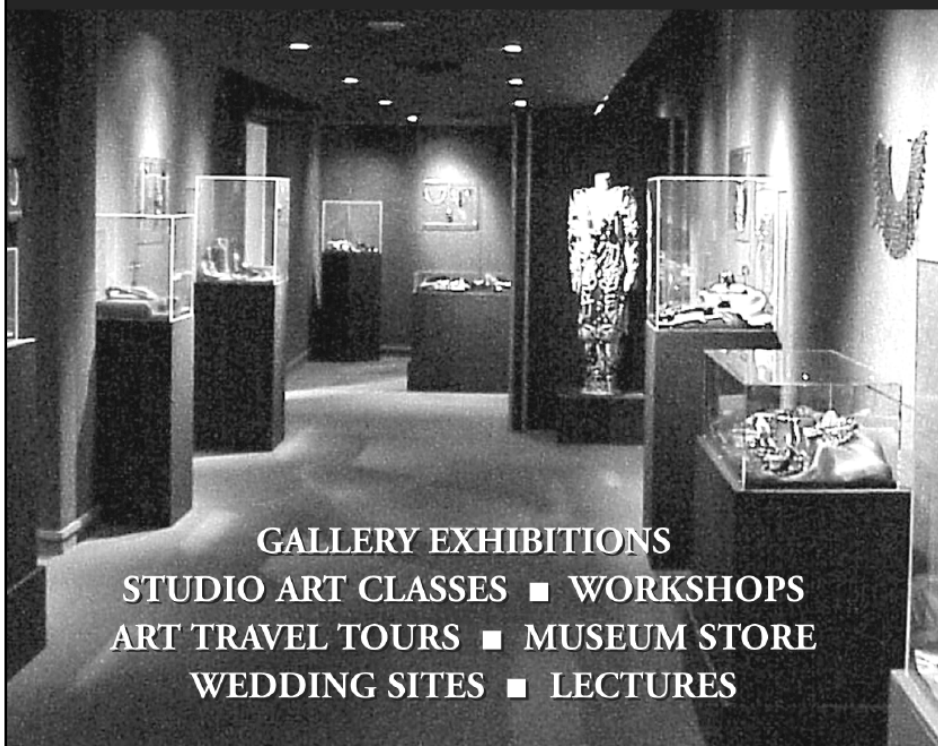
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## 2005

WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR THE ARTS  
July 29 - August 28

30/30  
A COMPACT JURIED COMPETITION  
September 9 - October 23

Dinner with the Artists  
October 22, 29,  
November 5 & 19

ADDITION & ABSTRACTION  
November 11 - December 18

Central Florida Canary Fanciers  
November 12

ANDRÉ SMITH @ 125 GALA  
December 31

## 2006

ANDRÉ SMITH @ 125  
January 6 - February 26

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DE MONTE CARLO  
A venture with The Orlando Ballet  
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SARI, THE ULTIMATE DRESS:  
Six Yards of Material  
March 10 - April 30

4th Annual Children's Art Festival  
April 8

PORSCHE: THE IMPERIAL MACHINE  
May 12 - July 2

RECENT ACQUISITIONS  
July 17 - September 1

MORE POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE  
September 15 - October 29

*All exhibitions are subject to change and/or cancellation.*

## TRANSITIONS

**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS:** Country drag queen anthem provider **SHANIA TWAIN** (8/28); tabloid press news provider **MICHAEL JACKSON** (8/29); in sync with Justin Timberlake **CAMERON DIAZ** (8/30); coming to Sarasota this Spring **LILY TOMLIN** (9/1); Jack's acting coach **EILEEN BRENNAN** (9/3); Child of Destiny **BEYONCÉ KNOWLES** (9/4); Queen queen **FREDDIE MERCURY** (9/5); still surviving **GLORIA GAYNOR** (9/7).

**AREA DEATHS:** **RAYMOND LEE STANLEY**, 51, a long-time Orlando resident, died Tuesday, Aug. 9, at WakeMed Hospital in North Carolina. He is survived by his life partner, Jay Schoonover; mother, Susan Brandt; stepfather, John Brandt; sisters Margaret Papa and Patricia Scheitlin; and brothers, Robert Stanley and Art Stanley. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 3, in the Osceola Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kissimmee.

**ANDREW CEROWSKY**, 49, of Orlando, died Monday, Aug. 8, in the Maitland Health Care Center. He is survived by his companion, Dan Schwab; brothers Mike Cerowsky, Sam Cerowsky and Ivan Cerowsky, all of Slovenia; and a sister, Maria Fullan, of Slovenia. He was a bartender and manager at Studz in Orlando. Collison Family Funeral Homes and Crematory's Howell Branch Chapel was in charge of the services. ▼



LILY TOMLIN will turn 66 on Sept. 1.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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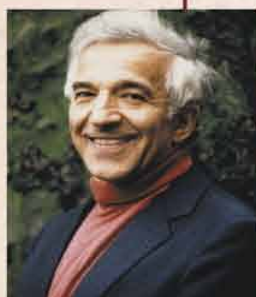
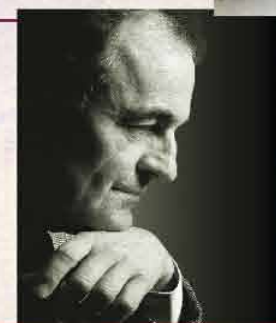
## 2005-2006 Season



### ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Sunday, January 8, 2006, 3pm *with* Charles Dutoit  
*and* Joan Kwuon, Violin Soloist

SIBELIUS	<i>Karelia Suite, Op. 11</i>
MOZART	<i>Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 5 in A Major, K. 219 (Turkish)</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Symphony No. 6 in B Minor, Op. 74 ("Pathetique")</i>



### CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

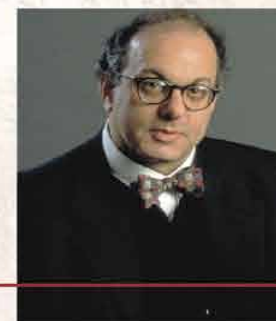
Thursday, January 26, 2006, 7:30pm *with* Vladimir Ashkenazy  
*and* Janine Jansen, Violin Soloist

WALTON	<i>Scapino (comedy overture)</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35</i>
ELGAR	<i>Symphony No. 1 in A-flat Major, Op. 55</i>

### JERUSALEM SYMPHONY

Thursday, February 16, 2006, 8pm *with* Leon Botstein

MARTINU	<i>Pamatinik Lidicim (Memorial to Lidice)</i>
COPLAND	<i>Appalachian Spring</i>
PROKOFIEV	<i>Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, Op. 100</i>



### RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

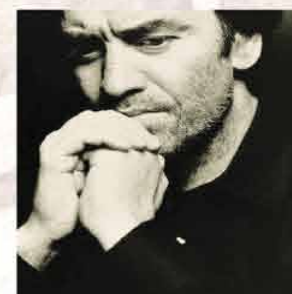
Sunday, March 19, 2006 4pm *with* Vladimir Jurowski  
*and* Piano Soloist Yefim Bronfman

TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Manfred Symphony in B minor, Op. 58</i>

### ROTTERDAM PHILHARMONIC

Friday, April 7, 2006 8pm *with* Valery Gergiev  
*and* Piano soloist Vladimir Feltsman

RACHMANINOFF	<i>Piano Concerto No. 3</i>
SHOSTAKOVICH	<i>Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, Op. 47</i>



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