Let’s hear it for the boys!

Actors, friends and frequent scene partners Kevin Moore and Chad Peterson reunite in Uptown Players’ season closer ‘Harbor’

by Arnold Wayne Jones, Page 18
ONE

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Trans woman murdered in Philadelphia, brings 2015 trans murder tally to 21
Twenty-two-year-old Keisha Jenkins was shot to death on a Philadelphia street early Tuesday morning, Oct. 6, becoming the second trans woman murdered in the City of Brotherly Love and the 21st trans woman murdered in the U.S. this year.

Philadelphia Gay News reports that police said Jenkins got out of a car in a park and was attacked a few minutes later by a group of five or six men. One of the men pulled a gun and shot Jenkins twice in the back. She was transported to Einstein Medical Center where she was pronounced dead.

PGN reports that police say it appears Jenkins was deliberately targeted, but there are no suspects yet, and no motive has been established. The investigation is ongoing.

Another Philadelphia trans woman, Londyn Chanel, was stabbed and killed by her roommate in Philadelphia earlier this year, and at least 18 other trans women — including two in Texas — have been murdered this year.

— Tammye Nash

Man stabbed multiple times on Cedar Springs on Thursday night
A man stabbed multiple times on Cedar Springs the night of Oct. 1 said he was the victim of a hate crime.
Jaime Dominguez, 32, was walking home along Cedar Springs at 1 a.m. when he was stabbed on the side of his head, chest, neck and ribs.
But he remembers little about the incident.
"I only remember waking up in a trauma unit [afterward]," he said.
He was discharged from the hospital on Saturday, Oct. 3.
Friends said they believe the incident occurred near the Cedar Springs Tap House.
Because he wasn’t robbed and only his phone is missing, he isn’t sure if the stabbing was related to another recent attack on Cedar Springs.
A police report has been filed.

— James Russell

Flowers appointed Dallas senior affairs commissioner
Councilwoman Tiffinni A. Young has appointed Cannon Flowers to be commissioner of senior affairs representing District 7. City Council confirmed the appointment Wednesday, Oct. 7.
In February 2015, Flowers visited the White House to attend the National Summit on Elder LGBT Housing. He realized Dallas lacked adequate housing and services for LGBT elderly and created the Coalition for Aging LGBT. He put together the first Dallas summit to discuss aging in the LGBT community.
Flowers worked for Texas Instruments for 23 years and was assigned to many parts of the world. While living in Singapore, he met his husband RafiQ. During his years of fighting to keep RafiQ in the U.S., Flowers helped create several organizations, including Immigration Equality. He’s served on a number of boards including AIDS Interfaith Network.

— David Taffet

HERO supporters report million-dollar haul ahead of Nov. 3 vote
Supporters of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance announced Monday, Oct. 5, they raised $1.2 million since launching their campaign seven weeks ago.
Houston Unites announced the campaign haul in a required campaign filing ahead of the Nov. 3 vote on Proposition 1, the ballot referendum that will decide the sweeping nondiscrimination law’s fate.
The Campaign for Houston, a coalition of HERO opponents, announced they spent $492,231.11 since launching their campaign and received $274,785 in donations in their latest report.
HERO would extend protect LGBT people, as well as other federally protected classes, from discrimination by businesses that serve the public, private employers, housing, city employment and city contracting. Religious institutions would be exempt.
Violators could be fined up to $5,000.
HERO passed Houston City Council last year but has been mired in legal battles lead by its opponents since.
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Other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is $110 for cats, $135 for kittens, $150 for dogs over 1 year, and $175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a $20 discount.

The bad boys of leather were crowned — well, actually, “sashed” at the climax of the 2015 International LeatherSir, Leatherboy, and Community Bootblack contest held recently at Dallas Eagle. Across the country and around the world, leather brings people together. The leather/fetish community — a subset of the larger leather community — are called the “bad boys of leather,” because they embrace the kink lifestyle, promoting it in healthy and respectful ways.

Winners are International LeatherSir Tug from the Dallas-Fort Worth area, International Leatherboy Tim from Minneapolis (with boy Louie from the DFW area as first runner-up), and International Community Bootblack Briar, also from the DFW area.

The 2015 International LeatherSir, Leatherboy and Community Bootblack competition, the pinnacle contest for those in the leather/fetish community, was held Sept. 3-6 and featured five contestants for LeatherSir from around the U.S. and Canada, three contestants for Leatherboy and two for Community Bootblack.

The competition began with the LeatherSir and Leatherboy contestants giving demonstrations of various kinks. Examples included candlewax, sounding, electro stimulation and plenty of BDSM. Other elements of the competition for the Sir and boy included individual interviews by a panel of judges, a jockstrap/physique display, a speech, and acting out a fantasy scene.

Bootblacks were judged on an interview, their technical blacking ability, a speech, and a marathon four-hour public blacking session. All three of the newly-crowned titleholders are responsible for promoting the leather/fetish community as well as their own personal messages. They will have the opportunity to travel, meet some amazing people and have lots of fun.

Visitors to Dallas Eagle might see Sir Tug or Briar and if you do, don’t be afraid to say hello. They will gladly answer any questions and maybe even offer up a demonstration.

For more information about the International LeatherSir, Leatherboy and Community Bootblack competition and its governing organization, visit ilsb-icbb.com. — Contributed by Jim Borgman
**THE GAY AGENDA**

Have an event coming up? Email your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasmv.org by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week’s issue.

**OCTOBER**

**•** Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNOM-FM with guest Tam O’Saughnnessy on Oct. 11; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; Fuse game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; Fuse Connect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or rramirezn@myresourcecenter.org.

**•** Oct. 8-10: QCinema Fort Worth’s 17th annual LGBT film festival features international movies, question and answers sessions, parties, live entertainment, stage productions and more. For tickets and more information visit QCinema.org.

**•** Oct. 9: High Tech Happy Hour Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community: 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at parw@ti.com.

**•** Oct. 9-11: OUT for Work College Student Career Conference Annual conference with breakout sessions, workshops, and keynote speeches for undergraduate and graduate students looking for career opportunities and LGBT workplace inclusion. For more information and to register visit Outforwork.org/conferences/default.asp.

**•** Oct. 10: LGBT Family Building Seminar Learn about fertility, egg donors, surrogacy and adoption from 10 a.m.-noon at Vivere Surgery Center, 12606 Greenville Ave. Free. Space is limited. To register and for more information visit DallasBabySeminar.com or e-mail Julia@3sisterssurrogacy.com or at 832-951-5491.

**•** Oct. 10: Latino Gay Pride Festival Beverages, food and live entertainment and Latino music from Club Rails, Havana and DJs from 3-10 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3905 Maple Ave. No cover.

**•** Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day

**•** Oct. 11: Pirates of Steampunk: Plundering for Charities Turn-About Pageant Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington crown Mr. and Ms. Turn About at 6 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings Ave. Line up begins at 5 p.m. For more information e-mail Jerika Tailar at Fhoemystjc@gmail.com.

**•** Oct. 13: Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats Meeting LGBT Democratic group meets at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at Tommy’s Hamburger, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth. For more information e-mail Info@tarrantstonewall.org.

**•** Oct. 14: Black Tie Dinner 30-Day Countdown Join friends and fellow BTD supporters for the 30-day countdown with Stoli cocktails, La Crema wine and hors d’oeuvres from 6-8 p.m. at Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, 4519 McKinney Ave. For more information and to RSVP visit On.fb.me/101R9ap.

**•** Oct. 15: The Dallas Way Presents ‘Outrageous Oral’ The GLBT history project presents another segment of Outrageous Oral series with Oliver Blumer, Jake Mangum, KD Van Zandt, E. Tamplin and Edra Bogle. Program starts at 7 p.m. in the Forum inside the Willis Library, University of North Texas. For more information, call 505-400-4405 or visit TheDallasWay.org.


**•** Oct. 16: HRC DFW Federal Club Monthly mixer from 6-8 p.m. at Renfield’s Corner, 2603 Ruth St. Rooftop reserved and happy hour extended. Valet parking available.

**•** Oct. 17: Oak Lawn Band Presents “Freak Magic: A Symphonic Band Concert” Free concert at 8 p.m. at North Dallas High School Auditorium, 3120 N. Haskell Ave.

**•** Oct. 17: Old Oak Cliff Conservation League Home Tour Self-guided tour of historic neighborhood homes benefitting member neighborhoods and area non-profits. $20 pre-registration and $25 day-of. Discounts available for seniors. For more information and tickets visit OOCCL.org.

**•** Oct. 17: GLBT Leadership and Advocacy Program Scholarship Fund “Spooktacular” Fundraiser LGBT leadership group hosts benefit for scholarship fund from 7-10 p.m. at ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. For tickets and more information visit Spooktaculardallas.org.

**•** Oct. 17: Impulse Group Dallas Launch Party New chapter of AIDS Healthcare Foundation promoting safe sex launches it Wrap that Big S Up campaign with “sexy circus” at 129 Leslie in the Design District from 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

**•** Oct. 17: Gaybingo: The Prancing Dead Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center from 6-9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4458 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

**•** Oct. 17: “Freak Flag,” A Queer Exhibition and Dance QueerBomb event features live entertainment and dance party with five DJs with emcees Nikki Trash and Ida Mae Watergate at 8 p.m. at Red Light Lounge, 2911 Main St. Show at 9 p.m. Party at midnight. Costumes encouraged. 18 and older. $10 suggested donation. Proceeds benefit QueerBomb Dallas 2016. Purchase tickets at Freakflag.eventbrite.com. For more information e-mail QueerBombDallas@gmail.com.

**•** Oct. 17: Fourth Annual LGBTQ Summit All day summit features speakers, workshops and breakout sessions by community leaders on topics including domestic violence, immigration, and the marginalized history of LGBT activism by people of color. Breakfast and lunch provided. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For more information contact Juan Contreras at JContreras@ULAC4871.org or 469-867-0613.

**•** Oct. 18: Pegasus Squares LGBTQ Square Dancing Open House First of two open houses hosted by Pegasus Squares, a LGBT Modern Western Square Dance club, hosts from 2:30-4:30 p.m. on Oct. 18 and 25 at the Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St. Ste. 103. No experience required. Singles welcome. For more information visit Pegasus-Squares.com.

**•** Oct. 18: Great Gatsby Benefit for AIDS Interfaith Network Roaring Twenties-themed benefit includes complimentary valet parking, open bar, gourmet hors d’oeuvres, and live entertainment from 3-6 p.m. at the home of Faye C. Briggs, 5909 Desco Dr. For more information and tickets visit Bit.ly/1FIu06e.

**•** Oct. 18: NO H8 Campaign Photo Shoot Show your support for LGBT equality with the national LGBT equality campaign from 2-6 p.m. at the W Hotel-Victory, 2440 Victory Park Lane. $40 for solo photos or $25 per person for groups. Cash and credit cards only. E-mail info@noh8campaign.com.

**•** Oct. 20: DFV Transcendence Trans/JOFA Meeting Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information contact Finn Jones by phone at 214-499-0378 or by e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.
Gov. Parker? Maybe

‘Use our differences to make a difference,’ Houston mayor tells Out & Equal attendees

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Will Houston Mayor Annise Parker be running for governor of Texas in 2018? “Maybe,” Parker replied when asked, during an impromptu interview following her speech at the Out & Equal Conference this week, about a possible gubernatorial campaign.

Parker’s term as mayor ends in January, the same month that Greg Abbott will be finishing his first year as governor. That gives Parker plenty of time to decide whether to mount a challenge for higher office, Parker has told reporters she loved the office two years down the road.

Speaking to the some 3,000 people attending the Out & Equal conference this week, Parker recalled that in coverage of her first win as mayor in the international media — including a story in the Times of India that mostly quoted from Dallas Voice — the tone was, “Really? Houston?”

Parker went on to tell those attending the event dedicated to diversity that as mayor of the most diverse major city in the U.S., she quickly discovered that it isn’t enough to have a diverse workforce.

“It’s what you do with the diversity” that counts.

“Have a real dialogue and input and exchange,” she insisted.

Comparing diversity to a garden, Parker said either a variety of plants can compete for attention and space, creating chaos, or every plant can be given room to grow, thus creating a beautiful display.

Parker pointed to M.D. Anderson, Houston’s world-renown cancer hospital, as an example of how to celebrate a diverse workforce. Thousands of people make up the hospital’s workforce, each with different skills and talents and experiences to contribute. But they are all contributing to a shared mission. When asked what they do, everyone from doctors and nurses to maintenance staff has the same answer: “I help cure cancer.”

Houston allows a person to run for three two-year terms for city offices. Parker spent six years as an at-large city councilwoman, six years as city comptroller — an elected office in Houston — and is finishing her sixth year as mayor.

Now that marriage equality is the law in the U.S., some companies are eliminating partner benefits. But Out & Equal founder Selisse Berry warns: Not so fast.

“People are being assigned in scary parts of the world,” she said, explaining that marriage equality in the U.S. does not necessarily mean that those marriages are safe elsewhere.

Many of the companies attending this week’s Out & Equal Workplace Summit are multinational corporations that transfer employees around the world. Not every place is safe for a same-sex couple.

Berry said in some cases it’s best for someone not to have a marriage to a same-sex spouse on file anywhere. But that employee’s partner may still need health insurance.

In the U.S., one partner may work for an oil company in Texas or Oklahoma that offers partner benefits and the other is a school teacher. Major cities in both states may protect their teachers, but smaller districts don’t.

Berry said that because a marriage license is public record, it may still be better for some couples to remain unmarried to protect their jobs.

“You can still get married one day and be fired the next in 28 states,” she stressed.

Taking the global initiative

Founder Selisse Berry sees global issues as the next step for LGBT employee groups to tackle

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Berry lived in Dallas before moving to San Francisco to become a Presbyterian minister, where, she said, she finally came to terms with being a lesbian and came out.

“The Presbyterian Church didn’t share my joy,” she said. “The people who taught me to value the truth were now telling me to hide it.”

Before founding Out & Equal, Berry founded another organization called Seminary Lesbians Under Theological Stress or SLUTS. She founded Out & Equal 19 years ago but it took two years before they were ready to stage the first Workplace Summit.

Addressing the issues

While Out & Equal focuses on specific anti-LGBT discrimination, sexual orientation and gender identity issues can play a role in other instances of bias seemingly not related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

For example, a French employee who works for an American corporation said he’s perceived as lazy by his American supervisors because he takes the vacation he’s entitled to take by French law. His American supervisors assume he takes all that time off because he’s gay and simply irresponsible.

In another case, an employee from an Indian affiliate said he’s not given responsibility because he’s perceived as not understanding instructions or a specific situation because of his accent. Add his sexual orientation into the mix and that gives his coworkers and supervisors just another reason why they can’t relate to him.
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**Highlights from Out & Equal**

**Speaking Frankly**

Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank from Massachusetts had a stern message for the CEOs and other corporate executive attending the Out & Equal Workplace Summit in Dallas this week. While he applauded corporations that have great policies of inclusion for LGBT employees and lauded their efforts to lead the way to equality, he still had one major scolding: “You give your money to people who screw us,” he said.

Companies put their financial interests ahead of the well-being of their employees and undo much of the good they’ve done with their internal policies, Frank explained.

Snark is what Frank is known for. When President Ronald Reagan began talking about the right to life while limiting welfare and Medicaid for the poor, Frank quipped, “He apparently believes life begins at conception and ends at birth.”

Frank wasn’t the first out elected official in the U.S., but he is the first congressman to marry his same-sex spouse.

Even before coming out, Frank was supporting legislation to benefit the LGBT community.

While Frank was afraid coming out at the time of the McCarthy hearings. During that period, President Dwight Eisenhower issued an executive order preventing “homosexuals” from obtaining a security clearance. That kept an executive order preventing “homosexuals” from obtaining a security clearance. That kept

Frank wasn’t the first out elected official in the U.S., but he is the first congressman to marry his same-sex spouse.

Once in Congress, Frank said the number one issue he dealt with until 1995 was security clearances that had been denied to LGBT people.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton was looking for ways to make amendments to the LGBT community

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**Cladestine & Equal**

“We’re doing outreach to demystify the organization,” one CIA employee said, explaining why the agency had a booth at the Out & Equal Conference.

The woman not only works for the CIA, but said she also is a member of its employee resource group, Out at the CIA. She was in Dallas with coworkers this week talking to people attending the Out & Equal Workplace Summit about careers with the agency.

She described the agency as extremely diverse and, yes, welcoming of talented LGBT employees. “We have to look like the rest of the world,” she said, handing me a wonderful brochure called “We’d like to dispel 10 myths about working for the Central Intelligence Agency” that, well, dispels 10 myths about working for the agency.

Those myths range from “everyone drives a sports car with machine guns in the tailpipes” to “only those who have been U.S. citizens for generations can really get a job here.”

The opposite is true. Those with experience in foreign cultures and foreign language experience would be highly valued for some positions. And, of course, only a few people have machine guns in their tailpipes.

Interesting careers are available, including some with foreign assignments. But most positions are located in and around the agency’s Maryland headquarters.

Other myths: “Foreign languages are required.” No, foreign language skills may be needed for some positions, though. You probably won’t carry a gun.

Why would you need a gun to work at a desk in a secure location outside of Washington D.C.?”

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OUT & EQUAL, Page 13
Dallas Voice expanding staff, services to include events, social media management

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“These days in the world of media, it’s all about evolution,” Voice Publishing Co. co-owner and publisher Leo Cusimano said. And Voice Publishing, parent company of Dallas Voice, is constantly evolving.

“We have already evolved into a powerhouse in the publishing industry, and we are continuing to grow and change,” added Cusimano, who owns the company with Terry Thompson, Voice Publishing president.

Cusimano noted that the company has already added new positions and will “soon be expanding our staff to 13 full-time employees.” In this day of layoffs and down-sizing in the publishing industry, “for a media company to be expanding its staff really says volumes about its future,” he said.

Voice Publishing is no longer just a newspaper called Dallas Voice. “We are a complete media source,” Cusimano said, “with multiple ways to get LGBT news and information out to our loyal readers — print, the web, our eBlast, our mobile site, social media outlets and more.”

One of the most visible recent expansions has been the company’s new foray into the world of hosting conferences and events and the addition of a conferences and events director to the Voice staff. This new direction began in early August when Dallas Voice presented The Wedding Party and Expo.

Mark Stonson Stokes, who had worked in advertising as an account manager, transitioned into the event director position and is already hard at work on the next special event.

“You can’t imagine how excited I am to have the opportunity to develop a new division of Dallas Voice,” Stokes said, adding that he is already in the final stages of space negotiations for the next Wedding Expo and Party and expects the event to be scheduled for Feb. 21.

Stokes said the company will also be producing a series of how-to seminars on wedding planning, called The Wedding Workshop, to be held across the Metroplex beginning in November.

“And there’s more,” he added, including a national, multi-city consumer conference, The LGBT Family Life Conference and in November a book-signing with LGBT publishers and authors Mark Segal and Tracy Baim.

Taking Stokes’ place as account manager is Kris Martin, who returns to the Dallas Voice staff after several years operating her own public relations and marketing business. Martin previously worked in PR and marketing for Dallas Voice.

“True happiness is rejoining the Dallas Voice team after a five-year sabbatical running my own business,” Martin said. “Being a passionate member of this community for more than 20 years, I want everyone to understand that my drive and motivation is to continue to develop relationships and help build our community.

“My time will focus on creating compelling advertising and marketing campaigns for Dallas Voice clients and helping local businesses reach the loyal LGBT market,” Martin added. “My long-term goal is to earn your trust, work hard and have fun while doing so.”

Stephen Mobley already works part time as social media manager for Dallas Voice and Voice Publishing, and he will be joining the company’s staff full time soon as Voice Publishing branches out into yet another new service — offering social media management to other companies and individuals.

“My job is to get clients’ names out there and help them grow their companies,” Mobley said. “A lot of people know they need to utilize social media, but they just don’t have the time. That’s where I come in,” he continued. “I can take that weight off their shoulders.”

“We are in this business to serve our community and we are constantly finding new ways to do just that,” Cusimano said, pointing to these outlets and the company’s annual visitors and relocation guide, Out North Texas.
Lauren Place is back for its second year, at the same time on the same date and in the same location — 3-10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10 at Reverchon Park.

The celebration is also being held during Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs Sept. 15-Oct. 15. It has the same purpose, too: to create a safe space for the various LGBT Hispanic communities to come together.

But expect a whole lot more this year. For one, there’s a theme: “Selena Forever,” honoring the late singer and gay icon Selena Quintanilla-Pérez, who died 20 years ago this year. To honor her legacy, organizers are bringing in Grammy-nominated singer Shelly Lares and Corpus Christi-based drag performer and Selena impersonator Honey Andrews to perform.

DJs from Club Los Rieles and Havana Lounge will also provide live music throughout the day.

Events, especially good events, cost money, said organizer Juan Contreras. Thankfully, sponsors such as AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the Peace Corps, Lambda Legal, the Domingo Garcia Law Firm and others have stepped up, underwriting the burden of renting the park, obtaining licenses for alcohol and providing entertainment.

Because of the outpouring of sponsor support for the event, all alcohol sales will be donated to Cathedral of Hope’s Spanish-speaking congregation.

But Latino Pride is not just a party. It’s also a way to connect the broad range of people who make up the LGBT Latino community, which spans sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, Contreras said, adding that it also includes heritage and ethnic identity as well.

With all the strides made for LGBT rights, an event like Latino Pride is also long overdue, Contreras said.

“We thought about it for a few years but we weren’t able to get to organizing it until last year,” he said. “Organizing the event required strength.”

Last year’s hard work paid off: Organizers anticipated 150 attendees. Instead, they got 300. They expect an even larger crowd this year, in part because there’s no other formal event like it in the area.

“There’s no other gathering like it in Dallas as far as we know,” Contreras said.

Because the event is about gaining recognition and representation, numerous prominent local elected officials are also sponsoring the event. Among the sponsors are Dallas City Councilman Adam Medrano, Dallas Independent School District Vice President Miguel Solis and out gay Justice of the Peace Sara Martinez and Dallas County Schools board member Omar Narvaez.

Dallas County Commissioner Elba Garcia, a Democrat who is married to event sponsor Domingo Garcia, a Dallas attorney and former state legislator, will be named an honorary “madrina,” or godmother, of the community in recognition of her dedication to and support of LGBT people.

“It’s great to be honored. I’m excited,” Commissioner Garcia said. “This is their second year, and they’re honoring Selena!”

Commissioner Garcia has played a pivotal role in the fight for LGBT recognition since her days on the Dallas City Council. But she doesn’t take all the credit for helping the LGBT community gain recognition.

“It couldn’t have happened without their fighting elected officials,” Garcia said.

The event couldn’t have happened either without organizers’ efforts either.

“Organizing a project takes a lot of work. I just want to thank them more than anything for putting it together,” Garcia said.

Texas Latino Gay Pride, 3-10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10 at Reverchon Park. Free. Texaslatinogaypride.com
Allen Patterson

Former Tarrant County Libertarian Party Chairman and LGBT ally Allen Patterson, 54, died Thursday, Oct. 1 after a six-month battle with brain cancer. An active leader in the state and local Libertarian Party, Patterson groomed candidates, built membership and volunteered on various campaigns.

Born and reared on a farm in Mississippi, Patterson played an active part on the family farm. His father’s rugged individualism helped cultivate Patterson’s fierce libertarianism.

Patterson went on to study music education at Delta State University. He later moved to Fort Worth to study at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He didn’t last long at the increasingly dogmatic and conservative institution, though he remained a faithful member of Fort Worth’s Broadway Baptist Church until his death.

He eventually went on to work for a variety of companies, including The Marco Company, a furniture and supply vendor for retail establishments. He spent his free time reading, playing music and shooting guns.

He also loved LGBT Pride parades. One of the proudest moments of Patterson’s life, in fact, was when the Tarrant County Libertarian Party’s float won an award in the Tarrant County Gay Pride parade. Patterson liked Fort Worth Pride in particular for another reason: there was usually a gun show to attend afterward.

“He was a Renaissance man who did a lot for a lot of different people,” said longtime friend John Spivey.

That impact was especially noteworthy at Patterson’s funeral, which took place Tuesday, Oct. 6 at Broadway Baptist, as well as the celebration of life afterward at the Flying Saucer in downtown Fort Worth.

“People came from hundreds of miles away,” Spivey said. “The church was overflowing.”

Those people included the Libertarian candidate he groomed from across the country as well as friends and family members. After the funeral, a young woman walked up to Spivey, pulled up her sleeves and revealed a tattoo on her arm. It was Allen’s motto: “Don’t be safe.”

Patterson is survived by his wife, Fran, and daughter, Mary.

Cathy Hirt

Former Fort city councilwoman, two-time mayoral candidate and civic leader Cathy Hirt, 61, and her husband, Darrell, were killed in a car accident Friday night, Oct. 2, in Hungary while visiting family.

The councilwoman represented the city’s diverse District 9 from 1996 to 1999. She later ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 2003 and 2011.

Cathy Hirt was a steadfast supporter of LGBT equality throughout her city council tenure and on the campaign trail. When the full city council considered an amendment to add sexual orientation to the city’s nondiscrimination ordinances in 1999, Hirt said she would support it. The ordinance did not pass until 2000 when Hirt was no longer on council.

Her interest and community involvement went beyond just politics. She held both a doctorate in public policy and law degree from University of Kentucky and Vanderbilt University, which she applied to a variety of professional and civic roles, including stints as the Tennessee Department of Education’s director of career ladder implementation and legal affairs and the Director of Legal Services for the Tennessee School Boards Association. She was president-elect of the Foundation for the Young Women’s Leadership Academy of Fort Worth and currently consulting on an anti-poverty initiative with Catholic Charities of Fort Worth.

Cathy and Darrell Hirt are survived by three children: Karl Joseph, Alex and Tina Hirt. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Go to CIA.gov for current job listings and requirements.

Members of the National Security Agency also attended Out & Equal. Their goal — protect the nation. And they’re looking for more good people — including talented LGBT people — to help them do just that.

One NSA employee acknowledged intelligence agencies were difficult places for LGBT people to work in the past. But now, “it’s a very welcoming, comfortable atmosphere,” he said.

The NSA’s employee resource group has more than 100 members with about 25 who are members of the military.

Much of the work done at NSA is intelligence analysis. Jobs in this field require researching and analyzing to present findings. Someone who fits that category would be good at puzzles and putting things together.

Good memory comes into play, the NSA employees explained, remembering some odd fact from weeks ago that might be relevant to interpreting a document you’re handed today.

NSA is looking for people with technical skills like cyber-security, telecommunications, data mining and others. Areas of study include foreign language, political science, chemistry and biology, geography and — hmmm — journalism. The CIA also mentioned they’re always looking for writers too.

How to apply for positions is explained at IntelligenceCareers.gov.
Just taking the time to tell someone how beautiful they are can make all the difference

Back in the day, when I was married and trying to get through life as a guy, I didn’t fully appreciate a whole slew of things about what life was like as a woman.

My ex-wife liked horses and for much of the time we were together, she kept one … or two. I would come home from work and she would be in jeans and a top, covered in horse hair and sweat and wearing a big ol’ grin.

She was perfectly comfortable with boots, jeans and a t-shirt with her hair pulled back. No makeup. It certainly made her no less a woman.

But she could also go the other way and look stunning if we were going somewhere that required it.

Although I know I told her she was pretty, if I had it to do over again, I would do it a hundred times more often. The reasons why are many.

For one, it cost me nothing to tell her she looked beautiful. For another, reinforcing what I liked might encourage her to do it more often.

In addition, I now have a first-hand understanding of just how much work goes in to trying to look presentable. It’s a process that for me, can take 90 minutes. (Yes, I can do the short version standing of just how much work goes in to trying to look presentable. It’s a process that for me, can take 90 minutes. (Yes, I can do the short version)

In addition, the standards trans women are expected to meet are often “no-win” situations. If we dress too girly, we are a parody. If we dress down we aren’t “feminine enough.”

I say, run your own race. Screw what other people think. I waited so long to just be me; no one else has a say in just what “I” am.

It should come as no surprise, we all love to be told we are beautiful? So what does it hurt to tell someone?

Acknowledge the effort it takes. It takes nothing to tell someone — be they a mate, girlfriend, significant other or even stranger on the street — you are giving an amazing gift.

Who knows — that compliment might stay with them for days or weeks, or longer. It may come at just the right time in their lives.

You never know.

I promise you, you can’t go wrong and you will never regret helping someone else feel better about themselves.

My girlfriend, Katie, is one of those girls that could roll out of bed looking gorgeous. But I still try and tell her every day that she is beautiful. Because she is and because she deserves to be told she is.

So go ahead, give it a try. You might just make this world a more beautiful place.

Leslie McMurray, an transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.
“Be our true authentic selves whenever possible,” Parker urged. “Use our differences to make a difference.”

Citing her frustration at having to defend the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance at the ballot box in November and facing the same opponents who’ve opposed her for decades, Parker said the election to reinstate the city’s nondiscrimination ordinance “is what it is.”

She seemed confident Houston voters would pass the ordinance and noted the group opposing it didn’t live in her city.

Finally, Parker embraced the idea of the “Gay Agenda” that she said her opponents have been accusing her of pushing since she entered politics:

We want to go to school in safety, without being bullied.

We want to serve our country openly and proudly.

We want to work at jobs we love and pay taxes.

We want to protect our relationships and families we love and that nurture us.

As she was being escorted by police through the kitchen and out of a rear entrance of the hotel to head back to Houston, Parker spoke briefly with Dallas Voice, taking a few minutes to talk about her future plans and her legacy as mayor. She said she’ll be remembered for her homelessness initiative and as the infrastructure mayor, and for “raising the money to pay for the infrastructure.”

Under her administration, Houston has expanded its parks system and worked on roads throughout the city. South Houston, being on a low coastal plain, will always have a flooding problem, she said.

In her last months in office, she said a major job is defending HERO.

But Parker will also be remembered for never trying to hide her identity. From the beginning of her political career she was open and honest about who she was. Anyone who wanted to know anything about her activism in the LGBT community could find it clearly written in her resume. That included her experience as president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus. Her wife and children were also listed.

In other words, American supervisors and coworkers who don’t understand the culture of coworkers or employers from other parts of the world can add their own anti-LGBT bias to an already stressful relationship.

Out & Equal is addressing those workplace issues around the world with affiliate organizations in other countries and global partner programs.

A Bangalore conference attracted 40 people from six companies to discuss LGBT workplace issues. The event happened a week after India’s Supreme Court reinstated the criminalization of sexual activities “against the order of nature,” including same-sex relationships.

The meeting between companies was to share best practices within the context of Indian law. While American companies adjust to changes in law after marriage equality for their employees in this country, they must deal with those same employees, who may be transferred overseas where they suddenly are considered criminals.

Berry said Out & Equal affiliates in other countries have developed “organically.” The Bangalore conference began with one of her board members who travels to India on business.

When an Italian employee was transferred back home after working in London with a company that offered nondiscrimination policies and partner benefits, he founded an organization called Parks, in honor of Rosa Parks, and has since been elected to the Italian Parliament where he continues to work for LGBT rights.

Brazil, Mexico and Denmark also have Out & Equal affiliates.

“They’re at different stages of their journey,” Berry said.

Berry has seen participation grow, with new companies attending the conference each year. Some send three people the first time, she said, 10 the next and within a few years they’re attending with their CEO and dozens of employees.

Disney, which won this year’s award for its historic and ongoing commitment to LGBT equality, was represented by its vice president of human resources and about 50 employees from the theme parks, ABC, ESPN and other divisions.

Johnson & Johnson won the Outie Award for best employee resource group and also had more than 50 employees in attendance to pick up their award.

At this week’s conference, Out & Equal released a new best practices guide for transitioning in the workplace. The 27-page document called “Workplace Gender and Transition Guidelines” includes everything from specific company policies that should be in place to planning, confidentiality and the role senior management can take.

Among the issues addressed are how to deal with co-worker and customer concerns.

“Customer preference is not a reason to deny an employee the right to dress consistently with their gender identity,” the guidelines advise.

Dallas’ Oliver Blumer is among the Out & Equal transgender advisory committee’s members who helped compile the guidelines that Berry said took several years of research.

Berry said the guidelines resulted from requests from Fortune 500 CEOs looking for best practices for their companies to implement. As this guideline is used by more companies and experiences shared, it will be updated with new ideas.
Singer, songwriter and self-professed queer Shamir Bailey (known professionally simply as Shamir) seems to exist in life’s in-between spaces. At 20 years old, the performer is no longer a child, but neither is he fully an adult. Musically, his style is neither wholly pop, nor is it entirely indie. And the crooner’s vocal register often has first time listeners wondering if he is male or female.

“If I had a dime for every time I heard that comment, I would be so rich,” Shamir laughs. “Just have like this weird androgyny to me which didn’t start happening until puberty. With my guy friends, their voices deepened and they got more masculine features. For me, my features softened and my voice didn’t change too much. At 14 or 15, you literally feel like you are becoming this non-binary being.”

Non-binary being? That’s the kind of startling, old-soul observation that has made the openly gay artist one of the rising stars of hip-hop.

Rather than resenting this difference, Shamir — who performs Wednesday at South Side Ballroom as the supporting act for Marina and the Diamonds — learned to embrace it. “They both just did whatever they wanted to do,” Shamir says. “They never let anyone get in the way of that. Daniel Johnston built his own world for himself. His music is unorthodox, and he was still able to reach people with it. I just think that’s amazing.”

Many of Shamir’s album tracks, including “On the Regular” and “Call It Off,” are bouncy retro-tinted confections perfect for both workouts and the dance floor. Yet the haunting ballad “Darker,” a song Shamir wrote about the passing of his great-grandmother, is the songwriter’s favorite. It also highlights the artist’s wise-beyond-his-years appeal.

“It’s just a really cool song about death,” Shamir explains, “but looking at it in a more positive way. So many songs about death are sad, but sometimes death can be beautiful. I wrote it when my great-grandma died. She was like 96 and everyone was rejoicing at her passing, but she was dancing in front of me. She tried to engage me. I was so star struck I was staring at her and didn’t know what to do. I didn’t change too much. At 14 or 15, you literally feel like you are becoming this non-binary being.”

Non-binary being? That’s the kind of startling, old-soul observation that has made the openly gay Shamir one of the rising stars of hip-hop.

RATCHETING UP THE ENERGY  |  Shamir is building a big following, opening for Marina and the Diamonds this Wednesday at the South Side Ballroom. (Photo by Matthew Parri Thomas)

By Scott Huffman  |  Contributing Writer

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SHAMIR/MARINA

At 20, out hip-hop star Shamir Bailey is an old soul ... and a helluva musical talent

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Aren’t they bromantic?

Kevin Moore and Chad Peterson aren’t a couple in real life — they just play one onstage... a lot. Meet Dallas’ gay answer to Lunt & Fontanne.

The theater world is filled with famous acting duos. Lunt and Fontanne. Olivier and Leigh. Moore and Peterson.

Those last two may sound less familiar to you, but only if you haven’t seen a show from Uptown Players in the last decade. Kevin Moore and Chad Peterson have been frequent scene partners there — “I counted 10 shows that we’ve done together, that does not count Broadway Our Way [performances] — all but two of which have been at Uptown Players,” Peterson observes.

Among the productions in which they’ve been cast as a couple are Thrill Me, The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode and The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told. Add to that list Harbor, the season-closing production they are opening in this week at the Kalita Humphreys Theater. Once again, they play a couple, though it’s still something of a landmark for them: For the first time, they’re married. “He’s finally made an honest woman out of me,” Peterson quips.

In the show, Moore plays Kevin, a stay-at-home writer working on the Great American Novel while his architect-husband (Peterson) supports them. When Kevin’s sister (Cara Statham Serber) visits with her daughter in tow, she triggers discussions about parenting, starting a family and the boundaries of a relationship, both comically and dramatically. “It’s pretty timely and contemporary in the issues it brings up,” Peterson says. “It’s not about gay marriage or adoption but does a couple [gay or straight] want to be parents,” adds Moore.

While they are often cast as lovers onstage, in real life, the two are just close friends and have never dated. “For a long time people just assumed we were together,” Moore says. It’s understandable why, considering how long their association has lasted.

“Ten years this summer was, for both of us, our first show with Uptown — Southern Baptist Sissies,” Moore says. At the time, they were both relative newcomers to local theater; Moore had only done one show before (“It was the pivotal role of ‘non-speaking valet’ in Amadeus at the old Plano Rep,” he jokes), while Peterson had acted in a handful of plays at places like Theatre Arlington. Peterson was so intent on doing it, though, he drove a daily round-trip between the Metroplex and Waco for rehearsals and performances for more than a month. “I did Six Degrees of Separation where I had my first kiss — period!” he says.

The friendship has probably helped cultivate their performances and made them seem more authentic onstage. “The [biggest question for an actor] is, can you trust this person? That’s already there with us, so we can work on the other stuff,” Moore says.

“We have also had to do some physical stuff onstage, like kiss,” Peterson says. “I’ve probably kissed Kevin more than I’ve kissed anybody! It’s not a big deal to tell this person your breath stinks — like, ‘So, apparently you had Chipotle for dinner.’ But we’re not a package deal. Parts are sold separately.”

Harbor is something of a change of pace for them, though, in that they have been cast somewhat against type. “I tend to play certain types of roles,” Moore says. “If I’m paired in a relationship, I’m usually cast as the more masculine part. We say for the first time now, he’s the top and I’m the bottom. Keeps ‘em guessin’! But at some point I like, why are they casting us? Audience members must be thinking, ‘Really? Are there no other actors around?’”
Aren’t they romantic?

Kevin Moore and Chad Peterson aren’t a couple in real life — they just play one onstage... a lot. Meet Dallas’ gay answer to Lunt & Fontanne.

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One of the most heart-wrenching documentaries in recent history, 2007’s *Freeheld* chronicled the intense fight of a terminal lung cancer-stricken police detective, Laurel Hester, to secure pension benefits for her surviving domestic partner, mechanic Stacie Andree, from New Jersey’s Orange County Freeholders board, which will only grant them to legally-married spouses.

Winner of the documentary short Oscar that year, *Freeheld* has now been adapted into a dramatic feature starring Ellen Page (who also produced) as Andree, Julianne Moore as Hester, Michael Shannon as Hester’s detective-partner and ally Dane Wells and a scene-stealing Steve Carell as sassy Garden State Equality activist Steven Goldstein.

No stranger to films that change hearts and minds about LGBTs and their struggles for justice and equality, Oscar-nominated screenwriter Ron Nyswaner (*Philadelphia*, *Soldier’s Girl*) penned the Peter Sollett-directed feature. In our interview, Nyswaner discusses how *Freeheld* was shaped by its makers and budget, how the Kim Davis news cycle makes it even more topical and how he would feel about a movie version of his 2005 memoir about his obsessive affair with a hustler, *Blue Days, Black Nights*. • Lawrence Ferber

**Based on a True Story** | Julianne Moore plays a cop with cancer and Ellen Page is her domestic partner looking to be treated equally in the new movie ‘Freeheld,’ now playing in North Texas.
these two women. No one ever suggested that we make some egregious false element of the story or manipulate it in some way because that might make the audience like it better, and I'm very proud to say that. Everyone always said we're telling the truth. Did Dane really do that? Did Laurel really do that? Yes! Great, if they really did it. Ron, we're happy with it. So I was blessed with a very brave group of producers that didn't feel they had to manipulate the story to please the audience — they felt the story would please the audience as it was, and it does.

It's interesting that Freeheld is coming out while Kim Davis is still in the news, and it perfectly illustrates why her obstruction of LGBTs obtaining their legally married status and doc-uments is so dangerous and deserving of removal from office. I'm very happy to live in a country where people don't have to agree with me and I'm a real First Amendment believer. As laws change, people have to obey the law. But I don't bear any hatred or fury or rage to Kim Davis. We live in America where you can believe whatever you want, you just don't have the right to take other people's rights away from them! That's where Kim Davis is still in the news, and it perfectly illustrates why her obstruction as it was, and it does. I think there are far more insidious things we should worry about. There are countries in this world where you can be tortured to death for being gay. Countries in Africa, in the Middle East, in Russia. I think the AIDS crisis isn't over. Bullying of kids in school for being gay.

You sponsor a film collection and archive in Kingston, N.Y., at the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Center. What are some must-see films in there? It's the fourth largest LGBTQ film archive in the U.S. That's a really good question. The Celluloid Closet, and not just because I'm in it, to understand how long it took and the struggle to get gay images onscreen. Not even positive images! But even the struggle to get someone to play gay in a movie. Especially for younger readers it would be great to see it. And also The Times of Harvey Milk.

How would you feel about a film version of Blue Days, Black Nights? How nice of you to know about that book. We're reprinting it this spring. It's an intriguing thought. I'd be open to a movie of it and mainly because it's not about me. When I wrote that memoir, and even when I knew [the hustler], I realized this is the kind of person you write about. A larger-than-life, hilarious character that came into my life. To see someone me on screen, I don't know I can handle it, but for someone to embody him would be great.

Dream casting for your alter-ego? I can't even do that. Sorry. It brings up all of my false modesty combined with my latent self-hatred... Probably Johnny Galecki. That's me!

QUEER CLIP: 'Freeheld'

Two women — one closeted, older detective Laurel (Julianne Moore), the other out-and-proud young gearhead Stacie (Ellen Page) meet at, of course, a women's volleyball tryout. They date, tentatively, because, of course, Laurel is afraid of being outed even though she appears to be the top police officer on the force. They fall in love, move in together and get a domestic partnership before Laurel tells her partner, Dane (Michael Shannon), that she’s gay and, of course, he reacts with the macho “we’re parters-you-can’t-hide-things-from-me” speech. Then Laurel gets cancer and tries to assign her pension benefits to Stacie, but the county elders, called Freeholders, are, of course, disgusted that a dyke wants to ruin the sanctity of marriage. Of course, of course, of course.

Freeheld is, in the worst possible way, an “of course” movie, from the first shot to the last. Nonsense? For pussies. Complexity? Puh-leez. You’re either with ‘em or ag’in ‘em, and if you’re ag’in, you’re a homophobe. And probably a white male. With a goonish accent. And you dress bad.

Based on a true story — the eponymous 2007 Oscar winning documentary short is breathtakingly powerful in a quarter of the time — Freeheld is certainly the most disappointing and frustrating film of the season precisely because its message is so inherently powerful, the filmmakers’ decision to continually remind you of that smacks of overkill.

This is not a surprise considering that the screenwriter, Ron Nyswaner, did virtually the same thing with Philadelphia more than 20 years ago. Philadelphia told an important story of prejudice and AIDS, and was buoyed by great performances, but remember the scene where Tom Hanks’ bosses all but spit venom just upon learning he was “diseased”? You went into the courtroom scenes never doubting that the villains were villains. If they wore black hats and twirled mustaches, they could not be more stereotypical. The exact same is true here — and the cultural landscape is far different now than in 1993. The vitriol aimed at Laurel — not just denying her a pension, but also compassion — feels cloned from the Westboro Baptist playbook. The script repeatedly chastises its audience, “Don’t think! We’ll tell you what to think! Just be outraged!” That’s lazy, and innately undramatic.

The director, Peter Sollett, plays into every lame trope of the screenplay, from the “let’s fix up the house!” montage to the treacly score to the embarrassingly juvenile filming of the public-hearing scenes. There’s no texture — it feels like community theater, from the set design to the photography. Only the performances — from Moore, Page, Shannon, Luke McFarland and a campy, over-the-top Steve Carell, pictured, as an abrasive gay-right activist — elevate this above bad Lifetime movie. Seek out the short film instead; those people are far more real.

One and a half stars.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Linda Gray is so closely associated with Dallas — not just the TV show, but the city — that she found herself in denial even after the revived version of the soap was on the chopping block.

“I held onto [my condo in Dallas] thinking, wrongly, we were gonna be picked up for a fifth season,” she says from her home in SoCal. She finally gave it up, but even without property in the Metroplex (she’s only an “honorary” resident of Southfork) she’s not quite done with Texas. Not by a long shot.

“I love Texas, I love Dallas, I love the people,” she gushes. And the feeling is entirely mutual.

With her 13 seasons playing Sue Ellen Ewing on Dallas — originally from 1978–91, then four more until last year — Gray has played the same character on a series for more seasons than just about any actor other than Gunsmoke’s James Arness and Frasier/Cheers star Kelsey Grammer. That’s 17 seasons of bourbon, car crashes, marital infidelities, political campaigns and intrigue. Oh, and they named a lesbian bar after her (she’s proud of that; she’s even been to it). With that kind of longevity and gay cred, Gray is beloved by multiple generations of TV watchers.

What was the secret to the enduring nature of her characterization? You might not believe it.

“I knew that Sue Ellen was a force to be reckoned with — fashion forward … and she had to wear high heels,” Gray says. “I couldn’t play Sue Ellen without having my high heels on, even if we were sitting at one of those dreaded dinner parties. I could feel it. I have to wear them — it completes it. You walk differently in high heels than in jeans and flats.”

You can learn lots more anecdotes like that now. Gray recently published her memoir, The Road to Happiness* (*Is Always Under Construction), and promoting it brings her back to Texas, with events at Austin’s book fair, then to Dallas for an appearance on Good Morning Texas and a book signing at Neiman Marcus — a total Sue Ellen kind of move.

“I decided to write it because I was asked,” she says. “People had asked me [often over the years], ‘Would you like to write a book?’ I said, ‘No, I don’t have time.’ Then I called [famed Dallas-based book agent] Jan Miller to have dinner [and writing a book came up]. She totally Sue-Ellen’ed on me and said, ‘No one is gonna be your book agent but me. She introduced me to publishers and it was so nice to be asked, so I started writing.”

Though she’d never written before, the task was consistent with Gray’s history of risk-taking.

“I’ve done different things, but certainly not in the book world,” she says. “But my life has always been the adventurer. When I started writing, I realized I forgot about little things and I took myself on a road of discovery and delving into those interesting tidbits. [My life hasn’t been defined] by one thing, it has been the synchronicity of many things.”

For instance, Gray was once appearing in the London production of The Graduate. They were fitting her for a wig when someone came into the room. “Miss Gray, I’m so sorry,” he said. It was 9/11. And I thought, here I was in London, wanting to be home in the U.S. with my family, and I couldn’t get a flight out. So for me, to watch 9/11 on TV in London while preparing to do a show — which I was doing for about five
months — was surreal. My life kind of continued like that. None of our lives are planned. I realize how we are the observer in life, but we have choices. Choose wisely."

She started with the philosophy early. When she was 20, she sent headshots to a modeling agent and was promptly rejected. She kept the letter — framed it, in fact — and used it to motivate her desire to succeed.

"Why didn’t I just wash up [the rejection letter] and throw it in the trash? I think that letter was kind of a challenge," she says. "In my years in modeling, I was either too old, too young, too brunette, too this, too that. Someone told me early on, ‘You’re a product and don’t take it too personally.’ So my advice is, don’t listen. It was one person’s opinion — we all get rejected. I’m not going to let it ruin me. I didn’t start Dallas until I was 38 years old!"

Such sticktoitiveness is what makes Gray — who just turned 75 but looks like she could be in her 50s — a timeless beauty:

"I had a fabulous birthday! I feel great," she says. "Young is sexy, but you can’t keep doing those things. I meet women from all over the world who whine, ‘I’m 40 and I’m starting to get wrinkles’ and I just glaze over. It’s silly. Go volunteer — get out of yourself and start thinking of other people."

### HARBOR, From Page 18

Coy Covington, who has played Peterson’s mother once and Moore’s lover twice but directs them both for the first time here, has an answer to that.

"Kevin and I have been talking about this play for a while," Covington says. "We were talking about this natural chemistry they have together, like Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick. But it’s been a joy to work with two people who we could put in any situation and make it work."

Peterson says there are actually advantages to being friends but not a real-life couple.

"I would never want to act with a boyfriend or even date an actor," he says. "It’s too much time together," adds more. You don’t want the outside stuff — annoying each other as friends, not as colleagues — to affect the performance, they say. Still, that seems unlikely with these two. After so many shows together, they’re as conformable as an old married couple.

* [Peterson and Moore with director Coy Covington.](image)
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“...a score that fits into the theatrical tradition with moments as bombastic as Andrew Lloyd Webber...and as contemporary and quiet as Jason Robert Brown.” - Dallas Voice

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Saturday 10.10

Texas Latino Gay Pride returns to Reverchon

Think Pride is over? It’s not. Not only is National Coming Out Day on Sunday, but Saturday is the second annual Texas Latino Gay Pride celebration. DJ Nonsense and DJ Mateo will spin with live music, food and other vendors, and it’s all free.


Friday 10.09 — Saturday 10.24

‘Dear Liar’ revels in the lost art of letter writing

OMG it’s totes true that back in the day, there were, like, NO EMOJIS! LOL! Peeps didn’t text :-( Instead, they composed handwritten letters to one another — none more elegantly than famed queer Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw (Alan Pollard) and his friend Mrs. Patrick Campbell (Lisa Fairchild), she of the aphorism, “Does it really matter what [homosexuals] do, so long as they don’t do it in the streets and frighten the horses?” Their deep relationship is revealed in the epistolary play Dear Liar, now at the Bath House Cultural Center.


Friday 10.09

Chorale goes to the Heartland

The Turtle Creek Chorale is entering its 36th season with tons of energy and focus, all of which they will bring to bear with the debut concert of the year, Heartland, featuring music from the Great American Songbook as well as performances with the chorale’s Partners in Harmony, all led by artistic director Sean Baugh.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.
ARTSWEEK  THEATER  

The Droll. A world premiere, about a world where theater is illegal, launches Undermain’s 32nd season. Undermain Theater, 3200 Main St. Through Oct. 17. Undermain.org.


The Mountaintop. Play about the final hours of Martin Luther King Jr. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Nov. 15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.


Americana songs for two concerts at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. 7:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

CONCERTS  Turtle Creek Chorale: Heartland. The men’s chorus performs its 36th season opener with a slate of Americana songs for two concerts at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. 7:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

FINE ART  N.S. Harsha: Sprouts, reach in to reach out. A site-specific mural, the first in Dallas for the Indian artist, transforms the main corridor of the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 21. DMA.org.


Q Cinema. The 17th annual gay and lesbian film festival of Fort Worth continues with more screenings, including the locally-made documentary We Do. Ridglea Theater, 6025 Camp Wisdom Road. Friday–Saturday. Qcinema.org.
Stage review: ‘Creep’

The fog rolls in almost as thickly as the imagery in Creep, one of the theater season’s most hotly-anticipated new productions. Written and composed by Dallas playwright Donald Fowler, it’s a unique revere on the legend of Jack the Ripper, with thoughtful characterizations, several outstanding performances and a score that spans from beer-hall festive (“Old Habits”) to tender ballad (“Sticks and Stones”).

It’s frustrating, then, that with so many strong components, the production does not fully come together. The opening ensemble song is, presumably, choked with exposition, but some combination of direction, sound and an overly-loud orchestra muffles the lyrics to the point of confusion.

Such an ambitious project is bound to encounter some glitches along the way, of course, and weighed against the pros, most of the cons seem surmountable. Among the pros: Christina Mantze’s performance as Mother, pictured center, a fierce and vulnerable character who has traded one form of enslavement for another; Patty Breckenridge as Polly, a scene-chewing Cockney whore played as if Eliza Doolittle had never met Henry Higgins; and Daniel Rowan as Christian, an upright piano instructor being manipulated by his patron (Jonathan Bragg), Mother and perhaps even his pupil Mary (Sarah Elizabeth Smith), Mother’s damaged and meek daughter around whom so much of the action occurs. The costumes (by Derek Whitener and Victor Newman Brockwell) are evocative but unique, the lighting (by Jason Foster) moody and Fowler’s score is filled with gems.

The cons, though include the story, which takes too long to get going (you could easily not realize it had anything to do with Jack the Ripper until the start of Act 2). Is this a pacing problem or a flaw in the conception? Either way, it feels like something that could be cleaned up in subsequent productions. And I very much hope there will be subsequent productions. Creep is a promising and often exciting new musical, one that really deserves a chance to stalk theaters with ghoulish abandon.

— Arnold Wayne Jones


FRIDAY 10.09
COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour: Out & Equal Workplace Summit Edition. Monthly mixer. Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Spin: Fall Edition with DJ Grid and Morgan McMichaels. The fall fundraising party with the hot DJ and Drag Racer performing. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m. $10–$20. PurpleFoundation.org.

HALLOWEEN

Dark Hour Haunted House. Gay-owned chills attraction with multiple sinister-themed areas. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. Special nights throughout Halloween. 7 p.m.–midnight. $28.64. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com.

SATURDAY 10.10
COMMUNITY

TUESDAY 10.13
FILM
Hannah and Her Sisters. Three Oscars, including for best screenplay and supporting performers Michael Caine and Diane West, went to this, Woody Allen’s most popular film, about a family of sisters and the men in their orbit. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 10.14
COMMUNITY
Black Tie Dinner: 30 Day Countdown. Enjoy bites and cocktails while gearing up for the big event. Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams, 4519 McKinney Ave, 6–8 p.m.

THURSDAY 10.15
CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist’s weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3533 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

BROADCAST
Project Runway. The latest season of competing designers is underway. Lifetime at 8 p.m.
Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Dear Howard,

What is the correct closing-time etiquette in bars whenever an average-looking Joe, too plain for Grindr, still hasn’t gotten lucky yet, is powerfully horny, but only the dregs are left; specifically, could you provide for me a few surefire/failsafe pickup lines to use? — Joe

Dear Joseph,

Upon homily approaching “the dicking hour” (as comedienne Margaret Cho so sententiously nails that desperate, cock-throbbing 60-minute countdown on weekend nights before gay clubs’ doors get bolted), the best pickup line of them all screams the most obvious: “Wanna blow this hellhole and fuck?”

I do not advise you try attempting any pithy/comical route: “Hey there, handsome, my dick just died; can I bury it in your ass?” Or, “Did you know the average person has 206 bones inside his body—would you like an extra one?” Da-dum-dum.

Humor, always, is subjective enough, and “The Dicking Hour” has rung way too late for taking any libido risk that men still possessing of a sense of humor remain available. A straightforward, unfussy “Wanna fuck?” is best.

Dear Howard,

My hubby fancies having a threesome with our hunky new neighbor across the hall (our hunky straight neighbor!) whom we’ve nicknamed Bruno. hubby played for the other team once, also siring two thankless, entitled brats—same as Bruno.

I say hubby’s living in a fool’s fantasy if he thinks a straight hottie like Bruno will ever get lonely enough to consider “befriending” a pair of hospitable neighbors like us, regardless of how invitingly my hubby’s tan six-pack may glisten poolside—or all our sympathetic smiles offered up to Bruno’s balcony when he paces (shirtless) while arguing on the phone with his ex-wife.

Hubby insists Bruno’s post-martial spats are a perfect invitation to knock at his door one Saturday, ice cold Coors in tow, and sympathetically inquire as to whether he could use a pick-me-up bj. He assumes Bruno will agree. My own position is that—quite the opposite—such neighborliness only grants us the opportunity to test out the limits of our Obamacare benefits when we’re rushed to the emergency room with black eyes, broken jaws and busted teeth.

It is tempting, though. You cannot imagine what a dreamy beefcake stud-muffin Bruno is: I’m taking total masturbatory candyland material here—rippling, spray-tan-free biceps, a fury “happy trail” snaking down below his “cutie,” arcs of grease still glistening under his fingernails from changing his own oil … oh, daddy!

Should we neighborly toss caution to the wind and proceed with “comforting” this poor sex-starved, masculinity specimen, or not risk it? I mean, does Bruno even know that we exist? — Dayton

Dear Dayton,

Unless you failed mentioning to Dear Howard that Bruno reads by Braille, he knows you both exist, trust me. Whether you should pursue him? Well, tossing a penny into the air and letting Honest Abe determine what to do will work as well as I can in advising whether you’ve any chance of scoring a mirage-a-fools with hetero self-off-changers. Before pouncing, though, I advise you’d to be damned certain that it’s not Mr. Studly Straight’s negotiated weekend to look after those children he spawned.

But, Dayton, if you truly want Howard’s honest opinion: Steer far clear of your neighbor lest those tenant meetings get unbearably awkward.

Dear Howard,

This hot rich kid I met online has invited me to join him at his parents’ lake house over Halloween weekend. “The folks don’t go there after Labor Day,” he said. “It’ll just be me and my twin brother home from Ole Miss, so dress appropriately,” Howard, what even does he mean by “Dress appropriately”? — Tom

Dear Thomas,

It means you show up appropriately “dressed” wearing a cock ring with a jack-o-lantern smile.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Do you have a question for Howard about etiquette, love, life or anything? Email your concern to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer.
Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 9-15:

1851 Club: Sapphire Davenport, Addison Foster and Kaliah Nix at 10 p.m. on Friday. Candi Carol, Carress Rasta and Zimora Davenport at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

Addison Improv: Fortune Feimster on Friday-Sunday.

Alexandre’s: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. Mi Diva Loca at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Karaoke with Lil Chalupa at 10 p.m. on Sunday and Tuesday. Chris Chism at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Alicia Silex at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Brick/Joe’s: One Night in Bangkok Tea Dance on Sunday. Kamikaze Karaoke with Larrie from 6-11 p.m. on Sunday. Changes: Divine Miss Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Friday. DMIX69 at midnight on Sunday. Cowtown Leathermen meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday. Fort Worth Treehouse Meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. and Imperial Court Mr. and Miss Turnabout Pageant at 6 p.m. on Sunday. TGRA-Imperial Court Game Night at 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday. Wall of Food show on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: Mr. Texas Leather 2015 Larry Carter birthday at 7 p.m. on Friday.

J.R.’s Bar & Grill: Free HIV Testing from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday.

Poor David’s Pub: Antigone Rising and Patrice Pike Band at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Rainbow Lounge: The Illusions at 9 p.m. on Friday. Drag Bingo at 9:30 p.m. on Monday. Latin Night with Kenya Blue at 11 p.m. on Wednesday. Drag Wars with Kennedy Davenport at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

Rose Room: Cassie, Layla, Krystal, Valerie, Kelexis, Stefani and Morgan McMichaels at 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. on Friday. Cassie, Kelexis, Valerie, Natasha Douglas, Krystal, Layla and Nikid Trash at 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. on Saturday. Miss Texas FFI at Large at 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. on Sunday. Rising Star with Asia and Valerie at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

Station 4: Purple Foundation Spin Fall Edition with DJ Prince P, DJ Grind and RuPaul on Friday.


Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Spencer’s Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Sunday. Lil’ Chalupa’s Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Urban Cowboy Lounge: Best Friends Club unveiled its new name — Urban Cowboy Lounge — at Tarrant County Pride.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Heygood
Resource Center’s
The 5 Factor
Photos Courtesy Resource Center

Kris and John at Burgers and Burgandy.

J.C. and Krystal at JR.’s Bar and Grill

Kris and John at Burgers and Burgandy.

Lio, Jacob and Adam at The Tin Room.

The Bridge Bistro serves guest at The Five Factor.
The ‘Creep’ preview gala
Photos by Dana Driesky

Producer Terry Martin, Director Kate Galvan and Composer Donald Fowler.
Gala Chair Barbara Daseke and Producers Circle Chair Nicholas Even.

Janelle Lutz, Alex Heika, Kyle Montgomery and Kelsey Leigh Ervi.

Natalie and Barbara — The Woodley Sisters — at Mama’s Daughters’ Diner.

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AIDS Healthcare Foundation is seeking a STORE MANAGER and a CASHIER to join our Out of the Closet retail thrift store at 3920 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas. Apply online at www.aidshealth.org or in store

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  (Inwood at Mockingbird)
  Dallas, Texas 75209
• LAMBDA GROUP
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Amazing Actress

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19 Milan showplace, with “la”
20 1985 movie with the actress in circles
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25 It may keep you up at night
27 Cheapest bas reliefs of Lincoln
31 Fabric name ending
32 Title character for Barbra
36 The two of them
38 McKuen and more
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47 Olympic nickname
50 Placed one inside another
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2 What 50 million Frenchmen never drink
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58 “Hold your horses!”
59 Falco of The Sopranos
60 Mr. Right-now
61 They have boughs for bows
64 Stud site
65 Eastern title
66 Chicago director Marshall

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