What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- If you take certain other medicines with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.
I’m open-minded, not uninformed.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

Learn more at truvada.com
TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

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

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Have or have had hepatitis.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.
Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

• Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

• To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about high risk of getting HIV-1.

reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at risk of getting HIV-1.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help

•  See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

•  If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.

TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health

• Bone problems.

• New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.

• Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness

•  Muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged

•  Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

•  Abnormal heartbeat.

•  Light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

•  Joint or muscle aches, headache, and decreased weight.

•  These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effect that bothers you or if it does not seem to work for you.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

•  Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.

•  Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.

•  Tell your healthcare provider if you:

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

•  Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA

•  Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.

•  Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5

•  Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

•  Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.

•  This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your

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Version date: April 2017

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Erin Phillips named as assistant coach for Dallas Wings

Officials with the Dallas Wings have announced that Erin Phillips is stepping in as the team’s assistant coach, replacing Bridget Pettis, who has announced her retirement. Fred Williams remains as the Wings’ head coach, and Taj McMichaels, Season 6’s Ben De la Creme and Milk, Season 7’s Trixie Mattel, Season 8’s Thorgy Thor and Chi Chi DeVayne and Season 9’s Aja.

No firm start date for the premiere has been set, just “this winter” on VH1.

— Tammye Nash

Kennedy Davenport, Shangela among the next set of All Stars

Last week, I speculated that native Texans Kennedy Davenport and Shangela might be among the contestants on the next installment of RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars. Well, both are among the nine queens tagged for Season 3. Shangela (Seasons 2 and 3) and Davenport (Season 7) will be joined by Season 2’s Morgan McMichaels, Season 6’s Ben De la Creme and Milk, Season 7’s Trixie Mattel, Season 8’s Thorgy Thor and Chi Chi DeVayne and Season 9’s Aja.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Texas Rep. Eric Johnson considering run for Speaker of the House

State Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, said Wednesday, Oct. 25 that he is considering a run for Speaker of the House after current five-term Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, announced he will not run for re-election.

The Texas Speaker of the House is elected on the first day of the new session by a vote of all members of the Texas House of Representatives. Republicans have had a majority in the Texas House since 2002 and voted for a Republican Speaker in each session in that time. Democrats have consistently backed Straus, who rewarded them with preferred committee assignments.

Any member of the House may enter the race for Speaker.

“I sincerely thank Speaker Straus for his service and leadership over the nearly eight years I have served with him in the Texas House,” Johnson said. “One-party rule has been the norm in Texas for far too long. This state, like Washington, D.C., would benefit from more bipartisanship. Having a Democrat in one of the top three positions in state government would be good for Texas.”

Later Wednesday, Johnson told Dallas Voice via text that “Response so far has been great!”

— David Taffet

Jeffrey Payne opens campaign office

Jeffrey Payne held a grand opening for his campaign headquarters at 6510 Abrams Road, Ste. 100 on Tuesday, Oct. 24. Payne formally announced his candidacy on Oct. 7 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Since making the announcement, Payne has been on the road campaigning around the state.

Here’s where the governor’s race stands: Payne, who is gay, is one of two announced Democratic candidates. The other is Tom Wakely, a hospice chaplain from San Antonio whose main issue seems to be marijuana reform. In 2016, Wakely ran against Rep. Lamar Smith in the 21st Congressional District.

On the Republican side, Gov. Greg Abbott has one primary challenger so far: Larry SECEDE Kilgore (emphasis is the candidate’s). In 2008, Kilgore campaigned for the U.S. Senate, advocating the death penalty for abortion, adultery and homosexuality and flogging for vulgar language and transvestitism.

Kory Watkins has registered as a Libertarian candidate.

The primaries will be March 6, and the general election is Nov. 6, 2018. In addition to the race for governor, Sen. Ted Cruz is up for re-election next year. Rep. Beto O’Rourke is challenging him. A number of judges will also be up for election.

— David Taffet

Straus, Cook not running for re-election

Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus, who played a major role in blocking anti-transgender bathroom bills in the Texas Legislature this year, announced Wednesday, Oct. 25 that he will not run for re-election.

The San Antonio Republican has served five terms as speaker. But his insistence on blocking certain right-wing efforts have led more than 50 Texas Republican Party county committees to approve resolutions expressing a lack of confidence in Straus and a desire to see the House Republican Caucus replace him in the next session, according to reports by the Austin American-Statesman.

In an email sent out by his campaign, Straus said: “I believe that in a representative democracy, those who serve in public office should do so for a time, not for a lifetime. And so I want you to know that my family and I have decided that I will not run for re-election next year. My time as a state representative and as speaker will end at the conclusion of my current term.”

State Rep. Byron Cook, the Corsicana Republican who chaired the House State Affairs Committee and who also opposed the bathroom bills, also announced Wednesday that he will not run for re-election.

Cook, who made his announcement just minutes after Straus, said in a statement that he will “pursue other opportunities to serve our great state,” according to Quorum Report.

— Tammye Nash

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GO OUT AND SHINE

Whether it’s your favorite bar or Sunday brunch, make sure your fun is free from tobacco. Because even the occasional cigarette can do harm. So go out, have fun, and shine free from tobacco.
**THE GAY AGENDA**

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

- **Weekly:** Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week’s guest is state Rep. Victoria Neave; United Black Ellum hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares meets every Sunday from 2:30–4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasusquares@gmail.com; Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; Leadership Lambda Toastmasters practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30–8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; Gray Pride support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; Lambda AA meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. and has a men’s meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; DTV in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4–5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

**OCTOBER**

- **Oct. 28:** Outing LGBT Domestic Violence
  Candy Marcum moderates a panel discussion and Q&A session with Criminal District Court Judge Brandon Birmingham, DPD Domestic Violence Unit officer Kylee Hawks, trans activist Aricles James, Angela Lee of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Roy Rios from the Texas Council on Family Violence from 1-3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Oct. 28:** Race for the Cure
  Susan G. Komen breast cancer 5k walk at 8 a.m. at NorthPark Center.

- **Oct. 29:** Trunk or Treat
  Cathedral of Hope UCC and Oak Lawn UMC offer trick or treating for member and neighborhood kids from fun and festively decorated car trunks, plus hot dog cookout, bounce houses, a marionette show and a visit from Princess Elsa from 4:30-8 p.m. in the Cathedral of Hope parking lot, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

**NOVEMBER**

- **Nov. 1:** Texas Business Equality Conference
  Chris Wallace, president of the Texas Association of Business, is the featured speaker. Breakout sessions on access to capital, employment law for small business, LGBTQ advocacy updates and marriage and taxes. From 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at 3 AT&T Plaza, 308 S. Akard Street, 12th Floor. TexasBusinessEquality.com.

- **Nov. 2:** Profile and Situational Awareness seminar
  Community seminar on issues of profiling vs. stereotyping for the community from 7-8:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Nov. 2:** Celebrate a Landmark at the Landmark
  The Oak Lawn Committee presents a benefit with silent auction and live music. All proceeds benefit the Legacy of Love Monument. 7 p.m. at the Landmark Restaurant at the Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave. Tickets are $100-450, available at EventBrite.com.

- **Nov. 2:** After Goodbye: An AIDS Story
  UNT Special Collections and UNT Pride Alliance present a screening of After Goodbye: An AIDS Story, the Emmy Award-winning documentary produced by KERA about the Turtle Creek Chorale, at 6:30 p.m. at UNT Gateway Center.

- **Nov. 2-5:** Strength Conference for Men Living with HIV
  AIDS Walk South Dallas presents the third annual Strength Conference for Men Living with HIV at Hilton Dallas Market Center, 2727 N. Stemmons Freeway. Register at Strength2017.EventBrite.com. For more information and for vendor and sponsorship opportunities, visit AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com or call 469-410-3755.

- **Nov. 4:** Summit on LGBT aging
  The Coalition for Aging LGBT presents its annual summit on aging from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mountain View College, 4849 W. Illinois Ave.

- **Nov. 4:** Chief on the Beat
  Safety and Health Fair in the Northwest Division. Free food, health screenings, entertainment. Meet DPD K-9 teams, the dive team and DFR. Raffle prizes. Job fair provided by Home Depot. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Grauwyler Recreation Center, 7780 Harry Hines Blvd.

- **Nov. 4:** Turtle Creek Cleanup
  Meet at the foot of Beasley Steps on Hall Street at the Katy Trail for a Turtle Creek cleanup from 9-11 a.m.

- **Nov. 7:** Classic Chassis Car Club
  Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda’s, 4617 Maple Ave.

- **Nov. 9:** Promise House Sleep Out
  In conjunction with National Runaway Prevention Month, A Night Under the Stars aims to educate the community about youth experiencing homelessness. Promise House invites Dallas’ top business and community leaders to sleep outside to raise awareness and funds for homeless, runaway and at-risk youth. Participants pledge to raise a minimum of $5,000. Promise House, 224 Page Ave. PromiseHouse.org.

- **Nov. 9:** GALORE Gives Back
  GALORE, a nonprofit promoting homeownership in the LGBT community, holds a happy hour benefiting Promise House from 5-7 p.m. at Ferris Wheelers, 1950 Market Center Blvd. Collecting Target and Walmart gift cards.

- **Nov. 10:** Jubilee Theatre fundraiser
  Al Green and Demille Cole-Heard perform in a benefit for Jubilee Theatre at 8 p.m. at W.E. Scott Theatre, 3505 W Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth. $75. JubileeTheatre.org.

- **Nov. 11:** Black Tie Dinner

- **Nov. 12:** Thanks For Giving Show
  The Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents the Thanks For Giving Show: A Salute to Our Troops, featuring Miss Gay Texas State at Large, Contessa Piranha, and
Meet Callie, a 2-year-old, brindle pit bull terrier mix weighing 50 pounds. She came to the SPCA of Texas when she was surrendered to an animal cruelty investigator on Oct. 4. She’s a loving, playful girl who just wants to be given loads of attention. She loves people and likes snuggling on the couch, squeaky toys and going for runs. She can get a little nervous sometimes, so she might benefit from a Thundershirt to keep her relaxed. She can sit, fetch, push doors with a push bar open on her own. She’s very good on a leash and responds promptly if you call her name. She’d prefer to be the star of the show, but if you have another dog, you can bring it in for a meet-and-greet to see if they get along. She’s very good on a leash and responds promptly if you call her name. She’d prefer older, athletic kids who love to run around and play and would do best in a home without small children. Callie has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Her adoption fee is only $50, so come meet her today. #157877

Callie is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive, near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun- Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are $100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, $50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, $25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and $25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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Scott Christopher Maier passed away from a 2.5 year battle with lung cancer, Monday, October 16, 2017, just three weeks shy of his 49th birthday. He is survived by his soulmate, Trace Symonds, his four fur-babies and many friends and family across the country.

Scott was sweet and thoughtful, caring and fun, silly and stubborn. He loved parties and had a flare for decorating, baking, remodeling and gardening. He loved to make others happy at any expense. He was an amazing doggy daddy and trainer for Top Dog Dallas in Garland.

Scott interacted with many organizations. He was an active member of the White Rock Community Church, the Spectrum Motorcycle Club, volunteered with the Guys and Dolls civic fundraising group that benefitted LifeWalk with the Alzheimer’s Foundation. You may have seen him walking in support of one of these organizations, on his motorcycle in the Pride parade or at the back bar at Zippers.

He leaves a legacy of love, peace and acceptance with us all. No ‘funeral’ or ‘memorial’ services will be held per his request. His friends and loved ones will celebrate his life in the way he liked to celebrate – with a party! In lieu of flowers or gifts, Scott asked that you make a donation to the AIDS/LifeCycle ride that his partner will be competing in his honor (tinyurl.com/ride2018).

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Gay ghost hunter Adam Berry teams up with friend Amy Bruni to find answers for families facing paranormal problems.

TAMMYE NASH  |  Managing Editors
nash@dallasvoice.com

When Adam Berry joined the Ghost Hunters Academy reality competition show in 2010, eventually winning the competition and joining the investigation team of the SyFy hit Ghost Hunters, it gave him the chance to turn what had been “a passionate hobby” into a full-time career.

Today, that career includes Kindred Spirits, a series now in its second season on TLC, along with hosting paranormal conferences, running a musical theater in Massachusetts and working as a real estate agent specializing in haunted properties.

This week, Berry took time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions for Dallas Voice.

Dallas Voice: Adam, what first prompted your interest in the paranormal? Adam Berry: I grew up in a house that had paranormal activity in Alabama. I have always been intrigued by “things that go bump in the night,” and [now] a passionate hobby has led to the career that I have today.

How hard — or how easy — is it to be an openly LGBT person in the world of paranormal investigations? Is the ghost hunting community relatively progressive or conservative in that respect, or is it even reasonable to make that kind of assumption? I would say it is very easy to be openly gay and do what I do. The paranormal community, and our fan base in particular, is a very diverse group of people who believe all sorts of things. If they do disagree with who I am, I don’t see much negativity to my face. I do get crazy Facebook messages and tweets from people sometimes, but at this point, who doesn’t?

I remember watching you and Amy Bruni on the Ghost Hunters programs, and how the two of you seemed to hit it off right away. Did you know each other before becoming involved in the program? What was it that drew you together as partners in investigations and what makes you a good team? What are your strengths and weaknesses as an investigator, and how do those play off Amy’s strengths and weaknesses? I was fortunate enough to be on Ghost Hunters Academy, which was a spinoff show to the SyFy original series Ghost Hunters. It was a competition reality show where they put us in the scariest places possible and then judge our investigative style and, also teach us their methodology. I was lucky to win that competition, and I always say my price was Amy Brun! We started working together and have been working together ever since.

We both have the same investigation style. We believe in compassion and in being as nice as we can to whatever might be there, so that we can get a better response.

We like to call ourselves paranormal psychologists to ghosts. We walk into a space and pretend like we are entering a party and nobody knows who we are, and we have to gain their trust and do whatever we can to make them comfortable with us, so that they will reach out and communicate.

We both come up with ideas, and sometimes they don’t work. Because there are only two of us, we can try a lot of different things to get the best outcome for those that were trying to help.

What is it about Kindred Spirits that sets it apart from other, similar, programs? How is your approach different from or similar to other investigators? Kindred Spirits is not your average paranormal ghost hunting show. We don’t just go into a location and have experiences, capture evidence and then tell people, “Yes, your place is haunted,” or not.

What we do is an extensive investigation that parallels an actual investigation that teams would do in the field. We use history, research, genealogy, land deeds, interviews, tons of information, facts and figures. We use that in our investigations night after night.

We are able to have experiences and capture evidence one night, and the next day, based on those experiences, we can go out and do research and find the answers that we are looking for.

We are there for at least five days, in someone’s home, and not just running around an abandoned asylum or hospital. These are actual families. We have their trust, and we have to do what we can to help them. We are usually their last resort.

Now, don’t get me wrong. We do love an abandoned asylum or two every now and then. But helping families get answers that they need and helping ease their fears about the activity that’s happening is most important to us. That is what Kindred Spirits is all about.

How do you respond to the skeptics? For those people who don’t believe in ghosts, that’s totally fine. My job is not to convince someone out there that ghosts exist. Our job is to help these families in every way possible.

If someone who is skeptical ever has a paranormal experience for the first time they’re going to know it. Undoubtedly, they will realize that what just happened to them was paranormal. Will they talk their way out of it and eventually brush it off as something natural? Maybe. But for one fleeting moment they may believe in what we do.
There are people that don’t believe in it and will never believe in it, and that is totally OK with me.

In all your time as a paranormal investigator, what has been the most shocking or scariest or most convincing piece of evidence you have come across? I think “The Basement” episode in the first season of Kindred Spirits, season one, sums up a shocking experience based on the evidence that we captured there and the help that we gave to the family. That is 100 percent the reason why we do what we do.

(“The Basement,” was the fourth episode in the first season, filmed in a private home in Chelsea, Mass., where the homeowner’s mentally disabled brother was murdered in the home’s basement apartment by her other brother, who had problems with drug addiction and alcoholism.)

We never really get afraid of ghosts, because we want interaction with them. We always say we are more frightened of real life people and animals than spirits. The reality of some people is so frightening in my opinion, especially nowadays, so you can see what I mean.

Tell me a little about your husband Ben. What does he think of your work as a paranormal investigator? Is he involved at all? What kind of work does he do? Oh, and how long have you guys been married? My husband, Ben, and I have been married for five years, but we have been together for 11. He loves scary things and ghost hunting, and he is an original founding member of our paranormal team in Provincetown, Mass.

He goes with me on investigations, and we travel the country together looking for ghosts. He is totally into it.

Ben is also the artistic director of our theater company, Peregrine Theatre Ensemble, and he is extremely talented — and handsome.

I serve as the executive director of Peregrine Theatre Ensemble, and this keeps us occupied and very busy during the summer months in Provincetown. If you are visiting in the summer, visit us at PeregrineTheatre.com to see a show.

What, if anything, would you like to mention that I haven’t asked about? Amy and I have a lot of events coming up next year, and you can visit Strange-Esapes.com for more information. Also, you can watch all of our Kindred Spirits episodes on the TLC GO App and the Destination America GO app. Look for new episodes and bonus clips on Destination America in the new year. Also follow me on Instagram @AdamBerry and FaceBook @AdamBerryFans and Twitter @AdamJBerry. You can follow Ben at @TheBennyBerry on Instagram and Twitter.

If you ever come to Dallas, I would love to meet you, maybe even have you and Amy on our internet talk show, DVtv. I would love to visit Dallas/Fort Worth area. I am really great friends with Betty Buckley. She lives in that area and has always wanted us to come visit, so maybe we will be there sooner rather than later.

Catch back-to-back episodes of Kindred Spirits tonight (Friday, Oct. 27) at 8 p.m. Central Standard Time. Download the TLC GO app to watch every episode of Kindred Spirits.
The completely nonexistent story of a transgender mayor’s transition

How a mayor in one of the most conservative counties in Texas announced her gender identity and no one cared

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Ever since Mayor Jess Herbst of New Hope announced she’s transgender, anywhere from one to four reporters have attended every council meeting. And the same thing happens each time — people from town speak during the public comment period, and a tree hanging too low over a road will get cut, an old junk car will get towed or a pothole will get fixed.

What doesn’t get discussed is the gender identity of the mayor.

Since Herbst revealed her gender identity to the city of New Hope, no one has come to a meeting to speak about their support or about their moral outrage over having a transgender mayor. No one’s mentioned it at all.

When the town’s road commissioner makes his regular presentations, he sometimes slips up and refers to Herbst by her dead name. He gets embarrassed and stumbles over his words, apologizing for the mistake. They’ve known each other almost 20 years.

“Don’t worry about it,” Herbst tells him, laughing.

Why’s she laughing? Because she’s so glad her transition hasn’t been a story.

Herbst hopes that by telling the story of her transition not being a story, more people who are afraid of coming out as transgender will find the courage do so.

New Hope is centrally located in Collin County, just east of McKinney. The population in the last census was 614. The city has a mayor and five aldermen who meet the last Tuesday of every month. The town is 1.7 square miles, about half a square mile smaller than Highland Park.

Under President Barack Obama, Amanda Simpson served as deputy assistant secretary of defense, but that position was appointed. In Houston, Mayor Annise Parker appointed Phyllis Frye to be a municipal court judge, and Jenifer Pool ran for Harris County commissioner. Frye was the first trans person appointed judge in Texas and Pool was the first to win a primary.

But while other transgender people serve on commissions and school boards around the country, Herbst is currently the highest-ranking transgender elected official in the U.S. And, when she came out in January, she became the first transgender elected official in Texas.

“On Jan. 30, I took five minutes to explain, said ‘thank you,’ and it’s been business as usual ever since,” Herbst said of her coming out.

Herbst wasn’t a newcomer to New Hope politics. She was first elected alderman in 2003 and became mayor in May 2016. She is up for re-election in 2018.

“We’re reasonable, intelligent, open-minded people,” Herbst said describing her town. “We’re fiscally conservative and spend money responsibly.” She said she’s never heard anything like “I don’t like people because of race” in New Hope.

Soon after her transition, the Collin County sheriff scheduled an appointment to see her. New Hope doesn’t have its own police department, so it relies on the sheriff’s department to patrol the town. As they spoke, she realized the sheriff was asking her for money to help fund police operations.

She presented the request to the council, which approved $25,000 a year for the sheriff’s department.

Other small towns across the county were more resistant to the request. Herbst said she found herself in the unusual position of being the sheriff’s transgender ally, accompanying him to council meetings in other towns to testify on his behalf to help with department funding.

Transition

Herbst said her transition was a very gradual process. She came out to people in steps — first to her family, then to her friends. But when the Texas Legislature proposed a number of pieces of anti-trans legislation this year, she decided it was time to come out to her town and to go to Austin to do what she could to thwart those discriminatory bills.

What’s happened since revealing her gender status to her town is both incredible and exactly as things should be: No one really seems to care.

Instead, people have judged Herbst on the job she’s doing as mayor. And the general consensus is she’s doing a good job.

No one in town really seems to want to talk about it, either — nothing really to talk about.

Another thing that’s different for Herbst compared to other trans people is that she’s still married to her wife, and she still has the same relationship with her kids.

Herbst met her wife, Debbie, in college. She said they were dating each other’s roommates, but bonded during a showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

“We sparked something in each other,” Herbst said, adding that her wife “helped me with make up and clothes” when she dressed around the house.

Debbie said at first Herbst dressed as a woman once a week, then more often.

The couple have two daughters, now 27 and 28. Herbst said she never dressed as a woman around them as they were growing up. But once they were out of the house, she began dressing more frequently.

Debbie grew up in New Hope, and in 1999, her father carved 52 acres off the property for the couple and they built a house.

Their younger daughter lives in Dallas, and Herbst said, their older daughter lives “across the pond.” No, not in London, but “across the pond” on the edge of their property, in the house in which Debbie grew up.

The two daughters weren’t surprised when they learned of their dad’s gender identity.

“That makes sense,” their daughters said when Herbst told them she was transgender, because she was the one who gave them old wigs to play with when they were growing up and helped them with hair, clothes and makeup.

They continue to call Herbst dad, explaining that to them, it refers more to role than gender.

Although Debbie had known about her husband’s gender identity before they were married 38 years ago, she said neither of them had the words for it.

“I thought it was more like ‘transvestite,’ or something like that,” Debbie said. “I found it intriguing and made a connection with Jess. I thought it was kind of cool.”

But, she acknowledged, it became a little harder when it became more than a weekend thing.

“Are people going to think of me as a lesbian?” she wondered.

Leaving Jess wasn’t an option, but it did take a period of adjustment.

“Jess is my soulmate,” Debbie said. And one thing that was important, she said, was that Jess was happier.

Adjusting to Jess as a woman took about a year, Debbie said, noting that “Everyone was awesome about it, and that helped me.”

She said she now refers to Jess as her wife. She tried “partner” and “spouse” but thought those terms were impersonal.

“Wife is closer,” she said. “We’re a couple.”

And does she think of herself now as a lesbian? “A little bit,” she said after thinking about it.

Debbie said she was in Austin with her wife while she was testifying about the bathroom bills, and “I was very proud of that.”

This is a family that’s as strong as any.

“This is the same person underneath it all,” Debbie said she realized.
The **Health Education Learning Project (HELP)** opened DFW’s first sexual health and wellness clinic for the LGBT community. Whether you are insured or uninsured, our clinical services are **100% FREE** of charge. So if you want to take charge of your own sexual health and find out if the HIV prevention pill known as PrEP is right for you, call (817) 332-7722 and schedule an intake.

The HELP Center is located at 1717 Main Street in Fort Worth, Texas. PrEP is a medical intervention widely considered to be one of the most effective HIV prevention tools ever for at-risk populations. Clinical studies document PrEP is 92-99% effective when used properly.

[www.HELPFW.org](http://www.HELPFW.org)
Donald Trump Jr. spoke at AT&T Stadium in Arlington this week about freedom of speech. The press was barred from the event. (Never mind that there's a reason freedom of speech and freedom of the press are both included in the same amendment.)

So I was delighted when I received an invitation by email for a ticket. While other media outlets parked themselves at the entrance to the designated parking lot, we drove through. Security was surprisingly light — we went through a metal detector and only had to remove our cell phones from our pockets.

The event was the University of North Texas' fall Kuehne Speaker Series lecture, funded by a school alum and corporate sponsorship, not university dollars. More than 100 faculty and staff wrote a letter to the president of the university protesting the selection of Trump as a speaker. “This invitation evinces a stunning disrespect for women, people of color, LGBTQ members of our community, and others, and it cannot stand,” the letter began.

The group called on the university to suspend the series until administrators, faculty, staff and students become part of the speaker selection process in order to bring a more diverse spectrum of speakers. This year’s speakers range from the son of the president to a Fox News commentator. (One simple solution would be to just label the lectures a conservative speakers' series and let liberal alums fund their own series.)

The UNT president began his introduction of Trump by complaining about “the fake news surrounding today’s lecture.” Or maybe he didn’t begin that way, because we learned during Trump’s speech that “the media always gets it wrong.”

Trump received a polite and quiet standing ovation at the beginning and end of his speech, but his jokes fell flat, and there were no applause lines during the talk. (Joke: “I’m from the People’s Republic of New York.”)

Trump didn’t actually focus on free speech as a main topic, except to complain about his own right to speak freely being impinged.

He began instead by explaining the election. He said he traveled to all the places his father didn’t, making lots of stops in smaller towns. People would come up to him and whisper that they were voting for his father.

Internal Trump campaign polling was 15 percent off national polls. He explained their method: Rather than asking the person who he or she was voting for, they asked who their neighbors were voting for. He said that people didn’t want to admit they were voting for his father but were honest about what they were hearing. They extrapolated that information, and it translated into Trump’s win.

The environment was “so toxic, people were afraid to say they were voting for my father.”

In his 30-minute speech, Trump Jr. actually gave a few helpful insights into his father’s way of thinking.
father,” he said.

Trump then explained our current position on the world stage: It’s Bush’s fault. It’s Obama’s fault. “Foolishness” and “waste” are two words he used to describe their policies. Obama’s policies were as disastrous as Bush’s, he explained, and both wanted to export liberal imperialism. So his father’s administration came into office “with a ‘kick me’ sign on our back.”

He did give an explanation of his father’s foreign policy: Nationalism is good, and countries that stand up for their own interests will work together at times when it’s in their mutual interest.

“We will intervene to protect American lives and property, not to export American values,” Trump said.

Oh, and Benghazi.

He returned to the topic of the election and proved himself to be as much of a sore winner as his father. “People had enough of the media’s vitriol,” he said. “That’s why the polls were wrong.”

One interesting comment he made was there was “a lack of enthusiasm on the other side.” He may be right about that, at least from the point of undecided voters looking at both campaigns and deciding how to place their votes.

No one would have accused the 2008 Obama campaign of lacking enthusiasm. That perceived lack of enthusiasm by people who either stayed home or voted for Bush might have been the difference of a few thousand votes in a handful of states that would have delivered the necessary electoral votes to Clinton.

Trump completed his speech by talking about how colleges around the country make young people unemployable — not Texas colleges; the others, he assured his audience.

In a quest for diversity, he explained, schools recruit students who look different but all think the same — but not Texas schools. The others.

In addition to becoming unemployable, these students graduate feeling entitled to high-paying jobs and are saddled with huge debt. And students can’t declare bankruptcy on that debt. (Ah, bankruptcy. A Trump family value.)

During the question-and-answer session, Trump showed a little more personality. Asked about use of social media, he explained it’s served his father well: “It’s allowed him to say what he’s actually thinking,” he said. “Great tool for him. Incredibly effective.”

My take away? Since the media always gets it wrong, read the tweets.
Dallas bond Proposition J may, in part, fund an emergency shelter for homeless LGBT youth.

A coalition of agencies including Resource Center, Cathedral of Hope, Promise House and Outlast Youth are talking with city officials about using part of the $20 million proposed in Prop J to fund a facility modeled after the Ali Forney Center in New York and a similar facility in San Antonio.

The Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas said Dallas Hope Charities, a new non-profit arm of Cathedral of Hope, has already sent a team for a site visit to New York at the Ali Forney Center to learn about its operation, management and history.

That facility began with about 6 beds and operates from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. for youth 18-to-24 years old.

Cazares-Thomas said any collaboration between the organizations is preliminary, and plans to apply for the bond money are premature. Although voting on the bond propositions is currently taking place, concrete plans for the money will emerge over time.

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It’s never too late for estate planning... well, almost never.

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The next few years before the bonds are actually issued, should the proposition pass. Promise House has decades of experience running youth shelters. Earlier this year, the agency opened a long-term LGBT youth house for four residents that was full the day it opened. That organization could provide management of the facility.

Resource Center has experience in the area with its Youth First programs and also offers counseling.

Outlast Youth has created resource rooms in Dallas schools to provide food, clothing and other necessities to homeless students.

Cathedral of Hope has provided a number of services for homeless people for years including a breakfast program.

Cazares-Thomas said 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT, and he understands that churches are the major cause of LGBT youth homelessness. He said he hopes this project is underway even before bond money is available, but considering the percentage of homeless youth who are LGBT, he believes $3 million to $5 million should go toward this project.

He said he’d like Cathedral of Hope and the LGBT community to be part of the solution.
DFW cities score top and bottom of MEI

Irving received the state’s lowest score but is satisfied with its policies

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The Human Rights Campaign’s new Municipal Equality Index is out, and the city of Irving isn’t happy. Of the 25 Texas cities rated in the report, Irving tied with Laredo for lowest score. Dallas and Fort Worth each received top scores of 100.

While Dallas and Fort Worth got top scores, Irving got the lowest score of the 25 cities rated in Texas — 6. Those six points were credited under the category of municipal services.

Irving city spokeswoman Susan Rose sent the city’s official response to its score: “The city of Irving values its diverse employee base,” she wrote. “We take inclusion very seriously and require all employees be treated with respect.”

But having a nondiscrimination policy for city employees is just one part of one category. Adding sexual orientation and gender identity to its employment policy would add points at no cost, but wouldn’t address any of the other issues on the survey. And Rose refused to say whether the city would look into any ways it could improve its score next year.

But Beth Bowman, president and CEO of the Irving Chamber of Commerce, had a little more to say. Stressing that she doesn’t speak on behalf of the city, Bowman did point out that Irving is one of the most diverse cities in the country.

“Our member-investors have told us that inclusiveness and diversity are important to their businesses and our community’s continued growth and economic success,” she wrote in response to questions from Dallas Voice, adding that the chamber has supported the LGBT community.

The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce was among the first chambers in Texas to sign on to Texas Competes, which provided a unified voice for the Texas business community opposing discriminatory legislation during this year’s regular and special legislative sessions,” Bowman noted. Those efforts by the city’s business community are worth several bonus points on the MEI, if the city wanted to claim them.

Other cities are much more eager to show off their MEI scores, including Dallas.

“The importance of that [100 percent score] is, it shows people all over the country Dallas is an open and welcoming place,” said Dallas City Councilman Omar Narvaez, adding that getting that top score gives Dallas a foot up in the competition when businesses — like, say, Amazon — are looking for new locations.

“It’s not just OK to embrace your LGBT community, but it’s the standard going forward,” Narvaez said.

While most cities across Texas haven’t passed nondiscrimination ordinances — and Houston voters repealed theirs — Narvaez suggested cities follow Dallas’ lead by adding fully inclusive transgender health benefits, which began Oct. 1.

“The cost for trans healthcare is minimal,” Narvaez said.

Narvaez said he’d like to see surrounding cities all improve their scores, because, “That just makes our region stronger.”

Plano received a score of 74, sixth-best in the state after the three cities that received perfect scores — Austin as well as the two major North Texas cities — San Antonio with a 95 and Houston with a 75.

Plano spokesman Steve Stoler said the city was satisfied with its score.

“We are extremely happy with the score given to the city of Plano by the Human Rights Campaign,” Stoler wrote to Dallas Voice. “We strive to be a diverse community and take great pride in having one of the

Individual tickets to the event are $100, with its policies
Fundraiser for Oak Lawn monument

The Legacy of Love at the corner of Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs needs some repair work done

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Oak Lawn Committee is holding a fundraising event Nov. 2 in the Landmark Restaurant in the Warwick Melrose Hotel to benefit the endowment fund that pays for maintenance of and repairs to The Legacy of Love Monument, situated just outside the hotel at the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Avenue.

Individual tickets to the event are $100, and tables are $450. Tickets are available online at EventBrite.com (search for Celebrate a Landmark at the Landmark). For information call 214-284-0090 or email info@oaklawncommittee.org.

Over the last decade, explained Oak Lawn Committee member Michelle Honea, drunk drivers have crashed into the triangle, sometimes hitting the monument while other times destroying the landscaping. Vandals have attacked this visible symbol of the LGBT community in Dallas, requiring power washing and, most recently, signage was stolen.

Honea said that the Oak Lawn Committee commissioned the monument, raised the money to build it and has maintained it. But now, she added, the endowment fund created at the time it was built is depleted.

The Legacy of Love Monument was designed and built in 2006 and dedicated on Oct. 13 that year.

Located on a traffic triangle that had never been covered with anything but weeds, the monument and its surrounding landscape created a new entryway to the Cedar Springs strip.

The Oak Lawn Committee, formed in 1982 to preserve, protect and improve the quality of life in Oak Lawn, took possession of the neglected, ugly triangle-shaped patch of land in 2004 and commissioned the monument to be built there.

The monument reflects architectural features of buildings on the three other corners of Oak Lawn Avenue and Cedar Springs Road — Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, the Melrose Hotel and the Centrum — and is topped with a stylized disco ball as a nod to the bars along the street. Oak Lawn Committee raised $225,000 to design and build the monument and set money aside for its upkeep.

In addition, they continue to sell plaques that contribute to maintenance.

The gathering to dedicate the monument in October 2006 turned out to be just the first of many gatherings at the monument. It has been the site of protests, celebrations and mourning.

After the U.S. Supreme court’s Windsor and Obergefell rulings on marriage equality, crowds gathered at the Legacy of Love Monument to celebrate. And when a lesbian couple was attacked in South Texas, leaving one dead and the other seriously injured, and after an LGBT community leader committed suicide, crowds gathered at the monument to mourn.

In many states, the school board reports to the city. But in Texas, school districts are independent government entities with their own taxing authority. ISDs don’t overlay cities.

While DISD may have great policies related to bullying, most people who live in northeast Dallas are in Richardson ISD and aren’t covered by those policies. Neither is a sliver of West Dallas residents who go to Irving ISD or those in East Dallas who attend Mesquite schools.

Next year, MEI scoring based on anti-bullying policy at schools will be replaced by scoring based on city policy that covers parks and city facilities. Narvaez pointed out that in Dallas, nondiscrimination at all city facilities is covered by ordinance as well as by city charter.
Laughing about killing the gays

The Trump presidency has truly redefined “breaking news” — in the most literal way. Every day there is a new harm, a new insult, a new degradation heaped onto the American people.

If you feel exhausted, disgusted and helpless, well then, know that they’re getting to you. All is working as planned.

Trump is the “chaos” president, after all. It is hard to focus, hard to organize, hard to cope during times of chaos. It is easy to sew fear, spread resentment and abandon truth altogether when everyone is running around distracted and confused.

Tuning out the chaos is often the only coping mechanism that seems possible. Unfortunately, that means letting the chaos win.

If you’re a straight, white male, then this chaos may be working to your advantage, assuming that you don’t give a rip for the rights of minorities and women (and, considering that white males voted overwhelmingly for Trump, the answer to that is pretty clear).

But for everyone else, these are pretty terrifying times.

Trump, who actually claimed that he’d be great for the gays, has been decidedly not great for the gays. From his cabinet members to the extremist judges he’s been nominating, Trump has managed to assemble an anti-LGBTQ dream team.

And the MVP of this team is clearly Mike Pence.

From the moment Trump announced his VP pick, anyone who’d been deluding themselves into thinking that Trump would be or could be a friend to LGBTQ people should have woken up. Pence has a long history of working against equality for LGBTQA people. He opposes marriage equality and discrimination protections for LGBTQA people. He believes in harmful reparative therapy and, in fact, while he was Indiana governor, sought to use HIV/AIDS prevention money for gay “cure” therapy instead.

This attitude, coupled with an anti-science-based rejection of needle exchanges and a slash-and-burn approach to health funding led to an HIV outbreak in Indiana. Anyway, Pence’s horrible awfulness is well documented. You can Google it.

The new layer of this shit sandwich is that Trump apparently thinks Pence’s hatred of LGBTQ people is totally hilarious.

In Jane Mayer’s New Yorker piece titled “The Danger of President Pence,” there’s a description of a meeting, attended by both Trump and Pence, where LGBTQ rights comes up. According to the article, Trump took the opportunity to try his hand at stand-up comedy material. “Don’t ask that guy,” Trump joked, pointing at Pence. “He wants to hang them all!”

Ha. Ha. Ha. Get it? Because Pence hates gays so much he would like to literally murder them like they do in countries with the Sharia law Pence pretends to have nightmares about, except he basically wants the same kind of rule in the U.S. only with white Christian dominion.

So funny. What a laugh. I cannot wait to tell this joke at the dinner table and explain to my son why the vice president thinks his mom should be killed and how the president thinks that’s funny.

Now, you might say, it’s not like Pence literally wants to lynch LGBTQ people. So, no harm, no foul, right?

Wrong.

The fact that the president of the United States cares so little for the LGBTQ people of this country that the premise of our summary execution is fodder for a joke is beyond alarming. What this signals is that the anti-LGBTQ policies that Pence wants to see enacted will face no resistance from Trump.

Granted, they never did. Trump has always been willing to rubber stamp any and all moves to demean and dehumanize LGBTQ people.

But as George Takei put it: “Not sure what’s more disturbing, that Donald would joke about such a thing or that he would pick a man with these views as his number 2.”

More disturbing still, is that millions of Americans voted for this hateful shit show. And nobody is going to get out of this mess squeaky clean.

D’Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @ MamaDWitkowski.
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**Enough is Enough**


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NP-390-25
Out director Todd Haynes shares his passion for the past in the magnificent ‘Wonderstruck’

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Some artists’ work can feel like pieces out of their time. And for filmmaker Todd Haynes, that’s literally true.

Haynes is one of current cinema’s genuine artists. He thinks and talks about filmmaking with the intelligence and thoughtfulness of a novelist, but his knowledge of film history — and his ability to capture the “look” of different eras — has set him apart from his contemporaries, if not bestowed upon him household-name status.

In fewer than a dozen works — seven feature films, a TV miniseries, plus a handful of released shorts, including his infamous Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story (told with a cast of Barbie dolls) — Haynes’ output has concentrated on dramas set in the American past, often infused with a queer sensibility: Los Angeles in the 1920s and ’30s (Mildred Pierce), the glam rock scene of the 1970s (Velvet Goldmine), the closeted shame of the 1950s, both Douglas Sirk-inspired suburbs (Far from Heaven) and the hushed repression of the city (Carol). Haynes knows it’s a niche for him and one he embraces.

“Even in Safe, which was filmed [and released] in 1995, was set was 1988,” Haynes offers.

In his latest film, Haynes doubles down on his fascination with the past, delivering, in many ways, two films in one. Wonderstruck — one of the truly great films of the year, which opens today — tells two parallel but separate stories. In 1977, when Ben (Oakes Fegley), a deaf 11-year-old boy from the Midwest loses his mother, he sets out for New York City to track down the man he suspects is his father. Meanwhile, in 1927, a deaf girl named Rose (Millicent Simmonds), also heads for NYC to find the silent movie actress (Julianne Moore) with whom she is obsessed. As each child winds their way through the unfamiliar streets, they experience friendship, rejection, fear and discovery in ways that converge unexpectedly.

More than just cross-cutting between stories, Haynes has constructed two distinct universes: 1927 is a tribute to silent films, told wordlessly in black-and-white; 1977 has the gritty realism of a blaxsploitation film. Yet at the center of both is a monolithic building that unites and protects them: The Natural History Museum.

We sat down with the openly gay director to talk about his preoccupation with the imagery of the past, his respect for his audiences and how his long-banned film is getting a second life.

Dallas Voice: One of the aspects of your films that I have always respected is how you never over-explain to your audience — for instance, in Wonderstruck, you start with a quote by Oscar Wilde, but you never identify the quote as his. Todd Haynes: I assume people will know it, or not — it doesn’t have to be attributed. [I try to] show a high regard for the viewer and [that they might] feel different things at the same time — like in Superstar, to watch dolls tell a story and also have emotional connections to them. I always have a belief that audiences have conflicting thoughts.

Speaking of Superstar, it has only been available underground because you used the music of The Carpenters without permission from Richard Carpenter.... We’re actually doing a restored Superstar version that will premiere at Sundance [this January]. We’ve been working on it for years now. The print is gorgeous.

Wow, how did you resolve all the legal issues that have blocked it? We haven’t. None of the legal circumstances have changed. But Sundance is restoring [films that debuted there].

What is your interest in period pieces? All movies have a frame, but because of the naturalism of the medium, the frame may disappear. Period films offer a kind of frame where the frame is shown to you. It kind of asks the viewer to think about the frame and how it relates to them and their lives and how that informs their [perceptions].

As I was watching Wonderstruck, I was amazed at how this could ever have been a book because it was so visually, so inherently filmic. And then I found out the book was from Brian Selznick, the author of The Invention of Hugo Cabret [made into the film Hugo] and so was filled with...
The watch list

The fall movie season is heating up just as temperatures are cooling down, with the release this week of several amazing new films. Wonderstruck (see story, Page 22) plus two more you need to put on your watch list.

Suburbicon. The Coen Brothers have a storied history with violent, shocking but subversively funny social commentary, starting with Blood Simple and going through Miller’s Crossing, Barton Fink, Fargo and, without the humor, No Country for Old Men. But this film, which they co-wrote but didn’t direct (George Clooney did that), is one of their most subversive. Into a white-washed planned community in 1959 move the Meyerses — a black family whose presence on these Episcopalian streets causes an uproar among the “I’m-not-a-racist-but” middle class American Dreamers who do everything they can to drive these quiet, respectful people out. It first seems like this will be a riff on A Raisin in the Sun, and it sort of is, except the Coens then tell a parallel story of the Lodges (Matt Damon, Juli-anne Moore, Noah Jupe) who are the subject of a home invasion that goes all-but-ignored by the neighbors dead-set on blaming all the ills of the world on the Negro race.

That “doubling up” is the subtle theme of the film — and not just the plot. From Moore playing identical twins to the many “pairs” that pop visually to the obvious references to the classic film noir Double Indemnity, Suburbicon paints a darkly sinister portrait of how easily folks in Middle America can fool themselves into thinking they are always in the right, the victims of the Others. It conjures comparisons to Hitchcock as well as Lynch with the nerv-titter style that is so deftly a Coens trademark. In a Trumpian dystopia where white supremacy becomes normalized, it’s an unnervingly relevant dissection of how we got where we are.

The Killing of a Sacred Deer. Even more unnerving is this latest film from Yorgos Lanthimos, the brilliant Greek director of The Lobster and Dogtooth. Like the Coens, Lanthimos’ ethos is instantly recognizable (although it owes a lot to Kubrick): A flat, formal presentation that at first seems dully silly but which escalates into a kind of horror. In The Lobster, Colin Farrell played a lonely man in a future where, if you weren’t coupled, you were mystically transformed into an animal; Farrell’s possible fate is even darker here as a gifted cardiologist whose friendship with a young boy (Barry Keoghan) forms the fulcrum on which important choices must be made. I hesitate to say more; it’s fully 45 minutes into the film before you understand the direction it’s headed, and a surreal fantasy element is treated as ordinary. Suffice it to say that as a Greek, Lanthimos is familiar with the myth of Iphigenia and the nature of grand tragedy in a way modern storytellers can only imagine. The performances are flatly delivered, but geniusly so, with Farrell, Nicole Kidman and Keoghan all superb. This is heady, hilarious, shocking cinema. You can’t look away.

Wonderstruck and The Killing of a Sacred Deer now playing in theaters: ‘Suburbicon,’ ‘Sacred Deer’
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Paul von Wupperfeld and Andy Smith unite life, work and a passion for the arts

As active supporters of the lively arts, Paul von Wupperfeld and Andy Smith always enjoy a spicy plot and a little drama. (They’re gay, so that’s practically a given.) But even they couldn’t have predicted how this story would turn out.

In 2016, von Wupperfeld and Smith were named co-chairs of the Dallas Summer Musicals’ annual gala. Despite having a year to plan the event, they got crackin’ almost immediately. By January of this year, they’d nailed down the headliner they would leave the title role in the hit Broadway revival of Hello, Dolly! early next year, Peters was tapped to take over for her, starting Jan. 20. That meant Peters had to drop out of the DSM Gala gig, leaving von Wupperfeld and Smith scrambling for a high-profile replacement.

Bernadette felt she needed to prepare for the role of Dolly Levi sooner,” says von Wupperfield in an email exchange while he and Smith were on a 12-day cruise across the Atlantic. “We were disappointed, but who could blame her for taking on such a great Broadway part?”

Certainly not this couple, longtime arts volunteers who, in addition to being a couple since 1990 (and married since 2004), also work together at Texas Instruments, where they are active in the company’s LGBT Pride Network. (TI recently scored 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index.)

Goodbye, Bernadette, and hello to the new DSM Gala headliners: Tony-winning Broadway musical leading man Brian Stokes Mitchell and American Idol’s Katharine McPhee.

“If TI has taught us anything, it’s that the money we’re helping to raise will benefit the DSM’s big outreach program to students in Dallas, to expose them to theater, many for the first time, like I was,” says Smith. Remembering his trip to Camelot at 16, “I stood by the stage door after the performance and got Richard Burton’s autograph, which I have to this day. Seeing a Broadway production live instilled in me a love of theater and the stars. There are thousands of kids like me who will see live theater for the first time thanks to DSM. We are very fortunate to have it as a cornerstone arts group in our city.”

— Elaine Liner
‘The Full Monty’ (finally) delivers the goods

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It’s a little amazing to realize that the musical adaptation of The Full Monty has been around for 17 years. Every time I see a production of it, that fact surprises me a bit… at least, in Act 1. The original Broadway production opened the same season as The Producers, one of those monster hits that redefined musicals for a time (The Book of Mormon and Hamilton have done the same). Monty had a respectable run of about two years, but I’m always reminded why it got upstaged.

It’s a flawed show. The score by David Yazbek has the lightweight quality of smooth jazz playing in an elevator. The characters include a clutch of angry white men who say homophobic, racist and misogynistic things without being checked by other characters. (For the most part, they evolve by the end, though that feels forced.) The premise is also gauze-thin: A half-dozen schlubby, out-of-work steel workers in Buffalo, N.Y., decide to become one-night-only strippers to raise some quick cash, apparently by selling 1,000 tickets for $50 apiece in this economically depressed blue-collar town that apparently is filled with randy women holding disposable cash. The pacing is wonky. The songs are a mixed bag (a handful are catchy; the rest are infinitely forgettable). The Act 1 finale lacks panache.

Yes, every time I sit down at the start of The Full Monty, I am, frankly, a tad bored… yet by the end, I’m completely won over. Which must be part of the secret for why the show has lasted. Like the striptease at its climax, it flirts with you with good-natured but goofy sex appeal. It wasn’t meant for Broadway — it succeeds in a smaller, more intimate venue, maybe even better with unfamiliar actors. It brings you along.

The movie on which the musical is based was set in England, a place where the phrase “Full Monty” (referring, actually, to the penchant of British commander Field Marshal Montgomery to enjoy a hearty, everything-in-sight breakfast) actually might mean something. Terrence McNally’s script never tries to explain it, but it basically requires them to flash dick. In their hometown. In front of co-workers. While wrestling with body-dysmorphia issues. But the psychologizing is secondary.
Producer and playwright Matt Murphy has a runaway hit on his hands with *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man*. In addition to its long-running off-Broadway production in New York, the show has a touring company that takes it across the country to cities big and small. Now based in New York, Indiana-native Murphy is also behind a variety of other productions, including the off-Broadway boy-band parody *Altar Boyz* and the Tony Award-winning musical *Memphis*, to name just two. I spoke with Murphy about his career and the success of *Sex Tips*.

— Gregg Shapiro

Dallas Voice: *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man* is based on the best-selling book of the same name. What was it about the book that compelled you to adapt it for the stage? Matt Murphy: The tone of it is what I appreciated most. It was so inviting and encouraging. I tried to hold onto

that tone in adapting it into a romantic comedy. It really is *Will & Grace* onstage. The character of [Sex Tips co-author] Dan Anderson as it is written in the book is the same way that he is written in our play. He wants people to succeed. He wants people to try new things. Not because he’s challenging them but because they will enjoy it. I’m not just talking about enjoying it from a physical standpoint, but enjoying the notion of trying something different. That comes across in every way, shape and form. He’s funny, witty, supportive. You get that from reading the book. I hope you get that from seeing the play, as well. I think you do and I think that’s part of the reason it’s been successful. People come to our show and it’s not like we’re pushing this advice on people. We’re presenting a classic American comedy story. We’re entertaining them with theatrical tricks and props and fanfare, while also serving up a few bits of advice that they may or may not take home with them.

The show is on the bachelorette party circuit. How did that come about? I think anything with the word “sex” in the theater will become a destination for “girls’ night out” groups. That wasn’t by design, it just happened naturally. Shows such as *Menopause The Musical* and other fare geared towards or dealing with issues of interest to women will naturally bring out a female audience. We get a lot of bachelorette parties. More so, we get groups of women out for a night out on the town, whether it’s a bachelorette party, a birthday party or just a night out. I have been heartened by the fact that a majority of our audience is couples, women coming with their boyfriends or their husbands. I think a lot of people step into the theater not quite sure what they’re going to get. They walk out with a big smile on their face. They had a good time. It’s a very funny piece of theater. On the way home, they may be thinking, “Up, twist, over and down. I wonder what that’s like!” Who knows where it goes from there? The play has been a great night for gay men, too. Gay men and their female best friends. Or just groups of people that include couples, single people, gay or straight, young or old. I think because sex sells and it’s a universal topic, it really has appeal to a wide demographic.

I’m glad you mentioned gay men. What percentage of the audience at the show is gay men on any given night? When we first opened in New York it was quite significant. The gay audience in New York doesn’t last forever. Once the word is out, the majority of gay theatergoers will come find your show and see it. Then that audience is on to the next thing. But when we go out on tour, the percentage of the audience that is gay men is higher again. I think there are fewer options for gay men when you get outside of major markets. When our play comes to town, it’s a good option. We played Provincetown for a week. The audience there was majority gay men. I think the show is fun for gay men, too, because a gay man is the leading role in the play. He’s handled with respect, he’s charismatic and he’s not a caricature. He’s an encouraging, supportive man who feels like he has something of value to share with the audience. There’s a message in there for gay men, as well.

How does the show play in more conservative parts of the country? We just sold-out Fayetteville, Ark., at the Walton Arts Center, which is majorly funded by the family who owns and operates Wal-Mart. They loved it! The presenter there loved it. We track all the social media mentions about the show from wherever we are, and everybody in Fayetteville was talking about the show. It was couples in their 40s, couples in their 70s. Wherever it goes, it seems to do well.
The staid Romanticism of ‘Samson & Dalila’ makes for a stagy production of dis-tressing biblical proportions.

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When asked why he made so many biblical epics, filmmaker Cecil B DeMille joked, “Why let thousands of years of publicity go to waste?” That approach wasn’t always the case, though. When Camille Saint-Saëns wrote Samson & Dalila in the late 19th century, it was perceived as bordering on blasphemous — how dare he presume to put the Bible onstage! Yet to our modern ears, it seems pretty tame, and even misses many of the key points of the familiar story of a long-haired strongman and a Philistine woman who seduces him and, in an act of history barbery, shaves his mane and robs him of his strength. But many of Samson’s famed exploits as a meta-human are barely acknowledged — he doesn’t slay anyone with the jawbone of an ass, and the chopping off of his empowering tresses is performed offstage — a bit of counterintuitive dramaturgy that defies the imagination. Saint-Saëns could have learned a thing or two from DeMille.

Instead, the opera, at the Winspear in repertory with La Traviata, is fat with soaring strings and gooey, overwrought passages. Saint-Saëns was a romantic composer — Samson & Dalila is his only opera still regularly performed — and it spends more time with swooping arias about prayer and religious devotion than it does on actual character development or (gasp!) action. Although two of the areas are standards in the mezzo concert repertoire, and the third act “Bacchanale” features an exotic oboe and orchestral phrase that will sound familiar to anyone who’s ever seen a movie featuring a cobra or men wearing turbans, the score of Samson & Dalila is one of the less exciting musical works in the canon. There are many sweeping strings and florid passages, but no real dramatic impetus. (The libretto is no better, with overripe lines such as The arrow of death is less swift than your lover flying into your arms. Ugh.)

The production struggles to overcome its origins as an oratorio. Act 1, which contains some lovely choral work, is slow and stagy, as Samson (tenor Clifton Forbis) encourages his Hebrew brethren to revolt against their Philistine captors. Samson, though, is portrayed not as divinely super-strong, but more as a charismatic leader, which makes his eventual destruction of the temple seem to come from nowhere. Act 2 is a showcase for the vocal prowess of Dalila, performed here by mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina, but again, it is thin on dramatic momentum. While her notes are rounded and rich, there is a somewhat nasally quality to her voice, and she does not convey the sensual appeal of Dalila. (By contrast Michael Chioldi, in the role of the vicious Abimelech, gives a spirited and naturalistic performance, but is dead by the middle of Act 1.) Only the outrageous and sexy third act orgy, complete with modern dancers and half-naked men covered in gold, perks up the rather mild pacing by stage director Bruno Berger-Gorski. It’s not enough to rehabilitate it from its slugging beginnings.

Verdi’s La Traviata opens Oct. 27. Look for a review online at DallasVoice.com.
The resistance is in full swing, with late-night talk show hosts railing against Donald Trump’s total incompetence as president and oppressed communities uniting to rally for equality. But they’re not the only ones giving freedom, fairness and unconditional-love-for-all a voice as this current administration continues to roll back to medieval times — powerful anthems and hopeful paeans to keep the momentum going no matter how world-weary we may get are coming from all sides, many sides. So, next time you find yourself falling down the dark, divisive abyss of state-of-the-world despair, crank up one of these pick-me-ups — from Pink’s new rally cry “What About Us” to Miguel’s powerful Black Lives Matter anthem — and pull yourself up and out.

We need you.

Pink, “What About Us.” Just days after Heather Heyer was killed for standing up against hate-spewing white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., Pink’s call-to-action video for the first single from her upcoming album, Beautiful Trauma, was chillingly art imitating life, the rich choreography mirroring the emotional fervor resulting from minority persecution. No stranger to political smackdowns — Pink’s “Dear Mr. President” slammed George W. Bush — pop’s fearless rebellion doesn’t shy from cutting remarks about our new non-leading leader (You sold us down the river too far). Feeling duped, she scolds, Enough is enough, before taking the impassioned track’s melancholic and Trump-confronting lyrics to the frontlines of freedom: It’s the start of us waking up… are you ready? I’ll be ready. The answer is: Yes, Pink, we’re ready.

Tori Amos, Bang.” “Bang,” from Native Invader, Amos’ newest and most political album to date, confronts political hot topics head on — no fake news here. But somehow, while ripping into the White House’s white politics and acknowledging Trump’s failed ban on immigrants (that’s who we all are), the equal-rights advocate and outspoken feminist takes a break from the broken world to find stillness and beauty in a shooting star, an offering of much-needed healing. Her sage advice is to “out-create,” but finding that star can’t hurt.

Kesha, “Woman.” You don’t have to be a woman to enjoy the hell out of Kesha’s raw, lit ode to all the (single) ladies of the world. I’m a motherfucking woman, baby, that’s right, she defiantly roars, wielding themes of self-love, individuality and getting your own weed while sticking it to the patriarchy over a saucy brass track sure to put pig-headed men in their place. Take heed all you nasty women… and nasty men who love those women to pieces.

Tyler Glenn, “Devil” and “John, Give ‘Em Hell.” During “Devil,” a bit of hard-earned joy from Tyler Glenn’s Excommunication album, the Neon Trees frontman casts a side grin at the religious right when he says, I think the devil made me, before
acknowledging that abandoning the Mormon Church permitted him to fully accept himself as a gay man. Much like “John, Give ‘Em Hell,” written for John Dehlin, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints who was excommunicated from the church in 2015, it’s hopeful and nurturing.

**Lana Del Rey, “Change.”** Never the optimist, the brooding singer-songwriter felt her latest album, *Lust for Life*, was not complete without one last song… and it’s hopeful! Indeed, it is; that song is the brighter-days rumination “Change,” wherein Del Rey is all of us, except with a pretty piano melody that you’ll want to loop until a real leader can actually fulfill his promise of making America great.

**Beyoncé, “Freedom.”** Is there anything more Beyoncé than Beyoncé serving womanly willpower while refusing to bend to her oppressors? “Freedom,” an explosive *Lemonade* touchstone, is the thunder during the storm, marching on like a modern-day civil-rights anthem and featuring a fiery rap from Kendrick Lamar. Freedom fighters, get in formation.

**cupcakKe, “LGBT.”** You can count on Chicago-based rapper cupcakKe’s ally anthem “LGBT” to keep you feeling fierce. Her rainbow-flag-waving celebration of all things queer comes at you fast and hard with a bangin’ bassline and the perfect sentiment for anyone who dares mess with the spitfire’s underdogs: *Fuck out my way when you see me, I’m rollin’ with the LGBT.*

**Miley Cyrus, “Inspired.”** When you’re not coming at Trump’s America like a wrecking ball, take a deep breath and let Adult AF Miley inspire your queerness by sheer example. While seeking answers to questions that seem unanswerable and finding refuge in happy memories with her father, Cyrus also reminds us all that just merely being ourselves can turn the tide: *Pull the handle on the door that opens up to change, I know that sounds so strange, ‘cause you’ve always felt so small, but know you aren’t at all.*

**Miguel, “How Many.”** You know that prayer-hand emoji “do-gooders” post to their socials as if that’s the answer to hurricane relief and equality? R&B singer Miguel denounces said futile sentiments on “How Many,” a powerful protest song instilling sense and ownership into those blind to this country’s troubling race problem.

**Andra Day, “Rise Up.”** Andra Day has the right idea: *We’ll rise up in spite of the ache.* During the global women’s march in January and a Muslim-travel-ban march shortly thereafter and every Black Lives Matter march, we have; and with this soaring soul ballad offering mountain-moving fortitude, we will continue to rise and resist.

— Chris Azzopardi
Halloween goes digital with virtual decorating

Halloween is the gayest of holidays, in part because it’s all about drama and flamboyance, and who knows those traits better than the gays? What is a costume, after all, but a stylish bit of drag?

But at least as important as what you wear (or, in the cases of many twinks, what you take off) is how you decorate. Cauldrons of bubbling dry ice. Cobwebs strewn across doorways. Oversized plastic spiders wiggling overhead. Glowing jack-o-lanterns and fluorescently polyurethane skeletons rattling in the the corner. All good stuff.

But hey, it’s 2017. Practical effects are great. But we’re in the digital age, baby! So we were pretty psyched to discover virtual horror that can turn your home into a haunted mansion.

Indeed, Disney’s Haunted Mansion ride seems to be the inspiration for some of these effects, which we found from AtmosFX. Using a projector and some scrims that attach to windows, over doorways or hung between tree branches, the system permits you to download a variety of spooky astral projections from beyond the grave. We sampled several, including Unliving Portraits (ancestral paintings that morph into dessicated corpses), Ghostly Apparitions, Paranormal Passage and a few other terrors in terabytes. The set up can take a while — downloading the programs, setting up the projector, hanging the media — and there’s the question of designing your frights for maximum effect. That’s where working with your own home (and adding the practical effects like bloody stumps and dripping goo) can augment the effect. But time and attention to detail are what make decorating for Halloween so much fun. And your guests, trick-or-treaters and passersby will certainly enjoy being startled by the visuals.

Perhaps best of all, the system isn’t just for All Hallow’s Eve — programs are available for New Year’s, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, sporting events, even birthdays.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

to the goal of assembling the lineup of strippers: Ringleader Jerry (Michael Isaac, whose accent sounds more Chicago than Upstate New York), buttoned-down Harold (Tom Grugle), overweight Dave (Greg Hullett), senior citizen Horse (Selmore Haines), meek Malcolm (Brandon Wilhelm), doofus Ethan (Aaron Green). These are hardly Marvel superheroes, but their efforts to do something daring fuels the action.

One of the delights of this production is the chance to enjoy characters and characterizations anew. Mary Campbell’s clown-colored Jeanette — an ol’ showbiz broad with boobs that swing like bell clappers — shuffles around with stooped shoulders and garish makeup like a vaudevilleian lost in a modern musical. She’s a hoot. Aaron Green plays Ethan as a guileless and slightly brain-damaged gazelle, awkwardly attempting his Donald O’Connor “wall” trick with hilariously disastrous results. His wide-eyed pleasantness in the background buoys some of the slower moments.

I watch a lot of Nic Roeg movies and look on his editing and complex sense of time. I do love kind of getting into the real textures of the time a film is set in, yet each film is its own kind of idea and experiment and uses the period in a way that is useful. Far from Heaven was the most filmic in the Sirkian melodrama we were employing.

At times I felt that there was this element of magical realism in how all the elements eventually converge. I didn’t really see that. It’s not a magical realism — it’s rooted in real places and real historical moments. Certainly there are parallels between the two stories — a synchronicity — but actually there’s a logic to it.

Well, perhaps then it’s the aura of time-travel I felt. There is a sense of destiny and cosmic time — an almost metaphysical time. But it is about how we have survived time and encompassed how we perceive time and how knowledge is contained in little narrative boxes.
TOGETHER
The 36th Annual Black Tie Dinner

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Rev. Eric Folkenth
Northaven UMC

Ally for Equality Award Recipient
Terrence McNally
American Playwright & Screenwriter

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Contributing Speaker
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Emily Koch
Cast of Waitress, Broadway Musical

Entertainment by
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November 11, 2017
presented by
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PARK PLACE MOTORCARS

ANNE'S DESK
Thursday 11.02 — Sunday 11.05

Chefs for Farmers dominates the weekend

What started as a small one-day fundraiser a few years ago has ballooned into a massive benefit and foodie festival across four days. Chefs for Farmers is back starting Thursday with Bite Night featuring the entire cast of Top Chef Charleston alums (with Dallas Voice’s Arnold Wayne Jones serving as judge), a sold-out dinner Friday at the Adolphus, a Street Food Market at Victory Park Saturday evening, and the main event that started it all, an afternoon stroll through Oak Lawn Park with tons of food options. Come stuff yourself at some or all and meet some of the best celeb chefs in Texas and beyond.

DEETS: For a complete list of prices, times and details, visit ChefsForFarmers.com.

Tuesday 10.31

Jada Fox headlines official NTX Beer Week Halloween Party

We’re used to having a Happy Halloween, but now you can have a Hoppy one, too. That’s because Oct. 27 through Nov. 5 is North Texas Beer Week. Restaurants from all across the area will be participating, but the only place on All Hallow’s Eve with the title “Official” NTX Beer Week Halloween Party is Addison’s Flying Saucer. And they are doing it up with mistress of ceremonies and entertainer Jada Fox, drag horror-themed trivia, a costume contest and of course pints from the likes of Lakewood Brewing.

DEETS: Flying Saucer, 14999 Montfort Road, Addison. Starting at 7 p.m. NTXBeerWeek.com.

Friday 10.21 — Sunday 11.12

Verdi’s ‘La Traviata’ continues Dallas Opera season

Among the most celebrated of all opera, Verdi’s La Traviata tells the lovely tale of the doomed courtesan Violetta and her tragic relationship with the naïve Alfredo. This production stars soprano Georgia Jarman and Zach Borichevsky as the lovers, and is conducted by Carlo Montanaro with choreography by John de los Santos.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasOpera.org.

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ARTSWEEK
THEATER

Haunted. Local playwright and director Bruce R. Coleman wrote this mystery about a man plagued by his parents’ murder 30 years earlier and his journey to return to the scene of the crime. Presented by Our Productions Theatre Co. MCL Grand, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Through Sunday. 972-724-2147. OurProductionsTheatreCo.org.


The Full Monty. Uptown Players presents this story of working class men who start a strip show to raise money. Book by Terrence McNally, score by David Yazbek. Reviewed this week. Kalita

The Halloween Street Party takes place Saturday, and on Oc. 31, you can return to The Strip for costume contests at all the Caven clubs.

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Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Nov. 5. UptownPlayers.org.

A Lost Leonardo. With his artistic career in turmoil, the Renaissance master starts an association with Cesare Borgia in this comedy. Presented by Amphibian Stage Productions. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 5. AmphibianStage.com.


The Rocky Horror Show. Let’s do the Time Warp, again! Presented by the Art Centre Theatre, 5220 Village Creek Drive, Plano. Through Nov. 4. ArtCentreTheatre.org.

Stiff. Actress Sherry Jo Ward won two recent DFW Theater Critics Forum Awards for her solo show about her diagnoses with Stiff Person Syndrome. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

OPERA


FINE ART


HALLOWEEN


COMMUNITY

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 10.28

COMMUNITY

Halloween Street Party. The annual costume parade and outdoor party along Cedar Springs. Come to see and be seen. Cedar Springs Road between Oak Lawn and Douglas avenues. 7 p.m. Free.

MONDAY 10.30

COMMUNITY

Costume Contests. The Caven clubs will all hold a Halloween costume contest, with registration starting at each club at 9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 10.31 — HALLOWEEN

FILM

Halloween. Appropriately enough, the 1978 cheapy horror classic screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

FRI 10.27

COMMUNITY

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

THURSDAY 11.02

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody’s Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

this week’s solution

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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.
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- Access to Capital
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Can ‘Will & Grace’ save America?

Cassie Nova

Hello, world. How tha hell are ya?

Can we please talk about the reboot of Will & Grace? The older series was always funny and heartfelt, but something about these new episodes fills me with such joy. We all have friends that remind us of each character, but I think it is something deeper. The new show has come at a time when I think we needed something to bring us all together.

Since the election, I have started to feel like a second-class citizen again; maybe you’re the same. I might be a little dramatic — actually, I know I am being dramatic — but every day we see more and more stories of how our rights as gay people are being messed with. This regime has pushed society back about 50 years.

Maybe that’s why W&G feels so special to me right now. Sure, it is over-the-top and wonderfully ridiculous, but it feels fresh and so on-point with how I feel right now. My little gay self was so separated from the rest of the world, and this show feels like a tether that keeps me from feeling like I am floating away into oblivion.

Being around family, I finally feel like I have something to talk about. My mom and I had a great discussion about the show that went close to talking about politics, otherwise the one subject that is forbidden with my family. You close to talking about politics, otherwise the one subject that is forbidden with my family. You can only beat that dead horse so many times before you just wear yourself out emotionally. Anyhoo, I’m glad Will & Grace is back on. Maybe America will start liking the gays again. Dramatic I know… but I am a drag queen. And now a word from our sponsor… just kidding, let’s help some of my people.

Dear Cassie, I am lost and really need some advice. I met my husband in 2010, and we married in 2013. He has three wonderful kids from his previous marriage that we absolutely love and can’t imagine being separated from. I am actually a stay-at-home dad now and take care of the kids full time. Our relationship has had its ups and downs, but the main problem is sex. Everything else has been golden until recently, but we tried things to spice up our sex life that, Lawd have mercy, would make you blush. The point is that I am trying everything to keep him happy.

I found out three weeks ago that he cheated on me. While I was at home with the kids, one of whom was very sick with a fever, he had his dick in some guy he works with. I feel broken and scared. I don’t want to lose my family. He is my best friend, and I do not want to live without him. I feel like I can’t do it anymore, but I also feel I cannot leave. Financially, I couldn’t leave if I wanted to. I got him to agree to go see a marriage counselor with me. I just feel I am not what he wants anymore. I don’t know what to do. I am terrified to rebuild a life without him and the kids. I really do love and need to be with the kids. Even if I do leave, I feel I will always need him in my life. I don’t know what to do. Help! (P.S. This took me an hour to write and an entire bottle of wine. I hope it makes sense. I am terrified to even send this but fuck it.) Thank you, signed, No Name for Obvious Reasons.

Dear N.N.F.O.R., Dude, this sucks so much. I am sorry you are going through this. I honestly am not sure what advice to give you. Part of me wants to say leave that motherfucker and never look back. Part of me wants to say go fuck every one of his friends, his brothers and his dad. Replace his jock itch cream with Icy Hot. Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom-punch him in the chest and rip out his still-beating heart the way he ripped out yours. Kali Maaa!! But realistically, you have more than yourself to think about. Your poor kids. It sounds like they have been through some shit as well.

Does your love outweigh the hurt he has put on you? Did he at least apologize and say it will never happen again? Would you believe him if he did say that? I think that fighting for your relationship and your family is the right choice, and you are doing the right thing by seeing a counselor. I hope it helps. But it will only help if you can get past him cheating. A seed of resentment has been planted — will you allow it to grow and fester?

Does he want to save your relationship, or is he looking for an easy out? If you are not what he wants, then will this behavior happen again? I am so angry at this guy for you. I know so many people that would do anything for a family like yours, and for him to risk it all for a piece of office ass infuriates me.

I wish I was some all-seeing eye that could tell you the right thing to do but I am not. All I can do is tell you to fight for your family if it feels right. If you have doubts, then they are there for a reason, and it might be time for you to form an exit strategy. You have a hard road ahead, but be strong. He needs to make things better and fight for what he wants as well. The hard part is realizing that what he wants might be just a babysitter. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, If karma is a scale, what are some things that you have done, good or bad, that tip the scale one way or the other? Would your lifetime scale lean more good or evil? Thanks, signed, The Instigator!

Dearest Instigator, You have written me a few times with these random questions that ask me about my character. What are you getting at? Did I do something to you and you want me to admit it? Just tell me, and I will see if you were important enough to remember.

OK, so you want me to admit to some good and/or evil stuff I have done. Good: I try to help others whenever I can. I do benefits to help my community all the time. I rescue and help as many animals as I can. I smile and nod at people even when I am not listening. Oh wait—is that still good?

On the evil side, I once took a travel-size bottle of Selsun Blue shampoo and replaced the shampoo with Nair and blue food coloring and put it in the mailbox of my best friend’s ex-boyfriend. He had hurt my friend mentally and physically, so I targeted the one thing I knew that jerk loved—his hair. I once squirted Super Glue into the keyhole of a hot neighbor’s apartment door in hopes that he would come talk to me. It worked, but he turned out to be a douchbag (says the douchbag that just ruined a guy’s lock hoping to get laid). Now that I think about it, I need to do more good to balance some shit out.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.
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- **Alexandre’s**: Chris Chism and the band on Friday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie sings Broadway on Tuesday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Spencer West on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House**: Will & Grace on 14 screens on Thursday.
- **Club Changes**: The Divine Miss Divas present a Halloween Costume Contest at midnight on Friday.
- **Club Reflection**: Imperial Court cookout from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: Mutt Mosh from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. Ms. Texas Leather Dawn’s Legacy Leather show and auction from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Halloween/Day of the Dead celebration from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday. Jeffrey 4 Texas fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door**: Halloween Party and Costume Contest at 11 p.m. on Saturday. $150 for best costume, most outrageous and best couple or group.
- **JR.’s Bar & Grill**: Halloween Costume Contest pre-registration at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Bon Voyage Rita Fine at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Pekers**: Halloween Party and Costume Contest Saturday with cash prizes for best costume. Sign up by 10:30 p.m. on Saturday for a chance to win the $1,100 Totally Twisted Karaoke prize.
- **Randi’s Alternate Route 2 to 2**: Imperial Court/Texas Gay Rodeo Association host Burgers & Dogs and Costume Contest at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **S4**: Halloween Costume Contest finals at midnight on Tuesday.
- **Sue Ellen’s**: Kathy & Bella at 5:30 followed by Tyla Taylor on Sunday. Halloween Costume Contest pre-registration at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **TMC**: The Mining Company: Halloween Costume Contest pre-registration at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon**: Halloween Fantasy Pageant Costume Contest at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Halloween Drag Brunch at 1 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody’s Sports & Video Bar**: Jada Pinkett Fox hosts Dia de los Muertos Back Lot Party from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday. Cowboys at Washington at 3:25 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Dallas Fan Days at Irving Convention Center

Showing off the chest at Dallas Eagle

Father/daughter time on The Strip

All smiles at The Round-Up Saloon

Having a blast on The Strip

Sisters on The Strip
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Spooktacular

Definitely NOT jaywalking on The Strip

Showgirls at Havana’s

Guys’ night out at Pekers

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**Perfect Agent**

Perfect Home
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All Found in the dallasvoice.com
MarketPlace
Battle of the Sexes

Solution on Page 37

Across
1 Bear that may be a minor
5 Opposed to, to 8-Down
9 Carell, who played Bobby
Riggs in Battle of the Sexes
14 Like a Peter Lorre film
15 Sweeping story
16 Movie based on
The Price of Salt
17 Half of a pair
for grabbing
18 Stuffed shirt
19 Exams on sexual
technique?
20 Start of a Bobby Riggs
quote in Battle of the Sexes
23 Tries to lose
24 “Poppycock!”
25 Silent Bob’s partner
28 “So’s ___ old man!”
29 Clearest of head
30 Dark version of the
color purple
34 Innocent author Scott
35 Guys under Hoover, e.g.
37 More of the quote
39 Tickled pink
41 Pottery ovens
42 Right on a map
43 Placed one
inside another
45 Kerouac’s Big ___
48 Mouth-to-mouth pro
49 One of TV’s
Bosom Buddies
50 Fantasia ballerina
52 End of the quote
56 Evita portrayer on stage

59 Sophie B. Hawkins’
“The Cream Will ___”
60 Nurse Jackie protryer
Fallo
61 Whiskey bottle word
62 Lines from Lesbos
63 Perform a decorator’s
task
64 Emma, who played
Billie Jean King in
Battle of the Sexes
65 Boss Tweed caricaturist
66 Three of Frida’s family

Down
1 Like Oscar Madison of
Odd Couple
2 Bert, to Ernie
3 Mary Lambert, for one
4 Lingo
5 Org. with a common
purpose
6 West Side Story faction
7 “ ___ Rhythm”
8 Jim who played Gomer
9 To Kill a Mockingbird
tomboy
10 Pastry with fruit,
perhaps
11 Pitching stat
12 Tennessee foot player
13 Dottermans of
Antonia’s Line
14 Copies of The Advocate,
e.g.
15 Male private parts,
in slang
16 Be in a cast
17 “Let’s do it!”
18 ___ and Old Lace”
19 Classic Japanese theater
20 Return of the Jedi
creatures
21 Copies of The Advocate,
e.g.
22 Safe to put in
your mouth
23 Three of Frida’s family
24 CHO’S I’M THE ONE
___ I WANT
25 Male private parts,
in slang
26 Be in a cast
27 “Let’s do it!”
28 ___ and Old Lace”
29 Classic Japanese theater
30 Return of the Jedi
creatures
31 Muscle Mary’s concern
32 Muscle Mary’s concern
33 Muscle Mary’s concern
34 Cho’s
I’M THE ONE
___ I WANT
35 1982 biopic with
Ian Charleson
36 Trial run
37 Sense of humor
38 Drench Trump in a
Russian video
39 Drench Trump in a
Russian video
40 On the ___ (running
away)
41 You’ve Got Mail
director Nora
42 Keep going at the ___
(continuing)
43 Like helium and krypton
44 In an Elton John
musical
45 Slave in an Elton John
musical
46 Positive aspect
47 Shakespearean lover
and his namesakes
48 Penetrating weapon
49 Positive aspect
50 “Blame ___ The Bossa
Nova”
51 Like helium and krypton
52 “Blame ___ The Bossa
Nova”
53 Slave in an Elton John
musical
54 Objectifies, sexually
55 Flak jacket, for one
56 It may come at the end
of a love letter
57 What Michelangelo
put out
58 To boot

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Section coming
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Start Time: 12:30 PM
Parking available
Food will be served

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855.653.7430 | HIVevent.com

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