

# Gay Calgary

and Edmonton

magazine

June 2009

ISSUE 68

The Only Magazine Dedicated  
to Alberta's GLBT+ Community

**FREE**

## THE 'REAL' DEAL

Interview with Vanessa Williams

Canadian Rockies  
INTERNATIONAL RODEO



COMMUNITY DIRECTORY • MAP AND EVENTS • TOURISM INFO >> STARTING ON PAGE 17

In depth interviews:  
**Bif Naked**  
**Perry Twins**  
**Pinup Saints**

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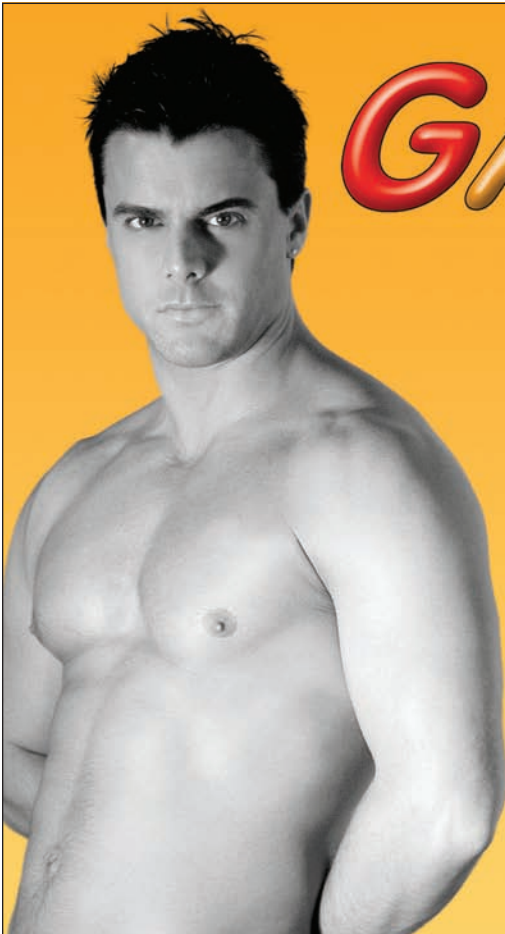
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**This Month's Cover**

Vanessa Williams. Photo taken by Gilles Toucas.

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## July 2009 Print Deadlines

### Ad Booking

Thursday, June 25th, 2009

### Ad Submission

Monday, June 29th, 2009

### In Circulation

Thursday, July 2nd, 2009

Please contact us immediately if you think you may have missed the booking or submission deadline.

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#### Magazine

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# Only Skin Deep

## Publisher's Column

By Rob Diaz-Marino, MSc.

There's a television program that Steve and I (and many, many others in the gay community) have been following religiously since it first started airing in September of 2006. Ugly Betty speaks to us on a gay front, breaching topics like trans acceptance, faux-mo's and reverse discrimination, gay youth and family, gay relationships and marriage, and the list goes on. But it also has special meaning to Steve and I, due to its perspective on the publishing industry. Granted we're not nearly such a large publication as Mode (thank goodness that internal politics are not an issue for us), but we can often liken the outrageous situations to ones that we ourselves have faced in the past, or even now.

A recurring theme that hits closest to home is that of the constant struggle to remain a good person in the presence of the many bad influences, pressures, and extenuating circumstances that seem to come with the territory.

Wilhelmina Slater, the character played by Vanessa Williams who appears on our cover this month, symbolizes everything that we try not to be as people or as a magazine: vain, shallow, selfish, fake, unsympathetic, bitter, greedy, manipulative - and yet she excels at her job because of being this way. In a word, she is a shark - the battle-hardened product of climbing the corporate ladder, and someone who has compromised so much in her ambition to get to where she is that it can never be undone, she has nothing else to fall back on. One wonders if she is the inevitable endpoint for anyone who dedicates themselves to succeeding in this business.

Then there is Betty who we admire and identify with most, the polar opposite of Wilhelmina. She demonstrates that it is possible to move up in the business world without compromising who she is or sacrificing the things that are important to her. She keeps moving forward on her own merits, even though competitors with less honour use her as a springboard to get ahead. She endures merciless taunting from her co-workers Marc and Amanda, and

yet she won't pass up an opportunity to help them, even if it goes unappreciated. She is an outsider because of her appearance, but manages to rally like-minded friends, and serves as a positive influence for those like Daniel Meade who occasionally lose their way. She makes mistakes, and falls victim to trickery, but somehow finds a way to make things right, and owns up when she cannot. She often gets thrust into the middle of bad situations, but she is not afraid to take a stand when she sees something happening that she doesn't agree with.

The real Vanessa Williams is a talented actress and musician, a friendly and interesting person, and an ally to the GLBT community that we are proud to have on our cover. But the TV villain Wilhelmina Slater reminds us of everything we strive not to become.

### GayCalgary Online

Last month we launched a new feature on our website: magazine articles that appear exclusively online. Not only does this offer us better flexibility for publishing time-sensitive topics (especially for months where we're already packed to the brim with articles), but also new possibilities for multimedia.

In the end, we published a total of 6 online articles last month:

Mother's Day Gifts from LUSH: Thank your Mom for her Labour...Literally!

- The Pinup Saints: Seducing Cowboys Saloon \*
- Cowboys and Lesbians: New Exhibit Hits Axis Gallery
- Carmen & Bolero: Don't Miss this Alberta Ballet Masterpiece!\*
- The Human Statues: Indy Rock Band Paving their Own Way
- Fairytales takes Two-Spirit Focus

The two articles marked with \*'s contain streaming video clips, and most of them contain bonus photos and images. If you haven't gotten the chance to read them yet online, then you can access them by browsing to last month's edition, or going directly to: [www.gaycalgary.com/i67](http://www.gaycalgary.com/i67). You can receive notifications as new articles go online this month by signing up for a GayCalgary.com membership, or by joining our Facebook group.

### New Online Features

Our print distribution is just the tip of the iceberg for our publication's overall readership. Our online reader base has been growing in leaps and bounds over the past year. We estimate that

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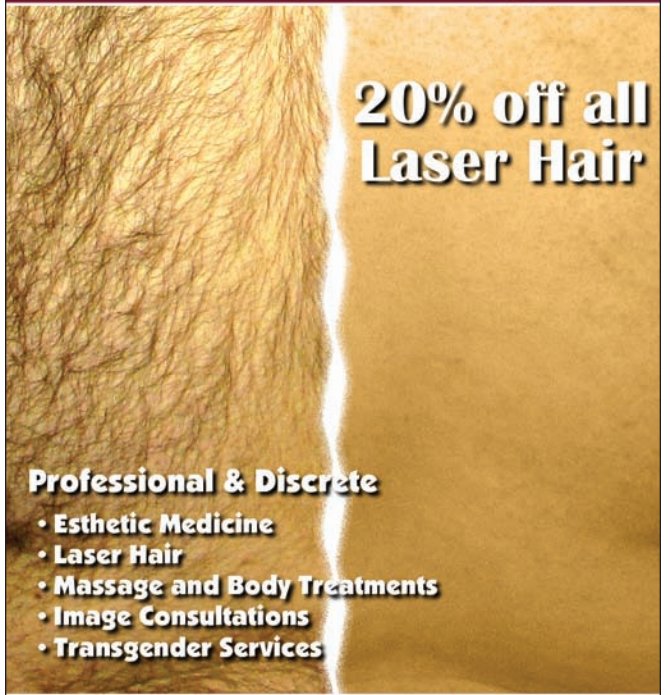
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# The 'Real' Deal

## Vanessa Williams on New LP, Being a Brat, and Miss California Up roar

By Chris Azzopardi

Some of Vanessa Williams' sweetest days were spent on top of the Billboard charts. Her trademark tune, "Save the Best for Last," was released 17 years ago, showing that the do-it-all diva was more than a beauty pageant queen and pin-up babe. But acting roles – as venomous magazine-head Wilhelmina Slater on that queer-adored juggernaut of a TV show *Ugly Betty*, and in *Hannah Montana: The Movie* as a conniving publicist – sidetracked her music career. Until now, at least.

With *The Real Thing*, released June 2 on Concord Records, Williams scooted back into the recording studio, creating an easy-listening conglomerate of jazz, R&B and Latin-swayed



songs. The chanteuse's eighth album, her first since 2005's "Everlasting Love," took two years to make – longer than she expected, but hey, it ain't easy being a bitch.

**GayCalgary:** How did it feel to return to your musical roots?

**Williams:** It felt great once I could find the time to actually do it. It seemed like getting into the studio was this labyrinth of obstacles to achieve. I signed with Concord over two years ago, when I started doing the first season of *Betty* – flying back and forth on the weekends and trying to figure out producers to work with, etcetera – (and recording it) just seemed to take an eternity. And then we finally said, "Let me go to the people that I know and work with the best." And we called (producer) Keith Thomas, who had done "Save the Best for Last," "The Sweetest Days" and "Colors of the Wind" – all my big hits – and he ended up doing a bunch of tracks. Once we figured out the song list and everything – as soon as we were ready to go – they moved us (*Ugly Betty* gang) to New York (laughs). So I started recording out in L.A., and then did some in Nashville while I was shooting *Hannah Montana*, and then finished up in Los Angeles. So once I finally got behind the mic, it was great, but getting behind the mic was the issue.

**GayCalgary:** On this album, you've strayed a bit from the R&B/pop sound of your early songs.

**Williams:** Well, Babyface's stuff is – "Just Friends" and "Breathless" are. The music business has changed so much that to target and try to plan it out is – I know it's admirable, but it's a gamble. And I'm 46 years old; I hope that the people that were fans come along for this ride. If I get any new fans that are younger and don't know me as an artist, that's great, but I'm just kind of letting it go out there and we'll see who it appeals to.

**GayCalgary:** Well, I'm still on the bandwagon. How long have you wanted to do a jazz/Latin project?

**Williams:** For a while. I wanted to do a Latin album after I did the movie *Dance With Me*. I said, "I would love to do a whole Latin album," and everyone thought I was crazy – and then Ricky Martin came out a year later, and I said, "I told you, this is a wave." That was two record companies ago. My first idea was to do an entire Brazilian album, and it's still a hard sell because record companies want to know that they can make money and that it's not going to be so specialized. But if it's good music, it's good music. And I don't want to say that this is a compromise, but this is a compilation of doing what the first intention was, adding a little bit of – like "Come on Strong" is a little Wilhelmina. If she were going to sing a song, that would be the song that she would sing.

**GayCalgary:** Speaking of Wilhelmina, how disappointing was it to hear that *Ugly Betty* was being moved to Fridays in the fall?

**Williams:** Believe me – we're, ah – we're nervous. We hope our fans will follow us. I hope that everyone moves with us to Fridays at 9.

**GayCalgary:** With *Ugly Betty*, motherhood's changed Wilhelmina a great deal during this past season. Where do you think she's headed next season?

**Williams:** Honestly, we don't know, because they won't tell us.

**GayCalgary:** Where would you like to see her?

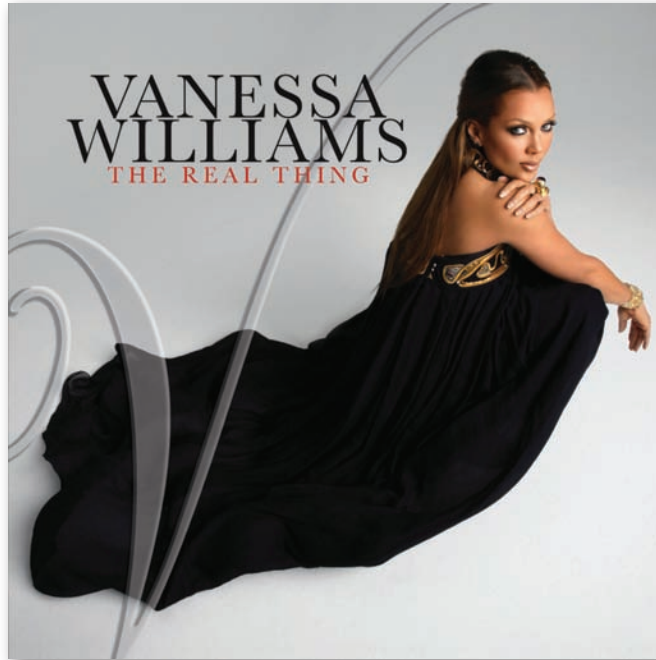
**Williams:** I would like to have her have some resolutions with Connor. I would like to have her possibly go out on her own, but I love the fact that they're willing to give Wilhelmina anything, and she has to be a master at it. So it's always a challenge. Victor Nelli, our executive producer, will say, "You play softball?" I'm like, "Mmm, in gym." There's always these fabulous scenarios. "Have you ever had acupuncture?" "No." "Well, you're gonna get 10 needles in your face and have reflexology while you're doing this scene." So I love the challenge of Wilhelmina, because it never grows old. I can't wait to see what situations they put her in next year.

**GayCalgary:** In film and television – with *Ugly Betty*, *A Diva's Christmas Carol* and your recent part as a Wilhelmina-like publicist in *Hannah Montana: The Movie* – you haven't always been a very pleasant person. How did you get so good at being a bitch?

**Williams:** It's like an alter ego. It's like being able to be a brat; everybody can be a brat and you make fun of brats and you can always say, "Oh, if I had bad behavior, this is what I would do in this situation." So basically it's like taking your polite hat off and being able to be a child. I played the witch in *Into the Woods*, Aurora in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* – there's something very alluring about being stealth and sneaking in and causing havoc in a very understated and silent way. I always love watching films where characters were completely devious or evil but did it in such a subtle way that their acting was brilliant. So even though our show can be very broad, I try to make Wilhelmina as – I don't want to say as believable as possible – but to make the audience understand why she behaves the way she does. I think that with season three you got a chance to see why Wilhelmina has so much armor, because every time she lets it down she gets hurt; she gets burned. She tries to be a better mother this time, and this time around she loses her baby again. I hope that I'm doing a good job at allowing Wilhelmina to be a full character.

**GayCalgary:** You've always been so supportive of the gay community, winning an "Ally for Equality" award from HRC. Why are you so devoted to LGBT issues?

**Williams:** It's always been a part of my life. I grew up dancing and in the theater. I had gay friends in high school. I was going to major in musical theater in college. Even my mother had gay friends growing up. Four of my friends that were at my first wedding died of AIDS in the '80s. I've been affected by gay issues my whole life. I have (gay) friends that are married. I have (gay) friends that are great parents. I have (gay) friends that are business partners, who are fabulous and in established relationships that have lasted longer than both of my marriages combined. I'm also lucky that I had parents who were really open and non-judgmental and inclusive, and I



guess there aren't that many in the grand scheme of things, but in New York – and in my business – it's very natural. So, I'm always surprised by people that are not tolerant, that are uneducated, and it saddens me, but honestly there's a lot of change going on. It's furious. And (with) the rally we just had in New York for gay marriage, we're on the brink. And the fact that there's so much dialogue happening now, and it's such a hot-but-ton issue – that means people are talking about it. And the more you talk about it, the more educated you can be. So I think time will tell, but everything has its time. And now is the time.

**GayCalgary:** June is Pride month. Even though you can't be part of it because of your busy promotional schedule and then the *Ugly Betty*

shoots, how will you celebrate it?

**Williams:** By being supportive. Give me the dates and I'll see if I'm in town (laughs).

**GayCalgary:** You were a beauty pageant queen in the '80s, so what's your take on the Miss California Carrie Prejean controversy?

**Williams:** You're maybe the 12th person that has asked me this morning (laughs). Well, ya know, my answer is: Who cares? Who really cares? She's not a legislative body. She's not in any elected position to make a change in policy and government, so who cares?

**GayCalgary:** How would you have answered her question regarding gay marriage?

**Williams:** Everyone has the right to happiness, and everyone should be created equal. End of story. ■

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# THE **BUD LIGHT** CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL RODEO SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2009 CRIR – Schedule of Events All events take place at the Strathmore Ag Society grounds unless otherwise noted.

## Thursday, June 25, 2009

9:00 PM Calgary Eagle's Wet Jockey Contest  
(424A 8th St. S.E.)

## Friday, June 26, 2009

6PM - 9PM Contestant & Grand Entry  
Registration (Grub Shack)

6PM - 2AM Friday Night Cabaret (Dance Hall)

7:30 PM Warm-up act – TBA

8:30 PM Headline Act, Gord Bamford

## Saturday, June 27, 2009

8AM - 10AM Pancake Breakfast (Grub Shack)

9:00 AM New Contestant Meeting (Grandstand)  
MANDATORY for First Time Contestants

9:00 AM Officials Meeting (Grandstand)

9:30 AM Roping Events

## 12:00 NOON GRAND ENTRY & RODEO EVENTS

6:30 PM Dinner - doors open at 5:30 tickets must be purchased in advance (Dance Hall)

9PM - 2AM **BUD LIGHT BARN BURNER DANCE**

## Sunday, June 28, 2009

8AM - 10AM Pancake Breakfast (Grub Shack)

9:30 AM Roping Events

## 12:00 NOON GRAND ENTRY & RODEO EVENTS

6:30 PM Doors open at the Dance Hall

8:00 PM Awards Ceremony & Happy Trails  
Dance featuring Steve Arsenault & Band (Dance Hall)

## Monday, June 29, 2009

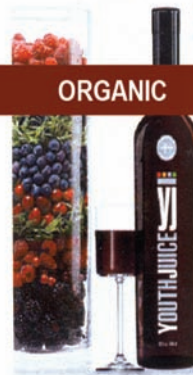
5:00 PM ARGRA's Official Survivor Party –  
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10:00 PM Calgary Eagle's Last Stand Party  
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# Bad Bad Boys

## The Perry Twins - Double your DJ Pleasure

By Jason Clevett

There are plenty of talented DJ's out there, but can you think of any that team up to do choreography during their sets, are openly gay... and twins? I think it's safe to say that Doug and Derek, the Perry Twins, are one of a kind.

Originally from Rhode Island, the LA based duo grew up with parents in a band, so their love for music blossomed as they grew.

"Our parents had a rock band and would be practicing in our basement every Thursday night. Seeing them perform really got us into it as kids. Other kids parents were telling them to turn the music down and our parents were always turning it up. They taught us about different instruments, performing, stage presence Watching MTV and seeing Janet Jackson and Madonna, we would try and copy their movements from watching their videos. We started in talent shows in school and that is what started it," Derek said. "We first started dancing in classes as kids. We always gravitated towards dancing, and started our own dance troop in college, choreographing and performing in nightclubs. At the same time we started DJing at our College radio station and then at nightclubs. We were doing things separately and really into the mixing and DJing."

The two then decided to team up, Derek explained.

"A couple of years ago we decided to DJ together. They had started putting DJs on stage more and we started moving around and it seemed like people would get into it and we would get more energy from the crowd. So we started doing choreographed dance routines and noticed it got an even more positive reaction. A lot of DJs just stand there with the headphones on looking down, but I like seeing the DJ clapping and getting into it. People think it is a novelty thing, but sometimes we won't be on stage so they can hear the music but not see the show and we get positive feedback from that. It is about the music, it is not just a gimmick, people enjoy the music too."

"It is really cool that we get to work together," adds brother Doug. "We have a lot of fun and work so well together. That encourages us to really get into the DJing and incorporate the choreography and other elements. It helps that there are two of us. There are a couple of other twin DJ acts but not any dancing and adding other things. It is fun to do something different and unique and helps us stand out. It is a tough job, there are only so many gigs to book and everyone wants to book them. It is cool that it helps us stand out and we are lucky to share the same interests. We are very similar and complement each other."

GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine chatted with the boys separately, but the amusing thing about interviewing twins is they tend to say the same things! We asked if the bond of being twins was made stronger by both being gay.

"I had assumed that everyone kind of knew when I was growing up and that whatever I was my brother was the same way. We never really talked about it. When he came out of the closet, he had just assumed I was too. We were lucky in that our parents were very supportive and loving and accepting, which not everybody gets to have," Derek recalled. "We were lucky to have each other, to go through it with someone else who was going through the same thing and we could talk about it. A lot of people go through it alone."

"We do have a special bond. He is my best friend as corny as that is. We spend so much time working together, it is good that we get along so well," added Doug. "It always helps to have someone going through the same thing. We are so fortunate to have each other and have experienced so many of the same things through our lives. With coming out, we are the lucky people that our friends and family didn't make it a major issue. I had always thought that people knew we were gay anyway, I was surprised when people said they didn't know."

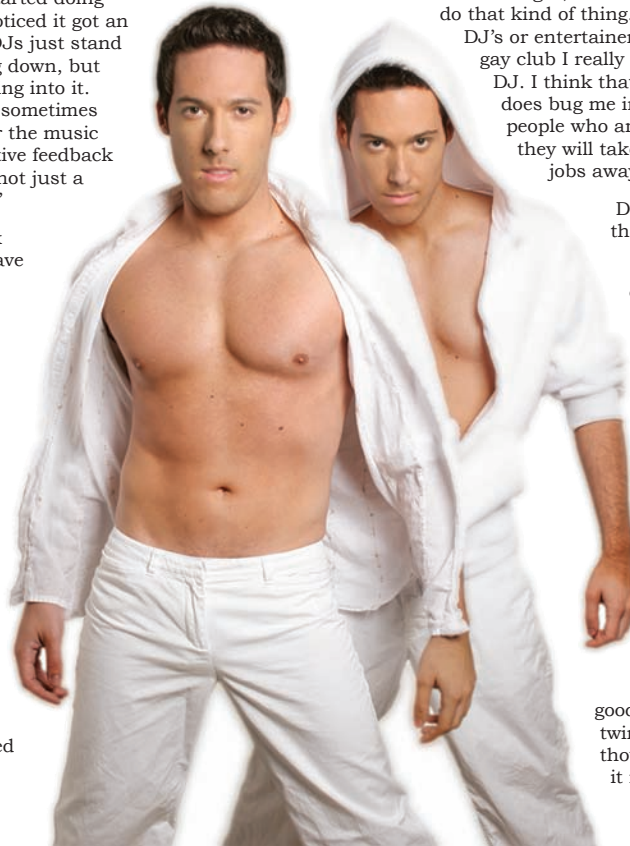
Being out and proud has its pros and cons, but both feel the good outweighs the bad.

"I am not sure if it has been a negative except that maybe there are...closed-minded straight people or closeted people who don't want to go to a gay club. Positive, we get to connect and play the music that we are really into, and the gay audiences are so much more fun and awesome. Straight audiences are too but we are lucky that being gay we can immerse ourselves in that culture and enjoy it to the fullest," Doug said. "We love doing pride festivals. The support is great. Sometimes you will hear things like 'gay people are so competitive' and don't want to support other gay people. Some people can be catty but for the most part everyone is so happy, especially at pride festivals. The energy, it is a big celebration and so much fun. We love doing that. If we were straight, most straight DJ's don't get the opportunity to do that kind of thing. It is good to have a variety of different DJ's or entertainers but when I go to a pride festival or gay club I really enjoy seeing an openly gay performer or DJ. I think that people appreciate it. ...One thing that does bug me in the entertainment world is when I see people who are closeted and aren't supportive, but they will take the money from gay audiences and jobs away from openly gay artists."

Derek agreed, adding that the support of the gay community is vital.

"We couldn't do this without the gay community. We appreciate it so much. It is a lot of things, that is where dance music comes from and gets well known, in the gay clubs and spreads out from there. People like Lady Gaga started doing things like the White Party and the New York club scene and it blew up from there. The LGBT community knows what is going on, especially with dance music and that type of thing. They always find that the gay crowds give so much energy and are so into it and dancing, having so much fun. So Pride festivals and gay clubs are places we like to perform."

I know what you are thinking. Here is a couple of talented, very good looking gay guys who happen to be twins. Well, you aren't alone in your dirty thoughts, although both twins said that it is rare that anyone ever actually says





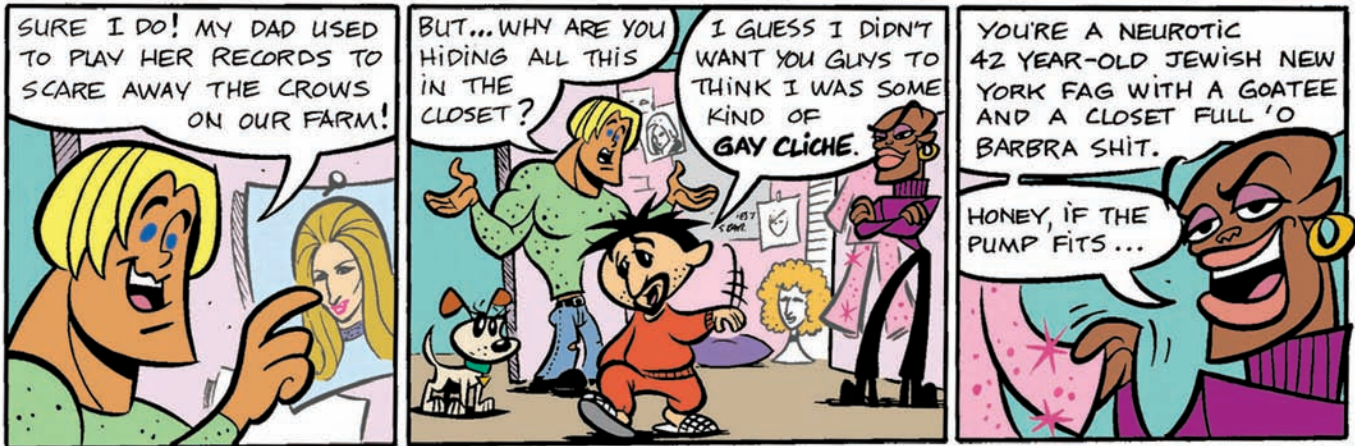
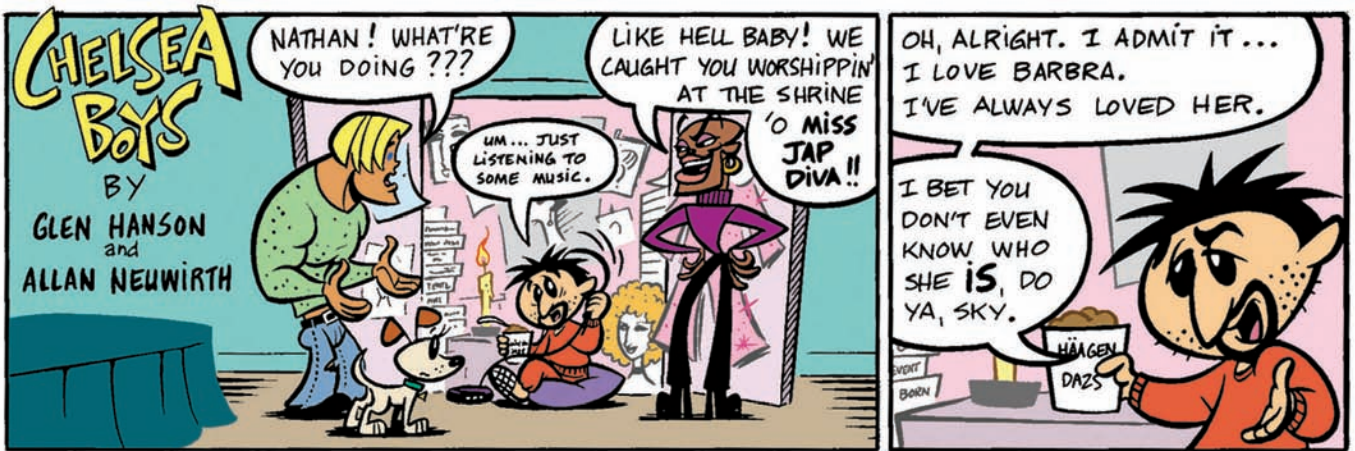
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# Out of Town

## Amsterdam, Netherlands



Amsterdam's historic Joordan neighborhood is one of the prettiest locales in the city.

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By Andrew Collins

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Few European locales have more to offer lesbian and gay travelers than the remarkably forward-thinking and tolerant city of Amsterdam. Even better, a combination of consistently reasonable airfares, direct flights from myriad North American cities and palatable prices for most goods and services makes this compact, scenic city of about 750,000 residents one of the great world capitals for GLBT visitors.

It's extremely easy to explore Amsterdam on foot, as the majority of the city's key attractions and most diverting neighborhoods lie in the city center, within relatively short walking distance of most hotels. You can also travel by public tram or grab a taxi - fares for the latter run about 9 to 12 Euros for most trips within the City Center.

A good strategy for taking in the city is to begin at the central Dam Square and work your way around the city center, passing through some of the other main squares, such as the Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein. Be sure to plan visits to the city's most esteemed repositories of art, the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum. Although the enormous main section of the latter has been closed for some time for renovations, a significant chunk of the collection - including some of the most important works - are on exhibit in the museum's Philips wing.

No visit to Amsterdam is complete without a tour of the poignant Anne Frank House, which is close to the Joordan district, a warren of narrow lanes lined with cozy cafes and engaging boutiques. Close by the Anne Frank House is the Homomonument, a memo-

rial consisting of three pink granite triangles remembering the lives of lesbians and gays persecuted throughout history, and especially during World War II. It overlooks Keizersgracht Canal. A few feet away, the Pink Point kiosk is a small, but well-stocked GLBT gift and bookshop and also an excellent place to grab free brochures on nightlife and obtain advice on what to see and do.

On the east side of city center the Rembrandt House offers one of the more fascinating museum experiences in Amsterdam. Nearby, a branch of Russia's famed Hermitage museum has just opened inside a late-17th-century building overlooking the Amstel River.

If you're a fan of shopping, be sure to walk along Kalverstraat to find most of the leading department stores and hit Leidsestraat and P.C. Hooftstraat to find dozens of slick boutiques and fashion shops showing the styles of some of Europe's leading designers. Other areas that have considerable sway among shoppers include the narrow lanes of the Joordan, bustling Utrechtsestraat and the blocks around Waterlooplein, near the Rembrandt House. For one-stop shopping, don't miss the trendy De Bijenkorf department store, which carries a whole slew of top labels.

Amsterdam's restaurant scene has improved markedly in recent years, with quite a few places serving healthier and lighter food than you'd have typically found in the Netherlands a decade ago. In the gay-popular Reguliersdwaarsstraat district, Het Tuynhuis is one of the most refined restaurants in the city - the elegant spot serves first-rate modern Mediterranean-French food, such as rack of lamb with sausages, lentils and fresh spring vegetables.

The gay-trendy Getto, which is along the lovably seedy and leather-oriented Warmoesstraat, is an inviting spot that's known as much among see-and-be-seen types for sipping cocktails as

for tasty food, from camp-themed burgers (try the Priscilla, with mozzarella, tomato, basil and pesto-mayo) to more elaborate daily specials featuring seafood and wild game.) The restaurant is close to Waterlooplein and the cluster of gay bars along the opposite shore of the Amstel River. There's an excellent list of Italian wines and here you can dine on superb rustic fare, including pastas and grills. If you're with a friend, order the ginormous antipasti platter.

Just around the corner from Homomonument, the restaurant Werck is another stellar option, set in a charming coach house and serving globally inspired haute cuisine, such as tuna sashimi with ginger-soy glaze, and smoked duck salad with mango-raspberry vinaigrette. You'll also find several excellent Indonesian, Thai, and other International restaurants throughout the city center. Indonesian food is a major specialty in the Netherlands, and one of the best - and most stylish - places to sample it is Selecta, a smartly furnished eatery just around the corner from the Reguliersdwaarsstraat gay-nightlife strip.

There are plenty of places throughout the city to grab a light lunch, among them Spanjer & van Twist, near the Homomonument and Downtown, a quite gay-popular spot along bustling Reguliersdwaarsstraat. On Utrechtsestraat, fans of java should duck into the Koffie Salon, a comfy place with hardwood floors and plenty of seating (plus free WiFi). You can relax here with friends while sipping some of the best coffee in the city, plus outstanding chocolates and snacks.

Amsterdam's trendiest gay bars and clubs are set along Reguliersdwaarsstraat. These include such hip hangouts bars as April, Soho and ARC (which is also a restaurant serving very good contemporary Continental food), and the pulsing disco, Exit. In the heart of Spuistraat's gay red-light district, Prik is a fashionable and festive spot that draws a mixed-gender bunch - in good weather you'll see the crowd spill out onto the street, especially during the early evening hours.

Fans of leather bars should stroll along Warmoesstraat, just north of Dam Square and check out the Argos and the super-cruisy late-night favorite, the Cockring. Among favorite locals hangouts, try Amstel Taverne and Le Montmartre. Both of these places draw a friendly all-ages, mixed-gender crowd and have a convivial, almost campy vibe. Another laid-back but somewhat more cruisy option is De Spijker, which is conveniently close to the city's famous gay bathhouse, Thermos.

Alas, the lesbian nightlife scene in Amsterdam leaves something to be desired, although women are quite welcome - if in the minority - at virtually all of the bars mentioned above, except for the leather haunts along Warmoesstraat. Two mixed gay/lesbian bars of note are the long-running Saarein, in the Jordaan and the art deco-style Vive-La-Vie, near the camp bars by the Amstel River.

Amsterdam's lodging landscape has plenty of variety, including simple and cheap gay-oriented guest houses, luxe grande dames, and a growing crop of trendy boutique hotels with avant-garde

design themes. Among gay-owned places, the Hotel Freeland is an economical, well-situated property (close to the Joordan and the main gay-nightlife areas) with 15 clean and comfortable rooms. Hosts Pascale and Rick speak a few languages between them and are quite knowledgeable about the city. The hotel welcomes a mix of gays, lesbians and open-minded heteros. Amsterdam is a popular destination for leather aficionados who should consider staying at the Black Tulip, a luxury inn catering to guys who seek rooms with both cushy amenities (VCRs and minibars) and kinky accoutrements (whipping benches, bondage slings).

One of the more cosmopolitan hostels in the city, the Dylan Amsterdam occupies a stunning 17th-century building on the prestigious Keizergracht, one of the most picturesque of the city's 165 canals. The 41 rooms and suites, however, feel distinctly modern, with bold color schemes and sleek furnishings. The hotel's Dylan Restaurant serves top-notch East-meets-West cuisine. If you're seeking a sumptuous old-world experience, check into the vaunted Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky, a stately Belle Epoque property overlooking the central Dam Square.

A 10-minute tram ride outside the city center, the hip Lloyd Hotel opened in 2005 catering to an artsy crowd and offering quirky, stylish rooms for every budget, from simple shared-bath units for 90 euros to lavish loft suites with hot tubs for upwards of 450 euros. This former immigrant-processing center (circa 1920) is in the supercool Oostelijk Havengebied (Eastern Harbor) neighborhood, which is fast becoming famous for its striking contemporary architecture and swish design shops, such as Pol's Potten.

For sheer luxury, it's hard to beat the Hotel Okura, run by an upscale Japanese chain that's known for outstanding service. The hotel, which occupies one of the tallest buildings in the city, recently completed a quite grand refurbishment of its rooms and bathrooms - the tubs and showers now have spectacular views through tall windows (ask for a room on a high floor facing the city center). The hotel, which is 15-minute walk from the Reguliersdwaarsstraat bar area, is famed for its dining - it's home to the only Michelin two-star restaurant in the country, Ciel Bleu, as well as the renowned traditional Japanese restaurant, Yamazato, which has a single Michelin star. ■



<http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1276>  
View additional pics/videos. • Share with a friend. • Post your comments.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA.

### The Little Black Book

Amstel Taverne (20-623-4254, [www.amsteltaverne.nl](http://www.amsteltaverne.nl)). April (20-625-9572, [www.cafeapril.eu](http://www.cafeapril.eu)). ARC (20-689-7070, [www.bararc.com](http://www.bararc.com)). Argos (20-622-6595, [www.argosbar.com](http://www.argosbar.com)). Black Tulip (20-427-0933, [www.blacktulip.nl](http://www.blacktulip.nl)). Cockring (20-623-9604, [www.clubcockring.com](http://www.clubcockring.com)). Downtown ([www.coffeeshopdowntown.nl](http://www.coffeeshopdowntown.nl), 20-622-9958). Dylan Amsterdam (20-530-2010, [www.dylanamsterdam.com](http://www.dylanamsterdam.com)). Exit (20-625-8788, [www.clubexit.eu](http://www.clubexit.eu)). Frenzi (20-423-5112, [www.frenzi.nl](http://www.frenzi.nl)). Getto (20-421-5151, [www.getto.nl](http://www.getto.nl)). Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky (20-554-9111, [www.nh-hotels.com](http://www.nh-hotels.com)). Het Tuynhuis (20-627-6603, [www.tuynhuys.nl](http://www.tuynhuys.nl)). Hotel Freeland (20-622-7511, [www.hotelfreeland.com](http://www.hotelfreeland.com)). Hotel Okura (20-678-7111, [www.okura.nl](http://www.okura.nl)). Koffee Salon (20-330-4314). Lloyd Hotel (20-561-3636, [www.lloydhotel.com](http://www.lloydhotel.com)). Le Montmartre (20-620-7622, [www.cafemontmartre.nl](http://www.cafemontmartre.nl)). Netherlands Board of Tourism & Conventions ([www.holland.com/us](http://www.holland.com/us)). Prik (20-427-9185, [www.prikamsterdam.nl](http://www.prikamsterdam.nl)). Saarein (20-623-4901, [www.saarein.nl](http://www.saarein.nl)). Selecta (20-624-8894, [www.restaurantselecta.nl](http://www.restaurantselecta.nl)). Soho (20-330-4400, [www.pubsoho.eu](http://www.pubsoho.eu)). Spanjer & van Twist (20-639-0109). De Spijker (20-620-5919, [www.spijkerbar.nl](http://www.spijkerbar.nl)). Vive-La-Vie (20-624-0114, [www.vivelavie.net](http://www.vivelavie.net)). Werck (20-627-4079, [www.werck.nl](http://www.werck.nl)).

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## CALGARY

### Accommodations

- Westways Guest House ..... ☆  
 216 - 25th Avenue SW ☎ (403) 229-1758  
 1-866-846-7038 ✉ westways@shaw.ca  
 www.gaywestways.com

### Bars and Clubs

- Backlot** ..... ♿ ☆  
 209 - 10th Ave SW ☎ (403) 265-5211  
 Open 7 days a week, 4pm-close
- Calgary Eagle Inc.** ..... ♿ ☆  
 424a - 8th Ave SE ☎ (403) 263-5847  
 http://www.calgaryeagle.com  
 Open Wed-Sun, 5pm-close  
 Leather/Denim/Fetish bar.
- Marquee Room** ..... ☆  
 612 - 8th Avenue SW  
 http://www.marqueeroom.com  
 Alternative night every Wednesday.
- MPs (Money Pennies)** ..... ♿ ☆  
 1742 - 10th Ave SW ☎ (403) 263-7411  
 http://www.money-pennies.com  
 Closed Mondays.  
 Bar and restaurant.

- Texas Lounge** ..... ☆  
 308 - 17 Ave SW ☎ (403) 229-0911  
 http://www.goliaths.ca  
 Open 7 days a week, 11am-close

- Twisted Element**  
 1006 - 11th Ave SW ☎ (403) 802-0230  
 http://www.twistedelement.ca  
 Dance Club and Lounge.

### Bathhouses/Saunas

- Goliath's** ..... ☆  
 308 - 17 Ave SW ☎ (403) 229-0911  
 http://www.goliaths.ca  
 Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

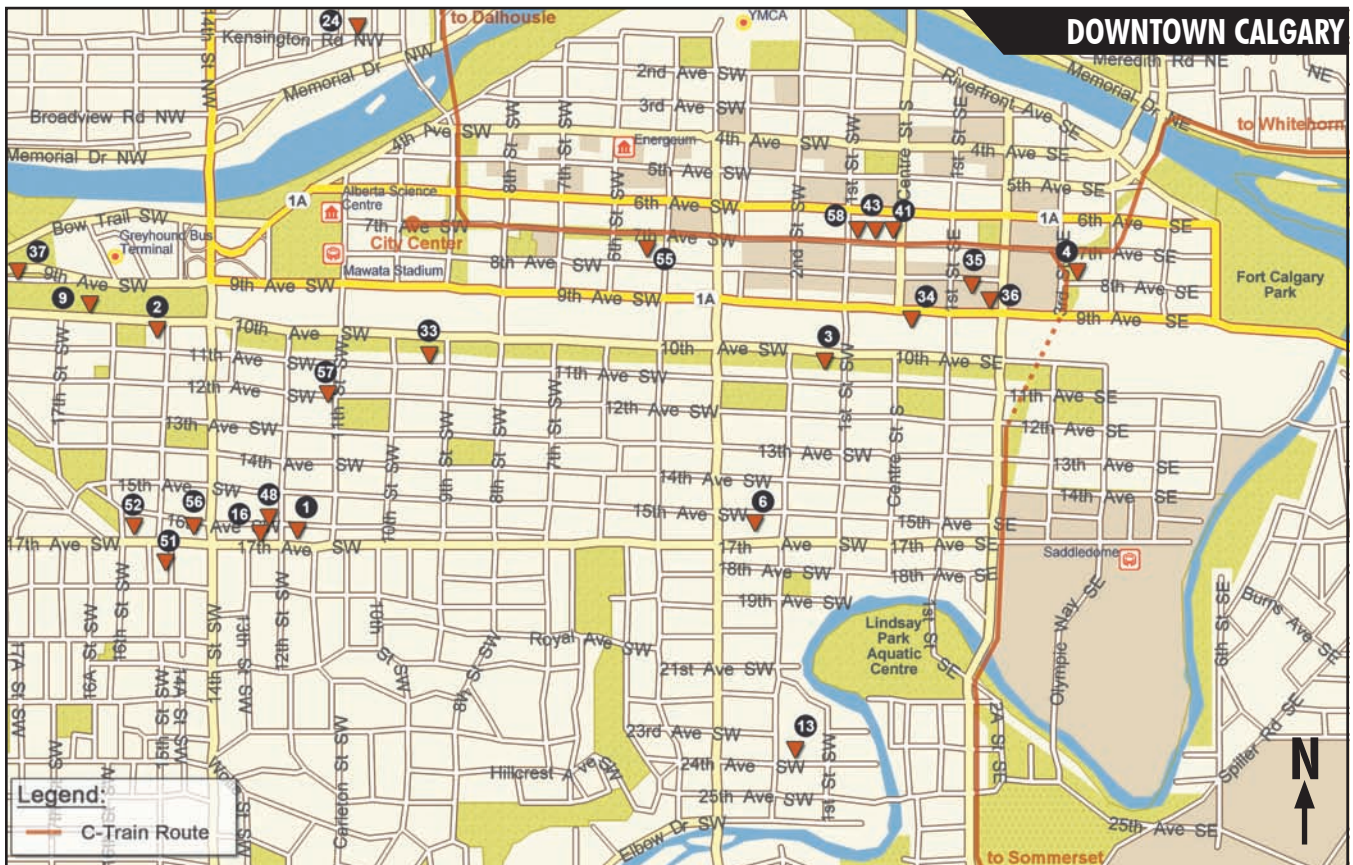
### Community Groups

- Aids Calgary** ..... ♿ ☆  
 110, 1603 10th Avenue SW  
 (403) 508-2500  
 info@aidscalgary.org  
 http://www.aidscalgary.org
- Alberta Society for Kink**  
 (403) 398-9968  
 albertasocietyforkink@hotmail.com  
 ca.groups.yahoo.com/  
 group.albertasocietyforkink  
 Meet and Greets: Mondays, 7pm-9:30pm
- Apollo Calgary Friends in Sports**  
 http://www.apollocalgary.com  
 Apollo Friends In Sports is a volunteer-operated, non-profit organization serving primarily members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered communities but open to members of all

communities. We currently have more than 400 members and are growing fast! The primary focus of Apollo is to provide our membership with well organized and fun sporting events and other activities to allow them to participate and interact in a positive social framework.

- Badminton (Absolutely Smashing)**  
 St. Martha School (6020 4th Avenue NE)  
 Wednesdays, 7pm-9pm  
 (Season has ended)  
 Fees Per session: \$4 for Apollo member, \$5 for non-members. Season's pass \$75.
- Bowling (Rainbow Riders League)**  
 Let's 10 Pin Bowlerama, 2916 - 5 Ave NE  
 (Season has ended)
- Curling**  
 North Hill Curling Club (1201 - 2 Street NW)  
 Saturdays: 2:20pm and 4:30pm  
 (Season has ended)
- Golf**  
 golf@apollocalgary.com  
 See website for details.
- Lawn Bowling**  
 Inglewood Lawn Bowling Club  
 1235 - 8th Avenue SE  
 Tuesdays, 6-9pm  
 lawnbowling@apollocalgary.com  
 See website for details.
- Outdoor Pursuits**  
 See website for details.
- Running (Calgary Frontrunners)**  
 Coffee Junkies, 7th Street and 1st Ave SW

- Tim (403) 660-6125  
 calgaryfrontrunners@shaw.ca  
 Saturdays at 9am  
 Distance varies. 8km-15km. Runners from 6 minute/mile to 9+ minute miles. During the summer we attempt to have evening runs during the week.
- Slow Pitch**  
 See website for details.
- Tennis**  
 See website for details.
- Volleyball (Intermediate/Competitive)**  
 YWCA, 320 - 5th Avenue SE  
 www.apollocalgary.com/apollo/volleyball  
 (Season has ended)  
 This is for seasoned players. You can sign up for the season or drop-in.
- Volleyball (Recreational)**  
 Langevin School, 107 - 6A Street NE  
 www.apollocalgary.com/apollo/volleyball  
 (Season has ended)  
 All are welcome. This is for all skill levels, including recreational players and beginners. You can sign up for the season or drop-in.
- Yoga**  
 Season has ended.
- Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association**  
 (403) 541-8140 www.argra.org
- Monthly Dances** ..... ♿  
 Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Association  
 1320 5th Avenue NW  
 Sept 27, Oct 18, Nov 15th, Dec 6th



Doors open 8pm.  
\$6 ARGRA Members, \$10 non-members.

• **Canadian Rockies International Rodeo**

📍 Strathmore, AB  
🕒 June 26th-28th, 2009

• **Artists for the Quality of Life**

☎ (403) 890-1261 🌐 www.afqol.com

• **Two Queens in a Tub**

📍 The Texas Lounge (308B - 17th Avenue SW)  
🕒 Friday, June 19th  
Hosted by Mz Toni & Dyna Myte

• **Twisted Divas 3**

📍 Twisted Element (1006 11th Avenue SW)  
🕒 Tuesday, June 30th

• **Cabin Fever**

📍 Calgary Eagle, 424a 8th Ave SW  
🕒 3RD THURSDAY every month  
Women's dance and social night.

• **Calgary Gay Fathers**

✉ calgaryfathers@hotmail.com  
🌐 http://www.geocities.com/calgaryfathers  
Peer support group for gay, bisexual and questioning fathers. Meeting twice a month.

• **Calgary Men's Chorus**

🌐 http://www.calgarymenschorus.org

• **Rehearsals**

📍 Old Y Centre, 223 - 12 Avenue SW  
🕒 Tuesday nights, Sept-Jun, 7pm-9:30pm

• **Eclipse Concert**

📍 Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary  
🕒 Sat June 20th, 8:00pm  
Tickets \$20. To purchase, please visit website.

• **Calgary Sexual Health Centre** ----- ♿

📍 304, 301 14th Street NW  
☎ (403) 283-5580  
🌐 http://www.calgarysexualhealth.ca  
Calgary Sexual Health Centre is a pro-choice organization that believes all people have the right and ability to make their own choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health. Calgary Sexual Health Centre started as a volunteer based, grassroots organization and has been providing comprehensive sexuality education and counselling programs to the Calgary community since 1972.

• **Calgary Outlink**----- ♿

📍 #4, 1230A 17th Avenue SW  
☎ (403) 234-8973  
🌐 http://www.calgaryoutlink.com  
Formerly know as the Gay And Lesbian Community Services Association (GLCSA).

• **Peer Support and Crisis Line**

Front-line help service for GLBT individuals and their family and friends, or anyone questioning their sexuality.

• **Library**

A great selection of resource books, fiction, non-fiction, videos and everything in between, all with a queer perspective.

• **Drop-In Center**

A safe and supportive environment for one-to-one peer counseling for many issues surrounding family, coming out, homosexuality, loneliness and other issues.

• **Between Men and Between Men Online**

🕒 Tuesdays 7pm-9pm  
Peer support, sexual health education for gay or bisexual men, as well as those who may be uncertain or questioning their sexuality. Discussions range from personal relationship or life issues, to sexual health and well-being.

• **Calgary Networking Club**

📍 Ming, 520 - 17th Ave SW  
🕒 First Tuesday of every month, 5pm-7pm  
The networking meetings are open to all individuals who would like to promote their businesses or who would like to meet new people - no business affiliation is necessary.

• **Heading Out**

🕒 2nd and 4th Friday of every month, 7pm-9pm  
Peer group for men who are looking for an alternative social activity to the bar. Activities vary and are fun and entertaining.

• **Illusions Calgary**

Social group for Calgary and area transgender community members (cross dressers, transvestites, drag kings and queens). Illusions provides a safe, discrete and welcoming atmosphere, in which transgendered people can meet others of like mind. Illusions offers discretion, acceptance, compassion and a safe place to express your gender. Cross-dressing is the purpose of the group, but is not mandatory.

• **Inside Out**

🕒 Every Monday, 7pm-9pm  
Peer-facilitated youth group for GLBTQ ages 15-25. The group aims to let youth know they are not alone, and to connect them with their peers. It is a funky and safe environment with a variety of resources and activities.

• **New Directions**

🕒 Every 3rd Friday of the month, 7pm-9pm  
Drop in peer-support group to provide support and resources for individuals who identify as transsexual or inter-sexed. If you are transsexual, or know of someone who is, please contact our office for information and assistance. You are not alone! There is support!

• **SHEQ Soulful Healing Ego Quest**

☎ Trudy or Krista, (403) 585-7437  
🕒 Runs for a ten week period on Thursdays, 7pm

A workshop for women that want to be themselves in a supportive, safe environment. It is a chance to grow and share their experiences related to women's sexuality. To participate, please call the exclusive SHEQ line or leave your name and a contact time/number with Calgary Outlink.

• **Womynspace**

🕒 Every first and third Friday, 7pm-9pm  
Peer social/support group for women providing an evening of fun, bonding, discussion and activities.

• **Calgary Queer Book Club**

📍 Weeds Cafe (1903 20 Ave NW)  
First meeting. Look us up on Facebook.

• **Deer Park United Church/Wholeness Centre**

📍 77 Deerpoint Road SE ☎ (403) 278-8263  
🌐 http://www.dpuc.ca  
🕒 Worship Time - 10am Sundays

• **Different Strokes**

🌐 http://www.differentstrokescalgary.org

• **Swim Practice**

📍 SAIT Pool, 1301 - 16th Ave NW  
🕒 Sundays and Thursdays, 6-7pm  
Different Strokes Calgary accommodates both recreational and competitive swimmers. Coaching is offered to assist with technique and fitness development. After swim practice is a nice cool down in the hot tub where announcements will be made. Usually team members will go for dinner after practice and everyone is welcome.

• **Don't Buy In Project**

🌐 http://www.dontbuyin.ca  
This Calgary Police Service Initiative aims to encourage youth to working towards an inclusive environment in which diversity is embraced in their schools and community.

• **FairyTales Presentation Society**

📍 #4 - 1230A 17th Avenue SW  
☎ (403) 244-1956  
✉ reelpublicity@yahoo.ca  
🌐 http://www.fairytalesfilmfest.com  
Alberta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

• **DVD Resource Library**

Over a hundred titles to choose from. Annual membership is \$10.

• **Monthly Screenings**

📍 The Plaza Theatre, Kensington  
🕒 See website for details.

• **Gay Singles in Calgary**

🌐 http://www.gaysinglesincalgary.org

• **Girl Friends**

🌐 members.shaw.ca/girlfriends

• **Girlsgroove**

🌐 http://www.girlsgroove.ca

• **HIV Peer Support Group**

☎ (403) 230-5832  
✉ hivpeergroup@yahoo.ca

• **ISCCA Social Association**

🌐 http://www.iscca.ca  
Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch. All monies raised go to Charity.

• **Shooters at Texas Lounge**

🕒 June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 8pm-11:30pm

• **BBQ at the Backlot**

🕒 June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 8pm-11:30pm

• **Shooters at the Calgary Eagle**

🕒 June 13th, 10-2pm

• **Drag Show at the Calgary Eagle**

🕒 Jun 14th, 10-2pm

• **Annual General Meeting**

📍 Calgary Eagle  
🕒 June 21st, 1pm

• **Knox United Church**

📍 506 - 4th Street SW ☎ (403) 269-8382  
🌐 http://www.knoxunited.ab.ca

Knox United Church is an all-inclusive church located in downtown Calgary. A variety of facility rentals are also available for meetings, events and concerts.

• **Worship Services**

🕒 Wednesdays - Communion Service 12:10pm.  
Sundays - 11am. September to June.  
Sundays - 10:30am in July and August.

• **Miscellaneous Youth Network**

🌐 http://www.miscyouth.com

• **Fake Mustache**----- ♿

📍 The Soda, 211 - 12th Ave SW  
🕒 1st Thursday, 7pm-9:45pm  
Calgary's ONLY Drag King Show. \$5 cover. \$2 cover under 18. Advance tickets available at Barbies Shop.

• **Mystique**

✉ mystiquesocialclub@yahoo.com  
Mystique is primarily a Lesbian group for women 30 and up but all are welcome.

• **Coffee Night**

📍 Second Cup (2312 - 4th Street SW)  
🕒 June 6th, 7:30pm-10ish.

• **NETWORKS**

☎ (403) 293-3356  
✉ sanpeifei@telus.net  
A social, cultural, and service organization for the mature minded and "Plus 40" gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals seeking to meet with others at age-appropriate activities within a positive, safe, non-threatening and nurturing environment.

• **Sunday Brunch**

📍 World Bier Haus (1410 - 17 Ave SW)  
🕒 Sun June 7th, 10am-1pm

• **Parents for Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**

☎ Sean: (403) 695-5791  
🌐 http://www.pflagcanada.ca  
PFLAG Canada is a registered charitable organization that provides support, education and resources to parents, families and individuals who have questions or concerns about sexual orientation or gender identity.

• **Positive Space Committee**

📍 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW  
☎ (403) 440-6383  
✉ stavcer@mtroyal.ca  
🌐 http://www.mtroyal.ca/positivespace  
The Positive Space Committee at Mount Royal College works to raise awareness and challenge the patterns of silence that continue to marginalize

## Looking for Something?

Browse over 450 listings in our Online GLBT Business Directory, and our complete Online GLBT Community Events Calendar.

[www.gaycalgary.com](http://www.gaycalgary.com)

lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-generated, two-spirited and queer (LGBTQ) individuals.

● **Pride Calgary Planning Committee**  
☎ (403) 262-3410    🌐 www.pridecalgary.ca

● **Sock Hop Homo Pop**  
📍 Hillhurst/Sunside Community Centre  
🕒 Friday, June 12th, 8pm-1am

● **Pride 2009 - Dance**  
🕒 Sat September 5th

● **Pride 2009 - Parade and Street Gala**  
🕒 Sunday September 6th

● **Pride Rainbow Project**  
✉ prp@planet-save.com  
🌐 http://www.priderainbowproject.com  
Youth run project designed to show support for same-sex marriage in Canada and elsewhere. A fabric rainbow banner approximately 5 feet wide - goal is to make it 3.2km (2 miles) long, in order to break the world record.

● **Primetimers Calgary**  
✉ primetimerscalgary@gmail.com  
🌐 http://www.primetimerscalgary.com  
Prime Timers Calgary is designed to foster social interaction for its members through a variety of social, educational and recreational activities. It is open to all gay and bisexual men of any age and respects whatever degree of anonymity that each member desires.

● **Monday Walkers**  
🕒 Every Monday

● **Lawn Bowling**  
🕒 Every Tuesday

● **Free Pool at the Calgary Eagle**  
🕒 Every Wednesday

● **Saturday Coffee**  
📍 Midtown Co-op, 1130 - 11th Ave SW  
🕒 Every Saturday, 10am

● **Monthly Gathering at MoneyPennies**  
🕒 Please check the website.

● **Picnic in the Park**  
🕒 June 18th

● **Queers on Campus** ----- ♿ ☆  
📍 279R Student Union Club Spaces, U of C  
☎ (403) 220-6394  
🌐 http://www.ucalgary.ca/~glass  
Formerly GLASS - Gay/Lesbian Association of Students and Staff.

● **Coffee Night**  
📍 2nd Cup, Kensington.  
🕒 Every Tuesday, 7pm.

● **Rainbow Community Church**  
📍 Hillhurst United, 1227 Kensington Close NW  
✉ roneberly@shaw.ca  
🌐 http://www.rainbowcommunitychurch.ca  
🕒 Services: every Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm  
The Rainbow Community Church is an all-inclusive church; everyone is welcome.

● **Rocky Mountain Bears**  
✉ bearcoltr@shaw.ca  
🌐 http://www.rockymountainbears.com

● **Bear Coffee Night**  
📍 Good Earth Cafe (1502 - 11 Street SW)

🕒 Monday, June 8th, 7:30pm

● **Games Night**  
📍 Brad & Gerry's  
✉ gerrynbrad@shaw.ca  
🕒 Saturday, June 13th, 7pm

● **Bear Night**  
📍 Calgary Eagle (424A 8th Avenue SE)  
🕒 Saturday, June 20th

● **Safety Under the Rainbow**  
🌐 http://www.safetyrainbow.ca  
Mission: To raise awareness and understanding of same-sex domestic violence and homophobic youth bullying.

● **Scarboro United Church**  
📍 134 Scarboro Avenue SW  
☎ (403) 244-1161    🌐 www.scarborounited.ab.ca  
🕒 Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
Scarboro United Church is a caring community for risk-takers, adventurers, and explorers in contemporary Christian living. Scarboro is an affirming congregation, which means that the full inclusion of LGBT people is essential to our mission and purpose. Scarboro United Church welcomes all to our spiritually enriching Sunday Service at 10:30am. Afterwards, all are welcome to join us in fellowship downstairs over coffee, tea, juice, and home-baked treats.

● **Sunday Worship in July**  
📍 St. Matthews United Church (2039 26A St SW)  
☎ (403) 249-1721    🌐 st.matthews@telus.net  
🕒 Through July 2009, 10:30am

● **Sharp Foundation**  
☎ (403) 272-2912  
✉ sharpfoundation@nucleus.com  
🌐 http://www.thesharpfoundation.com

● **Urban Sex Radio Show**  
📻 CJSW 90.9 FM  
🌐 http://www.cjsw.com  
🕒 Every Wednesday from 9-10pm

Focus on sexuality; gay bisexual lesbian trans gendered and straight issues here in Calgary and around the web.

● **Western Canada Bigmen and Admirers**  
🌐 groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternCanadaBigmenGroup/  
✉ bigpaul41@yahoo.com

● **Vigor Calgary**  
☎ (403) 255-7004    🌐 www.vigorcalgary.ca  
Violence in Gay Male Relationships (VIGOR) is a committee of professionals dedicated to increasing the awareness of gay men's domestic violence and the services available to them.

● **"Yeah... What She Said!" Radio Show**  
📻 CJSW 90.9 FM  
✉ yeahwhatsheaid@gmail.com  
🕒 Every Monday evening, 8:30-9pm

## Restaurants

4 **Calgary Eagle Inc.** ----- ♿ ☆  
See *Calgary - Bars and Clubs.*

● **Halo Steak, Seafood & Wine Bar**  
📍 Canyon Meadows Plaza  
13226 Macleod Trail SE

☎ (403) 271-4111  
🌐 www.halosteakseafoodandwinebar.ca

9 **MPs (Money Pennies)** ----- ♿ ☆  
See *Calgary - Bars and Clubs.*

## Retail Stores

● **Adult Depot** ----- ♿ ☆  
📍 140, 58th Ave SW    ☎ (403) 258-2777  
Gay, bi, straight video rentals and sex toys.

48 **Barbies Shop** ----- ♿ ☆  
📍 1313 16th Avenue SW    ☎ (403) 262-8265  
🌐 http://www.barbiesshop.com

● **Bongs and Such** ----- ♿ ☆  
📍 214, 2066 18th Ave NE    ☎ (403) 250-7004  
📍 4829 Macleod Tr. SW    ☎ (403) 243-5251  
☎ 1-866-411-BONG

● **Erotic Xxes Boutique** ----- ♿ ☆  
📍 4823 Macleod Trail SW    ☎ (403) 243-4196  
🌐 http://www.erotixxesboutique.ca  
Open 7 days a week and holidays

41 **La Fleur** ----- ♿  
📍 103 - 100 7th Avenue SW  
☎ (403) 266-1707  
Florist and Flower Shop.

● **The Naked Leaf** ----- ♿  
📍 305 10th Street NW    ☎ (403) 283-3555  
🌐 http://www.thenakedleaf.ca  
Organic teas and tea ware.

16 **Priape Calgary** ----- ♿ ☆  
📍 1322 - 17 Ave SW    ☎ (403) 215-1800  
🌐 http://www.priape.com  
Clothing and accessories. Adult toys, leather wear, movies and magazines. Gifts.

● **Wares & Wear Ventures Inc.**  
See *Canada - Retail Stores.*

## Services & Products

● **Calgary Civil Marriage Centre**  
☎ (403) 246-4134    ✉ ca.ca@shaw.ca  
Marriage Commissioner for Alberta (aka Justice of the Peace - JP), Marriage Officiant, Commissioner for Oaths.

24 **Courtney Aarbo (Barristers & Solicitors)**  
📍 1138 Kensington Road NW  
☎ (403) 571-5120  
🌐 http://www.courtneyaarbo.ca  
GLBT legal services.

● **Cruiseline**  
☎ (403) 777-9494 trial code 3500  
🌐 http://www.cruiseline.ca  
Telephone classifieds and chat - 18+ ONLY.

● **DevaDave Salon & Boutique**  
📍 810 Edmonton Trail NE  
☎ (403) 290-1973  
Cuts, Colour, Hilights.

● **Duncan's Residential Cleaning**  
📍 Jim Duncan: (403) 978-6600  
Residential cleaning. Free estimates.

● **Interactive Male**  
☎ (403) 355-2222 trial code 8871  
☎ 1-800-777-8000

● **Jeff LeBlanc, Century 21**  
📍 #1, 4600 Crowchild Trail NW  
☎ Cell: (403) 542-6926  
☎ Pager: (403) 509-2121  
☎ Fax: (403) 509-2130  
✉ jeff@homeswithmeteam.ca  
🌐 www.homeswithmeteam.ca

● **Keith Hill, North Hill Mazda**  
📍 1211 Centre Street NW  
☎ Cell: (403) 614-7359  
☎ Phone: (403) 276-5962  
☎ Fax: (403) 276-7361  
✉ khill@northhillmazda.com  
🌐 www.northhillmazda.com

● **Lorne Doucette (CIR Realtors)**  
☎ (403) 461-9195  
🌐 http://www.lornedoucette.com

● **Marnie Campbell (Maxwell Realtors)**  
☎ (403) 479-8619  
🌐 http://www.marniecampbell.ca

● **MFM Communications**  
☎ (403) 543-6970  
☎ 1-877-543-6970  
🌐 http://www.mfmcommunications.com  
Web site hosting and development. Computer hardware and software.

● **Rick Grenier (Invis)**  
☎ (403) 862-1162    ✉ rickgrenier@invis.ca  
Mortgage solutions.

46 **Sacred Balance Piercing**  
📍 1528 - 17th Avenue SW    ☎ (403) 277-4449  
🌐 www.sacredbalancetattoo.com  
Tattoos and body piercing.

● **SafeWorks**  
Free and confidential HIV/AIDS and STI testing.

● **Calgary Drop-in Centre**  
📍 Room 117, 423 - 4th Ave SE  
☎ (403) 699-8216  
🕒 Mon-Fri: 9am-12pm, Sat: 12:15pm-3:15pm

● **Centre of Hope**  
📍 Room 201, 420 - 9th Ave SE  
☎ (403) 410-1180    🕒 Mon-Fri: 1pm-5pm

● **Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre**  
📍 1213 - 4th Str SW    ☎ (403) 955-6014  
🕒 Sat-Thur: 4:15pm-7:45pm, Fri: Closed

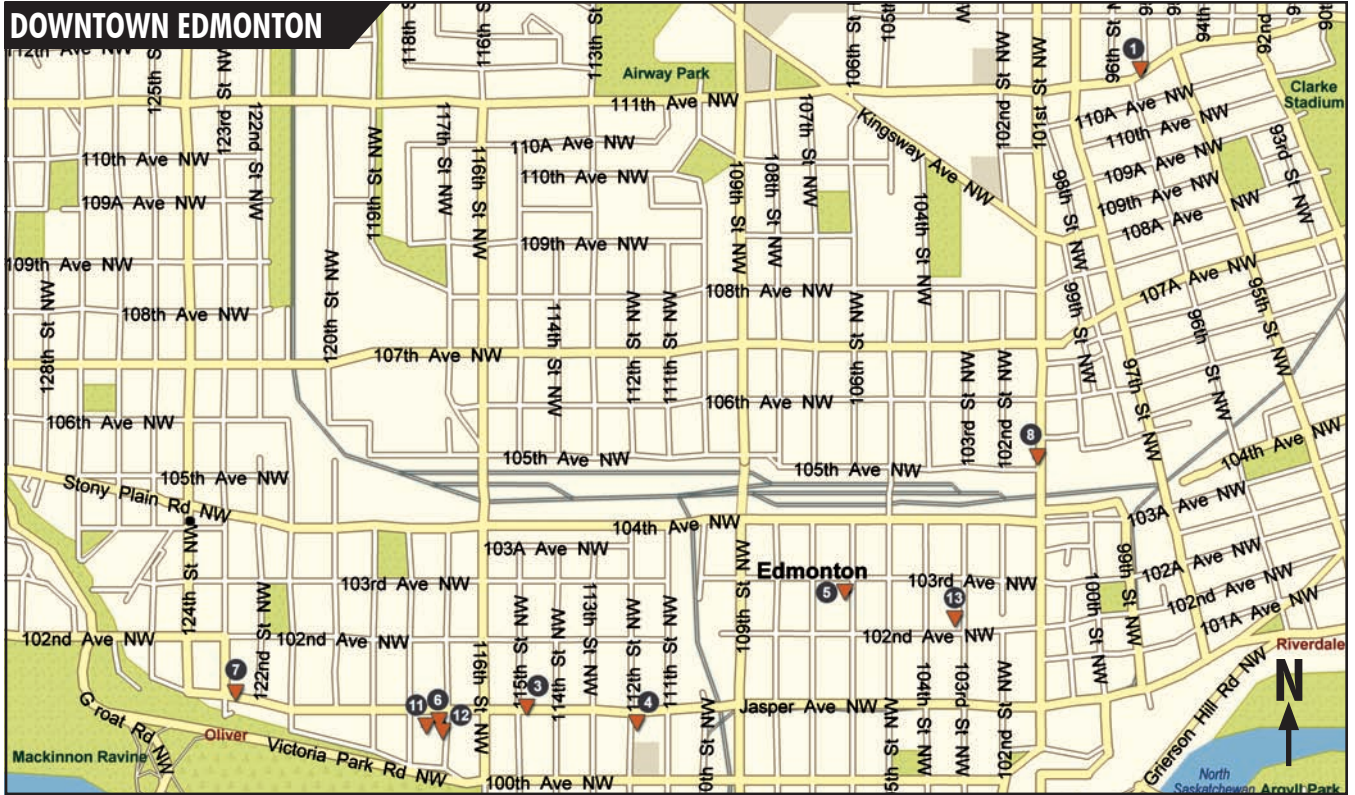
● **Safeworks Van**  
☎ (403) 850-3755  
🕒 Sat-Thur: 8pm-12am, Fri: 4pm-12am

● **Sandra G. Sebree, Lawyer**  
📍 1610 - 17th Ave SW  
☎ (403) 228-8108  
🌐 www.sandrasedree.com

● **TherapyWorks**  
☎ (403) 561-6873  
✉ ckorol@therapyworks.ca  
🌐 http://www.therapyworks.com  
Take back your life from stress, sadness, and worry.

● **Youth Juice**  
☎ (403) 686-7714    ✉ dianevp@shaw.ca  
🌐 http://www.ourworldnetwork.com/dianeyp

## DOWNTOWN EDMONTON



## Theatre and Fine Arts

- 36 **ATP, Alberta Theatre Projects**  
☎ (403) 294-7402 🌐 <http://www.ATPLive.com>
- **AXIS Contemporary Art** ----- ♿  
☎ 107, 100 - 7 Ave SW ☎ (403) 262-3356  
✉ [rob@axisart.ca](mailto:rob@axisart.ca) 🌐 [www.axisart.ca](http://www.axisart.ca)
- **Fairytales**  
See *Calgary - Community Groups*.
- 48 **Lisa Heinrichs (Artist)** ----- ♿  
☎ Art Central, 100 7th Ave SW, lower level  
🌐 <http://www.creamydreamy.com>
- 35 **One Yellow Rabbit** ----- ♿  
☎ Big Secret Theatre - EPCOR CENTRE  
☎ (403) 299-8888 🌐 [www.oyr.org](http://www.oyr.org)
- 37 **Pumphouse Theatre** ----- ♿ ☆  
☎ 2140 Pumphouse Avenue SW  
☎ (403) 263-0079  
🌐 <http://www.pumphousetheatres.ca>
- **Stagewest** ----- ♿ ☆  
☎ 727 - 42 Avenue SE ☎ (403) 243-6642  
🌐 <http://www.stagewestcalgary.com>
- 50 **Theatre Junction** ----- ♿ ☆  
☎ Theatre Junction GRAND, 608 1st St. SW  
☎ (403) 205-2922  
✉ [info@theatrejunction.com](mailto:info@theatrejunction.com)  
🌐 <http://www.theatrejunction.com>
- 34 **Vertigo Mystery Theatre** ----- ♿  
☎ 161, 115 - 9 Ave SE ☎ (403) 221-3708  
🌐 <http://www.vertigomysterytheatre.com>

## EDMONTON

### Bars and Clubs

- 5 **Boots Bar and Lounge** ----- ♿ ☆  
☎ 10242 106th St ☎ (780) 423-5014  
🌐 <http://www.bootsbar.ca/>
- 6 **Buddy's Nite Club** ----- ☆  
☎ 11725 Jasper Ave ☎ (780) 488-6636
- 18 **PLAY Nightclub** ----- ☆  
☎ 10220 103 Street ☎ (780) 497-7529  
✉ [info@playnightclub.ca](mailto:info@playnightclub.ca)  
🌐 <http://www.playnightclub.ca>
- 8 **Prism Bar & Grill** ----- ♿ ☆  
☎ 10524 101st St ☎ (780) 990-0038  
🌐 <http://www.prismbar.ca>
- 12 **Woody's** ----- ☆  
☎ 11725 Jasper Ave ☎ (780) 488-6557

### Bathhouses/Saunas

- 7 **Down Under Baths** ----- ☆  
☎ 12224 Jasper Ave ☎ (780) 482-7960  
🌐 <http://www.gayedmonton.com>
- 11 **Steamworks** ----- ☆  
☎ 11745 Jasper Ave ☎ (780) 451-5554  
🌐 <http://www.steamworksedmonton.com>

### Community Groups

- **BEEF Bear Bash**  
☎ Boots Bar and Lounge  
🌐 [www.bearbeef.org](http://www.bearbeef.org)  
Bar night for hairy men and admirers.

- **Book Worm's Book Club**  
☎ Second Cup, 11210 Jasper Ave  
✉ [bookworm@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:bookworm@teamedmonton.ca)  
🕒 TBA

- **Buck Naked Boys Club**  
☎ (780) 471-6993  
🌐 <http://www.bucknakedboys.ca>  
🕒 2nd Saturday of every month  
Naturism club for men. Our club has been meeting continuously for over 10 years. The similar club in Calgary ceased to exist several years ago. Naturism is being social while everyone is naked, and it does not include sexual activity. Therefore participants do not need to be gay, only male, but almost all participants over the years do self-describe as being gay or bisexual.

- **Camp fyrefly**  
☎ 7-104 Dept. of Educational Policy Studies  
Faculty of Education, University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G5  
🌐 <http://www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca>

- **Edmonton Pride Week Society**  
🌐 <http://www.prideedmonton.org>

- **Pride Week 2009 - Age of Aqueerius**  
🕒 June 12 to 21, 2009

- **Edmonton Prime Timers**  
✉ [edmontonpt@yahoo.ca](mailto:edmontonpt@yahoo.ca)  
🌐 [www.primetimersww.org/edmonton](http://www.primetimersww.org/edmonton)  
EPT is a group of older gay men and their admirers who come from diverse backgrounds but have common social interests. Meetings include a social period, a short business meeting and then either a guest speaker, discussion panel, or a potluck supper. Special interest groups meet for other social

activities throughout the month. In July and August we have a BBQ or picnic in lieu of a meeting and in December it's replaced with a Christmas party. EPT is affiliated with Prime Timers World Wide.

- **Monthly Meetings**  
☎ Unitarian Church, 10804 - 119th Street  
🕒 2nd Sunday of most months, 2:30pm  
June 14th: Bingo  
July 11th-13th: BBQ and/or Campout at Pine Trails

- **Edmonton Rainbow Business Association**  
☎ 3379, 11215 Jasper Ave ☎ (780) 429-5014  
🌐 <http://www.edmontonrba.org>

ERBA's primary focus is the provision of networking opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) owned or operated and GLBT-friendly businesses in the Edmonton region. Membership is open to all kinds of entrepreneurs, from tradespeople to professionals to commission salespeople.

- **After Business Mixers**  
☎ Garage Burger Bar (10244 - 106th St.)  
🕒 2nd Wednesday every month 5:30-7:30pm

- **Edmonton Illusions Social Club**  
☎ Boots Bar & Grill  
☎ (780) 387-3343  
🌐 [groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton\\_illusions](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions)  
🕒 2nd Thursday of each month

- 4 **Edmonton STD**  
☎ 11111 Jasper Ave

- **Edmonton Vocal Minority**  
☎ (780) 479-2038 ✉ [sing@evmchoir.com](mailto:sing@evmchoir.com)  
🌐 [www.evmchoir.com](http://www.evmchoir.com)

- **Rainbow Madness**  
☎ Royal Alberta Museum Theatre

12845 102 Avenue  
 ☎ Friday, June 19th, 8pm  
 Tickets: \$15/\$12

● **Exposure 2009**  
 ☎ Nov 13th- 22nd, 2009

● **HIV Network Of Edmonton Society** --- ♿ ☆  
 ☎ 11456 Jasper Ave ☎ www.hivedmonton.com

● **Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose**  
 ☎ http://www.gayedmonton.org

● **Meet and Greet**  
 ☎ PLAY Nightclub (10220 103 Street)  
 ☎ Sat, June 6, 10pm-2am

Meet and greet the candidates for the Mr./Mz/Ms Gay Pageant.

● **"You Don't Know" Gameshow**  
 ☎ Woody's Pub  
 ☎ Thurs, June 11th, 9pm

● **Princess Pride Show**  
 ☎ Boots Bar and Lounge (10242 106th Street)  
 ☎ Sun, June 14, 9pm-12am  
 Join the ISCWR in a court kick off to pride week.

● **General Meeting**  
 ☎ Pride Centre of Edmonton (9540 - 111 Avenue)  
 ☎ Tues, June 16, 8-10pm  
 Open to the public and general membership.

● **Mr./Mz/Ms Gay Karaoke**  
 ☎ Prism Bar & Grill  
 ☎ Wed June 17, 8pm-10pm

● **Written in the Stars**  
 ☎ Boots Bar and Lounge  
 ☎ Fri June 19, 8pm-12pm

● **OUTreach**  
 ☎ University of Alberta, basement of SUB  
 ☎ outreach@ualberta.ca  
 ☎ http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach  
 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender/transsexual, Queer, Questioning and Straight-but-not-Narrow student group.

● **Pride Centre of Edmonton** ----- ♿ ☆  
 ☎ 95A Street, 111 Ave ☎ (780) 488-3234  
 ☎ admin@pridecentreofedmonton.org

● **Bears Movie Night**  
 ☎ TV room, Pride Centre of Edmonton  
 ☎ Last Sunday of the month, 1-6pm

● **Community Potluck**  
 ☎ Main Space - Upstairs  
 ☎ tuff@shaw.ca  
 ☎ Last Tuesday, 7-9pm  
 A potluck open to all members of the LGBTQ community. A time to get together, share a meal and meet people from the community.

● **Edmonton Pride Week Society**  
 ☎ Board Room - Downstairs  
 ☎ Sundays, 11:30am-1:30pm, June  
 ☎ epws@prideedmonton.org  
 The Edmonton Pride Week Society is responsible for planning and coordinating the Edmonton Pride Week Festival in June.

● **Free School**  
 ☎ Main Space - Upstairs  
 ☎ monika\_penner@shaw.ca  
 ☎ 2nd and 4th Sunday, 11am-5pm

Free School provides workshops on a variety of topics related to local activism.

● **Get Straight - Cocaine Anonymous**  
 ☎ Downstairs Couch Area  
 ☎ Thursdays, 7-8pm

Cocaine Anonymous: Support group for anyone struggling with cocaine or drug addictions.

● **Get Tested for STIs**  
 ☎ Last Thurs of Month, 3pm - 6pm  
 Free STD testing for anyone interested. For more information please contact the Pride Centre.

● **GLBT Seniors Drop-In**  
 ☎ Main Space - Upstairs  
 ☎ tuff@shaw.ca  
 ☎ Every Tuesday & Thursday, 1-4pm

A social and support group for seniors of all genders and sexualities to talk, have tea and offer each other support.

● **Trans Education/Support Group**  
 ☎ Green Room - Upstairs  
 ☎ 2nd Tuesday, 7:30-9:30pm  
 Transgender Education and Support Group:

Education and support for transgender, transsexual and questioning people in any stage of transition.

● **Men Talking with Pride**  
 ☎ Main Space - Upstairs  
 ☎ robwells780@hotmail.com  
 ☎ Every Sunday, 7-9pm

A social discussion group for gay, bisexual and transgendered men to discuss current issues and to offer support to each other.

● **Men's HIV Support Group**  
 ☎ Green Room - Upstairs  
 ☎ huges@shaw.ca  
 ☎ 2nd Monday of the month, 7-9pm  
 Support group for people living with HIV/AIDS.

● **PFLAG**  
 ☎ Red room - Downstairs ☎ 780-436-1998  
 ☎ edmontonab@pflagcanada.ca  
 ☎ 1st Wednesday, 7-9pm

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays: A support group for family members and friends of GLBT people. An excellent resource for people whose family members and friends have just come out.

● **Prime Timers**  
 See Edmonton Primetimers.

● **Queer Youth Sport & Recreation night**  
 ☎ Alex Taylor School Gym, 9321 Jasper Ave  
 ☎ Brendan, (780) 488-3234  
 ☎ brenndan@pridecentreofedmonton.org  
 ☎ First Tuesday of every month, 4:30pm

● **Suit Up and Show Up: AA Big Book Study**  
 ☎ Downstairs Couch Area  
 ☎ Saturdays, 12-1pm  
 Discussion and support group for those struggling with an alcohol addiction or seeking support in staying sober.

● **TTIQ**  
 ☎ Green Room - Upstairs  
 ☎ admin@pridecentreofedmonton.org  
 ☎ 1st and 3rd Sunday, 2-4pm  
 TTIQ is mixed gender open support group addressing the needs of transsexual and transgendered individuals. Brunch at a local restaurant on the last

Sunday of each month at 12:00.

● **Womonspace Board Meeting**  
 ☎ Main Space - Upstairs  
 ☎ wsresident@hotmail.com  
 ☎ 1st Sunday, 10:30am-12:30pm

Womonspace is a Social and Recreational Society in Edmonton run by volunteers. They provide opportunities for lesbians to interact and support each other in a safe environment, and to contribute to the broader community.

● **Youth Movie**  
 ☎ Main Space - Upstairs  
 ☎ brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org  
 ☎ Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm

Movie chosen by youth (aged 14 - 25), usually with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served.

● **YouthSpace**  
 ☎ brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org  
 ☎ Tuesday to Thursday, 3-7pm  
 Fridays, 3-6:30pm  
 Saturdays, 3-6:30pm

A safe and supportive space for LGBTQ youth aged 13-25. Video games, computers with internet, clothing bank, and more.

● **Youth Theatre Project**  
 ☎ Downstairs Couch Area  
 ☎ will@pridecentreofedmonton.org  
 ☎ Every Wednesday, 7-8:30pm

An opportunity for youth to address the problem of homophobic bullying through theatre. Write and rehearse skits, perform in the community, and help make a documentary.

● **Youth Understanding Youth**  
 See separate listing.

● **Youth Yoga**  
 ☎ Alex Taylor School Gym (9321 Jasper Ave)  
 ☎ Every 1st Thursday, 4:30pm

● **Team Edmonton**  
 ☎ president@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ http://www.teamedmonton.ca  
 Members are invited to attend and help determine the board for the next term. If you are interested in running for the board or getting involved in some of the committees, please contact us.

● **Badminton**  
 ☎ Oliver School, 10227 - 118 Street  
 ☎ badminton@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Wednesdays, 6pm-7:30pm  
 Season starts March 8th  
 Women's Drop-In Recreational Badminton.

● **Ballroom Dancing**  
 ☎ Foot Notes Dance Studio, 9708-45 Avenue NW  
 ☎ Cynthia: (780) 469-3281  
 ☎ Sundays, 7:30-8:30pm  
 April 19th-June 21st  
 Beginner Ballroom program is designed for people who have no previous dance instruction and have the desire to gain confidence on the social dance floor. \*Students may take level 2 upon completion of the beginner course. \*All gender combinations of dancers are welcome. \*Partners are not required. \$149.00 +GST / 10 weeks. Call to register.

● **Blazin' Bootcamp**  
 ☎ Lynnwood Elementary School, 15451 - 84 Ave  
 ☎ bootcamp@teamedmonton.ca

☎ Every Mon + Thurs, 7pm-8:15pm  
 Starting May 4th

● **Bowling (Northern Titans)**  
 ☎ Gateway Lanes, 100 - 3414 Gateway Blvd  
 ☎ bowling@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Every Saturday, 5pm-7pm  
 Resumes Saturday January 3rd  
 \$15.00 per person.

● **Cross-Country Skiing**  
 ☎ Gold Bar Park  
 ☎ Saturday January 10th, 1pm

● **Curling with Pride**  
 ☎ Granite Curling Club, 8620 107 Street NW  
 ☎ (780) 463-5942  
 ☎ curling@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ See website for details.

● **Cycling**  
 ☎ Various locations in Edmonton  
 ☎ cycling@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Every Wednesday, 6:30pm

● **Dragon Boat**  
 ☎ dragonboat@teamedmonton.ca  
 We are exploring the option of setting up a dragon boat team for 2009. Please send your name and contact information.

● **Gymnastics, Drop-in**  
 ☎ Ortona Gymnastics Club, 8755 - 50 Avenue  
 ☎ gymnastics@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8pm-10pm  
 Have the whole gym to yourselves and an instructor to help you achieve your individual goals. Cost is \$5.00 per session.

● **Outdoor Pursuits**  
 ☎ outdoorpursuits@teamedmonton.ca

● **Running (Arctic Frontrunners)**  
 ☎ Emily Murphy Park, meet at West End  
 ☎ running@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Every Sunday, 10am-11am  
 All genders and levels of runners and walkers are invited to join this free activity.

● **Swimming (Making Waves)**  
 ☎ swimming@teamedmonton.ca  
 Season has ended.

● **Roller Derby (Practices)**  
 ☎ eville@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Mondays & Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm  
 E-Ville Roller Derby is a community-wise sports initiative for adult females. Their purpose is for fun, friendly sports competition among like-minded women. You need no prior experience in roller derby. They'll teach you everything you need to know, including how to skate!

● **Samsara Yoga**  
 ☎ Korezone Fitness, #203, 10575 - 115 Street  
 ☎ yoga@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Every Sunday, 2pm-3:30pm

● **Slo Pitch**  
 ☎ Parkullen Field, 111 st and 68 ave  
 ☎ slo-pitch@teamedmonton.ca  
 ☎ Wednesdays, 7pm. Season resumes May 6th.  
 Season fee is \$30.00 per person.

● **Soccer**  
 ☎ soccer@teamedmonton.ca

## Tennis

✉ tennis@teamedmonton.ca

## Volleyball, Free To Be Intermediate

📍 Kinsmen Sports Centre, next to Tennis courts  
✉ volleyball@teamedmonton.ca  
🕒 Thursday nights from 8pm-10pm  
Outdoor grass season resumes June 14th

## Volleyball, Free To Be Recreational

📍 Mother Teresa School, 9008 - 105A Ave  
✉ recvolleyball@teamedmonton.ca  
🕒 Indoor season has concluded.

## Women's Lacrosse

☎ Sharon: 780-461-0017  
☎ Pam: 780-436-7374  
Open to women 21+, experienced or not, all are welcome. Call for info.

## Womanspace

☎ (780) 482-1794  
✉ womanspace@gmail.com  
🌐 www.womanspace.ca

Women's social group, but all welcome at events.

## Pride Dance

📍 Hellenic Canadian Community Hall  
10450 - 116 Street  
🕒 Sat June 13th, 9pm-2am  
Members: \$15, Non-Members: \$20.

## Carol Cattell Golf Tournament

📍 Country Nine Golf Course (Bashaw, AB)  
🕒 July 17th-19th

## Youth Understanding Youth

📍 Edmonton Pride Centre, Main Space Upstairs  
✉ yuy@shaw.ca 🌐 www.members.shaw.ca/yuy  
🕒 Every Saturday, 7pm-9pm  
A place where LGBTQ youth under 25 can gather to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe, supportive, and caring environment.

## 3rd Annual Queer Prom

📍 Citadel Theater  
🕒 Sat, Jun 6th, 7:00pm  
"Paint the Town Red"

## Sports and Recreation

📍 Pride Centre, 9540 - 111 Ave  
☎ Brendan: (780) 488-3234  
✉ brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org  
🕒 1st Thursday, meet at 4:00pm

## Restaurants

🍷 **Garage Burger Bar & Grill** ----- 🍷  
📍 10242 106th St ☎ (780) 423-5014

🍷 **Prism Bar & Grill** ----- 🍷 ✨  
See *Edmonton - Bars and Clubs*.

## Retail Stores

● **Rodéo Drive**  
📍 11528 - 89th Street  
☎ (780) 474-0413  
✉ brendalee@rodeodrive.ca  
🌐 http://www.rodeodrive.ca  
His and hers fetish wear, toys, jewelry, etc.

## The Travelling Tickle Trunk

📍 9923 - 82 Avenue  
☎ (780) 469-6669  
🌐 www.travelingtickletrunk.com

Sex-positive adult toy store.

● **Wares & Wear Ventures Inc.**  
See *Canada - Retail Stores*.

## Services

● **Cruiseline**  
☎ (780) 413-7122 trial code 5000  
🌐 http://www.cruiseline.ca  
Telephone classifieds and chat - 18+ ONLY.

● **Interactive Male**  
☎ (780) 409-3333 trial code 8871  
☎ 1-800-777-8000

● **Over the Top Designs**  
☎ (780) 974-5269  
Servicing Calgary, Edmonton & Red Deer exclusively.

● **Robertson-Wesley United Church**  
📍 10209 - 123 St. NW ☎ (780) 482-1587  
✉ jravenscroft@rwuc.org 🌐 www.rwuc.org  
🕒 Worship: Sunday mornings at 10:30am  
People of all sexual orientations welcome. Other LGBT events include a monthly book club and a bi-monthly film night. As a caring spiritual community, we'd love to have you join us!

● **Soul OUTing**  
🕒 Second Sunday every month, 7pm  
An LGBT-focused alternative worship.

● **Film Night**  
🕒 Bi-monthly, contact us for exact dates.

● **Book Club**  
🕒 Monthly, contact us for exact dates.

## Theatre and Fine Arts

● **Exposure Festival**  
🌐 http://www.exposurefestival.ca  
Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival.

## BANFF/CANMORE

## Community Groups

● **Mountain Pride**  
☎ Brian, (403) 431-2569  
✉ mountainpride@gaybanff.com  
🌐 www.gaybanff.com  
Serving the GLBTQS community in Banff, Canmore, Lake Louise and Area.

● **Coffee Night**  
📍 The Hub, 302 Buffalo Street  
🕒 4th Tuesday, 7pm-10pm

● **Queer Cinema Night**  
📍 The Hub, 302 Buffalo Street  
🕒 2nd Monday, 8pm-11pm

● **Calgary Pride Roadtrip**  
🕒 TBA

## LETHBRIDGE

## Community Groups

● **GALA/LA**  
☎ (403) 308-2893  
🌐 www.newgaylethbridge.ca

Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area.

● **Monthly Dances**  
📍 Airforce Veterans Hall, 517 - 5 Ave S  
🕒 2nd or 3rd Saturday every month, 9pm-2am  
Bring your membership card and photo ID.

● **Monthly Potluck Dinners**  
📍 McKillop United Church, 2329 - 15 Ave S  
🕒 3rd or Last Sat. every month, 5:30pm-8pm  
Members/family/friends, and children are all welcome to attend. Please bring dish that will serve 4-6 people and own beverage (no-alcohol). Plates, utensils, and coffee provided.

● **Support Line**  
☎ (403) 308-2893  
🕒 Monday OR Wednesday, 7pm-11pm  
Leave a message any other time.

● **Parents & Friends for Lesbians & Gays**  
Call us for information.

● **Gay Youth Alliance Group**  
☎ Bethy, (403) 381-5260 ✉ bneil@chr.ab.ca  
🕒 Every second Wednesday, 3:30pm-5pm

● **Friday Mixer**  
📍 The Mix (green water tower)  
103 Mayor Magrath Dr S  
🕒 Every Friday at 10pm

● **Movie Night**  
📍 Room C610, University of Lethbridge  
🕒 Thurs, Mar 26th, 6:30pm  
Movie called "Changing Our Minds: The Story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker".

● **Gay & Lesbian Integrity Assoc. (GALIA)**  
📍 University of Lethbridge ✉ galia@uleth.ca  
GLBTQQ club on campus.

● **Pride Lethbridge**  
✉ lethbridgepridefest@gmail.com  
🕒 June 12th-14th

● **Pride Kick-off**  
📍 The Mix by Ric's Ultralounge  
103 Mayor Magrath Dr S  
🕒 Fri, June 12

● **Pride BBQ**  
📍 John Martin Recreation Area, Pavan Park  
North on 13 Street past 44 Ave N  
🕒 Sat, June 13th, 6pm

● **After Party**  
📍 Henotic Restaurant and Lounge  
402 - 2 Ave S  
🕒 Sat, June 13th, 11pm

● **Pride Worship Service**  
📍 McKillop United Church (2329 - 15 Ave S)  
🕒 Sunday, June 14, 10-11:30am

● **Pancake Brunch**  
📍 McKillop United Church (2329 - 15 Ave S)  
🕒 Sunday, June 14, 12:30pm

● **Out in the Park**  
📍 TBA 🕒 Sunday, June 14, 2-6pm

## RED DEER

## Community Groups

● **Affirm**  
📍 Sunnybrook United Church  
☎ (403) 347-6073  
🕒 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm  
Composed of LGBTQ people, their friends, family and allies. No religious affiliation necessary. Activities include support, faith and social justice discussions, film nights, and potlucks!

## ALBERTA

## Community Groups

● **Central Alberta AIDS Network Society**  
📍 4611-50 Avenue, Red Deer, AB  
🌐 http://www.caans.org

The Central Alberta AIDS Network Society is the local charity responsible for HIV prevention and support in Central Alberta.

● **Western Canadian Pride Campout**  
🕒 July 31st - Aug 3rd  
🌐 www.eventmasterinc.net

● **YouthSafe**  
🌐 http://www.youthsafe.net  
Alberta's website for youth with sex-and-gender differences. Youthsafe.net lists the resources, information and services to help youth find safe and caring spaces in Alberta.

## Theatre and Fine Arts

● **Alberta Ballet**  
🌐 http://www.albertaballet.com  
Frequent productions in Calgary and Edmonton.

## CANADA

## Community Groups

● **Alberta Trans Support/Activities Group**  
🌐 http://www.albertatrans.org  
A nexus for transgendered persons, regardless of where they may be on the continuum.

● **Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition**  
📍 P.O. Box 3043, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3S9  
☎ (306) 955-5135  
☎ 1-800-955-5129  
🌐 http://www.rainbowhealth.ca

● **Egale Canada**  
📍 8 Wellington St E, Third Floor  
Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1C5  
☎ 1-888-204-7777 🌐 www.egale.ca  
Egale Canada is the national advocacy and lobby organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, trans-identified people and our families.

Membership fees are pay-what-you-can, although pre-authorized monthly donors are encouraged (and get a free Egale Canada t-shirt). Egale has several committees that meet by teleconference on a regular basis; membership on these is national with members from every region of Canada.

# Creep of the Week

## Virginia Foxx

By D'Anne Witkowski

Was the murder of Matthew Shepard a hoax? Is he actually alive and well, hanging out with Elvis, perhaps? My, what a scandal! Thank you Virginia Foxx, Republican Representative from North Carolina, for bringing this matter to our national attention.

To be fair, Foxx didn't claim that Shepard wasn't actually killed, nor was she saying she's glad he's dead. She was simply saying that Shepard wasn't killed for being gay and that all the homos who say that he was are just trying to get poor, gullible straight people to feel bad for them and grant them protection from similar crimes.

"The hate crimes bill that's called the Matthew Shepard bill is named after a very unfortunate incident that happened where a young man was killed, but we know that that young man was killed in the commitment of a robbery. It wasn't because he was gay," Foxx said during the hearing on the U.S. House floor on hate crimes legislation. "This ... hate crimes bill was named for him, but it's really a hoax that that continues to be used as an excuse for passing these bills."

For some reason, Foxx's comment made a lot of gay rights supporters pretty upset.

"A hoax? Belittling the brutal murder of a 21-year-old college student? And Republicans wonder why their angry, hateful, pathetic party is now only 20 percent of the U.S. population," wrote John Aravosis of AmericaBlog. "I wonder where Virginia Foxx stood on letting blacks swim in our pools fifty years ago. Actually, I think I already know."

"He was killed because he was gay and she is making light of that fact," said Matt Comer, editor of Q-Notes, North Carolina's LGBT paper.

"She should be ashamed," said Rep. John Lewis, a Democrat from Georgia. "That is unreal, unbelievable. The law enforcement people and almost every reasonable person I know believes he was murdered because he was gay."

It only took a few days for

Foxx to claim that the whole thing was just a big misunderstanding.

"The term 'hoax' was a poor choice of words used in the discussion of the hate crimes bill," Foxx said in a statement. "Mr. Shepard's death was nothing less than a tragedy, and those responsible for his death certainly deserved the punishment they received."

How very generous of her (then again, she's a Republican. She can't risk seeming soft on crime, so long as it's not motivated by sexual orientation).

So where did she get her information about robbery being the motivation for Shepard's killing? An ABC report that has long since been written off as a load of garbage void of journalistic integrity. "Referencing these media accounts may have been a mistake, but if so, it was a mistake based on what I believed were reliable accounts," she said.

"In the heat of trying to handle the rule on the floor, anybody can use a bad choice of words. Saying that the event was a hoax was a poor choice of words," Foxx later told WXII-12 News. "I've apologized for that. I never meant in any way to harm the family or offend the family or anybody else for that matter."

In other words, it's not her fault if she used bogus sources. Who has time for fact checking when such a heated debate is in full swing?

"She's apologizing for semantics," said Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother.

Which, of course, is not the same thing as saying, "I'm sorry, Mr. and Mrs. Shepard, for perpetuating a lie about your viciously murdered son in order to score political points with my anti-gay base." ■

<http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1278>  
View additional pics/videos. • Share with a friend. • Post your comments.

D'Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She's a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she's not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister and

### Retail Stores

● **Wares & Wear Ventures Inc.**  
☎ (780) 980-1977 ☎ [www.wwlatex.com](http://www.wwlatex.com)  
Fetish wear and toys.

### Services

● **ATM Service Solutions**  
☎ 1-866-640-8830  
✉ [admin@minibanks.net](mailto:admin@minibanks.net)  
☎ <http://www.minibanks.net>

● **Squirt**  
☎ <http://www.squirt.org>  
Website for dating and hook-ups. 18+ ONLY!

### Theatre and Fine Arts

● **Broadway Across Canada**  
☎ <http://www.broadwayacrosscanada.ca>

● **OUTtv**  
☎ <http://www.outtv.ca>  
GLBT Television Station.

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☎ (403) 543-6960 ☎ 1-888-543-6960  
✉ [magazine@gaycalgary.com](mailto:magazine@gaycalgary.com).

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# Don't Leave Me This Way...

By Stephen Lock

An interesting little article appeared in *The Calgary Herald* a while back that outlined a US State Department policy shift towards gay and lesbian staff in domestic relationships.

On the surface, the article appeared to be positive in that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has directed The State Department to offer equal benefits and protections to the same-sex partners of American diplomats. She was quoted as stating the new policy addressed an "inequity in the treatment of domestic partners and would help the State Department recruit diplomats, since many international employers already offered [same-sex benefits and protections]."

Apparently, these benefits include diplomatic passports for same-sex spouses, the use of medical facilities at overseas postings, medical and other emergency evacuation, transportation between postings, and training in security and languages.

This is all good, and long overdue.

However, despite the good intentions and fine wording of her memorandum to an association of gay and lesbian Foreign Service officers (a copy of which was supplied to *The New York Times* by an association member), it reveals an existing and troubling problem.

Take, for example, the item dealing with "medical and other emergency evacuation." The article mentioned, under current policy, diplomats with same-sex domestic partners "could be evacuated from a hazardous country by the US government while their partners were left behind."

Left behind??

Imagine being a diplomat, or other diplomatic corps staff, and the country to which you are posted erupts into civil turmoil or outright war. The Americans have always been good at getting their people out of such situations, including any family members of the individual.

Under the existing policy, if your family is your same-sex partner he or she is "left behind" to, it is assumed, get out of the country the best way they know how. How does one do that in an unstable political climate with no assistance from The State Department, any access to planes, helicopters, ships or any of the infrastructures employed in the evacuation of American diplomatic corps personnel, or possessing any sort of official recognition?

Not only that, but it can be safely assumed the attitude towards homosexuals in such a country would be extremely negative, perhaps even dangerous. That The State Department actually has a current policy that would leave one's same-sex partner behind (or, probably more correctly, not take him or her into account...a sin of omission rather than commission) in a potentially deadly environment borders on the unbelievable.

This is one of those situations people just don't think about or anticipate even happening.

I lived overseas, albeit not as a dependent of the diplomatic corps; I was an "army brat" who grew up in what was then West Germany in the early 1960's, and again in the early 1970's, when my father was stationed there with the Canadian Armed Forces as part of our commitment to NATO. So I am somewhat familiar with how The System dealt with wives and families. It was still an era in which "army husbands" were not a factor since female soldiers - let alone married ones -- were still rare or nonexistent.

I distinctly remember as a young child, probably about age six, the Berlin Wall going up. This action by the Soviet-controlled East German

government put all NATO forces on high alert and various security plans were put into place. One of those involved the evacuation of military families in the event the Soviets invaded. The erecting of the Berlin Wall significantly heated up the Cold War and all of Western Europe was on edge.

While the Canadian Army had several large Married Quarter areas in the main brigade areas of Hemer, Iserlohn, Werl, Unna and Soest, many Canadian families, such as mine, also lived in civilian housing in various outlying villages and towns.

I remember several "deuce-and-a-halves" (two and a half ton military canvas-covered trucks) pulling up in front of the block of apartments housing Canadian families early one morning and loading up wives, kids, and suitcases to take us to one of several Canadian Army bases in the region.

Unfortunately, somebody failed to notify local civilian authorities, let alone the local civilian population, of this exercise. Our German neighbours began running desperately after the deuce-and-a-halves, trying to get their own children onto the trucks, terrified the Russians were coming and they would be immersed in the horrors of another war. This was 1961; WWII had only ended 16 years before.

I cannot imagine, if the threat had been real, of anyone being left behind to fend for him or herself with no support system or avenue of escape in place. Yet, The State Department's own policy allows for exactly this scenario when it comes to same-sex partners of Foreign Service employees, including diplomats; so much for diplomatic privilege.

The new policy under Secretary Clinton is an enlightened policy. One would have assumed, partners -- be they opposite-sex or same-sex -- and families of American Foreign Service personnel would be safeguarded and evacuated along with them. I naively could not imagine a policy that would allow for any other contingency.

The article goes on to state, "In the past, The State Department declined to provide some benefits to the [same-sex] partners of diplomats, invoking the *Defense of Marriage Act*, which limited federal recognition of same-sex unions."

It is to be remembered the *Defense of Marriage Act* is one of the legacies of the Bush Administration. While Bill Clinton was popularly perceived as a friend of the GLBTQ communities, the genesis of this Act was likely sowed during his Administration; a logical outcropping of his "don't ask, don't tell" policy coupled with the rightwing reaction against the spectre of "gay marriage" in the States.

How ironic it is then, that Hillary Rodham Clinton who, as Secretary of State in the Obama Administration, is the person responsible for tossing out this outlandishly discriminatory policy and instituting a more equitable one in its place. No word, however, on when the new policy will come into effect.

There are American diplomatic corps personnel stationed in such countries as Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, Central Africa, and other "unstable" regions. As it stands now, if it came to the point where Americans needed to be evacuated, those with same-sex partners would be faced with the unimaginable decision of having to leave their loved one behind in all the confusion and uncertain political climate. In fact, it may well not even be a decision for them to make. The State Department, known for its often-total control in such circumstances, would make the decision for them: You're coming with us, he (or she) isn't.

Iran, for instance, takes a very hard stance against homosexuals and homosexuality; gay Iranians have been publicly executed. The North Koreans view homosexuality as an infiltration of Western decadence, so in the event of an invasion of the American supported South Korea, both American and Korean GLBTQ are placed at high risk.

Continued on Page 33 ►

# Q Scopes

## "Give credit, Capricorn!"

By Jack Fertig

The Sun in Gemini sextile to Eris suggests two brilliant wits trying to top each other. Imagine Dorothy Parker vs. Clare Boothe Luce. If you can't be nice, you better be devastatingly brilliant!

**ARIES (March 20 - April 19):** You don't need to respond to everything people say. A simple retort could drag you into a tedious, time-consuming battle. The right intonation – "Oh, really?" or "That's very interesting" – can be far more devastatingly dismissive than any argument.

**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** You may be too eager to assert your sense of self-worth. (1) You don't have to prove anything to anyone but yourself. (2) Your real value is in your heart, not in your wallet! (3) The people who matter already know your worth!

**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Getting into a political argument can be a lot easier than getting out of one. Resist the urge to smash your opponent. You'll do better to practice your debating skills, especially listening and learning from others!

**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Your ability and passion for helping others is part of what helps you get ahead. Your own competitive edge is not so much in pushing yourself forward as it is in bringing others along. The more you offer, the more you get!

**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Your own religion, spirituality, or lack thereof may serve you better than any alternative, but remember that testimonials should have their own time and place. Answer questions as they come up. Otherwise, let your acts speak louder than your profession of ideals.

**VIRGO (August 23 - September 22):** Passion is powering your ambitions. Don't be afraid to speak up, but do be clear on the stakes. You may have to declare yourself on one side or the other. Trust your heart, but think ahead before you decide!

**LIBRA (September 23 - October 22):** Resist the urge to look smarter than your partner. Better to play up his or her brilliance. If you really are opponents more than teammates, you need to make some changes. A common enemy – say a shared political goal – could help.

**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Being great at sex isn't enough. You want to be the best; that's pretty subjective. The bigger challenge is to be more emotionally open and intimate. Try to find some spaces in your heart between your usual "all-or-nothing."

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20):** Cooperation will get you further ahead than flying solo. Try letting someone else take the lead now and then. You can do a lot better at team efforts if you remember you're part of the team.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19):** Your criticisms of community politics are right on the mark, but saying them nicely enough to be heard can be a challenge. Listen to others, and give credit where it's due. Remember, you need to work with the folks you're criticizing!

**AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18):** You're already cleverer than you should be, so hold back on the bons mots. Even though you just mean to be playful, you could come off a lot nastier than you intend. If you need to sharpen your wit, do it in writing!

**PISCES (February 19 - March 19):** What are "traditional values" really? The core principles you grew up with may have surprising relevance in your GLBT community, and what you've learned in your queer community has value with your family of origin.



Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977 teaches at the Online College of Astrology : <http://www.astrocollege.com>. He can be reached for personal or business consultations at 415-864-8302 or through his website at <http://www.starjack.com>

# Adult Film Review

## XXX, To the Last Man, Rear Deliveries, Prick

By Jerome Voltero



### “XXX” by Mustang

Courtesy of Priape

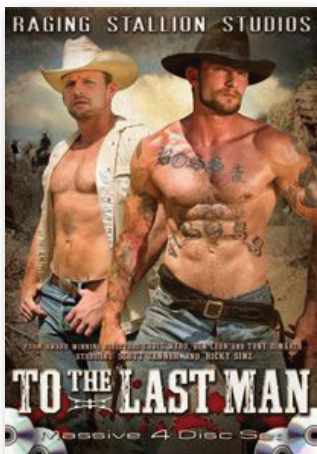
Cast: Arpad Miklos\*, Vinnie D’Angelo\*, Derek Da Silva\*, Scott Campbell, Colby Keller, Scott Alexander\*, Race Cooper, Cole Streets.

No, you read it right. XXX is not a placeholder for something else, it’s the title of this film, and perhaps not a particularly creative one. But then again, nor is the film itself. There’s no story or lead-up, no flirting or introductions, nothing revealed underneath clothing, just pairs of naked guys in dungeon-like rooms that have no other pur-

pose but to bugger each other for our viewing pleasure.

The action is also pretty standard: cock sucking, butt-munching, and ass-pounding, all leading up to traditional as-messy-as-possible cum shots. So the film’s main merit rests entirely on their selection of cast. Arpad Miklos was a good choice, although the man appears so often in pornos these days that it’s hard not to take him for granted anymore. Miklos appears in the first scene with Colby Keller, a fresh face halfway between bear cub and twink. Most scenes have a similar age gradient, with “daddies” like Vinnie D’Angelo and Derek Da Silva, pairing up with “boys” like Scott Campbell and Cole Streets.

Sadly, so little stood out in this film (aside from their literal erections). The actors were just in and out (and in...and out) getting the job done with minimal additional flare. The only glimmer of emotion that I caught was an involuntary “oh my god” of surprise and concern when Scott Alexander shot a larger load than expected across Race Cooper’s face. But he quickly forgot about it once he realized he didn’t get Cooper in the eye. Nevertheless, what’s hot is hot, and much of it was still that.



### “To The Last Man: The Gathering Storm” by Raging Stallion Studios

Courtesy of Priape

Cast: Ricky Sinz\*, Scott Tanner, Jake Deckard\*, Antton Harri, Antonio Biaggi\*, Damien Crosse\*, RJ Danvers, Tristan Jaxx, Logan McCree\*, Damian Rios, Scott Campbell, Rick Powers, Dan Rhodes, Jimmy Tripps, Jackson Wild.

Rugged cowboys abound, just in time for the ARGRA Rodeo! Here is a porno that looks to be

much better endowed in the story department – and a 2 disc set, to boot. You are given a choice of watching the sex only version, or the full version with sex, blood, rape and all.

Actually the story is simple, but this is just part 1 of the series. Two neighbouring ranches are struggling to survive during a drought. When one takes water from a watering hole on the other’s land, it elevates the already nasty feud into an all out gun battle and lynching. With such a large cast, I noticed that they don’t drag out the sex scenes longer than they need to be – a good thing in my mind, because it left more time for variety.

When I think of Damien Crosse, I see the buzzed head, clean shaven face, smooth body and meek smile from so many of his back-cover mug shots. But in this film he was looking particularly rough-and-tumble – the beard definitely suits him, and his chest hair grew in quite nicely. He takes an outdoor shower fully clothed, does a super sexy strip tease, and proceeds to play with himself while taking swigs from a bottle of whiskey. Crosse’s drinking problem becomes apparent when he forces the Jack Daniels bottle (product placement) half-way up his butt...that will be an interesting story at his next AA meeting. Crosse is quite the busy ranch hand, servicing the blacksmith, and then the jaw-droppingly low hung Antonio Biaggi. I’ve seen Biaggi in other films, but the summer heat seems to have done wonders for his gonads.

If you like the unshaven outdoorsman type, or have a cowboy fetish, you’ll thoroughly enjoy all of what this film has to offer.



### “Monster Bang: Rear Deliveries” by Raging Stallion Studios

Courtesy of Adult Depot

Cast: Dominic Pacifico, Diesel Washington\*, Antonio Biaggi, Logan McCree, Mike Dreyden\*, Manuel DeBoxer\*, Ricky Sinz\*, RJ Danvers, Tony DiMarco.

Deija vu? Yes, I too noticed that this porno features 4 of the same actors from “To The Last Man”. Small world I guess...

Rear Deliveries predictably takes place in a parcel sorting warehouse. The cooped up men turn on each other for release, giving new meaning to

“handling a package”. Humorously, there are a number of movie posters hanging in the background from other Raging Stallion productions. In fact, the second scene is has Mike Dreyden (a bearish Hispanic) fantasizing over a life-size Ink Storm poster when suddenly Logan McCree is actually there! Dreyden also appears in a later scene with the ever beefy Diesel Washington – very hot!

The main attraction, however, is the super sexy star Manuel DeBoxer, featured front and center on the DVD cover. He’s in the third scene with Ricky Sinz, who looks slightly less formidable without the beard and cowboy hat.

Blue collar is the word – if that’s your scene, then you won’t be disappointed.



**“Prick” by Citebeur.com**

Courtesy of Adult Depot

Says the back cover, “Watch as 9 of Citibeur’s exclusive models fulfill their most selfish desires and darkest exhibitions, as they heat up and explore their own muscular bodies in front of the camera.”

You know, I went to a dark exhibition once. Everyone was all like, “Hey, someone turn on the lights so we can see the paintings!” I think *Inhibitions* is the word. Jeez, who writes these things anyway?

Compared to the other adult films reviewed this month, Prick takes a much more “reality TV” approach. It starts off with your tested and true formula of two “straight” guys watching a straight porno together. Though they don’t ever touch each other, and I wouldn’t quite describe them as muscular, the scene still has its appeal. Next is an extremely woofy solo shower scene featuring someone that looks somewhat like Aitor Crash – bald head, trimmed beard, furry and muscular body. He says a couple of sweet nothings in French as he brings his massive uncut manhood to full size, occasionally bouncing it around to tease. If you think this guy is hot, just wait for the Hispanic hunk (seen on the right of the cover) in the final scene, who smacks his muscles and humps a punching bag!

The movie has 6 chapters, and continues the trend of zero body contact between actors. However, watching these guys playing with themselves creates a heightened sense of anticipation, like there’s room for you to join.

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# Deep Inside Hollywood

## Jackman: More musicals, more *Wolverine*

By Romeo San Vicente



Photo courtesy Twentieth Century Fox

### Jackman: More musicals, more *Wolverine*

Perhaps no Hollywood leading man since James Cagney has been able to balance tough-guy roles and musical-comedy chops as easily as Hugh Jackman. And his upcoming projects indicate that Jackman will continue to divide his time between the two. Having won a Tony for his portrayal of gay song-and-dance legend Peter Allen in *The Boy from Oz*, Jackman will return to Broadway to star in a new musical about Harry Houdini, a show that will feature a score by Danny Elfman. Also on Jackman's dance card is a sequel to his recent *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, which broke box-office records on its opening weekend. Both projects are in early stages of development, so until the man decides he wants his own cooking show, too – or the day comes that Baz Luhrmann writes a *Wolverine* musical (don't laugh, it could happen) – Jackman will keep genre-hopping.

### Re-Used Guys

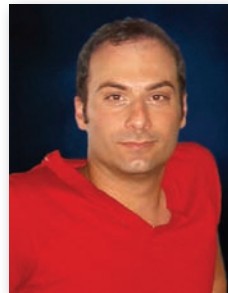
Development Hell is what they call it in Hollywood when your movie dies before it ever gets made. That's what happened to the original incarnation of the sci-fi comedy *Used Guys*, which was to star Ben Stiller and Jim Carrey as two emasculated males in a woman-dominated society of the future where men are cloned and discarded like old appliances. Now, thanks to Reese Witherspoon, the show might go on. The new idea? Stiller and *Walk The Line*'s Oscar winner as a clone and a clone-owner. Translation: romantic comedy time! Will themes of masculine panic and debasement get drowned in formulaic hetero smooching? And what about the gays? Where are they in the future? Arranging the flowers? Simply non-existent? No one knows. Meanwhile, *Little Miss Sunshine*'s Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris might come on board to direct. So consider this one officially back in Development Purgatory.

### Leighton Meester, *Single White Roommate*

Queer activists no longer protest in the streets over movies with homicidal lesbians, but that doesn't mean those characters no longer appear. And Romeo will eat his hat if that turns out not to be the subtext of *The Roommate*, a *Single White Female*-style thriller starring *Gossip Girl*'s Leighton Meester as a college student who becomes rabidly obsessed with her roomie (*Friday Night Light*'s Minka Kelly). There's going to be plenty of pretty young Hollywood men on display, including Matt Lanter (*90210*) and Cam Gigandet (*Twilight*), but you just know there's going to be that moment where Meester puts the moves on Kelly, and it's not going to end well. See for yourself when *The Roommate* stalks into theaters in 2010. She'll probably leave dirty dishes in the sink, too.

### Madea's Family-Friendly Reunion

Tyler Perry knows how to make money. Lots of it. And he's got drag to thank for his success with his most famous character, the loose cannon known as Madea. She's a white-hot cash cow, a bawdy old woman played by Perry himself to manic effect and aimed at adult audiences. But what about little kids? Don't they deserve to enjoy the antics of a big man in a dress? Sure they do, which is why Perry is currently creating an animated version of the gun-toting granny for a family-friendly sitcom that may go directly to DVD. Currently taking a back seat to Perry's current five film projects in the works, the cartoonish live-action lady patiently waits her turn to become the Bugs Bunny (he did drag a lot, too) of this generation. All she needs is a team of animators in Korea to finish the job.



Romeo San Vicente's life could be the basis for an NC-17 animated feature and little else. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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# Cocktail Chatter

## Crafting the Cosmopolitan and Vodka, Now Available in Juniper Flavor

By Camper English

### Crafting the Cosmopolitan

The Cosmopolitan is one tasty cocktail and probably most popular drink created in the last 30 years, but it is not magically original. The recipe calls for lemon vodka, lime juice, orange liqueur, and a splash of cranberry for color. Minus the cranberry, the drink follows the formula of spirit plus lime plus orange liqueur. If that spirit is tequila, that's a Margarita. If it's unflavored vodka, that's a Kamikaze.

In fact, the prevailing theory on the creation of the Cosmopolitan is that it was a spin-off of the Kamikaze created by a Miami bartender named Cheryl Cook in 1985 or 1986. She said the Cosmo is, "Merely a Kamikaze with Absolut Citron and a splash of cranberry juice."

But her version called for Rose's lime juice, a bottled lime juice that's a poor substitute for fresh-squeezed, and triple sec, which usually refers to the low-end orange liqueurs that are poor substitutes for Cointreau. These items are often served at high-volume bars that want to save money on (admittedly pricey) orange liqueur and don't want their bartenders taking the time to squeeze limes for each drink.

But I find the Cosmo to be intolerable without them. So too did Toby Cecchini, a New York bartender credited with finessing the drink into its best form. Someone told Cecchini about the drink, but in their version it was made with unflavored vodka, Rose's lime, and the red-colored syrup grenadine. He liked the look of the drink - soft pink and served in a Martini glass - and experimented with ingredients to make the flavor match the fashion. In the end, his version came out just like Cheryl Cook's version, but with better ingredients.

This version caught on like wildfire in New York, causing Cecchini and other bartenders to make them by the thousands. In the era of bottled sour mix and vermouth-free Martinis, this drink seemed high-maintenance enough for Cecchini to call them "labor-intensive pink monstrosities."

The trick to making a good pink monstrosity, even if you have the proper ingredients, is getting the ratio of them right. Apparently this is a problem for bartenders too - I've had Cosmopolitans in every shade from clear to deep red. When I make them at home, I'm too lazy to look up the recipe so I just take it one ingredient at a time: a couple ounces of Citron, a small splash of Cointreau, and a large quantity of lime. (I like them tart.) I make mine in keeping with Cheryl Cook's original instructions of "just enough cranberry to make it oh so pretty in pink."

That's my starting point, anyway. One thing I've learned making this drink is that cranberry juice, like slimming black clothing, hides many sins. Even if you get the initial ratios of liquor and juice all wrong, or have to resort to bottled lime juice and bottom-shelf triple sec, you can always make a drinkable version of this drink. Just keep adding cranberry until it's good.

### Vodka, Now Available in Juniper Flavor

I like to think of "bathtub gin" as "Martinis by the pool," but that's not where the expression originated. It came about during Prohibition when people would "make" their own gin by adding mail-order juniper flavoring to low-quality alcohol to help mask its awfulness. The weird thing is, gin cocktails were awfully popular back then.

Today it is still legal to make gin this way - not in the bathtub, but by adding juniper oil and other flavors to a neutral spirit like vodka. Thankfully, most of the gins with which we're familiar don't do it

like that. Gin usually starts with high-proof neutral spirit made from grains like corn, wheat, and rye. The gin distiller then selects a range of botanicals or botanical oils to infuse into the spirit, then redistills everything together.

There are many different distilling methods gin makers employ, but this is probably only interesting to folks like me who spend our spare time hanging out in distilleries on vacation. More interesting are the types of botanicals that go in to gin. Traditional brands like Beefeater, Plymouth, and Tanqueray contain many ingredients like citrus peels, coriander, cinnamon, and cassia bark. Newer gins on the market like Bombay Sapphire, Hendrick's, and Martin Miller's also include things like lavender, ginseng, rose, and green tea. All gins, by definition, must contain juniper (berries that smell like pine trees) as a dominant flavor, but the newer ones tend to put less of it in.

While vodka lovers and gin lovers are usually different sorts of people (though I find versatility provides more options in the bedroom and the liquor cabinet), when it comes right down to it gin is really just juniper-flavored vodka. If you've got vodka drinkers over for cocktails and you only have gin left, just tell them their drinks are made with "botanical vodka." If you're in the opposite situation, tell them the vodka is "diet gin." Lying to your guests is the most entertaining part of entertaining them.

The combination and concentration of the juniper, spices, citrus, and other botanicals is what gives each gin its unique flavor and makes it a better or worse fit for different cocktails. Some modern gins are so very citrusy and floral that they can be too perfumey for a Martini. (Hey, this drink smells like grandma!) On the other hand, when you add an intensely juniper-heavy gin to a Gimlet or other mild cocktails, sometimes all you taste is the juniper. (Hey, this drink smells like where grandma is buried!)

The trick is finding the right fit for each gin for your mouth. I prefer the old-style gins in a Martini, Aviation, Pink Gin, and Negroni. With the more-floral, less-juniper gins I like the Salty Dog, Gimlet, White Lady, and Vesper.

But I find that no matter what kind of gin you have in the house you can always add it to tonic water and it will taste just fine. Tonic is the mixer that swings both ways. ■



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Camper English is a cocktails and spirits writer and publisher of Academics.com.





# Canadian Rockies International Rodeo

## Reloaded, Resized, & Ready to Go

By Evan Kayne

I'm not a big rodeo fan, however, ARGRA is hoping to change that this June 26th to -28th at the 2009 Canadian Rockies International Rodeo; from their plans and ambitions, I'm thinking they'll have a lot of new converts.

This year ARGRA - the Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association - is thrilled to hold the event at the much larger Strathmore Agricultural Grounds in Strathmore just east of Calgary. The buzz surrounding this event, and the exciting possibilities this new venue have provided ARGRA, have more than a few people eagerly anticipating the rodeo's arrival.

The big news is the move to Strathmore. For the last few years, the rodeo has been bursting at the seams at Symons Valley Ranch. That and the ever encroaching threat of suburbia made the move inevitable. The new venue provides ARGRA with room to grow. Strathmore Agricultural Grounds is one of the most modern facilities in the Calgary area. There's a covered grandstand and seats around the arena similar to the Stampede's in-field seats, loads of parking, acres of camping space and expanded facilities for rodeo contestants and attendees alike.

Yet that's only the start. With all the rodeo events, the parties, the new events, the new and wider selection of food vendors, it's starting to sound like a smaller version of the Calgary Stampede - but one geared to our community...where the longing stare you give a hunky cowboy might actually be returned.

Speaking of food, there will definitely be a greater expanse of fare for your average cowgirl and cowboy. Judy Munson, ARGRA's Communications Director, said they had a lot of contacts from vendors in Strathmore who have traditionally worked with Strathmore's Heritage days. The plan is to have a group of vendors selling during the day, while others will feed the evening crowd. If you are surprised a small town would embrace a gay rodeo, Judy has news for you: contrary to what some of us might think, the reception from the town has been impressive.

"Strathmore has been just amazing...A lot of their stores and retailers have become sponsors for us...we have people who have volunteered to help out." Additionally, Strathmore itself has lots to offer - there are several hotels (for those who prefer their camping to be done in high heels, not in tents) and various stores/services all just a 5 minute drive away from the grounds.

With all this space, ARGRA wanted to do something to give back to the community. Thanks to an idea from Steve Polyak, publisher of this magazine, ARGRA is pleased to invite non-profit organizations to participate in the first ever Gay Calgary Olde Tyme Country Carnival!

According to Judy, the Carnival is going to be reminiscent of midway games you would have seen in country carnivals in the past (hence the name). In this situation, the games will be run by non-profit groups in Calgary's GLBT community. "Booths are for non-profit organizations...they set up their booth, they run their own games and all the money they raise goes to their organization."

For the community groups, it has the potential to be a great fundraiser; they get to be part of the rodeo, and the *four to five thousand attendees* enjoy games while supporting many good causes. "There are a number of people who come to the rodeo who don't

even step foot in the (grandstand), but they come for the party, they come for the events...we wanted to add some flavour, add a western theme." Games scheduled so far include: Ring Toss, Balloon Darts, Kissing Booth, Spinning Prize Wheel and "Pie the Fairy". Add-in that the prices are reasonable (they've been asked to keep game prices around \$1-2) and it's win-win for everyone.

After you're done with the games, it's on to the auction or browsing for some artwork. This year sees the second iteration of the art show / sale and silent auction. Last year's event was really successful, and in keeping with a bigger and better rodeo, ARGRA will present the largest GLBT art show and sale in western Canada. At time of publication, they already have over 110 auction items along with some high end artwork available for sale.

Of course they still have the multiple social events: the Friday night cabaret with headliner Gord Bamford, the Bud Light Barn Burner Dance Saturday night, and the Awards ceremony Sunday night. However, Sunday night they've also added Steve Arsenault & Band to perform at the Happy Trails dance. Judy says that by that time everyone's starting to wind down, and this year ARGRA is hoping to push that energy back up for a final blowout.

The oomph for some folks will come from the spirit of the campsite; strathmore is blessed with acres of land for camping. For these people staying on-site, Judy says they also plan to make the camping site fun and direction-friendly with quadrants, named roads and lanes. The idea is that unlike previous years where you wandered around looking for someone, you can tell them "Well, I'm the fourth one up on Brokeback Lane" or "I'm in the 'Homos on the Range' section. This is still in the works and will be revealed at the rodeo. Of greater concern for campers is the availability of shower and washroom facilities. Judy wants to reassure attendees that beside permanent washrooms and shower facilities on the Strathmore grounds, ARGRA has arranged for additional portable facilities.

With all these changes, the surprising thing is that the prices have remained the same. Judy admitted ticket sales were a little slow to begin (which may be attributable to this year's endless winter) but she happily reported that sales have drastically taken off in the last few weeks. There are a variety of ticket package prices available through ARGRA, including tickets to individual events such as the Saturday night Dinner and Dance (\$40/\$20 dance only), daily Breakfast (\$8) and daily entry to the Rodeo grounds (\$15). The daily entry fee gets you into the retail area with the Silent Auction items, the GLBT Art Show/Sale, the Carnival, Beer Tent and of course the real fun - the Rodeo itself.

Finally, for those who enjoy the rodeo but are not participants, why not volunteer for this great event? They are always in need of help, especially this year now that ARGRA has stepped up its game. Join the ARGRA family and volunteer for an hour or two. It's a great way to meet people, have fun, and help out. Contact volunteers@argra.org.

However you choose to participate in the Canadian Rockies International Rodeo, it looks to be a major event everyone will talk of this summer. I know I'm now planning to attend - don't miss out!



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For additional information about ARGRA, visit their website at <http://www.argra.org>. Organizations interested in participating in the Olde Tyme Country Carnival may also contact ARGRA through their website or via email at [sponsorship@argra.org](mailto:sponsorship@argra.org)



# Alberta's Bill 44

## A Huge Step Backwards for Human Rights

By Kelly Ernst

The addition of the words “sexual orientation” to Alberta’s human rights legislation may seem like a positive development that moves Alberta decisively into the next century, but other aspects of Bill 44 move us centuries back again.

We have all benefited because of the 1998 *Vriend* Supreme Court case that ordered Alberta to include “sexual orientation” in its human rights legislation. So, including “sexual orientation” in the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination is long overdue.

But the extra and unneeded addition of a parental opt-out clause to our human rights legislation is very troubling. Let’s face it, Bill 44 seems designed specifically to censor discussion of homosexuality.

Media reports suggest that the opt-out clause was added to place limits on discussions and educational content regarding sexual orientation in schools as a trade-off for finally enshrining gay rights. It does so by requiring schools to give advance notice about “courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises,... that include subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion, human sexuality or sexual orientation.” And this provision gives parents the right to pull their children from such classes “without academic penalty.”

The Alberta government has amended Bill 44 to exclude “incidental or indirect references” to the three scary topics but don’t be fooled. Although we don’t know how the courts will interpret the wording, the intent of the section is clear: to put limits on freedom of speech regarding discussion about homosexuality in schools.

**The opt-out clause has been reported as a trade-off between 2 sides of a divided caucus. Whether it is or not, is largely moot, we’re still stuck with a Bill that takes leaps and bounds backwards.**

The Bill was drafted without public consultation, and there was no groundswell of public demand for an opt-out clause. No other province has a similar section in its human rights code. The Alberta Teachers Association and the school boards—who often agree on little—say that the opt-out is not required in human rights law and that existing opt-out policies concerning human sexuality and religious instruction are in place and working well.

So why is the opt-out clause needed in the Human Rights Act, and needing to be backed by the force of the Human Rights commission? The source of this Bill is an issue largely overlooked by the press. However, Paula Simons gives us a huge clue in her article in the *Edmonton Journal* that pointed the public toward a speech given to the World Congress of Families in 1999 by Ted Morton—now Minister of Sustainable Resource Development and second-place finisher for the 2006 Tory leadership race. He said ten years ago:

*“There is another stream of modernity - represented primarily by the gender feminists and gay rights movement - that target the natural family as public enemy number one. According to the feminist-gay gospel, the great evils of this world are sexism and homophobia, and their breeding ground is the traditional family. Hence, the gay-feminist project has become a social engineering project - to use the coercive power of the state to undermine the existing family and to reconstruct in its place their gender-equal utopias.”*

Minister Morton clearly supports the goals of the World Congress of Families “to defend the family and to guide public policy and cultural norms.” He goes on to say that,

*“To avoid the soft-despotism of New Egalitarians [the gay-feminists], we must make enlightened family policy a cornerstone of the democratic state....*

*We can do this in two ways. The first is to persuade our governments to require a ‘family impact’ statement for every new policy or law that is being considered. Before legislation is voted on, there should be an investigation and written report that assesses its impact - positive, negative or neutral - on the following aspects of family life...[including] parental rights and responsibilities--especially the right to educate their children in the moral and spiritual traditions of their choice.”*

The opt-out clause has been reported as a trade-off between 2 sides of a divided caucus. Whether it is or not, is largely moot, we’re still stuck with a Bill that takes leaps and bounds backwards. Arguments, such as Morton’s, to enshrine parental rights are arguably a means to limit other rights. The emphasis on so-called “family values” as protection from the “gay-feminist” agenda of equality and acceptance is frightening. Bill 44 is a first step to limit rights, *not* an action to give equal rights to all.

The impacts of Bill 44 are uncertain, but we do know that the wording of the opt-out is broad and vague and open to legal interpretation. Unfortunately, the opt-out provision will have the force of the human rights commission behind it.

The parents inclined to use the legislation and the corresponding threat of human rights complaints to silence discussion of whatever they find “objectionable” will likely be concerned about topics related to homosexuality. This includes gay marriage which, after all, is legal in Canada. So we may see a teacher face legal sanction for teaching about what is actually legal in Canada! Given the choking effect of Bill 44 on the curriculum and on teachers’ willingness to address controversial issues, lessons thought to deal with “religion, human sexuality, or sexual orientation” may be wiped out of schools.

Those who think that every school lesson affects their “values” will now be able to interfere with a school’s content in every way they can. It is possible that Ted Morton’s demand for a “family impact” statement for every new policy or law may make its way into Alberta’s education system for every new material, course and discussion in the schools. Thus the big chill quietly begins.

As Premier Stelmach stated, students could be exempted from lessons dealing with evolution. History or literature dealing with “religion” or “human sexuality” will be fair game too.

Teachers, administrators, school boards, and even the Minister of Education could face human rights complaints when schools inevitably fail to provide advance notice to parents about “objectionable” material. How, after all, are the schools supposed to anticipate the cause of every possible objection?

Naturally, the schools will react by trying to avoid complaints in any way they can: Bill 44 will have a serious withering effect on teachers, administrators and classrooms. Most importantly, it will harm students by severely limiting the quality and breadth of their education.

Bill 44 will have other chilling effects too: it has the potential to move gay and lesbian teachers and students back into the closet. It invites censorship of educational materials for gay and lesbian students. The threat of human rights complaints could now be used to smother acceptance of diversity in Alberta schools.

We are being sold that Bill 44 was tweaked to protect “parent’s rights,” but the real impact just might be to curtail discussion of any topic “gay” and to forward a culture that does not fully accept diversity, especially gay and lesbian people. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. In this case, the future may prove that we were not vigilant enough. Bill 44 is a great loss for the gay community in Alberta. The price of our future may be refocusing our efforts back toward vigilance of future rights battles to come. ■

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▶ Don't Leave Me This Way - From Page 24

Saudi Arabia, while an ally of the United States, is a fundamentalist Islamic state whose version of Islam (*Wahabi*) is seen even by the Muslim world as extreme; how would they treat a homosexual person stranded in their country who no longer enjoys even a modicum of diplomatic protection?

Coming back to the new policy and its offering of such benefits as a diplomatic passport: Possessing such a document not only ensures immunity against prosecution or persecution for the individual holding the passport, but it would go a long way -- a very long way -- in ensuring a seat on that helicopter lifting off from the roof of the American embassy.

I understand Washington’s view of gay men and lesbians (“don’t ask, don’t tell”), even while I vehemently disagree and think the official view is badly misinformed, shall we say.

Regardless of which party is in power, the bureaucracy itself remains essentially conservative, as it does in Canada. That is the nature of bureaucracies; they are hardly bastions of cutting-edge thought.

However, even given that reality, to have a policy in place that would *actively* abandon the partners of Foreign Service and Diplomatic Service personnel to their fate in the event of an evacuation is something out of some bad Hollywood conspiracy movie. ■

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# Know Your Employment Rights

By Darryl A. Aarbo

In good times and in economic slowdowns, the reality is that employers and employees sometimes become “former” employers and employees. Both employees and employers should know their rights in the event of a termination.

There are two basic types of employees: unionized and non-unionized employees. This article will only deal with non-union employees, as unionized employees have access to their union for assistance and have their rights set out under a collective agreement.

An employer can terminate a non-union employee with or without “just cause”. If there is “Just Cause” then the employer does not have to pay any severance. Given the current economic climate it is important to note that lack of work or sale of the business is not just cause for dismissal. Just cause requires wilful misconduct on the part of an employee, such as theft.

Incompetence is considered just cause, but it is very difficult to prove. Unsatisfactory job performance is not generally good enough unless there has been a careful written record of the problem, with meetings with the employee and warnings that continued poor performance will lead to dismissal.

If there is no just cause then an employer must give an employee notice of her or his termination or pay them a package. The term for the package often referred to as “severance”, “termination pay”, “transition pay”, “pay in lieu of notice” or a host of other terms that fall under the concept of “wrongful dismissal”. Most terminations fall into this category, including where there is a lack of work or economic cutbacks.

The *Employment Standards Code* (the “Code”) sets out the minimum pay to an employee upon termination. This is an amount to be paid in addition to money that the employee has already earned up to termination and any unpaid vacation pay. These amounts must be paid very shortly after termination and the employer cannot force the employee to sign a release before getting these amounts.

It is important to note that the Code amounts are *minimums*. The law provides for *additional* legal rights for employees to claim damages for what is commonly called severance pay under the heading of “wrongful dismissal”. There is no set table of what an employee might be awarded, but if you are getting paid more than minimum wage then you are generally entitled to get more than the minimum set out under the Code. Many people think that there is a rule stating “one month per year of service”. This is *not* a legal standard or rule. Many factors are considered by the Courts such as: length of employment, type of position, age, job prospects and others. Each case will be decided by its own set of facts.

If an employer is planning on paying more than what is set out under the Code then it may ask the employee to sign a release. The release prevents the employee from taking an agreed amount and asking for more money later. It is always recommended to speak to a lawyer before signing a release to ensure you are getting a fair package. ■

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Darryl Aarbo is a partner at Courtney Aarbo, Barristers and Solicitors, [www.courtneyaarbo.ca](http://www.courtneyaarbo.ca)

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# The Underwear Affair

## Fighting Cancers below the Waist

By Dallas Barnes

Watch out Calgary and Edmonton! Thousands of people will be running on your streets with nothing on but their underwear for The Underwear Affair, a foot race like none other, in an effort to raise money and awareness for cancers below the waist.

At 6:00pm on June 6th in Calgary, and June 20th in Edmonton, participants will be walking or running a 5km or 10km course. Each participant is encouraged to put on their best underwear and/or a crazy costume and raise money for the Alberta Cancer Foundation's research into prostate, colo-rectal, ovarian, bladder, cervical, and testicular cancers. Thousands of individuals in Alberta have been diagnosed with these types of cancers in the past year, and hundreds more have died.

Linda Mickelson, CEO of the Alberta Cancer Foundation is passionate about The Underwear Affair. "One third of all cancer is found below the waist. Many individuals are not comfortable talking about it. There is less of an emphasis on these cancers as a result, therefore less funding. By making this a fun event, there is a potential to make some serious dollars!"

The Alberta Cancer Foundation has a long history of creating research dollars for further cancer research. Through their 17 province-wide cancer centres, they provide diagnosis, treatment, and care to Albertans. They also fund cancer research and provide evidence-based prevention and screening programs to prevent cancer from even occurring in individuals.

Promoted as an event for "people of all ages, all athletic abilities, and all fashion statements", this event is inclusive to everyone that chooses to participate.

To register in The Underwear Affair, you commit to a \$300 contribution. This is never a difficult task, as most individuals are not afraid to donate to such a worthy cause. Linda Mickelson is certain that significant money will be raised. Each year she sees the attendance and contributions increase considerably and she is just as certain with this year's event. "How can you not support people racing in their underwear?"

The fun is not over once you cross the finish line! Participants and guests are invited to EXPOsed the after party beginning after the first person crosses the finish line. There will be live music, dancing, and cocktails to top off your evening.

If you are unable to run in The Underwear Affair make sure you go down to cheer the participants on. Find someone you can donate too, and spread the word! For more information on locations of the event, and how to get involved please visit [www.uncoverthecure.org](http://www.uncoverthecure.org).

Everyone knows someone who has or has had cancer. Linda Mickelson assures us that "cancer isn't selective. All ages and all walks of life are susceptible." While cancer below the waist is often ignored, the Underwear Affair is changing that with your participation. ■

<http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1287>  
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### The Underwear Affair

- ⊕ June 6th, 2009, 6pm
- 📍 Round-up Centre, Hall D, Calgary
- ⊕ June 21st, 2009, 6pm
- 📍 The Butterdome, Edmonton
- 🌐 [www.uncoverthecure.org](http://www.uncoverthecure.org)



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June 13, Northlands, Edmonton

### COLDPLAY

July 17, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary  
July 18, Rexall Place, Edmonton

### FLEETWOOD MAC

June 23, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary  
June 24, Rexall Place, Edmonton

### BLINK 182

July 30, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary  
July 31, Rexall Place, Edmonton

### BACHMAN CUMMINGS

June 22, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary  
June 23, Rexall Place, Edmonton

### AEROSMITH / ZZ TOP

August 11, Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton  
August 13, MacMahon Stadium, Calgary

### PAUL POTTS

June 27, Francis Winspear Centre, Edmonton  
June 28, Jubilee Auditorium, Calgary

### KINGS OF LEON

August 12, Rexall Place, Edmonton  
August 13, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary

### XAVIER RUDD

July 5, Jubilee Auditorium, Calgary  
July 6, Francis Winspear Centre, Edmonton

### ROD STEWART

August 10, Rexall Place, Edmonton  
August 14, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary

### GREEN DAY

July 6, Rexall Place, Edmonton

### KEITH URBAN

Sept 18+19, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary  
Sept 20+22, Rexall Place, Calgary

### REBA MCENTIRE

July 9, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary

### THE TRAGICALLY HIP

September 14, 16, 17, Jubilee Auditorium, Edmonton

### NO DOUBT

July 15, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary  
July 16, Rexall Place, Edmonton

September 19, Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff  
September 21, 23, 24, Jubilee Auditorium, Calgary.

### KELLY CLARKSON

Nov 20, Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary

This list  
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# Lethbridge Pride

## Small City, Big Celebration

By Pam Rocker

For those of us who have spent significant time in a small town within Alberta, it's not surprising to have felt like even more of a minority when it comes to sexual preference. Homosexually speaking, my three years in Pincher Creek (and this was pre-Wal-Mart) could easily be called the 1980's of my existence thus far. Some fun things happened and sweatpants were an acceptable clothing option but for the most part, it's a black hole that I would rather fill with fake memories of being cosseted by Angelina Jolie. In her Tomb Raider outfit, of course.

Small communities can be beautiful, comfortable, and peaceful but can also be a double-edged sword. First, everyone knows everyone. Second, everyone knows everyone. You can easily go on your weekly visit to the Saan store and catch up on the latest gossip before you find a new pair of powder blue stirrup pants. Which, by the way, are conveniently located next to the sweat pants. This seemingly innocuous communication between your small town counterparts can be considered charming in some circumstances. In others, the effects can be less charming and border on terrifying. Being ostracized or worse is a fear we can all relate with, regardless of population.

Fortunately, the winds of change have been blowing hard and show no signs of letting up. Courageous people are standing up not only for legal rights but for the right to celebrate our diversity and uniqueness. Voices are being heard. Hearts and minds are slowly opening.

One of the fruits of these labours is found in the fact that Lethbridge is hosting a Pride Festival for the very first time. Heather Chomos, Chair of the Lethbridge Pride Committee, says that up until 2009, there's never been an official event that was publicly advertised.

"Years ago, it was a single event, by invitation only, due to its sensitive nature. Now that attitudes are different, that's certainly not the case anymore. Times are changing and more people value equality over ignorance," says Heather.

The significance of this inaugural festival isn't lost on those who live outside of the city borders.

"There's a lot of interest from all over Alberta. There are people from central and northern Alberta commenting not only on their willingness to participate but also their support. Those who cannot attend are incredibly supportive of Lethbridge going full out with a Pride event."

This year's 3-day event opens with a Kick Off Celebration on Friday, June 12th that invites everyone to come out and participate. The weekend's festivities vary from casual to high energy, and the Pride Committee has put lots of effort into creating events of all levels. Heather and her team are keenly aware of the difficulties some people face and the obstacles that may prevent them from celebrating openly.

"We do have a few events that are less public, not completely

out in the middle of the city. This allows those who might not be comfortable for any reason, to feel more secure and safe. We're also having all events open to the public, so just because someone is attending, it does not mean that they're a member of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans-Identified, Two-Spirited, Queer Community. Though, certainly, we do invite every member of the GLBTQ community to come out and celebrate," shares Heather.

The foundational ideas of the Festival are clearly ones that value inclusion.

**"Years ago, it was a single event, by invitation only, due to its sensitive nature. Now that attitudes are different, that's certainly not the case anymore. Times are changing and more people value equality over ignorance."**

"Our vision was to include each segment of the GLBTQ community, which is just as diverse as our country. We wanted to have an event that each member felt welcome at, and enjoyed attending. Our mandate is to educate not only Lethbridge, but also Southern Alberta, about its GLBTQ friends and family members and why it's truly important for everyone to be proud."

As a former small town resident, the existence and fortitude of Lethbridge Pride brings a sense of hope and possibility that I couldn't have imagined nine years ago. Hopefully, the social norms of the past will become as obsolete as my off-white sweatpants with elastic around the ankles. Wherever you call home, I encourage you to join the citizens of Lethbridge as they take pride in who they are and invite everyone to share in that joy.

The premiere Lethbridge Pride Fest runs from June 12th-14th. Highlights include Queeraoke, a free BBQ, Sunday Pride worship service, pancake brunch and more. For more information on event times and locations, check out the Lethbridge Pride Fest Facebook page or visit their website. ■



<http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1288>

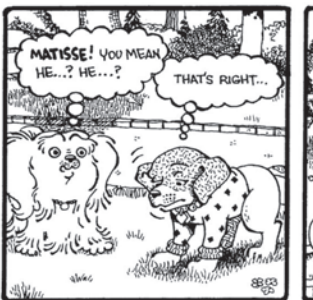
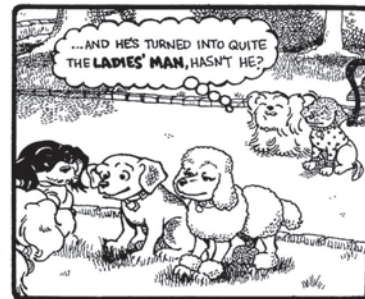
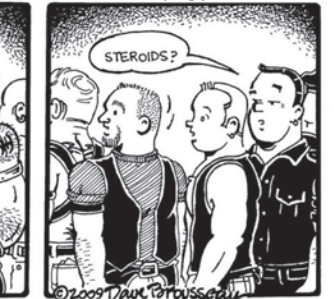
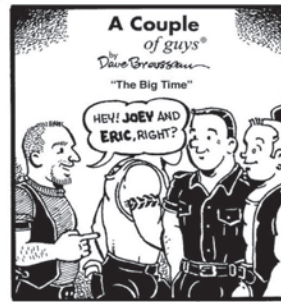
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### Lethbridge Pride

🕒 June 12th to 14th  
🌐 [www.lethbridgepridefest.tk](http://www.lethbridgepridefest.tk)



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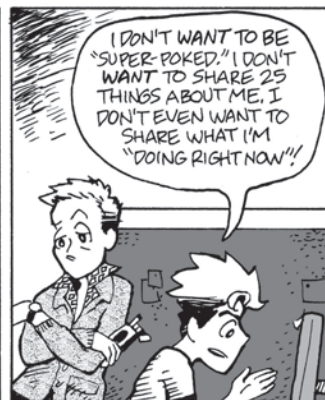
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## ► Only Skin Deep - From Page 5

the latest editions of GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine have received an average of 125,000 downloads every month – that’s a lot of people for the little local publication! It has definitely made us more mindful of what we can do to improve the experience for those following us online.

That’s why this month we are happy to launch a new online feature, which we hope will improve ease of access for our online readers – a quick and seamless way to browse the magazine without needing to wait for the whole PDF file to download. Visit the Magazine section this month to try it out for yourself, and tell us what you think. Remember, you saw it here first.

### May 2009

Last month most weekends in Edmonton had only single events, which in most cases are not worth the trip and accommodations for Steve. So he got to stay in town most weekends, to the surprise of all those who usually pester me about his absence.

Meanwhile, Karen Hofmann has continued to generously volunteer photographs of Edmonton events that we cannot attend. We really appreciate when community members take the initiative to submit photos when we can’t be present ourselves. On a side note, shows like the ones Karen has photographed are fine because performers are presenting themselves publicly, but candid photos are a slightly different story: we make it a policy to inform people ahead of time where the photos are going so that there are no misunderstandings. If contributors can’t assure us of this, we have to decline publishing the pictures. So if you have the inclination to help out with candid shots when we’re not around, make sure everyone you photograph gives you explicit permission to submit the pictures to us to be published. And also incidentally, giving us photos through Facebook is not helpful whatsoever – we need the original files for print.

Laramie Project, the topic of last month’s cover, did its run in mid-May with great success - organizers informed us that every show was dangerously close to selling out. We knew it would be a tear jerker when we saw the boxes of tissues prominently available at the theatre entrance, and we definitely needed ours. The cast of queer youth did a phenomenal job portraying a staggering range of characters from the town of Laramie, as they spoke about the tragic incident that made their town famous.

Emperor Joey and Empress Bianca named their upper house at Investitures. As is tradition, the positions of Prince and Princess, Duke and Dutchess were appointed to help with fundraising efforts and to serve as back-ups in the event that anyone above them can no longer fulfill their reign. This event was also an opportunity for them to hand out a number of titles to community members. GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine was honoured once again to receive a title this year of “Imperial Gazette”. At one point on stage, Joey mysteriously destroyed a certificate before it could be read.

Strangely, fate brought GayCalgary to number of places outside of our usual domain. I was at Wild Ginger for the “One Night in Bangkok” drag show, where the primarily straight audience was in awe of the fabulous performances by Nina Tron, Justine Tyme, and Bianca LaBouche. It was also a great opportunity to check the place out, especially considering that it is the venue for this year’s Pride Dance. All I can say is I’m definitely excited! Tickets go on sale for it soon, so stay sharp! Several days later, Steve and I accompanied our senior writer Jason to Cowboys to cover the Pin-up Saints performance. It was our first time in the infamous bar, and admittedly we felt a little intimidated...this merely meant that we admired the cowboys from a safe distance.

As I write this, the Fairytales Queer Diversity Film Festival is going on and we’re stuck working – damn! We were present for the opening gala films, “The Island” and “Baby Formula”, which we quite enjoyed. I’m hoping we will get a chance to see some more before the festival is over. I swear, I would try see them all if our

press deadline didn’t coincide. If you haven’t swung by yet, and you’re reading this in time to do so, I highly recommend it. I know the selection can seem overwhelming, but in all likelihood you will enjoy just about any of the films – they’re selected because they have fairly wide appeal.

Rumors have been flying about what’s happening with the old Boyztown space since Crazy Horse/The Brickyard bowed out. We’ve been able to ascertain that the space has been leased, and will become Vinyl Retrolounge – an 80’s retro dance club, not necessarily gay but supposedly having gay connections. The name may sound familiar to Edmontonians because you already have a Vinyl Retrolounge – it is owned by the same conglomerate company that brought you PLAY Nightclub! Like it or not, Vinyl will be Oil City Group’s foot in the door of the Calgary bar scene. If you’re looking for a job in the bar industry, it might interest you to try applying at [www.vinylretrolounge.com/calgary](http://www.vinylretrolounge.com/calgary). We’ll be keeping our ears peeled for more news about this club, and its potential as a gay-friendly venue.

### Next Month

Steve and I will be practically living in Edmonton for a good part of June, to cover the hefty itinerary of Pride events (see their ad on page 54 for more details). But don’t forget that Lethbridge is hosting their first Pride celebration this year, so make time to go out and show your support if you can (see the article on page 34). We’re also sponsoring Pride Saskatoon this month – I know it’s out of our scope as an Alberta publication, but sometimes cross-province promotion is important too.

We’re also looking forward to ARGRA at the end of the month. This will be their first year with the rodeo at the new location in Strathmore, and understandably there have been some growing pains. From our point of view things look very promising, but if you are still not satisfied with the new set up, rest assured that the ARGRA board will be looking at solutions for next year. Read more about it on page 30.

### Some other notes related to ARGRA:

If you are part of a non-profit group, make sure you make a presence at the Olde Tyme Country Carnival, sponsored by GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine. It’s a one-of-a-kind fundraising opportunity where community groups can charge a small fee for people to participate in a carnival game of their own creation. If you are interested, make sure you contact ARGRA as soon as possible! For more information, visit their website: [www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org).

Also, there will be a new shuttle bus running between 5 Hotel in Downtown Calgary (618 – 5th Ave SW) and the rodeo grounds in Strathmore. It is free to ride, but you will need to be waiting at the hotel on time because there are no more than 2 round trips on Saturday and Sunday, and only one on Friday. See the ad on page 45 for more details. ■

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We want to hear what YOU have to say about the topics in this article, and any other articles in GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine. Visit our chat forums at [www.gaycalgary.com/forum](http://www.gaycalgary.com/forum) and write your heart out! Or write us a letter to the publisher by post or by E-mailing [publisher@gaycalgary.com](mailto:publisher@gaycalgary.com), and we may publish or respond to it in the magazine!



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# Calgary Gay Fathers

## Every Day is Father's Day for Them

By: Dallas Barnes

Fathers all over Canada will be celebrated on June 21st, as Father's Day rolls around again this year. And joining in on this day will be the gay, bisexual, Trans, and questioning members of Calgary Gay Fathers.

Initiated in the early 1980's, Calgary Gay Fathers consisted of an informal group of gay fathers offering to support one another. Today, Darrell Taylor and his husband Neil Dustan, fathers themselves, dedicate their time and energy to make sure this group continues to thrive as a phenomenal social network and support for those in need.

Current members are thankful for this group.

George Wilson is a father. He is a Scout Leader who believes that he has a moral responsibility to his son to be a dedicated Dad. Nonetheless being a gay single father is not easy. Dating in Calgary is difficult as many gay men do not want kids, and it is also a constant challenge dealing with the public. Wilson notices how people perceive him as a single gay father. It is so much more common to see single mothers, and he believes that people like him are judged more harshly as a result. Being gay only accentuates the alienation.

Wilson found Gay Fathers online. It was that feeling of not being alone, and knowing there was support out there that allowed him to continue being a dedicated father.

Landon Froelich, another member of Calgary Gay Fathers, is also a loving and dedicated dad to two daughters aged 10 and 11. Originally from Prince George, B.C., Froelich became a single father after

**"There are different challenges for both gay and straight parents. Being a gay father doesn't make me different or better, just a father with different facets of life."**

his divorce from the mother of his children. He realized he was gay, but was afraid to tell his ex-wife for fear of losing his kids. Fortunately, after coming out to his ex-wife, they are now best friends. He regularly talks to his kids and they visit as often as they can.

Froelich found Calgary Fathers after his ex-wife and kids moved back to Prince George, and he too benefited greatly from knowing he wasn't the only one out there. He realized that "there are different challenges for both gay and straight parents. Being a gay father doesn't make me different or better, just a father with different facets of life. It is the most frustrating, yet rewarding job I'll ever do in my life."

Neil Dustan is also grateful for the support and existence of the group. After his divorce from his wife, he initially felt a huge amount of grief and wanted to develop a network of friends. He was not used to the gay community and had assumptions about how his life was going to end up. Gay Fathers was an essential resource in this process. Now he is happily married to Darrell, the father of three teenage daughters, and organizes the support group.

Calgary Gay Fathers has an active membership of 25 men at any given time, with 100 members on the mailing list. Both Darrell and Neil are amazed at how there has been a gradual change of attitudes throughout the years. Each family is unique, and the char-

acteristics of each member reflect that. There are divorced fathers, adoptive fathers, transgendered fathers, and ex-clergy fathers. People come in and out as needed, and support is always available.

It is easy to sign up as a member of Calgary Gay Fathers - simply check out their website. Once you have created your membership, you are invited to monthly coffee nights and potluck dinners. If you just want to stay in touch with the group via E-mail, that too is welcomed. Members are in good company, with others that know what you are going through - you are definitely not alone.

As Neil Dustan says, "Search for your authentic self, whatever that is, there is support available. Respect yourself and do not settle for less." ■



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### Calgary Gay Fathers



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# Use your head before giving it!

By Mark Randall

Hello everyone; as the title indicates this article will be focusing on using one's head (the one on your shoulders) before giving it, during these coming spring and summer months of warm weather. I will also talk about another way to use your head (you know the one) this summer, to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, or provide support to persons already infected.

Already we are starting the summer BBQs with friends, and coming up shortly are the ARGRA rodeo, and the various gay campouts - and let us not forget the Calgary Stampede. These are all great times to get together with friends; old and new and throw back a few beverages and perhaps other party favours to further enjoy these times together. This is all great fun until that moment when someone forgets to use their head (again the one on your shoulders) before maybe choosing to give some - or else there can be very nasty ramifications.

Many people believe that oral sex is a form of safe sex. But the truth is that oral sex *is not* considered a safe sexual practice in that there is a slight chance that one may become infected with, or transmit a sexual infection to another individual.

The chances for this transmission to occur increases significantly if the person performing oral sex has poor dental hygiene, but also if they have had dental cleaning within 24 hours, a tooth extraction or other serious oral surgery and - believe it or not - has brushed their teeth within an hour of performing oral sex (better to have a mint or gum). The reason being, that all of these can result in open wounds or aggravated gums where HIV and other sexually transmitted infections can be passed on.

There is only *one* true form of safe sex, that is abstinence... but we all know that, in most cases, is not a reality for many people. That being said, I ask you all to remember that using a condom for oral sex is the most effective way to *reduce* the chance of HIV or other sexually transmitted infections from occurring, and I encourage you to make this a regular part of

your sexual practices; for your safety and the safety of your sexual partner(s).

But there is something more "fun" focused that we can all partake in over the summer, and still get to use the right head; who knows you may even meet someone who will want to give you some later on. I am talking about the many fundraisers and events that will be happening over the coming months that are all working to support HIV/AIDS organizations and charities.

**Many people believe that oral sex is a form of safe sex. But the truth is that oral sex is not considered a safe sexual practice.**

We have the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch (I.S.C.A.) who have their special BBQ specials happening at the Eagle and Backlot, where you can buy burgers at a great price with proceeds supporting their charities for the year: AIDS Calgary and the SHARP Foundation being two of them.

There is the Lawn Bowling Tournament for the SHARP Foundation in August along with the Chili cook off held at the Eagle in September. The Artists for the Quality of Life have two shows in June, one at the Texas Lounge and another at the Twisted Element; and let us not forget the Annual Donnie Peters Cut a Thon and AIDS Calgary Walk for Life in September.

These are but a few of the events I have been made aware of and I know that others are being planned or are in the works so keep your eyes and ears open for an opportunity to support any one - or all - of them.

Remember this summer is a time to have fun; enjoy the sun, bushes, parks, rivers, campouts, rodeos, or whatever else brings you and your friends together. Just remember to cover your head(s); you wouldn't want to get burned and ruin such a beautiful summer. ■



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# A History of Gender Variance in Expression and Identity

## Part 4: From Germany to Stonewall (1933 - 1968)

By Mercedes Allen

The 1920s and early 1930s Germany enjoyed a kind of intellectual and social renaissance, as unbridled culture reached out toward all that fascinated it. Richard von Krafft-Ebing and then Havelock Ellis had unlocked the door to serious study of non-heteronormative behaviour, even if they and their studies weren't always taken seriously or dignified in some medical circles. Ellis' book, *Sexual Inversion* was the first serious English medical exploration of homosexuality, and many of his other studies delved into autoeroticism, narcissism, and things that are now classified as fetishes and paraphilias (Ellis himself became fond of "Undinism," a fetish involving the sight of a woman urinating). Magnus Hirschfeld followed in these steps.

The fields of Psychiatry, Psychology and other social sciences were in their infancy. Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung were defining the field. In the midst of this, homosexuality was "coming out," Hirschfeld's "Institute for Sexual Science" in Berlin initiated forays both clinical and surgical into studies of transgender, homosexual and other behaviour, and there was some amount of libertarianism circulating among the upper- and educated classes.

But the rise of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party to power would drive much of this underground until the final third of the century. One of the first priorities of Hitler's regime was to attack Hirschfeld's work, which was at a conjunction between what was considered "sexual perversion and permissiveness" and what Hitler at first thought to be a "Jewish science," namely psychoanalysis.

**1933** - A few months after Hitler assumes power in Germany, Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Science is vandalized and looted by a mob of Nazi "students." On May 6th, its archives of books, photographs, research documents and more are seized - 4 days later, they would be burned publically in Opera Square. The physicians and researchers involved with the clinic flee Germany, or in some cases commit suicide, unable to otherwise escape. Magnus Hirschfeld had moved to Paris by this time, and dies in exile in Nice, of a heart attack on his 67th birthday.

**1937** - The Pink Triangle is first used as a symbol to denote homosexuals (the symbol applied to all GLBT persons, with no differentiation made or recognized; in the 1970s, the Pink Triangle would metamorphosize into a symbol of defiance and solidarity in the GLBT community). Prisoners in Nazi concentration camps are made to wear triangular patches identifying their status: green for criminals, yellow for Jews, red for Communists, blue for illegal émigrés, purple for Jehovah's Witnesses, black for "antisocials" (GLBT people were also sometimes interned with the black triangle if homosexuality was only suspected), brown for gypsies, and pink for "homosexuals." In the hierarchy that developed, pink was near the bottom, and GLBT persons suffered extremely high death rates - they were also commonly used in medical experiments.

**1938** - Di-Ethyl Stilbestrol (DES) is introduced into chicken feed as a means of increasing meat production. Later, it is marketed to

pregnant women as a "vitamin" to help prevent miscarriages (an unsubstantiated claim). Prescriptions for this purpose ceased in 1973, because by the 1970s, this drug became linked to endometriosis, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer and infertility in female children. It has more recently been linked to intersex conditions and transsexuality, but not conclusively, and scientific researchers have shown only limited interest in delving further into such Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs).

**1941** - PremarinÆ (conjugated estrogens from pregnant mares) is first marketed in Canada (the U.S. follows in two years).

The phrase "drag queen" first appears in print, although it had been used as theater and gay culture slang as early as the 1870s, and "drag" appeared alone in print in 1914. It is thought to be a shortening of "dressed as girl," versus the alternately used "drab," from "dressed as boy."

**1942** - Dr. Harry Klinefelter first diagnoses Klinefelter's Syndrome, a condition caused by a chromosome nondisjunction in males; affected individuals have XXY chromosomes instead of XY, and are at additional risk for some medical conditions. Patients with Klinefelter's Syndrome can be (but are not always) characterized by effeminate appearance, sterility, some gynecomastia (breast tissue growth) and occasional transgenderism.

**1946** - The Garden of Allah opens in the basement of the Arlington Hotel, in Seattle's Pioneer Square. It is not the first gay cabaret club, but becomes fairly well-known and is chronicled in the book, *An Evening at the Garden of Allah: A Gay Cabaret in Seattle*.

**1948** - Harry Benjamin is introduced by Alfred Kinsey to a boy who wants to become a girl, and whose mother seeks a treatment to assist, rather than thwart the child. The following year, he begins treating transsexuals in San Francisco and New York with hormones. The Institute for Sexual Science had not previously done this; the treatment was entirely new.

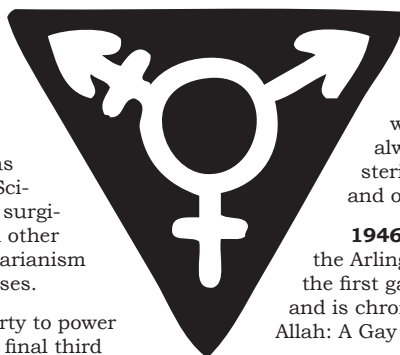
**1949** - Michael Dillon becomes the first female-to-male transsexual to complete sex-change operation procedures after a series of 13 pre-phalloplasty operations performed in London over a four-year period. Phalloplasty for FTM transsexuals would not be coherently developed for a single surgery until 1958.

**1951** - Roberta Cowell has the first known vaginaplasty performed in the U.K. A few other European physicians also resurrect the procedure, developed from earlier German research.

**1952** - Christine Jorgensen (May 30, 1926 - May 3, 1989) is "outed" to the American press, and becomes the subject of great controversy. Her surgery had been performed earlier by Dr. Christian Hamburger in Copenhagen, Denmark. She hadn't wanted to become a public spectacle, but spent her remaining years educating people about transsexuals. She was assigned the now-classic headline: "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Bombshell".

**1953** - Ed Wood Jr.'s film "Glen or Glenda" appears, providing a surprisingly sincere attempt to understand transgenderism, despite its bizarre and schlocky B-movie trappings. The movie was purportedly inspired by Christine Jorgensen. Wood would later become rather famous in Hollywood circles for being a transvestite.

**1955** - Dr. John Money, a psychologist, writes the first of many papers in the *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital* which will





establish for him a reputation as a pioneer in the field of sexual development, and proposes the theory that gender identity develops primarily as a result of social learning from early childhood.

Dame Edna Everidge first appears in a Melbourne comedy revue in 1955. At this time she is known as "Mrs. Norm Everage". She goes on to become an Australian figure of note in the 1990s.

**1958** - The first complete phalloplasty for gender reassignment purposes is performed by Dr. Judy T. Wu in Bratsk, Russia. Previously, the procedure had only been devised for men who had experienced amputations, particularly during WWI, with some early attempts to develop FTM procedures in the decade preceding. Phalloplasty would still not become very refined until the 1970s, when additional aspects such as a pump for creating erections would be devised for injured Vietnam veterans. Phalloplasty for female-to-male transsexuals is more complicated for someone not having the original infrastructure, as the organ and its function are not easy to replicate mechanically.

**1960** - Virginia (Charles) Prince begins publishing *Transvestia Magazine*. She also founds Los Angeles' Hose and Heels Club, which counts 12 crossdressers as members, and another organization that develops into Tri-Ess ("The Society for the Second Self"). These organizations are thought to be the first modern transgender support groups, and the magazine is the first publication for and by transgender people. She proceeds with a strong belief, however, in "heterosexual crossdressing" (i.e. crossdressers who are only attracted to women) and excludes "gay" or "bisexual" crossdressers from her groups, as well as transitioning transsexuals. Prince eventually goes on to live full-time as female, but Tri-Ess still does not allow full membership for androphiles (people who are attracted to men) or MTF transsexuals to this day.

**1961** - José Sarria becomes the first gender transgressive person to run for public office (he does not identify as being trans). A legendary drag queen, Sarria received 5,600 votes when running for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Sarria proclaimed himself "Her Royal Majesty, Empress of San Francisco, Jose I, The Widow Norton," the latter being a reference to the 19th Century Joshua Norton, who had colorfully proclaimed himself Emperor of the United States. This led to the 1965 founding of the Imperial Court System, a non-profit charitable organization of mostly drag queens that continues to this day to raise funds and awareness for other charities and people in need. Based on Sarria's model, another Court materialized in Vancouver, Canada in 1971, followed by many more in many major cities across North America. Sarria also later appears with other drag queens in the opening portion of the motion picture, "To Wong Foo: Thanks For Everything - Julie Newmar."

**1965** - David Reimer is born (named Bruce, by his parents). The following year, his penis is burned up to the base during a circumcision accident. He is taken to the Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore to see John Money, who recommends that Reimer be raised and socialized as a girl. An orchiectomy is performed, and Reimer is raised with the name "Brenda." Reimer's case would later have a major impact on the practice of medically assigning gender for those with genital ambiguities or related incidents.

**1966** - Harry Benjamin publishes *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, a medical text that pioneers the medical treatment of transsexuality. Although he hadn't coined the word "transsexual," it became the term of choice following this publication, with relation to transgender people who need to live full-time as their identified gender, and alter their bodies.

Johns Hopkins Medical Center opens the first Gender Clinic, under John Money's guidance. Although Money's beliefs and writings cause severe damage with regards to intersex children and gender reassignment at birth, he also champions gender reassignment surgery (SRS) in adults, and the clinic becomes the mecca for gender transition. Much of the surgical work from this time would pioneer SRS techniques. Money's legacy would be a mixed blessing / curse to the transgender cause, and seed some division

between intersex and transgender people as a consequence.

One hot August night in San Francisco, the management at Gene Compton's Cafeteria call police to deal with an unruly table of transpeople, hustlers, and down-and-outers (a typical segment of their clientele). When they attempt to arrest one of the drag queens, she throws coffee in his face, and a riot ensues, spilling out into the street. Although transgender (and gay pride) activism wouldn't be galvanized until the Stonewall riot of 1969, the Compton's riot would help set the stage for the movement, as well as be a spark to draw the San Francisco GLBT communities together earlier than elsewhere, making the city a cultural mecca for alternate sexualities. The story of Compton's Cafeteria is not well known, but told in the documentary *Screaming Queens*. After the riot, (now-Sgt.) Elliot Blackstone, who had been appointed the first liaison to the GLBT community in 1962, educates many on the Police force, helping the city to become one of the most trans-friendly environments in the world. Blackstone also helps to organize San Francisco's first transgender support group.

Mid 1960s through the '70s - Reed Erickson (1917 - 1992) founds the Erickson Educational Foundation, which supports many research projects that don't fit into the usual categories of grants... parapsychology, dolphin / human communication, human potential movement, and transsexuality. Erickson's financial support makes much of the work of Harry Benjamin and John Money's Gender Clinic at Johns Hopkins possible. Although rumours abound for years, it isn't until after his death that friends and family admit that he was a female-to-male transsexual.

**1968** - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) begins chromosome testing of female athletes, effectively banning transsexuals and some intersexed individuals (some of whom were fertile as female, with children) from competition, until 2002.

As Western culture neared the 1970s, a flashpoint was building up, as evidenced by the Compton's Cafeteria riot. While there had been some improvement in the lot of transsexuals (universities begin opening clinics for treating them, and surgeries were extended to non-intersexed transsexuals), a larger community was growing impatient with a system that relentlessly tried to shut them all in a suffocating closet. 1969 would change that.

Next: Stonewall and It's Fissures.

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Mercedes Allen is a writer who blogs at <http://dentedbluemercedes.wordpress.com/>, has been featured on [bilerico.com](http://bilerico.com/), [PageOneQ](http://PageOneQ.com/) and others, and has also developed the website at [AlbertaTrans.org](http://AlbertaTrans.org) as a resource for transgender information and support.

# In Awe of Il Divo

By Jason Clevett

I wasn't quite sure what to expect heading into May 26th's Il Divo concert at the Saddledome. Critics have not often been kind to the international superstars, comprised of Italy's Carlos Marín, Switzerland's Urs Bühler, France's Sébastien Izambard and American David Miller. By the end of their two-part hour and fifty minute show I had to admit I was in awe.

The initial key to the group is the fact that these are four very good-looking men. They played it up to the hilt for the 11,000 plus in attendance, comprised mostly of women between 40 and 80, their husbands, and gay men (many of whom were with their moms). Marín especially played it up to the hilt, pausing to tell the crowd "I missed you. Did you miss me? Did you miss my... little curl?"

Yes, there was a lot of cheese in the show, the sly winks, the incredibly slow walking, and dramatic faces. I kept waiting for Marín's head to explode during some songs. Underneath the corniness is the fact that these guys can sing. The night was filled with cover songs of Celine Dion, The Moody Blues, Toni Braxton and even Frankie Goes To Hollywood. From the opening *Somewhere* from West Side Story the group let their pipes speak for themselves.

The song *Mama* was an early favorite for the crowd, made up of Moms and Grandmoms. When the men's voices came together, it can only be described as magic. The usually muddled Saddledome sound came through crystal clear, meaning that songs like *My Way* and *Unchained Melody* still came across as powerful despite being sung in Spanish. A cover of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* was perhaps a little over the top for some people. *Amazing Grace* on the other hand sent chills down my spine and was one of the best sections of the show.

From the staging, which included a giant screen and a pair of walkways that went around the audience to a small stage in the middle of the arena (effectively turning 12th row on the floor into first) to the jaw-dropping vocals, Il Divo put on a spectacular show. Was it worth the \$140 per ticket price tag? I'd say no, but then I don't think any performer is worth that kind of coin, especially for a show under two hours. Judging from the grins on the faces of those who made their way to the exits, I was in the minority in that belief. The fans went home happy, which is really all that matters.

Miller at one point commented on how, when the group was put together, they thought it may last a year. If this show is any indication, the group has many more years of returning to Calgary. ■

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# City and Colour

## Dallas Green Enthralls Jubilee Auditorium

By Jason Clevett

It speaks to the influence that an artist has on their fan base when they can consistently draw a crowd to their shows. May 20th marked the third time in a year that Dallas Green has brought City and Colour to Calgary, and once again the show sold out almost instantly.

I have an admitted bias towards Dallas, who is one of the most humble and endearing guys I have met in my life. Not just musicians. Period. That transmits to his fans and through his music in a way that is hard to describe to one who has never experienced it.

The show kicked off in the same way it did in Vancouver, with Harris Cehajic playing Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* as the crowd sang along. Dallas then hit the stage, kicking the show off with *Forgive Me*, *Sam Malone* and early sing-along *Waiting*.

The downside of a show like City and Colour is due to the intimacy of the venue and music; you always have those people who insist on yelling things out. Green has used his dry humor to combat it, such as when a girl screamed for him to take off his shirt, or that they loved him.

"What is this, a Jodeci concert? If I took off my shirt, I would feel really uncomfortable, and I am not sure how that would make you feel. I really think you should invest in a relationship before you say you love them. What if they don't love you back? Or 'I love you' and they say 'thanks.'"

What started off as slightly amusing soon became absurd, which Green pointed out when a man in the audience yelled "Dallas, you are my sexkitten."

"I am not sure why you would think that would make me feel good. Or that I wouldn't comment on how stupid it was."

Nevertheless, the yelling couldn't take away from the show. Green was backed up by bassist Scott Remila and drummer Dylan Green. But he took some time during the show to play solo, showing his skills as a singer, songwriter and guitarist. A show-stopping moment occurred at the beginning of the encore, when Dallas sang an a cappella cover of blues singer Son House's *Grinnin In Your Face*.

While this will be the last City and Colour show in Calgary for awhile, Green will be back soon, in an entirely different form. Alexisonfire's new album *Old Crows/Young Cardinals* comes out this summer and the band will be in town for the Vans Warped Tour August 12th. ■

 <http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1295>  
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Dallas Green, [www.cityandcolour.ca](http://www.cityandcolour.ca)



ISCWR Amateur Drag Show at Prism, Edmonton

ISCCA Pajama Party at the Texas Lounge, Calgary



ISCCA Investitures at the Calgary Eagle



# Evil Dead: The Musical

## Zombies! Blood! Music!

By Jason Clevett

Ryan Luhning is a happy man. After a lot of hard work, planning, and negotiating, the artistic director of Ground Zero Theatre is watching *Evil Dead: The Musical* play to sold out crowds, standing ovations, and a lot of blood splattered people.

While we haven't been able to see the show yet (look for an online review later this month) we did catch up with Ryan a few weeks before the show opened to discuss all things dead and evil.

When the show was announced, immediately a buzz began. This is one of the most hotly anticipated shows in Calgary, both for audiences and its actors.

"We have seen the show twice in Toronto and I knew right from the get go it was something I wanted to share with our audience. We started a dialogue early on about bringing their version of the show to Calgary. We are very lucky that we have become the west coast affiliate of the Toronto production. We have acquired their set and a lot of their props and costumes, but are still able to use a lot of local talent. A main key element of our organization is to make sure we bring work to our own community. We have had ticket sales from Seattle, Vancouver, places further away that couldn't make the trip to Toronto. We are very privileged because we are the only professional company outside of Toronto to produce it in Canada, and it is ours now. A lot of work has gone into making sure that we bring this giant, silly funny rock n roll goofball zombie show as the best we can do it for our community."

**"There are a few Holy Trilogies - Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, but since I was a kid mine was Evil Dead, Evil Dead 2 and Army of Darkness."**

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement. I remember my brother and I watching the film *Evil Dead* in our parents basement. Based on Sam Raimi's cult hit movie series (*Evil Dead*, *Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn*, *Army of Darkness*) five vacationing college students break into a secluded cabin in the woods. There they discover *The Necronomicon*, an ancient flesh-bound book containing blood-inked spells with the power to summon the demons of Candar. There are millions more who also remember that experience, which is why the musical has become such a cult phenomenon.

"There are a few Holy Trilogies - Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, but since I was a kid mine was *Evil Dead*, *Evil Dead 2* and *Army of Darkness*. I am a huge Deadite, a huge Bruce Campbell fan and seen the movies dozens of times. I have a bunch of friends who are also huge fans. It is going to be a rip-roaring good time in the theatre."

The challenge, he says, is not in convincing the hardcore *Evil Dead* fans (called "Deadites") but the casual Calgarian to plunk down their money. The company had the same issue with *Urinetown* a few years ago until word got out how awesome

that production was. The same thing is happening with *Evil Dead*.

"The fans of *Evil Dead* are coming. Our job as a company is to make sure we get everybody who just likes to have a good time to come to the show. They can wander the streets singing *Join Us* or *All of the men in my life keep getting killed by Candarian Demons*. There are so many catchy songs in the show."

Having bought the soundtrack, I can concur with that. How can you go wrong with songs titled *Housewares Employee*, *Look Whose Evil Now* and my personal favorite *What The Fuck Was That?* The show does receive comparisons to another cult classic.

"The audience is very much a part of the show. When Ash starts saying lines from the movies, the audience was shouting along. They sang along with the cast. It is very much a *Rocky Horror Show* for our generation. Sometimes the guys in Toronto said the title worked against them, because it was hard to convince people outside of the fan base to see a show called *Evil Dead: The Musical*. We met a waiter at a restaurant in Toronto who was dragged by the show, he didn't want to go but when he saw it he took 20 people the next night. The core audience will come, we have the task of convincing the average theatre-goer to come to something called *Evil Dead*."

The show's run has already been extended by two weeks, although all of the tickets in the "Splatter Zone" (the first three rows, think *Shamu* with blood) are sold out. However act fast as many nights are sold out. Reviews have been positive from press and patrons alike, and this promises to be a theatre experience like no other. ■



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PHOTO CREDIT: Sean Dennie, Photoganda | Tyler Rive as Ash



Ground Zero Theatre/Hit and Myth Productions present:

***Evil Dead: The Musical***

🕒 May 29th – June 30th, 2009

🌐 [www.gzt.ca](http://www.gzt.ca)

🌐 [www.evildeadthemusical.com](http://www.evildeadthemusical.com)



# Heterophobia

A Tall Glass of Gay with a Twist of Straight

By Dallas Barnes

Sage Theatre is about to “inspire and nurture the next generation of theatre artists” again with its annual festival *Ignite* running from June 11th to 13th. Pam Rocker is one of those next generations of theatre artists, bringing us *Heterophobia*, a momentous production that gives the audience something to think about.

Imagine a world where everything you know is reversed. Gay is the norm; in fact it has always been the model of human relationships. This is the world in which Grant, the main character, lives. After an arduous break-up, Grant comes home to visit her two Moms’. “As she struggles to hold on to her hidden desires, her Moms woo her with waffles, clean underwear, and the prospect of settling down and being artificially inseminated.” Grant is at the point of truth: should she reveal who she really is?

Rocker is one of Canada’s newer citizens. Originally from Texas, she has been in Alberta for the last nine years. She is a graduate of Lucia Frangione’s playwriting Intensive and “Act One”, a Los Angeles based program specializing in screenwriting and writing for television. She is an exceptional individual that, according to her bio, is “passionate about challenging prejudice, celebrating diversity, and telling stories in non-prescript ways.” This is Pam’s first major production that is not self produced, and is the one that she is most excited about.

*Heterophobia* has been on Rocker’s docket for four years. While studying with Lucia Frangione, the foundation of the play was being established in her mind. It wasn’t until it was time to produce her final project for the course that Pam began developing the world that is now *Heterophobia*. What began as a one-act play became a headlining production for the Ignite Festival.

Rocker believes that now is the time for her to put out such a personal production; her previous writing was always more conservative, but Pam believes it is her time to follow what is in her heart. “Everyone has their own voice, and are free to use it as they wish. *Heterophobia* is my voice.”

The production is a human story about real people. It is a creation of a parallel universe in which being gay is the norm, while being straight is the deviance. The story is comedic, with a message that is imperative to understanding why we think the way we do, and the repercussions it has.

Rocker invites you to come to *Heterophobia* with an open mind, and a willingness to laugh. “The cast is open and lovely, hardworking. They all come from different backgrounds and belief systems. It is inspiring. They make the words a story. I feel blessed.” She wants you to learn about yourself and others in a non-threatening way, and this is a story to connect with.

Sage Theatre’s Ignite Festival runs from June 10th to 13th. ■

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## Heterophobia

🕒 June 12, 7:30pm + June 13th, 2pm and 10pm  
📍 Victor Mitchell Theatre  
🎫 Tickets: \$10, or \$30 for a Festival Pass  
🌐 <http://tickets.pumphousetheatre.ca>



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### Sunday June 28

- 11:00 AM Calgary to Strathmore
- 5:30 PM Strathmore to Calgary
- 6:00 PM Calgary to Strathmore
- 1:30 AM Strathmore to Calgary



## ► Bad Bad Boys - From Page 12

anything of that nature to them. The pair had the exact same response (it's a twin thing!) when asked about indecent proposals.

"People don't really come up to us and ask for things, after a gig we will find out that people will ask our friends things. We don't do what they are asking for! ...Our parents come to a lot of gigs and I guess people don't always know its our Dad and will say things to him. He just lets it fly off his back because he is open minded and has a good sense of humor so things don't phase him. People have come up with some interesting propositions which we have never acted on. I don't understand it, I say to people 'would you do something with your brother or sister?' probably not, but I guess twins are different. We say no to twincest," said Derek.

"That is true, we don't. I know with twins it is something you hear a lot about that people are interested in," agreed Doug. "I have heard of twins who do that sort of thing but we don't. It probably would have been beneficial for our careers if we did, who knows?"

The Perry Twins current single *Bad Bad Boy* is on the billboard charts. The pair had Canadian dates scheduled this summer, visit their website for details. ■

The Perry Twins, [www.perrytwinsmusic.com](http://www.perrytwinsmusic.com)

 <http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1274>  
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## ► Naked, In Depth - From Page 53

I convalesced together for most of the springtime. After that she was doing awesome. We had such a great year. It is the first time I have ever been home for that long, so it was Niklas and Anna and I in Mommy-baby dog heaven. I was practically breast-feeding these two, it was so nice being home with them for such a long period of time. I get up at 3:30 every fucking day, and I make all of their food. I put the rice cooker on every day, and Anastasia would come out when she heard the rice cooker click. That dog has a hollow leg she is always hungry. She didn't come out, so I went in to look at her. She was lying on the bathroom floor, it is nice and cool in there. I said 'Hi baby, what's shaking?' She just kind of looked at me and I thought it was her back again, because we are so well rehearsed in that. I called the critical care place at 8 and they said to bring her in and give her an ultrasound. I went in and they said they would call me in an hour, it was routine we had done it so many times."

Assuming Anastasia was having the same issues that had resulted in 7 back surgeries, she headed for home.

"She called me 20 minutes later and asked 'Are you far? I think you need to come back here.' They found a tumor in her liver. I couldn't believe it, it was out of nowhere. 'Oh Anna, you did that all by yourself in secret.' The tumor had burst, so she only had a couple of hours left. I'm a hippy so we did breathing together and I got to hold her and we had our little talk and lots of kisses. Then Anna got her wings. I have to look at it like that. She is up there snacking on god knows what, probably eating goose poop and waiting for Nik and I to come and join her. I had a really beautiful experience with her. I was sad because I miss her, and I still have a big shrine in my house I can't do anything with. They gave me her ashes and I can't imagine anywhere to put them other than the bed with us. So I have this shrine and Nick and I have a routine, we go and talk to her. Nik is now very spoiled, he is 12 years old and has no teeth, bites and won't stop barking. He remains the love of my life. Animals are funny, they are our kids."

While that song in particular may be difficult to sing, she is excited to get back on tour. She plays the Boonstock Festival

outside of Edmonton on June 27th and the Coca-Cola Stage at the Calgary Stampede July 11th.

"I am really nervous because it has been awhile. I had an ovariectomy two weeks ago, I was in the cancer centre this morning. I juggle it. I am getting kicked out which is great but even if you get an all clear you are still dealing with a lot of the residual side effects from the chemotherapy and radiation. Radiation was a fucking gong show for me. Chemotherapy they basically try to kill you and just bring you back from the brink of death. It has been a really incredible year all around to say the least. I can't complain," she said, adding she can't wait to perform for her loyal fan base again. "They have totally supported me through everything. I have been playing in Calgary since 1989. I was underage playing the clubs in Calgary and those old all ages punk shows. I have so many great memories of Calgary. It is really emotional for me to go back on the road. I dedicated this record to my fans, which is the first time I have ever done that. There were days when I didn't want to work, sing, go to the studio I just wanted to hide and crawl back inside myself. I had a photograph of an audience that someone took from behind my back when I was onstage. That photo was in the front of my little cancer binder, and I looked at it every day. That was my motivation. I don't yet know the gravity of how important it is going to be for me psychologically to go see everyone and go 'Holy fuck, how have you been? I've been ok to, let's play some songs.' It is going to be very beautiful and emotional."

That probably won't be a direct quote. A few years ago when playing the Stampede Naked let out a few fun curse words on stage while her manager frantically signaled for her to stop. She received a fine for swearing on stage.

"Fear of getting in trouble, that will keep me on the right path. I don't know that it would be fair to modify *Fuck You 2*, I don't think it will be as fun. I am hoping we are still allowed to play it as is. Regardless I respect the Stampede and am happy to play there, it is just how it goes. There will be little kids that are there."

Often times when interviewed for GLBT publications, an artist has a message to say specifically to this demographic of their fans. In the case of Bif Naked, who has long been open about her fluid sexuality, her closing words were a message she would share with anyone who loves her and her music.

"I love you. I Love You. I LOVE YOU! There is a lot to say, like 'oh see you at pride' or 'my best friend in the world is a lesbian who plays on a lesbian baseball team!' What do you say that you wouldn't say to anyone else? For me, it is a common fact that I have no gender preference. If Ian was the same soul in a woman's body I would have married Tanette.' But he's not. I think that anyone who cares about people and their feelings and human nature, everyone is trying to make it through this world and navigate through all the bullshit. Let's just live our lives, be healthy and happy, love who we want and feel loved and important. We are all in it together." ■

 <http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1300>  
View additional pics/videos. • Share with a friend. • Post your comments.

## Bif Naked *The Promise* in stores now

- ⊕ Boonstock Festival – Edmonton – June 27th
- ⊕ Calgary Stampede – Calgary – July 11th
- 🌐 [www.bifnaked.com](http://www.bifnaked.com)



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by pam rocker



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Or Fax it to (403) 703-0685.

Please make cheques payable to "GayCalgary".

To reduce errors, please print clearly and verify your information before sending. All phone numbers listed will be verified. GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine is not responsible for errors in your ad submission.

Addresses placed in the classifieds are NOT placed into the map or business listing.

You may also submit your classified ad online at:

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If you have questions, please call us at (403) 543-6960 or toll free 1-888-543-6960.

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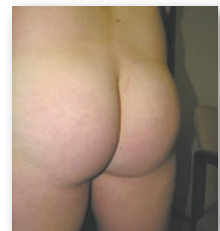
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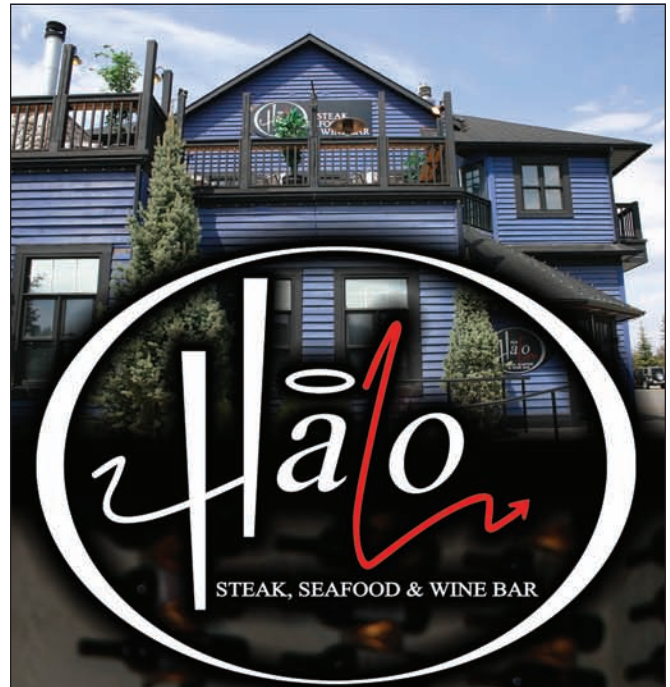


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# Naked, In Depth

## Bif Naked Discusses Life, Death, Love, and *The Promise*

By Jason Clevett

To say that her life has been eventful since Bif Naked graced the August 2005 cover of our magazine would be an understatement. After speaking candidly about the isolation and loneliness of being a celebrity, she met, fell for, and married Vancouver sportswriter Ian Walker in September 2007. In January 2009, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. A year and a half later, Bif has beaten the disease, released a new album, and is about to return to her home away from home, the stage with an extensive tour.

“It is like everyone’s life. Things change for people, life always hands you surprises. You should never predict what is going to

happen from year to year,” she said of her battle. “It is because I’ve got a big mouth. The universe hands me things that it wants me to go fucking blab about. I was like ‘are you kidding me?!’ But I can’t complain. I had a good time in the chemo wards making my Don Rickles impersonations and doing my thing. I was really lucky. I was in a couple of clinical trials where I worked with other women who were going through treatment and that was a really beautiful experience for me.”

GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine chatted for almost an hour with Bif from her Vancouver home. Never one to shy away, she spoke openly about many topics that may be difficult for most to speak of. The thing that comes through quickly from Bif is her incredibly positive attitude.

“Much to my parent’s chagrin I find humor in everything. There is always something funny in everything we experience, and cancer treatment for me was no different. There is a lot of crazy stuff that goes on as a patient that no one can anticipate for you because every patient is different. It is just not like me not to make a joke about something that people find uncomfortable. In our society people don’t like talking about being sick, death, cancer or diseases. In our society in Canada it is not polite. I am not known for being polite when it comes to taboo topics. So yeah I have a dent in my tit and am kind of yellow. But there is a makeup company called Mac. Confuse and distract with red lipstick and always wear high heels in the chemo ward and trust me you are going to feel better.”

When asked about being an inspiration to people who have been or will be diagnosed, she insists that it was them that inspired her.

“I see so many women and men, I met every single cancer patient type in the chemo wards when I was there. I spent a lot

**“A song like *My Innocence* was a great challenge and I really love that song. It definitely resonates conceptually with cancer. You do kiss your innocence goodbye when you are suddenly shell-shocked with life.”**

of time with people. Everyone is equally strong. I met a 32-year-old hot Italian guy with colon cancer and a colostomy bag. He told me a story about getting naughty in the sack and his colostomy bag burst! In the sack, can you imagine? We were both hooked up to these machines and we were rolling with laughter. It was so funny. Everybody’s got a story, and has had a hell of a time. Other patients inspire me, they do. I didn’t do anything remarkable I just happen to be the one that looked different in the ward, the only cancer patient with 45 tattoos. There are a million warriors in there.”

It’s not an easy thing for any couple to deal with, let alone one that has been married a month. Bif finally met her match in a gorgeous, funny Vancouver boy.

“Ian is a sweetheart and I feel for him. An all-Canadian boy who is a Snoop Dog fan and a Kanye West fan but not a Bif Naked fan. He’s never seen one of my shows and when we met he couldn’t tell you one of my songs. He married this girl with



all the tattoos. Suddenly he inherited a wife with two little dogs, and three weeks after our honeymoon I was diagnosed. So now he has a sick wife. It had to have been a mindfuck for Ian. It was overwhelming and very hard. The fact that we were able to get through the last year successfully and navigate, and learn first hand about each other's coping mechanisms and survival techniques without any other foundation built, I am very encouraged by the result of that. He will see a show on this tour though because I am going to make him."

She was determined to release an album in 2009, and despite days when she could not physically get out of bed, the result is *The Promise*, in stores now.

"There are days when I literally couldn't go to work. I always wanted to. I had a lot of complications with the chemotherapy like a lot of patients do. I had 17 rounds of chemo every three weeks. I had a surgical port catheter implanted in my chest, which is where they stuck the needle, and that developed a blood clot. It was crazy but it was great. It was the only way I could get a year off tour. Let's be honest, they wouldn't give me a year off ever, in 20 years I never had a year off. I call it my 'cancer vacation.' Yeah I was sick and bald but I didn't have to go back to Russia so that was kind of good."

The first single, *Sick* is an angry battle cry at the world.

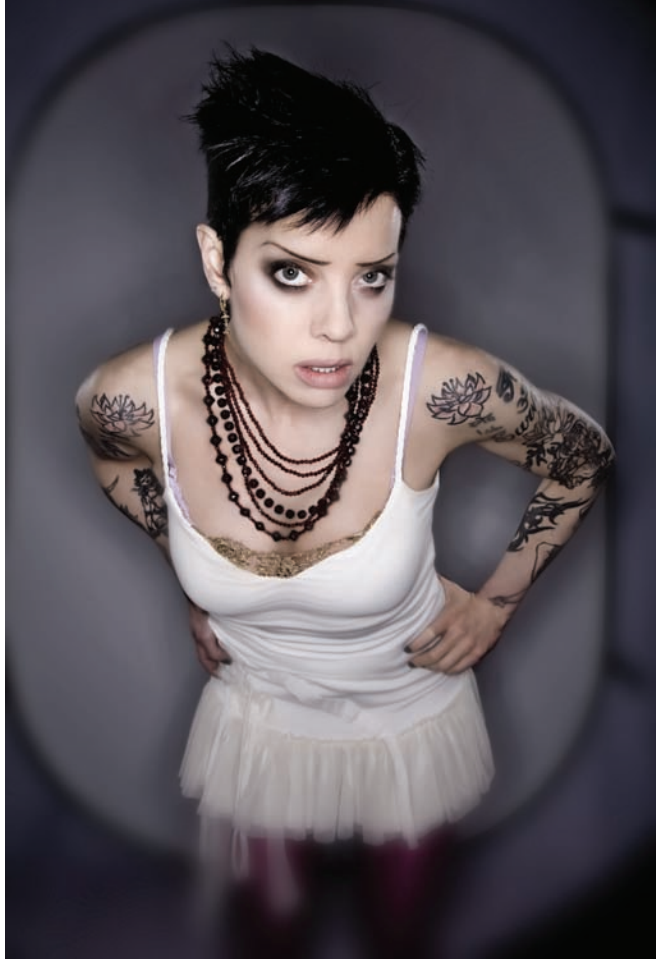
"I co-wrote that song with Jason (Darr, the album's producer) and it is his guitar textures that make that song. As far as the lyrics go it really does cover all topics, from the seal hunt to Prop Fucking 8, which don't get me started on. Things like that are happening in our fucking world right now, they make me sick. I know everybody has something in their life whether it is socio-political or not makes them sick. It is a song people can relate to for a lot of different reasons."

Another song on the album, *Honeybee* starts with the lyrics "There's been a murder in my kitchen. I hit him hard, I hit him fast, I watched him die."

"That is a song about guilt. I did kill a bee, and I am not proud of it. I am afraid of bees like anybody. We all go back to our inner child that goes 'Ahh! A bee!' I was swinging and swatting at it and yeah, I got him. He hadn't perished yet and I felt instantly bloody awful. I had to live with that so I wrote a song about it. I felt bad for days. I still feel bad when I think about it. After that I was subjected to the *Bee Movie*! It was awful! It makes me want to go build a temple or something."

Many will likely hear the song *My Innocence* and feel it is a song reflecting of her cancer experience. Surprisingly, the song was written several years ago.

"That song I wrote with a couple of songwriters named Curt Frasca and Sabelle Breer in New York City and is one of my favorite songs. As a lyricist and a vocalist you are always kind of singing about the same things; heartache, heartbreak, the



yearning for love, loss of love. It is hard to find new ways to sing about the same thing. A song like *My Innocence* was a great challenge and I really love that song. It definitely resonates conceptually with cancer. You do kiss your innocence goodbye when you are suddenly shell-shocked with life."

Some may question how so much anger and heartbreak can be created musically by someone who is as head over heels in love as she is.

"I will never write happy go-lucky songs. That is not what I write from. All of us are very flawed human beings, I have huge reserve tanks of shame, guilt, pain, heartache. If it is a really sad song or a fuck off song chances are it has nothing to do with Walker. He just shrugs I don't think he listens to half the lyrics anyway."

A song that truly represents the bad break-up, and will certainly perk up LGBT ears, is *Fuck You 2*. She sings "Will

he hold you like I hold you in the night. Can he tell you that he loves you when you're mine." There are a lot of different interpretations that can be made from the song.

"That is a song Jason wrote, through and through. I loved that song, and love singing it. In my own personal life that has happened to me. I have been in that situation where you can be madly and deeply in love with someone and they with you, and depending on how genteel of a character they either have great tact in confessing their truth to you, or they do not. In my situation there was not a lot of tact involved in somebody who was not being all that forthright regarding their gender preference. We are still great friends he and I to be perfectly honest, but at the time it was surprising for me. It would have been equally surprising if he had been messing around with another girl. If you are lovers with someone you know all of the ins and outs of possibilities," she reflected. "All of those things are great possibilities in anyone's life. At this point I am a pretty mainstream, square artist. It is not like I am Peaches or anything. A lot of the fan base I do have is a pretty homogenous bunch. If there is any possibility that I can play a part, no matter how small, to open up dialogue and awareness and acknowledgement then I am happy. That is awesome. I think it is important and my responsibility as an artist. If someone says 'here is a soapbox for you to stand on and talk and these people who are normally pretty square are going to listen to what you have to say' I want to make sure I get in some conversation that is really important and needs to be talked about."

Bif has been rehearsing to go out on tour in recent weeks, and discovering how difficult some of the songs will be to perform. The song *Blue Jay* in particular hits home. Her bichon frisé Anastasia died while she was laying the vocals for the track.

"It wasn't a bad thing. She was 10. The day I had my first chemo last January Anna had her sixth back surgery. She and

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## Friday, June 12

### 2009 PRIDE AWARDS

Enterprise Square Atrium, 10230 Jasper Avenue, 7 PM - 9 PM

Sponsored by the HIV Network of Edmonton Society

### KATE REID - "I'M JUST WARMING UP"

Prism Bar and Grill, 10524 - 101 Street, 8:30 PM

Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 at the door

### PURE PRIDE 2009

Play Nightclub, 10220 - 103 Street, 9 PM

\$20, available at Devine Wines, 10111 - 104 Street

## Saturday, June 13

### TD Canada Trust PRIDE PARADE

Jasper Avenue & 108 Street to Sir Winston Churchill Square

2 PM

### TD Canada Trust CELEBRATION ON THE SQUARE

Sir Winston Churchill Square, 3 PM - 9 PM

### WOMONSPACE PRIDE DANCE

Hellenic Canadian Community Hall, 10450 - 116 Street

9 PM - 2 AM, 18+ only

Members \$15, Non-Members: \$20

# edmonton PRIDE festival

## MORE DETAILS AT EDMONTONPRIDE.CA

## Sunday, June 14

### MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH PRIDE SERVICE

McDougall United Church, 10025 - 101 Street NW, 10:30 AM

Speaker: Dr. Charles Bidwell

### "QUEER IDEAS" BY REV. ANNE BARKER

Westwood Unitarian, 10111 Bellamy Hill, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

### PRIDE CENTRE BRUNCH

Pride Centre of Edmonton, 9540 - 111 Avenue, 11 AM - 1 PM

### TEAM EDMONTON - COME OUT AND PLAY DAY

Kinsmen Sports Centre, 9100 Walterdale Hill (Next to Outdoor Tennis Courts)

### TIME EVENT

10 AM - 11 AM Arctic Frontrunners - River Valley Run & Walk

11 AM - 12 PM Samsara Yoga - Outdoor Hatha Yoga

12 PM - 2 PM Free To Be Grass Volleyball/Pride Tennis

### 3RD ANNUAL GAY CUP

Kinsmen Sports Centre Field #2, 9100 Walterdale Hill

2 PM - 4 PM

### SOUL OUTING PRIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

Robertson-Wesley United Church, 10209 - 123 Street

7 PM - 8:30 PM

## Monday, June 15

### EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION

Edmonton Room, Stanley A. Milner Library

7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 5 PM - 7 PM

## Tuesday, June 16

### EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE. CHIEF'S PRIDE RECEPTION

Southeast Division Station, 104 Youville Drive East

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

FREE - RSVP to Hilary Darrah, EPS at 780.421.2366 or

hilary.darrah@edmontonpolice.ca by June 8, 2009

### PFLAG: THE FAMILY'S COMING OUT EXPERIENCE

Centennial Room, Stanley Miller Public Library, 7 PM

## Wednesday, June 17

### DEVONIAN GARDENS RAINBOW TOUR

9 AM - 3 PM, \$35

For details email tuff@shaw.ca or phone 780.474.8240

### EDMONTON QUEER HISTORY BUS TOUR!

Pick up/drop off at Citadel Theatre, 9828 - 101A Avenue

5 PM - 7:30 PM

Tickets: Available day-of at the Bus or Call Sarah

@780.492.0772 to make reservations (limited seating)

### QUEER IMAGES: GLBT FILM-FEST PART 1

Metro Cinema, 9828 - 101A Avenue. Doors open 7 PM, films

begin at 8 PM, \$10 at the door or TIX on the Square

## Thursday, June 18

### SENIORS STRAWBERRY TEA

Pride Centre of Edmonton, 9540 - 111 Avenue, 2 PM - 5 PM

Donations accepted at the door

### QUEER IMAGES: GLBT FILM-FEST PART 2

Metro Cinema, 9828 - 101A Avenue. Doors open 7 PM, films

begin at 8 PM, \$10 at the door or TIX on the Square

## Friday, June 19

### THE MELLOW YELLOW SUBMARINE YOUTH DANCE

Pride Centre of Edmonton, 9540 - 111 Avenue

3 PM - 6 PM (Movies, video game tourney & more)

6 PM - 9:30 PM (Dance), tkts \$5 from Edmonton Pride Centre

### EDMONTON VOCAL MINORITY: "RAINBOW MADNESS"

Royal Alberta Museum Theatre, 12845 - 102 Avenue, 8 PM

\$15/\$12 from Earth's General Store, TIX on the Square, EVM

Members

### WRITTEN IN THE STARS - GAY EDMONTON PAGEANT XXII

Boots Bar and Lounge, 10242 - 106 Street, 8 PM

\$5 donation at the door

## Saturday, June 20

### PRIDE AT THE POOL

Oliver Outdoor Pool, 10315 - 119 Street, 12 PM - 5 PM

Regular Admission Applies

### THE BEAT

Play Nightclub, 10220 - 103 Street, 9 PM

\$5 cover charge, all proceeds to the Edmonton Pride Festival

## Sunday, June 21

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# The Pinup Saints

By Jason Clevett

While the dancer is an integral part of many artists' shows, they are not the focus of the show. When Madonna, Janet Jackson, Gwen Stefani, or any number of artists take the stage the focus is on them. In contrast, Canada's Pinup Saints put the dancers front and centre for a spectacular, in your face, boundary-breaking show.

The Pinup Saints was created by Mabel Palomino and consists of *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* winner Nico Archambault, singer/songwriter Raul JR, choreographer and singer Wynn Holmes, dancers Laurin Padolina and Anne-Rose Cupidon and Calgary's own Amy Gardner and Joey Matt. The group was in Calgary on May 7th for a show at Cowboys as part of a promotional tour for their album *Golden*. We sat down with the group the day before.

"It is really hard to define us, especially with this album. I've been given a brief description of how we should be described – a sexier co-ed underground version of the Pussycat Dolls who can actually dance," Holmes said when asked to introduce the group. "We don't use a pop formula. We have dancers with us, you've rarely seen an artist with the dancers up front with them they are usually an accessory that happens in the background."



The group is taking full advantage of Nico's SYTYCDC win, which allows a spotlight to be focused on the entity itself.

"It did help in that it brought some attention to the group. People were curious about what I was doing, where I came from. While I was on the show everyone was working like crazy on the album. When it came out, I just wanted everything that I had, all of the attention I had coming out of the show I wanted directed to this project. There is so much talent here and the music industry needs that. Really these days everything that comes out is a copy of what came out before. I am really proud

**Orientation, experiences, fantasies, we have no fears in regards to that. The dancers are very comfortable with their bodies and touching each other. We have that mentality of being open minded, and that is an influence similar to the LGBT community.**

to be part of something original and unique, and is produced independently and making it on its own," he said. "There are already more and more 'Nico Fans' that have heard of the project because I used Halo on the show and I talk about it everywhere I go. There were people listening to the clip of the song on the website over and over. The plan is to use the attention I got from *So You Think You Can Dance* and turn them into Pinup Saints fans. ...The dancers jump everywhere, it is so physical and amazing to watch. Give each dancer a show of their own



## Celebrity Interview

and they will hold the crowd.”

Palomino said that the group was cheering Nico on. One of the highlights was when he did a solo number to the hauntingly beautiful *Halo* on the TV show.

“We always knew about Nico’s talent. We have watched him grow and knew he was that freakin’ good. He has so much to offer this world and it will take years for us to see what it is, he is absolutely sick in the head. We were very proud. Plus he did one of his solo’s to our song *Halo*, with Wynn singing it, Raul producing it, I was in the audience watching. I lost my mind. It was really cool and so sincere.”

The Pinup Saints have already gained a large gay following in their home base of Montreal. It’s not surprising. Their show at Cowboys was an energetic, sexually charged, visual treat. The three guys spend most of the show shirtless, much to the joy of the girls and gay boys who attended the show, and throughout the performance guys danced and grinded with girls and boys, and girls with girls. A big focus of The Pinup Saints boils down to “who cares what you do as long as it is good for you.” Palomino went into detail on the influence and support of their growing GLBT fan base.

“The gay influence for us, we are very open with sexuality. Orientation, experiences, fantasies, we have no fears in regards to that. The dancers are very comfortable with their bodies and touching each other. We have that mentality of being open minded, and that is an influence similar to the LGBT community. Whatever turns you on, go for it. The gay community is huge in Montreal and is very artistically driven. Therefore it is an audience that is very receptive to what we are trying to bring out and is very open sexually as well. We haven’t performed specifically for the gay community but we are dying to do events like Black and Blue and Pride. We are working on that. We have been introduced and people really like what we are doing. We want people in that community to come check us out.”

“We don’t do anything or create anything out of what people expect from us. I think the LGBT community will really be able to relate to that. Just because I am a straight woman doesn’t mean I don’t identify with the struggles that people go through in identifying themselves. ...We do what we want how we want it and it is represented in our choreography,” added Lauren Padolina.

So what can we expect from The Pinup Saints? Well having seen the show, I can tell you these folks are going somewhere. Despite a sub-optimal sound system and lighting issues at Cowboys, the show itself was a tightly choreographed, thoroughly enjoyable one that blends music and dance. The album *Golden* on its own is excellent and you should grab a copy off of their website. Combine that with the visual aspect of their live show and you really do have something special. Hopefully the Saints will return to Calgary soon, at a better venue, so that those just learning about them now can take advantage of the opportunity to see them. You won’t be disappointed. Wynn Holmes summed things up perfectly.


“There is something everyone will like in our show, whether a straight edge conservative or the wildest person there is something you can find in our show. Even if you didn’t make it out to the show, the album has something for everyone.” ■

<http://www.gaycalgary.com/a1302>  
View additional pics/videos. • Share with a friend. • Post your comments.

For more on The Pinup Saints read the online article in the May Edition. Watch a video of our interview at [www.gaycalgary.com](http://www.gaycalgary.com)!

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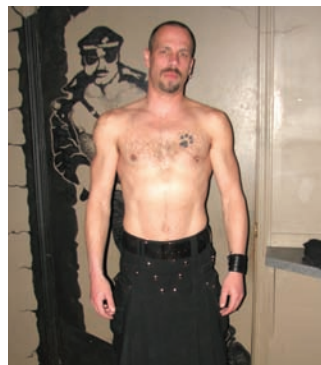
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# Queer Eye - Community Events



### Laramie Project - Calgary



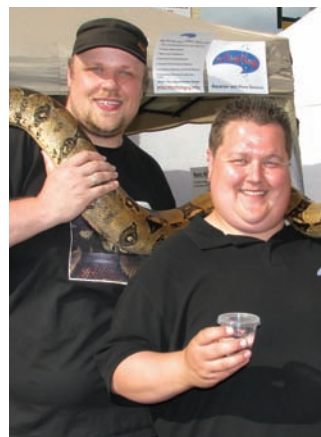
### Laramie Project Wrap-up Party at the Calgary Eagle



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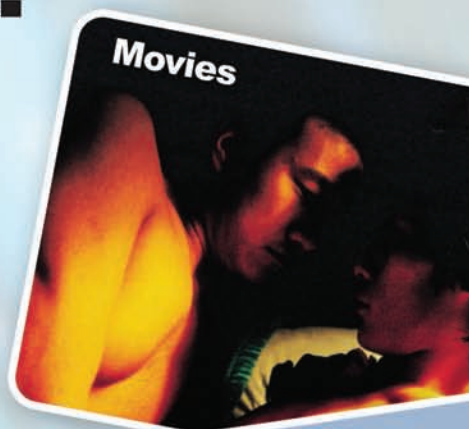
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