

Annual Romance Special Issue

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Outword

Magazine

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Letters

Author Lisa Ford-Berry Discusses Bullycide

In her newly published compilation, *Be B.R.A.V.E. – Say Something; Do Something*, author Lisa Ford-Berry takes you through the tragedy and aftermath of losing a child to peer-abuse driven bullycide, due to relentless cyber-bullying.

A little over four years ago, a single self-inflicted gunshot ended the life of Ford-Berry's son, a vibrant, intelligent, loving, sensitive young man. This presentation discusses that tragedy, and what we all can do to help prevent further bullycides.

Join Lisa Ford-Berry, founder of B.R.A.V.E. Society at Time Tested Books 1114 21st St., Tuesday, February 26, from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information about the author, or B.R.A.V.E. Society visit their website at www.BraveSociety.org or email Lisa Ford-Berry at lisafordberry@bravesociety.org. Also visit Time Tested Books at www.timetestedbooks.net.

Time to Get Your Racquets Out

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Tennis (SGLT) League will be starting their new season with sign up and play on February 26 and March 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the McKinley Park Tennis Courts.

There will be performance skill

assessments and sign ups for the Spring 2013 season at this time, and you can choose a partner. Also, there will be open play and drills set up on these days.

Matches will be held Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. and will begin on March 12, and end on June 4. On March 26 and May 28 there will be no matches due to holidays.

A tournament will be held on June 22 and June 23, also at the McKinley Park Tennis Courts.

Practice will be on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Natomas Racquet Club.

The Spring Season will be \$60. Beginners to advanced players are all welcome to join SGLT, an adult league.

For more information, please contact Kent at sglt@gmail.com.

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PUBLISHER
Fred Palmer

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION
Ron Tackitt

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Ron Tackitt

EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER
Charles Peer
editor@outwordmagazine.com

ARTS EDITOR
Chris Narloch

SALES
Fred Palmer

CALENDAR EDITOR
Charles Peer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Boyce Hinman
Chris Narloch
Colt McGraw
Bonnie Osborn
Ken Pierce
Charles Peer

PHOTOGRAPHY
Charles Peer

ON THE COVER
Dave van Rijn and Russ Liebig
Photo by Ryan Greenleaf

DISTRIBUTION
Kaye Crawford

ADVERTISING SALES

Northern California
(916) 329-9280
Fred Palmer
Charles Peer

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media
(212) 242-6863

Outword Magazine Inc.

Office
1 Ebbtide Court
Sacramento, CA 95831

PHONE: (916) 329-9280
FAX: (916) 498-8445

www.outwordmagazine.com
sales@outwordmagazine.com

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Sacramento

Sacramento Police Now Hiring

The Sacramento Police Department has announced it is now accepting applications for the positions of Police Recruit and Lateral Police Officer.

This marks the first time in over three years that the Department has announced hiring. Noting the SPD has one of the most diverse forces in the state if not the nation, Lt. Cathy Lester said that they hope that applicants from the LGBT community would apply.

A Police Recruit must be 18+, but the position does not require a college degree at the time of hiring, and the recruit is given five years to obtain the degree. A police officer must be 21+ with 60 college units.

A free informational workshop about the hiring process, test preparation and the Police Academy are being offered at the



Public Safety Center on February 16, with additional dates to be announced

For more information, please visit their website at www.sacpd.org. To reserve a space in one of these workshops, please send an email to Police_Recruiting@pd.cityofsacramento.org.

Applications are being accepted on a continuous basis through June 2013. To apply, visit the "Jobs" page on the City of

Sacramento's website at www.cityofsacramento.org. For additional information please contact the Recruiting Unit at 916-808-0880.

Sac G&L Center Adds New Board Members

The Sacramento G&L Center has added four new members to its Board of Directors; Glenda Corcoran, Grace Childs, Regina M. Grattan and Todd Koolakian are the newest members of the Board is devoted to strengthening Sacramento's LGBT community center and the people it serves.

"The Center is delighted to have such passionate and experienced new members on the Board of Directors," said the Board's executive director Shara Perkins in a released statement.

Childs joins the board with an impressive 14-year tenure in local government and legislative work. She also is currently lead facilitator for the Center's Coming Out Support group.

Corcoran is an attorney who brings to the board her devotion toward public service and advocacy. Savvy in litigation and government dealings, Corcoran is also an art lover who currently volunteers at the Sacramento Center for Contemporary Art.

Grattan is a member of the Labor & Employment Department and OFCCP & Affirmative Action Compliance Team in the Sacramento office of Seyfarth Shaw LLP. Grattan is the new secretary of the board.

Koolakian currently works as a fundraising consultant in downtown where he dedicates himself to reaching the goals of non-profit clients.

The Center has also announced that Benjamin Philips-Leseñana has taken the position of vice president, and Miguel Diaz the position of treasurer.

For more information about the Center, visit SacCentr.org.

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Votes in France and Britain Back the Freedom to Marry

Britain's Parliament voted 400-175 to extend the freedom to marry to same-sex couples in the United Kingdom on February 5, with the measure on track for another positive vote in the House of Commons before final approval by the House of Lords.

The legislation has the support of Conservative Party Prime Minister David Cameron.

The historic vote in the British Parliament followed a weekend vote by the French National Assembly, 249-97, for similar freedom to marry legislation.

A final Assembly vote is scheduled for Feb.

12 before the bill is sent to the Senate and then President François Hollande, who campaigned on his support for the freedom to marry and is ready to sign the legislation.

"With France and Britain poised to become the next countries to embrace the freedom to marry, it's clear that the momentum we see here in the United States for ending

marriage discrimination is, in fact, a global movement toward greater freedom and equality for all - and the U.S. should be leading, not lagging," said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry in a released statement. "America cannot afford to fall behind its closest allies and trade partners in this global economy, and needs to do right by its families, as a right-of-center British prime minister and left-of-center French president have called on their parliaments to do, with resounding success."

CDC Releases Data on Sexual Violence by Orientation

The first set of national prevalence data on intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV), and stalking victimization by sexual orientation has been released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The study found that lesbians and gay men reported IPV and SV over their lifetimes at levels equal to or higher than those of heterosexuals; with sexual orientation based on respondents' identification at the time of the survey.

The survey also found that bisexual women (61.1 percent) report a higher prevalence of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner compared to both lesbian (43.8 percent) and heterosexual women (35 percent). Of the bisexual women who experienced IPV,

approximately 90 percent reported having only male perpetrators, while two-thirds of lesbians reported having only female perpetrators of IPV.

The data presented in this report does not indicate whether violence occurs more often in same-sex or opposite sex couples. Rather, the data shows the prevalence of lifetime victimization of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and stalking of respondents who self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual at the time of the survey and describe violence experienced with both same-sex and opposite-

sex partners.

"We know that violence affects everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. This report suggests that lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in this country suffer a heavy toll of sexual violence and stalking committed by an intimate partner," said CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. "While intervening and providing services are important, prevention is equally critical."

Further research is needed in order to fully understand the experience of interpersonal violence that impact LGB individuals and their communities. This information is critical to informing prevention programs and policies aimed at reducing these types of victimization.

For more information about NISVS, including study details, visit www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html.

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NorCal AIDS Cycle Announces Beneficiaries for 2013

The HIV/AIDS cycling fundraiser NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC) has announced 11 non-profit beneficiaries of its annual four-day, 330-mile ride, scheduled for May 16-19.

The beneficiary organizations selected to share the more than \$250,000 expected to be raised in 2013 are CARES Clinic Dental Program, Golden Rule Services, SANE (Safer Alternatives thru Networking and Education), Breaking Barriers, Harm Reduction Services, Sunburst Projects, River City Food Bank, and Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center, all of Sacramento; Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation of Auburn, Calif.; Caring Choices of Chico, Calif.; and Shasta Trinity Tehama HIV Food Bank of Redding, Calif.

One of the things that has historically distinguished Sacramento-based NCAC from other California AIDS rides is its distribution of funds to multiple beneficiary agencies in Sacramento and Northern California. In many cases, NCAC's contributions to small non-profit organizations has meant the difference between enabling them to continue to provide HIV/AIDS services to underserved or remote California communities or being forced to close for lack of funds.

NCAC has increased the funds raised each year since its inception in 2005, raising just over \$250,000 in 2012 with approximately 150 cyclists and 75 support crewmembers. Each NCAC cyclist pledges to raise a minimum of \$1,500, each volunteer crewmember \$250; many participants raise far more than the minimums.

The 2013 ride will begin on Thursday, May 16, with an Opening Ceremony and Rideout at



Folsom Lake, and end on Sunday, May 19, with a moving Closing Ceremony at the California State Capitol. In between, the cyclists will follow a circuitous, often challenging route through the Sierra foothills and the northern Central Valley, with overnight camps at Gridley, Williams, and Woodland, Calif.

Since its inception in 2005, NCAC has raised some \$1.25 million dollars to benefit non-profit HIV/AIDS service providers in the Greater Sacramento region and surrounding areas. The event is among the most successful Sacramento charity fundraisers in history based on total dollars raised.

For more information about NorCal AIDS Cycle and to see how you can join, visit www.norcalaidscycle.org.



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Lesbian Fighter Poised to Make Mixed Martial Arts History

by Bonnie Osborne

One would hardly expect the uber-macho world of Ultimate Fighting Championship, the world's largest promoter of mixed martial arts competitions, to be a bastion of LGBT equality in sports. But Liz Carmouche, UFC's first out-and-proud lesbian fighter, reports "nothing but support" as she works her way up the ranks of the mixed martial arts (MMA) competition.

Now Carmouche is poised to challenge bantamweight Ronda Rousey, a 2008 Olympic Bronze Medalist in judo and current UFC Champion, in the franchise's first women's bout. The championship match will be fought Feb. 23 in Anaheim.

"I can't speak for others, but I've had nothing but support in all my experiences and positive feedback, from [UFC President] Dana White to my own teammates and trainers," Carmouche told *Outword* of the sport's acceptance of her sexual orientation. "Mine has been a very positive experience."

The Ultimate Fighting Championship franchise is credited with more or less inventing the sport of mixed martial arts, in a historic 1993 tournament devised to determine which martial art was superior. Over time the sport evolved into one in which competitors adopt skills from multiple martial arts forms. Carmouche holds a yellow belt in kenpo and a blue belt in jiu-jitsu, and her daily training regimen includes jiu-jitsu/judo, as well as MMA sparring and strength and conditioning training.

Carmouche, 28, has been fighting professionally since 2010, after serving three tours of duty with the U.S. Marine Corps. She is a former Marine Corps sergeant and Iraq War veteran. "After leaving the Marine Corps, I was looking for something challenging," she says. "I had friends that guided me in this direction." From the first day she told her trainer she was interested in MMA, and she went at it 6.5 hours straight. She kept pushing to try new things and worked her way from one fight venue to another until she was picked up by UFC.

Carmouche is currently ranked seventh in the world in mixed martial arts for the 135-pound female class, with seven professional wins and two losses. In her spare time she has also studied for an Associate's degree in psychology at San Diego Community College. Currently mixed martial arts training and fighting is one of her full-time jobs, and operating the San Diego gym she owns is her second full-time gig.

Under the nom de guerre "Girl-Rilla," Carmouche has made skillful use of social media to further her professional career, collecting a fan



base of "Lizbos" and ultimately helping her to land the title fight with Rousey.

Carmouche currently resides in San Diego with her girlfriend whom she met (where else?) at the gym. Although her partner doesn't fight professionally, she practices martial arts and has participated in a few "smoker fights." "She is probably one of, if not the, biggest supporters of my MMA career," Carmouche says.

Commenting on recent news that the U.S. military will begin allowing women to serve in combat roles previously closed to them, Carmouche, a combat veteran, says the change will simply provide women with more opportunities. "Women were already in life-threatening situations," she says. "It's just that job fields that were not open to women before will now be open. I think it will give women a chance to show the world just how strong and how great they are."

She encourages women to give MMA a try if the sport is the right fit for them. "If it's something they would like to do, either for fitness or for competitive reasons, they should go for it. It's a great workout. Fitness-wise it lets you stretch your imagination for possibilities that your body can do - the sky is the limit."

UFC157, the bantamweight women's Championship title match between Rousey and Carmouche, will air Saturday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. Pacific Time. Go to www.ufc.com/event/UFC157#/fight for more information.

Bonnie Osborn is a writer and the owner of Writeaway Communications Services. She can be reached at 916-212-9110 or Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz.

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You Can't Curry Love



Two of the most popular short films to hit the 2012 LGBT film festival circuit are now available in a compilation, appropriately titled *Global Warming*. Both films, *You Can't Curry Love* (pictured above) and *Performance Anxiety*, are written and directed by Reid Waterer, and the DVD heats things up even more with 50 minutes of very sexy, and often funny, bonus features. Check out the trailer at tlavideo.com/gay-global-warming. The set will be available on DVD starting February 12, just in time for Valentine's Day. The DVD is priced at \$14.99 and a streaming rental will be available on the same date at TLAGay.com.

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Are Sexbots the Future of Romance and Sex?

by Jincey Lumpkin, Esq.

If the idea of humping a piece of metal does not get you going downstairs, not to worry. Scientists like Ray Kurzweil postulate that by 2029, robots will no longer just be "things," they will begin to have real feelings and emotions and so-called sentient robots may challenge our basic notions of humanity.

In his book, *The Age of Spiritual Machines*, Kurzweil explains his theory that the growth rate of technology is exponential, and we are beginning to reach the part of the exponential curve where the line shoots straight up and to the right. In other words, things that seem like nonsensical science fiction will start to become real.

The recent films *AI* and *I ROBOT* dealt with artificially intelligent robots who became aware they had real feelings. *AI* even featured Jude Law as a sexy gigolo robot who drove his female clients wild with desire.

Science is beginning to catch up to the movies and new developments in technology have led to artificial skin that feels exactly like human skin, robust verbal abilities in computers and robots that look more and more like us.

In his book, *Love and Sex with Robots*, David Levy writes how we have long used our immense psychological powers of projection to create relationships with inanimate objects. Growing up, did you have a favorite blanket or stuffed animal that you loved? How many times have you shouted at your computer when it freezes, as if it can hear you?

This sort of emotional connection is exactly what will lead humans to being open to having sex and even relationships with robots in the next 16 to 35 years.

How would one meet their robot lover? Easy. Walk into a store and buy the model that suits your personal tastes.

An exchange with the shop

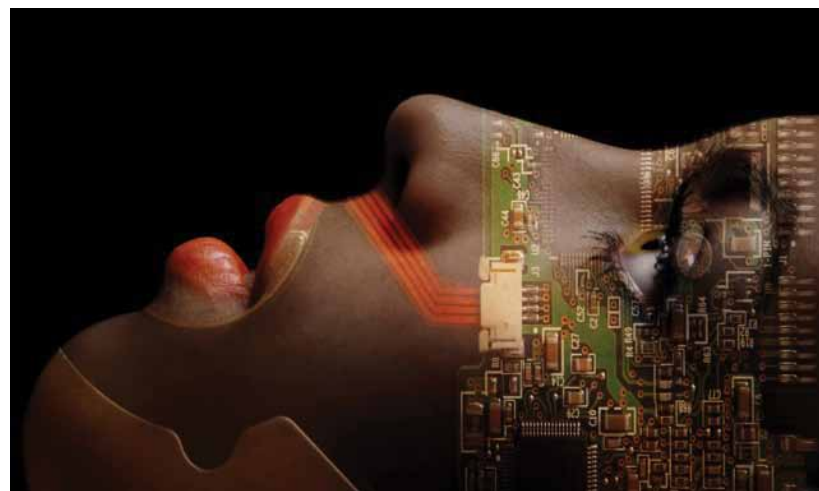
owner might go something like this:

Customer: Hi, I'm here to look at your butch lesbian robot, model number 2252.

Store clerk: Oh yes, right over here. Do you have a preferred ethnicity?

Customer: Sure, here's a photo of my wife. Can you make it look like her?

Store clerk: Certainly, but facial



customization costs extra and takes about four weeks. If you'd like to leave with a robot lover today, we have this Latina model on sale.

Customer: OK. Interesting. How do I program it?

Store clerk: It's very simple. Everything is stored on the cloud and will automatically transfer into your robot lover's artificial consciousness. All you have to do is visit this website, pay a subscription fee and answer a survey in order to have the romance settings match your own.

Customer: So it's like E-Harmony?

Store clerk: Yes, except your robot lover will be exactly what you want. No guessing and no disappointments. Guaranteed or your money back.

Is this sounding like a more interesting proposition? Robot lovers will never get fat. They won't leave the toilet seat up. You'll never have to argue over who's going to take out the trash.

The website Transhumanity.net says, "Sexbots will electrocute our flesh because they'll be more desirable, patient, eager, and altruistic, plus they'll be uploaded with supreme sex-skills. They'll offer quadruple-tongued cunnilingus, open-throat silky fellatio, deliriously gentle kissing, transcendent nipple tweaking,

g-spot massage and prostate milking dexterity."

Sounds exciting. We know why we'd want to have sex with robots, but why would the robots want to have sex with us?

Jincey Lumpkin, Esq. is the founder of JuicyPinkBox.com, a producer of luxury lesbian pornography. She's often called "the lesbian Hugh Hefner" or "Carrie Bradshaw with an edge." Lumpkin is a lesbian, married to a woman, and her unique path to becoming a porn director and her views on sex are chronicled in her monthly Huffington Post column.

NYC's 54 Below Launches Live Album Series

Broadway Records and 54 Below in Manhattan have teamed-up for a series of new live albums featuring some of the biggest names in New York theatre.

The CDs are recorded live at 54 Below, an intimate new performance space located on W. 54th Street, a few blocks from the heart of Times Square and just below the legendary Studio 54.

54 Below is a classically designed state-of-the-art nightclub in the theatre district that hosts concerts

featuring Broadway's brightest stars singing their favorite songs. Albums already released in the Live at 54 Below series include Patti LuPone's *Far Away Places*, Norbert Leo Butz's *Memory and Mayhem* and Christiane Noll's *Gifts*. Andrea McArdle's *70s and Sunny* will be available February

26.

For more information, please visit www.BroadwayRecords.com and www.54Below.com.



Finally, a Tailor and Clothing Store that Gets It



Whether you are butch/boi lesbian, trans-masculine, or just have a strong sense of self-expression and like to wear fine custom-made clothing, there is now a tailor and clothing store that understands your need for masculine styled clothes that truly fit your personal frame. Tomboy Tailors is a new store in SF that offers everything from casual suits to tuxedos to professional made-to-measure women's suits for lawyers and other executives. Check them out at tomboytailors.com

Capturing Love: The Art of L&G Wedding Photography

Veteran photographer Thea Dodds and wedding innovator Kathryn Hamm know that when it comes to wedding photography, what works for a straight couple won't always work for a gay or lesbian couple. So they collected photographs from 38 of the top G&L wedding photographers, showcasing 46 same-sex couples and put them in their new book *Capturing Love*. Not only is it a guide for aspiring G&L wedding photographers, but it can also be helpful for new couples planning their weddings. Image by Maggie Rife Photography, inset by Jen Lynne Photography. Visit www.capturingloveguide.com



Survey of Gay Men Finds Many Use Apps to Look For Long-Term Potential

A nationwide survey of 537 gay men showing that even though the country moves closer toward legal recognition of same-sex relationships, gay men still face significant barriers to meeting potential partners and future husbands.

However, the same national survey also shows that apps are becoming increasingly important in the ability of gay men to connect to other single gay men for long-term romantic relationships.

The survey was conducted by Stagg, a new mobile dating app for gay men, and shows that two-thirds of gay guys who use mobile dating apps said they use them in the hopes of finding long-term potential.

Highlights from Stagg's culturally

diverse, nationwide survey of 537 single gay men who ranged in age from 18 to 73, with an average age of 28 include:

App users search for a deeper connection.

- 66 percent of the respondents said they use apps in the hopes of finding long-term potential, despite the almost universal perception that other guys on dating apps are looking for a hookup.

- 64 percent said that they use dating apps to find new friends.

- 16 percent of respondents – 1 in 6 men – choose dating apps as the most promising place to meet someone for long-term potential, a surprisingly substantial result given the reputation of first-generation dating apps for hookups.

Apps move dating away from computer screens and into public and social settings.

- 56 percent of the respondents said that they use dating apps in public.

- More than one-third of all respondents, 37 percent, use the apps while with their friends.

Apps bridge communication and build connections.

SURVEY

continues on page 19

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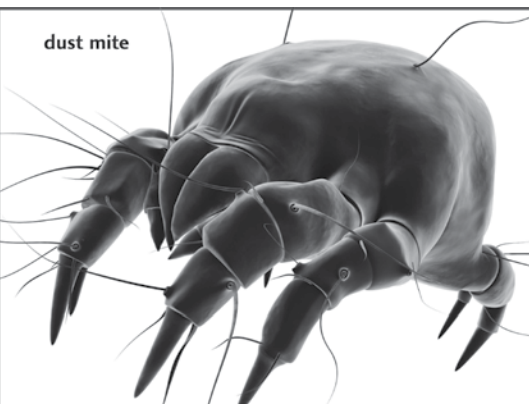
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KOLT Run Creations Presents *This Vicious Minute*

Most people think "cutting" only affects women, but men can also fall prey to this self-destructive practice, which is the subject of a powerful and provocative new solo show starring Ben Moroski.

This Vicious Minute is Moroski's raw, autobiographical confession that he was an All-American male "cutter." Another regional premiere, courtesy of Sacramento's KOLT Run Creations, this unflinching one-man show arrives fresh from its award-winning run at the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

This Vicious Minute illuminates a subject that few understand. As much as 30 percent of the population engage in self injury, which often starts in childhood and can go untreated for decades.

Writer and performer Ben Moroski, who graduated from UC Davis, has written five full-length plays and was the recipient of a Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Area of Playwriting during his time at UCD.

Moroski will perform *This Vicious Minute* at Sacramento's Ooley Theater, on 28th Street, February 27 through March 9. Visit www.koltruncreations.com.



Ben Moroski performs his autobiographical and unflinching one-man show about the self-destructive practice of "cutting," fresh from its award-winning run at the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

Vintage Woody Allen and Cabaret on Blu-ray

Fans of classic Hollywood films will want to take advantage of the recent Blu-ray releases of four must-have titles: Woody Allen's *Hannah and Her Sisters* and *Sleeper*, Bob Fosse's *Cabaret*, and Raoul Walsh's *The Thief of Bagdad*.

Cabaret

Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey and Michael York star in Bob Fosse's superb film adaptation of the Tony-winning stage production. Minnelli's indelible performance won her an Oscar, as did Grey's, and Fosse snagged the Academy Award for Best Director.

One of the greatest movie musicals ever made, "Cabaret" takes place in Berlin's decadent Kit Kat Club as the Nazis rise to power in Germany in 1931.

Winner of eight Oscars, "Cabaret" has been remastered for its 40th anniversary. The Blu-ray version comes in a book format that contains 40 pages of photos and text, along with three documentaries about the groundbreaking movie.

Hannah and Her Sisters & Sleeper

The recent artistic and commercial resurgence of Woody Allen should increase interest in the Blu-ray release of two of the director's finest earlier films. In *Hannah and Her Sisters*, Allen stars alongside Mia Farrow, Michael Caine, Barbara Hershey, Dianne Wiest, Max Von Sydow and Carrie Fisher.

Winner of three Oscars, *Hannah* is a funny and moving portrait of three sisters (Farrow, Hershey and Wiest) whose sibling rivalry spills over during the two-year period

of the picture. The 1986 film won Oscars for supporting actors Wiest and Caine, and for Allen's screenplay.

If you've never seen one of Allen's wacky early movies, *Sleeper* is a good place to start. Co-starring Diane Keaton (directed by Allen for the first time), the wild story features Allen as Miles Monroe, awakened from a cryogenic slumber 200 years after a hospital mishap.

Our hapless hero discovers the future's not so bright: all women are frigid, all men are impotent, and a disembodied nose rules the world.

The Thief of Bagdad

The great Douglas Fairbanks stars in one of the biggest blockbusters of the silent era, a classic of early action and fantasy filmmaking. A magic carpet ride of entertainment, *The Thief of Bagdad* features the amazingly athletic and acrobatic Fairbanks as Ahmed, the thief who wins a princess.

The pristine new restoration of this epic from 1924 incorporates the color tints and tones of the original release prints and features silent film score maestro Carl Davis conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra.

For reviews of the latest LGBT DVD releases, go to www.outwordmagazine.com.



Mama & French Short Film Festival Are Best Cinema Bets

by Chris Narloch

So far this year, there aren't many new films in theaters that are worth a damn, but after you're done catching up on all of the Oscar-nominated movies from late last year, you can check out a nifty little horror flick starring one of this year's Oscar-nominated actresses.

You can also attend a fun evening at Sacramento's Verge Center for the Arts courtesy of the folks who put on the French Film Festival.

Mama

Is there anything actress (and former Sacramento resident) Jessica Chastain can't do? She just wrapped up a starring role on Broadway in *The Heiress*, and the two current films in which she stars - the Best Picture nominee *Zero Dark Thirty* and the horror thriller *Mama* - recently claimed the top two spots in the American box office sweepstakes.

Chastain is on a roll, and the gifted and versatile actress has earned it - she is the real deal. With short, dark hair and rocker tattoos, Chastain's character in *Mama* looks and acts nothing like Maya, the CIA agent she plays in *Zero Dark Thirty*. Similarly, her Oscar-nominated performance in that film is nothing like the Oscar-nominated performance Chastain gave in *The Help*.

In short, Chastain is a chameleon-like actor in the tradition of Meryl Streep and Daniel Day-Lewis, and she helps make *Mama* a must-see. She is greatly aided by two terrific young actresses, who play the missing girls that become her character's responsibility after they are discovered living in a cabin in the woods.

The younger girl has a chilling, animalistic

walk, and the special effects in the film are effectively creepy without being overdone. There is the usual hokey horror dialogue that tries to "explain" the phenomena depicted in the movie, but for the most part, *Mama* is a classy and superbly scary sleeper hit that keeps the violence to a minimum.

Gangster Squad

Ryan Gosling looks so dazzling in this period movie, about the late '40s gangster Mickey Cohen (Sean Penn) and the secret squad of LAPD officers who brought him down, that I would almost recommend you see the film just for Gosling.

Unfortunately, director Ruben Fleischer (*Zombieland*) overdoses on violence and period glamour so much that *Gangster Squad* ends up feeling phony. The movie is entertaining only in the shallowest sense, but Gosling sure does look fine in his handsome, tailored outfits.

Beautiful Creatures

Hoping to cash in on the success of the *Twilight* movie franchise, the producers of this dud have assembled many of the same elements that made those films so successful, but to no avail.

Take two star-crossed lovers, add supernatural elements and stir. Here, the mixture doesn't work, despite a steamy Southern setting, and an A-list cast that includes Jeremy Irons, Emma Thompson and Viola Davis.



You need to have a central love story that generates some heat, and the pretty young heterosexual couple at the heart of *Beautiful Creatures* never gets past lukewarm.

6th Annual Winter French Short Film Screening

We'll have to wait until the last week in June for the actual 2013 French Film Festival at the Crest, but you can get in the spirit during this event at the Verge Center for the Arts, on February 23.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for drinks, free pizza by Luigi's Slice and French pop with DJ Christophe.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m., you'll enjoy a recap of the 2013 Cesar Awards (which will have been held the night before), as well as an eclectic collection of new short films from France and a selection of favorites from previous Festival editions.

All films are presented in French with English subtitles, and proceeds benefit the upcoming 12th Sacramento French Film Festival and Verge Center for the Arts.

For more information, visit

www.SacramentoFrenchFilmFestival.org.

To read my Oscar predictions, go to www.outwordmagazine.com.

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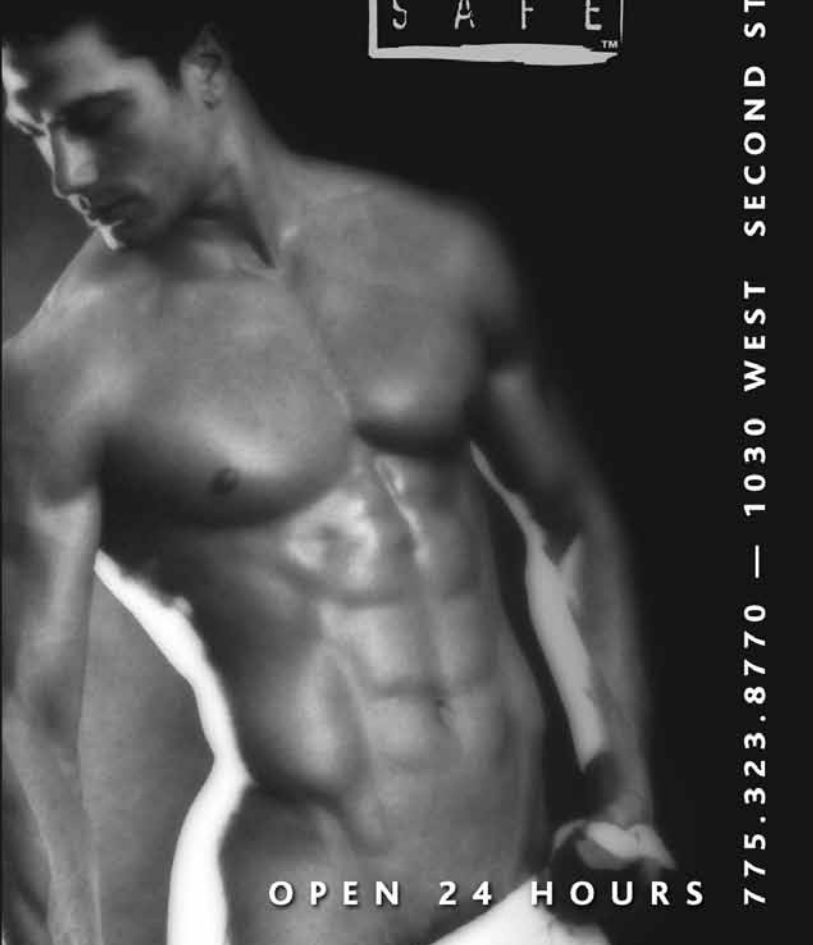



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compiled by Charles Peer

Feb.

Saturday, 16

VALLEY BEARS GAME & MOVIE NIGHT

Join the Sacramento Valley Bears for a casual night of food, games and movies. Bring some food to share. Water and sodas provided. 7 - 10 p.m. Info: SacBears.org

Green Sneakers

Baritone Jesse Blomberg and the Del Sol String Quartet perform the West Coast premiere of NY based composer Ricky Ian Gordon's mini-opera about love, loss and finding solace and is Gordon's most personal composition as it deals with the death of his lover, Jeffrey Grossi, from AIDS.

See:

Feb. 19



SINGLES MIXER AT THE CENTER

A night of games, friends and fun in celebration of St. Valentine's Day. Appetizers and snacks will be served and beer & wine will be available for purchase. 7 p.m. Sac G&L Center, 1927 L St. Info: 916-442-0185 SacCenter.org

HEROES! FAMILY CONCERT

Kenneth Raskin conducts the Sac. Philharmonic, exploring the world of heroes, past and present, real and make

believe. 2 p.m. Community Center Theatre, 1301 L St. Info: 916-808-5181 SacPhil.org

DARWIN DAY

A birthday celebration of science and humanity with guest speaker Ivan R. Schwab discussing his book *Evolutions Witness: How Eyes Evolved*, plus educational programs and more. 2 - 5 p.m. La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Rd., Carmichael. Info: SacDarwinDay.info

Sunday, 17

VALLEY BEARS BRUNCH

Join the Sacramento Valley Bears for brunch, good conversation and friendship. 10 - 11:30 a.m. Golden Bear, 2326 K St. Info: SacBears.org

Monday, 18

LGBT SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

Assemblymember Roger Dickinson will be honored at this informative meeting featuring Sam McClure of the NG&LCC. 10 - 11:30 a.m. Wells Fargo Training Center, 2804 Gateway Oaks Dr., 2nd Floor. Info: RainbowChamber.com

SAC VALLEY VETS MEETING

Join this LGBT veterans and active duty group for their monthly meeting and get together. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-436-7676 www.sacvalleyvets.com

Tuesday, 19

PFLAG SACRAMENTO

Support group for LGBT individuals and their parents, families and friends. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Saint Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 Saint Mark's Way. pflagsacramento.org

RAINBOW CHAMBER MIXER

Join members of Sacramento's LGBT business group at their Valentine's Mixer, for socializing and networking, with a taco

Celebrating the Divas of Jazz

Jazz vocalist and recording artist Vivian Lee and her quartet celebrate the divas of jazz - Carmen McRea, Billie Holiday, Nancy Wilson and Dinah Washington. Hear the music and learn about the lives of these amazing African American women of the jazz world. Free family concert.

See:

Feb. 20



buffet, beer from Hoppy Brewery and Sobon Estates and Shenandoah Vineyards Wines. 6 - 8 p.m. David Sobon Auctions, 917 7th St., Ste 206. RSVP: 800-818-3954RainbowChamber.com

GREEN SNEAKERS

New York-based composer Ricky Ian Gordon's Kaddish (the Jewish prayer for mourners) to his lover who died of AIDS is one of the only operas that deals directly with AIDS, with a 19-part song cycle performed by San Francisco's Del Sol Quartet and baritone Jesse Blumberg. 7 p.m. Fort Mason's Southside Theater, SF. Info: fortmason.org/boxoffice

THE DREAM OF SPACEFLIGHT

Sacramento born astronaut and UCD Professor Steve Robinson talks about his four space shuttle missions, logging 48 days and almost 20 million miles in space. 7 p.m. Three Stages, 10 College Parkway, Folsom. Info: 916-608-6888 ThreeStages.net

Wednesday, 20

CELEBRATE THE DIVAS OF JAZZ

In celebration of Black History Month, Vivian Lee performs a musical tribute to

famed women jazz singers. Free. 6:30 p.m. Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, Central Library, 828 I St. Info: 916-264-2920 SacLibrary.org

Thursday, 21

ECLECTIC TRASH BOOK CLUB

Join this LGBT book club for a lively discussion of *Fine By Me* by Per Petterson. 7 p.m. Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-492-0558 LavenderLibrary.com

Friday, 22

BALANCHINE GOES AMERICAN

John Clifford shares insight into "Mr. B's" Western Symphony, a delightful and sassy romp to traditional American folk tunes of the Old West. \$15. 6 p.m. The Sacramento Ballet Studios, 1631 K St. Info: 916-808-5181 SacBallet.org

Saturday, 23

WINTER FRENCH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Great French short films, music, free pizza, and no-host wine & pastis bar. 6:30 p.m. Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S St. Info: 916-455-9390

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What's the Best Part of Being a Couple?

In celebration of Valentine's Day, we asked our readers and Facebook friends to share with you how long they have been together and what being a couple means to them.

on our cover



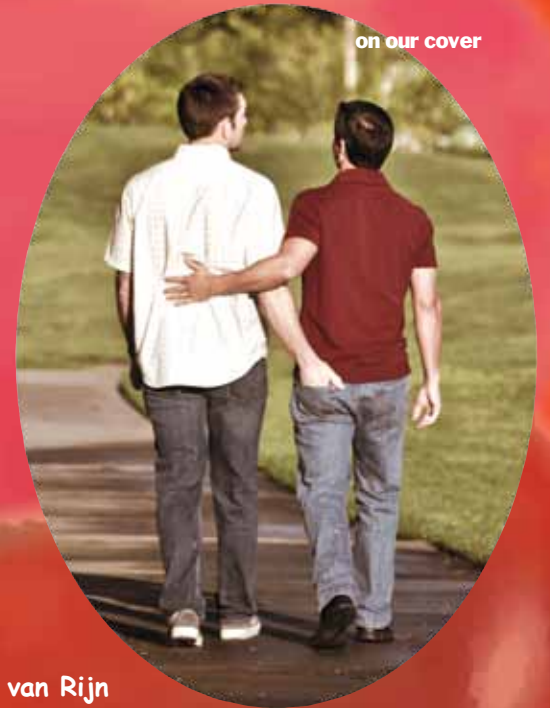
Kris Himmerick and Margarita Delgadillo

We just celebrated our 10th anniversary and we both agree that the best part of being a couple is adventuring through life together.



Kathy Weeks and Melody Reid

We have been together 18 months this time around. The best part about being a couple is having someone of like mind and spirit with whom to share life's adventures. After being apart for 25 years, we think the second time is the charm.



Dave van Rijn and Russ Liebig

We've been together eight years and registered for three, but not married — yet (but I still call him my husband). The best part of being a couple is that we are more together than the sum of our parts; we are life partners. Photo by Ryan Greenleaf.



Alan Ercolini and Steve Ball

February 14 will be our ninth anniversary. The best part of being a couple is raising our son Chris together. We make each other laugh, cry with joy, and bring out the dork in each other. We feel like the luckiest people in the world to have found the right person to be on the journey of life with.



Bill Mullinax and Brian Kaiser

We've been together for 11 years and married since 2008. The best thing about being a couple is having your best friend with you, wherever you go. We are fortunate to have found each other, and our lives are forever better because of it.



Debbie Henderson and Jane Sawyer

We've been together now for seven years and still going strong! The best part about being a couple is being 51 years old and FINALLY finding your soulmate — the one you know in your heart you will spend the rest of your life with!



Shari Goldfarb and Kathy O'Dea

We've been together a little over three years. The best part about being a couple is having someone to plan a future with, whether that's tomorrow, next week, next year, or decades from now.



Lisa Thew and Kelley Ogden

We've been a couple for 12 1/2 years and the best part is snuggling!

Letters

continued from page 4

is designed to identify and overcome the psychological, cultural and emotional triggers related to LGBT people and kids that drive down societal and political support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality - including the freedom to marry.

The Executive Director of California Faith for Equality, Rabbi Eleanor Steinman, will be

leading the workshop.

Free sandwich bar at 12:30, and workshop starts at 1 p.m. and ends at 3 p.m. at St. Marks UMC, 2391 Saint Marks Way on March 10. Sponsored by Soulforce - Sacramento and St. Marks UMC.

RSVP: [facebook.com/events/124389771066950/](https://www.facebook.com/events/124389771066950/).

Survey

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- 78 percent said that apps help them to start a conversation that they wouldn't have otherwise initiated.

- More than one-third of respondents, 35 percent, said that apps are a way to have fun with their friends.

Apps satisfies the urgent dating needs of gay men.

- 77 percent of the men said that when it comes to dating they don't know where or how to find guys who are like themselves.

- 65 percent stated that breaking the ice and starting a conversation is a serious impediment to meeting guys.

- 56 percent said that dating apps are not friendly, when compared to dating websites.

An open-ended question put to these 537 men about what is most needed in apps revealed that they are seeking more substance in the type of information and



potential connection than first-generation apps can deliver.

To see more of the survey results, visit www.staggapp.com.

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