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# RAGE

monthly

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
APRIL 2023

NEW LGBTQ DRAMA  
BY WELBY INGS  
**PACKS A PUNCH**

APRIL FOOLIN' AROUND IN  
**TINSELTOWN**

POLAR OPPOSITES  
DARE TO LOVE IN  
**KISS OF THE  
SPIDER WOMAN**

**THE  
SPRINGTIME  
ISSUE**

LIFESTYLE

EVENTS

FASHION

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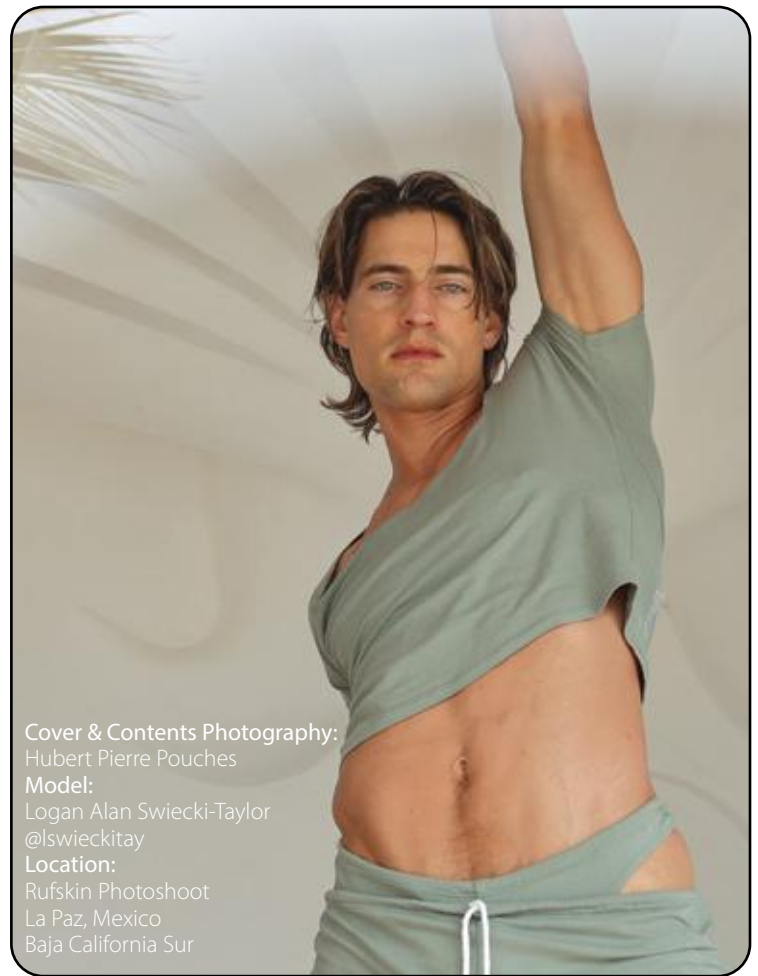
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Ed F. Martin. Photo by Daniel Reichert.

# SPRINGTIME LGBTQ EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Soar into a magical evening celebrating the third-oldest LGBTQ theatre in the country. Diversionary Theatre's gala event, the **Fairy Tale Ball**, on **Friday, April 7** will include delicious dining and enchanting performances, and culminate with a dance party like no other until midnight in the main atrium of the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park in San Diego. **diversionary.org**

On **Friday, April 7**, the San Diego LGBT Community Center will host a celebration honoring **Transgender Day of Empowerment** with performances, refreshments and speeches from local youth and elders. Distinguished guests from the local transgender community will attend and local personalities will be honored with awards. Miss Venice "Lady Pepper" Price and Connor Maddocks will provide the evening's keynote addresses. **thecentersd.org**

On **Saturday, April 8**, MenAlive - Orange County Gay Men's Chorus will offer a double dose of **Rhinestone Cowboys - Boots, Hats, and Sass**. Pull on your finest boots and grab your hat, for these chaps are ready to ride... and sing. You'll be tapping your toes and itching to dance in the aisles at this all-country event. Includes classics and new material from musicians from throughout the country-music spectrum. **ocgmc.org**

Delight your appetite at San Diego's original and best tasting event, **Taste of Hillcrest**, on **Saturday, April 8**. A self-guided culinary tour provides sights, sounds, smells and flavors from all over the world. Savor small bites from over 30 of Hillcrest's most recognized and award-winning restaurants. **fabuloushillcrest.com**

**Drag March LA** will be hosted by the Los Angeles LGBT Center on **Sunday, April 9**. The event is open to people of all ages and seeks to organize against the repressive anti-LGBTQ tide now sweeping parts of the United States. The march will begin at City Hall in West Hollywood. According to the center, over 400 pieces of anti-LGBTQ legislation are on the books, the majority of which target transgender persons. **lalgbtcenter.org**

Swing over to Petco Park as San Diego Pride teams up with the Padres for the annual **Out at the Park** on **Friday, April 14**. Grab your rainbow flags and prepare to enjoy an exciting evening of entertainment and baseball when the Padres host the Milwaukee Brewers. Arrive early and enjoy the pregame happy hour in Gallagher Square with CocktailFest. **sdpride.org/event/out-at-the-park**

San Diego Gay Men's Chorus will go **BritPop** with a performance of uniquely bonkers British fun on **Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23**. Queer British pop music has always had a magnetic effect with its Carnaby Street flair and raw rock power, from Elton John to Queen, David Bowie to Sam Smith. How about the Beatles, Kinks, Rolling Stones and Coldplay? Then there are the divas, like Adele, Jessie J, Dua Lipa, Shirley Bassey and Leona Lewis. This pop spectacle will be presented with all the glitz, intensity and soul that only the chorus can provide. **sdgmc.org**

The Los Angeles LGBT Center hosts its annual **Center Gala** on **Saturday, April 22**. Guests will enjoy a three-course meal, cocktail reception, silent auction, program, live entertainment, photo activations and an after-party. **gala.lalgbtcenter.org**

Make plans to "Dine Out and Give Back" at the 17th annual **Dining Out for Life San Diego** on **Thursday, April 27**. San Diego's most generous restaurants and bars will donate 25% or more of their sales to the San Diego LGBT Community Center's HIV/AIDS services and prevention programs. **thecentersd.org**

Be a part of Queer Media History at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the taping of the first episode of Nicholas Snow's groundbreaking public access television show, *Tinseltown's Queer!* The show reached up to 600,000 households on a regular basis on four cable systems in the Los Angeles metropolitan area throughout most of the 1990s Taking place **Friday, April 28** at Palm Springs Cultural Center, **Tinseltown's Queer: Activism Hollywood Style** will feature iconic archival interviews with some of Hollywood's biggest stars and with giants in the LGBTQ civil-rights movement. Snow is now known as the creator, producer and host of PromoHomo.TV, an online television network streamed across multiple social media platforms. He will showcase clips from recent years as well as offer a retrospective spanning three of his four decades of activism. **psculturalcenter.org**

Celebrate the LGBTQ Center OC at **Indigo Ball 2023** taking place on **Saturday, May 6**. Enjoy an evening filled with entertainment, connections and a celebration of the life-changing work the organization provides. The last few years have tested the strength of our LGBTQ family and reminded us the work we do is needed as much today as it was 50 years ago. The Center OC is here for advocacy, community, human rights and more. **lgbtqcenteroc.org**

APRIL 9-15, 2023

9-15 de abril de 2023

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STI Awareness Week, fosters an opportunity to spread awareness about sexually transmitted infections, or STIs. It's important to know the facts, on how STIs impact our lives while reducing the fear and discrimination. Please visit the RUHS HIV/STD website to gather resources, testing, and treatment options.

La Semana de Concientización sobre las ITS fomenta la oportunidad de difundir la conciencia sobre las infecciones de transmisión sexual o ITS. Es importante conocer los hechos, sobre cómo las ITS afectan nuestras vidas al tiempo que reducen el miedo y la discriminación. Visite el sitio web de RUHS HIV/STD para recopilar recursos, pruebas y opciones de tratamiento.

# APRIL FOOLIN' AROUND

I look forward to this time of year, well, yearly. Mainly it's because April signals the time of year when I get to write my all-time favorite column regarding Hollywood-based April Fools' predictions. In taking a little bit of current entertainment news and giving it my own twist, I get to practice a little bit of wish-craft, as it were.

It's my laundry list of how things would go if I oversaw Tinsel Town, or at the very least, things I'd like to see happen in the entertainment industry. Whether it's TV shows that need to be green-lit stat, movies that should be made, music to your ears, and celebs being celebs, it signals that you're in my town now, beyotch! Don't say I didn't warn you!

## THE BOOB TUBE



Since *Stranger Things* actor **Noah Schnapp** came out this year, and it was heavily implied that his character Will was gay and in love with Mike (**Finn Wolfhard**), look him to be receiving his own spin-off called **Gayer Things**.

Will takes on scarier monsters than the Demogorgon, The Mind Flayer and Vecna

combined! When news of his sexual preferences comes to light in Hawkins, Indiana, its conservative residents attempt to chase the lad back into the closet, all in the name of being good Christians. Talk about an oxymoron!

In his quest to escape the Bible thumpers, he's joined by resident lesbian Robin (**Maya Hawke**), Zaddy Hopper (**David Harbour**) and supportive mom Joyce (**Winona Ryder**), as they discover the gay equivalent of The Upside Down, known as The Nether Regions, where Will faces the agonizing choice of remaining there or to return topside to confront the zealots who want to save his soul.

After two seasons of lackluster *Snatch Game* competitions, **RuPaul's Drag Race** will no longer feature the popular competition, except for *All Stars*, and only if it features **Jinkx Monsoon** and Jinkx alone. Is that my camera? Yes, gurl, it's all for you!

Regarding *Drag Race*, **George Santos** will resurrect his drag persona **Kitara Ravache** and utilizes his lying — sorry, his “untruths” is probably the PC term — to get a spot on Season 16. Not one to be bamboozled, Mama Ru knows his identity and has Santos sashay away, only to bring him back each week to eliminate him again and again. If only he were so easy to get rid of in real life!

And in the twist of the season, which will leave the other kweens gooped, gagged and shook, Tennessee Republican Gov. **Bill Lee**, who signed



a bill into law that restricts public drag show performances in that Red State, and the bill's sponsor Rep. **Chris Todd**, will be given drag makeovers, after being tricked into thinking they were attending a child's beauty pageant. RuPaul hopes their high-heeled walk on the other side of the street will show them that drag queens aren't the enemy; it was the trio's narrow-minded ways all along!

Look for **Yellowstone** to get another spin-off, but with a gay twist when *Yellow Stonewall: 1969* debuts in the fall. **Jim Parsons** plays Not-So-Butch-Cassidy Dutton, the never talked about brother of John Dutton (**Kevin Costner**), who escapes ranch life hoping to make a rainbow connection in New York City and becomes involved in that fateful night of June 28, 1969.

A long time ago, in a galaxy that was far, far from gay, George Lucas introduced audiences to **R2-D2** and **C-3PO** in *Star Wars: A New Hope*. Now, Disney+ highlights the duo as a couple in their own reality show **The Real Gay Droids of Tatooine**.

Seeing as original *Designing Women* stars **Jean Smart** is currently starring on *Hacks* and **Annie Potts** is on *Young Sheldon*, **Delta Burke** stages an acting comeback in her most famous role of Suzanne Sugarbaker in an update of the treasured sitcom called *Renovating Ladies*.

The former beauty pageant winner revamps Sugarbaker & Associates interior design firm into a modeling school for troubled girls and acts as their mentor, in the hopes of helping them change from the outside and the inside. Aww! However, in an episode that pays homage to Julia Sugarbaker (**Dixie Carter**), the students cause a major power outage, due to hair dryers, curling irons and the like, which leads Suzanne to chastise them: “And that someday you will know, and someday your children will someday know, is the night the lights went out in GEORGIA!”

Fans of Netflix's **Uncoupled** were surprised when the streamer canceled it after only one season! However, the **Neil Patrick Harris** series about a man jumping back into the dating pool in his 40s was picked up by Showtime. And it's reportedly going to be “edgier and



racier than the version that aired on Netflix." And that will mean scores of scenes featuring onscreen butt stuff, as the kids call it.

Another sophomore show, **Wednesday**, has had a lot of online chatter surrounding its second season. While the Netflix series will also feature other members of the famous family, the primary focus will remain on everyone's favorite rain cloud, according to co-creator Alfred Gough. I mean, the show is named after her, after all! And there is talk of bringing **Angelica Huston** on board as one of the teachers at Nevermore Academy, and **Michael Keaton** could reunite with director Tim Burton in a potential, and unspecified, role.

Two other rumors will pan out and be incorporated into the show with a plotline involving Wednesday (**Jenna Ortega**) and Enid Sinclair (**Emma Myers**) taking their relationship to another level. No, it doesn't involve starting a glee club! Being lesbians, I'm saying they are going to be lesbians! Plus, look for Mother Monster herself, **Lady Gaga**, to show up via a dance-off dream sequence! The singer took to TikTok this year and went viral for recreating Wednesday's dance to The Cramps' "Goo

Goo Muck" with her own song "Bloody Mary."

**White Lotus** creator **Mike White** has stated that the third season of the hit HBO Max show could "be maybe a satirical and funny look at death in Eastern religion and spirituality." Spoiler, if you live under a gay rock, for fans of **Jennifer Coolidge's** Tanya McQuoid character, who was killed off at the end of Season 2 after realizing "these gays, they're trying to murder me," it will mean karmic retribution! Well, more of a case of another Eastern ideology in that her character will be reincarnated with the award-winning actress reprising her role.

MTV's **The Real Friends of WeHo** will not be renewed for a second season, and no one will care.



## THE BIG SCREEN

Now that **Guardians of the Galaxy** director **James Gunn** has jumped spaceships from the MCU to the DCEU, he and **Peter Safran** have taken a slash-and-burn approach to their project management of what titles will be produced.

To the disappointment of gays everywhere, **Wonder Woman 3** is not happening, which is a bummer because it could only be better than *Wonder Woman 1984*. That's not a high benchmark to achieve! But the biggest beyotch slap is their firing of **Henry Cavill** as Superman! How dare you do that to my imaginary boyfriend?!

Hoping to retain LGBT audiences, the duo release community-friendly superhero fare, such as **Top Man and Power Bottom**, with the latter character being so popular he gets his own spin-off, **Just Ass League**, and they will also develop **The Scissor Squad** about an elite lesbian crimefighting team comprised of ex-military and softball players.

**Adam Lambert** reveals that he didn't want straight actor **Theo James** to star as **George Michael** in a biopic because he wanted the role! Unfortunately, the former *American Idol* alum doesn't get the part and that sours him on the entertainment industry. He quits as the lead singer of Queen and quickly regrets his decision to step away from the spotlight. So, in a stroke of genius, he reforms Wham! with Andrew Ridgeley. It wasn't like Andy was busy or anything.

Since **Alicia Silverstone** has resurrected her Cher Horowitz character for a series of ads for the shopping app Rakuten, a sequel to 1995's **Clueless** will show that the now 47-year-old Beverly Hills resident is **Still Clueless**. She's still totally buggin' over ex-stepsibling Josh (**Paul Rudd**) and remains a horrible driver, running over conservative former co-star and once Fox News pundit **Stacey Dash**, as she returns to the network and is filming a live segment — should she write them a note? As if!



**Tom Cruise** will, pun intended, court controversy by playing lesbian tennis legend Martina Navratilova in a biopic tentatively titled, *No Balls on the Court*. Feeling robbed by not getting an Academy Award nomination for *Top Gun: Maverick*, he figures playing a real person usually equates Oscar gold. It does make the new semi-shag haircut and tan he's been sporting lately make oodles of sense, though.

Given that her outfit at the Grammy Awards was a dead ringer for the red bride ensemble **Winona Ryder** sported in the original *Beetlejuice*, **Kim Petra** will be tapped to play Lydia Deetz's daughter in the exceptionally long gestating **Beetlejuice 2**. And since Glenn Shadix, who played **Catherine O'Hara's** interior designer Otho in the original died in 2010, Petra suggests to director Tim Burton that her "Unholy" collaborator **Sam Smith** would be great in the role! Unfortunately, Smith wears the latex balloon outfit from The BRIT Awards to the first day on set and is mistaken for a Chinese spy balloon by a drone and will go missing.

Following on the heels of gay staples such as **Heathers** and **Mean Girls** becoming stage musicals, and with the latter headed for the big screen, comes the news that **Mommie Dearest** will be resurrected as an all-singing/all-dancing production. **Oh Mommie**, will be based on the 1981 camp classic and songs will include "Tina! Bring Me the Axe!" "The Boys and the Booze" and, of course, "No Wire Hangers, EVER!"



And on the subject of **Faye Dunaway** and disaster pics, **Airport 2023**, which would have featured Dunaway and **Lindsay Lohan** as passengers in peril on a Southwest flight, gets canceled. Because a plane sitting on the tarmac, or a flight getting canceled altogether, doesn't lend itself to riveting cinema!



## OH, THE HORROR!

Gay TV producer and writer **Bryan Fuller** (*Hannibal*) recently announced the *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* prequel series **Crystal Lake** for Peacock will focus on Mrs. Voorhees before the events of that fateful Friday in 1980, which will open the floodgates for other horror-minded TV projects.

Not to be outdone, **Michael Myers** will be the focus of his own prequel show *The Day Before Halloween*, since he met his demise in *Halloween Ends*. Oh, spoiler alert, and I saved you 1 hour and 51 minutes of your life that you'd never get back. You're welcome! But producers still want to keep the franchise alive, and the series revolves around the day prior to his mass killing sprees and will be comprised of running errands, doing laundry and such.

Perhaps Michael could get some tips on how to get those annoying bloodstains off his coveralls with the help of *Poltergeist's* resident clairvoyant, **Tangina Barrons**. The diminutive psychic will offer helpful

household tips on TLC's *This House Is Clean*.

The third season of **Chucky** will pivot into sitcom mode with *Chucky in Charge*, which sees the killer doll becoming a housekeeper with three children left in his, well, charge, with deadly results, naturally.

Three horror stalwarts will star in their own infomercials. **Freddy Krueger** gets his promoter on by hocking the Ambien knock off, *Pleasant Dreams*, while *Hellraiser* baddie **Pinhead** has such sights to show you... about the benefits of acupuncture. *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre's* **Leatherface** becomes an unlikely beauty guru with his line of *Texas Chainsaw Mascara*.



## HEAR ME OUT!

**Rihanna** will give birth on tour, like right on stage. Not to be outdone, **Madonna** will adopt a child on a whistlestop during her *The Celebration Tour*.

**Taylor Swift** will make up for Ticketmaster's debacle on selling tickets to her **The Eras Tour** by taking a page out of the **Diana Ross** playbook and staging a free concert in Central Park for fans who missed out on seeing her perform. Unfortunately, due to a typo regarding the date on her Instagram, she ends up performing to an audience of her exes



who paid her intern some serious coin to post the date foul up. Rather than being pelted by driving rain, like Ross was, Swift must dodge tomatoes — as eggs are so expensive — being hurled at her by **Jake Gyllenhaal**, **John Mayer**, **Tom Hiddleston** and **Harry Styles**.

**Brandi Carlisle** headlines an all-star gay charity anthem song, like "We Are the World," by rerecording "The Rainbow Connection" with the help of **Janelle Monáe**, **Orville Peck**, **Lil Nas X**, **Rob Halford**, **Melissa Etheridge** and **Barry Manilow**.

## CAUSE CELEBRITY

**Lady Gaga** is facing a lawsuit brought on by Jennifer McBride, a woman who was an accomplice in kid, err, dognapping the singer's French bulldogs two years ago. She claims in her lawsuit that Gaga defrauded her into surrendering the pets with the promise of a "no questions asked" \$500,000 reward, which she has not seen a penny of.

Um, what? Yes, let's reward that bad behavior!

However, in a strange twist of events, the dogs countersue McBride, citing emotional distress, and win their court case, presided over by **Judge Judy**. Don't pee on her leg and tell her it's raining, indeed!

**Pedro Pascal** becomes so moved by the positive reaction of *The Last of Us* gay storyline from Episode 3 with **Nick Offerman** and **Murray**



**Bartlett** as lovers, that he comes out as gay and professes his love for a certain columnist. Hey, a guy can dream, can't he?

## CUT. PRINT. THAT'S A WRAP!

And there you have it, a sampling of things I'd like to see happen in Hollywood, all done in the spirit of good fun, of course. Who knows? Maybe some of these will occur. More than likely, they may not. Isn't that the magic of life? Not knowing what's going to happen. Until next time, that's all the news that's fit to print.

# PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS



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# Happy Spring!

**Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Palm Springs:** A celebration will take place **Saturday, April 8** and include a classic car parade "Cruising Through The Years" from the Palm Springs Convention Center to the downtown park, featuring celebrities, community leaders and city pioneers riding in 85 classic vehicles from 1938, when the city was incorporated, to the present day. Afterwards, the vintage cars will be displayed around the Forever Marilyn sculpture. Guinness World Records will record this historic happening of having 85 cars representing 85 years all in one place. The opening ceremony after the parade will be in the downtown park. Check out the curated exhibits of historical photos chronicling Palm Springs through the years. There will also be various free and fun activities, such as face-painting, arts and crafts, and interactive games. A canine celebrity costume contest will kick off the evening hour. The finale is an Elton John Tribute concert in the park. [palmsprings85.com](http://palmsprings85.com)

Happy Easter on **Sunday, April 9**. Various brunches, celebrations, parties and contests will be held throughout the area. A sample:

**Easter Bonnet Eggstravaganza** - Easter bonnet and sexy bunny contest at Streetbar and Hunters. [hunterspalmssprings.com](http://hunterspalmssprings.com)

The **Easter Bonnet Brunch** with drag show, bonnet contest, parade and auction benefiting Voices for Children at The Roost Lounge. [theroostcc.com](http://theroostcc.com)

**Sunrise Service** at Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. [palmspringsaerialtramway.com](http://palmspringsaerialtramway.com)

**Sister Vanity's Gospel Drag Brunch** at One Eleven Bar. [oneelevenbar.com](http://oneelevenbar.com)



of the LGBTQ community is being targeted across the country in so many ways, including legislation against drag. **Drag4Drag**, a special gathering rally of support and standing up for drag, will be held in Palm Springs on **Tuesday, April 18** at the Forever Marilyn statue. The public is encouraged to attend (hopefully in drag if you wish — wigs, boas, jewels, high heels, gowns, whatever your inner fashionista calls for). Let our support for local, regional, national, international drag sisters and brothers be seen and felt. Watch for more details on my Facebook page and on the Stonewall Democrats event listing. [desert-stonewall.org](http://desert-stonewall.org)

Craig Mann transforms his gallery at 4501 East Sunny Dunes Road into the next exhibit, **Slay, the Art of Drag**. Through his paintings, Mann interprets drag as an art form, highlighting local drag. [mrmannsdesign.com](http://mrmannsdesign.com)

Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce continues **Rock the Park**, free outdoor tribute band concerts in the downtown park. **April 5**, Bee Gees Gold, the music of those solid gold brothers from Down Under. **May 3**, DSB, the music of Journey. [pschamber.org](http://pschamber.org)



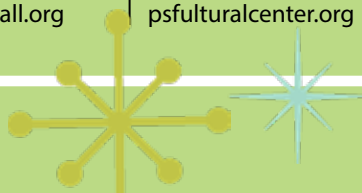
Events coming to **Acrisure Arena** include John Mayer, **April 6**; Journey, **April 25**; Shania, **May 31**; **Lizzo**, June 2. Plus, Coachella Valley Firebirds hockey games and many other concerts and events. The **Berger Foundation Iceplex**, where the Firebirds train, features public skating, skate academy, hockey league, parties and theme nights. And you can learn to play hockey. An adult ice hockey tournament is coming in May and June. [acrisurearena.com](http://acrisurearena.com) [bergerfoundationiceplex.com](http://bergerfoundationiceplex.com)

**The Show at Agua Caliente Casino** in Rancho Mirage will feature Michael Carbonaro, **April 7**; Smokey Robinson, **April 8**; The Fab Four-Beatles Tribute, **May 13**; LeAnn Rimes, **July 1**; *RuPaul's Drag Race* Werq the World tour, **July 15**. [aguacalientecasinos.com](http://aguacalientecasinos.com)



The **Purple Room Palm Springs** will present a wealth of entertainment this month. The Judy Show on Sundays; Elvis: The Early Years with Scot Bruce, **April 9**; Drag Queen Story Time Gone Wild with the Kinsey Sicks (dragapella beauty shop quartet), **April 14-15**; Lee Squared! Lee Liberace and Peggy Lee World Tour, **April 21-22**; Tommy Tune with Lucie Arnaz, **April 28-30**. [purpleroompalmssprings.com](http://purpleroompalmssprings.com)

**Movies in the Park**, presented by The Palm Springs Cultural Center, will continue with *Charade* on **April 12** and *Barefoot in the Park* on **April 26**. The free movies begin at sundown in the new downtown park across from the Art Museum. It is made possible by the support of the City of Palm Springs, PS Resorts and the PS Chamber of Commerce. [psfulturalcenter.org](http://psfulturalcenter.org)





**Canines and Caftans**, Palm Springs Yappy Hour for Animal Samaritans, will happen on **Thursday, April 13** at Margaritaville Resort. [animalsamaritans.org](http://animalsamaritans.org)

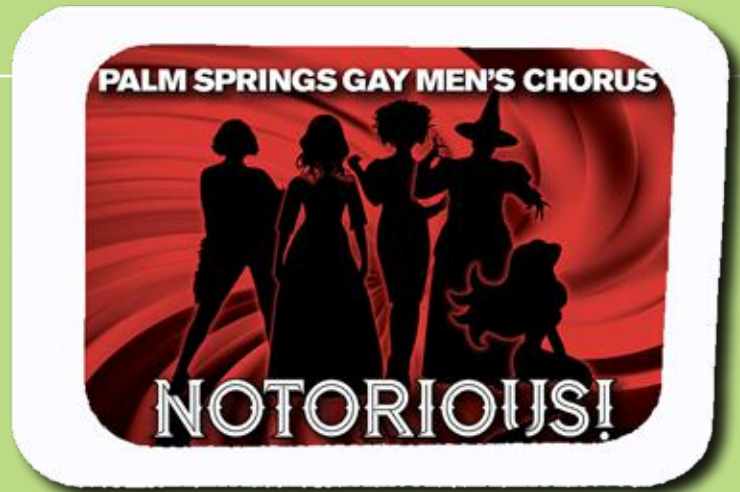
Upcoming music and arts festivals will include:  
**Coachella** on **April 14-17** and **April 21-23** at the Empire Polo Club, Indio, [coachella.com](http://coachella.com)  
**Stagecoach**, California's Country Music Festival on **April 28-30** also at the Empire Polo Club. [stagecoachfestival.com](http://stagecoachfestival.com)

**Art in the Park in the Dark** will be **Saturday, April 15** in Demuth Park, as part of Parks and Recreation's World Art Day. This free event produced by Shann Carr will feature laser shows, lighted bike parade and contest, night gallery art walk, newly commissioned reveal of painted benches and tables, art and food offerings. Contact Carr via Facebook for participation information. [palmsspringsca.gov](http://palmsspringsca.gov)

**Toucan's Live On Stage** and Reaction Shows will present Varla Jean Merman in Stand By Your Drag, **April 20-22**. [toucanstikilounge.com](http://toucanstikilounge.com)  
McCallum Theatre's **Open Call Talent Project** will be **April 21-22** with local performers of all ages presented in this talent competition, including Dan Westfall and CK Dance Company. [mccallumtheatre.com](http://mccallumtheatre.com)

**Modern Men**, the Coachella Valley Men's Chorus spring concerts, will be **April 22-23** at Palm Springs Cultural Center. "Manilow!" Songs That Make the Whole World Sing will feature special guests Marina Mac and Back Beats (musical duo Gregg Glaviano and Rich Meyers). [modernmen.org](http://modernmen.org)

**Opera Arts** will present Broadway under the Stars at Renaissance Esmeralda Resort in Indian Wells, **Sunday, April 23**, benefiting The Well in the Desert. This evening of Broadway and opera will feature Jamie Chamberlin, Nathan Granner and Cedric Berry. [operaartspalmssprings.org](http://operaartspalmssprings.org)



**Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus** spring concerts will be **April 28-30** at Palm Springs Art Museum's Annenberg Theater. "Notorious," celebrating the music of leading ladies, villains, divas and sirens of the stage and screen, will feature special guest Sharon McNight. [psgmc.com](http://psgmc.com)

The American Cancer Society Desert Spirit committee will present **Lip Sync for a Cure** benefit show on **Saturday, April 29** at Palm Springs Cultural Center. Performers will include Wesley Eure, Judith Chapman, Kat Kramer, Jeremy Miller, Kim Waltrip, David Bader, Keisha D and Yo Youngers. Tristan Rogers and Tim Gross will co-host. [lipsyncforcure.givesmart.com](http://lipsyncforcure.givesmart.com)

**Palm Springs Plaza Theatre Foundation** will host free open houses at the theatre to display plans and renderings of the renovations to the historic building, every Tuesday evening through **June 6**. [savetheplazatheatreps.org](http://savetheplazatheatreps.org)

**Glow in the Park** at The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens continues through **April 30**. This nighttime event features hand-crafted lantern displays that represent wildlife from around the world with larger-than-life displays. [livingdesert.org](http://livingdesert.org)

**Desert X**, art exhibitions at multiple sites throughout Coachella Valley, runs through **May 7**. Ace Hotel & Swim Club, Palm Springs, is the official cultural partner and lead hotel. The exhibitions are free. Maps and programs are available on the app, website and hub at Ace Hotel. [desertx.org](http://desertx.org).

**Greater Palm Springs Tourism Foundation** golf tournament and reception will be **Thursday, May 4** at Desert Willow Golf Resort. The foundation raises money to provide scholarships for Coachella Valley students and others programming in the hospitality industry. [visitgreaterps.com](http://visitgreaterps.com)

Saddle up! The **Palm Springs Hot Rodeo**, hosted by the Palm Springs Chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association, sanctioned by the International Gay Rodeo Association, will return **May 4-7** with rodeo action at A. C. Dysart Equestrian Park in Banning. [hotrodeo.org](http://hotrodeo.org)

Support each other. Support drag. Support entertainment, theatre, shows, concerts, festivals, clubs, restaurants, businesses, organizations, charities, family and friends!



The annual **Dining Out For Life**, Dine Out To End HIV, benefiting DAP Health, will be **Thursday, April 27**. This annual event has many area restaurants, bars and coffee shops donating a percentage of their sales to DAP Health. Palm Springs is the smallest participating market (out of 50 HIV service organizations, partnering with 2,400 restaurants, 4,100 volunteers and 300,000 diners), but one of the largest in overall fundraising. [daphealth.org](http://daphealth.org)



## Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I moved around a lot as a kid. I was raised between Moreno Valley and Riverside.

## What do you enjoy most about your job at Tool Shed?

Two main things, that I get to work in my underwear, and we have the best customers in the world. At most jobs you put clothes on, but at Tool Shed we take them off and work in our underwear. Our regular customers are the nicest and most fun people in the world.

## Could you describe a few of Tool Shed's delicious concoctions? What are some of the things you suggest, and do you have any examples of your own creations?

My favorite concoction would have to be the Big Banana Shot. It's made with vodka, chocolate liquor, Banana liquor, Half & Half (creamer). It's really good. I always like the challenge of experimenting with new drinks. As far as my own creations, they vary every week. Just come in and see our special board, which I update weekly.

## What are some of your favorite nights or events at Tool Shed?

Now this is a tough question. I love our famous Thursday Underwear Night. We won best bingo in Southern California for our Tool Shed Tunes on Tuesdays, and every weekend our events vary but I love working our Sunday Beer Bust, which gets better every Sunday.

## When can we anticipate seeing you tending bar at Tool Shed?

I'm there every Sunday for Beer Bust, and I will be doing Monday and Tuesday Happy Hour. Or just come in when we're open because I help maintain stock and keep the bar running with Rob and Doug.

## Tell us about the tattoo on your calf.

The tattoo on my right calf is of the Tool Shed logo. The Tool Shed is where I met my husband of 10 years now and was the first leather bar I ever walked into. So, it's kind of a full circle moment for me.

# BAR BANTER WITH JEREMY PURKISS

## What do you prefer to do in your leisure time?

Well, when I'm not working, I'm either crocheting a blanket or hanging out at the bar enjoying one of our events, whether it's Underwear Night, Tool Shed Tunes on Tuesday or a cigar, leather event on our huge patio.

## Give us a little bit of information about yourself that we may not expect.

I like to crochet, and I love bowling. I am currently holding a 197 average in bowling, and I've crocheted over 20 blankets and counting.

Located in the famed Warm Sands District since 1993, Tool Shed is the original Leather + Levi Bar in Palm Springs. [pstoolshed.com](http://pstoolshed.com) / 760.320.3299



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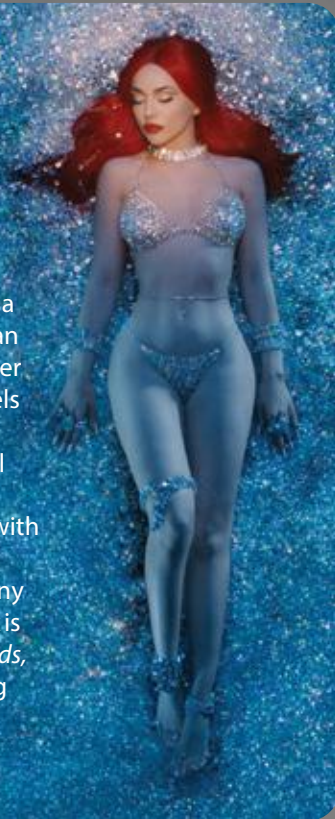
# SPINNING INTO SPRING

## DIAMONDS & DANCEFLOORS

AVA MAX

There's a definite "Flashdance" quality to Ava Max's sophomore release of *Diamonds & Dancefloors*. The fast-paced beats of her opener "Million Dollar Baby" and her clear and vibrant vocals make driving to this song or dancing to it a quick shot of adrenaline. This Albanian-American L.A. pop princess is ready to put the music and her vocal skills first. As a singer/songwriter, she excels with core emotions in tracks such as "Ghost" or "One of Us," which possibly is the most powerful pseudo-1980s anthem that cascades in with a simple hook and is pop-candy in utter honesty with her lyrics to the ears. She also takes on the world with her "Weapons," which could shoot down any prospective jerk from any perspective. Ava Max is no "maniac on the floor" of *Diamonds & Diamonds*, just a young and beautiful talent enjoying ruling the dancefloor in her own way. Bring on the extended club mixes!

**Available now**



## ANYTHING GOES

MATHEW V

A crooner. A balladeer. A queer. Singer Mathew V needs no introduction to make it clear that he can swing or serenade with the finest of male vocalists. *Anything Goes* proves, from the opening track of "Moon River" — beautifully done — to the simmering build of "Don't Rain on My Parade" closing out the eight selections. V could stand for victory in being the new gay guy on the block of *The Great American Songbook* of classic standards. His subtle, smooth yet strong and at times, sexy and playful voice truly works any which way regardless of sexual identity. Yet, out and proud does garner admiration and respect in his renditions of "Big Spender" and "The Man I Love." It truly is refreshing to have his queer sensibility add a new perspective to songs initially composed for dancehall hostesses or tragic chanteuses. There is also a quality of having the arrangements and jazz styling for the material, which on *Anything Goes* mesh for romance and his vocals ideally. Mathew V has got something here freshly delivered to simply sit back and enjoy. That's his new and well-done performances on well-worn classics from a gay man's perspective. **Available April 14**

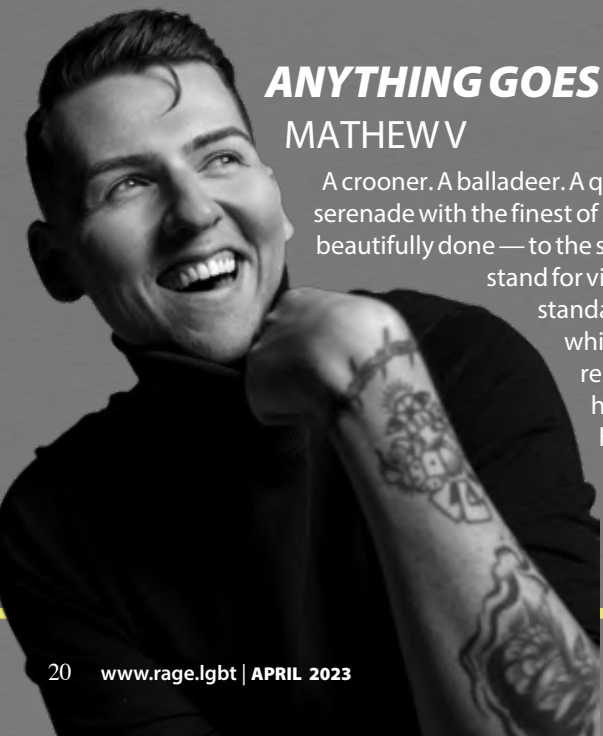


## DOCTOR MOAN

PETER CASE

Peter Case is not "A Million Miles Away!" Remember that huge song hit from him and The Plimsouls? Now hear this, Case just released his 16<sup>th</sup> solo album on March 31. It is a striking re-discovery to enjoy his musicianship, his voice and his songwriting on *Doctor Moan*. As you can see by the CD cover, his piano-playing is the centerpiece and he plays on a restored 1905 Steinway. *Doctor Moan* is a reflective album to feel free of life's constant interruption and stress. It's quite a thinking man's set of mature material done up with blues, folk, a tinge of gospel and most importantly, an open musical heart to just let his emotions out for anyone's empathy and feelings.

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# THROWING A PUNCH

WITH FILMMAKER  
WELBY INGS

**S**ports and gay-themed movies have rarely gone hand in hand. This seems especially true when it comes to boxing. That's about to change, though, with the release of *Punch*. Currently playing in select theatres and streaming on demand, the film will be released on DVD on **Tuesday, April 11**.

Set in New Zealand, the film focuses on a promising teenage boxer named Jim (played by newcomer Jordan Oosterhof). He is training under the watch of his demanding and alcoholic father, Stan (Academy Award nominee Tim Roth). When Jim develops an intimate relationship with a male classmate, Whetu (Conan Hayes of Netflix's *Sweet Tooth*), the pair are forced to navigate isolation, homophobia and the brutality of small-town life.

*Punch* is a powerful story, beautifully written and directed by Welby Ings. Although it marks his feature film debut, Ings is an impressive, multi-talented man. He has been actively involved in the pursuit and protection of gay rights in New Zealand since coming out when he was 20. During the 1980s, he was arrested several times while campaigning for homosexual law reforms, and he worked on amendments to the nation's human rights provisions of the 1990s. Ings was fired more than once for being an out gay man, and was beaten up on several occasions.

Today, he is an award-winning designer, filmmaker and author who holds a Ph.D. in narrative design. His previous short films *Boy*, *Munted* and *Sparrow* were selected in competition at over 80 international film festivals. Ings is also a professor in design at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. He has been awarded the Prime Minister's Supreme Award for University Teaching Excellence, as well as medals for his contributions to research and education.

Of note, Ings was illiterate until age 15. Although he now supervises doctoral candidates from around the world, he continues to use drawings as a vital means of creative thinking. A reference to this is in the opening and closing sequences of *Punch* that appear as a drawing on water-stained paper.

*Punch* was in development for many years. Ings fought hard to bring it to life as a commitment to his late partner, who grew up in a small-town

boxing family. Also serving as inspiration were the experiences of two gay boxers known to Ings, as well as a number of takatāpui tane (gay Māori men) with whom he currently works.

*The RAGE Monthly* interviewed Ings via Zoom recently.

**I understand *Punch* was inspired by your late partner, and I am sorry to hear about his loss. How closely does the film resemble his story?**

The relationship between the father and the son, that's Kevin. Kevin's dad was a boxing coach and he wanted all his sons to be great boxers. Kevin was talented and his father was driven. He was not a bad man and Kevin's dad was not alcoholic, but in the end Kevin walked away from boxing and he took up athletics. He held the national title in the triple jump and he used to train running up and down the sand dunes where we shot the movie. I've never told anyone this. [pause] That actually happened; it's where we used to go train. It's such a beautiful, wild place.

At the end, when Kevin died of AIDS [in 1997], he didn't want his father to know he was dying but his father came to see him in the hospice. He couldn't touch him and I just thought, "There's got to be a better way."

**Oh, wow. That's so sad.**

Yeah. You know, many of us have relationships with our dads that are fraught. I really tried to think, with the film, about love and masculinity. I always think our relationships with our dads and with other men — beyond sexuality — are really, really complex. They warrant complex stories and complex characters.

**When you decided "I'm going to write a screenplay" or "I'm going to make a movie," did that happen relatively quickly or did you write it over years?**

It took 15 years, mate! [laughs] And I actually don't write a screenplay. I draw the film first. I did hundreds of drawings. I go out to the places where I want to film and, while I'm drawing them, I can hear the fictional characters — little flickers of dialogue or what they're thinking — and I write those into the drawing. Then I come back and I cover the walls of my house with those drawings. I move them around and take some off while others get added on. It's not a storyboard but I've learned to

think through images, and I construct stories through hundreds and hundreds of drawings.

But that wasn't what took 15 years. The 15 years was trying to get funding when nobody wants to see a gay story about boxing. And I said, "It's not a gay story about boxing, it's a story about love between men." It wasn't conforming to the comfortable narrative that everything's rosy for LGBTQ people, where everybody lives in the city and it's all sequined suits and Pride parades. Actually, you try being non-binary or trans in a small town, or you try coming out as gay in a hyper-masculine sporting world. So it was pushing uphill [trying to get funding] against kind of a sanctioned narrative.

**I read a review that referred to *Punch* as "Rocky meets *Brokeback Mountain*." Do you think that's accurate or is it too simplistic?**

[laughing] Oh no, I hadn't heard that! Oh well, I know everybody seeing a film has got their own reading. No, I think [*Punch*] is a very tender story but not soft. It's the only time I've ever seen depicted — and I really wanted to do this — to actually illustrate what queer bashing was as a sexual assault. And the fact that we fight back! We're not weak but we're outnumbered. I think [*Punch*] is a tough story told with great beauty and a high level of humanity, and it talks about the complex nature of love between men.



**I agree completely. I thought Jordan and Conan gave excellent performances for a couple of young actors. How did you find them or go about casting them?**

Weren't they wonderful, mate? It was for both of them their first feature film. With Jordan, it took about two years and I sat in on every audition. He was already a soccer player and a soccer coach, and he had to go into training for two years for that film. There's no doubles in the film; it's all him. He was fight-ready by the time we shot it. There were lots of people who auditioned but they didn't have the commitment to training, because the film focuses more on his training than on the fight. So I needed somebody who was comfortable in their body and proud of their physicality, who could run through the sand dunes and leap into the air, while being at their peak fitness.

Conan took about five years to find. Lots of people auditioned for [Whetu] but when they saw what the screenplay actually was they backed out. For some young men, there's still the anxiety that if they take [the role of] a queer character they might be typecast forever. Although I wrote Whetu as the strongest man in the film, he is quite non-binary in



the way he looks but he doesn't give a fuck. He is not defined by other people's ideas of gender.

**Yeah, I love how confident Whetu's character is and how confident both actors are. To hear it's their first feature is just amazing.**

You know, on the last day we were shooting in the little hut out near the beach. It had been an intense six weeks and we shot it right in the middle of COVID, so we were really running in front of the wind with it. New Zealand was in lockdown and there were also the bush fires going on at the time. Anyway, we wrapped and the two boys walked out of the room and both burst into tears. That's how intense it had been but it was also lovely. I always think that a set has got to be a joy to work on but it's really hard work.

**Did you start out to be a designer or did you start out to be a filmmaker? I know you're a teacher as well, a professor. I think your multiple skill set is very impressive, but where did it begin for you?**

Well, I got expelled from school but that was for feeling a guy up in the back of my German class. [laughs] I really wanted to go to art school, but my family was very rural and it was a two-hour bus drive to get into school each day. So I trained to be a teacher and I loved it. I love helping people get to a horizon beyond the one they can see.

**Is there anything else you would like my readers to know about *Punch*?**

It sits in the context of recent films like *Moonlight*, where sexuality and bullying in a coming-of-age narrative are used to explore the vulnerability and beauty of the human condition. When Whetu and Jim show us that they are free — that they have become strong and sensitive but separate men — our struggles with them and our hopes for them reach an unpredicted kind of triumph.

[yellowaffair.com/punch](http://yellowaffair.com/punch)





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# POLAR OPPOSITES DARE TO LOVE IN **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN**

**M**anuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* was written in 1976. He adapted the novel into a play in 1983, which inspired a film released in 1985, with the screenplay written by Leonard Schrader. The film starring William Hurt and Raul Julia was nominated for four Academy Awards, and Hurt won the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of Louis Molina. The novel was again reimagined into a musical directed by Harold Prince, and despite a rocky start, eventually won four Tony Awards in 1993, including Best Musical. The drama version of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* takes place in a prison in a fascist country in South America.

It is a two-actor script that catapults two men with vastly different demeanors and ideologies, into the same cell in a brutal prison. Louis Molina is a flamboyant gay window dresser who is imprisoned for corrupting a minor. His cellmate is Valentin Arregui, a journalist jailed for his leftist political activities. To alleviate the day-to-day drudgery, Molina entertains Valentin by retelling the stories of his favorite movies, and the two men develop a colorful and unique bond.

**Michael Michetti** steps into the director's chair to tackle this confrontational production. He is no stranger to A Noise Within and has previously directed several productions. Michetti is a former Founding Artistic Director of Boston Court Pasadena. He is the recipient of two Ovation Awards and five L.A. Drama Critics Circle Awards for his direction as well as a special LADCC Award for Distinguished Achievement in Direction.

**You are originally from San Diego, so what compelled you to relocate to Los Angeles?**

I moved to LA to study theatre at USC, and I never left! I really love Los Angeles. It's still Southern California and close to family in San Diego, but it has a more urban feeling and rhythm. I'm a city boy at heart. And while I don't anticipate ever leaving LA, during COVID I was able to fulfil a lifelong dream: I got an apartment in New York City, so I'm now bicoastal!

**When did you first realize that you had an aptitude for directing?**

Honestly, from the time I was a kid, it was all I wanted to do. I used to collect neighborhood kids and family, and put together shows in our backyard. I also convinced the head of my high school drama program to let me direct productions there. And then I had a directing emphasis in my theatre education at USC. I did some acting through school but never had any intention of pursuing it as a career. I'm not that good at it and it's not my passion. What I really love is the collaborative nature of directing, of assembling artists and helping to guide them all toward telling a single story. I'm lucky to be able to do what I love, and I'm so grateful for the career I've had directing.

**You have directed several shows at A Noise Within and beyond. Which has been your all-time favorite, and why?**

I couldn't possibly pick an all-time favorite. There are, of course, many that have been highlights, in terms of the process and/or the final results, but they're all my children. I also have very eclectic tastes, so I've directed new plays, classic plays, comedies, dramas and musicals. And I wouldn't want to give up any of them. I guess if forced to name a production, I'd say I was very grateful to come back after the pandemic with a production of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* last summer at the Pasadena Playhouse, which was a joyous experience, and a production I was very proud of. I will also say that the process of working on *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, a beautiful play with an amazing cast and production team, has been exhilarating. I suspect this one will end up being one of my all-time favorites!

**How would you best describe *Kiss of the Spider Woman* to someone who has never seen it?**

*Kiss of the Spider Woman* is a two-person play set in a prison in Argentina in 1975. Two prisoners who have nothing in common — Valentin, a Marxist revolutionary, and Molina, a queer window dresser — are locked together in a cell. Through the course of the play, they come to understand, respect and even love one another. It's a beautiful story of human connection in the most difficult of circumstances.

**I have read that the writer of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Manuel Puig, has a very high bar on adaptations of his script. What sort of unique twists are you putting into the production to set it apart from the film and previous productions?**

Well, we have the advantage of doing a stage adaptation that Manuel Puig wrote himself based on his novel. So, his play adaptation is much truer to the novel than either the film or the Broadway musical. If you're familiar with the movie or the musical, you know that they both regularly escape the prison cell to depict the classic movies that Molina is telling to pass the time. In the play we never leave the cell. We escape to the fantasy world of the movies only to the degree that we're able to use our imaginations, like Molina and Valentin do.

**What message do you hope audiences take away from this provocative show?**

I hope that the play will encourage us to have more empathy and consideration for people who are different than we are. That, in this polarized world, we may remember that with compassionate listening and willingness to communicate with kindness and understanding, we can build bridges we thought were impossible. Wouldn't that be nice?

***Kiss of the Spider Woman* runs through Sunday, April 23 at A Noise Within at 3352 East Foothill Boulevard in Pasadena. [anoisewithin.org](http://anoisewithin.org) / 626.356.3100**



The season at **Coachella Valley Repertory** concludes with Robert Askin's Best New Play, which was nominated for five Tony Awards and won one. The crowd will laugh and then question whether or not they should be so entertained. It's an exciting and thrilling journey in *Hand to God* as performances continue through **Sunday, April 9** in Cathedral City.

In the tiny, decidedly conservative town of Cypress, Texas, shy, mild-mannered (albeit lust-filled) teenager Jason is just trying to be a good son. His mother, Margery, is struggling with the recent loss of her husband. Jason's only solace is the Christian Puppet Ministry that his mother has established in the basement of the town's Lutheran church, led by Pastor Greg. Her pupils are nerdy hot girl Jessica, juvenile delinquent Timothy and Jason. Jason discovers that he has a talent for puppetry, and it seems like all will be well after his father's death. Then along comes Tyrone, Jason's puppet, who has other plans. He is foul-mouthed, disruptive and full of the devil. Jason begins to feel that he is possessed by Tyrone. Under the influence of the puppet, Jason confronts bully Timothy, hits on Jessica and confronts his mother about her bad life choices.

In a manner that is both refreshingly unique and impossible to ignore, the notions of religion, morality and human nature are investigated in *Hand to God*, which is also wildly offensive and hilarious. Audience members should note that this dark comedy contains sexualized scenes, violence, profanity and puppet nudity. **cvrep.org / 760.296.2966**



*Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play*, written by Keiko Green and directed by Jesca Prudencio, will have its world debut at **The Old Globe's** Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park in San Diego. Performances will take place from **Saturday, April 8 through Sunday, May 7**.

It's 1999, and Ami is an awkward Asian-American high schooler whose world comes crashing down with a terrible discovery: Her family is responsible for manufacturing MSG, the mysterious ingredient getting all the kids hooked! Meanwhile, a cool new girl arrives from Japan, and she's not playing by the rules. Ami vows to redeem her family name and save the world from MSG. This whimsical, time-traveling adventure is a riotous and hilarious romp through wild teenage crushes, family legacies and the magical properties of instant ramen!

"*Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play* is a very, very special work," **Artistic Director Barry Edelstein** said. "Uproariously funny, super smart, and wildly original, it bends time and space, genre and form, to tell the extraordinary — and true! — story of why generations of American diners saw 'No MSG' signs in restaurant windows. Keiko Green's play takes us on a great theatrical thrill ride and detours along the way into questions of family, history and culture that make this evening in the theatre as rich as it is entertaining. Jesca Prudencio and her gifted cast do inventive and joyous work, and they bring The Globe's audiences a truly memorable show. I can't wait to share it with our audiences." **theoldglobe.org / 619.234.5623**



## HAIRSPRAY

The Tony-winning musical comedy sensation from Broadway will return to Orange County with performances **Tuesday, April 18 through Sunday, April 30** at **Segerstrom Center for the Arts** in Costa Mesa.

In 1960s Baltimore, 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular program. Is it possible for a girl with great goals (and even greater hair) to change the world?

With **Andrew Levitt** (aka Nina West from *RuPaul's Drag Race*) as Edna Turnblad and **Niki Metcalf** as Tracy Turnblad, and the classic score of famous songs like "Welcome to the 60's," "Good Morning Baltimore" and "You Can't Stop the Beat," *Hairspray* is "fresh, winning and deliriously tuneful!" (*The New York Times*).

Broadway's award-winning creative team, headed by **Director Jack O'Brien** and **Choreographer Jerry Mitchell**, will reunite for this new touring production to deliver *Hairspray* to a whole new generation of theatre-goers.

"It's a brand-new world we find ourselves in today, and *Hairspray* is meeting this challenge full-on with even more joy and purpose. Our fable of 'The Little Dancing Engine That Could' is even more relevant than 20 years ago when it first burst onto the scene. With the renewed, refreshed energy of the unforgettable Nina West as Edna and a whole new generation of wildly talented kids across the board, we cannot wait to raise the various roofs once more with dance, joy, music and that glorious, famous, energy-packed score! Come feel great and grateful once more!" O'Brien said.

Mitchell added, "*Hairspray* has always been about all of us dancing together! I am thrilled to welcome this NEW company of amazing #FULLOUT talents to lead the way as we dance across America with a message of inclusion and hope because 'You really Can't Stop the Beat!'" **scfta.org**

## LGBT+ Night with Hairspray: Out at Outpost Kitchen!

**Sunday, April 23** will feature food, fun, swag and drag! Join the meet-up at Outpost Kitchen restaurant in Costa Mesa for a pre-show reception before the *Hairspray* performance at 6:30 p.m. Meet and interact with other fans while enjoying a delicious spread (alcoholic beverages not included) and then head over to the theatre's Orchestra Terrace seats to see the Tony-winning Best Musical together. Participants will get *Hairspray* swag, Ms. Clair Voyance will make an appearance, and there will be a surprise cameo by a cast member. Have a gay old time before the show! Use promo code **BIGFUN** when buying tickets.



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## GLORIA GAYNOR

There will never be another disco diva like Gloria Gaynor. She is still going strong 45 years after releasing her now-iconic song "I Will Survive," later certified a Platinum hit. Hear the Pacific Symphony give the two-time Grammy winner's biggest hits the complete symphonic treatment at Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. No doubt there will be singing and dancing during this concert happening **Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15.**

Gaynor's illustrious career has never slowed. With chart-topping singles throughout the decades, she has attained worldwide celebrity and musical appreciation. Gaynor has also used her fame and reputation to help several causes, donating her time, skill and money. She altered the words of her world-famous song and lent her time to a music video to raise awareness and finances for Miami Children's Hospital's lifesaving initiatives. [pacificsymphony.org](http://pacificsymphony.org) / 714.755.5799



## THE CONCERT – A TRIBUTE TO ABBA

For more than a decade, 21st Century Artists has toured North America with its ABBA tribute performance, previously titled ABBA The Music, ABBA The Hits, and ABBA The Show. The Concert: A Tribute To ABBA continues to be the top ABBA tribute group in the world, dazzling all who see with their fantastic performance while playing the most iconic hits from ABBA, including "Mamma Mia," "S.O.S.," "Money, Money, Money," "The Winner Takes All," "Waterloo," "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme" and "Dancing Queen."

Critics have dubbed The Concert: A Tribute To ABBA the most impressive and genuine ABBA tribute event ever. Join the ultimate homage where you may dance, sing and have the time of your life. Catch it on **Saturday, May 6** at Segerstrom Center in Costa Mesa, and **Sunday, May 7** at Sycuan Casino in San Diego County. [sycuan.com](http://sycuan.com) / 619.445.6002



## LATRICE ROYALE

Latrice Royale reveals how she overcame the challenges she had early on in her life to become one of the most beloved drag queens in the world as she celebrates her 30th year in the entertainment industry. It is a story of perseverance, heart, soul and determination, as she does not let anything get in her way. Latrice exposes all the "tea" via her comedic performances, storytelling and musical performances.

Latrice is most known for her appearance in the fourth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, in which she finished in fourth place and went on to earn the title of Miss Congeniality. She later competed in the inaugural season of *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars*.

On **Friday, April 14**, Latrice will perform at The Regent in Los Angeles as part of her first solo North American tour, titled Life Goes On. On **Saturday, April 15**, Latrice will play (and slay) at the House of Blues in San Diego. [latriceroyale.com/tour](http://latriceroyale.com/tour)

## JASON ROBERT BROWN

Fans of cabaret may enjoy this evening when renowned Broadway songwriter and performer Jason Robert Brown makes his Segerstrom Center debut at the Samueli Theater in Costa Mesa.

His significant works as a composer include *The Bridges of Madison County*, *The Final Five Years*, *Honeymoon in Vegas* and *Parade*. Brown received three Tony Awards, including Best Original Score and Best Orchestrations, for his contributions to modern musical theatre, as well as six Drama Desk Awards, an Outer Critics Circle Award and a New York Drama Critics Circle Award. His most recent accomplishment is *Mr. Saturday Night*, which premiered on Broadway in 2022.

Brown will bring his dramatic songs and orchestrations to Orange County from **Thursday, April 27 through Saturday, April 29.** [scfta.org](http://scfta.org) / 714.556.2787



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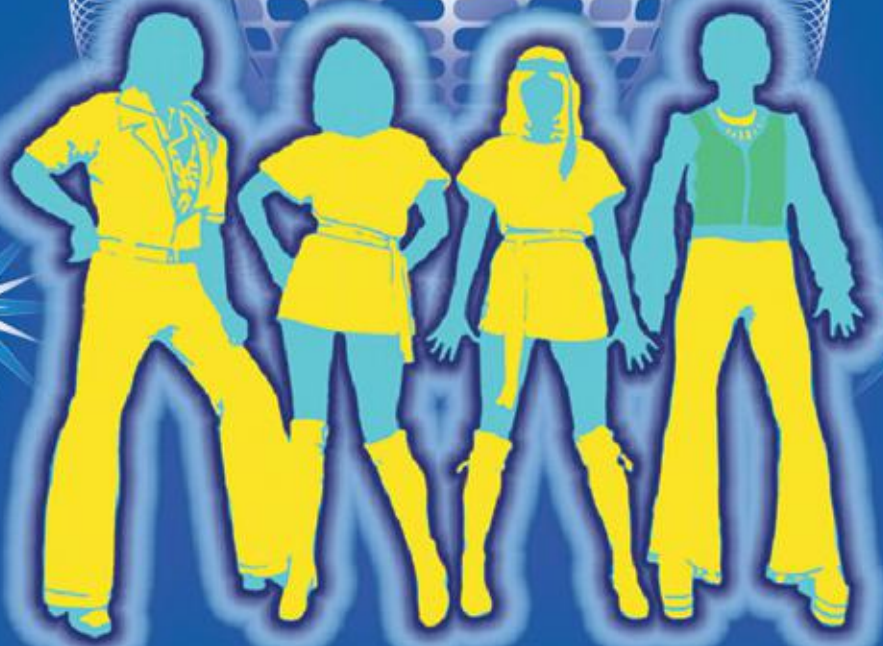
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