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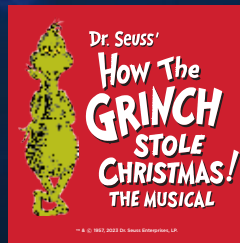
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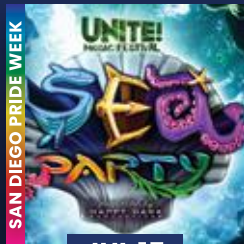
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**JUL 9**

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**JUL 15**

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**AUG 18**

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# Sycuan

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# SUMMER OF PRIDE



*Ross Mathews*  
JUNE 4



*Spice Wannabe:  
The Spice Girls Tribute*  
JUNE 16



*Divas  
Starring  
Frank Marino*  
JUNE 24

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# SAMO PRIDE TO LIGHT UP SANTA MONICA

A month-long celebration in June in Santa Monica will be dedicated to honoring the LGBTQ community with a plethora of activities and events that celebrate the city's commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

On **Saturday, June 3**, the first-ever SaMo PRIDE Festival will turn the downtown district, from the Third Street Promenade through Santa Monica Place to the Santa Monica Pier, into a Pride zone with live musical performances, Pride-related treats, free swag games and more. "Colors of PRIDE" photobooth installations, designed by LGBTQ artists, will be placed throughout the festival with fun, interactive props.

The city and its partners will celebrate Pride with the month-long lighting of City Hall in rainbow colors and a full calendar of educational and uplifting events. Community events include markets, queer prom, story times and live musical performances.

Santa Monica Place will partner with Streetlet, an opportunity-

matching and growth engine for small business owners and makers, to bring a pop-up **Made with PRIDE Marketplace** to the center each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in June. This unique retail marketplace will focus on family-friendly displays and activities that safely celebrate the city's inclusive and diverse spirit. Made with PRIDE will showcase over 15 LGBTQ business owners, highlighting their stories, unique products and services. Each business features local goods and services made, conceived and curated in Southern California, and all vendors are provided with a free space to activate and retain 100% of the sales.

Pride events will be anchored by **Miles of Pride**, a vibrant light installation that spans the Promenade and Santa Monica Place, illuminating the sky with a rainbow of colors to celebrate the queer community, individuality, inclusivity and acceptance. View the complete lineup of events at [smpride.com](http://smpride.com).

## OTHER PRIDE EVENTS IN JUNE

Prepare yourself for a grand slam of a good time. On **Wednesday, June 7** in Anaheim, on **Angels Pride Night** at Angels Stadium, the Los Angeles Angels will face the Chicago Cubs. The official pregame festivities will take place in the Gate 5 Courtyard. Your ticket will include an Angels rainbow hat, and proceeds will benefit OC Pride. [angels.com/pride](http://angels.com/pride)

**Out at the Fair** (OATF) will return to the San Diego County Fair on **Saturday, June 10**. It is the official LGBTQ festival of the fair and filled with a full day of family-friendly entertainment. Stop by the OATF booth for a free rainbow flag, while supplies last. Join the fun at the Paddock Stage starting for a full day of entertainment including music, drag and comedians. [outatthefair.com](http://outatthefair.com)

There are few things better than lounging outside on a Sunday afternoon under a sun umbrella with a fruity drink in hand. Summer breezes and cool tunes playing. This is your **Sunday Funday** in the city. Fabulous Hillcrest's newest event will debut on **Sunday, June 11**. Sunday Funday is a Hillcrest tradition, as everyone knows. Come out to Hillcrest on Sunday afternoons for music, summer cocktails,

lawn chairs and your neighborhood besties, all under the Hillcrest Pride Flag. Swing through the Farmers Market before heading over to Herbert Street for Sunday Funday. [fabulouhillcrest.com](http://fabulouhillcrest.com)

Prism Comics, the nonprofit championing LGBTQ visibility, diversity and inclusion in comics, graphic novels and popular media, will present **Q Con**, Southern California's newest LGBTQ comic con on **Saturday, June 17** at Fiesta Hall in West Hollywood. Last year, Prism Comics held the first Q Con to great success with over 900 people attending. The event will once again celebrate the amazing diversity of LGBTQ comics, games and popular media, and will be expanded with panel presentations on various comics topics. Attendees can meet creators from indie comics to major publishers, get autographs and sketches, and mix with other comics fans. Attendees are encouraged to cosplay their favorite characters with a fun and festive Costume Contest. Q Con is free to the public and family friendly, providing pre-teens through adults with the opportunity to find a wide variety of comics and graphic novels affirming LGBTQ representation at one exciting, colorful event. [prismcomics.org/q-con](http://prismcomics.org/q-con)



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On **Wednesday, June 21** at the Westgate Hotel, the San Diego Equality Business Association, the San Diego Business Journal and Wells Fargo will recognize and celebrate **San Diego's Top 50 LGBTQ+ Leaders of Influence for 2023**. Free champagne will be served, and the Westgate's chefs will provide passed appetizers while guests mingle with the most prominent LGBTQ community members and business owners. City Councilmember Steven Whitburn will speak. [sdeba.org](http://sdeba.org)

The **Hillcrest Wind Ensemble** will provide a free performance as part of the Twilight in the Park music series at Balboa Park's Spreckels Organ Pavilion on **Wednesday, June 21**. Pack a picnic and listen to some great music from the 20th century. Live music at Twilight has been a crowd pleaser for decades. [hillcrestwindensemble.com](http://hillcrestwindensemble.com)

The Roof Bar at Old Vine Kitchen & Bar in Costa Mesa will host a **Pride Kick-Off Happy Hour** on **Thursday, June 22** on behalf of **Radiant Health Centers**. Network and chat with friends over drinks and snacks in celebration of OC Pride weekend. [radianthealthcenters.org](http://radianthealthcenters.org)

This disco may be silent, but the theme is loud and proud! In a special Pride Night edition of this Segerstrom Center Plaza favorite, the Silent DJs return, spinning everyone's favorite tunes (times three) via your own pair of light-up headphones. Bring your best dance moves and we'll bring the party — including performances from a star-studded lineup of local drag performers. Get ready to dance 'til you death drop at **Silent Disco: Pride** on **Friday, June 23**. [scfta.org](http://scfta.org)

On **Saturday, June 24**, Orange County Pride will return to downtown Santa Ana with the free, all-ages **Brilliant Resilience Pride Parade and Festival**. The Health and Wellness Zone and Club Vibe will be added to the 2023 event, making it larger than ever. Traditional favorites include The Pride Stage, The Orgullo Latin Stage, The Adult Kink and Leather Space powered by ONYX, Trans Central, Pride Speaks, VIP Lounge, The Kids Zone and The Teen Space. OC Pride is Orange County's biggest LGBTQ celebration, with over 25,000 people attending the one-day event. Visitors come from all over for a

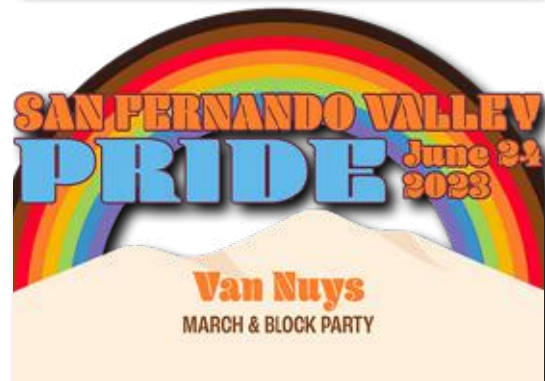
colorful day of acceptance, peace, live music, dancing and commemoration. [prideoc.com](http://prideoc.com)

Come celebrate 10 years of Long Beach's greatest annual LGBTQ fundraiser at The Center. A cocktail reception, dinner, silent auction and dance party will be part of the **Black & White Ball 2023** on **Saturday, June 24** at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center. This year's event will have a Dipped in Gold theme. Experience a night of elegance and sophistication while helping a worthy cause. [centerlb.org](http://centerlb.org)

Join **San Fernando Valley Pride** for an unforgettable celebration that will honor and commemorate the diversity and resiliency of the LGBTQ community. The event on **Saturday, June 24** will begin with a march through the streets of Van Nuys, where participants will proudly display their rainbow colors and spread a message of love and equality. Then a block party will offer music, food, entertainment and an art and resource expo. Connect with the community, make new friends and be a part of something special. Everyone is welcome, so bring friends, family and allies to celebrate diversity together. [sfvpride.org](http://sfvpride.org)

Every year, the San Diego LGBT Community Center commemorates the legendary life of one of the most influential Mexican painters of the mid-20th century with live music, multiple art exhibits by local Latin@ artists and vendors, a Frida look-alike contest, great food and tequila. This year's **Pachanga de Frida** will take place on **Saturday, June 24**. Proceeds from this event benefit Latin@ Services at The Center. [thecentersd.org/frida23](http://thecentersd.org/frida23)

**Equality Wine Fest**, a first-of-its-kind event in Palm Springs, will feature the finest LGBTQ, BIPOC and women owned, managed and/or produced wines. This wine tasting event will be held in the Compass Rose Grand Ballroom of the Margaritaville Resort on **Saturday, July 1**. Beneficiaries of charitable donations include Give Kids the World Village, Brothers of the Desert and the Desert LGBTQ Community Center. Enjoy wine tastings of more than 60 wine varieties and food samplings, as well as music, educational lecturers, demonstrations, a silent auction and VIP experiences. [equalitywinefest.com](http://equalitywinefest.com)



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Bluestem  Productions

# SUMMER MOVIE FULL RELEASE

So far, the Hollywood movie machine has churned out summer fare, like *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* and *Fast X*, which sounds like a laxative, and I hear it's good for curing Tokyo drift, if you catch mine.

This is usually the portion of my annual spotlight on summer movies where I lament the lack of community inclusion in the cinemas for the weeks that make up the hotter months. But, gay gasp, among the blockbusters and such are actual movies with a focus on our kind, with four heading for the big screen and one streaming during the dog days of summer. That's one for the record books, and, no, they're not being released on Christmas Day, because that's not until winter! Hello! And just like salt on your popcorn, here's a taste of what to sample this summer at a cinema near you.

Elemental



Blue Jean



## I'D LIKE SOME GAY WITH MY POPCORN

After an extended time away from home, *Monica* (Trace Lysette) attempts to reconcile, not only with her mother (the always fantastic Patricia Clarkson), but with the scars from the still open wounds of her past that won't heal. The film, and its exploration into the life of a trans woman seeking acceptance, has generated Oscar buzz for its star Lysette. May 12.

Set in Thatcher-era Britain, *Blue Jean* highlights the duality in Jean's (Rosy McEwen) life as a high school gym teacher and as a lesbian with a clandestine relationship with girlfriend, Viv (Kerrie Hayes). It also looks at the dawning of Section 28, a 1988 British law that prohibited the promotion of homosexuality. Oh, did I mention that this is a drama? June 9.

The documentary *Every Body* details the lives of three intersex people — actor and screenwriter River Gallo, political consultant Alicia Roth Weigel and Ph.D. student Sean Saifa Wall — from having to keep their being born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of female or male a secret, to raising awareness about what it truly means to be intersex. June 30.

What do you do when your beloved *Theater Camp* founder falls into a coma? You put on a show, dammit! I think that's the No. 1 solution in the Gay 101 handbook. Besties Amos (Ben Platt) and Rebecca-Diane (Molly Gordon) work with production manager Glenn (Noah Galvin, who is Platt's real-life fiancé) to prevent the camp from going under. The comedy is being directed by Gordon and Nick Lieberman, from a screenplay by all three co-stars and Lieberman. July 14.



Theater Camp



## MAKE IT A BLOCKBUSTER NIGHT

**The Little Mermaid** certainly courted controversy with conservatives — that’s a lot of c’s, here’s another, C U next Tuesday — with the casting of **Halle Bailey** as Ariel. Naturally, none of the “good Christians” batted an eye at **Melissa McCarthy** taking on Ursula the Sea Witch, which is surprising given her inspiration was John Waters staple **Divine** in the original animated movie. Fun fact: McCarthy appeared as Divine in a photoshoot for *Entertainment Weekly*. Out now.

Multiverses are certainly having a moment in cinema, and **Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse** will give its animated web spin on it. The sequel to the Academy Award-winning **Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse** finds Brooklyn’s friendly neighborhood webslinger, Mile Morales, hurled into a multiverse populated by Spider-People, who must unite to defeat a new enemy, The Spot. June 2.

**Transformers: Rise of the Beasts** is the seventh installment in the popular film franchise based on 1980s toys and features voice-over work from **Michelle Yeoh**, **Michaela Jaé Rodriguez** and **Pete Davidson** as a Porsche 964 Carrera RS 3.8., which makes sense because we’ve all heard the rumors about his, uh, stick shift. The movie is set in 1994 and introduces three new types of Transformers called the Maximals, the Predacons and the Terrorcons. Somehow, I “suspect” there will be movie tie-in toys for this one. Call it a well-educated hunch. June 9.

**Elemental** is Pixar’s latest animated offering and is the story of how fire and water mix in a rom-com tale, inspired by movies such as **Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner** and **Moonstruck**. And before you tell me to snap out of it — or ask if I smell burning toast — I’m telling the truth! Ember Lumen (**Leah Lewis**) and Wade Ripple (**Mamoudou Athie**) are star-crossed lovers who can’t touch, except each other’s hearts. Aww! **Catherine O’Hara** and **Wendi McLendon-Covey** also lend their voices. June 16. Here’s hoping that despite its many hiccups in getting to the big screen that **The Flash** proves to be a case of worth the wait. Embattled star **Ezra Miller** has been rumored to be leading a cult, allegedly terrorizing Hawaii residents and assaulting a fan in Iceland, among other accusations. Plus, the superhero film’s release date was postponed twice. Neat! The brass taxes of the movie finds the speedy hero using his powers to go all **Cher** to turn back time to save his family. But he’ll have to see if he’s, ahem, strong enough to combat General Zod (**Michael Shannon**) with an assist from Supergirl (**Sasha Calle**), Batman (**Michael Keaton**) and Batman (**Ben Affleck**) in an altered future. June 16.

Sure, people can say that **Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny** could have been titled **Indiana Jones and The Walker of Gold**, but you’d be pretty sad when Harrison Ford kicked your arse! As it stands, this will be the fifth and final time that Ford will be playing everyone’s favorite archaeologist and the first without **Steven Spielberg** directing and James Mangold taking the reins. The 80-year-old actor is joined by **Phoebe Waller-Bridge** as his goddaughter and **Mads Mikkelsen** as-a-former-Nazi-turned-NASA-employee in the 1969-set adventure flick. Ford’s biggest co-star is FRAN (face re-aging network), as the movie features a de-aged Ford for a sequence set in the 1940s. June 30.

More is known about the behind-the-scenes goings on for **Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One** than the actual plot of the seventh installment of the venerable Tom Cruise film series. For starters, this is the movie he was filming during the pandemic and went full ape shit on production people for violating safety precautions. Additionally, the movie’s release date was rescheduled three times. Of the few tidbits we know, this film and the eighth installment were filmed back to back, **Pom Klementieff** (who plays Mantis in *Guardians of the Galaxy*) and **Esai Morales** (‘sup Papi?) are the movie’s villains, and there will be a motorcycle sequence that being hyped as the biggest stunt in cinematic history. July 14.

**The Haunted Mansion** is the second go at featuring the popular Disneyland ride as a feature film, the first time was with **Eddie Murphy** in 2003. What? No **Teacups** movie? Rude! This time around, single Mom **Rosario Dawson** enlists the help of **Owen Wilson**, **Tiffany Haddish**, **Danny DeVito**, **LaKeith Stanfield** and **Dan Levy** to rid her newly purchased home of pesky spirits, **Jamie Lee Curtis**, **Winona Ryder** and **Jared Leto**. He can stay at my house if he haunts the bedroom. July 28.

**Blue Beetle** is DC’s latest superhero heading to the big screen with an almost entirely Hispanic cast — *ay dios mio!* — save for **Susan Sarandon**. **Xolo Maridueña** stars as Jaime Reyes, who becomes an unwitting hero when he’s “gifted” an alien beetle and must learn how to use his newfound powers with the help of his family, including his comic-relief uncle played by **George Lopez**. August 18.





No Hard Feelings



Asteroid City



Joy Ride

## EQUAL PARTS COMEDY AND HEARTBREAK

*You Hurt My Feelings* is not an autobiography of my life as a Pisces. Rather, it chronicles a novelist (**Julia Louis-Dreyfus**) who takes umbrage with her husband (Tobias Menzies) when she overhears him giving her latest tome an honest critique. Let's just say it ain't a glowing review. Out now.

If you've ever wondered what your dog could say if it could talk, then *Strays* might be your movie. Well, more so if you've ever wanted to hear man's best friend say the eff word, like a lot, and be voiced by **Will Ferrell** and **Jamie Foxx**. June 9.

Salvador *Dalí* (**Ben Kingsley**) is the subject of *Daliland*, naturally. I mean his name is right there in the title. However, the film is told from the perspective of his assistant James (**Christopher Briney**), who helps the eccentric artist prepare for a gallery show in New York City in 1974. June 9.

*Asteroid City* is set in 1955 and is the latest from film auteur **Wes Anderson**. The science fiction romantic comedy-drama — no, really it incorporates all those genres — focuses on events that transpire at the annual Junior Stargazer convention. The impressive cast includes **Tom Hanks**, **Scarlett Johansson**, **Tilda Swinton**, **Maya Hawke** and **Jeff Goldblum**. June 16.

J. Robert *Oppenheimer* is considered "father of the atomic bomb" and renowned for his work on the Manhattan Project. The biopic, directed by **Christopher Nolan**, stars **Cillian Murphy** as Oppenheimer and **Emily Blunt** as his wife Katherine, and co-stars **Robert Downey Jr.**, **Rami Malek**, **Matt Damon** and **Florence Pugh**. July 21.

Another important historical figure, *Barbie* (**Margot Robbie**), is getting a campy makeover for her big screen debut. Based on the trailer with one Ken (**Simu Liu**) threatening to "beach off" one another Ken (**Ryan Gosling**), it's a safe bet this one isn't for the kiddies. I'll be over here munching on my popcorn and awaiting the backlash against it from conservative types. July 21.

*No Hard Feelings* stars **Jennifer Lawrence** as a down-on-her-luck type of gal who answers a Craigslist ad to date an awkward 19-year-old (**Andrew Barth Feldman**) before he leaves for college in this very edgy comedy. June 23.

We are used to seeing **Kate Beckinsale** flexing her muscles as kick ass vampyre Selene in the *Underworld* movies, but in *Prisoner's Daughter* she shows off her dramatic chops — which pairs well with applesauce — as the titular offspring to **Brian Cox's** terminally ill and recently released from prison father. June 30.

Fresh off her Oscar-nominated role in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, **Stephanie Hsu** stars as Kat in *Joy Ride*, which is not based on the 1991 Roxette song. Rather it's the story of four friends, including Audrey (**Ashley Park**) Lolo, (**Sherry Cola**) and her eccentric cousin Deadeye (**Sabrina Wu**), who travel to China and hilarity ensues. If one of the screenplay writers **Cherry Chevapravatdumrong's** resume of being involved with *Family Guy* is any indication — and how funny the trailer is — *Joy Ride* could be this year's *Bridesmaids*. July 7.

*Biosphere* — not to be confused with the 1996 Pauly Shore vehicle *Bio-Dome* — stars **Sterling K. Brown** and **Mark Duplass** as the last two men on Earth, who are tasked with saving humanity. To quell their boredom of living in the titular ecosystem, they pass the time by gardening, dancing and working out. Hmm, that's queer. July 7.

*Challengers* is the story of a tennis pro turned coach (**Zendaya**) who persuades her husband (**Mike Faist**) to participate in the Challenger's tournament against his wife's former lover (**Josh O'Connor**), in the sports rom-com directed by **Luca Guadagnino** of *Call Me by Your Name* fame. August 11.

It's a **Helen Mirren** double feature! Well, one week apart. In *White Bird*, she plays Grandmère to Julian (**Bryce Gheisar**) and shares stories with him of her childhood in Nazi Germany as a young Jewish girl. For *Golda*, Mirren portrays Golda Meir, the "Iron Lady of Israel," during the Yom Kippur War. August 18 and August 25.

## BESCURRED, BE VERY SCURRED

Apparently, the titular monster in *The Boogeyman* was so frightening in a test screening that the film had to be recut because the audience screamed too much. Um, isn't that the point of a horror movie? But I digress. The adaptation of **Stephen King's** short story stars **Chris Messina** — how you doin'? — as the psychiatrist father of daughters **Sophie Thatcher** from *Yellowjackets* and **Vivien Lyra Blair**, who played young Princess Leia on *Obi-Wan*. The children are mourning the loss of their mother and contending with being terrorized by, wait for it, the boogeyman! June 2.

**Insidious: The Red Door** is being called the last movie in the horror movie franchise. Sure, Jan. I fell for that in 1984 with *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>: The Final Chapter* and they made eight more movies after Jason's alleged death! Now, where was I? Star Patrick Wilson also directs the terrifying tale of his family, wife Rose Byrne and college-bound son Ty Simkins, still being haunted by otherworldly forces. July 7.

With the tagline of "We Can't All Die First," you know that *The Blackening* veers into horror/comedy territory about the trope of how Black characters are usually the ones to go first in scary movies. June 16.

**Cobweb** stars the underrated **Lizzy Caplan** (*Cloverfield*) and **Anthony Starr** (*The Boys*) as parents of an 8-year-old, who hears mysterious tapping in his bedroom walls. July 21.

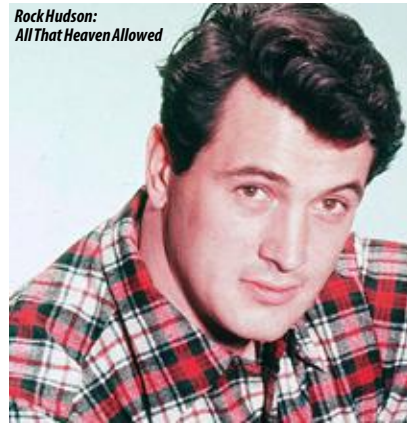
*Talk to Me* may have the craziest hand-job premise in movie history when a group of Australian Gen Z friends use an embalmed hand to conjure spirits. You kids ever heard of a Ouija board, right? Naturally, things go left when Mia (**Sophie Wilde**) realizes that they have unleashed a supernatural being into our world. Just a typical Tuesday in my house. July 28.

Just when you thought it was safe to go in the water, a giant prehistoric shark returns in *Meg 2: The Trench*. But this also means that the original's star, **Jason Statham**, returns for the sequel and I'm OK with that. Like. Really. OK. With. That. Initially, the plot was kept hush hush, so I assumed it was focusing on people going in the water with a shark chomping on them. And there being a trench involved somehow. Then the studio released the trailer recently, and it's about people going in the water. However, there are three Megalodons to deal with. But there is a trench that factors in. So close! August 4.

*The Last Voyage of the Demeter* has had quite the, well, voyage to getting to the big screen after two decades of being in development hell, with actor such as Noomi Rapace and Viggo Mortensen attached to star in the film — that would have been akin to leftover Scrabble tiles on the marquee. The adaptation of the "Captain's Log" chapter from **Bram Stoker's Dracula** details a mysterious presence on board the titular ship that strikes at night, with *Game of Thrones'* **Liam Cunningham** as the captain of the ship. August 11.



Tim Parks has been a freelance writer for 21 years, a columnist for 16 years, and part of Team Rage since 2009. He is the award-winning author of *The Scheme of Things*, available on Amazon.com



Rock Hudson:  
*All That Heaven Allowed*



Being Mary Tyler Moore

## ISLANDS IN THE STREAM

There are three documentaries that the gays "may" like, focusing on Donna Summer, Mary Tyler Moore and Wham! But I'm just hazarding a guess. **Love to Love You, Donna Summer** dropped last month on the streamer formerly known as HBO Max, which now goes by the eponymous Max, and that seems so informal. The undisputed Queen of Disco's life and career is highlighted by archival footage and video she shot herself, and concert footage that will make you feel love and shows that she worked hard for the money. So hard for it, honey.

The woman who could turn the world on with her smile, Mary Tyler Moore, is the subject of *Being Mary Tyler Moore*, also as a Max documentary. It not only shines the spotlight on her as an actress, but as an off-screen person. Gasp! The documentary will also focus on her pioneering ways, inspiring generations of women that they could make it after all, both in the business world and by standing up for equality! Cue "Sisters Are Doin' It for Themselves."

**Rock Hudson: All That Heaven Allowed** is also airing on Max — damn, you guys love the gays! The documentary chronicles the, uh, seminal Hollywood leading man, who was tall, dark, handsome and unable to be out of the closet. The documentary not only looks at his public and private life and untimely death, but also serves as a scathing rebuke regarding the studio system that contributed to his being unable to live his truth.

Netflix is giving *Wham!* the documentary treatment and will explore how **George Michael** and **Andrew Ridgeley** became musical superstars during their four-year tenure as a pop duo. The documentary will include never-before-seen footage and unheard interviews.

The first two are out now. *Rock Hudson: All That Heaven Allowed* debuts on June 28 and *Wham!* is set to drop on July 5.

Amazon Prime's *Red, White & Royal Blue* details the relationship between the President Ellen Claremont's (**Uma Thurman**) son Alex (**Taylor Zakhar Perez**) and British Prince Henry (**Nicholas Galitzine**) falling in love. The film adaptation of Casey McQuiston's bestselling novel, which featured some steamy sex scenes, was recently given an R-rating for "language, some sexual content and partial nudity." So, there's that. August 11.

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

Well, there you have it, a way to avoid putting on SPF 50 sunblock and soaking up those UV rays, by sitting in the air conditioning, munching on a salty snack, and sipping on a soda - even though sugar is from the Devil! But you do you boo. As always, the dates of these movies are subject to change, so don't blame it on me! Until next time, that's all the news that's fit to print.

Six Flags, Ray Rhodes, and Out Ventures invite you to the LGBTQ Private Party

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## Happy June! Happy summer! The year is flying by, but there are still lots of social activities and fabulous events to keep you working it.

**Greater Palm Springs Restaurant Week** will take place June 2-11. Look for prix fixe menus and exclusive special offers at restaurants though-out the nine-city Visit Greater Palm Springs oasis. [visitgreaterps.com](http://visitgreaterps.com)

**Palm Springs Power Baseball** will return, June 2-July 16, featuring 25 at-home games, two post-game firework shows (June 2 and July 4) and the return of MicroMania wrestling on June 23. Home games are played at Palm Springs Stadium, next to the library. [pspbb.com](http://pspbb.com)

**Concerts in the Park LaQuinta** will feature Soulshine with special guest The Acoustic Connection on Saturday, June 3 at Silver Rock Park. [playinlaquinta.com](http://playinlaquinta.com)

**Jammin 99.5 Listener Appreciation Party** with The Delfonics will be Saturday, June 3 at Agua Caliente Casino, Cathedral City. This free event is under the stars at Agave Caliente Terraza and features the American R&B band formed in the late 1960s. Reserve tickets online. [aguacalientecasinos.com](http://aguacalientecasinos.com)

**Riverside Pride Gayla and Awards Ceremony**, Moulin Rouge, will be Saturday, June 3 at Grand Valley Ballroom, Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center. Enjoy community speakers, awards, live entertainment (Athena Kills, Kitten de Ville, Sirens Rhythm Beatz Heels Company), silent auction, DJ and dancing, Tarot card reading and more. [riversideprideie.org](http://riversideprideie.org)

Supermodel **Beverly Johnson** and her solo show *In Vogue* will be Saturday, June 3 at Palm Springs Cultural Center, presented by PSWIFT, Palm Springs Women in Film and Television. [pswift.org](http://pswift.org)

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Palm Springs Youth Playwrights Festival** will be Sunday, June 4 at Palm Springs Cultural Center. The festival promotes and encourages theatrical creative writing to all elementary, middle and high school students within Riverside County. Thirty-nine submissions were received this year. Three staged readings will be featured. Tickets are free, but RSVPs are required online. [psypf.org](http://psypf.org)

Palm Springs Police Department's LGBTQ Outreach committee will present **A Town Hall with Chief Andy Mills** and police department members on Tuesday, June 6 at Hunter's in the Arenas District. Join the conversation about where we have been, where we are now and where we are headed in these days and times. [palmspringsca.gov](http://palmspringsca.gov)

Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce will present **Rock the Park** on Wednesday, June 7 with a free concert in the downtown city park with Britain's Finest, The Complete Beatles Experience. [pschamber.org](http://pschamber.org)



Coachella Valley Repertory **CV Rep's Summer Cabaret Series** will include Alix Korey and Teri Ralston, June 8; Broadway Showstoppers: The Musicals of 1959-Glenn Rosenblum with Jackie Joseph and Alix Korey, June 15; Christiane Noll, June 22; Miguel Bernal, July 13; Maximo Marcuso, July 20; Christia Mantzke, July 27. [cvrep.org](http://cvrep.org)

**Splash House**, a pool party music festival, will be June 9-11, August 11-13 and August 18-20. Host hotels are Margaritaville, Renaissance and Saguaro Palm Springs. Events are also held at Palm Springs Air Museum. [splashhouse.com](http://splashhouse.com)

**Palm Springs Art Museum** will present Summer Party, a celebration featuring four exhibitions, Saturday, June 10. The theme is Summer Maximalism, and attendees are encouraged to create over-the-top and out-of-the-box, bold summer looks — prints, volume, colors, textures! Four DJs will spin in the galleries, and there will be adult face painting and surprise activations. [psmuseum.org](http://psmuseum.org)

**Diana Ross**, the Music Legacy Tour 2023, will be Saturday, June 10 at The Show at Agua Caliente Resort in Rancho Mirage. [aguacalientecasinos.com](http://aguacalientecasinos.com)

**Country Nation** will play the City of Indio's Second Saturday summer free concert Saturday, June 10 at Smurr Street and Indio Boulevard. [indio.org](http://indio.org)

**Inland Empire Derby Divas** roller derby will be Saturday, June 10. Check website for location and details. [iederbydivas.com](http://iederbydivas.com)

Aneka Brown Designs will present the third annual **Juneteenth Celebration** on Sunday, June 11 at Palm Springs Cultural Center. Activities will include entertainment by Keisha D, Tommy Dodson and friends, Juneteenth education station and youth learning activities, African American Aviation Museum by Chauncey Spencer, vendors and artists. [psculturalcenter.org](http://psculturalcenter.org)

**LA Pride** parade will be Sunday, June 11 in the neighborhood of Hollywood Boulevard, Highland Avenue and Sunset Boulevard. The late Leslie Jordan was named LA Pride's Legacy grand marshal with a custom tribute. Margaret Cho is Icon grand marshal. ACLU of Southern California is Community grand marshal. The parade will also be broadcast live on many platforms. The LA Pride Village street fair will be adjacent to the parade. Megan thee Stallion will headline Friday and Mariah Carey on Saturday at Los Angeles State Historic Park. [lapride.org](http://lapride.org)

**Dallas cast reunion** with Patrick Duffy, Linda Gray, Steve Kanaly, Charlene Tilton, Audrey Landers and Joan Van Ark will be Tuesday, June 13 at Oscar's Palm Springs. This year marks the 45-year



anniversary since the debut of the TV show. The cast will talk about their *Dallas* years as well as their personal lives and careers. Oscar's will celebrate the debut of their newly expanded courtyard on this evening. [oscarpalmsprings.com](http://oscarpalmsprings.com)



**Palm Springs Gay Men's**

**Chorus Cabaret**, *New York vs. Chicago*, will be Saturday, June 17 at Impala Bar and Grill, a new club in Palm Springs. [psgmc.com](http://psgmc.com)

"No Time to Spare," Human Rights Campaign **HRC Palm Springs Bowling for Equality** fundraiser will be Sunday, June 18 at Palm Springs Lanes in Cathedral City. Join HRC members and supporters for a great afternoon of bowling, fun and friends, supporting HRC's work to advance equality for all LGBTQ people. Tickets include two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, prizes and an annual HRC membership or renewal. [hrc.im/psbowling](http://hrc.im/psbowling)

The 29th **Palm Springs International Film Festival ShortFest** will be June 20-26. [psfilmfest.org](http://psfilmfest.org)

*Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* star **Jai Rodriguez** will return to Oscar's Palm Springs on his birthday with a new cabaret show on Friday, June 23, highlighting his journey through love, sex and relationships. [oscarpalmsprings.com](http://oscarpalmsprings.com)



**Alliance of Desert Theatres** will have its inaugural unified auditions June 23-24. Open to union and non-union actors, singers and dancers, this will give performers an opportunity to audition for nearly a dozen of the greater Coachella Valley performing arts organizations at one time. The audition event is held at CV Rep. [cvrep.org](http://cvrep.org)

Greater Palm Springs Pride will present a **Big Gay BBQ** on Saturday, June 24 in the Arenas District. Free entry, live music, games and activities, market and gourmet BBQ dinner available for purchase. [pspride.org](http://pspride.org)

A new performance and special event center, **Fuego Palm Springs**, in the former Modernism building The Bank, will feature various shows and happenings, including Jason Weber on piano select dates and Marina Mac with her Unfiltered Drag Show on Fridays. [fuegops.com](http://fuegops.com)

Every week there are about 35 drag-related events with bingo, trivia, karaoke, brunches, dinners, shows, contests, pageants, open showcase, charity events and more.

**Rosemary Galore's PS Drag Brunch** is



now at the Saguaro Hotel Palm Springs with seatings Saturday and Sundays. [psdragbrunch.com](http://psdragbrunch.com)

Looking for a fun way to cool off this summer? Check out the **Berger Foundation Iceplex** (near the Acrisure Arena) with public skate, lessons on skating and playing, special events and performances, recitals, hockey summer camp, summer skate camp (starts June 12), adult hockey league (June 4-August 31), hockey lessons (starts July 15), Coachella Valley Skate Academy (starts July 11). [bergerfoundationiceplex.com](http://bergerfoundationiceplex.com)

**Sunsets at The Street Fair**, evenings at the College of the Desert shopping experience, will be June 24, July 22, August 26 and September 23, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Regular season street fair will be every weekend October through May. [codaastreetfair.com](http://codaastreetfair.com)

The City of Desert Hot Springs will present a **fireworks spectacular** on Saturday, July 1. This event, with free admission, will feature music, food and fireworks display. [cityofdhs.org](http://cityofdhs.org)



**PLAN AHEAD. GET YOUR TICKETS. DON'T MISS OUT!**

**San Diego Pride** festivities will take place July 8-16. [sdpride.org](http://sdpride.org)

**Rancho Mirage Taste of Summer** will be July 17-August 13. This Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce event will feature 30 Rancho Mirage restaurants and benefits 30 nonprofit organizations. [tasteofsummerrancho Mirage.com](http://tasteofsummerrancho Mirage.com)

**Todrick Hall-Velvet Rage** will be at Agua Caliente The Show Rancho Mirage on September 15. **The Rocky Horror Picture Show 48th anniversary tour** featuring the original Brad Majors (Barry Bostwick) will be October 6. [aguacalientecasinos.com](http://aguacalientecasinos.com)

**Bryan Adams with Joan Jett and the Blackhearts** will be July 28 at Acrisure Arena. Also: **Sting** with his My Songs Tour 2023, with special guest Joe Sumner, October 5; **KISS** on November 1; **Stevie Nicks** on December 5; **Madonna** with special guest, **Bob, the Drag Queen** on January 11. [acrisurearena.com](http://acrisurearena.com)

The metal festival **Power Trip** with Guns N' Roses, AC/DC and Metallica will headline the October 6-8 event at Empire Polo Club in Indio, home of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. Also scheduled to appear are Iron Maiden, Ozzy Osbourne and Tool. [powertrip.live](http://powertrip.live)



**Pride Under the Pines** in Idyllwild will return Saturday, October 7. [prideunderthepines.com](http://prideunderthepines.com)

**Greater Palm Springs Pride** will be November 3-5. The theme this year is Drag Now. Drag Forever. [pspride.org](http://pspride.org)



**Have a great summer! Happy Father's Day.**



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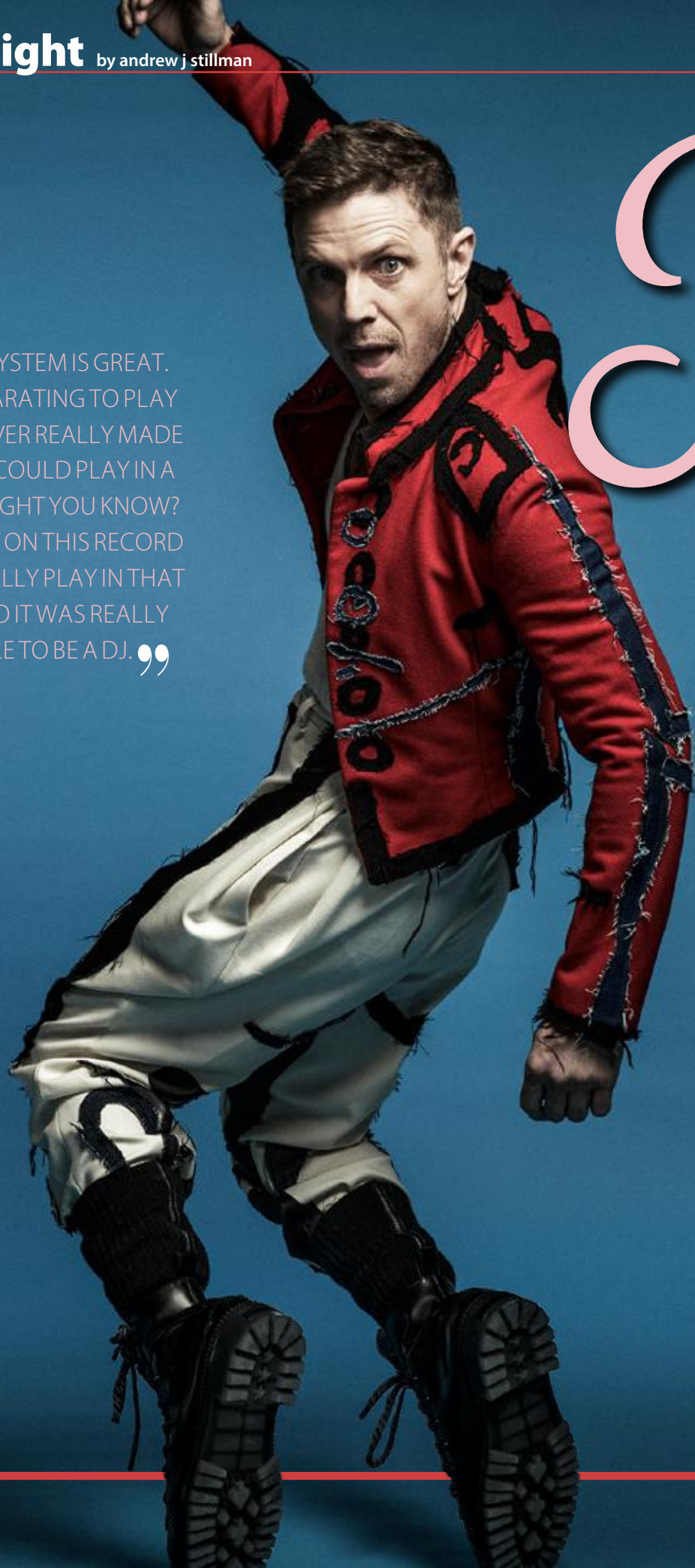
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Ja



# Jake Shears

## IS READY TO BRING DOWN THE HOUSE

Fans of Jake Shears may know him best from the pop rock band Scissor Sisters, where the music is a little more melancholy. The Sisters have been on an indefinite hiatus since 2017, but that hasn't kept Shears from keeping busy. Now living in London, Shears recently did the *Tammy Faye* musical in October 2022 and is now gearing up to release his new album, *Last Man Dancing*.

A sonic ride from start to finish, *Last Man Dancing* takes listeners on a journey through the disco-inspired dance beats that took us through the 1970s and 1980s, and transitions into the more common music one can hear bumping from the nearest club.

"I wanted to make a dance record," Shears told *The RAGE Monthly*. "I love it and I just felt like it was time to make a proper party record. And once I got going on it, this is like my first record without any sort of contemplative, like melancholy songs."

Once he noticed the upbeat theme of the album, Shears made the decision to break it into the two parts — disco and house — because he always views each of his projects as a whole piece, rather than little bits sprinkled together.

"I was thinking a lot about Madonna's *Confessions on the Dance Floor*, and how it's sort of one continuous mix," he said. "I just got to indulge myself."

The record also sees a lot of famous names, including Kylie Minogue, Jane Fonda, Big Freedia and one of Shears' closest friends, Amber Martin.

"I wanted to sort of build a home for this 'Voices' song [with Minogue], and getting a call to start writing stuff with Big Freedia in New Orleans was like a dream of mine because

I think Freedia is amazing and an absolute icon. We ended up working on a bunch of stuff, but I wanted Freedia to do something a little bit different with their voice. I don't know if Freedia has ever been on a track like this before."

Outside of the famous names that share the song titles with him, Shears said the biggest collaborations came from behind the scenes with producers like Michael Cheever, who goes by Le Chev, and Germany-based Boys Noize, of whom Shears joined at San Diego's CRSSD festival and premiered some of the earlier drafts of the music from *Last Man Dancing* at Rich's San Diego nightclub.

"Rich's sound system is great," he said. "I went out with Boys Noize and I played before him. It was so exhilarating to play it because I've never really made music that you could play in a club after midnight you know? And there's a lot on this record that you can really play in that environment, so it was really fun to be able to be a DJ."

The fun of debuting his music and the people who helped make the album happen produced a passion project that all involved were proud to create. "I just wanted to work with people that I totally love and, you know, just have a good time, and all of these people made it happen," Shears said. "I feel very, very strongly about that."

With the upcoming album release, Shears is also gearing up for a UK tour that ended up having to open up more dates due to demand. All of the shows are already sold out, but those who are lucky enough to attend should prepare themselves for the upcoming spectacle.

"I've got a really great band right now,"

Shears said. "And I'll be joined by Amber Martin on stage, and I have an amazing drag queen saxophone player named Snow White Trash. I saw her play in London like a year ago, and she's really delightful and fun. Shows for me are just like chaotic and fun, with maybe a bit of mayhem. I like to just share the stage with a lot of people and make it a party."

Those familiar with any of Shears' past music should also make sure they're up to date with his current. "I'm not doing any sad songs or slow songs in these sets," he said. "The whole thing is live, so we'll see if I can do it because they're all pretty banging songs and I just hope it doesn't make everyone exhausted. I know people get exhausted sometimes just by watching me."

As to the tracks on the album and what he's most excited to perform, Shears said he's a little partial toward the album opener, "Too Much Music."

"It's one of my favorite songs I've ever written," he said. "It's very slick and epic, and very much me. I love it. When I was making and creating this record, I just, like, never got sick of it. I never got tired of hearing it and I just love how large that song is."

Although unable to release any further details at the moment, Shears did say that his American fans can expect him to tour the USA as well.

"There are plans for it," he said. "But another really exciting thing is going to be happening this fall that kind of puts me in a deep freeze for a little while. But I'm going to be doing stuff with this album for the next year or so, at least through summer 2024."

[jakeshears.com](http://jakeshears.com)

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JINX MIRAGE  
KIMBERLY S



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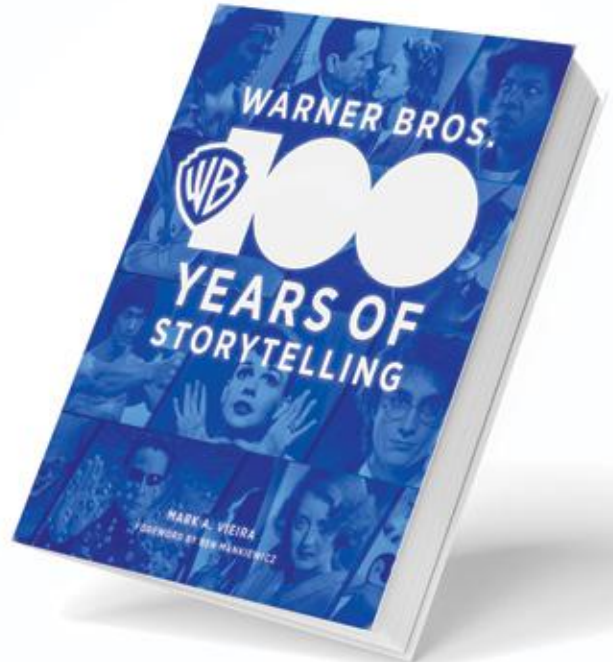
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## WARNER BROS. 100 YEARS OF STORYTELLING

MARK A. VIERA

There is Prince and the Revolution in *Purple Rain*. Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand or Lady Gaga in *A Star is Born* (take your preference). Perhaps Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca* and *The Maltese Falcon*. Keanu Reeves in *The Matrix* or Arnold Schwarzenegger in *The Terminator*. Then there is Bette Davis in almost any film she starred in from Warner Brothers Studio, as she was coined "the queen of the lot." In honor and celebration of the ever-evolving studio through the decades, renowned author Mark A. Viera has painstakingly created a beautifully written and gorgeously photographed tribute with his latest book, *Warner Bros. 100 Years of Storytelling*, released on May 30. With an enlightening foreword by Ben Mankiewicz and the 11 chapters covering the progression (Warner Brothers presents the first talking picture!), struggles, family drama and the evolution (TV anyone?) of how business and product delivery changed over the years to what is now a centennial.

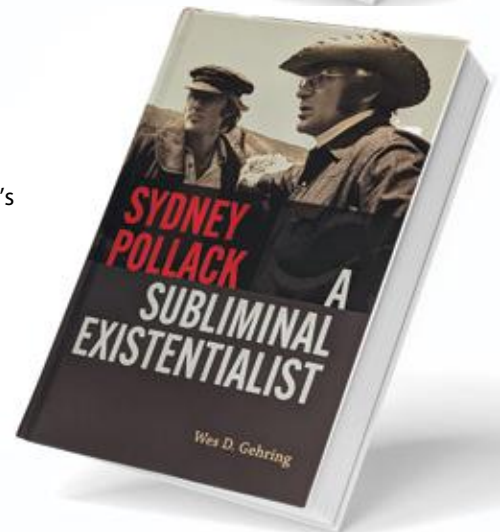
Wrapping it up on the old and new memories now. When Prince sings "Baby, I'm a Star" then and in 2023, some washed-up, ex-reality, primetime game show host and former and disgraced (fill in the blank) says, "I think I'm a star," you can take all his money to the bank and realize the truly exceptional accomplishments are of all the real stars and Warner Brothers Studio for 100 years in creating the finest in filmmaking and entertainment. **Available now**



## SYDNEY POLLACK: A SUBLIMINAL EXISTENTIALIST

WES D. GEHRING

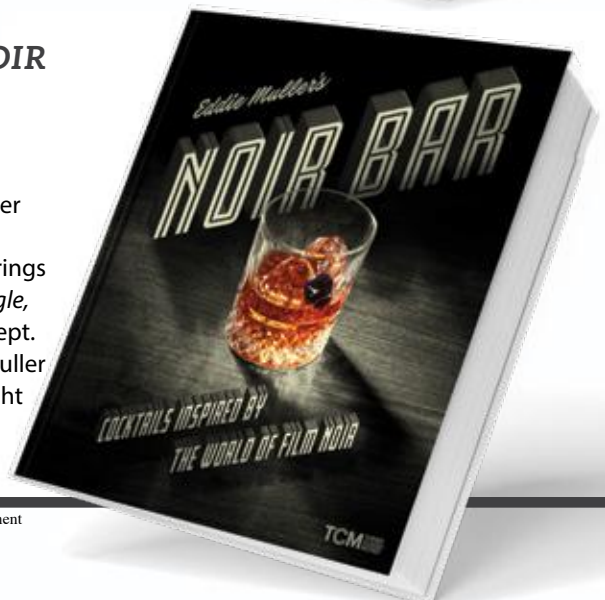
The adage "You can't judge a book by its cover" definitely came into play by Wes D. Gehring's title on this book. Though after reading *Sydney Pollack: A Subliminal Existentialist*, the reader definitely gets a better understanding of the complexities of Sydney Pollack. As producer, director and occasional actor in his films, Pollack and his legacy are truly phenomenal. Just listing some screen titles such as *Out of Africa*, *The Way We Were* or *Tootsie*, and those cinema classics still make a strong and lasting impression on film lovers today. Gehring's book is divided into 10 chapters with each one zeroing in on the films mentioned above and several more remarkable ones throughout his illustrious and awarded career. Pollack is truly deserving of Gehring's study and appreciation. **Available now**



## NOIR BAR: COCKTAILS INSPIRED BY THE WORLD OF FILM NOIR

EDDIE MULLER

"Never mix, never worry!" — Elizabeth Taylor as "Martha" in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Now that Pride season has officially begun, it's time to mix it up with a libation or two with the finest film noir historian and TCM host Eddie Muller tending as your personal bartender. What is so creatively unique about this particular batch of numerous recipes is each drink centers around the great pairings of film stars and their noir film gems. Films such as *The Big Sleep*, *The Asphalt Jungle*, *Gilda*, *The Killers* and countless others inspired Muller to come up with this concept. With classic photos and film posters from film noir and his text wittily written, Muller takes you to a world of drinking responsibly in the darkness and catching the light until it's last call. No Mickey Finn within these pages, and remember once more, never mix, never worry! Happy Pride. **Available now**



Segerstrom Center Presents



# An Evening with **Brian Stokes Mitchell**



June 23



# **Patti LuPone**

## **Don't Monkey with Broadway**

July 15

Broadway's  
absolute best comes to  
SoCal when these 2 legends  
of the stage arrive for  
1-night-only concerts!



## NEW MUSICAL PHENOMENON ARRIVES IN REGION

The electrifying Tony-winning new musical **SIX** by Tony-winners Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss is playing until **Sunday, June 10** at **Hollywood Pantages** followed by two weeks in Costa Mesa at **Seegerstrom Center for the Arts** from **Tuesday, June 13 through Sunday, June 25**. The show will then head to the **San Diego Civic Theatre** from **Tuesday, June 27 through Sunday, July 9**.

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. From Tudor queens to pop princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take the mic to reclaim their identities out of the shadow of their infamous spouse — remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into an exuberant celebration of 21st century girl power. The female cast members are backed by an all-female band, the “Ladies in Waiting.” This new original musical is the global sensation that everyone is losing their head over. *SIX* won 23 awards in the 2021/22 Broadway season, including the Tony Award for Best Original Score (Music and Lyrics) and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical.

*The New York Times* said *SIX* “TOTALLY RULES!” (Critic’s Pick) and *The Washington Post* hailed *SIX* as “Exactly the kind of energizing, inspirational illumination this town aches for!”

The *SIX: LIVE ON OPENING NIGHT* Broadway album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard cast album charts and surpassed six million streams in its first month. [sixonbroadway.com/north-american-tours](https://sixonbroadway.com/north-american-tours)



## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S **TWELFTH NIGHT**

Three-time Tony Award winner **Kathleen Marshall** will return to **The Old Globe** to direct one of the Bard’s comic masterpieces. *Twelfth Night* will kick off The Globe’s 2023 Summer Shakespeare Festival under the stars in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. Performances will run from **Sunday, June 4 through Sunday, July 9**.

One of Shakespeare’s most beguiling plays has romance, music, poetry, comedy, swordplay and more. Shipwrecked in Illyria, young Viola masquerades as her lost twin brother and becomes the go-between for the lovesick Duke Orsino and the beautiful Countess Olivia. Viola soon finds herself in the middle of a topsy-turvy love triangle with lunacy and laughs on every side.

“In the Shakespeare world we have an old saying: ‘Somewhere in heaven there’s a perfect production of *Twelfth Night* waiting for us,’” Artistic Director **Barry Edelstein** said. “Well, I’ve got some good news. We don’t need to wait ‘til we’re in heaven to see it, because Kathleen Marshall and her amazing collaborators are making that production at The Globe this summer. Shakespeare’s absolutely breathtaking play, full of romance and poetry, love and yearning, and some of the funniest scenes ever written, is, in Kathleen’s hands, just thrilling. And seeing it outdoors, under the stars, on a balmy San Diego summer night, is about as close to perfection as one would dream. I can’t wait to share it with our audiences.”

The Summer Shakespeare Festival will close in August with a production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, one of Shakespeare’s most outrageous and entertaining comedies. Resident Artist **James Vásquez** will oversee directing the production. **619.234.5623 / [theoldglobe.org](https://theoldglobe.org)**

## SAN DIEGO GETS A DARK COMEDIC THRILLER

Not all is as it seems in this hilarious and Hitchcockian story that makes you question everything. Sharon and Jakey are a loving mother and son, running the crumbling apartment building in Everett, Washington that has been in the family for generations. They repaint the walls as the tenants move in and out. Or are they? Soon we start to realize that perhaps this family is not what they seem. Over the course of a very tense dinner, the story unfolds and power switches hands. We finally get to the bottom of this comedic thriller, asking the questions: What does survival look like? And who the f\*ck is Sharon?

This darkly comedic world premiere of *Sharon* will be directed by **Rob Lutfy** and run from **Wednesday, June 7 through Sunday, July 2** at **Cygnnet Theatre** in Old Town San Diego.

“*Sharon* is technically a play about gentrification, power imbalances, about growing up in a toxic home — but it was driven by the question: ‘What will we do to survive?’” playwright **Keiko Green** said. “The show is a darkly comedic psychological thriller. It is rooted in emotional twists and turns that will hopefully stun audiences with an unforgettable final scene that flips back and forth between hilarious and unnerving.”

Green will also step into the role of Tina. She’ll be acting alongside her real-life husband MJ Sieber, who plays Gregg. The titular role of Sharon is played by **Deanna Driscoll**. **619.337.1525 / [cygnnettheatre.com](https://cygnnettheatre.com)**



**HAPPY PRIDE!**

**JOSEPH**  
**AND THE**  
**AMAZING**  
**TECHNICOLOR**  
**DREAMCOAT**

**"Andrew Lloyd Webber's  
catchy FAMILY-FRIENDLY hit!"**

*- The Guardian*

**JUNE 2 - 25**

LA MIRADA THEATRE

(562) 944-9801 | [LAMIRADATHEATRE.COM](http://LAMIRADATHEATRE.COM)

## TRUTH BE TOLD CELEBRATING PRIDE AT SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE

This dramatic solo presentation is **Doyle Smiens'** coming-out story, but it's also the narrative of how he found his way back to himself, overcoming disappointment, betrayal, rejection and despair on his path to self-discovery. Smiens' compelling story will make you laugh, cry and think, in a poignant and emotionally moving way that inspires hope. The show culminates with a Q&A with Doyle.

"Doyle's story is important and unfortunately is going to resonate all too closely with some of our LGBTQ friends. For others of us, it is an intimate look into the life of a man who beat the odds and finally stepped out of the shadows to let himself be seen," director **Ann Wellman** said. "I hope listening to Doyle's story makes all of us grow a little more CONNECTED whether we had similar experiences or not. Hopefully Doyle's story will help encourage all of us to share our stories — both the good and the bad, but especially our rough edges. I find these jagged bits to be the more interesting parts of ourselves anyway. We connect over our brokenness. It is not easy to share that part of ourselves we have hidden away and prefer to forget, but when we do the light shines in. In *Truth Be Told*, you will see Doyle GLOW!"

Smiens has been a theatrical enthusiast since high school. He has recently appeared at the Long Beach Collaborative and the Hollywood Fringe Festival. He is also a storyteller. His work has been included in *The Moth*, Long Beach Searches for Its Greatest Storyteller, and the Long Beach Community Theater. He said he's thrilled to be a part of Santa Monica Playhouse's Pride celebration.

*Truth Be Told* will be presented on **Friday, June 16** and **Friday, June 30**. \$20 admission includes the post-show Q&A and the wine and dessert reception with the artist. [santamonicaplayhouse.com](http://santamonicaplayhouse.com)



## SPARKS FLY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE IN BACK PORCH

Life imitates art when Hollywood descends upon a small Kansas town in 1955 to shoot scenes for the classic film, *Picnic*. Bluestem Productions' **Back Porch**, penned by **Eric Anderson** and directed by **Kelie McIver**, will get its world premiere during Pride Month. Performances will be from **Friday, June 2 through Sunday, July 9** at **The Victory Theatre Center** in Burbank.

In Anderson's delightful ode to William Inge's 1953 Pulitzer Prize-winning play that inspired the motion picture, sparks fly in more ways than one. Barney Opat is the single father of two boys: 18-year-old Gary who yearns to escape small-town Kansas life for a more glamorous existence, and energetic 13-year-old Del Wayne. The family's life is upended when a handsome stranger working as William Holden's stunt double blows into town alongside the all-star *Picnic* cast.

"When I was 4 years old, portions of the film *Picnic* were filmed one county away from my home," Kansas born-and-bred **Anderson** said. "My family drove to the location one evening to take part in the 'Neewollah' scene on the river. I've been crazy about movies — and theatre — ever since. With *Back Porch*, I wanted to pay tribute to a significant American playwright who was also significantly closeted. I hoped to write the kind of play that he himself might have written had he lived in another time and place."

"*Back Porch* is a love letter to William Inge, and it's also a terrific ensemble piece in which each character has an interesting and beautiful arc," said **McIver**, who also hails from Kansas. "I love them all and want to hang out with them."

**818.533.1611 / onstage411.com/backporch**

## ONE OF THE MOST ENDURING SHOWS OF ALL TIME

"GO! GO! GO!" to La Mirada Theatre For The Performing Arts for the most colorful, final show of its season. Tony Award-winning musical sensation, **Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice Friday, plays **Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 25**. One of the most enduring shows of all time, *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is a tuneful reimagining of the biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, 11 brothers, and his coat of many colors. This sensational musical features Andrew Lloyd Webber songs that have gone on to become pop and musical theatre classics, including "Any Dream Will Do," "Close Every Door To Me," "There's One More Angel in Heaven," and "Go, Go, Go Joseph." The multi-award-winning show has been performed in over 80 countries worldwide and has become one of the world's most beloved family musicals. **562.944.9801 / lamiradatheatre.com**

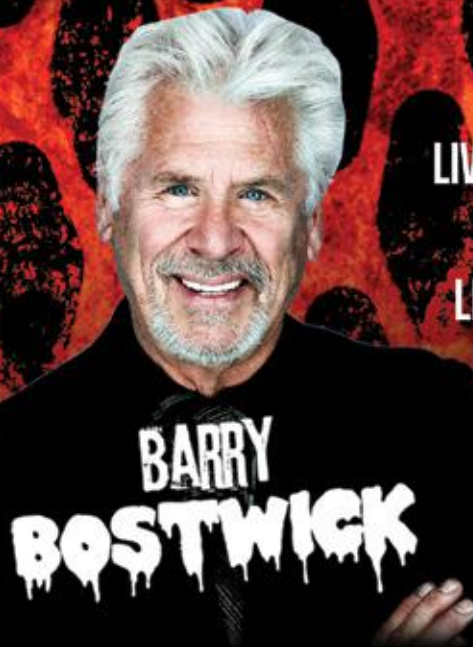


# THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

48<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULAR TOUR



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COSTUME CONTEST & MORE!  
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**SAT, OCTOBER 7 @ 8:00P**

**BALBOA THEATRE**

**SANDIEGOTHEATRES.ORG OR TICKETMASTER.COM**

In a much-anticipated performance, Complexions Contemporary Ballet will appear at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at The Music Center in Los Angeles from **Friday, June 16 through Sunday, June 18**. The New York-based group is led by dance luminaries Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, who have pioneered a new and thrilling genre by reimagining dance and contemporary ballet.

Complexions will showcase a pair of daring pieces: **WOKE**, a dynamic one-act ballet featuring the full company, examines humanity in conjunction with the enlightened awareness of today's generation. A physical reaction to the daily news, **WOKE** is set to music by recording artists Kendrick Lamar, Logic, Drake and others.

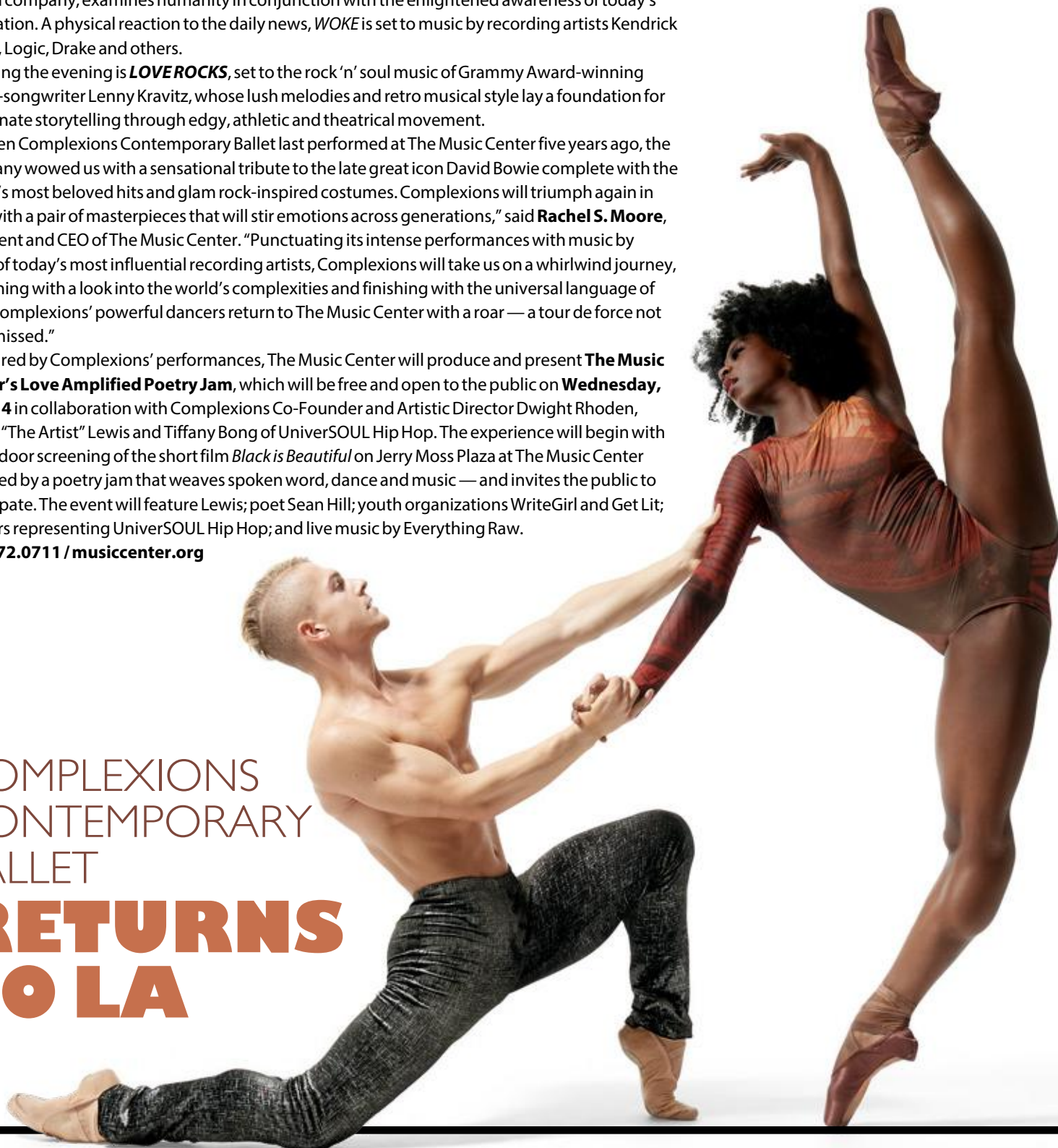
Closing the evening is **LOVEROCKS**, set to the rock 'n' soul music of Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Lenny Kravitz, whose lush melodies and retro musical style lay a foundation for passionate storytelling through edgy, athletic and theatrical movement.

"When Complexions Contemporary Ballet last performed at The Music Center five years ago, the company wowed us with a sensational tribute to the late great icon David Bowie complete with the singer's most beloved hits and glam rock-inspired costumes. Complexions will triumph again in June with a pair of masterpieces that will stir emotions across generations," said **Rachel S. Moore**, president and CEO of The Music Center. "Punctuating its intense performances with music by some of today's most influential recording artists, Complexions will take us on a whirlwind journey, beginning with a look into the world's complexities and finishing with the universal language of love. Complexions' powerful dancers return to The Music Center with a roar — a tour de force not to be missed."

Inspired by Complexions' performances, The Music Center will produce and present **The Music Center's Love Amplified Poetry Jam**, which will be free and open to the public on **Wednesday, June 14** in collaboration with Complexions Co-Founder and Artistic Director Dwight Rhoden, Terrell "The Artist" Lewis and Tiffany Bong of UniverSOUL Hip Hop. The experience will begin with an outdoor screening of the short film *Black is Beautiful* on Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center followed by a poetry jam that weaves spoken word, dance and music — and invites the public to participate. The event will feature Lewis; poet Sean Hill; youth organizations WriteGirl and Get Lit; dancers representing UniverSOUL Hip Hop; and live music by Everything Raw.

**213.972.0711 / musiccenter.org**

# COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET **RETURNS TO LA**



HAMILTON BROADWAY STAR

# Renée Elise Goldsberry



**JUNE 9-10 • 8 PM**

Angelica Schuyler in the original Broadway cast of *Hamilton*! Renée Elise Goldsberry graced *The Good Wife* and *One Life to Live* on television. Broadway cheered her in *Rent*, *The Color Purple*, and *Hamilton*, and gave her a Tony and a Grammy®. Hear her golden voice in a collection of showstoppers as only she can sing them.

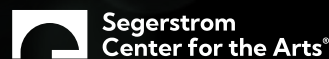


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Renée and Henry Segerstrom  
Concert Hall



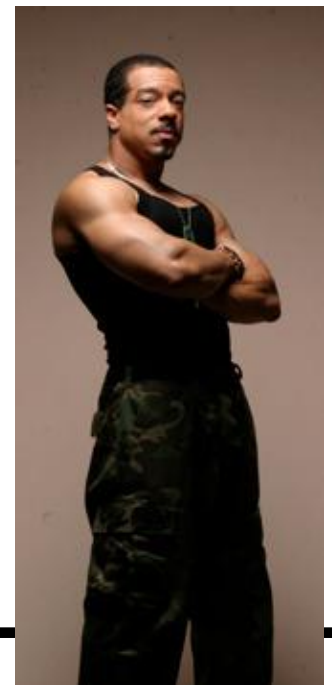
# SIZZLING EVENTS HEATING UP THE STAGE

On **Wednesday, June 7** at The Fonda Theater in Hollywood, **Paris Hilton** will take the stage to perform her hit songs live, including "Stars are Blind." The star-studded event will also feature performances from a variety of popular artists and musical guests. As the show kicks off Pride Month, a portion of ticket proceeds will go to GLAAD. [fondatheatre.com](http://fondatheatre.com)

*The New York Times* has labeled **Brian Stokes Mitchell** the "last leading man" of Broadway, and he will perform **Friday, June 23** at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa. Mitchell will showcase his strong baritone in a broad variety of songs from the modern day to classics from the Great American Songbook and Broadway. The two-time Tony Award winner has enjoyed a career that spans Broadway, television, film and concert appearances with the country's finest conductors and orchestras. An extremely versatile and in-demand singer, Stokes has performed at many venues spanning jazz, opera, pop, country and musical theatre. [scfta.org](http://scfta.org)

The **United Ukrainian Ballet** will make its West Coast premiere with Alexei Ratmansky's *Giselle*, after landmark performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and the London Coliseum. Ratmansky, a Ukrainian citizen, devised this unique rendition of one of the finest romantic ballets in the classical repertory exclusively for the company. Taking place **Thursday, June 29 through Sunday, July 2** at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, these performances will be the first time Ratmansky's *Giselle* is presented in collaboration with Liev Schreiber and his nonprofit, BlueCheck Ukraine. Proceeds will benefit BlueCheck which was created to vet, verify and fund Ukrainian-led local and grassroots frontline organizations providing lifesaving humanitarian aid. [scfta.org](http://scfta.org)

Capathia Jenkins, a Broadway star, and Ryan Shaw, a three-time Grammy nominee, will perform the music of Aretha Franklin at the Rady Shell at Jacobs Park in San Diego. This high-octane, glitzy homage to the Queen of Soul, conducted by Lucas Waldin, includes classics such as "Respect," "Think," "A Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools" and "Amazing Grace." On **Sunday, July 2**, join the celebration at **ARETHA: A Tribute**. C&C Music Factory, famed for their top singles "Gonna Make You Sweat," "Here We Go Let's Rock & Roll" and "Things That Make You Go Hmmm..." will grace the Rady Shell stage for the first time on **Tuesday, July 4** in **San Diego's 4th of July Dance Party**. DJ Prince Hakim, who had everyone on their feet at the Rady Shell in 2022, will get the party started. Influenced by the sound of the 1980s and today, Prince Hakim has traveled from New York to Tokyo sharing his passion and spreading his message to "Celebrate Life." After the show, ticket holders are encouraged to remain to view the annual Big Bay Boom Fourth of July fireworks show provided by the Port of San Diego. [theshell.org](http://theshell.org)





# REFORMA

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# GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES AT PALM SPRINGS SHORTFEST



Many of us are conditioned to believe that size and/or length matters when it comes to certain things. But when it comes to short films, five minutes of celluloid or digital storytelling can pack as much of a wallop as a 90-minute feature film.

The 2023 Palm Springs International ShortFest & Short Film Market will prove this point from **Thursday, June 20 through Wednesday, June 26** at Camelot Theatres. ShortFest is the largest short film festival in the USA, returning for the first time post-pandemic with in-person film screenings, panels and roundtable discussions.

ShortFest is one of the most acclaimed short film showcases in the world, designated by AMPAS, BAFTA, BIFA and the Goya Awards as an award-qualifying festival, and accredited by the International Short Film Conference.

Running during Pride Month, the ShortFest remains a touchstone for LGBTQ cinema across the world. The festival annually curates an LGBTQ short film lineup and provides awards in their Best LGBTQ Short category. Last year's award winners included *High Jump* (directed by Lennert Madouand), with special mentions for *Lucky Fish* (directed by Emily May Jampel) and *Tank Fairy* (directed by Erich Rettstadt).

The full 2023 film program and schedule will be available June 1 at [psfilmfest.org/shortfest-2023](https://psfilmfest.org/shortfest-2023). However, *The RAGE Monthly* was informed of the LGBTQ lineup in advance and was able to preview a few of this year's selections.

Several of the best — and definitely funniest — are women's stories with universal appeal:

***Crarylake Boats and Floats***. Lane, a young adult lesbian, works at a boat rental shop. Her dull day-to-day routine is spiced up when a pretty

renter enlists her on a secret mission.

***Gold and Mud***. A hilarious but ultimately poignant short features a neurotic woman (an excellent, decades-spanning performance by Ana Fabrega) who can't catch a break in life.

***Gianna***. LGBTQ fave Margaret Cho plays therapist to a client struggling with her literal inner demon.

Canadian filmmaker David Findlay's *Lay Me by the Shore* is a potent story about a queer/trans student who is forced to reconcile with their troubled past on the eve of their high school graduation.

***The Rainbow Dung Beetle*** is a sweet, animated short created by students at Orange County's Chapman University. The title character is forced to disprove his late mother's warning "When we shine, we die" soon after his new, same-sex insect neighbors move in.

While I didn't get to screen it in advance, ***SCRED TBM*** certainly sounds intriguing: "Gabriel, a young father in a relationship, leads a double life. It is through a dedicated application and the pseudonym 'Scred TBM' that he is brought to live a part of his sexuality in secrecy. He scrupulously organizes his meetings in order to never be unmasked, but everything changes the day he meets a new profile." Hmmmm.

**THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR'S SHORTFEST LGBTQ+ LINEUP, INCLUDING SEVERAL OTHER ANIMATED SHORTS:**

***100% USDA Certified Organic Homemade Tofu, Aban, AIKÂNE, An Avocado Pit, Between Her, Burial of Life as a Young Girl, CANS Can't Stand, Christopher at Sea, Idiot Fish, Insta Gay, The Melting Creatures and Pipes.***

[psfilmfest.org/shortfest-2023](https://psfilmfest.org/shortfest-2023)





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## SAN DIEGO PRIDE PARTY CRUISE

Saturday, July 15, 2023 | 9:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. | BahiaBelle.com

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*Cruises*

# RAINBOWLICIOUS DESIGN

SHOW OFF YOUR TRUE COLORS FOR PRIDE MONTH AND BEYOND



Love for all. All for love. Honor this message by expressing yourself through **Skagen's** new limited-edition collection featuring the rainbow of Pride colors. The Danish watch company is all about universal design and affection. Through June 30, 100% of the proceeds generated by the Pride collection will be donated to **InterPride**. This international organization provides grants, resources for human rights, prejudice and oppression awareness, conference scholarships, and more to over 400 LGBTQ organizations worldwide. [skagen.com](http://skagen.com) [interpride.org](http://interpride.org)

During Pride Month, Katy Perry will team up with an LGBTQ organization to raise vital funds. **Katy Perry Collections** is collaborating with the **Hetrick Martin Institute (HMI)**. During June, a percentage of the revenues from certain styles on will be donated. Shoes included are The Skaterr Beads Sneaker, The Skaterr Beads Classic, The Uplift Pump, The Busy Bee Slide, The Busy Bee Criss Cross, The Rizzo Sneaker, The Geli Slide Thong, The Geli Stud and The Vivian Sandal. The HMI is known as the nation's oldest LGBTQ youth service organization. [katyperrycollections.com](http://katyperrycollections.com) [hmi.org](http://hmi.org)



**The Habit Burger Grill**, a California-based restaurant brand known for its award-winning Charburgers cooked over an open flame, introduced the **Rainbow Shake** in honor of the LGBTQ community and allies. The creamy, flavorful Rainbow Shake features vanilla ice cream blended with rainbow cereal, topped with strawberry puree, passion fruit puree and blue raspberry syrup, and finished with whipped cream sprinkled with crunchy rainbow cereal. In honor of Pride Month, \$1 for every Rainbow Shake sold (up to \$50,000 total) will be donated to the **It Gets Better Project**, whose mission is to uplift, empower and connect LGBTQ youth around the globe. [habitburger.com](http://habitburger.com) [itgetsbetter.org](http://itgetsbetter.org)



**Yankee Candle** and **Friday Collective** have developed two new candle scents, Love for All and Free to Be, in support of **Rainbow Railroad**, an international LGBTQ nonprofit. Rainbow Railroad assists queer people seeking safety all around the globe, as well as those facing persecution. With this in mind, the Yankee Candle and Friday Collective candles "Love For All" and "Free To Be" honor liberty, diversity, the power of love, and the importance of authentic living. Love for All has notes of peony, driftwood and amber that are soothing, while Free to Be is an uplifting combination of dewy greens, dazzling rain droplets, gentle rose petals and grounded wood moss. [fridaycollective.com](http://fridaycollective.com) [yankeecandle.com](http://yankeecandle.com)



The 2023 **Abercrombie & Fitch** collection was revealed with confirmation of a gift to an LGBTQ group. The company maintains that the tagline "Proud Year-Round" is "part of our brand" and that they will continue to celebrate 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the home office, in the local community, and on their platforms. Abercrombie & Fitch recently announced a \$400,000 donation to **The Trevor Project** as part of their ongoing partnership and to mark Pride Month. This year's campaign includes collaborations with LGBTQ creatives, influencers and models. It also sees the return of their gender-neutral fragrance, Pride Fierce, which comes in a bottle decorated with the Pride flag. [abercrombie.com](http://abercrombie.com)



Five independent Council of Fashion Designers of America eyewear designers are uniting for the second annual **edCFDA Pride Eyewear Initiative**. The designers of Blake Kuwahara Eyewear, Christian Roth Eyewear, Krewe Eyewear, I.a.Eyeworks and Selima Optique will offer limited-edition sunglass designs, with a portion of proceeds collectively benefiting the TransLatin@ Coalition. Purchasers will also get a lens cleaning cloth created exclusively for the initiative by New York artist Pedro Silva. The initiative is an annual charitable venture driven by independent eyewear designers of the CFDA to target and highlight specific needs within the broad spectrum of the LGBTQ and gender non-conforming communities. [cfdacomtranslatinacoalition.org](http://cfdacomtranslatinacoalition.org)

The American jewelry brand Lokai promotes itself as a “socially responsible lifestyle brand.” The company is primarily recognized for its bracelets. Each Lokai bracelet contains water from Mount Everest in the white bead and sediment from the Dead Sea in the black bead, as a reminder to live in balance with our surroundings. The **Pride Lokai** is a reminder that all people, regardless of who they are or who they love, deserve equal rights. Wear this Lokai bracelet with pride, and together we can achieve fundamental fairness and equality for everyone. Lokai will donate \$1 for every bracelet sold to **The Point Foundation**, an organization that empowers LGBTQ students to reach their maximum academic and leadership potential through scholarships, mentorship and opportunity grants. [lokai.com](http://lokai.com) [pointfoundation.org](http://pointfoundation.org)



Saying “I love you.” Getting matching tattoos. Letting your partner have the last bite. Helping someone achieve gender euphoria, whether it’s by cutting their hair or being a part of their HRT journey. It’s all love — and **Dockers** will celebrate it this month and beyond with a new collection inspired by the infinite expressions of love. The 2023 collection features five all-gender styles in the signature khaki tones the brand is known for. Pops of color appear across the collection via a multicolored sunburst graphic inspired by letting one’s light shine. Each graphic is meant to convey the peace and joy that can be found in expressing love and individual identity freely. The company continues to support the LGBTQ community through financial commitments and political action in support of same-sex marriage, along with other relevant policy matters. [dockers.com](http://dockers.com)



Celebrate Pride in the sweetest way possible with a splash of color and merriment to your festivities with San Diego-based **Eclipse Chocolate**’s new sprinkle mixes. These delightful mixtures of rainbow-colored sprinkles are ideal for making festive treats that spread love and happiness. Here are some ways to use the Pride sprinkles to make your festivities even more fabulous. **Bake the Rainbow:** Sprinkle the colorful mix on cupcakes, cookies or cakes for a delicious explosion of Pride. **Pride Parfait:** Layer sprinkles with yogurt, fresh fruit and granola for a stunning and tasty Pride-inspired parfait. **Cocktail Glam:** Rim your cocktail glasses with Pride sprinkles for a dazzling presentation. Sip on a vibrant rainbow cocktail and raise a glass to love, acceptance and equality. **Party Popcorn:** Drizzle melted white chocolate over popcorn and generously sprinkle the Pride mix for a fun and crunchy snack that bursts with Pride spirit. [eclipsechocolate.com](http://eclipsechocolate.com)

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# LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX(TING), BABY

When I first started writing for *The Rage Monthly* in 2016, I explored the topic of sexting. Specifically, I debated whether sexting could be considered a form of art. Now, all these years later, I'm pretty sure that sexing is to Picasso as Marjorie Taylor Green is to Homo sapiens. See what I did there? Just so there's no confusion, I believe MTG is a nasty, heartless C U next Tuesday — and not the cute and cuddly kind.

Instead of a form of art, I think sexting, for many, can be compared to that treadmill in the corner of the bedroom that was bought on impulse, used a few times and then turned into the world's most expensive clothes hanger. Exciting in the beginning, perhaps even fun, addicting, before quickly becoming routine, a chore, and only producing mediocre — if any — results.

Simply put, sexting has made us lazy. But there is also a certain quality associated with sexting that is desirable: protection. Chances of catching the herp or the clap from your phone are rather slim. Thanks be to Jesus. Still, sexting allows us to get off without getting off the couch. Is this a problem?

For me, sexting can be a bag of mixed nuts — pun intended. As a writer, I have a special appreciation for words and creativity. However, nothing turns me off faster than bad grammar. It's upsetting to get an indecent text message riddled with misspelled words and misplaced commas. My friend once received a message from a man who wanted to "sedoose" her. Needless to say, after that ill-fated text, he never got the chance to seduce her.

An additional pickle (another pun!) is false advertising. Unfortunately, this has gotten me into a bit of trouble in the past, undoubtedly affecting my sexting Better Business Bureau rating. You see, I'm great with words: imaginative, descriptive, provoking. Yet, when it comes time to put my money where my mouth is (I couldn't resist), I tend to not always deliver. I suspect I'm better with the written word than a live performance, which is probably why my acting career fizzled out after a few local commercials and student films.

Is that in and of itself a complication — perhaps the biggest — connected with sexting? Behind a keyboard, we can be whoever and whatever we want to be. It's fantasy. Though it's easy and amusing to explore myriad sides of our sexuality, there eventually comes a time when you have to prove if you can actually live up to the persona that's been created. What will you do? Choke, gag? Or deliver an Oscar-worthy production?

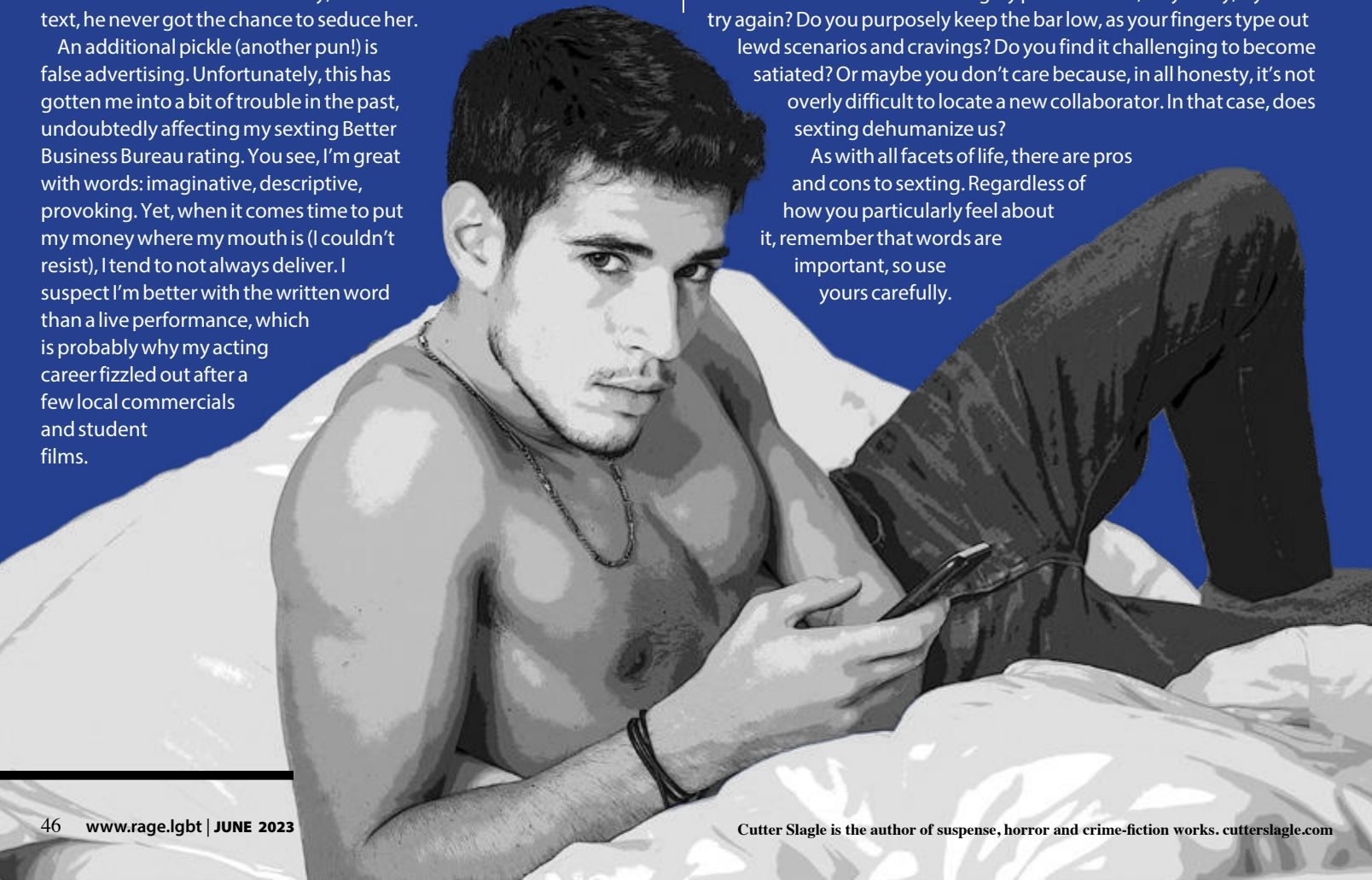
Circling back to the notion that sexting has made us lazy, do you agree or disagree? If you agree, do you suppose this is an issue — or is it more of a solution? Hey, there's definitely something to be said for keeping salacious experiences strictly digital. The aforementioned safety component, sure, but what about the fact that you end up saving a lot of time by keeping your privates private? Well, so to speak.

Let's ponder that idea for a moment. There's no hassle of coordinating schedules, no reason to shower or prep, no pressure to do a good job, no traveling expenses (a highlight when you evaluate gas prices these days), and an activity that could take an hour to complete is finished in a matter of minutes.

When restructured like that, sexting seems like the ultimate resource. A resource we could all benefit from using. No muss, no fuzz, and very little cleanup. I guess it's true what has been said about perspective.

On the downside, does sexting set us up for failure? When or if you do *finally* meet up with your cyber bosom buddy, is it really possible to reach the bar that has been so highly placed? If not, do you try, try and try again? Do you purposely keep the bar low, as your fingers type out lewd scenarios and cravings? Do you find it challenging to become satiated? Or maybe you don't care because, in all honesty, it's not overly difficult to locate a new collaborator. In that case, does sexting dehumanize us?

As with all facets of life, there are pros and cons to sexting. Regardless of how you particularly feel about it, remember that words are important, so use yours carefully.





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