

ISSUE 04.26

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Show+Sale Chicago

SPRING  
SHOW

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Apr  
24-26

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# SUMMERFEST

MILWAUKEE



Presented by: **AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**

JUNE 16-17

**GARTH BROOKS**

JUNE 18-20

**DON TOLIVER**

w/ SahBabil, Che, SoFaygo,  
Chase B, Lelo, sosocamo

**MEGAN MORONEY**

**CARÍN LEÓN**

JUNE 21

**THE PUSSYCAT DOLLS**

w/ Lil' Kim, Mya

Charlie Wilson • Passion Pit • Third Eye Blind • Hot Mulligan • Father John Misty • STYX • David Lee Roth  
The Academy Is... • Tash Sultana • Connor Price • flipturn • Nate Smith • Jeremih • Amyl and The Sniffers  
Christopher Cross • Cameron Whitcomb • Holly Humberstone • Echo & The Bunnymen  
Dexter and The Moonrocks • The Family Stone • Alejandro Escovedo

Adrien Nunez • AJ Croce • Aldo Nova • The Bends • Braid • Chris Cain • Danny Boy • Deer Tick • Don Felder • Dora Jar  
The Dream Syndicate • Enter Shikari • Evan Honer • Fees • HUNNY • The Juliana Theory • Marlon Funaki • McCoy Moore • Modern English  
Nicholas Tremulis & The Prodigals • Penelope Road • Red Jumpsuit Apparatus • Red Leather • Rhys Rutherford • Scott Wolverton

State Champs • Steph Strings • Taylor Acorn • Weston Estate • Winyah  
Altered By Mom • The Band Solstice • Cigarettes @ Sunset • Emmitt James • GRAHAM • Koyo • Maximiliano • Morgan St. Jean • Old Mervs  
Panic Shack • Post Sex Nachos • Tobacco Road • Todd Cameron • Trapper Schoepp • Troy Tyler • Venus & The Flytraps • VIAL

JUNE 25-27

**ED SHEERAN**

w/ Myles Smith, Aaron Rowe

**CODY JOHNSON**

w/ Jessie Murph

**POST MALONE**

w/ Carter Faith

The Roots • Louis Tomlinson • Subtronics • Tucker Wetmore • Russell Dickerson • KALEO • The Revivalists  
Marcus King Band • Elderbrook DJ set • Big Wild • Audrey Nuna • Grouplove • Kim Gordon  
Wolfmother • Halestorm • Pepper • Little Feat • Petey USA • The Mountain Goats • BØRNS • Two Feet  
Sudan Archives • Goldfinger • Marachi Sol De Mexico • Vertical Horizon • Old 97's • 10,000 Maniacs

The Aces • The Band Loula • Big Daddy Kane • Boy Golden • Dylan Schneider • The Expendables • Freddy Jones Band • Gabriel Jacoby • Grabbitz  
Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band • Harper O'Neill • Hazlett • Henrik • Jean Dawson • Lanie Gardner • Lisa Loeb • Lucky Boys Confusion  
Maris • The Movement • PawPaw Rod • Robert Randolph • Sons Of The Silent Age • Walk Off The Earth

Abby Moeller • Blonde • Bobby Friss • Elija Scott • Greg Koch & The Koch Marshall Trio • The Handcuffs • Harrison Gordon • KSP • Lake Drive • Lamb  
Left On Sunset • Modern Alibi • Orquesta Ayala • Porch Light • Showoff • Siobhan Bodrug • TAZ • Tracy Bonham • Wire & Nail

JULY 2-4

**MUSE**

**ALEX WARREN**

w/ Noah Cyrus

**JELLY ROLL**

w/ Tyler Hubbard, Three 6 Mafia

Ella Mai • Sam Barber • Sean Paul • Buju Banton • Whiskey Myers • All Time Low • Kerry King • Spoon  
Flo Rida • The Temper Trap • Stephen Marley • Rev Run of RUN DMC • Jonah Kagen • Candlebox • Gene Simmons Band  
Gin Blossoms • Matt Hansen • BoDeans • The Beths • Neal Francis • Baha Men • Straight No Chaser

Absolutely • Anees • Ax and the Hatchetmen • Blondshell • Buckcherry • Chase McDaniel • DJ Jazzy Jeff • Edgehill • John Vincent III  
The Jayhawks • Jobi Riccio • Joywave • Ken Pomeroy • KennyHoopa • Living Colour • Mindi Abair • Preston Cooper • Pure Hex • Sister Hazel  
Soul Asylum • Spin Doctors • St. Paul and The Broken Bones • Sunflower Bean • Tag Team • The Heavy Heavy • The Ocean Blue  
Adam Warner • Case Oats • Carolina Liar • Fluorescents • girlfriends • Hotel Fiction • Jerry Harrison's 50 Years of Talking Heads  
KT Tunstall • The Maiden Voyage • Nicole Lawrence • Scout Speer • SIIN • SIX Foot Blonde





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Editorial: [boieditorial@aol.com](mailto:boieditorial@aol.com)  
Advertising: [boiads@aol.com](mailto:boiads@aol.com)

#### EDITORIAL

**Publisher:** boiMAGazine, Inc.  
**Editor:** Nate Daniels  
**Feature Editor:** Mike at Night  
**Graphic Design:** Titanium Graphics  
**Layout Specialist:** Angel Christopher  
**Multi-Media:** Media Services Management  
**Regional Sales Advisory:** [Logan@boiAds.com](mailto:Logan@boiAds.com)  
**AI Staff Assistant:** boiBOT

#### COVER

Cover Art Theme: Sexy Springtime  
Graphic Designer: Mike Macharello  
(a.k.a.) Mike at Night and  
boiBOT (a.k.a.) boiMAGazine's AI assistant

#### EDITORIAL, ARTICLES & COLUMNISTS

**Feature Articles:** Nate Daniels - [Nate@boiMAG.com](mailto:Nate@boiMAG.com)  
**Exclusive Interviews:** Mike at Night - [Mike@boiMAG.com](mailto:Mike@boiMAG.com)  
**Concert Reviews:** Jorge Suarez - [InConcert@boiMAG.com](mailto:InConcert@boiMAG.com)  
**Health & Wellness:** Charla Waxman - [Charla@boiMAG.com](mailto:Charla@boiMAG.com)  
**Community Support:** Mike at Night - [Mike@boiMAG.com](mailto:Mike@boiMAG.com)  
**Uncensored:** Rachael Cain - [Uncensored@boiMAG.com](mailto:Uncensored@boiMAG.com)  
**Travel Pride Journey:** Joey Amato - [Travel@boiMAG.com](mailto:Travel@boiMAG.com)  
**Ask Char:** Charla Waxman - [AskChar@boiMAG.com](mailto:AskChar@boiMAG.com)  
**Tech Trends:** Jack Santos - [Jack@boiMAG.com](mailto:Jack@boiMAG.com)

**TO ADVERTISE** Call: **773.975.0264**  
or email: [boiAds@aol.com](mailto:boiAds@aol.com)

**National Media Rep:** Rivendell Media **908.232.2021**  
[www.RivendellMedia.com](http://www.RivendellMedia.com)

#### DISTRIBUTION

**Chicago & Suburbs:** DSE (Delivery Service Enterprises)  
**World Wide Distribution:** Heyzine Media Network

**VIEW boiMAGazine ONLINE at**  
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# IRENE MICHAELS

## Party on

### LAKESHORE DRIVE



**BIGGS  
RADIO  
CHICAGO**  
THE VOICE OF THE NEW GENERATION

**APRIL 2026  
HOT TRACKS**

| Rank | Artist                         | Song Title                         |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1    | Irene Michaels                 | Party on Lakeshore Drive           |
| 2    | Melvin Riley                   | They Won't Leave Me Alone          |
| 3    | Memphis Jackson                | Just Us 2                          |
| 4    | The New Lost Generation        | Dream On                           |
| 5    | M. L. Underwood ft. Darryl Boy | Still I Rise                       |
| 6    | Eddie Levert                   | Let's Go to My Place               |
| 7    | Artis D. Smith                 | It's You                           |
| 8    | Andrew Young                   | Mind Body & Soul I Wanna Kiss Away |
| 9    | Richie Mike                    | Block Getting Hot                  |
| 10   | Smoove                         | You Got It                         |



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

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24-26

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# WHAT CAN YOU FIND AT ONE OF A KIND?

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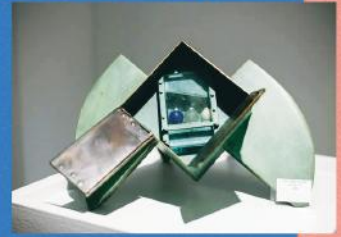
Accessories



Bath & Body



Leather



Metal



Ceramics



Fashion



Mixed Media



Painting



Fiber Art



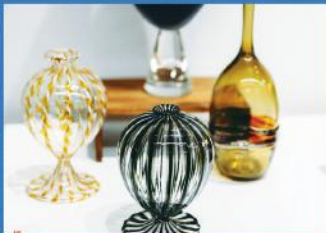
Furniture



Paper



Pets



Glass



Gourmet



Photography



Repurposed / Upcycled



Home Goods



Jewelry



Sculpture



Wood

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# WHY SETTLE FOR LIMITED REACH

## When You Can Approach Full Audience Penetration?!

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By Todd Evans

LGBTQ media offers advertisers a uniquely efficient way to reach highly engaged consumers. *Why settle for limited reach when you can approach full audience penetration?*

Recent analysis published in **MediaVillage** revealed that nearly 90% of the 7,000 campaigns studied achieved less than 20% reach. This is striking, given that many brands actively seek defined consumer segments, such as trendsetters, urban audiences, specific income groups, and lifestyle categories. Ironically, these same segments often overlap significantly with LGBTQ consumers, yet brands frequently overlook LGBTQ media as a primary channel.

LGBTQ media, across print and digital platforms, functions as one of the most targeted and efficient information channels available. Unlike general-market media, it is clearly identifiable, highly targeted, and largely insulated from incidental exposure.

**There is no broadcast television component, and most LGBTQ digital platforms are extensions of established print brands.**

As a result, the audience is intentional and self-selecting, delivering an exceptionally high concentration of genuinely interested consumers. Advertisers are not paying for wasted impressions.

The effectiveness of LGBTQ media is especially evident in categories such as healthcare. For example, awareness and adoption of PrEP (HIV prevention) would have been significantly slower and more costly without LGBTQ media serving as the primary conduit for education and engagement. While television campaigns can broaden reach, they do so at a much higher cost and with considerable audience dilution, often missing the consumers most in need of the message.

For brands seeking consumers who are engaged, trend-driven, frequent travelers, spirits purchasers, or those with higher

discretionary income, particularly male audiences, LGBTQ media should be a strategic priority. Advertising in this space delivers near-total relevance, strong cost efficiency, and the added benefit of directly supporting the community you aim to reach.

**Todd Evans is President and CEO of Rivendell Media**, America's leading LGBTQ media placement firm- a unique media company that was founded in 1979 and represents 95% of all LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS media in the United States and Canada.

*Rivendell Media serves as the national advertising representative for over 200 gay, lesbian and HIV/AIDS newspapers, magazines and entertainment guides, their websites and standalone digital properties.*

*Todd has worked on almost every major LGBT media campaign, and that experience along with his knowledge of the media provide unique qualifications on what has worked, and what is necessary to reach and speak to these audiences.*

Contact Info. 908-232-2021 ext. 210, or [todd@rivendellmedia.com](mailto:todd@rivendellmedia.com).



# PRIDE JOURNEY OKLAHOMA CITY

Travel  
=boiMAGazine

It is not just winter that can cause a shift in how you feel. Any seasonal change can bring feelings of sadness, worry about things to come, memories of years past or guilt about what didn't get done as expected in the season before.

By Joey Amato

**Oklahoma City** isn't a place that announces itself loudly. It doesn't rely on spectacle or reputation to draw you in. Instead, it unfolds slowly, revealing its character in moments, over a cocktail at a neighborhood bar, in the glow of a gallery opening, or in a late night conversation with someone who proudly calls this city home. What you'll find here isn't just a scene, it's a community.

The first hint comes along **39th Street**, where a stretch of neon lights and rainbow flags marks the city's longtime LGBTQ+ district. Known affectionately as the "Gayborhood", this is where Oklahoma City's nightlife has thrived for decades. There's a feeling that everyone is welcome and no one is in a rush to be anything other than themselves.

At **Angles**, the night begins on the dance floor. Music pulses through multiple rooms, drag performers command the stage, and strangers quickly become familiar faces. It's the kind of place where you can lose track of time, moving between spaces, conversations, and beats without ever feeling out of place.

Just down the street, **The Boom** offers something entirely different but equally memorable.

Here, dinner and entertainment blend into one experience. The lights dim, the curtain rises, and suddenly the room is filled with laughter, applause, and the unmistakable energy of live drag. It's theatrical, a little irreverent, and deeply rooted in the joy of shared experience.

For those who prefer something more low-key, **Tramps** feels like stepping into a living room where everyone already knows each other, or is happy to pretend they do. The drinks are simple, the conversations are easy, and the patio becomes its own kind of community space at night.

And then there's **Frankie's OKC**, a newer but deeply beloved addition to the scene. The lesbian-owned bar has an authenticity that's hard to manufacture. Karaoke nights blur into drag performances, laughter spills out onto the street. It's inclusive in a way that feels natural, not curated.

In the **Paseo Arts District**, the pace shifts. The architecture feels almost transportive, with warm-toned stucco buildings and winding streets that invite you to wander. Inside galleries and studios, artists explore identity, expression, and community in ways that feel both personal and universal. It's easy to spend an afternoon here, .



A few miles away, the **Plaza District** hums with a different kind of energy. Murals stretch across building walls, independent shops showcase

local makers, and restaurants spill out onto sidewalks. There's a sense of momentum here, of a neighborhood that's constantly evolving while remaining deeply rooted in inclusivity. It's the kind of place where you might come for a meal and end up staying for hours, drawn in by the rhythm of the street.



I would highly recommend stopping in **Bad Granny's Bazaar** for some cool vintage threads for your night out on the town.

Dining in Oklahoma City often feels like an extension of this sense of community. At places like **The Boom** and **Frankie's**, meals come with entertainment and conversation. Elsewhere, in the **Plaza** and **Paseo** districts, restaurants emphasize creativity and connection over formality.



Menus are thoughtful, spaces are welcoming, and there's an unspoken understanding that everyone belongs.

**Midtown** offers yet another layer. Polished but still approachable, it blends historic charm with modern design. Coffee shops, cocktail bars, and restaurants create a seamless flow from day to night, and the crowd reflects the diversity of the city itself. It's not unusual to see couples, friend groups, and solo travelers all sharing the same spaces, each adding to the atmosphere in their own way.



What stands out most isn't just the number of LGBTQ+ friendly or owned spaces, it's the way they're woven into the fabric of the city. You don't have to search for them. They reveal themselves naturally, through interactions, recommendations, and moments of serendipity.

That sense of belonging becomes even more apparent when you start talking to people. There's pride here, but it's expressed in a way that feels grounded, less about spectacle and more about connection.

It's in the bartender who remembers your name after one visit. The performer who takes a moment after the show to thank the audience. The artist who shares the story behind their work. These interactions create a kind of intimacy that's increasingly rare in larger, more saturated destinations.



And perhaps that's what makes Oklahoma City so compelling. It doesn't try to compete with the scale of cities like **New York** or **Los Angeles**. Instead, it offers something different, something more personal.

Here, the experience isn't confined to a single neighborhood or moment. It's part of the city's rhythm, present in its nightlife, its art, its food, and its people. It's a reminder that inclusivity isn't just about visibility, it's about creating spaces where people feel genuinely seen.



Oklahoma City may not be the loudest destination on the map, but for those willing to explore it, it offers something far more meaningful, a community that welcomes you in, exactly as you are, and invites you to stay a little longer.



*Flamingo Tiki Bar & Restaurant*



## Ask Char Q & A

**Q** Dear Char, I know many important people, however I feel like they don't really support me, no matter how approachable, or regardless how nice I am!

*From: No Support in Davenport*

**A** Dear No Support in Davenport, Mental wellness is linked to many factors, but none is as important as your support system. Support systems don't just happen; they are developed over time, nurtured, and often each of the members utilize the strength of each other to create and maintain the delicate balance of the relationship. Whoever your support people are, whether it is one person or several good friends, they should be providing you with emotional help that is grounded in honesty and love. Often this means that the support given always has a practical amount of advice connected to it and the kind of advice given makes sense to you at a very personal level. He/she/they know you just that well.

Much of the importance of a support system is that when difficult life situations occur, the system is accessed. This puts in motion active listening, open communication, problem solving, and new ways of looking at the complexities of life. As a result, stress decreases, hope is instilled and you don't feel like you are alone in the mire. You just feel better knowing that help is at hand. Your potential to bounce back has increased and

Expectation vs Reality



It's easier to do just do things on my own.



Having support systems promotes a greater sense of well-being and foster a sense of stability and security.

you may even feel better about yourself for being strong enough to ask for help from people that show you how much you matter to them. In general a support system helps improve both physical and mental health; and is shown to increase resilience, a positive sense of self, while reducing isolation and feelings of sadness and feelings of loneliness.

Who makes up your system is critical. It can be friends, family or even people not well known to you. They must, however, have your best interests in mind and be willing to not enable you by doing things for you. Even when things feel hopeless, your support system cannot let you be helpless. A good support system are people to lean on when, as is said, the going gets tough.

You can find a support system anywhere: a book club, an exercise group, a close friend, a sibling or other relative or even someone you know from your job. Make sure, though, that even as you know you can access help that you rely on yourself and don't make your support system your only means of making things happen and enlisting self-change.

Your support system should be positive influencers and be the kind of people that check in with you. Sometimes check-ins help when asking for support seems too hard. A good support system will keep things private but not be afraid to break confidentiality if your safety is at risk. Keep money out of the frame of support. This is another issue altogether. Your support system is really there for emotional stabilization and problem solving.

All in all, ask for help. As Mr. Rogers said, "Look for the helpers ; there are always helpers."

- Dr. Charla Waxman

*Cinco de Mayo*



*Dine In, Carry Out • Margarita's To-Go*



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# SCHEDULE

## MONDAY



# PROJECT VIDA

ZUMBA ..... 9AM-10AM  
 ZUMBA ..... 5PM-6PM  
 SALSA ..... 6PM-7PM

## TUESDAY

SR. GOLDEN MOVES ..... 9AM-10AM  
 WEIGHT TRAINING ..... 5PM-6PM

## WEDNESDAY

WEIGHT TRAINING ..... 9AM-10AM  
 QI GONG ..... 5PM-6PM  
 XCO LATIN DANCE ..... 6PM-7PM

## THURSDAY

SR. GOLDEN MOVES ..... 9AM-10AM  
 YOGA ..... 6PM-7PM  
 HIIT ..... 7PM-8PM



## FRIDAY

ZUMBA ..... 9AM-10AM  
 WEIGHT AEROBICS ..... 5PM-6PM  
 SALSA ..... 6PM-7PM

## SATURDAY

ZUMBA ..... 9AM-10AM  
 LINE DANCING ..... 10AM-11AM



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# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## Tips To Get You Through Seasonal Changes

**SEASONAL  
CHANGES**  
=boiMAGazine

It is not just winter that can cause a shift in how you feel. Any seasonal change can bring feelings of sadness, worry about things to come, memories of years past or guilt about what didn't get done as expected in the season before.

This means a toll on mental health. Here are a few things you can do to get ahead of the seasons and all the emotions and feelings that go with them.

### **PAY ATTENTION TO THE WEATHER**

Monitor the forecast. Dress for the weather. Many forecasts are pretty solid about a week out and you can be ready for it both in terms of turning up the heat in your home at night, opening windows for a nice cross breeze on an early fall morning, or planning activities to match the days ahead. When you plan, things feel more stable and even this little adjustment can help you feel less anxious and more in control.

### **GIVE YOURSELF THE BENEFIT OF REST**

Some people say they cannot sleep when emotions are high. Even if you can't sleep, don't get up and be busy. Let your body rest. It is said that you are more likely to find sleep if you stay warm and under the covers and give your body some rest. Do things that cause your mind to be bored.

Counting is one way for your mind to stop the whirl of thoughts and get bored enough for you to drift off to sleep. Get in a bedtime routine. Get ready at a certain time, let the dog out at a certain time for the night and then, say out loud the words "Good night", to whoever will listen. Make it clear you are ready for bed. Leave the phone on the other side of the room or even leave it charging elsewhere so you are not tempted.

### **PLAN AHEAD**

Gather up a list of movies you would like to see, books you would like to read, and friendship and family connections you would like to make during the season. Gather home enhancing seasonal artifacts and create beauty around you that is a match for the season. This may be the season you learn a hobby, write letters, or volunteer at the local food bank. Keep yourself busy and productive for you and for others.

### **STAY CONNECTED AND FIND A CONFIDANT**

When the going gets tough, "who ya gonna call?" Friends can be the very thing you need when you are feeling down.

There are people you naturally turn to when you need an ear. Make use of their investment in your relationship. Be there for others as well. You may find that you friends feel the same way you do with any seasonal change. Give reaching out a solid try.

### **LOOK FOR THINGS THAT YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT THE SEASONS.**

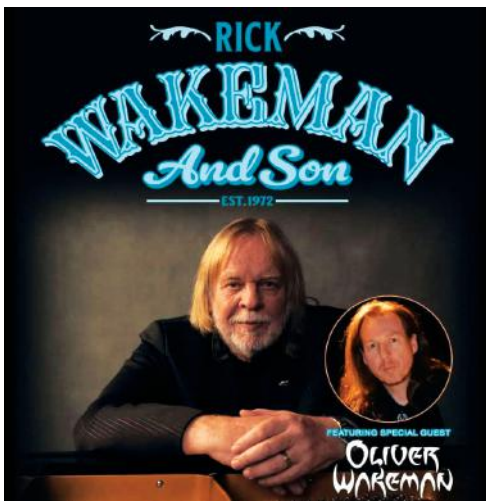
Be mindful of what is great about seasonal changes. Focus on fantastic weather, festivals, and all the beauty that goes with the season. Watch seasonal movies, read books that are oriented to the season at hand and even shop for food that is a match to the season. Be a part of it rather than on the outside looking in.

### **KNOW YOURSELF**

If you are simply not feeling better, getting help is a good option. Outpatient programs, support groups and faith-based help are plentiful. Find what will create comfort and peace for you when seasonal changes make life seem difficult.

Visit [Facebook.com/boimagazine](https://www.facebook.com/boimagazine), and let us know how you're making the season work for you, we'd love to hear how you're doing!

- Dr. Charla Waxman



# IN CONCERT

## JORGE SUAREZ "OUT 'N' ABOUT" COLUMN

by Jorge Suarez

**There are nights when you walk into a venue expecting a concert... and instead, you get something far more meaningful.** That's exactly what unfolded when Rick Wakeman took the stage alongside his son, Oliver Wakeman, for an intimate performance billed simply as Wakeman and Son.

The setup alone told the story, two keyboards, a piano, and nothing else. No band, no backing tracks, no distractions. Just father and son, seated side by side, inviting the audience into a space that felt less like a theater and more like a shared moment in time. What followed wasn't your typical concert, it was a conversation, a reflection, and a musical journey all wrapped into one.

To truly appreciate the evening, you have to understand the legacy behind it. **Rick Wakeman** is not just a keyboard player, he's one of the architects of progressive rock. His work with **Yes** helped define an era, with albums like **Fragile** and **Close to the Edge** pushing musical boundaries in ways that still resonate today. His solo career only expanded that vision, delivering ambitious concept albums like **The Six Wives of Henry VIII** and **Journey to the Centre of the Earth**, projects that blended rock, classical music, and storytelling into something entirely his own.

But on this night, there were no capes, no grand staging, no full orchestras, just Rick, the storyteller. He shared memories from the road, moments of humor, and reflections that only come from decades of living inside the music. It was raw, it was honest, and it brought a different kind of appreciation for everything he's accomplished.

Alongside him, **Oliver Wakeman** proved he's far more than "Rick's son." A seasoned musician in his own right, Oliver has built an impressive resume, including collaborations with **Steve Howe** and even stepping into the extended **Yes** family himself. His playing is precise, tasteful, and deeply musical, but what stood out most was the connection between the two. There was a natural rhythm between them, not just musically, but personally.

Lighthearted exchanges, shared laughs, and subtle nods of respect created a dynamic that felt authentic and unforced.

The music itself came in waves, familiar themes reimagined, classical passages woven into rock sensibilities, and moments where the two keyboards seemed to speak to each other. Included in this post are memories and experiences shared, as well as a vaudeville ditty. Not to insult but it took me back to an earlier time.

What made the night truly special was its simplicity!



In an era where concerts often rely on spectacle, this performance reminded everyone in the room that great music doesn't need much to leave an impact. It just needs honesty, experience, and a willingness to share something real. As for Wakeman and Son, this doesn't feel like a one-time collaboration. One that trades arena-sized productions for intimate storytelling, and technical brilliance for human connection.

If this tour continues, and it certainly feels like it will, it's something fans won't want to miss. Sometimes the best shows aren't about how loud they are or how many people are on stage... they're about the stories, the moments, and the connection you carry with you when the lights come up.

**Visit Out N About FB Group for additional pics and videos. Go to [boiMAG.com](http://boiMAG.com) for direct link.**

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# COMMENTARY UNCENSORED

by: Screamin' Rachael  
*Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon,  
sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good measure.*

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boiMAGazine



## WINTER MUSIC CONFERENCE IN MIAMI BROUGHT THE HEAT!

Wow! I gotta say I've been living the dream! Cannes, France for MIDEM and then Winter Music Conference in Miami. You can read about MIDEM online in the last couple of issues, but right now I'm bringing you the Miami HEAT!

**For a number of years, including last year, WMC was a real snooze! That is on the conference and business side... the music and clubs are always jumping! But this year? ...Everything shifted.**

From the minute you walked in the door, it was new, it was fresh. Most of that had to do with the setting at the Kimpton EPIC Hotel.

It was modern, elevated, right on the water, and a completely different feel from the old Miami conference scene.



Seeing **Danny Tenaglia** was a standout, a true legend and a good friend. The rooftop pool deck set the tone immediately.

DJs playing pool-side, people actually connecting, that perfect blend of music and business without it feeling forced. The hotel restaurant, and bar carried that same energy, simple, sharp, and exactly what the conference needed.

One of the moments that really stood out was being welcomed

**David Ireland.** David comes from a strong publishing and media background and has been deeply involved in electronic music culture, helping reshape and reposition WMC into what it is now. The way he welcomed me-in mattered, and that set the tone for the evening.

This year's conference also had a stronger promotional and communications presence behind it, working closely with



David to help bring WMC back into something that matters, including **Justin Kleinfeld** of Rephiektr, who played a key role in rebuilding the energy and visibility around the conference. He was also involved in promoting the music awards surrounding Miami Music Week, a long-standing part of the conference.

From there, everything flowed naturally. I was there with my team, including **Paul Donavan** and **Michael Hayley** of Liquid Entertainment. Paul Donavan is also the brother of the late **Matt Donovan**, an incredible musician, writer, and producer who worked closely with me at Trax Records and helped keep everything going during the pandemic with his guitar playing.

>>> **MORE Uncensored** >>>

# UNCENSORED

>>> *Continued* >>>

Having that connection there, in the room, meant something to me. The room itself was filled with real players, not just people, but the platforms shaping the industry right now. TikTok was there, along with distribution, tech, and legal, the full ecosystem of how music moves today. And right there in the middle of it, was Trax Records. Not just present, a focal point.

But what really stood out this year? The women. There were so many talented female DJs in that room, and so many of them came up to me just to connect, not in a formal way, just real recognition and excitement. Because they understood something immediately: There is no one else doing what I'm doing. Not like this. I'm not just a DJ, not just an artist, and not just a label owner. I'm all of it, out here scouting talent, breaking records, and shaping what's next through Trax Records. That's the core. That instinct.



That ear. And when those women came up to me, I felt it.

It was about seeing a path that wasn't visible... and now I've made it visible. I've given them something real to follow. Not just talk, a working example. And then the following night, there was a completely different kind of moment, the **Sony-Orchard** party at **Wynwood Studios**. This wasn't just another event, this was industry at the highest level. Invite-only, the right people in the room, and a different kind of energy. You could feel immediately that this was where real conversations were happening, artists, managers, labels, all moving with purpose.



And at the center of that world is **Colleen Theis**. I've built a strong relationship with Colleen over the years, and that means a lot to me. The Orchard has been distributing Trax Records for a number of years, and through the good times and the challenging ones, she has been consistent. She's been a role model, and a friend. And on a personal level, she has always shown me real respect for what I do.

She's told me many times how much she values my work and how I stand out as a talent. She's seen me perform, she knows me, and that kind of recognition means something. Even at the party, in the middle of everything, she was gracious and present, offering to get me a drink, and actually doing it!

As President and COO of The Orchard, part of Sony Music, she operates at the highest level of the global music business.

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This is a company working behind the scenes on a massive scale, helping deliver music worldwide, including being part of the distribution network behind artists like Bad Bunny. But what stands out to me isn't just the scale, it's the way she leads within it. Because when you look at the full picture of this week, from the women DJs stepping forward, to the next generation finding their voice, ...and then you look at someone like Colleen at the executive level.

You see it clearly: Women are not just part of this industry anymore, they are shaping it at every level. And I'm proud to be part of that. Because I've lived it from the ground up, out here finding, and building what's next.

For a long time, that path wasn't visible, but now it is. And I know that what I've done has helped make it visible for other women coming up, not just to be in the room, but to run the room. Because at the end of the day, there is only one **Screamin' Rachael**, ...and I opened a door, that wasn't there before!



*The Many Faces of Alan Israel*

**Afrika Bambaataa, RIP dear friend, I am saddened by the passing a TRUE FRIEND a King and Hip Hop Legend.** Thank you for all the good times we had making music and being there whenever I needed you.

What you did to build the foundation of Hip Hop and coming up with the idea of Hip House one day years ago, always was ground breaking and culture building!

When no one knew who I was you always gave me love and respect. Most of all you believed in me and were truly a friend, mentor and teacher!

*- Rachael Cain*

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HALL OF FAME



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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BRANDON JOHNSON  
MAYOR

November 6, 2025

Mike A. Macharello  
Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame  
2025 Inductee



Dear Mike:

On behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to extend heartfelt congratulations to you on your induction into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Your induction reflects our city's pride in your efforts and our thanks for your accomplishments.

As a prominent figure in the Chicago's House Music scene, you have greatly contributed to the LGBTQ+ community through your inclusive Circuit Night Club, boiMagazine, and the Chicago Arts Center. I have no doubt your work will inform and inspire the next generation of leaders and change-agents.

I am proud to welcome you to this distinguished Hall of Fame class. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayor

For those who missed the Nov 2025 Uncensored, the Chicago History Museum hosted The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. I attended the induction ceremony that was held in partnership with the City of Chicago, Mayor Brandon Johnson, and Chairman and Commissioner Nancy Andrade. The star-studded event proved that our city is on the vanguard of the movement. The Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame remains the only municipally sponsored institution of its kind in the nation.

As an invited guest to this year's ceremony, I'm proud to announce that **boiMAGazine's** own **Mike Macharello** (aka Mike at Night) was a 2025 inductee. Mike was recognized for his many contributions to the alternative lifestyle community, including his years as owner of **Circuit Night Club**, and his illustrious career as a DJ, including his time as "Hot-Mix Master Mixer" on Chicago radio stations **WGCI, WBMX, WVON, WDAI, & WXFM**.

What surprised Mike the most, was that the Hall of Fame not only recognized, but highlighted his legacy and prominence in the Chicago's House Music scene. All I can say is: it's about time! I've known that all along. But. I'm sorry to say that there are people with an agenda who try to erase the fact that white contributors were also part of the House Music



revolution in Chicago, and Macharello was there from the very beginning. His record pool, **Let's Dance**, was instrumental in spreading the sound across the nation, and even **Larry Sherman**, the owner of the legendary south-side **Precision Pressing Plant**, and founder of **Trax Records**, depended on his services. His label, **Play House Records** (PHR), was a standout in the scene, and he

has recently reignited it by re-mastering, digitizing and releasing PHR classics, along with exciting new material exclusively on [www.PlayHouseRecords.Bandcamp.com](http://www.PlayHouseRecords.Bandcamp.com).

Last year marked the 40 years of House Music. Trax Records celebrated with the "first-ever" Trax-Fest. The Warehouse gained landmark status. These are just a few important milestones that were celebrated on the 40th anniversary of House!

■ ■ ■ MEGA DATA CENTERS!

# TECH TRENDS

by Mike At Night, Jack Sontos &amp; boiBOT ■ ■ ■

## BIG-BOOM: BUILDING DATA CENTERS IN OUR BACK YARDS

### HUGE DATA CENTERS DAMN THE HEAT, POWER THE CHEAP!

**With the big-boom of building huge data centers, which consume massive amounts of water and energy to cool these mega-centers, I wondered why don't they just build the data centers underground, or in cold places? After a "bit" of research, the answer is somewhat complicated, but it all comes down to one thing: MONEY!**

Many cold places look attractive for free cooling, but practical, economic, and technical constraints usually make them worse than they seem. Successful data center siting balances cooling efficiency with power availability, latency, reliability, and operational costs, not just outdoor temperature.

Emerging data centers are rarely built underground, primarily due to high construction costs, limited expansion flexibility, and complex ventilation requirements. While underground locations offer natural cooling, building above ground allows for faster, cheaper construction, easier access to power, and better airflow management to handle extreme heat loads from modern AI servers. Key reasons for avoiding underground construction include:

#### **Construction Complexity & Cost:**

Digging deep, reinforced facilities is significantly more expensive and time-consuming than building on the surface.

#### **Expansion Challenges:**

Data centers need to scale rapidly. Expanding an underground facility is difficult and expensive compared to adding new, modular buildings on the surface.



#### **HVAC Complexity:**

While the earth is cooler, it does not remove the massive heat generated by high-density computing. Underground sites require complex, expensive ventilation systems for exhaust and air supply.

#### **Water Infiltration and Humidity:**

Managing groundwater infiltration and maintaining strict humidity levels is more complex underground, increasing risks to equipment.

>>> **MORE Tech Trends** >>>

# SIDEBAR

## REASONS WHY “OPEN THE WINDOWS” ISN’T VIABLE:

Air quality and particulate contamination. Outdoor air contains dust, pollen, soot, salt (near coasts), and biological material that will foul servers and filters rapidly. Filtration required for acceptable failure rates adds cost, pressure drop, and maintenance, negating the “free” advantage.

Cold regions often have episodic pollution (wood smoke, industrial output, dust storms) and seasonal pollen events.

Humidity and condensation risk. Cold air is very dry; bringing it indoors can over-dry equipment or require humidification to keep static discharge and bearing/seal limits safe.

Rapid temperature swings can cause condensation on electronics when warm, moist indoor air meets cold surfaces, a reliability hazard.

Extreme cold and thermal cycling. Very low ambient temperatures (< -20 °C) require warming or controlled ramps for hardware, batteries, and lubricants. Servers and storage have operating-temperature limits.

Repeated thermal cycling shortens component life and increases failure rates. Reliability, redundancy, and maintenance access. Data centers need reliable power, fiber connectivity, and staff access year-round. Remote, very cold locations often lack resilient grids, fiber routes, roads, and emergency services, increasing total cost of ownership.

Snow, ice, and storms complicate maintenance, make emergency repairs slow, and risk service interruptions.

Energy and infrastructure tradeoffs. Even if cooling energy drops, other costs rise: heating office space, preventing freeze in water-cooling loops, preheating outside air handling units, and maintaining generators/batteries in cold.

Building and operating infrastructure to survive heavy snow/ice (structural loads, heated rooftops, de-icing) adds capital expense.

Network latency and localization. Major cloud customers and content distribution require low-latency links to population centers. Placing large facilities far from users increases latency, transit costs, and peering complexity.

Fiber routes to truly remote cold locations are expensive or nonexistent.

Security, regulatory, and workforce issues. Staffing and retaining skilled operations teams is harder in remote or extreme climates; labor costs and rotation logistics rise.

Local permitting, environmental rules, and land-use constraints can block large builds.

Environmental impacts and sustainability trade-offs. Using outdoor air must be done carefully to avoid local ecological impacts (e.g., drawing in wildlife, affecting microclimates).

Some cold sites require diesel backup for long dark winters or remote grid vulnerabilities, which can worsen carbon footprint.

## COLD-AIR TECHNIQUE, BUT IN A MANAGED WAY

Economizers and free-cooling systems are common: controlled intake of filtered outside air or indirect air-to-air/air-to-water heat exchangers that prevent contamination and humidity problems.

Colocation and hyperscalers choose temperate-cold locations (Nordic countries, Pacific Northwest, parts of Canada) with good fiber, stable grids, and moderate cold where free cooling is efficient without extreme exposure.

Immersion cooling, warm-water loops, and waste-heat reuse are alternatives that reduce reliance on ambient air and work in many climates.

## REAL-WORLD APPROACH

Select sites with a balance: cool climate + reliable power + fiber + workforce + regulatory friendliness.

Use filtered, measured economizers or indirect free-cooling heat exchangers to get outdoor-air benefits without contamination or condensation.

Design for redundancy, freeze protection, humidification control, and planned maintenance in winter conditions.

Consider liquid cooling or waste-heat capture where air cooling is inefficient or risky.

A large, modern house at night with a lightning bolt in the sky and a Generac generator in the yard. The house is illuminated from within, showing a balcony and a dining area. The generator is white and has the Generac logo on it.

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**Accessibility and Maintenance:**

Maintenance, equipment updates, and staff access are less efficient, as transporting large hardware components requires specialized logistics.

none of their skilled workers wanted to live in permanent winter conditions, so the concept was abandoned except for maybe two datacenters that still exist in the snow regions. Which I think is just an excuse, because there are plenty of people that could be trained that would be happy to get tech-job in a cold place!



While some specialized, smaller data centers use abandoned mines for natural climate control, the current trend for hyperscale data centers emphasizes rapid, large-scale deployment on the surface.

**SO WHY DON'T THEY JUST PUT DATA CENTERS IN REALLY COLD PLACES SO THEY CAN JUST OPEN THE WINDOWS TO COOL THE DATA CENTERS?**

We've found that it has already been tried, but then when they solve the cooling problem, then they get a host of other problems that are worse, including that they couldn't fully staff the data center, because

However, that wasn't the only issue. A/C isn't the only thing data centers need, they also need cheap electricity and network connections. It costs much more to run generators than get municipal power, and it costs a lot to get high speed fiber optic backbone cables anywhere they aren't already.

The real reason? The best place for data centers these days is where power is nuclear or hydro-electric or otherwise not expensive, easy to get backbone cables to them, and easy to get skilled workers to show up for work. Our fair city sits on the East coast's internet backbone between two nuclear plants, and there are lots of huge data centers there and more are being built.



# Upcoming Festivals

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## CHICAGO BLUES FESTIVAL

**June 4 - June 7**

If you're a fan of the blues, enjoy a night of Blues with Macie Staples and some of the biggest names in the business. This is a **FREE** Festival, and with the city skyline as a view, it doesn't get much better than that!

## CHICAGO RIBFEST

**June 5-7**

Satisfy your BBQ cravings at Chicago Ribfest, a summer staple featuring top-tier grill masters, live music, and whiskey tastings. It's a high-energy local favorite that combines incredible food with a vibrant festival atmosphere, making it a must-visit for any fan of outdoor celebrations. And it's nearby!



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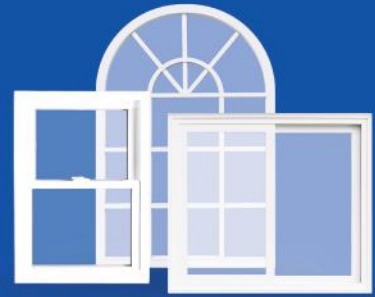
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