

GIORGIO MORODER
RETURNS

MAY 2015 • ISSUE # 45



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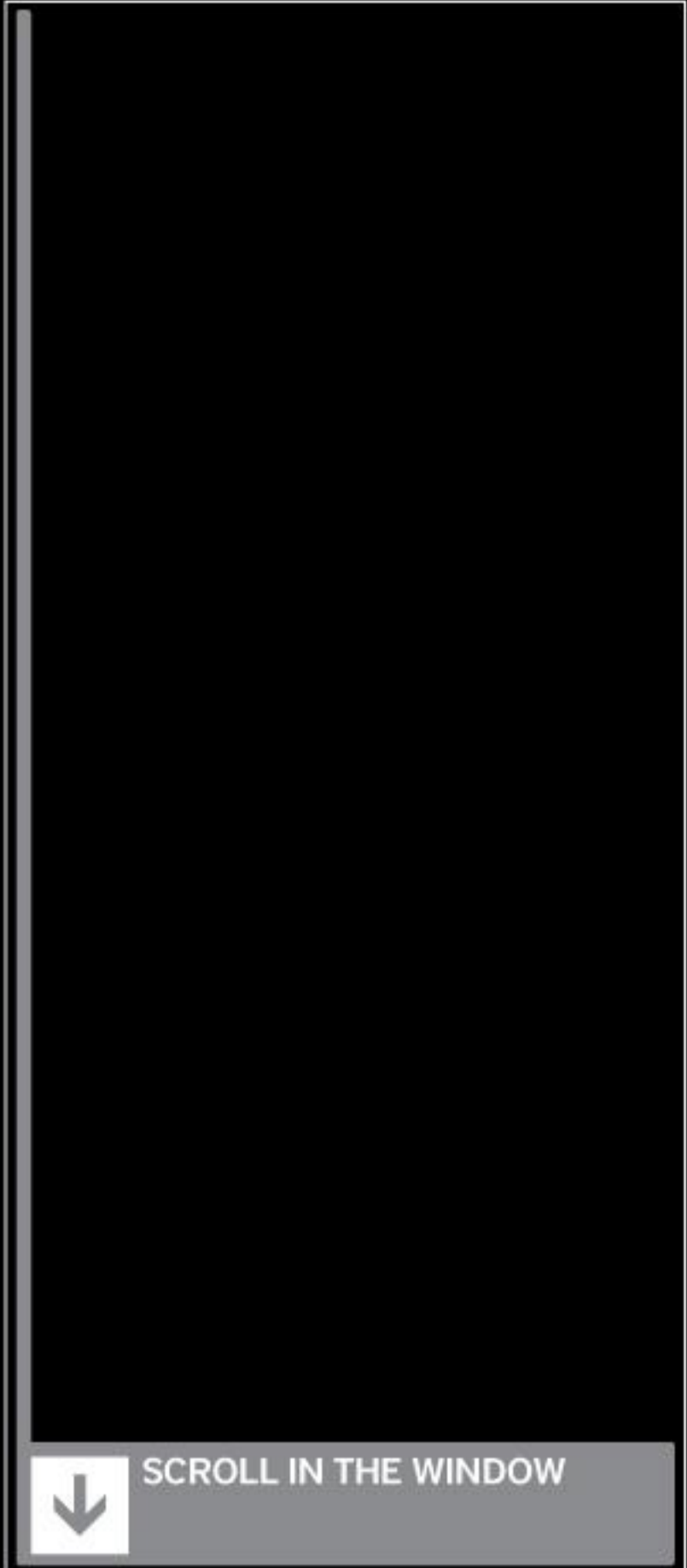
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- 2 - 10 Independence 2015
- 3 - 5 Independence Day Weekend
- 4 July 4th Parade and Fireworks - 11am parade, fireworks at dusk
- 11 - 19 Bear Week
- 21 - 25 Girl Splash
- 25 - 8/1 20th Annual Family Week

AUGUST

- 13 & 17 11th Annual Provincetown Jazz Festival
- 15 - 21 Carnival Week
- 20 37th Annual Carnival Parade

SEPTEMBER

- 14 - 20 Afterglow Alternative Performance Arts
- 18 - 20 National Gay Pilots Association Cape Cod Classic
- 18 - 20 10th Annual Kate Clinton Classic
- Women's Flag Football Tournament

OCTOBER

- 1 - 4 Mates Leather Weekend
- 12 - 18 31st Annual Women's Week
- 18 - 25 Fantasia Fair
- 29 - 11/1 Halloween/Spooky Bear Weekend

NOVEMBER

- 20 - 22 Mr. New England Leather
- 25 Lighting of the Pilgrim Monument
- 26 - 30 Thanksgiving Day Weekend

DECEMBER

- 4 - 6 Holly Folly
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

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ARTS

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TUNAGE

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THE LOOK

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WANDERLUST

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EVENTS



FIT

WHAT'S UP WITH SUPPLEMENTS?



FEATURE

SERVICE AND ADVOCACY FOR LGBT ELDERS



CHATTER

MAX VON ESSEN: GAY AND TAKING ON A GERSHWIN CLASSIC



PLUGGED-IN

CHECK OUT THESE FOUR LIFE-SIMPLIFYING GADGETS



NATION

THE BOOMING GAY SENIOR HOUSING MARKET

edge masthead

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What Sup?

There's no sugarcoating this month's subject: supplements. The question of whether the products sold in this multibillion-dollar industry work or not has no easy answer. There are those who swear by them, others who would rather die than take them and those who fall into a somewhat grayer area. The only incontrovertible truth is that supplements are going nowhere. As long as people train and strive for perfection, the shelves of GNC and Vitamin Shoppe will be filled with supplements.



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PHOTO: PATRICK LENTZ

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 MATTHEW WEXLER

NAMED BY EDGE AS ONE OF 2015'S "SEVEN GAY WONDERS OF THE WORLD," HOUSTON IS MAKING ITS MARK AS A GO-TO DESTINATION FOR THOSE SEEKING CULTURE, OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, SOPHISTICATED (AND DOWN AND DIRTY) DINING, AS WELL AS AN INCLUSIVE LGBT SCENE.

ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE QUESTIONS about Houston's hospitality toward LGBT visitors wasn't reading the newspapers in April. Just last month a state district judge dismissed a court challenge to Houston's new protections for gay and transgender citizens. The city's openly lesbian mayor, Annise Parker, declared the ruling "a great victory" and "a great day for civil rights in Houston."

We hit the ground in H-Town to unearth our favorite picks and lassoed local LGBT leaders and entrepreneurs for an insider's perspective. But don't take our word for it – head to Houston and discover your own Texas two-step.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Despite that Houston is one of the country's fastest-growing cities (currently ranked No. 4 in population according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 report), it also has the most parkland acreage. Slather on some sunscreen and discover the nearly 50,000 acres of outdoor space.

BUFFALO BAYOU

While East Coasters boast of the High Line and Boston Common, and West Coasters own bragging rights to Griffith Park and Golden Gate Park, they've got heavy competition with the redevelopment of Buffalo Bayou Park, a 10-mile stretch comprising 160 acres of green space from Shepherd Drive to the Port of Houston Turning Basin. The \$58 million initiative is breathing new life into the area with the implementation of extensive hiking and biking trails, permanent and temporary art installations, a dog park, a skate park, cultural programming, and more. Visitors can hop on a pontoon for a leisurely ride, or for a more vigorous viewing, rent a B-cycle as part of the city's newly initiated bike-sharing program.

DISCOVERY GREEN

Once home to high-end residences in the late 19th century, then bulldozed into a parking lot a century later, Discovery Green is the epitome of how strategic urban development can transform a city. The 12-acre park adjacent to the convention center opened seven years ago at a staggering cost of \$187 million to acquire the land then build and landscape the project. But the gamble paid off, and the park claims it has served as a catalyst for \$625 million in downtown development. For visitors, the park offers more than 500 free programs a year, including Land Rover Houston Central's Rainbow on the Green event on June 12. Or create your own Pride picnic with delectables from nearby Phoenicia Specialty Foods, a spectacular Lebanese market featuring prepared foods and homemade breads.



LOCAL INTEL:

**BARRY
MANDEL**

President and Park
Director, Discovery
Green



“Houston has never been more committed to green space, and Houstonians never more interested in getting outdoors, than we are today. When Discovery Green opened in 2008, the idea of a green public gathering place in Houston’s core was unprecedented (and challenged). But with 7 million visitors in seven years, it’s proven a success. Today, thanks in large part to the model Discovery Green established, we are seeing a renaissance of — and demand for — urban park development. With the development of Market Square Park, Buffalo Bayou Partnership’s Buffalo Bayou Park, and the Houston Parks Board’s Bayou Greenways 2020 Initiative, more and more Houstonians are finding places to recreate outdoors, near where they live and work.”

CULTURE COLLISION

Houston boasts 20 museums all within walking distance of one another, but that only scratches the surface of its cultural impact. The city is also home to the Alley Theatre, Houston Ballet, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, and a number of other performance companies and venues. The Menil Collection, housed in a 30,000-square-foot Renzo Piano-designed gallery flooded with natural light, is an absolute must-see.

The Menil Collection

this page:
The Menil Collection



HERE'S WHAT IS HOT WHEN THE SUN SETS IN HOUSTON THIS SUMMER AND FALL:

MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE

Head to Hermann Park for free (that's right, *free*) entertainment all summer long, where this season's lineup includes Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, outdoor movie screenings, *Smokey Joe's Café*, and Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, plus much more.

HOUSTON FINE ART FAIR

(September 9-12); **Texas Contemporary** (October 1-4) – Everything's bigger in Texas, including the art. Houston hosts not one but two art fairs, where collectors and enthusiasts gather from around the world to view the latest in contemporary art and craft.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMARIE

(July 17-August 29) – For a true Houstonian experience, don't miss the 18th installment of Tamarie Cooper's musical comedy extravaganza, which promises to poke fun at schoolyard bullies, John Hughes movies, and standardized testing.

LOCAL INTEL:

KENNETH FRANCO

Advancement and
Digital Marketing
Manager, Houston
Arts Alliance

“What I find most captivating about Houston is this egalitarian sense of cultural wealth. Creative expression is valued. Access to the arts is viewed as essential. Our public spaces are viewed as vital. As a result of this, our cultural capital is well supported, visible and of immense importance to Houstonians! It's in our city's identity to value public art, public spaces, diversity and cultural expression. In tandem with a bit of business-savvy, we believe in investing (and promoting sustainability) in our arts and cultural organizations. Houston's elected officials, foundations and citizens champion the arts as essential to not only Houston's quality of life, but also Houston's future as an international city.”



BIG BITES

Forget Copenhagen – no more talk about Noma! Houston has skewered itself a position as a major food hub. But don't just listen to us. Food & Wine named Houston the "newest capital of great food" in 2013, the same year that Tasting Table named it the most exciting food city in the United States. We couldn't agree more. While you'll find plenty of innovative dishes from both established as well as up-and-coming chefs, barbecue still reigns supreme. Be sure to make a pit stop at Goode Co. Barbeque, which has been mesquite-smoking ribs, sausages and brisket since 1977. Cap off the night with wine or whiskey at Public Services, a soaring bar steeped in history that has set up shop in downtown's Old Cotton Exchange Building.



LOCAL INTEL!
HE SAID/
SHE SAID

Houston is blessed with two culinary powerhouses that also happen to be part of the LGBT landscape. Consider adding their restaurants to your dining itinerary, along with their insider recommendations.

GREG MARTIN, CHEF PROPRIETOR, BISTRO MENIL

"There is one word to describe not just Houston's culinary scene but the community – diverse. Other cities tout their multiculturalism, but Houston embodies it. Houston is a global city, home to Mexican, Salvadorian, Argentinean Peruvian and every Asian culture, and that's reflected in the availability of nearly any cuisine one could think of."

Nestled in the shadow of the Menil Collection, Greg Martin's European-inspired menu draws from his global travels with heavy nods toward French and Mediterranean influences. Eggplant "fries" have become a quick favorite with regulars, while an assortment of pizzas make way for such hearty entrees as porchetta and cassoulet. He's implemented a cask wine program after experiencing the eco-friendly system in Rome.

Martin's personal picks are eclectic and represent the diverse ethnic cuisines available around town. For scorching Sichuan, head to Mala Sichuan Bistro. If you're craving authentic Lebanese, Aladdin delivers a magic carpet of kibbie, lahmugen and other Mediterranean delicacies. And Martin stands behind The Original Ninfa's on Navigation for authentic Mexican fare that has been satisfying Houstonians since 1973.





MONICA POPE, CHEF/RESTAURATEUR, SPARROW BAR + COOKSHOP, BEAVER'S

"I think the H-Town culinary scene has really come along in the last few years. I love to support local chefs doing local food. I love to run into them at the farmers market!"

Monica Pope has been an integral part of Houston's restaurant scene since opening her first establishment in 1992. For casual fare and "friendly" and "frisky" cocktails, head to Beaver's, which retains its original name from when the building was used as the neighborhood icehouse. For global cuisine in a loft-like, industrial setting, Sparrow Bar + Cookshop delivers a range of small dishes, such as salmon sashimi tempura and curried seafood stew, alongside heartier fare like Thai-styled mushroom stroganoff and crispy flattened chicken. If you're addicted to craft cocktails, the revolving "12-step" list runs the gamut from a garden gin-and-tonic to a Sazerac slushie.

Pope tips her hat to other local chefs that are embracing the local food movement, including Kevin Naderi, whose Asian-inspired Lillo & Ella offers one of the best brunches in town. For salumi and charcuterie, she suggests Revival Market, and in the spirit of Houstonian entrepreneurship, Weights + Measures combines a restaurant, bakeshop and bar in a massive 5,000-square-foot industrial setting and features locally roasted Amaya coffee.



GET YOUR GAY ON

Houston's gay nightlife scene thrives in the Montrose neighborhood, where you'll find more than a dozen bars and nightclubs featuring go-go boys, dancing, outdoor patios, beer blasts and get this – gays, lesbians and straight people all hanging out together. The inclusive, friendly vibe is due in large part to the recent efforts of Lambda NextGen, Houston's first LGBTQA young professionals network.



LOCAL INTEL!

KIM COOK

Lambda NextGen
Board Member and
Social Director



“Lambda NextGen is currently organizing a LGBT night out at the ballpark in collaboration with the Montrose Softball League Association for May 16. This event is open to the public, and both organizations want to provide the greater LGBT Houston community the opportunity to come together and support the Astros. Also in May, Lambda members will be volunteering for the Buffalo Bayou Partnership by planting trees along the bayou. Lastly, Lambda NextGen is also organizing a “Queers & Beers” event and an end-of-the-year banquet. Both events will raise money for specific local Houston charities.”

Who better to rely on for nightlife recommendations than Kim Cook? Her tips for tapping into Houston’s nightlife include Pearl Lounge, where Texas beers and house-made sangria make perfect bedfellows with the large outdoor space; South Beach for high energy and late-night dancing; and Little Woodrow’s to catch the latest Astros game (or George County Sports Bar to draft your own pitcher or catcher).



RESOURCE GUIDE



Visit Houston

visithoustontexas.com

Goode Co. Barbeque

goodecompany.com

My Gay Houston

mygayhouston.com

Public Services Wine & Whiskey

publicservicesbar.com

Buffalo Bayou

buffalobayou.org

Bistro Menil

bistromenil.com

Discovery Green

discoverygreen.com

Beaver's

beavershouston.com

Miller Outdoor Theatre

milleroutdoortheatre.com

Sparrow Bar + Cookshop

sparrowhouston.com

Houston Fine Art Fair

houstonfineartfair.com

Pearl Bar

pearlhouston.com

Texas Contemporary

txcontemporary.com

South Beach

southbeachthenightclub.com

Catastrophic Theatre

catastrophictheatre.com

Little Woodrow's

littlewoodrows.com

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RETURN VISIT

CHITA RIVERA
ROGER REES

The **VISIT**
A NEW MUSICAL



AT 82 YEARS YOUNG, CHITA RIVERA PREPARES FOR THE LONG-AWAITED BROADWAY DEBUT OF KANDER AND EBB'S *THE VISIT*

TO SAY THAT Dolores Conchita Figueroa del Rivero – the legendary actress lovingly known as Chita Rivera – has made every moment of her 82 years count is a gross understatement. A dancer from the age of 15 in her native Washington D.C., Rivera has spent close to 65 years entertaining audiences on film and television, in cabaret and, most notably, on the Great White Way, where she has appeared in more than 15 Broadway shows, earning Tony Award nominations for nine of them and winning for *The Rink* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. She also has earned two of the nation's most coveted awards, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Kennedy Center Honor, becoming the first person of Puerto Rican descent to receive the latter.

From the creators of *CABARET*, *CHICAGO* and *KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN*



A woman of great heart, enormous discipline and remarkable passion, Rivera is no stranger to overcoming obstacles, both physical and emotional, yet she doesn't let anything break her spirit. Perhaps there's no greater example of her tenacity than *The Visit*, her newest Broadway musical featuring a score by dear friends John Kander and the late Fred Ebb and a book by the great Terrence McNally. Rivera has soldiered on with this project for 15 years, through a handful of less-than-successful out-of-town try-outs and changes in leading men and directors, never letting it out of her grasp.

Based on the famed 1959 play by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, *The Visit* features Rivera as the world's richest woman, Claire Zachnassian, who returns to her impoverished hometown to find her lost teenage love and with a chilling proposition for the desperate villagers. Despite her ultimately grotesque request, Rivera, who has played plenty of strong women in her time, believes audiences will see themselves in the lady she portrays nightly on the stage of the Lyceum Theatre.

"I think that Claire represents most people, depending on how far they're willing to go to get what they want," says Rivera, with a gleam in her eye. "And I love that Claire tells the truth. She's only interested in telling the truth. If something happens, then something happens. She is also an extremely colorful and very passionate woman, which is something I love to play."

The show is considered a tough sell commercially in large part due to its demanding subject matter, but for



"I LOVE THAT CLAIRE TELLS THE TRUTH. SHE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN TELLING THE TRUTH. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, THEN SOMETHING HAPPENS. SHE IS ALSO AN EXTREMELY COLORFUL AND VERY PASSIONATE WOMAN, WHICH IS SOMETHING I LOVE TO PLAY."



many people, it will rank as a must-see for Rivera's presence. "I always knew we would be doing *The Visit* on Broadway with Chita Rivera starring in it. I just wasn't sure when," admits the show's lead producer, Tom Kirdahy (who is also McNally's husband). "I've been more focused on doing this for Chita than for anyone else, even Terrence. I felt if the world didn't see this performance, it would be robbed of something important — that it would be depriving the world of one of our greatest artists. Over the past few years, I would call her every few months just to check in with her, to make sure she was still on board, and she would calm me down. She would always say, 'It's going to happen someday, it will just happen at the right time.' And today is the right time!"

As suspected, Rivera earned a tenth Tony nomination for her performance. And industry insiders suspect that *The Visit* could complete her Tony hat trick. But an-

other golden statuette is the last thing on her mind. "My first thought when I get on stage every night is, How lucky am I to be here and still kick up my leg!" she exclaims. "I am also so grateful that I finally have the opportunity to present this show to an audience that I think will really enjoy this story. It's truly a love story, even if it's a European love story. And that's what great theater is about: the chance to tell wonderful stories."

The fact that she again gets to sing the music of Kander and Ebb (including the glorious ballad "Love and Love Alone") may be the icing on the cake. "To have been given this gift at this time of my life by John and Freddie, especially after they already gave me so many others, like *Chicago* and *Spider Woman*, is just incredible," she adds. "And to have John Doyle as my director and Roger Rees as my co-star — this is doing theater the way I remember it."

Unsurprisingly, Rivera has inspired nothing but love and admiration in her newest collaborators. "What I really love about this production is that we've always known that Chita can sing and dance, and that



she's a brilliant musical theater actress, but this performance proves she's a proper actress," says Kirdahy. "She caresses the language in a way that's so ferocious and so thrilling. I think that she and Roger could probably just have done this as a straight play. He brings so much sex and passion to the material. But I do love that the music makes the storytelling even more subversive. They're singing about love or greed in a way we're not used to."

Equally effusive is Doyle, the Scottish-born director who first helmed the show (with Rivera and Rees) last summer at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts. "The honor has been completely mine, being in the same room with Chita for the past few months," he says. "When Tom Kirdahy approached me on an airplane about doing this show, and as soon as I read the script and realized it would mean directing Chita, all I could say was, 'Yes, please.' "

Even Rees, a fellow Tony winner, is a bit awestruck. "I've adored Chita all my life, and now that we're working together, I've

discovered what an honest and disciplined performer she is! But what's better is not only do I like her, but she likes me. We make each other laugh. I'm so pleased to have been invited to this party."

Rivera's contributions to the production extend beyond the footlights, notes co-star Jason Daniele. "Of course, Chita has the inside backstage story on everything, so it's a history lesson working with her," he notes. "But what I'm observing from Chita is that we all should be treated as equals, both as artists and as human beings. She reminds all of us that we can learn things from each other through our different stories."

And despite the enormous effort of a grueling eight shows a week, Rivera swears that Daniele and his castmates won't be the last to share in her wisdom and warmth – not if she has any say in the matter. "I am going to be kicking it until the end and on the way to heaven," Rivera tells me, grinning. "As long as there's a story to tell, a dance to dance, a song to sing, a communication to happen, I'll be doing that. To anyone who thinks this is my final act, I have only three words: No. No. No." **1**



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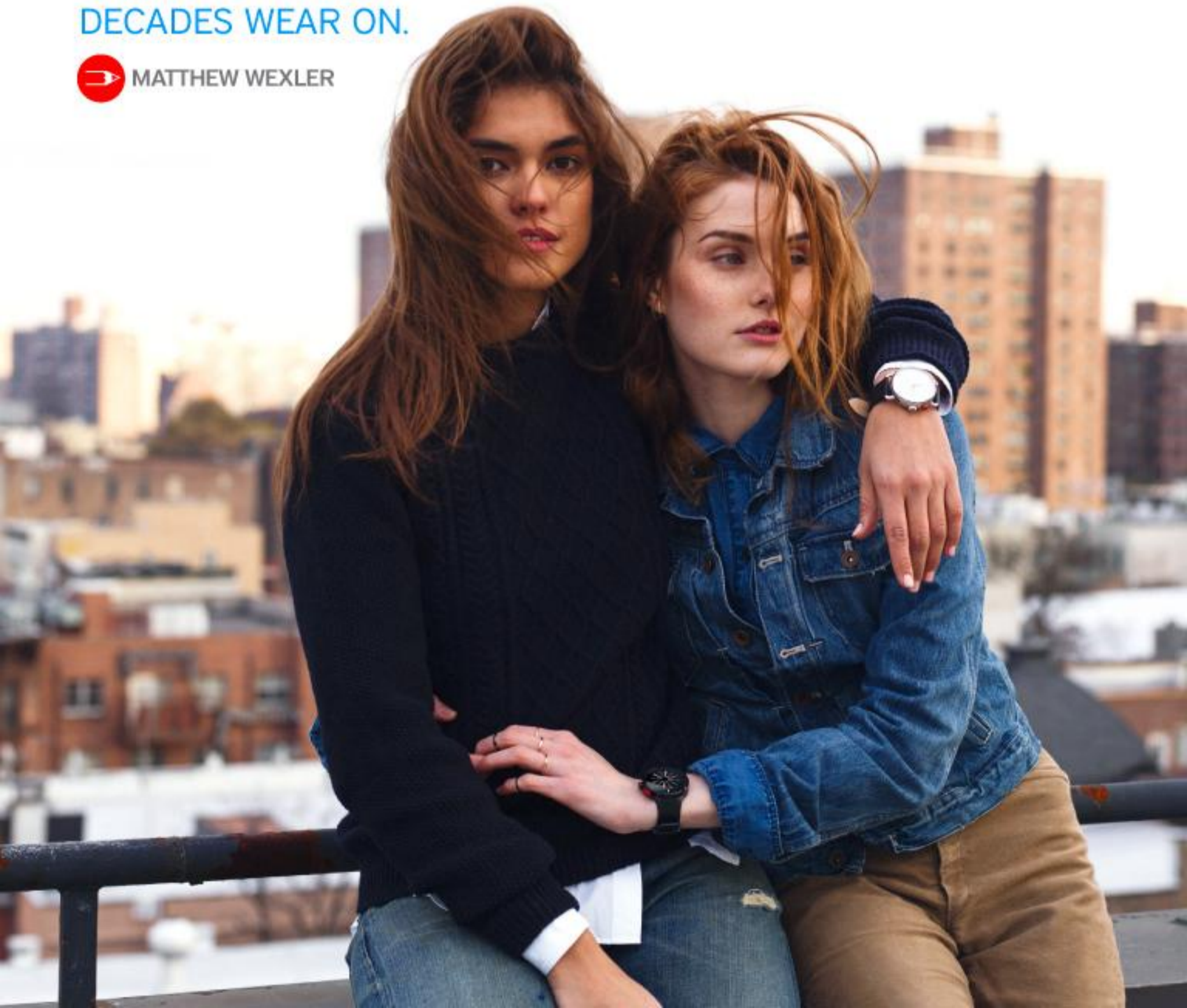


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MEAN YOU CAN'T
LOOK STYLISH AS THE
DECADES WEAR ON.



MATTHEW WEXLER





What Watch

Fusing minimalist elegance with a modern edge, What Watch is the brainchild of renowned Japanese artist and creative director Masashi Kawamura. At both times tech and fashion forward, What Watch offers a simpler more affordable alternative for those playing a “wait and see” game with Apple’s new smartwatch.

A smartphone app links to your What Watch via Bluetooth. This special feature allows users to capture prized moments by pressing the red button on the side of watch. “Timestamping” creates a unique e-ink mark on the watch face that represents the captured memory. Bluetooth technology is then used to send each captured moment to What’s signature app. The wearer can go back to each moment on his or her smartphone, adding photos, videos, and text details. The app creates a visual timeline of captured moments, mirroring the e-ink timestamps on the What Watch’s face.

Prices start at \$169.



What Watch



Detroit Watch Company

edge

THE LOOK

3 OF 7

Once a world leader in automotive manufacturing, Detroit more than any American city has felt the shifting sands of time. It is a city of invention and reinvention. The birth of the Detroit Watch Company in 2013 exemplifies the growing number of small businesses that are committed to invigorating the local economy while paying homage to the city's rich history of innovation.

Husband-and-wife team Patrick and Amy Ayoub meticulously oversee every detail, with assembly, casing and testing done locally in Detroit. The limited production ensures a collectible for generations to come, while the Japanese Miyota automatic movements (Swiss Sellita movements will be implemented this year) provide durability for everyday wear.

The latest designs include the 39mm Pontchartrain, named after Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit, the city's first permanent French settlement in 1701, as well as L'Horloge, French for "clock," named after the city's original clock tower dedicated in 1871.

Prices start at \$795.

**TAP A
LINK**
FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Detroit Watch Company



Garwood

Co-founders Michael Garwood and Morten Sorensen conceived of this all-wood watch company after a Las Vegas all-nighter, when all good ideas are born. Each design has its inspiration, including the original "35 Black," a tribute to a lucky spin on the roulette table. Japanese movement is housed in the American-designed casing with materials that include light maple sourced from New York as well as dark Indonesian sandalwood.

Affordably priced at \$159 each, the collection is an accessible way to add an unconventional material to your look and provides a stylish accessory whether paired with jeans and a T-shirt or a well-tailored suit.



Garwood





Meister

Want to be “master” of your own destiny? Do it in style with these innovative designs by Kingson Tse and Ryan Pietersz. The Los Angeles-based brand has been crafting stylish timepieces since 2009, combining premium materials like carbon fiber and stainless steel with rare leathers.

New and updated designs include the Ambassador Mark-II, which boasts a luxury sport-inspired design that’s perfect for the active guy ready to take off on a road trip; the Aviator, which now features a luxe leather crocodile band in black or brown; and the Ambassador, reimagined in four new color combinations, including a sleek royal blue and silver that offers a pop of color.

Prices start at \$225.

TAP A
LINK
FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Meister

Modify

Does your fashion sense have a short attention span? Modify Watches offer bold and colorful interchangeable timepieces with removable faces and mix-and-match straps, presenting a dizzying combination of custom combinations to match your ever-changing style.

New this year, Modify has launched custom "Mod" watchfaces, where you can create the ultimate customizable watch by uploading an image of a loved one, pet, logo, graphic or anything else that might make a statement. The proprietary molds ensure a secure fit with interchangeable bands, and don't be afraid to get a little wet, as the design is splash proof. If you're a watch-a-holic, consider Mod of the Month Club, where you purchase a subscription for as little as \$21 per month and receive a new classic or sporty style each month.

Prices vary, with custom watches starting at \$74.99.





Stauer

For luxury watches at below-market prices, Stauer is the go-to for fine craftsmanship. The retailer has sold more than a million watches in the past decade, developing a dedicated consumer base that recognizes the reputable brand purveyor of classic timepieces.

Recent finds include the Brava, inspired by midcentury design and featuring a rose gold-finished case and textured ivory dial; the Stratos, which offers aviator details, including the classic cockpit color scheme of white on black with red accent hands; and the Swiss Bienne, developed in collaboration with a fourth-generation Swiss watchmaker and featuring a brass and Super-LumiNova dial.

Prices vary.

TAP A LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stauer



Matthew Wexler is EDGE's style and travel editor. He doesn't wear a watch and is perpetually late. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram at @roodeloo.

Get Out in the Sun with Florida's Rainbow Calendar

Gay tourists from all over the world come to Florida to enjoy everything from parades to film festivals to rodeo events geared to the LGBT community. Here's a look at some highlights on the rainbow calendar:

Pride South Florida, Fort Lauderdale (early March): One of the largest Pride events in the state, this is a week-long extravaganza featuring local and national bands performing at an outdoor market featuring an array of food and cocktail booths and a large dance floor.

Winter Party Festival, Miami Beach (late February-early March): The prettiest people seem to turn up for this glamorous six-day party, which takes place during the cooler months in Florida but gets steamy at night.

PrideFest of the Palm Beaches, Lake Worth (late March): PrideFest, a more low-key and family-friendly LGBT festival, includes a parade, vendors and entertainment.

Miami Beach Gay Pride, Miami Beach (early- to mid-April): There's something for everyone at this huge two-day event featuring live bands, parade festivities, family- and kid-friendly activities, beach solrees and evening events for the party crowd.

Sunshine Stampede Gay Rodeo, Davie (April): Sponsored by the Florida Gay Rodeo Association, the Sunshine Stampede caters to the country-western LGBT crowd and draws thousands. There's even a "rodeo school" for beginners.

Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Miami (late April-early May): This festival screens films chronicling the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual people.

Gay Memorial Day Weekend, Pensacola (late May): People of all ages and races flock to the Florida Panhandle for GMDW's theme parties, drag Bingo, food vendors and late-night dancing.

Gay Days Orlando (first weekend in June): What began in 1991 as an unofficial LGBT weekend has blossomed into one of the world's most popular and well-known weekends for gay and lesbian tourists.

St. Pete Pride, St. Petersburg (late June): This huge festival draws around 100,000 marchers to the parade in downtown St. Petersburg's Historic Grand Central District and to the area's clubs and beaches.

Tropical Heat, Key West (mid-August): Held in the thick of summer, Tropical Heat's events are male-oriented and most are clothing optional, including yoga classes, pool parties and Happy Hours.

Key West Womenfest, Key West (September): Womenfest is the less risqué female answer to Tropical Heat and is a week of watersports, hot tub parties, dancing, comedy shows, Happy Hours, trolley tours and mixers and matchmaking activities.

Fantasy Fest, Key West (late October): Fantasy Fest is like Comic-Con meets Gay Pride, with a different theme for each year – superheroes, anime characters, cartoons. Don't skimp on your costumes and makeup for this one! Duval Street converts to a mile-long parade and street festival of fantasy and frivolity, and prizes are awarded to the most convincing characters.

White Party Week, Miami Beach (late November): At the world's biggest LGBT holiday party, multiple parties take place over several days, ranging from classy and elegant to hot and high-energy, and the official Saturday night White Party event is the oldest and largest HIV fundraiser in the country.

VISITFLORIDA.COM



MAX VON ESSEN


AN AMERICAN PLAYS
FRENCH (& GAY?) IN
PARIS ON BROADWAY



FRANK J. AVELLA

"At this point in my life and career, I honestly feel like everything has led up to this show for me," Max von Essen says, letting out a deep and grateful sigh before he continues to cite the various Gershwin connections that have led him to the exceptional featured role that recently earned him a Tony Award nomination in the long-awaited Broadway stage production of the iconic MGM classic film *An American in Paris*.





“What we’re doing, really, is a traditional musical with the feeling of a revival, because the movie is so well known. **Yet it’s so new and so fresh and has so much dance.**”

Beginning with his learning to sight-read and practicing piano to Gershwin tunes as a child, von Essen has been highly influenced by the composer’s work, which led him to an oddly serendipitous audition for Liza Minnelli right out of college.

Minnelli was seeking backup singers, and after four callbacks, the then 22-year-old finally met the legend. “She asked me, ‘Who’s your favorite songwriter?’ And I said Gershwin. She said, ‘OK, why don’t you sing one of his songs?’ ” She chose an obscure ballad, “When Do We Dance,” and countered with “Isn’t It a Pity” for a duet of sorts. “And as it starts building, I move toward her and grab her arms, and we just start dancing around the room. It was just crazy, and surreal. Here I am dancing with Liza!”

Not surprisingly, von Essen got the gig.

More life-enriching Gershwin moments would follow, including being cast in a production of *Girl Crazy* at the Kennedy Center in 2008.

Now his lifelong adulation for Gershwin culminates in his delightful portrait of Henri

Baurel, the gallant and dutiful suitor who dreams of cabaret stardom in *An American in Paris*.

For those tired of all the uninventive screen-to-stage productions of late, the creatives are offering something quite different and unique. Not so much an adaptation as a reimagining of the Oscar-winning Best Picture of 1951, this exquisite piece stays true to the spirit of the source material while finding an original vision and voice. “I feel like it’s a love letter to the film. It’s inspired by the film but then takes it to a completely different place,” von Essen offers. And in large part, the credit can be given to writer Craig Lucas and director-choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, the ballet-world genius making his directorial debut with this Gershwin tuner.

“He’s changing the landscape of Broadway right now,” says von Essen of Wheeldon. “What we’re doing, really, is a traditional musical with the feeling of a revival, because the movie is so well known. Yet it’s so new and so fresh and has so much dance. Yet the format and the music is so comfortable and recognizable to people. So we draw people in and then we’re able to push the boundaries a bit on an artistic level. And ask a little bit more from our audiences.”

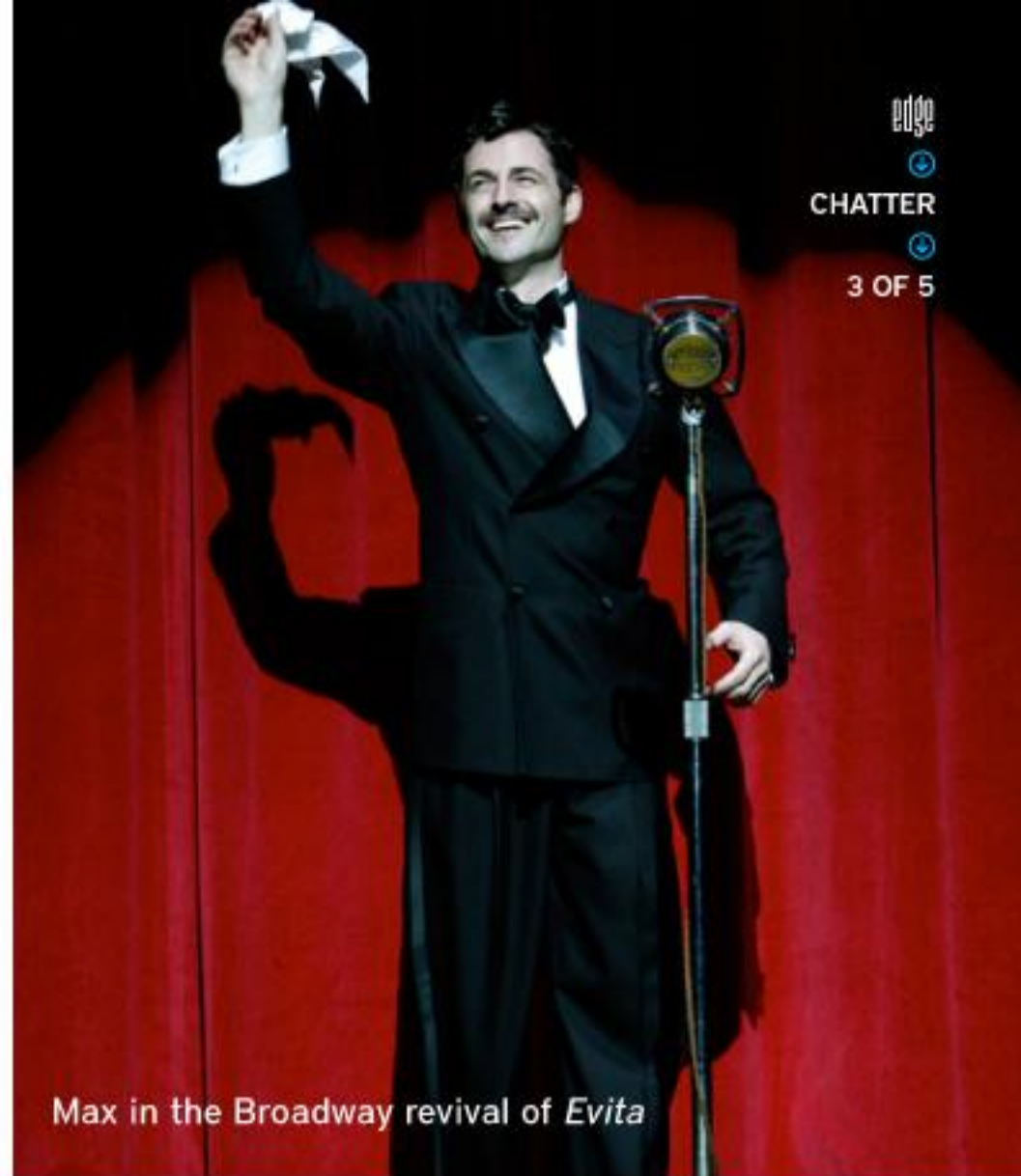
Von Essen was “invited” to audition two years ago, when the show was in early development stages, but for the part of Adam (the composer-narrator part eventually played by Brandon Uranowitz). “I really wasn’t right for the role. They asked me if I could tap dance because they thought I’d make a great Henri. I said no, and that was the end of it. Months later they invited me in for Henri.” Wheeldon had seen the actor in *Evita* and realized, “he clearly can move.”

Right before his initial audition, von Essen watched the film but then deliberately avoided it while working on the character: “I wanted to figure it out myself.”

After a “very successful” workshop in Paris, he changed his tune. “I watched it recently, and I was actually blown away because I found a lot of my characterization; a lot of the ‘performance-isms’ that I developed for Henri were very reminiscent of what he [Georges Guétary] was doing in the film. I thought, How great! We approached it in our own way, yet we came up with the same ideas.”

He wasn’t the only one who felt a connection to his screen counterpart. “When I was in Paris, I met his [Guétary’s] daughter, Helen,” von Essen gushes. “She came to the show, and she kept calling me Dad. She said it was just wild to see the similarities ... She felt this connection to her father when she was around me and watching my performance.”

Directed by Vincente Minnelli, the film stunned Tinseltown by winning Best Picture over the more distinguished movies *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Place in the Sun*.



Max in the Broadway revival of *Evita*

“The film was made at a time where Hollywood wasn’t looking to deal with very dark topics,” von Essen explains. “There’s a freedom now to explore things in a different way. This show has the feeling of an old-school musical and a revival, yet it’s so new, so fresh, because we’re able to tell it in a modern way with a more realistic book. And shifting the period gives us a lot more to sink our teeth into. It raises the stakes for everyone.”

Max von Essen has been raising his own stakes since his Liza days. After wowing Europe as Tony in *West Side Story* and touring the States in *Chicago*, as Mary Sunshine, the actor landed his first Broadway role as a Disciple and the understudy for the titular savior in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, performing the part many times. From there he delivered memorable turns on the boards in *Les Misérables* (Enjolras), the infamous megaflop *Dance of the Vampires*, as well as the most recent revival of *Evita*, where he played the charismatic tango singer Magaldi and went on for Ricky Martin, as Che.

An American in Paris permits him the opportunity to create a rousing, rich, multifaceted character that is as charming as he is enigmatic. And he gets a



Max and Alice Ripley in the Papermill Playhouse production of *The Baker's Wife*

show-stopping number that most divas would kill for: "Stairway to Paradise." "Having that number really does change everything for me," von Essen shares. "It's the kind of stuff that I dreamed about being a part of when I was a kid. I've never been in a number like that. The kind of thing I used to dream about – top hat, tails, cane, tap dancing, showgirls, chorus boys, feather headdresses. It's Ziegfeld Follies. It's MGM!"

Adding to Henri's beguiling qualities is his sexual ambiguity. Von Essen shares that he has his clear notions of who Henri is and what his journey will ultimately be but feels strongly about keeping it unanswered in the show. "Is he gay? Is he not gay? What's going on? I liked that it isn't completely tied up with a little bow ... my story is there to facilitate the ultimate love story of the piece [Jerry and Lise]."

But then he speculates, "If there was a musical about Henri, it would be about his time in New York, living out his dreams, trying to become a star, performing in cabarets, one day performing at Radio City Music Hall. Perhaps meeting someone. Maybe going to New York and realizing, Oh, it's a bit freer here, I'm away from my family, some experience might come about. And he'll find himself."

Gazing at his Palace Theater dressing room walls,

one can feel the deep bond von Essen has forged with his character. Fascinating period photos, paintings and drawings adorn the walls, reflecting Henri-inspired décor blended with hints of modern Max tastes. And an autographed photo of a young Leslie Caron peers out from the mural he's created, along with hints of a gay sensibility.

"There was quite a bit of discussion about answering the question, making his sexuality a little more clear," von Essen shares. "I'm glad it's remained as it is. I don't think Henri has the answer at this point in his life." He pauses, then delves a bit deeper: "Right now he's struggling. He knows he's different. And he's questioning ... It was a different era. He loves Lise. And until you meet someone in your life that is a different kind of love, a passionate kind of love, you don't know what you are, who you are. I relate it to my teen years, when I also didn't know. I thought this is what society, what my family, expects of me. This seems right, to date girls. But then I remember being in college and I had my first experience with a guy, and I thought, 'Oh, that's how it's supposed to feel!' I always say 'You don't know until you know.'



You don't even know that there's something out there more beautiful and more natural until it happens. "

The openly gay actor has never shied from his orientation, but has never felt the need to "officially" come out. "I've just always been out to myself, out to friends, out in the industry ... No one's ever asked. It just is, and it's fine with me. The only thing I find important at my point in life is being out, being proud, so that if some teenage kid is questioning and wants to know that there are guys out there who are doing well, life is OK. I feel like that is my responsibility: to be out, to be proud, to be truthful to who I am and do good work as an actor."

During the last election season, von Essen, who is passionate about and fiercely committed to LGBT issues, angrily took to Facebook to ask that anyone who doesn't think LGBT equality is important (and, thus, were voting for a candidate who doesn't support LGBT equality) to please unfriend him. "It's not enough to be out — you have to speak your mind," he says. "If someone doesn't believe that I'm equal, that I'm worthy enough to have the same rights as you — to marry someone I'm in love with and get all the benefits that come with it — then how can you vote for that person? Things start from the top. Where do you think kids learn to bully? Kids don't decide to hate. They learn hate from politicians, religious leaders, teach-

ers, parents — it's taught. I just got very angry and came up with this idea of trickle-down bullying. It starts from above and works its way down, and when government says someone isn't equal and that gives everyone the right to bully that kid, they're legally saying that gay kid is *less than* the other kid."

Von Essen expresses his desire to do more but realizes the best message is showing that a proud gay man can work in the medium in a role he loves. "I am performing in a field that is my dream to perform in," he says. The perpetually positive performer even has nice things to say about the ill-fated *Dance of the Vampires*: "I knew it was a disaster, but I loved every minute of it. I had a great role in the show and hoped it would have become this cult classic and we would run for a long time. It was a brilliant disaster."

That cannot be said for *An American in Paris*, a show taking risks that are truly groundbreaking for Broadway. Von Essen muses, "It's very hard to say these days, that I'm in something unlike anything you've ever seen — something so unique."

When asked to choose his dream project, cast and director, he immediately answers, "I want to be in a new Stephen Sondheim show. And I want to be in it with Brian d'Arcy James and ... Meryl Streep." Then after some thought, he adds, "And I want Jack O'Brien to direct it." Let's hope his dream team is paying attention. **1**

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FOUR NEW MUST-HAVE GADGETS FOR WORK, PLAY, RELAXATION AND MORE

I have a confession: When the iPad was announced a few years ago, I was extremely skeptical. I consider myself a technophile; however, at the time I thought tablets were pointless.

First of all, its name sounded suspiciously like a feminine hygiene product. Second, I had a laptop and a smartphone. Functionally speaking, anything I could do with an iPad could be done on my laptop or smartphone, right? I decided an iPad was just one more device that I didn't need.

Low and behold, a few months after the iPad was announced, I was gifted one. On first swipe, I never looked back. I've used an iPad more than I ever thought I would. It comes in handy daily for work and for play. It has changed my life, this piece of technology I didn't know I needed. I can't imagine my life without it.

Technology changes rapidly. New products are introduced on the market all the time. The latest and greatest products are better, faster and stronger than their competitors or previous incarnations.

This month we've weeded out four new products released in the past year that may improve your life for the better – or your money back. (Just kidding!)



Enjoy a speedy cup espresso of coffee in less than 25 seconds!

Tired of waiting in line at Starbucks? Want to enjoy espresso and coffee from the comfort of your kitchen yet have room for only one machine?

The VertuoLine by Nespresso is an all-in-one coffee and espresso machine. At the push of a button, you can brew either a 1.35-ounce of espresso or an 8-ounce cup of coffee. Simply adjust the height of the machine for your cup and insert a pod – the machine does the rest. Each pod has a barcode that the VertuoLine reads to dispense the appropriate amount of water. At the risk of sounding like QVC, it really is that easy.

It's also very fast. The removable water tank holds 40 ounces of water and heats up in 25 seconds. It is also lightweight at 10.85 pounds. In red, chrome, titian or black, its sleek design and retro feel is sexier than the bulky Keurig.

It does have its drawbacks: for one, it costs \$299. A bit pricey, but think of it as getting two machines in one. Another downside is that it uses only Nespresso pods.





VIDEO: Garmin VIRB XE: Tell A Better Story

A new action camera has arrived, and it's smarter than before.

In the world of action cameras, GoPro has pretty much been the go-to product. That changed last month, when Garmin announced its Virb X and Virb XE. Garmin is best known for its navigational devices, but the GPS maker's redesign of an old product could prove to be a real game-changer.

While Garmin has made mountable body cameras before, its newest addition is a huge improvement. The redesigned cameras are smaller, rectangular and have more options for mounting than their predecessors. Also, unlike GoPro, the Virb X and Virb XE are waterproof and can go to depths of 50 meters without a case.

Using a GPS receiver, gyroscope and accelerometer, the smart cameras can measure such things as speed, altitude and distance, which users can overlay onto their video footage.

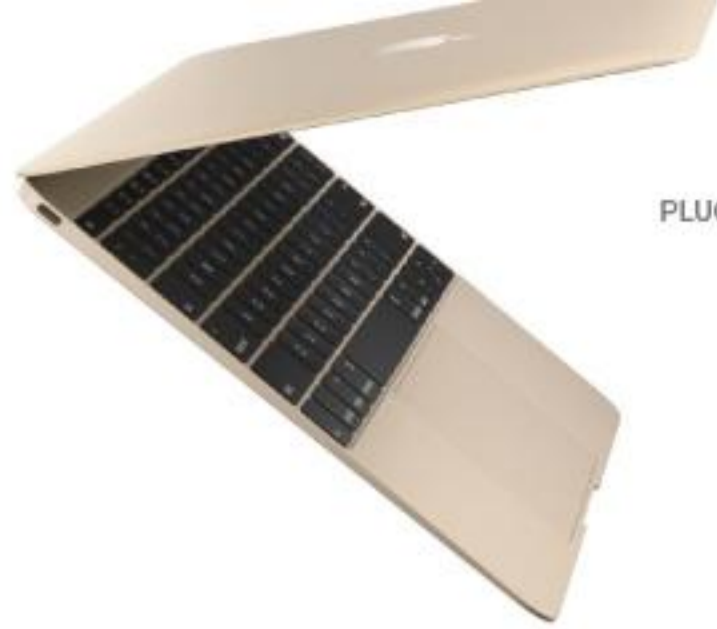
Garmin has also taken advantage of the fitness-tracking trend. Paired with a body sen-

sor, adventure seekers can measure heart rate and temperature and also overlay the data onto their videos. In other words, thrill seekers can brag to their social network about their height, speed, blood pressure and more.

The cameras connect wirelessly over Wi-Fi to devices via an app that allows users to edit and post their videos. The rechargeable battery lasts up to two hours.

At \$399, the Virb XE is the slightly more advanced model. Virb XE captures video in 1440p at 30 frames per second or 1080 at 60 frames per second with slow motion as well as image stabilization and selective zoom. Virb XE also allows users to adjust color balance and sharpness.

At \$299, the Virb X costs 25 percent less for roughly 25 percent less resolution and fewer features. Virb X allows only 1080p at 30 frames per second or 720p per second without slow motion. Footage cannot be adjusted on the Virb X.



A lighter, more condensed laptop.

The last time I was this excited for an Apple product, it was for the iPhone 6, and the iPhone 5S before that.

Last month at the “Spring Forward” event, Apple loudly released Apple Watch, which received a lot of fanfare and press. They also quietly launched the new MacBook, which to this writer is much more exciting than Apple Watch.

Apple has managed to make the new MacBook lighter and thinner than ever before. At two pounds, the newest of this popular line of notebooks has a redesigned trackpad that offers a more uniformed click, can sense pressure and provides tactile feedback that vibrates. (I don’t know why a trackpad needs to vibrate, but I’m a sucker for Apple.)

Best of all, there is a jack for headphones and one port for everything else. Called USB 3, the new port consolidates a charging port, USB data drive and video output into one.

The battery is more efficient and lasts up to nine hours. The new MacBook’s design is more energy efficient, resulting in little released heat, so Apple has removed its fan. No fan means a quiet laptop.

Like most Apple products, it comes in gold, silver, and space grey. And it doesn’t come cheap: its base price starts at \$1,299.



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GAY, GRAY AND ON THE WAY —

 WINNIE McCROY

TO SAGE!



GETTING OLDER SHOULDN'T BE A DRAG.

Sure, you're at the mercy of gravity, and some of the stuff you took for granted becomes harder to do — but they don't call it the Golden Years for nothing. For LGBT older people, retirement can be a time to shine, thanks to SAGE — Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders. Their comprehensive programs for LGBT people ages 60+ provide a lifeline to a community that no longer has to live in the shadows, but can be openly gay and accepted for who they are.





sessions led by geriatric specialists focused on health issues facing LGBT elders.

"Many people are out to their friends, but not out in the neighborhood they live in, like the Bronx," said Bronx SAGE member John Roane. "But if you go to the SAGE Center near where you live, you might run into some neighbors you didn't know were gay and strike up a friendship. And even if you *are* in the closet, when you're at SAGE, you are free to be as outrageous as you want."

Caseworkers help with benefits, Medicaid, Medicare and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. They even provide pro bono attorneys to answer questions about elder law, consumer debt, housing issues, guardianship, public benefits or immigration.

As Roane says, "If you need help with personal problems, they have counseling. If you need help filing for rent exemption for seniors, you can talk to a case manager rather

than travel to the Department of Aging. It's one-stop shopping."

The Manhattan SAGE Center was the first of its kind, serving 2,000 people a month. But it was hardly the last. SAGE currently welcomes LGBT older adults at five centers throughout New York City, with services available in all five boroughs. In November 2014 they opened up in Harlem, and in December 2014 SAGE and the Pride Center of Staten Island expanded their services to LGBT elders. On January 14, SAGE inaugurated its new center in the Bronx. And on March 16, SAGE and Griot Circle of Brooklyn launched a partnership funded by the New York City Council.

SAGE's expansion has particularly benefited members like Roane, a 67-year-old gay man of color who lives just a few blocks from the new SAGE Bronx center. Three years ago, he used to trek an hour and a half each way on the train to take advantage of programs at the Queens Center for Gay Seniors, formerly known as SAGE Queens. When his partner of 35 years passed away in 2011, he felt like a fish out of water.

"It's hard enough to meet people when you're young and out and about," said Roane. "But you can meet people at SAGE by watching movies, going to the theater or concerts. They would ordinarily be too expensive, but SAGE gives us free tickets to shows." Working with Access-A-Ride programs, SAGE even provides transportation for people to attend these events, like a recent trek to the New York Botanical Gardens for the Orchid Show.

SAGE keeps members healthy by providing daily meals. They are available for a \$2 donation on a first-come, first-served basis to adults ages 60 and older, with a menu posted on the website and vegetarian options available. The NYC Department for the Aging and the MAC AIDS Fund helps pay for the meals.

“Now I know that each day I have a balanced meal,” said Roane. “Not everybody can say that, especially when they get older and don’t feel like cooking, or don’t like eating alone. SAGE provides wonderful meals and camaraderie.”

Roane said that SAGE also looked after members’ physical and emotional well-being. He spoke highly of the personal trainer he was working with, saying that SAGE provided transportation to and from the gym. He praised an art program that brought in an educator from the Museum of Modern Art to present a slideshow presentation, then provided supplies for members to create their own art. At the end of the eight-week class, one artwork will be selected to hang in the museum.

SAGE is working to reshape the gay experience for those who may have had to live in the closet. Roane spoke about life as a young gay man, prowling decaying piers and dark streets in seedy parts of the city to meet up with other gays. Living your life in the shadows affects you psychologically. But today, he said, being gay is OK, and older people can see what it’s like to live out in the open, in the relatively safe space provided by SAGE.

“I go to a Latin dance class, and it’s nice to do that within a queer environment, because if I want to dance with a guy, people don’t balk like they would at a



mainstream place,” said Roane. “I also wanted to learn to speak Spanish, and they’ll teach it for a nominal fee, if anything.”

SAGE members with physical or cognitive limitations aren’t left out in the cold either. A partnership with the Hebrew Home at Riverdale has resulted in SAGEDay, New York City’s first comprehensive LGBT-inclusive social adult day program. It offers socialization, wellness programs, movement classes, memory support, live entertainment, art, history, meals, special trips and outings, and round-trip, door-to-door transportation. This supervised program is a lifeline to members who need a little help to get around.

And SAGE doesn’t just offer help in these centers. Their advocacy work in the National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative helps keep members in their homes, or find them a safe place to live. One in eight LGBT older



people reports housing discrimination because of their sexual orientation, and one in four transgender older people report discrimination based on gender identity. This discrimination is nationwide, and even occurs in states with legislative protections in place.

Economic insecurity, housing discrimination and a lack of legal protections can make life precarious for LGBT elders. But SAGE's national, multiyear housing initiative fights back by building housing, training providers, changing policy, educating consumer and expanding services.

The work that SAGE does isn't just for New Yorkers. SAGENet offers programs across the United States, from Philadelphia to Rhode Island, Maine to Milwaukee, St. Louis to Cleveland, California to Portland, Florida to Atlanta to Washington, DC. Wherever you are, it's likely that SAGE is there too, helping you have a higher quality of life.

SAGE is sharing the stories of the LGBT individuals who helped spawn a civil rights movement that now affords gays and lesbians the right to marry in many states. With

the support of the AARP Foundation and the Ford Foundation, they have founded SAGE Story, a digital storytelling program to keep these stories alive and open the conversation on aging, long-term care and LGBT rights.

"We're not like our grandparents were, sitting around in our housecoat," said Roane. "We're out and about, we have friendships and things to do. SAGE provides almost all of the things you could possibly need for free or a minimal cost. Some people don't want to think about getting older, but it's not a bad thing, considering the alternative. And you have the possibility of a much richer older experience with SAGE."

You may not be a gay older person. You may not even know any LGBT elders. But those of us who play our cards right will eventually live long enough to be old. And when we do, it's nice to know that SAGE will be there with us. **O**

**TAP A
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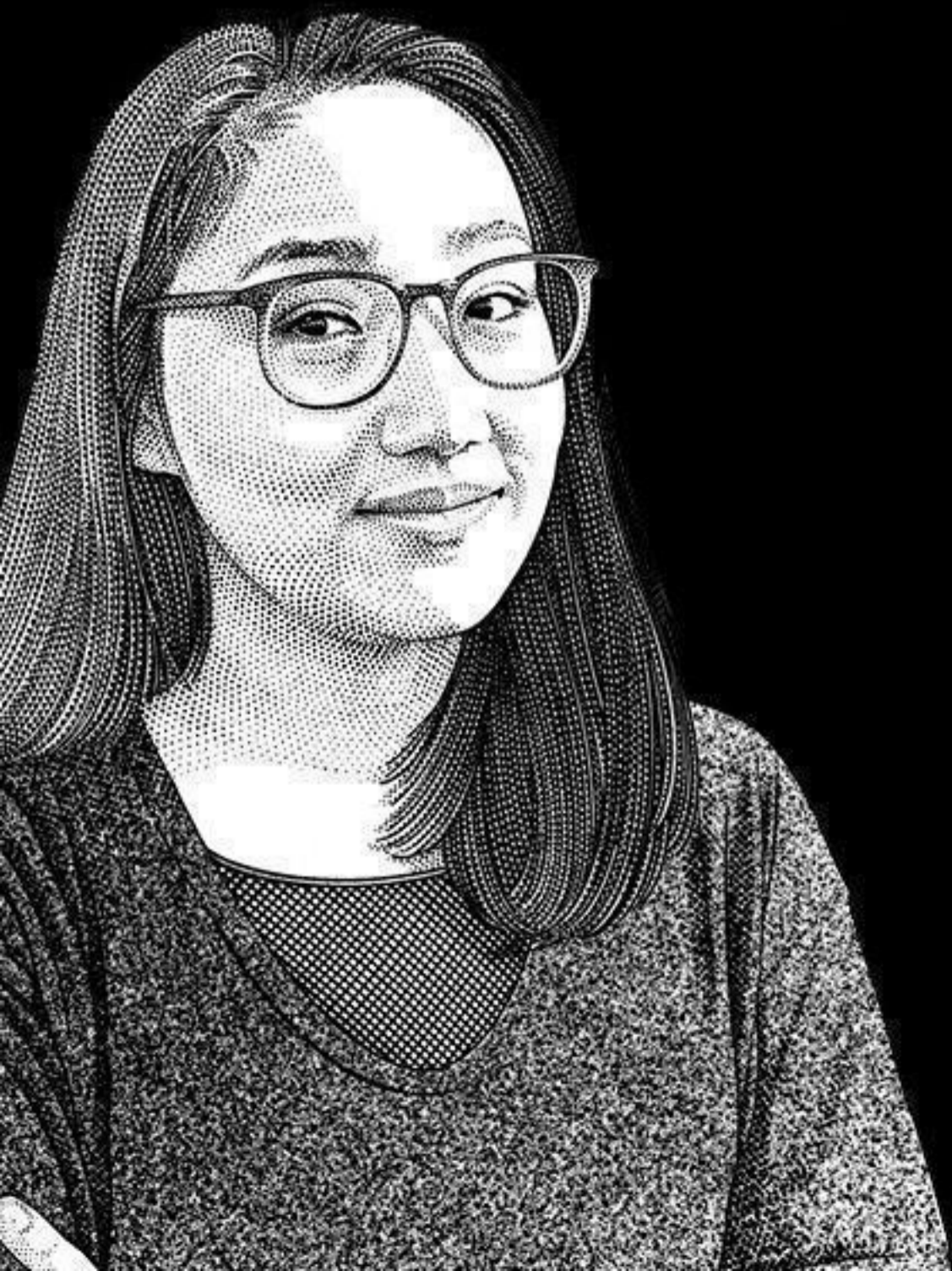
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ANDY SMITH

KEEPING THE RAINBOW IN YOUR SUNSET YEARS

THE MARKET EXPANDS FOR GAY AND LESBIAN SENIOR RETIREMENT HOUSING

We know mainstream America's feelings are shifting when Joan Lunden's "A Place for Mom" website features an extensive list of "LGBT" retirement communities.

For seniors looking for more than duck ponds, basic cable and minimal housekeeping services, the retirement housing market is beginning to target us with options specifically developed for LGBTQ senior demographics and income levels.

From upscale living in California's wine country, to rustic options near the Appalachian trail, to affordable apartment communities opening up in metropolitan hubs nationwide – many out seniors now have housing options that empower them, rather than fostering discrimination and isolation.





“One resident calls it his ‘permanently-docked’ cruise ship.”

FILLING A VIABLE NEED

A nationwide organization, New York-based SAGE (Senior Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders) is actively tracking this trend.

Out and Visible: The Experiences and Attitudes of LGBT Older Adults, a 2014 survey conducted by SAGE, found that 44 percent of LGBT older adults are “very or extremely interested in living in an affordable LGBT-friendly housing development at some point in the future.” The survey also reported that 1 in 8 LGBT seniors has experienced some form of discrimination when searching for housing.

“As we get older, we’re much less likely to be parents and more likely to be single. So there’s a real risk of isolation, and there’s a definite trend toward the development of LGBT-friendly housing for older adults,” says SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams, who adds that LGBTQ seniors are seeking more than “tolerance” when searching for a home.

“People are looking for a friendly and embracing community,” he says. “Even

if you’re not dealing with open discrimination, you don’t want to live somewhere you don’t feel comfortable.”

Adams divides these projects into two distinct categories: affordable housing and market-rate housing, which includes developments targeting middle-class and wealthier LGBT seniors.

UPSCALE LIVING IN CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

For financially comfortable seniors, Northern California’s Fountaingrove Lodge offers an almost unlimited list of amenities, from a gourmet restaurant with a mountain view and personal trainers to concerts and wine country tours. It’s located just outside Santa Rosa, about 20 minutes from Sonoma’s wine country and the gay mecca Guerneville.

“Our goal is to be as diverse as possible,” says Sales and Marketing Director Gary Saperstein, who adds that right now the breakdown is about 70 percent LGBT and 30 percent gay friendly. Opened in November 2013, the facility is the inspiration of family-owned Gallagher Company, which has developed senior living facilities across California for more than 20 years. “Several years ago, they decided it was time for a retirement community geared to the LGBT community,” he says.

The community also provides full medical service. “We’re the only continuous care community for LGBT seniors. As they age, people can get care in their homes. From helping with bathing to hospice care – all of this is onsite.”

BREAKING OUT OF THE DRAB SENIOR AESTHETIC

There’s very little of either the stereotypic mauve and beige or *Golden Girls*’ pastel color palettes going on at Fountaingrove. “We’re different than any other retirement community. People are wowed by it,” says Saperstein. “It looks nothing like a typical senior community. The architecture is Craftsman, and we’ve won architectural awards.”

The lodge features 70 total units, including apartments and stand-alone bungalows. Adjacent to the facility is Terraces, a memory-care facility for seniors with dementia and Alzheimer’s. The facility offers weekly housekeeping, five-star meals and daily outings for both “active and inactive” members, he says. “People can do their own gardening. We also have a card room, a game room, art classes and a full athletic program with an outdoor pool area.”

“One resident calls it his ‘permanently docked’ cruise ship.”

RESIDENTS FIND ACTIVE ENVIRONMENT ENERGIZING

Like most Fountaingrove residents, Jon Allen, 72, relocated to the community. The owner of Key West’s Island House moved to his apartment in 2014. “My husband died in December 2013, and I realized that you can’t get old in Key West, as much as I loved the place. There’s no assisted living there, and I knew I was going to have to have some help sooner or later,” says Allen, who’s still active and makes frequent use of the gym. “I had read about somebody building a gay retirement community in the wine country, which sounded like a good alternative to Key West. Then I visited and fell in love with it.”

For residents like Allen, Fountaingrove even offers assistance with relocation, including a move-in coordinator who flies or drives to new residents’ homes to help them prepare, pack, downsize and plan every aspect of their new home, says Saperstein

Though the average age is 70+, the upscale community appeals to younger residents too. “I’m the baby of group,” says Taura Anderson, 64,

“I had read about somebody building a gay retirement community in the wine country, which sounded like a good alternative to Key West. Then I visited and **fell in love with it.**”





who moved in on the facility’s opening day in November 2013. Still working part-time, Anderson – who moved from nearby Santa Cruz – participates in many of the facility’s social, cultural and recreational activities. While she frequently uses the “almost” Olympic-size pool, Anderson laughs as she adds that she and many other residents get truly excited by the area’s wine tours.

“We’ve got a few hundred vineyards in the vicinity.”

NORTH CAROLINA’S MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

Retired Montessori teacher Janet Smith, 76, and her wife, Carol Wolf, 74, a massage therapist with a thriving practice, divide their time between their home in Cincinnati and a well-appointed cabin in Carefree Cove, an LGBT-friendly vacation/retirement community nestled in the North Carolina mountains, close to the Tennessee and Virginia borders, about 20 miles from the popular vacation town of Boone.

Janet and Carol were among the first

couples to build in the community, which now includes more than 20 homes.

“About 12 years ago, the owners were going around to various women’s music festivals. That’s where we learned about Carefree Cove. We saw their poster and got interested,” Smith says.

“So we decided to go down to North Carolina and look around. We said to each other that we weren’t taking our checkbooks,” she remembers. “But actually, I always travel with my checkbook. So we visited the area and decided it was lovely and said ‘let’s do it’ then.”

There is a large group of lesbians in Carefree Cove, Boone and the surrounding mountain communities, and many also participate in activities with gay men’s groups in the area. Some residents are active in the all-inclusive United Church of Christ.

Smith lists hiking, shopping and dining out in the neighboring towns as popular activities. “A lot of us have dogs. Carol and I do a two-mile hike around the mountain every morning with the dogs,” she says. “There’s skiing in the winter, but I’m not sure if anyone of our age in the community skis anymore.”

A love of gardening unites many of the residents.



"Everyone who likes to can participate . . . about six couples do," says Smith. "We raise blueberries, strawberries and vegetables. We even have apple trees. We're fortunate to be able to participate, because there are people who live there full-time who can maintain it."

BUDGET-FRIENDLY SENIOR HOUSING IS BOOMING

Retirement options like Fountaingrove and Care-free Cove are part of a slowly developing trend that might mushroom over the next decade. Affordable housing for LGBTQ seniors, however, is trending now, says SAGE's Adams.

"There are a number of affordable housing projects, and others are in the works, more so than for what we call the market-rate and luxury markets," he says. "It's easier to develop the affordable housing than the market-rate housing, because it's built using a tried-and-true formula and the financing is really clear, whereas the other is more market dependent on whether the particular community can attract enough people to make the project financially viable."

He brings up another key point. Most upscale LGBTQ retirement options involve relocation, where-

as affordable housing usually means moving across town.

Right now, affordable LGBTQ housing is being built in a number of cities nationwide, with facilities in Chicago, Minneapolis and Philadelphia. Los Angeles-area seniors have LA's Triangle Square, located in Hollywood. With 34 percent of the units targeted to seniors with HIV/AIDS or those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, it's a joint venture between Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH) and McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS) that includes 104 affordable senior units and 35 special-needs units.

Adams adds that SAGE has plans to build affordable LGBT senior housing in New York City over the next two to three years.

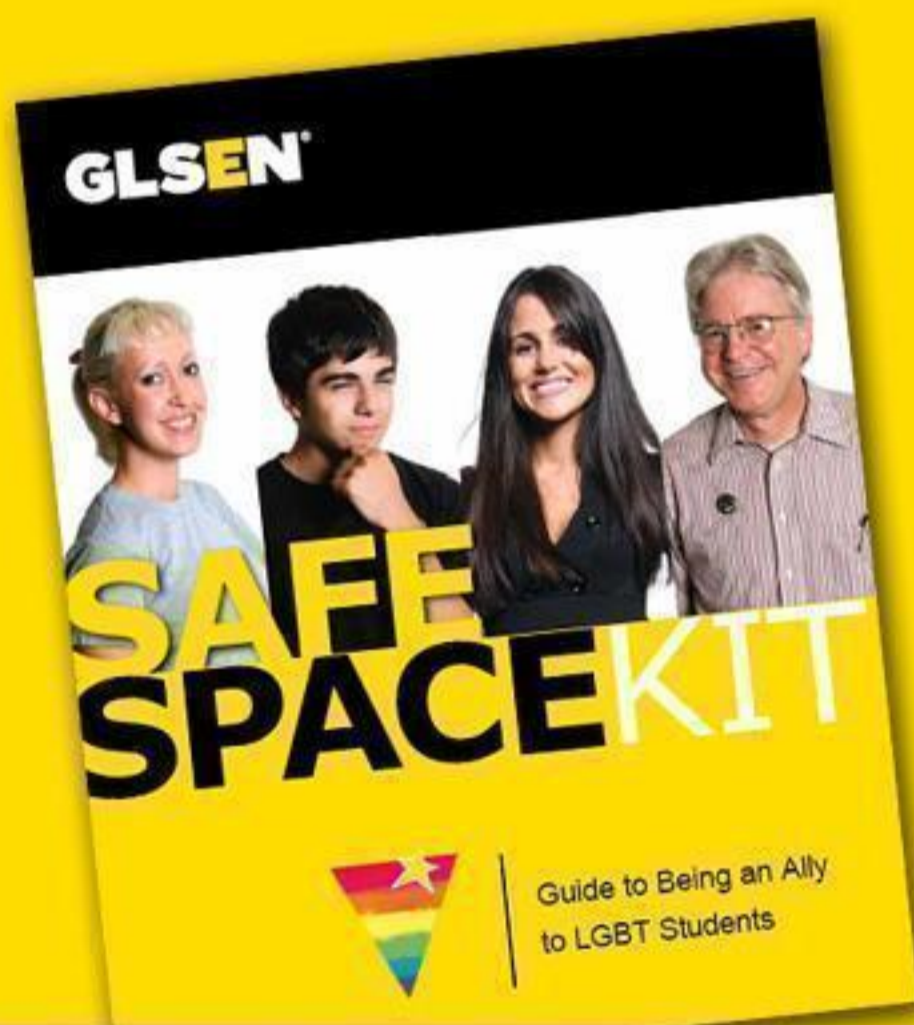
While affordable housing options are more plentiful currently, opinions expressed in SAGE's *Out and Visible* survey point to the development of more LGBT-friendly communities targeting middle- and upper-income seniors in the coming years.

"The market is there," says Adams. **8**

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ROBERT NESTI

MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER, AT OVER 60 THESE SIX LGBT ICONS HAVE YET TO REACH THEIR PEAK

WHAT MOST BECOMES A PRESTIGIOUS CAREER? Awards, no doubt. Tributes, honors. But what may be the most endearing of all is gaining respect from the world at large who considers them icons.

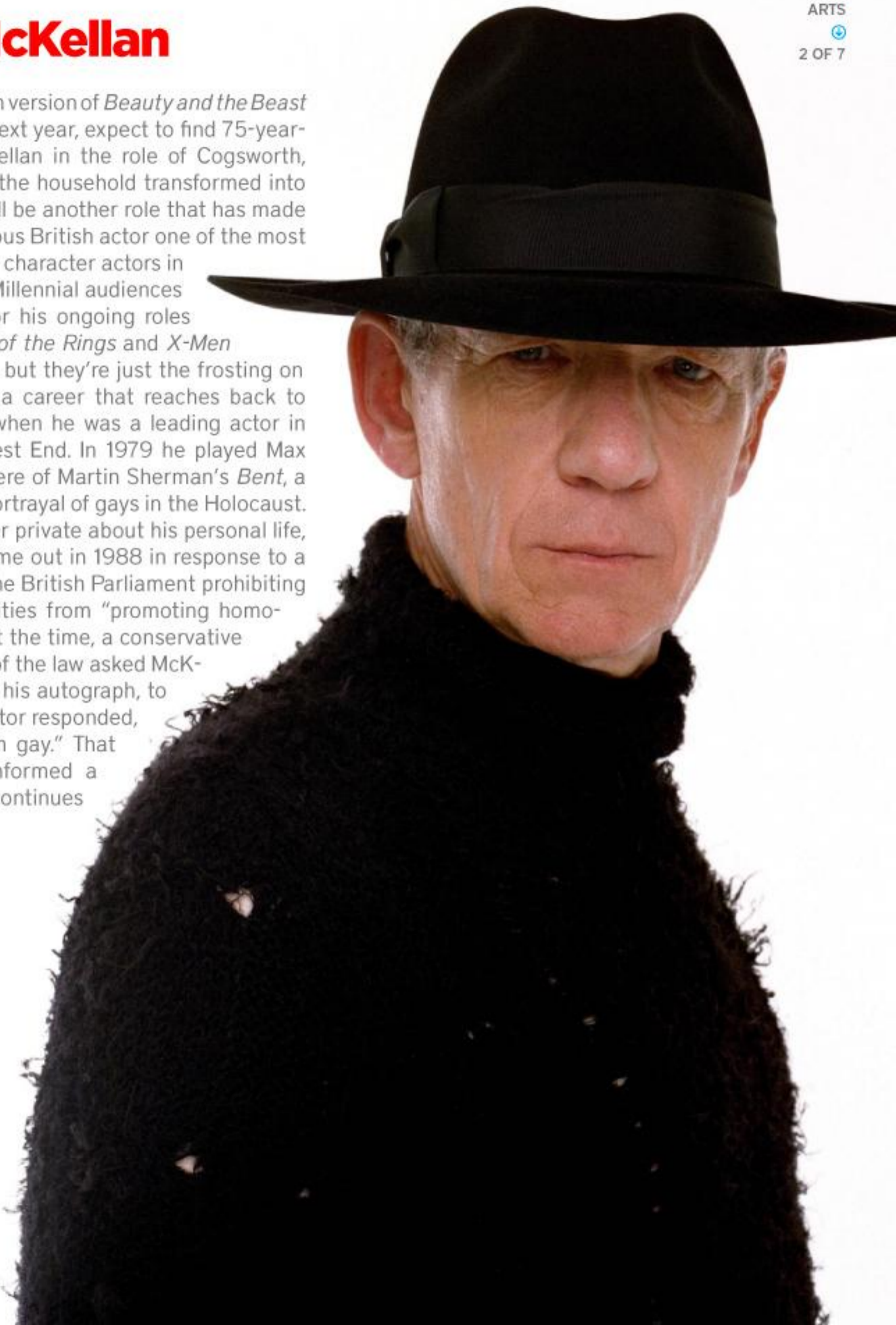
Being called an icon comes with sustaining excellence over time, but it's also an acknowledgment of the courage in being true to themselves, even if it goes against popular trends and norms. Jane Fonda became an icon for the left in opposing the Vietnam War in the 1960s, Ronald Reagan for the right for a leadership style gleaned from being a movie star. More recently, Chris Kyle hit a nerve with the American public for his heroic exploits in Iraq, chronicled in *American Sniper*.

In LGBT culture, a litmus test may be simple honesty. To acknowledge their personal lives might limit their careers – in other words, they came out despite the odds. The following are LGBT icons that live up to that criteria, continuing to work well into their 60s and beyond) Many came out when being LGBT was considered a deal breaker, yet being out has proven to be their best revenge.



Ian McKellan

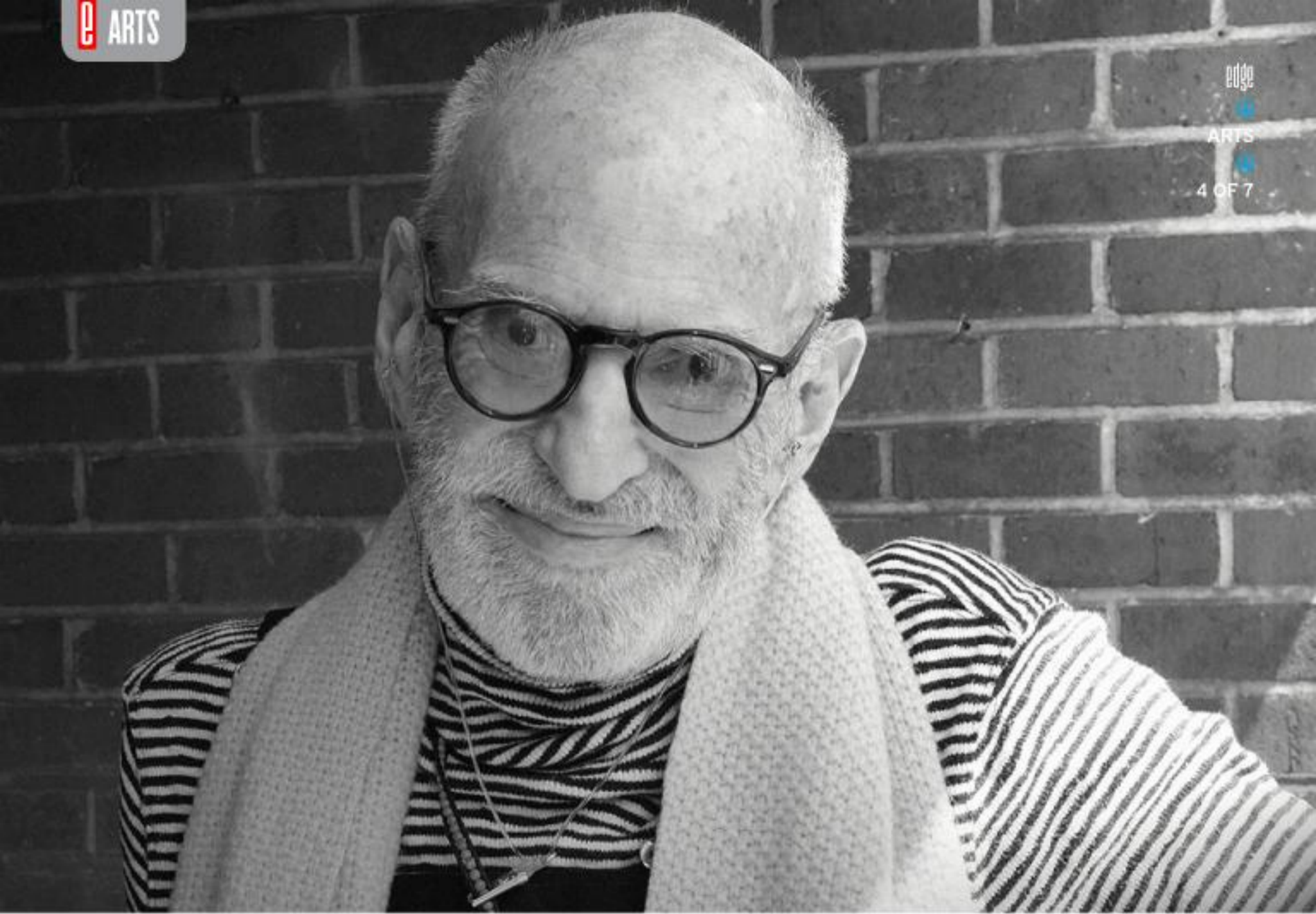
When the film version of *Beauty and the Beast* is released next year, expect to find 75-year-old Ian McKellan in the role of Cogsworth, the head of the household transformed into a clock. It will be another role that has made this prestigious British actor one of the most sought-after character actors in Hollywood. Millennial audiences know him for his ongoing roles in *The Lord of the Rings* and *X-Men* franchises – but they're just the frosting on the cake in a career that reaches back to the 1960s, when he was a leading actor in London's West End. In 1979 he played Max in the premiere of Martin Sherman's *Bent*, a harrowing portrayal of gays in the Holocaust. Though never private about his personal life, McKellan came out in 1988 in response to a law before the British Parliament prohibiting local authorities from "promoting homosexuality." At the time, a conservative MP in favor of the law asked McKellan to sign his autograph, to which the actor responded, "Fuck off. I'm gay." That spirit has informed a career that continues to thrive.



Cherry Jones

OK, cheating a bit here: Ms. Jones is barely 60, but is there an LGBT actor more deserving of iconic status? In 2013, while she prepared for the role of Amanda Wingfield in a Broadway revival of *The Glass Menagerie*, the *New York Times* called her "one of the greatest stage actresses of her generation." She was part of the ensemble at the American Repertory Theater in the 1980s before moving on to Broadway, television and the movies. She's best known for her Emmy-winning turn as the hard-edged U.S. President Allison Taylor on *24* but most memorable for her Tony-winning stage roles in *Doubt* and *The Heiress*. When she accepted her Tony for the latter, she gave a special thanks to her then partner, actress Sarah Paulson. (They had a seven-year relationship.) The hardest thing for Jones was coming out to her old-school Kentucky mom in the 1980s: "In my 30s, I really challenged her and said: 'Mother, you can go through life grieving for me, but it will be a sin. Do you want to waste your life mourning for such a happy, successful, stable child?' " she told the *Times*. "And from that moment she was able to change the way she looked at it. She became the guidance counselor for every parent of a gay child. They made silent pilgrimages to my mother, members of the community who had gay children."





Larry Kramer

At 79, Larry Kramer's the great survivor of the post-Stonewall era. He's also been their conscience and provocateur, more than willing to address issues and engage in arguments with rancor. Even prior to the AIDS epidemic, he alienated many with the publication of *Faggots*, his savage 1978 portrait of New York gay life with its emphasis on sex, drugs and lack of commitment. Two years later, Kramer co-founded the Gay Men's Health Crisis to help those dealing with AIDS. At the time, his call for abstinence left him at odds with LGBT political leaders, while his all-caps screeds in the *New York Native*, where he pilloried everyone from Mayor Ed Koch to President Ronald Reagan for their lack of response to the epidemic, led many to consider him (as he said at the time) "a crazy man." He answered his critics with *The Normal Heart*, a searing play about the early days of AIDS in New York. He also was instrumental in forming ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), the political action group that used guerilla-like tactics to widen public awareness. Even as AIDS became a more manageable condition, Kramer continued to provoke. In his 2005 book *The Tragedy of Today's Gays*, he wrote: "Does it occur to you that we brought this plague of AIDS upon ourselves? I know I am getting into dangerous waters here but it is time. With the cabal breathing even more murderously down our backs it is time. And you are still doing it. You are still murdering each other." In 2001 Kramer became one of the few PWAs to receive an organ transplant. Last year *The Normal Heart* was made into an award-winning HBO film, and more recently Kramer published the epic novel *The American People: A History*, in which he raised the ire of some by claiming any number of American historical figures – including Presidents Washington, Lincoln, Jackson, Buchanan and Nixon – were gay.

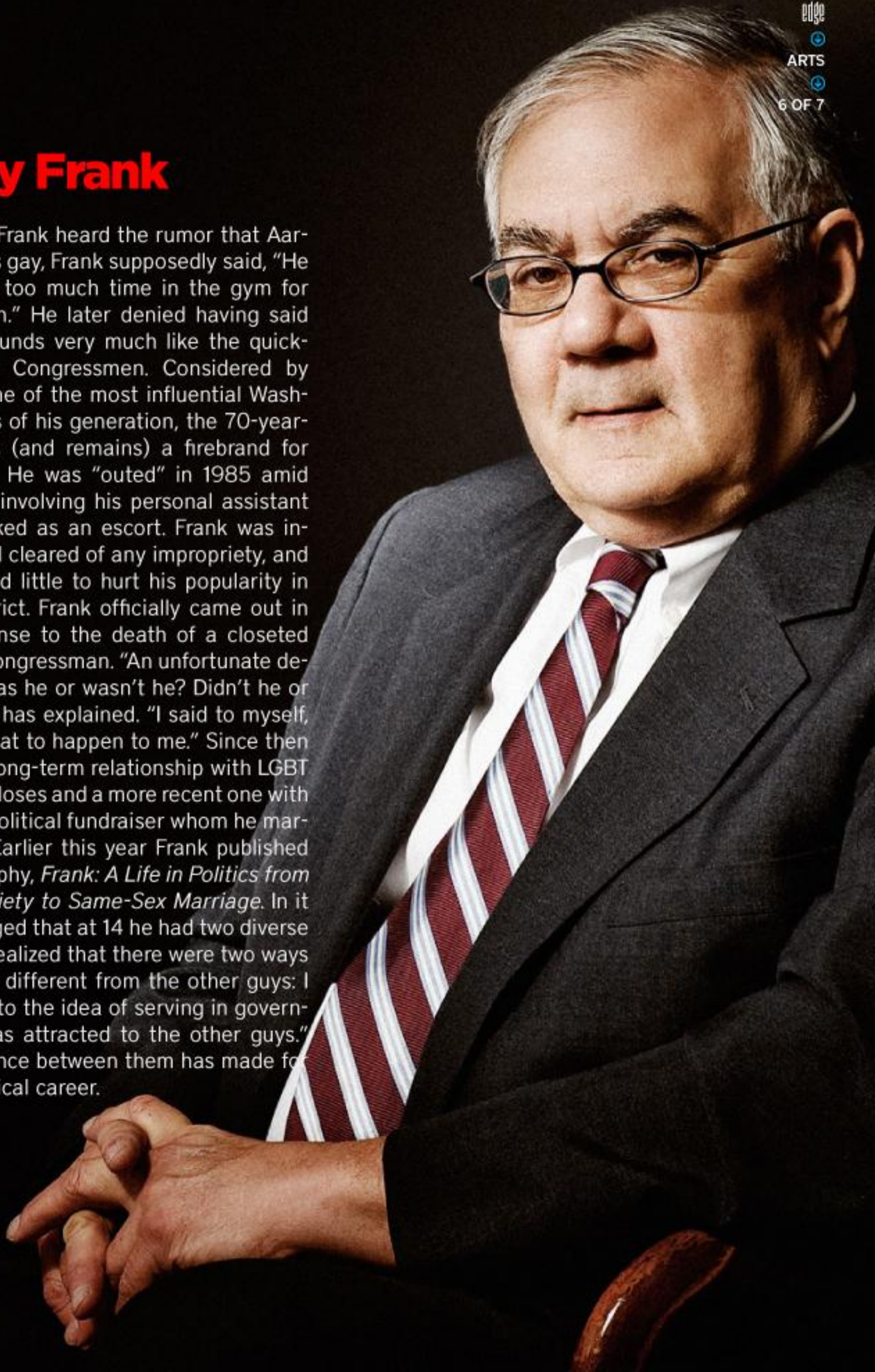
Lily Tomlin

Last December Lily Tomlin received a Kennedy Center Honor – about as prestigious an award an artist can receive. In January she received some of the best reviews of her career for playing the tart-talking 75-year-old in the dramedy *Grandma*. Tomlin, who is 75, does not intend to slow down: she continues to do stand-up, is a hilarious regular on Lisa Kudrow's Showtime series *Web Therapy*, and in May stars with Jane Fonda on the new Netflix series *Grace and Frankie*. In the series, she befriends Fonda after their husbands (Martin Sheen and Sam Waterston) leave them to get married. Tomlin's first break came with the sketch comedy show *Laugh-In* in the late 1960s. On that show, she created some of her most memorable characters: Ernestine, Edith Ann and Mrs. Judith Beasley. A stint in Hollywood brought her an Oscar nomination for *Nashville*. It was there that she met Jane Wagner, her long-time collaborator and life partner. Their relationship was well known in Hollywood, but when *Time* magazine offered to give her the cover if she'd come out, she balked: "I was more offended than anything that they thought we'd make a deal. But that was '75 – it would have been a hard thing to do at that time." Wagner wrote Tomlin's greatest success: the one-person *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, which won Tomlin a Tony. They were married in California in 2013. Will Tomlin's success with *Grandma* bring her Oscar gold next year? If so, Tomlin enters that small fraternity of performers who have won Oscars, Emmys, Tonys and Grammys.



Barney Frank

When Barney Frank heard the rumor that Aaron Schock was gay, Frank supposedly said, "He spent entirely too much time in the gym for a straight man." He later denied having said that, but it sounds very much like the quick-witted former Congressmen. Considered by many to be one of the most influential Washington insiders of his generation, the 70-year-old Frank was (and remains) a firebrand for liberal causes. He was "outed" in 1985 amid a controversy involving his personal assistant who also worked as an escort. Frank was investigated and cleared of any impropriety, and the scandal did little to hurt his popularity in his home district. Frank officially came out in 1987 in response to the death of a closeted Connecticut congressman. "An unfortunate debate about 'Was he or wasn't he? Didn't he or did he?' Frank has explained. "I said to myself, I don't want that to happen to me." Since then he has had a long-term relationship with LGBT activist Herb Moses and a more recent one with Jim Ready, a political fundraiser whom he married in 2012. Earlier this year Frank published his autobiography, *Frank: A Life in Politics from the Great Society to Same-Sex Marriage*. In it he acknowledged that at 14 he had two diverse interests: "(I) realized that there were two ways in which I was different from the other guys: I was attracted to the idea of serving in government and I was attracted to the other guys." Finding a balance between them has made for a volatile political career.





Billie Jean King

In September 1973 the 29-year-old tennis champion Billie Jean King went up against 55-year-old tennis champ Bobby Riggs in an exhibition match called “The Battle of the Sexes.” Even at his age, Riggs was convinced he could beat the leading female tennis players because of men’s superiority over women. King proved him wrong before a television audience of 55 million. Riggs was so devastated by the loss, he locked himself in his hotel room for hours after the match. King became a feminist icon. Over her career she won 39 Grand Slam titles. Her private life reflected the evolving sexual dynamics of the times. She married in 1965 but in 1971 began a relationship with her secretary, Marilyn Barnett. Ten years later Barnett sued King for what she called “palimony,” leading King to become the first professional athlete to come out. “Within 24 hours [of the lawsuit being filed],” she later wrote. “I lost all my endorsements; I lost everything. I lost \$2 million at least, because I had longtime contracts.” Being gay also took a personal toll: “I couldn’t get a closet deep enough. I’ve got a homophobic family, a tour that will die if I come out, the world is homophobic and, yeah, I was homophobic.” It wasn’t until she turned 50 that she was able to speak openly with her parents. She has since become an outspoken activist, honored by President Obama in 2009 with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work in advocating for the rights of women and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. “This is a chance for me – and for the United States of America – to say thank you to some of the finest citizens of this country and of all countries.” Obama later appointed King and openly gay hockey player Caitlin Cahow to represent the United States at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. And she remained close friends with Bobby Riggs right up until his death. **B**



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JC ALVAREZ

Some insist that the circuit scene has seen better days, which begs the question: Are all-inclusive EDM festival parties too cluttered by the trendy amateur rave-raider?

To remedy this, intrepid promoters and producers are putting a lot more than big budgets on the line to draw visitors to not-so-far-away locations for dance party weekends that won't bore you or bankrupt your budget. Their promise is to get you home in plenty of time for that Monday-morning brainstorming meeting, and have plenty to stew over that water cooler conversation. All you have to do is plan properly. Start by *knowing where you're going*.

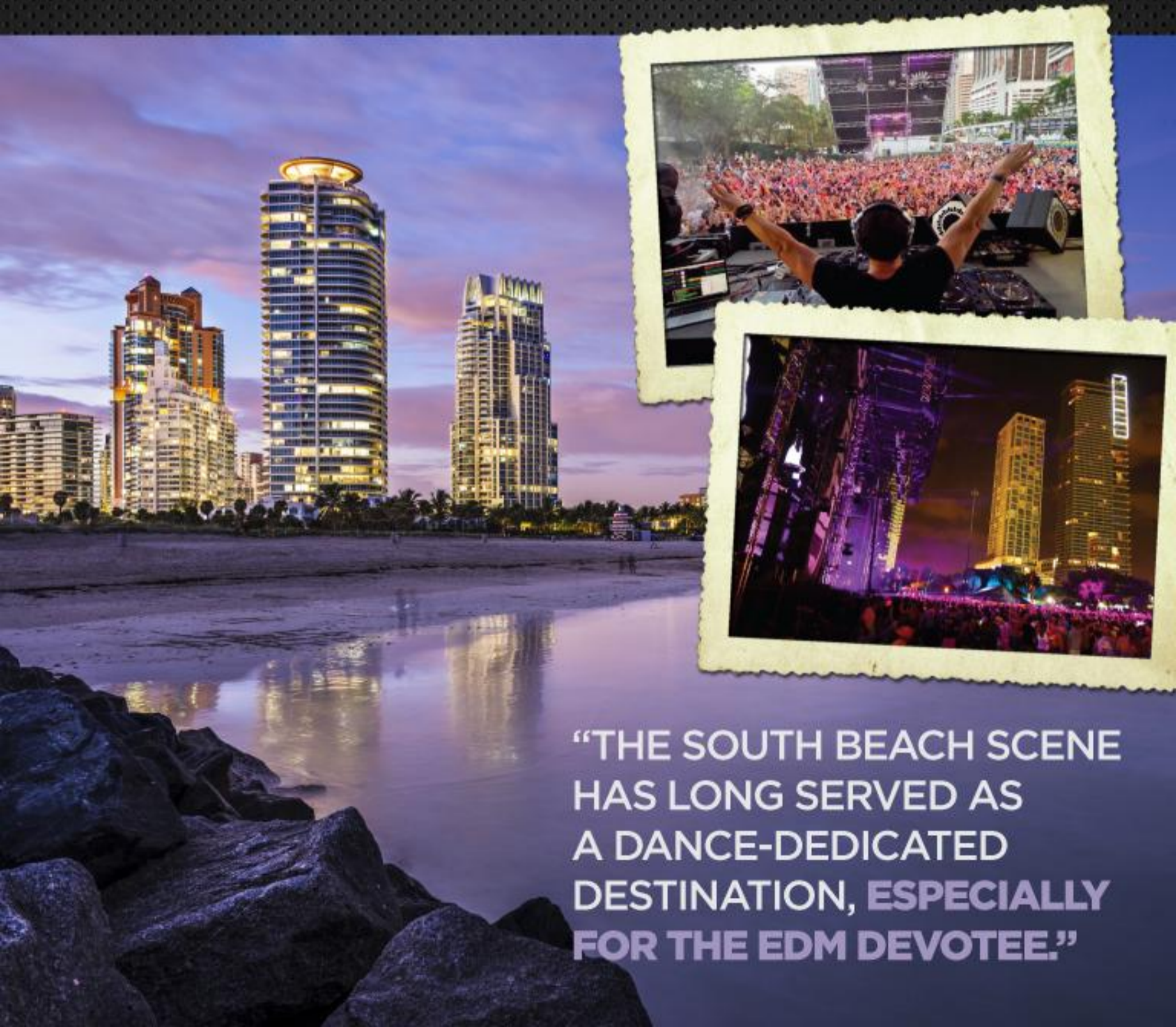
Pick a destination on the map that's a guaranteed, sure-fire hit. Whether the party is in its premiere iteration or still early in its run, a mainstay location like Miami's South Beach has plenty to get you to kick up your heels.



MIAMI

The South Beach scene has long served as a dance-dedicated destination, especially for the EDM devotee. Miami hosts the biggest music festivals on our shores and is the home base for both the Winter Music Conference and the annual Ultra Music Festival. Both events, but particular the Winter Music Conference, helped to pioneer the mainstreaming of dance music and welcome hundreds of industry insiders, with a dance floor dedicated to lavish VIP events and top-tier talent that will have thousands swaying under the South Florida sun.

The Ultra Music Festival alone takes over practically every major venue in Miami, from the downtown Biscayne area to the most prominent beachfront locations. Headliners have included everyone from Avicii to Deadmau5, and high-profile artists, including Madonna and Jennifer Hudson, have chosen this event to debut new material. But it is best that you start planning now for next year's party. Both the Winter Music Conference and Ultra Music Festival take over South Beach around March.



“THE SOUTH BEACH SCENE HAS LONG SERVED AS A DANCE-DEDICATED DESTINATION, ESPECIALLY FOR THE EDM DEVOTEE.”

MATINEE COMES TO A TOWN NEAR YOU

Music festivals are the more attractive tickets for a well-rounded and enthusiastically sonic experience, but these South Florida events aren't the only game on the map. Event promoter and producer Jake Resnicow has devoted much of his talent to broadening the national brand of popular Matinee events, including the upcoming Matinee Las Vegas event, which marks its fifth anniversary this month. Taking over the City of Sin during Memorial Day weekend, May 22nd to May 25th, this event – which started from humble beginnings – is one of the biggest draws with the biggest names on the circuit top lining all weekend long.

"Matinee Vegas is the fastest-growing gay festival in the country," said Resnicow. "We're celebrating our five-year anniversary in May with an all-new Saturday-night main event at America's newest water park." With DJ Hector Fonseca spinning the tunes, the poolside party at Vegas' Cowabunga Bay is sure get soaking wet – and that's before the "special surprise" headliner also scheduled that night.

Five years into his Vegas run, Resnicow admits that keeping ticket prices down (weekend passes start at \$99) prompted the producers to add two additional hotels to the list, after the original host hotel sold out *six months* prior to the event. "By keeping [the price] of Matinee weekends so affordable," Resnicow discovered, "we continued to draw an incredibly diverse, young and international crowd. The host hotel experience is truly unique."

This year Resnicow adds Matinee San Diego to the growing list of cities hosting the popular party weekends. "With the launch of Matinee San Diego," Resnicow said, "the Lafayette is our host hotel, and is truly a gem. Just minutes from central Hillcrest, and balconies all overlooking the pool parties, we expect to sell out fast." Matinee San Diego will debut in September. Resnicow promises that booking your travel now has never been cheaper or easier. The Matinee websites function as a one-stop shop to help revelers secure weekend passes and affordable rooms close to all the action.



matineevegas.com



matineesandiego.com



SKI, SPLASH AND MORE!

The West Coast's Tom Whitman has strategically endeavored to enhance the spectrum of the circuit weekend with more than just a "big top" glamorous Hollywood party on a studio backlot. Whitman and his production team are also behind engineering ski weekends to Mammoth Lakes, California, and Park City, Utah, with his "Elevation" Gay Ski Weekends. You can hit the slopes during the day and party all night alongside hundreds of the nation's hottest ski bunnies.

Most of the "Elevation" weekend events are scheduled at the start of the year to take advantage of the winterized slopes, but just in time for summer Whitman is getting his scalp wet with "Splaash," celebrating Los Angeles Pride at West Hollywood's Andaz Hotel. Tickets are on sale now for LA's biggest pool party, but getting there is kept under wraps until at least three days prior to the party (which is on June 7th), so unless you're a local, or into surprises, we suggest you tread lightly.

You can also supplement your visit to West Hollywood walking down the Walk of Fame and into "Wonderland." The annual Universal Studios Backlot experience is (still) one of Pride season's biggest draws on the West Coast and raises "interactive" to new heights. Tickets are also now available through the Tom Whitman Presents website.



tomwhitmanpresents.com

JEFFREY SANKER

There's one name that comes to mind when discussing circuit event destinations. Jeffrey Sanker may be single-handedly responsible for raising the bar year after year with his "White Party Palm Springs." The signature event is notoriously the best-attended party, continuously breaking records, and often the hottest ticket of the season. The infamously popular event, which also draws visitors from every corner of the country to the beautifully airy and glamorous destination of Palm Springs, just wrapped up another sensational year.

We went right to Jeffrey Sanker himself to get all the details on attending this most desirable of destinations.



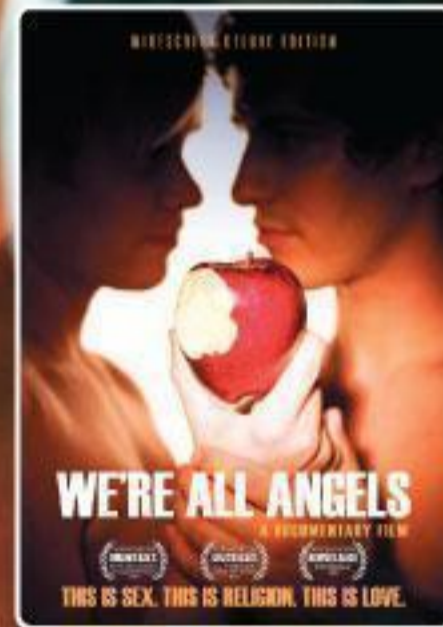
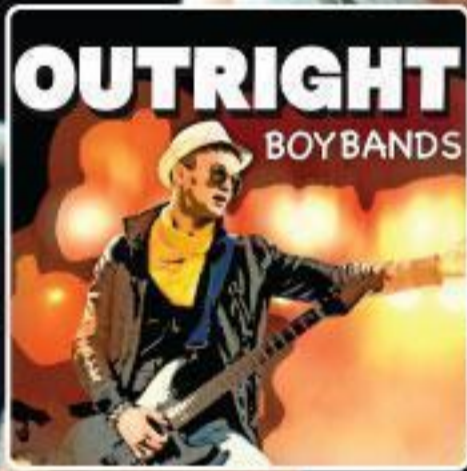
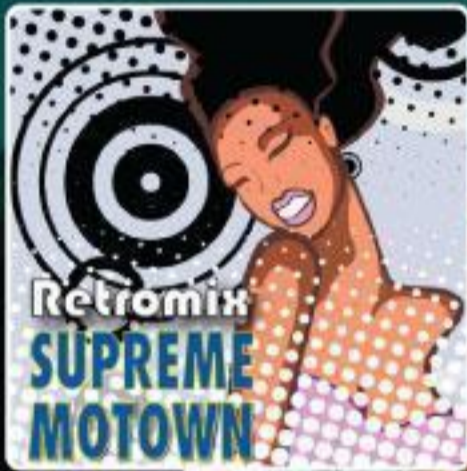
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The Godfathers of Funk

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IF DISCO IS EVER GOING TO CLIMB OUT OF THE GRAVE TO BECOME A THRIVING AND "AUTHENTIC" GENRE IN POP MUSIC AGAIN, 2015 WILL BE THE YEAR.



The growing momentum for a disco and funk revival has built up over the last few years – ever since French duo Daft Punk released their game-changing fourth album *Random Access Memories* alongside the rising popularity of Robin Thicke's now icky and controversial "Blurred Lines" back in 2013.

It was at the peak of "Blurred Lines" that Daft Punk dropped their first single, "Get Lucky," also featuring Pharrell Williams along with guitar work by funk and disco legend Nile Rodgers of Chic. The song peaked at No. 2 on Billboard's Hot 100 and picked up two Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Best Pop Duo/Group Performance. Meanwhile, Daft Punk's album topped Billboard 200 and won three Grammys, including Album of the Year.

But it's *Random Access Memories* that breathed new life into two genres of music





regarded as lame and uncool by the masses for the last two decades. On the LP, Daft Punk made sure to represent their idols, giving the platform to two of music's most important dance producers, Rodgers, 62, and Giorgio Moroder, 74.

As a craving for dance music with handclaps, joyful chanting and thick bass lines continues to grow, it is the perfect time for the godfathers of funk to captivate music listeners across the globe with a modern-day vibe that blends the type of music Rodgers and Moroder pioneered in the '70s.

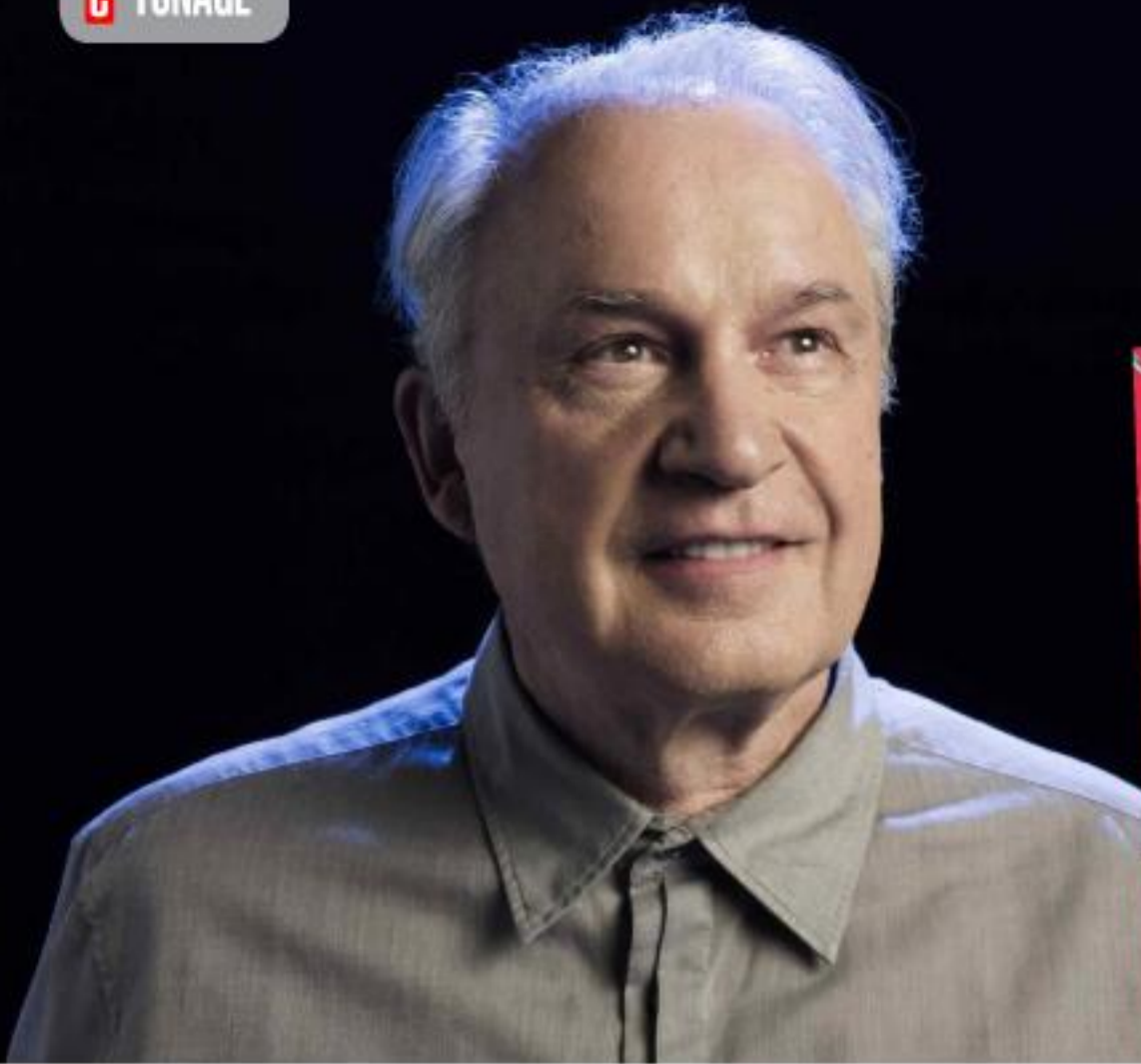
Details about Moroder's first solo album in 30 years were revealed in mid-April. *Déjà Vu*, out on June 12, features an impressive lineup of guest spots, including Britney Spears, Kylie Minogue, Charli XCX, Sia, R&B songstress Kehlani, singer Mikky Ekko, U.K. electro pop singer Foxes, singer-songwriter Matthew Koma and more. It probably wouldn't surprise anyone if Daft Punk, Pharrell or even Rodgers gets production or writing credits.

So far, two of those collaborations have been released. In January, Moroder shared the track featuring Minogue, "Right Here, Right Now."

It's a space-disco jam packed with sparkling synths and plenty of electro pop flourishes. Minogue's voice, perfectly suited for such a dance song, coos and glides over shimmering guitars and wobbly bass slaps. It's a hyped-up disco track crafted for today's dance scene.

Then, in April, the producer let go the title track, featuring Sia, which attacks any disco lover's heart. It's a return to form for Moroder as "Déjà Vu" recalls his work with the late disco diva Donna Summer. As usual, Sia sounds absolutely stellar, and her powerful and soulful vocals boom over funky guitar riffs, cowbell taps and throbbing electronic drums. The song carries one of the best hooks of the year as Sia's vocals soar, singing the lyrics to the simple chorus: "I'm falling for you, I've got déjà vu."

Besides working on his first album in more than three decades, Moroder has been busy creating other music, and in May 2013, the disco icon played what was billed as his first-ever live DJ set in Williamsburg at the club Output. He's also created excellent remixes recently, like Haim's rhythmic indie rock song "Forever," which gets a funkified-dance facelift. He also remixed "Tony's Theme" from the film *Scarface* and reworked Coldplay's "Midnight" last year.



Moroder released original works as well, like “Giorgio’s Theme” for Adult Swim and the single “74 is the New 24,” which will appear on *Déjà Vu*. Both songs are sprawling synth-laden tracks that build and explode with electronic drums and modified robotic vocals. They also would be the perfect theme music to a *Knight Rider* reboot.

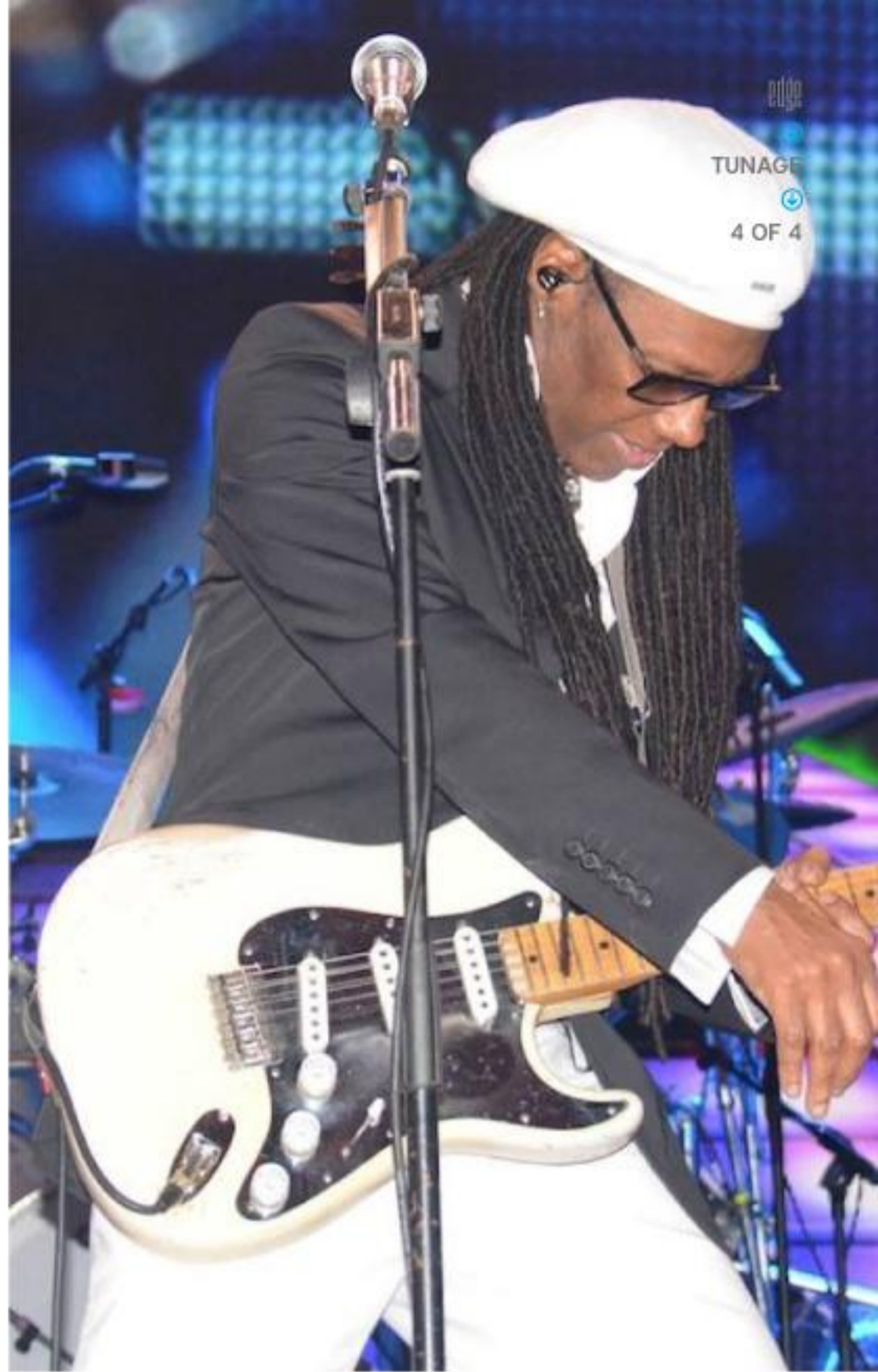
While Moroder has been busy prepping his album, Rodgers is gearing up to unleash his own funk attack. The producer reunited with his band Chic and signed to Warner Bros. Records to release the band’s first album in more than two decades. Like Moroder’s LP, *It’s About Time* is scheduled to drop in June and follows up the band’s 1992 album, *Chic-ism*.

The latest incarnation of the influential funk group, now called Chic feat. Nile Rodgers, dropped a taste of their new album in March. The single “I’ll Be There” contains everything there is to love about Chic: handclaps, a winding bass, some saxophone, bongos, lots of cheering and the soulful vocals from lead singer Kimberly Davis. A music video for the track was released alongside the single and features supermodel Karlie Kloss rocking out to the track, rolling around in a pile of Chic vinyl, while watching old footage of the band on *Soul Train* and newly recorded clips of the group playing “I’ll Be There” live.



The song's B-side is an equally uplifting juggernaut called "Back in the Old School," which features an addictive cowbell slap, a bristling horn section and a magnificent monologue, highlighting the disco-funk zeitgeist attitude in today's pop music:

"You know, I've been waiting so long to bring you back some of that funky old school disco groove. Back in the day, we used to dress up in designer suits and dance and party until we were soaking wet. See, it wasn't just a Chic thing; it was an everybody thing. So, if you're already down with us, that's beautiful. But if you're not, we're here to try and change your mind. Things weren't perfect, but they were pretty great back in the old school."



And that's what Rodgers and Moroder are doing in 2015 – bringing back a slice of music that was an epic moment in pop and has since been mostly dormant. Moroder's new album title says it alone: *Déjà vu*.

Disco-funk influence is now the sound de jour, and there's no sign of it going away anytime soon. Whether it's in indie music (check out the tunes by Dev Hynes, Destroyer, Kindness and Todd Terje) or Top 40 – Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk" has spent an impressive 14 consecutive weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100, and pretty soon there will be no escaping Jason Derulo's funky "Want You to Want Me" – Moroder and Rodger have proven to be titans of pop music. Now it's time for their new material to take over the world. 📌

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OH, BUT WAIT!
 THERE'S **STILL** MORE...





2015 Phoenix Pride Festival @ Steele Indian School Park :: Phoenix
2015 Miami Beach Pride Festival :: MI
Rhode Island Pride's Triple Crown Pageant 2015 :: PRV
2015 Phoenix Pride Parade Size Queen @ Mr. Biggs :: NY
White Party Saturday Night Party @ The Palm Springs Convention Center





**DONATE STUFF.
CREATE JOBS.**

FIND YOUR LOCAL GOODWILL®