



Proud Times

Expanding Your Frame of Mind

Genuinely Logan Lynn

Show Some Respect

Mayor Annise D. Parker:

Houston's HERO

Do You "Like" Me?

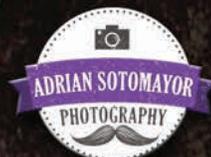


Inside this Issue

LOUD
AND PROUD

OUT & PROUD Entertainment Magazine

Volume 1.0



Captain's Log

November 2014

This year has flown by for the crew at *Proud Times* and *Loud and Proud*. We have big plans for next year, but there is much more to do in order to wrap up 2014 and prepare the way. As we wind down, we hope this holiday season treats you and your loved ones well. Let's extend these best wishes to those outside our close-knit circles; reaching out to others can—and will—continue breaking down barriers and building up communities.

We are thrilled to share Boston-based J'son M. Lee's interview with Out & Proud Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker. Her response to J'son's final question rates two thumbs up. You need to read the article to understand what I mean, but—as a teaser—here is his question: "As I mentioned, *Proud Times* is based in Spokane, Washington. This magazine is just one of the great things they are doing there. Do you have any advice specifically for them to encourage their efforts?" Mayor Parker's sage recommendation should be followed implicitly if we expect to attain equality sooner than later.

We are just as excited to provide you with our up close and personal interview with Logan Lynn. On the surface, he might appear to be your run-of-the-mill ginger entertainer. But, this well-spoken and passionate human being confronts issues customarily relegated to the "off-limits" topics of discussion. Jeremy Price-Ballew and I were grateful to have the opportunity to interview this firebrand, and hope our exchange with Logan will continue *expanding your frame of mind*.

Sevan Bussell is gracing our pages once again by sharing a very personal coming out story. This is only the first part of a series of articles designed to address the abundant complexities of the coming out process.

In collaboration with another *Proud Times* contributor, C.P. Bussell, these installments will allow us to follow and ponder this real-world experience.

We have many other personal tales to tell. I'm sharing one of my Facebook status updates pertaining to how we interact with family, friends, and strangers. In "Show Some Respect," I hope you'll find it in your heart to put yourself out there for others who need your love and support. Ram Michael addresses a byproduct of the Facebook culture in "Do You 'Like' Me?" Belo Cipriani has a harrowing tale to tell, and we learn from him that we *can* overcome adversity.

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane's Emperor Lance Hardwood tells us his plans for his reign. While some of the characters in Jerry Rabushka's "Livin' in the 509" are still living in Hillyard, some are moving into Browne's Addition and near Spokane Community College. Things are heating up in "Bite of the Viper" as well. I know there were some words in the article submitted by Kristian Morales, but the pictures were distracting.

Together, we can make our world a better place.



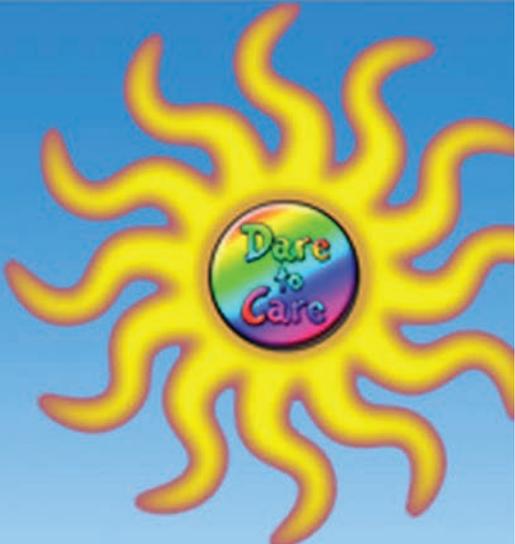
Dean Ellerbusch

Proud Times Executive Editor

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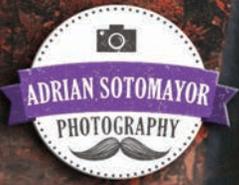
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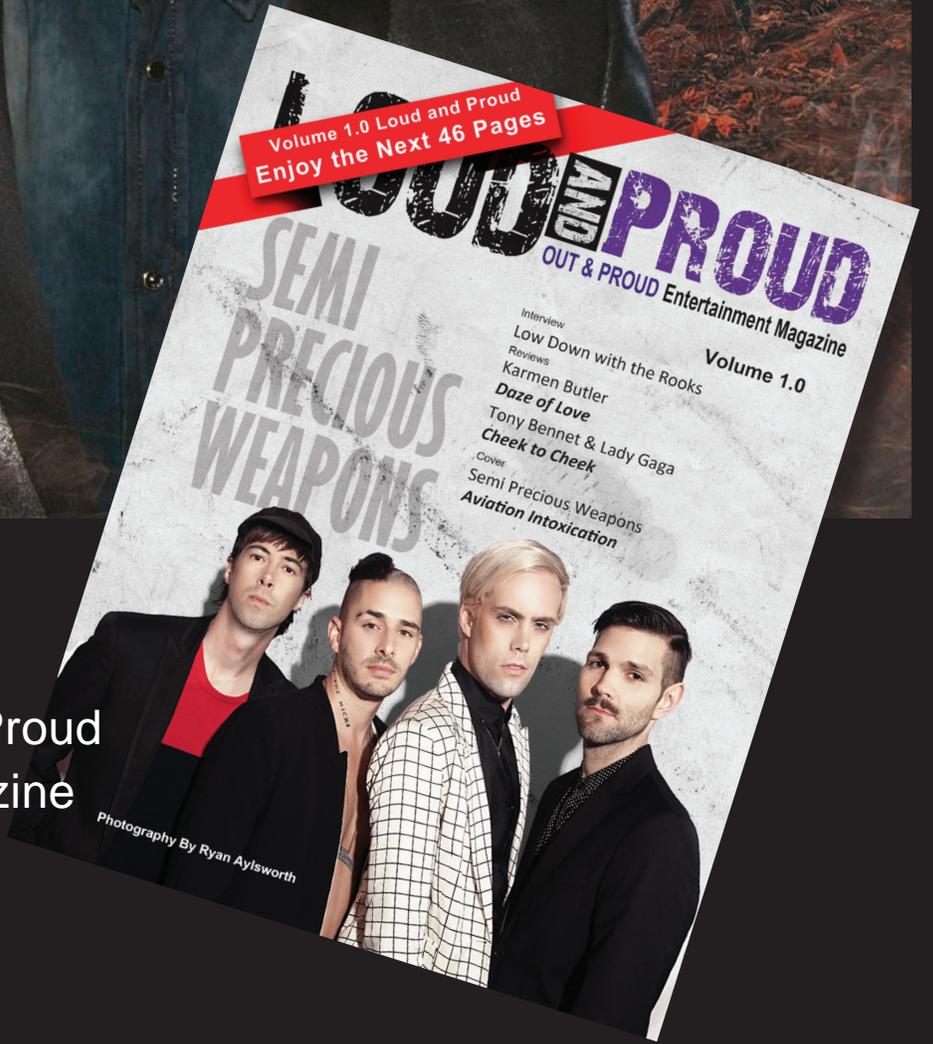
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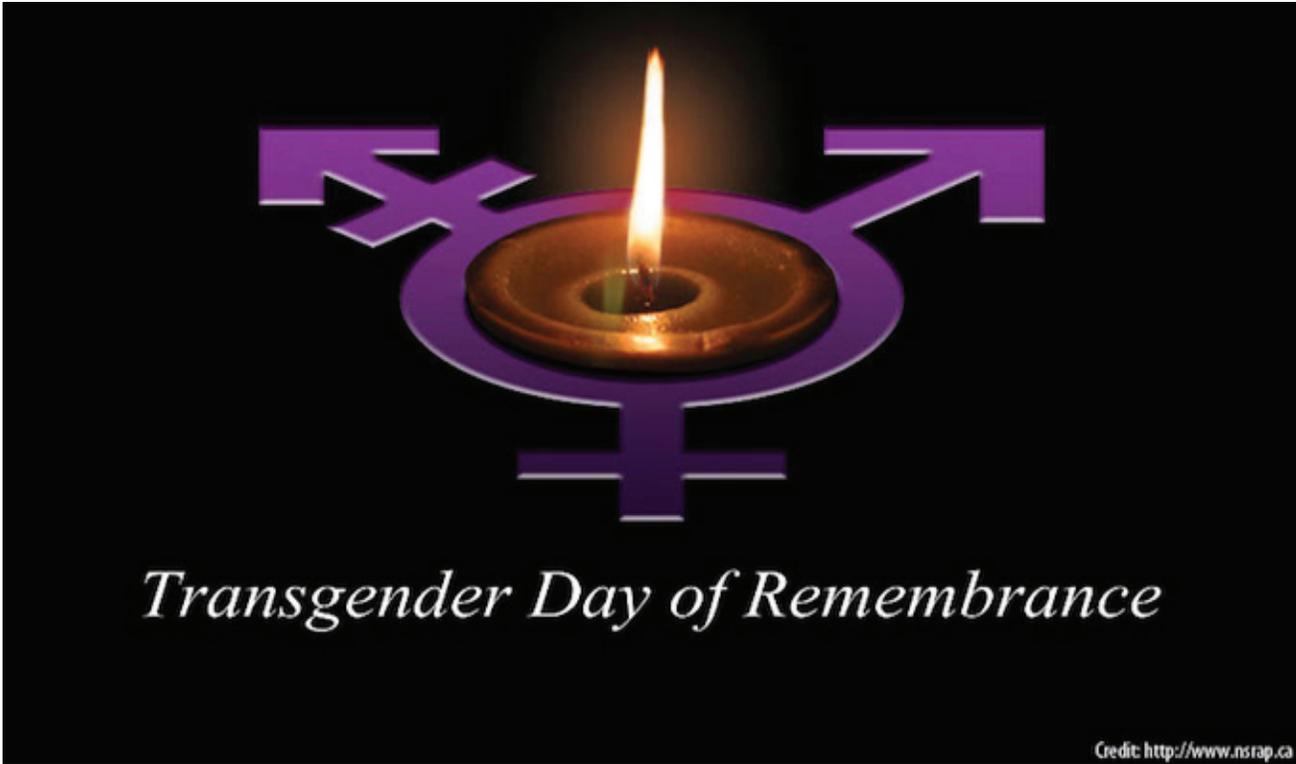




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Introducing
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SS
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by Dean Ellerbusch

After moving to Spokane, I attempted to connect with the Transgender Community in this area, but there was this pervasive sense that Trans* people were in hiding. There also seemed to be a large rift between the LGB and T portions of our communal acronym. I can attest to this schism, as gay men continue telling me that they don't understand transgender people—and they have no desire to do so. This hurts my soul.

In November of 2010, I was invited to attend events at Spokane Community College and Spokane Falls Community College. I wasn't sure what Transgender Day of Remembrance was, but I felt it was an opportunity to connect with this elusive sub-community. These two TDOR memorials were my first introduction to the realities of living as a Trans* individual in a far too often hostile world. While I was already aware of discomfort levels of some people around others born with physical attributes of one gender and the psyche of another, I was introduced to a disturbingly darker side of humanity. Having learned about websites with memorials of so many trans* individuals, I began to daily post

how some respect

details on my Facebook page in an effort to shake people out of complacency about these lives lost (this site was last updated in 2006: <http://www.gender.org/remember/index.html>). While many people appreciated this conveyance of information, others were disturbed by the details—and rightfully so.

It is 10 November 2014, and I've found a new site sharing information about the abuses visited upon trans* people: <http://www.transviolencetracker.org>—both in the U.S. and worldwide. According to the Transgender Violence Tracking Portal, there have been 10 murders, 4 suicides,

and 34 incidents of violence against trans* people in the United States since the beginning of this year. As I learned years ago, these statistics include only reported cases; we can only guess



TRANS*

LIVES

MATTER!



at the number of unreported cases of violence visited upon this population. ■

Spokane Trans* People and Spokane TALL put together a TDOR event this year at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane. Both groups have a presence on the web; here is a bit more about them:

Welcome to Spokane Trans People. We are a transgender support and education organization serving the greater Inland Northwest Metro area (Eastern Washington / North Idaho). We are dedicated to building tolerance and understanding through compassion and education both within the Transgender community and the community at large. We strive to offer compassionate, caring support in a number of safe, friendly environments.*
(<http://spokanetranspeople.org>)

TALL stands for Transgender Advocacy and Local Leadership. We hold informational and educational meetings once a month that are open to any trans people and allies that want to learn and stay organized. We meet on the second Sunday of each month for an hour and a half starting at noon.*
(https://www.facebook.com/spokanetall/info?tab=page_info)

It's time
for a
change!



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**There's a
New Drag King
in Town**



September 2014 ushered in a new reign for the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane. During drag king Lance Hardwood’s Board of Reviews, he relayed his vision should he become Emperor #38. Here is the text of that speech:

Greetings Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane, community members, and College of Monarchs. My name is Lance Hardwood Dix SoReal Eyesli Ford StJames and I would like to state my intention to run for Emperor #38. I say ‘intention’ rather than ‘desire’ because, whether or not I am able to run for this title, my desire lies within serving my community.

I have been a member of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane (ISCS) for the last three reigns. I have served two terms on the Board—one as Court Member at Large and one as Treasurer. During my tenure on the Board, I have been able to help the ISCS modernize our website and more closely align our technology with the needs of our organization—including addition of email and the use of PayPal for events



such as Coronation. I also helped plan and implement a method for will call and online ordering. I have had the great honor of serving the ISCS and community as Mr. Gay Spokane 34. During my time as Mr. Gay Spokane, despite reigning alone, I exceeded both my travel and fundraising requirements in addition to networking with other organizations across the Northwest. I was also honored with awards from other Courts. I am providing this information not to brag, but to give you an idea of what I have already accomplished in my tenure with the ISCS.

I have put a considerable amount of thought into 'if and why' I wanted to run for Emperor, as I know it is an enormous responsibility and commitment of time and money. But, in the end, I believe I want to serve for the right reasons. I don't want this position for acclaim, status, or something shiny; I want this position as a way to serve my community in a leadership position. I believe in the ideals the ISCS was founded on and want to continue working for the betterment of my community and our organization. You may ask what I can do as Emperor that I can't do otherwise, and to be honest—nothing. I can still serve my community and ISCS. I can still raise money, spread goodwill, and travel. However, as I said when I faced the Board of Reviews for Mr. Gay Spokane, this will simply give

me a larger podium to stand on. I've learned a lot in my last year and I want to turn around and help others achieve their goals.

In deciding if I wanted to run, I also put some time into thinking what I would do if I am crowned. To this effect, I have put together some goals and plans for my reign. While I am loathe to make 'campaign promises,' I do have definite objectives to measure if my year will be completed to my satisfaction. These objectives are: increased membership (at a minimum of 10 members), work with the College and title holders to outline and implement training for positions to decrease knowledge gaps, and to increase community involvement in addition to the requirements stated in our bylaws.

Some of you may have concerns that I have a new family, that I do not have enough experience, and that I don't understand what it means to be in this position. To you I say, 'We all started somewhere—even you.' Yes, I am blessed with a new family, but it gives me the perspective to know my limitations, and the people to keep me grounded. It also shows that I know about responsibility and commitment. Yes, I am relatively new to the ISCS, but I have met every challenge presented to me head on, studied our bylaws, sat on multiple committees, and offered suggestions and ideas when bringing

forward problems needing attention. In respect to not understanding what it means to be Emperor, I do not think anyone can truly understand what it means to be a monarch until they have done it. However, I have worked closely with and for the previous three monarchs, so I do have some idea of what it required and what it means to serve not only the ISCS, but the community with grace and compassion.

I will leave you with this: I have spent the last year deciding if I wanted to run for Emperor for a plethora of reasons that are too numerous to count, and what it boils down to for me is that I am truly certain that I have the desire, commitment, and motivation to help the ISCS have an amazing year.■



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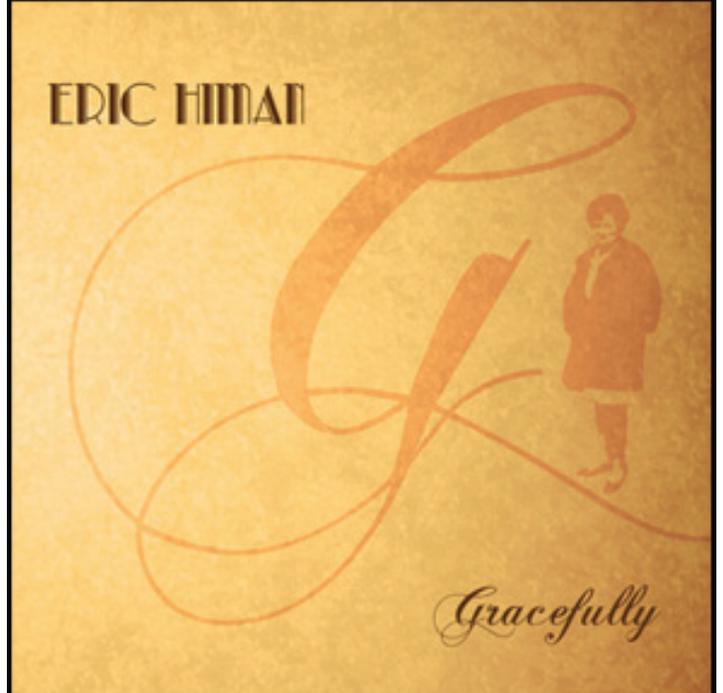


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ANNISE
PARKER



Mayor Annise D. Parker : Houston's HERO

by J'son M. Lee

It is rare that a person gets to sit down and have a conversation with someone who is a pioneer in their own right, and on the right side of history. Mayor Annise D. Parker is Houston's sixty-first mayor, and one of only two women to hold the City's highest elected office. She is responsible for all aspects of the general management of the City and enforcement of all laws and ordinances. Parker is the only person in Houston history to hold the offices of council member, controller, and mayor.

Mayor Parker is one of the first openly gay mayors of a major U.S. city, and has been on the forefront of LGBT issues for many years. Although she is an out, lesbian activist, she doesn't let that badge singularly define who she is. There is so much more to this amazing woman, and I was honored to have the chance to speak with her one-on-one.

Mayor Parker, thank you for agreeing to talk to me today. I am truly honored to be speaking with you. Before we delve into the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO), can you briefly tell us about your early life and how you ended up in politics?

I'm still not quite sure how I ended up in politics (laughing). I was an out, lesbian activist in college in the '70s, so I've been working in community organizing for a long time. Before I was first elected, I worked in the oil and gas industry for twenty years, and at the same time I had a twenty-year volunteer career including being officer and board member of a number of LGBT organizations at the state and local level, and also being involved in a lot of community organizations. I was primed when I finally became elected.

Was there ever a thought that your sexuality would hinder you from serving the people as you envisioned?

Of course! Having been an activist in the '70s and '80s, and arguably the most visible lesbian activist in Houston in the '80s, that was certainly an issue. When I ran for city council the first time in 1991, I lost. I ran again in a special election in 1995, and I lost. Then I won in 1997 and nine consecutive city-wide races since then. The first two races, every time I saw my name in print it was

“Annise Parker, Gay Activist,” and later “Annise Parker, Lesbian Activist.” I was pigeonholed. So several things had to happen—one of them being I needed to learn how to do significant fundraising, but the other was to not run away from being an out lesbian, but to make that not how I was identified in the minds of the voters.

I imagine that was difficult given your history as an activist.

It was... On every piece of printed material that we put out that had any kind of resume, I put the words “Past President, Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus,” on everything. It also said “President, Neartown Association,” [etc.]... It was in the laundry list, but I didn't want anyone from my community or the outside thinking I was trying to go into the closet. My campaign manager and I also had one-on-one meetings with the editorial group of the *Houston Chronicle* and the *Houston Post*—at that time we had a second daily newspaper and the various electronic media. We said, ‘I'm going to run again, and every time I've run you treat me differently. And when you talk about my opponent, you talk about what they do for a living. Well, I'm an oil company employee. I work for a conservative, Republican oil man, Robert Mosbacher. It's been a decade since I've lead any LGBT

organizations, and if you're going to talk about my sexual orientation, you need to talk about their sexual orientation. Just be fair.' I think that one conversation helped, but I also think the media was changing, the world was changing. So I was Annise Parker, Oil Company Analyst, and they'd find a way to mention the gay angle after the jump. It was in everything, but it wasn't like it was my last name. And it gave me an opportunity to talk about things that I wanted to do as a councilmember.

Mayor Parker, you recently signed the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO). Congratulations! Can you tell us the key provisions of this ordinance?

Thank you! That's just step one. It is different than any other ordinance being



passed by cities today because the city of Houston, unique in so many ways, did not have any local anti-discrimination ordinance. We weren't going in and adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the laundry list, which is what most cities are doing these days. We had the opportunity to write an ordinance from scratch that included race and gender, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy... the laundry list. And so, our opponents go out and talk about it being the "Sexual Predator Protection Bill." They also talk about the special rights for gays and trans people. It is in fact a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance that covers all of the protected federal characteristics, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. It's going to be important as we have to defend it on the ballot to be able to talk about it in the broader terms. Actually I'll confess that when we started to write, I thought we were just going to add the sexual orientation and gender identity to an existing ordinance; I did not realize we had no ordinance.

Forgive my ignorance, but when you say it will be "on the ballot," what does that mean?

We passed the ordinance with a strong vote of council. It was fully functioning as an ordinance. The opponent had thirty days to repeal our action, and on the thirtieth day they submitted



signatures to repeal the ordinance. We are in a thirty-day window now of counting the petition signatures and certifying the petition signatures. We are determining whether it will actually be on the ballot, but we assume it will be. So there'll be a vote to maintain the ordinance.



this clause “provides an opportunity for sexual predators to have access to [their] families.” How was this addressed?

They’re still saying that even though that paragraph is no longer in the ordinance. Because we were drafting from scratch, we looked at the ordinances from around the country. We knew everybody was going to focus on trans people, even the gays. We heard from the bigots. So why don’t we go ahead and put a separate paragraph in saying to the transgender community, you have a right to something so fundamental as to appropriate toileting facilities. At the same time in that paragraph, saying to business owners out there that you have an affirmative defense to prosecution—trans people have rights, you have rights, and one doesn’t trump the other. We put it in there in a separate paragraph because we knew everybody would fixate on it. Council members pulled that paragraph out, but what that means is trans people are still in the list of enumerated characteristics, and there is no discussion of access to bathrooms. They are still fully protected just by definition, but it does not spell out for the business owner what they need to do to be on the safe side.

The Church and Republican political leaders took issue with a small provision of the ordinance—a paragraph specifying that no business open to the public could deny a transgender person entry to the restroom consistent with his or her gender identity. They argued that

On the flip side, members of the LGBT community voiced concern over the clause that would give businesses an out if the defendant had a “good faith belief” that the person’s claim of being transgender was disingenuous. Where do we stand on this?

That was all in that paragraph.

So, all of that was taken out.

Right! All the characteristics are treated the same way. You can’t discriminate on the basis of any of these characteristics. What that means in terms of sexual predators in bathrooms is that it is illegal to go into a public bathroom today with the intent of committing a crime, rape or assault. It is illegal today—it would be illegal after the ordinance—to go into a restroom that is designated not for your gender. So, all of that is in place. We thought it would be cleaner and easier to know what the rules were upfront, but after we got pummeled by both sides we just treat everyone the same [and took it out].

Mayor Parker, according to an article in the *Fairfield Citizen*, you were quoted as saying that passing this ordinance was not the most important thing you’ve done in office, but it is the most personally meaningful thing you will ever do

as mayor. This is a two-part question: What is the most important thing you’ve done in office? I probably know why the passing of this ordinance is personally meaningful to you, but can you tell us in your own words?

Let me answer the second part of that first. I was a highly visible lesbian activist in a very difficult time in our history. I’m married to my long term domestic partner; we got married this year. I have moved along the arc of history. We have four children. Our son, who is openly gay, was thrown out of his house at the age of sixteen when he came to live with us. We have a daughter who is openly gay, and then we have two daughters who are straight. My son is also African American. I don’t want him discriminated against because he’s black or because he’s gay. He deserves to live in a city where he has somewhere to turn.

As for the most important thing I’ve done as mayor, it’s really going to be up to history to define what my legacy is as mayor. I have a major initiative on infrastructure reinvestment in this city which will be transformative. I also have a huge initiative on ending chronic homelessness in Houston that’s getting a lot of national attention and transforming people’s lives.



GITTINGS

Mayor Parker, there is a mandated limit of three (two-year) terms in Houston for the position of Mayor. So, will your current term be your last term. What is next for you?

I don't know at this point; I don't have any plan. I didn't run for city council with thought of being mayor. I ran for council and served my full six years available under term limits. I ran for city controller and was elected and served for six years. Now, I've been elected three times as mayor and will serve my six years as mayor. Each time it was, 'How can I continue to serve?' I hope to be on a state-wide ballot here in Texas at some point in the future, but all of the significant state-wide races are this year, so it will be four years down the line before that can happen. That's an eternity in politics, so I don't know what I'm going to do.

As I mentioned, Proud Times is based in Spokane, Washington. This magazine is just one of the great things they are doing there. Do you have any advice specifically for them to encourage their efforts?

I have been out for more than forty years. The same things that made a difference when I was first becoming an activist are what make a difference now—each of us making a decision to live our lives openly and without

shame, and to bring our whole selves to what we do. The rate of change is exponential. I encourage folks to make the changes in their own communities that they want to see in the world. ■

For more information about Mayor Parker, please visit the official website for Houston, TX at:
<http://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/>.



Proud Times
Expanding Your Frame of Mind

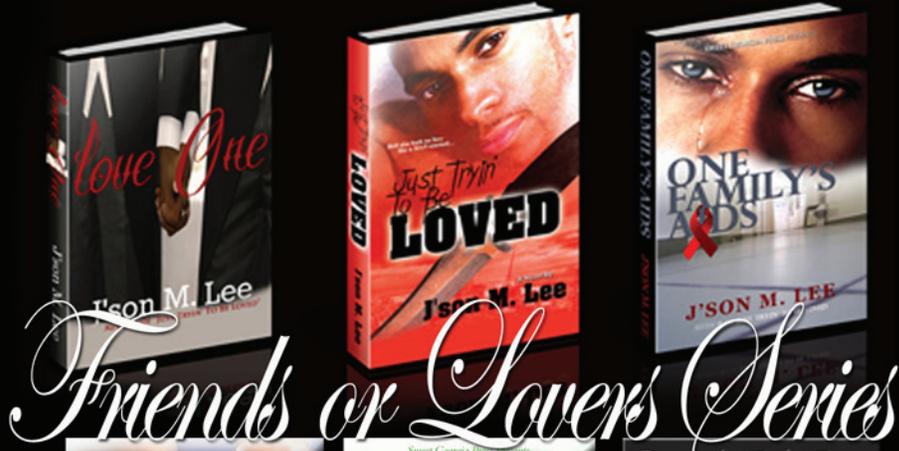
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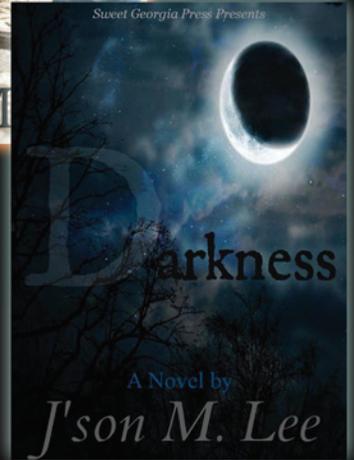
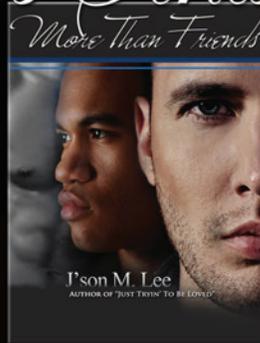
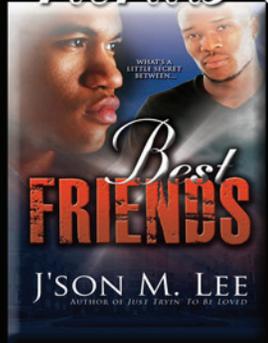
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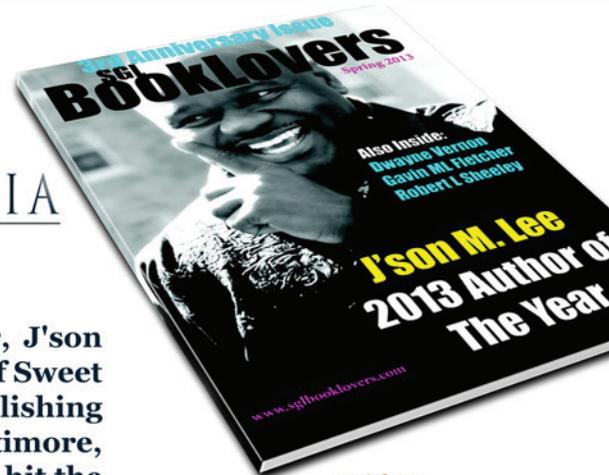
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J'son M. Lee
Telling Our Stories



Multiple award-winning author, J'son M. Lee, is the Owner & President of Sweet Georgia Press. SGP is a small publishing and editing firm based in Baltimore, Maryland. Established in 2012, we hit the ground running with our direct approach to finding success. With an eye for detail and commitment to professionalism, we offer our clients the full package.



Let's Write!



by Ram Michael

I've been trying to find an angle to this story for a while now, but I was worried if you'd "like" me. We post, say, and write things, but underneath, are we really asking "do you 'like' me?" When you "like" my post, does that mean you "like" me?

The same thing can be done for different reasons, and only we know what our true intention is. Why do we need the external validation? I think a lot of times we are doing it for connection. I have something to say that I deem meaningful and I hope you "like" it—because it makes me feel good and loved. Is there anything wrong with that? No, except for the fact that it signals a part of me that needs external validation and love.

We all enjoy being loved, but what I am speaking of here is the need for love because of a lack of self-love and self-validation. That is a problem because no amount of external love and validation will ever satisfy us because of the faulty premise it would be based on. In this instance, there is a bottomless pit that simply cannot be satiated. It stems from a false belief that we are not enough, as is, and must do things, both giving and receiving, to feel loved and validated. When in fact, it is truer and more meaningful for us to be in love and rest in that space in us that is love.

Depending on what state of mind I am in, I look to see if people "liked" my posts. It's important to me that what I wrote is heard, acknowledged, and shared. But, we have to be insightful enough to recognize when it's healthy or unhealthy behavior, and whether we are truly looking for external validation. When you are posting something because you



Proud Times

Expanding Your Frame of Mind

Calendar & Events

Destinations: Bring a Friend to Game Night @ River Park Square Mall Food Court - 3rd Floor May 13, 2014 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 	OutSpokane Pride Planning Meeting @ Lincoln Center boardroom May 13, 2014 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm 	Wicked: The Untold Story of Oz @ INB Performing Arts Center May 13, 2014 @ 7:30 pm 	INBA May Networking Lunch @ The Glover Mansion Catering and Events May 14, 2014 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
QueerSounds May 15, 2014 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 	O.Y.C. Youth Hours (Ages 14-21) @ Odyssey Youth Center May 14, 2014 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm 	Wicked: The Untold Story of Oz @ INB Performing Arts Center May 14, 2014 @ 7:30 pm 	O.Y.C. Youth Hours (Ages 14-21) @ Odyssey Youth Center May 15, 2014 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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need validation, as opposed to when you are simply sharing something, you find yourself in need of people liking your post. This could be a great opportunity to exercise your self-awareness and really give yourself what you need. Remind yourself that you are wonderful, worthy, and beautiful. This will quash the meaning of someone else agreeing with you or liking your post, and you can enjoy that external interaction for what it is, without basing your well-being on it. It's the equivalent of coming from a place of wholeness, and then, as a bonus, being appreciated for it—which feels a heck

of a lot better than being dependent on other people's perceptions and experiences of you. I am talking about the emotional self-sufficiency that will ultimately leave you energized, rather than depleted. So, next time you're logging in, pay close attention to where your eyes gaze first, the "likes" and comments people leave or what it is you would like to offer. This will allow you to connect with yourself and be an even greater communicator with those things you'd like to share. It is the art of "liking" yourself. ■



Ram Michael



We are here for you.

Spokane's chapter of PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of LGBTQ persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy.

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Membership Meetings
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2607 S. Ray St.
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Genuinely Logan Lynn

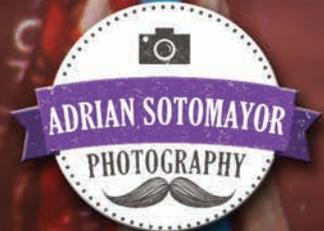
by Jeremy Price-Ballew and Dean Ellerbusch

I'll admit, I was new to the artist Logan Lynn. I had only heard a few of his songs before I was doing research and e-mailing interview questions. I began learning new things about him throughout the process and soon found out he is not like most artists. He is also a champion in the never ending fight for equality.

Logan is willing to ask himself those hard questions and look at important topics that we should all be aware of. His efforts to build up the LGBT community are astounding. Logan founded the Q Center's *Qblog*. As stated on the website, *Qblog* serves

as a resource and online platform "...to broaden the positive perception of LGBTQ people." Logan has even donated an entire year of earnings from his album *I Killed Tomorrow Yesterday* to benefit the Q Center in Portland, Oregon.

What started as a simple music interview turned into something inspiring—an open and honest conversation that hits on several important topics that are too often pushed under the rug and affect more than just our own community. For example, we delve into mental health issues—a topic that is riddled with stigmatism.



Jeremy: You are one of the headliners at this year's Stargayzer festival. What do you look forward to most about playing that festival?

Yes! We are just a little over a month away now. I love Austin's music scene, but my band boys and I have never actually performed there—so that will be fun. I'm really excited to be sharing the stage with Austra, Xiu Xiu, Mykki Blanco, Big Freedia, Trust, Cazwell, and my friends CHRISTEENE, Magic Mouth, Night Cadet, and Carletta Sue Kay! There are 100 bands playing over the course of 3 days and we are playing on the final day of the festival—so I'm excited to really immerse myself in the local scene for a week and watch tons of queers be awesome.

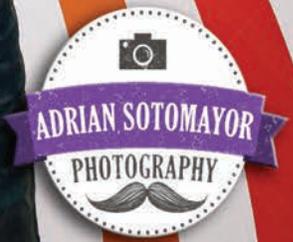
What was it like going from a small time DJ to gaining national mainstream success?

Well, it's been a 15 year process from there to here, so it has felt very organic. But I've been really lucky to have some major milestones along the way. If you had told me my life would be like this when I was a 14-year-old gay kid being tortured by my church and community in rural Nebraska, I would have never believed you. In the years since the whole Logo/MTV relationship was formed I have gotten used to the idea that so many people know who I am, but it's still sometimes hard to wrap my

head around. It's pretty special to have been able to consistently release music and videos and play shows this whole time and still have an audience. That particular bit of amazing is not lost on me.

Dean: What is the best way to describe your music?

Well, I used to always say it was “techno for crybabies” or that I was “putting the ‘disco’ back into ‘discomfort’”—which was very true in the early days of my making records. But as I've grown and changed, so have my songs. I suppose I am a singer/songwriter, though that evokes all kinds of images and experiences which have absolutely nothing [to do] with what I do. You know, record labels and reviewers have been trying to figure this out for as long as I can remember. It can be hard to categorize. My lyrics are often confessional, but my genre tends to change depending on my mood or where I'm at at any given time. Sometimes I make dance music, sometimes it's pop, other times it's a cappella or acoustic. The sound of this new album we have been working on is much more in line with that Miley Cyrus cover we released last year than my previous work. The only thing I am married to in my process is absolute truth. Everything else just shakes out however it shakes out.



While your music is built on techno beats, it leaves me feeling somewhat melancholy. What mood(s) does your music illicit for you?

Yes. With my songs historically, particularly in the olden days when I was still a teenager, the heavier the

electronics, the heavier the subject matter. Drum machines and remixes were my protective layer back then, and I've sort of been in a process of stripping myself of those comforts over the years. At this point, I make myself much more vulnerable in my songs and on stage. There's less distraction



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for me to hide behind. I try to present my human experience honestly in all of its parts. So if I'm experiencing love or heartache or joy or violence or peace, my hope is that the mood of the music matches that experience. I don't actually listen to my own records very much. But when I do, they tend to take me right

back to where I was when I first wrote them and was living them out. It can be quite brutal, but there's something comforting about knowing oneself in this way—and moving through the fear of allowing others to know you so intimately, too.



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In what ways have your parents' religious lifestyle impacted you—both as a gay man and as a musician?

Well, thankfully they are not religious anymore and haven't been for years. As a kid, though, it impacted me in a variety of ways—mostly negative. Some churches are LGBTQ-affirming, but the Church of Christ (which I grew up in) is not one of those churches. I experienced abuse at the hands of Christians which has left a mark which will last a lifetime. As an adult, I have done a lot of work on myself around this experience, and I continue to—but it's still with me. It's part of my makeup. As a musician, not being allowed to listen to secular music and being raised in an a cappella congregation was a particular type of training. My early influences were hymns... and Amy Grant. (Laughs)

Jeremy: What advice do you have for youth or anyone being negatively affected or abused by a religious group or people within a religious group?

I think it's really important to make sure that LGBTQ people of any age or circumstance understand that there are queer and trans-affirming churches and spiritual practices available to them—should they feel moved to continue down that path. The big lie from the anti-gay fundamentalist community is that LGBTQ folks are automatically at

odds with God for being who they were born to be. But just because the church you grew up in says you are going to hell, doesn't mean you actually are—or that hell even exists for that matter. For me, as a non-believer, this is not something I struggle with anymore. But for some, this is much more painful and long-lasting. My advice for anyone being abused by a church or theology would be to survive long enough to escape. There is a big world out there full of love and opportunity. To not internalize other people's bullshit is key, but impossible when you are young and it's all you know. That's why it's so important for us to fight these teachings as a community, and for LGBTQ people to be as out and visible as possible—so young people know there is life on the other side.

Your career has seen many changes, including splitting with a major record label and taking a hiatus to focus on LGBTQ advocacy—at one point donating 100% of profits from the first year of your self-released album *I Killed Tomorrow Yesterday*. What motivates you as an artist and activist to continue on and try new things?

I get bored with the status quo in the music industry really easily, so I am constantly looking for inspiration and have never been particularly good at playing the game. It has made it difficult at times for labels or managers or publicists to know what to do with

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me, but I suppose it has made for some really colorful press moments throughout the years. If too many people start taking advantage of or wanting something from me, and my humanity starts to get lost in this whole “Logan Lynn” brand bullshit, it makes me want to burn it down and start over—which I have done a couple of times. I’m very sensitive and tend to only be able to do what I believe in. The people who have found success in working with me have always understood this. It’s the folks who don’t that I tend to cut loose. I don’t give a shit if you are EMI or Caroline Records or some fancy producer The Dandy Warhols have lined up for me. If you don’t see me—if you don’t have any interest in working with me as I am and placing value on my authentic experience—I’m going to show you the door. It hasn’t been the easiest road by any means, but I sleep well at night knowing I cannot be bought and sold like some kind of fame-hungry pet. Money and success mean very little to me when compared to love and being able to live with myself and the decisions I make.

As an Out & Proud activist, what are some of the causes in the community that are important but not necessarily on the forefront of everyday discussion?

Trans rights are hugely important, as is employment non-discrimination for LGBTQ people and issues of poverty, racism and mental health which still plague our communities. We have a lot of work to do before true equity and equality is a reality for us—and same-sex marriage isn’t going to fix any of that.

What do you think community members and leaders can do to help create change and unify in the cause to gain true equality?

Sometimes in the queer movement we tend to work inside a bubble of our own issues instead of looking up and taking a holistic approach. To fight homophobia without taking into consideration all of the systemic issues which continue to feed it doesn’t get us anywhere. Until we value and honor the struggles of all people, these battles will continue to cycle. The best thing to do is to identify the organizations doing this work in your own backyard. Donate money. Volunteer. Tell your story to the people in your life. Real change takes time—and it takes all of us working together. Figure out what you are passionate about and then run with it. Chances are pretty good there are other people in your community who are equally passionate about the same things. The most important thing we can do is be out—out about our sexual orientation, out about our mental health



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struggles. The more people realize that we are just like them—that everyone faces these battles every day of their lives—the faster change will come.

In 2013, you headlined a tour to benefit LGBTQ Mental Health Services & Suicide Prevention. Do you feel that mental health in the LGBTQ community is overlooked and under-treated?

Absolutely—and not just in the LGBTQ community, but in our society as a whole. Mental health is something that affects us all, no matter who we are. The stigmas attached to those struggles are still alive and well, and we know that LGBTQ communities are disproportionately impacted by addiction, violence... the list goes on and on. As a person who is living in longterm recovery from drugs and alcohol (7 years this March), I have a personal investment. I have lost countless friends to drugs and suicide and my heart will never mend from those breaks. I figure, I have this platform, so I may as well use it to try and get people thinking and talking about this stuff. In the end, mental health is no different than your physical health. We have to change the perception. It has to hit home for people that they are not broken, that this is just a part of life. These struggles are all of ours, and until we all collectively give a shit, nothing will change.

Where do we start? What, as a community or individuals, would you encourage people to take part in to help those who are affected by mental health problems?

Reducing stigma is huge. That happens by people being able to put a face with an experience. There is so much shame associated with mental health struggles. The thing people don't seem to get, which is reinforced by the mountains of stigma, is that we are all dealing with issues of mental health every day of our lives—from the moment we are born until the moment we move on to the next adventure. No one can escape this. Depression is normal. Pretending the brain is not just another part of the body which needs taking care of, and continuing to “other” people who are experiencing this universal struggle has deadly consequences. I battle these issues, but I also welcome them as part of my human experience. If we all decided to do this, the world [would change].

I know from personal experiences (prior jobs) and hearing stories from others that managing a job while trying to deal with mental health issues can often cause several problems—including unfair treatment and even loss of a job when a person is suffering and must take time off to deal with it.

What can companies and co-workers do to gain understanding and help make it easier on those affected?

Yes. Depending on where you work, this can be tricky. There are federal disability laws which prohibit discrimination around physical and mental disabilities, but we all know that anti-discrimination laws are often good on paper, but there is little or no accountability and enforcement once they are enacted.

Compassion is key. If someone is experiencing addiction issues, we have a tendency to dehumanize, shame, and put these people in prison instead of getting them into comprehensive care. If someone is going through depression or other mental health struggles, being kind is a great first step. If you are under the impression that this only happens to other people, you are wrong. We don't punish people when they get breast cancer or break



their leg, so why would we punish them for struggling with their mental health? As a society, a great deal of education is needed around this stuff... and the more people stand up and tell their stories of struggle and survival, the more likely this is to actually happen.

Dean: You have also raised funds and awareness for Out & Proud organizations in Portland, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle. What motivates your philanthropy?

I grew up a gay kid in the rural farmlands of the Midwest in a community that had absolutely no LGBTQ services or supports. I believe deeply in the importance of queer and trans organizations and will always fight for their existence so that other people do not have to go through what I went through coming into myself.

Jeremy: I'm from a small rural farm town myself. As you have mentioned, many small towns in America are without any Out & Proud organizations to offer services and support. How do we reach those kids in rural areas that have no centers or resources to turn to when dealing with coming to terms with sexual identity or orientation?

This is where media and the internet come into play, I think. We live in a time

where LGBTQ people are portrayed in a positive light on TV and in movies. We see our community's leaders in the paper and in magazines. Ultimately, there are pockets of the country where there just are no resources still. Visibility



can be the difference between life and death for people living in those places. It's still not safe to be out everywhere. So, in some ways, we have to be out for them. We build community with people online and in the press so they have



something to keep their spirits up—to feel a part of something bigger. Sadly, this is why most of us leave our rural communities and go coastal. I think this is changing more and more with government-supported initiatives, but we still have a long way to go before it's safe for queer and trans people to be themselves wherever they go.

Dean: You moved around a lot through adolescence. What is it about Portland that has helped your decision to call this city your home?

I sure did. Portland embraced me almost immediately when I moved here in 1996 and it just still does. It has given me the space to be myself here—to fuck up and fix it. And the scene we built so long ago has grown alongside all of us. I don't know that I will live here forever, but it is definitely home.

Jeremy: You founded *QBlog* and also write several other editorial columns. What was it that caused you to change gears and start writing editorials?

It was by accident, really. I just started blogging on my own site in 2006 and that eventually got the attention of Noah Michelson at *Huffington Post* and a handful of other local and national media outlets, and it just became one of the ways I communicate with the world. I didn't set out to become a

journalist any more than I set out to become an activist. These opportunities just come and I tend to explore them as they arrive. After spending a few years working in queer and mainstream media, it became clear that I was holding a pretty far-reaching megaphone, so I wanted to make sure I was handing that megaphone and access off to others within my community who might not otherwise have the opportunity to put their thoughts and dreams out into the world. Launching *QBlog* and *Queer Voices* in particular was an effort to provide a platform to marginalized communities to do just that—and it has really taken off. We went live in 2010 out of Portland's Q Center, with a relaunch in 2012 and now it's a machine of LGBTQ storytelling, getting over 14 million hits annually from over 150,000 unique visitors. There's nothing more satisfying than using my privilege to lift up the voices of others. It makes the unfairness of having said privilege bearable—if that makes sense?

Dean: If you don't find this too personal, what is your relationship status? Depending on your answer, are you looking for something different? If so, what do you desire?

I am newly single, after ending a 4 year relationship with a man and moving through yet another bout with heartbreak. I'm not really looking in the moment. But when I do, I have only

one criteria—and that's honesty. I don't care who you are, but you had better be who you say you are. I'm done with social climbers and guys who lead double lives. I just want someone nice who loves me for me and doesn't want anything from me but that same kind of love in return—something simple. I'm not into open relationships, Grindr or Scruff or hooking up—so if that's your thing, we're a bad match.

Jeremy: Recently you confirmed that a new album is due out in 2015. What is the creative process behind making a new album?

It's true! My producer and collaborator Gino Mari and I have been working on an album for the past 6 months and should be releasing the first single sometime this fall as a preview of what's to come. My creative process always stems from some sort of extreme experience—in this case, the loss of love and the realization that who I thought I was in [a] relationship with isn't actually that person at all. I write and write and write and sing a cappella melodies into my phone for months. Then Gino and I come together and build songs, which we then get to know as we perform them at shows. Then we lock ourselves in at The Country Club studios in Portland and make it happen. Not being on a label during that process is sometimes difficult, but it does take the pressure off. I don't have anyone telling me how to do

What if you have it all but you can't get to it?

STAR BRYAN



A NOVEL BY
JERRY RABUSHKA

Star Bryan, 30, handsome, lonely, lost for years in a bad romance. Newly on his own, his quest for identity takes him on a journey through his mind and his past... carved spirits in the gift department at T.J. Maxx, an old crate in his father's attic, a long-hidden diary that casts his family on the wrong side of slavery. And the far-off glitter of a pro basketball career that never happened. He falls in love with the wrong man, then the wrong man falls for him. They're not the same man. Both are jealous; one is dangerous.

Born into a high-profile political family, Star finds himself in a web of racial bickering in turn of the 21st Century St. Louis, where both black and white society often balk at those who can move easily between the two... and where being aggressively out of the closet can land him in trouble.

Star's imposing body, looks and raw sexual glamour cast him in the eyes of many as a man who can get whatever he wants out of life. Taking it for himself becomes much harder than it seems.

Jerry Rabushka is not a name one would associate with "Black Literature," but he has definitely hit the mark with *Star Bryan*. -- Michelle Cuttino, *Black Literature Magazine*

Rabushka's prose has a deliciously different cadence. It has rhythm, counterpoint, and thoughtful improvisation. -- Jerry Wheeler, *Out in Print*

***Star Bryan*, by Jerry Rabushka
(author of *Livin' in the 509*),
is available at Amazon or from
the publisher at RebelSatoriPress.com.**

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things or when to do them by—which, ultimately, helps the creative process. I feel very free to explore, to fail, to try new things. That’s at the heart of my collaborative relationship with Gino. He encourages me and kicks my ass. It works.

What does it take to redefine your sound? Is it something that grows out of going through new trials—and how do you change from something familiar to something new?

If you listen to all of my records, each one sounds totally different than the last. This can be alienating for some listeners—exciting for others. It’s a byproduct of my needing to keep myself engaged. If it’s not new and exciting to me, it’s just not going to happen. I want to be a better version of myself with each passing year, and the same goes for my records.

What would you like people to know about the upcoming album and what would you like your listeners to get out of it?

I am in love with these new songs we are making, and Gino and I both feel that they are my best yet. It’s going to be fun for people to finally get to hear what we’ve been up to! My hope is that folks will respond to the more organic feel—they certainly did when we tested the waters with “We Can’t Stop.” In the

end, I am making these records to give my experience of struggle and triumph back to the world which gave them to me to begin with. It’s a difficult record to make—almost impossible to get through songs without crying at this point. But I think therein lays what works about it. It’s pure and true—even the ugly parts. If we can authentically bring listeners along for the ride, we will have succeeded. And so far, it’s working.

We would like to thank Logan for his contributions in fighting for equality in the LGBT community and mental health services. We are Proud to feature such a sincere individual who works towards the betterment of all.

Be sure to keep up with Logan Lynn on several popular social media outlets and watch for his new album as it drops in 2015. ■

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LOUD AND PROUD
OUT & PROUD Entertainment Magazine

Logan Lynn’s Music and Videos

Coming Out Trans*

Part 1: It's Personal

by Sevan Bussell



I am splitting this subject matter into sections. Otherwise, one article would be far too long, and a shorter version would not cover the process properly. I begin with my personal experience with coming out.

This is a tough topic for me to cover because of its vastness, and how individual and unique each person is in their coming out process. How old you are when you start coming out plays a role. Plus, many other factors will come into play when we talk about coming out.

I was asked once, “Which was easier, coming out as lesbian or coming out as trans*?” (Since I have done both, this came up in this conversation.) For me, it was easier coming out as trans*. While difficult, I feel that there are many things that helped my coming out to be more successful when comparing the two experiences.

When I came out as lesbian, I was in church—all my friends, my social activities, and my music were associated with church. So, when I came out as lesbian in 2000, I was given the choice to apologize to the whole of the church for my “sins against the church” and move out of the apartment I lived in with my spouse (to save me from “sin” and “temptation”), or I could leave. I chose to leave. I felt (and still feel) that I had committed no sin—especially against the church. Once I left, all of my Christian music brought pain of being kicked out of the church. All of my friends who were part of the church immediately stopped being friends with me. All my social events were gone. I was alone. I had not sought LGBT

support because I didn’t expect to need it...and once I did need it, I didn’t know where to turn.

Shortly after, I lost my job because of the stress of being proselytized at work by my co-workers, as well as being shunned by those same co-workers. My father once showed up at work screaming at me about my “fruity life.” My partner showed up at my work suicidal a few times, and needed me.

My anxiety was through the roof.

At only 18 years old and in my first apartment—having a strained relationship with my parents, not able to see my sisters, friendless and jobless—yeah, that was really tough.

After coming out lesbian to my parents, our relationship was severed. For many years afterwards, I had no contact with them—almost never saw them. We patched things up after I left my partner of three years, but under the patches some scars were left behind. I have had a very difficult time being open about most personal issues and pieces of my life.

When I came out as trans*, I chose carefully who I would tell and how I would tell them. I had the support of my local LGBT Center, and trans* support group. I had online support and read how others had come out, what had worked and what hadn’t.

At 28 I had a much better idea of how people might possibly respond. I knew myself much better; I knew what I needed in order to give voice to what was going on in my life. Has it gone well? Not entirely. My parents haven't accepted my gender variance and didn't recognize my new name for many years. I didn't have that many friends, but those I did have were very close and honest; it was easy to tell them. Luckily for me, they took it in stride and it wasn't that big of a deal.

With my parents, I sent them an email. That may not work for everyone, but I was fearful that if I tried to tell them over the phone or in person, I would stutter or stumble over my words, or not say the hard things and not tell my full truth. Writing an email allowed me to do all that. I was able to save it, edit it, think about it, re-word things and include links that might help them to understand from sources outside myself.

When a person comes out (as anything—trans*, lesbian, bi, or gay) they are often exposing something they've kept secret. It is something so integral about themselves, and something they've buried and hidden (sometimes for many many years). To expose that piece of themselves, to bring it into the light when it has been buried for so long is to show you—the person we're coming out to—a core

part of ourselves that has no protection around it anymore. We had to tear that protection away in order to bring it to light. It's altogether freeing, scary, amazing, and terrifying.

At the start of coming out, this piece of ourselves (at least, for me it was this way) it was as a newborn baby; it is naked, exposed, and without much defense. Something that is so important, but has remained a carefully kept secret.

When someone close to me rejects this about me, they have struck out at that newborn baby who is lacking any defense. That hurts in a huge way.

In upcoming articles, my partner Cyndi and I will be talking more about coming out. There will be more personal stories, more information for the trans* person who wishes to come out, and some information for those who might have someone come out to them. We will talk about how to behave in that moment, what things you might consider saying, and how to follow up with that.

We hope you'll stay tuned. ■

ALLEGIANCE

A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL

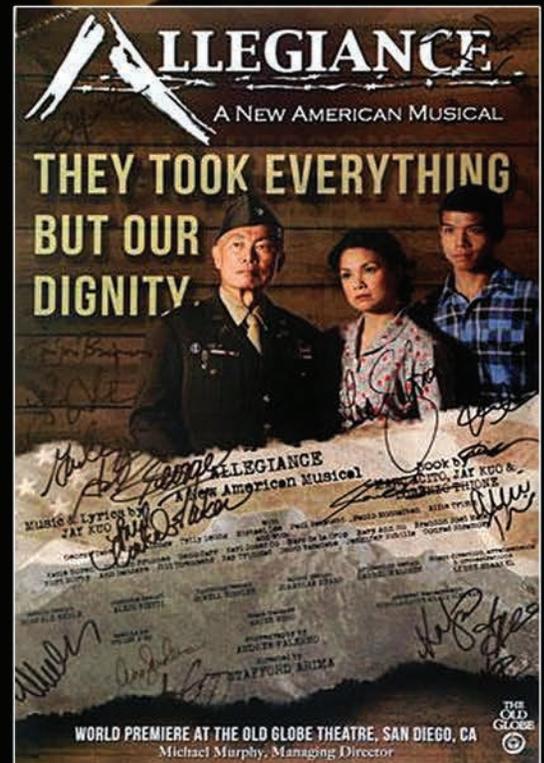
THEY SAID
TAKE ONLY
WHAT YOU CAN
CARRY

Allegiance is an epic story of love, war and heroism set during the Japanese American internment of World War II, following the story of the Kimura family in the weeks and years following Pearl Harbor, as they are relocated from their farm in Salinas, California to the Heart Mountain internment camp in the rural plains of Wyoming.

Their story reflects the deep conflicts of a nation and a people divided, as younger brother Sammy strives to prove his loyalty and patriotism, while older sister Keiko comes to resist their internment and treatment by the government. The Kimura's conflicts mirror the larger rift between the Japanese American Citizens League, which urged cooperation with the internment and unwavering loyalty to America, and the draft resisters of Heart Mountain, who steadfastly refused to serve a country that had put them in concentration camps. This universal story sheds new light upon a dark, under-explored, and wrenching chapter of American history. Through the remembrances of Old Sam, the painful past is revisited, and at long last, redemption a

Allegiance sheds new light upon a dark chapter of American history. One of the first Asian musicals in more than a decade, with a stunning and moving score, Allegiance connects the audience with universal themes of love, family and redemption.

Allegiance had its World Preview at The Old Globe theater in California in 2012, one of the largest and most highly-respected regional theaters for development of new musicals in California and in the United States.



Oh Brother! Where Have You Been?

by Dean Ellerbusch

On Monday, 10 November 2014, I received a phone call from my brother telling me he was admitted to the hospital the previous Tuesday and was released on Saturday. Of course, this news panicked me and I needed to know what happened. His explanation began with another example of medical malfeasance; he had been misdiagnosed with asthma, when he really had pneumonia. So, when he showed up to the emergency room in distress, they ran an array of tests to confirm this new diagnosis. At some point, the staff discovered his heart wasn't beating properly.



The following is a Facebook status update I posted shortly after our conversation.

I'm about to share some information for which I neither seek nor desire any type of condolences (both my brother and I are alive and well—well, at least we're not dead... yet). It has so much more to do with providing the education that my brother said he lacked.

My brother tells me that he went into the hospital on Tuesday and was released on Saturday. He had been improperly diagnosed with one respiratory problem, when it turned out to be pneumonia. While he was in being treated for pneumonia, the “medical professionals” figured out that his heart—I think he said it is the upper half—was pumping at 30% (the reason I put “medical professionals” in quotes is that my brother is continually being told by these folks that they have no idea what is wrong with him—and often send him on his way). This time, the doc told him that if he waited one more day before getting to the emergency room, he would have surely died.

Herein lies the lesson...

I was confused as why neither he nor my mom let me know he was in the hospital (especially being so close to

death). He told me that he didn't want me to be in the hospital and risk getting sick from the illnesses that other people had—due to my being HIV positive. I thought that, after living with this disease for over 20 years, my brother (and others) would have learned that someone like myself—with a Tcell count of about 1100 and an undetectable viral load—is no more likely of becoming sick from patients than any other HIV negative person. If needed, I will wear a hospital mask. Alternately, sick people who can transmit airborne illness could wear masks from getting anyone else sick. (Does this sound familiar? If you are concerned with getting or transmitting HIV, use the appropriate prophylactics.)

So, the moral of the story...

Treat someone living with HIV as you would any other family member or friend. We aren't going to get you sick, and you're no longer likely to get us sick—because the medical advances in treating HIV make it much more likely that we'll die from heart disease than we will from being around our sick and dying friends and relatives.

As HIV and AIDS are still somewhat taboo topics, I was gratified to see the large number of people that read this post. Several people commented they were appreciative of this bit of education, and I would hope others are more

willing to share their personal stories as a way to educate their friends and relatives—and even strangers who might not otherwise receive information which would reduce ignorance about HIV and AIDS.

Any search for “HIV and AIDS” on the internet will also produce a wealth of information. Many sites provide a basic understanding of the topic, as well as making the more complex information available for those who desire to further educate themselves about this disease which affects so many.

HIV/AIDS organizations are also available across this country. Locally, Spokane AIDS Network and Spokane Regional Health District are two resources with staff available to discuss vital information everyone should know—whether you are HIV positive or HIV negative.

Please take any opportunity to educate yourself about living with HIV and AIDS. If not for yourself, for those of us who do. ■



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VISION QUEST

Blind Author's Path is Crystal Clear

by Sam Chafin



In the spring of 2007, Belo Cipriani was beaten and robbed of his sight at the hands of his gay friends. At the age of twenty-six, he was forced to relearn how to walk, cook, and date—in the dark. He wrote about the two years immediately following his assault in first book, *Blind: A Memoir*.

“When I became blind, I realized that everything I knew about blindness was inaccurate,” he says. “Many of my erroneous assumptions about blindness had been created by Hollywood and I wanted to put something out that properly portrayed what it’s like to lose your sight in the 21st century.”

Blind: A Memoir became an international best seller, prompting Cipriani to delve deeper into his writing. This month he unveils his first novella, *Midday Dreams*, a short tale about a Portuguese family who discovers one of the uncles is gay.

Would you have been a writer if you had not lost your sight?

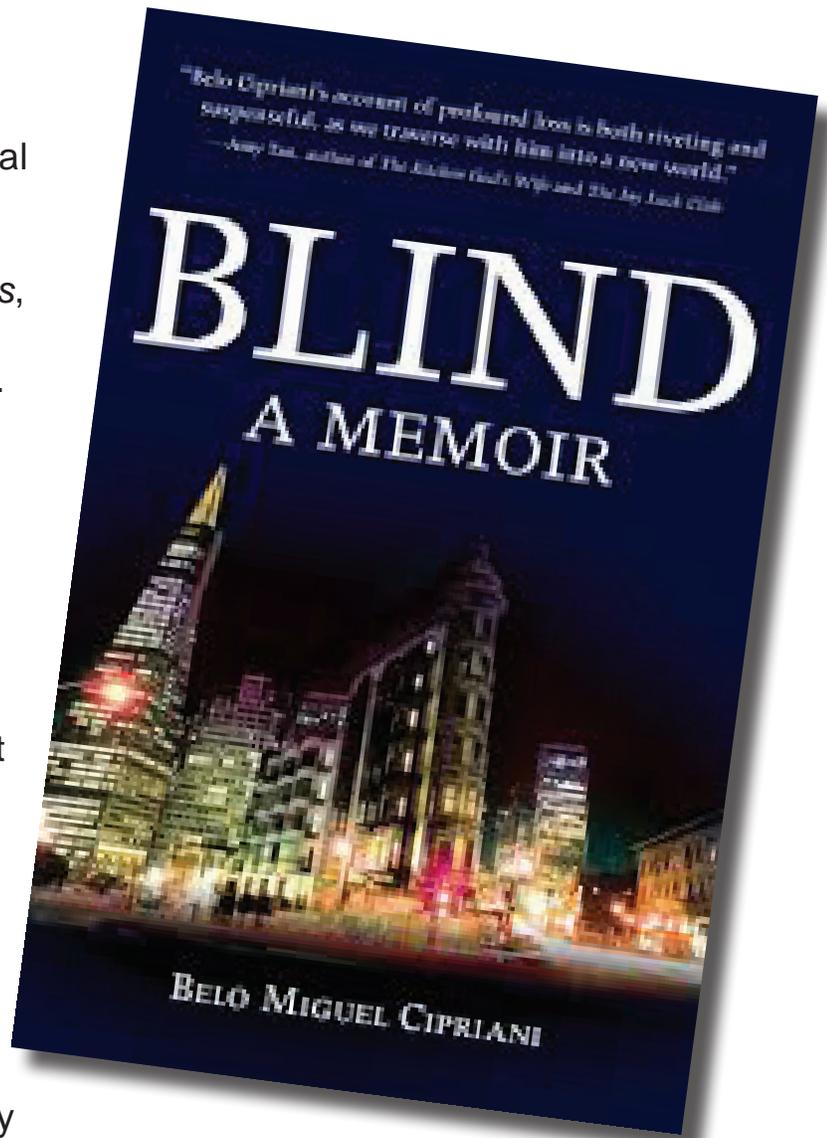
If I had not lost my sight, I would still be working in corporate America. Even though I have always been a fan of books, it wasn't until I lost my sight that I realized I could write one of my very own.

Was writing your memoir cathartic?

It was deeply liberating. It allowed me to reflect on issues that otherwise I may have swept under the rug and not dealt with. The time I spent editing proved to be cleansing and it allowed me to move forward with my life.

Why were you attacked?

I don't know why someone I was once so close to would hurt me. However, I don't think it was planned. I don't think he woke up that morning and plotted against me. I do think he was mad at me though and that it was his anger that pushed him to assault me.



Do you think he feels remorse for hurting you?

I would imagine he may feel some remorse but I am uncertain if he regrets what he did. He had some good in him and I am hoping he has found a way to deal emotionally with what he did.

Has he ever reached out to you to apologize?

No, he has not.

Are you still angry?

No. I have come to terms with my fate. I realize today that we can plan and organize all we want but at the end, life may take us on a completely different journey.

What do you hope to achieve in your fiction writing?

I hope to achieve a good story and introduce characters that people will remember.

What inspired your first novel, *Midday Dreams*?

I have visited several Portuguese cities and in one of my trips I met a woman who shared that her brother had left the Azores twenty-five years earlier with a man. She explained that her brother lived in San Francisco with his so-called friend. Fifteen years later, I heard a song that reminded me of the woman and her brother. I soon began to work on *Midday Dreams* and allowed the story to write itself. *Midday Dreams* is not my attempt at piecing together the woman's story, it's a tale that was inspired by her but grew into something different.

What do you hope readers take away from the tale?

I hope my readers take away the

knowledge that we can have LGBTQ literature that does not have to have erotic scenes or tragedy to be compelling. I hope they also walk away with a little taste of the Azores. These beautiful islands are rarely mentioned in literature and many people don't even know where they are located. Hopefully, *Midday Dreams* inspires folks to make the jaunt to the nine islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

What are you most grateful for today?

I am most grateful for technology. Without my adaptive software and devices, life would be a lot more challenging.

If you could say one thing to your attacker, what would it be?

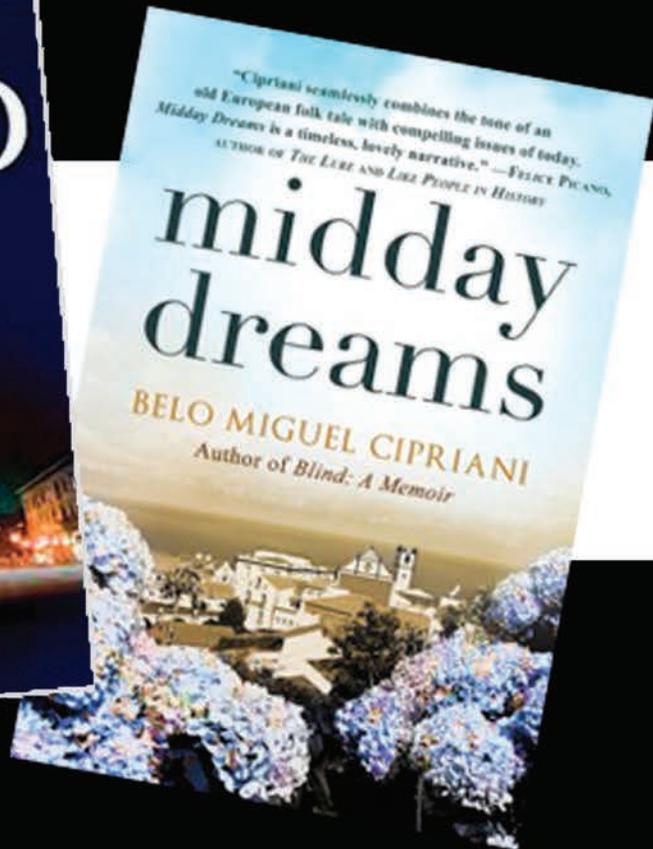
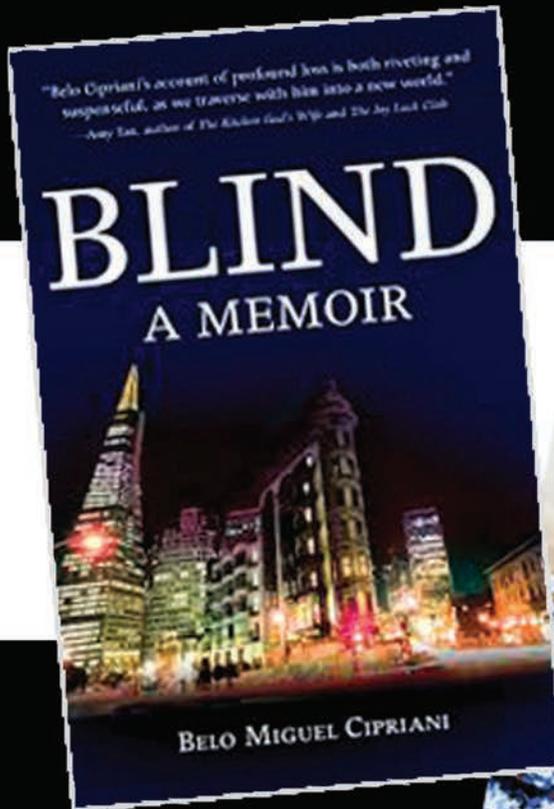
I forgive you.

You have forgiven him?

I forgave him on the day my memoir was published. Holding the paperback copy in my hands helped me see my past for what it is—the past—and allowed me to embrace my future. ■

For more information on Belo Cipriani, visit <http://belocipriani.com>.

Blind Ambition: Belo Cipriani Aims To Build Awareness of Gays with Disabilities



Belo Cipriani's **BLIND** is available at all major booksellers. His first novella, **MID-DAY DREAMS**, a short tale about a Portuguese family who discovers one of the uncles is gay, releases October 7th 2014. For more information on Belo Cipriani, visit <http://belocipriani.com>.



The most venomous new brief hitting stores this summer is CellBlock 13's Viper. Made from cotton and spandex for a super comfortable and sexy feel, the ferocious backless brief includes a center stripe in front that maximizes attention on a man's slithering serpent.

Bite of the Viper

by Kristian Morales

"Viper is for the guy who isn't ashamed to show off how he looks and feels, or what kinda kink he's into," says designer and Creative Director Timoteo Ocampo.

The line is the latest from Cellblock 13, the fetish wear collection that includes a full line of underwear, tees, compression shorts, socks, and wrestling singlets.

Kristian: What inspired the new Viper brief?

Timoteo: The Viper collection was inspired by international motor cross: the colors, the patterns, the textiles



of the uniforms and the energy and excitement of the sport. It's fast-paced and fun and a little bit dangerous.

Why should men go backless this summer?

Men should always go backless. This is a fad that is not going away anytime soon. We're bringing new styles and designs including backless boxer briefs.

Is there a significance to the stripe in front?

It is to highlight a guy's package. It's meant to be an eye catcher.

How has your fashion background helped your underwear designs?

It's important to have to have an eye for design and the know-how to make an innovative pattern. A designer also needs to understand good construction of garments and how to engineer a perfect fit.

How does Cellblock 13 stand out from the rest of the fetishwear collections?

We offer optimum design, fit, and fabrication. Fit is the #1 essential quality of any great brief. If the fit is bad, guys will end up throwing the pair away.

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Who wears Cellblock 13?

Guys into fetish gear, but also guys that appreciate edge. We've been seeing CellBlock 13 popping up a lot on regular guys in their Grindr, Scruff and Recon profiles. ■

Visit www.cellblock13.net.



Rhonda

Skuff

Miki

Lilly



LIVIN'
in the
509

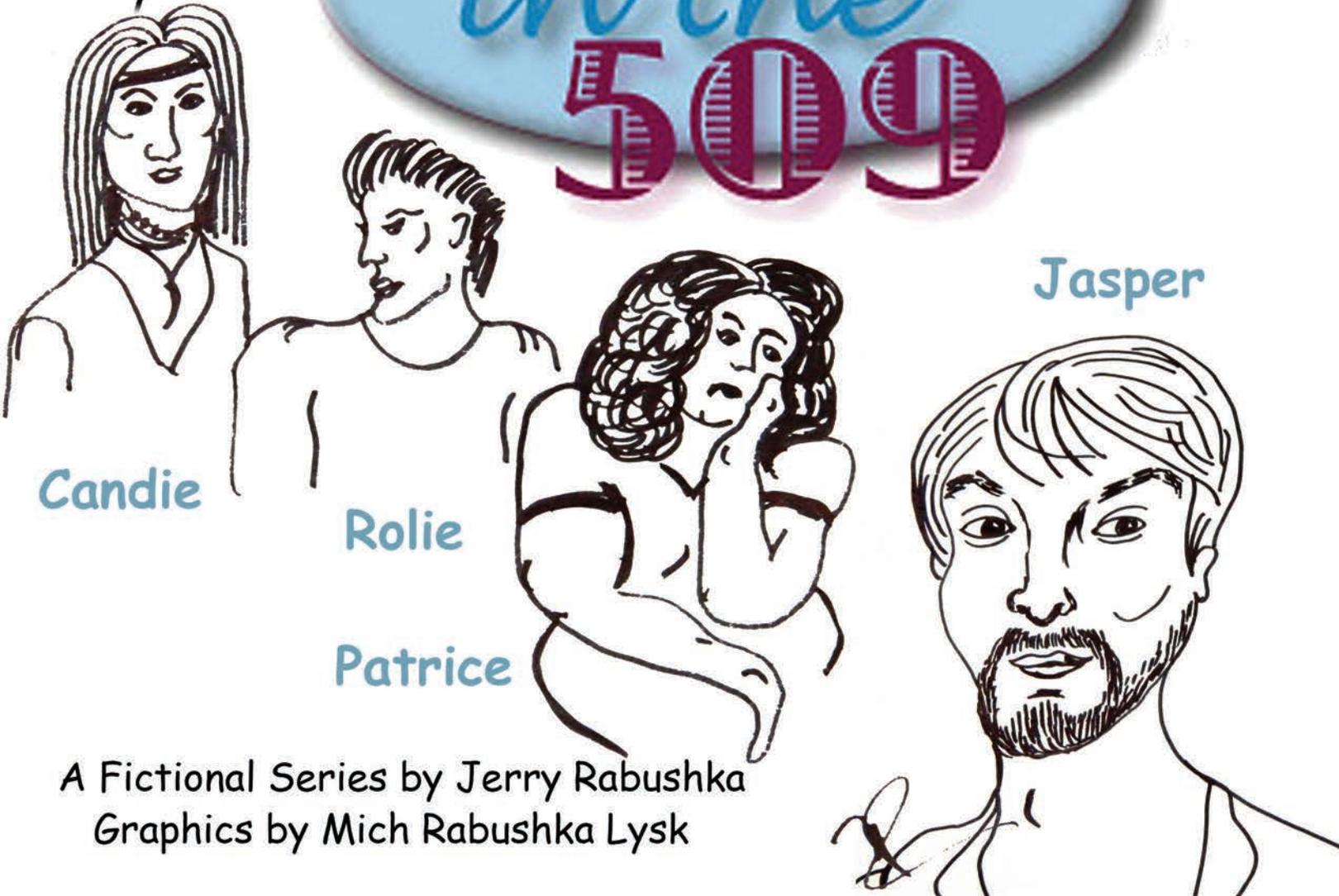
JR

Candie

Rolie

Patrice

Jasper



JR

A Fictional Series by Jerry Rabushka
 Graphics by Mich Rabushka Lysk

Catch up with the story in previous issues of *Proud Times*!

Loud sighs were heaved. Honeymoon sex, finally!

Neither Miki nor Lilly wanted to admit or talk about the fact that while their love was strong and warm, the passion was fading in their 30 year relationship. So far, legal marriage had failed to reignite it. Why would it? They felt long married anyway.

Still, tonight was different. Tonight was a physical celebration of having the house to themselves. Tonight was more like "we can still do that," and "that's what that was like," and all the things that seemed to be reserved (at least on TV and in magazines) for younger, thinner non-Hawaiians.

"Wow," said Lilly. "We're back in the mainstream. Let's not wait so long next time."



"I'll keep this wedding dress handy," Miki replied. She lay back down close to the woman she loved for so many years. It still felt right. Other than...

In the quiet next to Lilly, she suddenly started breaking her life into thirds. The first third was on the big island in Hawaii, the second in Spokane, and now a final third to come that she wasn't sure of. Assuming she would live until 90 or more, while she was happily married to Lilly Holliman, she wasn't sure how married she was to never again living in Hawaii. Why would Lilly want to stay here, and what was keeping them from moving to a warmer climate?

Oh, cost of living. And here, everything is set. Everything is settled. Everything is easy. Everything is.

But, it wasn't, and what a horrible time to think of this. Maybe later, after the honeymoon was over.

There was an interesting party going on at the new apartment. They took a place near Spokane City College; Miki had steered them there in hopes that they might notice that thing called education. Rolie, Patrice and Candle

argued and agreed on who would get what room while Sean and Skuff stuffed it with all the furniture, boxes and "what about that?" items that no one wanted to carry. But carry they did, a longer-than-planned holiday of trips from the old dog pound to the new.

Candle ducked into her room to meditate on it all, while Patrice and Rolie set up shop in the living room (Finally, no cuckoo clock!) so they could flip channels, read romances, and bicker and banter just like they'd done at the big house in Hillyard. Some people ragged on Miki and Lilly for living on that side of town, but it was a lot of house for not a lot of money. After so long, they had settled into it just like the house settled into the dirt.

Miki had given the kids some old recliners so they could get started. But then again, without Miki and Lilly to babysit, they could celebrate their new place with unlimited access to pot and alcohol and perhaps other pharmaceuticals we dare not mention.

That sounded good to Skuff and Sean, who were gratefully away from anyone who might care about what they were doing. Patrice got high and drunk on rare occasions, and Rolie... on any occasion.

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Skuff was already being bad, having spent the entire day ogling Sean from head to toe and loving every minute of it. Sean was being bad by letting him and loving every minute of it. Now Rolie was being bad by suggesting the two of them make out for their small audience. Patrice agreed; since she'd never be kissing either of them, at least she would watch them kiss each other.

"Some dishes you just can't cook at home," Rolie suggested.

"Not even Twiggs," Skuff recalled.
"Not even Twiggs."

This was a half hour of cajoling, recoiling and discussing how and why it should or shouldn't be done, who would or wouldn't find out, and exactly what kind of lip glide it was supposed to be. Finally Skuff, thinking he might never have another chance, and realizing this had everything to do with Sean being hot as fuck and nothing to do with Sean being loyal, faithful, or even pleasant, dove in for the agreed upon 60-second make out.

Again, heavy sighs were heaved.
"Damn!" Sean had just Climbed Ev'ry Mountain and Forded Ev'ry Stream.
"That was a trip."

"Yea, a trip," Skuff agreed. "You're so drunk."

"Nope, not yet," Sean argued with a winning smile. Skuff's one or two beers didn't compare to whatever Sean had smoked and swallowed, and it affected him all at once. Suddenly Sean was a basket case. And horny.

"We better get you home," Skuff said. Or at least to my place.

Candle came out quickly, relieved all this nonsense was about to end. How ze was going to make this situation work, who knew? "Thanks so much for setting up our new life."

The others thanked them as well, almost having forgotten such etiquette. Patrice would be starting a new job. Rolie got a part time gig plus he would be pulling drag dollars out of his underwear and putting them into rent. Candle? No one knew, but money would happen. Some or other spirit, spirit guide, or elder would help out for now.

Luckily for Skuff, Sean needed help getting outside and with a tight arm around him, leaned on him on the way to the truck. Luckier still, he was too drunk to drive, so Skuff was going to

take him back to his own apartment to sleep it off. Browne's Addition... Skuff didn't love it but it was a quick find when he needed some walls, and it was occasionally charming. Would Sean feel it was beneath him? Would he even notice where he was?

Sean was wobbling and talking differently than usual. Laid back, light, higher pitched. "There's some shit she

won't do, Skuff," he moaned. "You're a hot guy, maybe you do that shit. I want someone to do that shit."

Skuff wasn't sure what any of that shit was.

"You were with her, you know what she do and what she don't," Sean almost sang.



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He was being seductive and annoying at the same time; his legs sprawled wide in the cab of the truck. Skuff

was losing his religion in Sean's good looks as the starlight and streetlights set him aglow. Looked like the alcohol was making Skuff attractive, and he

wasn't even the one drinking.

"She was a woman," Skuff reminded Sean. "It was all shit I didn't do. That's why you're seeing her and I'm..." seeing Jasp, he wanted to say, but his lips clamped shut.

"Ain't no one here but us brothas," Sean offered. "So you can do that shit. You do that shit like you kissed this brotha and we got a deal. I've seen you lookin'."

Skuff could smell the beer coming out of Sean's speech, but since it was Sean, it was aphrodisiac.



Was all this manhood really his for the taking?

It was time to compartmentalize. Jasper, Rhonda, if something happened here how could he face anyone, how could he betray Rhonda a second time, how could he betray Jasper who loved him, how could he betray himself, and right this minute

how could he say no and anyway why did he hook up with Jasper only 12 minutes after coming out of the closet?

Right now Skuff hated himself. He hated Jasper for being possessive and controlling. He hated Sean for being handsome and available, he hated Rhonda for... well he wasn't

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sure but there had to be a reason, and back to himself for daring to enjoy someone sexually. Why did Sean have to come with so many strings and so much putty? Maybe because Skuff and Rhonda still seemed like a couple, Sean figured one of them was as good as the next.

Skuff lead Sean upstairs, trying to keep him quiet as he was loose enough that he didn't care what he said or who heard it. "Shit she doesn't do," kept coming up, but Skuff was still afraid to. Who knew if it had to do with carrots or whipped cream, or...

Up to the boring apartment with the boring white walls. A small lamp lit up the bedroom. Jasp had never been here. "Never done this before," Sean surmised. "But... shhhh!" he said, giggling to himself. There's that smile again! Skuff gave in. "You must be an old pro at this kinda thing," Sean assumed.

At what? Sex, love? Pro? Nah. Loser. Most of the clothes came off. Skuff, nervous, put himself flat on the bed. Sean's gym-toned body aligned with Skuff muscle for muscle as he lay on top. "Where'd we leave off, Skuff-man?"

"Something about shit she wouldn't do."

"Yeah, let's do some shit." Another kiss... heavy, lippy, wet, drippy, beerful, mustashy, then Sean passed out.

This is the kind of night when cell phones ring, no one picks up, and people get scared. ■





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LOUD AND PROUD

OUT & PROUD Entertainment Magazine

Volume 1.0

Interview

Low Down with the Rooks

Reviews

Karmen Butler

Daze of Love

Tony Bennet & Lady Gaga

Cheek to Cheek

Cover

Semi Precious Weapons

Aviation Intoxication

SEMI
PRECIOUS
WEAPONS



Photography By Ryan Aylsworth



Since its inception in June, *Loud and Proud* set out to promote the LGBT musicians and bands of the worldwide community, as well as some major allies, in hopes of providing equal opportunity for the community's artists. We share interviews, reviews, press releases, and an expanding state by state musical directory to connect people to current and up and coming artists.

What started out as a young gay man's personal project soon became something more. The more artists I spoke with, the more I began to truly grasp just how lop-sided the entertainment industry can be for LGBT artists. Discrimination is still a major problem that many have to face in not only their personal lives, but careers as well—often losing out on record deals and opportunities due to discrimination.

It is my belief that music has the ability to capture and express feelings to its listeners—no matter whether it's sad, happy, fun, etc. Music also brings people together. We, as humans, feel a deep connection that provides an assortment of experiences along with it. Even the most different of people can come together to hear artists they adore.



LOUD AND PROUD

OUT & PROUD Entertainment Magazine

I can't think of a better way to kick off our first volume than with an interview with the amazing Justin Tranter, *Loud and Proud* lead singer of Semi Precious Weapons. This interview was one of our first, has a lot of personality and holds a special place in my heart.

Another first for Volume 1.0 is an album review by a new contributor. Sergey Grankin is a bright and talented young man. He provides us with a very detailed album review of Lady Gaga and Tony Bennet's new album *Cheek to Cheek*.

There are several people who deserve thanks for their support and contributions in making *Loud and Proud* possible: Daniel Hafner, for his initial contributions; Lindsey Gardner, for her help and amazing PR skills; Heather Starr, for her willingness to help review shows; Sergey Grankin,

for his album review contribution; my beloved Charles, for acting as a grounding post and encouraging me in all I do; and, last but not least, Dean Ellerbusch and Kurt Schmierer. These two brought me on board *Proud Times* almost a year ago and have provided more help and guidance than I could have hoped for. They have not only been excellent mentors, but have become my family as well. Without Dean's sharp editing skills and Kurt's keen ability for graphic design, this project would surely have not reached the level it has now.

With Love, Pride and Dedication...
Jeremy Price-Ballew
Loud and Proud!

Loud and Proud
Volume 1.0

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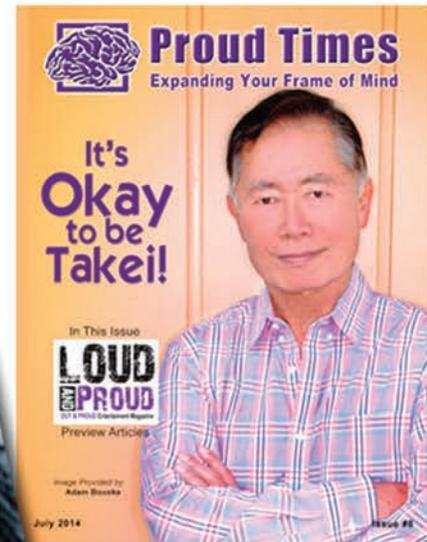




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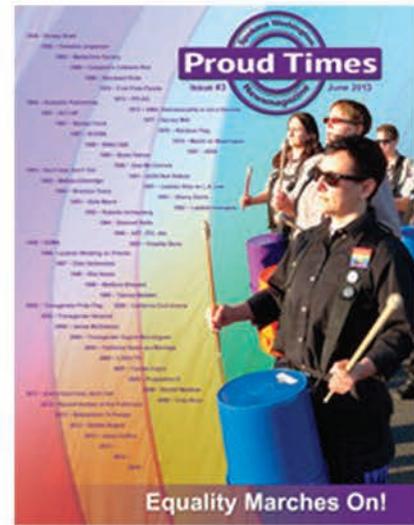
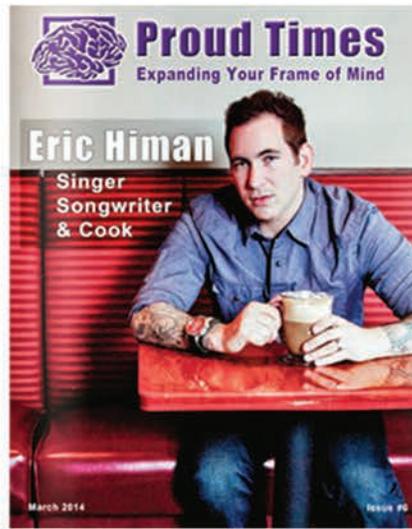
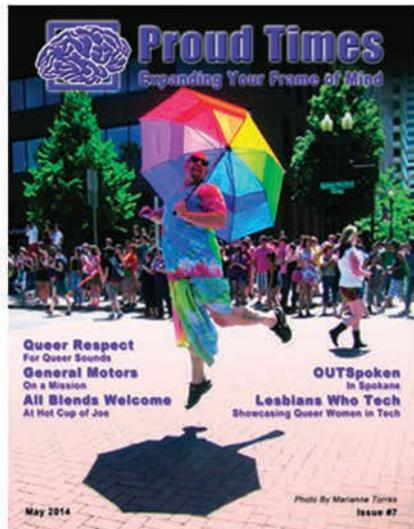


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LOUD AND PROUD

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WEBSITE FEATURED

Erasure



Photo by: Phil Sharp

Formed nearly 30 years ago, the award-winning songwriting duo of Vince Clarke and Andy Bell unleashed on the nation a succession of both influential and chart-topping pop anthems of the '80s, '90s through to today.

Songs like 'Oh L'amour,' 'A Little Respect,' 'Sometimes,' 'Victim Of Love,' 'Blue Savannah,' 'Star,' 'Chains Of Love,' 'Who Needs Love (Like That),' 'Love To Hate You,' 'Drama!,' "Always," and "Breathe," ensured a formidable presence on the singles charts complemented by chart topping albums (including *The Innocents*, *Chorus*, and *I Say I Say I Say*) and the beginning of the worldwide Abba revival, *Abba-esque*.

MikeQ



Photo by: Doug Adesko

MikeQ (Fade To Mind|Queen Beat|Mad Decent] is an American artist and is one of the leading figures of the US's long-running (but still largely underground) ballroom/vogue-house culture. Based in New Jersey, the 28-year-old producer is not only one of the busiest DJs, but he also heads up his own "Queen Beat" label and turns out a steady stream of vogue and ballroom tracks, re-edits, and remixes.



Vita and the Woolf

Photo by: Chris Sikich

Vita and the Woolf is the brainchild of Jennifer Pague. Their debut EP *Fang Song* was released September 16th featuring eight upbeat, poppy and artful tracks.

Much of the music is vocal driven and includes a wide range of harmonies, many have compared Pague's voice to that of Florence Welch.

Little Waist



Little Waist is a transcore/queercore trio from Brooklyn, NY. Formed in 2012 by Audrey Zee Whitesides as a solo project to chronicle the realities of life as a recently out queer & trans woman, Little Waist quickly became a full band. By 2013, Little Waist found its way into the New York queer punk scene, and especially the recently-established Brooklyn Transcore collective.

Logan Lynn



Logan Lynn is an American musician, writer, composer, singer, producer, LGBT activist and television personality from Portland, Oregon. He has released seven studio albums, fifteen music videos, four singles, three compilation records, five EP's and one mixtape since 1998. Videos of Lynn's singles have been featured on Logo, MTV, VH1 and Spike TV.

ISSUE #10 Proud Times
Genuinely Logan Lynn



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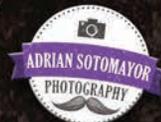
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Issue #10

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The Rooks



THE ROOKS are a New York City-based indie soul sextet. The band draws on an eclectic catalogue of influences (the melodic sensibilities of Stevie Wonder, the staggered backbeats of J Dilla, the vocal intricacies of The Dirty Projectors) as they dance the line between the kind of music that makes you think and feel-good-down-in-your-gut soul.

Matt Zarley



Matt's passion for songwriting resulted in his first solo album, *Debut*, which was released in 2002, and his second album, *Here I Am*, which was named one of *Billboard* magazine's Critics Top 10 picks for 2008. Matt continued to make his mark on the music industry in 2011 with the release of his most personal album to date, *Change Begins With Me*, which was embraced with rave reviews and won OutMusic awards for Single of the Year and Album of the Year. He's also had four consecutive singles on *Billboard's* Club Play chart.

Semi Precious Weapons



Ryan Aylsworth Photo Shoot

Semi Precious Weapons formed in New York City. Graduates of the Berklee College of Music, the band immediately began drawing attention for their raucously tight and famously over the top live performances, as well as for their striking visual style. The band played sold out shows throughout the city, promoting warehouse parties, while becoming mainstays at Brooklyn events and New York Fashion Week alike. Quickly garnering a cult-like fan base and stunning critical acclaim, as well as a host of celebrity followers and industry insiders along the way, the band was awarded Best Live Band by the *Village Voice*'s Readers Poll and released their debut album *We Love You*.

Mirror Travel



For the past four years, Follow That Bird was one of the most buzzed about bands from their hometown of Austin, Texas. And considering how many bands are packed into that one city, that ain't faint praise. They were picked by Mator Records to be the lead single on the 2010 Austin-only compilation *Casual Victim Pile*, and snapped up enough accolades to have Bill Callahan have them support him on tour and ...And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead ask them to be the opening act on their full tour of the Western US last summer.

Karmen Buttler



"I grew up in a family for whom music was always THE event. It was the occasion, shared language and ultimate reason to come together. It remains today the single most important way we're connected and thing we share. Needless to say music, and my very musical family, made a profound impression on me early on. I vividly recall being not much more than 4 or 5 years old, standing beside my grandfather's upright piano listening to my Aka (beloved aunt Karen) sing, begging her to "play the sad songs". I was obsessed with the sad songs...

BLXPLTN



BLXPLTN (Blaxploitation) is overtaking the scene with their twisted shrieks, power beats, and devil-may-care attitude.

THE LOW DOWN V



WITH THE ROOKS

by: Jeremy Price-Ballew & J Charles Ballew



The Rooks are a soulful, melodic, six-piece band hailing from New York City. Consisting of Garth Taylor (lead vocals), Nate Mondschein (drums, vocals), Spencer Hattendorf (sax, vocals, percussion,) Graham Richman (Guitar), Louis Russo (bass guitar), and Gabe Gordon (keyboard).

In our E-mail interview, the guys tell us what it is that separates them from the rest of the players and how they successfully fuse different genres into their own special blend of unique music with eloquent vocals.

JCB: How did the band come together?

Thank you! The group came together at Wesleyan University in late 2011. At that point we had spent about 4 years performing together in different on-campus groups and felt strongly about putting together a band with the intention of making more professional moves after college.

JPB: How would you describe your sound?

We've always had trouble putting our sound in a specific category, but largely draw on soul, R&B, and indie influences—so, right now, Indie-Soul/R&B is the best we can do. We're still waiting for iTunes to get with the times and create a new label for us...rude.

JPB: Who are some of your influences/inspirations?

Individually our influences range quite a bit, but we definitely hold D'Angelo, Frank Ocean, Stevie Wonder, Erykah Badu, The Dirty Projectors, Beyoncé, and Hiatus Kaiyote in high esteem.

JCB: There are new bands popping up every day—struggling to make it. What makes you different?

That's tough to say for certain, because we know every artist wants the same thing—to have their work appreciated and to fulfill themselves personally and/or financially. The most atypical thing about how our band works might be our musical process. We've basically written our music every way a song can get written. We've had members bring in demos, and play them almost exactly as they are, and we've improvised songs from the bottom up until they're finally ready to be performed. I still don't think we're sure of which of our many methods work best, but it's certainly more of a team effort than people anticipate. We also try to bring as much high-energy into the live show as possible. Live music at Wesleyan was always well attended and raucous, which is something we actively try to recreate anytime we perform.

JPB: What inspirations do you draw from to create your unique music?

Honestly, it will vary from song to song. But in terms of vocal arrangements we draw a lot from the vocal intricacies of D'Angelo or The Dirty Projectors, while the lead vocals tend to lean towards Beyoncé. The rhythm section draws a lot from new and old soul and R&B artists; we like to mix these elements up—make things more interesting.



Photos By Charlotte Christoph

JPB: According to your site, you are in the process of recording and eventually releasing a second EP. What can you tell us about the upcoming EP?

We're really excited about this second EP; it has some of the work we're most proud of right now. We dropped our first single, "Secrets," back at the end of September, which you can pick up on our bandcamp (therooksband.bandcamp.com), and will have more coming your way by the end of the year. And of course, if you're wanting a sneak peak at the rest of the tunes, come check out one of our live shows! We'll definitely be playing many of them at our upcoming show at DROM in NYC on Dec 6th, as well as during our January residency at Arlene's Grocery, so stay tuned for more details on those as well!

JPB: The official site also mentions tours being booked on the West Coast. Will you be playing in Washington? If so, will you be coming to Spokane?

The answer is: as soon as we can. We definitely have our sights set on the West Coast sometime soon! Then...the world!



JPB: How has your experience been with touring so far?

Our first tour was an incredible experience. We just got off tour with an amazing band from Toronto called Unbuttoned; it was a great fit and a great time. It was great to see new places and play different types of shows/venues while on the road. We are officially disciples of poutine (french fries topped with a light brown gravy-like sauce and cheese curds). Thank you Canada for showing us the errors of our ways.



Photo by: Charlotte Christopher

JPB: What do you do while on the road between shows to entertain yourselves?

We don't actually wind up too idle in between shows! We love to sleep, shop, sing, practice, exercise, cook, play cards, play chess, and, most recently, play international soccer matches.

JPB: Do you think members of the Out and Proud community are treated as equals in the music world?

No, unfortunately we don't think so. Institutional oppression is real and it is big and it is pervasive in this industry, as it is [in] many others.

JCB: What can you say about your typical audience/Rooks fan?

I am not sure there is a typical Rooks fan! It used to be that the typical Rooks fan was a Wesleyan college student, but we've been fortunate enough to include plenty of new faces in The Rooks family. Especially on the road, it's been a pleasure to meet people of all ages.

JPB: What do you hope your fans get out of listening to your music or going to your shows?

We hope they feel energized! We try to bring as much as we can to our live show, and we cherish the interaction we can have with a crowd's energy. We hope that fans want to dance at the show, grab our music from bandcamp that night, and listen to it on the train all week.

JPB: What are your hopes for the future of The Rooks? Where do you see yourselves in the next few years?

We definitely plan to play more shows in new places, lay down a full-length album, and incorporate more dance moves into the shows. We're in the process of planning new music videos and are just generally excited to share something new with everyone. ■

Thank you to the guys from The Rooks for taking time to answer our questions. View the *Loud and Proud* artist page to listen, watch and connect with The Rooks. Be sure to stay tuned for the upcoming EP and check out the new single "Secrets" at <http://therooksband.bandcamp.com/>.

Photos By Charlotte Christopher



MUSIC REVIEW

Hauntingly Inflective

by Jeremy Price-Ballew

Karmen Buttler's most recent album, *Daze of Love*, is soothing, uplifting, and full of charming music that left me with a sense of tranquility. The album took me on a personal journey with each track. Comprised of soulful piano, acoustic, electric, and vocal work, Karmen's lyrics are genuine and meaningful—which is something that can't be said of many mainstream artists.

Photo by: Claudine Gossett



Karmen's music comes from the heart. During "Keep Your Eyes Up," the lyrics reminds herself and the listener to...

Keep your eyes up Karmen

Keep your eyes there coming

Keep your will as your own

Keep our heart as your own

Keep your heart from falling

Something that caught my attention from song to song was Karmen's ability to shift moods and sounds between each song, while somehow keeping the continuity flowing perfectly. You can hear several influences throughout the album: a soft jazz sound in "Half of the Lower Green," progressive rock in "Arizona" and "Low," and folk-like sounds in "Keep Your Eyes Up."

A personal favorite from this album is "Low." This song invokes a feeling that is tragically beautiful and washed over me like the first rays of sun warming a cool morning. The guitar work alone caught my attention with its progressive rock-like sound and reverberating riffs matched by Karmen's hauntingly inflective voice.

It's difficult to compare the feel and sound of *Daze of Love* to anything else I've heard, as it is entirely unique to this reviewer. Only one other album provided a similar experience, and that is Opeth's more mellow album *Damnation*.

This album was a fresh breath of air and its uniqueness left me wanting more. *Daze of Love* created a somewhat melancholy—yet hopeful and warm experience—that resonates deep within to create a meaningful experience. ■

Karmen



Something Great

Arizona

Daze of Love

Peep Toes

Winter

Low

Righteous Warrior

Simple Me Simple You

Humming Bee

Blue Little Bird

Keep Your Eyes Up

When The Whistle Blows

Half of That Lower Green

Buttler

Pop and Jazz: A Duet for Life

By: Sergey Grankin



When I hear the name Lady Gaga, I can clearly see a crazy meat dress, heels a mile high, or a woman from space who descended down to Earth to sing pop songs about a lying game face or a failing relationship. Gaga has been an icon not only in the USA, but worldwide as well—bringing the crazy outfits along with her crazy beats, never leaving us underwhelmed and always astonished at what household appliance inspired her fashion this time.

When I hear the name Tony Bennett, I think of his 1962 song “I Left My Heart in San Francisco,” as well as “Because of You” and “Rags to Riches.” Known as a jazz and show tunes vocalist in the ‘50’s and ‘60’s, his career experienced a bit of a downturn with the rise of the rock star and guitar solo in the ‘70’s and ‘80’s. When I hear the names Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga together, I hear their perfectly matched voices on their new jazz duet CD *Cheek to Cheek*.



28-year-old Lady Gaga once again brings something new and surprising to an already diverse pallet, a pure voice. We've heard just a little of her natural voice leaking through the pop tracks on albums like *The Fame* and *Born This Way*, but until now, nothing quite so pure. In a society where autotune and electronic bass drops are increasingly praised over the vocal skills of the

performer, it's easy to overlook talent for production value.

On *Cheek to Cheek* we time travel back to before the '60's when it wasn't quite so artificial; voice had to be talent. Until now, Gaga didn't have a chance to use her full vocal range and power. Now that she has, you can only be blown away. Her vocal control and tone are so on point it

seems they're almost laser-etched into the music. Not only is she in tone, in tune and in time with all of the classic jazz standards, she's also in touch with them- bringing full emotion, passion, and love. Gaga belongs in the jazz era as much as she does in the age of pop.

88-year-old Tony Bennett brings what he has brought

so consistently for the last 50 years: a classic jazz voice. Jazz, the single most American music style, was born into the early twentieth century parented by ragtime and blues and introduced a new age of not only music but also cultural acceptance, seeing as it had a strong African American influence.

Bennett takes all the core elements of swing and syncopation and keeps them alive throughout his music. *Cheek to Cheek* offers Bennett a new platform to bring all the classic jazz elements to the forefront of young listeners. His mature yet still authentically raw voice carries melodies and themes within songs along with a little tug on

your heart, longing for those warm vocals and walking bass lines we could have heard on the radio some sixty years ago. Between the nostalgia

and rich voice, Bennett brings a natural presence to the duet that you can feel, but isn't something you can put a finger on.

an elegant dance tucked away in a dimly lit piano bar—light yet powerful. Their true essence in music and talent is only highlighted by their chemistry.



This unexpected duo fits naturally together. The way their voices dance around each other resembles just that,

If there's one thing that you can pick up on right away is the clear connection between Bennett and Gaga. They not

only care about the music and songs on the album, they care about their relationship. Their passion is easily distinguished in the song “I Can’t Give You Anything but Love.” It’s not just two beautiful voices singing anymore, it’s a story, it’s drama, it’s love—and you can’t expect any less from this near perfect duo.

“Anything Goes” starts the whole album off with their playful dynamic, covering the classic Cole Porter composition as they bring their own personality and individual style to a beloved jazz standard. “I Won’t Dance” picks up on the fun quirky side of each of the two vocalists. Gaga truly brings out the foxy lady we know and love, just as she did in their 2011 rendition of “The Lady Is a Tramp,” while Bennett owns his suave nature, playing off of Gaga’s charm.

As a duet, the album meets all expectations, but it’s in the solo pieces that each artist shines in the spotlight. Gaga solos “Lush Life,” a timeless Billy Strayhorn masterpiece. Something is to be said about Gaga’s choice of song, complementing and carrying her voice through all her natural ability, range and sound. Bennett solos Duke

Ellington’s “Sophisticated Lady,” bringing out his own classic sound and molasses-like tones allowing him to show us once more, jazz and his voice are not breaking it off.

Ending the album is the upbeat Ellington swing known as “It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing).” This two minute tune will have you dancing or (at the very least) tapping your feet and snapping your fingers. A big band feel and lots of shout from the trumpets and brass section makes this piece more instrumental jazz than any other that we’ve heard on this album. Gaga and Bennett realize this song is taken over by sax solos and talking trumpets, so their voices are now to complement the rest of the music and instruments—and complement they do!

At the end of the day, our music scene is changing and is much different from what we experienced fifty years ago—yet that’s where our influences came from. In a brilliant effort to bring jazz and universal appreciation for music, Gaga and Bennett pull off a feat not to be undertaken by many. A beautiful combination of voices from two different genres and influences creates an album that truly does bring jazz and it’s marvel to young ears—just like iconic rock star Freddie

Mercury once sang opera with Montserrat Caballé to bring classical opera to the public. Lady Gaga brings us jazz with Tony Bennett to show us that same diversity in music. Whether you’ll be at home on a rainy day relaxing, or on your way to work, this album will always have you smiling *cheek to cheek*. ■



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Ryan Aylsworth Photo Shoot

AVIATION INTOXICATION

by Jeremy Price-Ballew & Daniel Hafner



Semi Precious Weapons

is an intoxicating four piece rock band consisting of Stevy Pyne (guitar), Cole Whittle (bass), Dan Crean (drums), and fronted by Out and Proud lead vocalist Justin Tranter.

When we first learned we would be interviewing Justin Tranter, a wave of excitement washed over us. We went over every interview we could find and ran each album on continuous play to a point where my partner began reminding me that there was in fact other music in existence.

We wanted to find out something new about this band we couldn't get enough of. We wanted to get to know them like we never had before and have a good time doing it... and we did. Justin reveals something about his sexuality that has been incorrectly portrayed several times in media and social groups all over the web. We also get to hear about the recent album *Aviation*, favorite drinks and other delightful little morsels of information from these one of a kind, chart climbing artists.

Daniel: How are fans responding to your *Aviation* tour, as opposed to when you tour with other artists?

So far it's been beyond! It has been an official tour—just a bunch of amazing radio sponsored concerts all over the country, but... watching the audience sing along to all the new songs has been pretty wonderful. We just headlined Alt987's huge 4th of July party to over 10,000 people in downtown LA who all knew the words to *Aviation High*. Our minds were officially blown!

Daniel: *Aviation* has a different sound than your previous albums. What was the creative process behind evolving your sound to something new?

We would stumble out of our bedrooms around 2pm and fall into our living room which doubles as our studio. And then we would just write. We let the songs dictate the sonic evolution of the band. Whatever sounds we felt best fit the story, that's what we used.



Justin Tranter

Ryan Aylsworth Photo Shoot

Daniel: The music video for “Aviation High” is very progressive and shows the hidden lives of a suburban family. What do you want people to take away from the video?

That figuring out and exploring who you are can feel really good.

Daniel: Has having a platform as a celebrity given you the opportunity to address issues that are important to the Out & Proud Community?

I just like to live my life artistically and honestly. If being honest about who I am helps some people along the way, that’s a wonderful side effect.

Jeremy: What issues are important to you as an openly bisexual person?

Well, I would actually identify as gay, but because I have been honest about having had some “nice times” with women, somehow there are articles headlines calling me Bi. So I would say maybe an issue that’s important to me is that we are all way too hung up on classifying each other, even the LGBT community. Sexuality is fluid and shouldn’t be so serious. Equal rights are serious, but I think we all need to take some deep breathes when it comes to labels.

Jeremy: How do you support the Out & Proud Community?

By nature I’m not a very political person, which my mother gets VERY angry about. But I hope that just by being open and honest in my songs and interviews that I’m adding another queer voice to the pop culture landscape... and if SPW is fortunate enough to break into the mainstream in a real way, I promise to continue being just as honest and open as I am now.



Stevy Pyne

Ryan Aylsworth Photo Shoot

Daniel: There was an episode of the show *MADE* where you helped a young teen girl become a bassist. Do you often mentor younger aspiring musicians?

I loved doing that show so much! My family and friends are always sending me links to some new young musician they've met, asking me to check it out and give my advice. And I always try to make time to listen and talk to the youngster. Haha! I've made a lot of mistakes in the business, and I hope that by sharing them I can spare someone from doing the same thing.

Daniel: Bands seem to have a family mentality. What are your relationships with each other like?

We are extremely lucky that we were all friends for years before we even started the band. And we take the "band as family" one step further—and all live together here in LA. People are always so shocked that I'm the only homo in the band, which always shocks us. It's 2014, is it really that crazy for gay and straight people to spend time together?

Daniel: "Look to the Stars" is one of my all-time favorite songs. What (or who) was the inspiration behind this amazing song?

Oh wow! Thank you. I wrote it towards the end of my last serious relationship. We were madly in love, but had a lot of issues. I could sense that we were coming to an end, and wrote the song as a declaration of all the things I would do to make it work.

Jeremy: In several interviews you mention getting drunk—and obviously have a lot of fun doing so. What are some of your favorite drinks?

Hahahahaha! Best interview question ever. I love a manhattan, but don't drink them any more. Lately I've been getting full on rich lady and drinking white wine spritzers and dirty martinis.



Dan Crean

Ryan Aylsworth Photo Shoot



Cole Whittle

Ryan Aylsworth Photo Shoot

Jeremy: Who are some of your biggest influences?

Patty Larkin, Dave Alvin, Stevie Nicks, Ani DiFranco, Kanye, and the list goes on and on.

Jeremy: How do they contribute to the band's overall style?

I think that any excited artist should be influenced by the movies they see, songs they hear, and conversations they have.

Jeremy: Are there any artists you are interested in touring with?

We just played a show with Tove Lo in Dallas and it was such a blast. We would **love** to tour with her. Also the dudes in the KONGOS put on an amazing show and couldn't be sweeter. That would be a pretty cool tour.

Daniel: What was it like performing on the premier episode of *Night At The Sayers Club*?

The Sayers Club is possibly the most magical venue in the world. Being a part of their debut episode is such an honor.

Daniel: What was it like working with Rich White Ladies and being in the new music video?

We just wrote and produced 20 songs with those superstars and we can't wait for the world to hear it all. I think those ladies have a pretty insane future ahead of them.

Daniel: How do you feel about the transition to a new record label?

We spent 4 years in record label purgatory, and now we have finally found a home at Redzone. It's a label that truly loves music, which is very hard to come by.

SEMI PRECIOUS WEAPONS





Jeremy: Where do you see Semi Precious Weapons in the future?

I hope to see SPW in a lot of amazing places, but one thing I can promise is that we aren't stopping any time soon.

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. We are very excited to be able to spotlight such an innovative and edgy band that continually climbs the alternative rock charts.

Be sure to follow Semi Precious Weapons online and get ready to rock to a new album due out in 2015. ■

Ryan Aylsworth Photo Shoot

RESOURCES

Out & Proud **Non-profit** Organizations

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane (ISCS)

P.O. Box 65
Spokane WA 99210-0065



Inland Northwest Business Alliance (INBA)

9 S. Washington, Ste. 618
Spokane WA 99201
509/455-3699



Inland Northwest LGBT Center

(509) 326-6847



Odyssey Youth Center

1121 S. Perry St.
Spokane WA 99202
509/325-3637



OutSpokane

P.O. Box 883
Spokane WA 99201-0883
509/720-7609



Pride Foundation

Farand Gunnels
Regional Development Organizer
for Eastern Washington
P.O. Box 2194
Spokane WA 99210
509/481-0402



PFLAG Spokane

Spokane PFLAG
P.O. Box 10292
Spokane WA 99209
509/593-0191



PFLAG Coeur d'Alene

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
208/907-1078



College Groups

Central Washington University Diversity Education Center

Student Union & Recreation Center, Room 250
400 East University Way
Ellensburg WA 98926-7455
509/963-2127



Eastern Washington University Pride Center

105 Showalter Hall
Cheney WA 99004
509/359-7870



Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

Unity Multicultural Education Center
730 E. Boone – 2nd Floor
Spokane WA 99202
509/313-5847



Gonzaga University School Of Law – Outlaws



The North Idaho College Gender and Sexuality Alliance



Spokane Community College ST:GLOBAL QSA

Betsy Lawrence – Advisor
509/533-8103



Spokane Falls Community College – The Alliance

Barbara Williamson – Advisor
509/533-4507



University Of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

ASUI Office
Idaho Commons, Room 302
Moscow ID 83844



University of Idaho LGBTQA Office

PO Box 441064
Moscow ID 83844
208/885-6583



Washington State University Women's Resource Center

Wilson Hall, Room 8
PO Box 644005
Pullman WA 99164-4005
509/335-6849



Washington State University GLBTA

PO Box 647204
CUB 401
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509/335-8841



Places of Worship

Bethany Presbyterian Church

2607 S. Ray St
Spokane WA 99223
509/534-0066



St. Clare Ecumenical Catholic Community

3102 W. Ft. George Wright Dr.
Spokane WA 99224
509/361-4603



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4340 W. Fort Wright Drive
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509/926-7173



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509/489-1914



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Colville WA 99114
509/690-0715

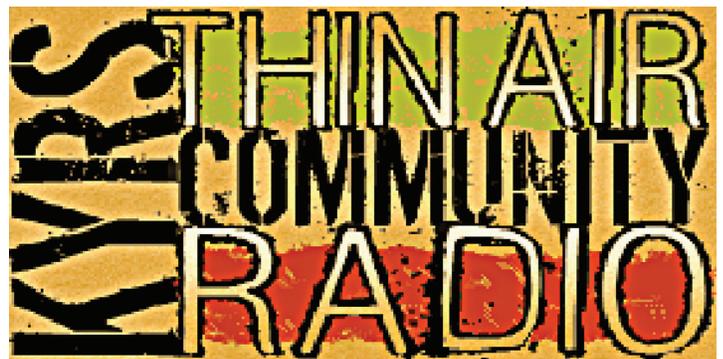
Juliann Haffey, LMHC, MA

325 S. University Ave.
Spokane WA 99206
509-534-9380



Kate Robbins

509/768-8543



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Spokane WA 99208
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Spokane WA 99203
509/838-5800
800/491-0017



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Dr. Lilly J Wittich MD
Dr. Rachel Wright D.O. (General Practitioner)
104 W. 5th Ave., Suite 200W
Spokane WA 99204
509/624-2313
website (temporarily unavailable)

Jeffry Hartman MD (Endocrinology)

104 W. 5th Ave., #140W
Spokane WA 99204
509/747-2147

Urologist

Robert J. Golden MD
12615 E. Mission Ave., #303
Spokane Valley WA 99216-1047
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Roth Medical Center
220 E. Rowan Ave., #200
Spokane WA 99207
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Wendy Smith ARNP, MN
3010 S. Southeast Blvd., Ste. A
Spokane WA 99223
509/533-1000

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Dianne at Mirage Spa and Salon (Electrologist)
9421 N. Division St.
Spokane WA 99218
509/325-5254

Elain Cain (Electrologist)

18123 E. Appleway Ave.
Green Acres WA 99016

Inland Empire Dermatology

312 N. Mullan Rd.
Spokane Valley WA 99206
509/921-7884

Louisville Laser

6011 N. Division St.
Spokane WA 99208
509/482-0655

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Lynette Norton
4407 N. Division St.
Spokane WA 99207
509/279-2555



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Tyler Treharne, Pharm. D.
2855-A SW Patton Rd.
Portland OR 97201
503/222-4822



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16400 Southcenter Parkway, #101
Tukwila WA 98188
206/575-0300

Dr. Tuan Nguyen (Breast augmentation, Chest reconstruction, and MtF SRS)

Lake Oswego Plastic Surgery
15820 Quarry Rd
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Spokane WA 99204
509/455-8993



Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

1520 Kelly Place, Suite 120
Walla Walla WA 99362
509/529-4744



Out & Proud Businesses

AFLAC

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Spokane WA 99223
509/990-5066



Bark and Snip

626 W. Garland Ave.
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