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SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH  
**WHAT'S THE T WITH GINA D?**  
HOSTED BY GINA D' LICIOUS



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**SEND IN THE CLOWNS**  
WITH JACLYN JILL

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**THROW IT BACK**  
WITH DJ STYLE

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**VERS**  
WITH GLUTTONI SINN

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**Next Issue: The Pride Issue**

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# In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



## Gov. Evers Keeps Promise to Protect LGBTQ Youth, Vetoes Anti-LGBTQ Bill Targeting Trans and Gender Nonconforming Kids

Gov. Tony Evers today, joined by LGBTQ youth, families, advocates, elected officials, and community members, vetoed Assembly Bill (AB) 377, a bill passed by Republican members of the Wisconsin State Legislature targeting transgender and gender nonconforming youth and banning them from participating on school athletic teams that align with their gender identity. The governor has repeatedly pledged to veto the bill as well as any other anti-LGBTQ legislation sent to his desk.

“This type of legislation, and the harmful rhetoric beget by pursuing it, harms LGBTQ Wisconsinites’ and kids’ mental health, emboldens anti-LGBTQ harassment, bullying, and violence, and threatens the safety and dignity of LGBTQ Wisconsinites, especially our LGBTQ kids,” Gov. Evers said in his veto message. “I will veto any bill that makes Wisconsin a less safe, less inclusive, and less welcoming place for LGBTQ people and kids, and I will continue to keep my promise of using every power available to me to defend them, protect their rights, and keep them safe.

“States across this country may give way to radical policies targeting LGBTQ individuals and families and threatening LGBTQ folks’ everyday lives and their ability to be safe, valued, supported, and welcome being who they are. As long as I am the governor of this great state, Wisconsin will not be among them.



“We expect our kids to treat each other with kindness, respect, empathy, and compassion, and we should be able to expect adults to lead by example,” said Gov. Evers. “I urge the Republican majority to do so while fully considering the harmful consequences its efforts and actions have on our kids prior to introducing similar legislation in the future.”

Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment and housing, and Gov. Evers has been committed to continuing the state’s long and proud tradition of advancing initiatives to protect, support, and celebrate LGBTQ kids and the LGBTQ community. The governor’s first action after being sworn into office was signing Executive Order #1, which prohibited dis-

crimination and harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, as well as other classes such as age, race, religion, color, disability, military or veteran status, national origin, etc., in state employment, public services, state contracts, and grants. Executive Order #1 also directed state agencies to develop policies to ensure all people are afforded equal opportunity, along with other measures to prohibit discrimination and harassment.

Gov. Evers has been a consistent and vocal champion for the LGBTQ community during his time as governor. Over the last five years, the governor has spoken out against and pledged to veto numerous bills targeting LGBTQ Wisconsinites over the last five years, including bills discriminating against

transgender kids and athletes similar to AB 377 and bills restricting education around LGBTQ issues and history in schools. Last December, Gov. Evers vetoed another anti-LGBTQ bill passed by Republican lawmakers that would have banned gender-affirming care for minor patients with gender dysphoria. Gender-affirming care is recognized by most major medical associations as the evidence-based treatment for transgender and gender nonconforming youth with gender dysphoria. The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry have all stated that gender-affirming care saves lives.

Additionally, in June 2019, for the first time in state history, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #29 to raise the Rainbow Pride Flag over the East Wing of the State Capitol building and throughout the state of Wisconsin in recognition of Pride Month and to send a clear and unequivocal message that Wisconsin is a welcoming and inclusive place for all. Since then, the Rainbow Pride Flag has flown over the Capitol each year for the month of June until June of 2022, when Gov. Evers raised the Progress Pride Flag over the State Capitol for the first time.

During the Pride Month celebration in June 2021, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #121 and directed Evers Administration cabinet agencies to use gender-neutral language whenever practicable in external documents. Gov. Evers also signed Executive Order #122 requiring the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to take appropriate steps to expressly disallow payment of state and federal funds allocated by their respective agencies for



conversion therapy for minors. Numerous medical associations and profes-

sional organizations oppose the practice of conversion therapy, and according to research conducted by the Family Acceptance Project, adolescent conversion efforts contribute to higher risks of depression and suicide for LGBTQ youth. Gov. Evers also used his constitutional veto authority during the 2023-25 biennial budget process to protect access to gender-affirming care for Wisconsinites, blocking a Republican-backed provision to prevent the state's Medicaid program from covering gender-affirming care.



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# Our Queer History

OUR HISTORY & THOSE THAT SHAPED IT



## Ten Trailblazing Queer Women to Celebrate Women's History Month

*These groundbreaking queer women defied the cultural expectations of their time and occupy a special place in LGBTQ history.*

By Jillian Eugenios

Over the centuries, lesbians and other queer women have pushed the world forward, often challenging norms and defying the expectations of their times. From 1700s England to the contemporary shores of New York's Fire Island, these women forged new paths and made a space for others to do the same.

Some of those on this list lived at a time when there was no language for queer identity as in the present time, and often could not come out due to societal restrictions and concerns for their own safety. Like much of LGBTQ history, identifying who someone was requires squinting through the haze of the past and reading between the lines of diaries, historical records and second-hand accounts.

What is certain, though, is that queer women have always been around, even if their circumstances forced them to obscure their full selves.

### Anne Lister (1791-1840)

Anne Lister, who has been described as “the first modern lesbian,” was born in northern England and lived during the height of the Industrial Revolution. Educated, wealthy and masculine in appearance, she had relationships with women beginning at an early age and by all accounts was unabashedly queer and



self-assured, navigating her way around polite society while excelling as a businesswoman. Her womanizing reputation earned her the nickname “Gentleman Jack,” the latter part being a slur for lesbian at the time, but the name was reclaimed on Lister's behalf, thanks to the BBC-HBO series “Gentleman Jack,” which ran from 2019 to 2022.

Though she did not use the word “lesbian” to describe herself, she wrote in her diary in 1821, “I love and only love the fairer sex and thus beloved by them in turn, my heart revolts from any love but theirs.” Lister married her neighbor and fellow landowner, Ann Walker, in 1834 at a church in York, England, an event considered to be the first recorded lesbian wedding in the history of Britain. Though it is unclear exactly what transpired at the church, experts are in agreement that the pair made vows to each other and exchanged rings. There was no legal recognition of the marriage at the time, but a commemorative plaque adorns the church and celebrates their union.

### Dr. Margaret 'Mom' Chung (1889-1959)

Dr. Margaret Chung is best known as the first Chinese American woman to become a physician — and lesser known as a queer woman who attracted a clientele of lesbian couples and women seeking birth control.

Chung graduated from medical school in 1916 and was known to wear a dark suit and carry a parakeet around in a cage dangling from her wrist. During the 1930s and 1940s, she became known

as “Mom Chung” for her support of U.S. troops, “adopting” hundreds of them, sending care packages and hosting soldiers for Sunday dinners at her



home in San Francisco. Although Chung never came out, she did reportedly have intimate relationships with women, and rumors of her sexuality followed her throughout her life. A plaque hanging on Chicago's Legacy Walk, which commemorates the contributions of LGBTQ people, celebrates her life.

### D j u n a Barnes (1892-1982)

D j u n a Barnes was an avant-garde writer best known for her 1936 title “Nightwood,” one



of the earliest lesbian novels to be published by an American writer. Barnes' other well-known works include “Ladies Almanack,” published in 1928 and described as “a gentle satire of literary lesbians,” and the 1958 play “The Antiphon,” which The Paris Review described as a work that “concerns the war of wills within a family, primarily between a middle-aged woman and her mother.”

Barnes was a journalist before she was a novelist, poet and playwright. Her reporting stood out for being sensationalist and immersive, and she often tackled the political issues of her day. For an assignment published in *New York World Magazine* in 1914, Barnes submitted to being force-fed in prison, something that was being used on suffragists as they carried out hunger strikes.



**Gluck (1895-1978)**

An artist who defied the expectations of her day, Gluck was a British painter born Hannah Gluckstein in 1895. It is not clear how she would identify using the modern day's vernacular, or if she would've considered herself a lesbian, but what is known is she had her short hair cut at a gentleman's hairdresser, wore men's suiting, kept a dagger hanging off her belt and was referred to as "Peter" among close friends, or as "Tim" by a female lover.

Gluck came from a wealthy family, and her privilege both insulated her and offered her the freedom to live a more open life. She had relationships with several women, including a playwright and society woman named Nesta Obermer. Gluck referred to Nesta as "my own darling wife," and "my divine

sweetheart, my love, my life." She painted a portrait of them together, which later became the cover of "The Well of Loneliness," a novel published by British author Radclyffe Hall in 1928 that is regarded as the first lesbian novel in the English language.



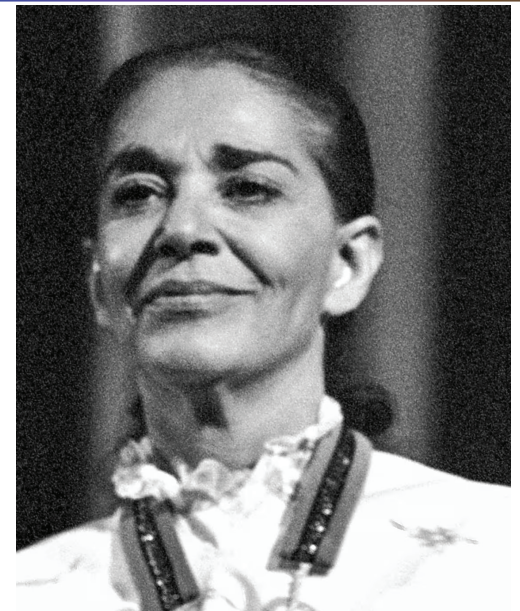
**Gladys Bentley (1907-1960)**

Gladys Bentley was a singer, piano player and entertainer who performed in the 1920s and 1930s, in the era that came to be known as the Harlem Renaissance.

Bentley was a powerful performer, and she was known for her top hat, tailored white tuxedos and risqué lyrics. She did not conceal her sexuality but celebrated it, flirting with women in the crowd and incorporating a more masculine identity into her performances. She became one of the best-known Black entertainers of the time, and at the height of her fame she moved from Harlem to Park Avenue and had a team of servants. Bentley left New York in the late 1930s and performed throughout California, most notably Mona's 440 Club, the first lesbian bar in San Francisco.

**Chavela Vargas (1919-2012)**

Born in Costa Rica in 1919, Chavela Vargas was 14 years old when she fled to Mexico with dreams of becoming a singer. She became one of Mexico's best-known female singers, achieving dominance in the world of *canción ranchera*, a style that often includes broken hearts and unrequited love, mournful ballads traditionally told from a man's perspec-



tive.

Vargas rose to fame in the 1960s and 1970s, and had a reputation for being macho and drinking hard. While rumors long swirled about her being a lesbian, she didn't come out until she was 81 years old, in an interview from the 1990s included in the 2017 film "Chavela."

"When you're true to yourself, you win in the end," Vargas said.

**Rosalie 'Rose' Bamberger (1921-1990)**

In the 1950s, Rosalie "Rose" Bamberger had the idea to form a secret society for lesbians. The bars were constantly being raided, and Bamberger was looking to give women a space to meet one another that would be safe and private. She also wanted to dance without being arrested.

The first meeting was at Bamberger's house in 1955, which she shared with her partner Rosemary Sliepen. The private club became The Daughters of Bilitis and morphed into the first lesbian rights group in the United States — and one that would eventually be surveilled by the CIA and the FBI. Though the club was Bamberger's idea, she only lasted as a member for about six months, after a disagreement on the direction of the organization concerning her own safety as a working class woman of color.





**Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965)**

Lorraine Hansberry is best known for her 1959 play “A Raisin in the Sun,” about racial segregation in Chicago. It became the first play written by an African American woman to be produced on Broadway, and Hansberry, at 29 years old, became the first Black playwright and youngest American to win a New York Critics’ Circle Award. Activism was central to her life, and issues of racial equality, feminism and queer identity were all themes in her work.

She lived in New York’s Greenwich Village, which enabled her to have a more expansive life than was typically possible for women in the 1960s. Hansberry did not publicly come out during her lifetime, and most of what we know about her sexuality comes from her diary entries and other personal writings.

In a journal entry in 1962, she wrote,

“The thing that makes you exceptional, if you are at all, is inevitably that which must also make you lonely.”



**Barbara Gittings (1932-2007)**

Barbara Gittings, often referred to as the “mother of the LGBTQ civil rights movement,” began her activism in the late 1950s — about a decade before the first brick was thrown during the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

She founded the New York chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis and edited *The Ladder*, the first nationally distributed lesbian publication in America.

In the 1960s, she marched in picket lines at the White House, the State Department and Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Later, she was key in the 1973 decision by the American Psychiatric Association to end its classification of homosexuality as a mental illness. An advocate of education and books

as a necessity for freedom and representation, she joined the gay caucus of the American Library Association in the 1970s. An LGBTQ library collection is named in her honor at the Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

**Esther Newton (Born 1940)**



Esther Newton is an anthropologist whose 1968 dissertation was titled “The Drag Queens: A Study in Urban Anthropology,” a work that foreshadowed her career as a trailblazer questioning and challenging societal expectations of gender, sexuality and anthropological methods. Newton’s dissertation became her first book, “Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America,” which examined the world of drag bars in the Midwest in the 1960s. It was the first anthropological study of a queer community in the U.S., and that study would lead to a lifetime of work that provided a foundation for countless LGBTQ activists and scholars.



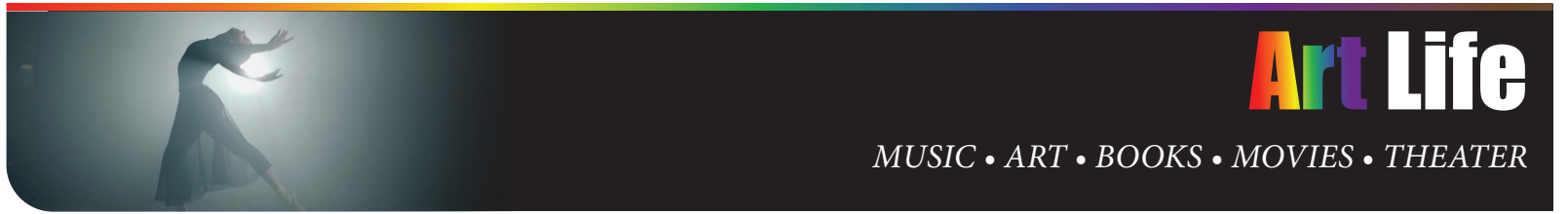
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## A Visit With Sir Tim Rice

By: Michael Johnston

Skylight Music Theatre will close out their sensational 64<sup>th</sup> Season with the Midwest premiere of “From Here to Eternity”. In the corner of your minds, you may remember the award-winning film, “*From Here to Eternity*” that reactivated crooner Frank Sinatra’s career and included the historic make out scene on the beach between Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr. This incarnation is a Musical – with lyrics by Sir Tim Rice and the Book is completed by his son, Donald Rice and Bill Oakes. Both genial gentlemen were in Milwaukee recently finalizing their vision of “*Eternity*.” Working with Skylight’s Creative Genius, Michael Unger and Skylight’s Executive Director, Susan Varela – who were ideal hosts and partners in making their version based on the Novel stage ready. Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 05<sup>th</sup> this opus will grace The Cabot Theatre of The Broadway Theatre Complex.

Skylight extended a generous invitation to me to interview Sir Tim Rice. Being a devotee of the Theatre my entire life, what a thrill it was to be in the same room with a God of the Theatre and a Knighted, Royal Subject! First off, Tim, as he preferred being called is so grounded, down to Earth and kindly. I think he could tell I was a wee bit intimidated, and he immediately put my anxieties to rest. I also feel he doesn’t suffer fools easily and knew I was not only a fan of the art form, but of him and his accomplishments as well.

When asked **why he chose “From Here to Eternity”**? He shared, first off, of being a fan of both the book and the film. Stuart Brayson is the composer who worked with Tim in making this



all come alive. It opened on the West End in 2013, and has been a work in progress, including many hours of hard work, rewrites, and updates. Tim’s son Donald Rice came in and reworked the book. “*From Here to Eternity*” did come to the States, the east coast, including Maine, but is not the same show that it was.

**My follow up question, did Sir Rice feel he too, had the ability to base anything, or rather any subject matter, and turn it into a musical?**

In response, Tim said he agreed any topic can work, with a few subjects maybe Rasputin, the mad monk, may be a bit challenging – but for the big picture, I imagine so. “When I was working on “*Joseph*” (with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber) nay sayers were claiming no one

will go see a story they all knew, so very well” A decade later, when working on a new project about the wife of a South American dictator (Eva Peron, “*Evita*”) everyone was rebuffing him saying why would anyone go see a show about someone they didn’t know or care about ... America LOVED “*Evita*”! Thank you!

**I couldn’t hold back, and had to indulge in my curiosity, what is your all-time favorite musical?**

Without hesitation, “*My Fair Lady*” popped out of his mouth! His parents were major Theatre/Musical Fans, and his household enjoyed the sounds, thereof. In the mid-1950’s when New York/Broadway was ablaze with “*Lady*”, such albums and recording were contraband out of the country. So two or three years later, he could finally hear the score! And he was hooked! Though

he was a teenager and like the masses a major Elvis Presley fan, and the whole Rock'n'roll sound of the U.S.A. – his career took him the route of the Musical Stage. While we were discussing the appeal of “Lady” – one of my favorites as well – I shared that I was fortunate enough to see Sally Ann Howes who went in for Dame Julie Andrews when she left the Broadway Production of “Lady” as Eliza. While I didn't see Ms. Howe do Eliza in 1958, I did see her play Mrs. Higgins in 2018! And she explained it was circle of life. Tim shared that on that same note, Donny Osmond who played Joseph in “*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*” for a lifetime, has now graduated into the role of the Pharaoh in the same Show! Cheers to the circle of life!

**When working on a property, such as “From Here to Eternity” how true to the original story are you? Do you go with it? Or do you try and make it your own?**

You celebrate what you have at hand - you want to keep and nurture the familiar, yet everyone has their own perspective. With this Show there is more we can explore and delve into today, than you could when this story was originally worked on 70 years ago. You go with the positives – with “*Joseph*” it's good for kids, families. And casting the local Childrens' choruses for “*Joseph*” you have a built-in audience: parents, grandparents, Godparents, teachers, neighbors, extended families, etc. ... a natural bonus.

**At this point in your illustrious life and career, what are you most proud of?**

I usually say my children, including my son Donald, with whom I'm working with on this project. He is here with me, and it's quite nice.

“*Chess*” is another vehicle I worked on, I always liked, and I felt never got it's just due. But maybe now it will. It is due back on Broadway in 2025. A lot of details still need to be seen to – and many obstacles can prevent this - but it's a good score. I feel we were too close to

the world events and headlines the first time around. This time, just tell the story! Tim did “*Chess*” with ABBA's – Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny and Bjorn are the composers, Bjorn and Tim the playwrights, Tim the lyricist. This all took place, with Opening Night being May 14, 1986. Featuring pop tunes: “*One Night in Bangkok*,” “*I Know Him So Well*,” and one of Tim's all-times favorite songs, from his very own pen – “*Pity the Child*.” The last song listed is Freddie Trumper's revealing anthem, that explains why he is the way he is. “*Chess*” is about the intellectual game and the character of Freddie is based in part on arguably the most famous Chess Master of all time, Bobbie Fischer.

This interview quite frankly turned into a quant conversation, where Sir Tim was very pleased with Madonna portrayal of Eva Peron in the motion picture. And he was fine with her doing “*Another Suitcase in Another Hall*” which in the Theatrical Production is customarily performed by Peron's mistress, ousted by Eva,

Helen Reddy did a cover of “*I Don't Know How to Love Him*” from “*Jesus Christ Superstar*,” and it went over really well on the pop charts and promoting the Show. Of course, he was thrilled and very grateful. Helen didn't care for it at first and wanted to put it on the B-Side of “*I Believe in Music*.” Her handlers flipped it, and the “*Jesus Christ Superstar*” torch song made her an even wealthier singing superstar. A three way win for Helen, the Musical, and Tim.

The fetching Janet Metz who knows Broadway success, career was enhanced due to the role of The Narrator in “*Joseph*.” Currently, we are fortunate to see her shine on the Skylight stage.

In an ingenious way to promote “*From Here to Eternity*” and Announce their 65<sup>th</sup> sterling Season, Skylight threw “*An Evening with Tim Rice*”. Starring Sir Tim Rice, Ian Ward Brininstool, Ben Gulley, Shawn D. Holmes, Janet Metz (Mrs. Michael Unger), Ashley Rodriguez, Rana Roman, Amanda Satchell, and Andrew Varela raised their ravishing voices in tribute and standing ovations to Sir Rice's son-

nets.

The Music of the Night, included: *Any Dream Will Do, Close Every Door, Pharaoh's Story, Heaven on Their Minds, Everything's Alright, I don't Know How to Love Him, Kansas Morning, I'd Be Surprisingly Good For You, High Flying Adored, Another Suitcase in Another Hall, All Time High, Fight the Fight, Never Again, I know Him So Well, Anthem, One Night in Bangkok, Someone Else's Story, Pity the Child, A Change in Me/ Evermore, It's Easy for You/Song of the King, You Must Love Me, Can You Feel the Love Tonight, A Whole New World, Don't Cry for Me Argentina, You and I, and Hakuna Matata/Circle of Life.*

**Sir Tim Rice Awards (Naturally, an EGOT Winner)**

**Emmy:** “*Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert*”

**Grammy:** “*Evita*,” “*Aladdin*,” “*Aida*”

**Oscar:** “*A Whole New World*,” “*Can You Feel the Love Tonight*,” “*You Must Love Me*”

**Tony:** “*Evita*,” “*Aida*”

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**Disney Legends Awards 2002 Inducted**

**Drama Desk Award “Evita”**

**Golden Globe Awards A Whole New World, Can You Feel the Love Tonight, You Must Love Me**

**Hollywood Walk of Fame 2008 Inducted**

**Laurence Olivier Awards “Evita,” “Beauty and the Beast”, Honored – 2012**

**Online Film & Television Associates Award “Beauty and the Beast”, “Evita”, “You Must Love Me”, and “Don't Cry for Me Argentina”.**

**Satellite Award “You Must Love Me”**

**Songwriters Hall of Fame 1999 Inducted**

As for the 65<sup>th</sup> Season of The Skylight Music Theatre: “*Waitress*,” “*Oliver*,” “*Juliet & Romeo*,” “*Frankenstein*,” and “*Sister Act*”.

To purchase your subscription, tickets, or further information – Please call: 414-291-7800 the Box Office [info@skylightmusictheatre.org](mailto:info@skylightmusictheatre.org) Skylight Music Theatre 158 North Broadway Milwaukee, WI. 53202

# Rediscovering The Arts at The Wilson Center

By David Todd, For MPL Magazine

Southeaster Wisconsin is blessed to have a myriad of wonderful cultural and entertainment offerings: museums, restaurants, the performing arts and festivals year-round. Growing up here, as I did, you get kind of spoiled. You also realize at some point that Greater Milwaukee is rather provincial. I'd like to believe it is a result of the great contributions of each community and their dedication to arts and entertainment. But, it's also rather likely to be a result of a long and infamous history of segregation that the area has endured over the years. No matter the reason, like so many others, I had been missing out on some great entertainment, specifically at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield. My very first experience with The Center came just this year with an invitation to attend a Friday night dance performance from the LA based dance company, BODYTRAFFIC, in February. The Wilson Center is easy enough to get to and find. Unlike other venues, it's not in some entertainment district, city center or "downtown," but located inside Brookfield's Mitchell Park off Barker Road and Capitol Drive. Parking was easy and FREE – I was already enjoying the experience.

I have to admit, I'm not much of a dance enthusiast, but the show peaked my interest. As my friend and I settled into our seats, I was excited. The theater was beautiful and, looking around, couldn't imagine there was a bad seat in the house. In its Milwaukee-area debut, BODYTRAFFIC was nothing short of dynamic. The stage came alive with the music of legends—James Brown, Dean Martin, Etta James, and Peggy Lee. The show featured a variety of dance styles and the dancers moved with grace and precision, with choreography ranging from amusing to arousing. As the curtain fell, we were left exhilarated.

Excited about what I had just experienced, I returned to the Wilson Center, this time during the day, to meet with Jennifer Moran, the Marketing and Communications Director, and Tyler Nikolas, the Events and Ticketing Coordinator. By the light of day, there's so much more to see: statues decorating



the grounds, the park still beautifully groomed in winter and the building itself a kind of hide-away chalet. With a warm welcome they both eagerly shared The Center's rich offerings and the coming season!

The Wilson Center is a beautiful performing, visual arts and education facility that opened its doors in 2002. But, how could a place with so much going on remain a hidden gem? Jennifer's voice carried a hint of frustration as she addressed my question. "That's a huge compliment - that I hate hearing," she said laughing.

How do people in Southeast Wisconsin NOT know about this place? As a former Managing Director of a theater company in Milwaukee, I was a bit embarrassed myself. So allow me to let you in on some of the magic...

The Wilson Center is more than a venue; it's a multidisciplinary nonprofit cultural arts facility—a true cultural anchor in the Greater Milwaukee community. Its mission is straight forward: to be a vibrant destination that expands, inspires, and delivers a lifetime of arts education and experiences. Whether it's a concert, Broadway review, Artist Spotlight, a visit from the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra or any number of unique, exclusive performances – it's worth exploring all The Center has to offer. Here's a sampling...

Starry Nights Concerts, where family and friends gather under the stars for FREE music in a casual, community setting. The events are all-ages and open to the public.

Beyond the Classroom caters to students from pre-K through high school offering daytime performance field trips. Study guides and additional engagement opportunities help to enrich students' classroom experiences.

ArtsReach brings professional artists and students together to discover and explore the arts first-hand, engaging a diverse group of educators and learners that ignites creativity.

Year-Round Visual Art Classes and Exhibitions: The Wilson Center isn't just about performances; it's a hub for creativity via visual art classes to curated exhibitions year-round...and so much more. For a look at their upcoming 2024-2025 season, click here: <https://www.wilson-center.com/2024-2025-season-announce>

The Wilson Center's mission comes alive when audiences of all ages play, connect, and learn through engagement with the arts. A public/private funded pillar of the community, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts won't disappoint. With its diverse offerings, I don't see how it could. So, join the mailing list, attend a performance, get involved! You'll thank THEM!

*Location:* 19805 W Capitol Dr, Brookfield, WI 53045 *Phone:* (262) 781-9470



# "IT'S A LOVE THING"

A SPRINGTIME DANCE FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY 40 & UP!

Sunday, May 5, 2024

3:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

The Wisconsin African American Women's Center

3020 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI

\$25.00

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414-534-0701



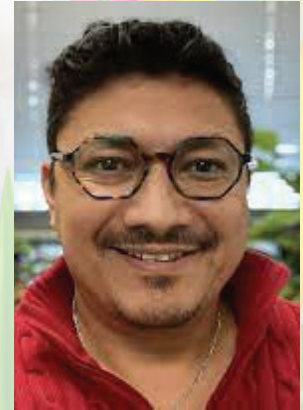
Event Producer  
Carmen A. Murguía



DJ Kelc Spinning  
the Best  
R&B, Latin, Old School



Hosted By Milwaukee's Finest:  
Ms. Karen Valentine & Mr. José Salazar



Sponsored By:

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A Carmen Alicia Murguía Production



# Cordially Yours, Again!

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S HAPPENING

## A New Bounce in Our Spring .... April into May or May Not!

It seems like positively ages since we've chatted! Hoping the not so New Year is agreeing with all of you. I simply cannot remember a more mild, gentle winter season. If this is a preview of the future and our upcoming winter weather, I'm one satisfied customer! Why go to Florida? Let Florida come to us! (weatherwise)

2024 has brought me another unexpected gift. Terrific Tuesdays, **"BINGO ! at Miss Katie's Diner."** Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, the old-fashioned game of chance has taken on a new spin! Come on down and see what I mean! Seeing is believing!

I must thank you all, who gathered in love and unity to **"Remember Rona"** a revue we held as a Bosom Buddies Show at La Cage. It just seemed right to give Rona an old fashioned, Gay send off. Proceeds of the benefit will be matched by my Valentine Fund of The Cream City Foundation and a scholarship will be provided to a talented Art student. Before opting for a career as a bartender Rona earned a degree in Art and was going to be a teacher!

I do so love my theatre, and so very grateful our community has so much to offer.

- We may have lost her, but her music and this tribute will live on – *"Tina, The Tina Turner Musical."* No reason to be a private dancer **Tuesday, April 23 – Sunday, April 28**, and love is what it's got to do with it!

- Closing out this stellar selection of showstoppers *"Moulin Rouge! The Musical."* The windmill will be circling **May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup>**, an extended stay to make sure you all have a chance to marvel at this masterpiece.

- Please keep your eyes out for the Special Events that will be taking place as this force of nature of a musical invades the Brew City and transforms this town just like



By: Michael Johnston

Bastille Days!

Michael Unger and Susan Varela have put their heads together and have a 64<sup>th</sup> Season that is a potpourri of eclectic taste and interest for 2024:

- Bravo Doug Clemons! *"Xanadu"* skated into 2024, **the Skylight**, and our hearts and memories! I simply can't remember a show so loved and well-received as this! You did it my friend! I can't wait for you and Milwaukee's own "Judy and Mickey", Samantha and D'Eric, to take on your next property!

- *"Spring Awakening"* (with Special Hand Signage) Did just that! Truly woke up and educated audiences with the beauty of American Sign Language. I was thrilled to be included in the capacity Opening night audience. In a bonus thrill, especially in the Midwest when it isn't an everyday happening, a Star in the audience! In this case, Marlee Matlin, the Oscar winning actress who actually did this production on Broadway. By the way, she loved it and was thoroughly impressed with the Skylight and Michael Unger, our Artistic Director. Then again, who isn't?

- *"From Here To Eternity,"* the mo-

tion picture that resurrected Frank Sinatra's career, was also a book, a hit pop tune, and now, a theatrical musical play with lyrics and input by Sir Tim Rice (Sir Elton John's Musical Business Partner). Mr. Rice will be here, on hand, to make sure his vision is brought to fruition. Formation begins **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 05<sup>th</sup>**. I'm beyond thrilled and honored that I've been invited by The Skylight to interview Sir Tim Rice. I will include this interview, in its entirety in an upcoming MPL.

**The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre** is 70 years old with this 2024 Season, 1953 – 2023. There are twelve terrific theater-pleasing productions not to be missed. And physically at 70, a facelift has been needed for the actual theater. In the future, a state of the art, venue seeing to all your needs will be awaiting you when you Rep.

- *"Piano Men 2"* and the Music of Billy Joel and Making 88 Keys Sing ... **Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** crescendoing through **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**.

- And the finale, *"Nina Simone: Four Women,"* closes the landmark 70<sup>th</sup> season. Can you think of a better voice? A better message? **Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>** (Tax Day) – **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**. This tantalizing tribute has the third and Final (for this Season) **PRIDE Night, Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. With the same format – Reception 6:00 pm, show to follow at 7:30 pm and the amazing Pride Hostesses. To be a part of this historic event, please call The Rep and/or subscribe to their sensational 70<sup>th</sup> Season at 414-224-9490/www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

**The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre** (MCT), soon to be acknowledging a major milestone, offers up a World Premier to close out this fascinating season. Marvin Zimmerman's *"The Not-So-Accidental Conviction of Eleven Milwaukee 'Anarchists'"* (talk about a long title!) **Friday, April 26 – Sun-**

day, May 12. Brent Hazelton, the uber-talented Artist Director, directs this amazing, must-see opus in the Studio Theatre of The Broadway Center. I was fortunate enough to see MCT's luscious salute to Liberace. In a word -flawless! It should be videotaped and included in LGBTQ + Studies.

**Bombshell Theatre Co.** exploded with a new season of bombastic Broadway to brighten our world. And what better way to say bravo, than with "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"? With all the beauty and humor of both Carol Channing and Marilyn Monroe, Lorelei Lee stunned us with "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" and many more melodic, memorable tunes. Beyond thrilled I got to see this chestnut before the theater had technical issues and the complete run of Blondes was aborted. Such a shame.

This past March, I did return to both Bombshell and Sunset for an "Evening of Sondheim." I can't think of better night of theater than a revue of Stephen Sondheim's Classics. It always fascinates me what songs are selected and celebrated with Steve's treasure chest of Broadway. Bravo !

The little theatre that can and continues to do (for over 30 years) – Mark Bucher's The Boulevard Theatre should be applauded; it never ceases to amaze. They truly transpose you, by seducing your mind and taking you into the situation through their gift of acting. On the same day of the Oscar's, my Office Wife Mary and I were fortunate enough to have a front row seat (literally) for "Cecile, or The School for Fathers" by Jean Anouilh. Milwaukee's very own Olivier, David Flores starred and directed, oozing with as much charm as Maurice Chevalier! The talented

Donna Kummer was his match and mate at the keyboard and as his foil. Ever so charming and feel good. These days it is so needed, and the Arts are so important in doing this. Thank You Mr. Bucher, Mr. Flores, and Ms. Kummer – such a gift!

Congratulations La Cage at 40! Dave Wolz, Tony Alexander, Brandon, Stacey, Keith, Chris, Casper, Jamey, Dale, Dale, George & Corey, and Crew, please keep the party, dancing, and fun going on for another fabulous four decades!

Due to all the La Cage Anniversary commemorations, Bosom Buddies will have their monthly show on a Saturday at 5:00 pm, but it will be a tad later than normal: 04/27. Maple Veneer and Karen Valentine will close out the month of April 2024 this time!

Another Milestone to Salute – Club Charlies in The Historic Third Ward will be blowing out the candles to birthday number 15! A big bacchanal (party) will take place on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank You Craig, Liz, and your devoted Chuck-sters that give a little heart and lots of soul to Catalano Square and thereabouts. Thank You for giving me a "Home"!

**Calendar April/May 2024**

- Tuesday, April 09  
Eid al – Fitr Begins at Sundown
- Tuesday, April 09  
End of Ramadan
- Sunday, April 14  
Club Charlies 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party
- Monday, April 15  
Tax Day

- Thursday, April 18 - Sunday, April 21  
Art in Bloom – The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM)
- Thursday, April 18  
PRIDE Night at The Milwaukee Rep  
"Nina Simone: Four Women" 6:00 pm
- Monday, April 22  
Earth Day (54<sup>th</sup> Annual)
- Monday, April 22  
Passover begins at Sundown.
- Saturday, April 27  
La Cage Bosom Buddies 5:00 pm with Karen Valentine and Maple Veneer
- Sunday, May 05  
Cinco de Mayo
- Sunday, May 05  
Orthodox Easter
- Sunday, May 12  
Mothers' Day
- Saturday, May 18  
Armed Forces Day
- Friday, May 24 – Monday, May 27  
IML – International Mr. Leather Weekend, Chicago, IL.
- Monday, May 27  
Memorial Day

As I start my 25<sup>th</sup> year of "Cordially Yours-ing" (1999 – 2024) I thank You for sharing your comings and goings with me and our readers. Please keep reading and keep on doing!

Remember it's the glamour, not the grammar, as I remain Still Cordially Yours, Again !!!



# Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



## Art Bar ♦

Mixed bar with college-age crowd  
722 E. Burleigh St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

(414) 372-7880

<https://www.facebook.com/artbarmke>

## DIX Milwaukee ♦

Southern Style Video/Dance Bar  
739 S. 1st St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 231-9085

<https://dixmke.com>

## Fluid Milwaukee ♦

Gay Bar

819 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

414-Oh-Fluid/(414) 643-5843

<https://fluidmke.com>

## Harbor Room ♦

Levis' & Leather Bar

117 E. Greenfield Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 672-7988

[https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-](https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/)

[Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-](https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/)

[Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/](https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/)

## Hunty's Social Club ♦

Drag Bar inside

Hamburger Marys

734 S. 5th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 488-2555

<https://huntsmke.com>

## Kruz ♦

Levis' & Leather Bar

354 E. National Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 272-5789

<https://www.facebook.com/kruz.>

## [kruzbar](http://c3designs.rocks/)

## La Cage Niteclub ♦

Gay Dance Club

801 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 383-8330

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/LaCageNiteclub)

[LaCageNiteclub](https://www.facebook.com/LaCageNiteclub)

## This Is It! ♦

Gay Bar with Drag Shows

418 E. Wells St.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 278-9192

<https://www.thisisitbar.com>

## Walker's Pint ♦

Lesbian Bar

818 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 643-7468

<https://walkerspint.com>

## Woody's Sports Bar ♦

Gay Sports Bar

1579 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 672-0806

[https://www.facebook.com/woodys.](https://www.facebook.com/woodys.mke)

[mke](https://www.facebook.com/woodys.mke)

## Zócolo Food Park ♦

Bar with food trucks, gay friendly

636 S. 6th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 433-9747

<https://www.zocalomke.com>



## Businesses

## C 3 Designs ♦

Custom Jewelry designer in South  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2110 10th Ave.

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

(414) 764-3892

<http://c3designs.rocks/>

## Oun Kine Grindz ♦

Hawaiian Cafe, caterer and store

7215 W. North Ave.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

(414) 778-0727

<http://www.okgrindz.com>

## Kilwins Milwaukee

LGBTQ-owned candy and ice cream  
shop in Bayshore Mall

5756 N. Bayshore Dr., Q101

Glendale, WI 53217

(414) 967-4803

[https://www.kilwins.com/stores/](https://www.kilwins.com/stores/kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore)

[kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore](https://www.kilwins.com/stores/kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore)

## Outwards Books

Gifts & Coffee ♦

LGBTQ+ books, movies and gifts

2710 N. Murray Ave. #3645,

Milwaukee, WI 53211

(414) 963-9089

<https://outwardsbooks.com>

## Purple Door Ice Cream ♦

LGBTQ-owned ice cream parlor with  
unique flavors and treats

205 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 988-2521

<https://www.purpledooricecream.com>

## Sherman Perk Cafe ♦

Local coffee shop in the Sherman Park  
Neighborhood

4924 W Roosevelt Dr.

Milwaukee, WI 53216

(414) 875-7375

<https://shermanperkcoffeeshop.com/>

## La Finca Coffeehouse ♦

Women owned coffee shop with unique  
coffees and eats.

3558 E Sivyver Ave.

St Francis, WI 53235

(414) 394-0722

<https://www.lafinca.cafe>



# Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



## Todo Postres LLC. ♦

Gay-owned and operated bakery and dessert shop. Specializes in unique cakes for quinceañeras, weddings and pride events.

958 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53215

(414) 988-2149

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ToDoPostresOfficial/)

[ToDoPostresOfficial/](https://www.facebook.com/ToDoPostresOfficial/)



## Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

Community health center provides discounted or free health programs  
2906 S. 20th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53215

(414) 672-1353

<https://sschc.org>

## BESTD Clinic

Free STI testing Clinic

1240 E. Brady St.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 272-2144

<https://www.bestd.org>

## Community Health Systems, Inc. ♦

A federally qualified Health Center that operates a medical, dental, and behavioral health clinic in Beloit, Wisconsin

74 Eclipse Center,

Beloit, WI 53511

tel: (608) 361-0311

[www.chsofwi.org](http://www.chsofwi.org)

## Compassionate Clinical Services

Provides private therapy and counseling services by Ryan Larkey, LCSW, SAC

985 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

## Planned Parenthood

(414) 839-1821

<https://www.compassionateclinicalservices.com>

## Waukesha County Public Health Division

514 Riverview Ave.,

Waukesha, WI, 53188

262-896-8430

[www.waukeshacounty.gov/publichealth](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/publichealth)

## Vivent Health (formerly ARCW)

HIV/AIDS health center that provides medical, dental, counseling and social service help

820 N. Plankinton Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53203

(414) 273-1991

<https://viventhealth.org>



## Cream City Foundation

Not-for-profit that funds LGBTQ+ outreach organizations

PO Box 511099

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 225-0244

<https://creamcityfoundation.org>

## Diverse & Resilient ♦

LGBTQ+ health and advocacy group

2439 N. Holton St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

(414) 390-0444

<https://www.diverseandresilient.org>

## LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin

Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups

1456 Junction Ave.

Racine, WI 53403

(262) 664-4100

<https://www.lgbtsewi.org>

## Milwaukee LGBT Community Center ♦

Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups

315 W. Court St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

(414) 271-2656

<https://www.mkelgbt.org>

## Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Networking and resources for LGBTQ+ business

5027 W. North Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53208

(414) 678-9275

<https://wislgbtchamber.com>



## Central Library ♦

The main branch of The Milwaukee County Library system has books, movies, periodicals available for lending.

814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233

414) 286-3000

## Wisconsin LGBTQ History Project, Inc.

Local organization dedicated to preserving and bringing light to LGBTQ+ historical events and people.

(414) 324-9072

<https://wislgbthistory.com>

KEY: ♦ Distribution point for Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

# PRIDE FEST MILWAUKEE

20  
24

HENRY MAIER FESTIVAL PARK, MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

**JUNE 6, JUNE 7, JUNE 8**



**FESTIVAL HEADLINERS**

**MÝA**  
SATURDAY

**ICONA POP**  
SATURDAY

**DAVID ARCHULETA**  
FRIDAY

**DIXON DALLAS**  
FRIDAY

**CUPCAKKE**  
SATURDAY

**MURRAY'S MISFITS**  
SATURDAY

THURSDAY  
THURSDAY  
THURSDAY

**ADA VOX**

**VIOLET CHACHKI**

**ENVY PERU**

**ALASKA**

THURSDAY  
THURSDAY  
THURSDAY

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