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# winterplay!

**Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Queer, Two-Spirit  
Community Seasonal • Winter 2023  
free copy**

## **Queering Fashion**

**Myles Sexton – Disruptor of Fashion, Inciter of Positive Change**

**Creative Freelance Designer, Charlotte Carbone, and Run the Crown's Jared Colautti**

**Queer Winter Date Ideas in Toronto and Surrounding Area**

**FEATURING PINKPLAYMAG'S MATRIMONY SUPPLEMENT!**

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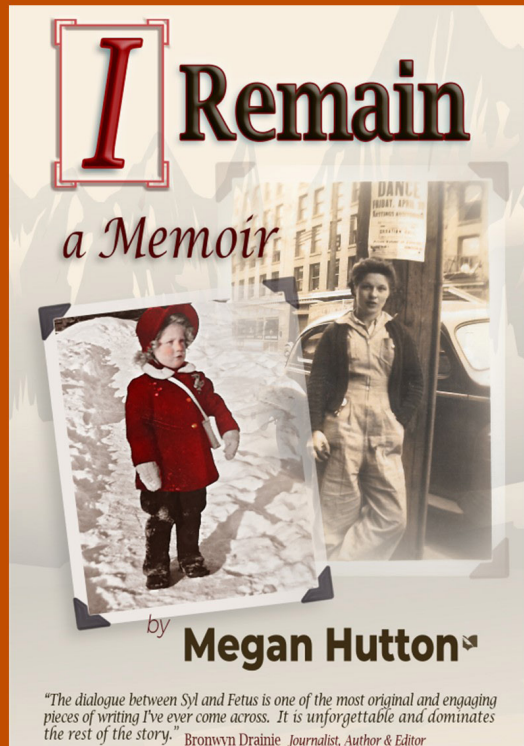
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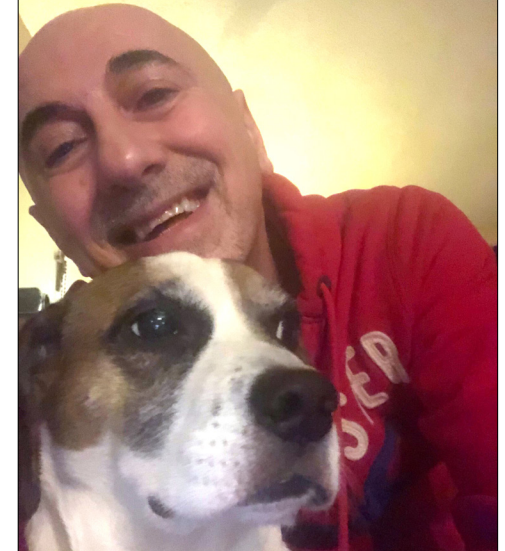
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From the **Publisher**

We have arrived at the conclusion of our theme for the year, where we examined the contributions of our queer community on a number of fronts, from technology to performance art, architecture, and now fashion.

Of course, fashion. We invented it. Okay, maybe we didn't invent fashion, I would have to look that up. The fashion industry has long been an avenue for self-expression, creativity, and individuality. Behind the glamour and glitz there is a community that has significantly shaped and influenced the fashion world — our 2SLGBTQIA+ community. With immense talents, boldness, and unapologetic approach to style, 2SLGBTQIA+ designers have made invaluable contributions to the industry, creating a more inclusive and diverse fashion landscape.

We have consistently set trends that have redefined what is considered beautiful in the fashion world. Throughout history, our community has challenged societal norms and gender stereotypes, pushing the boundaries of fashion. At the heart of fashion lies the embodiment of individualism, and our community has played a crucial role in celebrating and promoting this concept. Social media has plenty of queer fashion influencers and designers, who have curated their unique sense of style and used the platforms to showcase their distinctive and inclusive perspectives. Such representation is empowering



and inspiring, encouraging people to embrace their true selves and embrace diversity. It's what we do.

Beyond fashion, our community has also used the industry as a platform to raise awareness and fight for equality. From raising funds for HIV/AIDS (the infamous Fashion Cares in Toronto) and other 2SLGBTQIA+ charities, to using runway shows as spaces for activism and protest, the fashion world has become a medium for social change. The visibility and influence of our community within fashion has opened doors for discussions on gender fluidity, equality, and acceptance — so, this a great theme to end the year with.

I am also thrilled to have Myles Sexton gracing our cover again. Back in 2012, I had this crazy idea to do an empowering 'end of the world as predicted by the Mayans' theme about the rebirth of a new enlightened world. Myles was so much on board for the shoot — we had them lying down in a bathtub birthing a baby made of light, that would guide us into a better world. We had a full crew squeeze into a rustic downtown apartment that had a fantastic old-fashioned tub. I still remember the whole day very fondly.

Enjoy, and Happy Holidays!

**Antoine Elhashem**  
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# winterplay!

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Queer, and Two-Spirit  
Community Seasonal from PinkPlayMags  
Free • Winter 2023

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Cover Photo: Myles Sexton by Jonathan Hooper

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## From the Editor



Hello Friends!

Throughout the years, fashion has been utilized to express individual identities – especially for us when the fashion world collided with queer culture in the mid-20th century. It wasn't until the early 2000s however, when 2SLGBTQIA+ influences were spotted on runways, showcased donning the work of well-known designers, even if many of the designers were queer themselves. In this issue, we're honouring queers in fashion, queer fashion, and fashionable queers in **Winterplay's Queering Fashion!**

**Myles Sexton**, our first feature, is a self-proclaimed fashion disruptor – they're also an activist and advocate for sobriety and HIV/AIDS, using their platform to incite meaningful change. In our second feature, Bryen Dunn, sat down with two Toronto-based designers, **Jared Colautti** of Run the Crown, a fashion line for the masc presenting, and Fashion & Costume Designer, **Charlotte Carbone**, a full-time creative freelancer. Menaka Swaminathan gives us an abundance of ideas for where to go (and where to show off your fashionable duds) on a fun queer date this winter in our third feature.

It's winter, and Canadian winters can be COLD. If you're looking for somewhere warm and chic, check out, **Malta** in our *Travel* section by Bryen Dunn. Learn about internationally renowned visual artist, **Luis Jacob**, in our *Hot Artist* column by Sean Ban Beaton. Read up on **ACT (Aids Committee of Toronto)** in *Community Cornerstone*. Cozy up to *Where The Boys Are* by **Christopher Murphy** in *Fiction* while wearing either swanky designer silk pajamas or toasty plaid flannels – we don't judge.

We've got your *Winter Horoscopes* inside for you to find out how the stars will align at this time of year. Start planning a list of exciting activities when you go through our *Winter in the City* event listings handpicked by our Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain. *From the Heart* (by definition) means, 'in a very sincere way.' If anyone knows how to sincerely divulge provoking thoughts, it's our Creative Director, Mychol Scully.

Happy Holidays, happy winter, and happy reading!

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# LIFE'S UNDERTAKING

## a podcast

Brad Jones, the funeral director believes this winter we're all travelling toward new beginnings and positive potentials. You can listen to Life's Undertaking Podcast wherever you listen. You may even hear a story or two about his Purple and Yellow VW Camper.



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# Canada's Very Own Fashion Disruptor and Guru Myles Sexton

By Melissa MacMullin

Photo by Nick Merzetti

Slaying the runway while slaying stigma – catwalking for “Myles” to redefine what it is to be a queer fashion star, grounded by nature, inspired by adventure, living with HIV.

“It is really our moment now to reclaim the space that we never got to take up especially within fashion, and really show representation of our very diverse and creative communities.”

“Representation matters.” You can't knock [Myles Sexton](#) (they/them) down, not that you would want to because they're as sweet as pie with beautiful flowy blonde locks, and a smile that could make a rainbow blush 50 shades of pink. Aside from them almost towering seven feet tall in heels (only a slight exaggeration), their spirit and tenacity stands even taller, having re-written an elevated, full-circle script of their own life, bound by self-discovery, and they're still “writing.”

The Nova Scotian-born Queer Fashion Nomad is a non-binary Style Expert, Fashion Influencer, Content Curator, Model, Creative Director, Podcast

Host of *Our Private Bits*, Makeup Artist, HIV/AIDS Activist, and Sobriety Advocate. If you haven't seen them on TikTok, you've likely caught glimpses of Sexton on *Cityline*, *1 Queen 5 Queens*, *The Social*, *Breakfast Television* and/or when they were featured in *Vogue Italia*, *Elle*, and *Fashion Magazine*. They've also worked with brands such as *Fenty Beauty*, *Canada Goose*, *Sephora*, and *Marc Jacobs*.

“I mean, why limit ourselves? That's why I do so many things. I am a very complex human with a lot of creativity and passion. I love being able to lean into different areas of my career which always keeps it exciting! That being said, I've really had to learn how to multitask and manage my time. The most rewarding things I currently get to do would have to be my segments on *Cityline*. I've really been working hard to creating segments that allow people's voices to be heard who might not get a voice as often in mainstream media.”

CAFA award-winning Sexton is proudly six years sober, and currently lives in their newly (first) purchased home located about 1.5 hours away from Toronto in Georgian Bay with their partner Tyler Austin, Atlas their dog, and Kitten their cat. “Winning the CAFA was a very full circle moment

Photo by Nick Merzetti

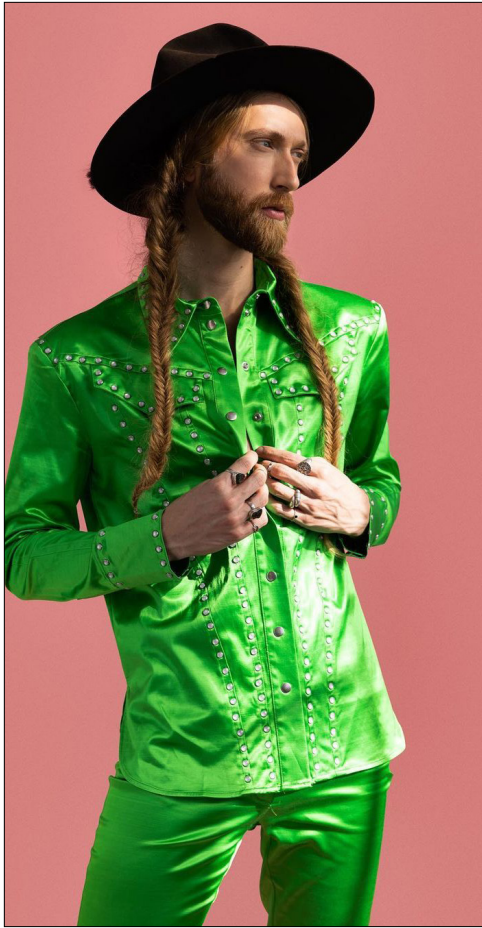


Photo by Nick Merzetti

Photo by Alyssa Lancaster



for me. Especially in an industry that is still very conservative. I want to inspire people to live their truth and reclaim their power over shame, so this award was very validating of my hard work.” Sexton took home CAFA’s Digital Fashion Creator Award in 2022.

Rewind 15 or so years ago, a 19-year-old Sexton left their small town of Brooklyn, Nova Scotia, with its population of less than 2000 people, for the big city of Toronto where they had achieved incredible success in international modelling, celebrity makeup artistry, fashion magazine creation, and jewelry designing, all by the tender age of 24. A young Sexton’s clients included the likes of Grace Jones, Nelly Furtado, and Maye Musk (yes, Elon’s mother).

Sexton adored and gravitated towards fashion since childhood – one of their favourite designers from the earlier years was Montreal’s Denis Gagnon. “His pieces are very gender neutral and really break the binaries of silhouettes used within fashion design. Many of his pieces drape fabric in unique ways, he plays with pleats a lot and love his use of color.”

“What drew me to fashion at a young age was history and fantasy books/movies. Seeing people express themselves outside of the strict gendered binaries that I grew up in really inspired me. Seeing these masculine men in leather gladiator skirts or elves in Lord of the Rings in their very delicate attire and were applauded for their strength, I wanted to be like them in many ways!” shared Sexton. “Fashion then really became the armour I needed to protect myself

while I was doing a lot of internal work. I knew if I looked fabulous no one could hurt me, so I used fashion to help protect me while I was healing and growing.”

In 2018, Sexton’s relentless pursuance of accomplishing dreams came to a temporary halt when they had learned of their sudden HIV diagnosis which initially instilled fear and the panic of uncertainty due to lack of proper awareness. It’s been five or so years of self-education, Sexton has been courageously back to slaying dreams since approximately two years ago with an added purpose, to help educate and fight the HIV/AIDS stigma as a shining light of an example and looking stylish as hell while doing so.

Sexton has been a national ambassador for the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR), having taken on a more leadership role with Sexfluent, CANFAR’s youth-focused HIV and sexual empowerment program which they helped to spearhead and create from its inception. “I think my life has been nothing but one big challenge, but I’ve used those challenges as lessons, and I think they have made me a stronger person because of it. When you go against the tide, you’re always going to get push back, but you will also meet so many other beautiful people who are there trying to create change, too.”

Sexton’s future continues to look bright, as they continue to dream up new fashionable dreams every day; having recently launched their podcast, *Our Private Bits*, featuring empowered conversations or topics that would typically go unspoken in order to foster growth and understanding within the community. Aside from podcasting, Sexton expressed his keen interest in diving into more on-screen work, “My TV career is just starting to take off, so I am hoping to really keep learning and growing in this area of my life. Maybe my own show one day let’s manifest it!”

Sexton divulged exclusive fashion tips for PinkPlayMags readers, but it’s not what you’re expecting or what you’d read in a run-of-the-mill fashion magazine. “Wear what makes you happy, because at the end of the day fashion can be an extension of our internal joy. Lastly don’t believe in trends it’s just a bunch of marketing trying to make you buy things. Fashion is about self-expression not what you’re told is reliant or cool.” There you have it, you’ve been given the green light from Canada’s guru of fashion to embrace your own style, which is as permanent as you want it to be – unlike fashion trends which are fleeting, and not a true representation of you.

Melissa MacMullin is a freelance content writer and journalist for leading publications. A strong distinct queer Canadian voice with pride and purpose. Author. Screenwriter. Performer. Part-time adventurer.





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Photo by Charlotte Carbone

## Queering Fashion One Individual at a Time: Charlotte Carbone and Jared Colautti

By Bryen Dunn

Fashion is experiencing a queer renaissance of late, one that goes beyond the mainstream binary attire into a more genderless style.

Out with the pink and blue stereotypes, and in with the eclectic array of rainbow hues. Designers are experimenting with clothing more based on people's different body shapes rather than gendered clothing categorization. Not only does this provide individuals with the opportunity to express themselves as to who they are, but it often can reflect a political awareness within society's norms.

No longer is clothing being created as practical for males, and purely aesthetic for females, but more tied into one's own identity and self-expression. We've seen gender roles being turned upside down in music and film for ages, from Grace Jones and Tilda Swinton to today's new crop of boundary pushers, Sam Smith and Troye Sivan. And of course, we have drag queens to thank for bringing their genderfuckery to mainstream audiences in recent years as well.

We had an opportunity to chat with two local Toronto area designers who are working effortlessly to create clothing that has no boundaries, and to specifically create items for those who are wanting to express themselves as who they really are, not defined by gender only.





They've had the opportunity to create some thought-provoking pieces in the past, including the bisexual couch for [IKEA Canada's 2021 Pride Campaign](#). Their audience for fashion and costume work are fellow queer racialized artists, such as those within Toronto's ballroom scene, with their most accessible public costume works being used as part of the [Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance](#) (TKBA) balls.

They recall one of the most challenging designs worked on, "My most intricate recent work is a clear vinyl dress filled with fake blood in honour of World AIDS Day. It was challenging because you can't sew vinyl with conventional methods. You actually should fuse it with heat to create a full seal so that the liquid doesn't leak out. It made it down the runway but needed some 911 assistance afterwards."

"My work is grounded by being desire-based instead of damage-centred (a concept by Indigenous scholar [Eve Tuck](#)), and research-creation processes. Everything I do is an attempt to shape a more equitable and accountable world, which means letting lived experience and compassion lead the way," they explain.

In terms of what the future of fashion might hold, Carbone believes, "A total collapse of the fast fashion industry is necessary to create sustainable and equitable fashion industry practices. The current system is failing by design. I want to see more locality, a pull back from the globalization of fashion."

Carbone is currently finishing their Master of Design, doing product development for a queer-trans\* start-up, and making 1-of-1 costumes for live events. When not designing, they are passionate about their communities, home, finding peace, enjoying the process, and slowing down.

**Jared Colautti** (He/Him) is the Founder and Head Stylist with [Run The Crown](#), and has a line of clothing made specifically for masculine presenting individuals that's queer positive and gender neutral, made to fit a woman's or trans man's body. He believes clothing is the most intimate form of self-expression, and the most obvious. It's a personal choice one makes every day, and the first thing people notice when forming an opinion of you, before they've heard your voice or seen your eyes.

"I've always been interested in fashion from a very early age. I started selling custom made clothing for



cis men and had been doing that for years. When I got married, one of our masc-presenting non-binary guests wanted to wear a suit to our wedding but had a terrible time finding something. That's when I realized this was a problem that could be solved with custom made clothing," he divulged. "Masculine presenting women, non-binary folks, and trans men are typically ignored by traditional retailers, so their only option is to wear clothes that don't fit their bodies, or clothes that don't match how they see themselves."

Describing the design process, he explains, "We design formal and semi-formal wear that is custom made for each client using their specific measurements, so the shoulders, chest and hips will always fit perfectly. The style of the suit will be as masc or fem as the client wants because they choose their own style details. The result is a garment that fits their body properly and represents their identity."

Their clients tend to be mostly professionals who want to feel comfortable and confident at work, or for a special occasion. "We love it when a client has a specific vision for what they want to create, and

it's our job to find the solution to make their vision a reality. When our clients try on their garments, they stand taller, look stronger and gain a sense of pride. We create our clothing to last, and we're happy to make what our clients want, but we recommend against hyper trendy fashions, because what is popular this season may not be next season. We don't sell clothing, we sell confidence," he proclaims.

Envisioning his next move, "I keep promising myself I'll create a fashion show with clients as models to showcase our work and to celebrate themselves. I just completed a fashion shoot with a few of them, and I plan on doing more of those next year." As for the future of fashion, his prediction is, "The late nineties loose fitting trend will continue next year and will be here for a while, but to us, showcasing your individual identity through your personal style is more important than following fashion trends. Fashion is fleeting, while personal style is timeless, and a lot more interesting," he believes.

Jared also had something to say about the fast fashion industry, "The retail business model is based on low cost and high volumes, meaning poor quality garments that customers buy, discard, and replace frequently. Not only is that environmentally damaging, it also sacrifices quality and craftsmanship."

All in all though, things are looking great. "I'm currently expanding Run the Crown to other cities. A consultation with us is a manual process, as our stylists meet with clients in person, so our sales area is limited to where we have stylists. I would like to find stylists in other areas so we can empower more people to discover their confidence. Contact us if you would like to become a Run the Crown stylist!"

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities.





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## Winter is definitely a polarizing season, where it's either hated or adored.

Aptly referred to as the “cuffing season”, especially in the frigid Canadian winters, the thought of being alone through the months of earlier sunsets and snowstorms is less than ideal. Unless you have a four-legged companion to cuddle, then a partner is not needed at all – but that’s a topic for a different article.

To love and be loved during the coldest season of the year is often the daydream of many. Curled up with your honey under blankets with (spiked) hot chocolates watching cheesy Netflix holiday romantic comedies (I’m looking at you, *Single All the Way*) make for the coziest evenings.

With that said, turn Netflix off, get off the couch, neatly fold your blankets (because who wants the mess?), and venture outside together to explore the city!

For those visiting Toronto for the first time, know that there is never a dull moment. As a city globally known for its diversity and inclusivity, the list of

winter activities is endless for all couples in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

### Holiday Lights Tour at Casa Loma

Wander hand in hand through the intricate drapery of festive lights at [Casa Loma](#). First built in 1914, you’ll feel like royalty as you tour the magnificent castle. A national treasure in its own right, Casa Loma is illuminated in colour to enchant visitors from December 1st, 2023, to January 8th, 2024. The cold might become a passing thought as you “ooh” and “aah” at the warmth of all the lights, festive decorations, and live entertainment. You may even just leave with your own nutcrackers (pun intended). This is a ticketed event, so don’t wait to buy yours!

### Skating Under The Bentway

Skating under a prominent highway may seem overstimulating, but the joy and camaraderie felt from everyone around will envelope you and your partner as you glide hand in hand along the 220m figure-eight trail under the Gardiner. Open from December 16th, 2023, to February 19th, 2024, this is a newer attraction, and one that quickly became a local favourite.

An added bonus – it’s totally free! Especially at a time where financial concerns weigh on many of us, some free-spirited fun followed by an intimate dinner or drinks sounds like a real win.

If your partner is less than elegant on ice skates, that makes it even better! Think of all the classic romcoms where couples skate under falling snow, with one leading the other, stopping to stick out their tongues to catch a snowflake. Support is the foundation of any healthy relationship, so why not start in the most Canadian way possible - on the ice!

### Coffee and Delysees in Yorkville

Building on the delightful skating suggestion, for all you sweet-toothed sweeties out there, head to Yorkville for a classy coffee date at [Delysees](#). From beautifully crafted extravagant cakes to sweet macarons and buttery croissants, go ahead and treat yourself and your date. You both deserve it, honey! After all, you just went skating for free, why not splurge at a luxury bakery and take in the style and culture of Yorkville?

### Finding Love Through Gaming

Calling all gamers, here’s a fun, active idea for a date that combines a healthy dose of competition with the

warmth of reminiscence! Check out [Zed80](#) arcade bar on the Danforth, an intimate arcade bar that whisks you back to the amazing years of the early 1990s to 2000s. It’s a really great way to interact with your date in a relaxed indoor setting, be silly together, and check-out each other’s competitive and playful sides.

### Winter Wonderland Romance

You’ve probably seen all those posts on Instagram of couples under a huge, illuminated heart. Open until January 7th, the [Distillery Winter Village](#) is a staple destination for all things Christmas and lights and romance! Immerse yourself in a wintery dream with your lover, strolling through the beautifully curated winter wonderland. Get into the spirit of the season with holiday-inspired drinks (mulled wine, anyone?), delicious food from diverse food carts, and live entertainment from talented local artists. Tickets are required for entry on Friday to Sundays from 4:00 p.m., and from December 18-31 after 4:00 p.m.

### Fall in Love with Candle-making

Being so uniquely us within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, why not stray from the ordinary and partake in a unique date experience? Here is an



amazing activity to get your creative sides turned on together. **Kandi** is a relatively new family-owned business in Yorkville. In their lab, you can create your very own personalized fragrance candle.

As we get closer to the holidays, create your very own unique scented candle that captures the smells of winter and highlights your shared tastes. More than merely just a date, the two of you will leave the lab feeling all the more knowledgeable and closer to one another than when you entered. Plus, aren't certain scents known to be aphrodisiacs? That'll certainly add an extra layer of intimacy to this experience!

### Snow tubing

This one is a favourite. Hang on tight to your bae in a personal tube and slide down a steep slope together, falling over and rolling into one another into the snowy abyss – cue the romcom scene again!

While this activity can't be found in downtown Toronto, there are many ski and snow tubing hills in and around the GTA which are easily accessible by car. **Horseshoe Resort** in Barrie is the Queen of slopes, featuring Ontario's longest snow tubing hill. A little over an hour from Toronto, this destination offers skiing as well, giving you options for a whole

day of fun! Tickets do need to be purchased in advance.

Regardless of the below zero temperatures, there's tons to do in and around Toronto, both indoor and outdoor, in the winter. A plethora of opportunities await you for creating amazing, romantic moments with your partner under the glistening falling snow.

Menaka Swaminathan is a Sri Lankan-Canadian Communications professional with an innate passion for writing and exploring the unfamiliar. During her free time, she enjoys hanging out with her family, which includes Oscar, her quirky Sheepadoodle.



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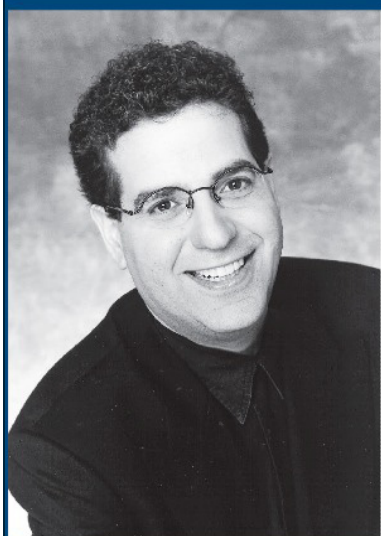
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**Malta** is one of those places that many travellers hear about for its mysterious allure, yet often put off visiting to pursue a more traditional tourist destination.

It has an almost mystical appeal with its remote Mediterranean island location situated between Europe and Africa, thousands of years of history to explore, temperate year-round climates and abundance of sunshine, and modern amenities that equal those found in other European countries. They also are well advanced with LGBTQ+ rights, and recently played host to **EuroPride** this past fall taking place in the capital city of Valletta.

The fortified city of Valletta is one of European Union's smallest capital cities, and one of the youngest, with many buildings having a strong

Baroque character. It's built on a peninsula, between two large natural harbours, Grand Harbour on the eastern side, and Marsamxett Harbour to the west – designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1980.

City Gate is the main entry point, which leads to the bustling cosmopolitan Republic Street, and the more subdued Merchants Street, with smaller, independent shops and cafes. Be sure to check out the **Manoel Theatre**, one of the oldest still active theatres in Europe. The **Upper Barrakka Gardens** provides great views over Grand Harbour, and down below is where the firing of the guns at the **Saluting Battery** takes place daily at noon and 4:00pm. There are many walking tours and harbour boat tours that provide different perspectives, and **St. John's Square** is a good people watching area.

### **EuroPride and Queer Malta**

Malta recently hosted **EuroPride** with attendance far surpassing their annual Pride celebrations, originally organized by [Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement](#) in 2004 with just 50 individuals in attendance. Events



took place in varying places, with most centred within or around Valletta, including the closing weekend EuroVision and **Christina Aguilera** showcased at the open-air square, Granaries in Floriana. While there isn't necessarily a permanent gay bar on the island, there are several queer-friendly places that regularly host events put on by local queer promoters. The final day of festivities included the relaxed Pride Around the Grand Harbour boat parade.

**Michelangelo** promotes itself as a gay club, offering two levels of fun, including a lounge area and private rooms, along with special event showcases. It's located in the Paceville area, known for its bars and late-night partying. **LOLLIPOP** has been slaying the local club scene since 2016, by merging pop culture and fashion together at their monthly pop-up club nights. **Nerve** combines both top European DJs with local queer talents to create a truly inclusive party vibe. Local drag performer **Coco Bordell** also hosts special events, including *Coco's Klabb Kabaret*, which took place at the outdoor bar **Uno** during EuroPride.

The **C&R Shop and Cafe** in Naxxar is a must visit for both the incredible fashion items, as well as the delectable pastries in the adjacent cafe. Charles and Ron (C&R) met in Amsterdam back in 1992 and stayed in contact until Ron decided to move to Malta to be with Charles, a self-made couture maker. The pair eventually wed, being one of the first same-sex couples married there, and now together they run Malta's leading fashion brand. Their signature

style draws inspiration from the archipelago, with Mediterranean motifs, colours and stories featuring in all their collections, making any item a great souvenir piece from the island. Their brand has been worn by the likes of Ariana Grande, Carrie Underwood, Paula Abdul, Kelly Rowland, Brandy, Lauryn Hill, Michelle Williams (Destiny's Child), and many others.

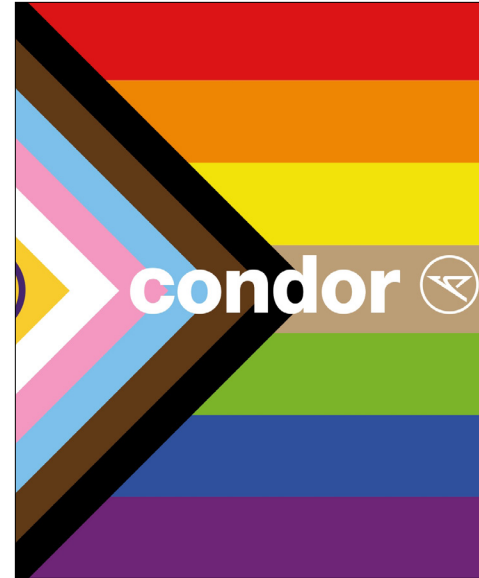
### Outdoor Adventures

Outside of the capital, there's plenty more to explore. The **Blue Grotto** is a series of sea caves located along the Southeastern part of the country, that can be experienced by way of traditional Maltese fishing boat tours. The vibrant azure and cobalt-coloured waters, along with the phosphorescent orange, purple, and green colours of the underwater flora, make this a mesmerizing scene of light and colour.

For those more inclined to experience a bit of outdoor adrenaline, check out **MC Adventure**, who offers a variety of thrilling activities, including ziplining, rock climbing, biking, and much more. Their events and locations are quite sporadic and pop up almost anywhere on the island – check their [upcoming events](#) page for what's happening during your visit, and explore other [outdoor](#) adventures as well.

### A Rural Maltese Experience

For those seeking a more relaxed holiday experience, **Mulberries Hotel** might be what you're looking for. It's a traditional-style family-run rural farmhouse

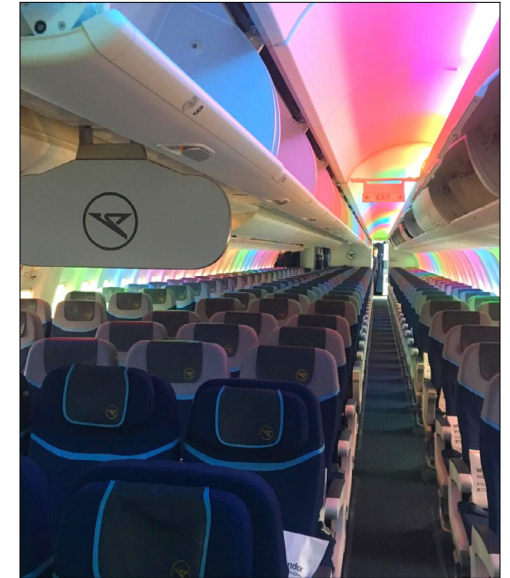


that's located between the quaint village of Żabbar and the picturesque Marsascula Bay. Żabbar's historical centre is easily reachable on foot within 15 minutes, and is one of Malta's oldest residential areas, offering plenty of dining options, and a great cultural experience including historic architectural building and museums. There's also a supermarket across the street from the hotel, and public transit stops directly in front, enabling you to easily visit the surrounding areas. You can also take a local ferry from the nearby Three Cities to the Grand Harbour in Valletta in under ten minutes. Recently, the property opened their Wellness Haven, featuring an indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, and aromatherapy steam room. If you're looking for a more urban experience, there are several [gay-friendly/owned](#) accommodation options.

### Getting There with Flying Colours

Despite its more remote location, it still has good connectivity from most European destinations with flights arriving at Malta International Airport, which is located in Luqa, just 15 minutes from the capital of Valletta. In fact, most anywhere you want to go on the island can be done within an hour's drive at most, making it easy to cover a lot of territory in little time.

Germany's **Condor** airline recently introduced their new ultra-modern long-haul A330-900neo aircraft, offering significantly enhanced sense of space,



first-class in-flight entertainment and connectivity in all classes when flying internationally. The airline also made concerted efforts to embrace diversity and engage with the LGBTQ+ community, by participating and promoting [Pride celebrations](#) within Germany and beyond. They've even held Pride Flights with an all-female cockpit crew, and gay male cabin crew with rainbow accessories. With their hub in Frankfurt, connecting worldwide is made easy, and both [Prime](#) and Business Class tickets are priced at much lower prices than other carriers, and include access to Plaza Premium Lounges.

### More Information/Resources

[Allied Rainbow Communities](#) is a great resource for LGBTQ+ visitors, as is [Gay Malta](#), and [Gay Guide Malta](#). Also, check out the official tourism site, [Visit Malta](#).

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities.



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Photo by Scottie Fech



Luis Jacob

One of the most impressive things an artist can do is to let us view the world through the depths of their unique perspective.

Toronto artist **Luis Jacob** has been subverting our perceptions of the status quo for 25+ years now, using his skills in visual arts, curating, teaching, and writing to offer us an enlightened understanding of what's around us.

His work has been exhibited around the world, with highlights including his sculpture titled *Sphinx*, which was presented at the Children's Conservatory of Allan Gardens in 2015, and his participation in a 2007 exhibition in Kassel, Germany, called *documenta12*, in which his video installation featuring local queer icon Keith Cole performing a 'beautiful and slightly embarrassing dance in the snow' catapulted him onto the world stage.

Born in Lima, Peru, he came to Toronto with his family when he was 10 and has lived and worked here ever since. His interest in sharing 'narratives of place' and the local conditions that inspire and frustrate him has connected his work to Toronto.

by Sean Ban Beaton

## Hot Artist

After gaining international acclaim, people enquired when he would move to a 'real' art centre like New York or Berlin. "I love visiting these cities, but Toronto is the place where my work emerges. It seemed to such people that an international career was a key to escape a place like Toronto. I never saw things that way," Luis explains. "One of the eggs I'm currently keeping warm is a book project to write a history of art in Toronto. Fingers crossed it hatches soon!"

Another of his current projects is a collection of drawings depicting variations on an ominous finger pointing at a shower drain, a seemingly benign concept made equivocally sensual through the lens of a queer artist. "It's tricky to make an image of a thing that is not a thing. What happens if we look at this drain? The finger points the way. But the drain - being a point or hole that drains elsewhere - insists, here, but not quite here. It signals a deferral that also activates something. I believe there is a perverse pleasure to be had in these drawings."

The methods he uses to frame his art are often as intentional and affecting as the art itself. His ability to destabilize conventions of viewing and invite what he calls a "collision of meanings" threads a connection between the seemingly incompatible styles he works in. He goes on to explain, "This collision is most important to me. (It) derives from my identity as a queer person. I entered adulthood in the time of AIDS and the militancy of Queer Nation. This was a moment when queerness was something that did not want to be included, celebrated, or represented - queerness wanted to transform society, rather than be handed a piece of its pie. This contrarian aspect of queerness guides me to this day."

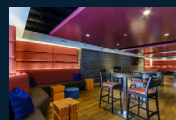
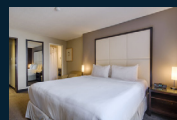
Sean Ban Beaton is a music creator, performer, and sound editor in Toronto.



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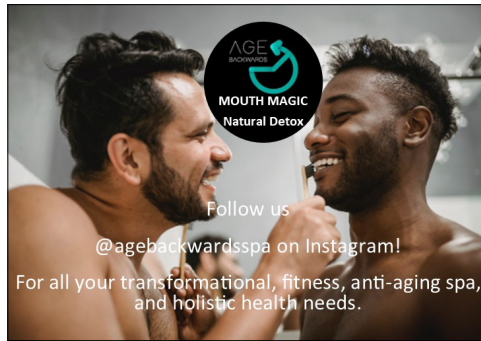


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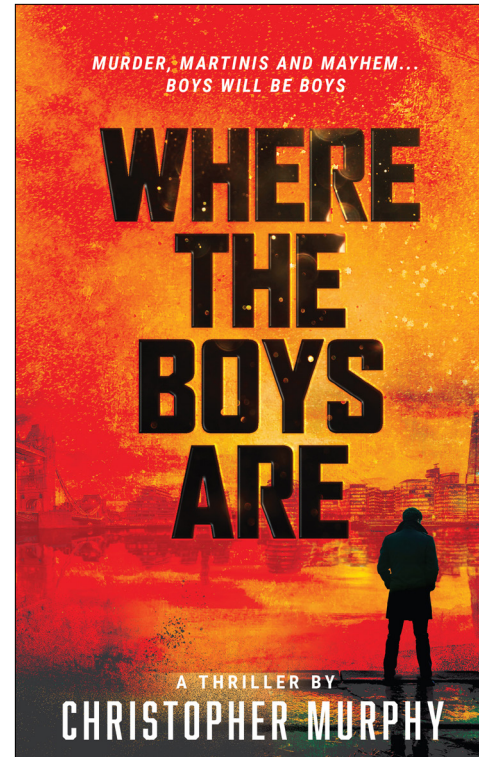


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AEROPLAN



Cover by Matt Davies



*Where The Boys Are: Murder, Martinis, and Mayhem... Boys Will Be Boys*, is a hidden gem from [Christopher Murphy](#), a new voice in the 2SLGBTQIA+ fiction genre.

*Excerpt*

A moody melody hangs in the air, like incense, as Quinn Harris deflates onto his mat. He's surrounded by a gang of sweaty blonde Stepford wives wearing ironic tank tops with sayings like SLAY ALL DAY. Behind them are a few stragglers mixed among the usual 5:30 yoga class. He can't stop thinking about a dream he's had the night before. He vividly recalls being in Paris, where even the air itself smelled different – full of pastry flour. The entire dream was in black and white, and he was speaking French, which is especially odd considering he doesn't speak French at all. It couldn't have been actual French, he realizes now. Just his mind's idea of what French might sound like in a dream. He's struggling to remember more details, struggling to weave the fragments into a clear picture. He vaguely recalls sitting in a bar at one point. There were televisions

Fiction

on the walls playing sports and the entire space was poorly lit but somehow felt comforting and safe, like a womb. It felt as if he'd been there before, although he's sure he hasn't. He's never left the East Coast, let alone stepped foot in France.

“Breathe in relaxation... exhale your tension...” Giselle whispers for the hundredth time, cutting into his thoughts.

The class lies completely still with closed eyelids, spread out like corpses on the bamboo floor. Bodies defeated by too many Downward-Facing Dogs and ready to be outlined with chalk. “Let your worries and stress from the day sink into the mat,” Giselle's placid voice circles the room. Quinn takes the opportunity to sneak a peek at Tomas. He lies across from Quinn looking peaceful and enticing with sweat glazing his arms. Tomas is one-part golden skin, one-part gray eyes, with dreadlocks he keeps tied up in a messy bun. His loose graphic tee and shorts do a poor job of hiding his toned physique. Every Downward-Facing Dog reveals strong soccer legs and granite abs. Every Bal asana pose highlights his curvy glutes. Quinn can think of hundreds of yoga-inspired positions he'd love to put Tomas in.

The Hidden Serpent.  
The Naughty Ostrich.  
The Raging Bull.  
If only he had the guts to talk to him after class.

Tomas never makes it easy though.

**Christopher Murphy** is an activist, artist, and author. As a graphic designer/copywriter/marketer by day and author by night, Christopher can usually be found creating and designing behind the bright neon glow of his laptop. He is a shameless thrill-seeker, lover of roller coasters and all things that go fast. Christopher lives and works out of his home in Las Vegas with “the hubs” and their two dogs.

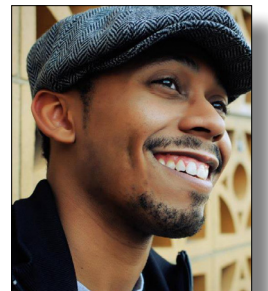


Photo by Brianna Townsend



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It’s been 40 years since **ACT** was formed by a small group of community activists during the summer of 1983 as the AIDS Committee of Toronto. AIDS had first entered public consciousness in the summer of 1981, as a “rare cancer” found in 41 gay men in New York and San Francisco. The first Canadian case was reported nine months later, in March of 1982. Little was known about this new disease; but, fear, hysteria, and stigma surrounded it, and a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS was a death sentence, with the average life expectancy being just nine months. That was nine lonely months as many relatives and friends turned their backs – and so did many members of the medical profession.

Gay men in Toronto were beginning to fall ill with AIDS – with little recourse to effective, supportive health care, they often died quickly. As local media began to publish more fear-mongering articles about AIDS, *The Body Politic*, a gay and lesbian news magazine in Toronto, began running articles by gay activist Michael Lynch and epidemiologist Bill Lewis to counter the misinformation.

One of the first stories *The Body Politic* published about AIDS was titled, “*AIDS: discounting the promiscuity theory.*” Written by Bill Lewis, it was a radical departure from the messages provided by U.S. gay activists. In the US, activists were touting a theory that promiscuity was causing men to overload their bodies with common sexually transmitted infections, thus eroding their immune systems.

At this early time, the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, had not yet been discovered, though there was enough evidence to illustrate that the virus was being

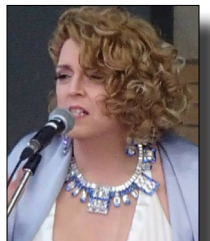
transmitted through the blood, and through needle use. It was apparent that a single exposure could be enough to transmit the disease. The “Promiscuity Theory” was looking more like morality trying to pass itself off as science – without evidence.

In March of 1983, the Canadian Red Cross contacted the editor of *The Body Politic*, seeking guidance on messaging about AIDS and blood donation. Recognizing the need for clear and accurate messaging, this magazine editor organized a meeting of himself and nine other activists and professionals, including a representative of the Hassle Free Clinic. They not only formulated the necessary public statement about blood donations, but also began to plan for an entity that would provide ongoing support for people with AIDS. This was the first meeting of what would become the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

Since that time, ACT has worked to reduce new HIV infections in Toronto and promote the independence, dignity, health, and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS, and those at increased risk. ACT offers social programs, counseling, youth outreach, support groups, and HIV testing.

If you would like to support ACT, you can become a member, helping to influence activities and programs by voting at meetings; you can volunteer, following an intensive 20-hour core skills training program; you can donate a one-time gift, or an ongoing financial contribution; you can name ACT as a beneficiary to your estate. Maybe, with your help, we can reach the goal of zero new HIV infections.

Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to).



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## What's happening in and around The Village?

### C.U. Next Tuesday - Open Stage

**Tuesdays; from 9:00 p.m.**

Bring your sheet music or pick a song from their song books. Musical theatre & jazz standards encouraged but you may sing what you like.

**O'Grady's On Church, 518 Church St., Toronto**  
[www.ogradyschurch.com/](http://www.ogradyschurch.com/)

### Open Stage Cabaret

**Tuesdays; from 10:00 p.m.**

STRIKE A POSE! Woody's/Sailor Toronto's Open Stage Cabaret. Hosted by a stunning array of leading queens with special guests. DJ Cory Activate. Glorious star-making machinery, and big fun.

**Woody's, 467 Church St., Toronto**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/7687276525/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/7687276525/)

### Hump Night Honeys

**Wednesdays; from 10:00 p.m.**

Katinka Kature and Carlotta Carlisle host a selection of guest performers for an evening of exceptional entertainment.

**Woody's, 467 Church St., Toronto**  
[www.instagram.com/woodysonchurch/](http://www.instagram.com/woodysonchurch/)

### Jock Night Thursdays

**Thursdays from 10:00 p.m.**

Join hostess Morgan James, everyone's second favourite drag queen, and the semi-clad (or less) men of Cock Bar for an evening of feisty fun and frivolity. Drink specials, prizes, and surprises. This is a "men only" space on the second floor, and not handicap accessible.

**Cock Bar, 461 Church St., Second Floor, Toronto**  
[www.flashonchurch.com/](http://www.flashonchurch.com/)

### James Quigley - Piano Bar

**Saturdays; 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

This is a crazy, interactive, fun, live piano bar show! Bring your charts, lead sheets, or choose from the on-site list of options, and sing your heart out as James Quigley accompanies you on the keys.

**Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto**  
[www.jamesthemusician.com/](http://www.jamesthemusician.com/)

### Hollywoody to Broadway show

**Sundays**

Hilarious host, Georgie Girl, welcomes a selection of guest performers every Sunday evening serving up your favourite hits of stage and screen, and more.

**Woody's, 467 Church St., Toronto**  
[www.instagram.com/woodysonchurch/](http://www.instagram.com/woodysonchurch/)

## Gay AF Comedy New Queers Eve

**December 29; 11:00 p.m.**

Gay AF is saying goodbye to 2023 with a lineup full of stellar comedians – all past Gay AF headliners and audience favourites together for a fabulous night of comedy. Featuring comedy award winners and comedians seen on JFL, JFL Toronto, CBC, SiriusXM, TikTok, and more! Rush Kazi, Brendan D'Souza, and Bobbi Summers. Headlined by Martha Chaves. Hosted by Robert Watson.

**Comedy Bar, 945 Bloor St. W., Toronto**  
[www.comedybar.ca/shows/gay-af-comedy-new-queers-eve](http://www.comedybar.ca/shows/gay-af-comedy-new-queers-eve)

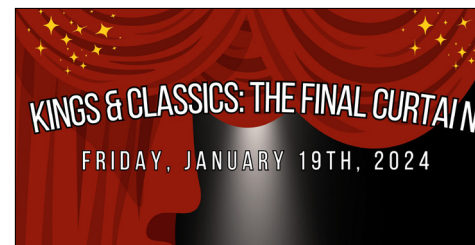


## Kings and Classics: The Final Curtain

**January 19, 2024; 10:30 p.m.**

What better way to say goodbye than producing the biggest Kings and Classics to date?! They have 18 performers, a go-go dancer, a snack corner (with cake), and a playlist that will keep you dancing all night long! Come hang and celebrate years of memories and late nights together. There is a dance party after the show, so bring your friends and family, and get ready for a night to remember.

**Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto**  
[www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/](http://www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/)



## How do you feel about hanging with the str8 peoples?

## Toronto Operetta Theatre - The Merry Widow

**December 29, 2023, through January 2, 2024**

The Greatest Operetta Work by Franz Lehár, The Merry Widow dances into our hearts with its beautiful melodies and witty storyline. Based on the Shakespeare play of the same name, this 3 act production offers comedy, jealousy, intrigue, and farce.

**Meridian Hall, 1 Front St., Toronto**  
[www.tolive.com/Meridian-Hall](http://www.tolive.com/Meridian-Hall)



## New Year's Eve Comedy Extravaganza

**December 31; 7:30 p.m.**

Ring in the New Year with uproarious laughter at the most hilarious comedy night of the year! Join in on New Year's Eve for a side-splitting evening that will have you laughing your way into 2024. Curated by Yuk Yuk's founder Mark Breslin, the New Year's Eve Comedy Extravaganza returns after a roaring success in 2022.

**Massey Hall, 15 Shuter St., Toronto**  
[www.tickets.mhrth.com/5618/5619](http://www.tickets.mhrth.com/5618/5619)

## Bugs Bunny at The Symphony

**January 11 and 12, 2024**

Bugs Bunny and his Looney Tunes pals join audiences of all ages. A dozen of the world's most iconic Looney Tunes. What's Opera, Doc? The Rabbit of Seville, Corny Concerto, Baton Bunny, Long-Haired Hare, and many others — plus five brand new animated shorts will be projected on the big screen, while their exhilarating original scores are played live by the FILMharmonic Orchestra.

**Meridian Hall, 1 Front St., Toronto**  
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## Mark Morris Dance Group - The Look Of Love

January 19; 8:00 p.m.

Mark Morris Dance Group returns with an evening of dance set to the chart-topping music of Burt Bacharach. This is the international touring modern dance company out of Brooklyn, NY.

Meridian Hall, 1 Front St., Toronto

[www.tolive.com/Meridian-Hall](http://www.tolive.com/Meridian-Hall)

## Chris, Mrs. - A New Holiday Musical

Through December 31

The story begins in the city, where festive-less father Ben Chris leverages his late parents' lodge in exchange for a promotion. The only problem is, his brother Charlie still runs it. Ben reluctantly decides to head there to convince him to sell, packing up his socialite girlfriend Vicki, and his teen children. After discovering a ring in their father's suitcase, the teens write to Santa for assistance, which seems to appear in the form of Holly, a seasonal employee at the lodge.

Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St., Toronto

[www.ticketmaster.ca/elgin-and-winter-garden-theatre-centre-tickets-toronto/venue/131082](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/elgin-and-winter-garden-theatre-centre-tickets-toronto/venue/131082)

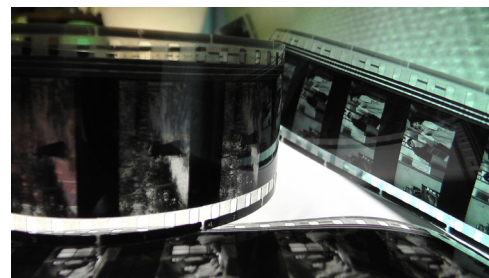
## The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers - In Concert

January 26 to 28, 2024

Join the FILMharmonic Orchestra and Choir for a thrilling journey back to Middle-earth and experience Academy Award-winning Composer Howard Shore's epic score performed live to the motion picture in HD.

Meridian Hall, 1 Front St., Toronto

[www.ticketmaster.ca/](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/)



## Macbeth: A Tale Told By An Idiot

February 8 to 18, 2024

Shakespeare's blood-soaked king, weird witches, viscera-sopped murders, nightmares of madness, and terrifying occult prophecies crash head on with our ghoulishly giddy bag of timorous trickery! Performed by a solo actor using a diverse range of multi-sized puppets, masks, and parlour magic, filtered through the cosmically horrific imagery of the Eldritch Theatre Tarot deck, this Mad Mackers is a production like no other! Coinciding with the 400th Anniversary of the play's premiere, and bound to amaze, horrify, and delight you.

Red Sandcastle Theatre, 922 Queen St. E., Toronto

[www.ticketscene.ca/series/1113](http://www.ticketscene.ca/series/1113)

## Ira Glass - Seven Things I've Learned

February 10, 2024; 8:00 p.m.

Ira Glass is the host and creator of This American Life, the iconic weekly public radio program heard each week by more than 2.2 million listeners on more than 500 public radio stations, with an additional 2.2 million podcast downloads.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

[www.roythomsonhall.mhrth.com/](http://www.roythomsonhall.mhrth.com/)

## Eager for an episodic emigration from the everyday?

## Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer

December 29 and 30

Because of his shiny nose, Rudolph doesn't feel like he belongs in Christmastown and sets off to find a place that accepts him. Along his journey, he encounters fellow misfits, only to realize that home is where he has belonged the whole time. When a storm threatens to keep Santa's sleigh from taking flight, it's up to Rudolph to save Christmas.

FirstOntario Arts Centre, 1010 Main St. E., Milton

[www.secure1.tixhub.com/milton/online/index.asp](http://www.secure1.tixhub.com/milton/online/index.asp)



## Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Music

December 29; 2:00 p.m.

Sing-a-long to the most successful movie musical of all time. This memorable event includes an unforgettable costume parade and major amounts of audience participation. Admit it, you already know all the songs, and you already sing along at home. Now, just add a costume, if you want.

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 242 St. Paul St. E., St. Catharines

[www.firstontariopac.ca/Online/default.asp](http://www.firstontariopac.ca/Online/default.asp)

## The Music of Queen

January 20, 2024; 7:30 p.m.

We will rock you! Experience the legendary music of Queen performed by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. Featuring classic hits like Bohemian Rhapsody, Somebody to Love, and Under Pressure, this is a powerful rock symphony tribute to the iconic Freddie Mercury and one of the world's biggest bands.

FirstOntario Concert Hall, 1 Summers Lane, Hamilton

[www.coreentertainment.ca/venues/detail/firstontario-concert-hall](http://www.coreentertainment.ca/venues/detail/firstontario-concert-hall)

## Abbamania

February 10, 2024; 7:30 p.m.

The show consists of studio musicians, live horns, and strings plus an incredible front four that recreate Abba... live in concert. They are the only Abba production to perform for the original cast of Mamma Mia and they did it twice. Hear all the hits from Waterloo, Take a Chance, S.O.S, Super Trooper to Dancing Queen. Also featuring Night Fever, the ultimate tribute to The Bee Gees with special guests Angela Seeger as the incredible Adele, and Carolyn Burton projecting the live illusion of Tina Turner.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener

[www.kwtickets.eventue.net/](http://www.kwtickets.eventue.net/)

## Canada's Drag Race Official Tour

February 11, 2024; 8:00 p.m.

O Canada! The Official Canada's Drag Race Tour returns to the Great White North in 2024 with levelled up production, and for the first time in herstory, witness an all-finalist cast, in this double feature show. Join The Queen of the North, Brooke Lynn Hytes, alongside your favourite season 3 and 4 queens, as they hit the stage on a tour through the provinces.

FirstOntario Concert Hall, 1 Summers Lane, Hamilton

[www.coreentertainment.ca/](http://www.coreentertainment.ca/)



Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to).



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## What is it about "the gays" that so binds them to the creative impulse, particularly in the realm of fashion?

Fashion itself is a complex intersection of presentation, cultural expression, social commentary, and crafted artifice. It is this last element that perhaps speaks most directly to homosexual realities.

Although modern society has evolved to extend a modicum of acceptance to those whose orientation deviates from "the norm," there remains an assortment of stigmas, biases, and discomforts that often necessitate a certain amount of self-protecting artifice in how queers present themselves to the world.

From leather daddies to drag queens, the deliberate, conscious attempt to shape perception lies at the heart of an almost tribal impulse to display identifiers that connect with one's social group.

We can compare and contrast fashion versus style in this context. Where fashion is, by definition, focused on outward presentation, often with commercial intent, style addresses the personal, individual expression of one's world view, unique identity, and visual signature. We can purchase fashion, but style is something innate. You can attempt to copy another's style, but merely executing some form of mimicry does not, by itself, generate your own unique style. Personal style, by definition, is *personal*. We

can assimilate aspects of others' style, but how we interpret, execute and commit to that assimilation is what drives true self-expression.

At a meta level, queer style expression is an invitation to everyone to explore and express their personal style without fear of censure or criticism. By exhibiting a degree of confidence and fearlessness, queer style creates safer spaces for self-expression for everyone.

That invitation to expressive freedom extends beyond fashion and style to interior design and other creative endeavours. A Chinese red dining room? Why not? Framed prints of 1920s erotic photography in the bathroom? WHY NOT?

Perhaps this is the central message we're trying to communicate. Instead of asking yourself, "Can I do this?" we could emphatically ask ourselves, "WHY NOT?" You have nothing to lose but your insecurity.

Mychol Scully is Senior Art Director for INspired Media publications PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, The Local Biz Magazine, and The Pink Pages Directory. Mychol is available for thoughtful conversation or lascivious teasing any time at [mychol@mychol.com](mailto:mychol@mychol.com).



# Winter Horoscopes

by Julie Antoinette

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## Aries (March 21 – April 20)

If avoidance, numbing and distancing have not worked managing that unpleasant feeling, take a new approach. Why not a bit of curiosity wrapped in loving compassion? Pause, get curious, implore a little. W5H is a good place to start. Who? What? Why? When? Where? How? Rather than a wall, build a bridge so you can access the other side of this.

## Taurus (April 21 – May 21)

You can't figure out a pattern of self-sabotage in one area of your life. Are you afraid of your own power? Not so much the unbridled force of it, but rather, the vast burden of responsibility that being fully in charge entails. You've heard that responsibility is merely the ability to respond. We respond with our voice and in this area of your life, here lies your power. Do not abdicate.

## Gemini (May 22 – June 21)

A decision weighing heavily on you keeps you up at night. You play out various scenarios in your mind and weigh outcomes against one another. Come out of your head and into your heart. Here in this space, you may abandon the rigors of logic and rest in the sureness of truth. Your decision will be obvious.

## Cancer (June 22 – July 22)

A recent public shaming event was constructed from design to entrap you. Your attitude now will determine your recovery moving forward. Transparency, personal responsibility, and ownership of what is yours will dispel any notion of incrimination and might even provoke a positive public response. When you own your own dirt, no one can sling it at you.

## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

It's not that you're discontented, but you're not fully content with your lot right now. What's missing in your life makes you thirsty. That missing piece comes with a price tag, but have no doubts, all will be worth it. The very pursuit will build your character and that is what's priceless.

## Virgo (August 23 – September 23)

You are on a quest to truly discover and embody confidence. Your life requires it of you. Let's revert to the original Latin for some insight: The prefix, "con" means "with" and the root "fide" means, "neither specious nor counterfeit: genuine." Seek to embody truth and trust and you will achieve your quest. "This above all - to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as night follows day, thou canst not then be false to any man." ~ Shakespeare

## Libra (September 24 – October 23)

Lately you wonder, are you truly a free thinker? Which of your thoughts are yours versus influenced and absorbed externally? One is not superior to the other but you must scrutinize those thoughts you adopt and incorporate into your belief systems. A belief is a thought you keep thinking. You are the curator of your creed.

## Scorpio (October 24 – November 22)

Your ambition is unparalleled. Yet, how rewarding can it be to always be living in a future mental state? Take your time and acquaint yourself with the feeling of presence. Enjoy more moments with your presence now, because you won't get them back. The future can wait for its own moments of presence.

## Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

Get out of your comfort zone - your lovely insular palace where you abide stagnantly undisturbed. It is time to stir things up! Allow yourself to experience "the unwanted" as it brings you awareness of the "wanted." Knowing what you don't want gives rise to the desire of what you do want. So, get uncomfortable and expand!

## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

What conversations occur in your head when no one's around? Self-talk - it's a thing! Oftentimes, our "inner voice" is not so nice. What does your self-talk sound like? Is it cruel or criticizing? Imagine speaking that way to a child or to your best friend? If these words you speak to yourself wouldn't dare be addressed to a friend or a child, there's a problem. As the Brits say, "Have a word with yourself."

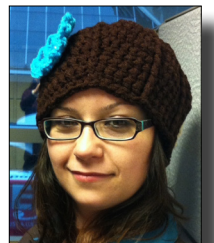
## Aquarius (January 20 – February 19)

You've developed a habit of "productive worrying" that needs examining more closely. Does it give you a sense of control somehow? A sense of preparedness while mentally troubleshooting? Ask yourself some challenging questions. You may just uncover your justification mechanism for housing this harmful and useless internal energetic parasite. Then, you can release it and stop worrying. Worrying is a form of praying for what you don't want. Relax. Nothing is under control.

## Pisces (February 20 – March 20)

Your heart breaks from a recent lover's betrayal. While the pain of a fresh wound cries loudest right now, know that in time you'll look back with immense relief. The quiet certainty that you recognized every red flag, and the knowingness that your love could never have filled that void cavern, much less be loved in return. "Rejection is God's re-direction." Operation Bullet Dodged: Successful.

Julie is a Sociology and Psychology graduate, a Psychotherapy Intern and a lifelong student of the psyche. She seeks to relay intuitive messages of guidance from the collective astrological archetypes.





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