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40 Years of HIV/AIDS Historical PerspectHIVE

**Sandy Linter – Remembering AIDS-Stricken Supermodel Gia Carangi
North American HIV/AIDS History
HIV/AIDS Representation in Film**

**Also, Nick Green & Andrew Kushnir, The Roseneath Theatre, Author Rasheed Newson,
From the Heart, Spring in the City Events, Horoscopes**



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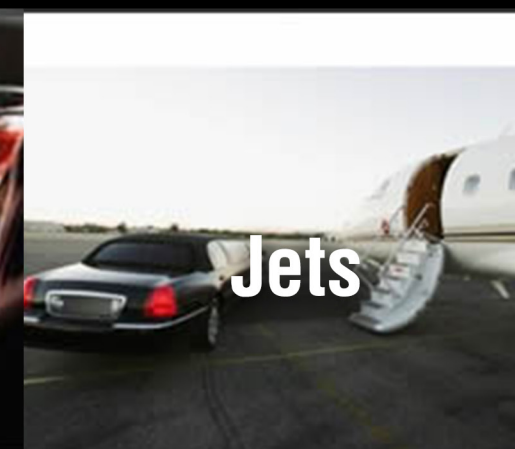
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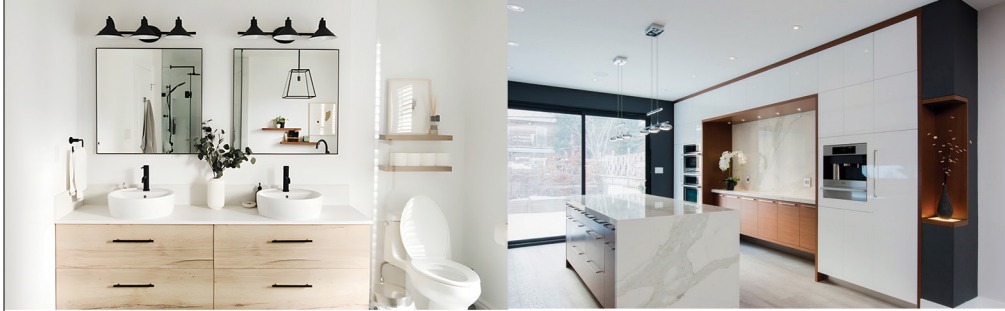


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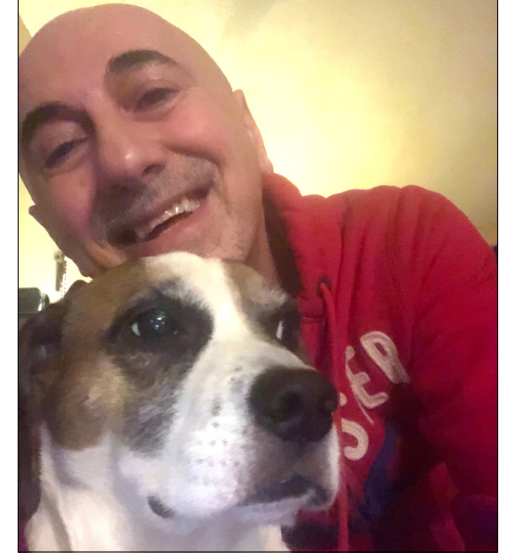
From the **Publisher**

The history of HIV/AIDS is a mix of moments of tragedy, resilience, and a global struggle for understanding and acceptance.

It is a clear reminder of the power of awareness, compassion, and the relentless pursuit of effective treatments.

As we reflect upon this rollercoaster journey, over the next few editions of *PinkPlayMags*, we will be uncovering invaluable insights of how our present is being shaped to guide us towards a future free from the grip of this devastating pandemic.

In the early 1980s, when the first cases emerged, confusion followed by fear swiftly engulfed the world. Misinformation, stigmatization, and discrimination heavily impacted communities wrestling with this new and scary disease. Those early years of the pandemic were filled with ignorance, leading to the tragic loss of countless lives. Society's response gradually evolved as scientists, activists, and affected individuals united to fight this virus. Through trailblazing research, awareness campaigns, and the bravery of those sharing their stories, a powerful movement was born – one focused on combating the virus with knowledge, empathy, and solidarity.



My own personal history with HIV/AIDS started through working in media in the gay community, fresh out of college at end of the '80s. At work and socially, I met many men and friends who were HIV+ and being part of and working closely with the community, I figured it was my responsibility to learn as much as I can, so I did. I read as much as I could, chatted with doctors, and had meetings with HIV/AIDS organizations. I even learned about the drugs and treatments, and stayed on top of my friends' medication schedules. I was lovingly dubbed an "honourary member of the HIV club."

Reflecting on the history of HIV/AIDS, we are reminded of the invincible spirit of humanity, our capacity for growth, and the collective strength that arises when individuals come together in pursuit of a common cause. The road has been long and challenging, but the lessons learned throughout this journey fuel the determination to grind down the barriers that hinder progress.

With each passing day, we inch closer to a world where HIV/AIDS is nothing more than a distant memory, replaced by a legacy of resilience, compassion, and triumph over adversity.

Antoine Elhashem
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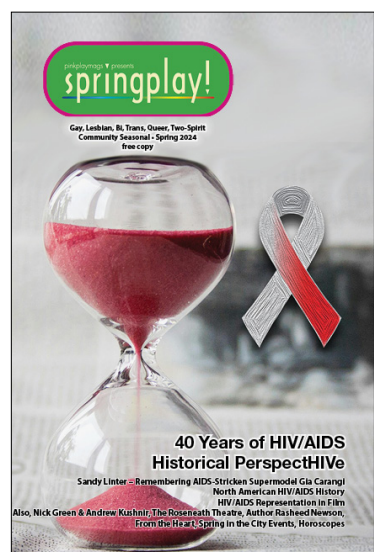
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From the Editor



Hello Friends,

It's been over 40 years since the first case of AIDS was reported in North America. With that being said, we dedicate this PinkPlayMags' Springplay! **40 Years of HIV/AIDS: Historical PerspectHIVE** to the +32 million people around the world who've died from AIDS-related illnesses and the +39 million living with HIV/AIDS to this day.

AIDS in its inception, was once referred to as the Gay-Related Immune Deficiency Disease (GRID) but it was discovered soon after, that intravenous drug users were at risk, too. In our first feature we sat down with celebrity make-up artist, **Sandy Linter**, the late-supermodel Gia Carangi's girlfriend. She discussed what it was like in NYC when AIDS first struck, and her relationship with Gia at this time who had sadly passed from AIDS due to intravenous drug use in '86.

We live life moving forward, but to understand it, we must look back. In our second feature, Aaron Rothermund takes us through the **History of HIV/AIDS in North America** from the moment of the initial widespread panic to the leaps and bounds we have made today, highlighting major events and discoveries, the heroic responses, and the progress made since the core-shaking onset.

Our third feature, **HIV/AIDS in Film – From Repression to Representation**, Bryen Dunn, runs through a condensed list of groundbreaking movies released through the decades

documenting the history of the crisis. You might recall a few of these impactful yet heart-wrenching stories as displayed on the big (or little) screens, but there might be some you haven't.

It's ok to say "gay" in Orlando – ok, maybe not everywhere in Orlando, but in our Travel section there are places, events, and businesses beaming with queer pride, should you find yourself in that neck of Florida. Theatre collaborators, **Nick Green** and **Andrew Kushnir**, are 'double' featured in this issue's *Hot Artist* column by Sean Ban Beaton. **The Roseneath Theatre** is a non-profit, youth-oriented production company you can learn more about in *Community Cornerstone*. Take a break from spring cleaning and spring into reading *My Government Means to Kill Me* by **Rasheed Newson** in *Fiction*.

Who needs a crystal ball? Not you! We've got your *Spring Horoscopes* inside. Take a look at our *Spring in the City* event listings handpicked by our Events Editor, **Sherry Sylvain**. *From the Heart* by our Creative Director, **Mychol Scully** will urge you to reflect on his shared thoughts – and you won't even have to give him a penny... err... nickle for them. Plus, we have our Home & Garden Supplement online!

Read with remembrance. <3

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Sandy Linter

Girlfriend to One of the First Known Women to Die of AIDS, Supermodel Gia Carangi

By Melissa MacMullin

“Everyone would look at you like you’re next – and you always felt it, that you would be next.”

– Sandy Linter on the AIDS crisis hitting New York City, circa early '80s.

Sandy Linter, iconic make-up artist and beauty expert to the stars since 1973, author, former Studio54 regular, and survivor by proxy of the AIDS epidemic’s early days – from encountering a ‘too close for comfort’ health scare herself to devastatingly losing friends and fellow industry colleagues. “I mean, we can go through the day and never speak about it – we can go through the years. I never speak about it. I would go to work one day and there would be the art director who looked a little too thin. This was the early days, like ‘81 or ‘82 – and then I’d never see or hear of him again. Or the hairdresser,” Sandy Linter recalled, still reeling from her own personal experience having witnessed the beginning strikes of HIV/AIDS over 40 years ago.

AIDS became the leading cause of death for young adults in the United States during the 1980s, according to the CDC. “You know, these people

had no treatment. They just died,” Linter said with memories of this time ever-vividly real and raw, four decades later. “We all look at each other and say, we’re still here. We don’t even understand how, because those days, the very innocent days, it was a joyful time – and then the light switch got turned off so quickly. Everything just dropped. No one could catch their breath. We never will [recover]. It stays a part of you forever,” expressed Linter.

“I had a doctor who lived on East 57th Street. One day I called to make an appointment. They said he was in a hospital, and this must’ve been in ‘81. I said, ‘Oh my God, where? Let me send him flowers.’ They said, no, – he can’t accept flowers. This was the first person I heard that got AIDS, and he was a doctor – and I couldn’t send him flowers. No questions were answered. So, things like that would just happen.”

New York City was severely affected by the onset of the AIDS epidemic, and arguably more than any other city in the United States. First dubbed the “gay-related immunodeficiency disease” or insensitively, the “gay plague” – however, gay men were not alone; children were being born with AIDS, and intravenous drug users were getting infected, too. In the early stages, New Yorkers lacked adequate

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Sandy (L) & Gia (R) first date outside of the Mudd Club, 1979.

information, including how it could be contracted, who was at risk, and the potential consequences. Cue Panic. Enter Fear. Increase hysteria.

Linter was one of the famous few make-up artists in high demand during the '70s and '80s, and still is at 77 years old. It was in this line of work that led her to meeting the young Philadelphia-born **Gia Carangi**, one of the most sought-after supermodels in the late '70s and early '80s; what followed was a deep bond and romantic relationship that blossomed between the two, famously depicted in the film, *Gia* (1998) starring Angelina Jolie as Gia, and Elizabeth Mitchell as 'Linda' aka Sandy.

The first time they laid eyes on one another was at a photo shoot for *Harper's Bazaar Italia* with photographer, Chris von Wangenheim. Gia sauntered in, sat down in the make-up chair, put feet up on the table, picked up Sandy's sunglasses and lit up a cigarette. After Sandy examined the poorly applied foundation Gia was already wearing upon arrival, Gia introduced herself. Once the photoshoot was finished, Sandy was approached to join Gia in an 'off the record' nude photography session with only a chain link fence between them – and the rest was sapphic history.

"She was a girl who liked being around girls. She liked sending them love notes, giving them flowers. She wanted to be with women. She bought a red convertible and asked me, 'Would you come for a ride with me in my car?' She was 19. I dated men until I met Gia. But I was 'out' with Gia. I wanted to be with her. She wanted to be with me."

Sadly, Gia's time as a supermodel came to an end just after 4 years when she left the fashion industry post-rapid career decline in 1982 due to struggles with intravenous drug addiction.

"She didn't get the help she needed which was more than I could give her. It was her actions while under the influence. It was the heroin. I didn't know how to deal with that. That was a big demon. I would think if she just stayed here in my little one-bedroom apartment, at least she's safe, right? But she was never safe. I gave her what I could with my limited knowledge, but when it got to be way over my head, I withdrew. It was a self-destructive thing, and there's only so much you can do without sacrificing yourself."

Gia was diagnosed with AIDS in December of 1985 – it was suspected the contraction was from a



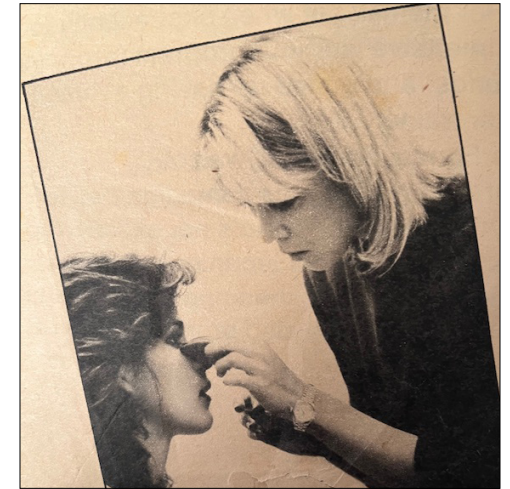
Gia (L) & Sandy (R) in St. Barts.

contaminated needle. She passed away from AIDS-related complications on November 18th, 1986, at 26 years old.

"My friend, Harry King called me and said, 'Gia's stepfather just called and told me that she had passed away from pneumonia.' I hadn't seen her for, let's see... this was '86 or '85, maybe a year and a half – and because I hadn't seen or heard from her, I assumed she was doing well, because no news is good news. Fine, you know, because she was not in a good place when she was in New York City. I had been assuming all this time, I'll see her again."

Sandy was none-the-wiser that Gia was terminally ill, so this came as quite the shock. "No one at 26 is going to die of pneumonia. The ages of the people that were dying of 'pneumonia' were too young." But Sandy knew better, and immediately felt that Gia had perhaps passed from AIDS. "Way Bandy, a famous make-up artist, I didn't know he was sick, and then he was dead. Way was the first one to say in his obituary that he died of AIDS because always they would say 'pneumonia'. Pneumonia was the word that meant AIDS." Way Bandy was only 45 years old.

"I have a friend, Freddie Lieba, who survived. He couldn't throw a dinner party. He didn't have enough [to invite]. He was going to memorial services weekly. I withdrew because of the loss of Gia. I spent weekends with my family. I had to get out of the city. I had no therapy. I had no social life. I changed. I was once this disco girl in leopard jeans, and then all of a sudden, I'd show up at work in a long-flowered Ralph Lauren dress. I would do needlepoint. It took me about three years to catch my breath – around '89, just about 1990, I was getting more social. Everyone has their own story and what they did to survive."



Sandy doing Gia's make-up.

At one point Sandy herself was faced with the possibility that she, too, might've contracted AIDS. "I believe it was '87, no tests were available. My mother found a hospital in Jersey, that would test me. She drove, and when I got there, the doctor said, 'you look a little too mainstream, are you sure you want to be tested?' I went back two weeks later to get the results. I was waiting in the hallway with all these others that were crying hysterically. The nurse came to get me, she had a smile on her face from ear to ear, and said, 'You're negative.' I went home. Unfortunately, what I did was throw away all my diaries that I kept notes in, like, if you did X, Y or Z, then two years from now you are going to be infected. It's really sad, but I did whatever it took to get me through. I did some things wrong, and I did some things right. And I survived."

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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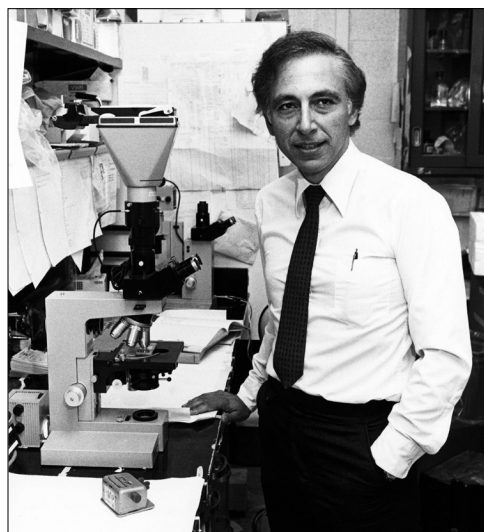
The History of HIV/AIDS in North America

By Aaron Rothermund

"I can say that the fear of HIV/AIDS is what kept me closeted back in the early days. I graduated high school in 1985 and grew up in a very small town in southern Ontario. The thought of coming out as gay back then absolutely terrified me as there was an immediate assumption that if you were gay, you had AIDS. Ridiculous and completely false, but it's an example of how the stigma had already begun to infect me long before the virus ever did!"

- Randy Davis, Communications Manager of Canadian AIDS Society.

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, it's essential to reflect on the journey from the initial widespread panic to the remarkable achievements made in medical research, treatment, and care. In 1981, the first cases of a 'rare cancer' were reported in 41 gay men in New York and San Francisco. As awareness of the disease grew, so did concerns about its transmission and impact on public health. Many fearful people chose not to consult their doctor, and instead used community-based organizations and advocacy groups as they were non-judgmental in supporting individuals living with the new human retrovirus. Meanwhile in Canada, the first reports begin to appear in March 1982. Pioneering organizations such as the [Hassle-Free Clinic](#) and [Gays in Health Care](#) emerged, which eventually leads to the [AIDS Committee of Toronto \(ACT\)](#) and the Vancouver-based [Health Initiative for Men \(HIM\)](#). Around this time, [The Body Politic](#) began publishing articles to counter the misinformation being spread by mainstream media outlets. One of the first stories published was



titled “*AIDS: discounting the promiscuity theory,*” written by Bill Lewis. The article offered theories that were not based on discrimination and homophobia, and worked to debunk myths that gay men were overloading and eroding their immune systems through unhealthy sexual encounters and drug use.

By December 1982, Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi begins working within Luc Montagnier’s Viral Oncology Unit in France. By January, she detects the first lymph node in a patient. “It was extremely fast: we did the first tests on January 12, 1983, and we already had significant reverse transcriptase activity on January 27,” notes Barré-Sinoussi. On February 4th, Charlie Dauguet, the microscopist of the unit, made a breakthrough visualizing retrovirus-like particles in the culture under an electron microscope. By 1984, Dr. Robert Gallo, an American virologist who co-discovered HIV as the cause of AIDS alongside Barré-Sinoussi and Montagnier, completed vital research that led to HIV blood tests and subsequently antiretroviral medications. His research would eventually enable health care workers to screen for the AIDS virus – leading to a more rapid diagnosis while protecting patients receiving blood transfusions, and his notes helped other physicians develop HIV therapies to prolong the lives of those infected.

In 1986, researchers officially name Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or LAV in France and HTLV-3 in America. The same year, [Canadian](#)

[AIDS Society \(CAS\)](#) was established as a national organization to support individuals living with HIV/AIDS and advocate for their rights by encouraging dialogue, promoting education, and activating policy reforms. On October 26th, 1987, the [Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research \(CANFAR\)](#) is officially established and have since invested more than 25 million dollars in research, testing, and treatment initiatives. In addition, [CANFAR](#) reaches over 1 million Canadian youth and educators annually through its national awareness programs.

In 1988, inspired by the tragic loss of June Callwood’s son, [Casey House](#) was established in Toronto. Initially it operated as a small hospice, but since has evolved into a specialized healthcare facility providing compassionate care to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Some of the services include medical treatment, pain management, mental health and counseling services, and spiritual therapies. This same year Michael Lynch, professor at the University of Toronto created a temporary [AIDS Memorial](#) in Cawthra Square Park during [Lesbian and Gay Pride Day](#) in 1988.

In 1989, the [Canadian AIDS Strategy](#) was launched to coordinate federal efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, provide support services, and fund research initiatives. During this time, Dr. Julio Montaner was also appointed the director of the [AIDS Research Program and the Infectious Disease Clinic](#). He helped

establish the [Canadian HIV Trials Network](#) and the [B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS](#). Dr. Montaner’s groundbreaking research on [Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy \(HAART\)](#) revolutionized HIV/AIDS treatment, transforming the once-debilitating disease into a manageable chronic condition. He also pioneered [Treatment as Prevention \(TasP\)](#) using [HAART](#) to stop progression in AIDS and transmission in HIV.

On [World AIDS Day](#) in 1991, the red ribbon was adopted as the international symbol of AIDS awareness and visibility. This same year an AIDS memorial committee was born, and they activated a competition to design a permanent memorial. Architect Patrick Fahn’s winning Art Deco concept proposed simple name plates, that could be updated for very little expense. All funds for the AIDS Memorial were raised within the community and unveiled during Pride Week in 1993. [The 519 Community Centre](#) was charged with the task of collecting names, arranging the plates for engraving, and the general upkeep of the Memorial pillars, plaques, and lighting. Each year during June, a committee representing [AIDS Service Organizations](#) presents the [AIDS Candlelight Vigil](#).

By 1996, Dr. Gallo discovered a natural compound known as chemokines that can block HIV, halt the progression of AIDS, and identify the HIV co-receptor. In 2002, [CANFAR](#) funds over two million in research grants and co-hosts the [International AIDS Conference](#) in Toronto. During this time, Advisory Co-chair Dr. Wainberg (who is later awarded the Legion d’honneur, France’s highest honour) makes headlines criticizing Prime Minister Stephen Harper for not attending the highly anticipated conference.

In 2008, 25 years after the HIV discovery, the work of Barré-Sinoussi and Montagnier was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. This prize was dedicated to the patients alongside the researchers, “trying to work as closely as possible to patient expectations is something that has totally transformed my life,” remembers Barré-Sinoussi.

By 2015 medical studies proved much progress in containing the virus. People living with HIV and undergoing medical treatment were unable to transmit the virus, as HIV was now undetectable



in their blood. In 2016, a transformational gift of a million dollars was donated to [CANFAR](#) by the Slight Family Foundation, and the following year [CANFAR](#) created the [National Working Group on HIV & AIDS Research](#) across Canada. Even with our transformational progress, Canadian researchers documented a staggering 1.5 million new cases in 2021. In fact, Saskatchewan and Manitoba saw a significant rise in HIV transmission in 2022, an increase that hadn’t been seen for nearly a decade. Another study in 2022, had shown nearly 40 per cent of HIV transmission occurred through heterosexual contact and 20 per cent from medical and recreational injections. Still gay and bisexual men are at a greater risk of being infected with HIV, and anal cancer is one of the most common HIV related cancers in gay men.

Aaron Rothermund is a freelance writer, theatre creator, and filmmaker. Aaron has worked on articles for [The Courier](#), [Culture Days](#), [theBUZZ](#), and [PinkPlayMags](#).





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By Bryen Dunn

Since 1988, communities have stood together on World AIDS Day (December 1st) to show strength and solidarity against HIV/AIDS stigma and to remember lives lost globally.

For readers of a certain age, the mention of HIV/AIDS brings back memories that are all too real, about the fear of the unknown, the uncertainty around having sex, and the loss of loved ones to this new “gay cancer disease,” as it was often referred to at the beginning. One visual memory that many may also have is the day Princess Diana visited patients at [Casey House](#) in Toronto on October 26, 1991. In terms of bringing light to the epidemic and those affected by it, this was a monumental moment in the media.

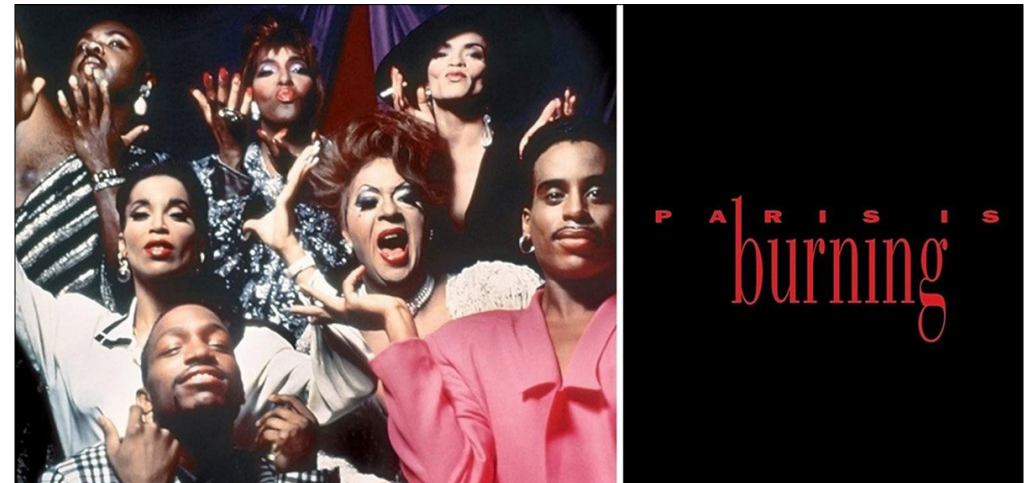
Prior to this time, it was considered taboo to give mention or say the words within a public forum, whether that be political, editorial, or otherwise. After this time, the world finally started being made

aware of the severity of the crisis, and this is when Hollywood finally decided to bring the topic to theatres on the big screen. In fact, one of the first films to depict HIV/AIDS prominently as the storyline with a major actor portraying someone with the illness, was *Philadelphia* (1993), starring Tom Hanks, for which he won an [Oscar for Best Actor at the 1994 Academy Awards](#).

Before this time, there were smaller independent films, shorts, and documentaries on the topic, but none as far reaching as *Philadelphia* was. Below is a brief listing and chronological timeline of other films that have HIV/AIDS as part of the overall storyline, beginning in the 1980s when the stories were mostly centred around gay men, to the 1990s when women started being portrayed, and up to the 2000s when trans and POC representation emerged. By all means this is not a complete list, but more a reflection of some of the more recognizable titles released over the years.

1980s

An Early Frost (1985) is considered the first major film to mention HIV, starring Aidan Quinn as a gay man who returns home to break the news to his family that he is living with HIV. In *Parting Glances*



(1986), Steve Buscemi's plays a gay man living with HIV. The director, Bill Sherwood, died of an AIDS-related illness in 1990 without completing another film. *Longtime Companion* (1989) chronicles the first years of the AIDS epidemic as seen through the eyes of several gay men.

1990s

Paris is Burning (1990) explores the AIDS challenges and racism, transphobia, and homophobia primarily faced by the Black and Latino communities who were at the heart of drag ball's heyday. *The Living End* (1992) portrays two men living with HIV who run from the law in this classic from queer filmmaker Greg Araki. *Zero Patience* (1993) is a musical tale

about a 19th century English explorer who meets the first person with AIDS, dubbed Patient Zero. *And the Band Played On* (1993) came out the same year as *Philadelphia*, and stars legendary actors Ian McKellen and Lily Tomlin in this story about the discovery of the virus. In *The Cure* (1995), a boy finds out his best friend has AIDS and plans a trip to New Orleans to find a cure. In *Jeffrey* (1995), a young gay man in New York believes he'll be safe from contracting HIV/AIDS if he stays celibate, but things get complicated when he falls for a man living with HIV. Larry Clark's directorial debut, *Kids* (1995), stars Chloe Sevigny as a teenage girl who wants to save other young women from the boy who gave her HIV. *Boys On the Side* (1995) has an all-star



female cast, starring Mary-Louise Parker portraying a woman with AIDS who embarks on a road trip with a recently single lesbian (Whoopi Goldberg) and a young woman escaping an abusive relationship (Drew Barrymore). *It's My Party* (1996) stars Eric Roberts as a man dying from AIDS who throws a party before planning to kill himself. The film was based on the life of Harry Stein, director Randal Kleiser's ex-lover.

2000s

The Hours (2002) connects three women of different generations through Virginia Woolf, one of which (Meryl Streep) is planning an award party for her best friend who has AIDS. *The Trip* (2002) follows the love story of a young conservative and a gay rights activist, concluding when one of them contracts HIV in the '80s and the other tries to get him home from Mexico. Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* (2003) combines historic figures, biblical allegory, and a sweeping epic vision that captures the breadth of the human response to HIV. *Rent* (2005) is one of the most iconic musicals of our time about friendship and community, set against the AIDS-ridden East Village at the turn of the millennium. In *Life Support* (2007), Queen Latifah plays a woman living with HIV who is overcoming her drug addiction and working with an AIDS outreach group. In *The Witnesses* (2007), a doctor begins an affair with a young man who soon finds out he has AIDS. *Precious* (2009) received critical praise and accolades for both the hard-edged storyline and the acting debut of Gabourey Sidibe, who plays a young woman with HIV striving for an education and a way out from her mother's abuse.

2010s

Philomena (2013) tells the true story of an Irish woman who goes searching for her son whom she was forced to give up for adoption as a baby, only to find he's involved in the HIV/AIDS crisis. *Dallas Buyers Club* (2013) won Academy Awards for both Matthew McConaughey's portrayal of a cowboy living with AIDS during the 1980s, as well as Jared Leto's performance as a transwoman who befriends him. Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* (2014) documents the early efforts of HIV/AIDS activists in New York City. *Holding the Man* (2015) is a true love story that follows a couple from when they first met in high school to when one dies from AIDS



and the other struggles to write their story before losing his mind to the disease. *120 BPM* (2017) is set in 1990s Paris and tells the story of the intimate relationship between two members of ACT UP, set against the backdrop of the group's fight to secure medication for people living with HIV. Finally, *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018) is one of the few biopics that centres around a person of colour, and a famed celebrity, living with HIV.

How many of the above titles have you seen, or are putting on your list to watch in the future?

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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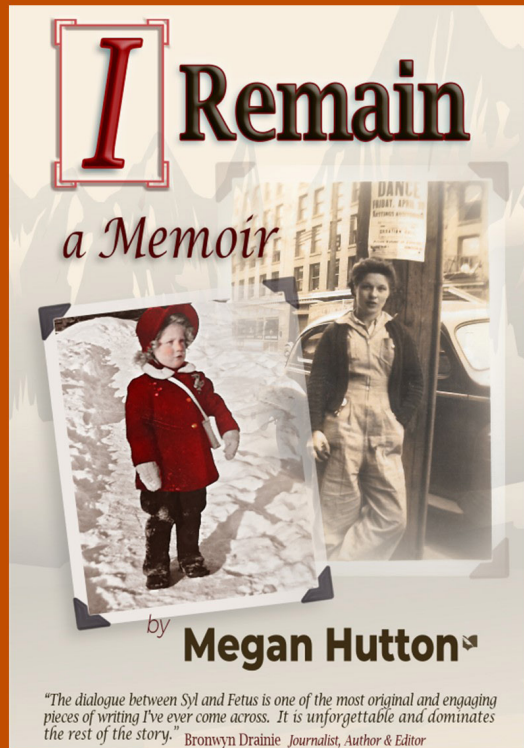
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HOT



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Orlando is known for its theme parks, year-round sunshine, and unfortunately, the biggest mass shooting targeting LGBTQ+ people in the history of the United States.

As is often the case in the light of tragedy, an outpouring of love and acceptance has taken over the city since that tragic night back on June 12th, 2016, at Pulse Nightclub, and the city remains one of the most welcoming to LGBTQ+ visitors. It has continuously earned a perfect score from the [Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index](#) for the past 11 years in a row, which measures the LGBTQ+ inclusiveness of cities' laws, policies and services.

That's So Gay!

What started as a one-day get-together back in 1991, [GayDays](#) has since grown into one of the world's largest LGBTQ+ Pride celebrations spread out over several days, featuring a wide range of ancillary events throughout the city, this year taking place May 30th to June 3rd. [Girls in Wonderland](#) is the counterpart to GayDays, catering to females, and features parties, special performances, and celebrity appearances. [One Magical Weekend](#) also happens over the same dates and is one of the largest LGBTQ+ Pride and Music festivals in the world. [Come Out With Pride](#) takes place later in the year, and celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2024 with a parade and festivities taking place in October around Eola Park in Downtown Orlando. The [Winter Park Pride Project](#) aims to distribute 1000 flags during Pride month and puts on several events throughout the year.

Other LGBTQ+ themed events happening throughout the year, include [The Pride Prom](#) (April 12th) held at the Orlando Science Center, [RED](#)



The gay scene in Orlando has spread out across several [neighbourhoods](#), no longer just confined to the downtown core. During your visit be sure to stop by these LGBTQ+ businesses to show support – [Out Of The Closet](#) thrift store in Winter Park, [Maffrey's](#) gift store in Ivanhoe Village, and [Lacastro](#) men's clothing store in Mills 50. Other areas worth a visit are Thornton Park, Lake Eola Heights, Colonialtown, and Virginia-Mills.

New and Notable

[Evermore Orlando Resort](#) recently opened and is Orlando's first beach-like property with an 8-acre crystal lagoon and a 20-acre sandy beach with hammocks, cabanas and recreational activities. [Conrad Orlando](#), the destination's first Hilton luxury brand, opened earlier this year with 433 rooms, and includes a luxe spa and numerous onsite restaurants. Some notable dining options include, [Chef Art Smith's Homecoming](#), [The Glass Knife](#), [Se7en Bites](#), [Island Time](#), [Bites & Bubbles](#), [Garp & Fuss](#), [Hungry Pants](#), and [The Hammered Lamb](#). As well, [BANDBOX Orlando](#), is a spirit-free 1920s-inspired speakeasy in Orlando's Ivanhoe Village district, that offers a variety of coffee and tea options by day, and a sober speakeasy by night.

Spring Events

No matter what time of year you visit, there's always something happening in Orlando. In terms of theme parks, [Universal Mardi Gras: International Flavors of Carnival](#) runs through April 7th at Universal Studios Florida, [EPCOT International Flower & Garden Festival](#) continues until May 27th, and [SeaWorld Orlando's Seven Seas Food Festival](#) ends May 19th. As well, [Spring Fiesta in the Park](#) takes place April 6th and 7th featuring hundreds of amazing local artists and craft booths, and the [Florida Film Festival](#) happens April 12th to the 21st.

Discover Lake Nona

[Lake Nona](#) bills itself as *A Smart City with Soul*, a visionary community that's proud of its future. Encompassing 17-square-miles and located just a 10-minute drive from Orlando International Airport, and 20 minutes from Downtown Orlando, Lake Nona is a modern mecca for technology, innovation, and lifestyle. While this purposely built community originally sprouted up as a business enclave, it's



fast becoming a go-to destination for dining, entertainment, and recreation as well.

Lake Nona Town Center is the hub of Lake Nona, acting as a regional shopping and entertainment destination, featuring 4 million square feet of restaurants, boutique shops, public art, and outdoor green spaces to inspire and delight. The area also includes the newly opened [Lake Nona Wave Hotel](#), the world's most technologically advanced luxury lifestyle hotel, featuring several onsite dining options of its own. [Haven Lounge](#) is a stylish Mediterranean tapas style restaurant by day, that switches over to a sophisticated bar vibe in the evening featuring DJs and live entertainment, attracting both hotel guests and locals. Located on the main floor, [BACÁN](#) is as much about the art and atmosphere, as it is about the boldly seductive flavours of the menu. [Nami's](#) contemporary Japanese concept sparkles with European elements in its approach to its modern dining experience and cocktail mixology. As day becomes night, this lobby location swings into an evening entertainment spot perfect for an end of day nightcap.

Guest rooms feature state-of-the-art technology from View Smart Glass to Toto Neorest toilets and Nespresso coffee makers, luxurious Frette linens, and

luxe bath amenities. Guests also have access to the renowned art collection on display in the adjoining 50,000 square foot [Lake Nona Sculpture Garden](#), featuring lush tropical flowers, roughly 300 palm trees, and a world-class collection of sculptures. The Lewis Collection is widely recognized as one of the world's most important private collections of art and sculpture, including Charging Bull by Arturo Di Modica.

The adjacent [Lake Nona Performance Club](#) is a huge 130,000 square feet complex offering a variety of adrenaline fuelled activities such as a rock climbing wall, along with spin and yoga classes, a swimming pool, and therapeutic services. Guests at the Wave Hotel have free access to many onsite activities and can pay a small fee for additional services.

[Boxi Park](#) is Central Florida's first outdoor entertainment venue constructed from repurposed shipping containers. The 30,000-square-foot, family and dog-friendly outdoor venue offers a mix of restaurants and bars, beach volleyball courts, and a live entertainment stage. [Nona Adventure Park](#) features a floating Aqua Park, Cable Park for wakeboarding/water skiing, one-of-a-kind 60-foot climbing tower and ropes course, stocked pro shop, and an onsite bistro. Be sure to also check out some of the other dining options in the area, including [Chroma Modern Bar + Kitchen](#), [Park Pizza & Brewing Co.](#), and [Bosphorous Turkish Cuisine](#). With so much on offer, it's no wonder why Lake Nona is quickly becoming a destination of its own in the Orlando area.

For more happenings and travel tips, surf on over to [Visit Orlando](#).

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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by Sean Ban Beaton

Hot Artist

As the gap in our queer canon plays catch up from the days of us being a mere tragic punchline, it's apparent that there is a growing and viable demand for nuanced queer storytelling – and sold-out theatre audiences are proving it. Leading the charge are long-time collaborators **Nick Green** and **Andrew Kushnir**, writer and director of **Soulpepper's** recent critically acclaimed offering, **Casey and Diana**. The play is set in 'Casey House', a Toronto AIDS hospice (now HIV/AIDS hospital), as the staff and residents prepare for a historic visit from Princess Diana in 1991 - a significant moment in the changing of society's perceptions of HIV/AIDS.

After a sold out run at Stratford, and an equally successful remount at Soulpepper, **Casey and Diana** is now being touted as a modern classic. It would be easy for a story backdropped by the AIDS crisis to be heavy and humourless, but Casey and Diana proves that tragedy need not exclude levity. Green's script expertly sets the scene for wildly differing characters to believably connect and form fast bonds, with a balance of compassion, witty banter, and ethereal whimsy. Kushnir's direction draws humanity out of the bleak subject matter, allowing all the depths and quirks of these characters to be represented.

Green (he/they) is perhaps best known for his 2017 Dora Award-winning play **Body Politic**, and his musical, **In Real Life**, which won the Tom Hendry Award for New Musical in 2021. He studied acting in Edmonton, but eventually saw a more fulfilling future in playwriting after winning a 2009 Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award for a fringe show he wrote. "I spent a lot of theatre school trying to train my voice and body to pass as straight," Green recalls. "I think as I started to stare down the barrel of a career that

would be full of that, I realized that writing was more the route that put wind in my sails."

Kushnir (he/him) is a theatre director, playwright, activist, and proudly queer Ukrainian-Canadian. He also studied and cut his teeth in the Edmonton theatre scene, specializing in a form called 'verbatim theatre', which involves interviewing marginalized community members and staging 'live documentaries' from their stories. Aside from being playwright in residence at Tarragon Theatre, he's also co-creator of **The Gay Heritage Project** with Damien Atkins and Paul Dunn, and the artistic director of socially engaged theatre company, [Project: Humanity](http://Project.Humanity). "I'm particularly proud of those moments where a theatre project of mine aligns with the activist work I'm engrossed in," Kushnir explains. "It's a little bit of harmony."

Casey and Diana will see more life next season at Neptune Theatre in Halifax, as well as a Theatre Aquarius/Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre co-production. Look out for a new musical Nick Green has in the works, and for more about Andrew Kushnir's verbatim theatre work, go to www.projecthumanity.ca, or visit www.lgbtukrainesupport.com for his work with We Support LGBTQ Ukraine.

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





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Earl “Trey” Singleton III arrives in New York City with only a few dollars in his pocket. Born into a wealthy Black Indianapolis family, at 17, he is ready to leave his overbearing parents and their expectations behind.

In the city, Trey meets up with a cast of characters that changes his life forever. He volunteers at a renegade home hospice for AIDS patients, and after being put to the test by gay rights activists, becomes a member of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP). Along the way Trey attempts to navigate past traumas and searches for ways to maintain familial relationships—all while seeking the meaning of life amid so much death.

Vibrant, humorous, and fraught with entanglements, Rasheed Newson’s *My Government Means to Kill Me* is an exhilarating, fast-paced coming-of-age story that lends itself to a larger discussion about what it means for a young gay Black man in the mid-1980s to come to terms with his role in the midst of a political and social reckoning.

Fiction

Excerpt:

I didn’t know Gregory well enough yet to tell him that actually I felt quite accomplished having escaped a life in Indiana among the damned: the fallen women, the broken men, and the godless sex perverts. Public sinners. Cautionary tales to the good people I grew up among. Lessons apparently lost on me because by the time I reached high school, I was considered destined to dwell on the outskirts of polite society.

There were no two ways about it. I was gay and notorious. Mind you, I didn’t come out as a homosexual while living in Indiana. Given my mannerisms, that step wasn’t necessary. I was fooling no one, and before I reached puberty, I stopped denying the playground taunts.

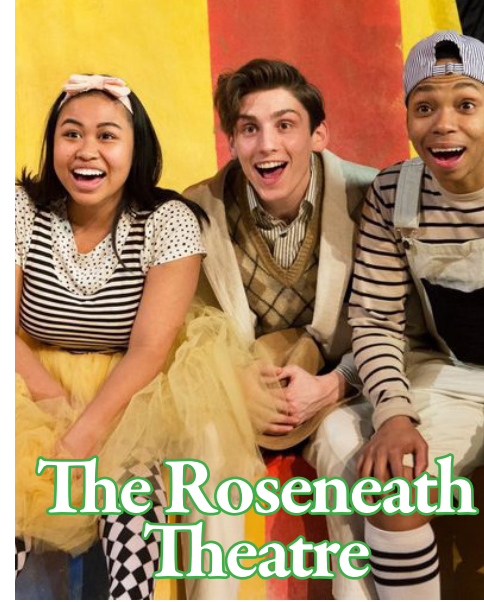
As for my notoriety, it stemmed from a family tragedy. My younger brother, Martin, died when he was nine years old. His death would have been harrowing enough to process had it remained a private matter. When it became a news story, my pain was amplified, and my grief was distorted. I was eleven years old. I didn’t know how to handle the whirlwind. Along with the other surviving members of my immediate family—my mother, my father, and my younger sister, Jackie—I was initially the recipient of unrelenting pity and curiosity from locals who followed the story of Martin’s loss. But I managed in short order to dash the sympathy that people held for me, and I seemingly confirmed, to all who suspected, that my homosexuality was indeed a sign of my depraved soul.

Rasheed Newson is a writer and producer of *Bel-Air*, *The Chi*, and *Narcos*. He currently resides in Pasadena, California with his husband and two children. *My Government Means to Kill Me* is his debut novel.



Author photo by Christopher Marrs

Community Cornerstone



commitment to excellence has earned them many accolades, including 54 Dora nominations and a total of 14 Awards. The Roseneath was also a recent finalist for the Ontario Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Roseneath Theatre's mission is to create and produce small cast, high quality theatre for youth and family audiences. They produce popular theatre which has artistic, personal, and social integrity using all the resources at their disposal for the largest possible audience.

Founded by David S. Craig and Robert Morgan in 1983, with current Artistic Director, Andrew Lamb, Roseneath believes that the emotional lives of young people are as rich as those of adults, and that children are as deserving of high quality, professional theatre as any adult audiences, and such productions should speak to their life experience and enrich their imaginations.

Roseneath encourages playwrights to explore themes and situations that express as much of a complex life as possible, and then distill it into an accessible theatrical form. Should you be so lucky as to have the opportunity to experience a production from the Roseneath Theatre company, please be sure to share the experience with any children or young adults in your life; each of you will find yourself richer for the encounter.

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The Roseneath Theatre is a professional theatre company delivering artistically excellent original Canadian productions that engage and inspire young audiences. Roseneath's plays address provocative issues relevant to today's youth encouraging them to reflect on themselves and their place within the community. The impact of this collaborative work is immediate and inclusive.

Roseneath is dedicated to helping children learn, to grow into young adults and make responsible, socially informed decisions, while also providing extracurricular activities in the way of daily and weekly camps. These engaging and active programs encourage creativity, imagination, and self-expression.

The mandate of Roseneath Theatre is to educate and promote the public's appreciation of the aesthetic arts by providing theatrical performances in educational institutions, community centres, and public places.

Past productions include *Dib and Dob*; *Journey Home*; *Danny King of the Basement* (winner of the Canada Council for the Arts' Best Theatre for Young Audiences Prize); *Outside*; *Ladies and Gentlemen*, *Boys and Girls*; and *Spirit Horse*. Their work has been presented all over North America, and to parts of Europe and the Pacific Rim, reaching an annual audience of over 100,000 people.

They are seen as one of the foremost producing companies of their kind in Canada. Their

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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SPRING IN THE CITY

by Sherry Sylvain

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/

Open Stage Cabaret

Tuesdays; from 10:00pm

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/

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/

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/

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/

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Sundays

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

Woody's, 467 Church St., Toronto
www.instagram.com/woodysonchurch/

What if I'm feeling Charitable?

TICOT Charity Drag Bingo

April 14, May 12, June 9; 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Join the Imperial Court of Toronto for an afternoon of fun bingo raising funds for local charities. Always fun and exciting hosts and entertainment.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com/

TICOT Charity Drag Brunch

March 31, April 28, May 26; 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Join the Imperial Court members for a fun-filled drag brunch show which helps raise funds for local charities! Surprise hosts and performers! It's always a good time.

The Well, 487 Church St., Toronto
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com/

A Tribute To Candice Kelly

April 6; 9:00 p.m.

To pay tribute to former queen of Club 717 and 4-time Empress, Candice Kelly.

Hosted by ICP to Reign 37 Rob Jeyes and Anna Rexia.

Club 717, 7-717 Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa
www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com/



Drag Spring Fling Fundraiser

April 13; 8:00 p.m.

One 'Spring Fling Cabaret' fundraiser show in support of Pride Haldimand Norfolk! Bringing to you some of Ontario's best drag entertainment for the night! Catch this new show filled with new choreography, new looks, and all of your favourite music from different divas.

LW Creative Barracks, 131 Lock St. E., Dunnville
<https://pay.barracksbythegrand.ca/>

Looking for fun with the Queer-adjacent crowd?

Greater Toronto Art 2024

Through July 28; various dates of gallery hours

Presenting 25 artists, duos, and collectives, GTA24 is a project that challenges the notion of individualism and focuses instead on the interconnectedness of individuals within a larger social fabric. The exhibition weaves together 15 newly commissioned artworks and live programmes with existing work made between the 1960s and the present.

Museum Of Contemporary Art Toronto, 158 Sterling Rd., Toronto
<https://moca.ca/>

Up On The Roof - An Evening with Micah Barnes

March 30; 8:00 p.m.

Do you remember where you were when you first heard The Supremes? Now's your chance to relive that memory, with veteran member of The Nylons, Micah Barnes, as he and his band take you on a personal journey through the hit songs of the 60s.

Cyril Clark Theatre, 20 Loafer's Lake Lane, Brampton
<https://tickets.brampton.ca/online/>

Canada's Drag Race Official Tour

April 1; 8:00 p.m.

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 their double feature show! Join Jaida Essence Hall, alongside your favourite queens from seasons 3 and 4, as they hit the stage on a tour through the provinces.

Meridian Hall, 1 Front St., Toronto
www.ticketmaster.ca

Toronto Food And Drink Festival

April 5 to 7

Experience all the local chefs, restaurants, winemakers, spirit, beer, cider companies, culinary products, plus all the latest food and drink trends under ONE ROOF! The event highlights include chef workshops, wine tasting, culinary classes, and music.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto
www.tofoodanddrinkfest.com/

Flamingo Market

April 6; 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Come through and support a flock of 40+ LGBTQ2SIA+ artisans, businesses, and non-profits! FREE SWAG BAG for the first 30 patrons! Admission is FREE! Bring the whole family, and have a gay ol' time supporting the incredible local talents who live within our community.

The Parkdale Hall, 1605 Queen St. W., Toronto
www.flamingomarket.ca/

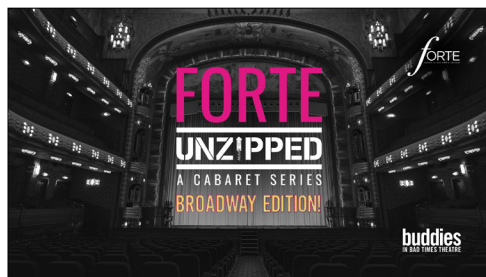


Forte: Unzipped

April 12; 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

They're ready to razzle, dazzle and... frazzle(!) with Broadway-themed numbers. Ryan and Phil are back as the hilarious MCs to guide you through a night of Barbara, Sondheim, and other gems from your favourite musicals. Join everyone after the second show for an afterparty in the cabaret space.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., Toronto
www.buddiesinbadtimes.com



Reality Gays: "If You Can Dream It" Tour

April 21; 7:00 p.m.

Jake Anthony and Matt Marr are two Southern Queens who absolutely love TLC's 90 Day Fiancé. If you've been looking for your gay BFFs to dish this show... well, you're welcome.

The Opera House, 735 Queen St. E., Toronto
www.ticketmaster.ca/



Jann Arden and Rick Mercer: The Will They or Won't They Tour

April 27; 8:00 p.m.

This national tour features two of Canada's most notable voices in a freewheeling, unscripted, unrehearsed, and unrestrained discussion that will have audiences cheering. Spend an evening of laughter with the stories and successes from their careers in entertainment, spanning multiple decades.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener
www.centreinthesquare.com/event/

Stars On Ice

May 3; 7:30 p.m.

Straight from the World Championships, Canada's own Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier, Madeline Schizas, and Deanna Stellato-Dudek & Maxime Deschamps in a star-studded cast featuring Elvis Stojko, Patrick Chan, Keegan Messing, Satoko Miyahara, Loena Hendrickx & Ilia Malinin. Show directed and choreographed by the incomparable Kurt Browning.

Scotiabank Arena, 40 Bay St., Toronto
www.ticketmaster.ca/

Eager for an episodic emigration from the everyday?

Tegan And Sara - The Not Tonight Tour

March 28 - Chatham Capitol Theatre, 238 King St. W., Chatham

March 30 - FirstOntario Arts Centre, 1010 Main St. E., Milton

An intimate night of music and storytelling with the one-and-only Tegan and Sara! Over the course of their 25-year career, the Canadian indie pop duo has performed on some of the world's biggest stages, from Coachella to the Academy Awards, while selling more than a million records and garnering numerous awards, including three Junos for their 7th studio album, "Heartthrob".

Chatham Capitol Theatre - <https://secure1.tixhub.com/chatham-kent/online/index.asp>

FirstOntario - <https://secure1.tixhub.com/milton/online/index.asp>



Jagged Little Pill - The Musical

March 30 to April 2

Joy, love, heartache, strength, wisdom, catharsis, LIFE – everything we've been waiting to see in a Broadway show is here in the exhilarating, fearless new musical based on Alanis Morissette's world-changing music.

Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener
<https://kwtickets.eventue.net/>

Canada's Drag Race Official Tour

April 2; 8:00 p.m.

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 their double feature show! Join Jaida Essence Hall, alongside your favourite queens from seasons 3 and 4, as they hit the stage on a tour through the provinces.

FirstOntario Concert Hall, 1 Summers Lane, Hamilton
www.ticketmaster.ca

Queer All Year - Drag Brunch

April 6; noon to 3:00 p.m.

Pride isn't just one day – they're here to make things Queer All Year. A show, brunch buffet and drinks. All the fun happens as they bring back their amazing Drag Brunch; featuring Binbrook's Own Gem of Drag and your host, Kasha Czech, Manny Manila, Xtacy Love, and Madison Ave. Raffle & Pride Merchandise available.

Southbrook Golf and Country Club, 4349 Hamilton Regional Rd. 56, Binbrook
<https://binbrook-pride.square.site/product/queer-all-year-drag-brunch/20>

DJ Dallas - Mega Pride Launch Party

May 25; 8:00 p.m.

Inviting all the world to join the Tri-Cities (Kitchener, Cambridge, and Waterloo) as they launch Pride week '24. DJ Dallas invites you to come, wear your rainbow colours, and bring your fabulous energy once again to the Rainbow Dance Floor. Maximum capacity is anticipated.

The Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Rd., Cambridge
www.cambridgenewfoundlandclub.ca/

Jimbo's Drag Circus World Tour

May 30 - Algonquin Commons Theatre,

1385 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa

May 31 - Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener

For the first time ever, Murray & Peter in association with House Of Jimbo proudly present, "Jimbo's Drag Circus" the weirdest show on earth starring the many outrageous characters of Jimbo's twisted imagination – from RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 8 and season one of Canada's Drag Race.

Ottawa - <https://www.ticketmaster.ca/>
Kitchener - <https://kwtickets.eventue.net/>

Title photo courtesy of City of Toronto.

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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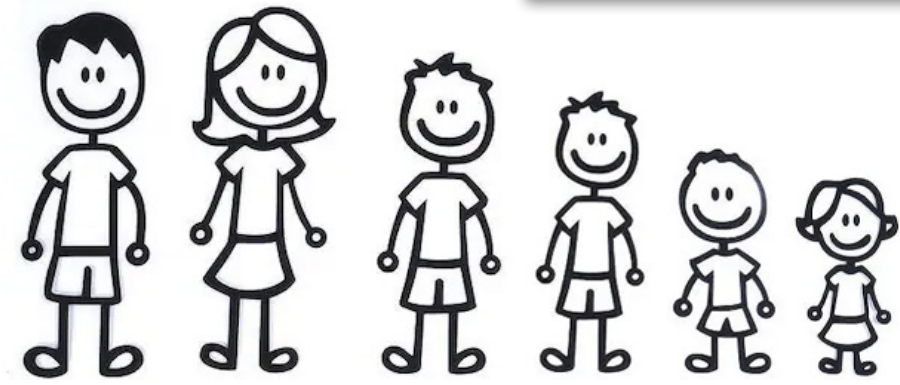
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I must confess that this issue's writing assignment was a bit of a challenge. In the early days of the AIDS scourge, I had chosen to marry my wife and begin raising a family. My social network didn't include very many out gay men and, understandably, I spent very little time "out and about" as I shared parenting of my four children.

Even after our 14-year marriage ended, we remained mutually supportive co-parents and a lot of my time was spent doing "parent stuff." My social network did expand and I became involved with a queer volunteer fundraising organization. But my involvement with the gay community was limited.

Of course, I was aware of, and informed about, HIV/AIDS, the risks, and the effects of this plague on others. But by the time I could regularly be "out and about," the pharmacology of HIV/AIDS had evolved to the point where most individuals living with HIV were able to restore a degree of normalcy to their lives. Where once the medications themselves were responsible for many of the observed "symptoms" of HIV/AIDS, now people could live healthy, constructive and satisfying lives, free from the death

sentence that was the hallmark of the early days of AIDS.

As PinkPlayMags dedicates their 2024 issues to this 40th anniversary of the epidemic, I am inspired by the many stories of those who bravely persevered in the face of appalling challenges, risked their own lives and social engagement to step up and sound the call governments, the medical establishment, and society at large to deal with the issue.

I am also so very proud of those others, who became the caregivers when the medical establishment at the time insisted on treating the infected as pariahs, unworthy of their support.

In future issues, we'll be looking at the science of HIV/AIDS, commemorate the many amazing individuals who were taken from us by this horrible virus, and look toward a future where life becomes a bright adventure for all.

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.



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Spring Horoscopes

by Julie Antoinette

MARCH 2024 to MAY 2024

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

The universe is nudging you to go deep within at this unique time, Aries. Accept isolation as a chance to delve into your inner self. Grab a journal, decode your dreams, or just simply meditate. Yoga and leisurely strolls might help you peacefully connect with nature. Try expressing yourself creatively through music or art. Be kind to others, but remember to never forget to put yourself first.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21)

Now is your chance to network and grow socially. It's time to answer the call to get involved with like-minded people by engaging in causes that are dear to your heart. Join clubs or volunteer to show your kindness. Work together on inspiring projects and empathetically bond in your friendships. Picture your aspirations coming true and enjoy utilizing the force of group energy to effect positive change, and then you will accept the beauty of community.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

Your career journey is being emphasized, encouraging you to follow your gut and explore responsibility. Trust your instincts and seek work that reflects your ideals and creative side. Got any innovative ideas brewing? Don't hesitate to share them! Invest in your development to advance your abilities. You must imagine the career path of your dreams and create a vibrant workspace. When making decisions, let your intuition lead the way and let your creativity run wild.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

The universe is urging you to broaden your perspective and thoughts. Explore spirituality via prayer, meditation, or philosophy. You may have been receiving a call to visit sites of worship or get involved in various cultures. Connect with motivating mentors and welcome new perspectives. Let go of restrictive ideas and have faith in your instincts. This is what leads you to spiritual and intellectual development.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Others respond to you cheerfully when you welcome change for growth and renewal with open arms, Leo. Take time to heal from past hurts through therapy or energy work. Work together with a trusted partner to arrange your finances for stability. You are building stronger ties in relationships and embracing vulnerability. Good job on abandoning material attachments and diving into spiritual exploration. Put your faith in your fortitude to come out on top.

Virgo (August 23 - September 23)

Relationships take center stage. Develop compassion and empathy in your interactions with others. Have honest conversations and cooperate to find solutions to problems. You are being encouraged to collaborate in creative ventures to strengthen relationship dynamics using your detail-oriented skills. It's okay to start over. Possibly beginning with forgiveness or a romantic retreat. Prioritize harmony in your relationships while having faith in your intuitive abilities.

Libra (September 24 - October 23)

Having concentrated on serving others and your overall well-being, you are now making self-care routines a priority to nourish your entire being. To reduce stress, practice awareness through yoga or meditation. Show kindness to people in need and promote peace at work. You must follow your intuition to achieve your best possible health and productivity.

Scorpio (October 24 - November 22)

Engage in soul-stirring artistic endeavors. Express yourself creatively through writing, painting, or music. Have you reacquainted yourself with your inner child, embraced playfulness and spontaneity? You can now accept romance and love with open arms, and treat your relationships with compassion and openness.

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

You've created a calm and encouraging atmosphere for your family and home, made a comfortable haven by clearing clutter, and incorporated unique elements. Now, you are rewarded with receiving closer ties with your family. Having meaningful conversations and doing kind deeds brings inner serenity, prioritizes self-care and forgiving. Embrace your intuition to help you make choices that will improve relationships within the family.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

As your interest in learning piques, immerse in meaningful discussions and express yourself creatively. Utilize writing as a means of self-exploration and to re-write your script. Read as much as you can to keep your imagination active. Engage in sincere conversations with siblings or your neighbors. You are now aware of your earlier mental and emotional programming and will now accept opportunities for learning with compassion and wisdom.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 19)

Now that you've considered your connection to money and your sense of value, it is time to pursue stability by cultivating gratitude and thoughtful money management. Invest in pursuits that enhance your spirituality and self-worth. Embrace plenty in all its higher forms and have faith in your instincts.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20)

Accept this moment in time for personal development and self-discovery. Honor and appreciate your actual nature. Prioritize self-care routines that nourish your body, mind, and soul. Having imagined the kind of person you want to be and then worked on being that person, you now have faith in your instincts.

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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