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From the **Publisher**



In spring we talked about LGBT life in 60s & 70s, in summer it was the 80s & 90s, and now we take a look at the 2000s. That's a weird one to examine because we are still living it!

Perhaps I'll look at what the 2000s have meant to me personally so far. It started while I was still living downtown Toronto. I remember the excitement, the hoaxes leading up to, and the big celebration of New Year's Eve 2000. That glorious night, I spent it first with some of my closest friends on a roof top of a downtown Toronto building watching the fireworks, before we headed to Five Nightclub (do you remember it?) to meet up with more friends and dance a bit, and then finishing off the night at Fly, or more like late morning by the time we dragged our behinds back home.

I was still a club kid back then, I city hopped after the hottest DJs, Montreal, South Beach, etc., I was part of the circuit party crowd, my calendar revolved around the next hot dance event, and I had a great and highly respected career in gay media that almost forced me to be out being a social butterfly. I can't lie, I loved it.

But, in 2004 I was done with downtown, nothing bad, but I just had lived it all and needed a change. I needed something new to get me fired up again and excited about what I was doing in work, as well as life. So I up and moved to the suburbs of Pickering, a nice little quiet city to the east of Toronto that I used to regret trekking to for visits with my parents once a month. After a career working for others for 17 years, I wanted to do my own thing. I started INspired Media, and soon more people joined in my vision, and before I knew it I was working with "the A Team". Since then we launched a number of publications (including of course PinkPlayMags), online platforms, and a talk show. I adopted a dog. I only on the very rare occasion might get the urge to go to a club, I spend more quiet times with friends and family, and I vacation at cottages now for crying out loud.

Just like how I settled into a more adult role, at least in my view our community has done the same. Gone are most of the fun places in The Village (except for, and thankfully, a few community institutions that remain standing strong). Friends, and friends of friends, have moved out of downtown, even to the suburbs, and smaller towns. Many got married, a few have kids now, and that applies equally across many age groups. We

wanted our equal rights and we got them, and with that came more acceptance, and with acceptance came a more normalized life.

Is that good or bad? I will leave that for you to ponder.

Before I go, I would like to invite you to our BIG dance party "TICKLED PINK" celebrating 10 years of PinkPlayMags. Join us for a night you will not forget at the stunning venue, '1871" Berkeley Church. This party has come together in a way I would have never dreamed that it would. It is presented in partnership with the wonderful MOJO Toronto, Arabian Knights LGBTQ, and Miss Opulence. AWESOME group, right? I love these people, and they are doing some incredible work keeping our community dancing and entertained in very progressive ways, that equally promotes diversity. That's why I asked them to join us, because I believe in their visions, and it lines up with everything that our media and our magazines stand for.

But that's just the beginning. We have put together a group of DJs and performers that will BLOW YOUR MIND. I get to work that night with some of the most talented, most passionate, most community oriented people imaginable. On the dance floor you will be rocking to DJ Black Cat, DJ Sumation, DJ Recklezz, and DJ Jade Elektra. They will be taking turns at the turntable to keep you dancing to a very eclectic and diverse mix of music, and all the songs you love. Then at 11:30 you need to be ready for a show by the Queens of our Queens. Sofonda Cox, Farra N' Hyte, Jasmine Black, Jezebel Bardot, and the craziest and zaniest of them all, someone who has for many years personally supported a lot of my work, the lovely Donnarama.

And it is FREE. Yes FREE. Except, we are asking for a \$10 donation to help Rainbow Railroad & Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention. Can you really afford missing this party? I mean seriously. It's going to be a BLAST. You can find out more info here facebook.com/events/469873450053588

Enjoy autumn, and see you soon in winter with the last edition of the 10th year celebration of your favourite magazine. Love you as always, and thank you for reading.

Antoine Elhashem
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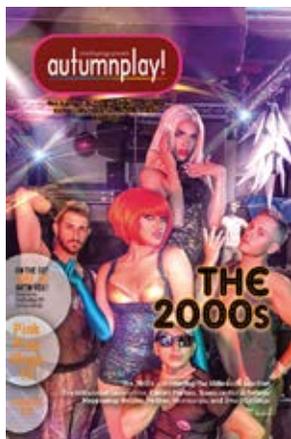
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From the **Editor**



First there were the Boomers, then the Gen-Xers, and now we're in the Millennial Generation. However we look at it, all three are pretty similar in nature – they are all misunderstood by their predecessors. So while the younger set of today are mocked and frowned about for whatever reasons, their mocking elders might want to take a step back in time to when they were of a similar age. We all struggle growing up, facing difficulties and uncertainties, making mistakes, and learning as life goes on. For this third instalment of our generational look at queer life through the decades, we're looking back to the turn of the century, and the beginning of the new millennium – The 2000s.

Cheryl Costello takes a candid look at the Millennial Generation, with insight from various community members on their thoughts on this next group of individuals who will be leading us into the future. Rolyn Chambers is no stranger to the party scene, so it's fitting that he has written a great article on the Circuit Party scene that was in its heyday during the early 2000s. Our third feature is a collaborative effort by

two scholarly individuals, Jade Pichette and Sidney Cunningham. They provide us with an interesting and information timeline through trans advocacy, with their article titled, “Tracing Trans-cestor Activism”.

Continuing with our Canada 150 theme, our travel feature is on Halifax, where there's been a long legacy of LGBT activism. Tourism is increasing, and we take a look at what's hip and happening. Continuing to show some love to our eastern neighbours, our Community Cornerstone column is The Youth Project, and our Hot Artist profile is on The Magic Project, both youthful and creative endeavours that are based in Halifax.

The Looking Back piece is written by party guy Joey Viola, who is involved with MoJo Toronto and FML Mondays at Flash, and is a fabulous queen on the scene. As well, we have an excerpt from “Jerusalem Ablaze: Stories of Love and Other Obsessions”, written by Orlando Ortega-Medina. Also, there's Horoscopes by Julie Antoinette, From The Heart by Mychol Scully, and Event Listings by Sherry Sylvain.

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THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION STAYING A STEP AHEAD OF THE NAYSAYERS

By Cheryl Costello

THE WORLD IS MORE CONNECTED THAN EVER BEFORE, TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO A MYRIAD OF INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND WAYS OF COMMUNICATING. CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY AND THE STATUS QUO CAN SHIFT BENEATH OUR FEET, FASTER THAN WE CAN GRASP THE LAST WAVE OF NEED-TO-KNOW INFORMATION.

Millennials have been cited as the reason for these changes, and critics levy criticisms liberally, where they're painted many shades of individuals

as, "entitled", "disengaged", "tech-obsessed", and "too sensitive".

Is it just that millennials are the unruly, self-absorbed generation defined by a disregard for the status quo, or is it that previous generations have a lot to lose as the current one climbs hegemonic sociopolitical ladders in ways that no other group has done before?

LEFT BEHIND BY THE AGE GAP

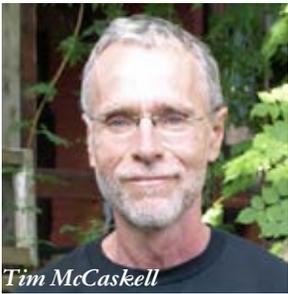
Tim McCaskell, author, thought leader, longtime activist, and Toronto resident, noted "Technology probably amplifies things. Older people have never understood young people and they've always thought that the younger generation is going to hell in a hand basket. My parents thought that of me, and that simply continues."

Millennials came of age during financial instability which shaped many of their experiences, and consequently what they value. Many entered the job market during the a period of recession, with high student loan debt and low (to almost no) job guarantees at the end of their degree. Those financial prospects limited what millennials could humbly brag about with friends and family, while changing the fact that



those friends and family members were now on social media platforms instead of centralized social spaces.

Where other generations would drive their wealth to work or brag about it at dinner parties in their new homes, millennials do the same with what they have: technology and social media. The same behavior through a different lens magnifies what many parenting books will tell you is a healthy self-absorption for young people trying to figure out who they are in a hyperconnected world. When marketers are using the same platforms you're communicating across, to sell you products, and in the process



Tim McCaskell

you should be and why you are problematic, indeed selfies and inward focus can become an act of defiance.

McCaskell noted too, that technological instability

marking society's present evolution might be at the heart of social disarray masquerading as a general distaste for millennials. As well, "In societies that are technologically stable, elders tend to be more revered because they've typically been the ones with the most experience with technology."

Touch-of-a-button access to information previously sought from older generations, breaks down a barrier for millennials, while creating one for those who came before them. It also means that society no longer needs

to rely on multigenerational relationships to survive as it once did. "There's a reverence for age that accumulates experience, which is really valuable for everybody. In societies like ours where technology is evolving very rapidly, the experience of older people seems antiquated", laments McCaskell. If technology swept in almost overnight and took away some of the power your hard-won experiences held, it's hard not to understand there being some sour views of this generation.

The distinction here though, is that it's technology changing the landscape, not millennials who have no choice but to use it at work, to do banking, to communicate, and to stay in touch on the go.

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

It's clear that technology is going nowhere, and for McCaskell this may be cause for concern with the LGBTQ2+ community particularly. He points out, "Twenty years ago, people would have to gather where others were, whether bathhouses, bars or parks, and meet people there. That would produce a kind of network that didn't necessarily even have to have sex with each other." It's with careful consideration that the community moves forward, he noted, because, "Now, on the one hand the networks are expanded, because you can find other queer people almost anywhere you want, without having to avail yourself of a centralized area where everybody gathers. The question is whether those networks are as durable as the networks that were around before."

Cautionary tales have already been written across the globe where McCaskell notes, "We know when they raided the baths (here in Toronto) in



1981, thousands of people came into the streets, and a huge reaction was produced. What would happen if they closed down Grindr? Maybe people would go into the streets, but maybe those networks would vanish. It expands the community's source of power and decentralizes it at the same time."

He went on further to explain that, "We know from other parts of the world that social media has been key to resistance. The first thing that authoritarian governments do is close down social medias. So what would that mean for queer people that have come to depend on those mediums for connections with other queer people?"

Aamir Subhan, millennial and graduate from University of Toronto's neuroscience program, and currently pursuing social work studies, lays some of these concerns to rest as technology has "Served as an avenue by which I can educate myself better. I do think that technology can give the false sense of doing something by merely sharing content online, as opposed to also partaking in the actual frontline work. That flow of information though, opens more access points for wider views from around the world. Maybe technological advancement will be crucial to liberating ourselves from elitist hegemonies that continue to stratify society into haves and have-nots."

For many however these connections and online spaces are crucial in affirming identities and finding a safe space to learn about and know themselves better.

Vanessa Fontanarosa, poet (@effiefont) and vlogger (@thevanessamary) noted that "The first queer people I knew were on social media

sites like Tumblr. Too scared to be out, I was able to dip my toe in the pool that is the diverse and unique LGBTQIA+ community. As I made friends, and chatted to different people from all backgrounds and identities, it allowed me to be more comfortable in my skin and branch out into the community in real life."

Subhan summed it up best, stating "Maybe we're just learning how to be human within a technological enterprise."

THE MILLENNIAL WRECKING BALL

There are entire blogs dedicated to the assortment of once-popular items that



millennials are credited with ruining. It's hard not to wonder though, whether a large swath of the population is simply feeling nostalgic for a time untouched by cell phones, WIFI

connections, and a consciousness undisturbed by injustices that privilege prevented you from ever needing to consider. Was it an easier, simpler time, or was it a time marked by the importance to a few people in power that technology has now distributed more evenly among voices that were seldom heard?

Fontanarosa noted, "They are avoiding the deeper truth behind why these things are being 'ruined' by millennials. They're avoiding the truth behind why millennials can't afford housing or to get married, or even one of the more absurd

accusations, buy diamonds! The truth is that the previous generation ‘ruined everything’, creating a political, social, and economic wasteland in which millennials are now struggling not to sink into.”

The different experiences, systems, and structures that millennials experience are, according to Subhan, changing so that “Younger



T.J. Nagel

generations are emboldened to counter existing power structures in an effort to improve upon equity. Relatively speaking, there are certainly mounting economic and social pressures

that the generation prior here in Canada didn’t face, considering the post-war early gains they benefitted from. This is not to discount in any way, the difficulties of that time either.”

T.J. Nagel is already thinking ahead, hoping that the millennial legacy will extend to how it treats other generations. “I hope that when the next generations start making their voices heard, we don’t look down on them or speak over them. I hope that when the time comes, when our generation is eating our avocado toast and sipping white wine sangrias, we pass the proverbial torch and platform with nothing more than a few tips to ‘do better than we did, try to leave it cleaner than when you got here and always make time for brunch.’”

Indeed, previous levels of importance, don’t justify a sustained prioritization in future. Nagel pointed to previous generations, saying that, “Of course millennials are ruining everything. That’s how change works in society. It’s just like Gen X and the cigarette market, the baby boomers and the coal industry, and the silent generation and messenger pigeons.”

With such a ruinous reputation, and facing the reality of new challenges, the court of public opinion seems to be failing critics, especially when set against empirical data from reports like that of the Environics Institute.

According to the report, one in four Millennials were “actively engaged” in social causes in the last year. It also revealed that this is not the generation ready to give up on traditional print media, and that political engagement is high although voter turnout is low. This low turnout could be the result of the fact that many millennials are working multiple jobs to make ends meet and couldn’t make it to the polls in time, given that less than half of Canadians in this age bracket make enough to live well, according to that same report. The general findings indicate that the kids might just be all right. Certainly set against a technological landscape far different from their predecessors, but all right nonetheless.

LEGACIES YET TO LEAVE BEHIND

Every generation is known for its experiences and contributions to the annals of history. Technological evolutions shape the millennial impact, but will not be what the generation is known for. As more people begin writing that legacy, what exactly will it entertain? Fontanarrosa hopes that, “aside from all the negative labels put on millennials, we will be recognized for our open-mindedness regarding sexuality, gender, dating, sex, our hard-working nature, and our ability to turn difficult sociopolitical situations into a meme.” She goes on to note that being a millennial, “matters because people are making it matter. They’ve created an us-versus-them scenario, and it further creates a divide between the baby boomers and those that followed.”

Indeed Millennials, their fondness for brunch, their fights for social justice, and the technology they rode in on are going nowhere.

Feel free to reach out to talk books, well-being, spirituality, gratitude and making the world a better place on Instagram @cherylalisoncostello and Twitter @cherylacostello.





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Pangaya is drifting a circuit party history

by Roly Chambers

2003 This was the earth at a time when gay men roamed a lush and fertile circuit party scene. A one-room lounge changed all that. Its unassuming arrival came with the force of 10,000 crying circuit boys.

A million tons of glitter, pills and powder were thrown into the atmosphere creating a suffocating blanket of dust that pulsating dance floor lights were powerless to penetrate for a thousand years.

The above reworked monologue from the movie *Armageddon* is a bit over the top, but the evolution of the circuit scene has indeed had some running around like the end is near. It is not. Instead of an annihilating ice age, we are in the midst of a great transformation. What is happening now, has been years in the making and can be better compared to the continental shift of *Pangaea*. Let's call ours *Pangaya*.

Pangaea was the name given to the super-continent that existed before the earth's plates shifted and created the smaller continents we now dance upon. *Pangaya*, by comparison, was the original circuit party scene of the

early 1980s through to the early 2000s. Oddly but aptly this scene, involving hundreds of thousands of oft hopped-up horny men, evolved from American laws that existed before the 1950s, which prohibited men from dancing with men (and women with women.)

Because gay men were forced to dance by themselves, in case there was a police raid, a new style of social interaction on the dance floor was created. Without this catalyst we might all be still dancing as couples. This though was not enough, and gay men began throwing private events called T-Dances during the day to avoid police attention (and because it was illegal to sell alcohol to homosexuals.) With our cha-cha heels bought and paid for, the scene quickly spread.

After the Stonewall Riots and as gay rights battles were being fought and won, The Saint in New York began hosting their infamous *Black Party* in the late 1970s. Around the same time *The Pines* (Fire Island) was quickly becoming the out-of-city summer party destination, and Columbus Ohio, of all places, was establishing the *Red Party* as "the party to end all parties." These American locations became the original holy trinity, and Andrew Holleran's 1978 novel *Dancer from the Dance* marked the first time that "circuit party" was mentioned in a book.

During the height of the AIDS crisis in the 1990s, one would expect the scene to become extinct. However, after the shock of the initial wave of deaths, several benefit parties sprung up around North America that donated partial proceeds to the cause. People began dancing in defiance (and doing drugs to forget.) Those events had specific themes, and many took on the names of colours; *The Purple Party* and *Black & Blue*, for example. At its height in the late 1990s, as gay men sought refuge in each others arms, circuit parties numbered in the hundreds. These men, modern day nocturnal nomads, jetted around the globe, crisscrossing continents to attend the most elaborate and most expensive celebrations. Some were one-day events, while more established parties in larger metropolitan destinations lasted upwards of one week, and were called festivals. Promoters like Jeffrey Sanker who created Miami's *White Party* in 1989, helped to revolutionize and commercialize the circuit.

Now firmly in its fourth decade, circuit parties have become a rite of passage for some; a contemporary walk-about. These events were, and to an extent still are, largely geared to and attended by gay white men in their thirties (Circuit Boys), who possess a certain disposable income. The gay party landscape was different then. The socio-economic climate of the 1980s and 1990s supported big clubs and large monthly parties. But as years went by, the scene aged. At the turn of the century, the men who originated the scene began putting their cha-cha heels back in the closet, and stepped into more respectable adult loafers.

With a vacuum left by those not returning, the younger gay set was expected step in to fill the void. But this did not happen on the scale that it had for the first 20-years. The millennial generation were not interested in big, drug-fueled parties, and were even less excited by the music that was played. They stared at those cha-cha heels and yelled, "What are those?" The song of the young was now tech-house, hip-hop, and pop played in small one-room lounges and bars that were not exclusively gay. Circuit music, having evolved



little, was beat driven. It was something that could be danced to while paying little attention; a sound enhanced by the popular use of designer drugs like Ecstasy, Ketamine, GHB and Crystal.

The big room circuit sound, like the big room itself, receded. This was one of the reasons renown **DJ/Producer Barry Harris** stopped spinning. "I took time off between 2005 to 2014," Harris explained in an earlier interview. "I didn't like where gay music was going. It seemed to have painted itself into a corner."

As well as global changes in musical tastes, the scene also suffered internal upheavals on local levels. Toronto was not immune. "Back in the day the only big party was Unity," recalls Toronto choreographer and dancer **Lena Love**. "It was very community oriented, and was all about bringing people together. You were seeing your friends, like **Sofonda Cox**, on stage and cheering them on. As soon as it became about simply making money, that's when the party scene fell apart."

Before Toronto's *Prism* parties (part of the summer circuit scene) most major gay events in Toronto belonged to **Jason Ford** and **David Dean Portelli** who formed *Boost Boys*. This duo, along with **Michael Schwarze**, **Keir McCrae**, and **Daniel Bellevance**, produced *Unity* and *Unified Party Weekend*, *Prism's* predecessor. When Bellevance



secretly booked all the large Toronto event spaces under his new company, *Prism, Unified* collapsed. *Prism* however, under Bellevance, only lasted another three years. Karma is a bitch.

Adam Gill (a rich straight kid) eventually stepped in, bought out Bellevance's failing venture, kept the *Prism* name and placed party promoter **Darren Bryant**, then **Gairy Brown**, to head it up. "The circuit scene is fully alive," Brown states with a flourish in his voice. "Europe this summer was a testament to that, and our plans for Prism 2018 are massive."

Over time though these all-night hedonistic soirées that once flew under the radar, began attracting criticism and detractors from both those inside and outside of its exclusive gates. Some have argued that, at its best, the scene is an elitist series of events that courts rich white men, even though it borrowed fiercely from New York's largely black ballroom scene. At its worst, the circuit scene has been accused of being a drug-fueled breeding ground for HIV, the very cause for which many of these events claimed they existed to support. Some events were so out of control that teams of ambulances needed to be hired to deal with the many overdoses and deaths.

After 9/11, travel restrictions splintered the scene. Travel to Montreal's *Black & Blue* that year, just one month after the attacks, declined considerably and its numbers have never recovered. After its peak around 2003, other parties started collapsing in on themselves as well. With a global recession looming, money became tight and the internet had introduced

hook-up apps and free porn sites by the fistful, creating an even greater divide. Pangaya began to split.

With this split came new fertile grounds for the circuit party to populate. At the start of the new millennium, parties began springing up in East Asia. Now there are major events in Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Thailand, Seoul, Taiwan, Taipei, Tokyo, and others. Gay men who once travelled to North America now established their own events in cities like Johannesburg and Rio. Smaller events outside of the United States, including *Rapido* in Amsterdam, *Circuit* in Barcelona, and *Mardi Gras* in Sydney have also evolved and expanded.

Globally, the circuit scene is fractured. Its own evolution may lead to its extinction, but that is still years, maybe even decades away. As each country's gay revolution erupts, similar celebrations on local scales evolve into global gatherings. Once that country, that city, that society, that culture, passes through its gay evolution, the scene calms down. But because there are many areas on our planet where this has not yet happened, Pangaya has not settled, and the circuit map is not complete. Pangaya is still drifting.

Rolyn Chambers is a Toronto-based designer and freelance writer. His first book, *The Boy Who Brought Down A Bathhouse*, was released September 2017.



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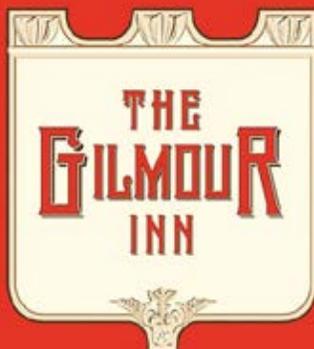
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Tracing Trans-C



While trans people had been involved in many of the early gay liberation organizations, and trans activism began in the 1970s with groups like FACT, the 1990s provided a critical mass for trans activism and rights.

Neither of us were out in the '90s, and very little information on trans history has been published. Much of what we can share was shared with



us by **Trish Salah**, who is a poet, activist, and professor of gender studies at Queen's University. She offered some background information gathered when she was working with CUPE's Pink Triangle Committee on trans workers rights within CUPE, and arguing for trade unions to

recognize the labour rights of sex workers. We cannot fully encapsulate the stories of all trans people, but as trans activists and academics we attempt to showcase the lives and activism of our Trans-cestors. It is through telling their work and stories that we find who we ourselves are.

A basic timeline of trans history through the '90s and '00s can look like a timeline of legal milestones. In Ontario, provincial courts chose to invalidate the marriage between a trans man and his cisgender wife in 1990, and the province de-listed sex reassignment surgery in 1998 -- making surgical transition inaccessible to the

vast majority of trans people. By the end of the '90s, however, there was rising recognition of trans rights by both courts and governmental institutions. In 1999, BC courts made precedent-setting rulings in favour of trans [women] who had been discriminated against by business owners and employers. Between 1998 and 2002, successful legal battles in Quebec resulted in the extension of some basic protections to trans people in the areas of workplace discrimination and changes to government IDs. A policy recognizing gender identity as a protected category was also released by the Ontario Human Rights Commission in 2000, and equal custody rights for trans parents were first recognized by Ontario courts in 2001.

It is important to recognize that these gains for trans people in the political and legal spheres have always meant years of labour, both by individual trans people and the activist networks supporting them. One of the starkest examples of this is the 1993 to 2003 legal battle fought by **Synthia Kavanagh**, a trans woman prisoner. As a result, trans people who are imprisoned in Canada, justly or not, now have much better access to trans-specific health care, and are less likely to be forcibly confined alongside prisoners of a different gender. Dr. Salah has pointed out to us that "the lawyer for her case was **Barb Findlay**, a cis lesbian feminist lawyer who also represented **Kimberly Nixon** in her case against [transmisogynist discrimination at] Vancouver Rape Relief".

Archival materials hosted at the *Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA)* can illustrate a small number of other major activist projects that took place during this period, but which might disappear under a political lens. Research efforts lead by **Viviane Namaste** started to provide scholarly documentation of trans people's experiences with discrimination within the medical and social services systems. **Mirha-**

cestor Activism



Soleil Ross also made major contributions with cultural/artistic projects such as her co-founding of the transsexual publishing organization *genderpress* in 1993, and *Counting Past 2* -- North America's first trans film and performance festival -- in 1997.

The CLGA preserves both institutional and personal records, and yet creating any records, even records of our own existence, seems to require that many things go right in our lives. Trans people who are deeply impoverished may be too busy dealing with crises on a day-to-day basis to invest resources into trying to preserve stories that someone might want to hear ten or twenty years later. When we look around our communities and see so few elders, it is no surprise that we still know so little about trans history.



When **Jade Pichette** first began their trans activism in the early 2000s as a trans teen, they felt they were lacking any role models, as few people were out about being trans at the time in

Ottawa. Jade yearned for stories of those who had gone before, but was told by LGBT groups that trans identities were entirely new. It wasn't until a couple years after starting a trans youth group that Jade was introduced to *Invisible Lives* by Viviane Namaste, which opened their world. Suddenly the people whose names they had only heard in rumour opened up to me, including finding a copy of *Gendertrash*. Knowing this history meant the activism Jade was doing in the 2000s had more meaning as it was connecting to what had gone before.

A lot has changed since the early 2000s. We have seen gender identity and expression become explicitly or implicitly protected grounds in the majority of provinces and territories, and recently on a federal level with Bill C-16. Most provinces and territories now provide gender-confirmation surgery (previously known as sex-reassignment surgery) coverage through their health plans. In Ontario this was relisted in 2008, and has seen an expansion of coverage. Ontario became the first province to ban reparative therapy on children in 2015.

Yet many of the struggles of trans activists of the 1990s continue. Sex work, which many trans people use as a source of employment, remains criminalized, and according to the Trans Pulse Project, about half of trans Ontarians make \$15,000 or less. HIV criminalization continues to be a challenge for the high levels of trans people who live with HIV, especially trans women, and suicide is still a huge issue in our communities.

To address these continued challenges we need to look back. We need to realize that true trans lives are lived in our detailed stories and memories, instead of just legal milestones. It is these stories and memories that provide trans people today with a history and a sense of belonging, and we owe that to the work of the trans-cestors of the community who we will remember, and those who are still with us that we should still thank.



Jade Pichette serves as the Volunteer + Community Outreach Coordinator of the Canadian Lesbian + Gay Archives.

Sid Cunningham is an intern at the CLGA and is writing a dissertation on trans literary contributions to theories of gender and perception. Images courtesy of CLGA.



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Halifax

A Hip and Happening Homo Hotspot

by Bryen Dunn

Halifax, Nova Scotia is the largest metropolitan region in eastern Canada, with a population of slightly over 400,000 residents, offering a great mix of culture, entertainment, outdoor adventures, and local cuisine. Last year, Halifax Stanfield International Airport welcomed nearly four million passengers, and hopes are to pass that milestone this year. As well, the Port of Halifax is expecting a record setting 179 cruise ships this year, carrying approximately 275,000 passengers. So what's driving this influx of visitors to the city?

The city is known for its distinct neighbourhoods, such as Spring Garden, which is a lively mixed-use neighbourhood with a variety of shopping and entertainment options. The North End is a multicultural and artistic neighbourhood centred around Gottingen Street, and Argyle Street is home to many bars, restaurants, and live music venues. *Fort George*

and the *Halifax Town Clock* tower above the city skyline on top of *Citadel Hill*, which are visible from most anywhere in the city. This is partly due to a legislation that restricts certain segments of the downtown by height restrictions, preventing new buildings from obstructing certain sight lines between the hill and the harbour. This has resulted in some modern high rises being built at unusual angles or locations.

Halifax is also known for having a thriving LGBT community that's as strong and active today as it was when individuals like *Robin Metcalfe* and *Anne Fulton* began the quest for equal rights within their city and province back in the 1970s. Some of Nova Scotia's LGBT history is preserved in the unofficial queer archives, a little house overlooking the water just outside of Sheet Harbour, that's owned by archivist Metcalfe. Fulton was a founding member of Nova Scotia's inaugural gay and lesbian organization, the *Gay Alliance for Equality*. **Gay Halifax**, published by *Daniel MacKay*, has a wealth of information that will be of interest for visitors to the city, along with some extensive history about the local LGBT community.

Local Pride

Today the city plays host to the largest Pride festival east of Montreal, has their own LGBT film festival, and has seen a rise in youth-driven organizations working toward equality for all. This past July, **Halifax Pride** marked its 30th



anniversary, attracting upwards of 150,000 individuals taking part in numerous planned activities throughout the city. Executive Director, *Adam Reid*, also shared some of his love for the city. “I always recommend visitors ride the ferry to Dartmouth and back. It’s an inexpensive way to enjoy a beautiful view and a great place to gather your thoughts. I also recommend the view from the roof of the Seaport Farmers’ Market, a spot you should check out on a Saturday morning when the market is in full swing.” He also suggests stopping for coffee along Gottingen or Agricola Streets, and popping into Venus Envy bookstore and sex shop. As an avid cyclist, he points out that riding the multi-use trail system is a great way to navigate around the city

Of course he’s undoubtedly proud of *Halifax Pride*. “I’m really proud of the community that makes this 11-day festival so diverse. I think it’s an incredible blend of community gathering, reflection, and celebration. I’m also a big fan of the *Halifax Fringe Festival*, which offers audiences a chance to see really diverse performance at super affordable prices.” For those seeking other cultural experiences, the *OutEast Film Festival* offers a variety of LGBT themed screenings every June, and the *Queer Acts Theatre Festival* in July brings queerness to the stage. Upcoming fall and winter events include *Nocturne: Art at Night* (Oct 14), *Halifax Pop Explosion* (Oct 18 to 21), *Craft Beer & Local Food Celebration* (Jan 18), and the *Savour Food & Wine Festival* happening throughout the city between January and March.

Kate Macdonald and Emma Paulson, are the creators behind **The Magic Project**, which they began to try and bring marginalized people to the forefront of popular culture and discussion. The gals offered this advice for visitors to their fair city. “Stop by *Lucky Penny Coffee* and *Alteregos* if you’re looking for great coffee shops, and *Wasabi House*, *Six303 Eatery*, and *The 244* offer great eats. *The Arm* has some really beautiful views, the *Oxford Theatre* is an old school movie theatre, and visiting *Africville* is a pretty powerful experience also. There is a lot of art and young artists in Halifax collaborating with each other.” They gave a shout out to the following local musicians, advising to check them out if they’re playing in the city - MAJE, Kxng Wooz, Aquakultre, Shevy Price, and GhettoSocks.

Jason Spurrell, otherwise known as local drag sensation **Rouge Fatale**, says “One of my favourite spots is the *Two If By Sea* cafe. They have the most amazing croissants you will ever get to experience and the coffee is just phenomenal.” He also mentions *The World Tea House*, and reveals his hidden gem in the city is, “The peace pyramid in Dartmouth is a beautiful tribute that does not get enough recognition. It’s made from stones that were brought in from all over the world, and it’s absolutely stunning at sunset to look over and see the Halifax skyline.” Catch Rouge Fatale hosting the monthly Glamazon Generals drag show at Menz and Mollyz.



In terms of nightlife, there's plenty to avail for those who like to dance the night away.

Reflections opened its doors back in 1996 as a late night dance club where everyone was welcome. Although not officially deemed a gay bar, owner Beverly Wilson and her son Paul opted to make it the most LGBT friendly bar in the city. Today, over 20 years later, *Reflections* has evolved into a “no labels, no rules” bar that attracts an eclectic mix of genders and sexualities. *Menz and Mollyz* bar is another party option, which also once offered a locally brewed Queer Beer. Owner David Landry says, “It was sold between 2006 and 2010 only at *Menz*, in both 355 ml and 500 ml bottles.”

Celebrity Girls and Boys

Halifax is also the home town of **Ellen Page**, Canada's very talented out lesbian actress, who often returns home to visit some of her local hangouts. In fact, it was during a return visit that she was awakened to the idea of developing the prognosis for one of her recent film projects, *Into The Forest*. She stopped into her favourite bookstore *P'Lovers*, and the store clerk suggested she read the Jean Hegland novel as she thought it would make a great movie. Page took her advice, and went on to not only act in, but produce the flick as well. She also gave a shout-out tweet to local vegan restaurant, *The Wooden Monkey*. Other known city favs include, *Heartwood* and the *Trident* on Hollis Street. Page and her BFF, Ian Daniel, also are the hosts of *Vice's Gaycation*, a travel oriented series that sees the pair set off

on a personal journey to explore LGBT cultures around the world.

Trailer Park Boys are set to transform the downtown core with the reinvention of a well-known established Halifax restaurant and bar. The three main characters, Bubbles, Ricky and Julian, have prominently put Nova Scotia on the radar of an international audience with their decade strong television series. Their entrepreneurial spirit also brought them into the world of alcohol branding, with *Liquormen's Op Dirty Canadian Whisky* and *Freedom 35 Beer*, and will soon be branding marijuana products in a partnership arrangement with Oranigram Inc.

Now *The Boys* are venturing into their first retail operation, purchasing *Economy Shoe Shop Café and Bar*, along with the *Seahorse Tavern* located directly below, and the *Toothy Moose Cabaret* above. This gives them a massive 18,000 square foot entertainment complex to work within, located at a prime downtown location along prominent Argyle Street. Plans call for a large outdoor patio, and of course *Freedom 35* flowing on tap, and the infamous “Julian Rum and Coke” on the drink menu. The *Seahorse Tavern* will continue to spotlight live music, with just a tad more Sunnyvale Trailer Park pizzazz. The biggest change will be upstairs, which is proposed to be turned into an upscale lounge called *The Lab*, complete with bubbling beakers and staff in lab coats. Apparently *The Boys* have also purchased two additional buildings in an industrial park across the harbour in Dartmouth.



Halifax Happenings

Opening later this year is a new convention centre, that will also include a boutique hotel, business towers, restaurants, shops, and the European-style shared street, Grafton Place. This summer the new *Sea Dome 360°* movie theatre opened along the Halifax Waterfront, and the Discovery Centre reopened with four floors of exhibit and programming space. A new 520-foot floating dock that connects the *Cable Wharf South Side* and the *Museum Wharf North*, expands the Halifax *Harbourwalk* to over 3km long, maintaining its status as the longest continuous boardwalk in North America. Another way to get from one end of the Halifax boardwalk to the other, is the newly open *Road Train*, which travels around downtown in a continuous half-hour loop, stopping at eight popular locations.

Sleep and Eat

Newly open restaurants include *The Highwayman Restaurant & Bar*: Spanish inspired cuisine on Barrington Street, *Riot Snack Bar*: Local comfort food on Quinpool Road. *Barrington Street Steakhouse & Oyster Bar*: Surf and turf on Barrington Street, *Little Oak*: Dynamic Canadian menu on Lower Water Street, and *Waffle Love*: Delicious breakfast foods on Kaye Street. A Halifax landmark since 1876 the *Waverley Inn* on Barrington Street offers guests thirty-four uniquely Victorian decorated guest rooms, one of which Oscar Wilde stayed in during his visit to Canada.

Day Trippin'

Many visitors to Halifax also plan a day trip to nearby Peggy's Cove, home to *Peggy's Point Lighthouse* built in 1915, and which may be the most photographed lighthouse in Canada. Still an active fishing village, the village is famed for its picturesque and typically East-Coast profile, with houses perched along a narrow inlet and on wave-washed boulders facing the Atlantic.

Halifax Tourism

www.destinationhalifax.com

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www.gay.hfxns.org

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Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues.





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The Magic Project materialized as a result of Donald Trump putting his hat into the Presidential race, and his eventual win. Kate Macdonald and Emma Paulson came up with the idea to create a campaign that would shine a light on the marginalized people of Halifax, NS, including black women and the queer community, while challenging basic stereotypes through photography, discussion and art.

You started the Magic Project at the end of 2016 and your goal was to bring marginalized people to the forefront of popular culture and discussion. How did the idea come about?

Emma Paulson: It all started last year around the time that Donald Trump was elected, and Kate [Macdonald] and I were both at separate parties for that. When he was elected we were texting each other and crying about it and feeling really alone. Kate came up with the idea to do a photo shoot about it called Black Girl's Are Magic, which was our first photo shoot. Once we came up with that idea, we incubated it just a little bit and decided to come up with an actual organization to do more photo shoots and to do other works in this area.

Did you want it to be a long-term project?

EP: We were kind of thinking in the long-term. After the first photo shoot we were riding the high of how successful it was and how happy everyone who attended it had felt. So we definitely thought, "Hey there's something here, how do we make it long-term? How do we help integrate this idea into more of these other communities?" So it did kind of come as a push back to Donald Trump's winning, but we saw so many people in the communities that we're a part of, as well

as other communities who were feeling really alone. We wanted to figure out how best to allow everyone to feel a level of solidarity among these groups, and how to focus on something really positive in a time when everyone was feeling really negative.

How did you want to make an impact?

EP: Kate and I both agree that art is a universal language and everyone can connect through people's expressions of themselves, whether it be painting, music or photography. We'll usually try to pair our events in two ways; we'll make a political discussion so people can share their experiences, or we can have a panel where people can be asked questions. Then we usually pair that with some form of art. Then afterwards we'll have food and people can talk and bond that way.

What has the response been from the public?

EP: We've gotten a lot of work from our community here, and support from bloggers from different areas in the United States. We've had a lot of people wanting to collaborate with us, which is excellent.

Are your friends supportive?

Kate Macdonald: We have the support of friends who are so talented. We have such a great network of artists that support us constantly, and we all try to support each other's ideas.

Where does The Magic Project name come from?

KM: There is unseen magic in all of these marginalized communities that have seen very broad stereotyping. However, when you come to the table, it is in of itself magical. It doesn't matter who you are or what you are bringing with you, you have the compassion to be magical. It's you existing in the face of oppression, stereotyping, and micro-aggression. It's you surviving that is magical, and you're multi-dimensional as well.

Originally from Montreal, Terri-Lynne's professional writing career started in Quebec at the now defunct Montreal Mirror newspaper. Since then, she has freelanced widely for publications in the USA and Canada.



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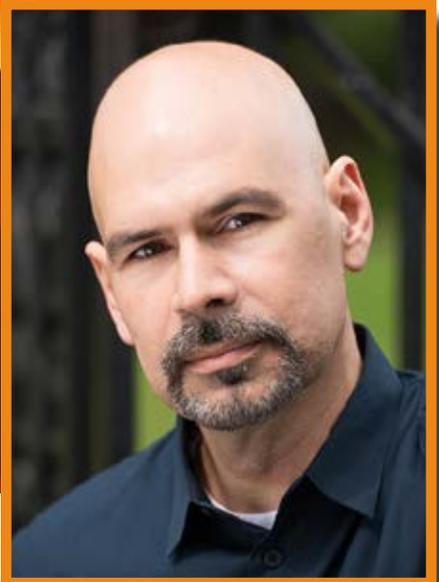
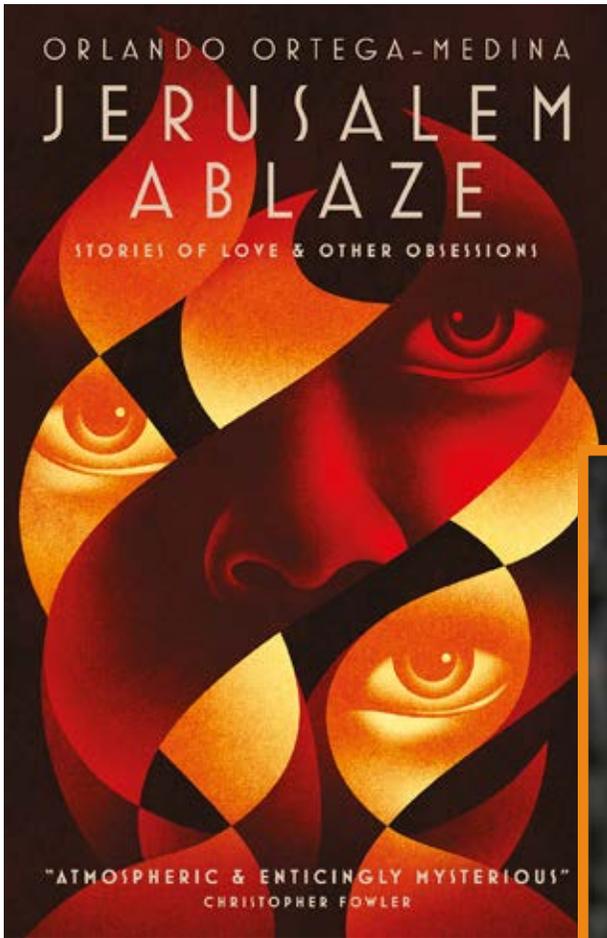
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Ortega-Medina's characters are flawed, broken individuals, trying their best to make sense of their lives as they struggle with sexuality, death, obsession, and religion. Sometimes bleak, occasionally violent, and often possessed of a dark humour, this major debut explores the imperfections of life and the unpredictability of death.

"What are you doing here?" Marc said, narrowing his eyes.

Ken flashed a sheepish smile and covered his mouth with one hand to hide his braces.

"Come on," Marc said, taking the shy young man gently by the arm and drawing him out of the shadows, "out with it."

"It was all Barry's idea," Ken said, softly. "He thought you should have a witness or something, just in case."

"In case what?"

Ken shrugged his shoulders. "That was you in the kitchen earlier?" Marc said, letting go of his arm. Ken smiled and nodded. "That guy, Simon, he almost caught me but I was able to roll under the sink in the nick of time."

Marc blinked at Ken. "How long were you in there?" "I'm not sure," he said. "But I heard everything you guys said, if that's what you want to know." Marc stared wide-eyed at Ken and felt as if an intense pressure were being applied to his solar plexus. He forgot to breathe for a few seconds and began to feel light-headed. The secret he had guarded for so long from everybody had been finally discovered by a virtual stranger. Thrusting out a hand to steady himself against the wall, he gasped for breath. Ken stretched out his hand to touch his shoulder, but Marc shook it off and backed away from him.

"Don't worry," Ken said, "I won't tell anyone."

Marc forced himself to take slow and steady breaths. He told himself that somehow he had to take charge of the situation. With each deep breath that he drew, he felt his panic subsiding; in its place, a smouldering anger began to take over: anger at Ken for eavesdropping on his conversation and anger at Simon for having created the situation in the first place. But angry as he was, he wanted to avoid making an enemy out of Ken for fear he might spread the details of the conversation he had overheard. He stared long and hard at Ken.

"Please, Ken," he said, his voice hoarse with emotion, "you must promise me that you'll never repeat any of what you heard to anyone."

Ken nodded vigorously. "I promise." A grin spread on his face, and his hand automatically came up and hovered in front of his mouth. "This will be our secret."

Marc looked away from Ken. He slowly raked his fingers through his hair, pulling off his kipa in the process and stuffing it into his

pocket. He stumbled to the sofa, slipped on his backpack and walked zombie-like toward the door.

Ken glided up behind Marc as he stepped outside and stood on the porch of the meeting hall, which was perched on a hill overlooking the rest of the kibbutz. They stood blinking in the glare of the bright sunlight of the late afternoon. After a moment, Ken tapped Marc on the shoulder.

“What is it, Ken?” Marc said.

“Do you want to talk about it? About what I heard in there?”

Marc stared at him. There was an odd look of anxiety on Ken’s face that belied his ever-present smile, and it made Marc feel uneasy. He pushed it out of his mind for the moment.

“I’d rather not,” Marc said finally. “At least not now.”

He looked down at the kibbutz grounds with a shake of his head. From where they were standing, they had a clear westward view of an orange grove that had been planted down the side of one of the hillsides. The sweet scent of orange blossom was borne to them on a warm breeze. Marc pulled off his pack and took in a deep breath. The smell of orange blossom reminded him of a warm spring afternoon in Southern California. He sat on a low retaining wall made of concrete blocks and closed his eyes. Ken looked at him curiously for a moment and sat next to him.

A few minutes later, Julia appeared at the bottom of the main path and bounded up the hill in their direction, taking two steps at a time without breaking a sweat. As she drew closer, Ken waved her down. Julia slowed her pace, approached them, and opened her mouth to speak. But Ken placed his index finger against his lips and pointed at Marc. Julia nodded, then crept forward and lowered herself on to the retaining wall to Marc’s left. Sensing her presence, Marc opened one eye and looked at her.

“Were you and Simon able to sort things out?” she said.

Marc opened both eyes and drew himself up a bit. “Sure, we talked. Don’t worry, you won’t get any problems from me.”

Ken leaned forward and stared at Julia from across Marc’s chest. She nodded at him and forced a smile. “Do you mind showing us to our accommodations?” he said.

Julia looked thoughtfully at Ken and then at Marc. After a moment, she stood and slapped off the dirt and twigs that had adhered to the back of her slacks. “Tell me,” she said to Ken, “how

is it you missed the tour? I don't recall seeing you with the rest of the group."

"He stayed behind to wait for me," said Marc, standing up abruptly. He tottered on the edge of the wall. Ken held out a hand to steady his legs. "I asked him to stay," he continued.

Ken nodded. "So, do you think we could get going, Miss? I'm exhausted."

"Yes, please," Marc chimed in, "I'd like to get out of these travelling clothes and shower before dinner."

"Certainly," said Julia, "I'll find someone to show you the way. Wait here." She moved toward the meeting hall, halted and turned back toward them. "Oh, by the way, Mr Sadot," she said, "Lisa Katz is in bunkhouse number eight ... in case you were wondering."

Marc nodded. "Thank you," he said, as Julia disappeared into the meeting hall. Marc stared at the door for a moment.

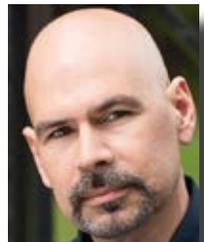
"So you and Lisa are broken up now, aren't you?" Ken said.

"I don't know," Marc said quietly, turning back to the view. "I guess we'll know soon enough."

A second steam whistle screamed in the distance, setting into motion another exodus of workers from the various buildings. The young people marched down both hills toward the narrow valley below. Ken smiled to see them scurrying down the various paths in the reddening light of the late afternoon. Shielding his eyes with one hand, Marc squinted as the rays of the sun, now almost perpendicular to where they were standing, cast long black shadows behind them against the meeting hall.

It took only a few minutes more for the sun to drop below the horizon. A heavy mist began to rise from the wheat fields below and a bank of low rolling clouds crept in over the hills. Within a few short minutes, thick roiling fog obscured their view of the kibbutz.

Orlando Ortega-Medina has a very diverse background as Judeo-Spanish via Cuba, and incorporates his heritage and life experiences into this collection of 13 eclectic tales from Los Angeles to the eastern townships of Quebec, and from Tokyo to Jerusalem, all places where Ortega-Medina once lived. In real life, he expatriated to Canada in 1999 with his life partner in protest to the US same-sex marriage rights. He moved his law practice from Los Angeles/San Francisco and established it in Toronto and Quebec. His debut short story novel is available from Cloud Lodge Books.





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by Sheena Jamieson

The Youth Project

The Youth Project began in 1993 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as a part of Maura Donovan's field placement for her Bachelor of Social Work degree. She was extremely aware of the lack of programs and safe spaces for LGBT youth, so she started two social support groups that focused on sexual orientation. "It was a tough time to be gay or lesbian or bisexual in Nova Scotia and nearly impossible to be transgender," says Donovan. "There were no role models, there was a lot of invisibility, and there was a lot of fear, harassment and discrimination."

Within a matter of months, the groups had grown. Youth who attended were interested in supporting one another, but also reaching out to their community. They began doing presentations to local schools, operating a hotline for LGBT youth, and building more services. Most of this was done by devoted youth and volunteers, as it wasn't until 1998 that The Youth Project received operational funding.

In 2002, The Youth Project became its own organization, growing out of its home at Planned Parenthood and forming its own board(s). What's unique about The Youth Project is its model for youth leadership. There's a Board of Directors, made up of adult volunteers from the community, along with a Youth Board: made up entirely of youth members who guide programming and services, assist on committees, and direct the staff.

Highlights of programming include the yearly Gender/Sexuality Alliance (GSA) conference, a free conference for youth currently in, or interested in starting, a GSA. It features workshops, guest speakers, skill-building sessions and the possibility to connect with other youth from across the province. There's a Queer Prom every year to dance the night away in a queer & trans focused space, and also two summer camps: Camp Seahorse (for LGBT youth), and Camp Coyote (for transgender youth). By far

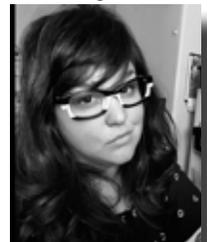
these camps are the most popular programs, as they offer: a chance to be with other LGBTQ+ peers in a place that's safe to get information, support, and have fun.

The majority of programming is free to attend, and some of nominal fees to help offset costs. The support, social programs, and all other services are free to access, with the generous support of donations and funding events.

Next year marks the 25th anniversary of operations.. Unfortunately, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are still very real forces in the lives of our youth (and the added complexity for some in facing racism, ableism, poverty and other oppressions that can permeate our community). As an organization, they must constantly adapt to the changing needs and challenges of LGBTQ+ youth over time, and much of this is thanks to the youth, dedicated staff and amazing volunteers.

"Everything we do, from education to advocacy and support to just providing spaces to hang out, is aimed at creating a better and more accepting Nova Scotia. We want families and communities to celebrate LGBTQ youth; they belong here, as they make us a better place, and they deserve support and safety" -Sheena Jamieson, Support Services Coordinator.

Sheena is the Youth Project's Support Services Coordinator, providing support to youth around sexual orientation and gender identity. She holds degrees in Gender & Women's Studies (King's) and Social Work (Dalhousie). Born in Nova Scotia, Sheena's been a part of The Youth Project for many years, starting as a youth & summer student. Most of the time, you can find her buried in a book or a latte (or both).



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AUTUMN IN THE CITY

by Sherry Sylvain

Fall For Dance North

October 4 to 6

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Front St. E., Toronto

Focused around presenting home-grown Canadian talent, the 2017 program intends to bring the very best of Canadian dance from here and abroad to Toronto, as part of Canada's sesquicentennial. The festival features diverse works from 10 companies over the course of three unique evening programs, including new festival commissions and plenty of live music. Individual tickets are \$15, or a Festival Pass to see all three programs and attend the opening night party are only \$60. There will also be free performances during peak hours in the West Wing of Union Station on September 25 and 26. www.ffdnorth.com

Tip: Each evening runs approximately 2 hours with intermission – bring some extra cash for the bar.

Barenaked Ladies: Canada 1-Five-0 Tour

October 6 @ 8:00 p.m.

Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton

Seeing these rock icons in concert is an experience filled with the kind of energy, precision, finesse and outright celebration. The band is still together after nearly three decades, producing 14 studio albums which have collectively sold more than 14 million copies, won eight Juno Awards, earned multiple Grammy nominations, a U.S. chart-topping single ("One Week"), and the theme song to one of TV's most popular shows, The Big Bang Theory. www.rosetheatre.ca

Tip: Brampton is accessible from downtown Toronto, despite rumours to the contrary. You can catch a GO Train from Union Station to within a couple of blocks of the theatre. Getting home involves a couple of buses and might take some time. Uber, maybe?



Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets™ in Concert

October 12, 13 & 14 @ 7:30 p.m.

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Front St. E., Toronto
Spiders talk, letters scold and Harry's own unsettling ability to speak to snakes turns his friends against him. From duelling clubs to rogue Bludgers, it's a year of adventure and danger when bloody writing on a wall announces: The Chamber of Secrets has been opened. To save Hogwarts will require all of Harry, Ron and Hermione's magical abilities and courage in this spellbinding adaptation of J.K. Rowling's second book – in Concert!

www.sonycentre.ca

Tip: Set aside any expectations you have from simply watching the film and prepare for a new experience when this production is presented in concert – yes, musicians actually playing the score.



Empty Bowls 25th Anniversary

October 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Gardiner Museum, 111 Queen's Park, Toronto

Empty Bowls is a North American-wide project to aid the homeless. Enjoy delicious soup by some of Ontario's most eminent chefs in your choice of one of over 400 hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind bowls donated by potters, potter's guilds, and students. Proceeds go to Anishnawbe Health Toronto, a culture-based native centre committed to changing lives through traditional healing practices. Tickets: \$55
www.gardinermuseum.com

Tip: Be there early – this is an excellent event and well attended. If you want to choose a really fabulous bowl, you'll want to be near the head of the line.



A Tribute to Maureen Forrester

October 19 and 20

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

One of the finest voices of her generation, Canadian contralto Maureen Forrester dazzled audiences worldwide. Honouring her memorable life and career, these performances, hosted by renowned Canadian tenor Ben Heppner, feature a new song cycle for mezzo-soprano and orchestra by Howard Shore, performed by Canadian Susan Platts, plus one of Forrester's signature works: Mahler's symphonic song cycle *Das Lied von der Erde*.

www.tso.ca

Tip: Dress to impress. This should be an absolutely magnificent evening of magical music.

Canada's Baking and Sweets Show

October 28 and 29 from 10:00 a.m.

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga

North America's first and biggest baking and sweets event takes you on a gourmet grand tour of the most delectable and hottest trends in the world of baking and beyond. Explore. Discover. Shop.

Adults: \$15.00 / Seniors (65+): \$10.00 / Kids under 12 – Free
www.canadasbakingandsweetsshow.com

Tip: Go early, skip breakfast. Maybe plan some cardio before and after to offset the inevitable calories.

Classic Albums Live: Led Zeppelin - Led Zeppelin IV

November 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St., Toronto

46-years ago this November, Led Zeppelin released their ground-breaking, untitled fourth studio album, commonly known as Led Zeppelin IV. One of the greatest albums of all time, it features many of the band's best-known songs including "Black Dog," "Rock and Roll," "Going to California" and of course "Stairway to Heaven." Classic Albums Live and its roster of A-list musicians from across the country perform rock favourites exactly as you remember hearing them. Once again, the upcoming season features some of the most important and inspiring albums ever made, performed note for note, cut for cut. Tickets: \$29.50–\$59.50
www.masseyhall.com

Tip: Devoted fan or newbie, be prepared to be amazed by the immaculate recreation of this recording.

Cloth Cultures: Future Legacies of Dorothy K. Burnham

November 9 to 11

Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto

During Canada's 2017 Sesquicentennial celebrations, the ROM hosts an international conference to explore the material culture of textiles through the work and legacies of Dorothy K. Burnham (1911-2004), internationally renowned textile scholar and member of the Order of Canada (1985). Burnham was in the vanguard of the generation of early 20th century curators who made textiles and costume a field of valid scholarly research by finding out how and why objects are made in particular ways, what they meant when produced, and what they mean to us today.

www.rom.on.ca

Tip: Whether you're a fashionista, designer, student or fabric work hobbyist, this is an exhibit you should not miss.

The Everything To Do With Sex Show

November 24 to 26

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga

Adults: \$19.99 online/ \$25.00 at the door. North America's biggest consumer romance show. Celebrate their 18th anniversary in Toronto with them. It's packed with tantalizing stage shows, educational seminars, live erotic art performances, a kinky playground, and a whole lot of shopping! This event is geared towards singles, couples, and groups looking to spice up their lives. www.toronto.everythingtodowithsex.com

Tip: This event is definitely not for the faint of heart, or anyone demure.



Annie The Musical

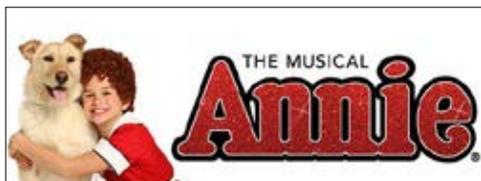
December 8 to January 7

Randolph Theatre, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto

The world's best-loved musical returns in time-honoured form. Annie is a fiery young orphan girl who must live in a miserable orphanage run by the tyrannical Miss Hannigan. Her seemingly hopeless situation changes dramatically when she is selected to spend a short time at the residence of the wealthy munitions industrialist, Oliver Warbucks.

www.randolphcentreforthearts.com

Tip: Despite the popularity of some of the songs in this production, try to refrain from singing along with the actors.



Jock Night Thursdays

Thursday nights from 8:00 p.m.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto

Meet the newest entertainers and say hello to the current stable of sexy men!

DJ djon in the booth at 8 PM, prizes and surprises with your hostess Morgan James at 10 PM

Drink specials, hot dancers, a witty and beautiful hostess - sounds like a winning combination!

If you're from Toronto and you place an order with Jockstrap Central, you'll also get an option to pick up your order at Flash on Thursday evenings to avoid shipping charges. All Toronto orders will also receive a FREE PASS to get into Flash during Thursday Jock Night (normally a \$5 fee for non-members).

Tip: Bring a healthy supply of \$5.00 bills to tip the hot boys, and even your hostess! Please note that this is a Male Only Event.



The BoBo Show

Wednesday nights from 11:00 p.m.

Statler's, 487 Church St., Toronto

A weekly drag and variety show with hostess Scarlett BoBo and special guests. No cover. \$4.50 Fireballs. This is a cute little village venue known for a selection of live music and drag, with a separate space upstairs if you'd like a different vibe.

www.statlers.ca

Tip: Arrive early if you want a table, and if you're alone or only a couple, offer to share your table with another single or couple - you could make some lovely new friends.

Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to), and currently is proud to hold the title of Queen Mum to The Imperial Court of Toronto for 2015/2016..



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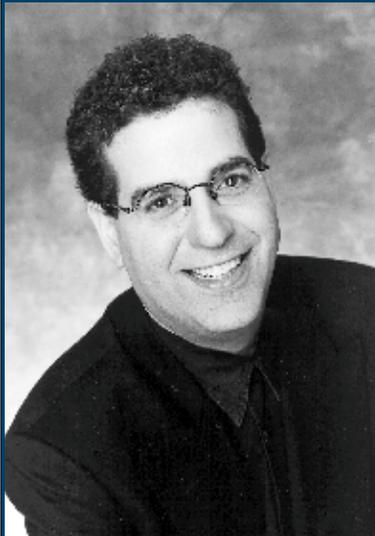


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By Mychol Scully

Who remembers Y2K, The Cataclysm That Never Happened? Stanley Kubrik's 2001: A Space Odyssey? What about the Mayan Calendar's 2012 Cosmic Shift?

As a unit of measure, a millennium is a pretty large scale. One thousand years or ten centuries; a lot goes down in a millennium. Not surprisingly, the dawn of any millennium births a thousand predictions, both dire and euphoric. From self-aware flying cars to ecological Armageddon, there's no shortage of people prognosticating the contours of the next thousand years.

Millennia are catalysts for social change.

It seems almost as if the turning of the thousand-year time wheel triggers both dissatisfaction with the status quo and utopian dreaming of what might be. Often these two states of mind reinforce each other in ways that result in real social change. Sometimes, they also trigger actual revolution.

In this media-saturated age, it's easy to become overwhelmed by the possibilities, both positive and negative, that threaten to overtake us and steal any sense of control (whether real or imagined) over our own lives.

Compounding these challenges is the loss of certainty engendered by the diversity of world views, opinions and assumptions that shape our intellectual and emotion environment.

The more we know, the more we know we do not know.

The 18th Century, often referred to as "The Age of Enlightenment," was born from early developments in the scientific method. Physical reality was being explored in rigorous ways that flew in the face of religious orthodoxy, questioning everything about the way nature and the world worked.

The 19th Century saw the inquisitiveness of the Enlightenment spread to thought in politics, religion, philosophy, and social constructs. It was a time of great social experiments and revolutionary change in societies throughout the Western world.

With the arrival of the 20th Century, we enter what most of us consider "modern times." Opening with two World Wars, the mid-20th Century was a time of immense industrial and technological development, generating extraordinary wealth that directly and indirectly fostered challenges to social norms, putting the primacy of "the individual" on a pedestal. This eventually led to social fragmentation, the end of "mass" media and set the stage for the 21st Century's drama.



The pendulum swings.

As we make our way into the 21st Century, we're confronted with a number of quite extraordinary challenges. At the same time that society seems to be reaching for a more open and ethical standard, there is simultaneously strong push back from those who feel threatened by this alien (to them) landscape. Privileges are being challenged. Science and technology are exploding in a thousand different directions, from the mathematical mysteries of quantum physics to the very real and imminent ecological catastrophes predicted for the decades ahead. It's no wonder that so many are metaphorically (and sometimes literally) diving under the covers and refusing to engage.

Getting out from under.

What are we to make of all this? When our information sources (whether broadcast or cable news, all the myriad social media feeds we consume, or the angst-ridden office water cooler) are jacking our individual and collective anxiety levels to extremely unhealthy levels, where do we turn to find respite from the onslaught?

Here's a thought. **Turn inward.** Not to escape, but to discover something solid you can build on. There are a lot of motivational memes out there these days touting the "power of gratitude" and "positive anticipation." I do believe that the combination of finding something, anything, any little thing to feel grateful for in the moment, when combined with a genuine positive anticipation for what *could* come next provides a

stabilizing, healing internal platform from which to move forward in your life.

Who is Pollyanna?

Merriam-Webster defines "Pollyanna" as "*a person characterized by irrepressible optimism and a tendency to find good in everything.*" The term is often used in a derogatory way to suggest someone who is unrealistic and in denial of the darker aspects of reality. I am, by no means, a "Pollyanna," but I do believe that cultivating this combination of gratitude and positive anticipation can be a useful tool to manage the overwhelming vicissitudes of modern life. These self-generated rays of light in an often bleak and sometimes threatening landscape can provide us with the power to take charge of our own minds, bolster our confidence and illuminate a way forward that offers a healthier (physical, mental and spiritual) way to be.

If you're going to have habits, why do they have to be bad habits? Why can't we become habituated to this more positive attitude? It's worth a try. You have nothing to lose but another sleepless night hiding under the covers.

Mychol Scully is Senior Art Director for INspired Media Inc. publications PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, The LocalBiz Magazine, and The Pink Pages Directory. Mychol is available for thoughtful conversation or lascivious teasing anytime at mychol@mychol.com.



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Autumn Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 – April 20)

Your emotions are running at full-tilt recently and you can't figure out why. Sometimes you entertain wonderings of what life would be like without emotions. Before you wish them away for good, consider this: experiencing emotions is healthy → release = relief. Emotions are a wonderful guide to the state and health of our inner worlds and can show us where we could use some attention. It may be beneficial to allow yourself your full expression whenever you can.

Taurus (April 21 – May 21)

You've been surprised by your intense emotional reaction to some issue that's arisen. Your reaction surprises you. You truly had no idea you felt so strongly about this. Be glad for the reaction. You were asking on a deep level to be illumined about your true priorities.

Gemini (May 22 – June 21)

You've really dedicated yourself to doing your part in alleviating social stresses. You give of your time in service to your community and your satisfaction comes in the form of smiles. No one can doubt your sense of social responsibility. Gemini is renowned for its ability to engage socially. The stars encourage you to include more social gathering with friends. There is someone who needs your presence and smile.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22)

Having some trouble making up your mind, Cancer? You are faced with a decision where both options have heavy emotional bearings. It's causing you some frustration and impeding your cool minded approach to your dilemma. Let's take care of one layer first. Have a tantrum, a good cry and let yourself free of the emotions related to your issue. Once the clouds clear, a path to your answer will present itself.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Your intuition nags at you regarding an opportunity. Listen to the quiet voice as you may risk losing out. Practicality and logic may try to dissuade you from acting. There is some risk, but life often rewards those who take risks. Old Faithful, your intuition is correct and guides you expertly as it always has.

Virgo (August 23 – September 23)

With Mercury (The Messenger) being your ruling planet, you have the gift of an inquisitive and investigative mind, Virgo. Lately you've found yourself travelling deeper into the rabbit holes as you follow lead after lead in your investigative quests. Don't worry about where you'll end up. Allow yourself to be led and seduced by the clues left for you along the way.

Libra (September 24 – October 23)

Someone's got the blues real bad. Summer is ended and its time to hunker down for a cool transition into blustery winter. You're not feeling it and you're not having it either. A little self-care could do some good as you go through withdrawal from that vitamin D-saturated feeling of the sun on your skin. Get good sleep, take a bath. Natural endorphins are your friend.

Scorpio (October 24 – November 22)

The land of milk and honey awaits your arrival. It seems like a windfall, an abundance or jackpot of some sort is in store for you. Think carefully about your dreams and decide which ones you will make reality because all is within your reach. The golden road is paved before you.

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

Your energy levels are up and down as Summer wanes and Autumn swells. So are your moods. Don't let the minor low states alarm you as you will be bouncing into the opposite highs almost in succession. Take care not to let the extremes get out of hand but let the oscillations in mood and energy play out naturally.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Your professional roles are firmly established and you play them in a fashion worthy of an Academy Award. Yes, you're established, but an identity crisis looms on the horizon and you're dreading what this means. It will involve asking yourself the hard questions and demanding brutal honesty of yourself. The question is: Who am I really?

Aquarius (January 20 – February 19)

You've been evaluating all aspects surrounding your career as the seasons turn. What do you really want out of your work life? How do you prefer to spend your time and energy? What is the most honoring work for your natural gifts and talents? How will you achieve your goals? The planets urge you to go back to your childhood. What did you always want to be when you grew up?

Pisces (February 20 – March 20)

You're feeling on shaky ground as some aspect of your life is falling apart and falling away. You're not terribly shaken because you've wanted this change for a long time. The universe has decided to respond. Hang on to what lies before you to stabilize yourself at this time. Once the earthquake has shaken all that is not firmly rooted, you'll feel remarkably lighter.

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. As above, so below.





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Everybody in.

Looking Back

by Joey Viola

The new millennium debuted 17 years ago this year, and I'm not referring to Backstreet Boys' third album. Although, I think it's safe to say the past 15 plus years have been Larger Than Life. I'm talking about the year 2000, or

"Y2K" as we called it then.

It was the beginning of the 21st century but many people believed it to be the end. I'll never forget watching the news at the end of the 90s — herds of people stocked up on water bottles and canned food in anticipation of a supposed apocalypse. On December 31, 1999, I remember tuning into live new year celebrations on the other side of the world to see if anything detrimental was going on. Spoiler alert! Nothing happened.

Who can forget the supposed threat of the "Y2K bug," a problem in computerized coding projected to create havoc in computers and networks around the world. I wasn't old enough to be affected by this other than my Hotmail, ICQ and Napster potentially shutting down. It's ironic because they're all long gone now anyway.

Flared jeans and Champion tear-aways littered our closets while frosted hair tips and sea shell necklaces felt like they were sponsored by boy bands everywhere. *Queer As Folk* was our weekly television event à la *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and Britney, Beyoncé and Christina were still new to the music scene. I get nostalgic thinking about this time in my life - cell phones were actually used for phone calls, Jack and Karen were cracking us up on *Will & Grace* (they're back this fall), and on July 20, 2005, Canada became the first country outside Europe (and the fourth country in the entire world) to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide.

On that same day in 2005, after the enactment of the Civil Marriage Act, same-sex adoption was also made legal in all provinces and territories. It was the decade that made young



LGBTQ+ folk start to feel like we didn't even need a *village* anymore.

In Toronto, the 2000s were the last of the evocative decades for the Church and Wellesley Village. Growing up in North York, I wasn't familiar with anything to do with the LGBTQ+ community or lifestyle. I remember having to secretly set the VCR to record *Queer As Folk* without my parents knowing. I felt I had to hide it because things weren't as open then. "Gay stuff" was for adults to know about, very taboo. What I saw at home and on most TV shows, in school and in public, was different than what I felt inside. These shows were my only window into a world I felt I belonged in. My only way to visit who I knew I was as a person.

The 2000s remain one of the most quirky decades. It's the reality era, where Paris Hilton and The Kardashians got famous for being famous, and reality TV put the sitcom on hiatus. The changes made in this one decade have catapulted us into an electronic-dependant society hit with a tidal-wave of social media outlets like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

We entered the 2000s thinking there was nothing a Deborah Cox Electro Remix couldn't fix, and ended it with *99 Problems* (but getting hitched ain't one).

Joey Viola is the Co-Founder of MoJo Toronto and an LGBTQ community leader whose passion and flair for the art of writing brings a fresh perspective reviewing entertainment and advocating for equality, tolerance, and social/political justice.



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