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From the Publisher



You are about to experience horror PinkPlayMags' style, as we celebrate Halloween with a sequel to one of your favourite magazines most popular editions, the 2009 "The Monster Issue".

I don't have a lot of room this time to pen the Publisher's Letter, but what I will use the space for is to talk about one of our community's most talented artists Vince "Donnarama" Pincente.

When we first launched PinkPlayMags, I knew I had to work with this crazy fun insane creative power house drag artist named Donnarama, whom back then was beginning to generate a lot of buzz in our community.

The first chance I had ended up with having him pose on the cover of the First Edition. He modeled for us a simple scene of a winter wonderland and Holidays Season shopping.

It wasn't until two years later that I convinced Donnarama to work with me on something insane and creative. We got a great photographer, we pooled our friends together, we rented a real live dungeon, and we played horror. The outcome was one of Donnarama's and mine's most favourite cover shoots and photo essays, which were published in Autumn of 2009. Check it out at www.pinkplaymags.com/downloads/autumnplay2009.pdf

Donnarama will do any crazy idea, as long as it is creative, and as long as he feels passionate about it, and for a creative director like myself, that's like a dream come true.

So suffice to say it didn't take me much effort to convince him to come back and reprise his monstrous role, so here we are again picking up where we left off in our fable of torture, blood, and in part two of the story also some very unholy love.

Donnarma and I love horror. The old fashion, creepy, campy, classic horror. I have a huge movie library, we're talking around 2,000 DVDs, and a big chunk of my library is dedicated to horror classics. So as you can imagine we had a blast creating this for you, with yet another great photographer, and a fantastically twisted group of friends.

We really hope you enjoy our creation in this issue, and we hope that this is a great ode to one of our community's favourite holidays, Hallloween.

Dear readers, this is the third in our Year of the Sequels. One more to go and our 2015 lineup of sequels to PinkPlayMags' most popular editions will be complete. Thank you as always for 8 years of love and support.

Happy Creepy Spooky Halloween to All

Antoine Elhashem publisher@pinkplaymags.com



## autumnplay!

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Leather, and Queer Community Seasonal from PinkPlayMags Free • Autumn 2015

Publisher/Creative Director: Antoine Elhashem

Editor-in-Chief: Bryen Dunn

Art Direction and Production: Mychol Scully

#### Contributors

**Writers:** Donnarama, Susan Hornik, Lexi Sanfino, cee sando, Michael Ain, Caitlyn Holroyd, Patricia Wilson, Julie Antoinette, Sherry Sylvain



**Cover**: MONSTER: Love, Pain, and Blood Sequel to "The Monster & The Master"

Photography & Production:

Angel Torres www.archangeldesign.ca

Concept & Direction: Antoine Elhashem

Models: Donnarama, Renzo Garcia, Polo Izquierdo,

**Models**: Donnarama, Renzo Garcia, Polo Izquierdo, Gabriela Mejia, Brock Hessel, Cat Grant, and Devine Darlin

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#### In this issue

- 10 Scream Queens
  - Donnarama
- 17 MONSTER: Love, Pain, and Blood
  - Antoine Elhashem
- 23 Scary Fall Television Tales
  - Susan Hornik
- 28 Travel: Vampires, Witches and Psychics
  - Bryen Dunn
- 38 Fiction: Carsick
  - John Waters

### Regular features

- 34 Hot Artist: Alvis Choi
  - Bryen Dunn
- 43 Tops & Bottoms
  - cee sando
- 46 Community Cornerstone: CLGA
  - Michael Ain
- 49 Autumn in the City
  - Caitlyn Holroyd
- 54 From the Heart
  - Patricia Wilson
- 56 Autumn Horoscopes
  - Julie Antoinette
- 58 Looking Back
  - Sherry Sylvain

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#### From the Editor



h, fall. The weather is just right with a crispness in the air, and Halloween rituals are upon us. I had so much fun working with everyone to put this Horror Sequel together.

Our feature stories are what nightmares are made of. The lovely Donnnarama gives us an look into the world of Canadian horror flicks, and even got to chat with Lesleh Donaldson, start of such scary scores as "Happy Birthday to Me", Curtains", "Funeral Home", and "Deadly Eyes". Susan Hornik brings readers a sneak peek into Hollywood's fall television season, chatting with some of the stars from "Strain", "American Horror Story: Hotel", and "Ash vs. Evil Dead".

Our publisher Antoine Elhashem has created a spookily sexy and spectacular photo essay, while our travel article for this issue is titled Vampires, Witches, and Psychics. I'm super stoked this issue to present our Fiction excerpt from none other than Mr. John Waters, the queen of filth and horror himself! We have a full chapter from his wonderful new novel, "Carsick".

Some of our regular columnists have also chimed in on this mystic time of the year. Our Hot Artist this issue is Alvis Choi, a multi-disciplinary being that's sure to impress. Fashion vixen cee sando presents another wonderful photo collage of outrageous fashions that are perfect for the Halloween party season. Michael Ain profiles the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives who are having their annual fundraising Flashback Gala in November, featuring none other than Carole Pope and Lorraine Segato. Patricia Wilson recalls how our childhood monsters under the bed may still be around to haunt us as adults, and Sherry Sylvain takes a look back at one of the great masters of horror, Alfred Hitchcock.

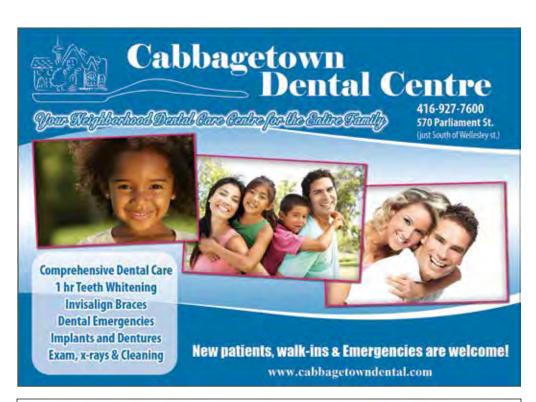
As well, Caitlyn Holroyd digs deep into the city vaults to find out where the hottest happening events are that queers need to be at with "Autumn in the City", and Julie Antoinette lets us know how are stars and planets align with her "Autumn Horoscopes". The lovely design and layout was created by Mychol Scully.

What are you waiting for? Turn the page and feast your mind.

Thanks for reading, and may the darkness be with you!

Bryen Dunn Editor-in-Chief editor@pinkplaymags.com

















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# SCREAM QUEENS ON HORROR SCREENS

by Donnarama

Pracula, Frankenstein, The Wolfman, and The Mummy. Once upon a time imaginations and countless sleepless nights were disturbed by these nightmarish ghouls and monstrous creations.

These classic movie monsters, which dominated theatres and television for decades with countless tales and retellings of their respective macabre happenings, struck terror into the hearts of film goers worldwide. Musicians crafted and created the musical scores to these films, cat clawing at pianos and organs with the inclusion of erratic squeals from violins evoking an atmosphere of mischief, mayhem, and despair.

By today's standards, these fantasy film entries are comparatively tame. Blood

suckers and the bandaged avenging dead gave way to axe wielding madmen and tentacle space invaders with a penchant for obliterating high school students and peaceful neighborhoods. Scream queens like the iconic Fay Wray who once tried to wrangle their way out of the grip of rampaging gorillas or fled from a Transylvanian castle, soon had more frightful contemporary worries to deal with, like wrestling boogeymen and masked lunatics with chainsaws.

The desensitization and exploitation of film culture soon came into play with boundary breaking genre entries like "Psycho (1960)", "Night Of The Living Dead (1968)", "The Exorcist (1973)" and "Rosemary's Baby (1968)", which featured a distraught Mia Farrow as the unwilling mother of Satan's child. Gone were the fanged bats and spiders, and in came the potty-mouthed and the possessed, who barfed green gore into the faces of Catholic priests. As effective as horror films have

been at emoting feelings of fear, they also bear moments of undeniable and incredible fun and humor, a juxtaposition that plays with the expectations and preconceptions of audiences seeking a good scare.

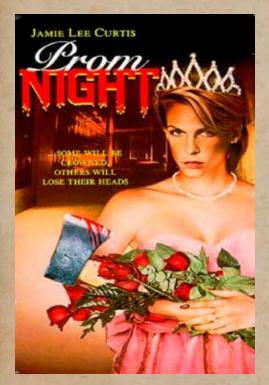
Horror films and their appreciation by gay audiences, lie both in the quality of the picture as a whole, and often and in equal measure with their camp appeal. Genre entries that draw chuckles, as well as they draw deserved gasps and groans, are celebrated for their over the top and ridiculous situational aspects. The cater-walling religious ramblings of Piper Laurie in 1976's "Carrie" are as deranged and humorous as they are intense. The unholy misfortunes of Linda Blair's character Reagen in "The Exorcist", are a perfect example of the over-the-top unintentionally funny camp that queers are willing to subject themselves to and embrace, as they did with cult classics like "Mommy Dearest" and "Pink Flamingos". The despicably infamous scene of drag legend Divine taking an on screen bite of real dog poop in "Pink Flamingos" is as gruesomely humorous and repulsive as the ballsy surprise ending of 1984's "Sleep Away Camp".

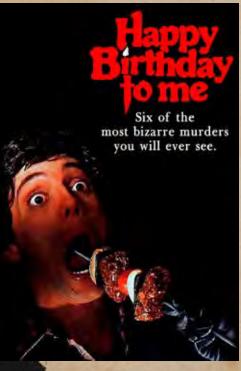
Shock factor, schlock factor. Why do audiences flock to theatres to willingly be scared out of their wits? Like a circus sideshow, are we curious to witness and experience the excitement of the unknown from a safe distance, yet not to be put into any real danger? The horrors of the real world often seem to bleed off screen into reality and visaversa, making it sometimes difficult to step into the ocean without that big mechanical shark in "Jaws" running through the back of our minds.

"Psycho (1960)" and its undeniable impact and influence with its sharp, clever and acclaimed style and execution, had a tremendous effect on the mentality of the theatre going public. As aforementioned with "Jaws" it was no longer safe to swim, and as with "Psycho" it was no longer safe to shower. With no actual visual gore, it was so expertly shot and manipulated that any suggested violence was so well done that people believed they









had seen more than was shown. It mastered the power of suggestion. Then along came "Halloween" (1978) and it was no longer safe to babysit.

"Halloween" with its critical and commercial success, was at the time the highest earning indie film in movie history, also launching the career of film star Jamie Lee Curtis. It also spawned the incomparably popular and graphic "Friday The 13th" (1980), and soon enough, it was no longer safe to go camping either.

The early eighties set off a cavalcade of "Halloween" and "Friday The 13th" knock offs, spawning imitations and similarly plotted and conceived films with masked madmen sessing out victims in various, but similar environments. With "Friday The 13th" and "Halloween", the inherently annual spooky dates already taken, producers and studios scoured the calendar for holidays and events to exploit and create similarly themed expositions. Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's Day, birthdays, funerals, weddings, whatever. Throw in an unfortunate flashback and a mysterious figure in a Halloween mask and you had a film.

The slasher pics at the time that weren't completely out shined by the success of "Friday The 13th" and "Halloween" were the Canadian films "Prom Night" (1980), the American-Canadian film "Happy Birthday To Me" (1981), and "The House On Sorority Row" (1982), all of which performed well at the box office and have become cult hits with cult followings.

"Happy Birthday To Me" star Lesleh Donaldson, the legendary Canadian scream queen who also starred in horror entries such as "Curtains "(1985), "Funeral Home" (1980), and the rat-tatstic "Deadly Eyes" (1982), humorously recalls the era and it's then unknown significance. "As an actress, I just wanted to work. I really wanted to do comedies, which I thought would suit me well. For some reason I kept getting auditions for horror films, and the more I had done the

more appealing I think I became, and they wanted to cast me in them. I went to quite a few auditions. I was almost cast as Mary Lou for "Hello Mary Lou: Prom Night 2", which would have been pretty cool."

Donaldson amongst other scream queens that defined the era like Jamie Lee Curtis, Adrienne King, and Belinda Belaski, had no idea the films they starred in would find cult status and acclaim from audiences years afterward. "At the time I would sneak into the theatres and check out the films. I didn't go to any of the premieres. Even while filming "Happy Birthday To Me" for example, I wasn't familiar with who the director was", she giggles. "He kept eyeing me in one scene and kept saying (adopts English accent), 'She needs more blood. There's not enough blood', and kept throwing blood on me."

"Happy Birthday To Me" was directed by the legendary J. Lee Thompson who also directed the classic "Cape Fear (1962) and "The Guns Of Navarone" (1961). Actors and actresses are often portals and representatives for visionaries and story tellers. Starlets, both startled and stalked in slasher films, have often owed their beginnings to the genre. Daryl Hannah and Rachel Ward both debuted in the 1983 slasher entry, "The Final Terror", and one cannot forget Johnny Depp who first made his onscreen debut in "A Nightmare On Elm Street", as well as Kevin Bacon in "Friday The 13th". and Tom Hanks in "He Knows You're Alone". Who could forget Jamie Lee Curtis and her incredible streak of horror movie successes?

Horror films, with their wide spread success and appeal, continue to dominate box office receipts and pack movie houses. Reignited in 1995 with Wes Craven's "Scream" (1996), the slasher genre had a renewed interest sparked by the film's success. This was followed by "I Know What You Did Last Summer" (1998), "The Sixth Sense" (1999), "Insidious" (2010), and "Saw" (2004). Every generation gets their trick or treat and has a defining film, villain, heroine and event. We can all be assured stories will be retold, recrafted, revisited

and renewed for generations to come and be enjoyed as well. It's been a cinematic tradition to keep these ghouls and goblins alive, as if to say that the undead in the films of the past carried out their wish to haunt you relentlessly and mercilessly, like Dracula who will live forever in the night and is always thirsty and ready to take a bite, or Jason Voorhees who will not stay dead.

Horror seems to have pushed every envelope and explored every angle imaginable. Hauntings, foreign lands, mysterious strangers, voodoo, alien threats, and rabid pets. One can only imagine where the next angle will come from. Perhaps it's the imagination that has lead all of it to be a possibility in the first place. Perhaps real live events inspire such madness and mayhem. The terror stays with you long after the credits have rolled and the lights go up, because the terror is often real, and subconsciously lurking around. Its invisibility is evident, yet unseen.

Close your windows and lock your doors. Check under the bed and open the closet door. You can escape the ocean and avoid the shower, but you can't deny horror and its power.

The beautiful and legendary Donnarama has graced the stages of T.O. with outrageous costumes and comedy skits, and there is never a dull moment! A scene queen and Canadian drag staple, her dedication, pioneering originality and



uniqueness have scored her numerous awards, bar titles and visits to therapy.







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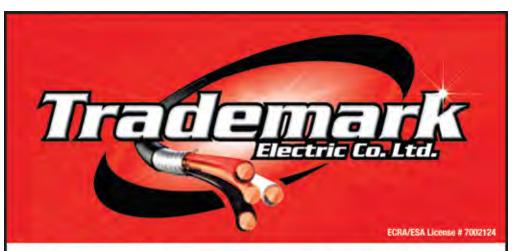
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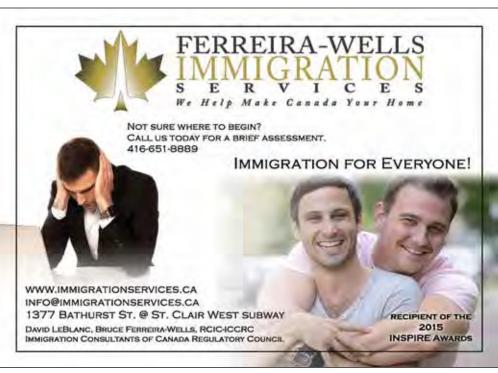
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by Susan Hornik

Admittedly, I hate scary movies. My parents took me along to see The Omen though I was seven years old and I remember sitting in the chair, covering my eyes. After, she apologized as she had no idea it would be so scary. I had nightmares for days! Still, as a television journalist, my job is to keep an eye out for quality television, and this includes the scary stuff. Here's a preview of what's coming up for the fall season.

#### The Strain (FX Canada)

There's nothing scarier than vampires! At the recent TV Critics Press Tour, the producers

and cast of the popular FX horror series, "The Strain", talked about creating these scary monsters and the changes made for season two

"I've been drawing them for decades," said Guillermo del Toro, who co-wrote the book with Chuck Hogan, and directs and produces with Carlton Cuse. "They existed in my head since I was a teenager. I always wondered about vampire biology. I always drew in my notebooks and in my doodles what the vampires would look like. I knew Eastern European folklore and I called them the Strigoi. Each country has a different vampire and they are all very different. Vrykolakas is a vampire from Greece. The Strigoi from Eastern Europe. Upir is the Russian vampire. The Vourdalak is a Russian vampire and so forth. So I've been doing this for a while."

Del Toro, known for the "Hellboy" movies, "Pan's Labyrinth". "Pacific Rim", and "Blade

II", is one busy guy. Still, he always makes time for the "The Strain" gory. "I did a lot of



second unit that goes uncredited. Frankly, I'm the most available director of the show. They call me within a week and ask, 'Monday, can you shoot this?' I say, 'Absolutely.' I have shot stuff that is invisible in the episodes. I shot the black and white prologue, the Mexican wrestler, the opening, and I plan all the gags. All the gory, brutal gags, I plan them. There is one of my favorite gags we've done coming up, and I think people are going to just go,



'What?' I'm really, really proud. It comes in the later part of the season."

Children are playing the equally scary Feelers, and unlike me, they don't get nightmares for playing scary roles! "We lucked out finding these amazing kid performers that are nightmare free," said Del Toro. "They really love attacking adults at the smallest provocation. We scouted for dancers, kids

that were really nimble, and have grace. We love that....they seem to be the happiest members of the cast."

Added Carlton Cuse, the series' show runner and Executive Producer: "They love doing this. There is a big sign in the production office that says 'Vampire School,' and everyone who comes into our studio immediately follows that, because the curiosity factor is very high. 'Like what goes on in vampire school?' They learn how to do the movements and we have a dance instructor. They are trained dancers, and they're actually so nimble and amazing, that it was really one of the best parts of making the second season."

#### American Horror Story: Hotel(FX Canada)

There is so much delicious gore in the "American Horror Story" franchise, now in its fifth season. Over the years, the anthology series has actually received over 70 Emmy nominations, which makes co-creator/ executive producer, Ryan Murphy, (he used to Direct FOX's Glee, one of the most gay forward thinking shows on TV) very happy.

"I think the true horror fans love the first season because it really sort of is a very psychological season, and it plays with a lot of very familiar tropes," said Murphy during their panel at the TV Critics Press Tour. "People who really like drama love Season 2, 'Asylum". Then, you get into Season 3, which young people adored, and we saw those numbers go up dramatically. The fourth season, was sort of the most artistically arty season, so then you get those fans. And I think that the current season harkens back to the first season, which is much more rooted in honest, primal fears as the first season was."

Haunted houses are always very scary to set a TV series in. "I think that the idea of being trapped is a horror trope," said Brad Falchuk, Co-Creator/Executive Producer. One of the most powerful ones obviously is you're backed into a corner by a monster. So if you're trapped in your own home, you're trapped in



a space like an asylum that you can't get out of, with crazy people. Then I think that it lends to scares. It lends to fear under your own bed, next door, whatever it's going to be. I think this upcoming season provides that, but it's a little less claustrophobic. It's a little more open."

Falchuk continued: "So I think what's fun about it is, while I feel like the first season intentionally really trapped you in that house in a very specific way, and the second season was very oppressive in that asylum, this (upcoming series) is kind of like horror sneaking out of the hotel. The hotel is the centre of it, but it's kind of dripping out and we're out on the streets a lot more. It's much more noir-y and moody in that way. It's kind of a different, exciting way to do it, but there is that same feeling of like when you go home, wherever your bed is, wherever your safe space is, it's the least safe place you can be in the entire world."

This season, singer Cheyenne Jackson, who

recently married his partner, Jason Landau, will be featured in the anthology series. When asked what horror means to him he quipped: "I grew up in northern Idaho, in a predominantly Republican town, so that was pretty scary!"

Jackson is thrilled to be acting. "It's amazing. It's daunting. I'm literally a fan of everybody on this stage. Kathy Bates-- her monologue in 'Primary Colors' about reflected light of the moon, is literally one of the things that made me want to be an actor. My first scene was with her, so it's really just like jumping in the pool and just coming to play. It's extraordinary, great writing. It's exciting television."

Jackson, who is playing fashion icon Will Drake, acknowledged he is scared about all the horror on the show. "I think hotels are generally scary, but when you read the scripts and wonder 'How are we going to do that?'. Then you just do it, and it's creepy and your deepest, darkest fears."



Falchuk and Murphy have always had an LGBT-theme in the ongoing series, and there is definitely a storyline this season as well. "Denis O'Hare's character is named Elizabeth Taylor. So that probably falls into that arena", Murphy enthused.

"I think it dances in a little more this season", noted Falchuk. "Besides Elizabeth Taylor, it's more like there's bits of it. I think part of the fun of it is that when that stuff happens on television now, it's less of a thing. It's like, well, that's going to happen, and this is going to happen, and they're going to have this relationship, and he's going to be gayer, he's going to be bi, or he's going to be whatever it is. I just think that that's part of the kind of fun of it now, is that it doesn't feel as special, in a good way."

Check out Lady Gaga who will be playing Elizabeth on the series this year. "She owns the hotel, and is sort of a very wealthy social doyen, who is consumed with art, fashion, and people," said Murphy. "She has a nefarious plan that is revealed in the first episode that plays out over the course of the season."

#### Ash vs. Evil Dead (Starz)

If you are a horror comedy fan, then you'll definitely be interested in Starz's "Ash Vs. Evil Dead." The trailer has already received over 15 million views online. Director/Executive Producer Sam Raimi has been surprised at the love "Evil Dead" has received over the years. "We never expected when we made the first 'Evil Dead' film—Robert Tapert, Bruce Campbell and myself—that it would be around 35 years later or that we'd be making film after film. We were simply trying to make a film back when we were planning it in 1979 that would be good enough to play in the American drive-ins, of which there are very few left today."

This is why the show is appealing to fans of all ages. "It's really become a multi-generational fandom that follow the 'Evil Dead' now. There are kids who are being introduced to it by their parents, and there are parents that grew up with all the movies. We've kept our own expectations as to what we thought made a great horror movie, what the audience liked



in the other ones, trying to keep that in mind while making it."

So there you have it. A trio of television terror coming soon to your scary screen.



Susan L. Hornik is a contributor to Industrym.com, HGTV's FrontDoor.com, Complex.com, TheFrisky.com, TravelChannel.com, FiftyistheNewFifty.com, Redbook, Canada's Chatelaine, Daytime Confidential, UK's Look, Videoage, Brainworld, CSQ, First for Women, Twist, Discover Hollywood, Dish, Maxim, Health, Mademan.com, Match.com's Happenmag.com



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Re often travel to places that are known for fun and relaxation, history and culture, and others that are host to a special event or festival. Yet there are other destinations that are known more for their mystical or magical reasons, such as an affiliation with paganism, devilish characters, and life beyond our present existence. Let's discover what the darker side of travel has to offer true adventurers ready to step beyond their comfort zone, with a look at three unusual destinations in the United States.

#### **NEW ORLEANS**

New Orleans, Louisiana has had a long history with voodoo and vampires, popularized by the Anne Rice Vampire Lestat novels, which in turn were made into a Hollywood production featuring the homoerotic playfulness of Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. The city is also known as one of the gayest in the United States, playing host to several annual queer themed events, and of course the mammoth Mardi Gras that happens each spring.

The city has a population of just over one million

residents, and is named after founding French colonist Duke of Orleans, giving it that distinct mix of European, Creole, and Cajun culture and cuisine. It's also known as the birthplace of jazz, and no visit would be complete without a visit to Preservation Hall, where time stands still and musicians continue to play with passion.

It's been 10 years since the disastrous Hurricane Katrina played havoc on the city, which some right-wing-nuts blamed on the macabre reflection of the city, that includes voodoo, sex, and of course, homosexuals. Perhaps these are some of the reasons the city continues to shine as a tourist destination a decade later, fully recovered and ranking as one of the top most visited in the country. Sure many visit for the debauchery of the infamous Bourbon Street and the French Quarter, but there's more to discover than booze and booty.

Voodoo is based on African religious beliefs and the search for a better understanding of the spiritual aspects of life. Long-time New Orleans resident Marie Laveau was considered the Queen of Voodoo back in the early 1800's, mixing both mysticism and sensuality. Her grave in St. Louis Cemetery #1 is frequently visited by curious tourists who continue to place offerings at the site. There are daily guided cemetery tours offered by a number of tour companies, and a great historical background in Voodoo can be found at the New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum.



Beyond the vampire and voodoo culture, the above ground burial grounds are a delightful way to gain knowledge and history of the region. The tradition began because of the shallow depths of soil that the city is built upon. There are a total of 42 cemeteries in the metropolitan New Orleans area, the largest being Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery. The expansive mansions with large pillared porches are also a trademark of New Orleans architecture. So grab a copy of one of Anne Rice's great novels, and begin your nocturnal tour of the city of the dead.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Voodoo Music Experience: October 31-November 2, 2015

Halloween-themed music festival held in City Park, known for its blending of high-profile national artists with local Louisiana musicians. www.worshipthemusic.com

Halloween New Orleans: October 29-November 1, 2015

Events include the Lazarus Ball, costume contest, parade, and plenty of other party happenings, all in benefit of the Lazarus Project, a home in New Orleans for men and women with AIDS, www.halloweenneworleans.com

#### **Other Annual LGBT Events of Note**

Saints and Sinners Literary Festival - April www.sasfest.org

Gay Easter Parade - March www.gayeasterparade.com

New Orleans Pride Festival - June www.prideneworleans.com

Southern Decadence - September www.southerndecadence.net

More Information - www.neworleanscvb.com

#### SALEM

Salem, Massachusetts has a relatively small population of under 50,000 inhabitants, and is notably known as the location of the 1692 witch trials. However, it was only as recent as the 1970's that "witch tourism" began to grow, partially due to several episodes of "Bewitched" being filmed on location there. For those unaware of this popular situation comedy featuring gay icon Elizabeth Montgomery (Samantha), and real life gay actor Dick Sargeant (Darrin), it's worth a trip back in time to discover this true gem of classic television. In 2005, a bronze statue of Montgomery was erected downtown.

Strolling this quaint seaside town provides more than a historical look back at that dark period of 17th century America. There are several shops, restaurants, galleries, and cafes that make for a wonderful day of exploration, and the McIntire Historic District is lined with various types of architecture from centuries past. For instance the Pickman House was built circa 1664, and the Witch House is now a historic museum, the only structure in Salem with direct ties to the 1692 trials. More recently



President Obama signed an executive order designating Salem as the birthplace of the U.S. National Guard.

Yet it remains difficult to ignore the signs that signify you're in "Witch City". A stroll through Witchcraft Heights can be either eerie or entertaining, depending on your level of skepticism. Many arrive hoping to see a ghost from the past, while others just enjoy the novelty of it all. Police cars have witch logos, Salem High School athletic teams are named the Witches, and there's even a street pun-named "Witch Way". Gallows Hill, a site of numerous public hangings, is currently used as a playing field for various sports, and there's also the Witch Memorial and Burying Point Cemetery, the second oldest burying ground in the United States.



Witch-related tourism once again expanded significantly in the 1990s with the release of the Disney movie "Hocus Pocus" partially being filmed around the city, starring more gay icons Bette Midler and Sarah Jessica Parker. The city was also featured significantly in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible", Rob Zombie's "The Lords of Salem", as well as two documentary pieces on the Travel Channel, "Places of Mystery: Witch City" and "Ghost Adventures".

Hoping to capitalize on some of these pop culture references, the city hosts a "Haunted Happenings" celebration in October, and recently launched the Haunted Passport program offering discounts at local tourist attractions and retailers from October to April.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Haunted Happenings — A festive celebration of Halloween and fall in New England that attracts more than 250,000 people annually. Events include a parade, street fair, costume balls, ghost tours, haunted houses, live music, and chilling theatrical presentations.

www.hauntedhappenings.org

TAG Approved Hotels - www.hawthorneHotel.com, www.salemwaterfronthotel.com

More Information — www.salem.org/lgbt, www.lgbtmassvacation.com

#### **CASSADAGA**

Deep in the heart of Florida is a tiny place called Cassadaga, that's often referred to as the "Psychic Capital of the World". Located midway between Orlando and Daytona, the Southern Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp Meeting Association was founded here on December 19th, 1894 and is home to many psychics, mediums, and other spiritualist sorts. It's also become a destination for those seeking guidance and enlightenment.

Upon arrival it looks like any other small town, except the newest house built dates back to the 1930's. In the latter half of the 19th century, founder George Colby was instructed by one of his spirit guides named Seneca to travel here and set up a community for spiritualists. Originally established as a winter retreat for practicing mediums from upstate New York, the Camp has remained virtually unchanged, and was declared a national U.S. historic site in 1991. Colby is supposedly buried in the nearby Lake Helen Cemetery, although various stories suggest otherwise.

Today it remains the largest spiritualist camp in the United States with just over100 people residing here, and approximately half are practicing certified mediums of varying sorts who work from within their homes. The Camp believes that everyone is psychic, and it is



our sixth sense that utilizes thought vibrations to obtain information. Certified mediums can spend up to ten years developing this sixth sense, with practices such as palmistry, crystals, tarot cards, astrology, and clairvoyance among others.

Visitors are encouraged to roam the dozen or so streets at leisure, admiring the early 20th century residences, relaxing in one of the many meditation gardens, and getting a feel for the offerings. There's a wide array of services, such as readings, healings, counselling, classes, and seminars. The Welcome Center is the place to find out about workshops and to book appointments. There's also a bookstore and education centre for those wanting to further develop their own sixth sense. A darkened room in the back of the Colby Memorial Temple is reserved for séances, where a group of individuals gather around a table hoping to hear from spirits of the past.

There are also other buildings separate from the Camp, such as a café, post office, and the supposedly haunted 1920's era Cassadaga Hotel, offering overnight accommodations to those seeking a full mystical experience, One legend is that a regular hotel guest was an Irish tenor who resided in room 22 on the second floor during the first half of the 20th century, until the time of his death. Some guests in this room have been known to have paranormal experiences, catching glimpses of this gentleman staring out the window, while others enjoyed a peaceful night of rest. There's also a dining area and bar on the main level, while the upper floors are reserved for mediums that provide onsite services.

So if you're driving across Interstate 4 and are suddenly compelled to head toward Cassadaga, it may well be the local spirits tugging at the wheel. Whether stopping for a couple hours, or to spend the night, it makes for a nice diversion between Disney and Daytona.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Various activities and events happen throughout the year including Gala Days, which includes special workshops,

mini -readings, a variety of healing modalities, street vendors, and more. Mediums Night is held on the first Monday of every month, where fifteen minute readings by Certified Camp Mediums are \$20, and Student Camp Mediums are only \$10.

Cassadaga attracts a mix of believers, sceptics, and the curious. Many visitors opt to take one of the Historic Tours that offer an insight into the past and present day happenings at the Camp. The Camp is closed to visitors at night, except for evening Orb Tours where individuals can snap photos of supernatural paranormal phenomena,



such as spirits, ghosts, and energy fields. It should also be noted that the Camp shuts completely for Halloween, due to past situations where crowds have shown up for the wrong reasons.

#### **More Information**

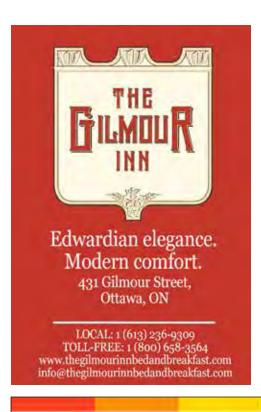
Southern Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp Meeting Association — www.cassadaga.org

Hotel Cassadaga - www.cassadagahotel.net

So there you have it. Three places that should be on the radar of those seeking a unique travel experience. See you on the dark side!

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.







# PFLAG CANADA

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# Hot Artist: Alvis Choi Alien in Residence

by Bryen Dunn

A lvis Choi is a Hong Kong born artist, performer, writer, and facilitator based in Toronto. They have presented works at various events and organizations throughout Toronto, and beyond. PinkPlayMags caught up with Choi to find out what they are all about.

# Being a multi-disciplinary artist, can you tell me what your current passion or focus is?

Truth seeking and truth making. I do so by working with my past, present, and future; connecting time and souls; with myself, others, and the communities that I am involved in. I am Chinese, Asian, queer, and gender non-conforming. I am transgender, and many more things. On a good day, I identify as a creature more than a human. Um, maybe on a bad day as well.

You often use a variety of names with your manifestations, which are reflective of various beings. How is it decided by which name your work will be presented, and how do each of these incarnations differ or are similar to each other?

At first I used the name Alvis Parsley for performances, and Alvis Choi for communitybased projects. I needed to differentiate my personas, but as my practice grew I gradually found points of intersection between the two, and that has been one of the most interesting moments in my practice as an artist. I began creating performances that are participatory or research-based, and community projects that are highly performative. Captain Kernel, a genderless green alien who was expelled from its own Planet and landed on the Earth, is a character that was born alongside the realization that I am both Alvis Choi and Alvis Parsley, and they are not quite separable. I feel that I am constantly transforming, and sometimes what I transform into is a new and additional self, instead of a replacement of my old identity. Being multiple beings allows me to explore my potential, and reminds me not to be confined by what I am called or perceived as.

## Tell me about your most memorable performances?

I believe there is a kind of healing quality in my performances and that has been something that motivates me as an artist as well as a person. The most memorable experiences of this healing effect were at SummerWorks Festival 2013 where I presented seven runs of Love Behind the Bargain, a performative walking tour of Chinatown. Also at Rhubarb Festival 2014, where I conceived the first version of Great Glassies Corporation, which is a participatory performance with a sci-fi narrative in which human beings begin to live in transparent skin. With both performances, not only did I heal from my own hurt, audience members also verbalized their transformation through their witnessing and participation.

# If you had to describe your overall artistic endeavours in one statement, what would that be?

Gender outcast queer alien magic touching your soul.

# You have a couple works coming up in next few months. Can you tell me a bit about each of them?

In late October I am creating a new project at Jess Dobkin's "Artists Newsstand" at Chester subway station. The idea is being brewed at the moment. I am steering it towards something that is imaginary and interactive. I'm contemplating the concept of "travelling" in the context of relationship, be it romantic, platonic, or of other nature. I am also thinking about the newsstand as a portal.

To find out the dates and details as they reveal, like the Artists Newsstand Facebook page at www.facebook.com/artistsnewsstand

Also, in November I am doing a residency at Videofag where I will be working on the next incarnation of my one-person storytelling-driven performance titled "Never Left Canada." The piece is an exploration on border violence, family relations, growing up in Hong Kong as a British colony and how I loved it, and reconciliation with my complex about this past in relation to my present as a political and politicized queer person of colour. The fact that I started identifying as multiple beings will also impact what and how I produce at this residency.







Videofag Presentation: Nov 11, 8pm. PWYC www.facebook.com/events/1642263502723953

Alvis Choi – www.alvischoi.wordpress.com www.facebook.com/alvischoi

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.



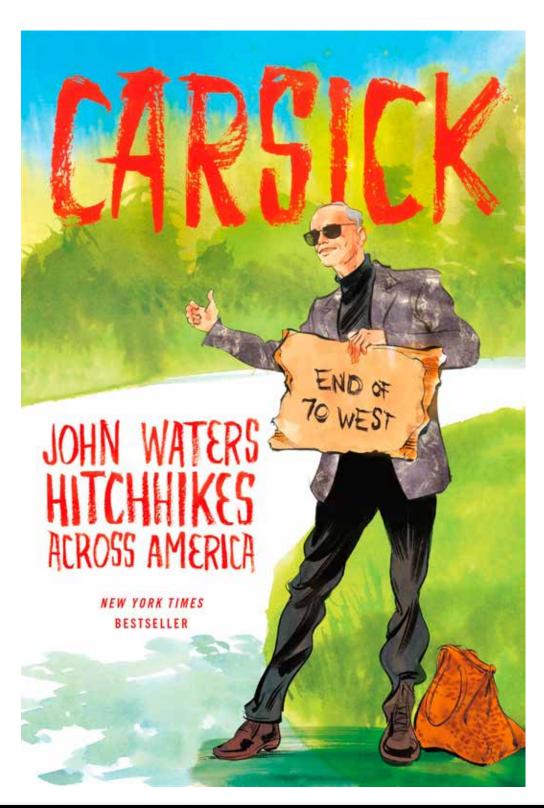












#### **Fiction**

#### BAD RIDE NUMBER ELEVEN

HOGWASH

I get up early. Out of the doghouse for real. Luckily, I still remember which direction is west. Please, dear God, get me out of Colorado. My goiter has actually subsided a little. Real scabs have formed on all my injuries. The certain tightness of nature's healing invites picking, but I know better. Even my tattoo has stopped oozing, so can I take that as some sort of good sign?

I guess not. I stand there at an entrance ramp to Route 70 West, my aorta of misery, for hours. Knowing better, but at a loss for a better plan, I walk down to the highway and give it a try, but alas, it's worse. Cars do come by, but by now I'm looking really rough. Nobody even glances toward me, much less slows down to consider picking me up. I walk for a mile or two and then a miracle. I see a partially crushed, run-over felt-tip marker by the side of the road. Again, I pray. Please, God, let it work. I unscrew the cap and test it on my hand. Thank the Lord above! It's not dried out. I scan the area for any thing to make a sign out of but see nothing. I continue walking and glimpse part of a cardboard box that has blown from somewhere caught in a storm-drainage ditch. Maybe heaven itself? I scramble over the brush and grab the potential hitchhike sign like the lifeboat it may be. In desperation, I write out in big, bold letters HELP!I MADE HAIRSPRAY! On the flip side, over the logo of some generic paper-towel label, I am even more shameless and scrawl I'M JOHN WATERS. It doesn't work.

Hours more go by. Out of boredom I walk more. Still no dice. Cars. Trucks. Vans. They all ignore me and my sign. Finally, a motorcycle stops. My one rule: Never get on a motorcycle while hitchhiking. This guy wears the colors of the Sundowners, a biker club I am unfamiliar with. But God knows, he looks like the real thing. Almost like the Hells Angels. Which makes me feel warm and fuzzy because I'm a real sucker for these guys. Well, not literally, because they're all old now. I know you're

never supposed to say the words Hells Angels out loud unless you are one of them and I try to respect this outsider law. I agree with Quentin Crisp, who called Hells Angels "naturally superior beings." They are. I genuflect to their infamy. I've met some of the Maryland Angels in Baltimore and once took two of them to the Ottobar, a great punk-rock club in town. You should have seen the faces of the tattooed new-wavers and their goth girlfriends when I strolled in with these bikers in full colors. Later that same night I was taken to the Hells Angels clubhouse by them, which is, of course, beyond impressive. Lots of couches. Axes lining the wall. "For what?" I stupidly asked. "In case, John," the Angel answered; "just in case." I see.

This biker who has stopped is named Hogwash, but he's actually better-looking than his name. "Get on, bro," he says with a growl, and instantly that nasty butch fifties instrumental "Cross-Ties," by Dale Hawkins, plays in my head as his musical cue, but before I can enjoy this new imagined score, he snorts, "John Waters, what the hell are you doing out here hitchhiking?" I am so relieved. I try to thank him politely but explain I feel unsafe and too inexperienced to ride on the back of this monster Harley, especially with a member of an outlaw biker gang to whom I've never had the pleasure of being introduced. "When a Sundowner asks a man to mount his hog, only a fool turns him down," he snarls in a steely voice, "unless he wants to go down. And I don't mean head," he explains, suddenly all business, "I mean dead!"

Gulp. I notice Hogwash isn't wearing a helmet and I certainly don't see an extra one for me. "Okay," I say meekly, "but please go slowly," I beg as I straddle the seat and wrap both arms around him tightly. "Ooh, that feels good," he taunts me in a mock little-girl's voice before gunning the engine and peeling out, leaving rubber for quite a distance down the highway.

I am immediately terrified. I see the speedometer climb to fifty, sixty, seventy, almost eighty miles an hour. I yell for him to slow down but he answers by doing a full wheelie. I scream like a pussy. The wind is ripping through my thin hair and



flattens my goiter painfully against my Adam's apple. My tattoo pops open and I can feel leakage spreading across my T-shirt. Sonny Barger I am definitely not.

"Please! Please! Please! Let me off!" I beg into the void. But instead this imbecile goes into a "circle wheelie" right in the middle of the fast lane as the cars' and trucks' drivers lean on their horns and swerve away in the nick of time. I know I am going to die.

Suddenly he is putting his legs over the handlebars! "No, don't," I scream. "A high chair," he shouts like a banshee on crack. With that, the front of the motorcycle lifts off the ground from speed vet he still keeps his legs dangling over the front. "I'll sleep when I'm dead," he howls just as we go beyond a "twelve o'clock wheelie," where the bike has gone past balancing straight up and tips over backward in the air. I am thrown off midspin and land hard on the hood of a car before bouncing off and being thrown into the hedgelike highway landscaping. Hogwash is killed instantly as his bike revolves 360 degrees twice before smashing to the asphalt and bursting into flames. A giant tractor-trailer skids out of control to miss the whole mess and crushes Hogwash's burning corpse. I crawl back to the highway feeling no pain yet, in complete shock. All I can think is, I guess this makes me an official member of the Sundowner biker gang.

Excerpted from CARSICK by John Waters published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, LLC.
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# Yay, it's finally Halloween, aka Gay Christmas!

As a fashion professional it is easy to understand why this is my absolutely favorite time of year. I try to push myself to be more creative, interesting and scary with each passing year, but what I love the most is seeing the incredible things other creative types come up with.

This issue's shoot features two incredibly creative models that definitely go beyond the boundaries of mainstream fashion. Here's a snapshot look at the amazing themed designs that these queens from the Haus of Anger came up with.

#### **Model: Arty Anger**

Q: What do you love most about Halloween?

A: Everyday is Halloween! Samhain is my favorite of all the sabbats. To commune with and remember the dead, a celebration of the eternal cycle of reincarnation.

Insta: artychok Clothes Cyndi Rios

#### Model: Joshua "Valentine Anger"

Q: What do you love most about Halloween?

A: What I love most about Halloween is day time drag is normal around this time of year!

Insta THEVALENTINEANGER Twitter @Valentine anger

#### Photographer: Rebecca Peloquin

Q: What do you love most about Halloween?

A: As a committed lifelong weird human being my favorite thing about Halloween is it's the one time a year that everyone is as excited about scary stuff as I am. Also I can find black makeup in most of the drug stores.

Insta @RebeccaPeloquin Twitter @RebeccaPeloquin

SITE www.RebeccaPeloquin.com

Art Director/Stylist: cee sando

#### **Tops & Bottoms**

by cee sando

Q: What do you love most about Halloween?

A: A holiday specifically about dressing up in the most creative way possible and scaring the crap out of yourself and others. What is there not to love?

Insta @ceesando Twitter @ceesando Periscope @ceesando SITE ceesando.com



#### CREDIT:

Valentine Anger, clothing models own, accessories stylists own







CREDITS (Clockwise from top left)

A.

Arty Anger, clothing by Cyndi Rios

В.

Valentine Anger, clothing models own, accessories stylists own Arty Anger, clothing by Cyndi Rios

C

Valentine Anger, clothing models own, accessories stylists own

cee sando is an arts & lifestyle writer, wardrobe stylist and unicorn v (@theartofwor) is inspired by international travel, the ocean, runner's high, sashimi, and that perfectly put together outfit.











#### **Community Cornerstone**

ounded in 1973 the Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives (CLGA) has grown to become the second largest LGBTQ archives in the world. It originally started out as a shelf in the offices of The Body Politic, Canada's Gay liberation newsmagazine of record during the 1970s and 80s.

It is now a premiere source for documents and mementos, with swag from festivals and important events dating back through history to milestones such as the Stonewall Riots in NYC (1969), and the "We Demand" protest in Ottawa (1971). Until recently this collections was kept secure in a small corporate space at 65 Wellesley Street in Toronto, but in 2009 they made the leap to a new headquarters at 34 Isabella Street, a 150-yr-old heritage home called the Jared D Sessions residence, just three streets north of Church and Wellesley's iconic LGBTQ Village in Toronto.



They are now open to the general public with gallery spaces for exhibits, a reading room, a reception area, and office spaces for two full-time staff and an army of volunteers. The stacks at the new James Fraser Library boasts an extensive network LGBTQ written works branching from non-fiction and biographies, to monographs, small press works, rare novels, dramatic works, poetry, and the world's largest LGBTQ-periodical collection. The Library is named after a dedicated-volunteer who gave as many as 500 hours a year from 1976 until his death in 1985.

This mammoth athenaeum demands careful attention from over 120 volunteers, led by the fearless Jade Pichette, Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator. Jade and her volunteers offer countless hours to sort through community donations, working to catalogue all materials by creating descriptions and grouping content, before placing items onto the shelves for reference.

"Our history is broad and diverse," says Jade, "and the Archives are a place for our history to be seen and heard." LGBTQ-artists are found amongst academics, journalists,



trailblazers, and community groups browsing the stacks looking for inspiration to base their upcoming works on.

A community engagement committee hosts regular tours, lectures, screenings and workshops, while providing greater access to CLGA content through newsletters, social media and updating the Archive's office website: (www.CLGA.ca). A volunteer curatorial committee, chaired by Sarah Munro, mounts quarterly exhibitions to engage with CLGA members and the general public. One can't help but marvel at the role CLGA plays in preserving these archives and protecting our past, carrying history along for the ride into present day.

Rebecka Sheffiled stepped into the role of CLGA's Executive Director this past June. When asked to identify the challenges facing CLGA in a digital age, she offered, "Because digital technologies are more complex than working with traditional paper records, they have pushed us to take a more collaborative approach to acquiring, preserving, and creating accessibility of important histories. The Archives are reaching out to other heritage and arts organizations to see how we can learn from each other, and how we can build partnerships to continue to keep our stories alive, no matter how they are told." PinkPlayMags readers can read more from Rebecka Sheffield's PhD dissertation "The Emergence and



Survival of Four Lesbian and Gay Archives" by visiting www.archivalobjects.com.

#### **Membership and Donations**

Anyone can become a CLGA Member for ONLY \$25 annually, which includes including research privileges and exclusive invitations to private launches, exhibits and scholar talks.



CLGA Members also receive research privileges such as assistance from volunteer archivists who make themselves available during public service drop-in hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:30pm to 10:30pm. Donations can also be made to the CLGA via their website www.clga.ca/donate.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Wednesday, 21 October at 7:00 PM

**Webinar** - LBTQ Women in the Archives by the Canadian Lesbian + Gay Archives

Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator Jade Pichette gives snapshots into the lives of lesbian, bisexual, and trans women as highlighted from the CLGA collections.

Registration - www.canadashistory.ca/Education/ Webinars/Register

Saturday November 14, 2015 at 6:00 PM

#### Flashback Gala

Carole Pope and Lorraine Segato invite you to press rewind on your boombox and party to the sounds and styles of the 1980's. Enjoy a fun and fabulous evening of cocktails, dinner, live entertainment, auction, and 1980s Mixtape dance - all in support of the CLGA.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Tickets - www.clga.ca/flashback-gala-1980s-mixtape

The Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives (CLGA)

34 Isabella St., Toronto, ON

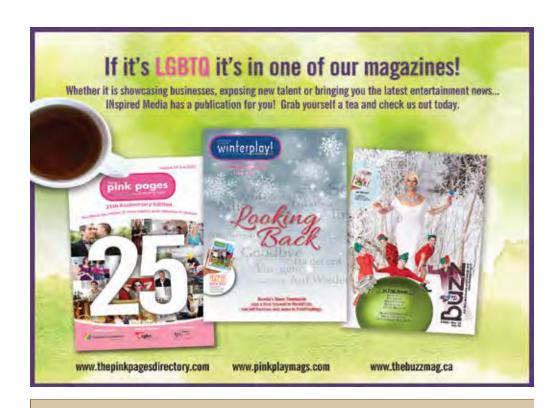
(416) 777-2755 www.clga.ca

Find CLGA on Tumblr, Twitter, YouTube, and FB (@ CLGArchives)

Michael Ain has played a role within the Church and Wellesley Community for nearly two decades, producing events and adding volume to LGBTQ initiatives through print, radio and social media, all while partnering with key organizations to spread the news on important LGBTQ issues.



Photo: Sergio Alvarado





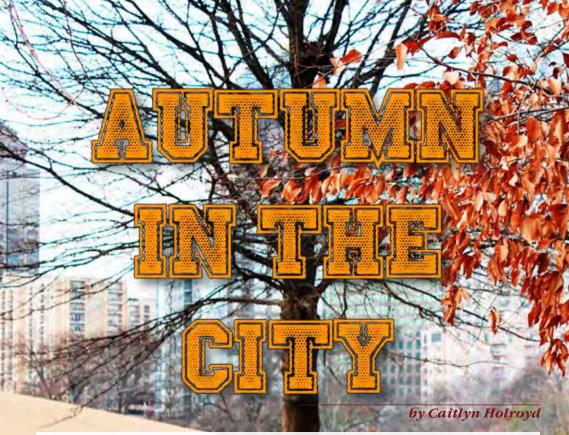
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never feels long Summer enough. Fortunately, we still have a few more weeks of good weather ahead of us (knock on wood), so don't put away that summer wardrobe just yet! There's still plenty of fun to be had across the city, too. For Fall 2015, I've included a mix of indoor and outdoor events to help ease you into the cooler months, along with holiday happenings for those who like to get their Christmas shopping done early.



#### **FOOD & DRINK**

Brewer's Backyard

October 12

Evergreen Brick Works, 550 Bayview Ave.

http://brewersbackyard.com

FREE

The Brewer's Backyard is a family-friendly craft beer festival taking place at the historic Evergreen Brick Works, a former quarry and industrial site-turned-environmental centre. It takes the concept of a beer garden to the next level, providing attendees with the opportunity to taste, learn about, and meet the people behind local breweries. The theme for their October event is "Torontoberfest." so expect some delicious Oktoberfest beers and sausages. TIP: Toronto is home to some tasty beer! Stop by the nearby Left Field Brewery (36 Wagstaff Drive) or Mill Street Brewery (21 Tank House Lane) to see for yourself.

#### Cheese & Cheers Appreciation + Pairing Class

October 25, November 15 Cheesewerks, 56 Bathurst Street http://culinaryadventureco.com TICKETS: \$89 + HST

Spend an afternoon learning about the art of pairing the best of artisan cheeses with craft sodas, ciders, local beers, spirits, and Ontario wines with Kevin Durkee, the culinary force behind Cheesewerks. The class will teach you how to explore cheese with all of your senses and will offer practical advice about selecting, serving, and entertaining with cheese.

TIP: If you love cheese, you'll want to try the cheese fondue at Cheesewerks. It's perfect for sharing, but there's no shame in eating an entire pot to yourself

#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Andy Warhol Revisited** 

Until December 31

77 Bloor Street West

https://warholrevisited.com

TICKETS: \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for students and vouth

Andy Warhol Revisted offers Toronto collectors, curators, and art enthusiasts a rare opportunity to view one of the world's largest collections of original Warhol prints and paintings in the Yorkville neighbourhood. Curated by Los Angeles-based Revolver Gallery, the exhibition features a number of Warhol's most recognizable pieces, including portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Mick Jagger along with his iconic Campbell's Soup Cans. The exhibition also incorporates unique details of Warhol's famed NYC studio and hangout spot. The Factory.



TIP: Search #WarholTo on Twitter and Instagram to see what others thought of the exhibition and share your own photos under the hashtag!

#### Canzine: Festival of Zines and **Underground Culture**

October 17

Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas Street West www.brokenpencil.com/canzine-toronto FREE (\$5 suggested donation)

Since its inception in 1995. Canzine has brought together hundreds of writers and performers and displayed thousands of zines, comics, and other small-press works. The event is organized by Broken Pencil magazine and includes a zine fair, panel discussions, reading series, and more.

TIP: The book pitch is a must for up-and-coming writers! You get two minutes to pitch your book to a panel of judges, who will then tell you why they want to see your manuscript or, sadly, why you have zero hope of ever getting published. The winner gets bragging rights and a prize pack!

#### **Peaches**

October 20

The Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne Street TICKETS: \$37.75 via Ticketmaster, Rotate This, and Soundscapes

Canadian electronic musician and performance artist Peaches hits the road for a 24-city tour in support of her latest album, Rub. The album was recorded in Los Angeles with Vice Cooler and features guest stars like Feist and Kim Gordon

TIP: For a preview of what you can expect, check out Peaches' self-directed video for "Light in Places."





October 25

Kensington Market

#### FREE

Eclectic shops, cafes, and an abundance of food options make Kensington Market one of Toronto's most vibrant neighbourhoods. That becomes especially clear during Pedestrian Sunday, which takes place on the last Sunday of the month between May and October. From noon to 7 p.m., the market's major streets are closed off to traffic and opened up to pedestrians, vendors, artists, and musicians. TIP: If you're looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of the market, grab a cup of coffee and head to one of the beautiful back patios at Cafe Pamenar, Jimmy's Coffee, or Moonbean.

#### Sorauren Park Pumpkin Parade

November 1

Sorauren Park, 289 Sorauren Avenue https://soraurenpark.wordpress.com

#### FREE

Have you ever wondered what happens to jack-o'-lanterns after they die? Every year on November 1, Sorauren Park plays host to Pumpkin Parade, during which Torontonians are invited to bring their unwanted pumpkins and place them along a path for others to admire. It's not a competition, but some pumpkins definitely stand out more than others. Stay tuned to their website for this year's theme.

TIP: For optimum viewing, stop by after sunset. Most pumpkins are dropped off by 8 p.m., with the biggest crowd forming around 7 p.m.



#### One of a Kind Christmas Show & Sale

November 26 to December 6

Direct Energy Centre (Exhibition Place), 100 Princes' Boulevard

www.oneofakindshow.com

TICKETS: \$13 for adults, \$7.50 for students

The One of a Kind Christmas Show has been around since 1975, making it one of the city's most anticipated holiday shopping events of the year. The show brings together over 800 artisans and designers selling Canadian-made ceramics, jewellery, furniture, clothing, art, gourmet food, and more. It's the perfect place to shop for unique holiday gifts!

TIP: For a truly personal gift, take part in one of the show's hands-on workshops. Each session includes instructions from One of a Kind exhibitors, materials, admission to the show, and a light breakfast.



November 27 to January 3

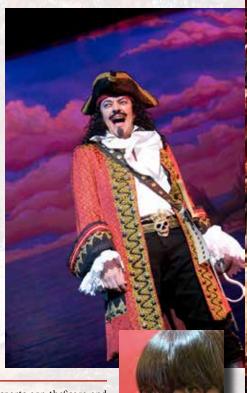
Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge Street http://rosspetty.com

TICKETS: \$27-99

After two decades of producing and starring in holiday family musicals, Ross Petty is hanging up his spanx and taking his final "boo" as Captain Hook in a brand new version of Peter Pan. Joining Petty on stage will be Eddie Glen, who has appeared in 12 of the 20 productions, and Dan Chameroy, who starred in the first production at the Elgin Theatre in 1996 as Robin Hood. Award-winning playwright Chris Earle will also make his return to tell the tale of the boy who refused to grow up.

TIP: While this will be your last chance to to express your venomous admiration towards Petty on stage, it isn't goodbye. He he plans to continue producing the shows into the foreseeable future.





Caitlyn Holroyd is a news editor at the Toronto-based sports app theScore and a contributor at SheDoesTheCity.com, where she compiles the hottest parties and events for the weekly Toronto Hit List. When she isn't writing, she enjoys travelling, attending concerts, and hanging out with her two cats.

www.shedoesthecity.com/author/caitlyn-holroyd











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#### From The Heart

onster! Truthfully, I had written a whole different column for this issue but I could not get around it enough to let it out of the bunker. It did not feel as though I had brought my truth to the word or the feeling of what is a monster. Since I began the first piece so much has piled itself up around my front door, both literally and psychically. My partner and I have just gone through the loss of our beloved pet Marrakech, our cat of 13 years, and an animal that existed on pure love and contact.

That loss to us was and is a complete monster moment for both two-footers and the other four-footers. A monster moment that I know will encircle and haunt us unseen, but will still be felt deeply all the same. Not unlike the same invisible monster under our childhood beds, and the special one deeply imbedded in our closets, and the dark reaches of the basement.

If I try and pin it down beyond a dictionary my monsters do not have a shape or form. Even as a child I could not describe the beast that I feared so badly. My monster lurked outside of my imagination. It existed deep inside me, and the reality hit me one day as I was going through my anti-monster routines. The gory, dangerous, scary creature was my own heart and psyche. I was being chased by a monster of my own making, which truly is the source of most monsters.

There was however a real present monster

that lived around us when we were all living in a big old house in our hometown. The monster was what my sister and I called 'the ghost', the kid's bedrooms on the second floor, which had been converted from the attic. Our home was the second one built on a dead end street, and it was surrounded by huge trees with lightning rods on the roof, and a big front porch that was so common back then. "The ghost" let us know it was there, moving the hanging clothes back and forth. There definitely were soft voices and bad vibes on certain days, and times as you climbed the stairs and moved upwards towards its abode.

More than once we were awakened by the sound of a drum kit being hit, which continued until our screams brought my father up into the room. There was always the tapping on the walls, and the closet doors would swing slowly after we had gone to bed. My father got a lot of exercise running up and down those stairs doing his ghost busting. My parents said they did not believe in what was happening, but one day a black Lincoln pulled up and out came a Catholic priest carrying a bag in his hand. He then spent the next hour or so blessing the whole house, especially our rooms upstairs. I moved out of the house and into a sort of hippy commune by the time I was 18, so I spent little time there after that. Just another monster in the world for me.

My final monster is totally real and not part of anyone's imagination. We were all living in the same weird house as described above, and it was the early 1960's. We were a "normal" family, kids in school, dad a tradesman at Ford, and mom at home taking care of the day-to-day stuff. Suddenly the monster of nuclear war was upon us. This monster was real and had the possibility of ending our family, and all that was loved that resided within.



I remember when the Cuban missile crisis was at its peak, and our family slept upstairs with all the beds pushed together, not knowing what tomorrow would bring. We camped out and slept waiting for either life or death from decisions made beyond our little household's control. As history goes, the Russian's blinked and the crisis was solved. Still the monster of nuclear war chased me through my childhood. We had bomb drills, air raid sirens, and emergency test patterns on the television, all in case we needed to go to a designated bomb shelter or the basement to protect ourselves. Buildings downtown had the designated signs outside their doors proclaiming that they were a safe shelter from attack.

That monster still haunts me today, as does the monster that is my heart and psyche, all chasing me into different emotions and dark corners. Yet the self-made monsters are smaller now as I move towards selfawareness, and the love around me shrinks the fear of the unknown that once made them seem unconquerable. The nuclear monster not so much, as it continues today, whether by weapons or disasters around the world.

We are surrounded by monsters of our own making, and by others that threaten us which are created by others. Is there a magic wand, to ward off the deep dark menacing monsters of our lives? Yes for some there is, but for others maybe self-awareness, love, and our notion that we are all humans in this together, are the wands that we need to keep the monsters at bay.

Patricia Wilson is a musician and writer and whatever. She lives in the bunker in Toronto with her partner

of 22 years Helene, and their three four-footers. She is one of the founding members of the rock band Crackpuppy, and is proud to have been associated with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre for over 20 years, currently working as bartender/bar manager. She's also working on a book of poetry/prose.



# Autumn Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

It's time for reassessment and revaluation of some of your past decisions. Take it easy. Don't rush into anything without a plan. You may see some significant changes in your personal life as emotions run high but you must manage these emotions. Challenges come from clashing the business with personal. Be careful not to burn bridges. Remember: Rome wasn't built in a day. But you can burn it down in a day...Destruction happens instantly. Creation takes time.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21)

You are feeling prosperous, blissful and harmonious on the work front. New business and jobs keep you occupied and fortune smiles upon you. However, with all of this on your plate, career-related challenges may increase demands on your time and could have a negative effect on your personal relationships. Be cautious, as career may take priority over family. Remember: Work to live, don't live to work.

#### Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

Obstacles are present in your career, but your love life will be free and clear. This season is a time for growth and exploration as you consider travel and foreign connections to fuel your adventurous spirit. Wisdom from Jim Morrison: "There's only four ways to get unraveled. One is to sleep and the other is travel."

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

You are making some long-term decisions about your family life. You will feel the pull to make a commitment. It's time to start realizing some of your personal and professional dreams. Challenges appearing, particularly concerning your career will help you to illuminate these dreams. Remember: Home is where the heart is. Especially for you, dear Cancer, keeper of the home and

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Are you confused regarding upcoming decisions personally and professionally? No worries, by Thanksgiving, all should be on track. Career is the focus so take care to balance your professional and personal life. Neglecting your personal life will cause a disruption of the delicate balance of support that you so keenly rely on. Review your "Relationship Owner's Manual" and Handle With Care.

Virgo (August 23 - September 23)

You may feel instability in career, finance and family. Not to worry, things will improve. The challenges you've faced in 2015 will start to ease up as you settle into a nice routine as Autumn winds down. Careful though, your emotions will be tested. Remember: Cooler heads prevail.

Libra (September 24 - October 23)

It has been a great year for you so far Libra. So much so, that you could be feeling the side-effects of your overindulgence. It's time to wind down a little bit and get back to basics. This will be particularly important as you may be given a heavier work-load, which could also lead to bouts of insomnia. Remember to take care of yourself. Take heed: Everything in moderation. You are, after all, the Keeper of the Scales.

Scorpio (October 24 - November 22) In romance, the dust seems to have settled. Relationship that weren't working have been ended. If a new romance was on your horizon, it has likely already started. Existing relationships have entered a new stage of romance and understanding. From this point on, you should be facing calm waters, romantically-speaking. A new cycle begins this season. Correct your mistakes and start afresh. Love is in the air and all things are new.

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21) You'll want to start being cautious about money as finances will be a little tight. Relationships, as a result. may be volatile. Seek spiritual awareness to navigate these practical and personal waters. Once you make it through this challenging phase, your finances should be on an upswing and you should end the year feeling optimistic about your financial future. Just in time for

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) This season will herald changes in career. Family will be supportive as finances improve. Be careful to effectively manage conflicting personalities in the workplace. If you need to be controlling, try it on yourself first. Accept that you can't change the world around you but you can change yourself. Advice from Ghandi: Be the change you wish to see in the world.

Aguarius (January 20 - February 19)

Christmas!

Opportunities to improve your ability to communicate present themselves in your career. You will be in high spirits as you make headway in your interpersonal challenges. The benefits spill into your personal life and your relationships could become more intimate as a result of your newly finessed communication skills. As you push through problems, your health will improve. Onwards and upwards!

Pisces (February 20 - March 20)

It's time to focus on yourself, dear Pisces. Be mindful to not ignore your career. Your partner will bring you a lot of strength and pleasure as you accept this self-loving undertaking. Your joint focus on building a life together will create a successful and prosperous foundation. Two heads are better than one! (As are two hearts...)

Julie is a Sociology and Psychology graduate, a Psychotherapy Intern and a lifelong student of the psyche. In her free time she is a crochet adventurer and musical muse. In writing this horoscope, she intends to intuitively uncover messages from these astrological archetypes which are part of us all collectively, and guide you into your future. As above, so below.





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#### **Looking Back**

I decided to take a look back at one of the great masters of suspense in film, Alfred Hitchcock. After spending a weekend watching a selection of some of his more well-known and/or more highly rated films, I do not believe that I would have been able to watch them all, considering his career spanned more than 60 years and over 50 films. I settled on watching many films I knew, and which needed to be refreshed in my memory, as well as a few of the later films which had never previously attracted my interest.

As I worked my way through various films of this master, I recognized the genius of some of his work, while also recalling exactly why I had never watched various other films he made. After all, even a master cannot be all things to all people. In particular, I think I could do without almost anything from 1960 on, including "The Birds" and "Psycho", his failing health seeming to have dimmed his brilliance.

For all that Hitchcock was a master of suspense, any aspects of a romantic plot or sub-plot could be his great stumbling block, more than likely a reflection of his misogyny and sexual deviance. Having been obese for all of his life, including childhood, he probably developed his hatred of women as a result of having rarely been enthusiastically received by them. Yet it was a love-hate relationship, being an otherwise normal, heterosexual male, he passionately admired and desired beautiful women, especially blondes. This desire is clearly reflected in the casting of his female leads. From Edna Best in the first incarnation of "The Man Who Knew Too Much" (1934), through Grace Kelly in a trio of films, "Dial M for Murder" (1954), "Rear Window" (1954), and "To Catch a Thief" (1955), and on to Hitchcock's final film, "Family Plot" (1976) starring a very blonde Barbara Harris, and co-star Karen Black wearing a blonde wig in various scenes. There were certainly deviations from this predilection, however even in "Torn Curtain" (1966), Julie Andrews appears with heinous blonde hi-lites.

In his work between 1934 and 1959, I believe that Hitchcock achieved his greatest success as a master of cinematic suspense. Some of my favourites include "The 39 Steps" (1935), "The Lady Vanishes" (1938), "Rebecca" (1940), and almost everything from "Suspicion" (1941) to "North By Northwest" (1959). The exceptions in this time period would be two short films, "Aventure Malgache" (1944) and "Bon Voyage" (1944), as well as "Under Capricorn" (1949) and "I Confess" (1953) which I have not seen.

Although I believe that this period of '34 to '59 is the best to experience some of Hitchcock's signature



stylistic devices, "Psycho" (1960) is one of the most obvious examples of the use of German Expressionism (1918-1933) cinema techniques, which Hitchcock developed as a result of his early career working in Germany, and watching German Expressionist films by such noted masters as F. W. Murnau and Fritz Lang. Examples of these techniques are: extremes of lighting, severe camera angles, contrasting long and short takes, and exaggerations or monumentalism of architecture. The estrangement between Norman Bates and his mother, as well as the perverse relationship that is eventually revealed between them, are examples of Hitchcock's recurring devices of "the wrong man", and unhealthy mother/son relationships.

Hitchcock was also notorious for featuring subtle sexual overtones and references which barely squeaked by the censors. Until his penultimate production "Frenzy" (1972), nudity and profane language had been avoided in any of his films. So as much as murder and intrigue were featured prominently in Hitchcock films, one easily forgets that the nudity and obscenities which are so common today are absent, yet it doesn't detract from the suspense, or the entirety of the film.

Hitchcock was a true cinematic master that deserves a look back.

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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