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OF JEAN-MICHEL

# BASQUIAT

▶12

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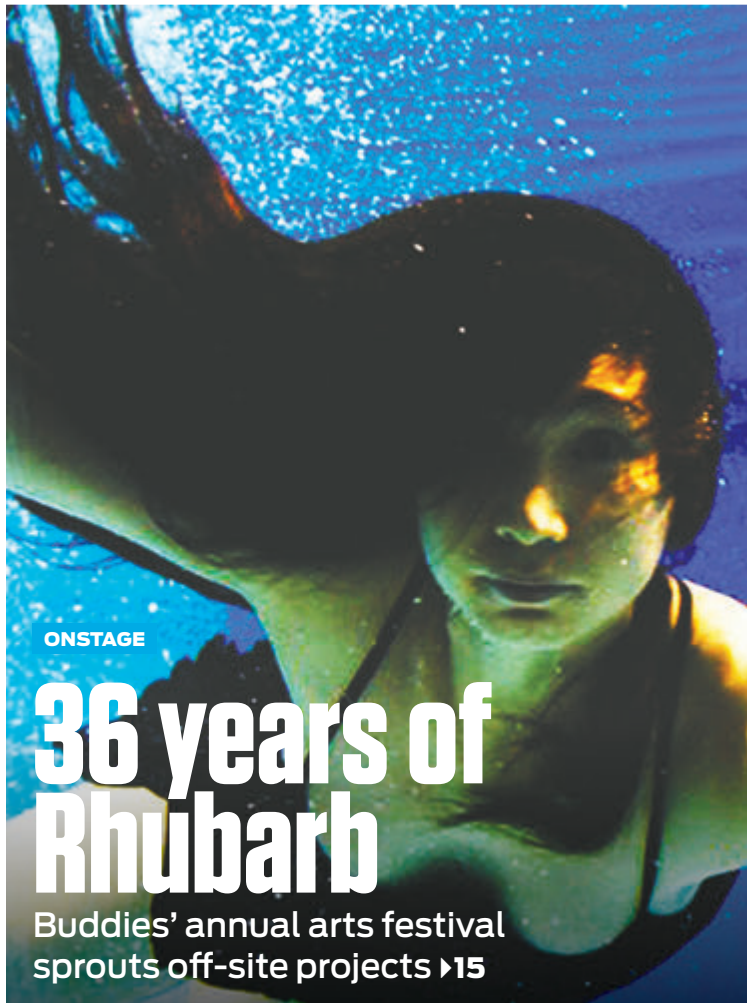


**SQUIRT**





PHOTO BY JAE YANG



ONSTAGE

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PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**Brandon Matheson**

**EDITORIAL**

MANAGING EDITOR **Matthew DiMera**  
ARTS EDITOR **Phil Villeneuve**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR **Andrew Jacome**  
COPY EDITOR **Lesley Fraser**  
STAFF REPORTER **HG Watson**  
**EVENT LISTINGS:** [listings@dailyxtra.com](mailto:listings@dailyxtra.com)  
**CONTRIBUTE OR INQUIRE** about Xtra's editorial content: [matthew.dimera@dailyxtra.com](mailto:matthew.dimera@dailyxtra.com), [andrew.jacome@dailyxtra.com](mailto:andrew.jacome@dailyxtra.com), [phil.villeneuve@dailyxtra.com](mailto:phil.villeneuve@dailyxtra.com)  
EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE  
**Drasko Bogdanovic, Kyle Burton, Roly Chambers, Yigi Chang, Chris Dupuis, Lizzie Himmel, Serafin LaRiviere, Erica Lenti, Michael Lyons, Eduardo Sabate, Johnnie Walker, Jeremy Willard**

**ART & PRODUCTION**

CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Lucinda Wallace**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS  
**Darryl Mabey, Landon Whittaker**

**ADVERTISING**

ADVERTISING & SALES DIRECTOR **Ken Hickling**  
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**Brian Garrison, Phil Clowater**  
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**Phone:** 416-925-6665 **Fax:** 416-925-6674  
**Website:** [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com) **Email:** [info@dailyxtra.com](mailto:info@dailyxtra.com)

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DIRECTORS **Jim Bartley, Gerald Hannon, Glenn Kauth, Didier Pomerleau, Ken Popert, Gillian Rodgeron**  
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COVER PHOTO BY LIZZIE HIMMEL ©

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- ▶ Factory Theatre reboots for 2015
- ▶ Video: Buzzworthy LGBT films at Sundance

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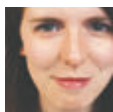


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## John Baird's complicated LGBT legacy



EDITORIAL  
HG WATSON

John Baird, the Conservative member of Parliament and minister of foreign affairs who announced his resignation on Feb 3, will be remembered for many things, but he'll also be remembered as the man who fuelled the debate over whether an MP's sexuality matters.

The rumour mill has swirled for years about several Conservative politicians. If you believe the gossip, an alleged "gay mafia" made up of single, white, male politicians — Baird among them — runs the upper echelon of Canada's ruling party.

But as political writer Justin Ling has pointed out repeatedly, the rumours are generally just that. A man can be single and friendly with other gay men, as many Conservatives are, but it's not evidence that they are gay themselves.

By that same logic, Jason Kenney, minister of employment and social development, should secretly be a welder, or Latvian — according to his social media accounts, he's at the very least shaken hands with one of both in the last several months.

Baird's circumstances go beyond simple speculation, however. In 2010, almost exactly four years before he resigned, Pamela Taylor, a Conservative then running in a provincial by-election, outed Baird, naming him as an openly gay MP when asked to name one during CBC Toronto's *Metro Morning* radio show.

Baird has not broached the subject of his sexuality since the allegation was made public, and the story has not been widely reported outside LGBT media. But the statement did lend credence to the rumours about Baird, leading some to speculate that he lives in a glass closet.

Further compounding the rumours is that he has been the most outspoken Conservative Party member on LGBT rights. He was openly critical of laws in Uganda that criminalize homosexuality and spoke out against similar laws in Russia and Kenya. His position caused him to butt heads with REAL Women of Canada, a conservative group with close ties to the party. After he announced his

resignation, members of both the NDP and the Liberal Party commended his record of defending gay rights worldwide.

Baird was also among the Conservative MPs who voted to include gender identity in the Canadian Human Rights Act and was against opening the debate on same-sex marriage, earning accolades from his Liberal colleagues in an op-ed in *The Globe and Mail*. And when a gay, 15-year-old Ottawa student committed suicide, Baird offered condolences in the House of Commons.

In 2010, *Xtra* editor Marcus McCann expressed his disappointment on Baird's silence regarding his sexuality, especially in contrast to his reputation as an outspoken politician. And after Baird criticized homophobic Russian laws in 2013, Ontario NDP MPP Cheri DiNovo and activist Roy Mitchell asked him to come out publicly, saying the news would have international impact.

Mitchell told *Xtra* reporter Andrea Houston in 2013 that Baird's sexuality was no longer personal — it was political. "Having a gay foreign minister should be a sign of how progressive we are," he was quoted as saying, adding that he believed it sent mixed messages that Baird would support LGBT rights in other countries while not being out in Canada.

It's true: had Baird publicly come out, he would have been the most prominent Conservative MP to do so. He would have been someone for LGBT conservatives, or any politicians-to-be, to look to for inspiration.

But his stance on LGBT rights isn't lessened by his silence. He still stood up, in front of MPs he knew would probably be against his positions, and defended LGBT rights worldwide.

Baird won't be remembered for being an out-and-proud politician, but he doesn't have to be. That's a choice people can make about their sexuality in 2015. But he did, unintentionally, begin a dialogue about what sexuality means for politics in a country where people are often unwilling to broach the topic.

It's on all of us to continue the discussion.

.....  
*HG Watson is Xtra Toronto's news reporter.*

## FEEDBACK

### End of Xtra in print

Having just learned of the end of the print edition, I am not sad, but rather looking back through the rose-coloured glasses of my age at my relationship with the many publications of what is now Pink Triangle Press ["Gay Publisher *Xtra* to Embrace Digital, Close Print," [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com), Jan 14].

You were there with me during and after the bath raids in the 1980s, being at the forefront of information and support as I watched *The Body Politic* transition into *Xtra*.

So, for over 40 years I have looked forward to the regular issues of your publications and will miss *Xtra*, too, but now that I have registered in here I will still be with you.

ROGER SPENCER  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

### New Pride ED Mathieu Chantelois

No doubt Pride is a big spectacular event every June, made up mostly of seven days of third-party events and a three-day weekend on Church Street. It's doubtful the whole community will buy into another WorldPride-type event. No one seems to know what Pride is about anymore — it's become a kitchen sink of every event imaginable under a queer banner. The new ED, Mathieu Chantelois, from what I've read about him, seems to be a bit of a chin-wagger. Under the guidance of the Pride board of directors, I'm sure, Mr Chantelois can do a fairly good job in the caretaker role. He can splash some money around on new events for the next three years to keep Pride Toronto moving forward, but he's no Kevin Beaulieu.

MICHEL PARÉ  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

### Trans inmates in Ontario

The tone turned unnecessarily negative in this article, as the Ontario government is going to "resolve both of these cases" with decisions from adjudicators at the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal — providing settlements aren't rendered instead ["Trans Inmates

“No one seems to know what Pride is about anymore — it's become a kitchen sink of every event imaginable under a queer banner.”

RE: NEW PRIDE ED MATHIEUCHANTELOIS



to Be Placed Based on Self-Identified Gender," [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com), Jan 28]. This newly introduced law is the first step in protecting transgender inmates in provincial prisons. This Ontario law will be the blueprint of other jurisdictions following suit to adequately deal with trans issues — sooner rather than later, hopefully!

BARRY DENNISON  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

### Backlash against Raziel Reid's novel

I vividly recall being a very depressed 11-year-old who sought out books for solace and comprehension ["Online Protesters Target Gay Author over 'Vulgar' Content," [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com), Jan 23]. My alienation was caused in large part by bullying, which wasn't discussed back then. I thank my parents and the librarians who let me read what I wanted. Barbara Kay does not hold a monopoly on acceptable views of the world. To withdraw a prize for political purposes will create a potential for self-censorship.

CAELAN  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

Kay is right about one thing: increased sales due to her rant. I bought a copy after I read this article. Congrats to Raziel on his award.

IDIZZY1  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

The first gay novel that I read as

a young, closeted gay teen was *A Boy's Own Story* by Edmund White, but it really depressed me. It made me think that there was no hope. I then read *The Boys on the Rock* by John Fox, which was much more positive and hopeful (despite the breakup of the first gay relationship of the main gay teen character and the tragic death of another gay teen character).

I think the gay teen characters on television and in movies today are much more positive and hopeful than anything that you will find in gay novels. Gay and straight screenwriters seem to trump gay novelists in terms of offering hope and positive images to gay youth.

BRIAN N  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

### Gay men giving 'research' blood

This is outrageous ["Deferred from Giving Blood, Gay Men Urged to Donate to Research," [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com), Jan 19]. Even the name, "Rainbow Donation Clinic," is an insult. Everybody should attend and inform them that they refuse to donate until Canadian Blood Services ends their unscientific, homophobic discrimination against the entire gay and bi male communities.

TTFN  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

People are angry about the policy for gay and bi men giving blood because it is patently discriminatory and treats every man who has sex with men as damaged instead of staying current with modern science. So while it's great that blood can be used for other research, us fags are still being stigmatized by CBS, even though we're supposedly "a motivated, healthy group of people who can provide blood."

FRUITMACHINE  
[DAILYXTRA.COM](http://DAILYXTRA.COM)

The outcome that we seek is this — gay and lesbian people daring together to set love free.

*Xtra* is published by Pink Triangle Press, at 2 Carlton St, Ste 1600, Toronto, M5B 1J3.



# XCETERA

FROM THE ARCHIVES  
5 YEARS AGO

## XTRA #660, FEB 11, 2010

Queer storyteller and dub performer extraordinaire d'bi young presents the first part of her "biomyth monodrama" trilogy, *She Raw Now*, at Buddies in Bad Times' Rhubarb festival. "My personal life is the catalyst for my work because the story I am going to tell has to be rooted in some kind of truth."



OUT ON THE STREET BY KYLE BURTON

## Who is your favourite queer painter?



**Sonja**  
CURATOR AT AKASHA  
**James Huctwith.** His work is unbelievable. His paintings are in a Renaissance style. My photography is based on Renaissance paintings, so I can relate to him.



**Kelly**  
CUSTOM FRAMER  
**James Fowler.** His work is based on topographical cityscapes with geometric detailing. I like his simplicity and attention to detail. His work really resonates with me.



**Mitchel**  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
**Attila Richard Lukacs.** He's edgy, sexy, and he once did a self-portrait of his dress socks.



**Michael**  
TEACHER  
**Syrus Marcus Ware.** He is supportive of the community and is a true icon.



### QUOTABLE

“I don't think Ewan is as proud of his penis as most men who are as well hung would — or should — or could be. I think that's the greatest demonstration of his innate humility, that he doesn't wear it like a badge of honor.”

Colin Farrell compliments his *Cassandra's Dream* co-star Ewan McGregor in an interview with *Nylon Guys*.

➤ MORE AT DAILYXTRA.COM

## Sushi

A BIWEEKLY HELPING OF POP CULTURE, SERVED À LA CARTE

**Portland, Oregon**  
The kinkiest city in America, according to Kink University.

**Kink University**  
A higher-education organization for erotic exploration based in San Francisco.

**San Francisco, California**

Not the gayest city in the US; according to *The Advocate*, that honour goes to **Dayton, Ohio.**



**Nancy Cartwright**  
The voice of **Bart Simpson** hails from Dayton.

**'Humanity's greatest achievement'**  
Grindr, according to Homer Simpson, in a recent episode of *The Simpsons*.

**\$500,000**

Approximate amount the US government spent on a study of gay hook-up apps.

**9Monsters**  
A Japanese gay hook-up app that allows users to exist as animals and breed with other animals to create monsters. An automatic translation function is included.

**Breeding**  
The Ontario government recently announced plans to introduce legislation banning the breeding of orca whales in captivity.

**Poonado**  
Term coined by a Canadian photographer who was recently trapped in a giant cloud of feces while photographing a sperm whale.

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## LGBT HEALTH

LGBT Health runs various free community groups. Groups are run by experienced facilitators in a wheelchair accessible space. All groups provide either a snack or a meal. TTC tokens are available for those who need them to access a group. Please contact us for further accessibility or other information.

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Learn to cook easy meals that are healthy and low cost! Meet new people, talk about food and health, and have fun. **For details, dates and to sign up, contact Jessica at 416-324-4100 ext. 5250.**

## GENDER JOURNEYS

Gender Journeys is an 11-week group for anyone experiencing changes across the gender spectrum. The group runs 3 times a year: winter, spring and fall. **To register, contact Kusha at ydadui@sherbourne.on.ca or at 416-324-5078.**

## MEN'S TRAUMA RECOVERY AND EMPOWERMENT

A weekly, 75 minute, 24-session skill building (CBT) group for male-identified survivors of trauma. Open to gay, bi, queer, and trans men. **Wednesdays, 10am-12pm, April 1 to September 30. Contact Peter: 416-324-5058 or phall@sherbourne.on.ca**

## MIND YOUR MIND: A CBT GROUP FOR ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

Mind Your Mind is a 12-week group that uses CBT techniques to help with experiences of anxiety and depression. Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) can help people understand the thoughts and feelings that influence behaviours. **To register, contact Peter at phall@sherbourne.on.ca or 416-324-4100 ext. 5058.**

## TRANS MEN'S POST-SURGICAL SUPPORT GROUP

The Trans Men's Surgical Support Group is a biweekly group for trans men who have started the process of or have completed bottom surgery. **To sign up, contact Laura at 416-324-4100 x 5096 or lkrahn@sherbourne.on.ca.**

## TRANS WOMEN'S POST-SURGICAL SUPPORT GROUP

The Trans Women's Surgical Support Group is a biweekly group for trans women who are healing from or have completed bottom surgery. The group starts February 10 and will be ongoing every other Tuesday evening. **To sign up, contact Laura at 416-324-4100 x 5096 or lkrahn@sherbourne.on.ca.**

## LGBTQ FAMILY PLANNING COURSES - REGISTER NOW FOR WINTER & SPRING 2015!

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# Toronto proposes 54 new shelter beds for LGBT youth

‘We have been waiting for a very long time for this,’ says researcher

**YOUTH**  
**HG WATSON**

Toronto queer activists are finally getting what some have fought decades for — dedicated space for homeless LGBT youth.

As part of the proposed 2015 budget, 54 beds for LGBT youth will be added to Toronto’s shelter system. As well, two 24-hour drop-ins for women will open in the east and west ends of the city, for a total increase of \$7.9 million to the city budget.

Councillor Joe Mihevc, a member of the community development and recreation committee, says that city staff had begun to recognize the need for greater specialization in the shelter system.

“We know that gay and lesbian youth can be vulnerable in shelters and are sometimes the victims of hate and violence,” Mihevc says.

I Alex Abramovich, a post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, is thrilled with the news. “I think we have been waiting for a very long time for this,” he says. “We have known about this issue for over 20



I Alex Abramovich is one of the advocates who pushed for increased shelter space for homeless LGBT youth in Toronto.

years in Toronto.”

According to a report from Covenant House, approximately 2,000 youth are homeless in Toronto on any given night. Further research has found that anywhere from 25 to 40 percent of homeless youth identify as part of the LGBT community, though Abramovich says that estimate comes from a study done roughly 15 years ago. Today, he says, there isn’t much clarity on how many homeless youth are part of the LGBT community because not many services collect that data, making it difficult to track.

“Something that I’ve discovered in my research is that a lot of shelters are deeply ingrained in a homophobic and transphobic culture,” Abramovich says.

Mihevc says that once council approves the new shelter space, city staff will put out a request for proposals for a shelter provider this summer. The providers for two 24-hour women’s drop-ins have already been chosen but will not be revealed until after council votes on the budget.

Mihevc adds that services at the drop-in centres would be available to “street-involved women in the sex trade.” He has no firm answer as to whether the drop-ins would be available to trans women but says he thinks they would be.

Last year, city council passed a motion mandating that all shelter staff receive anti-homophobia and anti-transphobia training.

Budget committee meetings and consultations are slated to continue through February. City council will vote on the budget March 10.

## TRANS ISSUES

### Ontario overhauls prison policies for trans inmates

A sweeping overhaul to the admittance and placement policies for trans inmates at Ontario’s jails and prisons has put the province ahead of many other jurisdictions, according to the minister of community safety and correctional services. Officials at Ontario’s detention and correctional centres will

now have to place trans inmates based on their self-identified gender, rather than by what a prison guard perceives their gender to be. Integration into the general prison population will also be favoured over segregation.

At a press conference at the 519 Church Street Community Centre on Jan 26, Yasir Naqvi, Ontario’s community safety minister, announced a new set of policies aimed at respecting the rights of trans inmates.

“This is the most progressive policy on the treatment of trans inmates in North America,” Naqvi says. “No other jurisdiction in Canada has such policy.”

He says he will be sending a copy of the policy to his counterparts across the country.

Inmates can also choose the gender of the officer who will perform frisk and strip searches or choose to have two officers present. Prior to the new policies being put in place, that option was available only for strip searches.

The new process also allows inmates to have input into how the searches are done so that they are performed respectfully; however, Naqvi did not elaborate on how much input inmates would have beyond choosing the gender of the officer who would perform

the search. And while the new measures extend to the general prison population, the onus is on inmates themselves to speak up.

Placement decisions will be made by multidisciplinary teams, which will include health and social workers. Training on trans issues is already being developed for ministry staff.

The previous policy, which allowed ministry officials some discretion in placing trans inmates, was criticized for being inaccessible and unclear. In 2012, Boyd Kodak was misgendered and placed in a detention centre that didn’t match his gender identity, demonstrat-

ing just how arbitrary the policy was.

He described a humiliating search process when he was sent to a women’s detention centre, despite having long identified as a man. Kodak was forced to wear women’s clothing and was later released with only women’s clothes.

“I was put in harm’s way,” Kodak says. Kodak filed a complaint with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario and remains concerned that his case has not been settled. He says that if the Ontario government is sincere about respecting the rights of trans inmates, it should resolve his case. “That would be, to me, a real resolution.” — HG Watson



Check out our columnists  
and bloggers on [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com)



### A sex worker's tale

Trading a blowjob for 20 bucks and a half pack of cigarettes had brought me to a new level of debauchery. Courtney Love would have been proud.



### Adventures in gay parenting

It's not that I don't like Hot Wheels or Thomas the Tank Engine, but I can't quite figure out my son's predilection toward traditionally masculine pursuits.



### History Boys

The Wonder Woman comics from the 1940s are rife with BDSM. On almost every page there's kidnap, slavery or bondage.



### Hooking up in public

When I find myself exploring a dungeon party on a Sunday afternoon, I know why I'm there. I'm on a journey searching for those connections.

**DAILY Xtra** EVERYTHING GAY, EVERY DAY.

# He had no whiskers

## Murray Hall, a prominent NYC politician, lived as a man for more than 25 years



### HISTORY BOYS JEREMY WILLARD

During one of my recent visits to the History Boys Archives (past the riddle-posing troll, across the drawbridge and beyond the courtyard full of tied-up slave-boys), I noticed a trend while poring over our columns.

We've written about several figures who were assigned female at birth (ie, they were raised female) but later lived as men. An excitable modern queer conscience might say, "Yes, well, clearly they were transgender." What I find interesting is that that's not always clear. Sure, some people may have been transgender — if that term even applies to someone living in, say, the 16th century — but in other cases, it seems the person lived as male not out of desire to be (or be read as) male, but as a matter of utility (and may have identified as female in private): you often had to be male if you wanted to vote, do certain jobs, travel, own property — do virtually anything. Whatever the person's motives, I always call them by whatever pronouns they seemed to prefer.

So, while I don't know what his motives were, I call Murray Hall "he" and "him." When such a person was found to be living as a man, what would follow, especially in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were sensational headlines. When Hall died, age 70, the headline of a Jan 19, 1901, article in *The New York Times* read "Murray Hall Fooled Many Shrewd Men," followed by "How for Years She Masqueraded in Male Attire," "Had Married Two Women" and "Was a Prominent Tammany Politician and Always Voted — Senator Martin Astonished" (editors liked to bombard readers with lots of weirdly worded sub-headings in those days).

The article, which calls Hall by female pronouns, says that he lived as a man for more than 25 years until the



Murray Hall drank, smoked cigars, was assertive, flirted with women, played poker and once gave a policeman a black eye. YIGI CHANG

"secret of [his] sex" was discovered when he died the previous Wednesday. Hall, who was a New York City politician, had breast cancer but failed to seek treatment out of fear of being exposed. Then, with death imminent, he saw Dr William Gallagher, who found that the cancer had spread and Hall had only a few days to live. He was married twice (his wives, at least, must have known his secret), and his sole heir was his adopted daughter, Minnie.

The article quotes the reactions of some of Hall's associates. They're surprised, but many talk as though they now realize there were telltale signs. C S Pratt, a bookseller, says Hall was "somewhat effeminate in appearance and talked in a falsetto voice." Senator Bernard Martin says Hall always wore "a coat a size or two too large" and now realizes "that was to conceal his form." He adds, "His face was always smooth, just as if he had just come from the barber's."

Many say flattering things in spite of Hall's being, as they now think of him, a woman. I think this was, in part, to explain how they'd been, in their minds, duped: he was intelligent and influential — who could possibly have suspected he was a woman?

What's even more offensive — and kind of funny — is that they go on to cite, as further evidence of Murray's apparent masculinity, these traits: he drank, smoked cigars, was assertive, flirted with women, played poker and once gave a policeman a black eye. Joseph Young, a political colleague, says, "A woman? Why, he'd line up to the bar and take his whisky like any veteran, and didn't make faces over it, either. If he was a woman he ought to have been born a man, for he lived and looked like one."

The author says it's a mystery how Hall pulled it off, but I say, Was it that hard? It took strength, intelligence and luck to live as Hall did, and I suspect he was up for any challenge, but on many occasions it can't have been *that* difficult to fit in with the rest of the guys. Not with the standard for masculine behaviour so low (modern-day standards aren't much better). I like to imagine him on some poker evening, assessing his cards, sweltering away in his big coat, and chuckling to himself over how all he had to do to fit in was swear, gulp another whiskey and leer at the woman across the room. X

For more History Boys columns, go to [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com).



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# Out in the City

“When I was a kid, someone said 36 was a woman’s sexual peak, so I used to say I wanted to hit that as quickly as possible to get it over with.” Mel Hague ▶15

## MODERN DANCE MAN

*Travis Wall and his troupe give shape to sound*

From reality shows to music videos, modern dance seems to be retaking the world by storm. It’s quite a rebirth, after two decades of herky-jerky contortions executed by hip-hop singers and white-bread boy bands on TV and in film. With the surging popularity of televised competitions, rising stars like Travis Wall are keeping serious dance front and centre.

Wall was at the forefront of the modern dance craze,

Rising dance star and choreographer Travis Wall.

having achieved second place in the sophomore season of *So You Think You Can Dance* back in 2006. His powerful, flawless movement earned him a returning gig as the show’s choreographer, four Emmy nominations and the opportunity to create his own dance troupe, Shaping Sound.

“It really started as just an expressive way to perform my own work and hang out with my friends,” says Wall, who hails from Virginia Beach, Virginia, and now lives in California. “But my TV work has really helped out with the company’s exposure. We didn’t have to put in much work in finding backers, which is really one of the hardest things.”

Not that the gruelling travel and performance schedule is a piece of cake. It’s a long tour-bus ride across the continent for Wall, fellow *SYTYCD* alum Nick Lazzarini and three other hunky dancers, with five or six shows a week and very little rest.

“The show is very, very hard,” Wall says. “It is basically an hour-and-a-half cardio workout. You do one act and it’s like you just literally ran 10 miles. Then you have a 10-minute break and you run another 10 miles.”

While the troupe’s choreography is largely collaborative, Wall takes the driver’s seat when it comes directing and staging Shaping Sound’s productions. It’s a natural fit for a dancer whose aspirations lie beyond the stage.

“I would love to direct

and choreograph a film,” Wall confesses. “Rob Marshall and Bob Fosse are such inspirations to me. Come 40 or 50, I really want to be those guys.” — *Serafin LaRiviere*

*Shaping Sound performs Sat, Feb 7 at the Living Arts Centre, 4141 Living Arts Dr, Mississauga. shapingsoundco.com*

## FANGS & CHAYNES

*Sodom’s Vampire Love Ball crowns a bloody new queen*

Sodom, which has been celebrating freaks across the city for more than five years, is about to celebrate the sixth edition of its now-legendary Vampire Love Ball. This year, appropriately, it’s happening on Valentine’s Day. To really sink our teeth into what the night will entail, we spoke to soon-to-be-crowned Queen of Sodom Allysin Chaynes.

**XTRA: How big of a sodomite are you?**

**ALLYSIN CHAYNES:** My first Sodom ever was the Halloween show in 2013, where we did an Egyptian take on *Mommie Dearest* called Mummy Dearest. I was painted gold and got to whip pyramid-building twinks with a flogger.

**What kind of nonsense should fangbangers expect this year?**

This party has everything. You’ve seen glitter, you’ve seen flower petals, you’ve seen confetti, but you ain’t seen nothing yet. We’ve got some things in this show that have never — and I mean never — been done in a Sodom before.

**Why are vampires so gay?**

Vampires are shunned and must hide their true identities for fear of being misjudged and mistreated. Swap a casket for a closet, honey, and it’s the queer experience! Plus, it’s two groups of people that certainly know how to have fun when the sun goes down.

**Pop culture’s had vampires, zombies and witches up the wazoo. What supernatural being do you want to see take the spotlight next?**

I’ve always really loved banshees — being a Scottish girl at heart, the idea of a screaming Scottish lady-ghost that brings death and destruction where she goes? One day, in future Scotland, grandparents will tell their children to watch out for my jaw wagging and wild gesturing as a sign of doom to come! — *Johnnie Walker*

*Sodom’s Vampire Love Ball is Sat, Feb 14 at Club120, 120 Church St. sodom.ca*



Allysin Chaynes  
MITCHEL RAPHAEL

## Dear Dina

*Dina Martina brings her best to Toronto*

Dina Martina is more than a drag queen. Her show combines alarming costumes, dance and video with a hilarious style of wordplay that is all her own. She put it best when, asked to describe her work in an interview with *Xtra* before her last visit to Toronto, she said, “I would have to get back to you on that one. It’s *different*.”

She’ll soon be in Toronto again with an act she spent last summer performing in Provincetown and New York City. It’s a compilation of her best material, including some stuff she’s never performed here. “In a nutshell, it’s the cream of the drawer!” she says.

A cultured lady, Martina is sure to speak on a variety of subjects. Some topics that could come up are the Oscars (she’s fairly certain the Seattle Seahawks will



Dina Martina  
DAVID BELISLE

win, or at least wear fabulous gowns), her non-existent love life and her efforts to find a cure for pinkeye (“We’ve made real extreme inroads in the form of some groundbreaking ointments”).

Unfortunately, her daughter won’t be with her on this trip. Martina tried unsuccessfully to take her on a recent tour of Los Angeles. “I already had two carry-ons and they wouldn’t let me check her,” she says. “It’s probably for the best, though, because if I ever lost her in an airport, I think I’d be sad.”

Nonetheless, Martina tends to find her way into high spirits (and not just because of her penchant for Toronto’s breakfast wines). When asked whether this time of year — dark and cold — gets her down, she responds, “I might be prone to depression, but I’m very resourceful. You know that old saying: ‘Cut off my arms and I’ll slit my ankles!’” — *Jeremy Willard*

*The Best of Dina Martina is Fri, Feb 13, and Sat, Feb 14, 7 and 9pm, at The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. pubaret.com*



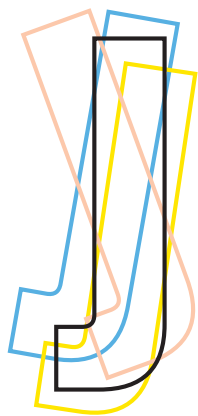




# ALLS IN ORDER UP

## An impressive AGO exhibit reveals Jean-Michel Basquiat's work to be as relevant as ever

BY CHRIS DUPUIS



Jean-Michel Basquiat was many things during his short life. The half-Haitian, half-Puerto Rican provocateur was equal parts musician, poet and cultural critic, in addition to being one of the late 20th century's most celebrated painters. Born into a middle-class home in Brooklyn, he ran away as a teen, living on the streets and selling painted T-shirts and postcards to support himself. At 16, he became part of the informal graffiti group SAMO, spray-painting buildings across Lower Manhattan.

After a solo show with Annina Nosei gallery in 1981, he was profiled by *Artforum* and his career went supernova. Fuelled partly by a boom in Neo-Expressionist art, his work began selling for huge sums. Soon he was showing internationally, palling around with Andy Warhol and (briefly) dating Madonna. But a combination of lifelong emotional trauma and the substantial wealth his art career generated

led to a serious heroin habit. He died in 1988, at 27, of an overdose.

Given Basquiat's stature, it's surprising Canada has never seen a major exhibition of his work — until now. A current show at the Art Gallery of Ontario, assembled by Austrian curator Dieter Buchhart, features 86 pieces. Pulled together in less than a year (a very short time for an exhibit of this magnitude), the works have been drawn almost entirely from private collections.

"I like to say that they aren't just coming from private collections, but from very private collections," says Shiralee Hudson Hill, interpretive planner for the show. "Assembling them has been no mean feat. With some shows, you can just call up an institution and ask to borrow 10 pieces by so and so. But Basquiat's works mostly live in people's private homes. The fact they are coming into public view is a huge deal."

Organized thematically, the show touches on Basquiat's transition from street to studio, his portraits of African American heroes, his collaborations with Warhol, and his work around racism and reclaiming history. Dubbed *Now's the Time*, the

show feels eerily current, particularly his treatment of police brutality in *Defacement (The Death of Michael Stewart)*. A friend and fellow graffiti artist, Stewart was severely beaten by police while being arrested for spray-painting in a subway station. He spent 13 days in a coma before dying in hospital. Two years later, an all-white jury acquitted the six officers charged in his death.

"I always have to pause when I say the name of the painting because my tongue trips and I want to say 'Michael Brown,'" says Hudson Hill, in reference to the unarmed teenager gunned down by officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, last summer. "As a black man and a graffiti artist, Basquiat was really shaken up by the incident because he knew it could have just as easily been him. You get shivers looking at this work because you realize how little has changed in the last 30 years."

Another aspect of Basquiat's work that feels very current is his mixing of styles and influences. Paralleling the sampling and scratching of early-1980s DJ culture, his imagery, from boxing to baseball to hip hop

to art history, feels equally at home in the age of the mashup. Building on Warhol's pop iconography of Marilyn Monroe and Campbell's soup, Basquiat reinterpreted the gesture with such figures as Joe Louis, the *Mona Lisa* and the one-dollar bill. In a talk at UC Berkeley, Tamra Davis (who profiled Basquiat in the 2010 documentary *The Radiant Child*) suggests that the range of experiences that shaped him as a person made him a ready receptacle for a variety of influences as an artist.

One part of his identity, however, is often forgotten or erased. Like his trademark dreadlocks and famously huge dick, much is made of his numerous affairs with women. But his bisexuality is mentioned only occasionally, most notably in Phoebe Hoban's biography *Basquiat: A Quick Killing in Art*. Based on interviews with friends and acquaintances, the often salacious book suggests that not only did Basquiat have several relationships with men during his lifetime, but he was rather open about them. His sexuality was also, apparently,

*Continued next page* ▶





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## Basquiat

▶ Continued from previous page

part of the reason he left home as a teenager: after his father found out, life became unbearable.

So what happens when we apply a queer lens to Basquiat's work? Does knowing that the person who painted these works also fucked men change our understanding of them? Or is it irrelevant, since he didn't address the subject? Since the artist himself didn't discuss the relationship between his sexuality and his creative output publicly, can we say anything

“YOU GET SHIVERS LOOKING AT THIS WORK BECAUSE YOU REALIZE HOW LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST 30 YEARS.”

SHIRALEE HUDSON HILL,  
INTERPRETIVE PLANNER

concrete about it? I'm not sure, but there are two things we can conclude: first, identity is often more complex and unstable than it appears at first glance; and second, when someone achieves fame, his identity is often reworked in a way that better serves the people telling his story than the subject himself.

*Village Voice* critic Ernest Hardy addresses the issue in his writings on black male sexuality and “straight-washing”: the posthumous erasure of queerness in figures like Basquiat and Malcolm X. Hardy argues that since black artists are often fetishized as subversive or primitive in their work, their lives must then be depicted in more palatable ways to make them acceptable to the mainstream art world. During a 2011 talk on the subject, called Don't Believe the Hype, Hardy said, “Maybe our culture can't take who Basquiat is.” For the record, the AGO declined to comment on the subject. X

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT:  
NOW'S THE TIME  
Sat, Feb 7–Sun, May 10  
Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas St W  
ago.net/basquiat



# RIPE FRUIT

## The 36th annual Rhubarb Festival features more than 30 works

**THEATRE**  
**CHRIS DUPUIS**

Rhubarb is a place of firsts. Buddies in Bad Times' annual performance festival has gone through countless incarnations in its 36 years. But what's consistent is that it's always a space where things begin: shows, companies and careers. Thousands of artists from Canada and abroad have taken part. Its alumni have gone on to win Doras and Governor General's Awards and play stages from Broadway to Tokyo.

While this year's fest will undoubtedly launch a new crop of artists and projects, there's also something unique about its newly appointed director, Mel Hague. The York University graduate (who also serves as play development coordinator for Obsidian Theatre) will be the first person to lead the festival who's younger than the festival itself.

"When I was a kid, someone said 36 was a woman's sexual peak, so I used to say I wanted to



WTF's Kathia Wittenborn, Michelle Zimmerman and Erin Poole. JAE YANG

hit that as quickly as possible to get it over with," she says, laughing. "The fact that I'm younger than the festival is more of a mind game I play with myself than a significant marker of where it is right now. What I will say is that Canadian theatre is entering its first generational clash. Other communities have had it, but here almost all the artistic directors who started what we have today are still around and making work. If anything, I think it just speaks to the fact that our history is catching up to itself."

Working with the tagline Transgressions in Performance, more than 100 artists have come together to create more than 30 works of theatre, dance and performance art. Part of what's made the festival such fertile ground throughout its history is a consistent focus on process over product, giving artists permission to experiment and fail.

"I looked for work that's a departure or a challenge for the individual artists who are creating it," Hague says. "Finding things that were transgressing not just conventional artistic forms or society, but often their expectations of their own practice."

There's one thing that's not new for Rhubarb: for the second year in a row, the Department of Canadian Heritage (one of the event's principal financial backers) has denied funding without explanation. Though it's not an easy pill to swallow, especially the first year on the job, if it's causing Hague any

stress you wouldn't know it by talking to her.

"In basic terms, less funding means less artists and less projects," she says. "It's easy for theatre artists to get bogged down with these questions of money and audience numbers and space. But in the end, all we can be responsible for is our art. That's what's really relevant." X

**RHUBARB FESTIVAL**  
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Buddies in Bad Times Theatre  
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[rhubarb.buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://rhubarb.buddiesinbadtimes.com)

## SIDE SALADS

Despite financial setbacks, this year's festival is still too big for Buddies' Alexander Street home, meaning multiple works will be presented at off-site venues. We've assembled a list of can't-miss options taking place outside the main space.

### Another Way of Telling You

**Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives**  
34 Isabella St  
Sat, Feb 14 & Sun, Feb 15, 6–9pm

Staged in the basement of the CLGA, choreographer Darryl Tracy's piece plays with ideas of cruising, queer history and the meaning of archiving in a digital age. In this "peeka-boo" performance in the stacks, Tracy's two dancers share a series of intimate encounters while images sourced from the collection are projected on their bodies. Though some of the city's best cruising can be found among its book collections (check the Toronto Reference Library over lunch), the CLGA isn't famous for hooking up, but maybe this show will change that.

### Your Cloud

**Videofag**  
187 Augusta Ave  
Fri, Feb 20, 8pm

You keep staring at your phone. Why is your latest crush not responding? You ask a few friends to try sending messages. The gradual realization sinks in, then the sweaty palms

and heart palpitations start: your phone is not receiving texts! Part collective comedy, part group therapy, Vivek Shraya's piece assembles hundreds of lost and unanswered text messages to be read aloud by the audience, freeing them from electronic-communication purgatory and allowing them to pass on to the great inbox in the sky.

### Ocean Carving

**Oasis Aqualounge**  
231 Mutual St  
Wed, Feb 18–Fri, Feb 20, 7pm

February isn't exactly pool weather. But Gein Wong's dance piece will see her performers take a chilly plunge in the outdoor pool of Oasis Aqualounge. Inspired by the true story of a friend's grandmother, who managed an aquatic escape from China with nothing but a great front crawl, the show looks at questions of queerness, ancestry and (obviously) sex. Though jumping in the water mid-winter might sound like torture, rest assured the performers will be fine: the pool is maintained at a balmy 38 degrees Celsius.



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## ARTS & LITERATURE

### Code, Read

Through a series of screenings and film ephemera from 1930 to 1968, this exhibit examines queer stereotypes in classic film. Runs Sun, Feb 8–Sun, March 8 (screenings take place only on specific dates). Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, 34 Isabella St. Free. clga.ca

### Piccolo Diavolo Photography Fundraiser

A sale of works by artists Mark MacKillop and Drasko Bogdanovic in support of the 519 Community Centre. Thurs, Feb 12, 6:30–8:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. \$30. the519.org

## COMEDY & CABARET

### Singular Sensation: A

#### Musical-Theatre Open Mic

Jennifer Walls invites amateur crooners to perform their favourite songs accompanied by a live band. Every Monday, 9:30pm–12:30am.

Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover. statlers.ca

### Tim Boyle: Heartstrings 2.0

Boyle sings romantic songs with the accompaniment of Jordan Klapman and Jordan O'Connor. Thurs, Feb 12, 8pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$15 advance, \$20 door. pubaret.com

### The Best of Dina Martina

Hailed as “unfortunate” by some, Dina Martina’s performance combines quirky wordplay with unnecessary dance. Fri, Feb 13, and Sat, Feb 14, 7 and 9pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$20 advance, \$25 door. pubaret.com

### Terrific Women Gala Extravaganza

It’s 1974 and local cable-access television sensations Terrific Women (played by Sara Hennessey and Steph Kaliner) are hosting a ham giveaway. Sat, Feb 28, 8pm. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. \$10; free with 1970s costume (polyester suits encouraged). buddiesinbadtimes.com



Carlyle Jansen — Good for Her, Thurs, Feb 12

## LEISURE & PLEASURE

### '90s Trivia

Host Kaleb Robertson takes you back to the heady days of *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Orbitz*, *Crystal Pepsi*, fly girls and all that other it-seems-so-recent-but-it's-suddenly-old-and-quaint stuff. Mon, Feb 9, 7–10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. No cover. waylabar.ca

### Queer Slowdance: Valentine's Day Edition

Butt wigglers set up dances with one another using dance cards, while designated dancers coax out the wallflowers. Sat, Feb 14,

10pm–3am. Dovercourt House, 805 Dovercourt Rd. \$10, includes dance-card booklet.

### Everything Blue Album Fundraiser

A night of music to raise funds for the production of an album dedicated to anyone who's experienced discrimination. Thurs, Feb 19, 8pm. Supermarket, 268 Augusta Ave. PWYC. jordanbwright.wix.com/thewrightcd

### Out and Out Club Info Night

Prospective members learn about the many activities the queer social club has on offer, including hiking, camping, potlucks and movies. Tues, Feb 17, 7–8pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. outandout.ca

### The Salah Bachir Show

This *Ed Sullivan*-type variety-show benefit for the Bachir Yereh Family Dialysis Centre at St Joseph's Health Centre features Louise Pitre, Jackie Richardson and Rick Mercer. To book a table, contact Renata at 416-530-6486 x4053. Sat, Feb 21, 6–11:30pm. The Ritz-Carlton, 181 Wellington St W. \$1,000 for a table of 10.

### Nat King Pole

The Montreal drag king some know as The Pole Man makes his Flying Beaver debut singing his own hilarious lyrics to well-known songs. Panty-throwing encouraged. Sat, Feb 21, 9pm. The Flying Beaver, 488

Parliament St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. pubaret.com

## SEX & BURLESQUE

### Kink 101

Canadian Leatherman Paul C teaches novices of all genders the basics of BDSM. Thurs, Feb 5, 9pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. facebook.com/blackeaglekink101

### Bondassage

Lady Viktoria teaches kinky singles and couples bondage basics. Pre-registration recommended. Sat, Feb 7, noon–2:30pm. Good for Her, 175 Harbord St. \$33. goodforher.com

### Deepening Intimacy for Couples

Carlyle Jansen's workshop helps couples of all descriptions communicate effectively to achieve greater intimacy. Pre-registration recommended. Thurs, Feb 12, 7–9:30pm. Good for Her, 175 Harbord St. \$60 per couple. goodforher.com

### Be Mein Valentine

Skin Tight Outta Sight, Rebel Burlesque and Boylesque TO present their sixth annual Weimar Republic-themed Valentine's burlesque show. Fri, Feb 13 and Sat, Feb 14, 9pm. Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W. \$25. bemeinvalentine2015.eventbrite.ca

### Cabaret Valtaire: An Evening of Surreal Love

Sasha Van Bon Bon, Kitty Neptune, Fay Slift, Judy Virago, Axl Blows, Coco Framboise and many others give a sexy, bizarre and heartwarming performance. Sat, Feb 14, 9pm. Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W. \$20. ticketfly.com

### Play Party and Live Porn Shoot

*Spit* magazine invites horny folks to celebrate Valentine's Day by attending a live porn shoot and enjoying sexy spa facilities and playrooms. Mon, Feb 16, 8pm–3am. Oasis Aqualounge, 231 Mutual St. \$15. oasisaqualounge.com

## THEATRE

### Rhubarb Festival

Buddies is transformed into a hotbed of experimentation, with more than 30 original works that explore new possibilities in theatre, dance, music and performance art. Runs Wed, Feb 11–Sun, Feb 22, various showtimes. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. PWYC–\$20. buddiesinbadtimes.com

### Blithe Spirit

Angela Lansbury plays the implausible medium Madame Arcati in Michael Blakemore's revival of Noël Coward's beloved comedy. Runs Wed, Feb 11–Sun, March 15, various showtimes. Princess of Wales Theatre, 300 King St W. \$29–130. mirvish.com

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# CLUB SCENE

## Thurs, Feb 5

**Heavenly Thursday** Kim Jee Young on the piano in the lounge, 6–9pm; Jade Elektra and Heaven Lee Hytes perform, with DJ Relentless on decks at 11pm. Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St. No cover. facebook.com/zipperz

**Kink 101** Canadian Leatherman Paul C hosts a night for BDSM novices. Meet new friends and learn the basics of safe BDSM play. All genders welcome. No dress code. 9pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. facebook.com/blackeaglekink101

### Absolut Best Chest Contest

Georgie Girl and Enya Dreams perform, then get the boys to take their shirts off for a chance to win \$300 in cash prizes. DJ Mark Falco on decks. Midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

## Fri, Feb 6

**Big Primpin': Crib Up** DJs Mizz Recklezz, Kevin Ritchie and Blackcat throw down hip hop for homos in the west end. 10pm. Wrongbar, 1279 Queen St W. \$5. facebook.com/thewrongbar

**Asian Persuasion** DJ Quinces and Sumation spin K-pop, top 40 and dancefloor faves to celebrate the year of the goat. Performances by burlesquer Chow Mein and drag queen Jolin Starr. 10pm. Church, 504 Church St. No cover. churchonchurch.com

**Bearcode** Louis Amaral and Eric Desbiens turn down the lights for a night for bears and bear chasers. No dress code. 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover before 11:30pm, \$5 after. blackeagletoronto.com

**Remix Battle** DJs Mark DeMarko and Alfredo duke it out on the decks, with house remixes as their weapons of choice. 11pm. Byzantium, 499 Church St. No cover. byz.ca

## Sat, Feb 7

**Men's Night** Pitbull's Francis and Steve host a new-wave edition of their monthly event, with a rotating roster of DJs. All genders welcome, despite the name (they own The Men's Room, after all). 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. \$5. facebook.com/shophemmensroom

**The White Party: Brent Everett's Birthday** DJs Sumation and Geoff Kelleway spin for a

pornstar birthday bash, with ticket giveaways to the Palm Spring WP event. Special appearances by brenteverett.com's Steve Pena and Eric Clark. 10:30pm–5am. Fly 2.0, 6 Gloucester St. No cover before 11:30pm, \$8 until 1am, \$12 after. flyyyz.com

**Buddies Afterhours** DJ Regina the Gentlelady throws down top 40, dance, house and retro in Tallulah's, with Ivory Towers working it on the stairs. 10:30pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$5 before midnight, \$8 after. buddiesinbadtimes.com

**Sultry Saturday** DJ Cajimere Wray spins house and vocals for the cocktail crowd. 11pm. Byzantium, 499 Church St. No cover. byz.ca

## Sun, Feb 8

**Bear Day** Meaty men gather for this weekly Sunday social, tossing down the suds while chatting up their admirers. 4–8pm. The Lodge, 518 Church St. No cover. ogradyschurch.ca

**Woody's Sunday** The Hollywoody Broadway Show, hosted by Carlotta Carlisle, with D'Amanda Tension and guest, at 6pm; Old School, hosted by Georgie Girl, with Boa and Tootsie Toots, at 9pm; Smokin' Hot Divas, hosted by Georgie Girl, with Devine Darlin, Tynomi Banks, Bunni Lapin and Sapphire Tithi Reign, at 11pm. DJ Blue Peter on decks. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

## Mon, Feb 9

**Muddled Mondaze** DJ Triple-X spins old school, retro, indie, alternative, punk, goth and rock for industry folk. 8pm. The Cavern Bar, 76 Church St. No cover. facebook.com/hicavernbar



Chow Mein at Asian Persuasion — Church, Fri, Feb 6 ALEX HURTER

**FML Monday** Rotating DJs spin top 40, hip hop and dance music for industry folks looking for post-weekend fun. 10pm. Flash, 463 Church St. flashonchurch.com

## Tues, Feb 10

**Varsity Tuesday** Sofonda Cox hosts, while amateurs try to win the \$100 cash prize at So You Think You Can Strip? 11pm. Remington's, 379 Yonge St. \$5 before 11pm, \$7 after; no cover with student ID before 11pm, \$2 after. remingtons.com

## Wed, Feb 11

**Toronto Wranglers** Bust out with some do-si-do at this weekly country-western hoedown. 7–10pm. Zipperz/Cellblock, 2 Carlton St. No cover. facebook.com/zipperz

**College Night** Local DJs spin top 40, house and dancefloor for the favourite hump-day event, back where it all started. Hosted by Devine Darlin. 11pm. The Marquis of Granby, 418 Church St. facebook.com/collegenightwednesday

## Thurs, Feb 12

**T-Girl Party** DJ Todd Klinck spins upstairs for an evening of socializing with T-girls and their admirers. 8pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$8 before

11pm, \$15 after; additional \$10 for all-night VIP booth access. club120.ca

**Pup Night** Argo and Pup Sprocket (Toronto Puppy 2014) host the Black Eagle Kennel Klub event for pups, handlers and spectators. All genders and level of experience welcome. 9pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. blackeagletoronto.com

## Fri, Feb 13

**Toronto Bound Welcome Party & Motorcycle Gear Night** The Heart of the Flag Federation kicks off the Toronto Bound weekend. Boots, chaps, caps, gloves and leathers encouraged but not mandatory. 8:30pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. blackeagletoronto.com, hotfftoronto.com

**Anti-Valentine's Day: Friday the 13th Disco Party** DJ Triple-X spins boogie oogie for disco lovers. 9pm. Cardinal Rule, 5 Roncesvalles Ave. No cover. cardinalrulerestaurant.com

**Bad Tuck and Good Luck** Judy Virago and Igby Lizzard host a special Friday the 13th Anti-Valentine's Day anniversary edition, bringing back their House of Filth favourites in celebration. DJs Aeryn Pfaff and Boy Pussy on decks, with Nancy Bocock on the door. 10pm. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. \$5. beavertoronto.com

This is the last printed edition of our event listings. For our searchable online listings, go to [dailyxtra.com/lgbt-events](http://dailyxtra.com/lgbt-events). Submit your event listing to [listings@dailyxtra.com](mailto:listings@dailyxtra.com).

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# DEEP DISH

BY ROLYN CHAMBERS

## #artlive Vogue Ball

SAT, JAN 24 AT  
HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

I began writing this column 12 years ago. Pounding out paragraph after paragraph on my clunky black Macintosh laptop and seeing my words in print every two weeks gave me publication pride. When bloggers began to enter my world, I gave them the cold shoulder. But things change. And if one does not adapt to change, growth becomes death. The same can be said of Toronto's vogue balls. One of the first I ever covered was the Hugs & Kisses Kiki Ball in 2011. Back then I wrote, "Eyes, skin, teeth, structure, face. G'Zelle. Polaris." These are the chants I hear upon entering the Hugs & Kisses Kiki Ball held at the 519 Community Centre." The ball has since grown and changed. With a bigger space and better awards come fiercer battles. Back then there was no stage; you created your own catwalk in the midst of a cheering, sometimes jeering, crowd. Tonight's event is hosted by House of Monroe and House of Nuance, and **Mother TKO Monroe Hall** acts as commentator. He doesn't mince words when it comes to chopping those who do not meet the criteria of the individual competitions. Up for grabs tonight are bragging rights; hand-blown, bubble-shaped glass trophies; and cash prizes for such categories as Bizarre, Realness, Face, Fag Out (complete with bubbles on the runway), Hairography, BQUIP, Glitterati and Performance. I arrive late but am visually rewarded, as the Sex Siren competition is in full swing, with DJ **John Caffery** providing musical inspiration. Tensions build when one contestant is chopped for not showing enough skin, while a group in front of me debates the definition of the category: "You can be sexy without being naked and showing skin," one defender gripes. Perhaps, I think to myself, but I'm glad competitors like **Tito** do. It gives me something to write about on

my iPhone and delicious pics to post on Instagram.

1 Snoopy Icon 2 Kyloni 007  
3 Vixen 007, Twysted Miyake-Mugler & Kash 007

## FML: Farewell to Brooke Lynn

MON, JAN 26 AT FLASH

Deep Dish began 12 years ago in *fab* magazine. Piecing together memories of my nights and seeing these escapades published every two weeks gave me publication pride. To me, paper was currency, and without coin you were nothing. But the currency changed, and *fab* ceased operation. The same can be said of drag performance (in Canada at least). Back when I started, we still had one- and two-dollar bills, and it was perfectly normal to slip deuce after deuce into the padded bra of your favourite draglette as she pretended to belt out your favourite song. To make more coin, though, you sometimes have to change things up. This is what **Brooke Lynn Hytes** is doing. When I first reported on her just two years ago, I wrote, "Once. Twice. Three times a lady. At this year's Woody's Czarina contest, Brooke Lynn Hytes wins her third crown in three months. Is there no stopping her?" After winning almost every title and crown (the ultimate drag currency), she is making the move to the US (Nashville, to be specific), where the drag pageant system is almost as serious as presidential elections. Tonight, in a neon yellow catsuit, she performs her final show at Flash's Monday night FML party, part of her weeklong booking of farewell shows. Her dance training is evident as I capture the moment and post it to Vine. Farewell paper; I'll see you all online.

4 Scott 5 Brooke Lynn Hytes  
6 Enya Dreams 7 Adrian & Julian 8 Kaya, Eve & Ryan



This is the last printed edition of Deep Dish. The column will continue online at [dailyxtra.com](http://dailyxtra.com).



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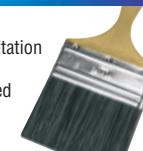
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# XTRA HOT



DRASKO  
BOGDANOVIC



NAME: MIKE FESWICK  
AGE: 26 SIGN: CANCER

Mike's guilty pleasure is Bon Jovi, his favourite food is tacos, his most-loved movie is Ingmar Bergman's *Persona*, and his everyday inspiration is Ronnie Coleman. He grew up in the Hammer and now lives in the Big Apple. When in Toronto he likes to hang out at Queen's Park, and his local bar of choice is The Beaver. Turned on by man hands, he prefers briefs "because I need the support," and the strangest thing you'll find in his bedroom is his husband.

Mike describes one of his wildest nights: "After a night of drinking with friends, I took a cab to the airport. I had

the driver stop at a random hotel nearby so I could get a couple more drinks. A hockey team was staying at the hotel, and I came across a hallway full of their gear, which was airing out. I filled up my pants and jacket with stinky jocks and jerseys and then took a cab home."

Instagram: @peepeeepoo | website: mikefeswick.com

Thanks to Drasko for all his Xtra Hot profiles in the print edition of Xtra! To become an Xtra Hot guy or gal on Daily Xtra — and get your mug seen all over the gay internet — contact Drasko at [xtrahot@dailyxtra.com](mailto:xtrahot@dailyxtra.com).

## Last chance\* to GET IN HERE!

\*Our final print edition  
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