

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ+ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

Between the Lines™

UNSHAKEN PRIDE

Detroit's biggest LGBTQ+ celebration shines bright

BIG BEAR ENERGY

How Motor City Bears forged a family

STOP! THAT! TRAIN!

Ginger Minj on the gayest movie of the year

St. Vincent Has Always Been This Gay

The artist on how her upcoming Detroit Opera House show is a full-circle moment

By Chris Azzopardi

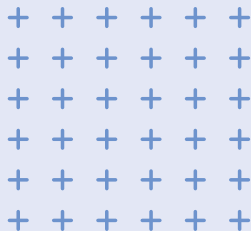
Dr. Paul Benson's



EST. 1980: THE ORIGINAL LGBTQ CLINIC IN MICHIGAN

Quality Health Care, Experience Counts

- Preventative health services & primary care for your whole family
- State-of-the-art facility: lab, x-ray, pharmacy on site
- Most insurances accepted
- Designated a "Patient-Centered Medical Home" by Blue Cross Blue Shield, a high standard of excellence



Since 1980, Be Well Medical Center has delivered compassionate, patient-centered healthcare. Led by Dr. Benson and Dr. Bornstein, our dedicated team prioritizes your well-being. As credentialed HIV specialists, we offer PrEP and Doxy PEP. Our inclusive approach ensures top-quality care for all backgrounds and lifestyles.

And now with Dr. Andrew Roberts, a dedicated pediatrician specializing in care for individuals from birth to 21 years. Our clinic is now a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQ youth seeking primary care.

We maintain an extensive network of specialists to refer to as appropriate. We celebrate and embrace diversity and are non-discriminatory. **ALL GENDERS WELCOME!**

We are committed to provide quality health care and to serve our patients without regard to race, nationality, ethnicity, gender identity, religion, political preference, or sexual orientation. **Our priority is your good health.**

Three Locations



Be Well Medical Center
1964 11 Mile Rd,
Berkley, MI 48072
248-544-9300



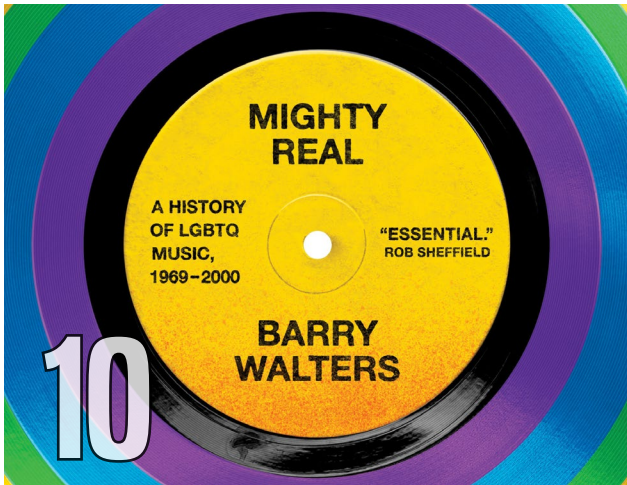
Osborn Family Medical Clinic
13560 East McNichols Rd,
Detroit, MI 48205
248 544-9300



**Community Health
Awareness Group**
1300 West Fort St.,
Detroit, MI 48226
313-963-3434 x118



Dr. Benson and Dr. Bornstein



Delivered ~~Straight~~ to Your Mailbox

Support LGBTQ+ journalism and get BTL delivered to your door for just \$95/year or \$10/month.

WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM/SUBSCRIBE

- 4 5 Queer Things You Can Do Right Now-ish
- 6 Speedos, Suds and 30 Years of Camaraderie
- 7 Unshaken in Detroit: Motor City Pride Draws Energized Crowds and Political Energy
- 8 St. Vincent Has Always Been This Gay: On Queerness and Visibility Ahead of Detroit Opera Show
- 10 Pride Reads for Every Shelf: Our Picks For the Season Stretch Across Generations and Genres
- 12 Creep of the Week: Hey UFC Fighter Guy, Leave Michelle Obama Out of This
- 13 The Scroll: Who Counts as Family? Hazel Park Expands Protections
- 14 But Am I Trans Enough? One Trans Woman's Journey
- 16 When They Go Low, Gay Culture Goes Gayer: Ginger Minj on Bringing Drag to the Big Screen
- 18 Your 2026 Michigan LGBTQ+ Pride Calendar
- 22 Passing the Torch at The Gay & Lesbian Review

Page 8



St. Vincent. Photo: OK McCausland

VOL. 3425 • JUNE 18, 2026
ISSUE 1303

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP
www.pridesource.com
 Phone 734-263-1476

PUBLISHERS
 Benjamin Jenkins
benjamin@pridesource.com

Publishers Emeritus: Jan Stevenson & Susan Horowitz

EDITORIAL
Executive Editor and Brand Director
 Chris Azzopardi
chris@pridesource.com

Director of Content and Community Engagement
 Sarah Bricker Hunt
sarah@pridesource.com

CREATIVE
Cartoonist
 Paul Berg

Graphic Designer
 Sarah Wolf

Contributing Photographer
 Andrew Potter

ADVERTISING & SALES
sales@pridesource.com

Carolyn Cardenas
 734-263-1476
carolyn@pridesource.com

Tim Powers
 734-263-1475
tim@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative
 Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863

MEMBER OF
 Michigan Press Association
 National LGBT Media Association
 National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
 Q Syndicate
 Society of Professional Journalists



Pride Source

@pridesourcemedia

@pridesourcemedia

Pride Source

@pridesource.com

Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our e-digest

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2026

5 Queer Things You Can Do Right Now-ish

BY KELLI DUNHAM

June is doing what every single June does: giving us far too many excellent queer things to choose from. This week's lineup includes stand-up comedy created specifically to lift up femme, trans and nonbinary voices as well as a beloved Black queer burlesque festival celebrating six years in Detroit, drag queens armed with bingo cards (and brunch, of course) and a hometown return from a rising Detroit-born musician. There's also an entire week dedicated to trans joy. Woohoooo!

Whether you want to laugh, dance, sing along, make new friends or spend quality time around a bonfire in an affirming community, there's something here with your name on it.



1

Workshop Your Wit at Femme Stand-Up Set

Trying stand-up comedy for the first time can feel a little like volunteering to be chased by a bear, and not the friendly kind that hangs out at leather bars and can often be seen knitting. That's why Femme Feedback exists. This monthly Ann Arbor open mic was created specifically for women, trans and nonbinary comics and combines stage time with supportive feedback from experienced performers.

This month's guest feedback provider is Flint comedian Veronica Douglas, joined by co-host Iona McPeake. Whether you're a seasoned comic polishing five minutes of material or someone who has always thought "Well, I'm funnier and less misogynistic than that" the last time you visited a mainstream comedy, you'll be welcomed with open hearts.

June 19, 8 p.m., Blørn Mead + Cider (100 S. Fourth Ave., Suite 110, Ann Arbor). DM their Instagram ahead to get a spot on the performers' list. Seating is limited. bit.ly/femme_feedback.



Juneteenth Jamz performer Eartha Kitten. Photo: Kendall D. Lartigue/@teaseagogo

Remember, Rejoice, Repeat

Some events deserve to be traditions. Juneteenth Jamz has earned that status. Returning for its sixth year, this all-Black, all-queer burlesque and variety festival brings together performers from Detroit and across the country for an evening of artistry, celebration and unapologetic joy. There will be dazzling costumes, powerhouse performances and crowd energy that reminds us why queer nightlife is essential. Don't run out after the show: a dance party follows, giving everyone an opportunity to keep the celebration going well into the wee hours.

June 19, 8:30 p.m., Miss Eva's Detroit (19566 Grand River Ave.). bit.ly/juneteenthjamz.

2



Sabin. Photo: Facebook/ @sabindetroit

Drag Your Friends to Brunch

It's true that, as queers, we've stolen bingo out of church basements and VFW halls. But it's not our fault: The straight people left it lying around looking sad and glitterless, what else could we do?

The Roxy does this iconic activity right, combining a buffet brunch, live drag performances and the game, all rolled up together into one gloriously over-the-top afternoon hosted by the legendary local drag performer Sabin. The menu includes everything from truffle scrambled eggs to cinnamon roll bites, while some of Michigan's most fabulous entertainers provide the commentary, comedy and the occasional shaded reminder that your bingo strategy probably isn't as sophisticated as you think.

June 28, doors 11:30 a.m., The Roxy (401 Walnut Blvd., Rochester). bit.ly/dragqueenbrunchroxy.

3



Damon Fletcher. Courtesy photo

Welcome a Hometown Hitmaker

Detroit-born singer-songwriter Damon Fletcher returns this month with his anthem-filled, dance-driven production “The Great Experience 2.0.” The Black gay artist now based in Atlanta has earned attention from major names including Usher, LL Cool J and Grammy-winning producer Zaytoven, with over a million streams and views on Spotify and YouTube. Born with infantile glaucoma, Fletcher credits surviving serious medical challenges with helping shape his perspective and artistic voice. Pride Month feels like the perfect time to catch an artist whose work celebrates resilience while holding fast to joy.

June 21, 7 p.m., *The Magic Bag* (22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale). bit.ly/damonfletcher.



Campit Outdoor Resort. Courtesy photo



Make S'more Friends at Campit's Trans Week

At Campit Outdoor Resort's annual Trans Week, you'll find six full days dedicated to transgender, nonbinary and gender-expansive joy in all its forms. You can partake in karaoke, tie-dye, mini-golf, an amateur drag show, a talent show, kayaking, pool parties, dive-in movies, bonfires, yoga and even a bit of equine wellness therapy (for you, not the horse). There's also an off-site goat walk, because apparently someone finally figured out what every trans vacation was missing. Or you can just hang out by the pool, comparing tattoos, top surgery scars and opinions about whose gender journey would make the best indie film.

June 21-28, *Campit Outdoor Resort* (6635 118th Ave., Fennville). bit.ly/campittransweek.

June 20
Mt. Pleasant
PRIDE FEST
Drag Show
AFTER PARTY
Adults 18+

June 27
GREAT LAKES BAY
PRIDE
Festival
Drag Show
AFTER PARTY
Adults 18+

 **Learn More!**

Speedos, Suds and 30 Years of Camaraderie

How Motor City Bears created a home for guys left out of mainstream gay scenes

BY KEITH LANGSTON

Every summer, a crew of burly Detroiters strips down to their speedos, grabs their sponges and turns a charity car wash into one of the best shows in town. That's the Motor City Bears for you, where the fur is optional but the welcome is not.

Ask a dozen bears what the label means and you'll get a dozen answers. It broadly points to men who are bigger, usually hairy and often masculine-presenting, but the Motor City crowd wears the term loosely. "There's a little bit of everything," Paul, a member, tells BTL (per the group's preference, all members are referred to by first name only). "There's all ages, some crossover with the leather community, some Lambda Car Club members; it's a wide variety. It's evolved into a little bit of everybody."

What is clear is that the Motor City Bears — their slogan is "Fun, Fur, and Friends" — are a welcoming group with members of all shapes and sizes. "One thing that really stood out to me about this group was how friendly, warm and inviting they were," says Scott, the group's treasurer, of his first meeting with the group decades ago. "Our motto is 'for bears and their admirers.' A lot of clubs have an approval process, almost like you have to prove you count as a bear. But Motor City Bears never had that. You're automatically able to be part of the group if you think you fit one of those categories."

The group holds more than 200 events annually, ranging from monthly meetings to weekly Zoom coffee chats, bar nights and more, with a few flagship events throughout the year. "We have about six major events each year," Paul says. "The Cinco de Mayo party, a Thanksgiving event, a Christmas party, a gift card drive, Pride and the big car wash."

That car wash is the group's calling card, and the spectacle pulls in more than paying customers. "Sometimes people stop by the car wash just to have their picture taken with us," Scott says. "We've even had people



Motor City Bears. Courtesy photo

arrive on roller blades or a scooter. One time, the Red Bull promotional car, with the big can on top, even stopped by for pictures."

The car wash is a true spectacle, but it also benefits charity. In fact, many of the Bears' events are focused on raising money for vital local organizations, with two in particular — Ruth Ellis and Affirmations. "Ruth Ellis started off as a shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth," says Tony, the group's president. "Now it's grown into something bigger, even providing housing and access to medical and behavioral health services. Affirmations is a queer community center that does great stuff, and we even hold many of our meetings there. Being able to support our community is important to us."

During the holiday season, the group holds a yearly gift card drive that also benefits Ruth Ellis and

Affirmations. For many Motor City Bears members, the focus on charity is important, and they love helping out their queer neighbors. "On top of being about body positivity," Tony says, "the group is about friendship, family and supporting charity."

Members also enjoy the camaraderie of the group and feel like it's a way to find fellowship and pride, especially for men who sometimes don't feel accepted by mainstream gay culture. "Most of the scene revolves around twinks," Scott says, "so I think bears always kind of felt like it wasn't really our culture. When you're a bigger guy, you can kind of feel like it isn't really your space."

Scott recalled how he ended up finding the Motor City Bears some 20 years ago after searching for a queer space where he felt he could belong. "Me and my husband

wanted to find a social outlet, and we were looking to find groups to join," he says. "The whole bear thing was new to us, but we went to a few meetings and loved how welcoming they were."

Paul shares a similar sentiment about what drew him to the group. "I like the camaraderie," he says. "It's a group of close-knit people who have similar perspectives. It's like hanging out with a family."

For many members, that sense of community is the true bond that holds the Motor City Bears together. Scott says there's currently around 200 members. Some don't even live in Michigan anymore. But many continue partaking in events, especially the online coffee chats, even after leaving the state.

Over the years, the Motor City Bears has established themselves as more than a social group for bears, earning a trusted reputation within

Detroit's queer community for outreach, advocacy and belonging. As the group's president, Tony isn't just enjoying the group's success; he's looking toward the future as well. "I'd love the group to do more, especially fundraisers," he says. "I think supporting the community while creating a community is the key moving forward."

He also feels optimistic that a new generation of members will one day be able to carry on the torch. "The younger people who are signing up aren't just joining," he says, "they're really getting involved and taking on responsibility."

The Motor City Bears encourages new membership. If you're looking to join, many of the meetings and events are open to the public. Check out motorcitybears.com or their Meetup page for more information.

Unshaken in Detroit

Motor City Pride draws energized crowds, political energy and lively performances



PHOTOS BY ANDREW POTTER

Motor City Pride took over Hart Plaza June 6-7 with the theme “Unshaken: Rooted in Pride, Leading in Love.” Perfect early summer weather brought an eclectic, energized crowd ready to celebrate during Michigan’s largest LGBTQ+ gathering.

The Pride Stage Saturday featured “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” star Jai Rodriguez as headliner, with local performer Baddie Brooks opening the ceremony in her Motor City Pride debut after months of recovery from a serious knee injury. Local drag artists performed throughout the weekend, PRISM Choir performed, and Stacey Hotwaxx Hale anchored the Dance Stage. Sunday’s Pride Stage brought “RuPaul’s Drag Race” alums Mhi’ya Iman Le’Paige and Jessica Wild, Detroit rapper Tiny Jag and multi-award-winning artist Alise King.

The weekend also included the annual Pride parade stepping off at noon on June 7 from Fort and Griswold through downtown Detroit.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist both marched and celebrated alongside the community, marking Whitmer’s final Pride as governor. Parade crowds lined the streets to cheer on the steadfast allies, exchanging high-fives and big smiles as they made their way along the parade route.



St. Vincent Has Always Been This Gay

Ahead of her Detroit Opera show, the artist talks queerness and visibility

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

St. Vincent, whose real name is Annie Clark, had just come from a Barry's Bootcamp class in West Hollywood when we got on the phone — she offered this immediately, unprompted, clocking that she was talking to an LGBTQ+ publication. “It’s spot on,” she says, laughing. “Just right on brand.” The timing felt apt: This was nearly Pride Month, and Clark’s queerness has never been separate from her work — a progressive blend of art-rock and experimental pop where razor-sharp guitars meet sugary melodies that keep turning dark — even when the world insisted on treating her queerness as a reveal.

Clark took home three Grammys in 2025 for “All Born Screaming,” including best alternative music album and best rock song for “Broken Man.” But what made headlines was her acceptance speech, when she thanked her wife and daughter and the internet erupted as if it were a confession. Except it wasn’t. “I did not in any way come out at the Grammys,” she says. Her identity, she notes, has been right there in the music all along.

Navigating what she calls that “dance” — being a rock artist, being a woman, being queer without letting queerness become a marketing beat or a footnote — has defined a remarkable 20-year run. Now Clark is bringing that full vision to concert halls across the country during an orchestra tour that stemmed from a BBC Proms appearance at Royal Albert Hall in London in 2025 that left her immediately plotting how to do it again.

One of those stops is the Detroit Opera House on July 24, a long way from her first Detroit memory, which she shared with me below — along with what she wants the queer fans filling that room to feel. “Beauty,” she says. “And catharsis. And acceptance.”

I saw you play in Detroit in 2018, at the now-defunct Mo Pop Festival. The bill was incredible. There was you, Bon Iver, The National. There was Billie Eilish.

Holy shit, Billie Eilish played that, too? Oh my god! Why didn’t I go see her?

Now you’re coming back to play the Detroit Opera House with an



St. Vincent. Photo: David William Baum

orchestra. What does that arc feel like?

Well, I’ve been lucky enough to play in Detroit a whole bunch. One of my earliest gigs was opening for a band called Midlake, a great band from Denton, Texas, at the Majestic and

my friend Jameel was sort of tour managing, but mostly just hanging out and helping me carry gear and helping me drive and stuff. I remember we were caught in a blizzard and Jameel, who was from the area, paid a guy 10 bucks to dig our car out of the snow!

So that’s my first memory of Detroit. And so

now coming back and playing a beautiful venue with a symphony is pretty cool. I’m nowhere near done, god willing, but I always think my best work is ahead of me, not behind me. But in a weird way, doing this orchestra stuff was almost a career retrospective, because it forced me to look back on records that I don’t revisit. Not for any reason, except that they’re for other people. I’m onto the next thing as soon as I release something, so it’s kind of a career retrospective. It feels very heartening to look back and go, “I went a lot of places and I’ve made a lot of music, and now it can translate to this larger forum.”

Was this a sort of check-in point to look at where you’ve been to get to where you want to go next?

No. I mean, it had that effect, but the fact of it was that the BBC Proms does these amazing nights with more popular-leaning artists with the symphony, and so Rachel Eckroth, who I’ve been lucky enough to play with now for three years, is friends with Jules Buckley, a great conductor who has his own orchestra there and does a lot of these Proms events. That was in the works for a couple years. The BBC approached me about wanting to do a night at the Proms, and I did that. But basically the moment I stepped off stage, I was like, “We need to do this again. Where can we do this again?” I was just absolutely jonesing to do it more and to go to the States and just bring some glorious beauty. There was a 60-piece orchestra behind [me]. I wanna ride that wave of beauty.

You’ve used the word beauty a few times when talking about this tour. What goes through your mind when you use that word?

Beauty’s hard won. Real beauty is radical, in the same way that hope is radical.

Your first album, 2007’s “Marry Me,” featured horns, strings and a choir. It was orchestral in its ambition. I’m wondering if doing these shows feels like returning to something that you’ve always wanted, or like something you finally have the credibility to ask for.

[Laughs.] Yeah, credibility — and, like, there’s a budget. You have no idea how scrappy those

first records were. But in a way, it does feel like that, because certainly my second record was so influenced by film scores, Disney and Petrushka, Stravinsky and Debussy. It's funny to me to hear a song like "Marrow," which the inspiration for it was me just vibing on Petrushka. So, in this way, it sort of returned to being closer to its inspiration material. Like, this is the Stravinsky song I was always trying to write and now there's money behind it. Money doesn't always help art, but sometimes it does.

Have you been surprised by what these songs have become?

Well, I want to give a shout out to Rachel Eckroth, who did a number of arrangements, and some of my favorite arrangements, and Jules, who's incredible. And then there were a couple other arrangers that I worked with that were from the Jules Buckley orchestra world. We made arrangements with little to no input from me, just here's the song, just dream your dream on it, and then I'd listen to it and be blown away. Then I'd refine certain things and be surprised by certain things and want to keep them. It was a very collaborative process, obviously, but so much credit to the arrangers for making it cool because, in the wrong hands, anything could go pear-shaped. But they've just got taste and musicality and all the things. Especially in my earlier material, there are parts that were sort of intended to be symphonic in the first place, so that became about making them bigger.



St. Vincent and the Jules Buckley Orchestra perform at Royal Albert Hall, September 2025. Photo: Andy Paradise

"All Born Screaming" feels like your most unguarded record. There's no persona. It's also your first album that's completely self-produced. And though you have acknowledged your queerness in the past, the public seems to think that you came out publicly during this cycle because of your acknowledgement of your wife while accepting your Grammy win.

No, there's a difference, and this is probably going to sound very controversial, but I did not in any way come out at the Grammys. If anyone did a brief search history, I have revealed many facets of my personal life, like people I've dated. But my queerness is inherent in the work I do, because the lens that I have as a human being is one of all the things that growing up queer in America, in Texas, during a certain time, brings to you. You have to learn how

to code switch. You have to learn how to try on identity, because the identity that you are is inherently hostile to your environment and your true identity. So you learn. That's why I'm fascinated by things like the Stasi, or spycraft, because, let me say, for people of a certain age, growing up in certain places, you had to learn how to be covert, you had to learn how to be sly.

Everything has double meanings. Your sense of identity and who you are becomes a construct because you are constantly being made aware that it's not OK. You're very much aware that identity is a construct, because you have to construct one for yourself in order to allow yourself to be both armored and porous. So the idea that I came out at the Grammys is not true. I just always thought that my queerness was so intrinsic to my work, and so sublimated

into everything that I create, that I wasn't going, "Here's a rainbow flag, let me capitalize on it in any sort of cynical way." And we are in a different time, where identity is capital. I just have a different mindset about it.

Is it fair to say you've never let queerness be a footnote, but you've also never let it be the whole story?

Baby, it's been a dance of a lifetime. How have I managed to figure out how to be a rock artist *and* a woman? You know what I mean? You just put your effort into the work, and hope that the work speaks and resonates with people, because that is the thing at the end of the day, you know?

When did you know that your music was resonating with

queer people?

I started to see at the beginning, because it was very indie rock, it was straight dudes. And then, as a female artist, you always have — and this is not a slight — older men who were probably into post-punk who are still heads who want to come to the shows. So there was that. I would say a lot of my audience was largely male, and I felt like there was a market difference around "Masseduction." I don't know why. I'm sure that they've always been there.

It was all those pop bangers!

Yeah! When you think about it, for a long time, the gay male heroines for a whole lot of time in pop music have been straight women. I have gone up on stage in blonde wigs, or played with this

idea of femininity, because to me, it was always a costume. There's also this sort of strain of the idea of authenticity and indie rock. Like, the truth is coming out like a schlub and just playing guitar and singing. That is a mode, and in the right hands, that's the best thing in the world, but also it's equally authentic for me to put on a blonde wig and sublimated and express the transformation of me healing the wounds of the father. It's equally an authentic expression.

Have we entered a new era of you being more open about your queerness?

I mean, I never was not openly queer. I think it just really entered the conversation in a big way 12 years ago. In terms of music press, if you were asking, yeah, I was clear about it from the third record or something. You can't get gayer than, like, a wife and a child.

Ruth Ellis Clairmount Health and Wellness

313-484-5888

Primary Care

- All ages welcome
- Sick visits
- Physicals
- Accept most insurances
- Management of chronic conditions

Sexual Health

- Comprehensive STI testing and treatment
- Contraception
- Partner services
- Poly and sex positive

HIV Prevention and Treatment

- Oral and injectable PrEP for HIV prevention
- HIV treatment and monitoring

Gender Affirming Care

- Gender affirming hormones
- Gender inclusive PAP/GYN services
- Surgical referrals

HENRY FORD HEALTH

Ruth Ellis Center

BTL | June 18, 2026 9

Pride Reads for Every Shelf

Our picks for the season stretch across generations, genres and shelves

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI & SARAH HUNT

The challenges of the current political era have inspired a strong wave of LGBTQ+ titles across every genre and age range, and our editors have been reading.

Below are the books we think deserve a place on your Pride list — and honestly, on every other list, too. Chris Azzopardi's picks span fiction and art — from Barry Walters' sweeping history of queer music to AIDS-era ghost stories to a "Golden Girls" spinoff set in Palm Springs drag culture. Sarah Hunt covers memoir, nonfiction and younger-reader shelves, from a landmark Black queer history of the United States to picture books, YA biography and a cozy monster-hunting romantasy.

Whether you're looking for memoir that hits close to home, nonfiction that reframes what you thought you knew or younger-reader titles for every age and shelf, there's plenty of ground to cover.

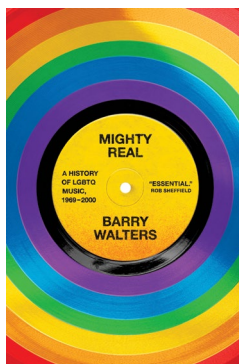
Arts and culture

"Mighty Real: A History of LGBTQ Music, 1969-2000" by Barry Walters

Barry Walters, who has written for the Village Voice, Spin and Rolling Stone, has spent his career writing about queer music from the inside. Here, he takes his cue from Sylvester's euphoric "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" to trace the full arc of LGBTQ+ music from Stonewall to RuPaul. In this sprawling deep dive, he moves from Lou Reed and David Bowie through the disco queens and homopunks in between, making the case that queer artists didn't just contribute to pop history — they built it.

The book is full of moments like Bette Midler's "Friends" becoming an unlikely AIDS-era anthem and Whitney Houston in her first and last major gay press interview with Houston speaking about the LGBTQ+ community as though she weren't a part of it. "I can't imagine her anguish in that moment," Walters writes.

As Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys puts it, "Barry Walters has been writing about music from an American queer perspective for five decades. This is his testament: a musical, personal and political history that explores and celebrates the LGBTQ+ contribution to popular music."



"Fire Island Art: 100 Years" edited by John Dempsey

Flip through the pages of this first-ever art history of Fire Island and you might just feel the salt air. For nearly a century, the slender barrier island off the coast of Long Island has been a place where queer artists vacationed — and, in doing so, made it sacred. The archival materials editor John Dempsey has unearthed, many never before published, carry the particular ache of queer history: sun-drenched, hard-won and achingly beautiful. Front and center is PaJaMa — Paul Cadmus, Jared French and Margaret French — three painters who made Fire Island the backdrop of their intertwined lives in the late 1930s and '40s, and whose tender, unhurried images feel like stolen glimpses into a world that wasn't supposed to be seen.

Fifteen chapters, each by a leading art writer, trace the overlapping circles of friends and collaborators who shaped the island's identity — from George Daniell and Andy Warhol to Robert Mapplethorpe, Peter Hujar and David Hockney. Contemporary artists like Nicole Eisenman, Wolfgang Tillmans and Salman Toor carry that legacy forward. Part archive, part love letter, this is a book that reminds you why Fire Island has always felt, to so many of us, like coming home.

"Rainbow Dreams: Color and Light in Contemporary Art" edited by Olga Rei and

Valentine Uhovski

Consider this your permission to judge a book by its cover: "Rainbow Dreams" arrives printed with a seamless rainbow gradient on its exterior, and the inside delivers on that promise. Featuring more than 200 works by some of the world's most celebrated contemporary artists — Yayoi Kusama, Takashi Murakami, Judy Chicago, Olafur Eliasson, Jeff Koons and Ellsworth Kelly among them — it's a dizzying, joyful tour of the color spectrum in every medium imaginable: paintings, monumental sculptures, LED light installations, immersive spaces and more. Paola Pivi's feathered bear sculptures sit alongside Ugo Rondinone's neon works and Nick Cave's maximalist visions, revealing just how differently brilliant minds see and

use color. For a book that doesn't wave any particular flag, it feels awfully good to hold right now.

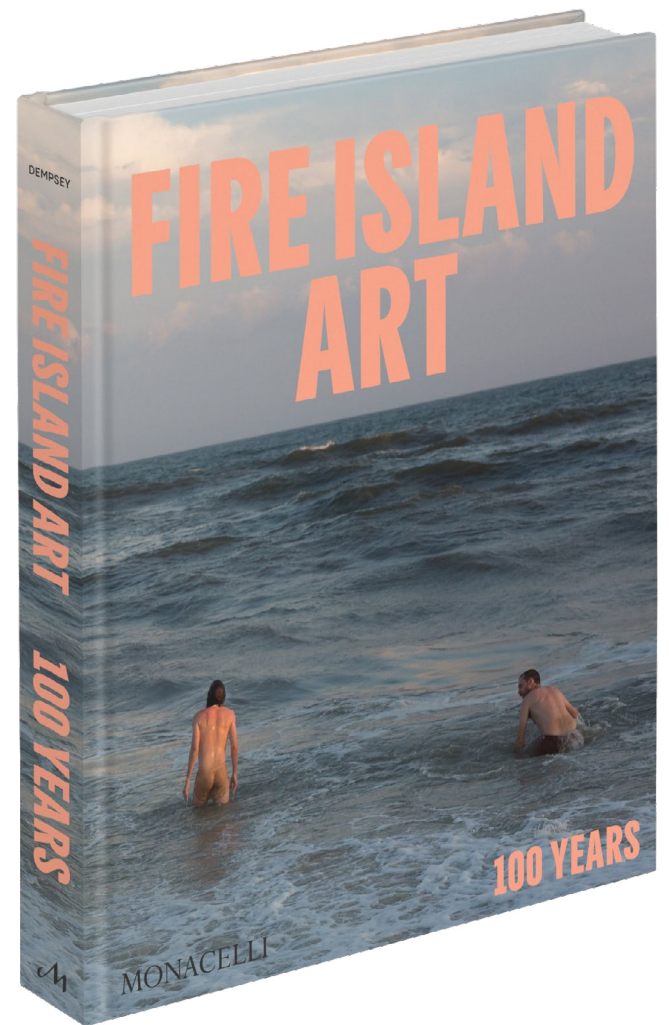
Fiction

"Waiting on a Friend" by Natalie Adler

New York's East Village, 1984. Renata, described as a "young dyke-about-town," has always been able to see ghosts — but lately, as AIDS claims more and more people in her community, they're everywhere. When her best friend Mark dies, she waits for his ghost to appear. It doesn't. And when a mysterious company moves into the neighborhood promising to rid apartments of lingering presences — capturing and storing ghosts in the process — Renata realizes the world is trying to erase the very people she's fighting to remember. Named Fiction Debut of the Month by Library Journal, Natalie Adler's debut is, at its heart, a book about friendship and loss, but more specifically a haunting portrait of how mass loss during the AIDS crisis reshaped an entire generation of queer life.

'Take Me with You' by Steven Rowley

Here's a question for your next dinner party: If a beam of light appeared in your backyard and offered you a way out, would you go? In Steven Rowley's latest, college professor Jesse watches his husband Norman do exactly that, stepping into a strange light in their Joshua Tree backyard and vanishing after 30 years together. What follows is less a sci-fi story than a deeply grounded portrait of a marriage — and of one man suddenly alone for the first time in his adult life, forced to reckon with who he is without the person who defined him. From The New York Times bestselling



author of "Lily and the Octopus" and "The Guncle" — winner of the Thurber Prize for American Humor — comes a novel that asks what it means to stay when someone you love chooses to go.

"That's What Friends Are For" by Wade Rouse

Michigan author Wade Rouse has dreamed up something irresistible: what happened to Coco, the gay housekeeper played by Charles Levin who appeared in the very first episode of "The Golden Girls" — then vanished, written out to make room for Sophia? Rouse fictionalizes the life of the actor who played him, imagining Coco alongside three aging gay besties living together in a fabulous pink mid-century home in Palm Springs, members of a monthly drag tribute called "The Golden Gays." It's being called an "affectionate queer homage" to "The Golden Girls" by Publishers Weekly and "a rip-roaringly funny ode to found family, Palm Springs,

drag and Bea Arthur” by author Grant Ginder. The New York Post recommends it as the “perfect cozy gift to make you laugh, cry and fall in love with your chosen family.” Coco deserved better — and now, finally, he gets it.

“Night Night Fawn” by Jordy Rosenberg

Barbara Rosenberg is dying in a cluttered rent-controlled Manhattan apartment, high on opioids, and she has things to say. About her smutty late husband. About her career as a receptionist for a disreputable plastic surgeon. About her glory days as an accomplished jazzerciser and her failed dreams of film noir stardom. About Karl Marx, Zionism, gender and her two great disappointing loves: an estranged trans son and a long-lost best friend whose betrayal still haunts her. From the author of “Confessions of the Fox,” a novel that veers from memoir to diatribe to deranged manifesto — and what The New York Times Book Review calls “a rant of comedic genius.”

“The Summer Boy” by Philippe Besson

July 1985. A scruffy resort island off the coast of France. Six teenagers suspended between carefree mornings in the waves and nights heavy with yearning, orbiting each other in a circle of frustrated desire — François loves Alice who loves Nicolas, Marc is drawn to Philippe who is drawn to Nicolas, and Nicolas himself remains an enigma. From the author of the bestselling “Lie With Me,” translated from French by Sam Taylor, this autofictional novel follows Philippe as he excavates that summer and the boy whose sudden disappearance at a cliffside party left a mystery that would haunt him for the rest of his life. Besson writes with a delicate, nostalgia-laden precision, moving between that long-ago summer and the present with the kind of clarity that only distance — and a lifetime of carrying something — can bring. Quietly devastating.

“The Dinner Party” by Cat Fitzpatrick

A riotous post-pandemic dinner party. A short arcadian pageant. The trials of making babies as queer and transsexual couples. Eight love poems. An epistolary friendship. Cat Fitzpatrick’s follow-up to her Lambda Award-winning debut novel “The Call Out” is a novel-in-verse that moves through all of it with jubilation and tenderness, celebrating queerness and

the communities we build through joy, support and love. Fitzpatrick — the first trans woman director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program at Rutgers University-Newark, and co-editor of the ALA Stonewall Award-winning anthology “Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction & Fantasy from Transgender Writers” — is one of the most distinctive trans literary voices working today. “The Dinner Party” is proof that the table she’s setting has room for all of us.

Nonfiction and memoir

“A Black Queer History of the United States” by C. Riley Snorton and Darius Bost

Columbia University’s C. Riley Snorton and University of Illinois-Chicago’s Darius Bost make a compelling argument in their January 2026 release: that gender and sexual expression have always been inseparable from the Black freedom struggle. Moving from the colonial era to the present day, the book draws on figures including James Baldwin, Josephine Baker and Marlon Riggs to show how Black queer and trans Americans have shaped — and been shaped by — the fight for racial justice. A landmark work of accessible scholarship.

“Play Naked” by Amanda De Lisio

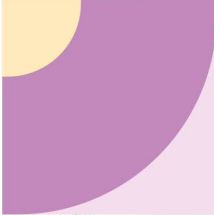
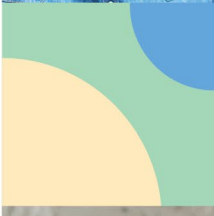
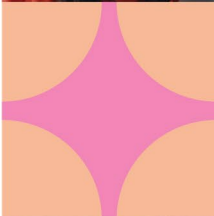
York University professor Amanda De Lisio centers the stories of sex workers who mobilized during Rio de Janeiro’s 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics, events that generated global spectacle while intensifying police scrutiny of femme and trans bodies. Drawing on extensive interviews, De Lisio frames sex work as a site of political resistance and economic agency, pushing back against the trafficking narratives that typically dominate coverage of mega-events. The result is a rigorous, compassionate look at how queer and trans people navigate — and subvert — systems designed to exploit or erase them.

“Pretty: A Memoir” by KB Brookins

Winner of the 2025 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Nonfiction, KB Brookins’ debut memoir traces their coming-of-age as a Black transmasculine person in Texas, weaving poetry into prose as they reckon with family, church,

See *Pride Books*, page 26

We’re Hiring Clinicians



JOIN OUR TEAM

Seeking licensed clinicians who are passionate about healing, equity, and community impact.

Join a team that honors lived experience, embodiment, and inclusive care. Your expertise belongs here.



Behavioral Health & Addiction Services

Ph: 248-907-0247
Fax: 844-913-1883

Email: Mark@Mark-McMillan.com

800 Hilton Street, Suite One
Ferndale, MI 48220

Mark McMillan,
LMSW, CAADC
(pronouns he/him)



APPLY TODAY

[Mark-McMillan.com](https://www.Mark-McMillan.com)

Hey UFC Fighter Guy, Leave Michelle Obama Out of This



BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

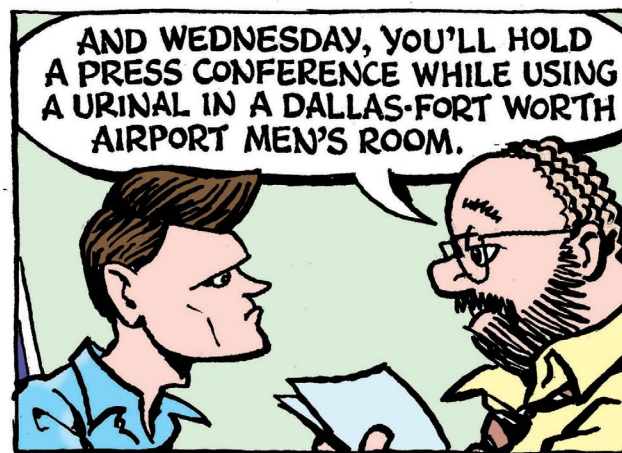
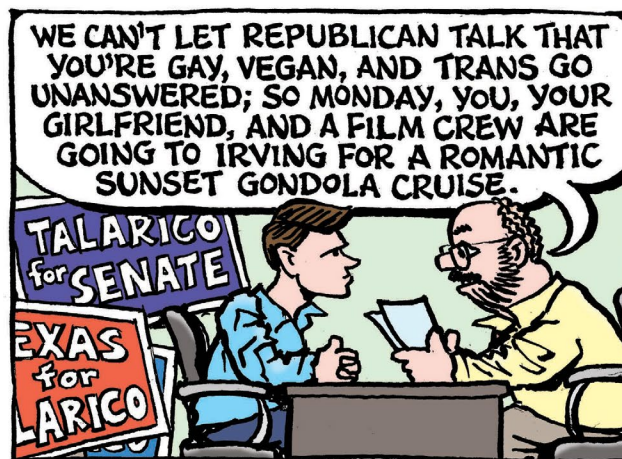
In 2004, the band Modest Mouse released an album called “Good News for People Who Love Bad News.” I think of this album title every time I get any news about politics in the U.S.

The lead-up to this country’s 250th anniversary has brought much misery to my timeline.

Take the UFC ring built on the White House lawn so that Trump could have a fight in his yard for his birthday. To say it’s tacky is an understatement. But with Trump in office, everything about the White House is tacky. Or gone. Remember how he tore down an entire wing of the White House without warning or permission? That was fucked.

Anyway, if you’re not familiar, UFC stands for Ultimate Fighting Championship. It’s two shirtless guys barefoot in a cage who beat the shit out of one another. It’s like boxing, but with the whole body as your weapon.

Oh, and sidenote: to the person who told me that the UFC ring was built on the White House lawn to host a fight between Trump and Pete Hegseth, how dare you get my hopes up.



Freedom 250 event honoring Donald Trump’s 80th birthday, heavyweight Josh Hokit threw a fist in the air and shouted into a microphone held by podcaster Joe Rogan, ‘And lastly, Michelle Obama is a man! Am I right, America!’”

Oh yeah, did I mention Joe Rogan was there? He’s dabbled in many conspiracy theories himself.

After his declaration, Hokit, wearing red, white and blue spandex shorts, turned and walked to the other side of the ring.

The Advocate continues, “Hokit’s comment drew a smattering of whoops and hollers from the audience, but didn’t seem to elicit the response he had been hoping for.”

Whomp whomp.

Why would Hokit use his time on a national stage (or should I say white nationalist stage) to say such a bizarre and untrue thing?

Maybe he was trying to impress the birthday boy. Trump is, after all, racist, sexist and hates the Obamas. He hates President Obama so much that he has tried to undo everything the Obama administration did, including the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. Like, we literally went to war with Iran because of Trump’s Obama hatred. Think of that next time you fill up your gas tank.

The conspiracy theory that Michelle Obama is a man — or, more specifically, transgender — is not new. It’s been floating around for many years. It isn’t true, but right-wing extremists

cannot fathom a strong, confident woman existing. Not to mention the fact that she’s tall and has buff arms.

A related conspiracy theory is that Barack Obama is gay. Oh, and he’s a demon and smells of sulphur.

Casting doubt on Michelle Obama’s gender and Barack Obama’s sexuality is supposed to be insulting, to them and to the people who voted for Obama. They think that being gay or being transgender are two of the worst things a person can be.

This isn’t true, of course. But that has never stopped a conspiracy theory before. In fact, given that the U.S. is being run by a bunch of conspiracy theorists, it could be argued that in a UFC fight between the two, truth is gonna get its ass kicked.

We’ve heard a lot about protecting democracy in the U.S., often from Democrats who then turn around and vote for Trump’s terrible nominees for judges and cabinet positions.

But the truth is, democracy is on the brink of collapse. Voting rights, especially voting rights for Black Americans, are being decimated. Trump and his supporters are trying very hard to cement Republican control so they can criminalize homosexuality again, take away our marriage rights, erase transgender people from public life, and become the uterus police, outlawing abortion nationwide.

The fact is, 250 years is nothing. The United States is a very young country. Countries like Iran and China are way older. By thousands of years.

The U.S. could absolutely fall, failing as a country because we didn’t live up to the ideals we are supposed to be founded on. It is not at all outside of the realm of possibility.

The U.S. could absolutely change and live up to those ideals, too. But only if the people have the will to make it happen.

Conspiracy theories turn everyday stories into spectacle. They also turn truth into an unattainable mirage in the information landscape. If anything can be true, then nothing is true.

I abhor violence and think that UFC and boxing is barbaric. But I understand that it’s popular in the U.S. And I understand why. It’s the same reason so many people still like Trump: Americans love violence and spectacle.

I think this also helps to explain why Americans love conspiracy theories so much. Conspiracy theories turn everyday stories into spectacle. They also turn truth into an unattainable mirage in the information landscape. If anything can be true, then nothing is true.

A popular transphobic conspiracy theory found its way to Trump’s UFC Birthday Boy Extravaganza.

As The Advocate reports, “After his victory at [the] UFC

THE SCROLL

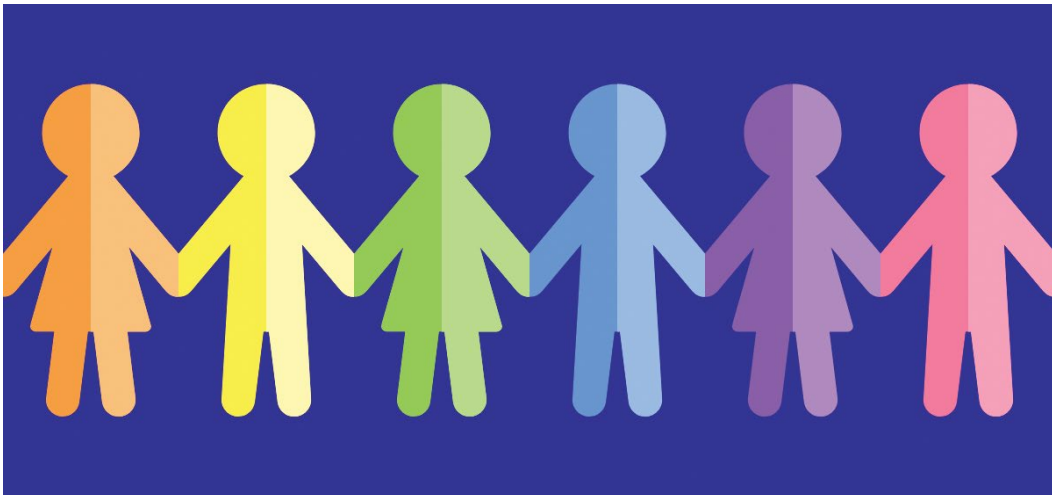
QUICK HITS & CAN'T MISSES

Who Counts as Family?
Hazel Park Expands
Protections

Hazel Park has become the first Michigan city to explicitly protect non-monogamous and diverse family structures from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. City Councilmember Luke Londo championed the ordinance with support from OPEN, the Organization for Polyamory and Ethical Non-monogamy, a national nonprofit advancing legal rights for non-monogamous families.

The protections address a demographic shift. Only about 18 percent of American families follow the traditional nuclear family model, while 5 percent of adults practice consensual non-monogamy. Without legal safeguards, people in these relationships face discrimination.

The ordinance covers polyamorous relationships, multi-partner and multi-parent



families, multi-generational households, chosen families, stepfamilies and blended families. Nearly 20 percent of Americans now live in multi-generational households, yet most local laws fail to protect these diverse relationship and family structures.

Londo views the ordinance as reflecting his community’s reality. “When I look at my residents, I see a beautiful tapestry of blended families, chosen families and vibrant relationships, and they are all worthy of protection,” he said. Read more at pridesource.com.

Top LGBTQ+ Leaders Gather for Call to Action on Housing

The HOMES Coalition of Southeast Michigan is bringing together some of Michigan’s most important LGBTQ+ advocacy leaders for the LGBT Older Adult Summit this Saturday, June 20. It’s part of a 14-year tradition — and this year’s theme, “A Call to Action,” signals why the moment matters.

The day-long conference at the University of Michigan Detroit Center features Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU Michigan LGBT Project, and Emme Zanotti, senior director at Equality Michigan. Alongside panels on housing, financial security, employment and aging services, they’ll address findings that demand attention: a HOMES Coalition survey conducted last year found that 90% of LGBTQ+ older adults experienced discrimination, while 80% said they’d relocate if more affirming housing options were available.

Free and open to all. Registration is strongly encouraged at homescoalition.org.

Trump Administration
Blocked From Accessing
Trans Youth Medical Records

A federal judge has temporarily blocked the Trump administration from obtaining confidential medical records of transgender youth, just before federal prosecutors sought to force Lucile Packard

Children’s Hospital in Stanford, California to turn over documents.

On June 9, U.S. District Judge P. Casey Pitts directed the hospital not to produce records sought through a grand jury subpoena and barred the government from enforcing similar demands while the court considers pending motions.

The order comes amid escalating DOJ pressure on health systems nationwide. In Michigan, the University of Michigan received a DOJ subpoena

last year investigating gender-affirming care. The health system subsequently suspended hormone therapy and puberty blockers for patients under 19.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel denounced the decision as “cowardly” and possibly “illegal,” arguing the Trump administration has taken aggressive action without legal basis. Nessel joined other Democratic attorneys general in suing over the administration’s January executive order targeting gender-affirming care.

‘Girls Like Girls’ Hits
Theaters

Singer-songwriter and filmmaker Hayley Kiyoko has been building toward this moment since her 2015 single “Girls Like Girls” became a queer anthem — and now the full story is hitting theaters. “Girls Like Girls” is a coming-of-age romance set over one sun-drenched summer. Kiyoko wrote, directed and contributed all-new music to her feature film debut, out June 19.

Don’t Miss Our Chuck
Tingle Q&A

Bestselling, masked horror and romance author Chuck Tingle performed a one-time revival of his “Bury Your Gays” tour show at Ann Arbor Library on June 6, launching the library’s Big Gay Read community book club. In a recent Pride Source interview, Tingle riffed on “proving love” during difficult times, saying “Your power in those times is multiplied by 10.” Read the full interview at pridesource.com.

Qween Jean Reigns at
the Tonys

Qween Jean won Best Costume Design of a Musical for “Cats: The Jellicle Ball,” making Tony Awards history as the first openly trans winner on June 7. She designed her own gown and fellow nominee Whitney White’s dress. On the red carpet, Jean told reporters, “As a queer person, a leader, a mother, I will never stand quiet. If any woman is in pain, even if her shackles are different from mine, let’s get unshackled.”



Qween Jean. Photo: Instagram

But Am I Trans Enough?

One trans woman's journey through self-doubt, gatekeeping and the question every trans person asks themselves



BY ANNI
ARBUR

Let's be honest. At some point in your transition journey, you've experienced the lingering feeling that you just might not be transgender. There is even a term for this: Trans-doubt.

I know I've felt it at times — early in my transition, before I stopped listening to others who put the thought into my mind that my gender discomfort (that is, dysphoria) was in my imagination.

I was cursed to have been born in an era when such a feeling was not just discouraged, but a sign of a "mental disorder." It wasn't until the publication of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) in 2013 that "gender identity disorder" was eliminated and replaced with "gender dysphoria."

That's right. Less than 15 years ago, the medical community officially deemed us as mentally disturbed.

So, the deck was stacked against anyone who questioned their assigned gender. It was almost universally presumed by the majority of Americans that if you possessed certain sexual attributes at birth, then your gender followed suit.

Such a presumption not only framed the idea that being born into the "wrong" body delusional, it was dangerous. In my case and in the case of many others, coming out as transgender would have been a death sentence. While my conservative family may have grudgingly accepted me if I came out as gay, there was the very real prospect that if I'd come out as transgender, I may have been killed. And even if not, ostracization was a certainty.

The result was that I lived a life of misery. While I learned to wear a mask of masculinity, inside I ached to be a woman. Uttering those words out loud, though, was unthinkable in my situation. I played the game. I dressed as a boy, then a man. I dated women in my masculine form, fathered children and looked to the outside world as every bit the guy's guy they expected me to be.

I reached a point when I could no longer suppress my femininity and maintain my sanity.

But even as I slowly cracked out of my egg, that discouraging voice in my head had me questioning:

“Don't listen to outside voices, and stop doubting your decision. Being transgender is not a choice you make; it is your destiny.”

“Am I transgender enough?”

Was I dysphoric enough to be trans? Was I simply going through a mid-life crisis that manifested as a gender transition? Would I be accepted by other trans people?

It was that last worry that bothered me most. I didn't want to start claiming I was trans just to have other trans people call me out for it. I feared the gatekeepers who

would look down on me, judging me unfit to bear the tremendous burden that came from being transgender.

It took me a while to work through this concern. Not only would my coming out as trans bring down the wrath of the cisgender world around me, but I also ran the risk of the transgender world I hoped to enter gracefully rejecting me as well.



I existed in this gender purgatory for several years. I slowly began accumulating women's clothing and learned how to apply makeup, all in preparation for the day I could emerge as a fully formed woman — like Athena from the brow of Zeus. Yet in the back of my mind I could hear the naysayers, and that filled me with dread.

It was not just one experience, nor even a specific day I can recall. But I awoke one morning and thought, “Screw it,” and I released Anni onto the world.

Don't listen to outside voices, and stop doubting your decision. Being transgender is not a choice you make; it is your destiny.

If someone — generally a person on social media who has never met you — questions your street cred,

or looks at a photo of you and scoffs at your claim to another gender, ignore them. If you go to an event or gathering populated with other trans people and feel like everyone is looking at you as if you don't belong, just realize that probably most of them are thinking the same thing.

We all have doubts about ourselves. Our society is built to exploit that weakness. Those who seek power will demean and humiliate others in order to claw their way to the top of the heap. You have to develop thick skin to survive, especially if you accept that you've been assigned the wrong gender. Don't let the words of others make your life harder than it already is.

If you think you are transgender, then you are. Period.



Thank You

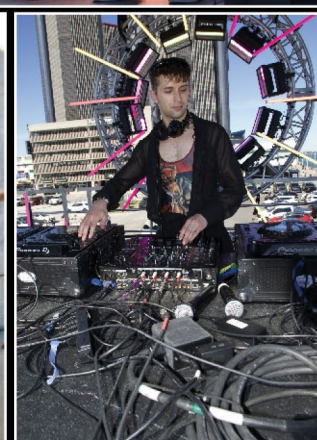
To Our Sponsors, Volunteers, Vendors And Guests

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU NEXT YEAR.

Presented by



MOTORCITYPRIDE.ORG



2026 SPONSORS



When They Go Low, Gay Culture Goes Gayer

Ginger Minj talks bringing drag queens to the big screen

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Fresh off her “RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars 10” victory, Ginger Minj is helping steer queer culture’s latest act of resistance in the wildly campy disaster-comedy “Stop! That! Train!”

The drag-filled spoof directed by Adam Shankman, who brought the musical adaptation of “Hairspray” to the big screen, follows a runaway train, a RuPaul presidency and a cast of queens navigating chaos with more heart than common sense. For Minj, the film arrives at a moment when queer audiences could use a good laugh.

Minj stars as the relentlessly optimistic Tess, opposite longtime friend Jujubee as DeeDee, an endearingly airheaded fellow steward. In the film, Tess and DeeDee pivot to the Glamazonian Express after Stank Rail goes out of business. But when a vicious storm — dubbed “stormaganza” — derails the journey, they’re forced to step up and save the day.

Amid renewed attacks on LGBTQ+ rights in the U.S. and the cancellation of some Pride festivals, Minj calls the film’s theatrical release “Pride for everybody on the biggest scale possible” — a celebration of queer visibility, community and joy. Our conversation also touched on why movies featuring LGBTQ+ people shouldn’t be limited to stories of trauma or coming out. Sometimes, she says, it’s enough to just let queer characters be gloriously ridiculous.

This film feels like an antidote to our current political climate.

That’s why we made it, because everybody needs to laugh right now. It’s one of those movies where it’s better with a group of people. That’s why I keep telling people: Go to the theater and see this with a group of people because there’s nothing as healing as laughing together.

I understand that you really stuck to what was on the page, but I was delighted to read that the chest bump between you and DeeDee was something that you came up with with Juju.



Ginger Minj (left) and Jujubee in “Stop! That! Train!” Photo: World of Wonder/Bleecker Street

Yeah. A lot of our bits we came up with together because we lived together at the time and so we’d be on set all day and then we’d come home and were tired, but we’d sit there with our script going over the stuff for the next day and just be like, “What can we do just to make Adam laugh and make everybody giggle?” So we would try it and Adam would be like, “OK, I like it. Let’s do it again.”

It becomes the thing that really makes their friendship feel emotional by the end.

Well, I’m so glad that it translates that way. I mean, that’s kind of how we are. We work together so much. We’re super close. I love her. She’s one of my favorite people in the world and we chest bump each other all the time. At Pride and everywhere, I want to see everybody boop-boopin’.

Growing up, what were the films that taught you that you could be bigger, stranger and campier?

Well, I’ve always been big and strange. It was just

finding a world where that fit. I was at a slumber party birthday when I was 8, 9 years old. The kid’s family’s favorites were the “Airplane!” movies. I hadn’t seen them before. So we sat down and watched part one and part two and the one that stuck out to me the most was when the Girl Scouts get into a bar fight and they start slinging each other around. It was so funny to me because it was so serious but so stupid and that’s still one of my favorite comedy moments of any movie ever.

Then, of course, I started falling down the rabbit hole of actually watching the old disaster movies. “Earthquake” was my favorite and “The Poseidon Adventure” and finding the absurdity and how it’s so rooted in reality and that’s what makes it funny. I like when they just play it for the stakes, they play it as a drama, and you find the humor in the situation. That’s such an allegory for the world too. If we don’t laugh, we’re going to cry.

It does feel like an exaggerated version of the America that we’re living in, if there could be one, with RuPaul as president.

I will go on record as saying: RuPaul should be president. As long as I’ve known RuPaul, and that’s decades, [that’s been true].

Did you have to audition for the role alongside other “Drag Race” queens?

The other girls like to make a big deal out of it sometimes, but no, I didn’t audition for this one for two reasons. One, I had done “The Bitch Who Stole Christmas” for World of Wonder [Productions] and VH1, which was also written by Connor [Wright] and Christina [Friel]. So when they wrote this role for Tess, they literally said, “It’s a Ginger Minj type.” It wasn’t until months later after I had already signed on — Juju had already been cast — and we were talking with Adam for our pre-production meeting and he was like, “This is going into movie theaters. This is a big deal.”

You came to drag through the theater. Did Tess feel more like building a stage character, a film character, something entirely different?

Tess felt like the version of myself that I strive

to be at all times. She's very much a glass half full kind of girl. She looks at every situation, no matter how tragic and traumatic it is and says, "I can work with it. I can make magic out of this. This is my chance." I just wanted to take the best parts of me and put them together with the things that I truly try to be and make that Tess.

How fun was it to go head to head with Brooke Lynn Hytes, Marcia Marcia Marcia and Symone as your nemeses?

It was really fun. I mean, I've known Brooke Lynn for forever. I knew her before either of us were ever on "Drag Race" through Continental Pageantry. I've always loved her. And I'm not going to say that she's a mean girl, but she is very much that character in the way that she holds herself. She is an intimidating kind of presence. She's so beautiful. She's so polished.

She's got those high cheekbones. High cheekbones are always a little intimidating.

Yeah, and she paid a lot of money for them, so she makes sure she shows them off.

What does it mean to you for this to be getting a theatrical release during Pride Month?

What I really love about that is that I'm from Florida, so I'm right in the thick of where they're trying to strip us of our rights and take our Pride away completely. They've cut funding. They've put rules in place so that we can't celebrate publicly with each other. And I feel like this movie going into theaters during Pride Month is our way of combating that. This is Pride for everybody on the biggest scale possible.

Did making this movie change how you see the possibilities for drag artists in Hollywood and beyond?

Yeah, for sure. I mean, I think about the first time I sat in a movie theater and watched a drag performer just be a movie star: It was RuPaul in "The Brady Bunch Movie." It was in my little Southern Baptist town. I went with my mother. I knew everybody that was in that audience because everybody in that town knew everybody and all their tea. And when Ru came on the screen, I remember holding my breath and looking around and seeing all of these people who I know in their heart of hearts are really kind of homophobic because that's what they've been raised and taught. We're just buying Ru as this character and laughing along.

And then when "To Wong Fu" came out, I remember what a big deal it was, but I was also sitting there going, well, yeah, but all the real drag queens are playing bit parts. RuPaul has a couple of scenes and she's great. Why isn't she playing the Wesley Snipes role? So it's nice to finally have a movie that relies on drag being told from a real drag performer's perspective. I think that's monumental.

For so long, the community has been asking for stories that aren't just about queer trauma or coming out. What does a movie like "Stop! That! Train!" accomplish simply by letting queer people be ridiculous?

Well, what I love the most about Tess and DeeDee is that we never had a conversation about gender at all. So if you view these two characters as women, they're women. If you view them as drag queens, they're drag queens. If you view them as anything, they can be that because they're just Tess and DeeDee. And we don't put the emphasis on gender like everybody tries to do with everything right now. They try to put everybody and everything into a box and then say, "Oh, that box is wrong. You shouldn't pack it that way." So I think it's really refreshing that you have drag artists playing people. I think that's really beautiful.

It's been a little surprising watching different audiences watch it and, like me watching "The Brady Bunch Movie" all those years ago, seeing all of these typically homophobic straight people just buy into it immediately and laugh along because they're like, "Oh, this is really comfortable and I get this. This is my world too."

After many years on "Drag Race," you snagged the top spot in "All Stars 10" in 2025. How do you reflect on that win and what it meant for the drag artists who are more traditional pageant queens?

Honestly, it's something that I was so hyper-focused on for over a decade of my life. I love "RuPaul's Drag Race." It's my favorite TV show. I love being a part of it. I love filming it. I love competition. And it was like the cherry on top of a really beautiful decade-long love story for me and my fans and "Drag Race" and RuPaul.

It just felt like it was the right time. And the other times that I had competed and gotten close but not won, there were a lot of people who thought that maybe I should have. And in my mind I was like, "No, I don't think this is the time." But I always told myself, there's going to be a time and you will be there for it. And then it just all kind of clicked together for "All Stars 10." It felt right.

I feel like Tess might say the same about her own journey to the Glamazonian Express.

In the pageant world, that's what you do. You grow, you learn, you come back and you do better. And that's what I was just really proud to represent for all of those pageant girls who I do think get a little bit of a bad rep sometimes on the television show. And I think it was really wonderful to be like, "You can get knocked down and you can come back and you can be better than you were." That's just how we should try to be at all times. Very Tess and DeeDee.

Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool.

100% Local Agents. 100% Client Focused.
Trillium Real Estate Helps People
Make Good Decisions.



Sandi & Linda

944 N Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.trilliumrealtors.com
734-302-3011



BTL merch is here!



pridesource.com/merch

Your 2026 Michigan LGBTQ+ Pride Calendar

Dozens of fests, one fabulous Michigan Pride season

BY KELLI DUNHAM

One of the true perks of life in our beloved Mitten State is that we are not scraping together one or two events and calling it a season. We have dozens of independent Pride celebrations, each with its own vibe, scale and very real potential for you to leave with something unexpected — from a cute temporary dolphin tattoo to a life decision your future self will have very strong opinions about.

If miles of packed street festival energy makes you want to lie down in a dark room, then sure, the glorious chaos of Ferndale Pride might not be your scene. But there is absolutely a smaller, chillier, bring-a-lawn-chair option with your name on it. Or a lakeside one. Or one where you accidentally learn something. Or one where you mostly just eat kettle corn and feel feelings.

The point is: Your Pride flavor is out there. It might require a little driving, a little planning and at least one emergency snack stop. But we promise, it will be worth it.

Or at least it will be a good story.

Help us keep our calendar up to date! Email sarah@pridesource.com with details about fests we're missing.

Single-day events are in chronological order, alphabetized by date. Multi-day events are placed in the calendar in the order of the earliest event.



Saturday, June 20

Cass County Pridefest

Library Pavilion (206 Main St., Dowagiac) 4-8 p.m.

outcenter.org/cass-county-pridefest

Cass County Pridefest is one sparkling stop on the Pridefest On Tour trifecta, dreamed up by the fine folks at OutCenter of Southwest Michigan. More information on entertainment coming soon!

Downriver Pride (through June 21)

Downtown Wyandotte, June 20, noon-11 p.m., June 21, noon-8 p.m.

downriverpride.com

Downriver Pride is bringing two full days of joy, glitter-adjacent energy and the kind of community that makes you text someone, "You should've come." Plus, food that understands the assignment (come hungry, leave with zero regrets) and entertainment TBA but definitely TBRA (To Be Really Amazing).

Fenton Pride

Rackham Park (150 S. Leroy St.), 1-5 p.m.

fentonpride.org

The heart of Fenton Pride lives in Rackham Park with the Fenton Pride Collective, vendors and community orgs, but the fun doesn't stop there. Local downtown businesses are also getting in on the action, offering sweet discounts and special Pride-themed food and drinks. New this year, organizers have added another warm-up event called Drag Me to Bingo, which probably won't require you to drag any of your friends there. Food, drinks and prizes are promised!

Also, Fenton Pride Collective put out a few episodes of a podcast last summer, so while you wait for Pride Month, you can catch up on what happened last summer!

Grand Rapids Pride (through June 21)

Calder Plaza (320 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids). June 20, noon-10 p.m., June 21, noon-8 p.m.

grpride.org/pride-festival

Grand Rapids Pride Festival is back to being free (and therefore ungated, so make sure you check out their detailed access page

for more information) and they can't wait to welcome everyone for the now two-day festival.

Join the party, as West Michigan comes out (again!) to celebrate radical joy, community and the beautiful messiness of queer interconnectedness.

GR Pride packs Calder Plaza with over 150 vendors, food trucks galore, all-ages activities, a sensory space and performers TBA.

Livonia Pride

Schoolcraft College (18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia), 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

livoniapride.org

Livonia Pride is back and ready to party in their newish (as of 2025) spot — Schoolcraft College! While the entertainment lineup is still under wraps (ooh, mysterious!), it looks like their social media presence is probably the best way to keep up to date. Show this big-hearted little Pride some love.

Mount Pleasant Pride

Broadway Park (2451 Nish Na Be Anong Road), 2-5 p.m.

[greatlakesbaypride.org/regional-](http://greatlakesbaypride.org/regional-pride-celebrations/#mt-pleasant-pride-fest)

pride-celebrations/#mt-pleasant-pride-fest

Mount Pleasant Pride has all their rainbow ducks in a row, so come prepared to hang out, be exactly who you are and maybe eat something fried out of a truck while you're at it. You can greet folks from the newly established Michigan Two Spirit and Indigiqueer Coalition, shop at booths from local 2SLGBTQIA+ vendors, peruse community partner resources and enjoy an after-party in the form of a drag show.

Saturday, June 27

Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival (Saginaw)

Jolt Credit Union Event Park (300 Johnson St., Saginaw), 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.

greatlakesbaypride.org

The Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival is a free, family-friendly outdoor fest that brings together LGBTQ+ folks, allies, chosen family and supportive humans from all over the region. You'll find retail vendors, community resources, live entertainment, health screenings and a full-on kids' activity zone

(because little queers and future allies deserve fun too).

Holland Pride

Kollen Park (240 Kollen Park Drive, Holland), 1-6 p.m.

outonthelakeshore.org/holland-pride

Out On The Lakeshore seems tickled pink (tickled rainbow?) to be bringing back Holland Pride to Kollen Park. You can spend the afternoon soaking up fabulous entertainment, tasty bites from food trucks, awesome merch, helpful resources and fun for every age — from toddlers to chosen aunties. Don't forget about their other offerings during Pride week: a fiber fest, an open mic night at the library and a 100 percent disco-themed ball!

Lansing Pride

Old Town (216 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.), 1-9 p.m.

lansingpride.org

Lansing Pride is Mid-Michigan's biggest celebration, and that

See **Pride Calendar**, page 20

NEIGHBORHOOD Roofing

50 Years of Protecting Homes & The People in Them.

Call or text today!
734-994-6500

Building Safer Spaces Together

Proudly LGBTQ+ owned and operated, we provide high-quality roofing with honesty, respect, and a commitment to creating safe, welcoming homes for everyone.

FREE ROOF INSPECTION

+10% OFF

up to \$500

We'll also donate **\$100** to a local LGBTQ+ organization with every qualifying project.

SAFE HOMES.
We use top-quality materials and skilled craftsmanship.

BUILT ON TRUST.
Honest pricing, clear communication, and warranties you can count on.

STRONGER COMMUNITY.
We proudly support organizations that uplift our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

Locally owned.
Community focused.

ROOFING **PLATINUM**
PREFERRED CONTRACTOR

NEIGHBORHOODROOFING.COM
1377 Tefft Ct. • Saline, MI 48176

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ+ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

PRIDESOURCE

Are You Ready To Introduce Your Business to the LGBTQ+ Community?

PRIDESOURCE.COM/ADVERTISE

LANSING PRIDE LOVE OUT LOUD

JUNE 27TH
1PM - 9PM
OLD TOWN LANSING

PRESENTED BY

Featuring Season 4 Winner of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars

TRINITY the TUCK

Lansing Pride
 @lansingpride

PRISM SPONSORS

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORS



◀ Pride Calendar

Continued from page 18

Mid-Michigan energy refuses to stay politely contained in a single weekend. It all kicks off June 3 with a Pride Flag-raising ceremony — because if certain folks would rather not see it flying at places like Stonewall National Monument, Lansing will simply raise a few more and call it community service (and yes, be a little cranky about it). From there, it's a joyful sprint: multiple days of pageants, drag shows in various states of fabulousness and a white party where you will absolutely see at least one outfit that makes you reconsider your entire wardrobe. All roads lead to the big Pride Festival on June 27, packed with all-day entertainment, local and national talent and a few delightful surprises.

Monroe County Pride

St. Mary's Park (111 W. Elm Ave., Monroe), 1-7 p.m.

monroecountypride.org

Monroe County Pride is bringing together local drag, resources, food trucks, an art market and every single one of your exes! Deliberately family friendly... and free!

Twin Cities PrideFest

Shadowland Pavilion (101 Broad St., Silver Beach County Park), 12-8 p.m.

outcenter.org/twin-cities-pridefest

Now strutting into its fabulous sixth year, Twin Cities PrideFest is the seasoned icon of the PrideFest On Tour crew — the glamparent with great stories, excellent taste and a beach bag full of sparkle. This joyful, sun-soaked bash at Silver Beach County Park brings

the kind of energy where the lake is shimmering, the vibes are immaculate and everyone looks just a little bit better in flip-flops.

Sunday, June 28

Berkley Pride Block Party

Downtown Berkley, 1-5 p.m.

instagram.com/berkeleypride

Berkley Pride is back in Downtown Berkley (between Robina and Griffith, just south of 12 Mile), and it's the kind of free, family-friendly celebration that makes you remember how good it feels to be in community. What started as a grassroots gathering has grown into a vibrant, joy-filled event where neighbors, families and friends come together to celebrate love, authenticity and belonging. Plenty of free parking makes it that much easier to show up.

Bluewater Pridefest (Port Huron)

Downtown Port Huron (McMorran Plaza), 1-7 p.m.

bluewaterallies.com/team-1

Bluewater Pridefest takes over downtown Port Huron for this family-friendly event that will include a special kids' zone (rumors of a cute clown abound), entertainment, amazing food and big queer smiles!

Buchanan Pride

The Common (122 Days Ave., Buchanan), 1-8 p.m.

buchananpride.com

Buchanan Pride on The Common has a little something for everyone and a full day of joy starting with a vibrant vendor market!

DeWitt Pride in the Park

Riverside Park (405 S. Bridge St., DeWitt), noon-3 p.m.

midewittpride.org

The third annual DeWitt Pride in the Park promises more of the same family-friendly fun that brought the community together the past few years, including games, activities, snacks and more.

South Haven Pride

Stanley Johnston Park (202 Dyckman Ave., South Haven), June 27, noon-10 p.m. June 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

facebook.com/southhavenmichiganpride

South Haven is a two-day love letter to community, connection

and showing up exactly as you are. Hosted by South Haven LGBTQ+ Advocacy, Saturday is the big celebration (noon-10 p.m.), with a picnic-in-the-park vibe, live entertainment all day, kid games, crafts, carnival-style fun, a lively vendor market and a food fair that absolutely understands your snack priorities. This year, they added a Sunday portion, with a laid-back vendor fair. And do not under any circumstances miss the Free Mom Hugs booth!

JULY

Saturday, July 11

South Lyon Pride

McHattie Park (300 Dorothy St.), noon-4 p.m.

facebook.com/SouthLyonPride

The sixth annual South Lyon Pride is once again gracing McHattie Park with a glitter-infused presence. Stay tuned for more info on food trucks, drag king story time, drag performances and a special rainbow run!

Friday, July 17

Battle Creek Pride (through July 18)

Parade: Michigan Ave. at Washington St., July 17, 7 p.m.

Festival: Leila Arboretum (928 W. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek), July 18, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

battlecreekpride.org

Battle Creek Pride festivities kick off Friday with an evening parade — promptly at 7 p.m., so save your emotional ex-texts for later and snag a good view of that softball league float you've been waiting for all year. If you want to march in the parade (as an individual human, a float or a gaggle of dancing queens), register in advance. The parade registration instructions make an all-caps point that equestrian units must provide an accompanying cleanup crew, which sounds fair and also sounds like a good story.

Saturday, July 18

Flint Pride

Flat Lot (428 S. Saginaw St., Flint), 2-8 p.m.

facebook.com/flintgaypride

Sure, Riverbank Park is still undergoing renovation, but Flint Pride isn't letting a little construction impair the celebration. After receiving 80 applications for entertainment, the organizers are hunkered down, watching video clips and sorting through drag names, and they'll announce performers one by one starting in June until they reach the surprise headliner!

Ypsi Pride (Ypsilanti)

East Cross Street (Depot Town), 2-10 p.m.

facebook.com/YpsiPride

This year's theme is "Pride Above and Beyond." Although applications for vendors and entertainment are now closed, keep your eyes on the organization's socials for announcements of all the performers and more coming soon!

Thursday, July 23

Hotter Than July (Detroit)

Detroit (multiple venues and dates)

hotterthanjuly.org

2026 marks the 31st anniversary of Hotter Than July, Michigan's longest-running Black LGBTQ+ Pride event. The week-long celebration includes performance and visual art, films, connection and so much community. You can apply to have your art, film or live performance included in the 31st annual event and peruse photos from the 30th event on the Hotter Than July website.

Saturday, July 25

Royal Oak Pride

Downtown Royal Oak, 1-11 p.m.

prideroyaloak.com

The folks at Royal Oak Pride started their festival countdown at 100 days out, so they're definitely not playing with their love of hardcore logistics. Entertainment will be announced soon. In the meantime,

plan to bring the whole family (an extensive kids' zone is promised) — and if you're the literary type, Sidetrack Bookshop is once again bringing back its authors panel.

Looking for fests in August and beyond? Check out our full calendar at pridesource.com!

Keep your information
FRESH to KEEP

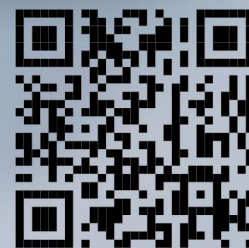
SNAP

food assistance benefits.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE.

If you're getting SNAP food assistance benefits,
are you getting the right amount? When it's time to update
your information, it's important to report any changes to
your income, employment, family situation or address.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/FoodAssistance.



Passing the Torch at The Gay & Lesbian Review

How one of the last independent queer publications is planning to survive and thrive



BY SARAH BRICKER HUNT

The year was 1993. Nearly a million people had just marched on Washington demanding LGBTQ+ rights. Don't Ask, Don't Tell would be signed into law by year's end. And in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Richard Schneider Jr. was preparing to launch what he hoped would fill a glaring void in queer publishing — a publication for the sophisticated gay and lesbian reader who wanted more than party guides and dating advice.

"In 1993, there was nothing in the gay world corresponding to the New York Review of Books or the Times Book Review or Atlantic Monthly or the New Yorker that featured intelligent essays," Schneider told The New York Times in 1998. "There was a huge niche or vacuum in gay and lesbian letters which I hope we somewhat filled."

Three decades after the magazine's 1994 debut, that "somewhat" characterization feels more than a bit lacking. The Gay & Lesbian Review Worldwide, originally The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review, has published 159 issues, featured more than 1,400 writers and established itself as what Library Journal once called "the journal of record" for discussions of LGBTQ+ topics.

Now, as Schneider prepares to step back from day-to-day operations, he's handing the reins to Jeremy Fox — a longtime contributor, former Boston Globe reporter and editor, and devoted reader of the magazine for nearly 15 years. Fox assumed the editor-in-chief role in early 2026, marking not just a changing of the guard but a rare moment of continuity in an era when LGBTQ+ media faces unprecedented challenges. While the publication landscape has shifted dramatically since the early '90s — when dial-up internet was cutting-edge technology and social media didn't exist — GL&R has

maintained its mission of providing a forum for enlightened discussion of issues and ideas important to LGBTQ+ people.

Born from a newsletter

Schneider's path to founding the magazine began with an unlikely starting point. In the late '80s, he was recruited to create a newsletter for the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Caucus alumni organization, where he learned editing and desktop publishing. "I was expanding the newsletter and I was trying to publish more transcripts from talks that were given on LGBT topics at Harvard," Schneider told BTL, "and eventually it just kind of exploded or burst beyond the scope of a newsletter."

The catalyst came when Andrew Holleran, author of "Dancer from the Dance," returned to Harvard for his 25th reunion and gave what Schneider describes as "a wonderful talk." When Schneider asked to print the transcript, Holleran agreed with one condition: "You must use it in its entirety." The talk was long enough that it sparked the idea for something beyond a newsletter — a full magazine that could publish substantial literary and scholarly work.

In the early '90s, Schneider decided to expand beyond a newsletter format, initially envisioning "an annual supplement" for members. But after the first issue appeared in winter 1994, the magazine "was starting to get national distribution," he says, and the vision quickly expanded to reach "LGBT people across the country and maybe even beyond."

The timing was significant. A wave of LGBTQ+ publications launched in the early and mid-'90s. Out Magazine debuted in 1992. Our own publication, Between The Lines — Michigan's largest LGBTQ+ newspaper — began publishing in 1993. Genre, MetroSource and others joined a



media ecosystem that included The Advocate, publishing since 1967. These publications arrived as AIDS treatment was beginning to shift. By 1995, AIDS was the single greatest killer of men ages 25-44 in America, but the FDA's approval of the first protease inhibitor that year ushered in new hope.

Schneider founded The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review in 1993, volunteering while maintaining his consulting research work. In 1999, he left his day job to dedicate himself full-time to the magazine. Schneider holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard and spent the '80s teaching

artist Charles Hefling, whose illustrations have graced covers and profiles for decades. "He's an amazing artist and he's been with us from the start," Schneider says. Hefling worked in the tradition of David Levine, who created caricatures for The New York Review of Books. "I don't think he actually knew David Levine. They might have corresponded a little bit," Schneider notes.

For the magazine's first decade, Hefling created black-and-white line drawings in the classic caricature style. After a sabbatical, "he came back and completely reinvented himself and learned how to



Jeremy Fox (left) and Richard Schneider. Courtesy photos



in Europe before returning to Boston. In 1998, the magazine reorganized as a nonprofit and, in 2000, dropped "Harvard" from its name, becoming The Gay & Lesbian Review Worldwide.

From its first issue, which featured Holleran's 10,000-word memoir "My Harvard," GL&R established its voice. This wasn't a magazine interested in club openings or fashion trends. It wanted to grapple with Oscar Wilde and Virginia Woolf, with the history of queer organizing and the future of LGBTQ+ rights.

Each issue is created around a unifying theme — "The Science of Homosexuality," "Human Rights Around the World," "Virtual Communities" — and offers approximately half a dozen essays across disciplines, reviews of books, movies and plays, poetry, artist profiles and an international spectrum column. The archive spans contributions from historian and biographer Martin Duberman, now in his 90s and working with Schneider on a collection of his 14 GL&R pieces, to Holleran's ongoing meditations on gay life before, during and after the AIDS crisis. Throughout, emerging voices appear alongside established ones.

One of the magazine's most distinctive features has been the work of contributing

do color, which he hadn't done before," Schneider explains. Working with digital tools, Hefling developed a new style — detailed three-dimensional portraits that, as Schneider wrote in an introduction to his work, go "beyond the conventions of caricature" to "reveal something essential about the person being portrayed."

The magazine published two collections of Hefling's work: "In Search of Stonewall" (2019) and "Casual Outings" (2021), featuring his illustrated portraits of 27 artists and writers. The title "Casual Outings" refers to what Schneider describes as "outing people who tried to hide their sexuality at least some of the time." His subjects range from Franz Schubert to David Wojnarowicz — figures from Marcel Proust and Virginia Woolf to Langston Hughes and Leonard Bernstein, many of whom created queer personas in their work but "could never quite admit the terrible truth in real life."

Holleran, now 81, has been the magazine's most consistent contributor, writing over 100 articles across three decades. "He's an amazing writer," Schneider says. "He writes very quickly, producing 2,500-3,000 words. He likes to work [on editing] over the telephone, so I get to talk with Andrew Holleran for an hour or two every couple of months."

The magazine has featured the literary work and analysis that defines queer intellectual life. Essays on Hart Crane and Truman Capote. Scholarly examinations of Susan Sontag and Willa Cather. Profiles of contemporary activists and artists.

Writer and activist Larry Kramer told The New York Times in 1998 that GL&R was "our intellectual journal. If you want to deal with scholarly intelligent arguments, there's really no place else we can publish."

To understand what GL&R offers, consider this passage from David Masello's tribute to the late poet Mary Oliver, which appeared in the magazine: "Prior to the reading, amid a crowd of Birkenstock-clad, gray-haired fans with PBS tote bags, young lesbians sporting multi-colored hair, and other fans of all ages and persuasions, she graciously handed me a sealed envelope. She shook my hand and said with genuine modesty: 'I hope that what I wrote is good enough.' As a longtime reader of hers, I felt as if Sappho herself had waded from the Aegean to hand me new verse on a scroll."

That willingness to write about beauty and transcendence without irony — Masello notes Oliver's unapologetic use of words like "beautiful, love, beloved, prayer, loneliness, God, holy and heaven" — characterizes much of what GL&R publishes.

"I think one of the things that we've done," Schneider reflects, "is to go back and rediscover our past." The magazine has featured examinations of figures like renowned novelists Henry James and Thomas Mann, exploring queer readings of their work and lives even when the historical subjects didn't use contemporary terminology for their identities. "We don't subscribe to this idea that just because they didn't call themselves gay or didn't use one of our words, you can't talk," he says. "I think we can infer people's sexual orientation by how they lived and what they wrote in many cases or what their art was like."

The magazine tracked the expanding umbrella of LGBTQ+ identity. Initially focused primarily on gay and lesbian issues, GL&R has increasingly featured bisexual and transgender voices. As contemporary figures like Laverne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner brought trans issues to mainstream attention in 2014-2015, GL&R provided deeper context — examining decades of trans activism and scholarship, profiling transgender artists and analyzing legislative battles.

The survival of GL&R — alongside regional queer publications like Between The Lines, The Advocate and others that launched in the '90s — represents something remarkable. Most publications

See *The Gay & Lesbian Review*, page 24



Don Chisholm, REALTOR®
(248) 425-4366
DChisholm@RealEstateOne.com
www.DonChisholmRealtor.com



Your Personal Advocate



- Friendly, Professional Service
- Empowering You Through Education
- Serving the Woodward Corridor and Beyond!

Real Estate One
26236 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

  Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



LOOKING TO REACH THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?

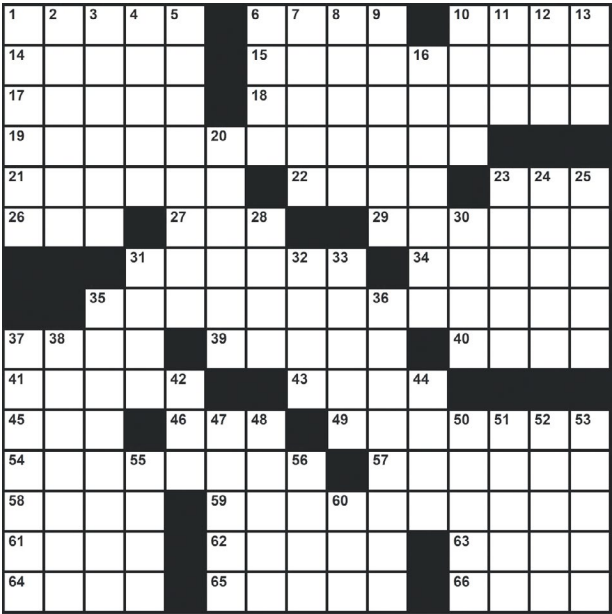
[PRIDESOURCE.COM/ADVERTISE](https://pridesource.com/advertise)

S	P	U	R	S		S	O	A	P		A	L	E	S
T	E	P	E	E		I	N	S	I	S	T	E	N	T
R	O	B	E	D		D	E	T	E	C	T	I	V	E
I	R	E	F	U	S	E	T	O	C	R	Y			
F	I	A	S	C	O		O	R	E	O		L	E	A
E	A	T		I	R	K			S	O	L	O	N	G
				E	N	R	A	G	E		G	O	U	D
			I	M	G	O	N	N	A	M	E	S	S	U
O	M	N	I		W	E	A	R	E		T	Y	P	E
F	A	T	T	Y			W	E	D	S				
A	R	I		A	R	C		D	E	P	E	N	D	S
M	Y	M	A	K	E	U	P		V	I	V	I	A	N
I	L	A	Y		P	R	I	V	A	T	E	E	Y	E
N	O	T	E		L	I	L	A	C		N	C	A	A
D	U	E	S		Y	E	L	L	S		T	E	N	D

No Tears, Just Glitter

Puzzle can be found on page 25

BTL | June 18, 2026 23



No Tears,
Just Glitter

Across

- 1 Gay rodeo accessories
- 6 Billy Crystal played gay on this sitcom
- 10 Stein fillers
- 14 Conical quarters
- 15 Hard to brush off
- 17 Dressed as a judge

- 18 Hercule Poirot, for example
- 19 Start of a quote
- 21 Major screwup
- 22 Spread it and lick it
- 23 "Brokeback Mountain" grazing area
- 26 Erode, with "away"
- 27 Put out
- 29 Vague chat room boast?
- 31 Rile up
- 34 Creamy balls
- 35 More of the quote
- 37 Former Dodge model
- 39 "___ Family"

- 40 Be a hunter and pecker
- 41 Arbuckle of old films
- 43 Becomes wife and wife, e.g.
- 45 Jackie O.'s second husband
- 46 Baseball's path
- 49 Relies (upon)
- 54 End of the quote
- 57 Wilson, source of this puzzle's quote
- 58 "As ___ Dying"
- 59 He's out investigating
- 61 Quick message
- 62 Almost the color purple
- 63 Final Four letters
- 64 Membership fees
- 65 "Lesbians ignite!" and more
- 66 Mind the bar

Down

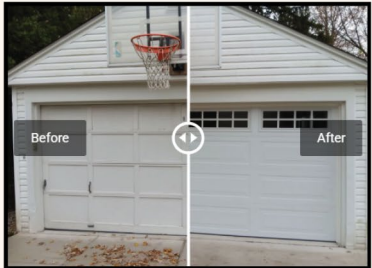
- 1 Friction
- 2 Illinois River port
- 3 In high spirits
- 4 Boat bottom bumpers
- 5 Putting the moves on
- 6 Pro or con, e.g.
- 7 "You're ___ talk"
- 8 Millionaire on the Titanic
- 9 Board game icons
- 10 Lambda Leg. Defense lawyer, e.g.
- 11 Bloomers worn around the neck
- 12 Part of SASE (abbr.)
- 13 Jeanne d'Arc, for one (abbr.)
- 16 "Madam ___" ("A Christmas Carol" version with a female lead)
- 20 "Parting is such sweet ___"

- 23 Wretchedly bad
- 24 Turn out to be
- 25 With a wide-open mouth
- 28 Lucci's Erica in "All My Children"
- 30 Like a generation, to Stein
- 31 Discharge
- 32 Chew, like a beaver
- 33 Follower of lop or dog
- 35 Kind of apparel
- 36 Takes a patient by helicopter
- 37 Disposed (to)
- 38 Gymnast Retton
- 42 Talk and talk
- 44 Forgo swallowing
- 47 E-mail option
- 48 Physicist Marie
- 50 Circuit party, e.g.
- 51 Dorothy, to Em
- 52 Israeli war hero Moshe
- 53 Golf great Sam
- 55 Seaman's pair
- 56 AZT dose
- 60 Batman portrayer Kilmer

See p. 23 for answers

70 YEARS OF OPENING
DOORS FOR MICHIGAN
HOMES

Trusted Since 1956
Family Owned. Community-Rooted



Transform your curb appeal with Michigan's most trusted garage door experts.

Celebrating 70 Years of Quality, Craftsmanship & Service

Why Homeowners Choose Jan Door:



Expert installation,
repair & maintenance



Fast, reliable service from
trained technicians



Premium styles to
elevate curb appeal



Honest pricing & long
standing local reputation

\$110 RESIDENTIAL GARAGE
DOOR TUNE-UP

Limited-Time 70th Anniversary Offer
Call to schedule. 313.581.7300

**NOW HIRING
GARAGE DOOR
TECHNICIANS**

Grow with a company
built on 70 years of trust.



Crown Pharmacy

- Transfer your prescriptions today
- Specializing in providing world class HIV pharmaceutical care
- Free HIV Testing
- Pickup free at home HIV testing kits
- Free Syphilis testing
- Blister Packaging Available
- Free Delivery!



Toll-Free Available 24 Hours/Day: **1-800-381-7518**

www.crownpharmacy.com



24401 Plymouth Rd, Redford, MI 48239
313-532-DRUG (3784)

CrownPharmacy1@aol.com

Hours: M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Closed Weekends and Holidays

**Delivered
Straight to
Your Mailbox**

Support LGBTQ+ journalism and
get **Between the Lines**
delivered to your door for
just \$95/year or \$10/month.

WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM/SUBSCRIBE

Continued from page 11

masculinity and desire. Brookins writes about negotiating the space between who they are and how they're perceived with candor and linguistic precision, pulling from both queer theory and pop culture without losing the thread of an intimately personal story that *Publisher's Weekly* called a "powerful testament" to the journey of self-actualization.

“Queer & Christian” by Rev.
Brandan Robertson

For LGBTQ+ people who have experienced faith as a weapon rather than a refuge, Rev. Brandon Robertson — the theologian known as the “TikTok Pastor” — offers an evidence-based reclamation of Scripture. The book methodically challenges the passages most often weaponized against queer people, situating them in historical and cultural context while also celebrating queer figures throughout the biblical tradition. With conversion therapy cases reaching

the Supreme Court and book bans accelerating, Robertson's theological framework feels especially well-timed.

“Wine, Women, and Weed: A Memoir of Faith, Hope, and Love” by Elisabeth Mack

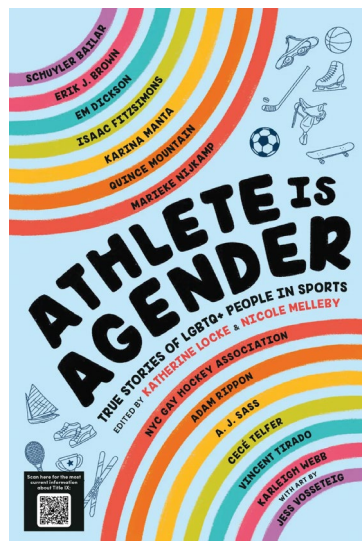
Healthcare leader Elisabeth Mack came out and found lasting love later in life, a trajectory that still goes underrepresented in LGBTQ+ memoir. Moving through a strict religious upbringing, a heterosexual marriage and profound loss, Mack's debut explores how identity can take decades to fully surface. For readers who came to their queerness in adulthood, or who are still working out what faith and sexuality can look like together, her story offers both recognition and a kind of permission.

Children's and YA

"Athlete Is Agender: True Stories of LGBTQ+ People in Sports" edited by Katherine Locke and Nicole Melleby

With trans athletes' right to

compete under legal assault across the country, this 2025 middle-grade anthology arrives as both affirmation and argument. Featuring personal essays by queer, trans and nonbinary athletes alongside profiles of Megan Rapinoe, Billie Jean King and Adam Rippon, the collection makes the case that sport has never belonged to any single identity. A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year and ALA Rainbow Book List selection. Ages 10 and up.



“Bromantasy” by
Máire Roche

Former teacher Máire Roche's debut novel follows two best friends — the charmingly useless Juniper and the endlessly capable Mo — who stumble into a monster-hunting quest and discover that their feelings for each other might be harder to face than anything in the forest. Roche, who describes the book as “my love letter to every queer person carving out moments of joy despite it all,” delivers a cozy, laugh-out-loud friends-to-lovers romantasy. Fans of Travis Baldree's “Legends and Lattes” and T.J. Klune's “The House in the Cerulean Sea” will want this immediately.

“Hick” by Sarah Miller

A 2026 Stonewall Book Award Honor Book, Sarah Miller's YA biography follows Lorena Hickok from a brutal childhood in rural Wisconsin to the top of the Associated Press masthead — and into a years-long intimate relationship with First Lady Eleanor



Roosevelt. Miller read all 3,500 letters between the two women to reconstruct the story, and the result is both a portrait of a trailblazing queer journalist and an honest look at how love survives the weight of public life. A rare YA nonfiction title that earns the word essential. Ages 14

and up.

“Teeny and Tilly” by Beanie Feldstein, illustrated by Laura Watkins

“Booksmart” and “Lady Bird” actress Beanie Feldstein makes her picture book debut with a story about Teeny, a girl who’s been teased her whole life for being short, and the unexpected friendship she forms with Tilly, the tallest kid at her new school. Warm and genuinely funny, the book is less about difference as a concept and more about the specific courage it takes to reach across your own nerves and connect. Feldstein, who lives in Brooklyn with her wife, brings a real tenderness to the material. Ages 4–8.

MERITHOT

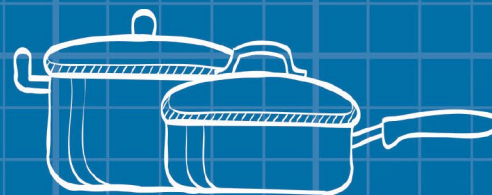
CREATE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY.

Merithot helps awesome companies create remarkable brands, strategies, websites and content.

Creative Marketing made with ♥ from Ann Arbor, MI

www.merithot.com

CREATE A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE.



MI Options can help you find long-term services and supports.

With the right foundation, you can look at the future with confidence and peace of mind. What kind of care could you need as you age? How can you stay in your home and maintain independence down the road? What will it cost? Learn your options, so you can stay in control.

Make a plan for long-term services and supports. Schedule an appointment with an Options Counselor at **1-800-803-7174** or visit **Michigan.gov/MDHHSMIOptions**.



MGM GRAND[®] DETROIT

EVENT CENTER UPCOMING SHOWS



KILLER QUEEN THURSDAY, JULY 9



THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER FRIDAY, JULY 10

mgmgranddetroit.com

ticketmaster[®]
Tickets On Sale Now

If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-GAMBLER for confidential help.



©2026 MGM Grand Detroit | 18+ Recommended For This Show
Excludes Michigan Disassociated Persons.