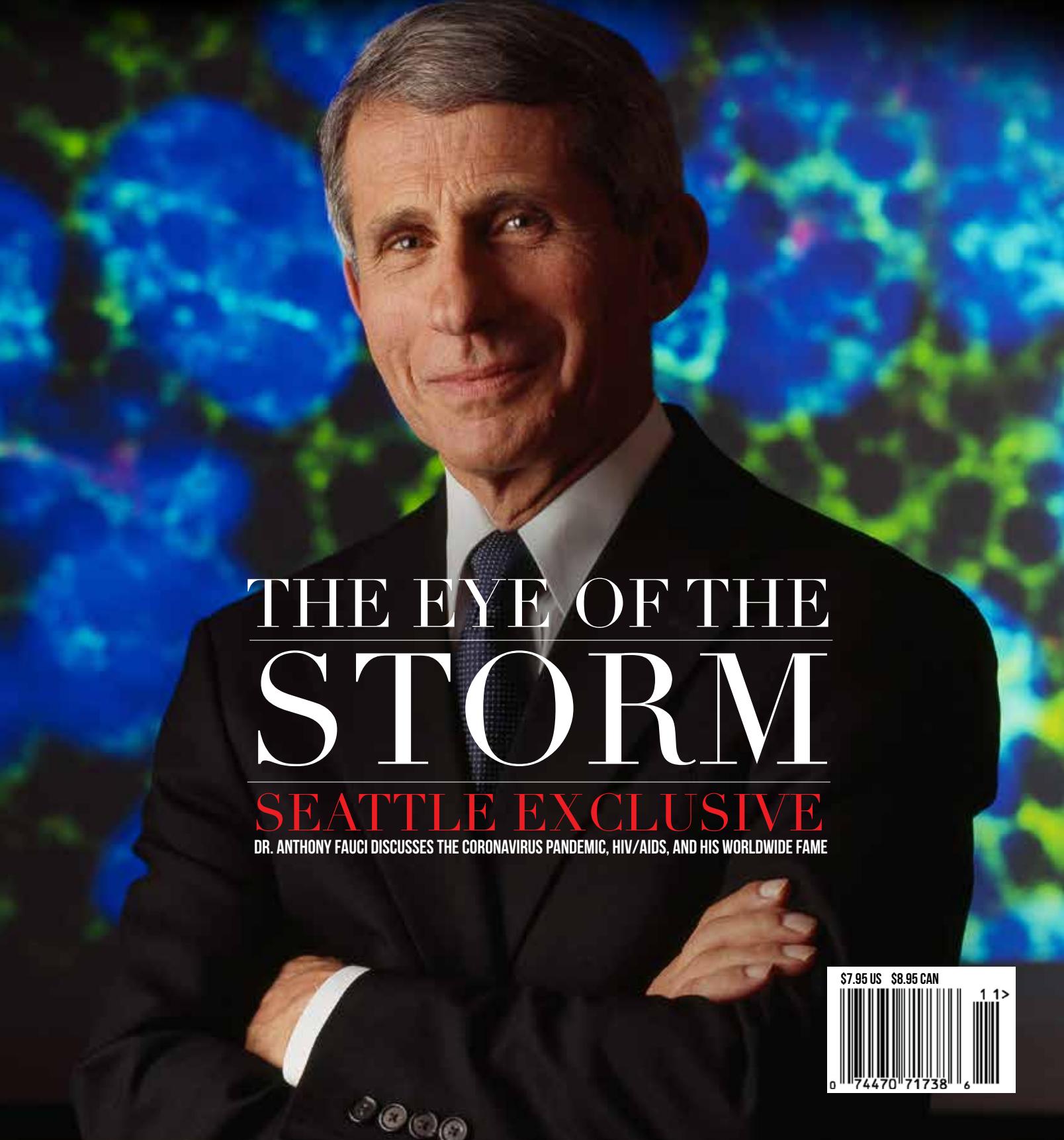




2021
HEALTH
ISSUE

unite
SEATTLE

SPRING 2021 • ISSUE 12



THE EYE OF THE STORM

SEATTLE EXCLUSIVE

DR. ANTHONY FAUCI DISCUSSES THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, HIV/AIDS, AND HIS WORLDWIDE FAME

\$7.95 US \$8.95 CAN
 11>
0 74470 71738 6

Unit
ing
lo

TURGEON RAINÉ JEWELERS

5th Avenue | Seattle TurgeonRaine.com

e
åge
ve

TR



from the EDITOR'S desk



Dear readers,

As we pass the one-year mark of the pandemic, we are so ready to get back to normal, begin healing from the loss of loved ones, and focus on getting back to restaurants, cinemas, gyms, yoga studios, etc. (This year Brian and I got our workouts from moving into our condo.)

I would think most people didn't know who Dr. Anthony Fauci was a year ago or about his critical contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS over last 30 years. Now, Dr. Fauci is again the most knowledgeable and key expert on this new infectious virus. As we start to heal from the events of the last year, *Unite* is honored to partner with the *Seattle Gay News* to bring you an exclusive interview with Dr. Fauci.

Also in this issue: healing in the arts community, a review of filmmaker Aaron Bear's new documentary on the late philanthropist Ric Weiland, the 2021 Best in Biz Awards, Leslie Jordan, and more.

Thank you to all of our advertisers, including Turgeon Raine, Uncle Ike's, Carter Subaru, and Kaiser Permanente!

Onward!
Mike Montgomery
Publisher

COVER/FEATURE CREDITS: DR. ANTHONY FAUCI: PHOTO COURTESY NIAID
INSET: MODEL: HISAM GOUJI; PHOTO BY JORGE HERNANDEZ

unite
SEATTLE

SEATTLE'S OFFICIAL LGBTQ QUARTERLY NEWSMAGAZINE

BRINGING THE SEATTLE LGBTQ BUSINESS AND
NONPROFIT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MIKE MONTGOMERY

SPONSORSHIP
VICTOR B. DE LOS SANTOS

PRODUCTION
BOOK HOUSE LLC

CONTRIBUTORS
CHRIS AZZOPARDI, KATHY CASEY,
VICTOR B. DE LOS SANTOS, ANTHONY GREER,
VINCENT KOVAR, RENEE RAKETTY, CHARLES SANCHEZ,
AARON SHANKS, GREGG SHAPIRO, RICK SYKES

COPY EDITOR
RICHARD ISAAC

PHOTOGRAPHERS
NATE GOWDY, JORGE HERNANDEZ, MK SCOTT

SALES
MIKE MONTGOMERY
NICOLE DAIGLE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ALEX ALVAREZ

WEBMASTER
PRIDE LABS

NATIONAL AD REP (RIVENDELL MEDIA)
212.242.6863

SUBSCRIBE • GIVE A GIFT • BUY AN AD
PUBLISHER@UNITESEATLLEMAG.COM
SALES@UNITESEATLLEMAG.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



inside



SPOTTED



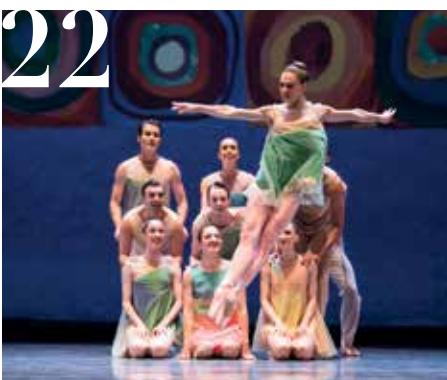
POSITIVE THOUGHTS



10

6

HOW TO HEAL A COMMUNITY

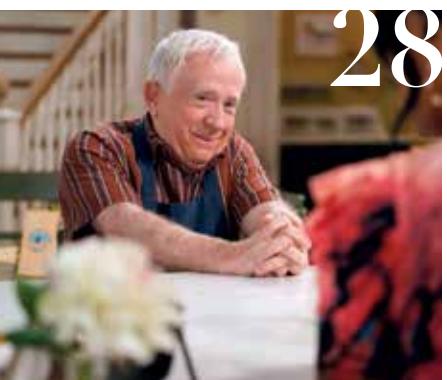


22



26

BEST IN BUSINESS 2021



28

LESLIE JORDAN INTERVIEW



BEST FROM SUNDANCE '21

14



EXCLUSIVE COVER STORY

Dr. Anthony Fauci discusses the coronavirus pandemic, HIV/AIDS, and his worldwide fame



42

FABULOUS DRINK RECIPES

spotted



1



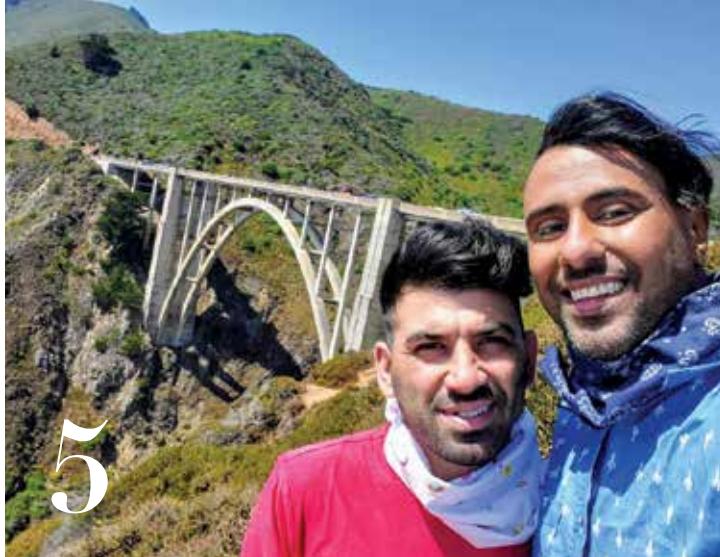
2



3



4

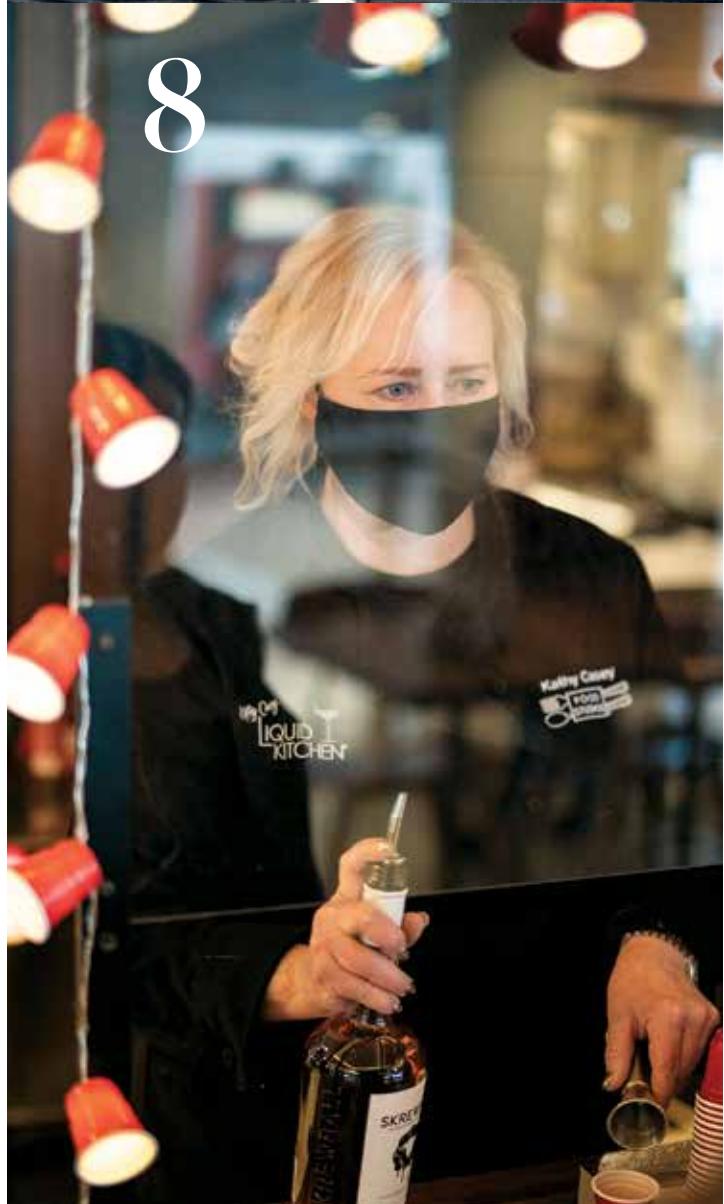


5



6

This being our third issue with no live events, we reached out to some notables in our community to find shots of people wearing masks and see how people have handled this past year in quarantine. 1. Matt and Paul (Social Media Stars) *Love between Glass*. 2. Roger Nyhus (PR Guru) "Masked Golfer." 3. Sarah Toce (The Seattle Lesbian) "Masked Writer." 4. Aleksa Manila (Community Leader) "Masked Style." 5. Nayyef Hrebid and Btoo Allami (Artist/Activists) "Love of the Outdoors." 6. Sarah Toce (The Seattle Lesbian) and Dave Upthegrove (KC Council) with families, "Masked Outings." 7. Andrew Tasakos (Actor, Bitsy Bates) "Bask to Basics." 8. Kathy Casey (Celebrity Chef) "Giving 'shots' at SeaTac."



Your Complete Celebration Solution

A collage of five small photographs showing various event scenes: people dancing, a photo booth setup, a DJ at a turntable, and two people at a table. Below the photos is a large graphic of a digital sound wave in red, yellow, and green. The text 'CitySoundWave' is written in a stylized font, followed by 'DJ/Photobooth/Event Planning' and 'Celebrate Like You Mean It!'. The website 'citysoundwave.com' is also listed. Three men in tuxedos are shown below the text.

david@citysoundwave.com joy@citysoundwave.com phil@citysoundwave.com

Founder, Creative Director & DJ Photo Booth Program Manager Principle Planner & Emcee

206-446-6710 503-310-3616 206-501-6017

With a combined 20+ years in the event industry!

Trust our experience and passion to craft your celebration into a fabulous event.

Military Veteran & LGBTQ owned business celebrating Diversity & Inclusion.

Giving back to our community with a 15% discount to Veterans, Military, First responders, & K-12 teachers

A photograph of a vinyl record on a turntable. The record is blue and has a bright, glowing effect around its edge. The turntable arm is visible on the right side. The text 'Seattle Parties' is written in a large, stylized, blue font across the bottom of the image.

Seattle Parties
DJS AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
SEATTLEPARTIES.COM

positive thoughts



FINDING LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

WORDS: CHARLES SANCHEZ

Our first date was on a Tuesday night. I wasn't sure it was a date at first, but I was hopeful. To be dating during a(nother) pandemic is a little nutzo, but my Romeo is completely COVID-worthy, if you know what I mean. We didn't actually meet during the novel coronavirus pandemic. I met Romey—sometimes I call him Romey—about seven or eight months ago. He works for a major national retailer and contacted me via Instagram with an idea to do an HIV awareness event at the store's SOHO location featuring my web series, Merce. We got together for a long coffee and kicked around ideas. I found him criminally handsome—tall, with brown hair and blue-hazel eyes. I like big fellas, and he fit the bill. He's smart, very funny, an artist, in his fabulous 50s (like me), and he's living with HIV.

We live in the same area of Queens, New York City, and that Tuesday night at 8:30 p.m., I huffed and puffed up the four flights of stairs to his apartment. I dressed cute but didn't overdo it. He opened the door wearing relaxie clothes: shorts, a T-shirt, and a huge devilish smile.

Once I de-masked, Romey showed me around his quaint one-bedroom apartment. Every wall in every room is filled with his paintings, political and passionate, each containing an amiable image juxtaposed with a protest phrase like "End AIDS" or "Black Lives Matter." Even his bathroom had art! I was charmed.

As a classical radio station played, we dug into eggplant with garlic sauce and chicken with broccoli (I was touched that he also got me an eggroll), and sat in his living room with our plates balanced on our laps, party-style. I offered to pay for half of the food, and he dismissed the

idea. As we noshed, we talked about art, his life, my life. I'm sober, and he doesn't really drink, so that's great. The fact that we both are living with HIV made certain conversations ("Are you on PrEP?" "Do you know what U equals U means?") unnecessary. I gushed about his art. He complimented my comedy and encouraged my creative work. We talked for more than two hours.

When I got up to leave, we hugged. The hug lingered. He slowly began to rub my back, then nuzzled my neck. Gradually, my mouth found his.

He took my hand and led me to his bedroom. I told him that I wasn't going to have sex. It was our first date, and while I'm certainly no prude, I need to protect my tender heart. Like the old song says, "My heart has been well schooled, for I have been fooled in the past." He responded by saying, "Let's just get more comfortable." We laid down, continued our smack fest, and although our shirts were opened and hands went under pants, we didn't have sex. We were both excited, and at one point he said, "Isn't this great? We'll have November and December and January..." I thought, "Wait a minute. Are we dating already?" We kissed more and more, and the armor around my heart began to melt away. In 30-plus years of dating, I don't know if I've ever been kissed like that. I felt we were releasing ourselves into each other. It was beautiful and overwhelming.

When we noticed the time, it was almost 2:30 a.m. I realized that I hadn't taken my HIV medication and needed to go home. The subways stop running at 1 a.m., so I called a Lyft. Romeo stuffed a 20-dollar bill in my pants pocket, saying, "You shouldn't have to pay for the ride

home." I tried to hand it back to him, and he insisted. He walked me down the stairs, and we hugged as the driver pulled up. "Call me when you get home," Romeo said. And I did.

The next day, I woke thinking the night before had been a dream. Dabbing balm on my kiss-worn lips, I texted Romeo, and he assured me that the night had been real and certainly dreamy. Then he asked when he could see me again. We made a date for that night. I warned him that I still wasn't going to have sex yet, but he encouraged me to bring my meds so I could stay the night. "Cuddling will be wonderful," he said.

Hours later, I leapt back up the stairs to his apartment two at a time. He greeted me this second night with a little box: a sweet gift of cologne samples he got from work. I trepidly kissed him hello, and he asked if something was wrong. I said that I was just a bit reserved since this was all brand new. He wrapped his big arms around me, saying, "There's no need to be scared. I'm right here."

We nibbled on mediocre tacos as we talked more about our lives. We giggled about ex-boyfriends and crazy guys we'd hooked up with, adventurous sex we'd had. Romeo told me how nice it was to be with someone close to his age. He had dated a lot of younger guys, "dented cans," he calls them.

We then got ready for bed, and he gifted me a fresh toothbrush. He placed it in his medicine cabinet, saying, "And it begins." He then insisted I moisturize my face before sleep, and he tenderly stippled my face with luxurious lotion.

I thought I was past this kind of craziness from men, that I was too savvy after 30-plus years of dating to be romantically conned again. Ah, but remember the song that says, "My heart should be well schooled, for I've been fooled in the past?" The next line is, "Still I fall in love too easily. I fall in love too fast." DAMMIT. Thank the Universe that I didn't have sex with him. If I'd have done that, the ghosting would have been much more devastating. From the emotion that I felt in his kisses, I may not have ever recovered from the emotions that sex with Romeo would have evoked.

What makes this sting more sharply is that before meeting Romeo, I'd resigned myself to being alone and felt fine about it. Finding true love had come to seem like a fairy tale notion for jaded ol' me. Not everybody has to find the mythical "One," and just because gay marriage is legal (for now) doesn't make it a requirement. I was cool with being single, having my bevy of beautiful friends, my family, and the occasional kinky trick when the itch needed scratching. This experience with Romeo shook that notion up and spun it around, making me long for and dream about romantic love again. DAMMIT.

I suppose I was extra vulnerable. We're all going through this pandemic, collectively trying to stay safe and socially distant. I'm touch starved, man starved, and affection starved. The anniversary of my HIV diagnosis is right around now (Nov. 4), and I'm always extra sensitive in the weeks surrounding that day. Add to that the stress of the political climate, rampant racism, violence, fear, so much that's unknown. When

"GAY MEN ARE SO DAMAGED, THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO BE A GROWN-UP."

We went to his bed and kissed, and it was everything the night before had been and more. At one point, he could sense that I was trying to emotionally protect myself and whispered, "Come on, Charles. Come home to me. I love it when you come home to me." When he said that, the knees of my heart buckled.

My mind swirled, "Oh, my God. Is this my boyfriend? Could we be happy together? This is unbelievable!" Everything about being with him felt like the future.

The next morning, he made coffee for me, sweetened with Splenda that he'd swiped from his work for the occasion, and he cooked us scrambled eggs and toast with melted butter. We talked about plans for the weekend (sex was certainly going to be on the agenda), and it was all romantic and comfy and delicious. I floated home like a cartoon balloon in a holiday parade.

Around 4 that afternoon, I sent him a little goofy text. Then at 10:30 or so, I texted to ask how his day was. No response. Huh.

Friday, I texted a sweet, "Good morning, beautiful" gif. No response. I sent another text a half hour later asking if everything was OK, and no response. I started to feel a knot in my stomach.

On Saturday morning, I called Romeo and left a message. I thought that there might be a possibility that his phone had conked out, but deep down, I knew the truth.

I never heard from Romeo again. Two incredible nights, romantic gestures, incredible kissing, cooking breakfast for me, paying for my cab, talking about the future, then poltergeist. What was it? Was it me? Did he decide that I was another "dented can?"

I think about it with all that in mind, what defense did I have?

Friends who I've shared the experience with have said well-meaning, encouraging things to me, like, "What an asshole!" "He's crazy!" "Men are such fucktards!" and "Gay men are so damaged, they don't even know how to be a grown-up." All that may be true, but if Romeo is a damaged-crazy-asshole-fucktard, then who was I kissing? Thinking about him that way invalidates my experience. I don't know why Romeo chose to ghost me. I thought he was feeling what I felt. I had a fantastic whirlwind of a time with an incredibly attractive, smart, funny, artistic, super sexy, great guy. Moreover, he made me feel handsome, sexy, smart and all of it.

It still sucks, though, and it's going to be a bit before I again deem someone COVID-worthy. Heartache is another kind of virus, and I can't imagine there'll be a vaccine for that anytime soon.

Charles Sanchez is a Mexican-American gay writer and actor living with HIV in New York City. A contributing editor for TheBody, he is also the creator, lead writer, and star of the award-winning musical comedy web series Merce, about a fabulous HIV-positive guy living in New York who isn't sad, sick, or dying. This column is a project of TheBody, Plus, Positively Aware, POZ and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites thebody.com, hivplusmag.com, positivelyaware.com and poz.com for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.

positive thoughts



JGroup

CONCRETE STEPS

THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION MUST MAKE THE FIRST 100 DAYS COUNT TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

WORDS: AIDS UNITED

The first 100 days of the Biden-Harris administration mark a unique opportunity to revitalize efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. This new administration begins as our country is in the midst of devastating political and public health crises.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all sectors of American life, widening inequalities and threatening to undo years of progress toward ending the HIV epidemic. At the same time, attacks on the U.S. Capitol by domestic terrorists urged on by members of our own government have left the nation in a state of shock.

In order to end the HIV epidemic by 2025, the Biden-Harris administration must commit to undoing the harmful policies of the Trump administration and to creating a public health system that protects the well-being of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, people of color, transgender, low-income, uninsured and underinsured peoples across the United States in the first 100 days in office.

Dismantling the multitude of harmful executive orders and rules put in place by the Trump administration must be a priority to address the rampant discrimination they have allowed in the healthcare system. These orders have barred people living with HIV and transgender

identifying people from participating in the military.

They have also prevented HIV-service organizations from engaging in racial-sensitivity training and providing culturally competent care. Ending these policies on day one is critical to ensure that populations most vulnerable to harm are protected and HIV service organizations can continue their work to end the HIV epidemic.

The new administration must also work harder to uplift communities most impacted by HIV. These communities include Black people, people of color, sex workers, people who use drugs, trans people, immigrants, and people experiencing homelessness.

Concrete steps the administration should take include:

- Declaring that racism is a public health issue.
- Preventing evictions and providing significant relief for those who are financially struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reestablishing the Office of National AIDS Policy and making sure it is led by someone who is living with HIV and who has significant experience working with the HIV community.
- Protect LGBTQ+ populations from discrimination by undoing

harmful policies and regulations instituted by the Trump administration and working with Congress to pass the Equality Act.

- Dedicate substantial new federal funding to support syringe services programs and other harm reduction providers.

The Biden-Harris administration should also make sure that people living with HIV and those that are most vulnerable to HIV are directly represented in the administration and throughout the federal government's HIV-related programs.

Further, the Biden-Harris administration should adopt a national strategy to ensure broad and equitable access to effective HIV prevention, care, and treatment. The administration should enhance the Ryan White HIV/AIDS funding program for communities most impacted by HIV and continue to fund access to essential services (transportation, food, nutrition, linguistic services, case management, housing services, etc.) for program recipients. Also, they must fund and scale up PrEP, PEP and treatment-as-prevention services, and messaging for priority HIV populations.

Lastly, they must make sustained multi-year increases for HIV/AIDS research funding. This is not only important to develop innovative solutions to ending the HIV epidemic by 2025 but also because HIV research has been critical in the country's efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ending the HIV epidemic in the United States is within our grasp. AIDS United looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Biden-Harris administration to bring an end to the epidemic by 2025.

This column is a project of TheBody, Plus, Positively Aware, POZ and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites: thebody.com, hivplusmag.com, positivelyaware.com and poz.com for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.



EYE—EYE

1317 E Pine St. www.eyeeye.care

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY



At Carter Subaru, Volkswagen, and now Acura we believe in making the world a better place.

That's why we support organizations like **Unite Seattle** that promote a more harmonious world celebrating the unique identities and talents of all people. Let's continue to work together to keep our community strong.



LYNNWOOD • SHORELINE • BALLARD | CARTERSEATTLE.COM





HOW TO HEAL A COMMUNITY

WORDS: VINCENT KOVAR

The last few years have wounded us all—individually, as a city, and as a planet. These wounds have been inflicted not only physically but also psychologically and sociologically. Nearly 1,400 people in King County alone have died from COVID. Our city has been convulsed with protests and riots. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost. We have been isolated from friends, families, and social supports. Our city has been convulsed with protests and riots. Our authorities seem at best rudderless and at worst actively corroding our illusions of social justice without replacing them with some semblance of actual reform.

Much of the traditional media almost delights at this wounding and serves up thinly disguised propaganda such as, “Seattle Is Dying” and “The Fight for the Soul of Seattle,” while social media mouthpieces keep calling us to go “back to normal.”

We don’t need normal. Normal is a state of wounding and being wounded. We need something new. We need healing, a word with etymological roots in “to make whole.”

GIVE AND CARE

We need something new. The only experience we have in common, as a whole, is being wounded. So let’s start there. As a community, we can begin to heal by extending kindness to each other and by cultivating groups to care for one another. Many family caregivers say the months

or years they spent caring for their loved one was the most important time in their lives. Usually, that act of compassion not only provided a final intimacy but inspired an essential scrutiny of their own life and that critique extended to the culture and the community.

Often, someone who is ill, unemployed, depressed, or otherwise struggling feels incapable of giving anything. They might fear that if they don’t put their own healing first, they will never get their own wounds resolved.

But we can never become whole with a “me first” approach. Alone, we remain wounded. Remember, it was the people who went to work selflessly cleaning the Capitol that started healing the nation, not those that sacked it.

DREAM

Many family caregivers say the months or years they spent caring for their loved one was the most important time in their lives. Usually, that act of compassion not only provided a final intimacy but inspired an essential scrutiny of their own life and that critique extended to the culture and the community. The Ancient Roman healer Galen (who some consider the founder of modern medicine) believed strongly in the meaning of dreams. And that is the first thing we must do: we must imagine and dream.

Dream what will our new normal look like? What will you leave



**Soaring Heart is
happy to support
Aaron Bear's film,
*Yes I Am.***

Soaring Heart
— SINCE 1982 —
Natural Beds

www.soaringheart.com

queer owned and operated for almost a decade.

The top half of the advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man with glasses and a blue shirt sitting on the floor, interacting with several dogs. To the left is a black and white sign that reads "House of Ruff" in a stylized font, with "INDOOR CANINE SOCIAL CLUB" written below it. A small "Good Dog!" badge is attached to the top right of the sign. The bottom half of the advertisement has a green background. On the right side, there is a purple-bordered box containing text and a "Happy Dog" badge. On the left side, there is another "Happy Dog" badge.

We have all been home a lot more than usual this past year, including your dogs. Are *they* ready for you to start getting back to *your* life as normal?

House of Ruff is your dog's home away from home in Seattle. We provide a safe environment, with physical and mental challenges tailored to your dog's individual needs. Let us help you *all* find your groove again.

- Enrichment Daycare
- Puppy Socialization
- Overnight Pack Boarding
- Grooming

www.houseofruff.com

behind? What will *your* next phase look like? What clubs will you join or start? What volunteerism can you do? What friends have you not seen for a really long time that would jump at the chance to start an art project with you or meet up for a game night?

And what will you leave behind? Create two vision boards or memory boxes for the next phase of your life *in community*. Into the “pandemic” box, put all the resentments you’ve been carrying with you, all the little grudges (or big ones) that are weighing you down. Into the box of things you’re leaving behind, put all those toxic people you haven’t seen for a year (but who you know will start coming around again). Put all those toxic habits of your own, and start fresh.

If you need to, grieve what you leave behind, but really seize this chance to craft your new, improved life in your new, chosen society.

CHANGE YOUR CHARACTER

In his book *The Laws of Human Nature*, Robert Greene describes turning your character flaws inside out. None of us are likely to change our character; it is too ingrained. But we can change how we use the powers of our character.

If you went into 2020 hypercritical of other people or overly sensitive to criticism yourself, take this coming spring to think about how you can turn that sensitivity into empathy and that criticism into leadership. Write down how this time of separation, isolation, and trauma has changed your views of and relationships with other people. Turn these reflections outward. How can you be more neighborly or effective at building community?

SOCIALIZE FACE TO FACE

Once the virus has passed, observe how face-to-face communication makes you feel. How does body language speak to you?

More and more psychology studies are showing that not only does body language speak much more than we thought but that moving together (dancing, synchronized movements, sports, exercising) actually bonds us as humans. We feel closer and our overall performance improves as we draw strength from one another. How will you use your body and new freedom to create new bonds in a new community?

COMMUNICATE AND CELEBRATE YOUR TRIUMPHS

The process called “anamnesis” (recollection, reminiscence) is a way to remember the positives that came out of this stressful time. These don’t have to be big achievements, like having learned a new language or programmed an app (though they could be). For many of us, just surviving this time mostly intact, with some sense of self-esteem, is enough.

It’s important to communicate these to others in your newly forming community. It could be something as simple as “I found reserves of strength within myself” or “I learned to grieve loss fully.” Share these stories and use them to weave threads of connection back into your life.

Also listen to the stories of others. Really listen and find threads of commonality—not just “Yes, I also learned to bake homemade bread” but “Yes, I also felt that pain. I really hear you and I feel heard.”

This era we are passing out of has been hard, nearly impossible, but it gives us a chance to make The Roaring Twenties 2.0 not just a restoration of a broken normal but a better, more just, more compassionate, more communal era. Together, we will heal. Together, we are made whole.

Vincent Kovar is an editor, journalist, and writing instructor living in Seattle, WA. He teaches at Antioch University, the University of Phoenix, and Richard Hugo House.

I'm here for you!

**ARV Medication
Hep C Medication
Pep & Prep Medication
Linkage to Care
ADAP
Free Delivery & Adherence
Packaging
Free Oral HIV Testing**

**Cabrini Tower
901 Boren Ave Ste 800
Seattle, WA 98104
206-624-1391**

**AHF Pike Street
1016 E Pike Street Ste 100
Seattle, WA 98122
206-568-2486**



**Howard Russell
206-327-2230
howard.russell@aidshealth.org**

Danny Alhadeff
Award-Winning Keller Williams

kw
KELLERWILLIAMS
(425)830-1451
dannyalhadeff@gmail.com



Call today for a free home buying consultation!

Give yourself the gift of a new home for the new year!

Windermere
REAL ESTATE
WRE/Bellevue Commons, Inc.

Kari Haas
Real Estate Team
206.719.2224

Kari@windermere.com



"Let's Sell Your House and Find Your Home"

 Michael Cornell, Realtor®
Serving the LGBT Community Since 1988
206-786-1789


Michael Cornell
Real Estate Group
www.michaelcornell.com
www.YouTube.com/MichaelCornellRE


MARTHA FAULKNER
REAL ESTATE BROKER • RSVP REAL ESTATE
Everyone needs a home.

www.Homes4PetLovers.com
14205 SE 36th Street, Suite 100
Bellevue, WA 98006

EMAIL mocky11@msn.com
CELL 206.355.8768


Martha donates 10%
of her commission to
support the animal
rescue of your choice.




Infinity
REAL ESTATE

TOP BOUTIQUE REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Rex Davison
Rex Davison Dwellings, LLC
(253)-225-7372 / rexdavisondwellings@gmail.com


Susan Grosten
MANAGING BROKER

LET ME CONNECT YOU WITH ISLAND PARADISE JUST A SHORT FERRY RIDE AWAY...
SELLING THE BAINBRIDGE LIFESTYLE FOR 20 YEARS


206.755.8411
SusanGrosten@Windermere.com
SusanGrosten.com


DIMENSION
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
206.380.2919
Masab@dimesionre.com
<http://www.buywithmasab.com>
@buywithmasab



PUT YOUR AD HERE

TO JOIN OUR REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY,
TEXT "RED" TO 206-468-7297



The eye of the



Dr. Anthony Fauci discusses the coronavirus pandemic, HIV/AIDS, and his worldwide fame

SPORM

Words: Renee Rackett

Dr. Anthony Fauci is among the most trusted medical figures in the United States. As a former member of President Trump's White House Coronavirus Task Force and chief medical advisor to President Biden, he will forever be associated with the U.S. scientific effort to eradicate COVID-19.

However, before Seattle became ground zero for SARS-CoV-2 in the U.S. and Dr. Fauci became a household name, he was known simply as the director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), where he oversees a \$6.1 billion budget, and was widely recognized as an accomplished public servant. Dr. Fauci is also the longtime chief of the Laboratory of Immunoregulation and is ranked ninth out of 2.5 million authors in the field of immunology (by total citation count between 1980 and January 2021). In 2008, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

I first met Dr. Fauci high atop the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Seattle on a summer's day in 2007, while he was in town for the AIDS Vaccine Conference. He was well known at the time for his role in leading the U.S. government response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Thirteen years later, I saw him display the same warmth and honesty with the American people.

Dr. Fauci agreed to sit down with me again—via Zoom this time, a sign of the times—for an interview from the NIAID headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. We discussed his new worldwide fame, HIV/AIDS, and of course the coronavirus.

We began our interview discussing the weight the pandemic had put upon his 80-year-old shoulders. “This has been completely explosive, where you have literally a half a million people in the United States, dying in a year’s period of time,” he explained.

“It’s completely transformed what I do, because I’ve had to be involved in it from a scientific and from a policy standpoint,” he continued. “It’s been, in many respects, almost a surrealistic year of working literally every day.... I have not had a day off in over a year—not a single day

off—but it’s important and I hang in there and have the energy to do it because of the enormity... and the acuteness of the problems.”

As an advisor to seven presidents now, Dr. Fauci has had to utilize every ounce of political knowledge that has come from being close to the world’s highest seat of political power. However, unlike during the HIV/AIDS crisis, he has had to confront a new challenge: the rhetoric of the Trump administration, which downplayed the severity of the pandemic and led to a politically charged atmosphere.

“What’s going on right now is we’re trying to address an outbreak in the context of very severe divisiveness in society,” he said. “The confrontation is...against the principles of public health, where wearing a mask or not wearing a mask or being in a crowded situation or not being in a crowded situation has become sort of a political statement of where you are in your ideology, which is really unfortunate.”

President Trump has also been widely criticized for his lack of scientific understanding. Last April, he had suggested exposing the body to “a tremendous... ultraviolet or just very powerful light... inside of the body.” He also suggested that “disinfectant... knocks it out in a minute...” and asked if “...we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning?”

Under the Trump administration, Dr. Fauci had to thread a fine line between sharing his honest scientific opinions and seeking to avoid the ire of President Trump. In January, Fauci said in an interview that he had “gotten into a little bit of trouble” and had received “pushback” from people in the White House—including the president—for his public comments about the pandemic.

“It’s a little bit of a schizophrenic thing, you know: half of the people love me and half of the people hate me, which is something that I did not have to go through with HIV,” he said. “How that’s affected me is that—since I’ve stood up for the truth, science, [and] evidence-based and database approaches towards everything—I have been, on the one hand, praised and idolized by many and, on the other hand, scorned by others who took a more political outlook at what I’m doing and don’t like the idea that I’m talking about the public health principles that we



need to live by if we really want to get this outbreak under control.

"We used to say this back in the early years of HIV: 'It's the virus that's the enemy. It's not the people.' In this situation, we try to get people to appreciate that it's the virus that is the enemy, and the only way we're gonna effectively address it is by pulling together in a unified way. Unfortunately, that's not been the case."

In 1981, Fauci led a team of researchers looking into the virus that causes AIDS. He has since made "seminal contributions to the understanding of how HIV destroys the body's defenses, leading to its susceptibility to deadly infections," according to the NIAID website.

"The importance and impact of HIV/AIDS is stretched over decades," said Dr. Fauci. "It was something that started off, you know, insidiously, and there were a few of us in the early years of the '80s that got involved. Then [there was a] gradual appreciation of the globality of the outbreak—a lot of science, a lot of investment—but it was over many, many years."

LGBT icon and early HIV/AIDS activist Larry Kramer, who passed away last May, said Dr. Fauci was the "only true and great hero in all of this [fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic], in the government, in the system."

When asked to look back on how the HIV/AIDS epidemic could have been prevented, Dr. Fauci said, "I guess one of the things that could have been done back then would have been to use the bully pulpit of the presidency to get out there and warn people about the danger of the sexually transmitted disease." But he added, "We'll never know, because it never happened" and "whether or not the gay community would have listened to that is still unclear."

"I've gotten caught in something that's quite different than what we went through with HIV," said Dr. Fauci. "We had activists who were confrontational. They were theatrical. They were iconoclastic. But what they were trying to say was very important. They wanted to gain our attention, my attention. They *did* gain my attention."

"When I listened to them, which is one of the best things I've done, it became clear that what they were saying made absolutely good sense and that the federal government needed to change the paradigm of how we interacted with the activist community—how we interacted with the entire LGBTQ community—because we were dealing with a very unusual disease that was evolving before our eyes."

"Despite the early confrontation, the end result was a very positive thing. We embraced the community. The community was value added; they made contributions. The AIDS effort was far better off as a result of the initial confrontation, which jolted us into a really enduring



relationship with the community and [its] constituents. That's really different from what's going on right now."

Recent press reports have stated that President Trump and the First Lady received the COVID-19 vaccine at the White House in January. However, the former president never admitted it publicly. Dr. Fauci noted that the Biden administration has taken a different approach: "So many of us, confident in [its] safety and efficacy, have gotten vaccinated publicly, including me and including the president and the vice president of the United States."

Dr. Fauci also expects an end to overt government hostility toward the LGBT community. "When you have hostility towards anyone, it is detrimental to everything about that relationship—including the health of the person," he said. "We are right now in a different era. It's become very clear that President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris feel that there should be equity in every respect—to all people, regardless of their age, their sex, their sexual orientation.... He feels very strongly about that. So, I think you're gonna see the fruits of that in the coming years."

The LGBT community faces unique obstacles due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to new research. One in five LGBTQ adults have not seen a doctor when needed because they could not afford it, according to an analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. The situation was even more acute among low-income and individuals of color in the LGBT community, according to a poll by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in March that because of long-standing social inequities and a higher prevalence of severe underlying health conditions, sexual minority populations might be more vulnerable to COVID-19 acquisition and associated severe outcomes. But it also admitted that because data on sexual orientation are not collected in existing data systems, the effect of COVID-19 on sexual minority populations is unknown. When asked if it was time to standardize the collection of this data, especially since many states and local municipalities do not, Dr. Fauci stated that it "sounds like something reasonable" but didn't "want to get out of [his] lane..."

Julia Raifman, an assistant professor of health law, policy, and management at Boston University's School of Health, has said it is clear that COVID-19 has disrupted the health system, making it much more challenging for people living with chronic conditions like HIV to see their healthcare providers or feel safe going to a pharmacy to obtain their medications. Similarly, the pandemic has made it more challenging for people taking PrEP to obtain their medications and caused disruptions

**WHY
shop at
IKES?**



Marijuana Leaf **5% OFF ALL PRE-ORDERS!**

Marijuana Leaf **20% OFF EVERY 10TH VISIT!**

Marijuana Leaf **25% OFF EXCLUSIVE VENDORS!**

Marijuana Leaf **DAILY LOYALTY DISCOUNTS!**

SCAN CODE to join
DAILY DEALS*



By joining Daily Deals, you may receive up to 60 texts per month, but can cancel at anytime by sending STOP to unsubscribe.

WWW.IKES.COM 1.800.GET.DRUGS

Central District
2310 E UNION ST



Capitol Hill
501 15TH AVE E



Olive Way
1411 E OLIVE WAY



White Center
9822 15TH AVE SW



Lake City Way
11064 LAKE CITY WAY NE

This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults twenty-one and older. Keep out of the reach of children.

MARTHA FAULKNER

REAL ESTATE BROKER • RSVP REAL ESTATE

 Everyone needs a home.
www.Homes4PetLovers.com

14205 SE 36th Street, Suite 100
Bellevue, WA 98006

EMAIL mocky11@msn.com
CELL 206.355.8768



Martha donates 10% of her commission to support the animal rescue of your choice.

Working in
your best
interest for
all your
real estate
needs.

Hablo
Español



 Windermere
REAL ESTATE
SEATTLE | MOUNT BAKER

 MARK
CHAVEZ
REAL ESTATE

- e MarkChavez@Windermere.com
- f facebook.com/markchavezrealty
- c 206-960-6275

 Zillow
★★★★★



in healthcare for many transgender people, such as having to postpone surgical procedures or interrupting their hormone therapies.

Dr. Fauci acknowledged that the federal government plays a role in addressing these challenges by “subsidizing the state’s capability of making sure that the flow of drugs and the availability of testing and a number of the programs of implementation science continue with substantial support.”

He also spoke of the work being done to understand the relationship between COVID-19 and Americans living with HIV. “We’ve been studying what impact COVID-19 could possibly have on HIV besides the interruption of the services that you appropriately and accurately mentioned... if HIV-infected individuals have some of the underlying comorbidities [that] make them prone to have a more serious outcome were they to get infected.

“I refer specifically to premature aging, because, you know, the older you are, the more likely it is that you’re going to get a severe outcome. [And] persons living with HIV have metabolic issues that make it make it appear—if not in reality—that they are aging a bit more quickly: chronic renal disease, the fact that HIV-infected individuals have more hypertension, heart disease, liver disease—those underlying conditions. When people did analyses of this, they found it wasn’t HIV in and of itself but it was the comorbidities associated with HIV.

“Now, if you have HIV that’s out of control and you’re immunosuppressed with a CD4 count of 10 and a viral load of 700,000 to a million, obviously, you fall into the category of being immune deficient, which is one of the risks for advanced disease. Even a person who’s got a CD4 count of 600, 650, 700 and who is on antiretroviral drug with an undetectable viral load, if that person had been infected for a considerable period of time—particularly if they didn’t get drugs early on—they could have some of the morbidities that would make it more likely not that they would get infected but that they would get a serious outcome.”

When asked if people with HIV should be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine, Dr. Fauci called it “a slippery slope when you designate people by a particular race, a particular ethnicity, or a particular subcategory.” But he stated that “HIV-infected individuals fall within the category of underlying comorbidities, that is for sure” and that getting the COVID-19 vaccine was “definitely recommended” as soon as “priority opens up for people from 16 to 64, which is where most of the people living with HIV fall into...”

He also warned against comparisons between the responses to COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS. “One of the principles of... vaccinology is to mimic natural infection,” he said. “Because when you have diseases like smallpox and polio and measles—even though they cause a considerable degree of morbidity and mortality—at the end of the day, the body very, very adequately handles those viruses, eliminates them from the body, and leaves you with enduring immunity against reinfection with the same virus.

“When vaccinologists like myself and my colleagues back in 1983-4-5 started working on a vaccine, we put in a lot of effort, but the body did not give us that proof of concept, because the body does not handle HIV very well.... We’ve invested literally billions of dollars into research trying to develop a vaccine that does better than the natural response to the [HIV] virus.

“Whereas with COVID-19, even though it’s caused a lot of sickness and death, in the majority of people, the body’s immune system handles it extremely well, eliminates it. At least 30–40% of people who get infected with SARS-CoV-2 don’t have any symptoms at all, yet their body’s immune system eliminates the virus.

“So, all we had to do with COVID-19 was develop a methodology where you expose the body to the very important spike protein—which is the protein that binds to the cells in the upper and lower respiratory tract—and induce a good immune response. Then all of a sudden, bingo, you got a highly effective vaccine, to the point of 94–95%. That’s the reason why there’s a difference, not because of lack of trying. It’s



the inherent inability of the body to mount a truly adequate immune response against HIV, as opposed to the ease with which the body mounts a good response—most of the time—against SARS-CoV-2.”

Statistics show that one in two African-American, cisgender men who have sex with men and one in four Latino, cisgender men who have sex with men will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetimes. Today, one in two African-American transgender women and one in four Latina transgender women have HIV.

The U.S. health agencies crafted a plan in 2019 to end the HIV epidemic in the United States in 10 years. According to Dr. Fauci, the plan “really got rolling in 2020” and outlines a holistic approach to HIV/AIDS “by implementing the tools that we have, like better and more extensive utilization of PrEP, including the more easily usable injection—long-acting cabotegravir—to get as many people on the treatment as possible. To allow treatment as prevention to occur, namely, ‘undetectable equals untransmissible,’ that’s an important area. Then finally, to get a moderately effective vaccine.

“I believe if we do all of those things in a very proactive way, …we can decrease new infections by 75% in five years and by 90+% in 10 years. I still hold the that hope. The anticipation is that by the time we get to 2030, we will have ended HIV as an epidemic. End it as we know it—I don’t think we’re going to eliminate it.

“I don’t think we’re going to eradicate it, at least not in the very foreseeable future. I think we can end it as a truly threatening epidemic in this country by 2030. If we continue to get people into treatment programs, to get as many people utilizing one form or another of PrEP, and hopefully, an at least moderately successful vaccine.”

Dr. Fauci, who had been running late for our interview, asked in his own polite fashion if it was “okay” to “go to another one of these discussions” before he rushed off as quickly as he came. He is a frequent guest on national television, and I imagined he was going to speak to some famous journalist I have only dreamt of meeting myself. Dr. Fauci’s years of experience, scientific expertise and council are in great demand—and they could determine the course of the latest pandemic, saving countless lives.

The Full video of this interview can be found at uniteSeattleMag.com. A full transcript can be found at Seattle Gay News (sgn.org).

Renee is a successful writer and photojournalist living in Seattle who found herself working as a caregiver during a global pandemic. She is also a longtime LGBT civil rights activist and former managing editor of the Seattle Gay News.



Go visit
jekelsc.com or
scan our QR code
to sign up for a 2
week free trial



Phone: (833) 535-3572 • Hours: Mon-Sat (6am - 8pm) & Sun (8am - 6pm)
2027 196th St SW, Ste R2, Lynnwood, WA 98036

Featured in: Unite Seattle Magazine, Seattle Met



Jekel Strength Club



Private Workouts with
Personal Trainers by appointment
for individuals, partners,
or friends & family groups.



**Safe, Fast,
Effective
Once a Week
Workouts**



Top Fitness Equipment

Providing Experienced Personal and Accessible Legal Services for Our Clients

Estate Planning, Elder Law & Probate

Wills, Trusts & Living Wills
Powers of Attorney
Estate Administration

Business Law

Incorporations
LLCs
Business Sales
Contracts
Entertainment Law

Real Estate Law

Purchase & Sale Agreements
Leases
Property Rights

Marital & Domestic Relations

Partnership Agreements
Prenuptial Agreements
Separation Agreements



Jonathan L. Bowman
Attorney at Law, P.S.

206.284.2932
bowman4law.com



Proud to Support
UNITE for our LGBTQIA
Community
Proud Member of GSBA



WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER, AT THE JEKEL STRENGTH CLUB

WORDS: ANTHONY GREER

For the cost of a gym membership, you can be using \$32,000 equipment you only need to work out on once a week, feel sore less, and experience measurable results. Interested? If so, then the Jekel Strength Club is for you.

"We built the ultimate club. We're not real gym rats, and working out at home wasn't much fun either," said Ross Jekel, the club's co-founder. "We wanted to build a gym with the ultimate equipment that we would want for ourselves and then share it with the community."

Located in Lynnwood, the Jekel Strength Club is run by ACE-certified personal trainers Paul and his father Ross. The Jekels specialize in adaptive resistance and isokinetic resistance workouts and use equipment usually only owned by professional sports teams and CEOs. The club's program is tailored and easily adjustable, and it requires a very limited time commitment, especially compared to a regular gym.

When you focus on adaptive resistance and isokinetic resistance, Ross says, "it's amazingly easy, once you get to a certain point, to maintain and improve with very little time commitment."

Their two star machines: the Adaptive Resistance Exercise (ARX) and the 1080 Quantum, which are as sophisticated as workout machines get—and they're revolutionizing our approach to fitness.

As opposed to free-weight and cable machines, the ARX uses finely tuned motors that allow the technology to provide adaptive resistance, which is applied to users only in response to their effort, making the most out of every movement. Not only is adaptive resistance safer but you can measure the results of every single rep. Quantify Fitness (quantifyfitness.com) states that, with the ARX, you can have the most effective workout of your life in as little as 10 minutes a week.

The 1080 Quantum, a sophisticated system used for performance training, testing, and rehabilitation, is backed by science and proven to be more effective than its traditional counterparts. It can measure speed, force, power, and acceleration while users train in three-dimensional movement patterns. With this machine, the trainer can see real-time results during the entire motion and change the speed and load on the fly. (Aside from the Jekel Strength Club, the next closest available 1080 Quantum is owned by the Portland Trailblazers.)

"When working with new clients, we generally use the first couple of weeks to test recovery, because that helps us determine what kind of protocol we'll take them through," Paul explained. "The first couple of weeks of the strength training protocol are all about the body making adaptations and the neurology reconnecting the muscle fibers, so that you can actually activate them fully. People see generally pretty large gains in the first couple of weeks with very little volume, so we like to keep it simple and allow your body to catch up to where it needs to be before we start adding more unique exercises and more volume."

Jekel Strength Club members enjoy a two-week free trial when they start, allowing them to get acquainted with the machines and the club's philosophy.

Visit Jekel Strength Club's website (www.jekelstrengthclub.com) and click on the "free trial" button to get started.



Eric Robison, Designated Broker

Delivering Service, Results, and Keys Since 2003

📞 (206) 499-9103

✉️ eric@eric-robison.com

🏡 eric-robison.com

Connect with me today!

fb /ericrobisonkellerwilliams ig @ericrobison_pnw

in /in/erobison1

Each office is independently owned and operated.



LYNN WHITE
Realtor



Looking to purchase or sell a home around Bellingham or Whatcom County? Let me help you make that happen!



LYNN WHITE - Realtor

(360) 306-7778
lynnwhite06@gmail.com
lynnwhitepnw.com

retrofit

1103 e. pike seattle 206.566.4663 HOME





How the Arts Can Heal After the Pandemic

WORDS: AARON SHANKS

How can arts heal after the pandemic?

First, we must acknowledge that, while there are vaccines and we are in various stages of reopening, the virus is not yet defeated. There might not be a post-COVID era for many years—or ever.

But after a year of closures, while local arts organizations and individual artists are wounded by a substantial decline in revenue, they are not broken. They are ready for us now.

While the future is still uncertain, arts organizations have adapted. Seasons and exhibitions have been planned, whittled down, put on hold, and reimaged—sometimes several times over. They have learned to make a plan, but are also willing to change it. While the future is uncertain, arts organizations are adapting. They are not just ready for our return, they are ready for us now.

The pandemic has required a crash-course in creating live online performances, experiences, and tours. Some organizations are holding digital and live hybrid events. For example:

- **The 2021 Seattle International Dance Festival Winter Mini Fest** is presenting a series of dance films paired with audience-interactive livestream events, which will allow viewers to experience an intimate showcase of dance, bringing the performers and their movement up close and personal—more than ever was possible in the regular theater performance setting—while opening the doors to real-time interactions with local and international artists.
- **The National Nordic Museum** has partially reopened, but its virtual events have proved to be a hit, both nationally and internationally
- **The Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra** experienced the power of presenting concert videos as a way to expand outreach, as friends and family across the world have registered to view their concert video livestreams.
- **Showtunes Theatre Company** has streamed live concerts of favorite local stage singers.

In the process of reinventing themselves, some organizations are using to it fall forward. Going back to normal is not the goal. For



example, the **Pacific Northwest Ballet** needed new works for its entirely digital season and used the opportunity to hire more women and people of color choreographers.

There have been other silver linings in the dark clouds. Arts organizations large and small have found that virtual programs give access to global audiences beyond their usual reach and the ability to connect to international partners. Many arts organizations are trading notes and sharing best practices with each other both about how to produce virtually and how to have uniform safety practices so that in-person patrons know what to expect and how to behave.

We can help these organizations even now as we start to vaccinate, continue to mask up, and reach out to each other in safe ways to create connection. They need feedback and input on their new ventures. Of course, they also welcome donations and in a time when many white-collar workers are safely hunkered down, the funds are there.

And we can all help bring friends and family back to our favorite organizations and rediscover them, renewed and waiting for us. Because, in their absence, we've come to learn that the arts and live events are more precious now than ever before.

"We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was never normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate, and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment, one that fits all of humanity and nature."

Aaron Shanks is a Seattle Based Actor and currently works as Director and Development for Showtunes Theater Company.



Danny Alhadeff
Award Winning Agent
Keller Williams

I am currently donating 10% of all proceeds to Mary's Place or a charity of your choice as a way of giving back to my community during these uncertain times.

Unite's 2021 Realtor of the Year



Call today for a free home buying consultation!

(425) 830-1451
dannyalhadeff@gmail.com



Masab El-Himri - Real Estate Agent



206.380.2919

Masab@dimesionre.com

@buywithmasab

<http://www.buywithmasab.com>

I have been in the industry of taking care of customers and clients for over 15 years. I'm very passionate about helping you find your next home or assisting you sell your current home.



DIMENSION
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Advancing Gender-Related Healthcare

WORDS: DR. COLIN FIELDS, KAISER PERMANENTE WASHINGTON

The medical profession continues our work to deliver quality, inclusive healthcare that meets the needs of gender-diverse populations, especially as we more fully understand the impact that gender dysphoria has on a patient's total health, including depression and anxiety. With gender dysphoria recognized as a serious health issue, health systems can better support appropriate and equitable care for gender-diverse people and overcome social and medical inequities.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is expected to release updated standards of care by this fall that may include new medical criteria for gender-affirming facial procedures. At the beginning of the year, the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington announced that it has broadened its medical criteria for gender-affirming facial procedures, which include a broad range of procedures based on each person's unique needs, including chin augmentation, facial hair removal, jaw recontouring, and tracheal shaving. Clinicians and patients work together to create the appropriate care path, based on medical necessity.

“Clinicians and patients work together to create the appropriate care path, based on medical necessity.”

When we announced the new medical criteria for facial harmonization procedures, the response from patients was immediate, reinforcing the need and demand for these life-changing services.

To deliver gender-affirming care with dignity and sensitivity for our transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse patients, a gender-health social worker coordinates care with a specialist team consisting of clinicians in plastic surgery, primary care, adolescent medicine, gynecology, urology, mental health, social work, physical therapy, speech therapy, and nursing. This team collaborates to provide patients with gender-affirming health care services, including hormone consultations, surgical evaluations, psychological services, facial harmonization, top surgeries, and lower-body surgical care.

And we realize that our expertise is just one step of many that are needed. We need to include our patients' perspectives and experiences to ensure a responsive approach to addressing the needs of gender-diverse patients. That's why we've established a Gender Health Patient Advisory Panel to create an ongoing dialogue and deliver an exceptional experience for our patients with gender-related health care needs. The advisory panel will help inform innovation and care improvement, improve cultural responsiveness among care teams and staff, and ensure that care decisions are driven by patients' best interests. The panel will begin meeting this spring, and we're excited to learn and grow from it.

Kaiser Permanente's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion fosters a workplace that supports LGBTQ employees. We are proud to be recognized for the 15th consecutive year by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, which awarded us the highest possible score on its 2021 Corporate Equality Index [www.hrc.org/resources/corporate-equality-index] and named us a Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality.

We're proud to continue our work in the medical field to provide truly inclusive care. At Kaiser Permanente, we have prioritized ongoing training and improvement to deliver on that promise. We hope our learning will help move the field further and faster. Our patients, who inspire us daily with their bravery and authenticity, deserve it.



SPENCER EISEMAN
REALTOR®, Marketer,
& Home Enthusiast

Passionate about helping my fellow LGBTQIA+ community grow their wealth through real estate ☺️



 Honored to be your Real Estate Resource in all of South King, Pierce, & Thurston Counties





Call today for a complimentary home buying or selling consultation!

(253)766-5892 | @spencer_eiseman
spencer@shookhomegroup.com
spencer.shookhomegroup.com

PROUD MEMBER & NATIONALLY CONNECTED

LGBTQ+ REAL ESTATE

kw TACOMA KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY **alliance** 

Own Your Dream Home!

Whether you're a first-time homebuyer or refinancing your dream home, Rob is here to guide you through the mortgage process.



Call Rob!

Rob Macauley

Loan Officer | NMLS# 289135

425-697-8158

Rob.Macauley@fsbwa.com

RobMacauley.com



1ST SECURITY BANK

 Home Lending *Making Home Happen*

 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER - MEMBER FDIC



BEST IN

Advertisers are so important to print media, and we can't think of a better way to celebrate them than with an award. So, here are some of the Best Businesses that have supported us and that we support and personally endorse.

BEST ATTORNEY: Jonathan Bowman (bowman4law.com)

BEST AUTO DEALER: Carter Subaru

(cartersubarushoreline.com)

BEST CANNABIS: Uncle Ike's (ikes.com)

BEST CASUAL RESTAURANT: Eastlake Grill
(neighborhoodgrills.com)

BEST CATERER: Kaspars (kaspars.com)

BEST CHURCH: All Pilgrims (allpilgrims.org)

BEST DJ: Disco Vinnie (discovinnie.com)

BEST EDIBLES: Craft Elixirs (craftelixirs.com)

BEST EVENT VENUE: Mount Baker Community Club
(mountbaker.org)

BEST FASHION: Luly Yang Couture (Lulyyang.com)

BEST FORMAL RESTAURANT: Toulouse Petit
(toulousepetit.com)

BEST GYM: Flow Fitness (flowfitnessseattle.com)

BEST JEWELER: Turgeon Raine (TurgeonRaine.com)

BEST LENDER: Rob Macauley, 1st Security Bank
(RobMacauley.com)

BEST NONPROFIT: The AMP (theamp.org)

BEST OPTICAL: Eye-Eye (eyeeye.care)



SEATTLE BIZ AWARDS 2021

BEST PET SERVICE: House of Ruff (houseofruff.com)

BEST REALTOR: Danny Alhadeff, Keller Williams

BEST RETAIL: Soaring Hearts Natural Beds

(soaringheart.com)

BEST SNACK: Honest Biscuits (Honestbiscuits.com)

BEST SPA: Blue Haven Medical Spa

(BlueHavenMedicalSpa.com)

BEST SHOW VENUE: The Triple Door (Tripledoor.com)

BEST THAI: Mantra Thai Restaurant and Bar

(mantrathai.com)

BEST THERAPY: Float Rubicon (FloatRubicon.com)

BEST UPHOLSTERY: Eidem Upholstery

(EidemUpholstery.com)

BEST VINTAGE: Retrofit (retrofithome.com)

BEST VODKA: Glass Distillery (GlassDistillery.com)

BEST WEDDING VENUE: Ray's Boathouse (rays.com)

BEST WEEKLY: Seattle Gay News (sgn.org)

BEST WINE TASTING: Adrice Wines (adricewines.wine)

BEST WORKSPACE: ATLAS Workbase (atlasworkbase.com)

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR: Bloodworks Northwest

(bloodworksnw.org)





Photo courtesy of Leslie Jordan

A Viral Star Is Reborn

Thanks to Leslie Jordan's quarantine videos, the world now knows him for exactly who he is

Words: Chris Azzopardi

“**W**here should I be looking? There? Or there?”

His face smothering the camera as he wonders where his eyes should be, Leslie Jordan is settling into our video interview like it could be a comic routine about somebody trying to use Zoom for the first time. Puckered together in a kind of duck-face pout are his elastic lips. A delicate smile curls into formation.

Then Jordan scoots so low that only his forehead is visible. More duck face. A big eyes-squished grin. A peculiar sound that may or may not be a fart. And finally a tickled laugh when I tell him I recognize that he’s in the same room that made him a viral sensation.

“It’s the only room I’ve got!” he chuckles, noting that he’s on video from his bedroom in West Hollywood. “I’ve got everything set up. And there’s my bed!”

Sure enough, that *is* his bed. Throughout the pandemic as he’s documented his quarantine experiences, that same bed has been seen all over his Instagram feed. There, as a COVID respite, Jordan has delivered lighthearted frivolity and cheeky humor to those he calls his “fellow hunker-downers,” in, of course, his signature Southern drawl. In one clip, he listens to a Katy Perry song that is “so lit,” while another finds him curious about Lizzo’s definition of “her juice.” Internet virality

might be new for Jordan, but, at least in the LGBTQ+ community, he’s always been a star.

Jordan’s three-decade career has, most iconically, seen the 65-year-old actor in the Emmy-winning role of Beverley Leslie, a rival of Megan Mullally’s Karen Walker, in “Will & Grace.” But his career in TV and film goes back to the ’80s, in guest appearances in a variety of major shows: “Murphy Brown,” “Star Trek: Voyager,” “Pee-wee’s Playhouse,” “Reba” and “Caroline in the City.” More recently, Jordan starred in several seasons of Ryan Murphy’s “American Horror Story,” and this year he stars alongside Mayim Bialik and fellow out actor Cheyenne Jackson in the Fox sitcom “Call Me Kat.”

When a friend told him he had gone viral while Jordan was quarantining with his mom in Tennessee in mid-March of last year, Jordan told that friend that, no, he was fine. He didn’t have coronavirus. But the kind of “viral” his friend was referring to was related to Instagram, where he has gone from just thousands of followers to, currently, around 5.6 million. He’s been called the “Quarantine Comedian” and “Social Media Mister Rogers.” To all his new fans and even those who know him from “Will & Grace” and in other bit parts, though, he’s most thrilled to be known now as simply Leslie Jordan.

weights and running and everything, he loves to clean. And also iron! He irons everything in the house. It’s so funny to see him — he’ll put that ironing board up and iron my sheets.

What is he wearing during all this? I mean, if anything.

He just wears his gym clothes. I make him put on a little French maid costume—no, ha!

I had a conversation with my housemate recently about being aging gays and how I look to you as inspiration because you are 65 and in your prime, I would say. And so people telling me that, for gay people who get older, there’s nothing left for us after a certain age, you have completely turned that upside down.

Oh, that’s so kind to say. Because I remember my 50s were tough. As you get older, you walk down the street and people don’t even look at you. It’s weird the way we treat people that are older, and especially in West Hollywood, where everybody wants to be young and beautiful.

I think we’re past that as a gay community. I hope. You know, I think that also had a lot to do with the bar scene, which has been curtailed. But even before that, back in my day—I got here (to California) in ’82—all you had were the bars; you’d go to the bars. That’s just where you went to see other gay people and meet other gay people. Now I think, “My gosh, we have everything. We have choirs. And we have gay camping. We have gay this, we have gay that.” There’s a lot of ways, plus the internet, where you can meet people.

My generation, we went through so much. I remember I walked up to these young kids holding hands in Kitchen 24 (in West Hollywood) and

Congratulations, first of all, on surviving and thriving in a pandemic.

Give me a good pandemic—I just flourish! Ha! I don’t know why that is or how that happened, but I think people were looking for just some laughter. I started that Instagram—I was in Tennessee with my mom, and I didn’t have a lot to do. So I just started being funny. I had three rules that I realized I had and didn’t know I had: nothing about religion, nothing about politics, and no products. I’m kind of wanting to rethink that “no products” part. Ha!

You could really be making some bank right now.

Ha! I’d be set for life!

I mean, all the free swag!

Well, I get that. That comes in the mail. It’s weird. It scares me. ‘Cause they have my home address. I don’t know how. But things come every day.

What’s the coolest thing you got recently?

I got these shoes that you tap. You tap and roller skates come out. I don’t know where I’ll wear them.

I see you’re back in your place after the meltdown you had the other day in your car, which you sat in until the cleaning lady was done. I’m glad to see you’re back in a comfortable place. Are you OK?

I am! I don’t know if I said cleaning lady; it’s not even a cleaning lady. I have a friend that started working for me a long, long time ago named Bart Stevens. He’s a great, big, beautiful muscle boy. He’s huge. We’re just friends. We’ve always just been friends. But he’s huge. Besides lifting

I just said, "You have no idea what we went through so you guys could..." —and then all of a sudden it hit me: Oh my god, I don't want to be that, like your granddad who would say, "You kids have no idea what we went through!" I thought, "Oh my god! It's the same thing!" They were like, "Yeah, uh-huh, go on, Pop-Pop."

Does it feel like right now is kind of a new beginning for you? Or just the beginning in a lot of ways?

As you said, I'm 65. I have achieved everything I came to Hollywood to achieve. I've done Broadway, I've done film, I've done a lot of television. And I have this series now on the air ("Call Me Kat") and it looks like it's pulling some numbers. It may stay around for a little while, which is a wonderful thing to know as an actor. I have a job!

People think that you're rich, you've said.

And I'm not. Listen, she works hard for the money! I think what it feels like is that I have achieved everything. And also, I'm more comfortable with myself. I'm perfectly comfortable. I got sober 22 years ago. I had a little drinking problem, and I might've done a tiny bit of crystal meth. I got clean and sober and realized that I was just riddled with internal homophobia.

(I was) 42 years old and here I was the life of the party, this and that, but all of a sudden I'm faced with that. And my journey into my sobriety, which has been the last 22 years, has also been a real good journey into my queerdom. It was a lot of therapy. You go to your meetings, and then I had to go to a recovery program because I had too many meetings. I was going to so many meetings, I thought, "I'm addicted to meetings!" Ha! No, I'm teasing.

"Give me a good pandemic and I just flourish! Ha! I don't know why that is or how that happened, but I think people were looking for just some laughter."

I sit here (now) so comfortable with myself, with who I am and what I am. And that's a wonderful place to be. So everything from here on out is just gravy. It really is just living life one day at a time and having a really good time.

And you can say that now because you have finally met Dolly Parton.

That's it. Now all I ask myself is, "What would Dolly do?" She's a sterling human being. Oh my gosh.

What was the first thing that you said to Dolly when you met her last year?

I was in Nashville recording. I have a gospel album coming out that I'm not gonna talk a whole lot about because everybody's not set. But anyway, we were recording and she was at a studio near us and she said, "Drop by." I just felt like I'd known her forever.

What can you say about the song that you have in the works?

It's an old, old, old hymn. It's one that she said to me, "I sang that in church growing up, I sang that hymn over and over and over again." When I hear her singing this song with me, I'll wet my pants.

How did the gospel album come about?

My friend Travis Howard and his producing partner in Nashville, Danny Myrick, we would record Sunday hymns and just put them on the internet, just the two of us, and it was so popular on Instagram and people said, "You should do an album." I thought, "Well, I'm not a singer, really. I've got the kind of voice that's good for a hymn, but I'm

not a singer." The response was just unbelievable (from) people who said, "I'll be on that album with you."

What's your earliest memory of singing?

Church, of course. We'd sing, "Who's come to Sunday school? Leslie, Leslie! Who's come to Sunday school? Le-e-e-slie!"

You also have a book called "How Y'all Doing?" coming out in April. What are we going to learn about you from the book that we don't already know?

I don't know that you'll really learn anything because I want to make sure that it wasn't—you know, in "My Trip Down the Pink Carpet," I covered everything. (For this), what I decided to do was to take all my best dinner party stories. So I've got 12 stories that are just fun, just things that have happened to me, lessons that I have learned. A little bit but not much about me, just life in general.

My favorite of all of them is when I got to throw the first pitch out for the Washington Nationals, having never thrown a baseball in my life. And it's the craziest story, and it involved Pulse nightclub. Because it was part of my one-man show, I got to tell it to Mrs. Obama. She was in the audience. Michelle Obama came to see me! I got to tell that story. It's in the book. It ends the book.

Will any tea be spilled?

Well, I don't think so. Certainly not about anybody else. I made sure. I don't like that, when people talk ugly about other people. That's my New Year's resolution: to be really, really sweet and nice and not ever talk ugly. I'm gonna try to stop cussing. I don't know how I'm gonna do that.

Ha! I cuss—not a lot, but I just don't want to cuss at all.

What's gonna be the hardest cuss word for you to give up?

Probably the "f" word. I say that a lot. Ha! Also, shit. I use that so much: "Well shiiit, how y'all doin'?" That's not really a bad word. I guess it is. I'll say, "Well, shoot!"

Or: "Well, crap!"

I read the other day ... you're not going to believe this: You know where "crap" came from? The toilet was invented by Mr. Crapper. It's a true story! Thomas Crapper. And that's how it started. The crapper to sit, to take a crap. It was his name! He invented the first flushing toilet or somethin'.

With *Call Me Kat*, there's an episode where the cake shop is misperceived as homophobic. Because of that, you gay it up, of course, with flags and rainbow balloons, and there's even a cat named Neil "Catrick" Harris. That seems like a pretty gay day on set.

Ha! The show is so gay friendly. It's a job in which I really look forward to coming to work. I love the people, I love the writing. Darlene Hunt, our writer, is just hilarious. She's from Louisville, Kentucky, so I'm kind of the real Southern voice. I'm the one who really puts out, "Hey, hey, hey, we're in Louisville."

And so she loves writing for me. She loves to write me monologues, and they came to me the other day and she said, "Are you having trouble memorizing these?" I said, "Yes! I'm having big trouble!" "Would you like cue cards?" I said, "Well, no, it hadn't reached that yet."



Photo courtesy of FOX

Do you have any tricks for memorizing your lines?

Someone told me a long time ago that if you do it right before you fall asleep—if you read those lines right when you’re just about to fall asleep—you’ll remember them. And I said, “Bull hockey! That ain’t workin’ at all!”

For this new generation of fans you have who’ve discovered you on Instagram, what is something about your career you would like them to know?

My first job ever was (the ’80s TV series) “The Fall Guy” with Lee Majors and I played a killer. I did six episodes. “Murphy Brown” came around about that time. What interests me (about) my Instagram, which has just jumped to about 5.6 million, is how many people discovered me there that didn’t know me. I think: “I’ve been around forever! Foreveeeeer I’ve been doing this!”

But I like the fact that I mistakenly thought that people would know me from my roles. So they would think, “Oh, Beverley Leslie on ‘Will & Grace’ and, you know, (my line) ‘Well, well, well. Karen Walker.’” But my new fans know me as me. I think that’s kind of nice that people are responding to *me*, not some character that I play.

Some actors end up regretting a role they played that became the only thing they were known for.

Like Tanya Roberts who just died. I thought, “My god, bless her heart. To go to your grave with Sheena: Queen of the (Jungle).” Ha! And she did other things, but you’re exactly right: You’re remembered for whatever that was. I can’t think of anything I’m ashamed of, or something I wish I hadn’t done.

What do you want to be remembered for?

I want to be remembered like a Dolly Parton—that nobody had a bad word (about). “He was a nice guy.” And the fact that I’m fairly talented in this and that, that’s OK. But I just want people to know he was good. He was a nice guy. He was a good guy. I think that’s most important. And that I was raised right. I want to say to these kids now: “Who raised you? Who raised you?”

Was your Southern accent and what you’ve called your “gay voice” always embraced like it is now?

I got to Hollywood and there was a casting director that told me, “You’re such a character actor already, and if you could lose your Southern accent...” And I tried, and I couldn’t. The day that I decided, “Well, this is just a marketable package here” was the day that I started working. But I worried more, I think, because of my internal homophobia about my gay accent. I would listen to myself and think, “Oh, girl, you’ve gotta calm down a little bit.”

I don’t think that I ever lost a job (because of it). I was on “Star Trek” and they hired a linguist to teach me how to say the words and she got so exasperated she said, “Mr. Jordan, ‘feather’ doesn’t have four syllables!” I don’t think I’ll ever be like Robert De Niro or Meryl Streep. I’ll never just disappear into a role. I just do what I do and various forms of it and it’s worked thus far, and kept me afloat.

I think next for you is a pony farm.

That’s it. I’m not looking yet. I want a four-stall barn. Probably somewhere near Nashville. That to me would just be heaven. I’m riding already. I go out to the L.A. Equestrian Center. I’m doing pretty good! I fell off the other day. Everybody freaked out. It was not the horse’s fault. The watering truck went by and Jeb was just as steady as could be—just freaked—and he ducked sideways. I landed on my feet but everybody said, “You be careful!”

We gotta protect you at all costs.

Wrap me in bubble wrap!

As editor of Q Syndicate, the LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.

===== #fake news =====



PHOTOS FROM THENEEDLING.COM

LOCAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSES STREET A RECORD-SETTING 27 TIMES IN ONE BLOCK

In a stunning commitment to not come within six feet of any people on her afternoon walk today, local pedestrian Megan Wallace crossed the street a record-breaking 27 times—all within one neighborhood block.

"It all started when I came down 63rd and saw a lady walking toward me on the same side of the street with a cute corgi—can't expect a little short-legged furball to cross the street to avoid running into me, so I chose to cross the street myself," said Wallace, after shattering last week's record of 15 street crossings in one residential block. "Then there was a guy pushing a baby in a stroller on the other side of the street so I immediately crossed again—and that was just the first 10 feet of the street."

From there, Wallace said she then bounced like a pinball from one side of the street to the next, barely getting her foot on the curb before

realizing she needed to cross the street again to avoid another close human encounter.

"After that, there was a couple—and two people beats one of course so I had to cross again into a construction area where the sidewalk was closed so I crossed again," Wallace said. "Then there was a person more attractive than me so naturally I forfeited the sidewalk again and stepped back into the gutter where their gaze implied I belong and crossed the street again. It was just bouncing off of curbs to avoid all of those things again and one lady walking a ferret named Stanley, before finally reaching the finish line at the end of the block."

As sunnier, warmer spring weather possibly draws near, Wallace said she expects to break her record again while remaining committed to not being one of those weird people who give up and only walk and run in the street.

Refresh Your Mind and Body

RUBICON

Float Studio

Float Tank

Therapy

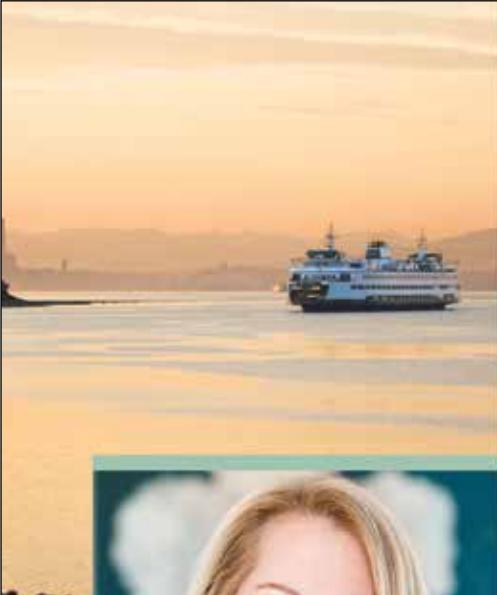
Kirkland, WA

(866) 356-2888

Book Now!

Promo Code:
discoverme

www.floatrubicon.com
Weightless Meditation and Recovery



susan grosten
MANAGING BROKER

LET ME CONNECT YOU WITH ISLAND
PARADISE JUST A SHORT FERRY RIDE AWAY...

SELLING THE BAINBRIDGE LIFESTYLE FOR 20 YEARS



Windermere
REAL ESTATE

206.755.8411
SusanGrosten@Windermere.com
SusanGrosten.com

SEATTLE COUPLE PLANS DESTINATION WEDDING FOR WEST SEATTLE



Recently engaged Seattle lovebirds Kevin Hwang and Trucy Schmidt formally announced today that their destination wedding will take place on the far-flung shores of West Seattle.

As they continue booking caterers and floral arrangements, the couple has been figuring out who in their circle of friends has the means to travel to their venue.

"It'll be a difficult trip for a lot of our Seattle friends, but I think it'll be worth it," Schmidt said. "I've only seen pictures of it, but Alki Beach seems like such a beautiful place to get married."

To make things easier, the couple sought the help of Emma Richardson, a wedding planner that specializes in exotic locations. Richardson has previously planned ceremonies in Montenegro, Prague, and Gig Harbor.

"Unlike a venue in the Mediterranean or Eastern Europe, I can actually visit West Seattle to help Trucy and Kevin," said Richardson. "But it's still pretty out of the way so I haven't actually done that. Don't tell them."

The wedding is scheduled to take place in July 2022 so local guests can request enough time off from work.

NEW MASKED MARINERS CEO PROMISES TEAM WILL COME BACK ‘HARDER, BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER’

Within a day of Mariners CEO Kevin Mather resigning in disgrace after being caught sharing offensive views about his team on a Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club Zoom call, team Chairman John Stanton revealed he's already replaced him with a leader who promises to bring the Seattle baseball team back "harder, better, faster, stronger" than ever.

"This new guy takes COVID precautions so seriously, honestly even after our face to face meeting I haven't seen behind his mask/helmet yet," said Stanton. "Not only does he not have a problem with translators, his own French is music to my ears."

Though the team isn't ready to reveal his full name and identity quite yet, the team's newly appointed president and CEO read an auto-tuned statement aloud at an afternoon press conference today.

"Like the legend of the Phoenix, all ends with beginnings," said the CEO, dressed in a black leather moto jacket. "But something about us tells me we're not just ready to get lucky, we're ready to work it harder, make it better, do it faster, more than ever, hour after hour—our work is never over."

One more time, Stanton assured Mariners fans that their pitching superheroes' aerodynamics are about to blow people's minds again around the world.

At press time, rumors were circulating that the new CEO is already looking at the team roster to figure out how to use it, break it, fix it, trash it, change it, play it, burn it, rip it, drag it, drop it, crack it, switch, update it.



For more #Fake News stories check out their website at theneedling.com.

GET NOTIFIED WHEN YOU CAN GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Phase Finder is Washington's online tool for finding out if you are currently eligible to get the vaccine and where to schedule an appointment.

1. Visit FindYourPhaseWA.org
2. Answer the survey questions to see if you are eligible.
3. If you are currently eligible, you can then find a provider near you to schedule an appointment for the vaccine.

Not your turn yet? Don't worry – you can also sign up to be notified by text, email or voicemail when it is your turn!

If you don't have access to the internet or have a hard time navigating the Phase Finder tool online, you can **call 1-800-525-0127** and **press # for assistance**. Language services are available.



FindYourPhaseWA.org



Unsung Story: An Interview with Aaron Bear, Director of *Yes I Am: The Ric Weiland Story*

WORDS: GREGG SHAPIRO

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the term “unsung hero” was tossed around a lot, as average yet extraordinary people struggled to find alternative means of survival because the government failed to protect them.

To a whole generation of gay men, this experience had an eerily familiar feeling. If the late Ric Weiland (1953–2006), a true unsung hero if ever there was one, were still alive, he would most likely agree.

Weiland, an openly gay man who co-founded Microsoft along with Bill Gates and Paul Allen, still found a way to make a lasting impact on causes near and dear to him, including HIV/AIDS research and marriage equality, by leaving significant financial endowments to various LGBTQ organizations.

With his informative documentary *Yes I Am: The Ric Weiland Story* (World of Wonder), gay filmmaker Aaron Bear illuminates Weiland’s story, shining a well-deserved spotlight on a man who deserves the attention and accolades. Bear was kind enough to answer a few questions before the film’s premiere at the AmDocs Film Festival, March 26.

Gregg Shapiro: For some people, Ric Weiland’s name isn’t as familiar as his Microsoft cohorts Bill Gates and Paul Allen. Would you say that was what attracted you to telling his story in *Yes I Am*?

Aaron Bear: Much of Ric’s life was unknown, and that was on purpose and of his own choosing. He wanted to be someone behind the scenes, making things happen. Being a filmmaker and someone who works behind the camera, I could relate to how Ric felt. The deeper I dug into his life, it became clear that his life paralleled a lot of my own.

The film also touches on the subject of mental health and taking care of yourself. While making it, I turned to working on my own mental health for the first time ever. I felt and continue to feel deeply connected to him on so many levels.

How much of your awareness of Ric was derived from your being a gay man living in Seattle?

Seattle is undoubtedly a special place, but with regard to my awareness

of Ric, I had only read headlines about him upon his passing in 2006. Years later, I was approached at the Seattle International Film Festival by Ric’s friend Michael Failla about perhaps making a film about his life. It wasn’t until I was deep into research for this film that I realized what a significant impact he had on Seattle, marriage equality, AIDS/HIV research...the list goes on. Ric has inspired me to be a better human being.

Ric’s long-lasting contributions to LGBTQ philanthropy are truly revolutionary and central to his story. One of the interview subjects says that Ric was “so brilliant with code, he would write more, so he could make more money, so he could give it away.” How do you think Ric would feel about the ongoing impact of his endowments?

Ric’s accomplishments are unsurpassed—and that is putting it mildly. Seriously, Google his name, and it’s astonishing [what he achieved] and that nobody knows who he was. Ric would feel quietly delighted about the impact from his ongoing endowments.

The documentary is full of fascinating interview subjects, many of whom were friends of Ric’s, including Bill Gates and LGBTQ rights activist Urvashi Vaid. When you approached people about being interviewed, did you meet any resistance, or was everyone willing to sing Ric’s praises before the camera?

Everyone wanted to be a part of singing Ric’s praises, from Bill Gates to Urvashi. Zachary Quinto’s involvement came later, after I contacted him and expressed what an impact Ric has had on me while making this film. The only unfortunate and sad turn of events was that I never got to interview Paul Allen. We had a filming date, but he passed two weeks before that date. Paul and Ric were incredibly close, and I wish I would have been able to show the brotherly type of love they had for each other.

Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato at World of Wonder were heroes of mine since high school, so working with those two was a dream come true. I really did have the gay dream team working on this film with me.

You mentioned out actor Zachary Quinto, who provides the voiceover during the parts of the film in which we are given access to some of Ric's journal entries. What was it about Zachary that made him right for that?

After finding Ric's diaries, I knew I wanted an out gay actor to read as Ric's voice. Someone who had seen some life, met some resistance along the way, and knew the tone of Ric's voice. I made a short list. Zach was someone I've always been drawn to. In all of my dreams, I never would have thought he would say yes. Zach had the tone nailed from the beginning and was such a gentleman to work with.

You also incorporate animation in the documentary. Why did you include that visual element?

The animation was something I had in my brain and storyboarded from the get-go. Since there wasn't a ton of material of Ric (no actual video interviews of him exist), I knew I was going to have to create some visuals that were compelling but also helped guide the story along. My associate producer introduced me to this incredible talent located here in Seattle named Neely Goniodsky. She understood the heart and heartache of Ric from our very first meeting.

Nearly 40 years into the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the subject continues to be presented onscreen, not only in *Yes I Am*, which deals with Ric's seroconversion, but also in Russel T. Davies' *It's a Sin*. Can you please say something about the importance of not forgetting the ongoing AIDS epidemic all these years later?

The history of HIV/AIDS should never be forgotten. Period. We have pills like Truvada that protect us these days, but history still remains and should be taught. Oh, and if you can follow the @TheAidsMemorial on Instagram, it also provides a glimpse as to what it was truly like.

This is an interesting question, because some of the older folks I showed this film to said there was "too much" about it. I was able to show the film to a couple of late teens and early twentysomethings, and they had no idea. So, I found a balance with how much history I put in there.

That said, Ric's contributions to fighting] this disease were and continue to be paramount. He was giving money for research when nobody else was. Oh, and if you can follow the @TheAidsMemorial on Instagram, it also provides a glimpse as to what it was truly like.

What do you hope to achieve by increasing public awareness of both Ric Weiland's life and death?

I hope *Yes I Am* helps inform people about Ric's life and accomplishments, yes. But I really hope that the viewer leaves [understanding that] death is not the end, and your life achievements can make a serious impact on the entire world.

Your next project, the TV series *There Is a Light That Never Goes Out*, is the second upcoming release to feature the title of a song by The Smiths as its name, the first being *Shoplifters of the World*. Can you please say something about the influence of Morrissey and The Smiths on your work and life?

Being a suburban gay teenager in the Midwest, pre-internet, was an incredibly isolating and lonely experience. Music back then was my absolute outlet and savior. I'm not sure how I would have survived that experience otherwise. The Smiths, more specifically Morrissey's voice and lyrics, truly spoke to the isolation and longing of that era in a way nobody had before. The way he sang about alienation and wanting someone to "take me anywhere, I don't care, I don't care..." was anthemic in wanting to escape from the oppression I found myself in and how I was willing to do anything possible to find my tribe outside that world.

Entertainment journalist, poet and fiction-writer Gregg Shapiro lives in Fort Lauderdale with his husband and dog.

Help us Build The
“SAME LOVE” Garden

BUY A BRICK
\$50 \$100

ALLPILGRIMS.ORG

Lucky Louie FISH SHACK™

SEA-TAC AIRPORT
CENTRAL TERMINAL

NORTHWEST FISH & CHIPS



ALASKA SEAFOOD
Wild, Natural & Sustainable®

#TODAYISMYLUCKYDAY!
LUCKY LOUIE IS PROUD TO FEATURE WILD & SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD
luckylouiefishshack.com



SISTER BLOOD BROTHER BLOOD WE ARE ALL OF ONE BLOOD

DONATE TODAY!

Bloodworks and its LGBTQ community partners believe in creating an equal opportunity for everyone to save lives. If you can't donate blood, there are other inclusive ways to support patients in our community.

To make an appointment, call 800.398.7888
or visit: bloodworksnw.org

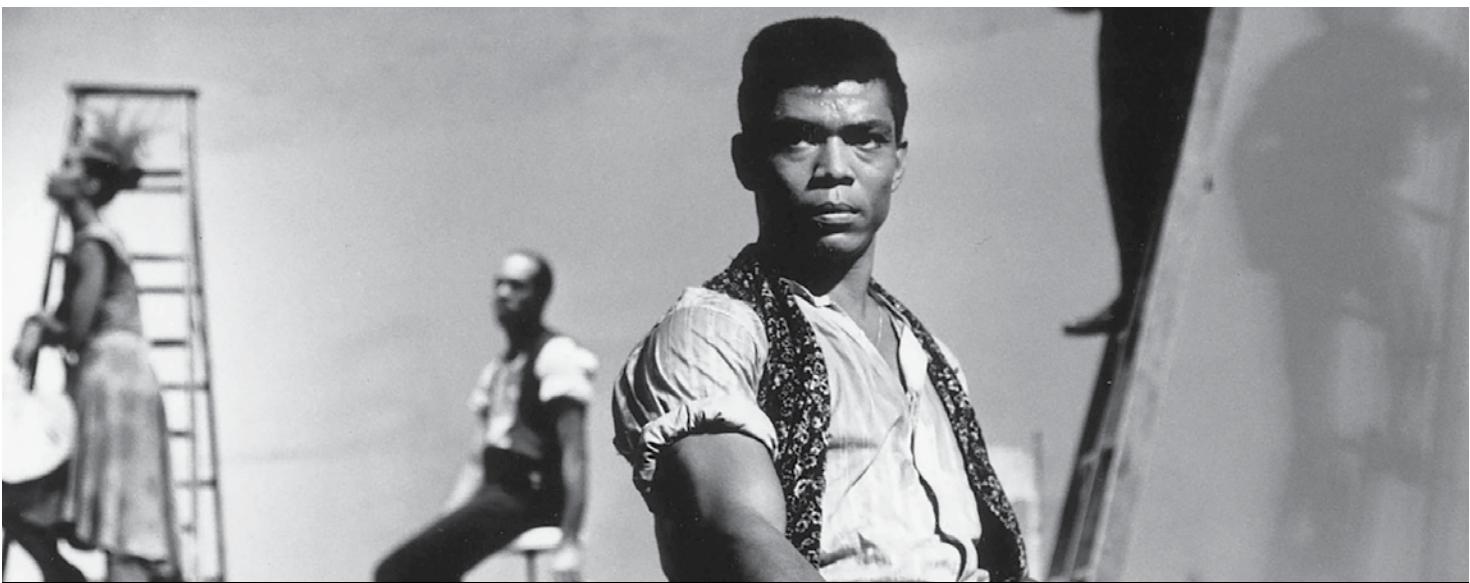




14 LGBTQ-Inclusive Films From This Year's Sundance Film Fest to Watch For

WORDS: MIKEY ROX

Virtual screenings and collaborative showings with partner organizations across the country allowed home audiences to enjoy Sundance Film Festival's elevated and celebrated independent films—for \$15 a pop streaming via Sundance's online portal—that this year included 14 queer-inclusive entries. From dramatic narratives and documentaries to shorts and a touch of terror, here's what to watch wherever they're distributed now that the festival's proverbial curtains have closed.



AILEY

Director Jamila Wignot's documentary "Ailey" includes the namesake visionary artist himself through audio recordings and public interviews recorded before his death in 1989. The film is a deep dive into the prolific performer's life, from Alvin's Texas childhood to modest beginnings in Los Angeles to his eventual move to New York City, where he established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



4 FEET HIGH

Collaborators from Argentina and France have created a virtual-reality experience for viewers of this film about a wheelchair-confined teenager eager to explore her sexuality despite dealing with body dysmorphia.



AT THE READY

In El Paso, Texas, 10 miles from the Mexico border, students enroll in law-enforcement classes and participate in extra-curricular activities, like the criminal justice club. But as this Maisie Crow-directed doc details, future careers in border patrol, policing, and customs enforcement clash with the values and people the Mexican-American students in the program hold dear.



FLEE

Danish filmmaker Jonas Poher Rasmussen presented his animated documentary "Flee," about an Afghan refugee named Amin who arrives in Denmark as an unaccompanied minor only to become a successful academic as an adult. Ready to marry his long-time boyfriend, Amin rises above all odds in this poignant tale of survival and love conquering all.

Health & Wellness Recovery and Support

People's Harm Reduction Alliance
1415 NE 43rd St
phra.org

Todd Keough
512 Boylston Ave E
toddkeough.com

Dr. Nathan Walsh
WorldTree Wellness
3711 NE 45th St
worldtree-wellness.com

Advanced Back and Neck Pain Clinic
4621 35th Ave SW b
westseattlechiropractor.com

TrueVision Coaching
truevision.guru

Recovery Cafe
2022 Boren Ave
recoverycafe.org

Lifelong
lifelong.org

Seattle Indian Health Board
611 12th Ave S
sihb.org

Peer Seattle
1520 Bellevue Ave
Ste: 100
peerseattle.com

Seattle Counseling
1216 Pine St Ste: 300
seattlecounseling.org

Open & Affirming Faith Communities

All Pilgrims
Christian Church
500 Broadway E
allpilgrims.org

Center for Spiritual Living
6318 Linden Ave N
spiritualliving.org

Emerald City MCC Seattle
1415 NE 43rd St
mccseattle.org

Q-Christian Fellowship
qchristian.org

Seattle First Baptist
Harvard & Seneca
1111 Harvard Ave
seattlefirstbaptist.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Community Lunch At Capitol Hill
509 10th Ave E
communitylunch.org

Emerald City Pet Rescue
2962 1st Ave S Ste: B
emeraldcitypetrescue.org

Mary's Place
113 Dexter Ave N
marysplaceseattle.org

North Helpline
12736 33rd Ave NE
northhelpline.org

Resolution to End Homelessness
2150 N 107th St
r2endhomelessness.org

Roots Young Adult Shelter
1415 NE 43rd St
rootsinfo.org

Solid Ground
1501 N 45th St
solid-ground.org

Treehouse
2100 24th Ave S #200
treehouseforkids.org

For listing info, contact Victor at VBD@uniteseattlemag.com



KNOCKING

After experiencing a traumatic incident involving a same-sex partner that sent her to the psych ward, Molly moves into a new apartment where she can't escape the haunting knocking sounds that her neighbors don't hear.



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOY IN THE WORLD

Fifty years ago, Italian filmmaker Luchino Visconti declared Björn Andresén, star of his 1971 film "Death in Venice," "The Most Beautiful Boy in the World," thrusting the then 15-year-old into overnight international stardom. Andresén looks back on the past half-century of his life in this documentary directed by Swedish filmmakers Kristina Lindström and Kristian Petri.



MA BELLE, MY BEAUTY

First-time filmmaker Marion Hill tackles the oft-complicated particulars of polyamory in this narrative about newlyweds whose fresh start is interrupted by an unexpected visit from the couple's quirky ex.



MY NAME IS PAULI MURRAY

Through never-before-seen footage and audio recordings, directors Betsy West and Julie Cohen introduce Black non-binary legal trailblazer Pauli Murray, whose progressive ideas influenced our country's greatest court battles, including the late RBG's fight for gender equality and Thurgood Marshall's civil-rights arguments.



PASSING

Based on Nella Larsen's same-name novel, "Passing" stars Ruth Negga and Tessa Thompson as mixed-race childhood friends who both can "pass" as white but choose to live on opposite sides of the color line in 1929 New York, becoming obsessed with one another's lives. André Holland ("Moonlight"), Alexander Skarsgård and Bill Camp also star in this Forest Whitaker-produced drama.



THIS IS THE WAY WE RISE

You can catch this short, about poet-activist Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, and her continued work toward justice for Hawaiian natives, directed by Ciara Lacy, under the American Masters banner on PBS online.



TOGETHER TOGETHER

Trans actress Patti Harrison stars as adrift young loner Anna who's hired as a surrogate for 40-something single man Matt, played by Ed Helms, in this dramedy about the unconventional, non-romantic relationship that the pair develops. Bleecker Street purchased "Together Together" late last year, making it one of few Sundance films to secure distribution ahead of the virtual festival. Tig Notaro co-stars.



WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE WORLD'S FAIR

There's not much pre-premiere information on this American drama directed by Jane Schoenbrun, but if the mystery premise of a teenager documenting the changes she experiences after participating in an online role-playing horror game piques your interest, this film, scored by Alex G, is for you.



UNLIVEABLE

Set in Brazil, where a trans person is murdered every three days, Marilene searches for her missing trans daughter Roberta before time runs out.



THE WORLD TO COME

In this 19th-century period piece from director Mona Fastvold, two married women find solace — and eventually intimacy—in each other's company as their respective home lives on the frontier deteriorate. Vanessa Kirby and Katherine Waterston star alongside Casey Affleck and Christopher Abbott.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels.

recipes



Collagen Pomegranate Spritzer

COLLAGEN POMEGRANATE SPRITZER, Courtesy of orgain.com

*1 scoop Collagen Peptides
3 ½ tablespoons natural sweetener spoonable*
½ cup warm water
1-2 tbsp fresh or concentrate pomegranate juice
6 ounces sparkling water or club soda
1 Sprig Fresh Mint*

1. Shake or stir Orgain Collagen Peptides and natural sweetener with 1/2 cup of warm water until dissolved completely to make collagen sugar-free simple syrup.
2. Store refrigerated. For best results, use within a day of making.
3. Stir 2 tsp collagen sugar-free simple syrup, pomegranate juice and sparkling water in a cocktail shaker or boston glass (add pomegranate seeds if you are so inclined).
4. Pour into glasses filled with ice.
5. Add additional sugar syrup or pomegranate juice to personal taste.
6. Garnish with fresh mint.

CRIMSON GARDEN, Provided by Kathy Casey

Fresh is always better. Try juicing at least 3 medium beets to make about a 1/2 cup of fresh juice! And if you want to make it with spirit, gin will do just fine.

Makes 1 cocktail

*1 1/2 ounces Seedlip Garden, distilled non-alcoholic spirit
1/2 ounce Monin Rose Syrup*
1 ounce fresh beet juice
1/2 ounce fresh lemon juice
1 1/2 - 2 ounces Q Lite Tonic Water, chilled
Garnish: Fresh Origins petal confetti, or other edible flower petals*

1. Measure the Seedlip, rose syrup, and beet and lemon juices into a cocktail shaker.
2. Fill with ice, cap and shake vigorously.
3. Pour drink into an Old Fashioned glass.
4. Add tonic and stir. Garnish with rose or other edible flower petals.

*Monin Rose Syrup is available online. Or try making your own.



*Photo and Recipe © Kathy Casey Liquid Kitchen®
Follow @kathycasechef on Facebook, Insta and Twitter.
Blogging at: dishingwithkathycasey.com*

Kathy Casey is an award-winning chef and mixologist, best known as the original Bar Chef. She owns Kathy Casey Food Studios—Liquid Kitchen® a global full-service food, beverage and concept-development agency. Follow: @KathyCaseyChef



Crimson Garden

the last word



Tony Sawicki

I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE NOT IN OZ ANYMORE

WORDS: RICK SKYE

When I first learned that we would need to quarantine due to the gregarious nature of the coronavirus, my first thought was, "Perfect!"

My childhood had prepared me for just such a moment. Ever since the age of four, when the other boys had decided they couldn't possibly be seen fraternizing with a sissy of such obvious proportions, I had had to create another world for myself, filled with hobbies that would keep me "safe," i.e., "indoors." While I spent many an hour reading, drawing, and listening to Judy Garland, even more of my time found me ensconced in front of the television set, following the adventures of Lucy, Samantha, Jeannie, Mary, Rhoda, and Carol (Burnett), all strong women with the power to make it through the day with brains, fun, and a sense of style. At the time, you could see Lucy in various incarnations at least five times daily, and I prided myself on navigating the day in such a way as to catch every possible viewing.

So, it was with particular relish that I looked forward to the end of the rat race "for a few weeks" and filling my days with familiar pursuits. I had just settled in with a DVD of *Dead Ringers* when the phone rang. My father had had a heart attack in January and had returned home only to catch pneumonia from my mother—and now they were *both* in the hospital, doing a double act. "Nurse Ratched" explained that once they were released, they would need home care. And since all my siblings were conveniently quarantined in other states, I was, as my mother put it, "stuck."

Now, I had spent a lifetime running *away* from the home my parents had created, ever since my mom had discovered love letters from boy, a high school senior, behind the World Book Encyclopedia while dusting my room. (I have always said that I didn't "come out" to my parents, I was "cleaned out.")

How could I go home again? My father and I had never been particularly close, and my mom liked things, shall we say, "presentable for the neighbors." Somehow, with the passage of time, I now stood out even more in our conservative little town than I ever had as a teen. I was Eva Gabor in Hooterville—if she had swallowed Claymore from *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*. Never had a fish been so out of water.

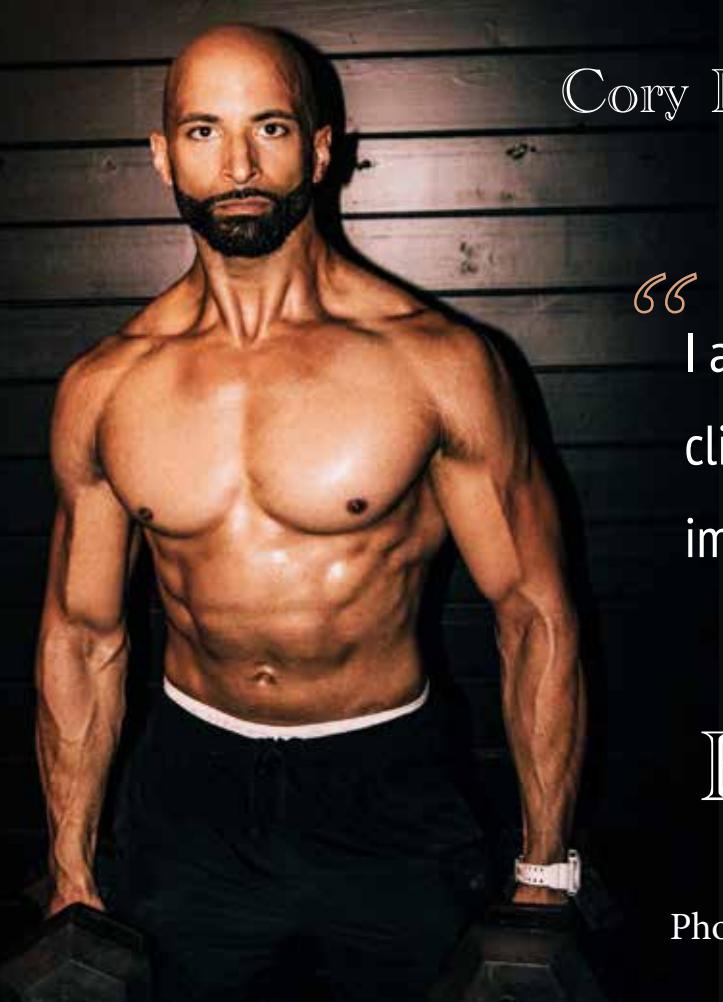
However, I hadn't memorized all of *Auntie Mame* for nothing, and I was determined to see the pandemic glass as half full and, for the first time, to sail through that town with my cigarette holder and martini held high.

Due to the lockdown, no Medicare nurse would come near the place, and their house cleaning service had said, "See you on the other side!" It was going to be up to me to dress them, cook for them, run errands for them, entertain them, fight for them. But I soon realized that all of the strength I had acquired from surviving the bullying and adapting to an unwelcoming world would come in very handy in helping my parents overcome their daily physical and psychological struggles.

As the quarantine kept getting extended and we only had each other for company for months at a time, I realized that little by little we were addressing a lot of the issues that we had avoided our whole lives. I found out how enormously proud they were of me, that my dad had *not* been embarrassed that I hadn't been an athletic child, that they loved seeing me perform, and that they too had seen *Liza in Concert* many times after I had gotten them their first set of tickets.

And one day, months later, when they were feeling better, my dad told me, out loud and with no hesitation, that he loved me. And my mom said that no one else could have cared for them so well. In that instant, I knew that the pandemic had had a positive effect on us all. We were forever changed and closer than we had ever been. And I finally understood what Dorothy meant by "there's no place like home."

Award-winning writer-performer Rick Skye is known for creating and performing a string of outrageous comic revues, such as "A Slice o' Minnelli" (as Liza), "It's Madame with an E!" (as partner to "Madame" of "Wayland Flowers and Madame" fame), "The War of the Mama Roses," "MaCABARET: A Tabloid Fable," and "The Flip Side of Neil Sedaka." He is currently playing the flamboyant villain Kenny Canasta in City and the Beast, now streaming on Amazon Prime and iTunes.



Cory Foster, GM / NASM CPT

“

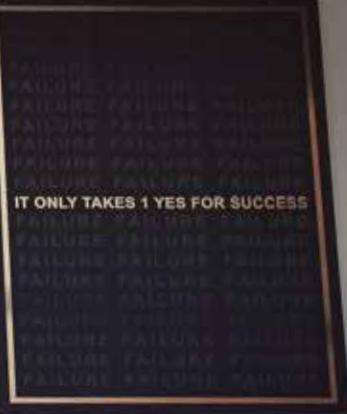
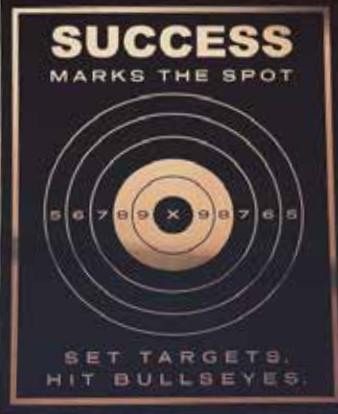
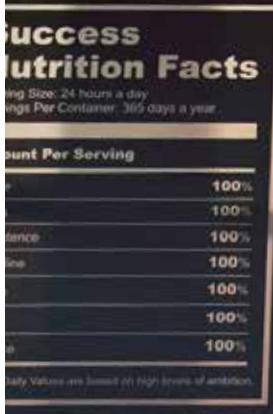
I am passionate about motivating my clients to reach their fitness goals and improving their overall quality of life.



Fortified Fitness

921 S 2nd Street | Renton, WA 98057

Phone: (425) 518-4547 | Web: fortifiedfitness.net



COME IN FOR YOUR FREE FIRST BOOTCAMP CLASS TODAY!

10 MG
THC PER
SERVING

Lori's POTATO CHIPS

A SWEET, SALTY, OR SAVORY HIGH

CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE FLAVOR: SWEET POTATO (BROWN SUGAR & CINNAMON), SEA SALT & CRACKED PEPPER, OR ROASTED GARLIC.

AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON STATE CANNABIS SHOPS.



CRAFTELIXIRS.COM

WARNING — THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS MARIJUANA. MAY BE HABIT FORMING. UNLAWFUL OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON STATE. IT IS ILLEGAL TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA. CAUTION: INTOXICATING EFFECTS MAY BE DELAYED BY 2+ HOURS.