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BAY WINDOWS

Serving New England's LGBTQ+ Communities

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Amplify LatinX Hosts Inaugural ALX100 Award Reception

20 LGBTQ individuals recognized

Submitted by Amplify LatinX

Amplify LatinX hosted its inaugural ALX100 award reception at the iconic Boston Public Library on Thursday, September 14 recognizing exceptional Latinx leaders across Massachusetts who have demonstrated outstanding excellence and made significant contributions in their respective fields and communities. Governor Maura Healey and City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu served as honorary chairs and Governor Healy spoke at the event.

Amplify also unveiled the historic ALX100 exhibition, a first-of-its-

see **ALX100,** *page 7*

A tasty *Ham*

Fat Ham, The Huntington, in association with The Alliance Theatre and the Front Porch Arts Collective, Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through October 29. 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

Marshall W. Mabry IV, left as Juicy , and Victoria Omoregie as Opal in "Fat Ham" at the Calderwood Pavilion. Photo by T Charles Erickson.

By Jules Becker
Contributing Writer

James Ijames has spoken of being interested in the things that people inherit from their families. Not surprisingly this inspired African-American playwright has looked to Shakespeare's "Hamlet" as well as biblical references in his 2022 Pulitzer Prize winner "Fat Ham."

The Huntington, Alliance Theatre and the Front Porch Arts Collective are bringing Ijames' clever take on the Bard's great tragedy to vivid, often hilarious life in its area premiere at the Boston Center for the Arts' Calderwood Pavilion.

Ijames describes each of his play's characters as "kind of " their respective name-

see **HAM,** *page 4*

LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH

Putting an End to the Myths of Stonewall

Courtesy Mark Segal
Special to Bay Windows
from the LGBT History Project

Gay Liberation Front members Jerry Hoose (left), Mark Segal (right), and Sylvia Rivera (background, holding a bag) at a GLF demonstration against New York University. (Photo: Diana Davies collection, New York Public Library).

For years, people have debated what actually happened that night in June 1969 when Stonewall was raided and a new, more militant struggle for equality was born. Due to the debates, and the insistence of some who claim they knew all aspects of what had actually happened, an incredible void opened up where people could invent, imagine, or distort Stonewall and our history to their own objectives. The myths of Stonewall are endless, but they're easily dispelled when you look at the material proof and plain logic.

1. Judy Garland's death and funeral did not cause Stonewall.

The myth of Judy Garland's death being the impetus for Stonewall is the most belittling myth to those of us who participated. It's stereotypical and self-loathing, and with this article we add new information which finally ends this silly tale.

One clue is where the idea originated: from a conservative, straight columnist at the Village Voice named Howard Smith, who actually was a friend of the police captain who led the raid.

Simple logic says it's just not so. People of my age, late teens and early twenties at the time, were not dancing to Judy Garland in the Stonewall. We were dancing to Diana Ross, Beatles, and Barbara Streisand. My best memory is dancing to the Fifth Dimension song "Let The Sunshine In," which is from the musical "HAIR." Judy Garland was of an older generation. We wanted to dance our asses off when we were in Stonewall, and that you didn't do to Garland's music.

But the final nail in the Judy Garland myth are articles about the funeral at Campbell's Funeral home. If you look at the photos and reports in the New York Times, as well as other newspaper reports, you'll note that the subjects in the photos, as well as the majority of quotes, are from housewives. When you look more closely for the very few men in the photos, they're in suits and ties. We all know that is not the kind of person who fought at Stone-

see **STONEWALL,** *page 4*

LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH

12 New Kids' Books on LGBTQ History

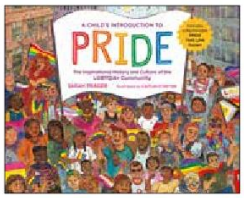
by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

LGBTQ history month is upon us, and the past 12 months have seen some great new kids' books about LGBTQ history, including several elementary-grade biographies of both well-known and lesser-known figures. For middle-graders, there's a terrific new overview of LGBTQ history, a biography of a transgender icon, and two works of historical fiction.

Elementary Grade

"The Mother of a Movement: Jeanne Manford--Ally, Activist, and Founder of PFLAG," by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Sam Kalda (Magination Press). A mov-

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 2*



"If 'Trick' were made today, I'd not have been cast in it. I consider myself lucky to have been part of this beautiful film."

—Christian Campbell discusses his role in the 1999 classic, which ultimately defined his career.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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Mombian

Continued from page 1

ing biography of Manford, as Sanders powerfully wields repetition and rhythm to show how a mother's love can stand up against forces of hate and change the world for the better.

"Dare to Question: Carrie Chapman Catt's Voice for the Vote," by Jasmine A. Stirling, illustrated by Udayana Lugo (Union Square Kids). Catt was president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association during the critical years immediately before and during passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. This lively biography includes recognition of her "partner for life," Mary Garrett Hay.

"Good Books for Bad Children: The Genius of Ursula Nordstrom," by Beth Kephart, illustrated by Chloe Bristol (Anne Schwartz Books). An upbeat biography of Nordstrom, the transformational editor of many classic children's books, including "Where the Wild Things Are," "Goodnight Moon," "Charlotte's Web," and "Harriet the Spy." When some people told her that certain stories were "too naughty, funny, or scary" for children, the book relates, she asserted, "There are all kinds of children who need all kinds of books"---a timely reminder. In her retirement, we learn, too, "she lived with Mary Griffith, the woman she loved."

"No Horses in the House! The Audacious Life of Artist Rosa Bonheur," by Mireille Messier, illustrated by Anna Bron (Orca). A lighthearted and lightly fictionalized biography of 19th-century French artist Rosa Bonheur. The focus here is on Bonheur's artistic development and early rejection of traditional roles (and dress) for women, but her "lifelong partner" of 40 years, Nathalie Micas, is mentioned briefly in a timeline at the end.

"A Storm of Horses: The Story of Artist Rosa Bonheur," written and illustrated by Ruth Sanderson (Crocodile Books), looks at the artist's life with a little more detail and a little less whimsicality than the above; each will appeal to different readers. Backmatter says that Bonheur "lived with a beloved lifelong partner, Nathalie Micas" and that "Many believe that Rosa was a lesbian, though she never spoke publicly about her preferences." The use of the dated term "preferences" is unfortunate, but otherwise, this is a thoughtful look at Bonheur's life.

"A Song for the Unsung: Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the 1963 March on Washington," by Carole Boston Weatherford and Rob Sanders, illustrated by Byron McCray (Henry Holt). A lyrical testament to Black, gay civil rights leader Rustin. The book not only tells of moments in his life, but also suggests relevant songs on each spread, drawn from the Black civil rights movement and Black spirituals, to help readers connect with the story in multiple ways.

"Unstoppable: How Bayard Rustin Organized the 1963 March on Washington," by Michael G. Long, illustrated by Bea Jackson (Little Bee). Another informative and intersectional look at the life and significance of Rustin, who "was proud of who he was—Black, gay, and an activist for peace."

"Hope for Ryan White," by Dano Moreno, illustrated by Hannah Abbo (Albert Whitman). In 1994, 13-year-old White was diagnosed with AIDS, after contracting it via a blood transfusion. He was not gay, but was the victim of homophobia-fueled fear of AIDS, and fought a headline battle to keep attending school. The book frames its difficult subject matter with a sensitive eye towards its young audience.

Middle Grade

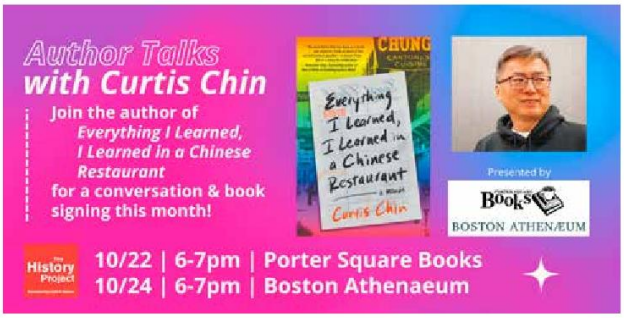
"A Child's Introduction to Pride: The Inspirational History and Culture of the LGBTQIA+ Community," by Sarah Prager, illustrated by Caitlin O'Dwyer (Black Dog & Leventhal). An engaging, systematic look at LGBTQ history and concepts from ancient times to the present. The book balances summaries of key events, movements, and people with thematic overviews of LGBTQIA+ contributions to the world and a look at successes and challenges today. There's also a pull-out poster with a timeline.

"Hispanic Star: Sylvia Rivera," by Claudia Romo Edelman and J. Gia Loving, illustrated by Cheyne Gallarde (Roaring Brook Press). An informative and welcome middle-grade biography of Stonewall participant and transgender icon Rivera. Content warning: Mention of her mother's death by suicide, and of the abusive behavior of her half-sister's father. Also available in Spanish.

"Flor Fights Back: A Stonewall Riots Survival Story," by Joy Michael Ellison, illustrated by Francesca Ficorilli (Stone Arch Books). A novel of historical fiction with a young trans protagonist of color, set in New York City at the time of the Stonewall Riots. Even purely nonfiction books about Stonewall for this age group rarely convey the happenings and significance of the event so clearly and with such impact.

"World Made of Glass," by Ami Polonsky (Little, Brown). Set in 1987 at the height of the U.S. AIDS epidemic, this historical novel is told from the perspective of seventh-grader Iris Cohen, whose dad came out as gay a year ago. When he dies from complications of AIDS, Iris grapples with grief and a deepening awareness of the bias and fear surrounding the disease. She becomes involved with the burgeoning ACT UP group, and the book takes a nuanced look at the birth pangs of this social justice movement, while also thoughtfully exploring one girl's response to a personal tragedy.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1400+ LGBTQ family books.



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Thursday, November 2 | 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday, November 3 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Stonewall

Continued from page 1

wall. Men who wore suits and ties ran from the police for fear of losing their good paying jobs or their families finding out about them. They were not the ones who resisted.

It's time to bury the Judy Garland myth for good. The myth makes Stonewall sound like the only riot in U.S. history where its participants fought for a silly cause. The truth is that we were fighting the hate and oppression of the police that night. We were not empowered by a dead singer. Let's put that coffin into the ground already.

2. Nobody knows exactly how many people were at Stonewall.

I was recently filming a BBC television show in front of the Stonewall when a tour group came by. The guide stated "There were 105 people in the bar that night." But nobody can possibly know how many people were there. Some people paid for entry and some were regulars that were let in without the door charge. But that number does give an idea of the average size of the crowd inside.

Then, as we all know, once police began letting people outside, those with any standing in society ran for the hills as soon as they could. Those of us who remained — street kids, drag queens (later to be called trans), people of color, and the verging radical gay youth of the day — gathered around the door in a semi circle

There were hundreds of passersby and even more who craned their necks from a distance. That night went on for hours, so anyone who was within a few blocks could say they were at Stonewall that night. But actually participating is another matter. Anyone who says they know how many people were there must not have actually been there, since it occurred in various areas of Christopher Street and around Christopher Street. You don't take a roll call in the middle of a riot.

Those people who tossed stones or cans of soda, or those wrote on the streets and walls "Tomorrow Night Stonewall" as I did all, went on to be a part of Gay Liberation Front (GLF) which arose from the ashes of Stonewall. Some GLF members were there during the first night. Other GLF members stood and spoke from the doors of the closed stonewall the second night. More GLF members began leafleting the following nights.

So who can we say was there? Well, anyone who had family in the area or a decent job ran for the subway or a cab as soon as they were let out of the bar. Who was left? Drag Queens, stereotypical men and women, street kids like me who were homeless or living at the YMCA, and young activists like Marty Robinson. Since the riot created the the urgency for change, Gay Liberation Front picked up that mantle and ran with it; Stonewall and GLF are synonymous. When asked who was there at Stonewall my answer is: Who was there the following night and the night after that? Who carried out that change through that first turbulent year? We have pictures and written accounts. This is no myth. There are facts in plain sight.

3. Stonewall lasted several days, and then an entire year.

There have been numerous suggestions about how long Stonewall lasted. At one museum I was speaking at — during the opening of their Stonewall Rising exhibit — they had a sign which stated one number. Then, someone else wrote about the exhibit and put another number. When I'm asked that question, I say confidently that Stonewall went on for 365 days, from the first night until the first Pride one year later. That spirit in June 1969 carried on with the changes that Gay Liberation brought from it. We were self identifying ourselves for the first time in history. We were out, loud, and proud rather than in the closet. We took back our streets from the police. We organized legal and medical alerts. We had social and political meetings. All of that threatened the police, since much of it was illegal for "homosexuals" and we did it in plain sight and even advertised it. We dared the police to stop us. One last thing: we were diversified and inclusive. It took 365 days to create that change.

4. There was no brick.

It is often stated that my fellow GLF member, Sylvia Rivera, threw the "first brick" at Stonewall. Although it's flashy and bombastic, that myth actually does not give her her rightful place in history. Both Sylvia and her GLF sister Marsha P. Johnson have spoken about where they were during Stonewall, and people today have either ignored their words or distorted them. But what cannot be disputed is that Sylvia and Marsha did something much more important than throwing an imaginary brick: they created the world's first Trans organization, Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries. STAR gave visibility and Pride to the Trans community for the first time in history. STAR was not one night but an entire movement. Sylvia is more of a historical figure for co-creating that first Trans organization than for being just one of a crowd at Stonewall. That cannot be disputed! And if you're still hung up on the brick idea, the New York Times did a video dispelling it in 2019.

5. Who created that first Gay Pride?

Here is an answer that is well documented and known by each of us who lived this history. The two people who actually came up with the idea of Pride were Craig Rodwell and Ellen Broidy. They were having dinner in Craig's apartment with their partners at the time, and they began putting down a resolution that would be read at the Eastern Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations meeting in Philadelphia. That resolution created the Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day committee, which went on to organize that first Pride one year after Stonewall.

It is often reported that the "mother" of Gay Pride is Brenda Howard. That is absolutely false. There are numerous members of Gay Liberation Front or Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day committee who are alive today. We know, because we were there when it took shape, who created Pride. If anyone is going to be deemed "mother of Pride" it's Ellen Broidy. Brenda Howard was a member of GLF, but she was not in any way associated with the formation of that first Pride other than to march in it. She may have someone editing Wikipedia on her behalf, but that doesn't make that falsehood any less false.

6. The most accurate history of Stonewall is a collective one

There are many views of Stonewall, but the majority of its participants went on to form GLF. They, we, are the spirit of Stonewall. Each GLF member who was there relies on their personal memories, and those memories collectively weave a fuller picture. Numerous books on the subject have been written. There are two books that stand out, the first book written on the subject was Donn Teal's The Gay Militants in 1971. The other is David Carter's Stonewall published in 2010. While Carter's version has some flaws, it comes closer to any version before or after. He wrote at a time when our community was beginning to realize the importance of Stonewall historically, and at a time that many different viewpoints took hold. He literally had to duck to keep out of the way of warring parties on the subject and which can be seen in other books.

David Carter continued to research the issue and had a passion to find the missing points and bring facts forward until his death in 2020. Others (who were not at Stonewall, mind you) unfortunately write with their bias at the forefront. Many of us who were there continue to pass on lost information or leads. We feel that our personal battle that night has been used to reinforce people's own misconceptions and political objectives.

It wasn't that single night that changed and built our community. It was from the ashes of that night that Gay Liberation Front created self identity, community, and pride. Change doesn't happen overnight. In this case the seeds of equality took 365 days to take root. It was that first magical year of gay liberation.

Mark Segal is an award-winning journalist, author, and Stonewall pioneer. More information on his 50 plus years of continuous activism can be found at marksegalstonewall.com/.

Ham

Continued from page 1

sakes with good reason. While set in the backyard of a house which the playbill indicates could be in Virginia, Maryland or Tennessee , "Fat Ham" resembles Shakespeare's play without copying it. Gay protagonist Juicy, "soft in body and temperament," has the demeanor of a thoughtful philosopher a la Hamlet himself. Some theatergoers may call to mind the Hebrew definition of Ham—warm, hot—as the title could be an allusion to his late Papi's restaurant.

As in Shakespeare's play, the uncle—here pig farmer and pit master Rev, a kind of Claudius, appears to be responsible for Papi's death (in prison, where he was imprisoned for the killing of a man with very bad breath) yet marries his brother's wife Tedra—a kind of Gertrude. Innocent Tedra submits that "They did it (marrying the brother's widow) in the bible all the time.

Bible buffs may call to mind Tamar's marriage to Onan after the death of his brother Eir in Genesis. Also, Ijames refers to the biblical story of Jacob and Esau as rivals for Isaac's blessing in seeing Rev as a "supplanter." Juicy's cousin and oldest friend Tio--a kind of Horatio-- advises about the depth of the cycles of violence—here vengeful violence demanded by the ghost of Papi.

Will Juicy continue the cycles? Studying human resources digitally at the University of Phoenix, he does not come across as the tough heir the ghost of Papi demands. Instead, he soliloquizes a la Hamlet about the majesty of man and does test Rev's conscience a la Hamlet's strategy with the visiting players' staging—here with the solution of a charade that reads "The Preacher Killed the Cook."

At the same time, decorated Marine Larry—a kind of Laertes but less confrontational than his Shakespearean counterpart—wants a 'softer' life and full connection with Juicy, whom, he admits, he would like to touch in more than a friendly way. Larry's spunky sister Opal—a kind of Ophelia—has same sex interests of her own-- interests that put her in conflict with their platitude-rich mother Rabby—a kind of Polonius. At one point, Tio coyly suggests that he is supposed to survive—as Horatio did in "Hamlet." Spoilers aside, expect closing surprises. With a combination of rich humor and subtextual seriousness, playwright Ijames provides a denouement quite different from Shakespeare's but one that fully celebrates individual freedom—particularly for the younger characters.

Director Stevie Walker-Webb skillfully balances the play's singular humor and smartly understated seriousness with strong individual performances and sharp ensemble moments. Marshall W. Mabry IV captures Juicy's inner strength and developing outer tenaciousness.

Ebony Marshall-Oliver has all of Tedra's maternal caring and snappy personal style as a newlywed. James T. Alfred proves equally convincing as the persistent ghost—who even emerges at the grill—and arrogant, self-serving Rev. Amar Atkins moves very convincingly from seeming stoicism to full emotional expression with Juicy. Lau'Rie Roach catches Tio's lively insights—notably in wonderfully amusing dialogue about gingerbread men. Victoria Omoregie finds Opal's sweetness and cockiness, and Thomika Marie Bridwell has Rabby's parental pushiness. High marks go to Luciana Stecconi's very well-detailed yard and back of house and Celeste Jennings' colorfully eclectic costumes.

Near the end of the play, Juicy observes that Larry looks like himself. Ultimately, the play's truthfulness about human connection makes "Fat Ham" a theatrical entrée to savor.

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Pontiff's synod is not with the times

by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

The Super Bowl of the Catholic Church, the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, commonly known as the Synod on Synodality, has Rome abuzz. For three weeks, from October 4 - 29, this 4th century tradition dating back to the beginning of Christianity has brought Catholics from around the world to Rome to discuss a range of topics confronting the present-day Church as it prepares to govern itself in the future.

For a church that moves at the rate of constipation concerning change, transparency, and accountability, this synod gathering is structured to have lots of firsts, a pivotal moment, if successful, that will be remembered as Pope Francis's legacy. Bishops, priests, religious and lay persons have helped set the agenda for the future, where voting members are not just bishops, and of the 450 members, approximately 378 are voting members, and 50 will be women. Women's ordination, women deacons and priests, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and ordination of married men are a few non-traditional topics on the docket for discussion.

The pontiff's opening and welcoming remarks to the general assembly suggest a church on the precipice of change, readying itself for restorative practices by listening to the voices of those often marginalized or excluded.

"The Church: a single harmony made up of many voices and the work of the Holy Spirit. That is how we should think of the Church. Each Christian community, each individual is distinctive, but this distinctiveness must be included in the symphony of the Church, and that symphony is made "just right" by the Spirit," Pope Francis told a rapt audience.

On October 3, the eve of the Synod meeting, Pope Francis sent shockwaves throughout the conference in his homily implying an openness to blessing same—sex unions, with caveats stating they are not equivalent to heterosexual marriages and should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

When Francis was asked by several of his cardinals to clarify his position on the matter in relation to Church doctrine, Francis unequivocally stated, "We cannot be judges who only deny, reject, and exclude."

While many will contest the explicit double standard in the pontiff's treatment on the matter, it has nonetheless left many LGBTQ+ Catholics hopeful, countering the Vatican policy, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, that flat-out stated in 2021 the Church couldn't bless same-sex unions because "God cannot bless sin."

While we continue to believe that legal and sacramental marriage equality is the goal, Pope Francis's statement that there may be ways for the Church to bless same-sex couples is an unexpected and welcome sign of openness," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, Executive Director of DignityUSA, the

see **MONROE,** *page 6*

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billy masters

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I start with a sad story for gays around the world. **Worthie Paul Meacham**, known to many as the larger-than-life drag queen **Momma**, passed away. He was one of the most visible and active drag personalities in California, and was seen by a larger audience in film and television (including the infamous **Madonna** episode of "Will & Grace"). On a personal level, the two of us hosted LA Pride together for a record-setting 7 consecutive years. Momma also had a charitable side, tirelessly volunteering for numerous organizations that serviced our LGBT community, including Project Angel Food (working alongside such folks as **George Michael, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle**). During the pandemic, Worthie found himself in need of their services. "I gave everything I could to an organization that is now there for me. How lucky am I? There is no shame in needing help. I don't believe in shame." When I wrote a profile on Worthie for the LA Blade in 2020, I asked his thoughts on how far our community has come. He was mostly hopeful, but added this: "I just wish people would be kinder. I wish people would be more understanding. And, damn it, I wish people were having more fun." Rest in peace, Momma!

Speaking of Project Angel Food, one of their most fervent supporters is our friend, **Sheryl Lee Ralph**. And what a few years Miss Ralph has been having—talk about "it gets better". You may recall we told you about a movie, "The Fabulous Four". It was about **Bette Midler** inviting her college pals to be bridesmaids at her wedding. Those friends were supposed to be **Susan Sarandon, Megan Mullally and Sissy Spacek**—so obviously they all graduated during different decades! Because of strike-related delays, Miss Spacek dropped out before filming resumed. Who could possibly hold her own against these powerhouses? Enter Miss Sheryl Lee Ralph! Congrats.

Recently, a curious film began shooting in Budapest. No, not a biopic about the **Gabor sisters**—but wouldn't that be a great idea? No, this is a biopic about **Maria Callas**—starring **Angelina Jolie**, naturally. It depicts the last decade of the diva's life, which includes her relationship with **Aristotle Onassis**, played by Turkish actor **Haluk Bilginer**. Lemme get this straight—a movie about a couple of Greeks living in Paris being filmed in Hungary? Makes sense to me. Photos from the set have leaked, and Angie certainly has Callas' eyeliner down to a T.

Didya know we have **Dawn French** to thank for the "Absolutely Fabulous" film? She made a bet with her comedy partner, **Jennifer Saunders**, on a live BBC radio show. Jennifer was procrastinating writing the film. Dawn, tired of hearing these promises, said, "If you haven't written it by this time next Christmas, you will owe me a hundred thousand pounds. By this time next year, or you owe me a hundred grand." Bing, bang, boom—the script was written. French has worked her magic again. On the **French & Saunders** podcast "Titting About", they recounted the old bet (which they say was for 10 grand—but you can hear the original on BillyMasters.com). Jennifer now says, "I need to write a film or a series based on 'AbFab'...I want to do something related." Dawn made Saunders promise to write "a serious first draft of a film related to 'AbFab' by the 31st of December." Jennifer then walked over to Dawn and shook hands. French triumphantly exclaimed, "There's a deal for a new 'AbFab' product."

The UK daily show "This Morning" has been plagued with upheaval this past year. First, aging heartthrob **Phillip Schofield** left the show in disgrace once his romance with a much younger male underling went public. Now his co-host, **Holly Willoughby**, has abruptly quit. The rather milquetoast lass is hardly a lightning rod for scandal. And yet, it was revealed that a man had been planning to kidnap and murder Willoughby! To put this in context, it would be as if someone wanted to harm **Savannah Guthrie**—and I'm not entirely sure who she is! While the plot against Holly was revealed in plenty of time, she made the decision to step away from the show to protect her family. However, rumors already swirl that she is poised to sign onto an as-yet unnamed BBC project. Stay tuned.

As a devotee of "Frasier", I eagerly awaited this new version. Based on limited viewing, I can say it has many good things going for it. **Kelsey Grammer** slips into the character like a warm, inviting bath—an analogy I've never used before, but seems apt. For the past 20 years, he lived in Chicago with **Laura Linney** and had a TV talk show. Now he's moved back to Boston, and he's surrounded himself with some new cohorts. Most effortlessly cast is **Nicholas Lyndhurst** as Frasier's college friend (fun fact—Kelsey met Lyndhurst in 2019 when they appeared in "Man of La Mancha" for the English National Opera). **Toks Olagundoye** is wry and winning as Harvard's psychiatric department head. **Anders Keith** as Niles and Daphne's son is a gifted physical comedian who might prove an intriguing comic foil. While **Jess Salgueiro** has some appeal, her character is completely superfluous. That leaves us with **Jack Cutmore-Scott** as Frasier's son Freddy—aka Frederick Gaylord Crane. He's obviously there as a surrogate for Martin Crane—a public servant at odds with his pretentious papa. They have little chemistry, which may be a plus. However, one laments that nobody asked **Trevor Einhorn**—the best-known Freddy from the original show—to reprise the role.

I never really cared about **Jada Pinkett Smith**—although I think she's quite striking. I also think she's a lying sack of s*it. Strike that—I know she's a lying sack of s*it. And you know who called her on it? **Hoda Kotb**, of all people (well, she knows a liar when she's talking to one). Hoda said, "I feel like you're a straight talker." Jada nodded. "I am." Kotb hastened to add, "Except you're not sometimes." And that, my darlings, is how it's done.

We just heard that **Madonna's** new shows will feature 3 songs never before sung on tour—which, if one is being completely accurate, probably refers to more than just 3 songs. The concert is staged like a musical biography, including (and I quote) "spectacular acting and breathtaking choreography". This all sounds terribly exciting, but it does beg one very important question—who on Earth will play Madonna?

Our actual "Ask Billy" question this week comes from Chad in Miami: *"I just saw some really hot photos of **Zane Phillips** in torn underwear. What's that all about?"*

Here's a question that...how shall we say, piqued our interest. The lovely Zane Phillips indeed did a rather risqué pictorial in some rather battered briefs—with a most provocative tear in the back. How can we say this delicately? He's sporting a gaping hole in the vicinity of his gaping hole. And I'd be mighty happy to try and score a hole in one—and I don't even play football! What's left of the briefs in question comes from Dsquared2. What they know about Phillips' proclivities is under wraps. But the rest is on display at BillyMasters.com.

When someone has the good sense to uncover Zane's bottom, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. As we went to press, we learned of the passing of **Suzanne Somers**. She was always lovely to me—I usually saw her with her bestie, **Barry Manilow**. All sorts of timely news can be found on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that's willing to master whatever you've got between your thighs. Drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Photo via www.hupfatenlandbooking.com

Worthie Paul Meacham/Momma

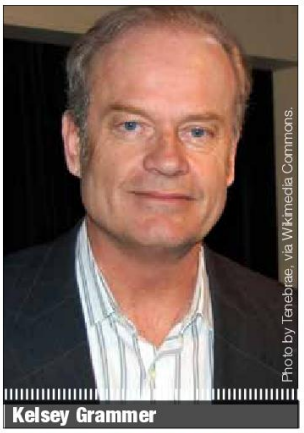
Photo by Tenebrae. via Wikimedia Commons.

Kelsey Grammer

Photo via Wikimedia Commons.

Suzanne Somers

Monroe

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world's oldest organization of LGBTQIA+ Catholics, and a member of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics. "The sacredness and grace in the relationships between people of the same sex, or where one or more partners are transgender, deserve affirmation and support. Hearing the Pope acknowledge this will give hope to many Queer people, as well as to their families and friends who are Catholic."

With the theme of communion, during the second week (Oct. 9-12) of the general assembly, tensions rose about how the Church can extend its welcome to LGBTQ+ parishioners. Due to both anonymity and confidentiality, only those in the closed discussions knew what was said. However, the chorus leaks from the talks "expressed skepticism toward efforts to better integrate LGBTQ Catholics into the church's ministries."

The Catholic Church still excludes the LGBTQ+ community from officially receiving any sacraments. Since 2015, DignityUSA, headquartered in Boston, has advocated for "sacramental equality" in the Catholic Church. Holy Communion and funeral rites are not offered to its LGBTQ+ parishioners. From 2020-2023, I thought the Church would change its view. With COVID-19 death rates hitting the LGBTQ+ community globally as hard as other minority communities worldwide, one would think the Church could put aside its homophobia.

"The Church is open to everyone, but there are laws that regulate life inside the church," Francis said in August. "According to the legislation, they cannot partake in (some) sacraments. This does not mean that it is closed. Each person encounters God in their own way inside the Church."

On October 13, the synod moved to the theme of "mission, "meaning the role of women in ministry, including the possibility of the ordination of women to the diaconate.

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The polarization we see in society is also reflected in the Church. Pope Francis invited the Church body into what he hoped would begin the process of change, healing, and respecting the inviolable dignity of all people. However, the synod might run out of time with one remaining week left.

ALX100

Continued from page 1

kind traveling installation that will showcase the ALX100 honorees and Amplify LatinX collaborators. The exhibition was publicly unveiled at the MFA Boston's Latinx Heritage Night celebration on September 21, 2023 and will later travel across Massachusetts until 2024.

"We are thrilled to launch this historic initiative that promotes and preserves our community's heritage to ensure that Latinx individuals see themselves reflected in various forms of media and literature. The amplification of these stories provides role models for younger generations, inspiring them to pursue their dreams and break barriers. Additionally, these positive representations enable allies from different backgrounds to learn about Latinx traditions, values, customs, and history, fostering cultural understanding, appreciation, and removal of negative stereotypes." emphasized Amplify LatinX Co-Founder Eneida M. Román.

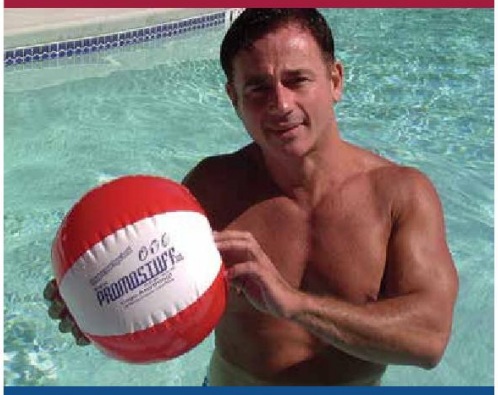
According Amplify LatinX, Amplifiers are leaders, risk-takers, quiet disruptors, and outspoken advocates from all industry sectors, who inspire us each day to uplift our Latinx community. Their stories encompass a highly diverse group of incredible people with distinct histories, professions, cultures, languages, traditions, and identities. The campaign took place during Hispanic Heritage Month.

"The Latino community in Massachusetts is hardworking, strong and resilient. They make incredible contributions to our communities and our economy every day," said Honorary Chair, Governor Healey. "I am proud to celebrate with Amplify LatinX and honor the history, culture, and achievements of Latinos in our communities."

Below are the LGBTQ+ honorees:

- **Andrés Holder**, Boston Children's Chorus, Executive Director.
- **Corean Reynolds**, City of Boston, Director of Nightlife Economy.
- **Grace Moreno**, MA LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director.
- **Isis J. Ortiz-Belton**, Eastern Bank, Vice President, Commercial Banking.
- **Iván Espinoza-Madrigal**, Lawyers for Civil Rights, Executive Director.
- **Ivanna Solano**, Love Your Magic, Co-Founder and Executive Director.
- **Jay Calderín**, Boston Fashion Week, Founder/Executive Director.
- **Jim Canales**, Barr Foundation, President and Trustee.
- **Jonathan Guzman**, Lawrence School Committee, Vice-Chair.
- **Josianne Martinez**, Archipelago Strategies Group (ASG), CEO & Founder.
- **Laura Camila Rivera**, CAMI Studio, CEO of CAMI Studio.
- **Marcony Almeida Barros**, Office of the Governor Maura T. Healey, Deputy Chief of Staff, Access, Engagement & Opportunity
- **Mariangely Solis Cervera**, City of Boston, Chief of Equity and Inclusion.
- **Marie-Frances Rivera**, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, President.
- **Mayrena Guerrero**, Colorful Resilience LLC, CEO
- **Nicole Ortiz**, Crave restaurant and food truck, Owner.
- **Sam Montaño**, MA House of Representatives, State Representative.
- **Susana Rodriguez**, Family Health Center of Worcester, Director of School Based Health Centers.
- **Wilnelia Rivera, Rivera Consulting**, Inc, President & Founder
- **Xiomara Albán DeLobato**, Western Mass Economic Development Council, Vice President and Chief of Staff

HOT IDEAS



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