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2014 Guide to HOUSTON RIDE MAGAZINE

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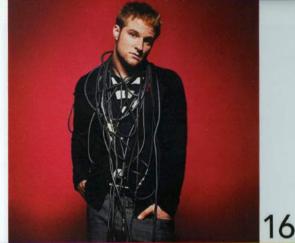
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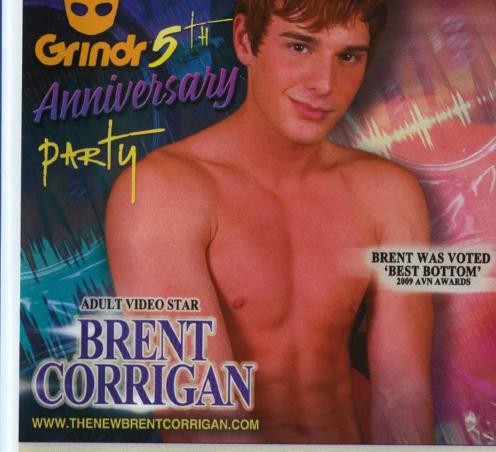
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Blake Lewis



Growing up with a gay best friend Blake Lewis never thought twice about equality. "Everyone should be able to love whoever they want." Blake Lewis tells AbOUT magazine in an exclusive interview.

"Everyone should be able to love whoever they want. I am a firm believer of that and was raised to be accepting of everyone."

The runner-up on the sixth season of American Idol hits Rainbow on The Green in downtown Houston this year.

Blake is a very relaxed person when we spoke of his musical goals. "I have met so many of them already." He tells us about his goals. "Another would be to be on Broadway. "

Admitting that the only new love in his life is "my new album," Blake tells us he spent the last two years handcrafting his album, writing and producing the entire cd.

We must also note that Lewis was named number five in the list of the ten sexiest Idol contestants ever. We sure are excited to see this!



When Usher gives adv a you listen! "Listen to yourself and Breathe!" /lichelle tells AbOUT Magazine. This beautif I former 'Voice' contestant that is openly o t with her partner Mary. She admits that talking to the media about her personal life is a strugge.

Michelle Chamuel is of the headliners that Discovery Green's 'Raibow on The Green' will showcase this next wek for kick off to Pride in Houston.

"Go Down Signing" is song that has a bit of a complex history she sets. "Stemming from the anti-bullying concept T eo Katzman and Tyler Duncan conceived which writing the original track before I was brought in" she stated! "The song's meaning has developed over time. But to sum it all up in one chunk: this song is about finding the strength to be yourself and loving that."



Derrick Berry returns to Houston this Pride season as one of the co-headliners for Rainbow on The Green. Derrick, a female impersonator and cast member of Divas Las Vegas at the Quad. But might be better known as one of the greatest Britney Spears impersonators in the world!

Being Britney isn't easy according to Derrick. "The dancing is always the hardest for me, because she has been training since she was like 2 or maybe 3 years old. I'll just watch her videos and study them and do the dance until I feel like it's perfect enough to go onstage. It's like impersonating Janet Jackson—you have to dance. And if you're not dancing then people are going to be like, "Uh, what are they doing?"

Make sure to catch Derrick's amazing show this year.

by Blake Maples

Junday All Male Revue Show | 10PM Happy Hour All Day & Night

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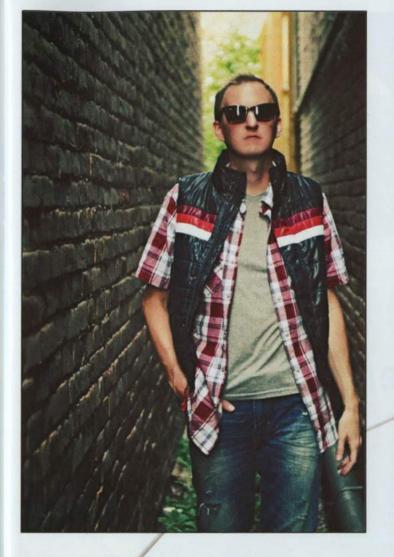
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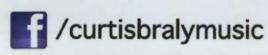
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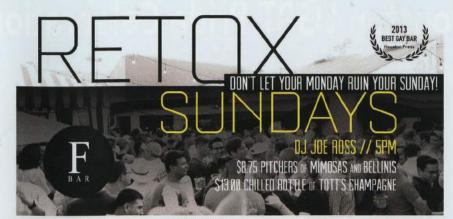






CMT Artist - Curtis Braly LIVE at Pride Houston 2014







THURSDAYS // 10-2

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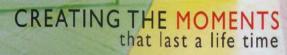
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2014

Houston LGBT Pride Celebration

What You Need To Know



bout the Festiva

With more than 200 contingents and exhibitors, multiple stages, and attendance of more than 65,000 people, the Festival has something for everyone.

With exhibits like the Houston Dynamo Family Fun Zone, the Walgreens Health & Wellness Pavilion, the Houston LGBT History Exhibit and a whole cast of music performers including our Pride Superstar contestants, past and present. Admission is free, but donations for support can be given at the information booths at either entrance to the Festival.

Most exhibitors and food vendors only accept cash, and ATMs are available on-site until 7 p.m. or at local businesses.

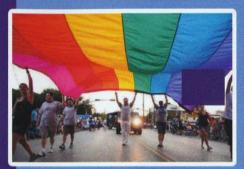


About the Parade

The Parade, held along Westheimer Rd. between Dunlavy and Montrose Blvd, features more than 100 organizations and businesses supporting and celebrating the Houston LGBT

community. The Parade draws more than 400000 people in total, making it the second largest parade in Houston. The Parade pre-show beginning at 7:30 p.m. will be at 7:30 p.m. on Westheimer/Waugh.

Grandstand seating is available in our Friends of Pride VIP Area (seating, private restrooms, complimentary food, cocktails and water are available), and general bleacher seats (non-alcoholic beverages and water are available for sale, and private restrooms) are available as well



into the Festival or Parade:

All areas of the Festival and Parade are smoke-free, and no outside beverages or alcohol may be brought into the festival, VIP area or general bleachers. Be sure to stay hydrated.

In the interest of general safety, please refrain from bringing in the following

Alcohol (open container laws and city ordinances still apply) Inline Skates Laser pointers Radios Skateboards/Scooters Fireworks Weapons/Firearms Pets or animals (we love animals, but for their safety, leave them at home)

Road Closures

The following streets will be closed Friday June 27 to Sunday, June 29 at 3 a.m. Yoakum Boulevard between Westheimer and Hawthorne Lovett Boulevard between Graustark and Montrose Commonwealth Boulevard between Westheimer and Lovett Mt. Vernon Street between Westheimer and Lovett Yoakum between Westheimer and California St

Location: Where are the Festival and Parade?

The Festival is located in the Montrose neighborhood south of Westheimer along the streets of Commonwealth and Yoakum.

The Pride Houston Parade is located in the Montrose neighborhood running along Westheimer between Dunlavy and Montrose Blvd.



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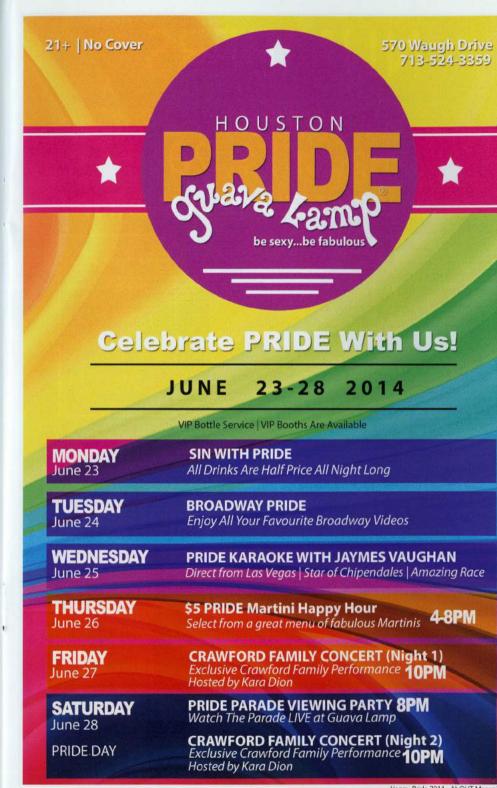
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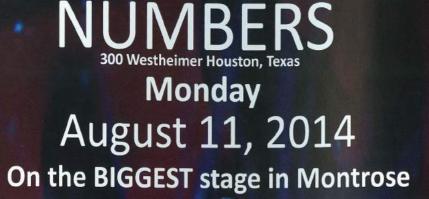
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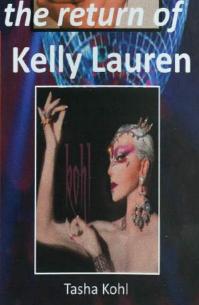
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AbOUT Magazine Guide to Pride 2014 Special Edition

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will feature some of the hottest models in Houston walking the catwalk in this summer'slatest styles in underwear and everything to wear on top.

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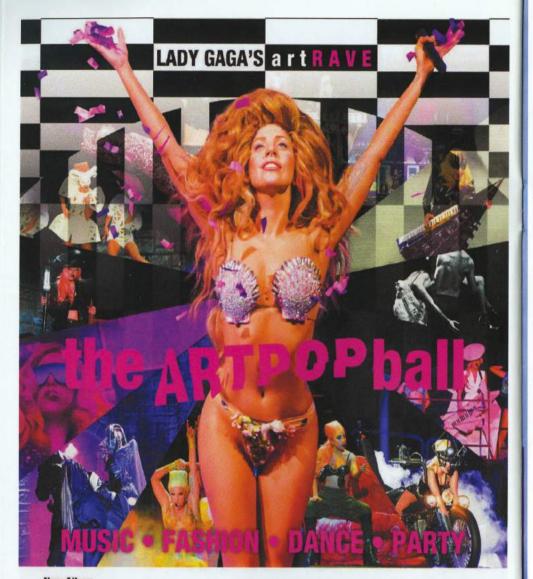
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LIVING THE RAINBOW. THIS PRIDE By Chuck Rocafort

In his gripping trilogy, Living The Rainbow, Hans M. Hirschi presents three very different and deeply moving portraits of gay family life. While each is a complete story on its own, they share common themes, exploring the devastating impact of death. the deep wounds left by abuse, the damage wreaked by homophobia, and, ultimately, the power of love to overcome and heal,

The compilation is comprised of Hans M. Hirschi's bestselling novels "Family Ties", "Jonathan's Hope" & "The Opera House".

What makes Living the Rainbow the perfect summer beach read?

I like to think the trilogy will make readers laugh, cry, and reflect on how they live their lives and with whom they will spend their futures.

How do the books reflect your own experience as a gay man?

"Family Ties" draws heavily on personal experiences. Close friends may recognize some of the stories in it. In the other novels, my experience is woven in but more from a philosophical point of view. I reflect on things that were on my mind while writing. Things like: how does one start fresh after a relationship breaks down? What makes relationships last? How will it be to have children?

Do you intentionally keep the sexuality G-rated? In my stories, sex serves a purpose of bringing the story forward. My novels aren't meant to be erotica or romance.

How have gay novels changed in the last few years?

There has been a move away from portraying gay men as lonely characters. Today's gay novels tend to focus on social issues as well as love and romance. Lthink that's healthy. I only wish gay fiction would find an audience with heterosexual readers, the way TV shows like Modern Family and Glee have. It would help to deepen their understanding on how gays live.

LIVING THE RAINBOW A gay family triptych



HANS M. HIRSCHI

THREE NOVELS

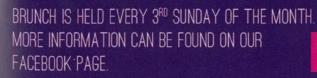
What's next?

I'm working on my fourth novel, about a boy in the 1980s who sets out to see the world. The book deals with gay life from the period, including HIV/AIDS and coming out and how these issues affected gay men.

Living The Rainbow is available on Amazon.com.



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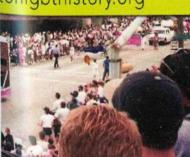


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Christina Gorczynski

Christina Canales Gorczynski is a native Houstonian and community leader in our city's vibrant LGBTQ community. Christina is pas sionate about advancing the rights of the LGBTQ community in Houston and beyond.

She is an award-winning activist, volunteer, and visionary. She's thrilled to do more for the community this year on the national level as the co-chair for the

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change 2014.

From volunteering on campaigns for LGBTQ candidates like Mayor Annise Parker and Senator Tammy Baldwin to fundraising for pro-LGBTQ organizations, Christina demonstrates a passion to progress the LGBTQ community.

Christina understands that progress in the LGBTQ movement is ongoing and young leaders are vital to our success. Christina served on the board of the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston and founded the Emerging Leaders Award for LGBTQ law students. Christina holds a JD/MBA from the University of Houston.

As President of OutLaw, Christina expanded the LGBTQ law student organization and hosted the first Annual Pride Week at the law school. As a tireless advocate for full equal rights for all people, Christina received the President's Medal from the League of Women Voters of Houston and the Young Alumni Award from her alma mater Beloit College, from which she holds a degree in Women's Studies. Christina also serves as Executive Director of the Museum District Business Alliance, an organization that promotes arts and enterprise in Houston's Montrose and Museum District, and she manages community relations for the Bayou City Art Festival, an organization founded by the late Jay Hollyfield.

When Christina is not volunteering, she is working with nonprofits and socially responsible for-profit companies through her strategic planning firm, First Person. As the CEO of First Person, she spends her days working with her team and client teams to design and im-plement growth plans with progressive local and national organiza-tions. As a licensed attorney with the State Bar of Texas and a certified mediator, Christina has a unique set of experience and skills.





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2014 Grand Marshals Male Grand Marshal



JD Doyle's involvement with the Queer Voices radio show, on KPFT, in a way was accidental. Back in late 1999 he got into the habit of calling Jimmy Carper, producer of the show After Hours, nudging him to play more music by LGBT artists, as they just do not get the exposure they deserve.

J.D. Doyle

Jimmy finally just said, "Why don't you come on and play some," and he did. That resulted in his hosting a segment on Queer Voices. The monthly show is Queer Music Heritage, and it takes a music history/entertainment approach.

Now in its 14th year, on the huge QMH wesbite all past shows are archived, along with hundreds of pages of photos of the artists and recordings. From AIDS, to Drag Kings, to Same-Sex Marriage, Women's Music, Transgender Artists, Female Impersonation, Harvey Milk, Stonewall, and on and on.

The website has become basically the only source on the internet of information on the overall contributions music has added to our LGBT culture. From 2001 through 2010, he was also co-producer of Audiofile, a segment airing on This Way Out on over 200 stations globally. And in January of 2010 he founded the show OutRadio, to give exposure to mostly new LGBT recordings.

A recent project is QMH101, a lesson created for use in University courses on LGBT studies, where information on our music culture up to now has been essentially missing. In the Spring of 2012 the Committee on LGBT History (San Francisco) presented him with the Allan Bérubé Prize, which recognizes Outstanding work in public community-based LGBT History. In the Fall of 2013 he produced a benefit CD, called "House Blend," for the Houston Transgender Foundation Building Fund.

He has two new websites this year, one at **www.HoustonLGBTHistory.org** to share information on local history, such as including downloadable PDF files of all the Pride Guides, and info on LGBT bars and businesses of the past, and quite a bit more. A new project he is excited about is an online statewide database of obituaries, mostly from "This Week In Texas" and other publications.

The data of course heavily reflects the "AIDS years" and he views the site as honoring those we have lost and providing the information to those left behind. It's a growing site with over 4500 entries so far and can be found at www.TexasObituaryProject.org.

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Is Raph Solo Man Enough?

Euro pop star Raph Solo has been called the gay Julio Iglesias. In his latest release, the passionate crooner with the giant guns and chiseled abs explores the "You want to be my boyfriend but have sex with other people?" conundrum.

"Monogamy in the 21st Century" is part music video, part talk show, part therapy session. Playing on Youtube now, it features four songs – "It's Not Gonna Work 4 Me", "Exit", "Lonely Playboy" and "Let's Make Love" – all from Solo's new album, Am I Too Much?

Do you really believe men were meant to be monogamous?

I am a man and I am monogamous. I believe in the ability to be monogamous when a man makes the choice to be. It is a choice.

Why is monogamy so important to you? Monogamy is about mutual respect. If I choose to be with someone, I want to focus exclusively on him. In return, I deserve to be treated the same.

Your album is Am I Too Much? Are you? Maybe the question should be am I enough? I don't think it's wrong to want to feel like I am enough for one person.

What demands do you place on a lover? None. I let my man act how he will. If it feels right for me to continue with him, based on how he treats me, then I do. Why would I want to demand to be desired? It should be something that happens organically.

By Mike Bah

Are you a sexual person?

I believe sex is a physical expression of love so yes, I am.

Is a relationship over once the intimacy dies?

For me, a relationship is not over until a person chooses to stop trying. If intimacy dies, it can be brought back to life. Love was made to be resurrected. I believe in second, third and even fourth chances.

What's next?

I don't know what the future holds. I am an artist that is inspired by experiences. live day by day.

Visit www.raphsolo.com and www.youtube.com/mrraphsolo

The Montrose Softball League

Wishes You A HAPPY PRIDE 2014



2014 Grand Marshals



Ally Grand Marshal Sarah & Fernando Aramburo

Sarah and Fernando Aramburo have been active in the LGBT community for many years. Fernando has served on the Bering Omega introducing a new generation of supporters to the HIV/AIDS charity.

Sarah has served on the Bering Omega Young Professionals Board for 4 years as a member, Secretary and now Chairman. Together they have enthusiastically raised awareness, support and funds for the LGBT community. Fernando has chaired the Bering Omega AIDS WALK team and contributed in raising a record breaking amount for the team.

Fernando and Sarah have chaired and hosted a number of galas, events, parties, fundraisers and socials in the name of raising support and awareness in LGBT community. Every year they host THE Annual Halloween Party benefitting Bering Omega Community Services for 500+ quests at their home.

The party has received recognition by the community for its fundraising and it's outrageous fun and costumes.

They attend the Pride Parade by walking and decorating the annual Bering Omega Community Services entry float for the Parade. Last year they attended the PRIDE parade with their biggest accom-plishments, brand new boy/girl twins.

They plan on attending the parades with their twins in the future. As a couple they own and run **Dolce Vita Day Spa** and a medical spa, Body Envy Houston in the Montrose area.

Their companies regularly sponsor and donate to different galas and events throughout the year and encourage their employees and clients to participate and volunteer. Their energy and enthusi-asm is evident in all they do and put their efforts toward. www.3rdcoastdowntown.com

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