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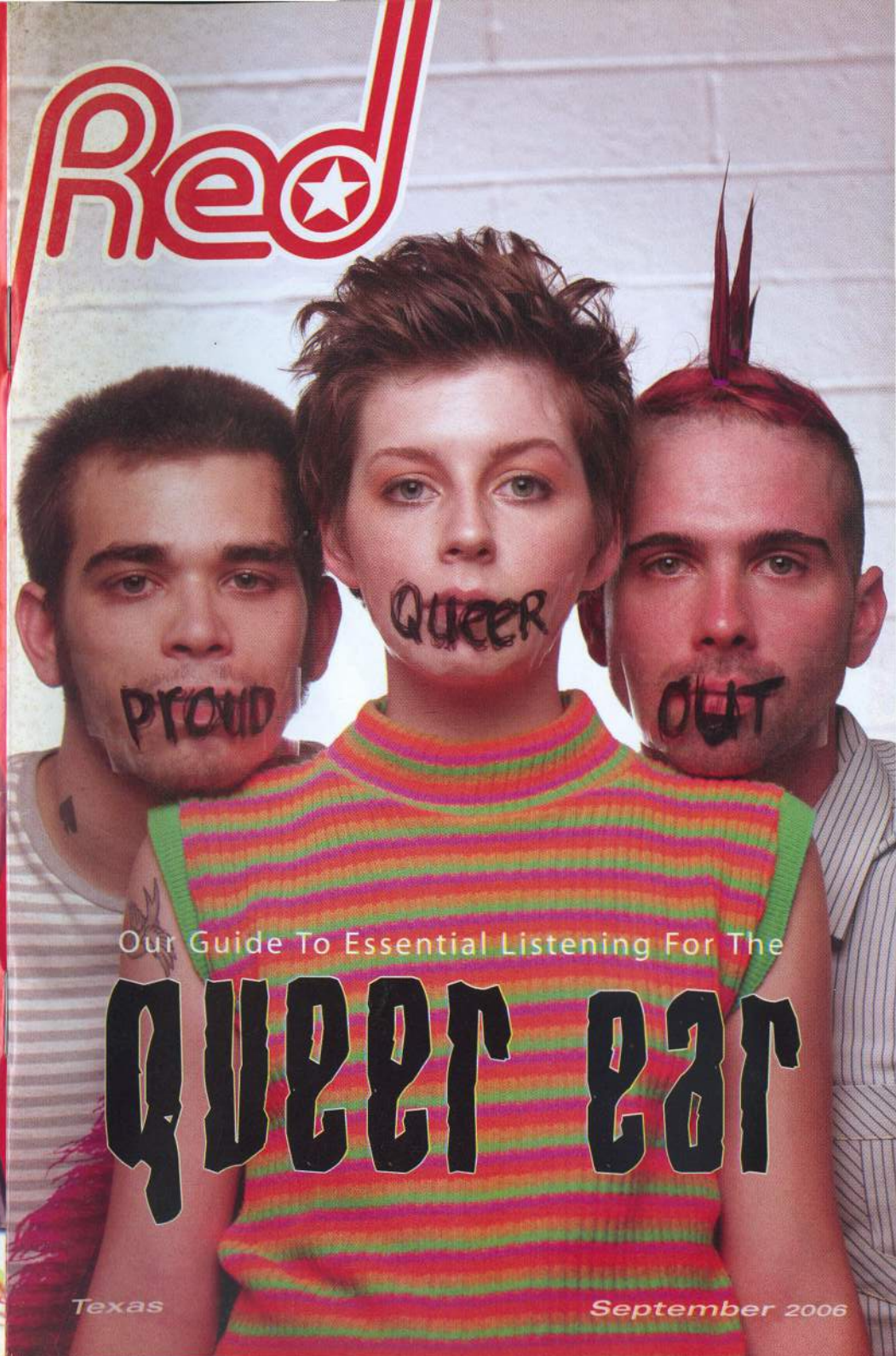
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Our Guide To Essential Listening For The

# QUEER EAR

Texas

September 2006



Great News for Homos in The Heights!

**EJ's**

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**\$1 Vodka**

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**Wednesdays at In-N-Out**

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**September 9**

**3rd Annual  
"Men In Heat"  
Porn Party**

**SEVERAL  
PAGES OF  
FULL-PAGE  
ADS WERE  
OMITTED**

**Gage  
Weston**

**HEAT**

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September 2006

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*On the Cover*

CERDA  
Modern Amusement Pink Feather  
Striped Tee, \$48.

LEVI  
Paul Frank Blue Pinstripe Button Down,  
\$66.50; 1900 Handmade Tie, \$66.

*This Page*  
CHELSEA  
Krelwear Knit Top/Skirt in Orange, \$115.

*Find out where to buy on page 29*

**Red**

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In This Issue

**Guava Lamp**  
video and lounging at its finest

**Karaoke Night**

**GREAT PRIZES!  
DRINK SPECIALS!**

**Our Song List  
Contains Over  
20,000 Songs!**

**Sundays**  
**CASH PRIZE**  
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*the law*

*david salcido*

**Out. Proud. Queer.** This month's cover may seem a bit inflammatory, but when you consider that these are three words used to describe Queer Music, it becomes less a political statement and more an acknowledgement of a genre that rarely gets the respect it deserves. Especially by the gay community. Why? That's a good question. Why does Cher sell out every time she does yet another leg of her interminable farewell tour? Because the one thing most gay people have in common is, when it comes to music, if they can dance to it, it's sure to be a hit. Savvy record producers (and never-say-die dance divas) know this better than anyone.

The purpose of this issue, then, is to show all you nelly fags out there that there's more to Queer Music than **Madonna**, **Christina** or plug-in-your-favorite-dance-diva-here. Also, just because a song has sixteen different DJ club mixes, doesn't necessarily make it Queer (though it does definitely make it Gay). And, finally, gay culture actually does extend beyond the hair salon, the clothing boutique and the club door. Because, let's face it, vapid, shallow and cute are soooo last century. The good stuff has substance and, guess what? It also matters.

The history of Queer Music is the history of music that shapes our social consciousness. From the early 70s, when gender benders like the **New York Dolls**, **David Bowie** and **Iggy Pop** turned the newly minted Rock 'n Roll on its melodic ear, through the 80s, when synth pop bands like **Culture Club**, **Erasure** and the **Pet Shop Boys** once again redefined androgyny and the 90s, when out and proud artists like **Melissa Etheridge**, **Brian Grillo** and the **Indigo Girls** made it okay to talk about being gay in music, the world has slowly come to realize, through music, that we are indeed here and Queer.

The new century continues that venerable tradition with more and more independently produced Queer artists cropping up on an almost daily basis. Talented, intelligent and socially conscious, some win prestigious magazine awards, others get Internet accolades, while still others go the grass roots route of touring and building a fanbase the old fashioned way. Many may never become MTV darlings or have their songs remixed for mass consumption. Most will be lucky to find any kind of acceptance at all in the mainstream. All, however, will influence the future of Queer Music.

This issue is dedicated to all those Queer musicians; the ones who paved the way, the ones who refined the genre and those who have taken up the standard today. Inside you'll find interviews with two of the current pioneers who are reshaping Queer Music for the 21st century: **Jake Shears** of the **Scissor Sisters** and **Amanda Palmer** of the **Dresden Dolls**. You'll also find 20 more essential acts, both fresh faces and veteran performers, but all with one thing in common—recent releases worth listening to.

As a Queer Music lover, I urge you to take time out of your busy schedules to download a song or two from each of these artists. Let 'em roll around in your head for a while. Get to know something other than slick vocals, repetitive lyrics and droning back beats. If you find something you like, give a bitch a break and buy the CD. Immerse yourself in the music that's truly Queer. It may just expand your horizons a bit, forcing you to think outside of the boom box. Who knows, it could even change the way you view the world around you. Especially, as a gay man or woman in a rapidly changing society.

**David Salcido**  
Chief Word Dude and Expository Vivisectionist

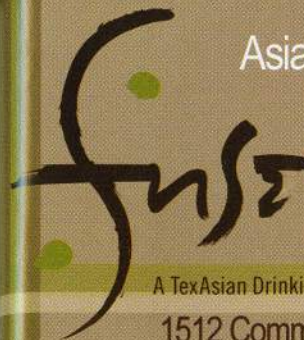


*Tell me about it..... Dave.*

Asian simplicity melds with Texas boldness

"★★★★ For Food" *Dallas Morning News*

Top 10 New Restaurants of 2005



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private dining and rooftop patio  
available for events





Two years ago, **Scissor Sisters** took your mama out all night and showed her what it's all about.

She hasn't been the same since, has she? Neither have they.

Now the group - a certified global phenomenon with more than 3 million records sold worldwide - doesn't have much boogie in their boots. At least according to the first single, *I Don't Feel Like Dancin'*, from their forthcoming release, *Ta-dah*, which drops Sept. 26. Co-written with Sir Elton John, this lead track off the Sisters' sophomore album is a delightful, disco-esque song about staying in and feeling miserable. The irony of it all? It makes your body rock harder than a happy ending.

There's more where that came from, too. *Ta-dah* is bursting with the melancholy magic that had you hooked with the Sisters' self-titled debut. It comes out swingin', and, like a pushy sibling, it won't let you go until you beg for mercy. Strident, stylish and sexual as ever, Scissor Sisters offer more cheap champagne on this latest release to let the good times all roll out.

*Abracadabra. Your bitches are back.*

**MK** Scissor Sisters' new album, *Ta-dah*, drops Sept. 26. What can you tell me about the record? What can your fans expect on your sophomore release?

**JS** It's a stormer - the sound is bigger; the songs are still all juxtapositions from one another. And it's very different, but it's definitely not a departure. It's a further realization of this band that dives a bit deeper than the first record. Whether anybody likes it or not, we love it like crazy. [We] worked our asses off on it and stand behind it 200 percent. We took our time and are very proud of it.

**MK** When you first moved to New York, you were a stripper in gay bars. Why'd you choose that line of work? Do you regret any part of that time in your life?

**JS** I danced/stripped/go-go'd because it was fun. It was a way that I could get the amount of attention I needed and perform. It was all really healthy. Do I regret anything? Absolutely not. I think I'd feel differently if I was still dancing on bars. Then I think I'd probably have a whole lot to regret.

**MK** When you and bassist/keyboardist Babydaddy hit it off in Kentucky, was it a romantic sort of relationship? Did you move to New York together to make it a go as a couple?

**JS** Before we met for the first time, we talked on the phone. I was thinking he could be really cute. But after we met, it wasn't like a sexy kind of thing. There was some sexual tension probably really early on. He was taking a road trip and stayed at my apartment in Seattle. But nothing ever happened. Of course, for the best. We might not be doing this otherwise. Now, he's like my wife. We spend more time together than anybody, and we get on remarkably well. But we definitely know how to push each other's buttons. If we're overly exhausted, we'll argue for hours over the color of a wall.

**MK** I heard you attended Elton John's "hen" party before his wedding to David Furnish. Does being invited to events like that make you feel like you've made it?

**JS** The party was a blast. It's just getting a bunch of people in a room, that's all. Love those guys. The vibe was really silly and sweet. The day I've felt like I've made it is the day I need to throw in the towel. And besides, anybody can be on a guest list.

**MK** Three of the members of the band - you, Babydaddy and guitarist Del Marquis - are openly gay. Not to imply that all gay friends sleep with each other, but have you tested the waters with each other?

**JS** Gross - no!

**MK** Just had to ask - inquiring minds want to know. [Laughs] Scissor Sisters' self-titled debut was first noticed in the U.K./Ireland. Why do you think the scene overseas was more accepting of your music at the time?

**JS** Our music can get played on the radio over there. Radio stations are independently owned, whereas you have like two companies in the states going from really strict playlists. In the United Kingdom, it feels like the public has a bit more power with their music. It's the highest record-buying population per capita in the world. I think that was a factor.

**MK** Thanks, Jake! The best of luck to you and the Sisters this fall.

**Michael A. Knipp** is a 25-year-old Baltimore-based freelancer and the founder of *Line/Byline Communications*. He can be reached at [mybyline@aim.com](mailto:mybyline@aim.com).

# TA DAH

## SCISSOR SISTERS RETURN

glam frontman JAKE SHEARS cuts loose in an exclusive interview



by Michael A. Knipp





calendar

aug 06

## san antonio

Heat

\$1 Dom, \$2 Well  
4pm - 3amMale Strip Off  
\$2 Dom & Well

75c Well Drinks All Night

The Main Event  
\$2 Well Drinks & Dom80's Night  
\$1.75 Well All NightSan Antonio's #1  
Dance ClubSuper Sunday Show  
\$2 Dom & Well

## dallas

Fuse

4pm - 7pm  
\$3 Drinks, \$1 Bites4pm - 7pm  
\$3 Drinks, \$1 Bites4pm - 7pm  
\$3 Drinks, \$1 Bites4pm - 7pm  
\$3 Drinks, \$1 Bites4pm - 7pm  
\$3 Drinks, \$1 Bites4pm - 7pm  
\$3 Drinks, \$1 Bites

Closed

Illusions

\$2.75 Mojitos &amp; Martinis

\$3 Tequila

\$3 You Call It

\$2 Doms, 4 - 8pm

\$2 Doms, 4 - 8pm

Showtime Drink Specials,  
9pm - Midnight

\$1.50 Well All Day &amp; Night

JR's Dallas

Alternative Music Night  
\$2 Dom Draft & WellValerie Lohr  
Newcomer Nite\$2.75 Well & Dom  
\$2 Select DraftEdna's Angels, 11pm  
\$2.75 Well & DomCruisin' The Crossroads  
\$2.75 Well & Dom\$3 Well & Dom  
\$2 Select Draft\$2 Well & Dom  
\$3 Premium Draft

S4

Dark

Dark

\$2.75 Well & Draft  
\$3.25 Dom Bottles\$2.75 Well & Draft  
\$3.25 Dom Bottles\$3.75 Well, \$2.75 Draft  
\$3.75 Dom Bottles\$3.75 Well, \$2.75 Draft  
\$3.75 Dom Bottles\$2.75 Well & Draft  
\$3.25 Dom Bottles

## houston

Blur

-

-

Ladie's Night  
\$2 Longs/\$4 Martinis"Mix" Night  
\$3 Doms/\$3 Well

DJ Awesome

DJ Mike Show

\$2 Well Until 10pm

Guava Lamp

SIN Night, Free Pool  
Happy Hour, 4 - 8pmPhat \$3 Martini  
Happy Hour, 4 - 8pmHappy Hour, 4 - 8pm  
Karaoke w Todd, 10pm\$3 Long Island Ice Tea  
Happy Hour, 4 - 8pmHappy Hour, 4 - 8pm  
Appetizers@5pmDJ Joe Ross  
Happy Hour, 4 - 8pmRecovery Sunday Karaoke Conte  
DJ Chris Allen, 2 - 8pm

JR's

Male Dance Contest  
With Kofi2xist Amateur Strip  
Contest w Kofi + RoxanneKofi's Request Night  
Male Strip ContestKaraoke w Marsha  
Carlton 9pm

Block Party

Block Party

Karaoke w Marsha Carlton,  
Kofi & Lana Blake

Meteor

Musical Theater Night  
Every 1st & 3rd Monday

Bingo!

Professional Women's  
Happy Hour

Hedda Layne Live

DJ Tad Dvorak Spins  
Hottest Music + VidsDJs Tad Dvorak + Mark  
Goebel

Karaoke Idol

Rich's

Private Parties  
& Special EventsPrivate Parties  
& Special EventsPrivate Parties  
& Special EventsHouse + Hip Hop  
by DJ RealFusion; DJ Marc Nicholson  
80s, 90s + today Club HitsSoundfactory Saturday  
XM Radio DJ Mark D.Private Parties  
& Special Events

South Beach

Closed

Closed

Café con Leche  
DJ CubanitoDJ Mark  
Goebel SpinsResident DJ Tucker  
No Cover 10:30 - 11pmCurcuit Saturdays  
DJ Jimmy Skinner

Resident DJ JD Arnold

## galveston

Undercurrent

Industry Appreciation  
NightBottled Beer &  
Single Shot Wells, \$2Well Martinis & Well  
Cosmos, \$3Single Shot Well  
Bourbon Cocktails, \$2

Single Shot "U-Call-It", \$4

Super Shot Saturday

Drink Specials

m

t

w

th

f

sa

su



1

2nd Annual Mr/Mrs Gay Islander Pageant  
Undercurrent, *Galveston* 11pm

2

Red Nightlife + Centaur CD Release Party  
Undercurrent, *Galveston*

Miss Gay Texas America  
Contestant Showcase  
Illusions, *Dallas* 8pm

Labor Day Of Lust XM Radio DJ Mark D  
Stephy CD Release Party  
Rich's, *Houston*

DJ Seth Gold from New York  
Heat, *San Antonio*

3

Labor Day Weekend  
DJ DeMarko  
South Beach, *Houston*

2nd Annual Taste of Hot Chocolate  
Labor Day Celebration  
Hot Chocolate from Las Vegas  
Heat, *San Antonio*

9

3rd Annual "Men In Heat" Porn Party  
Live appearances by Colt Exclusives  
Gage Weston + Luke Garrett  
Heat, *San Antonio*

Gay Sex In the 70s CD Release  
Rich's, *Houston*

10

Krewe of Olympus presents Trash Disco  
Rich's, *Houston*

15

Red Nightlife Dallas Launch Party  
@ Fuse  
Fuse, *Dallas*

16

Gay Day @ Six Flags, *Arlington*

Justin Timberlake CD Release Party  
Rich's, *Houston*

17

2006 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade + Festival  
Lee Park, *Dallas*

Pride Extravaganza  
Illusions, *Dallas* 9pm

Tuaca Body Art Ball  
Rich's, *Houston*

23

Jason + DeMarco's CD Release Party  
Rich's, *Houston*

30

Miss, Ms., Mr. Yellow Rose Pageant  
Illusions, *Dallas*

Most Wanted Tour  
South Beach, *Houston*

sep06

## CONCERTS

- 1 Clint Black  
Dell Diamond, *Round Rock*
- 2 Genitorturers  
Engine Room, *Houston*  
Smithereens  
Congress Avenue Bridge, *Austin*
- 7 Counting Crows + Goo Goo Dolls  
C.W. Mitchell Pavilion, *The Woodlands*
- 8 Carlos Mencia  
Toyota Center, *Houston*
- 14 Mariah Carey + Busta Rhymes  
Toyota Center, *Houston*  
The Recontreurs  
Verizon Wireless Theater, *Houston*
- 16 The String Cheese Incident  
Stubb's Barbeque, *Austin*  
Gretchen Wilson  
Smirnoff Music Center, *Dallas*
- 17 Aimee Mann  
Lakewood Bar + Grill, *Dallas*
- 19 Shakira  
Toyota Center, *Houston*
- 22 Jeff Foxworthy  
Nokia Theatre, *Grand Prairie*
- 23 Bonnie Raitt  
Nokia Theatre, *Grand Prairie*
- 29 Cindi Lauper  
Lakewood Theatre, *Dallas*
- 30 Uncle Cracker  
Great Steak of Texas Festival, *Frisco*

special

events

Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

"Reality Xtreme Live" Presents  
"MOST WANTED" Tour Fall '06 featuring

**Tyler Duckworth** of **Real World Key West**

Photo Shoot and Autograph Signing - Midnight

"Win A Date" with **Tyler** and your friends...  
Enter to Win a dinner date with Tyler at Sabor Restaurant.  
Drawing Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1am.  
Must be present to win.

SoBe Award Winning DJ Jimmy Skinner  
9pm until 5am

18+ to party 21+ to Drink

South Beach  
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## out and about erinson trip

Party along the River at the **Dos Equis Pachanga Del Rio**, by first enjoying culinary samplings from 20 participating River Walk establishments, then retiring to **Rita's Restaurant** for a post party with drawings and live music will continue well into the night. Along the River Walk in **San Antonio**, September 14, 2006. (210) 227-4262.

Four days of music, folk dancing and sing-a-longs herald the arrival of Fall at **Addison's 19th Annual Oktoberfest**, featuring plenty of beer, sausage, sauerkraut, laugenpretzels and a full line-up of German entertainers, including shuhplattlers, polka bands, and the legendary **Brave Combo**. At Addison Circle Park in **Dallas**, September 14 - 17, 2006.

Upward of 130 bands provide non-stop music on eight stages before some 150,000 diehard music fans from all over the world at the **Austin City Limits Music Festival**, featuring performances by **Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers**, **Van Morrison**, **Willie Nelson**, **Gnarls Barkley** and many more. At Zilker Park, in **Austin**, September 15 - 17, 2006. (512) 478-7211.

Feel the heat at the **Hot Sauce Festival**, featuring award-winning sauces, salsas, jams, spices, marinades and dips along with ongoing stage entertainment, contests, prizes, arts & crafts, free kids activities, food & drink vendors, an amateur salsa competition and more. At **Houston Farm and Ranch Club**, September 16 & 17, 2006. (281) 558-3518.

Two days of performances from the nation's top jazz entertainers, along with regional and local talent, highlight **Jazz's Alive**, featuring two stages of continuous entertainment, along with food and drink vendors, family friendly activities and more. At Travis Park, in **San Antonio**, September 16 & 17, 2006. (210) 212-8423.

The familiar tale of seduction and eternal addiction is retold in **Ben Stevenson's** blockbuster production, **Dracula**, featuring the title character in a 30-foot cape and hauntingly beautiful vampire brides who fly magically through the air. Presented by **Houston Ballet** in the **Brown Theater at Wortham Theater Center**, September 21 - October 1, 2006. (713) 227-2787.

Celebrating ten years of cinema that promotes sexual diversity, the **Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** screens feature length films and shorts programs while bringing filmmakers and audiences together for debates and discussions, all under one roof. At the **Angelika Film Center**, in **Houston**, September 22 - 24, 2006. (713) 225-5232.

The oldest and largest GLBT film festival in the Southwest, the **Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival**, continues its mission to cultivate community through cinema by exhibiting high-quality films that enlighten, educate and entertain. At various venues throughout **Austin**, September 29 - October 7, 2006. (512) 302-9889.

Celebrate Americana at the **2006 State Fair of Texas**, featuring top country and pop artists, a laser light show, fireworks, a fall gardening exposition, gourmet food prepared by celebrity chefs, the **USMC Drum & Bugle Corps**, a car show, the Oktoberfest Biergarten and much more. At Fair Park in downtown **Dallas**, September 29 - October 22, 2006. (214) 565-9931.

## Celebrate Pride - Not Prejudice!

First, the gay community descends on the largest theme park in the Southwest for a day of food, fun, rides and community, as **Gay Day at Six Flags** kicks off a weekend of Pride in Dallas, on Saturday the 16th. That evening, at the Majestic Theatre, Southern fried humorist **Del Shores** presents **Southern Baptist Sissies**, followed by the hit that started it all, **Sordid Lives**, the following night.

On Sunday, Join 30,000 of your closets GLBT friends and family to celebrate The **2006 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**, as it winds its way through the heart of the "gayborhood," headed by Honorary Grand Marshal, **Bruce Vilanch**. Then it's on to Lee Park for food, beverages, live entertainment, guest speakers, awards and special recognitions.

**Six Flags Over Texas** is located in Arlington, midway between Dallas and Fort Worth at the intersection of Interstate 30 and Highway 360 (Angus Wynne Jr. Freeway). Call (214) 754-8710 x116. Southern Baptist Sissies and Sordid Lives will be presented September 16 & 17, respectively, at the Majestic Theatre, in Dallas. Call (214) 880-0137. The 2006 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade takes place September 17, 2006, from Wycliff Ave. to Lee Park, in Dallas. Visit [dallastavernguild.org](http://dallastavernguild.org) for more information.

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# Bars + Clubs

## Dallas

- 1** Alexandre's  
4026 Cedar Springs (214) 559-0720
- 2** Ay K Rico  
2525 Wycliff Ave. (214) 559-2090
- 3** Bamboleo's  
6102 Maple Ave. (214) 520-1124
- 4** Buddies II  
4025 Maple Ave. (214) 526-0887
- 5** Club One  
3025 Main St. (214) 741-1111
- 6** Crews Inn  
3215 N. Fitzhugh (214) 526-9510
- 7** Dallas Eagle  
2515 Inwood (214) 357-4375
- 8** Havana  
4006 Cedar Springs (214) 526-9494
- 9** Hidden Door  
5025 Bowser (214) 526-0620
- 10** Hideaway Club  
4144 Buena Vista (214) 559-2966
- 11** Illusions  
4100 Maple Ave. (214) 252-0552
- 12** JR's  
3923 Cedar Springs (214) 559-0650
- 13** Joe's  
4117 Maple Ave. (214) 219-5639
- 14** Kaliente  
4350 Maple Ave. (214) 520-6676
- 15** Mickey's  
3851-A Cedar Springs (214) 219-6425
- 16** Phases  
2615 Oak Lawn (214) 528-2026
- 17** Pub Pegasus  
3326 N. Fitzhugh (214) 559-4663
- 18** Rocket Bar  
3503 Lemmon Ave. (214) 520-9729
- 19** The Rose Room (Inside S4)  
3911 Cedar Springs (214) 559-0650
- 20** Round-up Saloon  
3912 Cedar Springs (214) 522-9611
- 21** Station 4  
3911 Cedar Springs (214) 559-0650
- 22** Side 2 Bar  
2615 Oak Lawn (214) 528-2026
- 23** Sue Ellen's  
3903 Cedar Springs (214) 559-0650
- 24** Throckmorton Mining Company  
3914 Cedar Springs (214) 559-0650
- 25** Woody's  
4011 Cedar Springs (214) 520-6629
- 26** Zippers  
3333 N. Fitzhugh (214) 526-9519

## Houston

- 1** 611 Club  
611 Hyde Park (713) 526-7070
- 2** Bartini  
1318 Westheimer (713) 526-2271
- 3** Brazos River Bottom  
2400 Brazos (713) 528-9192
- 4** Bocados  
1312 W. Alabama (713) 523-5230
- 5** Blur  
710 Pacific (713) 529-3447
- 6** Chances/G-Spot/New Barn  
1100 Westheimer (713) 523-7217
- 7** Club 1415  
1415 California (713) 522-7066
- 8** Club Eve  
2209 Richmond (713) 545-4574
- 9** Cousins  
817 Fairview (713) 528-9204
- 10** Decades  
1205 Richmond (713) 125-2224
- 11** E.J.'s  
2517 Ralph (713) 527-9071
- 12** George  
617 Fairview (713) 528-8102
- 13** Guava Lamp  
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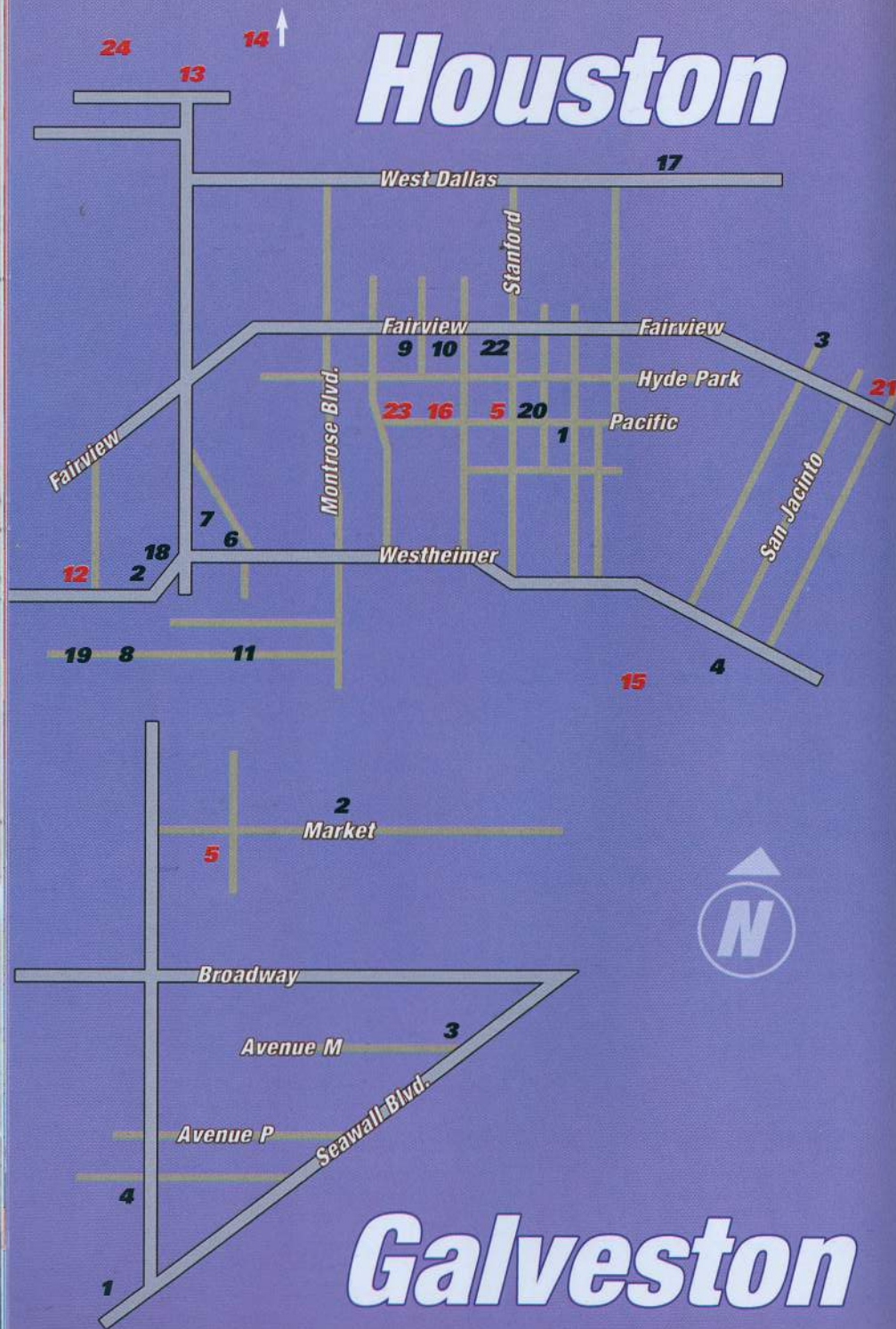
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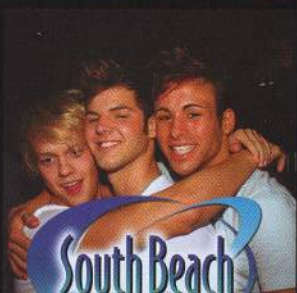
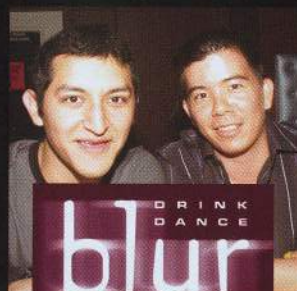
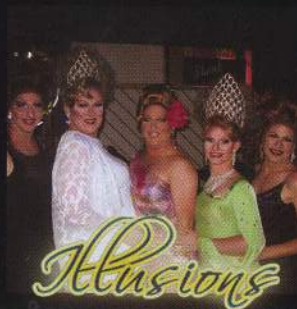
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**Queer** (kwir" adj. 1. Differing from what is usual or ordinary; odd; singular; strange 2. A strange or eccentric person 3. a homosexual.

When it comes to music that defies categorization and thwarts convention, while at the same time creating radical movements that reshape the musical landscape, there's no bigger influence than music that's queer. From disco and glam to homocore punk and acoustic angst, Queer defines the history of music that matters. In addition to our exclusive interviews with Jake Shears of *The Scissor Sisters* and Amanda Plummer of *The Dresden Dolls*, what follows are 20 more acts who continue to exemplify Queer music today. Essential listening for the queer ear...



## HOUSTONBERNARD

The New York-based, self-titled "ElectroRock performer and DJ/activist" has been making waves by creating rap music that's so queer it redefines the bad boy genre. His debut cd ***Whores Have More Fun*** was voted one of the Top 10 Indie Albums of 2005 by *The Advocate*.

## KEVIN CAHOON

Performing in such queer musicals as *Hedwig & The Angry Inch* and *The Rocky Horror Show* were just the beginning for "professional outsider" Cahoon, whose glam-influenced debut release with his band *Ghetto Cowboy*, entitled simply *Doll*, received the *Outmusic Award* for Best Male Debut Recording.

## ANIDiFRANCO

The "It" girl for a new generation of queer rock, **Ani** has been cranking out a new album every year since 1990 and just keeps getting better with her staccato style, love of wordplay and plenty of take-no-prisoners attitude. Her latest, *Reprieve*, shows she hasn't lost any of that.

SCOTT FREE

**Outmusic Award**-winner, social activist and host of the annual **Queer IS Folk Festival** in Chicago, **Free's** latest release ***They Call Me Mr. Free*** is essential listening for anyone who values social diversity with a dash of go-to-hell sensibility.

## IMOGENEHEAP

Known for her ethereal voice and the ability to mix electronica, rock and pop into an all-new flavah, **Heap** has proven herself a force to be reckoned with. Her sophomore release, ***Speak For Yourself***, has received rave reviews everywhere from **Gay** ***Wired*** to ***Rolling Stone***.

**NAMOLIBRENNET**

A 3-time **Outmusic Award** nominee, the transgendered songwriter has independently produced and released five cds since 2002 on her own label **Girl's Gotta Eat Records**, including her latest, **Chrysanthemum**, a heartbreaking collage of poetry and intense emotion.

## KJ DENHERT

Calling her music "Urban Folk and Jazz, rooted in Funk and R&B," Denhart's lush vocals and expert musicianship define cool without a hint of pretension. Her seventh release, ***Another Year Gone By*** won the **Independent Music Award 2006 Album Of The Year**.

the**EX**BOYFRIENDS

Catchy, power-pop ditties about expired love, addiction and other angsty torments are the trademark of this San Francisco trio, whose debut release, *Dear John*, features tight guitar licks, punctuated drums and razor sharp lyrics that will make you smile through the pain.

## BRIAN GRILLO

Known as the godfather of Queercore, a label he detests in true punk fashion, **Grillo** has been belting out the grungy garage aesthetic since the early 90s with no end in sight. His latest release, ***Stomping Back On Fire***, was voted number one on **Out.com's** Best Music of 2005.

## ERIC HIMAN

Buff and tattooed gay folk rocker **Himan** has gathered legions of devoted fans with his spirited live performances and awe-shucks banter, but don't be fooled, there's a savvy musical genius under all that ink, as his 2005 live release *One Night Stands* shows.

## LEVIKREIS

The out and proud singer/songwriter has been making fans on the road with his understated musical offerings, which are both intimately personal and universally honest, making his latest release, ***One Of The Ones***, a soundtrack for brokenhearted sissy boys everywhere.

PANSYDIVISION

Progenitors of the "queercore" movement of the early 90s, the boys may have lost a couple members over the years, but it hasn't changed the humor and drive of their sound, as shown in the must-have **Alternative Tentacles** release, *The Essential Pansy Division*.

## DYLAN RICE

A rich, full voice reminiscent of '80s crooner **Rick Astley**, but backed by driving guitar rhythms and the kind of songwriting that makes grown men cry, **Rice's** debut cd, ***Wandering Eyes***, was voted one of the Top 10 Indie CDs of 2005 by ***Advocate Magazine***.

## JYNXTITANIC

The Los Angeles-based party punk band, fronted by the cigar-chomping skin head **Jinx**, is known for its tongue in cheek lyrics and raucous style. Their debut disc, ***Booted & Cuffed***, smacked up top ten lists everywhere queer music is appreciated.

## JOAN JETT

The original rrriot grrrl, **Joan** has been a rock 'n roll inspiration to outsiders everywhere since her early pre-punk days with the **Runaways**, but her latest release, **Sinner**, shows that Joan is still as relevant today as she was way back when.



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What can one say about the band that was wearing make-up and dresses before **Bowie** and who inspired everything from punk rock to hair metal? How about welcome back! Their latest release, ***One Day It Will Please Us To Remember Even This***, is worthy of their legendary status.

A founding member of the **Indigo Girls**, independent record mogul and social activist for a variety of causes, **Amy** has done more for Southern Punk Rock than any artist before her. Her 2005 release *Prom* shows that in-your-face can also be genteel.

**Outmusic Award**-winner **Rachael Sage** comes on like **Tori Amos** without the angst, but don't let that stop you from giving her brand spankin' new seventh release, ***The Blistering Sun***, a spin to find out why **Ani DiFranco** and **Patti Smith** are fans.



**JUSTIN TRANTER**  
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**VENUS deMARS**

The transgendered former lead singer of dark glam outfit *All The Pretty Horses* is out and on her own, bringing her signature David Bowie-inflected vocals and mesmerizing poetic sensibilities to her first solo effort, *Trashed And Broken Hearted*. Simply sublime!



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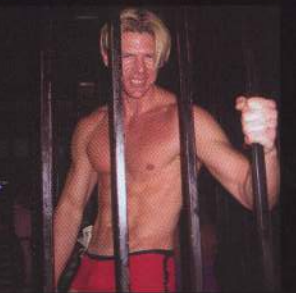
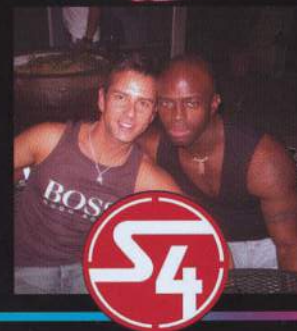
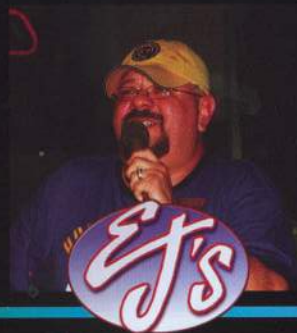
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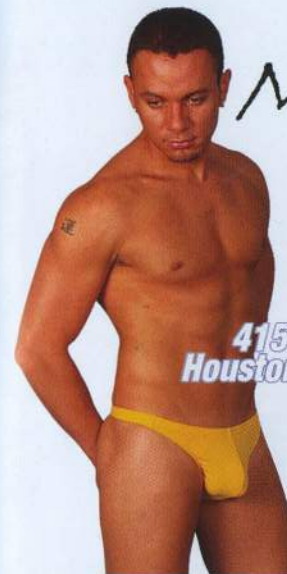


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# Freedom of Choice

By  
Galen Jones

Many have tried and failed to properly categorize the music of the **Dresden Dolls**. Is it punk cabaret? Is it neo-glam? Is it rock opera? Are they following in the footsteps of **David Bowie**? **Queen**? **Liza Minnelli**? Or is it all of the above, with a whole lot of theatrical sensibility thrown in for good measure? Singer/pianist/lyricist **Amanda Palmer** has heard the comparisons and takes them all in stride.

"Those labels are a necessary evil, honestly," she says. "As soon as journalists start to write about us, I feel like their first job is to find a label for the music. And if there isn't a name for it, they make one up. On the other hand, a lot of ink has been spent on us that says, 'I don't really know how to classify this.' That's fine with me—I actually find that rather flattering. If it's easy to explain, then it's easily disposable."

One thing you can say about the Dresden Dolls with any certainty is, their music is anything but disposable. Their first self-titled release, in 2004, slowly built from selling 275 copies the first week, to a total of over 100,000 copies sold in the U.S. alone. Their highly anticipated sophomore release, **Yes, Virginia**, by comparison, debuted in April of this year at #42 on the *Billboard* Top 200 Album chart with 19,000 albums sold the first week. Part of that success, Amanda attributes to her large LGBT following.

"We definitely have our fair share of gay fans," she says. "I've gotten a lot of direct letters from people who are gay, bi-, transsexual. To me, it seems it's clear as day that this band would appeal to someone who was gay or sexually out of the mainstream. I figured out that I was bisexual when I was a teenager. I think Brian found out he was an actual textbook cross-dresser when he was like twelve. And I've never met a more completely straight guy who is so passionate about cross-dressing than Brian. He does it occasionally on stage. He has a whole collection of clothes that he calls his **Brian Boitano** Collection."

THE DRESDEN DOLLS

But personal choices aside, it's the music that really sells the Dolls to their diverse audience. Songs about sexual obsession, ambiguity and isolation, heavily peppered with at times brutal imagery are all given a theatrical twist that borders on the surreal. The secret, according to Palmer, is that she never goes into a song with an agenda. "There's a real power in not staking your political flag and declaring your views. I try to keep my songs deliberately interpretable. It keeps it interesting for repeated listening. Why would I write a song about how I feel about transexuality? For me it's more interesting to bring up ideas and images with no direction or agenda, and then everyone can process the song based on their own feelings."

In a sense, this interpretive ambiguity is what makes the music so universal, particularly to those who consider themselves "outsiders." What LGBT person can't relate to that? "This band is about total freedom of personality," Palmer insists. "As corny as it sounds, we are about freedom of expression, whether its sexual, musical, aesthetic, etc. So, we encourage each other—Brian and I—to follow our impulses, whether it's in the bedroom or onstage. If you had to boil down our philosophy as artists, it would be, 'Listen to your inner voice. What do you really want to do, and why aren't you doing it?' If that means you're gay, that's an easy one. We feel really passionate about people being emotionally honest with themselves. It's almost a fetish of mine."





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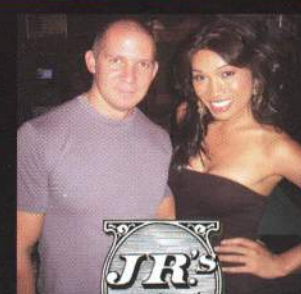
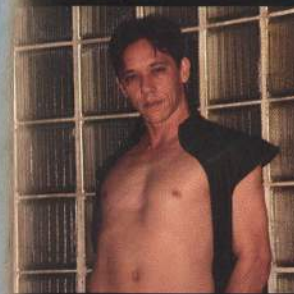
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#### JOSH ZUCKERMAN Out From Under

With so many gay singer/songwriters continuously rising on *Sirius' OutQ* chart, who can keep 'em straight? Rimshot, please. **Josh Zuckerman** - the man behind the music on *Out From Under*, the artist's sophomore release - hails from St. Louis, Mo., where he honed his harmonic chops. His upbringing is evident on this latest effort, which is comprised of more than a dozen songs that journey through self-acceptance and that suffocating fear of loneliness that we all endure at times. In fact, on a few tracks you can nearly hear the average albeit engaging Zuckerman crying out between the choruses. "Save me," he seems to say. (The Midwest can do that to a boy.) But while the record is an easy listen, Zuckerman never truly lets it live up to its title. With lyrics like "On the streets of guilt and shame/You won't find, you won't find my name/I took my life and the ball and chain," he seems more down and out than out from under.



#### THE NEW YORK DOLLS One Day It Will Please Us To Remember Even This

In 2004, former *New York Dolls* fan club president **Morrissey** made a request that reunited his boyhood idols. The result? An eagerly anticipated album from the seminal R&B-infused rock group, *One Day It Will Please Us To Remember Even This*. The Dolls' latest release includes contributions from founding members **David Johansen** and **Sylvain Sylvain**, as well guitarist **Steve Conte**, bass player **Sami Yaffa**, keyboardist **Brian Koonin** and drummer **Brian Delaney**. Several songs boast guest artists, such as **Michael Stipe** on *Dancing on the Lip of a Volcano*, **Iggy Pop** on *Gimme Love and Turn on the Light* and **Bo Diddley** on *Seventeen*. Legendary producer **Jack Douglas**, who had a hand in the Dolls' debut way back when, adds his touch to *Runnin' Around*. "This is the band that gave the world *Personality Crisis*, *Jet Boy*, *Looking for a Kiss*, *Puss 'n' Boots* and *Trash*," Douglas explains. "Maybe we can't forgive them for that, but they swing harder than anyone around, and this album is a fuckin' masterpiece." Enough said.



#### CHRISTINA AGUILERA Back To Basics

Tell your mother, your brother, your sister and your friends - Baby Jane's back and better than ever! On her third studio release, *Back To Basics*, pop icon **Christina Aguilera** pays tribute to the sounds of the 1920s, '30s and '40s, spawning a gritty, raw and wildly inventive full-length album. *Ain't No Other Man*, the record's sexy first single, blew up the charts in early June, and that's just the beginning. *I Got Trouble* invokes the scratchy blues spirits of legends like **Billie Holiday** and **Etta James**, while *Candy Man* recalls the tight harmonies of all-girl groups from the pre-World War II era. But it's not all sugar and spice - oh no, homo! Just because she's got a ring doesn't mean she can't still bling. Sure to appeal to hardcore *Xtina* fans is the risqué *Nasty Naughty Boy* and impish club ditty *Still Dirty*. Try to hide it all you please, but *Back to Basics* is what a girl wants.



#### UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF GIANTS

Who hasn't had sex in their parents' bed? It's a rite of passage ... right? OK, so it might be frowned upon in some circles, but rest assured you're not the only one dirtying up daddy's duvet. *Under the Influence of Giants* turns heads with its eponymous debut and the toe-tapping, falsetto-filled single *Mama's Room*, which talks of seduction on a matriarch's mattress. The group's album, a funk-inflected, pop-soaked, hook-heavy premier, is poised to be a prime pick for 20-somethings who aren't afraid to cite **Olivia Newton-John's** *Let's Get Physical* and **Bob James' Heads** as albums of influence. Defying conventions, UTIOG's tracks include the polyrhythmic *Ah-ha*, the horn-driven, noirish funk of *Against All Odds*, and the throbbing post-hip-hop-by-way-of *Madonna's Meaningless Love*, a song perfect for that midmorning quickie with the pool boy. Just don't forget to dispose of the evidence before ma and pa clock out; always flush twice.

Who is **Mikey Rox**? Who gives a fuck! But he can be reached at [whosmikeyrox@aim.com](mailto:whosmikeyrox@aim.com).

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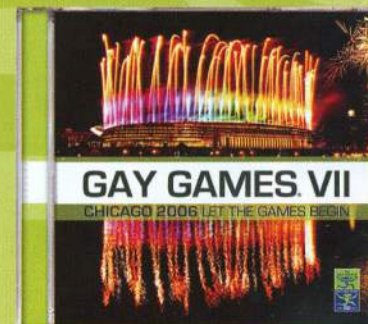
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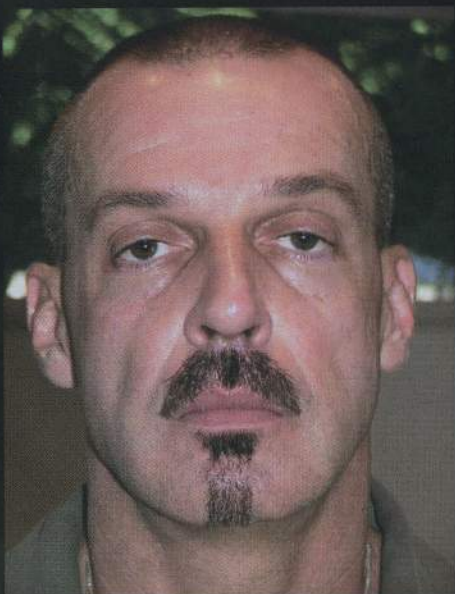
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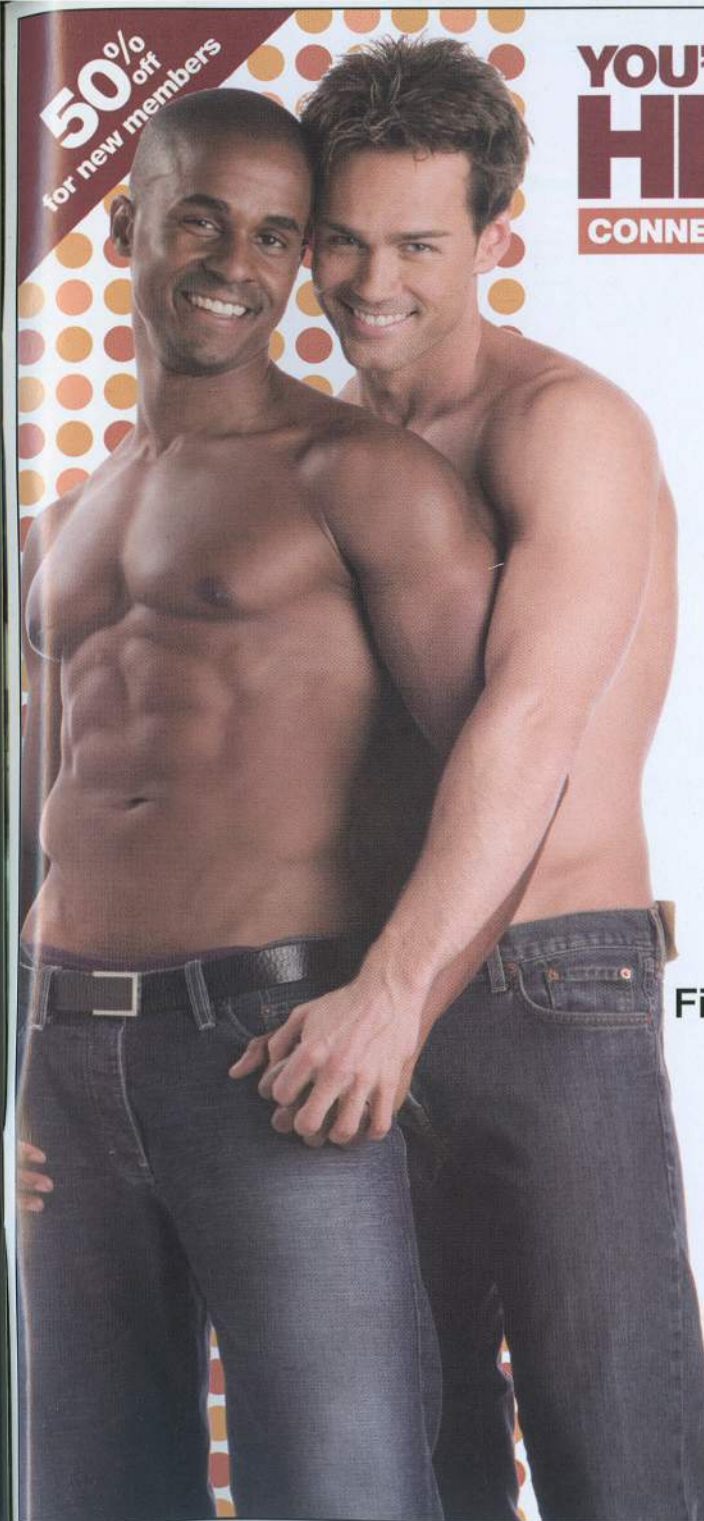
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