

September 2005



EGN

Erie Gay News



Fall Gay Pride 2005

When: Saturday, October 15, 2005. Time: Organize at 12:30 PM; March at 1:00 PM; Rally starts at 2:00 PM Where: March – 12th and State, north side. Rally – Perry Square. At the rally, there will be prizes given away, entertainment, speakers, etc. Also, the annual Dykes vs. Drag Queens softball game will take place on Sunday. And, on Saturday night, celebrate your Pride at Trance or The Zone. Have a blast!

The March – We are going to march down the center of State Street this year. It's been closed to traffic for us by the City of Erie. So, we need a lot of people to fill the streets! If you are out, think about marching. If you are not yet out, maybe this is the day? Allies – Think about bringing friends and family members to march with you. When and if asked, a lot of them will want to be there for you and us. So, set a goal if it's comfortable for your situation. Bring yourself and 5 allies? This would pack the streets! Of course, everyone still has to deal with a lot of harass-

ment and discrimination at home, at work and in the community. So, don't do more than you can. However, a large number of people marching down State Street will help us end the harassment and discrimination! Plus the more people we have the more fun it will be! Any questions or ideas? Please email us at eriegaypride@yahoo.com or call me at 814.602.0252.

—Dan Burdick

Fall Gay Pride 2005 Coordinator

Paid activist opening

Liberty PA is looking for a part-time activist to register LGBT & allied voters in Erie 4-6 hours/week, now thru November 2006. \$9/hour, must be outgoing and able to work nights/weekends. Please email reneeingilinger@yahoo.com.

—from Liberty PA

Robert Michael Morris returns to Erie

Hello, fans of Robert Michael Morris. Formerly of Erie, PA, Michael returns to the Gem City to raise money for charity and do a bit of shameless self promoting.

Here is Michael's itinerary as he begins the first leg of his whirlwind tour of Pennsylvania's third largest city. Thursday, August 25, Michael will participate in a fundraiser for the Gertrude Barber Center by being a celebrity bartender at Paper Moon.

On Saturday, August 27, Michael will sign autographs at the "meta sexual" or Metro Sexual or Metro Bar. He is not sure what it is called. But if you ask around I am sure someone will tell you. The rest of the time he will be at Erie County Farms Produce Market, Gabriels and Smugglers. He did not say if he would be inquiring about the price of strawberries



Members of Allegheny Gay Pride, at last year's Pride March and Rally in downtown Erie.

More community news on page 4!

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Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
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 info@eriegaynews.com
 www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline: the 15th of each month.

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie and NW PA Area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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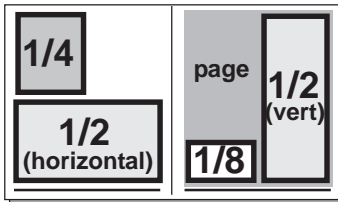
Thank You:

To Dale, Heather, James von Loewe, Brian Lonyo, Caillean McMahon-Tronetti, Marshall Snyder, Chris Strayer and Francesca Tronetti for folding; Dale, Marshall Snyder, Caillean & Francesca, James von Loewe, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King & Dave S for distribution; and Bob for proofreading. Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. Thanks! If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter
 Support, Education, Advocacy
 for GLBT People, their families and friends
(814) 898-8341
 pflagerie@eriegaynews.com
 PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com
 Transgender Coordinator

EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
Quarter	\$50 (\$45 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 2-7/8" wide
Half (horiz)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 6" wide
Half (vert)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	7" high X 2-7/8" wide
Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com
 Deadline for ads is the 15th



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SATURDAY,
AUGUST 27th

Local Boy Makes
it BIG PARTY! Guest:
Robert Michael Morris
"Micky" from HBO's
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FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9th
At 10 PM Drag Show:
Illusions Featuring:
**Sabrina White,
Tiffany Raye,
Melody & Billy**

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16th
Friday Night Drag:
**Trailer Trash
Extravaganza**

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 14th
Friday Night Drag with
Special guest :
Stevie Reese Diamond
*Oh My Gawd,
A Totally Awesome
80's Drag Show*

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 29th
**2nd Annual Trance
Fantasy Halloween
Masquerade Party**

(continued from cover)

while at Erie County Farms, but I am sure he will be signing autographs there as well. So dig out your old Gannon College Theater Playbills and have a great time!

—Nick Nardo

Webmaster, www.robertmichaelmorris.com

Two GLBT-friendly pagan events

Sep 10 - Erie's Pagan Pride Day

St. Nick's Grove, 5131 Old French Rd, Erie, PA. 10 AM - 8 PM. Erie's first Pagan Pride Day celebration, hosted by United Neopagans and Circles of Lake Erie, The Pagan Pride Project and members of the local Pagan community, will be held at St. Nick's Grove in Erie, PA, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The event will include information booths, vendors, entertainers, children's activities, rituals and other activities celebrating the Autumn Equinox, a time of thanksgiving in many Pagan traditions. Nonperishable food items, toiletry items and money will be collected and donated to SafeNet, a local charity. Contact: Raven Mann. Email: Webmaster@U-N-C-L-E.org. Browse to <http://www.u-n-c-l-e.org/calendar/PPD>.

Sep 21 - Open Circle for Second Harvest/
Autumn Equinox/Mabon Covenant of Brigid's Haven

7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA 7 - 10 PM. Sponsored by Covenant of Brigid's Haven, GLBT friendly Eclectic Pagan group. Our next event, celebrating the Feast of the Second Harvest/Mabon/Autumn Equinox, will be held on Wednesday, September 21st, at the Unitarian-Universalist church on Perry Highway, doors opening at 7 PM, ritual closer to 7:30 PM, potluck feast to follow. This rite is the seventh within a complete wheel's turn of Sabbat events to be lead by Jeremy, marking the complete passage and cycle of a newborn sun from conception through youth, adulthood, age and death. At this rite, we gather in thanksgiving, to celebrate the harvest, the glories of the pass-

ing year and the treasure that is age and experience as the sun begins to set for a final time for this turn of the wheel. What to wear: Please wear dark colors. What to bring: A dish to pass for the potluck feast, chalice or drinking vessel if desired. Please note that a three dollar donation is requested to help defray the cost of renting the space. Contact: Jeremy. Email: prosperotter@yahoo.com.

Film Festivals

Sep 22 - 25 - Great Lakes Film Festival

Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts, 145 W. 11th St, Erie, PA. The Great Lakes Independent Film Festival takes place every year at the Roadhouse Theater in Erie, PA. In addition to the annual Festival, the Great Lakes Film Association also hosts other events around the Erie County area throughout the year. See our website for more details! Contact: Steve Opsanic. Phone: (814) 456-5656. Email: stev@greatlakesfilmfest.com. Browse to <http://www.greatlakesfilmfest.com>.

Oct 5 - 9 - Eerie Horror Film Festival

Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA. The Eerie Horror Film Festival takes place every year at the Roadhouse Theater in Erie, PA. Showcasing some of the best horror and science fiction films from around the world, the EHFF attracts thousands of fans, filmmakers and celebrities to the local area every October. See our website for more details. The EHFF is proud to be a supporter of the GLBT community! :-). Contact: Greg Ropp. Phone: (814) 456-5656. Email: greg@greatlakesfilmfest.com. Browse to <http://www.eeriehorrorfest.com>.

Stay updated!
Subscribe to the Erie GLBT mailing list.
www.eriegaynews.com



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PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

We extend our appreciation and gratitude to the entire Erie community for the support at our August 6th- Variety- Showcase; from the sponsors, Lee & Tim of Trance, the Performers, the Trance Staff, all Donors/Business, all in attendance to our own Chapter Members' hard work. This event was fun and successful, raising over \$700.00 for our Local Chapter needs. Thank you again.

Please plan on attending our special, annual, & important Membership & Voting of New Local Officers for our Leadership at our September 12th Meeting, 7 - 9 PM. Whether you are a current, new, or prospective member, you are asked to attend. Flyers were mailed in mid-August with the details. This is a Year of Change. Voting of New Officers must occur and memberships updated, as PFLAG Nationals has adjusted to a Sept-to-Sept Fiscal Records, etc. Our Current Chapter Officers are over term at this time; Voting is going to occur. This will put our Chapter in line with Nationals. Your Memberships will be renewed and/or begun at the meeting.

Please attend and help our Chapter grow, as well as have your vote count.

We have some exciting things lined up for the upcoming year. Your ideas, enthusiasm, and sharing will be greatly appreciated and needed. Also, we plan on having a presence at the Fall 2005 PRIDE-Erie Event, which will be discussed at this meeting.

If you have any questions, are in need of transportation, or additional information, feel free to contact at our email address, pflagerie@eriegaynews.com, or call Mark at (814) 490-3986.

Meeting Notes

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: Monday, September 12, from 7-9 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway (Rte 97). (Take exit 27 off of I-90, go north about a half mile. Church is on the left.) We also hold ad hoc support groups for parents of, or spouses of, GLBT people. For more info, please email us at pflagerie@eriegaynews.com, or write to P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

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for more information**



This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant under the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

Aug 26 - Fairy Tales show at the Zone Dance Club 133 W. 18th St, Erie. 10:30 PM. "Join us for a great evening of entertainment as we take a trip to where fantasy and reality become one. Unlock the magical mysteries of mermaids, monsters and fairies. Whisk away to a land deep inside your imagination. Enjoy the marvel as the Zone Dance Club proudly presents our August show, 'Fairy Tales.' Come join the extravaganza as we also celebrate the birthdays of our performers Angelica, Vanessa and Taylor. Don't miss this night of spectacular, high energy performances." Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Aug 27 - Party for Robert Michael Morris (Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Local Boy Makes it BIG PARTY! Guest: Robert Michael Morris "Micky" from HBO's *The Comeback*. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 28 - Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland) Annual outdoor dance party benefiting the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, will return to its roots as a street festival this year. 1 to 8 PM, Clifton Blvd. between West 116th and West 117th, Cleveland; (216) 221-2333.

Aug 31 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.


Sep 2 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA) Lyndora Firehall, 114 Whitestown Road, Butler, PA. Vertigo is BYOB we supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just bring your booze. Email: vertigov@aol.com. Browse to <http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov>.

Sep 2 - 4 - Woof Weekend (Pittsburgh, PA) Mr. Steel City Bear. Kennywood & Picnic. Sponsored by Burgh Bears. Phone: (412) 422-8850. Email: info@burghbears.com. Browse to <http://www.burghbears.org/event.htm>.

Sep 3 - Trance: Our First Anniversary (Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) You are cordially invited! Prizes for the Hottest Blue Attire. Starring our Trance Diva - Jheri Michaels from Club Bounce & our own Rhiannon. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Sep 7 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Sep 9 - Illusions Drag Show (Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 10 PM. Featuring: Sabrina White, Tiffany Raye, Melody & Billy. Contact:



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Calendar

Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Sep 10 - Erie's First Pagan Pride Day St. Nick's Grove, 5131 Old French Rd, Erie, PA. 10 AM - 8 PM. Details page 4. Contact: Raven Mann. Email: Webmaster@U-N-C-L-E.org. www.u-n-c-l-e.org/calendar/PPD.

Sep 10 - Zone's Glow Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Join us for one of your Favorite parties! Glowstics, Black-Lights, Fun in the Dark! Wear black or white or glow body paints!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Sep 12 - PFLAG-Erie/Crawford meets and Elections Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 - 9 PM. Contact: Maureen. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com.

Sep 12 - LEAD meeting (Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD), 218 E 11th St, Erie, PA) 7:30 PM - 9 PM. Progressive political group. Regular monthly meeting is one week later due to Labor Day. Contact: Brit Holmberg. Phone: (814) 459-3536. Email: bholmberg8@yahoo.com. Browse to <http://www.erielead.org>.

Sep 13 - Support group for those dealing with loss (Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E. 10th St, Erie.) 7 PM. Also meets Sep 15 at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

Sep 15 - Deadline for October 2005 edition of Erie Gay News Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.eriegaynews.com>.

Sep 16 - Friday Night Drag: Trailer Trash Extravaganza (Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA). Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Sep 17 - Menspace meets Dan Burdick's, 412 W 10th St 1st Floor, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Sep 17 - 2 Girls Alone perform at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7:30 - 9:30 PM. Phone: (814) 461-9966. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

Sep 17 - Ohio Lesbian Festival, 16th annual all-day music festival at Frontier Ranch, 8836 York Rd. at U.S. 40, 1/2 mile west of Kirksville, Ohio, 15 miles east of Columbus. (614) 562-0577, www.ohiolba.org.

Sep 21 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop. Contact: Michael

(Continued on next page)



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Calendar

Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

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Sep 22 - 25 - Great Lakes Film Festival Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts, 145 W. 11th St, Erie, PA. Details on page 4. (814) 456-5656. Email: stev@greatlakesfilmfest.com. www.greatlakesfilmfest.com.

Sep 25 - Book Signing for Tales of a Gay Marine Porn Star at Body Language (Cleveland) 11424 Lorain Ave, Cleveland, OH. 2 - 4 PM. Book signing by author Rich Merritt. (216) 251-3330. Email: info@body-language.com. www.body-language.com.

Oct 5 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Oct 7 - 9 - Buffalo Bear Trap 2005 (Buffalo, NY) Men from three states and two nations. US Columbus Day and Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend. Chicken Wing Tasting Welcome Party. Niagara Falls Sight-seeing and Casino Excursion. Beard Butt and Belly Contest. Downtown Host Hotel/Hospitality Suite. Bear Rave Saturday Night. BBQ Dinner, Sunday Brunch and more. Email: beartrap@buffalobears.org. Browse to <http://www.buffalobears.org/>.

Oct 7 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA) Lyndora Firehall, 114 Whitestown Road, Butler, PA. "Vertigo is BYOB we supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just bring your booze." Email: vertigov@aol.com. Browse to <http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov>.

Oct 11 (Tue) - Last day to register to vote in General Election (Pennsylvania and Ohio)

Oct 11 - National Coming Out Day For information, and ideas for events, visit www.hrc.org

Oct 11 - Hospice Support group for those dealing with loss Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th



Meet Jeff Grego, a case manager in the Erie Office, he's been with the Alliance for 4 years and has worked in the HIV field for the past 11 years. He's just one of the dedicated people you'll find at the Alliance waiting to help you!

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural Aids Alliance

"We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania." With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered, please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information.

For more information, contact:

Northwest PA Rural Aids Alliance
1001 State St. Suite 703
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office:
15870 Route 322 Suite 2
Clarion, PA 16214
814-764-6066 or
1-800-359-2437

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Hágase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

Calendar

St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Also meets Oct 20 at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

Oct 12 - "The Guys" get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop. Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Oct 14 - Friday Night Drag with Stevie Reese Diamond at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Friday Night Drag with Special guest: Stevie Reese Diamond "Oh My Gawd, A Totally Awesome 80's Drag Show" Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Oct 15 - Fall Pride March and Rally (Erie, PA) See article on front page. Contact: Dan Burdick. Phone: (814) 602-0252. Email: eriegaypride@yahoo.com.

Oct 29 - 2nd Annual Trance Fantasy Halloween Masquerade Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.



SHARE TOWNHOUSE APT.

L, 32, professional, seeks non-smoking, non-drug-using, clean, quiet lesbian over the age of 25 to share a spacious, 6-room townhouse apartment in the W. Grandview area. The rent would be \$300/mo plus shared utilities. If interested, please call 814-868-0064

Letters

I would like to thank the guys at Trance Dance Club for helping me get my music together for the PFLAG Variety Show. It is greatly appreciated. It was an awesome show with some fabulous talent. I had a wonderful time.

Thanks to PFLAG for the thank you card. Thanks to everyone for the compliments on my performance. My friend Tim attended the show. He won a door prize from Gary's Flower Shoppe. We stayed after the show. I got to dance with two of the girls from Temple of Bast. I tried to do some of the moves that the girls were doing. I tell you what. It is not easy. I had a lot of fun trying. Later Tim and I went to Panos Restaurant to eat. I was still in costume, all went well.

James von Loewe

Erie Gay News print edition
can be viewed online at
www.eriegaynews.com

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On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Sep 10 - Bebe Neuwirth in concert Allen Theatre/Playhouse Square Cleveland OH. www.playhousesquare.com

Sep 14 - Melissa Ferrick at Club Cafe in Pittsburgh <http://www.clubcafelive.com/>

Sep 13-18 - Chicago! at Benedum Center in Pittsburgh <http://www.pgharts.org/>

Sep 17 - 2 Girls Alone perform at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Phone: (814) 461-9966. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

Sep 22 - Johnny Mathis in concert at Playhouse Square, Cleveland <http://www.playhousesquare.com>

Sep 24 & 25, Oct 1 & 2 - Rocky Horror In Concert! at the Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts, 145 W 11th St., Erie. (814) 456-5656. Email: pipedown3@msn.com Web Site: <http://www.goerie.com/roadhouse> "All the songs! Live Band! Party afterwards at The Plymouth!"

Oct 5 - Menopause The Musical Out Loud Presented by the Women for Women Foundation, Uni-

versity at Buffalo 103 Center For The Arts www.ubcfa.org www.menopausethemusical.com

Now through Oct 2 - Menopause The Musical Playhouse Square, Cleveland OH. "Celebration of women who are on the brink of, in the middle of, or have survived The Change." Info at www.playhousesquare.com

Oct 18 & 19 - Openings At Erie Playhouse 13 W. 10th St., Erie PA An array of opening numbers from Broadway musicals throughout the years. www.erieplayhouse.org/ (814)454-2852

Oct 23 - A One Night Stand with Augusten Burroughs Byham Theater Pittsburgh PA www.pgharts.org

Nov 4-27 - I am my own Wife Cleveland Playhouse 8500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland OH www.clevelandplayhouse.com/

Nov 15-20 - Hairspray at Shea's 646-66-, Buffalo NY www.sheas.org

Upcoming...

Jan 4-29, 2006 - Phantom of the Opera Benedum Center Pittsburgh www.pgharts.org/

Jan 10-22, 2006 - Evita Playhouse Square, Cleveland. **Feb 7 through 12, 2006 - Dame Edna, Back with a Vengeance** at Shea's in Buffalo. www.sheas.org

Feb 18 - Megan Mullally and The Supreme Music Program University at Buffalo 103 Center For The Arts

Mar 25 - Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company Pittsburgh Dance Council, Benedum Center, Pittsburgh <http://www.pgharts.org/>

Apr 26 - Rent (Erie Broadway Series) at the Warner Theatre in Erie.

May 9 & 10 - Cats (Erie Broadway Series) at the Warner Theatre in Erie.

Websites and email lists for area performers:

Jocelyn Porter Project www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

Two Girls Alone <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com> *email list:* twogirlsalone@att.net.

Auditions at Directors Circle

Directors Circle will be holding auditions for the Erie premiere of the Paul Rudnick breakthrough gay comedy, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*. Seeking actors, stage and tech crews. Casting 8 Adult Actors. Auditions will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, September 6 and 7 from 6-8PM at the Renaissance Centre Building, 1001 State. (Possible callbacks on Thursday September 8). Primary actors: 2 Women and 2 Men (both ages 20-30s). Supporting actors: 2 Women & 2 Men fulfilling 5-7 multiple roles each (various ages). Multiple roles may be broken down based on audition response. Adults 21 and up can audition. If possible, have a short (3-5 min.) prepared dramatic monologue and be ready for a short comedic script reading. Gary Snyder will direct.

Performance dates are December 1 - 17. Rehearsals thru October and November.

Questions? Please call Gary for additional information at 384-0463.

National News Briefs

by Bob

State Court Upholds Allentown Ordinance

A state court has ruled in favor of an Allentown ordinance that strengthens the rights of gays, lesbians and transsexuals. Commonwealth Court declared that Allentown had the legal authority in 2002 to broaden its anti-discrimination ordinance to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

According to *The Morning Call* of Allentown, the unanimous ruling reversed the decision of a Lehigh County judge, who had struck down Allentown's anti-bias protections. Although the appeals court focused on the Allentown ordinance, the ruling gives at least nine other local governments in Pennsylvania more confidence that their anti-bias ordinances are legal as well.

The ruling also could encourage other municipalities to adopt similar ordinances, if they had earlier reservations about whether such ordinances would survive court challenges.

The Allentown ordinance protects gays, lesbians and transsexuals from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations, including access to restaurants, hotels, parks and gymnasiums.

According to *The Morning Call* report, Attorney Randall Wenger, who represented four Allentown landlords who sued over the ordinance, said a decision has not been made whether to appeal to the state Supreme Court. Wenger said the ruling puts his clients in a predicament because, by renting to gays, they could be promoting lifestyles they find objectionable.

The court case revolved around the issue of whether or not, municipalities have the right to enact anti-bias ordinances that go beyond the state's anti-bias laws. The state's Human Relations Act does not cover sexual orientation and gender identity. The Commonwealth Court ruling said cities have broad latitude to adopt ordinances involving their "police powers" – those powers that protect the health, safety and welfare of their residents.

Allentown Mayor Roy Afflerbach told *The Morning Call* that the decision is important not only for the anti-discrimination protection it upholds, but also because it affirms the authority of cities to enact ordinances that go beyond state law.

Maine Voters May Repeal Gay Rights Law

Voters in Maine will decide in November whether or not to repeal a newly enacted state law prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, education, public accommodations and credit based on sexual orientation.

After the Maine legislature passed the law earlier this year, Christian groups launched a petition drive to gain enough signatures to have the law placed on the November ballot for voters to approve or reject. Maine's Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap certified that the more than 56,000 signatures collected were enough to place the question on the ballot.

Christian leaders in the state hailed the move and predicted victory in November. Twice before, Maine voters have rejected similar laws. Gay rights groups said they would begin an intensive state-wide canvassing effort in support of the law which is on hold pending the outcome of the November vote.

Utah License plate is OK

A Utah woman will be allowed to use her "GAYSROK" car license plate thanks to a recent ruling by the Utah State Tax Commission.

The Commission ruled that the state's Department of Motor Vehicles had no good reason to stop Elizabeth Solomon of Park City, from having the license plate, which can be read as "Gays are OK" or "Gays Rock."

"The narrow issue before us is whether a reasonable person would believe the terms 'gays are OK'

(continued on next page)



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National News

and 'gay rights' are, themselves, offensive to good taste and decency. It is the conclusion of the commission that a reasonable person would not," the ruling read. The state can appeal the ruling.

"It kind of opens up the door for all types of people who want to make a license plate a public forum for every initiative," said Barry Conover, deputy director of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which handled the case for Solomon, noted that the ruling sends a message that "The government can't pick and choose what subjects it likes and does not like."

Lutherans Reject Gay Clergy Proposal

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has rejected a proposal that would have allowed gays in committed relationships to serve as clergy under certain conditions.

The measure, which was voted on at the church's national meeting, would have affirmed the church ban on ordaining sexually active gays and lesbians, but would have allowed bishops and church districts to seek exceptions for candidates who were in a committed relationship and met other conditions. Delegates voted against the measure 503-490.

Church delegates also voted 851-127 to keep the church unified despite serious differences over homosexuality. They also voted to oppose what some interpreted as an attempt to push the denomination toward approval of blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.

Spaniards Allowed to Marry Foreigners

The government of Spain has ruled that Spanish citizens can marry a same-sex partner who is foreign, even if the partner's home country would not legally recognize the marriage.

The ruling by Spain's justice ministry came after a regional court denied a Spanish man the right to marry his partner who was from India. The court made the ruling based on the fact that the marriage would not be legal in India.

The justice ministry overruled the court, saying, "A marriage between a Spaniard and a foreigner, or between foreigners of the same sex resident in Spain, shall be valid as a result of applying Spanish material law, even if the foreigner's national legislation does not allow or recognize the validity of such marriages."

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Heroism, Endurance and Freedom

by Caillean McMahon
Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance

The City of Los Angeles has just renamed a street intersection after an outspoken opponent of gay marriage and gay rights.

In multiple state legislatures, St Paul and Leviticus are being cited as the legal authorities to pass anti-gay legislation.

In scattered places all over the US, anti-gay rhetoric that would not have been spoken twenty-five years ago because the author would have been seen as a reactionary bigot, is given wide publicity through the media. The last major election was largely a referendum on our rights, using the Bible as a weapon against us.

I arrived only lately in the Gay and Lesbian community. Coming from the comfortable and protected position of someone living as a straight professional the overt anger and hatred directed at us, the openness of it and the intensity of it, the insistence upon enacting it into law are all astounding and frightening. From the day that I came out, I have been subjected to it. My world changed overnight and cataclysmically. The dramatic loss of privilege made me both a feminist and a Gay and Lesbian activist, beginning my activism by standing in a Federal Courtroom as plaintiff while an attorney pointed a bony finger at me and shouted "what is America coming to when people like THAT expect protections?" The difference between our lives, our rights and the perception of us in public as opposed to that of straights is deeply and freshly engraved in my mind. Not used to the things that the community endures as a matter of course, I find that the imposition of injustices upon us appalling.

An election is coming in November. We need to begin to put pressure upon candidates to declare themselves, one way or the other as for or against our rights. Pennsylvania's legislature is attempting to eviscerate the recommendations of a committee that would have granted domestic partner benefits the same sex partners of state employees. Which candidates would oppose the recommendation, which would support it?

There has been a rash of arsons directed at gay businesses and violence against gays is rising frighteningly. Which candidates support hate crimes legislation, which oppose it?

A year ago, bills to amend the Pennsylvania constitution to forbid gay marriage were attempted. How will these candidates vote if the issue arises again?

I see an incredible courage and strength in the Gay and Lesbian community.

The ability to endure hardship is moving and powerful. But, we ought not have to endure, we ought not have to struggle heroically merely to exist. As human beings, as citizens of the United States, supporting government through our earnings and our efforts, in all fairness we should have exactly the same rights as every other citizen.

In "The Social Contract" Rousseau noted "As long as a people is compelled to obey, and obeys, it does well; as soon as it can shake off the yoke, and shakes it off, it does still better"

When we endure we are courageous and heroic.

When we are free of discrimination we will be greater still.

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Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler, Co-Editor

A relatively busy month here. I was very glad to hear of the favorable ruling vindicating that the city of Allentown was within their rights to add sexual orientation and gender identity to an anti-bias ordinance. If this had NOT been a favorable ruling, it would have endangered the ordinance we all worked so hard to pass back in 2001/2002. By the way, the Pennsylvania National Organization of Women (NOW) filed an amicus brief in this case. The Northwest PA chapter was also helpful in pushing for the revisions to the Erie County Ordinance.

Some of you may have gotten the email or seen the web site about the scam artist. I am pretty sure that this is the same person who called back in 1996, claiming to be a gay man with AIDS who had been beaten up and left penniless. He has called on the average of every few years, most recently claiming to be me. This time he was in Canada. The story is always the same "I was beaten up and mugged! Send money!" So, since he has been claiming to be me, I think at last count I have been beaten up in Florida, LA and Tor-

onto. The really funny part is that I loathe travel, and very rarely go even more than 2 hours from home. (And why wouldn't I hate travel? Apparently I can't go anywhere without a mugging! ;) The last round, Maureen Koseff of PFLAG told him that he was speaking at a normal human rate and therefore was obviously not me.

The plans for the Erie Pride March/Rally are starting to shape up for the weekend of October 15. Kudos to Dan Burdick for doing this. I really feel like I can only handle doing one event a year. Judy and Julie are bringing back the Dykes versus Drag Queens softball game for Sunday the 16th. As I recall, we have had 2 previous games with a win for each team, so we will see who breaks the tie this year.

I have been a minor player in organizing for Erie's first annual Pagan Pride Day (PPD) on Saturday, September 10. What has been amusing is that both that group and an informal gathering of gay guys have both been getting together at Moonsense. I had joked before about being confused about whether I was being queer or a witch when showing up. I guess I should have expected this, but the next time I am going there, the gay men's group is meeting at Moonsense at 7 PM, and the pagans are meeting at 8 PM. Very convenient! All I will need to do is to move my chair to a different table.

Another funny overlap. One of the PPD organizers mentioned having gotten some phone calls and said that one caller asked if there was a dress code. The organizer wasn't sure if the caller was asking about being skyclad (nude) which is a definite no-no, so he said that "Yup! You have to be dressed!" The organizer then said that the caller asked if wearing a pair of wings and a kilt would be okay.

Flash forward a few days. I had gone to Trance and was talking with someone who had called me a while ago to ask about gay resources. The guy was also going to participate in the leather contest there, which had been postponed due to lack of folks signing up. We were chatting and I mentioned doing a bit with helping the Pagan Pride Day folks. He then mentioned about also being interested in that and then said that he was planning on going and wearing a cool set of wings. "Wait a second," I said, "Did you call about this?" He had indeed and I guffawed that I was now hearing the other side of the conversation.

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Local filmmaker premieres at film fest

There You Were

Director: Nikki Hassinger

Narrative short: 48 minutes

There You Were is a story about three young women. On their journey to find love, they discover that "Love doesn't discriminate, even against gender, especially against gender."

After a violent breakup with her ex-boyfriend, Angela (Spadafore) copes by attending a non-conventional group therapy session. There she instantly connects with two other women, Cara (Donahue), and Drew (Leet), who have had their own share of heartaches. Angela quickly finds love in the last place she thought to look, and is faced with a decision that pits her heart against the rest of the world.

There You Were was written, directed, and produced by Nikki Hassinger, a local filmmaker from Meadville, PA.

The film will premiere at the Great Lakes Film Festival, which takes place September 22-25 at the Roadhouse Theatre, 145 West 11th Street, Erie PA. The film is scheduled to be shown at 6:15 PM Friday September 23rd. Advance tickets at Docksider Tavern \$8 and \$10 at the door. For information on the festival, visit www.greatlakesfilmfest.com

Principle Cast of *There You Were*

Elizabeth Spadafore as Angela

Tracy Leet as Drew

Meggan Donahue as Cara

Jereme Guidas as Adrian

Andrew Swan as Evan

Renee Thayer as Trudy

Russell Thomas as Jordan

For more information on *There You Were*, visit www.geocities.com/thereyouweremovie To order the DVD, email: thereyouweremovie@yahoo.com



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