

The Rainbow Connection is published by the Prairie Pride Coalition (PPC).

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Rainbow Connection

NOVEMBER, 2012

Candidates Answer Questions

Candidates for the 13th and 18th congressional district seats that represent Bloomington/Normal and much of McLean County were recently surveyed by the Prairie Pride Coalition for their views on issues that are of interest to the LGBT community. We encourage you to use this information as you decide who you plan to vote for in the upcoming Nov. 6 election.

	13 th Congressional District Candidates			18 th Congressional District Candidates	
Question	Rodney Davis (R)	John Hartman (I)	Dr. David Gill (D)	Aaron Schock (R)	Steve Waterworth (D)
Do you support or oppose the Employment Non Discrimination Act?	No Response	Support	Support	No Response*	Support
Do you support or oppose a federal constitutional amendment that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman?	No Response**	Oppose	Oppose	No Response**	Oppose
Do you support or oppose legislation that provides the legal rights for same-sex couples to marry?	No Response**	Support	Support	No Response**	Support
Do you support or oppose legislation that would establish civil unions but not full marriage equality?	No Response	Oppose	Support as a path to full marriage equality	No Response	Oppose

*Rep. Schock has not signed on as a co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) legislation.

**Candidate in interview and debate has stated opposition to same-sex marriage.



ISU Pride To Host *Laramie Project*

The ISU Pride student organization will sponsor a staged reading of *The Laramie Project* at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3 in the Activity Room at the Bowling and Billiards Center.

On October 6th of 1998, Matthew Shepard was beaten and left to die tied to a fence in the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. He died 6 days later. His torture and murder became a watershed historical moment in America that highlighted many of the fault lines in our culture. A month after the murder, the members of Tectonic Theater Project traveled to Laramie and conducted interviews with the people of the town. From these interviews they wrote the play *The Laramie Project*, which they later made into a film for HBO. The piece has been seen by more than 30 million people

around the country. Ten years later, Moisés Kaufman and members of Tectonic Theater Project returned to Laramie to find out what has happened over the last 10 years. Has Matthew's murder had a lasting impact on that community? How has the town changed as a result of this event? What does life in Laramie tell us about life

in America 10 years later? And how is history being rewritten to tell a new story of Matthew Shepard's murder, one that changes the motivation of his killers from homophobia to a "drug deal gone bad" despite all evidence to the contrary? For more information, go to Pride's web site: www.ilstu-pride.org - or follow them on Facebook.

Learn About Mediation

Join in the conversation about mediation at a free event, open to all, on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Normal. Our goal is to increase the awareness of mediation and find creative ways to increase conflict resolution in our community. Although this is a free event, seating is somewhat limited and can be reserved by calling 309-452-2096. The event is hosted by the United Methodist Women (UMW), which is a social justice group.

Guest speakers at the event will include Laurie Cigainero of the Solutions Foundation and local judges. Topics covered will include divorce or civil union dissolution mediation, child issues, foreclosure mediation, and small claims, to name a few.



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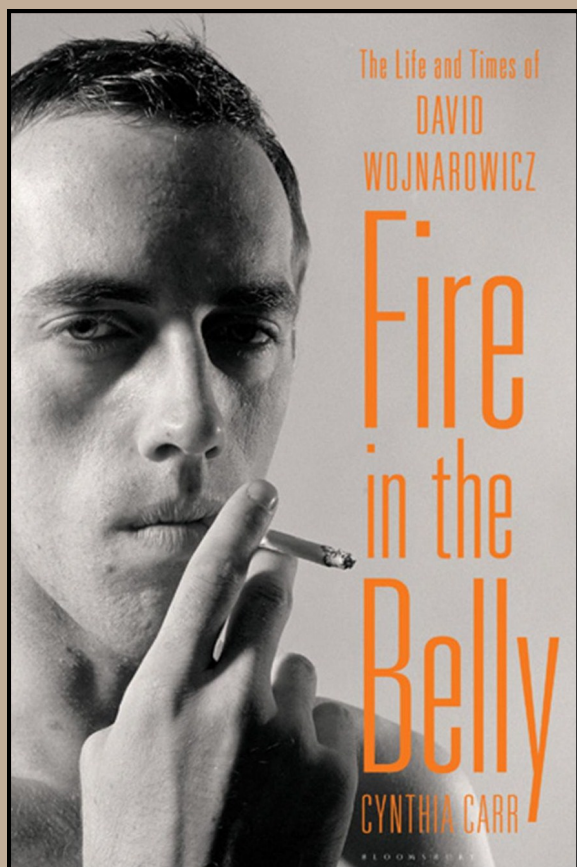
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Queer in Normal Author to Speak at ISU



The ISU University Galleries will host Cynthia Carr, the biographer of acclaimed artist David Wojnarowicz, on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. in the galleries.

"Queer in Normal: The Life and Times of David Wojnarowicz" will feature Carr, who will read excerpts from her biography *Fire in the Belly: The Life and Times of David Wojnarowicz*, the definitive biography of the controversial artist. Galleries Director Barry Blinderman, who curated Wojnarowicz's first museum exhibition, will also be on hand to discuss his experiences with

Wojnarowicz.

Following his diagnosis with AIDS in the late 1980s, Wojnarowicz's relentless anger at a homophobic Church, and politicians who ignored the existence of this deadly illness, fueled much of his scathing imagery. The soul--piercing diatribes he delivered to audiences throughout the U.S. until his death in 1992 still resound today; the sustained power of his work is evident in the recent political storm surrounding the removal of his video *Fire in My Belly* from an exhibition at the

National Portrait Gallery.

Carr's book has special resonance for Illinois State University, where in January 1990, *Tongues of Flame*, the retrospective of the artist's paintings, photographs and sculptures opened with a performance witnessed by an enthusiastic crowd of 700 people. Amidst four of his videos running simultaneously, Wojnarowicz passionately addressed safe sex, lack of AIDS funding, and the dearth of queer rights in our "one--tribe nation."

Wojnarowicz stayed in Bloomington--Normal for several

weeks between 1989 and his death in 1992. He published three prints with Illinois State University's Normal Editions Workshop, and created some of his last major paintings and photographs in a studio he rented at Front and Center streets in Bloomington.

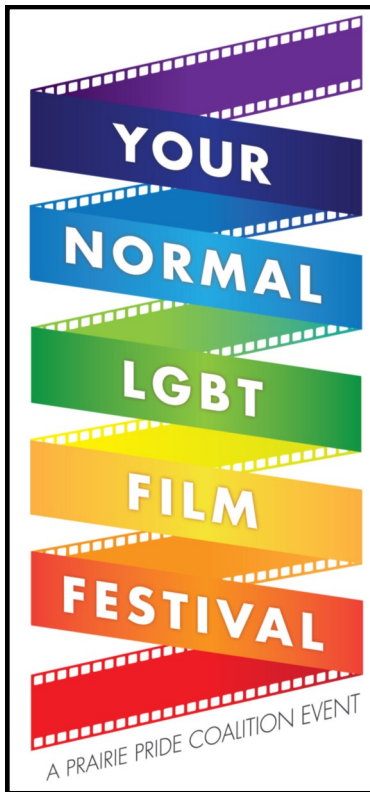
University Galleries is located on the south side of ISU's campus in room 110 of the Center for the Visual Arts. Parking is available for \$1 per hour on the first level of the South University Street parking garage.

This event is co--sponsored by MECCPAC, A Dean of Students Diversity Initiative, and Women's and Gender Studies, at Illinois State University. There is no admission charge.



Fire in the Belly author Cynthia Carr

2012 Your Normal LGBT Film Fest Entertains



The 2012 edition of Your Normal LGBT Film Festival attracted hundreds of film buffs over its six nights of screenings of dramas, documentaries, comedies, and special events.

Audience members were treated to special appearances by producer Randy Fryman (*The Green*) and director/writer/star Patrick Wang (*In the Family*), a panel discussion following the documentary *Taking a Chance on God*, and a special sneak preview of the yet-to-be-

the festival organizing committee; the attendees; the festival special guests; festival advertisers; businesses that donated door prizes; and Dawn and Cliff at the Normal Theater for helping to make this year's festival a success.

Visit the festival's web site - www.yournormalfilmfest.com - for an announcement of the winner of the "Audience Award" winner at this year's festival.

released *Scrooge & Marley*. The festival also featured several after-screening and pre-screening receptions attended by these guests.

The sneak preview of *Scrooge & Marley* was attended by executive producer Tracy Baim, co-directors Richard Knight, Jr. and Peter Neville, and several cast and crew members from the film. After the screening they talked with festivalgoers and solicited feedback via comment cards that will be used to help market the film as the holidays near.

The Prairie Pride Coalition would like to thank

Local Theatre Company to Produce *Our David*

New Route Theatre, a local theater troupe, will stage the AIDS drama "Our David" on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 at the YWCA of McLean County, 1201 N. Hershey Road in Bloomington.

"Our David," by Ian Mairs, centers on uneasy neighbors Velma and Clyde. Velma, a widowed grandmother, has tended her vegetables in this humid North Florida community for most of her life. Clyde, a gay man out of place here, has recently moved in from New York City after losing his lover and most of his friends to AIDS.

Story continued on page 6

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Calendar

- **Friday, November 2, First Fridays** – Kick off the weekend by joining the fun at the **Bistro, 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington**, for appetizers and drink specials.
- **Saturday, November 3**—Staged reading of *The Laramie Project* at 7 p.m. in the **Activity Room of the Bowling and Billiards Center** on the campus of ISU.
- **Tuesday, November 6**—**Election Day!!** Remember to get out the vote!
- **Friday, November 9** —Join the fun at the **Bistro** as we celebrate **Sharon Share a Like's** birthday with a special **Hotspot** show.
- **Saturday, November 10**– Transgender support group meets on the second **Saturday** of each month. Contact tginbnil@hotmail.com for more information.
- **Monday, November 12** – **PFLAG**, the **Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays**, meets on the second **Monday** of each month at the **Unitarian Church** – **1613 E. Emerson**, from **5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 13**—**Mediation training** at 7 p.m. at the **First United Methodist Church** in **Normal**.
- **Tuesday, November 16**—**Talent Show night** at the **Bistro**
- **Every Wednesday and Thursday** – **Bingo and Karaoke** at the **Bistro**, starting at **9 p.m.**

Our David

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The local production is directed by Bridgette Richard and is being staged as part of a local commemoration of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

New Route Theatre is a multi-racial and multi-cultural theater company that produces new as well as established works that explore the nature of the human spirit in the context of ethical, political, and social choices. Its mission is to produce professional quality theatre using a broad spectrum of artists who represent the community in all of its diversity.

For more information go to New Route's Facebook page - search "New Route Theatre."



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New Covenant Community

An Open and Affirming/More Light congregation which welcomes all persons into full participation in the life of our community, regardless of race, gender, age or sexual orientation.

Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.

Sunday School and childcare provided during worship

Chapel of the Campus Religious Center
210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 | (309) 454-7362
www.nccnormal.org

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

A PLAY PRESENTED BY FREESTAGE AND ISU PRIDE

DIRECTED BY DAVID FISCH

WRITTEN BY MOISES KAUFMAN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

7 PM

ACTIVITY ROOM OF BBC

For special accommodations to fully participate in this event, please contact Pride by calling 309-438-8968 or emailing pride@ilstu.edu. Please allow sufficient time to arrange accommodations.



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