



Rainbow FALL 2015 Connection

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE



Thurs. Oct. 15: *Game Face*
Friday Oct. 16: *All About E*
Sat. Oct. 17: *Henry Gamble's Birthday Party*
Sun. Oct. 18: *Tab Hunter Confidential*

Your Normal LGBT Film Festival October 15-19, 2015

The Prairie Pride Coalition and the Normal Theater are pleased to announce the lineup for the 6th annual **Your Normal LGBT Film Festival**. Running October 15 – 18, 2015, this annual collaboration will bring award winning films that have screened at major festivals across the United States to residents of Normal, Bloomington, and the surrounding area. This year's lineup includes:

Game Face – Thursday, October 15

The award winning documentary *GAME FACE* tells the parallel story of Fallon Fox, MMA's first transgender pro fighter, and Terrence Clemens, a young, ambitious and talented college basketball player in Oklahoma, who happens to be gay. NBA player Jason Collins, NFL player Kye Allums and triathlete Chris Mosier also appear in the film.

A panel discussion will immediately follow the screening of *GAME FACE* executive producer and director, Michiel Thomas.
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LGBT Legacy Exhibit thru Oct. 28

LGBT Legacy Wall in Springfield Through Oct. 28

The first-of-its-kind interactive traveling LGBT history exhibit is on display through Oct. 28 in the Illinois State Library Atrium inside the Gwendolyn Brooks Building, 300 S. Second St. in Springfield.

The LGBT Legacy Wall is 40 linear feet of biographies and graphics featuring LGBT people like social activist Jane Addams, civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, astronaut Sally Ride, British mathematician Alan Turing, Mexican artist Freda Kahlo, and Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. In all there are nearly 150 biographical commemorations linked digitally to resource lists and educational tools.

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PPC Unveils New Committees

The Prairie Pride Coalition (PPC) is announcing a new committee structure that will move the organization toward its desired future state of maturity. In early 2015, PPC, in collaboration with the 2015 McLean County Multicultural Leadership Program team, the Prairie Dogs, conducted a needs assessment of the LGBT Community in McLean County. A key takeaway from the SWOT analysis of PPC was the recommendation to make strategic enhancements to its organizational structure to increase the group's ability to fulfil its mission and better server the local LGBT community. Three new committees will be rolled out in Q4 2015 — communication, fundraising, and programming.

Board members are developing a strategy and plan for each committee that will include objectives, strategies, core messages, guidelines, measurements, and plans. The

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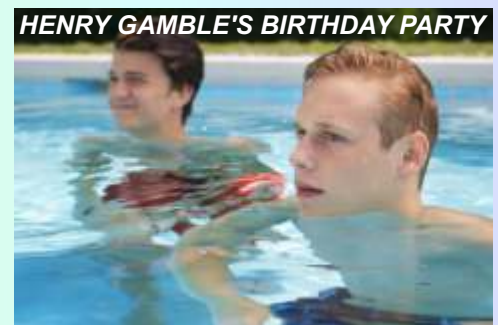
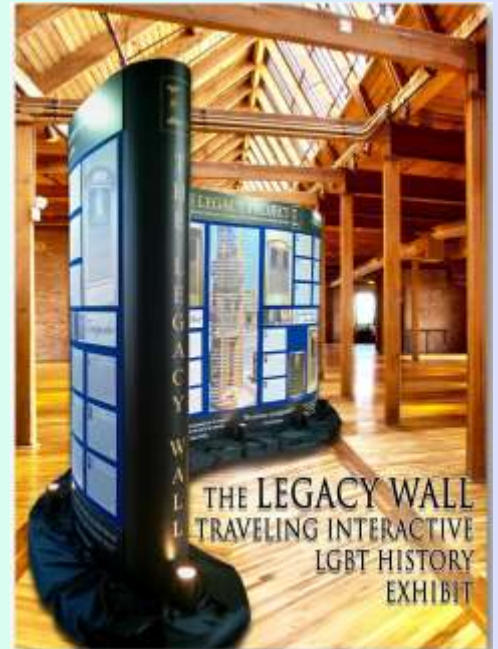
Legacy from page 1

In addition to a broad spectrum of historical content, the installation also highlights the challenges faced by LGBT youth with data culled from the 2013 GLSEN National School Climate Survey about the effectiveness of LGBT content-inclusion for substantially lowering the incidence of bullying in our schools. The goal of the Legacy Wall is to use the powerful lessons of history to raise cultural awareness, to promote a feeling of safety and belonging in the classroom, and to give our children hope by improving their outlook on life.

After October, the exhibit will begin touring the State of Illinois for 12-15 months before embarking on a national tour in 2017.

The LGBT Legacy Wall is a project of the Legacy Project, an award-winning, Chicago-based 501(c)3 non-profit committed to researching and celebrating the contributions Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people have made to world history and culture. The central tool of the organization's mission is "The Legacy Walk" – a growing half-mile outdoor installation featuring thirty (30) bronze memorial markers affixed to the "Rainbow Pylons" on North Halsted Street which define the area as the cultural and business center of Chicago's large, diverse LGBT community. In cooperation with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, the Legacy Project works to share the contributions of historically significant LGBT role models. Raising awareness of the roles LGBT people have played in shared human history has been proven to lessen the incidence of all forms of bullying in our schools by encouraging a culture of mutual respect and tolerance.

The Prairie Pride Coalition is a member of the Host Committee for this powerful exhibit and we encourage you to make it a part of your travel itinerary this month! 🌈



into the arms of e's ex, Trish. She has to give her family the chance to accept who she is and find the courage to live her dreams.

PPC Committees from page 1

deliverables will be published in Q4 2015. Board members will be seeking volunteers to join and help bring the strategic visions to life as PPC continue its mission to promote equality and mutual understanding for all people through collaborations, outreach, and educational programming, with an emphasis on the LGBTQA community. Stay tuned for official announcements and committee sign-up opportunities at the 2015 Your Normal LGBT Film Festival and other events in 2015 and beyond. 🌈

LGBT Film Festival from page 1

All About E – Friday, October 16

Beautiful, sexy e seems to have it all. A popular DJ at the top Sydney gay nightclubs, e has her pick of the girls. Matt, her flamboyant manager and best friend, makes her stunning outfits and creates a stylish home for them both. Life is sweet. Too scared to come out to her traditional migrant parents, e married Matt, a gay Irish dress designer, to give him a visa and provide cover for her sexuality. e and Matt go on the run pursued by Johnny and his thugs. To avoid certain death there is only one safe place to go: outback Australia and

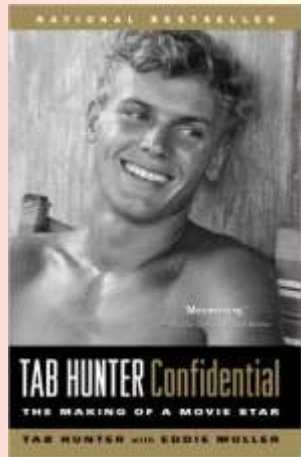
Henry Gamble's Birthday Party – Saturday, October 17

The film tells the tale of two teenage boys, preacher's kid Henry Gamble and his friend Gabe, who has a sleepover the night before Henry's seventeenth birthday pool party. Typical teenage boy chat quickly turns sexual, and it's silently implied that Henry, on a search for identity, has a crush on Gabe. As dawn arrives on the day of the party, Henry's mom Kat wakes in a state of limbo, middle-aged, with a secret. A little while later, Pastor Bob is making

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LGBT Film Festival from page 2

breakfast, and they are joined by Henry's nineteen-year-old sister Autumn, home from college for the party. Later that afternoon, as guests arrive - both from the church, as well as Henry's own *secular* friends - and day turns to night, Henry carefully navigates the religious strictures and sexual secrets of his community, as do the adults and teenagers of the party, all struggling to tread the public and private, and their longing, despite themselves and their faith, for earthly love.



Tab Hunter Confidential – Sunday, October 18

The story of matinee idol Tab Hunter from teenage stable boy to closeted Hollywood star of the 1950's. Throughout the 1950's, Tab Hunter reigned as Hollywood's ultimate male heartthrob. In dozens of films - and in

the pages of countless movie magazines - Tab's astonishing looks and golden-boy sex appeal drove his fans to screaming, delirious frenzy, making him the prototype for all young matinee idols to come. He earned his stripes as an actor to become a major movie star and recording artist. Punctuating Tab's on screen presence will be rare film clips and provocative interviews with friends and co-stars including John Wters, Clint Eastwood, George Takei, Debbie Reynolds, Robert Wagner, Portia de Rossi, Noah Wyle, Connie Stevens, Robert Osborne, and dozens more.

Your Normal LGBT Film Festival creates a showcase for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender stories and arts to entertain, inspire and grow the number of central Illinois fans and champions.

Films are shown for a cost of \$7 per screening. (Students are \$5.) Each film begins at 7:00 PM.

More information is available at www.yournormalfilmfest.com and on Facebook at the Your Normal LGBT Film Festival page. 

Compton Cafeteria Riot 1966

Before Stonewall...There Was Compton's *by Dave Bentlin*

Members of the LGBT community have been vocal about the inaccuracies found in STONEWALL, the recently-released fictionalized account of the Stonewall uprising in 1969. The film by almost all accounts downplays the role of drag queens and "whitewashes" the participants, raising the ire of several notable LGBT activists.

Truth be told, no one knows who exactly threw the first brick that commenced the uprising, but rather than tackle the veracity of the film I thought I'd shine a light on another riot, one that is oftentimes forgotten but in fact deserves the same recognition that is mostly only afforded to Stonewall.

The Compton's Cafeteria Riot of 1966 predates Stonewall by almost three years. The riot centered around the Gene Compton's Cafeteria located in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. Compton's was one of the few places where transgender people felt welcome and safe; hard to believe, but even in progressive San Francisco drag queens and transgender people often were greeted with hostility, even at the gay bars. "Cross dressing" was illegal in San Francisco and bar owners feared that their establishments would be shut down if police discovered drag queens and transgender people on the premises. One participant in the riot, Amanda St. Jaymes, said transgender women could be arrested for simply wearing a blouse that featured buttons on the "wrong side" of the garment.

The summer of 1966 management at Compton's began to complain to police that the drag queens, transgender people, and street hustlers were loitering in the cafeteria. An increase in arrests ensued, and the drag queens and street hustlers organized an unsuccessful picket of the cafeteria. Finally things came to a head on an August night in 1966, when a police officer attempted to arrest a transgender woman. The woman resisted and threw coffee in the officer's face; what ensued was a riot that included thrown glasses and plates and shattered plate-glass windows. The fighting spilled in to the streets and accounts mention that a police car was heavily damaged and a nearby newsstand was burnt down.



"Plaque commemorating Compton's Cafeteria riot" by Gaylesf - Own work. Licensed under Public Domain.

Compton's Riot from page 3

The following night a coalition of street hustlers, drag queens, transgender people, and members of the LGB community gathered to picket the cafeteria and the newly-installed plate glass windows were smashed again. Note: a comprehensive record of the riot is impossible to find as the pickets and altercation was not covered by the local media; in fact, there is no clarity on the exact date in August 1966 when the riot occurred.

The Compton's Cafeteria Riot galvanized members of the LGBT community as well as their supporters. Activists developed a network of transgender social, psychological, and medical support services, which culminated in 1968 with the creation of the National Transsexual Counseling Unit [NTCU], the first such peer-run support and advocacy organization in the world. The San Francisco Police department assigned a liaison to the organization, and eventually the harassment and arrests of transgender people and drag queens decreased. Finally, in 1997, the city of San Francisco enacted an ordinance that barred discrimination against transgender people.

Public records of the riot are hard to come by, but a 2005 documentary, SCREAMING QUEENS: THE RIOT AT COMPTON'S CAFETERIA, cobbles together the facts and firsthand accounts from several participants in the Compton's Riot. The documentary is available on YouTube and Amazon Prime.

The Compton's Riot of 1966 is one of several uprisings that predate Stonewall. Others include the Cooper's Donut Riot in 1959 - a full ten years before Stonewall; the 1967 Black Cat Riots in Los Angeles; and the 1965 Dewey' Restaurant Sit-ins in Philadelphia.

While Stonewall has been memorialized, and to some extent mythologized, it is important to remember that the modern gay rights movement was built on the actions and work of many individuals and groups that predate the 1969 Stonewall uprising. 🌈

HOUSING AND WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION TOPIC OF OCT. 26 PRESENTATION

Local groups will co-sponsor a presentation on LGBT discrimination in housing and the workplace at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 26 in the Community Room at the YWCA of McLean County, 1201 N. Hershey Road in Bloomington.

The presentation is being facilitated by ISU faculty member Tom McClure. Co-sponsoring organizations include the Hope Church and the YWCA.

Look for more details on the PPC Facebook page and at the information table at the film festival. 🌈

GRANDMA



Lily Tomlin returned to the silver screen this summer in the movie "Grandma". It was Tomlin's first leading role in 27 years. In this comedy-drama she portrays Elle, a lesbian poet coping with the recent death of her long-term life partner. When Ellie discovers that her 18-

year-old granddaughter Sage is pregnant, the two embark on a road trip to come to terms with their troubles.

The film premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival on January 30, 2015, and was the festival's closing night film. Written, produced and directed by Paul Weitz, Grandma has a *certified fresh* score of 93% on Rotten Tomatoes. The film was released on August 21, 2015, by Sony Pictures Classics. 🌈

QUEER Talks Series at ISU

A new LGBT and Queer Studies talk series opens on October 8 at Illinois State University. This new event is cosponsored by ISU's Women's and Gender Studies Program, the LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute, Diversity Advocacy, and ISU Pride. There are three events. Each talk will be held from 12 to 1:00 PM in Vrooman 107.

- On **October 8**, Anahi Russo-Garrido will present "Negotiating Marriage and Polyamory in Queer Mexico City."
- On **October 28**, LaToya E. Eaves will present "Place, Embodiment, and the Ethereal: On a Queer Black South."
- On **November 6**, Emily Hobson will present "A More Powerful Weapon': Lesbian Feminists and the Revolutionary Underground."

Russo-Garrido is from Metropolitan State University, Eaves is from Middle Tennessee State University, and Hobson is from the University of Nevada, Reno. The program is a new lunchtime colloquium series dedicated to learning about new scholarship in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)/Queer studies. 🌈

Student groups at ISU and IWU are planning a fall lineup of interesting events and activities.

ISU, IWU Student Groups Plan Fall Activities

The ISU Pride organization has planned the following activities for the month of October:

October 14, 7PM Ally Night @ Cherry Berry on Main Street in Normal;

October 28, 7PM Pumpkin Carving @ the LGBTQ Institute, 207 S. Main Street in Normal;

October 30, 6PM Halloween Dance @ the LGBTQ Institute.

To the south, Pride's counterpart, the IWU Pride Alliance, has put together a varied set of events in the coming weeks.

The IWU Homecoming Pride Alumni Community LGBT Brunch will take place at 11 a.m. on Sunday, **Oct. 12** in the Turfler Lounge at the Memorial Center. The brunch will celebrate the 25th anniversary of GLOW (Gays and Lesbians of Wesleyan) by welcoming alum Jason Dennis, teacher and coach at Oak Park and River Forest High School who will present "The Power of Allies."

At noon on Monday, **Oct. 19** Professor Cesar Valverde will discuss "The Dream of the Celt," a recounting of legendary Irish patriot Roger Casement, who in the early 1900s led an unsuccessful revolt against England and uncovered the imperialist policies of European countries that suppressed the rights of people in Africa. Casement, a gay man, is among the rich tapestry of famous LGBT historical figures who have changed the world. Valverde's presentation will take place in the Davidson Room at the Memorial Center.

Assistant Dean of Students Matthew Damschroder will headline a presentation on "Middle Sexualities and Resisting Labels" at noon on Monday, **Nov. 9** in the Davidson Room at the Memorial Center.

For more information, be sure to check out these groups' Facebook pages. 🌈

FREEHELD OPENS NATIONWIDE OCTOBER 16

Opening in limited release on October 2, *Freeheld* is the story of Laurel Hester. Hester was a police officer in Ocean County, New Jersey, who was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 2005. Directed by Peter Sollett and starring Julianne Moore (as Hester) and Ellen Page, this film depicts Hester's repeated attempts to convince her county's "board of chosen freeholders" to ensure her pension benefits could be passed on to her domestic partner, Stacie Andree.



Written by Ron Nyswaner, the film also features Steve Carell as Steven Goldstein, founder and then-Chair of Garden State Equality, and Luke Grimes as Todd Belkin, Hester's closeted gay colleague. The film includes a song called "Hands of Love" by Miley Cyrus. It opens nationwide on October 16. 🌈



AT THE BISTRO

The Bistro, 316 N. Main Street in downtown Bloomington, is offering a fun fall full of great music and shows. Upcoming events include:

CD Release Party at 8 p.m. on Saturday, **Oct. 10**. Musical group Dirty Rotten Revenge! will celebrate the release of its new album FOR ALL THE THINGS THEY SAY. Doors open at 8 p.m. and there is a \$7 cover charge for this special event.

Jack on Tap Bluegrass Show on Sunday, **Oct. 11**. Doors open at 8 p.m. and show starts at 9 p.m. Cover charge for the show is \$3.

Country musician Matt Woods performs on Sunday, **Oct. 18**. Matt is joined by a full band and special guests Adam Lee and Brett Conlin. Doors will open at 8 p.m. for this outlaw country music show; cover charge is \$5.

Other upcoming shows include the Miserables on Friday, **Oct. 23**; Fox and the Acres on Saturday, **Oct. 24**; and the Great Cover Show and Costume Contest on **Oct. 31**, Halloween night.

This is but a sampling of what the Bistro is offering this fall; for a complete schedule check out the Bistro Facebook page! 🌈

COMING SOON - NOV. 20 & DEC. 1

Occurring annually on **November 20**, the **Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR)** is a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. Wikipedia defines transphobia as the hatred or fear of transgender and gender non-conforming people.

December 1 is the next **World AIDS Day**. This annual event is an opportunity for people around the world to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day. The first one was held in 1988.



Stay tuned to the Prairie Pride Coalition's Facebook page for more as these dates approach. 🌈

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AMONG LGBT YOUTH

Around 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT even though they make up less than 7% of the general youth population. Rejection by their families because of their sexual orientation is the most frequently cited reason for these youths being homeless.

Prairie Pride Coalition (PPC) conducted a survey where supporting LGBT youth was the 2nd most important issue (behind equal marriage rights) to those who took the survey and the area in which the highest number of those surveyed indicated an interest in volunteering to help.

PPC is one of the organizations who formally support Illinois House Resolution 424 & Senate Resolution 413 – establishing April 29th as 40-to-None-Day in the state of Illinois - that advocates for LGBT Homeless Youth of which there are an estimated 25,000 in Illinois alone, 15,000 in Chicago. There are many problems arising from the situation in which these young people find themselves, not the least of which is the absence of a systemic approach to working with this situation. It is difficult to even establish how many there are because so many do not even appear on the radar of anyone trying to help. There are many “couch surfers” who are not identified by agencies because they live temporarily in the homes of the families

of their friends rather than seeking places in youth shelters. The shelters have very few beds compared to the number who need them. Small towns and areas in southern Illinois are especially susceptible to this for lack of resources. Homeless LGBT Youth also experience abuse from other homeless youth in shelters not specifically for LGBT youth.

PPC has reached out to Project Oz locally to see if anything can be done to improve the situation here.

Among the issues involved are teaching the youth “agency” in order to find help, working on the schools to support the youth, and mental health issues brought about not only by the lack of acceptance but by such practices as “conversion therapy”.

In the coming months PPC will be working with a graduate intern (to be determined) from ISU in Social Work or Women’s and Gender Studies who will be doing a review of the literature of the issues and how communities have approached this. From this review PPC will develop a strategy for helping work locally with this very important problem. If anyone out there can supply PPC with information and/or is interested in working on this issue in the future, please send an email with your info/interest to gcgletty@frontier.com. 🌈

RAINBOW CONNECTION

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

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