



under the gaydar

by Tony Leggio
Email: ledgemgp@gmail.com
Photo by: Larry Graham

Book of the Month

I love a good thriller with plenty of plot twists and turns and that is what my book choice for February has in abundance. The Girl on the Train is a psychological thriller novel by British author Paula Hawkins which debuted at number one on The New York Times Fiction Best Sellers of 2015 list. The book is sort of in the same vein as Gone Girl where the narrative waffles back and forth between characters and time.

I always prefer reading the book before seeing the movie, so I can picture the events in my mind and see how it plays out on the big screen. The story is a first-person narrative told from the point of view of three women: Rachel, Anna, and Megan. Rachel is a budding alcoholic who is trying to pull herself together after the divorce from her husband Tom, who is now married to Anna. Every day she passes a house and fantasizes about its occupants lives; that cues into Megan who also has a tie to Anna unbeknownst to Rachel.

Through coincidences and a chain of events, these three women's lives collide and then someone disappears. The characters are vivid and deeply flawed and they also reveal little pieces of the truth as the novel goes on, so the reader never fully gets the complete picture at the beginning. The Girl on the Train is a page turner from start to finish as the clues come together. It is the perfect curl up on the sofa type book.

Hot Happenings

It's Mardi Gras, let the good times roll. There is so much excitement in the air, the balls, the parades and the parties are in full swing. Here are just a few ideas for you to enjoy.

Thursday, February 16

Come to the Gulf South Chamber's Third Thursday Networking Social from 5:30 - 8pm at Tulane Medical Center (1415 Tulane Avenue). This event is hosted by our corporate sponsor, Tulane Medical Center. The event will feature free catering provided by Tulane Medical Center's culinary team, refreshments, and free valet parking. There will also be tours offered for anyone interested in viewing Tulane Medical Center's facility. This is a networking event so bring your business cards and your friends! The event will be held at the Reily Pavilion in the Tulane Medical center located on the 1st Floor. Free valet parking will be provided between 5:30 and 8:30 at the valet entrance of the hospital, on the corner of Tulane Avenue and S. Saratoga Street. Park-

ing will also be validated for anyone who chooses to park in the LaSalle Garage (275 LaSalle Street) or the Saratoga Garage (111 S. Saratoga St.) This is a free event for both members and non-members.

Sunday, February 19

Miss Exotique is a drag show club pageant that is open to all types of drag queens regardless drag type, age, or size. The event takes place at the Four Season Bar (3229 N. Causeway Blvd) from 6:30 - 9:30pm. There are three categories of judging for the pageant: Evening Gown, On Stage Question, and Talent. There is no entry fee and there are a couple of spots open. Contact, John Joseph Delgadillo through Facebook, and he will send you the package for registration explaining the categories and how things will run. Their theme this year is "Exotic Flowers of the World."

Thursday, February 23

Roxxy Andrews leads a fabulous cast live at The Four Seasons (3229 N. Causeway Blvd.), One night only! Direct from Ru Paul's All Stars, Roxxy Andrews brings her amazing talents to the city. Her show starts at 9pm. Come see this outstanding and spicy diva! Buy tickets on Eventbrite, or go to the Facebook page at Roxxy Andrews Live at The Four Seasons.

Friday, February 24

The Friday Night Before Mardi Gras will host their 2017 Ball entitled Hollywood Gone Bad at The Cannery (3803 Toulouse Street) in Mid-City, an elegant venue that brings the "best of the worst of Hollywood" to life. This year's theme encourages all things "bad" from Hollywood ... bad B movies, terrible plot lines, misguided facelifts, starlets and harlots ... wherever your trip down the Reckless Red Carpet may lead. The event is from 8pm to midnight. Music ... Dancing ... New culinary stations ... A fabulous auction ... Costume contest ... For tickets or more information go to www.fridaynightbeforemardigras.com.

Friday, February 24

The Scorpio Boys will be performing in this Mardi Gras special event at GrandPre's (834 N. Rampart St) starting at 10pm. Bayou Boylesque will have Co-Creators Poseidon S Davenport and Eros S Guillen alongside Danger Rockwell, Dionysus Sea, and Phathoms Deep!

Saturday, February 25

The Krewe of Armeinius returns for its 49th ball, presenting the Festival of Festivals, at the Frederick Sigur Center (8245 Judge Perez)! Doors open at 7pm with the Tableau at 8pm. Come experience the lavish costumes celebrating the festivals of the world. Come see the largest Gay Mardi Gras Krewe and the winners of the 2016 Bourbon Street Awards. See the ball and all its glory and experience this once in a lifetime event. Reserve your seat today. Gay Mardi Gras is a spectacle for everyone over the age of 18 gay or straight and the krewe welcomes everyone to come enjoy a well-hidden secrets of Mardi Gras since 1969. For information or tickets, go to www.armeinius.org.

Saturday, March 4

I love this event which is near and dear to my heart. Wiener Dog Racing presented by Double M Feed, Garden & Pet Supply returns to Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots (1751 Gentilly Blvd.) from 1 - 7pm. The same format as seasons past will be used to crown the racing champion: 48 pure-bred dachshunds and six alternates will be selected to participate from all eligible applicants and will be divided into four heats of twelve dogs apiece. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of each of the four heats will compete in a final race to determine the champion. Top finishers will receive cash prizes with goodie baskets valued at \$100 with the overall winner taking home \$500 cash. For additional questions, please contact Leslie Monson by email at Leslie.Monson@fgno.com or by phone at 504.948.1231. General admission for wiener dog racing will be \$5, with standard \$10 clubhouse admission. Kids 12 and under will be admitted free.

Sunday, March 5

Get your tickets for the Four Seasons (3229 N. Causeway) Crawfish Boil. Join them for their first crawfish boil of the year! Tickets are \$20 which will be all you can eat and includes all the fixings; they will also have hamburgers on the grill for those who do not eat crawfish. You can purchase your tickets at the link on Facebook. There will also be drink specials and music. The event is from 3 - 8pm.

Tuesday, March 7 - Sunday, March 12

Producers Paul Blake and Sony/ATV Music Publishing are proud to announce the Tony® and Grammy® Award-winning Broadway hit Beautiful - The Carole King Musical, depicting the early life and career of the legendary and groundbreaking singer/songwriter, will make its New Orleans debut at The Saenger Theatre (1111 Canal Street). Presented by the New Orleans Theatre Association, Beautiful - The Carole King Musical is part of the

East Jefferson General Hospital Broadway in New Orleans 2016 - 2017 season. Tickets start at \$36.54 and will be available at the Saenger Theatre Box Office, BroadwayInNewOrleans.com, all Ticketmaster outlets and by phone at 800.982.2787. With a book by Tony® and Academy® Award-nominee Douglas McGrath, direction by Marc Bruni and choreography by Josh Prince, Beautiful - The Carole King Musical features a stunning array of beloved songs written by Gerry Goffin/Carole King and Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil.

Long before she was Carole King, chart-topping music legend, she was Carol Klein, a Brooklyn girl with passion and chutzpah. She fought her way into the record business as a teenager and, by the time she reached her twenties, had the husband of her dreams and a flourishing career writing hits for the biggest acts in rock 'n' roll. But it wasn't until her personal life began to crack that she finally managed to find her true voice. Beautiful - The Carole King Musical tells the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation. It features a stunning array of beloved songs, including "I Feel The Earth Move," "One Fine Day," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "You've Got A Friend" and the title song.

Party Down

Are you ready for the Mardi Gras Madness! I am plowing through the holiday yet again. My schedule does pick up as the holiday nears. Even though my work schedule was incredibly hectic during these last two weeks, I still managed to eke out some great fun which included balls, black ties, baubles and bowl parties.

So after a long exhausting first work week, I went to my first social event on Saturday as I played emcee along with Princesse Stephaney and the Drag King Ike Keeylla (butchered his name no pun intended) at the St. Anna's Raise the Roof fundraiser at Mags 940. This fundraiser was to benefit Dodwell House to help with the outreach work at St. Anna's providing for the good children and families of the Treme. It was an incredible night of music at this Vaudevillian style show featuring The Storyville Stompers, Tsarina Hellfire Burlesque, Sidewalk Serenaders NOLA, Darryl Durham and "The Collective" with many other special guests. Lots of money was raised at this worthwhile event that brought a packed house to the bar.

Sunday was a mixture of work and

[continued on 18]

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Rx
One pill a day!

PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is a prescription pill that is highly effective at preventing HIV infection if taken every day. It is covered by most insurance plans. Ask your medical provider today!



HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PrEP?

Call, text or email!
PrEP Hotline: 504-293-6842
Email: preclinic@crescentcarehealth.org

3308 Tulane Avenue | New Orleans, LA | 70119 | 504.293.6842

CrescentCare 
A Partnership for Life

Mona Lisa Restaurant



1212 Royal St. • New Orleans • 504.522.6746

QUARTERMASTER

1100 Bourbon Street • New Orleans

The Nellie Deli

Southern Decadence
OFFICIAL SPONSOR New Orleans

- ◆ Fabulous Early Bird Breakfast \$5.25
- ◆ 3 Egg Omelettes [w/biscuit or toast] from \$4.00
- ◆ Three Daily Specials from \$5.99
- ◆ Lunch & Dinner served anytime
- ◆ Poorboys, Specialty Sandwiches
- ◆ Late Night Menu 11pm-6am only



OPEN 24 HOURS



Ad © 2014 Ambush, Inc.

"NOTHING beats a good ten inches"

FREE DELIVERY • 7 Days • 504.529.1416



trodding the boards

by Brian Sands
Email: bsnola2@hotmail.com

The Vaudevillians at NOCCA

How to describe *The Vaudevillians*?

It's a vehicle for the alter (drag) ego of a talented singing actor. It's an absurdist comedy with music. It's a jukebox musical with a wild comic streak. It's a daring reinterpretation of some classic pop songs.

It's all of the above.

Long before Jinkx Monsoon won Season 5 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Jerick Hoffer (the mastermind behind Jinkx) and composer/musician Richard Andriessen created *The Vaudevillians* for them to star in as two vaudeville stars, Kitty Witless and Dr. Dan Von Dandy. Well, for their alter egos, Jinkx and Major Scales, to star in. Very meta.

In any case, Kitty and Dr. Dan were frozen in an avalanche in the 1920s during their Polar Ice Cap Tour in Antarctica. Now, however, thanks to global warming, they've been thawed out and have discovered that since they didn't copyright the songs they wrote, others have gone on to record them with highly successful results. They're determined to perform these numbers with their "original integrity."

And so Madonna's *Music* gets the ragtime treatment it was meant to have. Jinkx did a Charleston step during a reorchestrated *Piece of My Heart* stating that "a bastardized version of that song was done by another drug addict."

The songs, you see, are just a framework on which to hang Kitty and Dr. Dan's back story. We learn early on that Kitty was, in her words, a "working girl." Dr. Dan describes her as a "gutter level prostitute." Words ensue (along with a wink or three to the audience) and *The Vaudevillians* reveals a "Punch and Judy" streak.

But though Kitty and Dr. Dan fight, they do love each other despite their differences. As in any good marriage.

As Jinkx/Kitty, Hoffer evokes a combination of Lucille Ball and Tina Louise. Sure there's a certain demureness about her, but, like Ball, Hoffer is a gifted physical comedian; as s/he climbs on top of Dr. Dan's piano the slapstick humping of the instrument recalls Lucy-esque situations. Later, you wonder, "How does she get that whole microphone in her mouth?"

With her strawberry blonde hair, Kitty may look lovely in her pink floral dress, but one never knows what's going to come out of her uncensored mouth; not only saucy words do, but grunts and screeches that serve as commentary on the action. Kitty's wild persona seems like a train that threatens to go off the tracks at any second, but Hoffer's talent ensures that it doesn't in funny and surprising ways.

Hoffer also displays a truly impressive multi-octave voice that allows the musical numbers, like Britney Spears' *Toxic*, to be entertaining on their own. As with Varla Jean Merman and Bianca Del Rio and their singular gifts, Hoffer's unique blend of talents is raising the bar for drag performers.

Andriessen, in plaid knickers and jacket, makes a fine foil to Kitty. If his Dr. Dan does not present as filigreed a characterization as Kitty's, well, somebody has to play straight man. He also plays a mean piano.

Seen last month at NOCCA, *The Vaudevillians* stylized cartoonishness (think Pee-wee Herman) got even wilder when Jinkx pulled an adorable 22-year-old up on stage to assist during *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, recast as a suffragette anthem. With Kitty upside-down in his lap, it was one of the, if not *the*, most outrageous bits of audience participation I've ever observed.

In the show's second part, with Dr. Dan in top hat & tails and Kitty wearing a fabulously constructed floor-length blue-sequined gown, a lecture on Ibsen's *A Doll's House* which built up to *I Will Survive* sung operatically, got laughs but went on a bit too long. Having covered territory from Adolf Hitler to Shirley Temple, I would've enjoyed hearing even more examples of these vaudevillians delightful madness.

Next up in Mark Cortale's **Broadway@NOCCA** series will be the return of 6-time Tony Award winner **Audra McDonald** on March 31 as a benefit for The NOCCA Institute. She'll be joined on stage by series host & pianist Seth Rudetsky. The performance will also include a special guest appearance by McDonald's husband, Will Swenson, the Tony-nominated star of *Hair* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

The evening promises to be a seamless mix of intimate behind-the-scenes stories from one of Broadway's biggest stars—prompted by Rudetsky's probing, funny, and dishy questions—and McDonald singing some of the biggest hits from her musical theater repertoire. No fan of Broadway should miss this event, particularly as it's for such a worthy cause. For tickets and further information, visit www.broadwaynola.com or call 800.838.3006.

Coming Up

Daniel Nardicio, the impresario who has conquered New York, will be presenting three events in New Orleans that should all be as tasty as a cream-filled King Cake.

First up is the return of legendary director and raconteur **John Waters** with his one-man show, *This Filthy World: Filthier and Dirtier*, on Saturday, March 18, at **The Joy Theater**. Waters will tell stories about his childhood and early influences, his career as a film director, anecdotes about the making of each film, all sprinkled with gay references and wry observations about people's foibles. This "Pope of Trash" will also answer audience questions. If previous appearances here are any indication, this man knows how to hold court with aplomb.

On April 10, **Dina Martina** comes back to **Café Istanbul** with her new show *Soft Palate, Fallen Arches*. Self-described as a "tragic singer, horrible dancer and surreal raconteur" with her gash of a mouth outlined in stop-sign red lipstick and a bushy jet-black mop of hair, Dina could pass as a frowsy, pixilated distant cousin of Elizabeth Taylor.

Combining a free-spirited faux naïf persona, out-there humor, and subversive wit, in her last two visits to New

Orleans, Dina has played to houses packed with a combination of hipster and arty types, gay and straight, all loving every minute of her hour-long performances. If her sets can feel shorter than they are, well, time flies when you're having fun. Yet, counterintuitively, they also feel longer because they're so jam-packed with solidly funny material.

Not sure what this wonderfully witty and fabulously bizarre talent has in store for us this time, but I can't wait to find out.

Aslagnappe, on March 19, Nardicio will be presenting the first annual **Mr. Nude Orleans at colette club** (822 Gravier St.). The creator of Mr. Nude York promises that it will be "an all-nude, all-lewd, all-dude beauty pageant."

"New Orleans has always been such a sexy city that I just couldn't resist having a Mr. Nude Orleans, which is all-male, but not limited to gay guys. We're very open to contestants," said Nardicio. Contestants will get a chance to show off their wares in a swimsuit competition, a strip-off, a hilarious Q and A portion, and the last part, the big reveal. "Let's just say the competition will be stiff," Nardicio added.

[continued on 21]

under the gaydar ...from 16

pleasure at the King Cake Festival which has quickly grown to be one of the locals' favorite festivals in the city. With literally thousands of people in attendance, this festival had it all, delicious kings cakes of every style and flavor, music, family fun, food trucks and my favorite thing, the King Cake Hamburger—delish!

The next week did see me get out a little more. On Wednesday, I attended the opening reception of the LGBT Community Center at their new home at 2727 South Broad. Congratulations on their wonderful new space that has a very nice reading library, meeting rooms and a cute patio area. Stop by and say hi, or get in contact with them to host your social event or meeting at their location. The reception brought a huge crowd of supporters and was a wonderful opportunity to meet a vast new array of people.

Thursday, the Ace Hotel hosted a hospitality reception for the party people in the city. They showed off their hip vibe to the hilt with an amazing vinyl DJ, champagne bar, delicious nouveau cuisine and sexy décor all adding to the wonderful atmosphere that makes the Ace one of the coolest hot spots in the city.

The Amon-Ra Ball was the place to be on Saturday. This invite only ball was literally a who's who in the gay community. I started the evening going to a pre-party at the Elizabeth Bouvier

Chalmansion which just happens to be directly across the street from the Civic Center. We imbibed some champagne and noshes before we sashayed over to the Center for the festivities. The ball was wonderful especially returning royalty Chris and Mena who shined in their new outfits and their returning outfits. Another standout was Errol Rizzuto who was a very convincing Willie Nelson. Concluding the night was the lovely Regina Adams and the impeccably talented Rhonda Roget (aka Ronnie White) as the new reigning King and Queen of Amon-Ra LII. They looked marvelous. After the ball, we all returned back to the Chalmansion for a post-party which was even livelier than the ball.

I ended my two weeks on Sunday with the Armienius social at their den, which was the last time the krewé is getting together before their ball, then we were off to Michael Shlenker and Don Schwinn's Superbowl Party at their lovely estate. Talk about a wild game. I have to admit, I was nonplussed about either teams winning, but sort of glad the dirty birds did not get it. I was there for the commercials which were horribly lackluster this year. But making up for everything was Lady GaGa's stupendous performance. It was solid from start to finish. I loved the drones at the beginning (which I am obsessed with doing for one of my clients now) to the final song where she catches the football and drops the mike. Pure gold!

Well, that is my two weeks in a nutshell, until next time, stay safe on the streets and Mardi Gras on!

Thursday Night

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN

DRAO!



Female Impersonation Contest

One Winner per Thursday night

Gets a Friday Night

Paid Booking @ B-Bob's!

Contestants MUST

Pre-REGISTER to Compete!

All Contestants MUST be 21 or over!

Co-Hosted by:

Jawakatema Davenport

& Zamareyah Dawn

@ Midnight



**Play in Mobile, AL
2 Bars, 1 Block!**

B-Bob's
213 Conti St.
Mobile, AL 36602
251-433-2262

Flip Side
54 S. Conception St.
Mobile, AL 36602
251-431-8869



Melissa Robertson

Joe Cain
Sunday
Feb 26, 2017
Noon - 4 pm





mobile
paparazzi

Order of Osiris, Krewe of Phoenix plus Mardi Gras @ B-Bob's/Flip Side ~ Mobile, Alabama ~ Photos by Miss Cie