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With a song in their hearts

Gay Texas artists led by Christian Andreason help Katrina relief with the release of new benefit CD

By Joey Guerra

This year's record-breaking hurricane season has reached its official, bitter end, but the wounds remain fresh for its victims, many of whom relocated in Texas. The ongoing need is what drives the local and national artists featured on *The Katrina CD, Vol. 1*.

The project was spearheaded by Houston-based inspirational singer Christian Andreason. The openly gay performer started compiling tracks just a few weeks after Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans.

"There are so many calling out for help right now. So many feel forgotten," Andreason says.

But the Texas recording industry stepped up to the plate. Essential Sound Mastering in Houston donated time and materials to master the disc. Every artist donated his or her song free of charge.

Andreason says he postponed promotion of his own solo album, *The Rhythm of Life*, because he felt compelled to do something more than donate clothes and food to help survivors. He used his own savings to get the disc started, and found songs and contributors. All proceeds raised from CD sales beyond production costs will be distributed to charity.

"The moment I made up my mind to do this CD, I grabbed the phone and rarely removed it from my ear for six weeks," Andreason says. "I sat down and made a list of songs I wanted to listen to during a time like this. I wanted music that included powerful lyrical content, strong melodic lines as well as moving vocals."

What makes the disc an ultimately affecting gift is the variety in sounds, the diversity in singers and the package's overall professionalism. *The Katrina CD* features original songs from several gay artists, including Houstonian Alan Lett, photogenic couple Jason & deMarco, gospel crooner Jeanie Cunningham, Grammy-winning producer Joe Hogue, Broadway star Billy Porter and sexy soul singer Ari Gold.

"When it came to choosing the artists, I guess I subliminally figured that folks who are actually from Texas; it just happened to be more apt to donate their music. I didn't necessarily plan on using so many artists originating from Texas; it just happened to turn out that way," Andreason says. "Not to brag about my home state or anything, but artists from Texas just seem to be more generous with their music."

"When the Katrina disaster happened, and I saw how the people who were affected were



Recording Artists for Hope

The Katrina CD, Vol. 1

Wonderboy Records

Messages of hope and understanding come in wildly diverse sonic packages. Just take a listen to *The Katrina CD, Vol. 1*. The eclectic, electric disc features pop, dance, country and Latin rhythms united for similar goals: relief, recovery and redemption.

Good intentions are one thing, but any disc should deliver on the ears as well, and this one does.

Houston's former KHOU-TV 11 consumer reporter (turned quirky diva) Eileen Faxas snaps and crackles on the salsa ditty "Vivelo," and singer Jez rides a swirl of complex guitar riffs and soaring vocals on "Prodigal." Even better is the haunting simplicity of Glenna Bell's "Tumbling Down," a duet with country-rocker John Evans. Jason & deMarco preview their upcoming album with the sultry dance track "Just in Time," a song written and produced by 21-year-old Houston native Alan Lett. Lett's own "From Now On (Second Chance)" is accessible and adventurous.

Ballads from Katrina Parker and Cameren Dezen provide moments of grace, but the disc's most resonant track comes from Kim Carson, who lived for 15 years in New Orleans and still had a home there when Katrina laid its path of destruction. "I'm going back to Louisiana/I gotta get there just as fast as I can," Carson sings on her gumbo-flavored country romp. It's a sentiment survivors can likely relate to all too well.

— Joey Guerra

being treated, I wanted so badly to find a way to help in any way that I could," says Gold, an emerging gay icon whose angelic face and toned physique have graced countless magazine covers and fashion spreads. His song "Space Under Sun" is a highlight of the CD.

"Space Under Sun" is a song about the journey we go through to find out how we fit into this world and allowing the universe to guide us," Gold says. "I thought that this journey would resonate with the victims of Hurricane Katrina, as they have been displaced and many lost their homes."



Andreason

Plenty of friendly straight folks have also rallied for the cause. The kitschy Kitten K. Sera (formerly Houston-based performer Pinque) twinkles and shines on "All That I'm Looking For," a campy gem that features backing vocals from Destiny's Child divas Beyonce and Kelly Rowland. Dance-floor favorite Jenna Drey also kicks up the energy on the insanely catchy "Why Should I Believe You," which is already poised for a big splash on *Billboard*'s dance club play chart.

Music, it seems, does indeed make the people come together. It can also make a difference in the lives of people who so desperately need a ray of hope, as several contributing artists have indicated.

"When it comes to humanity, we are all the same; we are all equal. In times of hardship, if I can help anyone, I will," says Hogue, whose inspirational song "Dreamer" closes the album. "God teaches us to love one another. That's it — it's that simple. And when you love, you heal. That's what I believe. I hope that many more people reach out. Gay, straight, whatever! We are all human and deserve respect and love."

The Katrina CD can be purchased online at Katrinacd.com or at Cactus Music & Video. More outlets will be added in the coming months, and Andreason plans to produce additional volumes — "as long as there is a need," he says.



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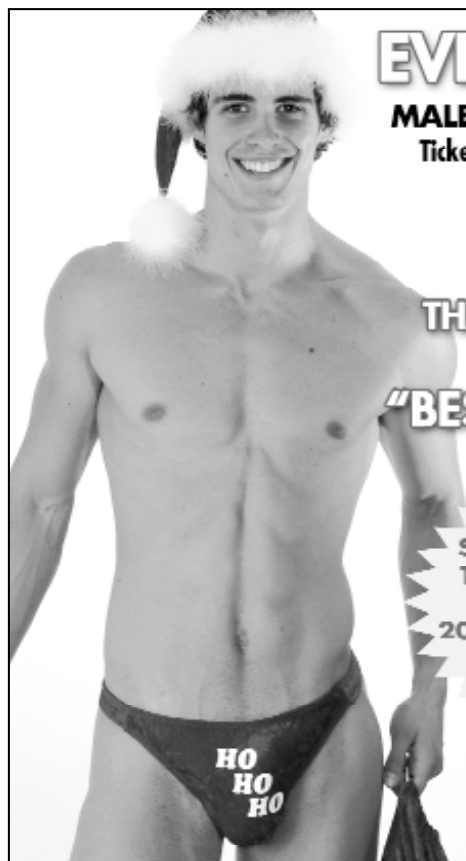
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tracks

Depeche Mode *Playing the Angel*

Sire Records

Thank the techno heavens that Depeche Mode became uncool for a decade. Without a period of wallowing in mediocrity, capped by the blasé CD *Exciter* in 2001, Mode's invigorating comeback album, *Playing the Angel*, might have been lost among current synth heavies from alterna-geeks like The Killers or Franz Ferdinand.

But fear not: the Mode is back. *Angel* brims with an earnest, hip glee and a natural, rolling pulse.

The album works as a single unit — a compliment considering the current saturation of single-single wonders. Even so, each track satisfies individually, especially the first single, "Precious," which swells and ebbs discretely, even hypnotically, until you find you're tapping your feet.

But "Precious" is no fluke. The whole album delivers Moments of schmalz rear up, as in the obvious "Lilian," yet without them, the CD could collapse. That's a testament to Mode's talent and longevity.

Depeche Mode was the original stadium-filling techno band, as parents remember well. With *Angel*, their kids are about to realize why.

—Ryan Short



The East Village Opera Company *The East Village Opera Company*

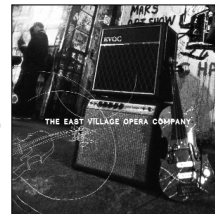
Decca Records

No doubt some purists will be horrified by this collection of classical operatic arias and overtures arranged for a rock audience. (I don't seem to recall Puccini using a steel guitar in the original orchestrations for *Turandot*.) But for those who think *La Bohème* benefited — or at least didn't suffer — from being reimagined as *Rent*, this could be a dream come true.

The redux versions of Delibes's "Flower Duet" from *Lakmé* (ripe with its lesbian subtext), Bizet's "Au font du temple saint" (with a woozy alt-rock vibe, and "Habanera" with additional lyrics by its queer singer, AnnMarie Milazzo) and Puccini's "Un bel di" from *Madama Butterfly* offer intoxicatingly groovy variations on the staid world of opera.

The irony is, you probably have to be an opera fan to fully enjoy the disc, and fans are likely the ones most easily scared away from its unconventionality. But the musically is solid and for those interested in the classic sound without the patience for its stiffness, this is an ideal primer.

—Arnold Wayne Jones



Madonna *Confessions on a Dance Floor*

Warner Bros. Records

La M's latest disc is being hailed as her glorious return to glitterball heaven, but any good gay boy know she never went away in the first place. Madonna's last album, 2003's *American Life*, was labeled a mainstream flop, but its torrent of singles — "Hollywood," "Love Profusion," "Nobody Knows Me," the title track — all topped the club-play charts.

Confessions on a Dance Floor cuts a straight path from disco to disco heaven, and it's even being offered in a 12-track continuous mix. Choice cuts "Hung Up," "Get Together," "Sorry" and "Future Lovers" bleed effortlessly into each other, and the beats come fast and hard. There are shades of Donna Summer here, sprinkles of Kylie there, but in the end, *Confessions* is pure, essential Madonna. She offers a defiant tribute in "I Love New York," and contemplates the price of celebrity during "Let It Will Be" and "How High."

Vocally, she's never sounded so seductive, particularly during the intoxicating strains of "Forbidden Love" and the electric vibe of "Jump." Madonna closes with the tribal thrust of "Push," a love letter to those who have made her a better person; and "Like It or Not," a rousing declaration of self-acceptance. Dance divas are a dime a dozen, but Madonna's rousing *Confessions* proves why she's still worth her weight in gold, sequins and glitter.

—Joey Guerra



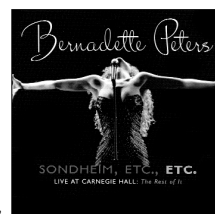
Bernadette Peters *Sondheim Etc. Etc.*

Angel


Though some may be reluctant to admit it, we all love a collection of Broadway show tunes. And we especially love show tunes performed by legendary Tony-winning vocal dynamos like Bernadette Peters. *Sondheim Etc. Etc.* (a follow up to *Sondheim Etc.*), recorded live in December 1996 during a solo performance by Peters at Carnegie Hall, is nothing short of a mesmerizing journey.

The 12-track disc kicks off (after an obligatory overture) with a bubbly and entertaining medley of "We're in the Money" and "Pennies from Heaven," shifts into torch song territory with "If You Were the Only Boy," and manages to strike deeply emotional chords with Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Unexpected Song" and a haunting rendition of John David Souther's "Faithless Love." As the album's title suggests, there are also a number of Sondheim favorites, including "Later" and "Children Will Listen." The disc concludes with a cheery "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" sing-along, a fact that makes it the perfect holiday gift for the closeted show tune lovers on your holiday list. And don't forget an extra copy for yourself.

—Scott Huffman



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ROUND UP AWARDS 2006 BEST OF AUSTIN

Restaurants

Best Breakfast Spot:	Kirby Lane Café
Best 24 Hour Restaurant:	Katz
Best Brunch:	Omletree
Best Vegetarian:	Veggie Heaven
Best Greek:	Athenian Grill
Best Chinese:	P.F. Chang's
Best Italian:	Frank & Angio's
Best Mexican:	El Mercado
Best Thai:	Thai Passion
Best Sushi:	Sushi Saki
Best Pizza:	Mangia
Best Seafood:	Trulucks
Best Steakhouse:	Texas Land & Cattle Co.
Best Margarita:	Baby Alcapulco's
Best Burger:	Hut's Hamburgers
Best Patio:	(Tia) Chuy's, Hula Hut
Best For People Watching:	Whole Foods
Most Romantic Restaurant:	Romeo's
Best To Take Family:	Shady Grove
Best Barbeque:	Rudy's
Best Buffet:	Buffet Palaca
Best Take Out:	Playors
Best Ceasar Salad:	Romeo's
Best Fast Food:	Taco Deli
Best Coffee House:	Little City
Best New Restaurant:	Rocco's
Best Wait Staff:	Hula Hut

Bars and Clubs

Best All-Around Bar:	Rain
Best Leather:	Chain Drive
Best Lesbian:	Rainbow Cattle Company
Best Dance:	Oilcan Harry's
Best Cabaret/Piano:	Romeo's
Best Country Western:	Rainbow Cattle Company
Sexiest Staff:	Rain

Friendliest Staff:
Best Off The Beaten Path
Best Happy Hour:
Best Martini:
Best Theme Night:
Best Drag Show:
Best Club D.J.:
Best Karaoke:
Best After Hours:
Best Place To Shoot Pool
Best Weekday Hangout:
Best Straight Bar:

Rain
Chain Drive
Hula Hut
Rain
Charlie's Wednesday
Charlie's
Filthy Rick
'Bout Time
Oilcan Harry's
'Bout Time
'Bout Time
Dallas Nightclub

Best Bank:
Best Insurance Agency:
Best Real Estate Agency:
Best Real Estate Agent:
Best Travel Agency:
Best Airline:
Best Florist:
Best Cosmetic Surgeon:
Best Apartment Locator:
Best Attorney:
Best Photographer:

Wells Fargo
Allstate — Maurice Kholmman
Presidio Group Realtors
Julie Nelson
Travel Masters
American Airlines
Enchanted Florist
Sergio P. Maggi
A+ Apts.
John Butler
Mark Lynch

Services

Best Pet Supply:
Best Pet Adoption:
Best Video Rental:
Best Adult Video Rental:
Best Bookstore:
Best Furniture:
Best Art Gallery:
Best Apparel:
Best Piercing/Tattoo:
Best Gift/Boutique:
Best Toy Store (Adult):
Best Second-hand Consignment:
Best Grocery:
Best Computer/High Tech:
Best Jewelry Store:
Best Health Food/Nutrition:
Best Leather Shop:
Best Liquor Store:
Best Tax Rental:
Best Athletic Apparel:
Best Cellular Service:
Best Auto Dealership:
Best Eyewear/Optical:
Best Music Store:
Best Hotel:
Best Bathhouse:
Best Hair Salon:
Best Hair Stylist:
Best Massage:
Best Gym:
Best Personal Trainer:
Best Dentist:
Best Chiropractor:
Best Veterinarian:
Best Mechanic:
Best Home Repair:
Best Mortgage Company:

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Town Lake Animal Shelter,
Tapelenders
Tapelenders
Bookpeople
Four Hands
Art On 5th
Tapelenders
Forbidden Fruit
Sola
Forbidden Fruit
Top Drawer
Whole Foods
Best Buy
The Managerie
Whole Foods
The Leather Chest
Twin Liquors
Al's Formal Wear
Roaster Andrews
Sprint
First TX Honda
Santa Fe Optical
Choapo Discs
Four Seasons
Midtown Spa
Jackson Ruiz
Ryan Carrell
Tony Howard
Golds Gym Downtown
Golds Gym
Michael Lessner
Mary Bath Meier
Susan Culp
Richmond Automotive
Aries Remodeling
ZK Mortgage

Community

Best Fundraiser:
Best GLBT Activist:
Best GLBT Organization:
Best Thing To Happen GLBT:
Worst Thing To Happen GLBT:
Best Local Official:

Best State Official:
Best Place Of Worship:
Best Radio (General):
Best GLBT Friendly Radio:
Best TV General:
Best GLBT Friendly TV:

Austin Bobrist Women Christmas Show
Bettie Naylor
Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby (Equality Texas)
Defeat of foster care ban
Proposition 2
Browstar McCracken,
City Council Place 5
Rep. Semfronia Thompson
MCC Austin
KGSR
KOOP
KXAN
KXAN

Places

Best Bed and Breakfast:
Best Weekend Getaway:
Best Neighborhood:
Best Park:
Best Bike/Walk Trail:
Best Tourist Destination:
Best Place To Meet Somebody:

Adam's House B & B
New Braunfels
Hyde Park
Zilker Park
Town Lake
Hippie Hollow
Little City

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theater:
Best Local Stage Production:
Best Touring Stage Production:
Best Entertainer (Drag):
Best Entertainer (Other):
Best Museum:
Best Live Music Venue:
Best Festival:
Best Local Sports Team:
Best Tourist Destination:
Best GLBT Family Web Site:
Best GLBT Adult Web Site:

Alamo Draft House
Keeping Austin Weird (Zach Scott)
Stomp
Samona Riviera
Hedda Lane
Austin Museum Of Art
The Backyard
Austin City Limits
University of Texas Longhorns
Hippie Hollow
Out In Austin
Gay.Com



ROUND UP AWARDS 2006 BEST OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH

Restaurants

Best Breakfast Spot:	Market Diner
Best 24 Hour Restaurant:	Café Brazil
Best Brunch:	Monica's Aca y Alla
Best Vegetarian:	Cosmic Cup Cafe
Best Greek:	Fadi's
Best Asian:	Steel
Best Italian:	Vitto Italian
Best Mexican:	Gloria's
Best Thai:	Thai Noodle
Best Sushi:	Deep Sushi
Best Pizza:	Campisi's
Best Seafood:	Pappadeaux
Best Steakhouse:	Bob's Steak and Chop House
Best Margarita:	Monica's Aca y Alla
Best Burger:	Hunky's
Best Patio:	Hunky's
Best For People Watching:	JR's balcony
Most Romantic Restaurant:	The Grape
Best To Take Family:	Black-Eyed Pea
Best Barbeque:	Sonny Bryan
Best Buffet:	Thai Nipa
Best Take Out:	Eatzi's
Best Caesar Salad:	La Madeline
Best Fast Food:	Café Express
Best Coffee House:	Buli's
Best New Restaurant:	Buli's
Best Wait Staff:	Riviera

Bars and Clubs

Best All-Around Bar:	JR's
Best Leather:	Dallas Eagle
Best Lesbian:	Sue Ellen's
Best Dance:	Throckmorton Mining Company
Best Cabaret/Piano:	Bill's Hideaway
Best Country Western:	Round-Up Saloon
Sexiest Staff:	Mickey's
Friendliest Staff:	(Tie) JR's, Round-Up Saloon
Best Off The Beaten Path:	Grapevine Bar
Best Happy Hour:	JR's
Best Martini:	Alexander's
Best Theme Night:	Throckmorton Mining Company

Best Drag Show:	The Rose Room
Best Club D.J.:	Totor Tot at Throckmorton Mining Company
Best Karaoke:	Round-Up Saloon
Best After Hours:	Throckmorton Mining Company
Best Place To Shoot Pool:	Round-Up Saloon
Best Weekday Hangout:	Hidden Door
Best Straight Bar:	Grapevine Bar

Services

Best Pet Supply:	Petsmart
Best Pet Adoption:	SPCA of Texas
Best Video Rental:	Tapelenders
Best Adult Video Rental:	Alternatives at New Fine Arts
Best Bookstore:	Crossroads Market
Best Furniture:	IKEA
Best Art Gallery:	Goss Gallery
Best Apparel:	Outlines
Best Piercing/Tattoo:	Obscurities
Best Gift/Boutique:	Off The Street
Best Toy Store (Adult):	Condom Sense
Best Second-hand Consignment:	Upscale Resale
Best Grocery:	Kroger
Best Antiques Shop:	Lula B's
Best Computer/High Tech:	Apple Store
Best Jewelry Store:	ICE House
Best Health Food Nutrition:	Whole Foods
Best Leather Shop:	Shades Of Grey
Best Liquor Store:	Goody Goody
Best Lux Rental:	Ascot Tuxedo
Best Athletic Apparel:	Luka's Locker
Best Cellular Service:	(Tie) Sprint, Cingular
Best Auto Dealership:	John Eagle Honda
Best Eyewear/Optical:	Image Eye Wear
Best Music Store:	Tower Records
Best Hotel:	Hotel Zaza
Best Bathroom:	Club Dallas
Best Hair Salon:	(Tie) Supercuts, Zen Clipz
Best Hair Stylist:	Gary Walden at State-Thomas Salon
Best Massage:	Paul Walker, Relaxation By Design
Best Gym:	Performance Playground
Best Personal Trainer:	Brian Hall
Best Tanning Salon:	Beaches
Best Medical Practitioner:	Jaime Vasquez
Best Dentist:	Allan Moodgan
Best Chiropractor:	Doug Kirkpatrick
Best Veterinarian:	Chip Cannon, City Vet
Best Mechanic:	T.J. Smith at Christian Bros. Automotive
Best Home Repair:	Don Beeler
Best Mortgage Company:	Shelter Mortgage

Best Bank:	Wells Fargo
Best Insurance Agency:	Steve Graves Insurance Agency
Best Real Estate Agency:	Master Realtors
Best Real Estate Agent:	Lory Masters
Best Travel Agency:	Pride Travel
Best Airline:	American Airlines
Best Florist:	Bishop Arts Floral
Best Cosmetic Surgeon:	David Martin
Best Apartment Locator:	Promove
Best Attorney:	Cynthia Asensio
Best Photographer:	Shawn Northcutt

Community

Best Fundraiser:	Black Tie Dinner
Best GLBT Activist:	Steve Atkinson
Best GLBT Organization:	HRC
Best Thing To Happen GLBT:	North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce
Worst Thing To Happen GLBT:	Proposition 2
Best Local Official:	Ed Oakley
Best State Official:	Rafeal Anchia
Best Place Of Worship:	Cathedral Of Hope
Best Radio (General):	KERA 90.1
Best GLBT Friendly Radio:	KDGE 102.1
Best TV General:	WFAA ABC 8
Best GLBT Friendly TV:	Logo

Places

Best Bed and Breakfast:	(Tie) Daisy Polk Inn, Lockhart Gables
Best Weekend Getaway:	Austin
Best Neighborhood:	Kessler Park
Best Park:	White Rock Lake
Best Bike Walk Trail:	Katy Trail
Best Tourist Destination:	Nasher Sculpture Center
Best Place To Meet Somebody:	JR's

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theatre:	Angelika Film Center
Best Local Stage Production:	Southern Baptist Sissies (Uptown Players)
Best Touring Stage Production:	Wicked
Best Entertainer (Drag):	Cassio Nova
Best Entertainer (Other):	Donise Lee
Best Museum:	Nasher Sculpture Center
Best Live Music Venue:	Smirnoff Music Centre
Best Festival:	Halloween On Cedar Springs
Best Local Sports Team:	Mavericks
Best GLBT Family Web Site:	Dallas Voice
Best GLBT Adult Web Site:	Manhunt.Net



ROUND UP AWARDS 2006 BEST OF HOUSTON

Restaurants

Best Breakfast Spot:	Baby Barnaby's
Best 24 Hour Restaurant:	House Of Pies
Best Brunch:	Baba Yega
Best Vegetarian:	Baba Yega
Best Greek:	Niko Niko's
Best Chinese:	Hollywood
Best Italian:	Corrabba's
Best Mexican:	Cafe Adobe
Best Thai:	Nit Noi
Best Sushi:	Cafe Japon
Best Pizza:	Star Pizza
Best Seafood:	Pappadoux
Best Steakhouse:	Vic & Anthony's
Best Margarita:	Cafe Adobe
Best Burger:	Barnaby's
Best Patio:	Baba Yega
Best For People Watching:	Galleria
Most Romantic Restaurant:	Mark's
Best To Take Family:	Little Pappasito's
Best Barbeque:	Goode & Company
Best Buffet:	Aladdin Mediterranean Cuisine
Best Take Out:	Barnaby's
Best Caesar Salad:	La Madeleine
Best Fast Food:	Whataburger
Best Coffee House:	Starbucks
Best Wait Staff:	Barnaby's

Bars and Clubs

Best All-Around Bar:	JR's - Houston
Best Leather:	Ripcord
Best Lesbian:	Chances
Best Dance:	South Beach
Best Country Western:	Brazos River Bottom
Sexiest Staff:	South Beach
Friendliest Staff:	JR's
Best Off The Beaten Path:	EJ's
Best Happy Hour:	JR's - Houston

Best Martini:	Meteor
Best Theme Night:	JR's Wednesday
Best Drag Show:	JR's
Best Club Dj:	J.D. Arnold
Best Karaoke:	JR's
Best After Hours:	South Beach
Best Place To Shoot Pool:	Slick Willie's
Best Weekday Hangout:	JR's
Best Straight Bar:	Doco

Services

Best Pet Supply:	Petsmart
Best Pet Adoption:	SPCA of Texas
Best Video Rental:	Hollywood Supercenter
Best Adult Video Rental:	QVideo
Best Bookstore:	Hollywood Supercenter
Best Furniture:	Gallery Furniture
Best Art Gallery:	Bering & James
Best Apparel:	Male Uwear
Best Piercing/Tattoo:	Shaw's Tattoo Studio
Best Gift/Boutique:	Crossover Gifts
Best Toy Store (Adult):	Cindy's
Best Second-hand Consignment:	Buffalo Exchange
Best Grocery:	Kroger
Best Antique Shop:	Antiques On Nineteenth
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Best Hotel:	Hotel Derek
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Best Hair Salon:	Etheria Salon & Day Spa
Best Hair Stylist:	Alyson Bass-White
Best Massage:	Brad Brandt, Sunsat Bodyworks
Best Gym:	Fitness Exchange
Best Personal Trainer:	Coach Kimmie
Best Tanning Salon:	Eclipse
Best Medical Practitioner:	Patrick McNamara
Best Dentist:	Bruce Smith
Best Chiropractor:	William Lester
Best Veterinarian:	Montrose Vet Clinic

Best Mechanic:	Harvey Jenkins, Sooner Auto
Best Mortgage Company:	Lighthouse Mortgage Consultants
Best Bank:	Washington Mutual
Best Insurance Agency:	State Farm Insurance
Best Real Estate Agency:	Suzanne Anderson Properties
Best Real Estate Agent:	Danny Pleason, Karpas Properties
Best Travel Agency:	Concierge Travel
Best Airline:	Continental Airlines
Best Florist:	Lexis Florist
Best Cosmetic Surgeon:	Dr. David Luetcke
Best Apartment Locator:	Tirey Counts
Best Attorney:	Jerry Simoneaux
Best Photographer:	David Lewis

Community

Best Fundraiser:	Bayou City Boys Club Jungle Party
Best GLBT Activist:	Chris Bown
Best GLBT Organization:	Bayou City Boys Club
Best Thing To Happen GLBT:	Pride Parade
Worst Thing To Happen GLBT:	Proposition 2
Best Local Official:	Annie Parker
Best State Official:	Sanfronia Thompson
Best Place Of Worship:	Resurrection MCC
Best Radio (General):	104.1 KRBE
Best GLBT Friendly Radio:	KPRT 90.1
Best TV General:	KPRC Channel 2
Best GLBT Friendly TV:	KPRC Channel 2

Places

Best Bed and Breakfast:	The Lovett Inn
Best Weekend Getaway:	Austin
Best Neighborhood:	Montrose
Best Park:	Memorial Park
Best Bike Walk Trail:	Memorial Park
Best Tourist Destination:	Galleria
Best Place To Meet Somebody:	Starbucks

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theater:	River Oaks
Best Local Stage Production:	Hanky Tank Angels (Stages Repertory)
Best Touring Stage Production:	Medea
Best Entertainer (Drag):	Kofi
Best Entertainer (Other):	Christina Ross
Best Museum:	Museum Of Natural Science
Best Festival:	Pride Houston
Best Local Sports Team:	Houston Astros
Best GLBT Family Web Site:	Out.Com
Best GLBT Adult Web Site:	Manhunt.Net



ROUND UP AWARDS 2006 BEST OF SAN ANTONIO

Sexiest Staff: Heat
 Friendliest Staff: Saint
 Best Off-The-Beaten-Path Bar: 2015
 Best Happy Hour: Annex
 Best Martini: Swigs
 Best Theme Night: Saint
 Best Drag Show: Saint
 Best DJ: DJ Gonzo/Heat
 Best Karaoke: Pegasus
 Best After Hours: Heat
 Best Place To Shoot Pool: Pegasus
 Best Weekday Hangout: Annex
 Best Straight Bar: Planet Bar-Rio

Best Massage: Edward Rodriguez
 Best Gym: Golds
 Best Personal Trainer: Tom Pasemante
 Best Medical Practitioner: James Bromley
 Best Dentist: Spencer Wyrick DDS
 Best Chiropractor: Courtney Owen
 Best Veterinarian: Gary Sartor DVM
 Best Mechanic: Rhine West
 Best Home Repair: Ms. Fix It
 Best Mortgage Company: Walls Fargo
 Best Bank: Walls Fargo
 Best Insurance Agency: Farmers
 Best Real Estate Agency: Keller Williams
 Best Real Estate Agent: Randy Rice
 Best Airline: Southwest Airlines
 Best Florist: Alamo Plants & Petals
 Best Attorney: William (Bill) Goodman
 Best Photographer: Angela Bartels

Restaurants

Best Breakfast Spot: Lulu's
 Best 24 Hour Restaurant: Mi Terra
 Best Brunch: Madhatters
 Best Vegetarian: Gini's
 Best Greek: John The Greek
 Best Chinese: Asia West
 Best Italian: Caparelli's
 Best Mexican: Los Barrios
 Best Thai: Thai Kitchen
 Best Sushi: Samurai Sushi
 Best Pizza: California Pizza
 Best Scafood: Sea Island
 Best Steakhouse: Little Red Barn
 Best Margarita: Chacho's
 Best Burger: Chris Madrid's
 Best Patio: La Fonda
 Best For People Watching: Riverwalk
 Most Romantic Restaurant: Piatti's
 Best To Take Family: Riverwalk
 Best Barbeque: Rudy's
 Best Buffet: China Sea
 Best Take Out: Lucky Burger
 Best Caesar Salad: Timo's
 Best Fast Food: El Pollo Loco
 Best Coffee House: Candlelight
 Best New Restaurant: Timo's
 Best Wait Staff: Jim's

Services

Best Pet Supply: Fintiquo
 Best Pet Adoption: Bexar Co. Humane Society
 Best Video Rental: Blockbuster
 Best Adult Video Rental: Encore Video
 Best Bookstore: Borders Books, Music, Tapes
 Best Furniture: John William Interiors
 Best Art Gallery: Blue Star
 Best Apparel: Jive
 Best Piercing/Tattoo: Honest Charlie
 Best Gift Boutique: On Main/Off Main
 Best Toy Store (Adult): G Spot
 Best Second Hand Consignment: The Green Door
 Best Grocery: Central Market
 Best Computer High Tech: Apple Store
 Best Jewelry Store: Pat Gavin
 Best Health Food/Nutrition: Sun Harvest
 Best Leather Shop: Leathermasters
 Best Liquor Store: Northridge
 Best Tux Rental: Al's Formal Wear
 Best Athletic Apparel: Academy
 Best Cellular Service: T-Mobile
 Best Auto Dealership: Cavendar Cadillac
 Best Eyewear/Optical: Today's Vision
 Best Music Store: Hog Wild
 Best Bed Breakfast: Painted Lady Inn
 Best Weekend Gateway: Austin
 Best Neighborhood: Monte Vista
 Best Park: McAllister Park
 Best Bike Walk Trail: McAllister Park
 Best Hotel: St. Anthony Hotel
 Best Bathhouse: Alternative Clubs
 Best Hair Salon: Americano Canales
 Best Hair Stylist: John Zamarripa

Community

Best Fundraiser: Sizzle/ACMC
 Best GLBT Activist: Daniel Gainey
 Best GLBT Organization: Alamo City Men's Chorale
 Best Thing To Happen GLBT: Wedding Cake Liberation Front
 Worst Thing To Happen GLBT: Proposition 2
 Best Local Official: Elena Guajardo
 Best State Official: Mike Villarreal
 Best Place Of Worship: Madison Square Presbyterian
 Best Radio General: JAM 94.1
 Best GLBT Friendly Radio: Jam 94.1
 Best TV (General): KSAT
 Best GLBT Friendly TV: Bravo

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theater: Bijou
 Best Local Stage Production: Gypsy
 Best Touring Stage Production: Mamma Mia
 Best Entertainer (Drag): Janny McCall
 Best Entertainer (Other): Michael R.
 Best Museum: San Antonio Museum Of Art
 Best Live Music Venue: Jazz Festival
 Best Festival: Gay Fiesta
 Best Local Sports Team: Spurs
 Best Tourist Destination: Riverwalk
 Best GLBT Family Web Site: Out In San Antonio
 Best GLBT Adult Web Site: Manhunt.Net
 Best Place To Meet Somebody: Candlelight Coffeehouse

Bars and Clubs

Best All-Around Bar: The Saint
 Best Leather: Eagle
 Best Lesbian: Bermuda Triangle
 Best Dance: Heat
 Best Cabaret/Piano: 2015
 Best Country Western: Silver Dollar

Film

By Steven Lindsey

Coming out of their shells

Loggerheads uses turtles as metaphor

Moral dilemma: You find a hot, young homeless man living on the beach, protecting the eggs of sea turtles. Do you have sex with him there or take him home with you instead?

Alas, this isn't one of those movies. Despite the pornographic potential and utter dreaminess of star Kip Pardue, the film doesn't fulfill any fantasies, but rather portrays a love triangle of sorts between a son, his birth mother and the mother who raised him. (And of course, it's not that kind of triangle, either.)

Pardue stars as Mark, the turtle-saving drifter taken in by local motel owner George (Michael Kelly), who finds him attractive. Across the state, Grace (Bonnie Hunt) decides to search for her son after years of



Kelly and Pardue

speculation and regret. Meanwhile, his adoptive parents — a conservative minister (Chris Sarandon) and his wife (Tess Harper) — cope with the estrangement from Mark, who ran away after they disapproved of his homosexuality.

As these stories unfold and the people grow closer to intersecting, the sorrow that inevitably accompanies unconditional love becomes overwhelming.

Pardue gives a good performance in one of his meatier film roles, but it's the mothers who shine. Hunt, as always, is brilliant. Equally skilled at drama and comedy, the actress never gets the recognition she deserves. Harper also makes the most of her role and brings depth to a character who could be a one-dimensional religious fanatic. If there's one thing writer Tim Kirkman does extraordinarily well, it's creating complex, layered characters capable of often unexpected compassion.

Loggerheads is slow and methodical, which may translate to boredom for some moviegoers, but its message is more than worthwhile — and the scenery's not bad, either.

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ON SCREEN

Brokeback Mountain ●●●●●
Written by Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. Directed by Ang Lee. With Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal.
Rated R. Running Time: 134 min
Opens wide Dec. 16.

Loggerheads ●●●●○
Written and directed by Tim Kirkman. With Tess Harper, Bonnie Hunt, Michael Kelly, Kip Pardue and Chris Sarandon
Not rated. Running Time: 95 minutes.
Opens today at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas.

shorts

Homo on the range

I've never been much of a camper, but then again, Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal weren't my tentmates. In *Brokeback Mountain*, the two young actors take on the challenging and vulnerable roles of cowboys who become lovers among the desolate and picturesque vistas of Wyoming during 1963. Despite the obvious obstacles, the men conduct a clandestine relationship through periodic "hunting trips" away from their families.

Gyllenhaal and Ledger

Director Ang Lee, working from an adaptation of a short story from Annie Proulx, has created an epic motion picture about the power of love and the tragedy of separation. The chemistry between the stars is intense and tender. The relationship is so believable and relatable for any gay person who's ever kept his or her sexuality a secret that the film's underlying sadness resonates loudly.

But while the kissing and brief nudity may be getting everyone's attention, the performances of Ledger and Gyllenhaal, as well as terrific turns from Anne Hathaway and Michelle Williams as their well-aware wives, are the compelling reason to rush to see this monumental achievement.

Brokeback Mountain isn't likely to enlighten conservatives, but it is guaranteed to make gay viewers appreciate how far we've come — and how much we have to lose.

— S.L.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Clean sweep

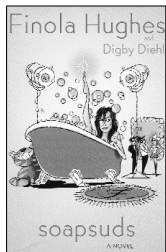
Soapsuds by Finola Hughes and Digby Diehl (Ballantine, 384 pages, \$23.95)

It is too easy to get involved in watching soaps. The first day, you figure you're only going to watch for a minute. The second day, you just want to check in to see if that nasty character got her comeuppance. The third day, you need to find out if those two cuties ever hooked up. By the fourth day, you're hooked.

Reading *Soapsuds* is just like that — three or four pages in, and you're a fan.

London stage actress Kate McPhee has just landed a job on daytime's *Live for Tomorrow*. Kate left a broken heart, a cheating boyfriend and a lying best friend back home, and she has no intention of returning.

Kate's TV character, Detective Devon Merrick, is a car-accident survivor who narrowly missed being murdered and is now pursued by several men and a cult of blood-thirsty, vicious vampires. Because Devon is gay, everyone thinks that Kate is, too, which



further complicates her life. In fact, Kate's life is getting more and more like a — well, a soap opera.

Hope Canyon, the fictional setting for *Live for Tomorrow*, is populated by a strange group of characters, but they're nothing compared to the real people

who work on the show. Meredith Contini is the grand diva who joined the show 30-plus years ago and whose character is still thirty-something, although Daphne del Valle, the show's producer, wants to change that. The town's resident doctor is always drunk, so he uses sticky notes to remind him of his lines. There are several Barbie-doll look-a-likes on the set, too, each one more clueless than the last.

Everyone gossips about everyone else. Eavesdropping is an everyday occurrence. And now Kate has a handsome new co-star

on the set, and she's smitten but he's married. Will Kate ever find true love? Tune in tomorrow.

Emmy-winning actress Finola Hughes used to be on *General Hospital* and *All My Children*, and fans of either of those shows are going to have a great time trying to figure out who the thinly-disguised characters are in *Soapsuds*. You'll no doubt wonder how much is real and how much is fiction. Either way, *Soapsuds* will make you laugh out loud.

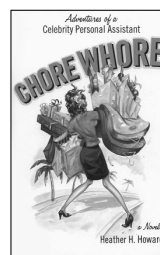
Chore Whore: Adventures of a Celebrity Personal Assistant by Heather H. Howard (HarperCollins, 304 pages, \$23.95)

You think you have a bad job — the hours are awful, the tasks are boring, the boss is an idiot, customers have no clue and the pay is low.

Well, things could be worse. You could have a spoiled Hollywood star as an employer. Read *Chore Whore* and you'll never complain about your boss again.

It's Christmastime, and Cornelia "Corki" Brown is trying to find a perfect gift for Steven Spielberg's birthday. While nothing *has* to be expensive, gifts to Steven usually are. More important, they need to be memorable. Corki's clients, some of the biggest in Hollywood, want her to really *surprise* Spielberg for them, so they send her to L.A.'s most exclusive stores. Such is the life of a chore whore.

Jock Straupman, one of Corki's clients, is a major star. Women come and go through Jock's house almost weekly, and Jock pays



Corki to break up with them. He also pays her to arrange his mail pick-up, clean his guns and buy his food.

Lucy Bennett, a two-time Academy Award-winning actress, thinks of Corki as part of the family — that part that cooks for Lucy's dinner parties

and schedules vehicle maintenance for her, that is. But Corki doesn't mind. Lucy pays her well to do these things, and with Lucy around, it's easy to get a table in some of the better restaurants.

By working nearly around the clock, Corki makes just enough money to pay the mortgage and raise her son. Then the new year arrives, and with it, a wedding, a scandal, a blackmail scheme and one celebrity assistant who's tired of it all.

True story or just a novel? Author Heather H. Howard was a real-life celebrity assistant for many years, which leaves you wondering how much of Corki's tale really happened and how much is fiction. This book is filled with juicy, gossipy insider-type stories that seemed rather thinly-disguised, and more fact than fiction. Most of Hollywood is probably busy trying to figure out who's who.

If you've ever been tempted to browse through a tabloid magazine in the check-out line at the grocery store, you must read this book. *Chore Whore* is scandalous, fun and definitely not a chore to read.

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