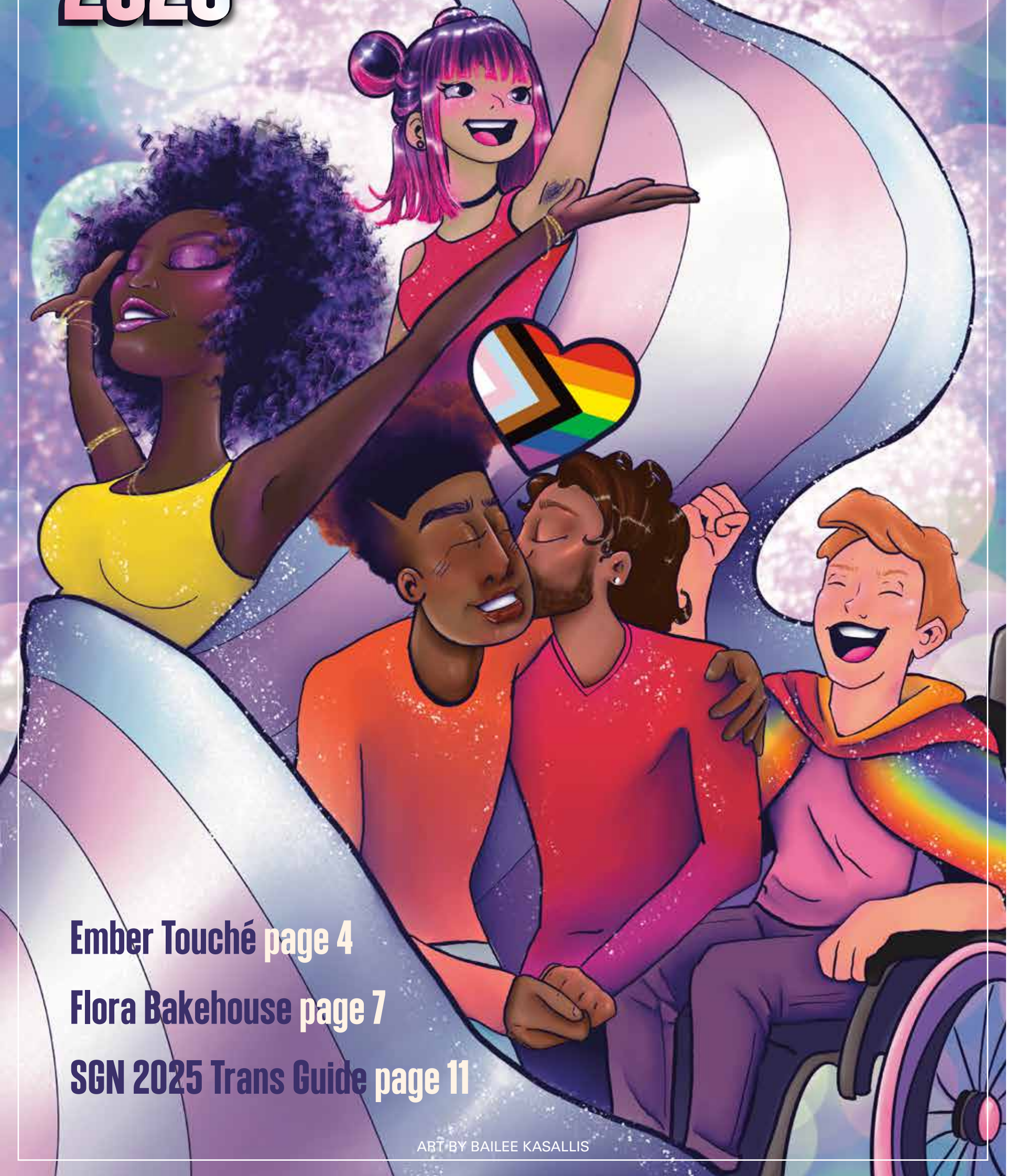




Trans Pride 2025

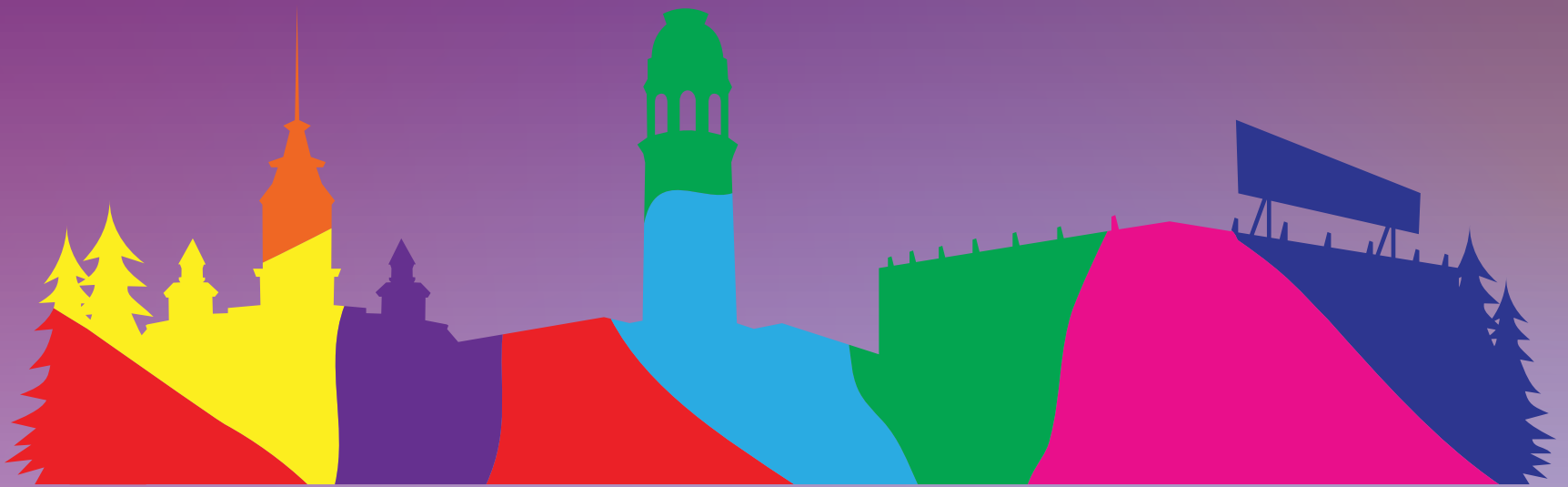


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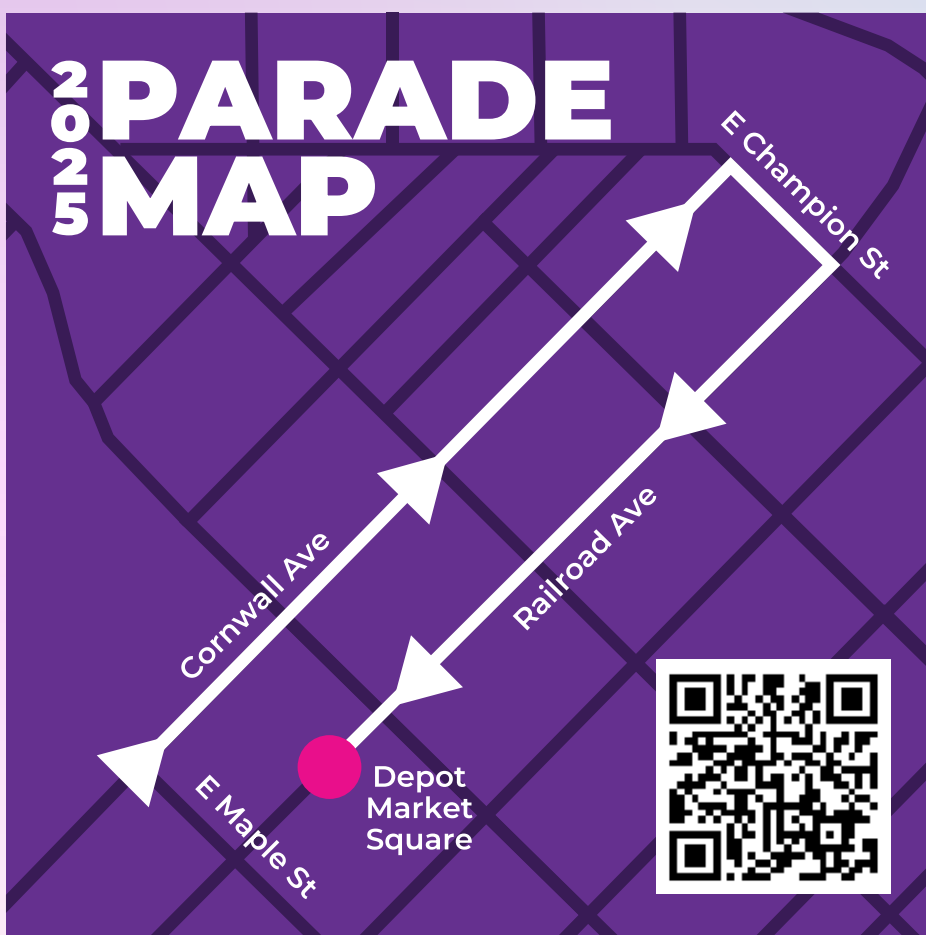
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Midwest artist Oriana Perón harmonizes the worlds of cosplay and drag

BY MADISON JONES
SGN STAFF WRITER



Anime and drag are two colossal subcultures that at first glance might not seem to have much overlap. But visit any convention floor, and cosplayers will be dressed as their favorite characters, regardless of gender, often in homemade costumes. These convention spaces have historically offered refuge for LGBTQIA+ people to congregate and explore their self-expression.

Take Oriana Perón, who between cosplaying and performing in drag has almost two decades of experience. Perón, alongside a cast of drag superstars, held a two-night extravaganza at Sakura-Con 2025 in April. Each with their own stellar performances, the group collectively tore down the house, showcasing the similarities between the two art forms of anime and drag.

“A lot of people will come to conventions and cosplay as their favorite character as a way to practice their own gender euphoria and to dip their toe into their own transness,” Perón told the *SGN*.

In 2006, Perón began cosplaying as female characters. Growing up in Indiana, it wasn’t until she was 19 that she learned what an anime convention was, through friends, who explained how people go dressed up as their favorite characters. “Sailor Moon, done!” she told her friends after immediately being sold on the idea.

Perón, whose love of anime and manga started with Sailor Moon, she said she flipped through manga pages late at night with her cousin while on family trips.

Perón was overwhelmed during her first convention, Anime Central in Chicago, but it was an informative memory for her.

“I was so enthralled with the other cosplayers, and just with the vibe that was happening in the area,” Perón said.

From there, Perón did six years of female cosplay at cons, performing more as Sailor Moon and Disney princesses like Cinderella. She also had interest in exploring drag during those years, but her partner at the

time was heavily dismissive of it, pressuring her to stick to just cosplaying.

“It’s alright — he is out of my life,” Perón said with a sigh, while laughing it off.

After ditching the ex and moving back to Bloomington, Indiana, for college in 2012, Perón officially launched her drag career after being approached by the owner of a new bar in town to create a Disney-themed drag show. The learning curve was steep, including how to shave and do drag makeup properly.

After hosting the Sailor’s Man drag race panel at Collision Con that year, she has continued her signature drag and cosplay hybrid style to the current day.

Perón also highlighted the importance of cons as affirming environments for LGBTQIA+ people. In her many years of attending cons across the country, she’s observed how people often use cosplay as an excuse to experiment with gender presentation and identity.

She admitted to crying after getting the call to headline at Sakura-Con 2025. The prospect of performing in Seattle was particularly exciting because of how accepting the city is toward LGBTQIA+ people—a contrast to Indiana, where she still lives.

Perón and other performing members delivered messages of Queer upliftment and encouragement at Sakura-Con. Drag king Verna Vendetta highlighted the plight of Trans healthcare in Indiana, telling others to “survive out of spite, because that’s all we have sometimes.”

Perón’s parting words during her last performance took a more playful and subversive tone, encouraging others to live authentically:

“Be queer, be autistic, be ADHD, eat your avocado toast, and never buy a house!”

Breaking barriers and excelling on the drag scene as a Trans man

BY NOVA BERGER

Ember Touché, Miss Teen Drag USA of 2024–25, is a “mortuary Trans male historian” by day and an exquisite drag queen by night. Mainstream drag, like that popularized by *RuPaul’s Drag Race*, has often centered around cisgender Gay men dressing in exaggerated feminine personas for entertainment. But Ember is different. Assigned female at birth, Ember transitioned in 2018, then started drag around six years ago, doing cosplay.

“If you are feminine, you are seen as invalid, not a real man. And it was something I took very much to heart as a very young kid,” Ember told the *SGN*.

Ember’s first shows were all-ages drag storytimes, where she realized that her power as a performer was to promote drag for everyone, regardless of age, gender, race or religion.

“A lot of shows, if you come down to Seattle, they’re at bars. Everything is 21+, and even navigating being a younger drag performer — figuring out where to go— is very difficult,” Ember said.

Ember used the frustration of these barriers to fuel her own mission: She broke the glass ceiling of the drag world and created her own show: Ember’s Brunch Bash. Based in Everett, the show welcomes young performers who struggle to find spaces in which to perform.

And she’s found great success with this approach. Through a weekly community night at the café, she’s even found her very own drag daughter: Miss Demolition.

After winning several different categories, Ember has recently been awarded the

proud title of Miss Teen Drag, officially recognizing her as drag royalty.

But Ember’s message is one of inclusivity and a reminder that anyone can live their dreams.

“I love our elder Queers, everything they’ve done for us, the doors they’ve opened for us, but at the end of the day, when they are gone, we are leading the next generation. We need a space to be us,” Ember said.

A multigenerational tradition

When a drag queen is given a name, they enter into the drag “family,” where they have support, mentorship and others possibilities. Ember’s family of choice are the Touchés, and her drag mom is Jennavsia. She was awarded the family name on her 19th birthday and has worn it with pride ever since.

Drag has always been part of Ember’s home life, spanning generations. Her mom Jennifer even grew up going drag herself.

“When I was a teenager and in my early twenties, I hung out with predominantly Queer people, and this was when I went to high school in Arkansas,” Jennifer said. “This was in the early ’90s... It was, very homophobic, and so it was a very closed community. I was being snuck into drag bars before I was legal to go into them.”

The future of Teen drag

A big part of what makes Ember’s work so meaningful is advocating for and helping the next generation of Trans and drag performers feel seen and heard.

“I would love more young drag perform-



ers, young Queer people, just not your typical drag performer or your typical person being on the front page... Or in general, anywhere in Seattle, bring more of the weirdos and freaks out,” she said.

“The younger generation that I am a part of definitely is not gonna stand for the bullshit going on.”

Recent administration changes have led to backlash against drag and LGBTQIA+ expression, including restrictive laws, censorship, moral panic, and rising harassment. Several states, including Tennessee, Florida, Texas, and Montana, have passed or proposed laws restricting drag performances where minors are present.

Despite this, drag can be a powerful form of resistance: it challenges stereotypes, pro-

motes self-expression, and builds supportive communities. By continuing to perform and be visible, young drag artists push back against stigma, inspire others to embrace their identities, and show that creativity and authenticity can thrive even in the face of oppression.

And although social media has its drawbacks, it’s a powerful way to connect the drag community for welcoming and supporting all forms of creativity. Ember says it’s also a way the younger generation differs from the past: it gets more people involved, especially politically.

Find more about Ember’s future shows and other content at https://www.instagram.com/emberroyale_.

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Queer community fundraising at the forefront of Trans-owned Flora Bakehouse

BY PERRIS LARSON

A few streets away from Maple Elementary and Cleveland High sits the Flora Bakehouse, which, since opening in 2021, has transformed into a Queer community hub in the Beacon Hill neighborhood, filled with mouthwatering delicacies. In addition to crafting decadent pastries, the shop has placed an emphasis on fundraisers and events.

Having worked in the restaurant business since high school, Nat Stratton-Clarke moved to Seattle and became the general manager of Café Flora, and when the owner

retired in 2008, they bought the business, placing their own twist and expansion on it. Stratton-Clarke told the *SGN* that as a Transgender store owner, they’ve incorporated their values and beliefs as a Queer person into it to foster a safe and accepting environment.

“Food for me has been a passion my whole life,” Stratton-Clarke said. “Food is social justice. We can do social justice work and intertwine that with food and restaurants in so many different ways.”

Since opening, Flora Bakehouse has fun-

draised for schools and local organizations that uplift Trans and Queer people, like the GSBA Scholarship Program, which supports Queer students through higher education. Another event raised money for high school proms.

This June, the Bakehouse is bringing back its annual Pride cake, and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Trans Justice Funding Project, a community-run group that helps fund Transgendered organizations across the country, and which Stratton-Clarke has personally sup-

ported for a long time, they said.

Queer markets at Flora Bakehouse in August and September are conducted through a partnership with the Fruits and Veggies Collective, a group of Queer farmers from the Snoqualmie and Sammamish Valleys. The bakehouse purchases produce from the collective, and invites farmers to set up stands on the building’s roof.

For more information visit <https://florarestaurantgroup.com/restaurant/the-flora-bakehouse-seattle>.

All about pronouns

BY LINDSEY ANDERSON (SHE/HER)
SGN STAFF WRITER

Despite the current cultural debate swirling about them, pronouns are of course nothing new. Sung about in the popular educational ABC cartoon series *Schoolhouse Rock*, pronouns are short words that replace longer nouns, “because saying those words over and over can really wear you down,” explained Albert Andreas Armadillo, singer of “Rufus Xavier Sarsaparilla (The Pronoun Song).”

For Transgender people and allies, it is often customary to introduce oneself with one’s pronouns, so as to allow others to refer to them in a gender-affirming way. The practice has become popularized by many allies, so Trans people don’t feel excluded or forced to out themselves whenever the topic of pronouns comes up.

The most hotly contested pronouns are those that Nonbinary people prefer. As a group that identifies with multiple genders, no gender, or somewhere on the gender spectrum, many Nonbinary people prefer to use the pronoun “they,” as it has become a nongendered way to refer to a person (since the singular gender-neutral third-person pronoun “it” is used only for non-humans).

Contrary to arguments that the singular “they” is not grammatically correct, its use

to refer to an individual dates back to 1375, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The pronoun refers to an individual in the story *William and the Werewolf*. However, due to a lack of written record keeping, many Oxford historians believe the singular they may date back even further.

“They” is not the only pronoun to take on singular and plural meanings in English. The pronoun “you” has also been used to refer to both individuals and groups and remains gender neutral. In the 17th century, using both “they” and “you” as singular pronouns fell out of fashion, with George Fox, the father of Quakerism, going so far as to say anyone who used “you” in the singular was an idiot and a fool.

Of course, grammar is constantly changing. Today’s Queer kids are rewriting the rules of grammar with the introduction of neopronouns (words created to serve as pronouns). Some common ones include xe/xim, ze/zir, and fae/fer, though these are not the only ones.

The best way to know someone’s pronouns is to ask. The correct use of pronouns for Queer people validates their identities, as does continuing to try. In a 2024 report from the Trevor Project, students who attended schools that affirmed their gender



by using the correct names and pronouns were less likely to consider suicide. The study also reported that “Transgender and Nonbinary young people who had access to gender-affirming clothing [and] gender-neutral bathrooms at school, and had their pronouns respected by the people they live with had lower rates of attempting suicide compared to those who did not.”

If struggling to use new pronouns for a loved one, try little tricks, like referring to the family pet with gender-neutral pronouns or using “they” (instead of “it”) when referring to AI devices like Siri, Alexa, or Echo. If you don’t know someone’s pronouns and cannot ask what they are, it’s always safest to use “they” until

you are sure what they prefer.

It can feel awkward to mess up someone’s pronouns, but think of it like accidentally touching someone’s butt. It happens sometimes, and it feels weird for everyone involved, but the last thing you want to do is draw attention to the incident and further embarrass both parties. Instead, apologize and try not to touch their butt again. If you continue to use the wrong pronouns for someone, eventually it stops being an awkward moment and turns into harassment.

Just like the English language, pronouns are constantly evolving. Using the correct ones is about respect and dignity, which matters far more than proper English.

Jasmine Joshua’s new musical explores coming out as Nonbinary in one’s thirties

BY LINDSEY ANDERSON
SGN STAFF WRITER

Jasmine Joshua sat in a coffee shop ten feet from the colorful poster for their latest project, *Here and Their*, which will be showing at 12th Avenue Arts June 13–28. It’s more than just a silly punk rock show about Queer identities and family; it holds a personal message that echoes throughout Joshua’s work. Both *Here and Their* and Joshua’s autobiographical one-person show, *Bread Crumbs*, center around gender identity and what it’s like to come out later in life. “I came out as Nonbinary when I was 33,” Joshua told the *SGN*. “I was already married. I have twins. They were three years old. As far as I was concerned, I had done it. I had womaned. I had married. I had produced progeny.”

Joshua didn’t even hear the word “Nonbinary” until their late 20s. At 33, they worried it was too late to explore.

“I couldn’t go out to Gay bars and figure out what that meant. I wasn’t in college,” they said. “I didn’t have the language to describe it. As far as I was concerned, it was too late for me. I was 33 [and thought], ‘This is who I am forever, and there’s nothing I can do to change that. I will live in the silent hell of knowing I’m not right.’”

Their background in theater helped them process their fear of coming out. Looking back on their career, which included creating and performing in the first gender-bent version of *1776* and striving to rethink how casting and gender roles work, they realized that regardless of how they’d looked to the outside world or the pronouns they’d

used before, they’d always been Nonbinary. “I call these my breadcrumbs, where I look back on my life and see these moments where I’m like, ‘Ah, that’s when I knew,’” they said. “When I look back, especially on my childhood, and I think about moments when I could pretend to be someone else or morph into whatever I wanted to be, those always brought me the most joy.”

From this reflection, Joshua got the inspiration for their one-person show, *Bread Crumbs*, which premiered at ACT Theater’s solo fest in 2020. Following a similar throughline, Joshua began working on the book for *Here and Their*, inspired by their coming out journey. They’ve spent the last seven years developing the show at retreats, programs, and workshops nationwide.

“It’s about a person who comes out in their thirties, and it’s like, ‘Oh my god. Do I start over? Do I have to abandon my family? Can I include my family? Are they going to be cool with it? How do I explain it to them when I don’t even know how to explain it?’”

Here and Their has something for everyone, but at its core, it’s a show that Joshua wishes they’d had earlier in their journey.

“When I came out at 33, I was the oldest Nonbinary person I knew. I didn’t know anyone older. I had no idea what it looked like as an adult. Most of the people I knew who are Nonbinary were in their teens or twenties, and they had been out for years,” they said.

Though they’ve grown up in the arts — both of Joshua’s parents are actors — it



COURTESY JASMINE JOSHUA

was coming out as Nonbinary that opened their eyes to their life’s work. “I knew that truly my mission in everything that I do is to be visible, because I needed someone to be visible way earlier than I had,” they said. “My higher mission, truly, in almost everything I make, is to make spaces where others can be visible too, because, to steal a line from my show, ‘The more that we all know, the more that we will grow.’ To me, that is paramount.”

With catchy songs, plenty of LGBTQIA+ inside jokes, and a strong central message about self-exploration, *Here and Their* is a show that fulfills the innate purpose of theater: relief from outside woes.

“You’re going to come in and have a good time,” Joshua reassured those seeking to attend. “I’m not saying there aren’t ‘feels’ in it. There are definitely ‘feels,’ but this is not going to be about trauma; this is not going to be about danger. This is a joyful, funny story about us and the people who love us. There are jokes about our community, and there are jokes about people who don’t get it. We run the gamut. It’s got something for everyone, wherever you are on your journey.”

Joshua’s show runs until June 28. For more information, visit www.hereandtheirthemusical.com.

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trans SGN 2025 TRANS GUIDE

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MISS ISLAND GODDESS, JORDANA**

+ COMMUNITY SPEAKERS

DANNI ASKINI (*Gender Justice League*)
JAELYNN SCOTT (*Lavender Rights Project*)
JENNICET GUTIÉRREZ (*Familia: Trans
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MICHAEL WOODWARD (*TRACTION*)
TWEETIE FATUESI (*UTOPIA WA*)



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We ask all attendees—including event goers, tablers, sponsors, volunteers, and organizers—to consistently stay masked (N/KN95+ or equivalent) while not actively eating/drinking. We have masks available for those with limited access, and our friendly volunteers will be making the rounds to remind people of this policy and to hand out masks as needed. While we acknowledge that any gathering carries some level of risk, we aim to reduce potential harm as much as possible.

SGN 2025 TRANS GUIDE

Trans Pride Seattle Performers



Ariyah Jané is a Black Trans-Woman from Montgomery, Alabama, whose powerful blend of Gospel, Blues and Musical Theatre has made her a rising force in music and the arts. Jané is the founder and CEO of Muses and Moguls— a creative support network for independent artists— and she uses her platform to champion housing, healthcare, and public services for LGBTQIA+ people.



Maya Mem Saab is Seattle’s premier Indian drag royalty and National PNW Bearded Queen 2024. Maya’s presence is a celebration of diversity and the fluidity of identity. Born and raised in India, Maya is steeped in rich Indian culture and is dedicated to highlighting the desi Queer experience and infusing vibrant desi culture onto drag stages.



Bambi is a Seattle native returning to the stage at Trans Pride Seattle after a year-long hiatus! Known for her electrifying style and energetic performances, Bambi’s captivated audiences since her 2022 debut, and her unique Caribbean and Spanish flair combined with her undeniable talent have earned her a special place in the hearts of many!



Jordana is a US drum and bass DJ, producer, and Trans activist with a career that spans over three decades! Jordana channels activism through music through having released tracks like “Trans and Proud” and “Slay.” She emerged from the early rave scene in Pittsburgh and became one of the first US artists to gain international recognition in drum and bass!



Sepha is a producer, DJ, and event organizer originally from Olympia. Her primary focus is on House and Club music where she highlights connections from across regional scenes and histories of dance music, with a special love for Chicago, Baltimore, Olympia, and Seattle.



Kylie Mooncakes is a pop star who fell from the moon and landed in Seattle, burning up the city’s drag scene since 2017. Her mission is to use her platform to elevate the QTBIPOC around her, and she hosts and produces Azn Glo— Seattle’s all-Queer, all-API party.



Velveteen is a delightfully kooky yet mildly haunting local drag artist/king ready to bring chaotic fun! Inspired by retro cartoons, ‘70s and ‘80s fashion, and campy horror, Velveteen is a synthetic sensation sure to have you mesmerized and tantalized!



Navouny Divine is a Trans, Black, and Indigenous Woman who draws inspiration from fashion icons like Raja Gemini, Alexander McQueen, and Grace Jones. Divine showcases her cultures while storytelling.



Puget Soundworks is an all-gender LGBTQIA+-centered community chorus working to create a more inclusive place—one song at a time.



Queerchata is a dance community for Queer people who seek a safe space to express their true selves, and will be the first dance class hosted at Trans Pride Seattle!



Miss Island Goddess currently reigns and is a proud Samoan Fa’afafine and Trans Woman of Color.



Jack of Spades Paradisco uses movement and lyrical storytelling to send a clear message: to say our names while we’re still here.

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2025

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Washington Transgender Relocation Guide

BY SOPHIA AMITY DEBS, TRACTION

Living somewhere with tons of Transgender people is one of the greatest joys in my life. Every Trans person should have that opportunity, and live their lives with full access to supportive resources and freedom from persecution.

This guide gives direction and guidance to those relocating to and living in Washington, primarily those fleeing red states looking for a more welcoming home with better legal and societal protections for Trans people. It answers common questions and connects people to resources and advice. There's a network of peer navigators to work with people directly and help them relocate and find their footing here.



Considerations before moving

Most of these considerations apply to both Seattle and Western Washington (but may be better or worse outside of the city). We recommend talking with someone more in-depth before relocating.

Seattle is expensive, and many surrounding areas also have much higher rent and food costs than elsewhere in the US. Seattle's median monthly rent is \$2,000, and even the smallest, cheapest apartments will cost \$900 a month if you're lucky. This forces many onto the street, and shelters and homeless services have extremely long waitlists or limited service. Surviving on social services alone is also very difficult in a city so expensive. The minimum wage is higher than in other places, but savings can run out fast, and going without work even briefly can present a risk of homelessness. Also, in the summer, we have regular heat waves that can be dangerous without A/C. *Tip: Apply for jobs and find a living space before coming.*

Seattle's about 70% white — substantially higher than the US average, and 1.5 to 2 times higher than most large cities. While some communities of color have grown in population in the past 20 years, gentrification and rising rents have forced many out of the city. Partially due to the long history of redlining, most communities of color are concentrated in areas south of the city center. These histories and present experiences of exclusion, racism, and/or white-centeredness are present in Trans communities as well as cis ones.

Seattle's accessibility varies by neighborhood, and many walkable areas are hilly and may present issues for wheelchair users. Transportation is strong in some areas and lacking in others.

Seattle is Trans. This is a huge plus for many of us, but the high population also means increased visibility. You'll still face transphobia in Seattle, even if it's less often or from those who consider themselves allies. Additionally, you'll likely be assumed to be Trans more often in a way that makes being "stealth" slightly less common. Depending on where you live in

Seattle, people may assume you are Trans — even if you're just a tall cis woman. Trans communities here are robust and wonderful, but it is plausibly less likely to be seen as cis in your average interaction with a stranger here — with all the pros and cons that come with that.



Renter-focused housing

Costs in major cities from most to least expensive:

- Seattle
- The Eastside (Redmond, Bellevue, Kenmore)
- Tacoma
- Olympia and Bellingham
- Spokane and Yakima

If you don't drive, check WalkScore to view transit and pedestrian accessibility. If you don't drive, try living near a light rail station. There's one major line, which will help you get to most other areas in the city. You can use a transit card called an ORCA card for the light rail, King County Metro, buses, and ferries.

Familiarize yourself with Seattle renter and Washington resident rights, what the Washington Tenants Union is, and rent increase price caps. Market-rate apartments can be found at [apartments.com](#), [rent.com](#), Craigslist, Zillow, Redfin, and more. The further out you get from Seattle's center, the cheaper rent gets.



Finding roommates

Housing with roommates is usually the cheapest option. [Roomies.com](#) has an area search with an "LGBT+ friendly" toggle for "Rooms" and "Roomies." Keep in mind that these people may or may not be Trans-friendly in particular, but it can be a good starting point.

You can also post on Lex, a Gay Craigslist app. There's a Seattle housing chat and a small Seattle QTBIPOC housing group. Reach out if you want an invite to either.

Other housing resources include the following:

- Seattle Queer Housing (Facebook)
- Seattle Queer Housing Exchange (Facebook)
- Seattle Trans and Queer Housing Network (Facebook)
- Bellingham Queer Housing Group (Facebook)
- Spokane Queer Housing Group



- (Facebook)
- Tacoma Queer Bulletin Group (Facebook)
- Queer Exchange Olympia Group (Facebook)
- Seattle "Fuck Landlords" Gay Housing Association (Telegram)
- Seattle Area Queer Housing (Telegram)



Low-income apartments

There are affordable housing buildings operated directly by regional housing authorities and partners, Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) units, and housing choice vouchers/Section 8, also known as rental assistance. The median income in Seattle and Washington is high, so you may qualify for these even if you think you don't. Use [aptfinder.org](#) to look for dedicated affordable housing options.

Note: Most affordable housing units take several weeks after application submission to verify your eligibility, and most cities and counties have housing authorities that administer similar programs.

MFTE is a program in some cities that offers cheaper, income-restricted apartments in otherwise market-rate buildings. Visit [MFTE-Seattle.com](#).

Rental assistance

The city pays a fixed amount toward your rent while you live in a market-rate apartment via Section 8. Drawing is done randomly, so you might get it fast or never. You have to make under 30% of the area median income and be or have been homeless.

Many Section 8 housing choice vouchers don't require proof of current residency to apply. If you already have Section 8, you can transfer your vouchers to a new city via a process called portability. Contact your current provider, and they'll explain the process, then contact the housing authority at your destination to verify availability.

As of April 8, 2025, the Section 8 waitlists in Spokane, Olympia, Renton, and King County (other than Seattle) are closed. Waitlists are open in Seattle, Tacoma, and other cities. There are also emergency rental assistance programs for currently housed people in danger of losing that housing. Byrd Barr is one option in Seattle. Check 211 for more options.

Low-income housing by area

The Seattle Housing Authority operates low-income and senior affordable housing. Apply at [seattlehousing.org](#). For

"Collaborative Housing," apply directly to partner organizations, though some require a coordinated entry referral. You can go to bigger providers' websites and look at available units, like these:

- Community Roots (community-rootshousing.org/find-apartment)
- LIHI ([lihihousing.org](#))
- Bellwether (notoriously dickish landlords but often affordable; [bellwetherhousing.org](#))
- Mercy Housing ([mercyhousing.org](#))
- For the Eastside and other parts of King County, visit [archhousing.org/affordable-apartment-list](#). For those in South or East King County, visit [vinemapleplace.org](#) for rental assistance, housing connections, and more.

Don't see your city/county? Web search "[...] Housing Authority," or "[...] Section 8."



Finding jobs

The job market's tough, and it can take time to find employment. Your résumé may be screened out if it indicates you're out of state. You may have better results if you list the zip code you're planning a relocation to, and upon securing an offer, explain that you're in the process of relocating and what date you could start. It's easier to explain once employers know you and want to hire you than when they're looking at a hundred résumés and searching for reasons to whittle down.

If you're trying to relocate in a rush, apply to anything you see that you're qualified for, and try and find stable employment. It'll look better on a résumé than an employment gap will and can help you pivot to a more desirable job once you're settled.

For more info on applying from out of state, visit [goodwill.org/blog/career-and-financial-advice/the-long-distance-job-search-getting-past-the-zip-code-filter/](#).

Work-sourcing agencies

These can be a great resource if you're struggling to find work.

- Pacific Associates ([pacassoc.com](#)) is a WorkSource affiliate that connects people to employment. It works across industries, is expressly Trans inclusive, and has significant experience with finding work for disabled people. You need to reside in King County, and it can help you find jobs and fund transit to interviews or jobs.

SGN 2025 TRANS GUIDE

- Peer Seattle (peerseattle.org) is a Queer group that offers employment support and connections, among many other resources. Reach out before relocating.
- If you're working somewhere other than the Seattle area, visit worksourcewa.com to find your local WorkSource agency. Many take walk-ins for all kinds of employment help: finding openings, identifying viable jobs, working on résumés and cover letters, among other things.

Résumés
Need help on reviewing a résumé? Reach out — someone from our team may be able to help you go over yours. Otherwise, the work-sourcing agencies have experts who do this. You may also consider online tools like resumebuild.ai, but review the wording.

Other job resources
WorkSource King County (work-sourceskc.org/job-seekers/self-serve-resources/) has a job listing board (<https://seeker.worksourcewa.com/jobsearch/powersearch.aspx>), and tips/guides for finding roles and employment. There's a trans-run Seattle Jobs Telegram (<https://t.me/+3GuMerh5b7NkMzcx>) where people post new jobs they hear about. We also post jobs in our Discord (<http://tinyurl.com/openarmsdiscord>)! The Washington State LGBTQ Commission maintains two small job boards (<https://lgbtq.wa.gov/career-opportunities>) for both Queer-specific employment and open roles with the state.



Health insurance
If you have insurance from an out-of-state employer or your parents, contact your insurer to find care in Washington state. There are three main types of insurance in this state for adults 19-65 and children. These are as follows:
Employer-sponsored plans
WA Apple Health, the state's Medicaid plan for people with lower income. People can apply at any time. It has five managed-care provider options. Network enrollment processes are the same, with comparable benefits.
Washington Health Exchange plans are for those who don't qualify for Apple Health. You must apply within 60 days of moving to Washington or your application will be stuck until the next annual enrollment period (Nov. 1–Jan. 15).
More info is at www.wahealthplanfinder.org/us/en/home-page.html
Most eligibility requirements include being a citizen or legal resident of the US for 5+ years. Not a US citizen? Washington state has a limited-availability program called Apple Health Expansion (www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-need-medical-dental-or-vision-care/noncitizens).

Private health resources
The People's Harm Reduction Alliance (PHRA) is a safe substance use supply distributor. It assists with suboxone access and provides free Hep C and HIV tests. Its main location is in the University District, but it also has mobile services. More

information is available at phra.org/university-district-exchange.
Seattle's LGBTQ+ Center provides free STI and HIV testing, hormone replacement therapy, and PrEP. It is located on Capitol Hill. More info is at gaycity.org/wellness.
Crisis Connections connects adults and youth with a peer or volunteer to speak with. There are different centers to call depending on what you are experiencing. Go to crisisconnections.org/get-help.

Name and gender changes
If you're Trans, you'll likely want a sealed name change, which means the record and your deadname are not publicly accessible. If you're in King County, visit a sealed name change guide at oopsitsacoder.github.io/kc-namechange/sealed_name_changes.html. This costs about \$240. If you are low-income or struggle to meet expenses, you can apply to waive the fees at kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dja/courts-jails-legal-system/courts-financial/fees-payments/fee-waiver.
The next step is to update your name with the Social Security Administration (SSA). You'll need your birth certificate, driver's license (or passport), and proof of court-ordered name change. It's free! Fill out paperwork online at ssa.gov/personal-record/change-name then make an appointment. Or you can head to the SSA office, but wait times can take hours.



Gender change
Washington doesn't have a process for a court-ordered gender change. This is intended to be Trans-friendly. Washington's driver's licenses' gender markers are based on self-ID, and those born here can update their birth certificates with a signed and notarized form attesting you wish to change it. Some other states' birth certificate update procedures ask for a court order for a gender change.



Driver's license/state ID
Update your Washington driver's license via self-ID by mail or in person. Follow the directions at bit.ly/DL-gender. If your license is issued by another state, make an appointment to get an updated Washington one at dol.wa.gov/moving-washington/get-driver-license. You'll need proof of residency to get a Washington license; if you don't have one, visit compasshousingalliance.org/cmsc.

Birth certificate and passport
Update your birth certificate name and sex ASAP. Some states are trying to pass restrictions, so doing it quickly is a good idea. You can get your name updated on passports (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/change-correct.html>); however, gender changes are restricted. The new administration's rapidly changing the situation

around Trans passports. If you have an updated birth certificate, you may be able to get one; particularly if you've never had one before. Please reach out for up-to-date info.



General resources by area
Washington State LGBTQ Commission resources by county (lgbtq.wa.gov/resources)
Everett/Snohomish County
• Everett PFLAG (pflageverett.org)
• Globe Youth: for LGBTQIA+ youth in Snohomish County (globe-youth.com)

Eastside (Bellevue, Redmond, etc.)
• Pride Across the Bridge (See Resources dropdown!) (pride-acrossthebridge.org/the-big-book-of-all-things-queer)
North Puget Sound
• Bellingham
• Queer Youth Services (nwys.org/queeryouthservices)
• South Whidbey Pride (southwhidbeypride.org)
South Puget Sound
• Tacoma (<https://tinyurl.com/mrx75vt5>)
• Olympia (<https://tinyurl.com/5aswu28z>)
Yakima + Central WA (Chelan, Ellensburg, Wenatchee) (<https://tinyurl.com/5ea47ubm>)
Eastern WA (Spokane) (<https://tinyurl.com/4wc7vw4s>)
SW Washington (including Vancouver) (<https://tinyurl.com/3v68bf6b>)
Pacific Coast + Kitsap Peninsula (<https://tinyurl.com/mvx7hsjx>)



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- **Civic Engagement**
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- **Vibes!**
Trans+ and nonbinary musical showcases, both in-person and virtual.
- **Trans Pride 365**
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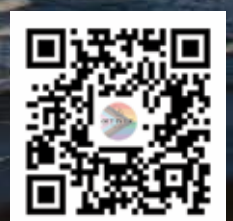


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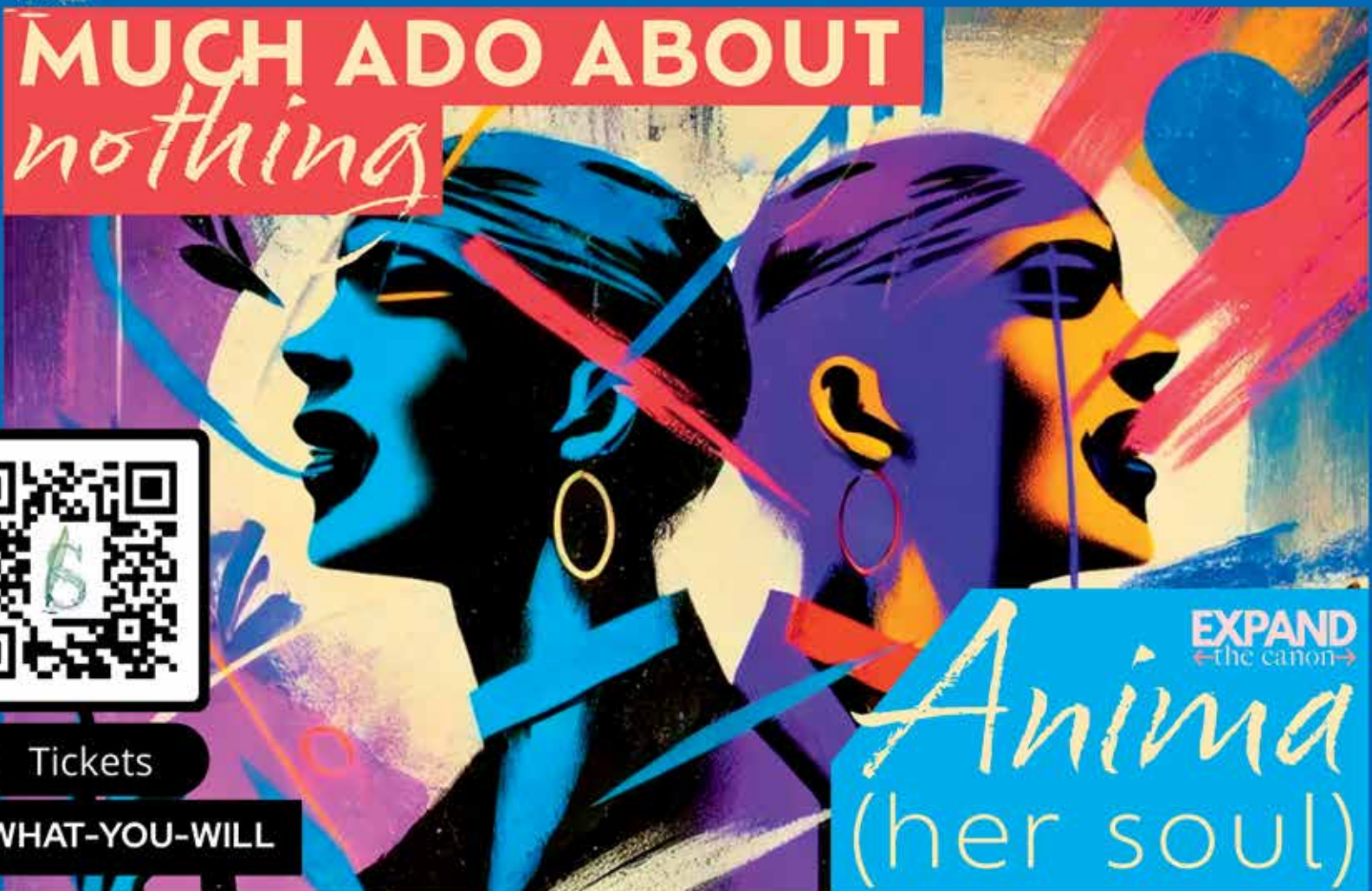
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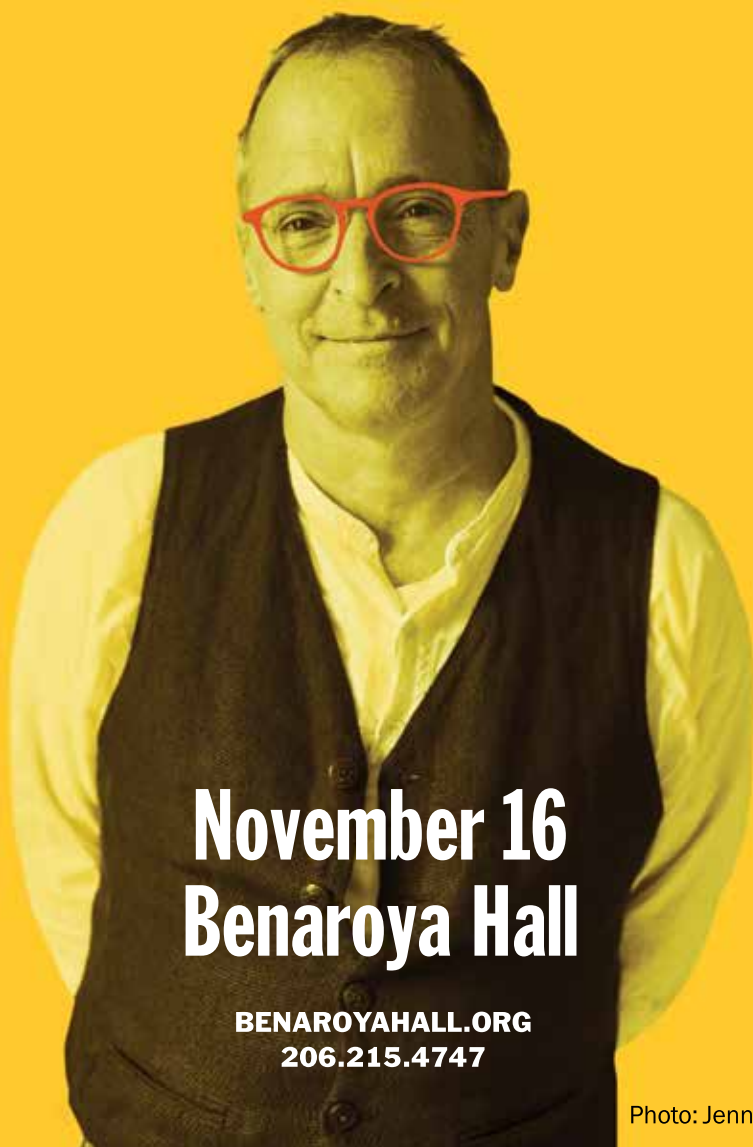
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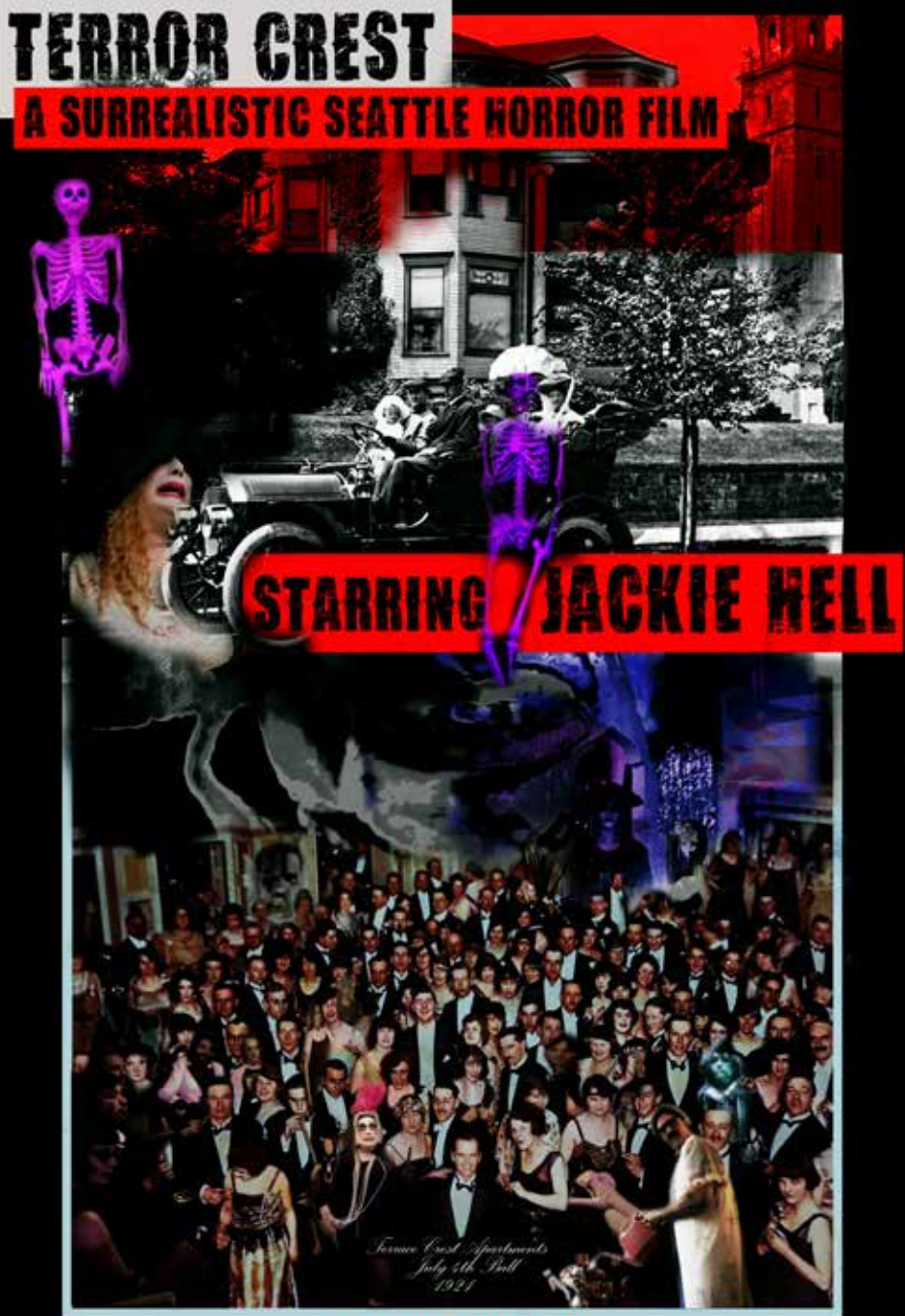
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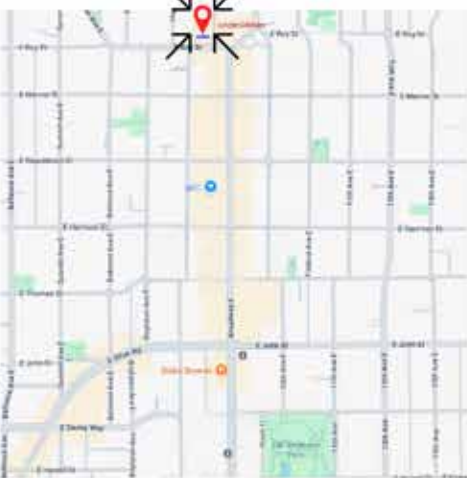
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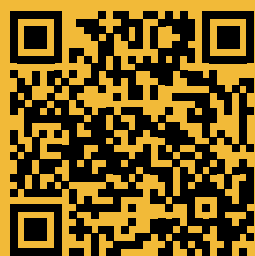
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