

OUR SECOND ANNUAL

HOT ISSUE

25 ANGELENOS WHO REDEFINE WHAT'S HOT

CALPERNIA ADDAMS CALLS OUT CHRISTIAN SIRIANO —P.26

LONG BEACH & ORANGE COUNTY SECTIONS

CHRISTOPH BABKA, CHRISTOPHER LANDAVAZO, AND VINCENT JONES MADE THE LIST. SEE WHO ELSE ON PAGE 46

25 People Who Make Us Melt

Angelenos Who **Redefine** What's Hot

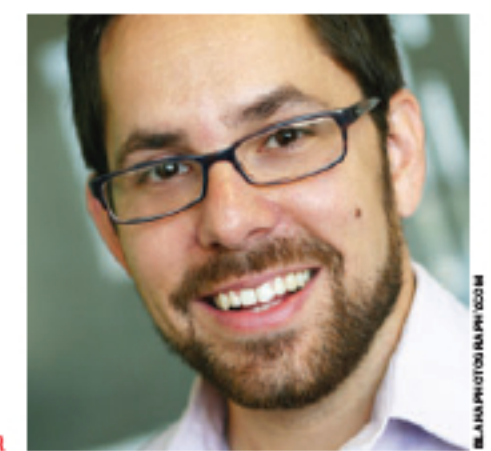
IN THE CITY OF CELEBRITY, there's no question more popular than "Who's Hot?" Well, as the summer sizzles, we thought we'd redefine "hot," because no matter how you look on the outside, we're moved by the people who make us melt on the inside. For the second year, *Frontiers* polled friends and readers, asking for names of some of Southern California's unsung heroes—people who make Los Angeles such a dynamic and interesting city. After sorting through the suggestions, we chose Angelenos we found inspiring, innovative, or just plain interesting. This is by no means a definitive list, but we think it reflects a diverse cross segment of the best of our LGBT community. We hope that these profiles inspire us all to become more active and visible in our city. Who knows, maybe you'll be on the list next year?



Hrair Sarkisian
DANCE CLUB CURATOR

WHY HIM: Co-founded (with Gev Khudyan) one of the only weekly Middle Eastern themed club nights in the world, regularly drawing around 400 people.
SUMMIT ON THE DANCE FLOOR: Like a mini-Mid East summit, Club Nur (Arabic for "light"), is complete with a jumping dance floor and hookah lounge, serving as a de facto meet up for a rainbow of cultures, ethnicities, and identities, and the men who love them. "We are the only Armenian run club that plays Turkish music. ... You have Israelis dancing next to Palestinians, it's like the ideal Middle East."
BEYOND THE HOOKAH: Promoted almost exclusively the first year through MySpace (www.myspace.com/clubnur), the Web page now boasts nearly 17,000 friends from all over the world. Five or 10 years ago, there were individual meetings for gay men from different Mid-East countries and cultures, now they have one spot to mix it up. "It had to have a socializing aspect. We have a custom of talking and socializing much more than Westerners."
LOVE TO BE FOUND: "I met my partner through the club. ... We are going to get married soon now." (Club Nur is held every Thursday night at Mj's in Silver Lake.)

—M.S.



Dave O'Brien
MOVING MOVIE MAKER

WHY HIM: A good deal of O'Brien's library of film work involves LGBT themes. Current projects include: In the Moment, an HIV prevention campaign in conjunction with the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the City of West Hollywood combining Web soap opera with online community features to launch conversation among young gay men on making sexual decisions; and *Equality U*, a feature documentary that screened at this year's Outfest among other festivals. "There are 200 colleges in the U.S. where we can be kicked out simply for being gay, and *Equality U* follows a group of young activists from the group Soulforce on a cross-country bus tour to confront 19 of those schools on their policies."
FATEFUL BEGINNINGS: A chance dinner with Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and AIDS activist Larry Kramer, nurtured the seed of activism. "Work within the legislature and the courts is important, but at the end of the day, peoples' hearts and minds are changed by authentic stories of peoples' lives."
WORDS TO INSPIRE: "Follow your passions and happiness will follow."

—J.L.



Jen Plante
RAINBOW THESPIAN

WHY HER: As the delightful titular character in this show aimed at young children of lesbian and gay parents, Plante makes interacting with a room full of puppets both fun and educational. Not many actors could so naturally share scenes with talking couch cushions and characters like James the Flower and Uncanny the Singing Can.
ON BEING GROUNDBREAKING: Until *Dottie's Magic Pockets* appeared in 2007 there were no shows aimed at this rapidly growing demographic, and there still aren't. "There were zero gay families represented in kids' shows online, on DVD, and still none on television," Plante notes. Additionally, *Dottie* was funded by only a small number of independent professionals wanting to see a show like this get made.
WHY KIDS OF GAY PARENTS NEED TV LIKE THIS: "Personally, I feel it's important for kids who have two moms or two dads to see themselves represented in media," Plante says. "It makes a huge difference in feeling accepted and validated by the world around us, and this is something we have a responsibility to create for our children. ... There is a universal message here, which is about fun, learning, and diversity that is important to put out there in today's world."

—MIKEL WADEWITZ



(Karaoke) Kenny Morse
KING OF COMEDY

WHY HIM: The former Broadway star and showbiz veteran turned his WeHo karaoke shows into a cultural institution, 18 years running, becoming the #1 most requested comedy traffic school teacher in California. "In a town known for its fickle nature, we have endured an amazing run and it keeps going!"
NEVER SING: "Stairway to Heaven," "American Pie" or "Baby Got Back." Any Meat Loaf song—unless you've got a kickass voice.
SECRET WEAPON: "My amazing sound guy, John Williams (JW) can make you sound like you're singing in a concert hall."
A LEGACY IN SONG: "I have provided venues for a few generations now to sing or to listen in a joyful way. In a world of so many things that leave us breathlessly numb to events and our own selves, I provide a place, a chance, for anyone to break out into song. I have never taken this privilege for granted these 18 years."

—J.R.