

the houston★pride★band presents

# LOTERÍA

A MUSICAL TWIST ON A  
CHERISHED LATIN GAME



April 5, 2025  
8PM • MATCH

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

The **Houston Pride Band** welcomes you to **Lotería** – a concert inspired by the imagery and stories of the cherished Latin game, featuring music from and about Latin America. Tonight honors the rich musical contributions of the Latin American culture – music filled with passion, drama, and fun!


It is appropriate that we are presenting this concert as an LGBTQ+ organization celebrating the importance and impact that Latin Americans have on the world of music. Everyday both communities are dealing with new attacks on our freedoms and rights as Americans – and as humans. Every person has the right to be treated with dignity and equality, and as LGBTQ+ people we stand alongside our Latin American friends and family to support and protect each other. Together we fight for a future where we are valued, not only for who we are, but for our contributions that make this world and nation better for all.

Our MATCH Concert season continues **Saturday, June 21st** as we present “**Pride Celebrates!**,” a concert filled with music to help you kick off Pride week as we groove to the vibrant beats of our rainbow rhapsody – get your tickets now!

If you don't already, be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and visit our website to subscribe to email updates and receive information about the band and our upcoming events and performances. You can also scan the QR code below to subscribe.

The Houston Pride Band appreciates your generous support. Your contributions help the band bring music and joy to our community throughout the year. Your ticket purchase tonight is just the beginning – be sure to go to [houstonprideband.org/donate](https://houstonprideband.org/donate) to make additional contributions and check out the other giving and sponsorship opportunities within this program for ways to support our organization.

Yours in **PRIDE**,



Jason Svatek, President  
Houston Pride Band



## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

To learn more about upcoming concerts and events, subscribe to our mailing list. Houston Pride Band will not share your contact information with other organizations. Visit [houstonprideband.nationbuilder.com/subscribe](https://houstonprideband.nationbuilder.com/subscribe).



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# LOTERÍA

DEBORAH HIRSCH & DAVID ALESCO,  
CONDUCTORS

## PROGRAM

Tres Danzas de Mexico \_\_\_\_\_ William E. Rhoads

- I. El Pitayero (from Jalisco)
- II. El Café (Province unknown)
- III. El Curripiti (from Vera Cruz)

Solamente Una Vez \_\_\_\_\_ Aguirre Agustin Lara  
arr. Robert Longfield

Seis Manuel from *Islas y Montañas* \_\_\_\_\_ Shelley Hanson  
Theo Harrison, clarinet

La Virgen de la Macarena \_\_\_\_\_ Bernardino Bautista Monterde  
Zachary Alcantara, trumpet

Danzón No. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Arturo Márquez  
Jordan Raabe, clarinet tr. Oliver Nickel

## - INTERMISSION -

Don Ricardo \_\_\_\_\_ Gabriel Musella  
Gabe Musella, guest composer/conductor

Oblivion \_\_\_\_\_ Astor Piazzolla  
arr. Robert Longfield  
Jadie Marshall, flute Michael Moreau-Monier, oboe  
Gabe Rodríguez, flute Travis Seamons, oboe

Proud of Me \_\_\_\_\_ Michele Fernández  
Adam Jatho, trumpet

Despacito \_\_\_\_\_ Luis Fonsi, Erika Ender, Justin Bieber,  
Jason Boyd, Marty James Garton, and Ramon Ayala  
arr. Paul Murtha

De Colores \_\_\_\_\_ arr. David Marlatt  
Samara Martinez, guest performer

Oye Como Va \_\_\_\_\_ Tito Puente  
arr. Michael Brown

Selections from Encanto \_\_\_\_\_ Lin-Manuel Miranda  
arr. Paul Murtha

# houston★pride★band

## PERFORMING MEMBERS

### FLUTE/PICCOLO

Michaela Butler  
Nicholas Davila  
Christi Gell  
Rocky Gonzales  
Amanda Hager  
Theo Harrison\*  
Jadie Marshall  
Hannah Rae Melis  
Gregory Obregon  
Gabe Rodríguez  
Josh Wunderlich

### OBOE

Michael Moreau-Monier  
Travis Seamons  
Lupe Ybarra-Regan

### BASSOON

Fernando Alvarez  
David DiCamillo

### CLARINET

Emanuel Baltrip  
Steve Brown  
Delvin Coleman  
Kayla DuBrow  
William Fu\*  
Sharon Kilbert  
Jordan Pachuca  
Jordan Raabe  
Hannah Robertson  
Cassidy Salentine  
Steven Scott  
James Walker

### BASS CLARINET

Nicolas Droger  
Charlie Nuttall

### ALTO SAXOPHONE

Cole Duhon  
Brianna Hemeyer-Taylor  
RaVon Rhone  
Billy Skembos  
Daniel Stover  
Kevin Taylor  
Grant Thumann  
Larry Trout

### TENOR SAXOPHONE

Anthony Fernández

### TRUMPET

Zachary Alcantara  
Mary Beth Alsdorf  
Brian Anderson  
George Gehring\*  
Doug Goff  
Adam Jatho  
Rose Kantorczyk  
Kyle Marx  
Jessie Meng  
Jonathan Morales  
Josh Poff  
Alex Rangel  
Stephen Shaw  
Tracie Taylor

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Mackenzie Klima  
Kirsten Kurtz  
Justine Moore  
Eric Weidner\*

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Andrew Christian  
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Christian Hopkins  
Sharon Prince  
Abel Rocha  
Jen Rodríguez\*  
Tony Tuckwiller

### PIANO

Sharon Prince

\* Section Leader



# ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



## DEBORAH HIRSCH

Now in her 9th season with the Houston Pride Band, Deborah Hirsch is originally from Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in music therapy and music education and earned a master's degree in music at Texas A&M University-Commerce. She also served in the 312th Army Band in Lawrence, Kansas before moving to Texas.

Retiring after 37 years as a band director in Pasadena, Texas, Deborah enjoyed a successful career in public education. Ms. Hirsch was named "Teacher of the Year" in 2014.

As a participant the Colorado University Conducting Symposium in June 2016 Ms. Hirsch studied under Steve Davis, Dr. Donald McKinney, Dr. Matt Roeder and Dr. Matthew Dockendorf. In June 2019, she attended the Conn-Selmer Institute where she was able to study, consult and collaborate with many of her band idols—Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, Dr. Paula A. Crider, Frank Troyka, Michael Sweeney and Richard Saucedo. In the 2019, Deborah was honored to direct the Association of Private Lutheran Schools Honor Band and the Texas Region 19 Class CC Band. In November 2021, she was the guest clinician for the Texas Region 19 CCC Band and shared the podium at the Bigger and Brighter Conference of the Pride Bands Alliance.

Deborah is an active clinician, judge, and consultant across the state and is a member of Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Women Band Directors International, and Texas Music Adjudicators Association.

Ms. Hirsch is also a member of the chancel choir and bell choir at Bering Memorial United Church of Christ and a long time member of Pasadena Little Theater.



## DAVID ALESCO

David Alesco (Lea) is in his ninth season with the Houston Pride Band and has served as Co-Artistic Director since 2018. During his tenure, he has conducted the ensemble at the 2022 Women Band Directors International Conference as a featured concert and clinic ensemble and contributed to the Artistic Team for the 2021 Pride Bands Alliance national conference. He also represented HPB as a Reynolds Institute Conducting Fellow at the 2024 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic and has appeared as a guest conductor for the Houston Chamber Music Society Wind Project. Committed to supporting living composers, David has helped commission multiple new works for the Houston Pride Band.

David is a founding member of BrassTax, the Houston Pride Band Brass Quintet, which serves as a musical ambassador for HPB's outreach initiatives. He has also been a frequent guest collaborator with Pride Chorus Houston.

Currently, David serves as Head Band Director and Fine Arts Department Chair at Null Middle School in Sheldon ISD. Under his leadership, his bands have achieved success at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluations and various festivals. As a private trumpet instructor, his students have earned Michigan All-State honors, superior ratings at regional and state solo & ensemble contests, and invitations to the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

David holds bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Music Education from Texas A&M University and Michigan State University, respectively, and a Master of Music Education from the University of North Texas. In Fall 2025, he will begin his Doctorate in Wind Band Conducting at the UMKC Conservatory, studying with Steve Davis. His professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association and the Texas Bandmasters Association.

# PROGRAM NOTES

COMPILED BY THEO HARRISON

## TRES DANZAS DE MEXICO

**Tres Danzas de Mexico** is based on folk dance melodies from various provinces in Mexico. The setting utilizes many of the tone colors available in the modern symphonic band while retaining the characteristic flavor of Mexican music. This work comprises three distinct movements, each reflecting a unique dance style integral to Mexico's cultural heritage:

- **EL PITAYERO** - the little whistler - comes from the folk dance literature of Jalisco. This movement encapsulates the spirited essence of the Jarabe, inviting listeners to experience its joyous and celebratory nature.
- **EL CAFE** - This movement reflects the elegance and grace of traditional Mexican dance, showcasing fluid melodies and harmonies that evoke the rich cultural heritage of the region. Origins of the lovely languid melody were not possible to determine
- **EL CURRIPITI** - Is one of the brighter dances from Vera Cruz. This movement reflects the energetic and rhythmic characteristics of the Mexican Polka, highlighting the seamless fusion of European influences with native musical elements.

## SOLAMENTE UNA VEZ

**Solamente Una Vez**, composed by Mexican songwriter Agustín Lara in 1941, is a timeless Latin-American classic that has enjoyed enduring popularity over the decades. Written in the Mexican bolero style, the song has been widely recorded, including versions with English lyrics under the title "You Belong to My Heart". This arrangement by Robert Longfield is expertly crafted using lush harmonies and varied scoring, bringing the colorful Mexican bolero style to concert programs.

## SEIS MANUEL

**Seis Manuel** is the third movement of Shelley Hanson's four-movement suite, *Islas y Montañas* (Islands and Mountains). This piece draws inspiration from the traditional seis mapeyé, a song and dance form integral to the jíbaro people, who are peasant farmers residing in Puerto Rico's mountainous regions. The title, **Seis Manuel**, follows the Puerto Rican custom of naming a seis after someone important to its creation, further

grounding the piece in cultural authenticity. The seis is characterized by a recurring harmonic pattern over which singers improvise melodies, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Puerto Rico. In **Seis Manuel**, Hanson incorporates this traditional structure, allowing the music to embody the improvisational spirit of the seis.

## LA VIRGEN DE LA MACARENA

**La Virgen de la Macarena** is a famous Spanish pasodoble that has become a staple in the trumpet solo repertoire. Traditionally associated with bullfighting, this bold and dramatic piece is named after the Virgin of Hope of Macarena, a revered figure in Seville, Spain. La Virgen de la Macarena is the favorite Virgin of Sevilla, Spain, where the Basilica Macarena has an ornately beautiful statue of her likeness on display, complete with crystal tears falling down her face. Also called La Esperanza, she is also considered the protector of bullfighters. The composition features a majestic and triumphant melody, punctuated by virtuosic trumpet flourishes and vibrant rhythms that evoke the excitement of the bullring. Over the years, **La Virgen de la Macarena** has been performed by legendary trumpeters and remains a thrilling showcase of technical brilliance and Spanish musical heritage.

## DANZÓN NO. 2

**Danzón No. 2** is one of the most celebrated works by Mexican composer Arturo Márquez. Inspired by the traditional danzón, a Cuban dance form that became popular in Mexico, this piece captures both the elegance and fiery passion of the genre. Márquez masterfully weaves expressive melodies, rhythmic intensity, and lush orchestration to create a work that is both intimate and exhilarating. The piece begins with a sultry, seductive theme before building into a vibrant, energetic climax, evoking the grace and excitement of dancers moving across the floor. **Danzón No. 2** has become a staple of modern concert repertoire, enchanting audiences with its rich textures and dynamic contrasts.

## DON RICARDO

**Don Ricardo**, composed by Gabriel Musella, is a vibrant and heartfelt tribute that blends rich harmonies, energetic rhythms, and lyrical melodies into a piece full of character and warmth. With influences from

traditional Mexican and Latin American music, the work captures a sense of celebration and cultural pride. The piece showcases dynamic contrasts, from bold, spirited sections to moments of lyrical beauty, making it an engaging and expressive work for both performers and audiences. **Don Ricardo** stands as a testament to Musella's ability to create music that is both evocative and deeply rooted in tradition.

## OBLIVION

**Oblivion**, composed by Argentine tango master Astor Piazzolla, is a hauntingly beautiful and deeply emotional piece that showcases his signature nuevo tango style. Originally written for the 1984 film *Enrico IV*, the piece transcends its cinematic origins to stand as one of Piazzolla's most evocative works. Its melancholic melody, featured in the solo flute and oboe, unfolds with a sense of longing and nostalgia, supported by lush harmonies and a slow, expressive tango rhythm. **Oblivion** captures the essence of bittersweet remembrance, drawing listeners into its hypnotic and introspective mood, making it a favorite for soloists and ensembles alike.

## PROUD OF ME

**Proud of Me** is an uplifting and dynamic composition by Michele Fernández, commissioned by and dedicated to the South Florida Pride Youth Band. The piece features a multicultural flair with a disco influence, based on the chord progression of "Over the Rainbow," symbolizing that every young person can "fly." Its mood is both uplifting and triumphant, offering a rhythmic groove that motivates players and listeners alike to move and dance. This work showcases Fernández's ability to blend iconic grooves with Afro-Latin hints, resulting in soaring, happy melodies and catchy motifs that inspire joy and celebration.

## DESPACITO

**Despacito** became a global sensation upon its release in 2017, blending Latin pop with reggaeton rhythms to create an infectious and unforgettable hit. Originally performed by Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi and featuring Daddy Yankee, the song was later remixed with Justin Bieber, propelling it to worldwide success. This band transcription captures the song's signature smooth melodies, rhythmic drive, and vibrant energy, bringing its Latin flair to the concert stage.

## DE COLORES

**De Colores**, meaning "Of Colors," is a traditional Mexican folk song that has been cherished for generations. Often associated with celebrations and the arrival of spring, the song paints a vivid picture of the vibrant colors found in nature. David Marlatt's arrangement captures the simple elegance of this waltz.

## OYE COMO VA

**Oye Como Va**, composed by Latin jazz and mambo legend Tito Puente in 1963, is a classic piece that has significantly influenced Latin music. The song gained widespread popularity in 1970 through Santana's electrifying rendition, which infused it with a rock sensibility, introducing it to a broader audience. Michael Brown's arrangement captures the infectious Latin groove that makes **Oye Como Va** a perennial favorite. The arrangement prominently features the percussion section, allowing them to showcase the characteristic Latin rhythms that drive the piece.

## SELECTIONS FROM ENCANTO

Disney's **Encanto** captivated audiences with its vibrant animation, heartfelt storytelling, and unforgettable music by Lin-Manuel Miranda. This exciting band medley brings to life some of the film's biggest hits, including the chart-topping "We Don't Talk About Bruno", the uplifting "The Family Madrigal", and the powerful "Surface Pressure", among others. Filled with rhythmic energy, rich harmonies, and catchy melodies, this arrangement captures the magic and emotion of the Madrigal family's journey.



# GUEST ARTISTS



## ADRIANA LARUE, GUEST EMCEE

One of Houston's top drag entertainers, known as "Houston's Baddest Diva," Adriana LaRue is a beautiful transgender woman who participates in the art form of drag! She is a part of one of the most diverse and talented drag families in Texas. With unconditional love for the community, she is a pillar and strong advocate for trans rights and issues. When you come to one of her shows, you never know what you might see or hear. She is the definition of a Texas showgirl. She is the queen on the scene, commanding every stage she steps on with charisma, uniqueness, nerve, and talent that leaves audiences gagging for more.



## SAMARA A. MARTINEZ, GUEST PERFORMER

Samara A. Martinez is the Mariachi Director at Humble Independent School District (ISD), a position she has held since the fall of 2020. With a deep passion for music and mariachi, she has dedicated her career to inspiring young musicians and preserving the rich tradition of mariachi music.

Before her role at Humble ISD, Samara was a music teacher at Houston ISD, where she led programs in general music, violin, choir, and mariachi. A graduate of the prestigious High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) class of 2007, she went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2016.

In addition to her educational career, Samara is the co-founder of **\*\*Mariachi Amor a México\*\***, the first all-female mariachi group in Houston, Texas. Through her work with the ensemble, she has made a significant impact on the local mariachi scene, highlighting the importance of gender representation in this traditionally male-dominated genre.

With a deep commitment to both music and community, Samara continues to foster the growth of mariachi music in the next generation, ensuring that the traditions and cultural significance of this vibrant art form remain strong for years to come.





## GABE MUSELLA, GUEST CONDUCTOR

Gabe Musella serves as UIL Assistant Music Director in Austin, Texas. Prior to his current position he taught for 30 years in Texas where his bands earned UIL Sweepstakes Awards in 8 different Varsity and Non-Varsity categories, performed at The Midwest Clinic and MFA National Concert Festival, and placed as finalists in TMEA Honor Band and at the UIL State Marching Contest. While at Spring HS, the band program was designated a Grammy Signature School, a Houston Symphony Orchestra Residency School, and was featured in THE INSTRUMENTALIST. Spring Band ensembles earned five invitations to perform at The Midwest Clinic between 2008 and 2016, and Spring chamber groups received awards at the prestigious Fischhoff, Coltman, and other chamber music competitions.

Mr. Musella is an active composer and arranger whose works for band, choir, jazz ensemble, orchestra, percussion, and chamber ensembles have been performed at The Midwest Clinic, PASIC, WIBC, the Music For All National Festival, TMEA, TBA, and other conferences throughout the country and abroad. The Texas Tech Goin' Band from Raiderland performed "Wreck 'Em Fanfare" at the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and his works have been premiered by The United States Air Force Band, the TMEA All State Jazz Ensemble, the ATSSB All State Band, and ensembles at the University of Texas-El Paso, Texas Tech University, and the University of Houston. His publishers include RBC, C. Alan, Boosey & Hawkes, Carl Fischer, Kjos, Row-Loff, TRN, ALRY, and MKT Music Publications.

Gabe received the Meritorious Achievement Award from The Texas Bandmasters Association and the Specs Excellence in Music Education Award from The Houston Symphony Orchestra. He holds a BM in Composition and a MM in Conducting, both from Texas Tech University where he studied with James Sudduth, Keith Bearden, and Mary Jeane van Appledorn. He is grateful to mentors Tom Bennett, Eddie Green, Philip Geiger, Rodney Klett, Joe Dixon, Rick Lambrecht, Kenny Capshaw, Richard Crain, James Edwards, Randy Vaughn, Rick Ghinelli, Mike Warny, and Scott McAdow. His memberships include ASCAP, ABA, TMEA, TBA, TMAA, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and he serves as Chamber Coordinator for the Music For All National Concert Festival. He is currently President of the Foundation for Music Education, and he has been on the staff of the Texas Tech Band and Orchestra Camp since 1985. Gabe and his wife, Alice, are very proud of their son Alex, who has earned degrees from Texas A & M – Corpus Christi and Sam Houston State University.



Photos by Maximiliano Ronda

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In Memory of Grammy (Robyn Romance)

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## SOLAMENTE UNA VEZ

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In memory of Reynaldo Ramirez

## TRES DANZAS DE MEXICO

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the houston pride band presents

# PRIDE CELEBRATES!

GROOVE TO THE VIBRANT BEATS OF OUR RAINBOW RHAPSODY



A concert by the Houston Pride Band

MATCH | Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston  
3400 Main St, Houston, TX  
[tickets.houstonprideband.org](https://tickets.houstonprideband.org)

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 21, 2025**  
**8PM • \$15**

PRIDE CHORUS HOUSTON

**True Colors**  
*The music of the 80s*

**JUNE 14, 2025 8:00PM**  
**UNITY OF HOUSTON**  
**2929 UNITY DRIVE**  
**TICKETS AT [PRIDECHORUS.ORG](https://PRIDECHORUS.ORG)**

# houston★pride★band

## our story

Serving as a community band in Houston's LGBTQ+ community, the Houston Pride Band has several groups that perform at local events throughout the year as well as concerts and parades. We also provide a fun social experience for musicians.

The Houston Pride Band has a proud history spanning over four decades. Originally known as the Montrose Marching Band, the organization was formed by a small group of musicians in 1978 as a way to make new friends and to provide entertainment for Houston's gay and lesbian community.

The Houston Pride Band is a member of the Pride Bands Alliance, a national musical organization made up of over thirty bands across the nation and around the world. With Pride Bands Alliance, members of the Houston Pride Band have been able to participate at every Gay Games, several Presidential Inaugurations, and conferences throughout the world.

## mission

The mission of the Houston Pride Band is:

1. To provide a welcoming, comfortable and safe musical outlet for LGBTQ+ and allied musicians to participate in a community band setting.
2. To encourage interest in public and private music education through concerts and events that uplift and inspire musical interest in people of all ages.
3. To use musical performances to support local community organizations and events.
4. To host and participate in local, state, national, and international conferences that foster the continuing participation of all individuals in community musical programs.

## membership & rehearsals

The Houston Pride Band is open to all brass, woodwind, and percussion players of all skill levels. The band rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. For additional details, please visit our website at [houstonprideband.org](http://houstonprideband.org) or email [info@houstonprideband.org](mailto:info@houstonprideband.org).

[houstonprideband.org](http://houstonprideband.org) • [facebook.com/houstonprideband](https://facebook.com/houstonprideband)



## PROUD MEMBER OF THE PRIDE BANDS ALLIANCE

Formerly the Lesbian and Gay Band Association, the Pride Bands Alliance is a membership organization comprised of concert and marching bands from cities across the United States and the world.

Great performances are the most visible manifestation of the lesbian and gay band movement. Member bands across the country appear in hundreds of concerts, parades, and community events every year. For more information, visit [www.pridebands.org](http://www.pridebands.org).

## AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CONCERT BANDS

The Houston Pride Band is also a member of the Association of Concert Bands. The mission of the Association of Concert Bands is to foster excellence in Concert Band music through performance, education, and advocacy. ACB has formed Blanket Performance Licensing Agreements with both BMI and ACSAP for performance rights for its members.

# special thanks

FROM THE houston • pride • band

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The Houston Pride Band is honored to be voted as  
**Houston's Favorite Local Musician/Band** in the annual  
Gayest & Greatest awards from OutSmart Magazine!



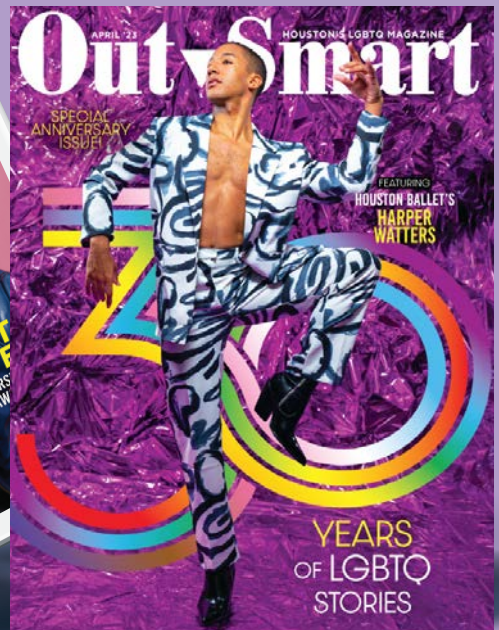
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