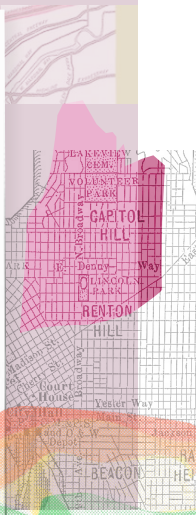


CROWDSOURCED

volume two



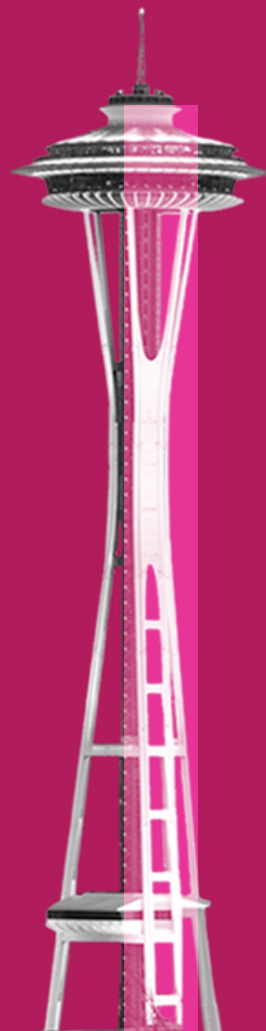
OUT IN SEATTLE

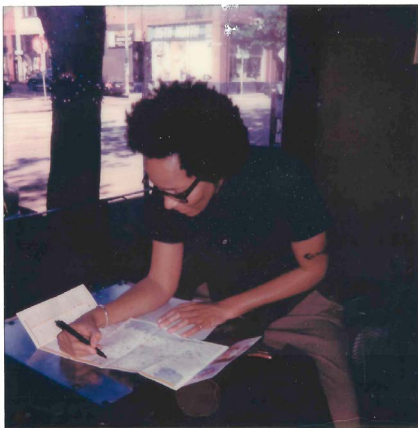
~~PHONES.~~ ~~PLANS.~~ ONLY THE

PEOPLE OF SEATTLE



We challenged travelers to explore Seattle and discover the city's rich history. The catch? No phones, no planning, no research beforehand. Armed with only a notebook and a Polaroid camera to record the experience, our fearless sightseers could only rely on the recommendations of Seattleites to guide their adventure.





ROBIN CLOUD

Comedian and writer Robin Cloud is best known for her short film, *Out Again*, about her experience coming out to her family. The film has been viewed more than 2 million times and was shown in countless film festivals.

Seattle has one of the largest percentages of LGBTQ-identifying people in the country, a celebrated PrideFest every June, and some of the oldest, continually operating gay bars in the nation. In her 48-hour trip, Cloud uncovered what makes Seattle's LGBTQ scene so special. Here's her journey.



"I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT
OF SEATTLE
AND ITS QUEER
SCENE."

WILDROSE

Wildrose opened in 1985, making it one of the longest-running lesbian bars in the country. It's retained its vintage '80s vibe and still attracts a large, inclusive crowd. I would describe it as your classic dive lesbian bar — definitely a lot of fun.

Most of the women at Wildrose were transplants but had been in Seattle for 10 or more years, and you could tell it really felt like home to them.



STARTED IN CAPITOL HILL

I didn't do any research — no phone, remember?
— but I had heard that Wildrose was a big deal.





On the same block as Wildrose is Queer/Bar, one of Capitol Hill's newest gay bars. It's definitely the sleeker, glossier cousin to the Wildrose, with a very modern, edgy feel.

It reminded me of the bars I've visited on Fire Island in New York. I went on Queer/Trivia night and the place was packed! They also do live drag shows Friday and Saturday nights and rotate DJs throughout the week.



CAPITOL HILL

THE LGBTQ EPICENTER

AS SEATTLE'S POPULATION BOOMED IN THE 1930S, SO DID THE OPENLY GAY COMMUNITY. LEADING UP TO THE FREE-LOVING DAYS OF THE 1960S, CAPITOL HILL WAS PRIME REAL ESTATE FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY: NEW ARTISANS AND BUSINESSES MOVED IN, RESIDENTIAL HOUSING WAS CHEAP, AND THE FIRST ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS OPENED. THE "GAYBORHOOD" ALLOWED LGBTQ BUSINESSES, LIKE THE GAY AND LESBIAN BARS R PLACE AND WILDROSE, TO FLOURISH, AND NIGHTLIFE BOOMED ON THE PIKE/PINE CORRIDOR.

MORE GAY BARS

ON THE PIKE/PINE CORRIDOR

PONY

1221 E Madison Street

Situated in a 1930s-era gas station with theme nights and pure fun.

NEIGHBOURS

1509 Broadway

A two-floor dance hall and longest-running gay nightclub in town.

R PLACE

619 E Pine Street

Order drinks, chill in the lounge, or dance the night away.

THE CUFF

1533 13th Avenue

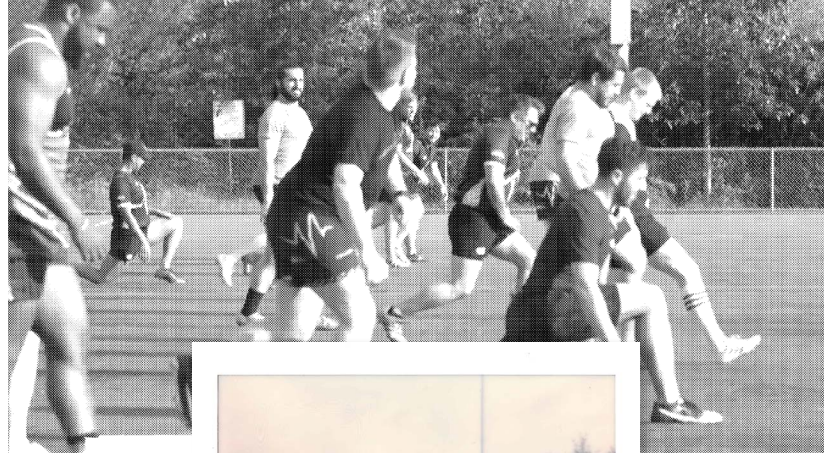
A well-known leather bar welcomes all to hang out, throw darts, and boogie on the mirrored dance floor.

THE EAGLE

314 E Pike Street

Diverse music and boisterous parties at this leather bar, with a bonus outdoor patio.

I headed out to Magnuson Park to watch the Quake Rugby team practice. It's a nonprofit, primarily gay men's team, which is cool considering that many of the players were brand new to the sport and had never played before. It's really a change to the stereotype — I rolled up and saw this huge, muscular guy with a big beard wearing rainbow socks and a bright pink fanny pack. That's my kind of team!



QUAKE RUGBY



They showed me the basics of rugby and wow, was it hard. I'm an athlete (played tennis in high school, still an equestrian) but throwing that ball is harder than it looks. Running in a straight line while throwing the ball sideways *and* aiming?

Thank god the ball was a lot lighter than I thought it would be.

THERE'S SO MUCH DRAG IN SEATTLE



CATCH KITTEN N'LOV
WHILE IN TOWN

KITTEN N'LOV



I heard over and over to catch Kitten N' Lou while in town.

So I found them rehearsing at Century Ballroom for their newest show, "Camptacular."



Kitten and Lou are unbelievable. They were voted the #1 burlesque performers in the world by *21st Century Burlesque* magazine and have gained a cult following in Seattle and beyond. They also have an insanely cute love story — they got married in 2013 and their wedding was a viral hit.

DRAG TO SEE IN SEATTLE

LE FAUX AT JULIA'S

The longest-running drag show in Seattle with stars from *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

MIMOSAS CABARET

AT UNICORN & NARWHAL

A musical extravaganza hosted by the beloved Mama Tits, plus drag queen bingo on weekdays.

DINA MARTINA

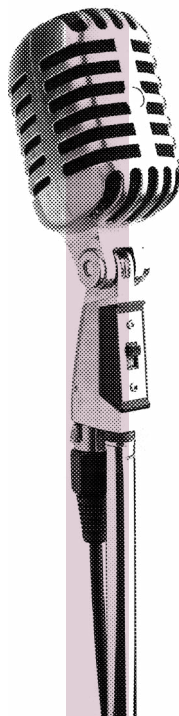
Seattle native and winner of two GLAAD Media Awards, she's been called "the stuff of legends."

BEN DELACREME AKA DeLa

Known as Miss Congeniality from *RuPaul's Drag Race* Season 6, she regularly performs sold-out shows.

CHER DONNA SHINATRA

Drag queen and contemporary dancer twists the societal understanding of gender and art.



"Camptacular" is a talent show based on classic summer camp movies, emphasis on camp. The highlight of my trip had to be rehearsing the famous *Dirty Dancing* "lift" with the performers — they nailed it.

What was very cool about Kitten N' Lou and their troupe was that it was very inclusive. There's a lot of segmentation in drag: drag queen, drag king, and so on. But their show has performers of all types, and that's something you don't see often.

When I was out walking in Capitol Hill I met a woman who owned a yoga studio. Turns out, Laura Culberg has lived in the area for decades and opened The Sweatbox yoga studio more than 16 years ago. She's really watched her neighborhood change, and you could just hear how much passion she has for her business, her home, and her community. You don't get to meet a proud queer business owner every day. We popped by her studio to see hot yoga in action, truly putting the "sweat" in the name.

THE SWEATBOX

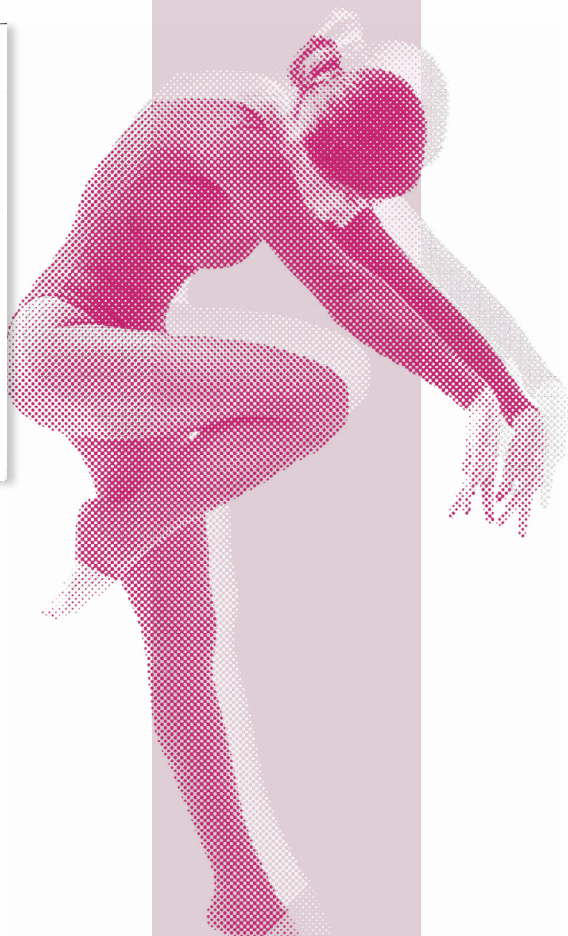




I really love dance and seeing new performances, and Laura recommended this contemporary dance troupe called Whim W'Him. So I went to check out their rehearsals, where they were getting ready for a new show premiering in June. It was really cool to watch them up close and get a sneak peek of "Transfigure."



I talked with Olivier Wevers, the artistic director, who told me that half of the company and the board are LGBTQ, and many of its shows play on themes of homosexuality.



It gave me a whole new perspective on their performance, and really showed how representative they are of the LGBTQ community in Seattle.





Everyone was so nice and friendly to me as I was walking around Capitol Hill. People were so generous with their time in guiding me through the city.

What I really loved is that Seattle and Capitol Hill felt like a real neighborhood with its own little community. When you're in Chelsea in Manhattan, you still feel like you're in this giant city that feels a little colder and anonymous.

In Seattle it felt really insular, like you were stepping into your own little enclave of a queer community.



"IT WAS A
REALLY SAFE,
COMFORTABLE
SPACE —
RIGHT DOWN TO
THE RAINBOW
CROSSWALKS."

SEATTLEMADEME DO IT

1 Wildrose

1021 E Pike St

Taco Tuesdays are the main draw, but the bar hosts karaoke nights, open mic nights, and more during the week.

2 Queer/Bar

1518 11th Ave

The nightclub/lounge hosts regular programming, like an LGBTQ chef series, drag shows, and queer-focused discussions.

3 Quake Rugby

at Magnuson Park

7400 Sand Point Way NE
Regardless of your athletic abilities, you can be a part of Quake Rugby: The green side of the team is competitive, but the gold side will let you develop your rugby skills.

4 The Sweatbox

1417 10th Ave Suite B

Come for the hot and vinyasa yoga, stay for the specialized workshops, like Trap Vinyasa or a Lunar Hatha Flow class.

5 Kitten N' Lou

at Triple Door

216 Union St

Keep up with the couple on Instagram and Facebook to get tickets for their upcoming shows.

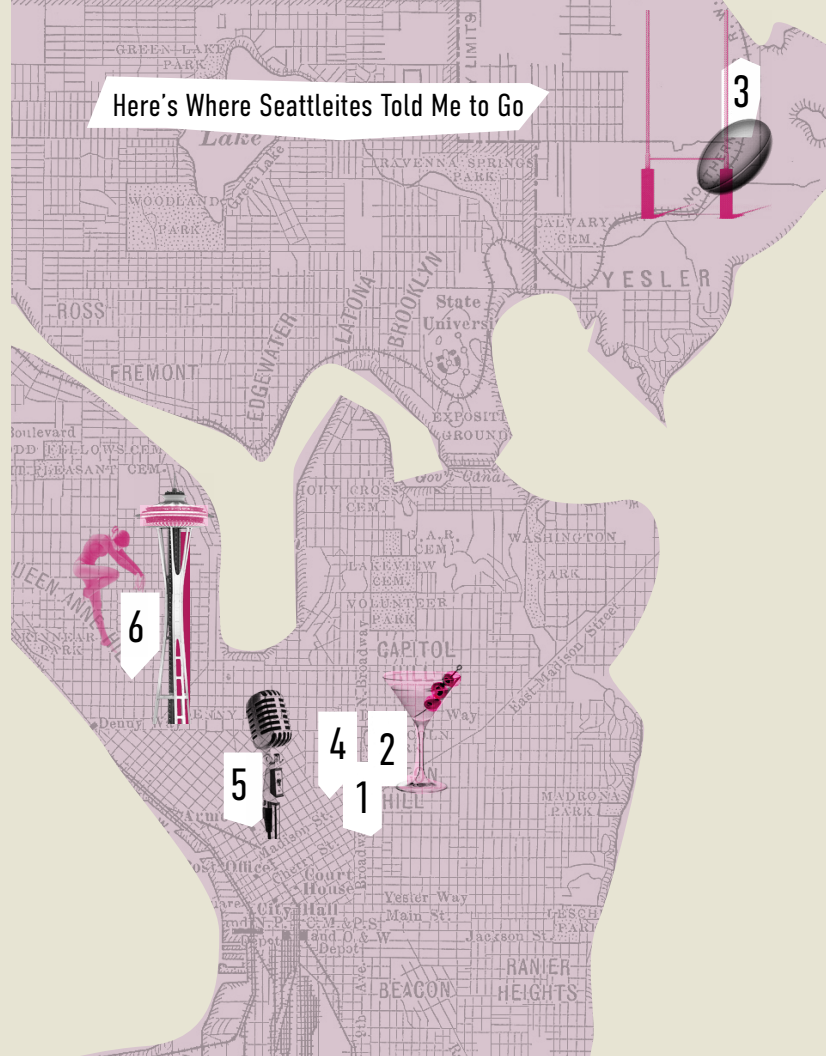
6 Whim W' Him

at Cornish Playhouse

201 Mercer St

The company's ninth season promises to bring eight new contemporary dance creations, seven stellar dancers, and six international choreographers to the stage.

Here's Where Seattleites Told Me to Go





VISIT
seattle