



ChicagoPride.com launches episodic fiction series, *Boystown*

GoPride.com's official geekologist Danny Bernardo branches out with new series

CHICAGO, IL -- Celebrating 10 years as the leading provider of online news and entertainment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in the Midwest, ChicagoPride.com today announced the launch of *Boystown*, a new episodic web series written by Danny Bernardo.

Bernardo is best known in Chicago for his work in the burgeoning theatre scene, most recently with a yearlong stint with Silk Road Rising and as a new collective member and resident playwright with Bailiwick Chicago. ChicagoPride.com readers have followed his coverage of gay comic book news and his blog *Geek Out*. This summer, he will add fiction writer to his list of accomplishments when his episodic series *Boystown* debuts on ChicagoPride.com and the GoPride.com Network on Monday, July 16.

Following the lives, loves and hijinks of a trio of diverse gay men living in the heart of Chicago's famed gay neighborhood, *Boystown* marries the subversive intrigue of *Tales of the City* with the sexy escapades of *Gossip Girl*. In fact, *Tales of the City*, Armistead Maupin's serial take of San Francisco life in the 70's and 80's was a huge inspiration point for Bernardo.

"The first time I ever saw two men kiss romantically was when PBS aired the miniseries based on *Tales of they City*," he recalls. "I got the books from the library the next day and was hooked. The honesty and humor with which he created his characters just made me fall in love with San Francisco."

In fact, Bernardo spent the first summer out of high school living in the Bay Area and studying theatre at the famed American Conservatory Theater.

"It was the first time I was out on my own and I thought, 'I'm like these characters. This is my story.' Then I moved away for college and fell in love with another city: Chicago. I hope that *Boystown* will have the same impact for those visiting or living in Chicago."

Taking a page from his literary hero, Bernardo's *Boystown* will run Monday through Friday on ChicagoPride.com, with a new installment posted every day. Bernardo will utilize many of the tools of new and social media, which weren't available thirty-some years ago when Maupin's *Tales* series ran in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

"I really want it to be an interactive piece," says Bernardo. "As the series progresses, reader comments will help shape future story lines. In the future, I want readers to share pictures through social media sites and get their stories out there. This story is for all of us."

Recognizing the visual nature of today's readership, Bernardo is partnering with many local photographers, both established and emerging, to showcase their images of gay Chicago life with each installment.

For more updates and developments of *Boystown*, follow [@BoystownSeries](https://twitter.com/BoystownSeries) on Twitter.

About ChicagoPride.com

ChicagoPride.com, part of the GoPride.com Network, is the leading and most trafficked web-based resource serving Chicago's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and is consistently ranked in the top 1% of all Web sites (Amazon.com/Alexa Data). Celebrating its tenth year of service, ChicagoPride.com's mission is to promote, inform and motivate the LGBT community. Utilizing real-time data and exclusive web tools, ChicagoPride.com allows organizations and advertisers to better develop marketing strategies to reach Chicago's LGBT community. ChicagoPride.com was named "best LGBT web site" by *Chic Chicagomagazine*.

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About GoPride.com

The GoPride.com Network is a one-stop portal to local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities nationwide. The

network offers news, columnists, social networking and an unmatched national resource of gay-owned and gay-friendly restaurants, clubs, bars and entertainment venues in the GoPride.com Network of cities.

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