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Actor Peter Paige returns to North Carolina

Out actor, former cast member of 'Queer As Folk' makes appearance at Crape Myrtle Fest

by David Moore . Q-Notes staff

It's nine o'clock in the morning in Los Angeles. Actor Peter Paige has been up for about an hour. He was awoken by a phone call earlier in the morning from his best friend Krista Vernoff, a writer for the TV show "Grey's Anatomy," who announced that she had just been nominated for an Emmy.

Now he's at his desk in his office, wearing only a pair of plaid boxers and a Madonna-styled phone headset.

Paige is apparently one of those individuals that can work comfortably in a sort of organized chaos environment — his office is cluttered with piles of scripts, calendars, notepads and business cards.

It's also interesting to note that Paige has a penchant for unusual art — the room is filled with statues and totems collected from all over Africa.

"I have a statue of Ganesh that I really like," he says, referring to the Hindu Elephant God of Good Fortune. "I also collect a lot of contemporary portraiture, too."

Paige is obviously a man of many facets in addition to art collector. He's best known for his portrayal of the character Emmett Honeycutt on the Showtime series "Queer As Folk."

His other acting credits include roles on "Will & Grace," "Time of Your Life," "Girlfriends" and "Caroline in the City." His very first audition in Los Angeles earned him a guest-starring role on "Suddenly Susan."



Peter Paige on Raleigh: 'It's a place I'm always happy to come back to.'

In addition to film and TV, Paige is also an accomplished stage actor and has performed nearly every genre of play, from Greek tragedy to Shakespeare and contemporary American work. Among his favorite roles: "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Born in Connecticut, his parents divorced before he was two. Paige lived and

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A soldier's story Visiting Saddam's palace

Editor's Note: These are the thoughts of a gay soldier — a North Carolina native — who has been deployed to Iraq. Because of the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, he must remain anonymous.

Saddam's palace was surrounded by the first nice grass I have seen in months. It was a fortress that reminded me of some upscale resort — but one that included armed guards. The furniture was elegant — most of us would die to have it in our homes if you like elegant pieces. The tapestries were as nice as the ones you would see in the Biltmore Estate. The ceilings were painted with the most ornamental themes. There was a theater and it had over two dozen plush leather chairs. I wonder what movies Saddam watched there?

The marble that was used in the palace could cover the entire football field of the Panthers Stadium, probably twice. It was like one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



The grandeur of the entire thing made me sick. I enjoyed seeing the palace but the plight of the average Iraqi kept that in check.

It was amazing; it was overwhelming. It made me cringe to think of the money it took to build these palaces, over 15 alone in Baghdad, for the former regime. I have visited three now. It's especially galling when you think of the over one million Iraqi people displaced as a result of sectarian violence and because of the war.

Flying into the International Zone where the Palace is located, you can see trash everywhere. Bombed out buildings, animals roaming free — it's primitive and yet new all at the same time. I saw the tomb of the Unknown Soldier here in Iraq and the famous crossed sabers. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are both in sight.

With 30-some-odd years of seclusion from the technological world as we know it, the Iraqis are just now coming into the age of all

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S.C. Black/Latino Pride week a success

Events included an AIDS vigil, a Pride Expo, a film festival and multiple parties

COLUMBIA, S.C. — According to organizers, nearly 2,000 people from up and down the East Coast convened on the capital city

of Columbia the week of June 19-25 for the S.C. Black/Latino Pride week.



Columbia's ABC and Fox News Channel affiliates covered the HIV/AIDS Vigil, Town Hall Meeting and Pride Expo. The events were also cov-

Times.

Two groups came together to produce the celebration: Palmetto Umoja and Carolinas Black Pride Movement (CBPM). Palmetto Umoja is the only South Carolina organization that deals with the issues and visibility of the LGBT community of color.

CBPM serves LGBT people of African descent in North and South Carolina.

The CBPM mission statement is to foster, present and celebrate Black LGBT culture through education, the arts, cultural events and advocacy.

Week Highlights Included:

- Monday June 19
Volunteer training and social for the S.C. HIV/AIDS Council

- Volunteers from as far as Arkansas and Georgia came out to stuff visitor bags, sit through a 25-minute volunteer orientation and enjoy a dinner social in their honor.

- Tuesday June 20

ered in local newspapers *The State* and *The Free*

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Fun at Black/Latino Pride: organizers say nearly 2,000 attended.



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