

a singer, Klipp founded San Francisco Bay Area Artist Development and Support to help others reach their artistic ambitions. He also holds a law degree; sits on the board of directors for Youth Speaks, a poetry and spoken word organization; and is the artistic director of San Francisco's popular Freeplay Dance Crew.

Joking he'll know he's made it "when I can pay for health insurance from my music-related income," Klipp adds: "There are days I feel like I've made it just booking a couple gigs, reaching out to a few people, seeing my music video on TV. Maybe I'm not on the cover of *Rolling Stone*, but I'm having a good time being a musician. And that's really what it's about for me."

Still, Klipp worried that the world wasn't ready "for a guy like me," and initially expected he wouldn't reach mainstream success as an openly trans musician. Since then, "all kinds of people from around the world have contacted me—gay, straight, trans, you name it.... [Now] it seems more plausible that a trans musician could make it big, maybe even sooner than I thought. It's probably going to take a longer time for a trans woman musician to make it. So far, the general public seems more willing to accept me as a man and an artist than they are with my talented trans women musician colleagues."

Believing that trans musicians are already changing the music industry by challenging notions and expectations about gender, Klipp still cautions other trans musicians. "If you put the 'trans' in front of the music, then that's what people will want to talk about. Keep strong boundaries with the press: I don't hear them asking Beyonce about what's in her pants!"

Klipp learned the latter from *The Tyra Banks Show*. "The producers were very well-educated on trans issues and largely respected the fact I wouldn't talk about certain topics, but when it came time to tape the show, anything went. I had to stand my ground and not feel pressured into answering questions I didn't want to answer—which was surprisingly [difficult]...sitting on a couch next to a 6-foot supermodel with 10 cameras trained on me in front of a live studio audience."

Of course it wasn't all bad. "As an artist," Klipp recognizes, "you can't buy that kind of na-



"So far, the general public seems more willing to accept me as a man and an artist than they are with my talented trans women musician colleagues," says Joshua Klipp.

tional exposure. I definitely am recognized on the streets far more than before. Sometimes I even get hugged by complete strangers, which is odd, but strangely I don't mind."

Klipp also garnered the attention of Cho, who has a special amour for trans men. "Margaret was great," he raves. "I didn't realize how incredibly supportive of the trans community she was until she asked me to do the video with her. Here's this big-time celeb...and she singles out LGBT artists to spend her 'spare time' making music videos for them. I can't thank her enough. She's a hero to me."

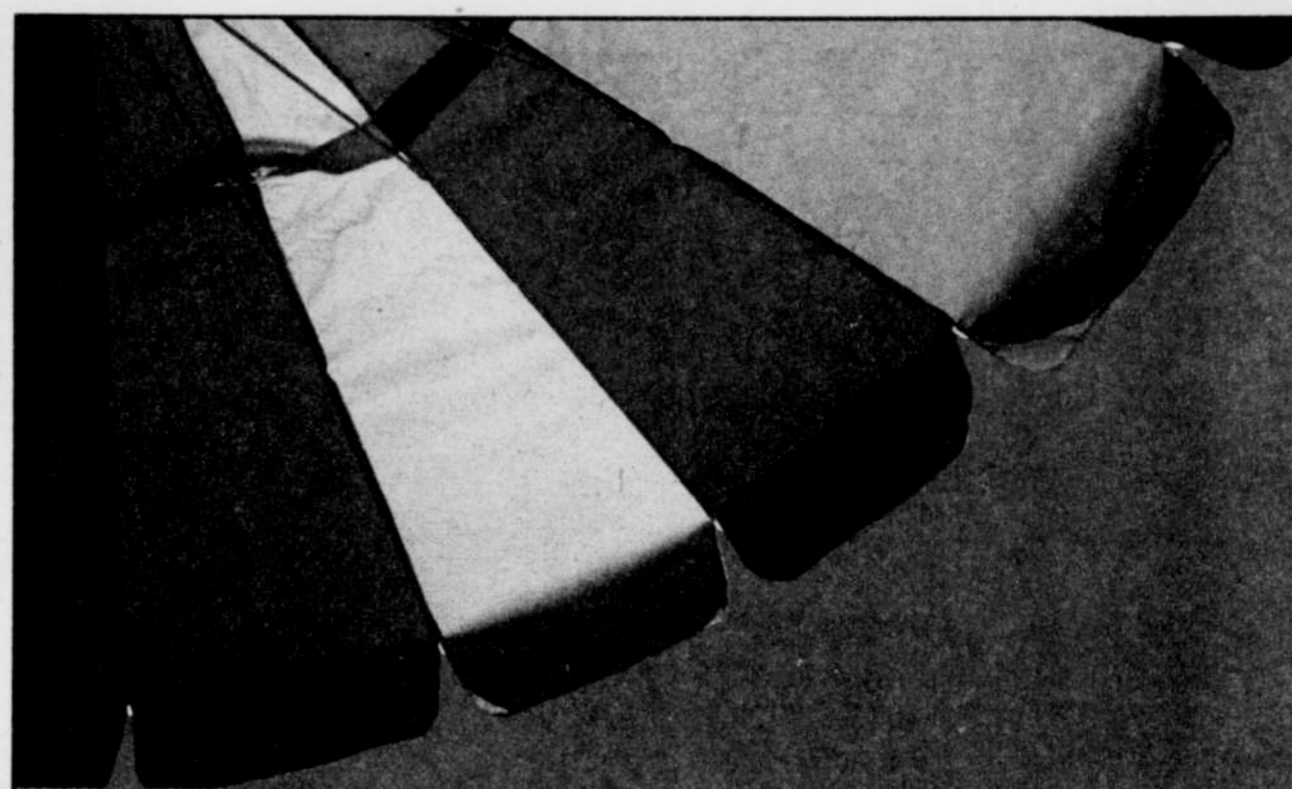
For 2009, Klipp is working with his co-writer, openly gay producer Kristopher Cloud, on an album. He also hopes to record a compilation CD of queer artists and, of course, do more touring.

But now, fresh from headlining EuroPride in Stockholm, Sweden, he is excited to launch his short tour of the Northwest.

Despite all of the attention his work has gotten, Klipp insists: "Nothing means more to me than a message from someone who says I've made a positive impact on their lives. I've had the incredible privilege of not only getting to make music, but to do it in a way that effects positive change in the world. No matter what else happens...I feel incredibly fortunate to have experienced what I've experienced so far." ©

JOSHUA KLIPP performs during Eugene/ Springfield Pride 8 p.m. Aug. 9 at Alton Baker Park in Eugene and 9 p.m. Aug. 12 at Mississippi Pizza Pub, 3552 N. Mississippi Ave. *Won't Stop Now* is available via CD *Baby* and iTunes. For more information visit www.myspace.com/cutelittlewhiteguy.

Trans writer JACOB ANDERSON-MINSHALL co-authors the *Blind Eye* mystery series and co-hosts *Q Literati*—a queer lit event held every second Wednesday at Q Center—with his co-pilot in life and love, *Curve* magazine editor Diane.



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