

PRESS RELEASE

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Immigration, An Alienating Government, A Shift in the Social Acceptance of LGBTQ, Awareness of HIV/AIDS, and the Now-public Career of Prostitution — all provide a hotbed for LIVING OFF THE EDGE, the new memoir from Tom Weise, portrayed in the critically-acclaimed feature documentary *The Good American*, and co-founder of Rentboy.com

Weise's HIV status prevented him from gaining a work visa, so he turned to the oldest profession in history, and helped reform it. Exiled from the U.S.A. and banned for 10 years, Weise's memoir aims to give voice to LGBTQ rights, remind us of how acceptance has changed over history, and provide information on immigration reform

OCTOBER 1, 2018 — *Deadwood, OR* — “A compelling memoir, a story of trauma, escape, self-discovery and empowerment that documents the realities of struggling to survive with HIV in New York in the 1990s and 2000s. Tom Weise shares his complicated history in the commercial sex industry without sentiment or defense. In doing so, he reveals himself and is brutally honest about his own sex and drug history. He also reveals himself to be a profoundly caring and empathetic soul who, like the rest of us, is just trying to make sense of our own existence, find love and leave this world a better place. LIVING OFF THE EDGE is well-written, revealing and powerfully truthful,” reviews Sean Strub, founder of *POZ Magazine*, activist, advocate, and author of *Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS and Survival* (Scribner). Foreword by Rita Mae Brown, author of the bawdy bestseller *Rubyfruit Jungle*.

Tom Weise is well-known in NYC for his community work and initiatives—helping over 20 charities, supporting children with HIV, co-founding a gay homeless youth shelter, and assisting undocumented asylum seekers—as well as his adult industry status where Weise where Weise created Rentboy.com, an escort service which helped support gay causes, assisted with health care, legal issues, finances, future planning, and other serious life circumstances.

From growing up in postwar Germany, through a festering estrangement from his own abusive family, to the comprehension and denial of an HIV diagnosis, Weise led a double-life for fear that running the largest online gay escort site in the world would conflict with his life of advocacy.

Weise produced/hosted/sponsored more than 250 events around the world—including Gay Pride festivals, Gay Games, gay cruises, awards shows, concerts, and media events. He created “Hustlaball” parties—a mega international circuit attracting gays with 500+ performers each from the world of porn, escorting, stripping, dancing, and recording art—in NYC, LA, San Francisco, Las Vegas, London, and Berlin.

After a ten-year ban from the United States, Weise now dares to work for change: “My immigration lawyer advised me to censor my book with regards to a couple of past situations that could jeopardize my return. I've made the decision to live out my dream in Costa Rica and still publish this book, and accept the outcome.”

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner, Senior Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of New York Executive Director, writes—“St. Ignatius counseled, ‘Go forth and set the world on fire.’ Some might say Tom Weise did just that.”

LIVING OFF THE EDGE will be available in October 2018 from booksellers internationally.

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LIVING OFF THE EDGE by Tom Weise; 336 pages, 30 photos; Pub Date: October 1, 2018; HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-948018-16-6, \$32; SOFTCOVER ISBN: 978-1-948018-24-1, \$21; EBOOK ISBN: 978-1-948018-25-8, \$9.99; BIO026000/BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY/Personal Memoirs; SOC012000/SOCIAL SCIENCE/Gay Studies; SOC007000/SOCIAL SCIENCE/Emigration & Immigration MED022020/MEDICAL/AIDS & HIV; Distributed by Ingram, Follett, Coutts, Bertrams, and Gardners. Published by Wyatt-MacKenzie.