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The ultimate Metroplex 'Man Date' guide

Headed on a man date? Consider these bromantic North Texas spots.

By ANDREW MARTON



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Opening at a cineplex near you Friday, the film *I Love You, Man* involves an affably ordinary L.A. real estate agent about to marry a terrific woman. But it suddenly becomes embarrassingly clear that he has never developed a close enough relationship with any guy who could then be his best man. His fiancée challenges him to find and make a best man-worthy new friend.

That endearing, if slightly improbable, plotline got us to thinking about when and where a type-A, alpha guy can bond with a good friend by kicking back and, in today's vernacular, have a "bromance."

The answer lies in engaging in "man-dating," which usually takes place at locations beyond the obvious havens for da guys like a bar, the driving range or, that perennial favorite, a gentlemen's club.

Instead, "man-dating" unfolds in some unexpected new venues. To wit: **The Boardroom Salon for Men** where, on a recent Saturday, two Arlington firefighters started out their day with haircuts before heading off for some good-natured games at Dave & Buster's.

In the spirit of man-dating, we offer a few local places for guys to bond:

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Groom with a view

Call it the revenge of the metrosexuals, but more guys are heading with their best buds to high-end grooming salons to take care of their hair and skin needs in an atmosphere that is less corner barbershop and more day spa. Immediately upon entering Southlake's **the Boardroom Salon for Men**, guys can relax in the lobby's plush leather chairs while catching up on the latest scores from ESPN and taking a swig from a complimentary Shiner. A deluxe billiards table invites patrons to shoot a game or two while waiting for their appointment. From one of the Boardroom's leather-lined salon chairs in the main "cutting room," or in a series of smaller rooms lined with mahogany-tinted wood, the pampering begins: Men can get custom haircuts; a hot-lather face and head shave with a straight razor; special foot grooming or a pedicure; and a scalp, facial or hot-stone massage, among other services. The most popular service: The \$50 Benchmark cut, which includes a shampoo and conditioning, specially tailored cut, cleansing rinse, steamed towel, scalp massage, a revitalizing and moisturizing facial, hands dipped in paraffin and a stress-diminishing hand massage.

Details: The Boardroom Salon for Men, 1260 Main St., Southlake Town Square, Southlake (other locations in Allen, Dallas and at the Shops at Highland Village). Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 817-251-9600; www.theboardroomsalon.com.

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