

AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978

JANUARY 14-27, 2026

VEGAS



**+ PLUS
SIN CITY CLASSIC
RETURNS FOR
19TH YEAR**



**JORDAN STARR
UPDATE ON ICCA
AT NSFW
WEEK IN
LAS VEGAS**



Photo: Trey S

With a proud publishing legacy that dates back to 1978, QVegas has been at the heart of Las Vegas' LGBTQ+ community for over four decades. What began as a grassroots newsletter has evolved into a dynamic weekly publication that informs, celebrates, and amplifies queer voices across Southern Nevada. QVegas is available in print at over 30 LGBTQ+ establishments, community nonprofits, and partner advertiser locations, making it a vital part of the local scene.

Beyond the printed page, QVegas connects with readers through a robust digital presence—on the web, across all major social media platforms, in our dedicated iOS app, and through weekly email blasts that keep the community in the know. Our coverage spans nightlife, entertainment, politics, health, advocacy, and the everyday stories that make up the diverse LGBTQ+ experience in Las Vegas.

As an advertiser-supported publication, QVegas is the most effective way to reach LGBTQ+ locals and visitors alike—offering unparalleled access to one of the city's most loyal and engaged audiences. In an era where equality rights are under attack nationwide, QVegas stands as a strong and unwavering community partner, committed to visibility, representation, and celebrating the power of queer voices.



Copyright © 2026, VGM LLC. QVegas and QLife are trademarks of VGM LLC and may be registered in certain jurisdictions. Promotional consideration in the form of payment, products, and services may be received from our advertisers.

One City, Three Spotlights: How Vegas Becomes the Capital of Sport, Sex, and Creator Culture

January in Las Vegas doesn't ease in—it kicks the doors open, turns up the lights, and dares you to keep up. And this year, three worlds we love are colliding at full volume: Sin City Classic, AVN Week, and the International Content Creator Awards.

First up: Sin City Classic is back, returning for its 19th year—and it remains one of the most affirming, high-energy reminders of what community looks like when it's built around belonging. The festival runs January 15–19, 2026, welcoming thousands of LGBTQ+ athletes, allies, and fans for what organizers describe as the world's largest LGBTQ+ sporting event. It's not just the breadth—a 24-sport roster—it's the feeling: teams becoming chosen family in real time, strangers becoming sideline besties, and Vegas doing what it does best—hosting a takeover with heart. And yes, the weekend crescendo is pure Vegas: LeAnn Rimes headlines the inaugural Sin City Classic Concert on January 18 at Brooklyn Bowl, leading straight into the Closing Party.

At the same time, AVN Week arrives with its own orbit—creators, performers, industry legends, and the fans who support them. For QVegas, it's a reminder that nightlife, entertainment, and sexuality have always been part of queer history here—sometimes celebrated, sometimes scrutinized, always undeniably present. Our job is to cover it with context, respect, and a clear-eyed understanding of what

visibility really costs—and why it still matters.

Which brings us to ICCA, where the conversation is shifting toward fan-voted, creator-first recognition—spotlighting the people building their own platforms, their own audiences, and their own futures. If Sin City Classic is about showing up for each other, ICCA is about owning your story—and AVN Week is the neon-lit crossroads where those stories get seen.

As publishers, we're proud that QVegas has been doing this work since 1978—evolving from a grassroots newsletter into a weekly platform that informs, celebrates, and amplifies LGBTQ+ voices across Southern Nevada. This month, that mission looks like whistles and warmups, red carpets and flashbulbs, awards and afterparties—and the through-line is still the same: community, visibility, and joy that refuses to shrink.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



View this week's horoscopes at qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 2026



Honey, get ready to slay because January 2026 is serving you some fierce Aquarius vibes! The universe is your runway, darling, and it's time to strut your stuff. Sparkling opportunities are twirling your way, so don't be afraid to snatch that spotlight. With your charisma on fleek, charm the socks off everyone you meet. Remember, baby, you're the dazzling star of this celestial show, so own it and let all that fabulous energy shine bright! Yas queen!

Piranha + GIPSY
NIGHTCLUB

RuPaul's DRAG RACE

SEASON 18 IN VEGAS

SAT JAN 24 | BRIAR BLUSH

SHOWTIMES | 11:30 PM at GIPSY + 1:30 AM at PIRANHA



FRI JAN 30 | DD FUEGO

S18 VIEWING PARTY | 8 PM at GIPSY

SHOWTIMES | 11:30 PM at GIPSY + 1:30 AM at PIRANHA

GIPSY 2-FOR-1 HAPPY HOUR THURS + SAT & SUN
BEFORE 10:30 PM + FROM 1 AM TO 2 AM



SUSHI BAR | SHOWROOM
ULTRA LOUNGE | NIGHTCLUB
THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS



BOTTLE SERVICE & TICKETS AT GIPSYLASVEGAS.COM
@GIPSYLASVEGAS | 4605 PARADISE RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

NAKEDSWORD
O R I G I N A L S



NEW YEAR'S BANGERS

BEAU BUTLER'S G★NGB★NG

STARRING BEAU BUTLER

MAX KONNOR • JJ KNIGHT • JORDAN STARR • REESE RIDEOUT
SEAN XAVIER • RIVER NORTH • OLIVER CARTER • DIO FERRERO

DIRECTED BY STEVE CRUZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TIM VALENTI

A photograph of three men, Alec Mapa, Drake Von, and Tony Genius, posing together. They are shirtless and wearing jewelry. The image is framed by a large, glowing red circle. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

Alec Mapa Joins Drake Von and Tony Genius for a Star-Powered 2026 GayVN Awards in Las Vegas

Las Vegas knows how to throw an awards show—sparkle, spectacle, a little chaos, and the kind of crowd that treats a red carpet like a runway and a reunion all at once. On Thursday, January 22, 2026, the city adds another marquee night to the calendar when the GayVN Awards return to Virgin Hotels Las Vegas, with a hosting trio designed to keep the pace quick, the room loud, and the punchlines landing.

AVN Media Network has named Alec Mapa as the event's comedic host, joining Drake Von and Tony Genius, who were previously announced as co-hosts for what AVN calls "gay porn's biggest night." The show is set to begin at 9:30 p.m. PST, and it will recognize more than 30 winners across multiple categories, including fan-voted awards—a reminder that, yes, the community watching at home (and on their phones) still gets a say in who's taking home hardware.

Mapa's appointment feels less like a new hire and more like a homecoming. AVN frames this as his 10th time in the hosting mix, noting that his humor has been part of the GayVN DNA since 2009. And if you've ever seen Mapa work a room—whether onstage, on screen, or in the kind of sharp, audience-savvy set that leaves people howling—you already understand why this is a smart match for Vegas. AVN points to his recent guest appearance on *Frasier* and his New York stand-up show, "Ha! Penis!", as proof he's not just ready for the moment—he's been touring in it.

Mapa, for his part, doesn't play coy about what makes the GayVNs different. He calls

it his favorite awards show and describes the event as a "shame-free zone," celebrating queer sensuality and expression in a welcoming space. That framing matters—especially now, when queer culture is constantly being asked to justify itself, sanitize itself, or squeeze itself into someone else's comfort level. The GayVNs are unapologetically what they are: a celebration of performers, creativity, fandom, and a community that knows how to build its own spotlight.

That spotlight will be shared by two of the industry's most visible newer-era stars. Drake Von and Tony Genius—both of whom started their careers in 2021, according to AVN—represent the modern adult entertainment ecosystem: social-forward, brand-aware, and built as much on personality as on performance. AVN notes that Von's rise included building a significant online following and eventually signing as an exclusive with Men.com, while also maintaining a major presence on subscription platforms. The article also highlights Von's recent awards momentum, including multiple GayVN wins in recent ceremonies.

Genius brings a different kind of stage muscle—one rooted in comedy and live performance. AVN describes his background in improv, including experience with *The Second City* in Chicago, and notes appearances in comedy projects like an Upright Citizens Brigade sketch show. He's also no stranger to hosting duties, with AVN mentioning his role co-hosting the Grabby Awards in the past. If Von brings the polish of a breakout

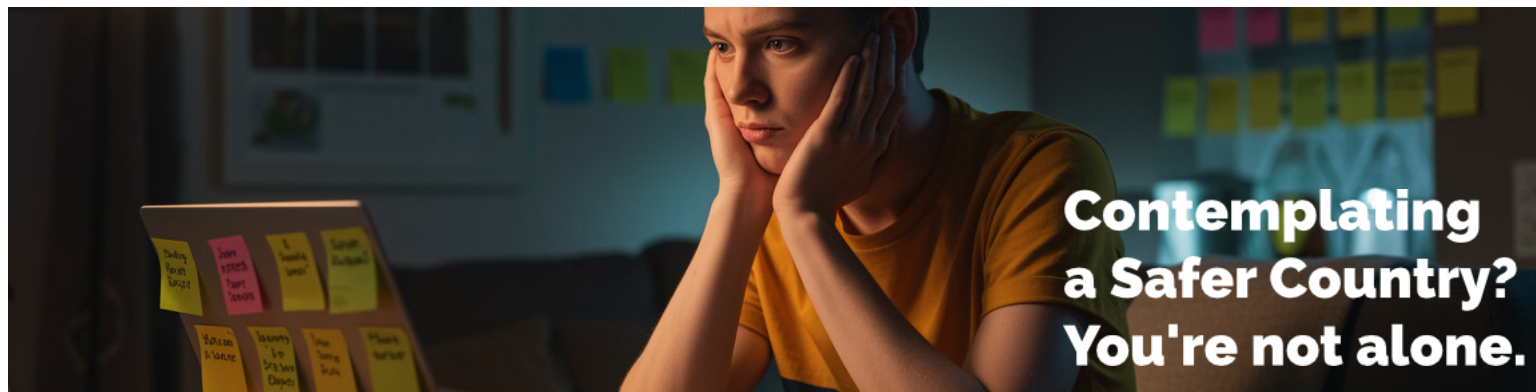
headliner, Genius brings the "I can save this moment if the teleprompter catches fire" confidence that live awards shows always secretly need.

The chemistry between the co-hosts isn't manufactured, either. Genius recounts meeting Von at the awards during the event's return to an in-person format and the two walking the red carpet together—an origin story that practically writes the opening skit for them. That "full-circle" energy becomes the vibe: two performers who came up at the same time, now fronting the biggest night of the year, with a veteran comic alongside them to keep things fast, fearless, and fun.

AVN CEO Tony Rios describes the team as a high-class, high-style combination and promises a night that keeps the audience engaged. Translation for Vegas: expect costume changes, scripted bits, a few surprises, and the kind of room where glamour isn't a dress code—it's a competitive sport.

For Las Vegas, hosting the GayVN Awards at Virgin Hotels is another reminder that the city remains a crossroads for live events that celebrate LGBTQ+ nightlife, performance, and pop culture at every angle. And for attendees, it's the rare awards show where the energy is equal parts industry celebration and community reunion—an invitation to show up, show out, and cheer for the people who made the year memorable.

Tickets are available through AVN's GayVN Awards page and ticketing links provided by AVN Media Network.



Contemplating a Safer Country? You're not alone.

There's a reason "What's the easiest and safest place to claim asylum?" doesn't feel like a policy question so much as a late-night coping mechanism. For LGBTQ+ people, it's a search for a map out of fear that's starting to feel like weather—constant, unpredictable, and somehow always in the forecast. But asylum isn't a destination you "pick" like a vacation spot. It's a legal process built to judge one person's story at a time, and the countries that feel the most welcoming on Instagram are not always the ones that can (or will) accept your claim.

Across most asylum systems, the core legal frame is similar: you generally need to show a well-founded fear of persecution connected to a protected ground, and for many LGBTQ+ cases that ground is "membership in a particular social group." UNHCR's global guidance on sexual orientation and gender identity claims is explicit that SOGI-related persecution can meet the refugee definition, while also warning decision-makers against stereotypes and unrealistic expectations of "proof." That last part matters, because queer and trans harm doesn't always come with tidy documentation. It can be family-driven violence, community targeting, coercion, threats, extortion, employment and housing sabotage, or the slow constriction of daily life until leaving becomes the only way to breathe.

This is why "easy" is often the wrong word. Even in countries with strong LGBTQ+ protections, asylum can be denied if officials decide the risk isn't personal and specific enough, or if they think your home country can protect you in practice, or that you could safely relocate somewhere else internally. The legal test is not "Is this place getting worse?" but "Is this person in danger, and is meaningful protection unavailable?" That's a brutal standard when the threat you feel is real but still forming, or when the law says protection exists while lived experience says it's unreliable.

Canada often comes up first for Americans because it feels close and culturally legible—and because Canada's refugee decision-makers have formal guidance for proceedings involving SOGIESC claims (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics). In a world where too many systems still treat LGBTQ+ identity like an "issue" to be

debated, that kind of guidance is an advantage. But Canada also has a reality check built right into the border: the Canada–U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement. Under the expanded rules that took effect in 2023, many people arriving from the U.S. at the land border—or who cross between ports of entry and claim within 14 days—can be found ineligible to make a refugee claim in Canada unless they meet a narrow exception. In other words, Canada may be "safe," but it's not always "available," depending on how you enter and what your circumstances are.

In Europe, several countries are widely viewed as safer environments for LGBTQ+ people, and the institutional infrastructure for LGBTQ+ claims is increasingly visible. The EU Agency for Asylum has published practical guidance for examining SOGIESC-based claims, covering the interview process, evidence, risk assessment, and legal analysis. That kind of guidance can reduce the chances that an adjudicator's personal discomfort or ignorance becomes your problem. But Europe has its own trapdoor: responsibility rules that decide which country must handle your claim. The Dublin system's purpose is to assign one member state as responsible, often using the first-country-of-entry criterion, which can limit where you can apply and where you can stay while your case is processed.

The Netherlands is a good example of the "safe isn't simple" paradox. The Dutch immigration service (IND) acknowledges that sexual orientation and gender identity can be grounds for asylum and discusses how credibility and risk are assessed in these cases. At the same time, the experience of asylum seekers can be shaped by credibility expectations, procedural pressures, and the reality that even strong legal frameworks still require you to narrate your life under scrutiny. If you're hoping for a country where LGBTQ+ status automatically flips a "welcome" switch, that's not how it works—anywhere.

Sweden is similarly instructive. The Swedish Migration Agency has published explanations of how it processes cases where LGBTQI status is grounds for protection, including the sensitivity and privacy issues involved. Sweden's broader civic environment is often considered LGBTQ-friendly, but the asylum process remains a process: interviews, credibility, country-of-origin risk, and legal thresholds

that don't bend just because a rainbow flag flies outside a government building.

The United Kingdom is another frequent "maybe," partly because it has long-standing asylum machinery and published guidance on sexual orientation claims for decision-makers, alongside public statistical reporting that shows how often sexual orientation appears as part of the basis of claims. As with anywhere else, the safest outcome depends not only on the law, but on current policy winds, processing delays, housing capacity, and your ability to access competent legal representation.

Spain and New Zealand get talked about less in casual "where could I go?" conversations, but they're worth mentioning for clarity. UNHCR's Spain help portal explicitly notes sexual orientation and gender identity among reasons someone may seek asylum, which matters for people who need to know the system recognizes their reality. New Zealand's immigration authorities describe the process of claiming refugee or protected person status—also called claiming asylum—and emphasize that you must be in New Zealand to make that claim. Distance doesn't guarantee safety, but clear public guidance can reduce the confusion that predators and misinformation thrive on.

One more point that deserves to be said out loud: don't count on a rescue pipeline to do this for you. Even prominent LGBTQ+ relocation-support organizations have limits; Rainbow Railroad, for example, states it does not support individual relocation requests originating in places like the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Australia, or New Zealand. That isn't cruelty—it's triage in a world where need far outpaces capacity.

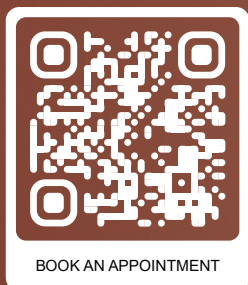
If you're reading this looking for a single "best" country, the honest answer is that the safest realistic option is the one you can enter legally, where your claim won't be blocked by safe-third-country or responsibility rules, where decision-makers are trained on SOGIESC claims, and where you can get qualified legal counsel early. The goal isn't to find a perfect place. It's to find a reachable one that will actually hear you—and to walk into that process prepared, protected, and not alone.

Protection That Lasts Longer Than a Hookup!

Skip the daily pill. Stay protected for months with PrEP injectables!

At CAN Community Health, we make prevention easy and accessible:

- **Free STI and HIV testing**
- **Affordable access to PrEP and DoxyPEP services**
- **Personalized care - no shame!**

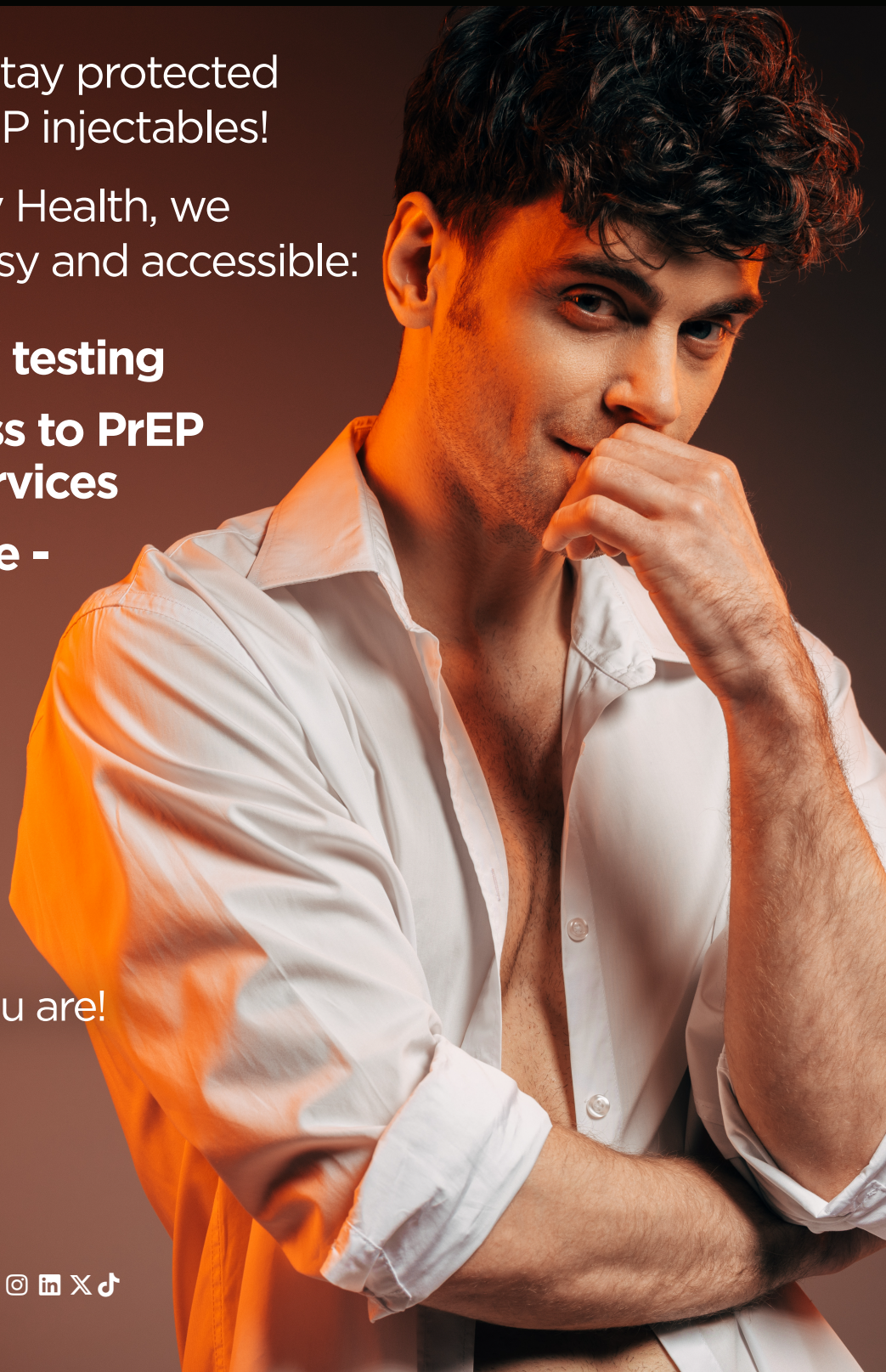


We're ready when you are!

CAN COMMUNITY
HEALTH

(844) 922-2777

cancommunityhealth.org



BEST[®] of LAS VEGAS

GOLD WINNER

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL 2024
BESTOFLASVEGAS.COM

Jimmy Kimmel's
COMEDY CLUB
LAS VEGAS, NEV.

COMEDY NIGHTLY



Luenell



Carlos Mencia



Michael Yo



Josh Wolf



John Caparulo



Vicki Barbolak

Jimmy Kimmel's
COMEDY CLUB
LAS VEGAS, NEV.
BEST
LAS VEGAS
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL 2024

FARRELL DILLON
COMEDY MAGICIAN
The Magicians Room
ALL MAGIC, ALL THE TIME.
LINO PROMENADE
BUY TICKETS

THE CONJURORS
The Magicians Room
ALL MAGIC, ALL THE TIME.
LINO PROMENADE
BUY TICKETS

Late Night MAGIC
The Magicians Room
ALL MAGIC, ALL THE TIME.
LINO PROMENADE
BUY TICKETS

DAVID GOLDBLATT
The Magicians Room
ALL MAGIC, ALL THE TIME.
LINO PROMENADE
BUY TICKETS



**RESTAURANT
LIVE MUSIC
SLOTS
COCKTAILS
HAPPY HOUR DAILY**



Join our Text club : Text TCR to 886-271-6157
and receive special discounts and invites
953 E Sahara Ave, E1A
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
(702) 573-7710 • www.TheComposersRoom.com

OUR **VEGAS** OUR **WAY**

777 SLOTS 777
NOW IN THE GAMING TAVERN

**SIGN UP FOR
GAMBLERS BONUS
GIVE AWAYS**

THECOMPOSERSROOM.COM

IC★CA

INTERNATIONAL CONTENT CREATORS AWARDS

2025 WINNERS

RENO
GOLD

BEAU
BUTLER

ADAM
SNOW

JOEY
MICHAELS

SIREN
SANTIAGO

SAM
HOLISTER

MATTHEW
ELLIS

DRAKE
VON

HAZEL
HOFFMAN

LEGRAND
WOLF

SW
COLLEGE
BOYS

DIEGO
SANS

DANNY
FANTASY

ZANE
KAZAN

RIVER
NORTH

ZANDER
WOODZ

SAM
LEDGER

BOYS
TO BREED

JAKE
O'DONNELL

In Bed
with
Koaty & Sumner

EB

FOR A FULL LIST OF 2025 WINNERS GO TO:
ICCAWARDSSHOW.COM/WINNERS



Fan-Voted, Creator-First: Jordan Starr is Rewriting Gay Adult Industry Recognition

One year ago at Gipsy Nightclub in Las Vegas, Jordan Starr stepped onto a familiar kind of stage—one built for nightlife, community, and spectacle—and used it to announce something the gay adult world didn't quite have yet: a fan-driven awards show built specifically for creators. Not studios. Not legacy pipelines. Not the traditional gatekeepers. Creators and their collabs.

That night, he unveiled the International Content Creator Awards (ICCA) to a room full of industry faces gathered for GayVN weekend, and he teased what would become a major test of concept: nominations, fan voting, and a destination celebration in Puerto Vallarta that would invite the creator community to take up real space—together, in person, and on its own terms.

Now, one year later, Starr is back in Las Vegas with new partners, bigger ambitions, and a clearer read on what the ICCA can be in a shifting adult landscape—one where content is personal, audiences are loyal, and politics has made “visibility” feel like both a business strategy and a survival skill.

“It’s been a huge learning experience,” Starr told QVegas. “It was such an amazing event. And GayVN is a wonderful time to get people together. It’s kind of like the kickoff to the award season, the beginning of the year, and a great networking opportunity because so many people are in one place.”

Strategically, the ICCA’s Vegas announcement was designed to ride the

energy of the industry’s busiest week without stepping into anyone else’s spotlight. Starr put it more bluntly, with a grin: the goal wasn’t to compete for attention—just to make sure the new shine was impossible to ignore. The following months proved the timing wasn’t just smart; it was necessary.

When ICCA’s first full awards experience landed in Puerto Vallarta, it didn’t just “go well.” It sold out.

“We sold out our resort completely,” Starr said, referencing Almar Resort in Puerto Vallarta, the host property for ICCA’s inaugural celebration. “We ended up with 217 people. It was a wonderful event.”

Starr compares the feel of that first year to the intimacy of the Golden Globes—warm, casual, and personal—versus the larger, more formal gravity of the Oscars. That distinction matters, because the ICCA isn’t attempting to replace long-standing institutions like the GayVN Awards or the Grabbys. It’s trying to build something adjacent: an ecosystem for the performers and entrepreneurs who don’t fit neatly inside studio structures, and for the international creators who often can’t access U.S. industry events at all.

“There’s so much representation on the studio side of the industry,” Starr said, “and there’s just so many content creators that don’t do studio. And there’s so many people that can’t get visas to come to the U.S.”

Puerto Vallarta, he noted, became more than a picturesque workaround. It became a bridge—between countries, between

models and platforms, and between the studio world and the creator world at a time when adult entertainment is facing renewed pressure from the outside.

Without turning the interview into a stump speech, Starr didn’t shy away from acknowledging what everyone in the business has felt: age-verification campaigns, legislative crackdowns, and a shifting political climate are forcing the adult industry to adapt fast, and adapt together.

“Our industry has been affected,” he said. “It’s really a uniting factor. It’s sad when things have to go wrong to pull people together, but when tough times happen in communities, that’s when you really unite.”

For creators, the ICCA’s strongest differentiator is also the simplest: it’s built around fans.

Where studio awards can feel like recognition within an industry machine, creator awards reflect something more intimate—the one-on-one bond between performer and subscriber. Starr says that relationship changes everything about how achievement should be measured.

“One of the things that really separates the studio world from the content creation world is that personal connection with the fans,” he explained. “So having it be fan nominated and fan voted is really important to us — a studio product is kind of a curated product on a shelf, versus creator content is so intimately personal.”

That philosophy also shaped what



happened when hundreds of creators gathered in Puerto Vallarta. It wasn't just a party—it was a networking hub, a collaboration incubator, and, surprisingly, a moment of cross-pollination with studios.

Puerto Vallarta's reputation as a gay-friendly destination—and Almar's built-in amenities like Mantamar Beach Club—made it an easy host. One day was featured as an ICCA pool party, but the real impact was what happened off the schedule: creators meeting creators, building partnerships, and connecting across language and borders.

Starr also pointed to the economics driving international interest. OnlyFans, he noted, is UK-based, but the U.S. remains its largest consumer market—meaning creators outside the U.S. are often chasing American visibility without being able to physically enter American spaces.

"The international community really wants access to that market," he said. "A lot of our South American and Mexican family can't access the U.S. market. So there were so many people excited to have that together."

Then came the twist: studios showed up.

"Falcon and MEN.com came to Puerto Vallarta and did full-on productions," Starr said. The reason was simple and pragmatic. Studios were able to access creators they couldn't easily bring into the U.S. Meanwhile, creators gained studio-level exposure in an environment that felt more collaborative than extractive.

"I don't want to sound too warm and fuzzy about it," Starr added, laughing, "because we're all just having fun and making porn and stuff. But it was really touching to see a community come together and unite around something new and fun and different."

That "hybrid model" is also where Starr sees the gay adult industry heading—studios becoming more flexible, creators becoming more brand-driven, and the lines between independent and studio production continuing to blur. He credits

leaders who've moved from in front of the camera to behind it—like Falcon's Tim Valenti and Trenton Ducati, and creators and producers connected to Carnal Media and LeGrand Wolfe—for helping reshape what studio collaboration can look like in 2026.

As for standout independent creators, Starr gave one name that feels unavoidable in current conversation: Drake Von, who has been pushing viral, endurance-style stunt content into the gay creator mainstream with the kind of scale that gets attention even outside the adult bubble. Starr framed it as part of a larger evolution—rewarding innovation over negativity, and building a culture that's less about drama and more about momentum.

Back in Las Vegas, the ICCA is leaning into community-building again—this time with two anchor nightlife moments during GayVN week, starting with a kickoff party at Gipsy Nightclub on Wednesday, January 21.

"It's location, location," Starr joked. "You're just a block away from the Virgin, so you don't have to Uber or think about heading to the Strip, you can just hit one block over."

The welcome party is hosted by **RuPaul's Drag Race** fan favorite Alexis Mateo, co-hosted by Falcon exclusive Sir Peter, with a guest DJ spot by Xander Woods—winner of the 2025 ICCA Kink Award and a pup creator with a loyal following.

Starr also gave a nod to Falcon Studios as ICCA's gold sponsor, emphasizing how essential studio partnership has been to building credibility and scale for a creator-first awards brand.

The following night, the ICCA energy rolls into the official closing party at Piranha Nightclub on Thursday, January 22—where attendees will get first access to ICCA nominations for the 2026 awards cycle.

"There are over 30 categories," Starr said, teasing everything from "favorite daddy" to "hunk, twink, bear," and on through dom/sub and top/bottom categories. The point isn't just the list—it's the mechanism. The

NSFW Week Events

- **ICCA Kick Off Party**
Jan 21 10p @ Gipsy
- **AVN Expo**
January 21 -24 @ Virgin Hotel
- **GAYVN Awards**
Jan 22
- **ICCA Closing Party**
Jan 22 Piranha
- **AVN Awards**
Jan 24

For more information about all NSFW Week events, visit avn.com and iccawardsshow.com.

The ICCA Kick Off Party and ICCA Closing Party events at Gipsy and Piranha are open to the public (no cover, 21+).

ICCA will again be fan-nominated and fan-voted, reinforcing that the audience isn't a bystander; it's part of the structure.

Then, it's back to Puerto Vallarta for Year Two—scheduled around PV Pride, with ICCA events running May 17–20, leading into the PV Pride parade on May 21 and a larger finale weekend beyond that. This year marks a major milestone: ICCA is officially incorporated into PV Pride's programming.

Starr is also highlighting new creator-facing sponsorships designed to help performers expand their brands beyond subscriptions. He pointed to Fleshlight—ICCA's major awards sponsor—as an example of how technology and product lines are evolving to meet creators where they are. With new tools, he says, creators can more easily develop their own merchandise and retail opportunities, scaling personal brands in ways that used to be reserved for a select few.

Ultimately, Starr's biggest push for 2026 is simple: bring the fans into the room.

"If the one thing that separates the content creation world from the studio world is that personal connection," he said, "we want to take it to the next level! Come join us. There will be a meet and greet if you've ever wanted to mix and mingle with your favorite porn stars, then PV Pride is the best place to do that."

For a creator economy built on access, authenticity, and direct connection, the ICCA's mission feels less like a reinvention and more like a recognition that the future already arrived—and it's filming in vertical, booking its own travel, and bringing the audience along for the ride.

For tickets, event details, nominations, and Puerto Vallarta hotel information, visit ICCAawardsshow.com.



The World's Largest LGBTQ+ Sports Festival Returns to Flamingo Las Vegas—Bigger, Bolder, and Built for Belonging

Las Vegas has never been shy about a big weekend. We do spectacle like a second language—neon and noise, entrances and encores, sequins and surprise. But once a year, the city shifts into something even more electric: a full-on takeover powered by whistles, warmups, team hugs, and the kind of camaraderie you can't bottle. The Sin City Classic Sports Festival Presented by Lexus returns January 15–19, 2026, bringing an estimated 10,000 LGBTQ+ athletes, allies, and fans to Las Vegas for what organizers call the world's largest LGBTQ+ sporting event.

And in 2026, Sin City Classic isn't just bigger—it's louder. Not only does the festival roll out a 24-sport roster (including the return of swimming, diving, and billiards), it also adds a major new marquee moment: the inaugural Sin City Classic Concert, headlined by Grammy-winning superstar and longtime LGBTQ+ advocate and ally LeAnn Rimes, set for January 18 at Brooklyn Bowl Las Vegas at LINQ Promenade—just before the festival's Closing Party.

For QVegas readers, Sin City Classic is the kind of weekend that feels tailor-made for our city: high-energy competition by day, unforgettable social events by night, and a deep sense of community threaded through every venue, every match, every dance floor moment. It's a sports festival, yes—but it's also a reunion, a safe space, a pride parade in sneakers, and a reminder

that queer joy is both celebration and resistance.

A festival built for belonging

Sin City Classic began in 2008 as an LGBTQ+ softball tournament created by the Greater Los Angeles Softball Association (GLASA). Over 17 years, it has grown into a multi-sport festival spanning 24 sports and drawing participants from across the country. The heartbeat of it, though, hasn't changed: create a welcoming environment where LGBTQ+ athletes and allies can compete, connect, and be fully themselves.

"In a tumultuous environment, our goal is to provide a safe and inclusive outlet for LGBTQ+ people to come together over sport," said Sin City Classic Co-Executive Director Dr. Jason Peplinski. That line lands with real weight in 2026. Sports can be a sanctuary, but it can also be a battleground—especially for queer and trans athletes navigating changing policies, cultural whiplash, and the exhausting expectation to constantly justify their right to exist. Sin City Classic offers something simple, and radical: you belong here.

That sense of belonging is why MLK Weekend feels like the perfect anchor for this festival. It's a weekend already steeped in reflection, purpose, and the call to build a more just world. In Las Vegas, Sin City Classic transforms that national holiday into a living example of community action: thousands of people choosing connection

over isolation, teamwork over fear, and celebration over shrinking.

Why Las Vegas? Because Vegas understands a takeover

If you've lived here long enough, you know Las Vegas loves an event that takes over a city. We're built for it. We know how to host. We know how to welcome visitors and make them feel like regulars. We also know how to turn a weekend into a memory—especially when the crowd arrives already primed for connection.

The festival is proudly hosted at Flamingo Las Vegas, which becomes the central hub as athletes, friends, and fans check in, collect credentials, and start the weekend's social swirl. From there, competitions and nightly events spread across the city, turning Las Vegas into a network of pop-up chosen-family moments.

Sin City Classic's growth mirrors Vegas itself: always expanding, always reinventing, always pulling more people into the orbit. And in a city that is often framed as indulgent or escapist, the festival offers something surprisingly grounded—joy with meaning, nightlife with community, and sport with purpose.

24 sports, one shared spirit

The headline number is huge: 24 sports. That's not a niche tournament—it's a full festival ecosystem. There's traditional team competition, individual events, precision sports, endurance challenges, and everything in between. The 2026 lineup includes (among others) basketball,

bowling, bridge, cheerleading, cornhole, dodgeball, flag football, golf, indoor rowing, kickball, pickleball, rodeo university, soccer, softball, tennis, ultimate frisbee, indoor and sand volleyball, wrestling & grappling—plus the return of swimming, diving, and billiards.

If you've never attended, picture the joy of seeing different communities overlapping in one weekend: the kickball teams cheering on a friend's volleyball match, a dodgeball player still in their team shirt showing up at a dance party, swimmers trading high fives with bowlers in the hotel elevator. It's not just that there are multiple sports—it's that the festival blurs the lines between competitor and spectator, athlete and ally. Everyone becomes part of the same story.

That story doesn't rely on a single definition of athleticism, either. Sin City Classic is built around the idea that participation is personal. Some people chase medals. Others chase the thrill of trying something new. Some arrive with full rosters and matching warmups. Others show up solo and leave with a group chat full of new friends. However you enter the weekend, you're welcomed as part of it.

The weekend's rhythm: charity, registration, competition, celebration

Sin City Classic is structured like a great Vegas show—an opening act that sets the tone, a packed middle that keeps the momentum rolling, and a finale that leaves you buzzing long after the lights come up.

The festival kicks off with a Cornhole for Charity event that benefits the Ken Searce Scholarship Fund. This is the kind of detail that speaks volumes: even at the very start, the weekend is rooted in giving back. It's fun, it's accessible, it's social—and it supports a legacy that matters deeply to the community.

From there comes the Opening Night Registration Party at Flamingo Las Vegas—a gathering that's part check-in, part reunion, part “we're really doing this again” celebration. The next days move into the core of the festival: competitions across the city, nightly social events, and the constant hum of teams crossing paths and making new plans.

Then comes the crescendo: the Closing Party at Brooklyn Bowl Las Vegas at LINQ Promenade. And in 2026, that closing stretch gets something brand new—a concert that brings a stadium-level voice into the heart of the festival.

LeAnn Rimes brings the house down—before the final party

The announcement that LeAnn Rimes will headline the inaugural Sin City Classic Concert isn't just a booking; it's a statement. For decades, Rimes has moved between genres and audiences with ease, building a career that's both commercially powerful and emotionally resonant. But for the LGBTQ+ community, the story is also about

allyship—visible, longstanding, and awarded.

Sin City Classic organizers didn't mince words when they framed the moment. Dr. Peplinski called attention to the urgency of allies being “loud” and “steadfast” as LGBTQ+ rights face ongoing threats. In that context, Rimes taking the stage is more than entertainment—it's solidarity you can sing along with.

Rimes has been recognized for her advocacy, including an Ally of Equality Award from the Human Rights Campaign, among other honors mentioned by festival organizers. She's also continued expanding her work beyond music—releasing *CHANT: The Human & The Holy* in 2020 and hosting her *Wholly Human* podcast focused on mental health and wholeness. And for pop-culture watchers, she's also tied to current television as a co-star of ABC and Hulu's *9-1-1: Nashville*, as noted in the festival announcement.

The concert takes place January 18 at Brooklyn Bowl Las Vegas at the LINQ Promenade, positioned just before the Closing Party. That timing matters: it turns the final night into a single, seamless arc—live music into late-night celebration, a shared soundtrack into a shared sendoff. It's the kind of programming Vegas does best: build the peak, then let the peak ripple into the night.

And it's a perfect match for Sin City Classic's vibe. This is a festival where the line between athlete and fan is already porous. Everyone is cheering for everyone. Put a concert in the middle of that energy, and it becomes the ultimate collective exhale—an “we did it” moment, in harmony.

The legacy at the center: Ken Searce and the leadership award that bears his name

To understand Sin City Classic's heart, you need to understand its legacy. In 2026, the festival continues to honor the memory of Ken Searce, its former Executive Director, who passed away suddenly in 2021. Searce is remembered not just for event leadership, but for the way he centered friendship, community, and queer athletics as a force for good.

Each year, the festival opens nominations for the Ken Searce Leadership Award, now in its 5th year. The award recognizes an individual whose leadership and dedication have bettered a local LGBTQ+ sports league—honoring the everyday people who keep queer sports alive: athletes, coaches, referees, officials, and volunteers who show up, year after year, to build something bigger than themselves.

The criteria emphasize what queer sports communities value most: being a team player, growing the sport through outreach, leading by example, and giving back. Those qualities might sound straightforward, but in practice they're the reason LGBTQ+ leagues become lifelines. For many people, a local league is their first safe community space in a new city. It's





the community
health center
LAS VEGAS BLVD

Start Living Your Most **AUTHENTIC** Life

Now Offering Laser Hair Removal, Electrical
Muscle Stimulation (EMS) & Cool Sculpting.

DOUBLE YOUR *GLOW* THIS NEW YEAR!

Buy one service, get any second service for FREE!
Now through January 31, 2026.





where they learn names, build friendships, find confidence, and sometimes—quietly—find themselves.

Past winners reflect the national scope of the festival's impact, with honorees from Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Kansas City. That detail matters, too: Sin City Classic isn't just a Vegas event. It's a national network, a place where local work gets celebrated on a big stage.

And there's something especially moving about honoring leadership at a festival that's so visibly joyful. It reminds us that joy doesn't appear out of nowhere. It's built—by organizers, volunteers, captains, mentors, and community members who do the unglamorous work: scheduling, fundraising, refereeing, recruiting, welcoming the newcomer who's nervous to show up alone.

Sponsors, partners, and the ecosystem that makes it possible

An event this massive doesn't happen without support—and Sin City Classic's sponsor roster underscores how wide the ecosystem has become. Lexus returns as presenting sponsor, alongside other names listed by organizers such as Caesar's Entertainment, Tito's Handmade Vodka, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Viiv Healthcare, and Piranha Nightclub, among others.

For Las Vegas, that mix is familiar: hospitality brands, nightlife, and health-focused partners sharing the same weekend. It's also a reminder that LGBTQ+ events aren't side programming—they're major cultural engines. They draw travel, fill hotel rooms, create media attention, and generate real economic activity. But beyond economics, sponsors also signal something else: visibility. When major brands and institutions attach themselves to queer community events, it helps reinforce a broader message—LGBTQ+

communities are here, thriving, and worth investing in.

What Sin City Classic means right now

Every year has its own emotional context. In some years, the festival feels like a celebratory capstone—an annual tradition that keeps growing. In other years, it feels like a necessary gathering—a place to recharge and remember you're not alone.

The 2026 messaging leans into that second feeling. The festival's organizers speak plainly about the need for safe, inclusive spaces and the importance of allies standing firm. It's not gloom—it's clarity. It's the understanding that community isn't just about having fun; it's about protecting one another's ability to live freely and openly.

In that light, Sin City Classic becomes more than an event. It becomes a kind of annual infrastructure for queer resilience. It's where people show up and witness each other's lives—on the court, on the field, at the hotel, under the lights of Brooklyn Bowl. It's where friendships are made and renewed. It's where someone who has felt isolated in their hometown can come to Vegas and feel, for a few days, like they're part of something huge and hopeful.

And because this is Las Vegas, it's also where that hope gets to be glamorous. That matters. There is power in letting joy be loud. There is power in letting queer people take up space in a city built for spectacle—and making the spectacle about us.

Your weekend guide, in spirit

If you're coming as an athlete, the advice is simple: pack for performance and for celebration. Bring the gear. Bring the glitter. You'll need both. Expect long days, late nights, and the kind of happy exhaustion that only comes from being surrounded by your people.

If you're coming as an ally or a fan, show up with the same energy you'd bring to any major Vegas weekend—only make it community-centered. Watch a game even if you don't know the rules. Cheer anyway. Ask someone about their league. Compliment the team warmups. Tip well. Be kind. Remember that for many athletes, simply being in public as an LGBTQ+ person is an act of courage, and the atmosphere you help create matters.

And if you've never been? Consider this your invitation. Sin City Classic is one of those events that reminds you what Pride can look like beyond parades: a thousand small moments of encouragement, teamwork, and connection—multiplied across an entire city.

The final word: a Vegas weekend with purpose

When the last whistle blows and the last song ends, people will head home in waves—tired, hoarse, smiling, already planning the next reunion. That's the magic of Sin City Classic: it doesn't just give you a weekend. It gives you something to carry back into your everyday life.

January 15–19, 2026, Las Vegas becomes the LGBTQ+ sports capital of the world again. And on January 18, with LeAnn Rimes taking the stage at Brooklyn Bowl before the Closing Party, the festival adds a new tradition to its legacy—one that feels perfectly Sin City: big, bright, and built around community.

Because in the end, this isn't just about who wins. It's about who shows up. It's about being seen. It's about safety, joy, and the power of gathering—especially when the world feels loud in all the wrong ways.

In Las Vegas, we know how to turn up the volume. Sin City Classic turns it up for something that matters.



SCAN QR TO SCHEDULE !



We are in network with most of the dental insurances!

No insurance?

No problem.

Ask about our in-house membership plan for premium preventative care plus discounts.

SERVICES WE OFFER:

General Dentistry
Clear Aligners
Crowns/Root Canals
Veneers
Implants
Botox/Fillers
and more!



**2840 E FLAMINGO RD. SUITE G
LAS VEGAS, NV 89121**



(725) 250-2840

- OFFICE HOURS -

MON - FRI: 9 AM - 6 PM

SAT: 10 AM - 2 PM

MAKE YOUR NEXT VISIT TO THE DENTIST... A WALK IN THE PARCS

6 weeks for \$99

Move In for
Only \$349
Today!

MENTION QVEGAS
WHEN YOU SCHEDULE
YOUR TOUR

Move-In
Special

\$349 to move in:

- \$99 rent special for 6 weeks
- \$250 security deposit (on approved credit)

*Minimum lease term applies. Other costs
and fees excluded..

email us: envisionsunset@greystar.com
call us: 702.485.4477

ENVISION
AT SUNSET



NEVADA'S LARGEST RV DEALER



Call 877.851.6147

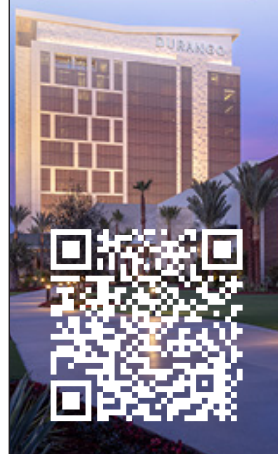
FULL PAGE ADS ONLY \$150 PER WEEK
QUARTER PAGE ADS \$50 PER WEEK
EMAIL RUSS@QVEGAS.COM TO GET STARTED

DURANGO
CASINO & RESORT

Las Vegas
**Cyber
Sale**

40% OFF
up to
Rooms & Resort Credit

BOOK NOW





LGBTQ+ Resources

THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
thecenterlv.org

ACLU
aclunv.org

ADL
lasvegas.adl.org

ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER
alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

BEARS LAS VEGAS
bears.lv.org

HENDERSON PRIDE
hendersonpride.org

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
hrc.org

IMPERIAL ROYALE SOVEREIGN COURT OF THE DESERT EMPIRE
ircdei.org

LAMBDA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
lambdalv.com

LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS
lvmenschorus.org

LAS VEGAS PRIME TIMERS
lasvegasprimetimers.com

LEATHER UNIFORM CLUB OF LAS VEGAS (LUC OF LV)
thelucolvlv.com

MAMA DRAGONS
mamadragons.org

NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
ngra.com

THE PRIDE TREE
thepridetree.lv.com

SILVER STATE EQUALITY
silverstateequality.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER QUEER SOCIETY
snapiqs.org

YOUNG: EQUAL
youngequal.org



Wellness Resources

THE GAVIN J. GOORJIAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AFFINIDERM
affiniderm.com

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccfsn.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hplv.com

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

PARCS DENTISTRY
parcsdentistry.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

UMC
umcsn.com



STI/HIV/AIDS Resources

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)
afanlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

SIN SITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE
sinsitysisters.org

Email info@qvegas.com to add your organization to our directory.

MARK GRISSOM AKA
KITTY LITTER
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
DRAG SHOW BENEFIT
SUNDAY JANUARY 25
1 - 4 PM
HOSTED BY
JIMMY EMERSON
NATALIE BLAZE
BADLANDS LV
953 E. SAHARA

If you knew Mark Grissom you knew that he had an obsession with having a good time and making sure everyone around him did as well. He loved the outdoors, camping, music in general of course being Miss Kitty Litter performing camp drag at its best. You would also know he had a passion for helping people out when they needed it the most. He believed in helping the community where ever he was at, and Vegas in particular—as fractured and

chaotic as it is—still believed in helping us come together to both celebrate and move through difficult times. All of which could be done on vodka power as she put it.

If you want to remember her the way she would have wanted, remember how she made us laugh at her absurd antics on stage and at the bar or campsite in that insane green wig of hers and cow print dress. Cheers to you Miss Litter

— Brandon Haawk



QVegas Arrivals is a new tourism-forward publication available at Harry Reid International Airport (Terminal 1 baggage claim information kiosks) and select locations across the city. Both editions of QVegas are available online, on social media, via email, and in the QVegas iOS and Vision Pro apps.



BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

Download on the
App Store

Las Vegas



Piranha + GIPSY
NIGHTCLUB
THREE NIGHTS, TWO VENUES, ONE CHAMPIONSHIP WKND.

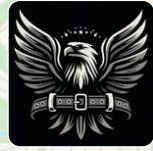
SIN CITY
OFFICIAL 2026 EVENTS

KICK OFF
THURSDAY JAN 15
ATHLETE'S WELCOME PARTY
DOORS OPEN AT 9 PM

SCORE
FRIDAY JAN 16
REGISTRATION AFTER PARTY
DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM

JOCK PARTY
SATURDAY JAN 17
JIMBO
WINNER of RUSSIA'S DRAG RACE ASS
DOORS OPEN AT 9 PM

FREE SHUTTLE FROM THE FLAMINGO 12 PM - 12 AM // \$10 WELLS // SCC WRISTBAND



The Historic LGBTQ+ Landmark

The Fruit Loop

GET BOOKED

4640 Paradise Rd Unit 15

GIPSY NIGHTCLUB

4605 Paradise Rd

PIRANHA NIGHTCLUB

4633 Paradise Rd

QUADZ

4640 Paradise Rd

BADLANDS

953 E Sahara Ave Unit 22B

DUST

855 E Twain Ave, Unit 114

THE EAGLE

3430 E Tropicana Ave Unit 47

FLEX COCKTAIL LOUNGE

501 E Twain Ave

FUN HOG RANCH

495 E Twain Ave

THE GARAGE

1487 E Flamingo Rd

HAMBURGER MARY'S

1700 E Flamingo Rd

THE PHOENIX

4213 W Sahara Ave



Piranha NIGHTCLUB

SAT JAN 24
Piranha + GIPSY
NIGHTCLUB PRESENT



BRIAR BLUSH
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S18

SHOWTIMES

GIPSY	Piranha
11:30 PM + 12:30 AM MEET & GREET DOORS OPEN AT 9 PM	1:30 AM BACK ROOM DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

2-FOR-1 HAPPY HOUR BEFORE 10:30 PM + 1 AM TO 2 AM | GIPSY ONLY
PRE-SALE ENTRY AVAILABLE AT PIRANHAVEGAS.COM + GIPSYLASVEGAS.COM
@ @ f @PIRANHAYEGAS @GIPSYLASVEGAS 4633 + 4605 PARADISE RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

FRI JAN 30
Piranha + GIPSY
NIGHTCLUB PRESENT



DD FUEGO
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S18

SHOWTIMES

GIPSY	Piranha
8 PM DRAG RACE VIEWING PARTY 11:30 PM GIPSY STAGE + 12:30 AM MEET & GREET DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM	1:30 AM BACK ROOM DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

PRE-SALE ENTRY AVAILABLE AT PIRANHAVEGAS.COM + GIPSYLASVEGAS.COM
@ @ f @PIRANHAYEGAS @GIPSYLASVEGAS 4633 + 4605 PARADISE RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

FRI FEB 6
Piranha + GIPSY
NIGHTCLUB PRESENT



CIARA MYST
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S18

SHOWTIMES

GIPSY	Piranha
8 PM DRAG RACE VIEWING PARTY 11:30 PM GIPSY STAGE + 12:30 AM MEET & GREET DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM	1:30 AM BACK ROOM DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

PRE-SALE ENTRY AVAILABLE AT PIRANHAVEGAS.COM + GIPSYLASVEGAS.COM
@ @ f @PIRANHAYEGAS @GIPSYLASVEGAS 4633 + 4605 PARADISE RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

Piranha + GIPSY
NIGHTCLUB PRESENT

**THREE NIGHTS. TWO VENUES.
ONE CHAMPIONSHIP WKND.**



LAS VEGAS SIN CITY Classic

OFFICIAL 2026 EVENTS

KICK OFF	SCORE	JOCK PARTY
THURSDAY JAN 15	FRIDAY JAN 16	SATURDAY JAN 17
ATHLETE'S WELCOME PARTY DOORS OPEN AT 9 PM	REGISTRATION AFTER PARTY DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM	with JIMBO WINNER of RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE A58 DOORS OPEN AT 9 PM

FREE SHUTTLE FROM THE FLAMINGO | 9 PM - 12 AM // \$10 WELLS w/ SCC WRISTBAND

OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK. VISIT PIRANHAVEGAS.COM FOR CURRENT LINEUP AND TABLE RESERVATIONS.

4633 PARADISE ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169