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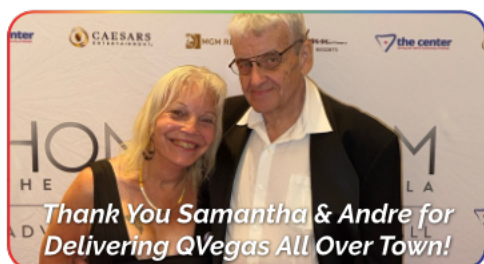
A FACE FOR ART: VEGAS CREATIVE DERAL CAST ON TOP MUA



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.



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A Makeup Artist Takes His Art to TV, a Chorus Marks 33 Years, Bellagio Blooms, and Your QVegas App Just Got Better

Our cover story belongs to Deral, a Las Vegas creative who has been turning heads at Gipsy Nightclub for years, one extraordinary makeup look at a time. On any given night he might arrive with cascading waterfall eyes, giant anime features, or a surreal design that transforms his face into a full art piece. Regulars know the feeling of spotting him on the dance floor — it's one more flash of creativity and queer joy in a space built to celebrate both. Now that same artistry has taken him from the Fruit Loop to national television.

Deral was recently cast on Top MUA, a new global makeup competition series on AzloTV, and his story goes much deeper than landing a spot on a show. His journey into makeup began as an act of self-healing after leaving an abusive relationship during the pandemic — a private outlet that slowly became a very public form of self-expression. He carried Las Vegas and his native Hawaii with him into every look on that show, incorporating tributes to local queens who helped shape his journey, and weaving in the color blue as a quiet, personal message to his younger self. The kid who once hid a single blue eyeshadow, afraid of what it might reveal, grew into someone who painted his face for a national audience. We couldn't be prouder to call him one of ours.

This issue also celebrates the Las Vegas Men's Chorus, now in a remarkable 33rd season. This year brought the formal naming of their featured vocal ensemble — Sin City Sound — a perfect fit for a world-class group in the Entertainment Capital of the World. Beyond the performances, the

Chorus has spent the past year showing up in ways that matter: 15 free community events, a deepening partnership with Clark County schools through the Sing Out festival that brought approximately 400 student singers into an affirming space, and the establishment of the Reed Merrill Music Scholarship for graduating arts students. This organization doesn't just perform for the community — it invests in it.

If you're looking for something to do this spring, look no further than Bellagio's Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, which has just unveiled Springtime Symphony: Music in Motion, a stunning free installation open through June 6. More than 35,000 roses, a gilded music box with a twirling ballerina, a walk-through birdcage garden, cascading fountains, and even a custom fragrance in the air — it's one of the most spectacular free experiences this city offers, available 24 hours a day.

Finally, if you haven't downloaded the QVegas app yet, this is your nudge. Current issues, our full LGBTQ+ community directory, Horoscopes Are A Drag, and everything happening across the valley — all in one place, right in your pocket.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media

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via QVegas

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A Face for Art: Vegas Creative Deral Lands on Top MUA



"I wanted my younger self to be proud of what I could do with that one blue eyeshadow."

For years, Deral has been one of those familiar faces at Gipsy Nightclub — except his face is almost never the same twice.

On any given night, he might arrive with cascading waterfall eyes, giant anime features, or a surreal design that turns his face into a full-on art piece. For regulars in Las Vegas' LGBTQ nightlife scene, spotting Deral on the dance floor has become part of the experience: one more flash of creativity, joy, and queer expression in a space that celebrates all three.

Now, that same artistry has taken him from the Fruit Loop to television.

The Las Vegas creative was recently cast on Top MUA, a makeup competition series that puts artists through high-pressure challenges, quick turnarounds, and dramatic twists. But for Deral, the story goes much deeper than landing a spot on a show. His journey into makeup began not in a studio or backstage dressing room, but in the aftermath of trauma.

"My makeup journey came from trauma, actually," he said. "I was getting out of an abusive relationship, and part of my therapy to myself was trying to find a new medium to express my creativity."

That was during the pandemic, when isolation made reinvention feel both harder and more necessary. Stuck at home and looking for a way forward, Deral started experimenting with makeup as a creative

outlet. What began as private healing slowly became a public form of self-expression.

He jokes now that part of the original motivation was simple: maybe if he showed up to a watch party with a cool makeup look, people would think he seemed interesting enough to befriend.

It worked.

Over time, the shy artist who once kept parts of himself hidden became a staple of the Gipsy scene, known not only for his inventive face designs but also for the joy he brings into the room. His looks are playful, bizarre, detailed, and often funny — but they are never random. Each one is imagined in advance, sometimes weeks before it ever appears under club lights.

"One of the things I like about my creative process is coming up with the ideas," he said. "I kind of think of it like a river. When I'm in a happy mood, it flows. Ideas just pop up like fish jumping out of the water, and I can catch them."

That river of creativity has produced some unforgettable club-night creations over the years, including a face inspired by Gipsy itself, complete with palm trees, and another featuring giant animated eyes designed to look even funnier once he started laughing or screaming for photos. Deral sketches his concepts, plans them out, and then figures out how to turn imagination into something wearable.

At Gipsy, those efforts found the perfect audience.

He describes the venue as a true safe space, a place where experimentation is welcomed and celebrated. For him, that freedom has been life-changing. Not only did the club become a stage for his artistry, it became part of the emotional foundation that helped him grow into it.

"One of the things I like about makeup is I see makeup as magic," he said. "It brings me joy, it brings other people joy."

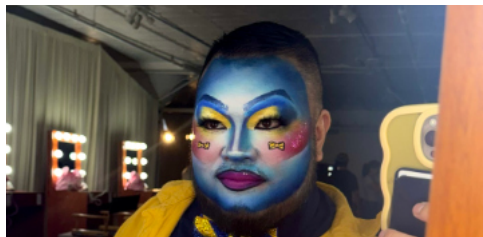
That sense of joy came full circle when he found out he had been cast on Top MUA — while at Gipsy.

After completing the application process, which included submitting a look, an audition tape, and surviving a public vote against contestants with much larger followings, Deral received the email in the parking lot at the club.

"When I got it, I cried," he said. "It was kind of a full-circle moment, especially getting to know that I got on the show while I was at Gipsy."

In that moment, he was already wearing one of his signature creative looks: a silly Gorillaz-inspired face. It felt fitting that the place where he had spent years showing off his art, making friends, and finding community would also be where he learned he was taking that art to a national audience.

On Top MUA, contestants are judged not



on the makeup they wear themselves, but on the looks they create for models. That meant Deral had to translate his extreme, whimsical personal style into challenge-based work under pressure. It was one of the biggest tests of the experience: how to stay true to himself while adapting to whatever the competition demanded.

Still, he found ways to make the work personal.

All of the looks he wore on the show included blue, and that choice was deeply intentional. When he was younger, Deral had a single blue eyeshadow that he kept hidden because he was afraid of anyone discovering he had makeup. Blue, he figured at the time, felt "masculine" enough to be explainable if he got caught.

Years later, on national television, he turned that memory into a quiet tribute to his younger self.

"I purposely made an effort to make sure that every look that I did for the show had some kind of blue incorporated into it," he said, "so that my younger version of myself would be proud of what I could have done with just that single blue eyeshadow."

That emotional thread also shaped the first episode, which included a tribute to Las Vegas drag. In his own on-camera look, Deral incorporated elements inspired by local queens, including Hanna Barbeara, Martina Brookshire, Mirage, Drunktext, and Rita Bitch — a thank-you to the performers and nightlife culture that helped spark his makeup journey in the first place.

The Vegas connection matters to him, and so does Hawaii.

Originally from Kahuku, Hawaii, Deral describes his hometown as the kind of



place with one stoplight, a shrimp farm, and a corn farm. He moved to Las Vegas about 13 years ago, joking that he wanted to live somewhere with Applebee's, Target, and Olive Garden — though he later discovered he wasn't much of an Applebee's fan after all.

Behind the humor is a real sense of pride in carrying both places with him. On *Top MUA*, he wanted to represent Las Vegas and Hawaii while sharing the message that has become central to his work: makeup is magic.

"The biggest thing that I wanted to get into this show for was to be able to use this platform to share a message," he said. "That message was that makeup is magic."

That magic, for him, is not about perfection or conventional beauty. It is about experimentation, self-expression, and the freedom to be playful. It is also about giving others permission to do the same.

His advice to anyone just beginning to explore makeup is simple: have fun with it.

"Do it at your house so that you don't have to worry about what you look like," he said. "Just paint and do some silly stuff, experiment, do things that are wrong. Everything that you do on your face for makeup is art."

That outlook helps explain why Deral resonates so strongly in queer nightlife spaces. He isn't just showing up in a look. He is offering a reminder that self-expression can be healing, that visibility



can be playful, and that art can begin with whatever tools you have access to — even one hidden blue eyeshadow.

Off camera, Deral works as a director of social media for multiple casinos, overseeing content strategy and production. That background helps explain another reason he has become such a beloved part of the local scene: he often films drag performers at Gipsy and creates polished recap videos simply as a way of giving back to the community that embraced him.

It is one more extension of the same impulse behind his makeup — using creativity to make people feel seen.

And whether he is painting his own face, creating work for a competition show, or documenting the performers around him, that mission remains the same.

Fun. Joy. Magic.

For everyone who has watched him evolve at Gipsy over the years, seeing Deral step onto a bigger stage feels less like a surprise and more like the

next chapter in a story Vegas has been witnessing all along.

Top MUA (@topmuaglobal) is a new global makeup competition series on AzloTV featuring six artists competing for a \$20,000 prize, a makeup campaign, and a year's supply of makeup. Season 1 premiered on March 15, 2026. Hosted by @makeupbygilly





Songs, Scholarships, and 10,000 Lives: The Las Vegas Men's Chorus Marks 33 Years at Annual Gala

For more than three decades, the Las Vegas Men's Chorus has been more than a performance ensemble. It has been a community institution — one built on the belief that music belongs to everyone, and that artists have a responsibility to bring it to the people who need it most.

Founded in 1993 (though its members were singing together as early as 1991), the Chorus is now in its 33rd season, and by nearly every measure, its footprint in the Las Vegas Valley has never been larger.

A New Sound, A New Identity

This season brought a milestone the organization has been building toward: the formal naming of its featured vocal ensemble. After a collaborative process that invited member input across multiple cycles, the group landed on a name that felt unmistakably right for a world-class ensemble in the Entertainment Capital of the World — "Sin City Sound". The ensemble is featured across all of the Chorus's productions and represents the artistic core of what the organization presents to the public.

Community Isn't a Tagline — It's the Strategy

What sets the Las Vegas Men's Chorus apart from many performing arts organizations is its unapologetic commitment to accessibility. Over the past 12 months alone, the Chorus produced 15 monthly community events — roughly 1.2 free, accessible arts experiences per

month — reaching an estimated 10,000 people across the valley. The events have ranged from performances at MGM Resorts' Lions Pride to appearances at the Bighorn Rodeo, reflecting a deliberate effort to bring the Chorus into spaces where its presence carries meaning beyond entertainment.

The philosophy guiding this expansion is straightforward: give flowers while the person is still alive. Celebrate community. Show up. Make the arts free whenever possible. It's a mission that requires finite resources — time, money, energy — and yet the organization continues to find ways to stretch all three.

Investing in the Next Generation

Perhaps the most significant community initiative in recent memory is the Chorus's growing partnership with the Clark County School District. Several years ago, the organization helped launch "Sing Out", a festival celebrating 6th through 12th grade male singers from across the district. This year, the Chorus went further — fully underwriting the event and becoming a co-producer, bringing approximately 400 student singers into a space designed to affirm their voices and their identities.

The impact of that investment is hard to overstate. For young men navigating the complicated terrain of adolescence, seeing a group of adult men sing with pride and joy — and having that group show up for them — can be genuinely life-changing.

The Chorus didn't stop there. Recognizing

that access to live performance is itself a barrier, the organization extended a standing offer of \$5 tickets to all CCSD students, faculty, and their families for holiday performances. Approximately 500 guests took them up on it.

Honoring Those Who Built It

No organization sustains itself across 33 years without people who simply refuse to leave — people who show up at every rehearsal, serve on every board, and make every new director feel welcome. This season, the Chorus formalized its gratitude for one such person by establishing a named music scholarship in his honor: the Reed Merrill Music Scholarship, awarded annually to a 12th-grade student who has demonstrated a commitment to the arts.

The scholarship will be administered through the Chorus's foundation and represents yet another extension of the organization's core belief — that the job of a community chorus is not simply to perform for the community, but to invest in it.

Looking Ahead

With Sin City Sound now named and established, a robust calendar of free community events, a deepening partnership with local schools, and a new scholarship program in place, the Las Vegas Men's Chorus enters its next chapter with both momentum and mission intact. The city has given this chorus a stage for 33 years. The Chorus, it seems, has every intention of giving that back — with interest.





Bellagio's Conservatory Blooms with "Springtime Symphony: Music in Motion"

Bellagio Resort & Casino has unveiled its spring display at the iconic Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, transforming the beloved free attraction into an elaborate musical fantasy open through June 6. Titled "Springtime Symphony: Music in Motion," the installation blends pastel florals, stained glass artistry and whimsical motion-driven elements into an experience designer Ed Libby describes as a living storybook.

"Spring has a way of turning even the smallest details into something magical," said Libby. "This display brings more movement and life to the garden than ever before."

The display is organized across four distinct garden beds, each anchoring a different chapter of the story.

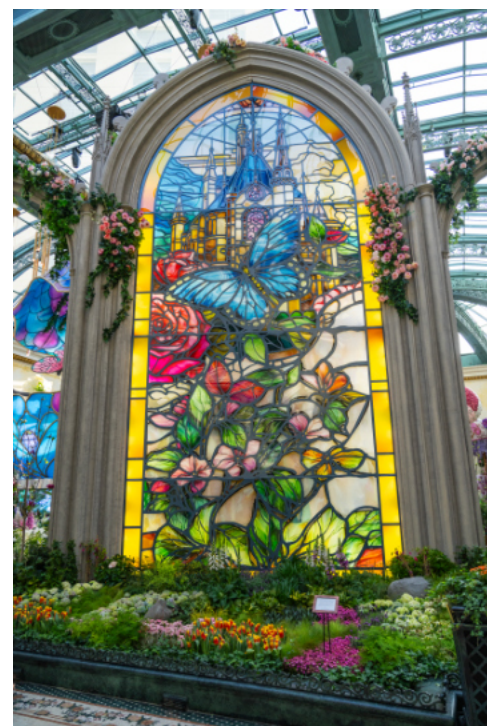
The West Bed makes the boldest visual statement, centering on a grand Fabergé-inspired egg that appears to release blooms and butterflies from within its ornate shell. A towering 36-foot hand-painted stained-glass window dominates the space, depicting butterflies, florals and a fairytale castle. Two additional jeweled eggs in soft pink and purple complete the vignette, while an adjacent flower-crowned gazebo houses The Garden Table — an immersive brunch experience from Sadelles priced at \$135 per person, available daily from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. by reservation.

The North Bed puts music literally in motion. A ballerina named Catrina twirls atop a gilded music box at the center of the arrangement, framed by gentle fountains and a sweeping arch of pastel flowers. A turning golden key and handwritten sheet music reinforce the display's musical narrative, while LED screens project lavender fields and natural imagery behind the scene. A custom fragrance — featuring notes of peach, iris, white currant and sandalwood — drifts through the air, and a bespoke Music Box Dancer candle inspired by the display is available at the Giardini Store.

The East Bed invites guests to literally step inside the garden. A gleaming gilded birdcage anchors the space, and a stone path winds beneath the structure, creating an immersive walk-through moment. Butterflies and songbirds drift overhead while statuesque daffodils and roses in soft pinks and purples bloom throughout.

Rounding out the installation, the South Bed channels a classic carousel, with three white horses circling continuously beneath a rose-trimmed canopy trimmed in gold. Four fountains cascade into a tranquil pond surrounded by sculpted floral topiaries and colorful blossoms, while a jeweled hummingbird hovers nearby — one of two featured across the display.

The scale of the installation is remarkable: over 35,000 roses and 22,000 potted plants are incorporated throughout, alongside



2,000 fresh-cut carnations forming a pansy beneath one of the hummingbirds. One hundred team members worked around the clock to bring it to life.

Bellagio's Conservatory & Botanical Gardens is free and open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week, making it one of the Strip's most accessible cultural attractions.

Photos courtesy of Bellagio Conservatory



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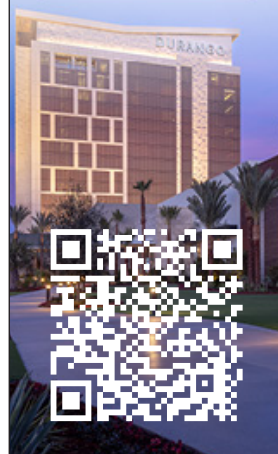
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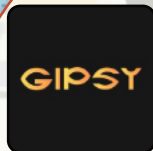
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