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Photo: Mackenzie Claude

Whether you're a local or tourist, we always feature our favorite spots along with all the new and exciting things our city has to offer.

Derek Barry, iconic Britney Spears impersonator and Vegas showgirl, steps into his own spotlight with the release of 'Hey Derrick', a pop-driven debut album years in the making. Blending camp, club beats, and candid storytelling, Derek redefines his drag legacy—this time with her own voice, and zero apologies.

Derek Winn reflects on the 15-year legacy of Las Vegas' LGBTQ Volleyball Social, its impact on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and how the league's culture directly inspired the founding principles behind PARCS Dentistry.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
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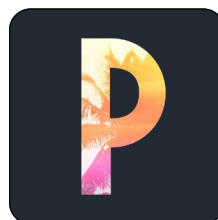
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These hotels have actively demonstrated support for the LGBTQ+ community but do not have a current HRC CEI of 100

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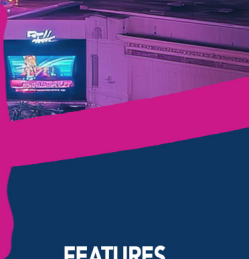
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A close-up photograph of two men kissing. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a white shirt. The man on the right is shirtless. They are both looking down and smiling.

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Nobody Was Killed, But a Star Was Born: Derrick Barry Finds His Voice

When Derrick Barry hit the stage at Drag Race Live in Las Vegas, it was more than just another night under the lights. For fans of the drag world and the Strip's legacy of female impersonation, Barry has long been known as the quintessential Britney Spears impersonator—blonde, high-energy, polished to perfection. But as of April 16, 2025, Derrick Barry isn't just channeling pop divas anymore. He's become one.

With the release of his debut album, *Hey Derrick*, Barry steps fully into the spotlight—not as a tribute act or reality TV star, but as a pop artist with something personal to say. And if you're already humming along to tracks like "Blonde," "Ratings," or the ironically titled "Nobody Was Killed," you're not alone.

He chose the title *Hey Derrick* because that's how RuPaul greets him on Drag Race and whenever they see each other. And now the fans greet him that way, too.

"It finally feels like there's a story to my drag," Barry tells QVegas. "Not just through Britney's eyes, but through mine. This is me. This is what I've done. This is who I am."

Photo: Mackenzie Claude

The Evolution of a Queen

Derrick Barry's story starts, appropriately enough, with Britney Spears—or at least with a wig, a Halloween costume, and a sudden rush of recognition. At 20, Barry donned Britney for a party and experienced something transformative: attention, admiration, and, most importantly, direction.

"I'd spent years being told I was cute but boy-next-door. LA was rejection after rejection. But when I stepped out as Britney, it was all eyes on me."

That single moment led to a career on Vegas stages, where Barry dazzled audiences at La Cage and beyond with his spot-on impersonation of the Princess of Pop. And for a long time, that was enough. It got him noticed. It paid the bills. It even landed him a spot on Season 8 of RuPaul's Drag Race.

But Barry wasn't content to be a drag doppelgänger forever.

"Drag Race pushed me out of the Britney bubble. I had to show more sides of myself. So I did. I created characters. I built looks. I used my own voice."

That audition landed him a coveted place in the Drag Race canon and opened the door to a decade of touring, TV appearances, and a residency in the Strip's own Drag Race Live!—where he now plays not just a queen, but a mentor.

"I've been here since the first table read. I'm like the house mom now. The girls come and go, but I get to be part of their story, just like they're part of mine."

The Album: A Decade in the Making

Despite Barry's household name status in the drag world, *Hey Derrick* took nearly ten years to manifest. "We joked that it took 8-9 years to make," he laughs. But the project has roots going all the way back to Season 8 of Drag Race, when Barry released a club track with Chris Cox called "Boom Boom."

"That song is still one of my favorites," he says. "But when we talked about doing more music, it just never felt like the right time. Until now."

The album was written by Barry's longtime partner, Mackenzie Claude—better known to fans as Nebraska Thunderfuck—with contributions from Australian producer Dad's Mayo. The two met through the



queer Bay Area artist Velo, who had previously collaborated on the 2020 EP *Flaunt It*.

"I worked with Dad's Mayo during the Britney Ball in Sydney, and it just clicked," Barry says. "So he came to Vegas in January, and in four or five days, we laid down eight tracks. It was fast, fun, chaotic, and totally right."

Some tracks were surprises—even to Barry. "There were lyrics I hadn't even seen until I sat down to record. I love that challenge. It made everything feel alive."

The Tracks: Club Anthems and Personal Confessions

So what does *Hey Derrick* sound like? According to Barry, it's classic pop—big vocals, dancefloor beats, and just the right amount of drama.

"I don't know how to do anything else," he jokes. "Pop music is why I started drag. Britney, Mariah, the divas—they're my blueprint."

The standout tracks include "Blonde," a sing-along earworm already being shouted back at meet-and-greets, and "Ratings," a tongue-in-cheek club banger that has queens like Vanjie begging to be on the remix. There's also "Heart So High," a lush, emotional ballad that closes the album with a nod to pop tradition.

"I love ending an album with a moment of peace. It's very Mariah, very Janet, very Britney."

But the track—"Nobody Was Killed"—might be the most revealing.

"It came from a viral moment," Barry admits. "I was on a Billboard roundtable with Tamar Braxton, Willam, and Manila Luzon. I made a comment about Stonewall, said people were killed, and Willam corrected me: 'Nobody was killed at Stonewall.' It went viral. I was mortified."

Rather than run from the gaffe, Barry

embraced it—turning a moment of controversy into a commentary on how queer history is discussed and distorted.

"People flooded my socials. 'Nobody was killed!' It became my catchphrase. Willam even wrote a song called 'Derrick' that references it. I realized: I can own this. I can make it art."

Gooning, Glamour, and Growth

If "Nobody Was Killed" represents redemption, "Goon" might be Barry's most unexpected track. A steamy, 90s-referencing jam, it blends nostalgia with sexual liberation.

"I didn't even know what gooning was. Mackenzie explained it. But when he said the line 'turning that head like Vidal Sassoon goon,' I was obsessed. That's the kind of cheeky, clever writing I love."

The whole album serves as a time capsule—of drag fame, pop culture, and personal evolution.

"It's about making something out of everything," Barry explains. "Even my missteps are merchandisable. That's drag."

Vegas Life: Onstage and Off

While many queens circle through Vegas on tour, Barry lives it daily. After more than two decades on the Strip, he's seen the city transform—and transform him.

"I moved here at 20. I was headlining at La Cage before I could even legally drink. Vegas raised me."

Now, as a core cast member of *Drag Race Live!*, Barry not only performs but mentors. "I get to help every queen that comes through, whether it's where to stand or what track they're on. And I love seeing them fall in love with Vegas like I did."

But the performer's life isn't all glitter and glamour. "People think it's easy because we love what we do. But it's 24/7. We're always thinking about what we eat, how we look,

what costume we're building. We're showgirls. There's no clocking out."

That balance—of work and peace, spotlight and solitude—is what keeps Barry grounded. "I love driving home after the show to a quiet house off-strip. That's how I stay sane."

What's Next: From Pride to Broadway?

With the album released, Barry has no plans to slow down. He's heading back on the road with *Work the World*—a grueling 62-show tour that spans 10.5 weeks. After that? Maybe a Derrick Barry solo tour. Maybe Broadway. Maybe comedy.

"I still dream of SNL," he says. "Jim Carrey was my hero growing up. His characters were weird, fearless, chaotic—I loved that. I want to explore that side more. Comedy, improv, even theater."

Barry hints at aspirations for the West End or a limited New York contract. But wherever he goes, the stage will follow.

"I've done impersonation. I've done reality TV. I've done Vegas. Music is just the latest chapter. Who knows what comes next?"

A Star Made, Not Born

As our conversation winds down, Barry reflects on his journey—from lip-syncing in the bathroom to hearing crowds chant his lyrics.

"If you'd told 20-year-old me with the towel on his head and a hairbrush that he'd make it, I wouldn't have believed you. But here I am."

And yes, *Nobody Was Killed*. But one hell of a pop star was born.

Listen to Derrick Barry's debut album Hey Derrick now streaming on all platforms. Follow @DerrickBarry on social media for updates on tour dates, music videos, and more.



Derek Winn

Member, Las Vegas Gay Volleyball League

When Derek Winn showed up to his first LGBTQ Volleyball Social game at Sunset Park, he didn't know that he was walking into a legacy over 15 years in the making. Nor could he have guessed that joining this diverse community would not only enrich his social life, but ultimately help shape his business, PARCS Dentistry, into one of Las Vegas' most DEI-forward dental practices. As a newer member of the league, Derek offers a fresh lens on the importance of inclusive spaces, how equity is put into practice beyond buzzwords, and how social settings can ripple into profound personal and professional transformation.

"This is something special," he says. "I walked into a game and found a family."

The Legacy of Community

The league was founded by Johnny Espinosa, who started the group roughly 15 years ago with the goal of creating a safe, social, and welcoming space for queer athletes and allies. What began as a few friends hitting a ball around has evolved into a vibrant and expansive network of players, with roots that go deep into the community. Some members have been part of the league since its inception, while others, like Derek, are just starting to discover what makes it so powerful.

"There's something really cool about stepping into a group where people have been playing together for 15 to 20 years," Derek explains. "There's loyalty. There's history. And yet, as a rookie, you feel welcomed like you've always been part of it."

That welcoming spirit is a cornerstone of the league's identity. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or haven't played since high school gym class, there's space for



you here. It's not about your resume; it's about showing up.

Diversity in Action

Las Vegas is a city of transplants, and its LGBTQ+ community is no different. The volleyball league reflects that diversity in full color. "We have people from all walks of life," Derek says. "Different jobs, different incomes, different backgrounds. I've heard conversations in four different languages on the sidelines. It's not just diverse on paper—it's a living, breathing celebration of who we are."

That includes players across the LGBTQ spectrum and their allies. You'll see everyone from nurses to bartenders, from artists to engineers, playing side by side. There are cisgender men and women, nonbinary players, trans folks, and people who simply show up with good energy and an open heart.

"The volleyball is the excuse," Derek says with a smile. "But the community is the point."

Equity, Not Just Equality

While diversity gets a lot of attention, the league has also been quietly championing equity – the idea that inclusion means more than treating everyone the same. It means meeting people where they are and ensuring everyone has the tools to participate.

"One thing people don't realize is how intentional this league is about bringing people up," Derek explains. "Johnny set up Wednesday night training bootcamps for newer or less experienced players. Those sessions are led by the more advanced players who volunteer their time to teach."

That mentorship model not only improves gameplay but also deepens connection. It ensures that no one is left behind, and everyone has the chance to grow. Equity in this league means more than just a friendly environment; it means real structure to support every level of participation.

"You get people who show up nervous, maybe unsure of their skills, and suddenly they're improving, they're being cheered on. That changes people. It builds confidence beyond the court."

Breaking Down Barriers

The social aspect of the league is where the real magic happens. From spontaneous post-game dinners to road trips and vacations, the friendships formed here often extend well beyond the court.

"As a business owner, I can say without hesitation that this group has introduced me to people I never would have met otherwise," Derek says. "It's not just a sport. It's a network. It's a community of chosen family."

That network has also bridged cultural divides. "I'm not a native Spanish speaker, but playing in this league has given me the confidence to engage in a language and culture I otherwise wouldn't have experienced. It's immersive. It's transformative."

How PARCS Was Born from Play

That transformation extended into Derek's professional life as well. When he and his partner Justin were preparing to launch PARCS Dentistry, they turned to someone they trusted: Johnny.

"Johnny was already a community leader, someone who knew how to engage, organize, and communicate. Bringing him into the PARCS family was a no-brainer."

Johnny now helps lead PARCS' marketing and community outreach, ensuring that the inclusive ethos of the volleyball league carries over into the dental practice. Another league member, Gabe, joined the team as an assistant despite having no prior experience. Through mentorship and training, Gabe grew into the role, and the team's cohesion became a reflection of the values fostered on the volleyball court.

"That spirit of equity, of meeting people where they are and helping them grow, is baked into our business model now," Derek says. "We've served so many patients referred through the league who hadn't always been treated with dignity in other dental settings. We're proud to change that."

Looking Ahead: Expansion and Legacy

As the league grows, so does its impact. Last year saw over 100 members playing

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regularly across multiple nights. The vision isn't just more games; it's more connection.

"We'd love to see Sunset Park filled with our league on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays," Derek says. "The dream is to make this a citywide staple. And with partnerships from places like Gipsy, Piranha, and local businesses like ours, we're well on our way."

There's even talk of sister leagues, travel teams, and expanded community outreach.

A Message to the Hesitant

For those who may be intimidated by joining—whether due to lack of skill, social anxiety, or being new to town—Derek has this to say:

"Take the leap. Four years ago, I had no social life in Vegas. Now, I can't go a day without seeing someone from the league or having something on my calendar. That wouldn't have happened without walking into that first game. You'll find your people here."

DEI: Not Just a Tagline

For Derek and many others, the league isn't simply a hobby. It's a model for what inclusion can really look like: intentional, community-based, and joy-driven.

"DEI can feel like corporate jargon until you actually see it in action," Derek reflects. "This league shows what it means to create space—not just for diversity to exist, but for it to thrive."

Whether on the court or in the chair at PARCS Dentistry, the message is the same: Everyone belongs. Everyone matters. And when we lift each other up, we all win.

LGBT Volleyball at Sunset Park starting at 7:30 PM. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturday's at Sunset Park Volleyball Courts. Look for the Rainbow Flag.

Playing Politics: The Trump Administration's Assault on LGBTQ+ Rights in Sports

In the early months of 2025, President Donald Trump's administration initiated a series of actions that significantly rolled back LGBTQ+ rights, particularly targeting transgender individuals in sports. These measures have not only impacted athletes but have also raised broader concerns about civil rights and inclusivity in the United States.

Executive Orders and Policy Shifts

On February 5, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14201, titled "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports." This order mandates that educational institutions at all levels—elementary, secondary, and post-secondary—prohibit transgender women and girls from participating in women's sports teams. Failure to comply risks the loss of federal funding, as the administration interprets such inclusion as a violation of Title IX protections for cisgender female athletes.

The order does not address transgender men participating in men's sports, highlighting a targeted approach against transgender women. Furthermore, the Department of Education has urged organizations like the NCAA to revoke records and titles held by transgender athletes, aiming to "restore athletic records to women who have for years been devalued."

Institutional Responses and Legal Challenges

The University of Pennsylvania faced direct consequences when the administration suspended approximately \$175 million in federal funding due to the participation of transgender swimmer Lia Thomas in women's competitions. The Department of Education ruled that Penn's actions violated Title IX, leading to demands for the university to erase Thomas's records and issue apologies to affected athletes.

In Maine, the Department of Agriculture froze over \$2 million in federal nutrition funding, alleging that the state's inclusive policies for transgender athletes in school sports violated Title IX. After legal action, a settlement was reached, and the funds were released, but the incident underscores the administration's willingness to leverage federal funding to enforce its policies.

Broader Implications for the LGBTQ+ Community

Beyond sports, the Trump administration has taken steps to redefine gender in federal policy, recognizing only two

sexes—male and female—as immutable. This redefinition has led to the dismantling of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and the rollback of protections for LGBTQ+ individuals across various sectors, including healthcare and the military.

These actions have prompted concerns among civil rights organizations and have led some Americans, particularly those in the LGBTQ+ community, to consider relocating to countries with more inclusive policies.

Community Response and Advocacy

The LGBTQ+ community and its allies have mobilized in response to these policy changes. Legal challenges are underway, and advocacy groups are working to support affected individuals and to raise awareness about the implications of these policies. The situation remains dynamic, with ongoing debates about the balance between fairness in sports and the rights of transgender individuals.

As the nation grapples with these complex issues, the importance of inclusive dialogue and policy-making that respects the rights and identities of all individuals becomes ever more apparent.

Dismantling DEI Infrastructure

One of Trump's earliest actions was to terminate all federal DEI programs. This move included placing DEI personnel on administrative leave and initiating plans for layoffs, effectively erasing institutional support for marginalized communities within the federal workforce. The administration also directed the Department of Justice and other agencies to cease enforcement of civil rights laws that prohibit "disparate impact" discrimination—policies that, while neutral on their face, result in unequal outcomes for protected groups.

Curtailing Transgender Rights

The administration has targeted transgender individuals through multiple avenues. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report advocating for behavioral therapy over medical treatments for transgender youth experiencing gender dysphoria. This aligns with an executive order barring federal support for gender transitions for individuals under 19, a move that has been heavily criticized by medical associations and LGBTQ+ advocates.



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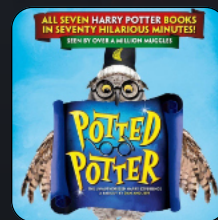
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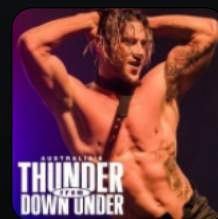
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SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccfsn.org

HENDERSON PRIDE
hhendersonpride.org

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
hrc.org

IMPERIAL ROYALE SOVEREIGN COURT OF
THE DESERT EMPIRE
irscdei.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)
lucoflv.com

LEGACY COUNSELING
legacycounselingandworkforceconnections.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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LAMBDA MIXER

Kaftans & Cocktails!

a social gathering where people can make
new acquaintances

MAY 15, 2025
6 to 8 pm

**HOSTED BY
AUNTIE NORMA**

@ Bent Las Vegas
1108 E Ogden Ave LV, NV

**Special Entertainment
Games & Prizes**

RSVP REQUIRED
lambdalv.com/events



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



HIV Resources

AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)
afanlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC
hrc.lv.org

SIN SITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL
INDULGENCE
sinsitysisters.org



STI Testing

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

UMC
umcsn.com

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Every **Wednesday** of the month
9:30-11:30 AM

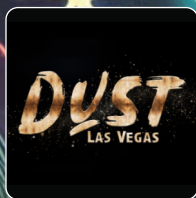
401 S. Maryland Pkwy

First come, first served
while supplies last.



Q VEGAS BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

Download on the App Store



MONDAYS

SURRENDER MONDAYS

HOSTED BY LACHERRY WILD
\$100 CASH HOT BODY CONTEST • SHOWTIME @ 1 AM
MUSIC BY DJ V
\$7 TITOS COCKTAILS • \$6 DOMESTIC BEERS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

TUESDAYS

VAQUERO VAQUERO

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY
SHOWTIME @ 1:30 AM FRONT ROOM
MUSIC BY DJ V / DJ VAGO
\$6 HOUSE MARGARITAS • \$10 DOMESTIC
\$5 IMPORT BEER BUCKETS | 11 PM TO 3 AM

WEDNESDAYS

WET

HOSTED BY SAGE O'HARA ANDREWS
SHOWTIME @ 1:00 AM FRONT ROOM
MUSIC BY DJ VAGO
\$5 SPECIALTY COCKTAILS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

THURSDAYS

REPLAY

HOSTED BY ROMAN TAJOURE & ASIA KING ADGUR
SOUNDS BY DJ CHYLO & DJ V

SHOWTIME
12:30 AM FRONT ROOM
• 1:30 AM MAIN ROOM
\$5 WELL COCKTAILS BEFORE MIDNIGHT

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

THE LEGACY BALL

HOSTED BY SHANNEL
WITH ALEXIS MATEO
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 3, ALL STARS 1 & 5
• CANADA'S DRAG RACE: CANADA VS. THE WORLD
YARA SOFIA
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S3 • ALL STARS 1 & 6
AND THE CAST OF PIRANHA

SHOWTIMES
12:00 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM | 1:30 AM IN THE MAIN ROOM

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

FRIDAY MAY 09

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

THE LEGACY BALL

HOSTED BY SHANNEL
WITH ALEXIS MATEO
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 3, ALL STARS 1 & 5
• CANADA'S DRAG RACE: CANADA VS. THE WORLD
MIRAGE
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S16

SHOWTIMES
12:00 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM | 1:30 AM IN THE MAIN ROOM

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

SATURDAY MAY 10

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

GLOW HARD

OR GO HOME

MAY 17+18

EDC LV WEEKEND

FRIDAYS

FETISH

SHOWTIMES
12:00 AM FRONT ROOM
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM

FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS

LATIN CALIENTE

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY
MUSIC BY DJ V
SHOWTIME
2 AM IN THE DREAM LOUNGE
FREE BUCKET OF BEER W/ PURCHASE OF BUCHANAN'S BOTTLE

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

THE LEGACY BALL

SHOWTIME
1:00 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM

SUNDAY MAY 11

SUNDAYS

SUNDAYS