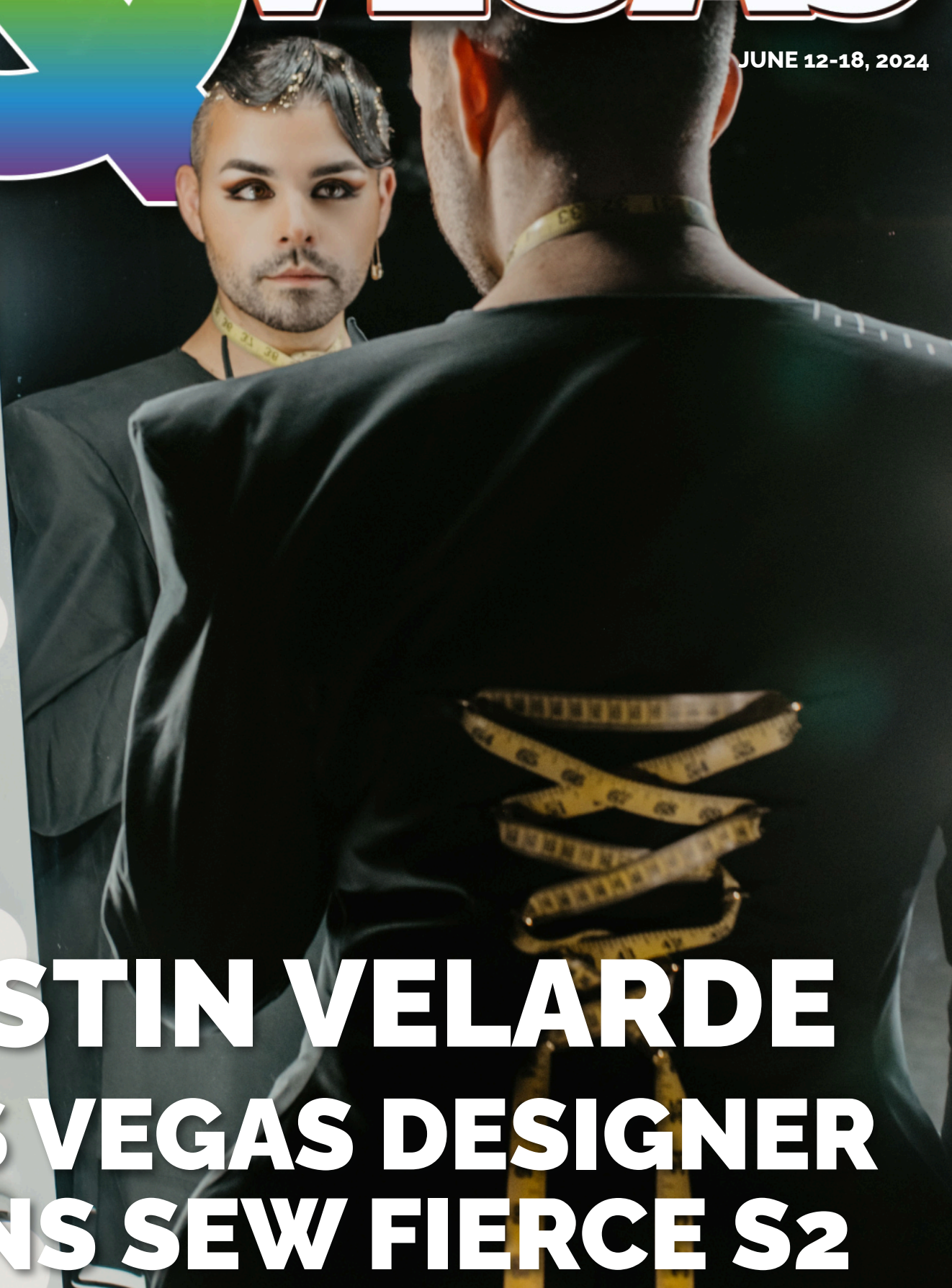




AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978

# QVEGAS

JUNE 12-18, 2024



# JUSTIN VELARDE LAS VEGAS DESIGNER WINS SEW FIERCE S2



*Temptation*  
**SUNDAYS**

**PARTY LOUD + PROUD**

**VEGAS' LARGEST  
LGBTQ+ POOL PARTY**

**EVERY SUNDAY**



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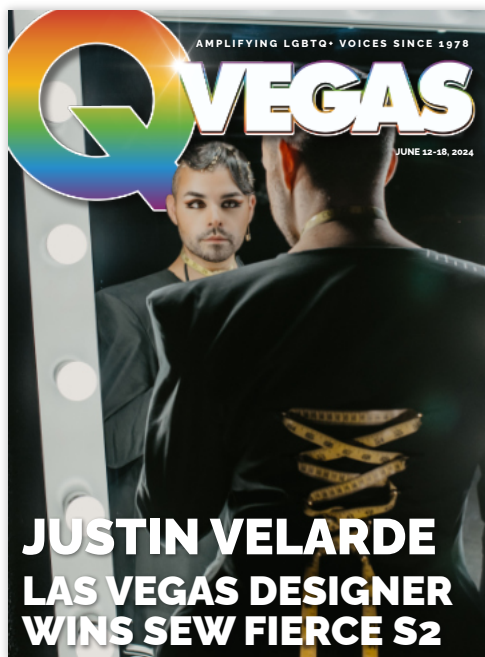


Photo: Kyle Kuhlman (KMK Photography) @kym\_photos,  
Wardrobe: Tony Eliason

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.

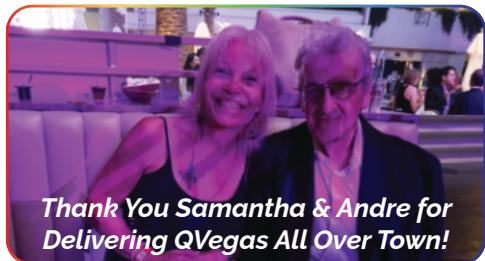
**This week we feature Justin Velarde's journey on "Sew Fierce" as a reminder of the transformative power of pursuing one's passion. With his eyes set on the future, Justin is poised to make an indelible mark on the fashion world, one fabulous costume at a time.**

**Potted Potter, the hilarious parody of the Harry Potter series celebrates 5 years on the Las Vegas Strip.**

**Also this week, the Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Sign was lit in rainbow colors to celebrate Pride Month.**



Russ White & Garrett Pattinia  
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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View this week's horoscopes at [qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag](https://qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag).



## LEO

June 2024

Oh, honey, let me tell you something about you Leos for June 2024, boo. You're in for a cosmic ride that's more fabulous than my sequin jumpsuit at a midnight show, alright? The stars are throwing glitter and good vibes your way, making you the main act in the universe's drag show, darling! You gotta strut your stuff with confidence, 'cause opportunities are spotlighting you like a headliner. But beware, hunty, don't let no drama backstage dim your shine. Stay fierce and fabulous, and remember, in the grand ballroom of life, you're the star, baby! So, paint the town - and the skies - with your vibrant colors. Werk it!



CAESARS  
ENTERTAINMENT



LUXOR



MGM RESORTS  
INTERNATIONAL



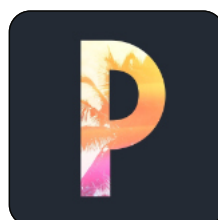
WYNN RESORTS



VIRGIN HOTELS  
LAS VEGAS



THE VENETIAN RESORT  
LAS VEGAS



PALMS  
RESORT & CASINO



BENT INN & PUB

## Hotels

**These hotels have a current HRC Corporate Equality Index score of 100.**

**CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT**  
[caesars.com](https://caesars.com)

Caesars Palace  
The Cromwell  
Flamingo  
Harrah's  
Horseshoe (formerly Bally's)  
The LINQ  
Paris  
Planet Hollywood

**THE VENETIAN RESORT LAS VEGAS**  
[venetianlasvegas.com](https://venetianlasvegas.com)

**These hotels have actively demonstrated support for the LGBTQ+ community but do not have a current HRC CEI of 100**

**MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL**  
[mgmresorts.com](https://mgmresorts.com)

Aria  
Bellagio  
The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas  
Delano  
Excalibur  
Luxor  
Mandalay Bay  
MGM Grand  
New York New York  
Park MGM  
Vdara

**WYNN RESORTS**  
[wynnlasvegas.com](https://wynnlasvegas.com)

Wynn Las Vegas & Encore Las Vegas

**MIRAGE LAS VEGAS**

**PALMS RESORT & CASINO**

**RESORTS WORLD LAS VEGAS**

**RIO LAS VEGAS**

**VIRGIN HOTELS LAS VEGAS**

When you make a reservation from our website or app you help keep QVegas free. QVegas may earn a commission on your purchase.





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It's True! We Are **NOT** A Circuit Party!

## ITALIAN ODYSSEY CRUISE

September 1 thru 8, 2024



"an approachable experience on board where everyone feels like they're part of the family"

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**QVEGAS**  
To Receive 10% Off  
Your Reservation



## PORTUGAL & SPAIN WINE CRUISE



**LIMITED!**

June 7 thru 16, 2024

## PRIDE AMSTERDAM RIVER CRUISE



**LIMITED!**

July 26 thru August 5, 2024

## RHINE RIVER CHRISTMAS MARKETS CRUISE



December 14 thru 21, 2024

## MEKONG RIVER CRUISE & ANGKOR WAT



**LIMITED!**

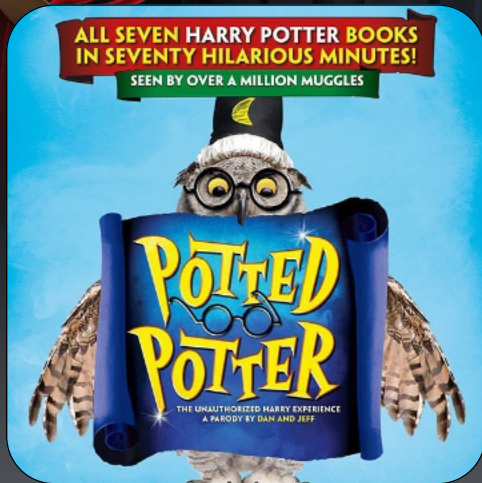
March 4 thru 14, 2025

March 20 thru 30, 2025





# BOX OFFICE



## SHOW OF THE WEEK

### POTTED POTTER

Recently celebrating its 5 years on the Las Vegas Strip, **Potted Potter: The Unauthorized Harry Experience** is a comedic stage show by Daniel Clarkson and Jefferson Turner, condensing all seven Harry Potter books into 70 hilarious minutes. The parody, suitable for ages six and up, features a live game of Quidditch and appeals to both ardent fans and newcomers. The show has received critical acclaim globally, praised for its humor and ability to engage audiences of all ages. It continues to tour internationally, offering a fun, fast-paced, and affectionate spoof of the beloved series.



For more shows and our complete online directory, visit [QVegas.com](http://QVegas.com) or download the QVegas App



RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE LIVE



DRAG BRUNCH



FRANK MARINO



AUSSIE HEAT



MAGIC MIKE LIVE



THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER



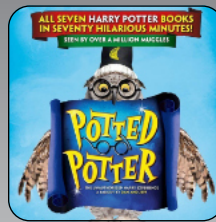
ATOMIC SALOON SHOW



ILUMINATE



CARROT TOP



POTTED POTTER



ZOMBIE BURLESQUE



CHASE BROWN



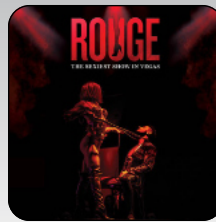
SPICE WANNABE



DIVA ROYALE



WOW - THE VEGAS SPECTACULAR



ROUGE



CHIPPENDALES



MAROON 5



RAIDING THE ROCK VAULT



PENN & TELLER



SHANIA TWAIN



VEGAS! THE SHOW



THE SPHERE EXPERIENCE



LADY LIKE



# Splash Back

Summer Pool Series

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INN & PUB ✦ LAS VEGAS



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POOL



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1100 E. OGDEN AVE.  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101

## LAS VEGAS' ONLY GAY RESORT



# GIPSY

SUSHI BAR | SHOWROOM  
ULTRA LOUNGE | NIGHTCLUB  
THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS

THURSDAY  
JUNE 13

## COSMIC CABARET

A CIRQUE NIGHTCLUB EXPERIENCE  
HOSTED BY **BLAKE BORDERS**



SATURDAY JUNE 15

## SHOWCASE SATURDAYS

3RD SATURDAY  
FINE ART

FLONIN  
ARTSPACE

SATURDAY JUNE 15



SOUNDS BY  
DJ KITTY GLITTER



**GOTTMIK**  
FROM  
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 13  
& ALL STARS 9

FRIDAY JUNE 14

## RuPaul's DRAG RACE

### ★ ALL STARS ★

SEASON 9  
VIEWING PARTY



HOSTED BY  
**ALEXIS  
MATEO**

FROM RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 9  
& ALL STARS SEASON 1 & 5

FRIDAY JUNE 14

## FLAVA



1:30 AM - LATE

\$8 ADIOS, LONG ISLAND, SEX ON THE BEACH, & TEQUILA SUNRISE



## Ultra BRUNCH

SUNDAY JUNE 16

WITH

**GOTTMIK**

FROM  
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 13  
& ALL STARS 9

**ENVY PERU**

WINNER OF DRAG RACE HOLLAND

TICKETS AT [GIPSYLASVEGAS.COM](https://www.gipsylasvegas.com)

@GIPSYLASVEGAS | 4605 PARADISE RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169



# A Journey Sew Fierce

## Justin Velarde's Path to Drag Design Stardom

**In the vibrant and ever-evolving world of drag, where creativity knows no bounds, Las Vegas-based designer Justin Velarde has recently claimed a well-deserved spotlight. Winning season two of "Sew Fierce," a drag designer competition aired on OutTV, Justin has not only showcased his exceptional talent but also embodied the resilience and ingenuity that define the LGBTQ+ community. As we delve into his journey, it's clear that Justin's story is a testament to the transformative power of passion and perseverance.**

### Roots in Kingsburg, California

Justin's journey began in the small Swedish farming town of Kingsburg, California. His early life was marked by financial challenges, yet it was these very challenges that ignited his creative spark. At the age of 10, Justin's grandmother gifted him fabric, needles, and thread, setting the stage for his self-taught journey into fashion. "I started sewing clothes for my bears because my parents couldn't afford the accessories for my Build-A-Bear. That's where I began," he shares.

Despite the lack of formal training, Justin's determination and resourcefulness laid a solid foundation for his future career. His story is a reminder that creativity often flourishes in the face of adversity, and it is this spirit that continues to drive him forward.

### From Dance to Drag Design

Justin's path took an interesting turn when he pursued a career in dance, performing on cruise ships for Norwegian Cruise Line. However, the onset of the COVID-19

pandemic brought him back to Las Vegas, where he rediscovered his love for sewing. Working at The Garden introduced him to local drag queen Jaymes Mansfield, who gave Justin his first break in drag fashion. This opportunity marked the beginning of his ascent in the drag design world.

The chance to participate in "Sew Fierce" came unexpectedly but fortuitously. "They reached out to me on Instagram, and after an interview, they offered me a spot on the show. I cried because it felt like everything was lining up perfectly," Justin recounts. Despite the rigorous preparation and multiple responsibilities, including designing costumes for the Spice Girls residency in Las Vegas, Justin's dedication shone through, ultimately leading to his victory.

### A Unique Design Philosophy

Justin's design style is a vibrant blend of creativity and flamboyance, perfectly suited for the world of drag. His background in dance and theater influences his work, and he draws inspiration from diverse sources, including his college ballet professor, Dolly Kelepecz, a former headliner showgirl at the Stardust Hotel. "Designing for drag queens is more creative and fun. You get to make these outrageous costumes that are performance-ready," he explains.

### Impact of the Win and Future Aspirations

Winning "Sew Fierce" has had an immediate and profound impact on Justin's career. The overwhelming support from the community has been a humbling experience. "The amount of love and

support I received is beyond overwhelming. I am eternally grateful," he expresses. Looking to the future, Justin plans to expand his business, create a new line of drag queen costumes, and establish a costume house in Las Vegas. His ultimate goal is to become the go-to designer for shows on the Strip, creating a lasting legacy.

### Advice for Aspiring Designers

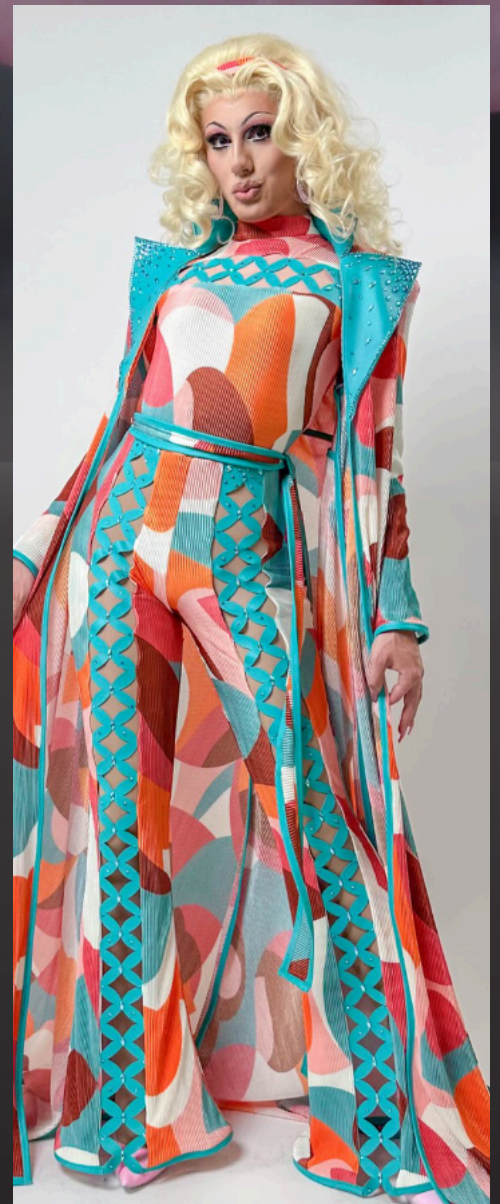
For those looking to follow in his footsteps, Justin emphasizes the importance of confidence and self-belief. "Don't underestimate your talent. Put yourself out there and believe in yourself. If you don't, that's a missed opportunity," he advises. His journey underscores the importance of resilience and determination, proving that with passion, anything is possible.

### Celebrating Pride

As we celebrate Pride Month, Justin's story resonates deeply within our community. "Pride is love. It's who we are as people. We have nothing to hide or be ashamed of. This month showcases how great we are as a community. We are here, we are queer, and we are here to leave an impact," he affirms.

Justin Velarde's success is not just a personal triumph but a beacon of hope and inspiration for the entire LGBTQ+ community. His journey on "Sew Fierce" is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of pursuing one's passion. With his eyes set on the future, Justin is poised to make an indelible mark on the fashion world, one fabulous costume at a time.







# Las Vegas Sign Goes Rainbow



## Las Vegas Celebrate Pride Month with Lighting of the Historic Welcome Sign

Las Vegas has always been a city of lights, but this Pride Month, the iconic Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign gleamed brighter than ever as a crowd including Clark County Commissioners Justin Jones and Michael Naft presented a Proclamation alongside AJ Holly Huth representing The LGBTQ+ Community Center of Southern Nevada. Larry Edwards, Auntie Norma, and Qvegas publishers Russ White and Garrett Pattiani were among the crowd that gathers to flip the switch and illuminate the sign to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

The sign, a landmark of Las Vegas' welcoming spirit since 1959, not only celebrates Pride but also reminds everyone of the progress made and the journey ahead for equality.



GIPSY  
PRESENTS

# SHOWCASE SATURDAYS



1ST SATURDAY  
IMMERSIVE

biteSiZeD

2ND SATURDAY  
FASHION



3RD SATURDAY  
FINE ART

fp.

FERLY PRADO  
STUDIOS

4TH SATURDAY  
SHOWKIDS

SUSHI BAR | SHOWROOM ULTRA LOUNGE | NIGHTCLUB  
THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS

@GIPSYLASVEGAS | 4605 PARADISE RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169



## Third Saturdays: Fine Art with Robin Slonina and Slonina ARTSpace

On the third Saturday, Showcase Saturdays shifts to the visual arts, curated by Robin Slonina of Slonina ARTSpace. Gipsy transforms into a pop-up art exhibit, showcasing exceptional works from selected artists. Attendees can view and purchase original artwork, interact with the artists, and enjoy a night dedicated to the beauty and diversity of fine art. This partnership supports and highlights local artists, enriching the Las Vegas art scene.



## Art Wavy

David Soto and Janel Raihl were both born on the West coast, David in Southern California and Janel on the San Juan Islands, but today they call Las Vegas their adopted home. In 2018, the two artists joined forces to create the Art Wavy brand in the heart of the Las Vegas Arts District. Originally operating as a small studio, they recently expanded into a print-shop and gallery space inside the Arts Factory. The art is made in the open through

the adjacent connected space, often allowing the public to peer inside. They believe "local is global" and strive to create a world community through art interactions. The many travelers visiting their space provide a current exchange of inspiration and ideas from a worldwide perspective, from the local neon and beyond.

Abstract and gestural mark-making on various surfaces is the epitome of their work. A utilization of frenzied energy and cosmic connections reflected in color, nature and nightlife are created in a handmade style. They love layering experimental applications of paint and pigments with a variety of tools. Their chosen mediums include spray paint, powdered pigments and ink. Most unconventionally, their artwork isn't made with paint brushes - but with squeeze bottles, stamps and squeegees.

Follow Art Wavy on their art journey: @ArtWavy







# YOUR PRIDE IS SHOWING

Henderson Pride, the Court, and Glitz: The Showkids Show are just a few of the events that have happened in Las Vegas during National LGBTQ+ Pride Month.











Empowering **ALL**  
to live authentic lives.



LGBTQIA+ Programs & Services  
Health Services: HIV & STD/STI Testing, PrEP Navigation  
Youth & Family Services  
Recovery Support Groups  
Community Groups & Programs  
Special Events

[thecenterlv.org](http://thecenterlv.org) | 702.802.5432 | 401 S. Maryland Pkwy



## 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

**COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA**  
cccfsn.org

**HENDERSON PRIDE**  
hhendersonpride.org

**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**  
hrc.org

**IMPERIAL ROYALE SOVEREIGN COURT OF THE DESERT EMPIRE**  
desertempire.org

**LAMBDA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
lambdalv.com

**LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS**  
lvmenschorus.org

**LAS VEGAS PRIME TIMERS**  
lasvegasprimetimers.com

**LAS VEGAS TRANSPRIDE**  
lasvegastranspride.org

**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

## HIV Resources

**AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)**  
afanlv.org

**AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)**  
aidshealth.org

**GOLDEN RAINBOW**  
goldenrainbow.org

**HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC**  
hrc.lv.org

**SIN CITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE**  
sinscitysisters.org

## STI Testing

**THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
thecenterlv.org

**AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)**  
aidshealth.org

**HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC**  
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT**  
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

**UMC**  
umcsn.com

Email [info@qvegas.com](mailto:info@qvegas.com) to add your organization to our directory.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**Y2GAY**  
JUNE 22, 2024  
LIVE MUSIC | ENTERTAINMENT | VENDORS | +MORE  
AN EVENT FOR CHARITY  
TICKETS ON SELL NOW  
afan  
SWAN DIVE  
Planned Parenthood  
1300 S Main St, Las Vegas, NV 89104



**Lesbian Pride Mixer**  
JUNE 21ST >>> 6-9 PM  
AT THE CENTER  
401 S. MARYLAND PKWY  
No RSVP Required! We will see you there!  
the center



**XXX-MAS in July**  
JULY 13 2024  
UNIQUE SANTA CONTEST  
COCKTAILS 7PM  
SHOW 8PM  
NEVADA GAY RODEO PRESENTS  
KICK OFF OUR STREET TEENS GIFT CARD DRIVE  
RAFFLES AUCTION ENTERTAINMENT  
BADLANDS LAS VEGAS - 900 E SAHARA AVE #228, LAS VEGAS, NV 89104  
ABSOLUT AMR, HUGO BOSS, 1800, HUGO BOSS, JACK DANIEL'S, Tito's, Tito's, Tito's



**THE MARQUIS DE SADE PRESENTS ABANDON**  
ABANDON  
abandonvegas.com



**CALLING ALL LAS VEGAS AREA LGBTQIA+ ALLIED EMPLOYERS**  
Showcase your company's commitment to diversity and inclusion at The Center's PRIDE MONTH Job Fair! Connect with talented LGBTQIA+ job seekers and build brand awareness within the LGBTQIA+ community.  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
06.25.2024  
THE CENTER  
401 S. Maryland Pkwy.  
(702) 733-9800  
Secure Your Spot Today!  
[tinyurl.com/pridejobfair-employer](https://tinyurl.com/pridejobfair-employer)



**HAPPY PRIDE!**





## BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE



Piranha  
NIGHTCLUB

**PRIDE**  
M O N T H

|                  |                                                                                      |                                                     |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| FRI<br>JUN<br>08 |  | <b>ROBIN<br/>FIERCE</b>                             |
| SAT<br>JUN<br>09 |   | <b>ROBIN FIERCE<br/>+<br/>MORGAN<br/>MCMICHAELS</b> |
| SAT<br>JUN<br>15 |  | <b>ENVY PERU<br/>+<br/>GOTTMIK</b>                  |
| FRI<br>JUN<br>21 |   | <b>MIRAGE<br/>AMURO</b>                             |
| SAT<br>JUN<br>22 |  | <b>MO<br/>HEART</b>                                 |

PRE-SALE ENTRY AVAILABLE AT [PIRANHAVEGAS.COM](http://PIRANHAVEGAS.COM)