

AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978



JULY 16-22, 2025



*Deafies<sup>in</sup>  
Drag*

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LADY GAGA WEEK

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8 PM | HOSTED BY KLITUS BLACK

**LADY GAGA CONCERT**  
**AFTER PARTY**

10 PM | HOSTED BY SUNSHINE & CHEYENNE ADAMS

**THURS JULY 17**  
**DRAG ROYALE**  
10 PM | HOSTED BY MIRAGE



**FRI JULY 18**

**RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS**  
**VIEWING PARTY SEASON FINALE**

8 PM  
HOSTED BY SHANNEL  
& MIRAGE

**FRIDAY NIGHT GAGA**

SHOWTIME AT 12 AM  
HOSTED BY SHANNEL & THE CAST OF GIPSY  
SOUNDS BY DIRTY DISCO

FEATURING  
**AQUARIA**  
AND  
**JUDAS JOE MANSON**  
AS LADY GAGA

**FRI JULY 18**  
**& SAT JULY 19**  
**DEREK DANIELS**  
+ ATMOSFIERCE MODELS



**MAYHEM**

WITH TIERNEY AS LADY GAGA  
SHOWTIME AT 1 AM

**SAT JULY 19**  
**BORN THIS BRUNCH**

DOORS OPEN AT 12PM | SHOWTIME 1PM



WITH  
**JUDAS JOE MANSON**  
AS LADY GAGA

**CLUB MAYHEM**

SHOWTIME AT 12 AM

**AQUARIA**  
CHRIS COX

HOSTED BY  
**SHANNEL**

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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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# Still Here. Still Proud. Still Printing.

**T**his week's issue of QVegas isn't just about the glitz, the glam, or the gossip—it's about the language of visibility, and the power of performance to transcend sound, speech, and stereotype. In honor of our cover story featuring Deafies in Drag, we've proudly translated our masthead into American Sign Language. It's more than a design choice—it's a statement of inclusion, a gesture of respect, and a celebration of the rich and expressive world of Deaf culture within our broader LGBTQ+ family.

As we sat down with Jimmy Linares and Alvaro Garcia, the brilliant minds behind Deafies in Drag, it became immediately clear that their story wasn't just about drag. It was about communication. About being seen and understood in a world that too often doesn't know how—or doesn't try. It was about bridging communities through shared joy, fierce talent, and a refusal to be boxed in by assumptions.

For nearly five decades, QVegas has amplified queer voices across Southern Nevada. From our roots in 1978 to this week's cover, we've stood with those on the edges—drag artists, activists, outsiders, and visionaries—because those are the people who move culture forward. We are proud to distribute this magazine weekly in print at over 30 LGBTQ+ venues, nonprofits, and community partners, and to reach thousands more through our website, iOS app, social media, and email blasts. We are

fully advertiser-supported, and unapologetically community-driven.

And in moments like this, when basic rights are being stripped from LGBTQ+ Americans—when trans people are banned from the military, when lifesaving support for queer youth is eliminated, when federal agencies erase our very existence from forms and statistics—platforms like QVegas matter more than ever. Visibility becomes resistance. Art becomes advocacy.

That's why this week's issue isn't just another magazine. It's a reminder: queer stories still need telling. Queer creators still need platforms. And whether it's in English, Spanish, ASL, or the universal language of rhinestones and wigs—we're going to keep telling them. Loudly. Proudly. And in every format we can.

To Jimmy, Alvaro, and every performer and reader breaking barriers in your own way: thank you for reminding us what pride looks like beyond the parade. It's in your hands. In your faces. In your fearless refusal to be silenced.



**Russ White & Garrett Pattiani**  
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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

## TAURUS

JULY 2025

Alright, darlings! Gather round and let Mama serve you a fierce extravaganza in just seventy-five words! Picture this: a festival of glam, where the spotlight beams harder than a disco ball at Studio 54. Honey, life ain't about blending in—it's about strutting your stuff down life's runway like you own it! Toss your troubles aside, slip into those killer heels, slap on the glitter, and remember, you're the star of this show! Werk it with a twirl and sparkle like you mean it!







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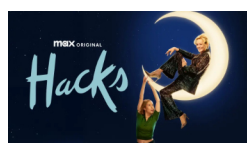


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# What We're Watching



From satirical stand-up comebacks to cybernetic soul-searching, summer 2025 is serving a dazzling buffet of content that speaks to LGBTQ+ audiences across all major platforms. Whether you're looking for high fashion, high drama, or high-concept sci-fi, these shows bring the representation, resonance, and raw emotion that queer viewers crave—and they do it with style.

On Max, **Hacks** continues to reign as the wittiest and gayest show in Las Vegas (and television) with Jean Smart's powerhouse performance as a diva of old-school comedy and Hannah Einbinder's dry, Gen Z lesbian charm as her reluctant writing partner. It's clever, heartfelt, and unabashedly queer—especially in its exploration of generational tension and chosen family. Meanwhile, **And Just Like That...** leans into its legacy with an updated cast that embraces gender diversity and sexual fluidity. Love it or hate it, it's the closest thing we have to couture soap opera for the modern queer femme. And in a softer but equally poignant entry, **My Mom, Jayne**—a documentary by Mariska Hargitay—delivers an introspective look at 1950s bombshell Jayne Mansfield. Through archival footage and personal reflection, it explores fame, femininity, and inherited identity in ways that resonate with queer audiences who grew up idolizing icons and questioning expectations.

Over on Hulu, the sensationalized docuseries **The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives** may not wear a rainbow flag on its sleeve, but its themes of female rebellion and spiritual reawakening strike a chord

with anyone who's broken free from conservative culture. **Riff Raff**, a darkly comic murder mystery, appeals to queer viewers with its offbeat tone and ensemble of oddballs, delivering a story that's as quirky as it is compelling. But the real crown jewel remains **Fire Island**, Searchlight Pictures' hilarious and heartfelt reimagining of *Pride and Prejudice*. It's unapologetically gay, proudly Asian-American, and a total triumph in the art of queer rom-com storytelling.

Netflix, meanwhile, brings the mythic and the mysterious. The **Sandman** returns with a second season drenched in queer representation, featuring pansexual, trans, and nonbinary characters in a hauntingly beautiful world of dreams and desire. This is fantasy for the outcasts and the romantics. Political drama **The Residence** offers a smart, scandal-filled whodunit set in the White House, with diverse casting and simmering queer subplots for fans who like their tea served with diplomacy. **The Waterfront** delivers polished, high-stakes intrigue with characters who command the room and keep secrets just below their designer lapels—think *House of Cards* with a queer-friendly twist.

Peacock, always the wildcard, has leaned into its camp potential with **Love Island USA**. Now hosted by queer ally and drag darling Ariana Madix, the series is still mostly straight but gleefully self-aware, offering chaotic bisexual energy, scandalous swimwear, and enough poolside drama to keep gay Twitter buzzing. In contrast, **Poker Face** gives us something far meatier: Natasha Lyonne in

all her raspy, queer-coded glory as a human lie detector on the run. With its stylish nods to vintage TV crime solving and anti-corporate bite, this series hits the queer sweet spot between cult classic and countercultural gold.

Apple TV+ has staked its claim in LGBTQ-friendly genre storytelling with **Murderbot**, a cerebral sci-fi drama based on the beloved book series by Martha Wells. The titular character, a rogue android navigating autonomy and emotional suppression, resonates strongly with queer, neurodivergent, and nonbinary audiences who see themselves in its code. **Your Friends & Neighbors**, led by Jon Hamm, blends suburban satire with dark charisma, including queer-adjacent narratives wrapped in mystery and mischief. And finally, **Echo Valley** offers a moody, slow-burning thriller that centers the intense relationship between a troubled daughter and her stoic mother. With powerhouse performances from Sydney Sweeney and Julianne Moore, it's a lush, emotionally charged exploration of grief, protection, and maternal bonds that LGBTQ viewers often find layered and magnetic.

From the comedic to the cosmic, this summer's slate is bursting with queer storylines, queer creators, and characters that challenge norms. Whether you're in it for the fashion, the trauma, the thirst traps, or the found family feels, there's something on every platform to love—and to live for. So, pour a cocktail, fluff your pillows, and press play. Your next obsession is waiting.







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# SIGNING, SLAYING, AND LIVING OUT LOUD: THE RISE OF DEAFIES IN DRAG

By Garrett Pattiani & Russ White

**W**e love a good transformation—especially when it comes with a killer outfit, a fierce beat, and a message that hits you in the heart. This month, we're shining the spotlight on two queens who are redefining what it means to perform, connect, and represent. Meet Jimmy Linares and Alvaro Garcia, the creative forces behind *Deafies in Drag*. With a signature blend of American Sign Language, bold comedy, and fabulous drag artistry, they're serving representation with a side of rhinestones and rewriting the rules of what a drag show can be.

We sat down with Jimmy and Alvaro—joined by Jesse Jacobs, aka local drag favorite Hanna Barbeara, who assisted with ASL interpretation—to talk about their journey, their artistry, and their mission to bring deaf culture and drag into the spotlight, together.

## Where Drag Meets Deaf Culture

The origin story of *Deafies in Drag* is a blend of creativity, representation, and sheer DIY hustle. As Jimmy recalls, the concept started not on the stage, but behind the camera. "We both fell in love with filming, acting, and comedy," he explains. "When we first met, I was already practicing how to film and edit. I told Alvaro, 'Why don't you act it out, and I'll write the scripts?'"

Instead of waiting for representation, they made their own. "We used to say, 'We wish there were more deaf people making funny videos.' And then we thought—why don't we just be those people? So we started filming sketches and posting them online."

Audiences instantly connected. What started as a creative outlet quickly evolved into live performances, bookings, and eventually, full-scale shows. But Jimmy and Alvaro knew they wanted to do more than just make people laugh. They wanted to make people see.

"We decided to combine traditional drag—lip syncing, costumes, comedy—with ASL to create something new. We wanted to make performances that are accessible and hilarious, that show deaf culture as part of drag culture."

## Discovering Drag

Their personal journeys into drag are as compelling as their performances. Jimmy discovered drag during college, when he stumbled upon an episode of "RuPaul's Drag Race" on Logo TV.

"At first, I was like, what is this?" he laughs. "Is that a woman? A man? I didn't understand it—but once I realized it was a form of art, it just clicked. Drag is about transformation. It gave me the idea that we could take our sketches and elevate them. Why not create characters and perform in drag?"

Alvaro, who says his creative passions lie in comedy and storytelling, immediately saw the potential.

"We love making people laugh. I love writing about the lives of deaf people, and drag gave us this incredible new way to tell those stories—through movement, humor, and visuals."

## Drag in ASL: A Whole New Language

If you've never seen an ASL performance of a pop song, you're missing out. *Deafies in*

*Drag* don't just translate lyrics—they reimagine them.

"We don't sign word-for-word," Jimmy explains. "That would be boring. We interpret the meaning of the lyrics and make them visual. So when Rihanna sings 'Sex in the air, I love the smell of it,' we sign it in a way that shows the smell floating and then savoring it. It makes people laugh—and it sticks with them."

There's also plenty of room for audience interaction. One of their signature games involves oversized drag gloves that make it nearly impossible to form signs. Contestants are challenged to sign a word or phrase using the gloves, relying on body movement and exaggerated facial expressions instead.

"It's hilarious," says Alvaro. "It helps hearing audiences understand that ASL isn't just about hands—it's about expression."

## Balancing Accessibility and Artistry

Putting on a bilingual drag show—in ASL and spoken English—comes with challenges. But *Deafies in Drag* approach it with the same flair and creativity that defines their art.

"We write scripts for our voice interpreters in advance so they know exactly what to say," says Jimmy. "We also use projectors during shows to display lyrics or punchlines visually—like karaoke, but queerer."

The result? A fully accessible show that welcomes both deaf and hearing audiences.

"Deaf people love seeing themselves represented. And hearing people love





learning something new. Everybody laughs. Everybody feels included."

### Breaking Barriers, One Venue at a Time

Getting booked wasn't always easy. Early on, some venues hesitated to include them on the lineup.

"They didn't know how to communicate with us," Jimmy recalls. "They assumed it would be hard. But we told them, 'Give us a chance. We'll bring our own interpreter, we'll bring our own gear, we'll make it work.' And we did."

Once club owners and audiences saw the results, their minds were blown. "Now, they ask us to come back," says Alvaro. "They realize we can be funny, edgy, sexy—just like any other drag act."

That visibility matters, especially in a community where deaf performers have often been marginalized. "There are so many assumptions about what deaf people can and can't do," Jimmy adds. "We're proving every day that we can do it all."

### Touring Triumphs

Their biggest achievement so far? Producing and touring their first full-length show: "A Family Night Gone Wrong."

"We did five cities and over 1,000 attendees," says Jimmy proudly. "We planned, produced, and performed the whole thing ourselves. It was a lot of work—

but it was worth every second."

They've also taken their act abroad. "Performing in Germany was wild," Alvaro laughs. "They use German Sign Language, so we studied a little before we went. Then we mixed it with ASL on stage. The audience loved it."

### Representation Matters

Perhaps the most powerful feedback they receive comes from fans.

"People come up to us and say, 'I never thought deaf people could do drag like that,'" says Jimmy. "Or they say, 'You inspired me to learn sign language.' That means everything to us."

Others are shocked to discover the performers are deaf at all. "They think deaf people can't look glamorous," says Alvaro. "But our makeup, our costumes, our energy—it's just as fierce. It's about talent, not hearing."

And in doing so, Deafies in Drag are changing hearts and minds across two cultures.

"Within the deaf community, we're helping people engage with pop culture in a fun, accessible way," Jimmy explains. "And within drag, we're showing that there's room for everyone. Drag doesn't have to be just music and movement—it can be language, it can be visual, it can be anything."

### Advice for Aspiring Deaf Drag Artists

Jimmy and Alvaro are clear: it hasn't always been easy. But their advice to others trying to follow in their (fabulous) footsteps is simple.

"Just do it," says Jimmy. "Show your passion. Don't wait for someone to hand you an opportunity. Make your own."

Alvaro adds: "There's always a way around a barrier. Maybe you need an interpreter, maybe you need to teach people how to include you. But don't let it stop you."

### What's Next?

Deafies in Drag have no intention of slowing down.

"We're working on a film," Jimmy reveals. "And we're excited to return to video—maybe with short films or longer sketches. We have a lot of ideas."

They also continue to tour, choosing cities with strong deaf communities and welcoming stages. "We want to perform anywhere people want us," says Alvaro. "And we adapt each show to fit the place. Sometimes we even learn new sign languages to do it."

### Coming to Las Vegas

When asked what audiences can expect from their upcoming performance at Gipsy Nightclub, Jimmy doesn't hesitate: "Laughter. Energy. A real show."

Alvaro chimes in: "You'll leave having laughed so hard you lose five pounds."

Expect drag, deaf culture, some risqué jokes, and a whole lot of heart. Whether you sign fluently or not at all, you're in for a night you won't forget.

So don't miss it. Deafies in Drag are here to entertain, educate, and electrify. Drag has always been about self-expression. And Deafies in Drag? They're turning it all the way up.

Follow them at [DeafiesInDrag.com](http://DeafiesInDrag.com) and on social media @deafiesindrag for tour dates, videos, and more.





## ON STAGE ESSENTIALS

### COSTUME MAKING & SEWING SUPPLY

The grand opening party for **On Stage Essentials** was a dazzling celebration of creativity, style, and showbiz flair. Founders Natali Germanotta Dolan and Alex Dolan welcomed an eclectic crowd of performers, designers, and fans alongside renowned costume designer and OSE co-founder Perry Meek and Natali's proud parents, Joe and Cynthia Germanotta. The event pulsed with energy as local celebrities, industry entertainers, and Vegas influencers toasted the launch of what promises to be a vibrant new hub for stage-ready fashion and performer essentials.









A full-body photograph of Giovanni Tajoure, a male-presenting performer, posing in a shiny, metallic pink jumpsuit. The jumpsuit has a high collar, a wide belt, and large pockets. He is also wearing a matching pink crop top with a crisscross strap across the chest. He has pink star-shaped makeup on his cheeks and is holding the hood of his jumpsuit over his head with one hand. He is wearing black sneakers with pink laces. The background is dark.

# GIOVANNI TAJOURS

## DRAG *Royale*

**A**s Drag Royale at Gipsy Nightclub enters its final weeks, we're shining the spotlight on one of the competition's most groundbreaking contestants: Giovanni Tajoure, the only male-presenting performer in the cast. Eliminated in Week 5, Giovanni didn't just compete—he challenged the very definition of drag and inspired a new wave of representation on stage.

From the start, Giovanni brought something bold and unexpected to Drag Royale. "My message was simple," he told QVegas. "Drag belongs to everyone. You don't have to fit the typical mold to take up space and slay." Describing himself as a male entertainer who does drag, Giovanni blends high-energy performance with polished looks, representing an often-overlooked voice in the drag scene.

The audience response? Mixed, but mostly magical. "A lot of people told me they loved watching me grow week after week. Some even said I was robbed—but I'm not bitter. We all won. We got to show who we are." That gracious spirit and unshakable sense of self became hallmarks of Giovanni's time in the competition.

Staying grounded amid the pressure wasn't easy. "It was a struggle," he admitted, crediting his drag father Roman Tajoure for keeping him focused. "He reminded me that I could do this—that even with limited time and resources, I could bring it."

And bring it, he did. Giovanni's favorite look came during the Fourth of July challenge: a laced white bodysuit with rhinestones and last-minute ruffled gloves made to mimic fireworks. "I had only a couple days to pull it together. But when I hit that stage, I felt like I proved something—to myself and to the audience."

Drag Royale marked a turning point in Giovanni's journey. He's only been performing and designing for about a year, but the competition pushed him to discover just how much he's capable of. "I didn't know I could sew that fast or dream up concepts so quickly. It really surprised me."

Performing at Piranha and Gipsy was especially meaningful. "I've wanted to work at Piranha since I was 15. And now I'm not just dancing—I'm performing my art, telling my story. Little me would be so proud."

For the queens still in the competition, Giovanni offered heartfelt advice: "Stay true to yourself. Don't perform something that doesn't feel like you. The audience can tell." And for the queens who'll be eliminated after him? "This isn't the end. Keep going. You've already built a fanbase. They'll follow you wherever you go."

During his final performance, Giovanni climbed on top of the bar—literally and figuratively rising above expectations. "I needed everyone to see me. If that was my last number, I was gonna give them everything."

As he steps away from Drag Royale, Giovanni leaves behind a legacy of authenticity, resilience, and fearless artistry. With a beat face, a cinched waist, and a work ethic that never quits, he's proof that drag is bigger than categories—and the stage is big enough for all of us.





# Culture Watch

## Queer Visibility, Erasure, and the Power of Performance

**T**his week in queer culture, the headlines paint a picture both celebratory and sobering—reminding us that visibility is a battleground and creativity remains one of our sharpest tools of resistance.

Let's start with the unlikely frontier of progress: the 1880s. Or rather, a stylized version of it. HBO Max's **Back to the Frontier**, produced by none other than Chip and Joanna Gaines, has conservatives clutching their pearls over a gay couple featured raising children in full homesteader drag. The backlash, led by the usual evangelical talking heads, has only amplified interest in the show—proving, once again, that queer people living authentically is still a revolutionary act, even in a fictional barnyard.

Meanwhile, two of drag's most beloved queens—**Jinkx Monsoon** and **BenDeLaCreme**—are taking the holiday spirit on the road, but not everywhere. Their upcoming tour, *The Jinkx & DeLa Holiday Show*, intentionally skips states like Florida, Texas, and Tennessee. Their reasoning is simple and sobering: these places have become politically unsafe for queer and trans performers. The tour, a staple of seasonal queer joy, is now a pointed act of refusal, a glitter-covered middle finger to states legislating hate.

That same tension—between celebration and erasure—is playing out at the very place many consider sacred ground for LGBTQ+ rights: the **Stonewall National Monument**. Quietly and without explanation, references to “bisexual” were scrubbed from its website, following the earlier removal of “transgender.” Pair this with federal restrictions on flying Pride flags at national landmarks, and it's clear the culture war isn't just alive—it's being waged one deletion at a time.

In a more affirming corner of the country, queer voices are rising—this time through the airwaves. **This News Is So Gay**, a sharp and irreverent new podcast out of Cleveland, premiered this week with a mission to report the news through an unapologetically queer lens. Covering everything from healthcare disparities to the legacy of marriage equality, it's a smart, heartfelt reminder that media created by us, for us, still matters.

And speaking of queer media—our gamers are winning. **The 2025 Gayming Awards** were streamed globally via WOW Presents Plus, with *Dragon Age: The Veilguard* snagging Game of the Year and Erika Ishii earning top voice-acting honors. Content Creator of the Year went to drag darling PearlTeese, proving that the line between controller and contour is blurrier—and more fabulous—than ever.

Elsewhere in the creative sphere, Chicago is leading with remembrance. **The Museum of Contemporary Art's City in a Garden** exhibit opened this week, exploring the intersections of queer art and AIDS activism in the Windy City. It's part installation, part protest, and all heart—with over 80 works chronicling how art became survival in the darkest days of the epidemic. The exhibit runs through May 2026, but if you're lucky enough to be there on July 18, there's also a dance party. Because even in grief, we still dance.

In Albany, inclusion took the form of fur. **Eufuria**, a furry fandom convention founded by trans activist Riley Lynn Nairn, brought together nearly 1,000 attendees for fursuit parades, dance-offs, and \$1,700 raised for suicide-prevention charities. It's easy to underestimate the furry scene if you don't understand it—but for many LGBTQ+ youth, it's a sanctuary. And this week, it roared.

Over in the music world, allyship took center stage as **Maren Morris** dropped a new single, “Welcome to the End,” produced by Jack Antonoff and benefiting The Ally Coalition's work with LGBTQ+ youth. With contributions from Kesha, Orville Peck, and Joy Oladokun, the full benefit album (out this fall) is shaping up to be both a banger and a balm.

Globally, queer folks continue to make themselves seen in places where that visibility is a radical risk. In Lagos, Nigeria, Pride organizers held a private—but defiant—**Pride Ball** on June 27. In Amsterdam, Dyke Marches returned to the streets, weaving protest back into the Pride fabric that some say has become too corporate. The message, from Nigeria to the Netherlands, remains the same: we're here, we're queer, and we're not backing down.

And then there's **Boy George**. In a recent interview, the Culture Club icon—ever the provocateur—called out what he sees as modern LGBTQ+ culture's obsession with labels. At 64, he's promoting the revival of his musical *Taboo*, and doubling down on the idea that self-expression should come before identity politics. Whether you agree or roll your eyes, he's reminding us that queer discourse, like queerness itself, is never static.

So what ties it all together this week? A tension, maybe. Between being seen and being erased. Between the joy of community and the weight of cultural pushback. But also a thread of resilience—through art, through protest, through performance, and yes, through podcasts and furies and video games.

Because queer culture isn't just about survival. It's about expression, disruption, and celebration—on our own terms.



# Rolling Back the Rainbow: Two Months of LGBTQ+ Setbacks Under Trump

**I**n a summer meant for celebration, the LGBTQ+ community has instead been battling a rising tide of policy rollbacks and targeted restrictions from the Trump administration. In just the past two months, a sweeping wave of executive actions, agency rule changes, and institutional pressure has dramatically reshaped the federal government's posture toward LGBTQ+ Americans — particularly transgender youth, LGBTQ+ military members, and organizations offering life-saving support services.

From shuttering a national LGBTQ+ suicide hotline option to enforcing federal bans on trans athletes and reinstating a transgender military ban, the cumulative effect is chilling. Here's a breakdown of what's changed, how it impacts our community, and why advocates are calling this one of the most regressive periods for LGBTQ+ policy in recent memory.

## **LGBTQ+ Youth Hotline Silenced During Pride Month**

Let's start with what many advocates have described as one of the most callous moves yet: in June 2025, the Biden-era "Press 3" LGBTQ+ option on the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline was quietly eliminated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The option, added in 2022, had routed over 1.3 million LGBTQ+ youth callers to trained LGBTQ-affirming counselors. On July 17, that ended. Now, all callers—regardless of identity or crisis—are directed to general response teams without specific training or experience addressing queer or trans issues.

The impact is profound. LGBTQ+ youth are already statistically more likely to consider or attempt suicide than their cisgender or heterosexual peers. Removing specialized support removes a critical lifeline, especially during Pride Month—a symbolic slap to the community.

Advocates from The Trevor Project and other mental health organizations have condemned the move as dangerous and politically motivated. The administration, for its part, offered no detailed justification beyond "reorganizing resources."

## **Executive Orders Take Aim at Trans Rights**

Several Trump executive orders signed earlier this year have begun to take effect more fully in the past two months, with serious consequences.

### **EO 14168: Defining Gender as Binary**

This order directs all federal agencies to define "sex" strictly as male or female, assigned at birth. It eliminates gender identity as a category across government

services—from housing and education to healthcare and identification documents.

By June, implementation was well underway. Federal forms, passport applications, and agency websites are already reflecting the rollback. Agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have withdrawn previous policies that ensured trans-inclusive access to shelters and facilities.

### **EO 14187: Banning Gender-Affirming Care for Minors**

This order defunds any gender-affirming medical care for individuals under 19—cutting off access to puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and counseling services in any federally funded context.

Hospitals across multiple states paused youth services in June, fearing legal or financial reprisals. While some resumed operations after temporary court injunctions, the fear and confusion remain. For many youth—especially in rural or conservative regions—the damage has already been done.

### **Trans Service Members Discharged as Ban Reinstated**

The Trump administration also formally reinstated its ban on transgender Americans serving in the military, reversing nearly a decade of progress.

Beginning in early June, trans service members began receiving discharge notices or were offered "voluntary separation" under EO 14183 and EO 14148. New applicants are automatically disqualified based on gender identity, and current trans service members face loss of medical support, access to facilities, and career progress.

For a community already under siege, this rollback sends a loud message: your service, your sacrifice, your identity are no longer welcome in uniform.

### **Title IX Rewrites & Trans Sports Ban**

In a highly controversial move, the Trump administration has also leveraged Title IX—long a cornerstone of gender equality in education—to ban trans women and girls from participating in female sports at schools and universities.

Through EO 14201, the Department of Education has threatened to withhold funding from any school that allows trans athletes to compete in alignment with their gender identity. The University of Pennsylvania, where swimmer Lia Thomas once made headlines, has already complied under pressure, agreeing to bar trans athletes and revise athletic records.

Legal experts are raising alarms, not just about fairness, but about precedent: if

federal funding can be weaponized to erase trans athletes, what's next?

### **LGBTQ+ Nonprofits Targeted for Defunding**

A series of orders—EOs 14168, 14151, and 14173—attempted to cut off federal funds from any organization that "promotes gender ideology," which includes most LGBTQ+ nonprofits, HIV clinics, and DEI initiatives.

While a federal judge temporarily blocked these orders in June, citing First and Fifth Amendment violations, the chilling effect remains. Many smaller organizations report hesitating to apply for grants, fearful of future repercussions or audits. Advocacy groups serving queer communities of color, people living with HIV, or unhoused LGBTQ+ individuals are especially vulnerable.

### **Erasure of LGBTQ+ Data and Health Protections**

As part of the redefinition of "sex" under EO 14168, federal data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) has also been suspended or removed from public health surveys and forms.

The CDC, Census Bureau, and Department of Health and Human Services have already begun to erase LGBTQ+ categories from forms used to track disparities in healthcare, housing, employment, and safety.

Without data, there's no visibility. Without visibility, there's no funding, policy protection, or public acknowledgment.

Coupled with changes to the Affordable Care Act's Section 1557, which now explicitly allows providers to deny gender-affirming care without penalty, the message is clear: LGBTQ+ people—especially trans people—are being written out of federal policy frameworks.

### **A Pattern of Targeted Rollback**

While many of these changes began with executive orders signed earlier this year, the enforcement, public response, and community impact have become starkly visible in just the past two months.

What's striking is not just the volume of actions, but their focus: nearly every policy targets the most vulnerable among us—youth, trans people, and those seeking mental health support.

### **Legal Pushback & Resistance**

Not all is lost. Courts have temporarily halted some orders. Advocacy groups are mobilizing, lawsuits are in motion, and community-based organizations are stepping in to fill the gaps. But make no mistake: the uphill battle has steepened.



A muscular man with a beard and chest hair is shown from the waist up, holding a black rectangular box with both hands. The box has the text 'RC2' printed on it in a white, stylized font. The background is a solid light blue color.

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Walk in or schedule an appointment today.

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 **THE ARLENE COOPER**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

 **the center**  
Serving the LGBTQ Community of Nevada





## 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**  
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



**afan**  
Aid for AIDS of Nevada

**LIVE U=U.**

**WILD WEST**

**B&W**

**39TH ANNUAL AFAN BLACK AND WHITE PARTY**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH 2025**  
VIP 8PM GA 9PM

**WANTED**  
TICKETS AND TABLES **AFANLV.ORG**

**VIP TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
VIP INCLUDES OPEN BAR AT WELCOME RECEPTION 8-9 PM  
AFAN's 39th ANNUAL BLACK & WHITE PARTY  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2025  
TICKETS AFANLV.ORG

**WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION**  
GIFT BASKETS, SHOW TICKETS, GIFT CERTIFICATES AND MORE!  
EMAIL: [events@afanlv.org](mailto:events@afanlv.org)

**VIP BOOTHS ON SALE NOW!**  
AFAN's 39th ANNUAL BLACK & WHITE PARTY  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025  
TICKETS AFANLV.ORG

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



## STI Testing

**THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
[thecenterlv.org](http://thecenterlv.org)

**AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)**  
[aidshealth.org](http://aidshealth.org)

**CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
[cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas](http://cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas)

**FARABI WELLNESS CENTER**  
[hpvlv.com](http://hpvlv.com)

**HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC**  
[huntridgefamilyclinic.org](http://huntridgefamilyclinic.org)

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT**  
[southernnevadahealthdistrict.org](http://southernnevadahealthdistrict.org)

**UMC**  
[umcsn.com](http://umcsn.com)



## HIV Resources

**AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)**  
[afanlv.org](http://afanlv.org)

**AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)**  
[aidshealth.org](http://aidshealth.org)

**CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
[cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas](http://cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas)

**FARABI WELLNESS CENTER**  
[hpvlv.com](http://hpvlv.com)

**GOLDEN RAINBOW**  
[goldenrainbow.org](http://goldenrainbow.org)

**HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC**  
[hrc.lv](http://hrc.lv)

**SIN SITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE**  
[sinsitysisters.org](http://sinsitysisters.org)



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Serving the LGBTQ+ Community of Nevada

**CONDOM COUTURE 2025**  
FROM DUST TILL DAWN  
A Fabulous Fashion Show  
**DUST** LAS VEGAS

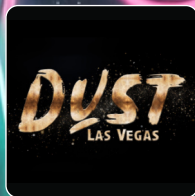
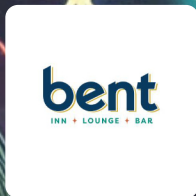
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Details & Categories:  
[thecenterlv.org/form/condom-couture-2025](http://thecenterlv.org/form/condom-couture-2025)

**FRIDAY, 9/19**  
**7-10PM**  
855 E TWAIN AVE UNIT 114



# 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

**WEDNESDAY JULY 16**

**CLUB Mayhem**

WITH JUDAS JOE MANSON  
AS LADY GAGA  
A LADY GAGA: THE MAYHEM BALL  
LAS VEGAS AFTERPARTY

**FRIDAYS**

**FETISH**

HOSTED BY DEMI 007 + SHANNEL  
SHOWTIME AT 12 AM FRONT ROOM + 1:30 AM MAIN ROOM  
WE @ #PORNHALLS | PORNHALLS.COM  
PORNHALLS.COM

**TUESDAYS**

**VAQUERO VAQUERO**

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY  
SHOWTIME @ 1:30 AM FRONT ROOM  
MUSIC BY DJ V / DJ VAGO  
\$6 HOUSE MARGARITAS + \$20 DOMESTIC  
\$25 IMPORT BEER BUCKETS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

**FRIDAY + SATURDAY JULY 18+19**

**CLUB Mayhem**

A LADY GAGA:  
THE MAYHEM BALL LAS VEGAS AFTERPARTY  
WITH AQUARIA  
WINNER OF RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S10

**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

**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

**THURSDAY JULY 24**

**SWEET HONEY**

PRE-PARTY  
A COWBOY CARTER WARM-UP

The Sapphire Society  
LAS VEGAS

**SUNDAYS**

**SUNDAY SERVE**

SHOWTIME  
1 AM FRONT ROOM  
WE @ #PORNHALLS | PORNHALLS.COM  
PORNHALLS.COM

**THURSDAYS**

**REPLAY**

HOSTED BY ROMAN TAJOUR + ASIA KING AGOUR  
SOUNDS BY DJ CYLID + DJ V

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

**Piranha NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS**

**LATIN SUNDAYS**

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY  
MUSIC BY DJ V  
SHOWTIME  
1:30 AM IN THE MAIN ROOM  
\$20 DOMESTIC + \$25 IMPORT BUCKETS | 10 PM TO CLOSE  
WE @ #PORNHALLS | PORNHALLS.COM  
PORNHALLS.COM