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10 PM | HOSTED BY MIRAGE



THURS JULY 24
DEAFIES IN DRAG
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FRI JULY 25
FRIDAY NIGHT CARTER
SHOWTIME AT 11:30 PM | HOSTED BY SHANNEL
SOUNDS BY DJ MANIFESTO

MISS SHALAE



FRI JULY 25
& SAT JULY 26

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+ ATMOSFIERCE MODELS



SAT JULY 26
BRUNCHYONCÉ
DOORS OPEN AT 12PM | SHOWTIME 1PM

MISS SHALAE



SAT JULY 26
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CLUB HO-DOWN
SHOWTIME AT 12 AM

TDON

MISS SHALAE



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Photos: Kevin Mazur / Getty Images for Live Nation Entertainment

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.

Here's the updated version with the note about online availability included:

Printing Update: This Week's Issue

Due to a technical issue with our printer, this week's magazine will not be in our usual saddle-stitched format. Instead, we're rolling with a temporary fix—corner-stapled copies—while we work with our vendor and Xerox Corporate Support to get things back to normal.



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After the Mayhem, the Message: Queer Joy Is Power

If Lady Gaga taught us anything last week, it's that queer magic isn't just alive—it's setting the whole damn Strip on fire.

Her Mayhem Ball tour launch at T-Mobile Arena wasn't just a concert—it was a spiritual awakening wrapped in latex, doused in glitter, and baptized in eyeliner. For two glorious hours, Las Vegas became the Church of Gaga, with tens of thousands of queer pilgrims in red lace and LED corsets lighting candles at the altar of pop. And when the arena emptied, the party didn't stop—it simply spilled into the Fruit Loop, where Gipsy and Piranha turned into unofficial annexes of the tour. Drag performers delivered Gaga tributes, shots were taken in her honor, and the streets pulsed with queer joy.

Moments like this are a powerful reminder that our community isn't just here—we're center stage. We're the spectacle. We're the story.

And speaking of stories, this summer is overflowing with LGBTQ+ moments coast to coast. From fire island to fire emojis on social media, queer culture is making waves in every time zone.

Here in Las Vegas, we're still glowing from Pride Month and rolling straight into a season of summer pool parties, drag showcases, comedy specials, and campaigns like CAN Community Health's "Be Brave," which centers visibility and access to care with zero judgment and 100% style.

Nationally, San Diego Pride just wrapped

with a record-breaking crowd and a reminder that activism and celebration go hand-in-hand. New York's Hudson Valley is hosting its first-ever Rural Pride Festival. Atlanta is preparing for Black Gay Pride in early September—the largest of its kind in the world. And the Trevor Project continues its national "Talk to Me" campaign, encouraging LGBTQ+ youth to reach out, speak up, and stay connected.

But while we dance, we also resist. Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation remains a real threat in many states, especially for trans youth. That's why it's more important than ever to stay informed, stay vocal, and support organizations on the front lines—whether it's Lambda Legal, Silver State Equality, or your local community center. Visibility isn't just a celebration. It's a shield. A sword. A survival tactic.

Whether you're a glitter-drenched club kid, a leather-loving bear, a trans activist, a sober sister, or just someone trying to figure it all out—we see you. We celebrate you. And we're honored to stand beside you.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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

GEMINI

JULY 2025

Gurl, let me tell you! The stars are throwing a fabulous parade in your honor this July, darling Gemini! You're gonna sashay right into a world of glamour and glitz. The cosmos are screaming, "Yaaas, queen!" Your social calendar is hotter than ever, and your charm is simply unstoppable. With all this cosmic energy, you're ready to werk it on the runway of life. So get out there, shine bright, and let your true colors sparkle!





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Mayhem in the Desert

There are concerts. There are Vegas shows. And then there are cultural reset buttons disguised as pop spectacles—and Lady Gaga's *Mayhem Ball* is unapologetically the latter.

On July 16, the Queen of Pop-provocateurs launched her new era at T-Mobile Arena, unleashing two hours of theatrical catharsis, costume chaos, and emotional excavation. This wasn't just a tour kickoff—it was a reckoning. Part Vegas fantasy, part personal exorcism, Gaga's opening night was a high-concept collision of fame, fear, and fabulousness, engineered for both maximum drama and maximum resonance.

And yes, Little Monsters showed up and showed out. From the concourse to the club scene, Las Vegas pulsed with red lace, LED corsets, and more eyeliner than a MAC warehouse sale.

But beneath all the glitter and scream-alongs, *Mayhem Ball* isn't just another greatest hits parade. It's an evolving piece of performance art that dares to ask what happens when a pop star doesn't just revisit their past—but confronts it.

Welcome to the Madness

The moment Gaga appeared—draped in crimson, flanked by a phalanx of dancers who looked equal parts demon and divine—the arena transformed. Not just a concert hall, but a cathedral for chaos. The opening sequence set the tone: mythic,

macabre, and masterfully intentional. Over four acts, the show charted a surreal internal odyssey, blending Catholic guilt, queer rage, performance theory, and stadium-scale camp into a swirling narrative that somehow felt both epic and intimate.

Each era of Gaga's career was distilled, refracted, and reborn. Familiar songs were twisted into new forms. Fan favorites returned not as nostalgia trips, but as narrative tools. Her monsters may be born that way, but the woman commanding them? Rebuilt from scratch.

The night's emotional apex wasn't a ballad—it was a conversation. Gaga didn't just sing her pain, she staged it, danced with it, wrestled it to the ground. Every moment carried layers: the literal, the symbolic, and the just-plain-freaking-awesome. One second she's gliding across the stage in a gothic gondola; the next, she's crawling through a sandbox of skeletons in what can only be described as couture purgatory.

Vegas has always been a city that thrives on reinvention. Gaga made it a mirror—and dared us to look.

Queerly Beloved

If the show was about dualities—past and present, light and dark, spectacle and soul—then the audience was its living embodiment. Queer Vegas turned out in full force. Couples in coordinated Gaga

cosplay. Drag performers channeling every era from disco stick to jazz standard. Teens who found themselves in her lyrics. Elders who remember when she stormed gay clubs before she topped the charts. It wasn't a crowd—it was communion.

In many ways, this was a homecoming. Gaga's history with Las Vegas is storied and storied for good reason. From surprise nightclub cameos in the early 2010s to her transformative jazz residency on the Strip, she's always treated this city not as a pitstop, but as a creative playground. And the community has returned that love tenfold.

This time, she repaid it in full—building a show that felt designed as much for the drag stages of the Fruit Loop as it was for the arena's billion-dollar AV system. Vegas isn't just a launchpad; it's part of the mythology.

Fashion, Fear, and Fabulosity

It wouldn't be a Gaga production without runway-worthy looks—and *Mayhem Ball* delivered a nonstop onslaught. A wedding dress lit with rainbows. A goblin-chic "Bad Romance" silhouette complete with twisted white fingers. A punk-rock closer in fishnets and a beanie that felt more East Village basement than Strip arena. Every outfit wasn't just fashion—it was function, fueling the show's emotional arc with exaggerated silhouettes, sculptural flourishes, and intentional camp.



But even more than the visuals, what struck hardest was the vulnerability.

Pop stars are supposed to shield themselves with polish. Gaga, instead, cracked herself open. The moments at the piano—unfiltered, breathy, raw—reminded us why she's always been more than a pop machine. She's a storyteller, a survivor, a siren with dirt under her nails.

And in true Vegas style, just when it all felt too human, too stripped down—boom. Another spectacle. Pyro, lasers, a dance break so sharp it could cut glass. Mayhem, rebalanced.

Monster Club After Dark

As the show let out, the party spilled immediately into the streets—and into the Fruit Loop.

Gipsy and Piranha didn't just host Gaga afterparties. They transformed into Mayhem Ball annexes. Every queen in town had a number ready. Every playlist was wall-to-wall Gaga. And every inch of sidewalk on Paradise was filled with fans dancing, dissecting, and reliving the experience. This wasn't just a concert. It was a queer takeover.

If Gaga's show was the sermon, then the clubs were the confessionals. Sequins were swapped. Setlist arguments broke out in line for the bathroom. Shots were poured in Gaga's honor. And through it all, Vegas's queer nightlife scene proved why it remains one of the most vibrant, unfiltered, and unapologetically alive in the country.

From Mayhem to Mastery

What makes Mayhem Ball more than just another pop spectacle is its self-awareness. This isn't Gaga trying to reclaim old glories or chase new charts. It's Gaga fully in control of her narrative, her myths, her mayhem.

Even the venue choice—a return to arenas

instead of stadiums—feels strategic. Smaller? Sure. But more connected. Tighter. The kind of scale that lets you see the sweat on a dancer's brow and still get blinded by the LED inferno behind them. It's theatrical intimacy at its most efficient—and emotional manipulation at its most delicious.

What this show proves—yet again—is that Gaga is not done evolving. Not even close. This is not a swan song. This is an incantation. A reminder that pop can be high art, that queerness is not a trend but a truth, and that reinvention is not just survival—it's sacred.

What's Next?

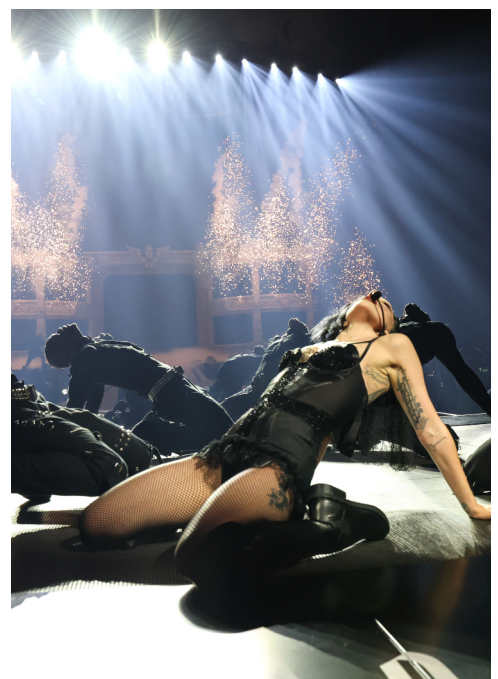
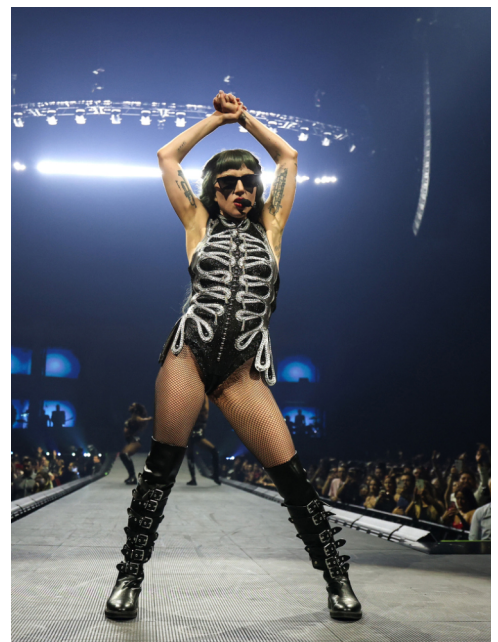
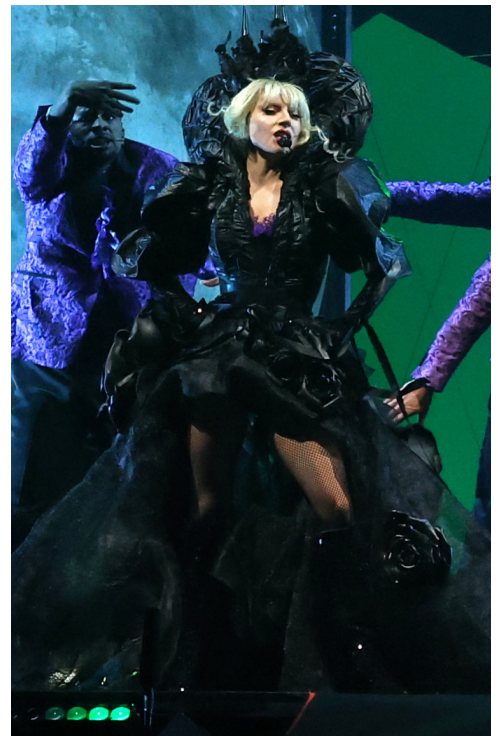
Mayhem Ball will tour through January, ending in Tokyo, but whispers are already circling the Strip about what comes after. Another residency? A Sphere spectacular? A drag-ified remix show hosted by Vegas legends? If the buzz on the ground means anything, Gaga's Vegas chapter is far from over.

What's clear is that Mayhem Ball isn't just another tour kickoff—it's a cultural event. A beautifully twisted mirror held up to both the artist and the audience. A challenge to go deeper, feel harder, and dance like your inner demon is watching.

And if that mirror's reflection looks a little familiar—red lace, bold eyeliner, middle finger proudly extended—you're not alone.

Pop music often asks us to escape. Gaga asks us to transform. With Mayhem Ball, she's not just putting on a show—she's lighting a match, throwing it into the dressing room mirror, and dancing in the shards. And for the fans, especially here in Las Vegas' LGBTQ+ heart, that's not just a night out. That's a revolution.

Get your glitter. Grab your lace. That's Vegas, baby. That's Gaga. That's mayhem.



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LAWHATEVER VANITY

DRAG *Royale*

In a competition as fierce and fabulous as Drag Royale at Gipsy Nightclub, it takes more than a padded hip and a snatched brow to stand out—it takes heart, humor, and a whole lot of hustle. LaWhatever Vanity brought all three and more to the stage, reminding us that drag isn't just about illusion—it's about evolution.

"I'm feeling great," LaWhatever shared when asked about her experience in the competition. "This pushed me to do things I normally wouldn't do in regular shows. It helped me explore new aspects of my drag—and I learned what I can do better next time."

A 13-year veteran of the art form, LaWhatever got her start in 2013, racking up five crowns across Nevada, including Miss Orgullo Latino. She also served on the Pride Commission, hosting charity events and engaging with the community—proof that her drag isn't just for show, it's for service.

What inspired her to compete in Drag Royale? "I had retired from drag for a bit during the pandemic. This was the perfect opportunity to build up my catalog again, create new looks, and challenge myself." And challenge herself she did—earning fan-favorite wins and praise from audiences and peers alike.

Her drag name, "LaWhatever Vanity," is a tale as accidental as it is iconic. "At my first gig, I couldn't go by Roberto. I listed off some names—Maria, Roxana, Natasha—and said 'whatever' to let the host choose. She took it literally." And the rest, darling, is drag herstory. "The name stuck, and it helped me not take things too seriously in the beginning. It gave me space to grow."

Among her favorite moments in Drag Royale? As top-three in the girl group challenge, sisterhood reigned supreme. "What people don't see is the backstage magic. We support each other—whether it's mascara, blush, or a safety pin. And if we **don't** read you backstage? That probably means we **don't** like you," she added with a wink.

Stepping onto Gipsy's legendary stage was a full-circle moment. "One of my first shows I saw in Vegas was at Gipsy with Shannel. To perform where the greats have stood—it's such an honor."

What's next? LaWhatever is keeping busy. She's a regular in La Vecindad's Latin drag dinner show on Sundays and performs at Piranha Nightclub with Paloma Makary. And yes, she's setting her sights on something even bigger: "Drag Race. This competition gave me the confidence to finally audition."

To baby queens and future contestants, her advice is simple: "Keep an open mind. Ask questions. Explore your drag without fear. The audience might not always love it, but if you're having fun and connecting to the music, that's what matters."

And to the fans? "Thank you. Truly. Your support meant everything—and even after my elimination, I felt so much love. Keep supporting local drag. Celebrate whoever wins—but celebrate all of us who dared to step onto that stage."

A shirtless man with a beard and chest hair is holding a black rectangular box with both hands. The box has the text 'rc2' in white. The background is a gradient of blue and purple.

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thecenterlv.org

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aclunv.org

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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

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ngra.com

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HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

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umcsn.com



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AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
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CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

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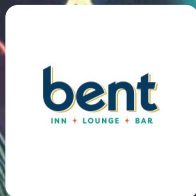
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The Sapphic Society

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

FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS

LATIN CALIENTE

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY
MUSIC BY DJ V
SHOWTIME
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WEDNESDAYS

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MUSIC BY DJ VAGO
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FRIDAY + SATURDAY JULY 25 + 26

CLUB HO-DOWN

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• 1:30 AM MAIN ROOM
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