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This week we are proud to feature Estevan Velasco and his journey from self-discovery to stardom, showcasing his talent and passion. Now a Las Vegas headliner, he captivates audiences with dynamic performances and co-creates the hit show "Glitz."

History was made this week as President Joe Biden stepped aside and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to replace him as the Democratic Party's candidate for President. We'll be updating the QVegas Vote website in the coming weeks to reflect this change in the ballot.

We also welcome RFX Automotive as a new advertiser for all of your car care needs.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
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View this week's horoscopes at qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag.



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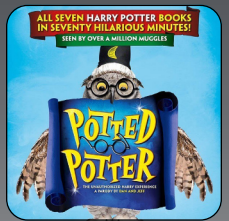
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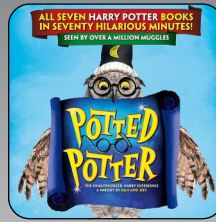
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Estevan Velasco: The Rising Star of Las Vegas Entertainment

Garrett Pattiani, co-owner of QVegas Magazine, recently had the pleasure of interviewing Estevan Velasco, a dynamic entertainer who has become a notable figure on the Las Vegas Strip. In this exclusive conversation, Estevan shares his journey from his early years in Albuquerque to his current success as a performer, highlighting his struggles, triumphs, and the passion that drives him.

Early Years in Albuquerque

Estevan Velasco's story begins in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Born to parents who worked for the government, Estevan and his family moved frequently due to their jobs. Estevan is the oldest of four children, including his mom, stepdad, and three siblings. His stepdad has been a part of his life since he was two years old, filling the role of his father. Estevan didn't meet his biological father until 2021, a meeting that added a new chapter to his life story.

The family's frequent relocations played a significant role in shaping Estevan's early years. One of the most impactful moves was to Japan, where the family lived for three years. It was in Japan that Estevan experienced many of his early awakenings.

"I realized I was gay when I was very young," Estevan recalls. "I was about four years old when I first had that realization. Japan was also where I knew I wanted to

be a performer. These were significant moments in my life that shaped who I am today."

Estevan's mother was a significant influence in his life. A singer and artist, she played in a band during her younger years and was involved in choir. Her love for music and performance was passed down to Estevan.

"My mom had a laser disc of Janet Jackson's music videos from the Janet album," Estevan remembers fondly. "I was mesmerized by her beauty, her dance moves, and her singing. That's when I knew that performing was what I wanted to do."

Returning to the States

After their time in Japan, Estevan's family returned to the United States, settling in Altus, Oklahoma, where they lived for eight years. These years were pivotal for Estevan, as he navigated his childhood and early adolescence in a conservative environment.

"Oklahoma was a small, conservative town, and it was tough being a young gay kid there," Estevan says. "I hid my dancer and performer side because I was afraid of being judged."

In middle school, the family moved to Clovis, New Mexico, where Estevan continued to grapple with his identity.

However, he found an outlet through band, following in his mother's footsteps by playing the trombone.

"Band was a safe space for me. It allowed me to perform without feeling exposed," Estevan explains. "I played the trombone from seventh grade all the way through my freshman year of college."

Embracing His True Self

College was a turning point for Estevan. He returned to Albuquerque to attend university, initially studying architecture before switching to psychology. He also pursued a minor in modern dance, rekindling his passion for performing.

"I came out as gay when I was 17," Estevan says. "College was when I decided to embrace my true self. I started taking dance classes again and immersed myself in community theater and drag shows. I wanted to make up for lost time."

Estevan's dedication paid off. He quickly made a name for himself in Albuquerque's performance scene, participating in various shows and honing his skills. His first professional dance opportunity came when he was asked to perform in an AIDS benefit show called "Come Out Come Out."

"That was a significant moment for me," Estevan recalls. "It was my first time performing with drag queens and kings,



and it was a powerful experience. I felt a sense of belonging in the LGBTQ+ community that I hadn't felt before."

Moving to Las Vegas

In 2015, Estevan made the bold decision to move to Las Vegas, the entertainment capital of the world. He set a goal for himself: to secure a professional performing job within a year. He attended classes, auditions, and vocal lessons, determined to succeed.

"I told myself that if I didn't land a job in a year, I would reconsider my path," Estevan says. "But less than a year later, I got my first professional job with Carnival Cruise Lines."

Working for Carnival Cruise Lines from 2016 to 2020 was a transformative experience for Estevan. He performed in a variety of shows, gaining valuable training and experience. "I felt like I was living my dream, performing in different styles and honing my craft," he says.

During this time, Estevan also met Oscar, his music partner in Curl Vibe, on the ship. Their partnership would later play a crucial role in Estevan's career.

Breakthrough in Las Vegas

Estevan's big break in Las Vegas came when he joined the cast of "Extravaganza" at the Jubilee Theater, the only production

show open on the Strip during the COVID-19 pandemic. "It was a challenging time, but being part of that show was a blessing," he says. "It brought me back to Vegas when everything was so uncertain."

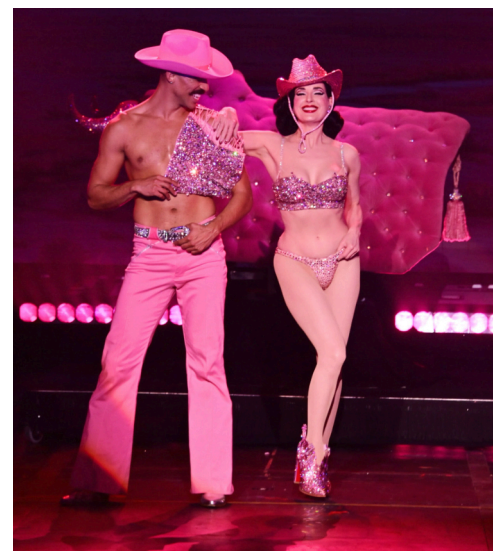
Following "Extravaganza," Estevan joined the cast of "Rouge," marking his first Vegas show as an original cast member. "Opening Rouge was a significant achievement for me," he says. "It was my first experience being part of an inaugural production, and it was incredible."

Creating and Headlining "Glitz"

In the past year, Estevan has taken on a new role as a creative artist, co-creating and headlining "Glitz" at Gipsy Nightclub. The show, which features a mix of dance, singing, and storytelling, has become a hit in Las Vegas.

"I never thought I would be in a creative position so early in my career," Estevan says. "When you approached me about creating something for Gipsy, I saw it as an incredible opportunity."

Estevan collaborated with Ferly Prado, an incredibly talented performer with an illustrious career, to bring "Glitz" to life. "Ferly and Dita Von Teese have helped me find the ultimate confidence in myself as a performer," he says. "Their support and validation meant the world to me."





"Glitz" has been performed three times so far, each show different and special. "I'm proud of what we've created," Estevan says. "It's not just a show; it's an experience that celebrates the LGBTQ+ community and provides opportunities for my performer friends."

Exploring New Opportunities

With a more flexible schedule, Estevan has begun exploring new opportunities in Las Vegas. He now performs regularly at several lounges, including the Rouge Room at Red Rock Casino, a speakeasy at Aria, and the Fontainebleau Hotel.

"Performing in these lounges has allowed me to dive into the singer role I've always dreamed of," Estevan says. "Each venue has a different vibe, and I get to do something unique every night."

Estevan's diverse performances range from upbeat, dancey music at the Rouge Room to intimate R&B and jazz sets at the speakeasy. "It's great to have variety in my performances," he says. "I get to explore different styles and connect with audiences in new ways."

Future Aspirations

Looking ahead, Estevan's goals are focused on continuing to grow as a performer and creator. "I've always been a go-with-the-flow kind of person," he says. "But now, I want to invest more in myself and my artistry."

Estevan's experiences in the lounges and his work on "Glitz" have reinforced his belief in the power of entertainment to bring joy and connection. "People come to my shows to forget about their worries and just be in the moment," he says. "I want to continue creating spaces where people can feel happy, loved, and seen."

Advice for Young Performers

Reflecting on his journey, Estevan has valuable advice for young LGBTQ+ performers. "The only person in the way of your success is yourself," he says. "Don't let fear or doubt hold you back. Believe in yourself and your talents."

Estevan also emphasizes the importance of self-care and self-love. "Every morning, I look in the mirror and acknowledge myself," he says. "You are the only person who will be with you for your entire life, so you have to love and support yourself first."

Gratitude and Future Vision

As the interview concludes, Estevan expresses his gratitude for the opportunities and support he has received. "I want to thank you, Garrett, for believing in me and helping me grow as a performer and creator," he says. "Your support has been instrumental in my journey."

Estevan's vision for the future is clear: to continue creating, performing, and inspiring others. "I want to keep pushing myself and exploring new possibilities," he says. "I believe that art and entertainment have the power to bring people together and make a positive impact."

With his talent, passion, and dedication, Estevan Velasco is undoubtedly a rising star in the Las Vegas entertainment scene. His journey from Albuquerque to the Vegas Strip is a testament to the power of self-belief and the transformative impact of pursuing one's dreams.

As Estevan continues to captivate audiences with his performances and creative projects, the future looks bright for this talented entertainer. Stay tuned for more exciting developments from Estevan Velasco, and be sure to catch his performances at various venues across Las Vegas.



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thecenterlv.org

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ADL
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ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER
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BEARS LAS VEGAS
bearslv.org

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccofsn.org

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HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
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desertempire.org

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LEGACY COUNSELING
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MAMA DRAGONS
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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

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afanlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC
hrcl.org

SIN CITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE
sinsitysisters.org



STI Testing

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
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aidshealth.org

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