



AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978

VEGAS

SEPTEMBER 17 - 23, 2025



**HOWDY, HOTTIES!
SADDLE UP FOR AFAN'S
TWO-TONE THROWDOWN**



Photo: Higor Almeida

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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Black & White, Bigger Than Ever: AFAN turns Western-chic glam into real support for housing, testing, and U=U mission

This week's QVegas leans into what we do best: heart, sparkle, and a wink of Western swagger. From the moment you see the cover, you'll know we're dressing up for community—because style is more fun when it means something. Consider this your pocket-sized pep talk to text the group chat, plan a look, and say yes to a night that does real good.

We're saddling up for AFAN's 39th Annual Black & White Party on Saturday, Sept. 20 at KAOS—and the vibe is playful, polished, and purpose-driven. Picture a monochrome rodeo: pearl snaps, rhinestones, big hats, bigger hair. Hosted by Fredric Godinez and Alexander Stabler, the night mixes show-stopping performances with the reason we gather: to support AFAN's year-round services—housing assistance, transportation, testing, case management—and to amplify the message that Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U). If you've ever danced at a fundraiser and felt like you were part of something bigger, this is your night. Dress to thrill, bring your people, and make a memory that pays it forward.

Remembering Ron

We're also taking a breath to honor someone who made "showing up" an art form: community pillar Ron Quinn. Our tribute isn't distant or formal; it's the kind of remembrance you share over coffee with chosen family—stories of a steady presence who lifted others without fanfare.

who knew when to nudge and when to simply stand beside you. If you knew Ron, you'll feel seen in these pages. If you didn't, you'll understand why his legacy keeps us lacing up our boots and stepping in for one another.

Announcing QVegas Arrivals

Because QVegas grows with you, we've got publishing news too. Starting in October, QVegas shifts to a bi-weekly rhythm with a two-week shelf life—more time for each issue to live on your coffee table, at your favorite bar, and in your conversations. And say hello to QVegas Arrivals, our tourism-forward edition landing at Harry Reid International Airport baggage claim kiosks. It's the perfect welcome for visiting friends: where to brunch, what to see, and who's turning the party tonight—so they hit the ground fabulous.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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

VIRGO

SEPTEMBER 2025

Honey, get ready to twirl into September with all the glam and razzle-dazzle you've got! The universe is serving Virgo some major star power, darling. Expect your fierce intuition to be on point, like a sequined gown that fits just right. Your creativity? It's going to shimmer brighter than a disco ball, baby! Embrace the spotlight, strut your stuff, and let those dreams sashay down the runway of life. You're unstoppable, diva!



afan
Aid for AIDS of Nevada

LIVE
U=U.



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

SEPTEMBER 20TH 2025

VIP 8PM GA 9PM

**TICKETS AND TABLES
AFANLV.ORG**

OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY AT

Piranha NIGHTCLUB GIPSY





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A WALK IN THE PARCS



Saddle Up in Black & White: AFAN's "Wild West" Benefit Rides into KAOS

Las Vegas has a lot of parties, but only one wears its heart on its sleeve in black, white, and pure community spirit. On Saturday, Sept. 20, Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) brings back its beloved Black & White Party for the 39th year—this time galloping into KAOS Nightclub at Palms Casino Resort with a bold “Wild West” theme. Expect a night where high fashion meets high purpose: dazzling performances, culinary pop-ups, immersive photo ops, and interactive activations, all fueling AFAN’s mission to serve Southern Nevadans living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

For nearly four decades, the Black & White Party has been more than a can’t-miss date on the social calendar—it’s a lifeline. AFAN, founded in 1984 and recognized as Nevada’s oldest AIDS service organization, channels funds from this event into year-round programs: HIV testing, medical case management, transportation, housing assistance, medication referral, food programs, and prevention education and outreach. As HIV science advances and our understanding evolves, AFAN continues to do the day-to-day work that changes lives—meeting clients wherever they are and helping them chart a path to health, stability, and dignity.

This year’s theme invites a fresh kind of frontier glamour. Hosts Fredric Godinez and Alexander Stabler of design firm Fredric Alexander will steer the festivities with the kind of polish and playful pageantry only

Vegas can deliver. Think monochrome cowboy couture: black-and-white fringe, pearl-snap shirts, lace, leather, bolo ties, wide-brim hats, and boots made for dancing. Whether your aesthetic leans Johnny Cash minimalism or rhinestone rodeo royalty, the dress code is your canvas—just keep it in the two-tone family and let your imagination run wild.

Of course, a Vegas night is only as iconic as its entertainment, and AFAN’s lineup is stacked. Expect star power from Symone and Mirage of RuPaul’s Drag Race; a showcase by the legendary FANTASY; powerhouse ensembles from Piranha Nightclub and Gypsy Nightclub; and performances by Keyska Diva and artists from The Phoenix Bar & Lounge. Add to that acclaimed acts like Harrison Barnes, Chase Brown, Kyle Khou (American Idol), David Hernandez (American Idol), and the cast of Vegas! The Show, plus a special pool performance featuring Las Vegas Strip entertainers—and yes, a special appearance by the cast of Chippendales. It’s a perfect synergy of Strip spectacle and community love, reflecting the collaborative heartbeat of Las Vegas nightlife.

The evening rolls out with a VIP Reception from 8–9 p.m. (open bar, early tastings, and a welcome toast) before doors swing wide for General Admission from 9 p.m. to midnight. The party doesn’t end there: an official afterparty will keep the energy high at Piranha and Gypsy Nightclub, two

longtime champions of the local LGBTQ+ scene and frequent partners in AFAN’s fundraising momentum. Everything unfolds inside KAOS Nightclub at Palms Casino Resort—a venue built for big moments, big looks, and big hearts.

This year’s event is presented in partnership with Clark County’s Love! Live! U=U campaign, amplifying a message that saves lives and reduces stigma: U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable). When a person living with HIV is on treatment and maintains an undetectable viral load, they do not transmit HIV sexually. It’s a truth backed by leading global health organizations, and a banner the Southern Nevada community proudly carries forward. That’s what makes the Black & White Party so powerful—it’s not only a fundraiser, it’s a platform for education, equity, and visibility. By celebrating U=U, AFAN underscores the importance of access to testing, treatment, and ongoing care, ensuring that science translates into daily reality for our neighbors.

AFAN’s Executive Director Antioco Carrillo puts it plainly: after four decades, the organization is steadfast—both in supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS and in dismantling stigma. The Black & White Party is the most dazzling expression of that commitment: a room filled with allies, artists, advocates, and friends, each ticket another thread in a sturdy safety net.

Planning your look? Consider sustainability



while you serve lewk. Raid your closet for a black suit and upgrade it with a western bolo, or remix a white dress with a concho belt and statement hat. Vintage stores and local designers are your best friends, and monochrome separates make last-minute styling surprisingly easy. Don't forget footwear: KAOS is a dance-worthy floor, so choose boots or heels you can comfortably two-step in through midnight and beyond.

While dressing up is the fun part, the impact is the point. Every dollar raised helps AFAN keep critical services operating at full strength—helping clients navigate housing applications, transportation to medical appointments, warm meals when budgets are stretched, and compassionate case management that connects the dots. If you can't attend, you can still participate by donating directly to AFAN, setting up a recurring gift, or volunteering your time and professional skills. Community is a verb, and Vegas knows how to do.

Official Afterparty: Piranha and Gypsy Nightclub

For the QVegas community—locals, visitors, performers, and allies alike—AFAN's Black & White Party is the annual reminder that style and substance can share the same dance floor. We come for the spectacle and stay for the togetherness; we cheer the headliners and lift up the neighbors whose names we may never know. In a city famous for reinvention, AFAN's work ensures that reinvention is possible for everyone—especially those rebuilding their health, their footing, or their hope.

So shine your belt buckle, steam your hemline, and get ready to ride into an iconic Las Vegas night. The frontier we're crossing isn't just thematic—it's toward a future with broader access to care, stronger community ties, and less stigma. In black and white, the message is crystal clear: when Vegas shows up, lives change.

QVEGAS Arrivals

Two Editions. One Community.

Born in our bars and theaters, raised by our nonprofits and night crews, **QVegas** is the hometown publication for Las Vegas' LGBTQ+ community. We celebrate neighborhood legends, new stages, and the everyday wins that make this city feel like home.

Beginning in October, QVegas will move to a bi-weekly production schedule: the same great stories, the same distribution, and even more local flair, now with a two-week shelf life for each issue.

Landing at Harry Reid's baggage claim and select city spots,

QVegas Arrivals is your first friendly guide to LGBTQ+ Las Vegas—shows, dining, nightlife, and community picks curated by the people who live here.



QVegas Arrivals is a tourism-forward publication debuting at Harry Reid International Airport (Terminal 1 baggage claim information kiosks) and select locations across the city. Both editions will be available online, on social media, via email, and in the QVegas iOS and Vision Pro apps.

qvegas.com/arrivals

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Ron Quinn

October 14, 1958–September 7, 2025

Remembering Ron Quinn—Father, Friend, Builder of Community

How a gentle force of nature taught Las Vegas to love louder, show up harder, and build chosen family that lasts

There are people who seem to carry a room with them—who arrive and suddenly everything gets warmer, easier, more possible. In Las Vegas, one of those people was Ron Quinn. He was a board president, a volunteer whisperer, a connector of organizations that didn't know how much they needed one another—and, to hundreds of us, he was family. Mentor. Gay dad. Best friend. The person you texted first when you didn't know what to do, and the one who made you laugh so hard the hard parts of life briefly forgot your name.

Ron passed peacefully in his sleep earlier this month after a difficult battle with tongue cancer, compounded by years of living openly and bravely with HIV and the unrelenting pain of trigeminal neuralgia. The relief is that his suffering is over. The reality is that his absence is immeasurable. To honor his leadership and love, Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) will dedicate this year's Black & White Party to his memory on Saturday, Sept. 20 at KAOS Nightclub—a tribute planned to include remarks, a video montage, and a moment of remembrance before the night lifts off in the Wild West theme he would have adored organizing, then out-organizing.

But Ron's story is bigger than titles and tributes. It's made of moments—birthday chocolate-raspberry cakes baked from scratch nine years in a row; summers poolside where advice felt like sunshine; volunteer meetings that became family

dinners; and a laugh that was, as one friend said, "louder than life."

One of those stories belongs to Sean VanGorder, who was asked by Ron's son Ronnie to speak on behalf of the family's web of love—legal, chosen, adopted, matrimonial. In telling us what Ron meant to him, Sean helps explain what Ron meant to Las Vegas.

"Every male father figure in my life failed me," Sean says quietly. "Ron was the only one who showed me what it meant to have an older, more mature male figure really believe in you. He supported me in ways I had never experienced. He taught me to believe in myself because he believed in me so much."

Then Sean smiles, because grief is a mirror that remembers joy. "And then, at a certain point, we moved from father figure to best friends. That shift was special. We'd go get our nails done and just be girlfriends. Some of my favorite, most ridiculous, most honest memories are right there—no pedestal, no pretense. Just us."

He had the most remarkable talent for finding you—what you cared about, what you needed to grow—and then making you feel seen while nudging you toward your bigger self. It's how he built volunteer culture that actually worked.

The volunteer whisperer

Many first met Ron through the Human Rights Campaign. He served as volunteer coordinator, but the title doesn't come

close to capturing the alchemy. Ron didn't recruit volunteers; he made family. He opened his home to meetings and made newcomers feel like honored guests before they'd stapled a packet or set a table. He asked about your life, remembered the exact thing you said mattered, and gave you a job that fit your purpose. And then he did it again next week.

"Ron created a format I don't think other cities were doing," Sean explains. "It was deeply connected. He hosted meetings at home. If you were a stranger, he found a way to make you feel special and acknowledged. I learned how to be a volunteer—and a volunteer leader—from him. Other cities tried to imitate it, but it was never quite the same."

Long before "collaboration" became a grant-writing buzzword, Ron was dismantling silos by hand, making HRC work alongside queer organizations, homeless-youth shelters, and service providers who rarely sat at the same table. When other leaders got promoted away from the grind, Ron kept a foot in it—loading cars, chopping vegetables, cooking holiday meals for youth at The Center, showing up for the quiet jobs no one photographs. Even after he stepped away from official leadership, you'd find him elbow-deep in the work, glancing up with that grin that dared you not to pitch in.

"Ron Is Love"

Latoya Holman said it simply: "Ron Quinn is love." From the first meeting—those steady blue eyes, sincere and warm—to the last days of text messages and hospital visits, everything he touched was shaped by love. He built a volunteer program out of backyard gatherings and made it national by making it intimate. He inspired a decade of leaders who are now inspiring another. He offered his professional skills freely because he could and because it mattered. He believed we are united in the pursuit of a self-actualized life—and he believed volunteers could help people find it.

Family, by every name that matters

If volunteerism was the way Ron moved through the world, chosen family was the home where he set his bags down. Ask anyone in his orbit and you'll hear the same story with different proper nouns: Ron saw me. He stood next to me. He made space for me at the table and then handed me the carving knife.

For Sean, that story includes the day he met Ron's son Ronnie opening his first account—two parallel lives that intertwined when Ron later adopted Ronnie. It includes Patrick, Sean's partner of 12 years—and soon, finally, his husband. And it includes their friend Cristina DiGioia, who became Ron's fierce hospital advocate when health systems needed a translator who wouldn't blink.

"The four of us were all in, all the way through the end," Sean says. "We stayed at



Ron's house together. We told stories. We made a shared Apple photo album so we could laugh and remember. We decided that the connection Ron provided for us is our responsibility to keep. We have to stay close. We have to talk. We have to show up."

There's a road-trip story they tell a lot now—a van barreling to San Diego for the HRC Gala, packed with friends, and Ron insisting on driving even though everyone knew he was a terrible driver. "We were terrified," Sean laughs. "We'd give anything to be in that van again." The punch line is less about brakes than about time: what it feels like to recognize you were in the good old days while you were living them.

Ron built his life around those days. When realtor John Hildebrand found Ron the home where so many weekends unfolded, Ron's only non-negotiable was space to entertain "my kids." Pool days and movie nights turned into birthdays and holidays. Advice turned into consent—"Do what makes you happy," he'd say, and you'd feel your shoulders drop. For Sean and Patrick, who are marrying in three weeks, the joy feels braided with absence. Ron was supposed to give them away. When they postponed their wedding too many times, he teased them for "kicking the can down the road." They hear him now: Get married. Keep living.

"He was the one we'd call to ask how to get through this exact moment," Sean says. "So we're trying to be each other's Ron."

Courage that made room for other people's courage

Ron led with compassion, but it wasn't soft. It was courageous. It wasn't easy to be open about HIV when stigma remained stubborn. He carried that truth carefully for years and then began to share it, especially through his work with AFAN, because he knew that his honesty could be a bridge for someone else. He knew what the 1980s did to our community. He knew how trauma isolates and how connection saves.

Last year, when he shared news of his cancer diagnosis, he did it in the same steady voice: Here is what's happening. Here's how I'm facing it. Here's why my fitness and diet matter. Here's the plan for reconstructive surgery. Here's where humor still fits—I might even get a "no extra charge" neck lift. He wrote like the resilient Libra he joked about being, the one with a phoenix tattoo for a reason. He told us not to wait to get checked out if something felt off. He told us, with a wink, that he seemed



to have nine lives.

The hard part of that story is that the disease didn't play fair. The brave part is that Ron never stopped meeting the days with the same values he lived in health: show up, love harder, feed people, believe in something bigger than yourself.

A city says thank you

In the swirl of grief, rituals help. AFAN's decision to dedicate the Black & White Party to Ron feels exactly right—an event he helped elevate into a signature celebration returning on Sept. 20, now wearing its Wild West theme as a reminder that community rides out together. There will be a special on-stage moment for Ron, and it will be loud, because this city understands who built so much of its quiet strength.

Then, on November 1, friends, colleagues, and family will gather at The LGBTQ+ Center of Southern Nevada for a community celebration Sean is lovingly calling "The Ron Reunion." The name matters. Ron would not have wanted a somber affair that looked at the floor. He would have wanted music, clinking glasses, people who haven't hugged in years, and the guiding philosophy is simple: community, connection, reflection—and joy.

There will be private rituals, too. Honoring Ron's wishes, his family chose cremation, with plans to scatter his ashes on the California coast he loved. Those closest to him selected keepsake urns, including a blue-and-yellow heart that mirrors the HRC colors—a small, perfect emblem for a man who made equality not just a cause, but a dinner-table value.

The lesson of sharing what you love

Sean has been thinking about something that may resonate for anyone who loved Ron. When someone makes you feel singular—understood in a way you've never been understood before—it can be disorienting to remember you aren't the only one. "So many of us felt like we were his person," Sean says. "It can be confusing to share that. But that's the greatness. He made hundreds of people feel like the only one. The kind thing—the Ron thing—is to celebrate that, not compete with it."

If you've ever felt that twinge, know this: it's proof of the magic he practiced. It means you were loved well. It means you're part of the family he built on purpose, across bloodlines and beyond categories.



What he left us to do

Ron's legacy isn't theoretical. It's a to-do list disguised as a hug.

Keep showing up. When a friend is in the hospital, be their advocate. If you don't know how to navigate, find the person who does—someone like Cristina did for Ron—and be there, fully. When an organization needs volunteers, don't just sign up; bring two people with you and feed them afterward. Host the meeting. Make it personal.

Keep the rituals. Bake the cake. Start the group text. Make the shared album. Tell the story of the San Diego van and the terrible driving and how, God, you'd risk it all to be car-sick again with those exact people. Go for pedicures. Be "catty bitches" with your best friend who used to be your dad and is still both, because life is richer when we blur the lines that don't need policing.

Keep your promises. If you've been "kicking the can down the road," tie the knot. Launch the project. Book the flight. Schedule the check-up. Take the photo. Write the note. Love is a verb, and regret is an editor you should never hire.

And keep faith—in each other, in the future, in the stubborn goodness that built this city's glittering, generous queer community long before a press release noticed. That faith is how Ron lived. It's how he asked us to carry him forward.

A final thank-you

There is one more story that says everything. Years ago, volunteering side-by-side, Sean thanked Ron with a pop-culture shorthand: "Thank you for being the Mr. Miyagi to my Daniel-san." Later, they joked that he was Mr. Miyagi to an entire HRC meeting—a teacher not of karate, but of kindness, constancy, and craft.

Las Vegas was Ron's dojo and his dinner table. He taught us how to care for people in the language they hear best. He taught composure in crisis and how to laugh in the waiting room without apology. He taught that giving back is less a duty than a pleasure. And he taught that if you build a family out of volunteers, they will show up for the work—and for each other—long after the sign-in sheets are recycled.

Safe passage, friend. Thank you for changing our lives for the better. We will never forget you.

And to everyone who felt like Ron's "only one": you were. We all were. That's the miracle he left us—and the standard he asked us to meet for one another.



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thecenterlv.org

ACLU
aclunv.org

ADL
lasvegas.adl.org

ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER
alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

BEARS LAS VEGAS
bearslv.org

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccfsn.org

HENDERSON PRIDE
hendersonpride.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
thepridetreevlv.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

CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC
hrclo.org

SIN SITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE
sinsitysisters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS



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Serving the LGBTQ Community of Nevada

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2025

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LAFITE BALLROOM

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STI Testing

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AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
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CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
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FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

UMC
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Q VEGAS BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

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12:30 AT GIPSY
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MUSIC BY DJ V / DJ VAGO
\$6 HOUSE MARGARITAS • \$20 DOMESTIC
\$25 IMPORT BEER BUCKETS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

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SHOWTIME 1 PM

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WEDNESDAYS

WET

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MUSIC BY DJ VAGO
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SATURDAY SEPT 20

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AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA & THE 2025 BLACK & WHITE PARTY ATTENDEES OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY

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