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SEPTEMBER
24-30, 2025

QVEGAS

**CHIPPENDALES
TURN UP THE HEAT AT
PLANET HOLLYWOOD**



Photo: James Smith/TheActivity

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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Milestones Everywhere! Chipps Move to Planet Hollywood, ROUGE hits 1,500, WOW passes 3,000, Mat Franco marks 10 years, and Bugs Bunny Takes Center Stage at The Smith Center

Vegas stays hot this week, and QVegas is your front-row pass to the city's most joyful distractions. Headlining the issue is Chippendales' power move to their namesake theater at Planet Hollywood—a purpose-built playground that cranks up the tease, the choreography, and the party energy with prime-time 8 p.m. shows and late-night weekends for the bachelorette set. Across town, the Las Vegas Philharmonic cues a nostalgia-meets-symphony mashup as “Bugs Bunny at the Symphony” hops into Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center with two performances and a brand-new short celebrating Bugs' 85 years—camp, class, and cartoon chaos with a full orchestra in lockstep.

Milestones abound: **Mat Franco** celebrates a decade of “Magic Reinvented Nightly” at The LINQ—10 years of impossible moments delivered with warmth, improv, and a shockingly personal touch—while “**WOW – The Vegas Spectacular**” splashes past its 3,000th performance at the Rio, proof that water, acrobatics, and heart never go out of style. Over at The STRAT, **ROUGE** turns three and toasts its 1,500th show, all while packing its bags for a Berlin expansion—Vegas heat with international ambitions. If your vibe is art-drunk and star-struck, **Immersive Van Gogh: The Next Chapter** is now open at Lighthouse ArtSpace Las Vegas, expanding the blockbuster with more than 140 works

woven into a cinematic journey through the artist's life. And for families, fandoms, and anyone who loves smart silliness, **Potted Potter** marks six magical years at Horseshoe Las Vegas—70 minutes, seven books, two performers, and endless winks.

Community spotlight: a standing ovation to **AFAN** for a spectacular Black & White Party. The 39th annual celebration raised more than \$160,000 for HIV/AIDS services in Southern Nevada—an unmistakable reminder that Vegas' big heart powers its brightest nights. Bravo, AFAN, and thank you to everyone who dressed to the nines and gave big.

Finally, programming note: beginning in October, QVegas shifts to a bi-weekly schedule—same community pulse, two-week shelf life—and debuts **QVegas Arrivals** at Harry Reid International Airport, your friendly, queer-curated welcome to the city.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 2025



Honey, let me spill the tea for you in true fabulous fashion! September's strutting in, and for all you lovely Libras, balance is your best friend this month, darling. Strut that harmony on the runway of life and charm the sequins right off those scales! Keep your wits sharp, baby, because the universe is ready to hand you some glam-tastic opportunities. So, go ahead, bedazzle the world with your cerebral sparkle. You've got this, queen! *(Happy Birthday to our moms Lana and Janet)*

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A Very Vegas Wabbit: Bugs Bunny at the Symphony Hops into Reynolds Hall

There's something undeniably Vegas about a night that blends high art with high jinks, tuxedos with toon shenanigans, and a full symphony orchestra with a duck in a sailor collar. On Saturday, September 27, the Las Vegas Philharmonic brings "Bugs Bunny at the Symphony" back to Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center for two performances, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM—and it's shaping up to be the kind of crossover event that reminds us why this city does spectacle better than anyone.

If you've never experienced this concert-meets-cinema romp, imagine sixteen classic Looney Tunes shorts projected on the big screen while a powerhouse orchestra performs the original scores live, synced to every pratfall, hairpin chase, and cartoon crescendo. The result is pure, precision-timed joy: the orchestra becomes a co-star, punctuating every anvil drop and triumphantly launching every operatic wink. For longtime fans, it's a reunion with the mischief that raised us; for newcomers, it's a crash course in how brilliant music direction elevated animation into an art form.

The show's pedigree is as polished as a conductor's baton. "Bugs Bunny at the Symphony" is the brainchild of Primetime Emmy winners George Daugherty and David Ka Lik Wong. Daugherty—who also conducts these performances—has spent decades championing the marriage of symphonic music and animation, turning a clever idea into a global crowd-pleaser that fills concert halls from coast to coast. Vegas audiences know: when a production is built with this much care, timing, and verve, Reynolds Hall becomes the perfect playground.

This year comes with a cherry on top of the carrot cake: the premiere of a brand-new animated short saluting Bugs Bunny's 85 years on the silver screen. Eighty-five and still a headliner? That's star power. Bugs isn't just timeless—he's eternally now, an icon of irreverence and quick wit who's always managed to feel one step ahead of the joke. The new short promises fresh gags with a classic heartbeat, the kind of birthday celebration that invites the whole house to sing along.

And because a Vegas party needs celebrity cameos, two superstar voice actors will join the festivities onstage. Bob Bergen, the current voice of Porky Pig, and Eric Bauza, who brings Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck to life, are set to appear in person to help the birthday bunny celebrate. Their presence adds an extra dimension—the thrill of hearing those unmistakable voices live, surrounded by the lush sound of a full orchestra. It's the difference between watching a classic at home and stepping inside it.

Part of the magic here is realizing just how musical Looney Tunes always were. Those cartoons didn't simply use music; they were choreographed to it, wrapped around it, made unforgettable by it. Hearing the Las Vegas Philharmonic—now in its 27th season and guided by the artistic leadership of internationally acclaimed conductor Leonard Slatkin as Artistic Consultant—ignite those scores in real time is like rediscovering your favorite scenes with new eyes and ears. The strings race, the brass blares, the percussion lands the punchline. You'll never look at a timpani or a trombone glissando the same way again.

For the QVegas community, "Bugs Bunny at

the Symphony" also hits that sweet spot between nostalgia and reinvention. We love a classic with a modern twist, a glam reunion that still serves something new. It's family-friendly if you're making it a multigenerational outing, date-night worthy if you and your plus-one crave something playful and chic, and absolutely perfect for a friends' night out if your group's idea of culture includes a little camp with its crescendos. Come for What's Opera, Doc? vibes; stay for the way the orchestra turns the entire hall into an inside joke.

Of course, this is Vegas, which means the production values are pristine. Reynolds Hall's big-screen projection makes the animation pop without losing that retro charm, and the Philharmonic's precision keeps every frame and flourish locked in step. The result is a seamless conversation between image and sound—a reminder that animation has always been as much about rhythm and phrasing as it is about line and color.

Whether you grew up memorizing Duck Season/Rabbit Season repartee or you're discovering these shorts for the first time, the joy is the same: laughter amplified by orchestral thunder, classic comedy reframed as living, breathing performance. It's a little bit symphony, a little bit Saturday morning, and entirely Vegas.

Two chances to catch the carrot: Saturday, September 27 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM at The Smith Center's Reynolds Hall. Tickets are available at lvphil.org. Bring your sense of humor, your love of live music, and your appetite for a celebration eighty-five years in the making. That's all, folks—until the downbeat.



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Mat Franco at 10: Vegas' Most Likable Magician Hits a Milestone

A decade ago, Mat Franco walked onto a Las Vegas stage with a deck of cards, an easy grin, and the audacity to treat magic like a conversation instead of a lecture. Ten years later, he's still at The LINQ Hotel, still selling out, and still turning skeptics into superfans with a style that's equal parts jaw-drop and joy. The city has seen plenty of big boxes and bigger pyrotechnics; Franco's secret is smaller and smarter—sleight-of-hand wrapped in warmth, improvisation, and stories that make the impossible feel personal.

Franco's Vegas ascent started with his 2014 win on Season 9 of America's Got Talent, the first magician to capture the show's top prize. In August 2015, he opened Mat Franco – Magic Reinvented Nightly at The LINQ, christening a theater that now bears his name. The show quickly distinguished itself: not a nostalgia act, not a tech demo, but a 90-minute hang with a headliner who treats audience members like co-stars. The tricks land because the banter lands; the wonder sticks because the moments feel unrepeatable.

That spontaneity has powered real longevity. With more than 2,750 performances behind him, Franco keeps the machine fresh—rotating in new illusions, leaning into crowd energy, and letting the night breathe. One second a borrowed ring disappears; the next, a throwaway joke becomes the hinge for a finale you'll talk about in the ride share home. It's meticulously built to feel

accidental, and that's the magic inside the magic.

The industry has noticed. Over the years, Magic Reinvented Nightly has racked up five-star reviews and a trophy case full of local love, including Gold Winner honors from the Las Vegas Review-Journal for Best Magic Show and Best Production Show, a four-time Best Headliner nod from the Southern Nevada Hotel & Concierge Association, and "Best Strip Show" from KNPR's Desert Companion. Clark County even declared July 10, 2017 "Mat Franco Day" and handed him a Key to the Strip. The capstone arrived this year when the Academy of Magical Arts named him 2025 "Magician of the Year," a recognition that places Franco squarely among the modern greats.

Behind the scenes, Caesars Entertainment has been a steady partner, giving Franco a theater that's designed for connection. Sightlines are close, the pacing is brisk, and families aren't treated as an afterthought. That accessibility is a big reason locals send visiting relatives, and why those relatives return the favor with future trips built around "that magic guy at The LINQ."

Franco's reputation extends beyond the stage. A lifelong animal lover, he's a proud supporter of The Animal Foundation and has quietly backed other local causes, including a \$20,000 donation to the NSPCA from a Who Wants to Be a Millionaire win. During the pandemic

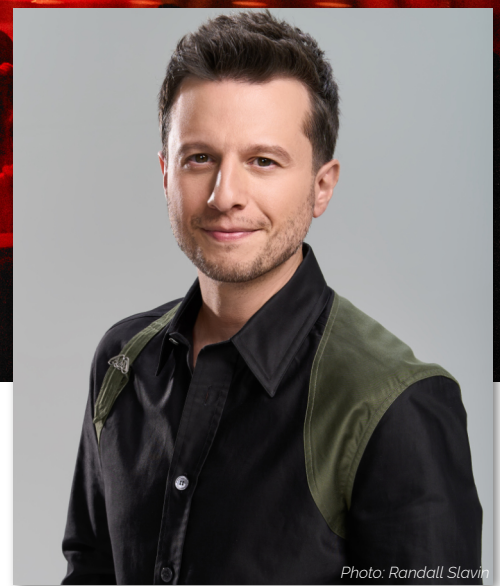


Photo: Randall Slavin

shutdown, he was among the first Vegas entertainers to jump online with livestream performances, and he celebrated the city's reopening by honoring first responders and essential workers. In a town that can be all flash, that follow-through matters.

Television hasn't hurt either: TODAY, Good Morning America, The Kelly Clarkson Show, Sherri, Access Hollywood, and more have kept Franco in America's living rooms while driving curiosity back to the live experience. But his happiest place remains the theater; the show is built to shift in real time, so no two nights are identical. That's the hook and the promise.

Ten years in, Franco isn't coasting. He's teasing more surprises, new illusions, and fresh ways to play with the audience-as-ensemble format he's refined since the college-circuit days back in Rhode Island. If the past decade proved anything, it's that "reinvented nightly" isn't a slogan—it's a mission statement.

For pure, feel-good spectacle that treats your participation like a feature—not a gimmick—Mat Franco's tenth anniversary is more than a milestone. It's the rare Vegas promise that keeps delivering, one gasp and one giggle at a time.

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A WALK IN THE PARCS



Chippendales' Next Era: How Planet Hollywood Became the New Playground for Vegas' Most-Wanted Men

When a quintessential Las Vegas brand levels up, the Strip pays attention. The world-famous Chippendales have opened a new chapter at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, sliding into a venue purpose-built to amplify everything fans love about the show—its athletic choreography, playful tease, polished production, and unmistakable Vegas swagger. The move gives the iconic male revue something it hasn't enjoyed in years: a theater that's truly their own, with the scheduling freedom and creative control that come with it.

The newly christened Chippendales Theater sits on the Mezzanine Level, steps from Reflections the Spa and within Planet Hollywood's densely packed ecosystem of entertainment and nightlife. That placement matters. On the Strip, proximity is power—foot traffic, impulse decisions, and pre-/post-show plans all hinge on an intuitive, energetic flow. Position Chippendales at the center of that current, and you unlock not just convenience, but a canvas for bigger production moves and deeper audience engagement. The brand has always understood the alchemy of environment: when you dial up lighting, scenic scale, sound design, and crowd connection in the right room, you don't just stage a performance—you host a party with momentum.

A Theater That Fits Like a Tailored Jacket

The headline isn't just "new address." It's

"new agency." With their own theater, Chippendales calibrate show flow precisely to audience demand. The schedule places them in prime time with nightly 8 p.m. performances (dark Monday and Wednesday) and a 10 p.m. late show on Fridays and Saturdays—sweet spots for bachelorettes and birthday crews who want dinner first and dancing after. That elasticity lets producers test, iterate, and scale special segments, celebrity cameos, or pop-up fan moments without jockeying around another resident production's constraints. It also ensures consistency—audiences know exactly when to find the heat.

Creative latitude shows up in details fans feel but can't always name. Expect crisper sound, bigger looks, and staging that uses depth and verticality—places where acrobatics pop and formation work lands with precision. Expect lighting and projection that pivot moods on a dime, from cinematic seduction to full-throttle celebration. Expect an audience experience that embraces intimacy as a feature, not a limitation; the best Chippendales numbers don't just break the fourth wall, they invite you to dance on it.

The Chippendales Formula, Recharged

Chippendales has never been a passive spectacle. It's engineered to be interactive, driven by a cast whose athleticism is matched by charm and quick wit. They're elite performers—triple threats who can sell a cheeky lyric, stick an aerial line, and

read a room like seasoned hosts. In Las Vegas, that package has won the brand Best of Las Vegas "Best Male Revue" honors year after year, an unusually durable streak in a town that rewards the new and punishes the complacent. The Planet Hollywood era signals not a reinvention but a refinement—more room to surprise, more polish on the signature beats, and more permission to innovate.

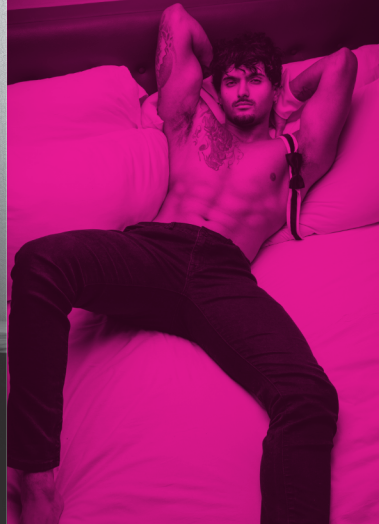
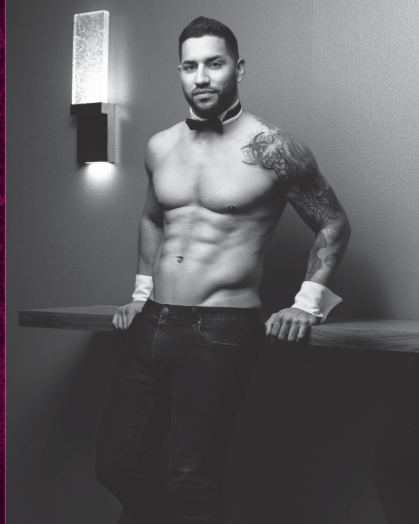
That innovation also rides the cultural wave Chippendales helped create. Long before "Girls' Night Out" became a category unto itself, the show understood the appeal of letting audiences set the tone: playful, self-aware, and celebratory. In a fragmented entertainment economy, that community energy is a moat. You don't stream a shared scream. You have to be there.

Why Planet Hollywood, Why Now

Planet Hollywood's brand promise—bold, pop-forward, celebrity-adjacent—aligns with Chippendales' DNA. The resort's blend of headliner theaters, high-profile dining (Gordon Ramsay Burger, Strip House, Caramella), pools, and a retail ring courtesy of Miracle Mile Shops creates ideal pre- and post-show circulation. From a business standpoint, that's synergy; from an audience standpoint, it's frictionless fun. One elevator ride can take you from craft cocktails to catwalk-ready choreography, and back again.

Operationally, a dedicated theater is also a production lab. Want to trial an augmented-reality flourish, a laser design





that punctuates a key drop, or a re-orchestrated medley that depends on a pristine timecode? It's easier—and safer—to test when you control the grid, the rehearsal schedule, and the technical staffing under one roof. Vegas audiences reap the dividends: a show that evolves at speed without sacrificing its signature mix of tease, humor, and high-impact dance.

The Business of Desire

Chippendales is as much a hospitality product as a theatrical one. That means ticket tiers and experience design matter. With seats generally ranging from \ \$57.95 to \ \$117.95 (plus taxes and fees), the show stays accessible while leaving room for premium add-ons, group packages, and celebratory extras. The 18+ age policy keeps the atmosphere flirty and freewheeling; the double-show Fridays and Saturdays let planners pick their ideal tempo—early for a full night on the Strip, late for a nightcap with stage-door proximity.

Then there's the most Vegas metric of all: repeatability. The Chippendales format is modular enough to reward return visits—fresh numbers, rotation surprises, a favorite performer in a new feature—while predictable enough to anchor itineraries months out. In a city of once-in-a-lifetime experiences, reliable “let's do that again” programming is gold.

Celebrity Cameos and the Pop-Culture Loop

Over the years, guest hosts—reality stars, models, actors, chart-topping singers—have treated the Chippendales stage like a magnet. It's good business and better TV, seeding segments on talk shows and reality franchises that, in turn, drive new audiences back to Vegas. The Planet Hollywood era is primed for more of that loop. The theater's flexible tech and prime-time slots make it attractive for crossovers, while the show's built-in fan fervor guarantees the kind of crowd energy producers crave for broadcast snippets and social content.

What to Expect Now

If you've seen Chippendales recently, you'll recognize the core architecture: high-energy openers that establish tone, rhythmic variety that moves from sultry to comedic to adrenalized, and curated audience-on-stage moments designed as memories, not mere stunts. In the new room, look for sharper visual storytelling, bigger scenic reveals, and music direction that braids nostalgia hits with contemporary bangers. The late shows, particularly on weekends, often take on a clubbier feel—crisper pacing, slightly spicier asides, and an audience already riding the night. The 8 p.m. shows keep the table open for pre-show dinners and larger groups who want to linger afterward.

Quick Hits: When, Where, and How

Chippendales currently performs at The Chippendales Theater (Mezzanine Level, next to Reflections the Spa) inside Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. The schedule features nightly 8 p.m. shows (dark Monday and Wednesday) with 10 p.m. shows on Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are typically \ \$57.95–\ \$117.95 plus taxes and fees, 18+, available via Chippendales.com, Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 855-234-7469. For groups, birthday and bachelorette packages, and premium seating, booking early is still the smart play.

A Brief Note on “NashVegas”

Chippendales' Las Vegas momentum runs in parallel with the brand's growing Nashville footprint. In Music City, the Hard Rock Cafe residency taps into Broadway's bachelorette-party boom with an immersive format tuned to Southern pace and personality. The takeaway for Vegas audiences? The creative engine is humming nationwide—fresh choreography, new cast dynamics, and fan-forward ideas are constantly pressure-tested and refined across markets, then fed back into the flagship Las Vegas production. Different cities, same promise: a party wrapped in world-class showcraft.

The Bottom Line

Chippendales' Planet Hollywood residency is less relocation than renaissance. With a theater that fits like it was tailored, the show pushes scale without losing intimacy,



QVEGAS Arrivals

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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.

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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.

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Las Vegas doesn't do half measures, and neither does ROUGE: The Sexiest Show in Vegas. Three years after its provocative debut at The STRAT Hotel, Casino & Tower, the crimson-hot production has crossed two major milestones: a third anniversary on the Strip and its 1,500th performance—each celebrated with a champagne toast, a towering cake, and the fizzing energy of a cast that knows how to turn heat into high art.

From the beginning, ROUGE has leaned into the unapologetic glamour of Vegas while reframing sensuality as athletic, witty, and—most importantly—empowering. The show marries precision acrobatics with burlesque tease, contemporary dance, and a wink of naughty comedy. What could have been mere spectacle lands as a full-bodied experience: curated music, lavish costuming, and choreography that moves from feline to ferocious in a matter of beats.

That mix has resonated. Since its 2022 premiere, ROUGE has attracted a loyal audience of locals and visitors who come for the sizzle and return for the craft. The production's trophy shelf—"Best Production Show," "Sexiest Show in Vegas," and a healthy stack of rave reviews—says as much about its technique as its temperature. Yes, there's the skin and shimmer that ignite a Vegas night, but there's also the discipline of circus-caliber stunts, sculpted ensembles, and comic timing that lets the room exhale between gasps.

At The STRAT, the 1,500th performance felt

like a victory lap. The celebration recognized not only the onstage team but also the creatives, technicians, costumers, and crew who make the nightly magic seamless. The show has become a reliable heartbeat in an entertainment corridor defined by constant reinvention; ROUGE's secret is that it reinvents from within, refreshing numbers, evolving costumes, and amplifying performers' personalities while never losing the tight pacing that keeps the evening airborne.

As ROUGE cements itself as a Strip staple, the brand is stepping onto a larger stage: an international expansion to Berlin, with a sibling production titled ROUGE Vegas. The move feels both daring and inevitable. Berlin's nightlife has long celebrated boundary-pushing performance, and the city's cabaret history practically begs for ROUGE's cocktail of seduction and athleticism. Transplanting the Las Vegas DNA to Europe means the creative team can riff on a new venue, a new audience, and a city that knows how to stay up late and fall in love with the unusual.

The opening of a second company of ROUGE in Berlin is a testament to the show's universal appeal and growing global fan base." It's the kind of quote that captures ROUGE's ethos: the confidence of a headliner with the curiosity of an artist still hungry for the next challenge.

For Vegas audiences, that means the home base at The STRAT will keep firing on all cylinders. The nightly performance remains a choose-your-adventure of lustrous tableaux and jaw-dropping feats—think silk



work that skims the rafters, adagio lifts that teeter on the edge of disbelief, and comedic interludes that turn flirtation into laughter. The cast—an ensemble of dancers, aerialists, and specialty acts—operates like a band where every soloist gets a turn, and the rhythm section never misses a beat.

ROUGE also continues to stand out for its inclusive lens. The show's sensuality isn't narrow; it's generous. Bodies are celebrated for strength and presence, flirtation is available to every gaze in the room, and the gender play reads as confident rather than coy. That makes ROUGE a sweet spot for QVegas readers: a night out that feels unabashedly adult without sacrificing taste, and fiercely queer-friendly without reducing anyone to a token. In a city that markets sex as spectacle, ROUGE offers sex as expression.

If you're planning your next Strip itinerary, pencil this one in after dinner and before you decide how late "late" is going to be. Dress up a little; the room appreciates it. Order the bubbles; the choreography pairs well with sparkle. And bring friends—ROUGE is best enjoyed as a shared gasp, a collective grin, and a satisfied chorus of "how did they do that?"

Three years in, 1,500 shows down, and now a passport full of stamps—ROUGE isn't just keeping the Vegas flame blazing; it's carrying that torch across the Atlantic. Berlin, meet your new crush. Vegas, keep your seat warm. The show that turned up the thermostat isn't cooling off anytime soon.



WOW Hits 3,000: Splash, Spectacle, and Staying Power at the Rio

Las Vegas loves a milestone, and “WOW – The Vegas Spectacular” just made a big one look effortless. On July 31, 2025, the internationally acclaimed water-and-wonder production celebrated its 3,000th performance inside the Rio Showroom at Rio Hotel & Casino—a remarkable run for a show that first made a splash in 2017 and has been drenching audiences in delight ever since. In a city where reinvention is practically a sport, “WOW” has managed the trick of feeling both timeless and freshly fizzy, a family-forward spectacle with enough athleticism, humor, and heart to keep locals and visitors coming back for more.

Created and directed by Hanoach Rosénn, “WOW” speaks a language that needs no translation: shimmering visuals, high-flying acrobatics, and music that moves the room. Over more than 2.5 million guests have experienced the production’s signature blend of imagination and illusion, guided by a 30-plus-member international cast that flips, flies, and free-falls across a 180-degree theatrical playground. Water isn’t just a theme here—it’s a co-star. Pools appear and vanish, fountains arc like choreography, and performers skim, splash, and soar through sequences that are equal parts athletic and dreamlike.

The 3,000th performance arrived with the kind of joyfully theatrical flourish Las Vegas does best: onstage cake, heartfelt speeches, a post-show toast with the cast, and a few jaw-dropping surprises tailored for the occasion. Rosénn, who has guided

the show’s evolution from the start, credited the cast, crew, and the Rio’s team for sustaining the production’s momentum, especially as the property itself continues its revitalization. It’s a synergistic fit. The Rio’s entertainment slate leans bold and eclectic—think Penn & Teller’s long-running wizardry, the culty sci-fi tease of *The Empire Strips Back*, and the West Coast outpost of Comedy Cellar—while “WOW” supplies nightly spectacle that plays just as well to multi-generational families as to birthday-weekend friend groups.

Part of the secret sauce is pacing. “WOW” moves like a mixtape: a tender aerial pas de deux dissolves into a comic bit; a precision hand-to-hand balance melts into a laser-slick water illusion; then—because this is Vegas—another gasp-worthy dive lands like a cymbal crash. The production layers in 3D multimedia projections, water walls, holograms, and theatrical sound and lighting not as gimmicks but as extensions of the show’s pulse. At its best, “WOW” feels like stepping inside a music video directed by a circus romantic: all momentum and mood, with sequences built to spark wonder rather than explain it.

For a city that often chases the next shiny thing, the longevity here is the headline. Variety shows live and die by freshness, and “WOW” keeps the experience vibrant by rotating specialty acts—several with “America’s Got Talent” credentials—while preserving the core rhythm that fans expect. It’s a smart balance that rewards repeat visits without confusing first-timers. If you’ve got out-of-town family in tow or



you’re curating a pre-dinner, post-pool itinerary that’s big on vibe and light on exposition, this is an easy yes.

Behind the scenes, the production’s pedigree is equally sturdy. R\&R Entertainment joins Yacov Neeman and Doron Etzioni of Tevet Productions (whose international circus and touring chops are written into the show’s DNA), Corey Ross of Starvox Entertainment (responsible for importing cult-favorite stage fare like *Potted Potter*), and marketing veterans Jordan Fiksenbaum and Brad Goldberg of Informed Marketing, who bring deep Cirque du Soleil and MGM Resorts experience to the brand. It’s a seasoned, global team steering a very Vegas mission: deliver a “wow” that lands night after night.

For QVegas readers, the show’s accessibility is part of its charm. You don’t need to be a superfan of any particular genre to plug into the energy here. “WOW” trades in universal delights—bodies in motion, music that swells at just the right moment, water catching light in ways that feel almost cinematic. Bring the kids (ages 4+ are welcome), bring the grandparents, bring the friend visiting for the first time; everyone will find an entry point, and you’ll leave with shared goosebumps.

Three thousand shows in, “WOW” remains exactly what its title promises: a confident, splashy love letter to live performance. It’s a reminder that, in Las Vegas, the oldest magic is sometimes the simplest—light, water, music, and a roomful of people ready to be amazed.



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LGBTQ+ Resources

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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

Email info@qvegas.com to add your organization to our directory.



STI Testing

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

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Potted Potter Turns Six in Las Vegas—And the Magic's Only Getting Funnier

If you think you need a wand, a Hogwarts letter, or a working knowledge of what a Horcrux is to enjoy Potted Potter, think again. The unauthorized Harry Potter parody has built its own brand of Vegas sorcery—equal parts sharp satire, quick-change chaos, and gleeful audience mischief—and it just celebrated six spellbinding years at The Imagine Showroom inside Horseshoe Las Vegas. That's more than 1,700 performances since its 2019 debut on the Strip, a feat that puts the show in rare company among long-running, word-of-mouth crowd-pleasers.

For the uninitiated, Potted Potter squeezes all seven books into a tight 70-minute joyride, powered by two fearless performers, a trunkful of props, and a mountain of meta-theater. The current duo—James Edward-Kelly and Toby Holloway—ping-pong through the canon with the split-second timing of improv comics and the stamina of marathoners, zipping from earnest heroics to wicked send-ups in the blink of a Niffler's eye. One minute you're in the cupboard under the stairs; the next you're ducking a live Quidditch match that spills into the audience with the affectionate anarchy of a playground game refereed by a very British chaos goblin.

Vegas audiences have always had a soft spot for shows that don't take themselves too seriously, and Potted Potter leans into that with impish delight. The writing—created by Olivier Award-nominated duo Daniel Clarkson and Jefferson Turner—winks as much at pop culture and theatrical convention as it does at wizards

and wand lore. The result is a breezy, family-friendly romp that still lands plenty of sly jokes for the adults, including the many queer fans who grew up with the books and have since built their own inclusive, expansive wizarding fandom. If your idea of a good night out mixes nostalgia, camp, and a little light cosplay, you'll feel right at home.

Part of the show's secret sauce is how it invites the audience to play along without ever punching down. Edward-Kelly and Holloway understand the difference between parody and mean-spiritedness; they revel in the heightened drama of the source material while lovingly skewering its tropes. A scarf becomes a house banner, a mop morphs into a broom, and a mismatched stack of hats somehow signals a cast of dozens. The minimalist magic works because the performers commit—hard—to the bit. That keeps first-timers giggling and super-fans nodding at the deep-cut references tucked into the slapstick.

The six-year milestone at Horseshoe underscores what Vegas does best: turn a good idea into a durable tradition. Producer James Seabright has noted how remarkable it is that a show born from a five-minute bookstore sketch two decades ago now anchors a prime-time slot in the entertainment capital of the world. In true Las Vegas fashion, the production has become a go-to recommendation for visiting families, friend groups, and date nights alike—especially when you're juggling multiple plans and need a guaranteed crowd-pleaser that clocks in under 90 minutes and still leaves you time



Photo: Christopher DeVargas

for dinner, a nightcap, or another show.

And because this is Vegas, the staging inside The Imagine Showroom is built for momentum: swift cues, punchy lighting, and no wasted motion. The pace never lags, which is ideal when you're sprinting through chapters at a clip that would make a Time-Turner jealous. Even the Quidditch sequence—often the place where interactive theater overstays its welcome—feels brisk, joyful, and surprisingly athletic. (Pro tip: bring your competitive spirit; you may be recruited.)

For the QVegas crowd, Potted Potter also scratches an itch for camp theater that loves its audience back. The show's playful theatricality, wink-wink gender gags, and vaudevillian quick changes echo the best of drag-adjacent humor—clever, resourceful, and absolutely committed to entertaining you. It's the kind of experience where you'll clock three new jokes on a repeat visit and feel smug when you catch the callbacks before your friends do.

Six years in, Potted Potter hasn't just endured; it's thrived—proof that in a city famous for reinvention, smart, scrappy comedy with a big heart can hold its own against the biggest LED walls and most pyrotechnic ballads. Whether you're team Gryffindor, full-time Slytherin, or blissfully house-agnostic, consider this your official invitation to laugh, cheer, and maybe catch a Snitch. The magic in this one is less about spells and more about silliness—and in Las Vegas, that might be the most powerful charm of all.



Immersive Van Gogh: The Next Chapter Lights Up Las Vegas

Vincent van Gogh has returned to the Strip—bigger, bolder, and even more emotional. The newest evolution of the blockbuster digital art experience, *Immersive Van Gogh: The Next Chapter*, is now open at Lighthouse ArtSpace Las Vegas on Level 3 of The Shops at Crystals (3720 S. Las Vegas Blvd.), adjacent to ARIA Resort & Casino. After drawing millions worldwide and redefining how audiences encounter fine art, the reimagined edition invites Las Vegas to step not just into the paintings, but deeper into the artist's heart and head.

If you experienced the original installation that premiered in Las Vegas on October 7, 2021—or if you watched friends post their starry selfies while you promised “next time”—this is your chance to see why the phenomenon has only grown. The new chapter expands the visual narrative with stunning floor-to-ceiling projections of more than 140 works, choreographed to a transporting soundtrack. The creators lean into storytelling: from the sun-washed fields of Arles to the turbulent nights of Saint-Rémy, each sequence traces a vital passage in van Gogh's life—the friendships and feuds, the city lights of Paris, the creative breakthroughs, and the shadows he worked so bravely to paint through.

Corey Ross, CEO of Lighthouse Immersive, calls the original Las Vegas run a watershed moment that “changed the way audiences experience art.” Retired with affection, that first edition set the table for a broader feast: *The Next Chapter* folds in lesser-known canvases alongside iconic favorites—yes, you'll still be enveloped by

sunflowers, cafés, and those famous starry skies—while adding context that enriches the emotional impact. The result is less “greatest hits” and more “greatest journey,” illuminating how van Gogh saw the world, and why the world still can't stop seeing itself in his work.

The exhibition's creative spine comes from curator Marco Generoso Realino, Founder and CEO of Italy's Visioni S.r.l. A former dancer and choreographer, Realino has spent years fusing movement, multivision, and classical art into immersive environments. That dance-world sensibility is felt in Las Vegas: pieces rise and fall like choreography, rhythms swaying between intimate and symphonic. Realino says the tribute explores the “profound depths” of van Gogh's emotional landscape; here, brushstrokes become beats, color becomes tempo, and the painter's inner life becomes a kind of ballet in light.

Sound is essential, too. Composer Marco Schiavoni, whose résumé spans theater, film, and an Oscar-nominated short, threads the room-to-room journey with an original score that lands somewhere between dream and memory. It's cinematic without overpowering the canvases, giving just enough oxygen to the shifting moods—tender, joyful, restless, ecstatic—as the visuals sweep from pastoral calm to fevered night.

If the word “immersive” feels ubiquitous these days, credit (or blame) Van Gogh. Long before imitators crowded the field, Lighthouse Immersive launched the North American wave in July 2020, debuting in Toronto with innovations born of necessity



and audacity: a now-legendary drive-through format that sold out from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily during the pandemic. Since then, the show has been seen by more than 6 million people and notched milestones from coast to coast; the New York Times labeled the experience “best in class,” while outlets from NBC's *Today* to *Architectural Digest* and *Lonely Planet* piled on superlatives. Las Vegas, of course, took to it like neon to night.

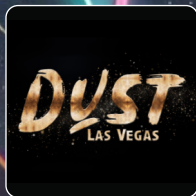
The Next Chapter honors that history while pushing forward. The exhibition pivots from spectacle to story—still spectacular, yes, but more personal. In one moment, fields of yellow pull you toward the horizon; in another, a bedroom's pared-down geometry offers a quiet reprieve. Soon you're in Paris, where light skims rooftops and the palette brightens. Then Arles, where the brushwork loosens and the pace quickens. Gauguin arrives (and inevitably departs), the compositions fracture, and the air changes. By Saint-Rémy, you can feel the world tilt—those skies swirl for a reason. The show doesn't sensationalize van Gogh's mental health challenges, but it doesn't look away either; it lets the paintings lead, trusting that empathy blooms where art is given room to breathe.

For locals and visitors alike, *Immersive Van Gogh: The Next Chapter* is that rare attraction that works as a solo escape, a date night, or a family excursion. It's also a conversation starter for our creative community: a reminder that art doesn't live only in hushed galleries or on handheld screens. Sometimes it surges around you, asking you to feel more, look longer, and leave different than you arrived.

Photos Courtesy Lighthouse Immersive

Q VEGAS BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

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MONDAYS

SURRENDER MONDAYS

\$100 CASH HOT BODY CONTEST
+ SHOWTIME @ 1 AM
\$7 TITOS COCKTAILS
+ \$6 DOMESTIC BEERS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

JORGEIOUS

FROM
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS 10

SHOWTIME
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM

MEET & GREET
12:30 AT GIPSY

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

FRIDAYS

FRESH

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

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 OCTOBER 10
PRIDE LAS VEGAS WEEKEND

PLANE JANE

WITH
MIRAGE + LUXX NOIR LONDON

FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS

Piranha NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

LATIN CALIENTE

PALOMA MAKARY

HOST BY
DJ V / DJ VAGO

SHOWTIME
2 AM IN THE OCEAN LOUNGE

FREE BUCKET OF BEER W/ PURCHASE OF BUCHANAN'S BOTTLE

WEDNESDAYS

SAGE O'HARA

HOSTED BY
SAGE O'HARA ANDREWS

SHOWTIME @ 1:00 AM FRONT ROOM
MUSIC BY DJ VAGO

\$5 SPECIALTY COCKTAILS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10
PRIDE LAS VEGAS WEEKEND

GIPSY

LUXX NOIR LONDON

WITH
MIRAGE + PLANE JANE

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

SHOWTIME
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM

MEET & GREET
12:30 AT GIPSY

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SERVE

REPLAY THURSDAYS

REPLAY

HOSTED BY
MARTIN & ROYALE GAGA
+ RINA KING ADOR

SHOWTIME
12:30 AM FRONT ROOM
+ 1:30 AM MAIN ROOM

\$5 WELL COCKTAILS BEFORE MIDNIGHT

Piranha NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

LATIN SUNDAYS

PALOMA MAKARY

HOST BY
DJ V / DJ VAGO

SHOWTIME
1:30 AM IN THE MAIN ROOM

\$20 DOMESTIC + \$25 IMPORT BUCKETS | 10 PM TO CLOSE