

AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978

Q VEGAS

SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 1, 2024



JEN KOBER

ON COMEDY, INCLUSIVITY,
AND HER ROLE AT MAD APPLE



Photo: Rudy Plaza

Whether you're a local or tourist, we always feature our favorite spots along with all the new and exciting things our city has to offer.

This week we feature Jen Kober who brings her signature comedy to Cirque du Soleil's Mad Apple, blending humor with the show's dynamic variety acts. As an out lesbian comedian, she embraces the inclusive environment while captivating diverse audiences with her engaging performances. Catch her now through October 22 at Mad Apple!

We are also proud to announce that QVegas has joined a consortium of 10 other LGBTQ+ publications to launch Queer News Network. This new website launches October 1 with broad election coverage focused on the LGBTQ+ community and the candidates and issues that affect us. The QNN site replaces our Voter Guide initiative for the 2024 election. Visit qvegas.com/vote for details and sign up for updates at queernn.com today!



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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



AQUARIUS

OCTOBER 2024

Alright, hunty, listen up 'cause Mama's 'bout to spill the cosmic tea for all you fierce Aquarius divas out there! October 2024 is gonna pop off with more sparkle than a sequin gown at drag brunch, okay? This month, the stars are aligning to serve you a plate of fresh opportunity with a side of transformation, henny. You better werk that unique energy of yours, 'cause you're about to be in the spotlight, where you belong. Channel that inner superstar, 'cause the universe is gagging for it. And, honey, if life throws you shade, you throw on your highest heels and stomp it out. October is your runway, so sashay away any doubts and show the world who's queen!"



CAESARS
ENTERTAINMENT



LUXOR



MGM RESORTS
INTERNATIONAL



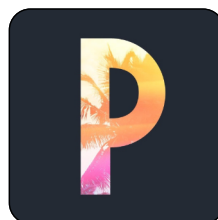
WYNN RESORTS



VIRGIN HOTELS
LAS VEGAS



THE VENETIAN RESORT
LAS VEGAS



PALMS
RESORT & CASINO



BENT INN & PUB

Hotels

These hotels have a current HRC Corporate Equality Index score of 100.

CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT

caesars.com
Caesars Palace
The Cromwell
Flamingo
Harrah's
Horseshoe (formerly Bally's)
The LINQ
Paris
Planet Hollywood

THE VENETIAN RESORT LAS VEGAS

venetianlasvegas.com

These hotels have actively demonstrated support for the LGBTQ+ community but do not have a current HRC CEI of 100

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Excalibur
Luxor
Mandalay Bay
MGM Grand
New York New York
Park MGM
Vdara

WYNN RESORTS

wynnlasvegas.com
Wynn Las Vegas & Encore Las Vegas

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GIPSY

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dancing
with the queens

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CHANDELIER

THURS SEPT 26 | 10PM

Hot
Mic
Karaoke

WITH
LEILANI
JACKSON-ROSS

NICKI MINAJ | PINK FRIDAY 2 WORLD TOUR | GAG CITY RELOADED | TICKET GIVEAWAY 12AM

FRI SEPT 27 | 9PM

RuPaul
DRAG RACE
GLOBAL ALL STARS
VIEWING PARTY
HOSTED BY
ALEXIS MATEO

FRI SEPT 27 | 11:30PM + 1AM
M&G AT 12:30 AM

JASMINE MASTERS

JADE JOLIE

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S7 & ALL STARS S4

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S5 + DRAGULA S4

NICKI MINAJ | PINK FRIDAY 2 WORLD TOUR | GAG CITY RELOADED | TICKET GIVEAWAY 1AM

SAT SEPT 28 | 11:30PM + 1AM
M&G AT 12:30 AM

AURA
MAYARI

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE S15

BODY
HEAT

SOUNDS BY:
BY DJ CHYLD

SUN SEPT 29 | DOORS AT 1PM
SHOWTIME AT 2PM

Ultra
BRUNCH

JASMINE
MASTERS

JADE
JOLIE

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DAVENPORT

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DRAG BRUNCH



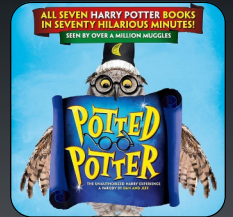
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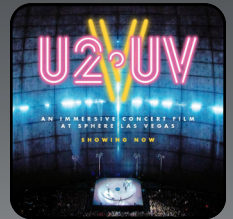
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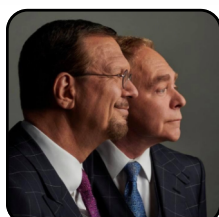
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QVegas Joins Groundbreaking Queer News Network for 2024 Election Coverage

In response to the increasing wave of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and actions across the political landscape, a groundbreaking collaboration has emerged within the LGBTQ+ media community. Eleven independent queer newsrooms from across the United States have joined forces to form the Queer News Network (QNN). This initiative will provide critical, in-depth, and nuanced coverage of the 2024 General Election through an LGBTQ+ lens, ensuring that the voices and experiences of the community are prioritized in the nation's political discourse. For QVegas, a leading LGBTQ+ publication based in Nevada, the opportunity to take part in this national project is monumental, marking a new era for both the magazine and the broader scope of LGBTQ+ media.

The Rise of Queer News Network

QNN is not just a response to the current political climate—it is a revolutionary step forward in how LGBTQ+ issues will be covered in the media. As political conversations in recent elections have often relegated LGBTQ+ topics to a footnote, QNN seeks to change the narrative. While same-sex marriage dominated headlines in previous years, today's critical issues, such as healthcare access, trans rights, child-rearing for same-sex couples, and personal expression, have been largely sidelined by major news outlets. These issues have become cornerstones of far-right campaigns, which have strategically weaponized anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment to galvanize their bases. In

contrast, QNN's mission is to center these topics and provide clear, fact-based reporting that reflects the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies.

QVegas' Role in the Coalition

QVegas has been selected as one of the three governing newsrooms of this ambitious project, alongside Q Voice News in California and LOOKOUT in Arizona. For QVegas, which has been a longstanding voice for the LGBTQ+ community in Nevada, this represents a monumental achievement. After years of promoting and printing in-depth voter guides that help local readers navigate election season, QVegas is now poised to make its mark on a national scale.

The Queer News Network will replace QVegas' Voter Guide for the 2024 election, allowing the magazine to focus its resources on a collaborative national effort that promises to reach a broader audience than ever before. This is a significant transition for QVegas, as it moves from its local roots to become a key player in a national project designed to elevate LGBTQ+ voices across the country.

Moreover, QVegas has been tapped to lead the technology efforts for QNN. As part of this responsibility, QVegas will play a crucial role in creating and maintaining the digital infrastructure for QNN's central platform. This platform will serve as a comprehensive news hub where LGBTQ+ voters can access critical information about candidates, political issues, and voter rights in the months leading up to the 2024

General Election. For QVegas, this isn't just about scaling up their operations—it's about ensuring that LGBTQ+ voters are informed and empowered as they head to the polls.

Why QNN Is Necessary

The necessity of QNN's formation stems from the increasing marginalization of LGBTQ+ voices in mainstream media. Even as LGBTQ+ rights have become more integrated into the political discourse, many of the stories and challenges faced by the community remain overlooked. Anti-LGBTQ+ bills, from those restricting access to gender-affirming care to attempts to ban discussions about gender identity and sexual orientation in schools, have proliferated in recent years, yet they rarely receive the thorough coverage they deserve in larger outlets.

"This is something that is long overdue in LGBTQ+ media, but hasn't happened because of corporate buyouts, lack of resources, or simply many of our queer newsrooms shuttering their doors," said Joseph Darius Jaafari, editor in chief and founder of LOOKOUT in Arizona. "We're excited to help spearhead this and elevate the election reporting being done by our partner newsrooms to show that queer journalism isn't just niche — it's imperative to local democracy."

This marginalization is particularly concerning when you consider the stakes of the 2024 General Election. LGBTQ+ issues will likely play a pivotal role in shaping the platforms of both parties. Many far-right candidates have embraced anti-

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ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5

GET MORE INFO AT [QVEGAS.COM/VOTE](https://qvegas.com/vote)

LGBTQ+ platforms as a cornerstone of their campaigns, which has not only emboldened harmful rhetoric but also encouraged policies that threaten the fundamental rights of queer individuals.

QNN is committed to highlighting these threats and providing in-depth analysis that puts LGBTQ+ voters at the center of the conversation. The coalition's reporters will track candidates, monitor campaign rhetoric, and investigate the real-world impacts of proposed policies. This commitment to fact-based reporting is not only crucial for the LGBTQ+ community, but also for advocates of democracy and human rights more broadly.

QNN's Structure and Partners

The Queer News Network is divided into four regional coalitions: West, Central, South, and Northeast, with each region contributing unique perspectives and coverage to the broader network.

West: Q Voice News (Los Angeles, CA), LOOKOUT (Arizona), QVegas (Las Vegas, NV), Seattle Lesbian (Seattle, WA)

Central: Illinois Eagle (Illinois), The Gayly (Oklahoma), Queerency (National)

South: Queer Kentucky (Kentucky), OUT South Florida (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

Northeast: QBurgh (Pittsburgh, PA), Buckeye Flame (Ohio)

"We are thrilled to be a part of the Queer News Network," said Phillip Zonkel, editor and co-founder of Q Voice News in California. "The mission of QNN is to center LGBTQ+ experiences in political narratives,

offering fact-based reporting that highlights the profound impact of anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments on queer lives. By raising the standard of LGBTQ+ news coverage, this ground-breaking project will empower the community with vital information and hold those in power accountable through truth and visibility."

QNN's editorial direction is guided by a strong belief that LGBTQ+ journalism is not a niche but a critical component of a functioning democracy. This ethos underpins the work of QNN, as it seeks to provide timely, accurate, and community-focused reporting in the lead-up to the 2024 election.

QNN's Student Newsroom

Another exciting aspect of QNN's mission is the involvement of student journalists. The network has partnered with the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism to create a student newsroom dedicated to election coverage. Eight students will be selected to work alongside QNN editors to monitor campaigns and track election-related events. This not only provides a valuable training ground for the next generation of LGBTQ+ journalists but also helps ensure that QNN's coverage remains fresh, innovative, and deeply connected to the community.

By involving student reporters, QNN is building a pipeline of talent that will help sustain and grow LGBTQ+ journalism for years to come. It's an opportunity for young journalists to gain hands-on experience while contributing to a critical cause. The student newsroom will operate from

October 1 to November 12, offering real-time analysis and election reporting.

Looking Ahead: The Importance of 2024

For QVegas, the opportunity to take part in QNN represents a turning point. After years of being a regional publication known for its deep ties to the Southern Nevada LGBTQ+ community, QVegas is now stepping onto the national stage. By leading the technology efforts for QNN and helping to coordinate the network's content, QVegas is playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of LGBTQ+ media.

This is not only a monumental step for QVegas but also for the entire LGBTQ+ community. The Queer News Network promises to elevate the standard of queer journalism, ensuring that LGBTQ+ issues receive the thoughtful, comprehensive coverage they deserve. As the nation heads into a critical election year, QNN will be there to provide the kind of reporting that empowers voters, holds candidates accountable, and ensures that LGBTQ+ voices are heard.

In the face of increasing political hostility, QNN offers a beacon of hope—a reminder that LGBTQ+ lives matter and that their stories deserve to be told with truth, integrity, and respect. For QVegas and its partners, this is only the beginning.

Queer News Network launches on October 1. Sign up at queernn.com to be notified when the site goes live, to ask questions, advertise, or become a sponsor.

INFORMATION FROM THE QVEGAS 2024 VOTER GUIDE WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE QUEER NEWS NETWORK WEBSITE PRIOR TO OCTOBER 19

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Jen Kober Lights Up the Stage in Mad Apple

When you think of comedy, a solo act under a spotlight may come to mind. The lone performer, a microphone in hand, facing an audience, and crafting laughter from everyday observations or hilarious life stories. It's a world comedians are comfortable with—a world of isolation, where the weight of the show rests on their shoulders alone. But for Jen Kober, that narrative is currently being rewritten as she steps into the sprawling ensemble cast of Mad Apple, Cirque du Soleil's hit show at the New York-New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. Here, amidst acrobats, jugglers, dancers, and singers, Kober finds herself part of something bigger, embracing the collaborative energy while still shining as the show's comedian.

"I love doing this kind of work," Kober says with a palpable excitement. "Theater is what I started in. It's where my passion has always been since I was a little kid. And to get to be in a production of this magnitude as a comedian is just unbelievable."

Kober's infectious enthusiasm is immediately evident. For someone used to working solo, Mad Apple presents a rare opportunity to be part of a much larger

creative tapestry. "It's very exciting," she continues. "When you're a comedian, you work by yourself; it's all you. But to be in an ensemble like this, with so many talented people creating something together, it's just incredible."

A Day in the Life of Jen Kober at Cirque du Soleil's Mad Apple

Jen Kober's role within Mad Apple is as unique as the show itself. "The premise of the show is like a variety show set on the streets of New York," she explains. "There's no one through storyline like in other Cirque du Soleil shows. You have people hanging from their hair, basketball players flipping on trampolines, jugglers, magicians, and then there's me—the comedian."

Kober's set is a blend of humor and audience interaction, a 15-minute dose of comic relief in the midst of the visual spectacle. "I have about a 15-minute set in each show, and then I also do what I like to call 'rodeo clown work' while they're setting up the Wheel of Death," she laughs. "I'm in the audience, distracting everyone so they're not paying attention to what's happening on stage."

This "rodeo clown" role highlights Kober's adaptability as a performer. It's one thing to stand on stage and tell jokes, but it's entirely different to command an audience's attention while acrobats set up for one of the most intense parts of the show. For Kober, it's all part of the fun.

"It's about 20 minutes of me in the show, and I really get to do what I do within the parameters of what the show is," she says. "I don't have to learn somebody else's words or do something I'm not comfortable doing. I'm doing my set every night, and it just falls in with everything else that's going on."

Being part of Mad Apple has also given Kober the chance to enjoy the perks of working in Las Vegas—like indulging in the city's renowned food scene. "It's so nice to know that for five weeks, I get to stay in the same place. I could cry," Kober admits. "And for that place to be Las Vegas, where I can literally eat my way through this entire town every single day, it's just incredible."

Freedom on Stage: The Comedian's Dream

One of the most appealing aspects of Kober's time at Mad Apple is the freedom she has with her material. As a comedian,



Jen is performing at Mad Apple from September 19th through October 22nd, with shows Thursday through Monday at New York-New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. For more information, visit JenKober.com or CirqueDuSoleil.com/Mad-Apple.

she's used to adjusting her sets depending on the crowd, the venue, and even the city. But at Mad Apple, she's been given complete creative freedom.

"They haven't said one word to me about what to or not to say," she marvels. "No limitations, no suggestions. They're just like, 'You're damn funny. Keep doing what you're doing.'"

It's a dream for any performer, especially in a world like Las Vegas, where anything goes. "We're in Vegas, where you can say and do literally anything you want," she adds. "I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity or a better job."

But Kober is no stranger to adjusting her content when needed. "I do all sorts of shows where they're like, 'Hey, this is a Catholic university. If you could not say these words or talk about these subjects...' And that's fine! I want to make the people who are there happy."

For Mad Apple, she's found a perfect fit. The show's setting—a gritty, no-holds-barred depiction of New York City—allows Kober to be her authentic, hilarious self. "It's the kind of show where 'F-you' is literally 'Good morning,'" she jokes. "It fits perfectly with my style."

Memorable Moments with the Mad Apple Cast

While the comedy is what Kober brings to the table, being part of an ensemble show means that she also gets to experience the awe-inspiring talents of her fellow cast members.

"I get to come up out of the floor on this rising lift," Kober shares, laughing as she recounts a mischievous moment during rehearsals. "One day, a couple of us convinced the guy who runs the lift to let

us ride it up and down with the music playing. It's the slowest rise ever, but we were giggling like little kids. It's one of those moments where you're like, 'I can't believe I'm doing this for a living.'"

The camaraderie between cast members is evident. "Everyone is so playful and fun," she says. "I can't say enough good things about the musicians, the dancers, the acrobats. There's a girl who literally hangs from her hair, and we had this whole conversation about what kind of shampoo she uses. I'm like, 'Girl, my hair breaks if I just comb it too hard!'"

Kober has also had her fair share of memorable interactions with the show's athletic performers. "The boys who do the basketball trampoline act let me try it once," she recalls. "It was a nightmare. I was not good. But it was exciting!"

Being an Out Lesbian Comedian: A Journey to Confidence

Kober is open about her identity as an out lesbian, but that wasn't always the case when she first started her career in comedy. Growing up in the South, she initially approached her identity with caution.

"My mom was very much like, 'Hey, you don't have to always talk about being gay on stage,'" Kober explains. Early on, Kober would often save her sexuality as a punchline, revealing it at the end of her set once the audience had already warmed up to her. "But now, I'm so comfortable with who I am," she says. "Being a lesbian is nothing to be ashamed of, and it's something I incorporate into my set naturally."

As Kober's career progressed, so did her confidence in embracing her identity. Now,

it's an integral part of her comedic voice. "I have lots of things to say now," she explains. "I'm married, I have a life in the LGBTQ+ community, and I travel with LGBTQ+ people all the time. It's who I am."

Navigating a Male-Dominated Industry

Comedy, like many industries, is still heavily male-dominated, and Kober has witnessed her share of gender disparity throughout her career. "I think we live in a male-dominated world," she says. "There's this sense of entitlement among men in the industry, like they're automatically better simply because they're men."

But Kober's strong personality and confidence have shielded her from some of the more blatant sexism that her female colleagues have faced. "I have a lot of masculine energy," she explains. "I don't look like someone you can take advantage of. I look like someone who, if you tried, I'd punch you in the face."

She's quick to point out that many female comedians, especially those with more traditionally feminine energy, do face greater challenges. "It bothers me when I see comedy lineups with six white guys," she says. "There are so many talented women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ comedians out there. There's no excuse for that lack of diversity."

The Unique Challenges and Joys of Las Vegas Audiences

Performing in Las Vegas comes with its own unique challenges and joys. For one, the audience is always a mixed bag. "You don't know what you're going to get," Kober explains. "Vegas isn't like other cities where you can tailor your material to a specific crowd. Here, it's all tourists, and it's the most diverse crowd you can imagine."



From elderly couples to bachelorette parties, Kober's audience is a true cross-section of humanity. "You'll have soccer moms, athletes, people of color, old people, young people—it's everything. And that's what makes it so exciting."

Jen Kober's Take on Cirque du Soleil's Inclusivity

Cirque du Soleil has long been known for its inclusivity, particularly when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community, and Kober feels that sense of openness and acceptance every day.

"I'm sure there are lots of LGBTQ+ folks in the cast and crew - though I haven't taken an official survey," she says. "What I do know is that everyone in this cast is so accepting, and it feels incredibly inclusive. It's a company where everyone is welcome, and that's what makes it so special."

Kober believes that Cirque's culture of inclusivity is rooted in its international background. "It's a Canadian company, and I think that's part of it," she says. "It's just so much more open and inclusive than what we're used to in the U.S."

Advice for Aspiring LGBTQ+ Performers

When asked what advice she would give to aspiring LGBTQ+ performers, Kober is quick to emphasize one thing: practice.

"Comedy is a muscle," she says. "You have to work it out. Get on stage, no matter how big or small the crowd is, and make them laugh. That's the job. The more you do it, the better you'll get."

Kober stresses the importance of honing your craft in front of any audience you can find, whether it's a comedy club, an open mic, or even an unexpected venue like a singer-songwriter showcase.

"You have to get out there and do the work," she says. "That's how you make your mark."

Looking Ahead: What's Next for Jen Kober?

Kober's residency with Mad Apple runs from September 19th to October 22nd, and after that, she has plenty of exciting projects lined up. "I'm taping a new hour in February, and I'm going to Antarctica with a boat full of gays," she laughs. "It's going to be a wild adventure."

For now, though, she's focused on soaking in every moment of her time at Mad Apple and enjoying the magic of Las Vegas. "This is the part of my year I look forward to the most," she says. "I get to be in one place, perform two shows a night, and do what I love."

As for her final words to QVegas readers? "Come see Mad Apple. It's spectacular, it's fun, and I promise you'll have the best time."

JEN KOBER
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LAS VEGAS PRIME TIMERS

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LEGACY COUNSELING

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AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)

aidshealth.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER

hplvlv.com

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sinsitysisters.org



STI Testing

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

thecenterlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)

aidshealth.org

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC

huntridgefamilyclinic.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT

southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

UMC

umcsn.com

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



40th Anniversary!

Tickets On Sale NOW!

SPEAKERS ° FOOD ° RAFFLE ° FUN

October 20th. 2pm to 5pm Ticket price is \$40.
Proceeds will go toward replenishing AT's prudent reserve.
Starts at the Balkan Restaurant 2pm
Speaker Meeting at Alcoholics Together's Clubhouse 4pm



2PM @ Balkan
888 S Sahara Ave, Las Vegas NV 89104

Alcoholics Together has been serving the
Las Vegas Community since 1984. The first and longest
running LGBTQ+ meeting in Las Vegas

info@alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com 900 Liberace Ave, Suite A-202, Las Vegas NV 89109
AA Group#154208 alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire INC
COUNCIL OF MONARCHS present:

THE HISTORY OF THE COURT SHOW

and Candidate Announcements

SATURDAY 9-28-24
2 - 5 PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, RAFFLES, JELLO SHOTS,
MEMORIES FROM PREVIOUS REIGNS!

With your Hosts
Empress 25 Fanny D Back
Empress Elect 26 Veronica Fierce

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2024

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NOVEMBER 1, 2024


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Q VEGAS BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

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PARTY WITH Piranha NIGHTCLUB

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MESS

TUESDAYS

PARRANDA
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WEDNESDAYS

Replay
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THURSDAYS

PLAYHOUSE

FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS

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