

AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978

OCTOBER
8-14, 2025

VEGAS

WELCOME
TO Fabulous
LAS VEGAS
NEVADA



NCOD BLOCK
PARTY RETURNS
TO HISTORIC
FRUIT LOOP

PRIDE WEEK IN LAS VEGAS

PLANE JANE, LUXX NOIR LONDON,
BROOKE LYNN HYTES & WILLAM
HEADLINE AT GIPSY & PIRANHA



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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NCOD Block Party Returns to the Historic Fruit Loop with Runway-Sized Energy, Starry Drag Headliners, and a Citywide Pride Weekend That Turns Paradise Road Into Las Vegas' Queer Main Street

This week's QVegas is your all-in guide to Pride Week in Las Vegas—anchored by the return of the National Coming Out Day Block Party to the newly designated historic Fruit Loop and a star-driven weekend across Gipsy and Piranha. The issue sets the scene for October 10 & 11 with the neighborhood's landmark status front and center, celebrating the spaces that have long held the city's LGBTQ+ nightlife, chosen-family rituals, and culture.

At street level, Saturday's NCOD Block Party (Oct. 11) is the heartbeat. Expect the Fruit Loop to glow from curb to canopy as locals and visitors pack in for performances, DJ sets, and a community-wide kiki that turns Paradise Road into one big runway. QVegas ties that celebration to a bigger civic narrative: recognition of the Fruit Loop isn't just symbolic; it affirms the district's role as a home base for generations of artists, activists, and night workers—and the perfect stage for a citywide pride reset.

Headliners keep the voltage high all weekend. Four drag powerhouses—Plane Jane, Luxx Noir London, Brooke Lynn Hytes, and Willam—split atoms at Gipsy and Piranha, bringing precision fashion, ballet-trained showmanship, music-video gloss, and delicious chaos to back-to-back showcases. The feature profiles make it clear: this isn't just a marquee; it's a mash-up of distinct styles that turns two venues into one shared dance-floor fever dream.

QVegas also spotlights a homecoming moment: Mikalah Gordon premieres her new pop-soul anthem "Good Girl" at the NCOD Block Party. The cover story traces her arc from 16-year-old American Idol standout to Vegas multi-hyphenate—morning co-host on 98.5 KLUC, band residency at Fontainebleau—and frames "Good Girl" as a love letter to her younger self and to the city that taught her to "live out loud." Expect a sing-along chorus built for the street, a queer-made video aesthetic, and a performance that folds grief, grit, and glitter into one cathartic shout.

Beyond the block, the issue curates Pride-weekend extras: a quick-hit nightlife guide to the Fruit Loop and a reminder to sneak in a free, 24/7 dose of spectacle at Bellagio's Conservatory fall display if you're playing tour guide between parties. Taken together, this edition reads like a map and a mood board—where to be, who to cheer, and why this neighborhood matters—so you can land in Vegas, grab your crew, and step straight into the light.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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

LIBRA

OCTOBER 2025

Hello, darlings! Gather 'round and let me tell you a little tale in my fabulous flair! Imagine a world where your inner sparkle ignites every room you sashay into. Gorgeous gowns and dazzling jewels—your armor. Laughter and love, your weapons of choice. Honey, you're not just living life; you're owning it, with every fierce strut and playful wink. So go ahead, embrace your fabulous self, and remember, the world is your stage, baby!



SAT OCT 11

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P R E S E N T S

Pride
ON PARADISE



NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY **BLOCK PARTY**



5 PM

5:00 PM | **GIPSY PRE-SHOW** with MIKALAH GORDON & ESTEVAN VELASCO

6:00 PM | **ESTEVAN VELASCO & THE SHOW KIDS**

6:30 PM | **RUSSELL NIELSON**

7 PM

6:45 PM | **RIBBON CUTTING**

7:10 PM | **DJ MIKE SKLARZ**

7:40 PM | **LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS**

8 PM

7:55 PM | **SOPHIA KENNEDY & LEXUS CHANDELIER**

8:10 PM | **BEARONCÉ BEAR**

8:20 PM | **SUNSHINE**

8:30 PM | **DEREK DANIELS & THE ATMOSFIERCE ENTERTAINERS**

8:45 PM | **NICKY SATURN**

9 PM

9:00 PM | **PALOMA MAKARY**

9:10 PM | **THE MEN OF PIRANHA**

9:20 PM | **FANTASIA ROYALE GAGA**

9:30 PM | **ONE MAGICAL WKND/BEAR JAMBOREE TICKET GIVEAWAY**

9:45 PM | **YARA SOFIA**

10 PM

10:00 PM | **MIRAGE**

10:15 PM | **THE CAST OF PIRANHA**

10:30 PM | **ALEXIS MATEO**

10:40 PM | **WILLAM**

10:50 PM | **BROOKE LYNN HYTES**

11 PM

11:00 PM | **LUXX NOIR LONDON (DJ SET)**

**Schedule subject to change*

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Bellagio's "Autumn Majesty" Is Your Must-Do Fall Moment

If you're landing in the glitter and glow of the Strip this season, make Bellagio's Conservatory & Botanical Gardens your first must-do. It's free, open 24/7, and perfectly positioned for an easy wander the moment you drop your bags. The 2025 fall display, "Autumn Majesty: A Glamorous Harvest," runs through November 8 and it's everything Vegas does best: big, beautiful, and just the right amount of extra.

Designed by Ed Libby with Bellagio's ace Horticulture team, the Conservatory transforms into a golden dreamscape that feels like an autumn runway—think towering trees, jewel-toned botanicals, and whimsical storybook moments that flirt with fantasy. Start on the West Bed, where a 37-foot tree curls protectively around a moss-draped treehouse. Nearby, a Bacchus-inspired Colossus spills a cornucopia into a shimmering pond—an irresistible backdrop for couple selfies, friend groups, and that first "we made it!" Insta carousel.

Across the way, the North Bed turns mushrooms into couture. Poppy and mushroom topiaries—crafted from 31,000 fresh carnations—surround Queen Lilybrook, a royal orange-and-black frog presiding from her throne. LED walls pulse with color while a signature apple-cider fragrance subtly says "fall" without a pumpkin-spice shout. Love a souvenir that isn't a shot glass? Pick up the Bellagio-exclusive "Glamorous" apple cider candle at the Giardini Store.

The East Bed centers on a 23-foot pumpkin palace crowned with a shining Bellagio "B," its gilded canopy laced with stained-glass dragonflies and golden leaves. Pumpkin fountains feed a mirror-smooth pond edged in rusts and burgundies—peak autumn palette with a Vegas wink. Finally, the South Bed is cozy season incarnate: a 16-by-16-foot pumpkin house shelters a sleepy parliament of owls beside a gentle waterfall. Under graceful birch branches,

carpets of croton, coleus, heuchera, and chrysanthemums create a lush mosaic sprinkled with hundreds of gourds.

Want to dial the fantasy up a notch? The Garden Table is Bellagio's exclusive dining experience set inside a grand emerald pumpkin—yes, really. Brunch by Sadelle's (\$145/person) and dinner by MICHAEL MINA Bellagio (\$195/person) place you in the center of the Conservatory magic. Reservations required.

Good vibes extend behind the scenes, too. The Conservatory uses on-site well water and recycled resort water (not municipal potable), and the display water is reused. When the season ends, plant material is composted locally—keeping thousands of pounds out of landfills and giving the

desert's soil a boost. Glitter with a conscience.

A few fun facts to impress your travel pod: 700,000 leaves ripple through the display; the largest pumpkin tips the scale at 667 pounds; and you'll spot 10 dragonflies, 3 curious frogs, and exactly one very photogenic Colossus.

Whether you're here for a big queer night out, a power-brunch on the Strip, or a hand-in-hand stroll before hitting the Fruit Loop, the Conservatory is an effortless, inclusive way to slip into the season—no ticket, no wait, all wow. Welcome to Las Vegas. Start your fall fling under Bellagio's glass canopy, and let "Autumn Majesty" set the tone for a glamorous, golden getaway.





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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.

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.

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Yesbitch Energy:

Mikalah Gordon

Premieres "Good Girl" at NCOD Block Party



Las Vegas loves a homecoming. For Mikalah Gordon, the city isn't just where she grew up—it's the stage where she's rewriting the story of a 16-year-old who learned to take up space, sing louder, and laugh through the sting. Two decades after breaking into America's living rooms on *American Idol*, Gordon is back in full Vegas bloom: co-hosting mornings on 98.5 KLUC, fronting a band residency at Fontainebleau, and premiering "Good Girl," a pop-soul anthem that wraps grit, glamour, and hard-earned tenderness into three minutes built for a shout-along.

Gordon's launch was meteoric. At 16, she made *American Idol*'s Top 12 and roomed with Carrie Underwood. The whirlwind led to red-carpet correspondent gigs and a sitcom stint with Fran Drescher on *Living with Fran*. Fame arrived with its familiar twin: scrutiny. That spotlight—and the sometimes vicious commentary that swirled around it—shaped a young artist figuring out who she was.

In 2025, a reunion with *Idol* alums stirred old memories and new ache. En route to taping, she learned her stepmother had passed. The trip became a time capsule—joy and grief sharing the same seat. "It was the same feeling I had at 16," she reflects. "Wanting to change my life and my family's life." Those conflicting currents animate "Good Girl," a song she recorded to her teenage self, promising that everything the girl dreamed of came true—and that her older self is standing guard now.

The Sound of a Stand: Pop Soul with Hook and Swagger

"Good Girl" slides easily into the pop-soul pocket. Gordon cites Amy Winehouse and Jazmine Sullivan as touchstones, but the track feels unmistakably hers: a clear,

repeat-ready melody and a chorus that invites the crowd to become backup singers. The thesis lands in a single punchy line: Good girls go bad—and I'm good with bad. Girl, how about you? It's less rebellion than reclamation, a shrug at the labels people try to stick on women who get loud, get visible, get free.

Her favorite lyric may be the mission statement: *"You said I'm a clown—well, bitch, I'm funny. I make my money living out loud."* For an artist whose quick wit and comedic license were once weaponized against her, it's a sly grin and an iron spine. A close second nods to the city that shaped her: *"Bet on me I'm a luck lady, win or lose love 'em or hate me, I'm a Vegas baby."* It's not just a rhyme; it's a thesis on resilience in a town that rewards show-up spirit and second acts.

Body, Image, and the Frame She Chooses

Gordon has long been candid about the tug-of-war between public scrutiny and self-regard. After losing her stepmother, she lost weight—and the commentary simply shifted, from "too big" to "too small." The revelation is in the refusal: happy and healthy are the only metrics that matter. The "Good Girl" video makes that stance visual. She casts herself as a showgirl who falls in love with another femme showgirl—an image she couldn't safely put on screen at 16. Sequins, intimacy, and unapologetic presence collide. "It was important to say the things I couldn't say back then," she says. "This is my body. This is my sexuality. Love it, hate it—it's mine."

The project is intentionally queer on both sides of the camera, with creatives like Estevan Velasco and Mayven Misbehavin. infusing it with community DNA. That choice isn't just representation—it's home.

Not a Diss Track—A Boundary

Co-written with *Idol* alum Brandon Rogers, "Good Girl" is pointed without being petty. Reality TV isn't the villain; anonymity is. Gordon's critique lands on the keyboard warriors whose comments outlive their throwaway intent. "Even now, if you say something rude, it hurts," she admits. "We're not built to pretend it doesn't." The song's temperature stays warm, not caustic—firm boundaries delivered with love for the girl who bore the brunt.

Timing Is Everything: Comedy, Craft, and Relief

Before the morning radio alarm and the Fontainebleau lights, Gordon earned her timing at The Comedy Store and Laugh Factory. That sensibility threads her stagecraft and podcast, *So Funny It Hurts*, which explores how artists alchemize pain into punchlines. "Comedy is relief," she says. "It's how we make the hard stuff bearable." Music uses the same physics: breathe here, break there, tell the truth and let the audience laugh, cry, or shout the chorus back until it becomes theirs too.

Powered by Joy, Anchored by Sobriety

The schedule looks like a dare: radio at dawn, interviews by day, performance at night. The engine, though, is deceptively simple. Gratitude keeps her grounded, and nearly three years of sobriety sharpen the focus. She knows scarcity and she knows momentum; both taught her not to take any of this for granted. The rest is community fuel. Coming back to Vegas, she says, felt like being caught mid-fall by people who already knew how to hold her. QVegas readers know the script: in this town, chosen family shows up, glams up, and makes room at the table.

A Vegas Girl, Through and Through

Ask who shaped this era and Gordon points at the city itself. The late-night hangs, the boas and bullhorns, the camp and craftsmanship that go into a Las Vegas career—these are not accessories; they're the job description. "We create our own seats at the table—and then we pull up chairs for each other," she says. Her "I made it" moments add up: a key to the city after *Idol*, her face on The Palms with Lisa, billboards and segments and spotlights that remind her where she's from. The truest flex is steadier: "Vegas never lets you forget who you are."

National Coming Out Day: A Home-Field Debut

On Saturday, October 11, Gordon takes the National Coming Out Day Block Party stage in the Fruit Loop—now officially recognized as a historic LGBTQ+ landmark. It's a fitting venue for "Good Girl" to meet its people. Expect a mini-premiere moment with the video's cast and a set designed for a street-wide singalong. For Gordon, NCOD is personal; it's the date she helped launch the first national LGBTQ morning show with Channel Q. This year's performance brings her full circle: a hometown crowd, a queer creative team, and a song about standing up for the version of yourself who needed you most.

The Lightning Lives On

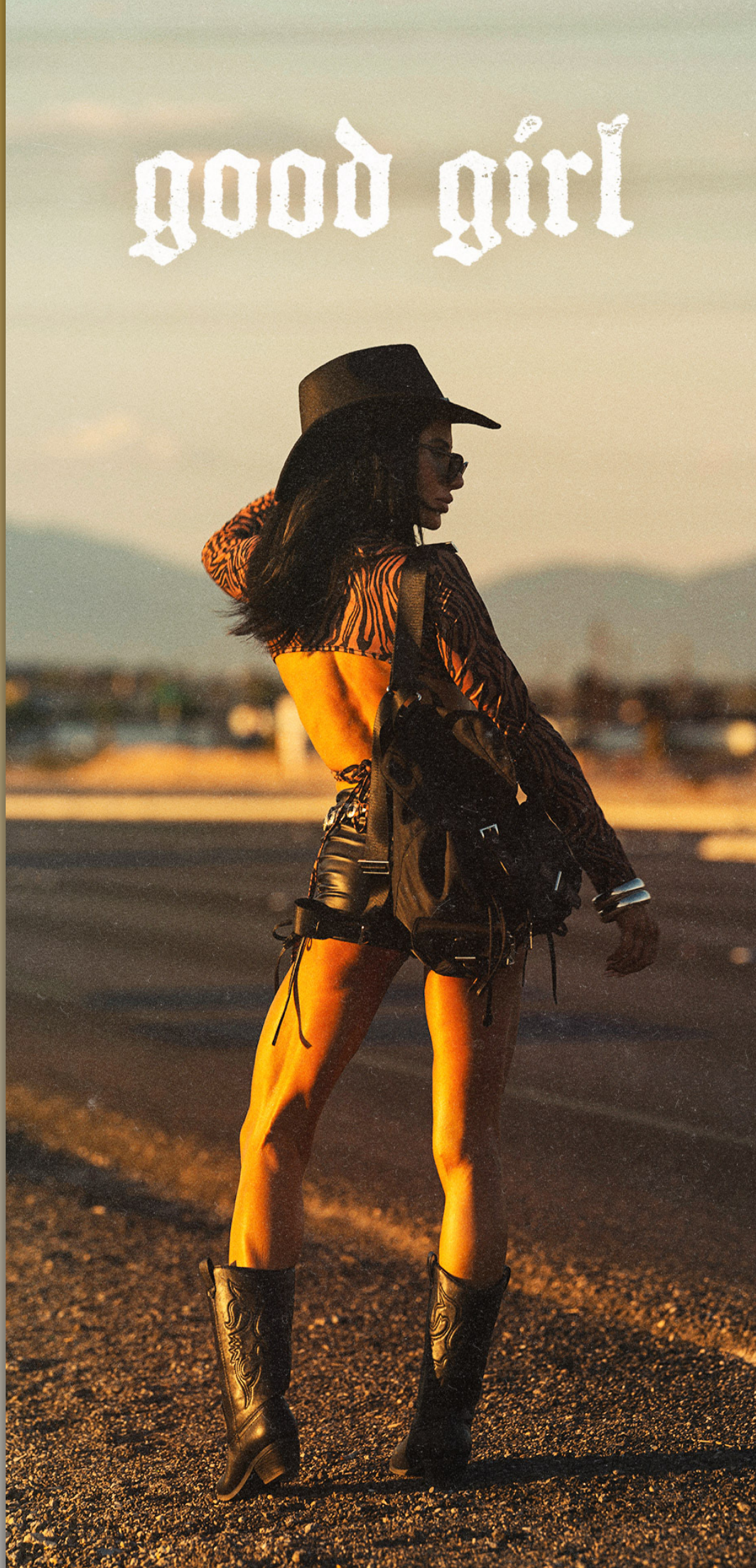
The artist who jokes about being a "leather daddy through and through" and vows never to whistle backstage (lest she spend the pre-show standing on her head and humming) still holds space for the kid who fell in love with the Spice Girls and *Funny Girl*. Ask her dream duet and she says Amy Winehouse. Ask the song she wishes she wrote and she'll pick "Landslide." Ask for the one word she has for the Fruit Loop crowd on October 11 and she tries to compress a life's worth of gratitude into a single syllable—before choosing the word that has followed her from punchline to mantra: "Bitch." As in, yesbitch: one word, no spaces, all velocity.

The "Good Girl" Thesis

In the end, "Good Girl" is less a heel turn than a hand up—extended backward across time to a 16-year-old in glitter who learned too early that visibility invites commentary. It's a reclamation of the same traits people tried to turn into weapons: humor, audacity, volume, shine. The song plants a flag on the Vegas strip and mirrors back what this city has always offered its own: if you're brave enough to show up, there's a place for you under these lights.

Catch Mikalah Gordon on your morning drive at 98.5 KLUC, onstage with her band at Fontainebleau, and center-street for National Coming Out Day on October 11. Bring your friends, your rhinestones, and your outside voice. This chorus was written for you.

good girl





Four Queens, One Electric Weekend: Plane Jane, Luxx Noir London, Brooke Lynn Hytes & Willam Headline NCOD & Pride Weekend in Las Vegas

The Fruit Loop is getting a megadose of star power as four of drag's most talked-about names—Plane Jane, Luxx Noir London, Brooke Lynn Hytes, and Willam—touch down for a high-glam, high-camp takeover at Gipsy & Piranha. Expect a runway's worth of looks, wit sharp enough to slice a sequin, and the kind of crowd energy that turns a Saturday into a saga. This isn't just a booking; it's a collision of four very different drag supernovae in one glorious, glitter-heavy orbit.

The night opens like a curtain rip: lights up, bass low, and a sea of fans pressed in for those first glimpses of the headliners. Gipsy's LED glow meets Piranha's neon pulse as dancers warm the floor, bartenders lift spirits, and the room thickens with phone flashes, perfume, and anticipation. When the queens arrive, it's pure choreography—an avalanche of glam entrances, surprise splits, and precision reveals that send the crowd into a frenzy. Between numbers, the banter is spicy and affectionate, turning strangers into fast friends and the whole venue into a communal kiki.

Plane Jane

Sharp, stylish, and unapologetically shrewd, Plane Jane soared into the spotlight on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 16, instantly recognizable for her razor-edged humor and catwalk confidence. A Boston-bred performer with a keen fashion eye, she toggles between Bratz-doll cheekbones and editorial villainess in a snap, landing punchlines as cleanly as her lip-syncs. Onstage, she's a master of precision: every hair toss is counted, every smirk is loaded. When the beat drops at

Gipsy & Piranha, expect meticulously plotted reveals, immaculate silhouettes, and crowd work that leans delightfully chaotic—in the best, most quotable way.

Luxx Noir London

If charisma had a Pantone, it would be Luxx Noir London. A breakout force from Drag Race Season 15, Luxx built a fanbase with runway-ready design chops, pop-princess polish, and a pop-star ego that's more performance art than personality trait. She's the It-girl who can back it up: clean vocals, imaginative fashion, and dance breaks that live rent-free in your camera roll. At Piranha, Luxx pivots seamlessly from glossy R&B slow burns to choreo-tight bops, turning the stage into a music-video set where every frame is a screen grab. She's dramatic in the details—lace fronts laid, nails lethal, references on point.

Brooke Lynn Hytes

Ballet-trained and diamond-cut, Brooke Lynn Hytes is drag royalty. After dazzling as the runner-up on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 11, she ascended to global fame as the host and head judge of Canada's Drag Race, setting the standard for poise, polish, and pointed critiques. She's elegance with backbone: long lines, razor turns, and costumes that whisper "couture" even from the back row. At Gipsy, Brooke Lynn serves a masterclass in stagecraft—jetés that make you gasp, garment flow that tells a story, and a cool-as-champagne presence that anchors the night. She's the ballerina who can also cut up, delivering classic showgirl glamour with a fresh, contemporary snap.

Willam

If drag had a patron saint of chaos, it would

be Willam. The TV-and-film-savvy bombshell from Drag Race Season 4 parlayed a headline-making run on the show into a multimedia career: chart-mischief singles, viral parodies, acting roles, and a podcasting empire. Onstage, Willam is a live wire—equal parts hot girl, hot mic, and hot take. Expect the unexpected: savage crowd reads delivered with a movie-star smile, pop bops punctuated by stunt comedy, and costumes that toe the line between Hollywood and Hollywood Boulevard. She's the queen who signs your merch, roasts your boyfriend, and still hits her mark.

The Shows

Together, these four create a kaleidoscope of drag: Plane Jane's bite, Luxx's gloss, Brooke Lynn's grace, and Willam's irreverence. The setlist breezes from fashion-house beats to nostalgic earworms; one minute the room is a runway, the next it's a dance floor revival. House DJs stitch the seams with slick transitions, while spotlights carve out dramatic tableaux and confetti cannons do what they do best. Between solo turns, the queens volley off each other—friendly shade, quick tags, and the kind of improvisation that only happens when the chemistry is real.

By the final number, the crowd is a choir, the phones are held high, and the queens circle for a victory lap—four distinct signatures, one shared signature: showmanship. It's a reminder of why the Fruit Loop matters—because here, art meets nightlife, talent meets opportunity, and the spotlight belongs to anyone bold enough to step into it.

A Tale of Two Directions

U.S. agencies race to limit protections at home while international courts and ministries widen the circle of LGBTQ+ belonging.



In late September, the administration escalated its campaign to narrow transgender students' rights under Title IX. On September 19, government lawyers urged the U.S. Supreme Court to prevent transgender Americans from choosing the sex marker on their passports, pressing the justices to block self-designation policies that had allowed "X" or gender-affirming changes under prior guidance. The filing signaled a broader federal push to roll back recognition of gender identity across agencies.

Days later, the administration targeted schools. On October 1, the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services notified Minnesota officials that allowing transgender girls to play on girls' teams and access girls' facilities violates Title IX. The notice threatened federal enforcement and potential loss of funding unless the state reverses inclusive policies—an aggressive interpretation that conflicts with recent federal court rulings protecting transgender students from sex-based discrimination.

Abroad, the administration moved to export these priorities. On October 2, Reuters reported plans to prohibit U.S. funding for foreign organizations and governments that support "gender identity" or broader diversity initiatives, expanding earlier restrictions on global health aid. Such a policy would reach beyond abortion-related conditions and penalize LGBTQ-inclusive programming in international development, public health, and humanitarian work.

These steps arrive atop a year-long project to redefine "sex" in federal policy as strictly biological—a move set in motion by the January 20 executive order "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism," which directs agencies to scrub gender-identity references from rules and programs. Even when the month's actions

don't cite that order by name, they echo its core directive and provide the enforcement teeth it contemplated.

The legal environment the administration is shaping also intersects with the Supreme Court's new term. As the justices convene, they've queued multiple "culture war" cases, including challenges to state transgender sports bans and a free-speech attack on conversion-therapy restrictions. While not White House actions per se, the docket reflects and could amplify the federal narrowing of LGBTQ protections by encouraging states to press further.

Against that U.S. backdrop, several international developments over the same period illustrate a different trajectory—some positive, some cautionary. In Japan, a Sapporo court ruled on September 19 that requiring transgender people to alter genital appearance to change legal gender is unconstitutional, adding momentum to a string of Japanese decisions nudging the country toward modern legal recognition. Human Rights Watch called it a key step in dismantling invasive requirements that violate privacy and bodily autonomy.

Japan's trend line continued into October: reporting this week highlighted administrative moves to extend nine spousal-rights laws to same-sex couples, part of a broader, incremental recognition strategy while full marriage equality remains before the courts and legislature. While not a finish line, it's a tangible expansion of everyday legal protections—precisely the sort of nuts-and-bolts rights (inheritance, hospital visitation, benefits) that shape LGBTQ people's lives.

Elsewhere, the picture is mixed but still instructive. The European Union's asylum agency published updated jurisprudence in early September underscoring protection for LGBTQ asylum-seekers as "members of a particular social group," reinforcing that persecution on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity can

and should ground international protection. That baseline matters as restrictions harden in parts of Europe and beyond.

At the very same time, Slovakia moved the other way—amending its constitution on October 1 to recognize only two sexes and curtail adoption and gender recognition—an important reminder that rights gains are neither linear nor guaranteed. Still, it's notable that rights-limiting efforts in Europe often face immediate, robust civil-society and EU-law headwinds, in contrast with the U.S. federal government's current centralized campaign to erase gender identity from policy.

Taken together, the last month in the United States shows a clear administrative pattern: use federal levers to (1) recast "sex" narrowly, (2) threaten education funding to enforce that view in schools and sports, (3) ask the Supreme Court to lock in limits on identity documents, and (4) extend the approach to foreign aid by punishing LGBTQ-inclusive work abroad. The international news offers a counter-narrative: courts and ministries taking incremental, practical steps to expand recognition and dignity—Japan's courts and agencies most notably—while civil society and supranational norms push back where governments attempt retrenchment.

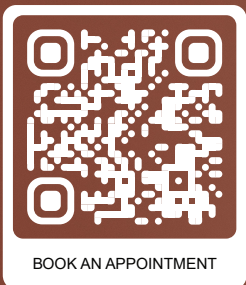
For LGBTQ+ Americans, the policy stakes are immediate: school access, sports participation, identity documents, healthcare programs, and global advocacy dollars are all on the table. For readers scanning the world beyond U.S. borders, the month's headlines show that even modest legal wins—narrow court rulings, regulatory tweaks—can accumulate into meaningful improvements in daily life. That contrast may prove the defining story of this season: a federal government narrowing definitions at home while courts and ministries abroad, unevenly but persistently, widen the circle of legal belonging.

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OCTOBER
31 Days. 31 Icons.



Icons featured here, left to right:

Top: Sarah McBride, T. J. Osborne, Ellsworth Kelly, Ocean Vuong.

Middle: Breanna Stewart, Nikki Giovanni, Jeffrey Gibson, Colman Domingo.

Bottom: Billie Eilish, Andy Cohen, Karl Lagerfeld, Chappell Roan.



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Legacy in Motion: 2025 LGBTQ+ Icons Linking Past, Present, and What's Next

From canonical composers to boundary-breaking newcomers, their collective story is a living archive—and a blueprint for the future.

The year's culture-makers are headlined by artists whose work moved global audiences and redefined genres. Billie Eilish, a record-shattering singer-songwriter and two-time Oscar winner, publicly embraced her queer identity as her latest album deepened those themes—an evolution as noteworthy as her stack of Grammys and Guinness records. Chappell Roan's ascent from YouTube discovery to Grammy-winning, openly lesbian pop star brought drag-informed camp, gender-playful fashion, and a fan-forward touring ethos into the mainstream—proof that queer sensibility is a cultural engine, not a niche. Country music, long perceived as inhospitable to out performers, is represented by T.J. Osborne, the lead vocalist of Brothers Osborne, who came out in 2021 and went on to win a Grammy for “Younger Me.” His visibility—and the duo's awards haul—signals durable change inside a traditionally conservative lane. Television's boundary-crossers are here, too: Andy Cohen, the Emmy- and Peabody-recognized producer and late-night host whose decades of television and radio have shaped pop culture's conversation, from “Watch What Happens Live” to “Real Housewives” reunions.

Visual art and design are richly represented. Ellsworth Kelly's hard-edged abstraction helped define Color Field and Minimalist painting; his career stretched from postwar Paris through New York's Coenties Slip to international acclaim and institutional honors. His life with partner Jack Shear underscores how queer lives animated 20th-century art history. Jeffrey Gibson—of Cherokee and Choctaw descent—fuses Indigenous craft and queer iconography into beaded punching bags, rawhide paintings, and text-laden sculptures, reframing American art through an intersectional lens. Fashion's global stage appears via Karl Lagerfeld, whose visionary tenures at Fendi and Chanel, along with prolific photography and headline-making runway spectacles, made him one of modern fashion's most famous auteurs.

The performing arts also celebrate satire and subversion. Choreographer Peter Anastos co-founded Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, importing camp wit into classical ballet with virtuosic parody that still tours globally 50 years on. The drag tradition's long frontline is represented by Sir Lady Java, a pioneering transgender entertainer whose 1960s fight against Los Angeles's “Rule 9” helped

topple cross-dressing bans and prefigured later trans rights battles.

History and music reach back a century to honor composers whose lives and loves shaped the canon. Samuel Barber—twice a Pulitzer winner and longtime partner of composer Gian Carlo Menotti—authored the elegiac “Adagio for Strings,” a piece woven into the nation's collective memory from FDR's death to film scores. Walter Arlen, a Holocaust survivor and critic-composer, saw his music finally performed and honored in the 21st century—an act of cultural restitution and remembrance.

Politics and public service are front and center. Sarah McBride broke a barrier as the first transgender member of Congress, a rights advocate whose very presence rewrites the possibilities of representation in American government. Becca Balint, the first woman and first openly LGBTQ+ person to represent Vermont in Congress, pairs a teacher's biography with a progressive record on voting rights, gun safety, and LGBTQ+ equality. Diplomacy gets its due through Ted Osius, among the first openly gay U.S. ambassadors; his tenure in Vietnam advanced defense, trade, and educational ties and earned the nation's Order of Friendship—an exemplar of how queer visibility strengthens statecraft.

Institutions and ideas matter, and several honorees built them. Ann Philbin transformed the Hammer Museum from a mid-size Los Angeles gallery into an internationally noted center for contemporary art, quadrupling its budget, dramatically expanding its footprint, and elevating the city's cultural standing. Historian John D'Emilio's scholarship—especially “Intimate Matters,” cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas*—helped build LGBTQ history as a field and gave legal culture the vocabulary to dismantle sodomy laws.

Journalism and media advocacy also thread through this year's cohort. Troy Masters, a pioneering publisher behind *Gay City News* and the *Los Angeles Blade*, spent decades documenting the community and, during the 2022 mpox outbreak, leveraged his platform to aid equitable vaccine access. Cohen's memoirs and nightly dialogues with pop culture, likewise, model an out voice at the center of mass media—an everyday normalization that quietly shifts the frame for millions.

Philanthropy and movement leadership power the infrastructure that makes all this

possible. Mel Heifetz's seven decades of giving—endowing funds, paying off community-center mortgages, and bankrolling national campaigns—illustrate how strategic generosity sustains institutions and creates housing for LGBTQ youth. The movement's backbone is also visible in ABilly S. Jones-Hennin, a founder of the first national Black LGBTQ+ advocacy organization and a longtime HIV/AIDS educator who connected racial justice, health equity, and queer liberation across five decades.

Community health, survival, and dignity appear in the lives of activists who fought the hardest fights. Cecilia Gentili's journey—from abuse and incarceration to leadership roles at community health organizations, policy work at GMHC, a memoir, and an Off-Broadway play—made her one of the clearest voices for trans women, sex workers, undocumented immigrants, and people in recovery. Her 2024 death was felt across the movement she helped build.

Finally, there's a powerful through-line of Indigenous presence and perspective. Lily Gladstone's historic awards run for “Killers of the Flower Moon,” her “she/they” pronouns, and her articulation of gender beyond English binaries place Indigenous knowledge at the center of Hollywood's evolving narrative. Jeffrey Gibson's practice makes the case in objects: beadwork, drum-making, rawhide painting, and text that reweave American art from a queer, Native vantage.

Taken together, this roster breaks down into a few big themes. Visibility is not just symbolic—it's operational. From McBride's seat in Congress to Osius's embassy in Hanoi, representation expands what government can look like and who it serves. Cultural leadership isn't confined to galleries or airwaves; it lives in the logistics of a museum expansion, the cadence of a country hit, the punchline of a ballet parody, or the editorial choices of a local paper that puts vaccines where they're most needed. And the archive keeps expanding: from Barber's canonical scores to Eilish's generational pop, from Sir Lady Java's picket line to Gentili's stage, the story of LGBTQ life is cumulative—each icon handing tools, language, and courage to the next.

In this way, 2025's icons do more than mark history—they show how it's made: by insisting on complexity, building institutions that last, and reinvesting hard-won cultural space back into community. That living legacy is exactly what LGBTQ+ History Month exists to surface and celebrate.

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Serving the LGBTQ Community of Nevada



LGBTQ+ Resources

THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
thecenterlv.org

ACLU
aclunv.org

ADL
lasvegas.adl.org

ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER
alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

BEARS LAS VEGAS
bearslv.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)
thelucofvlv.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

Wellness Resources

THE GAVIN J. GOORJIAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AFFINIDERM
affiniderm.com

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccofsn.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

PARCS DENTISTRY
parcsdentistry.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

UMC
umcsn.com

STI/HIV/AIDS Resources

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

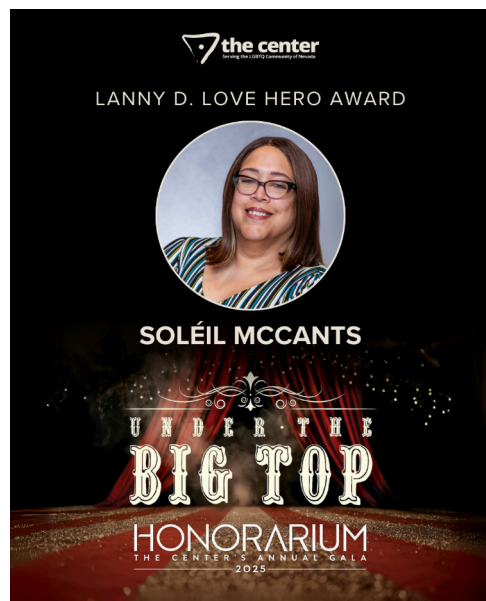
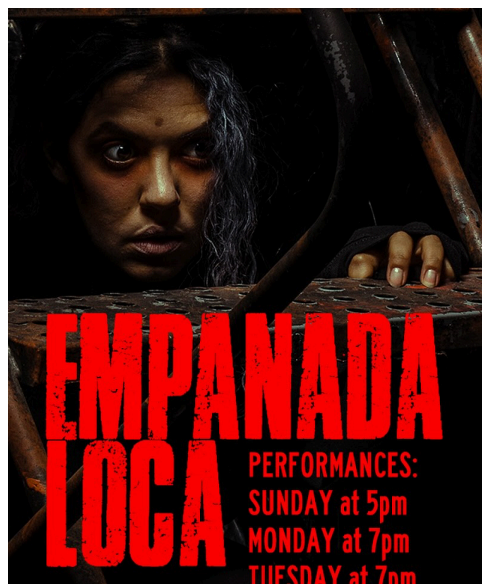
AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)
afanlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
cancommunityhealth.org/las-vegas

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

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





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2025

10.25.25



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INN + LOUNGE + BAR

ARTS
DISTRICT

Winchester

SAT OCT 11



BROOKE LYNN HYTES | WILLAM | DUSTY | LUXX NOIR LONDON | MIRAGE | YARA SOFIA
ALEXIS MATEO | FANTASIA ROYALE GAGA | PALOMA MAKARY | BEARONCE BEAR
ESTEVAN VELASCO & THE SHOW KIDS | ASIA KING ADLOUR | LACHERRY WILD | SAGE O'HARA ANDREWS
ROMAN TAJOURE | QUEEN BEE | PRINCESS PROZAC | DEMI 007 | SCARLETT BUSINESS | DJ MIKE SKLARZ
LAS VEGAS PRIDE CHORUS: QUEEN BEE & THE PRINCESS PROZAC | SHARON | TONYA | ANTHONY | LARRY | CHAMBERLAIN | RICHARD | WILSON | MICKEY | SARKIS
HOSTED BY THE CAST OF PIRANHA | THE SHOW WITH MIKALAH GORDON & ESTEVAN VELASCO 11M OFFER

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The Fruit Loop

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GIPSY NIGHTCLUB

4605 Paradise Rd

PIRANHA NIGHTCLUB

4633 Paradise Rd

QUADZ

4640 Paradise Rd

BADLANDS

BENT INN

1108 E Ogden Ave

DUST

855 E Twain Ave, Unit 114

THE EAGLE

3430 E Tropicana Ave Unit 47

FLEX COCKTAIL LOUNGE

501 E Twain Ave

FUN HOG RANCH

THE GARAGE

1487 E Flamingo Rd

HAMBURGER MARY'S

1700 E Flamingo Rd

THE PHOENIX

4213 W Sahara Ave



LAS VEGAS NCOD & PRIDE WEEKEND

Piranha
NIGHTCLUB
AND
GIPSY

**FRIDAY
OCT 10**

WELCOME

**Pride on
PARADISE**



WITH
**PLANE JANE LUXX NOIR LONDON
MIRAGE ALEXIS MATEO
& PALOMA MAKARY
HOSTED BY SHANNEL**

Piranha
NIGHTCLUB
AND
GIPSY

**SATURDAY
OCT 11**

WELCOME

**Pride on
PARADISE**



WITH
**BROOKE LYNN HYTES WILLAM
MIRAGE ALEXIS MATEO
FANTASIA ROYALE GAGA
PALOMA MAKARY
+ THE CAST OF PIRANHA**

SAT OCT 11

GIPSY + Piranha
NIGHTCLUB
PRESENTS

Pride
ON PARADISE

**NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
BLOCK PARTY**



**THE HISTORIC
LGBTQ+ LANDMARK
FRUIT
LOOP
Las Vegas**

**STARTING
AT 6 PM
21+**

**BROOKE LYNN HYTES | WILLAM | DJ SET BY LUXX NOIR LONDON | MIRAGE | YARA SOFIA
ALEXIS MATEO | FANTASIA ROYALE GAGA | PALOMA MAKARY | BEARONCÉ BEAR**

**ESTEVAN VELASCO & THE SHOW KIDS | ASIA KING ADOUR | LACHERRY WILD | SAGE O'HARA ANDREWS
ROMAN TAJORE | QUEEN BEE | PRINCESS PROZAC | DEMI 007 | SCARLETT BUSINESS | DJ MIKE SKLARZ**

LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS | DEREK DANIELS & THE ATMOSFIERCE ENTERTAINERS | SUNSHINE | SOPHIA KENNEDY | LEXUS CHANDELIER | RUSSELL NIELSON | NICKY SATURN

HOSTED BY THE CAST OF PIRANHA | PRE-SHOW WITH MIKALAH GORDON & ESTEVAN VELASCO 5 PM GIPSY