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JOSH'S WORLD**

**AVATARS: DATING IN THE TECH ERA
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INSIDE

A photograph of two men in a kitchen setting. The man on the left is wearing a light blue dress shirt and a patterned tie, and is leaning in to kiss the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a red V-neck sweater over a collared shirt, glasses, and is holding a blue and white cup. He is also holding a small piece of food in his other hand. In the background, there are stainless steel pots on a counter.

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A man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark suit, a dark shirt, and a red and black striped tie, looking directly at the camera.

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About the Cover

We would like to thank Rumor Boutique Hotel for the the use of their amazing property for the cover shoot. If you have not been, Rumor is a Must Visit in Las Vegas! We would like to send out a big Thank You to everyone who provided their professional assistance, Rain Cosmetics, DJ JBray, and Peter Jobson. A very special "Thank You" to Marc Garcia for his professionalism and amazing creative eye, you're the Best!



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a note from our EDITOR IN CHIEF

SEXY! Wow, our readers really came through with this year's picks for Sexiest of Las Vegas. Congratulations to all our Sexy recipients, it was fun watching on Facebook as some of you campaigned for votes. Of course, for a few of the categories, there were no surprises when the votes were tallied. You expect that in a small town like this. But the voting was free and fair and it soon became clear who the winners were. However you voted, many thanks to everyone who took the time to vote for their favorite sexy.

As you stroll through the February issue we hope you will find it as stunning as we do. We believe this issue will go down in history as the sexiest QVegas ever. We are excited to have Benjamin Lemke join us as our new Creative Coordinator. We hope you enjoy his brilliant and creative layouts designed just for you, our readers. February is only the start wait until Ben really gets into his stride, there is no telling what wonders he will create. Hope the judges at the Maggies are watching!

While our Federal government still will not recognize gay marriage because of the Defense of Marriage Act; We note it is legal in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Washington D.C. In Nevada, with the passage of SB283, (Domestic Partnership Bill), it is the closest thing to marriage LGBT citizens of Nevada may get at this stage. Despite these challenges, many devoted couples plan ceremonies or weddings in the month of love so we have a great feature article for just those couples planning the event of their dreams. We hope it will be an inspiration to those of you thinking of making that special commitment.

DINK (Double Income No Kids). This is the term many use to describe the gay demographic but that is changing. Yes, the idea of having and raising children for gay men and women is a growing trend. Many are seeking alternative solutions for building a family unit and with more and more options open with each passing year for those who desire being a mom or dad there is increasing hope. Learn how one couple took those steps and are now awaiting their bundle of joy.

Yes, that is Josh Strickland on the cover of Q Vegas. Gooooorgeous!!! Josh, from the popular Las Vegas Peep Show is sharing his real life experiences with us as he chats about the realty T.V. show Holly's World and what is like on and off stage in...Josh's World.

This month is a great month for fundraising and there are some incredible parties lined up for everyone to take part in. Cherry Poppin Red Dress event will be held at the World Market and yes you have to wear a red dress to attend. All the proceeds benefit Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence SADAC program. Well, you can cheat and not wear a dress if you attend the VIP party at Mundo, but don't expect to get upstairs without a dress. Sister carries a big paddle and she knows precisely how to use it (lots of practice). If you don't want to purchase a dress one can be provided in the Red Dress Barn, at the door.

Join one of the three Oscar parties happening this month all for fun and all for charity. First there is the Awards Night Gayla at Unitarian Universalist Congregation sponsored by Desert Empire, Wes Miller and Unitarian Church. Next we have the HRC / QVegas Oscar Party, A Salute to Hollywood Glamour, benefiting HRC at The Clarion. Last, but by no means least we have the 83rd Oscar Night Gala at Mercedes-Benz of Henderson benefiting Contemporary Arts Center. We encourage you to spend your 'Oscar' Sunday with friends and help raise some much needed money for our community and, by the way, have some fun. Check out our online calendar for detailed information, tickets and other community events happening this month at QVegas.com.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

thanks for reading!

 Kelly McFarlane Smith

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in QVegas or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? We want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to Editor@QVegas.com. Letters to the Editor may be printed in a future issue if signed and may be edited for clarity or length.



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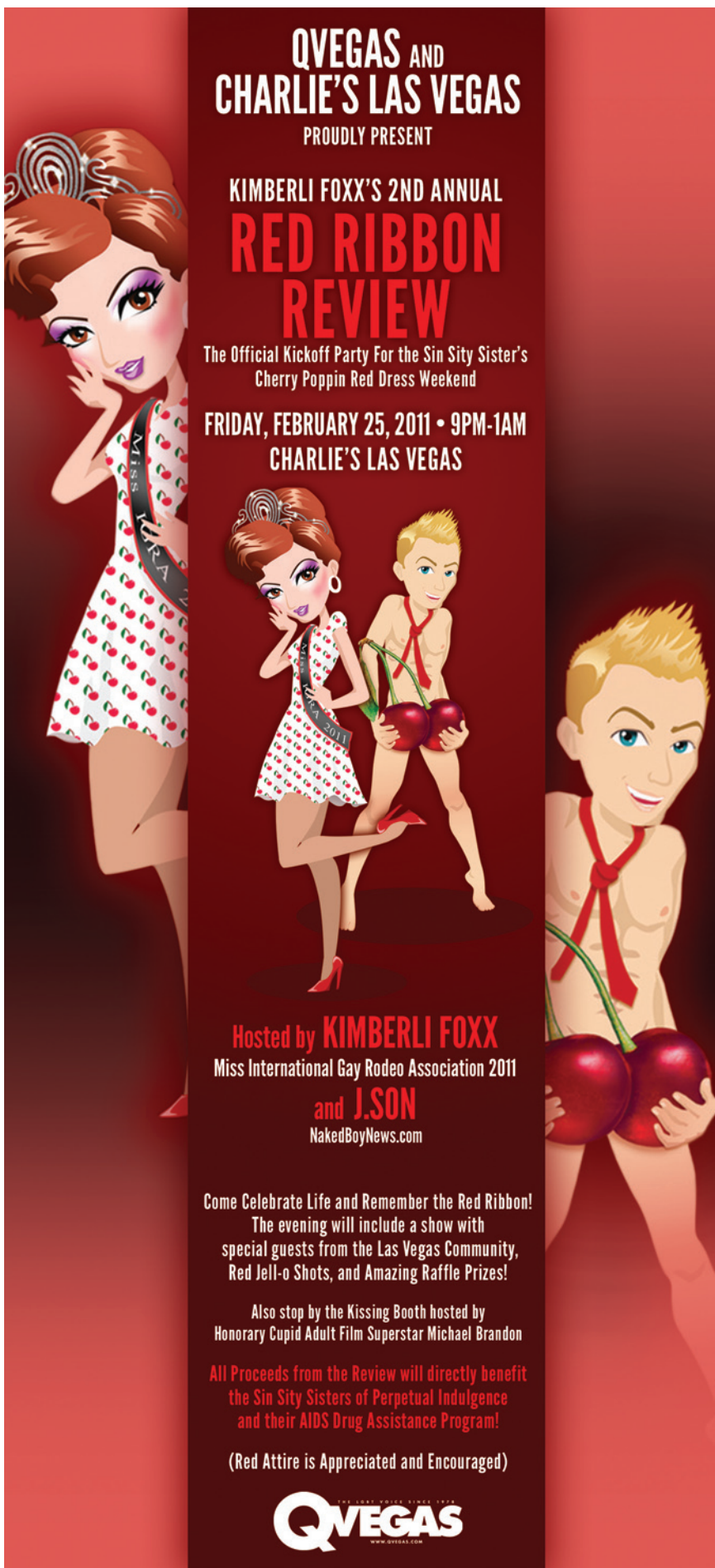
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NON-PROFIT NEWS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS

VALENTINE'S SHOW & BBQ DINNER

Transwoman vocalist and entertainer Lady Jazmyne will host a pre Valentine's Day show and BBQ dinner at Shifty's Cocktail Lounge on February 13, 2011. The event will feature an entertaining show of music and cabaret with a BBQ dinner provided Good BBQ Catering Company. The event is a fundraiser and a suggested \$10.00 donation per person will be asked for at the door. For every \$10.00 donated \$1.00 will go to the children's education dept for HIV/AIDS education. Shifty's is located at 3805 W Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV. For more information call 702-834-0034.

BRECK WALL TRIBUTE

On February 20, 2011, friends and cast mates of Breck Wall will gather in Las Vegas to pay tribute to the life and humor of noted entertainer Breck Wall. Breck was the face in front of and the mind behind the raucous, irreverent—and rather naughty—long-running *Bottoms Up*. He was not a smart businessman in every instance, and he was not constantly a perfect gentleman, but he *always* knew what was funny and how to get more laughs out of one old joke than an entire stadium of seasoned vaudevillians could possibly imagine. The tribute will take place at the South Point Hotel and Casino at 3:00pm – for more information visit www.BreckWallTribute.com.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great regret we must announce the passing of Rick Rodrigues. Rick passed away on 01/22/11 and is survived by his loving partner of 40 years Eldon Garrett. Rick, co-owner in Bare Essentials Fantasy Fashions was known most for his love of life and people. He always greeted everyone who came his way with a hug and kiss and no person ever left his presence a stranger. Rick and his life partner, Eldon made Las Vegas their home in 1993 and have been an incredible part of the community since they first arrived. In 2007 they were selected as the Las Vegas pride Grand Marshals. A quiet memorial service will be held in their home on February 12, 2011 for those wishing to send condolences please contact Bare Essentials.



I AM EQUAL PROJECT COMES TO LAS VEGAS



The I AM EQUAL photo world tour is coming to Las Vegas, Nevada thanks to the support of our host, MGM Resorts International and the Las Vegas New York – New York Hotel and Casino. Now you and your family can show your support for human rights and equality as you step up and claim your personal power with your very own I AM EQUAL photo.

Internationally acclaimed fashion photographer Matt Spencer is coming to the desert oasis of Nevada to showcase the power, passion, and commitment of our community to support the cause of peace. Some people come to support the rights of women and children; others come to celebrate their strength as a survivor of abuse. Some people use their picture to shine a light on environmental concerns or to claim their right to a pollution-free future. There are some who come in support of gay & lesbian rights; and others who are stepping up for religious freedoms. Every cause is valuable, and we celebrate them all! The shoot will take place Saturday February 19, 2011 from 11:00am to 9:00pm. For more information visit www.IamEqualProject.org



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THAT'S SO VEGAS

TIDBITS FROM THE STRIP AND BEYOND

RITA RUDNER WELCOMED TO HER NEW HOME AT THE VENETIAN IN FABULOUS STYLE

Rita Rudner was welcomed to her new home as the newest headliner at The Venetian in grandiose style January 11, 2011, complete with a red carpet arrival covered with pink rose petals. Wearing a red Valentino dress and pink and purple fur coat, Rita emerged from her limo to a delightful scene of singing gondoliers, Streetmosphere performers and cheering onlookers. Rita jumped on the bell cart with her bags in tow and was wheeled onto the red carpet and into the lobby for more surprises.

A butler waited with a glass of champagne while James Beard Award Winning Chef Luciano Pelligrini from Valentino and Executive Chefs Mark Hopper from Bouchon and Juan Pentes and Daniel Marquez from Taqueria Cañonita had delicious bites for her to taste, including pink cookies to which Rita exclaimed, "Pink is my favorite color!" A spa attendant from Canyon Ranch SpaClub was on hand to provide a hot towel for Rita to freshen up with.

"Jersey Boys" cast members Peter Saide ("Bob Gaudio") and Jeff Leibow ("Nick Massi"), as well as Kristi Holden ("Christine Daae") from "Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular," greeted Rita to welcome her into the family of world-class entertainment The Venetian offers.

"I'm so happy to be here at The Venetian. I have beautiful smelling roses, I have pink cookies, I have champagne, and it's not even 10 a.m. yet," Rita said. "What a great start to my day and a fabulous welcome to The Venetian!" Rita began her residency in the 742-seat Venetian Showroom on Saturday, Jan. 15. Show times are at 8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and 6 p.m. on Saturdays.



IMAGESOFVEGAS.COM/ISPHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST EVER LAS VEGAS PRODUCTION OF **RENT** SET FOR MARCH PERFORMANCES

The world-renowned and fan favorite Broadway musical RENT is coming to town, premiering March 9th, 2011 in the Ovation Showroom at Green Valley Ranch. Produced by RagTag Entertainment, the proceeds from the performances will be donated to the American Theater Wing's Jonathan Larson Grants and Golden Rainbow.

"We're super excited about bringing this show to Las Vegas," said Andrew Wright, RagTag's Creator and Executive Director. "We've assembled an incredibly talented cast. Each member really wanted to be part of this show at one point in his or her career. For us to have this opportunity and for the proceeds to go to two great causes so organically linked to the show's premise, is just amazing." Rag Tag Entertainment presents RENT, March 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2011 in the OVATION showroom at Green Valley Ranch. Tickets \$15 now available at all Station Casinos. For more information, visit www.RagTime.com



RETURN OF BRIAN GRIFFITHS TO DIVAS

Frank Marino the star of Divas Las Vegas will be taking a two-week break from the show. Stepping in to the lead role from February 15, 2011 thru March 1 will be Frank's long time friend and entertainer Brian Keith. Keith says "Last year, Frank pulled me out of drag retirement when he needed a replacement for himself in Divas who was old school enough to have manners, elegance, and class and who could take the reins of his show professionally. I was honored." If you have seen Divas in the past you should see it again, as Keith's style is a bit different as he ad libs every night and interacts directly with the audience. He goes on to say "While my wardrobe is varied and I do change each number, it is not near as extensive as His Majesties the QUEEN, Frank Marino's!" Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas plays at the Imperial Palace Saturday thru Thursday weekly. Call 1-866-462-5982 for tickets.



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THE CENTER PAGE

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

The Center is very happy to have been invited to be a part of an exciting new documentary called "The Road Less Travelled." The film is about a young gay poet with a broken heart as he and six other students from the School of Cinematic Arts embark on a seven-month walk (approximately 4,000 miles) across the country in hopes of cultivating an open dialogue about same-sex marriage while documenting their journey on film. They will be talking to people along the way about their own relationships, about love, sex, commitment -- and how they really feel about same-sex marriage and LGBT civil rights. This journey will lead the crew over mountains and deserts, through Las Vegas and Native American reservations in New Mexico, across the wide expanse of Texas, past the devastated Gulf of Mexico, up through the Deep South and the Adirondacks to D.C., New York and Boston -- ending where same-sex marriage was first legalized.

In a country based on equal opportunity for all, the lack of equal rights for same-sex couples and LGBT citizens remains a fundamental flaw in the American Dream. A.J. Goodrich, a third-year graduate student studying cinema-television production who developed the idea, will direct the film. He and the other students will begin walking on February first. Goodrich said traveling across the country would enable the conversation to be more inclusive, as he intends to invite people from both sides of the issue to join in as the crew walks. They will walk approximately 20-25 miles per day.

Chris Reynolds has been designated the point person for Las Vegas' portion of this project. He will be scheduling interviews, both pro and con, planning a public forum and coordinating walkers. Once the film crew leaves Las Vegas, they will be walking to Boulder City. For more information, please feel free to contact Chris at 733-9800 or Chris@theCenterlv.com.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

February 7th of every year is a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Black communities in the United States and the Diaspora. There are four specific focal points: education, testing, involvement, and treatment. *Educationally*, the focus is to educate Black communities about the basics of HIV/AIDS. *Testing* is at the core of this initiative, as it is hoped that Black people will mark February 7th of every year as their annual or bi-annual day to get tested for HIV. Testing at the Center on that Monday will take place from 1:30pm - 6pm. Free HIV and STD screening and Educational information will be available.

SAVE THE DATE

Vegas Mpowerment Project presents "Two of a Kind/Hearts of Fire," a speed dating and Valentine's Day Dance. The event will be held on Saturday, February 5th from 7-11pm and will take place at The Center. There will be lots of dancing, food, fun, and games plus a ton of ways to win prizes while learning to protect yourself. If you're single and want to meet other guys in a safe environment that isn't drug, alcohol or sex charged, then this is the place to be. Hope you can stop by and check it out. You will have lots of FUN!!!!

ABOUT THE CENTER The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, serving our LGBT population for more than 15 years, is conveniently located in Commercial Center at 953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. B-31. To learn more about The Center and its many services, visit www.thecenterlv.com, call 702-733-9800 or visit our profile at www.facebook.com/thecenterlv.

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RIQUE ROSE

Rique Rose has to be the one and only Convention Curator in the whole of Las Vegas. Try as I might, no other property has a position with that title. If you describe the job specification to an HR department they will immediately say “Oh that’s convention or event management” How wrong they are. You see Rique works for The Cosmopolitan and in this, as in so many other things, things are different at The Cosmopolitan. They don’t just sell convention space they take an active part in making your meeting as successful as it can be. No effort is spared to make the experience more memorable than just another convention.



Rique brings his talent for knowing how to please an audience into the all important commercial arena of conventionneering.

Who better than Rique to head up such an effort with his years of experience in entertainment management, performance and organization. It all started 40 years ago as the young Rique grew up in a country bar in Joplin Missouri. His parents owned the place and Rique did what he could to help. Soon he discovered he had a talent for singing and became a regular performer at the bar. After High School and a short spell at Pointe Park Ballet in Pittsburg Rick discovered that his true talent was singing, his ‘passion’, as he calls it. Nobody just hits the boards as a successful singer so Rique worked as a TV production Assistant all the time exercising his passion in singing competitions. He also earned a comfortable living from special appearances.

In 1994 Rique moved to Las Vegas after a short spell in Denver. He Worked in a bar called Country Star, which stood on the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Harmon. Those of you who are still awake will have twigged to the fact that The Cosmopolitan now stands on the very lot that Rique performed on nearly twenty years ago. Rique has performed in many venues in Las Vegas ranging from The Country Star, Keys Piano Bar, and The Opening act at ‘V’ in The Aladdin. In addition he performed with Debbie Reynolds in a Thalian Ball and was a star act on Holland America Cruise Lines. He has worked in retail at the original Forum Shops and done whatever it took to make a living while exercising his passion to sing.

Rique has been prominent in the community from the very beginning but is most often recognized for his role as The Entertainment Editor of The Las Vegas Bugle (now QVegas) and, while Entertainment Director at Alexis Park, being pivotal in helping QVegas stage the first NCOD away from the Fruit Loop.

Rique was hired as a Human Resources Recruiter and worked very hard during 2010 helping to bring together the legions of people now working at The Cosmopolitan. He would probably have moved into training and recruitment once the property opened, but his qualities were quickly identified as being perfect for the new concept the hotel had for convention management.

Rique is now bringing all his experience of the performing arts to bear in his new position with its quaint name of Curator. The image one gets with the title Curator is of an affable old man tending to his ancient specimens on a dusty shelf. What could be further from the truth as Rique brings his talent for knowing how to please an audience into the all important commercial arena of conventionneering. Rique is set to become a tour da force within the industry, with his passion for the arts and in a property already famed for its focus on excellence. All this and still he is able to do what he does best, sing like a bird’ . ■

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Community Ties

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Human Rights Campaign

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is an organization whose local chapters function almost entirely thanks to the devotion and talent of its volunteer base, from the local steering committees to the many who deploy our community, political and membership activities. As such, the Las Vegas Steering Committee is grateful to its volunteers without whom the past six years wouldn't have been possible.



We recognize the importance of volunteerism not only within our organization but out in the community as well. We are very proud to be involved with many other non-profits in Las Vegas, providing the support and experience of our volunteer base to contribute to the success of their events. We applaud our good friends at Wells Fargo and this initiative to recognize the contribution of volunteers in the community and we salute the other individuals and groups recognized alongside us on this page. ■



Doggy of the Month

Adopt me and I will warm your heart and home with my unconditional love and innocence. I am Kensington, a precious little snugglebug and cute Chihuahua mix with adorable ears, neutered male, about 2 years young. I adore people and friendly dogs.

Make me yours forever by adopting me at Nevada SPCA (www.nevadasPCA.org). I need a forever home, please. Visit NSPCA at 4800 W. Dewey Dr. or call (702) 873-SPCA. ■



Community Hero

Every little piggy indeed counts. This year, Aid for AIDS of Nevada's "Every Piggy Counts" fundraiser was a huge success and one community member went above and beyond in helping raise funds. Mike Franklin stuffed his piggy bank full of \$1,000. Over the course of the year, he attended the weekly SinCityQSocials and asked people to donate to the cause. His efforts are amazing and the community needs more people with a big heart like Franklin. ■

Quench 3rd Thursdays

Join QVegas every 3rd Thursday as we celebrate the community organizations that are dedicated to our city. Each month we honor a different organization at a different amazing venue in the city.

See you on the third Thursday of February as we celebrate HRC (venue to be announced.) For more information on Quench, visit QVegas.com. ■

Save the Date



The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence request you to save the date for the Annual Red Dress event.

This year, the event will take place Saturday, Feb. 26 at an all-new fabulous venue, the World Market Center. More details coming soon. ■

A COSMOPOLITAN AFFAIR

A LOOK INSIDE THE STRIP'S
NEWEST RESORT

The newest resort to open on the World famous Las Vegas Strip redefines sexy. From the sexy facade to the hotel rooms with breathtaking views to the phenomenal restaurants The Cosmopolitan is the locals (and visitors) reason to go to the Strip.



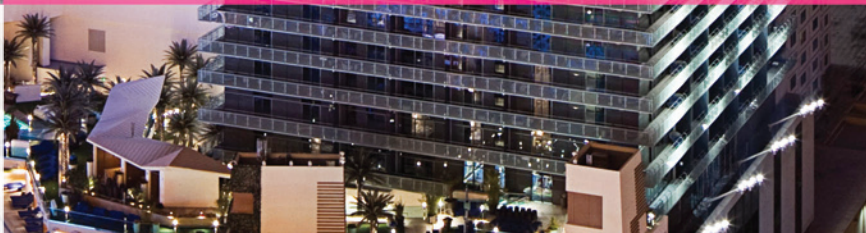
THE PARTY

The Cosmopolitan features some of the best clubs and bars in the World, with their crowning jewel being The Chandelier. This venue is a 3 story bar and lounge enclosed inside the largest chandelier in North America. The Chandelier is comprised of over 2 million crystals and no matter what angle you are looking from, the artistry of the design is breathtaking. Each level of the bar features fun and exciting unique cocktail menus, so make sure to stop at each and taste one. If you are looking for the best you must go to the center level and try what they call the fire-breathing dragon. It's just the right amount of everything to leave your taste buds wanting more.



THE ROOMS

Each room is more like a condo in a high rise building in NYC than just a simple hotel room in Las Vegas. The suites feature in room amenities such as kitchenette and soaking tubs, if you choose to you don't even have to leave the room. Add on the fact that the majority of rooms at The Cosmopolitan have balconies; the view from these rooms is unlike any other on the strip.



THE EATS

With so many one of a kind first class restaurants in one property its hard to pick just one. However you can only eat at one place at a time and China Poblano stands out among the rest at The Cosmopolitan. This is a new concept created by Chef Jose Andres and showcases his personal take on Chinese and Mexican cuisines. Don't think fusion, because it's defiantly not that, on the other hand its two separate restaurants joined at the hip. You can order tacos with a side of noodles while sipping on a margarita. There is something about these two styles of foods that simply go together and China Poblano has perfected their tastes.

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas 3708 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, NV 89109
For reservations call: 1-877-551-7772

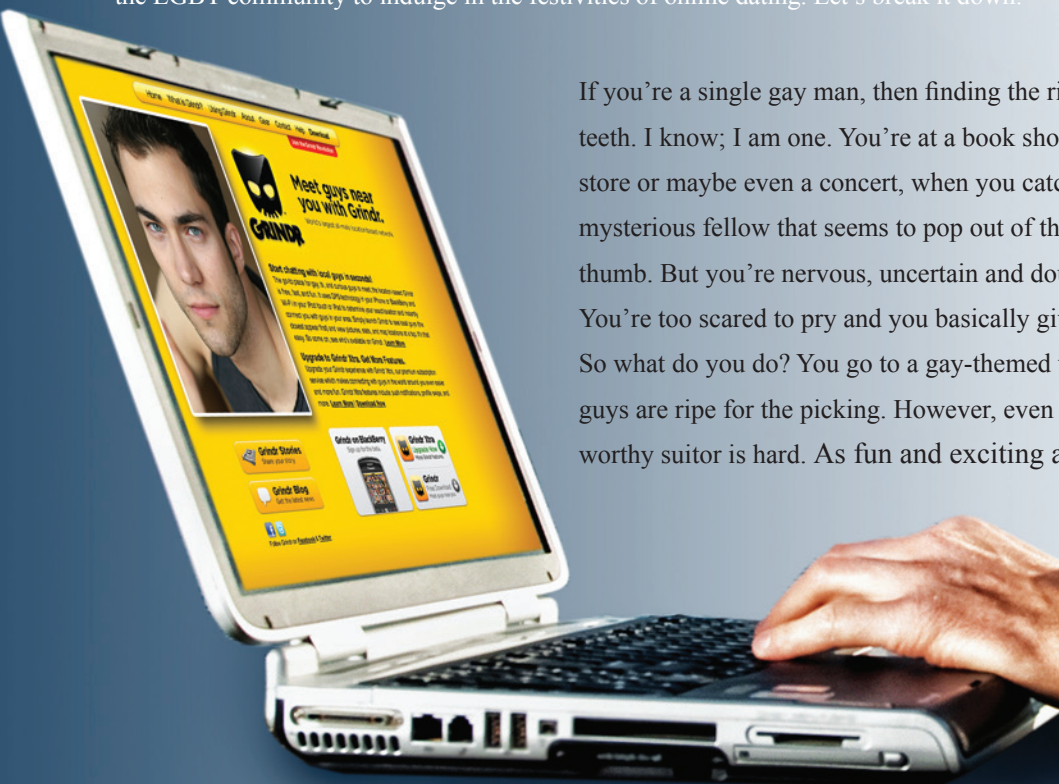
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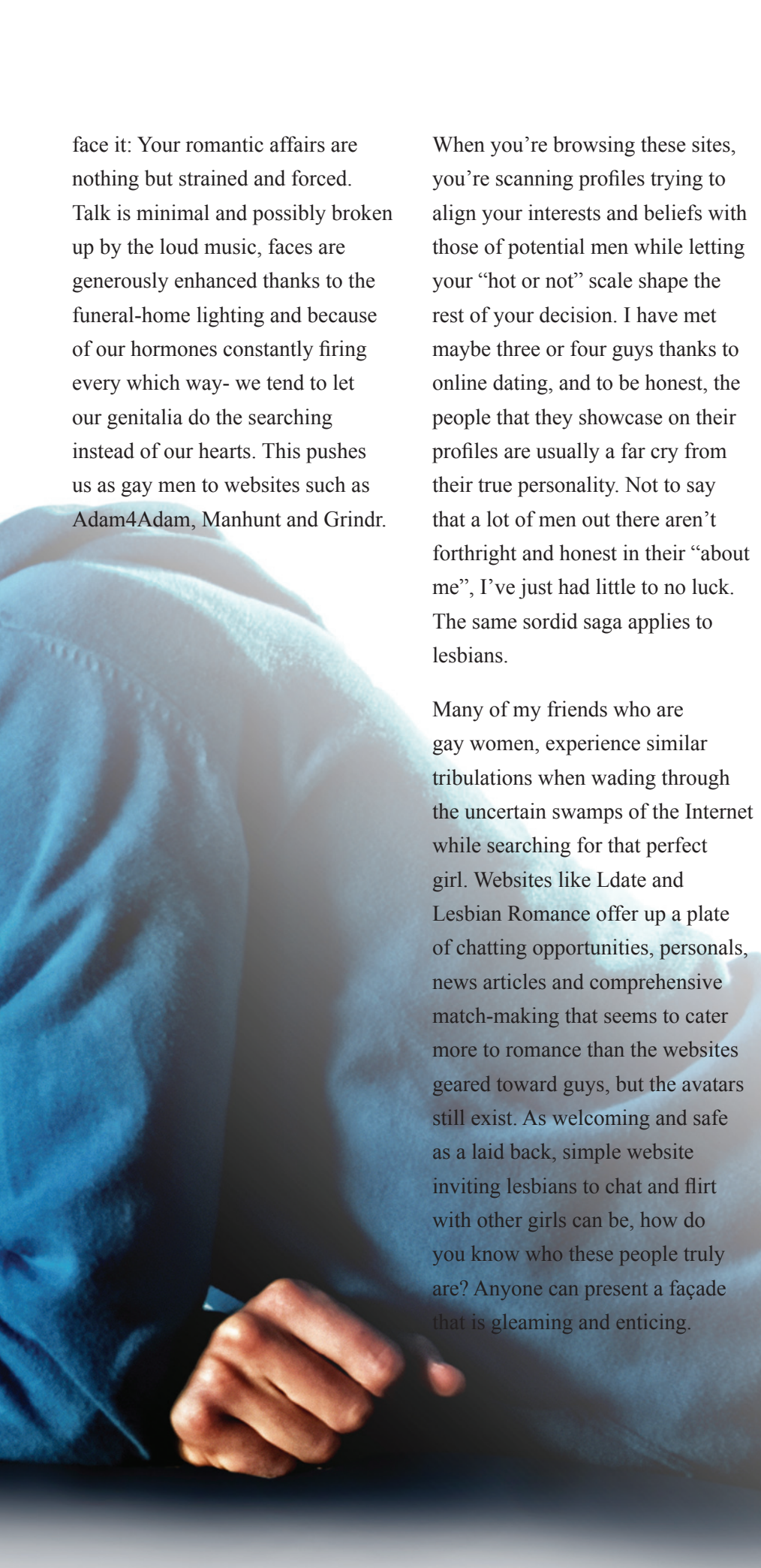
by John Dolpies

A Peak into the Ups and Downs of Online Dating

As we transition into a new decade, we are online more than we have ever been; it seems that most of human interaction is rolling over into a state of cyber-communication. Whether it is Facebook, AOL, Skype, MySpace or any message board that comes to mind, people are becoming more comfortable with conversing over the internet. It makes sense. When you're enveloped in the web, you can create a character for yourself. This is especially true when you are part of a dating website. With real-life dating already being an arduous task, gay men and women are slowly leaning towards the option of trying to find their special fish in the electronic sea that is the World Wide Web. There are numerous websites out there that invite members of the LGBT community to indulge in the festivities of online dating. Let's break it down.

If you're a single gay man, then finding the right person is like pulling teeth. I know; I am one. You're at a book shop, Starbucks, the grocery store or maybe even a concert, when you catch the glimpse of that dashing, mysterious fellow that seems to pop out of the crowd like a delightfully sore thumb. But you're nervous, uncertain and doubtful of his sexual orientation. You're too scared to pry and you basically give up on a possible opportunity. So what do you do? You go to a gay-themed venue or a bar where other gay guys are ripe for the picking. However, even then, matching yourself with a worthy suitor is hard. As fun and exciting as bars and clubs can be, let's





face it: Your romantic affairs are nothing but strained and forced. Talk is minimal and possibly broken up by the loud music, faces are generously enhanced thanks to the funeral-home lighting and because of our hormones constantly firing every which way- we tend to let our genitalia do the searching instead of our hearts. This pushes us as gay men to websites such as Adam4Adam, Manhunt and Grindr.

When you're browsing these sites, you're scanning profiles trying to align your interests and beliefs with those of potential men while letting your "hot or not" scale shape the rest of your decision. I have met maybe three or four guys thanks to online dating, and to be honest, the people that they showcase on their profiles are usually a far cry from their true personality. Not to say that a lot of men out there aren't forthright and honest in their "about me", I've just had little to no luck. The same sordid saga applies to lesbians.

Many of my friends who are gay women, experience similar tribulations when wading through the uncertain swamps of the Internet while searching for that perfect girl. Websites like Ldate and Lesbian Romance offer up a plate of chatting opportunities, personals, news articles and comprehensive match-making that seems to cater more to romance than the websites geared toward guys, but the avatars still exist. As welcoming and safe as a laid back, simple website inviting lesbians to chat and flirt with other girls can be, how do you know who these people truly are? Anyone can present a façade that is gleaming and enticing.

**...to be honest
the people that they
showcase on their profiles
are usually a far cry
from their true
personality.**

So what do you do? Get the facts. Regardless if you are a guy looking for a guy, a girl looking for a girl or any mix matched, altered state of the former, get to know them through trial and error over the internet before embarking on a fantastical date. Get an idea of whom you are dealing with before you meet up in real life. Instead of meeting at each other's houses, why not grab some coffee or tea first? It's a casual enough environment to have a nice little conversation while gauging the compatibility between the two of you for possible future dates. Save yourself the long, drawn-out process of sifting through profiles and becoming weary and bitter. Without the shield of a digital profile at your disposal, you get an experience that is raw and organic. Be who you are and know what you want. Only then can you shed that caricature and pursue something truly worthwhile.

▶▶ THANK YOU



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SOME OTHER VICTORIES INCLUDE:

▶▶ Worked closely with the Obama administration to extend **hospital visitation rights for LGBT couples**.

▶▶ Fought to bring marriage equality across the country. Led the effort to **enact marriage equality in Washington, D.C.**, and organized the key religious voices in support of marriage.

▶▶ Launched a **campaign to work to pass marriage equality legislation in New York** and helped elect three new voices for marriage in the state Senate.

▶▶ **Launched NOMExposed.org** to hold the National Organization for Marriage accountable for the misinformation and hate spread in its effort to thwart equality.

▶▶ Developed the Countdown 2010 Grass-roots Campaign calling for a **fair and inclusive ENDA**.

▶▶ **Deployed 39 staff to 17 states to work for pro-equality candidates** and recruited more than 4,500 volunteers to support these candidates.

▶▶ HRC's **Corporate Equality Index expanded with 337 employers reaching 100 percent scores, the most ever**.

▶▶ Signed 50 **adoption agencies** across the country to implement LGBT-inclusive policies and practices.

▶▶ **HRC is only LGBT national partner organization to join the national non-partisan citizenship and voter registration program Ya Es Hora**. HRC mobilized more than 500 volunteers for 40 citizenship workshops in 20 communities.

▶▶ Led the campaign to **oust bigoted Arkansas school board member Clint McCance**.

▶▶ Launched an innovative program to **empower transgender job seekers who are unemployed or underemployed** by providing essential skills training to make the most of the job market.

▶▶ Led the call for Mormon leader Boyd Packer to **renounce his discriminatory, homophobic remarks**.

▶▶ Worked with the Joint Commission, which accredits most hospitals, to **establish LGBT-specific accreditation standards** to eliminate discriminatory policies in healthcare facilities.

▶▶ In response to high profile anti-LGBT bullying and youth suicides, **launched a new website to help address bullying in elementary schools**.

▶▶ Formalized a partnership with National Education Association (NEA) to **extend the reach of HRC's Welcoming Schools program**.

▶▶ Successfully lobbied the Obama administration to issue guidance permitting employees to take **federal family and medical leave to care for a same-sex partner's child** and **extending federal domestic violence protections to include victims in same-sex relationships**.

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"It took us ten years to get to this point in our relationship. This is the right time."

GAY ADOPTION

Greg & Fletcher's
uphill journey for a family

by Richard Davis

Greg Flamer, 38, and Fletcher Whitwell, 35, have been a couple for 13 years and became domestic partners in Nevada in 2009. Whitwell is vice-president at R&R Partners Advertising and Flamer works for Clark County Family Services. Last April when some friends were having a child by surrogacy they began to think about a child. "It took us ten years together to get to this point in our relationship," the couple said. "This is the right time."

Though inspired by their friends, the cost of surrogacy, sometimes over \$100,000, was too expensive, so the couple considered the adoption route instead. Another option they could have taken, but didn't, is the Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment Program at Clark County Foster Care.

Samantha Charles, marketing administrator for Clark County Foster Care, says that Clark County actively recruits the LGBT community as foster and adoptive parents. She says, "They are our best supporters in the community." Gina Alexander-Shanks, a foster/adoption recruiter with the County, says that for harder to place children such as sibling groups of three or more children, medically challenged children, teenagers and children with difficult behaviors from abusive homes, the LGBT community has "stepped up to the table." Alexander-Shanks says, "LGBT parents are open-minded to different situations."

LGBT singles, same-sex domestic partners and co- and non-cohabiting couples are all welcome as foster or adoptive parents, Alexander-Shanks said. She said if a couple is cohabiting and wants to co-parent, one of the couple must designate themselves to be the adoptive parent and the other may be designated the legal guardian. The good news says John Cereso, an attorney with the Nevada Law Group, is that under Nevada's domestic partners law a same-sex couple in a domestic partnership can do a co-parent adoption. Cereso advises LGBT couples considering adoption to consult with their attorney before beginning the process. Alexander-Shanks said that couples, rather in a domestic partnership or co- or non-cohabiting, must go through Clark County Foster Care's mandatory training together to become foster or adoptive parents.

Flamer and Whitwell said, "We discussed adopting through Child Protective Services, but it is rare to get a newborn through the foster care route and we wanted to raise a child from the beginning stages of life to bond more closely." Clark County Foster Care's Samantha Charles says, "Our need is greater for fostering than for adoption. Sixty-five to seventy children are available for adoption, but 3,000 children need foster care."

The couple approached various Nevada adoption agencies that seemed neutral, "but they dissuaded us from open adoption because they said that birth parents don't choose same-sex couples." The couple then turned to Jewish Family Services in Las Vegas because they welcome same-sex couples. "We had gone as far with Jewish Family Services as having a home study done, but JFS primarily works locally in Nevada and that limited our chances of finding an available birth mother, so we decided to use a national agency, Independent Adoption Center, for a larger pool," the couple said. The couple is using JFS in Nevada for their home study and post-adoption studies.

"They dissuaded us from open adoption because they said that birth parents don't choose same-sex couples"

They said that part of the eligibility process is to have a home study done; you must have baby proofed your home, put up a pool guard, installed a fire extinguisher, passed a CPR test and be fingerprinted for a background check. The birth mother in an open adoption also is encouraged by the supporting agency to undergo a background check and receive prenatal care.

"The cost of an open adoption will be up to \$40,000 and you pay the agency, not the birth mom," Flamer and Whitwell said. "As part of an open adoption you agree to keep in contact with the birth mom—the child knows who his or her birth mom is—but after the adoption is finalized she legally relinquishes all parental rights."

Flamer and Whitwell said, "It is like online dating. We have a website and a prospective birth mom can see our pictures and read about us and, if she chooses, she can contact us and begin a dialogue by phone or text prior to our meeting in person. Sometimes the adoption parents receive last minute notification that a baby is available, but other times they may be chosen by the birth mother early in the pregnancy and are able to witness the whole pregnancy through to the birth." Adopting parents can select for the race of the child, but not the gender.

Looking forward to Baby Day, Flamer and Whitwell said, "We have discussed the option of one of us being a stay-at-home dad and we are both eligible for family leave through our employers. But we will probably look into hiring a nanny and using daycare." The couple said, "We have several friends who have children through surrogacy and one has a foster child, so we anticipate play dates." Their extended families are supportive and the grandmas on both sides are anticipating their new grand baby.

Flamer and Whitwell say that despite the time, the expense and the bureaucracy, "We tell couples who want to adopt not to be discouraged. Just keep moving forward with your lives." ■





Sam Leif and her fiancée Vienna Nellis have been engaged for three years now. They've written a prenup, discussed money, talked about the guest list and the location of their wedding. Leif has even picked a date. "I've decided that I want it on the same day we got together originally, so I don't have to remember a whole new anniversary," she jokes. They've considered having their commitment ceremony either at Disneyland, or here in Las Vegas, where many of their wedding guests reside.

Some local chapels hold two or three commitment ceremonies like theirs every week. "We do commitments every week and have for 18 years," said Judy Bowe, of the Cupid Wedding Chapel on Charleston and Las Vegas Blvd. "We would love to see gay marriage legalized." In fact, if the marriages were legalized, Bowe says it would be a definite boon for the marriage business, which is still a prominent business in Las Vegas.

But there is one topic that Bowe hears from most of the couples in her commitment ceremonies. They wish they could get genuine marriage certificates instead. This is an opinion that Leif shares. "If we end up getting married here, we will of course do the domestic partnership. But we'd like to do the full marriage in a state where it's legal," says Leif. "I was born and raised here; this is what I call my home. I think it sucks that I'd have to leave here, establish residency somewhere else to get married"

Leif and Nellis are an example of many engaged LGBT couples in Las Vegas, waiting to get the same rights that straight couples have had all of their lives. The right to marry the person they love. To not call them "Domestic Partner" but husband or wife. To have marriage certificates and the same, not separate but equal, rights.

The Nevada Domestic Partnership Act, as written by Senators Parks and Coffin, is definitely a step in the right direction. It defines domestic partners as persons who, aside from living together, have "chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring." While that sounds like any other spouses, this law has been made to honor the rights of those that, due to other laws, cannot be allowed to marry.

Section 7 specifically states that "Domestic partners have the same rights, protections and benefits, and are subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and duties under law....as are granted to and imposed on

spouses." The law goes on to specify guidelines for the surviving partner after a death and the rights to a child of a domestic partnership. It says plainly that "domestic partners have the same right to nondiscriminatory treatment as that provided to spouses." It even makes laws for the termination of the partnership. The only portion that is not the same is that an employer is not required to offer health insurance to a domestic partnership; neither are they kept from doing so.

This law does cover many of the bases that we have been fighting for. However, to get the law passed, it was still necessary to declare that "A domestic partnership is not a marriage for the purposes of Section 21 of Article 1 of the Nevada Constitution." This section states that "Only a marriage between a male and female person shall be recognized and given effect in this state."

Gay marriage has been legalized in some states and cities across our country. Even our nation's capital, Washington D.C., legalized it last March. However, many of them are still fighting for complete equality. The Washington Post has written that same sex married couples in their city are still being taxed much more than straight couples because their healthcare costs are still being added to their W-2 forms at the end of the year. Straight couples do not need to add those costs. While many businesses are making adjustments to their policies to equalize these disadvantages, the inequality in the system still inherently remains.

Vice President Joe Biden thinks America is on the right track. Salon, a site following the Gay Marriage debate nationwide, quotes him as saying on Good Morning America "I think the country's evolving. And I think you're going to see, you know, the next effort is probably going to be to deal with so-called DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act]." However, the Las Vegas GLBT community still has some fighting to do to get the rest of their rights. Leif and several others have said that the way to do this is to foster a "A more out there gay community."

"We all need to come together and be aware of everything, come together as a community." And Leif hopes that, if we can do that, she and Nellis can have their happily ever after, Just Married. ■

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We're having a

Wedding

by Ann Feister

Weddings are stressful, there's a reason that there are television shows centered around "bridezillas" who verbally assault their loved ones and total strangers in hopes of having that picture perfect day. The elusive perfect wedding is hard to plan, impossible to execute and most likely will cost 3 times what your intended budget has allowed for. But in the end it will all be worth it when you wake up the next day and realize that you get to spend the rest of your life with the one you love.



You are going to be stressed out, so just accept it and anticipate it. It's a lot of work to put on an event for everyone you love. You want it to be perfect for your loved ones, while maintaining your wants at the same time, it's a delicate balancing act at best. Don't forget that even though you want to put your stamp of approval on every last miniscule detail, asking for help is not a sin and your friends and family will be more than happy to lend a hand.

Trust your gut when it comes to vendors. If you call and no one answers the phone during normal business hours, move along. It might sound judgmental to close a door before it's even open, but if you can't get ahold of these people in the first place, what do you think will happen when you need to contact them for a last minute change or an emergency day-of catastrophe? If a website wants

you to send them an email and will not accept any telephone correspondence then it's likely a scam or a business with subpar customer service. The same rules apply for the "too good to be true" vendors as well, if they promise you the moon and stars for a fraction of what everyone else is quoting you, ask around and check their reviews online. Yelp.com is a great resource when you're dealing with a lot of businesses you aren't familiar with, their reviews are usually helpful and full of tidbits of information that can guide you more effectively through the whole process.

Do not, I repeat, do NOT take out personal loans for your ceremony, reception or honeymoon. The best way to sabotage your union from day one is to start out in debt, you may have some lovely pictures to frame but the stress of financial burdens can strain a relationship to its breaking point.

Location, location, location. Everyone loves a destination wedding, right? Of course they do! The obvious wedding locale of choice is Las Vegas, the Strip has something for everyone. Where else in the world could you have your ceremony, win thousands of dollars, lose it all again, make it all back and then still have time to hang out by the pool before you hit the clubs for the night? Nowhere that's where! Vegas has everything for the perfect gay wedding, glitz, glamour, and the best entertainment options in the world. In a city with endless possibilities it's overwhelming once you realize how

"Vegas has everything for the perfect gay wedding, glitz, glamour, and the best entertainment options in the world."



"The best way to sabotage your union from day one, is to start out in debt."

many options you really have. Unless you know the city well then it's a good idea to look into a wedding planner or at least a consultation. The consultation will give you a better understanding of how much work you're going to have to put into the big day.

San Diego is another fun city to experience with all of your closest friends and loved ones. I'm a sucker for a cost efficient, beautiful sunset included, beach ceremony. If you choose to have a beachfront event you can save big bucks by not having to rent a venue for the ceremony. There are of course permits to be obtained and other niceties like chairs for guests that you will have to arrange for, but some services will provide the whole package for you.

Reverend Renate Daversa is one of the few officiants in the San Diego area who specializes in the complete package when it comes to your ceremonial needs. Her site sandiegovows.com can help steer you in the right direction when it comes to permits, licenses, chairs, arches, photographers, etc... Her best advice for couples is to "be thorough, good companies will take the time to give you what you want."

The Windy City is an up and coming hot spot for civil unions. With Illinois legalizing unions there will likely be a surge of ceremonies in the area soon, though you wouldn't know it from the short list of vendors who publicize that they are LGBT friendly. In all fairness

it's a short list now, but it's growing every day. My favorite place for the most unique and whimsical wedding experience in Chicago is Catalyst Ranch. Located in what was once a meat packing company, the building has vintage charm that is splashed with vivid textiles and color. Ethnic artwork from all over the world covers the walls, some might call the style, "quirky." The venue is a little PeeWee's playhouse meets casual hipster. There is a hammock room for optimal lounging after a long night of cutting a rug and reminders from childhood like Playdoh line the 1950's coffee tables for your amusement. There is also a cool vintage photo booth that can be rented for events as well. ■

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Heidi also has a list of vendors that she likes in the area listed on her website.

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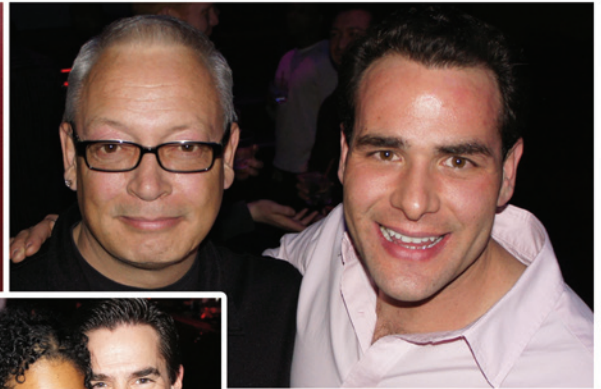


AFAN would like to say thank you to all the loyal QVegas readers for
voting us as the **Best Non-Profit 2010** for the Qrific Awards.

We wouldn't be here without your continued support! Thank you so
much, **Together We Make A Difference!**







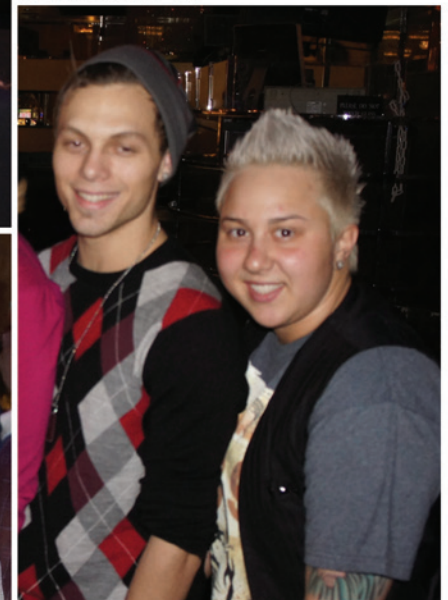
QUENCH

ROK-NEWYORK NEWYORK
JANUARY 20



KELLY'S B-DAY

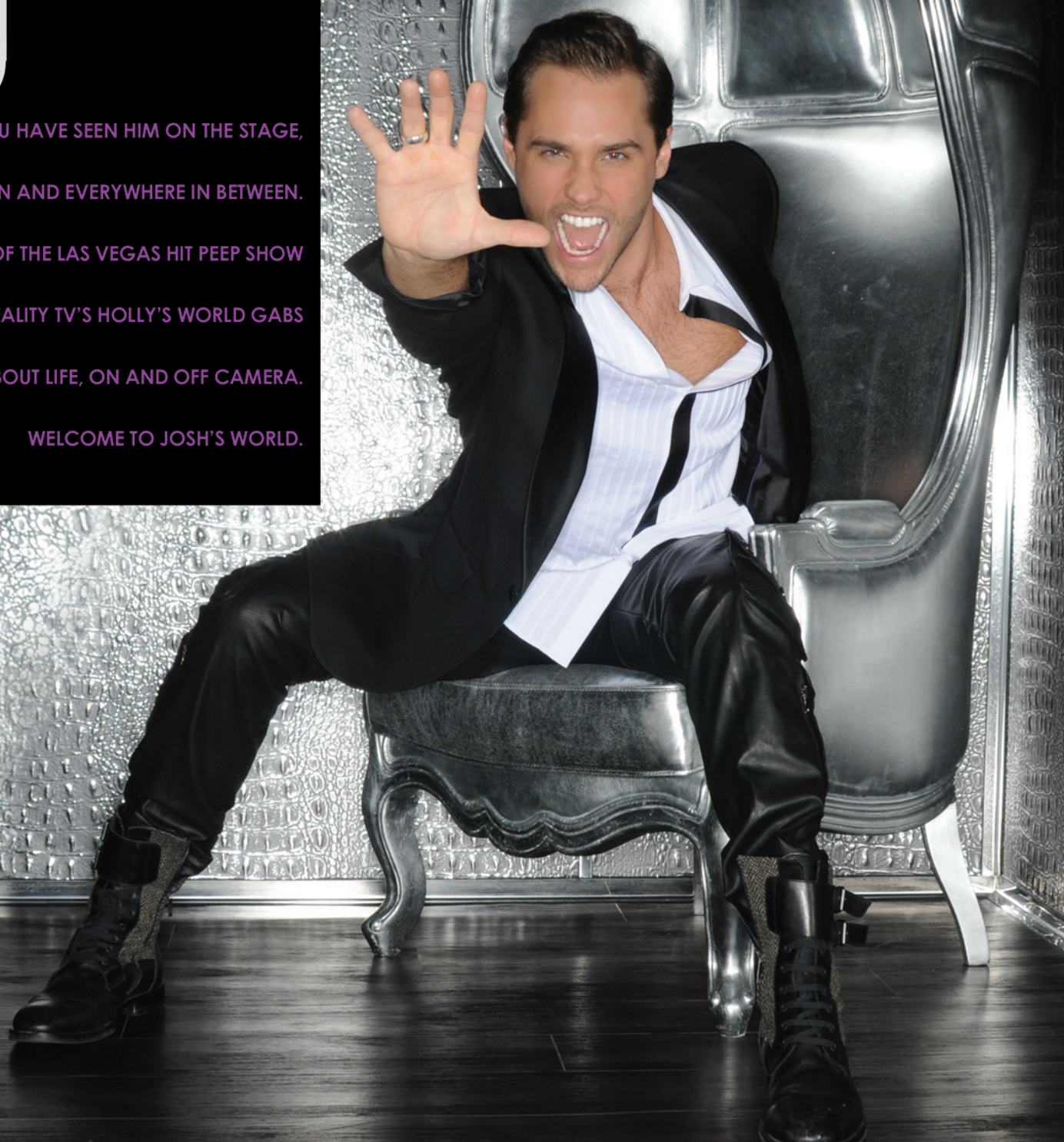
EYE CANDY-MANDALAY BAY
JANUARY 18



JOSH'S WORLD

by J.Son

YOU HAVE SEEN HIM ON THE STAGE,
TV SCREEN AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.
THE STAR OF THE LAS VEGAS HIT PEEP SHOW
AND REALITY TV'S HOLLY'S WORLD GABS
ABOUT LIFE, ON AND OFF CAMERA.
WELCOME TO JOSH'S WORLD.





JOSH STRICKLAND LIGHTS UP THE ROOM WHEN HE ENTERS NO WONDER HE IS A STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN HERE IS HIS Q&A WITH QVEGAS

Q: Has there ever been a time when the cameras weren't rolling and you thought, "Damn, I wish the cameras were here!"

A: It happens every day, we will just stop filming and then something completely crazy happens. You just say damn, but they end up getting a good amount of great moments, you're not missing too much.

Q: Has there ever been a time when the cameras were rolling and you thought, "Damn, I wish the cameras weren't here!"

A: Any time I was caught crying. Jesus they always pick those moments to show.

Q: In season one of Holly's World there was an incident in Mexico. What happened?

A: We were there for Holly's photo shoot, celebrating afterwards at a local bar. Some guys starting saying

things to me, it got progressively worse till the point the one guy came at me. He put his hands around my neck and it got out of hand. The crew had to stop filming and get us to a safe location. I don't know what happened to the guys and to be honest I don't care. I'm just glad it's all over.

Q: In a phrase describe what it's like filming a reality show.

A: It's like filming a sitcom but it's us, we are playing ourselves.

Q: Are you and Holly truly best friends or as its called BFFs? Or is that just when the cameras are rolling?

A: No it's true. We met through Peep Show. Holly isn't hard to get to know, but she is selective on who she lets in. She came in to a new show, we chit chatted and really hit it off.

Q: What's next for you?

A: I have been really lucky and

thanks to Holly's World I met some great producers. I am currently in the recording studio and working on an EP. The first single is called Report to the Floor, and will be out in a month or so. You'll be able to see me in the studio recording it on an episode of the TV show. ■

*Be sure to watch Josh on
Holly's World on channel E!
Sundays at 10:30/9:30c*





sex appeal is fifty percent
what you've got
and fifty percent what people
think you've got.
- Sophia Loren

勇氣
強



and now the moment you've been waiting for

sexiest OF GAY VEGAS AWARDS

Every year, we ask our loyal readers to vote for their favorites in the 25 categories that comprise the QVegas Sexiest of Gay Vegas Awards. This year the battle was intense with the most votes ever cast. After all the ballots were counted each category had a clear winner. Ladies and gentlemen here are the winners of this year's awards...

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CHOICE

SAVING OF GAY VEGAS



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BEAR **JOSHUA MONTGOMERY**



COWBOY **PHIL WELLS**



COWGIRL **LAURA SCOTT**



SHOWBOY **JOSH STRICKLAND**



SHOWGIRL **KEYSKA DIVA**



DRAW QUEEN **EDDIE THE ENTERTAINER**



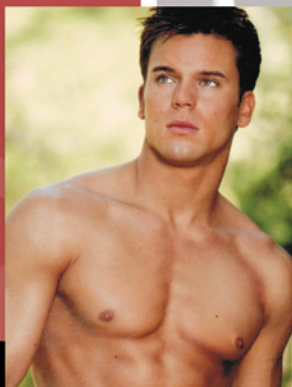
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CHOICE

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ABS **RYAN LYONS**



LEGS **DIVA DELAFUENTE**



COMMUNITY SUPPORTER **JORGE GARCIA-SOLARIO**



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GAY FRIENDLY CELEBRITY **LADY GAGA**



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The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are a leading HIV/AIDS organization in the Las Vegas valley. Every year they hold their Red Dress event to raise much needed funds for the programs they offer to those in the community living with HIV/AIDS. You may be asking why a red dress? The answer is simple, by wearing a red dress you show your support for those in the community affected by this disease. This year's event is going to be held at the World Market Center on Saturday February 26th, starting at 8:00pm. Tickets will cost \$50 (VIP pre party at 8:00pm and main event) and \$30 (main event only – starting at 9:00pm). Come enjoy the new event venue, amazing entertainment and much more, for a great cause.

For more information visit www.SinCitySisters.org





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BOWLING KEEPS ON ROLLING

Did you know there were 2 days of LGBT bowling here in Fabulous Las Vegas. LVGA3 bowls on Wednesday nights, 6:30pm at Gold Coast. Contact is Ryan Hayden (702.425.9096). This league started three years ago to give an opportunity for those who want to roll the ball more often or could not make it on Sunday morning. Speaking of Sunday, the long-standing group Fun Ones bowls every Sunday morning, also at Gold Coast. This league has a long history here in Las Vegas and encourages every one to come out and knock down some pins. Both leagues welcome newcomers. Be adventurous and come out and discover new friendships with these great group of bowlers.

SOFTBALL TO START 3RD SEASON MARCH 6TH

Softball will be starting its third Season March 6th. The league will be holding several skills assessment clinics. The dates are February 13th, 20th and 27th, 11:00am at Doc Romero Park fields 5,6, and 7. The league currently has two divisions and a possibility for a third if enough 'B' rated players show interest in forming a highly skilled team. For the rest of you novices, your skills will place you in the 'C' or 'D' division. These divisions are based on a set of points established to rate your skill level and place you in a division where you will enjoy maximum fun and growth. It is important that you make it out to the fields so that you can personally learn what the league is all about and demonstrate your skills. Team placement will take place on the 27th of February. This will give everyone an opportunity to practice with their teams prior to the March 6th start of the Spring. Visit www.lvga3softball.com for directions or additional information.

After teams finished their winter season on December 5th 2010, many of the players did not rest during the Christmas break. These dedicated softballers practiced to play in two tournaments that occurred this January. Las Vegas teams played in both the Palm Springs Tournament, and the Sin City Shootout Tournament hosted by Los Angeles here in Las Vegas.

Congratulations to all 5 teams and players that played in the Sin City Shootout, Team Rat Pack took 2nd place in the 'C' Division and The Las Vegas Mafia placed 1st in the 'D' Division. This was the first time a Las Vegas team has won a championship in a national tournament. If you missed any of these tournament games played here in our own backyard, you missed exciting team competition.

VOLLEYBALL SEASON HERE AGAIN!

LVGA3 Volleyball has resumed at Mirabelli Center located off US95 and Jones Blvd. Team play is Monday nights 6 to 9pm. For more information, visit www.lvga3volleyball.com.

HOOPS TIME!

Basketball is here. Six teams are currently vying to be the first Sin City Basketball League Champion. Games are played at the Tarkanian Basketball Academy located on Rancho Drive behind Palace Station Saturdays at 10am, 11am and noon. More information please visit www.lvga3basketball.com or call Thomas Bogle, 702.498.5531.

MORE, MORE, AND MORE

More sports in Las Vegas. Tennis, golf and yes, Flag Football (coming soon) For more information visit www.lvga3.com or contact Larry O'Halloran.

Even if you are not a participator, all sports encourage you to come out and be a spectator. LVGA3 Sports is a great organization helping to build a better LGBT community.

LVGA³ stands for Las Vegas Gay Arts, Athletics & Activities. LVGA³ is an initiative to build community through social programming. It's one of the newest community resources in Las Vegas, specifically aimed at improving the quality of gay life in Nevada. Visit www.lvga3.com for activity schedules and more information.

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Cut and color by Marcus Richards

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BEST COUPLE

A Couples Facial courtesy of Posare

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FEBRUARY 21

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TOPS & BOTTOMS



TOP DVD

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TOP SHOP

ANDREW CHRISTIAN

Its still winter but you're so ready for summer to be here. Slip on a sexy pair of Andrew Christian briefs and stand in front of the fire.



TOP TECH

JOPY ORI FOR IPAD

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BOTTOM SPOT

GAYASIANBOTTOM.COM

The name says it all - This blog is like a train wreck but for some reason you keep going back. From the WTF moments to the videos, check it out and you be the judge.

BOTTOM APP

SMS ROAD

This app uses your phone's camera to see where you are walking while you text. But it doesn't give you any peripheral vision. Watch out! you just got run over by a bus. If you need this app you should think about taking a tech detox.



BOTTOM SPOT

ANY ROMANTIC PLACE

Single on Valentine's Day? This month avoid all romantic places; having to watch all the lovebirds in action may make you throw up a little in your mouth.

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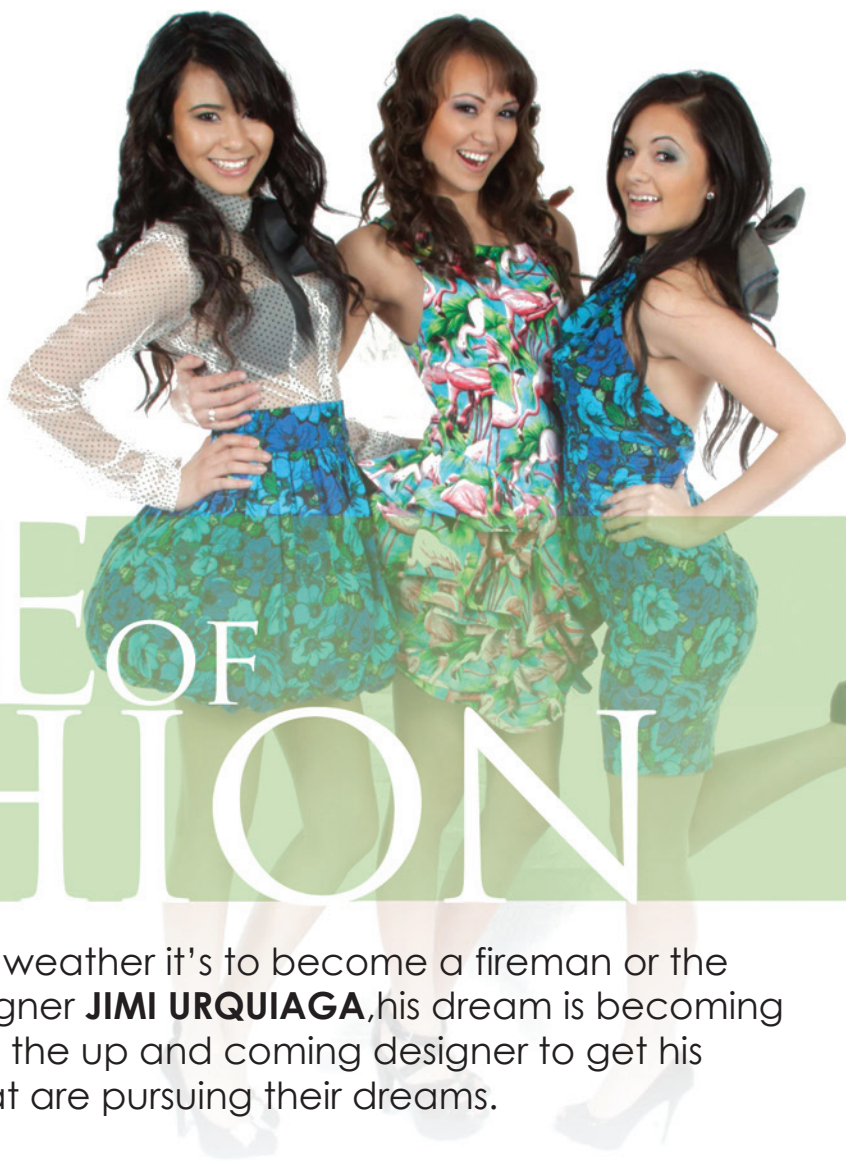
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FOR THE LOVE OF FASHION

Everyone has a dream as a kid, whether it's to become a fireman or the President. For teen fashion designer **JIMI URQUIAGA**, his dream is becoming a reality. QVegas sat down with the up and coming designer to get his story and tips for other teens that are pursuing their dreams.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN FASHION?

I started my sophomore year making tote bags but I didn't know fashion was what I wanted to do till my senior year. We had a fashion show at Fashion Show Mall and when I saw my dress walk down the runway I got such a high. It was that moment that I knew that fashion was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Since then I've been having fashion shows here in Vegas in teen clubs, my grandmothers back yard and even at Towbin dodge!

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR INSPIRATION?

Anything can inspire me but most of my inspiration comes from music. While listening to music I can get lost in my mind and make up stories, then I come up with outfits for the characters in the story. I also get a lot of inspiration when I walk around the strip or in the streets of LA.

WHAT STRUGGLES DO YOU FACE GETTING RECOGNITION IN THE FASHION WORLD?

The biggest struggle is getting people to look at your work. It's taken me so long to have people actually respond to my emails and messages. But I never gave up I sent emails till my fingers fell off and they finally answered me. My advice to other teens would be to never give up; persistence is key.

DO YOU HAVE A MENTOR?

There's my High school sewing teacher, Shannon Sheldon. She was an amazing teacher that really loves what she does and believes in her students. She even believed in me when I made my first pair of pajama pants. They were so ugly and the sewing was horrible. She encouraged me by never giving up in my ability; thank you Ms. Sheldon.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR TEENS GETTING INTO THE FASHION WORLD?

Work hard and dedicate yourself to your art. Meet and talk to everyone, you never know whom you're going to meet. Most importantly don't be afraid to put your work out there. Not everyone will like it, understand it or even care to understand it. But if you can find one person who does, I think that's a good start.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU KNOW NOW, THAT YOU WISH YOU DID WHEN YOU STARTED?

How to make a pattern out of newspaper and a mannequin, it's the most beneficial thing I have learned so far. You can seriously create anything with that technique.

WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL GOAL?

My goal is to have my own clothing line in my own store and other stores all around the world. Once I'm established, I want to start a shoe and accessories line as well. The steps I'm taking is that in July I'm moving to LA to intern with a designer. Then make a name for myself in that city, work with everyone possible and start having fashion shows out there! Then hopefully blowing up and becoming a well-known designer worldwide!

ARE THERE ANY YOUTH GROUPS IN LAS VEGAS THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF?

I'm not apart of any youth groups here in Vegas. However, all the photographers, models, videographers, make-up artist and hairstylist that I work with here in Vegas a couple years older or younger than me. We're all pretty young and striving for the same goal, so I guess we made our own fashion youth group of sorts.

AS A TEEN, WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN LAS VEGAS?

I love dancing! I'm so happy that So Crush started "Vicious." It gives me something to look forward to every month! But mostly I just hang out with my friends and do random things like driving the Strip, going to 18+ lounges and whatever else crosses our paths!

You can check out Jimi's new fashion line at his upcoming fashion show. It will be held on Saturday February 19, 2011 inside Towbin Dodge at the Valley Auto Mall.

If you are a youth and want to share your story in an upcoming issue of QVegas please email your story idea to Editor@QVegas.com

**JIMI
URQUIAGA**



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BEATBOX

BY MATHEW BLANCO

YOUTUBE SAVED THE VIDEO STAR

There was a time fans tuned to MTV to watch music videos. But these days MTV's airwaves are dedicated to reality shows documenting the lives of pregnant teens (Teen Mom) and partying guidos (Jersey Shore). The fate of the music video appeared to be going the way of the VCR and cd player, but the internet has thrown a life-saving tube to the music video, via – you guessed it – YouTube.

WORLD'S AWAY

AIDEN LESLIE

"I love the uniqueness of the video," says Aiden. "It's different than anything else out there. Think Bond, Charlie's Angels or Bonnie and Clyde. My girls in the video are my protectors and per my orders, they orchestrate the capture of my opposition."



MR. ROMEO

EMII

"One of my best friends was at the video shoot with a broken leg," remembers Emii. "He wasn't allowed on set while the panthers were there. The trainers told us that the panthers would identify him as easy prey."



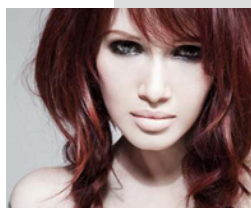
IT DOESN'T MATTER

RON PERKOV

"Like all of my songs, It Doesn't Matter delivers a powerful message," explains Ron. "This song depicts issues going on in schools today. I hope the video will be an added punch in teaching young people that it's important we get along and respect one another."



1-ON-1 WITH THE ARTISTS



HAS YOUTUBE CHANGED THE FATE OF MUSIC VIDEOS?

EMII: Definitely. And now with the iPhone, who needs to sit in their living room glued to the TV to wait for their favorite music video to start playing? Not me. Video didn't kill the radio star, and luckily MTV couldn't kill the video star.



HOW IMPORTANT ARE MUSIC VIDEOS TODAY?

AIDEN LESLIE: Today's world is more visual than ever before. Everything is multimedia. It's vital for artists to continue making videos so fans can put a face to the beats they love.



MADONNA FAMOUSLY SAID SHE LIKES TO TAKE FANS ON A JOURNEY IN HER MUSIC VIDEOS. WHAT'S YOUR GOAL WHEN MAKING A NEW VIDEO?

RON PERKOV

"Like all of my songs, It Doesn't Matter delivers a powerful message," explains Ron. "This song depicts issues going on in schools today. I hope the video will be an added punch in teaching young people that it's important we get along and respect one another."

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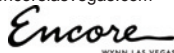
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QBA MEMBERSHIP

Three levels of membership are available in the QVegas Business Alliance: Corporate Sponsorship, Business Membership and Individual Membership. All QBA memberships include listings in this directory and on QVegasBA.com.

Each month, QVegas Business Alliance members and the community at large are invited to attend our Quench 3rd Thursdays as well as a networking luncheon, which often features special guest speakers on topics of benefit to the business community. See QVegasBA.com for upcoming event locations.



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BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	Noches Nortenas (Latin Country Night) 9p - 2a	Karaoke Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Underwear Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$3.50 Beer Bust 9p - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	\$5 Liquor Bust 7p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust 7p - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$5 Beer Bust 4-7p \$2 Long Isl. 7p - Mid Sunday Show 9pm	Beginner Dance Lessons 7-9pm and Ginger Grant 10pm	Drag Queen Bingo 9p Happy Hour 2a-10a	Underwear Night Gogo Boys Free Pool from 9p	1/2 price Drink Night 9p-12a, Line Dance Lessons 7p-9p	Line Dance Lessons 7-9p \$1.75 Happy Hour 7-9p \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-12a	\$1.75 happy hour 7-9p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-12a
CREWS'N 1000 E. Sahara, Ste. 105 702-731-0951	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Sing along with pianist Piermarini 4-7p Happy Hour 2-7p	Happy Hour 2-7p Karaoke 8-11p Every other Tuesday	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-7p Kitty Litter Show 11p & 1a	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Salsa Sundays Latin music & videos	Open 24 Hours Boys Night Ages 18-21 in free	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights are off	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays Ages 40+ get in free	Open 24 Hours Inked Show off your tats	Open 24 Hours Freebie Fridays Exciting giveaways	Open 24 Hours Packed House Our busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a/5-7p Karaoke 9p-1a	Poker Tournament 6, 7:30 & 9p No buy in!	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-385-FLEX	Happy Hour 4-7p	DJ Panda 9pm Drink Specials All Night Long	DJ K Spins \$7 Liquor Bust 10p-2a	The Grand Tea Room Desirae Penda vis 1a	The Boom Room with DJ K & Austin Toxxx 12a	Confessions with JewDi Vine and DJ Ricoché 11p	Fab-u-Lash with Des'ree St. James or Dream with Shaylavia
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-792-2300	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Ladies Night Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer/Lick-Her-Bust 8p - 1a	Beer Bust 8p - 1a Wicked Wednesdays 11:30p-1:30a	Boys Night Beer Bust 9:30p - 2a \$7 Liquor Bust	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 4-8pm
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6-9pm	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Long Island Iced Teas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Margaritas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p	Come in, drink up and just have a great time.
GIPSY 4605 Paradise Rd. 702-666-8661	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Ghostmachine DJs Protokol & Romeo Romantic
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Fuego Latino 8p with Liquor Bust	"In the Trenches" comedy show with Schree & Baby 8p	Meet friends, drink, game and play pool!	Karaoke with Sheila 9p-1a Carpe Noctem 9p-4a	Sinabar Disco with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Vaquero Night with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Noche Caliente "Hot Night" 10p
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave., at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	Not Serious Sundays with DJ PA in the Krave Lounge	Meat Market Mondays with guest porn stars nearly-naked go-go's	Tyler Caiden's Monster \$3 wells/\$5 premiums DJ PA spins	WTF? Wednesdays DJ Earwaxxx 11pm Win up to \$1000	Back to the '80s with VJ Crime and Des. St. James	F%@k You I'm Fabulous \$5 drinks with text DJ Silence	World-class DJs in main room and Girl Bar in lounge
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SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-385-9298	Open 24 Hours	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	\$5 Beer Bust and \$6 Liquor Bust 9p - Midnight
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8a - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 4 - 7p	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws or Margaritas 8a - 4p	Come hang out at the Spotlight Lounge	\$5 Liquor Bust 1 - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 8 - 11p	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3p Couples Night 6 - 9p Jock Night Mid - 3a

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6  SUPER BOWL Green Bay Packers Vs. Pittsburgh Steelers	7  Improv – Vegas, S.E.T. Onyx Theatre, 8pm www.onyxtheatre.com Free HIV and STD Testing The Center, 1:30 – 6pm www.thecenterlv.com	8  Sin City Q Socials Trendy Tuesday Location TBD, 8 – 10pm www.sincitysicals.com	9  NGRA Rodeo Planning Meeting The Center, 6:30pm www.ngra.com  Stonewall Democrats General Meeting Location, Time TBD www.sdcn.blogspot.com
13 LVGA3 Softball Clinic Doc Romeo Park, 11am www.lvga3softball.com	14 VALENTINES DAY  Free HIV and STD Testing The Center, 1:30 – 6pm www.thecenterlv.com LVGA3 Volleyball Mirabelli Center 6pm www.lvga3volleyball.com	15  Sin City Q Socials Trendy Tuesday Location, TBD, 8 – 10pm www.sincitysicals.com	16 Wise Womyn The Center, 12Noom www.thecenterlv.com IRSCDEI Board Meeting The Center, 7:30pm www.desertempire.org
20 LVGA3 Softball Clinic Doc Romeo Park, 11am www.lvga3softball.com Eduardo Cordova Presents Sundanze Jet Nightclub @ The Mirage, 10pm www.lightgroup.com	21 LVGA3 Volleyball Mirabelli Center, 6pm www.lvga3volleyball.com	22  Sin City Q Socials Trendy Tuesday Location TBD, 8 – 10pm www.sincitysicals.com	23  NGRA Board Meeting The Center, 6:30pm www.ngra.com NGRA General Meeting The Center, 7:30pm www.ngra.com
27  OSCARS PARTY The Showroom at the Clarion Hotel and Casino, 3pm / 5pm www.qvegas.com Oscars After Party at Closet Sundays Revolution Lounge @ The Mirage 10pm www.lightgroup.com	28  28 Free HIV and STD Testing The Center, 1:30 – 6pm www.thecenterlv.com LVGA3 Volleyball Mirabelli Center, 6pm www.lvga3volleyball.com		

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3  the center Free HIV and STD Testing The Center 1:30 – 6pm www.thecenterlv.com	4 Legacy of a rock Queen Onyx Theatre 8pm www.onyxtheatre.com Trans.lation The Center, 5:30pm www.thecenterlv.com	5 Legacy of a rock Queen Onyx Theatre 8pm www.onyxtheatre.com
10  the center Free HIV and STD Testing The Center, 1:30 – 6pm www.thecenterlv.com Right Pride General Meeting Location, Time TBD www.rightpride.org	11  The L Group The Center, 7pm www.tehcenterlv.com Felguk and Drop the Lime Clash Fridays @ Rain Nightclub, 10pm www.clashfridays.com	12 Joey McIntyre and Emanuel Kiraikou The Palms, 11:59pm www.palms.com Rocky Horror Picture Show Onyx Theatre, 11:59pm www.onyxtheatre.com
17  Quench Social & HRC Third Thursday Location and Time TBD www.qvegas.com Free HIV and STD Testing The Center, 1:30 – 6pm www.thecenterlv.com	18 George Lopez Las Vegas Hilton, 8pm www.lvhlilton.com	19 LVGA3 Basketball Tarkanian Basketball Academy www.lvga3basketball.com 311 The Joint @ Hard Rock, 8pm www.thejointlasvegas.com
24  Eyecons Onyx Theatre, 8pm www.onyxtheatre.com	25  Eyecons Onyx Theatre, 8pm www.onyxtheatre.com	26  Cherry Poppin Red Dress Party The World Market Center, 8pm www.sinsitysisters.org LVGA3 Basketball Tarkanian Basketball Academy, 10am www.lvga3basketball.com

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 3 Charlie's Las Vegas, 5012 Arville St, 876-1844
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 FL FreeZone, 601 E. Naples, 794-2300
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 CC Las Vegas Lounge, 900 E Karen Ave, 737-9350
 13 Krave, 3663 Las Vegas Blvd S, 836-0830
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16 The Coffee Bean/Tea Leaf, 4550 S Maryland Pkwy, 876-6629
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 18 It's A Grind Coffee House, 8470 W Desert Inn Rd, 360-4232
 19 Qdoba Mexican Grill, 5045 W Tropicana Ave, 871-7022
 20 The Cupcakery, 7175 W Lake Mead Blvd, 835-0060
 21 The Cupcakery, 9680 S Eastern Ave, 207-2253
 22 Keva Juice, 605 Mall Ring Cir, 898-2844
 23 Java Detour, 6087 S Pecos Rd, 450-0025
 2 Mundo, 495 S. Grand Central Pkwy., 270-4400
 26 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 8380 W. Sahara, 731-6030
 27 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 4147 S. Maryland, 731-6030
 28 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 107 E. Charleston, 272-0020
 FL Tuscany Pizza (inside FreeZone), 610 E. Naples, 222-4444
 24 Whole Foods, 6689 Las Vegas Blvd S, 589-7711
 25 Whole Foods, 8855 W Charleston Blvd, 254-8655
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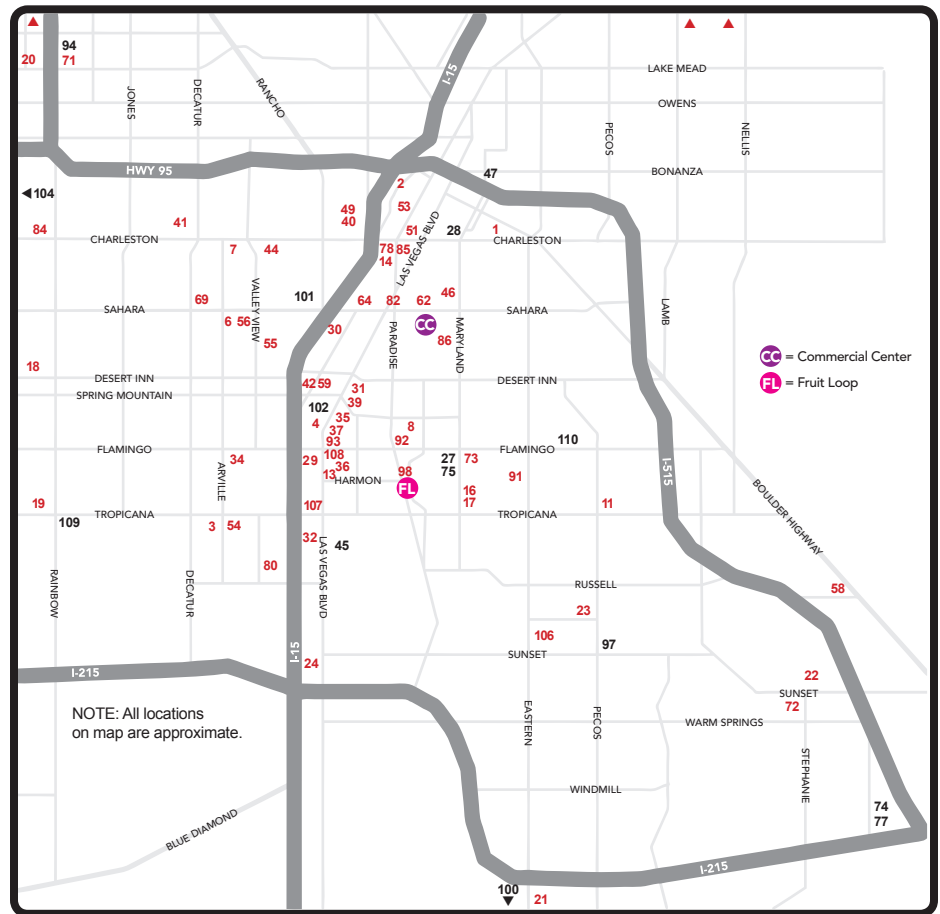
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 30 Blue Moon Resort, 2651 Westwood Dr., 361-9099
 31 Encore Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd S
 32 Luxor Hotel Concierge, 3900 Las Vegas Blvd S
 4 Mandalay Bay Hotel Concierge, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd S
 34 Palms Hotel & Casino Concierge, 4321 W Flamingo Rd
 35 Palazzo Resort Concierge, 3325 Las Vegas Blvd S
 36 Paris Hotel & Casino Concierge, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
 37 Venetian Resort Concierge, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd S
 39 Wynn Las Vegas Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd, 770-1571

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40 Aid for AIDS of Nevada, 701 Shadow Ln, 382-2326
 41 Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S Brush St, 229-6383
 42 Erotic Heritage Museum, 3275 S Industrial Rd, 369-6442
 CC GLBT Center, 953 E Sahara Ave Ste B31, 733-9800
 44 Golden Rainbow, 3233 W Charleston Blvd, 384-2899
 45 Imago Dei Sunday Mass, 55 E Reno, 354-2294
 46 Metro. Comm. Church, 1140 Almond Tree Lane, 369-4380
 47 NALA, 323 N. Maryland Pkwy, 382-6252
 CC Onyx Theatre, 953 E. Sahara Ave, 732-7225
 49 Southern NV Health District, 625 Shadow Lane, 759-0702
 51 The Arts Factory, 107 E Charleston Blvd, 676-1111
 40 Wellness Center, 701 Shadow Lane, 383-2691

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 58 Fantasy World, 6760 Boulder Hwy, 433-6311
 59 Industrial Rd. Book, 3427 Industrial Rd., 734-7667
 62 Glamour Boutique, 714 E Sahara Ave, 697-1800
 64 Peep Land, 2424 Western Ave, 383-4993
 65 Rancho Adult Bookstore, 4820 N. Rancho Rd, 645-6104
 66 Sin City Adult Superstore, 4440 E Cheyenne Ave, 643-696
 80 Sinderella's, 5570 S. Valley View, 736-9700
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 72 Borders Books & Music, 1445 W Sunset Rd, 433-6222
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 81 Optical Effects, 9895 S. Maryland Pkwy, 435-3937
 82 Paradise Mini Mart, 2242 Paradise Rd, 794-4082
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 84 Psychic Eye, 6848 W Charleston Blvd, 255-4477
 85 Retro Vegas, 1211 S Main St, 384-2700
 86 Sam Ash Music, 2747 S Maryland Pkwy, 734-0007
 37 TeNo, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd S, 369-2736
 13 TeNo, 3667 Las Vegas Blvd S, 735-8366
 62 Tiger Lily, 700 E Sahara Ave, 737-7077
 90 Vignettes Art, 1714 W Horizon Ridge Pkwy, 221-8350
 91 Zia Record Exchange, 4225 S Eastern Ave, 735-4942

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93 Alexandria's Salon, 3555 Las Vegas Blvd S
 94 American Male, 2021 N. Rainbow, 405-0500
 4 Arcs Salon, 3930 Las Vegas Blvd S
 28 Azimi, DDS, 820 S. 7th St., 759-0005
 100 Belle Ange Salon, 8630 S. Eastern Ave., 307-0173
 97 Blush Salon, 6360 S Pecos Rd, 851-3100
 98 Bronzed, 4480 Paradise Rd, 737-8266
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 36 Mandara Salon, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
 104 NV Fertility C.A.R.E.S., 653 Town Center, Ste. 206, 341-6616
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CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Stick to that business "game plan". It's solid as a rock, though it might not have appeared that way recently. Listen to what an extremely bright assistant has to say on the 11th. Treat that aching bod to a massage, please! Those energies have been out of balance for too long. Accept that invite for the 27th. There'll be magic in the air.



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

New Moon in your sign on the 2nd really helps you to charm hard to please clients. Watch that tendency to buy on impulse from the 9th-12th. Anytime after the 18th is best for breaking any bad habits (i.e., smoking) successfully. Social gathering on the 25th introduces you to a new "soulmate".



PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

Just when you're set to give up on a long held goal, is the time to really go for it. Persistence pays off in spades. The 10th & 11th look to be challenging "across the board". Being forewarned should help. Stay out of a sibling's drama around the 20th or you'll end up in the eye of the storm. Take the 27th as a "selfish, just for me" day.



ARIES

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

You'll bounce back like the "phoenix" rising from the ashes after last month's mixed bag. The 3rd & 14th look best for calling in favors. Keep that temper in check on the 22nd or the "war" could be lost. We suggest you hire a new & more efficient financial planner. Anytime after the 25th is fine for car shopping. Bring a cute Virgo along for good measure.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Finances are stronger this month due to hard work and your "squirreling away" most of the extra cash. Keep up with this routine & you'll be on "easy street" in no time. Watch for possible bronchial irritations on the 12th & 13th. A weekend getaway from the 18th-20th would be swell if you can squeeze it in. So, do it! Okay?



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Good news as to contractual/legal matters arrives by mid month. Incoming cash flow is strong all month long. Not that you'll have much chance to spend it. Patience doesn't come easily to your sign, but is necessary for ultimate success. Keep a safe distance from the "soap opera" that's been going on around you. Plan a romantic interlude for the 26th/27th.



CANCER

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

You've got the knack for creating something great out of almost nothing. That shall be a constant like the "speed of light" during this month. Please know that your "crops" start coming in big time by mid April. Your sweetheart has been feeling ignore, and with good reason. Treat them to a night on the town. It's way overdue.



LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Though your favorite pace is "warp drive", it'll be necessary to hit the brakes periodically during February. A slower pace allows you to see all the details & possible obstacles. That proposed business partnership looks rock solid and can't miss. We know you love that car, but it's an expensive gas guzzler & has caused major problems. Trade it in for some sleek but more efficient around the 23rd.



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

It's good that you keep such exact records (not to mention every receipt known to man). This habit shall prove to be quite valuable, and not only for this month. Start planning that early May getaway now for the best deals. We see such sparkling turquoise water. Are you heading to the Greek Isles or Maui? Either way it'll be a trip/affair to remember.



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

Being in charge is not an easy thing. But through trial and error, you've made it an art form. Any potential "land mines" should be easily diffused using equal parts of diplomacy & compassion. A wardrobe change is needed, STAT! Most of what's in the closet became a buffet for moths. Go spend some bucks & get back in style.



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

Roughly 80% of this month shall go as planned. The thing is that other 20% is squeezed into four days. It looks like the 15th-18th will be a roller coaster ride. Plan nothing important for those days and for Gosh sakes sign no important documents. The last week of this month looks amazing across the board. It'll feel as if you can walk on water. Just don't actually try it.



SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Incoming cash flow for the month looks amazing. Remember to save some of it for that rainy day. Two important & long lasting friendships will be formed this month. Think of them as treasure & treat them as such. Full Moon on the 17th may initiate an intense romantic interlude. Where it goes from there is up to you. Let some blood return to that brain before deciding.

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Everyone is an Artist in some form or fashion. The art 'form' can take on numerous qualities and characteristics. Acrylic painting is my current form, but I tend to see art in fashion, automobile design, dance, poetry, furniture...the list goes on.

Art can be provocative, seductive, educational, decorative, political, religious, simple, complex, controversial, beautiful, disgusting, erotic... okay you get the picture; it can be anything to anyone and we all have our own unique reactions to art as there are all forms of art that exist.

I find passion in creating my art. I find passion in the process of laying paint down on an empty canvas and creating something from nothing. I find passion in mixing colors and studying adjacencies of colors. I typically start with a concept in my head, it normally starts from something I've see or something I've been thinking about for awhile and then it normally leads to a question. Hmmm, what would happen if I modify my STITCH-MPL concept (that geometric spiral painting I do) and instead paint from the outside edge of the canvas towards the center? What if I gradually change the color hue saturation from dark to light while working towards the center of the canvas? The passion of art creation is just that; seeing what new process or concept I can create that in turn provokes passion in the view of what I put on the canvas.

As February is the month of romance why not give a little art to your partner, husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, Valentine, neighbor, whoever comes to mind, or create a piece of art together. Wouldn't that be another great way to be passionate about art and maybe get a little passion in return? Paint them a little something creative. Have a sensual body painting session body painting (ok, not with your neighbor.) Cook a fabulous meal in a sexy and creative way. Spend the day taking photographs at Red Rock Canyon. Visit local galleries and get into a heated discussion about your favorite artist (did I mention I have a gallery space at Emergency Arts?) Visit the Cosmopolitan or Aria and take in all the great works of art. Decide which is your favorite and why. Think about what the piece says to you and what could it say to someone else. Share art with your loved ones and it will come back in passion many times over!

Pink is a color of love. Love is the theme for February. Pink happens to be my favorite color, so as a celebration to February and the fabulous color pink, I'm offering a discount of %10 percent off any pink reproduction of my art or %20 off any original piece. Surprise your Valentine with a one of a kind Mike Patrik and I'm sure you'll get something in return!

Mikel Patrik originals are on display at Emergency Arts and other places through Las Vegas and US. Visit www.mikelpatrik.com to view the latest concepts in my passion for art. You can also follow me on facebook. ■



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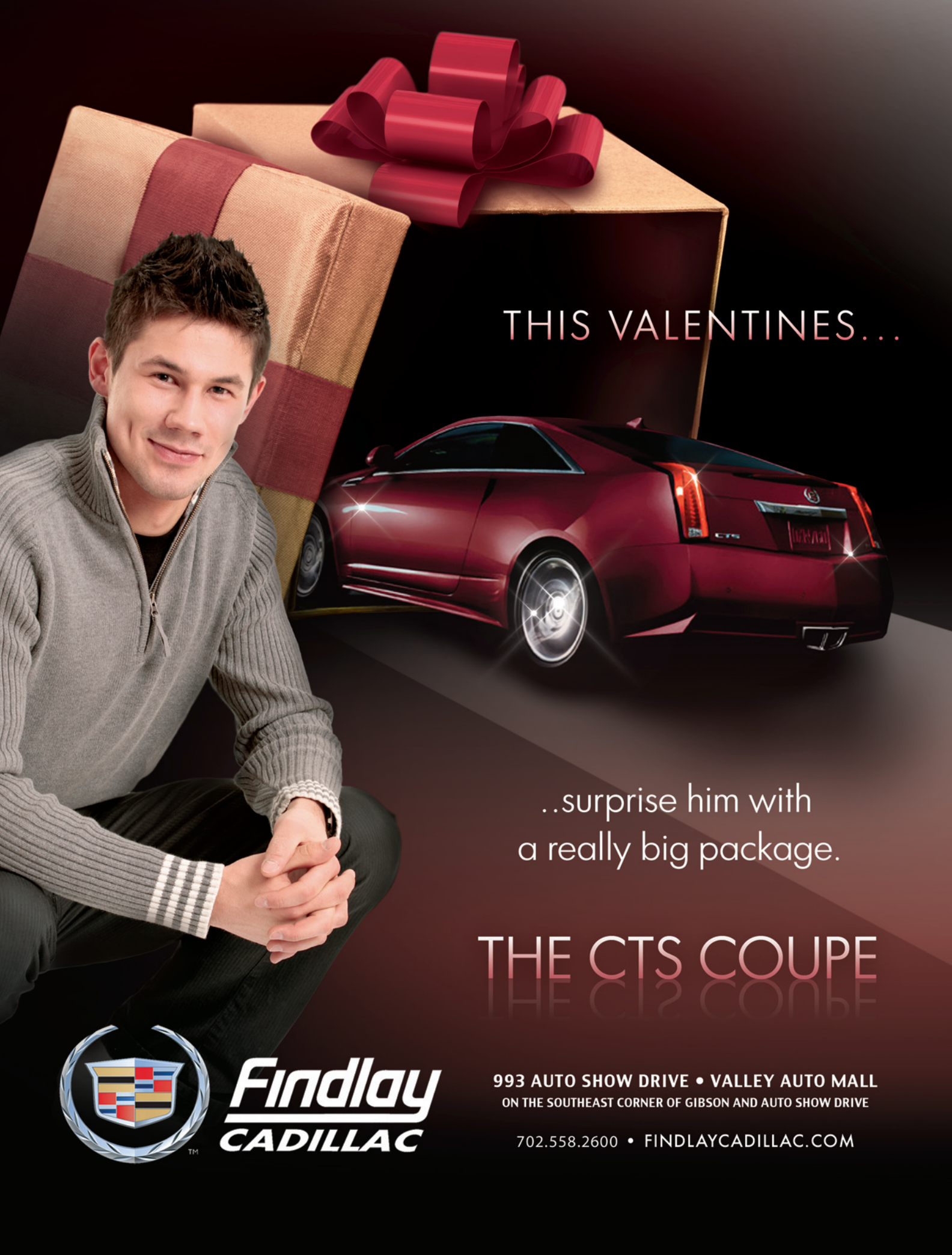
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