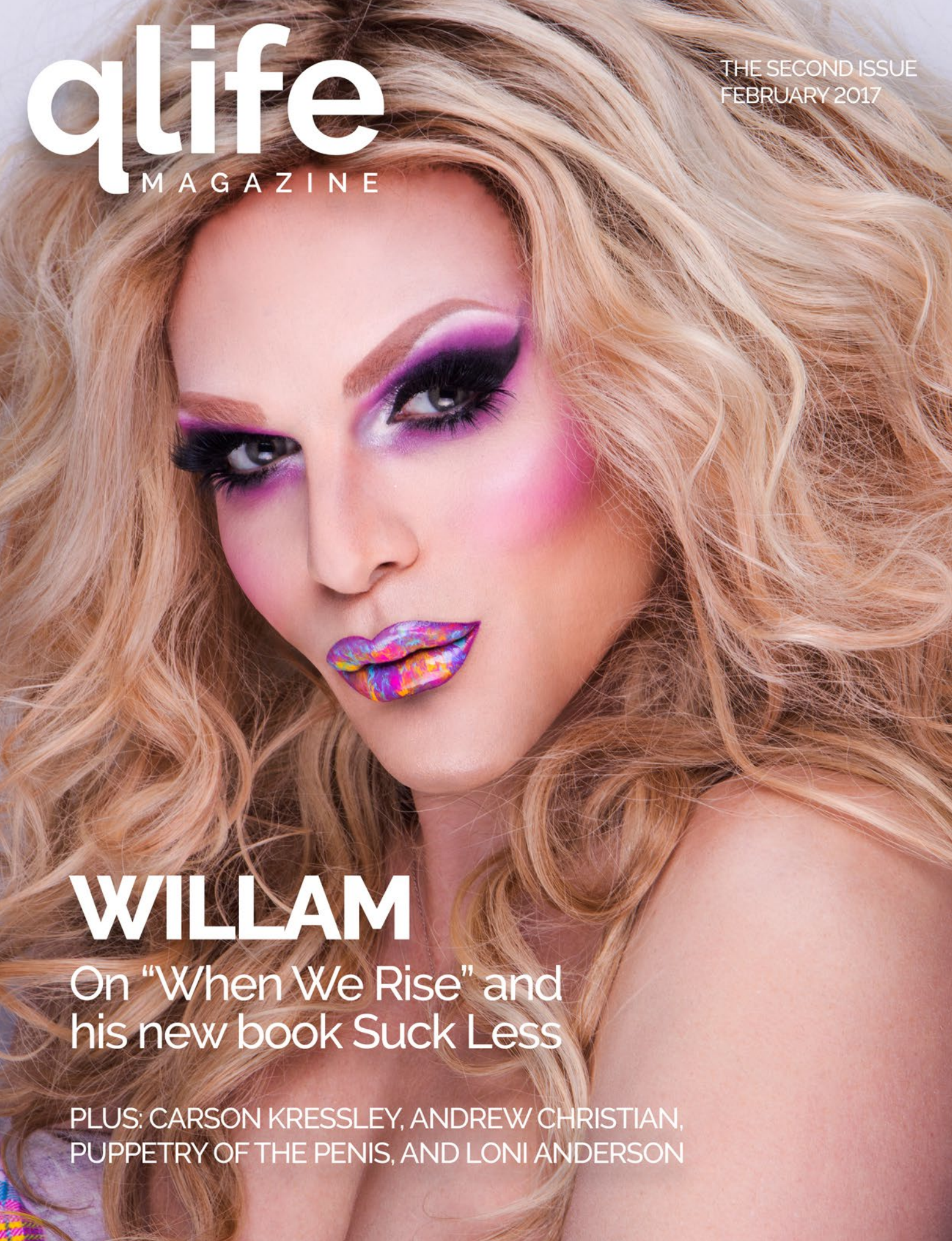




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MAGAZINE

THE SECOND ISSUE
FEBRUARY 2017

WILLAM

On "When We Rise" and
his new book Suck Less

PLUS: CARSON KRESSLEY, ANDREW CHRISTIAN,
PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS, AND LONI ANDERSON



Willam Belli talks with QLife about the new mini-series When We Rise and his new book Suck Less.

Photo: David Phelps

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

LOVE. According to The Beatles it's the only thing we need. This time last year, we were celebrating our community and the right to have our love recognized LEGALLY. As we have come to learn, we can't take any of these rights for granted. We are not certain what the future holds, but never lose the ability to love one another. For all minorities out there, we must unite as one and make sure that love will always win.

In our second issue of QLife, we want to remind you of all the beauty that still exists in the world around you. We want you to know that you are beautiful, strong, talented and deserve to be here. Never let anyone make you feel inferior, because you aren't.

Willam takes our cover story and fills us in on what's going on with his new book and new role in a mini-series on LGBTQ activism. Andrew Christian shares his models in a new book that will leave you felling like you found love. Carson Kressley raises money for homeless LGBTQ youth on The New Celebrity Apprentice, and Loni Anderson moves from radio to Internet in "My Sister is So Gay." Friends of Dorothy are darker (and hotter) than any other Oz you've seen in the new TV series Emerald City. Jamie Morris and Robert Ryan headline in Puppetry of The Penis in Las Vegas.

As QLife continue to expand into the Los Angeles and New York communities, we're proud to sponsor LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS organizations. This month we welcome AIDS Project LA and Broadway Cares. QLife is also partnering with upcoming Dining Out for Life events in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and state-wide in New York.

We're so excited to have completed our first month online. Our web traffic saw exponential growth. Readers love our social media edition on Facebook, and our tweets were seen almost 400,000 times on Twitter. Be sure to follow us on all your social media profiles.

Love,

Two handwritten signatures. The first is in black ink and appears to be 'Garrett Pattiani'. The second is in purple ink and appears to be 'Russ White'.

Garrett Pattiani
Russ White

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SHEQUIDA IS THE QUEEN OF THE RIDE

[by Paul Hutnick]

For ten years, The Ride has been a show like no other. It is literally a moving theater through the streets of New York City. Passengers hop aboard a tour bus and experience thrilling street performers and magical surprises 'round every corner. Riders aren't merely watching the action, they are part of it!

For 2017, the company is partnering with Brandon Voss, the "ultimate Drag Race party planner," on a brand new adventure they're calling Queen of The Ride.

In this interactive experience, revelers cruise the city's hottest gay night spots from Pieces in Greenwich Village to Hardware Bar in Hells Kitchen in a luxury vehicle with floor to ceiling windows, stadium-style seating, a state-of-the-art sound system, 40 plasma-screen monitors, 3,000 LED lights, and a fully stocked bar.

While en route, passengers are entertained by some of NYC's finest and most outlandish nightlife creatures. Drag queen Shequida hosts the evening with her unique brand of commentary. She explains more.

How crazy do things get on The Ride?

Shequida: Let me tell you, a bus full of drinking people can get very wild. Last week, we had a 70-year-old woman on board who, after just a few drinks, was flashing her tits to tourists on the street!

Oh, the poor tourists!

Shequida: Mostly everyone on the street loves the

wild energy they can see coming from the guests on the Ride. The fun is infectious.

Who are some of the street performers?

Shequida: We have singers, dancers, rappers and, of course, amazing drag performers. You never know when and who will pop up.

Is every ride unique?

Shequida: Every Ride is totally different. So much is determined by the audience. I find the best energy is when we get a fun mix of gays and straights. I love to torment the heteros... especially if they're cute!

As the bus cruises through NYC, are guys on board the bus cruising each other?

Shequida: It's a bus packed with gay men, so, of course, there is always some crushing going on. But Queen of The Ride is more than that. It's about the entertainment. Passengers are so glued to the performances and fun games we play on the bus, time somehow manages to fly by before anyone realizes.

For more information on Queen of The Ride and to book a seat aboard the bus, visit VossEvents.com or call 888-885-VOSS.



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BSB: LARGER THAN LIFE OPENS MARCH 1

[by Russ White]

For 22 years the Backstreet Boys, one of the most successful groups in music history, has continually delivered the finest pop music one has to offer, making them one of pop's most influential performers. With countless #1s, record-setting tours, countless awards and worldwide sales in excess of 130 million, BSB has been recognized as the best-selling boy band in history.

"We're going to call the show Larger Than Life, and we're taking that theme and we're going to run with it," says Kevin Richardson. "What can you expect?" Brian Littrell asks. "If you've ever been to a Backstreet Boys show... it's going to be that on steroids."

"We're excited to bring our experience from being a touring act with all of our hits to Vegas, so that it becomes something that you'll never forget," adds Nick Carter.

In 2013, BSB celebrated their 20th Anniversary

with the release of the album *In A World Like This*, which saw the group receive a star on the legendary Hollywood Walk of Fame, perform for the President of the United States, and make an unforgettable appearance in the Seth Rogen hit film "This Is The End." Due to the overwhelming demand, the *In A World Like This* world tour was extended multiple times, amounting to what became the group's biggest tour in over 10 years. BSB are currently in the studio working on their next album. For more information, visit www.backstreetboys.com.

A photograph of two women hugging warmly. The woman on the left is wearing a purple visor with the text "Pancreatic Cancer. Fight it. Right it. End it." and a purple t-shirt. The woman on the right is wearing glasses and a purple t-shirt. In the background, there are purple balloons and other people at an outdoor event.

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PUTTING THE ROK IN SAKE ROK

[by Russ White]

There's an energetic atmosphere every night at Sake Rok. The vibe, the music, and the food come together to create one of our favorite dining spots in Vegas. Located in the new Park between New York New York Hotel & Casino and Monte Carlo Resort, you'll find amazing sushi, Japanese inspired entrees and sake bombs. Your server is also a cast member in the nightly productions of spontaneous choreography.

Leading a company of over a dozen dancers, servers and sushi bar, Jonnis choreographs the staff every week. Jonnis comes from a performing family. Six of his 10 siblings are performers, a few also in Las Vegas. "I play myself. I work in entertainment but Sake Rok is where i am me," says Jonnis.

This month, the cast debuts a new set called "Girl Power," featuring songs from Beyoncé, Destiny's Child, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, En Vogue, Spice Girls, and Janet Jackson. The cast rehearses once a week in the Sake Rok event space. Chairs and tables are cleared to create an ad hoc dance studio, then one night after the restaurant closes a "dress rehearsal" happens in the main dining area among the tables and chairs that will be occupied by dining guests.

Don't think that just because your server is across the aisle dancing that your cocktail or entree is being delayed. A team of servers and runners supports each table, keeping the flow of food and libations happening with the immersive entertainment experience.

Sake Rok combines the best of two worlds, hiring professional dancers and restaurant staff with years of sushi experience. When melding the two worlds, not everyone is a trained dancer, so Jonnis works to create a routine that is tailor made for Sake Rok.

Sake Rok is open for lunch and dinner daily, but the entertainment is reserved for evening dining.



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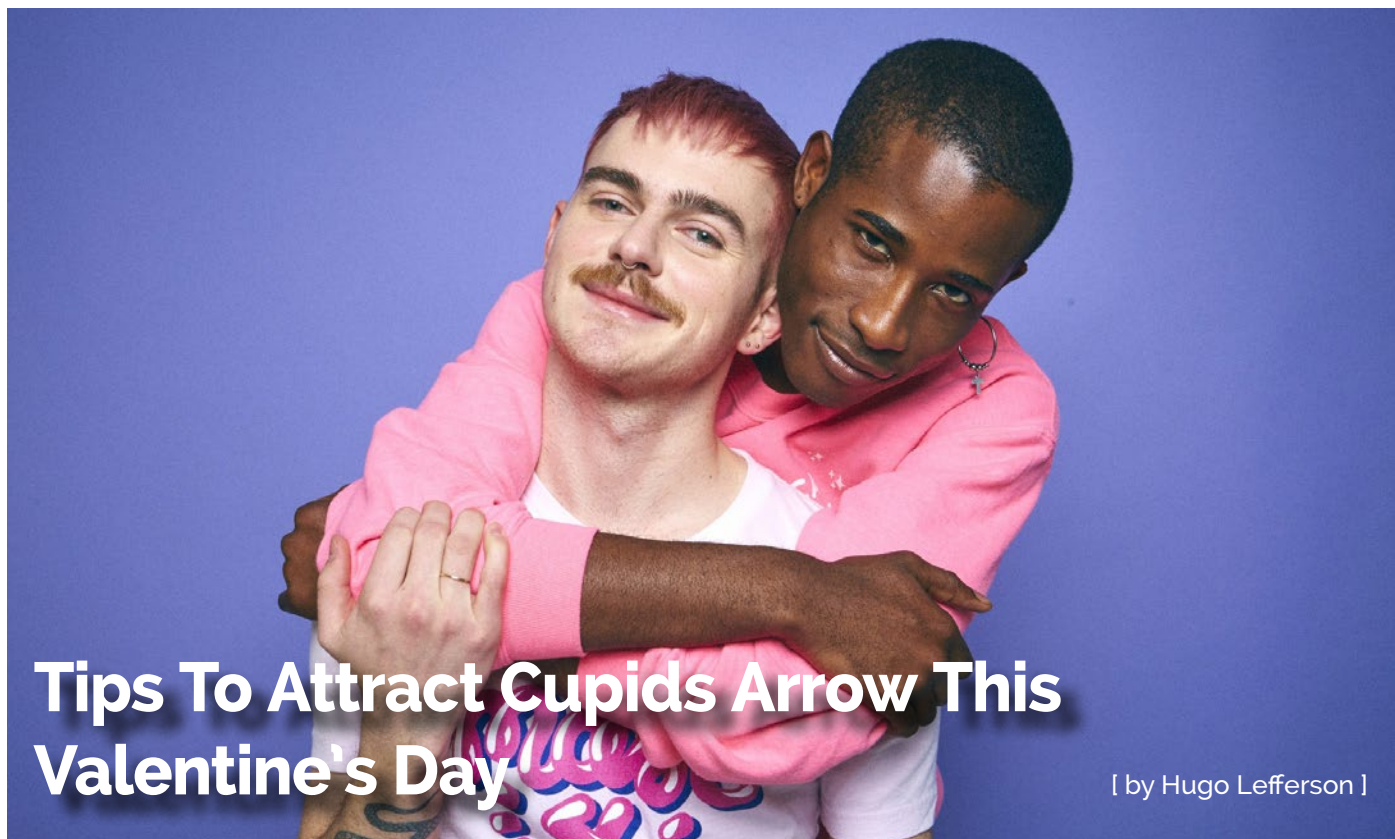
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Tips To Attract Cupids Arrow This Valentine's Day

[by Hugo Lefferson]

Sure, the world of online dating apps can be a tricky, overwhelming place to navigate with plenty of guys using "alternative facts" in their profiles. Also, let's be real: most guys on apps are looking for quick hook-ups over anything more substantial. But there are plenty of guys who have found love, marriage, and LTR on apps.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we enlisted the dating and relationship experts at Jack'd to explain the do's and don'ts of finding true love online. Here are their top ten tips.

1. Put Your Best Face Forward

"First impressions are everything," says Alon Rivel, Brand Manager at Jack'd. "A simple headshot is ideal and gets the most responses because guys can see who you really are. If you are looking for a serious relationship and connection, it is important to lead with how you want to be perceived. Leading with a cute and playful headshot helps attract the right kind of audience to your profile."

2. Mo' Photos, Mo' Photos

"Include as many additional photos as are allowed," he continues. "Use each image to show a different side to who you are. One can be you on the weekend with friends, one can be you in a suit on your way to work, and another can be you on vacation on the beach showing some skin. Diversifying the photos is ideal."

3. Keep It Classy

According to Phil Henricks, Marketing head at

Jack'd, "The biggest mistake guys make on apps that sabotages the possibility of finding true love is leading with their sexual images." It should go without say that sending inappropriate pictures before even introducing yourself first is not they key to LTR.

4. Choose a Name

Henricks adds, "The profiles that get the best results for finding love are those that use real names with emojis. The real name attracts serious-minded men and the emoji adds a touch of personality to the profile. Names that look like screen names or are overly sexual will get responses but not necessarily the best results for love."

5. Things Not To Say

"Sup?", "Nudes?", and "DTF?" are some of the most overused phrases out there. Guys like to be approached in a way that grabs their attention without turning them into a piece of meat. "Avoid saying these overused phrases at all cost," warns Rivel.

6. Consider Instead

When reaching out to a guy for the first time, Rivel says, "The best intro line is simply 'Hey, what are you

A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark vest over a t-shirt, is sitting and looking down at a smartphone in his hands. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with warm lighting.

up to today?'. Also, 'How is your day going?' works well as it starts a positive conversation that can lead to something more serious."

7. Be Real

Guys tend to fib on their profiles, especially when it comes to their weight and height. Don't do it. Also, be truthful about what you're looking for. A lot of guys are scared to admit they want real intimacy. "Own that you want an authentic relationship," suggests Henricks. "Saying you are open to a hook up but secretly hoping for more will lead to disappointment."

8. Make Sure He Is Real

There is always the potential for a catfish situation. The way to avoid them is to make sure the guy you are talking with has multiple photos and can verify who he is by sending you more photos when you chat.

9. Look Outside The Box

"You should consider giving guys who aren't your usual type a chance because trying something new can lead to growth and potential connections," says Rivel. He may be on to something. Look, you are still single so there's a chance the guys you have been seeking are not exactly right for you.

10. Be Online During Peak Times

Interestingly, there is an actual time that most men are on the apps. For Jack'd, 7 p.m. is the sweet spot—so you might want to be on the app around then. Also, enable push notifications so that you are aware when a guy in your area has swiped on you or sent a message.

Thanks to apps,
your smartphone
can be the
ultimate wingman.



When you think of Willam Belli, it's hard not to break out singing "This Boy is a Bottom," but this queen has mastered the art of remaking and marketing himself. We caught up with Willam as he prepares for the debut of *When We Rise*.

QLife: This month you are part of a mini-series on ABC. Tell us a little about "When We Rise", how did you get involved, and what is your role in the mini-series.

Willam: I auditioned for a role that I didn't get (of a real life guy named Bobbi Campbell who was one of the first Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, RN and activist) but a closeted guy got that. I was kinda ticked off but I channeled that and auditioned again for a very angry Act Up activist named Jason who rallied against the AIDS Quilt.

QLife: It looks like an all-star lineup. What were some of the highlights of working on this show? Any "kiss and tell" moments off camera?

Willam: My scenes were all with Guy Pearce and he told me a few things about Priscilla Queen of the Desert that I didn't know. He improved the Texas Chainsaw Mascara line! Crazy, huh?

QLife: You have been very great at marketing yourself and staying relevant, did you have a background in marketing?

Willam: I used to suck dick behind an Acme supermarket in Philly from 16-18. So that's technically a past in a market.

QLife: What style of drag would you classify yourself?

Willam: Luxe Clown Whore

QLife: In what ways did RPDR change your life?

Willam: RDR made more people say my name right and taught me to not worship false idols.

QLife: How do people treat you after being famous?

Willam: Kindness is free. I treat people how I wanna be treated. And sure, you may say, "you host a show called BEATDOWN on which you're a bully" but I only tell assholes that are misguided the T. If I was acting like a tool like most of the people on my show, I would want someone to tell me, too.

QLife: You came out with a book late last year. Tell us about *Suck Less*.

Willam: *Suck Less* is the book I wish I had when I was a kid. Lessons I've learned that have bettered me through drag, arrests, reality shows and some light prostitution. Plus, there's hundreds of pictures and coloring book pages, RuPaul's Drag Race dirt and an amazing audio book with Alaska Thunderfuck, Courtney Act and Bianca Del Rio

QLife: What is your best advice to the LGBTQ and drag community?

Willam: Suck Less (and volunteer- nothing feels better than giving back other than tax write-offs for your time)

QLife: Now that the election is over, what is your top concern with the new administration?

Willam: Eradicating the electoral college would be nice. We got fucked cuz of them with Gore in 2000 and we shoulda used the last decade to get rid of it's antiquated ass but we didn't. We just got fucked again.

QLife: RuPail's Drag Race Season 9 is coming out soon. Any advice for the new girls in the new season?

Willam: They already made their deals with the devil. I ain't got shit for them.

QLife: Who do you admire the most in life and why?

Willam: Chris Hardwick, the creator of Nerdlist. He created something outta nothing and is a fuckin juggernaut who does it all. Pop culture, musically inclined comedy, business.

QLife: Favorite other Queen from past seasons?

Willam: Mathu Andersen

QLife: You're on the lineup for Dragcon this year. How would you describe Dragcon for someone who has never been before?

Willam: Comic Con for Drag Queens where the most famous drag queen (Ru) doesn't even bother to get in drag.

QLife: Any pets at home?

Willam: Nope.

QLife: Where did you grow up?

Willam: Philly and Florida

QLife: When did you first do drag?

Willam: Rocky Horror Picture Show when I was 13 was my gateway drug into drag. Midnight showing all dressed up.

QLife: What is the main goal you hope to accomplish with your fans?

Willam: I wanna make people happy or horny.

QLife: What really happened on the famous episode of RPDR when you left the show?

Willam: Read the book. There's a quiz with lots of answers and many (or all) might be true including that one where a producer fucked me in a bathroom stall the last day of production.

QLife: Favorite city to visit? Where have you never been and want to go?

Willam: I like Dallas a lot because there's like 5 strip clubs for gay men plus I have tons of friends there at S4 and from the movie Ticket Off Trannies With Knives &

Photos: Paul Bulon



Hurricane Bianca.

QLife: Let's close out with a fun question.. 2 truths and a lie.. tell us 2 truths about you that few people know, and one lie, just to keep them guessing.

Willam: Katy Perry yelled at me to sing Boy Is A Bottom once. I fisted someone onstage while singing Not A Girl, Not Yet A Woman. RuPaul loves me.



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The story feels the same, but right away you know something is very different about this remake of the tales of Oz. Where “Wicked” gave us a backstory, Emerald City re-imagines Dorothy’s journey to Oz. A 20-year old Dorothy Gale is swept up into the eye of a tornado in a police car, landing in a blizzard, not dropping a house on a witch.

Characters reveal themselves throughout unexpected plot twists of the familiar story. Dorothy discovers a crucified man left for dead, covered in dirt and hay. Resembling a Scarecrow (played by smoking hot Oliver Jackson-Cohen) Lucas awakes with amnesia and joins Dorothy on her journey.

Glinda doesn’t strike you as the nice one until you meet her seductive sister West. The sisters cull young girls from the orphanages of Oz.

Toto is a badass German Shepherd, and the tin man is born out of an accidental fall.

The series introduces Tip, who appears to be a new character, but one who brings gender identity to the storyline.

Expect the unexpected every week as the story distorts what you thought you knew about the Land of Oz.





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The ever gorgeous and hilarious Loni Anderson stars as Frances, the boozy and inappropriately sexy mother of two middle age children, in the new LGBT themes series "My Sister is So Gay".

Loni Anderson will always be remembered as Jennifer Marlowe from the hit sitcom WKRP in Cincinnati, a role which garnered her 3 Golden Globe and 2 Prime Time Emmy Award nominations. Her films include A Night at the Roxbury and Stroker Ace with Burt Reynolds. Her high-profile marriage to Burt made them the Brad & Angelina of the 1980s. She is now happily married to Bob Flick, from the folk group The Brothers Four. At age 70 Anderson makes her internet debut with "My Sister is So Gay."

QLife caught up with Loni where she was beachside in Marina Del Ray to learn more about the making of the made-for-web series.

"I had not read anything that I really loved in awhile," said Anderson. "When Terry Ray called me, I said I wanted to be a part of this. It was the funniest thing I've read in a long time."

Frances' gay son Seth is invaded by his uptight, homophobic sister, Amanda, after she catches her husband with her best friend.

"What Amanda doesn't realize about herself is that she's also gay," said Loni. "I get to play this perpetually tipsy mother. I carry my ice bucket with me wherever I go along with all the makings for my

martinis. Frances is promiscuous, wears short mini skirts and plunging necklines, but end the end she's a wonderful, loving mom—maybe too interfering, but she adores her children." Anderson touts "if you want to look young next to your kids teen pregnancy is the way to go. People don't talk about it, but I think it's a selling point."

Webisodes do not require the production costs of full production shows. In fact, "My Sister is So Gay" was filmed in Terry Ray's apartment. These low budget, high-quality shows are becoming more popular. To contrast, production for each episode of WKRP in Cincinnati took a week and was filmed in front of a live studio audience.

"I have a son who is 28 and two granddaughters and everybody has the attention span of a gnat," said Loni. "They all have gadgets; nobody watches anything in real time. They binge watch, or they watch in bits-and-pieces. The television that I started out in is just gone. You can catch up on a webisode at work while you're on a break."

My Sister is So Gay premiered January 22, 2017 on Tello Films. Season One features a total of six episodes.

Watch the trailer: https://youtu.be/-m8_UHWy2Dc

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Every year, about mid-February, everyone's thoughts turn to romance. What could be a more romantic Valentine's Day gift than a trip to Paris? Can't quite float a trip overseas? Well, if you're in Las Vegas, the Eiffel Tower Restaurant can provide fabulous French food, a dimly lit romantic setting, and superb service, while gazing out over the famous Vegas Strip!

Built into the half-scale replica of the famous Paris landmark, and hovering 11 stories above street level, the Eiffel Tower Restaurant is full of surprises. When you reach restaurant level, the elevator doors open onto the kitchen, but a sharp right turn takes you past the large bar to the podium where the hostess will greet you and escort you to your table. The dining area is a bit of a surprise as well - curved lines and red leather banquettes offset by the silver support struts of the tower itself, bisecting the room at various angles. The tower was built before the hotel and when the restaurant was created, the architecture was simply incorporated into the decor.

The street-side windows were lined with small, triangular "couples tables", ideal for a romantic mood. Most of these tables had an unrivaled view of the Bellagio Hotel with its renowned fountain show. My friend and I were lucky enough to be seated at one of them, and we began the meal with flutes of champagne.

The culinary surprises began almost at once - a shot of celery root soup, warm, with bits of celery and a hint of leek in the broth; like a celery vichyssoise. Then followed a trio of amuse bouches: a Fava Bean Beignet

- a comforting mouthful with shaved fennel for crunch, a Shrimp Galette, like a tiny sandwich, with pickled leeks and a sriracha aioli (my favorite of the bunch). Finally, there was a duck strudel - a yummy roll of duck meat on a bed of sautéed lentils with a touch of vinegar for a nice bite.

Between us, we chose several appetizers: We split the Fricassee of Wild Escargot - a surprising presentation, with the snails in a creamy sauce, served atop a sweet garlic soufflé, with fingerling potatoes, cipollini onions and a Parmesan tuille, which provided a pleasant crunch and a nice strong cheese flavor. The Blue Cheese Soufflé Pudding was next. Made with Bleu d'Auvergne, the flavor was creamier, more buttery and less salty than anticipated. The soufflé itself was feather light and the balsamic reduction gave it just a hint of acid. The Lobster Bouillon was an intensely flavored soup - not as creamy as a bisque, it was served with a toasted brioche round and a tiny, delicious lobster flan! Garnished with bits of celery, sprouts, and lobster meat for added flavor and texture, the soup was a bit salty to my palate, but still one of my favorite dishes of the evening. Lastly, the Cold Foie Gras Torchon wrapped in duck prosciutto, was



spectacular, winning over not just me, but my friend as well, both of us being fans of foie gras in its many forms. In this case, the foie had been soaked in milk and brandy, and warmed very gradually in a water bath. Sliced thin and served cold, the foie itself was melt-in-your-mouth creamy, with a warm, comforting hint of brandy at the finish. The prosciutto just enhanced the duckiness of the dish, and the accompanying fig compote added a sweetness that balanced the plate perfectly.

Our entrees arrived. My friend opted for the Roasted Rack of Lamb with tomato tart and tarragon jus. The lamb was perfectly done; just a bit on the rare side, but needed just a pinch of salt to bring out the flavor. The tomato tart - layers of tomato, creme fraiche, and eggplant, was a nice garnish, and the side of Brussels Sprouts was delicious. I chose the Charred Spice Crusted Venison, cooked to a lovely medium rare. Served with spiced apple and braised red cabbage, the venison had been rubbed with a combination of cocoa powder, cloves, and Szechuan pepper, making each bite a treat.

We decided not to indulge in any of the dessert

soufflés, but instead decided to split the Passionfruit Coconut Champagne Meringue - a sort of baked Alaska, if you will: toasted meringue over passionfruit and coconut sorbet, garnished with bits of fresh pineapple. As a finishing touch, champagne is poured into the bowl, picking up and mixing the flavors from the dessert as it's eaten. It was a tart, refreshing way to end the meal.

The Eiffel Tower Restaurant is quite popular, but as busy as it was, our servers always had time to refill our water glasses, get more bread, whisk away used plates, or in my case, answer questions about the food. The staff functioned as a team, making our meal a true standout.

With the unbeatable combination of exquisite French fare, tiny tables for two, a view that you can only find in Las Vegas, and a true romantic mood, this would be the perfect place to take your special someone for Valentine's Day. If you can't make it on February 14th, however, don't be disheartened. At the Eiffel Tower Restaurant, Valentine's Day can be any day of the week!

Originally published February 2014 – QVegas Magazine



NORMA'S PAGE

Whatever Norma Wants, Norma Gets

[by Norma Llyaman]

February is such a predictable month! Cold weather, Valentines and President's Day Sales! Winter is almost done and you can see spring teasing you like a pickle juice chaser with a whiskey shot at a late night beer bust! This nasty weather has got to go, go, go....rain rain go away..come again in mid-August when we need you for our skin and yards! But wait, what about that ground hog? Have you ever been to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania? I didn't think so!

(Grieving long pause)

Well, it happened! Cheeto took the oath. It wasn't just a bad dream. Now let's get on with our lives and be Americans and not take 3 steps back! I am proud of how far we have come but I am well aware that there will be more obstacles and conflicts ahead of us that we WILL WIN! WE THE PEOPLE! How about that Women's March? WOW – to see millions of people across the globe peacefully marching in solidarity was amazing! Ashley Judd certainly had a lot to say by reciting a poem by a 19 year old Tennessee girl. Hell yea! It was also nice to see Cher and Madonna all cuddled up in there warm plastic VIP tent! Norma was there in spirit and on Facebook!

Speaking of spirits and powerful women, there is a familiar face back in town. Ginger Grant is back! She is setting up all kinds of gigs everywhere and there is even a rumor that her fun Carnival show may be returning. She's even got a new logo and has been branded...no literally, ask her! She'll show you. We love our Ginger – Snap!

In other news, I've recently been educated on the new "dispensary" shops that are popping up all over town! All I can say is WOW and Oh Lordy! Please don't get me started on this new craze! Have you been past

the Fashion Show Mall area lately? Is that a skunk living in the garden? You can get a contact buzz just driving down Dean Martin with your windows closed! I think I may be getting a case of extreme glaucoma! Time will tell.

Final thoughts about February.....

IT'S RED DRESS SEASON! I will once again wear a FABULOUS couture Red Dress for the 11th annual SIN CITY SISTERS RED DRESS EVENT. It is one of my favorite events of the social season! Wearing a red dress reflects that you support and are creating awareness of the HIV / AIDS crusade that continues. This year's theme - ART IS SIN, this annual event will take place February 25th, 2017 at the most incredible new venue – The Space! Visit www.sinsitysisters.org for more details. And don't forget about the huge kick-off show, Kimberli Foxx's Red Ribbon Review, the night before (FEB 24) at Charlies. It will be co-hosted by yours truly and Taylor Trash!

Next month news - be prepared to MISBEHAVE with Ms. Norma! I've a huge star studded benefit show coming up for The Center and it's going to be a "Spectacular Spectacle!"

Next month's rant - The social effects of being allergic to pineapple, shell fish and Leprechauns!

MARCH 25, 2017
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MISBEHAVIN'

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I have always been curious about a show here in town, and once I say the name it will probably make you just as curious. I often drive in the part of town best known as “Industrial” road and it is flooded with tons of marketing for strip clubs, sex and sexy women. As a gay man, there is one sign that catches my attention every time. It reads PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS in big bold masculine letters.

I think to myself what this show would be like and why haven't I seen it yet? Is it a puppet that looks like a penis? Do they dress up their penis in clothes? Little did I know that I would soon find out the answer and how awesome the show would be.

Living in Las Vegas, you get to know people and sometimes those people are entertainers that end up becoming great friends. I was attending a party and ran into a local performer that I admire. If you know Jamie Morris, you know that he has made audiences laugh time and time again. When he told me that he was going to be appearing in Puppetry of The Penis, I knew I had to see it.

Fast forward to the night of the event. (Side note it's my 2 year anniversary with my husband and thought it would be fun to go together.) We navigate to the Erotic Heritage Museum, quite a fitting venue for this type of show. We walk into the venue and immediately see all types of memorabilia from people like Larry Flynt of Hustler Magazine and Hugh Hefner of Playboy. I immediately noticed some rainbow flags hanging from the ceiling and it made me feel very welcome.

I greeted the nice woman at the front register and introduced myself. Her name is Tina. Our conversation was paused abruptly when customer opened the door and said “Excuse me, I was just wondering if men come in here. My husband is in the car and he is nervous to come in and wanted me to make sure he wouldn't be the only guy inside.” She looked around and saw that there were all kinds of people present. It was a very diverse crowd. I laughed inside as I continued to talk to the retail clerk. She told me that the purpose of this museum is to educate people that there are all kinds of things that exist that you may not even know. The goal is to show the world that there is no judgment within this community. You can be into things that the world might think is weird, but here it is celebrated. Tina informed us that her particular title is a consensual slave. (FULL DISCLOSURE: I looked that up later. You should too!)

The show doors open and we are allowed to enter the theater. Its a small theater with tall, red curtains along the walls. There is a stage at the front. A female comedian opens with some really funny dialogue to break the ice. She makes sure to call out all the



different people in the audience. Straight, Gay, Bi, Lesbian, Trans, Single, Married, Birthdays, Anniversaries etc. This gets people to see that we are all here to see the show for different reasons. But the one thing we all have in common is an open mind and laughter.

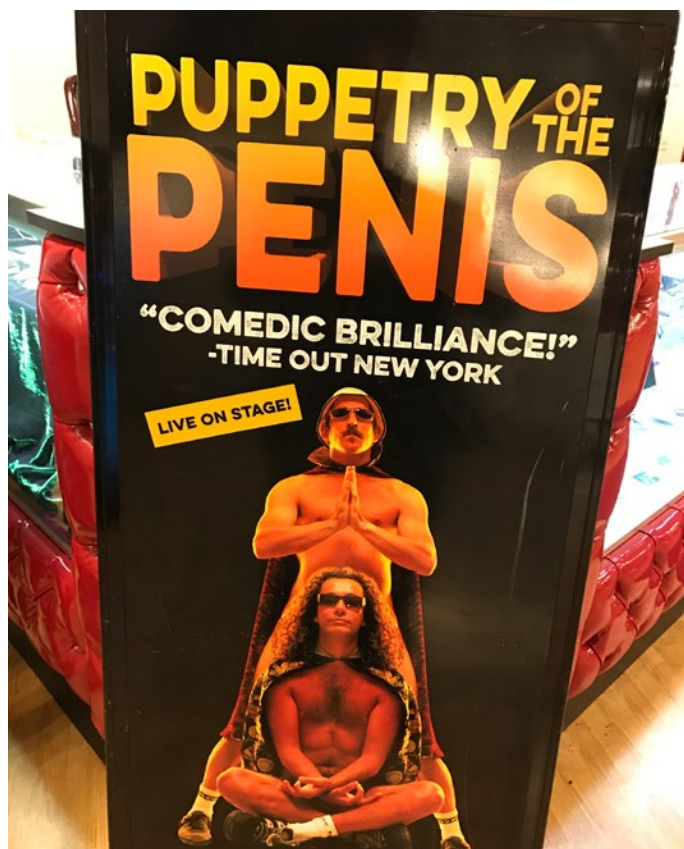
After her act, she introduces the two male stars of the show, Robert Ryan and Jamie Morris. The duo come running out in blue capes that sort of remind me of the capes worn by wizards. We all can guess that they are completely nude underneath. They jump and stretch, tell some jokes and then they expose it all! The crowd is delighted with laughter and cheers. It seems weird to me that the human body is something that we get so nervous / excited about. I am happy that we are now fully immersed into the show. And now the title of the show makes sense to me. They bend, twist, fold and fondle their penis to create all sorts of shapes and make light of the fact that they are naked. They create everything from a man-gina that resembles a real vagina, Miley Cyrus' on her famous wrecking ball, baby bird, and even food items like "hot dogs" and the penis origami that started it all... "The Hamburger".

Another fun aspect of the show was a large projector screen that had a live feed from the camera person in the front row. This allows them to zoom in really close, so that you can see detailed imagery. They also use the screen to interact with the performers, using zoom and cropping. It's hysterical how they invented a way to make the penis seem so playful. We know that the audience is having a blast when they get a real volunteer to join them on stage and actually do penis origami. Yes, even show it to everyone! The show received the standing ovation (pun intended) that it rightfully deserved.

After the show, we walked through the museum. It was filled with so many pieces of sexual history and random news bites. Some art dated back to ancient civilizations and represented a ton of historical icons

and public figures. Upon exiting the exhibit, I picked up a flyer, and it read. "What does the museum stand for?" #10 is my favorite... Acceptance and inclusivity for all. All shapes and sizes and lengths.

POTP has now been performed in over 30 countries and four languages! Puppetry of the Penis was born when Simon Morley teamed up with fellow puppeteer David Friend. Their first show at the 1998 Melbourne International Comedy Festival was received as the "Outright Best Show." You can catch the show every Thursday - Sunday at 8:00 pm. www.eroticmuseumvegas.com





Higher Path Living is a luxury home for sober living in the South West area of Las Vegas. HPL supports those who are leaving a treatment center, detox facility, or those who are struggling with sobriety. We help each guest put together a customized sober living plan that works for them.

QLife caught up with Executive Director, Dennis Hofmaier for an interview just a few months after the residence's grand opening!

QLife: Hi Dennis, welcome to Las Vegas. Tell us a little about Higher Path Living.

Dennis: HPL provides an empathetic, non-judgmental, and confidential environment where each guest can be fully heard and understood. We support everyone and understand the unique needs of the LGBTQ community. We utilize a mind, body, and spirit approach to help the individual address the root causes of pain and discomfort. This approach paves the way toward healing and gives the spirit fertile ground in which to appreciate, explore, and expand on the strengths you already possess to fulfill your greatest potential.

QLife: How did you get your start in the recovery business?

Dennis: After 10 years of sobriety of working with AA and one relapse (or slip), for some reason 12-steps just stopped resonating with me and wasn't working the same way anymore. So in my continuing strive for sobriety I researched evidence-based recovery

solutions and discovered SMART Recovery. SMART Recovery just worked so well for me that I knew I had to bring more awareness to the program. In my own journey of recovery I found a passion for the business and helping others achieve their goals of long term sobriety while being able to live a well-balanced life.

QLife: What is HPL's philosophy and recovery plan choices you offer?

Dennis: Our recovery philosophy is designed by using the latest research by SAMHSA (the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). By using this evidence-based approach, we can support the individual who seeks to improve their emotional, spiritual, and physical health; and to move forward by creating meaning and purpose in our lives. We reinforce the power that each individual has to make the right choices to maintain sobriety. Refuge Recovery is also utilized to focus on mindfulness and meditation.

QLife: Please tell us more about SMART Recovery and Refuge Recovery.

Dennis: SMART Recovery stands for Self Management and Recovery Training and teaches self-empowerment and self-reliance. SMART Recovery's



4-Point Program offers specific tools and techniques for each point: Building and Maintaining Motivation, Coping with Urges, Managing Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviors and Living a Balanced Life.

Refuge Recovery is an Eastern-oriented path to freedom from addiction. This is an approach to recovery that understands, "All individuals have the power and potential to free themselves from the suffering that is caused by addiction". This is a systematic approach to training our hearts and minds to see clearly and respond to our lives with understanding. Meditation practice allows us to look at the internal habits and thoughts of our own mind.

QLife: Tell me about the HPL residence and team.

Dennis: HPL's residence is a beautiful 5,000 sq ft home in a luxury, guard gated community equipped with a pool, spa, big-screen TV's, office, queen beds, luxury linens and a grand kitchen & living space that can accommodate 6 guests.

Steve Appel runs our Refuge Recovery program and also facilitates yoga, qigong, meditations, tai-chi and mindfulness practices. Steve has been in recovery for over 20 years and connects superbly with our guests.

Veronica Scala is the Outreach Director and also a certified recovery coach. Veronica was originally trained as a detox technician and now does our networking as well as works one-on-one with our guests.

Clinical Director, Joe Perroni has worked with many celebrities in the past, has a passion for the industry and builds amazing connections with people.

QLife: What is your favorite aspect about doing what you do?

Dennis: Seeing the positive changes that a life of sobriety has on the guests we have helped.

QLife: If someone wanted to get in touch with you how would they do that?

Dennis: Please visit our website at www.hpliving.com or call 800-891-9767.



UNDER HIS SPELL

[by Tom Corliss]

Davis Mallory, the blond-haired, blue-eyed southern boy who came out nationally on MTV's *The Real World*, is delivering a love message this Valentine's Day. Produced by KELLR, "Under Your Spell," the first single from his upcoming EP *LOUD*, is a lush, heartfelt ballad about those special people who come into our lives, ignite our passions and turn our world's upside down.

"I would love to find someone to spend the rest of my life with," says Davis, recently single since splitting from a two-year relationship. "Especially now that both of my siblings are married as well as several of my gay friends. I would love to start that next chapter of my life."

"I've fallen under someone's spell several times in my life," he continues from his Nashville home. "From those early high school crushes to my first boyfriend, who I dated on *The Real World*."

Releasing to iTunes this month, "Under Your Spell" was inspired by Davis' most recent ex, a man he was on-and-off with since 2014. It was written during the early stages of the relationship when everything was warm and tingly and their future seemed bright. "I'm a Leo, so when I fall for someone, I envision it lasting forever," he admits.

The excitement is reflected in the song's music video, directed by Derrick Lipschitz and filmed at the DCXV "Heirolglitches" mural by Nashville artist Adrien Saporti. Starring Ashley Saggs and William Harris III as the joyously unrestrained couple in love,

the video, releasing with the single, depicts the story of a relationship taking off. In the mist of their wild exuberance, the video cuts to dreamboat Davis crooning how "in this little world of ours, you are the sun the stars".

"The entire EP was written during my relationship's climb and fall," explains Davis of *LOUD*, releasing this spring.

The title track, written with Mitchell Rose and produced by Ricca Vita & J. Hanna, explores the passion Davis enjoyed at the start of the romance. "It's my Marvin Gaye's 'Let's Get it On' or my George Michael's 'I Want Your Sex,'" he laughs, with a shy grin. "It's a bit outside of the norm of what I usually write about."

Two remixes of "Loud" will be included on the EP. The first, by Miami-based producer Landis, will be released later this month by Armada Records. The second remix is by Los Angeles-based producer BPT.

In "Ocean Blue," co-written with Lockwood Barr and produced by Brazilian duo Paulo Ventura & RDR, Davis sings about the great lengths he now knows he would



travel for someone he is in love with. "The relationship really tested my boundaries on how far I would go to keep it going."

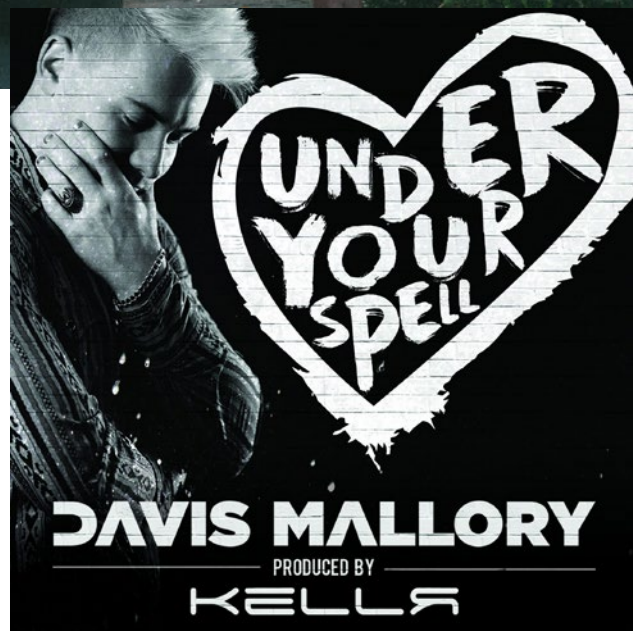
He sings about struggling to maintain a long distance relationship in "Distance," a song he wrote with Bay Brooks (who competed on TV's *The Voice*). "I tear up when I sing the song live as it's one of the more emotional tracks for me."

"Be Without You" is the darkest song on *LOUD*. "I wrote it right after our final breakup, when I realized we had reached the end. My mom doesn't like the song. She doesn't like sad music, but it was my way of dealing with the pain that comes from the end of a relationship."

Since the split, Davis has strategically taken a break from dating to focus on his music and dedicate his time and energy to building his legacy. "Music, for me, isn't about making money or becoming famous. It's about creating something that I am passionate about and that I hope will live on even after I die. I listen to music all day. It's the art form I love most."

"I channel my emotions into my music, hoping they resonate with others. Ultimately, I want to write optimistic, fun songs that spread positivity."

With the release of *LOUD*, he says he's happy



to finally put to bed all the feelings from his last relationship. "It's time I look ahead to who may be waiting around the corner."

As to who he might be, Davis explains, "I think someone who is fun and playful and can be my best friend will always be who I'm looking for."

Davis Mallory's "Under Your Spell" releases to iTunes this month. The *LOUD* EP releases to iTunes April 25, 2017. For more information, visit DavisMallory.com.



Photos:



LEE SQUARED

An evening with Liberace and Miss Peggy Lee

[by Michael Barbieri]

Imagine, if you will, that two renowned gay icons - the ultra-hip Miss Peggy Lee, and the ferociously flamboyant Liberace, have never actually left our earthly plane, and are still hitting the clubs, performing for their adoring public. Well, imagine no more!

At The Metropolitan Room, on West 22nd Street, you can see them both in *Lee Squared: An Evening With Liberace and Miss Peggy Lee*. In this loving and very funny tribute show, David Maiocco appears as Liberace, known to the world as Mr. Showmanship, but to his friends as Lee. With him, is the incomparable Chuck Sweeney as legendary platinum-haired jazz goddess, Peggy Lee.

Maiocco, a MAC and Bistro Award winning musical director and pianist, has played for some of the most legendary "ladies" of stage and screen - Tommy Femia as Judy Garland, James Beaman as Marlene Dietrich and Lauren Bacall, Richard Skipper as Carol Channing, Steven Brinberg's *Simply Barbra*, and of course, Chuck Sweeney as Miss Peggy Lee. Additionally, he's accompanied artists like Ben Vereen, Karen Mason, Christine Pedi, John Barrowman and others, in cabarets and in concert.

As Miss Lee, Chuck Sweeney has performed in some of the most well known cabarets and theaters throughout the U.S. and Canada, including the Waldorf Astoria Grand Ballroom, Madison Square Garden, The Duplex, Don't Tell Mama, and the Madeira Room in Provincetown. He was a featured Guest Star and Host(less) of the "Just For Laughs" Montreal Comedy

Festival Queer Comics Night, and is the recipient of the Backstage Bistro Award and two-time winner of the MAC Award for Outstanding Impersonation.

As *Lee Squared*, the pair are a camp delight!

The show begins appropriately, with a grand entrance, as Maiocco's Liberace takes the stage to the orchestral sounds of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1. Dressed in a black tailcoat with silver spangled lapels, a frilly cravat, and white ruffled cuffs, he positions himself at the piano - flickering candelabra completing the picture - and plays the grandiose opening chords, which soon become a tinkling, music box-like variation on the theme. After greeting the audience, he gives us a jaunty "There'll Be Some Changes Made," and "Bumble Boogie" - a version of "Flight of the Bumblebee," set to boogie-woogie rhythm.

From the moment he enters, Maiocco captures Liberace perfectly - his glittering costumes, his famously "wavy hair," his slightly nasal voice, his sly smile and sideways glances at the audience, and of course, the over the top flourishes and sparkling runs on the piano. All that's missing are the Dancing Waters!

Taking center stage for a moment, and using, of



course, a rhinestone encrusted microphone, he introduces his special guest star, Miss Peggy Lee.

Now, while Maiocco's performance as Liberace is often eerily accurate, Chuck Sweeney's Peg is an affectionately comedic parody of the great lady - a bit dippy, with that breathy, almost monotonous speech pattern, the white Cleopatra wig, and those infamous dark glasses - so dark, she manages to lose her way to the stage upon her entrance!

Decked out in black sequins and purple feathered sleeves, Sweeney gives us one of Peg's own compositions, "It's A Good Day," and one of her signature tunes, Leiber & Stoller's "I'm a W-O-M-A-N," with a few hilariously misplaced lyrics.

In one of the show's memorable moments, while Sweeney leaves the stage, Maiocco takes a solo spot, playing Liberace's Mack the Knife Variations, where the iconic Weill song is done in varying styles - as a Strauss waltz or a Mozart sonata, for instance. Again, his reproduction of Liberace's uniquely embellished sound is remarkable, and the song seems fresh and new.

When Peg returns in a glittering new ensemble, Liberace asks if he can "slip out and get into something more spectacular." This leaves her alone to recall the time she met the Dalai Lama - I knew the story already, and had to hold back my laughter so I wouldn't telegraph the joke! We're also treated to the awkwardly funny sight of watching her clamber atop the piano to give us Bruce Springsteen's "Fire," and of course, there's her jokey, deadpan rendition of "Fever," the song for which Peggy Lee is best known.

Liberace re-enters, resplendent in a silver lamé suit and full length silver sequined cape, which matches Peg's outfit, bling for bling! They reminisce about the pianist's lavish holiday parties, giving Sweeney a showcase for some of his other vocal impressions. But pretty soon, "The Party's Over," and Maiocco treats us to a gorgeous Chopin Nocturne, with the stage bathed in





blue light.

Two bravura pieces follow - Liberace's Boogie Woogie, a piece he made famous in concert, in which he plays a standard boogie, done 8 to the bar. The audience gets to participate, when during a brief pause in the music, they all shout "HEY!" Thrillingly, the piece ends with Maiocco doubling the pace, as Liberace did, to a shockingly fast 16 to the bar, leaving no doubt as to his exceptional skills as a musician! Peg then gives us her ultimate party number, "Is That All There Is?" from the album *Mirrors*.

The fabulously silly finale has the stars upset that the press has dubbed them "old and out of touch," so to prove they're not behind the times, they perform a medley of current pop hits! Trust me, you ain't seen nothing till you've witnessed Liberace and Peggy Lee rapping away at "Whip/Nae Nae" and doin' the stanky leg!

The pair closes out the show with a couple of lovely, quiet encores - "Sing A Rainbow," which seemed to me a gentle shout-out to the gay community, and the sentimental "I'll Be Seeing You," with the stars joining in

simple, beautiful harmony.

A good cabaret show can do many things: entertain, enlighten, amuse. Lee Squared gives us a window into a time gone by. We get to experience Miss Peggy Lee's cool style, albeit filtered through a comedic lens. We get a glimpse into Liberace's excessive stage persona - the man who said "Too much of a good thing...is WONDERFUL!" We get to hear jazz and pop classics, and classical masterpieces played by a master...or at least an excellent facsimile! We get to laugh. We might even get a little misty-eyed. But most of all, we get to remember. For those of us old enough to have seen the real Liberace and Lee, the show is a fun, sequin-spangled walk down memory lane. For the younger generation, who may not be as familiar with them, well, Lee Squared would be a fabulous primer!

Liberace would've loved it, and Peg would be proud!

Lee Squared plays the Metropolitan Room again on Friday, February 17th, at 9:30 pm. Tickets available at www.metropolitanroom.com or reserve by phone at 212-206-0440



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ONE OF OUR OWN

A community comes together to celebrate the life of Ryan Zink

[by QLife Staff]

On January 14th, the cast of Divas along with hundreds of community members held a memorial service for Ryan Zink at Charlie's Las Vegas.

Andrew Ryan, cast-mate at Divas, curated the event that would raise funds for Zink's family to cover funeral and travel expenses. A nice display was set up on the dance floor that paid tribute to Zink, as well as his iconic Reba McEntire persona that so many fans came to know.

The event was meant to celebrate his life so much of the ceremony had an uplifting tone. Performances from Jimmy Emerson, Steven Wayne, Kenneth Rex, Crystal Woods, Michelle Holliday.

Zink served in the U.S. Army and local staff sergeant Deborah Galan performed the National Anthem and the Presentation of Colors.

Highlights of the event included slideshow with pictures of Zink's life that had been collected from various friends and family members.

A somber moment happened when the song "Fancy", the song in his performance at Divas, played one last time in his honor.

Ryan Zink was loved by many people. He will be missed.





Ryan Zink
1973-2017

Celebration of Life
Gathering for Family & Friends
Saturday January 14th
1:00 pm at Charlie's Las Vegas
5012 Arville St. - Las Vegas, Nevada





Carson Kressley knows reality TV. Getting an early start as the fashion savant for *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* in 2003, Kressley built his brand as the go-to-guy for fashion advice. The former stylist for Ralph Lauren has competed on *Dancing with the Stars* and is a recurring guest judge on *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

This season Carson meets *The Terminator* as Arnold Schwarzenegger replaces Donald Trump on this season's *The New Celebrity Apprentice*. Celebrities compete for cash prizes for their designated charities. Carson, a board member of The True Colors Fund, is competing on behalf of the charity that provides support for homeless youth.

"I've been involved with the charity for about eight years with Cyndi Lauper. We work to get homeless LGBTQ youth off the streets and into safe homes. Unfortunately, LGBTQ kids make up 40% of our homeless youth population, which is disproportionate to the number of kids out there," said Carson.

Each week one of the celebrities are picked to be a project manager for a team. Prize money goes to the project manager's charity. "So far I've won one of my challenges and donated \$25,000 to The True Colors Fund," said Carson. "I'm also working with Carnival Cruise Lines, and if I have the most votes on their website, I could win an additional \$25,000 for the charity."

Known as a TV personality, Carson owes some of

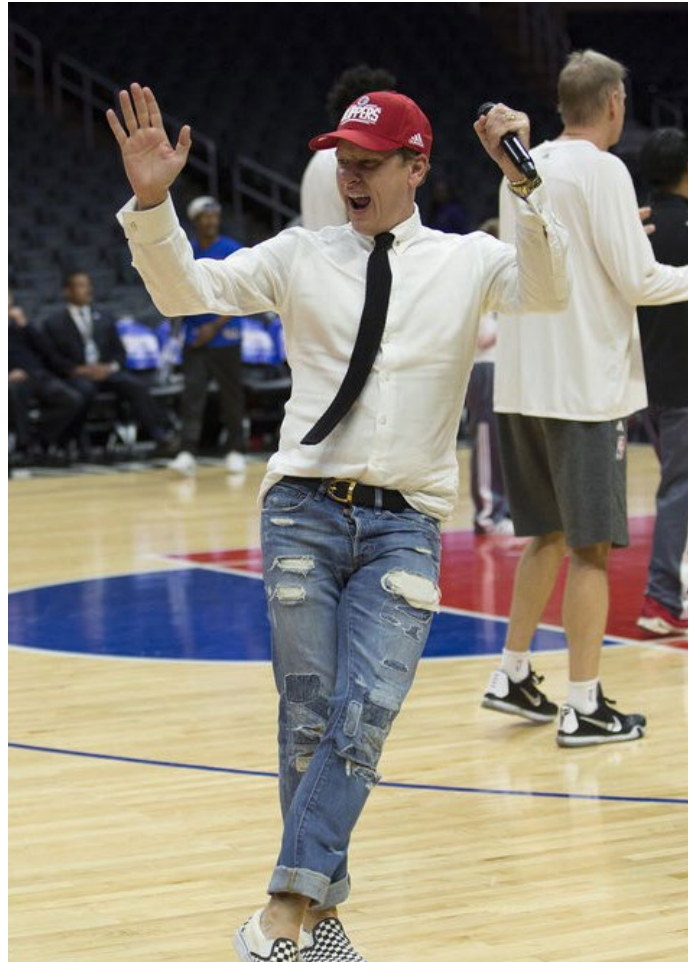
his success on the show to jobs earlier in his career. "I know how to put together a marketing campaign, a photo shoot, or throw an event, so I guess I was a little more prepared than I thought."

Of all the episodes, Carson found the Harry Potter challenge to be the most difficult for him. He felt his closest competitors were Boy George and Matt Iseman. "Arnold wanted us to be more adventurous, and I felt that Boy George, Matt Iseman and I did that." When asked if there were any behind the scene cat fights, Carson responded that most of them were in front of the camera. "There were fights on screen between Lisa Leslie and Porsha Williams, throwing each other under the bus. The guys never really did that."

As far as life after *Apprentice*, Carson has a new book called "Does this Book Make My Butt Look Big," and will be returning as a guest judge for Season 9 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

The winner of *The New Celebrity Apprentice* will win \$250,000 for their charity. The finale will air February 13, 2017.

Photos: Rainer Hosch



Photos: Luis Trinh/NBC



THE TWO AMERICAS:

An Election-Eve Sociological Contemplation

[by Christopher T. Conner, PhD. and Juan Ramos]

As a sociologist, my role in life is to place current events in their proper historical and political context. Within the discipline, we call this the sociological imagination—a term coined by C. Wright Mills in 1959 in his seminal work bearing the same name. I have been contemplating the historical and political significance of Trump's election even before the results were in.

While my colleagues reassured themselves that he would never win, others, like myself, who are versed in critical theories of sociology were not so optimistic. Also, this election is particularly relevant to my own position within society due to my identity as a gay male. Simultaneously, my background growing up in a more rural Indiana town in a white working class family, I am blessed (or burdened) by the knowledge of the sense of alienation and anomie that both Trump supporters and marginalized communities in America feel.

Sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild, a professor at UC Berkeley, in her most recent book, *Strangers in Their Own Land*, has already covered this topic at greater length. Her ethnographic study of Donald Trump supporters found that they feel a profound sense of loss in economic, cultural, and political terms. This feeling is manifested in their lives through job loss, a society that mocks them for prioritizing "simpler" values (i.e. the importance of family, respect for the community, and often religious institutions). While these values are not necessarily at odds with more liberal-minded individuals, many leaders have emphasized the connections between job loss, a

decline in the affluence of the working and middle classes, and the changing culture. These individuals are thus correct in feeling anger; however, instead of directing this anger toward those responsible, they direct it toward LGBT+ individuals, African-Americans, and other marginalized groups. For them it feels as if these groups are taking something away from them and that, somehow, they are being pushed further back from achieving the American dream. While many individuals are quick to denounce such attitudes, it is far harder to try to understand this behavior in a rational context and to empathize with the real anguish that Trump supporters are experiencing. While I find such behavior toward others deplorable, I am also burdened by the knowledge that the system has left many poorer whites behind, and can at least empathize as to what that feels like—I am after all a gay man who teaches in the home of the Westboro Baptist Church, a very different world than Las Vegas where I lived previously.

In the 1940s a group of Jewish intellectuals, known collectively as the Frankfurt School of Sociology, became interested in the conditions under which fascism and the Nazi party rose to power. In many

ways, their work predicted Trump's ascendancy to the Presidency. Their work was a radical critique of society which they saw as simultaneously influenced by the over-utilization of science to "administer" society in the form of bureaucracy, and the stultifying effects of mass-produced culture they referred to as the culture industry. The society which their writings described, pushed to its logical extreme, is not unlike the one depicted in the 2006 science fiction comedy film *Idiocracy*. The film is set in a futuristic world where a celebrity Wrestler has become President, a food shortage looms due to a lack of irrigation (they use a "sports drink" to irrigate rather than water), and people are named after corporations. In many ways, it is a film adaptation of the Frankfurt school's critique of society as anti-intellectual, reactive, and irrational—due to its reliance on bureaucracy and a preoccupation with amusement. Trump, a known celebrity, exposes the centrality of the culture industry in modern American social life—however, he is only a symbol of a much deeper problem.

Whether we like it or not, we live in a globalized, technologically sophisticated, and multi-faceted society. Some have even described our time as postmodern; these individuals emphasize celebrity culture, social media, extreme relativism, the inability to distinguish truth from fantasy, and fragmentation. However, the social world has not completely lost itself to abstraction: things still must be produced, but where and how they are produced is often called into question. For example, buying a car from an "American" car company may mean you are, in actuality, supporting a factory in China. Simultaneously, however, the speed, pace, and manner in which the world moves is often disorienting. The bureaucratic apparatus which we have built has led to efficiency (in the form of speed), but has also resulted in a stupefying, uncritical, and disorienting way we experience the world. Additionally, for many this has resulted not in fragmentation but in reactionary nostalgia, and the emergence of political groups seeking to reclaim a "lost" way of life. Thus, as suggested by UNLV professor Dr. David Dickens, we must resolve the question as to whether we live in a postmodern era, what exactly has fundamentally changed, and how to deal with these changes to move society forward in a positive direction. Dickens characterizes our historical period as a society in transition, which has resulted in many individuals feeling uncertain about the future.

Within the LGBT community these problems have manifested themselves as well. A Pew Study of LGBT

persons in 2013 found that, as a whole, we were nearly equally divided over how best to proceed politically. One group within our community thought the best way to proceed was by becoming a part of mainstream culture, the other wishing to maintain our own distinct culture. Other researchers have also begun to write about this very important issue. Most recently, Amin Ghaziani, author of *There Goes the Gayborhood?*, discusses how many LGBT+ individuals feel we live in a post-gay society, that gay areas such as Boystown and the Castro are holding up potential political achievements in the community, however the Pew Survey data does not fully back his claim. Some of the findings of the study reveal that while we are equally divided on the issue of assimilation or maintaining our culture, a majority of gays (64.9%), lesbians (57.1%), and bisexuals (50.6%) feel we should maintain those spaces. The sample also felt that at least some discrimination was occurring to LGBT persons (95% of lesbians, 93% of gays, 90% of bisexuals, and 93% of transgender individuals). Yet many members in the study did not attend any kind of political LGBT event, pride parade, or participate in LGBT culture. This discrepancy is a reflection of the current status of America, the mixed messages of our era that we are "post" something—yet, we are also reminded that we still have a long way to go on the road toward equality, and this reminder prompts the reaction to preserve our way of life. Like the lower class rural white folks described above who feel left out, so too do the numbers from the Pew Survey reveal many LGBT persons feel left out from the politics of their community. While lesbians and gays shared a similar opinion on many social issues facing LGBT Americans, transgender and bisexuals were almost always opposite in their attitudes. Thus, we must remember inclusion begins in our communities and is not just part of national politics.

It is thus with a certain optimism that I look upon Trump's election. Already I have seen a mobilization within gay political spheres that is unlike anything I have ever witnessed in my life time. I am also seeing a decline in political apathy among my liberal friends, artists both famous and not, and other more apolitical individuals. So long as the activism that I see emerging does so with an eye on how to be productive, and proceeds armed with rationalism, this could be a time of great political change—however, we must not forget that change is always difficult. While we are no doubt in the middle of a culture war, if we can find a common language so that we stop talking past each other, it may yet be possible to move into a politics of action and away from a politics of non-action which has characterized much of contemporary American history.

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LINA'S DOLLHOUSE

[by Tom Corliss]

In *The Dollhouse With Lina*, the rollicking internet show hosted by the spirited House Music DJ diva Lina Bradford, returns for its second season this month. In the show, Lina's quick wit (known as "Linish"...yes, she has her own language) and infectious smile take center stage as she discusses music, fashion and pop culture with her celebrity friends.

In season one, her magic 8 ball transported Carson Kressley, Robert Verdi and Bevy Smith (host of "Bevelations" on Andy Cohen's *Radio Andy*) into the dollhouse. Season Two will welcome guests like Candis Cayne, *NY Real Housewife* and Home Shopping Network jewelry designer Kelly Killoren Bensimon and Whoopi Goldberg. Each episode is shot in Lina Bradford's Barbie doll room — she has over 600 pint-sized mannequins — and includes hilarious segments like the fan-favorite "Asian Fortune Cookie Kiki" where celebs play the Origami Paper Game with Lina, answering questions no one else would dare to ask.

"The wonderful part about doing a talk show is I get to be my fun, goofball self while doing the two things I most enjoy: learning more about the interesting personalities I adore and making people happy," says Lina Bradford from *The Dollhouse* studios in New York. "What more could I ask for from a job?"

Lina Bradford grew up as an only child in New York City, across the street from Carnegie Hall. Without siblings, she would spend most of her days alone with only her wild imagination to keep her company. "I

would put my Barbies in the craziest scenarios," she remembers. "Whether they were fighting crime, sailing the French Riviera, or running high powered executive meetings in the boardroom, they always did it with glamour and style."

Lina's career in entertainment began early. She studied dance for ten and a half years, performing modern ballet, tap and jazz in several companies throughout New York. The moves she learned would become part of her signature style when, twenty years ago, she left the dance stage for the dance floor, spinning records all over New York and Europe. She would become best known for her ten-year run on *Fire Island*. Lina currently holds a once-a-month residency Party TBS (Throwback Sundays) at NYC's *The Gilded Lily*.

"I enjoyed a very strong upbringing from very well rounded intelligent Aries women who were all true Rams," she continues. "They taught me to be confident in who I am."

Lina Bradford is a trans woman but she does not define herself by it. "I've never done labels. I've only worn them," she says.



The Web's Fiercest Talk Show Returns For Its Second Season

People are drawn to Lina because of the essence she projects, one of love and light. "I'm an Aries. I'm optimistic and I love a challenge."

While In The Dollhouse, Lina enjoys bringing out new sides of her guests that fans don't normally get a chance to see. With Candis Cayne, she reminisces about growing up together in the legendary nineties New York scene. In her interview with Janet Mock, a transgender rights activist and author of the New York Times bestseller "Redefining Realness", Lina manages to tap into Mock's edge-y comedic side. "People tend to think Janet is always very straightforward and

serious but in my interview, viewers will witness a wicked sense of humor!"

It's the reason hoards of viewers tuned into the first season of In The Dollhouse with Lina. The show offers Lina, her guests, and viewers too, a rare chance to revert back to a childhood when shaking the Magic 8 Ball, embracing imagination and playing with dolls was acceptable and encouraged. "My show brings us back to our carefree days... if only for ten or fifteen minutes."

In The Dollhouse With Lina is free at djlina.com. Follow on Facebook @DJLina.





MEET YOUR NEW TRAVEL CONCIERGE

[by Russ White]

Gabriella Ribeiro has been traveling the world since she was a little girl, and taking notes along the way. Those notes come in handy now with her Travel Concierge business, Explorateur Journeys, where she helps people plan their dream vacations to some of the most exotic destinations around the globe.

"I would keep track of my favorite table in a restaurant, the dish I liked, something I thought was particularly cool, a specific alleyway—whatever," said Gabriella, of her many years of personal travel. "I don't travel like a normal person. I seek out the unknown, and people were always asking me for advice."

More than your ordinary travel agency, the travel concierge services that Explorateur Journeys provides combine consultations to help choose the aspects of your trip that satisfy everyone on the trip be they solo travelers, couples, or families. When trying to DIY your vacation from one website to the next starts to overwhelm you, that's when you need a travel concierge like Explorateur Journeys.

Their extensive partnerships around the world provide a once-stop-shop, negotiating all of the rates and packages together for you. "If you wanted to go visit Vietnam, we have a partner that coordinates every single thing on the ground for us—the ground transportation, the guiding, the immersive experiences. We bundle all that into one package for your trip."

Your flawless experience is heavily orchestrated behind the scenes. Before your arrival, Gabriella

and her team are calling every hotel, ensuring the details of your reservation are correct, making sure special events like birthdays or anniversaries are communicated to staff along the journey, all to create a personalized one-of-a-kind experience for you.

In 2015, Community Marketing & Insights released their annual LGBT Tourism and Hospitality report, indicating that 25% of LGBT travelers spent over 15 nights in hotels for leisure travel with 39% taking 15-21 days off from work. "I'm working with a gay couple right now planning their trip to Italy," said Gabriella. "I have to get to know my clients. I have to hear then, especially with honeymoon couples. They'll get on the phone together, and that's where you'll hear the arguments. Do they want to sit, or walk, or stay in the hotel room. If they are battling between two destinations, I'll propose a third."

The destination vacations that Gabriella plans are not your everyday getaways. Her favorite destination is Africa, where she travels at least twice a year. "It's thrilling on so many different levels. I also do a lot of volunteer work there. The stories behind the people that you meet; the smells, the tastes, the food, the music. The wildlife is overwhelming."

Explorateurs Journey provides personalized destination vacation all over the world

She avoids anyplace with just a beach, going on a guided tour and not getting out of the vehicle, traveling somewhere to say you've been, but not actually experiencing the destination. Her seasonal picks include Italy in the spring for hiking and climbing then gorging on pizza and pasta. Summer is Portugal—it's nostalgic for her since she grew up there. For winter, she picks a different European capital to spend New Years.

There's still plenty of time to plan for spring and summer vacations. Visit explorateurjourneys.com for some great ideas on how to plan your next adventure. From finding the top tagine in Tangiers, to the hippest haberdasher in Hong Kong, Explorateur Journeys will take you through the what/when/where/why and are the ideal accompaniment to any vacation.





SEX = POWER = FREEDOM

[by QLife Staff]

Featuring all of the exclusive Andrew Christian Models in 200 glossy pages of black and white photos, this new book will push the limits of sexuality, create conversation, and stir quite a bit of controversy. This book isn't just sexy photos...it explains that SEX is more than SEX...it's power, it's emotion, it's creation, it's personal expression, it's POLITICAL FREEDOM.

Creating this art and coffee table book has been an endeavor into bringing positive awareness about LGBT empowerment and how it relates to political freedom in the USA and around the world. This coffee table book features the Andrew Christian Trophy Boy pushing the limits of sexual desires and what that means for everyone in modern society.

One of the models featured in the book escaped from Iran to the USA to seek political freedom, and was almost executed in the process of escape, to follow his dream to be a model and to be free.

The Andrew Christian SEX = POWER = FREEDOM book was made possible through a grassroots INDIEGOGO campaign, with more than 105K raised through 1000 contributors with an average contribution of \$100. Many contributors will receive a special edition GOLD COLLECTOR'S EDITION BOOK which can only be

obtained at a book signing event after the official book tour launches in February 2017. Silver Edition books will be available for sale on AndrewChristian.com and local retailers for \$30, along with SEX = POWER = FREEDOM t-shirts, tank tops and backpacks. A special collector's edition UNCENSORED black & white calendar is also available. A color SEX = POWER = FREEDOM calendar is now available on AndrewChristian.com.

Andrew Christian has become a gay and human rights ICON in the LGBT community, making appearances including but not limited to Bravo's The Fashion Show, Oxygen's The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency, HGTV's House Hunters International and Hunting Vintage along with being featured on Logo as the official "Pit Crew" sponsor for the Emmy Nominated RuPaul's Drag Race.



Andrew Christian book pushes the limits of sexual desires





Are you going to a Broadway show, and looking for a great pre-show dinner? Did you just catch the latest Off-Broadway sensation, and want a lovely meal or terrific cocktail before heading home? Are you seeing a fabulous cabaret or drag show, and find yourself hungry for more than just entertainment? Or do you simply want to have a nice evening out in an intimate spot that's elegant, yet never stuffy? Well, the West Bank Cafe has been satisfying locals and visitors alike since it opened in 1978.

Located in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, near the corner of 42nd Street and 9th Avenue, the West Bank Cafe is just a few blocks away from the Broadway theater district, and literally across the street from Theatre Row, so it's ideal for pre and post-show dining. The upstairs dining room and bar are warm and welcoming, with hardwood floors, glowing lamps, and uncrowded tables set with white linen tablecloths. Downstairs, the 100 seat Laurie Beechman Theatre is home to Broadway and cabaret performers presenting club acts in a comfortable, post-deco setting.

I was scheduled to meet my friend Scott for dinner and a show at the Beechman, but as usual, I arrived about 20 minutes early, so I sat at the beautiful bar, under the soft light from the hanging Southwest-influenced, Tiffany-style lamps, and started my evening with an excellent Blood Orange Cosmopolitan. Made with Citron vodka, Triple Sec, and fresh lime and blood orange juice, this tasty drink had just enough bite from the vodka and lime, with the sweetness of the triple sec and orange juice to mellow it out.

Scott arrived right on time and we headed downstairs to the showroom, where he ordered a cocktail for himself. He chose the St. Rita, a mix of tequila, St. Germaine Elderflower Liqueur, fresh lime juice, and agave syrup - a tart, but refreshing take on a Margarita.

We had planned on dining an hour before showtime so our meal wouldn't be rushed. We studied the menu and decided to share three of the starters. First, the Pork Belly - a fork-tender square of perfectly cooked pork belly on a bed of sweet potato purée, with caramelized cranberries and slivers of apple in a fresh slaw. Meaty, with just the right amount of fattiness to accentuate the natural pork flavor, this was definitely one of the best pieces of pork belly I've tried. The Salmon Tartare was next, served with lime crème fraîche and jalapeño, the flavors were cool, clean and very fresh. The hint of lime added the perfect, subtle touch of acidity, and the house made potato crisps lent the dish a satisfying crunch and a bit of salt to make the flavors pop. Our final appetizer was the Crispy Octopus Leg - crispy on the outside, but wonderfully tender inside, and accompanied by cannellini beans in



a light San Marzano tomato ragout, and some peppery arugula, the octopus had a mildly sweet oceanic flavor, and when all the elements were combined on the fork, they made a beautifully balanced bite.

Almost as soon as our starters were cleared, the main courses were brought out. Scott chose the Pork Chop - an on-the-bone chop, lean and juicy, with a gorgeous sear on the outside, served on a bed of braised red cabbage, with chunks of Granny Smith apples, which added tartness, and small cubes of pork fat called lardons, which gave the dish a bit of flavorful fattiness to counter the leanness of the chop. I ordered the fantastic Duck Risotto. The traditionally starchy rice had a lovely texture - not overdone or too liquid. The dish was studded with tender shreds of yummy duck confit, diced butternut squash, finished off with a sprinkling of fresh sage. What really made the dish remarkable to me, was the addition of white truffle oil, which perfumed the risotto with an irresistibly pungent, earthy aroma, and gave it a fabulous depth of flavor, with an enticing garlicky undertone. To be frank, I never wanted this dish to end!

Just as we were about to finish our entrées, however, the show began. The cabaret seats 100, comfortably, and we were situated about mid-room, so we had a perfect view. The stage is one of the larger ones within the cabaret circuit, and the singers and their band looked perfectly at home as they performed their line-

up of powerful songs. The material was very current, and the show was a real crowd pleaser - more like a mini rock concert than a traditional cabaret!

Our server began dropping his checks as soon as the show had ended and the house lights had gone up, as there was a second show following the one we had seen, and they needed to turn the room and set the stage for the new act. Because of this, I never had an opportunity to order dessert. Understanding the circumstances, however, I headed back up to the bar and ordered one there. I tried the Lemon Tart - a beautifully baked, individual tart, with a silken lemon curd filling, topped with a few rosettes of meringue, and some fresh blueberries. The lemon curd was bright and not too sugary sweet, with a strong citrus punch, and the luscious mouth feel of the filling spoke to its freshness. A nice end to a good meal!

With its comfortable ambience, moderate prices, a menu that showcases simple yet sophisticated seasonal fare, and a diverse line-up of cabaret, theater, and drag artists, the West Bank Cafe is perfect for you, whether you're a hungry New Yorker, or a visitor taking in the sights. Come for brunch, lunch, dinner, drinks, or a show, but by all means, come to the West Bank Cafe and Laurie Beechman Theatre!

For reservations, menu, show schedules and more, go to www.westbankcafe.com.



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