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Is print dying?



Everywhere I turn, it seems someone is trying to convince me that print is dead, or at least that's what they heard on TV and have therefore wholeheartedly decided to agree.

As much as I want to deny it—since magazine publishing is something I decided a long time ago that I wanted to pursue as a career—it's something I have to accept, to an extent.

What is most obviously dying is the newspaper industry. Who really wants to get their fingers blackened by ink while reading less-than-pleasant updates on the human condition in an out-of-date manner several hours, maybe days, later? That's what the Internet is for: immediate delivery of everything depressing (well, that and porn).

Magazines, on the other hand, continue to stay afloat as best as possible since they offer something a bit different: feature stories, interviews, fashion and shopping pages, photos from the latest events and much more, all things that people still enjoy picking up, thumbing through, sharing with friends and putting out for display or later reference.

"Online is the future," Kelly says. "We need 500,000 page views a month," she insists, as I groan at the challenge.

Although we have every intention to keep

bringing you *QVegas* each month as the glossy print publication you've come to love, we are also expanding our online presence as well.

As mentioned in last month's Editor's Note, our Facebook page is rapidly growing and we'd love to see each and every one of you on our list. And now we're Twittering as well, so please follow us.

As for our flagship site, *QVegas.com*, we have expanded the content beyond the standard duplication of our printed content and added several web-exclusive articles, blog entries, and releases featuring the latest info on new shows, activities and events throughout Las Vegas. We want you to truly think of us as much more than just a magazine.

We have been LGBT voice of Southern Nevada since 1978 and will continue to expand our reach both online and off. We will grow and prosper and never give up.

Print is not dead. At least not for us. It's just supplemented with a bit of technology.

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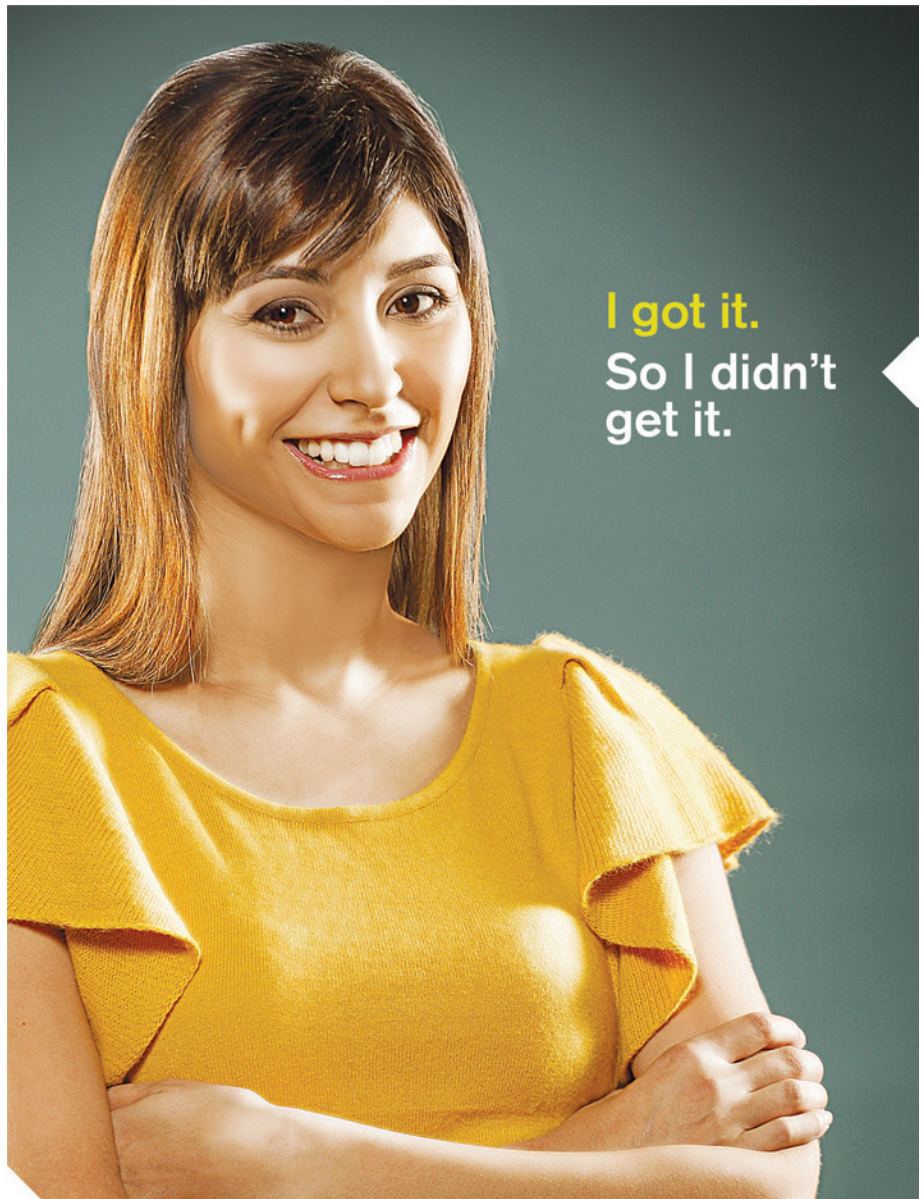
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OUR COMMUNITY

HRC holds event to educate community about its activities

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Las Vegas is conducting their first 2010 HRC 101 event on Sunday, March 21.

Many of us know HRC—with over 750,000 members—is the largest national LGBT civil rights organization. A number of us may know that HRC Las Vegas holds the local annual “Dinner Gala” in August, which is their largest fund raising event for the year. Some of us may know about the HRC Family Event, which immediately follows the AIDS Walk. We also know HRC hands out the cool “equal sign” bumper sticker at many events, including Pride.

A few of us may know that HRC offers campaign support for targeted pro-equality candidates and plays a major role in elections across the country, or that HRC operates one of the largest and most successful political action committees in the country, which endorses fair-minded federal candidates and provides them with financial support.

But, how many of us know that HRC also hosts, sponsors, and supports numerous other events, activities, and LGBT community partners here in Las Vegas? Do you know that HRC volunteers are working with other community organizations here in Las Vegas to promote equality for the LGBT community?

How many of us know about the HRC

Foundation which funds in whole or part numerous programs such as the Coming Out Project, Family Project, Diversity Program, Religion and Faith Program, Workplace Project, and the Youth & Campus Outreach Program, to name a few? How many of us know that the national organization of HRC and Steering Committee members in cities throughout the United States are all volunteers?

HRC 101 is the opportunity to find out what you don't know about HRC. The Las Vegas HRC Steering Committee is hosting the event on Sunday March 21, at The Gay and Lesbian Community Center (953 E. Sahara Ave.), starting at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend and interact with members of the Steering Committee and sub-committees, learn more about HRC, and obtain information about the many programs and projects of HRC, upcoming community support programs in Las Vegas, and volunteer opportunities.

This is not a membership or fund-raising event of any type, simply a “free and open” opportunity for attendees to gain more knowledge of HRC and how HRC is at work for the LGBT community nationally and locally. For more information about HRC 101, please visit <http://lasvegas.hrc.org> or call (702) 203-7120. ●

NGRA preps for Spring events

The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association (NGRA) invites the community to NGRA Goes Green—a salute to both St. Patrick's Day and Earth Day—on March 13. Entertainers are invited to perform in green. Join NGRA that evening at 10 p.m. at Charlie's Las Vegas for green Jell-O shots, a beer bust and loads of fun.

Another NGRA tradition, the NGRA Board of Directors Show, will be hosted at Badlands Saloon on March 27 beginning at 9 p.m. Each of nine members of the NGRA Board of Directors will either perform or bring an item for auction or raffle.

On April 10 and May 8, NGRA hosts two of its biggest fund-raisers each year: the Miss Cow Patty Competition and the Mr. and Miss Closet Ball Competition.

Miss Cow Patty is an annual competition to select the best campy drag queen in our community. Winners receive a bee-moo-tee-ful

crown and a cow patty! Contestants are judged on creativity, lip-synching ability, entertainment value, and costume—so put on your thinking caps and compete in your best camp drag outfit.

The Mr. & Miss Closet Ball is an annual competition to select the best newcomer in Las Vegas. Contestants for this pageant must be 21 and must not have performed in drag in the Las Vegas Valley since May 8, 2009. The 2010 contest will be May 8. The entry fee is \$10, and NGRA is offering a \$100 prize to the winner in each category. Contestants must have a sponsor, and it is the sponsor's responsibility to apply the contestant's make up. Contestants will be judged on male/female presentation, transformation and performance.

To sign up for either contest, contact David Blackwood, NGRA President, at president@ngra.org. ●

Local
spotlight

Las Vegas lesbian introduces Sen. Reid at town hall mtg.

Though she was born in Detroit, Tina Long represents the epitome of a native Las Vegas. She attended Clark High School, worked on the Strip, and now has made a career in solar energy. It doesn't get much more Vegas than that. "I couldn't see myself living anywhere but Vegas," she says. "I love it here. The heat gets me a little bit, but there is no town like it."

Though she wants to open a restaurant one day—as she has a background in cooking and baking, specifically—Long is currently immersed in the solar energy industry. It was this focus on renewable energy that landed her a spot introducing Harry Reid and telling her story at President Obama's Town Hall meeting on February 19 at Green Valley High School. "It was very exciting, I was very honored to do it," she says. "Just listening to Obama was incredible, seeing him, hearing him say my name and thanking me for doing this, was amazing. Seeing him talk about and answer questions really inspired me."

Though a large chunk of Long's work in the solar industry involves large commercial projects, she is also involved with installing solar panels on residential homes. As she explains it, a home installation can take as little as three days, so why aren't we seeing more of this technology here in sun-rich southern Nevada? "Well, really it's the cost... and the economy," she explains. "Although there are rebates out there, tax write-offs and such, no one is lending right now. To put solar on your home, for it to benefit you,

you need to be in that house for at least another ten years, maybe pay it off and get out what you put into it, but right now people are losing their homes and no one is loaning money. So, the economic crisis and everything related to it has slowed it down considerably for homes."

Though her sexuality did not play in any way into her appearance at the town hall, Long is out to her friends and family. Unfortunately, her only qualm with the city that she loves is the very community that she lives in—a common complaint among members of the Vegas gay scene. "Personally, I think the gay community here could be a little bit better," she says. As a single, out member of the community, this is something that she is familiar with. "Maybe I'm a hypocrite because I don't get involved like I should. If I want it to change, maybe I should get involved, but it seems a little impersonal. A lot of us just stay at home and do our own thing, we don't really support the community... it's about being a little bit more proud of who we are."

With more people adopting that can-do attitude and becoming an active member of their community, perhaps there can be improvement in how people view the gay community here in Vegas. The same can-do, active attitude can also be applied to renewable energy, politics, the economy, or anything else that has an impact on our lives. Only through outreach and involvement can we get noticed, as Tina Long did. ●

BY WILLIAM BESSETTE

Royal Court to host two events

Make plans to come and support Esperanza (Hope), a fund-raiser for the Juan Ochoa Fund, on Friday, March 5 at Badlands Saloon. The show, hosted by Empress VIII Michelle Holiday, begins at 9 p.m. The Juan Ochoa Fund was established by the Court in memory of Imperial Crown Prince 5, Juan Ochoa, who passed away in March 2003. The Court created this fund to assist Court members, their families, and any member of the community with funeral expenses. Join the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court for a beer bust, Jell-O shots, raffle prizes and lots of fun entertainment at 9 p.m.

Join the Royal Court also on Saturday, March

20 for the second in the series of competitive camp pageants hosted by the Court to raise money for our community—The King & Queen of Clubs Pageant. The pageant begins at 9 p.m. at the Spotlight Lounge. Contact Vivianne DuMonde at reyandmatt@aol.com for information and to sign up as a contestant.

The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire is a 501(c)(3) organization whose primary goal is to raise funds for other not-for-profits in the Southern Nevada area. Part of the International Court system, the Court was designed for "camp" fun and fund-raising and to help locals in need of assistance. ●

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THAT'S SO VEGAS



N9NE Group and Palms present new Down party for women

N9NE Group launches a new and unique party known as Down, inviting Las Vegas' most elite female movers and shakers and, more specifically, those who are a part of, and in support of, the LGBT community. To celebrate the debut of Down on Thursday, March 25, ghostbar will offer an hour-long hosted bar at 10 p.m. Doors open at 9.

Rachel Wenman and DJ Lisa Pittman will co-host the event. Pittman will spin her popular hip-hop and electro mash-ups and up and coming superstar Rough Duchess from Hollywood will perform a special set.

The 8,000 sq.ft. ghostbar is located on the 55th floor of the Palms Casino Resort at 4321 W. Flamingo Rd. All guests must be 21 years of age and older. Cover charge is \$10. For additional information, please visit www.ghostbar.com or call 702.938.BOOO (2666). ●

Ladies Night

Silence of the Clams opens at Onyx

He's taken on Joan Crawford, portraying her as a man hiding her true "talent" from the world. He turned Mrs. Garrett and the sweet girls from the Eastland school into hookers. What's next? Serial killer Hannibal Lecter, of course.

From the same writer who brought you *Mommie Queerest* and *The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode* comes the creepiest comedy in his repertoire.

The Silence of the Clams, by Jamie Morris, opens March 11 at the Onyx Theatre for a three-week run.

In *Clams*, butch FBI agent Clarice Startling is assigned to help find Nancy Pelosi's missing daughter and save her from "Beaver Bob," a serial killer who skins his victims "down there." Clarice

attempts to gain better insight into the mind of the killer by interviewing Dr. Hannibal Lichter, a convicted psychopath who "eats" his female victims before he kills them. The twisted relationship forces Clarice not only to confront her own psychological demons (when will those *clams stop screaming*?!), but leads her face-to-face with a demented killer so evil that even she may not have the courage—or strength—to stop him!

Jamie Morris will play Hannibal Lichter and Beaver Bob; Brooks Braselman will portray Clarice Startling, Nancy Pelosi, and her daughter. Darren Ross will tackle everyone else, over a dozen characters. Christopher Kenney—also known to Vegas audiences as Edie, the Mistress of Sensuality in *Zumanity*—will once again direct.

Clams opens March 11 at the Onyx Theatre (953 E. Sahara Ave., inside Commercial Center) and will play Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through March 27. To reserve tickets call (702) 732-7225 or visit www.onyxtheatre.com. All seats are \$20. ●



Nevada Ballet Theatre presents *Brave New World*

Nevada Ballet Theatre (NBT) will soon present *Brave New World*, featuring three world premiere works: *Song of the Nightingale*, a story ballet based on the original Hans Christian Andersen tale, *The Nightingale*, choreographed by local artist Gail Gilbert; a fascinating new work by Wide-man/Davis Dance Company Artistic Director Thaddeus Davis; and *Cyclical Night*, a tango-inspired piece by Nevada Ballet Theatre's own Artistic Director James Canfield. This eclectic program will be presented on Saturday, March 27 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 28 at 2 p.m. at UNLV's Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall (4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.). Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$75 and can be purchased by calling the UNLV Performing Arts Center Box Office at (702) 895-ARTS (2787) or ordering online at www.nevadaballet.com.



Set to Igor Stravinsky's riveting score by the same name, *Song of the Nightingale* tells the story of an emperor who covets the beautiful voice of a nightingale living in his kingdom. When he is presented with a mechanical jewel-encrusted version, he loses interest in the real one. The mechanical bird eventually breaks, and as the emperor nears death, he realizes the treasure he pushed aside. The struggle between reality and imagination leave the emperor longing for the beauty he has lost.

Described by Gilbert as "a play without words," *Song of the Nightingale* uses imagery and symbolism, with strong movement and props used to tell the story. "Many older story ballets have moments where the dancers use pantomime to convey the story," Gilbert said. "In *Song of the Nightingale*, I am not interested in 'telling' the story; rather, I want to allow the audience to witness the story as it unfolds."

As a graduate of the famed North Carolina

School of the Arts, and a former dancer for the renowned modern troupe Parsons Dance in New York City, Gilbert's accomplished career has included setting Parsons' work on dance companies throughout the world, leading the Taos Dance Festival as artistic director and choreographing her own works on companies, colleges and universities. *The New York Times* once described Gilbert as having "one of the most vivid, bizarre imaginations in New York Modern Dance."

Next on the program is a compelling and purely contemporary piece by the talented and creative Thaddeus Davis, choreographed especially for Nevada Ballet Theatre. Davis' rhythmic aesthetic will captivate Las Vegas and inspire local dance lovers. Deemed one of "25 to watch" by Dance Magazine in 2002, Davis has worked with numerous companies, setting works and teaching master classes around the world. As a teacher and choreographer, Mr. Davis has participated in residencies at The Julliard School and Alvin Ailey among others. The premiere of his first work, *Once Before Twice After*, was named one of the top ten moments in dance by *The New York Times*, calling it "reassuring evidence of New York Dance's promising future."

Nevada Ballet Theatre rounds out the program with James Canfield's *Cyclical Night*, his first original work for NBT. Set to the music of Argentine Tango composer, Astor Piazzolla, dancers will bring to life the composer's unique blend of jazz and classical music. This sultry ballet will showcase physically-appealing movements based on the famous "forbidden dance," the Tango.

Prior to *Brave New World*, "Insights," a free pre-performance perspective will offer patrons an insider's view into the performance they are about to see. Held in the lobby, "Insights" will take place 45 minutes prior to curtain. Furthering this, the company will present "Talk Back," an interactive Q&A following the performances that will lend patrons a greater understanding into the world of dance and the artists who make it happen.

This is the first in Nevada Ballet Theatre's new "Signature Series," sponsored by Wendy and Richard Plaster.

SPECIAL EVENT: DINNER & THE BALLET

Mix and mingle with an exclusive VIP circle of patrons. In celebration of *Brave New World*, the company will host a special pre-performance dinner on Saturday, March 27 at Lawry's The Prime Rib at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person. For reservations, please call Jessica Erali Milazzo at (702) 243-2623 ext. 222 or e-mail gerald@nevadaballet.com. ●

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THE CENTER PAGE

Preparations are underway for the 2010 Day of Silence

Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Students across the country participate in the Day of Silence to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools, let students who experience such bullying know that they are not alone and ask schools to take action to address the problem. Each year the event has grown, now with hundreds of thousands of students coming together to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBT behavior.

This year marks the fourteenth anniversary of the Day of Silence, and The Center



is proud to continue to participate in this important day of awareness and direct action. Please see The Center Page in next month's *QVegas* for more information on events to be held on this year's Day of Silence. And remember, save the date— Friday, April 16, 2010. ●

The Center's Annual Art Show promises
to be bigger and better than ever in 2010

The Center has been giving a face lift to all its fund-raisers over the past year and into 2010, and the Annual Art Show that kicks off Pride Week is no exception. As you know, the Art Show has historically been at The Center and featured local artists. We will still feature local artists this year, but there is no limit to the art we will have on hand: performance artists, body painting, music, food and much more. And we will be partying well into the night on Saturday, April 24. Be sure to look in the Pride Guide and the April issue of *QVegas* for more details about the event. ●

Save the Date

VMP to host Vegas Ball 2010

The Vegas Mpowerment Project will be hosting Vegas Ball 2010 on March 19, 2010 from 8-11 p.m. at the Erotic Heritage Museum where there will be Vogue contests, Vogue dancing and great prizes including cash. Food, fun and great times will be had by all.

This event is for gay, bisexual and transgender men 20-29 years of age and their friends if accompanied by someone in the age frame.

Erotic Heritage Museum is located at 3275 Industrial Rd. behind the Fashion Show Mall. ●

ABOUT THE CENTER

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BY J.SON

NAKED BOY NEWS

The best of Sin City!

Hello all my Naked people. I get asked all the time from tourists, "where should we go when we're in Vegas?" so I put together my Best of Sin City list and then I asked the readers on my online blog, www.SinCityTimes.com, what they thought. Here are my picks (Naked Boy News—NBN) and then the readers' choices for what are the best things to do in Sin City nightlife.

■ BEST GAY BAR

NBN PICK: Escape Lounge—You'll know you've arrived at the Escape Lounge when you see the mini-Statue of Liberty on Sahara Avenue just west of the Strip. This locals bar has great drink prices and a comfy lounge with couches, booths and tables. In the back there are pool tables and in the front there is a jukebox so you can set the feel of the night. Come in for a drink and enjoy this great locals bar with friends and the new friends you're sure to meet.

READERS' PICK: Fun Hog Ranch—Just east of the Strip the Fun Hog Ranch definitely lives up to its name; it *is* fun! This is the place where you don't have to wear a \$150 t-shirt or try to impress anyone with your fancy wallet. This is a guys' bar where you can be yourself and relax, and to top it off they've got some of the friendliest bartenders in town.

■ BEST GAY NIGHTCLUB

NBN PICK: Piranha Nightclub and 8½ Ultra Lounge—Located in the heart of the Fruit Loop, Las Vegas' gay district, this is the club to be at. The club is separated into two distinct sections: 8½ is the front section with a hip hop vibe and the back section is Piranha with the latest club music. The VIP and bottle service area of the club is on the second level of the Piranha side. If you're thinking of having your birthday party somewhere, this is the place. Buy a bottle and reserve a VIP booth or cabana room.

READERS' PICK: Piranha Nightclub and 8½ Ultra Lounge

■ BEST DJ

NBN PICK: DJ Axis—From being the official DJ of the Vegas AIDS Walk to his residencies at Saks 5th Avenue (Fashion Show Mall), everywhere you are in town if the music gets you on your feet, it's sure to be DJ Axis. Starting in March you will be able to hear the tunes of DJ Axis every Friday night at the Living Room at Privé inside Planet Hollywood as they launch an all-new LGBT night.

READERS' PICK: DJ Axis

■ BEST DRAG SHOW

NBN PICK (TIE): Divas Las Vegas and The Queens of Las Vegas—When it comes to drag shows in Vegas there are two stand-outs. If you are

looking for a full production show with big budget you will want to check out *Divas Las Vegas* starring Frank Marino at the Imperial Palace. If you are looking for a local feel and the longest-running local drag show in Vegas, stop by the FreeZone nightclub on any weekend night for the Queens of Las Vegas starring Shawn M. You'll be sure to see Madonna and Celine and maybe even Janet.

READERS' PICK: Divas Las Vegas—This big production show starring the legendary Frank Marino and a cast of amazing impersonators is sure to have you wanting more. Stars from Cher to Bette to Beyonce all make appearances in the show alongside some of the hottest dancers on the Strip.

■ BEST DRAG QUEEN

NBN PICK: Hot Chocolate (Larry Edwards)—You can see her perform nightly in *Divas Las Vegas* and then afterwards as host at Piranha. Hot Chocolate has been seen everywhere from *Miss Congeniality 2* the movie to the music videos for Katy Perry. If you have never been able to see Tina Turner in concert you can see the next best thing when you see this diva perform.

READERS' PICK: Hot Chocolate

■ BEST GAY-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

NBN PICK: Cafe at Terrible's Casino—The name may be Terrible but it's not talking about the food or service. On any weekend night after the clubs have closed be sure to stop by the Cafe at Terrible's Casino. There most likely will be a wait but it's worth it. The staff is very friendly and if you saw someone at the club you didn't get a chance to say hi to, chances are you will see him/her at the Cafe.

READERS' PICK: Mr Lucky's at Hard Rock Hotel—From the famous chocolate cake to the homemade chicken noodle soup to the amazing burgers, you'll want to check out this gay-friendly restaurant. Its open 24/7 so anytime you have a craving, stop on by.

■ BEST GAY BAR TO MEET NEW FRIENDS

NBN PICK: Charlie's—On any given night this country bar will be jumpin' with a crowd. If you are new in town, you should check out the happy hour on Sundays. If you want to make friends, you will definitely meet them on a Sunday afternoon at Charlie's. During the week, stop by for a game of Drag Queen bingo or some line dancing.

READERS' PICK: Charlie's

J.Son is the host of the popular web series *Naked Boy News* and has been seen on CNN, MTV and A&E. For the latest *Naked Boy News* visit www.NakedBoyNews.com

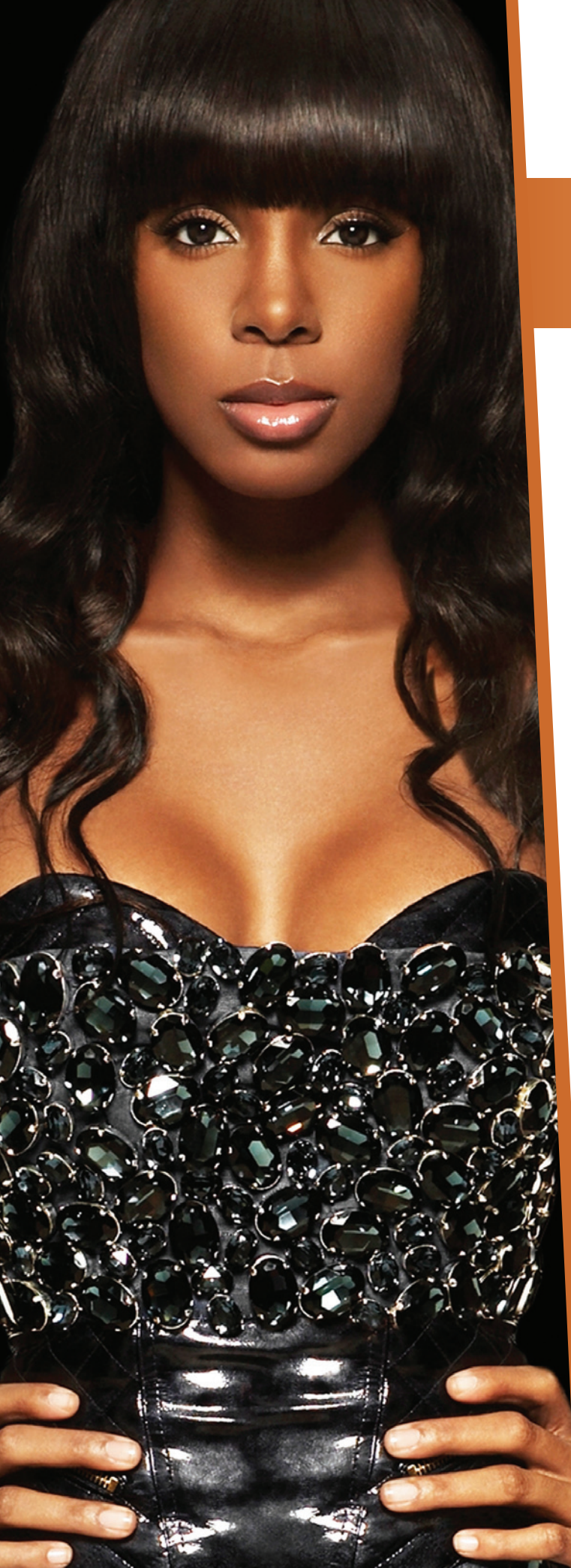
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A DIVA SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE

DINAH SHORE WEEK

For the past two decades, **Girl Bar Dinah Shore Week** has grown to become the "Greatest Women's Week on Earth." The 20th anniversary celebration unfolds March 31-April 4, 2010 in Palm Springs, Calif.

A \$30 million building and grounds makeover at the newly remodeled Renaissance (formerly Wyndham Palm Springs) host hotel coincides with the party week of a lifetime, offering the biggest, wildest and sexiest line-up of events ever.

To commemorate the 20-year history, FenceSitter Films will be on hand to document this historic week for the feature length documentary, *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*. Scheduled for the festival circuit in the fall of 2010, the film chronicles the incredible twenty years of the Girl Bar Dinah Shore, from its humble beginnings, to the world-wide phenomenon it is today.

Back by demand, outrageous comedienne Michele Balan, Poppy Champlin and Dana Goldberg will leave you rolling with laughter on Thursday, April 1, at the "Funny Girlz 5" show at Hotel Zoso.

R&B powerhouse **Kelis** will shake things up the following evening on Friday, April 2, with a live performance at the Pure White Party at the Hotel Zoso Ballroom. Superstar celebrity DJ Samantha Ronson will also spin.

Breakthrough dance music sensation **Kaylah Marin**, Billboard dance artist **Erika Jayne** and worldwide chart-topper **Shontelle** make waves at the Wet & Wild pool party on Saturday, April 3, at the also-remodeled Renaissance pool, which opens at 9 a.m. Alternately, the Chill Out pool party over at Hotel Zoso will feature sultry jazz, soul and blues by Australian-born, Sri Lankan singer-songwriter **Yasmine**, opening at 11 a.m.

The 20th anniversary line-up will also include a special Saturday night benefit event in the Hotel Zoso Ballroom for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, featuring internationally acclaimed actress/comedienne **Jennifer Coolidge** (from *American Pie* and *Legally Blonde*). A portion of this special event's net proceeds will go directly to HRC. That same evening, Destiny's Child's own **Kelly Rowland** will headline Girl Bar Dinah Shore Week's main event, Circus A Go-Go, at the Renaissance Grand Ballroom. Thirty world-famous Girl Bar Go-Gos keep the action going, along with Hoopnotica Girls, showing off the latest craze. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Splash Dance, the hottest pool party of the weekend, follows on Saturday, April 4, at the Renaissance pool, featuring a not-to-be-missed performance by hot guitarist, **Orianthi**.

Party passes and tickets are on sale now online at www.dinahshoreweekend.com. Buy now and take advantage of special anniversary discounts. ●

KE\$HA

POPULAR PALM SPRINGS PARTIES

WHITE PARTY 2010

The boys can feel the same energy as the Dinah Shore Weekend girls, as Jeffrey Sanker's legendary **White Party 2010** returns to ignite the desert April 9-12 in Palm Springs. Leading the charge is the biggest line-up of international DJs in White Party history. White Party will also take advantage of the newly remodeled Renaissance as its host hotel and boasts an all-new, larger location for the Sunday T-Dance.

An electric surge of power at the White Party will be fueled by an international DJ roster from all over the globe, including the west-coast debut of chart-topping DJ/producer/remix duo, **Free-masons**, along with Spain's Chus+Ceballos, the UK's Moto Blanco, as well as Wayne G, Manny Lehman, Abel, Tony Moran, Brett Henrichsen, Joe Gauthreaux, Chi Chi LaRue, Scotty Thomson and Luke Johnstone.

Friday, April 9, at the Boxers or Briefs Underwear Party, red-hot dance music artist **Erika Jayne** kicks off the weekend, performing tunes from her hit album, *Pretty Mess*. The event begins at 9 p.m. in the Renaissance Grand Ballroom.

On Saturday, April 10, at the Spring Break Pool Party, don't miss a special appearance from **Wynter Gordon**, singing her smash hit "Dirty Talk" and more, live at the new tropical Renaissance Pool. The party starts at 10 a.m.

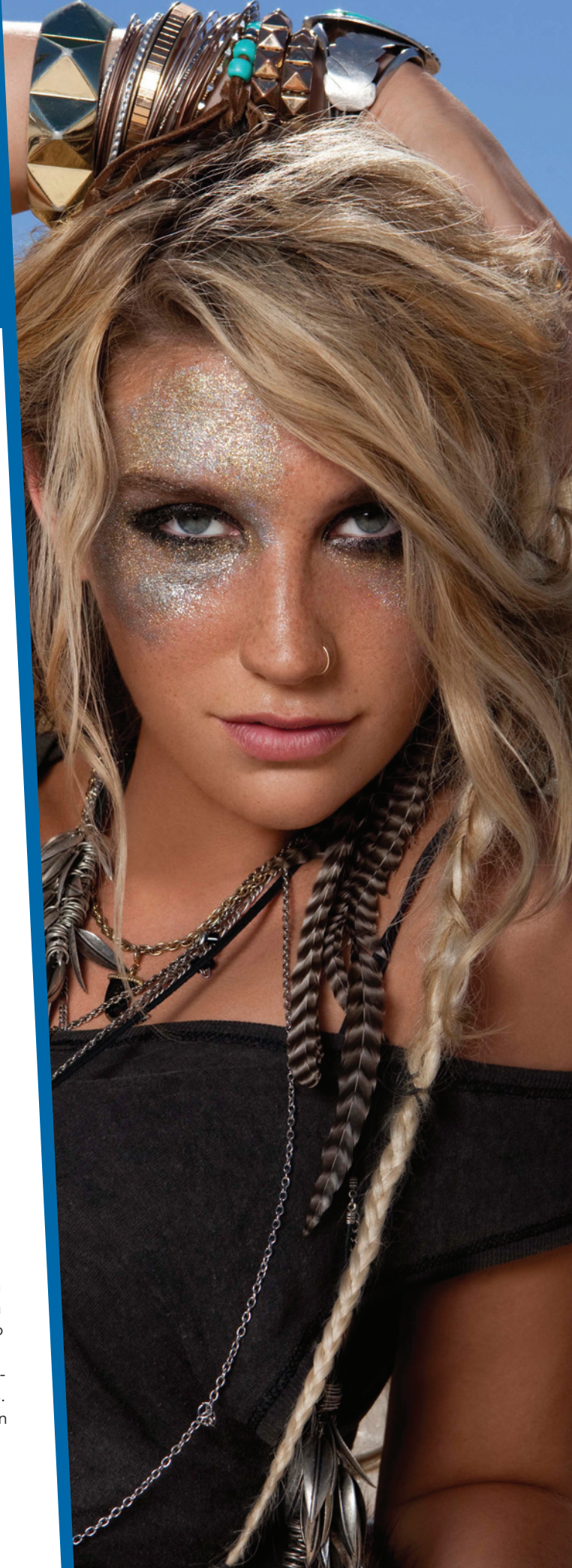
Saturday night at the White Party main event, Electrified, breakthrough recording artist **Ke\$ha** hits the stage at Palm Springs Convention Center for an exclusive, live performance, including hits from her #1 debut album, *Animal*. The event begins at 9 p.m.

Helping bring the weekend to a close, worldwide chart-topper **Shontelle** hits the Renaissance poolside stage at the Sunday Pool Party to turn up the heat with songs from her upcoming album, *No Gravity*, beginning at 11 a.m.

Also on Sunday, April 11, don't miss a special appearance from Sweden's biggest new musical export, **Agnes**, singing her smash hit "Release Me" and more, at the Sunday T-Dance, Under The Big Top. This party begins at 3 p.m. at the new location across from the Convention Center, in a magical desert setting.

Weekend passes are on sale now. As always, if you buy early, you save big. White Party Weekend Passes include entry to the four main events; VIP Express Passes include entry to all weekend events, plus a variety of extras. Also available are VIP lodging and event packages. To purchase these, visit www.jeffreysanker.com.

To make reservations at the remodeled Renaissance host hotel, contact Jackie Cabuntala via e-mail to jackie.cabuntala@crestlinehotels.com or call (760) 416-2904. You must mention White Party to obtain special rates. ●





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SWAN SONG

BY DENISE LICITRA

For anyone who likes holidays, March 27 marks the third annual celebration of SWAN Day, an international push to "Support Women Artists Now." Revelries range from plays, concerts, and performances to workshops, broadcasts, and exhibitions of film and artwork produced by women to demonstrate the female perspective. In 2009, 12 countries boasted over 170 events. Last year, the Women's Empowerment Network (WEN) sponsored the Las Vegas event, held at The Southern Nevada Center for the Arts and D'Arte Designs with a follow-up at Beauty Bar.

When Chicago film critic Jan Lisa Huttner invited WomenArts founder Martha Richards to speak at a conference in 2007, they wondered if women's voices were heard equally in film, art and politics, how would things be different? The culmination of this line of inquiry was the development of SWAN Day, whose Web site offers this message:

"By focusing attention on the work of women artists, SWAN Day helps people imagine what the world might be like if women's art and perspectives were fully integrated into all of our lives. [...] The long term goal of SWAN Day is to inspire communities around the world to find new ways to recognize and support women artists as a basic element of civic planning."

This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the Works Progress Administration (WPA),

which was established during the Depression to stimulate the economy. Over 40,000 artists were employed by the government painting posters and murals; writing plays; and building parks, monuments, and amphitheaters, which are still in use. As such, the theme of the 2010 SWAN Day is *Women Artists at Work* to both commemorate these events and showcase the employment issues faced by female artists.

In Las Vegas, WEN is again hosting the SWAN Day celebration, this year on March 27 at the Arts Factory downtown (107 E. Charleston Blvd.). Female bands, singer/songwriters, spoken word artists, poets and comedienne are expected to perform. For more information, e-mail swandaylv2010@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/womensnetworklv, where more details will be posted once finalized. ●

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We Predict *And The Winner Is...*

REV. BILL MORIN'S ANNUAL OSCAR PREDICTIONS

Once again it's that time of year where people kiss babies (and butt), look their best (or at least try) and practice both smiling and crying on cue. Yes, it's the 82nd annual Oscar ceremony. Oscar still looks great (we all know he's had more work done than Cher) and is still film-land's most sought-after prize. The following are my predictions after having polished and charged up my crystal ball:

■ SUPPORTING ACTOR

Matt Damon (*Invictus*); **Woody Harrelson** (*The Messenger*); **Christopher Plummer** (*The Last Station*); **Stanley Tucci** (*The Lovely Bones*); and **Christoph Waltz** (*Inglourious Basterds*). Harrelson and Plummer are extreme longshots. Damon did a fine job and was oh-so-buff! Tucci's slimy, evasive murderer would have it any other year, but Waltz has won every major award and shall do so on March 7. **Should win: Damon. Will win: Waltz.**

■ SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Vera Farmiga (*Up in the Air*); **Maggie Gyllenhaal** (*Crazy Heart*); **Anna Kendrick** (*Up in the Air*); **Mo'Nique** (*Precious*); and **Penelope Cruz** (*Nine*). Co-stars Farmiga and Kendrick will split their votes. Gyllenhaal's nomination was a surprise. Cruz already won here last year. That leaves Mo'Nique, who like Waltz has won everything in sight. **Should and will win: Mo'Nique.**

■ ACTOR

Jeff Bridges (*Crazy Heart*); **George Clooney** (*Up in the Air*); **Colin Firth** (*A Single Man*); **Morgan Freeman** (*Invictus*); and **Jeremy Renner** (*The Hurt Locker*). Clooney was an early favorite but faded. Freeman has already won. Renner is an unknown but will be back in contention. Firth got splendid reviews in a little-seen pic. Bridges' late award surge should put him over the top. **Will and should win: Bridges. Firth is the dark horse here.**

■ ACTRESS

Sandra Bullock (*The Blind Side*); **Helen Mir-**

ren (*The Last Station*); **Carey Mulligan** (*An Education*); **Gabourey Sidibe** (*Precious*); and **Meryl Streep** (*Julie and Julia*). Mirren won in 2006. Mulligan and Sidibe got rave reviews and will be back as nominees. Streep was the early favorite, until Bullock hit a "home run" with two hit films, being named #1 box office draw and giving her best performance ever in *The Blind Side*. This is a nail biter. Streep might still prevail but this is Bullock's to lose. **Should and will win: Bullock.**

■ DIRECTOR

Kathryn Bigelow (*The Hurt Locker*); **James Cameron** (*Avatar*); **Lee Daniels** (*Precious*); **Jason Reitman** (*Up in the Air*); and **Quentin Tarantino** (*Inglourious Basterds*). Daniels must make do with a nomination. Reitman is likely to mine gold in another category. Tarantino is a warped genius, but not an Academy fave. It comes down to the battle of the exes. Bigelow and Cameron were married and are now friendly rivals. Cameron will likely prevail in two other categories. Bigelow shall become the first woman in Academy history to win in this category. **Should win: Cameron. Will win: Bigelow.**

■ PICTURE

For the first time since 1943 there are 10 nominees. I'm only tuning in on the five with **Director nominations: Avatar, The Hurt Locker, Inglourious Basterds, Precious and Up in the Air.** Early fave *Up* faded in the stretch. *Precious* may be too much of a downer for Academy taste. *Basterds* is brilliant but twisted (not qualities the Academy embraces). *The Hurt Locker* has gotten splendid reviews and many awards but only made \$12 million at the box office. *Avatar* got very good reviews and has made over \$2 billion and counting. It's like last year's race, David vs. Goliath. Then David (*Slumdog*) beat out Goliath (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*). This year I feel the opposite occurring. The Director and Picture awards (which usually go together) will be split. Goliath (*Avatar*) prevails by a hair. **Should win: The Hurt Locker. Will win: Avatar.**



■ BEST OF THE REST

Visit www.oscar.com for the complete list of categories and nominees. Original Screenplay (*The Hurt Locker*); Adapted Screenplay (*Up in the Air*); Costumes (*Young Victoria*); Foreign Film (*White Ribbon*—Germany); Original Song (Theme From *Crazy Heart*); Sound Mixing, Sound Editing, Cinematography, Art Direction, Music Score and Film Editing (*Avatar*).

There you have it. Be sure to tune in March 7 at 5:30 p.m. to catch the festivities on ABC (red carpet events begin at 3 p.m.). Co-hosts Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin should provide plenty of laughs. Be prepared to watch until 9 p.m. or so.

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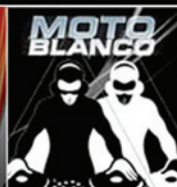
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NEW LGBT COMPONENT ADDED TO NIGHTCLUB CONVENTION

BY ANI BIESIADA

The Nightclub & Bar Convention, coming March 8-10 to the Las Vegas Convention Center, features an amalgamation of celebrities; kicking off the shindig is Dan Aykroyd. But as far as the LGBT community goes, it's all about celebrity-stud Madison Hildebrand, from Bravo's hit series, *Million Dollar Listing*.

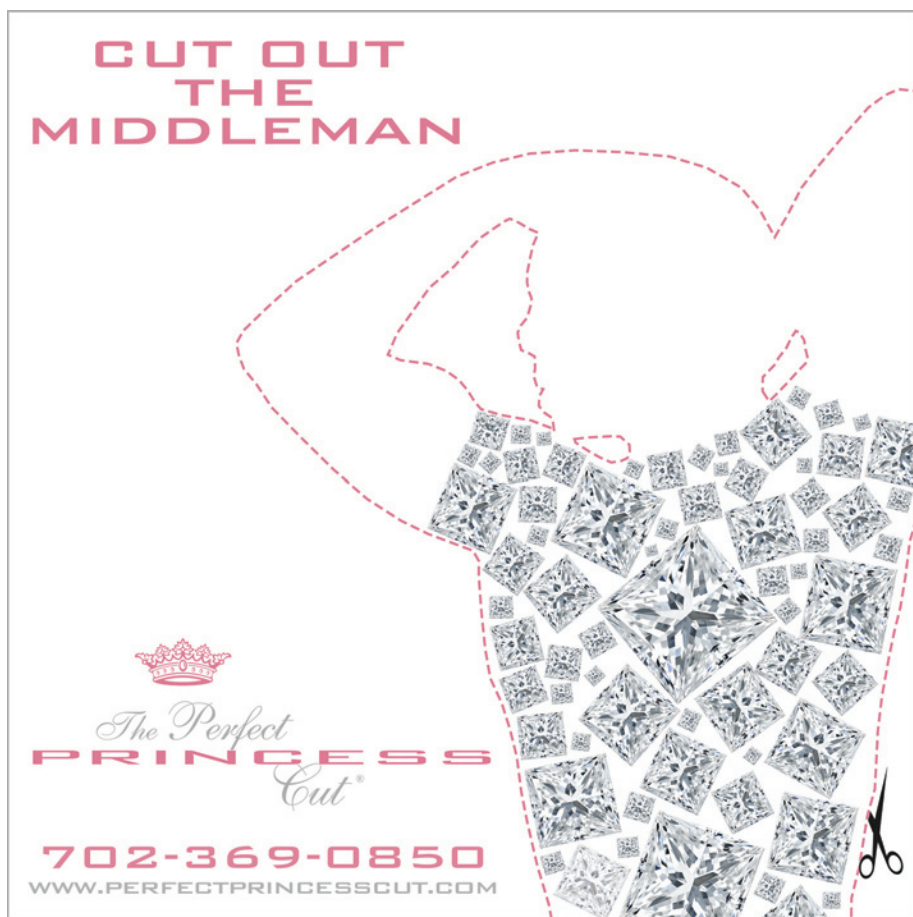
Hildebrand, alongside Industry pm, is hosting the very first mainstream LGBT event during the week-long convention. The 2010 Official GLBT Nightclub & Bar Event will be held Tuesday, March 9 at Tabu Ultra Lounge inside MGM Grand. The evening will feature a hosted open bar from 10 until 11:30 p.m., music by DJ Axis, Crush Cuties mingling with the crowd and a slew of giveaways all night.

The trade show caters to the nightclub and bar scene by providing an onslaught of educational events in mixology, business and entertainment. The top industry leaders in the nightclub and bar realm will be taking note of what is new in the nightlife arena. Industry pm, an all-encompassing public relations and marketing company, hopes to gain the acknowledgment from the nightlife industry that will help create more mainstream events that includes the LGBT culture.

"Industry pm is trying to host more mainstream LGBT events. I want to offer something new and exciting to the community," said Mervat Berry, owner and CEO. "I'm trying to create especially unique events that intensify the nightlife for the LGBT community. If something has been done before, I'm not really interested in re-creating that. I'm trying to do something different and creative with each event."

Industry pm has so far delivered on this theme hosting pool parties, like Sunkissed and Banana Hammock Sundays. Berry says her company has a lot more in store for the LGBT community. A possible fashion show is in the works that will bring some headlining designers and involve top-notch companies. Industry pm hopes to maintain ongoing relationship with Hildebrand, so keep an eye out for the eye-candy.

Doors open for the 2010 GLBT Nightclub & Bar Event at 10 p.m. Must be 21 or older and the dress code will be enforced. For general information, call (702) 891-7183 or for table reservations, call (702) 891-7129. ●



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Women of Diversity Triptych — Lead Artist: Denise R. Duarte. Team: Lois Dohra, Sophia Lenz & Cyd Madsen.



Photo by Paul Erschler.

Denise R. Duarte

If you're a "First Friday" frequenter like Denise R. Duarte, you know that the arts district downtown has flourished into a vibrant community that continues to grow.

Duarte has either volunteered or presented her work at nearly every First Friday, the monthly art and design fair in downtown Las Vegas. "I am very excited about recent developments. The Brett Wesley Gallery is thrilling, it is a beautiful gallery and a wonderful addition to our community," the artist stated. She also added she is delighted with the Holsum Design Center, the location of her once-a-month pop-up gallery for D'Arte Designs.

The native Nevadan stated this month's pop-up will be themed accordingly for the celebration of Women's History Month. Different women artists will be featured and the Wall of Women, part of the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration, will be up for exhibition.

"It's fun. Every month we do something different in the pop-up gallery. So I try to not have the same artists over and over again, I try to bring in different artists," the artist stated. She said the gallery is also focusing on letting artists not normally seen-in-the-scene gain exposure. "It's really important to me, I try to spread that around a bit every month," Duarte commented.

The University of Nevada, Reno graduate boasts an extensive artistic resume. Manifestations of her creativity can be witnessed throughout the Las Vegas valley. One can pass "Ancestral Gateway," a piece she worked on with three other artists, on the way to the Doolittle Community Center. Children and museum patrons can adore and utilize her work everyday at the recycled-glass mosaic sitting wall at the Springs Preserve's Children's Playground. Her most recent public artwork is a Las Vegas cultural corridor urban trail sidewalk enhancement entitled "Flourish." This project will be installed on 12 city blocks later this year.

The artist's original focus was in classical figurative sculpture, though as illustrated by the three mentioned projects, she does not confine herself to any particular style. "I don't have a signature look, it changes upon what I'm creating," said the artist, adding that a style is too limiting and she dislikes restrictions. "I like the freedom of expression to explore whatever I want," the artist stated.

Duarte commented that she has been sculpting, on one level or another, from the time she was a small girl. "It's where I find true happiness. It's very fulfilling," the sculptor stated. "It's just who I am."

Duarte can be reached through her Web site, www.dartedesigns.com. ●

BY MARK ADAMS





Jon Carmichael

When life throws sour lemons at Jon Carmichael, he makes lemonade. The successful photographer had to endure a difficult journey to be where he is today, to be extremely happy with the life he is leading. Initially, photography was not a life ambition of Carmichael's. After being dismissed from his role in a Las Vegas youth ministry for coming out, he packed his bags and set off for the City of Angels—to act.

"L.A. is a very artistic city and it definitely exercised my mind creatively," he stated. "That's when I fell in love with photography."

Carmichael said he discovered his interest after perusing the photography section of a Borders in Los Angeles. He bought a camera after a month of hitting the books. "It was just this new-found love that I never thought I had and it's been history ever since," he said.

And some compelling history it has been for him. The photographer has worked with superstar Zac Efron, Tito Ortiz of UFC and Entourage's Rex Lee, to mention a few, though working with celebrities is not what Carmichael enjoys most. The 23 year-old said his favorite aspect of the job is having the freedom to create whatever he wants to. He also acknowledged he enjoys meeting the amazing people he comes into contact with, as well as traveling on-the-job when able to do so. "I love to travel, I travel a lot for my photo gigs, and that's what I always wanted to do, was travel."

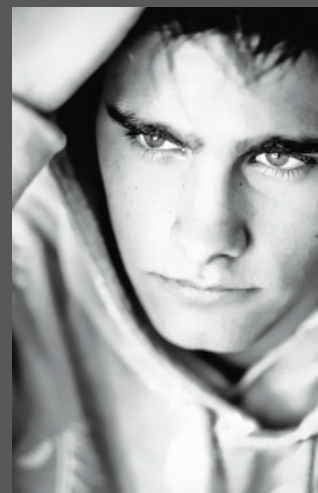
Carmichael also pursues personal projects. His specific focus is simple: spread love. "I got kicked out of the church when I came out, I got kicked out of my house and I ran away to L.A.," he said. "I experienced a lot of hatred, I lost a lot of friends, and I think that's what really focused my work on love."

The photographer proclaimed fellow picture-taker Adam Bouska an inspiration for his well-known NOH8 Campaign. Carmichael said, "that just shows how you can take anything you do for a living and help your community in some way."

He's still figuring out how he wants to advance the equality movement with his own talents. "There's a lot of discrimination going on, I want to somehow fix that with my photography," Carmichael said.

For professional photo inquiries or more information, visit Jon Carmichael's Web site, www.joncarmichaelphotography.com. ●

BY MARK ADAMS





Lady L.U.S.T.

Born and bred in Oakland, Lady L.U.S.T. is a fresh take on an old Vegas standard, the MC. Her tough yet fluid rhymes blend the bay with the Strip seamlessly. She's established herself with a work ethic that cannot be matched; she's the artist, audio engineer, promoter and designer all wrapped into one. She's shown other artists that the way to be a success isn't to sit back and wait for all the answers to fall into your lap. They're following suit and self-promoting and learning how to do the dirty work for themselves. All this accomplished while she has, as she puts it, "3 strikes on me, how you get that, I'm a lesbian, I'm a woman and yes, I'm black."

Lady L.U.S.T. (Last Undisputed Spit Truth—a take on her last name, Luster) got her start in church playing the piano and the drums. L.U.S.T. has spent her life writing; she started out writing for an emotional release but realized that when she shared her words with others they were able to heal the same way she had. "Letting it out felt good and healing, sharing it with others was having the same effect on them, it's almost a calling now," L.U.S.T. says.

She relocated to Las Vegas to get away from the economic downfall that California has been engulfed in recently. L.U.S.T. acknowledges that life for her generation is getting more difficult. "We need to be more innovative than our parents; our parents had a different struggle. Now we have to compete with technology and each other and our educations," she says.

L.U.S.T. has had her struggles in the Vegas music scene as well as her triumphs. Breaking into such a male-dominated music scene has its difficulties. "It's not difficult for me to be myself or the artist that I am, just sometimes you get a different response from the male audience," L.U.S.T. says.

Lady L.U.S.T. dabbles in just about everything. She's a co-host on www.xradio.biz on Saturday nights at 8 for The XGirls, a show all about extraordinary women, Las Vegas nightlife and hip hop. She's launching a clothing line called Prop H8 which is in opposition to Proposition 8. She runs the site www.AskAboutLUST.com, and you can download her new album on iTunes. ●

BY ANN FEISTER





Mikel Patrik

When the economy was tanking last year, many would have thought that entering an industry full of the clichéd “starving artists” was a bad idea. But that’s exactly what Michael Patrick Meithe did, and he’s been bursting cynics’ bubbles ever since.

Meithe is a former architect and has worked with architecture firms across the country. A radical shift in this career resulted in the creation of the MIKEL PATRIK brand. “I had to reinvent myself after being laid off from architecture,” Meithe commented. He added, “I’ve painted my entire life and after I got laid off I said ‘hey, I’m going to do this full time.’” The artist said what he enjoys most is his schedule. “Pure and ultimate freedom. When I wake up, when I go to bed, if I want a vacation, if I want to work 80 hours a week or if I want to work 10 hours a week, it’s totally up to me,” the artist stated. Though the creative admits that this does distract him from staying focused, remaining in pajamas all day is not unusual for him. The artist stated, “I have comfortable pajamas, and the downside of that is that I get paint on my pajamas.”

Although he doesn’t want paint on his pajamas, he stated he wants to take MIKEL PATRIK into multiple markets, including stationery, hand-knitted rugs, fabric, women’s shoes and jewelry. “That’s one step at a time, right now I have to focus on canvas,” the artist stated. And while he focuses on the canvas, he stated he also is in the midst of creating a unique brand for himself.

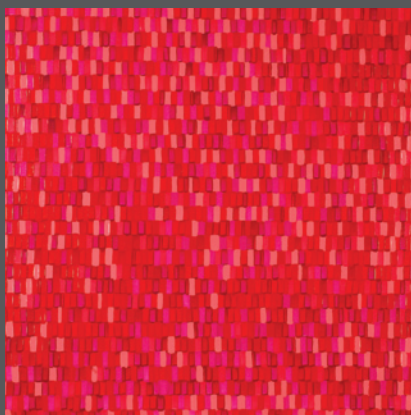
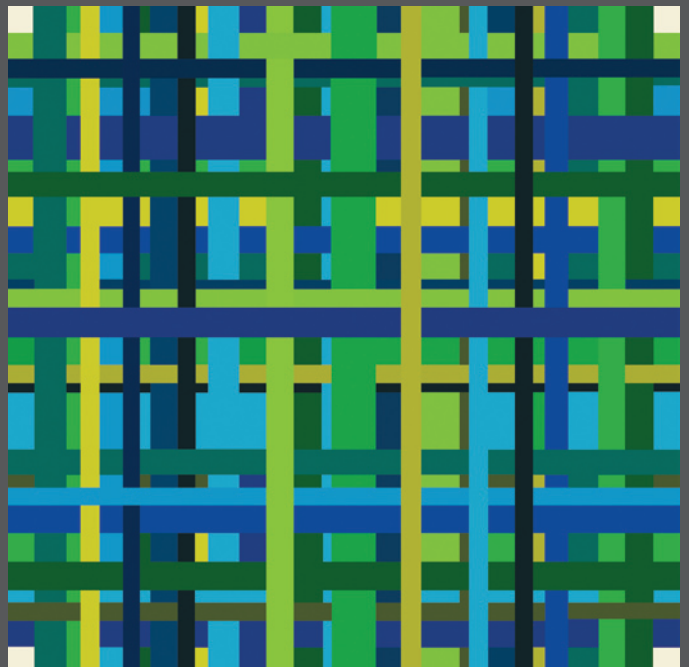
“I think some artists are struggling because they wait for things to happen...for somebody to discover them,” the artist commented. He added, “I’m going to create what I want. I’m a shark in that aspect, I’ll go out there and make it work.” Meithe stated a lot of artists are not employing similar tactics as his, such as advertising the artwork, printing reproductions, and creating a memorable brand. He believes his business mindset is a factor contributing to his success as an artist.

“It’s really about taking your ideas and expanding it. It’s thinking outside of the box,” Meithe said. “The thing about my designs is

that they work well for canvas but they also work well for many other things. And so, that’s what I’m starting to explore now.”

MIKEL PATRIK designs are currently being featured at Chef’s Palate on Eastern Ave. in Henderson. He can be reached through his Web site, www.mikelpatrik.com. ●

BY MARK ADAMS





"Princess Anne" Mulford

I have met Anne Mulford, aka Princess Anne, multiple times throughout the past year. The first time was at The Erotic Heritage Museum. I was volunteering while she was setting up her show for the museum's first year anniversary party. Mulford immediately struck me as a strong, confident woman, with a clear point of view.

The work I saw of hers was her installation, the Flying Vaginas. Each ceramic vagina is painted differently: one painted like it was made of sugar, another made of gold, one painted with sweet cherries upon it, while still another with a large fish. At first I didn't know what to make of the show, it's not often that I'm surrounded by a.) so many vaginas and b.) so many stereotypes. But upon closer inspection, each piece was beautiful; it had something to say about that stereotype and made me think twice.

This kind of reaction is a dream come true to most artists, and definitely Mulford, who has always strived for meaning in her art.

"[I was] really looking for a point of view when I moved here and went to grad school, almost 20 years ago. I felt that was missing from my work—in my undergraduate work and the years following. [My work] was fun and funny and fun to own and look at, but I wanted more. I wanted to have a point of view and make my audience think."

Mulford has definitely accomplished that throughout the years. Although she has not allowed her political activity, her sexuality and her feminist ideals to take over her work, they have all played a part in who she is and what she creates.

"[My sexuality] is certainly not who I am. It's an aspect of who I am, and it's an important aspect of who I am. It informs my political activity and my artistic activity, my social activity. But it informs it. It doesn't completely shape it. And not all of my artwork is gay-oriented or even female- or feminism-oriented," she confided. "I don't know what my next body of work will be. Each phase of my life yields several bodies of art or theater now and who knows what the next will be. But I feel it starting. I feel images. I can see images coming to me now and have been for quite some time. So I know there's a new grouping of work brewing."

Until then, if you would like to see Mulford's work visit The Erotic Heritage Museum, or watch for her in theater productions around the community. ●

BY KATHERINE
FERNELIUS





Nick San Pedro

Pop culture icons, whether they are musicians, celebrities or heir-esses, intrigue most people. Their faces and photos are constantly splashed across the newsstands and hundreds of thousands, or even millions of people partake in this guilty pleasure in order to feel a part of these famous peoples' existence.

This is about as far as the majority of the interested population goes. But one Las Vegas local has taken pop star intrigue to a whole different level. Nick San Pedro has spent the last eight years painting portraits of famous musicians and celebrities, many of which have been recognized, purchased and/or commissioned by the icons themselves.

San Pedro's story started when he was working as a barista at the Starbucks inside the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. He enjoyed updating the chalkboards and would often draw different celebrities and musicians who visited the hotel. Over time, celebrities and musicians took notice of his chalkboard drawings and asked to buy the boards or take pictures of them. From there, San Pedro recounted, it just kind of snowballed and by the time he was 22 or 23 years old, he was commissioned to do eight paintings for the Grammy Awards.

Since that time, nearly 10 years ago, San Pedro has devoted his life, paint brush to canvas, creating works of beauty. He has shared his paintings with some of the biggest names in the music and entertainment industries: Britney Spears, Elton John, Madonna, Christina Aguilera, Celine Dion, Lady Gaga and many others.

In addition to his painting, San Pedro has been a prevalent icon in the Las Vegas community, donating time and art to various auctions, benefits and non-profits for the good of the community. He has also contributed many digital illustrations to QVegas over the years.

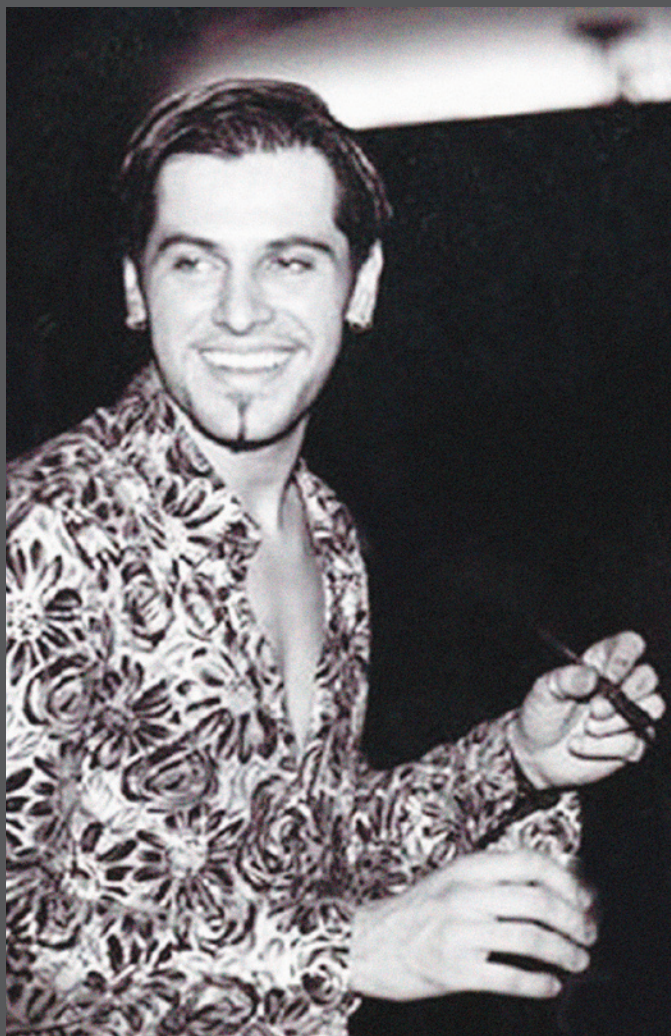
Although musicians and celebrities have been San Pedro's muses for the past several years, he feels a change coming on.

"A lot of my artwork is focused in on celebrities and musicians that are public figures, but now I feel like I am creating more work that is about anonymous people that audiences may have more questions about. I think my work is getting a little more metaphysical. I'm putting a little more meaning in my paintings. It's a face that's saying something."

San Pedro will be hosting an art show on March 27 at Adias Salon focusing on some of his pop divas. "I'll be bringing in a lot of paintings some people have never seen and I'll be bringing something to work on during the reception as well," he explained.

Visit www.nicksanpedro.com for more examples of his work. •

BY KATHERINE FERNELIUS



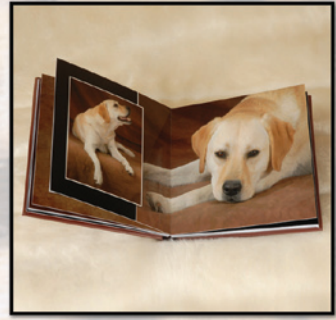


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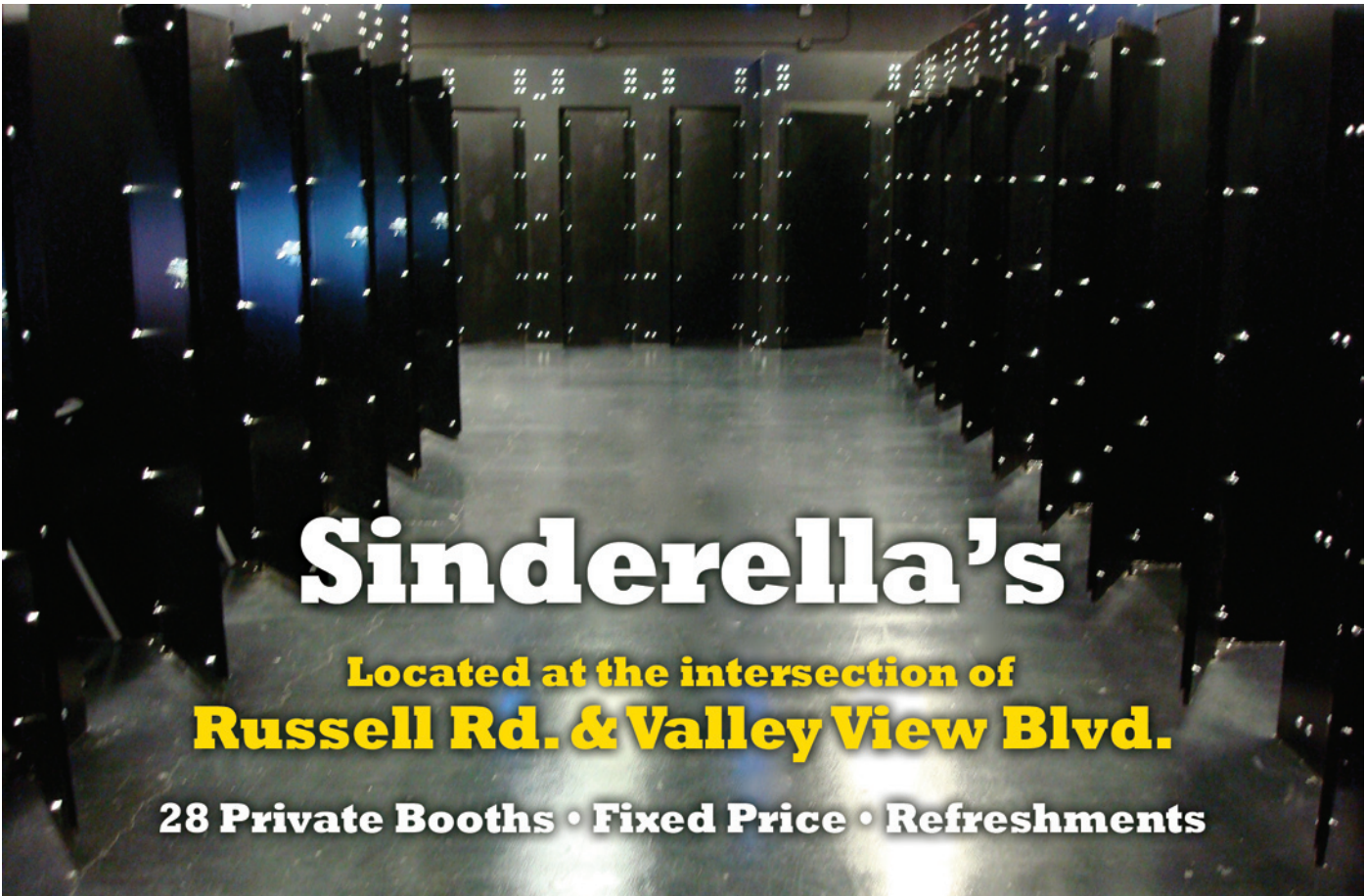






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BY WILLIAM BESSETTE

BRENDAN VELASQUEZ & FRENCHIE DAVIS SIGN ON TO HIT THE LAS VEGAS PRIDE MAINSTAGE ON MAY 1

Not The Quiet Type

Brendan Velasquez is livin' out loud, according to the title of his album, released in the summer of 2008. Talk to him and you will find that this is an ethos that he strives to live by. Though he was nervous, "I thought it would be scary," he explains, Velasquez came out to his mom when he was 14, and slowly, but surely, came out to the rest of his family over time. "I knew on the first day of high school that I had to come out," he says with a chuckle. "But I also feel like love is love. Everyone is cool and very supportive. I never thought that it would be this good for me."

Raised in Maryland by a single mom, Velasquez knew the struggles of trying to make it but did not let that slow him down. "I grew up pretty fast," he begins. "I had to do a lot of stuff and kind of be my mom's right hand man. She was my everything to me." Even now, with an album out and touring for half the year, Velasquez keeps himself busy. "In the winter time... I've been working at

California Pizza Kitchen. Waiting tables is kind of like being on stage," he says, smiling.

Though he admirably states: "Even if I was really famous I would still work back there," 2009 was a breakout year for Velasquez, one that may springboard him into the pop consciousness of the new decade, leaving his days waiting tables as a thing of the past. "Last year was pretty big for me," he begins. "I did a club in Atlanta called Bazaar right after Lady Gaga was there. Then I was in Atlanta at Six Flags where I opened for Kelly Rowland and Frenchie Davis. I did a lot of different tours and Prides last year as far out as St. Louis. So, I am really trying to attack the west coast and the south now and hopefully get some interest in California. When I looked at my artist dashboard on MySpace, 70 percent of my fans are from California, and I've never even been there.

"And we're not done with this album at all," he continues. "We still have a ton of promoting to do with it. 'Lonely Sheets' is going to be like the 'Toxic' of the album; that's definitely the best song. I have people that want to work with me right now because they love it so much and they want to add things to it. That single is the one where all my friends are like 'Oh my god, I cannot wait for that video.'"

The caveat to all of this will be how Velasquez plans to expand outside of the gay niche that has so far been responsible for his success. "I've gotten my start within the gay community, but that's just kind of like an opening," he says. "A lot of my fans on MySpace now are young girls and teenagers and they don't really see gay or straight or anything, they just hear good music.

"Though I do definitely want to break out

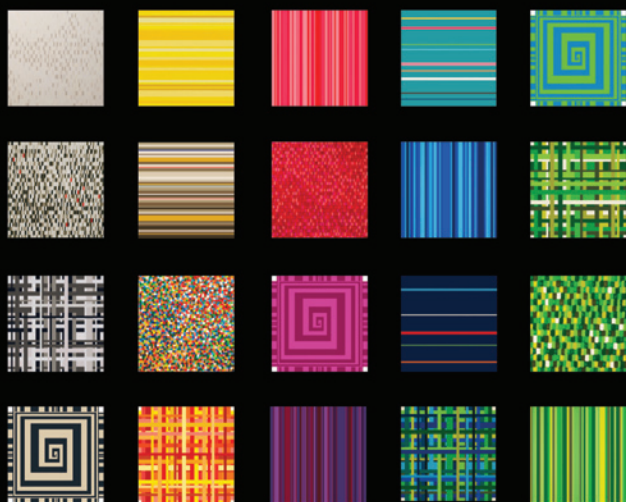
of that kind of mentality, like Lady Gaga did," he explains. "I feel like I have the drive and the vision to do that. I'm also going to be working on a TV show and some other different projects outside of just Brendan Velasquez, so I have a lot of things coming up soon that are definitely not geared towards just being gay. I also do kind of feel right now with the way that music is—very electronic—that its kind of letting me do these things."

Even so, how one deals with the stereotypes that exist within the business are crucial to future success, and Velasquez knows how he feels when making comparisons. "You get a lot more with honey than you do with vinegar," he says. "When Adam Lambert was grabbing people's crotches on stage, he kind of even lost my respect and it takes a lot to shock me, but I just feel like it needs to be gone about in a different way. I'm not trying not to say I'm butch or I'm not a fag, but I know exactly where I stand and I just want to be real. I feel like it's going to take me farther to be myself without having to create some image of pushing limits and boundaries and sexualization."

In the cutthroat music business, it takes a lot of perseverance and pushing, and going about things in a different way may or may not be the key that leads to fame. Either way he goes, however, Velasquez is keeping his vision in mind and knows exactly where he wants to go and what he wants to do, which is something, at the ripe old age of 22, one must admire. "I do kind of feel like I am a jack of all trades. I do my friend's hair and I want to teach music. I am definitely going to get into acting. I think at the end of the day I always ►



Brendan
Velasquez



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To learn more about Brendan Velasquez and hear music from his debut album, visit www.brendanvelasquez.com.

Catching Up With Frenchie

Whether it be for the standout singing, boisterous personality or inevitable controversy, season two of *American Idol* would not have been the same without Frenchie Davis. Ask her, and she will tell you she would not be the same without season two of *Idol*. Would she do it all over again? “Oh, absolutely,” she replies with conviction. “I don’t know who I’d be if that experience hadn’t enriched my thought process. For nothing else, I also think the friendships I built during that experience are some of the most important things.”

Touching upon the memories of *American Idol* can be a delicate thing for Davis, given the circumstances surrounding her exit from the show in 2003. Through an intense reluctance to even talk about it, due to the usual misrepresentation of her words, she opens up a little to explain how the situation has effected her personally. “I will say that I have learned a lot from the experience,” she explains. “I think that the biggest lesson I learned was how to move on. It sounds simple, but it’s like when you go through something so disappointing and humiliating and then have to explain it to your grandparents.

“I think it is easy to fall into the negativity. The best advice one of my friends gave me was ‘take your 15 minutes and move on.’ Feel how you need to feel and cry if you need to, and then find that strength within yourself to move forward. Holding on to negativity only causes you to stand in your own way. If you are not happy, it’s your own fault, you have to move on. Negative experiences are only negative when

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you don't learn something from them."

With several years in the Broadway musical, *Rent*, and a new single produced with DJ Tony Moran under her belt, it is easy for Davis to learn from her *Idol* past and push ahead towards her bright future. "I'm working on my music and hopefully will get this CD finished sooner or later. It's taking so long because I want it to be fabulous!" she states emphatically. "I am also doing it independently, which takes a little bit longer... I do work for the Human Rights Campaign and whenever I am invited to do something for the community, I do it. I sung at events for the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and worked on the Trevor Project... One of my dreams, actually, is to start a non-profit organization that finds housing for teenagers who are turned away by their families when they come out of the closet."

Slowly, but surely, Davis is becoming an

icon within the LGBT community and she is embracing it, as she feels she owes a lot of her success to the gay scene. "I was performing for the gay community even before I was on *Idol*. When I was in college, one of my favorite professors was gay and one night I went with him to one of the drag bars and he said 'You need to get up there and sing, momma!' So, I ended up being a big hit because I was a real

girl and I wasn't lip synching. That became one of the ways I was making money while I was in school. One of my best friends since the tenth grade is a gay man, so I've always just had a connection to the gay community," she concludes." ●

Davis is proud to announce the launch of her new Web site, www.missfrenchie.com.

Frenchie
Davis



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The Abbey Food & Bar

Voted "Best Gay Bar In The World" by LOGO, The Abbey is and a must-visit when in Hollywood. Day or night, weekday or weekend, The Abbey is bustling with hot guys, girls and friendly staff. See the Oscars Abbey-style at "The Envelope Please," a benefit for AIDS Project Los Angeles, on Sunday, March 7, open to the public free of charge. While enjoying the Oscars on big screen TVs, enjoy an exclusive prix fixe dinner but be sure to make reservations by contacting dana@sbe.com. Anyone making a \$25 donation receives a drink of their choice.

Micky's West Hollywood

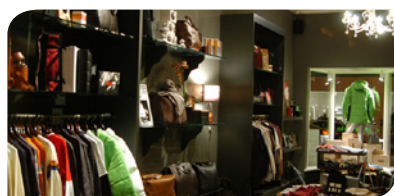
Micky's, located on Santa Monica Boulevard, is great for dancing. Or just hang out and drool over the go-go dancers, porn on TV and an almost-anything-goes atmosphere, especially on the dance floor. Micky's has hot bartenders, strong drinks and friendly security. Check their Web site for nightly and weekly events, but you can expect a crowd every night of the week.

Here Lounge

The boys are here alright! Jeffery Sanker and Paul Nicholls present Red every Saturday night and Red Meets Garage twice a month, featuring DJ's Chi Chi LaRue, The Perry Twins and Brynn Taylor. Enjoy the hosted bar until 10:30 p.m. with plenty of dirty dancers and a \$5 cover. Each week, Tom Whitman presents Size Sundays, the largest gathering of gays on a Sunday anywhere. The girls are here too, with Truck Stop every Friday.



... SHOPPING ...



Alpha

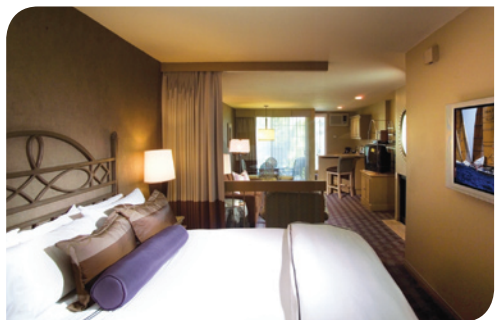
Frequented by both celebrities and the everyman off the street, Alpha is a men's boutique offering everything from apparel and accessories to retro toys and gadgety gift ideas. Check it out next time you're on Melrose Avenue and you may just rub elbows with the rich and famous shopping for themselves or the men in their lives.

LASC

LASC is among the largest men's boutiques in Los Angeles and is considered an icon in the fashion world. Established in 1983 selling athletic apparel just in time for the 1984 Summer Olympics, LA Sporting Club launched their own line in 1987 and is carried in more than 2,000 shops worldwide. Their flagship boutique is the first North American shop-in-shop environments for Italian Denim, Powerhouse, Diesel and Dutch Designer Denim G-Star Raw.



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... DINING ...

Cecconi's West Hollywood

This is a celebrity hot spot and has the best meatballs in Hollywood. Cecconi's, on the corner of Melrose and Robertson, is the place where I almost died and went to Heaven because just a few tables away from me was Meryl Streep. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served, as well as a midnight menu available until 1 a.m. Reservations are a must and accepted up to two weeks before your arrival.



O-Bar

Contemporary American cuisine is served here by Chef Aaron Robins in a stylish, underwater-inspired setting with lots of blue-toned accents and wood, rock and other natural touches. The menu offers plenty of seafood dishes from salmon to mussels and numerous non-seafood dishes such as Angus burgers, steak and fried chicken. O-Bar is open daily, 5:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

Hamburger Mary's

Do you miss having our very own Hamburger Mary's here in the Fruit Loop? Then check out the one in WeHo and enjoy the fruity drinks and even fruitier atmosphere. The menu is absolutely huge, so you'll find something yummy to eat both day and night. Each night of the week features a great drink or food special or a special event such as karaoke, bingo or a show. On Friday evenings, "America's Transsexual Sweetheart," Calpernia Addams, presents Unreal, a live show featuring herself alongside four stunning showgirls.

... EVENTS ...

Erotic Art Fair Weekend

Tom of Finland Foundation presents the 15th Annual West Hollywood/Los Angeles Erotic Art Fair Weekend this year on March 27-28. The event will feature sculpture, photography, paintings, sketches, digital renderings and more. Male and female works of art will be on display and for sale.

Los Angeles Pride 2010

"PRIDE 365: Power. Passion. Purpose." is the theme of the 2010 parade and festival presented by Christopher Street West. The festivities, celebrating 40 years, will be held June 12-13. The festival will stretch along San Vicente Boulevard, with the parade traveling down Santa Monica Boulevard.

West Hollywood Costume Carnival

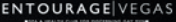
This holiday event, with its kick-off march, attracts more than 400,000 people who begin gathering at 6 p.m. on October 31 between La Cienega Boulevard and Le Peer Drive on Santa Monica Boulevard, "Route 66" in West Hollywood. What used to be a gay and lesbian event has now become the second-largest gathering in California, behind the Tournament of Roses Parade. Weeklong activities, Oct. 22-31, also include drag races and pumpkin carving.

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GAIA FLOWERS, GIFTS & ART

Gaia (pronounced "guy-uh") is a flower and gift shop in Las Vegas' downtown Arts District. It specializes in sustainably grown flowers and desert accents arranged in ceramics made by local artists, but Gaia designers can do any type of arrangement, and the shop includes a room filled with beautiful plants at reasonable prices. You won't find any Made-in-China teddy bears there, but they do everything else most flower shops do: delivery, weddings, funerals, etc.

Still, Gaia is different from most flower shops. Named after the Greek goddess personifying Mother Earth, Gaia is based on a commitment to honoring the Earth's natural beauty and conserving her resources, while promoting thoughtful gift-giving and enjoyment of the arts.

Gaia is the brain-child of Peter Frigeri. A horticulturalist by trade, Frigeri founded his own company, Falcon Floral, in 1995. Now called Expo Ease, that company offers plants, floral arrangements and other services to trade show managers.

Looking for a way to integrate sustainable floriculture into his business, in 2008 Frigeri started working on an idea that would eventually become Gaia. He had lived near and supported the Arts District since discovering it many years ago, so Frigeri was elated to find a building on Charleston and Main that could accommodate both his existing and new businesses.

Gaia's gift shop features bath and body



products, ceramics, jewelry and other crafts made by Las Vegans, as well as specialty teas. It also has ongoing art exhibitions and holds workshops where featured artists share their skills with attendees.

Gaia exists not only to give Las Vegans a place where they can buy flowers, plants and gifts, but also to build community among people who value of creativity, thoughtfulness and sustainability.

People who visit Gaia are always struck by how pretty and peaceful it is, and by its unique selection of gifts. It's a great place to hold a meeting or event, or just to hang out and smell the flowers. Go see for yourself. ●

QVEGAS BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

THERESA MAYET

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN)

Theresa Mayet joined the staff of Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) in 2009, as Development Coordinator. However, her support and commitment to the mission of AFAN began much sooner when her husband joined AFAN's case management team in 2007. Her passion and support for the mission of AFAN was immediately apparent and she has quickly become a strong asset to the HIV-community of Nevada.

"Planning and organizing the 20th annual AIDS Walk Las Vegas event is truly proving to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," Mayet says. "The enthusiasm of the teams and sponsors is incredible and the commitment and compassion of each walker raising awareness throughout our community is truly inspiring."

If you would like to learn how you



can get involved or would just like more information, please visit AFAN online at www.afanlv.org or e-mail her directly at theresa@afanlv.org. ●



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Las Vegas is going to the Gay Softball World Series in August

Exciting news for Las Vegas gay athletics: the LVGA³ Softball League has been working very hard to finish two complete softball seasons in order to go before the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) to become sanctioned. Larry O'Halloran attended the NAGAAA meeting a few weeks back representing Las Vegas and we were approved. What does this mean for our players on our C and D Division teams, you might ask? The world! We now are eligible to send two or three teams to the Gay Softball World Series this year being held Aug. 16-21 in Columbus, Ohio. We will send one C Division team and one D Division team with a possibility of one additional team. Now is the time to get involved and come out and support our teams and become a fan. For those of you who have been to the Gay World Series, it is a trip of a lifetime and a total learning experience competing with teams from all over North America.

We are hosting softball clinics for new players and refresher clinics on Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Doc Romeo Park, located at West Cheyenne Avenue and Ronemus Drive. Take I-95 north and exit Cheyenne. Ronemus is just before Buffalo on the left. We had 34 players out at the clinic on Febru-

ary 14. There is still time to join and get in shape. Come out and meet all the new people, like yourself, who have not played for years. You will be fine. Joel Sanchez and Thomas Bogle, along with all the other coaches and players will be assisting all the new players.

The League is scheduled to begin on Sunday, March 14. For more information on signing up and playing softball, please contact O'Halloran at lohalloran@lvga3.com for more information or visit www.LVGA3softball.com. A complete list of game times will be available on our Web site in the next few weeks. If you have a business and would like to sponsor a team or donate money to LVGA³ to help assist those who might need their players fees paid for, please contact O'Halloran to make your donations. We would like to thank the following sponsors who are leading the way and sponsoring our softball teams this season, in the D Division: Fun Hog Ranch, Blue Moon Resort, Cedar Pharmacy, Charlie's Las Vegas and The Pain Clinic sponsoring Las Vegas Gay Mafia. In C Division we have The Rat Pack and FreeZone. Come out and cheer on our teams as they work to be the first teams to make a trip to Columbus to play in the Gay World Series. ●

Signups are being taken for next volleyball season

Monday nights are very competitive at Whitney Recreation Center at 5712 E. Missouri Ave. off Boulder Highway and Tropicana Avenue. With the finals fast approaching, who will place first, second and third? Will it be the Hot Sets, S*Kortz, Liebres, Fantanas, Kokanuts, the Pounders, She-Nannygans or the PWP's? Come out and support all the teams and see who has the best team in the LVGA³ Volleyball League. For more info on game times and directions, visit www.LVGA3.com. If you are interested in playing, we are taking signups for next season. For more information about entering a team or playing on a team, please contact Larry O'Halloran at lohalloran@lvga3.com.

Sponsor sought for second LVGA³ basketball team

The Fun Hog basketball team has not lost a scrimmage yet. We are up to 17 players coming out and playing on Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m. at Cambridge Recreation Center. We will continue to play on Wednesday nights until the League starts in April. Due to the lack of teams entering in the Cambridge League, we will be entering our Fun Hog Basketball team into the D Division Sunset Basketball League and our games will be on Thursday nights at the Cambridge Recreation Center, 6-9 p.m. We would like to enter two teams in the league, however, we need seven more players to sign up and commit to playing. We are also looking for another sponsor for the second team. If you are interested in sponsoring this team or for more information about playing, please contact Thomas Bogle at Tbogle@lvga3.com. The Cambridge Recreation Center is located at 3930 Cambridge St. For a list of game times, please visit www.lvga3.com.

ABOUT LVGA³

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. www.lvga3.com.



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Do you believe in love at first sight? I see myself as a romantic and would have to say that I do believe in love at first sight. To me, it is an exciting moment when your eyes connect with that special person and the exchange of energy can be felt by everyone. For me, I enjoy the moment when I'm looking into that person's eyes and I feel my heart fills with excitement.

How do you embrace every morning? I embrace my mornings with a walk with my TazzyMelt followed by a hot cup of coffee coupled with my journal to do my morning writings. After clearing my head it's time to get physical with yoga and working out. BTW, I'm still looking for a workout partner; anyone interested? Seriously!

What is the most important character attribute you want your partner to have? Why? This is hard for me to answer. Like everyone I have a list from being physically active to honesty. But in picking one attribute I would have to say that it would be important for them to be unconditionally supportive of me, with my



PATRICK

dreams and aspirations. Because if you know that someone is supporting you unconditionally then it gives you that extra strength to move forward fearlessly.

What is the most spontaneous thing you have done in your life?

The most spontaneous thing that I have done was when I was 22 years old after graduating from college I decided to move to NYC unseen, with \$40 dollars in my pocket, which was spent on cocktails on the first night....go figure!

Name a personal goal you would like to achieve this year?

My biggest goal this year is successfully launching my company, A-Peeling Designs, which will concentrate on interior design and event planning!

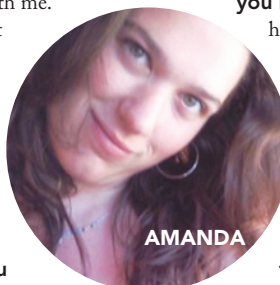
What is your definition of love? My definition of love is being with someone that you have a connection with where you both are supporting and loving each other unconditionally. Love is something that transcends all expectations of one another, where you can be yourself and are celebrated for your own individuality.

Do you believe in love at first sight? I do believe in love, lust and friendship at first sight. It's amazing how much can happen during a first impression.

Tell us the strangest thing you ever experienced on a date. I had a date tell me during dinner that he originally wanted to date my best friend but she was not interested in him, so he went out with me. My friend and I are so different that I knew it was not going to work out plus I was shocked and felt like a consolation prize. I am much better than a second place ribbon. I'm a blue ribbon kind of girl.

What is the most important character attribute you want your partner to have?

Why? I want them to be funny and supportive. I need a partner that is going to keep me laughing and loving life even on those crappy days.



AMANDA

If you could go on a vacation anywhere on the planet, money not an issue, where would you go and why? New Zealand. I would travel all over both islands.

I want to go there so bad! It is naturally beautiful and the most peaceful country in the world.

What is the most spontaneous thing you have done in your life?

I've had sex out at Red Rock once. We fooled around on the trail and someone "hiked" in on us. Spontaneous but stupid. I've now learned to fool around off the beaten path.

Name a personal goal you would like to achieve this year.

I have a lot of goals this year. I plan of graduating from UNLV with my Masters, becoming a Doctor in Sexology, recording a CD and growing my Afternoon Delight Variety Show at the Erotic Heritage Museum.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE QSINGLES?

If you like what you see here and want to know even more about this month's QSingles, visit www.qvegas.com. If you'd like to be considered for a future issue, contact matchmaker Chris Miller at www.engagingintroductions.com.



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8½ and PIRANHA 4633 Paradise Rd. 702-491-0100	El Seseo Latin Night DJs Vago & Auner Las Sirenas 12a	Circus DJ Mikey Swift \$10 Liquor Bust	La Noche w/DJ Vago Sirenas Show 2a	Lingerie & Lace A Ladies Only Event	Boystown Liquor Bust DJs Mikey Swift & Chris Adams	Visit piranhavegas.com for details	Sex Saturdays DJ/VJ Scott K & DJ K Drag Show 11:30p
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	Happy Hour 4-7p FREE Drag Queen Bingo	Happy Hour 4-7p \$1 Mini-Pitch. 7p-2a Retro Night w/Trivia	Happy Hour 4-7p Line Dance Lessons Bear/Bare Chest Nite	NGRA Apprec. Night 75¢ Happy Hour 7-9p \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-1a	75¢ Happy Hour 7-9p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-1a
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	\$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	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p
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FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	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	Naked Boy Frat Party 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 8p - 1a
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	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Karaoke with Sheila 9p-1a	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Vaquero Night \$10 Liquor Bust 10p-3a	Noche Calientes DJ Papi Chulo & DJ XTC 10p
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LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Monday Night Football with Brett	Karaoke with Mark & Brett 7p	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a
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

WE ALSO RECOMMEND THESE MAINSTREAM NIGHTLIFE OPTIONS

BEATLES REVOLUTION LNG. The Mirage 702-692-8383	For you technology junkies, this has to be the coolest place in town with touch screen cocktail tables, great music and a couple of secret tricks to uncover. Check out Closet Sundays.	RHUMBAR The Mirage 702-792-7615	Designed in a style reminiscent of a mojito, with its white and green decor, Rhubarb is a new venue at The Mirage with a beautiful outdoor patio. Captiv8 is a gay night on Wednesdays.
BLUE MARTINI Town Square 702-949-BLUE	This new local hot spot is situated in Town Square and is always packed with great eye candy. Every night from 11 p.m. until close is hospitality pricing—half off drinks!	LAVO The Palazzo 702-791-1800	Check out the newest patio on the Las Vegas Strip by the Tao Group. Gays abound on Label Junkie Wednesdays with fashion shows taking place throughout the space.
CATHOUSE Luxor 702-262-4228	This swanky burlesque club/restaurant has hosted several gay events and is located in the Luxor. Great décor, sassy cocktail uniforms and fabulous lighting and sound.	STUDIO 54 MGM Grand 702-891-7254	A modern interpretation of the original, featuring state-of-the-art sound, video and lighting, live dancers and chart-topping dance music. 4 dance floors and go-go boys and girls.
CHRISTIAN AUDIGIER Treasure Island 702-894-7580	This renowned fashion designer turned nightclub connoisseur took over the space where Tangerine was in the Treasure Island and appointed it with some fierce bling. Check it out.	TAO The Venetian 702-388-8338	Restaurant, nightclub and ultra pool, this celebrity hang out is just hot. Found in the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian.

Derrick Barry Presents **Boys n Barry** **Sundaes**

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 - The UNLV Bookstore • Select local wine retailers
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MONDAY, MARCH 1

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Stonewall Democrats General Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.stonewalllv.org

Mpowerment Project

The Center, 7pm
www.thecenterlv.com
Repeats every Monday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

IRSCDEI Court Meeting

The Center, 7:30pm
www.desertempire.org

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesdays

Location to be determined, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

Sin Sity Sisters Meeting

The Center, 8:30pm
www.sinsitysisters.org

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

LVPT Casino Buffet

Orleans Casino 11:30am
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Ulli's Bodypump Class

LVAC Central (Karen and Maryland), 5:30pm
www.nevadaoutdoors.com
Repeats every Wednesday.

NGRA Fundraising Committee Meeting

917 Woodbrige Dr., 89108, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

NGRA Appreciation Night

Charlie's Las Vegas, 7pm
www.ngra.com
Repeats every Friday.

trans.lation

The Center, 5:30pm
www.thecenterlv.com
Repeats every Friday.

Mpowerment Group, G-Men & L-Group

The Center, 7pm
www.thecenterlv.com
Repeats every Friday.

Esperanza

Badlands Saloon, 8pm
www.desertempire.org

George Lopez

Las Vegas Hilton, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Also scheduled for March 6.

Ray Romano

Terry Fator Theatre, 10pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Also scheduled for March 6.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Imago Dei 10th Anniversary Banquet

Guardian Angel Cathedral, 3:30pm
www.imagodeilv.org

MONDAY, MARCH 8

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

NGRA Board of Directors Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

**Betty's Outrageous Adventures
Board Meeting**

The Center, 6:30pm
www.bettysout.com

LVPT Dine Out Night

Rio Buffet (Flamingo west of I-15), 6:30pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesdays

Location to be determined, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Lambda Community Lunch

Las Palmas (Commercial Center), 11:30am
www.lambdalv.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Lily Tomlin

MGM Grand Hotel, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Also scheduled for March 12-17.

Vegas HEAT Car Club

The Center, 7pm
www.thecenterlv.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Jay Leno

Terry Fator Theatre, 10pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Also scheduled for March 13.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

NGRA Goes Green

Charlie's Las Vegas, 9:30pm
www.ngra.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

SinCityQSocial Sunday Brunch

The Broiler at Boulder Station, 10am
www.sincityqsocials.com

SAVE THE DATE

AFAN's AIDS Walk Las Vegas • April 25

**Senior Connection and LVPT
Day Trip to the Valley of Fire**
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

MONDAY, MARCH 15

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing
The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

NGRA Board of Directors Meeting
The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

NGRA Finals Planning Committee Meeting
The Center, 7:30pm
www.ngra.com

LVGA3 Awards Ceremony
8pm
www.lvga3.com

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

SNAPI Board Meeting
The Center, 6:30pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesdays
Location to be determined, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Women's Empowerment Network (WEN)
The Center, 6pm
www.myspace.com/womensnetworklv

Sin City Sisters Meeting
The Center, 8:30pm
www.thecenterlv.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing
The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Nevada Outdoors – Lake Mojave
Lake Mojave, 4pm
www.nevadaoutdoors.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

**IRSCDEI King & Queen of Clubs
Competition**
Spotlight Lounge, 8pm
www.desertempire.org

Sin City Sisters Beer Bust
Fun Hogs Ranch, 10pm
www.sincitysisters.org

MONDAY, MARCH 22

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Submit full event details to Calendar@QVegas.com no later than the 15th of the month preceeding the event.

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing
The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

NGRA General Membership Meeting
The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

IRSCDEI Board of Directors Meeting
The Center, 7pm
www.desertempire.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

LVPT Senior Movie Matinee
Orleans Casino, 3pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesdays
Location to be determined, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Chamillionaire and Paul Wall
House of Blues, 6pm
www.ticketmaster.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Free Hepatitis A/B and HIV Testing
The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

LVPT Cocktail Night Out
Spotlight Lounge, 6pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

John Mayer
Mandalay Bay, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Sin City Sisters Easter Basket Parade
Charlie's Las Vegas, 9pm
www.sincitysisters.org

NGRA Board of Directors Show
Badlands Saloon, 9:30pm
www.ngra.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Decorate Easter Eggs with We Are Family
The Center, 1pm
www.wearefamilylv.org

HRC – Faith and Religion Group
The Center, 2pm
lasvegas.hrc.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesdays
Location to be determined, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

LVPT Dine Out Night
Red Lobster (Decatur and I-95), 6:30pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com



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NOTICE: QVegas documents all customer complaints regarding classified advertisements. It reserves the right to refuse advertisements from individuals or companies who misrepresent themselves and/or advertising claims. Advertisers and clients are kindly asked to conduct their dealings in a moral, humanitarian and mutually respectful manner. All complaints should be made to QVegas Attn.: Classifieds Director 1380 E. Sahara #A, Las Vegas, NV. 89104

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Men's Nude Yoga Class, Please Join us for a private men's nude Hatha yoga class, three times weekly. Log onto www.mensnakedyoga.com or see my ad in the classified section. Contact and calendar posted on the web.

Tuesday March 23rd: Log Cabin Organizational Meeting at The Center, 6:00 pm. www.logcabin.org

PERSONAL SERVICES

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WARNING: QVegas reminds readers to use common sense when placing or answering an advertisement. Meeting people for the first time in a public environment is recommended and letting a friend know your whereabouts and destination is advisable.

Couple 50 and 53 looking to meet new friends for dinner, drinks, concerts, comedy clubs and just hanging out. Ask for Rob 702-547-6996

WF N/S seeks an attractive, married ok, H maintenance woman. Please send photo/phone number. Please respond to GS for a companion or a relationship. 855 E Twain, Box 534 Las Vegas, NV 89169

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- 1** Backdoor Lounge, 1415 E Charleston Blvd, 385-2018
- CC** Badlands Saloon, 953 E. Sahara Ave., 792-9262
- 3** Charlie's Las Vegas, 5012 Arville St, 876-1844
- CC** Entourage Vegas Bath House, 953 E Sahara Ave, 650-9191
- 6** Escape Lounge, 4213 W Sahara Ave, 364-1167
- 7** Flex, 4371 W Charleston Blvd, 385-3539
- FL** FreeZone, 601 E. Naples, 794-2300
- 8** Fun Hog Ranch, 495 E Twain Ave, 791-7001
- FL** Gipsy, 4605 Paradise Rd, 731-1919
- CC** Hawks Gym, 953 E Sahara Ave, 731-4295
- 11** Las Vegas Eagle, 3430 E Tropicana Ave, 458-8662
- CC** Las Vegas Lounge, 900 E Karen Ave, 737-9350
- 13** Krave, 3663 Las Vegas Blvd S, 836-0830
- 4** Revolution Lounge inside the Mirage, lightgroup.com
- 14** Snick's Place, 1402 S 3rd St, 577-3648
- CC** Spotlight Lounge, 957 E. Sahara Ave, 696-0202

DINING

- 16** The Coffee Bean/Tea Leaf, 4550 S Maryland Pkwy, 876-6629
- 17** Freakin' Frog, 4700 S Maryland Pkwy, 597-9702
- 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
- 24** Whole Foods, 6689 Las Vegas Blvd S, 589-7711
- 25** Whole Foods, 8855 W Charleston Blvd, 254-8655
- 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, 772-0020
- 92** Yolies Brazilian Steakhouse, 3900 Paradise, Ste. 2, 794-0700

ACCOMMODATIONS

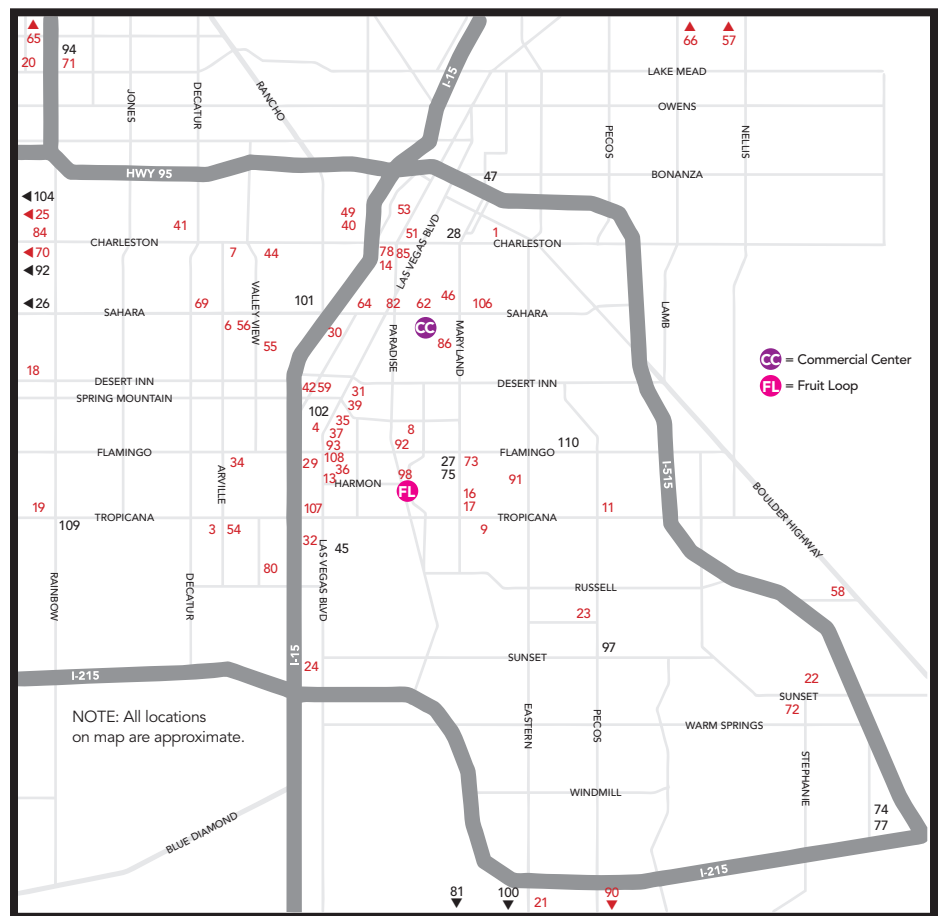
29 Bellagio Hotel Concierge, 3600 Las Vegas Blvd S
30 Blue Moon Resort, 2651 Westwood Dr., 361-9099
31 Encore Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd S
32 Luxor Hotel Concierge, 3900 Las Vegas Blvd S
34 Mandalay Bay Hotel Concierge, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd S
34 Palms Hotel & Casino Concierge, 4321 W Flamingo Rd
35 Palazzo Resort Concierge, 3325 Las Vegas Blvd S
36 Paris Hotel & Casino Concierge, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
37 Venetian Resort Concierge, 3335 Las Vegas Blvd S
39 Wynn Las Vegas Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd, 770-1571

ORGANIZATIONS

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, 2333 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

ADULT RETAIL

53 A-Action Adult & Video, 1016 S 1st St, 382-1076
54 Adult Déjà Vu Emporium, 4335 W Tropical Ave, 367-8002
55 Adult World, 3781 Meade Avenue, 579-9735
56 Bare Essentials, 4029 W Sahara Ave, 247-4711
57 Desert Adult Books, 4350 Las Vegas Blvd N, 643-7982
58 Fantasy World, 6760 Boulder Hwy, 433-6311
59 Industrial Rd. Book, 3422 Industrial Rd., 734-7667
60 Glamour Boutique, 714 E Sahara Ave, 697-1800
64 Peep Land, 2424 Western Ave, 383-4993
65 Ranch 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
CC The Rack, 953 E Sahara Ave, 732-7225



RETAIL

24 Borders Books & Music, 6521 Las Vegas Blvd S, 383-6734
69 Borders Books & Music, 2323 S Decatur Blvd, 258-0999
70 Borders Books & Music, 10950 W Charleston Blvd, 382-6101
71 Borders Books & Music, 2190 N Rainbow Blvd, 638-7866
72 Borders Books & Music, 1445 W Sunset Rd, 433-6222
73 Buffalo Exchange, 4110 S Maryland Pkwy, 791-3960
74 Courtesy Imports, 260 N. Gibbons, 567-8000
75 English Garden, 4171 S. Maryland Pkwy, 800-482-1117
76 FCUK Planet Hollywood, 3667 Las Vegas Blvd S, 383-5056
77 Findlay Cadillac, 993 Auto Show Dr., 558-2606
78 Funk House, 1228 S Casino Center Blvd, 678-6278
FL Get Booked, 4640 Paradise Rd, 737-7780
81 Optical Effects, 9895 S. Maryland Pkwy, 435-3937
82 Paradise Mini Mart, 2242 Paradise Rd, 794-4082
FL Price Video, 700 E Naples Dr, 734-1342
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
73 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

SERVICES

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
102 Kim Vo Salon, 3400 Las Vegas Blvd S
101 LV Defense Group, 2300 W. Sahara, Ste. 800, 333-3673
36 Mandara Salon. 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S

104 NV Fertility C.A.R.E.S., 653 Town Center, Ste. 206, 341-6616
106 QVegas Magazine, 1380 E. Sahara Ave, 650-0636
107 Regis Signature Salon, 3790 Las Vegas Blvd S
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PISCES 02/19-03/19

Seeking a good balance between work and socializing may not be attainable until the New Moon in your sign hits on the 15th. After that, anything you attempt proves to be quite successful. Planetary shift on the 20th could prove quite inspiring and emotionally rich.

ARIES 03/20-04/19

It looks as though you shall have the Midas touch throughout most of March. Two words of caution, Aries: don't get greedy and be very careful what you wish for. Libra Full Moon on the 30th triggers a crowning achievement where a special relationship is concerned.

TAURUS 04/20-05/20

Though you might not enjoy flying solo, it's necessary for a while. If you embrace loneliness, you'll appreciate so much more that next special love interest. A bash on the 7th proves to be the month's social highlight. Last minute trip on the 21st brings about extra cash.

GEMINI 05/21-06/21

You'll stay busy as a bee all month long. This helps in two ways, Gemmy. First, it'll keep you out of trouble and second, you'll actually be able to save (no fainting now) some money for a change. Book that June vacation getaway before the 19th to clinch the best possible deal.

CANCER 06/22-07/22

Expect that intuitive side of your nature to be very strong over the next few weeks. In fact, at time it might be difficult to be around people. That's okay, Cancer. All of us need some solitary downtime on a regular basis. The month ends on a pleasantly chaotic note.

LEO 07/23-08/22

Fresh and exciting career opportunities shall help you snap out of those doldrums. Your talents (and extremely hot bod) will be in great demand. Isn't it awesome to be so popular? Also a bit draining. Make sure to take optimum care of yourself to keep that dazzle at a high wattage.

VIRGO 08/23-09/22

Like Cancer, your sensitivity levels will be off the charts for most of the month. It may be necessary to party a bit less, at least until the Sun shifts to Aries on the 20th. We guarantee that you'll have a cash cushion set aside by the 31st. Won't that be nice for a change?

LIBRA 09/23-10/22

That minor legal hassle should be cleared up by the 11th. Seek out the expert advice of an older and wiser friend on the 18th. There's more work than play in March, but you'll still be able to squeeze in a few hot rendezvous. As always, you look terrific (and know it).

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21

March provides you with more mystery confusion as opposed to clarity enlightenment. It may feel as though you're stumbling around a dark room at times. But fear not, Scorp. The reason for this test of faith resolve shall be happily revealed next month.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21

Unexpected extra cash heads your way between the 3rd and 6th. It shall provide the makings of an awesome Oscar party on the 7th. Much of the month proves to be business as usual. Physical energy levels begin to climb on the 17th. We suggest that you expand that current workout regimen a bit.

CAPRICORN 12/22-01/19

The best laid plans won't apply to you this month, Cappy. Virtually any task or challenge that you tackle will be met and even exceed expectations. Don't neglect your fun side, though. It too needs to come out and play. The 12th could test your mettle and temper.

AQUARIUS 01/20-02/18

All of that hard work you've been doing since 2010 began really begins to pay off big time as of the 3rd. Accept any pats on the back or accolades with grace and humility. It's time to go shopping for a newer vehicle. Your current one needs life support.



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The world of Las Vegas PRIDE entertainment planning

The 27th Annual Las Vegas PRIDE kicks off in less than two months and many are anxious to discover who will perform and what type of events will take place during this two-week-long celebration. Here is a sneak peak into the planning, struggles and triumphs that go into putting on such an incredible event.

Most people do not realize that planning events as large as PRIDE begins immediately after the last one ends. With over 12 months of planning, it's literally a second job. This being my second term as the Entertainment Director (Entertainment Co-Chair) one thing I have learned is that entertainment never stops moving—it's an endless road of socializing and networking, not to mention an endless stream of phone calls and e-mails.

Las Vegas PRIDE strives to bring unique, diverse, and quality entertainment to PRIDE, as these are the qualities that define our community. Our goal is "live" entertainment such as cast productions, audience participation, live music and dancers, to name a few. This balanced line-up delivers exactly what PRIDE should be—a celebration of diversity. This year we have decided to do away with headliners and bring in "featured performers." Why, you may ask? It's quite simple: PRIDE is not about competing with shows from the Strip. We want to attract more LGBT tourism and business to Las Vegas in an effort to make Las Vegas an international PRIDE destination. Imagine Las Vegas on the world map of places to visit for PRIDE because of its vibrant city and LGBT community!

One challenge to putting on PRIDE is budgeting. Budgeting is the most important



piece of the puzzle when planning entertainment. Cities such as LA, San Diego, Phoenix, and New York can draw on budgets in the millions, which help them secure high-profile celebrities. For example, I assisted with another PRIDE organization's entertainment planning and they spent nearly \$650,000 to produce their entertainment line-up alone. Additionally, underly-

ing costs such as lighting, sound, entertainers' riders (their special requirement list), transportation, hotels, and more quickly add up. All of these factors can make or break your budget and, ultimately, your event.

Las Vegas PRIDE has a very limited budget; therefore planning quality entertainment can be tough. The recession has made matters worse, resulting in "out of the box" thinking, intense negotiations with entertainers/performers, and learning to accept the humility of rejection. The situation was similar last year, yet in the end, Las Vegas PRIDE 2009 went off without a glitch. The hours spent recruiting, negotiating, and building strong relationships produced, in my view, the biggest entertainment production Las Vegas PRIDE has ever created. With a board filled of passionate leaders and great resources, Las Vegas PRIDE 2009 was accepted as being one of the most successful of our festivals to date.

As a final thought, I am extremely proud to be part of an organization dedicated to creating change and delivering a message of strength, equality, and diversity within the Las Vegas LGBT community. I sincerely hope that 2010 brings new light onto entertainment and continues to surpass past years. Entertainment is my way of sharing the passion I have for Las Vegas and our LGBT community nationwide. If you have any ideas or suggestions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me at info@steveerics.com. For more information on Las Vegas PRIDE or to become more involved yourself, log onto www.LasVegasPRIDE.org. ●

For more information on Steve Erics, visit SteveErics.com or OutontheVine.com.

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