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VEGAS CELEBRITY CHEFS

Giada

BURGER MEISTERS

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Gordon Ramsay**

QVEGAS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Del Shores

Johna Myers Debuts
#1900JOHNA

GAY.VEGAS
BURGER FAVORITES

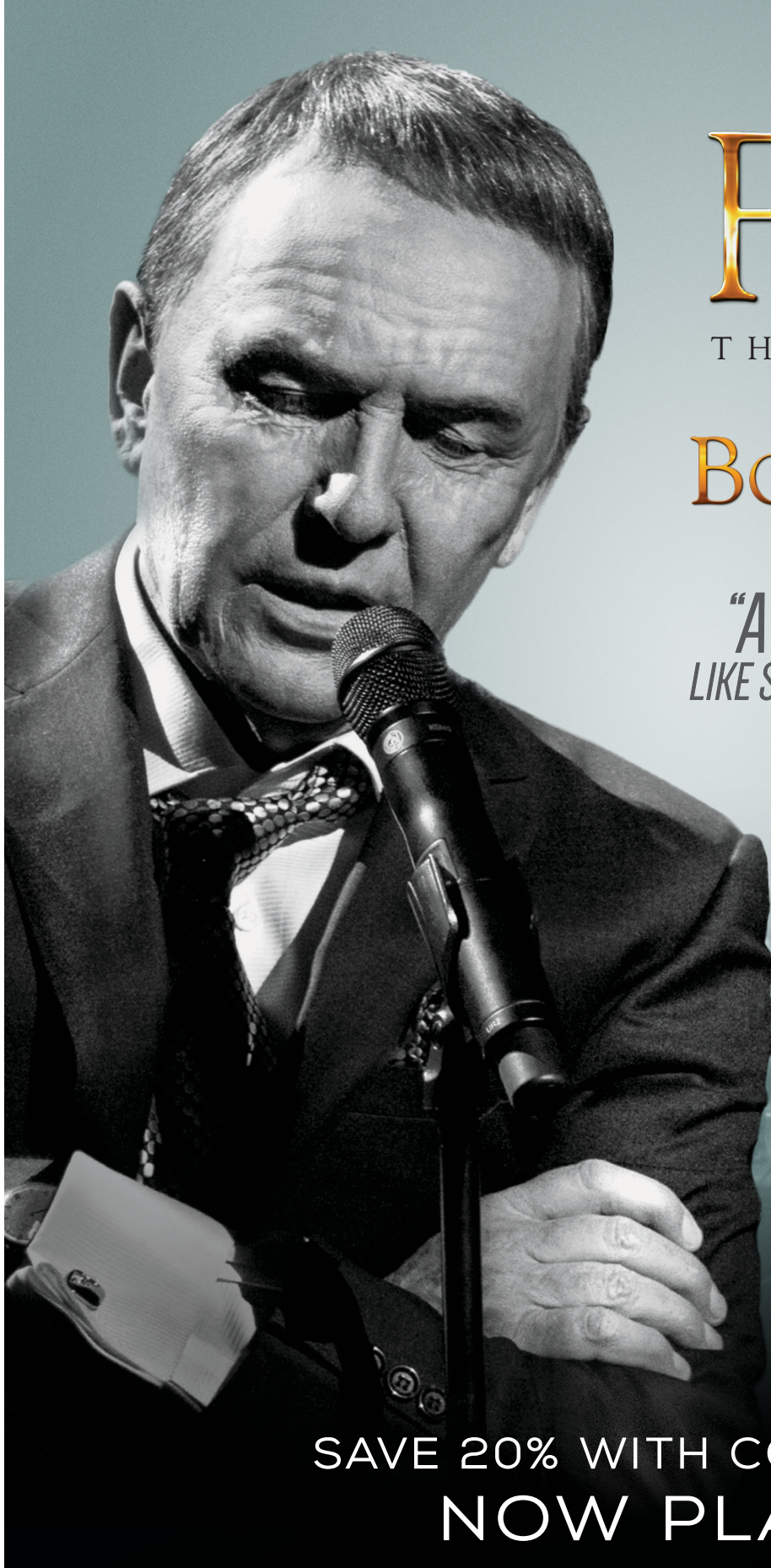
Drag Brunch

@ Hard Rock Cafe

Yardbird

@ Venetian

The
Foodie
Issue



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ON THE COVER

Giada De Laurentiis
at The Cromwell

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WITH MARK SHUNOCK

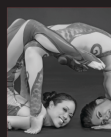
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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

Food. One word holds so many meanings that it's hard to imagine survival its main purpose. Dining is such an important social aspect of the human race. It's one of the most memorable things we do. Meals are what bring us together.

Food is the focal point of most cultures and most holidays worldwide. In our March Foodie Issue, we take a look at all the places and reasons to indulge in the most worthy eating establishments in Vegas.

Burgers abound and everyone has a favorite. Did yours make our list?

Garrett interviews the queens from RPDR7 at the Las Vegas Premiere Party.

Drag Brunch continues at Hard Rock Cafe and Gay.Vegas now hosts weekly Gay Brunch at the cafe as well.

Celebrity chef Giada De Laurentiis makes being a chef look better than ever, and Yardbird Southern Table and Bar opens at The Venetian.

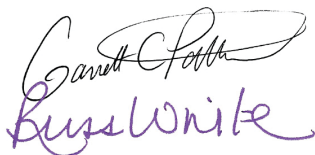
We bring back the best of Michael Barbieri's Eating Out reviews while he's Sleeping Around at Luxor.

While food is often celebrated, not everyone has the same perspective. Guy Calderon Cooper provides insights into the impact of eating disorders in the LGBT community.

Johna Myers joins our team of contributors with his new #1900JOHNA feature, kicking of his column with an exclusive interview with Del Shores.

Shane Gallagher fills us in on the latest dance divas.

With so many indulgences in Vegas, we even serve up some healthy options. So celebrate food and all the joys it brings. Life is all about who you share meals with. But in this issue it's what you are eating that counts.



Garrett Pattiani
Russ White

Check us out online and around town!



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DR_15718



It's Gay! It's Drag! It's Brunch!

Every 2nd Sunday of the month, Kitty Litter and her girls host "Rouge & Booze – A Drag Brunch" at the Hard Rock Cafe at the corner of Paradise and Harmon, near the world-famous Las Vegas Fruit Loop!

Brunch starts at 10 and the show starts at 11. Past performances and appearances include Michelle Holliday, Jamie Kurtis, Ida Slapther, and Normal Llyaman

The cafe's brunch menu includes the expected: classic breakfast plates, blueberry pancakes and Belgian waffles. But some of the special items will blow your mind.

Hazelnut Brandy French Toast: Thick slices of Texas toast are soaked in brandy cream with just a touch of cinnamon and served with fresh sliced strawberries. While topped with a honey-maple whipped butter, you shouldn't be afraid to add more maple syrup.

Chicken & Waffles: This classic soul food pairing

combines perfectly toasted waffle quarters dusted with powdered sugar and deep-fried boneless chicken strips. Add a little sweetness to this savory dish with maple syrup or keep it savory with the side of country gravy. Fold a chicken strip into a waffle for a makeshift sandwich. Dip it into the syrup or gravy for extra flavor—or try both if you dare.

Going Back to Cali Omelet: If you're looking for a healthier option, this omelet blends 3 eggs with tomatoes, green onions, mushrooms, garlic, jack and cheddar cheeses. For an even healthier option, hold the cheese and substitute egg whites. Served with breakfast potatoes, you can substitute fresh fruit as a lighter choice.

Starting March 15, Gay.Vegas hosts a weekly brunch at Hard Rock Cafe

In addition to the monthly drag brunch, this month kicks off weekly brunches at Hard Rock Cafe hosted by Gay.Vegas. As one of the few Las Vegas events that is inclusive of all ages and family-friendly, we invite and encourage the entire LGBTQ community to attend.

"Most of the events in town are attended by adult gay men. As we expand our events, we want to more mindful of other facets of our community," said Garrett Pattiani, co-founder of Gay.Vegas. "I'm really hoping to see a greater turnout of youth, lesbians, and families each week as we grow a new event that builds upon Kitty's monthly event and becomes a table where the entire community comes together. There's enough room... so pull up a chair!"



Hazelnut Brandy French Toast



Kids French Toast



Chicken & Waffles

Southwestern Style Breakfast Quesadilla:

Goodbye breakfast burritos and wraps! The breakfast quesadilla is the new winner. A flour tortilla is dusted with cajun seasoning on the outside and filled with scrambled eggs, cheese, pico de gallo, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions and topped with chipotle mayo and guacamole ranch.

Bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Marys: What would a brunch be without Mimosas and Bloody Marys—and what would a gay brunch be if they weren't bottomless? Kitty's "Rouge & Booze" Drag Brunch has always featured \$20 bottomless Mimosas but this month Hard Rock Cafe starts offering \$25 bottomless Bloody Marys as well.

RSVP Each Week: www.gay.vegas/brunch



Michelle Holliday

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YARDBIRD *Southern* TABLE *And* BAR

A little Southern decadence meets comfort food at Yardbird Southern Table & Bar, one of the newest dining additions to The Venetian. The Miami-based restaurant is a sure-fire hit, no matter if you're dining for brunch, lunch, supper, or just grabbing a drink at the bar.

Southern favorites abound in the cozy, country eatery.

"We're thrilled to be opening in this iconic city, especially with the support of the team at the Venetian," said John Kunkel, founder of Yardbird. "In many ways, Miami and Las Vegas share common elements, from the food scene to nightlife; we feel our approach to these at Yardbird will be embraced by locals and visitors alike."

If we're starting with brunch, waffles are an easy choice, but the Yardbird Benedict is our new favorite. Crumbled buttermilk biscuits replace the traditional English muffin. Perfectly poached eggs meld with an also perfect hollandaise.

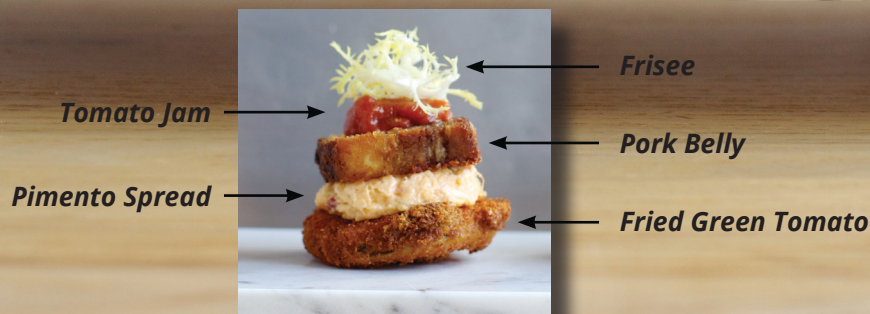
Not to be missed is the Fried Green Tomato BLT. This incomparable rendition starts with a slice of fried green tomato, a layer of house-made pimento cheese, a thick cut of pork belly, and topped with tomato jam and frisee. You might want to order two of them, because after the first bite, you're not going to want to share the rest.

Instead of waffles for brunch, opt for waffles at lunch with the Chicken 'n' Watermelon 'n' Waffles. The honey hot sauce adds a bite to the friend chicken, and the bourbon-infused maple syrup complements the waffles perfectly. Spiced watermelon cubes complete the meal.

Add Deviled Eggs to any meal or



The Yardbird BLT





order at the bar. Not your picnic sized eggs, these are one bite each.

Not to be forgotten would be the bar. Yardbird has concocted a select handful of specialty cocktails based on longtime favorites.

The Blackberry Bourbon Lemonade combines bourbon,



blackberry puree, fresh lemon, cardamom and bitters to create a refreshing punch with a perfect balance of tart and sweet.

Another drink with a southern spin features bacon-infused bourbon. The Yardbird Old Fashioned plays off the classic



cocktail. Centered in the lowball glass is a perfect sphere of ice that looks like it would take up space that more bourbon could occupy. But the bartender insists this dense ball of ice is deep frozen and melts slower so your beverage stays cold without diluting in melted ice.



Yardbird Southern Table & Bar is located inside the Venetian. Visit www.gay.vegas/yardbird for more info.



SLEEPING AROUND

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

Temptation Sundays begins its sixth season at Luxor on May 17th! Host J.Son brings his energy to the party again this year along with resident DJ Matt and guest DJs throughout the season. The 2015 season will run every Sunday, 1 pm - 7 pm through September 27.

I like the Luxor. I like the Luxor a lot. I will always have a soft spot in my heart for the Luxor. When I first began making regular trips to Las Vegas, The Luxor was my go-to hotel. I love it's pyramid shape and sleek black exterior. I love the LED lights that outline the edges of the pyramid itself, once night falls. I love the huge, bright beacon of light at it's apex. To me, it's just a fabulous, iconic hotel.

I also find that the Luxor generally has very affordable rates.

Opened in 1992, Luxor is the fourth largest hotel in Las Vegas and one of the most recognizable buildings on the Strip. Certainly, the famous Sky Beam - the 42.3 billion candle power spotlight at the pyramid's apex, sets it apart from any other in the world.

Luxor's standard rooms, I've found, are comfortable, if not glamorous. The beds are comfortable, there are fairly spacious armoires, featuring an ancient Egyptian motif, and nicely tiled bathrooms with glassed in showers. One of the things many people find interesting about the Pyramid Rooms is the "window wall", for lack of a better term. The far walls and windows of the rooms are slanted - conforming, of course, to the shape of the building itself.

The last time I stayed in a Pyramid Room at Luxor, the room was beginning to show a little wear and tear. The bedspread was a little faded and just a bit shabby and the window treatment showed a little water damage. A recent renovation in 2009, however, earned the hotel a 4 Key rating from

the Green Key Eco-Rating Program. I should mention that a friend of mine stayed there fairly recently, in a room on a lower floor. Due to recent rains, he found the room a bit flooded - damp carpets and such. Something to watch out for.

While the Pyramid rooms don't feature in-room safes, there are two additional towers that feature newer, more modern rooms. The Tower Rooms have safes, flat screen TV's and other up-to-date amenities.

An interesting aspect of staying in the Pyramid, is being able to use their inclinators - their elevators that move on diagonal tracks rather than standard vertical ones. While you can't see anything different happening, you actually sense it. The inclinor effect is especially amusing when riding them with young, drunken kids who practically fall over from the diagonal motion. Just a little entertainment on the way to your room!

The casino has gone through some huge changes since I first went there, in the mid-90's. Most of the Egyptian kitsch - the talking animatronic camels, the Cleopatra's Barge ride, the ride films explaining the "discovery" of the Luxor Pyramid, and the Treasures of Tutankhamun exhibit - have all been replaced. The Egyptian elements that remain, are mostly in the dramatic decor and



architecture of the lobby/reception area and are quite grandiose, actually. You see a LOT of picture-taking! As far as the gaming goes, I only play slots, but I have had several streaks of good luck on the machines in the Luxor's 100,00 square foot casino. A friend of mine half-jokingly suggests that the "mystical" pyramid shape of the building focuses the good energy in the Universe and channels it to the players inside. Hey! Ya never know!

Luxor is home to several hit shows: Criss Angel-Believe, a collaboration between the well known street magician and Cirque du Soleil, popular comedian Carrot Top unleashes his wild brand of prop comedy, and super-innovative dance crew JABBAWOCKEEZ perform a show based around the colors of the light spectrum, in Prism.

The Egyptian-themed restaurants, clubs and bars have mostly changed, too. Isis, their original steak and seafood eatery, has been replaced by Tender, where the only theme is their food...as it should be. Their original nightclub, Ra, named after the Egyptian sun God, is now LAX - very trendy and popular! Rice and Co. features fantastic sushi and other pan-Asian offerings in a modern setting. Their buffet, Pharaoh's Pheast is now More-The Buffet At Luxor. The only restaurant that still features an Egyptian name, is The Pyramid Cafe, their excellent, casual coffee shop.

Just across from Reception, is a lovely lobby bar called Aurora, which is open and elegant, and in the very center of the casino floor, is a bar and lounge called

Centra (Get it?!) which features flat screen TV monitors on the tiled walls behind the bar, gold accents everywhere and beautiful, multi-colored lanterns hanging from the ceiling. The overall effect opens up the center of the casino and makes the space seem brighter and more exotic, like a fancy lounge in a Middle Eastern souk.

Lastly, I want to mention the pool. I'm not much of a pool guy. As a matter of fact, I'm SO fair-skinned, that if I sit in the hot desert sun for too long, I actually burst into flames. I did, however, visit the Luxor pool on one of my stays there and I enjoyed it quite a bit. The larger of the two pools was closed at the time, for cleaning and re-painting, but the smaller pool was lovely, uncrowded and lots of fun. I was there with a good friend and we managed to find a shady spot for me, and ordered two huge, stupid, fruity, frozen drinks. If you're into sunning by the pool, you should definitely try it!

For the LGBT crowd, Sundays really heat up with the Temptation Sundays gay pool party, the hottest summer event in gay Las Vegas! Hot guys and girls gather at the Luxor's north pool from 1:00 to 7:00 pm and party with special celebrity guests throughout the summer!

With reasonable rates, comfortable rooms, a fun casino, and a happening nightlife (and daylife!) scene, Luxor is worth a stay, especially if you want to keep your accommodations budget fairly low.



www.gay.vegas/crissangel



www.gay.vegas/temptationsundays



www.gay.vegas/luxor

GAY.VEGAS



There's no doubt about it. Vegas loves its burgers. From the basics to the gourmet, choices abound in every corner of town.

If you can dream it, Vegas has it! And that goes for burgers, too. Pick a patty... Angus, ground chuck, Kobe, ostrich, buffalo, turkey, veggie. Stack it with truffle cheese, mushrooms, nachos, pulled pork. Then dress it with Sriracha, aioli, pesto, and you have the makings for some of the most unique burgers in the world.

Large and small chain favorites include In-n-Out, Smashburger, Fatburger, and Five Guys. Moving up to the gourmet selection, favorites include STACK at Mirage, Anthony's Gourmet Burgers & Brews at M Resort, The Henry Burger at Cosmopolitan, and the new Shake Shack at NYNY.

Want the celebrity chef touch? Kerry Simon's KGB at Harrah's and Gordon Ramsay's BURGR at Planet Hollywood round out our favorites.

It's hard to go wrong with a burger in Las Vegas. There's nothing wrong with just a plain, ordinary bacon cheeseburger, but oh, so many options to try something new.



STACK
The Mirage



Anthony's Gourmet Burger Bar
M Resort



Shake Shack
NYNY Hotel

The Six Pack Burger

In honor of national burger month this past May, Hard Rock Cafe Las Vegas invited celebrities and local personalities from across the valley to participate in the second annual Celebrity Burger Challenge. Beating out almost 15 other entries, Thunder from Down Under and their "Six Pack Burger" was featured on the famous cafe's menu throughout the month of June.

The winning combination of ingredients includes 100% Angus Beef topped with Jack Cheese, Avocado, Bacon, 1000 Island Dressing and of course Shrimp. All served on toasted sourdough bread.



The Henry Burger
Cosmopolitan



Kerry Simon KGB
Harrah's



Gordon Ramsay BURGR
Planet Hollywood

Healthy Options in Sin City



Las Vegas has become known for indulgent dining options. Huge portions, mega-calories, and endless buffets contribute to many expanding wastelands. However, many restaurants also offer lighter options, smaller portions, and specific dietary needs.

Tourists are in luck, with a Whole Foods located south of the Strip at Town Square shopping center.

Skinny Fats, located on Dean Martin Drive, south of Mandalay Bay, offers a great menu full of health-conscious meals on the “skinny” side of the menu. The “happy” side has more indulgent items.

Walking distance from Aria and Vdara, The Blind Pig serves cold-pressed juices, a vegetarian URBH burger, and many other healthier menu items. We can’t say that

the Pork Belly Nuggets fall in the healthy category, but they sure are tasty.

The Daily Kitchen & Wellness Bar in Summerlin and Green Valley serve juices and smoothies, breakfast options, Acai bowls, salads, wraps, burgers, and entrées. The Soba Noodle salad with seared Ahi is a sure hit.

In addition to Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Fresh & Easy, and Sprouts, as well as several farmers markets can also be found around Las Vegas and Henderson.

Fresh juice options are popping up all over town, on-strip and off-strip. Check out The Juice Standard in Summerlin, Squeeze at the LINQ, and Juice Farm at the Venetian and Palazzo.

For more healthy options, visit www.Gay.Vegas/wellness

Have a Groat Morning

Here’s a healthy, raw, breakfast option that’s easy to prepare the night before.

Ingredients:

1/3 cup Groats

1 cup water

2 tablespoons Chia Seeds

1 tsp MACA Powder, Gelatinized

1 oz Goji berries

Banana, Berries, Peaches, or Fruit of your choice

Agave Syrup or Raw Honey

Himalayan Salt

Combine 1/3 cup groats, 1 cup water, 2 tbsp chia seeds, 1 tsp MACA powder, and 1 oz goji berries together in a bowl and let soak in refrigerator overnight.

In the morning, spoon groat mixture onto fresh sliced banana, strawberries, blueberries, peaches or any combination you like.

Drizzle with raw honey or agave syrup to sweeten and sprinkle with Himalayan salt to taste.



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The most anticipated restaurant opening of 2014, Giada De Laurentiis' first restaurant, **GIADA**, opened at The Cromwell Las Vegas in June. The cornerstone of the boutique hotel and casino, **GIADA** boasts priceless views, signature dishes and a warm and inviting atmosphere, all a reflection of De Laurentiis' vision.

"When guests come to GIADA, I want them to feel like they are coming to my house for dinner," said De Laurentiis. "All the details of the restaurant are near and dear to my heart. My family was a big inspiration and you can see their influence in the art, décor and dishes. Between the breathtaking view and the delicious food, I hope my guests will feel that GIADA captures the kind of atmosphere that brings that Vegas energy to life."

On opening day, GIADA was already booked three months out for dinner reservations. A month later, the restaurant opened for lunch, and finally in October started serving breakfast. The popularity of the Food Network star's first restaurant continues to grow.



Located on the second story of The Cromwell, above the most exciting and dynamic intersection in the world, GIADA accommodates nearly 300 guests and encompasses three dining experiences – a dining room, a lounge and a terrace. The priceless views of the Bellagio fountains, Caesars Palace and Bally's Grand Bazaar Shops, make every seat in the space an unforgettable experience.

Ricotta Cookies and homemade gelatos is not to be missed.

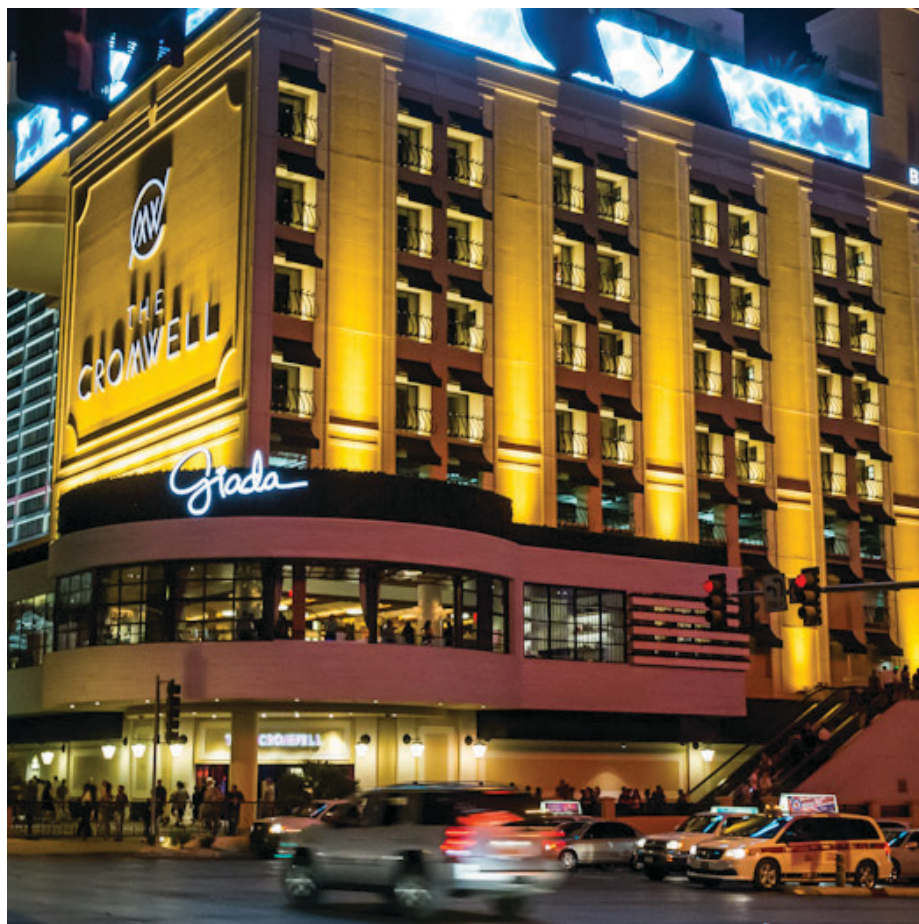
The restaurant offers a robust wine list artfully crafted from new and old world wines as well as a beautiful wine display. Signature cocktails offer a fresh new twist on standard ingredients, and many pay tribute to her late grandfather by naming several cocktails after movies he produced, such as the Jane Fonda classic Barbarella.



GIADA's menu embraces De Laurentiis' Roman heritage, mirroring her passion for Italian cooking with vibrant, Californian influences. GIADA utilizes the freshest ingredients to create a new take on the traditional Italian cuisine, while staying true to classic favorites. Signature dishes include Lemon Spaghetti, Roasted Chicken for Two Caccitore-style, Chicken Marsala Meatballs, a bone-in Tuscan Ribeye, and a unique dessert cart featuring fresh Lemon

GIADA's lunch menu offers De Laurentiis' signature Italian cooking with vibrant Californian influences infused into classic lunch offerings such as salads with a twist, sandwiches with vibrant and fresh ingredients, as well as a select variety of pizzas and antipasti, which are found on the dinner menu as well.

For more information, visit:
www.gay.vegas/giada



What is your Best Catch Phrase? What Does it Mean? Where Did it come from?

I have a few, but if I had to pick one, it would be "I'm Just Sayin" (IJS) I keep it real. A lot of times the truth hurts, so I just attach "I'm just saying" to it to ease the blow. It started in just general conversation with your girlfriend. It shows sincerity.



Kennedy Davenport

"What are you scared of, really?" Cuz people are always afraid to just jump in and do whatever it is that they are trying to do.



Pearl

"There's always time for a COCKtail." Make all caps for the COCK. It happened when I was doing a cooking show with Pandora Boxx called Kashas Balls. On YouTube (look it up) and after every ingredient, I would say this. By the end of the recipe I was drunk.



Mrs Kasha Davis

Oh Lord I have so many, I would say "No T. No Shade. No Pink Lemonade" that means like there's nothing negative from me, so don't think it's sour, or it's some T like dis-respect, and pink lemonade because it's tart. It may be honest, rude even, but its the god honest truth.



Jasmine Masters

GARRETT INTERVIEWS THE QUEENS

[by Garrett Pattiani]

What's the best piece of drag advice you have ever received?
Who was it from?

The best piece of advice I have ever received from another Drag Queen is "Never eat Taco Bell before a show." Which still holds true. You don't want to do that. No matter how hungry your are. It's never a good idea.

From Davina Deville "KNOW WHAT YOU ARE WORTH AND DEMAND THREE TIMES THAT." You do drag because you love it, but you also have to eat. It was hard for me to think of it as a business when I first started. And selling myself. Selling my body. LOL.



Tempest
DuJour

It was the Liberace museum but it closed. I have been coming here for a while so hopefully it finds a new home.



Trixie
Mattel

What is your favorite part about Las Vegas?



The Lady
Bunny

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"I'm a cross dresser for Christ" and I mean that in every sense of the word. I am not trying to mock religion I'm a very religious person. My entire life has been spent trying to reconcile my religion with the terrible f*cking choices I make on a daily basis. Mostly duct taping my dick and wearing sequins.



Ginger Minj

It's a huge accomplishment. You know this is the next indicated step on where I want to go with my career. This show gives visibility and allows us to showcase our talents. We all have specific talents and get to take those to a huge public platform. So for me being an artist, a visual artist, a model and be able to work with amazing photographers and designers and create art and break down walls Rupaul had this wall broken down 20/30 years ago and I think we need to keep incorporating that. Drag queens need to be the face of the fashion and cosmetic world and that is my goal.

What does being on RPDR7 Mean to you on a personal and professional level?

It's like the Holy Grail in like every way. It's like the ultimate treasure. It's like a gold medal in the olympics. Even if you suck. You still got there. It's like being on the podium in the 1996 Olympics in atlanta. I feel like Shannon Miller right now.



Miss Fame



Katya

What is your Best Catch
Phrase? What Does it Mean?
Where Did it come from?

Don't look at me like im crazy when i say this but it is "Work That Puss."
Everybody from Nashville knows that is my phrase. I have been saying
that for years. It sounds nasty but what it means is to get up and kill it.
Work it out. Be confident. Be sexy. So you can work your puss while you
sissyng down the walk.

Jaidynn
Diore Fierce



My best catchphrase is "Commit to your look." My first
Drag mom told me that at a really crappy dive bar in
Atlanta. I went to take my shoes off and she looked at me,
and she forbid me to take my shoes off at the bar and told
me to commit to my look. I didn't do it and still don't.

Violet
Chachki



My name is Max, Im 102 years old and I'm
from Oz. I say im 102 because I feel like I'm so
much older than I actually am. I say that I feel
like im from Oz because i dont feel like I'm
from this world. I feel a little nuttier than the
average person. So we will see if that comes
out in the show at all.

Max



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Visit www.gay.vegas/rpdr7



CALLING
DEL SHOTZES



[by Johna Myers]

This month we're delighted to introduce a new feature article #1900JOHNA, by Johna Myers. Each month, Johna will bring you celebrity interviews from around the world. Stay up to date with Johna on www.gay.vegas/johnamyers

I'm so excited for my first column in QVegas Magazine. This month, I called up Del Shores to have him tell us a little bit about his Vegas escapades and work in general. Here's kind of how the call went...

What's your craziest Vegas story?

About 15 years ago, I went to Vegas to see my friend Olivia Newton-John perform on New Year's. My friend Steve and I went, both having just gotten our hearts broken. I was tired of answering questions about being "Del Shores" the writer/director, so we decided to lie, make up fake names and fake professions every time someone asked. This was before Facebook and less fame, so I wasn't recognized like I am now in the gay community. We were at the Hilton in a hot tub with straight guys and professions came up. I said I was a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon and Steve said he was my anesthesiologist. Well, suddenly we were bombarded by questions we couldn't answer because one of the guys wife was planning a facelift. I told them I'd rather not work on my vacation and would come back with a card so they could make an appointment. We fled to our rooms, hoping to not see them the rest of the trip. The other crazy story was going to my Aunt Reta's 6th wedding in a limo, hearing her and new husband recite vows in the care -- at a drive-through chapel!

Have you ever had sex in Vegas?

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. It's a sexy city. And I love hotels. AND I've stayed at Blue Moon Resort. I've been in Vegas with boyfriends, a husband and as a single horny man, so that's probably not enough yeses.

Oddest place you've ever had an intimate encounter?

Ever? I'm a very sexual person and I went through a big slut period. A hand job under a blanket on a plane once was hot. You have to be so quiet! I once drug a futon on the roof of a guest house and had sex under the stars and full moon (pun intended) in the summer time. Getting the futon up and down was a pain, but it was worth it. I'm liking this interview.

When can Vegas expect you or your work in the near future?

I don't know. I'd love to come there with my new show SINGularly SORDID. I need to get on that, huh, as we are just now booking. The Onyx contacted me recently. I know the owners of Share. Hey, club owners in Vegas. Hit me up!

Most you've ever tipped a gogo dancer?

Oh I love this question! I've tipped \$20s many times and paid more than that for lap dances, but one night, very drunk, at Fubar in LA on my birthday, I tipped a hot go-go boy a \$100 dollar bill that was mixed with my wad of ones. It honestly was an drunk accident and I realized what I had done as I tucked it into his briefs -- but how do you reach back in and take it back? You don't!!! You know that it was for a worthy cause! I love go-go boys. I always say, I tip them in lieu of giving to the homeless. They work hard for that money!

What's your relationship w/ Leslie Jordan?

We have been secret lovers for thirty years. Wouldn't that be a fun rumor to start? No, Leslie and I are celebrating this year 30 years of working together. I adore him. He's one of my best friends. We talk or text almost daily about just any old thing. He makes me laugh harder than anybody on this planet. And if he will work with me, I will work with him until one of us goes to comedy heaven.

Have you guys ever hung out outside of work?

Oh my God yes. Before Leslie got sober and I came out, he was my running buddy. We trolled so many bars together and have so many sordid stories, we could write a book. These days when we are in the same city, we lunch or dine occasionally and catch up.



And if our readers were to tag along for the night.. What could we expect?

Hilarity. We are the same onstage and off. Leslie tells stories with ease and I listen, then chime in with my own. If you had a meal with us, I promise, you would never forget it. There is no filter!

As someone who is on Out Top 100 lists has anyone ever questioned your validity as a person in the gay scene.. Because Of your family?

Yes. There are those in our community who love to eat their own. When tragedy hits your life, like losing your series, home and fortune (like when the legal issues of *Sordid Lives: The Series* happened), there are those who rejoice and write horrible things about you. When divorce happened and I was no longer the poster guy for gay marriage, there were those who wrote me -- haters even in our community -- who were so happy and felt that my activism was invalid because of the circumstances of my life. As far as me being a dad of two daughters, having been in a marriage with a woman before I came out, not so much. So many in

our community, especially those from the Southern states like me, because of religion and society have had similar paths. Sometimes, you just have to stop reading blogs and comments on stories, and your skin gets a little thicker. I will say this though. I get much much more love than hate. And I chose to focus on that.

I don't think a lot of people understand that you're not just a writer. Del Shores is definitely an artist. What motivates you? Where do you pull from artistically?

Thank you, Johna. I observe. If it's not something I've lived and breathed -- like the film we did together *SOUTHERN BAPTIST SISSIES* -- I collect characters and stories by just listening! I love people. I love characters. I love the forgotten people. The ones in trailers, the ones in bars, the ones dancing on boxes, waitresses, beauty operators, cashiers at The Stop N' Go. The salt of the earth - REAL people. And I love to tell their stories. To honor them, not make fun of.

Have you ever hung out with fans?

Many times. I love my fans. They are my employers and allow me to do what I love. I celebrate with them. I have a meet and greet after almost every show - and many times, hang and go out after. Many fans have become friends. Hey, speaking of hanging with fans, I have a great event coming up. A SORDID LIVES CRUISE - hosted by myself and Ann Walker (LaVonda). We sail the Caribbean for 7 days for a Halloween cruise with lots of Sordid events, and we are going to hang with fans and have a great time. Here's the link for the Facebook event : <https://www.facebook.com/events/731469323615896> and here's the link to book. ALL INFO: <http://www.thesordidlivescruise.com> Come, come, come!!!

When can we expect you to write a gay superhero drama?

Oooh, I may have to leave that to other gay writers. Not really my passion.

Realism seems to be a theme that every piece of media you've worked on has in common. Why?

I gravitate to what I know, what I've lived and characters whose stories I'm attracted to. So the fantasy films, the surreal, the superhero kind of genre, yes, I enjoy, but I'd much rather see a Horton Foote play or a Tennessee Williams play or film, than the latest Galaxy movie.

Worst car you've ever driven..

Easy. I had an old AMC Hornet in high school and my first year of college. It had this weird problem with the gas line and sometimes it'd die and I'd have to pop the hood, blow a hose (some things never change) and unblock the air bubble that was causing the problem. I was too poor to get it properly fixed, so that was how I rolled.

And what job did you drive it to?

I worked at Pizza Hut as a waiter, La Quinta as a desk clerk and I billed at freight company that freshman year of college (Baylor, Waco, Texas).

Is QVegas your fav Gay Vegas publication?

Well, of course. This is a very Price of Tides question. Remember Nick Nolte's character and his sister realized that the mother had told both of them that they were her favorite? And she told them to never tell the other. So, shhhhh. Don't tell anybody but QVegas is actually my favorite publication in the entire world!

DEL SHORES

WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/STAND-UP COMIC

STAGE

"Cheatin'" (1984) "Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got The Will?)" (1987), "Daughter's of the Lone Star State" (1993), "Sordid Lives" (1996), "Southern Baptist Sissies" (2000), "The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife" (2003) and Yellow (2010). Awards and nominations: Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle, Ovation, GLAAD, Back Stage West Garland, NAACP and LA Weekly (2006 Career Achievement Award).

FILM

"Daddy's Dyin'... Who's Got The Will?" Writer/ Executive Producer, (MGM), "Sordid Lives" Writer/ Director/Producer (Regent Entertainment), "The Wilde Girls" Writer/Director/Executive Producer (Showtime) and "Blues For Willadean" Writer/ Director/Producer (Kestrel Films). "Southern Baptist Sissies (Beard Collins Shores Productions) Writer/Director/Producer. "A Very Sordid Wedding" (In Development)

TELEVISION

"Ned and Stacey", "Dharma and Greg", "Queer As Folk" (Writer/Producer) and "Sordid Lives: The Series" (Writer/Director/Producer).

STAND-UP NATIONAL TOURS

"Del Shores: My Sordid Life" (2010), Del Shores: Sordid Confessions (2011), "Del Shores: Naked. Sordid.Reality" (2012). All filmed for DVD Release (Breaking Glass Pictures). Tour about to launch (April 17, Dallas) for new national standup tour of Del Shores: SINGularly Sordid (2015)

Del Shores is represented by Bradley Glenn at The Kaplan-Stahler Agency and his publisher is Samuel French, Inc. Visit his fan page

@ <http://www.facebook.com/delshoresfanclub>.

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The Best of EATING OUT



[by Russ White]
[featuring Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

Since October 2012, Michael Barbieri has been writing the Eating Out column for QVegas Magazine. So how did a New Yorker end up writing editorial for a magazine in Vegas? It's one of my favorite stories of how our friendship came together.

I met Michael on a gay cruise in the Baltics about a year before buying QVegas. We didn't spend much time together on the cruise, but after returning to his home in New York and my home in California, we kept running into each other in Vegas and fostered a Facebook friendship. Not long after I had moved to Vegas, Michael lets me know he's in town and wants to talk. I said "great, I have some news, too."

Michael has a ritual when coming to Vegas that includes a Xanax for the plane to calm his flying anxiety, and a bowl of "magic soup" at Noodles, inside Bellagio, as his first and last meal in Vegas. We decided to meet there for lunch. That day Michael told me he was starting a new website named "MyVegasObsession.com" where he would write about his favorite hotels, spas and restaurants in Las Vegas.

I said, "That's great news! I just bought QVegas Magazine and need a food writer."

Since then, Michael has published almost 2 dozen food reviews for QVegas and his website myvegasobsession.com.

I'm always amazed at why certain people come into our lives. Thank you Michael for over three years of friendship and over two years of amazing food reviews. Here's a recap of few of our favorites.



OCTOBER 2012

China Poblano @ The Cosmopolitan

"For appetizers, choose from their Dim Sum section - the steamed pork buns, listed as When Pigs Fly, are light and delicious. I'm not a fan of pork buns in general and I enjoyed them tremendously."



BARTOLOTTA

RISTORANTE DI MARE

at Wynn Las Vegas

Wynn Las Vegas and Encore are home to ten fine dining restaurants. Bartolotta Ristorante di Mare at Wynn is a Forbes Travel Guide Four Star award-winning restaurant led by two-time James Beard Foundation award-winning chef, Paul Bartolotta.

Every day, over forty varieties of indigenous fresh fish and shellfish are flown in from Italy, contributing to an ever changing dinner menu. Chef Bartolotta suggests traditional Italian family-style dining to experience the vast assortment of offerings. Like all restaurants at Wynn Las Vegas, Bartolotta offers vegetarian options.

Here are a few favorites from a recent tasting.

Insalata di piovra Ligure. Some may find octopus unapproachable, but this Ligurian octopus salad, dressed with olive oil and lemon, was a stand-out of the evening.

Gamberi e Cannellini. Poached jumbo shrimp served with cannellini beans, pomini tomato, and fresh basil.

Risotto ai frutti di mare. When you can't decide, choose this risotto. With scallops, shrimp, lobster, clams, crab, cuttlefish, octopus, there's no need to choose.

Ravioli di ricotta con caciotta Toscana. A perfect house-made pasta containing sheep's milk ricotta, pecorino cheese, served in a Marsala wine glaze.

Filetto di manzo al Sangiovese. This perfectly seared filet of beef rests in a Sangiovese wine sauce.

Whether dining solo, on a date, or with family and friends, Bartolotta offers options for everyone.

For more info visit www.gay.vegas/bartolotta

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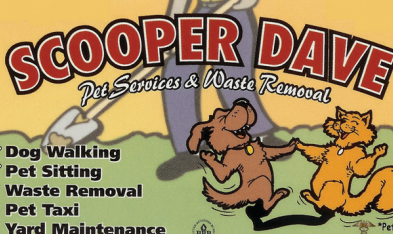
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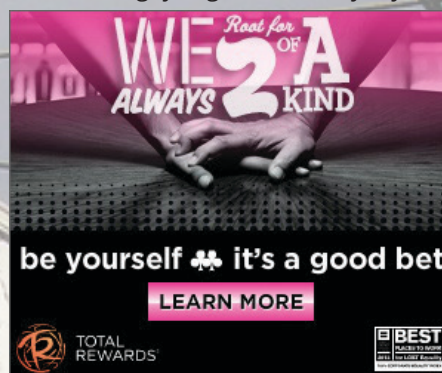
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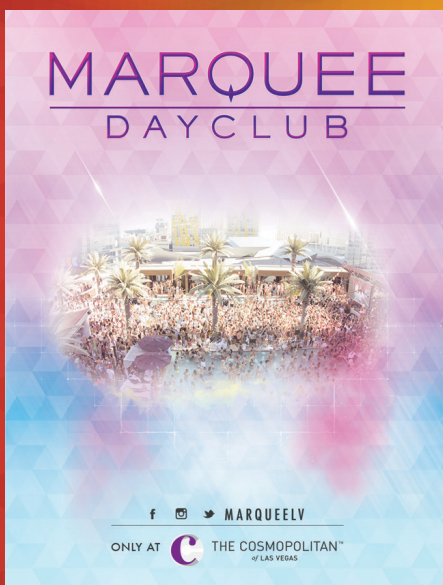
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Calvin Harris open the new OMNIA Nightclub at Caesars Palace on March 13. The 75,000 square-foot multi-level destination encompasses a seductive ultra-lounge, Heart of OMNIA, a high energy main club and balcony, as well as a breathtaking outdoor terrace showcasing panoramic views of the Las Vegas strip.

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LEADING LADIES' OF DANCE THE NEW CROP OF CLUB DIVAS

[by Shane Gallagher]

In the cutting edge realm of dance music – where ladies are expected to deliver notes that compel bodies to groove on the dance floor – Kristine W and Martha Wash have proven to be lasting talents. It's why, twenty years since they first began churning out club hits, both continue to reign supreme over the gay dance floor.

The long reigning queens of dance are also unleashing new tracks to the dance floor this spring!

Martha Wash will present her new dance single, "Free People". It's her latest track with DJ Tony Moran. Moran and Wash's 2007 collaboration "Keep Your Body Workin" rose all the way to #1 on the Billboard dance chart. Their follow-up single, "Not Coming Down", also broke into the top ten.

Meanwhile, Kristine W will celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the song that started it all for her with a newly recorded version of "Feel What You Want". It was while living in Las Vegas, headlining a revue with drag queens, that Kristine was first spotted by a record exec. He flew her to London for a recording session that resulted in the single, "Feel What You Want", her first Billboard #1. Twenty years later and the rest, as they say, is herstory...



VASSY

Her David Guetta and Showtek- produced rebel anthem, “Bad” climbed to the Top 10 on the pop charts earlier this year.

Now Vassy is out with her first album, “We Are Young”, celebrating the spirit of tackling life and reaching for the stars. After all, that’s what Vassy has done. In addition to creating hits for herself, she has written and collaborated with artists like Pitbull, Paris Hilton, Afrojack, and Bob Sinclair. Her music has been featured in commercials for Chevrolet, Sketchers, Target and Diet Sprite, and on TV’s Grey’s Anatomy.

USA Today recently spotlighted Vassy as a rising new EDM vocalist. In the article, the Australian-born singer explained the groundswell appeal of dance: “It lives in its own world,” she says. “Success doesn’t even mean radio — its fan base is so hardcore. They need us and we need them. They play to massive crowds and we put a melody and lyric to songs that allow them to connect with people on an authentic level.”

“This chapter in my life is about being courageous,” says Vassy of her “We Are Young” album. “I’m standing tall, proud and loud and having a fun time. That’s what dance music is all about.”

Visit: <http://www.kissmyvassy.com>.



ALICIA MADISON

Alicia Madison has topped the Beatport charts several times already through collaborations with Laidback Luke, Promise Land, Merk & Kremont, and other top EDM talent. Her current singles are “Under The Stars” (with DJ diMaro), “Diamonds” and “Gravity” (with Sied van Riel). “Gravity” has received huge support from Armin van Buuren on his radio show, as well as Paul Oakenfold.

“I grew up on nineties pop and house, so the energy of dance music has already attracted me,” says Madison.

Her biggest hurdle has been in song writing. “In the beginning, it scared the hell out of me to put my feelings on paper,” she admits. “It left me feeling so exposed and vulnerable. But today I find that writing songs is freeing and therapeutic. I pour all my feelings into a little Chihuahua notebook I keep in my bedroom.”

Visit <http://www.aliciamadisonofficial.com>

Eating Disorders in the LGBT Community

[by Dr. Guy Calderon Cooper, DD, PhD, MS, LCPC]

Eating disorders have historically been associated with straight, young, white females, but in reality, they affect people from all demographics and they are not caused by any single factor. They arise from a combination of long-standing behavioral, biological, emotional, psychological, interpersonal, and social factors. Research suggests that eating disorders disproportionately impact some segments of LGBT populations, though there is much research still to be done on the relationships between sexuality, gender identity, body image and eating disorders.

The countless number of unique stressors LGBT-identified people experience such as coming-out and harassment in schools or the workplace, can impact levels of anxiety, depression, low self-esteem and unhealthy coping mechanisms such as substance abuse – all of which are common co- occurring conditions and can be contributing factors in the development of an eating disorder. Eating disorders among LGBT populations should be understood within the broader cultural context of oppression.

Potential factors that may interact with and LGBT persons predisposition for developing an eating disorder may include, but are not limited to:

- Coming out: fear of rejection/experience of rejections by friends, family and coworkers
- Internalized negative messages/beliefs about oneself due to sexual orientation, non-normative gender expressions, or transgender identity
- Experiences of violence (gay bashing), contributing to the development of posttraumatic stress disorder,

which research show sharply increases vulnerability to an eating disorder

- Discrimination
- Being bullied
- Discordance between one's biological sex and gender identity
- Homelessness or unsafe home environment (up to 42% of homeless youth are LGBT identified) and (33% of youth who are homeless or in the care of social services experienced violent assault when they came out
- Body image ideals within some LGBT cultural contexts

LGBT people, in addition to experiencing unique contributing factors, may also face challenges for accessing treatment and support. Some of those barriers include:

- Lack of availability of culturally competent treatment, which addresses the complexity of unique sexuality and gender identity issues
- Lack of family/friend support is not part of an accepting family/community
- Insufficient eating disorder education among LGBT resource providers who are in a position to detect and intervene
- The emergence of LGBT youth drop-in centers, Gay straight alliances, LGBT community centers and LGBT healthcare resources have created more safe places to access support and mental health care. However, many LGBT people still remain isolated in communities that do not offer such programs/ services.

Research on LGBT populations and eating disorders:

- Research is limited and conflicting on eating disorders among lesbian and bisexual women. While research indicates that lesbian women experience less body dissatisfaction overall, research shows that beginning as early as 12, Gay, lesbian and bisexual teens may be at higher risk of binge eating and purging than heterosexual peers
- In one study, gay and bisexual boys reported being significantly more likely to have fasted, vomited or taking laxatives or diet pills to control their weight

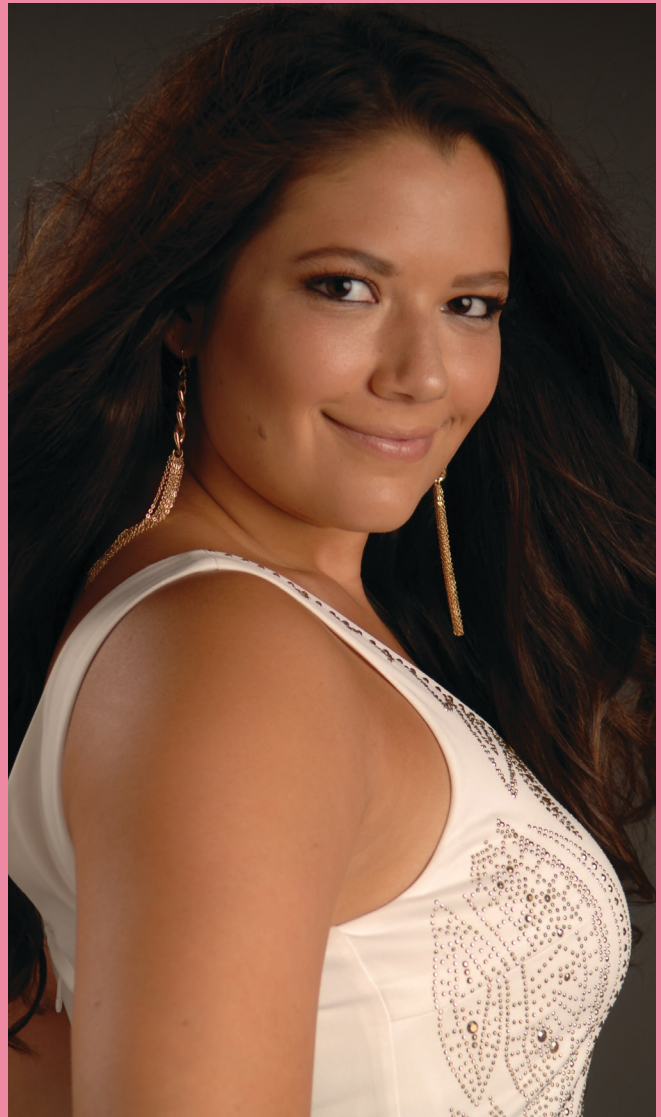
in the last 30 days. Emails were seven times more likely to report bingeing and 12 times more likely to report purging than heterosexual males.

- Females identified as lesbian, bisexual or mostly heterosexual were about twice as likely to report binge eating at least once per month in the last year.
- Elevated rates of binge eating and purging by vomiting or laxative abuse was found for both males and females who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or quote mostly heterosexual quote in comparison to their heterosexual peers.
- Compared to other populations gay men are disproportionately found to have body image disturbances and eating disorder behaviors. Gay men are thought to only represent 5% of the total male population but among men who have eating disorders, 42% identify as gay.

In the 2007 study of lesbian, gay and bisexual identified participants, which was the first to assess the assumed diagnostic categories, rather than use measures that may be indicative of eating disorders, in community-based ethnically/racially diverse populations. Researchers found:

- Compared with heterosexual men, gay and bisexual men had a significantly higher prevalence of lifetime. Bulimia, subclinical bulimia, and in the subclinical eating disorder.
- There were no significant differences between heterosexual women and lesbians and bisexual women in the prevalence of any of the eating disorders.
- Respondents aged 18 to 29 were significantly more likely than those aged 30 to 59 to have bulimia.
- Black and Latino lesbian, gay, bisexuals have at least as higher prevalence of eating disorders is white lesbian, gay, bisexuals.
- A sense of connectedness to the gay community was related to fewer current eating disorders, which suggest that feeling connected to the gay community may have a protective effect against eating disorders.

Dr. Guy Calderon Cooper is the Clinical Director for Altura Counseling and Wellness, LLC.



BREANNA RUBIO

Breanna Rubio was performing local coffee shops in Denver before being discovered last year at a talent showcase in Orange County, California. Her label quickly paired her with two-time Grammy nominated rap star Fat Joe and the two recorded "Fly Alone", currently in the top 20 on Billboard.

"The message of the song resonates with me," says Rubio. Lyrically, the song is about having feelings for someone and hoping they will be reciprocated. However, there is a powerful underlying metaphor of Rubio's own career as an up-and-coming singer who has finally managed to get her music out and is now hoping to connect with music fans in a meaningful way. "I'm hoping to touch people's lives. I want to make a real difference in the world," she says.

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Queenie Says

[by Queenie Says]

Got a question? Email
queeniesays@qvegas.com

I know this might seem small, but my boyfriend of 4 years always picks the dessert for both of us every meal. How do I change this?

Did you ever think he likes ordering for you? He might feel it's romantic. Better yet... wait to get home for dessert. I don't need the fancy soufflé. Just get a box of strawberries and a can of Reddi-wip. But if it really that serious, gurl, just order first.

I would like to know where is the best place my new boy friend can take me for a special dinner for our two week anniversary?

Chuck E. Cheese. Two weeks is not worth investing a paycheck. Maybe two hours of work. Have you ever been to the ball pit? If you're celebrating 2 weeks, you've had a string of f*cked up relationships. I'm not sure if you should be celebrating or sad that your one night stand just hasn't left yet.

Help, I want to have a special, high end, romantic, sexy, private, dinner, but I have no idea about fine dining.

If you don't know about fine dining, don't jump in the deep end. Just start from the outside and work your way in. And if that reference doesn't make sense (*hint: Pretty Woman*), start with a potluck and bring your friends into the fold. After all, food is about the person/people sitting with you, not about what's being served at your table.

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