

A man with short brown hair and a light beard is standing in the center of the frame. He is wearing a bright yellow blazer over a dark blue cardigan, a white shirt, and light-colored striped trousers. He has a patterned pocket square in his blazer. The background is a desert landscape with a large, stylized 'Q' logo that contains a red rock formation. The text 'QVEGAS.COM' is inside the 'Q'. Above the man, the text 'THE LGBTQ VOICE SINCE 1978' is visible. To the right, the word 'QVEGAS' is written in large, blue, stylized letters. Below that, the date 'APRIL 2015' is shown. To the right of the man, the text 'The Outdoor Issue' is written in large, white, bold letters. On the left side, there are several lines of text: 'QVEGAS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS', 'Josh Strickland', 'Miss Fame', 'Johna Myers Debuts', '#1900JOHNA', 'The Ecology Entrepreneur', 'AIDS WALK', '25th Anniversary', and 'GAY.VEGAS FAVORITE Outdoor Patio Bars'.

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THE LGBTQ VOICE SINCE 1978

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APRIL 2015

The Outdoor Issue

QVEGAS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

Josh Strickland

Miss Fame

Johna Myers Debuts

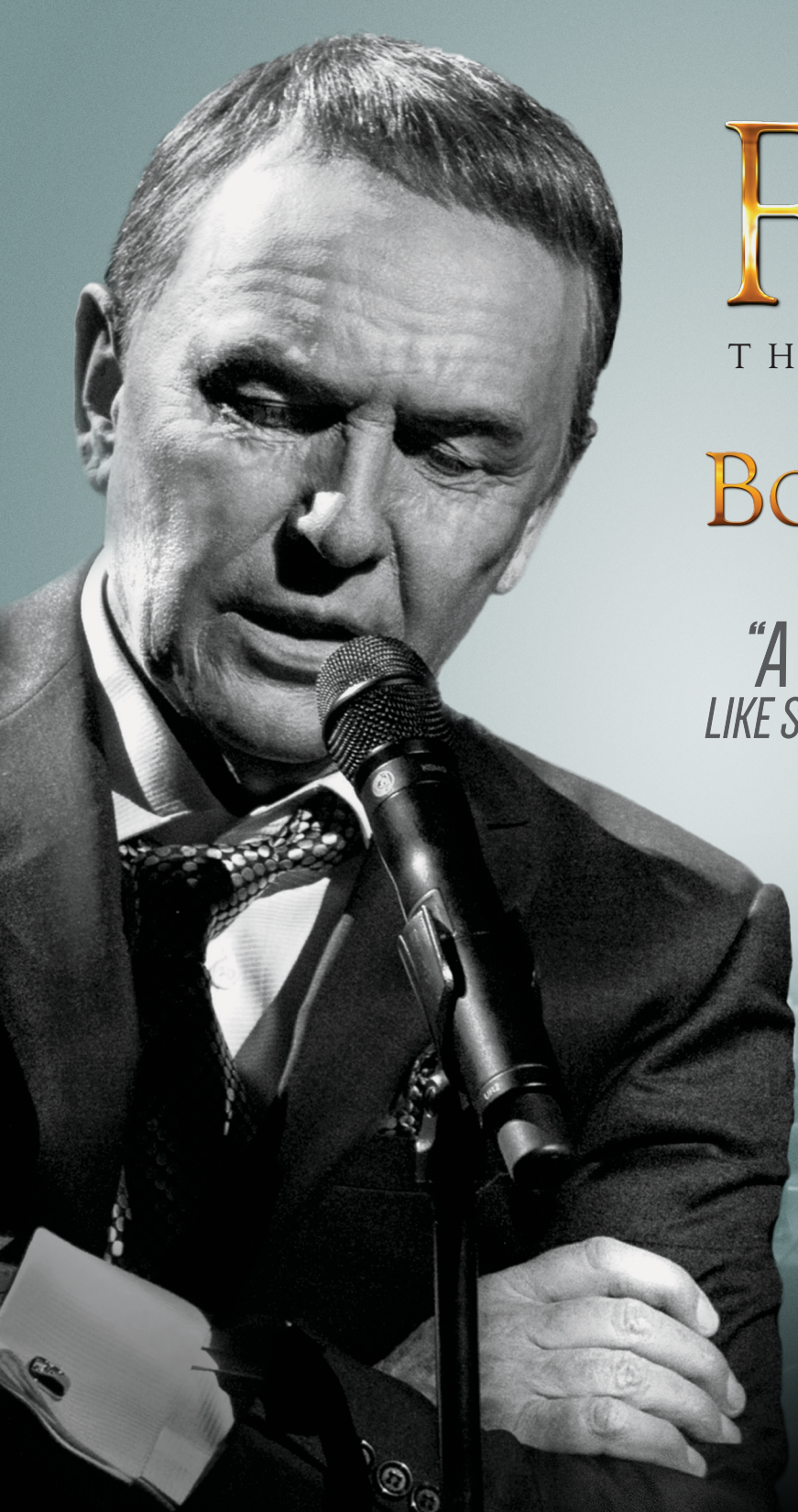
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ON THE COVER

Josh Strickland
Vegas! The Show

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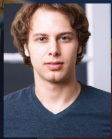
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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

Springtime in Vegas has a lifespan of about two week. We go from the chill of Winter to the heat of Summer and by the time April arrives, Vegas is in full bloom.

This month we feature a number of activities that take advantage of Nevada's wonderful outdoor climate. Johnny Espinosa tells us all about volleyball at Sunset Park. Glennie Alire tells us how the Voodoo Zipline at Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino zips and unzips you between the towers, and Dr. Guy Calderon Cooper explores the benefits of nature on our physical and mental health.

We also catch up with Josh Strickland who tells us about his new role in Vegas! The Show, married life, and what he loves about the outdoors. Johna Myers calls on Miss Fame, and Playgirl releases its new PlayR gay hookup app.

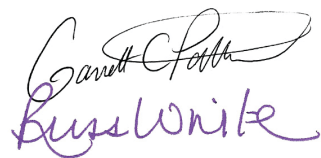
This month AFAN gears up for the 25th anniversary of AIDS Walk, and NGRA prepares for the Big Horn Rodeo next month.

We also have the hottest dance tracks, including Cheyenne Elliott, Martha Wash, and Breanna Rubio.

We're also thrilled to become the #1 LGBTQ website serving Las Vegas—just 6 months after launching Gay.Vegas and only 3 months after QVegas became an all-digital publication. The diligence and focus it takes to launch an all-new website in an all-new domain while transitioning a 37 year legacy of print publishing resulted in a website that has reached over 37,000 visitors. According to Alexa.com, our ranking as the 1,137,474th most popular website in the world and the 235,481th most popular in the US gives us plenty of headroom to grow.

Speaking of the web, be sure to check out our Swimsuit Model Search and RuPauls' Drag Race leaderboards. You can vote for your favorite models and drag queens in this interactive only feature.

Thank you for making us the most trusted resource for the LGBTQ community in Las Vegas!



Garrett Pattiani
Russ White

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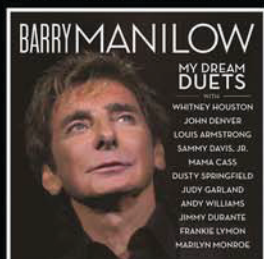
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Volleyball Returns to Sunset Park

[by Johnny Espinosa]

Throughout my childhood, my family would gather at Sunset Park for BBQ and volleyball. I always looked forward to it each week. It was comforting and served to strengthen our close family bond.

In 2011 I had a realization that although the nightclub scene is fun, it isn't always relaxing for everyone or easiest way to get to know someone right off the bat. So I wondered what I could do to help people in our community get together and engage in a very relaxed, positive and recreational activity apart from the bars and clubs. Thought about developing a volleyball themed social event for our community that would bring a diverse group of people together. Why volleyball? It's a fun and easy team sport with simple rules, doesn't require much equipment, and allows people with different skill levels to play together. And wanting to create such an event for our family community led me right to Sunset Park as the perfect setting. It's beautiful, close to most people, and has sand courts!

I wanted it to be a welcoming atmosphere where everyone could participate. It isn't a league – we play just for fun. There is no

pressure to play well, or to play at all. Some come just to meet and mingle. Sometimes we have potlucks and BBQ's. We added a table for board games and cards in case you don't want to sweat. We have access to the bleachers on Saturday, but also bring chairs, blankets and even a fire pit for when it's chill. We have rainbow pride flags we hang at the corner of the sand court – it makes us easy to find. There are many things we are adding this year to help improve the social aspects of our activity.

We encourage all to bring family and friends. We don't have rules about who can participate – we want a family feeling where everyone is welcome. No one is judged or pressured – it's just a round ball and some sand!

I started by posting on Facebook. It grew from there. A bunch of us would go to Sunset Park and play. Over time people brought their friends, more people joined and so on. Several people have contribute

in the growth and success of our event, especially Steve Hass, Supi Samrid, Blake Levitt, Will Jorgensen and many others. I am very thankful and grateful to all who have helped with this success – there is a great feeling of unity. And just like when my family used to convene at the Park, I feel the sense of comfort and closeness.

Every year, many people join. The main event is Saturday, when we even have prize raffles. As the weather gets warmer, we also play on Monday and Thursday around the same time. 7pm. There are also grass courts which we can use.



*Come join us. Everyone is welcome – diversity is strength.
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VOODOO ZIPLINE at the RIO

[by Glennie Albre]

Last month I was able to experience riding the Voodoo Zipline at the Rio All-Suites Hotel & Casino.

As an employee of Caesars Entertainment I took advantage of an employee offer and was able to bring one guest and ride the Zipline. When I invited Gay.Vegas co-founder Garrett Pattiani to join me, he suggested that I write about our experience for this upcoming Outdoor issue of QVegas.

We arrived at the Rio around 11:45 am and went to the Ticketing booth for the Zipline, which is located in the Masquerade Village part of the Casino. We had to sign a waiver explaining the risk factors of the ride. After we received our tickets, we took the elevator to the 51st floor of the Masquerade Tower—the view on the elevator is pretty spectacular itself.

8C

GOLD COAST

Upon arriving on the 51st floor, we came out to a overwhelming view of the city at the top of the tower.

When we entered the zipline area, our picture was taken on the staircase and then we were ushered to where others were waiting.

Once we went through gate, we were asked to remove all items from our pockets and they placed them in lockers and the key was given to security.

The ride only sits two at a time. After we were safely secured, they ease you out on the line, take your picture and release you.

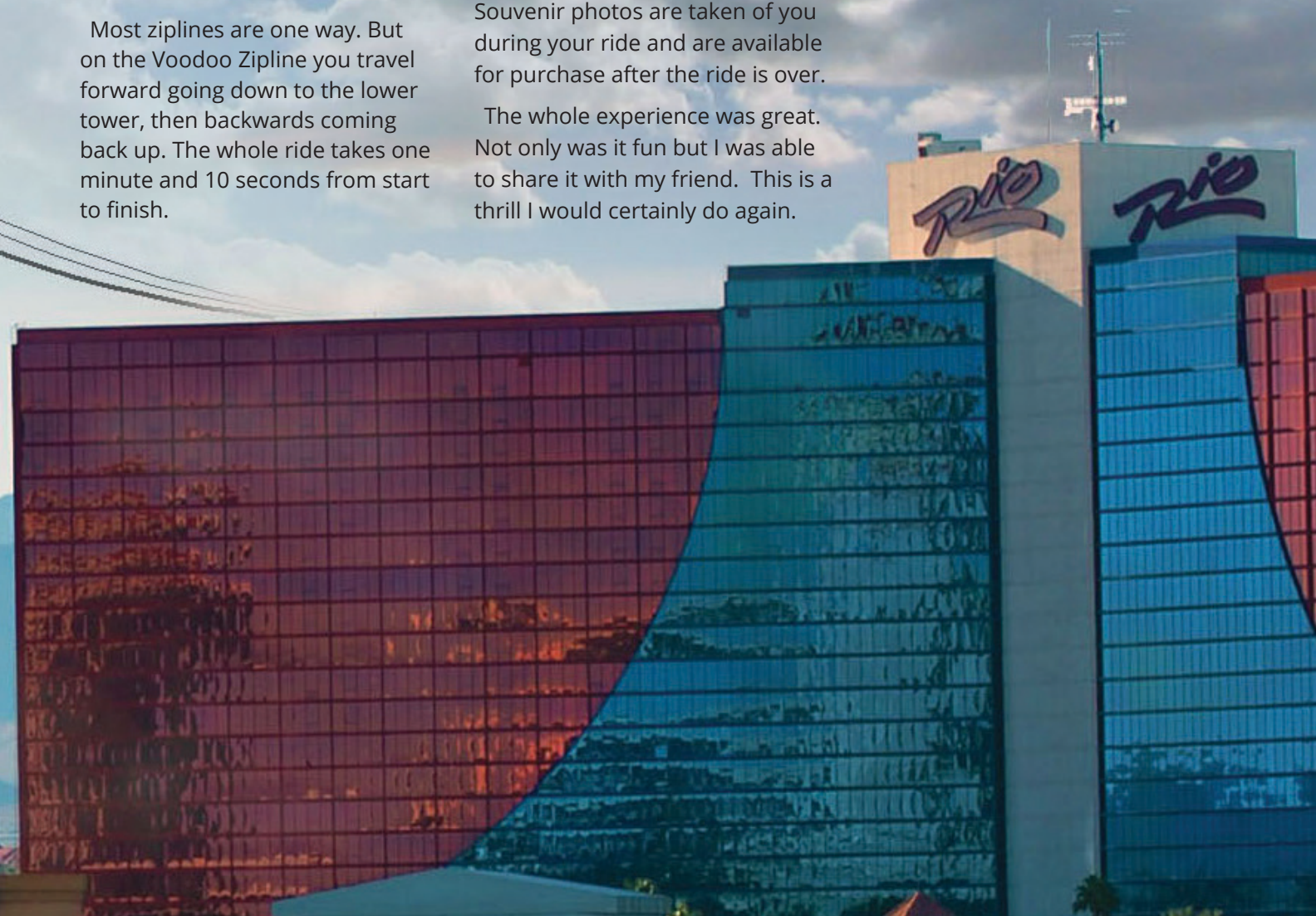
The ride is 490 feet in the air from the Masquerade Tower to the lower hotel tower traveling at 33 miles per hour. The experience is pretty breath taking and the view is fantastic.

Most ziplines are one way. But on the Voodoo Zipline you travel forward going down to the lower tower, then backwards coming back up. The whole ride takes one minute and 10 seconds from start to finish.



The Voodoo Zipline hours of operation are daily from 12pm to 12am and costs \$27.49 for all ages. No one under 21 is allowed to ride after 8pm. There is a Re-ride rate of \$17.49 and there are special discount rates available for groups and Total Rewards members. Souvenir photos are taken of you during your ride and are available for purchase after the ride is over.

The whole experience was great. Not only was it fun but I was able to share it with my friend. This is a thrill I would certainly do again.





Production & Styling - In.Color.Studios
Photographer - Ed Gregory
www.incolorstudios.com
Clothing by Suitsupply - Grand Canal shops at The Palazzo and online via www.suitsupply.com

Catching Up with Josh Strickland

[by Garrett Pattiani]

When did you know you wanted to be a singer / actor?

Ever since I can remember really! I got my first microphone at 4 and I haven't looked back since! I really started singing though in church as a elementary school student. I guess you could say I found my voice then.

You just got married. Tell us about your new husband and what you love most about him and your relationship.

I DID! Its SO amazing being able to say that! Not only for personal reasons but for the LGBT community as a whole. We have seen such a movement in Marriage Equality and I am so proud to be witnessing it first hand.

My husband's name is Todd DuBail and he was just cast recently in Jersey Boys here in Vegas. He is an Actor/singer as well.

I think the thing I love most about him is that he truly is my better half and makes me a better person everyday, because of his love for life, his determination in his creativity, and his love for me. He truly is everything i could have ever dreamed of.

It's no secret that your best friend is Holly Madison, how often do you get to talk and see each other now?

We just had our wedding at her and Pasquale's home! We see each other a lot. Whether it's to lunch, to a show, to coffee, or just having Sunday fun-day. She is so supportive not only to me but to her friends and to her family and I'm so blessed to have her and Pasquale and little Rainbow in our lives. They are the best friends a guy could ask for.

You are currently starring in Vegas! The Show. How much do you love it?

I am! I absolutely love Vegas! The Show, I love getting to portray such Iconic characters that helped shape Vegas into the iconic Entertainment Capital it has become! Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Elton John, Wayne Newton. They are so important to the history of the town I call home, and I am so happy to be in a show that pays homage to that part of our history. It's so fun being a part and sharing the stage with such a talented group of individuals.









If your fans want to hear your music and your new single, where can they find it.

All they have to do is look up my name on iTunes and all of my songs will be there. As we speak, a song I duetted just release on iTunes, a cover of "Say Something" on my friend Joey DeBenedetto's new album.

Since this is The Outdoor Issue and you grew up in South Carolina, what is your best outdoor memory?

Oh! I have so many! My whole family is from the mountains of South Carolina and parts of North Carolina, and we were always taking Jeep trips to see wild springs or just driving the winding roads. I have to say a favorite though was when I was a little boy, my uncle took me and my cousin Mellissa up to what is called Glassy Rock in the Blue Ridge Mountains of South Carolina, and sitting on a rock where paragliders would jump off and glide in the wind, it was one of the most beautiful sights and memories I remember.

It's public that you are an out of the closet singer and actor. As a role model to the LGBTQ community, what advice do you have for other aspiring performers?

Be true to who you are. There will always be people who are either out to get you or change you, and the most important thing is to remember who you are, to stand up for what you believe in, and to remember that you are beautiful.

Now that you live in Las Vegas, what are some of your favorite places to go?

I absolutely LOVE going to Mount Charleston. It is a place I've been going for years staying up in the cabins and enjoying hot toddies at the lodge. I think it's such a hidden gem that is only 45 mins away!

What's next for you? Any projects or dreams that you still want to accomplish? Personally and professionally.

I think the only thing that I wish and pray for is to continue doing what I love to do: perform. I have been blessed with a gift and I just hope that I can continue to use my voice to share with others and touch their hearts in some way.

Who are your role models? Where do you get your inspiration?

I would have to say anyone who stands up for who they are and fights for the rights of others or what is passionate to them. The young people who stand up for gay rights in schools, the people fighting to help raise awareness for AIDS, cancer, and other diseases that we are still fighting to find cures—those are the people that inspire me and that I have great respect for.



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BIG DOGS

25 YEARS OF AIDS WALK LAS VEGAS

[by Evan Walsh]

The Las Vegas valley is a buzz as Aid for AIDS of Nevada gears up for their 25th Annual AIDS Walk Las Vegas on April 19, 2015 at Town Square. Local emcee Bryan Chan will host the day's activities, with performances from Strip entertainer, including Showstoppers, Le Reve-The Dream and Mark Shunock from Rock of Ages & Melody Sweets of Absinthe.

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) was founded in 1984 and is the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in the state of Nevada. 2015 marks our 31st year of providing unparalleled services, support and advocacy for adults and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Nevada.

Last year more than 10,000 walkers joined AFAN filling the campus of UNLV for the 24th annual AIDS Walk. The combined efforts of the community helped AFAN raise nearly \$440,000 to benefit client services, including prevention/education, housing, medical transportation, nutritional therapy and overall mental health intervention. Penn & Teller continue to be amazing supporters of the organization by not only ushering in the walkers as grand marshals for the 14th year, but also matching walker donations of \$250 or more. The duo treat all challenge participants to an amazing VIP area the day of the walk as well as exclusive incentives for fundraising,

including a VIP meet and greet with Britney Spears going to the highest fundraiser. Walgreens continues to participate in an unprecedented manner by providing an opportunity for shoppers to donate a dollar at checkout through the month of March with all proceeds benefiting AFAN. Always striving to exceed their goals, Walgreens is looking to win the title of largest walking team with 500 walkers in 2014.

The walk has become a staple in the community bringing out our community partners, local companies, individuals, families and an amazing array of highly motivated walking teams – including our beloved pets. Your participation allow us remember our loved ones we have lost and honor the ones that live with HIV/AIDS. It also allows us to educate our community about HIV/AIDS, support our clients that need our services, advocate for additional services and keep the hope that we can one day eradicate HIV/AIDS from our lives.

Castle! Castle!

Once upon a time, in the far away land of Las Vegas, there was an enchanted castle. It rose majestically from the desert floor, looking every bit the fitting home for King Arthur and his Knights. Amidst the blue, red and gold turrets, the wizard Merlin himself, gazed out of the central tower, surrounded by glittering lights and bolts of multi-colored neon, demonstrating his awesome power. But that was long ago. The castle still stands, but some of its grandeur has faded.



z z z

SLEEPING AROUND

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

Don't stop reading, though! This fairy tale ends happily!

I chose to stay at Excalibur for a number of reasons - First, I had never stayed there before, but many people still do, so I figured there has to be something good about it. Secondly, I like it's location at the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Tropicana, where famous casino hotels reside on each corner - New York New York on one, the Tropicana on another, the MGM Grand on the third and finally, Excalibur. It's a busy, lively area and the views are amazing. Lastly, I chose it for the price. I know I haven't discussed prices in my write-ups before, but the rate I got for this particular trip was too good not to share. I had noticed that the room rates at the Excalibur always seem extremely reasonable, but through www.vegas.com, I got a five night hotel and airfare package for just a little over \$500. For a round-trip flight from New York to Las Vegas, and five nights at a hotel on the Strip, that was too good to pass up.

Excalibur opened in June of

1990, at the height of the attempt to create a more family-friendly Vegas. The fairy tale castle environment, along with attractions like an animatronic Merlin-versus-dragon show in the "moat" and the Tournament of Kings dinner show, which features jousting knights, sword fights, dancing maidens and a meal you can eat with your hands, was meant to bring in the family crowd that Vegas hoteliers were courting back then. When it opened, it was the largest hotel in the world, with over 4,000 rooms. These days, it's the fifth largest. Starting in 2006, many of the medieval elements were removed as part of a four-year renovation, and more modern touches were added to the rooms and the casino in general.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect from the newer Excalibur, and what I got was mostly good - a couple of glitches, perhaps, but very comfortable, overall.

I arrived much earlier than the 3 PM check-in time, but the nice woman behind the desk set me up with a room immediately. I asked

if I could upgrade to a suite, but the cost was an extra \$100 a night, so I told her a standard room would be fine, but asked for one with a nice view. She found a room for me on the 19th floor of Tower Two and gave me my key. I found my room and immediately went to check out the view. Unfortunately, the blinds were broken and I couldn't raise them. I called downstairs and explained the situation and waited for about 25 minutes for an engineer. He came in, took a look at the blinds and left. After more waiting, two maintenance workers came up, took the blinds apart, and corrected the problem. Okay, so that little glitch was solved. I unpacked and got settled in.

The room was very sparse - two Queen sized beds with one large, padded, chocolate-brown headboard and no bedspreads. A vaguely medieval looking table divided the two beds and against the opposite wall, was a large bureau, which looked a bit second-hand. Above the bureau, was a flat screen TV, and in the corner, a small table with two chairs. The bathroom had a single sink set into a spacious granite countertop and a shower stall with sliding doors. The window dressing is a clever piece of camouflage. The window itself is actually quite small by Vegas standards - about 4x3 feet, but cheap curtains cover the entire wall, giving the illusion of something much larger. Still, I enjoyed the view. I could see New York New York and MGM Grand. I



could also hear the screams from the riders on the NYNY roller coaster across the street, which was amusing but never intrusive. The feel of the entire room was utilitarian - not fancy, just the basic necessities.

I suppose the two real drawbacks of the room, were the lack of an in-room safe in which to store my valuables, and the flat screen TV, which refused to work. I generally don't watch a lot of TV when I'm in Vegas, but on one particular night, I wanted to watch the local news. I tried to turn on the TV and got nothing. I called downstairs and they sent someone to fix it. A couple of days later, I tried turning it on so I could check out via the TV. Again, nothing. I was leaving anyway, so I let it go.

Excalibur has a large casino -

100,000 square feet of gaming space, still featuring medieval touches like stone ramparts, stained glass "windows" and suits of armor, but on this trip, I noticed that the casino seemed rather empty during my first two days there. Now, my trips to Las Vegas usually take place during the week - prices are generally cheaper and crowds are almost always smaller. I try to avoid the weekends, as there are usually too many loud, drunken 20-somethings on the Strip, in the casinos, and wandering the hotel hallways shouting "Wooo!" while I'm trying to sleep! For this trip, however, I was meeting family for a pre-Christmas get together, so I decided to arrive on a Wednesday and leave the following Monday, while my family flew in just for the weekend. When I booked the trip, I found that



www.gay.vegas/crissangel



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December is a fairly slow month in Las Vegas - thus the great rates and smaller crowds. But the Rodeo came to town later that week, so on Friday and Saturday, the hotel and casino were full of honest-to-God, cowboys, complete with cowboy hats and boots, many of them extremely cute!

Even if you're not a gambler, there's plenty to do. There's a beautifully renovated pool, a large spa and fitness center, shopping, and an arcade for kids. For your entertainment there are the Tournament Of Kings show, a Bee-Gees Tribute show, and Thunder From Down Under - an Australian take on the famous Chippendale's male strip show. There are a variety of restaurants - The Steakhouse At Camelot, an Italian eatery called Bucca Di Beppo, and most notoriously, Dick's Last Resort, a casual restaurant where customers are made to wear bibs and tall, silly paper hats, and are verbally abused by the "rude" servers. There are live bands, big frozen drinks, and dishes with names like Macho Nachos and A Case Of King Crabs - it's not to my taste, but people seem to love it.

So here's my overall opinion on Excalibur: While the hotel is a little shabby and some of the amenities are lacking, my stay was actually quite pleasant. Customer service was mostly very good and I was treated quite well - I was even able to arrange a late check-out on my

last night. Honestly, I would stay at Excalibur again. Their rates always seem affordable, year-round, so if you want to stay on the Strip, not luxuriously, but comfortably, give Excalibur a try. You won't pay a king's ransom, and that might just make you feel like royalty!



OUTDOOR PATIO HOT SPOTS

When you think of the outdoors in Las Vegas, you think of pool parties, Red Rock, Lake Mead, the infamous Las Vegas Sign, Bellagio's fountains, and the concrete and asphalt of The Strip.

Vegas offers many options for enjoying food and cocktails outdoors. This month we spotlight several popular outdoor spots on and off the Strip.

BLVD. Cocktail Company

Located within The LINQ on the Las Vegas Strip, BLVD. Cocktail Company embodies a classically cool era while serving-up flavorful cocktails and modern art, as well as showcasing performances from artists around the world on a sleek baby grand piano. Pocket doors open up to reveal a vibrant, 300-square-foot patio to enjoy the gorgeous Las Vegas weather and views of The LINQ's High Roller observation wheel.

LA CAVE

La Cave is located inside Wynn Las Vegas and offers an intimate dining experience with contemporary American small-plates. Created by Executive Chef Billy DeMarco, the menu includes succulent items such as mushroom grits made with truffle oil, diver sea scallops on polenta cake served with shrimp sauce, and salt-roasted beets with whipped goat cheese and pistachios. Beer, signature drinks and an extensive wine list of more than 250 varieties complement the menu for guests to enjoy in the dining room or the tranquil garden patio overlooking the Wynn pool, with views of the surrounding landscape and High Roller observation wheel.



RHUMBAR

Located just steps from the Las Vegas Strip at The Mirage Hotel & Casino, RHUMBAR provides a unique Caribbean-oasis environment for those looking to kick-back with a cigar in one hand and a cocktail in the other.

DUE & PROPER

Due & Proper blends elements of a late Victorian pub design and a back alley London watering hole, offering a European escape. The spacious patio is lined with classic picnic tables stained in dark wood and framed with wrought iron, featuring outdoor barbecue grills.



CABO WABO CANTINA

Cabo Wabo Cantina's Strip-side patio offers guests a laid-back yet energetic setting to grab a drink and a bite to eat. Guests can enjoy unbeatable views of the Las Vegas Strip and Fountains of Bellagio from the Cabo Wabo patio while enjoying a number of specialty margaritas, cocktails and ice-cold beers.



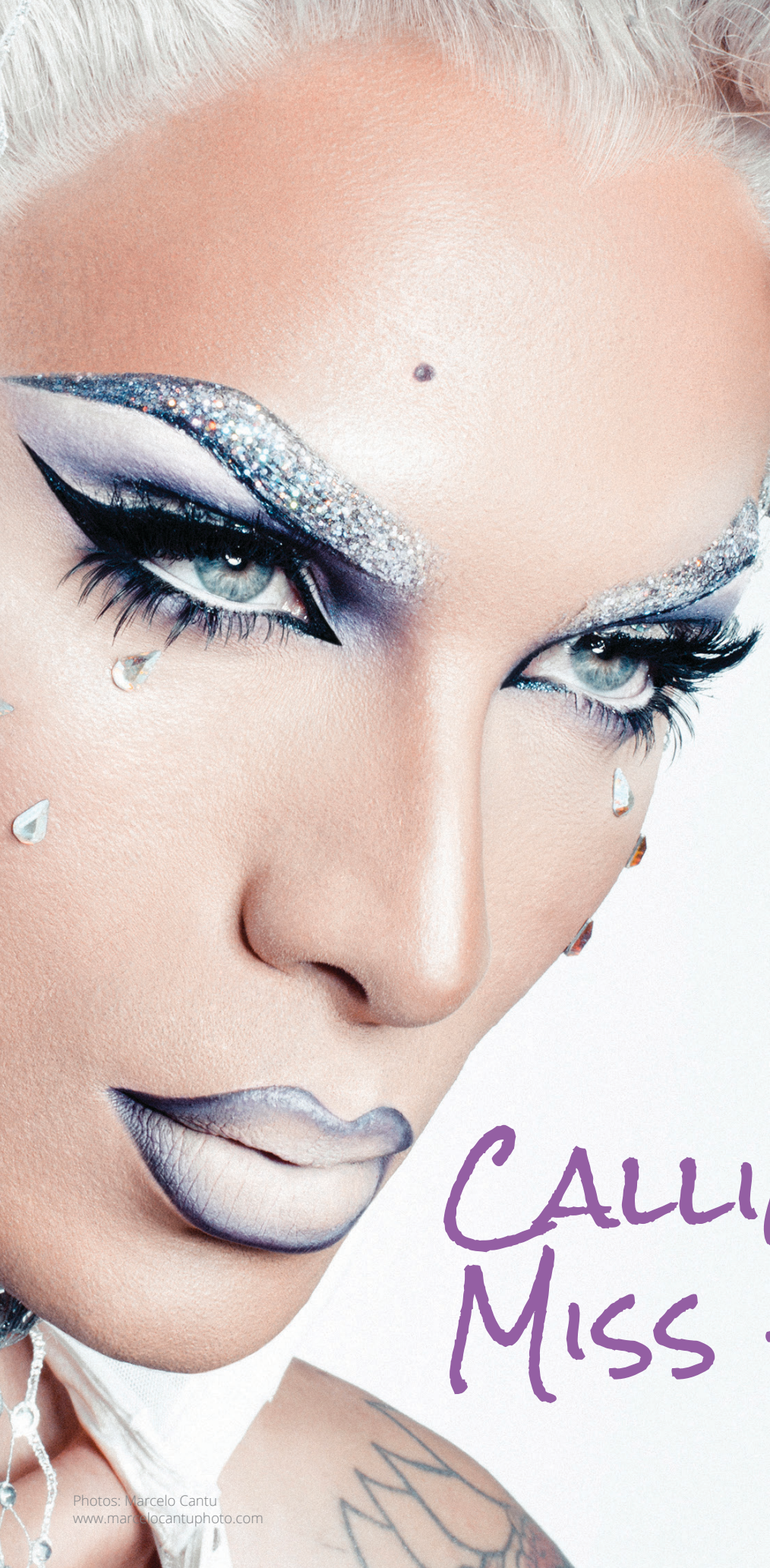
PARK ON FREMONT

Park on Fremont brings a laid-back vibe to the bustling downtown Las Vegas neighborhood. Boasting an inviting front patio with unobstructed views of Fremont Street and a lush, vibrant back patio garden, Park on Fremont is the ideal spot to unwind with a craft beer or signature cocktail.



COMMONWEALTH

Named by Forbes Travel as one of the "3 Downtown Vegas Rooftops To Enjoy This Summer," Commonwealth's rooftop features a full bar, multiple seating areas, live music, dancing and 360 degree views of downtown Las Vegas. Pair all of that with a signature handcrafted cocktail and you've got the perfect evening.



CALLING MISS FAME

[by Johna Myers]



This month Johnna grabs an exclusive and salacious interview with RuPaul's Drag Race Season 7 Queen, Miss Fame.

Fucking is to sex as Miss Fame as to fashion? True or False?

True.

Can you explain your bio briefly? Where you from? Any shoutouts to ma and pa? Any Siblings?

I grew up in Central California, in a small country town called Templeton. I was surrounded by rolling hills, oak trees and dirt roads. I did grow up on a farm, we happen to have a lot of animals, and of course my chickens! I used to show them at fair and since we were so far from other people, my animals were my friends. I was also raised by my grandparents, so I had that old school upbringing which I feel drives me to achieve greatness today.

Is there anything you wanna plug specially? Any projects we should be aware of?

I have a few project in the works. I am working on music which I know people would be surprised to hear from a beauty Queen, but I believe the art of drag should constantly evolve. We only live once, so I wanna say I lived fully. My supporters, or my *#Fameily*, have asked if I would consider doing a cosmetic line and I'm currently looking at a few colorful options. I can't wait until I have more details to share.

How often are you in Vegas? Are there any projects specific to Las Vegas that we should aware of?

I have only been to Vegas twice, once for my sisters birthday 10 years back and this recent trip for RuPaul's Drag Race Season 7 Premier party. I don't have any future plans in Vegas as Fame but wouldn't shy away from an amazing opportunity if one presented itself. But truly I love New York. It's my heart and soul and it would take a lot of encouragement for me to leave.

Magnetic. Cosmic. Alien. Supermodel. These are all words you use to describe yourself. These themes remind me of another star David Bowie. Were you affected by his music? How could one describe Miss Fame using songs/song titles and why?

David Bowie is incredible. I can never forget him especially from The Labyrinth. He possesses a beauty

and uniqueness that only he can do. I actually worked on site with his stunning wife Iman as an assistant when I first moved to NYC. She is legendary and timeless. I watched her and took serious notes.

I'm affected by music collectively. It grabs you and brings you to places and gets you through all of life's tribulations as well as celebrations. I grew up in a mixed cultural household with my grandfather being from Denmark and my grandma from Mexico, so the music styles had rang at home.

Regarding song titles, the name leaves an imprint on your soul, makes it memorable and you end up singing it on repeat in the chorus so it holds much more weight to have a powerful title and that I can relate to a name such as Fame. This possesses the same qualities as a great song title. It just sticks.

Have you ever had sex in Vegas?

Who hasn't?! But the details are mine to keep.

Have you ever pretended you were a "virgin" when you weren't?

Never have I ever.

Dogs, Cats, or Furbys?

Dogs, then cats and why furby? I did own a few growing up lol.

How many times have you done runway? How do you prepare yourself mentally? Can you describe your walk as if it were a flavor of ice cream?

I don't know what the number is. I've done numerous shows throughout United States. But I treat my daily life like a runway no matter what I'm wearing. Inside my mind while I walk, I imagine my feet breaking the concrete underneath me with power and intention.

Even when I work out I see myself in a powerful way—almost through the eye of a music video. It's a visual experience. If I could describe myself in an ice cream flavor it would be strawberry: a classic. And a classic never dies, but the fruit keeps it fresh and that's why I am strawberry. Preparing for runway is just about channeling the direction of the designer and hearing the music and giving it all back to the audience.



Have you ever dated someone that a friend dated? Is there a story?

If I did I don't remember. That would mean it wasn't significant enough to stick but if I went off girl code I'd say it's not a good idea.

Keep exs as friends or burn those bridges w/ gasoline?

It depends on the X. More often, in my experiences, I've kept close and had long-term loving friendships with people that I shared long-term relationships on an intimate level even after we've moved on. I do believe that you can love somebody after the chapter ends in your relationship life, as a new one develops too.

People often refer to your look/pics as perfect! Could you describe/build a perfect man for the QVegas readers in heavy addictive?

Perfect man. I'm attracted to all types, I think I have a type, and then I see myself allured by something completely different. I usually like darker features, olive skin tone, dark hair, brown eyes, someone that can keep up with my energy. Success is attractive; kindness is attractive; and a gentleman will win the prize. Bad boys are fun but for a fleeting moment.

It's black it's white?

Young Michael forever

Is QVegas your favorite Vegas magazine?

Well isn't it obvious. I did accept this interview. Xo



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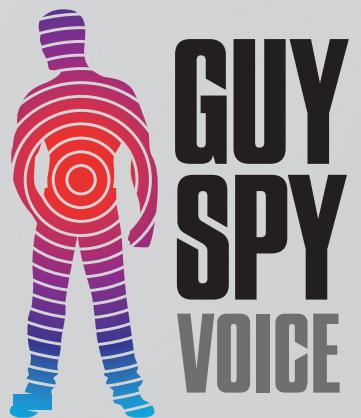
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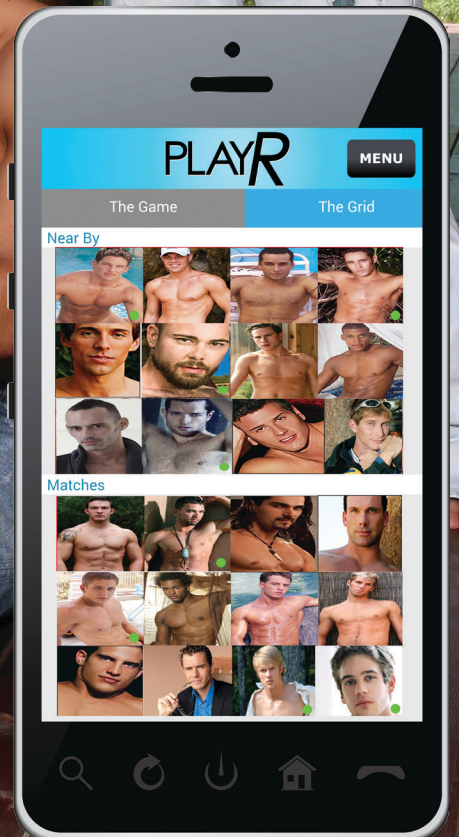
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PLAYGIRL TAKES TO THE FIELD
WITH PLAYR, ITS FIRST HOOK-UP
APP FOR GAY MEN





The Publication that Ignited a Sexual Revolution for Women Sets to Tackle M4M

The multimedia entertainment company that has specialized in male erotica for over forty years, is entering the social media arena with PlayR, a new app specifically targeting its gay membership community. Available on Android devices, the app aims to put the entire gay community into member's pockets.

At the gym: PlayR includes a music player featuring live sessions of club beats by Playgirl's resident spinner, DJ Escape.

On the town: The app features local club and event listings for all fifty states. Members post up-to-the-minute reviews on the app to let other guys know the hot spots to check out.

And even on the field: There is a dating component to the app and it's where the real fun happens! It's a game where guys compete to score.

Similar to the straight dating app, Tinder, men view photos of potential hook ups and swipe either left ("No go") or right ("I'm game"). If two or more guys swipe right, "It's playtime!" and the men can instant message each other. There are also chat functions that allow for multiple PlayRs on the field at once for group action.

"The PlayR game borrows from

the process our Playgirl hunks go through when trying to become part of our brand," explains Playgirl's head of digital marketing, Dylan Roberts. "It is essentially a casting session where members get to sit in the director's chair and choose who does and who does not make the cut."

Playgirl was first published in 1973 during the height of the feminist movement as a response to erotic men's magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse that featured photos of only women. Playgirl was the first mainstream magazine and website to focus on gorgeous men and their bodies. It continues to deliver the sexiest men to consumers throughout all of its distribution channels including Playgirl.com and Playgirl on Demand cable channels.

The PlayR app is Playgirl's first real acknowledgment of its significant gay male readership. Over 5,000 of its current members identify as gay

Playgirl's resident spinner, DJ Escape



men. "Playgirl played a pivotal role in the sexual revolution for women, tackling issues like women's rights and abortion when no one else would touch them," says Roberts. "We intend to do the same for gay men. Playgirl realizes it is time we 'come out' in support for a community that has silently been a major portion of our audience for so long."

Playgirl also aims to reach further: to those men who do not identify as gay but are curious to explore sexual relations with other guys. "The line between gay and straight continues to blur," continues Roberts. "The PlayR app encourages all guys willing to take a swing to step up to bat."

PlayR is free-of-charge. It is being rolled out in beta first. DJ Escape will help to introduce PlayR this spring through a nationwide PlayR club tour.

For more information on PlayR, visit playgirlPlayR.com.



The Ecology Entrepreneur

On any given morning, you might find him drenched in sweat in some random alley in Hollywood. You're also equally likely to find him digging in the dirt on the Las Vegas Strip. No, we're not doing a story on homelessness or drug abuse in America. This is a story about a designer, artist, and philanthropist with a serious green thumb.

From an early age, Troy Silva had an immense passion for nature. By age 12, he'd already filled his childhood home with five elaborate aquariums and terrariums. Now, we're not talking those cheesy pink gravel with floating scuba diver figurine-type aquariums here. Even as a child, Silva was, what he calls, "ecologically inspired." Therefore, even his early creations could be better described as elaborate, miniature habitats, modeled after different natural ecosystems from around the world. Growing up in San Diego, his primary source of inspiration was the world famous San Diego Zoo. "I still remember the overwhelming excitement I felt whenever I visited the zoo. That feeling of excitement still hasn't worn off to this day!" exclaims Silva.

*Drai's Beach Club
The Cromwell, Las Vegas*



*Victor Drai's
Hollywood Hills Residence*

As Troy Silva grew up, his passion for nature continued to flourish, leading him to attend Cornell University's Landscape Architecture program, spend a semester in Sydney studying sustainable design, and even land an apprenticeship with Jim Neri, the landscape architect responsible for designing the vast majority of the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park's most celebrated animal exhibits and attractions. All the while, Silva had begun to realize his creative, entrepreneurial spirit wouldn't be nurtured unless he started his own design firm. So, in 2005, he did just that, founding Urban Nature as a landscape design firm focusing on upscale single family and multi-family residential projects.

By the end of 2006, Troy Silva had developed an extensive residential portfolio in Los Angeles. At this time, his uniquely sophisticated, yet imaginative design style caught the eye of a Las Vegas developer in the midst of the city's condo conversion craze. This began Silva's "bi-west coastal" lifestyle, wherein half of his time would be spent in LA, and the other half in Vegas. Prior to this time, Silva had only visited Vegas twice in his life. However, during those two visits, he fell head over heels in love with it! To him, "the strip was a place where modern visionaries had built their wildest dreams." With seemingly limitless budgets and a constant need to wow visitors with completely over the top sensory experiences, Silva, like most designers, reveled in the idea of making his mark on the Las Vegas design scene.



Raw materials found all over the world are sent the Las Vegas studio, where they are transformed into finished works by a team of local freelance artists and artisans. Items are available for purchase at VariantFurnishings.com



*Natural Art Installation
MoNA (Museum of Natural Art) Hollywood*

Fast forward through one of America's worst economic downturns, and you'll find Troy Silva dabbling in virtually every facet of the landscape, interior, and furniture design industries. When times were tough, Silva just kept "planting as many seeds as possible and hoping that some of them would grow into wildly successful businesses", he explains. To summarize, he continued to take on upscale residential projects, opened a retail showroom amidst LA's avenues of art and design, launched a few of his own furniture lines, started a charity organization to revitalize Hollywood (MoNA), traveled the country to exhibit his works on the "trade show circuit", and traveled the world in search of inspiration.

Somewhere in this exhausting whirlwind of career/ life experiences, Troy Silva met nightlife impresario, Victor Drai. Upon completing an extensive landscape renovation at Drai's fabulous Hollywood Hills estate, Silva was invited to join Drai in creating what is now,

according to Robin Leach, "the most beautiful club in the world".

"When I met Victor, my primary goal in life instantly became to impress the hell out of him so I could realize my dream of designing something on the Las Vegas Strip. I was also really impressed by Victor's design aesthetic and was completely in awe of him as a business person," says Silva.

When asked what Silva has in store for the future, he says he plans to continue splitting his time between LA and Vegas. He also added that he hopes to spend even more time in Vegas designing additional nightlife projects, building up his latest furnishings company (Variant), and even bringing his community revitalization charity (MoNA) to some of Vegas's older neighborhoods, which are in desperate need of a substantial dose of TLC!



Natural Art Installation
MoNA (Museum of Natural Art) Hollywood

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Saddle Up!

BigHorn Rodeo Returns



The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association's annual BigHorn Rodeo returns starting May 6, 2015 with events all weekend long, starting with the PRIDE Family Bingo event on Wednesday and the BigHorn Rodeo Scavenger hunt on Thursday. The BigHorn Pool Party kicks off on Friday, along with a fashion show and the Two Chicks Barrel Race.

As always, amazing rodeo action takes place from 11am until 6pm, Saturday and Sunday, May 9th and 10th at Horseman's Park, 5800 East Flamingo Road.

Two time World Champion Richard Armstrong will be blowing up the arena again this year, as well as some of our new contestants who have already proven at the Phoenix Rodeo in February that they are a force.

There will be a dunk tank with some of the hottest men (and yes, some hot women too) donating

their time to get wet just for you. The NGRA jail makes a comeback after a few years. Look out though, you may be put in cuffs and taken away (like that's a bad thing). Beer Pong tournaments will be held throughout the day in a covered tent. There will be tournaments throughout the day and a good time will be had by all. (I can personally attest to this one). Other activities will be run by other non profits in town to help raise money for their associations. The bar will be hosted by the Sin City Sisters and all tips collected will go into their SADAP program.

What's better than an ice cold Sangria on a warm summer day? Not much. This year a beautiful Sangria Garden lets those of you 21 and over can enjoy a cool drink on a summer's day. How about some great food to go along with that Sangria? Several different food choices to tantalize your palate.

Check out the models from the HomoRodeo.com Calendar all weekend long and catch the Phoenix Heatwave Dance Team who will be performing Saturday night at Charlie's Las Vegas.

These are just a few of the fun things planned for BigHorn Rodeo 2015. NGRA does not raise the money for BigHorn Rodeo, our community does, our sponsors do, and with that support NGRA is able to provide a venue and a great event for other non-profits to come in and raise money right alongside us.

For more info visit gay.vegas/ngra

Spring Slams!

[by Jimmy Newsum]

A whole slew of hot and sweaty beats are pumping the heat up on gay dance floors this spring. Here are the essential songs and remixes that should be on your playlist.



"With You (The Remixes)"

Cheyenne Elliott

(Dauman Music)

People will want to compare Elliott to her cousin Whitney Houston and grandmother Dionne Warwick, and they wouldn't be completely wrong. Like her famous relatives, she is a soulful singer with nuclear power and a sumptuous tone. But unlike them, she's chosen to go the indie route with dance label Dauman Music. It hasn't limited her access to name brand assistance. Whitney and Mariah Carey's longtime collaborator Narada Michael Walden produces "With You", and enfolds Elliott in purring keyboards and slinky synthesized bass lines. It's a slow-motion groove, and while there are echoes of Houston, and hints of Warwick too, the song reveals more of Toni Braxton's tangy, sympathetic voice. Clubbers have long awaited someone new to unbreak our hearts. We may have found the person in Cheyenne Elliott.

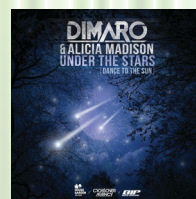


"Free People"

Martha Wash with Tony Moran

(Sugar House)

The soul diva is back to reclaim the dance territory lesser ladies-in-waiting have tried to make their own. In "Free People", Wash sounds something of a jazz singer, scatting and vamping her way through vocals that are ravenous and free, adventurous and spirited. The song is best when she refuses to color inside the lines, and opts to riff around the melody with happy abandon. Wash works all of her tricks here, from gospel shouts to Broadway belts to soul runs - and all with assistance of perhaps the greatest dance floor producer out right now, DJ Tony Moran. When these two work together, it is pure magic.



"Under The Stars"

diMaro & Alicia Madison

(Contagious Records)

diMaro may get top billing but you won't actually hear his voice anywhere here. Instead, he programs and sequences the song's infectious beats, synthy swooshes and digitized loops while Alicia Madison (who last guested on Sied van Riel's "Gravity") delivers a sweeping tale of steely determination in the face of lost love. The track is quickly becoming the biggest song on dance floors and house radio thanks to strong support from influential spinners Markus Schulz, Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike. Of course, Madison and diMaro deserve the real props for presenting a slickly produced blockbuster that is truly big room dance music at its best.

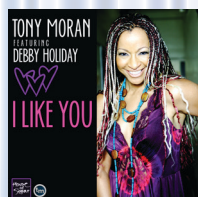


"Fly Alone (The Remixes)"

Breanna Rubio featuring Fat Joe

(Dauman)

This debut single shows a vulnerability we rarely see from emerging artists. Lyrically, the song is about having feelings for a guy and hoping he will reciprocate the love. However, listen closely because 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 to the masses and is now hoping to connect with fans in a meaningful way. The track, impressively produced by Manny Mijares and featuring two-time Grammy nominated rap star Fat Joe, combines an upbeat pop-dance vibe with remarkable vocals that display honesty and conviction. The DJ Escape mix is a particular favorite.



"I Like You"

Tony Moran featuring Debby Holiday

(Sugarhouse)

Debby Holiday teams up with Grammy-nominated producer Tony Moran to celebrate the thirty-year anniversary of Phyllis Nelson's iconic house smash, "I Like You". The song was a top ten radio hit in 1985, due to Nelson's soulful vocals and the song's subtle social commentary. It was seen by many as an ode to Omni sexuality, with Nelson justifying her love to all the many different types of people with a simple, "no reason why; I just like you." That message inspired Holiday to remake the song for the modern dance floor. With the help of Moran, Holiday presents a harder, darker, grainier, more underground sound to the track. This marks the third collaboration by these two powerhouses of dance and the beats simply keep getting better.



"Hot Homo"

Cazwell featuring Big Dipper

(Peace Biscuit)

The latest record from the leading independent gay hip hopper is a freestyle parody of Bobby Shmurda's "Hot N*gga". Like its predecessor, the song has an addictive beat with NC-17 lyrics. Where Shmurda's track is about killing people and selling drugs, Cazwell's single takes on, what else, man-on-man sex. And why not? Gay men should feel as entitled to express themselves sexually as straight guys do, says Cazwell. That's been his message since he first dropped 'All Over Your Face' in 2006. In "Hot Homo", Caz is joined by another funny as all hell gay MC: the large, furry bear rapper known as Big Dipper. Together, they present a finely produced rap parody that also manages to poke fun at celebrities Chris Brown, James Franco and even Debra Messing. The music video is a must-see too.

Nature and the Effects on Mental and Physical Health

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

I am writing this article on the first day of spring 2015. A time when the Las Vegas Valley is a perfect place to explore nature and to feel better both mentally and physically.

The time change has occurred and we now have more hours of daylight and more opportunities to take advantage of the many special environments in our area. In modern life, we have become workaholics and spend most of our time on our computers, notebooks, and cell phones. Here are a few tips that will not only make you feel better but improve all aspects of your life and it does not take a great deal of time. Whether you go to Red Rock Canyon, Mount Charleston, walk the strip, or any other outdoor activities available to us, the outdoors and activity will improve lives in a great number of ways.

Fresh Air Is Good for Your Mental Health

Although many people claim to love being outside and taking part in outdoor activities, a large percentage of people spend the majority of their times indoors. With many adults and children spending up to 8 to 10 hours a day in work or school, there isn't much time left at the end of the day to enjoy fresh air. Even in the spring and summer, when more children and adults have free time,

the increase in temperature causes many people to seek the comfort of air conditioning inside. However, fresh air is one thing that naturally helps improve mental health and creates a feeling of calm and overall well-being.

Being Outdoors Increases Brain Power

Studies show that spending time outdoors actually increases brain power, and adults who spend a lot more time outdoors perform better professionally and children who spend a lot of time outdoors tend to perform better academically. Some believe this occurs because when we engage in outdoor activities we are actively using our brains. When people stay inside, they usually engage in activities that don't require a lot of active participation of the brain, such as watching television or movies. When adults and children are successful academically or professionally self-esteem increases and people feel personally satisfied with their school or work performance.

Outdoor Activities Increase Physical Health

Physical and mental health goes hand in hand. When our bodies are healthy, our minds tend to follow. Many outside activities such as walking, bike riding, sports, and running not only provide you with fresh air but supply the exercise your body needs to function properly. People who struggle with obesity or poor health often struggle mentally with depression or a lack of self-esteem. By getting outside and being active, it allows you to improve your health, possibly lose weight, and improve your mental health.

Increased Social Interaction

Getting out in the fresh air can help increase your social interaction with other people. Having friends or meeting new people has been proven to improve mood and confidence levels. By taking a walk in the park, enjoying an outdoor event, or even just getting together with friends and sitting outside can help you relax and reduce mental stress. Being around nature and people helps boost your mental health and keeps you in a good state of mind.

Improved Health

When we breathe in fresh air, the body sends oxygen through the blood and allows the lungs to work at full capacity. Even if you don't have hours to spend outside, taking 15 minutes to step outside and take a few deep breaths can greatly help clear your mind and relax your body. Being in the sunshine, even for only a few minutes, helps the body absorb vitamin D from the sun, which is known to help improve mood.

Whether you spend every weekend outside or just an hour each day, making time to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air is beneficial for your body and mind. Even in extreme temperatures, it's important

to step out of your home or office to take a few deep breaths and refocus your mind.

Reasons to Spend Time in Nature:

Your vitamin D levels rise. Sunlight hitting the skin begins a process that leads to the creation and activation of vitamin D. Studies suggest that this vitamin helps fight certain conditions, from osteoporosis and cancer to depression and heart attacks. Limited sun exposure (don't overdo it), supplemented with vitamin D pills if necessary, is a good regiment.

You'll get more exercise. If you make getting outside a goal, that should mean less time in front of the television and computer and more time walking and doing other things that put the body in motion.

You'll be happier. Light tends to elevate people's mood, and there's usually more light available outside than in. Physical activity has been shown to help people relax and cheer up, so if being outside replaces inactive pursuits with active ones, it might also mean more smiles.

You may heal faster. In one study, people recovering from spinal surgery experienced less pain and stress and took fewer pain medications when they were exposed to natural light. An older study showed that the view out the window (trees vs. a brick wall) helped recovery in the hospital.

As Nevadans, we are lucky to have such diverse outdoor and natural areas to explore and so many environments available to us. Set some goals, coordinate with friends, and get outdoors this season and see how much better you feel both mentally and physically.

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

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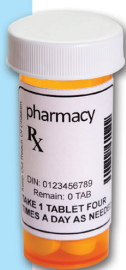
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Queenie Says

[by Queenie Says]
Got a question? Email
queeniesays@qvegas.com

I recently started dating a guy who really loves out door activities; I however prefer to stay out of the sun and away from the elements. How do I maintain this budding relationship without keeping him from his love of the outdoors?

-Terrified of the Sun-

Dear Terrified,

I am way too familiar with this scenario my dear, I too avoid the elements when possible. My milky white skin tone has all the charm of an albino in winter. However, I would highly recommend that you broaden your horizons a bit. If you truly like this guy then perhaps you should bite the bullet and join him for a walk in nature. Just grab a bottle of sunscreen with an spf of 30-50 and you should be good to go.

I really want to take my boyfriend on an old fashioned picnic this summer but haven't the slightest idea on what to make or bring. What would you recommend?

-Food for thought-

Dear Food for thought,

SAUSAGE!!!! In every sense of the word!!! Oh and a red gingham blanket because... you know.

I recently moved to Las Vegas and am a huge nature guy, I have heard that Vegas has some great places to go hiking and enjoy the out doors. Any suggestions as to where I should go for my day of fun outside?

-Adventurer-

Dear Adventurer,

I usually don't go hiking as I find it's a bitch on my ankles to navigate the rocky terrain in my heels, however if your looking for adventure and breathtaking views of the city and the surrounding mountains then Red Rock Canyon is the place for you. It's just west of the city and easy to get too. Just make sure to bring the right pair of pumps with you.

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