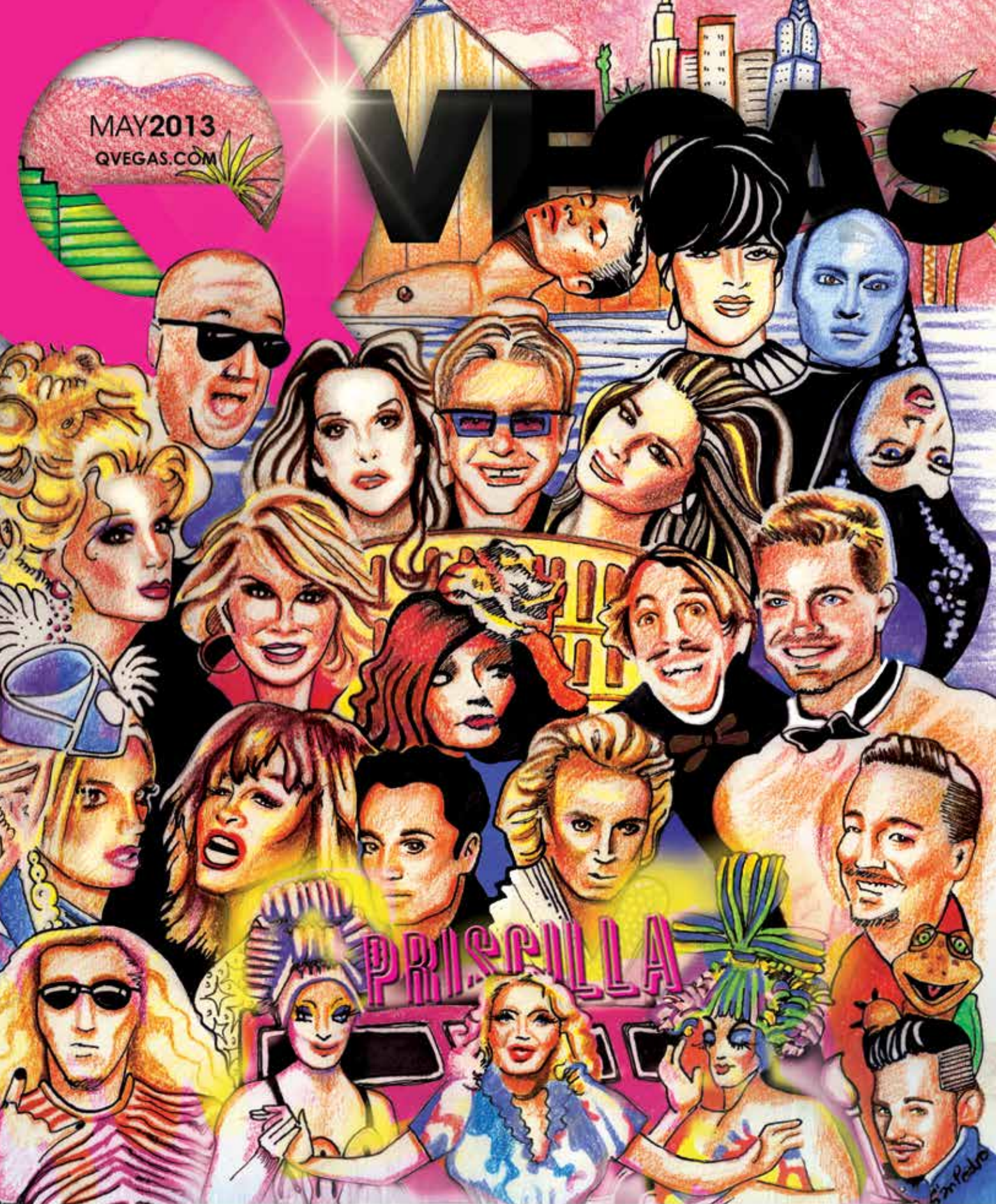


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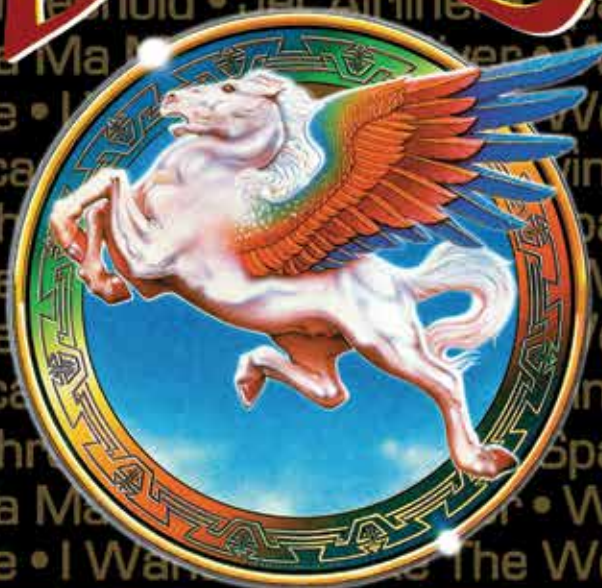
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I'll join this conversation on the proviso that we stop bitching about people, talking about wigs, dresses, bust sizes, penises, drugs, night clubs, and bloody Abba!

Doesn't give us much to talk about then, does it?

ON THE COVER

Celebrity artist Nick San Pedro has painted and created digital artwork for several QVegas covers. This marks his first hand drawn cover.

Check out more of his artwork on his official website at www.SanPedroStudio.com

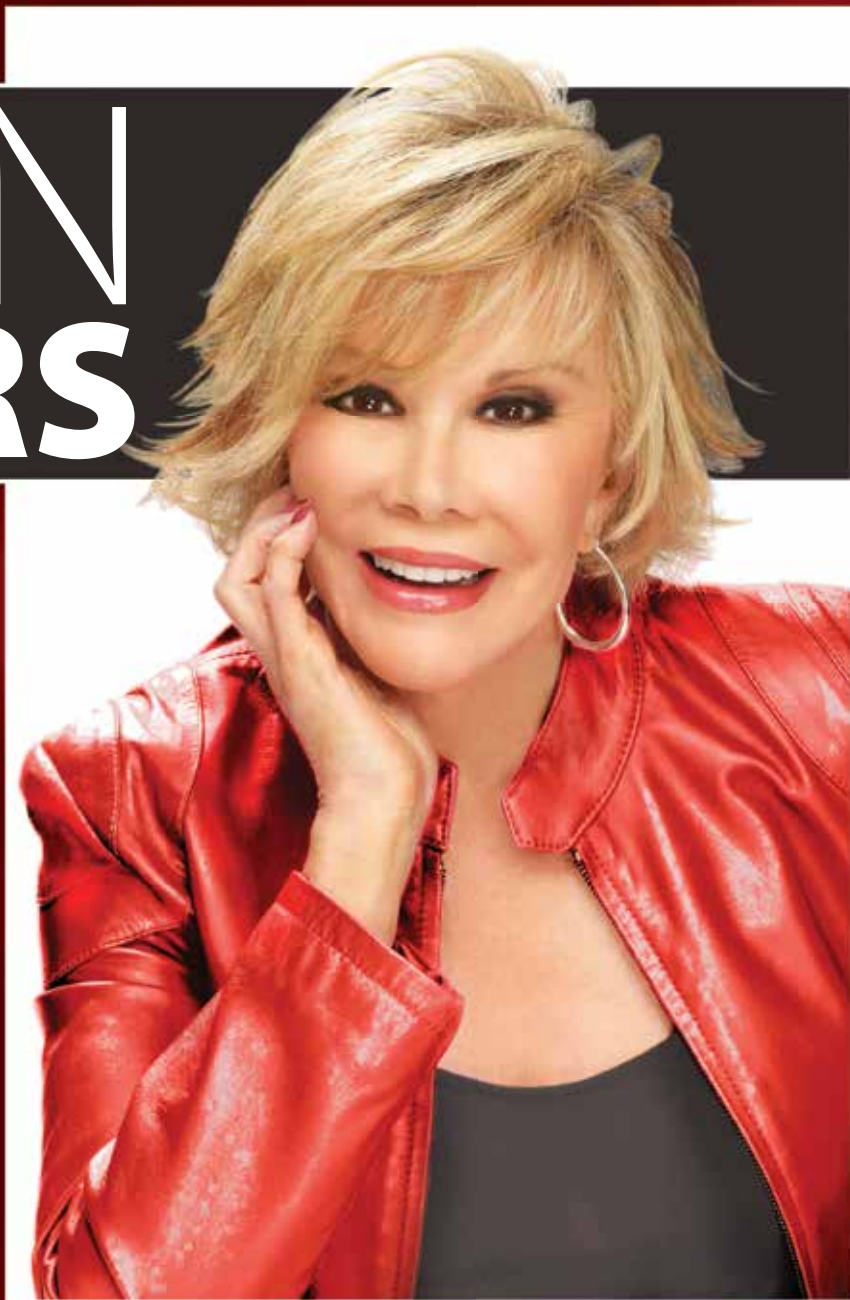


From Top: Mackenzie Claude, Michael Barbieri, Edie from Zumanity, Blue Man Group, Frank Marino from Divas Las Vegas at The Quad, Joan Rivers, Penny Pibbets & Gazillionaire from Absinthe, Jaymes Vaughan from Chippendales, Derrick Barry as Britney Spears, Larry Edwards as Tina Turner, Roy Horn, Siegfried Fischbacher, Terry Fator with Winston The Turtle, Kyle Lowder as Stacey Jaxx in Rock of Ages, Wade McCollum, Scott Willis & Bryan West from Priscilla Queen of The Desert The Musical, Celebrity Artist Nick San Pedro.

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a note from our Editor

A DESERT HOLIDAY, HIP HIP HIP HOORAY!

Priscilla Queen of the Desert the musical is an OUTrageously funny show that tells an uplifting story of a trio of friends, on a road trip of a lifetime, who hop aboard a battered old bus searching for love and friendship in the middle of the Australian outback and end up discovering more than they could have ever imagined. Get ready let your great big sequined heart fall in love with the new production coming to The Venetian June 18 through August 31. Tickets are on sale now and the #QCrew has you covered. For huge savings on tickets use the promo code **QVEGAS** before June 1st.

Las Vegas is the entertainment capital of the world and I don't see that changing anytime soon. There's a little piece of Sin City for everyone to indulge in. Take a gamble on any restaurant Michael Barbieri has dined in and I'm betting your taste buds will savor a piece of glory. Fitness buffs and health nuts, there's always a date to save and fun Walk to join to raise awareness and make a difference.

Has the glitter of Las Vegas caught your eye? Perhaps it was all the eye candy? Joining the "the most-wanted men in Vegas!" is 90210 heart throb Ian Ziering at the Rio All-Suite Hotel. Don't miss his headlining debut from June 6th through June 30th.

May is the QVEGAS Entertainment issue and we enlisted the help of our artistic friend Nick San Pedro. His hand-drawn creation was inspired by the PROUD Las Vegas stars who light up this city day and night.

But Vegas is also much more than glitz and glamour. Our allies in the legislative system have stood up for equality.

Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/qvegasmagazine) and follow us on Twitter (@qvegas) to be the first to know about our new events and possibly participate in upcoming QVegas stories. By joining the #QCrew social network you can also get a chance to win some exciting giveaways throughout the year.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

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



Love is equal and HRC would like to share your love at the 8th annual Las Vegas Gala on May 18th. Take a picture with this ad on page 12 and Tweet to @HRC_Las Vegas

We Senator Pat Spearman to share insight on the path to marriage equality in Nevada. Find this story in the Last Word on page 70.

The evolving Qmmunity is a testament of our PRIDE. Las Vegas' LGBTQ are some of the most beautiful, most charming, and most passionate residents. The month of May marks both my three-year anniversary as a resident as well as my 12-month anniversary as Editor in Chief. Even in this considerably short amount of time, I have fallen in love with Las Vegas.

Viva Las Vegas!

Janise "Noah" Henderson

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Sunnylands, 1963–1966, A. Quincy Jones. Photo: Julius Shulman and Juergen Nogai, 2007. © Juergen Nogai

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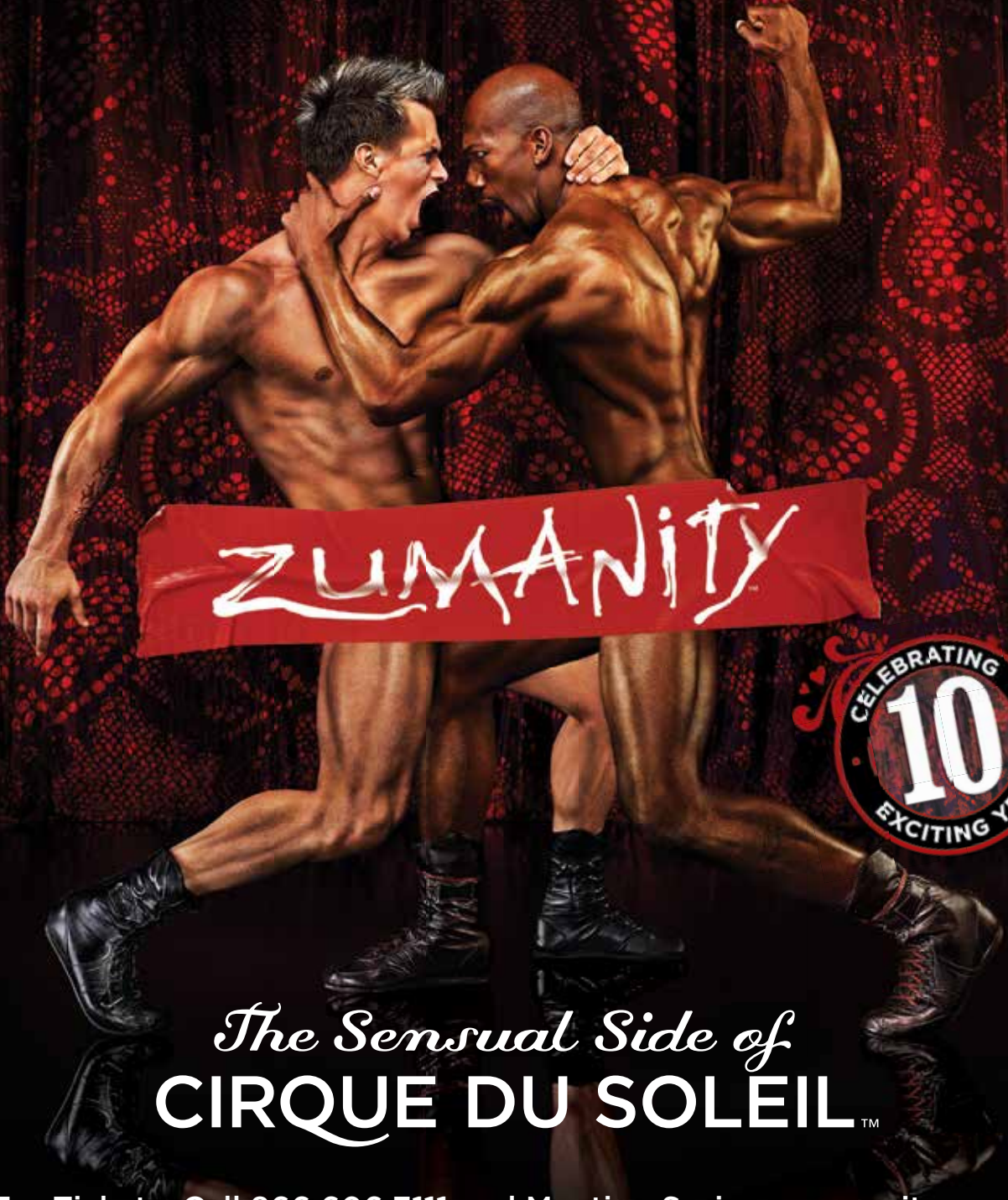
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HRC Las Vegas to Honor Community Leaders and Champion Equality at 8th Annual Gala Dinner

By Antonia Smith

Once a year, in cities across the nation, local steering committees of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) host their largest fundraising event, the Gala Dinner. This event provides an ideal setting and opportunity to deliver the organization's key messages, acknowledge and celebrate the victories of the previous years, and raise money to support its mission of equality for all.

Each and every year, Las Vegas volunteers donate time to put together a gala dinner that will outshine the last; working logistically to ensure attendees will have an unforgettable time. From the presenters to the live entertainment, and down to the food and venue, there is sure to be something available to tickle everyone's fancy. The Dinner will also be new HRC president Chad Griffin's first in Las Vegas. In a year where there has been so much significant movement on priority issues for the organization on a national level, his notes—which should touch on our advances of the past twelve months—are sure to galvanize all attendees and renew their commitment to what lies ahead.

This year the HRC Las Vegas Annual Gala will be held at the ARIA Resort & Casino at CityCenter on May 18th. The event's theme, Love Is =, is centered around family, and in this case, the term 'family' is left to individual interpretation, as there can be no true definition of what makes a family a family, though the common denominator is usually love. "Whether it's the one that you're given or the one that you've created for yourself, I think everyone can connect with the idea of family and the idea of



being part of a whole that's loving, supporting and celebrates who you are" says Charles Béraud, one of this year's three dinner co-Chairs. "It's a group of people who might have very disparate interests but remain bound to one another, and come together in good and hard times. In my family, the moments when we celebrate, or gather to make important decisions usually take place around a table, a meal. Maybe our dinner can be that—a moment when the entire family gathers around a meal to celebrate and discuss important issues."

The 2013 Equality Awards will be presented at the dinner: one to Roger Thomas, the second to John Klai and Jonathan Sparer. All three are recognized for their remarkable contributions to the local community

as well as for their support of the LGBT community nationally. All three of these individuals are major donors to the Gay and Lesbian Center, HIV/AIDS prevention, research and treatment, and offer other philanthropic aid across the nation. Not only have Roger, Jon, and John contributed financially to these causes, but have also volunteered their time for numerous organizations, serving on boards for KNPR, The Center, the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, and the Smith Center to name a few. "Roger Thomas, John Klai, and Jon Sparer are shining examples of community engagement and have been very generous to the community.

>>CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



The New LGBTQ Center A Grand Opening To Remember...

[by Charles Béraud]

On Saturday, April 6, The Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada opened the doors to its new multi-million dollar Robert L. Forbuss Building, located at 401 S. Maryland Parkway in Downtown Las Vegas, with a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration. The day was proclaimed by the city as "The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada Day."

Throughout the weekend, nearly 1,000 people came to The Center. Many dignitaries and local personalities also showed up in support for The Center's expanded presence including Congresswoman Dina Titus, Mayor Carolyn Goodman, Councilman Bob Coffin, City Manager Betsy Fretwell, Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Assemblyman James Healey, Zappos founder Tony Hsieh, representatives from UFC, Cox Communications, Caesars Entertainment, MGM Resorts International, Station Casinos and more.

The celebration featured food and beverage offerings from The Center's in-house dining establishment, Bronze Café. Serving hearty and healthy salads, sandwiches, vegan side dishes, delectable desserts and a comprehensive beverage menu, Bronze Café is a fabulous addition to The Center's new home and a necessary source of conscious meal offerings for the Downtown scene. Sweet Spot Candy Shop, another new staple to Downtown Las Vegas, provided a candy buffet for the grand opening as well.



>>CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

They have done so through philanthropic support, action-based personal involvement and board service" says Tom Kovach, dinner co-Chair. Roger, Jon, and John have been long-time supporters of HRC Las Vegas since its beginnings ten years ago offering gala dinner and picnic sponsorships, holding major donor roles and HRC Federal Club memberships. With such astounding backgrounds, Roger, Jon, and John still manage to put their families first and are loving and devoted fathers. They are true depictions of Love is equal.

HRC Las Vegas will also present the Equality in the Community award to Lydia Toscano-Corbett, We Are Family, and Yvette Williams for outstanding work in the community.

Lydia Toscano-Corbett: Lydia serves on the board of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center and has been a straight ally in the LGBTQ community for many years. In addition to her work in the LGBTQ community, Lydia has also been a very strong supporter and advocate for the Latino community.

We Are Family: We Are Family is a local organization that supports LGBT parents or soon-to-be parents by providing them with resources, educational forums, and ways of connecting to other LGBT parents of similar backgrounds.

Yvette Williams: Yvette founded the Black Caucus in 2008 to keep the African-American community informed and engaged in political processes following the election. She has been the recipient of several awards due to her contributions to the community and is a supporter of SJR13 repealing the marriage ban on same-sex couples in Nevada.

"It's always been important for us to recognize the myriad contributions made by members of our community at a grassroots level and brings the battle for the hearts and minds to places of person-to-person dialogue", says Latoya Holman, dinner co-Chair. "And by our community, I mean all of us. If HRC is the largest advocacy group for the advancement of LGBTQ rights in the nation, it's in part because of the unwavering support of its straight allies, hundreds of which



attend the dinner every year."

If you would like to assist by volunteering for the event, becoming a table captain, or for other information, please send an email to: lvgalavolunteers@gmail.com.

Tickets are on sale NOW at www.hrc.org/boxoffice so please purchase yours today! ■

FREEZONE 16 YEARS IN THE LOOP

By Miranda Boyd

May, 2012, QVegas was proud to acknowledge FreeZone, one of the community's most treasured clubs. A month before that article, FreeZone's owner, Kaye Taylor, turned over the business to PJ Brazier and Kaye's son, Russ Taylor. Now, just past the one-year anniversary of that changeover, FreeZone is seeing another wealth of growth and change.

"The biggest part that's changed since we took over is we're more focused on customer service, making sure our customers have the best experience possible, for not a ton of money" said Brazier with the sounds of bottles clinking in the background of the phone conversation. "We're trying to make a night out that's fun and affordable instead of breaking the bank to go out and have a good time."

That dedication to the patrons who make FreeZone possible is something Brazier has seen since the beginning; and it's something he, along with cohorts

Russ Taylor and Peter Jobson, plan to continue prioritizing because, as Brazier notes, "they're the reason we've been here sixteen years."

In line with that commitment to customer satisfaction, some changes have come to the customs at FreeZone. "We've kind of relaxed a little bit on all the rules that used to be in place before we took over, as far as being really strict on the dress code--all the basic, you-can't-do-this, you-can't-do-that. We kind of backed off on that a little bit because the whole point of going out is to have a good time."

Over the last year, improvements and remodels have been another focus of the new ownership. "We've updated things just to make it more customer friendly. We're in the process of, in this next year, redoing the bathrooms and taking up the ceiling. So there's a lot more to come."

FreeZone will be celebrating the anniversary with gaming promotions,

weekly slot tournaments for cash and prizes, and bottle service to winners who don't get the grand prize.

With 16 years under its belt, and a new, yet seasoned, owner at the helm, the future for FreeZone is looking bright. Hosting the longest running bar drag show in Las Vegas, as well as nToxxicated with Diva Toxxx, FreeZone remains an icon in the LGBT scene. As Brazier explains, "The names might have changed but the show's the same!" ■

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THE NEW CENTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Last year, The Center assisted more than 36,000 individuals. Now, in its more visible capacity at the state-of-the-art Robert L. Forbuss Building, The Center plans to accommodate even more people by growing programs and services.

What The Center Offers...

The Center will keep all of the programming offered at its old location, but will also begin strategically expanding the existing programs as well as adding new options to better serve the community. Some of the new ventures, which will inevitably involve more new staff members being hired on at The Center, include bisexual programming, expanded transgender and senior resources, more options for middle aged individuals, programs for families, caregivers and toddlers, and even additional services in the health and wellness center. ■

Check out the full list of existing programs that you can join now at The Center:

- **Gay Men's Forum (Wed., 6 - 7 pm)**
Information and support group open to all who identify as gay or bisexual and male
- **L-Group (Fri., 7 - 8 pm)**
Non-age specific social group for women
- **Trans.lation (Fri., 5:30 - 6:30 pm)**
Social and support group open to all transgender people and their loved ones of all ages
- **Out of the (Gender) Box (Biweekly on Tuesdays, 7 - 8 pm)**
Bi-weekly discussion group for people of all gender identities and expressions
- **Vegas MPowerment Project (Mon., Wed. and Fri. at 7 pm)**
Social and support group for 18-29 year old gay, bisexual and transgender men
- **Wise Womyn (Wed., 12 - 1 pm)**
Discussion group for mature lesbians
- **R.U.1.2. Youth Group (Thu., 6 - 7 pm)**
Discussion and support group for LGBTQ youth and allies ages 13-24
- **Youth Activity Night (Thu., 6 - 7 p.m.)**
Social group for youth ages 13-14
- **17-24 (Thu., 7 - 8 p.m.)**
Discussion and support group for LGBTQ youth and allies ages 17-24
- **Evolve (Thu., 5 - 6 p.m.)**
Leadership development group with membership attendance requirements for youth ages 13-24



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Betty's Outrageous Adventures: Celebrating 12-Years in Las Vegas

By Miranda Boyd

Currently boasting nearly 3000 members, the Betty's have grown from a small group of friends gathering for hikes to an organization cherished and supported by the community.

When the bar scene becomes stale and the clubs lose their appeal, or if they never had any to begin with, lesbians in Las Vegas need an outlet around which they can gather, commune and share activities. Enter Betty's Outrageous Adventures.

Started twelve years ago this month, the Betty's continue to fill a need and be a presence in the community. "Nancy Mallette (The Betty's' founder) and her friends were looking for way to gather women outside of the bars and do fun outdoor activities" says current Betty's President Cindi Hall. "Over the years the group has grown along with the variety of activities."

From monthly dinners, coffee socials, and poker parties, to activities like hiking, bowling, camping and much more; Betty's Outrageous Adventures lives up to its name. Helping members connect with one another in exciting ways, the Betty's are a social organization with an altruistic purpose. "Our primary mission is to provide a variety of activities in which lesbians can develop friendships and a sense of community within the greater Las Vegas area."

While the activities, like indoor rock climbing or speed dating, allow for that sense of adventure, more specialized events allow the Betty's to engage with and help strengthen the community. "In the last few years, through the generosity of our Betty's

at our dances and donation drives, we've been able to donate several thousands of dollars to organizations such as Safe Nest, Noah's Animal Shelter, Shade Tree and R.U.1.2. Youth Group at The Center."

Another program, called Betty's Helpers, works through Betty's members lending their hands to other local organizations like Three Square Food Bank, St. Therese Food Bank and the Sin City Sisters. Through all these efforts, the Betty's are showing that the gay community has a great deal to offer everyone--adventure and assistance.

Currently boasting nearly 3000 members, the Betty's have grown from a small group of friends gathering for hikes to an organization cherished and supported by the community. On Saturday, May 11 they'll be celebrating that anniversary and achievement at Mangos Beach Bar from 7 PM to midnight. "We have lots of goodies planned for this momentous occasion. It'll be a free event open to the entire community. We'll be serving lots of fun munchies and we're going to have radio show performer/stand up comic/actress/singer the amazing Shree Lewis as our special guest star--plus a few other surprises!"

Through community involvement, personal connection and honestly outrageous adventures, the Betty's



are providing lesbians in Las Vegas an opportunity often lacking in the bars and clubs. Through their unique social and community events and activities, the Betty's have become, and are sure to remain, a positive force in the Las Vegas community for women. ■

For more information about Betty's Outrageous Adventures, to register as a member or to see what events are coming up on their calendar, go to www.bettysout.com.

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2 STEPS FORWARD...

[By Miranda Boyd]

Here we highlight some of the accomplishments achieved over the past month. This is but a taste of all the progress made and all the victories won by LGBT and Ally individuals and organizations constantly striving for full equality and an end to discrimination.

URUGUAY LEGALIZES GAY MARRIAGE

"We are living a historic moment," said Federico Grana, a leader of the Black Sheep Collective, a gay rights group that drafted the proposal. That history was evident when 71 of the 92 present members of Uruguay's Chamber of Deputies voted to make Uruguay the third nation in the Americas to allow gay people the right to marry. The Uruguayan law goes beyond the simplest definitions of marriage equality. The terms, "husband and wife" will be removed from marriage contracts and replaced with, "contracting parties." And the legal age of consent for marriage will be raised to sixteen for everyone.



DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

DOMA, which was signed into law by President Clinton, prevents the United States federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages. This month the U.S. Supreme Court heard the first arguments on behalf of Edith Windsor who is suing to challenge the estate taxes levied against her following the death of her wife, Thea Spyer. Windsor, who married Spyer in Canada in 2007, is arguing that, since she would have been exempt from the \$363,000 in taxes had Spyer been a man, DOMA violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

PROPOSITION 8

In 2008, citizens in California voted to ban gay marriage in their state. On behalf of two same-sex couples, two prominent attorneys, Theodore B. Olson and David Boies, who famously faced each other in *Bush v. Gore*, together challenged the proposition as violating the federal Constitution. Following a trial, Proposition 8 was struck down by a judge in San Francisco. Proponents of Prop. 8 have appealed the issue all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the first arguments were recently heard.

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN SENATOR SUPPORTS MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) announced his support of marriage equality becoming the second Republican senator to do so, following Rob Portman (R-Ohio). Kirk is now among the majority of United States senators who support equality. Kirk recently blogged, "When I climbed the Capitol steps in January, I promised myself that I would return to the Senate with an open mind and greater respect for others." He went on to say, "Life comes down to who you love and who loves you back--government has no place in the middle."

HOMOPHOBIA IN FRANCE

As a gay marriage bill moves through the French government, civil strife is affecting the lives of gay citizens of France. One victim of the homophobic violence shared images of his bruised and bloodied face on his Facebook page. Wilfred de Bruijn and his boyfriend were assaulted in Paris. He posted with the picture, "Sorry to show you this. It's the face of homophobia. Last night 19th arr, Paris, Olivier and I were badly beaten just for walking arm in arm. I woke up in an ambulance covered in blood, missing tooth and broken bones around the eye. I'm home now. Very sad."

As we move ever forward, we must pause to acknowledge the backslides. Here we show the defeats suffered recently at the hands of adversaries and the misguided who continue to deny the rights, respect and beauty of us all.

1 STEP BACK



CHILD PROTESTS INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Outside the Green Street United Methodist Church in Winston Salem, North Carolina, which vowed last month to stop performing any marriages until gay marriage was recognized, a young boy stood holding a sign reading, "Jesus must be your lord or he will never be your savior." The youth shouted that homosexuals were, "Worthy of death," and proclaimed that, "It's time to stop sinning and follow the Lord Jesus Christ!" Members of the church walked past the child sorrowfully, some attempting to give him a hug, which he refused.

TIRADE AGAINST TRANSGENDER FIGHTER

Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) heavyweight Matt Mitrione spouted his feelings regarding MMA fighter Fallon Fox, who recently came out as a transgender woman. Mitrione said of Fox, "He's chromosomally a man. He had a gender change, not a sex change. He's still a man." He went on to call Fallon, "disgusting" and "an embarrassment." UFC has suspended Mitrione and openly stated, "The UFC is a friend and ally of the LGBT community, and expects and requires all 450 of its athletes to treat others with dignity and respect." Fallon Fox currently has a record of five wins and zero losses.

"GAY PANIC" DEFENSE

Marco McMillian, an openly gay mayoral candidate in Clarksdale, Mississippi, was murdered in February. In March, the local sheriffs charged Lawrence Reed of Shelby, Miss., with the crime. Reed's family is now asserting that McMillian made unwanted advances toward Reed which caused him to panic and murder McMillian. Since Mississippi doesn't recognize sexual orientation as a basis for hate-crime protection, the FBI is considering whether to charge Reed under federal hate-crime laws. According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, McMillian was "One of the 1st viable openly #LGBT candidates in Mississippi."

THAT'S SO Vegas

Tidbits from The Strip & Beyond

MAY 2013	JUNE 2013	JULY 2013
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
28 29 30 1 2 3 4	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
26 27 28 29 30 31 1	30 1 2 3 4 5 6	28 29 30 31



WEDNESDAY MAY 1 LAS VEGAS PRIDE FAMILY BINGO: PROM BINGO

Color of the evening is Purple. Please bring your prom date and make this a night to remember. Special performances by bingo host Norma Llyman and Diana Prince. Join the PRIDE Family for SNAPI Hour from 6pm-7pm featuring \$4 Absolut and Malibu Mixed Drinks. \$4 Barefoot Wine and \$15 bubbly champagne. This smoke-free event features bingo games, raffles, lucky ducks, great food, PRIDE Plinko, great raffle prizes and more at the Circus Circus Las Vegas Hotel & Casino on the Strip.

QVEGAS BUSINESS ALLIANCE MAY LUNCHEON: TOP OF THE WORLD RESTAURANT

Bring your business cards, flyers, a friend and a smile and join the QVegas Business alliance for some high altitude networking at the Top of the World restaurant at the Stratosphere Las Vegas. Admission for QBA members and their guest is \$15. Not a QBA member? Join Today by emailing qba@qvegas.com or visit qvegasba.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 4 QVOLUTION PRESENTS: "GAYMER"

It's time to get your "gayme" on at this year's LGBTQ Youth Prom! Old school video games and 8-bit graphics will run amok as QVolution presses start on an amazing dance adventure! Anyone and everyone ages 13-24 are welcome at prom. A \$5 donation for admission is asked, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Prom is a serious event, and QVolution wants everyone to feel encouraged to dress as their favorite video game character! If you're down to wear prom attire, that's great too! If neither one suits your fancy, just know that ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS are allowed at prom! Dance, snack and get your photo taken at this vintage gaming prom!

SUNDAYS

- Showtunes High Tea at FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- The Affair @ The Boulevard Theater
- Pride Pajama Brunch Bingo (bi-monthly)
- Charlie's Amazing Drag Show @ Charlie's LV
- "She's Dope" Ladies Night @ FreeZone

MONDAYS

- Speak Easy Monday with Jessica Rabbit @ Piranha
- QSocial Ladies Event (Every 2nd Monday)
- Boys Night at Entourage Men's Spa
- Karaoke Night @ FreeZone
- Sin Monday's @ The Garage LV
- Liquor Bust @ Spotlight Lounge

TUESDAYS

- Karaoke Night @ FreeZone
- QSocial with Terry Hernandez
- Quesdays at DB's Pong & Pool
- Latin Night at Entourage Men's Spa
- Drag Queen Bingo @ Charlie's LV

WEDNESDAYS

- QBA Luncheon (Every 1st Weds.)
- Pride Bingo @ Circus Circus (Every 1st Weds.)
- The Grand Tea Room with D. Pendvis @ Pulse LV
- Skin/Underware Night @ Charlie's LV
- Gay Men's Mpowerment Groups @ The Center
- Ntoxxicated- Diva Toxxx Drag Show at FreeZone

THURSDAYS

- Dark & Double Thursdays at Entourage Men's Spa
- POP Thursdays @ Share Nightclub
- Nothing But Country Thursdays @ Charlie's LV
- Prism @ The Artifice (Every 2nd Thurs.)
- Boys Night @ FreeZone
- Le'd Back Thursdays @ Drink & Drag

FRIDAYS

- Stripper Circus @ Share Nightclub
- 3D Fridays @ Piranha
- Packed House @ Entourage Men's Spa
- Drag Madness @ FreeZone
- Addicted to DRAG @ Flex Lounge

SATURDAYS

- SNAPI Saturdays @ Charlie's LV
- Porn Stars in Vegas @ Share Nightclub
- Goddess Saturdays with India Farrah @ Piranha
- Packed House @ Entourage Men's Spa
- Ladies Night at FreeZone
- Drag Madness @ FreeZone
- What a DRAG @ Flex
- CumUnion @ Hawk's Gym

SUNDAY, MAY 5 SHE'S DOPE: AN ALL FEMALE SHOWCASE AT FREEZONE

Originating in 2008 as an annual event featuring some of the most influential women in the Southwest, 2013 SHE'S DOPE (Divine, Oracle, Phenomenon, Entity) will showcase monthly Old School Selectah DUWOProse The Vinylist, providing uplifting beats every 1st Sunday of the month. Join these D.O.P.E women 9PM-1 Sunday, May 5th at FreeZone for poetry by The Freshest Twins featuring Alexa Juarez and emcees Lady L.U.S.T & NEB Luv.

MONDAY, MAY 6 UNLV SPECTRUM: DRAG SHOW

Spectrum is bringing Ball culture to Vegas and they want you to have fun and enjoy this FREE event open to the public. The 2nd Annual Drag Show will take place Monday, May 6th inside the UNLV Student Union room 208a-c. Sure to be even more exciting and fantastical than last year, the Drag Show features world-class talent and performers. The Drag Show is comprised of four different components: Drag Performance, Talent Show, Amateur Drag Race, and Vogue Battle. Sign-ups are welcome for the Talent, Amateur Drag, and Vogue portions so get your practice on and compete for your trophy. If interested in any or all of the components or for more information, send an e-mail to unlvpectrum@gmail.com and tell them what you wish to sign-up for.

FRIDAY MAY 10 BIG HORN RODEO 16 - RIDING INTO THE NIGHT

The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association presents: Bighorn Rodeo 16, "Riding into the Night" over Mother's Day Weekend (May 9 -12, 2013) at Horseman's Park located at 5800 East Flamingo Road. That's right, this year they are having a nighttime rodeo on Friday and Saturday starting at 4:00pm and for only a \$5 admission. Gay Rodeo isn't your typical rodeo, y'all! NGRA is an affiliate of the International Gay Rodeo Association with 28

associations throughout the United States and Canada. Events in gay rodeo include rough stock (chute dogging, bull riding, and steer riding), speed (barrel racing, pole bending, and flag racing), and roping events (calf roping on foot, mounted break-away, and team roping). Unique to gay rodeo are the camp events (steer decorating, goat dressing, and wild drag). The Bighorn 16 Rodeo is under the leadership of Rodeo Director Laura Scott and Assistant Rodeo Directors Douglas Graff and Matt Cox.

SATURDAY MAY 11 THE BETTY'S: BACK TO THE BEACH

Join the Betty board and all the rest of The Betty's as they go "Back to the Beach" to celebrate 12 fabulous Betty years! Spend the night dancing and celebrating under the stars at Mango's Beach Bar, 6650 W. Vegas Dr. (at Rainbow Blvd). Come early for a special "Betty's Happy Hour" from 7pm to 8pm with drink specials and FREE gifts. At 8pm a super special guest, direct from her own nightly radio show "On Your Mind with Schree and Baby", the totally unpredictable and outrageous comedy of actress, model, and stand-up comedian (and one of our very own Bettys!) the hysterical, Schree Lewis! Her comedy is completely improvisational and you NEVER know what is going to come out of her mouth! Plus there will be lots of snacks, contests, a raffle, and other surprise! All women 21+ are welcome! For EVERYTHING Schree' and Baby check out their website at www.schreeandbaby.com

TUESDAY MAY 14 NUETRA BELLEZA GAY 2013 (MISS GAY LATINA 2013)

Piranha Nightclub in the Loop will play host to Chino and Las Sirenas Entertainment presenting a beauty pageant like no other with over \$3,750 in cash and prizes. Come OUT and support your favorite lady and meet the new Queen Latina 2013. Competition is fierce for the most prestigious Latin title in Las Vegas. Let the battle begin.

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FRIDAY, MAY 17 LGBT CENTER : INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA (IDAHO)

IDAHO was conceived in 2004 to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1990. A year long campaign culminated in the first IDAHO on May 17, 2005. 24,000 individuals as well as organizations such as the International Gay and Lesbian Association, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the World Congress of LGBT Jews, and the Coalition of African Lesbians signed an appeal to support the IDAHO initiative. A new petition was launched in cooperation with LGBT organizations, and it was supported by more than 300 NGO's from 75 countries, as well as three Nobel Prize Winners (Elfriede Jelinek,

Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, and Luc Montagnier. Join the Qmmunity at the new LGBTQ Center at 401 S. Maryland Parkway at 7pm for food, drinks, music, and survivor testimony. This event is co-sponsored by the African Rights Activists Group, LGBT Center, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas, Gender Justice Nevada and Women's Studies Program.

SATURDAY, MAY 18 EQUALITY CELEBRATION

Dr. Diane Bernard and Chris McArdle invite you to join Academy Award Winner Dustin Lance Black in honoring Matt Marten & Terry Marten for their unparalleled contribution to creating a fair and just Utah. Become a friend of equality, and join Equality Utah for an evening filled with great music, a terrific silent auction, a delicious dinner and an inspiring program May 18th, 2013

at the Dixie Convention Center in St. George, Utah. Equality Utah is the state's largest policy and advocacy organization, working to secure equal right and protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Utahns and their families.

FRIDAY, MAY 24 MATINÉE LAS VEGAS: FEEL THE REVOLUTION

Matinée launches revolution in Sin City with a 4-day weekend spectacular: Matine Las Vegas Festival. Get an addition 5% OFF your ticket today when you enter QVEGAS on checkout. Weekend passes start at \$99. The exclusive and luxurious Rumor Hotel is the host hotel and suites start at \$129/night. Rumor guests will receive complimentary shuttle service to all weekend events. Purchase tickets today and find more details about Matinée Las Vegas Festival by logging onto www.matineevegas.com.

Join the local movement
for equality...



3rd ANNUAL EQUALITY CELEBRATION COME OUT FOR EQUALITY MAY 18, 2013

Dr. Diane Bernard & Chris McArdle invite you to join
Academy Award Winner

Dustin Lance Black

in honoring

Matt Marten & Terry Marten

for their unparalleled contribution to
creating a fair and just Utah.

Become a friend of equality, and
join Equality Utah for an evening
filled with great music, a terrific
silent auction, a delicious dinner
and an inspiring program
featuring the Academy Award
Winning Screenwriter of "MILK"
Dustin Lance Black.

May 18, 2013
Dixie Convention Center
St. George, Utah



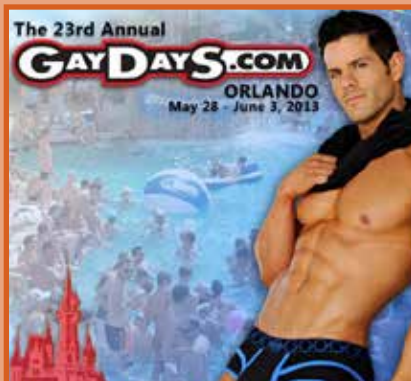
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UPCOMING LGBT EVENTS LONG BEACH PRIDE

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May 30 - June 2

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UPCOMING PRIDE FESTIVALS

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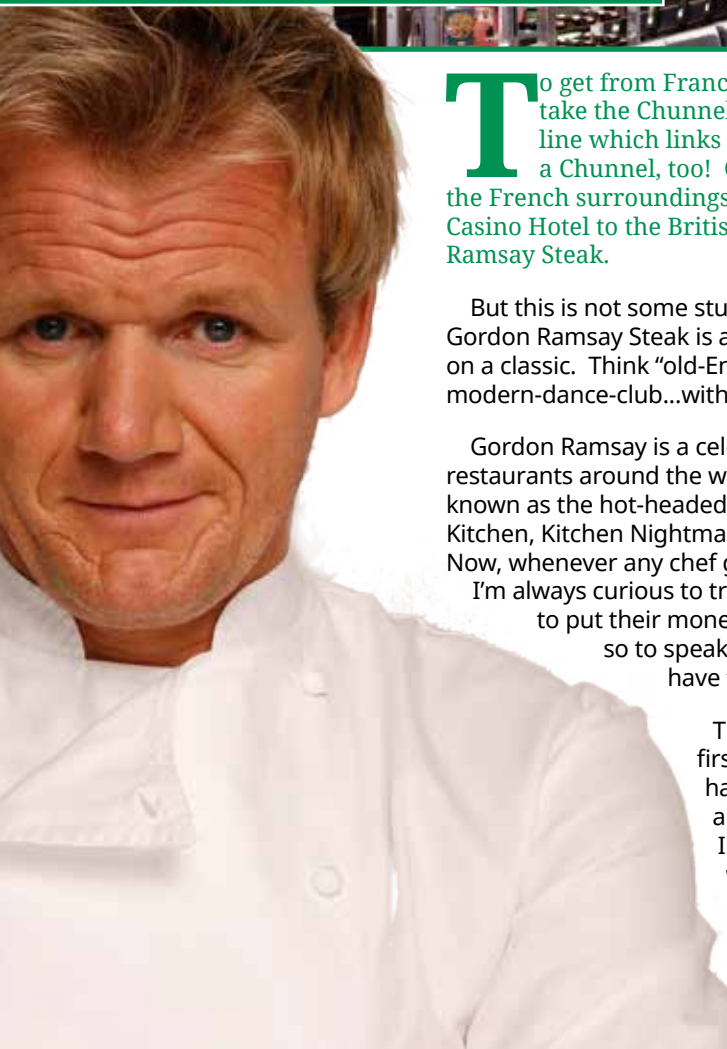
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EATING OUT

By Michael Barbieri
myvegasobsession.com



Gordon Ramsay Steak



To get from France to England, you can take the Chunnel, the undersea rail line which links them. Las Vegas has a Chunnel, too! One which connects the French surroundings at the Paris Las Vegas Casino Hotel to the British world of Gordon Ramsay Steak.

But this is not some stuffy English steakhouse. Gordon Ramsay Steak is a hip, contemporary take on a classic. Think "old-English-library-meets-hot-modern-dance-club...with fabulous steaks!"

Gordon Ramsay is a celebrity chef with restaurants around the world. He may be best known as the hot-headed star of television's *Hell's Kitchen*, *Kitchen Nightmares*, and *Masterchef*. Now, whenever any chef gains such iconic stature, I'm always curious to try their food. I want them to put their money where their mouth is, so to speak. What would Ramsay have to offer?

The opening of Ramsay's first Las Vegas restaurant had been eagerly anticipated and from what I had heard, reservations were still hard to come by. My friend Danny

and I had planned a Vegas trip for November of 2012, and knew this was the one place we had to eat! Seeing how it might be tough to get in, we made our reservations in person. The gorgeous young hostess out front was quite friendly and attitude-free, and she found us a table for a couple of nights later. Perfect! Now we were excited!

Oh! The date of our reservation? November 7th, 2012. Election night!

So, on the night in question, we returned to the Paris, and found a hopping scene at the restaurant's entrance, where the hostesses were clad in sexy but tasteful black minidresses, reminiscent of London in the 60's. Our reservation was confirmed and we were asked to wait a few moments at the bar, so we proceeded through the Chunnel. Yes, there really is a Chunnel - the main entrance is a large tube, through which you access the bar and dining room. The bar and adjacent lounge, dimly lit and very sexy, were fairly crammed with young couples dining, cocktail-ing and having a great time. In no time at

all, our hostess came to take us to our table.

Before seating us, the young lady pointed out a large tangle of red neon, hung in the center of the ceiling, below a prominent Union Jack. She informed us that the neon squiggles were representative of Chef Ramsay's hand movements while making his signature dish, the Beef Wellington. Once at the table, the wine and cocktail list arrived...on an iPad. Clever! I chose an **English Sidecar** and my friend ordered the **HK Antioxidant** - a concoction made with Acai liqueur and muddled blueberries.

Next we got a visit from what I call "The Grand Carousel Of Beef" - a serving trolley with a round steel armature upon which sit the various cuts of beef, on individual rotating discs with pivoting mirrors attached, so you can see each cut from every angle. The server explained that all the beef was hand selected and dry-aged in a Himalayan salt room for 28 days. We studied our menus and placed our orders.

To start, I chose the **Smoked Beef Tartare** - a "patty" of raw ground beef mixed with lemon zest, red onions, and capers, topped with a raw quail egg and whole grain mustard. It was presented under a smoke-filled glass dome, which was lifted to allow the smoke to waft up enticingly. The beef had just a hint of smokiness and the spicing was light and delicate, with the mustard and egg creating a creamy, luxurious mouth-feel. Danny chose the **Maine Lobster** appetizer - a divine, butter poached lobster tail, stuffed with chorizo, served with sweet corn, butternut squash, and root vegetables, in a luscious brandied lobster cream sauce. The lobster was sweet, with the chorizo providing a bit of spice, and the sauce bringing everything together harmoniously. This dish left us practically speechless!

For his entree, Danny chose the **Alaskan Halibut** - a beautifully pan-roasted piece of fish, soft and flaky inside, with a gorgeous golden brown sear on the outside, served with a vivid eggplant puree. This being a steakhouse, however, I chose to go with beef all the way. I selected the **American Kobe Skirt Steak** - an 8 oz. cut of delicious, nicely marbled steak. Flavorful enough on it's own, I chose to top it with **Pan Seared Foie Gras**. The



Gordon Ramsay Steak Roasted Beef Wellington

silky texture and delicate liver flavor of the foie gras enhanced the juicy, perfectly seasoned beef beautifully.

At this point, election results were coming in and we discovered that the couple to one side of us were elated with the impending outcome, while the couple to the other side were rather quiet and sullen. No matter! We joined our fellow Democrats in an impromptu celebration, joking, laughing, and high-fiving each other. We bonded over Democracy and dessert!

Speaking of dessert, Danny's choice, the **S'Mores Cheesecake**, was good, but couldn't hold a candle to mine: Chef Ramsay's signature dessert, the **Sticky Toffee Pudding** - a sort of steamed sponge cake made with finely chopped dates or prunes. The cake, known as a pudding, was served with a caramel toffee sauce and brown butter ice cream, fashioned into what looked like an actual stick of butter. Imagine the best Heath Bar in the world, turned into a perfect, moist little cake. Insanely, addictively yummy, and not to be missed!

I should mention that on a subsequent visit, one month later, I finally sampled the signature dish, the **Roasted Beef Wellington** - a tender filet of beef wrapped in prosciutto, a minced mushroom spread called a *duxelle*, and puff pastry. The whole thing is then baked until golden brown. Here, the Wellington came served with

glazed root vegetables and a smooth potato puree, bisected by a splash of red wine demi-glace. Never having tried Beef Wellington before, I have nothing with which to compare it, and though I would've liked it to have been just a tad hotter when it reached the table, it was still utterly delicious, with the earthiness of the mushrooms and the flavor of the prosciutto complementing the beef perfectly.

At any rate, that first night, Danny and I finished our meal and left, very happy with the election results and even happier with our dinner. Our excitement must've shown, because a woman asked us if we had just eaten at Ramsay's place - she and her husband had reservations for the following evening. We raved about the food and assured her they'd be in excellent hands!

I don't like confrontation, so I'm not a fan of Chef Ramsay's on-screen persona, but like him or not, the man knows what he's doing in the kitchen. His knowledge and experience were also evident in the dining room - the staff was always perfectly on point; from the hot hostesses, to the friendly, enthusiastic servers, to the efficient busboys, everything came together to create quite a show! Gordon Ramsay Steak is sexy, noisy, pricey, and very much about "the show", so for an exciting, entertaining Vegas dining experience like none other, take my advice and TAKE THE CHUNNEL! ■



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ARTIST Profiles

Olympia Dukakis A Rose for the Smith Center For the Performing Arts

By Miranda Boyd



From the horrors of Nazi occupation, to the bright lights of Atlantic City, to the heat of Miami, the saga of *Rose*, an aged Jewish woman alive with the memories of a lifetime spent overcoming, shines to the audience with a glow of wit and humanity. The woman superbly chosen to bring the character of *Rose* to the attention and hearts of the audience is Oscar-winner Olympia Dukakis.

For fourteen years, Dukakis has portrayed *Rose* with the same delight and brevity that the character herself embodies. The excitement involved, the passion for the craft and character, are expressed by Dukakis with the same clarity as she explains, "It changed me as an actress. It really changed me. ... For an hour and a half, the person, the people that you're relating to are the audience, not the other actors. ... Doing that was extraordinary."

Rose was scribed by Martin Sherman, perhaps best known for his Tony-nominated play *Bent*, which graphically depicted the treatment of gays during the holocaust. It was Sherman himself who approached Dukakis about taking on the role of *Rose*. Martin and Dukakis attended graduate school together where, unbeknownst to Dukakis at the time, Martin was in the chorus of a production of *Agamemnon* in which Dukakis was performing. Years later, after moving to England and

becoming a playwright, Martin sought out Dukakis for the role inspired by his own grandmother.

After a run at the National Theatre in London under the direction of Nancy Meckler, the show was brought to New York's Lincoln Center, eventually being taken across the world from Canada to Israel, Greece and more. This month, Dukakis brings the Lawrence Olivier Award-nominated show to the Las Vegas Smith Center for the Performing Arts in a staged reading format sure to captivate and enlighten.

"It has minimal props. The set is very simple. It's a rug, a bench, a little cooler where keeps a bottle of water and a glass." The setting described by Dukakis builds an intriguing image of a simple woman more at peace with the world around her than her experiences would assume. That peace creates an atmosphere through which Dukakis, and *Rose*, teach the audience to view the past as experience, and persevere.

Rose grew up in Russia. After surviving the Warsaw ghetto by hiding in sewers, meeting an American sailor who brought her to the United States on a ship aptly dubbed the *Exodus*, marrying three times and moving from one coast to the other and back, *Rose's* life is a testament to survival and grace. As Dukakis expresses, "She gets through life with humor and transforming. She reinvents herself. We all do. That's kind of wonderful story, to see this woman keep reinventing herself in the face of tragedy, in the face of loss. In the face of opportunity, she just moves about."

The demanding subject matter is tempered with a humor Dukakis delivers well. One theme throughout the piece is *Rose's* repeated inability to distinguish her true memories from those that may be embellished, poorly recalled, or entirely false. That foggy of our own past is something Dukakis understands with a chuckle, "You think you remember something and then you realize, oh no, that really didn't happen that way. Especially when I talk to my brother and we lived through the same situations as kids, and he doesn't remember it my way at all and I don't remember it his. And what's the truth? I don't know. It's someplace in between probably." Those bits of humor keep the tone of *Rose* light and relatable as the truth in the tale unfolds.

Throughout the performance, Dukakis remains seated on a small bench on the stage, facing and focused upon the audience. As she delivers her monologue of history and depth, the purpose behind the telling becomes as significant as the story being told. "The woman is sitting shiva. You realize that. She's sitting shiva on a bench for a little Palestinian girl who was shot by her grandson. And she is very confounded by this situation, and the dreams that she and her generation had for Israel and now what is going on. She has had a terrible argument with her son who is furious at her for doing that, for sitting shiva for the Palestinian girl, and feels like she doesn't understand the situation."



Once your humanity is engaged, you can't go back to indifference. You can't go back to taking sides.
-Olympia Dukakis

Although it was penned over fourteen years ago, and though its subject matter relates to laments of decades past, the poignant and timeless messages of Rose endure with each performance. Through the skillful combination of writing and acting, by creating a moment on a stage and in a theater, the issues of today can be examined in the light of experience and inspiration. "And I think that doing something like Rose does that. It makes it real and it makes it personal to people" Dukakis notes when pondering what we all can take away from Rose. "And I think that's always important. I think it brings a lot more understanding, more compassion, for both sides--a desire to see it resolved."

As the world continues to be burdened by horrors undeserved, art becomes a necessary escape. Characters that inspire us to persevere, that demand of us the same presence and pride exemplified by their voice and victories, bring us closer to the hope that is ultimately envisioned within Rose. That joy is

something Dukakis elegantly conveys as she describes what's kept her coming back to the role of Rose for fourteen years.

"We connect it to human beings, and it's a different feeling. It's a different kind of involvement. You're forced to look at it not as a problem or an issue or something that's happening someplace else. It's part of our lives. It's part of the time that you are living. ... Once your humanity is engaged, you can't go back to indifference. You can't go back to taking sides. Once you understand that people are suffering on all sides, what you want is a resolution that is good for everyone. There's no winning or losing. It's not about that. And I think that the play creates the opportunity for an audience to engage in that way."

Olympia Dukakis will appear in Martin Sherman's *Rose* for one night only at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts on May 21.



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ARTIST Profiles

The Very Thought of Molly Ringwald

By Miranda Boyd

What we know about the icons that fill our lives with delightful memories through movies and music only skims the surface of persons multifaceted and deep. When most of us think of one such icon, Molly Ringwald, our minds are flush with moments relaxed and entwined as Andie inspires Duckie, Claire puts on lipstick, or Samantha blows out her candles. Those just a pinch younger recall the lessons imparted by Anne on *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*. But this year, the beloved entertainer will bring a new side of herself to the stage, showing us all the joys and solaces of sweet and sultry sound.

From an early age, the love of music, especially jazz, was a staple of Ringwald's life. Her father, Bob Ringwald, is a jazz musician himself. Molly began singing with him at age three, and even released an album at six. That connection to, and compassion for, the music of her childhood, has always been a part of her throughout the different roles she chose.

"I felt that I had to make a choice and I chose acting. Still, I never stopped singing and I had wanted to put a jazz group together for a long time."

When the opportunity arose, Ringwald took to the microphone with a mind ready to bout the best songs she knew. The tunes plucked from the Great American Songbook resound with the presence and bliss of days when music was meant to enthrall and romance. Ringwald's picks display a heartfelt gentility that only great jazz can convey. "These are the songs that I grew up loving" she notes with her lyrical styling. "I consider *'The Great American Songbook'* one of our national treasures. They are beautiful, witty, romantic and truly a pleasure to sing. I have very eclectic taste in music, but I think that the 'G.A.S.' holds the most meaning for me."

The timelessness of that music, the way we swoon ten minutes or thirty years after hearing it, is echoed in the way such art always affects us. The profoundness in such pieces, both music and film, is something never lost on a woman so adeptly involved in it all. "I believe that if a piece of work is of a certain quality and reflects an aspect of the human condition that never changes (love, heartbreak, desire, etc.) then that work will endure." And that endurance also allows for creations to outlive their makers.



"I consider *'The Great American Songbook'* one of our national treasures. They are beautiful, witty, romantic and truly a pleasure to sing. I have very eclectic taste in music, but I think that the 'G.A.S.' holds the most meaning for me."

"It was nice. It was intended as a tribute to John Hughes and to those films that have meant so much to people" Ringwald admitted when asked about recording the song *Don't You Forget About Me* as the final track on her album, *Except Sometimes*. The song, famously used to sum up *The Breakfast Club*, is done by Ringwald in a smoky and tasteful rendition that beautifully embraces the distance between who we were when we first related to the disconnection in those characters and who we've become since seeing them grow.

That soulful rhythm and lyrical slice of life is something Ringwald brings to all her endeavors. With her honored resume of film, television and stage appearances, she's also an accomplished writer, penning two published books; *Getting the Pretty Back* and the national bestseller *When it Happens to You* in which Ringwald examines the toils and triumphs of modern relationships intertwined in tales of friends and family. Through it

all, with a wit and wisdom born from stages, scripts and songs, Ringwald continues to adore the scope. "All of the creative things that I do feed each other. My acting has helped me to build characters in my writing; my music has also helped my writing in that I pay attention to the sound and the rhythm of the words. My writing has made me interested in the lyric."

From the honest yet complicated emotion of *I Get Along Without You Very Well (Except Sometimes)* to the budding hopefulness of *The Very Thought of You*, Ringwald's voice abounds with passion note after note. Her ardent tones bring a newness to these classic songs. And her performance is sure to bring that life and breath to every crowd.

Molly Ringwald can be seen at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts on May 10 and 11. In the Cabaret Jazz Club she'll serenade the patrons with a simple desire and a singular wish for the nights on her mind, "I hope that people enjoy it!" ■

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PRISCILLA

QUEEN OF THE DESERT

RAINING MEN AND DRAG QUEENS ON THE STRIP THIS SUMMER

By Randy Slovacek

I will soon be raining men in drag at the Venetian as the hit musical "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" begins a three-month run on June 18th.

The 1994 movie, whose full title was "The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert" was written by Stephan Elliott, who adapted his screenplay with co-writer Allan Scott for the Broadway stage. Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical, the most successful Australian musical of all time, had its world premiere in Sydney in 2006, and has gone on to play stages around the world including London and Broadway.

The Hollywood Reporter calls Priscilla "funny and fabulous! Joyous entertainment with eye-popping visuals and unexpected heart!"

Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical tells the story of a trio of friends – three drag queens – on a road trip of a lifetime, who hop aboard a battered old bus searching for love and friendship in the middle of the

Australian outback and end up finding more than they could ever have dreamed.

Wade McCollum plays "Tick," who has a secret waiting at the group's destination. McCollum describes "Tick" as "afraid to grow up; he's the reluctant protagonist. He's a big kid who's afraid of rejection."

As aging transgender drag queen "Bernadette," Scott Willis brings '50s-style elegance and strength born of years of being challenged for who she chooses to be. For Willis, the age is a welcome aspect: "I love being the age of the role and being able to utilize the life experience that I have. I really enjoy playing characters that are very different from me, but have the heart or soul that my own can resonate with. That's why I like 'Bernadette' – I like to think that I'm bringing my whole life experience to the role."

Young, brash and impulsive "Felicia" is played by Bryan West, who comes to the national tour directly from the Broadway company. Being the youngest of the three leads, West calls "Felicia" a firecracker. "I'm always shooting out the one-liners; starved





for attention; doing any thing to get that attention. On it's own, I think my character would be really exhausting but with the other two characters it really balances out," says West.

In addition to the actors onstage, two other stars of the show are costume designers Tim Chappel and Lizzy Gardiner, who won Academy Awards and then Tony Awards for outfitting both versions of "Priscilla." The cast of seasoned musical theater performers have to act, sing and dance in some of the most outrageous wigs and outfits ever seen in a Broadway musical, often in the highest of heels. With more than 500 dazzling costumes, Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical features a hit parade of more than 20 dance-floor favorites including "It's Raining Men," "Finally," "I Will Survive," "Material Girl," "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," "Like a Prayer," and many others.

Ask the three stars of the show what number is their favorite and you get three different answers for three very different reasons.

Mr. McCollum's favorite musical moment comes in Act Two with his character's rendition of "MacArthur

Park." Says McCollum, "It's almost entirely physical and I'm a very physical actor. It's like a little kid in his room alone, dancing, which is basically my entire childhood. It's very free, and uninhibited."

Scott Willis looks forward to the Village People's "Go West" having a professional connection to the song: "The whole company is a part of that number, which I love. Plus, a few years ago I was actually the stand-by for the original Village People. The fact that I am now singing the same song in a padded bra and a padded girdle when at one point in time I was singing the song as the "Leather Man" just kills me." But Willis adds, "The show has a LOT of great songs. So many of the songs are anthems to life. They're not just disco songs. They're anthems of hope: "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" "True Colors" - all these beautiful pieces of poetry; so life affirming. So there's not really just one song that I think 'oh I get to sing that again.'"

Bryan West makes note of the fact that each city receives the show differently, so it's difficult to pinpoint a musical highlight. But, he says, "The

last two cities have been really great for the aria I do on top of the shoe. It seems that if people know opera, or know the film, they wait for that moment when I'm on top of that bus - waiting for that "La Traviata" moment. When the audience is living in the moment, that's my favorite part."

Each role also presents it's own set of challenges. For Wade's "Tick," the concentrated book of the show makes for some complex acting moments: "I think because of the medium of musical theatre, sometimes there may be a 'right angle' in the writing to get us to a big production number. One of the biggest challenges is the little amount of time we have with such an economical, tight book."

Scott Willis points to the physical preparation and upkeep necessary to play the elder drag queen. "I'm a very low maintenance kind of guy. But with "Bernadette" I'm usually one of the first actors to arrive at the theater. In terms of the preparation, there's a lot involved. Whether it's the nails, the body grooming, the actual make-up... I've worked with Susan Stroman showgirls, Rockettes, so I have a good



eye about what makes women beautiful. And I have a great respect for that."

Playing the high energy and impulsive "Felicia" requires physical stamina, according to West. "Physically it's exhausting. Felicia is always on. Always has the pizzazz. And that's what makes him stand out - when he's 'on' - he's 'on.' Physically it's exhausting, for sure."

Between the performances onstage and the rigors of touring in a big theatrical production, all three men say they are looking forward to not only the hiatus from weekly travel, but Las Vegas itself and what our city has to offer. Scott Willis worked in Las Vegas in the 1980s doing the musical "42nd Street" and he already knows that gaming isn't a draw for him: "I'm not one to gamble, but I'm a people watcher, so I'm definitely looking forward to that."

Bryan West knows Las Vegas well as his mother was born and raised here, and his grandfather was chief of the fire department for almost 25 years. He's well acquainted with what awaits him in 'Sin City': "I love the desert. This tour started out in cold weather cities, so the warm weather is definitely a plus. Some cast mates and I will be renting a house with a pool. And, being in a kind of 'wild town,' I feel like it's the perfect place for our show. A lot of people in the show haven't been to Las Vegas, so it will be fun to watch them explore: the casinos, the shopping, the restaurants.

Ticket are on sale now for the show which will run at the Venetian for 11 weeks. Ticket prices for Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical start at \$59 plus all applicable taxes and handling fees. Tickets can be purchased by calling The Venetian Box Office at (866) 641-7469 or (702) 414-9000, or online at www.Venetian.com.

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Randy Slovacek is the author of The Randy Report, covering entertainment & political news of interest to the LGBT community. Follow Randy at www.therandyreport.com.







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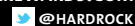
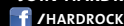
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Belt *by Ted Baker*

Q Style

QTIPS

DAVID TODD MALE MODEL MAKER

By Wayne Burnett

When David Todd resigned as Director of the men's division at Nous Models to launch his own agency, nearly every model he represented came along with him. It's why DT Models has one of the strongest men's boards in Los Angeles today, including male model superstars Nick Youngquest and Chad White.

"After nearly 20 years of being a modeling agent, I felt it was time to move on and start my own business," explains Todd, who at 37, is considered one of the youngest and most experienced modeling agents in the business. "I started working as an agent when I was 18, fresh out of high school. I know this business inside and out."

Todd chose to launch his agency in Los Angeles because he was born and raised in the City of Angels – plus he says you can't beat the weather – but he considers it a global agency. "I've spent my career traveling all over the world and have close personal relationships with clients and top photographers across the globe." It's not every agent that can call up Bruce Weber or Steven Klein and personally pitch a new model to them. It's part of what makes David Todd's agency stand out from the rest.

But there's more. Todd understands that times have changed in the modeling industry. The old days of mailing clients comp cards of 500 different models to choose from are over. Today's clients know exactly what they are looking for when they call an agency. It's the agency's job to provide a real-life breathing (and well-



Models Swimwear by Parke and Ronen and MR. TURK

Photography by The Rikers Brothers

muscle) body of perfection that makes the client's vision come to life.

"I'm always on the search for the next top model," Todd says. He's looking for more than just a pretty face. A guy must be able to stand out in a crowd and capture the eye. He needs to be classically handsome, with a killer smile, and at least 6'1".

"Guys under 6 feet are always asking, 'well can't I do print?' The answer is 'no', not for fashion'. You need to be six feet with a chiseled swimmer's body to fit perfectly into a tailored suit.

"Just because your friends' cousins' mother told you that you could model doesn't mean you can," he says.

On the flipside, just because no one but you believes your look is special enough, doesn't mean you can't. "I can see through bad skin or extra weight," says Todd. "I've become pretty keen at spotting a guy with a hidden 'it' factor."

Personality and charm are key to a successful career, as are taking care of the skin, working out, eating the right foods and maintaining relationships with agents and clients.

"One of the biggest career killers in our industry is a know-it-all model who tries to tell the agent or client how to do their job. That never works and it's a great way to end a career fast," warns Todd.

The biggest misperception about the modeling is that it's easy. "It's not easy to get in front of a camera and shoot a thousand good images for a client," says Todd.

But it has its rewards. Just this year, in his third month of being open, David Todd booked a six-figure fragrance campaign. Every agent and agency in the world submitted models for the project but Todd landed it.

He also recently snatched Claudia Mason, a top female model who has graced the covers of nearly every major fashion magazine in the world. It marks a new direction for David Todd and his agency. "We are very excited to have a new women's division at DT." He plans to concentrate on developing a few girls, focusing on each as an individual and eventually making DT Model's women's board as equally strong as their men's.

"I love watching my models flourish into superstars. Seeing them in major campaigns and editorials, that's my favorite part of the job, because that's when I know all of my hard work has been worth it." ■



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A close-up, high-resolution portrait of a man's face, focusing on his eyes, nose, and mouth. He has light skin and blue eyes. The image is positioned on the left side of the page, with the text on the right.

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QVEGAS BUSINESS ALLIANCE NEWS & UPDATES

THE ROAD TO THE ROAD SHOW

By Russ White QVEGAS Publisher

In August 2011, Planet Hollywood hosted the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce annual conference. At the time, I was still commuting between Silicon Valley and Las Vegas. I led my company's LGBT employee group and already had strong relationships with HRC and Out & Equal and wanted to expand my network, so I made arrangements to attend the NGLCC conference. I had no idea the relationships I would make and what would transpire over the next two years.

One of the speakers at the conference was Geri Jewell. You'll remember her as Cousin Geri on "The Facts of Life." I was fortunate to be able to spend some time with Geri during the conference. My niece Katherine was also born with Cerebral Palsy and would be heading off to college the next year. To be able to spend a few moments with a successful, independent woman who overcomes the challenges that her body presents every day, and project her triumphs on my niece makes Uncle Russ proud that Katherine will be completing her first year of college in just a few weeks.

Then I met Mark Guenther. It was lust at first sight. An infectious smile and personality to match, Mark and I met in the Starbucks line the first morning and again that night at the conference mixer. Mark is the Executive Director of the Capital Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce in Washington DC. We're both seasoned networkers, so to spend most of the evening talking to each other rather than working the room was out of character for both of us, but that night built the foundation of friendship, mentorship, and inspiration that we share today.

Even though Mark and I mostly capitalized on each other's time that night, we also met Stephanie Blackwood from GLSEN and engaged in fascinating

conversations. When I was dropping out of college and moving to California to pursue my high tech dreams, Stephanie was the Associate Publisher for The Advocate. It still amazes me that a year after meeting Stephanie in Las Vegas, I would become the publisher of QVegas. Looking back, it is easy to see the connections the universe makes for you.

Also in attendance was a familiar face. Chris Crespo is the Director in the Americas Inclusiveness Center of Expertise at Ernst & Young and also serves as the Chair of the NGLCC Board of Directors. Chris and I crossed paths at various LGBT events over the years, though it was at the Out & Equal 2011 conference in Dallas where I confided in her that I was considering leaving Apple to step into the world of entrepreneurship. Her words of encouragement that day gave me the confidence to actually do it.

These are just a few of the people who have inspired me to take the leaps of faith that have led me to buy QVegas and spin off QVegas Business Alliance. I learned so much at the NGLCC conference and have seen the many successes across the country that accompany NGLCC certification. I am excited as I look forward to the new opportunities that Las Vegas LGBT-owned businesses will have through certification and supplier diversity programs.

Though held in Las Vegas, the 2011 NGLCC National Conference failed to attract the local LGBT business community, in part due to having no local NGLCC affiliate to welcome them to town and promote the event. For a metropolitan area the size of Las Vegas and Clark County, not having an NGLCC affiliate chamber of commerce seemed orthogonal to a vibrant, successful, and thriving LGBT business community. Shortly after acquiring QVegas, I decided to spin off QVegas Business Alliance as a separate non-profit organization and bring NGLCC representation to the region.

In November, accompanied by fellow QBA board member Dina Proto, I attended the NGLCC National Dinner in Washington DC. Vegas received a warm welcome from the NGLCC leadership as well as LGBT chamber of commerce leaders from across the country. I was also reunited with Mark Guenther and



attended the CAGLCC business expo the following day. Witnessing a healthy and engaged network of LGBT businesses was truly invigorating and I look forward to inviting Mark to a wildly successful QBA business expo at some point in the near future.

Today, QBA serves as the local affiliate for NGLCC and actively participates and collaborates with the eleven other Pacific Region NGLCC affiliate chambers of commerce in California, Oregon and Washington, as well as regional chambers in the Western Business Alliance. These chambers are so proud to have Vegas engaged and share our enthusiasm for reinvigorating the local LGBT business community.

This July, I will be heading back to Dallas representing QVegas Business Alliance and Las Vegas at the NGLCC National Conference and on behalf of NGLCC, I want to extend an invitation to other LGBT-owned businesses to join QBA, register for the conference, and present a strong Las Vegas presence in Dallas. If the relationships I made at the last NGLCC conference I attended are any indication, returning from Dallas is certain to ignite a wave of success and vitality.

However, I'll be spending an extra day. Katherine lives in Dallas and will be on summer break from her Freshman year. ■



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The Affair

NIGHTCLUB | LAS VEGAS

A GAY NIGHTCLUB REIMAGINED.

Looking at the Las Vegas Strip, it is abundantly clear that Vegas has always been home to ambitious visionaries that are not afraid to push the boundaries and take things to a new level. With each new visionary that comes along, Vegas changes and is redefined. After all, Vegas is a city that is forever changing and evolving, but more precisely, it is a city that never stops reinventing itself. It should then come as no surprise that a group of young people with diverse backgrounds in nightlife and entertainment would introduce Las Vegas to a new kind of gay nightclub or better yet a “reimagined gay nightclub”. They would brand their new creation “The Affair”.

The Affair Nightclub plays with the double entendre that the name carries referencing both an affair that you attend, and also an illicit affair you experience with a love interest. There is also a deeper meaning to the name hinting at the fact that both locals and tourists alike desire to experience something new, different and exciting within the Gay Vegas Nightlife.

Once The Affair opens its door on May 5, 2013, it will stand as the largest gay nightclub in the city with over 25,000 square feet. It will also be the only gay nightclub on the Las Vegas Strip. Inside guests will find a multi-level venue with four main rooms, five full service bars, over 30 VIP tables including private booths, an outside strip-view lounge, a performance stage and best of all over 450 parking spaces directly off

of Las Vegas Blvd. The Affair is conveniently located in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip across from the Monte Carlo Hotel & Casino, and in walking distance from several other major Strip hotels & casinos.

The Affair describes itself as a performance-based nightlife experience. It promises to deliver a highly produced, choreographed and conceptualized performance every week that will leave guests blown away by the raw talent and star power that it will showcase. In addition, it will incorporate a unique interactive nightclub setting through character-based go-go dancers, specialty acts, conceptual vignettes, costumes, themes and the soon-to-be legendary “Bird Cage” which will allow guests to become the center of attention in the nightclub.

"OUR VISION IS SIMPLE; CREATE THE GREATEST GAY NIGHTCLUB EXPERIENCE EVER."

Q: How did The Affair come about and can you elaborate on the concept?

A: This may sound cliché but it has always been a dream of ours to create a unique gay nightclub that would incorporate entertainment and theatrical elements within a nightclub setting.

Q: This obviously has more meaning to you than just exploring another business venture?

A: We believe that when you put a great deal of love and passion into something it will definitely show. For us it will show in the attention to detail, the creative, the talent, the production and the delivery. We've created something great that our guests will admire, enjoy and appreciate.

Q: What is your goal with opening The Affair?

A: When you step into nightclubs like Marquee, or XS, you truly are transported into a different world—a surreal indescribable experience that is unforgettable. Whether you're gay or straight, you come to Vegas for that one-of-a-kind experience and you will have that experience at The Affair Nightclub. Having worked closely with these clubs along with many others on The Strip, it's one hell of a statement to make but we can say it with conviction.

Q: What does it mean to The Affair to be the only gay nightclub on The Strip?

A: Having the opportunity to open a nightclub on The Strip is such a privilege in itself but to be the only gay nightclub on The Strip? That is something we don't take for granted not even for a second. We feel like we have a responsibility and obligation to really deliver the very best gay nightclub experience.

Q: What is one thing that you are most excited about for you guests to experience at The Affair?

A: It definitely would have to be the big entertainment production that we will showcase every night. It will blow everyone's

minds away.

Q: Why did you choose to bring Brian Loveless on board?

A: Brian has an undeniable "it" factor that just naturally draws people to him. He also is extremely driven, focused, creative and innovative. When we were deciding on who to work with we knew that it had to be someone that shared our vision, unique approach and goal. Brian gets what we are trying to accomplish and he brings a lot to the table to get that done.

Q: Brian, how do you feel being "The Face" of The Affair?

A: I am so excited and proud to be representing The Affair. I have fallen in love with the concept and have been able to get completely lost in it, which is exactly what I want for every person that walks through the door. As our community is expanding I am thrilled to present something fresh and unique to help take Las Vegas to a whole new level.

Q: What will make The Affair unforgettable?

A: The Affair is bringing something to gay Las Vegas that is unlike anything out there. We are really stepping out of the box to make it a spectacle that will bring the house down. Everything from the concept to performers to costumes to celebrity guests, the details of this night is really something special. Every week is going to be different and I can't wait for everyone to see what we have in store.

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ASK CJ



BeverlyNews.net



What do you think of Miley Cyrus' new lesbian haircut?

This month is the Entertainment Issue, and who in entertainment has been in the spotlight lately showing off their new lesbian haircut and so much more? J-Biebs you say? Nope. Not this time. Of course we're talking about our "good girl gone bad," Ms. Miley Cyrus.

Just a few months ago, the media gave Miley hell for chopping off those popular locks she would swing back and forth on the Hannah Montana show. Then there was that jaw dropping moment right around her risqué photo shoot, when the then 19-year-old got engaged to her hunk of a boyfriend, Liam Hemsworth. To add fire to the vodka shot, recently Miley has been spotted around Hollywood not only without Liam, but without that precious 3.5-carat Neil Lane diamond ring on her finger. Meanwhile, Liam was seen in Hollywood with friends during Spring break. Everyone knows nothing good can come from leaving your partner alone in the middle of spring break action.

Are these signs that their engagement is in trouble? Is the teeny-bopper's celeb wedding being called off? I say, who gives a flying dildo?! Why not have an on again-off again engagement? If Kim Kar-

humpFREEan-West can do it, so can Hannah Montana--I mean, Miley Cyrus.

Not to burst your hating bubble, but if you think her engagement is on the rocks with no chaser, think again. Inside sources have confirmed that the wedding is still on, and as far as the engagement ring, "She just doesn't wear it sometimes," says an inside source. And unless you're Jay & Bey, like any couple, they have struggles that they're working through.

Not only has the 20-year-old singer been sporting a naked ring finger, but a half naked body too. Miley has been out and about showing off her 20-year-old body that every woman dreams of having--booty meat hanging from the bottom of her shorts, stripper-esque heels, and bra-less nips screaming hello to the neighborhood. Sounds like my kind of girl. I'm one of many to admit Miley is young and stunning, plus she knows how to twerk. You know what they say, Y.O.L.O. (kind of embarrassed I even said that). But, if you ASK CJ, the short-haired diva definitely has my lesbian stamp of approval. I need to be on her team so that I can finally meet MY celeb crush. :) ■

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Ask CJ for next months question.



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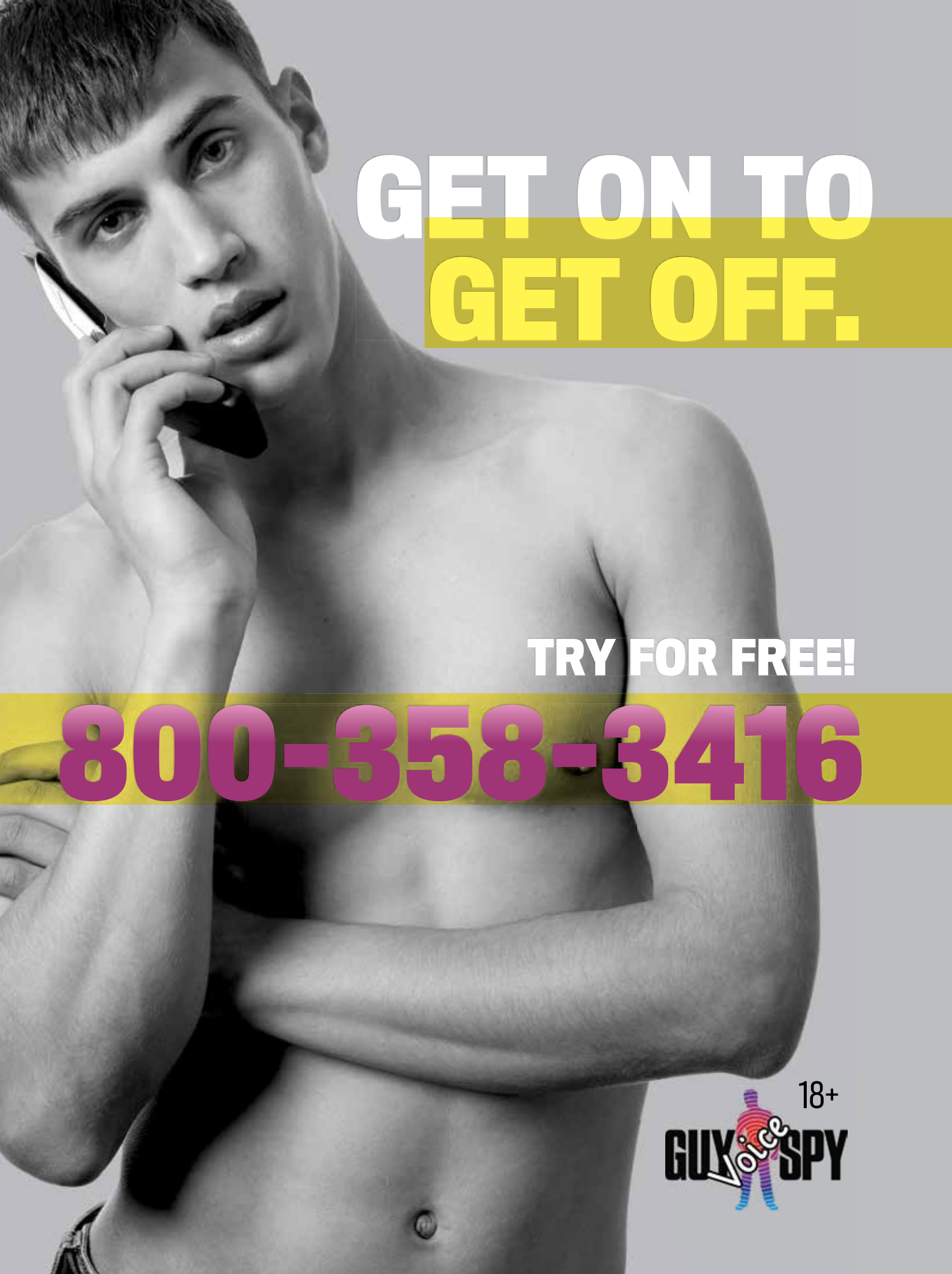
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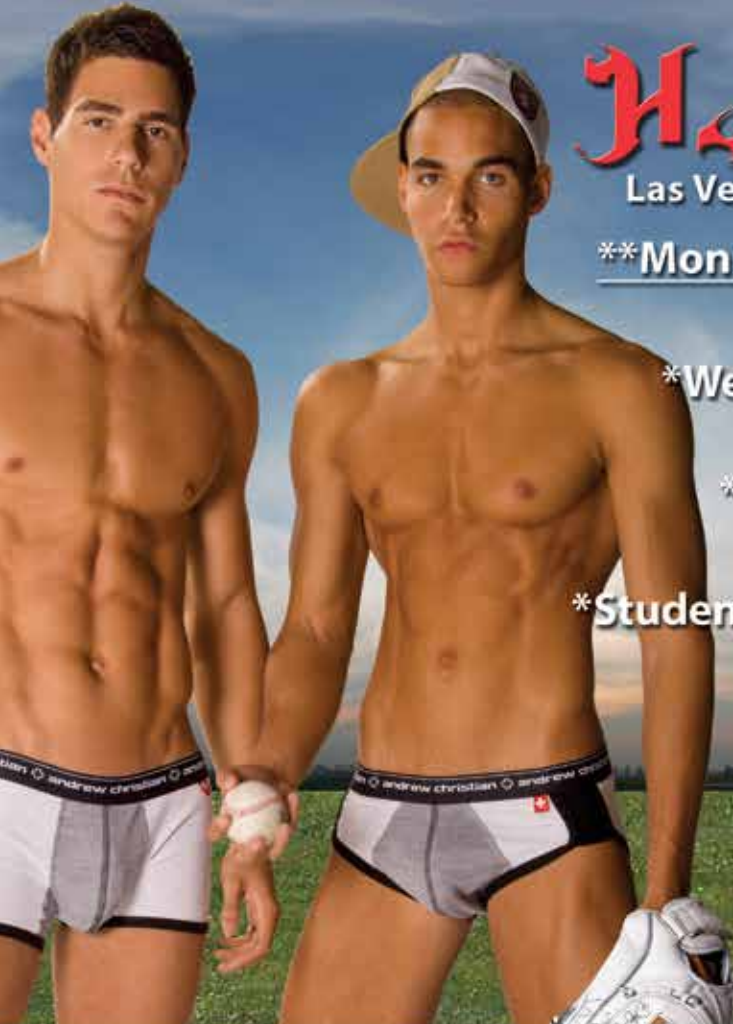
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BY SENATOR PATRICIA SPEARMAN

“STANDIng up for Equality” THE PATH TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN NEVADA

[EDITOR'S NOTE] On April 23, 2013 the Nevada State Senate passed SJR13 by a vote of twelve to nine. All eleven Democratic senators voted in favor of SJR13, and were joined by Sen. Ben Kieckhefer (District 16, South Washoe County and Carson City), the only Republican senator out of ten to vote yes.

The moment was also marked by the emotional and influential testimony of Sen. Kelvin Atkinson (D-North Las Vegas), who said to the assembly, “I know this is the first time many of you have heard me say that I am a black, gay male.”

Senate Joint Resolution 13 (SJR 13) is coming up for a vote this week in the Nevada State Senate. This will be the first of five votes, which if successful each time, will allow for same-sex marriage in Nevada. Over 10 years ago, Nevada's passed a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a right only for heterosexual couples. The process to repeal this law, and replace it with a constitutional amendment sanctioning marriage equality is thus: pass each chamber of the Nevada legislature this year and again in 2015, and then secure a majority vote of the people when placed on the ballot in 2016.

SJR 13 is a unique law in this country, in that the end result will be a repeal of one law and replaced with another. In addition, SJR 13 provides religious organizations and clergy legal protection if they chose to not perform same sex marriages. This religious exemption mirrors legislation in states that currently recognize same sex marriages.

The steps taken to make this bill a reality have involved many organizations, legislators, business leaders and concerned citizens who desire for Nevada to recognize marriage, regardless of the couples

gender. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Senator David Parks who championed equality for several years as the only openly gay legislator. Since same sex marriage was banned in Nevada over 10 years ago, public perception on this issue has changed. Politicians across the nation have changed their positions and now believe the right to marry is universal and should exist without restraints. Don't Ask Don' Tell has since been repealed; lawmakers who previously opposed same sex marriage now support marriage equality.

This change in national and location perception towards same sex marriage has made 2013 the moment to finally start the march toward equality here in Nevada. Final passage by a vote of the people is a long way off, but in order to achieve marriage equality in 2016 your legislators need to hear from you. Please visit the NV Legislature website to contact your individual legislators and let them know you encourage them to support SJR 13 now and again in 2015. Just as important though, is that you canvass, phone bank and vote for legislators in 2014 that voted for SJR 13 this session. We need them back next session in order to finally make equality a reality in Nevada.



Senator Pat Spearman
Nevada State Senate District 1

“For those who say let’s take it one step at a time, I go back to Dr. King: NOW is the time. We’ve waited far too long. Soon history will judge us, either by our work for justice, or our silence on the sidelines.”

- Senator Pat Spearman (NV) during the hearing on SJR13

Proposed to amend the Nevada Constitution to require the recognition of all marriages, regardless of gender

PASSED		Constitutional Majority	
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A snapshot of the final vote

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