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SHANGELA

FROM PARIS TEXAS
TO PARIS LAS VEGAS

THE ARENA

THE KILLERS, WAYNE
NEWTON, NICKI MINAJ,
ARIANNA GRANDE!
+PLUS SAKE ROK
@THE PARK

INTERVIEWS WITH:
LESLIE JORDAN
DIXIE LONGATE
TINASHE

The DRAG Issue

MEET 21 VEGAS
QUEENS!

WELCOME HOME
DERRICK BARRY

MAGNUS HASTINGS'
BOOK OF DRAG

SUPERSTARS! BRITNEY'S BACK,
SO ARE THE RIGHTEOUS
BROTHERS, AND ANTONIO
SABATO JR IS HOSTING THE
CHIPPENDALES





ON THE COVER

This month is all about the Queens, and Paris is burning up with Shangelula—RuPaul’s Season 3 diva stars in the playfully erotic 53X at Chateau and by night and hosts Drag Brunch at Señor Frogs at Treasure Island by Day.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

Hello QVegas Readers! It's nice to be back with the biggest issue we have had in a long time! I guess all those "April showers" made our May issue bloom into full on DRAG mode. Welcome to our Drag Issue. It's without saying that the world of drag has been thrown into the mainstream ever since "RuPaul's Drag Race" started on television.

Our cover model, Shangela, makes headlines as she moves to Las Vegas and is the first Ru-Queen to have not one, but two residencies on the Las Vegas strip. We get to have an exclusive interview with her as she tells us about her past, talks about her role in the new show 53X, and lets us know what her dreams are for the future.

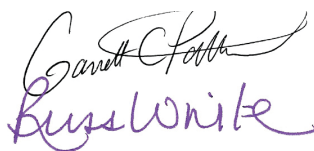
We get another exclusive interview with Dixie Longate, the Queen of "creative food storage solutions". Make sure to catch her Tupperware Party at The Smith Center!

Magnus Hastings publishes a new coffee table book with exquisite photos of Ginger Minj, Courtney Act and many more! DragCon hits LA this month. We're also extremely proud of our own Derrick Barry who came home last month in the Top 5 from Season 8 of RuPaul's Drag Race.

This month we also kick off a new project to build an anthology of Las Vegas Queens. 21 queens submitted their profiles and will be featured on our social media this month and in our new Drag Directory in June.

MGM opened The Park and T-Mobile Arena in April and we have full opening day coverage of both. Plus, Scott Matti provides additional details on Nicki Minaj and Arianna Grande opening concert and Michael Barbieri gives us rave reviews about Sake Rok at The Park.

There is so much more in this Issue, but don't just take my word for it - check it out for yourself!



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[by Blake Leavitt]

LGBTQ Volleyball Social at Sunset Park is a meet and mingle social where everyone in the community is invited to socialize and/or play volleyball. This is a free event for all ages, and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Don't be shy! We only play for fun – there is no pressure to play. Many people come to make new friends and reconnect with others. New people come throughout the year also. Founded in 2011 by Johnny Espinosa, the main event organizers are: Johnny Espinosa, Blake Leavitt, Steve Haas, and Will Jorgensen. Everyone has worked together to contribute to the growth and success of this event.

Volleyball takes place three days a week – Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm at Sunset Park -2601 E Sunset Rd. from April through October. Tuesdays and Thursdays we have the grass court section and meet at the bleachers, but we hop on a sand court when league play is over. Saturdays we reserve Court 1, which is the main middle court. Rainbow

pride flags are on display so you can easily find us.

Once a month we have a free BBQ/potluck paid for by raffles and sponsors. Raffle tickets sell for \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and all proceeds and donations go to pay for our court/light reservations and for the free BBQ's that we do for the community. We are always looking for new sponsors who would like to support our organization. We give sponsors free marketing via our three Facebook pages that reach out to over 7,000 people.

Look for us on Facebook. Main Event Page: LGBTQ Volleyball Social at Sunset Park 2016. Social Page: "LGBT Volleyball Gay Social at Sunset Park, Las Vegas" and "LGBTQ Volleyball BBQ Social Returns April 2 2016".

At LGBTQ Volleyball, you'll make friends for life! Join us for a great time!

Photo: Richard Datuin

Project Runway las vegas

7

Deadly Sins
Vice & Virtue



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creative



SONSTUDIOS

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What could be better than brunch? Gay Brunchi Brunch! This gay networking event meets at different locations around Las Vegas each week.

Championed and hosted by Mel Cole, the socials extend into weeknight socials to accommodate various schedules that come with living and working in Las Vegas.

"I want to create the opportunity to bring the community together," said Cole. "This is also a great way to explore the cities finest restaurant, bars, and lounges in the comfort amongst friends of the LGBT community."

Gay Professional Social, or GPS, meets every Sunday for Brunchi Brunch, and evening socials on the 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of each month.

Events are held at bars, restaurants and lounges, but Cole is exploring additional activities this summer at Lake Mead and Mount Charleston.

For the latest event information, check out the Gay Professional Social page on Facebook or visit GayProSocial.com



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JASON WALKER IS SO HAPPY

[by Janine DeFano]

Jason Walker has a lot to be “So Happy” about these days. His latest track – a collaboration with two-time Grammy nominated dance producer Tony Moran and gospel singer turned electronic dance music phenomenon (for his work with David Guetta) Chris Willis – is already in the top 20 on Billboard and its rising.

The song is a feel-good track, because, as Jason explains, “With all that’s happening in the world today, isn’t that what everyone wants?”

“The dance floor is my happy place,” he continues. “It’s where I can forget my troubles and let the music take over. For me, music is the universal truth and when a hard beat pulses through my body, there is simply no better feeling than that. My hope is that ‘So Happy’ lifts listeners to their own place of pure joy.”

Jason Walker grew up in Pittsburgh, singing in church choirs and local R&B and Blues bands. He first shined on the national spotlight with a winning performance on TV’s “It’s Show Time at the Apollo”.

Since then, he’s had seven Top Ten songs including two #1s (“Foolish Mind Games” and

“Set It Free”).

“I am truly the definition of So Happy”, reflects Jason Walker. “In my career, I’ve had the opportunity to collaborate with all the dance greats from Junior Vasquez to Bimbo Jones, and now Tony Moran!” We spoke with him from his home in New York.

To start with, you must be so happy with how the song is doing.

This record was the biggest project that I’ve ever undertaken. So much love and attention from both Tony (Moran) and myself and the video director Karl Giant went into it! We really poured all of ourselves into it. As far as the chart goes, I’m just grateful.

It’s risen up the charts really quickly!

It began as a #1 Breakout Record, then the Hot



Shot Debut, then it was the chart's Power Pick!

It used to be that a song would gradually climb to the top ten and then remain there for weeks. Now it seems like top songs rise quickly but then fall off the charts just as fast. Why do you think that is?

Everything moves quicker these days. Life moves quicker. It's kind of scary! Social media has just made everything so accessible. There are aspects of that that I think are great, but at times, slow would be nice. Time to enjoy the present would be nice, instead of always focusing on what's next.

Is that what you really want?

Honestly, I have conflicting feelings. I enjoy my rainy days with Tori Amos, but going to see Danny Tenaglia really puts me over the edge.

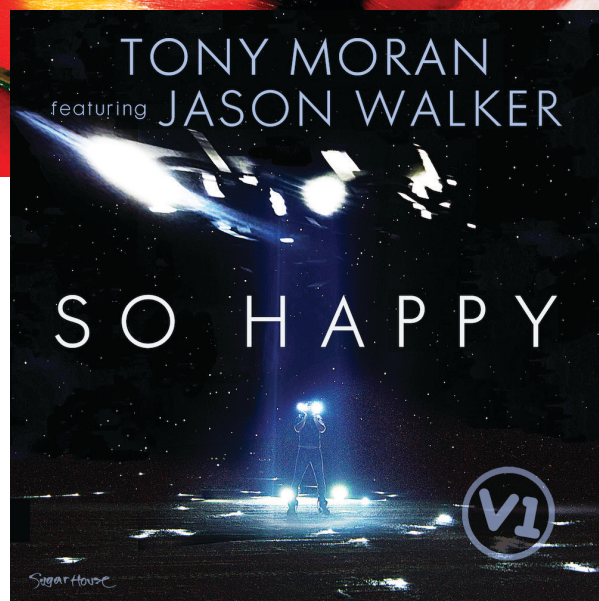
What are some things about NYC that make you so happy?

The diversity, the music, my friends... A functioning L train would be nice!

You're king of dance. Could you see yourself ever dabbling in another genre of music?

Sure, I "dabble". (Laughs) I think I'm a pretty well rounded singer. My roots are in Soul, and I try to inject that into everything that I do. I released a pop album in 2010 called "Leave It All Behind" and stretched out a little, but I've actually been working on a Soul album for the past five years.

Photos: Karl Giant



Five years is a long time in music!

Yes, but Soul's a completely different world, especially when you are dealing with live musicians. It's a process. But it'll be worth it when it's ready.

You've worked with so many of the dance greats from Kristine W, Junior Vasquez to now Tony Moran. Is there anyone you've missed that you would love to work with?

I have a list - hanging on my wall, in fact - of all the people in the dance world I would love to work with some day. Guys like TILT, Chicane, Danny Tenaglia, Louis Vega, David Morales, Bob Sinclair, Dave Aude, Rosabel, Tiesto, Kaskade, Afrojack... Oh, there are tons and all because they are masters at their crafts. And in the pop world: T Bone Burnett.

What are you most looking forward to this summer?

Sunshine and beats.

Visit JasonWalkermusic.com



Raphael's ten-song debut album, "The Dark of My Mind", is a journey through modern love set to sexy, moody trip-hop and electro-pop sounds. At times it is ethereal and dreamy. In other moments, songs flow over the listener with a wave of sexual urgency and romantic longing.

"We all have desires and fantasies in our heads," explains Raphael. "My intent with the album was to bring the thoughts I have kept buried in the dark of my mind out to light."

Written entirely by Raphael and recorded in New York City, "The Dark of My Mind" releases May 17. It was recorded with Barb Morrison (Blondie, Lily Allen, Pink) and mixed by Grammy award winners Tony Maserati (Britney Spears, Lady Gaga, Beyonce), Jeff Rothschild (Lana Del Rey, Miley Cyrus, Kelly Clarkson), and Dylan 3D Dresdow (Madonna, Nicki Minaj, Black Eyed Peas).

There are no breakup or rejection songs on "The Dark of My Mind." There are no songs about a guy not being good enough for Raphael, or Raphael not being good enough for him.

The album celebrates open sexuality and guy worship in a very modern way. A male using male pronouns in pop music is something that was not acceptable ten years ago, but is a true sign of how far love and acceptance have come.

In fact, in "Boys Are Trouble", Raphael boldly sings about losing control of his emotions once a sexy guy comes along. And in "Your Hair", he lets it be known that when he is completely infatuated with a guy, he is willing to do whatever the guy wants.

There are deep sentiments too, like in "Manhattan", a sweet and melodic piano driven ballad, Raphael sings about love in New York City. And in "Finest Moment", the one song that is not about a guy, Raphael reflects on his insecurities, letting go of the past and looking



towards the horizon.

In his music, Raphael aims to bring back the love. He feels that most songs today emphasize independence and an “I’m too cool” attitude towards romance. He misses the desperation and vulnerability in songs from the past where vocalists unapologetically gushed over someone.

Raphael was born in New York and raised in Miami Beach, listening to ‘90s pop and hip-hop. “I love rap and there are certainly influences of it in my music.” He describes his style of songwriting as a stream of consciousness and views his songs

as a representation of himself as a person and an artist.

He names “So Quiet” as his favorite song on the album. “We’ve all been in that space where we really like somebody, but we become frozen and so quiet when we’re face to face with them.”

Raphael’s “The Dark of My Mind” has something for people who want to lie in bed and feel the music pour over them, or go out and get a little naughty.

Visit www.officialraphael.com.





A RIGHTEOUS REBOUND

Get ready to have “The Time of Your Life” as The Righteous Brothers featuring Bill Medley with Bucky Heard bring the legendary sound of “blue-eyed soul” to the Las Vegas stage at Harrah’s Las Vegas. Playing inside the Harrah’s Showroom, Bill Medley and Bucky Heard take audiences through the legendary music stylings of one of the greatest rock and roll duos of all time.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame duo of Bill Medley and Bobby Hatfield topped the charts in four decades. Now, Bill Medley joins forces with one of the most versatile vocalists in America, Bucky Heard, to bring the Righteous Brothers back to the stage. Heard’s reputation as a gutsy rock and roll singer with an incredible vocal range, paired with Medley’s recognizable baritone voice and iconic song writing talents, make for a one-of-a-kind rock and roll show. Medley and Heard will perform many of the Righteous Brothers’ Grammy-winning hits, including “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’,” “Soul & Inspiration,” “Rock and Roll Heaven,” and many more.

Medley delivers a touching tribute to Hatfield

with a video montage of photos over their decades of performances while singing “Unchained Melody,” and his daughter McKenna emerges from the trio of backup singers to perform a father/daughter duet of Medley’s Grammy-winning “The Time of My Life.”

Bucky Heard takes the stage with Bill Medley, filling the shoes of the legendary Bobby Hatfield who passed away in 2003. “In 1974 when ‘Rock and Roll Heaven’ came out I was 9 years old sitting in my room in Alabama playing the song over and over again. Now I’m standing on stage across from a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame-er being asked to keep this music going. It’s just an honor and a privilege and I’m loving every second of it.”

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Tens of thousands are expected to attend this glitter-filled weekend that celebrates the art of drag and self-expression for all. Spearheaded by RuPaul and World of Wonder Productions, RuPaul's DragCon provides a platform for fans—of all ages and backgrounds—to meet and interact with world-renowned celebrities and icons in a friendly and accessible environment.

The convention will feature over 100 vendors and exhibitors, panel discussions, screenings, autographs, and photo opportunities.

Plus, attendees can shop 'til they drop on a floor full of unique and custom shoes, apparel, art and many other fabulous products.

In addition to booths on the convention floor, there will be a wide range of panels, including, Q&A sessions with drag stars and icons, lip sync contests, drag herstory discussion groups, and fashion, make-up and styling work shops, for men and women.

"RuPaul's DragCon is the place to find your tribe," said RuPaul. "For all the super creative and super sensitive people out there who live in world that says that you're too much or that you don't fit

in, DragCon says 'Welcome home, baby.'"

"The biggest surprise from last year's DragCon was how much of family event this is. Whether your family is San Francisco legendary drag queens, Sisters for Perpetual Indulgence, or you're a tween girl superfan visiting with your Mom & Dad, there's something for everybody at RuPaul's DragCon," said World of Wonder co-founders, Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey.

Tickets are currently on sale at rupaulsdragon.com starting at \$50. VIP Experience tickets sold out in 5 minutes. Fans can purchase photos and autographs at the show. For more info follow DragCon @RuPaulsDragCon, or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RuPauls-DragCon-784024385023730/>

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MAGNUS HASTINGS' WORLD OF DRAG

The Photographer Snaps All The Leading Girls For New Book

[by Mike Bahr]

Magnus Hastings' new coffee-table book, *Why Drag?*, offers readers a rare glimpse at a generation in drag.

Inspired by the photographer's renowned New York art exhibition, *Why Drag?* began in the summer of 2014, when Hastings set out to travel through North America to shoot some of drag's brightest talents and biggest names. With his camera in tow, Hastings made his way across the country for two years, snapping hundreds of intimate portraits while posing models the question: Why drag?

The book offers answers from the industry's top talent, in the form of gorgeous photos by Hastings accompanied by short stories that are marked by their humor and, oftentimes, sincerity. Queens featured in the book include Bianca Del Rio, Courtney Act, Jackie Beat, Adore Delano, Jinkx Monsoon, Lady Bunny, Detox, and Sharon Needles. The legendary Boy George writes the book's foreword.

Magnus Hastings' affection for his subject runs deep, and if only in his meticulous attention to

detail, it shows in earnest from cover to cover. "I think a big part of *Why Drag?* is rooted in that little effeminate boy who was shamed out of doing what made him happy," says Hastings. "I grew up resenting that childhood version of myself until one day, I had such a wave of love for him. I realized how extraordinary and beautiful he was, how fearless. Somehow I think this honors him."

Hastings' reputation precedes him as the eminent man behind the lens when it comes to all things drag, so it only makes sense that his volume of drag portraits would push boundaries, provoke thought, and put the unapologetic on parade. Prevalent cityscapes include New York City, Los Angeles, and the artist's drag city of choice, San Francisco.

"I have such a soft spot for San Francisco drag," says Hastings. "And the incredible way they create something for just one night. That's kind



of been skipped by the mainstream, but it's a huge part of my book."

Inside the pages, you'll see pageant queens strut in full regalia while waiting for a bus. A pair of queens, one hundred pages apart, call upon the courage drag gives them to set aside anxiety, finding solace behind winged tips. Bianca Del Rio digs into a Barbie doll with pins and needles, reflecting on how drag lets her sharp tongue fly free, while Adore Delano gives great face in front of a McDonald's while rocking a Budweiser one-piece, shot on the streets of West Hollywood.

"Adore Delano is a fantastic representation of an important side of drag," says Hastings. "That punk rock, I-don't-give-a-shit edge that gets watered down the more mainstream it gets. Drag is meant to be challenging and dangerous as far as I'm concerned, not safe and sponsored by Disney."

"Drag doesn't make much sense." So writes Alaska Thunderfuck, pictured off of Melrose Avenue. "It takes up all of your time, consumes most of your money, and may subject you to some of the most extreme ridicule on the planet."

"But I imagine it is like being a nun or priest," she continues. "Once you get the divine calling, you have no choice in the matter and you belong to drag for life."

A testimony to the photographer's talents as a portraitist, *Why Drag?* also serves as a timely

reiteration that in a drag culture - where pushing boundaries is the exception rather than the rule - there will always be a need to stand up for grit.

"I want people who don't know drag to be opened up to its beauty and its comedy," says Hastings. "It's a wonderland, and I want people to go there."

Magnus Hastings' *"Why Drag?"* is available everywhere books are sold on May 17 via Chronicle Books.



Photos: Magnus Hastings







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Honey, I don't sing. I don't dance. And I can barely tell a joke. But I'm a professional chatterbox. I'm a real good talker." That's how Leslie Jordan describes his endearing talent that draws us to him.

Most of us know Jordan from his Emmy Award winning character "Beverly Leslie" on the comedy series *Will & Grace*. Some of us know him as "Brother Boy," who embodies Tammy Wynette locked away from his dysfunctional family in a mental hospital. And super fans will have seen his HBO special, "My Trip Down the Pink Carpet."

This Memorial Day Weekend, you can get up close and personal with this 4'11" bundle of laughs at Share Nightclub as they present their Cabaret Series featuring Leslie Jordan.

"I used to travel with a set but I was talking with my friend Lily Tomlin one day and she said 'Honey, you don't need a set. All you need is a microphone and a turtleneck.' I thought, well, I'll leave the turtleneck to the old lesbian."

And travel he does. Before arriving in Vegas, Leslie has a full schedule with shows in San Francisco and Canada. After Vegas, Leslie departs

for Washington DC Gay Pride where he will be throwing out the first pitch at the ball park.

"I have never held a baseball in my life!"

But while in Vegas, we can expect to hear stories about *Will & Grace*, stories about *Sordid Lives*.

"My marketing people say 'Oh, girl quit draggin out *Will & Grace*, that's 10 years old. Talk about *American Horror Story*—or *The Help*.' But that's like going to see a rock band and they don't do the old stuff."

We may even get a preview of some new projects in the works. "My marketing people are working on 'Straight Out of Chattanooga' and the poster looks exactly like 'Straight Out of Compton', only someone's thrown pink paint at the straight part. I've got a million stories to tell."

Come hear a few of Leslie's delightfully entertaining stories at Share Nightclub May 27 & 28. A portion of proceeds benefit New Horizons.



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SAKE ROK



[by Michael Barbieri
myvegasobsession.com]

Wait! ANOTHER sake bomb?!! Okay...twist my arm! Here we go! “SAKE ROK! SAKE BOMB!!!” Hey! Here comes Godzilla! Wow! This sushi is FABULOUS! Look! Our host is dancing on the bar! What IS this place??!!

This is Sake Rok, a new thrill-ride of a restaurant, located in The Park Las Vegas, between the Monte Carlo and New York New York. Sake Rok features modern takes on Japanese food, an Asian-tinged industrial chic decor, and a beautiful multi-culti family of servers - all friendly, efficient, and (dare I say it!) easy on the eyes! They're talented, too - doubling as entertainers throughout the night; donning costumes, doing choreography, and lip-synching to '70's, '80's, and '90's pop songs! This is definitely not the place for a quiet dinner for two. You go to Sake Rok to eat, party, and have FUN!

The space is quite large - the main dining area and mezzanine seat about 200 people, and the Sakura Terrace, an event space on the top floor, has a view of The Park, the T-Mobile Arena, and the Vegas Strip. They're open for lunch and dinner, with bar & lounge service until the wee

hours. The downstairs space includes a cocktail bar, the sushi bar, and at the far end, a DJ booth, and exposed brick walls featuring decorative neon signage with Asian lettering, and a screen for video projections.

I came with two friends in tow, and we were shown to our table. We studied our enormous, plasticized menus, and Caesar, our server, took our drink orders. Our MC, Jacs, came by, looking like a fabulous LGBT hippie, with long multi-colored hair, rainbow-tinted false eyelashes, and long flowing robes. We were in for quite a show, apparently! At any rate, our cocktails arrived. Two of us started with the Asking For Trouble - a mix of jalapeño tequila, peach liqueur, fresh lime, pineapple juice, and almond syrup. This spicy, yet refreshing concoction, packed substantial heat, balanced out by the fruitiness of the peach and pineapple. The almond syrup provided nice



contrast, with a subtle sweetness. A nice start to the night!

The chef had arranged a tasting menu for us, featuring some of the popular dishes, and almost immediately, our food began appearing. First out: the Edamame - steamed soybeans, with sea salt and lime. Simple and tasty, with the lime setting them apart from the standard edamame found elsewhere. We also tried the Shishito Peppers, which were lightly grilled and served with crispy garlic, sea salt, and lime. These mild peppers had a wonderfully verdant flavor, with an occasional burst of heat.

As we started in on our appetizers, the lights went down and the staff gave us a Disco Medley, complete with Travolta-esque moves, colorful afro wigs, and Jacs dancing on the bar in a lavender spotlight.

Next up: the Salt & Pepper Shrimp - delicious, crispy shrimp, coated with dry miso, crispy garlic, and shichimi - a seven-flavor spice mix. Served with a shiso aioli, these shrimp were outstanding, with a light spiciness that lingered on the tongue. We also sampled the Berkshire Pork Dumplings - delicate little dumplings with a surprisingly full-bodied pork flavor.

About this time, we were coerced into trying our first Sake Bomb - a half-full pint glass of beer, with 2 chopsticks perched across the top, and a cup of sake balanced atop the chopsticks. We said the magic words "SAKE ROK! SAKE BOMB!!!" and pounded on the table, causing the sake to plunge through the chopsticks and into the beer. The last step was to chug the crazy concoction! Now, I hate beer AND sake, but I did FOUR of these babies!! At Sake Rok, I got caught up in the

Michael Barbieri is the author of MyVegasObsession.com and has been a contributing writer for QVegas since October 2012. A resident of New York City, Michael frequents Vegas many times per year, journalizing his adventures in hotels, spas, shows, and restaurants along the way.



moment...and enjoyed it! We also got another performance from the staff - this time a recreation of Madonna's "Vogue," with one of the female staffers being carried in a full splits position above the heads of several male servers.

The Crispy Sashimi Tacos were winners; both the Big Eye Tuna, with tobanjan (a spicy soy paste,) cucumber, and avocado, and the stunningly good Yellowtail, with soy ginger, avocado, and cilantro. Yum! The Hamachi Serrano made our palates sing - thin slices of fish in a citrusy white ponzu, topped with thin slices of Serrano pepper, and garnished with micro-chives, micro-cilantro and micro-beet shoots. Delicate, yet so flavorful!

Our next two dishes complimented each other perfectly. The Hangar Steak with broccoli, chanterelles, and aka miso, was cooked beautifully, but to my taste, needed just a touch of salt. The Toban Yaki - wild, Japanese mushrooms with charred scallions, sautéed in a yuzu-soy, and topped with a coconut foam, which was stirred in for an exotic creaminess, was perhaps our favorite dish of the evening, striking just the right balance of earthiness, citrus and salt. When the hangar steak was dipped in the excess sauce from the mushrooms, it ate perfectly!

Next came two of Sake Rok's specialty rolls: the Girl On The Beach Roll - shrimp, snow crab, cucumber, and avocado, topped with tuna, and drizzled with Screaming O Sauce. On each side of the plate, was the El Chapo Roll - spicy snow crab, shrimp, and avocado, with a spectacular, tomatillo sauce, which gave the roll a tart, lightly acidic pop of flavor at the end. So addictive, El Chapo himself would've approved!

Oh, yes...Godzilla! Well, throughout the evening, we kept seeing the Godzilla Platter going out - a party-sized selection of sushi, served on trays featuring large Godzilla figures, which breathed smoke! When asked about dessert, we made a special request: Could they present our dessert on a Godzilla tray? They were gracious enough to comply, so we had Sata Andagi - scrumptious Japanese doughnuts with a delectable Asian pear marmalade for dipping,



and a selection of ice cream filled rice cakes called Mochi, which came in chocolate/strawberry, mango, green tea, and passionfruit. Mmmm!

Between the fabulous food, the sake bombs, songs like Cameo's "Word Up" blaring from the sound system, the ultra-clever Boy Band Medley, performed to giddy perfection by the staff, and more, our evening at Sake Rok was sensory overload, in the best way! This is a place you MUST experience for yourselves!

Trust me...Sake Rok ROCKS!!!

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2-FOR-1 **HAPPY HOUR DAILY** 11a–7p



Las Vegas just got luckier! The world famous Chippendales are thrilled to announce their hottest new celebrity guest, the world-renowned actor and model, Antonio Sabàto, Jr.

For five weeks only, Sabàto Jr. will amp up the acclaimed production, gracing the stage with stunning good looks and physique, not to mention his unmistakable charm. If you've seen him on *Dancing With the Stars*, then you know Sabàto Jr. has the moves to heat up the Las Vegas Strip like never before. Now imagine him surrounded by the hottest men in show business and you've got an epic live production!

"I am looking forward to joining the Chippendales in Las Vegas as their celebrity guest host," says Sabàto Jr. "It is a legendary show, an iconic brand and a fun experience for all. I am excited to be a part of the energetic atmosphere!"

"We are thrilled to have Antonio join us as the guest host for our show," commented Chippendales Managing Partner, Kevin Denberg. "His incredible sex appeal and numerous talents make him the perfect addition to our award winning production in Las Vegas."

Antonio Sabàto, Jr. is the latest celebrity to join the exclusive roster of guest hosts at Chippendales. From international supermodel Tyson Beckford to everyone's favorite crush, Ian Ziering, every celebrity guest who's ever donned the brand's iconic cuffs and collar brings new excitement to sold-out audiences.

The Chippendales revamped the show just last year and the already sexy production is now amped to hot and heavy heights. The show's new music features top artists from Bruno Mars to Chris Brown. The lighting and musical staging is on point and the signature strip style, combined with edgy dance moves makes the Chippendales show an audience and critic's pick!

Antonio Sabàto, Jr. is an Italian-American, actor and model. Born in Italy and raised in the United States, Sabàto first came on the scene as a Calvin Klein model, but it was his role on "General Hospital" that solidified his place as one of the



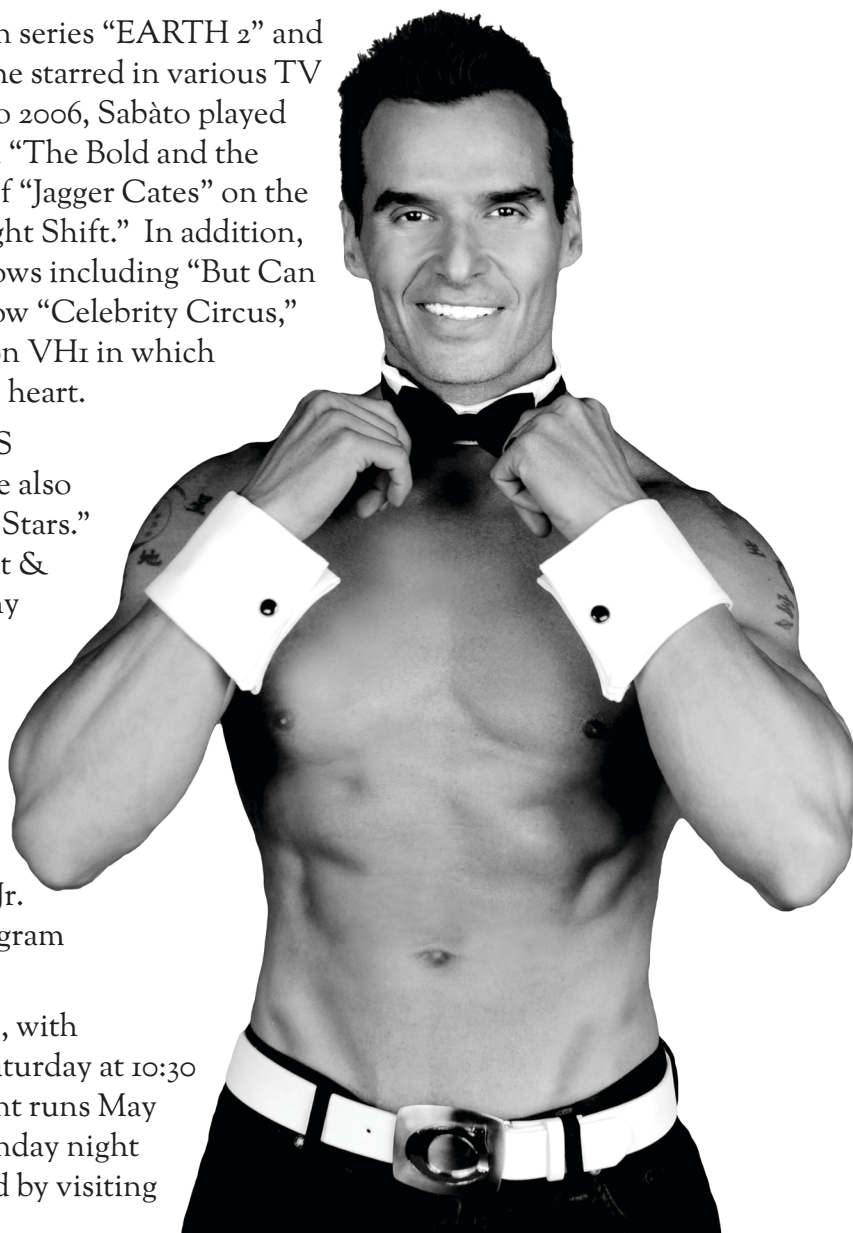
sexiest men of all time.

Antonio also appeared in the science fiction series “EARTH 2” and “Melrose Place.” Throughout the late 1990s, he starred in various TV movies and several feature films. From 2005 to 2006, Sabàto played “Dante Damiano” on the daytime soap opera “The Bold and the Beautiful,” and in 2008, he reprised his role of “Jagger Cates” on the second season of “General Hospital: The Night Shift.” In addition, Sabàto has appeared on numerous reality shows including “But Can They Sing?” on VH1; NBC’s competition show “Celebrity Circus,” (which he won); and “My Antonio,” a show on VH1 in which female contestants competed to win Sabàto’s heart.

Antonio and his family appeared on ABC’S “Celebrity Wife Swap” in 2012 and, in 2014 he also competed on season 19 of “Dancing with the Stars.” Antonio recently hosted the DiY show “Fix It & Finish It,” a series where homeowners tell why they desperately need a renovation before DIY expert, Antonio Sabato, Jr., followed by an overhaul of one space in one home every day. His eclectic and formidable career reflects his versatile talents and adventurous spirit.

For more information visit AntonioSabatoJr.com or, follow Antonio on Twitter and Instagram @AntonioSabatoJr.

Chippendales performs nightly at 8:30 p.m., with additional shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 10:30 p.m. Antonio Sabàto, Jr.’s, limited engagement runs May 5 through June 5, 2016 (Thursday through Sunday night performances only). Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.Chippendales.com.



Photos: Denise Truscello



[by Tom Corliss]

DAY CELEBRATES WITH NIGHT

Dance Diva Inaya Day Celebrates 20 Years in Club Music with Remake of “One Night In Heaven”

Inaya Day is celebrating twenty years in club music with a cover of the massive nineties dance smash, “One Night In Heaven”. Produced by Toy Armada and DJ Grind, the new version is a heartfelt pop/house track with blends of tribal soul.

“It was important for me to make this record because my buddy, DJ Grind, had recently lost his grandmother and he wanted to make it in dedication to, and in remembrance of her,” she continues.

Day first met DJ Grind at Opera in Atlanta, where she was performing a show with DJ Joe Gauthreaux, the mutual friend who introduced them. Months later, when Grind and his producing partner Toy Armada were searching for a vocalist for their cover of M People’s classic hit, they contacted Day’s agent to see if she might be

interested. “I jumped at the chance,” remembers Day.

“It’s a great song and I hope it reminds people that while it’s easy to get caught up in the trials of the world, love ultimately rules. Bad things come and pass,” she says. “Love remains.”

She says the song holds a special place in her mind and heart. “It takes me back to my first European tour with the Harlem Gospel Singers when the original music video would be on constant rotation.”



Celebrating twenty years in club music, Inaya Day has become a staple on dance floors with tracks including “Horny”, “Keep Pushin’”, “Nasty Girl”, and the Mike Cruz-produced dance anthems “Movin’ Up” and “Can’t Stop Dancing”.

She holds firm to the belief that club music should be happy and uplifting. “Negativity is all around us. I want my music to make people feel better”.

In addition to her club career, she has worked extensively as a session musician, appearing on tracks by Michael Jackson, Al Green, Puff Daddy, MC Lyte, Queen Latifah, Monie Love, Big Daddy Kane and Jonathan Butler, to name a few. She has also written songs for Randy Crawford and Missy Elliott and appeared on Broadway, notably as understudy to Stephanie Mills as “Dorothy” in revival of *The Wiz*.

However, for the larger part of her career, her heart has belonged to the clubs. “For twenty years, my fans have come to hear me sing, supported my efforts, remembered songs that I’d forgotten I’d recorded, met with and greeted me, purchased my merchandise, sung along with me, and never made me feel like I was anything less than blessed. All I can say is that I am grateful and thank you.”

Toy Armada and DJ Grind’s “One Night In Heaven” featuring Inaya Day is available on iTunes now.

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





As the sun set on the Las Vegas Strip on April 6th, the new T-Mobile Arena surged to life with light, sound and energy. GRAMMY-nominated rock stars The Killers were on their home turf at the arena came alive for the first time.

You could feel a sense of celebration in the air as the largest arena in Vegas opened its doors to locals and visitors. Cirque du Soleil performers scattered the arena floor before the show, entertaining the crowds and emerging pop artist Shamir warmed up the room.

Opening the show was Mr. Las Vegas himself—Wayne Newton kicking off the night with none other than “Viva Las Vegas.”

Filled to the brim on its first night, the Arena hosted a packed audience. The Killers lead singer Brandon Flowers said the band jumped at the opportunity to perform in their home town.

And while The Killers delivered a solid performance of non-stop energy and practically every song in their repertoire, they were here to celebrate with their community—sharing the stage with Blue Man Group for an invigorating

drum war, a surprise appearance by Imagine Dragons’ frontman and fellow Las Vegas Dan Reynolds, and an epic finale of pyrotechnics, confetti cannons, balloon drop, Cirque du Soleil performers, comedian Carrot Top, Wayne Newton, magician Jeff Civillico, Vegas showgirls and others as The Killers’ closed out the night the way it began with their rendition of “Viva Las Vegas.”

As guests exited the arena onto the new Toshiba Plaza, music from The Killers filled the air as a rooftop fireworks display thanked the first guest of T-Mobile Arena.

Later that week, Nicki Minaj, Arianna Grande, and Guns & Roses would take the stage, and a star-studded lineup is already selling out. Billy Joel, Garth Brooks, Dixie Chicks, Gwen Stefani, Coldplay, George Strait, Keith Urban and Carrie Underwood are already lined up for 2016.



Arena Facts

Groundbreaking - May 1, 2014

Opening - April 6, 2016

Designed for U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold Certification

Can seat up to 20,000 people and can be configured for a variety of events including concerts, boxing, basketball, and ice hockey

The Strip side of the arena includes an expansive glass façade with an LED overlay that appears clear from the inside

Hyde Lounge occupies the top floor of the arena with two platforms extending over the arena seating for unparalleled viewing opportunities, a state-of-the-art sound system and table-side bottle service and remains open after shows and events

44 luxury suites located between the lower and upper bowls range in price from \$170,000 – \$235,000 annually

Toshiba Plaza is an open-air public square that connects The Strip, The Park and T-Mobile Arena. The two-acre event has capabilities for outdoor basketball, volleyball, farmers markets, public concerts, press conferences and a variety of other events



Photos: Kevin Winters



THE PARK

Our vision for The Park was to create a new kind of experience for Las Vegas that would speak to the desires of today's travelers," said Jim Murren, Chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts International.

On April 4th, MGM unveiled The Park, a vibrant outdoor dining and entertainment district celebrating the beauty of the surrounding desert landscape and offering visitors a new way to experience the Las Vegas Strip.

"Within this beautiful outdoor setting, guests have opportunities to explore and discover. Whether it be to enjoy the beauty of desert landscaping, take a photo to share with friends of an important art installation, to enjoy cocktails and a bite to eat on a patio before an event at T-Mobile Arena, or simply to enjoy a quiet moment outside, The Park is designed to offer something for everyone," said Murren.

Joining Murren for the debut of The Park were Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, Clark County Commissioner Mary Beth Scow and Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager John Entsminger, who presented The Park with the Authority's prestigious 2016 Water Hero Award.

This award recognizes businesses or individuals dedicated to water conservation and devoted to saving millions of gallons of water annually.

The Park implemented an integrated environmental sustainability program throughout construction stages that will continue with operational focuses addressing energy and water conservation, green building and waste management through cutting-edge technology and innovative design. The restaurant corridor was built to U.S Green Building Council's LEED Gold standards, and The Park also replanted 75 mature trees from the current area to enhance the lush environment. Asphalt existing on-site also was salvaged, ground and recycled to create new paved surfaces within the development and an on-site well provides all of The Park's irrigation water.

Landscape design utilized native and desert-adaptive species of over 200 trees and 3,000

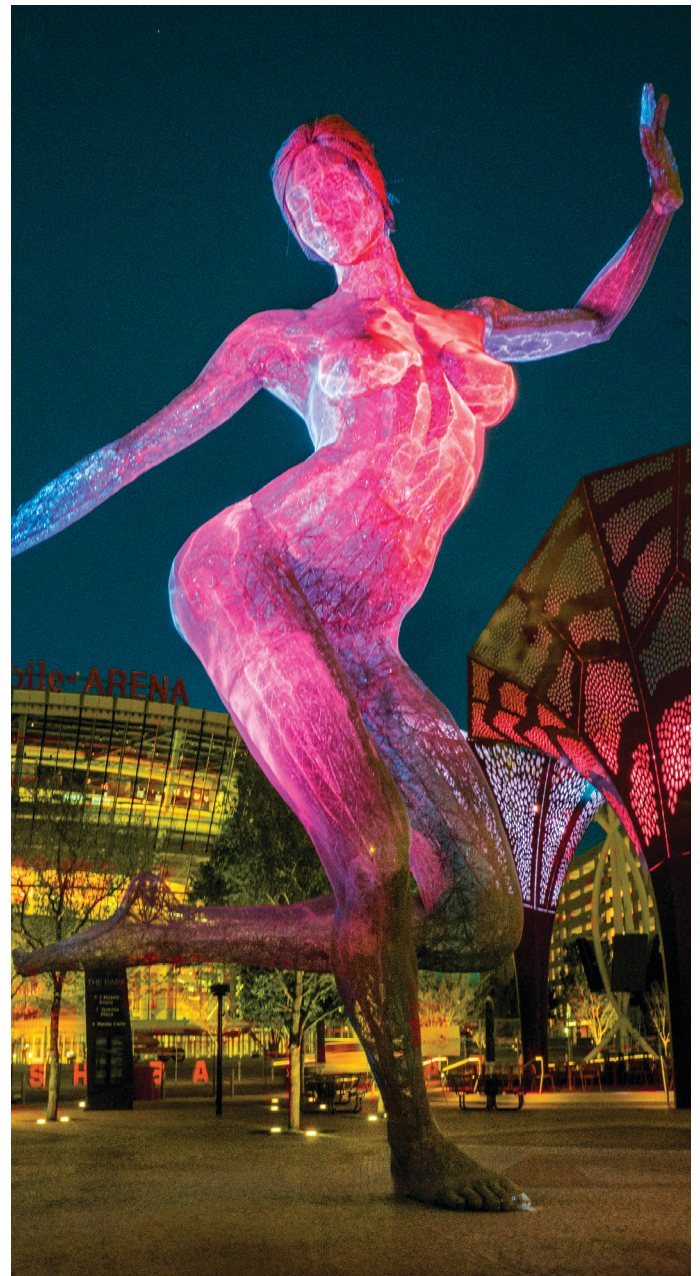


plants, which are able to thrive in hot and dry environments with minimal water. Large planters with inset seating feature dramatic plant life displays created by the juxtaposition of cloud-like plants (santolina, apache plum, mormon fir, etc.) alongside vibrant shoots (red yucca, torch lily, desert bear grass, etc.), lush grasses (Mexican feather grass, fountain grass, orange sedge, etc.) and spikes (blue agave, golf tooth aloe, horsetail, etc.).

Unique water features, including water walls stretching more than 100 feet in length along the entrance, add unexpected visuals as do dramatic plantings incorporating a variety of beautiful desert blooms. As they explore The Park, guests may discover live entertainment such as acoustic guitarists, dancers, sand artists and more.

As the sun sets, illuminated elements of The Park's landscaping create a dramatic setting. The 16 shade structures, works of art in and of themselves created in the Netherlands, emit LED sequences from high above, captivating guests below.

Bliss Dance, the breathtaking 40-foot-tall sculpture of a dancing woman created by artist Marco Cochrane, stands as the centerpiece of The Park's inspired design and is illuminated by nearly 3,000 colored LED lights at night. Constructed with stainless steel rods, cable and mesh, the sculpture took over 10,000 hours to complete and debuted at Burning Man 2010.



A NEW LIFE



[by Chris Twist]

I have a brain injury, the kind of brain injury that changes everything in my life. I was so many things that I am not now, because I can't do all of the things that I use to do.

I used to be a contortionist, wrote and said Japanese and French, sword swallower, suspensions, music (bass, piano, synth, guitar, and digital drums), photography, and the biggest component is writing. I have a B.A. in English with a certificate in technical writing. Though I did most of the things I just wrote about as work, it was writing that I wanted to do for the rest of my life. It doesn't mean that contortionist or photography didn't mean a lot to me, but it did mean that I loved writing more than anything I can think of.

Now, working as a writer is something that I cannot do, at least right now. I have aphasia, which makes it very hard for me to write, say, or read things. It is as though I don't remember any words in the English world, at least it used to be just like that. I could only say "fu**" and "love," for about one month. After that I started to get little bits of words, sometimes I knew what

Publisher's Note: As I started to edit Christopher's article, I realized that doing so changed the essence of the article and undermined the progress he has made in his recovery. His article is presented as submitted. I hope you read it with compassion and appreciate what this man has accomplished in not only writing this article, but publishing a book.

they were and other times I didn't know what the words were; but I could still say them. It was very hard for me to get as many words as I have right now, enough for me to write this letter for all of you to read. I still get new words every day, and maybe that will be the rest of my life. I'm just very happy that I can finally write something, something that means something to anybody.

There is another problem that I have, and it is that I don't remember anything from my life. Fortunately, I have my Mom, Dad, brother, and my friends to tell me who I was and what I did. Apparently, I did quite a lot each day, from my body to my mind; I was always working on something, wanting more and more every day. You should know that I was done with high



school by the time I was sixteen and then was in CSN for what I thought was “big school.” I did very well in that place, and there was a book, one for English students, that used one of my letters in it so that everybody in English classes could read a little bit about me. I also started to work as a writer, writing business plans and short resumes for other people.

I also was a contortionist, which was incredible as work could be. It gave me a way to use my body and my mind at the same time, and that was a great feeling. I would be a contortionist for the rest of my life, and it always helped me by making my mind think about a little less.

Unfortunately, I also started to have a big problem, bi-polar. Maybe it happened because people always said that I was “genius” or maybe it was something from my family’s genes. I started to hurt myself with a knife on my legs and arms. I don’t remember why I felt like that, and I think it is maybe better to not know why. I would sometimes say things about how it would feel so great to be dead.

At that time, I was starting in UNLV, and I had no idea what I was going to do in the end. I was good at everything I tried and loved, so it was very hard for me to get one thing and finish it. Eventually, I wanted the most to be a writer, and some of that was from my teacher Beth Rosenberg. I actually remember her, the only person from school I remember, and I loved her very much. She was the kind of person who was strong and

was fine with weird people, even liking weird people a little more than people who are like everybody else. So she really got me, because I was very weird so say the least. In the end I got a B.A. in English and wanted, eventually, to get a Ph. D. in English just like Beth Rosenberg.

Around this same time, two very atrocious things happened. The first was that in the home that I used to live in, living with a friend who had the home, his boyfriend did something amazingly scary. He put both of us into a room and had a gun. He was thinking about killing both of us. It really wasn’t about me, but I was there; and he would have to kill me as well. He was mad about something with his boyfriend, and I was just there. People have told me that I was the one who changed the gun-holding man’s idea. I just said something that was so right and true that he didn’t hurt either of us, and I can’t remember at all what I said.

Another thing that happened around this time was my boyfriend, Philip, killed by the boyfriend before me. Philip was working in the bar, and it was very late so there were no people in the bar that time. He was killed in the bar by a gun, and that was so very hard for me to think about. That was the first time when I really tried to kill myself. I was taken into a hospital with other people who have psycho problems, and I was there for three days. There was another time when I was home, with my Mom and Dad, and they took me to the same place for another three days.

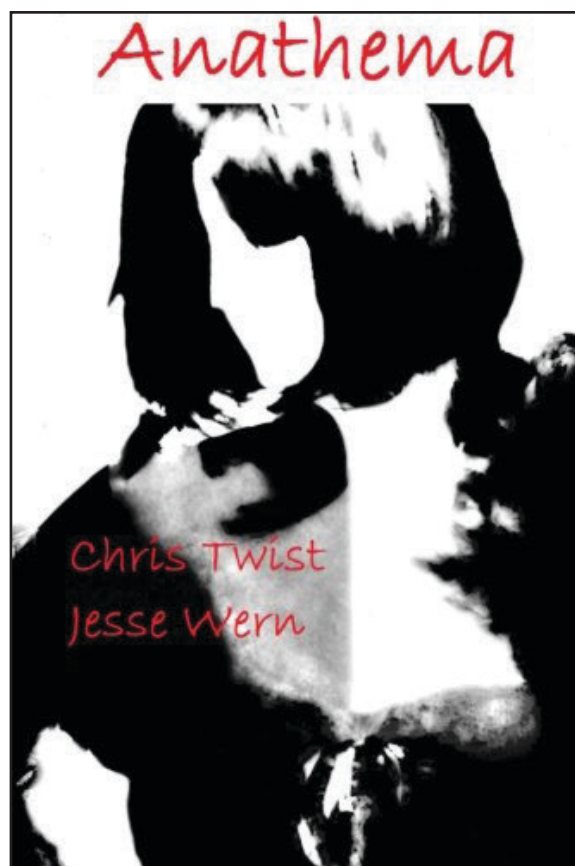


After all the things that happened in Las Vegas, I needed to leave and try a new city; so, I want to Atlanta. In Atlanta, I got the best work as a writer I ever had, and that was at Edelman. I was a writer and a photographer. I wrote for many kinds of ads, and I really like working in the world of ads. Unfortunately, my bi-polar was just getting worse, and eventually, they had to be done with me after about one year and a half. It was after this that I tried to kill myself again; I remember that. I was worried that this bi-polar problem would make it very hard for me to work at any place for very long, and that eventually I wouldn't have any place to work as a writer.

This time, I really almost killed myself. There were months when people were not sure if I would get better or if I would be dead. My Mom, Dad, and brother were all there. This is also the time when I had the brain injury, which is why I'm writing to you right now.

Now, I can write and say things much better. Everyday I'm getting better and I love it. I looked at a book that I made years ago, and I saw that it needed a little more; so I made more. It was amazingly hard for me to write again, but it was also awesome to think that I could really be a writer again. So, I made about 24 new pages in this book, and I really think that the new pages finally make the book truly done. Now I'm making a new book, and so far it is doing very well. I'm just so happy that I can write again. Every time I try to write, I'm a little bit better. I will keep doing

this and I'm hoping that in two years, I will be ready to get a Ph. D. in English, something I've always wanted.



Anathema is a twenty-first century retelling of affectionate delusion and the dissolution of a man whose affair with a young transsexual turns into an obsessive relationship with his inner monologue and his deranged affinity with a mysterious cicada. Available on Amazon

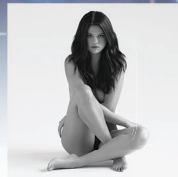
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STEELE is Las Vegas' newest heart-throbbing, sexually-charged, all-male, all-around electrifying revue on the Strip. From the makers of the original Magic Mike, Las Vegas' hottest men perform live on stage for over an hour of costumed and choreographed seduction. With chiseled, sexy performers and daring numbers, the dynamic live performances offer the ultimate raw, high-energy, sensual production right in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip.

London Steele, the inspiration for Magic Mike's character "Dallas", brings the heat to the audience with the men of STEELE.

The non-stop 70-minute all-male stage show offers Las Vegas tourists and locals alike a one-of-a-kind raw, high-energy, sensual production in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. Show producer London Steele joins forces with theater owner Tommy Wind to bring STEELE to Las Vegas with the opening of the highly-anticipated new male revue. The production features eight visually-stimulating, heart-palpatating numbers including a fireman fantasy, heart-melting military hunks in formation and a routine with plenty of southern

charm — just to name just a few.

Partygoers are able to enjoy the sexually-charged, energizing dance routines by some of the country's most renowned male performers in a theater intimate enough to get an eyeful of the men of STEELE's rock hard bods (and sparkling personalities!), and have enough room to stand up and lose their minds for the lineup of tantalizing entertainers.

Performances run Wednesday through Sunday beginning at 9:30 p.m. Guests must be at least 18 years of age and guests 18 to 20 years old must be accompanied by an adult. For reservations, call 702-895-9787 or visit www.themenofsteel.lv.com.



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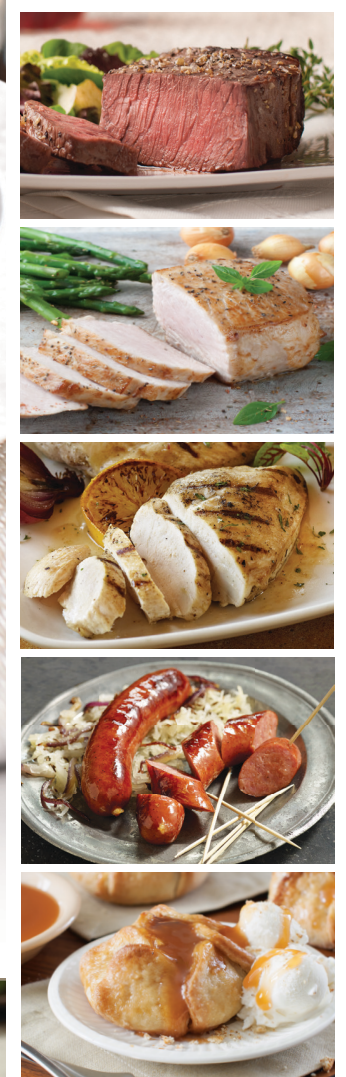
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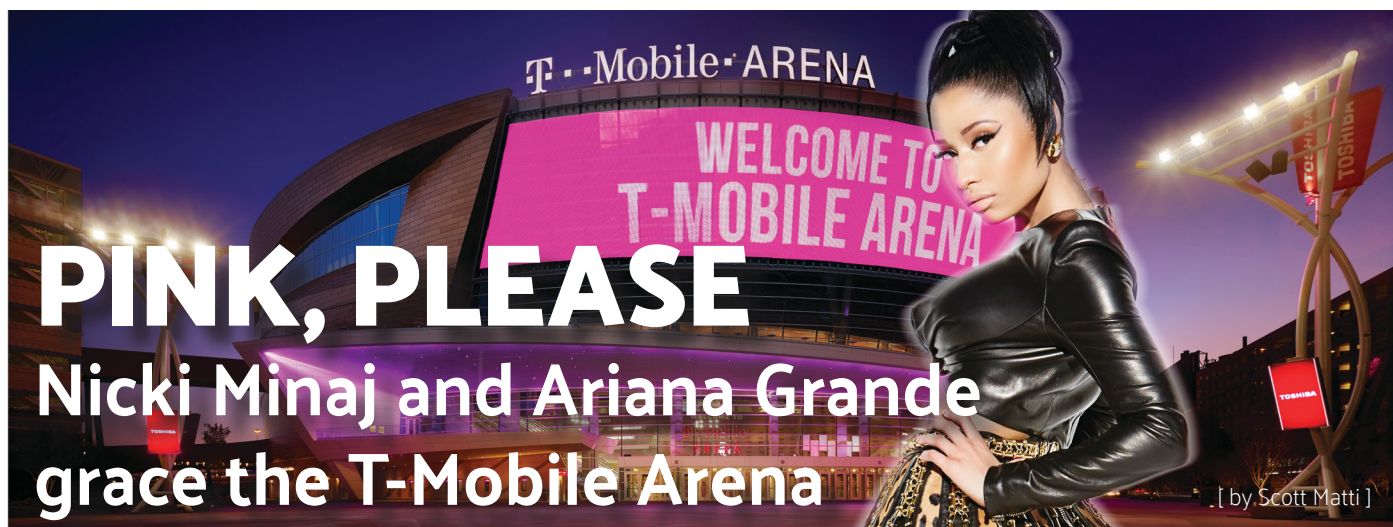
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PINK, PLEASE

Nicki Minaj and Ariana Grande grace the T-Mobile Arena

Overnight, everything changed. At least it felt as though it were overnight.

Welcome in the T-Mobile Arena. Just when we thought the Vegas Strip needed nothing else, the 20,000-seat venue feels right at home.

Within a year, the arena plans to host over 100 events; events ranging from UFC to hockey to award shows. In fact, 70 events have already been booked for the arena's first season. And who was chosen to kick off the exhilarating schedule? None other than Nicki Minaj with special guest Ariana Grande. I can't think of any other pairing more fit for such an exhilarating evening.

The night was dazzling in pink and filled with cheers and unstoppable dancing. Ms. Minaj kept her cool the entire night while laser beams and lights projected from all angles. She did not miss a beat while singing all of her hits, those you probably know and those you may not know.

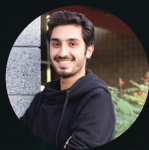
Early in the set was "Roman's Revenge". Giant, block letters reading "N.M." set the scene with flames rising up from the screens on stage. More tracks were played from Nicki's debut album, "Pink Friday", such as "Your Love" and "Moment 4 Life". Scattered throughout her set were Nicki's rap cameos; her beloved verse from Kanye West's "Monster" was welcome by the crowd with lyrics being hollered toward the stage.

When "Anaconda" began, a rampant energy

was unleashed. The dancers on stage gave a show while Nicki alternated between rapping and giving the mic to the audience. At various times, fans were brought onto the stage and were given an opportunity to sing alongside the GRAMMY-nominated songstress. From "The Pinkprint", tracks including "Only" and "Get on Your Knees" were also played. During the latter, the adorable Ariana Grande was brought onstage to perform her part on the duet. Afterwards, Nicki left the stage to give Ariana a moment to perform for the adoring crowd. Grande gave a sultry show during her hit single "Dangerous Woman", backed by guitars and a rugged beat. "Be Alright" was performed as a pleasant surprise with a hypnotizing visual display and minimalist dancing, reminiscent of the 90s.

"Starships" was chosen for an intense finale. Bracelets that had been given out earlier in the evening began to light up, synchronizing themselves with the music. Every arm was held high while flashing lights shined from them

As confetti fell onto the crowd, it was clear that what the T-Mobile Arena had put together was something sincere and special. That a new era in entertainment had begun; a revival so to speak. There no longer exists limits for what audiences from around the world can be a part of in this city. All boundaries are now being pushed and re-imagined. The most exciting part is what is to come.



[by Scott Matti]

BRITNEY'S BACK, BITCH

The much-loved Vegas Residency is back and better than ever!

If you thought Britney Spears couldn't get any better, you stand corrected. Her residency show, *Britney Spears: Piece of Me*, at The Axis in the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino made its debut back in 2013 and has since taken the city, and world, by storm.

Fans of the artist have flown from all around the world to see the popstar perform her greatest hits and newest tracks. Casual viewers have converted into fanatics thanks to the wonderful production this residency puts on. And now, an entirely new experience has been created due to the *Piece of Me* revamp.

In February, 2016, Britney unveiled a re-imagined show within the same venue it was born in. A change that brought much excitement and energy to an already amazing production. Britney and her onstage crew dance harder, sweat more, and work, bitch. Britney has also alluded to the fact that more changes will be made throughout the course of the year.

Some of the current updates can be seen in the choreography, set list, and visual artistry that is painted all around the auditorium. During "Womanizer", you will witness a new and fresh

dance break. "Break the Ice" hosts a performance that has been re-invented since the original version.

In terms of the set list, the audience is more than happy to hear some unexpected tracks being performed. "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" makes an appearance. During this performance, a massive guitar is brought onto the stage and Britney can be seen straddling the top of it while showing off some sexy dance moves. "Breath on Me" and "Touch of My Hand" are, in my opinion, some of the highlights of the show. Not only do they create a portal into the past, they bring forth a memory to the present. If you forgot about these songs, you will be sure to download them once again.

Among these added tracks is "If You Seek Amy"; a sassy, lyrically-brilliant tune with immense energy. It is obvious that the crowd is



loving the new show based on their incessant dancing, hugging of one another, and shouts of “THIS IS MY FAVORITE!” as each song begins to play. A tribute to the one-and-only Missy Elliot is unexpected but welcomed in by the roaring audience while Britney covers all areas of the stage with dance moves and hair flips.

Throughout the changes, however, the show maintains its core. Elements are brought in from multiple influences, adding layer upon layer

to the pop extravaganza. Heartfelt moments, darkness, joy, celebration; all are present during the performance. Each audience member comes in with their own perceptions and leaves with something special. Luckily, the show has been extended until the beginning of July, possibly until September. Piece of Me is going strong and has truly set itself apart from the rest. So if you’re looking for trouble, or just one hell of a good time, you’ve come to the right place.

Photos: Denise Truscello



SHANGELA

HEADLINES VEGAS

From Paris Texas to Paris Las Vegas

[by Garrett Pattani]

Shangela has become one of the most recognizable and well liked drag queens around the world. Last month she became the latest queen to headline The Strip with a dual-residency at the steamy and erotic 53X at Paris Las Vegas and Drag Brunch at Treasure Island. We were curious to get to know more about her and share this interview with our readers.

Tell us more about your background, who is the person behind the make up and hair. Where are you from? What were you like as a kid? All of the questions you would cover on a first date, LOL.

First date questions?!? Oh Lord...I'm so bad at dating. But here goes...I grew up in a small town called Paris (Texas). My grandpa was a livestock farmer, my Mom was an Army vet and my first job was at a Grandy's restaurant. I was active in pretty much every activity in school—captain of the debate team, president of the student council and the first varsity male cheerleader ever. Overachiever fish, lol... But it led to me getting a full leadership scholarship to SMU in Dallas, and being the first in my family to graduate college. During my college years is where I first started backup dancing for queens in Dallas (including

my drag Mom Alyssa Edwards) and fell in love with drag entertainment.

Now at some point you decided to start doing drag - did it start out as something fun or did you know that you wanted to make a career out of it early on? Tell us how you knew that drag was in your future and what your plans were.

I actually fell into doing drag on accident. I was living in LA working a 9 to 5 job in PR, and some drag friends asked me to choreograph a number to Single Ladies for them. The night before the show one of the queens in the show pulled out and the others asked me to fill in. Luckily someone loaned me some lip gloss and lashes, and the rest is HERstory.

What genre of drag would you say you are? Who were your role models and influencers in the type of drag style you do?



Being from Texas, I grew around up around show queens. I fell in love with all the glamour, rhinestones ... And of course all the fierce lip syncing to greats like Whitney Houston, Deborah Cox and Jennifer Holliday. I think my drag is influenced by all that as well as the fierceness I learned from watching (and competing in) drag pageants. I loved watching queens put together a package and then give their all in the quest for the crown. You can't half step at a pageant, baby... and that's why I always feel it's important to bring 100% entertainment to the stage at all times.

We all know you were a hit on RuPaul's Drag Race. What was that like for you and how did that change the trajectory of your life? What did you learn from that experience and how did you apply it to your personal life? How did you apply it to your career life?

Drag Race was never an immediate golden ticket for me. It was actually quite the rollercoaster. I went into season 2 after only five months of doing drag, but I was determined I was going to win. I even quit my day job in PR to go compete on the show and follow my dream. After only two days of shooting though I was back at the house! The first queen voted off. I was devastated. I was like "I'm

unemployed. I'm in debt. What do I do now?" But I didn't give up. I decided to focus on building a drag career and when the following summer came, the producers of Drag Race called.

They said they'd noticed how much of a name I'd made for myself (winning California Entertainer of the Year pageant, landing a guest star role in drag on network TV, and developing my own shows on the West Hollywood drag scene). So they invited me back (in the infamous box) to compete on RuPaul's Drag Race season 3. I always wanted to make a name for myself in entertainment, but I never thought it would be as a reality show drag queen LOL.

That being said, I've never felt more thankful or blessed because of this opportunity. I stayed 100% true to myself when filming the show, and I think that's helped people connect with the real me through their televisions. And now because of my exposure on Drag Race, I've been able to connect with fans around the world and experience amazing support for my art. I've always wanted to entertain ... It was dream as a kid. But now I feel that I owe it to my fans to be the best entertainer



I can be. So that they can see that no matter what life throws at you, whatever the turns, you can rise to the top and be a Winner.

Naturally, being on TV means that you become a role model to others out there. Can you give some advice to people who look up to you and tell them something that would be inspiring?

All the queens from Drag Race have been gifted with having these amazing followers who soak up so much of what we do. I like to say I have some of the most die hard fans out there, and I am committed to doing my best to inspire them to do the same. I'm not perfect in any way. I have my flaws, my challenges, my fears... But something I like to tell those who look to me for inspiration is that we all only get one life. You've got to live it to the fullest. Living a full life starts with happiness. And no one is going to give you happiness...you have to find what makes you happy and choose to hold onto that happiness each day...no matter what. Smile. Laugh. Be joyous. And when u live life in this positive way, you'll find that the things you do and create - even your interactions with others - will be better. Love yourself and don't be afraid to put in the work to make your dreams come true.

What is the story behind your super famous catch - phrase "Halleloo" Did I even spell that right? LOL

Good job! You nailed it boo! I never intended to make Halleloo a "catchphrase". I'm a country queen that was raised sitting in the pews next to my grandma at St Baptist Church... When you were thankful for something you said Halleloo. (Well, they said Hallelujah, but I've always gone for the shortcuts in life lol). Back in the early seasons of Drag Race, we were all just being free and loose with what we said (and how we behaved)...we weren't thinking like "oooh, I should say this so I can sell it on a t-shirt later"... But I'm super happy it caught on. It's a positive statement that goes along with how I live my life. And now people around the world are saying Halleloo—how amazing is that?!? Funny note... It was recognized by the NY Times in 2011 as one of the top ten phrases to come from reality TV, right

between GTL and Prostitution Whore!

Now, we bet you have some other projects you are working on, what can we expect from you in the near future? Do you have anything that you want to share with your fans?

It's been five years since I competed on Rupaul's Drag Race, and I've thankfully been "werqin" ever since. I've done international tours, I've guest starred in and out drag on scripted TV shows like "2 Broke Girls," "Glee," "Community," "The XFiles," and more. I wrote two full-hour stand up comedy shows, one of which called "LaQuifa is Halleloosin' It" is now available on DVD on Shangela.com. I've created music, music videos, taught kids to death drop on TV and even co-starred beside my greatest inspiration in an online series called "Jenifer Lewis & Shangela." I've performed for Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj and Cher...(like WHAT!?) I've done a great deal, and I have no plans to slow down. I'll give you a quick run down on what's to come...

In addition to hosting and performing in 53X here in Vegas, I'm also now hosting a new drag brunch every Saturday at Señor Frog's Treasure Island. I'm featured in two independent films hitting the scene this year -- the gay thriller "Kiss Me, Kill Me" (currently being shown in festivals across the US) and "Hurricane Bianca" (scheduled for release in late 2016). I just wrapped filming six episodes in our third season of "Cocktails & Classics" on LOGO. I'm currently working on a music album for late summer release, an upcoming podcast show, and more episodes of my YouTube series "Living With Shangela." Three years ago, I started a drag management group called Say What Entertainment, and the company was recently featured in Forbes magazine as an innovator in the LGBT community. I look forward to continuing to grow my company and offer more opportunities for LGBT entertainment. I appreciate all my fans for continue to support me as I wear them out with so much content! Oh, did I mention I'm hosting the Rupaul's Drag Race crowning in NYC on May 16?!? Whew!

So what are you doing now? You recently moved to Las Vegas to star as the host of 53X, tell us more about that and what people can expect when they come to see the show. How can they get tickets?

Yes, it's true. I've relocated to Las Vegas to host and perform five nights a week in a new residency at the Paris Hotel. It's a fun and sexy show called 53X, from the producers of Chippendales and creative director Bryan Cheatham. It's a dream come true to headline a show as a drag queen here on the Las Vegas strip. It's Vegas...the capital of entertainment...and through this awesome new show, I'm able to turn up with audiences nightly alongside a super talented (and gorgeous) cast of dancers. I'm having a blast...and probably putting on some extra pounds eating and drinking at Beer Park and Hexx Restaurant every night after the show. Thank God for waist cinchers!





Shangela hosts 53x at Chateau inside Paris Las Vegas. The show appeals to all genders and orientations. From the producers of "The Chippendales," the show certainly knows how to fill the stage with chiseled men who know how to dance in and out of costumes.









If you could have us ask you anything, what would you want us to ask you? In every interview, is there something that you wish someone had asked but didn't?

I always get asked about the great highs in my life, which I love talking about. But my journey hasn't always been a smooth ride. I grew up as a half black/half Saudi Arabian gay kid in a religious Baptist household in the South.

My parents divorced when I was very young, and my Mom was gone for years at a time serving in wars in the US Army. I didn't always feel like I fit in in my small town, nor was I always comfortable being myself. We grew up poor, which is why I think I'm a workaholic now to ensure me and my family never worry about finances. My dream is to one day star in a scripted sitcom on network television, but the road to that has had challenge after challenge.

With the constant auditioning comes lots of rejection. And even when projects have gotten close (I've filmed pilots for NBC, HBO and LOGO that we're sure to go), they've fallen through at the last minute and I've been left

feeling lost and devastated. It happens a lot in Hollywood. I've had close friends pass away, I've had relationships fail, I've been stolen from my people I trusted. One of my lowest moments happened in late 2013 when I broke my leg while performing on stage in New York. I spent three weeks in a NYC hospital, had a titanium rod put in, and then went through four months of physical therapy learning to walk again.

Obviously, there have been some pitfalls along my journey. But that's life... It's not all glitter. But the true test is how you deal with it. And I can proudly say, that I wear my smile as a badge of honor. No matter what I've experienced, I can honestly say that my proudest moment is when I can look in the mirror and say "Still standing. Still dreaming. Still happy. Still here." It's important to me to talk about these experiences because I hope it gives others confidence and inspiration in their own lives. I wrote a song called "Werqin Girl" and I live by those words every day: I am a Professional. I came to WERQ.





CONDRAGULATIONS DERRICK

On the April 25th episode of RuPaul's Drag Race, Las Vegas' native Derrick Barry was sent home, finishing the season in fifth place. From a spot-on Britney Spears in Snatch Game to a full-on transformation during a political parody, Derrick managed to beat out over half of the Queens this season.

We're so very proud of you!

Russ & Garrett





Hooker!

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

No one is shocked when you are driving in Vegas with the top down, and the family from the Kentucky ask what Cirque du Soleil show you work at Lady... my fav is going thru Drive thru at 5 am in full tilt drag and the young kid says here is your change Ms...I love it.



Where do you perform?

My home bar is the Fun Hog Ranch every Wednesday 8pm Show Tunes, Comedy and today hottest Videos,
Will do just about any Show for Vodka and a Bud Light
When I need gas money—3rd & Fremont @ the 2nd lamp post.

Years in Drag? 25 years

Drag queen or transgender? Please! I'm a Heifer in a dress

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Super Gay

Drag Mother Airel Lee Macintirer

Favorite RuPaul Queen Derrick Barry

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Michelle Holliday

Favorite Vegas Queen Jimmy Emerson

About Kitty Litter

Single, was married for 28 years

Empress 22 of Colorado Springs Co 1997

Director Of Fund-raising 2016-

Grand Marshall NGRA 2009

RPC, Chair Corporate ,Sponsorship ,Entertainment Beverage Manager

SNAPI Board 2003 to 2007 Director of Corporate Sponsorship, Director of Entertainment

Employer: Westfield Eye Center Billing Manager



When in doubt, freak them out!

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

Drag is different and has so many different characteristics. I appreciate the older queens in Vegas because they are not as cutthroat.

Where do you perform?

I perform at Flex Cocktail Lounge from time to time but have basically performed everywhere in town.

About Britney Glam

I am everyone's worst nightmare. I enjoy taking my drag to a darker side. I love classic horror movies. My motto is, anyone can be pretty but only I can make you wet your pants!



Years in Drag? 3 1/2 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother Orphan

Favorite RuPaul Queen Sharon Needles

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Jimmy Emerson

Favorite Vegas Queen Alex Serpa



Get It!

Catch Phrase

Where do you perform?

Thursday - Monday in Frank Marino's DIVAS, at the LINQ Hotel and Casino

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

Diversity



Years in Drag? 27 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Artist

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Favorite RuPaul Queen Shannel

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Jimmy James

Favorite Vegas Queen India Ferrah

About Mr. Kenneth Blake

Raised in Tucson, Arizona, Kenneth has been entertaining audiences from childhood. Extensive vocal training afforded Kenneth the opportunity to tour the country and parts of the world before the age of 15.

Kenneth began his professional female impersonation career in 1991 and has gone on to hold the titles of Miss Gay Tucson America 1997, Miss Gay Arizona America 1998-99, Honorary Tucson Miss Gay Pride 2000, Miss Gay Western States America 2001, Miss Gay National NCC USofA 2001 and Miss Las Vegas Pride 2016. In March of 2004, Kenneth's longtime dream became reality when producer Nobert Alleman asked him to join his Las Vegas production An Evening at La Cage starring Frank Marino; where he resided until its close in 2009.

You can now catch Kenneth as Madonna, Dolly Parton, Lady Gaga and performing his signature song "What Makes A Man, A Man?", Thursday thru Monday nights at the LINQ Hotel and Casino in Frank Marino's DIVAS Las Vegas. Showtime 7:30pm.



Not too much

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

The art

Where do you perform?

I perform at Flex and Las Vegas Lounge

About L.A. Jewel

I'm a hairstylist and makeup artist I'm been involved with the gay community for 20 years I'm part of the imperial royal court family I started a organizations 20 years ago called LA and friends to raise monies to kids living with HIV or AIDS (reach out) I'm also a for a former Miss Gay Las Vegas at large 2001



Years in Drag? 4 1/2 years

Drag queen or transgender? Transgender

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Ts

Drag Mother Toni James

Favorite RuPaul Queen Shannel

Favorite Vegas Queen Coco Van Cartier



If I blow it they will come.

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

The number of talented queens that come through and the ones who have stayed.

Where do you perform?

Frank Marino's Divas. At least 4 times a month when Frank has media obligations or is under the weather. The show is at 9:30PM every night.



About Brian Keith

Inspired by Priscilla, queen of the desert my career started of crisscrossing the country with 3 queens in a Honda Accord with car top luggage carrier. After an abrupt end I ended up working at the legendary Finocchios in San Fran eventually becoming the host. Put together my own show displaying talent to tourists from a staged located on the rear deck of a ferry boat...yep...fairies on the ferry. That show closed after a year and a half and the drag went into deep storage. About 8 years later after being rejected to fill in host for a show in Lake Tahoe, the phone rang. On the other end was the voice of an old friend and a new opportunity! Frank Marino asked if i would be able to host his show while he was away. And so for countless nights on a unpredictable schedule for the last 6 years, I have quietly filled in for the longest running headliner in Las Vegas. I moved here 2 and a half years ago. Day time career is as an ER Rn. Happily partnered and have 2 great dogs.

Years in Drag?	20 years
Drag queen or transgender?	Drag Queen
Gay, Straight, or Bi?	Gay
Drag Mother	Multiple inspirations
Favorite RuPaul Queen	Shannel
Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen	Kenneth Blake
Favorite Vegas Queen	Frank Marino



The higher the hair the closer to God.

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

I think my favorite thing would be that entertainers come and go here so there's always something fresh happening in nightlife. I think with us being a vacation destination we have a real advantage over other city's. We have talented queens who are always pushing the envelope with the art form.

Where do you perform?

I perform though out the Las Vegas area and around the USA. You can catch me at Flex cocktail lounge, Freezone nightclub and Charlie's Las Vegas dates and times vary.



Years in Drag? 17 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother Christina Carruthers

Favorite RuPaul Queen Bianca Del Rio

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Nina West

Favorite Vegas Queen Dominique Shappelle

About Visa D'Kline

Visa D'Kline has been entertaining audiences for the past 4 years here in Las Vegas. Originally from central Pennsylvania Visa has been a gender technician as she likes to call it for well over 17 years. Visa impersonates such celebrities as a Liza Minnelli, Megan trainor, and Sia. Through the years she has also done such legends as Joan Rivers, Brittny Spears, Stevie Nicks, & Joan Crawford to name a few. When Visa's not doing impersonations she like to bring her comedic acts to the stage or host live events. She's also been known to sing a few tunes from time to time.



Love you babe

Catch Phrase

Where do you perform?

I do drag queen bingo at Piranha Nightclub on Thursday nights at 8:30 and on Friday night I'm with fabulous funny Friday hosted by Jimmy Emerson at Badlands Saloon.

About Michelle Holliday

I started this journey 34 years ago and it's been a fun Journey this journey started in Louisiana and then it grew while I was in Florida I travel the world and then I landed here in Vegas and I've been here ever since I didn't Miss Gay Las Vegas I been Miss Pride and I can Empress 8 are the Royal Sovereign Court and I've had a fun Journey I'm not doing bingo at Piranha Nightclub and I'm a cast member with funny fabulous Friday hosted by the legendary journey Emerson and I'm still traveling having fun meeting people I love the world of drag it's a learning and it's fun.



Years in Drag? 34 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother The legendary Tiffany Arriagas

Favorite RuPaul Queen Latrice Royale

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Joey Brooks

Favorite Vegas Queen Jimmy Emerson



If you can hide it, decorate it

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

Meeting people from all over the world

Where do you perform?

I host/perform 3 nights a week at Free Zone

-Wednesday @ 11:30PM

-Friday @ 10PM

-Saturday @ 10PM

About Angel Phoenix

My name is Angel Phoenix, a 27 year old California Native recently re-located about 5 months ago to Las Vegas with my fiancé and Manag-Bear, Jason. Since moving here I've worked hard to establish myself in a new area. Performing at a variety of local venues, and recently taking over as hostess of a weekly drag show, Drag Madness, at Free Zone. I have been performing for about 4-5 years now and love every minute of it. I would describe my style of drag as ghetto girl next door, I enjoy looking cute and girly, while performing Trina, Missy, and Lil Kim. I also enjoy putting characters together with a ghetto twist. I have made it my life's mission to be an example of beauty at any and every size. Whether you are a size 2 or 22 we all have something beautiful to share with the audience.



Years in Drag? 4-5 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gaye than the day is long

Drag Mother Drag Father actually a Cali bear named Jake Garcia

Favorite RuPaul Queen Delta Work

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Vicky Vox

Favorite Vegas Queen Drea Dash



When life's a drag, go see a DRAG SHOW!!!

Catch Phrase

Where do you perform?

I have performed in every little and large room in the state of Nevada, doing either Stand-Up Comedy, Drag Performances, or acting as Show Hostess. My favorite drag bar is Flex, working with the #QOLV



About Ms. Tawdri Hipburn

Ms. Tawdri Hipburn (aka-Eric Clarkson) has been entertaining millions the world over, from Musicals to Stand-Up Comedy, to Night Clubs and Radio, for decades. A German native of Southern California, Tawdri grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, travelling often into the city as well as overseas, visiting family & friends, exploring the entertainment industry, and experiencing different styles worldwide. From childhood, musical theatre & the comedic arts became an instant calling. Hipburn took the stage as a female impersonator performing as numerous characters such as Bette Midler, Mama Cass, John Water's famous Divine, and many, many more. With a strong emphasis on Blue-Humor / Off-Color Humor, Tawdri's title "Everyone's Favorite Drag Queen" was born. Many have said that shows get old when you can memorize every line... However Ms. Hipburn has always had the gift of Improvisation and Dry Humor, making no two shows ever the same! Live from Vegas, it's #Tawdri from FB to IG!

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

Me...

Years in Drag?	33 long ass years
Drag queen or transgender?	One I am and one I do...
Gay, Straight, or Bi?	Such silly questions in 2016
Drag Mother	Nope
Favorite RuPaul Queen	Bianca DelRio
Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen	Jimmy James
Favorite Vegas Queen	Aaliyah Skyy



One look and your mind is blown

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

The glitz, glam, and inspiring atmosphere!

Where do you perform?

Twice a month at Share Nightclub

About Farrah Moan

Farrah Moan is a Texas based drag queen new to Las Vegas. She's performed in Houston, Dallas, Austin, Los Angeles and is now the newest resident drag performer at Share Nightclub. Her ultra fishy, glamorous persona and seductive, burlesque-y, show girl style has catapulted her to success. She's been featured in the first two issues of Queen Magazine, the first high end international fashion magazine dedicated to the art of drag, as well as numerous other publications. She's also worked with renowned photographers from all over the country. You can catch her shoes twice a month at Share nightclub, and every Friday and Saturday greeting you at the door.



Years in Drag? 4 1/2 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother None

Favorite RuPaul Queen Violet Chachki and Alyssa Edwards

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Vanity Faire from Australia

Favorite Vegas Queen Derrick Barry



“Bless and Release”

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

I love the diversity and the extraordinary talent across this town! From the Cow Patties to the Pageant Queens to the Queens on the Strip - Vegas has a bit of everything for everyone!

About Norma Llyaman

Norma Llyaman has been described as “the saw dust and the glitter” that remains after the circus tent has been pulled down and left town. Known as The Bearded Lady of Las Vegas, Norma enjoys bringing old school theatrics and camp to the stage whenever she performs. Her unique style of bawdiness and eclectic performance makes her a fan favorite entertainer within the Las Vegas LGBTQ Community.

“I am a firm believer of “Pay It Forward! Give til it hurts and then give some more!”

Norma lives in a haunted house in Las Vegas with her husband Derek Guerrero and their cat - Madame Leota.



Years in Drag? 15 years

Drag queen or transgender? Neither! Norma is a Thespian with female tendencies!

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Norma is all of the above and then some!

Drag Mother Aunt Doris and Aunt Juanita

Favorite RuPaul Queen Ginger Minj

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen It's a TIE! - DIVINE and Charles Pierce

Favorite Vegas Queen I Love them all! (I'm not getting shanked!)

Where do you perform?

Norma is a true gypsy bohemian and can be found wherever the wind blows her. She recently began the Annual Christmas Eve Churchin' Revival for Wayward Orphans on December 24 at Charlie's Las Vegas.



“Big body, bomb face”

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

You get to meet a variety of people different every weekend because we do live in the city of sins.

Where do you perform?

Performed once at Goodtimes Night Club on Tropicana & Spencer in October 2015.

About Nicki Vanity

I’m a Vanity Queen. I love dressing up, I love make up. I love hair. I love looking “fishy.” I love Nicki Minaj—my friends call me Nicki .I love when people look at me. Either it’s a good or bad way I love attention. I love having that mean, fierce look on my face but I am a nice, outgoing, friendly queen .



Years in Drag?	2 years
Drag queen or transgender?	Drag Queen / Cross Dresser
Gay, Straight, or Bi?	Gay
Favorite RuPaul Queen	Roxxy Andrews / Adore Delano / Violet Chacki / Pearl
Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen	Ariel Versace & Aquaria
Favorite Vegas Queen	India Ferrah



It's whatever bitch!

Catch Phrase

Where do you perform?

Every Friday and Saturday on Latin nights at Goodtimes bar located on Tropicana and Spencer. Occasionally at Flex, Charlie's, FreeZone, Share, Piranha. I love to dress up!

About Natasha "LaWhatever" Mendez

Natasha is an exotic Gurl very Latin and sexy. She is "LaWhatever" because she does whatever she likes.

Her name was give by accident at her first performance when she was backstage the host of the show asked this newly queen her name. She didn't have a drag name so she said Roberto which is his boy name lol the host gave her 5 minutes to think about a name. When the time was up she gave 3 names to the host and asked the host to pick one by sayin just call me "whatever". Meaning pick one of these names.... So I ended up with la whatever.



Years in Drag? 4 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother None

Favorite RuPaul Queen Sharon Needles

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Paloma Makary

Favorite Vegas Queen India Ferrah

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

Diversity and talent.



Really Bitch

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

The drag shows in some of the night clubs

Where do you perform?

Piranha Nightclub

Goodtimes Nightclub

About Jackeline Milan

Well what can I say about my self.

I guess I'm a really humble and friendly person, I'm one of those guys that gets along with anyone just fine I'm a really ambitious person in the good way I'm never happy with my self until I achieve whatever I have in mind. I'm Mexican born and race came to the USA when I was 15 I'm an independent person and consider my self a really responsible person. I been doing drag for almost 4 years I started on a Halloween day as many other Queens lol. I have a close circle of friends that I can count and relate on.



Years in Drag? 3 1/2 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother Natasha Mendez aka La Whatever

Favorite RuPaul Queen Bianca Del Rio Phi Phi O'Hara Pearl

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Diana Makary

Favorite Vegas Queen India Ferrah



Oh Shade!

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

I love the huge diversity of drag styles here in Las Vegas. You can go out on any night & find showgirls, camp queens, comedy queens, glamor queens, pageant girls every style from a to z. And I love that there's a place for it all, every venue truly has its own personality & that's reflected in the queens that work there.

About Fantasia Saxton

Born & raised in Phoenix, AZ I moved to Las Vegas in the summer of 2001, where I began my career as a drag artist. I have performed all over the nation thanks to the art of drag & drag competition. I am a huge foodie & love cooking classic recipe's as well as trying new ones. My partner of 3 years & I are both huge fans of Broadway theatre & are often found at the Smith Centre. Recently I turned my love for dance & fitness into a new career by becoming a certified Zumba instructor.



Years in Drag? 16 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother None

Favorite RuPaul Queen Raja

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Barbra Seville

Favorite Vegas Queen Kenny Kerr forever

Where do you perform?

I am a cast member in the weekly Thursday night show FlamBOYance at Flex cocktail lounge where I can also be found hosting Flashback Friday every third Friday of the month.



What happens happens I always say lol

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

Well I love the bars more then the night club's here in Vegas because in the bars like Flex an Badlands you are more interactive with the crowd an I love that an it's more personable to me an The girls are always fun backstage and really helpful when you need help doing something.



Where do you perform?

Well when I get the chance I'm doing shows all over Flex, Charlie's, and Badlands.

About Mimi Monet

Well I'm a fun person to be around in an out of drag. I love being fun an laughing it up around with friends an the people around me.

Years in Drag? 9 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Drag Mother Nikita LaFemme

Favorite RuPaul Queen Raven

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Sassy Ross

Favorite Vegas Queen Kaina Jacobs



A LAAARGE?!!

Catch Phrase

Where do you perform?

I perform all around town, but I am part of the regular cast of FlamBOYance, Thursdays at Flex Cocktail Lounge. **About Cheyenne Sia Desoto Mykels**

I am the whitest Mexican to do Asian drag. Lol. First thing about me is that I am a nerd, forever and always, which will always separate me from my fellow queens. I cosplay, do impersonations, sew, paint my own mug, and always strive to do better than what others say about me whether its good or bad.



Years in Drag? 6 years

Drag queen or transgender? That's a Man, Maury

Gay, Straight, or Bi? 100% Gay

Drag Mother Vicktoria Mykels

Favorite RuPaul Queen Kim Chi

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Aurora Sexton

Favorite Vegas Queen My Sis Fantasia Saxton



The Dazzling Diva

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

The Glamour, the energy, but most of all the patrons. If they are there by showtime they have come to be entertained!!! I have never felt more welcomed in all the places i have twirled as I have here in Vegas. You guys Rock!!! I hope to be one of your favorites!!



About Dymond Onasis

I have been performing in the art of female impersonation since Oct 2005. I got my start by entering the Baddest Bitch Contest at the Quest club in Birmingham Al. Took three months to win the contest but when I did my career started. Moved to Atl in 2007 and was seasoned as an entertainer. I have performed all across the US. Was featured on a Vh1 reality tv show in 2014. Was Atlanta's third favorite entertainer 2015 in The Georgia Voice. Active member and supporter of New Covenant Atlanta, where i participated in various community outreach programs. I moved to Las Vegas April 2016 to further my career and add to

Years in Drag? 11 years

Drag queen or transgender? Transgender

Gay, Straight, or Bi? BUYsexual -Lol

Drag Mother Lexington Onasis

Favorite RuPaul Queen Shangela Laqueffa Wadley

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Shawnna Brooks

Favorite Vegas Queen Shangela

my drag resume. Lol. I'm here chasing "The Dream" of being a true showgirl. Currently i been making my rounds twirling at all the local favorites spots that will book me. I'm really enjoying to get to know the community of Vegas. The people here are truly kind!!! Im so glad to call Las Vegas Home!!

Where do you perform?

I have been featured at Freezone, The Eagle and have upcoming dates at Rendezvous, Badlands and Piranha.

For bookings please email Dymondonasis@gmail.com



Big things come in small packages

Catch Phrase

Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

My favorite thing about Vegas is the ability to perform at my favorite venues with ease. Since I established my name here I have a following that I appreciate. Also I love the diversity and sisterhood here. Last but not least, I love that a lot of my family and friends are here. Drag family as well as real family definitely make Vegas a part of me. Family is very important to me.



About Alei'Aloha Savage

I was born and raised in Hawaii. I am the daughter of the late Tracy Savage. I moved to Vegas in 2000 before my freshman year of high school. I started as GoGo dancer at Flex, and would see the drag shows. I was fascinated by the transformation and thought to myself, perhaps this is something I could do every now and then for fun. A friend asked me to dress up for her birthday, and before I knew it, I was doing drag all the time. It

Years in Drag?	4 years
Drag queen or transgender?	Drag Queen
Gay, Straight, or Bi?	Gay
Drag Mother	Tracy Savage
Favorite RuPaul Queen	Shangela
Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen	Queen BEE Ho
Favorite Vegas Queen	Selena D' Angelo (My drag Aunt)

enabled me to express myself, through the language of music. It gave me something more than being a GoGo boy. I hosted my own show at Eagles, held the title of Miss Firecracker Las Vegas in 2013, and worked at the infamous Drink and Drag Lounge. In 2014 My partner and I moved to Texas, where we gave birth to our beautiful daughter Anuhea. Our daughter is biologically ours due to my now Fiance being a transgender man. We moved back to Vegas the beginning of 2016, & got engaged April 2016, the day after our daughter's 1st birthday after 2 years of dating.

Where do you perform?

I perform locally at Flex, Charlies, Freezone. I perform perhaps once or twice a month due to fatherhood. I'm looking forward to performing at Pride 2016. I do many guest spots for charities and events.



Favorite Thing About Drag In Vegas?

There is such variety in the Vegas Drag scene. Every queen brings a different personality and energy to their craft. Rarely are two shows the same.

Where do you perform?

I can be seen performing in shows for the Royal Court and other organizations. We have shows monthly at Charlies and Flex.



About Diana Prince

I have been performing in drag since 2010. With an abundance of guidance and assistance from others, I was named Miss LV Pride 2011. For the past several years I hosted Tuesday Bingo at Charlies. In December of last year, I was elected Empress 18 of the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, along with my husband Matt as Emperor. Together, we are representing Las Vegas across North America. Our goal this year is to raise as much money as possible for four local charities. Check out desertempire.org or my Facebook page for all our upcoming events. See you all around Vegas!

Years in Drag? 6 years

Drag queen or transgender? Drag Queen

Gay, Straight, or Bi? Gay

Favorite RuPaul Queen Bianca Del Rio

Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen Dolly Levi

Favorite Vegas Queen The Artist Formerly Known as Jewdi Vine



About Edie

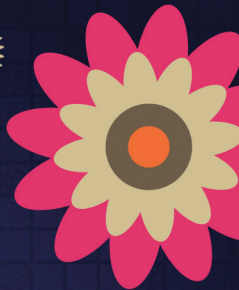
EDIE is the creation of Christopher Kenney who began his career in his hometown of Portland, OR where he was “ballet napped” right out of high school. He danced professionally in the ballet for eleven years with 5 ballet companies including Ballet Oregon, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet and Ballet Chicago. After moving to New York to pursue musical theater, his alter-ego EDIE was born. Many gigs soon followed including dancing with Roseanne on the MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City, with Rosie O’Donnell on her 1000th show, and on “Sex and the City.” His Broadway dream came true in 2006 when he was cast in the Roundabout Theater’s Tony-nominated revival of “The ThreePenny Opera” with Alan Cumming and Cyndi Lauper. Since 2008 he has starred as EDIE, the “Mistress of Sensuality” in Cirque du Soleil’s long-running hit show “Zumanity” at the NY-NY Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. As the emcee of the show, EDIE has performed over 3700 shows for over 3 million people.



Years in Drag?	A While
Drag queen or transgender?	Drag Performer
Gay, Straight, or Bi?	Gay
Drag Mother	No
Favorite RuPaul Queen	Bianca Del Rio
Favorite Non-RuPaul Queen	Too Many To Name

Where do you perform?

Emcee of Cirque Du Soleil’s ZUMANITY



Seeking something to do
this spring? Our community
has the right thing for you!

LGBTQ *Vegas*

WWW.LGBTQ.VEGAS is a new community calendar dedicated to letting our local LGBTQ population know exactly what's happening in Las Vegas just for us — from family-friendly fun to fundraisers, social groups to support groups and everything in-between!

Mobile-friendly!

LGBTQ.VEGAS
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by The Center

Questions? Email
events@lgbtq.vegas





eurie creative

VICTOR RODRIGUEZ

Victor Rodriguez is the business owner, creative and strategy director, and business development lead for eurie creative, a graphic communications firm.

This month our QInc entrepreneur is Victor Rodriguez of eurie creative.

“We are about designing partnerships through branding, integrated communications, and community outreach. And we are very proud of our ‘eurie cares’ outreach program that helps our non-profit partners stretch their marketing communication dollars so they can maximize the benefits that go to people who need it most.”

How long have you been in business?

Just a little over 10.5 years.

Who are some of your clients?

We are very proud to work with the American Gem Society, Nevada Psychiatric Association, The Landwell Company, and JT3. Some of our eurie cares partners include: The City of Las Vegas, The Las Vegas Cultural Corridor, The Natural History, The Las Vegas Library District Foundation, The Science Festival, the Sin City

Sisters, and AFAN.

We came to know you through our common work with AFAN and The Sisters each year. Tell us about your experiences with them?

Interesting story here. Eighteen years ago I moved to Las Vegas and did not know anything about this community, but I new I wanted to get involved with the LGBT community. It was perfect timing as AFAN was looking to refresh its identity. I created the current AFAN logo 18 years ago and worked on the AIDS Walk, Black & White Party, the Beaux Arts Ball for three years. This past year we started working with AFAN again. We completed the most recent creative for the Black & White Party and the AIDS Walk. We are honored to be working with Antioco Carrillo and his team.

We love the Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Lead by Sister Loosy Lust Bea Lady and Sister Gloria Aerola, the Sisters work

tirelessly to raise money for HIV/AIDS folks that could not afford their medication otherwise. We dare to match their commitment to our LGBT community and education to our business community in general. We are very proud to have created the communications materials for the last three Red Dress events and are currently working with them on their new fundraising production, Project Nunway. This new event coming up in October challenges designers to create fashion based on the 7 Deadly Sins.

How has your participation with NGLCC benefited your business?

As an LGBT-owned business, membership to NGLCC is very important. Networking has lead to great opportunities. During their annual International Business & Leadership Conference, not only do we get to connect with even more business owners, but we also have the opportunity to sit in front of major corporations such as IBM, American Airlines, Aetna, FedEx, HBO, and many others.

Have you faced any challenges as a gay business owner?

Being a business owner is a challenge in itself. I'm not sure being gay has been an issue. I embrace our uniqueness as a Certified LGBT Enterprise through the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and as a Certified Minority Owned Enterprise through the National Minority Supplier Development Council. We are also members of the local LAMBDA Business Association. I have never experienced direct conflict with any businesses over the last 31 years in my career.

Anything else you want to let our readers know?

After so many years in graphic communications, we continue to seek out the perfect partners. We are looking for creative and strategic challenges. We look for partners for the long-term, not interested necessarily only one off projects. We also seek out eurie creative partners that touch our hearts, that really help make a difference in our community.

Our small but mighty studio has received national and international recognition over the



Each month, QInc features a local business, professional, or entrepreneur making a difference in Las Vegas.

Submit your story or nominate someone else for consideration at gay.vegas/contributors.

years in leading graphic design and advertising publications, and award competitions. I am proud to have been named Communicator of the Year by the local chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators, named Ambassador of the Arts by the Las Vegas chapter of the AIGA (the professional association for design), and we have received recognition from Mayor Oscar Goodman and the City Council of Las Vegas for our commitment to Las Vegas arts and culture.

<http://www.euriecreative.com>

info@euriecreative.com

(702) 383-9805



Back by popular demand! Dixie Longate, the fast-talking Tupperware Lady, packed up her catalogues, left her children in an Alabama trailer park and took off-Broadway by storm!

Now, join Dixie as she travels the country throwing good ol' fashioned Tupperware parties filled with outrageously funny tales, heartfelt accounts, FREE giveaways, audience participation and the most fabulous assortment of Tupperware ever sold on a theater stage. Loaded with laughs, heart and hilarious fun. Dixie's Tupperware Party contains adult innuendo. May not be suitable for children under 16.

QVegas had the opportunity to hop on a call with Dixie and find out what her plans are for Las Vegas. It was hard to track her down since she's always on the run from the po-po (when her ankle bracelet starts acting up she needs to get on the move) so when we got a call from a pay phone in Colorado we knew it must be her.

RIIIIIIIIIINNNNNNGGGGG!

Hello this is QVegas, is this Dixie - the most famous Tupperware sales woman in the world?

Why yes it is! Technology is so fancy these days, I just can't keep up! *(referring to the fact that we had conferenced in a 3rd line and had more than 2 people on a call)*

I can't help but think of how creative she is. We were able to see Dixie perform the last time she was in Vegas, and it's no wonder why she has achieved such success in the Tupperware world. Here you have a person that was so genius and created a show that simultaneously sold Tupperware. But that's the thing, it's not about selling anything. Her story inspires women to be something and to learn how to be a independent, productive, and even learn how to start a business. Dixie is relatable to so many women and the ability to empower the audience is truly remarkable - all wrapped up in a bunch of laughs and incredibly creative stories.

If you ever get a chance to hear Dixie speak,



you will notice real quick an accent and some words that will give away that she is from Mobile, Alabama and some of her phrases are so southern it will just crack you up!

“Just get on your knees cause you know Jesus is watchin’”

“It was so cold and snowing where I was and it was tax day - it just made me want to punch a kitten.”

“Vegas is one of my favorite cities in the entire world and I’m so happy to be coming back. Everyone is so neighborly while I’m there, it’s like a homecoming. Everyone says to me ‘you’re so pretty’ and I’m like ‘I know’. I wish I could stay for months and months but have to keep moving to avoid the police!”

Do you have new stuff to show us this time?

“I always have new things to bring with me and new games and my creative storage solutions are going to impress. I can leave satisfied knowing that food everywhere is going to be fresher. There is nothin worse than going over to someones house and having them try to put a soggy cucumber in your mouth.”

Do you find any of your children trying to walk in your same footsteps and take over your empire?

“Oh no - my kids are back home in Mobile and I have someone watching them. I’m too busy drinkin’ and having fun. I do have a daughter that might be interested, but she is working that

corporate latter... she’s real purdy.

When people come to your show, what can they expect? Do they get to meet you?

“Well of course! What kind of Christian would I be if I didn’t allow people to take pictures with me”

What do you like to do while you are in Vegas?

“Eatin’ Drinkin’ and of course seein’ the shows. I’m not too much of a gambler but, I love shows and shopping. I got to see Zumanity and Absinthe and I LOVED it. I almost got a roller skate to the face! I even get to call some of my friends on those little cards those nice people hand out on the strip. I call the number and these really nice girls show up, we talk and we braid each others hair. They are so friendly and then they ask me for money and I figured that’s just the culture of Vegas.”

“We are going to make it like the Bellagio water show; except no Bellagio, no water, and with Tupperware. Ha!”

The beloved Dixie Longate brings pure theatrical bliss to The Smith Center, May 17-22 inside the Troesh Studio Theater Tuesday, May 17 through Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 3 p.m.

Ticket prices start at \$33 and can be purchased at <http://www.dixiestupperwareparty.com> or <http://www.thesmithcenter.com/event/dixies-tupperware-party>



I'LL HAVE A SHOT OF ICE CREAM

Be on the lookout for this new indulgence! Momenti Spirited Ice Creams are making their way to Palms Place Pool and Vintner Grill this summer as their factory ramps up production in Las Vegas!

What started as a fun concept by local entrepreneur, Leif Pearson, quickly expanded into countless hours of education and developmental collaboration that has transformed Momenti Spirited Ice Creams into a trend-setting brand and regional, soon to be national, business. A Las Vegas native, Pearson is a graduate of The Meadows School in Summerlin and graduated from Colby College in Maine with a degree in Science, Technology and Society.

“We are proud to announce our factory is the first of its kind designed to exclusively produce alcohol infused ice creams and sorbets,” enthused COO, Pearson. “Las Vegas is a perfect place to open our factory because a majority of the population is engaged in the food and beverage industry and it has become a hub for epicureans.”

With expert formulation and mixology techniques, Momenti’s state-of-the-art production facility innovates the ice cream tasting

experience in a small batch process providing five unique flavor options: White Russian Pecan, a bold symphony of vodka and cream liqueur blended with fresh pecans; Chocotini Chip, a rich combination of vodka and dark cocoa sprinkled with chunks of dark chocolate chips; Vodka Cookies & Cream; a whipped vanilla vodka infused with cookie crumbles; Blackberry Cabernet Sorbet; a blended sorbet complete with hand selected Cabernet Sauvignon and blackberry; and Limoncello Sorbet, a zesty and refreshing sorbet highlighting sun-ripened lemons featuring award-winning Ventura Limoncello Classico.

Momenti Spirited Ice Creams is a family owned and operated business specializing in the science and production of super-premium alcohol-infused ice cream and sorbets.

For more information, please visit www.momentispirits.com.

Gay.Vegas /advertising



In August 2014, Gay.Vegas launched as one of the first .VEGAS domains, and quickly became one of the most popular destination LGBTQ websites in the Southwest. Through our partnership with QVegas Magazine, Gay.Vegas started hosting QVegas Magazine under the Gay.Vegas site.



At the beginning of 2015, QVegas made a bold move and discontinued a 37-year history as a print publication, taking the social and digital media head-on. Powered by new online publishing capabilities of Gay.Vegas, the combined media forces have since propelled digital media impressions and engagements across web, mobile, email, and

social media.

As an all-digital publication, we deliver QVegas to our readers in multiple formats. Without the cost and constraints of print, we provide advertisers with a lower cost and higher value opportunity that provides measurable impressions and engagement.

And we're just getting started. QVegas is the largest and oldest publication serving the LGBT community in Las Vegas, and Gay.Vegas brings new-media growth. As our digital platform grows, so will your opportunity to reach thousands of LGBTQ consumers every day.

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[by Scott Matti]

Influential, trend-setter, multi-faceted. Each of these terms describe the unstoppable force that is Tinashe. The insanely talented entertainer has begun to pave a road for herself, bringing with her a fresh sound and perspective that has caught the attention of a massive audience.

However, do not underestimate the youthful spirit she embodies. Tinashe holds many years of experience under her belt and not to mention an impressive resume, listing credentials such as songwriter, producer, former girl-group member, and dancer to name a few.

I had the lovely opportunity to speak with Tinashe recently to learn more about her artistry and discuss her future plans.

Q: It looks like you're busy touring until the end of May. Any plans for after?

T: Yeah, I'm focused on releasing new music to give something to the fans.

Q: Do you make it a point to release music and videos differently than other artists? It seems very organic with how some if it wasn't even backed by a label.

T: Thank you, I appreciate that. It comes from

the fact that I'm really connected with the fan base and how I want to share my work with them.

Q: How has your fan base changed with the release of *Aquarius* (Tinashe's debut album)?

T: They definitely evolve as I evolve. I've learned a lot and grown a lot and it's reflected in the fans.

Q: Tell me a little bit about your home studio and your approach to making music.

T: I feel really comfortable there. I can shut myself away and focus on making the music.

Q: For someone who is new to your music, how would you describe it?

T: It definitely starts with the entertainment value. And the layers. Everything is really multi-faceted and it has many dimensions to it.

Q: Aside from touring, what's been keeping you busy?



T: The new album. I'm busy focusing on new music. It's an evolution. I don't even exactly know where it's going but it's an evolution, for sure.

Q: What can we expect from *Joyride*?

T: Lots of videos. It's a new evolution of where I've been.

Q: What goes into making one of your videos? They're quite different from one another but all keep your attention.

T: I definitely put a lot of importance on my videos. It's important to me to be creative. The direction of each video depends on the vibe.

Q: You've once mentioned that you find darkness interesting. Can you explain that?

T: I think with anything, we all have a light. I

find it interesting to explore the parts of us that gravitate towards that light and take us away from it.

It is clear that Tinashe will be riding her wave of success to the top. She is set to tour through the end of May, having brought her show to Vegas' House of Blues, and will journey on to Europe and Australia. Her much-anticipated sophomore album, *Joyride*, is set to release soon. In the meantime, fans have been feasting upon her singles "Player", featuring Chris Brown, and "Party Favors", featuring Young Thug. Her growing discography and videography have placed a spotlight on her unique talents and bring forth all that she brings to the industry. Be sure to keep an eye on this one, she's not playing around.

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