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#JUNE2015

**THE
#HASHTAG
ISSUE**

#DJLP

DJ LISA PITTMAN

PLUS+

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#PUBLISHERSNOTE

Hello Gay Las Vegas and supporters and welcome to the #hashtag Issue of QVegas Magazine. You will see the # symbol throughout the magazine.

That symbol is widely recognized, and is often called the number sign, or the pound sign, but we are using it for the purposes of social media.

On popular social sites like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, the use of the hashtag has developed into something really remarkable. This symbol placed before words starts to capture the global consciousness and turn the worlds thoughts into measurable data. Once a popular word gets enough traction, we say that a particular topic is "trending". Technology can take this metadata and we can start to form ideas around public opinion, feelings on controversial issues. Marketers learn what millions of consumers are paying attention to. We wanted to take you through some fun articles as we enter into Summer.

We want you know that we listen to what our readers are paying attention to. So we decided to show you the most popular web stories from #AroundTheWeb that our readers like. It seems #hotguys are on the radar.

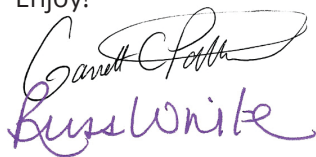
Then we take you on a fabulous photo shoot with the famous Trixie Mattel from Rupaul's Drag Race as we talk about how Chicago Pride gets classy this year and why you should be going in this #Bougie article.

But the hot pics don't stop there. Just wait til the #hooker article as we talk with the underwear line that is making us have the steamiest summer ever.

We will Eat (RED) Drink (RED) to raise money for HIV Global Fund at some of the most amazing participating restaurants. Michael Barbieri takes us on a great review of the #Cosmopolitan hotel and serves up a review of #tapas at Julian Serrano inside #Aria. You won't believe how delicious it is!

With all this talk about technology and Internet, we step back to a time before these concepts and computers were so common. We talk with Jamie Morris, the talented writer and creator of Re-Designing Women—a play paying comedic tribute to the legendary ladies of the #Eighties.

Enjoy!



Garrett Pattiani
Russ White

Check us out online and around town!



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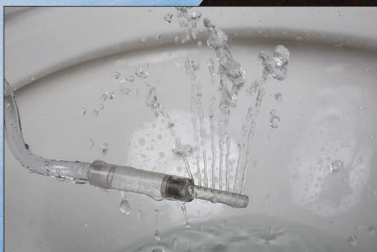
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CHICAGO GETS #BOUGIE THIS PRIDE

#BougieBall is a celebration of all things rich and fabulous.

[by Paul Hutnick]





Pride Wars have long been fought between San Francisco and New York, and why not? Both are high-class cities with fabulous things to see and do. San Francisco has its beautiful sweeping views, cable cars, trendy Haight-Ashbury, and, of course, the Golden Gate Bridge. New York has Broadway, Wall Street, the Statue of Liberty with her fierce crown and miles of fancy limousines. San Francisco and New York also share one big thing in common - both cities are gay. Pretty, pretty, gay.

But another city can stake claim to being glittery gay, and it has its own stylish architecture and a skyline bristling with skyscrapers. We're talking Chicago. The windy city may not have brand name buildings like The Empire State Building but their concrete jungle appears equally as impressive.

If you're tired of doing the same coastal Pride parties over and over, year after year, why not try something less couture but still pretty damn fashionable this year? The Windy City is stepping up to the plate and celebrating pride Bougie style with Neverland's "Bougie Ball".

Neverland promises their "Bougie Ball" will be a beautiful blend of every A-List gay (muscle boys, drag queens, bears, transsexuals, and people of all races) all dressed to impress. Not necessarily in this year's off the runway designs, but pretty tight none-the-less. It's the Bougie Ball, ya'll. As creator Anthony DiFiore says, "Bougie is a lifestyle. Get into it." He explains more.

Why has Chicago taken so long to jump on the Pride bandwagon?

Anthony DiFiore: Honestly, I think past promoters have been intimidated by the fact that Chicago's pride is the same weekend as the more established New York, San Francisco, and Toronto prides. But there are tons of locals and people in the Midwest who might not travel to those other cities and want something fun to do locally. We aren't afraid to compete. Ultimately our focus at Neverland is to create a good time and make people happy. That attitude will change Chicago Pride in the years to come.

Neverland has become known for its strange, unique themes.

Anthony DiFiore: (Laughing) One time we had a plastic surgery party and there was actually a doctor in the VIP lounge administering botox.





What exactly is a Bougie Ball?

Anthony DiFiore: Bougie Ball is a celebration of all things rich and fabulous. We think it will be fun for everyone to come out that night dressed in their absolute best.

Aren't most gay guys bougie already?

Anthony DiFiore: Exactly! Everyone has their high-end stuff that they would normally never wear to a nightclub. But this is the Bougie Ball! The looks will be on point.

Are knock-offs allowed?

Anthony DiFiore: No one cares if the Giuseppe's on your feet are real or from some factory in China. The Bougie Ball is about feeling fabulous from the moment you walk into the party. If you're a hot mess by the end of the night, then hopefully that's just because you had a really great time.

How will Queen Bee Ho close out the weekend?

For her petite size, Queen Bee Ho commands every stage she's on. She is a rising star who hasn't needed RuPaul's Drag Race to get booked all over the country. She is musically versatile, and can slay a normal drag show or a circuit party production with expert precision. The music never stops at our parties, so throughout Ivan Gomez's set at the Pride Closing Party, Queen Bee will surprise everyone with two high-energy performances that will take the party to the next level.

#NEVERLANDPRIDE takes place in Chicago on Saturday, June 27th and Sunday, June 28th. The weekend will consist of three spectacular events including the main event, Saturday night's Bougie Ball at Metro.

For additional information, visit <http://www.neverlandchicago.com>.



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A woman with dark hair, wearing a black leather motorcycle jacket over a dark blue t-shirt and black pants, stands in front of a wall covered in a collage of various images. The collage includes a large black and white portrait of a woman's face, a floral pattern, and a black and white image of a person's face. The woman is looking upwards and to the right. She is wearing a gold watch on her left wrist and a gold chain with a tag around her neck. The text "#DJLP" and "Lisa Pittman" is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

#DJLP

Lisa Pittman

[by Garrett Pattiani]

Lisa Pittman was born in Los Angeles into a family of entertainers—her dad a soap-opera actor and mom a trained dancer. Eventually her family moved to Las Vegas while her mother was in pursuit of her own dream to be a Las Vegas Showgirl. It's this dream that placed Lisa Pittman on a Las Vegas Blvd marquis, by being one of the first of the next generation of entertainers, The DJ.

DJ Lisa Pittman is a Vinyl and turntable style DJ with impressive residencies at some of the most iconic night clubs in the world including her current residency at Tao Groups Marquee Las Vegas and the SLS new live music venue The Sayers Club. She has been a resident DJ for Tao, Lavo, The Palms, MGM Grand's Studio 54, & Paris Chateau. In addition to impressive DJ residencies, DJLP has been an on air mixer for CBS Radio, 98.5 KLUC and HOT 97.5 Kvegas. DJLP has been Vegas choice for locals favorite DJ awards and various "best of DJ" categories.

In addition to her local DJ residencies she also travels internationally to headline festivals, prides, and concert stages around the world. She has DJ'd with artists like Kanye West, A-Trak, Tyga, Lady Gaga, Missy Elliot, Eve, YG, Iggy Azalea, and DJ'd events for the Kardashians, MTV Music awards as well as a earned a spot on VH1's The Master of the MIX in 2014. In addition to just being DJ Lisa Pittman the female DJ extraordinaire, she is also Lisa Pittman the event producer. The longest running gay girl scene in Vegas can be attributed to Lisa Pittman and her success as a DJ turned event producer. She has been a pioneer for the girl's scene as the longest running event for girls who like girls in Vegas with her events Candybar, Bootybar, Down, Kittydip, and the biggest event of all Shedonism.

Shedonism, an annual event created by Lisa Pittman draws thousands of women to Vegas

every September for a hotel take-over and women's weekend that consists of day parties and night parties during Las Vegas Pride. During Shedonism weekend, DJLP has access to the best nightclub venues and privately secures them for the distinguished lesbian traveler.

She has served as an ambassador to the city of Las Vegas as a LGBT advocate.

How would you best describe your fashion style?

I would describe my fashion style as Rock'n Roll classic: jeans, T-shirt, good boots and a leather jacket. A few good accessories like a vintage hat, watch or necklace... And that's my style.

How would you best describe your DJ music style?

When I started DJing in 2001, I was a house music junkie. Bassline house was my thing! My music style has changed and evolved over the years. I am a completely different DJ than I was 10 years ago. With all the change, I have emerged as a more versatile DJ, versed in many genres and considered an open format DJ. By the time I was actually good enough to be playing out and getting gigs as a DJ, the bassline house music I loved so much was dead. I had two choices: adapt to the emerging hip-hop music scene or be a bedroom DJ. My mentor DJ Frankie literally said those words to me, "If you want to be a working DJ, you have to learn to play hip-hop." Fast forward 10 years, and ironically, I'm a hip-hop DJ!

When did you start DJing—and what were your early passions and influences?

Music was always a major influence in my life. I loved to study music, play music, listen to music, any and all kinds of music in every way, it was just who I was from such an early age, even as a baby (reports mom). At 11, I was drumming. By 15, I had my own band and was talking record deals. I was playing the Hollywood Bowl with jazz ensembles before I could drive. My true love was always simply music. I played the bass and the drums, and was offered admission to the Berkeley School of Music. Fast forward into early adulthood, I was working in a nightclub as a bartender and no longer had a band. That absence made time for me to learn how to DJ. That in itself fulfilled my musical outlet. I started learning how to DJ in 2001, with no intention to do it professionally. By 2004, I had my first residency in a major nightclub on the Las Vegas Strip.

What are currently your main challenges as a DJ? What is it about DJing, compared to, say, producing your own music, that makes it interesting for you?

What makes DJing interesting and challenging for me is actually playing. Playing live, being live, playing "turntable style" with records, learning new tricks. Manipulating vinyl to "play" the turntables more like an instrument. Even doing different genres like Indie and Rock that are simply more challenging when you're beat matching pre-recorded live drummers. One of my favorite residencies is at the SLS Sayers Club. Here I can play Rock and Indie-styles that are more technical and not dance floor driven.

The biggest challenge of being a working DJ is the business of "being a DJ". The business side shares all the same problems that most small businesses share. Time to do everything you need to do as a small business. But your business

has a face, and it's yours! Giggling, traveling, downloading music, creating mix tapes, radio shows, social media profiles, and your fan base wants it from you. A DJ must spend the time to perfect the art and the craft, but also have talents of a business mind—creating and maintaining the imaging, branding and product. As a DJ you're a musician, an artist, a brand, a club promoter, a socialite. The list can go on and on. Some of the best DJs in the world aren't just selecting songs, they're really good at the overall package and really good at a speciality... Maybe that speciality is producing tracks or social media, but DJs are in demand and a sort of right of passage for this generation. Imagine day parties, pool parties, night clubs, lounges, and festivals without them.

What do you usually start with when preparing for a set?

There are so many ways I prepare for a set. They all vary drastically and really depend on what type of show I'm preparing for. I play small intimate sessions and also play to festival crowds. My prep could range from downloading new music to simply organizing folders of existing music, to just listening and making notes on sets. My best method is to record mini mixes of practice sessions and listen to them when I'm getting ready for a show, like when I'm in the shower or doing my makeup, and my brain is not so hyper focused on every little detail of the music. This way I can listen from a different perspective, like a fan or music lover would, instead listening like an artist would or being too critical—enjoying and appreciating music instead of dissecting it. And the biggest tool of all is to remember what it was like to be a fan, or be a club go-er—to capture the experience from all perspectives, most importantly a fan perspective, is my best prep method.

Where did you learn your skills from. Self-taught or education route?



More information on Shedonism is available online at shedonismvegas.com

Photos: Brian Jameson
On Location at Artifice Bar in Art Square

I am a self taught DJ, but have learned from watching and listening to some of the best DJs around. YouTube is an unlimited source of inspiration and creativity. Many of my generation DJs learned and took notes from the late and great DJ A.M. (RIP)—we all learn from each other. All good DJs borrow tricks from other DJs, and the art of DJing is sometimes just a process. It's a lot of combining making mistakes with figuring out what works and what doesn't. And no two rooms, crowd or events are ever the same.

What is it like to be a main stream out-of-the-closet lesbian DJ, and how has the club world handled it? Has time changed things?

I have been fortunate enough to be able to use my mainstream status to create an LGBT girls scene in Vegas. I have created many weekly and monthly parties over the years for the girls including Candybar, BootyBar, Kittydip, Munch the Brunch and 5 years ago I created Shedonism—the biggest of all events and the only event still active. Shedonism is an annual



all girl festival in conjunction with Las Vegas Pride. Shedonism events include a women identified march, a hosted hotel with 5 days of events including pool parties, and nightclub parties. Shedonism rents out the best nightclubs in the city and offers an exclusive event for women. We have used Rumors Boutique Hotel, The Palms, and nightclub spaces including Marquee, Rain, Moon, Ghostbar, Commonwealth, InsertCoins, Drink n Drag, and many more.

What is your vision for the Las Vegas LGBTQ Scene? What would be your dream?

I have had a dream of successfully merging the downtown arts district with an up and coming Gay & Lesbian community, following in the footsteps of other re-gentrification areas. Imagine

DTLV transforming into a Castro-like area or mini WEHO. Over a decade ago, I wrote a letter to the then-mayor Oscar Goodman to help facilitate this movement and process. I received a charming letter back from a staff member stating how good the idea was but just not on the agenda at the time. I still hope to be that person to create an area within the arts district for the LGBT community.

About how often do you play to an LGBTQ Audience?

All of my DJ residencies are "mainstream." I have been so fortunate to have a DJ residency with one of the most amazing nightlife companies in the world, TAO Group. I feel very fortunate to be a part of the TAO family that operates Marquee Las Vegas, which has been one of my main DJ residencies since 2011 and with TAO group since

2009, as a company. TAO has set an industry standard world wide for DJs, nightlife and now festivals. I think that TAO group has completely embraced me as a resident DJ and since I have never hid that I am a Lesbian, I guess that means they embrace me as an "Out Lesbian DJ." TAO has additionally pioneered into advocating LGBT events with me over the years. The founders and operators of TAO come from New York City, where being an out Gay or Lesbian is just part of the ambiance and charm of the city. So maybe, just maybe being a gay artist might just offer some "Street Cred."

Since this is the #Hashtag issue, What is your favorite hashtag? Where can people find you online or on social media?

#djlisapittman

A full-body photograph of Ricky Martin. He is wearing a grey V-neck t-shirt and dark trousers. He has a black leather jacket slung over his right shoulder and is holding it with his right hand. He has tattoos on his arms and chest. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

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Faith Michaels Drops Her "Panties" The Second Single From Her Full Length Album, The Pop Album

[by Tim Larcombe]

Faith Michaels' second single from her album of pop-oriented songs mixes camp, comedy, and sensuality with playfully strong dance beats. "Panties is a track I began writing a few years ago but something wasn't working," reveals Michaels. "Luckily, producer Michael Cosculluela came to the rescue, adding some fun sounds and putting the song back on track." "Panties", from Faith' Michaels' s "The Pop Album", is available now on iTunes.

#PANTIES

"I love everything about panties," continues Faith Michaels from her Key West home. "The way they feel when you slide 'em on and off. The way they hug the body and derriere! I have so many too: G-string, crotchless, lace, even time-of-the-month panties! You can always tell which are mine because they smell of vanilla."

Faith Michaels burst onto the club scene three years ago when "Fetish", her first single, won music video of the year in Germany. Her next single, "Neva Eva Eva" received nominations from Canada's RightOutTV. And last year, "Work That Body" hit the Top 40 on the iTunes dance chart.

In 2015, Faith Michaels' teamed with producer Michael Cosculluela for her first full-length album of pop-oriented songs. Titled "The Pop Album," the record offers a slew of danceable club tracks, including "Crooked," the first single that came out this winter, featuring Faith singing alongside drag superstars Nina Flowers and Power Infronti.

"I wanted Panties to be next because it's really like no other song on the album," explains Faith Michaels. "It has that bachelorette's- hanging-out-with-gay-boys summertime feeling that I think will get everyone tossing their panties in the air!"

She says she's surprised it taken so long for a panty dance song to come out. "Panties and partying go hand in hand."

She points to the gay men stripping down to their colorful funderwear at clubs. "Why shouldn't they have fun showing off their colorful briefs? It's liberating! Anyone can wear white drawers but if you're sportin' panties, oh bitch, look out! There's some sexiness going on!"

"Panties", from Faith' Michaels' "The Pop Album", is available now on iTunes. For more information, visit FaithMichaels.com. Follow Faith Michaels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube.



A photograph of the interior of the Julian Serrano restaurant. The name "Julian Serrano" is displayed in large, illuminated, 3D letters at the top. The "Julian" part is orange and the "Serrano" part is pink. Below the name, the restaurant's interior is visible, featuring a modern design with a curved white structure, a wall with a grid of small square tiles, and a large, dark, leafless tree sculpture. The lighting is warm and ambient.

Julian Serrano

#JULIANSERRANO

[by Michael Barbieri]
in vegasobsession.com

Small plates are big business! Tapas restaurants and "Small Bites" menus are popping up all over the Strip. It's a smart move - shareable portions, reasonably priced, allowing diners to sample more dishes than they might with a big, expensive dinner. A standout among these eateries is Julian Serrano Tapas at the Aria Resort and Casino. Having grown up in a Latin American country with strong Spanish influences, I have fond memories of many of these foods, and Chef Serrano does tapas right!

Tucked away at the far end of the main lobby of the Aria Hotel, Julian Serrano Tapas has the feel of an open air cafe - the design is modern, with two freestanding, square portals at the entry, black skeletal "trees" dotting the central dining area, and a backlit wall behind the bar. Orange, red and yellow tiled columns, blonde wood panels, and amber-colored glass globes, give the place a nice warmth and playfulness, and the deceptively large layout, including a long, winding bar, accommodates large parties as well as individuals.

I was shown to my table, where I was greeted warmly by my server. I began with a cocktail: the Cereza Borracha (Drunken Cherry), made with black cherry vodka and pomegranate liqueur, with three tart acai berries as a garnish. As I was enjoying my drink, I was approached by one of the managers who talked me through the menu a bit, making excellent suggestions, piquing my interest - and my appetite. I started with two of the lighter, more appetizer-like offerings, the oddly intriguing Caramel Coated Chicharrones - bite sized pieces of fried pork belly, coated in a hard caramel shell, with a touch of black pepper. Served in a sealed mason jar, these little nuggets were hard on the teeth, but worth the work. The saltiness of the pork belly was wonderfully offset by the sweetness of the caramel, while the dots of pepper gave these "bacon candies" a pop of spice. I was informed that this was a relatively new item, and in my opinion, a successful one. Next came the Tuna Cones - crispy little won ton cones filled with a mixture of Ahi tuna, ponzu, cucumber, and avocado. The tartare was flavorful, with cool, clean flavors, and the cones themselves provided just the right amount of crunch. A novel take on what's become a standard dish in numerous restaurants.

Ordering as I went, I next sampled the Choripan, a true Spanish favorite. In Buenos Aires, where I grew up, choripan was a simple chorizo sausage on a baguette - a working man's lunch. Here, the dish was elevated, with a delicious, perfectly spiced chorizo; one of the best I've tried. Baked around the sausage, was a super fresh Swiss bread roll - soft on the inside, with a lightly crispy crust outside. One bite of this compact little sandwich, and I was transported back to my childhood! Highly recommended!

At this point, I had a visit from my friend Phillip, who works at Julian Serrano Tapas. We chatted, caught up a bit, and discussed Chef Serrano's food. Phillip recommended a dish which he said was a bit of a hard sell for some customers, the Rabo De Toro, or oxtail. Oxtail is a fatty, bony meat,

generally used in stews, soups and other dishes requiring long cooking times. Inexperienced diners tend to avoid it because the central bone running the length of the tail can make it difficult to eat. In this case, the oxtail was de-boned and braised till falling-apart tender, rolled tightly into bite-sized morsels, garnished with slivers of green onion, and served atop a bed of Iberico ham mashed potato. The meat was succulent, with just the right amount of fattiness, and a lovely Madeira wine reduction provided a touch of sweetness to counter the richness of the beef. According to Phillip, the serving staff recommends this dish quite frequently. I can understand why!

My final "entree" dish was the Lobster Fideua - a broiled half lobster tail sitting on a bed of angel hair pasta and roasted red peppers. The noodles had been tossed in lobster stock, saffron, and paprika, giving it an exotic, slightly smoky flavor, while the red pepper imparted a nicely contrasting sweetness. A beautifully balanced dish.

The tapas portions were just enough to satisfy me without leaving me stuffed, so I took a look at the dessert menu. I decided to try a traditional Spanish after-dinner drink called a Carajillo - espresso poured over an iced shot of Licor 43, which tastes of vanilla with citrus and herbal notes. Now, I'm not a big coffee lover, but again, I was intrigued. Unfortunately espresso is just too strong and bitter for me, so I finished it, but can't say I'd ever order it again. Luckily, there were also several tempting desserts available, and I chose the Buñuelos de Viento; roughly translated as "Doughnuts of Air" - four lightly fried pastry balls, filled with a smooth white chocolate cream, each on a slice of fresh strawberry, and then dusted with powdered sugar. They were indeed light as air, and the perfect not-too-sweet ending to an amazing meal!

The vibe at Serrano's place is refined, but boisterous, fun and very gay-friendly, from what I saw. There was quite a crowd the night I dined there, but the entire staff worked together efficiently, getting the food out lightning quick, and taking great care of their diners. Servers, bartenders, and managers alike, were knowledgeable, friendly and welcoming. I wasn't there to review the place, specifically, yet I had been treated like a VIP. When I looked around, however, I noticed that all the diners were treated with the same special care. Phillip told me he'd never seen a chef as hands-on as Julian Serrano, and clearly his incredible staff take their cue from him.

News from Around the Web

Check out our most popular News from Around the Web articles

Gov. Cuomo: New York Will No Longer Recognize Marriages From Non-Gay Marriage States

As a number of states pass anti-LGBT legislation, corporations, celebrities and even other states are stepping up to signal their outrage.

But now New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has raised the bar by announcing New York will no longer recognize any marriage from a state that bans same-sex marriage.

From newnownext.com

Bryan Hawn & Boyfriend Show Off Their ASSets In Jennifer Lopez "Booty" Cover Video

If there was ever a song made for one of Bryan Hawn's ubiquitous YouTube video covers, it's Jennifer Lopez's "Booty."

Bryan shows off his greatest asset with an assist from his real life boyfriend! Is it an upgrade from J.Lo and Iggy?? You tell us!

From Instinct.com

Eurovision 2015: Belgium's Entry

Belgium's Eurovision entry was selected by state media and today the track to be performed by 18 year-old Loïc Nottet was unveiled. There's a lot going on in this video, but I think it's supposed to be some statement about gender roles. Or maybe not. Nottet came in third in last year's Belgian version of The Voice and his label, Sony Music, says this: "Our first objective was to choose a song that definitely does not sound like a typical Eurovision Song Contest song. The world of Loïc Nottet is very far from the contest."

From Joe.My.God

Ashton Kutcher Has His 'Huge Prosthetic Penis' Ready At All Times

Two and A Half Men co-star Jon Cryer explains:

In the very first episode that Ashton was in, there was a point at which he was supposed to drop trou and be completely naked in front of me, and we didn't know how to that in front of the live studio audience without him actually being naked... We had to cover him up somehow but it still has to be shocking.

And then Ashton pops in with 'oh, I have a huge prosthetic penis in my trailer.'

From Instinct.com



Meet 2 Broke Girls' New Hunk Austin Falk

Once I start watching a show, I find it difficult to break up with said show after having committed several seasons despite the declining quality. That's why I keep tuning in to 2 Broke Girls. At least last night though, the CBS sitcom introduced me to a hunky piece of eye candy. Austin Falk played

From homorazzi.com

Bel Ami Models Get Soaked & Loaded For Addicted Swimwear Campaign

Some guys were made just for porn. And that couldn't be any truer with regards to Kris Evans. Every inch of that muscular tall frame is equipped for sex. The Bel Ami model is packing everywhere and then some. Whether he's your type or not, there's no denying he's a Greek god come to life.

From homorazzi.com

50 Shades Of Gay Grey: The Ultimate Guide To The Man-Loving Silver Fox

With the opening of the highly anticipated, debated, snarked at, and side-eyed 50 Shades of Grey this weekend, we thought rather than read passages from the book (which we've covered before), discuss the movie's disastrous press tour, its reviews, or even what the film and book may have cribbed (if anything) from gay BDSM culture, we would take this opportunity to draw your attention to a different kind of grey: that is grey hair on gay men.

From Towleroad.com

Two men arrested in Taiwan after video of them having oral sex on train goes viral

Two gay youths have been arrested in Taiwan after a video of them having oral sex on a train went viral online.

From gaystarnews.com

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Direct from Off-Broadway, "Re-Designing Women" Lands in Vegas!

SATIRIZING SWEET SASSY SOUTHERN BELLES!

[by Jamie Morris]

Parody is the lowest form of comedy," whispered a famous -and just a little bitter- gay comedian in my ear while watching an equally famous drag performer "kill" with one of her brilliantly written song parodies. Jealous much?

It was not only an inconsiderate and rude remark toward the drag queen, but it was also insensitive given that he chose to share his words with me, someone who has built their career on writing parody plays. I laughed it off and simply said, "I think she's brilliant. Just listen to the audience."

I like to think of parody as I do imitation. It's the sincerest form of flattery. I look at it as a celebration of the original source material. You have to love what you are spoofing.

When I set out to lampoon one

of my favorite sitcoms of all time, "Designing Women," I went about it with love. The characters that the supremely talented writer Linda Bloodworth Thomason created hold a special place in my heart. You see, in 1986, the show was appointment television in my grandparents house. I lived with them at the time and it was a special bonding moment that I will always hold dear. I connected with the show like no other. Ok, "Golden Girls" was a close second if not a tie. But growing up in West Virginia

-even though we aren't the deep south - I knew these four sassy, smart, opinionated, sweet southern belles. Julia, Suzanne, Maryjo, and Charlene gave this gay boy a treasure-trove of quotable lines that I'm sure my college friends tired of quickly.

Who knew where my life trajectory would take me? Twenty-seven years later I would find myself in rehearsal for the world premiere of the play that I wrote and I would be playing Julia Sugarbaker. No pressure at all. I had many

#REDESIGNINGWOMEN

fears in the spring of 2013 in Dallas. Uptown Players had produced three of my plays to date, "Mommie Queerest," "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode," and "The Silence of the Clams." But "Re-Designing Women" would be the first world premiere. My fears quickly subsided when the audiences came. Thank goodness they received it well. As did the critics. And I truly could not have asked for a more talented cast. I mean, everyone just nailed it. And now I count them all as dear friends.

Since 2013, we have had the good fortune to take the show to San Diego, Ft Lauderdale, and most recently Off-Broadway!

But I am thrilled to bring the show to Las Vegas, back to the Onyx Theatre that has always been good to me. After an absence of four years I am back at the 99-seat black box, that little gem inside Commercial Center. And I have my Dallas friends joining me helping me tell the story of how the Sugarbakers land a reality show on Bravo and become overnight stars thanks to openly gay producer Andy Cohen. In fact, the second act is a reunion special on his show "Watch What Happens Live!"

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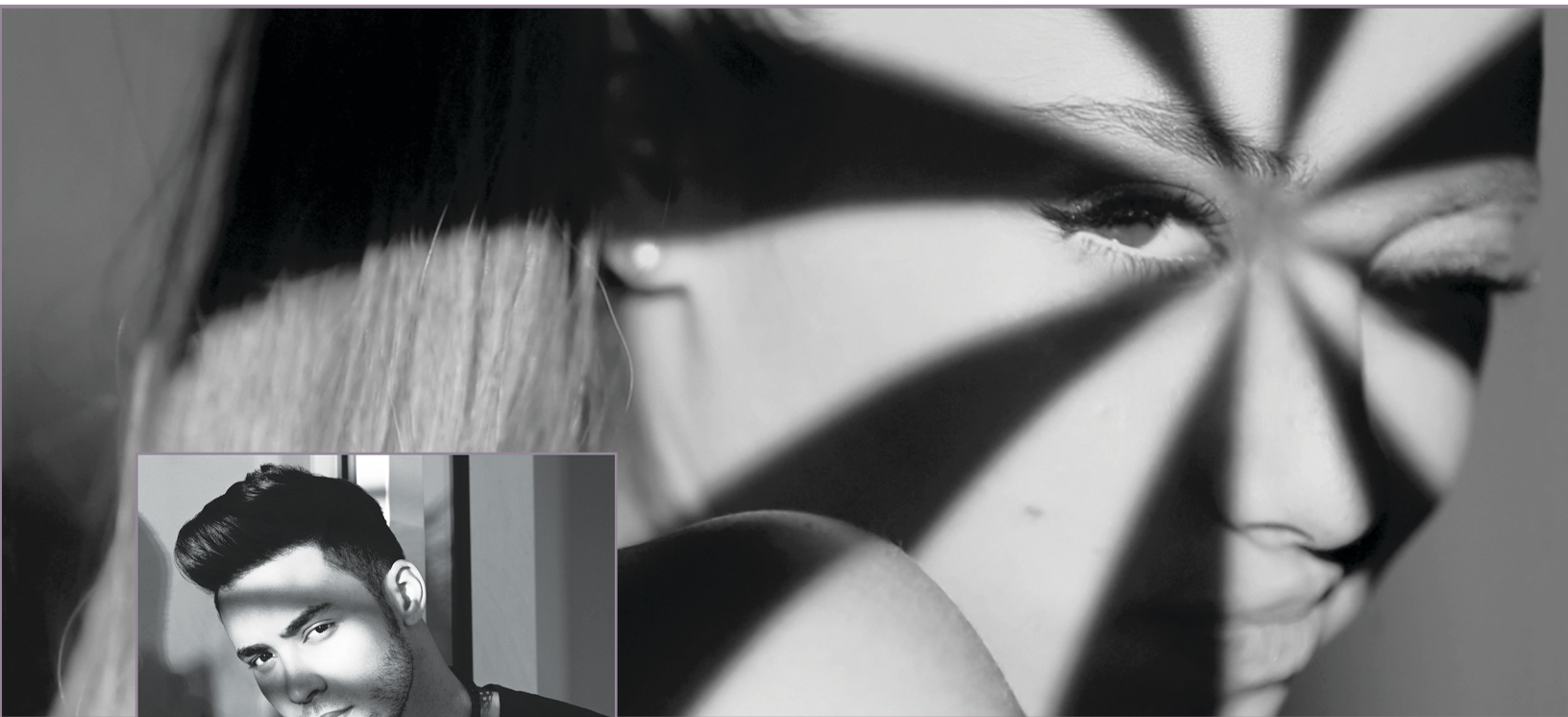
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PHOTO BY MIKE MORGAN. PICTURED: WORLD PREMIER CAST, ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY UPTOWN PLAYERS, DALLAS

If you haven't been to the Onyx in a while you will love the changes thanks to artistic director Troy Heard. "Re-Designing Women" plays July 9-18 at the Onyx. Tickets are \$25 and you can purchase them at (702)732-7225 or by going to onyxtheatre.com. I hope to see you all there!

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#COSMOPOLITAN

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com



Nicely positioned between City Center and Bellagio, is The Cosmopolitan, a chic casino hotel. With two large towers, nearly 3000 guest rooms, a 100,000 square foot casino, 12 restaurants, three pools, a giant chandelier bar, and more, the Cosmopolitan is modern, sleek, very hip, and a bit over the top. You'd think this would seem like another Las Vegas mega-resort, but surprisingly, it has the comfortable feel of a boutique hotel.

Opened in December of 2010, The Cosmopolitan was originally meant to be a mix of residential units and hotel rooms, but when the economy tanked, it was restructured simply as a resort hotel. Now part of Marriott International's Autograph Collection, The Cosmopolitan seems to have shaken off its tumultuous past and emerged as a stunning success.

The moment you step inside, you'll know this hotel is very unique. The Cosmopolitan combines state-of-the-art technology with elements of classic luxury. The lobby features large, square columns, covered with mirrored panels, which are also video screens - one minute you're looking at your reflection, then you'll see a titillating projection of a steam room with shadowy figures walking and stretching inside. My partner and I stayed there in August of 2012, and saw shelves of books projected on the columns, giving the lobby

the appearance of an old English library. We arrived early in the day, so there were no long lines for registration and we were attended to immediately. We had booked a Terrace One Bedroom, but asked to upgrade to a Fountainview room. The friendly, helpful staff member said this was a very popular request, but managed to find one for us on the spot! Perfect!

At 610 square feet, our room felt enormous - larger than our apartment in New York! There was a sitting area to the right, with a comfortable easy chair, coffee table and a whimsical, curved purple sofa. Next to the sofa, a desk, above which was a large flat-screen TV. To the left was a small kitchenette, with a microwave, sink, and mini-bar. Directly ahead was a dressing area - large, mirrored closets with robes and slippers ready to be used, shelves instead of drawers, and a leather cushioned trunk to sit on, which cleverly opened up

to provide more storage space. Across from that, the bathroom, with double sinks, a separate WC, and a very spacious glassed-in shower/tub combo. If anyone wanted to have a little party in the shower, there was more than enough room. The shower featured a floor-to-ceiling glass wall that looked out on the bedroom, but if you're a more modest type, there are louvered blinds for privacy. Just past the shower, was a Japanese soaking tub - a deep, square tub in which you can immerse yourself to the shoulders. Next to the tub was a window looking outside, with another looking into the bedroom. The king sized bed was very comfortable, if a bit soft for my taste - I like a rock-hard mattress. There was another flat screen plasma TV and side tables with books and knick-knacks. Telescoping pocket doors separated the sleeping area from the rest of the room. Music, temperature and lighting were all

controllable from a remote panel next to the bed and there was a button on the phone marked "Beck and Call". Need extra towels? Concierge services? Room service? Just press Beck and Call.

One of the most attractive features of this room, was the 110 square foot terrace. In Vegas, it's rare to have a window that opens, much less an actual balcony. This one could have accommodated 4 or 5 extra guests with sleeping bags. And the view!! We could see Planet Hollywood, the Paris hotel's Eiffel Tower replica, Caesar's Palace, the Flamingo, the Venetian, and even the Mirage Volcano. The best part, was that right at our feet, were the Fountains of Bellagio. We never tired of seeing the show, and from our bed, we could often see the final 460 foot blast of the central fountain. It was as if they were dancing just for us. If you have it in your budget to get a Fountainview Room, DO IT!!!

Downstairs, the casino was done in rich reds, browns and golds, with soft, indirect lighting. While always busy, the casino never seemed as noisy as others on the Strip. The light fixtures above the gaming tables looked to me like red feather boas done in crystal, and there were surprising touches everywhere - old fashioned cigarette vending machines sold art, and two large high-heeled shoes in which you could pose for pictures.

The Cosmopolitan boasts some impressive restaurants: Scott Conant's Scarpetta - featuring traditional, sophisticated Italian fare, and José Andrés' Jaleo - a modern take on an authentic tapas restaurant, which has since become one of my favorites! There's also Rose. Rabbit. Lie., a "social experiment" combining spectacular food, handcrafted cocktails, entertainment, and dancing - come for one or stay for all!



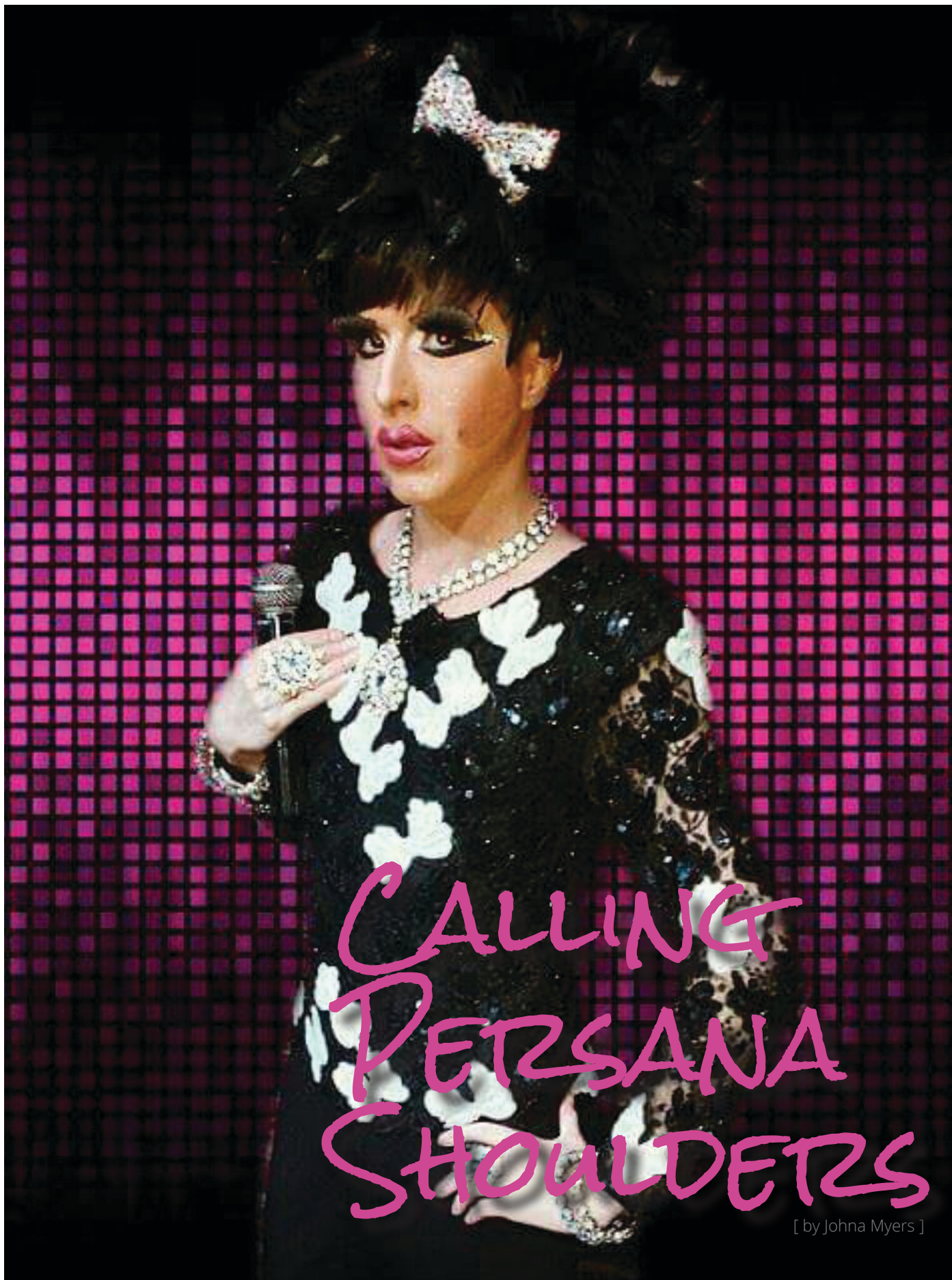




If nightlife is your thing, there's much from which to choose. For classic cocktails try the Vesper Bar, off the main lobby. There's BOND - a modern lounge surrounded by LED screens, with windowboxes that often showcase dancers, musicians or performance artists. The Marquee Nightclub features live performances by top music stars and has a dance floor bordered by four-story-high LED screens, and The Chandelier - a wonderful, three level cocktail bar swathed in strings of Swarovski crystals. You'll feel as though you're lounging inside a chandelier! And with unique specialty drinks like the Verbena or the Cereal Killer, you're sure to find something to your taste.

Finally, for relaxing...or recovering after a night of partying, try one of Cosmopolitan's three pools: The Boulevard Pool, overlooking the Vegas Strip, the Bamboo Pool, or the Marquee Dayclub Pool - an adults-only, lounge-like pool which becomes an extension of the Marquee nightclub after dark. You'll also find the Sahra Spa, where you feel like you're walking through a peaceful desert canyon; the wind-sculpted walls curving and stretching high above you. The overall feel is lovely and very zen.

I find that The Cosmopolitan is currently one of the pricier properties on the Strip, but if you do have the budget for it, I definitely recommend a stay with them. In their ads, the tag line is "Just the right amount of wrong." Well, if you stay at The Cosmopolitan, wrong will feel SO right!





This month Johna grabs an exclusive and down-home southern interview with Persana Shoulders.

You can drink alcohol on the street in New Orleans & you can drink on the street in Vegas. Wouldn't you say New Orleans is def Vegas sin-sister city?

Absolutely. Forever twins – Sin City and the City of Sin. They say that “What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas” and what happens on Bourbon Street definitely stays on Bourbon Street. For this, I guarantee.

How did you become the face & voice for Oz, New Orleans' premier dance club and show bar?

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, upon returning to my uptown condo not knowing whether it was still there, I was asked by then Oz General Manager, Tommy Elias, to host the weekly talent competition and drag show, a position previously held by the famed Bianca del Rio. So naturally, I looked behind me to see if it was really me he was talking to. And it was. In a city where people lost their homes, their jobs, and some even their lives, the New Orleans gay community lost their host with Bianca leaving. So I had some very big shoes to fill. But I mounted the steed and am still riding this day. Upon graduating with my degrees from Loyola University New Orleans, I was asked to take on publicity and promotions with my newly gained skills, and am now currently the director of entertainment, publicity, and promotions for Oz, as well as being the face of Oz for the public.

How many nights a week are you at the Bourbon St. Bar?

Oz is located on 800 Bourbon Street on the corner of St. Ann and Bourbon, in the heart of the French Quarter, moments from historic Jackson Square. I am at the bar five nights a week: Wednesday for our weekly Show Night starring our fabulous Ladies of Oz, Thursday for our all-male amateur strip contest – The Oz Strip Off, Friday to oversee the flow of the business, Saturday for drag bingo (known as Dingo), and Sunday to host our new Legends of Oz drag show starring the Ladies of Oz.

You're well-known in the New Orleans scene for your feather headpieces. How did that become

your signature?

My character who is “a man dressed as a lesbian for financial purposes” I naturally felt that due to my androgyny that wigs were not an option. I used to wear small fascinators but sought to better my character with something bigger, better, and more glamorous! And no one does feathers like New Orleans Mardi Gras!

Explain the switch to your current style?

I did. I decided long ago after entering a pageant that when the queen who won was forty five minutes late with no reprimanding or point deduction, that I would not ever again let a set of five people behind a wobbly table with fold up chairs hold the key to my future. I decided to follow in the footsteps of no one and create my own character and look.

What is your favorite part about hosting/entertaining?

The dick, hunty! Praise the lawd! Just kidding...I'm a comedian and every laugh, smile, and shocked expression in my audience is the force that keeps me going. I always remember that without them there would be no me.

I find it's always interesting to ask drag queens.... are you a top or bottom?

Top...have you met me? It just simply wouldn't work any other way.

As the talent Liaison for big names like ChiChi LaRue, Trenton Ducati, and Ryan Rose @ the official busiest bar for Southern Decadence.. & Mardi Gras.. What gets you through the holiday weekends?

Sleep, low calorie Gatorade/Powerade, Airborne, and the Christian Red Bull

I am aware that you work w/ a lot of pornstars & models. Which would make the best new drag queen on the scene?

Pablo Hernandez, because he's got a beautiful face with juicy lips, and I know he is all about that bass! The

bitch can twerk like nobody's business!

What is something someone first meeting you would never guess?

I'm a top LOL. I'm not a real girl LOL.

Judy Jetson or Wednesday Adams?

Judy Jetson, for sure! I do enjoy Wednesday but I'm not a fan of the "Avril Lavigne/He was a skater boy, she said see you later, boy/pre-pubescent teen" look

What can we expect from you in the future? Is there a drag race video?

You can always expect the unexpected with me. Go big or go home, hunty! I always deliver.

Explain some of the work you've done w/ the LGBT community in New Orleans. I understand you're quite involved.

Charity has always been at the forefront of my career since the beginning. Before the world recognized my talent, I got work through charities, and I continue to work for any charitable organization I feel is doing

real good in the community. I've also worked with Southern Decadence, one of the oldest gay traditions in the city, for ten years now. I was also recently elected New Orleans Pride Grand Marshal by popular vote, an honor for those who have exceptionally served the New Orleans gay community.

Favorite gay New Orleans secret.

There are no secrets here, dah-ling.

Twinks, Bears, Jocks or?

D. All of the above

Take our QVegas reader through a perfect day in New Orleans. What shouldn't we miss?

It's hard to describe a perfect day in New Orleans, because the city is so eclectic and diverse. Every day could be a perfect day. If you want more information on all the city has to offer, you can visit: <http://www.neworleansonline.com>.

Is QVegas your favorite Vegas magazine?!?

Yes! All the way, baby!





The EAT (RED) DRINK (RED) SAVE LIVES campaign goes live in Las Vegas's restaurants, bars and food trucks from June 1 through June 30, 2015.



"Anyone who has ever worked in a kitchen knows that the sum of our efforts far exceeds what any one of us can do individually."

Mario Batali

EAT (RED) DRINK (RED) SAVE LIVES
Ambassador

EAT (RED) DRINK (RED) SAVE LIVES transforms food and drink into a force to fight AIDS.

What people choose to eat and drink this June will help raise money for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, to provide life-saving HIV/AIDS medication to those who need it most. 100% of each participating business' donation will go to the Global Fund to fight AIDS. Entering its second year, EAT (RED) DRINK (RED) SAVE LIVES is back, bigger and bolder, with restaurants, bars, food trucks and everyone in between 'turning (RED)' this June to raise money and awareness for the Global Fund to fight AIDS.

In Las Vegas, establishments ranging from B&B Ristorante to Carnevino are creating special (RED) dishes, drinks and tasting menus. In Las Vegas, establishments ranging from Ku Noodle to Umami Beer Garden are creating special (RED) dishes, drinks and tasting menus.

The June campaign brings the culinary world together to fight AIDS; numerous ways for Las Vegas food and drink fans to eat and drink (RED) this summer,

There are numerous food and drink businesses in and around Las Vegas turning (RED) this June, including:

B&B Burger & Beer, B&B Ristorante, Carnevino Italian Steakhouse, BLT Steak Las Vegas, Northside Café, Cleo Las Vegas, Umami Beer Garden, Bazaar Meat by Jose Andres, Sushi Roku, Ku Noodle, Katsuya Las Vegas, Otto Pizzeria Las Vegas, among others!

Additionally, a number of Las Vegas's world-renowned chefs are serving as culinary ambassadors, supporting the campaign across social media, events and many other ways. Interviews with Chef Ambassadors based in Las Vegas and beyond can be arranged pending their availability. Names include Anthony Bourdain, Amanda Freitag, David Chang, Anne Burrell, April Bloomfield, Bobby Flay, David Burke, Dominique Ansel, Josh Capon, Seamus Mullen, Wylie Dufresne...and more!

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Steamy Summer

[by Mark Dawson]

#HOOKER is a bold new men's collection by designer Andreu David that offers details, colors, and embellishment rarely seen in athletic wear today.

The idea was inspired by David's years in the gay party scenes of New York, Las Vegas, and LA, where he would observe how hard bartenders and gogo boys would work; yet the little gratification and respect they would receive from patrons.

Photos: Marco Ovando



"These men were viewed as sex objects providing a service, like prostitutes but without the sex," he says. "It got me to thinking how people treat others differently based on their profession and how the more respected one's occupation is, the higher his position on the social pyramid."

Through his collection, David aims to promote equality and acceptance, arguing everyone is essentially selling something to gain something. "We are all working to survive and achieve happiness. We are all hookers."





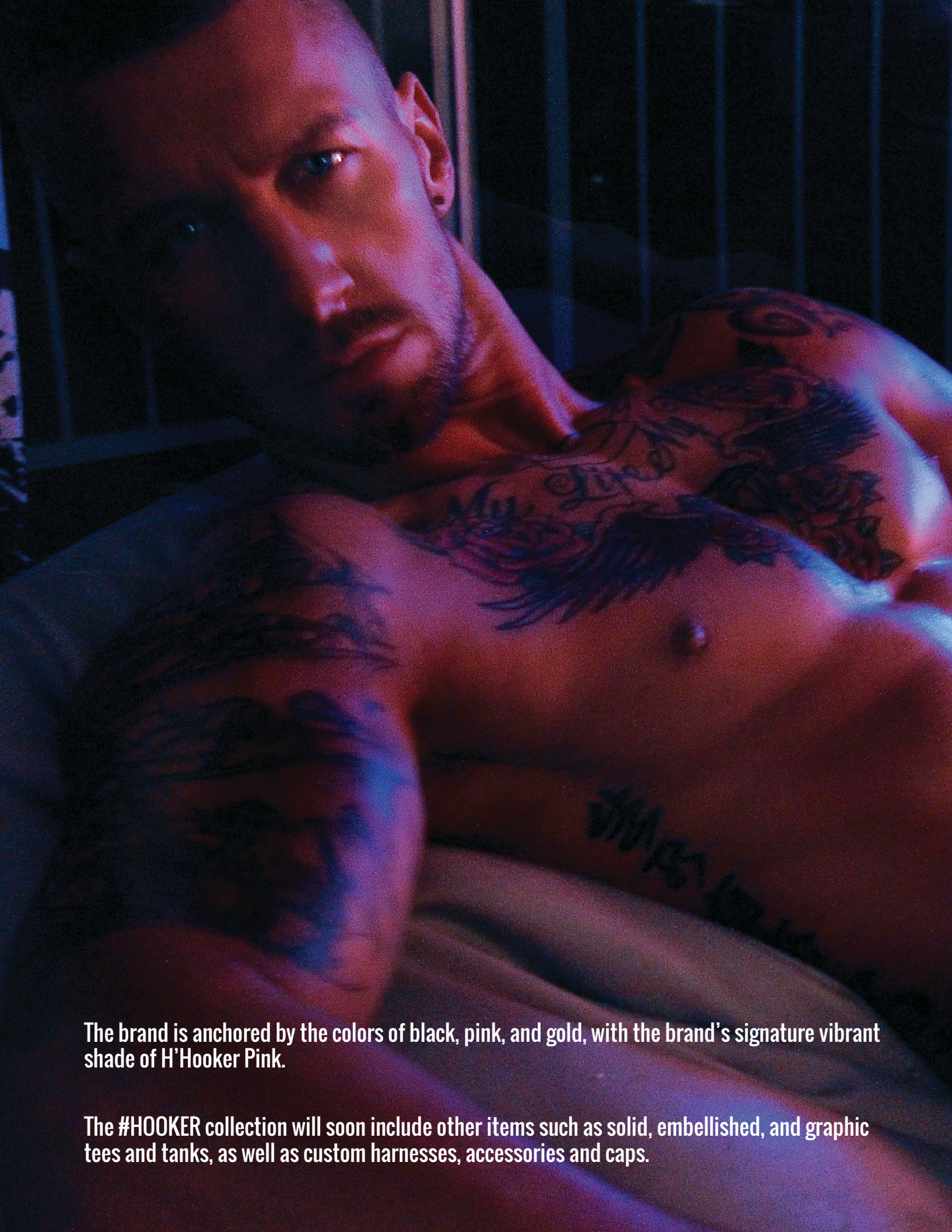
He is also hoping to encourage self-confidence, believing men should want to be daredevils in their design, despite what others might think. "I am not sure mainstream America is ready for #HOOKER," he reflects, "but it's never been my aim to be accepted by them. My goal is to be provocative; stir up social ideology and challenge society's rules."

#HOOKER is available now at <http://www.hashtaghooker.com>.

All #HOOKER garments are made in the USA, under Andreu David's watchful eye. He gives considerable thought into designing each piece so they not only look great but perform well too. The swim and underwear collection are made with imported fabrics enhanced with performance-driven properties, like quick dry, moisture management, and COOLMAX®.







The brand is anchored by the colors of black, pink, and gold, with the brand's signature vibrant shade of H'Hooker Pink.

The #HOOKER collection will soon include other items such as solid, embellished, and graphic tees and tanks, as well as custom harnesses, accessories and caps.



On July 10, 2015, we will continue the work that we began last year in Las Vegas. We will stand up to the FDA and tell our government this discriminatory policy is unacceptable.

In order to make this event a success we need the help of all Las Vegans to participate in this year's event. We are asking the public to donate blood on behalf of all of us who are rejected based on our sexual orientation. We need the community to step up and enhance our voice to the FDA and the nation. We are calling on 200 qualified blood donors to participate in this year's event and a few hundred more to come in support of the cause and be counted at our political rally.

During the 1983 "Gay Cancer" scare, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), understandably, placed a lifetime ban on gay and bisexual men from ever contributing to our nation's blood supply. The FDA has classified that "Men who have had sex with other men (MSM), at any time since 1977 (the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in the United States) are currently deferred as blood donors." Although testing for HIV/AIDS was slower and less refined, today some tests have been known to detect the virus in the blood as little as nine days after infection.

32 years later, with the ban still in place, many gay and bisexual men are unaware of this ban to donate life saving blood. Unfortunately, this ban is based on sexual orientation and is not based on individual sexual behavior or risk factors. The same qualifications for blood donation should be applied equally to all citizens; gay, bisexual, or straight. Many activists have called on the FDA to end this ban because of the discriminatory implications on the Gay and Bisexual community.

If you look at Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual and Queer discrimination as a brick wall, repealing don't ask don't tell and our fight for marriage equality are big chunks of that wall that are slowly coming down but understand until every brick has been removed the wall still stands. As recent as Tuesday May 16th, 2015, President Obama's Administration has recommended the end of the FDA ban. Their response was a recommended deferral for all MSM who have not had sexual activity for 12 months. Although this may be a step in the right direction to end the ban, this is still an inequitable policy leaving many feeling like a second-class citizen. Our goal is to continue to bring awareness to Las Vegas residents and the nation about the FDA ban. In conjunction we are inviting Gay and Bisexual allies to donate blood in the place of MSM.

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END THE BAN

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**FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015
AT THE CENTER • 1PM - 9PM**

 **END THE BAN - LAS VEGAS**



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This social and political event is a lot of fun with food and drink. Our goal is to triple last year's participation and we encourage everyone to do your part and make an impact nationally beginning right here locally. Please visit our Facebook causes and event page at End The Ban - Las Vegas like/share and help us expand our efforts through social media. Help by donating blood or by recruiting those who can donate on our behalf. Appointments for blood donation can be made through our Facebook page or by going to www.UnitedBloodServices.org and using the sponsor code ENDTHEBAN. You can also help by attending our event in effort to maximize our media exposure at The Center Friday July 10th, 2015 from 1pm-9pm. For volunteer opportunities contact: EndTheBanLasVegas@gmail.com or through our Facebook page. There is something everyone can do to help this year but we can't do it without you. We are not second-class citizens! Help us END THE BAN that prevents gay men from donating life saving blood.



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Since our launch in September 2014, Gay.Vegas has become one of the most popular destination LGBTQ websites in the Southwest. QVegas Magazine content moved to Gay.Vegas in September and as of January 2015 is completely hosted on Gay.Vegas, contributing to a great upswing in Gay.Vegas traffic.

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