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*the
fabulous
summer
issue*

BUDDY V'S
ITALIAN INDULGENCE

DADDY DAYCARE
TOPGOLF OPENS IN VEGAS

WORK OUT'S A DRAG
WITH CRAIG RAMSEY AND PANDORA BOXX

FRANKIE MORENO
UNDER THE INFLUENCE AT
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SUMMER TREATS, SUPER
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ON THE COVER

Twenty three years since the premiere of AbFab, Patsy and Edina are still at it with the release of Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie, coming to US theaters in July.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

We hope that you had an Absolutely Fabulous and safe Memorial Day Weekend. It's always nice having a three day weekend. Now that it's super hot outside, and the temperature has broken triple digits, we can toast to a fabulous summer.

We hope that summer 2016 is full of great memories! Our cover features Patsy and Edina from the hit BBC series Absolutely Fabulous, as they prepare for the release of their new movie next month. Grab the champers for this huge great bloody movie, sweetie!

Our *Great Gay.Vegas Giveaways* continues this month with even more tickets to Lipshtick and Human Nature at The Venetian! To enter, visit Gay.Vegas and login with your Facebook account for your chance to win. While you're at the Venetian, check out Buddy V's—Michael Barbieri reivews visits famed chef Buddy Valestros' new restaurant inside the Canal Shoppes.

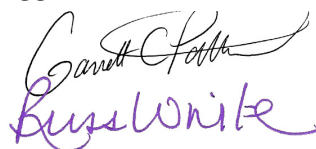
Father's Day is just around the corner, and there's no better place to indulge Dad than Topgolf. Taking mancave to the extreme, there really is something for everyone, or drop him off at this ultimate Daddy Daycare and hit the spa.

And when that summer heat just gets too unbearable (or the sweet tooth kicks in), we've got frozen sweet treats all over town that will help you cool down when the thermometer is up.

President Obama declares June LGBT Pride month. The most pro rights president ever? We think so.

We have so much more—Frankie Moreno headlines The Strip, Restaurant Week: Eat out for a cause, Pole fitness is a sexy way to get fit, and Craig Ramsey's "Work Out's a Drag" is the newest way to drag out your inner diva and actually enjoy working out again!

Check out the rest of the articles and go fry an egg on the sidewalk!



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Appropriate for their big screen debut, Edina and Patsy are still oozing glitz and glamour, living the high life they are accustomed to; shopping, drinking and clubbing their way around London's trendiest hotspots.

Blamed for a major incident at an uber fashionable launch party, they become entangled in a media storm and are relentlessly pursued by the paparazzi. Fleeing penniless to the glamorous playground of the super-rich, the French Riviera, they hatch a plan to make their escape permanent and live the high life forever more!

Absolutely Fabulous, also known as *Ab Fab*, is a BBC television sitcom created by, written by and starring Jennifer Saunders. The original series aired from 1992–1996.

In 1994, British electronic music group Pet Shop Boys released a single for Comic Relief featuring dialogues taken from the show. The accompanying music video featured the Pet Shop Boys performing as Edina and Patsy dance around them.

Patsy and Edina have always had a strong gay following, so expect fabulously gay audiences when the film opens in the US on July 22.





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BUDDY V'S

[by Michael Barbieri,
myvegasobsession.com]

My internal monologue: (Deep echo effect) Good Lord! This is SO much FOOD! And it's all so GOOD! There's no WAY I'll be able to finish this! I hope they can pack it all up for me to take back to my room. It'll certainly make a great midnight snack!

I'm dining at Buddy V's Ristorante in the Canal Shoppes at the Venetian Hotel. Buddy V is Buddy Valastro, otherwise known as TLC's "Cake Boss," and while he is best known for his skills as a baker, the menu at Buddy V's shows that he's equally adept with classic, hearty Italian fare. This is Grandmother food! One thing to know about Valastro, is that family; la famiglia, is of supreme importance, and at Buddy V's, it shows. Many dishes are named for members of his family, and indeed it feels as though he, his father, or his Nonna might actually be in the kitchen putting their love into every order.

Located just inside the northernmost entrance to the Canal Shoppes, Buddy V's is a warm, comfy space, with wood accents everywhere, red leather banquettes, red & white checked napkins, forest green paneling in the dining room, pictures

in quaint old frames on the walls, and a bustling open kitchen. Large windows look out over the Strip and the entrance to the Palazzo, while a live band provides lively, yet unobtrusive musical accompaniment, making you feel you're at a wonderful Italian wedding reception or birthday party.

I tend to eat dinner rather late, but later that evening I was meeting friends for a new show at the Paris, so my reservation was set for 5:30. I arrived early, but the hostess sat me immediately. My server introduced himself and took my drink order: the Drago Rosso - ruby red grapefruit vodka, pomegranate liqueur, Serrano chili, and mango nectar. This surprising concoction had a spicy kick that was countered by the cool, tropical mango, making for a well balanced cocktail. A nice way to wake up the palate!



I thought I'd try a couple appetizers and a main course. I also asked if I might be able to order a small portion of one of the pastas. I started with Grandma's Meatballs - juicy little meatballs made from beef, veal, and pork, in a simple, marinara sauce, with grated Parmesan cheese. The 3 meat combo gave the dish a lighter flavor than beef alone, yet it was still nicely full-bodied. Next came the Grilled Octopus - tender braised octopus with fingerling potatoes and a fennel and orange salad, all swimming in a spicy tomato broth, with a touch of white wine and garlic. One

of my favorite dishes of the evening, this was the Mediterranean on a plate! The octopus was complemented perfectly by the spicy, garlicky broth, and the fennel and orange provided a bright pop of citrus flavor that made the entire dish sing!

My main course, the Veal Marsala arrived. The veal was tender, smothered in a sweet Marsala wine sauce, with mushrooms providing an earthy contrast. To my palate, the sauce could've used a hint of black pepper, but that's a minor criticism. Then, things got a little out of hand...in the best



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.





way. The server brought the side dish of pasta: My Dad's Bucatini Carbonara, with pancetta, cracked black pepper and egg. The smoky flavor of the pancetta, combined with the black pepper, gave the pasta an amazing, comforting depth of flavor. The thing is, this "little side dish," in an oblong bowl about 8 inches across was practically a meal in itself! Then another pasta dish appeared, which the chef wanted me to try: the Chicken Rigatoni Alla Vodka - equally hearty, with chunks of chicken, pancetta, and a slightly tart, classic tomato cream sauce. This was that grandmother food I was talking about! Simply delicious! On top of all this, my veal had its own little side of Linguini with Garlic and Oil, another excellent pasta, if only for its simplicity! Add to that the side of fresh, lightly sautéed Broccolini, with garlic and chili flakes, and I found I had six plates of food in front of me! Much as I wanted to devour it all, it was simply too much, even for me! I sampled every dish for the purpose of my review, and had the rest packed up to go.

Since I had kept my admittedly wonderful meal to a few bites here and a few bites there, I had room to try one of the tempting desserts. Buddy Valastro IS the Cake Boss, after all. It

would be impolite not to sample his baked goods! I chose one of his signature desserts, the Italian Birthday Cake - Rosolio liqueur-soaked sponge cake, cannoli filling, chocolate pastry cream, and a coating of toasted almonds. Out came a cute mini-birthday cake, all for me! Although the dessert itself was rich, the flavors were quite subtle, and not overly sweet. Paired with a terrific Cappuccino, this was the perfect way to end the meal!

Buddy V's Ristorante is Valastro's first restaurant venture, and it seems to be a big hit - when I first arrived, the place was practically empty, but by the time I left, it was packed! I think the secret to its success can be found in a quote from Mr. Valastro: "It's home cooking, just like I make for my own family." Not only was I treated like family, but when I looked around, everyone from the hostesses, to the servers, to the managers were checking up on all their tables, making sure everyone was happy, comfortable, and enjoying their food! We were all part of Buddy V's extended famiglia!

And by the way, my TWO BAGS of leftovers did make for a fabulous midnight snack!



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COOL DOWN WITH THESE SWEET TREATS

[by Russ White]

With thermometers heading toward 100° this summer, the cooling down usually means a frozen yard long cocktail. But there are other non-alcoholic indulgences to explore both on and off the strip when it comes to frozen treats.

Serendipity 3

Indulge in the Deep Fried Twinkie Sundae with vanilla ice cream, butterscotch sauce, marshmallow sauce, hot fudge and rainbow sprinkles. This one is big enough for two, but if you've got a group of four, the Las Vegas Treasure Chest, boasts a chocolate chest box filled with assorted ice cream, cookies, berries, cakes and more, making it perfect for sharing with friends.

Luv-It Frozen Custard

Located at 505 E Oakey Blvd, just a short walk from The Stratosphere, locals have been lining up at this cash-only windows since 1973. Family-owned through four generations, Butter Crunch, Cherry Yum Yum, Western, and Scotch Jimmie are among the sundae favorites, but Luv-It also makes different flavors of the month every day.

Brüxies

The new Chicken and Waffle Sandwich restaurant located at The Park just outside New York New York has an incredibly smooth soft serve frozen custard that stands alone or goes great in their waffle cones or waffle sundae.

Shake Shack

Famous for hamburgers, Shake Shack also offers milkshakes, malts and “concretes”—custard mixed with a variety of add-ins.

Snowflake Shavery

Located in a Chinatown strip mall, Snowflake Shavery super-freezes ice cream, then shaves it into delicate paper-thin ribbons. Choose your flavor of ice cream and pick your toppings. Out of the way, but worth the trip.

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High atop the Las Vegas Strip began an event like no other. The venue? The Boulevard Pool at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. The lineup? The hottest artists in music today. The attraction? CBS RADIO's SPF ("Sun. Pool. Fun"). A triad that joined forces into an explosion of summertime irreverence and excitement. The sunscreen is necessary for an event that shines as bright as this one.

Earlier this year, CBS RADIO announced the return of their highly successful event, SUN. POOL. FUN., a uniquely-styled concert that celebrates the season's top hits in music. The bash began in 2013 and set out to create a fun-filled evening for locals and tourists alike. Michael Martin, Senior Vice President, Programming and Music Initiatives, CBS RADIO made a statement saying, "There is no better way to make a splash and heat up Las Vegas than with an exclusive concert featuring some of pop music's top artists." This year's featured artists - who have been mastering the airwaves - include Fifth Harmony, Lukas Graham, Mike Posner, Alessia Cara, Iggy Azalea, and Kygo. This talented group came together to effortlessly curate a night of many genres and vibes with music you will either want

to dance to or cry to.

Opening the evening was the unstoppable Fifth Harmony. Screams of joy from the crowd carried through the girl group's entire set as they performed their hits including "Worth It" and "Sledgehammer". If that was not exciting enough, their newest tracks, "Work from Home" and "Write on Me" (from their sophomore album "7/27") were added to the performance. The five ladies were the perfect hosts to a full crowd as they danced, sang, and flipped their hair in a flawless execution.

Next up, Lukas Graham. The four-piece Danish act brought a certain soul to the rooftop extravaganza. Fans of the band shouted the lyrics to their well-crafted hits such as "Mama Said",



Fifth Harmony, Iggy Azalea, Mike Posner and More Headline CBS RADIO's SPF

while others were just now being introduced to the talented musicians, and loving it. The band also shared an intimate moment under the setting sun with their major hit single, “7 Years”, as the crowd admired the performance of such an emotional track.

As nighttime settled in and the dazzling lights of the strip began to shine brighter, the crowd was delighted to welcome in Mike Posner. No newbie to the list of Top 40s, Posner celebrated his older tracks such as “Cooler than Me” and “Please Don’t Go” as well as the recent and highly-acclaimed “I Took a Pill in Ibiza”. Posner opened up the latter with some inspiration saying, “...above the clouds, there is always sunshine”. Shortly after, Alessia Cara took center stage with a youthful but substantial performance. The 19-year-old songstress let her vocals shine; in particular, during crowd favorite “Here”.

In just moments after Cara’s performance,

rapper Iggy Azalea claimed her throne. Literally. Azalea sat upon a throne made of decrepit computer keyboards surrounded by vintage televisions while her top hits rang out in the night. “Fancy” did a wonderful job of keeping the crowd energized, leading up to her epic performance of “Team”. Norwegian native Kygo was chosen to close out the night. The DJ put a spotlight on adrenaline-filled dance music with tracks including “Stay” and “Firestone” featuring singer Conrad Sewell. A perfect finish to a spectacular evening.

Being one of the largest major-market broadcast media operators in the United States, it is only expected that CBS RADIO is able to put on such a high-caliber spectacle. The event made sure to include all walks of life, accommodating an all-ages policy and bringing together our favorite artists from all around the world to headline the show. Three cheers to a successful trio of sun, pool, and fun.





HAIRSPRAY LIVE

You can't stop the beat with the announcement of Jennifer Hudson Harvey Fierstein headlining the cast of NBC's "Hairspray Live!," the network's next live Broadway musical this December.

"Hairspray Live!" takes place in 1962 Baltimore. Teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on "The Corny Collins Show," a local TV program. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight and meets a colorful array of characters, including the resident dreamboat, Link; the ambitious mean girl, Amber; an African-American boy she meets in detention, Seaweed; and his mother, Motormouth Maybelle, the owner of a local record store. Tracy's mother is the indomitable Edna Turnblad.

Harvey Fierstein, who is also writing the teleplay, will play Edna Turnblad, a role he won a Tony Award for in the stage version of "Hairspray." The quintessential Edna, Fierstein portrayed the character for the show's first two years of its seven-year run at the Neil Simon Theatre on Broadway.

Jennifer Hudson will play Motormouth Maybelle. Also joining the show are Martin Short,

Derek Hough, Kenny Leon and Hairspray's original Broadway choreographer Jerry Mitchell. There is an open casting call for the roll of Tracy online at <http://hairspraylivecasting.com>

The musical is based on the 1988 film produced by John Waters, starring Devine as Edna Turnblad and Ricki Lake as Tracy Turnblad. Local celebrity Pia Zadora also appeared in the film.

"When John Waters called and asked me to be in Hairspray, it wasn't at a time in my career when I was overbooked with film offers. And I'm so glad I did it because of John, the message and music and because it's a classic that's now been a movie, a Broadway smash, a movie again and now Hairspray Live on TV. And my one line "let's get naked and smoke" just might be what I want on my tombstone!"

"Hairspray Live!" will air Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. ET/PT and will originate from Los Angeles.

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH, 2016

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Since our founding, America has advanced on an unending path toward becoming a more perfect Union.

This journey, led by forward-thinking individuals who have set their sights on reaching for a brighter tomorrow, has never been easy or smooth.

The fight for dignity and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people is reflected in the tireless dedication of advocates and allies who strive to forge a more inclusive society. They have spurred sweeping progress by changing hearts and minds and by demanding equal treatment—under our laws, from our courts, and in our politics. This month, we recognize all they have done to bring us to this point, and we recommit to bending the arc of our Nation toward justice.

Last year's landmark Supreme Court decision guaranteeing marriage equality in all 50 States was a historic victory for LGBT Americans, ensuring dignity for same-sex couples and greater equality across State lines.

For every partnership that was not previously recognized under the law and for every American who was denied their basic civil rights, this monumental ruling instilled newfound hope, affirming the belief that we are all more free when we are treated as equals.

LGBT individuals deserve to know their country stands beside them. That is why my Administration is striving to better understand the needs of LGBT adults and to provide affordable, welcoming, and supportive housing to aging LGBT Americans. It is also why we oppose subjecting minors to the harmful practice of conversion therapy, and why we are continuing to promote equality and foster safe and supportive learning environments for all students. We remain committed to addressing health disparities in the LGBT community—gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color are at a particularly high risk for HIV, and we have worked to strengthen our National HIV/AIDS Strategy to reduce new infections, increase access to care, and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV.

Despite the extraordinary progress of the past few years, LGBT Americans still face discrimination simply for being who they are. I signed an Executive Order in 2014 that prohibits discrimination against Federal employees and contractors on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. I urge the Congress to enact legislation that builds upon the progress we have made, because no one should live in fear of losing their job simply because of who they are or who they love. And our commitment to combatting discrimination against the LGBT community does not stop at our borders: Advancing the fair treatment of all people has long been a cornerstone of American diplomacy, and we have made defending and promoting the human rights of LGBT individuals a priority in our engagement across the globe. In line with America's commitment to the notion that all people should be treated fairly and with respect, champions of this cause at home and abroad are upholding the simple truth that LGBT rights are human rights.

There remains much work to do to extend the promise of our country to every American, but because of the acts of courage of the millions who came out and spoke out to demand justice and of those who quietly toiled and pushed for progress, our Nation has made great strides in recognizing what these brave individuals long knew to be true in their hearts -- that love is love and that no person should be judged by anything but the content of their character. During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month, as Americans wave their flags of pride high and march boldly forward in parades and demonstrations, let us celebrate how far we have come and reaffirm our steadfast belief in the equal dignity of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2016 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

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GIRL POWER

Randy Jackson's FOUVER1 Shakes Up Vegas

[by Tom Corliss]

What's better than a beautiful, talented, singer-songwriter whose performances set the spirits of men and women on fire? How about four in one!

Unleashed upon the world by "American Idol" music master Randy Jackson, Fourever1 is the fierce, foxy foursome of identical quadruplet sisters bringin' blazin' Bahamian spice to the wide-wide world of Pop. Their sound is an electrifying shock to the system crackling with liberating excitement, passion and vibrations of love.

Fourever1 is Jodi, Catherine, Christina and Janelle. For the past eight years, these gorgeous sisters have been working non-stop to hone their skills in every aspect of the music game – each with a specialty, all with conviction. Born in the United States but raised in the Bahamas, they are smart, grounded young ladies with big dreams to attain and inspiring stories to share. They've also got some powerful songs on- deck.

The lead single, "All About Tonight," is a sexy, liberating, turn-down-the-lights and turn-up-the-heat club bumper – all about where the mind goes and the body flows when Friday night arrives. The

girls co-wrote it with Sarah West and it's an out-and-out winner! Another club highlight is "In the Air" which whisks the listener on a tsunami wave of sound, drenching your ears in scintillating vibrations and crashing you upon a sandy stretch of beach so hot, you can't help but dance. Las Vegas clubgoers can hear them both live when the girls perform Club Share this month.

Fourever1 started out posting videos on YouTube. The production company Fremantle came calling wanting to build a reality show around the quads. Manager Ki Ki Lee Herr introduced them to Randy Jackson for development.

Jodi recalls, "We all knew him from 'American Idol' which thrilled us and scared us at the same time! We had to perform for him at a big resort called Atlantis. It was nerve-racking but great. He liked us, though, and decided to take us on as our manager. After a few months to get ourselves together, we moved out to Los Angeles."



The first thing Randy insisted they understand is that they were going to have to work very hard and be very patient. “It’s not fast paced at first,” he told us,” Catherine confesses, “Take your time to prepare and develop because once this thing takes off, it really takes off!” Christina adds, “He also makes us think outside the box about things like ‘what will make us different’ – besides being quadruplets – and to pay close attention to the moves made by our favorites of today’s top artists...because tomorrow they will be our competition.”

Utilizing the God-given gifts and talents that each beloved sibling has to offer, “The Pyfrom Sisters” have a built-in system for getting things done that’ll make your head swim. Quiet, introspective Christina is the primary songwriter and style conscious fashionista. Janelle is the business-minded one who goes over all of their paperwork with a fine-toothed comb. Catherine is the video conceptualist and the calm in the storm peacemaker, insuring that the communication and the love are ever-flowing. And Jodi is the stern, no-nonsense closer who makes sure that everything Fourever1 begins sails to the finish line.

In addition to all of that, the sisters are learning musical instruments as well; Catherine the guitar, Janelle and Christine the piano, and Jodi the drums. Catherine is also studying Spanish and



Korean so the group can expand deeper into foreign language markets. And they are all raising their songwriting and already exemplary vocal skills. Catherine states, “When we sing together, we sound like other folks sound when their vocals are stacked - like one voice! We do harmonies, of course, but we also break off for solo leads.”

Fourever1 would eventually love to collaborate with Beyonce’ and 5th Harmony, but right now they are focused on the world falling in love with their music. “We have a special message for people that want to pursue their dreams,” they collectively state. “Work hard, have fun, believe in yourself, let no one tell you different and always be yourself!”

See FourEver1 perform LIVE Saturday, June 4th at Share Nightclub (4636 Wynn Rd, Las Vegas).



FRANKIE MORENO: UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Named “Las Vegas Headliner of the Year” two-times running, Frankie Moreno returns to The Las Vegas Strip with the debut of his new show “UNDER THE INFLUENCE” at Planet Hollywood.

Pairing unmatched versatility with a state-of-the-art, fully-choreographed production, Moreno and his band dazzled audience members with a high-energy performance of original songs like “Diva” and reimagined covers of hits such as Michael Jackson’s “The Way You Make Me Feel,” bringing audience members to their feet.

With his highly contagious music and playful stage antics, the show pays homage to Moreno’s major musical influences from Elvis Presley to Bruno Mars, Ray Charles to The Beatles, all presented through Moreno’s unmatched style, choreographed band, and stunning visual technology.

Each performance features Moreno’s hit-inspired original music and reimagined takes on chart-topping songs, as well as signature choreography and performances by professional dancer, Lacey Schwimmer of Dancing With the Stars fame.

Since opening at Planet Hollywood, Moreno has welcomed guest James Maslow and Graham Russell.

Maslow joined Moreno for a special three night engagement with the band for the debut of his new song, “What If,” which is co-produced by Moreno.

Graham Russell of the renowned soft rock duo, Air Supply joined Frankie Moreno and his band onstage for an unforgettable, one-night-only performance, including an acoustic version of Air Supply’s hit song “All Out of Love”, followed by “Dance With Me,” which was co-written by Moreno, and a new song recently written by Russell entitled “Son of the Father.”

Frankie Moreno Under the Influence performs nightly inside the PH Showroom at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino Tuesday-Sunday at 9 p.m



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GREAT FATHER'S DAY IDEA!

DADDY DAYCARE

[by Russ White]

The ultimate Man Cave opened in Las Vegas just in time for Father's Day. Topgolf opened in May 2016 just behind MGM Grand Hotel & Casino. But you don't have to like golf to have a great time here.

Topgolf is the only entertainment venue of its kind, boasting 108 climate-controlled hitting bays, two pools, cabanas, a concert venue, VIP suites, five bars, special event spaces, a comfort food-inspired menu with creative beverage offerings, a Callaway Fitting Studio, a Topgolf retail shop, and more.

Spanning four levels and 105,000 square feet, the Topgolf flagship location in Las Vegas stands as the biggest Topgolf venue to date. Locals, tourists, golfers and non-golfers alike will all enjoy this new entertainment venue that brings more than golf games to the strip.

"Topgolf is thrilled to bring a whole new kind of entertainment to the Las Vegas Strip," said Topgolf CEO Ken May. "There truly is no other place like Topgolf in Las Vegas — or anywhere else for that matter. Our flagship venue is the product of nearly four years of hard work and reimagining what the Topgolf experience could

be like. We can't wait to welcome our fans and new guests from all over the world to play at Topgolf."

There is a lot to explore at Topgolf. If you expected Topgolf to be a driving range, reset your expectations now. Each level has something different. Cornhole and Shuffleboard are available on Level 2. There are various seating areas to hang out, have a cocktail or grab a bite to eat and enjoy the multiple views around the Las Vegas valley.

The Yard serves as home to Topgolf's main entertainment venue. The Birdie Bar provides a more intimate live entertainment experience with a small stage perfect for acoustic performances, standup comedy and more.

While this is an all-ages venue, Level 3 and 4 are 21+ and include two pools and cabanas. Gaming and a mobile Sports Book allows sports fans to place a bet while taking in all the action on one of the venue's numerous oversized screens.



Located on Level 1, Riv Bar was built from portions of the soon to be demolished Riviera Hotel.

General admittance into Topgolf is free of charge. Bay pricing starts at \$30 per hour for up to six players and varies depending on bay location and time of day. VIP bays are also available.

Once you get settled in your bay, be sure to order some of the sharable items from the menu. Seabass sliders and Maine lobster “louie” cups are two of the seafood specialties, and the injectable donut holes let you fill your own donut hole with chocolate, raspberry jelly, or Bavarian cream fillings.

The Bays

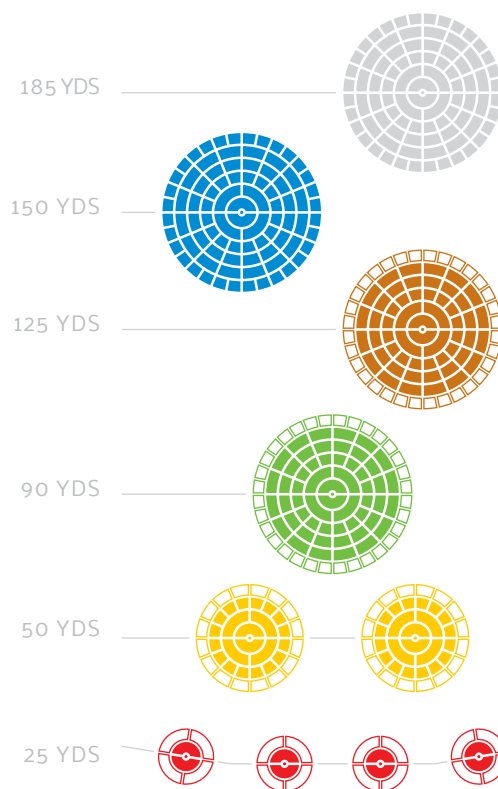
The Topgolf bays come with all sizes and varieties of clubs for men and women. Left-handed clubs are available on request. There are only a few simple rules for safety. Only one player on the tee pad at a time—if you’re not the current player, stay behind the red line so you don’t get whacked. Never step out into the green. With multiple levels, balls are flying and dropping from every direction.

The Games

The Topgolf games work a lot like bowling. Players take turns taking shots, scores are recorded on the computer in each bay. Each golf ball has an electronic chip that is tracked to the current player. The closer you get to the flag, the

more points you score. There are seven games to choose from, each with different rules and points. For first-timers, choose Topgolf, the signature game where players score points by hitting balls into any target. The more accurate your shot and the farther the distance, the more points you earn.

Topgolf operates Sunday to Thursday from 8am to 2am and Friday and Saturday from 8am to 4am (*that’s right... 4am*). Parking is limited. Expect to valet at Topgolf, park at MGM Grand Self Park, walk from MGM Grand, shuttle service from MGM Grand may also be available.



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RESTAURANT WEEK IS BACK



Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Las Vegas Restaurant Week, the highly anticipated annual culinary event returns June 6-17, 2016. Restaurants joining in Las Vegas Restaurant Week will create their own prix-fixe menu offered at price from \$20 to \$80, with a fixed portion of the proceeds benefitting Three Square and the fight against hunger in Southern Nevada.

Offered for the first time, the new \$80 dinner option will allow the valley's top high-end restaurants to participate while giving back at unprecedented levels.

Beginning May 23, a website devoted to Las Vegas Restaurant Week – www.helpoutdineoutlv.org – will launch, providing the list of participating restaurants and menu details. The easy-to-navigate, mobile-friendly site allows diners to search by type of cuisine and offers the option to book a reservation through opentable.com or yelp.com.

Restaurants already confirmed to participate include: Alize, Blue Ribbon, China Poblano, Culinary Dropout, Del Frisco's Steakhouse, Fogo de Chao, Hakkasan, Holstein's Shakes and Buns, Honey Salt, Itsy Bitsy: Ramen and Whisky, Gilley's Bar-B-Que, MOzen Bistro, Searsucker, Sushi Roku and Wolfgang Puck Bar & Grill, among many others.

In its first ten years, Las Vegas Restaurant Week has raised more than \$1 million for Three Square. 100 percent of the proceeds collected from participating restaurants benefits Three Square and its mission to provide meals to more than 305,000 hungry residents in Southern Nevada.

Diners are encouraged to share their experiences and be a part of the conversation on Twitter and Instagram by following @

[threesquarelv](https://www.threesquarelv.com) and using the hashtags #LVRW and #HelpOutDineOutLV, and on Facebook by 'Liking' the Las Vegas Restaurant Week page – <http://on.fb.me/lvrwfb>.

ABOUT LAS VEGAS RESTAURANT WEEK AND THREE SQUARE

Las Vegas Restaurant Week began in 2007 as a way to give locals and tourists the opportunity to help out by dining out.

2016 marks the tenth year of Las Vegas Restaurant Week, which features a variety of fine dining experiences throughout the Valley. Proceeds from Restaurant Week benefit Three Square, Southern Nevada's only food bank. Three Square currently distributes more than 38 million pounds of food and grocery product – the equivalent of more than 31 million meals – per year to more than 1,300 community partners including nonprofit and faith-based organizations, schools and feeding sites throughout Southern Nevada. Three Square is a member of the Feeding America network of food banks. For additional information visit www.threesquare.org or www.helpoutdineoutlv.org.





Clair Koetitz and Lyndon Marquez moved to Las Vegas in 2014 after Clair retired. One of the first things they did when they arrived here is that they both signed up to be volunteers at The Center.

Since then, they have become a vital part of an extensive network of community activists and volunteers committed to making a difference. Together they have joined others in supporting the efforts of such community partners as Las Vegas Pride, Golden Rainbow, and Human Rights Campaign.

“When you ask these folks to volunteer, you always get a ‘two-fer,’” said Michael Dimengo, CEO of The Center. “Where one is, the other is.” Clair Koetitz is a native of central Montana, retired from British Petroleum. Lyndon Marquez is from Midland, Texas and semi-retired. The story is that these two people from two different parts of the country met in a bar in Midland, Texas. Later, they partnered as a couple. And, in 2008 they married in Palm Springs.

They are two of the most unassuming individuals that you would ever meet. But, to us, they are two of the most important individuals we

can call supporters of The Center. We call them the “dynamic duo.”

Amid celebrating “Parasols in the Park,” this year’s Picnic By Design event on April 30 at World Market Center served as the backdrop to the honoring of Three Square Food Bank as it’s “Organization of the Year” and presented its “Volunteers of the Year” award to Clair Koetitz and Lyndon Marquez of Las Vegas.

“Clair and Lyndon stand out among over 270 volunteers at The Center. I’m so impressed that our corps of volunteers is, once again, a vital and valuable lifeline for The Center. I’m similarly thrilled that The Center will be honoring two individuals and an organization that continually make a difference in our community,” said Dimengo. “It was a thrill that many from our community turned out to give voice to the honors that we want to bestow upon these generous individuals.”

QPOLITICS 2016

[by Russ White]

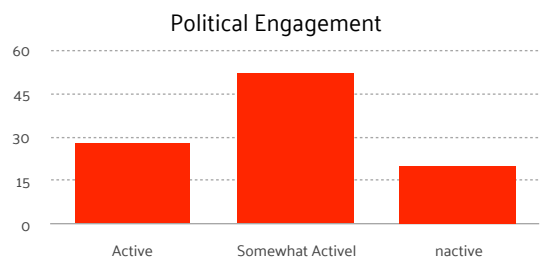
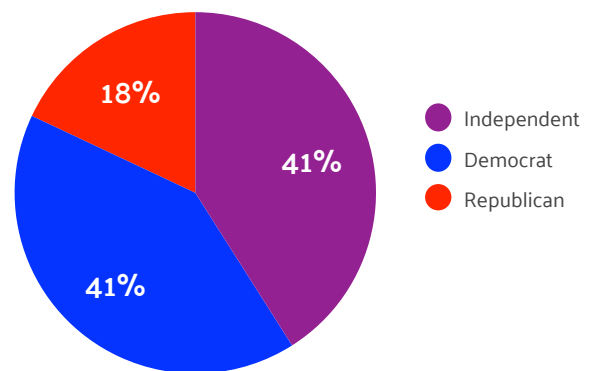
Nevada's Primary Election will be held on June 14, with early voting from May 28-June 10. This year, QVegas will not be making any political endorsements. We feel that our readers' political affiliations are too diverse for us to dictate their ballot.

The expectation would be for us to endorse Democratic candidates, but only 41% of our US readers are Democrats. Just as many are Independents, and 18% are Republicans.

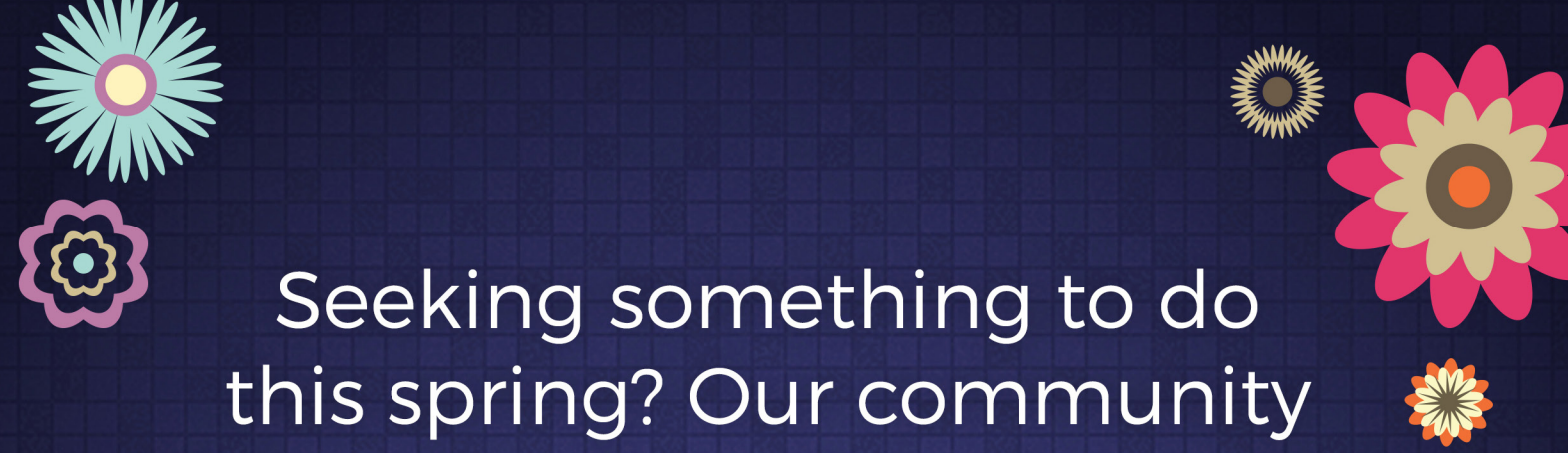
Instead of our endorsements, we want to hear from you. Following the Primary, we invite individuals to contribute articles in support of candidates and ballot initiatives.

We expect the articles to be informative, well written, and 300-500 words in length. We reserve the right to edit for spelling, grammar, length or refuse publication at our discretion.

Candidates may submit articles, provided articles are written in the first person. Articles submitted by a candidate's campaign staffer or volunteer should disclose their role with the campaign.



Submit your article at gay.vegas/contribute

Several stylized flowers in various colors (blue, pink, orange, yellow) are scattered in the top corners of the image.

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

is managed by
by The Center

Questions? Email
events@lgbtq.vegas

A dense cluster of stylized flowers in various colors (blue, pink, orange, yellow) grows from the bottom corners of the image.



POLE FITNESS STUDIO

Pole Fitness Studio, a full-service exercise/dance studio that blends traditional exotic pole dancing with rigorous cardio and aerobic workout, has expanded to a second facility located inside the City Athletic Club.

Teaching the art of pole dancing through seven class-levels as well as specialty courses, Pole Fitness Studio's certified instructors educate men and women of all ages on proper technique, positions and the importance of physical strength through pole and core development. Catering to all experience levels, this interactive dance/exercise facility provides fitness instruction ranging from boot camp and go-go dancing, to hip-hop fusion and cardio cabaret, and pole dance instructor certifications.

"It's an honor to expand Pole Fitness Studio to service the Summerlin and Northwest community of Las Vegas," said Fawnia Monday, CEO, owner and award-winning pole dancing expert. "Pole Fitness Studio is a fun, alternative workout destination that combines a variety of traditional dance and fitness forms with the creative and challenging art form known as pole fitness," says Monday.

According to Monday, Pole Dancing is a test of endurance and the classes are designed to improve aerobic and anaerobic capacity, especially with strength development in the upper body. Training on a vertical pole helps to increase stamina, strength and endurance and over all body conditioning. Participants also benefit from

a sense of improved self-esteem, which translates into all areas of their life. Pole Fitness is life changing.

"Although it is a tough workout, we still enjoy bringing the sexy into the art of pole dancing, and offer birthday parties and bachelorette parties around-the-clock," she said. "Pole Fitness Studio offers private classes for those looking to celebrate any special occasion," she said.

Pole Fitness Studio is the concept created by Canadian born Fawnia Monday, known as the pioneer of pole dancing instruction as the producer of the world's first instructional video on how to pole dance. Since her start in 1994 Monday has produced seven instructional DVDs, taught thousands of women worldwide. Monday is a respected judge for pole competitions around the world at the highest of levels including the World Pole Dance Championships, the World Pole Sports Championships by the International Pole Sports Federation (IPSF) and the International Pole Championships (IPC) hosted by the International Pole Dance Fitness Association (IPDFA).

More information on memberships and a full class schedule, visit www.polefitnessstudio.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram



SUMMER HEALING

Sometimes creative inspiration comes from a dream. For jewelry designer, entrepreneur and Las Vegas native, Marcia Campbell Bergenfield that's exactly how the EMSUM jewelry brand came about.

EMSUM Designs reflect timeless concepts of personal expression, spirituality and enlightenment through jewelry. Every piece is made with intention and inspired thought, providing healing and calmness of mind, body and spirit with semi-precious gemstones selected from around the globe.

Pieces include unique semi-precious gemstone horsetail malas, crystal geode Brazilian agate necklaces incorporating hand-rolled alpaca, and her signature wrist rocks using the finest consciously sourced gemstones found as far as Afghanistan, South Africa, India, Brazil and the Dominican Republic.



Visit EMSUM.com for more details and purchasing options.

A photograph of Craig Ramsey and Pandora Boxx. Pandora Boxx, on the left, has blonde hair and is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved top. Craig Ramsey, on the right, is wearing a black tank top and is flexing his right arm. Overlaid on the image is a circular graphic with the text 'WORK OUT'S a Drag' in pink and black. The background of the image is white with several blue stars.

WORKOUT IN THE SHADE

[by Russ White]

Craig Ramsey is on a mission to make fitness fun again. His inclusive new workout video “Work Out’s a Drag” combines a full fitness routine designed for everyone and make fitness relatable again.

“I wanted to make fitness fun again. Not since Richard Simmons and Jane Fonda have we had an entertaining and exciting at-home fitness program,” said Craig.

Craig sees so many people fed up with the seriousness of reps and sets, and not making it to the gym, so he set out to create an at-home program that everyone will love to do.

Craig’s husband Brandon Liberati provides beauty tips as well. “Women use the beauty side of things as an excuse not to get to the gym,” said Craig. “They won’t ruin their hair or makeup and Brandon makes it possible,” he added.

“I call it ‘making your workout wearable’” said Brandon. “We eliminate the excuses.”

The workout has a social aspect as well. The online community allows. “People can show us their workout and it’s going to improve their workout and athleticism,” said Craig.

Pandora Boxx hosts the workouts, providing plenty of “shade” for your workouts. Pandora started training with Craig after she met Brandon on RuPaul’s Drag U and they created such a fun environment at the gym, everyone noticed their antics. Craig invited Pandora to add commentary throughout the workout. “It’s really effective and it distracts you and entertains you.”

Workouts are designed to be completed in 5 minute sections or in the full hour.

Though playful, kitschy, and thoroughly entertaining, don’t dismiss the benefits of this workout. “There’s reasons behind every choice I made in creating this workout. I want people to reach their physique and health goals and build lean muscle mass, with a smile!” concludes Craig.

Work Out’s a Drag is available both as a digital download and DVD at www.workoutsadrag.com.



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Ahora en Español/18+



Super Summer Theater kicks off their 2016 season with **Beauty and the Beast**. This tale as old as time opens on June 1st for a sold out run through June 18th.

QVegas was fortunate to grab some time with choreographer Roman Pantoja before the show opened.

How did you get involved with *Beauty & The Beast* and Super Summer Theater?

I actually started to get involved with *Beauty and the Beast* around August of last year. At the time I was working with the Steve and Sandra Huntsman playing the role of Terk in their production of *Tarzan*. When they had announced the show they were doing for the next season they also mentioned the need for a choreographer.

I told them that I would be interested in working with them again, this time on the creative team. Around the start of the new year, Steve had reached out asking to see some of my work. Shortly after that we had begun collaborating on creating the show.

Is this your first time choreographing a show?

I work with a couple of high schools in the Clark County School District assisting choreographing their annual musicals and working with their show choirs, so no this isn't my first show I've worked on. It is however the first show I've choreographed working with seasoned actors, singers, and dancers.

It's been an amazing experience being able to ask for things that I wouldn't necessarily be able to get at a high school level. Through the casting/audition process I was blessed with some really talented, smart dancers. I've also enjoyed seeing some of the cast really develop and grow into the choreography.

One of the first things I did with the cast was make a pact that I never wanted to hear anybody say that they weren't a dancer. I asked for an open mind and a willingness to learn and go on this crazy journey with me. I hope I was able to bestow



"I think we got something here."

Are you nervous about opening night?

I am. I would be lying if I said I wasn't. To clarify, I'm not nervous at all for the cast. They are going to be brilliant. Like most performers, however, I'm really critical about my own work. It was a fun process to set the choreography and I only hope that it shows and that audience enjoys it.

I heard the cast had a special visit from Paige O'Hara (the actress who is the voice of Belle in the Disney film) visit one of the rehearsals...what was that experience like?

It was as magical as you would expect it to be. Hearing her talk about the creation of the animated film and her own journey in her career was captivating. She was so nice and caring and her enthusiasm about our production was incredibly encouraging. The experience was something I and the rest of the cast will definitely never forget.

Anything else you want to share with our readers?

I'm just really excited for people to see this show. The Huntsman's vision for musical theatre is mind-blowing and this cast is so talented. I'm so honored and happy to have been a part of it all.

some kind of wisdom on them. I want them to walk away from this experience taking one step closer to going to an audition, being asked if they dance, and for them to say "Yes. I absolutely do dance."

This whole process has really pushed me creatively. I only hope that it has done the same for the cast.

Have you performed in other local theater?

This is my third season participating with Super Summer. The past two I was actually on stage rather than on the creative team. I was also a company member of The Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater for four years.

What's been your most memorable experience with this show?

I would have to say the one of the first times we put "Be Our Guest" on its feet. The energy in the room was incredible and the cast sounded absolutely amazing. I remember looking at our musical director Michael Vojvodich and thinking





UNWANTED HEART

[by Teresa Van Earden]

In the new era of fighting the corporations and blazing trails of individualism we find a new author willing to break through the glass ceiling. I introduce T.J. Wolfe.

“T.J. Wolfe is an ebook author, activist, member of the Human Rights Campaign and Equality Texas. A former business owner, Wolfe has a BA in business management and currently resides in Austin, Texas. Unwanted Heart was created in part, to help promote and support marriage equality. It also aims to bring awareness to the Butch/Stud/Androgynous lesbians in the community, for the author observes that even after the Supreme Court’s ruling on marriage rights for the LGBT community, they continue to be in jeopardy in this country.” (unwantedheart.com)

Scrolling through Facebook pages, I found a simple post promoting Wolfe’s novel.

“Caiden, a young financier and real estate investor, reluctantly returns home after two years to aid in the care of her ailing mother. In the midst she is forced to deal with her belligerent sister Jaylon, all while discovering her beloved

mother Rose, has secrets of her own that may destroy them all.

An unexpected encounter with her lost love Zoe, forces Caiden to evaluate her innermost feelings for Zoe and cope with her own insecurities of being unwanted.

Unwanted Heart is a compelling tale of love and its many faces.” (unwantedheart.com)

They say “Never judge a book by its’ cover”... however, this one had my had attention. Yet, more so than the cover the infectious smile of the author and a slight mischievous glimmer behind her glasses held my attention. I knew I needed to read this book. The internet once again satiated my need for instant gratification. Within seconds, I had my book in my tablet and was pulled into an amazing story of the complexities and peculiarities of a lesbian love story.

Two days later, still in my pajamas, I swiped the

last page. I took a deep breath, the kind that isn't caused by the end of something but the need for your thoughts to process. As I slowly exhaled, my mind churned. This could only be the beginning, there were questions that might never be answered, but I needed to know more!

Although outward appearances tend to cause people to assume I am of the femme persuasion, I have the tenacity of a butch on a mission with a full set of power tools. With a few strokes on my laptop I made contact. My initial smile for T.J. Wolfe turned into a look of solid satisfaction. The system had been beaten by the taps of my fingers on a keyboard. Not needing to wade through search engines, scrolling through lists of random fan posts, or even getting a copy and paste reply from some assistant, to the assistant, of the assistant to the publisher I was able to talk with the author herself. May the gods of the internet always protect the wifi signal of all who seek to know!

My fingers danced over the keyboard as my heartbeat raced, thus the conversation ensued...

TVE: The first thing is why? Why actually write? I mean you have a full time career, you are highly motivated to live a healthy life, admin on several fb pages, bringing awareness and friendships to the lesbian community...that is a lot! It's one thing to journal but another to commit to writing an actual novel. To then be brave enough to allow your work to be scrutinized, judged, and possibly rejected. What was the inner need for this story to be written?

TJW: It has been a dream of mine since the age of 11 to write a book. I had no idea 36 years later my dream would turn into a lesbian erotica romance novel. I think it was well worth the wait. I had ample time to learn myself and my capabilities, not to mention I needed to live the experiences in order to truly write about the stud/femme dynamics that I speak of in my novel. Growing up I was notorious for writing pages upon pages of love letters to my girlfriends and yes even one boyfriend I had in high school. I was never much on speaking and I used pen and paper to express my deepest thoughts to

people who were important to me. It gave me an opportunity to say exactly what I wanted without interruption. I had time to process my thoughts and feelings versus blurting out something I'd regret or have my words misinterpreted. Writing became my form of communication for the majority of my life. It took me a while to feel comfortable speaking to people. I am a true introvert. I'm not shy I just find solace internally. When I began writing *Unwanted Heart* the scrutiny, judgment, and rejection never entered my mind. I was a woman determined to express myself once again this time to the world in hopes of leaving a positive footprint on humanity. It wasn't until I was contacted by my publisher that the book was available globally that the paranoia started to creep in. In that moment I was terrified for the first time during this journey. All the normal emotions flowed through me simultaneously. I was paralyzed with fear wondering what the fuck did I just do? As I mention often in my book I have a faith in God and did what any good Christian would do and that is to pray for guidance, courage, and strength. I was fortunate enough to have a multitude of positive influence and encouragement as I freaked out. After it was all said and done I refocused my energy and doubled my efforts to remain hopeful as I gradually received feedback from readers. I strongly believe there is a need for a true interpretation of the stud lesbian lifestyle. I did not see many women like myself being represented until just recently. I wanted to be a part of spreading the honest message of how we live, how we are treated, how we engage in sexual experiences, and how our lives are no different in some aspects than anyone else. With that said we are a minority within a minority and it's well overdue that our voices be heard and understood. I've gone all of my adult life living as "Me" yet I am seen as something else that is foreign and misunderstood. I wanted to try and bring some clarity to anyone and everyone who will listen.

TVE: Times have changed and it seems as if "Coming out is the new black". Your book places lesbians in realistic situations of everyday life,

even with the uncomfortable situation of Zoe coming out to her family, yet your characters are all openly ok in their own skin. How do you think closeted readers will respond to the idea of being ok with coming out?

TJW: Indeed times are changing and I'm thrilled to say for the better. I have never been fond of the term "coming out of the closet." I realize it is empowering for someone to come out and embrace who they are. I choose to just be T.J. Wolfe living my life the best way that I can without shame and not feeling less than human because of my sexuality. The only closet I have ever been in is the one inside my head. Society doesn't get the right to put me in a closet that I have to fight my way out of. As for how my book will impact a reader who has yet to embrace their true self my hope is that it gives them comfort that they are not alone in their struggle and at the end of the rainbow there is beauty and freedom in being yourself. The only person who truly matters is you. You have to live with you all your life. I'd say to these readers it is a personal decision as to when you want to share yourself and who you are with the world. There will be individuals who choose not to share that with anyone. I'd say to those individuals if you are happy and you see no need to share, then to each their own and be well. We do not have to share every aspect of who we are with society. What is wrong with just living and being? People who love us and enjoy our company won't care, for the rest they don't matter. I live for the people who live for me and can accept all of me. I don't make it a point to introduce myself as "Hi, I'm T.J. Wolfe, lesbian."

TVE: In your novel you share so much of the human condition. Sex, physical violence, gossip, halftruths, money, greed, and lines crossed in both love and hate, are on every page. Motives that your characters convinced themselves that their motives were justified in their own minds. What motivated you to delve so deeply into the reality of life?

TJW: Yes, the violence, rumors, gossip, and deceit is personal for me. I imagine it's personal

for a lot of people. I don't know anyone who hasn't been abused or mistreated by a loved one in their life. A lot of what I wrote in the book is based on real life emotion and experience. I've been abused growing up and at the time I raged and was angry because I felt there was nothing I could do to stop it. By the grace of God all horrible things ended in my life and I was able to move beyond the negative. I never completely let go of the rage. Honestly, I think a bit of rage is good for me as a reminder to never treat anyone the way I was treated. We all have a choice to take experiences in our lives and use them for bad or good. I try in most instances to choose the latter because I refuse to let a negative experience conquer my spirit. I wanted to touch on real life as much as possible in the book because I feel most people can relate. The violence was extreme between the siblings and exposed the true nature of the beast so to speak. By that I mean as you read you will see there is always an underlying reason for one's behavior. Once you get to the bottom of it you can empathize with the characters. It doesn't condone their actions but you can step into their shoes to see why they behaved the way they did. It wasn't for lack of love for one another but for lack of truth and honesty that was denied them. We are all connected on some level and like Newton's Law "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." The siblings were two forces reacting to the other neither gaining nor losing ground except within the confines of their own minds. We as a culture seem to thrive off assumptions and misinformation. We lack the desire or will to get to the truth. It's easier and less painful to scratch the surface rather than take the time and energy to dig deep and get to the source of a problem or misunderstanding. We don't risk our hearts anymore, we don't take chances because it's safer. We are so guarded today that we in turn leave ourselves more vulnerable without realizing it. My life would be empty if I live this way. I understand and I hope it shows through my work that life is about being vulnerable and taking risks even if I hurt in the end it's worth it for the chance at being happy.

TVE: OK, I have to ask about this....the erotica... This book isn't all about great sex, Yet, you made sure to include it! You took the stereotype of girls "scissoring" and tossed it right out the window. If you know where to look for it you can find "how to have lesbian sex" information out there. How does sharing the "real deal" influence your readers ?

I guess what I am really asking is that it's not like you can get your typical sex ed/porn/harlequin romance type of introduction of put penis into vagina and that's sex lessons...when it comes to being a lesbian. So it can be like "I got a girl to kiss me....now what?" for a lot of girls. So when you share what it is really like, do you feel like you are opening doors to our new people? Especially since your book cover says sexy and almost untouchable sexy ." Would you consider this to be a book that you might hide under your bed and no one would know....

TJW: I love how your mind works Teresa. I'm laughing and blushing at the same time as I read your question. I adore having sex with women. I'm a passionate Scorpio. Mix that with a romance novel and there you have it, a tutorial to real lesbian sexual encounters! I can't speak for every lesbian but I'm sure the ones I know would agree scissoring is the beginner's version of lesbian sex. I'd even go so far as to say scissoring in my opinion is for a male audience in porn because that is the majority of what you see. The main reason I included the sex scenes is to clear up the stereotypical idea of lesbian sex. I wanted it to be a raw and pure depiction based off my own experiences and from what other women have shared. If you look at certain lesbian groups you'll find the ones geared toward the Butch/femme relationship taps into sex with

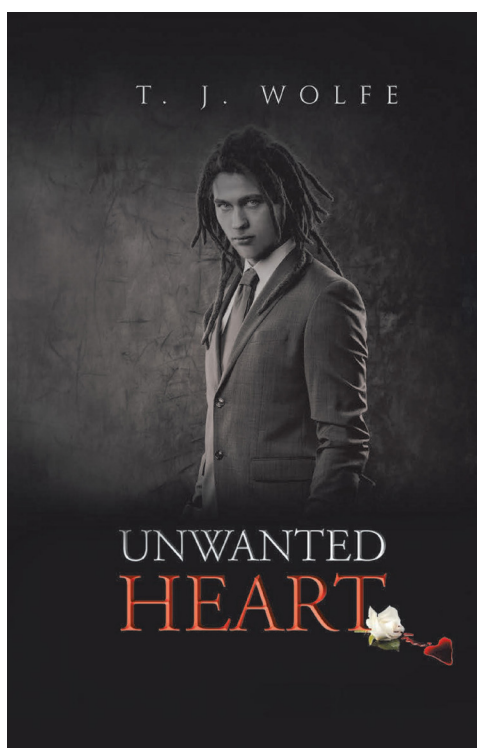
dildos and harnesses as well as other adult toys. It's not just "scissoring", fingering, and oral sex.

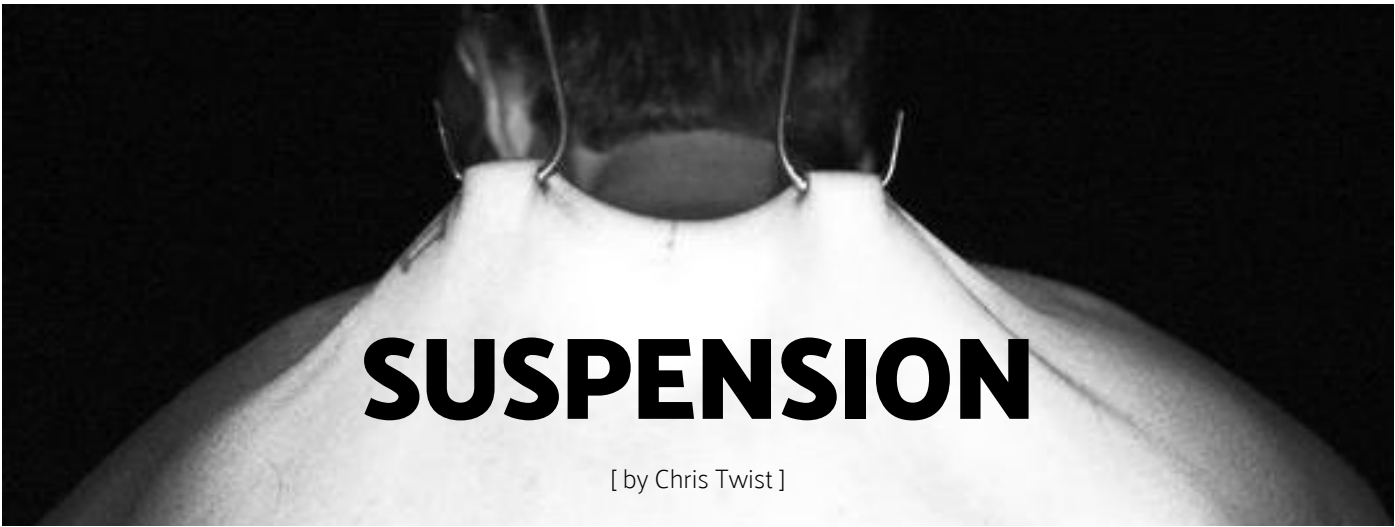
I'm not saying it's a bad thing I'm saying there is so much more we don't see when it comes to woman on woman sex in the media. A romance novel contains sex, it's par for the course. I'd be crazy to miss the opportunity to include it in my book. I intentionally went into great detail when I wrote the sex scenes because I was tired of seeing something that didn't depict the butch/femme sexual exploits that I know exist. I love using a strap on when I am making love to a woman. I love the sensuality that goes with being with a woman. A sexual encounter

with a woman can last for hours and it's not just about the intercourse. I'm aroused just talking about it now. I hope my readers can relate to these experiences. I hope they say "Yes, finally someone got it right!" I didn't write the book exclusively for a lesbian audience. I wrote it to give the world an insider's view of the life of lesbians. I wish everyone open and close minded would read this book and come away understanding our struggles, our joys, our lives, and our dreams. They will find they are not much different than their own. You mentioned the cover and that was a challenge in and of itself. I had a vision of

what I wanted to depict. I researched romance novel cover ideas and looked at hundreds of stock images before I came across this one. I wanted it to be sensual, sexy, and have a part of me included without using my face. I am a woman who dresses masculine right down to my boxer briefs. I needed the masculinity of a butch lesbian represented above all else. The back cover is a city scape of Austin, TX. It felt right to represent a place I live and love.

.... And here I needed a break and a few hits off my vape.....





SUSPENSION

[by Chris Twist]

I have done about sixty or seventy suspensions. Hooks are placed inside my back, legs, stomachs, chest, or even sometimes my ass as I'm raised up so my feet no longer touch the street and it looks like I'm flying.

The feeling is one of the best feelings that most people who do this feel. It is the feeling of all of one's energy used in the whole body, and that feels unbelievable. Most people really don't get it at all, and they don't know why we do such a thing that, yes, hurts. As kids, we are told that hurting is always a problem and something that we want to have the least feeling if we can; but this is very different from most kinds of hurting, because the energy that happens makes the hurting feel like it is not a hurt at all but instead it helps us to get more energy around our whole body. The energy that is with this kind of feeling is something that no other thing can really be like.

I did this mostly for work, as I was in a show in Las Vegas called Freaks! At the end of each show, one of us did the suspension, and there were different feelings that the people who were watching the show felt as we had two or sometimes just one hook in our backs. I know that my family, my Mom and my Dad, were very worried the whole time, and I could see why. If you haven't seen this kind of thing yourself then it looks like it is a crazy idea and that it will definitely hurt, and maybe even have the hooks stretch from the back so much so that they will leave the back and blood will leave the body of the man or woman who was doing the suspension.

The truth is that, in the right people to make suspensions happen, this would never happen. The skin is much stronger than most people think it is. There are several walls of skin, so it isn't just the skin that we see all of the time. That is the first part of many several walls of skin. It isn't easy for a hook in a suspension to leave the body at all, and that is true for legs, back, stomach, arms, chest, and even in the ass of a man or woman who is doing this.

I remember that especially gay people who were watching my show were very worried and disgusted by the idea of doing something that was first, not especially pretty, at least not in the way that they were used to see "pretty" things, and then the second part was that they didn't get why anybody would ever want to do such a thing. They didn't see how much fun each of us were having while we were in suspension, and why we loved the feeling, from the hooks put in the back to the feeling of flying with little bits of blood leaving our bodies. The truth is that it was the best thing that I ever felt, including sex, and that means a lot from me, because I was kind of a slut all the time; but that is another letter that I will write about. This time, we're just talking about suspensions, and how good they are for the people who do it.

When you are in a suspension, you feel like everything in your life is going to be fine. That your work, your husband, and your family will all be fine in the end. It makes you feel like you have power, and that your power will help you when you need it. For some people, the suspension is about their lives with their God or for their soul. That happens a lot, actually. I don't believe in God, but I do believe in myself; so every time I ever did a suspension, I remembered that I had the power to do whatever I want as long as I work to do it.

It is something that nothing else can really give us, but especially gay people never really got it or even tried to think about what we were doing. There are four other gay men who I talked with about their lives as both being gay and as doing suspensions. Glittah, a young man who lives in Las Vegas, told me that he thinks that "because I am already into like BDSM people just assume it's sexual for me. I constantly am asked if it is a sex thing. The minute I tell them otherwise it is as if they are disgusted. It makes no sense why everyone wants everything to be about sex." Why would it be all right if it was about sex, but if it isn't about sex, then it would be what? Crazy? Why can't we have feelings that are different, not about sex and still feeling incredible? Glittah also told me that he feels like the gay scene is kind of isolating, and these "regular" guys loved the idea of "bad boys" but when they finally see a real "bad boy," they are not as strong as they thought they were. Of course, I don't think that doing suspensions makes me a "bad boy," and I have other reasons to be a bad boy. Doing suspensions doesn't make any of us "bad boys," but it does mean that we have a different way of living for ourselves. There is no reason to hate or be worried about something that you don't know anything about. Instead of thinking that we are all "crazy," "insane", or "psycho," think harder about why we might need something different from most of our gay and straight friends. Is it really different from any other ways to feel better and stronger? It makes us feel like we are here for reasons that are bigger than just our work, family, or a husband. Glittah also said, "It's as if it is okay

to an extent as long as I don't go 'too far' oh you want your eyes modified? Or any talk about solar branding and I am immediately places from hot and kinky to creepy. There isn't much room for a queer on hooks but I choose my suspension family over the Gay scene any day." I feel the same way. If I had to choose my life as a gay man or as a suspension user, then I would every time choose suspension, but I don't see why there is a reason to not have both?

There is another man who does suspensions, is gay, and lives in Las Vegas. He had different problems from Glittah, and here is his thoughts about being gay and loving suspensions. "As I grew up, I realized the things that made me different from the gay community also made me different in the straight community. Eventually, I started to love myself, I gained confidence, I lost over 200 lbs, and finally I suspended from my back." Colie was, before this happened, 400 lbs, which is hard enough when we, the gays, believe that every person should look as amazing as he could really look. I must say that I am one of those people. I want all of us to look as good as we really can, all the time. I think it was because when I was a kid, I was the smartest kid in each school, I even was done with High School when I was sixteen, and people like me loved their minds more than they loved their bodies. I just didn't get that at all, so I wanted to look the way that my mind was. Still, this isn't about me, at least not right now. This is really about Colie. "It was the greatest most euphoric feeling in the world. People always ask 'how bad did it hurt?' My only reply is 'I don't remember, I just remember having a moment of clarity and happiness'." How could anything that does that for this man ever be a problem or bad in anyway.

"Dating is kind of hard as well. When people see my body modifications they're either inquisitive, or grossed out. Even the guys who are inquisitive are just that. But, who would take someone like me home to meet their parents?" I do see how it could be hard to tell your boyfriends family that you love suspensions and will do it for as long as you can. Families usually just want a man who is "nice" and works in a "nice" place.

If you tell the family that you are very different from most other people in the gay world, it makes them feel worried about their son and if it will make him “different” as well. So, families and gay men both want the same thing, which is that they want people who like the same music, movies, and ideas that most people feel; that being different is a problem that they need to change for everything to be the way that they want it to be.

Colie also said, “you’ve changed the way I look at people. I would have never thought you’d be so level headed, intelligent, and such a hard worker.” People are usually assume they’re going to be trashy, lazy, and unemployable if they are different in ways that most people have never thought of. Colie doesn’t do suspensions for attention, which is how many people think such a thing must be about.

The last two gay men that I know who have done suspensions are in Atlanta, where I used to live. They saw me doing suspensions and, in some time, thought that they should try it themselves. They are boyfriends, Zac and Jim. It actually helped them as seeing each other in a new, and very different way. Both of them loved the time that they had in the suspensions. For Jim, it was the first time he had ever had any kind of piercing in his body. So, he did the hardest kind of piercing as his first time. Most of the people that I know have many piercings that they had before they tried to do a suspension, but not for Jim. Jim and Zac actually felt more about each other after they did the suspension. It made them both feel like they are stronger than even they thought they were, and it made them happy that both of them could do this very hard thing. Jim works as a drag waiter and thought that it would be very cool to do a suspension as a drag. Most of the time when he think about drags, we think about the gayest of all the gays; like they couldn’t ever do such a hard idea because they are between a gay man and a little girl. Jim doesn’t think that this is true and wants to change the idea of drags; and I love the idea of changing the way people think of drags. I hope that he will do this

sometime, hopefully when I am in Atlanta, so that I can see this amazing idea.

The last person I’m going to write about is my brother, Michael. Because I was always so ecstatic every time I did a suspension, he eventually wanted to know if he could do it, and if it would feel good for him like it felt fascinating for me. I didn’t go with him, because I was just got back to Las Vegas after my brain injury; but he told me that it was one of the best things he has ever done. Now, in less than a year, he has done five suspensions. Three of them where from his back, one from his chest—which hurt the most, and he did a suspension from his ass—which he said was so funny that he didn’t even feel any hurting. I’m very delighted that I could give him something that now is both of our lives.

For those of you who are gay or lesbian or transgender and think that just being LGBT is weird enough and that anymore “weird” is atrocious, well, you aren’t really living. The “weird” people are the ones who make the most of their lives, and you can learn so much from them. Suspensions aren’t crazy, insane, or lunatic at all. It is just a different way to feel like your body and your mind are capable of anything that you really want. Maybe before you think that these people who love their time in suspensions are wrong in some way, you should see a group of people who do suspensions. Just look and see how great this feeling is for the people who do it. You don’t have to do it yourself, but see other people who do it and know that they are having the best time as they are doing it. We should love that there are different people and that we aren’t all the same. If you see a suspension sometime after reading this, know that you shouldn’t cry or vomit if you see a suspension. You should be happy that they are happy.

Swing Shift Sideshow were the first people who I did my first suspension with. They know a lot about suspensions, more than anybody else that I know. <http://swingshiftsideshow.com/> is their website, and you can see who they are and what they do.

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The web's favorite queer network celebrates Pride month with even more LGBT content including three brand new original series. Beginning in June, gaySVTVworld will premiere Trade2Trade, its sexy new talk show featuring men stripped down to the bare-essentials. Also on the summer slate is Empty Your Sack, Queen, a "woman"-on-the-street series and Poop Up Videos, an insider's look at the making of some of Sherry Vine's classic music parodies.

"Pride is my favorite time of the year," explains gaySVTVworld's Sherry Vine. "It's a time to let our wigs down and reflect on how far we have come and celebrate where we are now and the good times ahead!"

"We're doing this Pride in Sherry-ific style," proclaims Josh Rosenzweig, the network's co-founder. "We're mixing comedy, music, a bit of gay history and whole lotta sexiness."

Sherry Vine first made a name as a YouTube sensation, with her hilarious videos being viewed over 15,000,000 times! She has appeared on the off-Broadway stage, in numerous films including Stonewall and Wigstock and has starred in two

seasons of Here TV's variety show, She's Living For This.

She launched gaySVTVworld with Here TV executive Josh Rosenzweig as a platform to showcase original programming from top queer talent. The current slate of programs are Sherry and the Greek, Know Your gAy-B-Cs, The Anita & Gina Marie Show, Throwback Thursdays with Pickles and Behind The Drag Curtain.

Josh Rosenzweig served as SVP of Here TV for ten years where he produced over two hundred hours of television programming including She's Living For This and Heart of Broadway: An Inside Look at Broadway Cares/Equity Fights

Photos: Anna Nicole Images



AIDS. He was also the host of the hit TV talk show Just Josh. Rosenzweig has directed many music videos, award-winning films and over forty productions for the theater. He has been nominated for two Daytime Emmy Awards.

In addition to the new programs, gaySVTVworld's current leading talk show, Sherry and The Greek, will focus on gay history and coming out topics throughout the month and welcome LGBTQ and straight allies including popular YouTube stars DailyLondons and HERCfitness. Then, on Sunday June 26, Sherry and Chris (the Greek) will broadcast their show from New York Pride, bringing all the highlights of America's biggest gay festival to homes around the world. gaySVTVworld is free at YouTube.com/MissSherryVine.

gaySVTVworld is free at YouTube.com/MissSherryVine.





Levi's Launches First Global Pride Collection In Partnership With The Harvey Milk Foundation **WEAR YOUR PRIDE THIS SUMMER!**

[by Ian Maloney, Hotspots Magazine of Florida]

When you think of “gay clothes” Levi’s may not be the first brand that you think about. However, the international clothing powerhouse is about to change all that this summer. Everyone has that one pair of jeans that make your butt look amazing, and a tight pair of 501’s just might do the trick. From jean shorts, t-shirts, a collector’s jacket, and collectable patches, Levis is putting their money where their mouth is and coming out for equality in a big way.

Next week, the company that literally invented blue jeans will launch their first ever Pride collection called The Levi’s x Harvey Milk Foundation collection and they are partnering up with the Harvey Milk Foundation to help give back to the community that Milk represented

and ensure his legacy lives on. Levi’s is a long-standing ally to the LGBTQ community, and they will commemorate the election and legacy of Milk, a gay rights hero who was assassinated in San Francisco City Hall along with Mayor George Moscone in 1978.

Harvey Milk’s election was a crucial moment in the fight for equality as he was one of the first LGBTQ persons elected to office - and certainly the most visible - at the time. Though Harvey Milk only served less than a year in office before his tragic assassination, his legacy is still alive in the city of San Francisco and across the world. His courage, passion and sense of justice rocked a country and supported many communities of minorities, bringing forward a new hope and

vision of freedom.

The Pride collection will feature a range of gender-neutral products and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Harvey Milk Foundation which was founded to empower local, regional, national and global organizations so that they may fully realize the power of Harvey Milk's story, style, and collaborative relationship building.

"As a brand that values authentic self-expression, there is no individual we want to honor more than Harvey Milk. Harvey was a true leader, whose passion was palpable and has expanded the decades since his untimely assassination. He brought not only the LGBTQ community forward, but he fought for the visibility of all minorities. We at Levi's are honored to have the opportunity to express his legend through not only our product, but our voice as a global brand leader and advocate for equal human rights" said Grant Barth, Chief Merchandising Officer for Levi's.

Stuart Milk, Harvey's nephew and Founder and President of the Harvey Milk Foundation had high praise for Levi's. He said: "We are inspired by Levi's global commitment to progress and to meeting the challenges of the 21st century through the celebration of human diversity from the Levi's board room to Levi's branded apparel. Uncle Harvey was proud to wear his Levi's for their unmatched fit and finish, and today he would be even prouder to see his name partnered with a true champion of corporate leadership and inclusion. Companies like Levi's understand that non-discrimination is an essential value that is good for business, not just at home, but all across the globe. Having spent years providing on-the-ground support at Pride events across the world, I say, with certainty, that this incredible clothing line created by Levi's will inspire all and provide hope to those still yearning to be recognized in a globalized world. It is a simple message, marked by dignity and respect, that we embrace all without exception, and keep alive Uncle Harvey's promise of equality for all people, everywhere."

Photos: Dale Stine

The Pride Collection includes:

Harvey Milk Ringer Tee: Celebrates Harvey Milk by featuring a Harvey Milk graphic on the front and the LGBTQ timeline on the back of the tee. This shirt is also available as a tank and all sizing is gender neutral.

Pride Tee: Leveraging the rainbow batwing, Levi's offers an everyday option to showcase pride on heather grey t-shirt.

Pride Trucker Jacket: The pride Trucker was created to be a collector's piece that allows the owner to add collectible patches each year to customize their jacket! The trucker comes already patched with pride related patches as well as a rainbow L-tab! Harvey Milk Graphic featured on the back. The Pride Trucker Jacket is available for a limited run and features a slim body with sizes from XS-XXL.

Harvey Milk Short: These shorts are made from a fabric reminiscent of vintage garments; they come embroidered in stone washed style with a rainbow flag on the watch pocket. They also include Harvey Milk patches and a rainbow L-tab. Gender-neutral sizing ranges from waist 24-36. Inseam cut off at 9"

Pride Baseball Cap: A 5-panel hat with fastened back featuring Levi's rainbow batwing embroidery.

Pride Bandana: Iconic Levi's navy bandana with paisley print featuring Levi's rainbow batwing embroidery.

Levi's® x Harvey Milk Patch: With the tradition of introducing a collectable patch each year, Levi's celebrates Harvey Milk with a collectable patch for 2016.

The Levi's x Harvey Milk Foundation Pride 2016 Collection will be available beginning mid May 2016 online and in retail stores throughout the US. For more information about the Levi's x Harvey Milk Foundation collection visit LeviStrauss.com.

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BEATBOX

[by Jimmy Newsum]

If you're among the boys shaking up dance floors today, you probably don't remember Will Smith singing about summer, summer, summertime? The point is, even nineties kids knew the importance of summer grooves, when we're all needing "just a little somethin' to break the monotony, of all that hardcore dance that has gotten to be". Here are the top records that are tearing up clubs right now.

"Feel The Tel Aviv Vibe"

Guy Scheiman featuring Michelle Shapira and Oshri Elmorish
(Guy Scheiman Music)

Scheiman's high-energy anthem with atmospheric vocals by Michelle Shapira and Oshri Elmorish has the big driving synths, soaring melodies and thumping bass lines that the Tel Aviv club scene is world renown for. Proves he has one of the best ears for melodies in dance music, Scheiman masterfully combines a sultry vibe with a club-friendly, big room sound that is sure to whisk club fans on a Tel Aviv adventure, at least in their minds.



"The Fire"

Mimi Imfurst

Mimi's first solo album since her split with XELLE isn't a club record. It's a pop rock album that literally and figuratively bursts with emotion. Songs run the gamut from straight up in-your-face loud punk to acoustic ballads. Mimi's burning passion and drive carries brilliantly throughout this dazzlingly produced album. The only thing missing are some kick-ass club remixes but with Mimi's growing popularity, they should be coming soon.



"Earth From Here"

Pacifico featuring Jeb Havens
(Pump Records)

DJ Pacifico knows all about hard beats and hooks. In fact, his music is unusually interesting for the genre and generally as much fun to listen to as it is to dance to. The guest vocalist on his latest track is the golden-throated Jeb Havens, and "Earth From Here" is an epic record: brilliant and powerful. Highly recommended.



"Good Morning London"

Raph Solo
(Angel King Musique)

The second single off of the sexy out artist's latest album is a love letter to the city he calls home. It's a sultry track, a metaphorical breakup song about finding your way home and being yourself, no matter what. Solo colors the track with a burst of falsettos, putting his vocal range on parade. The sweeping riffs, hypnotic keyboards and powerful lyrics will leave listeners gushing.





LA! PRIDE FACES COMMUNITY CRITICISM

[by Russ White]

Christopher Street West, the non-profit organization that organizes LA! Pride issued an apology to the community after facing community criticism for changes made to this year's events.

Most notably was the re-branding of the event into a music festival—some even calling it a commercialized “gay Coachella.” Ticket prices increased 75% to support headliners like Carley Rae Jepsen.

Many of the LGBTQ events had been marginalized, including the Friday night Trans Social and Dyke March. The traditional “Free Friday” was eliminated.

On May 13, LA Pride issued an apology and committed to working closer with the community in planning next year's event.

Daily ticket prices have since been lowered to \$25—a \$5 increase from last year (\$28.50 with all fees) and the Friday night events have been reinstated.

Peter Cruz, a director at Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team led the #NotOurPride group boycott, but has since called off the boycott.

Others are not as satisfied with the changes. LA Pride said the purpose of re-branding to a music festival was to attract more Millennials.

Ivy Bottini, a longtime LGBT activist who founded the first chapter of the National Organization for Women in 1966 said it was the “most ageist thing” she has seen since she moved to California.

The Music Festival branding appears to be slowing disappearing from website and some reports say that new outdoors banners are appearing around West Hollywood with the Music Festival branding removed.

LAPride is considered to be the one of the oldest LGBTQ events, originating with the first gay rights parade in the world in Hollywood, CA on June 28, 1970 on the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion on Christopher Street in New York on June 28, 1969

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.

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