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Rita Mae Brown

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Courtney Act

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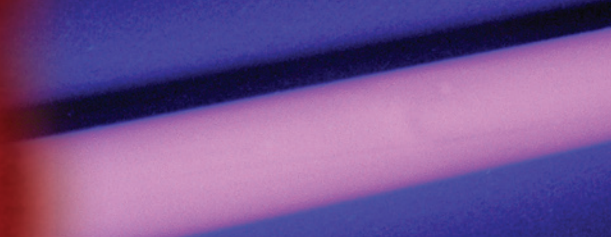


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Can we get married yet?



When I came out 15 years ago back home in the South (smack dab in the mid-'90s when I was quite a club kid), I seldom ever heard anyone talk about gay marriage. At the time, at least where I lived, people seemed content just having a commitment ceremony, still enjoying all the thrills of a typical—or atypical—wedding.

Fast-forward several years later, and gay marriage is at the core of our fight for equality, nationwide. Several states have already made it legal. Even California did, briefly, before revoking the right to wed.

Just recently, a judge overturned Proposition 8 and gays everywhere began planning their pilgrimage to The Golden State to tie the knot, only to be denied once again when a Federal appeals court put a kibosh on that, for now. The day the good news was announced, we asked our Facebook friends for their thoughts, and the day the bad news was announced, we did the same as well. Check out the answers on page 28.

Several celebrities succeeded in marrying their partners during the brief window when it was legal in California. Our cover story is on one major lesbian who did not, but she had already established a legal domestic partnership with her other half in 2005 and held a commitment ceremony two years earlier. Please read William

Bessette's interview with rocker Melissa Etheridge on page 46 as she discusses her long career and her recent, difficult breakup with Tammy Lynn Michaels, with whom she had twin children in 2006.

Also in this issue, we have wonderful interviews with famous author Rita Mae Brown, who wrote the popular lesbian novel *Rubyfruit Jungle* in the '70s, and Australian singer/songwriter/actress Olivia Newton-John, whom audiences came to love as Sandy opposite John Travolta in the movie version of the musical, *Grease*. Plus, we talked with the Carter Twins, a young pair of country musicians who are headlining the IGRA World Gay Rodeo Finals in Laughlin this October. We hope you enjoy every page of our September issue.

By the way, the rumors of my impending departure are greatly exaggerated. While I considered leaving Vegas, for a second, I have ultimately chosen to stay and give you several exciting new features—and bring back some old reader favorites—both in these pages and online, starting October 1.

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CONGRATULATIONS



40 HAPPY YEARS

Eldon Garrett and Rick Rodrigues, owners of the exotic clothing store Bare Essentials Fantasy Fashions—one of the first in Las Vegas, will be celebrating their 40th anniversary on Sept. 4. The pair met in Seattle when Eldon was visiting Rick's roommate and Rick asked him to leave because he did not allow strangers in his home for fear of theft. But, there must have been instant chemistry between the two, since they have maintained a successful relationship for the past four decades.

Rick and Eldon have lived in Las Vegas since 1993 and opened the popular New York City Shoes off Rainbow Boulevard. It was the hottest shoe store in town, even more popular with the drag queens, since at the time, that was the only place to get larger size high-fashion heels. After they sold the store, they attempted to open the first gay hotel close to where Mandalay Bay sits, but the project went bad when the developer skipped town with all the money. After retreating for a couple of months, they worked their way to the top again and opened another unique store, making it so incredibly popular that there are several look-a-like stores in operation today, none as rare as Bare Essentials.

In 2007, Rick and Eldon were selected as the Las Vegas Pride Parade Grand Marshals. They credit their successful relationship with never being jealous and always including the other in everything they do. "We are as happy today as when we met 40 years ago," said Eldon. Their future plans include retirement in Palm Springs after a buyer is found for Bare Essentials. ●



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OUR QMMUNITY

SNAPI moves 2011 PRIDE to September

Southern Nevada Association of Pride Inc. (SNAPI), the group behind Las Vegas PRIDE Week, announced at their annual meeting on Aug. 17 they are moving the festivities, normally held in May, to the month of September, beginning in 2011. The main reason for the controversial move is to turn the festival into a Las Vegas destination event, which many board members don't believe will happen if it continues during the month of May.

Their new mission is to increase tourist attendance since local numbers have not grown in more than eight years. SNAPI has received criticism year after year when attendance numbers are announced and the festival never exceeds 8,500, which was reached in 2008 despite the recession that began hitting Las Vegas in late 2007. There is currently no explanation from the board as to why the attendance does not increase with each passing year; however, many in the community complain the PRIDE Festival is nothing more than a picnic with vendors and inconsequential entertainment, and they would much rather attend the various evening parties.

The 2010 festival was down more than 2,000 attendees with 1,000 of those being in the youth category. The Center's Executive Director Candice Nichols, concerned about the drop in youth attendance, approached the board, asking for an explanation for the poor attendance and encouraged them to work more closely with The Center next year and find ways to ensure the youth are involved and attend.

"By moving the date to September, it will allow PRIDE royalty more opportunity to attend other cities' Prides to promote Las Vegas' upcoming festival," said James Healey, outgoing board member and past President. Currently our festival is the second event of the season in the Southwest region, following Phoenix Pride, which is held in April and usually reports attendance numbers close to our own. SNAPI sends its royalty to major Pride events in drive-time cities to participate

in the parade and festivals dressed in typical Las Vegas costuming handing out promotional material. The organization in 2010 budgeted \$7,000 for travel and spent \$2,594 on costumes, and now it is believed that the organization will get more for its money by promoting an event later in the season versus the following calendar year.

Former SNAPI Vice President Bob Napierala said, "Holding the festival in September will give us a break on city costs since the city is overburdened with all the events in April and May." The PRIDE Festival is currently held on the same day as the Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure, and the PRIDE Night Parade is held in conjunction with First Friday, so the city has increased costs pertaining to licensing and services for those months. "Some services we received free from the city in the past are now costing the festival if we continue to host the event in May," Napierala said.

The following local non-profits received donations to their organizations based on PRIDE fundraising efforts for 2010: The Gay and Lesbian Community Center, \$3,000; LVGA³ \$3,000; NGRA, \$5,000; and Sin City Sisters, \$9,000. This does not include the L.O.V.E. Program in which non-profits are paid for their volunteer time.

The new 2011 Executive Board of Directors are President Ernie Yuen, Vice-President Justin Liming, Treasurer Matt Cox, and Secretary/Acting Parliamentarian Eric Recientes. The remaining board members are Eric Agostino, Brenda Ben, Justin Bradshaw, Michael-Angelo Cabero, Tony Clark, Andy Du Bois, Michael Grimes (re-elected), Brandon Johnson, Brady McGill, Brian Rogers (re-elected), Dennis Shaul, Dan Shoaff and Adam Zujewski. The outgoing board members are Joe Hood, Bob Napierala, Jake Naylor and James Healey.

The next SNAPI public board meeting will be held Sept. 21 at The Center (953 E. Sahara Ave.) at which they will be discussing committee appointments. For details, visit lasvegaspride.org. ●

Other upcoming events in our Qmmunity

SEPTEMBER 3 — IRSCDEI Back to School Sock Hop (Badlands Saloon, 8pm)

SEPTEMBER 4 — NGRA presents SheHaw (Crews'N, 9pm)

SEPTEMBER 11 — LVGA³ Doggie Social (Desert Breeze Park, 9pm-12am)

SEPTEMBER 11 — NGRA presents a show dedicated to *Glee* (Charlie's, 9pm)

SEPTEMBER 17 — NGRA presents "All Among Friends" (Charlie's, 9pm)

SEPTEMBER 24 — IRSCDEI King & Queen of the Desert Competition (Charlie's, 9pm)

SEPTEMBER 26 — LVGA³ 2nd Annual Picnic in the Park (Doc Romeo Park, 9am-3pm)

OCTOBER 3 — LVGA³ softball season begins, clinics Sundays (www.lvga3softball.com)

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CCC celebrates 20 years of healing lives

On Sept. 18, Community Counseling Center (CCC) presents Bite at the Museum in celebration of its milestone 20th year of service. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. at the new Nevada State Museum at the Springs Preserve (333 S. Valley View Blvd.).

At Bite at the Museum, guests will experience a delightful evening of gourmet food, live music and entertainment, and a unique behind the scenes look at the new Nevada State Museum, not yet open to the general public.

The host and emcee of the evening will be the talented, world-class entertainer, Lloyd Ziel. Ziel has been singing and making audiences laugh on stages around the world for more than 20 years. He is well known to Las Vegas as one-half of the hilarious duo Tony and Lloyd.

The food will be nothing less than spectacular as Masterpiece Cuisine presents a lavish spread of gourmet bites. The can't-miss over-the-top anniversary cake designed by Simple Elegance in Cake Design and co-sponsored by Colonial Life will be one of the highlights of the evening. Barefoot Wine and Bubbly will be on hand to provide wine to guests throughout the evening.

Guests will be captivated by the mystery of the museum at night, as extraordinary volunteers have come together to create an atmosphere of wonder and surprise. Guests will come face to face with some of history's most memorable personalities, as they mingle among priceless artifacts.

CCC is also presenting three awards to individuals and entities that have made remarkable contributions to the agency. Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley will be presented with the "Cor-

nerstone" award as one of Community's founding board members, and in recognition of her years of service in the Nevada State Assembly. Newscaster Chris Saldaña is receiving the "Vanguard" award for his unconditional willingness and giving in regard to his leadership role in community events. The third honoree will be the Danoski-Clutts Building group along with The Richardson Partnership, who share the "Visionary" award for their significant guidance in regard to CCC's upcoming building renovation project.

CCC is also presenting an art show of local artists who have prepared works in the theme of "Bite at the Museum." Brian "Paco" Alvarez, Las Vegas arts and culture expert and enthusiast, will be the show's juror. The top three artists will receive cash prizes for their work.

There will be many opportunities to give back and donate to CCC throughout the evening. The silent auction block features some exclusive memory making experiences including pre-game on-field access with the Las Vegas Locos; a backstage meet and greet with Penn and Teller; and a Little Church of the West ceremony and "staycation" honeymoon package. Guests can also bid on a trip to New Orleans for a cooking class and jazz cruise, or a shopping spree and *Sex and the City* tour in New York City. Dozens of raffle prizes will be awarded to lucky guests as well.

CCC is pleased to have the support of Stonewall Publishing, Inc., the event's exclusive LGBT media sponsor.

Tickets are \$75 each and are available on line at www.BiteAtTheMuseum.com. ●

Saint Therese honors QVegas and others

The Saint Therese Center of the Diocese of Las Vegas will present its annual fundraising dinner, Circle of Roses, on Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. in the Riviera Hotel and Casino Grand Ballroom. Proceeds from the memorable evening will be used to support the ongoing work Saint Therese does: providing spiritual, emotional, educational and social assistance to all persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Before dinner service begins, a silent auction, envelope lottery, Pandora's Box and a brief live auction will occur during the cocktail hour. The ninth annual event will feature an elegant dinner, during which the 2010 Circle of Roses awards will be presented to Smart & Final, Four Seasons Dental, *QVegas*, Bishop Joseph A. Pepe, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish for all their support.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening is Stefanie Jay from Fox 5 News. Sponsors for the evening include Riviera Hotel & Casino, Tiger Lily Florist, Chippendales, Century 21 Money

World, Impress/CopyMax, BIMBO Enterprises, Wells Fargo, Barcell USA, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals, Caprio Media Design, *QVegas*, *Las Vegas Night Beat*, Holiday Inn Express, Sence, Smart & Final, Kay Jewelers, Tower of Jewels, Fox 5 News, Four Seasons Dental, Tire Works and Mission Industries.

The Saint Therese Center is sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas, and the main office is on the de Lima campus of Saint Rose Dominican Hospital in Henderson. Additional pantry campuses are at 1120 Almond Tree Ln. in Las Vegas (Community Counseling Center) and in San Martin Hospital Campus of St. Rose Dominican Hospital (at Warm Springs and Durango). An additional outreach is available at Saint John the Baptist Mission Church in Laughlin.

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Erotic Heritage celebrates anniversary

The Erotic Heritage Museum (EHM) celebrates its two-year anniversary with an innovative fundraising exhibition, *Hung In Vegas*, on Saturday, September 11. EHM's curator, Dr. Laura Henkel, said, "We are very excited to premiere *Hung In Vegas*, which celebrates its mission of sex education through the arts. The exhibition presents current sexual health issues with humility, compassion, and sophistication."

Artists Nick Karras, Michael Grecco, Steve Diet Goedde, Michael Mueller, Todd VonBastiaans, Max Lightbender, KD Matheson and Princess Anne will exhibit their work at EHM. Several additional artists will exhibit their work throughout the year, making *Hung in Vegas* a must-see all year. Proceeds from the sale of artwork will benefit the Erotic Heritage Museum's mission to support sex education through the arts.

The evening's celebrations will include the opening of The Fithian Hartman Library, an academic research library dedicated to the field of human sexuality available to the public. Guests will be able to experience interactive exhibitions

such as *Faces of Courage*, sponsored by Aid for Aids in Nevada (AFAN), an exhibition whereby plaster face casts share their experiences of living with HIV for more than fifteen years. Indulge in the retrospective of *The History of Prostitution*, an ongoing exhibition sponsored by Desiree Alliance, an advocacy group protecting the rights of sex workers. Planned Parenthood is sponsoring an exhibition entitled *Creative Contraception*. EHM collaborates with many non-profit organizations to promote sexual rights as human rights.

Aside from erotic artwork, classic adult film star-turned-sex educator and advocate, Nina Hartley, will receive an Honorary Doctorate degree from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality. Insurgo Theater Movement will present an interpretation of *Salome*. The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be hosting the evening's events. Visit www.eroticheritage.org for the calendar of the night's festivities.

Erotic Heritage Museum is located at 3275 Industrial Road. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance through www.sinsitysisters.org. ●

Sin City Sisters curate art shows at local gallery

Celebrate the wonderful art of Ross Johnston as the Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence curate the Laura Henkel Fine Art gallery on Preview Thursday, Sept. 1 and First Friday, Sept. 2.

Johnston has always had an affinity for Hollywood gloss. It is evident in his work that he is especially enamored of the Technicolor movies produced by 20th Century Fox during the 1940s. Johnston attempts to capture the feeling and look of Technicolor, a color process used during the 1940s and '50s (an artform now sadly lost), which, with its garishly unreal hues, brought us a view of the world as we would like it to appear but not as it truly does.

Working primarily in colored pencil, his drawings are mounted on foam core and then arranged inside box frames to form a tableau. No photographs are used in the finished work. The subject matter varies with humor, pop culture and eroticism as recurring themes, but frequently masking darker, more subversive content. The style is photo-realism. The finished art more closely resembles a 3-D movie still of the scene rather than



a realistic depiction of the event itself.

A portion of sales during these two evenings will be donated to the Sisters' AIDS Drug Assistance Program (SADAP). Laura Henkel Fine Art is located inside the Arts Factory at 107 E. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 100. Visit www.laurahenkel.com for more information. ●

Oh so creative

Local couple vies for \$100,000 wedding

It certainly was not love at first sight for these two Las Vegas natives. Born and bred in Las Vegas, Alyson Ling was the popular senior and president of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority at UNLV. Enter Holly Nye. The wide-eyed, fresh-faced freshman majoring in performance, Nye would befriend a group of seniors who were close friends with Ling. Everyone loved Ling; everyone except Nye, at first. Nine years later, they are preparing to be married.

Ling and Nye have been selected from hundreds of other couples to be one of six finalist couples in the nation's first same-sex wedding contest. In celebration of the recent passing of same-sex marriage laws in the District of Columbia, a group of local wedding vendors in Washington, DC, decided to offer one lucky couple the chance to win a \$100,000 dream-wedding package with all the trimmings.

Selected by a panel of judges based on an essay written about their story, the couple had only one day to script, rehearse and film a five minute video documenting their journey of love and their passion for the right and freedom of all individuals to wed.

After realizing their schoolyard crush was the

real deal, Nye graduated from UNLV in 2005 at the same time that Ling was offered a job on a Cirque du Soleil touring show. As a working actress in *Tony and Tina's Wedding* on the Strip, Nye dreaded the idea of a long distance relationship. So she chose love.

Five and a half years, 59 cities in eight countries and three touring shows later, the pair are still traveling the world with Cirque du Soleil (they are currently working with the newest production, *TOTEM*), and loving every minute of their life together.

And as much as they enjoy touring the world with such a culturally diverse group, Ling and Nye are looking forward to settle down soon in their hometown of Las Vegas and prepare to raise a family.

But now it is up to the public to give them their fairytale princess wedding.

Currently in second place (at time of print), Ling and Nye ask for the support of their Las Vegas neighbors to watch their video and vote. They truly believe that all individuals should have the freedom to love and wed whom they choose.

Visit: www.freedom2wed.com and vote for couple #1—Alyson Ling and Holly Nye. ●

Gay tennis players converge on Vegas for tournament

Chasing those balls around Las Vegas? Tennis balls, that is, when Vegas will be invaded by players around the world at the annual Las Vegas Fall Classic tennis tournament held Oct. 1-3 at the Darling Tennis Center (7901 W. Washington Ave.).

The weekend will be filled with fun competition and events around town hosting players and their admirers. So come out,

test your ability and play in the tournament. And if you don't play tennis, come to the various events around town and meet the players.

Las Vegas Gay Tennis Club is also looking for volunteers to help with making this a successful event. For details, please visit www.LasVegasGayTennisClub.com or e-mail LasVegasGayTennisClub@gmail.com. ●

Victorious presents new gospel supper

Dinner shows are back! Victorious Productions and Clarion Hotel & Casino (formerly Greek Isles, 305 Convention Center Dr.) are now presenting "A Victorious Gospel Supper" every Sunday. This 4 p.m. show will have two dinner choices: steak and lobster for only \$49.95 per person or breast of chicken for only \$39.95 per person.

"A Victorious Gospel Supper" is the natural progression for three guys who have been long-time Las Vegas entertainers. The male singing trio, Victorious, features two-time Las Vegas Entertainer of the Year and former Sony recording artist Tim Searcy along with stage and television comedy/musical duo Tony & Lloyd. These two

acts come together to do what they've been doing for years in the church, singing gospel music with Las Vegas flare.

If you're looking for a sermon, this isn't it! "A Victorious Gospel Supper" brings together two of Las Vegas' greatest attractions: great food and great entertainment. The cast create humorous, upbeat entertainment that encourages singing and laughter and brings out the fun, great for all ages. Get dressed up, wear your best Sunday hat, and get ready to rejoice, Las Vegas style.

For reservations, call (702) 953-8000. Learn more about Victorious and the dinner at www.wearevictorious.net. ●

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Building our community from the center

September 15 marks the second LGBT Center Awareness Day, a national day of action focused on awareness around the work of LGBT community centers. The theme of this year's LGBT Center Awareness Day is "Building Our Community from the Center," showcasing the vital role that community centers play in the health, empowerment, and unity of all LGBT communities.

LGBT Center Awareness Day was created to bring attention to the LGBT Community Center Movement, which serves 40,000 people weekly. Because LGBT community centers are the backbone of the LGBT movement, raising awareness within the LGBT community and the general public will draw much-needed attention to the work that centers have done and continue to do to support LGBT people and

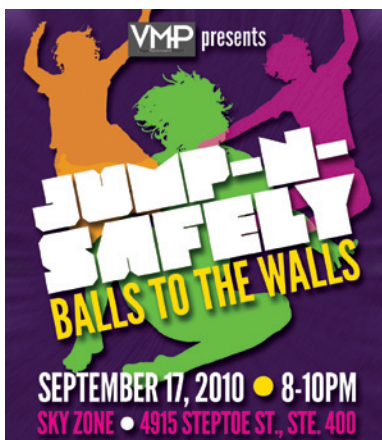
the entire LGBT movement. LGBT Center Awareness Day also provides a vital opportunity for individuals, groups and organizations to become more involved in supporting and utilizing their local community center.

This year, The Center is the beneficiary of a very special LGBT Center Awareness Day project made possible through the generosity of the Clark County Democratic Party and Stonewall Democrats of Southern Nevada. Our library will receive a total makeover, including new bookshelves, furniture, flooring and a fresh coat of paint. Please join us for a special reception on Sept. 15, 6-8 p.m., during which the library will be dedicated to state Senator David Parks, in recognition of his many efforts to help make Nevada a safer, more inclusive state for LGBT persons and families. The reception will also feature a reveal of The Center's new online library catalog, which is a searchable database that will be available through www.TheCenterLV.com and on all computers at the David Bohnett CyberCenter, located in The Center's lobby.

Please RSVP to Arlene Cooper at (702) 733-9800 or arlene@thecenterlv.com for our upcoming reception. For additional information on national LGBT Center Awareness Day, visit www.MyCenterLink.org. ●



Save the date for Jump-n-Safely at Sky Zone



Vegas Mpowerment Project hosts Jump-n-Safely (Balls to the Walls) at Sky Zone from 8-10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 17.

There will be lots of jumping on trampolines, playing dodge ball and so much more. This is a free event, so bring your friends! You must be 18 to 29 (or older and in the company of someone in this age range) to attend, and you must bring a valid ID. Sky Zone is located at 4915 Steptoe St., Ste. 400.

For more information about this event, contact Joshua Montgomery at joshua@thecenterlv.com or (702) 733-9800. ●

Ages
18-29

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, serving our LGBT population for more than 15 years, is conveniently located in Commercial Center at 953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. B-31. To learn more about The Center and its many services, visit www.thecenterlv.com or call 702-733-9800.

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BY J.SON

NAKED BOY NEWS

On the red carpet with J.Son

Las Vegas became even more fabulous from Aug. 12 to 15 when the city hosted its first Fabulous Vegas Weekend. The event was a four-day party promoted by the city of Las Vegas, MGM Resorts and Logo TV. I was asked to host the Logo TV Lounge inside EyeCandy at the Mandalay Bay Resort and also the Fabulous Pool party at Luxor. Many celebrities walked the red carpet at the Logo Lounge and performed at the pool party, and each stopped by to say hi and give me their naked truth. So without further adieu here are the best celebrity quotes from Fabulous Vegas Weekend:

CARROT TOP

How did you get so buff? I've been carrying all my hate mail around. Ok, maybe I go to the gym six days a week. By that seventh day I can barely walk anymore.



TYRA SANCHEZ SEASON 2 WINNER OF RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE

What city has been your favorite to party in? Some small town in West Virginia. I woke up in the morning in between two really hot guys. Then I realized we were all naked, but shhh don't tell anyone.

So there you have it, the *naked* truth from the celebrities at Fabulous Vegas Weekend. I have the full interviews in a hot new video on my website, www.NakedBoyNews.com. So check them out and see what other fabulous answers they have to questions like: what's better rain or shine? NY or LA? and much more. Till next time remember to have a NAKED day. ●



PEPPER MASHAY BEST KNOWN FOR HIT SONG "DIVE INTO THE POOL"

How do you like your tacos? Soft or hard? Oh honey...soft. You can stuff it with what ever you like, then role it up like a juicy blunt and enjoy.

TAMMIE BROWN FROM RUPAUL'S DRAG U

What's better: Mom's fried chicken or KFC? Of course my momma's fried chicken. We don't do the other stuff, cause they don't have any beaks.



J.Son is the host of the popular web series Naked Boy News and has been seen on CNN, A&E and MTV. He also hosts Temptation Sundays pool party every Sunday at the Luxor. For the latest Naked Boy News visit www.NakedBoyNews.com



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NOT THEIR FIRST TIME AT THE RODEO

THE CARTER TWINS
INTERVIEW BY JOEL CASTILLO

You may have heard them on the airways of country radio. Perhaps you've seen them featured in *People* magazine. You may have watched them on CMT. And now, you will get to know a little more about the up and coming country artists, The Carter Twins. These two fun and dynamic young men have a wicked sense of humor. When asked if they are identical or fraternal, Josh replied, "We are identical... I think... we never really found out but we say we are. We just cut our hair the same and people can't tell the difference... so, identical it is! Ha!"

Josh and Zach Carter made it to the heart of country music known as Nashville via their childhood in Akron, Ohio, and then Hilton Head, S.C. Or as Zach put it, "by car... just kidding. No, we actually got signed to CMT halfway through our senior year in high school; we were living in South Carolina then. When we graduated, we moved to Nashville three days later and started writing our album. Crazy but so fun!" Listed among their musical influences are a hodge-podge of artists like Keith Urban, George Strait, John Mayer, Brooks & Dunn, Garth Brooks and many more. Josh added, "We are influenced by so many artists that it's hard to narrow it down."

Their mother worked in country radio and encouraged their musical interests. Zach stole time at her piano. "I would always take to it, write my own songs, and play for hours. I knew right away that music is what I wanted to do," he said. Meanwhile, she taught Josh the

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS

The International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) proudly announces the Bud Light World Gay Rodeo Finals at the Mojave Crossing Event Center and the AVI Resort and Casino, Oct. 21-24. It's Your ultimate rodeo vacation, with rodeo action and outstanding entertainment all weekend long.

Head down to the Laughlin, Nev./Bullhead City, Ariz. area on Thursday for a welcome pool party at 2 p.m. at the AVI Lagoon pool, followed by a slot tournament at 4 p.m., and a World Gay Rodeo Finals Kickoff Show at the Lariat Saloon at 8 p.m.

Leave the driving to us and get on the party bus to Laughlin on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday!

On Friday, the party bus leaves Las Vegas at 5 p.m. from the Commercial Center. That evening, you can attend the Friday Beach Party at the AVI Resort & Casino, enjoy an amazing fashion show, see the DC Cowboys presented by Byusha Agave Drink and Mike Schikora perform, dance at the AVI Resort & Casino with DJ Rosa and all the IGRA cowboys and cowgirls, and enjoy the afterparty at the Lariat Saloon in Bullhead City.

On Saturday, get on the bus leaving Las Vegas at 10 a.m. and stay for all the rodeo action until 5 p.m. attending the 1st Go of the Bud Light World Gay Rodeo Finals at Mojave Crossing Event Center.

You can also get on the "Rodeo Marathon"

classic rock hit *Stairway to Heaven* on the guitar, which he has not put down since.

The Carter Twins will be taking the Rockstar Main Stage by storm at the IGRA World Gay Rodeo Finals at the AVI Resort in Laughlin, Nev., on Saturday, October 23 at 8 p.m. This is not the Carters' first time at the rodeo. They performed at National Finals Rodeo last year in Las Vegas. "It was a blast," Josh said enthusiastically. When asked about their LGBT Fans, Josh said, "We've had lots of gay fans at our shows and hopefully they will come out and see us in Laughlin too! We're always really excited to meet fans—whether it's somebody new or a familiar face!" Zach added, "You know, the cool thing about music is that it is universal.. it crosses all social borders. We are just a country band playing country music and we hope everyone likes what they hear!"

And we do. Their first single, "Heart Like Memphis," has been well-received on the charts. Their EP is available for download in iTunes and is worth every penny. I took a listen and loved it. I found a nice balance of melody, hook, and a beautiful harmonization of their voices. They loved hearing that review and Zach added, "We are so glad that fans took to it and liked it and made YouTube videos and fan pages and all different kinds of things. Such a cool thing. We are so blessed to have such great fans. We love all of them!"

Their follow-up smash was released accidentally. Josh said, "Well, we actually only released 'So What' as a fan video on CMT

about a year ago." Zach added, "We never really planned on it being a single or anything like that; we just wanted to make a fun video that catered to the fans. But, it did actually get played on radio a bit so we were excited!" Rounding out the Carter Twins' EP are "Wish I Would've Kissed Her" and "Photo Booth."

Still settling into their new digs, Josh and Zach spent the summer months working with some of Music City's best songwriters and crafting as many as 30 songs in just three months. Under the helm of Frank Rogers, *Billboard's* #1 Hot Country Producer in 2006–2008, The Carter Twins are working hard on their debut full-length album. Josh said, "We are still writing and recording the album now, so we don't have a release date yet. But, we will let you know as soon as we do!"

When asked about IGRA's popular Camp Events like Wild Drag, Steer Decorating, and the crowd-favorite Goat Dressing, the Twins said, "We have not seen those events before! I bet those events are definitely entertaining though! Guess we'll get to see it in October. We wish everyone the best of luck in each of their categories. And as for the aspiring musicians out there, we always say, play out as much as you can, in front of everyone... like they say, you never know who's listening! We happened to experience that first hand."

Tickets for Saturday, October 23 are \$15, \$22, and \$30. For online sales and more information about the World Gay Rodeo Finals, visit www.igra.com/finals. ●

RIDES INTO SOUTHERN NV

Bus, leaving Commercial Center at 10 a.m. Enjoy the afternoon of rodeo action attending the 1st Go of the Bud Light World Gay Rodeo Finals at Mojave Crossing Event Center, see The Carter Twins in Concert with comedienne Grandma Lee—Presented by Rockstar Energy, and enjoy the afterparty at the Lariat Saloon in Bullhead City. The bus returns to Las Vegas at 3:30 a.m.

On Sunday, leave the driving to us again as you enjoy an afternoon of rodeo action attending the 2nd Go of the Bud Light World Gay Rodeo Finals at Mojave Crossing Event Center (bus leaves Commercial Center at 10 a.m., returns at 5 p.m.).

Tickets for the entire weekend of events in

Laughlin are available at www.igra.com/finals. If you're flying in, or have friends flying in, shuttles to Laughlin from McCarran International Airport are available as well (information at www.igra.com/finals). Tickets for the party buses, leaving on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are available at NGRA.com.

IGRA especially acknowledges our sponsors: Bud Light, Rockstar Energy, Byusha Agave Drink, the AVI Resort & Casino, the Mojave Crossing Event Center, *Compete*, *Echo*, *QVegas*, HomoRodeo.com, CowboyFrank.net, GayCowboyCentral.com, Charlie's (Denver, Phoenix, Chicago, Las Vegas), Findlay Cadillac, Findlay Honda, and MedicWest Ambulance Service. ●





RITAMAE'S JUNGLE

INTERVIEW BY RICHARD DAVIS ~ PHOTO BY CINDY GREEN

"RITA MAE BROWN WHO WROTE RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE. HAVEN'T YOU READ IT? IT'S A FANTASTIC BOOK, YOU KNOW," WROTE WILLY RUSSEL IN HIS FILM, EDUCATING RITA.

Rita Mae Brown is not your mother's lesbian, even though she has been around long enough to be hailed "as the Mother of the Feminist Move-

ment, the Gay Movement," as she writes on her website, www.ritamaebrown.com. More like *l'enfant terrible* of the Feminist Movement for her role in the Lavender Menace protests over the exclusion of lesbians from the '70s women's movement.

The grand dame of lesbian fiction, Brown published her first book of poetry, *The Hand That Cradles the Rock*, in 1971, followed by *Songs to a Handsome Woman*. Fame came with the breakout success in 1973 of her picaresque first

novel, *Rubyfruit Jungle*, based loosely on Brown's own coming-out story. She says on her website that there were "No book reviews. No anything" for *Rubyfruit*; nonetheless, Brown's own colorful style and her fictional persona Molly Bolt's numerous couplings—female and male—ensured that the book sold "like the proverbial hotcakes" and became a landmark of lesbian fiction.

Notoriety also followed Brown's fictional tell-all, *Sudden Death*, about her stormy relationship with tennis superstar Martina Navratilova in the 1980s. But it is work like her beloved Hunsenmeir trilogy, chronicling the lives of women in a small Southern town, that ensure that Brown's prolific literary output continues to find a solid readership. In recent decades Brown has put her hand to a series of best-selling (4 million copies in print) mystery novels co-authored by her cat, Sneaky Pie Brown—as well they should be since they feature the tabby sleuth, Mrs. Murphy. Another Brown mystery series is set in the world of fox hunting, another of her passions.

Brown switches species (and fan bases?) in her newest mystery just out from Random House, *A Nose for Justice*, which features two sleuthing dogs: the dachshund, Baxter, and a German shepherd named King. No canine co-author is credited. The riches-to-rags storyline follows big city gal Mags, who flees to the wilds of Reno following the Wall Street breakdown. She settles on her great-aunt Jeep's hard-working ranch and begins to adapt to rural life. That is until water rustlers try to steal Aunt Jeep's water rights to quench Reno's thirst. Suddenly the story is as current as Pat Mulroy's grab for White Pine's aquifers to fill the folly of Las Vegas fountains.

Coyote hunts in Reno with the Red Rock Hounds frequently bring Brown to Nevada. Born "by accident" just north of the Mason-Dixon Line, Brown currently owns a working farm in Virginia. She says that Nevada is a "different, difficult state," stark and dry compared to the lush humid sub-tropical Southern coastal states. But she says, "The sagebrush smells extraordinary, and I am attracted by survivors." Brown became interested in the Western political struggle for water rights. She asked, "What happens when water is being improperly used—stolen in effect?"

A political activist since getting kicked out of the University of Florida for marching in a civil rights protest in the '60s, Brown earned her doctorate in political science. She says that she is still politically active, "but differently, more conventionally." She loves state electoral politics, but says she'd never run for office; "I'm not a good liar."

Animal Magnetism is Brown's memoir of her life with animals. As the master of the hunt, she keeps a kennel of 70 fox hounds, she has a pack of bassets, she farms 40 horses and "a few" cattle and she lives with numerous rescue animals. She writes on her website, "On a few occasions I have slept down there [with the hounds]. The smell of them intoxicates me, and I love to hear them sing."

Brown's passion is no-kill fox hunting. She says, "I hunted in my mother's womb." When asked about the controversy surrounding even ►

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◀no-kill fox hunting, Brown says, "It astonishes me that the British Parliament under Tony Blair spent just four hours debating sending troops to die in Iraq and 700 hours debating fox hunting." She argues on her website that fox hunting culture "creates incredible community" and helps to preserve animal habitat and protect endangered species. Brown says, "I believe in animal welfare, but not what some mean by animal rights."

Her lack of sentimentality towards animals keeps her novels from being cloying. Brown says that when she writes from an animal's viewpoint, the voice is "Not cute. I look at the world straight on, with a sense of humor." It is a more difficult task than might seem apparent while enjoying one of Brown's mysteries. She says, "I attempt to put in English what they are observing and sensing, honest to the animal, using a tool that is not native to them." While cats lend themselves more naturally to mystery, Brown says, "Dogs are more literal, straight forward." She says, "Cats would be in the arts; dogs in science."

"I'VE BEEN PUBLISHED. I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE A DAMN THING AND IT'S WONDERFUL."

Brown's own animal magnetism is evident in a picture showing her in a sharp riding habit astride her mount. She claims that she would never make the cover of *Vogue*, but her striking beauty is still very evident. Coupled in the past with such well-known women as Navratilova, actress and writer Fannie Flag, and political activist Elaine Noble, Brown says that she is not currently partnered. "I very rarely am. I only tried twice in my life," she says. "Writers are difficult to live with. We withdraw to write and people get resentful and think you don't love them."

Brown says that "Love relationships don't interest me much in novels" either, "but people acting out in the world for change." Trained in the classics, she said, "Literary novels are the love of my life. I miss the hard books. But genre fiction pays the bills." She adds, "I've been published. I don't have to prove a damn thing and it's wonderful." When asked if her mystery audience is largely women, she says, "Women come to literary events and the average fiction reader is a woman, but I have both men and women readers." She adds, "Every woman has a different interest. Oppression works by robbing people of their individuality."

Brown's last word of advice, "Go to the pound and save a cat or dog. It's the only love that money can buy." (For the Nevada SPCA, visit www.nevadaspca.org).

You can hear Brown read from her new book on Tuesday, September 21 at 7 p.m. inside Clark County Library's Main Theater (1401 E. Flamingo Rd.). Visit www.lvcclld.org/events for details. ●

Richard Davis is a frequent contributor to QVegas. Read his romance fiction column, "Book Lovers by Dick Smart" in Lambda Literary at www.lambdaliterary.org/features/booklovers.



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We asked on Facebook...

What are your thoughts on the overturning of Proposition 8 in California?

My partner and I are glad that Prop 8 was overturned. It's been long overdue. We currently live in Las Vegas and got married in Connecticut in May 2009 since California's law banned same-sex marriage. Months after getting married, California recognized any same-sex couple that got married in another state. We are moving to California in a few months and hope that we will be able to get married there as well. Thanks, Judge Wagner! —*Jerome*

All I can say is yes! They will fight it of course but we will be their every step of the way. It is a wonderful day indeed. —*Zoe*

The thing is that it is only overturned for now. How many more times will it be overturned in one way or another? Here is the raw deal of marriage: it is said by a moral standard set in the Bible that marriage is between a man and a woman. Keep in mind the Bible was written at a time of chaos and rules needed to be made. As a society we have evolved or so one would think. Marriage is not a game, period. It is a lifelong commitment and contract.... I want your readers to keep one thing in mind: God doesn't punish those who love, just those who make a mockery out of marriage. It is truly a sacred contract! —*Kate*

Barry and I were married the first day same-sex marriage became legal in the United States in 2004, Williamstown, Mass. The divorce rate for all marriages in this country is the lowest in Massachusetts. We're proud to have brought stability to the institution. —*Steven*

This is just the first win in what is sure to be a long battle ahead. There will be wins and possibly losses in the future as both sides appeal and hopefully eventually get this to the US Supreme Court. If we can win there then it will be law of the land, not just a few states here and there. Let's savor this win and work hard to keep the momentum going to win the battles ahead. —*Nathan*

It's a significant step in the fight for equality. It will have an effect across the entire country, and we owe a lot to the coura-

geous couples who took their commitment to each other something to fight for. —*David*

I'm all for the equal rights especially since I'm going back to active duty military, but do we really want all the legal mumbo jumbo that comes with the true marriage license? —*Frankie*

Unfortunately, within days, we were forced to ask a different, less-joyful question on Facebook:

Gay marriage has been blocked by a Federal appeals court just days before marriage licenses could have been issued again. Thoughts?

People are f-ing idiots if they think they're going to block gay marriage forever. They might as well just give in now because they're not going to win. —*Nicky*

They should end state-sanctioned marriage. Period. —*David*

Two steps forward, ten steps back. —*Joli*

Here's an idea. Let's have "Prop Straight," which would also grandfather in banning all existing marriages. If "normal" people don't want "us" to be equal, then let's level the playing field. —*Christian*

Maybe we should start boycotting the federal government and stop paying our taxes. We are funding programs not designed for us. —*Dennis*

Don't be so negative, everyone. I understand that this is an emotional roller coaster for so many of you, and it is truly unfair... however, the only way any real progress will be made is by this issue going before SCOTUS, and hopefully they will not decide it's a state decision. —*Wanda*



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"I'm extremely honored to have become Las Vegas' longest-running headliner. When I arrived here as a 19-year-old boy, I never imagined that this magical place called Las Vegas could make all my dreams come true," he says. "Now with my new show *Divas*, I could only

hope to become one of Las Vegas's most respected producers by creating the biggest drag spectacular in the world."

Divas Las Vegas, which just signed a two-year extension at the Imperial Palace, is a 75-minute, energetic show taking the spectacle of the show that made Marino famous, *An Evening at La Cage*, a few notches higher. Since opening last year, *Divas* has played to packed houses of all ages, genders and orientations, delighting audiences with its impersonations of classic performers like Diana Ross, Dolly Parton and Liza Minelli as well as newer stars like Mariah Carey, Beyoncé, Lady Gaga and Britney Spears.

Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas performs six nights a week (dark on Fridays). Tickets are \$39, \$69 and VIP \$79 (plus tax and fees) and are available at the Imperial Palace box office, online at www.imperialpalace.com or by calling (800) 351-7400. For more information on Frank Marino visit www.frankmarino.com. All guests attending the show must be 18 years or older. ●

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DON'T BUG me

BY MEL RUFFMAN

Preserving a friendship starts in bed.

My friends Bob and Steve got married last summer in a moving ceremony at their cabin in Nevada's Great Basin. Before the Veuve Clicquot had dried on our lips, they were off to Madagascar and Seychelles for a three-month honeymoon, with side trips to the mainland for safaris and a mountain trek.

They arrived home happy and healthy, unlike me the last time I traveled to Africa and returned home with shingles, but I digress.

I caught up with Bob and Steve, spending an overnight with them at their cabin. We drank massive martinis, hot-tubbed and ate raclette and prime rib. It was the perfect getaway.

Except that my partner snored like a reciprocating saw all night and I woke up in the morning with a splitting sinus headache and swollen mucous membranes.

You might assume that my headache was vodka's vengeance, but I proved I wasn't hung-over by cranking up Elaine Stritch on the stereo to more than 100 decibels without flinching.

It wasn't until brunch (mimosas, oyster-mushroom omelet, blue corn pancakes with chili-infused maple syrup, thanks for asking) that I realized the culprit behind my over-night sinus flare-up.

Bob asked how we'd slept and we skirted the issue, reporting how much we'd enjoyed the firm mattress. He laughed and said, "That mattress is more than thirty years old—it came with the cottage."

My eyebrows shot into my hairline. What Bob didn't know was that, by the time mattresses and pillows are ten years old, up to a third of their weight is dust mite excrement and exoskeletons. (Dust mites are microscopic ►



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◀ lobster-like creatures that devour cast-off flakes of human skin. There's lots of dead skin trapped in mattresses; a year round feast for dust mites.)

I shuddered to think how much dust mite poop there was in a 30-year-old mattress.

But wait, there's more.

Between 100,000 and 10 million dust mites live in older mattresses. Each one of those mites poops 20 times a day. And 70 percent of humans, including my partner and me, are allergic to a protein in those leavings.

The dust mite allergen is a prominent factor in snoring, sleep apnea, chronic rhinitis and sinusitis, childhood asthma and many other respiratory problems. If you are suffering from any of those ailments, suspect dust mites.

Dust mites reproduce explosively in humid conditions (i.e. in beds, where sleepers perspire up to three liters of moisture in one night), so reducing relative humidity to less than 45 percent kills off mite populations. You should also encapsulate your mattress and pillows in sheets that prevent migration of dust mites and their protein-laced feces.

My salvation has been silk-filled bedding, which reduces humidity and encapsulates the mattress in one fell swoop. It completely stopped my partner's snoring and sleep apnea the first night we put it on our bed, and instantly ended our chronic sinus troubles.

Silk fiber is uninhabitable to dust mites and they can't migrate through it. Silk also wicks away moisture so quickly that the humidity level in the mattress and pillows drops too low to support dust mite populations.

Silk's added air circulation is refreshing and sleep-inducing. And compared to down, which retains moisture (and which dust mites *thrive* in), silk is fabulously luxurious and comfortable.

There are several silk bedding manufacturers today including Imperial Delight and DreamSacks Ming Dynasty, both available at www.AllergyBuyersClub.com. The brand my partner and I use is SmartSilk, available at www.SmartSilk.com, because it's certified by the Asthma Society of America. The bedding includes high-quality, machine washable and dryable pillow covers, a mattress cover and a silk-filled duvet. The best thing is that the sheets and duvet are portable and fit in a suitcase for easy travel.

So next time I visit Bob and Steve, rather than broaching the embarrassing subject of revolting old mattresses and microscopic bottom-feeders, I'll just bring along my silk bedding. ●

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13 years of queens invading the California kingdom

The 2010 Gay Days at Disneyland presented by Undergear are set to take place Friday, Oct. 1 to Sunday, Oct. 3. For its 13th year, the event is expected to attract more than 30,000 LGBT park-hoppers from California and all over the country.

The weekend opens Friday, Oct. 1 with Wonderland, a dance party with DJ Ray Rhodes (Tiger Heat, KBIG 104.), hosted by Los Angeles drag diva Momma. The event, which benefits The Trevor Project, runs from 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. at Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen located in Downtown Disney at the Disneyland Resort. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

Saturday, Oct. 2 will be Gay Day at Disneyland, which culminates with Kingdom, presented by Las Vegas, the weekend's signature dance party with music from renowned DJ Kimberly S, and special performances by Jenifer Lewis, reprising her show stopper from *The Princess and the Frog*, "Dig a Little Deeper." Hosted by Bruce Vilanch and *Ugly Betty's* Alec Mapa, Kingdom will be held at the House of Blues Anaheim in Downtown Disney from 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door.

Sunday, Oct. 4 will be Gay Day at Disney's California Adventure and the first-ever Gay Days Anaheim pool party, Plunge! from noon until 4:00 p.m. at The Anabella Hotel. DJ Zach Moos will be spinning while Momma and her bathing beauties splash around in the pool. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Both days in the parks will feature gatherings only available over Gay Days weekend, includ-

ing scavenger hunts, a group photo, a lesbian ice cream social, a single riders gathering and many more events targeted to families, youth, bears, couples and Mouseketeers of every ilk. There will also be a young people's luncheon sponsored by The Trevor Project, the nation's only 24-hour suicide prevention hotline for LGBT youth. A complete schedule is available at the Gay Days website, www.gaydaysanaheim.com.

Other events of the weekend include free screenings at the Gay Days Entertainment Center (located inside the Trillium Room of Disney's Grand Californian Hotel), and a Gay Days Pin Trading event on Sunday at the Gay Days Info Center (also located inside the Trillium Room of Disney's Grand Californian Hotel).

Gay Days Anaheim is a "mix-in" with the park's other weekend guests, but gays and lesbians are encouraged to wear red shirts in order to identify each other and to show strong numbers. Official T-shirts are available at www.gaydaysanaheim.com. Gay Days Anaheim is not a Disney-sponsored event so Disney will not have any information regarding the "unofficial" happening.

Sponsors for the event include Undergear, Absolut Vodka, Howard Johnson Anaheim, The Red Lion Anaheim, The Anabella Hotel, Knott's Berry Farm, Las Vegas and the Anaheim/Orange Country Visitor and Convention Bureau. Media sponsors are Gay.com, *Frontiers*, *PIX*, *Odyssey Hawaii*, *Rage*, and *QVegas*.

For complete details, including discounted hotel rooms and park tickets, visit www.gaydaysanaheim.com. ●

A photograph of two men in a kitchen setting. The man on the left is wearing a light blue dress shirt and a patterned tie, and is leaning in to kiss the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a red V-neck sweater over a collared shirt, glasses, and a watch. He is holding a blue and white cup in his right hand and a small piece of food in his left hand. In the background, there are stainless steel pots on a counter and a plate with a dessert.

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Act made a name for herself in 2003, when after trying out and failing to get on *Australian Idol* as Shane Jenek, she returned for the next day's audition as Courtney Act. Her explosive, energetic performing style and joyous personality resonated with audiences. With performances of songs like "You Don't Own Me," "W.O.M.A.N." and "You Shook Me All Night Long," the country was mesmerized and Australia had a new, slightly less conventional, sweetheart.

Act's new single, "Welcome to Disgraceland," was inspired by her live show at Disgraceland, a popular Australia nightclub renowned for its elaborate costumes, colorful dancers, and over-the-top fabulousness. Some of the biggest names in the world have attended Disgraceland including George Michael and the Pussycat Dolls.

"No matter where I am when I sing the song's chorus, the audience and I are magically transported to Disgraceland," she continues. "It's euphoric to see everyone in the arena jumping, dancing, laughing and celebrating the debauchery!"

Most recently, Act made international headlines when she performed a private birthday performance for Lady Gaga. "After the performance, we chatted and walked together in a garden. At one point, we reached some stone steps that looked ►

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◀dangerous," she remembers. "Gaga suggested we take off our heels since they were both six inches. Mine, however, were not Armani Privé and Swarovski-encrusted."

Even so, Act says she was struck by how normal Lady Gaga was. "Our similarities were greater than our differences," she says. Act hopes audiences gleam the same realization from her show.

In addition to being the first drag contestant on *Idol*, Act was the franchise's first out contestant. No other contestant on any *Idol* show throughout the world has ever been out during production. Still, Act doesn't credit the dress for her success.

"I was judged on my entertainment value and talent, two essential qualities for any pop artist," she says. "I know the fact that I was in drag added to the entertainment value, but I think the whole package is what got me through."

Idol has led to many new opportunities for the drag star, including a make-up contract as one of the TV faces of Sheer Cover Make-up, a role in the Australian company of the musical *RENT*, and numerous TV show appearances including *Australia's Next Top Model*. In 2007, she was selected by *FHM Magazine* readers as one of *FHM's* Top 100 Sexiest Women in the World.

Courtney Act will be appearing in Las Vegas on Sept. 19 during Closet Sundays at Revolution Lounge inside The Mirage. To learn more, visit www.courtneyact.com. ● BY MAX JIMINEZ

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Tuesday, October 12, 2010

- SinCityQSocals Trendy Tuesday rodeo meet and greet at the Blue Moon Resort Las Vegas starting at 8pm. Benefits Sin City Sister Aids Drug Assistance Program (SADAP)

Friday, October 15, 2010:

- Official World Gay Rodeo Finals kickoff party at Charlie's Las Vegas starting at 9pm.

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010:

- Afternoon Pool Party at AVI Lagoon Pool, Charity Slot Tour nament**, Kick Off Meet & Greet and Show hosted by IGRA Royalty at The Lariat Saloon in Bullhead City across the River

Friday, Oct. 22, 2010:

- Charity Bingo in the main Bingo Hall**, Afternoon Pool Party at AVI Lagoon Pool, Contestant registration on the green, Beach BBQ and show with singer Mike Shikora and other entertainers
- Followed by western dancing in the Ballroom with DJ Rosa and a special IGRA Video Presentation
- Then a Fashion Show, performances by the DC Cowboys, and additional Entertainment and Dancing

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010:

- Bud Light World Gay Rodeo Finals 1st- Go, Charity Slot Tournament at the AVI**
- That evening Rockstar presents Grandma Lee and the Carter Twins in concert followed by a Post-Concert Social at the Lariat hosted by The Men of Charlie's

Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010:

- Bud Light World Gay Rodeo Finals 2nd- Go, Charity Bingo at the AVI**
- Finals Award Ceremony & Banquet in the AVI Ballroom followed by a Social at the Lariat

Monday, Oct. 25, 2010:

- 11am Survivor's Brunch at the Lariat

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PHOTO THIS PAGE AND
ON COVER BY
JAMES MINCHIN III

Melissa Etheridge has been through it all. Between knocking out 11 albums over the course of a 25-year music career, touring, and making cameos on the TV and silver screens, Etheridge has handled two broken relationships, and a battle with cancer. She isn't tired, though, and insists she has a lot left in her.

"As long as I'm creating at the level that I am now and as long as it's an expression, you know, not work that I have to do, I don't see myself stopping anytime soon," she says. Her most recent work is on a new album entitled *Fearless Love*, and she insists her inspirations remain the same. "It is pretty much experience, emotion," she adds. "All of it comes from the intention to show how our lives are a choice between love and fear. Fear is in everything we do, but we can choose love. This is just about how we look at life."

Even her battle with breast cancer did not put an end to her creative energy. According to her, if anything, it helped add something new to her music. "It changed my life," she explains. "It gave me a new perspective on my whole world, my whole purpose for being here. You know, creating music. It gave me this fearlessness that I have been writing on ever since."

With so many different feathers in her cap, it is hard for Etheridge to say what has been one of her most memorable experiences. "I've been blessed with a lot of them," she explains. "Was it the single with Bruce Springsteen? Was it singing on the Grammys in 2005, all bald and stuff? I've had a lot of great moments, it's hard to pick... standing on stage and singing songs to people who love to hear the songs, too. Just hearing them singing along at the top of their lungs and I can see them. Just being able to move someone, that is just the best."

After winning an Academy Award in 2006 for her song "I Need To Wake Up" for the film documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, Etheridge became one of a select group of recording artists who can lay claim to a Grammy and an Oscar, though to this day she still finds it a bit surreal. "When I was a kid," she says, "I used to dream that I was going to grow up and get an Oscar, just because it looked like the coolest little award. When I was just in the music business I thought, well there is just one chance, one song award and so it was pretty exciting when I realized that I won."

Fortunately, Etheridge has not had to deal with a lot of the same types of problems and reservations that many other gay and lesbian entertainers face, because of one simple fact: "You know, I was discovered in a lesbian bar," she says. "So, this is all interesting because people in the industry, producers and a certain number of gay people in the underground scene, they all knew I was gay. So it just seemed natural to me from the beginning. I never felt

SPEAKING TRUTHFULLY ABOUT MELISSA

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW BY
WILLIAM BESSETTE

like it was a big surprise when it was being talked about."

Does that necessarily make it any easier, is the question. "I think that it's more normal," Etheridge replies. "I think now, it's more what does it matter? Show me the line where that person's gay and that person's straight? It isn't that black and white. We just need to sort of let go of our fear of sexuality in general."

"Just like when I was a kid," she continues, "and I was going to use the bathroom in Georgia and there was a bathroom for 'colored.' I was like, what's colored? My parents had to explain it to me and I thought, that's just weird. That's what I think is happening. The younger generation just doesn't get why gay marriage is such a problem. That will continue to change with each successive generation."

Of course, Melissa Etheridge has some experience with gay marriage, two of them, the most recent of which just ended this year, with Tammy Lynn Michaels. Michaels has posted some interesting things to her blog regarding the breakup, but Etheridge holds no ill will and is still involved with the family. She admits, what is public is, after all, public.

"Oh yeah, we definitely are okay," she explains, speaking of Michaels. "I'm involved with the kids and will see them this September when I get back. Things like this are never easy, and I am choosing to do this in the public eye... but this is definitely about my own growth. I have to be able to love me before I can truly love someone else. At this point though, I don't

see myself getting married again."

Being such a huge public figure, and gay, and going through a public break up, one must wonder if Etheridge ever worries about alienating any certain demographics of her fan base. "I came to the conclusion a long time ago that if I just speak truthfully about myself and share my experience with love, then maybe others can relate to it whether they are male, female, straight, or gay," she says. "It's the whole question about a relationship with a lover and the gender doesn't come into play. I always try to start from there and not worry about it."

Etheridge will be in Vegas performing at the Pearl concert theater in the Palms Casino Resort the first week of September and doesn't hold back her feelings for Las Vegas. "I think it's an amazing place," Etheridge says. "I love that city because it's kind of like America at it's most interesting, in that we all profess to be so good and smart and we have a whole city that we'll go to in order to spend money and gamble and eat really well and go crazy. We give ourselves permission in this city. There's a whole industry of people who live and work in this city and provide this service to the rest of the world," she concludes. Services... sure, you can call them that. ●

Melissa Etheridge will be providing her services in rock 'n' roll at the Pearl on Saturday, Sept. 4. At press time, excellent tickets were still available at www.palmspearl.com.

WHERE'S THOSE BLACK PANTS?

Catching up with Olivia Newton-John

INTERVIEW BY WILLIAM BESSETTE

So what brings you to Vegas?

I am here for Amazon Herb Company, my husband's company. We have a yearly summit and this is our first one in Vegas. We are also celebrating the 20-year anniversary of the company, so there will be a big celebration.

What is the story behind the Amazon Herb Company?

Well, I met my husband 18 years ago and he has had the company for 20, so he had started it. I just went through breast cancer and he gave me some herbs to help with my immune system and skin care. So, I've known the products and I've loved them. I also admired him for what he was doing in the rain forest. We were just friends all those years and then we fell in love three years ago and got married two years ago. We have a showcase that's open to the public, so

people can come in and see what we are going to be doing over the weekend. I will be talking about the skin care because I love it. John and his associates will be talking about the different products. There will be a panel and people will be doing talks and stuff. People will be coming to see the new products and products that are coming out, learn about them. The wonderful thing about the company is not only are the products good for you, but they are good for the planet, too. The products are good and it's good for the planet.

Tell me a little bit about your new album that is coming out, *Grace and Gratitude: Renewed*.

Well, it's an album I made four years ago and it was one of those albums that had a great reaction from people, but it didn't really reach ►





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◀a lot of people. So, I've gone with a new record company and they wanted me to re-release it. We have kind of rejuvenated it and put a new song in it, some duets and things, so that's coming out, and I have a movie coming out...

Called Score: A Hockey Musical, yes?

Yeah, that's going to open at the Toronto Film Festival, which is very exciting.

How did you get involved in the movie and what is your part in it?

Well... Mark Jordon, who's also a wonderful singer-songwriter, was going to play the husband, or the father figure, and they thought of me to play his wife. We were friends, and they sent me the script. I thought it sounded fun and not too long a shoot, so I went up there and we did it and I had a hoot with them and a good laugh. I had a chance to hang out with them and lo and behold it's going to open at the Toronto Film Festival. I did it for fun, you know? Now I do things for fun.

Do you really get to pick and choose what you want to do these days?

Yeah. I thought ten years ago nothing else was gonna happen, but stuff keeps happening. It's really amazing the things I have been able to do.

So, where does your heart really lie, of everything you've done?

I love songwriting and recording. Performing, I do it when I do it—there's a lot of work in it, but I do enjoy it. I love working with my husband with the herbs and the company because it's about health and healing.

What would you say is the most memorable moment of your career?

Most memorable is probably *Grease* and singing at...opening the Olympic games in Australia.

Speaking of *Grease*... do you still have the black pants?

[Laughter] Oh, yes! The pants are fine, they say hello. [Laughter] I haven't tried to put them on. The zip was broken when I bought them, so I can't really sew that now, but I haven't tried. I'll just imagine.

Did you ever imagine that *Grease* would turn into what it's turned into?

I don't think anyone could have imagined that it would still be going now; I mean, hardly any movies do. There's a handful in history that last this long, so no, not at all.

Why do you think you have become an inspirational figure in the gay community?

I am...? No, really I think maybe its because,

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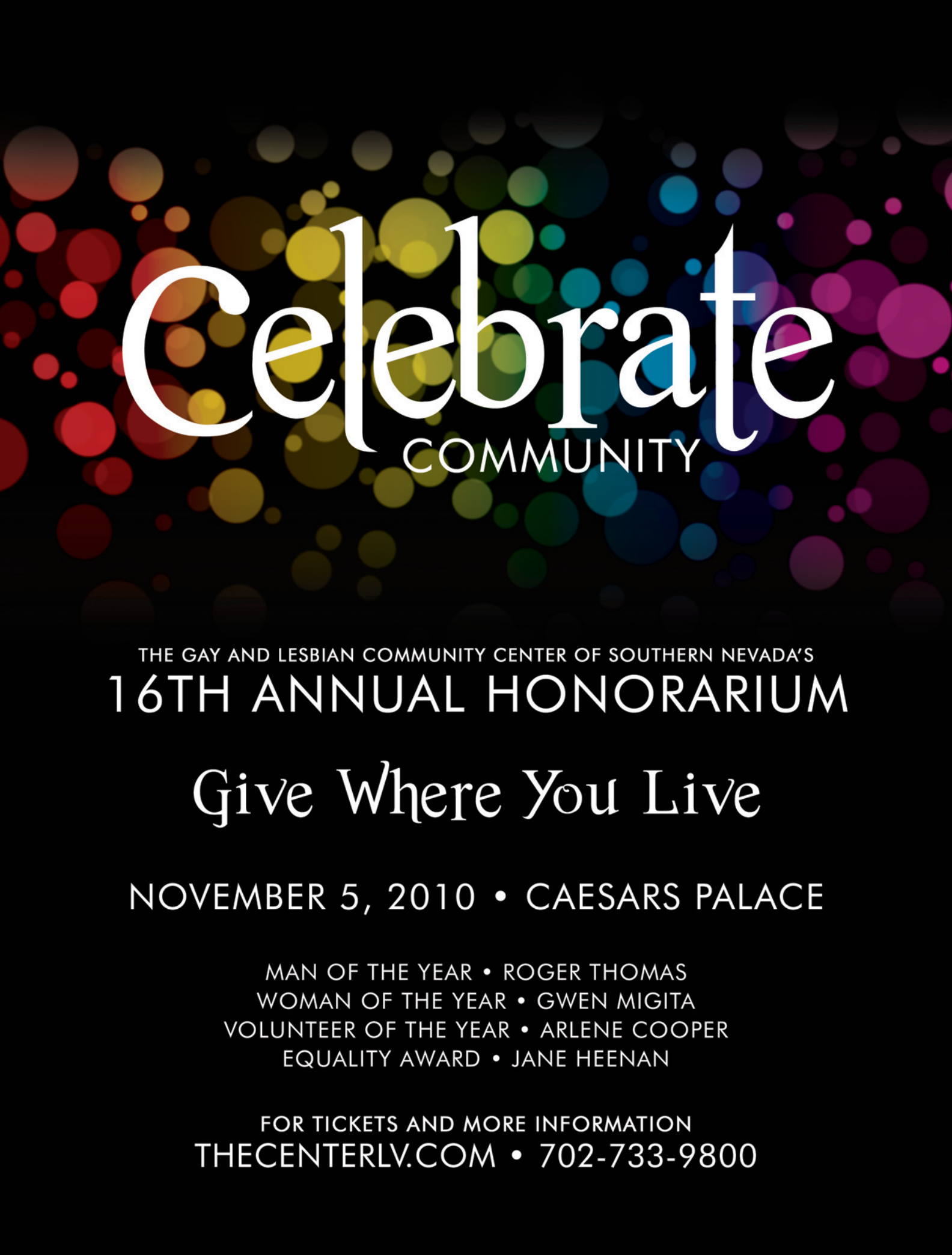
well one, I'm still around. [Laughter] I do think though that it could be because I'm a thriver and the gay community understands that because they are always backed up against the wall when it comes to certain things and I've gone through a lot of those things and I'm still here. I think *Grease* and *Xanadu*, they are pretty visible. I sang at gay Mardi Gras in Sydney and I sang *Xanadu* and the place was just insane. I've made a couple of camp movies, I think that's probably why, too. I was in *Sordid Lives* and I played a lesbian, which was fun for me. I was also in that movie that Randal [Kleiser, writer/director] made, *It's My Party*. I hadn't thought of that, but that could have some bearing, too.

If you could change one thing in your career, would you do anything differently, or has everything pretty much happened according to plan?

I think everything has happened the way it was supposed to. I think I have one regret and that was a decision I made because my daughter was little. I couldn't have changed it, but I would have liked to have done it. And that was I was offered to tour with Frank Sinatra and I didn't do it. That is the only thing—I thought that would have been great because I loved him and he was such an amazing singer.

How do you escape it all?

That's the good thing about living in Florida. We live a quiet life there, we take the dogs for walks and we go kayaking and we swim. I like to go to the movies or stay in and cook. I like to do that, just to be at home and relaxing. ●



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\$25 at the door day of event

Sponsored By



Q NIGHT OUT

NIGHTLY GUIDE TO LAS VEGAS NIGHTCLUBS, BARS AND LOUNGES FOR LGBT PATRONS

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8½ and PIRANHA 4633 Paradise Rd. 702-791-0100	El Seseo Latin Night DJs Vago & Auner Las Sirenas 12a	Circus DJ Mikey Swift \$10 Liquor Bust	La Noche w/DJ Vago Sirenas Show 2a	Lingerie & Lace A Ladies Only Event	Boystown Liquor Bust DJs Mikey Swift & Chris Adams	Visit piranhavegas.com for details	Sex Saturdays DJ/VJ Scott K & DJ K Drag Show 11:30p
BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	Noches Nortenas (Latin Country Night) 9p - 2a	Karaoke Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Underwear Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$3.50 Beer Bust 9p - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	\$5 Liquor Bust 7p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust 7p - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$5 Beer Bust 4-7p \$2 Long Isl. 7p - Mid Sunday Show 9pm	Beginner Dance Lessons 7-9pm and Ginger Grant 10pm	Drag Queen Bingo 9p Happy Hour 2a-10a	Underwear Night Gogo Boys Free Pool from 9p	1/2 price Drink Night 9p-12a, Line Dance Lessons 7p-9p	Line Dance Lessons 7-9p \$1.75 Happy Hour 7-9p \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-12a	\$1.75 happy hour 7-9p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-12a
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Salsa Sundays Latin music & videos	Open 24 Hours Boys Night Ages 18-21 in free	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights are off	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays Ages 40+ get in free	Open 24 Hours Inked Show off your tats	Open 24 Hours Freebie Fridays Exciting giveaways	Open 24 Hours Packed House Our busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a/5-7p Karaoke 9p-1a	Poker Tournament 6, 7:30 & 9p No buy in!	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-385-FLEX	Bloody Marys with Darrin	Karaoke with Tara King 10p-2a	Underwear Night 10p-2a	The Grand Tea Room Desirae Penda'vis Midnight	The Boom Room with DJ K Midnight	Confessions with JewDi Vine and DJ Ricoche 11p	Rhinestone'D with Ryan Zink and guests 11p
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Ladies Night Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer/Lick-Her-Bust 8p - 1a	Beer Bust 8p - 1a Wicked Wednesdays 11:30p-1:30a	Naked Boy Frat Party Beer Bust 9:30p - 2a \$7 Liquor Bust	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6-9pm	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Long Island Iced Teas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Margaritas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p	Come in, drink up and just have a great time.
GIPSY 4605 Paradise Rd. 702-666-8661	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Ghostmachine DJs Protokol & Romeo Romantic
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Fuego Latino 8p with Liquor Bust	"In the Trenches" comedy show with Schree & Baby 8p	Meet friends, drink, game and play pool!	Karaoke with Sheila 9p-1a Carpe Noctem 9p-4a	Sinabar Disco with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Vaquero Night with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Noche Caliente "Hot Night" 10p
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave. at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	SINdaze: Vegas' 8th Deadly Sin hosted by JewDi Vine	Closed	Kouture DJ P.A. \$2 wells/\$5 premiums	WTF? Wednesdays DJ Earwaxxx 11pm Win up to \$1000	Back to the Eighties with DJ Crime and Drag Show	Flesh with VJ Alpyne (main room) and Dollhaus (lounge)	World-class DJs in main room and Girl Bar in lounge
LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Monday Night Football with Brett	Karaoke with Mark & Brett 7p	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a
SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-385-9298	Open 24 Hours	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	\$5 Beer Bust and \$6 Liquor Bust 9p - Midnight
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8a - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 4 - 7p	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws or Margaritas 8a - 4p	Come hang out at the Spotlight Lounge	\$5 Liquor Bust 1 - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 8 - 11p	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3p Couples Night 6 - 9p Jock Night Mid - 3a

WE ALSO RECOMMEND THESE MAINSTREAM NIGHTLIFE OPTIONS, SOME WITH LGBT-ORIENTED NIGHTS

BARE POOL LOUNGE The Mirage 702-791-7442	One of the sexiest resort pools on the Strip during the daytime, Bare Pool Lounge at the Mirage really shines on Saturday nights as Eduardo Cordova presents his Heaven gay night poolside.	GHOSTBAR The Palms 702-942-6832	This silver and lime green indoor/outdoor bar on 55th floor of the Palms resort hosts Down, "a night for curious women," one Thursday night each month, with tunes by DJ Lisa Pittman.
BEATLES REVOLUTION LNG. The Mirage 702-692-8383	For you technology junkies, this has to be the coolest place in town with touch screen cocktail tables and great music. Eduardo Cordova presents Closet Sundays for the LGBT crowd.	LAVO The Palazzo 702-791-1800	Check out the newest patio on the Las Vegas Strip by the Tao Group. Gays abound on Label Junkie Wednesdays with fashion shows taking place throughout the space.
BLUE MARTINI Town Square 702-949-BLUE	This new local hot spot is situated in Town Square and is always packed with great eye candy. Every night from 11 p.m. until close is hospitality pricing—half off drinks!	RHUMBAR The Mirage 702-792-7615	Designed in a style reminiscent of a mojito, with its white and green decor, Rhumbar is a new venue at The Mirage with a beautiful outdoor patio. Captiv8 is a gay night on Wednesdays.
CATHOUSE Luxor 702-262-4228	This swanky burlesque club/restaurant has hosted several gay events and is located in the Luxor. Great décor, sassy cocktail uniforms and fabulous lighting and sound.	TAO The Venetian 702-388-8338	Restaurant, nightclub and ultra pool, this celebrity hang out is just hot. Found in the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian.

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AND NIGHTLIFE PHOTOS AT
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SEPTEMBER 2010

QCALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Free HIV and STD Testing

The Center, 1-6:30pm
www.thecenterlv.com
Repeats every Thursday afternoon.

Right Pride's Candidate

Meet & Greet Mixer
Lolita's Cantina, 5:30-8pm
www.rightpride.org

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Jeffrey Sanker presents VEGAS

Krave Las Vegas, all weekend
www.kravelasvegas.com

The Art of Naked Yoga

Erotic Heritage Museum, 7pm
www.eroticheritage.org
Additional dates throughout the month.

Jeff Dunham

The Colosseum at Caesars, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

David Gray & Ray Lamontagne

Pearl Conert Theater, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Naked Boys Singing

Onyx Theatre, 10pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
*Shows every Friday and Saturday at 10pm,
Sundays at 3pm.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Labor Day Weekend with

DJ Amara & DJ Lisa Pittman
BootyBar (behind the Bootlegger Bistro)
www.lesbianslasvegas.com

Melissa Etheridge

Pearl Concert Theater, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SheHaw

(a benefit for Sin Sity Sisters and NGRN)
Crews'N, 9pm
*For more info, email bubbabebr@gmail.com
or pupric@rocketmail.com.*

Chelsea Handler

The Colosseum at Caesars, 10:30pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Onyx Theatre, 11:30pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Shows every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Labor Day Pool Bash

Poolside at Blue Moon, 12pm
www.bluemoonlv.com

Closet Sundays with Teresa of

The Real Housewives of New Jersey
Revolution Lounge, 10pm
www.lightgroup.com

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Free HIV and STD Testing

The Center, 1-6:30pm
www.thecenterlv.com
Repeats every Monday afternoon.

KittyDip

Tao Beach, 1pm
www.lesbianslasvegas.com
Repeats every Monday afternoon.

Vegas Improv S.E.T.

Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Repeats every Thursday evening.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

LVPT Dine Out

Bonito Michoacan (Decatur & Twain), 6:30pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

IRSCDEI Court Meeting

The Center, 7:30pm
www.desertempire.org

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Steven Fales in Missionary Position

Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Additional shows Sept. 10-12

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Stan & Mitch's Pool Party

Members Only – RSVP required
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Community Goat Dressing

Horseman's Park, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

Patti Labelle

Star of the Desert Arena, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Sheryl Crow with Brandi Carlisle

The Joint at Hard Rock, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

9-11 Show

Charlie's Las Vegas, 9pm
www.ngra.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Hydrat Season Finale

Mandalay Bay Pool, 12pm
www.ultimategaypool.com

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Transgender Social Hour

Erotic Heritage Museum, 1pm
www.eroticheritage.org

Stonewall Democrats Meeting

The Arts Factory, 6pm
www.sdcsn.blogspot.com

Sin City Boys of Leather Organizational Mtg.
Badlands Saloon, 7:30pm
For more info, email bubbabebr@gmail.com
or pupric@rocketmail.com

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

LVPT Casino Buffet
Sunset Station, 11:30am
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode
Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Additional shows Thurs.-Sun. through Sept. 26.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Margaret Cho
Pearl Concert Theater, 9:30pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Community Counseling Center presents
Bite at the Museum
Nevada State Museum (Springs Preserve), 6pm
www.biteatthemuseum.com

Michael Bolton
Sunset Station, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

The Real L Word Cast Appearance
Booty Bar (behind the Bootlegger Bistro)
www.lesbianslasvegas.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Katrina's Annual Brunch
Location and time TBD
www.ngra.com
Benefit for SinSity Sisters and Big Horn Rodeo 14.

Temptation Sundays Season Finale
Luxor South Pool, 1pm
www.luxor.com/lgbt

Closet Sundays with Courtney Act
Revolution Lounge, 10pm
www.lightgroup.com

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

LVPT Cocktail Night Out
Charlie's Las Vegas, 6pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Submit full event details to Calendar@QVegas.com no later than the 15th of the month preceeding the event.

Phoenix
Pearl Concert Theater, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Freedom from Smoking Facilitator Training
AFAN (701 Shadow Ln.), 8:30am-4:30pm
rdavis@lungnevada.org

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Freedom from Smoking Facilitator Training
AFAN (701 Shadow Ln.), 8:30am-Noon
rdavis@lungnevada.org

Camping at Zion
Zion National Park, all weekend
www.nevadaoutdoors.org
Continues until Sept. 26.

Saint Therese Center's
10th Annual Circle of Roses
Riviera Hotel Grand Ballroom, 6pm
www.saintthereseccenter.org

King & Queen of the Desert Competition
Charlie's Las Vegas, 8pm
www.desertempire.org

Train
Red Rock Casino, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com

UB40
Mandalay Bay, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

LVPT Casino Brunch
Eureka Casino, 11am
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

LVPT Committee Meeting
The Center, 1pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Pixies
Pearl Concert Theater, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Champagne Brunch
The Broiler at Boulder Station, 10:30am
www.sincityqsocals.com

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

IRSCDEI Board of Directors Meeting
The Center, 7pm
www.desertempire.org

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Vampire Weekend
Pearl Concert Theater, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com



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92.5, 92.4, 92.3, 92.2, 92.1, 92.0, 91.9, 91.8, 91.7, 91.6, 91.5, 91.4, 91.3, 91.2, 91.1, 91.0, 90.9, 90.8, 90.7, 90.6, 90.5, 90.4, 90.3, 90.2, 90.1, 90.0, 89.9, 89.8, 89.7, 89.6, 89.5, 89.4, 89.3, 89.2, 89.1, 89.0, 88.9, 88.8, 88.7, 88.6, 88.5, 88.4, 88.3, 88.2, 88.1, 88.0, 87.9, 87.8, 87.7, 87.6, 87.5, 87.4, 87.3, 87.2, 87.1, 87.0, 86.9, 86.8, 86.7, 86.6, 86.5, 86.4, 86.3, 86.2, 86.1, 86.0, 85.9, 85.8, 85.7, 85.6, 85.5, 85.4, 85.3, 85.2, 85.1, 85.0, 84.9, 84.8, 84.7, 84.6, 84.5, 84.4, 84.3, 84.2, 84.1, 84.0, 83.9, 83.8, 83.7, 83.6, 83.5, 83.4, 83.3, 83.2, 83.1, 83.0, 82.9, 82.8, 82.7, 82.6, 82.5, 82.4, 82.3, 82.2, 82.1, 82.0, 81.9, 81.8, 81.7, 81.6, 81.5, 81.4, 81.3, 81.2, 81.1, 81.0, 80.9, 80.8, 80.7, 80.6, 80.5, 80.4, 80.3, 80.2, 80.1, 80.0, 79.9, 79.8, 79.7, 79.6, 79.5, 79.4, 79.3, 79.2, 79.1, 79.0, 78.9, 78.8, 78.7, 78.6, 78.5, 78.4, 78.3, 78.2, 78.1, 78.0, 77.9, 77.8, 77.7, 77.6, 77.5, 77.4, 77.3, 77.2, 77.1, 77.0, 76.9, 76.8, 76.7, 76.6, 76.5, 76.4, 76.3, 76.2, 76.1, 76.0, 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9.4, 9.3, 9.2, 9.1, 9.0, 8.9, 8.8, 8.7, 8.6, 8.5, 8.4, 8.3, 8.2, 8.1, 8.0, 7.9, 7.8, 7.7, 7.6, 7.5, 7.4, 7.3, 7.2, 7.1, 7.0, 6.9, 6.8, 6.7, 6.6, 6.5, 6.4, 6.3, 6.2, 6.1, 6.0, 5.9, 5.8, 5.7, 5.6, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3, 5.2, 5.1, 5.0, 4.9, 4.8, 4.7, 4.6, 4.5, 4.4, 4.3, 4.2, 4.1, 4.0, 3.9, 3.8, 3.7, 3.6, 3.5, 3.4, 3.3, 3.2, 3.1, 3.0, 2.9, 2.8, 2.7, 2.6, 2.5, 2.4, 2.3, 2.2, 2.1, 2.0, 1.9, 1.8, 1.7, 1.6, 1.5, 1.4, 1.3, 1.2, 1.1, 1.0, 0.9, 0.8, 0.7, 0.6, 0.5, 0.4, 0.3, 0.2, 0.1, 0.0



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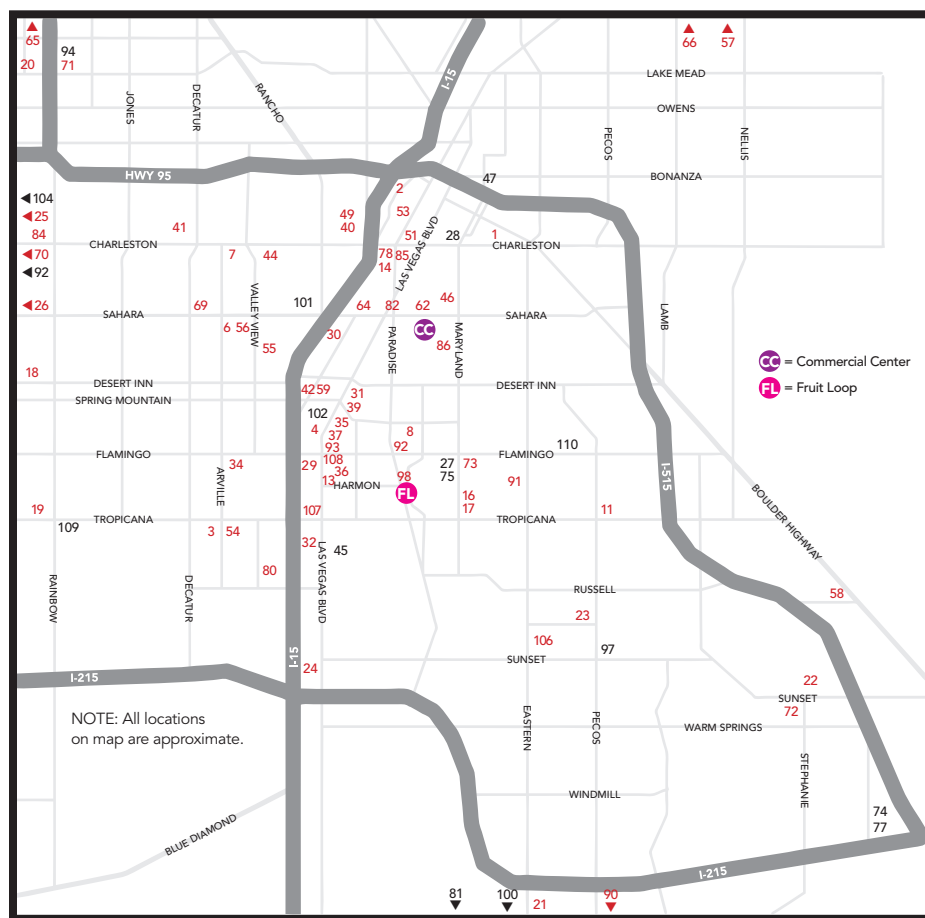
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CC Onyx Theater, 953 E. Sahara Ave, 733-7225
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VIRGO 08/23-09/22

Events shall mostly evolve in a low-key manner, which should suit you just fine. New Moon in your sign on the 8th may trigger a power of play at work. Remember that diplomacy will get you only so far. Your sweetie may be in a major mood on the 19th. Give him extra space.

**LIBRA** 09/23-10/22

The 23rd-30th look jam-packed full of career projects and other chores. No problem, Libra. That tropical getaway from the 3rd-10th will make all that hard work worthwhile. Pack light for the trip (trunks, sun block and lots of cash). Nature shall take care of the rest, including an awesome tan.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21

We suggest that you retain a financial planner to straighten out that mini mess that's built up recently. Remember it takes spending money in order to make it. The 12th looks best for throwing a sizzling pool party. You can even make it clothing optional (after dark though).

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21

Lady Luck looks like she'll be smiling upon you all month long. Be rational though, okay Sag? First pay off a few bills/debts and then go on a spending spree. The 16th-19th look great for a long overdue mini getaway. Try someplace you've never been before.

CAPRICORN 12/22-01/19

Like Sag, financial aspects increase nicely for you, but not from luck. It's simple old-fashioned hard work and that Cappy ingenuity that'll do the trick. Social aspects look especially strong on the 4th and 5th. Full Moon on the 23rd brings unexpected good news. Enjoy it!

AQUARIUS 01/20-02/18

There's so much going on in your life, that it's really not the best time to be taking on other people's problems. That'll burn you out real quickly. Keep a safe distance from these folk and concentrate on your own plate. We suggest staying close to home on the 11th and 12th.

PISCES 02/19-03/19

On a scale of 1-10, this month rates a solid 7. Call it a major partial success and concentrate on what is working and bringing joy and success. Wait til after the 24th to start cutting away dead wood that may be slowing things down. Some of this wood may include a person.

ARIES 03/20-04/19

New career/financial opportunities abound all month long. It's just a matter of picking the cream of the crop that suits you most. Ask a Virgo for advice. Don't allow that hot as hell but oh-so-devilish ex back into your life. That dance has been done and it's time to move on, please!

TAURUS 04/20-05/20

Partnerships, both professional and personal, shall be put to the test this month. Those who stick together like glue can fly to the moon. The rest, alas, might not stay intact. The 18th and 19th look best for going out on the town and breaking in those spiffy new dance shoes. What say you?

GEMINI 05/21-06/21

Minor chaotic events can't take the glow off of what is otherwise an awesome month. Though you'll be busy as a bee during the week, keep those weekends open for socializing and romancing. Practice that dazzling smile and keep the cell phone charged and glued to your hip.

CANCER 06/22-07/22

Your intuitive talents shall be especially strong this month. Please pay attention to them and we promise you'll be in a much happier space than if you don't. That Labor Day bash looks like one for the books. As usual you'll bring a fabulous potluck dish to the proceedings.

LEO 07/23-08/22

Like any good architect would draw up a fine blueprint, this is the time for you to work on and excel at what's to be the next financial level in your life. Think big and long term, Leo (two of your best traits). Keep the 17th open for the romantic evening of a lifetime.

**REV. BILL'S
BONUS PREDICTION
FOR AUGUST 2010**

The stock market climbs, unemployment drops a bit, intense heat continues to plague the midwest and southeast.



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GAY OWNED AND OPERATED

My best time

I can still remember my first time as though it was yesterday. The anticipation was excruciating. My pulse raced and my young heart pounded as finally the experience washed over me. The rush of adrenaline excited me in a new way. I didn't want it to end. Yes, it was my first time at the rodeo and it wasn't just any rodeo. It was the Ft. Worth Rodeo, which has been one of the greatest rodeos and stock shows in the world since 1896.

I was 15 at the time, and although I grew up in Ft. Worth, it was my first time at the big event. Like most young people my age, I was keenly interested in the Beatles, the Doors and the youth culture. The Vietnam war was raging and young people were turning on, tuning in and dropping out.

For the past five years I had spent my summers at my uncle's farm in Paul's Valley, Oklahoma. There I spent the idyllic summer days and nights of my youth. My five cousins were lucky enough to live there all year and took this city-boy under their wing. Some of my jobs included collecting the eggs, milking the cows and feeding the horses. I also got my introduction to private enterprise manning the roadside stand where we sold produce to passersby. We kids got to keep what we sold!

Three of my cousins were state champion barrel racers and they taught me to ride. There were frequent barrel races and bull ridings in the area, and we'd all go on Friday night. I guess that's where I first got rodeo in my blood. Seeing those magnificent animals and the men and women who tried to master them up close, feeling the ground shake as they ran by and hearing their mighty breath always thrilled and amazed me.

That day in Ft. Worth I finally experienced a full-blown world-class rodeo complete with all the rousing competition and the pageantry of Grand Entry, including the beautiful rodeo queens. The rodeo culture of the '60s was a very straight and dangerous place for someone who already knew he was "different." Still, I was hooked on rodeo.

Rodeo took a long hiatus in my life. As I grew up, my life took many turns taking me to Houston, where I came out. I worked as a bar manager then a photographer. I sold real estate in New Hope, Penn., for eight years then moved to Atlantic City for a career in gaming. I finally moved to Las Vegas, the Mecca of gaming, in 1993. That's where the circle began to close for me.

In early 1994, I walked into a bar called

Backstreet where a group called the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association (NGRA) happened to be having a meeting. They were planning their first BigHorn Rodeo. Gay rodeo was an oxymoron to me so I was determined to attend, and I did attend my first gay rodeo on that hot June Saturday. All the sights and smells took me back to the past. Here was everything I loved about the sport of rodeo, but inclusive and accepting of all. It turned my notion of the rodeo culture on its head, and I embraced it.

I soon joined NGRA and helped produce every rodeo since 1995. I also went on to serve as President, Treasurer, Trustee and Rodeo Director three times. I guess you could say I got involved. I now serve as NGRA Trustee to the International Gay Rodeo Association and serve on the IGRA Executive board. In 2007, I was asked to join the World Gay Rodeo Finals production committee, and I am proud to have been selected as Rodeo Director for the 2010 Finals, which will take place Oct. 21-24.

Luckily for me, NGRA has been selected to host the World Gay Rodeo Finals in 2010 and 2011. Our 2010 venues will be the AVI Resort and Casino outside of Laughlin and the Mojave Crossing Events Center just across the river in Arizona.

People ask me, why Laughlin? Laughlin is ideally located in the "Golden Triangle" for gay rodeo. Our event is strategically located within a five-hour drive of five major gay markets that support heavily attended local gay rodeos including Las Vegas, Phoenix, Palm Springs, Los Angeles and San Diego. It's really "Your Ultimate Rodeo Vacation."

In gay rodeo, men and women compete in all events. Traditional rodeo events include Rough Stock events like Bareback Bronc Riding, Bull Riding and Chute Dogging. Speed Events include Pole Bending, Barrel Racing and Flag Racing and there are three Roping Events. The Camp Events have been designed to allow novice competitors an opportunity to compete along with the more seasoned rodeo competitors. These events are unique to gay rodeo and the crowds are immensely entertained by watching them. Those include Steer Decorating, Goat Dressing and the Wild Drag Race.

The Bud Light World Gay Rodeo Finals is the culminating event of the IGRA rodeo year. In 2010, the IGRA's 27-member associations are scheduled to produce 17 local and regional



rodeos. IGRA contestants compete for points all season, and the top 20 men and women in each event will be invited to compete at Finals.

In addition to our marquee rodeo event, this year's four days of celebration includes pool and beach parties, performances by the DC Cowboys and singer-songwriter Mike Schikora, a fashion show and a county-western dance. The big entertainment event is the Saturday night concert presented by Rockstar Energy featuring the hot new country duo, The Carter Twins. The evening will start with an appearance by the outrageous Grandma Lee of *America's Got Talent* fame. Grandma Lee is finally unleashed and uncensored! Advance tickets are on sale now at www.igra.com/finals.

NGRA and the Sin City Sisters are offering daily party buses to Laughlin for those who don't want the hassle of driving. Round trip tickets are only \$20 and are available on www.ngra.com and at any Sisters or NGRA event. Two slot tournaments and two charity bingos hosted by the Sin City Sisters will take place over the weekend. Net proceeds from the party buses, the tournaments and bingos benefit the Sisters' AIDS Drug Assistance Program (SADAP).

All the action starts on Tuesday, Oct. 12 with the SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesday rodeo meet and greet at the Blue Moon Resort starting at 8 p.m., which also benefits SADAP. Then join us for our official kickoff party at Charlie's on Friday, Oct. 15 starting at 9 p.m.

I hope you can all join us Oct. 21-24 in Laughlin. Perhaps you'll feel that thrill that I felt that first time back in Ft. Worth all those years ago. No, this isn't my *first* time at the rodeo, but will be my *best* time. ●

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