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LGBTQ

Travel & Tourism Conference
Returns to Vegas

Thanksgiving

Menus from Around Town
and Youth Thanksgiving

Vegas Like a Local

Off-the-Strip Favorites

World AIDS Day

AFAN Turns the Town Red
December 1st

The Thankful Issue

STEVIE NICKS

+PLUS: INSIDE THE PARK THEATER



ON THE COVER

Legendary singer and songwriter Stevie Nicks opens the new Park Theatre at Monte Carlo Resort and Casino on December 17th.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

The Thankful Issue... with so many things to be thankful for. Thankful that we live in a country where we can vote for our leaders. Thankful that this election will be over on November 8.

We are thankful that we live in a community where we can come together and celebrate the diversity among us. Every year The Center hosts its Youth Thanksgiving dinner happening on November 21, spreading a message of acceptance and love.

Jason Leclerc offers an excerpt from his book *Black Kettle*, and Chris Twist updates us with his progress on returning to a career in writing after a severe brain injury.

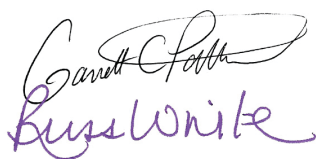
Michael Barbieri magazine takes you on a journey off the strip where he explores Vegas like a local.

Stevie Nicks opens the new Park Theater at Monte Carlo Resort & Casino and we have behind-the-scene updates on the new venue opening December 17th.

While you're down at The Park, be sure to check out the life-size LEGO artwork on display through the end of the year.

Join QVegas for the LGBT New Media Expo in December. This free expo connects you to the most popular new media companies (including us!), and AFAN is making city-wide preparations to light up the town red for World AIDS Day.

From our families to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving



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**PARK
THEATER**

AT MONTE CARLO
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Legendary singer and songwriter and eight-time Grammy Award nominee Stevie Nicks opens the new Park Theater as the first official performance on December 17. Christening the new venue with The Pretenders, Nicks winds down her three-month North American tour in Las Vegas before heading to Los Angeles for one final show.

Nicks is best known for her work with Fleetwood Mac during the 70's and an accomplished solo career spanning multiple decades.

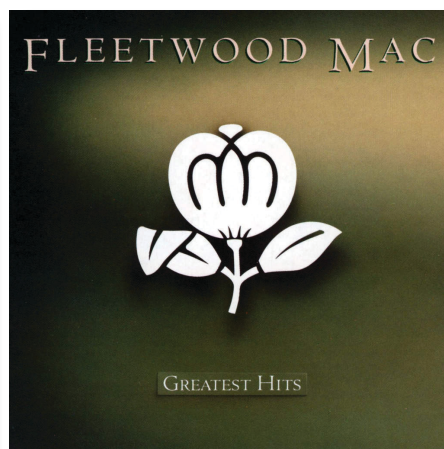
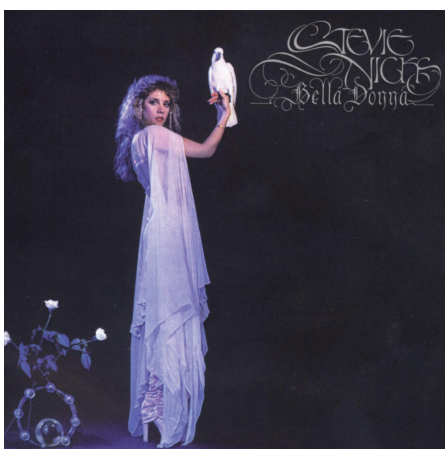
The first song Nicks wrote after joining Fleetwood Mac, and notably one of the group's most popular songs is "Landslide," making its debut in 1975. Since then, Landslide has been covered by The Smashing Pumpkins, The Dixie Chicks, Miley Cyrus, Lady Antebellum, and even featured in an episode of Glee. But nothing compares to Nicks' voice as she sings this ballad that went Gold in 2009 and has sold close to 1.5 million copies in the US alone.

A few years later, Nicks wrote "Gypsy," another Fleetwood Mac hit that chronicled her life before the success of Fleetwood Mac. Nicks lived

with boyfriend and future Fleetwood Mac lead guitarist Lindsey Buckingham, and at the time they couldn't afford a bed frame, so they slept on a single mattress, directly on the floor. Nicks says the mattress was decorated in lace, with a vase and a flower at its side. Whenever she feels her famous life getting to her, she goes "back to her roots," and takes her mattress off the frame and puts it "back to the floor" and decorates it with "some lace, and paper flowers," taking her back to the days when she had no wealth—back to herself as a poor gypsy.

In 1981, Nicks came into her own with the release of "Bella Donna," her first solo album. Where Fleetwood Mac had more of a rock ballad sound, Nicks' pop-rock influence comes forward with hits like "Edge of Seventeen" and "Stand Back."

Photo: Danny Clinch



Taking the stage on December 17, Stevie Nicks returns to Las Vegas for the opening of the Park Theater at Monte Carlo Resort & Casino and will no doubt delight the inaugural crowd with nostalgic songs.

Nicks returns to touring after performing 122 sold out shows around the world during a Fleetwood Mac tour spanning 2014-2015.

Her 24 Karat Gold 27-city tour kicked off at the end of October, opening in her hometown of Phoenix, AZ with a set list that includes “Stop Draggin’ My Heart Around,” “Bella Donna,” “If Anyone Falls,” “Edge of Seventeen” and for the first time, “Wild Heart” made its live debut.

Joining Nicks for the Park Theater opening will be The Pretenders. With hit songs like “I’ll Stand By You”, “Back On The Chain Gang” and “Don’t Get Me Wrong.” The band has sold over 25 million albums and founder & leader Chrissie Hynde is one of contemporary music’s greatest songwriters. Hynde most recently released the album Stockholm and a 2015 memoir, Reckless: My Life As a Pretender.



As of November 1, limited tickets were still available at ticketmaster.com. Due to the popularity of Stevie Nicks and the opening of this new Las Vegas venue, this performance is expected to sell out.



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Construction is nearly complete on the new Park Theater at Monte Carlo Resort & Casino. Set to open December 17, the new 5,300 seat theater will debut with Stevie Nicks and The Pretenders.

As construction winds down along Park Avenue, Park Theater is the first step in the recently announced reimagination of Monte Carlo. The transformation, taking place over the next two years, will include two distinct hotel experiences – a Las Vegas version of the Sydell Group’s famed NoMad Hotel and the launch of a new luxury hotel named Park MGM.

Just six weeks before doors open at the new theater, QVegas toured the construction site with Dan Bernbach, Park Theater’s Executive Director and General Manager. Adjacent to The Park and the new 20,000-seat T-Mobile Arena, the theater will complete the multi-year construction along the corridor between New York New York and Monte Carlo.

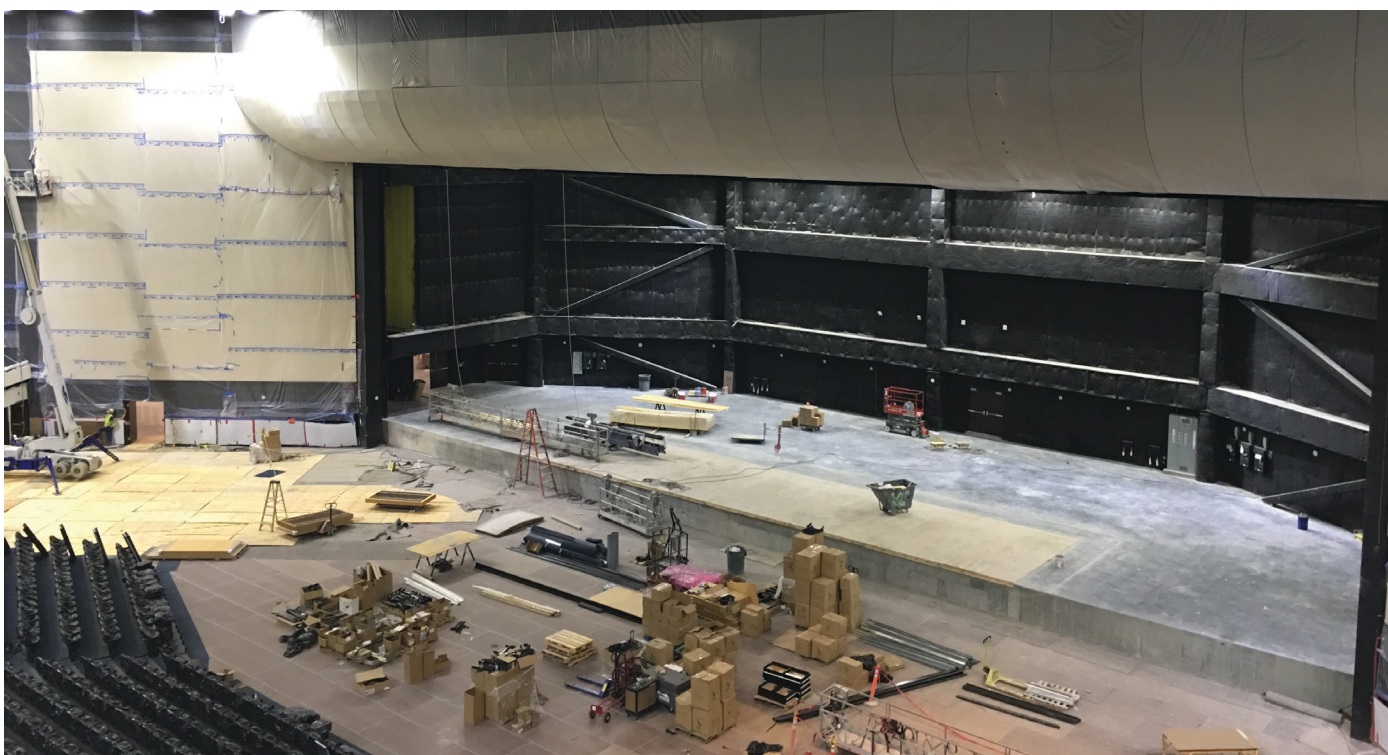
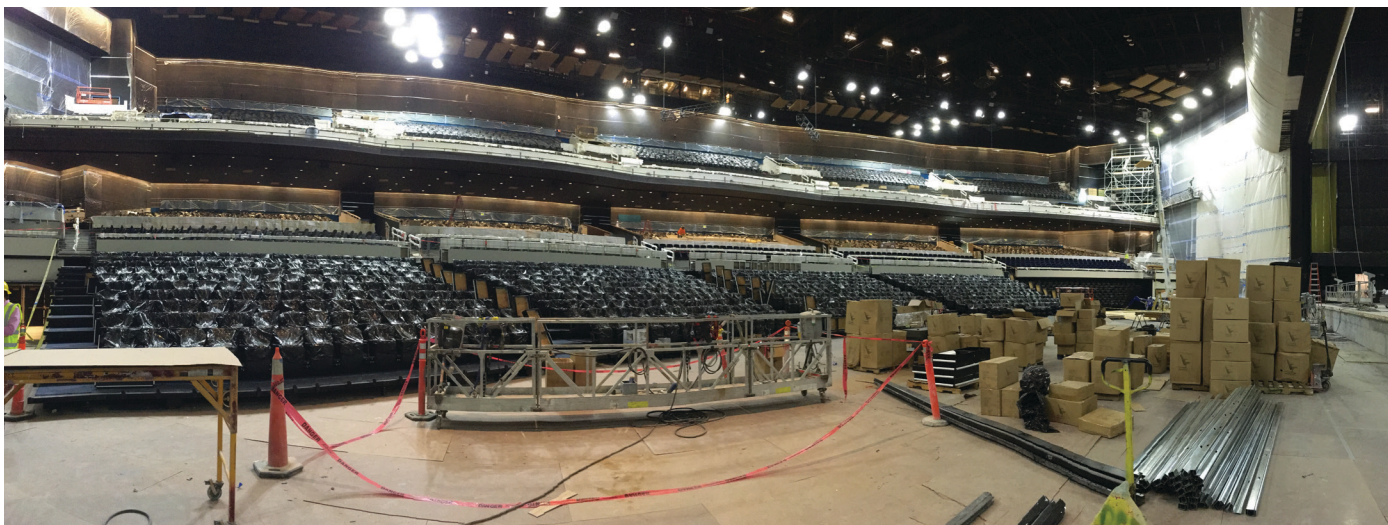
The theater will offer dynamic seating that allows for easy transformation into multiple configurations, reflecting the flexibility of the space. State-of-the-art audio, lighting, and

projection systems will bring the venue to life, featuring projection mapping technology, an 80x40 foot LED screen capable of displaying 4K video, and a speaker system camouflaged by a projection screen that surrounds the proscenium.

The Park Theater will be accessible from inside Monte Carlo. Guests will enter through a luxuriously designed lobby surrounded by gold paneled walls and three glass chandeliers.

The Park Theater project is wholly owned by MGM Resorts International. Displacing the former Lance Burton/Blue Man Group theater, the new venue will create dozens of new jobs.

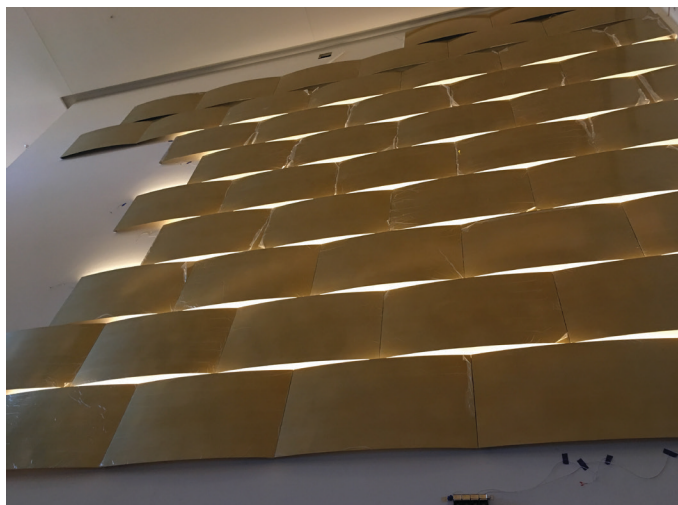
Through marketing partnerships with AEG Live and Live Nation, Park Theater is expected to attract amazing shows and entertainers in the coming years. With Stevie Nicks, Bruno Mars, and Cher leading the lineup, Park Theater is already off to a great start.



Top: Theater seating spans multiple levels and can be configured with additional floor-level seating to accommodate over 6,000 guests.

Middle: The view from the top level balcony proves that with only 5,300 seats, every seat in the house is a good seat.

Right: Gold paneled walls and crystal chandeliers will greet guests in a lavish new theater lobby inside Monte Carlo.



Black Kettle

THE FEAST

An Excerpt from: Black Kettle

[by Jason Leclerc]

It is the nineties, after all.” The uselessly inaccurate non-sequitur tumbled out of her mouth. Her lips quivered as a follow-up threatened. Delicately, she patted her own head to collect the moisture forming above her brow. I could feel the corners of my mouth turning up into a grin that I had to stifle.

“Woman, have you bumped your head?” The attempt at crisis diffusion was immediately halted with the delicacy of granite on glass. I loved his mother at that moment as nearly as much as I love him every day. She was as preciously rambunctious as my own Momma and the only woman I had ever seen stand up to her.

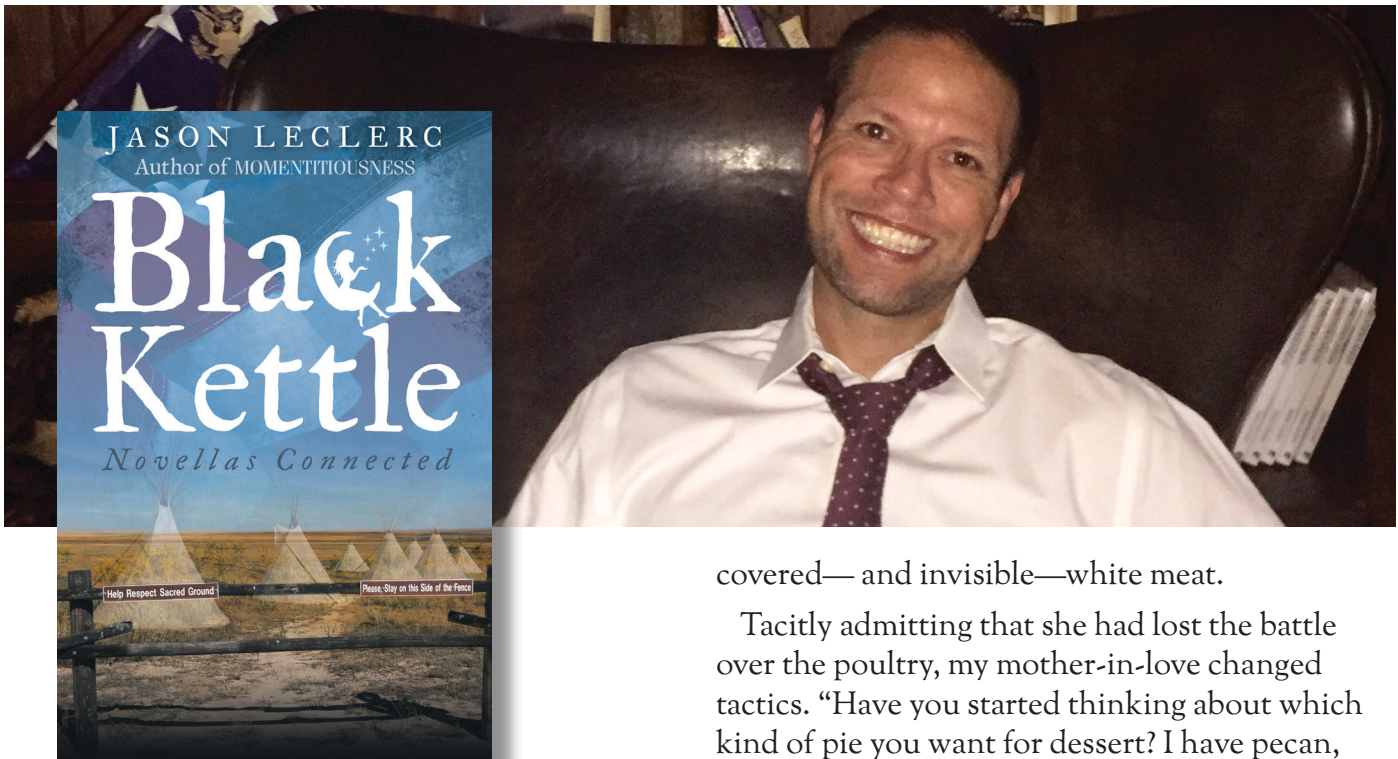
“Will you please pass the gravy?” a third voice chimes in. “White or brown?”

Not yet articulate in the ways of diplomacy, the youngster whose dry overcooked turkey cried out for anything to make it palatable, weighed his words with a wise precision beyond his years. Opting over, “I don’t care” in favor of “Both, please. I love them both,” he proved quite the Solomonesque natural.

Sadly, he is the neighbor’s kid and had no

commonality with the dominant gene pool in which this dinner was soaked. His parents had dumped him off on us as their oddly timed “romantic retreat” took them to the Caribbean over Thanksgiving break. Leaving the boy with us, the ubiquitous “gays next door,” was considered better than dragging him along on this, the only chance they’d have to be alone until Easter. Besides, we adored the kid, we needed a prop to finish off the dining room setting, and we must not have seemed the gay-proselytizing type. While he might one day make a fantastic homo—especially with his extraordinary smile and budding inclination for show tunes—we are just as happy that he might one day marry a prom queen as be one. He is precious and always a joy to have in our home.

Two surrogate grandmothers, glaring at each



other, reached for their own lumpy concoctions and passed them in the boy's direction. Using the same ladle to dip into the two adjacent gravy boats, he reveled in the joy that congeals in a child with unlimited gravy and no parent to urge its moderate application.

"What else would you like, Honey?" With a quick twist of her head, my Momma both toothily smiled and menacingly glared at the two aims of her attention: a sweet boy and her own rival. "I have not bumped my head and your turkey is dry." Pushing her butter-and-sugar-strewn sweet-potato casserole in the boy's direction, she added, "The driest I have ever tasted. Here Honey, pile some of this on top of your turkey. It'll make it not so blasted dry." She puckered her lips and wrinkled her nose as the word "dry" lingered over the table with more acrimony than overcooked asparagus. I remained restrained at the edge of uncontrollable laughter only by the glint of mortification in my husband's eye.

Driven, not by anything sinister, by a sincere appreciation for the candy-coated yam confection but appearing as an unwitting accomplice in her shameful game of blue-haired one-up-man-ship, he heaped a spoonful atop the now completely

covered—and invisible—white meat.

Tacitly admitting that she had lost the battle over the poultry, my mother-in-law changed tactics. "Have you started thinking about which kind of pie you want for dessert? I have pecan, pumpkin, cherry, apple, and a sweet-potato pie that will send you over the moon."

"If you bake as well as you baste, you'd better have a boatful of gravy too."

"Momma!" I gasped and then nudged the stunningly handsome man to my left. He kicked my foot. Long ago, we learned to finish each other's sentences. We could now communicate telepathically. In our shared consciousness, we were chortling.

The sound of silver against china filled the tense gaps of silence. Like a court reporter, I was taking copious mental notes in preparation for recounting every rousing moment of this meal. Clearly acquiring the penchant for drama that undoubtedly proved that I was my Momma's son, I began retelling the story in my mind, imagining the circle of friends hanging on my every word. I scripted the sips of swirled red wine where I expected my friends would be laughing. Oh, this would be one for the annals....

Connect with Leclerc on Facebook, Twitter, Goodreads and <http://momentitiousness.com/black-kettle/>

Black Kettle is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and in bookstores everywhere.



ART IN THE PARK

Visitors to The Park, MGM Resorts International's newly opened outdoor dining and entertainment district on the Las Vegas Strip, are invited to discover Sawaya's new installation **PARK PEOPLE** featuring large-scale monochromatic human figures crafted entirely from LEGO bricks and situated curiously on elegant wooden benches.

Strategically placed throughout The Park, the nine brightly colored sculptures are all taking their individual respites, allowing guests to sidle up next to these "secret keepers" and bare their souls, or take selfies with their new LEGO friends.

"The versatile open-air space of The Park allows us to offer a variety of fun and fresh experiences so guests have something new to discover each time they return," said Don Thrasher, president of Park District Holdings. "PARK PEOPLE is a playful installation and we look forward to seeing how our visitors interact with these unique pieces."

Award-winning artist Sawaya began his professional career as a corporate lawyer, but after years of mergers and acquisitions, he decided to pursue his artistic passion full time and became the first



LEGO bricks come to life at The Park this fall for a one-of-a-kind art installation constructed by renowned artist Nathan Sawaya.

contemporary artist to use the popular toy as an art medium. His success quickly took off and his exhibitions have broken attendance records around the world, inspiring both adults and children alike to interact and admire his playful pieces.

“Most of my artwork tours the globe in THE ART OF THE BRICK exhibition, and is only experienced indoors. One of my primary goals as an artist is to make art as accessible as possible, so it was time to conceive a new collection for the outdoors,” said Sawaya. “It’s only fitting that we bring PARK PEOPLE to The Park. I hope locals and visitors alike come check them out and sit for a bit.”

Showcasing his work in Las Vegas for the first time, Sawaya’s installation will be on display until December 30. For more information please visit theparkvegas.com.



**DIGITAL
MALE ART**
revealing masculine men
DigitalMaleArt.com



Everyone who creates an entertainment presence in Las Vegas mixes reality and with make-believe. I am no different than others. The blending of reality and make-believe is a Las Vegas show business standard that's been around since the creation of this neon fun desert.

Yes, I'm an actual person. I'm also a local in Las Vegas. I am a digital artist and a storyteller. I create make-believe characters and tell stories about them.

Look at the image of the digital male character I created and you will get a clear sense of the kind of visual works for which I have been known since 2007. The characters I create have one or more these traits: masculinity, confidence, personality, physicality, vulnerability, and, mystery.

As an openly gay man, I feel it's essential for me to be very clear and strong as a digital artist and storyteller without holding back. My artistic and narrative focus is on masculine men who are not afraid to show emotions and affections with one another. The foundation I start with for creating male characters is to show respect for masculinity. I'm convinced that it is essential to demonstrate admiration and awe for masculinity if you're going to take the time to express yourself visually or artistically on the subject of men.

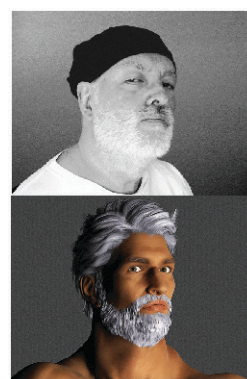
My works demand that the reader or viewer think about what I am showing or revealing as compared to passively looking. I invite the observer to put some mental work into the experience that I create for them.

I work exclusively in the realm of the surreal and the mind. All that I create is intended to be fantasy and should not be misinterpreted as advocating any particular behaviors in the real world. I do creative works on commission that can bring your particular fantasies into focus in a visual presentation for you.

I get asked all the time what does it take to make successful digital illustrations. It's really three things:

- Aesthetic: create visually appealing shapes, colors, lighting, and stage everything in a scene produced within an app
- Narrative: conceive of fictional characters who demonstrate behaviors and experiences that will be credible to audiences
- Technical: translate what's in your mind through your fingers onto a computer screen using an app.

I am known as Desouza of Vegas and I invite you to visit DigitalMaleArt.com to take a quick tour of my creative efforts. If you love Amazon Kindle as much as I do, then I'm sure you'll want to know about my exclusive Amazon Kindle releases. <https://www.amazon.com/Madeira-Desouza/e/Boo8HL3B3C>





It is a modern-day edifice birthed by the need to give a voice to the soul; a place where the human existence meets artistic expression creating one mechanism that spews timeless music and movement from its fractured being. I am speaking of the masterpiece known as the **Nostalgic for the Present Tour** featuring Sia.

Drafted as opening acts, AlunaGeorge and Miguel amped up the Vegas crowd at the Mandalay Bay Events Center this past October. The North American tour runs across 23 dates, beginning in September and concluding in November of 2016, and supports her latest album, *This Is Acting*. With such a brilliant discography, a stellar accompanying tour is only to be expected. As previously stated, it is unexplainable; however, I'll do my best to explain it.

To begin, we will need to be well-informed regarding the artist herself. Typically, an air of mystery surrounds the name 'Sia'. Most know of her hits such as "Titanium" and "Alive", although she has been established in the industry much sooner than when many discovered her. Sia, however, prefers the mystery. In fact, she practically designed it herself. The giant wigs and

headpieces shielding her face that we now know of are a conscious choice; a derivative of Sia's need to maintain privacy and avoid the invasive limelight, letting her fame exist due to her songwriting ability and not her image.

Knowing this, the tour seems to be a fully-realized creation straight from Sia's heart. The direction she has taken her career in, revealing only her voice, explodes here in a supernova of dramatic performance art and otherworldly vocals. An honest breath of fresh air. And somehow, even though it is easy to forget she is even on stage, Sia manages to connect to each individual attendee more than most performers do. The show begins with Sia at center stage, placed delicately on a platform. As the show progresses, Sia can be found dressed in white with her signature bow and wig in a far corner

Photos: Mary Ellen Matthews



The Mysterious Artist Brings a Ground-Breaking Show to Vegas

of the stage. In a pop cultural plot twist, the headlining star whose name is on the marquee stands off in the distance; it is as if she is the supporting act to the performance taking place on stage. However, you can only forget her presence for so long before her echoing voice calls you back in.

The level of value put into this tour is astounding. The screens play a high-quality version of exactly what is being seen on the simple yet iconic stage. A white platform backed by a large canvas set the scene for the show. This simplicity helps create a beautiful mix of modern technology and theatrical talent where the effect of lighting and props are brought to life by dynamic performers. Of these performers, the young superstar, Maddie Ziegler, reigns supreme. It can even be said that the show would not be the same if it were not for Ziegler. The young lady we have all fallen in love with from many of Sia's performances and music videos has blossomed into a true performer. Her charisma and technique are built up around Sia's aching story and wildly-beautiful vocals to show a struggle involving innocence, loss, anxiety, and despair. Fleeting expressions of joy are shadowed by a dark matter, one of which that is inevitably relatable.

Throughout the 75 minutes the show takes

place, we are taken through a journey of many emotions. As we learn more of Sia, we cannot help but reflect upon our own selves and our own stories. The choreography, created by Ryan Heffington, is hypnotic and unlike what exists in pop music today. Kristen Wiig makes an appearance but similar to Sia's approach, the focus is not on the star but rather the subject at hand. The lyrics to each of Sia's tracks are put on center stage and expressed word-for-word. Attending this show feels like a once-in-a-lifetime experience, one that you will think of constantly at random moments throughout your day.

From the introduction through to its conclusion, the story of the Nostalgic for the Present Tour is inspiring. Sia provides comfort to those in any form of trouble or ache. Hearing her music is liberating, but witnessing it in person takes it to another level. Many of the fans were seen crying, hugging one another, and lost in a gaze as they stared intently at the show, not to miss a thing. Sia sang every note and then some, and we were constantly craving more. Then, after an encore performance, the curtains sadly began to close. We finally heard Sia speak, with her Australian twang, as she softly spoke four simple words to complete the show: "I love you. Forever." Her presence may be a mystery, but her warm spirit sure is not. We love you too, Sia.



17th Conference on LGBT Tourism & Hospitality Comes to Las Vegas

With a wide variety of feature presentations, panel discussions and workshop breakouts over the course of three days, attendees at the 17th Conference on LGBT Tourism & Hospitality will convene at Vdara Hotel & Spa this December.

Hospitality and travel professionals from all over the world will be in town to learn more about targeting LGBT traveler segments in social media and online advertising, attracting LGBT meetings and groups, and effectively communicating with LGBT travelers and to increase sales.

Every year, Community Marketing & Insights brings together leading tourism professionals to learn about the gay and lesbian market. Local sponsors include Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Bureau and MGM Resorts International.

This 3-day conference begins Sunday afternoon, December 11, where CMI will provide an overview of the LGBT tourism market, including statistics, effective marketing techniques and case studies of successful companies already active in the market.

Monday and Tuesday sessions continue

with additional panels and workshops. Conference registration costs \$495. Visit lgbttourismconference.com for more information or to register for the event.

On Tuesday afternoon following the conference, join QVegas, Gay.Vegas and other LGBT new media companies as Pink Banana Media presents a 4-hour LGBT New Media Trade Show & Expo.

Pitch story ideas and get LGBT marketing advice from this group of New Media experts.

This LGBT New Media Trade Show & Expo is open to everyone in Las Vegas, from small businesses to ad agencies and corporate representatives wishing to meet some of the best LGBT New Media in person. RSVP at www.lgbtnewmediaexpo.com



ART IN FULL BLOOM



ART & FLORAL DESIGN EVENT TO BENEFIT THE CENTER - LAS VEGAS

The Center - A Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, a community-based organization, supports and promotes activities directed at furthering the well-being, positive image, and human rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, its allies, and low to moderate income residents in Southern Nevada.

NOVEMBER • 11 • 2016 4PM – 9PM

ART • FLORAL • FASHION • DISCO

This year's theme – ART IN FULL BLOOM "A Disco Celebration of Colors" will be dedicated to The Center - the LGBT community and their talents within the art and floral industries. Artist and designers will be asked to focus on the uses of vivid colors in their art and floral designs. Attendees will be encouraged to participate with flamboyant costumes and revelry!

ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO MAKE A DONATION TO SELECTED CHARITY UPON ENTRANCE. BUY ART, RAFFLES AND BID ON SILENT AUCTION.

Art in Full Bloom is a FREE event started as a simple open house for Mayesh Wholesale Florists and has grown into an eclectic mix of floral, art and fun! Local artist are asked to exhibit with opportunities to sell their art. In addition, local floral designers are asked to create a floral design to accent / complement the art piece. There will also be featured Floral Fantasy Fashion Designs, a student competition, raffles, silent auction and fabulous noshes and libations.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.mayesh.com
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SeniorAdvice.com Ranks the Best American Cities for LGBT Seniors

[by Lori Thomas]

SeniorAdvice.com, one of the nation's top senior housing referral services, released a list of America's top cities for gay-friendly retirement today. The company created SeniorScore™, the first comprehensive unbiased scoring system specifically designed to measure the livability for seniors, and most recently determined the top gay-friendly cities for seniors.

SeniorAdvice.com recognizes that the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) older adult community is currently a very important part of the American population to consider.

According to the American Psychological Association, more than 39 million people in the U.S. are age 65 years or older including 1.5 million people who identify as LGBT.

Furthermore, as the baby boomer generation ages, the senior population will increase from 12.8 percent to an estimated 19 percent in 2030, meaning that the LGBT senior niche will undoubtedly grow as well.

The first data-driven senior livability index identifies top cities that are gay-friendly for older adults.

To assemble the list of gay-friendly cities, SeniorAdvice.com utilized SeniorScore, to determine the best cities in general for seniors. The ranking is calculated by compiling and factoring over 100 variables, including access to

health care and number of senior residents, to help determine how well a specific location accommodates the comfort and needs of

senior citizens. SeniorScore takes into account four different categories: health and safety, recreation and leisure, finance, and general quality of life. The SeniorScore is unbiased and is not influenced by personal opinion or financial interests in any way.



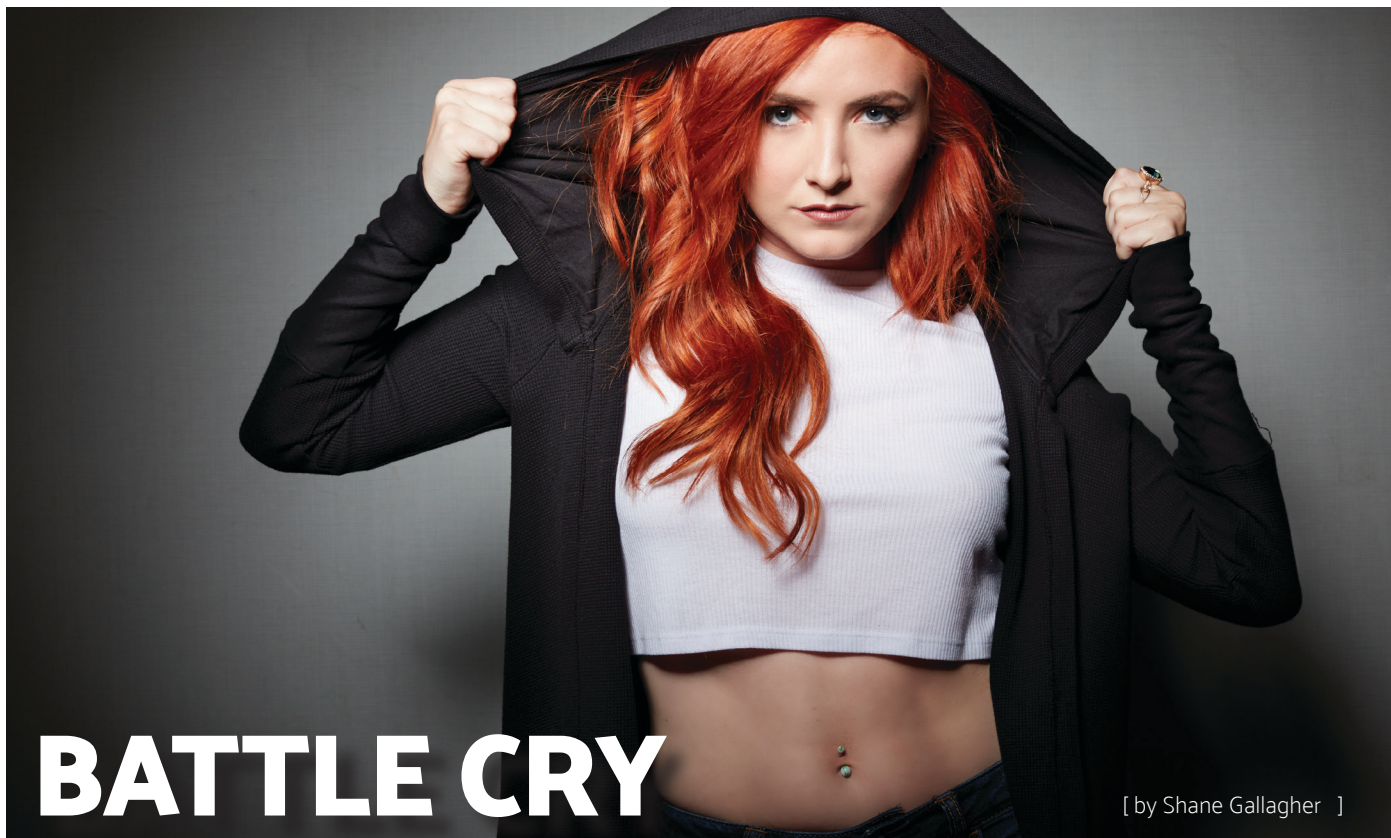
After considering the top cities for seniors through SeniorScore, SeniorAdvice.com carefully researched and identified individual variables and conveniences specifically for the LGBT community. Some of these specific considerations include: acceptance of the LGBT community; gay-friendly bars, clubs and other establishments; LGBT festivals and other recreational activities; level of legal protection for gay, lesbian, and trans residents; and presence of gay senior groups.

“SeniorAdvice.com is an invaluable resource for seniors, their family members, and caregivers to help find the most livable locations. We’re also very dedicated to diversity and inclusion, and we wanted to make sure we could assist members of the gay and lesbian community in finding the best locations for retirement and senior housing,” said SeniorAdvice.com CEO and Founder, Ryan Patterson.

For more information on SeniorScore, visit <http://www.senioradvice.com/seniorscore>. To view details regarding the top gay-friendly cities in America for seniors, visit <https://www.senioradvice.com/articles/americas-best-cities-for-gay-friendly-retirement>.

The following U.S. cities have been named by SeniorScore as the most accommodating for LGBT seniors based on a data-driven algorithm:

- Austin, TX
- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
- Atlanta, GA
- Phoenix, AZ
- Orlando, FL
- Tampa, FL
- Portland, OR
- Seattle, WA
- Columbus, OH
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Dallas, TX
- Las Vegas, NV
- San Francisco, CA
- Houston, TX



BATTLE CRY

[by Shane Gallagher]

Wah Wah Wah” is the true story of DEVMO falling for a girl whose family didn’t approve of their relationship, and how, instead of flipping the bird at her narrow minded parents and whisk DEVMO into the sunset on a lovely white mare, the girl dumps DEVMO to the ground and hooks her wagon to a stallion instead.

“She got a boyfriend as a cover,” recalls DEVMO. “So it sort of turned into a strange competition between this guy and me.”

“Wah Wah Wah” is about DEVMO coming to terms with the mentally damaging situation and accepting her role in it.

“The power of lust and love can sometimes infect your brain and make you a person even you don’t like,” continues DEVMO from her Los Angeles home. “If there is a message to learn from ‘Wah Wah Wah’, its that no matter how far we’ve progressed, society norms still have a way of creeping in and influencing relationships deemed non-traditional.”

Rapper DEVMO takes aim at past exes in her new no-holds-barred single and music video.

DEVMO’S aversion to traditionalism reflects in her music. “Wah Wah Wah” doesn’t follow the typical structure followed by most of today’s songs that adhere to the tried-and-true verse-chorus-verse-chorus-bridge-chorus format. And its alternative grunge sound mixed with sensitive

yet biting lyrics in the chorus and hard hitting rated-R rap during the verses doesn’t exactly sound like songs that play on mainstream

radio.

“In music and in life, I love to switch up the norms and add my own flavor,” she explains. It’s a perspective that is helping DEVMO distinguish herself from other female rappers and artists. Her songs read almost like pages out of a diary with

Bi-Sexual Rapper DEVMO Sheds Crocodile Tears

DEVMO unabashedly sharing her own unique stories with listeners. Nothing is held back in her music, especially her sexual preferences.

“I am bisexual,” she confirms. “I have been in love with both men and women.”

She knows gay women in music who won’t use ‘she’ or ‘her’ because they’re hoping to be more relatable to the masses. DEVMO believes artists should be demanding acceptance and pushing for change. “I have to be honest in my music. It’s the only way to inspire advancement. Our world needs it.”

She holds firm to truth, even when it doesn’t paint her in the brightest light. “Listen, I haven’t been perfect in love. I’ve brought girls home to fuck with their heads in the same way mine has been fucked with. I never thought I could be so evil but the damage past relationships have done to me has turned me into a monster.”

She continues, “Honestly, if I could give any advice based on the experience that inspired ‘Wah Wah Wah’, it would be: if you don’t like someone, leave them the hell alone. It’s so unfair to hold a girl on a string simply because you can. It’s not fun to be someone’s side chick. I’ve been there but I’ll never do it again.

“At least I like to think I won’t.”

DEVMO’s “Wah Wah Wah” is out on iTunes now.

Follow DEVMO:

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<https://www.facebook.com/DevMoMusic/>

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Photos: Magnus Hastings





BOOKBOX

[by Jimmy Newsum]

Gabriella Meghan's debut novel tells the story of Layla Crimson, a millennial who moves to a small lesbian community in Chattanooga to discover herself and come to terms with her true identity.

Once there, Layla quickly becomes the town's "It Girl", experiencing love and lust as she weaves her way in and out of relationships with an assortment of young women. But just as she is thriving in her newfound freedom, a string of mysterious suicides among her inner circle of friends threatens to lead Layla toward a twisted journey of undeniable fate.

It's a spellbinding tale of romance and murder, set in a world not often explored in today's literature.

What was your original inspiration for the novel?

Gabriella Meghan: My original inspiration was the struggles I was going through at the time of my life when I first came out. I was involved in several toxic relationships and friendships, and writing was my outlet to it all.

Are the characters and situations based on your real life?

Gabriella Meghan: The characters and situations are strongly based off of my experiences, but with a twist.

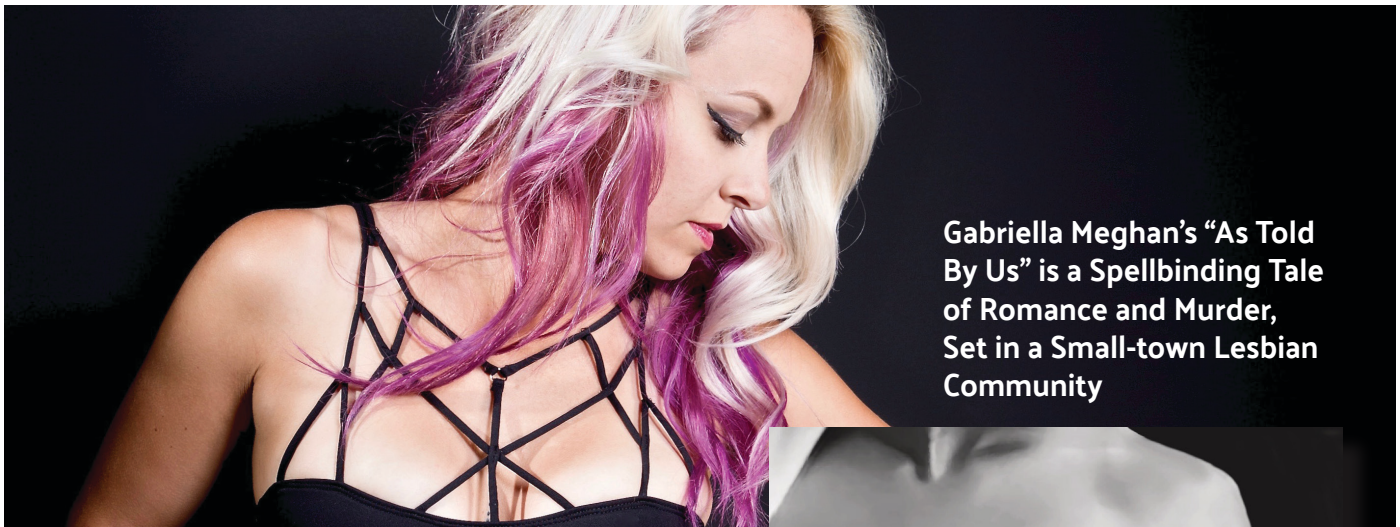
Did you fall into the sex and drugs nightlife scene?

Gabriella Meghan: I did. Looking back on that time in my life seems like a sick scene in a movie. The nightlife quickly consumes you, and it is easy to lose touch with who you are and who you want to be. I lost touch with reality.

It's hard to find a likable character in "As Told By Us". Even Layla, who we want to like, is flawed in ways that make her hard to sympathize with. Was that a conscious decision on your part—to write a story without a clear heroine?

Gabriella Meghan: Yes. I don't think life provides us with heroes or heroines, we have to become the hero/heroine for ourselves. Nobody

Photos: Valentin Casarsa



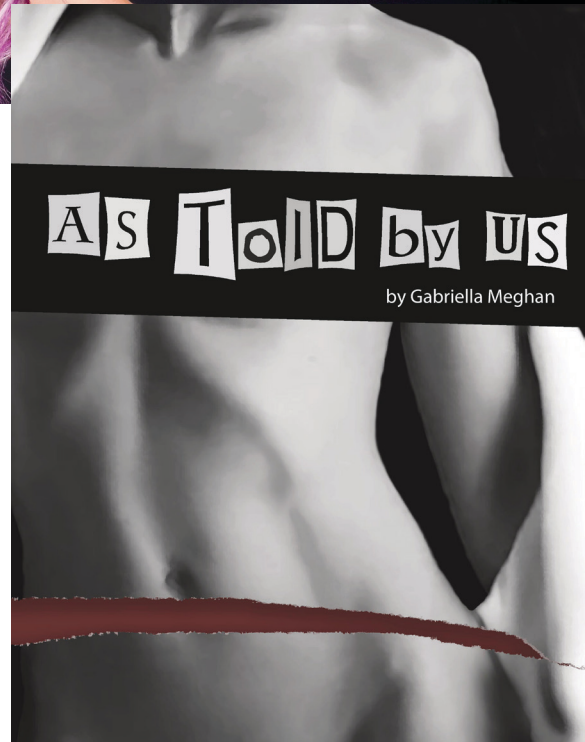
is going to swoop in on a white horse and save us. Layla is relatable to many young adults. She learns by making mistakes, and that is what makes her easy to connect with. Life doesn't always have a happy ending, but we are given free will to create our endings, good or bad. I want readers to understand that nobody is perfect, and that is OK. We are all beautifully flawed like Layla.

That was my next question. The book seems to imply the young gay millennials may be irredeemable.

Gabriella Meghan: We are flawed, but certainly not irredeemable! Being young and naive, it is so easy to get lost in the whirlwind of finding where you belong that you lose track of your goals, dreams and ambitions. It is even more difficult for young gay adults because we still live in a relatively heteronormative society. I think one major thing that the young LGBTQ people need to consider is that we ultimately control our own happiness and our own fate. We have so much more power than we are led to believe. If you are in a situation that isn't ideal, step outside of your comfort zone, take control and make life what you want it to be. You have the power.

I don't want to spoil the ending, but what do you think is next for Layla?

Gabriella Meghan: I think that there is a silver lining in the distance for Layla. I can't quite disclose what that is, but she is about to see the sun rise in ways she hasn't before. Her love, her experiences, and her maturity will flourish. She



will, in a sense, transform, like most young adults do.

Are you working on a sequel?

Gabriella Meghan: No. I have started three other books, two fiction and one poetry, and hope to release one within the next year. I also plan to start traveling and speaking out against domestic violence in LGBTQ relationships. I feel like it's an issue that not many people talk about or take seriously. I want to shed light on the fact that it is happening, and that it is important.

Visit <http://www.gabriellameghan.com>
Follow Gabriella on Twitter @GabriellaMeghan,
Facebook.com/GabriellaMeghanModel, and
Instagram @GabriellaMeghan.



DIRTY PICS

[by Russ White]

When's the last time you did something for the first time?" That's the inspirational quote that kicked off Tough Mudder 2016 at Lake Las Vegas. Featuring a challenging mix of desert mountains, lakefront scenery, and rocky terrain, this event attracts thousands of participants from all over the country, testing physical strength, stamina, and mental grit.

The company's signature event was held October 29 and 30th about 20 miles off The Strip at Lake Las Vegas in Henderson, NV.

"Tough Mudder is all about teamwork and camaraderie. We are not a race, it is a challenge," said Courtney Jordan, Event Director for Tough Mudder Las Vegas. "It's all about team spirit."

It's not about how fast you can cross the finish line. You'll find incredible diversity in fitness levels, athletic abilities, gender, ethnicity, and age (yup, Mini Mudder is a 1-mile course for kids 7-12). For some, Tough Mudder is a personal event that tests their own abilities and determinations. Some register as a team for fun, casual competition, or team building. Tough Mudder even offers a corporate program allowing employees to run the

course together.

Participants are divided into multiple waves with staggered start time to accommodate the thousands of participants that attend and maintain a cadence to the over 20 obstacles.

Each wave goes through a quick orientation in the warm-up area where staff provides guidance on successfully completing obstacles like the Arctic Enema and Electroshock Therapy.

"If you don't know how to swim, this is not the day to learn," advises ERock, this weekend's Warm Up MC. Above all, Tough Mudder is about safety—each obstacle is a personal challenge, but there is no requirement to complete every obstacle. However, the course cannot be completed alone. While many of the obstacles



Pyramid Scheme

test individual physical abilities, other obstacles require participants to work as a team.

For example, in the Pyramid Scheme obstacle participants must scale an incline. The first 1/2 of the incline is slippery—the second 1/2 has some tread. Try to scale it alone, and you slip into the muddy water pit below. Work as a team to build human ladders from the base and pull teammates up and over each other. But don't get too ambitious or you'll pull the whole team into the murky moat below.

This is one example of many challenges that emphasizes teamwork and camaraderie; people helping people recognize their own potential.

Following the Tough Mudder event on Halloween Weekend, the obstacle course gets a makeover in preparation for World's Toughest Mudder in mid-November. Unlike a regular Tough Mudder event, World's Toughest Mudder is a competition.

With events held all over the country, no two courses are the same. "We let the terrain tell us what it wants. We have multiple teams that come out and design these events months in advance,"



said Jordan.

"We'll have some 2017 obstacles for World's Toughest, some signature obstacles, and some World's Toughest only obstacles to challenge these guys," added Jordan.

Adding to the camaraderie, the course features a pit area where all participants and pit crew camp, sleep, recover and refuel.





Electroshock Therapy



Frequent Flyers Club



Birth Canal

Spectator passes for Tough Mudder Las Vegas cost \$20, but World's Toughest Mudder offers free spectator passes. Visit toughmudder.com to register as a participant or spectator for the November 12 World's Toughest Mudder event at Lake Las Vegas.

Happy Thanksgiving

For some people, Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to spend in the kitchen with family and friends, preparing traditional meals. But if you'd rather leave the cooking and cleaning to the pros, here are some options around town that will let you enjoy the holiday without the basting and cleanup.

Shake Shack
Downtown Summerlin
New York-New York Hotel & Casino

November 1-March 31 – Brownie Batter Hot Chocolate \$3.89. Shack-made hot chocolate featuring a blend of bittersweet dark chocolates and rich fudge sauce, topped with whipped cream and chocolate sprinkles.

November 14 – January 1 – Trio of Holiday Shakes \$5.79.

Pumpkin Pie: Four & Twenty Blackbirds pumpkin pie blended with vanilla frozen custard topped whipped cream and spiced pie crumble

Christmas Cookie: Sugar cookie frozen custard topped with whipped cream and red and green sprinkles.

Chocolate Peppermint:
Chocolate frozen custard
blended with peppermint
and topped with

whipped cream and chocolate peppermint candy crumble

db Brasserie
The Venetian
Thanksgiving at db Brasserie
Service begins at 4 p.m.

\$59 per person; \$39 wine pairing add-on (not inclusive of tax and gratuity)

Autumn Salad: mixed greens, pomegranate, pecan, shaved mushrooms, fig vincotto vinaigrette

Venison Terrine: red wine confit shallot, pistachio, toasted sourdough

Butternut Squash Velouté: pumpkin seeds, spiced crème fraîche

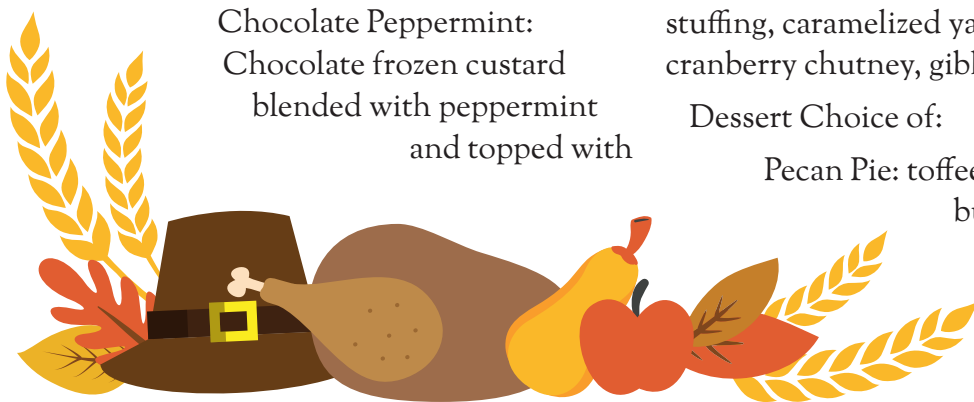
New Hampshire Organic Turkey: chestnut stuffing, caramelized yams, Brussels sprouts, cranberry chutney, giblet gravy

Dessert Choice of:

Pecan Pie: toffee, cinnamon chantilly, butterscotch ice cream

Pumpkin Cheesecake

Spice cake, pepita brittle, bourbon caramel



Buddy V's Ristorante

The Grand Canal Shoppes Venetian Palazzo
Thanksgiving at Buddy V's
Service begins at 1 p.m.

\$45 per person Three-course prix fixe; \$30 wine pairing and \$20 bottle of Prosecco add-ons available (not inclusive of tax and gratuity)

Main entree also available a la carte at \$29 per person, \$15.95 for kids under 10

Roasted Butternut Squash Soup: spiced apples, pepitas, panna dolce

Slow Roasted Turkey Breast

Italian "dark meat" turkey sausage, pancetta-herb stuffing, roasted vegetables, whipped potatoes, cranberry relish and classic gravy

Pumpkin Pie Cheesecake: graham cracker crust, pumpkin-pecan compote

Andiron Steak & Sea
Downtown Summerlin

Thanksgiving at Andiron Steak & Sea

Service begins at 1 p.m.

\$69 per person prix fixe; \$25 beverage pairing add-on (not inclusive of tax and gratuity)

Appetizer Choice of:

Roasted Heirloom Squash Soup

Toasted pumpkin seeds, spiced crème fraîche

Andiron Caesar

Shaved parmesan, croutons, crispy capers

Old Bay Shrimp Cocktail

Horseradish pannacotta, cocktail sauce

Entree Choice of:

Sweet Potato Gnocchi

Tuscan kale, roasted chestnut, sage brown butter

Grilled Scottish Salmon

Spaghetti squash, cippolini onions, meyer lemon vinaigrette

Carved Organic Turkey

Herb brioche stuffing, cranberry sauce, pan gravy

Herb-Crusted Prime Rib

Popovers, horseradish cream, natural jus

Family Style Sides – Mashed potato, candied yams, green bean "casserole," Brussels sprouts & bacon

Dessert Choice of:

Selection of House Made Donuts

Crème brulee, chocolate, caramel

Pumpkin Pie

Cinnamon whipped cream

All Remedy's, Elixir and Distill locations

Thanksgiving Feast
Service begins at 11 a.m.

\$14.95 per person prix fixe

Thanksgiving Feast

Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn – served with soup or salad.

Pumpkin pie for dessert. \$14.95

Hash House A Go Go
Service begins at 10 a.m.

All items a la carte

Butternut Squash Soup (\$5.99)

HH Wedge Salad with hardwood smoked bacon and blue cheese (\$7.99)

Roasted Turkey Breast with homemade mashed potatoes, rosemary gravy, old school



Happy Thanksgiving

dressing, carrots, baby green beans, grilled corn on the cob and cranberry sauce (\$17.99)

Big O' Turkey Pot Pie with a cracker crust filled with roasted turkey, shaved sweet corn, mushrooms, broccoli, carrots, red potatoes and pan gravy (\$16.99)

Homemade Pumpkin Bread Pudding with vanilla ice cream (\$7.99)

Huckleberry Sin cocktail with souvenir Mason jar (\$9.99)

**Carmel Room
Rampart Casino
Carmel Room Thanksgiving 2016
Service begins at 4 p.m.**

\$59 per person prix fixe (includes coffee or tea); also available a la carte (not inclusive of tax and gratuity)

Appetizer Choice of:

Roasted Squash Soup – duck confit, pickled currants \$9

Bitter Greens Salad – hazelnuts, prosciutto, honey, blue cheese \$10

Seared Scallops – celery root, beets, apple \$12

Entree Choice of:

Turkey - chestnut dressing, potato puree, Brussels sprouts, pickled

cranberries, herb gravy \$40

King Salmon – leeks, bacon, crème fraiche, mustard \$42

Venison – parsnip puree, walnuts, cabbage, golden raisins \$45

Dessert Choice of:

Pumpkin Spice Cake - English shortbread, salty caramel sauce, ginger-honey ice cream \$10

Warm Fall Roasted Pear Galette - gingersnap crumble, vanilla crème anglaise, candied pecan ice cream \$10

**Ceres
JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa
Ceres Thanksgiving Brunch
From 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

\$52 per person

Amazing Thanksgiving brunch including pastries, imported & artisan cheeses, salad selections, antipasti, a seafood display including shrimp cocktail and crab claws, Turkey and stuffing along with all the Thanksgiving fixings, entrees also include baked salmon and cheese tortellini, as well as carving station options, cakes, pies and warm desserts too!

**Promenade Café at Rampart Casino
Service begins at 11 a.m.**

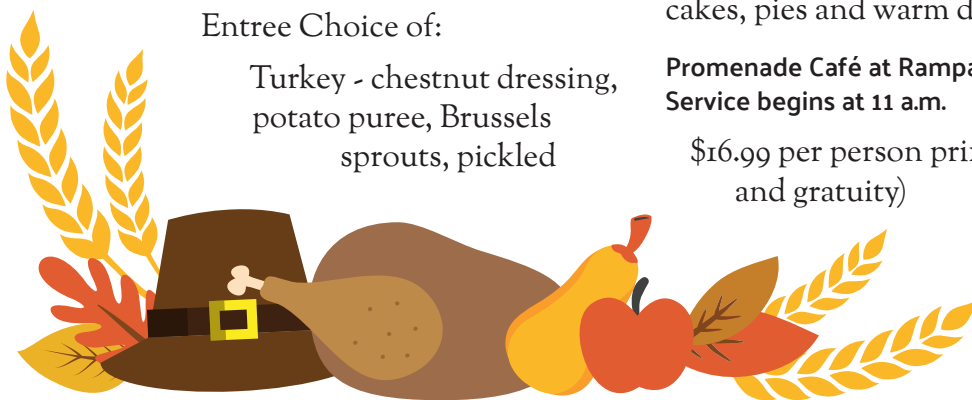
\$16.99 per person prix fixe (not inclusive of tax and gratuity)

Appetizer Choice of:

Soup Du Jour

Winter Kale Salad

Baby Kale mix,



Feta, Cranberries, Toasted Pine nuts, White Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entree Choice of:

Traditional Roasted Turkey

White and dark meat, green bean casserole, mashed potato, herb stuffing, and turkey gravy

Roasted Pork Loin

Butternut Squash, Caramelized Brussel Sprouts, Apple Chutney

Dessert:

Aunt Betty's Pumpkin Pie: with vanilla crème anglaise

Rampart Buffet at Rampart Casino
Service begins at 11 a.m.

\$21.99 per person prix fixe (not inclusive of tax and gratuity); \$19.99 with player's club card

Wide selection of Thanksgiving brunch offerings including Apple Cranberry Stuffed Pork Loin, and Roasted Turkey and Prime Rib of Beef at the caring station.

Dozens of home-cooked holiday dishes, including vegetarian and vegan options, are donated from The Center's supporters, and numerous community members over the age of 24 volunteer their time to host and serve.

To donate food or volunteer, sign up at www.volunteersignup.org/W47JE.

Youth Thanksgiving at The Center



A popular annual tradition at The Center, the QVolution youth program will host a free buffet-style Thanksgiving meal for LGBTQ and allied youth ages 13 to 24 to enjoy with their chosen family and friends on November 21 from 6-9pm.





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and human rights
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Hillary Clinton, December 6, 2011

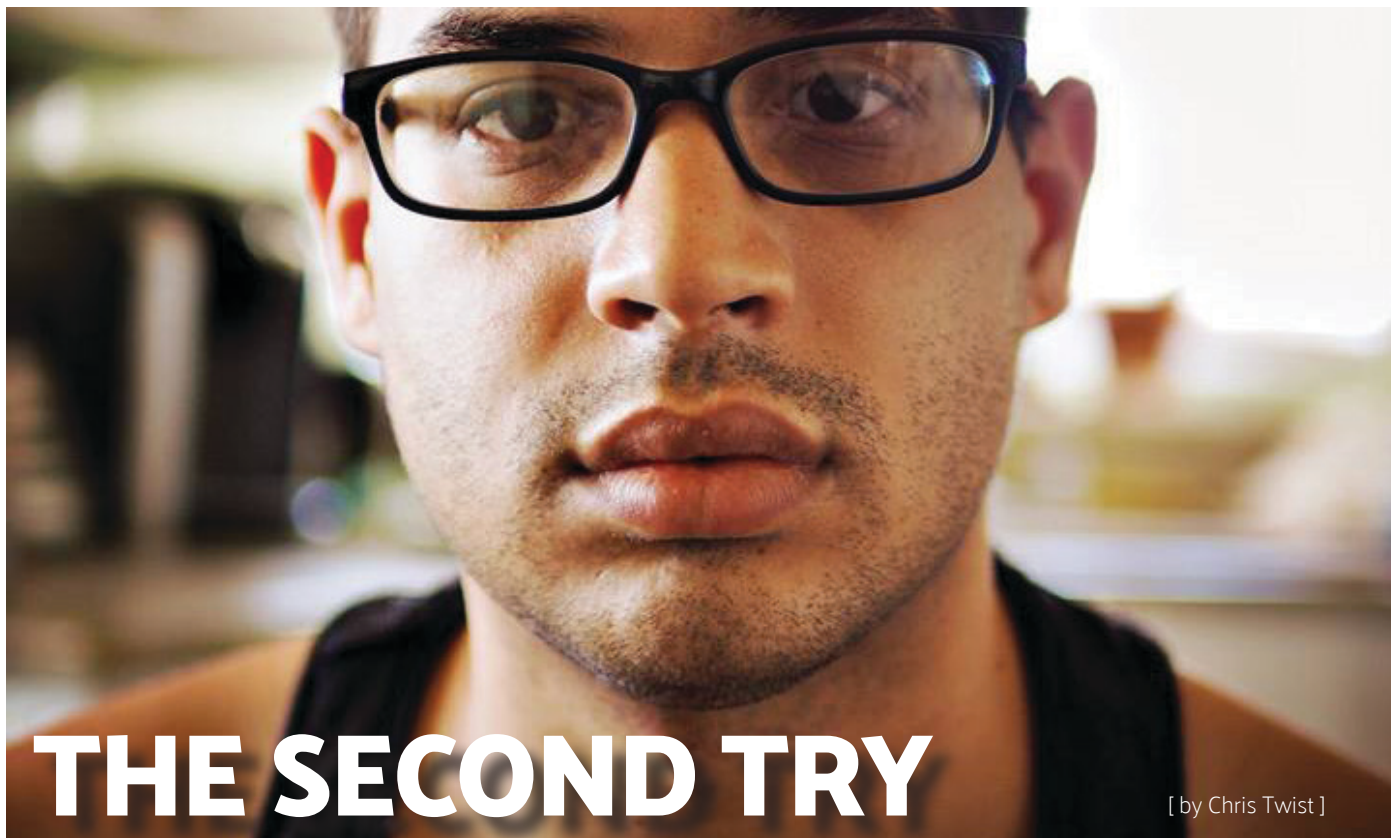


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THE SECOND TRY

[by Chris Twist]

I can't say enough incredible things about QVegas. I couldn't try to work if I didn't start writing for QVegas. I finally felt like I was an author again. I wasn't just a man who had a brain injury.

It made me think about more than my problems and it gave me the strength to tell people that I am a columnist again. It's still weird to think about the fact that two years ago I could only say "fuck" and "love," but now I can write all of this without anybody to help me. It makes me feel like I'm going to be fine in the end. I really needed QVegas to tell me that I am able to do these things that I used to do so very well. I was finally going back to something that was such a big part of my mind and whatever souls are. QVegas will always mean a lot to me because I am now a creator again; and nobody can change that. This was something that I needed, and QVegas was there to help me when I needed it the most.

Now, I use exercise more than anything. It works both my body and my mind in ways that only training can do. Monday-through-Saturday, I do push-ups, squats, abs, and the treadmill to burn about 500 calories. It helps me to like

myself, to love how I look, and mostly it helps my intellect, my ability to multitask. It helps my consciousness to work with words, sentences, paragraphs, and this article, all of my essays. Anybody who thinks that working out only helps the figure and doesn't help the awareness-of-your-judgement is very, very wrong. Exercise increases circulation. This helps heal my brain. Exercise also helps your brain by cleaning your mind. I think that all of you who are reading this article right now should have sessions every day, even if just little portions of body work. Doing little bits of active-work every day will still help your shape and your talent, whatever that talent might be. It will help you in more ways than you would think. Using exercise has made my brain stronger and ready for more, like working, a part of my life that I miss. Without movement, I wouldn't be this excellent.

I also read and write every day. I either study

books or compose music or prose every day and my ability to do both of these things is getting better all the time. I feel like I'm ready to work as an author again. I can see why others thought that I could only read easy children books and not harder adult books; but that is not true at all. One of the first books that I read was *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This is definitely an adult book, one of the books that I read when I was in school for my B.A. in English. I was so happy that I could finally read the kind of books that I used to love, and that I still love those books. Another book that I read was called "Digital Marketing Practice Guide for SMBs: SEO, SEM, and SMM Practice Guide" by Venakata Ramana Rolla. This book is all about working with the world of websites and search-sites like Google, Yahoo, or Bing. I'm still writing advertisements and shows. Now, I have made seven advertisements and two episodes of shows that are popular shows. I used to be an SEO writer in Las Vegas for three years, and I thought, now that I can write again, that working as an SEO writer would be great for me, but I wanted to read a book about SEOs to make sure that I really have the ideas and the facts about how SEO works and help shops around the world. I'm also writing all the time, like right now. Right now, I'm writing an article about everything that I do and want to do. Every time that I use words in sentences and paragraphs, it helps my brain and helps me to go back to the person that I used to be. I am always yearning for more, more words, sentences, paragraphs, and chapters.

I started a class for beginning photography on October 24th. I have done this class before, but I don't know how much I will remember, so I wanted to go back to the. It would be incredible if I could, eventually, become a photographer for work again. I have a camera. I'm looking forward to this.

I was a writer for many companies in the last ten years. My favorite work was with Edelman, one of the world's biggest advertising company. My clients included: Dixie, Quilted Northern, Brawny, Angel Soft, Papa John's, Sandvik Mining, Nestle, Juice Plus+, Laser Spine Institute, mBlox,

Gap International, and Arby's. I was a writer and a photographer. I was also a writer, content, and communications coordinator for Wonder Soil. I was an interviewer for NV Business Services/ Mitchanne LLC where I wrote business plans. I even wrote a novel when I was only twenty-one. Now, I try every day to get better with words and ideas.

This was how I was going to start working again as a writer, as an SEO writer. I think that this work would be marvelous for my aphasia because I can use the thesaurus all the time and use new words in my writing. Like how I just used "marvelous" in this paragraph. I didn't know about "marvelous," but I did know about "amazing." So, I used the thesaurus to look at more words that were like "amazing." Marvelous was a better word to use than "amazing." If I did this all the time as a writer for SEOs, then I would always use new words and my aphasia would affect my life less and less. Companies don't want to work with a person who has a brain injury. I've tried to email every group for SEOs in Las Vegas, and nobody wants to work with me. I don't think that this is right at all. Just because I have a brain injury doesn't mean that I'm going to be happy with the little bit of money that I get each month for my disability. Actually, I hate my disability money. I would rather work then get a little bit of money each month, and I'm ready to work. I want to work more than anything in my life. Working was such a big part of me. Working all the time would get my mind away from myself and that would be very good for me.

If you have friends or family who have a brain injury, don't just think about them as a brain injury survivor. There is so much more about us that you need to know and care about. It's easy to think that these people will never be anything more than their brain injury, but this is wrong and it makes us feel like we are already dead in a way. The goals that I have make me who I am, not my brain injury. Every day, I try to be active and able to do new things, because I will never feel like I'm done learning and making new materials so that I can be better than I used to be.



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SHE LOVES BOY BOOTY, AND SO DO WE.

We had a chance to catch up with new rap artist Malka Red, whose hit single “Boy Booty” is making waves.

QVegas: Tell us your story. How did you decide to become a rapper?

I grew up in Vegas, and I went to high school at the Las Vegas Academy as a theatre major. When I found out I’d have a minute and a half to give a speech at graduation, I wanted to come up with a creative way to grab the audience’s attention. I wrote a rap. Actually, it was more like a rap/Dr.Seuss-y poem, but the crowd went wild. Throughout college, I wrote some slam poetry and rap, and I created a class with some other rappers called “The Language of Hip Hop.” We studied the history and culture of hip hop, as well as rap techniques.

But I still didn’t take myself seriously as a rapper until about a year ago, when I moved to New York. I actually thought I’d focus on acting when I moved here, but when I started going to open mics and performing my songs, I was having so much fun. Most people getting up on the mic where white guys with guitars who’d sing ballads, and I was up there rapping about boy butts.

I realized that instead of auditioning and waiting for a director to say “yes” to me, I could say “yes” to myself whenever I wanted by writing my own music and performing in bars. And, since then, I’ve put most of my energy into creating and performing music — but I’m also a sketch comedy writer, playwright, and actor.

QVegas: Where did the idea for “Boy Booty” come from?

For a lot of my songs, I try to address a social issue through humor. That’s where “Boy Booty” came from — there are so many songs, all the time, about girls’ asses. So, I wanted to point out that dichotomy. That’s why most of my lines are references to songs about girl butts. To write the song, I put together what I called my “study playlist” of more than 40 songs about women’s butts.

QVegas: You’ve described “Boy Booty” as an “accidental gay anthem.” Can you tell us why?

As I said, I wrote “Boy Booty” originally as a feminist song. When I performed it at bars, I’d call



Las Vegas Rapper Malka Red Accidentally Creates Gay Anthem

up two unsuspecting men from the audience and force them to be my backup dancers. It was always hilarious. One of my lines is “Put your hands up if you like boy booty,” and all the gay guys would shoot their hands into the air. I remember the night I really realized the song was like a gay anthem — I called this gay couple onstage to dance with me, and they were just so into it.

Then, I started booking gay clubs and bars, and I was having the time of my life. I performed at the biggest gay club in Portugal this summer -- Trumps Lisboa -- and it was an incredible experience.

When I told Queerty that I created the song originally as a feminist sort of anthem and that it was being embraced by gay guys (for obvious reasons), they coined the phrase “accidental gay anthem” to describe it.

QVegas: Who are inspirations for your music?

Nicki Minaj, Chance, Lady Leshurr, Lady Gaga, Angel Haze.

QVegas: Where did the name Malka Red come from?

“Malka” means “queen” in Hebrew — so I’m Red Queen.

I studied Evolutionary Anthropology in college, and in a biology class we talked about the “Red Queen Hypothesis.” It says that species have to keep evolving just to stay in existence. The idea comes from *Through the Looking Glass*, when the Red Queen took Alice’s hand and said, “My dear, here we must run as fast as we can, just to stay in place.”

Before Malka Red, I called myself ReMC, and I would refer to myself as the Red Queen in my early songs. Eventually, I changed my name. To me, it means other rappers are going to have to be constantly evolving just to keep up with me!

QVegas: What’s next for you?

I’m working on five new songs that I’m really excited about, and I’m planning another music video for my song “Red Queen.” I’ll also be home in Vegas from November 17 - 30, and I’m hoping to perform a few times while there.

Search for “Boy Booty music video” on YouTube. Follow @malkared on Twitter and Instagram and find her on Spotify, YouTube, and iTunes. Give her a like on facebook.com/RedMalkaRed. IG & Twitter: @malkared

Photos:



HOLIDAY JUKEBOX

Christmas comes early this year as Australia's HUMAN NATURE, one of the world's greatest pop vocal groups and a true Las Vegas success story announce a holiday "twist" to their critically-acclaimed new show JUKEBOX for a limited engagement beginning **November 29, 2016, at The Sands Showroom inside The Venetian® Las Vegas.**

For 14 performances only, the awesome Aussies will infuse a collection of holiday classics as part of their JUKEBOX. These limited holiday performances will celebrate the season's favorites from the group's best-selling CD, *The Christmas Album*, including "Christmas Baby Please Come Home," "White Christmas," "Silent Night," "O Holy Night," and "Winter Wonderland."

HUMAN NATURE'S foursome, Toby Allen, Phil Burton and brothers Andrew and Mike Tierney, have been dazzling Las Vegas audiences this year with their JUKEBOX as they celebrate a mix of pop classics with doo-wop, boy band with Bandstand, soul standards with Motown... and even some "Uptown Funk." Las Vegas Magazine hails the show as "an incredibly addictive evening

of entertainment."

Backed by a dynamic seven-piece band and world-class dancers, JUKEBOX is not only a playlist of the group's influences, but some of the most-loved hit songs from the best vocal artists and groups of all time, including "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," "Stand By Me," "Unchained Melody," "Dance To The Music" and "Under The Boardwalk."

"After the amazing response we received last year to our Christmas show, we knew we had to incorporate some of the season's classics into our jukebox to celebrate the holidays," said Human Nature's Andrew Tierney. "There is nothing like the joy of holiday music and the happiness it brings audiences from all parts of the globe, not to



mention for us as well.”

“JUKEBOX is an infectious, 90-minute, nonstop extravaganza of energy as the band belts out chart toppers with a Tyson knockout punch

- it’s a winner the entire way,” said the legendary Robin Leach. He has also sung the praises of this talented quartet’s Christmas

delivery: “The [Human Nature] show is full of tidings of great joy and songs of wondrous delight, and it’s all a truly beautiful and entertaining musical night.”

Voted Las Vegas’ #1 vocal group, Human Nature is comprised of brothers Andrew and Mike Tierney, Phil Burton and Toby Allen from Sydney, Australia. They have become the #1 pop vocal group ever in Australia, scoring 24 platinum awards, 18 Top 40 hits and five Top 10 hits. It was their million-selling Motown tribute,

Reach Out that got the attention of the legendary Smokey Robinson, who helped them launch their acclaimed Motown Show, which has played for nearly six years in Las Vegas. Currently the group

is performing to sold-out crowds with their multi-year residency at The Venetian.

Human Nature:
JUKEBOX with a

holiday ‘twist’ performs November 29, 30, December 1-3, 3, 13-17, and 20-23; all shows are at 7 p.m. in The Sands Showroom at The Venetian Las Vegas. Tickets range from \$49.00 to \$125.00 + taxes and fees, with a special VIP ticket at \$140.00 and can be purchased at any box office at The Venetian or The Palazzo or by calling 702-414-9000 or 866-641-7469. Tickets are also available at HumanNatureLive.com or Venetian.com. Locals can receive a special two-for-one ticket offer if purchased by November 13, 2016, by using code: 241LOCAL.

After the amazing response we received last year to our Christmas show, we knew we had to incorporate some of the season’s classics into our jukebox to celebrate the holidays



AFAN Commemorates World AIDS Day December 1

[by Garrett Pattiani]

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) will show its support in the fight against HIV and AIDS and honor those who have passed away on World AIDS Day on Thursday, Dec. 1 with a series of commemorations around town.

At 10 a.m., the world-famous “Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas” sign will turn red with Clark County commissioners and officials alongside AFAN Executive Director Antioco Carrillo to recognize the significance of the day in both Las Vegas and internationally.

Several casinos and landmarks across the valley will also turn their marquees red in support of this cause, including The Venetian and The Palazzo, Keep Memory Alive Event Center, Fremont Street Experience, Stratosphere Casino, Hotel, & Tower, Plaza Hotel & Casino, Miracle Mile Shops, and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

“We wanted to make this year the biggest and brightest year yet,” said Carrillo. “It is incredible to see so many of Las Vegas’ landmarks stand united for this cause. World AIDS Day serves as a reminder that this disease still affects people today and how important it is to take control of

your health and know your status.”

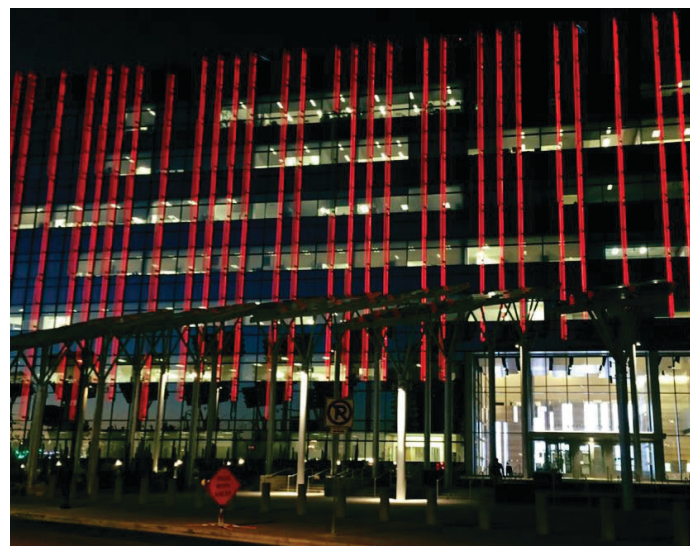
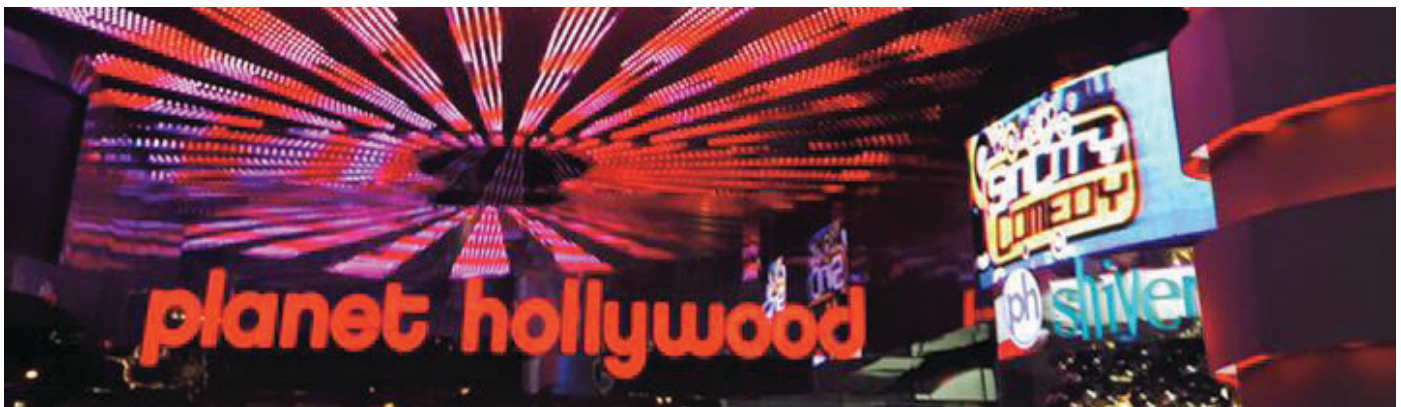
The first World AIDS Day was held in 1988 and was the first-ever health awareness day to be recognized globally. Today, an estimated 34 million people live with HIV worldwide and AFAN helps more than 1,200 adults and children in Southern Nevada through direct client service programs, food programs, prevention and education programs and community outreach.

For more information on this initiative or to make a donation visit afanlv.org.

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Photos: AFAN



VEGAS LIKE A LOCAL

[by Michael Barbieri, myvegasobsession.com]

Here's a fact of life in Las Vegas: Most locals avoid the Strip. Yes, the Strip is dazzling, especially for first time visitors, but if you want to eat, drink, and play with the locals, you have to explore some of the outlying towns and neighborhoods like Summerlin, Henderson, The Fruit Loop, Downtown Las Vegas (DTLV,) and Huntridge, to name a few.

Over the years, I've made many friends here; among them my publishers Russ and Garrett, Ellen and Rudy - a sweet retired couple, Joey, who lives outside of Vegas proper, Rhiannon, and Brett - born and raised in Las Vegas. Through them, I've discovered the world beyond the Strip.

My guide for this exhausting, fascinating, and slightly inebriated day of research, was my Sin City sister, Rhiannon.

Our first stop was the historic Huntridge District, a residential and commercial neighborhood marked by the presence of the Huntridge Theater, a striking old movie palace designed by S. Charles Lee in the art deco style called Streamline Moderne. Opened in 1944, the structure sports sleek, geometric lines, and an enormous rectangular "fin." In 1993, the

theater was added to the National Register of Historic Places, but these days it sits empty and in disrepair. Still, this gorgeous relic speaks of a time when going to the movies was an event!

Across from the theater, a soon-to-be renovated strip mall contained some surprises, the first one being the Huntridge Pharmacy and Soda Fountain. Stepping inside was like taking a time machine back to 1962, when this combination drug store and Woolworth-style kosher diner premiered. Everything here was classic - the prescription window where family pharmacists still know their customers by name, the used vinyl records for sale, the black and white checkered linoleum flooring, the booths with red vinyl banquettes, and the low swivel stools at the luncheon counter. The menu had kitschy 1950's-sounding categories like Be-Bop A Lula

Wraps & Sandwiches, Peggy Sue Pizzas, and Blue Suede Sundaes. We ordered sandwiches: the Mambo Italiano for me, made with fresh mozzarella and tomato grilled on garlic butter Texas toast, and Rhiannon chose the Elvis Sandwich - grilled peanut butter and banana on thick, toasted white bread. We noticed that the place was uncomfortably hot, as the AC was on the fritz, but the counterman told us he'd bring our food next door to the Huntridge Tavern - the two businesses are connected via an internal hallway.

As we walked to the tavern, we stopped into the Hi-Rollers Barbershop, another throwback to yesteryear, but with hip young barbers, a stylish clientele, and a rockabilly feel. Haircuts, straight razor shaves, and pomade styling are on the menu here, in a friendly retro environment!

Dive bar? Hipster bar? Neighborhood watering hole? The Huntridge Tavern is all of the above. A dimly-lit, narrow space with dark wood paneling, flocked red velvet wallpaper, a few booths, and a bar that stretches the length of the room, people don't come here to drink, they come to DRANK!!! Open 24/7, they have a full bar, and over 50 different beers, plus they allow customers to purchase bottles of liquor. Dirt cheap drinks are served by hip female bartenders, and best of all, the place isn't overrun by tourists! Rhiannon and I got comfortable at one of the tall tables, and each had a shot - tequila for me, vodka for her. Soon enough, our food arrived from next door, and the sandwiches were simple but tasty, accompanied by mountains of really good french fries. On a hot afternoon, the tavern was a cool, dark sanctuary for us and a handful of regulars. On a weekend night? Well, I'm sure the diverse crowd of locals, old-timers, hipsters, and pin-up queens get the place jumping!

SHUT UP and DRINK! That's the motto at our next stop, the Double Down Saloon. The Double Down is the gold standard of dive bars! They even refer to themselves as a clubhouse for the lunatic fringe. Since 1992, the saloon has been home to those seeking cheap booze, free live music, pinball & pool, insane videos, and a kick-ass jukebox

with music ranging from The Cramps to Louis Prima!

We got there about 4:30, to catch the end of Happy Hour, where everything, including top shelf liquor costs \$3.00! Although we were the only customers, the place delivered on its reputation! Here are some of the impressions with which I was left:

The place is DARK! When you come inside during daylight hours, it takes your eyes a while to adjust!

The decor is studiously seedy! The ceiling over the bar is a melange of twinkle lights and stapled-up dollar bills, and the black walls are covered with bumper stickers, pictures of drunken customers, and disturbing murals which include a guy vomiting into a toilet!

They created the Bacon Martini.

Their signature shot, Ass Juice, comes in a souvenir toilet-shaped shot glass. (Yes, I bought one!)

They sell Puke Insurance - you throw up, you clean it up...unless you've bought insurance!

The bathrooms? Don't ask!

Despite all this seediness, the bartender was super friendly, and made me a killer Bacon Bloody Mary, with bacon infused vodka and a Slim Jim garnish! Also, because they're located within The Fruit Loop, an area known for its concentration of gay bars, they do get the occasional gay customers - as we sat there chatting and drinking, a nice older gentleman came in and voila, I was no longer the only LGBT drinker! I'm betting the nighttime crowds are rowdy and rough, but if you're feeling bold and want to experience a dark, dingy, bastion of booziness, you couldn't do better than the Double Down Saloon!

By the time we left, it was time for dinner. We met up with Russ and Brett at a fantastic, out of the way restaurant: Lola's - A Louisiana Kitchen. This lively, bustling family joint serves some of the best Cajun food I've tried outside of New Orleans! We split an order of Fried Okra - light and crispy, with a yummy, spicy remoulade sauce.



I ordered the Char Grilled Oysters - not on par with the ones down south, but still very good. My friends, who didn't care for oysters really enjoyed their first taste of these cheesy, garlicky, slightly smoky bivalves! Rhiannon chose the Bronzed Shrimp & Grits - pan bronzed gulf shrimp and Gouda grits served with a mushroom and andouille sausage ragout. The boys had the excellent Etouffée - rich, buttery, and extra spicy. Yum! I had the Shrimp Charlotte - sautéed shrimp and mushrooms in a wonderfully spicy broth, over angel hair pasta. We would've tried one of Lola's homemade desserts, but we were off to our next stop...

Luv-it Frozen Custard has been a Vegas favorite since 1973. Both Brett and Rhiannon had raved about it, so I had to go. Located in a wood-framed shop on East Oakey Boulevard, Luv-it serves thick, smooth, eggy frozen custard, made fresh daily. They specialize in sundaes, and folks drive up, walk to the window where

they place their orders, and generally eat the custard while standing in the parking lot. When we arrived, there was only one flavor available - vanilla, which was fine, as I wanted to sample their product as simply as possible. Rhiannon had the Scotch Jimmie Treat - custard, butterscotch, and chocolate jimmies, or sprinkles as some call them. I chose the Luv-it Special, with strawberry conserves and crushed pecans. Both were delicious, with the not-too-sweet custard mixing beautifully with the tasty toppings. If you're visiting Vegas and looking for a dessert you can't find at the big casinos, give Luv-it a try. I think you'll love it!

Vegas has so much more to offer than just the Strip and the big casinos. Try the restaurants in Chinatown, shop at the Las Vegas North Premium Outlets, drink, dine, and play at Ichabod's Lounge, or grab a beer at the Fun Hog Ranch. Get to know the locals and you'll get to know the real Vegas!



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We are proud to sponsor any Las Vegas LGBTQ or HIV/AIDS focused non-profit organization with year-round advertising every month. Our sponsorships include The Gay & Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada, Lambda Business Association, Aid for AIDS of Nevada, The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Golden Rainbow, and Nevada Gay Rodeo Association.

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QVegas and Gay.Vegas are proud members of the National Equality Publishers Association—a consortium of local LGBTQ publications across the Top 25 markets in the US. As founding members, we represent the Las Vegas market for national advertisers wanting to reach multiple markets with a single media buy.

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As an international travel destination, QVegas and Gay.Vegas readers span the global. In 2015, visitors from Russia, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Australia, and Brazil represented 20% of our readership.

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While we attract readers of all ages, ethnicities, and sexual orientations, our core US demographic is 35-54, predominantly gay men, no kids, college educated, earning 32% more than the US average household. 27% earn more than \$100K per year.

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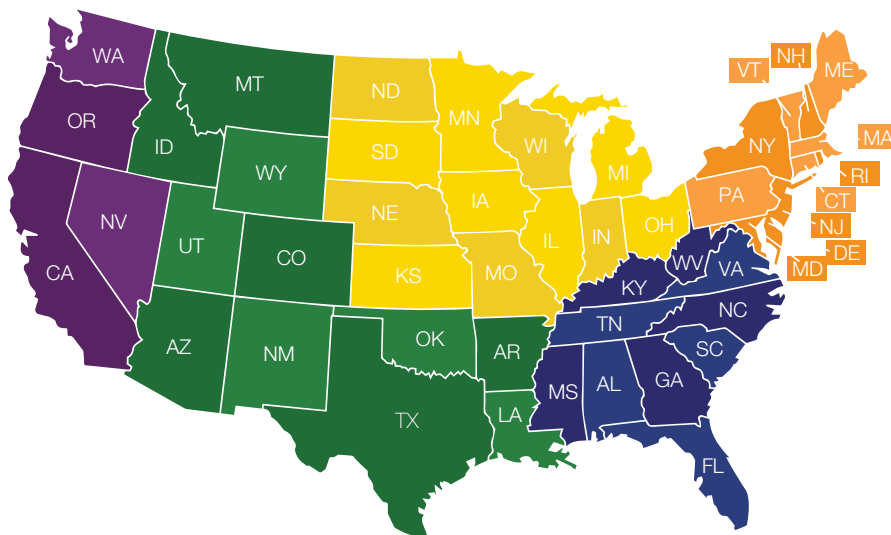
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Throwing Shade: **WILLAM SUCKS LESS**

[by Garrett Pattiani]

O HMYGOD, YOU'RE SO PRETTY!" "HOW DO YOU WALK IN THOSE?" "CAN I TOUCH YOUR HAIR?" Those are three things I hear from strangers every time I go out.

That's the introduction from Willam Belli's new book, *Suck Less*.

QVegas: You have been very great at marketing yourself and staying relevant, did you have a background in marketing?

I used to suck dick behind an Acme supermarket in Philly from 16-18. So that's technically a past in a market.

QVegas: What style of drag would you classify yourself?

Luxe Clown Whore

QVegas: In what ways did RPDR change your life?

RDR made more people say my name right and taught me to not worship false idols.

QVegas: How do people treat you after being famous?

Kindness is free. I treat people how I wanna be treated. And sure, you may say, "you host a show called BEATDOWN on which you're a bully" but

I only tell assholes that are misguided the T. If I was acting like a tool like most of the people on my show, I would want someone to tell me, too.

QVegas: What is your best advice to the LGBTQ and drag community?

Suck Less (and volunteer- nothing feels better than giving back other than tax write-offs for your time)

QVegas: Tell us more about *Suck Less*. Where can we get it and why does everyone need it?

You can purchase SUCK LESS wherever books or spunk bank material is sold. Amazon is easy.

QVegas: How did you come up with the idea for your popular web series, *The Beatdown*, and what does the new season have in store?

It's a Mystery Science Theater rip-off. I was over all these dumb tutorials where people talk in fake voices behind a ring light.



QVegas: Who do you admire the most in life and why?

Chris Hardwick, the creator of Nerdlist. He created something outta nothing and is a fuckin juggernaut who does it all. Pop culture, musically inclined comedy, business.

QVegas: What are your future goals? What's next for you and your career?

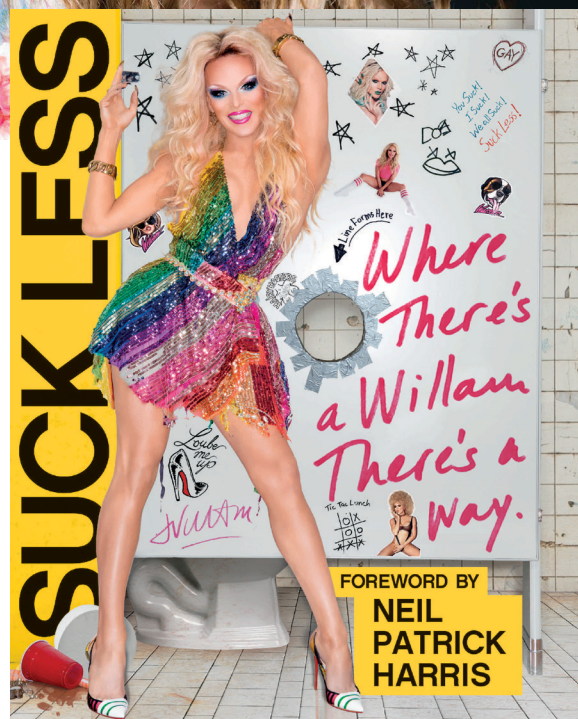
I don't make plans til I see the coin. I can tell you that I'm looking forward to appearing opposite Guy Pearce in ABC's When We Rise, a miniseries on LGBT life in SF coming this spring from Lance Black and Gus Van Sant.

QVegas: What is the main goal you hope to accomplish with your fans?

I wanna make people happy or horny.

QVegas: What really happened on the famous episode of RPDR when you left the show?

Read the book. There's a quiz with lots of answers and many (or all) might be true including that one where a producer fucked me in a bathroom stall the last day of production.



Suck Less has been the #1 self-help book on Amazon for over a week. Below are links where you can purchase:

Amazon (Kindle/Paperback/Audible) - <https://www.amazon.com/Suck-Less-Where-Theres-Willam/dp/1455566195>

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