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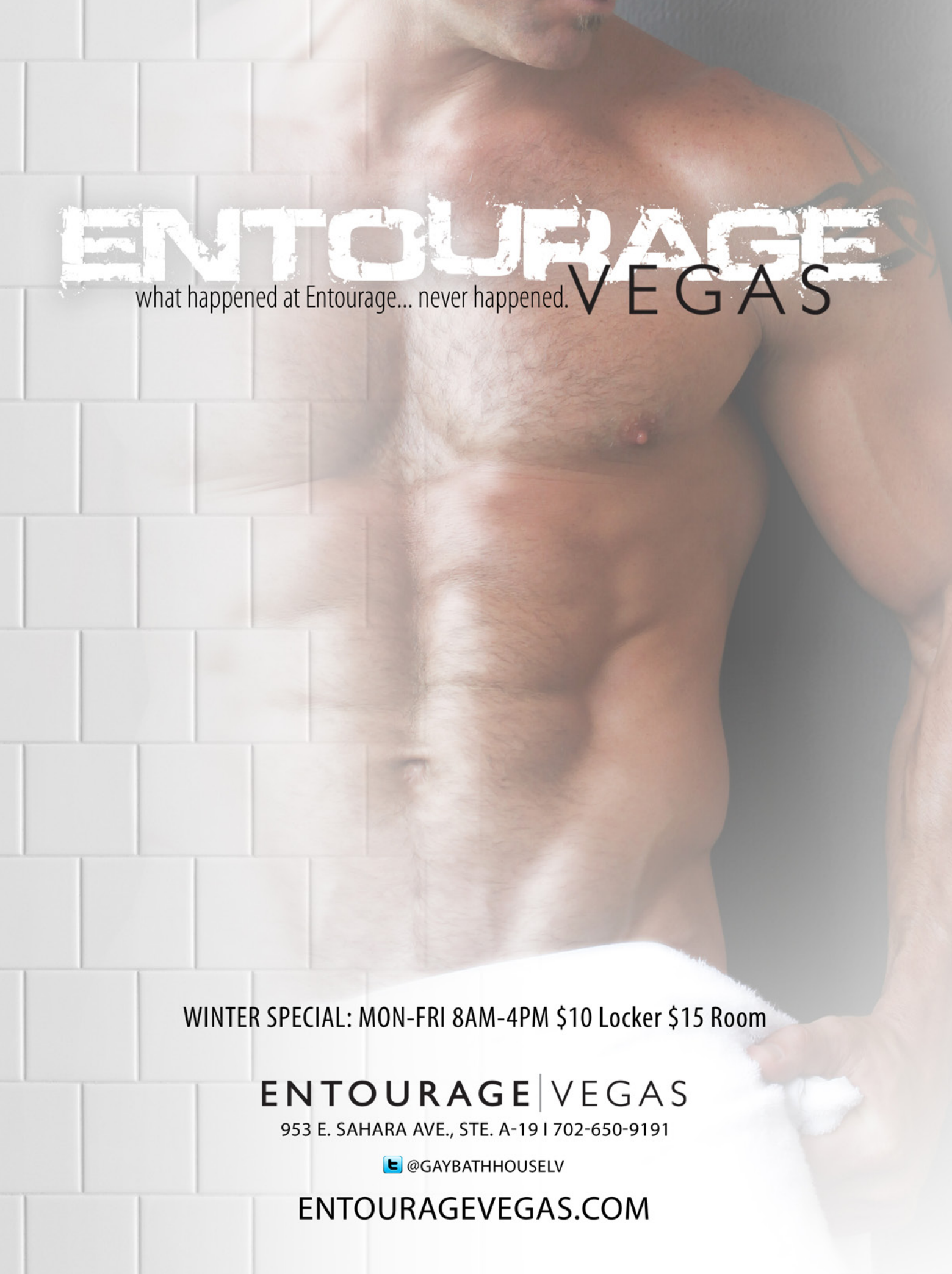
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2011

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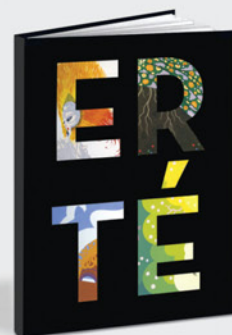
Rare original works, serigraphs and bronzes will be on hand for acquisition as well as the newly-published book, *Erté, A Celebration*, a collector's item.

GALA EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, December 1, 2011

7:00 – 9:00 PM

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DECEMBER 2011 **YEAR IN REVIEW** ISSUE



COVER



2011 RECAP

2011 WAS A YEAR FULL OF MAJOR ADVANCES TOWARDS EQUALITY. HOWEVER, WITH EVERY VICTORY, THERE WERE ALSO SOME SETBACKS.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER AWARDS

SEE WHICH LGBT COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS WON WHEN WE ASKED OUR READERS TO VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITES OF 2011.

THE BRIAN FACTOR

THE QVEGAS EXCLUSIVE Q&A WITH THE 4 TIME MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARD NOMINEE & CHOREOGRAPHER FOR THE X FACTOR USA, BRIAN FRIEDMAN.

JAYMES VAUGHAN

GET TO KNOW ONE OF THE BUSIEST MEN IN LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINMENT. JAYMES IS THE LEAD SINGER FOR TWO PRODUCTIONS ON THE STRIP AT THE SAME TIME AND JUST RELEASE HIS FIRST SINGLE AS A SOLO RECORDING ARTIST.

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a note from our EDITOR

I love history and QVegas' "Year In Review" is by far the most challenging issue to piece together! This year we created "1 Step Forward, 2 Steps Backward", a quick look at 2011. We hope to create awareness surrounding the accomplishments that have been achieved over the past year and, while it was a challenge, we could have dedicated the entire magazine to this new column but then nothing else would have been reported and we have some great articles this month! We don't want 2 Steps Backward to give the appearance that we are not moving forward, but felt the need to point out the ugly discrimination that still plagues our society and our country, coming from people who we would never have expected such behavior from. We are so pleased with 1 Step Forward, 2 Steps Backward that we plan on the column appearing throughout next year's issues.

Our cover this month is Jaymes Vaughn with Chippen-
dales, a young man who recently came out profession-
ally and now gives his time to making changes within our
community, I hope you enjoy his story as much as I have
enjoyed getting to know Jaymes. Happy New Year, Vegas...
and thanks for all your support of the magazine this past
year, good fortune and health to all our readers for 2012.
See you "Out" on New Years Eve.

 Kelly McFarlane Smith



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NOH8 CAMPAIGN 3RD ANNIVERSARY

The NOH8 Campaign will celebrate its third anniversary of “raising awareness for the fight for human equality for all.” The City of West Hollywood will proclaim Tuesday, December 13, 2011 “NOH8 DAY” with an on stage proclamation from Mayor John Duran at the House of Blues at 8430 W. Sunset Blvd. in West Hollywood.

To mark this occasion, the founders of the NOH8 Campaign, photographer Adam Bouska and his partner Jeff Parshley, will transform the House of Blues into a NOH8 Gallery Show, featuring hundreds of the 18,000+ portraits taken since the project’s incarnation in 2008.

Doors to the House of Blues will open at 7 p.m. with Red Carpet arrivals 8, Photos will be taken on stage from 8:30-9:30

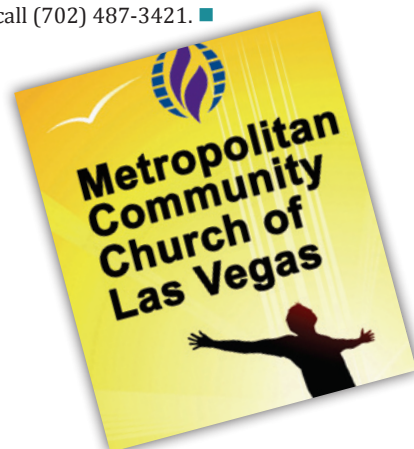
pm, followed by live talent performances with DMC (of RUN DMC), Mya and other surprises. ■

HOLIDAY CHURCH

MCC-LV invites the entire LGBTQ community to a traditional midnight Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24th at 11:00 p.m. (Hospitality and refreshments begin at 10:00 p.m.). Local Las Vegas talents will be featured. Previous year’s celebrations have featured talent such as Rick Faguno of the hit Strip Broadway show, “Jersey Boys.” MCC-LV is located at 1140 Almond Tree Lane, Suite 302 at South Maryland Parkway and East Sahara. Call 702-369-4380 or go online at www.mcclv.com.

The American Catholic Church in Nevada invites you to “Come Home For Christmas” on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the

Holy Family at Christ Church Episcopal. The American Catholic Church offers a progressive alternative in the Catholic tradition. The Chapel of the Holy Family at Christ Church Episcopal is located at 2000 South Maryland Parkway at St. Louis. Go online at www.americancatholicchurch.net or call (702) 487-3421. ■



FOR MORE OF THE LATEST NEWS CHECK OUT

QVEGAS.COM



Photo: Matt Powers

ASPEN GAY SKI WEEK

The nation's largest and oldest gay ski event, will celebrate its 35th anniversary January 15-22, 2011, along with presenting sponsor, Bud Light. This year, proceeds from the event will benefit GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), the Trevor Project, the Point Foundation, and the local programs.

"With the theme, 'Through the Years,' this year's gay ski week will embrace our beginnings thirty-five years ago in 1977," remarked Bryan Gonzales, co-producer of Aspen Gay Ski Week and program director of Roaring Fork Gay and Lesbian Community Fund. "World-famous Aspen plays host to a week of epic skiing, après ski events at the Limelight Lodge, exciting nightly events and the popular downhill costume competition." For updated event listing and to purchase tickets visit QVegas.com ■

THE POWER OF 20

The Light Group, Eduardo Cordova and QVegas presented the 3rd Annual Power of 20 at Beatles Revolution Lounge last month and honored community leaders in art, entertainment and non-profit volunteers that

move and shake the Las Vegas community.

The Power 20 were treated to dinner at Stack for a coming-together and then danced the night away at Beatles Revolution Lounge through 'til morning, at which time they received their award. The Power of 20 include: A.J. O'Reilly, Clark County Schools; Alex Schechter of SPI Entertainment; Benjamin Lemke of QVegas Magazine; Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani; Christopher Kenney, Host of Zumanity as Edie the Entertainer; Dane Butcher, Desiree Duncan, Artragous Chair and Volunteer; Jaymes Vaughan, star of Chippendales; Jimi Giovanni Urquiaga, clothing designer; Josh Strickland, singing artist and star of Peepshow; Joshua Montgomery, Director of The Center and youth activist; Katherine Schneider, owner of Kittybar; Kelly Murphy; owner of Krave; Executive Director of Golden Rainbow, Lea Carrasco-Zanini; HRC Gala Dinner Chair and Sin City Sister Missy Morgan; Nicole Villa of Crush; Le Reve artist Ryan Lyons; News Anchor Sean McAllister; Wells Fargo's Sean Van Gorder; and HRC and community volunteer Steve Amend. ■

PRIDE'S ORNAMENT & WREATH AUCTION

Las Vegas Pride is hosting their 5th Annual Ornament and Wreath Auction at The Shoppes at the Palazzo from 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6th.

At the silent auction there will be over 45 hand-decorated custom ornaments, made by local artists including Nick San Pedro. Also donating their artistic talents for the cause are cast members from Cirque du Soleil shows Zumanity and O, along with local celebrities including Frank Marino and the fantastic Terry Fator returning once again with his amazing ornaments.

Creative wreaths will also be available for bid- some donated by local shows like the Chippendales, along with multiple non-profit groups. Some amazing gift baskets will be available this year as well. For more information visit QVegas.com/events ■

**not everyone
will be
home for
the holidays.**



This December, thousands of animals will enter our shelter.

They'll wait patiently for a caring family to give them a loving home where they can celebrate the season. Unfortunately, not every pet will be adopted.

YOU CAN HELP.

Give the gift of hope. Consider making a donation. Your gift provides the 50,000+ animals entering our shelter annually with life-saving and life-changing programs that allow them a greater chance at finding their forever home.

Visit animalfoundation.com to learn more.

Happy Holidays!





SIN CITY SHOOTOUT

Let's play ball, Las Vegas! More than 3,000 gay softball players and their fans will compete in the Sin City Shootout Sports Festival, January 12th – 15th, 2012. This year the group has expanded from softball to include tennis, basketball, wrestling and bodybuilding competitions throughout the city and have planned evening events for the week. Cathouse at Luxor on Thursday, London Room at Planet Hollywood on Friday, 8 ½ Lounge Friday night, the official Host Party on Saturday at Charlie's Las Vegas and Sunday's closing event at the newly opened RPM Nightclub inside Tropicana Hotel. For hotel and car rental discounts visit QVegas.com/sincityshootout. ■

PRIDE BOARD

The Southern Nevada Association of Pride held new board elections in November, and the 2012 Board of Directors are as follows: Ernie Yuen- President, James Healey- Vice President, Brady McGill- Secretary, Matt Cox- Treasurer and Andy Dubois, Parliamentarian. General Board Members include Justin Liming, Eric Agostino, Kalani "Tracy" Quicho, Adam Zujewski, and Brandon Johnson, Young, (ink) Kim, Amber Dougherty, Bronson Marallo, KC Golightly, and Jon Jones. If you're interested in becoming a board member, please

go to lasvegaspride.org and click on "Board of Directors" for more information. ■



HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

AFAN is asking the community to join them and the following retailers to help bring holiday cheer to children in Southern Nevada up to 15 years of age affected by HIV/AIDS. The Holiday Toy Drive will help bring the holidays to over 200 children to make holiday wishes come true!

How to get involved: **HOST A TOY DRIVE...** by collecting donated new and unwrapped toys for age 0-15 years old. **SPONSOR A CHILD...** Ask AFAN for a child's individual wish list so you can help fulfill their holiday dreams. **MONETARY DONATION...** AFAN will

gladly accept your donation for the Toy Drive, please make check payable to AFAN.

TOY DROP LOCATIONS... The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and Jamba Juice, Nevada State Democratic Party and Porch Light Grille. Please check QVegas.com/events for Toy Drop locations. ■

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DJ JOHN JOSEPH

GUEST APPEARANCE BY
BRANDI GLANVILLE
OF BRAVO'S REAL HOUSEWIVES
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CRUSH'S STOCKING STUFFER

Friday December 16 at the Artisan Boutique Hotel. Enjoy a fresh and smokefree holiday celebration with CRUSH.

Get your picture with CRUSH's Sexy Santa Geronimo of Cazwell's "Ice Cream Truck" and a free CRUSH frame, enter the 12 Gifts of CRUSH raffle, and get in on CRUSH Games and Giveaways. Special guest Brandi Glanville from Bravo's Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. Dance to the beats of San Diego's Hottest DJ John Joseph. Limited Edition CRUSH boxer briefs will be given to the first 300 people with a CRUSH gift ticket. This is a 21+ event. Visit QVegas.com/Events for more information. ■



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THE CENTER OPENING NEW DOORS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN THE ROBERT L. FORBUSS BUILDING

We Have Reason To Celebrate. Last year alone over 30,000 people walked through our doors. We are fortunate that over the last five years The Center has embarked on a strategic plan to recruit an extraordinarily dedicated and stable Board of Directors and sustained, consistent leadership in key staff and management areas. Our programs and services are strong and in demand within the community. The result is the most established program and leadership structure in our history — all critical parts of maintaining long-term fiscal responsibility and stability.

Our vision for the future, however, is tempered with cautious optimism. A number of key factors will largely affect the potential for us to remain the leader in LGBT services and advocacy in the Southern Nevada region. Rising costs and space issues, an evolving community, and critical infrastructural needs all have an effect on the future of The Center. We believe the challenges we face together are in fact great opportunities. We are eager to show you The Center of today and share with you our vision of The Center for tomorrow.

We have an awesome responsibility and a tremendous opportunity — and it begins today. We invite you to join us in shaping the future of The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada.

OUR CHALLENGE

The challenges we face today as an organization threaten our ability to continue to maintain our position

in the community. The needs of the LGBT community are expanding and changing at a tremendous rate. We are watching precious time pass without supplementing new initiatives that speak to the most pressing needs of LGBT people in Southern Nevada.

Since our founding in 1993, we have grown and moved as needed to keep up with the community's needs. Now once again we find the conditions of the building have become a barrier to our programmatic abilities. Our space is simply too small, too old, and too outdated for the thousands of community members and volunteers who utilize The Center each year. The current real estate market in Las Vegas has presented a historic opportunity to own our new home and to create a state-of-the-art facility that is both environmentally responsible and cost efficient as we prepare for the future. We realize the time to move forward is upon us.

OUR OPPORTUNITY

The Center has served the Southern Nevada region for nearly two decades. As we look ahead, we realize our opportunity to grow and thrive as a critical resource of the community will rely on far-sighted individuals, who through their philanthropy will have an impact in an especially tangible and meaningful way. The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada is proud to announce OPENING NEW DOORS, a \$4 million facility, program, and human capital initiative designed to meet these opportunities.



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THE NEVADA STATE



MUSEUM LAS VEGAS

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In a hitherto obscure corner of the Springs Preserve, there is now a “Nevadaland”, housed in a spectacular 76,000 square foot building that manages to capture the essence of ancient Southwest architectural forms in a high-tech, futuristic package.

by Richard Davis

W

When the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas opened at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve on October 28th, it was like a new “land” opening at Disneyland. Suddenly, in a hitherto obscure corner of the Springs Preserve, there is now a “Nevadaland”, housed in a spectacular 76,000 square foot building that manages to capture the essence of ancient Southwest architectural forms in a high-tech, futuristic package. The museum has already welcomed over 3,000 visitors in its first two weeks.

My “Nevadaland” guide is Dennis McBride, Curator of History and Collections at the Museum. McBride is known in the LGBT community for establishing the LGBT community archives at UNLV’s Lied Library, and was formerly curator at the Boulder City Museum. He brings the same personal touch and attention to small details that served him so well at the small Boulder City Museum to Nevada’s premier museum that features a 13,000-square-foot permanent exhibits gallery, a changing exhibits gallery, a research library and educational classrooms.

My tour begins along a blue line that runs like a stream through the sand-colored linoleum in the entrance that is dominated by a centuries-old bristlecone pine. This striking natural shape is like a modernist sculpture sum-



ming up within its ancient wood the history of our state. Says McBride, “The Nevada State Museum Las Vegas is the first museum in our state to detail the entire history of the state from geological history up to the present.” He says that he hopes visitors will learn something about our state that they never knew before through their experiences with the museum’s high-tech but user-friendly exhibits.

First, one must confront the gigantic skeleton of a Columbian mammoth, which rears its heavy tusks to guard the state’s treasures within. This massive creature gives way to the delicate curve of the Dusk to Dawn Wall, which McBride says is one of his favorite exhibits. A moving wall of photos paints a wordless essay about Nevada’s largely nocturnal desert wildlife, and also introduces the museum’s theme of tracing the history of

>>Continued on page 20

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TEASE

Out And About in Gay Vegas



POWER OF 20

Beatles Revolution Lounge: Closet Sundays

photography courtesy of



THE LIGHT GROUP

Nevada from dawn to today.

The museum is divided into five major sections. “The Land” features the geological and natural history of Nevada. One wall is dominated by the state fossil, Ichthyosaur, a giant marine reptile resembling a dolphin, a prime example of convergent evolution; last seen approximately 90 million years ago when Nevada was at the bottom of a vast inland sea. At one exhibit you can view Nevada slipping over the surface of the earth, while the vibration of continental drift rumbles beneath your feet, moving you through time. McBride mentions to me the prehistoric camel, whose modern descendant was imported to Nevada during the Civil War and ran wild for several decades thereafter, surprisingly not as successful as the wild mustang in adapting to Nevada’s extreme climate. “The People” begins with living portraits of some of the historical leaders of the First People, the American Indians, and moves on to the first European explorers, led by the Spanish and followed soon after by an ever-widening stream of fur-trappers, “49ers” and settlers. The role of Mormons in settling our state and particularly Southern Nevada is detailed. This leads directly into the “Early Days” of mining, ranching and railroads, with an emphasis on the role of water, or the lack thereof, in shaping our state. The many boomtowns that have since gone bust make a disquieting commentary on our own assumed

permanence in the midst of economic downturn.

Holograms bring a ghostly presence of these Nevada pioneers back to life.

“Viva Las Vegas” moves our story ahead to contemporary history, starting with the Nuclear Test Site and moving on to mobsters and casinos. The sequined wall of showgirl costumes pays unintentional homage to the now closeted Liberace Museum. There is an interesting exhibit of artifacts from the daily life of the reclusive bisexual, Howard Hughes. The struggle for equality by African-Americans in West Las Vegas and the fight for casino workers’ rights by the Culinary Union are both documented.

A large faux rock-walled hallway with crevices that open onto the museum floor leads to the temporary exhibits. Currently featured is the colorful art of Nevada photographer, Cameron Grant, “Unexpected Nevada.” Sweeping views of the Springs Preserve and the Strip are accessible from balconies off the great hall.

A quote from Will Rogers displayed at the exit best sums up the experience of this new “Nevadaland.” Rogers said of Nevada, “It is freedom’s last stand in America. They don’t do one thing that other states don’t

do, only they leave the front door open.” The Nevada State Museum Las Vegas opens the doors of Nevada’s history.

The Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas at the Springs Preserve is open Friday through Monday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. General adult admission is \$9.95 and includes all access to the Preserve; children under 18 are admitted free to the museum and are charged \$4.95 to visit the Preserve. Annual adult membership to the Preserve is just \$25 for singles and \$60 for families and includes year-round admission to the museum. For information on how you can contribute to the Nevada State Museum Las Vegas’ endowment, call museum director, David Millman, at 702-486-5205. ■



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The Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada

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HONORARIUM 2011

Once again, the Honorarium – the Center’s largest fundraiser of the year – was a tremendous success, in large part due to the wonderful sponsors and individuals who attended. While an annual event, this year’s Honorarium served not only to recognize the contributions made by some spectacular individuals to the community, it was also an opportunity to publicly launch “Opening New Doors”, a \$4 million dollar facility, program, and human capital initiative.

Guests enjoyed fabulous entertainment throughout the evening, including a greeting from the Jubilee girls on our red carpet, the daring humor of emcee Shawn Pelofsky, and the beautiful song stylings of Francesca T. Camus, Sandra Hutsman and Michelle Johnson. Latoya Holman, accompanied by Mauricio “the Keymaster”, also offered a stirring homage to Bob Forbuss, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Also recognized at the event were Charles Atwood, Elizabeth Fretwell, Charles Béraud, and Joshua Miller and Steve Amend for their contributions to the LGBTQ Community in Southern Nevada.

The silent auction area was filled with beautiful sights and sounds provided by the Las Vegas Kaminari Taiko, violinist Tony Williams, body painter Eddie Canumay and contortionist Chris



Twist. The selection of silent and live auction prizes was once again amazing, thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community supporters. DJ Remedy closed out the night with a set to get the attendees out on the dance floor.

A special thanks to the members of the Honorarium Committee, who gave so much of their time and talent over many months of preparation, for making this event a success. Lastly, this event could not have happened without the



large crew of volunteers from the Human Rights Campaign, The Center and the Vegas Mpowerment Project. This team worked many hours alongside Center staff in setting up, coordinating event logistics and staying late into the evening for tear-down.

ADOPT AN LGBT TEEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Every holiday season, The Center hosts a special party for its youth group participants, many of whom do not have positive holiday experiences due to strained family relationships or economic hardships. The reality for some of these young people is that 'holiday dinner' may equate to a fast food meal, and opening gifts may lack meaning in their lives all together. The Center is seeking donations to help make this holiday party a special and memorable one for the LGBT young people who call our facility their second home. We expect a group of 75 youth, and our wish list is as follows:

- \$20 Target gift cards
- Individually wrapped snacks and candy
- Homemade baked goods
- Canned soda, bottled water
- Gloves or mittens
- Beanies or knit caps
- Lip balm



If you are interested in contributing any of these items, please contact Mel Goodwin at (702) 733-9800 or mel@thecenterlv.com.



WORLD AIDS DAY

Stop by The Center on World AIDS Day (Thursday, December 1st) for free and confidential HIV and STD testing from 1:30-6:00 pm. AIDS service organizations, including Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN), Community Counseling Center, and ActionRed will be on-site sharing information and resources. Vegas Mpowerment Project will be displaying a ten-silhouette art project representing individuals with HIV/AIDS, three of whom have passed away. The remaining seven silhouettes signify individuals in the community who are living with HIV/AIDS and hope to inspire those who might be struggling with the disease to follow their goals and dreams.

HOLIDAY HOURS AT THE CENTER

Please mark your calendars – The Center will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd. If you attend a regularly scheduled group on Mondays or plan to utilize our HIV and STD testing services in December or January, please call our front desk at 733-9800 to inquire about the holiday schedules for these services.

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LAS VEGAS FAVORITE CHAD MICHAELS ON FOURTH SEASON OF RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE

RuPaul and LGBT cable network Logo are prepping an all-new squad of thirteen lucky contestants who will vie for the crown, an unprecedented \$100,000 cash prize, and the coveted title of "America's Next Drag Superstar." Logo's smash-hit reality competition show "RuPaul's Drag Race" returns in January of 2012.

Over three trail-blazing seasons, "RuPaul's Drag Race" has taken the country by storm, evolving from a cult hit to a certified pop culture phenomenon. With a devoted and diverse following ranging from soccer moms to Hollywood royalty, "RuPaul's Drag Race" has become appointment television for viewers who can't get enough of the outlandish fun, drama, "eleganza" and most of all, heart that comes with the show.

"We challenged ourselves to make TV's most outrageous show even more outrageous," says executive producer, RuPaul. "And I'm happy to report we've succeeded."

This season, a new crop of top-tier drag hopefuls are strapping on their helmets and revving their engines for the most competitive drag race and biggest grand prize yet. Las Vegas will be watching out for one of its favorites, Chad Michaels of San Diego, CA... who has graced the Vegas stage many times over. ■

MIRACLE MILE SHOPS

Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino will collect holiday lights and decorations from November 21 to December 9 for Golden Rainbow families affected by HIV/AIDS. Those looking to spread some holiday cheer are encouraged to drop off seasonal lights and decorations at the Miracle Mile Shops customer service desk operated by Tickets & Tours during normal operating hours. All donated items will be given to Golden Rainbow clients in its Affordable Housing Program, as many of the families are unable to afford extra luxuries during the holiday season. As a thank you, Miracle Mile Shops will provide all donors with a coupon book valued at \$2,000!

Additionally Miracle Mile Shops' will turn its fountain red for the month of December for AIDS Awareness Month and will display a red glow in between regularly scheduled shows. All change tossed into the popular water feature as well as the center's indoor rainstorm will be donated on behalf of Miracle Mile Shops to Golden Rainbow. ■

SPA @ RAVELLA

The Spa at Ravella spices up 'Sip & Spa' Thursdays in December with holiday party-prep spa treatments and festive winter cocktails. Round up the boys and girls and head to Ravella at Lake Las Vegas for a mini-escape each Thursday from 6 - 8 p.m. Enjoy a mini-treatment, cocktail, hors d'oeuvres and spa gift for \$25.00 (restrictions apply). Or, indulge in everything BUT the treatment for \$10. Space is limited. To make a reservation, call 702.567.4600. December menu: Appletinis & Aromatherapy, Dec. 1st; Mimosas & Makeovers, Dec. 8th; Reindeeritis & Relaxation, Dec. 15th; Eggnog & Eye Lashes, Dec. 22nd, and Mistletoinis & Manicures on Dec. 29th. ■

2ND ANNUAL CIRQUE WEEK

Back by popular demand, Cirque du Soleil presents the second annual CIRQUE WEEK, offering fans the experience of a lifetime with access to a 10-day series of exclusive events. Cirque du Soleil is known worldwide for its unique entertainment experiences featuring high flying acrobats, whimsical characters and state-of-the-art technology. CIRQUE WEEK offers fans the opportunity to get an all-access look into how these extraordinary shows come to life nightly. CIRQUE WEEK packages range from \$165 for a two-show ticket package to \$561 which includes tick-

ets to all seven Cirque du Soleil productions in Las Vegas. For complete list of events and tickets visit QVegas.com/events ■

SANTALAND DIARIES

Jamie Morris returns to the role of "Crumpet," the jaded Christmas Elf in David Sedaris' hilarious one-man comedy "The Santaland Diaries" December 1st-10th at the Onyx Theatre.

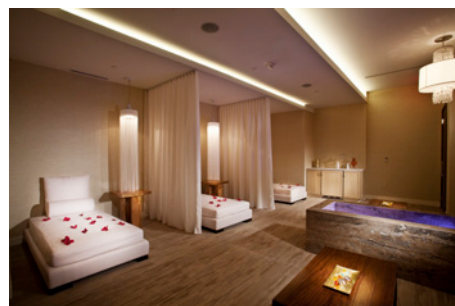
Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello and directed by CityLife Magazine's "Best of the Valley" Best Local Theater Director Christopher Kenney, "The Santaland Diaries" is David Sedaris' send-up of his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf. The show skewers our sentimental love of all things Christmas - the happy children, the spritely elves, the gifts, the good cheer. Sedaris'



character, Crumpet the Elf, shows us the other side of what it's like to work at Santaland, and the result is bawdy and irreverent.

"Santaland" played last year at Onyx to sold-out houses and to glowing reviews. Most notably, Anthony Del Valle of the Review-Journal gave the production an "A," saying, "This is great theater. Morris has done well in Vegas before, but this suggests the man has a depth of talent yet to be tapped."

Produced by BevNap Productions, "The Santaland Diaries" will play 6 performances only, December 1st-10th, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. at the Onyx Theatre, 953 E. Sahara. Tickets: \$20.00, call 702-732-7225 or online at onyxtheatre.com ■



GLOW SPA

"Glow, A Mandara Spa©", opened its first location at Tropicana Las Vegas in November. The new five-million-dollar Glow Spa is a marriage of modern and beach-chic lifestyle with beauty and wellness experiences for the gay jetsetter, travel connoisseur or Las Vegas local wanting a private club-like setting that is intimate in size, yet large on a social scale. The Spa is committed to health and wellness, and will feature its own groundbreaking treatments and products.

"The launch and opening of Glow, the Spa and brand, represents an evolution for both Tropicana Las Vegas and Mandara," said Bruce Pine, Senior Vice-President of land-based spas for Mandara Spa, LLC - Steiner Resort Division. "With this new spa concept, in essence a brand within a brand, we are further enhancing the guest and quality experience at Tropicana Las Vegas while branching out and creating the innovative offerings Steiner has always been known for." ■

MAYOR GOODMAN

Former "Happiest Mayor in the World," Oscar Goodman, to star in Las Vegas-based television show

Fresh off his appearance in the network television series, "CSI: Las Vegas," former mayor and

Las Vegas icon, Oscar Goodman, is set to film the pilot for a new, Las Vegas-based courtroom show, "Vegas Night Court with Oscar Goodman."

With his iconic Las Vegas showgirls in tow and a glass of gin in hand, "Vegas Night Court with Oscar Goodman" will feature real court cases and a gallery filled with celebrities and Las Vegas notables. - For More Information Go To QVegas.Com. ■



WORLD AIDS DAY
DECEMBER 1ST
LAS VEGAS

Southern Nevada Health District
HIV Testing
625 Shadow Lane, Annex A, LV NV 89106
#759-0702
8am-4:30pm
www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

NV Partners
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HIV Testing/Half Day Conference
(CEUs are offered free for this event)
710 W. Lake Mead LV NV 89030
#633-5632
8am-2pm

The Gay and Lesbian Center
Partnering with SNHD & Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
HIV Testing/STD Screening/Community Booths
953 E. Sahara B-2-25, LV NV 89106
#733-9800

ActionRED
Partnering with SNHD, Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, & MyAIDS Campaign
Open House, AIDS Memorial Quilt Display, Art Auction & Nevada HIV/AIDS Strategy Signing
520 Fremont St, LV NV 89125
(In Emergency Arts)
11am-4pm

The West Charleston Library
Partnering with Edward D Padilla
Panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and Live production of "Fallen Guardian Angels" Benefit for Golden Rainbow
6301 West Charleston Blvd, LV NV 89146 (On the CSN Campus)
Doors open at 7:05pm
Showing begins at 7:30pm

Metropolitan Community Church LV and Conciencia
Candlelight Service of Hope
1140 Almond Tree Lane, LV NV
(NW corner of Sahara & Maryland Parkway)
5:30pm-6:30pm
www.mccclv.com
*Conciencia is a collaboration of Metropolitan Community Church, Community Counseling Center, Community Outreach Medical Center, Planned Parenthood, and ActionRED

Students United for Reproductive Justice
AIDS Memorial Ceremony and Candlelight Vigil
AIDS Memorial Garden
4505 South Maryland Parkway,
LV NV 89154
7pm-8pm

AFAN
Piggy Herding and Open House
1120 Almond Tree Ln., LV NV 89104
#382-AFAN
12PM-4PM
www.afanlv.org

Nevada AIDS Project
Life's a Ball - 30th Anniversary of HIV/AIDS World AIDS Day
Club Nikki at Tropicana Casino
3801 Las Vegas Boulevard South,
LV NV 89109
7pm-12am

EVENT KEY

- FREE HIV TESTING
PRUEBA GRATIS DEL VIH
- CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
VIGILIA A LA LUZ DE LAS VELAS
- ARTS AND PERFORMANCE
ARTES Y ACTUACIÓN
- AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT
EDREDON CONMEMORATIVO AL SIDA
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(EVENT IS IN SPANISH)
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and we support our local LGBT agencies through grants, volunteerism and event sponsorship and participation. At the 2011 Pride parade, over 350 Wells Fargo team members participated including Nevada Regional President Kirk Clausen and our very own Sean Van Gorder who was recently named one of the 20 Most Influential People in the Las Vegas LGBT community. Congratulations Sean! Your Pride makes us Proud! ■



BACK FOR SECONDS

"Bite At The Museum 2: Back For Seconds" returns to The Springs Preserve where last fall the Community Counseling Center (CCC) celebrated 20 years of service to Southern Nevada with a fun-filled evening providing a sneak-peek at the then-as-yet-to-open, new Nevada State Museum at the Springs Preserve. Over 200 guests raised approximately \$18,000.00 for the agency. This year, CCC is "Back for Seconds" with Bite at the Museum 2, which promises to be an even more exciting event because this year, attendees will be allowed to tour the newly installed museum exhibits as part of the experience. Bite At The Museum will be held on December 3rd, 2011 from



7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the new Nevada State Museum-Las Vegas inside the Springs Preserve, and will feature gourmet food created by Adrien Nieto from TV's MasterChef, a silent auction, a mystery box raffle, signature drink, and petrified punch by mixologist Mindy Blackburn. Guests will be able to stroll the museum exhibits and Art Show "Food for Thought," juried by acclaimed local artist and owner of the "Best of Las Vegas"-recognized Blackbird Gallery, Gina Quaranto. Tickets are \$53.49 online at biteatthemuseum.com. ■

BETTY'S 10TH

Celebrate the holiday season with your Betty family as they return to Arizona Charlie's Diamond Mae Ballroom for Betty's 10th Annual Holiday Bash. This is a not-to-be-missed event, being their biggest event of the year with usually 200-250 women attending. The evening will be a grand affair that will include the phenomenal DJ "Ballin' D", dancing, appetizers, raffles and friendly Bettys, with tons mingling, so put on your finest party outfit and join in on the fun! The event will have two cash bars available inside the Diamond Mae Ballroom on the second floor. For hotel booking call 702-258-5111 or online at www.arizonacharies.com. Tickets for the event are \$20.00 per person in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased through PayPal at www.bettysout.com, or ask a Betty Board Member. ■



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Out And About in Gay Vegas



GIPSY NIGHTCLUB
NOVEMBER 5TH



Phil Wells In Memorium

by William Bassette

After sitting and trying hard to figure out how to begin talking about such a difficult thing, I realized that the best way to do it would be to put it in terms personal to me, in first person. Never before has a story had such an impact on my own emotional state, as usually I am the impersonal journalist who always stays detached from the situation. This story would not allow me that pleasure, as emotions ran high through interviews and at vigils; the act of remembering Phil, as nice an act as that still is, sure hurt like hell for a lot of people. In some cases talking about it is reliving the pain, but it can be cathartic, too.

***“So many people
were touched by
this man and that
in itself speaks
volumes...”***

Even before he came to Las Vegas, Phil Wells was a free spirit, choosing to take action and follow his passions, wherever they took him. As his uncle, David Martin, explains “Phil decided that what he was going to do was live his dream, and his dream was to be close to Dolly, so he moved all the way from California to Knoxville and made a life for himself and lived his dream, and that is a beautiful quality. He knew what he wanted in life and he went out and got it.”

One of the most apparent and lasting effects has been how the community has come together in response to this tragedy. “To see not only the outpouring of love, support, and compassion, but also the bond and the unity that this has resulted in,” Martin says. “So many people were touched by this man and that in itself speaks volumes. That one individual can come to this town and affect so many people in a positive way, in such a short amount of time, is amazing.”

Even quick decisions of youth bore resemblance to moves Wells would later make. Hearing his step-father, Larry Kaplan, tell a story about catching him sneaking out of a window, he spoke of seeing that smile on Phil's face, that infectious smile that everyone seems to remember almost more than anything else. It was unique the large number of impressions this one man and his smile made, in just over a year being here in Las Vegas.

Perhaps because of his recent time at the Garage, no stronger an impression was left then on its patrons and employees. “All of us at The Garage were impressed with how Phil showed up early to work and what he did when he got here,” part-owner Guy Sheets explains. “He was not here early to eat dinner, play music, et c. He was here to go around and introduce himself to the customers from the outside of the bar so they would be comfortable once he started. Also, once behind the bar, he always shook the hands of customers if he had not served them before and typically went around the perimeter and exterior to build a rapport with them.”

Part of the memory will include Wells occupying the one and only Employee of The Month spot at the Garage. “We decided it should go to him and he had only been here for a couple of months,” Sheets says. “It was a hands-down, quick decision to give it to Phil for October. He gave the best service to customers, support to the other staff, help to management and other bartenders, so we were happy to see him, our newest employee, get the nod... he will now be our first and ONLY employee of the month!”

One of the things that keep getting repeated is the idea that you cannot have unity without community. In leaving us, Phil Wells has helped to create a much greater sense of unity and community. While there will always remain reminders that evil can sometimes still be found in people, it is better to focus on the good, which we are also reminded of in remembering Wells. To assist with funeral expenses, the Phil Wells Memorial Fund has been set up with Wells Fargo. You may donate by visiting any Wells Fargo branch. Tell the branch manager that you would like to donate to the

“Phil Wells Benefit Memorial Fund”. Thank you for the good times Phil, you will be missed.

Phil Wells-In Loving Memory



Our entire community has suffered a tremendous loss with Phil's passing. He was and always will be a part of our family. We want to thank everyone for their kind words and condolences for his family, friends, and loved ones. We will miss his smile, his friendly nature, and his kind spirit. His memory will live on forever and although his time with us was brief, the positive impact on everyone he touched with his warmth is immeasurable.

“His family at The Garage.”

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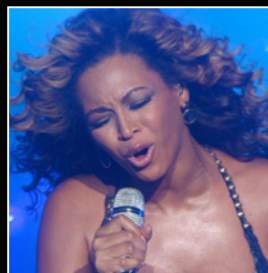
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2011 Music Recap



HOTTEST ARTISTS BLAZING THE CHARTS

by Chiane Adams

Who was hot in 2011 is the question? If you have been too busy with occupying Wall Street, worrying about paying your student loans or car note, discovering Dr. Conrad being found guilty of involuntary manslaughter of Michael Jackson or most importantly, Kim Kardashian's surprised divorce...or perhaps just sleeping under a rock this entire time, maybe you still care to know some of the hottest music artists of 2011.

Ever since Rihanna's transition to "good girl gone bad", this pop princess has gone nowhere but up. She's kept her fans on edge and yearning for more with her mesmerizing sex appeal and pop charting songs in 2011, from smash hits like "Man Down" to her latest single "We Found Love" on her forthcoming sixth album titled "Talk that Talk". Rihanna has proven to be a record-breaking diva as she continues to grace the No. 1 slot with a successive run of hits.

Despite the saying "sex sells", British singer and songwriter Adele has exceeded this saying by appealing to both her UK and US fans by, well, simply singing. Known for singing ballads with a voice that echoes a unique, melodic, and jazzy hum, Adele has also managed to top the charts this year with hit singles such as "Someone Like You" and "Set Fire to the Rain". Just as her singles continue to climb the charts, so do Adele's album sales, with her second album "21", selling 4.3 million this year.

Justin Bieber is another name that also takes the title as one of the hottest music artists in 2011. Releasing his 3D movie autobiography

Never Say Never, this teen icon grossed nearly \$31.1 million from the film. Under the Mistletoe, Bieber's second album, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. Ranked number 2 on Forbes' list as one of the Best Paid Celebrities Under 30, Bieber in Rick Ross terms is considered "a Boss" or in Rue Paul terms "fabulous".

Lady Gaga and Beyoncé both rocked the charts this year. Gaga released her second album, "Born This Way", with the album's title track debuting on the Billboard Top 100. First time parent Beyoncé debuted on the Billboard's Top 200 with her fourth studio album, "4", with the release of hit singles "Run the World (Girls)" and "Best Thing I Never Had".

From the soulful songstress Adele, to the Barbados sexy pop sensation Rihanna, to out of this world phenomenon Lady Gaga and teen heartthrob Justin Bieber, overall it has been a good year for pop music.



NOW AVAILABLE!

Jaymes Vaughn
(His Brand New Single "Vampire")

Hot HITS

2 remember

Gaga released her second album, "Born This Way", with the album's title track debuting on the Billboard Top 100.



1. Born This Way
Lady Gaga

2. S&M
Rihanna

3. Moves Like Jagger
Maroon 5
(Feat Christina Aguilera)

4. Super Bass
Niki Minaj

5. Party Rock
LMFAO

6. Run The World
(Girls)
Beyoncé

7. Last Friday Night
Katy Perry

8. Rolling in the Deep
Adele

9. Good Life
One Republic

10. Mr. Saxobeat
Alexandra Stan

"Despite the saying 'sex sells', British singer and songwriter Adele has exceeded this saying by appealing to both her UK and US fans by, well, simply singing."



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GET TO KNOW THE MAN WHO HAS TAKEN
LAS VEGAS BY STORM

Jaymes Vaughan is a man in perpetual motion. Even sitting down, he's moving 60 miles an hour. One of the busiest men in Las Vegas entertainment, Vaughan is currently the lead singer for two productions on the Strip at the same time, has just released his first single, is putting finishing touches on his new music video, recently hosted Las Vegas' "National Coming Out Day" event and was honored as one of the most influential people in Las Vegas' LGBT community as one of QVegas Magazine's "Power of 20."

I'VE REALIZED
YOU CAN BE MORE
SUCCESSFUL BY
BEING YOURSELF

I recently caught up with Vaughan after his performance as The Chippendales lead singer and emcee at The Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino shortly before he took a red-eye flight to NYC to promote his new single. Originally from Chesterfield County, VA, Vaughan moved to Las Vegas in 2006 from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city. He arrived in Las Vegas "with no car, no job and no money." The

first week in town he went to an audition for a show looking for a male lead. "I needed a job and I wanted to sing. There were over 80 guys there for one spot. I always say 'fake it until you make it.' So I stayed in the back and watched to see how the producer reacted - who they liked, who they didn't like - and

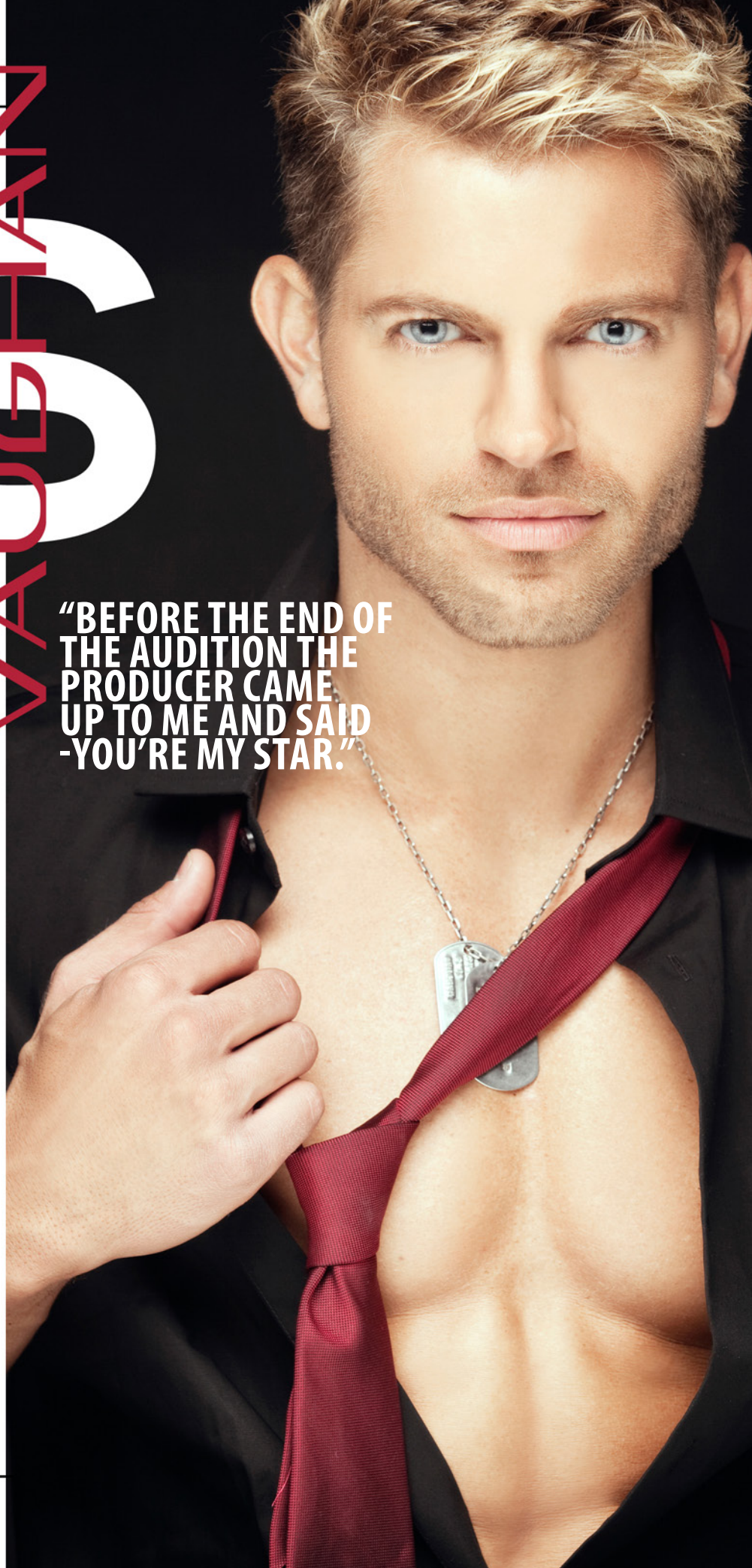
ITS

VAUGHAN

before the end of the audition the producer came up to me and said 'You're my star.' One production led to another, and now Vaughan is the lead singer and Emcee for *The Chippendales* and lead singer for the Rio's *Show In The Sky* - most evenings appearing in both at the same time. "My nights start at 6:00pm and I don't stop until 12:30am. I start *Show In The Sky*, run up to *Chippendales* in time for my first song, run back to *Show In The Sky* for my next number there, and so it goes each night. There is a four minute break where I run to Burger King, they give me my chicken sandwich and I run back in time to sing my next song." Vaughan recently released his first single - "Vampire" - as a solo recording artist. Out of several songs he's written, he chose this song to be his first for a few reasons. "First, deep down inside, I'm like a five-year-old boy and I want to play a vampire. I've always loved vampire movies and vampire TV shows. So I'm thinking there would be a music video and I'll get to play a vampire. And I did. For three days I was on the set of my upcoming music video with 72 people running around being a vampire." "Second, the song is about being in a situation where you can't be yourself; where you can't live a part of your life in the daylight; being in

>>CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

"BEFORE THE END OF THE AUDITION THE PRODUCER CAME UP TO ME AND SAID -YOU'RE MY STAR."






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a relationship that I can't share with my family." "Living in the light" is a concept that has recently played itself out in Vaughan's real life the past few months. He recently came out to his family, and their acceptance coupled with the experience of hosting Las Vegas Pride this year, led him to make the decision to live his life in a more open manner, both personally and professionally. "Hosting Gay Pride in Las Vegas this year, it was the first time I 'got it.' I got up on stage and finally understood what "pride" was about. It's about being proud of yourself and encouraging other people to be proud of themselves. The best, most reassuring thing that happened to me at Pride this year: when I came off stage, a little 12 year old boy came up to me and said 'I want to do what you do.' And I was like, that was all I wanted when I was a kid. I wanted someone to look up to."

"I'm really excited about the possibilities of inspiring someone; the possibilities of changing perceptions. I hope to be able to take advantage of a platform so that my fourteen-year-

old self that was sitting in Chesterfield County, Virginia, might find some hope. The fourteen year old that had no one to look up to; whose mama told him he better not be gay; whose church told him he was going to hell; whose best friend killed himself because he didn't "fit in." Because he didn't have any hope. I thought for so long you had to cover up who you were to be successful. I've realized you can be more successful by being yourself."

"The best thing about right now is that it's all honest. I put in the work, I put in the effort. And to be able to turn on the radio and hear me now, as Jaymes Vaughan and not an 'act', is amazing. It's cool to put yourself out there completely truthful and exposed, and have people accept and love you."

"I want to be a parent one day. And I want to let that child know they can be president, they can grow wings and fly; they can do anything they want. I want to give them hope. Because the one thing I wanted when I was a kid was hope."

The next few months look packed full for Vaughan with club appearances to promote "Vampire", the release of his music video, the release of his second single, along with traveling the country to promote his music.

"I'm getting some amazing opportunities off of just the first song. And it's because I'm being honest, I'm being real; I'm being me. And I think that's a great lesson for my fourteen-year-old self that's looking at me now to see. You can be yourself and you can be successful. You can fulfill your dreams and make it without having to change who you are." ■

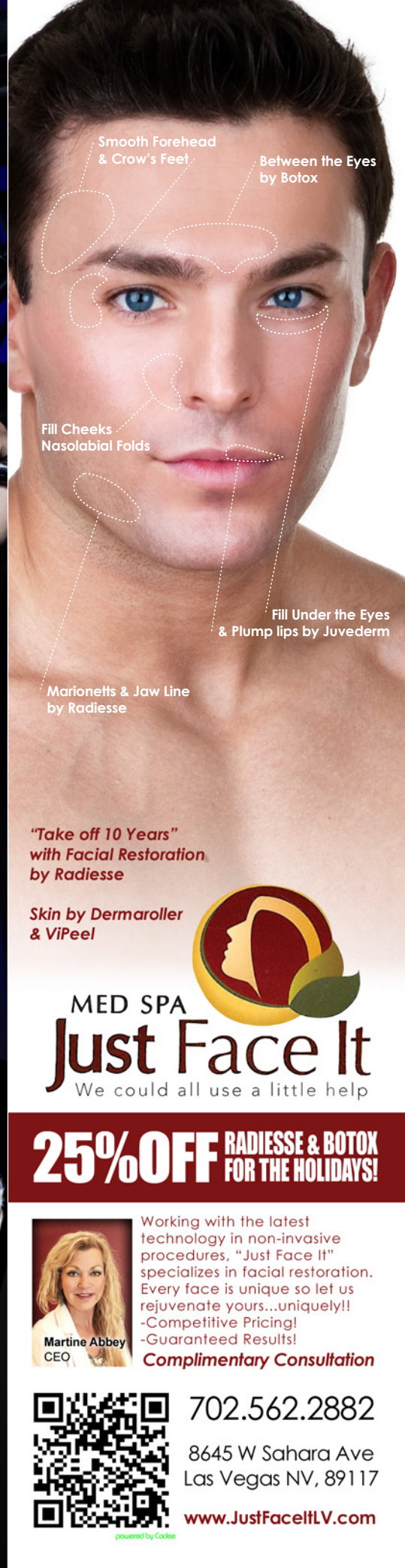
**JAYMES VAUGHAN'S SINGLE
 "VAMPIRE" IS CURRENTLY
 AVAILABLE ON ITUNES.**

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 ONE DAY. AND I WANT TO
 LET THAT CHILD KNOW
 THEY CAN BE PRESIDENT,
 THEY CAN GROW WINGS
 AND FLY; THEY CAN DO
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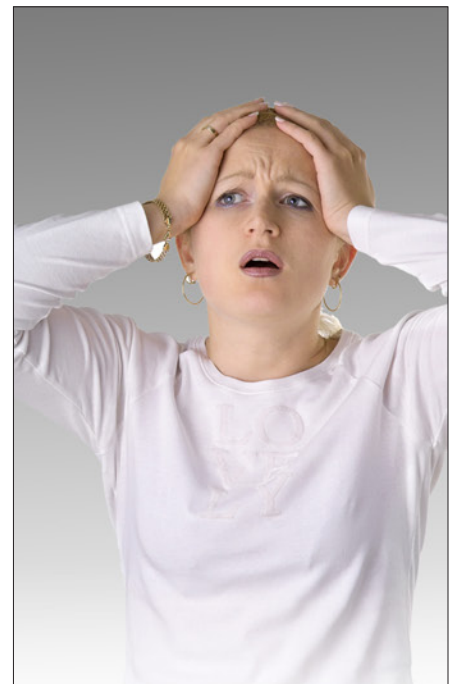


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2 STEPS BACK...

In May, the Minnesota House and Senate introduce a bill that proposes an amendment to the Minnesota constitution that states that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Although constitutional amendment legislation cannot be vetoed, the Governor Dayton issued a "symbolic veto".

Singer Ari Gold and his boyfriend were told in July to move to the back of the bus for holding hands; when he refused the bus driver pulled over and called the police.

Justice still waiting to be delivered to Brandon McInerney, an 8th grader who shot and killed his fellow student because he was gay.

Tracy Morgan, star of NBC's "30 Rock", thought he was funny when he told an audience that if his son were gay, he would "pull out a knife and stab" him. He also remarked, "Gays need to quit being pussies and not be whining about something as insignificant as bullying." Morgan has since apologized and Rosie O'Donnell forgave him while appearing on her new talk show, "The Rosie Show" on OWN TV.

Kobe Bryant mouths "f***ing faggot" at a Laker game and gets fined \$100,000; makes a lame excuse for using the word but does not apologize to the LGBT community.

In May, the Minnesota House and Senate introduce a bill that proposes an amendment to the Minnesota constitution that states that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Although constitutional amendment legislation cannot be vetoed, the Governor Dayton issued a "symbolic veto".



Gay Soldier Stephen Hill, serving in Iraq and appearing via YouTube, was booed by GOP members of the audience at a debate in Orlando, Florida. He was asking a question about DOMA and Rick Santorum said, "Any type of sexual activity has no place in the military." So his plan is castrate and chastity belt up our soldiers.

New study released by Pediatric in April concludes that lesbian, gay and bisexual teens are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

Elton John and his husband, David Furnish appear on the cover of US Magazine with their new baby. The cover is censored in an Arkansas grocery store.

1 STEP FORWARD

The Gay & Lesbian Center raises two million of the 4 million needed for the new building on Maryland Parkway and names the building after community leader Bob Forbuss.

NFL Hall of Famer and former Dallas Cowboy Michael Irving on Cover of OUT as straight ally and anti-bullying activist. He shared the cover with Ben Cohen, rugby player and founder of The Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation, Inc. the world's first foundation to raise awareness and funding to combat LGBT bullying and homophobia in sports.



Openly gay hero Daniel Hernandez Jr., who was credited with saving Rep. Gifford's life in the Arizona shooting that left six people dead, is elected to the Arizona School Board at the age of 21, on November 14th.

July 14th, Democratic California Gov. Jerry Brown stated he had signed a bill that would require public schools in the state to teach students about the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americas.

Chaz Bono appears on "Dancing With The Stars", releases his new book "Becoming Chaz" and on November 27th "Being Chaz", a one-hour special focusing on his new life will premiere on Oprah's new network OWN TV.

Since Lady Gaga's rise to international fame, she has used her platform to advocate for LGBT equality. Her 2nd studio album "Born This Way", selling over 8 million copies worldwide, has become an anthem for gay, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR BEFORE WE DECIDE TO DO THIS TOGETHER: I'M **GAY**. MY MUSIC IS **GAY**. MY SHOW IS **GAY**. AND I LOVE THAT IT'S **GAY**. AND I LOVE MY **GAY** FANS AND THEY'RE ALL GOING TO BE COMING TO OUR SHOW. AND IT'S GOING TO REMAIN **GAY**.

-LADY GAGA TO KANYE WEST WHEN TALKING ABOUT POSSIBLY TOURING TOGETHER

Same Sex Marriage In New York became legal on July 24 under the Marriage Equality Act and was signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

NO
H8

I  NY

DON'T ASK
DON'T TELL

"Telling my dad that I am gay-LIVE" by Air Force Airman Randy Phillips goes viral on YouTube on September 19th after "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was repealed, with more than 5 million views.

Defense of Marriage Act: On February 23, 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the Justice Department would cease legal defense of the Act's Section 3 at the direction of President Barack Obama, who had reached a conclusion that Section 3 was unconstitutional.

NOH8 Campaign founded by Adam Bouska and Jeff Parshley reach over 400 thousand fans on Facebook. (go Like them now at facebook.com/noh8campaign).

Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal - President Barack Obama, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen, sent certification to Congress on July 22, which set the end of DADT for September 20, 2011.

QVEGAS TEASE

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SNICK'S PLACE | SAT & SUN

FAVORITE DRINK TO MAKE: ALABAMA
SLAMMER



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STEELZ | WED, THUR, FRI, SAT

FAVORITE DRINK TO MAKE: DIRTY
MARTINI (VODKA, OLIVE JUICE, SPLASH
OF VERMOUTH, SHAKEN - NOT STIRRED)



MICHAEL JUDKINS

CHARLIE'S | LIVES THERE

FAVORITE DRINK TO MAKE: CHARLIE'S ANGEL
(CROWN, PEACH, AMARETTO, 7-UP)



JOEY MILLS

FLEX COCKTAIL LOUNGE | FRI & SAT

FAVORITE DRINK TO MAKE: POMAGRANITE MARTINI
(SECRET RECIPE WITH LOTS OF BOOZE!)

BRENT ELSER

THE GARAGE | WED, THURS, FRI, SAT

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BITTERS, STIR, SERVE IN CHILLED MARTINI GLASS)



TOMMY HIRES

FREEZONE | THURS BOYS NIGHT

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KEVIN SMITH

HRAVE | SUN, WED, FRI, SAT

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BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Retro Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Karaoke 12pm \$3 Well & Domestics	2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon Ladies Nights	2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon Ladies Nights	2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon Latin Nights
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$5.0 Beer Bust 9p - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4p - 7p	2-4-1 Drinks 4p - 7p \$5 Liquor Bust 9p - Midnight	\$6 Beer Bust 9p - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$1.75 Well&Dom 2am-10am \$5 Beer Bust 4pm-7pm	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Drag Queen Bingo 9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Underwear Night \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	1/2 Price 9p-12am Dances Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10am & 7pm-9pm	\$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10 & 7pm-9pm \$5 Beer Bust 9pm-12am
CREWS'N 1000 E. Sahara, Ste. 105 702-731-0951	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Sing along with pianist Piermarini 4-7p Happy Hour 2-7p	Happy Hour 2-7p Karaoke 8-11p Every other Tuesday	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-7p Kitty Litter Show 11p & 1a	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Movie Star Night	Open 24 Hours Boys Night 18-25 Free Entry	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All Lights Outs	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays	THRUST Thuesday Adult Film Stars 8pm-10pm	Open 24 Hours	Open 24 Hours Packed House Busiest Night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	Happy Hour \$2 Wells/Dom 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Wells/Dom 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Wells/Dom 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Wells/Dom 8a-8p	Liquor Bust \$10-11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Wells/Dom 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Wells/Dom 8a-8p	Liquor Bust \$10-12a Happy Hour \$2 Wells/Dom 8a-8p
FLEX 4371 W. Sahara Ave. 702-385-FLEX	Bloody Sunday w/Dar ren BEST Bloody Mary Special 7am-3pm	Call Flex (702)-385-FLEX For Events	Underwear Island Free Drinks to Patrons in Skivvies (no cover)	Welfare Wednesday "Grand Tea Room" Desarae Penda'vis	TemptASIAN 10pm w/ DJ Ricoche \$10 Liquor Bust & \$7 Tokyo Teas	Boys Night No Cover	Cirque Du Macabre Axiom 10pm w/DJ Panda Live Circus
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	Karaoke Free Beer Bust 8p - 1a w/ Shot Purchase	Karaoke Free Beer Bust 8p - 1a w/ Shot Purchase	Ladies Night Lick-Her-Bust 8p - 1a	Risque Bingo 8pm INTOXICATED w/ Diva Toxxx Drag Revue 11pm	BUSTED \$7 Liquor Bust \$5 Beer Bus 8-1am	Queens of Las Vegas Drag Revue 1pm DJ BC 11pm	Queens of Las Vegas Drag Revue 10pm Beer Bust 4-8pm
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6-9pm	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Long Islands 9p-2a \$3 Smimoff 8pm-12a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Margaritas 9p-2a & \$1 off Call Sho	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm-4pm
THE GARAGE 1487 E. Flamingo 702-440-6333	Happy Hour 11a-7p ALL Drinks 2-4-1 \$5 Beer Bust 5p-9p	Happy Hour 11a-7p ALL Drinks 2-4-1 \$5 Beer Bust 5p-9p	Happy Hour 11a-7p ALL Drinks 2-4-1 \$10 Beer Bust 5p-9p	Happy Hour 11a-7p ALL Drinks 2-4-1 \$5 Beer Bust 5p-9p	Happy Hour 11a-7p ALL Drinks 2-4-1	Happy Hour 11a-7p ALL Drinks 2-4-1	Happy Hour 11a-7p ALL Drinks 2-4-1
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	DJ Majesty hosted by SinCity Stud HIP HOP Party 2:30a \$5 Hennessy Shots
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	OPEN 24HRS	Drag Show Starts 11p	Comedy Show 8p-midnight	Karaoke With Will 9pm-1a	Carpe Noctem 10:30p-4a NO COVER	Vaquero Night with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Noche Caliente "Hot Night" 10p
LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Slot Tournament 8p-10p	Karaoke with Johnathon	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
STEELZ 4401 E. Sunset Road Henderson, NV 89014 702-451-9464	Weekend Brunch 10am-3am \$20 Unlimited Drinks	Happy Hour 4p-7pm & 11p-2am \$5 Martinis \$5Wine List \$5 Menue Items \$1 Off Draft Beer				FRIDAY HADDOC FISH FRY ALL DAY	Weekend Brunch 10am-3am \$20 Unlimited Drinks

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Q CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 WORLD AIDS DAY AFAN EVERY PIGGY COUNTS	2	3
4	5	6 5th Annual Pride Ornament & Wreath Auction The Palazzo Shops	7 QBA Luncheon Alexis Park 11:30-1:30 PM  QVEGAS BUSINESS ALLIANCE	8 12" of Sin Sin City Gallery 1pm-7pm	9	10
11	12	13	14 12" of Sin Sin City Gallery 1pm-7pm	15 12" of Sin Sin City Gallery 1pm-7pm	16 Healthy Relationship Reunion AFAN Community Room 9:30 am-11:00 am	17
18	19	20	21 Club Med Box AFAN Community Room 9:30 -11:00 am	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27 Marbella Tapas Bar & Music	28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE



the Holiday Q^{GRINCH}

3RD THURSDAY SOCIAL

THURS
DEC 15
6-8PM

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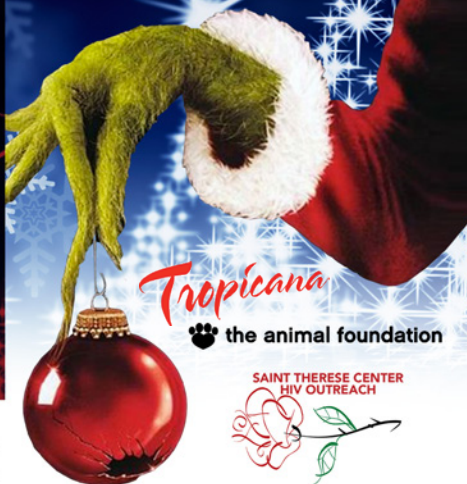
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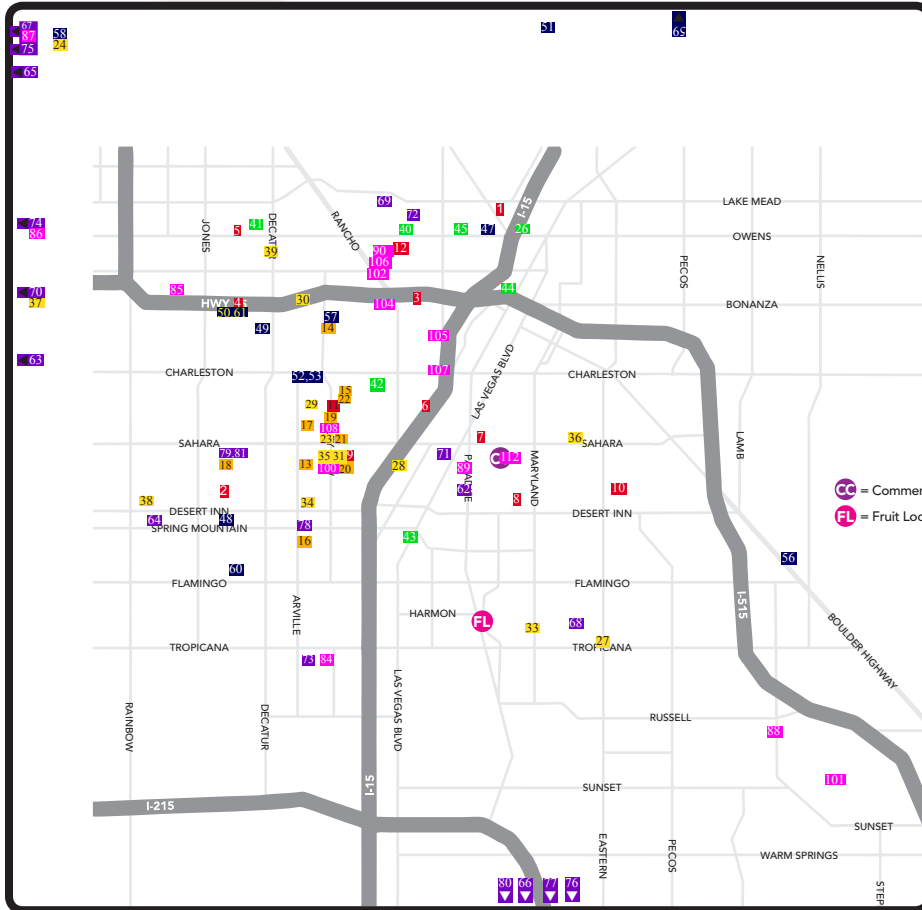
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- 74 Whole Foods, 8855 W Charleston Blvd, 254-8655
- 75 Whole Foods, 7250 W Lake Mead Blvd, 942-1500
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THE **Brian** FACTOR

**EXCLUSIVE
QVEGAS
INTERVIEW**

Four time MTV Video Music Award nominee Brian Friedman is one of the hottest directors for some of today's most popular concert tours, music videos, commercials and films. His moves and style are beyond grand, graceful and captivating, which makes him a true original in his field.



F

riedman has danced with and choreographed for pop stars including Michael Jackson, Britney Spears (Toxic and Slave 4U), Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, Usher, *NSYNC (Dirty Pop) and Prince

(The One). He has created iconic routines recognized the world over.

Friedman started working with the Simon Cowell properties as a judge and choreographer on *So You Think You Can Dance*. Having caught Cowell's attention, Friedman became a judge on *Grease is the Word* and *The X Factor UK*, later that season on *The X Factor UK* Brian became The Creative Director and Choreographer, positions created specifically for him. He returned to the U.S. on NBC's hit show *America's Got Talent* as Creative Director and choreographer. Brian can now be seen as creative director and

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New Years PARTY GUIDE

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FREEZONE LAS VEGAS

FREEZONE

Not far from the fireworks displays is Freezone Nightclub, and a favorite hot spot for NYE, no cover! Arrive early the nightclub fills up fast and enjoy their live show, gogo dancers, free shots, drink specials, party favors, balloon drop, hats and a toast at midnight.

SHARE NIGHTCLUB

The newly opened gay-owned nightclub Share will begin ringing in its first New Year's event on Friday with Blake Lewis, and opening DJ Relapse. NYE in Vegas heats up with Sin City QSocials hosting the cast of Bravo's The A-List along with LA DJ Derek Monteiro.

Terry Hernandez and his popular social networking group, Sin City QSocials is taking their annual event to Share Nightclub this year, co-hosting the event with the cast of Bravo TV's The A-List.





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The ultimate street party with nonstop entertainment has been set for Fremont Street Experience's New Year's Eve celebration with the 4th Annual TributePalooza. From 6 p.m. – 2 a.m. the spectacular New Year's Eve bash will showcase two featured bands, Steel Panther and Rock Sugar, plus 10 incredible tribute bands throughout the evening. Visit QVegas.com/Events for event line-up and tickets.



TACOS & TEQUILA AT LUXOR

Tacos & Tequila (T&T) at Luxor will host the first New Year's Eve celebration in Las Vegas with an East Coast-style party on Saturday, Dec. 31st. Kicking off at 6 p.m., T&T will party like it's 2012 with drink specials, a three-course tequila pairing menu and the ladies of FANTASY will toast the official East Coast countdown at 9 p.m. PST with a complimentary Patrón tequila shot for all partiers.



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CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

December Capricorns shall be especially blessed/lucky as 2012 makes its approach. Most of you shall begin the year with a relatively clean slate, almost free of loose ends. The 11th & 12th look especially strong for playing games of chance. The 18th-23rd look to be a madhouse at work, but so much will be accomplished. Keep those credit cards close at hand, to take advantage of some amazing bargains. Xmas eve is low key. New Year's is not.



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

This is far from the ideal time for entering a serious relationship. It's much better to sample other items on the "love menu" (trust us when we say that there are plenty) and just have some carefree fun. Don't let well-meaning family members put a damper on all those holiday festivities. Planetary vibes on the 13th & 14th will make you feel in a solitary mood. Be like a hermit for a few days. It'll rejuvenate the body and spirit. Avoid driving on the 24th. Ok?



PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

Unlike Aquarius, you've been heading towards a major commitment for quite some time. We're happy that you took your time with this one, Pisces. Remember that last fiasco that came and went so quickly? Hard-learned lessons like that are never forgotten (at least we hope not). This month looks fast paced up until the Winter Solstice on the 22nd. Xmas eve is spent in a quiet, romantic setting. The next day involves lots of happy and loud holiday spirits.



ARIES

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

What can only best be described as an extremely hot and cold year actually ends up on a happy and joyous note. You'll finally get a well deserved break, Aries. And, what a shock! You'll actually have the money to go gift shopping with (will wonders never cease)! The 8th-10th look ripe for some sizzling romantic interludes. New Moon on the 24th heightens your emotions. Tears of happiness and joy for a change. Make New Year's a quiet evening at home.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Much like Capricorn, the last month of 2011 finds you debt-free, baggage free (mostly) and in absolutely remarkable spirits. Get out there and devour all that life has to offer. That's what buffets/banquets are for. Lunar aspects on the 10th & 11th dictate that you keep opinions/advice to yourself, unless it's specifically requested. Get all of those "yucky chores" out of the way early on the 22nd. You'll be the absolute life of the party on the 24th. Watch



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Patience truly is a virtue, which at times you've actually come close to mastering. Much of this month it'll be put to the test. So, count to ten or even twenty before you speak out or make any important decisions. Financial aspects improve after the 15th. Until then, you'll need to scrimp and save (we know it's painful). So many party invites head your way, it'll be impossible to attend all of them. Be selective about where you end up on the 31st.



CANCER

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

Taking pride in your work (a strong/natural trait), just about guarantee's you'll be receiving an extra special holiday bonus. You deserve the very best, Cancer, and not just where the job is concerned. For being such a humanitarian and terrific friend, you deserve the "keys to the city" (or at the very least, a new set of wheels). Only the 16th-18th will mar what is otherwise a sensational month. During that time, if the boss says "the sky is pink", agree please!



LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Leo's make just about the best friends in the Zodiac (in a tie with Taurus, of course). Many varied and unexpected dividends shall blossom for you as a result from years of good deeds. Take it all in with a smile and honest gratitude. Lunar aspects on the 9th & 10th could make you "wanna be BAD". That's fine, but remember a little bad goes a very long way. Bummer that you'll be working on Christmas, but a hot & wild New Year's weekend makes up for it.



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

If it comes down to a choice of spending Christmas with feuding family members or going it alone, please opt for the latter. Trust us! You don't need the aggravation of petty feuds and jealousies. Load up on champagne and goodies and enjoy your own company. Unexpected cash heads your way around the 21st. Splurge it all on yourself for a change. That out of town New Year's trip will turn out to be a "godsend". Congrats on booking it.



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

That potentially lucrative business partnership that's been in the works will manifest in mid-January. Don't pressure yourself so much. It's been awhile since you let loose and had some major (naughty) fun. Man cannot live by bread/work alone. Invite a friend with impeccable taste to help with your holiday shopping. Those giftees should be pleasantly surprised. Old friends from out of town should make this a New Year's for the record books.



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

Your instincts are quite strong and invaluable. The fact that you don't trust a former partner enough to reconnect speaks volumes. Follow your gut and avoid them like the plague. Like Virgo, it'll be in your best interest to avoid high intensity gatherings. That soiree for 8 on the 24th sounds cozy and perfect. It's on the 31st & 1st that you'll get to howl (some Scorps quite literally). And some of that howling will be in the horizontal position. (Wicked grin.)



SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Hold onto your hats, Sag. This month will be a happy and slightly insane marathon of events and celebrations. You wouldn't have it any other way, of course. New Moon on the 10th triggers major incoming cash flow. Most of your holiday shopping will be done at the last minute, but that's okay since you thrive on pressure. Nagging sinus problems should pretty much disappear after the 15th. Planetary aspects dictate that New Year's Eve will be stupendous.

choreographer of *The X Factor U.S.* As a dancer, his silver screen credits include both *Charlie's Angels* and *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*, *You Got Served*, *She's All That*, *Newsies*, *Austin Powers: Goldmember*, *Uptown Girls*, and more. Friedman has also choreographed for countless television shows including *Will & Grace*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *David Letterman*, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *Oprah*, *That 70's Show*, the *MTV VMA's*, *VH1 DIVAS LIVE*, and the *Billboard Music Awards*.

QVEGAS: Out of all the artists you have worked with, who has been your favorite?

BRIAN: My all time favorite has to be Michael Jackson. I am so blessed to have had that opportunity in my career. He was such a role model to me growing up and his boundless creativity still inspires me to this day.

Q: Your choreography roster is very impressive. You had said earlier this year that someone you would love to work with who you haven't yet, is Madonna. What would be your ideal project together?

B: I would love to either Direct and Choreograph a video for her, or I would like to collaborate on a world tour. In her past, the way she pushed the envelope and broke so many rules, in a way, helped me to rebel from what was considered to be right in many aspects of my life. It was that rebellious behavior that put me in the right place at the right time and helped me to get to where I am in my career now. Thanks Madonna!

Q: Was there ever a moment in the beginning where you got so discouraged that you almost quit dancing?

B: There was a period of time around 19 or 20 when I was very down on myself and my body. I wasn't getting as many dance jobs because of how thin I was. I couldn't gain weight or muscle and all of the work was for guys with amazing bodies. I thought about going to fashion school and trying out my other passion. I ended up deciding to stick to dance and started focusing my energy into choreography. By the time I hit 21 the muscles came and I was back to working as a dancer. Sometimes you just have to hang through the dark periods. Just like clouds... they will pass.

Q: If you couldn't dance, what would you do?

B: The options are endless! Topping the list are fashion design, interior design, architecture and real estate. I would also love to open a restaurant!

Q: What's your favorite part about working on *The X-Factor USA*?

B: Getting to stay home in the winter with my man, dogs and family! I have spent the last 5 years in the UK and have missed Thanksgiving. This will be my first Thanksgiving home in so long. I also love that we are finally getting to share the show with the US. It's become such a big part of my life and I have wanted my friends and family to be able to enjoy it. I am so glad that now everyone can.

Q: When you are in Vegas is it always for work, or do you come just to enjoy the city?

B: I love to come and play in Vegas! I don't get to do it as much as I would like to but I try and

get out there at least once a year for fun. I have been visiting Vegas since I was toddler! My father is a gambler so I spent many a years in the arcade at every casino. Vegas is in my blood!

Q: If you had to pick one song to dance to for the rest of your life, what would it be?

B: I am the most indecisive person on the planet... I don't even have a favorite color. To pick a favorite song would probably give me a nervous breakdown.

Q: Do you fit any room for dating into your busy schedule?

B: I am in a very happy relationship. My man and I live together and without him I would probably crumble to pieces. We date as much as we can but my schedule doesn't allow a lot of down time. A good date in the middle of the madness is dinner and a movie at home... I know, very exciting!

Q: Being so talented and driven yourself, has it been difficult to find guys on the same caliber as you?

B: All I want in a man is someone who will make me smile and take my worries away. That's exactly what I found. I love that he isn't in the same field as I am. Our conversations don't have to revolve around the same scenarios. It really helps that we each have our own passions.

Q: Who/what inspired you to dance in the beginning of your career, and who/what continues to inspire you now?

B: My mother was my main inspiration to dance. She was a dancer and I learned everything from her. I also looked up to MJ, Janet, Prince, Madonna and Paula Abdul. I loved films choreographed by Bob Fosse and will always draw inspiration from him. Now I am inspired by many things from Films, Music, Art, Fashion and even Food! My Director/Choreographer friends, Mia Michaels and Wade Robson also continue to inspire me.

Q: As an inspiration to gay youth - as someone who works hard and follows their dreams - what would be your message to kids who are being bullied for being themselves?

B: I was also bullied... It was the worse part of my childhood. I second guessed who I was on a daily basis. It was actually dance that helped me become free with myself. I needed a "safe place" to go where all of my problems went away. I know dance isn't for everyone but the point is to inject your energy into something that you love... live it and breathe it so it consumes your every thought. When you have a craft, your confidence builds. Just know that it will pass in time. The ones who hurt you now will eventually fade away. ■

For more info on Brian Friedman follow him on his official twitter: @BrianFriedman

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AN OPEN LETTER TO

America

by Charles Béraud

Dear America, As I sit down today to write you these few lines, I am befuddled by the fact it's THAT time of the year already. We're in December and the count-down to 2012 is well underway. Soon we'll all be consumed with our holiday shopping, seasonal parties, and the trek through all sorts of weather and airport headaches to make it home to loved ones. Before it gets too chaotic, I wanted to take a moment to say "thank you".

I know you're not in the best of shape right now. The economy is still – for all intents and purposes – in the toilet, as evidenced by staggering foreclosure and unemployment numbers. But rather than focus on that, I prefer to draw attention to the many victories that have marked our year.

The repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" comes to mind almost instantly. What a hard-fought battle that was! But in the end, how proud you must be that this change in policy truly reflects your core values: serving honorably is the greatest sacrifice one can make for one's country. Thank you for recognizing that your soldiers are heroic, and brave, and patriotic regardless of sexual orientation. That these fearless women and men can now serve their country openly, being their true, genuine selves, allowed to love who they are and who they're with without risk of reprisal, is truly something to celebrate.

Also cause for celebration: the advancement of marriage equality in the nation. If previous years brought disappoint-

ment in that chapter – namely the 2008 passing of Proposition 8 in California – what happened in New York renewed our hope that marriage equality for all was now, more than ever, within reach. For me, this hope is further enforced by the strides of late towards the repeal of DOMA, and I look forward to seeing how that will play out in 2012.

I also want to thank you for increasingly including in your vernacular terms such as "transgender" and "gender identity". We're not there yet – there is

still a great deal of discrimination out there, but you're working on it – as evidenced, for example, by the Nevada Legislature passing transgender employment, housing and public accommodations protections. I'm glad that there's a growing change in your vocabulary from "tolerance" to "acceptance". I wonder if ten years ago, there could've been a Kurt Hummel that wasn't the butt of every joke, a Chaz Bono who would have gotten that far in competition, a movement to fend bullying that would have rallied so many. Horrible things continue to happen to your LG-BTQ constituency, but I do believe that "It Gets Better" every single day, with each voice that rises in truth and asks for equality.

As we head into an election year, I know that it will become increasingly difficult to promote that spirit of hope, the belief that change – true, significant change – is attainable. There will be loud voices that will encourage us to look down on our neighbors and blame them for all that's going wrong in their lives. These voices will tell us that striving for a better balance between the haves and the have-less is inciting class warfare. They will try to make us believe that they have the solutions to the serious problems that we face as a country (and globally) and that they will deliver these to us ONLY IF they are elected. If they truly cared about you, wouldn't they want what's best for you now, not just if their conditions were met? The barons of divorce, these thrice-married so called arbiters of morality will try to convince us still that our love is an attack on the sanctity of marriage. But I am optimistic that truth will prevail. I trust in the collective common sense. Because the basic and shared foundation of the American Dream, regardless of gender, race, religion or creed, was never that the next generation would be worse off than the current one, but rather that they would build upon what we've accomplished – as we built upon what our mothers and father did with what they got from their parents. I believe in you America. I trust that you have a keen sense of history. There are things you never want to see happen again, in this lifetime or ever. More importantly, I trust that you recognize and differentiate those who truly want what's best for you from those who, while claiming they want to protect your basic values, attack what you truly stand for and always have.

I applaud you for your resilience and your innate sense of solidarity America. You've proven time and time again that when the going gets tough, you rally. You've been dealt some major blows in the past twelve months, but I'm always amazed by the survival stories that come out of those. In the wake of natural disasters or in the aftermath of senseless acts of violence, the daily acts of heroism committed by everyday people make them extraordinary in my eyes. After the darkest, longest night you rise full of resolve and face the dawn, assured of its many promises – and you forge forward, always.

This open letter is also a love letter. This month marks our 4th anniversary together, and you've brought me so much: a community that's embraced me, that's given me a renewed sense of purpose, and that's made me feel engaged in something greater than any individual act. You've dazzled and amazed me. You've also brought someone that makes my heart feel lighter and fuller than it has in years, someone that makes me at once want to be a better person AND feel that I'm perfect as I am.

I raise a glass. Here's to you! Here's to an amazing – albeit challenging – 2011, to the many ways you've risen to the challenge, and here's to wishing to the very best in 2012.

Yours very truly,

Charles



Charles Béraud is a regular contributor of *QVegas Magazine*. He is also the Public Affairs Coordinator for the Resident Shows Division *Cirque du Soleil*. He is a member of the Las Vegas Chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Steering Committee, he sits on the board of the Southern Nevada Gay and Lesbian Community Center and is a member of the National Board of Governors.

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