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"LGB" DROP THE T?
WORLD AIDS DAY 2015
CURTAIN UP... AND OUT!
GAY FAVORITES ON THE STRIP
The Year In Review Issue

THE YEAR IN REVIEW ISSUE

DECEMBER 2015



ON THE COVER

Check out our package of highlights from 2015, plus a few new features in this month's Year in Review Issue.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

December holds a different meaning to everyone, and sometimes that meaning changes throughout our lives. To many it rings in holiday cheer, time with family, Christmas, Hanukkah, or whatever religious, non-religious, spiritual or non-spiritual celebration you choose.

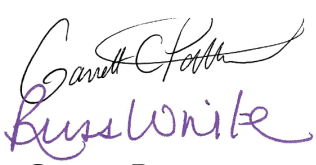
But for some, December brings depression, especially among LGBTQ people who have been rejected by their families. Suicide rates climb this time of year, so if you know someone who is spending the holidays alone, reach out. If you're feeling alone or depressed reach out. You're not alone.

This time of year is also a time of reflection. As the new year approaches, many of us reflect back on the past year. On accomplishments, on failures, wins, losses. This month, we decided to look back and celebrate our first year of going all-digital. Last January we made the decision to become an all-digital publication, and the last twelve issues have been incredible. We've learned a lot and we're getting better every month.

This month features highlights of the past year, along with a few new feature articles.

We also wanted to take a moment to thank our advertisers that have supported us consistently throughout this year. Dubin Wellness Center, The Venetian, AEG, and Live Nation, we thank you for your continued support and dedication to our all-digital format.

And to all of our readers, on the web, on Facebook, on Twitter, and on email, we wish you happiness and prosperity in 2016 and look forward to continuing to serve you.



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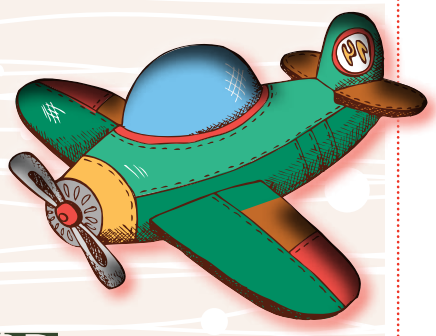

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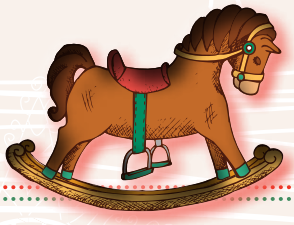

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Gay owned and gay friendly coffee shops, anywhere in the country are not hard to find. But David Birchard and Cory Weissman, the "Queen Beans," want to take that a little further.

MAKE THE YULETIDE GAY WITH RAINBOW BREW COFFEE

[by David Birchard]

"We wanted to order coffee online from a gay owned and operated business, and we couldn't find one."

So they started a coffee company.

For Cory and David, partners in business and in life, the one thing that a cup of coffee could make more satisfying is that if supported the gay community.

In January of 2015, Rainbow Brew's campy coffee blends debuted. There's Morn'n Mary, Lipstick and Flannel, Str8 Up, Butch Roast and more.

With a two to three day turnaround, from order to delivery, there is almost no way to get a fresher, vibrant brew.

But what makes Rainbow Brew truly unique, is their mission to give back with their Caffeinated-4-A-Cause shop.

"We have created several brews for not profit organizations, where we give a $1 back to every bag sold."

Gay owned and operated, Rainbow Brew offers gay coffee drinkers an incredible coffee that has been handled, processed, shipped, and roasted with the upmost attention – not only to the quality of the beans, but also to the quality of life surrounding it.

The Queen Beans are at it again, with their new "Holigay" blend.

The Peru, Honey Processed, "Yuletide Gay" blend has the aroma of freshly iced carrot cake wafts from the cup. Notes of Bit-O-Honey candies fill your palate, leading to juicy boysenberry. The acidity is teasingly bright and the body is velvet on the tongue. One's first thought after the sip is that of a fig on thin toast finish.

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happy holidays from the queen beans!

david & cory



CURTAIN UP! ...AND OUT!



[by Michael Barbieri
myvegasobsession.com]

As most travelers are aware, Las Vegas is the entertainment capital of the world. Just about anything you'd want to see onstage, can be found in Las Vegas. From headline musical and comedy artists, Broadway transplants like Rock of Ages and Jersey Boys, big-budget Cirque du Soleil spectaculars, and more intimate shows like Menopause: The Musical, there's something for just about everyone.

But what about us?! Are there shows that appeal to our crowd? Well, although the shows that play on the Vegas Strip are not aimed at the LGBTQ crowd specifically, there are some that come close. So grab your honey, your spouse, or your best gay friend, and check out some of these gay friendly acts...

Music superstars have long been a staple of the Vegas scene. These days, pop stars clamor to do residencies at venues within the mega-resorts. The Colosseum at Caesar's Palace can claim some of the biggest artists ever presented. Elton John, not just a music icon, but a gay icon as well, is knocking 'em dead with The Million Dollar Piano, which features a sparkling entrance by the man himself, hit after hit from Elton and his kick-ass band, four hot divas singing back-up, two adorable Croatian cellists, and a heartwarming visual tribute to Elton's life, including his marriage to David Furnish and the adoption of their children. This show demonstrates why he is rock 'n' roll royalty! Celine Dion is another star with a large gay fan base, and her show, simply entitled Celine, is a showcase for her astonishing vocal range and dynamic stage presence. Backed by a 31 piece orchestra, she performs a chronological medley of her biggest hits, along

with songs by Journey, Janis Ian and others. This spectacle is also a visual feast, featuring a dramatic opening, video projections, and one effect so over the top, it could only be done in Las Vegas! Over at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino, you'll find Britney Spears in her Sin City spectacular, Britney: Piece of Me. This high energy show features hits from her years as a pop princess, multiple costume changes, and eye popping visuals like a giant sphere I dubbed the "Bitch Bubble" (as she says: I'm Britney, Bitch!) and a rainforest set, complete with a 70 foot tree! She's also well supported by her hot backup dancers - gorgeous, athletic girls and hunky, scantily dressed boys. It's all very Britney, and will surely please her LGBT followers!

Zumanity, which explores human sexuality in all its wondrous variations, is Cirque du Soleil for adults only! After a 12 year run, the show was revamped, keeping it fresh and relevant. I had seen it 7 times previously, but on my last trip, I saw the new incarnation, and enjoyed it even more - I actually believe they've amped up the gay factor! Certainly, many of the older acts will appeal to gay and lesbian audiences - two lithe, topless female contortionists swim and trade sensual embraces in "Waterbowl," two beautiful men do a passionate tango in a cage, wearing nothing but black shorts and, in a new twist, red high heels, and "Rose Boy," a male stripper who spotted our little gay group, gave a playful shrug, and handed us one of the roses usually given only to the women in the audience. Newer acts included a buff, shirtless, rough trade-looking man in a mohawk, flying high above the stage on a swing made of leather and chains, and "Perfect Jam," a seductive number featuring women and men (again in heels) dancing on glowing chairs! Finally, the entire show is presided over by Edie, the lovely, gender bending hostess, whose entrance is a "wow moment" in itself! Now, more than ever, Zumanity feels inclusive, respectful and very gay friendly.

Broadway has always embraced the gay community, and over at the Wynn Resort, Steve Wynn's Showstoppers is bringing the best of Broadway to the Vegas Strip. With fabulous numbers from classic shows like Chicago, Cabaret, and A Chorus Line, this is a must-see for any fan of the Great White Way, gay or straight. Back at Planet Hollywood, at the V Theater, Zombie Burlesque is campy fun, with gorgeous "undead" girls doing horror themed strip tease acts, cute zombie boys to partner them, a Latino zombie hunk stripping down to a metallic codpiece, a flamboyant host, and a sexually confused zombie named Mikey, who puts the "Q" in LGBTQ!

Oh no!! Britney's sold out?! Head over to The Linq Hotel and Casino, where you can see Britney, Madonna, Cher, Liza, Lady Gaga, Tina Turner and more, all in the same show! Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas is a drag spectacular you won't want to miss. Hosted by Marino as the late, great Joan Rivers, this glittering extravaganza features Vegas' finest female impersonators, and though it's a touch risqué, it's never raunchy, so if your parents love and accept you for who you are, this is a show to which you can bring even them!

And there's more! Le Reve features sexy bathing beauties - both female and male, Aussie Hunks acknowledge gay fans of their all-male review, Mariah Carey returns to the Colosseum, and Jennifer Lopez begins a stint at Planet Hollywood in January of 2016! When it comes to entertainment, today's Vegas seems to offer its LGBT visitors a broad spectrum of choices. One might even call it a rainbow of options!



JANUARY All-In. All-Digital.

One year ago, QVegas made a bold decision to go all-digital, featuring online boy-wonder Davey Wavey and we couldn't be happier with that decision.

Only five months after the launch of Gay.Vegas, we made the decision to transition from a print publication to an all-digital publication. We continue to see a growth in our online readership., and have expanded our media footprint to not just web, but social media, email, and print-on-demand.

All hail the queens of RuPaul's Battle of the Seasons. We interviewed six former RPDR queens and Michelle Visage prior to their Vegas show at the House of Blues.

This month we're highlighting Guy Calderon Cooper's article on bi-polar disorders.

January also featured Prep 101, an interview with DJ Tracey Young, Michael Barbieri's review of Aria, fertility options from Red Rock Fertility Clinic, a review of Minus 5 and a travel review of Los Angeles.

You can find all of these articles and more online at www.gay.vegas/qvegas.





What is Bipolar Disorder?



[by Guy Calderon Cooper, MS, LCPC]

The most common answer given says it is a major affective disorder in which an individual alternates between states of deep depression (sadness) and extreme elation (happiness). This is misleading in that Bipolar Disorder - sometimes still known as manic depression or manic-depressive illness - is *much* more complicated than just alternating between depression and elation.

The American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* says that bipolar I disorder is characterized by the occurrence of one or more manic episodes often accompanied by depressive episodes. So even if you're depressed 99% of the time, going through just *a single* manic episode qualifies you for a diagnosis of bipolar I disorder according to this definition. Bipolar II Disorder is defined as having one or more hypomanic episodes along with depressive episodes. But these cut-and-dried definitions leave out a lot of what manic depression *truly* is.

Let's look at Bipolar Disorder in everyday language and see if it can be put into terms of everyday life. Bipolar Disorder is an illness that affects thoughts, feelings, perceptions and behavior ... even how a person feels physically. It is usually (but not always) found in people whose families have a history of one or more mental illnesses.

While we're at it, let's be clear about something: a mental illness is one that *affects* the mind, not one that is *in* the mind.

Most often, a person with Bipolar Disorder experiences moods that shift from high to low and back again in varying degrees of severity, generally with more or less stable periods in between.

The two poles of Bipolar I Disorder are mania and depression, and of Bipolar II, hypomania and depression.

But, what is mania?

Mania might include:

- Feeling like you can do anything, even something unsafe or illegal
- Needing very little sleep, yet never feeling tired
- Dressing flamboyantly, spending money extravagantly, living recklessly
- Having increased sexual desires, perhaps even indulging in risky sexual behaviors
- Hallucinations or delusions
- Feeling filled with energy

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- Feeling filled with energy

What is hypomania?

Hypomania - a less extreme form of manic episode – and could include:

- Having utter confidence
- Hyperfocus
- Feeling extra creative or innovative
- Being able to brush off problems that would usually paralyze you during depression
- Feeling "on top of the world" but without going over the top.

Hypomania does not include hallucinations or delusions, but a hypomanic person still might exhibit some reckless or inappropriate behavior.

What is depression?

Depression might be identified by:

- Sleeping much more than usual
- Being tired all the time but unable to sleep
- Uncontrollable crying
- Becoming entirely uninterested in things you once enjoyed
- Neglecting daily responsibilities
- Feeling hopeless, helpless or worthless for a sustained period of time
- Wanting to die

Some people think that they are just "over their depression" when they become manic, and don't realize this exaggerated state is part of the illness - part of Bipolar Disorder.

There has been a great deal of research in what Bipolar Disorder is and what the most common characteristics that lead to developing this mental illness are. The answer is very complicated and deals with a vast amount of information on genetics, heredity and DNA. For the purposes of this article, let's simply look at the most common factor, which is usually "stress triggers".

For mental, emotional and environmental issues, stressful life events are thought to be the main element in the development of Bipolar Disorder. These can range from a death in the family to the loss of a job, from the birth of a child to a move, from coming out to being rejected

by family and friends. It can be anything, but it cannot be precisely defined, since one person's stress may be another person's comfort. With that in mind, research has found that stressful life events can lead to the onset of symptoms in Bipolar Disorder. However, once the disorder is triggered and progresses, "it seems to develop a life of its own." Once the cycle begins, psychological and/or biological processes take over and keep the illness active.

As a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LCPC) and being gay myself, I have been doing a lot of thinking about depression and Bipolar Disorder in our community. As is the case with other cultural minorities, there has not been a lot of work done to consider the impact of the illnesses on our community—for example, special treatment needs and culturally effective outreach.

For LGBTQ individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness, homophobic attitudes among providers of mental health services and programs continue to create barriers to recovery and detract from the effectiveness of treatment and support services. Many mental health profession in and out of the LGBTQ community strive to find ways to offer hope, help and support. I think about the millions of people who have to overcome even higher obstacles to care because of their "sexual minority status" and how much work still has to be done.

While we have made rapid progress in the areas of civil rights within the LGBTQ community over the last few months, we continue to fall short in the areas of access to consistent and culturally sensitive mental healthcare. We continue to see issues like:

LGBTQ consumers reporting frequent harassment and belittlement from others attending the same programs.

Some mental health programs may be reluctant to embrace LGBTQ consumers given that, up until 1973, LGBTQ identities were considered a mental illness.

Some LGBTQ consumers describe that some mental health providers are still fearful and don't understand or don't feel that they know how to properly treat LGBTQ consumers and are unwilling or unable deal with relevant issues associated with sexual orientation.

Many mental health providers continue to hold stereotypes that LGBTQ people are all HIV positive and are all sexual predators but thankfully these numbers continue to diminish.

Although we have seen great strides in the knowledge and respect for the LGBTQ community as of late, it is still not covered enough in mental health staff trainings on cultural competency or in program policies.

There continues to be a significant stigma associated with mental illness in general and possibly even more within the LGBTQ community. Many mental health providers are becoming more accepting and knowledgeable about sexual orientation issues, and hence, therapy is improving by dealing more appropriately with the core issues that the consumer presents with. Consumers say that providers are beginning to address the sexual orientation of consumers in order to specifically meet the needs of the consumers. They report feeling much safer in revealing and expressing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in treatment.

Let's try to put it all together. In its simplest terms, for many of us a physical condition exists that makes a person more than usually susceptible to certain diseases. Each person inherits certain physical vulnerabilities to problems that may or may not appear depending on what stresses occur our lives. So the bottom line, according to today's thinking, is that if you have been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder, you were born with the possibility of developing this disorder, and something in your life set it off. But scientists could refine that theory tomorrow. The one sure thing is that we won't give up looking for answers and improving treatment modalities in all aspects of mental illness. If you feel that you are suffering from Bipolar Disorder or any other mental illness, the first step is getting better is asking for help and seeking the help you need as soon as possible.

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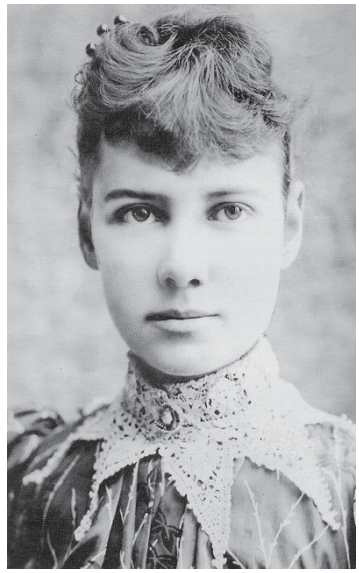
Nellie Bly Leadership Society aims to bring change to Nevada





[by Patrick Bozarth]

I've always had the feeling that nothing is impossible if one applies a certain amount of energy in the right direction. If you want to do it, you can do it." – Nellie Bly

Nevada is known for many things: world class gaming and entertainment, unsurpassed natural scenic beauty and a 24-hour lifestyle that puts many great cities to shame. Yet with all of these great distinctions that proudly set Nevada apart from other States, there are also, unfortunately, those for which we regretfully fail by comparison. One specific example of this is the lack of accessibility to mental health services across our state. In fact, in a 2015 study by Mental Health America, published in the Wall Street Journal, Nevada ranked 51st in access to mental healthcare, behind all US States and the District of Columbia. This alarming statistic demonstrates how much work needs to be done in order to expand access to quality and affordable mental healthcare for those in need of treatment. Fortunately, however, this problem is not without a solution, thanks in large part to the dedicated staff of Community Counseling Center, who are about to launch a collaborative State-wide program focused on improving our mental healthcare system. This greatly needed endeavor, titled the "Nellie Bly Leadership Society (NBLS)," is the first of its kind group in Nevada that is dedicated to improving the quality of behavioral health services through education, awareness and advocacy.

The program is named after the pioneering investigative journalist, Nellie Bly, who, in 1887, courageously went undercover at New York's infamous Blackwell's Lunatic Asylum to expose the cruel and harsh treatment of patients who were labeled as insane and locked away from society. In her investigation, Nellie Bly discovered a host of intolerable conditions, including physical abuse, torment, disease and severely unsanitary conditions. And as horrendous as each of these circumstances were, what Nellie Bly found most shocking was the lack of understanding and compassion for those who needed it most.



"It is only after one is in trouble that one realizes how little sympathy and kindness there are in the world." – Nellie Bly

For ten days, Nellie Bly continued her secretive investigation and through that process, penned what would later become a series of exposé articles and ultimately a book, "Ten Days in a Madhouse," which prompted immediate reforms to patient care and initiated the modern mental healthcare movement. Thanks to her daring commitment and tenacity, Nellie Bly was able to do what no one else could previously; she helped to launch a movement that brought about sweeping reforms that took mental health treatment out of the dark ages and into a brighter, more hopeful future. We owe a debt of gratitude to Nellie Bly, but there is still so much that needs to be done so that quality, affordable care is available to all those who need it. That is why the Nellie Bly Leadership Society is so crucial at this time.

The Nellie Bly Leadership Society is an educational program that is dedicated to improving the quality of behavioral health services through education, awareness and advocacy. This three step approach to addressing our mental health crisis is specific in its structure as it places a significant emphasis on the need for educating the public about mental illness in order to raise awareness and thereby create advocates for change all throughout our society. The NBLS was developed in response to the lack of awareness and understanding of mental health issues that affect so many individuals and reverberate throughout society on many levels. It seems all too common nowadays that we only discuss mental illness following a tragedy like a mass shooting. However, there is a major problem in that this emphasis is fleeting and the conversation soon ends. We need to change this pattern by keeping the discussion ongoing and by educating the public about these issues that have been stigmatized for far too long.

The program is open to all people interested in improving mental healthcare in Nevada, not just providers of treatment. Members of the NBLS will be able to attend quarterly gatherings that will consist of panel discussions, presentations and workshops focused on specific issues related to mental illness and treatment. In addition to these, the NBLS will also host the first-ever mental health conference in Las Vegas.

The launch of the NBLS will take place at Ron DeCar's Event Center on Sunday December 6th from 4-8pm. Tickets are just $25 and includes dinner and live entertainment. There will also be a silent auction and the sale of mystery gift boxes. Please purchase tickets in advance at: www.rondecarseventcenter.com.

Become a member of the NBLS today and help make a difference in the lives of all Nevadans. For more information, please visit www.cccofsn.org.



FEBRUARY Our Most Popular Issue.

Season 7 of RuPaul kicked off a flurry of readership like we had never seen before. With the announcement of the new queens at Chateau right on the heels of the Battle of the Seasons, Vegas was doubled-down on drag.

You can also read about Mondays Dark. Last January The Center was the featured charity and Norma Llyaman made her debut as Ursula the Sea Witch and Josh Strickland brought down the house with his rendition of Let it Go. The Center will be one of the 22 charities honored at Mondays Dark 2-year anniversary party on December 14 at The Joint.

There's more about Machine Guns Vegas, Blowpaste, fertility options for gay couples, and Absolut Brand Ambassador Raul Faria tells is about the For the Love of Cocktails fundraiser.

We also featured an interview with Glee cast member Dot Marie Jones. Dot and her wife were in Vegas this October for a special appearance at Mondays Dark where Dot sang the irreverent "Chocolate Salty Balls" from South Park.



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It didn't take long for us to become friends. It didn't take long for us to become great friends. Sometimes people come into your life at the right time and it just fits. The relationship provides something that is missing, something you didn't even know you needed, but now that it's there, you can't live without it. Today I got to connect the Dot.

I've been really close to Dot Marie Jones for almost three years, and her ride lately has been one that's worth talking about.

Dot Marie Jones, known to the world as Coach Beiste, on the hit show Glee, is truly one of a kind, and it has nothing to do with a TV show.

It doesn't matter that she was a champion and set records for Shot Put at Fresno State, or was an arm wrestling champion ready to take on any man out there. It doesn't matter that she was a youth counselor at the Fresno County Juvenile Probation center. It doesn't matter that she is a 3-Time Emmy Nominee. What matters to her is the now. And this is what makes Dot Marie Jones one of a kind.

"It's not about who I want to go to bed with, it's about who I want to go to bed as."

The now includes her wife Bridgett, their three daughters (11, 15, & 21), Perry the Pig, and one of the hottest story lines to ever hit a major primetime network.

Bridgett and Dot first met at the Atlanta airport, where Bridgett thought she was just a local, because she "looked familiar", but once her daughter introduced her to Glee, her jaw dropped. "That's her!" Social media made it easy for Bridgett to connect, and Dot says "That was it." The couple met for the first time in Las Vegas and the connection to our great city has been a huge part of the couple's life. The escape it provides, the entertainment, and simply the chance to go back to where it all started is something they hold dear and is something many of us only dream of having...The chance to go back to where it all started.

Married in their back yard with 20 of their closest friends in late 2013, Cheryl and I were there (the journey has become somewhat normal) in a city or industry that is anything but. Dot will be the first to tell you that taking her 15 year old to school every morning is the ultimate highlight, and when she's on set for 16 hours and can't pick her up, it's a let down. "I love laughing with her the whole way there. Of course I want to work all the time, but dropping her off or picking her up is something I look forward to everyday."

When it comes to work, Coach Beiste brings the goods. And Ryan Murphy, the co-creator of the hit show Glee, has saved the best for this final season. Glee has always given us great story lines, but this is a first for Prime Time Television. The Coach revealed that she will be transitioning from a woman to a man. And if you watch the clip from the episode, this may have secured her a fourth Emmy Nomination. But for Dot, it's never been about recognition or accolades, it's about the work. She credits Mr. Murphy for the amazing material and recalls the first time she worked on a pilot of his "Pretty Handsome" where she played a Trans Man. Her co-star on the project was Alexandra Billings (Transparent) and she was an open book. "Alex is amazing and was so helpful, beautiful, kind. She made coming to work one of the best experiences." Her insight and knowledge has helped Dot with this new chapter on Glee. "I found out when I read the script. I was like, ah sh*t I have cancer, no wait...I'm gonna be a guy, no wait...I'm gonna be a gay guy! The beginning of the episode I lie and use cancer as my cover, then I come clean. It was a great ride."

The scene plays out opposite Jane Lynch and quickly became an internet sensation. The writing is tight and the performances are perfect. "I love Jane so much. I was genuinely crying that day." This is the final season for Glee and Dot is ready for whatever comes next. The world will have their eyes opened to the transgender community and it couldn't come at a better time. Dot is quick to point out that this is only the beginning of what she hopes is more and more "real life" issues being played out on TV. "We need to see this. People go through this all the time and it's important and I'm honored to tell their story." One of the highlights for me was when Dot delivers the line of the episode: "It's not about who I want to go to bed with, it's about who I want to go to bed as."

Whatever the future holds for Dot Marie Jones after Glee, understand this... she is the real deal and is as genuine as they come. I am honored to have her in my life and thrilled to have let you all connect the Dot, just a little.

Mark Shunock is the star of Rock of Ages and creator of the monthly fundraiser Mondays Dark. Follow him at @MarkShunock.

www.gay.vegas/dotmariejones


Connect
the Dot



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MARCH The Foodie Issue.

Vegas is the Entertainment Capital of the World and is also becoming the Foodie Capital of the World. Not only do Celebrity chefs flock to Vegas for their new restaurants, but Vegas restaurants are not afraid to experiment and try out new ideas.

This issue featured Giada and her first restaurant at The Cromwell. We also reviewed 6 burgers around town, but it's about time we reviewed a few more.

Vegas is always in motion. Last March we reviewed Bartolotta Ristorante Di Mare, but over the summer, Chef Bartolotta announced his depature and the restaurant has been renamed Costa Di Mare.

Then newcomer Yardbird Southern Table & Bar continues to delight visitors at the Venetian, we interviewed the Season 7 queens, explored eating disorders in the LGBTQ community, and reviewed the Luxor, home of Temptation Sundays summer pool party.

This month we re-feature Johna Myers' interview with Del Shores.



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Calling
Del Shores



[by Johna Myers]

This month we're delighted to introduce a new feature article #1900JOHNA, by Johna Myers. Each month, Johna will bring you celebrity interviews from around the world. Stay up to date with Johna on www.gay.vegas/johnamyers

I'm so excited for my first column in QVegas Magazine. This month, I called up Del Shores to have him tell us a little bit about his Vegas escapades and work in general. Here's kind of how the call went...

What's your craziest Vegas story?

About 15 years ago, I went to Vegas to see my friend Olivia Newton-John perform on New Year's. My friend Steve and I went, both having just gotten our hearts broken. I was tired of answering questions about being "Del Shores" the writer/director, so we decided to lie, make up fake names and fake professions every time someone asked. This was before Facebook and less fame, so I wasn't recognized like I am now in the gay community. We were at the Hilton in a hot tub with straight guys and professions came up. I said I was a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon and Steve said he was my anesthesiologist. Well, suddenly we were bombarded by questions we couldn't answer because one of the guys wife was planning a facelift. I told them I'd rather not work on my vacation and would come back with a card so they could make an appointment. We fled to our rooms, hoping to not see them the rest of the trip. The other crazy story was going to my Aunt Reta's 6th wedding in a limo, hearing her and new husband recite vows in the care -- at a drive-through chapel!

Have you ever had sex in Vegas?

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. It's a sexy city. And I love hotels. AND I've stayed at Blue Moon Resort. I've been in Vegas with boyfriends, a husband and as a singlet horny man, so that's probably not enough yeses.

Oddest place you've ever had an intimate encounter?

Ever? I'm a very sexual person and I went through a big slut period. A hand job under a blanket on a plane once was hot. You have to be so quiet! I once drug a futon on the roof of a guest house and had sex under the stars and full moon (pun intended) in the summer time. Getting the futon up and down was a pain, but it was worth it. I'm liking this interview.

When can Vegas expect you or your work in the near future?

I don't know. I'd love to come there with my new show SINgularly SORDID. I need to get on that, huh, as we are just now booking. The Onyx contacted me recently. I know the owners of Share. Hey, club owners in Vegas. Hit me up!

Most you've ever tipped a gogo dancer?

Oh I love this question! I've tipped $20s many times and paid more than that for lap dances, but one night, very drunk, at Fubar in LA on my birthday, I tipped a hot go-go boy a $100 dollar bill that was mixed with my wad of ones. It honestly was an drunk accident and I realized what I had done as I tucked it into his briefs -- but how do you reach back in and take it back? You don't!!! You know that it was for a worthy cause! I love go-go boys. I always say, I tip them in lieu of giving to the homeless. They work hard for that money!

What's your relationship w/ Leslie Jordan?

We have been secret lovers for thirty years.



Wouldn't that be a fun rumor to start? No, Leslie and I are celebrating this year 30 years of working together. I adore him. He's one of my best friends. We talk or text almost daily about just any old thing. He makes me laugh harder than anybody on this planet. And if he will work with me, I will work with him until one of us goes to comedy heaven.

Have you guys ever hung out outside of work?

Oh my God yes. Before Leslie got sober and I came out, he was my running buddy. We trolled so many bars together and have so many sordid stories, we could write a book. These days when we are in the same city, we lunch or dine occasionally and catch up.

And if our readers were to tag along for the night.. What could we expect?

Hilarity. We are the same onstage and off. Leslie tells stories with ease and I listen, then chime in with my own. If you had a meal with us, I promise, you would never forget it. There is no filter!

As someone who is on Out Top 100 lists has anyone ever questioned your validity as a person in the gay scene.. Because Of your family?

Yes. There are those in our community who love to eat their own. When tragedy hits your life, like losing your series, home and fortune (like when the legal issues of Sordid Lives: The Series happened), there are those who rejoice and write horrible things about you. When divorce happened and I was no longer the poster guy for gay marriage, there were those who wrote

me -- haters even in our community -- who were so happy and felt that my activism was invalid because of the circumstances of my life. As far as me being a dad of two daughters, having been in a marriage with a woman before I came out, not so much. So many in our community, especially those from the Southern states like me, because of religion and society have had similar paths. Sometimes, you just have to stop reading blogs and comments on stories, and your skin gets a little thicker. I will say this though. I get much much more love that hate. And I chose to focus on that.

I don't think a lot of people understand that you're not just a writer. Del Shores is definitely an artist. What motivates you? Where do you pull from artistically?

Thank you, Johna. I observe. If it's not something I've lived and breathed -- like the film we did together SOUTHERN BAPTIST SISSIES -- I collect characters and stories by just listening! I love people. I love characters. I love the forgotten people. The ones in trailers, the ones in bars, the ones dancing on boxes, waitresses, beauty operators, cashiers at The Stop N' Go. The salt of the earth - REAL people. And I love to tell their stories. To honor them, not make fun of.

Have you ever hung out with fans?

Many times. I love my fans. They are my employers and allow me to do what I love. I celebrate with them. I have a meet and great after almost every show - and many times, hang and go out after. Many fans have become friends. Hey, speaking of hanging with fans, I have a great event coming up. A SORDID LIVES CRUISE - hosted by myself and Ann Walker (LaVonda). We sail the Caribbean for 7 days for a Halloween cruise with lots of Sordid events, and we are going to hang with fans and have a great time. Here's the link for the Facebook event : https://www.facebook.com/events/731469323615896 and here's the link to book. ALL INFO: http://www.thesordidlivescruise.com Come, come, come!!!

When can we expect you to write a gay superhero drama?

Oooh, I may have to leave that to other gay writers. Not really my passion.

Realism seems to be a theme that every piece of media you've worked on has in common. Why?

I gravitate to what I know, what I've lived and characters whose stories I'm attracted to. So the fantasy films, the surreal, the superhero kind of genre, yes, I enjoy, but I'd much rather see a Horton Foote play or a Tennessee Williams play or film, than the latest Galaxy movie.

Worst car you've ever driven..

Easy. I had an old AMC Hornet in high school and my first year of college. It had this weird problem with the gas line and sometimes it'd die and I'd have to pop the hood, blow a hose (some things never change) and unblock the air bubble that was causing the problem. I was too poor to get it properly fixed, so that was how I rolled.

And what job did you drive it to?

I worked at Pizza Hut as a waiter, La Quinta as a desk clerk and I billed at freight company that freshman year of college (Baylor, Waco, Texas).

Is QVegas your fav Gay Vegas publication?

Well, of course. This is a very Price of Tides question. Remember Nick Nolte's character and his sister realized that the mother had told both of them that they were her favorite? And she told them to never tell the other. So, shhhhh. Don't tell anybody but QVegas is actually my favorite publication in the entire world!

Del Shores is represented by Bradley Glenn at The Kaplan-Stahler Agency and his publisher is Samuel French, Inc. Visit his fan page @ http://www.facebook.com/delshoresfanclub.



APRIL The Outdoor Issue.

We loved shooting Josh Strickland on the rooftop of Drai's. Most people think of all the things to to indoors in town, but there's much more outside, including volleyball, zip-lines, outdoor dining, and even the gay rodeo.





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THE ECOLOGY ENTREPRENEUR

On any given morning, you might find him drenched in sweat in some random alley in Hollywood. You're also equally likely to find him digging in the dirt on the Las Vegas Strip. No, we're not doing a story on homelessness or drug abuse in America. This is a story about a designer, artist, and philanthropist with a serious green thumb.

From an early age, Troy Silva had an immense passion for nature. By age 12, he'd already filled his childhood home with five elaborate aquariums and terrariums. Now, we're not talking those cheesy pink gravel with floating scuba diver figurine-type aquariums here. Even as a child, Silva was, what he calls, "ecologically inspired." Therefore, even his early creations could be better described as elaborate, miniature habitats, modeled after different natural ecosystems from around the world. Growing up in San Diego, his primary source of inspiration was the world famous San Diego Zoo. "I still remember the overwhelming excitement I felt whenever I visited the zoo. That feeling of excitement still hasn't worn off to this day!" exclaims Silva.

Drai's Beach Club
The Cromwell, Las Vegas



Victor Drai's Hollywood Hills Residence

As Troy Silva grew up, his passion for nature continued to flourish, leading him to attend Cornell University's Landscape Architecture program, spend a semester in Sydney studying sustainable design, and even land an apprenticeship with Jim Neri, the landscape architect responsible for designing the vast majority of the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park's most celebrated animal exhibits and attractions. All the while, Silva had begun to realize his creative, entrepreneurial spirit wouldn't be nurtured unless he started his own design firm. So, in 2005, he did just that, founding Urban Nature as a landscape design firm focusing on upscale single family and multi-family residential projects.

By the end of 2006, Troy Silva had developed an extensive residential portfolio in Los Angeles. At this time, his uniquely sophisticated, yet imaginative design style caught the eye of a Las Vegas developer in the midst of the city's condo conversion craze. This began Silva's "bi-west coastal" lifestyle, wherein half of his time would be spent in LA, and the other half in Vegas. Prior







Raw materials found all over the world are sent the Las Vegas studio, where they are transformed into finished works by a team of local freelance artists and artisans. Items are available for purchase at VariantFurnishings.com



Natural Art Installation
MoNA (Museum of Natural Art)
Hollywood

to this time, Silva had only visited Vegas twice in his life. However, during those two visits, he fell head over heels in love with it! To him, "the strip was a place where modern visionaries had built their wildest dreams." With seemingly limitless budgets and a constant need to wow visitors with completely over the top sensory experiences, Silva, like most designers, reveled in the idea of making his mark on the Las Vegas design scene.

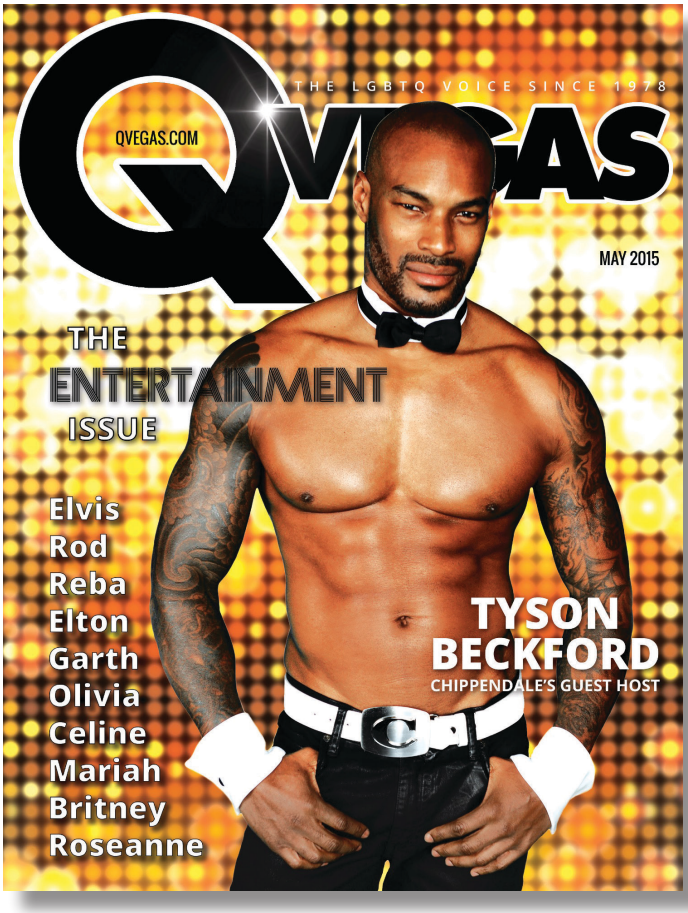
Fast forward through one of America's worst economic downturns, and you'll find Troy Silva dabbling in virtually every facet of the landscape, interior, and furniture design industries. When times were tough, Silva just kept "planting as many seeds as possible and hoping that some of them would grow into wildly successful businesses", he explains. To summarize, he continued to take on upscale residential projects, opened a retail showroom amidst LA's avenues of art and design, launched a few of his own furniture lines, started a charity organization to revitalize Hollywood (MoNA), traveled the country to exhibit his works on the "trade show circuit", and traveled the world in search of inspiration.

Somewhere in this exhausting whirlwind of career/life experiences, Troy Silva met nightlife impresario, Victor Drai. Upon completing an extensive landscape renovation at Drai's fabulous Hollywood Hills estate, Silva was invited to join Drai in creating what is now, according to Robin Leach, "the most beautiful club in the world".

"When I met Victor, my primary goal in life instantly became to impress the hell out of him so I could realize my dream of designing something on the Las Vegas Strip. I was also really impressed by Victor's design aesthetic and was completely in awe of him as a business person," says Silva.

When asked what Silva has in store for the future, he says he plans to continue splitting his time between LA and Vegas. He also added that he hopes to spend even more time in Vegas designing additional nightlife projects, building up his latest furnishings company (Variant), and even bringing his community revitalization charity (MoNA) to some of Vegas's older neighborhoods, which are in desperate need of a substantial dose of TLC!

Natural Art Installation
MoNA (Museum of Natural Art)
Hollywood



MAY The Entertainment Issue.

Nothing says entertainment like Vegas. Tyson Beckford hosted the Chippendales twice this year. Celine returned to her home stage at the Colosseum. Olivia and Britney renewed their residencies, Ms. Ross is back, and JLo is on the way.



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Roseanne

[by Shane Henderson]



What is your favorite thing about living in Hawaii?

The ocean and swimming in it - I had anxiety about swimming but I overcame it. I also love my organic farming as well as getting involved in local government politics. We actually have created good laws and fought bad ones! I like all that old lady stuff.

What has been the most exciting part of returning back to your standup root? What has been the most challenging?

The exciting part is just pulling it off - getting over my anxiety and stage fright - walking out from behind that curtain. They give me the welcoming applause, but then I have to work to earn the laughs, and once they start I just want to keep people happy and thinking and enjoying something together.

Challenging? Same thing: Just pulling it off. You're out there by yourself. You're only as good as your next joke.

What advice would you give to someone looking to make their first steps to pursuing a dream of performing standup comedy?

It's always the same: Don't kid yourself. It's not about having a dream; it's about building a reality. It's a demanding, exacting craft and it takes work and skill and intelligent observation, and the list goes on. Be consistently funny and original, onstage. Then? Lather, rinse, repeat!

Did you partake in any exciting events for the 4/20 holiday?

I can't remember. Does that answer your question?

While attending your show, hilarious by the way, I noticed the audience to be very diverse. What would you say makes you so relatable to so many different people?

Lots of differences between people are superficial. The powers that be try to divide us, but people have common issues. Everybody's pissed off about things - I mean, if they're paying attention. So, make it funny!

What makes Lipshtick different than any other comedy show?

Well, obviously the all women format, for starters. Even now, there's still sexism in Comedy. We're making big progress with Amy Shumer and Sarah Silverman, and some brilliant women whose name you may not know, but should, like Shayma Tash who you're lucky enough to have right here in Las Vegas.

What is the most challenging thing about being in the entertainment industry? What is the most rewarding?

Lipshtick™

Roseanne returns to The Venetian June 6



Playing the game, so to speak, can be maddening. You may be 'the star' but you have to still hit all your marks on schedule in the big machine that is promotion and The Business. The rewards are living a life of an 'artist'-thinking, freedom to create ideas, art & the challenge of continually perfecting your craft.

What is your favorite part of the day?

The parts where I'm eating. If I don't go too crazy, I can nibble and make the whole day almost one big meal with some breaks stuck in there, for napping and criticizing people and stuff.

Words to live by?

First, have fun.

The joys of being a grandmother!! What are your favorite things about being a grandmother?

Listening to the things kids think about and the way they see the universe life death dessert-they are very aware of the Now of things-I like that in a person. Adults are boring mostly.

One possession you cannot live without?

My money - I still have a little left from the Cha-CHING years, but every day more people need help and I'm a soft touch, so I need to keep earning for awhile or I won't have snack money for my golden years.

Do you have any hidden talents that you're fans do not know about?

Yes, I'm great at spotting misspellings, especially of the possessive pronoun YOURS. "You're," with the apostrophe, is the contraction of 'you are.' Now, don't correct it when you print your question; I want people to get the joke.

What is your favorite movie?

I really liked the one about the woman who painted the kids with the big eyes but got ripped off by her no-good husband. I can relate. I can't remember the name of the movie, but I can't remember my kids' birthdays, so, whatever.

Do you believe in life after love?

Life is a never-ending love affair with your true self. I've had a pretty cool boyfriend for over twelve years, but we don't get all dramatic about it - that's probably why it's lasted.

You look AMAZING!! What's your secret?!

Two secrets, really: Voodoo and Yak placenta. There's a third, but I'm KEEPING that a secret - it's going to be an active ingredient in my new cosmetic line: "Hag-Away."



JUNE
The #hashtag Issue.

Social media has change the digital landscape. Our vernacular has transitioned from OMG and WTF to #byefelecia and #sorrynotsorry. We like, share, post, and tag day in and day out. Our #hashtag issue collected an online potpourri of topics from #DJLP Lisa Pittman to Chef #JulianSerrano.



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#JULIANSERRANO

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

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

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

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

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

At this point, I had a visit from my friend Phillip, who works at Julian Serrano Tapas. We chatted, caught up a bit, and discussed Chef Serrano's food. Phillip recommended a dish which he said was a bit of a hard sell for some customers, the Rabo De Toro, or oxtail. Oxtail is a fatty, bony meat, generally used in stews, soups and other dishes requiring long cooking times. Inexperienced diners tend to avoid it because the central bone running the length of the tail can make it difficult to eat. In this case, the oxtail was de-boned and braised till falling-apart tender, rolled tightly into bite-sized morsels, garnished with slivers of green onion, and served atop a bed of Iberico ham mashed potato. The meat was succulent, with just the right amount of fattiness, and a lovely Madeira wine reduction provided a touch of sweetness to counter the richness of the beef. According to Phillip, the serving staff recommends this dish quite frequently. I can understand why!

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

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

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



JULY
The Swimsuit Issue.

Summer was so hot we had to delay our annual Swimsuit Issue one month to count the votes and it still ended in a tie! Curtis and Scot didn't seem to mind sharing the spotlight or the sunlight.





Everybody's Girl

[by Jim McCoy]

Norma once said……"Every room should have three things: Structure, Wit and an Opinion! The same applies to me! But add a small ounce of Vanity – it never hurt anyone! In fact, sometimes it helps!"

Norma Llyaman – The self-proclaimed Bearded Lady of Las Vegas is vain! But her vanity is not seeded with attitude or arrogance. Norma's Vanity is embodied with the spectacular sensation of the roar of a crowd. It is enriched by the personal connections and contributions that she has made with the Las Vegas LGBTQ community and allies. However, her suspect vain consciousness of her appearance and her presence plays a huge role in the character that she channels.

Norma is "proud as a peacock" when she appears 100% put

together - at least in her own mind. Her style and look is retro. It's vintage and shabby-chic. From head to toe, the look is always Park Avenue meets Sunset Blvd meets Mommie Dearest. She is a true archeologist at a thrift or second hand store because she can always find the hidden gems. She is a true "Second Hand Rose!"

"The perfect rhinestone baubles, satin gloves, heels and the right fur can make any old rag look like a million dollars! And Pearls....a gal must always have a good pearl necklace!"

"On the subject of vanity, I usually pay a bit less attention to my hair and make-up. I was home schooled in the glamour business so my references to beauty were Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey! If you're going to be the Bearded Lady, you don't have to focus as much on the illusion as you do THE presence! Lipstick on a Pig! Makes them smile all the time!"

Never putting "all of her eggs in one basket," Norma became a hot commodity fast in Las Vegas and now years later she is still expressing her creativity through her stage talents and her philanthropic involvements including The Center and The Sin Sity Sisters.

As an active member of the LGBT Network Group at MGM Resorts International, Norma has recently taken her celebrity and her 2014 First place win for the corporation's Talent Show to create an incredible show "One Night Only!" It was a premiere evening of entertainment and fundraising for the corporation's foundation. The event hosted close to 200 devoted friends and family who came together celebrating Diversity and Community.

“Norma had been in the closet for too long! When she finally busted out, she couldn’t be stopped! They say it isn’t a party until Norma shows up!” Stated Jim McCoy, Norma’s personal confidant.





AUGUST The Philanthropy Issue.

Our Philanthropy Issue paid tribute to several organizations throughout Las Vegas that do good things.

QVegas has a long history of supporting many LGBT organizations, but as print costs increased we let business decisions direct our charitable decisions. Now with the cost of print gone, we're able to put the power of our digital technology behind any LGBTQ non-profit by providing free advertising year round.




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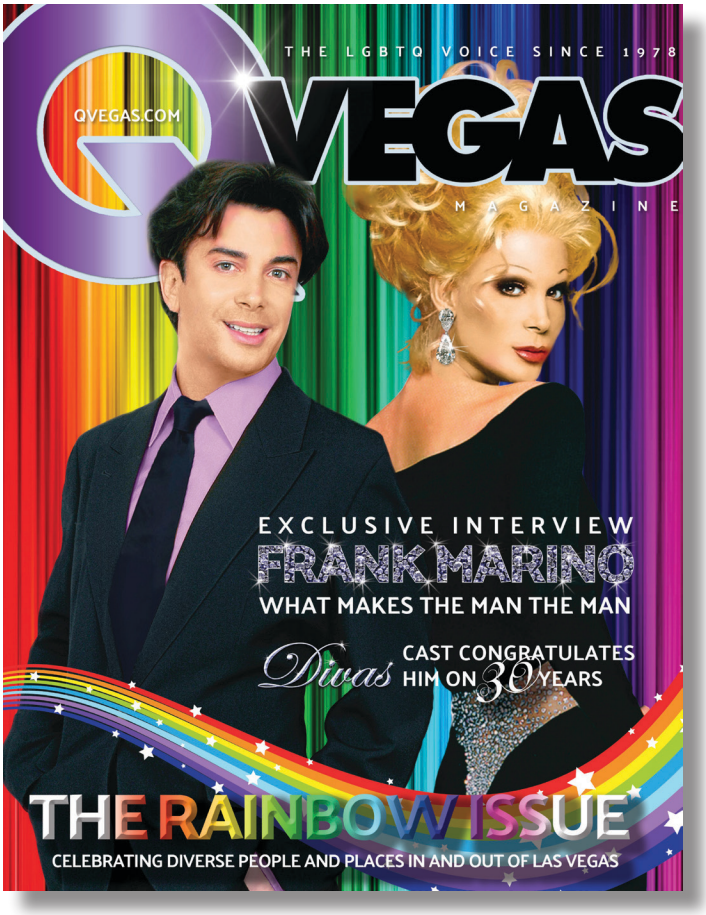
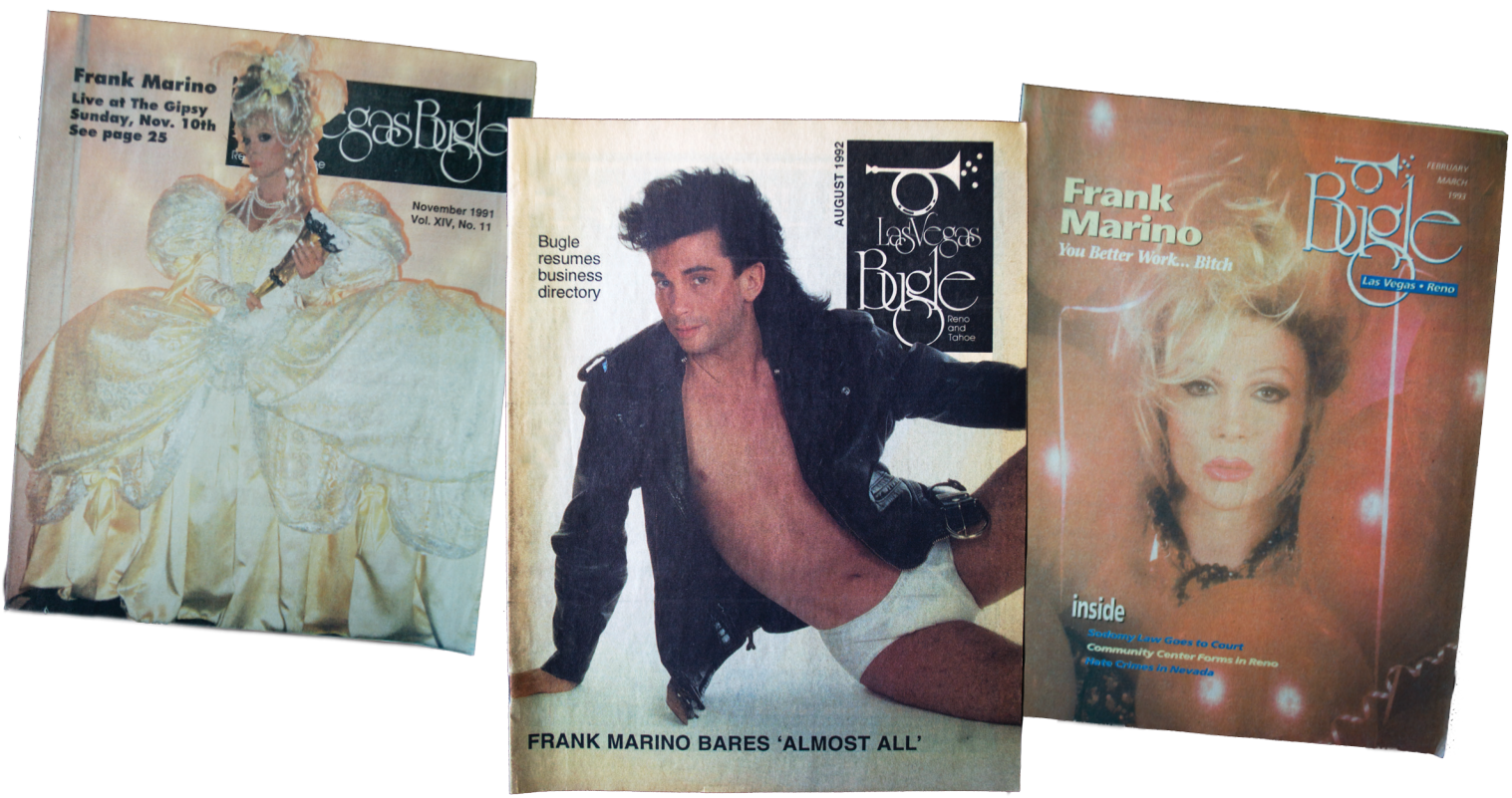


SEPTEMBER The Rainbow Issue.

How could we not dedicate our September issue to Frank Marino as he celebrates 30 years as Vegas' longest running headliner.

In this one-of-a-kind exclusive interview, Frank opens up like never before about his journey through equality.

We collaborated with other LGBTQ publications around the country to highlight their cities, and an incredible interview with Brihony Dawson.

















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BRIHONY DAWSON



INSIDE LADYHOOD

[by t]

Photo: Shannon Morris

Since Brihony Dawson of LadyHood hit the US, women all over the country have become bona fide Bri-sexuals. The Australian vocalist is traveling between LA and Vegas to write and produce music, while spreading a message of feminism, equal love and LGBT community empowerment.

So why Vegas?

'I love Vegas! It's an entertainment mecca. There's an amazing underground rock scene here and the musicians are incredibly talented. Americans are so open and willing to help you out. Most people have got to where they are through help from other people and they're generous about paying it forward. I love that.'

There's no doubt about the caliber of music Dawson is producing, but what really sets her apart from other rock chicks is her androgenic style. Pushing the boundaries of gender stereotyping, Dawson has a message to send and she's not messing around with it.

'I don't want people who are exploring who they are to feel alone or experience shame. I think of myself as gender fluid and it's taken me a long time to be okay with that. There are a lot of people who are still struggling to accept themselves because they think they have to be one way or another. You see the extremes in the media like Caitlyn Jenner or Andrej Pejic, who, of course I fully support, but what about the people in the middle who can't really relate to that kind of role model?

What about the people who aren't transgender, but might identify as gender queer, bi-gender or gender fluid? These people still struggle to be heard. I want to give them support.'

Listening to LadyHood's new EP is like sleeping with your ex. We left pop rock music in the 80's didn't we? Then why does it feel so damn good to let those lusty guitar licks wash over you again? Long-limbed, blonde rock goddess Dawson commands her all girl band in the femme fueled 80's fantasy that is Finger on the Pulse. The EP is made up of five gutsy, original tracks, reminiscent of those rock hymns that were the sound track to your coming of age, but with a modern pop



Photo: Gillian Perry Photo



Photo: Kayzar Bhat

edge. It's Queen meets Alannis Morissette. It's the love child of Rita Ora and Joe Elliot. It's fucking awesome music that sticks in your mind and dances on the tip of your tongue. Standouts are the first release single, Naked, a sexy power ballad with a deeper meaning, and Bad Girl, a surprisingly grisly, pumped up track, full of anticipation. Dawson's lyrics motivate and inspire as she propels through a captivating arrangement in the catchy, classic anthem Stand and Deliver, while the meaty chords of the ultimate love song Do It All Again will surely have you pulling out your air guitar to play along. Finally Playing With Fire seduces with rock roots and a pop tune. Altogether, sublime.

Dawson is particularly keen to speak about the imminent release of the music video for Naked and the story behind it.

'The clip shows a couple in the early stages of their relationship. They don't know each other very well yet. One of them is hiding both physical and emotional parts of herself from the other. She strips back the layers and becomes more emotionally naked and real as the clip goes on. Ultimately she realizes that she didn't have anything to hide as her partner fully accepts her.

'I love Vegas! It's an entertainment mecca. There's an amazing underground rock scene here and the musicians are incredibly talented.

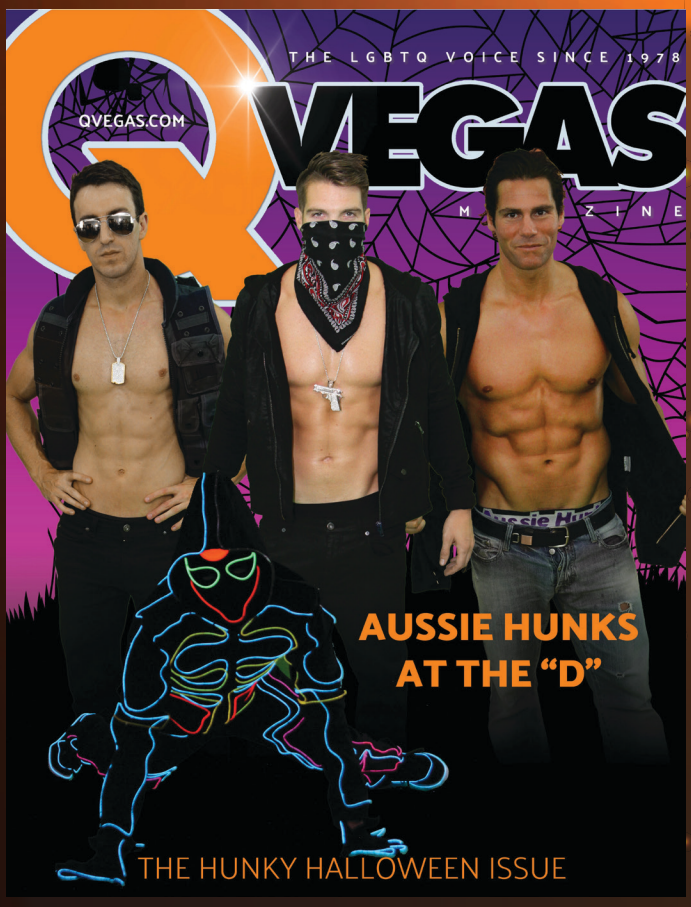
The other character portrays a woman totally owning her own sexuality and sexual desires without shame. These are two things I really wanted to show, shamelessness and acceptance'.

So it seems the pulse isn't the only thing Dawson has her finger on. Poised to smash the international music scene, Ladyhood is the toughest, roughest diamond in rock. Brihony sweats charisma and sex appeal and more than makes up for the lack of genuine rock chicks on the world music stage in recent times. Keep a look out for LadyHood and the new music video Naked, coming out soon!



LadyHood's debut EP Finger on the Pulse is available on iTunes or through their website www.ladyhoodband.com

Photo: Gillian Perry Photo



OCTOBER
The Hunky Halloween Issue.







ASIAN INVASION

Randy Jackson Launches His New Artist in Las Vegas

[by Mark Dawson]

Pop singing sensation Wil is best known for his WTF album, named Best Pop Album Of The Year at last year's Hollywood F.A.M.E Awards. It also received noms at the Los Angeles Music Awards for Best Album and Pop Artist of the Year.

This month, Wil makes his move to the dance floor with "What Are We Waiting For", an EDM track produced by American Idol's Randy Jackson. Written by Wil and Steve Dresser and Jeff Blue, the empowering track is being called Sia meets Enrique Iglesias meets Adele, set against a kinetic David Guetta beat. Wil describes it as a passionate track that attacks love from a male perspective. He performs "What Are We Waiting For" live at Share on December 5th.

How did you come to work with Randy Jackson?

I was filming a music video at a downtown Los Angeles studio, and Randy happened to be there with another band he manages. He came to my set and was like, "Yo, what's up?".

Coming from Europe, were you familiar with Randy Jackson and what he means to American pop music?

Absolutely! I was thinking "wait, is that really Randy Jackson?" He had me send some songs to





him. Two weeks later, I was hiking and my phone rang. I picked up and heard, "Yo Wil, this is Randy Jackson. What do you think about having a coffee?" I freaked out.

What was that first meeting like?

I was hungry for knowledge. I wanted his guidance. Randy is very genuine and authentic. The perfect mentor. He has an incredible foresight and intuition with music. It's like getting wisdom from a Buddha.

How did he contribute to the record?

Randy made "What Are We Waiting For" a whole lot sexier. He knows what he wants as a producer. He knows what connects with people, musically. What is really cool about Randy is he never says no. He'll laugh and say, "That's great, but if you tried this, it might be cool". So, really, he allows an artist to have the room to grow based on my instincts yet builds and guides. He leads without resistance.

How does What Are We Waiting For compare with your previous songs?

My past songs were written with European and Asian influences. "What Are We Waiting For" has a very strong American influence.

Whose idea was is it to take you into EDM?

Randy's.



Do you love to lose yourself on the dance floor?

Nothing is better. My first time at a club, I lost my shoes! Now that's the way to end a night!

Have you experienced the demise of a relationship like the one you describe in the song?

I have. What I've learned is communication is key in all relationships. You gotta share how you feel. That's the only way a relationship grows.

What's next for you?

I have a bunch of new singles coming up and I'm hitting the road with "What Are We Waiting For." It's going to be a fun 2016.

Wil's "What Are We Waiting For" and its remixes by Jose Nunez are available on iTunes now. Visit http://wilentertain.com



NOVEMBER
The Pet Issue.

Hydrant Club opened downtown and we celebrated with our Pet Issue.





#HYDRANTHANGOUT

Photos: Krystal Ramirez Photography



December 1st is World AIDS day. We stand and honor those living with HIV/AIDS while remembering those who have died. The advancements in HIV/AIDS have been life altering and for those in the world with access to HIV medications the disease has become manageable.

Here at Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) we continue, along with our community partners, to provide services to those who are living with HIV/AIDS through case management, nutrition management, education and mental health counseling to those who are infected as well as affected. Whether someone is newly diagnosed or has already been living with HIV/AIDS a unique set of challenges and feelings are present that take time to reconstruct and begin to manage. Living with the stigma alone can be isolating and painful.

To define what it is like receive the news that one is positive or disclosing one's status to loved ones is a shared and individualized unique experience to those living with HIV/AIDS. It would be limiting to define such experiences for all in a few short sentences. AFAN continues efforts in normalizing conversations about one's status while educating others of what it means to be living with HIV/AIDS. AFAN seeks to raise awareness of how one can protect themselves while navigating conversations about needs, wants and desires with loved ones in their lives.

AFAN is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and available to assist through mentioned services. If you or someone you know has questions or would like to seek services call 702-382-2326 to be guided in the appropriate direction for the services that are requested. HIV can be lonely road, let us walk it along with you!

Photo: Robert Taylor / worldaidsday.org

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AN EVENING AT THE COLOSSEUM

Celine Dion Takes Us On A Journey During Her Much Loved Residency Show



[By Scott Matti]

There is no foolproof method to prepare oneself to see Celine Dion in concert. You can dress up in your fanciest labels and spritz on your finest fragrance.

You can spend the entire afternoon prior to the show enjoying her discography. You can even try downing a cocktail or two in hopes of calming your spirit. But, when that curtain lifts and her beaded gown reflects the dramatic spotlights, there is no containing yourself. Simply put, Celine is a diva. A diva with a joyous force that compels you to cry, laugh, shout, and with your greatest efforts, sing.

Celine Dion understands how to put on a spectacular performance. "Celine" is her second residency show at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Her first residency show, "A New Day...", took place in 2003 at The Colosseum as well and enjoyed a five-year run. After a year on hiatus, the show has victoriously returned with a new look. This time around, Dion says that "with the orchestra and the band we're going to be able to perform our songs like never before. The repertoire is going to be extraordinary..." And extraordinary it is.

From start to finish, it is evident that this experience is very personal to Dion and she is eager to share it with her fans. During her hit, "Where Does My Heart Beat Now", multiple screens are lowered in place from above and display a montage of Dion from years past. Prior to this, the songstress took a moment to pay tribute to those affected by the recent tragedies in France. At that moment, it became clear that



Photos: Denise Truscello

every heart in that venue was full of compassion and love; a refreshing opposition to the current times. Later, a montage of her family was played on the screens and the audience began to cheer, reminding Dion that we are all here for one another.

The show is designed with a timeless production and enveloped in warmth. Thirty-one brilliant and refined band members make up the orchestra. A vibrant mix of pianists, violinists, trumpeters and more accompany Dion with a classic array of pure music. Her stunning vocals, which sound even better live if you can imagine, are brought to new heights thanks to the wonderful talents that share the stage with her, dancers and band members alike. Throughout the night, the stage transforms and shifts as it glides along the floor. Her famous hits are intertwined with newer tunes and surprising covers to give the show a sense of freshness. Her luxurious fashion matches the show's energy. Sequins and beads drape her gowns created by fashion mavens such as Zuhair Murad and Elie Saab. Radiant canary and bright turquoise flow behind her as she sways about. Bottom line: if you're looking for a good time, you've come to the right place.

However, if you have yet to see the show, do not fear. Due to popular demand, and I mean POPULAR, "Celine" has been extended through to June of 2016. Wait no more, see the show, and be sure to expect a collection of genres ranging from classic rock to jazz to orchestral compositions. Expect many memories you have forgotten to come flooding back (seeing as Dion has been the soundtrack to many of our lives). Expect to make new friends and grow closer to the ones you already have. And most importantly, expect the unexpected. As Celine said herself, "Tonight was not really a new day. Tonight was not a new show. It was a new beginning." And what this new beginning will bring, only Celine can tell.

KEEP THE "T" IN LGBTQIA+



[by Andres Fragoso, Jr.]

The LGBTQIA+ community is making history again. This time is not in a positive way. That fact scares me as a gay man.

A group of gay, lesbian, and bisexual men and women who will not give their names or identify themselves, are petitioning through Change.org as a Human Rights Campaign, (https://www.change.org/p/human-rights-campaign-glaad-lambda-legal-the-advocate-out-magazine-huffpost-gay-voices-drop-the-t) by using a letter format to various LGBTQIA+ organizations asking for signatures on their petition to Drop the "T" in LGBTQIA+. This in of itself is a dangerous petition for the safety of the LGBTQIA+ community at large. We need to keep the "T" in LGBTQIA+

Historically speaking, we as humans have sought to be accepted for who we are. It's human nature to segregate, separate, decimate others who are not like us. However, when we as the LGBTQIA+ start discriminating amongst ourselves, something needs to be said. Something needs to be done about it. We do not have the privilege of forgetting how far we have come to go back to the stone ages.

The petition in essences takes away the rights we have fought for and have barely succeeded. A small group of gay/lesbian/bi men and women have sought to change that, by blatantly discriminating against the Transgender. Can we as a community do that to ourselves? Why should we allow that to happen?

The reasons the LGBTQIA+ community came together as a whole was to protect ourselves from hate, it was also a way for us to come together and educate the ignorant. That we are not third class human beings, we are not aliens, we are simply normal humans. The word NORMAL is what we are. It doesn't matter if we are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or otherwise, we are NORMAL human beings. Why is having a "T" an issue?

The trans community cannot do this alone, just like the gays, lesbians, bisexuals can. We have to work together and not segregate each other for being different. It's bad enough that the heterosexuals see all of us a queer, strange, otherworldly, but when we do it to ourselves, we are only harming ourselves and giving the extremist, religious, anti-gay people more munition to hate us all. Is that what that small group of gay, lesbian, bisexual men and women want? Is that what we want?

In the past one hundred years we as a whole community have gone through discrimination from the heterosexuals from being different. In the later decades of the twenty first century, we discriminated amongst ourselves, gay men hated butch lesbians because they were more masculine than them. Lipstick lesbians hated fem gays for being prissy and girly. From the beginning of this century, it seemed that we all got along.

The transgender community came out over the past decade and has taken a new approach to what different is. They now suffer separation and hate from their own families, discrimination from ignorance,

Publisher's Note: At publication time, the change.org petition had received nearly 2,500 supporters. HRC, GLAAD, Lambda Legal, and The Advocate posted opposing responses in support of the transgender community. QVegas and Gay.Vegas stand in solidarity with the transgender community and thank Andres for taking the time to contribute this article.

from the heterosexuals, stoned and outlasted by the religious organizations. And on top of all that, they now have to endure the hate, discrimination, segregation, outlasting from the gays, lesbians, and bisexual men and women, who at one time fought for their rights.

Is this how we want history to know the LGBTQIA+ community? As one big hypocritical, self-hating, not forgiving, ignorant people? I think that if we do drop the "T" in LGBTQIA+, we are not going to be taken seriously anymore. We will become the joke and laughing stock of the heterosexual community, and a new patsy for the religious groups.

Please do not drop the "T" in LGBTQIA+, we have no right to do so. We need to keep the "T" in LGBTQIA+.

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

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[by Locq Fortune]

TAROSCOPE DECEMBER 2015

Your Monthly Taroscope

Your Monthly Taroscope by Locq Fortune:

t is a local Las Vegas Psychic and the author of the brand new book: Vibeology: http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/Locq ! He is available for private readings, parties or public events and is the only psychic in Las Vegas who is licensed to come to you. His private readings feature No Time Limits, he can also record your reading for you and email it to listen to again later! Check out his Fan Page to read reviews and for contact information: www.facebook.com/afortuneonwheels

Taroscope is a monthly reading for each Astrological sign based on the card pulled for it from my Tarot Deck. This Taroscope is for December 2015

Ares: The 3 of Cups. Let the good times roll and the party begin! This card is especially favorable for my Lady Aries out there, time to contact your girls and party! You'll have a lot to celebrate this year, either you've already got what you've been hoping for or it's fast approaching. Either way expect to hear from close friends and relations as you get ready to celebrate and enjoy the Holiday Season!

Taurus: The 9 of swords. Ok it's the Holidays and you're stressing out a bit, just remember it's not the gift but the thought that counts most! Or you may find yourself so excited that you're having trouble sleeping waiting for the big day to arrive. Either way rest is important so I would suggest a warm cup of mint tea before bed time or a glass of warm milk to aid in sleeping. Happy Holidays!

Gemini: The Queen of Coins. It seems while everyone else is partying you're stuck at work , well no worries keep up the hard work because it is leading you towards big rewards. If you're planning to move this month your new home seems to be a blessing when compared to the old one! A great card for Lady Gemini's, stand your ground for big rewards! Eat, drink, be merry and have a Happy Holiday!

Cancer: King of Swords. Just because it's the holidays it doesn't mean you can dream BIG. You may find yourself with some rather lofty Ideas to work on this month but don't be daunted! Your big thoughts can lead to some great things, just remember this is the month to plan it and flesh out the details. You likely won't have time to actually get to work on it until next month. Season's Greetings!

Leo: 9 of coins. Ready? Then is time to aim and Fire! At the beginning of this year you had three major goals you needed to accomplish to make this a great year. Well you got two of them

done and the third one is within view so go for it! Or you may have already got everything done and it's time to sit back and enjoy! Either way remember to do something special for yourself as you celebrate the Holidays!

Virgo: Knight of Coins. Well those seeds you've planted are starting to bloom and boy does it look good and you've got help on its way! If you've been looking at purchasing a car now is the time to find a great buy. Some of you have been a little tight on cash but we have a surprise influx of money coming from an unexpected source, it's not a lot but more than enough to allow for a very Merry Holiday Season.

Libra: The Ace of Coins. All that hard work this year seems to have paid off in a big way for you! Make arrangements to insure this good fortune will last. You may find yourself in a spend or save dilemma, but that big ticket item may help make life a lot easier for you down the road. If you don't have anything big in mind but cash flow is looking good, then remember to SAVE. Happy Holidays!

Scorpio: The 8 of Swords. What a great month you had but now how to proceed and where do you go from here? These are excellent questions you may be asking yourself this month. Remember to listen to your intuition and proceed with caution, remember only fools rush in where angels fear to tread. Take a step back or discuss things with a disinterested third party to gain a better perspective. Happy Holidays!

Sagittarius: The Knight of Swords. Happy Birthday my hoven friend! You're here there and everywhere! So many great Ideas you seem all over the place to the casual observer. Slow down a bit to stop and smell the roses, everything may not be as it appears or you're moving too fast for others to keep up. I know how hard this is for you but now is not the time to act, it is the time to listen. Season's Greetings!

Capricorn: The Page of Swords. Yes I know it's important to get your way, but this month try compromise! You will be pleasantly surprised the fun and laughter it can bring. We all love you but sometimes you can be a bit pushy with your private agenda which can make the rest of us feel left out. Remember it's the Holidays and it's nice to share your kind thoughts with those you love!

Aquarius: The Knight of batons. Change is in the air and you my cup bearing friend could be the catalyst! Now it the time to move forward and let it be known that which you desire, you've sat on the bench long enough time to get back out there and enjoy the game! Speak your mind to get what you want. It's time to either move ahead or move on to a Happy Holiday Season for all you love!

Pieces: The Path Card. While everyone else is eating, drinking and being merry you may find higher thoughts on your mind. Spirit seems to be around you and blessing all that you do in such a way that it allows you to clearly see the bigger picture! Emotional clarity may come to visit you this Holiday season and for you my fishy friend that can be the most wonderful gift of all! Happy Holidays!

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