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January 2018

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MARTHA GRAHAM'S DANCE OF LIFE

Jan 21 - 24 | South Florida Symphony

SENSE & SENSIBILITY

Jan 24 | Bailey Hall, Broward College

A CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS

Jan 25 - 28 | Ramada Inn

HAMLET

Jan 31 | Bailey Hall, Broward College

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WHERE TO GO. WHAT TO DO. WHO TO MEET

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GAY TRAVEL: ON THE ROAD TO PHOENIX

By Ravi Roth



While planning a trip to Phoenix, Arizona, there is so much uncertainty. What clothing should you pack for a climate of extreme humidity? How tragic will the LGBTQ nightlife be in this red state? What food options would there be for a vegetarian? I was expecting a somewhat dull trip, but simultaneously hopeful to get the most out of the Phoenix and Scottsdale area. To my surprise, I was blown away!

The Phoenix and Scottsdale area is rapidly becoming the top destination for foodies as their farm to table restaurants are putting these cities among the top in the country. LGBTQ nightlife offers a gamut of options including leather bars, wild discos, cruise clubs, dive bars, and two relaxing saunas. The cultural activities are top notch, and the outdoor workouts not only blow your mind with stunning views, but also get you snatched!

For the luxury traveler, stay at the Andaz Scottsdale Resort and Spa. The ambiance is serene, each room has a private outdoor patio, and the bed is so comfortable that you may never want to wake up. You must go to the spa and get a full body scrub. Your skin will be glowing for days. In both the male and female locker room, there is access to an outdoor pool and jacuzzi where you can get some sun while wearing your birthday suit before the epic treatment in the spa. The main pool at Andaz is huge. The room key allows you to get in at all hours of the night, so skinny dipping under the stars is a must do.

For the budget traveler, check out the Hotel Valley Ho. Not only is it an affordable hotel but also rich with history. Bing Crosby and other Hollywood celebrities would often stay at this hotel as the paparazzi never followed them there. The design is mid-century and the vibe



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The gay nightlife scene is massive! There are 27 gay bars, restaurants, clubs, and bathhouses in the Phoenix and Scottsdale area. The LGBTQ nightlife feels like a judge-free community full of drag queens, misfits, and hotties. BS West is a midwestern cowboy bar in Scottsdale where drag sensation Kiki Andrews and her GoGo boys rock this crowd of gorgeous younger guys. If you want a dive bar with karaoke, pool tables, and a fun outside patio full of bears, twinks, otters, and muscle boys go to Bar 1. Dick's Cabaret offers fully nude strippers and GoGo boys who do private lap dances. There is no alcohol served here, but it's one hell of a good time. Hands down the best bath house in Phoenix is Flex Spa. Every night of the week you have a variety of options of guys, an amazing outdoor swimming pool, hot tub, steam room, and gym. The staple cowboy bar of Phoenix is Charlie's. Everyone goes here, and rightfully so! There are drag shows nightly and ripped gogo boys strutting their stuff around the bar.

The Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix represents over 200 countries and territories. Instruments I never knew existed were spread throughout the museum. Beautifully designed, it is the largest musical instruments museum in the world and a perfect place for families or

the inner band geek that we all have. (There is a jam out room where I rocked out on the bongos.)

If you are into architecture, then Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West in Scottsdale will blow your mind. Designed and built by Wright, it was his winter home and studio where he taught his apprentices. The guided tour is fantastic and will not break the bank. If you are afraid of heights and want to test your limit, go on a hot air balloon with Hot Air Expeditions. It is serene, gorgeous, and gives you a real sense of Arizona. The pilot of the hot air balloon does a champagne toast after you land, which is at 8AM. But hey, it's happy hour somewhere right?

Barrio Cafe offers the most authentic Mexican food in Phoenix. Get the queso dip, it will change your life. The spicy margarita will blow your mind but not your pocketbook. Mother Bunch is a lavish local brewery where the husband and wife brew on location tailoring to what the customers like. The mac and cheese is voted # 1 in all of Phoenix by Fodors. Hash Kitchen is the hottest place to go for brunch on the weekends with a Bloody Mary bar that has over 80 options of toppings from which to choose. There are two locations in Scottsdale and one coming soon to Phoenix. FnB Scottsdale is a farm-to-table restaurant, with the true local feel of the Scottsdale area agriculture. ➤





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If you are a fitness junkie or just someone who likes to keep active, you will fall in love with the variety of ways to keep fit. Get up at 6AM and hike Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

This lavish Preserve has hundreds of miles of trails. The 4.5 mile hike I highly suggest doing is the Gateway loop which takes roughly two hours. There are over 100 different types of cacti along the route. Kayaking along the Salt River with Arizona Outdoor Adventures takes extreme coordination and is one killer workout. Being that it is often over 100 degrees outside you can jump into the water, which is such a treat.

To find a local workout outside of the box don't be afraid to use the gay social apps. A mountain man from Grindr suggested his favorite activity, goat yoga. It is located roughly 40 miles from Phoenix in Mesa, AZ, but it is well worth the trek. Arizona Goat Yoga has

you sweating bullets, laughing uncontrollably, and in complete bewilderment. The class has over 75 people and 40 goats walking all over you the entire time. It is pure magic.

Phoenix, Scottsdale, and the entire state of Arizona have had leaps and hurdles like most states in America when it comes to LGBTQ rights. Oct. 17, 2014 marks the day that same sex marriage became legal throughout the state of Arizona.

Whether you visit the Phoenix/Scottsdale area to enjoy the hikes, delve into the nightlife, see a variety of art, or explore the local food scene, you will without a doubt leave with a profound sense of joy in one of the most underestimated cities in the United States!

Happy Travels
Xo
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For more information on LGBTQ travel visit www.RaviRoundTheWorld.com



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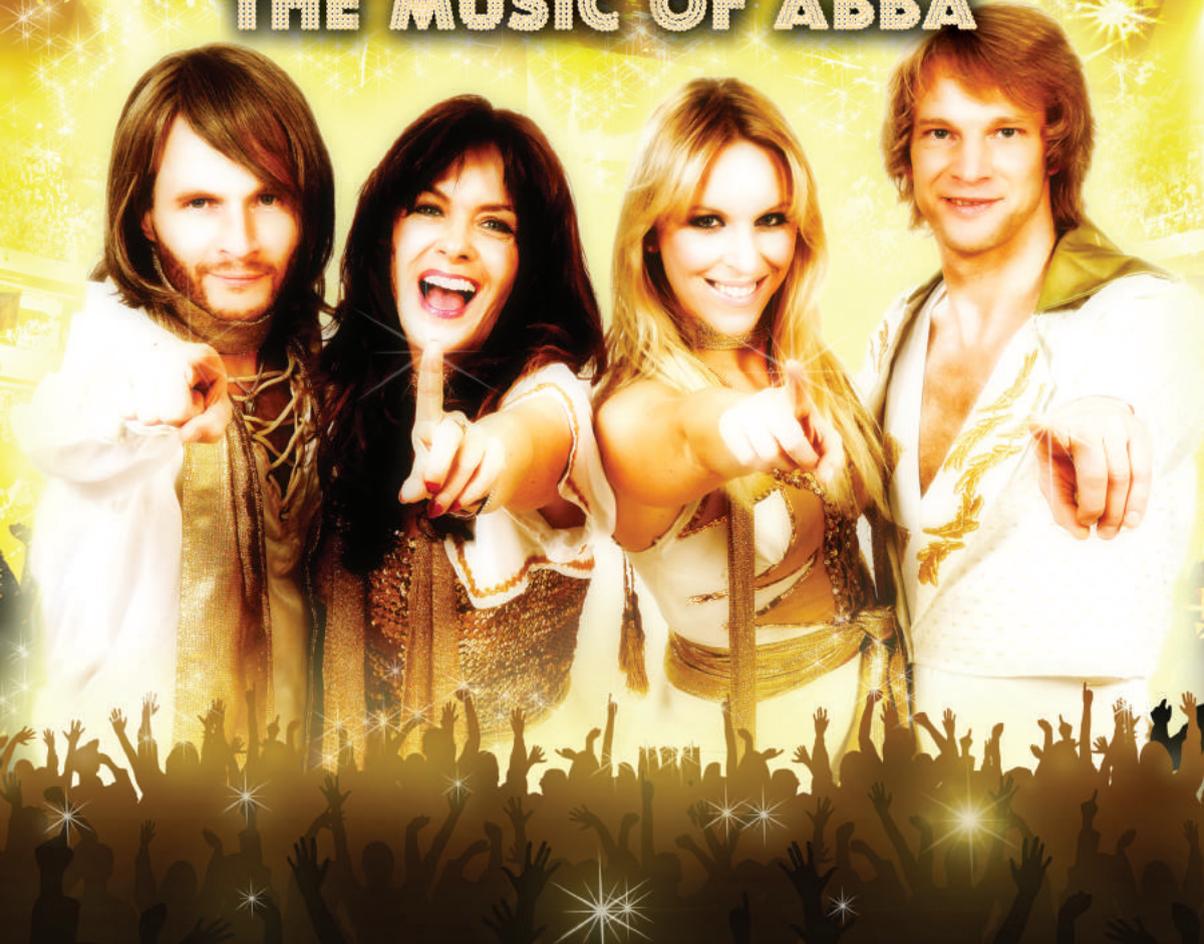
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GETTING INTO SHAPE

By Rodney Davis, CEO

This is a sponsored editorial.

It is time to make those New Year's Resolutions. Do you have one you recycle every year or every few years? It probably is no surprise to you that the top resolution each year is to lose weight and get into shape. As you plan your goals for 2018, consider these tips. Let's hope next year we get to make a different resolution.

Determine your fitness goals.

Determining your goals in advance will help you select a facility that is most appropriate for you. It's also a good idea to check with your physician before embarking on a new fitness regimen, especially if you have a medical condition.

Figure out your priorities.

What is most important to you? Will a convenient location and extended hours help you stick to your fitness plan? Will a variety of equipment or classes keep you motivated? Do you work out while traveling and prefer a chain with numerous outlets? Determine your top priorities before you start shopping around.

Check bbb.org.

Our BBB has Business Profiles on 163 health clubs, fitness centers, and gyms. Read what customers have to say, and see how the businesses respond to complaints. This information may help you narrow down the list of gyms you want to tour in person. Also look at Google, Yelp, or other sites to get as much information as possible to make the right decision for you. Don't forget to ask your friends for their recommendations as well. And who knows, you might end up with a good workout partner.

Take a tour.

Make sure the gym has the equipment, classes, and trainers you need or expect. Pay attention to things that are important to you, whether it's the cleanliness or the availability of Wi-Fi. Ask questions and make sure you understand all the rules. Ask about busy times, wait times for equipment, whether classes require pre-registration, and availability and cost of trainers.



Ask about free trials.

Gyms often give a one-week free pass for potential members. This is a great way to see if the gym is a good fit for you. Try the gym at different times to see how crowded it is and whether there is a wait for certain equipment. Check out classes if they are offered.

Don't feel coerced.

Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics to join right away. A reputable gym will give you enough time to read the contract thoroughly, tour the facilities, do some research, and make an informed decision.

Calculate the true costs.

Gyms often use special introductory offers to encourage new members, but the price could go up more than you budgeted once the initial period is over. Make sure you understand what the regular monthly fees will be and what they include.

Understand the terms.

Read the contract carefully before signing. Make sure that all verbal promises made by the salesperson are in writing. What matters is the document you sign, so don't just take a salesperson's word for it. What happens if you move or the gym goes out of business? Will your membership renew automatically at the end of the term? Can you get out of the contract altogether and under what circumstances?

Eating a Healthy Diet

Exercise and fitness are key parts to improving one's health. Eating well is another key to overall wellness. It is ok to order the Fat Elvis from Rosie's Bar and Grill occasionally, but a good, well-balanced diet does not happen by accident. Luckily today, we have more and better options to eat well.

Delivery meal plans offer a new option for providing healthy food tailored to your specific goals (e.g. low sodium, low carb, high fiber,

and lower calorie). Review plans to identify options that work for you.

Check out the business reputation.

Look to see what consumers say about the business at BBB.org/South-East-Florida and other social media sites. If the business requires large advance payments, has a poor track record with consumers, or lacks quality meals, move on to a business that has a record worthy of your support.

Pricing and payment options.

One provider in our area, The Fresh Diet, abruptly closed its doors at the end of 2016 leaving consumers who had prepaid their plans without meals and minus thousands of dollars. Fortunately, Cesar Quintaro at Fit2go, and several other providers stepped in to try and assist these consumers. Fit2go and other similar businesses allow consumers to pay weekly or monthly, and this approach limits possible losses if a business encounters financial challenges. Before making a commitment, ask the business if you can try out the plan, or if they have an introductory option. If the food is not to your liking, you will not stick to the plan. When comparing pricing, calculate the full cost of meals by including delivery and other fees as you shop for affordability, as well as great taste.

Read the terms before you sign.

As a last note, always read the entire agreement. Do your best to avoid the eyes glazing over when reading a long agreement. Read all agreements before you sign. Make sure you understand the terms. Pay close attention to refund policies, cancellation of service policies, and automatic fee withdrawal policies. Keep these questions in mind: What happens if you move or the company goes out of business? Will your meal plan renew automatically at the end of the term? Can you get out of the contract altogether and under what circumstances?

Good luck with your resolutions for 2018. I hope you will also consider one more resolution this year. Visit BBB to check out and recommend businesses this year. Your experience can help reward a good business and warn others to avoid businesses that do not put customers first.



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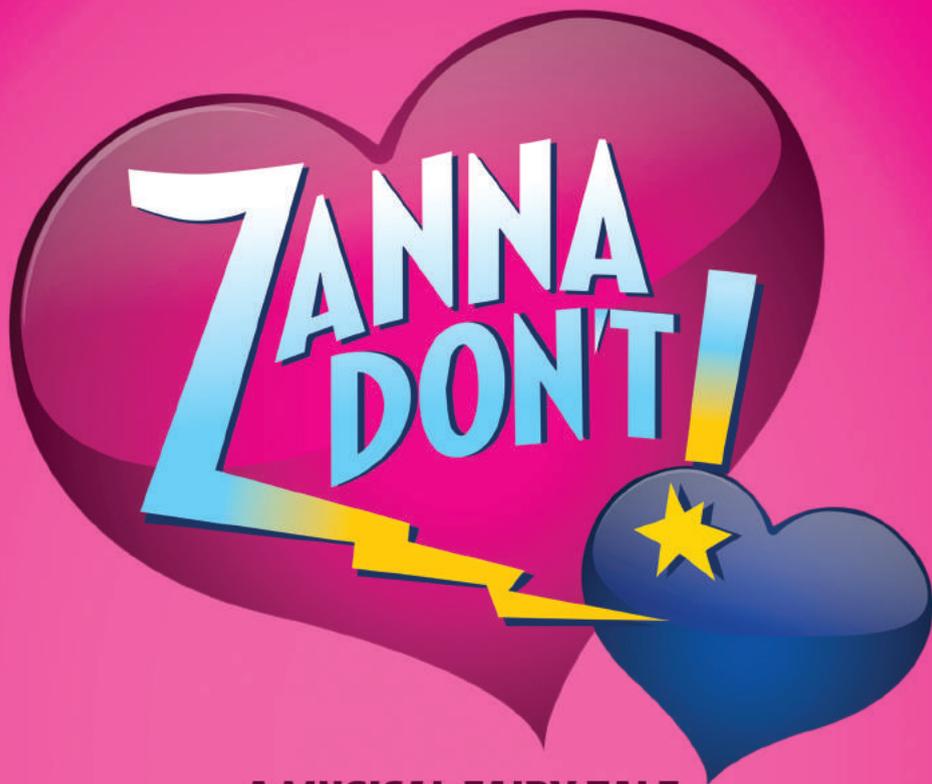
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SOUTH FLORIDA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S SEBRINA ALFONSO

By Denny Patterson



From the moment South Florida Symphony Orchestra Maestra Sebrina Alfonso steps up to the podium to face the orchestra, you can instantly feel the love and passion radiating off her. Alfonso knew she wanted to pursue a career in music at a young age. Born and raised in Key West, she obtained a Bachelor's and Master's degree in music from Virginia Commonwealth University, then a doctorate with an emphasis in conducting from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. In 2002, she became the first Cuban American conductor invited to conduct Cuba's premier orchestra, the National Orchestra of Cuba. In addition, Alfonso has made her mark at many other prestigious orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the San Jose Symphony, the Women's Philharmonic, and the Orchestra de Rus in Siena, Italy. She has even conducted an underwater concert for over 400 divers which received world-wide recognition. Alfonso's bold approach and ability to delight audiences led her to begin the South Florida Symphony Orchestra. With its 20th season coming up, Alfonso has no plans on slowing

down anytime soon.

Let me start out by asking the obvious, where did your passion for music come from?

I knew I always wanted to be a musician, but in seventh grade my band teacher, who was a woman, inspired me. It was then I decided I would be a conductor.

As the founder of the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, what were your expectations in the beginning, were they met?

I started the symphony in Key West because I wanted my grandmother to see what I did. She didn't really know what it was that I did. I really only expected to do a few concerts a year in Key West and would continue living in Baltimore with my other orchestras. However, there was a hurricane and I stayed and never left. So, I guess my expectations have both been met and surpassed.

What can audiences expect with the upcoming 20th season?

We are proud of this season. We have such a



diverse program. Our collaborations with other world-renowned artists and groups brings a whole other dimension to our programs. We are presenting Tales of Hemingway by Michael Daugherty, and the South Florida Symphony Orchestra was one of the orchestras from around the country who commissioned this work. Zuill Bailey is the cellist and is a favorite of our patrons. We have Emmy Award winner and two-time Tony nominated Broadway star, Liz Calloway, joining us for our February Pops concert. Superstar violinist, Lara St. John, and Cuban superstar pianist, Aldo Lopez, will join us for our last two masterworks concerts.

What styles of music do you enjoy the most? Classical, contemporary, or another?

I love symphonic music. From classical to now. Each era brings something different. I guess if I had a particular passion, it would be certain composers like Beethoven, Shostakovich, Ravel, and R. Strauss.

Who are some of your musical influences?

Conductors Carlos Kleiber, Furtwangler, and Szell. However, I do also love Barbra Streisand.

As the South Florida Symphony Orchestra Maestra, you have participated in several productions. Are there any performances or moments that stand out in your memory for their significance?

I think the performances this season will each hold a special place. A particular memory is Shostakovich Symphony No. 10. I was totally mesmerized with this symphony and cannot wait to have the opportunity to perform it again.

What made this symphony so special for you?

The writing of this symphony was fantastic, but what enhanced it even more was the story behind it. I feel it was special for the audience as well. They could truly connect with the music knowing the story behind it.

What would you say is the most challenging part of being a conductor?

Being a woman conductor. It's still not a level playing field.

What is the most fulfilling aspect of your life as a conductor?

Bringing the greatest music ever written alive and knowing it is touching souls. After all, the music is someone's human life and we are sharing it with our audience. Another great thrill is what we bring this music to the children in our community.

Do you ever have times where people you are conducting inspire you?

All the time. These musicians are masters at their instruments. They have spent a lifetime with their instruments and studying the music. All of us together bring the humanness that is the music.

Do you teach as well? Like master classes and such? If so, what is the most important lesson you hope to pass on?

I have taught masterclasses, lessons, etc. My most important message is bringing to the student the discipline and the knowledge of getting from point A to point B. No matter what they do in life. I also teach that we cannot do this alone. It is important that when choosing schools, teachers, etc., that they choose with the understanding that these folks must be able to help them move to the next level. We need mentors to guide us through the beginnings of our careers. They don't teach the business part of being musicians. So, guidance is important. ➤





One of the most fascinating aspects of your work must surely be the challenge of coordinating the output of 100 musicians. How do you work with them as a team? These are professional musicians. They come to rehearsals prepared. Some aspects are truly unexplainable. Having 100 musicians plus myself feel and perform the same “story” is not done through words. It is something we all know is there, but it is not explainable.

How do you communicate your ideas about a work?

I use my whole body. I do talk about certain aspects like sound, articulation, the concept we are trying to get across, but it is about finding that center and encouraging it through my movement on the podium.

Do you have a dream performance?

Honestly, every performance is at that moment a dream performance.

What advice do you have for those who wish to pursue this kind of career?

As I said earlier, work hard, study, attend concerts, and when it is time to audition for a conservatory, make sure it is a school that doesn't just prepare you, but also has the ability to help you once your studies are done.

Can you tell us more about your collaboration with Thomas Dubois Hormel in creating a ballet with the prestigious Martha Graham Dance Company to the music of “The Legend of Bird

Mountain?”

Martha Graham choreographed Tom's piece and the performance of this new choreography will be a world premiere. They have reimagined the piece in New York with a young woman new to New York. We are thrilled to have this collaboration and that Tom's music will be forever in their repertoire.

What other projects are you currently working on?

Our big production for next season will be the opera, Porgy & Bess. We have casted a world-renowned cast who have performed this iconic opera in all the big opera houses in this country and Europe. I am thrilled to announce that Porgy will be played by local singer, Neil Nelson.

Do you find more joy in conducting or composing, or do you love them both equally?

I am in my own skin as a conductor. It is truly my passion.

What can we expect from the Symphony of South Florida in the future? What's next?

More collaborations with world-renowned soloists, opera, and musical stars. Big works that change lives at the moment of experiencing the music. Becoming more and more involved in the education of our children and bringing to them the highest music ever written enhancing their education and hopefully their lives.



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PUSHING DEAD

James Roday, of the hit TV series Psych, and Danny Glover star in this AIDS comedy about a struggling writer who has been HIV-positive for decades and loses his insurance after depositing a \$100 birthday check. Enjoy films in The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers in a casual club atmosphere and talk with the filmmaker after the movie.

Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

After being forced to give up their comfortable lives, level-headed Elinor and her hopelessly romantic sister must find profitable marriages as New York's Aquila Theatre Company brings to life Jane Austin's romantic comedy of seduction, courtship, love, heartbreak and surprise.

Wednesday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m.



HAMLET

The characters in Shakespeare's masterwork of mortality and madness inhabit a rich landscape replete with deceit, mistrust and schemes. See it as it should be seen by Aquila Theatre Company whose productions of Shakespeare have been applauded by The New Yorker as "beautifully spoken, dramatically revealing and crystalline in effect."

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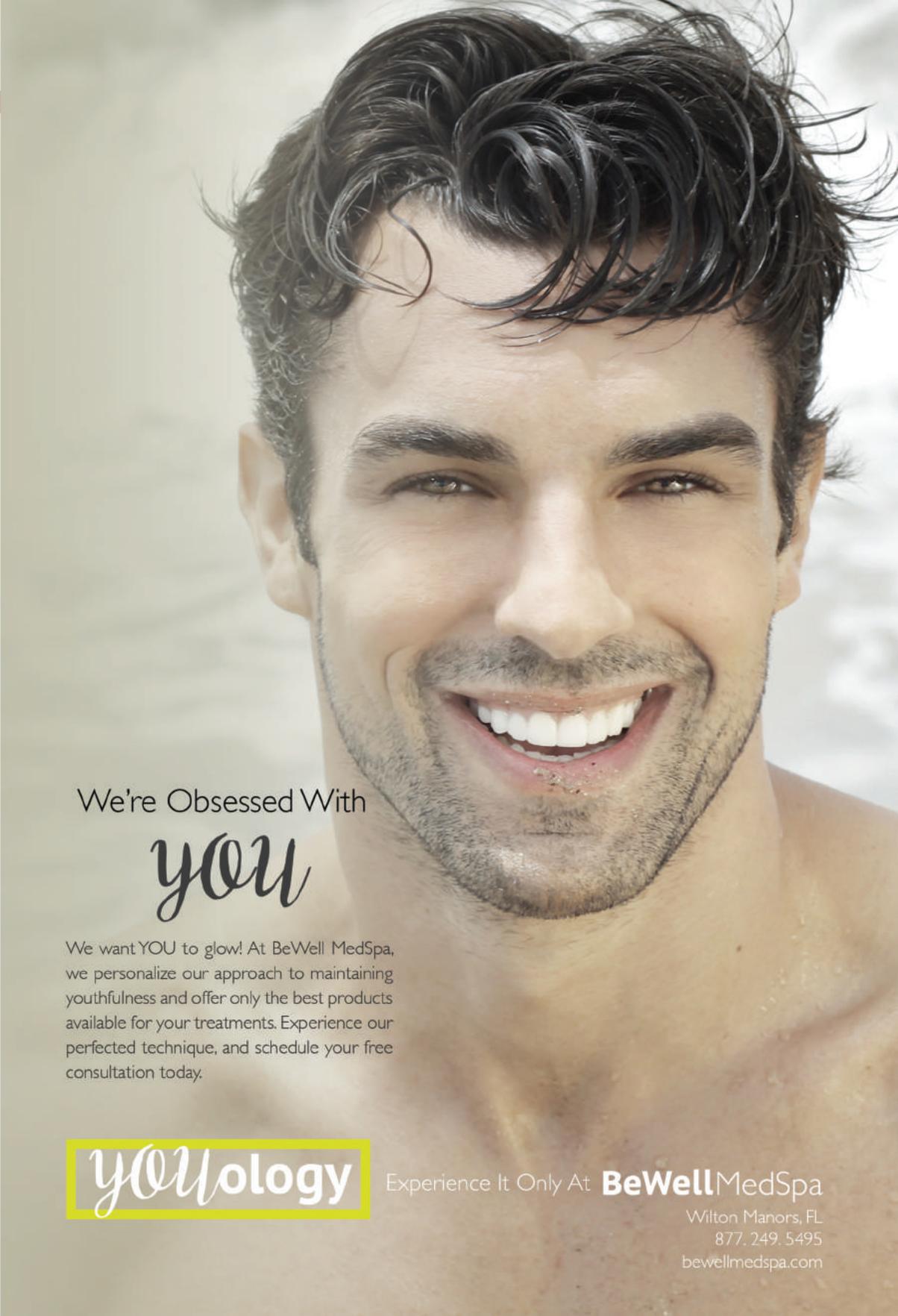


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BIG GIFTS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

By Rev. Patrick Rogers, MDiv.

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, a Celebration of Life Service was held for 45-year-old Bishop S.F. Makalani-Mahee. The church sanctuary was standing room only.

A man who stood 4'9" tall yet was a giant among men was remembered and honored. He brought into and left this world the gift of his legendary hugs, laughter, passion, and love. This world transitioned forever because of his advocacy work for social justice, especially for the transgender community.



Photo by Rev. Patrick

Bishop was a great example of the power of believing in yourself as much as God believes in us. Growing up as a child in a depressed area, S.F. was quoted as saying, "I was not about to end up in prison and another statistic." God indeed had a plan for Bishop S.F. and he said, "Yes" to it!

Many of us remember Bishop S.F.'s advocacy work regarding LGBT rights and for the Transgender Community, although his advocacy work included standing up for all oppressed people. The changes that he facilitated will flourish and touch lives forever.

During his Celebration of Life Service, Rajee Narinesingh, a local trans activist, author, and actress shared a poem that Bishop S.F. had written. An excerpt from his poem titled, "I Am Strong!":

I will be strong.
The strength of those who went before me
Only makes me stronger
Rosa sat so Martin could march.
Martin marched so Barack could run.
Barack ran so we could fly.
So, I will be strong.

For those of us who knew Bishop S.F., we will

forever hear his voice when we read these words about strength. We can find comfort for our physical loss of the Bishop's presence through these words. We can find a way to navigate through the current political crisis that our country is facing through these words. We can find a way to continue to journey for LGBT rights through these words. We can find hope through these words.

On his Facebook timeline a person touched by his life writes, "You have left a garden that continues to grow!"

During the Celebration of Life Service, as I sat in the middle of the sanctuary and looked at the church chancel, the organizers had one of Bishop Makalani-Mahee's church vestments on display. The sunlight was shining in through the church's stained-glass windows and there was a rainbow of beautiful light surrounding the robe that he would wear when he preached about God's love. I then realized that Bishop had not "left us," we didn't "lose him," and he certainly didn't "die." He was there to give us a message that he had truly transitioned again! That is the Bishop S.F. Makalani Mahee that I love, and sitting there I could hear his distinct laughter and feel his hug.

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LIVE FOR THE MOMENT

By Dr. Beau A. Nelson, DBH, LCSW

Another year has gone and a new year begins. Time continues to march on and what do we have to show for it? Maybe a few new things, some furniture for the house, or not much, is what you have to show for the year that past. As the new year begins it might be worth taking stock of what you want for this year and what you want to say at this time in 2019.



For most of us, as life goes on, time goes by faster. When we are young it seems like it takes forever for summer vacation to arrive; when we are older it seems like forever since we had a summer vacation! As we look back as we get older, it seems like it has all gone by so fast. I was having a conversation with a co-worker the other day, he is in his 60's and commented that it all seems to be like a blink of the eye, and while your mind thinks of you as 20, the reality is your body is a very real 60-something; that got me thinking about what is important and how we spend our years.

I remember when I was a young man, the world seemed to be one endless adventure after another. There are so many milestones when we are younger and they end when we turn 25 or something and then it seems like not much happens that we might call a milestone. I guess this makes it harder to gauge that things are really moving until our friends throw us an "over-the-hill" party. We look back and wonder where all the time went.

A place to start is to begin by making this moment special. Now, every moment cannot be a life-changing event, but there are ways to make life memorable and to be present in the moment. Take some time to think about the following and make the effort to be present with others and with yourself.

Take a Break

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. There is so much that we need to do each day. Many of us rank a "good" or "bad" day by how much we get done. People ask the question "what's going on" to get in touch with a text or Facebook post. What if the answer was a self-satisfying "nothing." Yes, it is good to do nothing sometimes. It is good to take a few moments and sit on the patio and watch the clouds go by. Researchers have found that this reduces stress, increases focus, and helps us to be better at resuming tasks and get more done. A nothing break is a time for your mind to wind down, even if only for five minutes, and refresh yourself. Don't be stingy, give yourself a few breaks each day.

Do Something Spontaneous

Are you a list maker? Do you have a constant running list, on your phone, a notepad, or in your head? Does it seem like every day is just checking things off the list? It seems like there are never enough hours in a day to get done what we need to do. But what if every so often we turned everything upside down and did something fun and spontaneous? Check out a cheap flight and get out of town for a weekend, go see a friend and spend some time just the two of you, go to the beach one morning and watch the sun rise, try a new restaurant, or go on a road trip with no planned destination. South Florida is one place where





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you can get to a new environment in an hour or two. Try and shake up your routine, do something that you haven't planned and try out something new. You never know what's out there until you try. People who are open to new experiences, who are flexible, and who have new experiences, report higher levels of happiness and life satisfaction.

Don't Wait Until Later

One thing that you learn as you get older is that nothing is promised. I have seen so many people fall sick and lose their independence, seen others who died suddenly, and still more that had significant negative life events that made life take an unexpected downward turn. If things are moving along, maybe now is the time to enjoy yourself--don't put it off for another day. Being in the moment, when you are healthy and alert, and while you still have dreams and desires, is the best time to move on that new idea, meet that new someone, or sneak in that relaxing day on the beach, even if you have a list of things to do (I'll bet a few of them can wait).

Be Grateful

One of the best predictors of happiness is what someone sees when they look out their eyes. If all you see is what you don't have, the wrinkles or pudge in the mirror, or jealousy of all that others have, you are likely to be more down and less motivated to face each day with the appreciation that you are alive. Gratitude doesn't mean you have to be delusionally positive, it just means that you appreciate what you have. Tell a friend how much they mean to you. Forgive yourself or someone else and learn the power of letting go. Accept a challenge and do it for yourself, not what others will say. Talk about the good in your life and notice that you might not have

it as bad as you might first think.

Work on Resiliency, Not Resentments

We can all live in the past. It is not always pretty, is it? The fact is we survived the past, but maybe we have some scars. Talk about it. Let go. Forgive. Or just move on. You might be surprised how much baggage from the past you carry. This is not always an easy thing to do, but it is worth the effort. Try and make today more important than what has happened in the past. Admit missteps. Stop making excuses. Learn from mistakes. Grow and do something uncomfortable in order to grow. Fear is a powerful enemy. At the end of life, you will not be so much concerned about what you failed at, you will be more upset at what you never tried. Resiliency is the power to "bounce back" from life events. It doesn't mean you have no problems or have everything you want; it means that you can overcome and endure and live for another day, a better day of your own creating. An old saying says that true security does not come from a bank account full of money, it is knowing that if you lost it all you could start again and get it all back. It may take steps to reach that kind of confidence and hope, but it all begins somewhere.

As the new year begins, I wish you all the great things that life can hold. Please know that you can create your own better life through your perspective, your actions, and your attitude. When life doesn't go your way, these elements are even more important than ever. Each day is a beginning of something and each night the end of the day. Life is like that. Each young life is full of promise and as we get closer to the nightfall of our own lives, we think on the special memories and the experiences that made it a life we can be proud of. Give it a chance. Make this year something special.

Dr. Nelson is Clinical Director for the Florida House Experience in Deerfield Beach, a comprehensive substance abuse and mental health treatment center that combines medical, neurorehabilitation, and evidence-based clinical treatment. He also maintains a private practice in Fort Lauderdale and information about him is available at www.ImproveYourMood.com.

Read more by Dr. Nelson at www.OutClique.org/Articles



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IN TUNE:

AN INTERVIEW WITH BROADWAY LEGEND TOMMY TUNE

By Gregg Shapiro

Entertainment polymath Tommy Tune can do it all. He acts, he sings, he dances, he choreographs, he directs, he makes visual art, he tells stories, and he also wrote a book – his 1997 memoir *Footnotes*. The openly gay tall Texan (he stands 6'6" tall) has been a presence on the Broadway stage and in movies for more than 50 years. A recipient of 10 Tony Awards as well as a well-deserved 2015 Tony Lifetime Achievement Award, Tune is virtually unstoppable. In addition to touring the country in his own one-man show, *Tommy Tune Tonight!*, he has also teamed up with another Tony-winning musical theater legend, Chita Rivera, for their concert event *Chita & Tune*. I had the pleasure of speaking with Tune in late 2017.

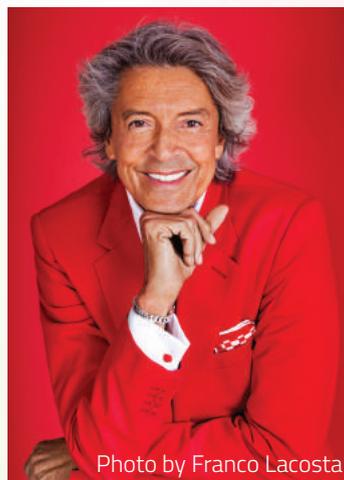


Photo by Franco Lacosta

Gregg Shapiro: If you wouldn't mind, I'd like to begin by talking about your first Tony Award (Best Performance by a Featured Actor) in *Seesaw*, in which your big number was "It's Not Where You Start" – a song about starting out as an assistant choreographer. Does it ever feel like that was something of a "full-circle" moment for you, as both a choreographer and director?

Tommy Tune: Absolutely. I didn't audition for that part. I came in to help Michael Bennett on that show. It was a show in trouble. He asked me to come out and help him with the choreography because he was taking over the direction. I was choreographing some numbers and he said, "You do this so much better than the guy who's playing this part. I'm going to fire him and you're going to play this part." I said, "Please don't do that! He's my friend. I went to his wedding. I played opposite his sister in the movie of *Hello, Dolly!* I can't do that to Billy." He said, "I'm the director of the show and I'm telling you that you're playing this part. Get over it!" It was like when your life joins up with the part you're playing. It was a synchronistic coincidence. That part was not written for me.

It was adjusted for me. It was based on *Two for the Seesaw*, there were only two characters. This third character was a big deal because it was the first time a gay character had ever been featured in a contemporary, legitimate Broadway musical.

GS *Seesaw* featured both choreography and a book by Bennett. What can you tell me about Bennett's influence on you as a choreographer?

TT Oh, my God, he was everything! I met him on an elevator in the Variety Arts Building. I was going up to an audition on the top floor and we got on on the ground floor. Between one and four, he looked up at me – he was compact – and said, "Well, who are you?" I said, "My name is Tommy Tune. Do you think I should change it?" I'd just gotten to New York, and people were asking, "What's your real name?" I'd say, "That's my real name". So, he looked at me and said, "Not if you want to go around being Tommy Tune". That was brilliant!

For more on this article, go to www.OutClique.org/Articles



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What Is First Line Therapy?

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The practices of First Line Therapy are based on proven and reliable research. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, poor diet, inactivity, and smoking are the cause of 80% of heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes, as well as 40% of cancer. Additionally, people who have successfully completed First Line Therapy have loved the results. Almost all have reported weight loss, an increase in energy, and an overall feeling of wellness.



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YOUR PROPERTY AND YOU

By Marty Kiar

DOES MY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AUTOMATICALLY RENEW?



After your initial application for Homestead Exemption has been made and the exemption approved by our office, it automatically renews each year unless there is a change of ownership or eligible use of the property. Each January our office mails a Homestead Renewal Notice and "Change-Card" to all Homesteaded properties. This card allows property owners to verify the status, use, and ownership of the property has not changed. Florida law requires the property owner to notify the Property Appraiser of any change of property use or ownership status.

If anyone named on the Homestead Exemption has passed away, you should notify our office to avoid potential penalties. The Homestead Exemption of a deceased person must be removed in the year immediately following the individual's passing. The surviving spouse of a Homesteaded owner is entitled to keep this valuable exemption and lower Save Our Homes value; however, he or she will need to apply for Homestead if they have not already done so. Homestead Exemptions do not transfer to other family members and cannot remain with the property after the homesteaded owner passes away. If you are a co-owner and sole beneficiary to the property in the will, you may apply for Homestead Exemption while the will is probated as long as the property is your permanent residence.

If there are no changes to the use and/or ownership of the property, simply keep the card as your receipt verifying you were automatically renewed for another year. However, if there are changes, please mark the Change Card accordingly and return it to our office.

If you are a surviving spouse or otherwise

believe you are entitled to an exemption, you must file your own Homestead Exemption application to receive the benefit. If you have any questions relating to the death of the owner, the Change Card or need assistance in filing for Homestead or other tax-saving exemptions, please visit our website at www.bcpa.net or contact our Customer Service Department at 954.357.6830.

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Community Outreach Department is at The Pride Center at Equality Park (2040 N Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors, FL 33305) on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 10:00am-12:00pm to assist residents with exemptions and other property related matters.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 954.357.6904 or by email at MartyKiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Kiar".

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar is the Broward County Property Appraiser and longtime advocate for LGBTQ equality.

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office is located at 115 S Andrews Avenue, Room # 111, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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TATTS & TACOS
BEER GARDEN

THE POWER OF MUSIC
DJ CITIZEN JANE

By Denny Patterson

Photos by Keans Llamera Photography

Location: Tatts & Tacos Beer Garden

DJ Citizen Jane has always been one of Miami's go to DJ's, now she is one of the top most in demand international circuit DJs in and out of the country. A South Florida native, DJ Citizen Jane has made a name for herself. Her love for music extends beyond her high energy beats, and her ability to read a crowd has led her to success. Not only has Citizen Jane performed at numerous Pride festivals across the country, she has headlined some of the largest and most respected parties in the world, including Sydney Australia's 2017 Mardi Gras where over 45,000 people were in attendance. In addition, Citizen Jane was the only female DJ to be on the official billing for Folsom Fair 2016. She has also been booked with Jeffrey Sanker, known as the Godfather of Party Promoters. Citizen Jane continues to break down barriers in a predominately male oriented field and has also made a name for herself within the LGBTQ community. She has won the highly coveted LGBTQ people's choice award, The Pink Flamingo for "Best DJ" for 3 years (2014, 2015, 2017). I had the pleasure of chatting with Citizen Jane. She may be a mystery to some, but she's an inspiration to millions.

Let me start off with the question you have more than likely been asked a million times. Where did your passion for music come from? I think I was born knowing that music was going to be part of my life. I remember at the young age of two, already whistling radio tunes all day long. People were amazed that a 2-year-old could whistle tunes like that. My passion for music has always been there. The flame has always been burning inside of me. I've always been involved with music, whether it was with my band as a singer or performing as a DJ.

How did you get your start in this industry? My first step into the music industry was as a singer/songwriter with my band, of which you can still watch one of my music videos on YouTube under Citizenjane, "Amor, Expression Y Tu." It was a Spanish ballad. I look back at it now and so much has changed since then. I also starred on a TV show on the Telemundo





Network called, Letra Y Musica, what was all about music and songwriting. When my band broke up, I decided to jump back into DJing again and here I am still doing it.

Tell me more about your aesthetic and style. What kind of music and songs do you like to play?

Personally, I love to play House Music, but it all depends on my audience. That's the most important factor. My style is very vast and varies depending on the event/audience. I can play from House Music to Top 40 Remixes, Open Format, and EDM. This is why I have been able to be successful in my career.

So, your style has changed over the years? It totally changes because I have evolved. You have to keep updating your library. As a DJ, you have to continue evolving and be in the now because different styles of music emerge. You

always have to be aware of what's trending in the world of music - what people are listening to, what's popular, and what gets the masses going.

What can audiences generally expect from your set? How do you draw them in?

They can expect a lot of high energy music in my sets. Great beats that will get them moving on the dance floor. It's really all about observing your audience. It's the DJ's job to get the crowd out of their heads and into their bodies. I like to start them off at about 125 beats per minute. Once you've locked onto their heart rate, you start bringing them up song by song. 128 beats per minute, that's the magic number.

What was your first professional gig like and what were some of the feelings you experienced? >

My first professional gig was when I was in college. I played at a nightclub and the crowd was hyped up and dancing to my beats. I remember getting so much energy from it

and feeling so good. When I got home in the morning, I couldn't fall asleep because it was such a high for me that I was able to make so many people happy while doing something that I love. At that moment, I thought I could see myself doing this long-term and never get tired of it.

Do you have any pre-show rituals?

I always love to arrive an hour before my set and assess the crowd and observe what they are vibing to and how they are reacting to the music being played by the opening DJ. Then I love to sit quietly backstage and sort of meditate and get in my zone before going on.

Whenever you feel discouraged or stuck in a rut, how do you overcome those negative moments?

I like to drive with my windows down and the sunroof open and listen to all my favorite songs that I have compiled in CDs that I keep in my car, my "Happy Playlist" CDs. I also like to surround myself with my dogs and family, or just work on new music. But, what really gets me back on track is my fans. Seeing them enjoy my music at events and dancing and forgetting about their problems makes me feel great. That gets my spirits up every time.

What was it like to be the only woman to be on the official billing for Folsom Fair 2016 on their Saturday crown night, "Magnitude?" You must have many stories.

That was amazing! I shared the billing with my favorite super star DJs, Chus & Ceballos, which was a treat! Plus, I performed for a sea of thousands of men in very creative leather outfits at the San Francisco Armory which is a huge historical venue. As far as any stories, all I could say is the boys sure know how to party! I enjoyed every minute of it.

What other events have left a lasting impression on you?

Every place that I have performed has left a lasting impression in my heart because of the special connection I make with the crowd. But

I must say, performing in Australia was just epic! Having the opportunity to not only perform, but headline on the other side of the world at the most iconic event, Sydney Mardi Gras, for over 45,000 people in attendance just totally blew me away. It went totally beyond my expectations.

You just recently won the Pink Flamingo Award for "Best DJ" for the third time, an award solely voted by the people. How does it feel that the community has chosen you as their favorite DJ for a third time?

I feel very humbled! It is such an honor to know that all the heart that I put into my work doesn't go unnoticed, and my followers took the time to vote for me. I love my fans. They are always my number one priority. They are the ones that keep me out there doing what I love. These three Pink Flamingo Awards belong to them!

Who are some of your greatest musical influences or icons?

I love Lady Gaga for being her true self. She takes risks with her music and is so unique. I love Madonna for always expressing herself and not ever caring about how people perceive her and for her evolution in the music industry. As far as DJs, I absolutely love and admire Peter Rauhofer. He has been a major influence for me.

What is one mistake you see a lot of up and coming DJs make?

They DJ for themselves, they don't acknowledge their audience at all, and I have seen many not be humble, which is actually mistake number one.

If you could perform for anyone, and it doesn't necessarily have to be a celebrity, who would it be?

I would love to perform for Lady Gaga, even though I sort of did already. She was on the stage dancing right next to my DJ booth during





my set at my 2016 performance at the Dinah in Palm Springs. I would also love to perform for Madonna, Taylor Swift, Pink, and Ricky Martin.

What is one track that never gets old for you, no matter how many times you hear it?

Scissor Sisters "Let's Have a Kiki" remix. And Whitney Houston's "It's Not Right But It's Okay," the Thunderpuss Mix.

Is there a track that you cannot stand that became popular?

I'm going to have to say, "Despacito." It's the most requested and the most overplayed song of the decade. I made a house music mix of it that sounds so much better than the original version, but like I said, I play for the people and what they love to listen to. So if that means they want to dance to "Despacito," I will play it for them. It's not about me, but about them. Always.

What would you say are some of the challenges of being a DJ?

I would have to say that it has become even more shallow and commercial. They focus more on how a person looks and the image that sells as opposed to the talent. I know a

lot of people out there that are super talented, but they can't break through because they don't seem to meet the criteria of what the music industry thinks is the right look. Plus, it's so much harder for a female DJ.

How so? Are female DJs not given the same respect as males, or are you in the process of knocking down those walls?

No, I don't believe they are given the same respect. I find that a lot of times, gender trumps talent in this business. I am trying and hope I am succeeding in helping to knock down those walls for future generations. But yes, they are treated differently in certain circumstances. I'm not going to generalize since there are many organizations and male club promoters that are very supportive and look at talent above gender or anything else. I have a large male following that is absolutely amazing! I spin for both men and women parties, as well as mainstream. As I said before, my music style and what I spin totally depends on my audience. It all varies depending on the event. I am one of the few DJs that can do this and that is why I have been able to successfully spin at multiple events equally for men, women, and mainstream parties.



Have you ever encountered homophobia throughout your career?

I can't say that I have encountered homophobia personally in my career, but I know people that have. There is still a lot of work in progress. I always say that music makes people come together, no matter what race, gender, or sexual orientation. So, we have to continue to use music to heal the world and make it a better place.

How does it feel to be the first female on the cover of OutClique Magazine?

It feels great! I was so honored to have been asked. I love to represent for other females out there. It gives me faith that things are changing and that more and more women are breaking through and getting noticed more for their talents and their abilities to break the glass ceiling in a man's world.

I know you are all about the youth, especially LGBTQ youth. What message would you like them to receive from you?

I want them to know that everything is achievable. I have been able to break through barriers out there and have become a successful openly gay female DJ. Yes, there have been adversities, but I have never let

anyone, or anything stop me from doing what I love and pursuing my dreams. Don't let anyone bring you down. Each of you is beautiful, unique individuals that have so much to show the world. Use those tools and make the difference so we can all make this world a better place.

What advice would you give to females who want to pursue this kind of career?

I would tell them to be ready, work hard and hustle. If this is really what you want to do, go for it. We need more women out there breaking barriers. Even when they turn you down sometimes and tell you that you can't do it, just keep on going and don't stop. For every ten doors that close, one will open, and it will be the one that counts.

Are you currently working on any projects?

I am currently working on producing some of my own songs where I will be singing and having guest singers as well. I'm going back to my singing/songwriting roots and remixing them into dance songs. I want to bring in a little bit of my personal side to my music, so audiences can get to know me better and can relate with the songs. I want my audience to know that we are all in this boat together.

Lastly, what does 2018 have in store for you? Any hot parties or events coming up? Where can we find you?

I am already booked all the way through September 2018! It's going to be another great year with Europe and Asia in the horizon. Plus, numerous major circuit events lined up and already scheduled. Make sure to follow me on my social media to stay up to date on my adventures and all my upcoming events. You can find me and follow me on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter – DJCitizenJane.





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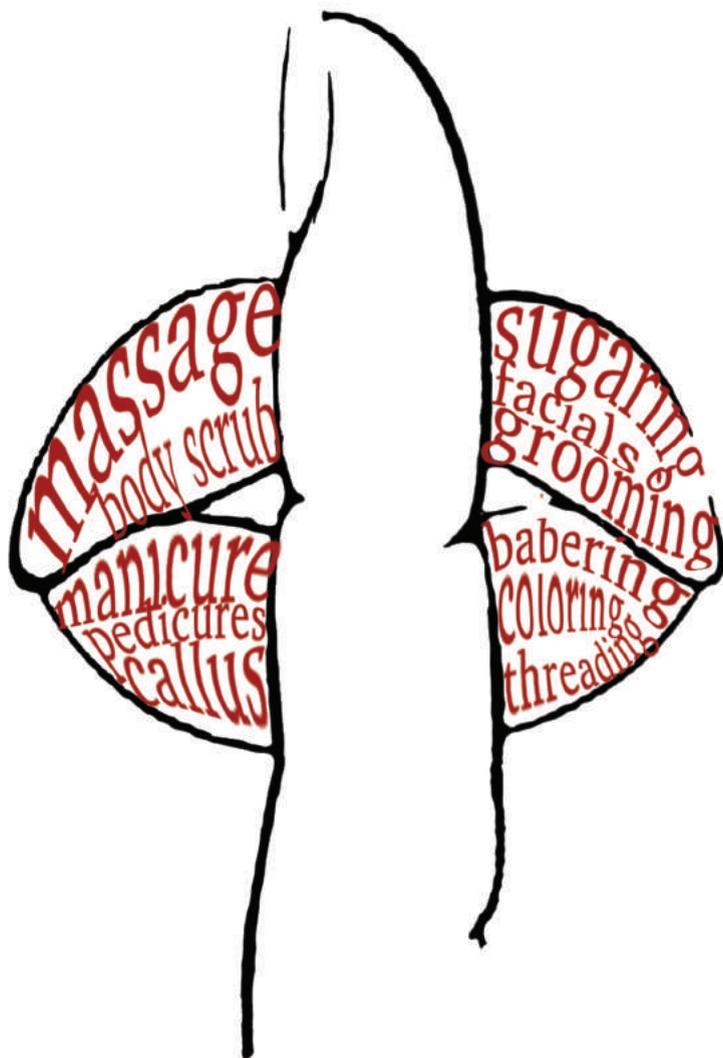
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THE 4 NEW GYM MUST-HAVES

By Bobby Jackson BA, CSCS



If you are starting out 2018 in pursuit of a new gym, reviewing these four essentials will save you some major headaches (and wasted gym fees). Whether you are starting a New Year's resolution or just looking to start the new year with a new gym, these four elements of a gym can easily be seen on your very first visit. I recommend checking out a few different facilities before making your final decision. Each gym will have its own way of taking prospective members on a tour of the facility in order to highlight its strengths and best features. However, evaluating these four specifics during your tour will help you get a better understanding of what it would truly be like as a day-to-day member.

1 EQUIPMENT

The first thing you should look at when checking out a new gym is the equipment. Don't let them distract you with the total amount of equipment they have, be sure to look for the specific pieces you use or you know you need. A common sales technique is to show you their "brand new, Muscle Builder 5000s" hoping to impress you with the fact

they invested in big, expensive, new pieces of equipment. However, just because they are new, doesn't necessarily make them any better. Make sure they covered the basics first. Full sets of dumbbells, enough weight plates for everything, equipment is organized and spaced out properly. These factors are sure to keep you satisfied with your membership for longer.

2 PROGRAMS

Another important factor when considering a gym is the programs they offer and which ones might actually be right for you. [Insider tip: before touring a new gym, make sure you know exactly what your goals are. Find a way to have measurements taken from an unbiased third

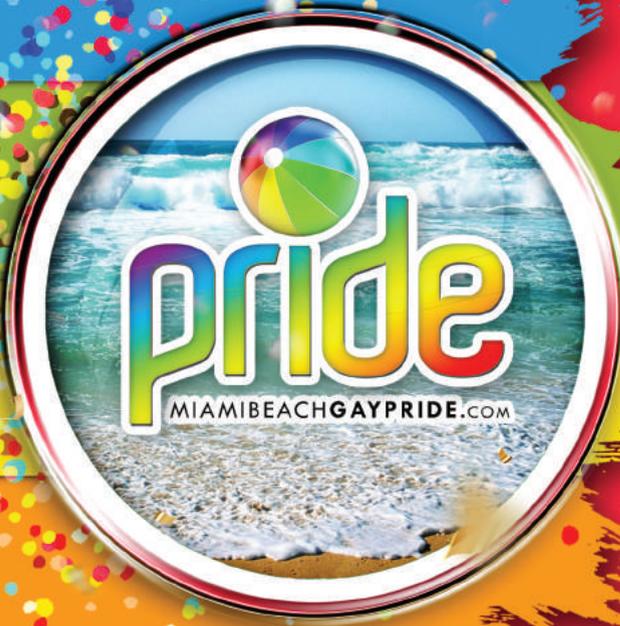
party because a big box gym that is trying to get your membership will usually exaggerate your measurements, trying to add urgency to your sign-up.] Now, with your real measurements, experience level, and goals in mind, what programs will truly help you get to where you



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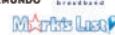
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want to go? You may need to start with some personal training to better understand the basic equipment and to form the habit of going to the gym in the first place. Or, maybe you have been stuck on a plateau and need to step

up to some boot camp style classes. Whatever it is, make sure your new gym does it well and has it available now and isn't just promising to add it in the future.

3 STAFF

A very important component of a real gym is the right staff. Not only the trainers and group fitness instructors, but also the front desk staff and management should all share at least one common interest, a pursuit of health and fitness. This goes beyond the obvious formal education and training required to obtain

those roles. Your gym's staff should all be regularly participating in the gym's programs and using the equipment. As a member, this shows they believe in the effectiveness of their own programs and equipment and will be more knowledgeable when asked questions about these things as well.

4 MAINTENANCE

Two of the most critical elements of a gym are easily missed during a tour. The maintenance time for equipment and the amount of detail they put into their cleaning routine for the facility. Try to find a gym which has their own maintenance and cleaning staff. A gym that hires out for these jobs will tend to have a much longer turnaround-time when the job needs to get done. [Insider tips: For maintenance,

during the tour, look for a piece of equipment that is out of order and ask how long it has been that way and how soon it will be fixed. For cleanliness, take an extra few seconds when inspecting the bathrooms to see the condition of the sinks and showers. They tend to be a good indication of the cleaning staff's frequency and eye for detail.]

The most important part of your new gym is that you feel comfortable to be there every single time you walk through the door. You need to feel motivated and confident in the work you are putting in is getting you closer to your health and fitness goals while also finding some enjoyment in the process. Unfortunately, one or more of these four elements tends to be what prevents people from truly connecting with their new fitness facility. Without that connection, it is almost guaranteed that you will begin feeling labored by just the idea of going to the gym, and like the majority of new gym goers, will let your goals slip away with another cancelled gym membership. That's why you need to go into it organized, with a plan, set up for success from the very first visit. Good luck and happy New Year!



Bobby is a graduate of Minnesota State University with a degree in Biology; emphasis in Health and Medical Sciences. Certified as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist, Bobby is the owner and director of The Custom Fitness Institute, a private training studio in Pompano Beach. [Facebook.com/TheCustomFitnessInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/TheCustomFitnessInstitute).

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TEL AVIV GAY COMMUNITY CENTER OFFERS MULTI-GENERATIONAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES

By Dana Shemesh



It's a usual mid-morning at an outdoor coffee shop in Tel Aviv. Two young mothers dressed in typical Tel Aviv leisure wear (leggings, t-shirt and Havaianas) savor a few sips of cappuccino while trying to coax a few bites of croissant to their toddlers.

A young man with a neatly groomed beard discusses his business plan with a colleague. Their conversation is softly muted by the sounds of frothing milk and the hum of the espresso machine at Café Landwer at Gan Meir (Meir Park). The Café is the main focal point for this urban oasis, a green space in the middle of the city's most populated area, complete with a large fountain, playground, outdoor workout complex, basketball court, and dog park.

It's also the storefront for the Tel Aviv Municipal LGBTQ Center, the cultural, social, and spiritual community center for the LGBTQ community in Israel. While the Café operates as an independent business, it assists the LGBTQ Center with many of its group meals and gatherings.

Here, visitors of all persuasions are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many

activities at the LGBTQ Center, which are funded by the Tel Aviv municipality.

"The Tel Aviv Municipal LGBTQ Center was established approximately nine years ago to create a home for the gay community," explains media director, Tamar Carni. "It's a place where you can come and no one will judge you. You can be gay, straight, transgender, or bisexual. We accept everyone."

The center is home to a queer community theater, kindergarten, medical clinic, and performance space. The actors in the community theater, Galgal, (meaning "wheel" in Hebrew) range from ages 19-82. They represent a microcosm of the local gay community. "Some of the actors in the troupe are straight mothers of some of the young men actors. They joined the group in support of their sons," explained Galgal's Director, Hiam Tal.

In addition to the theater troupe, there are diverse support groups at the LGBTQ Center.

For more on this article, go to www.OutClique.org/Articles



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A CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS JANUARY JAMBOREE

By Denny Patterson



If you consider yourself to be or, if you are an admirer of Silver Daddies, Polar Bears, or Silver Foxes, we've got the perfect weekend retreat for you. A Celebration of Friends (ACOF) is hosting its second annual "January Jamboree," this January 25 - 28, 2018, in the hottest city in the U.S. at the Oakland Park Ramada Inn (3001 N Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306). This is the perfect place for mature men to take a break from the winter cold and warm up with dozens of like-minded men from around the globe.

Men, it's time to exchange your heavy winter parkas for swimsuits. Or, if you're so inclined, step into the boots, moccasins, or shoes of your favorite Village Person, and come down for a weekend-long pool party celebrating the mature man. With no judgment, you'll be accepted as you are - regardless of your age, weight, height, or race in those sexy speedos you always were afraid of being caught in.

Registered guests of the ACOF will enjoy daily contests, prizes, discounts to local bars and restaurants, frolicking heated pool time, hot

lunches, and happy hours. Those staying at the Ramada Inn host hotel will also be provided morning breakfast.

To be recognized as a mature gay man is important for the ego, an opportunity many men do not experience in their own home towns. While our culture relishes the young and beautiful, A Celebration of Friends welcomes everyone.

A Celebration of Friends, Inc. is a registered 501 C 4 charitable corporation and in the past



fifteen years has raised just under \$200,000 for other non-profits such as Tuesday's Angels and The South Florida Pride Center at Equality Park.

So what happens during a typical Jamboree Day?

- 1▶ All events will be poolside. The pool is heated and open to all registered ACOF & hotel guests.
- 2▶ All day registration.
- 3▶ Thursday registration and get acquainted party.
- 4▶ Friday toga party & costume contests.
- 5▶ The South Florida Pride Center will provide free rapid HIV testing Friday & Saturday 10AM – 2PM.
- 6▶ Saturday sexy speedo and other contests.

7▶ All contests start after lunch.

8▶ Happy hour & prize drawings 5PM-6PM nightly.

9▶ 9PM -10PM is our nightly and world famous, "Absolutely, Positively NOT a Skinny-Dipping Pool Party" (Party).

Dinners will be on your own with many local Wilton Manors taverns & restaurants providing great discounts. Saturday evening the winner of the 2018 Mr. January Jamboree will be announced. Mr. January Jamboree will win a free room and registration at the next ACOF convention.

Contestants will strut their stuff poolside like any other beauty contest, in front of all our guests and "biased, bribable" judges. Contests will include Most Terrific Toga, Sexiest Senior Speedo, Best Bootie, Best Package, Most Experienced Senior, Least Experienced Senior, Finest Florida Friend, and Sexiest Senior





Swimsuit, just to name a few.

Tom (Tomcat) Pence, current ACOF president pushes to make each Jamboree better than the last. His number one rule is for everyone to have fun. "We concentrate on giving the best bang for the buck to our people. The ACOF brings many 'virgins,' or 'first-timers,' to Fort Lauderdale and thus starts the beginnings of many great relationships. The ACOF wants mature men to know that they are not alone and this is their weekend."

In addition to the Jamboree, Tomcat would like to get the word out about the ACOF's "Klassic Coffee Klatch" (KCK), which is held monthly every second, third, fourth, and

fifth Saturday from 10:30AM till noon at the Skolnick Community Center, located on 800 SW 36th Avenue in Palm Aire. "Regardless what happened Friday night, nobody needs to be alone Saturday mornings. The KCK is a great way to mingle and enjoy each other's company."

Locals are encouraged to attend and enter our contests. All hotel reservations are on a first come/first serve basis (day passes: \$40) and overnight guests need to be registered before checking into the hotel.

The ACOF Board has recently received a scholarship to assist those on limited income with registration fees.

For more information about the January Jamboree, The Klassic Coffee Klatch, or ACOF scholarships, visit CelebrationOfFriends.org.

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THE BEARS OF SOUTH FLORIDA

By Denny Patterson



The Bears of South Florida is ready to welcome you with open arms. Not only does this social group provide a venue for bears and their admirers to meet up, hang out, attend events, and enjoy each other's company, but it is also a nonprofit fundraising organization that raises money and donations for local charities and causes. Founded in 2002, the Bears of South Florida has annually raised a minimum of \$5,000 thanks to the gracious support of its members. In addition to fundraising, they also host numerous events and gatherings throughout the calendar year, such as movies nights, pool parties, potlucks, and more. The Bears of South Florida is the perfect group for friendship and camaraderie. I had the pleasure of chatting with the organization's president Steve Visano, and two of its directors, Harvey Sharpio and Mike Dager. Let us see what the Bears of South Florida has to offer.

Were you all involved with the Bears of South Florida since its 2002 inception?

Harvey Sharpio: No, none of us were a part of that initial group, but apparently there was a group of bears who went to a fundraiser called a bear fundraiser and they decided it was a good idea to form a bear group and said we would be a fundraising group that also provided an outlet for bears. At that time, the

bear community was kind of marginalized by the LGBTQ community. It wasn't the body image people wanted. Bears are thought of as bigger guys and hairy, and it certainly doesn't fit in to the Wilton Manors gym boy profile.

Then when did you all join?

Mike Dager: Harvey and I joined about 12 years ago. We were active in a bear club back in Ohio, and one of the first things we wanted to do was come back to Wilton Manors and meet people and be a part of the community.

HS Mike and I in the 80s, particularly the 90s, were part of a local group that went to national events. We have traveled all over the world doing bear events.

Steve Visano: I moved here in 2005 and started attending bear events sporadically. As I got more involved I joined the Board six years go. This is my fourth year as president.

Does Fort Lauderdale/Wilton Manors have a large bear community?

SV Fort Lauderdale has one of the largest bear communities in the United States.

How would you say the Bears of South Florida has grown over the years?



HS I think we have grown in our membership, and we have grown in our outreach to collaborate with other LGBTQ nonprofits. We coordinate events together so our presence in social services and charitable organizations has grown, and within the community itself it's grown because we have a special niche for the type of events we fund.

SV Originally the club started with, from what I understand, about 100 members the initial year. We're up to about 800 official members right now, and at any time, 1400 people participate in events. Plus, we coordinate events with other organizations like Island City Stage and other promoters in town.

HS When Steve says we do have about 1400 people in our bear membership, throughout the year our member participation varies on each event. At a pool party, we can have up to 120 members. At our bowling events, we have about 40. At the nights at the theatre, we have 40-50 members. We try to buy out the theatre for bear nights, so we have a participation rate of over half of our memberships.

So, this organization really benefits a lot of people.

HS Yes, a lot of people who have not felt accepted in other circles.

Tell me a bit more about the events you host.

SV The biggest event we have on a regular basis is our fundraising pool parties. We have one a month throughout the year with about 125 people attending. We usually have to cut people off due to maximum capacity. There is generally a waiting list. Some of our smaller events have 25-50 people. We have had a couple of trips out of the area to camping grounds and these trips had over 100. We have participated in the Stonewall Pride Parade in Wilton Manors and had about 50 guys for that. What we are also trying to do here is introduce bears to venues and organization they wouldn't necessarily be a part without us

going as a group.

HS We also have two theatre nights throughout the year. We'll buy out the theatre for bears and friends of bears.

What are some of the charities that have benefited from the Bears of South Florida?

SV The Pride Center at Equality Park, the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida, Island City Theatre, and the Stonewall Museum and Archives - just to have a few.

HS This year, 5 benefited from us. Since the Bears' inception, we have distributed over \$100,000 to local LGBTQ organizations. We are very proud of that.

Is it free to join?

SV Yes, membership is free to join. People just need to go to our website, www.bosfl.org, and click on the "join" button. We don't require you to be a bear, but you must want to be around us and be part of the fun.

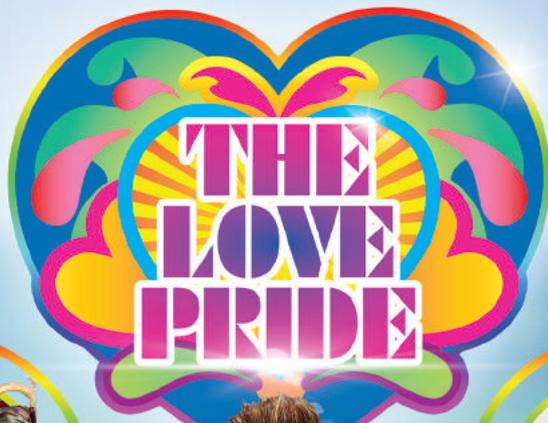
I'm sure you all have a million memorable moments throughout your time with the Bears. Can you give us one that sticks out in your mind the most?

SV We had a guy call us a couple years ago before a party and say I'm very slim, I don't have an ounce of hair on me, but I love the bear community, will anyone talk to me if I come to a party? We said, "Absolutely. Come up to the front door, introduce yourself and we'll take you around. You'll meet people and have a good time." He has been a member for several years now and he's actually married to one of the guys now.

HS And, I think he got engaged three times at his first pool party!

For more on this article, go to www.OutClique.org/Articles

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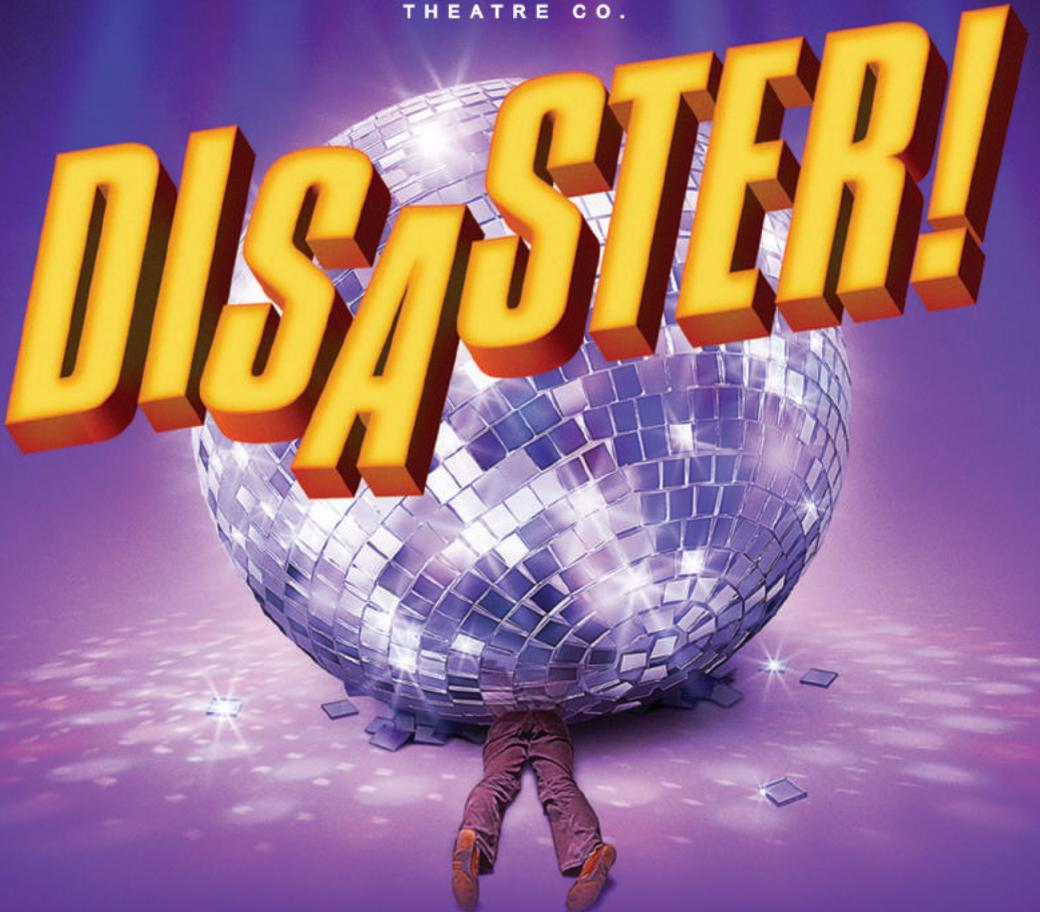
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STILL WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL: AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHNNY MATHIS

By Gregg Shapiro

There is only one Johnny Mathis. With a career that is now in its seventh decade, Mathis has touched many generations with his distinctive vocals. Known for his hits, including “When Sunny Gets Blue”, “It’s Not For Me To Say”, “Chances Are”, “The Twelfth of Never”, “Misty”, “Wonderful! Wonderful!” and “Too Much, Too Little, Too Late”, his breathtaking interpretations of standards, and his glorious way with Christmas music, Mathis is a performer for all seasons. [Mathis performs at 8 p.m. on January 10 at Kravis Center in West Palm Beach FL.]

Gregg Shapiro: In your 2006 TV special, *Johnny Mathis Live - Wonderful, Wonderful*, which recently aired again on PBS, you talked about having “a lot of good memories” in spite of times in your career when you had to do 101 one-night concerts. How do you think that the experience affected you as an artist and personally?

Johnny Mathis: Television is very demanding. You not only have to sing, but you have to look like you’ve got it all together [laughs]. That often times gives you a little leg up on your physical activities, like trying to stay in shape, so that you look as good as you sing. You do get absolutely affected by what you do, for instance “101 one-nighters in a row” and things of that nature. You realize that your capabilities are quite extensive if you continue your routine, which is remembering that you’re going to have to perform, so that all your extracurricular activities have to be minimized. Not so much that you’re restricted in too many ways, but you do have to get a lot of rest, concentrate, and remember it’s a job, a wonderful job. But it does require a lot of attention and concentration, and you’re dealing with your vocal chords, which are very, very sensitive, and also require a lot of rest. So, many things of that nature go into affecting performance.

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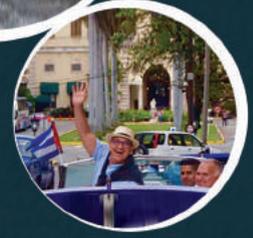
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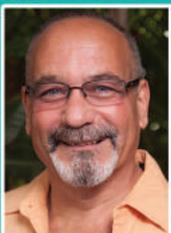
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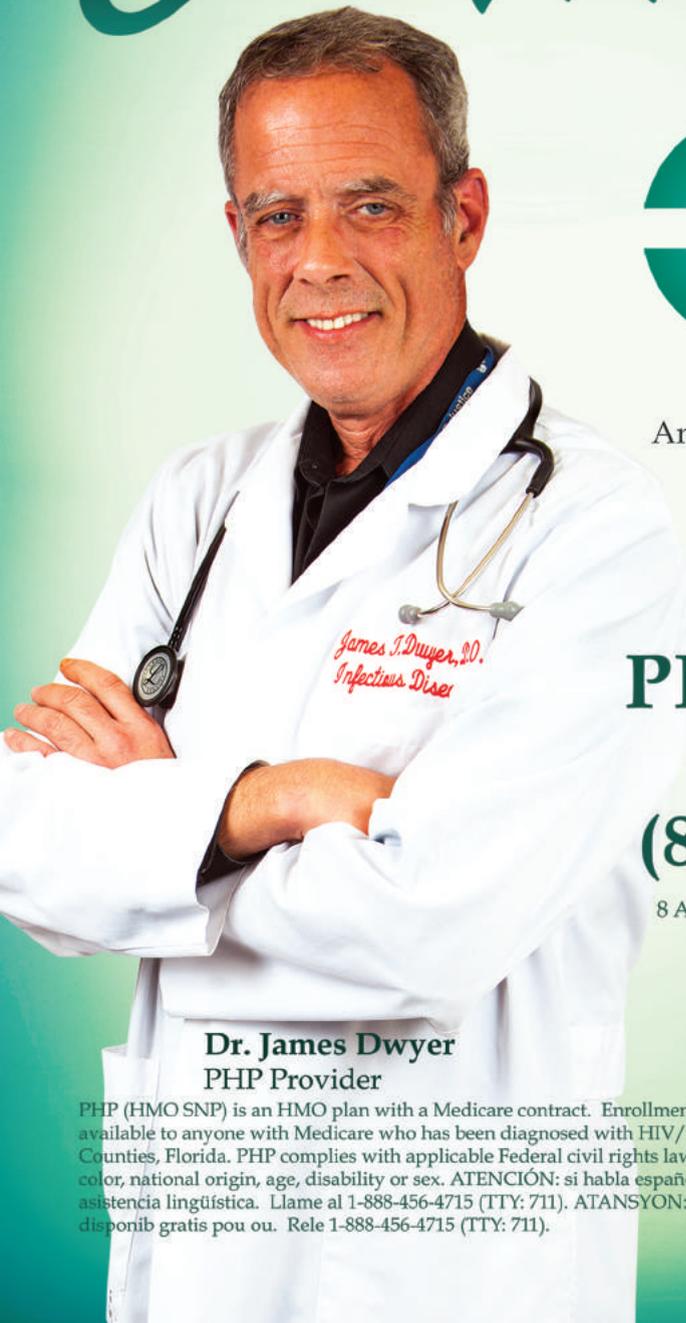
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