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OUT CLIQUE ORG

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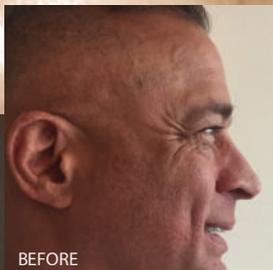
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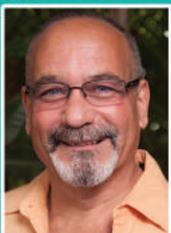
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ULTIMATE MIAMI DRAG QUEEN HEADLINERS: CHAD MICHAELS AND ADORE DELANO

By Denny Patterson

On Saturday, June 2, several Miami area drag queens will sashay, shantay, and panther on the runway while showing their charisma, uniqueness, nerve, and talent at the annual Magic City Casino Ultimate Miami Drag Queen Competition. This is a competition where South Florida's fiercest and most talented drag performers and female impersonators will compete for a cash prize of \$5,000 and the title of the Ultimate Miami Drag Queen in a pageant style setting. The queens will be scored in three categories: talent, signature look, and Q&A. Prepare for a night of shameless fun, with special appearances by Drag Race alumni, Chad Michaels, Adore Delano, and Nina Bonina Brown. I had the chance to catch up with both Chad and Adore to talk more about the upcoming event.

You are a headliner for the Ultimate Drag Queen Competition in Miami. That must be exciting!

Chad Michaels: Yes, I am very excited. This will be my third time back as one of the featured performers at the competition, so it's always a good time for me.

Adore Delano: This is so awesome, and I can't wait to party!

Chad, as a headliner, what can we expect from you?

CM Well you know, people love the Cher so I'm definitely bringing the Cher to all the good people of Miami. I haven't decided what it's going to be yet, but she'll be in the bag and on her way.

Care to give a little hint as to what Cher might bring to the party?

CM Now you don't want me to reveal that and give away all my secrets! Gotta keep it a surprise! [Laughs].



[Laughs] Totally understandable. Let's not ruin the surprise. What about your Adore, what can we expect from you?

AD I'm such an unpredictable bitch that I don't even know how to answer this question anymore. We're going to have a party!

Since Chad is bringing Cher, will we see some Anna Nicole Smith or any other celebrity impersonations from you?

AD No, ma'am. Sadly, Adore is a one woman show.

Are you two familiar with the Miami drag scene?

AD Yea, I got some home girls there.

CM I am. I know some girls down there and this competition is big. It's something that's kind of special for the girls down there. It's not a Drag Race thing, it's not a bar competition, it's a competition that stands on its own. It gives everybody a nice even playing field to win. It's a fun thing to be a part of,

What do you hope these Miami competitors bring to the competition?

AD Their pussies!

CM I love to see polished. There's so many different types of drag and so many genres of drag, so whatever it is they're doing, I want to see them looking their best, performing their best and speaking the best they can. It is always best to put your best foot forward. Whatever it is. Whether you're a spooky queen like Sharon Needles or an impersonator like me or a singer like Adore, you know everybody has a best foot to put forward and that's definitely what they need to do to win this competition.

You two knew each other before Drag Race, correct? >



AD Yes. I love Chad. She's mother legendary!

CM We're both from Southern California, and I've known Adore for a number of years. We've worked locally together, and a lot of her drag family is a part of my drag family and extended. It's like a big bowl of drag soup here in sunny California. She's absolutely worth every penny. She just delivers on stage and I think audiences are really going to enjoy her.

What are your thoughts so far about season 10 of Drag Race? Any predictions or favorite queens?

AD I love Eureka and Aquaria!

CM This season is exciting! I'm a fan, so I get emotionally invested. I love whatever the queens do. For me, it's about the person. Whatever they do on stage is what they do on stage, but I want to know the people and their stories. That's what I really enjoy about Drag Race. Getting to know these girls over the course of a season and hearing what they been through and what their dreams are. I think we're in for a really good season, and I'm definitely team Mayhem Miller. She's one of my extended drag daughters and one of my cast members on the "Dreamgirls Revue" here in Southern California. We've known each other for probably 15-20 years and she's kind of one of the last girls in our group to make the journey to RuPaul's Drag Race. It's Mayhem's time to shine. I'm rooting for her.

Fantastic. And you two were involved with the first episode's mini-challenge. Was it a big happy reunion to be united with so many past contestants?

AD It actually was! We had so much fun!

CM It was really fun. It was a one-day shoot and they really got a lot of us together which is a feat in itself because so

many of us have so much going on and we live in all different corners of the country. I think there was 20-30 of us that day. It was just super fun, no pressure. It's different when you go back as talent and not as a competitor [laughs]. You're there to enjoy yourself and give them what you need. It's just a really great thing and to share the time with a bunch of people you haven't seen in a really long time, it made for a really great day.

Did you think we would ever see a decade of Drag Race?

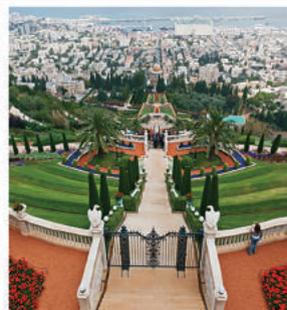
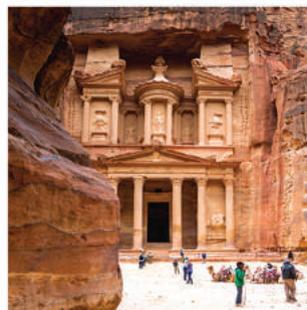
AD I honestly did. The show is too groundbreaking to not last another five.

CM Yes, absolutely. There is no doubt in my mind. I think season 1-3 was the kickstart, then season 4 which I was on along with Sharon, Phi Phi, and Latrice, the show got to a point where people were really starting to grab ahold of us.

How have things been going with you otherwise? Any other upcoming projects we should be on the lookout for?

AD Things are good. Just enjoying life on the road, practicing for my band tours and prepping for music videos. Checkout "Whatever" now on iTunes and all streaming services online! Can't wait to see you in Miami!

CM You know me, I'm just kind of working on my local stuff and that's really where my heart is at. I have my "Dreamgirls Revue" and that in itself is a handful. There's 15 plus cast members, many on Drag Race and some who aren't. You try to do a weekly schedule with that mess going on [laughs]. They keep me busy, and I have a wonderful home life with Adam and I get out on the road when I can. I'm going to be working with World of Wonder on some content for the website and possibly something to do with an upcoming movie that might star somebody I impersonate. Some cool stuff is happening, and I'm very excited.



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A FORT LAUDERDALE DRAG STAPLE: SHARDÉ L. ROSS

By Denny Patterson

Michael Burton may seem like an ordinary business professional who works a Monday-Friday job, but once it's time to play, he transforms into the gorgeous female impersonator who has made quite a name for herself within Fort Lauderdale, Shardé L. Ross. Originally from a small town in North Carolina, Shardé has been a female impersonator since 1988. Winning multiple pageants and titles, she has become a star within the drag scene, and continues to help and inspire many. She has a weekly gig hosting brunch at Georgie's Alibi Monkey Bar in Wilton Manors, and whenever she steps foot on stage, audiences cannot take their eyes off her. I had the pleasure of chatting more with Shardé about her career and her love for entertaining and making people smile.



Tell me, who is Shadé L. Ross and what is she all about?

I started female impersonating in 1988 and won my first pageant in 1989. I started my career in North Carolina, and back in those days, many of us would go out in female clothing as a dare around Halloween. It was myself and two of my very best friends. We all started our careers together. Then, in 1992, I was fortunate to land Miss Gay North Carolina for female impersonation. That was the preliminary for the Miss Gay America pageant, and that was the first biggest accomplishment as far as impersonation goes. I stayed in North Carolina until 1997 and relocated to Fort Lauderdale with the job I was working with at the time. After moving here, I met my husband of 19 years and since I've been in Florida, I won a lot of titles and I started going back to competing nationally again about 10 years ago. I started competing in Florida then abroad. So, I love my life. Now, for the first time in my entire career, I'm working a weekly gig at Alibi Monkey Bar and I've never

done that before. I've always kept a 40 hour a week professional job. I liked to do female impersonation on the side like an expensive hobby. I never looked at female impersonation as a means of a survival for paying my bills. It was always something I enjoyed doing and I think pageantry is just in my blood. I love competing, and I do illusions like Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Donna Summer. Those are my signature go to performances.

So, that one time on Halloween is what inspired you to continue female impersonation?

That, and the encouragement of my friends. When I am surrounded by a group of guys who are really into drag and we all go out as a group together, it's such a great time. You then realize you do have more in common than just being a member of the gay community. We started doing it together at first and we weren't serious about it. We were just going out for fun and we were approached by people at that time in the bar and they saw potential in us. They were like, you should be serious



about it. After a while it just evolved and developed into a great career.

And you consider yourself a pageant queen?

Oh, definitely! Yes!

Tell me more about your shows at Alibi. What can audiences expect?

Because we perform on the patio, we get a lot of walking traffic. People who are walking up and down the drive, they stop because they hear something going on and the music. That's kind of how we gain new fans and increase our fan base and attendance. We are the only brunch on the drive right now on Saturdays which is fantastic. It's called "Drag Yourself to Brunch" and most of our crowds vary. We go from maybe late 20's into mature men. I like to perform 80's, 90's, some 70's, and early 2000's music because I'm an older entertainer and most of my audiences grew up with that kind of music.

You're a host for "Drag Yourself to Brunch"?

Yes, I'm a co-host. There are three of us and we have guest entertainers every Saturday with us. I'm the first host that starts off the show at 1:00PM, then I share host responsibilities among all three cast members. I usually have what they call the last word of the day. I always leave audiences with one of my sayings or a question with a meaningful answer. Something I want them to remember, a positive memory to reflect on. Sometimes, we get guys who come back every Saturday and when I ask my question, they answer it. It's great. It's developed into a big family.

Who are some of your drag inspirations?

Unfortunately, half of them have passed. One of my best friends who lives in Las Vegas, he is a former Miss Gay America. We grew up together, our parents went to the same church, and we went to college together. We started our careers together and he is still entertaining as well. A lot of people who inspire me are no longer with us. So, now, the new thing is for older entertainers like myself, we don't retire, we inspire. That's what I live by now. That's my motto.

How did you obtain your stage name?

I wanted to be a one name performer. When I started female impersonation, Sade was very big. She did "The Sweetest Taboo," and everybody knew who she was. Just say Sade and everybody knew that person. I wanted to be a one name entertainer, so I adopted her name, but I was impersonating Diana Ross at the time. So, people either couldn't pronounce my name or couldn't remember it, but they remembered that I did Diana Ross. People started calling me Ms. Ross. I was like, that's not my name, but fans were like just go with it. So, I went ahead and adopted the last name Ross.

What would you say is your favorite part about female impersonation?

The entertaining part of it. I am very confident in who I am as a guy, but my female persona, I do it for the entertainment. I love entertaining people. I love making them smile, and I hope I do something that will change their mindset for the day. They might come in feeling down and I try to make them laugh or perform numbers that will make them smile. I don't do impersonations to meet anybody. Of course, we flirt, but I don't go out to meet a man or date. I tease that Shardé is a virgin, and she is. I think in my past life I was an entertainer. It comes easy to me, and I just love it.

What is the best advice you have ever received from a fellow drag queen/female impersonator, and what is the best advice you have given?

The best advice I have received is, no matter how good or bad you are, you're not going to be 100 percent liked. My goal for when I started doing female impersonation was for everybody to like me. I wanted to be the belle of the ball, the star. When I started, that wasn't the case. There are people who love you and those who don't. Don't let that put you down because you aren't going to please everyone. And the advice I always give is, always perform a contest or pageant within your means. There are a lot of pageants and contests, but when you lose, you have to go home. When you get home, you have to have lights, water, and a paid mortgage. There will always be another opportunity to do another drag pageant, but

always do it within your means. That is what I tell everybody.

Solid advice. Are you part of a drag family?

Yes. I am actually the start of it. I have a lot of Ross children who adopted my name. I have a lot of sisters and a few male entertainers who also took my last name. My house has Caucasians, African Americans, and Hispanic people and I hope that means I have inspired a lot of people. Especially since I moved to Florida, my career has blossomed.

Have you ever tried out for RuPaul's Drag Race, or at least thought about it?

No. For one, it's because I can't sew. I can tell you what it needs to look like, but I cannot sew and put it together. I think that is something you have to be able to do. Second, my mother use to say, you can't do everything, and I think that being at my age of 55, that time has kind of past me by. When I was 21, 25, 30, those opportunities were there for us, but it just wasn't called RuPaul's Drag Race, it was called Miss Gay America or Miss Gay USA or Miss Gay Continental. We pursued those goals and I think RuPaul's Drag Race is for the younger generation. It's for them, it's their time. I think I had my time. I'm still enjoying my life and my career is great. I live in the best town I've ever been in my life and I'm loving who I am right now. I like watching the show and I met RuPaul when we were very young, before he became famous.

So, do you watch the show?

On occasion. Every season I know at least 1-2 contestants personally. So, I watch it a little bit, but not weekly.

What is the drag scene like in Fort Lauderdale? Is it a welcoming community?

Yes, and it's very busy. Everything cycles out like a clock. Sometimes, not a lot of people are into it and it's not real big, but now, it seems the clock's hand has gone back to 12 and people are really digging female impersonating and attending drag shows. In South Florida, we have a range of entertainment value. Anyone going out to see a show here in South Florida

is going to be well entertained. It's big now. Every club here has a show, at least one or more. People are really into drag right now, and I think RuPaul's Drag Race has helped make it mainstream. A lot of our brunch crowds are mixed. We have many straight people who come to watch the show, as well as families. We are a family friendly show. Times have changed. When I started as a female impersonator, we didn't go out until 11 or 12 at night because we were afraid somebody would see us. Now, in 2018, guys like myself who waited until midnight to go out are doing daytime shows, and I'm also entertaining kids who are 7, 8, 9, and 10-years-old. Times have truly changed. You don't have to go to the service station bathroom to change into girls clothes because you didn't want people to know what you were doing. It's not like that anymore. It's very open. And I'm more of an old school kind of impersonator. Now, we have guys in drag wearing a mustache and beard.

What are some of your most memorable moments?

Oh God, there's several. I've been doing this for 30 years, so for me, winning Miss Gay North Carolina for female impersonation. That was a big moment. Winning Miss Gay Florida America was another big moment in my career. Meeting my husband twice, and what I mean by that is, the first time we met was at a party. I had just won a pageant and he met me there. The second time, we met a few months later and I was not in drag. He was attracted to me in both way. It was like we were destined to be together. Nineteen years with me is like 38 because you live with two people. You got Michael, and then Shardé as well. It takes a strong man to be able to balance his life and both of your lives and still be happy. In a city like Fort Lauderdale where we have such a high gay population, the opportunity for guys to meet someone is daily. So, to hold onto a relationship for this long is the highlight of my career and my life. I still enjoy entertaining at 55, so I'm thrilled at that. People still come out to see me and my fan base continues to grow. I'm inspired by that.

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Continued on next page.

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- ▶ **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- ▶ **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys when starting and during treatment with BIKTARVY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Too much lactic acid is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems.** In rare cases, severe liver problems can happen that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY? (continued)

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY are diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of BIKTARVY.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use BIKTARVY for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give BIKTARVY to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about BIKTARVY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about BIKTARVY that is written for health professionals. For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.BIKTARVY.com**.

Keep BIKTARVY and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: February 2018



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GILCO391 02/18



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PUTTING AN END TO ROBOCALLS



This week I was sitting at home minding my own business, waiting for my future husband to call me, when I received two calls. Unfortunately, it was not Carlos del Amor. Even though I know how to recognize a scam, I have to admit, the first call was so threatening it made me a little anxious. The caller said that the I owed money and threatened jail if I did not pay up immediately. Knowing I did not owe any money, I was easily able to identify the call as a scam. But there are other tips everyone should know. Whether the caller is taking on the appearance of the IRS or other government agency, they will use similar tactics.

Scammers make unsolicited calls.

Thieves call taxpayers claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They may also leave “urgent” callback requests through phone “robocalls,” or via phishing email.

Callers try to scare their victims.

Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don't get the money.

Scams use caller ID spoofing.

Scammers often alter caller ID to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim's name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official.

So don't panic. If you receive a call it is most likely a scam. You can always check out the most recent scams or report a scam at bbb.org/scamtracker/us. If you are still unsure, contact the IRS directly using the irs.gov website. Never use a phone number or email address provided by a potential scammer. Report robocalls to bbb.org and the Federal Trade Commission (consumer.ftc.gov/media/video-0028-what-do-if-you-get-robocall).

My second call came from a company that was going to help me with my college debt. Since I graduated a few years ago (wink wink) and I don't have any debt, and I have never had a business relationship with this nice caller, this business was abusing the law in contacting me on my cell phone. Too bad my OCD kicked in and got me to answer the phone. The first line of defense against robocalls is not to answer the phone. Once you pick up the phone the robocallers know they have a live person and the number of calls will increase. What else can you do to make it harder for the robocallers? Here are a few suggestions:

▶ **Register your phone on the do not call (DNC) list.**

I could not remember if I had registered by cell phone on the DNC list so I returned to the site (donotcall.gov/register/reg.aspx) and made sure I was registered. While registering your number will diminish the number of unwanted calls, it will not screen out all robocallers and scammers, but with fewer questionable calls coming your way, you will be able to better detect the real scam calls.

▶ **Deploy apps to identify scams and robocallers.**

The good guys are constantly working to help combat scams and unwanted intrusions on our privacy. There are apps available to help

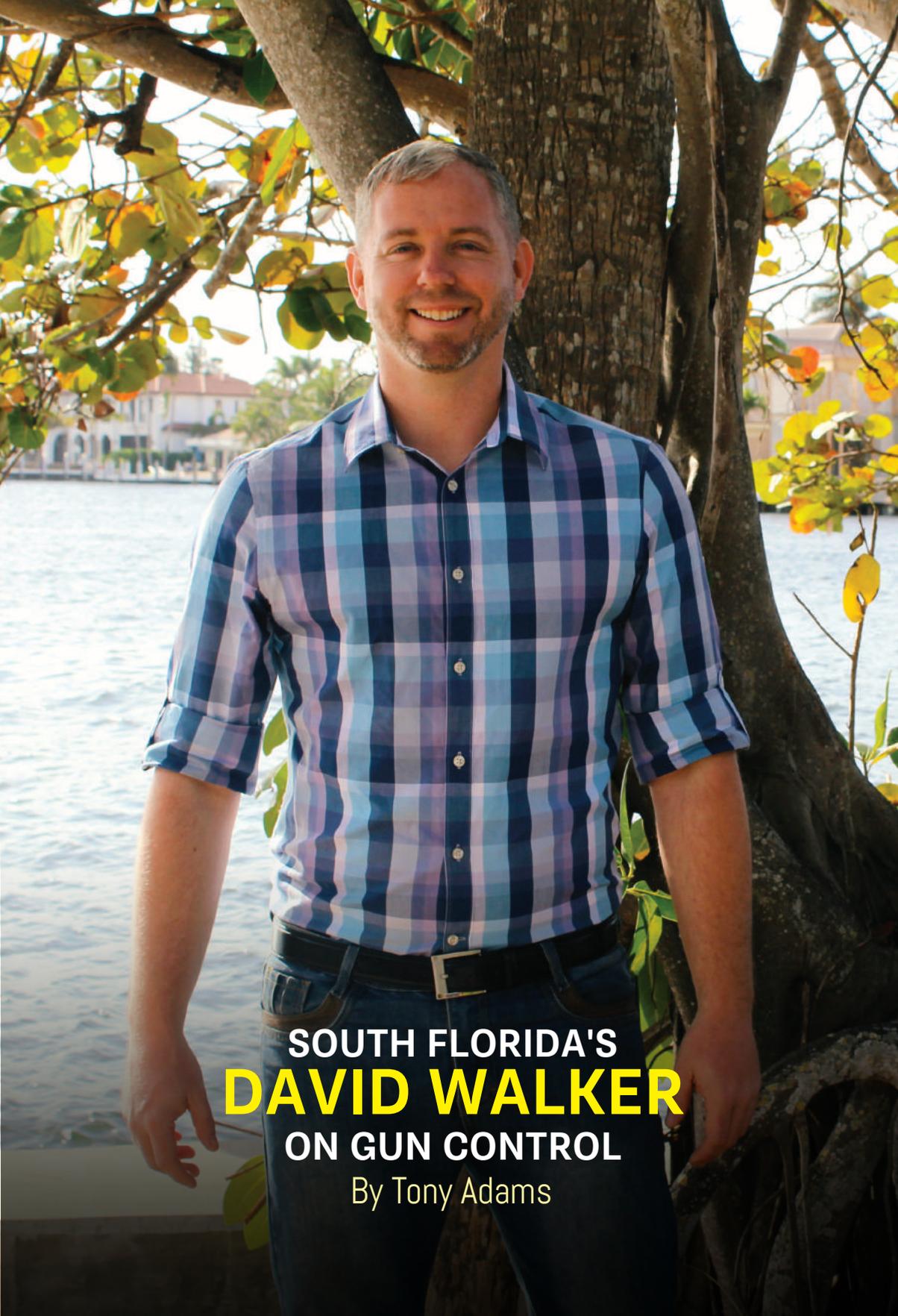
block scam calls and robocalls. The apps use the collective feedback from consumers to identify “bad numbers” and add them to the list of numbers to be blocked. Some cell providers have integrated tools (e.g. AT&T and T Mobile), but there are options available in the app stores. You can find a list at: ctia.org/consumer-tips/robocalls.

▶ **Limit the availability of your personal information.**

It is easier for the scammers to create a convincing story if they have personal information about you. The internet is a great communication tool that has made tasks easier, faster and more convenient, but to operate, websites and apps gather data to drive their services. As we have seen over the last few years, all websites may be compromised, so limiting the number of sites you use will limit your vulnerability. Also select sites that have strong privacy policies, so that your information is not shared with other sites, may compromise your data, or use it in a manner you do not find acceptable.

While we may not be able to end all unwanted calls, if everyone takes steps to make it harder for them to successfully reach us, we may be able to drive some of them out of business for good.





SOUTH FLORIDA'S
DAVID WALKER

ON GUN CONTROL

By Tony Adams



If David Walker of Wilton Manors becomes the Commissioner of Agriculture, he would be the youngest and first openly gay member of the Governor's Cabinet in Florida history.

OutClique spoke with him about a pressing issue that is important to him: gun control. Surprisingly, the Florida Department of Agriculture is responsible for the issuance of Concealed Weapon (CW) permits. In the wake of the Parkland massacre, Walker has fearlessly made public his opinion about gun control, the NRA, and his desire for legislation that would help avoid future killings.

Does the Florida Department of Agriculture have the authority to enact laws improving gun control? Not exactly, but its Commissioner would have a strong voice in Tallahassee as an advocate for change.

Walker says, "I personally have a concealed weapon permit and I support the Second Amendment, but I am opposed to NRA lobbying

that facilitates widespread availability of assault weapons used to massacre innocent people. I do believe Floridians have the right to bear arms either to protect their family or for the purpose of hunting and recreation."

Walker is familiar with the regulation of gun ownership in Florida. He said, "Thirty-six states have reciprocal CW permits meaning that if you hold a permit issued in another state, you can likely enter Florida with your weapon legally. The Florida test for a CW permit is not particularly difficult. You are given the answers to the written test before you take it. You have to shoot your gun twice, but there is no specific pass/fail based on what you hit. Also, the required background check is very superficial. There is much room for improvement in the issuance of CW permits."



In Tallahassee, Walker is typically known as “The Duck Guy.” He got this name because of a duck he harvested (that’s the appropriate word for “hunted or shot”). That duck had two leg bands, one issued in Alaska, and the other issued in Asia. In his approach to state government, Walker used this as evidence that Florida’s environment, wildlife, air, water, and crops do not exist in a bubble. Every aspect of Florida’s natural infrastructure is tied to conditions in the rest of the world. State government ought to be thinking globally in order to protect its quality of life locally.

Walker, a fifth generation Floridian, has a BA in Environmental Science, and an MA in Environmental Policy and Management from American Public University. His love for the field led him to accept research positions at the United States Geological Survey, National Park Service, and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. Walker has researched the impact of climate change, invasive species in the Everglades, and has advocated for air, land, and water conservation. He is president of the South Florida Audubon Society, sits on the Everglades Regional Conservation Committee, and is vice president of the Broward Chapter of the Democratic Environmental Caucus.

Walker says, “I want to put working people back in charge in Tallahassee. It’s up to us to conserve and protect our environment from special interests, ensure food safety for the public, and increase protections for consumers in the Sunshine State.”

His run for Commissioner of Agriculture marks his entry into the contentious world of elections, politics and government. The Democratic primary will be held on August 28, and the election will be held on November 6.



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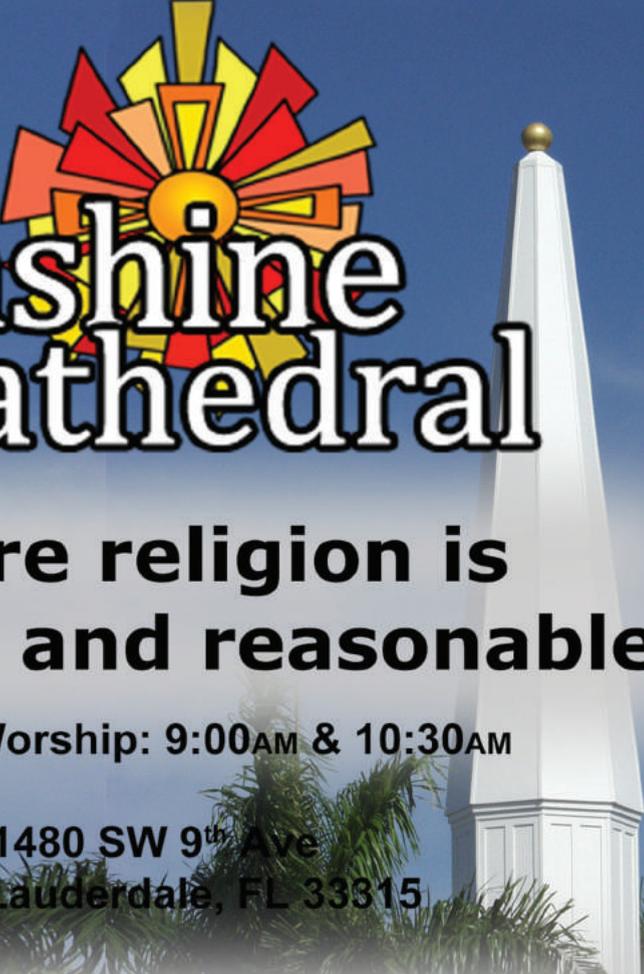
The tenth edition of the Gay Games will take place in Paris from August 4 to 12, 2018.

Created in 1982 and organized every four years, the Gay Games is the largest sporting and cultural event open to all over the age of 18, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability, but also without any requirements or elimination trials.

Up to 15,000 participants are expected from 75 countries with a focus on the three guiding principles of the Gay Games: Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™, with thirty-six sports, fourteen cultural events, 3 days of sports conferences, and spectacular festivities.

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LOEWS MIAMI BEACH HOTEL

By Steve Pike



Meet the hotel that started it all on South Beach. The Loews Miami Beach Hotel is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Look for more party details in the coming months, as the beachfront property that sparked the South Beach renaissance.

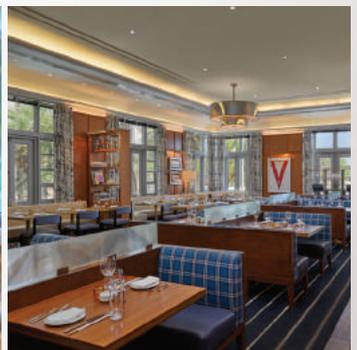
Located on Collins Avenue near the famed Lincoln Road pedestrian shopping and dining area, the 790-room hotel, which recently hosted the South Beach Wine & Food Festival for the 17th consecutive year, is brighter, more spacious and more guest-accommodating than ever.

Pods have replaced the routine front desk for easier check in and check out. Much of the new artwork in the public spaces and guest rooms has been created by Chicago-based artist Sarah Raskey, including the 300-pound

“Stardust” encrusted sculpture behind the thew pods. The pool deck has been completely redone and includes new, adult-only cabanas. The guest rooms each have new bathrooms and furnishings, and like the public areas, more sophisticated color palettes.

It’s a completely new look for a hotel that most guests thought was perfect just the way it was. But this is South Beach. Hotels here adapt or fall perilously behind. The latter is not an option at Loews Miami Beach Hotel.

“We’re fortunate with our location and our service reputation,” said hotel Managing Director Alex Tonarelli. “We have so many repeat guests that we wanted to give them a unique and different experience.” Nowhere in Loews Miami Beach Hotel is that experience more pronounced than at its restaurants and lounges. ➤



For the past few years, the hotel's Lure Fishbar has the well-earned reputation of being the best seafood restaurant in Miami Beach. The renovation brings some terrific complements to Lure, in what the hotel calls "Flavor Miami." There is Preston's Market, a farm-to-table breakfast eatery that features a buffet and a la' carte menu; Miami Joe Coffee Company, featuring Miami-based Panther Coffee and some great homemade Cuban ice cream; and the re-designed Nautilus Bar & Grill poolside eatery features expanded seating for dining and a covered bar area.

In addition to Lure, the new Bar Collins is the signature restaurant of Flavor Miami. Part lounge and part sports bar, Bar Collins dominates the hotel's first-floor public area. Brighter and more spacious than its predecessor, Bar Collins showcases Loews Miami Beach Hotel's renovation and helps create that unique guest experience of which Tonarelli spoke.

The renovation pushed the bar area to the back of what is now Bar Collins to open space

for multi-level seating and dining. The bar now offers indoor and outdoor dining, the latter being ideal for pool-goers who don't want to get chilled in the air conditioning.

Bar Collins features a pizza station with a brick oven that serves a variety of pizzas, including traditional margherita, roasted chicken wings, and Cuban. Be sure to ask for the nightly off-menu pizza special. Bar Collins' menu also has burgers, steaks, seafood, and small plates that include grilled octopus, ahi tuna tartar, and an outstanding local Florida cheese plate.

Its cocktail menu was designed by acclaimed mixologist, Julio Cabrera. Don't leave without trying his take on a Tom Collins, called a Ron Collins, a Flamingo Mojito (with Miami Club rum) or the Raspberry, a dangerously simple concoction of Tito's vodka, three fresh raspberries, lemon juice, sugar and prosecco.

There is also an abundance of craft beers, as well as live music every Wednesday to Saturday, all making Loews Miami Beach Hotel one of the premier destinations in South Florida.



ADAM RIPPON

SKATES HIS WAY INTO AMERICA'S HEART

By Joey Amato

Photo courtesy of Adam Rippon

Olympic figure skating medalist Adam Rippon has certainly not slowed down since winning a bronze medal at this year's Olympic Games in Pyeongchang. The outgoing, and hilarious, Rippon is currently on a nationwide Stars on Ice tour and is about to participate in the next season of Dancing with the Stars, all while being a spokesperson for GLAAD and becoming an overnight LGBTQ icon. Rippon took some time out of his incredibly busy schedule to chat with us from Washington D.C. where he is training for DWTS along with his dance partner Jenna Johnson.

Do you think that if you weren't openly gay, you would have received as much attention as you did?

I don't know. I believe that being openly gay is part of who I am, and I felt it was important to share who I was because I had missed out on going to the Olympics twice before. I felt like this time it was important that I share every part of who I am and what it took for me to finally get there.

Off the ice, what was your favorite Olympic memory?

Getting to stand on the podium with my friends and teammates was an absolute dream as was getting to walk in the opening ceremony. It was something I had been waiting to do my entire life. I thought about that moment over and over growing up and it was everything I

thought it would be.

How has your perspective of the Olympic games changed since you began skating professionally?

As you get older, you must step outside yourself to analyze situations from the outside in. You have a greater perspective of who you are and what's going on. I had a better idea of who I was and why I was there because I questioned it so many times before. I didn't have a reason why before and as I got older, I realized I liked working hard and setting goals. The Olympics were a byproduct of that.

Aside from your trainers, did you have a support system leading up to the Olympic games?

I was lucky to make some incredible friends, some who I've known for at least 10 years. They've seen me at my highs and lows and I felt so connected to them when I was at the Olympics because they were on that journey with me. They helped me gain perspective and at the end of the day they wouldn't love me any differently if I didn't go to the Olympics. Knowing that, made the journey easier.

How do you view your new role model status?

It's still funny for me to have someone come up to me and say, 'thank you for being



yourself.' I don't feel like I've done anything special or brave. I was just able to be myself on a major platform. I don't treat anybody any differently now. I treat people the way I want to be treated. The most important thing is not to forget where I came from. Doing something little can really change a person's life, so when you have the opportunity to do so, take it.

What do you love and hate about being in the spotlight?

I don't really hate anything about it. The one thing that's interesting is there are always people who don't like what you are going to say or have a problem with you for whatever reason. That's the only part that isn't great. What I like is now when I say something funny on Twitter, a lot of people think it's funny and can enjoy my sense of humor. I love engaging with people on social media.

You'll be competing on the next season of *Dancing with the Stars*. What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

Partnering is one of the things I'm working on the most right now. It's two people doing a dance together, and it's the partner work I have literally no experience in, which is the most challenging part for me. Jenna [Johnson]

is so patient, and we are both perfectionists but we both really like to laugh and have a good time. I've been practicing every day for at least 4 hours. There are a lot of expectations and I'm ready for it. This is something fun I've always wanted to do.

What has been your best experience as a public member of the LGBTQ community?

My best experience has been able to reach other LGBTQ people. It's something you will never be prepared for. For a long time, my journey was personal, and I did a lot of self-discovery. I wasn't expecting such a large response. Because of the place I'm in now, I don't see negative experiences as negative and I look past them. I focus on the great things going on in my life.

What advice would you give to a person going through life's challenges?

You really need to think about the things you like about yourself and celebrate those. Everybody goes through periods in their lives and wonders what others think of us, and it's important to realize that everyone goes through these experiences. You need to get to the point where you like things about yourself and celebrate them.



Rippon mentioned that going to the Olympics is an opportunity for the country to come together and cheer for the athletes from your country. As an openly gay Olympian who brought home a medal, Rippon mentions it was a great way to highlight different LGBTQ people who are out and successful. "It was important for me to be out and compete to show people that you can be who you are and still be incredibly successful. I hope it inspired kids and even adults who may be struggling. When you embrace who you are, that's when you start to fulfill your potential."

There's no telling what's on the horizon for "America's Sweetheart," but we can only hope Rippon's future is as bright and beautiful as he is.

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KEY WEST FOR THE FAMILIAR TRAVELER

By Mike Jeknavorian



The sister to Provincetown, in both liberation and isolation, Key West (www.fl-keys.com, gaykeywestfl.com, www.kwbgonline.org) has come a long way from the near-bankrupt city of the 1970s, fecund with boarded-up shops on its main drag, Duval Street, to the internationally-known tourist destination that it is today.

But what does this little island have to offer beyond the buzz of Duval Street? Anyone who's been to this island is more than likely familiar with its better-known features, such as the "Mile Marker 0" sign that signifies both the end and the beginning of US 1, and the Southernmost Buoy, which famously states, "90 miles to Cuba." However, if one looks close enough, Key West does have more to offer beyond the trappings of conventional tourism.

WHAT TO DO

Nestled smack-dab in the historic section of Key West, "Old Town," the Key West Cemetery is a picturesque cemetery that has

many graves that date back to the 1800s. Founded in 1847, and boasting a population that's three-times the size of the island's living one, the cemetery is a quiet retreat away from the hullabaloo of Duval St. Look for grave markers with statements such as, "I told you I was sick," "I'm just resting my eyes," and "The best flan maker." There's a small Jewish area in the cemetery as well.

<http://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/department/division.php?structureid=62>

Arguable, the two most famous dolls in film history are "Chucky" from the Child's Play film series, and "Annabelle" from the Annabelle and The Conjuring film series. You can see the inspiration for the Chucky doll in Key West, if



you dare. The Fort East Martello Museum and Gardens is a quirky museum that's housed in a Civil-War-era military fort that was never completed. The museum features exhibitions of local history and art, including the notorious "Robert" doll, the inspiration for Chucky. <http://www.kwahs.org/museums/fort-east-martello/history>

The West Martello Tower, the sister of the Fort East Martello Museum and Gardens, is another Civil-War-era fort that was converted into a tourist attraction. The fort houses gardens, as presented by the Key West Garden Club, and is also one of the last free attractions in Key West. The tranquil and isolated setting, overlooking the ocean, houses a rare collection of native and exotic trees and plants, including many blooming orchids. This is a great place to relax and spend an hour or two. <http://www.keywestgardenclub.com>



Florida's southernmost state park, Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, houses a massive fort from the Civil War-era. The fort, which was named in 1850 after U.S. President Zachary Taylor, was guarded by the aforementioned east and west Martello Towers. The fort was used substantially during the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, both World Wars, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. It opened as a tourist attraction in the 1970s, and includes a haunted Civil-War-themed attraction during the Halloween season. <http://www.fortzacharytaylor.com>

Probably the most obscure attraction in Key West, and a good way to pass an hour, the Key West Wildlife Center is easy to miss if you don't know that it's there. The center contains seven acres of indigenous land, a rare thing in Key West, as well as two aviaries. The center also operates a clinic that provides medical treatment to injured and sick wildlife. <http://keywestwildlifecenter.org>





WHERE TO EAT

Located on the periphery of Old Town in Key West, but off the beaten-path, El Siboney Restaurant is not something that tourists would necessarily stumble on. Guests who patronize this restaurant are treated to a clientele of both locals and tourists who are in-the-know. The family-owned and operated restaurant, which has been in existence since 1984, serves Cuban dishes at conspicuous budget prices.

<http://www.elsiboneyrestaurant.com>

The antithesis to tourist-centered Key West, Stock Island, the town that borders Key West, contains very few restaurants. One of them is Hogfish Bar and Grill. Although the restaurant's website claims that it's a "true 'locals' spot," an appraisal of Hogfish's crowd reveals that some tourists have caught on to it. Despite that, the restaurant is worth the trip. If you're a fan of seafood, it doesn't get any better than this. The restaurant, which borders a fishing wharf, serves seafood that was caught that day.

<http://www.hogfishbar.com>

WHAT NOT TO MISS

Key West is famous for its carnivale-esque Halloween event, Fantasy Fest. But many miss the opening of Fantasy Fest, which happens on the first weekend of this two-week-long event. For those seeking something that's less known, the Key West Goombay Festival may satisfy. The two-day street festival celebrates the Bahamian Village area of Key West, as well as the Bahamian culture in general.

<http://www.fantasyfest.com/schedule/>

Originally conceived as a form of protest again the U.S. Border Control, Key West staged a somewhat tongue-in-cheek secession from the United States on April 23, 1982. Since that time, Key West, re-monikered as "The Conch Republic," celebrates that event with a week-long festival in April. One of the main events of this festival, a spectacle that's not to be missed, is the Red Ribbon Bed Races. Contestants race makeshift "beds," which are elaborately decorated, side-by-side.

<https://conchrepublic.com>

So make plans to visit Key West. Either by plane, car, or boat, it's worth the trip. Visit www.fla-keys.com, gaykeywestfl.com, or www.kwbgonline.org for more information.



THE 4 BEST STRETCHES FOR EVERY OFFICE WORKER

By Bobby Jackson BA, CSCS



Every office worker or long commuter will tell you that after being in a prolonged seated position there are certain parts of their body that begin to fatigue or get tight. The human body is not meant to be stuck in a seated position for long. No matter your fitness level or conditioning, there are specific areas we can expect to be affected. This article will highlight the 4 most commonly affected regions of the body and give you stretches that can be done before, during, or after work to help avoid turning tight, fatigued spots into chronic pain areas.

1 SHOULDER S & CHEST

The first thing to fade in a seated position is our posture. All of the postural muscles along our core and back eventually fatigue and lose tension. This leaves the upper back and shoulders arching forward. Stay there long enough, day after day, and the muscles of the chest and anterior shoulder begin to shorten

and will eventually remain in this tightened, forward arching position. The best stretch to counteract this is to occasionally stand up, interlock your hands behind your back, straighten your elbows, and slowly lift your hands until you feel a stretch in your chest and shoulders.

2 LOWER BACK

Once the upper back and shoulders have lost their alignment, the next spot to be affected is the lower back. This can be from the over-arching of the upper back or an uneven seated position with one shoulder low and/or a

slightly rotated torso. Any variations forward, sideways, or rotated will load your lower back unevenly, eventually causing fatigue and soreness. A great way to relieve tension in the lower back is a seated twist/pretsel stretch.



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Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council. This organization is also sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



You will need to sit on the floor with both legs extended in front of you. Bend one knee and step that foot over the extended leg at the knee or upper shin with the bent knee now facing up. Rotate your body to the same side

as the bent leg and place the back of your front elbow on the outside of the elevated knee. This will give you better leverage to increase the stretch in the lower back.

3 HIP FLEXOR (FRONT OF HIP)

With our hips stuck in a 90-degree angle while seated, our hip flexors will eventually go into a similar shortening affect as our chest and shoulders. Typically, this isn't noticed until standing immediately after a long time seated in that office chair or car. These muscles get used to being in a shortened position and will begin to tighten to that length. That's what

gives a mild stretch feeling just by finally standing up straight again. The best stretch for this area is to use a stationary forward lunge position. Step one leg forward, bend your back knee slightly, and drive your weight forward. This should extend the hip joint and enhance the stretch in the front of that back hip.

4 HAMSTRING (BACK OF LEG)

Just like the prolonged flexed angle at the hip, affecting the hip flexor, a prolonged bend at the knee while seated will affect the hamstrings. The hamstrings will go through the shortening process the same way. The easiest way to diagnose short hamstrings is limited flexibility when trying to touch your toes while standing. The standing toe-touch can actually be used as an effective stretch

for this area. However, I prefer to use a seated toe-touch or semi straddle/figure-four stretch instead. This requires you to sit on the floor so your legs are fully extended in front of you. The semi straddle/figure-four is done by bending one knee and placing the bottom of the foot of the bent leg along the inside of the knee on the extended leg and then leaning forward to focus the stretch on one leg at a time.

Stretching and flexibility is an extremely important component of a healthy, functional body. It improves your balance and stability as well. The most crucial part of a stretching routine is to do it as frequently as possible. Flexibility is naturally lost with age and especially with a sedentary lifestyle. Don't leave stretching for only your workout days, right before or after exercise. Try to work in some light stretching every day. The morning is a perfect time to start so you can loosen up your body for the day. Most importantly, don't get discouraged in the beginning if your flexibility is worse than you thought it was. Just like all of our health and fitness goals, its something that takes time and consistency to achieve.



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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WELCOME TO BEAUTIFUL AND SUNNY FORT LAUDERDALE

By Denny Patterson

Cover image courtesy of Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau

The number one mission of Fort Lauderdale is to bring as many visitors to the area as possible. Why would you not want to visit a city like Fort Lauderdale? Sunny days at the beach, mouth-watering food, vibrant nightlife – what more can you ask for? Fort Lauderdale is one of those cities that has a unique charm. It has been known to be a high-ranking vacation destination, and a charming area to settle down and raise a family. Yes, Fort Lauderdale is the place to be. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau can give more details on why you should visit Broward County, but we'll mention a couple of highlights right here! Visit www.Sunny.org for more information.

ATTRACTIONS

A1A SCENIC HIGHWAY

Broward County has a vibrant history. Much of it is represented along the State Road A1A. As travelers navigate across its nine distinct beach communities, they can take in the sights of sea turtle nests, indigenous dune plants, and roaring waves crashing along the beaches. A1A is also enriched with cultural and recreational activities. Travelers may partake in swimming, snorkeling, fishing, and hiking – just to name a few. The variety of attractions and annual events, such as the Pompano Beach Seafood Festival, make A1A an ideal destination in South Florida to explore.



BUTTERFLY WORLD

Are you ready for an exotic adventure? Butterfly World is the world's largest butterfly park, home to more than 20,000 species from every corner of the planet. Visitors can marvel at these wonderful creatures in addition to the hundreds of exotic birds in the six flight aviaries, hand-feed the lorikeets, and explore the museum and Bug Zoo. Take in the waterfalls, botanical gardens, passion vines, and roses that complete this natural habitat.

CRIME TOURS

Are you a fan of true crime and history? Then Crime Tours is the perfect Fort Lauderdale attraction for you. Crime Tours tells the untold stories that have shaped South Florida. From celebrity homes and historical destinations to gangsters and mysteries, visitors on Crime Tours will discover the twisted history of South Florida. The museum's floor to ceiling displays, exhibit original newspapers and artifact dating back to the 1500s. Visitors will gain an understanding of how South Florida rose to fame and infamy through it's colorful,

yet troubling past.

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE

The Museum of Discovery and Science is the place to be to enjoy an outing with your children. Explore and discover more than 200 dynamic hands-on exhibits and a five-story IMAX 3D theatre that will put you in the center of the action. From educational presentations to watching animals such as turtles, fish, and crocodiles, you will literally have to drag your kids out in order to go home.

NIGHTLIFE

BEACH BETTY'S

This is the classic beach lesbian bar. Tiki hut walls, palm trees, deep ocean blue ceiling, frozen drinks, and jukebox that can play all the tunes – Beach Betty's has everything you can think of to spend a night on the town in Fort Lauderdale. Sit back and relax with pina colada on the patio or shoot some pool with your friends. Who knows, you may meet that special gal. ➤





CAFÉ IBIZA

Café Ibiza is the perfect balance of authentic flavors, warm hospitality, and an engaging atmosphere. Featuring an all-day menu of fresh seafood, homemade pastas, chilled salads, and entrée sandwiches, this oceanfront restaurant is warm and inviting. Take a seat on the patio or indoors. Café Ibiza is known to have some of the best live music on Fort Lauderdale Beach.

THE MANOR

This is an epic Fort Lauderdale nightclub that features a combination of vintage style and cosmopolitan sophistication. This two-level nightclub is decked with an abundance of crystal chandeliers, a covered outside arcade with a modern flair, a large performance stage, and the best sound and lighting any Fort Lauderdale local or visitor has ever seen. For a night to remember, come to one of the Manor's infamous events, massive dance parties, and runway shows.

PARROT LOUNGE

Just because you are on vacation, that doesn't mean you should be out of the loop on what's going on in the news or sports. The Parrot Lounge is the perfect place to watch a Dolphins or Eagles football game. This is a laid-back bar featuring big screen TVs, 16 beers on draft, and 20 different types of bottled beer.

HOTELS

ALAYA SPA AT THE BONAVENTURE RESORT

This resort has visitors walking into a blissful sanctuary. The lovely Zen Garden allows the sense of calm and serenity to surround you. Set amidst the lush gardens of this transformed hotel, the Alaya Spa caters to both the body and soul. Each treatment is designed to heal, soothe, and rejuvenate your entire core. A complete health and beauty center, the Alaya Spa features 30 treatment rooms, fitness classes, spinning, yoga, and steam rooms. This is the perfect Fort Lauderdale spa vacation.

BY-EDDY MOTEL & APARTMENTS

In the heart of Fort Lauderdale, the By-Eddy Motel & Apartments treats visitors to comfortable rooms with a kitchen in a small, but friendly resort motel. Visitors may enjoy the private garden and the beautiful pool area. Grocery stores, restaurants and world class shopping centers are in walking distance.

CALYPSO INN

The Calypso Inn is only steps away from drinking, dancing, and dining choices. It is the place to be in the heart of Wilton Manors. Featuring newly renovated rooms, ample parking, a pool, tanning areas, and a lively atmosphere, visitors are guaranteed to return.



PELICAN GRAND BEACH RESORT

This is a Fort Lauderdale resort that offers an unforgettable experience. With 156 guest rooms including 105 oceanfront suites, the Pelican Grand Beach Resort has a unique and luxurious charm. Two rooftop areas offer magnificent skyline shore views of Fort Lauderdale beach and beach level options include a poolside deck and a covered ocean front veranda – all just steps away from the Atlantic Ocean. The sweeping waterfront veranda provides guests with a front row seat that cannot be missed.

RESTAURANTS

3030 OCEAN RESTAURANT

Welcome to the home of Chef Adrienne Grenier. Here, Grenier reflects the savory flavor of the ocean into her exquisite dining menu while guests have the pleasure of overlooking the Atlantic Ocean inside this chic dinner bistro. 3030 is a unique, creative and passionate combination of flavors.

GG'S WATERFRONT BAR & GRILL

GG's Waterfront Bar & Grill serves fresh stone crabs, seafood, and steaks all with a spectacular view of yachts cruising by on the intracoastal waterway. Every night,

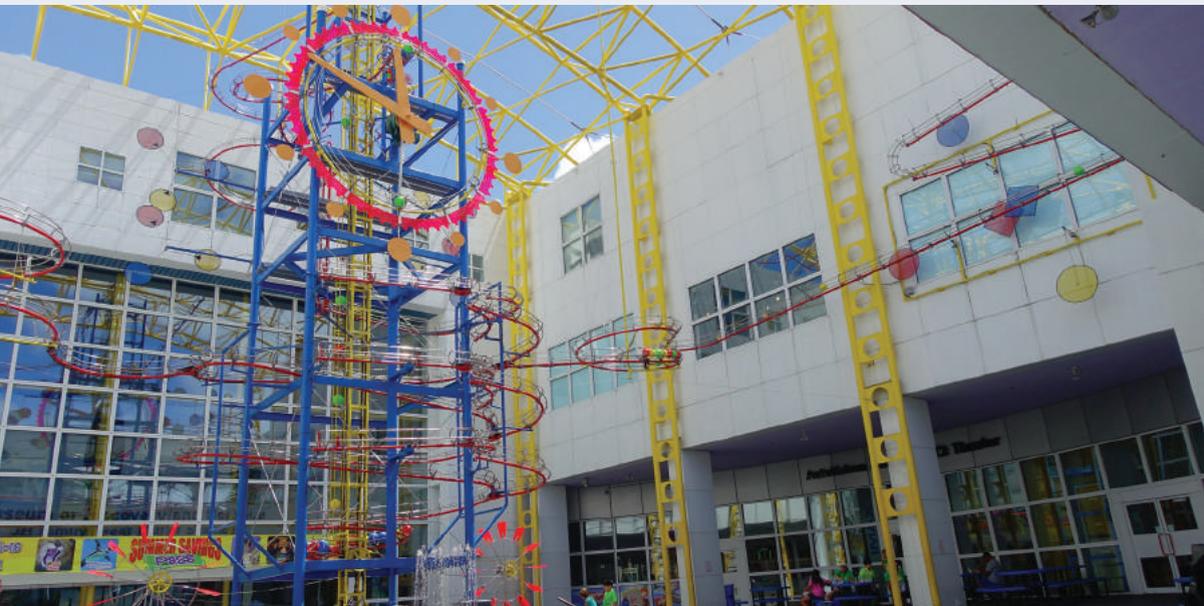
diners come to this location to watch superb waterfront sunsets. In the 1960s, this was the hot spot for Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack. Now remodeled, it's open every day for lunch, dinner, and happy hour. Let's not forget to mention its famous Sunday Brunch!

MARIO'S CATALINA RESTAURANT

Simple elegance, old-world charm, and creative cooking. Nothing can describe Mario's Catalina Restaurant better than that. Once you step into Mario's Catalina, you will instantly feel the hustle of the city fade away. Soothing colors, soft lighting, crisp linens, and fragrant aromas will immediately transport you to a more tranquil setting. Come on in and feast upon Cuban food and Spanish cuisine, including seafood dishes, New York strip steaks, plantains, and fine wine.

SPATCH GRILLED PERI-PERI CHICKEN

A first of its kind in the market, Spatch Grilled Peri-Peri Chicken serves up poultry with personality. This restaurant is unlike any other in South Florida. Inspired by and centered around South Africa's widely-known Peri-Peri style chicken, this eatery features both indoor and outdoor seating. Visitors will receive warm hospitality and delectable chicken meals. They will want to come back ASAP.





AN INTERVIEW WITH A FORT LAUDERDALE COUPLE

Charlotte and her wife Sheila are one of the several LGBTQ couples who live in the Fort Lauderdale area. Charlotte is a South Florida native and Sheila moved here from Jacksonville in 1990. The two women initially met at a mutual friend's birthday party, and they have spent the last 13 years building a life and raising a family. Either by going to the beach, or having a nice dinner out, Charlotte, Sheila, and their two children try to spend as much time together. This family knows the ins and outs of Fort Lauderdale. Here are a few words from Charlotte.

Describe Fort Lauderdale in one word.

Vibrant.

Why do you think people should visit Fort Lauderdale?

Fort Lauderdale is dynamic. It is always busy with different events, and you can find something for everyone.

What do you and Sheila personally love the most about Fort Lauderdale?

We love that we have everything so close to us. The beach, the Everglades, good food, and good times.

Would you say Fort Lauderdale is a welcoming city for LGBTQ people?

We like to think so. Walking down the street holding hands has never been an issue for us. Although, there are other places/cities we do think twice.

Do you have a favorite LGBTQ nightclub or hotspot?

Our most favorite hotspot sadly closed a few years ago. We haven't really found another one yet. However, if you haven't been to Lips, we highly suggest it. You get a meal and a drag show! We have never been disappointed!

What is your favorite Fort Lauderdale restaurant and why?

Either Gaysha Sushi, as their food is eclectic and always on point, or Casablanca because it just doesn't get any more romantic than there. Oh! We can't forget Canyon! It was our official first date. Their Prickly Pear margaritas are scrumptious!

For a night on the town, what do you and Sheila like to do?

[Laughs]. We have two kids, and work like crazy, so a night for us is usually a restaurant



we haven't tried or a trip to the movies. I mean, sadly, it's true. We are, "wifed up with kids."

Do you have a date that you will always hold dearest to your heart?

After 13 years, there are so many we love to talk about. The time we met, anniversaries, even just recently. We are very blessed. We spent almost half of our relationship without kids, so we explored a little more.

What are some activities you like to do with your children?

We love visiting the Museum of Discovery and Science with them, as well as any children's theatre at the Broward Center. We also love Jazz Brunch each month. Our children aren't quite old enough yet, but we are waiting to be able to do the turtle releases with them soon.

Are you a family who loves the beach?

We love the beach! I absolutely hate the sand, so there's always talc powder in our beach bags and our cars. It's the best kept secret and we are letting you in on it. Talc takes the sand off immediately!

Would you say Fort Lauderdale is a great place to raise children?

Yes. There are plenty of activities to do with kids of all ages, and there are great schools who accept all types of families.

So, you are pleased with the schools in Fort Lauderdale?

In every city, there are pros and cons to the schools. If you plan on having children, do the research. We are 100 percent pleased with the school our kids are attending.

Are there any annual Fort Lauderdale events you all like to attend?

We cannot say there's one specific, but we truly try to spend as much time outdoors as possible. So, whatever is going on for a Sunday, if it's kid friendly, we try to be there. Sadly, I work almost every Saturday. I'm a hairstylist. So, Sundays are our family days.

So, whether you are are a South Florida local or a visitor to our area of the Sunshine State, there is an abundance of places to go, things to do, and people to meet. From small boutique guesthouses to large hotels, there is a whole host of places to stay. Dining options abound from local cuisine to nationally known venues. Our theater, music, and cultural activities provide non-stop avenues to fill your calendar. But our sun-soaked beaches are one of (if not the) best part of Fort Lauderdale. Our culture, our climate, and our activities all make South Florida the perfect travel destination. Check out www.OutClique.org or www.Sunny.org for more on what to do, where to go, and who to meet.



UPGRADES, SERVICE, AND RUPAUL EQUAL GRAND RESORT AND SPA ELEVATION

CLOTHING OPTIONAL FT. LAUDERDALE DESTINATION NEARS 20 YEARS

By Damon Scott



Edward Otto Zielke saw an opportunity for his Fort Lauderdale employer about 2,700 miles away in Los Angeles.

That's where the smash hit Logo TV reality show RuPaul's Drag Race is filmed.

Zielke, the marketing and operations manager for The Grand Resort and Spa, had an "in" with the show and was able to negotiate a promotion spot during season nine.

The Grand Resort was featured for just seconds as a prize for one of the contestants, but it was enough to attract new clientele and bring some additional drag queen energy to the 33-room development.

Zielke has more than a decade of marketing and public relations experience, including the past seven years at the resort.

"I was making a sudden move to Ft. Lauderdale in 2010. The markets were going crazy and there were layoffs. And I was ending a relationship," said Zielke, who is admittedly very open about his life.

So he made the move from New Jersey and says the job kind of fell into his lap after finding a part time job in housekeeping at a small boutique hotel not far from the Grand

Resort, which is located at 539 North Birch Road, close to the well known (especially among gay men) Sebastian Street Beach.

Zielke said Grand Resort owner Casey Karl Koslowski heard about his background and needed someone to come in and manage the property. He's been there since 2007. Koslowski has owned the resort since 2001. It opened in 1999 and will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year.

"I was very nervous because this was something new to me, but I quickly picked it up," said Zielke, who added that his years in theater, going on national tours, doing off-Broadway shows and performing in dinner theater also helped him acclimate.

"I have a good work discipline and a good rapport with other departments. And I was involved with LGBT and Pride organizations," he said.

THE SPA AT THE GRAND RESORT

One of those "other departments" is really more an integral part of the operation — The Spa at the Grand Resort. Co-owned and managed by J.D. Greene, the spa is one of the ways the resort differentiates itself from other options for gay men in the area.



The options and amenities are dizzying. Greene oversees services such as massages, facials, scrubs, waxing, manscaping, hair, manicures and pedicures. Services come in several different options including day spa packages and monthly spa memberships. Options such as a mustache and goatee trimming start at \$10 and continue through a five-hour “Day of Indulgence” package for \$509. (Prices subject to change)

MIGHTY GOOD MAN

The resort and spa’s typical demographic is a man aged 35 and up (you must be 21 years old to be on the property due to beer and wine sales). To be sure, there are many visitors from out-of-town, especially during high season (mid-December through March), but locals come too, as the resort partners in many local events such as FlockFest, Stonewall Pride, and Bearsurrection.

Zielke says guests are a mix of singles and couples and a wide variety of ethnicities come for a stay. “Each gay resort is a little different and has their own niche,” said Zielke.

While the property is all male, if a female wanted to go to the spa for a treatment, that is more than acceptable, said Zielke. There are essentially two sections to the property — front and back. The back is clothing optional, something that was voted on by guests. “It’s for those appreciative of bodies and who are comfortable in their own skin. There is always the element of respect in that area,” Zielke said. “We are sensitive to everyone’s needs.”

A LOOK AHEAD

The Resort is now entering mid-season, where rates go down a little and reservation options become a bit more available.

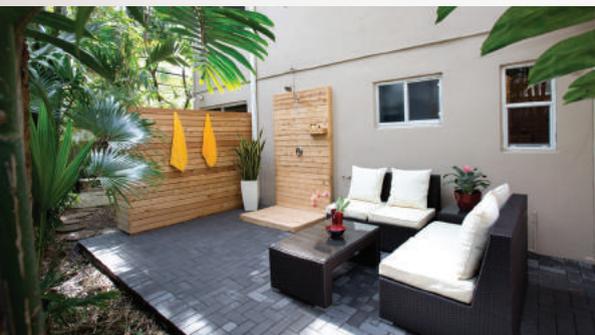
In April and May (and again from October to mid-December) rates run from \$149 for a courtyard guest room, to \$569 for the two bedroom/two bathroom grand penthouse.

Zielke, who is one of about 25 employees at the resort, said he’s already secured another sponsorship on season 10 of RuPaul’s Drag Race. He said it’s a natural fit for the resort, in part because performers and drag queens connected to the show have stayed at the property. He said he’s also booked international drag queens for a stay.

“We welcome a variety of ages 21 and up, providing a vacation experience that is diverse in age and background,” said owner Koslowski. “Additionally, as people travel more and more with their furry friends, we also sell out our block of pet-friendly suites with their private patios well in advance as they are in high demand now.”

UNIQUE EVOLUTION

While the property was originally an apartment complex, it’s clear Koslowski has had work done over the years. “We have had several remodels and upgrades to the rooms, reception areas, property grounds, and offices to accommodate the ever-changing needs of our guests,” Koslowski said. ➤



Koslowski says he takes pride in a lot of “firsts” that the resort has offered guests, such as being the first gay resort on the beach to offer complimentary Wi-Fi. But he says, it’s the spa that was really a shot in the arm.

“The most important evolution was when we opened the first full-service spa, catering primarily to gay men on the beach well over 10 years ago. Around that time, we also became the first gay resort to have a front desk that was both open and operational 24 hours, to best ensure around the clock security and service to our cherished clientele,” said Koslowski.

While the RuPaul Drag Race promotion has tapped into some slightly younger clientele, Koslowski said the target market has primarily been affluent men, “who appreciate stellar service and luxury spas, but also those who take advantage of the series of discounts that we offer.”

Discounts are available, said Koslowski, to Florida residents, students, travel industry professionals, and both active and retired military and first responders.

A STEP ABOVE

In addition to the property upgrades, Koslowski

said he makes sure the resort keeps the market well informed about what the resort has to offer.

“This is achieved in many ways. Once a year, we come up with a marketing plan, strategizing key interest groups, with local and targeted area events. We carefully research and identify all organizations to approach for cross-promotions and advertising,” he said.

Additionally, Koslowski, Zielke, and others on staff partner with companies which specifically service Fort Lauderdale and the LGBTQ community. “We review our online strategies — storytelling through interaction and conversation; improve on responsive updates to design, promoting customer feedback, upgrading photos and video, and refreshing content with new and robust information,” Koslowski said.

Koslowski said it’s also important to find convenience through technology.

“For instance, our spa soon will be offering guests a faster way to book their appointments right through their smartphones. This will give our clients a customized and streamlined experience, simply by selecting their preferred therapist, work within their availability, and choose their treatments,” he said.



For more information, go to www.GrandResort.net.



THE GRAND RESORT AND SPA



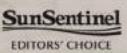
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SILVER FOXES

By Mike Jeknavorian



Silver Foxes, a new show from Stan Zimmerman, the writer of *The Golden Girls* and *Roseanne*, is being touted as the gay *Golden Girls*, and it just might be the next big gay thing.



What's the premise of *Silver Foxes* (SF)?

Two characters, the ones who were played by George Takei and Bruce Vilanch at the reading, live together in Palm Springs. They're ex-lovers, but now soul mates. They go to visit their friend in Glendale, who's in an assisted living facility. The friend, who was played by Leslie Jordan at the reading, gets kicked out of the assisted living facility because of homophobia. The three of them also have an acquaintance, who's the younger twink boyfriend of their friend Jerry. By the end of the first episode, all four of them — Takei, Vilanch, Jordan and the twink boyfriend — are living together in Palm Springs in Takei's house.

Do they end up living together because of financial reasons?

Well, that's part of it and spring chickens like yourself don't usually have to worry about this (laughs), but they mostly live together for a sense of community and family. As you get older, that becomes more important.

Why Palm Springs?

Well, I think that Palm Springs is the older West Hollywood. It has a strong sense of community, it's pretty, and I like the style of it. It also has the only entirely gay city government in the country.

Are there women in SF?

Yes. Two lesbians who live next door, who are basically Hollywood house flippers. The show reflects a wide rainbow of personalities.



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How did this project get off the ground?

My writing partner, James Berg, and I wrote it. But, it was because of the support of the press and social media that made this happen. If it hadn't been for the uproar online, it probably would not have happened, so I owe them a lot of thanks for making it happen. There were so many outlets that were talking about SF, literally all over the world. There were even people in South Africa talking about it.

At what stage of development are you with SF?

Super Deluxe, who's owned by Turner, optioned it. So, once it's finished, they'll decide what they want to do. They'll either shoot a teaser of it and shop it around, or they'll shoot a pilot. Obviously, I'm hoping for a pilot.

What does Super Deluxe think about the LGBT content of SF?

They love it, and they've been great! They're very LGBT positive. We even told them that we could make the next-door neighbors a straight couple, but they said that the show should be as gay as it needs to be.

The major networks certainly have their constraints with language and content. What do you think is the best fit for SF — a major network, a cable channel or a premium channel? A cable or premium channel would let us be edgier, content-wise. But there's nothing bigger than a traditional network hit.

If SF doesn't get optioned, might you develop it as a web series?

Yes, and we already have a few places that would put it online.

Part of SF is about ageism. How does the show handle that topic?

It seems that in a lot of shows, older people are either made fun of or marginalized. The white of their hair is ghost-like, in the respect that they're not seen. But we have characters of all different ages in SF, and the older characters sometimes challenge the younger ones about their ageist misconceptions.

Have you personally experienced ageism in Hollywood?

Only in the respect that we've gotten pushback about the age of the characters. Some TV executives, who were probably motivated by fear, felt that only "older" people would be attracted to older characters. But they said the same thing about *The Golden Girls*, but people of all ages ended up watching that show.

Considering the heavy reliance of young "eye candy" in the LGBT media, do you think that ageism is greater in the LGBT community than in the straight community?

Well, since I've never been part of the straight community, it's hard to say. But I will say that in Hollywood, it seems that there's ageism against women. The sad reality is that a lot of straight men want someone young.

Who would be your dream cameo role for SF?

Oprah or maybe Elton John. Come to think of it, everyone's welcome. It would be great to have a revolving door of cameos.

And finally, you have a performer's background. Would you consider having a minor role on SF for yourself?

Me? I would love to. But my first goal is to direct at least one episode of SF.

SILVER FOXES

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A CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS: TOM PENCE

By Denny Patterson



In 2001, Tom (Tomcat) Pence, a former U.S. Marine and a group of friends, realized that the majority of the LGBTQ community (much like today) was youth-oriented and had a need for seniors to be celebrated. So the group got together and started "A Celebration of Friends, Inc." an organization whose sole mission was to provide a yearly low-stress weekend of friendship and frolic specifically for our senior population. "No senior member of the LGBTQ population deserves to be left out in the cold," Tom told me when I recently had the pleasure of chatting with him about the organization and the significant impact it has made on him and many others.

For those who are unaware of A Celebration of Friends, could you give us some information on the organization?

A Celebration of Friends is a sanctuary for the mature man and his admirer. As we age, we men tend to lose our place in gay society. Where does a guy go after he gets a few scars or pounds on his body? So, we put together a four-day weekend bash for people to come out and enjoy themselves. More than that, we also give back to society. A Celebration of Friends is a 501(c)4 nonprofit. We've raised over \$200,000 in the 15 years of our existence for

local charities.

What would you say has been one of your best memories with A Celebration of Friends?

I have a multitude of wonderful memories over the years. The hundreds of friends I've had the pleasure to meet and share quality time with, the multitude of warm embraces, and the thousands of smiles.

One of my most touching memories is my good friend "Jim." A man I'd met during one of our weekends. This guy was adorable and was so

impressed with the organization that he wanted to be become more deeply involved. Jim was an engineer, so he was not only one of the sexiest men present but also had the brains to complete the package. His younger lover had recently left him and naturally, Jim was devastated. But he was seized by the soul of the Celebration and had met dozens of new interesting friends. So before he left, Jim promised to stay in touch and promised to assist the group the following year. He just wanted to be involved to such a delightful organization comprised of so many great people. Sadly, over the course of the following year, he was diagnosed with cancer and during our weekly phone calls I could literally hear the changes in his voice, as he got weaker and sicker.

A few days before the next Celebration, Jim called and said that he'd made a promise to me that he was going to keep. "Come hell or high water" he was coming to that Celebration. I begged him to please stay at home and conserve his energy. "Jim, I want you to be around as long as you can," was the last thing I tearfully told him before hanging up the phone that last time. Not hearing from him during the festivities that weekend allowed me to relax a little, knowing he at home resting.

The final night of each Celebration usually consists of a large dinner with short talks from each of our celebrities and then handing over

the monies raised to that year's benefactors. I was actually talking on the microphone in front of a crowd of about three hundred and was getting ready to hand over the money to Chuck Nickols, the then president of Tuesday's Angels, when the manager from the hotel came running into the room yelling that there was this old man wrapped up in a blanket out in the lobby wanting to talk to me. Having no idea who it could be, I asked the crowd to hold on for a second and promised to be right back. Thrusting the microphone into the capable hands of Mr. Nickols, I rushed off the stage.

In the lobby was this skeleton of a man wrapped up in an old blanket like a mummy. Approaching the man, I walked up to the guy and asked how I could assist him. Jim's voice came out of the skeleton as he grabbed my hands and asked, "You don't recognize me Tomcat?" I was shocked. Jim then proceeded to tell me he'd been there for four days but had been too ill to leave his room. He didn't call because he was too ashamed to be seen like this and only decided to venture out the last night as he'd made a promise to me. The lobby was as far as he could walk. Tired and not feeling well, he couldn't go any farther.

I hugged him and cried, oblivious of the scene we were creating and told him that if he couldn't come to the Celebration, then the Celebration would come to him. I then walked back up on the stage and grabbed the mic





and asked the crowd how many remembered Arizona Jim from the previous year. As the dozens of hands flew up in the air, I explained Jim's promise and then asked everyone to come and go see him in the lobby.

Amidst the regular business of customers checking in and out going about their normal hotel business, about 300 gruff old men came out into the lobby to hug and kiss Jim and share with him their thoughts. There was so much love in that lobby, I swear some regular hotel guests as well as employees, and even some complete strangers from off the streets, joined in the hugging match. There wasn't a dry eye in the entire room. Jim was too physically wiped out, a security guard and I escorted him back to his room where we stocked him up with with food and took care of him.

Wow, that's amazing. That obviously meant a lot to him.

Yes, Jim passed away at his home in Arizona a few weeks later. He's just one example of the many beautiful men who had their lives changed because of the ACOF. I have been so lucky to meet and know so many great men. Men who come out and enjoyed themselves fully unashamed and unabashed among like-minded friends for at least one weekend a year in ways they can't in their own hometowns. There aren't many places can you do that today.

A Celebration of Friends ranges from people

22 years old to 92 years young. There are people who find their lovers and soul mates at Celebrations and come back year after year. It's just a great time.

A Celebration of Friends has really made a difference.

In the 15 years we've been in existence we've had a purpose. Your age doesn't matter. Your body size or shape still intrigues many. As long as your heart is still capable of pumping out love and desire, we're here for you. This is a place to come make and share quality time with good friends. People are now realizing how valuable these mature men are to the the gay community. Many of these guys fought for us at Stonewall. Without them, we wouldn't have many of the freedoms we have today.

Do you think you'll expand outside of Fort Lauderdale?

Well, we started in New Orleans. We've been to Miami and Orlando and have a standing invitation to Palm Springs. We've had Actor Ed Asner and Former Congressman Barney Frank as special guests. I've been at this for 15 years now and getting older myself, so I don't know. We'll see what happens.

Tell me more about some of the charities to which you donate money.

Tuesday's Angels is one of the main charities we've worked with. It's an organization founded by some of the most beautiful men in Fort Lauderdale and one of the oldest and

most respected charitable corporations down here. This courageous group of guys who used to meet on Tuesdays got together during the height of the AIDS crisis, when little was known about the disease and HIV except that it was a death warrant for those who got it and too many were getting it. Aware they had to do something, they assisted many who fell between the cracks and shared a little bit of hope among the hopeless. These men are my hero's. I cannot say enough about Tuesday's Angels, and when I was looking for charities to give money, their name came up time and time again. We also give money to the Pride Center at Equality Park, a group who has always been there for us giving free rapid HIV testing at the Celebrations as well as a couple other different organizations.

How many people would you say attend the celebrations?

We probably have between 200-300 people attend. We currently have two celebrations per year, the January Jamboree and the next in January 2019 we'll be changing things up by doing another cruise. We used to bring in people from all over the world, but lately it's been more difficult with many people having visa troubles and coming into the country.

How did the January Jamboree go?

It went well. We didn't have as many people as I thought we would have, but we still had a good time. The temperature got up in the low 80s,



the pool was heated, and we had fun. There were a lot of European guests, surprisingly. We had all our contests and prizes, you can check out all the photos on our website, www.CelebrationOfFriends.org or on Facebook.

Fabulous. And the next celebration is the July Summer Splash?

Yes! It's July 19-22, 2018 and with some amazing new costume contests. People will register, and we'll have daily lunches and happy hour, contests, and prizes. It's going to be a good time. People can come and relax and be able to act their age whether they are 80 or 21. It's going to be guilt and shame free. Come and be yourself. Anybody can have a kid, but most of us are looking for men. Day passes will also be available.

Do you still have the Klassic Coffee Klatch?

Yes, we have weekly coffee klatches 10:30 Saturday mornings at the Skolnick Center in Palm Alre. We started that four years ago when a couple of friends committed suicide in isolated instances during the holiday season and we knew that the ACOF had to do something. Everyone is welcomed. The whole point is to not be alone on Saturday mornings, regardless of what happened Friday night. Come and be with your friends.

For more information, visit www.CelebrationOfFriends.org.





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KINSEY REPORTS:

AN INTERVIEW WITH GAY HIP-HOP ARTIST ROY KINSEY

By Gregg Shapiro

It's no exaggeration to say that 2018 looks to be Roy Kinsey's year. The release of his brilliant new album *blackie: a story by roy kinsey* (www.RoyKinsey.com) in February was followed by well-deserved positive attention from NPR and Billboard Magazine. And rightfully so. The gay Chicago-based rapper (and librarian) has crafted an album that is representative of the way that queer rap artists are evolving as rapidly as their straight counterparts. Roy was kind enough to answer a few questions about the album and his career in April.



Gregg Shapiro: You first crossed my radar in 2013, when you were putting out your debut album. How would you say that your songwriting has progressed since then?

Roy Kinsey: This time around, there was a lot more editing. I now look at it as me reviewing my life, and my work. When I would create in the same ways that I was used to in the past, I found myself growing increasingly frustrated. This is also the first sober album that I made. So, coming into that realization that I personally had to have a clearer mind to create in the ways that I wanted to was something I needed to learn. I am still learning how to set time aside to rehearse. As I've aged, there are changes in vitality, and energy, and responsibility. Life has informed my creations. It took a more disciplined me to create the *blackie* album.

GS If I remember correctly, you were also scheduled to do a show with queer rap duo "Yo Majesty" at that time. Do you recall what that experience was like for you?

RK It was so long ago, but to be able to share the stage with black queer hip-

hop legends was great.

GS As a queer male voice in hip-hop, what can you tell me about your personal musical influences?

RK I can say that every influence that I have had, as everyone in hip-hop, has delivered a detailed account about how life was where they grew up. You learned about their neighborhood, what worried them, and how those things shaped their lives and who they are. I wanted to take that model and superimpose it on my work. Specifically, in this political climate, where black men are killed by the police, and nobody has to be accountable for it, which is not new, I was influenced by Kendrick Lamar, using his artistry and creativity to bring light to violence in his community, and his country.

GS Would you say that calling your new album, *blackie: a story by roy kinsey*, a "story" is a bit of a nod to your day job as a librarian, where you are surrounded by stories in books?

RK Absolutely, it is. I'm glad you caught that. It's also the fact that I wanted to



tell the story of black folks in America from the time of my grandmother's birth to the present. The album highlights the Great Migration, which is how my, and millions of other black folks got to the north from the south. Not feeling at home in their own homes, being pushed out of the south after slavery and sharecropping, escaping lynchings and discrimination, the place they had known was uninhabitable. I was influenced to create this art, to tell my grandmother's story after she passed away in 2016. When I began researching her life and times, I began researching my own.

GS What did it mean to you to have the song "Mississippi Mud" chosen as one of Heavy Rotation's "10 Songs Public Radio Can't Stop Playing" in March 2018?

RK It meant a lot. I get much support from public radio in Chicago; to be recognized by NPR was just fantastic. My music is played daily on public radio and that feels so good.

GS Speaking of "Mississippi Mud," Mississippi is a presence throughout the album. Please say something about the role of Mississippi in your daily life and your creative life.

RK Well, my grandmother and mother were born in Mississippi. Black folks left Mississippi to come to places like Chicago, New York, and California. Chicago is a blues city, and that sound and those stories shaped the feeling here. The sadness, depression, trauma in the souls, and sounds of my ancestors has had a big influence on me as a person; in ways that I see, and new ways that I learn. Those are just a few.

GS Earlier I mentioned influences. Can you please say something about the reference in the song "Jungle Book" to the Grandmaster Flash song "The Message"?

RK The song begs the question, "What do you do to keep from going under?" Not to sound cliché, but hip-hop saved me. I can't imagine what I would do if I watched black folks being killed in America, as they are, and didn't have a way to release that anger and that energy. It's saddening and maddening. Chuck D called hip-hop, the Black man's CNN, since many of our stories are not told by corporate media. We created hip-hop to acknowledge our ancestors and to tell the stories that we know that people like to forget. So, it's an homage to hip-hop mixed with the latest black stories that are inaccurately told on the news.

GS Please say something about the James Baldwin samples in the songs "Great Again" and "For Colored Boys."

RK Without my voice, I felt that none of these stories were being told as I could tell them. James Baldwin also had a way of cutting through to the heart of a situation, without all the bullshit and superfluous details that we tend to receive on a daily basis. When I talk about these issues, I talk about them and the dignity that God gave every human. The thoughts that James delivered, that I chose



for this album, show how things have not changed from the time he said these quotes. And one must wonder, how two black queens from different lifetimes and time periods are saying the same thing. These messages are the same. Where you question what your role and future is in a country that you have given so much to. The contributions to American culture. It's overlooked. James says this. I say this.

GS "MRMR" contains a couple of samples, the first being from the movie Willie Dynamite. Please tell me something about the inclusion of that.

RK In my healing and my transformation, I wanted to highlight the importance of what he was saying. The importance of vision. It was also part of black stories that I wanted to add. The entire story is a trip through being a black American from negro spirituals to blues to jazz and rap, blackploitation eras, and afrobeat. I wanted it to be audio genealogy.

GS Singer/actor/author, and former Harlette, Jenifer Lewis is also sampled in "MRMR." Please say something about your connection to Jenifer.

RK She represents a divine black feminine that is able to discipline and love you and be funny at the same time. She reminds me of my mother and grandmother. I learned that message and wanted to show that it was a key in my development.

GS What's involved in your selection process of music samples?

RK My producer actually chooses many of the beats and sends them to me; or plays them in a session. It just has to feel right. If my mouth and body start moving to the beat, that's how I know that's the one.

GS During April 2018, you did some live dates at Chicago Public Libraries. April also happens to be National Poetry Month. Have any of your lyrics made their way into any literary journals?

RK I never thought about submitting to any publication. I would like to put them into a book of my own at the end of the year, though. A blackie book of some writings and lyrics. Mainly lyrics.

GS The music video for your song "BSAYF" is incorporated in Aymar Jean Christian's Hair Show. How did that come to pass?

RK They -- Aymar, Wallace and Saya -- created a show, and the story I wrote for the video fit perfectly. Through conversations between Wallace and Aymar, and all of us, we were able to collaborate and link our visions in a video directed by Aceb00'bap and produced by Aymar and Futurehood.

GS Do you have plans for additional videos for songs from blackie?

RK I have plans to make videos for the story that is blackie. I've been talking with Aymar about getting back to work.

GS Finally, would you say that homophobia is on its way out when it comes to hip-hop?

RK I'm not sure. Homophobia would have to be on its way out in America first. When people are discriminated against at their jobs, through government, and healthcare systems, those are things you can't take. People can make music and tell their own stories. That's what hip-hop is. When homophobia is affecting people's access to humanity and their livelihood, there's a bigger issue there.



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TO THINE OWN SELFS BE TRUE SELF-LOVE & SELF ESTEEM

By Rev. Patrick Rogers, MDiv.



The struggle of the journey and lack of actualization regarding self-love and self-esteem has been significantly influenced by the historical church. We have been taught through the patriarchal lens of biblical interpretation that the church itself (meaning church leadership) is sanctified and the authority of all biblical teachings and unless we are in those positions, we are to listen and trust and obey. We are "less than." We were taught that we aren't worthy of the ability to listen directly to God and interpret and understand the workings of God's love regarding the direction and pathway for our lives in the here and now and the thereafter. We were taught that God only spoke directly to the Peter, Paul, and Mary's of this world, and not directly to the average human. Thus, if I am not recognized as a Peter, Paul, or a Mary, I am not worthy and considered "less than" in God's sight. We were taught these misconceptions, but they are not the message nor the intent of the Divine. These teachings are false as demonstrated in the "Doubting Thomas" story when Jesus invites Thomas to touch the nail

marks in His hands and also to place his hand in Jesus' side. Jesus invites each one of us to have that type of individual, personal, and intimate spiritual relationship with the divine!

I grew up in a denomination who firmly believes that if a member questions the leadership's interpretation of the sacred scriptures, that your faith has been compromised, you are possibly possessed by Satan and you must be ostracized until you are exorcised. Men were subservient to God, women subservient to men, children subservient to parents, oppressed subservient to oppressors and on and on. The focus was humanity's power over one another.

Humanity took on a full time job regarding creating illusions of being "less than" through division among people including sex, class, religion, culture, race, sexual orientation, social and financial status, and countless other separative concepts which led to humanity's definition of power and success. We build walls that divide us. It's time for a reformation



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of the meaning of power and success. What does it mean to be truly happy? On which side of the fence and where do we find peace? Can it be good to be powerful?

When one adds on the biblical teachings of the importance and requirements of being humble, the chances for self-love and self-esteem dwindle. We get confused with the fact that one can be humble yet powerful. Jesus was humble not arrogant. Jesus was confident not prideful. And one issue that conservatives and liberals agree on is that Jesus was and is powerful. Yet even though we were created in God's image and Jesus informed us that we could do greater things than he, that is not the focus of the message from most churches. The focus is that we are not "worthy" and the only thing that saves us is grace.

One has to look past what society's interpretations are of success, peace and love. One must look past all the roadblocks, obstacles, and negativity from others that come in the form of prejudice, judgment, ignorance, and hate that block our paths.

We were created in the image of the divine. If our image of the divine is one who is judgmental, angry, fearful, and revengeful, then that is who we become. But, if our image of the divine is love, compassion, caring, parental connection, and filled with mercy and grace as a foundation, that is who we become.

When you purchase a new appliance for your home, new television or computer, the instructions always come with a "Quick Guide." The guide helps us not to get lost in the page after page of endless details and teaches us how to accomplish our goal without diversion and quickly. Success is guaranteed! Success can be easily achieved!

Before his ascension back into heaven (note the sarcasm as he still walks alongside us), Jesus left us with a spiritual "Quick Guide!" Jesus knew that we would complicate his message so he made it easy for us to understand. Jesus gave us a commandment (not a suggestion):

"Love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Thank you Jesus for the "Quick Guide" which teaches us that self-love and self-esteem are essential to being happy and finding peace. May we accept and embrace both!

And thank you RuPaul for reminding us at the end of every show "How in the hell are you going to love somebody if you don't love yourself!" God speaks in the most creative, blessed, and wonderful ways!

Rev. Patrick Rogers, MDiv. – Community Activist and Senior Pastor
at United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale





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Our goals and dreams are lofty, but we are working to become a premier small business in **Oakland Park** and the local community. Some things will never change though. **Pink Sub** has a long history of being a part of charitable causes in the local area such as

Poverello, Broward House, The Pride Center at Equality Park, Sun Serve, Stone Wall Museum & Archives, and The World Aids Museum.

As **Pink Sub** perfects our new **Take and Go** services, we will continue to focus on our famous quality gourmet sandwiches, sides and dessert options and new creations, the **Rear Admiral** and the **Petty Officer**. Our fast counter/kitchen design and waiting area will spread our food options to customers on the run or those at a slower pace. We have built relationships with many local delivery services to bring our food to the homes and business throughout the area, e.g. **Grubhub, DoorDash, Postmates, and Delivery Dudes** to name a few. But we will take it a step further, introducing **Pink Sub Concierge Service**. It is designed for our busy local business customers who want a more direct personal experience to lunch. Our staff of concierges will be there when hunger counts! They will be dedicated to their customers, offering personal interaction, delivery and set-up services as needed. We look forward to introducing our new service to the business community.



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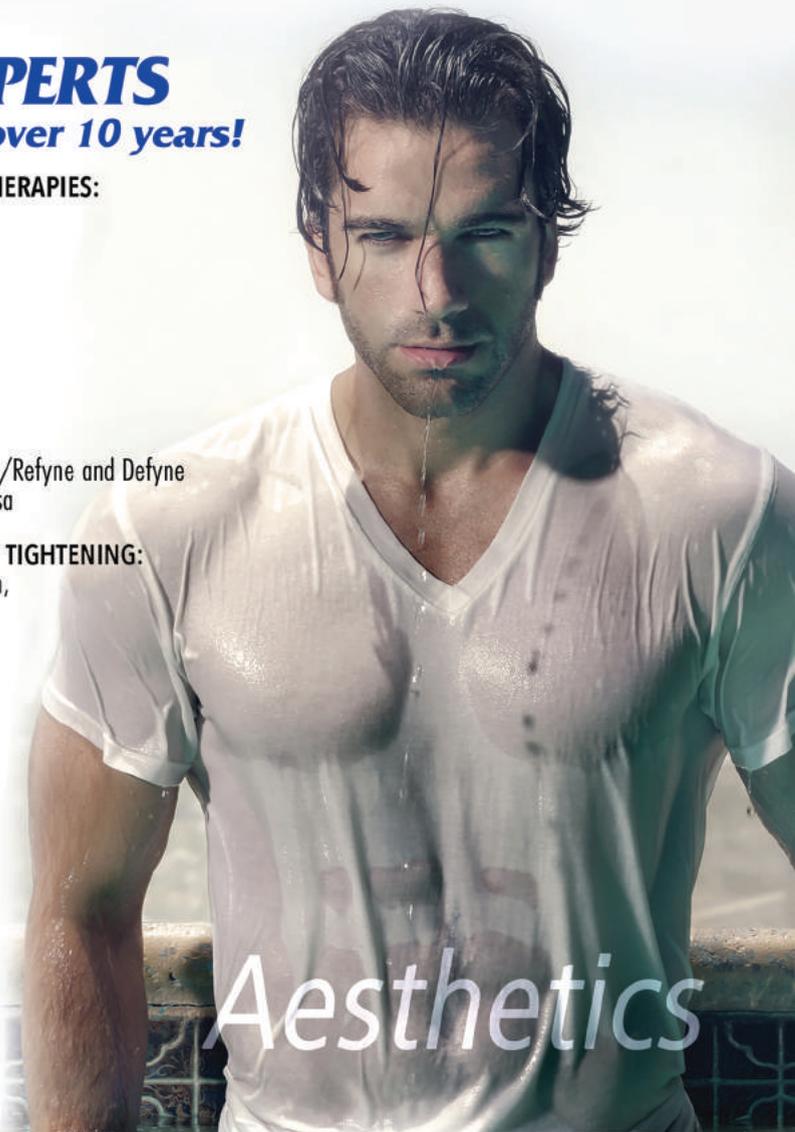
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WHY ARE MY TAXES SO MUCH HIGHER THIS YEAR?

By Marty Kiar

The Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect taxes, we simply assess property for tax purposes and grant exemptions to qualified individuals. When you purchase your home, you typically inherit the previous owner's Homestead Exemption and their lower Save Our Homes value -- but those savings automatically expire at the end of the year. For example, if you purchased your property in 2016, you inherited the previous owner's exemptions and lower Save Our Homes value for last year.



In January 2017, these exemptions were removed and the property reassessed based upon your 2016 purchase price and that of other qualified sales of comparable properties. As a result of this reassessment, you probably experienced an increase in the 2017 property taxes for your home. Unfortunately, there is no way to avoid this increase the year after you purchase the property as this reassessment is explicitly required by Florida law (Sections 192.042, 193.011 and 193.155, Florida Statutes).

While Homestead Exemption saves the average homeowner \$600 - \$1,000 in taxes, it also allows for the Save Our Homes cap beginning the year after you receive Homestead Exemption. This cap limits increases to the assessed/Save Our Homes value to no more than 3% per year regardless of increases to the just value. This is why similar properties can be paying significantly different tax amounts and why there may be an increase in taxes when the Save Our Homes Value is reset. The Save Our Homes cap for 2018 is 2.1% rather than the 3% maximum. Should you have any questions about Homestead Exemption or the Save Our Homes cap, please contact our Customer

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Our staff is readily available to assist you at various community events around the county. To see where our representatives will be, simply visit our Event Calendar online at www.bcpa.net/Events.asp. Look for one of our BCPA tents at these great events and staff will be happy to help you complete your exemption application or answer any questions you may have.

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Mobile Exemption & Information Team 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 directly 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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“ANOTHER TIME” OF HER LIFE: AN INTERVIEW WITH JENNIFER WARNES

By Gregg Shapiro

Photo By Herclayheart

Jennifer Warnes has one of the most immediately recognizable voices of any singer in modern pop music. Whether she's singing her own hit singles, such as “Right Time of the Night”, duetting on a movie theme song, as in “Up Where We Belong” with Joe Cocker (from *An Officer and A Gentleman*) or “(I've Had) The Time of My Life” with Bill Medley (from *Dirty Dancing*) or reinterpreting the work of Leonard Cohen on *Famous Blue Raincoat*, you know it's her singing the minute she opens her mouth.

In the 17 years that passed between the release of her new album *Another Time, Another Place* and it's 2001 predecessor *The Well*, Warnes has suffered several losses in her life, including the passing of Cohen (with whom she toured and recorded) in 2016. With *Another Time, Another Place*, Warnes began a personal healing process that she hopes can extend to listeners, many of whom are also in desperate need of restoration during these troubled times. I had the honor of speaking with Jennifer in March 2018, shortly before the release of the new album.



Gregg Shapiro: As you know, 17 years passed between your new album *Another Time, Another Place* and its predecessor *The Well*.

Jennifer Warnes: It did [big laugh]?

GS Why was now the right time to put out a new album?

JW Why? Because there might not be another chance [laughs]. It was (just) do it! I could see what was happening to the world, what was happening to my life. I intuitively sensed that there was a small group of people who might want to be comforted in some way. I wanted to do that. I didn't know whether I could. I called Roscoe (Beck), who

had done *Famous Blue Raincoat* with me. I said, “We know how to do this, why aren't we doing this?” He said, “Yes, let's start.” We started and then in the middle of this project a number of people who were very close to me left the planet. I just kept singing through it. By the time I delivered the album, I had quite a backlog of deep feeling that had not been dealt with. Ever since last November I've just been slogging through life realizing what had happened. But the overarching wisdom in all of this is that music is what heals us. I wanted to be healed myself, so I kept singing. I wanted to give it away to others so that they could feel good because, lord knows, we need a reason to feel good.



GS You have a long history of fascinating choices in cover material on previous albums, in addition to Leonard Cohen, including songs by Tom Waits and The Waterboys. Another Time, Another Place is no exception with songs by Pearl Jam and Dire Straits. What's involved in your process of selecting material in general, and then specifically for Another Time, Another Place.

JW I can't say in general because it bypasses my brain. It just resonates or it doesn't. Depending on what I'm living, what I'm doing. I change from day to day. However, specifically for this record, I called the great Mary Martin (who put Bob Dylan together with The Band), and asked her, "What kind of songs am I going to sing? What should I do?" She said, "Be personal. Make sure it's personal." I wondered about that, and thought, "I can be just as superficial as the next person [laughs]." I said, "Why personal?" And she said, "It's needed!" Then I started to screen everything through that criteria and there was nothing that felt personal to me. That was because a lot of the songs that were being sent to me were great pop songs, but they didn't have lyrical content that rang any of my inner bells. It took a long time to find 10 songs that I could sing with honesty at this age and time in the world. I wanted them to be timely. I wanted them to speak to the people that are like me and to help them in some way. I wanted it to be honest, but I didn't want it to be heavy. I'd already done Leonard Cohen's work, so I didn't want to enter that world again. I wanted to enter another area that was about music and emotion and simplicity. Another title (for the album) could be Songs You Could Really Use [laughs]. I like songs that you can really use. In my world that means they free you emotionally. That's how I did it and we didn't have a plan. We just embarked on a little boat and started going out into the wild sea and whatever was there we dealt with.

GS Another Time, Another Place contains the original tune "The Boys and Me". What can you tell me about how that song came to be?

JW It's just about the guys in the band. Roscoe, Mitch (Watkins), Bill Ginn, Paul Ostermayer and all these guys who were on the bus with me in Canada being free. In my lifetime, there were so few women allowed into those worlds that it was worth celebrating. I wanted to say to the world – "I'm over here. I'm not behind a stove, I'm not rocking a baby. I'm doing this with a bunch of sweet men. It's wonderful and I feel alive." I wanted to say that. I also didn't want to insult my sisters who did the other.

GS You wanted to be respectful.

JW Always.

GS I'm so glad you mentioned those musicians because from the very beginning you have worked with a stellar array of musicians on your albums, and the same holds true of Another Time, Another Place. What do you look for in a musical collaborator?

JW If you do it for 50 years, you eventually come to understand that there's "a there" out there. There's a place you can go to. And everybody onstage or in the recording studio can go there, too. You meet out there in a dream state, or whatever you want to call it, and you dance a bit. You have a bit of communication and interaction, a conversation, a community. I get to see the content of the souls of the people I'm onstage with. It's a collaborative art. Every musician who gives their life to music has experienced this on many occasions. It must be like having an out-of-body experience because you have such spontaneous affection for the people with whom you are in that state. That's what happens to all of us who do it for our life's work. I choose the guys who I know can go there. The musicians on this record are all already living there, I wouldn't have to explain it. When they come over and bring instruments you know that you're going to go somewhere together – another time, another place – and it's going to be very sweet. Your personality drops away and the only thing you see of the other is their

true nature. Some of the sweetest people appear in recording studios and on stages, and if the musicians are really feeling it, so is the audience. It's not unlike finding a soulmate. But it's a whole bunch of soulmates. Unfortunately, there aren't that many women in the group, but there are more and more coming. I like it to be equal, but in my time, it was never equal.

GS Thank you for bringing up women. The presence of lesbian singer/songwriter Ruthie Foster on the song "Freedom" made me wonder if you are aware of an LGBTQ following for your career and music.

JW I'm not aware of a strong following, but I know the gay community embraces my work. But I don't know to what extent. Two of my best friends are gay and I see them practically every day. I don't care about gender and I don't care about sexual orientation, as long as you're a good person.

GS The expanded 20th anniversary edition of *Famous Blue Raincoat* was released in 2007 and was followed by expanded reissues of later albums *The Hunter* and *The Well*. Are there any plans for expanded reissues of the albums from your Warner Brothers and Arista years?

JW I would love to have someone help me put together an anthology. Because my discography is all over the map, I was an independent contractor for many years, the gathering of the rights is a little tricky. I've been talking to my gay friend (that I mentioned earlier) who may roll up his sleeves and get involved in pulling together an anthology. It's a little bit of a licensing nightmare. I haven't

done it. I wanted to make new music. I felt like my fans wanted to hear new music. They were tired of polishing the old stuff.

GS The songs "It Goes Like It Goes" from Norma Rae, and "Up Where We Belong" from *An Officer and a Gentleman*, "One More Hour" from *Ragtime* and "(I've Had) the Time of My Life" from *Dirty Dancing*, earned you the unofficial title of Movie Theme Song Queen throughout the 1980s. Would you like to record more movie theme songs?

JW Sure! Yes, of course. I just did that documentary *A Plastic Ocean*, the environmental film. That was nice. I love singing to pictures. The reason I think I have success with films is that I don't have that much of an ego. In other words, I can sublimate myself to the story or the film or duet partner. Whatever. When I'm singing too, I tend to lean in towards the job. I've had success with films because I love to sing to pictures.

GS Finally, 2018 marks 50 years since the release of your debut album *I Can Remember Everything*. What does it mean to you to have had a recording career of such an impressive length?

JW [Laughs] I'm grateful, just grateful. Lucky and grateful. Everybody's got the same problem – we're all going to die. We all have something we love to do and we all tussle with the same issues. I don't know that there's any clean career that's smooth sailing anywhere. Mine's been very bumpy, but I am so grateful to the creator that made us all, that I could actually make another record. I'd like to make another, but that's up to the forces.



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