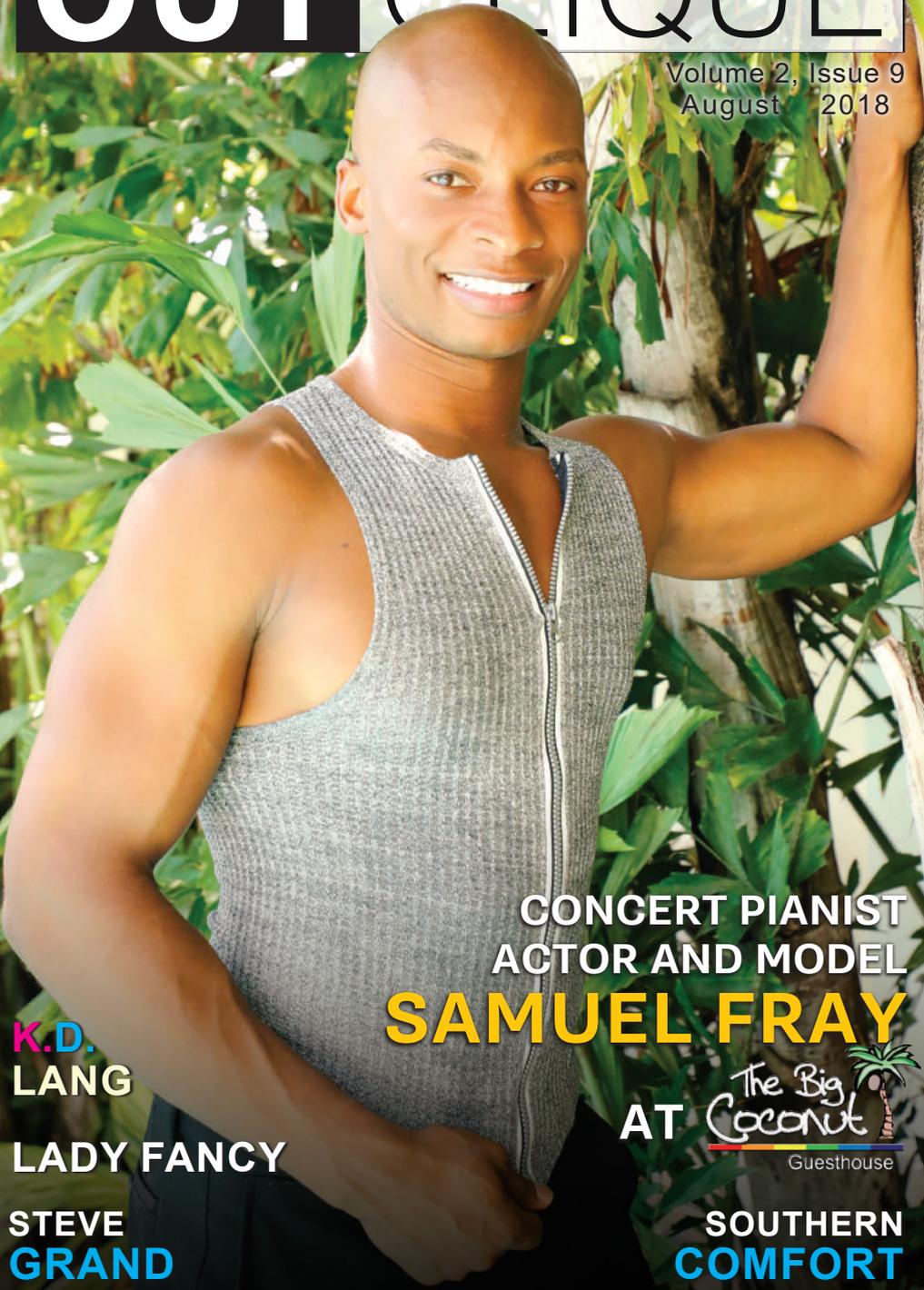


OUT CLIQUE

Volume 2, Issue 9
August 2018



CONCERT PIANIST
ACTOR AND MODEL

SAMUEL FRAY

**K.D.
LANG**

LADY FANCY

**STEVE
GRAND**

AT **The Big
Coconut**
Guesthouse

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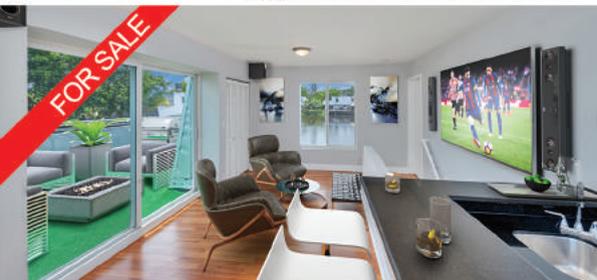
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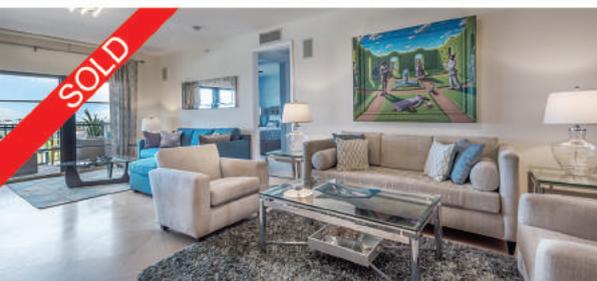
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OUT CLIQUE .ORG

WHAT TO DO. WHERE TO GO. WHO TO MEET

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BIG CITY TAVERN

By Steve Pike



If you think Big City Tavern in Fort Lauderdale is just another Las Olas hipster bar, you couldn't be more wrong.

Part of the Big Time Restaurant Group portfolio, Big City Tavern combines the best of a neighborhood restaurant and bar with the high energy South Florida lifestyle to create a terrific atmosphere for those seeking lunch, brunch, dinner, a late-night meal, or just a happy hour cocktail.

"People go to a lot of the new restaurants, but they always end up coming back here," said Chef Steven Zobel. "It's kind of like an old standby."

In other words, Big City Tavern is the quintessential Fort Lauderdale restaurant and bar, with outstanding craft cocktails, Sangria on tap, and probably the best Smoked Old Fashioned in Fort Lauderdale. Big City Tavern was the first Fort Lauderdale eatery to offer a Frosé that now has become one of the more popular drinks in South Florida.

"We offer things you can't get anywhere else on Las Olas," said Big City Tavern Manager Daniel Sobey. "Pizza, steak, seafood. We have something for everybody. And we've been here 15 years, so we have a good customer base."

Indeed, the menu items that run the gamut from baked items, such as the Walnut Banana Bread with Pecan Butter, to the best Asian Chicken Wings you might ever eat, to Butcher's Meatballs and Cheese Ravioli to the Rigatoni Bolognese.

Big City Tavern also serves a great weekend

brunch that includes an outstanding Andouille Hash with six-minute egg and hollandaise, and Proscuitto and Avocado Toast.

If you can't find something that fits your taste buds on the Big City Tavern menu, you're not looking hard enough.

"We try to keep the dishes just as simple as possible," Zobel said. "That's what people expect. They're not coming here for foie gras or whatever. So, we try to do what we do well and keep it simple."

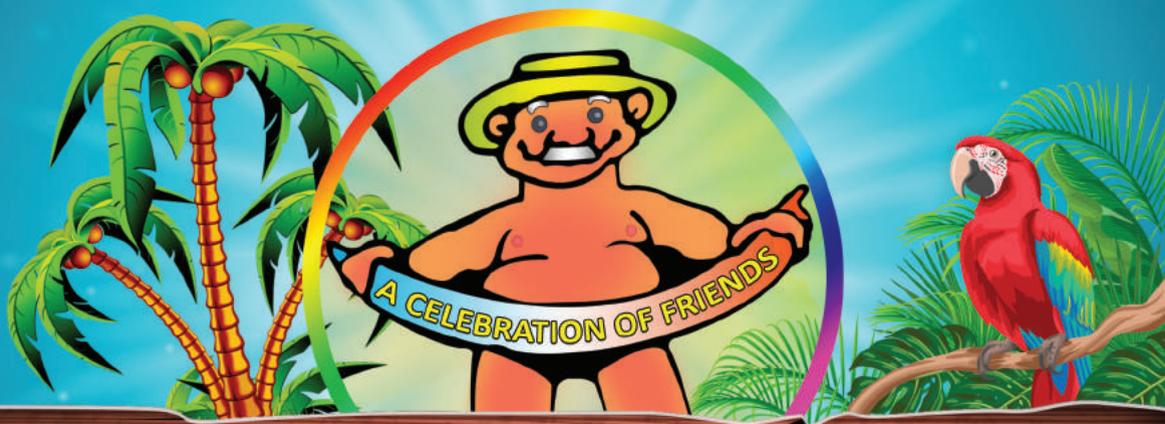
The Rigatoni Bolognese, Zobel said, is the restaurant's most popular pasta; the Pan Roasted Salmon Filet the most popular fish entrée; and the Asian Chicken Wings the most popular appetizer.

Sporting just the right amount of tang and kick, the Asian Chicken Wings are Zobel's way of paying homage to the fabled Korean Chicken Wings at Bonchon Chicken in his native New York City.

The wings themselves are worth a visit to Big City Tavern. The Shrimp Pad Thai is a "must have," as are the meatballs. You also can't go wrong with the House Burger. And be sure to check out the Daily Burger Special, which could be simple or could be a bit off the wall. You just never know.

"I like to explore and cook and have some fun," Zobel said.

You'll have fun, too, at Big City Tavern.



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OutClique does a great job letting us know about events, performances and concerts in our area. While you may want to hear Boy George sing The Crying Game, you don't want to be left outside crying because you missed the concert and paid \$400 for bogus tickets.

Thanks to the internet, there are countless ways for consumers to find tickets and connect with online marketplaces, ticket sellers, and resellers. Unfortunately, some of them are rip-offs and it's not always clear how to tell if a ticket is fake. Last year, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) received over 300 reports on BBB Scam Tracker about ticket scams related to sporting events, concerts, theatre, and more. A report filed by a consumer on June 11, 2018, said that he bought tickets on Facebook and two days before the event was to be held, it was cancelled and despite repeated efforts, he was not able to get a refund for his \$70.

Buying from unknown or fly by night

organizations or entities increases the risk for fraud.

The safest approach is to buy directly from the venue whenever possible. Direct purchase from a venue that has been in business for years and has a track record for good service increases the likelihood you will not encounter problems attending the event. Venues usually offer several options to obtain tickets (e.g. print at home, pick up at will call, or mailed to you). Whichever option you choose, make sure to provide enough time to obtain the tickets if being mailed to you or to pick up at the venue prior to the start of the performance/event.

Many events now use secondary sales options, as well. Consider your source. Know the difference between a professional ticket broker (a legitimate and accredited reseller), a ticket scalper (an unregulated and unlicensed ticket seller), and a scammer selling scam tickets.

Check out the seller or broker. Look them up on



www.bbb.org to learn what other customers have experienced and look for the seal of a BBB Accredited Business. Check to see if they are a member of the National Association of Ticket Brokers. NATB members offer a 200% purchase guarantee on tickets. Look up the seller on www.VerifiedTicketSource.com to confirm you are buying from an NATB-member resale company. The 200% guarantee applies to the ticket so if you are traveling or buying add ons to the event, those expenses may not be covered. Most ticket sellers will provide detailed instructions for obtaining and using the tickets. Make sure you follow the instructions and contact the business immediately if any problems arise so you will have time to overcome any problems before the concert or event.

Buy only from trusted vendors. Buy online only from vendors you know and trust. Look for the lock symbol in the web address to indicate a secure purchasing system. Don't click from emails or online ads; a common ticket scam trick is to create a web address that is similar to a well-known company. Double check web addresses and be careful about clicking on ads that may have the name of a known venue imbedded in the ad, using a similar, but not the authentic web address.

Know the refund policy for any purchase. You should only purchase tickets from a ticket reseller that provides clear details about the terms of the transaction. Sellers should disclose to the purchaser, prior to purchase, the location of the seats represented by the tickets, either orally or by reference to a seating chart; and, if the tickets are not available for immediate access to the purchaser, disclose when the tickets will ship or be available for pick up. Ask about the policy to exchange tickets to another person if something comes up and you are not able to attend. BBB received a complaint from a consumer who had purchased tickets and had a medical situation come up the day before the concert. The consumer tried to give the

tickets to a friend, but unfortunately, they were not admitted to attend since they had not been cleared for the event. The policy was included in the terms of the agreement, but the consumer was unable to use the tickets or obtain a refund. The policy terms required 48 hour notice to update names if changes were to be made for the event. While these situations are rare, if you know the policy terms you can keep this situation from happening to you.

Use payment methods that come with protection. Always use a credit card so you have some recourse if the tickets are not as promised. Debit cards, wire transfer or cash transactions are risky; if the tickets are fraudulent, you won't be able to get your money back. There is a good reason not to leave home without your American Express Card.

Be wary of advertisements. When you search the web for online tickets, advertisements for cheap tickets will often appear. Use good judgment. Some of these ads are going to be ticket scams, especially if the prices are low, or they are still offering cheap tickets for an event that is sold out or in high demand.

If you're unsure, verify your tickets. Pay a visit to the venue where the event will be held. Present your ticket to "Will Call" (customer service) and they can verify if your ticket is legitimate and show you how to tell if a ticket is fake.

Recent news provides a good lesson to all of us. Graduates of Whittier's La Serna High School paid thousands of dollars to Senior Grad Trips (aka EB WorldWide LLC) only to find out they had no airline tickets or hotel reservations. The business has an F rating with BBB for 14 unresolved complaints. While the FBI is currently investigating this situation, it serves as a reminder to buy from trusted sources and check out the business on www.BBB.org and other sites before you purchase.

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THE CONSTANT CRAVING CONTINUES: AN INTERVIEW WITH K.D. LANG

By Gregg Shapiro

To this day, more than 30 years since her major-label debut *Angel With a Lariat* and just over 25 years since her Grammy Award-winning commercial breakthrough album *Ingenué*, there is still no one who can compare to k.d. lang. Her powerful and emotive voice and her distinctive performance style have yet to be matched. Whether she's performing the country music of her early career, her pop-oriented mid-career work or her distinguished interpretations of standards, k.d. lang is a singular performer and artist of the highest order. On tour to commemorate the 25th anniversary reissue of *Ingenué*, lang took time out of her schedule to answer a few questions in July 2018.



Gregg Shapiro: I'd like to begin by wishing you a belated happy 25th anniversary of the release of *Ingenué*. Did you realize, at the time you were recording it, that *Ingenué* would have such an impact, including winning a Grammy Award?

kdl: No, I really didn't. I may have had an instinctual negative reaction to recording "Constant Craving" because I thought it was a real strong pop song; I don't know what it is about me [laughs], but I wasn't keen on having a pop song at the same time I really wanted a pop song. When I made *Ingenué*, I thought it was extremely different than what was happening in pop music. Nirvana had just broken big. Madonna had *Erotica*. Mariah Carey was big. Bjork had just come out. All these things and I was going in a completely different direction. I thought, "I'm going to get killed by the critics". Which I did for the first few reviews; they were just abominable. But momentum started happening. A DJ in Atlanta started spinning "Constant Craving". I did *The Advocate*

interview which built profile and controversy which is always a double-edged sword, but a good thing. It started happening.

GS One of my favorite things from the time it was originally released was the "Miss Chatelaine" dance remix. If you didn't want to be a pop star, how did it feel to be a disco diva?

kdl It was really exciting because my music was so far from that. At that time, dance remixes were something that you did. We did a lot of remixes. I even would be asked to go to clubs and just say hi when they were spinning the record, which was a whole new thing. It was kind of fun. It was a coming of age not only for me, but also for the gay community. It was a turning point.

GS The bonus material on the expanded *Ingenué* reissue includes previously unreleased tracks from your MTV *Unplugged* set. What did it mean to you at that time to perform on such a prestigious show?

kdl Obviously it was the pinnacle. If you were doing well, you got an Unplugged TV show. It was a huge opportunity. We decided not to release the MTV stuff. In the back of my mind, I always knew that we had it. It seemed like we had the opportunity (to release it) with the release of the anniversary album.

GS In June of this year, "Constant Craving" was included on Pitchfork.com's list of "50 Songs that Define the Last 50 Years of LGBTQ+ Pride". What does such an honor mean to you?

kdl I'm just so happy to be a part of our history. To be a brick in the road that has paved the way and continues to pave the way for our liberty and equality.

GS Speaking of honors, you are scheduled to receive the 2018 Americana Trailblazer Award. What does that mean to you?



kdl Whoa! Well, it's incredible. I was going to say I worked hard, but then I had to correct myself because it wasn't work. I had a lot of fun and a lot of obstacles creating a new type of country music at the time that I did. I fell in love with country music. I never liked country music as a kid, but then I started to understand the beauty and the depth and the kitsch and the irony of country music in my late teens. Then I got obsessed with Patsy Cline and created this homage genre. It was a labor of love and respect and appreciation for country music and certain country singers. Minnie Pearl and Patsy and Loretta (Lynn), people I had close proximity to. It feels amazing that I would be recognized this long after my time with country music.

GS It's definitely well-deserved! You have a long history of being a good collaborator, from playing with the Reclines and the Siss Boom Bang, to singing with the Honky Tonk Angels on Shadowland to the duets album you recorded with Tony Bennett,



and more recently the Case/lang/Veirs album. What is about you that makes you so good at playing well with others?

kdl I like fitting in to others' music. For instance, I loved singing with Tony Bennett or Roy Orbison because I love to shadow someone else's music. I love the supporting role. It fits me. I love to put my voice into situations where I shadow someone else's voice and vibe. That feels really good to me. That, to me, is the ultimate education. It's like I'm always going to school when I sing with other people. I have a thirst for that and maybe that's what the draw to collaboration is for me.

GS Is there a new k.d. lang album in the works?

kdl There is not. No. [Laughs] k.d. lang is in a drought and has been for a while. But you know what? I feel very positive about it. I don't always feel positive about it, but I



have to respect the winds of creativity. I have to respect the muse. If the muse is taking a sabbatical from me, I have to respect that [laughs].

GS Please know that we miss you.

kdl Thank you!

GS What can the audience expect from the Ingenu Redux concert tour?

kdl We do the record in its entirety in sequence right off the top of the show. It sets the tone and pretty much stays there. We do a few of the songs very true to the record. In the mid-to-later half of the record we get into some new arrangements and we open up the songs a little bit. It's my favorite part of the show, where the musicians have a chance to stand out.

LATINOS SALUD OPEN HOUSE WELCOMES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



Latinos Salud, the South Florida non-profit that serves gay Latinos, all persons living with HIV, and everyone who identifies as transgender is growing again! Founded in Wilton Manors, Latinos Salud expanded with a second location in Miami Beach four years ago, and expanded again in 2016 to central Miami-Dade. The agency is hosting an Open House for its new, upgraded location in Kendall Thursday, August 16, 2018 from noon to 1:30PM and 5:00PM to 7:00PM.

The agency is stepping up from its small pilot Kendall location. "Just as with our expansion to Miami Beach a few years before, we initially launched with a small, part-time space and just a couple of staff. Then with the data proving that we are filling an unmet community need, we were able to secure new grants to grow the space to full time operations, and add more staff," said Dr. Stephen Fallon, Latinos Salud's Executive Director. Like its other locations, the Kendall staff now offer services Monday through Friday from 11:00AM to 9:00PM, in addition to performing late night outreach in the field.

New funding last year from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) allowed Latinos Salud continued to grow the Kendall location services to meet the demand for more HIV and STD screenings, peer leadership and youth programming, and linkage to care services, but the expansion outgrew the capacity of the

initial location. "Our small space had been straining at the seams," says Andres Sosa, Central Miami-Dade Counseling and Navigation Services Lead.

So this month, the agency moved to a larger space a couple of miles North. "We had specific goals. We wanted a bigger space to allow for more private one-on-one counseling and groups.

We also wanted to make sure that the space was easy to access and had a more inviting feel," said Johnathan Medina, Miami-Dade Health Program Manager.

The new location has colorful walls, big meeting and counseling rooms, and plenty of photos of members participating in cultural events and outreach. At the open house event, there will be snacks and drinks, videos of the agency's community works, and introductions to the staff who serve the community.

So come on over to Latinos Salud. Tour the building. Make new friends. Meet partners who work with Latinos Salud to help stop the spread of HIV/STDs and to help those who are living with HIV to enjoy a healthier life without stigma!

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TOP 10 PICK UP LINES

By Joseph A. Federico

In this day and age, especially when dating apps are all the rage (aren't we sick of those yet?), people just don't interact the way they used to in the good old days.

Long gone are the times of memorizing a love interest's phone number, feeling the angst and anticipation with every press of a phone's digit, and the lump that swells in your throat right before you hear the other man say, "Hello."

That's ancient telecommunication, almost as old as the Egyptian hieroglyphics, almost.

So, how does one stand out from a crowd exactly, other than by wearing an over-the-top outfit that screams extra!

Or, if you are a flamboyant peacock strutting its stuff across a landscape, you know what we're talking about, attention-grabbing man that you are!

With that being said and now that the seed is properly planted in your head, here are ten extraordinary pickup lines for the modern man. You may do with them as you wish, and hey, if they work, be sure to tell us about your experience.

We're offering a mix of cheesy and well, potentially classy lines, with a built-in star system for your dating convenience and reference.

-“I notice you don't have handcuffs on your wrists. Does that mean you're here alone?”

On a scale from one to ten, this falls somewhere in the middle. We're offering a five. By walking up to a dude and suggesting something a bit kinky, you're saying you're ballsy and have a dark side.

-“You look like a real man's man. I'm on a diet and I'm not into Twinkies at the moment. Let's talk.”



This pickup line lands you a nine. But, you're also giving off the vibe that you love junk food and that says a lot about a person. Right? To each his own.

-“Do you come here often, or only in your bedroom with me by your side?”

If these words come across your lips, you're a cheese ball and it lands you a ten rating. Well, this line may not even work and you'll probably get a drink thrown in your face.

-“Oh, I'm sorry. We aren't at a library? I'd like to check you out.”

This line lands you a three rating. It's innocent enough and just on the borderline of cheese. Besides, the man you attempt to pick up may really be into literature. In that case, it's a score.

-“I thought you looked familiar. You're the man of my dreams.”

If you utter these words, you're adorable. This line earns a four rating. Period. End of story.



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Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by The Broward Cultural Council.

-“Yes, I want fries with that if it’s what you’re serving up!”

Here we go again with references to food. Go on, girl, get your side of fries with that meat. You’ve earned yourself a fix of six.

-“I believe in a higher power now that I’ve spotted you. You’re an angel!”

So, is religion still on the kink-o-meter? Any reference to a higher power may land you in the hot seat, unless that is where you want it. This line gets a seven.

-“Forget the wedding, let’s practice honeymoon behavior at my place tonight.”

If you attempt to play off this pickup line, you are a complete pig. We’re not saying what kind of pig, so we’ll leave it at that. Nine.

-“Hey. ASL? Are you still looking? It’s been a long night and I just want to get out of here.”

This pickup line tells your potential mate that you are lazy and well, living in 1999. Pass. You earned an eight.

-“Who’s your favorite drag queen? If you say (insert a name here), we’ll have to get married and have babies immediately.”

Oh, girlfriend, everyone and their (fairy drag) mother watches “RuPaul’s Drag Race.” Are you

really going to introduce yourself via a pickup line such as this? Think twice before opening your pretty mouth, and maybe lead with something more along the lines of, “You have beautiful eyes, kind of like Bianca Del Rio’s!” Cheese. Ten.

On a scale from one to ten, how likely are you to implement the aforementioned pickup lines?

It’s important to come off as brave and inviting, as cheesy as some of our suggestions may be. We’re no longer living behind closed doors. Our rainbow flags are flying higher than they ever have been. There is no time to waste when it comes to picking out your potential mate (or, well, one night stand).

Be strong. Take a shot. And just be you.

Joseph A. Federico is a self-taught author and journalist. After “publishing” his first newspaper in the ‘90s, headlining a story about Santa Claus’s midnight ride with then-popular, Swamp Thing, Federico’s family knew he had a journalistic knack. Having been published in magazines such as Debonair, Steppin’ Out and Canada’s premier South Asian magazine, Darpan, Joseph covers topics ranging from wedding fair, fashion trends to men’s health issues. He currently owns and operates Anchors To Dusk Publishing, LLC and its subsidiary, a marketing consulting firm, under the name of Anchors To Dusk Media.



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SAMUEL FRAY

By Denny Patterson

When it comes to putting on a show, South Florida resident Samuel Fray packs a powerful punch. If he's not performing in front of a camera or walking down a fashion show runway, Samuel can be heard in concert performing some of the most formidable works of classical piano. As a concert pianist, actor, and model, Samuel is the true definition of a triple threat. He is changing the game and raising the bar of what is to be expected from performing artists. That makes him a genuine renaissance man, right? And if you think his schedule is already chaotic enough, guess again. In addition, Samuel

is on the board of the South Florida autism organization, Helping Adults with Autism to Perform and Excel (HAAPE). There he puts his music abilities to use by raising awareness on how the effects of certain kinds of music improve the lives of people on the autism spectrum.

Why don't you start off by telling me what initially brought you to South Florida?

I moved here in 2012 for a master's program at the University of Miami for piano performance. I visited with my family when I was 17 and fell in love with the weather, landscape, and



beaches. Since that trip, I waited for the right moment to move here. It came when I was finishing my bachelor's degree at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. I applied to and was accepted at the University of Miami.

Is the South Florida life everything you imagined?

Totally! I feel so spoiled living here now. Growing up with the four seasons in New Jersey, I would always be sad when fall and winter came. As an artist and model, the climate allows me to be more creative and I operate at my best when the weather is not freezing. When I have to be up super early to work out or for a gig, it's much easier to get out of bed. Spending a lot of time outdoors is refreshing after long hours inside practicing piano.

You work as an actor, model, and concert pianist. How do you balance all three careers?

Lots of patience! I have learned to stay calm when it gets busy. My daily schedule can change at a moment's notice, so I have to be willing to be flexible with my plans. So far, I've been able to resolve scheduling conflicts because I keep everything in my calendar. I look at my professions like a marathon race. I don't have to get everything done all at once. I continually work on all aspects of my career daily which is considered the Kaizen approach. It's a Japanese word that translates to "improvement" in English. Its philosophy is that big achievements are the result of small consistent daily actions. I still catch myself overdoing it at times. But this helps maintain balance.

Tell me more about piano. When did you start playing?

I got a late start at playing professional piano. After graduating high school, I was in community college and taking voice lessons at a local music school. After hearing someone playing the piano in the next studio, I made the decision to switch to piano. I was 19 when this





happened. By 20, I applied and was accepted into a piano performance bachelors program. I credit that huge amount of progress in only one year to my piano teacher who had me waking up at 4:00AM every day to practice. I drove my family nuts at the time, but they bought me a keyboard that allowed me to easily keep up that routine.

Did you completely drop voice and vocal performance? If so, do you have any desire to pick it back up?

Yes. I stopped vocal training to pursue piano full time. I think it's great that I have a strong background in voice and if I ever land an acting role that requires singing, it'll be an easy

transition back into it.

What is different about your approach to being a classical musician?

I stand out from other performers because of my modeling and acting career. I'm loyal to the music first, but I'm not afraid to show some sex appeal when necessary, which makes me sort of a risk taker. I'm hoping to do collaborations with other artists and push boundaries like the Shirtless Violinist on YouTube. We've unofficially discussed collaborating. I think he's such an awesome performer. Doing things outside the box allows me to reach audiences that would otherwise not be interested in classical music.

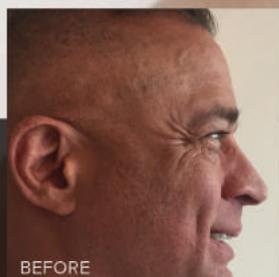




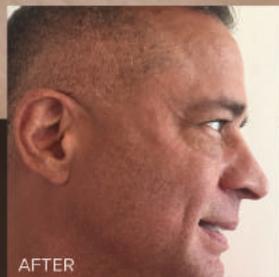
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Who are some of your favorite composers?

My favorite composer is Sergei Rachmaninoff. His music contains some of the richest harmonies and melodies ever written on piano. Many of his pieces require wide stretches of the hand and I'm lucky I have a decent sized hand to tackle his music. Beethoven is also a favorite. His style developed so much from his early works. Having performed his Op. 1 No. 3 trio and 109 Sonata, I sometimes can't believe it's the same composer.

Do you have dream a performance?

My dream would be to perform and record all four of Rachmaninoff's concerti. I performed the infamous third concerto (Rach 3) during my master's program at the Frost School of Music and would love to perform it again!

What about acting, do you have a dream role?

I would love to portray a great Pharaoh of Egypt like Ramesses II. I'm watching "The Pyramid Code" on Netflix. I'm so fascinated with ancient Egyptian history and art.



When did you start acting?

I had roles in two musical theatre productions in high school and one during my undergraduate programs. I got my start by being an extra in the 2016 Baywatch film. The footage I was in didn't make the final cut, but hey, that's show business! I got to work with Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron, and Priyanka Chopra. I made so many lasting friendships and it led to many film opportunities that allowed me to complete my demo reel.

How did you get started with modeling?

I was a normal high school kid and never really considered myself exceptionally good looking or popular. I never thought about modeling until I unexpectedly won Prom King my senior year. I wore very basic clothes to school every day, so when I arrived on the runway to the prom in my tuxedo, I think that was the first time my teachers and peers noticed me. That probably is when I thought that maybe I should try being a model. Acting and music happened first for



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me, so I did my first fashion show in 2017 and got to work with Susanne Bartsch modeling this amazing outfit by Claire Fleury. I had on a see-through top and bottom with fur. I have it posted to my Instagram if you want to see this amazing creation! After this show, I was hooked.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to pursue a career in the entertainment field?

Be patient and don't compare yourself to anybody else. When you're starting off, you may have to accept small gigs or jobs that aren't glamorous at all. If you're interested in acting, try creating your own opportunities to move your career forward. Instead of waiting to be booked on a film project, build your resume yourself by trying your hand at screenwriting for short films. If you get your friends involved, it will be beneficial for everyone.

With such a busy schedule, how do you relax?

I love going to the beach! I like going either early in the morning or at sunset. I like meditating and found that it's really important for mental health. I also like taking baths, especially when I'm hitting the gym hard and I'm feeling sore. I light some candles and put on relaxing music and always feel revived.

Do you go out on weekends with friends or for dates?

Most weekends, I'm pretty busy and use my free time to recharge at home, but when I can I like to go clubbing! I enjoy letting out the fun, flirtatious side of me when I go out since I love meeting new people. I was recently in Nashville for work and it happened to be Pride that weekend and I made some great new friendships.

What is your ideal date in South Florida?

I would start off with a romantic dinner at a nice restaurant or on a yacht. I love seafood and full bodied red wines. After dinner I love being outdoors and having great conversation,

so a walk on the beach or in the city is relaxing and good for burning off the meal. I like to go with the flow and see if the mood calls for a quiet evening at a movie or concert. Or maybe we could go dancing. Wherever the night goes there has to be a lot of laughs and fun.

Lastly, you also work for the autism organization, HAAPE. Tell me more about that.

I am on the Advisory Board of Helping Adults with Autism to Perform and Excel (HAAPE), a South Florida charitable organization dedicated to helping find employment for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). One of my roles with HAAPE is to help the organization connect with the LGBTQ community to raise awareness, help find employment, and raise funds so that HAAPE can continue its work. My goal is to have a benefit concert partnering with local musicians and symphony so that we may support these most needed services. These funds would help support HAAPE's two main initiatives: their Technology and Training Center for Software Testing in Fort Lauderdale (called SPECTRUMTECH) and an initiative with several major employers in the area called "Autism Friendly Workplace." ASD is a developmental disorder that causes issues with communication, social, verbal, and motor skills. The result is that unemployment and underemployment rates are between 80-90%. ASD has no prejudice between gender, sexuality, or color. One in every 59 births is on the spectrum. This could estimate about 35,000 people in Broward County with ASD. This also could mean that there are between 3,000-5,000 LGBTQ people in the county who are on the spectrum. They are desperately in need of awareness and help in finding suitable employment and that's why I am involved with HAAPE.

How can people find you on social media?

Look for me on

Instagram (@sam.fray),

www.Facebook.com/Sam.Fray.5,

Twitter (@SamuelFray), and

SnapChat (@samfraay).

SOUTH FLORIDA CELEBRATES ALL LETTERS OF THE LGBTQ+ FORT LAUDERDALE'S MISTY EYEZ

By Denny Patterson

Fort Lauderdale may be one of the greatest travel destinations in the world, but do you know why? It's not just because of the magnificent beaches, attractions, or food. No, it's also because of the diversity that we celebrate. Fort Lauderdale is a city that takes pride in embracing residents and visitors of every culture, origin, color, and identity. Every person has a different story to tell, and nothing will ever change that. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has created several campaigns and promotional videos to showcase Fort Lauderdale's welcoming environment, and I had the pleasure of chatting with Misty Eyez who was featured in one of these videos. Misty is a transgendered educator and trainer for SunServe, a non-profit organization that helps Fort Lauderdale's LGBTQ community.



Let me start off by asking, are you a South Florida native? If not, where are you originally from and what brought you to South Florida?

I am from Anchorage, Alaska. How I got here is a tricky question, but everything happens for a reason, so why question it, right? I grew up in an Evangelical Christian family and I went to Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma for four years. My senior year, I was kicked out of school for being "gay." When I called home to ask my mother for money for a plane ticket, she told me I could come home when I came back to Jesus. I was devastated. Long story short, Florida is the farthest you can get from Alaska without leaving the U.S.

Wow, I cannot imagine what that must have been like. Care to tell us a little more about your personal journey? When did you realize you were trans?

I'm not sure this article will have enough space

for me to tell you about all of that, but here goes! My journey is a complicated tale of self-discovery. Most trans people realize they are trans at a very young age, like five or six, because that is when teachers tell them that boys are to line up over here and girls line up over there. Many trans children get in the wrong line and then get yelled at by the teacher. Misty! You're in the wrong line! This creates a bit of trauma or embarrassment in the child and they will remember that moment throughout their entire life even if they probably don't remember anything else from this age. I am the oldest of seven children, and I knew I was a girl at the age of two-years-old. That is when I learned the difference between boy and girl toys and things, and I was given the wrong toys. I was often getting into trouble for stealing or borrowing my sister's skirts or dolls and hiding them in my room. Growing up in a strict Christian family, this



was very difficult for me. I learned quickly to pretend to be male. I pretended to be male all the way through college. When I was a child, there wasn't any YouTube or Google to find out what I was or if anyone else was like me. So, my journey was all self-discovery. When I was about nine-years-old, I started to realize I liked boys more than I should.

At 13, I learned the word "gay." I never felt like I was gay. This label never really fit me, but I was male and therefore, I must be gay, right? Then after college, I went to a gay bar in Tulsa and saw a drag queen. I was breathless! My heart stopped, and I realized, this is me! A man who performs on stage as a woman. This was able to pacify my inner call to womanhood – for a while. Then one day, I saw a drag queen with breasts. There's something called a transgender woman? What? I was mesmerized and perplexed and questioned everything. I then realized I was a trans woman. I was scared to death. With all this religious fear and guilt, I knew this was going to be a very long, difficult, and expensive journey.

You were involved with a promo video for the Fort Lauderdale CVB, the "Greater Together" campaign. Tell me more about that.

I was asked to represent both the South Florida transgender population and Lips, the "ultimate in drag dining." It's been a Florida landmark for the last, I want to say 11 years. It was an honor and a privilege to be in this video because I love Fort Lauderdale. We are a huge melting pot of many different walks of life. You can go to any grocery store, and the people around you, behind you, and in front of you are almost always a different race, creed, color, sex, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, even disability. I firmly agree with the video's motto – we are "Great Together." (#GreaterTogether.) We in South Florida are one human family and our unity makes us stronger.

How does it feel to be part of this wonderful campaign? You are being seen by millions of people!

I absolutely love being a part of this campaign.

It is something that I believe in and it is something that I am proud to endorse, stand behind, and support.

How were you approached and asked to be involved with the video?

Short answer – because Richard Gray from the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau loves me! We had the pleasure of working together awhile back on a trans project and he submitted my name for the video. I am so glad he did.

I have had the pleasure of chatting with Richard Gray, and he has done so much to promote transgender services and welcome trans people to Fort Lauderdale. Can you believe that Fort Lauderdale is still the only city in the country that has a designated section for LGBT+ people with their CVB?

This is very shocking to me. I guess that just goes to show that Fort Lauderdale not only welcomes you, but we want you to visit us. Many businesses have a diversity program, but they do not always practice inclusion. The difference between diversity and inclusion is that diversity is asking someone who is different to the party, and then ignoring them once they are there. Inclusion is asking someone who is different to the party, and then asking them to dance with you at the party. ➤





Will we be seeing you in any more promotion videos soon?

Oh goodness, I hope so! But the answer is I do not know. Possibly, yes?

Would you say Fort Lauderdale has always been a welcoming city for transgender people?

Hmm, always? This is a tricky question, and there are many levels and dimensions to this question. Fort Lauderdale has always been welcoming for LGBTQ people in general, yes, but I do feel that globally the T is often forgotten about and ignored. That being said, Fort Lauderdale is no different. I remember about 10 years ago they were trying to pass LGB laws and it was said if you take the T out of it, then it would pass. But let me also clarify that times have changed and so has Fort Lauderdale. Another thing to consider is that many trans people are straight men and women, and therefore do not identify as L or G. Some trans people have intentionally pulled away from the LGBTQ community in their path to self-discovery. For example, a straight trans woman seeking straight men probably will not find one in a gay associated place. But yes, Fort Lauderdale as a whole is very welcoming to all trans people no matter their preference or identity.

Where do you think Fort Lauderdale will be in

10 years for the LGBT+ community?

We have grown so much already, and we are clearly ahead of the times now. I cannot wait to see how warm and loving we will be in the next 10 years.

You also work for SunServe. Tell us more about the organization and your position. How long have you been there?

SunServe (www.SunServe.org) is a non-profit agency that started in 2002 as a mental health organization catering to the LGBTQ community who could not otherwise afford care. It has evolved into an organization that basically helps all people with whatever they need. We obviously still have a huge mental health department, but we also have a housing department for people who are HIV+, a women's services department, a transgender services department, a senior daycare for people who are 65+ and a little wobbly, a huge youth department, an education/training department, and many support groups. I have been there for two years and love it. I was originally hired to be an educator and trainer going out into the world doing LGBT+ diversity and sensitivity training. After being here for several months, I expressed an interest in case management as well. So, now my official SunServe title is "Mind Expander." I am both an educator and trainer and a case manager. Going into places like hospitals, police stations, clinics, and schools. I do trainings and link our transgender clients to therapists who will help them to their path and find them trans competent doctors who will help them with their hormone replacement therapy and other needs. I also link people to HIV care if they need it or to HIV prevention, laser hair removal, etc. I am just here to help our brothers and sisters find all the resources that they need.

For anyone who is afraid to come out as trans, what advice would you give them?

This is a scary and difficult journey, but you can only run and hide from yourself for so long, but once you realize that you are trans, please know that you are not alone. I am here to help you with your journey.

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By Steven O. Evans, PhD



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I met with Ray, my massage therapist for the afternoon. Ray is the newest addition to the wonderful team at The Grand Resort and Spa. He attended school at the Cortiva Institute in 2016. Although he is familiar with all modalities of massage, his focus is the central nervous system and how to provide relaxation using different calming rhythms pressures and massage techniques. Ray is not only an excellent therapist, but also has a

great personality and a calming tranquil spirit with amazing hands.

I was immersed with a one-hour mixture of water, seaweed, and massage. Although the spa offers traditional massages, this offers a relaxation beyond what you can imagine. You'll be spoiled to a new level of tranquility.



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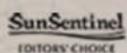
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SOUTHERN COMFORT CONFERENCE

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALEXIS DEE

By Denny Patterson

Thanks to Richard Gray, the LGBT+ Managing Director for the Greater Fort Lauderdale CVB, Broward County will once again have the pleasure of hosting the Southern Comfort Conference, one of the largest gatherings of the trans community in the world. From September 6-8, 2018 open and closeted trans women and men, allies, activists and medical professionals will gather at the Riverside Hotel on Las Olas Blvd for a weekend of education and fun. Since the conference's founding in 1991, it has built a reputation as a safe place for LGBT+ people

with a familial atmosphere and aims at inclusiveness. This conference attracts people from all over the world. I received the chance to chat with Alexis Dee, Southern Comfort's Chair and Board of Directors President. Not only did she provide more information about the conference itself, but she also shared some intimate moments about her own personal journey.

Southern Comfort will be held September 5 - 8, 2018. Visit www.sccfla.org for more information.



For those who are not familiar with the Southern Comfort Conference, why don't you start off by telling me what it is.

The conference started in 1991 by a group of people in Atlanta who were concerned the lack of informational places for the transgender community for outreach. This was basically before the internet, it was just getting started. So, some transgender people in Atlanta put together a small group of people by snail mail, advertising and solicited attendees to come to a conference where they brought in doctors and therapists and other professionals who were involved in services geared towards the trans community. So, it was an informational forum and like I said, it started in 1991 and it has kept growing and growing. It became more popular as people found out about it, and they got more prominent doctors and people to come. People came specifically to talk to doctors about their options for surgery and other treatments. The conference gathered quite a following and in 2003, it was incorporated as a 501c nonprofit.

When did you get involved?

I got involved in 2005 as a volunteer. I attended for the first time in 2004, and it basically changed my life. I knew I was trans since I was five-years-old, and back then, there was very little info to none about what being transgendered was. So, when I attended the Southern Comfort, it was a fluke that I found it, I was just searching on the internet. It changed my life. So, the next year, I went back and volunteered. I didn't mind putting the time in because it felt like I was repaying a debt. They helped me so much, and I wanted to help someone else. Every year it kept growing bigger and bigger. We averaged back then between 400-500 people. Then in 2008, I was asked to sit on the board and 2010 was the first year I chaired the conference. The conference is very important to me.

Why did you initially want to get involved?

Here's the thing. I told my wife about three years into our marriage that something wasn't exactly right with how I felt about presenting as a male. I have always known that, and again, back then there was little to no information on it. So, we had discussions about it and she

tried to accept the situation. The initial knee jerk reaction to most spouses when their husbands transition from male to female is that this isn't what I signed up for. I'm not a lesbian and I thought I married this guy who was my knight in shining white armor. To find out that their husbands are more comfortable presenting themselves as a female and wearing dresses changes everything. So, for a whole lot of years between my child being born and my career, how I felt was put in the closet, but it never went away. After my wife and I semi-retired, that was when the internet was starting to come about. I was beginning to find more information and get involved in chat rooms. In 2003 was when I found out about Southern Comfort and I was like wow, a lot of people out there are like me. 2004 is when I went to the conference. I had to lie a bit because I didn't want my wife to know I was going to it. When I was there, it was the most amazing thing I have ever experienced. I met a therapist and she basically said to me that if I ever wanted this to work out and if I wanted to make my relationship work, I had to be totally honest. So, I went back home and started talking about it and it took some time. I have been out as transgender for 14-15 years now and my wife and I had some rough times, but she finally realized that I was happy. I wasn't happy as the person I was. And all of this is thanks to the Southern Comfort. Like I said, I feel like I am repaying a debt. I want to help someone out there become the person



they want to be. I spent 50 years of my life presenting as someone I didn't want to be, so that is why I do this. And that's the only reason. I don't get paid or make any money. This is just something I want to do.

So, your family was supportive of your transition?

I am very fortunate that I have been married to the same woman for 43 years and she stood by me. It was a little tough going sometimes, but we have a great relationship and she has now accepted the fact that this is the way I have always been. I have an incredible daughter who basically feels the same way and a granddaughter who just doesn't care how I dress. For the rest of my family, I have a couple of sisters and nieces, basically nobody really cares. I am very fortunate.

That's fantastic. It sounds like this conference is very beneficial.

Oh, yes. In the last 15-20 years, there are now other conferences across the country that focus on the trans community and trans people are more open about themselves. So much started when people like Chaz Bono and Caitlyn Jenner transitioned. One of the biggest problems is dealing with the general public and trying to get them to understand that transitioning from male to female is not a man just dressing as a woman to attract men to be gay. Many of us aren't "gay." So, learning all of that and putting it all together to help other people, that is why I work with Southern Comfort. That is the only reason. As long as the conference continues, I'll be there.

When did the conference move from Atlanta to Fort Lauderdale?

We stayed in Atlanta until 2014. After 2011, our attendances went down a bit. We think we basically kind of used up the local people who came. Even though we were in Atlanta, other conferences similar to ours were popping up. We lost a lot of attendees, and in 2014 we ended up with about only 300 people. So, in 2012, I was speaking at a diversity conference at the Marriott and people from various CVBs were there. One was Richard Gray from Broward County and Greater Fort Lauderdale. After the meeting, he told me that he would really like for Southern Comfort to come to Fort Lauderdale. I was like, the chances of that is not good. Florida, as far as I know, is one of the reddest states

throughout the country. I didn't think it would be very diverse. Richard told me, listen, you don't understand, Broward County is totally different. It is absolutely friendly and has one of the largest gay and lesbian populations in the state. I kind of blew it off, but he didn't give up. He kept pulling and pulling. He finally said, I want you to come to Fort Lauderdale. I am putting together a group of people who want to talk to you about how we can go about getting the trans community to vacation in Fort Lauderdale. He showed me a property down there and said he would help sponsor the conference. So, we moved to Fort Lauderdale in 2015 and had a good turnout. In 2016 we had a great turnout as well. We had celebrities like Jazz Jennings and some people from the show *Transparent*. 2017 was rained out because of the hurricane, so now we are putting together this year's event. We are moving to the Riverside Hotel, which is right in downtown Fort Lauderdale on Las Olas Blvd.

I spoke with Richard Gray not too long ago. He had nothing but kind words about the Southern Comfort.

Richard is an interesting person. He and I are best friends. If I were into guys, I'd totally marry him. He is an incredible person who is so devoted, and he is the leading force of the Greater Fort Lauderdale CVB for the LGBT+ community. I love him to death.

What can attendees expect at the conference?

The conference is three days. Thursday-Saturday. Thursday is basically full of medical and psychological presentations and seminars where doctors come to talk about surgical procedures and how different treatments have been upgraded over the past couple of years. On Friday, we are having some people come in to talk. A representative from the TSA in Washington will come in to talk about travel for the trans community because that sometimes causes issues. A lot of people don't have matching credentials, or their passport picture is of their former selves. So, she will talk about that. The only time there's really any problems is when our people have attitudes before they get in security lines. Some of my documents are changed, but when I renew my passport, I'll change that. I travel all over the world and have never had any big issues. Also, a representative



from Medicare will be coming to talk. Again, a lot of problems with non-matching credentials with people on Medicare and they are having problems getting services. Friday night, we usually have some sort of entertainment like karaoke. On Saturday morning, Gia Gunn from RuPaul's Drag Race will come in and talk about some of the things she had to go through while transitioning and her political activism, so there will be a general session and Q & A with her. From Noon-1:30PM, we always do a reception for transgender veterans. That's a pretty big thing we do and quite a few come to that. It's amazing how many there are that come out after they are done with their service. We then have a gala dinner Saturday night to say goodbye and have dancing and DJ music

What was one of your most memorable conference memories?

2011 was a big year for us because we collaborated with WPATH. WPATH is the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. Back in the 1970s, one of the top people studying transgenderism was Harry Benjamin. He put together a group of people doing research and trying to understand the causes and effects of being transgendered and treatments. Harry Benjamin was the first person to come up with basically standards of care for the trans community. During that time, in order for a person to be considered trans, they had to go through a lot of hoops to get therapy to okay them for any type of operation. They did a lot of reassignment surgeries back then, but you had to live two years as your desired gender before they would even think about operating. In 2011, WPATH completely rewrote the standards of care for the trans community. This was huge. They made it much easier to see physicians and tell them this is the way I am. You no longer must go through getting two doctors or therapists to sign off before you get your medicine. It was a ground-breaking event, and that year, we had over 1,000 people. The new standards of care were important.

What do you hope attendees take away from the conference?

One of the things we like to say is the minute you walk through the door, you become family and you'll always be family. We want people to

understand that they are not alone, and they are not mentally disturbed. The number one thing in the trans community is support and understanding. Some people who have come out as trans have literally lost their family, their kids, and everything because of the way they are. It's amazing because when somebody asks why you would all of a sudden come out as trans and take a chance of losing everything, the answer to that question is because I have to. An interesting statistic is that according to a lot of doctors half of their clients who come out as trans are 60-years-old and over. It's sad because a lot of people who come out at that age were waiting for their parents or someone to die so they didn't have to come out to them. It's a very common thing. So, the number one thing I hope attendees take away is, be true to yourself and help others and just understand that you are not alone.

What do you personally look forward to about the conference each year?

Seeing old friends. There are people who come every year, and one of our directors, she has been to every conference since the beginning. Seeing old friends, and the comradery. Some people who come to the conference, this is the only time they can be the person they are and not worry about someone looking at them strangely. I am like a master of ceremonies, walking around and meeting new people and creating new experiences.

Conference Information

Mark your calendars for September 5 - 8, 2018. Visit www.sccfla.org for more information.





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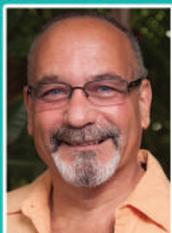
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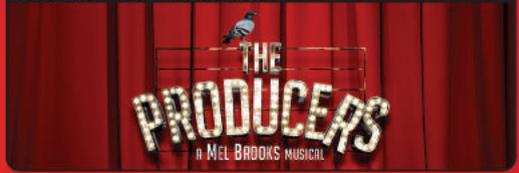
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THE HAVANA CABANA OF KEY WEST

By Steve Pike

Photo by Michael Stavaridis



To many first-timers to Key West, and even frequent visitors, the Conch Republic is all about Duval Street, Mallory Square, Captain Tony's Saloon, and Sloppy Joe's Bar. No doubt each has contributed to Key West's fame (and infamy), but the island has a lot more to share in terms of history and culture.

Where to begin?

A good place is Havana Cabana (www.HavanaCabanaKeyWestHotel.com), a 106 room hotel that celebrates Key West's Cuban heritage, as well as providing colorful island vibes. Located on Roosevelt Avenue, just a 15-minute shuttle ride from Mallory Square, Havana Cabana is a great headquarters for everything Key West. There's plenty to do on-site, from splashing in the island's largest freshwater pool, to grabbing a Cuban sandwich, perhaps the best in Key West, at Floridita food truck near the pool and bar area. Oh, and Mojitos Pool Bar, open after hours, serves 25 versions of Cuba's legendary rum cocktail.

Havana Cabana also has scooters to rent, a fun way to explore Key West, and a concierge who can set up anything from dinners to deep sea fishing. Previously known as The Inn at

Key West, the hotel opened this past April after a complete renovation following Hurricane Irma, including the Cuban-themed artwork in the lobby and each guest room. All guest rooms have a pool or gulf view with a lanai or balcony.

"There is a lot of history between Key West and Cuba," said Havana Cabana's General Manager, Mark Vose. "There are a lot of Key West families that still have relatives in Cuba, so we wanted to tie that in. Nowhere else on Key West will you find a hotel that tries to bring those two cultures together.

"We've definitely seen an uptick in the popularity of the hotel. Our repeat customers, we have a lot of them, are ecstatic about the property and the locals are talking a lot about it."

In Key West, there's always something to talk about and some place to explore. The best way to begin exploring Key West is to ride on the Conch Train (www.ConchTourTrain.com). It's a 90-minute tour of the island that takes guests to more than 130 sites, including President Harry Truman's Southern White House (www.TrumanLittleWhiteHouse.com), the marker at the Southernmost point in the U.S. (only 90



miles from Cuba) and Ernest Hemingway's house (www.HemingwayHome.com). The Spanish Colonial-style house is kept as it was when Papa and his wife, Pilar, lived in it in the 1930s. Tours are available of the home and grounds (complete with the famed "six-toed cats").

Don't worry about missing your ride. The Conch Train makes a few stops along its journey, so passengers can get off to explore and then re-board another train to continue the ride. There is no better way to get familiar with Key West.

Hemingway's likeness and spirit are all over Key West. Did somebody say "spirit?" Located in an old brick building only a few blocks off Duval Street, Papa's Pilar Rum Distillery (www.PapasPilar.com), Hemingway Rum Company, offers daily guided tours of the rum-making process and yes, even a few samples of its Pilar Blonde and Dark rums after each tour. Papa would be proud.

What's a good rum without a good cigar? Rodriguez Cigar Factory (www.RodriguezCigarsKeyWest.com), has been making hand rolled cigars in Key West for more than 30 years. The Series 84 cigars are regarded as among the finest in the world. The company has a terrific humidor room and co-owner, Danny Difabio, whose grandfather immigrated from Cuba, might even roll you a stogie.

For those who don't want to fight the Mallory Square crowds for a legendary Key West sunset, hop the ferry for a 10-minute ride to Sunset Key for dinner at Latitudes (www.SunsetKeyCottages.com/Key-West-Restaurants/Latitudes). Make sure to get an outside table for the best sunset view while enjoying the restaurant's outstanding steak and seafood menu.

So, enjoy a night, a few days, or a week in Key West. The Havana Cabana will make you feel right at home.



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ALL ABOARD THE JUNGLE QUEEN

By Steven O. Evans, PhD



The Jungle Queen Riverboat is a must see for anyone visiting Fort Lauderdale. Guests will experience a little southern hospitality on this “all you can eat cruise.” Enjoy humorous commentary by your guide about the sights and beautiful homes you will see as you sail up the New River, past Millionaire’s Row, en route to a tropical isle to enjoy dinner and a show. You’ll also see rare birds, monkeys, and an alligator exhibit. You’ll be returned to the dock on a moonlit ride. Beginning in 1935, over 18 million guests have enjoyed this magnificent attraction. You can expect an evening full of laughs and joy. The Jungle Queen has the longest continuously running variety show in the United States.

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90 Minute Morning Sightseeing Cruise

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cruise travels down the “Venice of America,” Fort Lauderdale’s New River, through Millionaire’s Row where guests will see the homes of the rich and famous. In addition, guests will see spectacular mega yachts and other sights that are beyond belief. We don’t want to give too much away and spoil all the surprises!

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Departs: 4:30PM Thursday – Sunday, year-round & 7:00PM, Thursday – Sunday, December thru August.

The same as the morning cruise, only in the afternoon and evening!

Afternoon Sightseeing Cruise & Tropical Isle Tour

Departs: 1:30PM, Daily, year-round
This is a treat you don’t want to miss. The Jungle Queen’s Spectacular Afternoon



Tropical Isle Sightseeing Cruise travels the same path as the 90-minute cruises, but this adventurous cruise takes you to their own lush tropical isle where guests can watch an alligator show, see tropical and exotic birds, lemurs, and monkeys. Have you ever wanted to hold a baby alligator or bird? Well, this cruise allows you the chance to do so. In addition, this cruise offers food and drinks. The extensive concession stand menu offers burgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, chips, ice cream, soda, and much more.

Jungle Queen Sightseeing Dinner & Show Cruise

Departs Tuesday – Sunday, 6:00PM – December thru August & Wednesday – Sunday, 6:00PM – September thru November.

If you thought the other cruises were spectacular, just you wait. The Jungle Queen Sightseeing Dinner & Show Cruise travels down the same path, but this time, guests are treated to an all-you-can-eat dinner featuring barbeque baby back ribs, chicken, peel and eat shrimp, and all the sides you are bound to love. Live entertainment during dinner, and a laugh out loud variety show after dinner. Be sure to take a few minutes to tour the magnificent tropical isle with lush foliage, exotic animals, and a gift shop that includes delicious soft serve ice cream. The perfect after dinner treat!

To confirm availability of cruises, please visit www.JungleQueen.com or call the box office at (954) 462-5596.

Large Groups

The Jungle Queen is great for groups of 15 or more passengers. The group planners will work with you one-on-one to make sure you have a memorable experience. From scheduling to pricing, the staff will work to accommodate most requests. Let the Jungle Queen help you create memories.

Camp and Schools

The Jungle Queen is not just a tourist attraction for locals and outsiders, it is also an educational experience for camps and

school groups. Fun and interesting, the Jungle Queen can organize tours and field trips with knowledgeable tour guides that will entertain and educate groups on popular landmarks, fun facts about the history of Fort Lauderdale, and culture in a way that will surely capture the attention of a child.

The Jungle Queen also provides service for corporate functions, anniversaries, family reunions, graduations, engagements, sweet 16, birthday parties, and more. To find out more information, fill out a form on junglequeen.com or call the Group Department at (954) 771-1221 – extension 2, then again extension 3. Affordable packages are available.

MY OWN JUNGLE QUEEN ADVENTURE

My friend Arthur and I had the pleasure of experiencing the Jungle Queen first hand on it's Sightseeing Dinner & Show Cruise. Just as the Jungle Queen advertises, we both enjoyed a night of laughs, great food, and entertainment. We still comment about what a great evening we had.

The boat is a Fort Lauderdale icon, and getting to actually sail on it was a truly unique experience. Throughout the ride, our tour guide provided us and fellow passengers with interesting information about the Jungle Queen, the homes we saw, Fort Lauderdale, and the rest of South Florida. Although legitimately funny, there were the cheesy jokes made famous by this tour.

During dinner, we both enjoyed the delicious food of ribs, chicken, shrimp, and all the fixin's. Dinner was served up with great service and live music. After dinner, the live show included a comedy act, magic, and music, and even a fire entertainer. We walked the grounds, enjoying the exotic animals, while having time to relax and enjoy the lush South Florida landscaping.

The Jungle Queen is a Fort Lauderdale treasure. I would highly recommend visitors and locals to experience the Jungle Queen. You will not regret it.

THE CABANAS SPA

MORE THAN YOUR TYPICAL AFTERNOON

By Steven O. Evans, PhD



Before I moved to Florida, I stayed at the Cabanas Guesthouse. I knew from my first visit that I wanted to move to Fort Lauderdale. As much as I am a Kentucky boy at heart, and always will be, this felt like a place I wanted to call “home.”

The Cabanas was an amazing resort with comfortable guest rooms, two relaxing pools, and waterfront views. But now the resort also offers its guests and other visitors its Spa experience. Spa Cabanas began with its opening on the grounds of The Cabanas Guesthouse in August of 2008. They will be celebrating the 10th year anniversary thanking the great clients that have made them one of the top spas of Wilton Manors. As the sole owner and operator, Norman Lachance has grown The Spa. Recently I had the total package of a manicure, a facial, microneedling, and a massage. Whether you're a local or a visitor, this day of relaxation is one you don't want to miss.

My afternoon started with Jimmy Cohen and a manicure. Jimmy has been with the Spa for four years. He is a Paramedical Aesthetician and he gave my hands a complete makeover with a trim, cuticle clean up, and a good buff. Not to mention a cute guy held my hands for half an hour.

After, I then had an amazing facial that included advanced micro-needling, also known as

Collagen Induction Therapy. The process utilizes advanced technology and a minimally invasive treatment which uses the body's own immune response to induce collagen and re-incorporate growth factors and stem-cells to regenerate lost tissue. This helps to reduce wrinkles, minimize lines around the eyes, and stimulate cellular production. The results are impressive given it is a no pain procedure.

And who doesn't love a good massage? I progressed to an hour with Gabriel Rodriguez. Gabriel uses traditional massage techniques, while stressing communication with his clients. He was trained in Puerto Rico and is best known for his Deep Tissue massage. The thought of being in an amazing resort, just off the intracoastal waterways, and having an hour of no cell phones, no stress, and worries of the world, was a much needed time of rejuvenation.

Spa Cabanas has one of the most skilled teams of LMT's in the area. Oscar Gomez, Mario Martinez, Gabriel Rodriguez, Christian Pérez, and Inigo Valencia are available for all your massage needs. They specialize in both Deep Tissue and Swedish relaxation massage techniques. Spa Cabanas is a full service spa featuring massage, exfoliation, facials, mani-pedis, waxing, and trimming. Visit www.TheCabanasGuesthouse.com/Mens-Spa or call (954) 565-2307 for more information.

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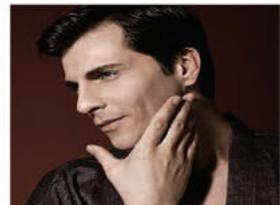
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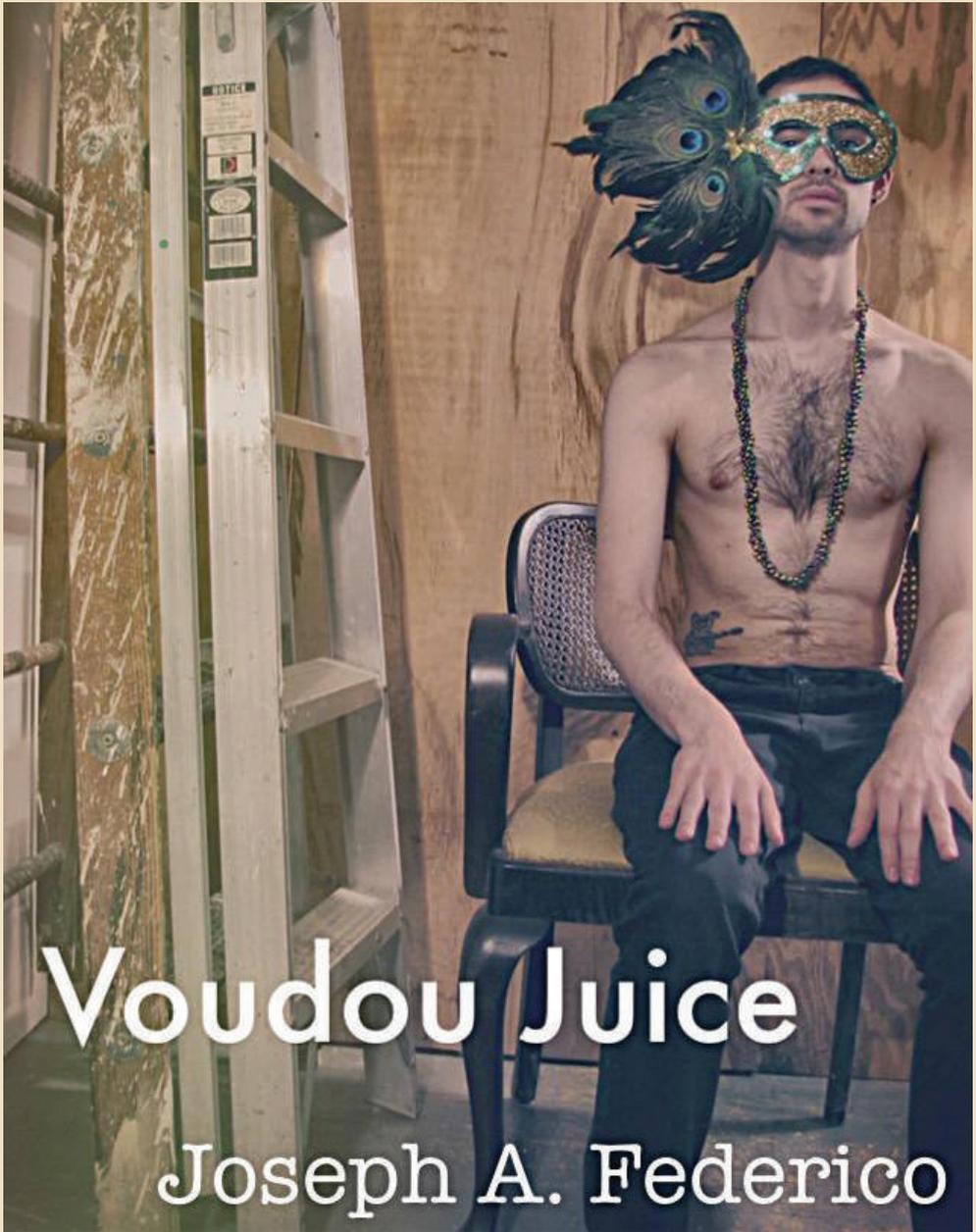
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Voudou Juice

Joseph A. Federico

VOUDOU JUICE: ORIGINS

By Joseph A. Federico

Voudou Juice, Joseph Federico's breakout novella, originally published in spring of 2017, is not for the faint of heart. Its twists and turns through eighteenth-century New Orleans and run-ins with the darkest of creatures will have you begging for the light of day. And besides, who doesn't appreciate some otherworldly sexual appetite?

Voudou Juice: Origins is a sequel to the original novella. It follows Cody Shrine, III on a fantastical journey back to the roaring '20s. He's faced with his own mortality and must come to terms with his own repressed sexual orientation.

The following outlines two imperative excerpts from the upcoming publication, Voudou Juice: Origins. Enjoy and happy reading.

Yes, those salty lips and the faint tickling feeling of blonde stubble on Cody's tongue drove him insane in seconds flat.

The two came up for air and only for a brief moment to surround sound giggling like youngsters.

They went in for the kill again, only this time, hands wandered into each other's pants.

Now, it wasn't the warmest of days, but the heat was definitely turned on in this newfound relationship.

"Hey, fellas!" Gloria called from down the block. "Ya comin', or what? The party's gonna start and I don't wanna miss the free hooch and my grand entrance."

The boys laughed again, pulled their hands out of each other's pockets and ran towards the floozie's voice.

The house the small group approached was monstrous and decorated professionally. Purple, green and gold metallic streamers were strung intricately from the old antebellum columns and matching metallic balloons waved against faint candlelight that wafted from the courtyard.

"Well, fellas . . ." Gloria spoke first. "Who's gonna go in? I ain't gonna wait one more minute for you, Jimmie. It's time for business." She dropped her link of pearls and walked past the boys.

The two turned to each other in bewilderment, smiled curiously, then Elliott nudged Cody toward the dimly lit hallway with a pat on his cute little ass.

Gloria giggled then passed black glittery masks to her accomplices. The threesome tied the mysterious silk facades to their coiffed heads and simultaneously grabbed champagne to get the party started.

A live band could faintly be heard down the second hallway; the beat of "The Charleston" improved and matched their heart rates with each anticipated step.

Joseph A. Federico is a self-taught author and journalist. After "publishing" his first newspaper in the '90s, headlining a story about Santa Claus's midnight ride with then-popular, Swamp Thing, Federico's family knew he had a journalistic knack. Having been published in magazines such as Debonair, Steppin' Out and Canada's premier South Asian magazine, Darpan, Joseph covers topics ranging from wedding fair, fashion trends and men's health issues. He currently owns and operates Anchors To Dusk Publishing, LLC and its subsidiary, a marketing consulting firm, under the name of Anchors To Dusk Media.



Photo by William Dick

A NEW BEGINNING: AN INTERVIEW WITH GAY SINGER/SONGWRITER STEVE GRAND

By Gregg Shapiro

When it comes to album titles, gay singer/songwriter, Steve Grand, came up with a good one for his second album, *Not the End of Me* (www.stevegrand.com), on which Grand deals with his pre-sobriety downward spiral, is definitely fitting. Facing his demons head on, Grand has written some of his most visceral songs for this album (check out “Disciple”). Nevertheless, Grand knows his fan-base well enough to also include the kind of songs his devoted followers will appreciate, as in the case of “You or the Music”. We spoke about the new album and his newfound clarity in July 2018, while Grand was doing his Provincetown residency.

Gregg Shapiro: When we spoke in late spring 2017, I asked you about being “laser-focused” on your second album and you mentioned having just written and recorded a chorus, as well as the production work you were doing. How much of what you were creating at that time ended up on what is now *Not The End of Me*?

Steve Grand: [At that time] I think I was really refining my song “Safe and Sound” which is on the new record, track number five. I was hoping to get the album all done before I got to Provincetown (in the summer of 2017). I was going to do a shorter version of an album. But it’s such a time commitment being out here and promoting the show. I was flying out on the weekends, so I didn’t have any time to record.

GS One of the first things I noticed about the songs on *Not The End of Me* is that you are doing different things with your voice, for example the gorgeous vulnerability of “Can’t Go Back”. Can you please say something about that?



SG I wanted the sentiment of the song to be reflected in the way I was singing it. With this album I was more focused on being truly honest and vulnerable instead of just making something that was as mass-appealing as possible. I allowed my voice to do what it was going to do. As I've gotten older, I've gotten more comfortable with some parts of my voice that I wasn't always comfortable with. Which is also a metaphor for the way we go through life, I guess. I'm more comfortable with it and I'm more than okay with parts of my voice that used to bother me. I've come to appreciate them more. It's my voice and I know what's behind that voice, what that voice has been through. There's an authenticity there that's been earned. When I was younger I didn't always feel that way. I'm confident I've earned whatever authenticity and vulnerability is there in my voice.

GS If there is a prominent theme on Not The End of Me, it would be the issue of indulgence and recovery, something listeners can hear on "Pink Champagne", "Don't Let The Light In" and "Ain't It Somethin'", to mention a few. Please say something about addressing these subjects in song.

SG Because I'm lucky enough to have a lot of loving and caring people in my life, they were able to catch me before things got too bad. But I was definitely on a road to self-destruction. I'll say that. I was able to catch myself before it got too bad. It did get to the point where I was drinking every single day. I would drink in the morning and I started to rationalize drinking for just about every situation. It became my way of self-medicating. I wanted to numb myself out when I was feeling too stressed, anxious or overwhelmed, which is something I was

feeling all the time those first couple of years. I always want to talk about this in a nuanced way and it's hard to communicate that nuance in a headline. I feel like there's an understandable tendency for writers and bloggers to sensationalize the experience of addiction or whatever you want to call what I went through. Like everything, it's complex and it's different for everybody.

GS I'm glad you said that because, in addition to your record, recent albums by Nicole Atkins (Goodnight Rhonda Lee), Girl In a Coma's Nina Diaz (The Beat is Dead) and fellow Chicago musician Michael McDermott (Out From Under), are indicators that recovery music has become its own genre. What do you think about that?

SG I think we can continue to break everything down into infinitely smaller sub-genres [laughs]. But if that's a way for people to classify music, then so be it. If it's something that has an audience that wants to hear that and take strength from it, I'm for that.

Photo by William Dick

GS You included two versions of “Walking” – an “original cut” and a “radio cut” – on the album. Was this because you couldn’t decide which you liked better?

SG That was part of it. Also, the original version is the one that came first. At some point after that, I wasn’t sure how much I wanted to try and make a fun pop record. I was experimenting with making it sound more fun and lighter than more commercially viable. That was the version I released and made a video for last year. I always kept going back to the original version. It was one of the first songs I recorded for this album. I wanted to put it on the album because it was the initial intention that I had for the song. I thought it would be a great way to start the album, and also because of the lyrical content. I really love books and songs that start right in. I love when, with the first line or two, the writer throws you into it. I sing, “Caught up in the lights. Cameras in my face. Where did we go wrong? Why’d you walk away?” It gives you the right amount of information with the minimal amount of words to take you to exactly where I’m at. That’s where I wanted the album to start; in the chaos and confusion of having a viral hit and being overwhelmed by trying to keep my life together as things in my personal life are spiraling out of control. How that fed into whatever I was doing professionally at the time.

GS “You or the Music” is also reflective of the kind of pure pop elation that your fans have come to expect from you. Have you ever had to choose between your music and a boyfriend?

SG It sometimes has felt that way. I was in a very tumultuous relationship, my first relationship ever that lasted quite a long time. Of course, it’s not that simple. In order to make a cool song about it, you have to drastically oversimplify things.

GS Exaggerate a little bit.

SG Yes. There were times when it felt that way. Because of the life I live and

the guys I tend to go for – they really want no part of all the flying around and social stuff and social media. The guys I like are generally very reserved and keep to themselves. Which I think makes a nice yin and yang. I’m very much an introvert who is forced to put myself out there. Like today, I went to the Ptown Inn pool and I was flyering. It makes me anxious to walk up to strangers and say, “Hi! Come to see my show”, because not everyone is going to react positively to you. You know some people just want you to get lost. I don’t necessarily like it when people get up in my face and are trying to sell me something or get me to go somewhere. I know I don’t like it, so I understand how other people feel. Still, it takes courage to do that when I’m inclined to want to stay home and spend time with one person or a group of close friends. It forces me out a little bit. To answer your question, the guys I like are generally the ones I feel a genuine sense of home with. I don’t need all the hustle and bustle of all those other things in my life.

GS I know that you come from a religious background and the song “Disciple” is full of religious imagery. Would you mind saying a few words about that song?

SG I want to leave that song open to interpretation. It was a cathartic experience writing that song.

GS I can imagine.

SG I wrote it in a dark place, at the very end of my drinking days. I threw it all out there on the table. The song’s about a lot of things. There are things that have double meanings. There are things that have taken on additional meaning over time. I want to leave it up to my fans. I’ve already had a lot of people message me about it, wanting to know what it’s about. People are sending me their different interpretations. I like that. I was super-unsettled when I wrote that song. I was at my wit’s end. There’s a quote that goes something like, “It’s an artist’s job to comfort those who need comforting and to make those



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who are comfortable feel uncomfortable". If people walk away from that song feeling uncomfortable, that's not a bad thing. Not everything wraps up neatly in life. I want people to feel what I was feeling at the time. That push forward. The anxiety of life changing around you, forcing you on, even if you're not ready.

GS At the time this interview is taking place, you are performing in Provincetown throughout the summer of 2018. Is there an autumn and winter concert tour in the works?

SG I'm going to go wherever this album takes me. You can follow me on bandsintown.com/stevegrand and that notifies people when their favorite artists, and hopefully that includes me, come to a town near them. That's the best way to know when I'll be in your area. Slowly but surely my dates are filling in. We're starting to get more offers, especially with my new album coming out. We're getting a lot of great press and my fans are excited about it. All of that is helping.

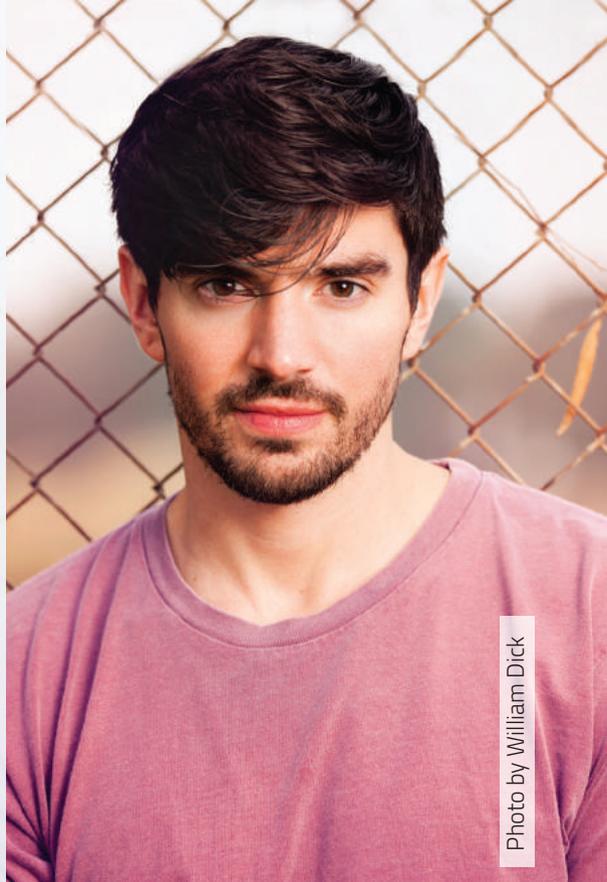


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The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office mails the TRIM (proposed tax) Notices in mid-August each year. The proposed property tax notice will show your 2018 property assessment, exemptions and the proposed taxes along with dates and times for the various taxing authorities' public budget hearings. The TRIM Notice is your opportunity to review your property assessment and ensure you are receiving all the tax-saving exemptions you are entitled to.



Our office contact information will be listed on the newsletter enclosed with the TRIM Notice giving you the opportunity to contact us directly should you have any questions. The absolute deadline to apply for any 2018 exemption or to appeal your property assessment is September 18, 2018.

Many property owners ignore their TRIM Notice until it is too late to appeal an assessment, question the proposed tax rates, or file for exemptions. If you wait until you receive your tax bill in November to inquire about your assessment, you will lose your right to appeal. The first thing to know is your taxes are calculated using this formula:

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Why Are My Property Taxes Higher than the Prior Owner's Last Year?

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the property receives/loses the Homestead Exemption. After this reset in value occurs, the property will be protected by an assessment cap starting the following year. For Homesteaded property, the Assessed/Save Our Homes (SOH) Value can increase by no more than 3% above last year's Assessed/SOH Value (or the consumer price index, whichever is less), regardless of the increase in just value. For tax year 2018, the assessment increase is capped at 2.1% for all Homesteaded properties. For non-Homesteaded property, the assessed value can increase by no more than 10% above last year's assessed value. The 10% cap does not apply to the School Board taxes.

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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THE B OCEAN RESORT

By Steve Pike



South Florida beaches are multi-use destinations. Check out any beach – from Palm Beach to South Beach and chances are you'll see people sunbathing, running, playing volleyball and yes, even getting married. Surrounded by surf, sand, sunshine, and friends and family, there is nothing like a beach wedding.

One of the more popular destinations for beach weddings, particularly for LGBT weddings is the B Ocean Resort in Fort Lauderdale. With a private beach located on the tip of Fort Lauderdale Beach, the wedding party and guests can live the "B" mantra, which is all

about self-expression.

"We're very self-expressive and open at B Hotels and Resorts as a company," said Mark Semple, director of catering for the 484-room hotel and one of South Florida's top wedding planners. "The important thing is every guest feels welcome. We're also very open in terms of employment. Our chief engineer, for example, is transgender."

"One of our programs is just 'B You,'" said Kenneth Barr, the hotel's B Experience manager. "We did t-shirts for Pride Month to further express our cooperative culture." ➤



Formerly the Yankee Clipper, B Ocean Fort Lauderdale is active in the LGBT community's Gay Pride Month and in the Gay Chamber of Commerce. It's also Ground Zero for such popular beach music events such as Tortuga and Riptide.

B Ocean Resort last year debuted a multi-million-dollar renovation that included an overhaul of each guest room, a bright, built-out lobby with ocean views and the Naked Crab restaurant. The hotel's exterior design still resembles a cruise ship - as it did when it opened in 1956 - and the iconic Wreck Bar, featured in several movies, still has its popular mermaid shows on weekends.

The Wreck Bar even has been known to host a few weddings, although most bridal parties prefer the beach just a few hundred feet away.

"That's what makes us unique," Semple said. "We're one of only two resorts in Fort Lauderdale to have a private beach."

Understand that couples basically can get married on any stretch of Fort Lauderdale with the proper permits, but B Ocean's private beach eliminates much of the red tape.

"You don't always have to worry about who is lying on the beach and who shouldn't be lying on the beach," Semple said.

B Ocean Resort can accommodate wedding parties of up to 200 people – on the beach and inside its meeting room that overlooks the beach. Semple said weddings at B Ocean average between 80 and 130 people. The hotel offers a variety of weddings packages for LGBT and straight couples and only celebrates one wedding per day to keep each ceremony as exclusive as possible.

"It's a little higher premium, but most couples like the exclusivity," Semple said.



PRIDEFUL FASHION THROUGHOUT THE AGES

By Joseph A. Federico



Now, we aren't talking "throughout the ages," like, the Middle Ages or necessarily historically speaking. We're here to quite literally take a prideful stance on gay and queer fashion and dissect its restraints throughout our own misguided history.

Yes, men they used to call "dandies," roamed the earth in the 18th and 19th-centuries; they were young, scantily clad men with painted faces and powdered hair, and society generally frowned upon them. That was a form of pride of the time, dressing effeminately while still carrying a sense of manhood, even if it was in one's pants.

Years later, let's say, post-Stonewall riots, fashion took on a whole new meaning, it was released to the LGBT masses (no Q or + yet) and the rest, they say, is history.

Personally, growing-up in and around the garment district in the 1980s was a godsend for me, however, that's just my story. It gave me the A-OK to dress as freely as I wanted to without so much as the bat of an eyelash from passersby to family members.

But, what about other gay and queer men? What's their story?

Davis Mallory, pop star, formerly of MTV, says, "When I think of the LGBTQ+ community, I think how different many people's fashion choices are, similar to the colors of the rainbow and infinite combinations that can come out of it.

"Fashion can be sexy. I think today, too, we as a society of gay people, are dressing more confidently in the way we express ourselves. For example, we now have fun, flirty, patriotic and even political t-shirts we can sport for a



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cause. In the way we dress is where we hold power. For example, we can wear earrings, nail polish, or guyliner/makeup that make evident statements about one's sexual orientation in a bold way. Heck, I even do it. Living in Nashville, TN, I see all of this happening around me in the LGBTQ+ community, openly expressing their orientation through their fashion choices. It's a great thing, really."

Author Marcus James has a different story to tell, as he used to be a dancer in the 1990s. He says, "The 'Twink' aesthetic that ruled the end of the millennium and the beginning of the new, was defined by trance beats and a uniform of skinny boys with smooth, hairless bodies, an almost required pact of spiky, bleached blond brotherhood, and utilitarian polyester cargo pants, wide leg blue jeans, tight tees (almost always women's) and ball chains with metal rainbow pride rings strung from them.

"It was a dress code that allowed for the sexual appeal in young gay men who would otherwise appear boyish in any other way. It was a double-edged sword of defining beauty without the toned gym body, but also a never-ending strive for impossible youth perfection that led to issues of eating disorders and body dysmorphia in a generation of young gay men.

"Whether bad or good, the 'Twink' has become as iconic as a gay aesthetic as leather daddies, lumberjacks, bears, and muscle daddies."

And last but not least, drag performer, Connie Hung, of New Orleans says, "I don't know about

everyone else, but for me, the importance of fashion came later in life. I explored fashion when I started doing drag.

"Drag, as you know, is over the top, but can still give any size man a silhouette and a spark of femininity. And let's be honest, the influence that drag culture has on gay culture is very evident, especially in this day and age.

"Everyone seems to be more brave with their style choices and it shows. It shows that we are, indeed brave, and aren't afraid of self-expression anymore. We wear clothes not only to be comfortable, but most of the time, to share with the world what our internal identity is. Drag just so happens to bring it out in most people."

How do you feel fashion meshes with LGBTQ+ pride? What makes your fashion sense really stand out and demand attention?

About the author: Joseph A. Federico is a self-taught author and journalist. After "publishing" his first newspaper in the '90s, headlining a story about Santa Claus's midnight ride with the then-popular Swamp Thing, Federico's family knew he had a journalistic knack. Having been published in magazines such as *Debonair*, *Steppin' Out* and Canada's premier South Asian magazine, *Darpan*, Joseph covers topics ranging from wedding fare, fashion trends and men's health issues. He currently owns and operates *Anchors To Dusk Publishing, LLC* and its subsidiary, a marketing consulting firm, under the name of *Anchors To Dusk Media*.

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FORT LAUDERDALE'S BRUCE WHEATLEY, RN, NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR THE POOR, SICK, AND LGBT CHILDREN OF THE PHILIPPINES.

WHEATLEY IS NOT GIVING UP, BUT HE IS FINDING OUT
HOW HARD IT IS TO MOTIVATE GENEROSITY.

By Tony Adams



Bruce Wheatley's 2009 Philippines vacation didn't turn out as expected. A retired nurse specializing in perinatal care and women's health, he could not ignore the extreme poverty and lack of basic medical services he encountered in the rural communities of the island of Samar near the home of his friends.

Since that initial visit, Wheatley has been back to the Philippines fifteen times, bringing medications and personally paying for treatments. His focus has been children in need, using dollars generated by his Fort Lauderdale air conditioning business. He has learned much about why conditions are so deplorable among the poor he seeks to help.

He says, "In the communities I visit, a doctor will let a kid die right in front of him if the parents can't pay for treatment. Very often, there isn't even ibuprofen for pain or fever. When I started intervening, I also learned that poverty harnesses kids in terrible ways.

Parents will often use disabled or sick children to increase their success as beggars. If I gave clothing to a child wearing rags, I would find out that the parents would sell the clothing rather than let their kids wear them. Children are forced into manual labor paying close to nothing."

Wheatley set up a not-for-profit entity to receive and funnel donations for the charitable work that has become his passion. He is frustrated by the fact that his charity has been able to attract very little funding. He is not about to give up, but he has had his eyes opened about the business of doing good. He says, "I don't do drugs. I don't smoke. I don't drink. All the money I might have spent on those things goes to help these kids, but it is not enough. The need is overwhelming. I have learned that I am not a good pitchman even though I can promise donors that my organization has no overhead and that all the funds donated go directly to help the kids who need medical attention. I have not yet been successful in connecting the gay community



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of South Florida with this very needy and gay-friendly community in the Philippines.”

Wheatley set up a gay mentorship program called “GayStreetKids” in which gay men could sponsor a gay Filipino boy. The initiative failed because, Wheatley thinks, men were afraid of becoming involved in something that might be viewed as pedophilia. He also tried a kickstarter campaign to send gay kids to Manila for dance training to broaden their horizons and help them climb out of their hopeless poverty.

Currently, Wheatley is focusing all his efforts on his primary initiative, “Philippine Basic Needs Outreach Program” www.PhilippineBasicNeeds.com. He says, “This is

my not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising money and donated goods for the families and children of the Philippines. At the moment, most of our work is in the Samar area.”

His website tells the story of the deplorable conditions he encounters each time he returns to Samar. Wheatley introduces us to children with eye tumors, kidney disease, cleft palates, and hearing problems. He shows us how far even the smallest donations go to improving the lives of these children, many of whom are gay and homeless.

OutClique hopes that by introducing you to Wheatley and his charity, his initiative will grow in its ability to improve lives. You can contact them at PBNcharitykids@gmail.com





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LADY FANCY AND THE GOSPEL JUBILEE PRESENTS CHURCH OF A DIFFERENT KIND

By Rev. Patrick Rogers, MDiv.



Lady Fancy and the Gospel Jubilee's church is indeed "kind," and similar to that Jesus. This uniqueness and kindness begin with the Leadership of Lady Fancy!

There is one place that you will find me on the last Sunday night of every month. From 7PM to 9PM, I attend "church," held in a Wilton Manors bar called, The Pub. But it is a different kind of church, because here, all are truly welcome. At the beginning of the church service, Lady Fancy comes on stage and says, "If you came here tonight, thinking that the other drag performers and I are going to make fun of gospel music, you are sadly mistaken. We love this music and are here for one reason, and that's to pay tribute to it."

Rev. Patrick: Earlier in your life, what church denomination were you raised?

Lady Fancy: I experienced the Nazarene Church and later moved to the Pentecostal Church. My early influence of gospel music was from listening to groups such as The Speer Family, The Rambos, and of course, The Happy Goodman Family.

Rev. Patrick: What do you consider your gospel favorites?

Lady Fancy: My favorite gospel songs are way too many to list, here, but my top 5 are, "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," "Blessed Assurance," "It Is Well," and "Born to Serve The Lord."





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Rev. Patrick: What is the origin of your drag name, Lady Fancy?

Lady Fancy: It came about when Nancy Ross and I were doing our first show in her backyard. I didn't have a stage name. "Fancy" came to mind so that we could be Nancy and Fancy. I don't remember who put "Lady" in front of it but they did, and it stuck.

Rev. Patrick: When did you receive your "call" to ministry?

Lady Fancy: I played piano and organ in church starting at the age of 14 and continued until my late 20's (which was not that long ago). Being rooted and grounded in gospel music since childhood, I knew it was part of my identity and part of my DNA. Like so many who share this same story of being rejected by the church because of who you are, I felt that the love of gospel music was part of my life that was over. But after starting my drag performances, I was doing a weekly show at Monkey Business. For something different, Ron and I decided to do a gospel themed show one week and called it, "The Gospel Jubilee." I knew then that my life in gospel music was not over as I thought, but just going to be taking a different (much different) direction.

Rev. Patrick: How long ago did Lady Fancy and the Gospel Jubilee begin?

Lady Fancy: The Gospel Jubilee will be going on 10 years this November and I have led it for nine of those years. I had to take some time off and at that time Anastasia Ross led it for a year to keep the show going.

Rev. Patrick: The Gospel Jubilee rejuvenates and inspires me personally. I love singing the gospel songs and hymns from my youth. And as I look around the room during church, I notice that many of those attending know the words to the songs. What type of responses have you received from audience members, or should I say church members?

Lady Fancy: Here are some of my favorite responses to our Gospel Jubilee. "Thank you so much for taking me back to church." "The music really touches me." "It took a man in a dress to remind me of God's unconditional love!"

Rev. Patrick: In June, I attended your first show at the new location at The Pub. It seemed like you were right at home! How do you feel about your new church home?

Lady Fancy: I am very grateful to The Pub for wanting to pick up the show. Let's face it, it's not your typical drag show, but like the saying goes when a window shuts a door opens. We will just keep doing what we have been doing and that is sharing the message of joy, love, and hope through gospel music.

For the readers who don't attend (yet), the Lady Fancy Gospel Jubilee often includes live performances and instrumentals. So if you want to go out and get your "praise on" with the option of your favorite libation, you are welcome to join in on the last Sunday of every month and be part of the "Church of a Different Kind" at The Pub in Wilton Manors. All are welcome and there is a table or bar stool waiting for you! See you at 7PM. You will be lifted up as the church lifts up the name of Jesus. Amen!

Rev. Patrick Rogers, MDiv. – Community Activist and Senior Pastor
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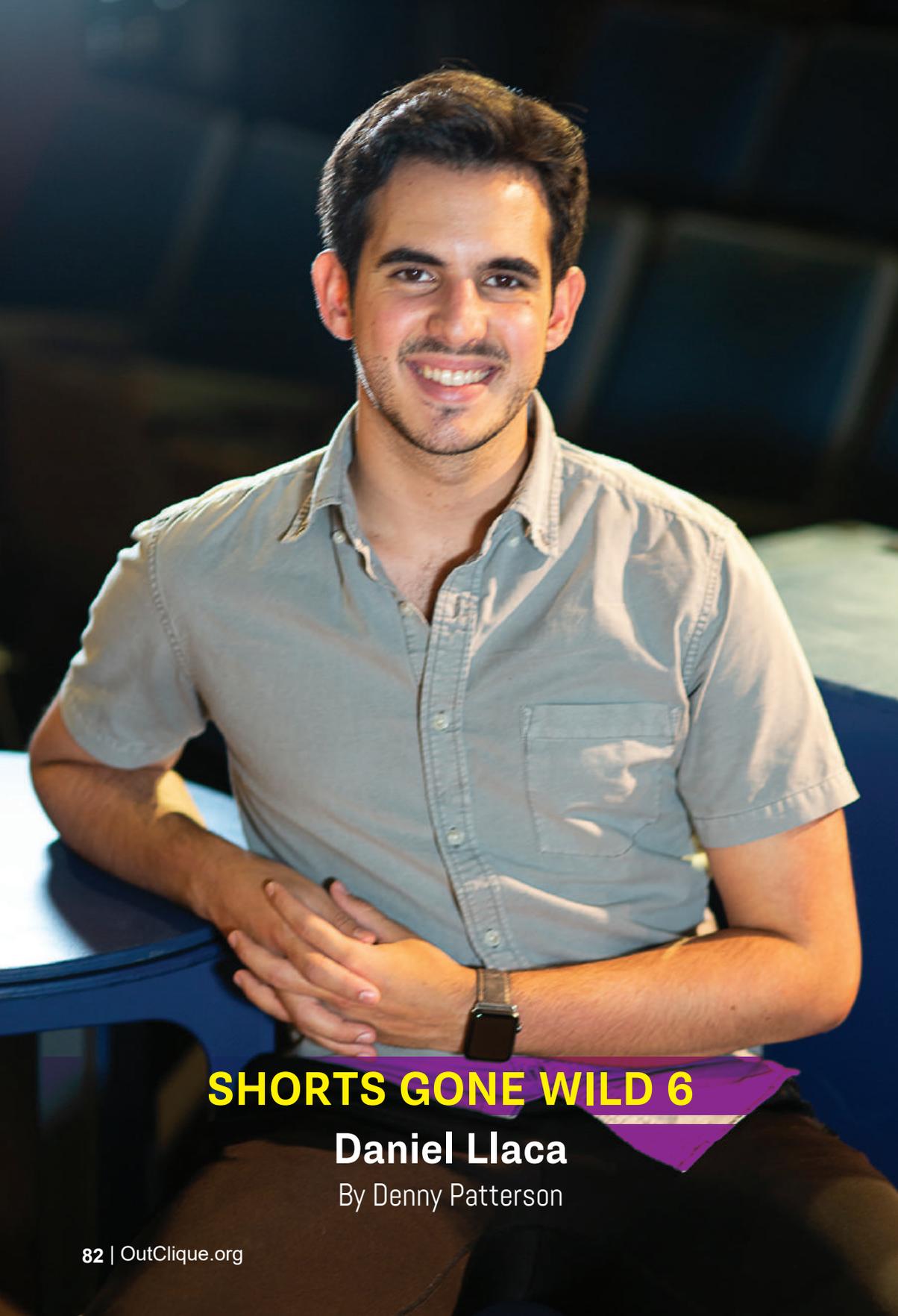
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SHORTS GONE WILD 6

Daniel Llaca

By Denny Patterson

City Theatre and Island City Stage's much anticipated event is back, and it's bigger and better than ever. Shorts Gone Wild, the hottest LGBT+ themed short play festival, will be held August 2-26, 2018. Entering its sixth year, Shorts Gone Wild takes seven short plays, six playwrights, four directors, six versatile actors, and a team of designers, and combines them all together. The result is a hysterical, provocative, and surprising theatrical production that will certainly entertain all audiences. Shorts Gone Wild features new ten-minute plays by local and national playwrights. Selling out every season, it is expected to do the same this year. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at www.IslandCityStage.org. I had the pleasure of chatting with Daniel Llaca, one of the actors in this year's festival.

Can you tell me about some of the characters you will be playing?

Shorts Gone Wild 6 is bringing characters from the LGBTQ community to the stage in a fun, provocative, and at times, heartwarming way. Many of the characters I play reflect that, with characters that are gay, trans, or relating to someone who is.

Why did you try out for Shorts Gone Wild?

I auditioned for Shorts Gone Wild because of the reputation that Island City Theatre has for bringing such colorful short plays to life in a way that always seems to leave audiences laughing and smiling.

What is your favorite theatre memory?

It's that element of theater that brings back powerful fond memories. I can think back to a time when both my parents and I were shaking and crying with laughter at a production we once saw of Peter and the Starcatcher. That memory of feeling so connected by the simple brilliance of theater is one I will not likely forget.

What can audiences expect from Shorts Gone Wild?

Audiences can expect to leave Shorts Gone Wild 6 with a similar experience. One where they can put the turbulence of our current society aside and all laugh together alongside some extremely talented young artists. It's an experience that many Americans will likely relate and enjoy.

What do you look for in a good audience?

All it takes is an open mind, which is all I look for in a good audience. An open mind combined with the freedom to laugh and play is a proven recipe for a great time out at the theater.

How do you prepare yourself before going out on stage?

Typically, before going on stage I go through a rapid-fire review of the lines with my colleagues. This both relaxes any pre-show nerves, as well as reassures me that should anything unexpected happen, as is often the case in live theater, my cast and I have each other's backs.

Which role has been the most fun to play in this series?

My most fun role in this production has also been by far the most challenging. It is the role of Liz, a transgendered woman suffering from a very common problem, through what some might consider very uncommon circumstances.

Is it challenging for you to play so many characters in such a short amount of time?

Yes, but it comes with the love I have for theatre. Juggling three to four roles at once, we could rehearse for months and still make new discoveries. Doing it in such a short amount of time adds to the excitement and creativity that Shorts Gone Wild is known for.

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