

south florida's lgbt magazine
aug|sept 2016 • vol. 08

Miami Herald

palette



ONE FINE MAN

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FEATURES

024 • **a groundswell of love**

The community comes together across the nation and around the world after the worst mass shooting in U.S. history strikes a gay club in Orlando on Latin night.

030 • **atticus ranck**

Young but wise, Atticus Ranck discusses his idyllic upbringing and the turbulent times that molded him into the man he is today.

038 • **gender blending**

Key West is rarely upstaged, unless it's by its own residents. A number of local fashionistas strike a pose in the Conch Republic.

046 • **destination: berkshires**

Step out of the sweltering heat and head north to the countryside, where the LGBT community has a storied past with a number of charming small towns in New England.



on the cover:
Atticus Ranck
 photographed by
Carina Mask
 at the
W Fort Lauderdale.



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012



020



064

DEPARTMENTS

012 • in tune

Take a page from one of the selections in this issue, where renditions, covers and recollections feel fresh and original.

014 • statement pieces

Walk about town wearing a few funky pieces that keep you dressed down and casual without skimping an ounce of style.

016 • chez moi

It's raining. Again. Stay in. Make it a game night. You're welcome.

018 • get cultured

Life is decidedly rosier in the summer months. Pick up a few bottles of rosé to taste — and toast — the season.

020 • the dish

In South Florida, Latinos have showcased and elevated their many distinctive national flavors for all to enjoy.

022 • after hours

You don't have to settle for 24-hour drive-thru dining just because it's after dark. Here are a few suggestions that will satiate any late-night craving.

054 • on trend

This coming season keep the party going for a cause and impress your accountant with your brilliance by hitting up the charity circuit.

056 • scoreboard

The Goffers hit the greens for some golf that is serious fun.

058 • health check

Prostate cancer is no joke. Here's a rundown of the signs to keep in mind and what to ask when you head to a doctor.

060 • serious business

From impromptu operation to local institution, Herb Sosa shares his insight. Here's what the Unity Coalition | Coalición Unida has in store.

062 • the scene

Were you there? Find out who was at this year's Diversity Honors gala, Amethyst Gala, OUTCon and Key West Pride.

064 • out & about

Mark your calendar! Concerts and other outdoor activities close out the dog days.

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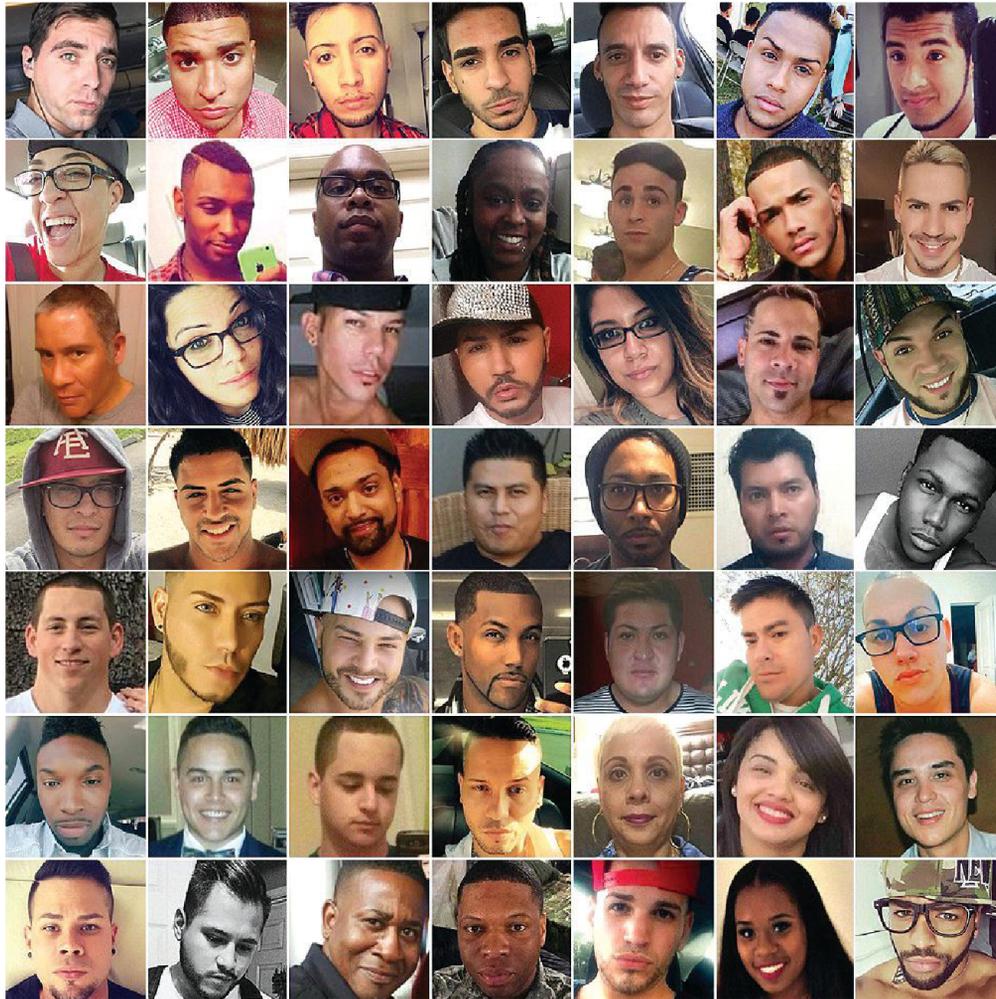
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WE ARE ORLANDO

As our community continues healing, we offer our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the 49 people who lost their lives at the Pulse night club on June 12th.

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TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER



The Miami Herald Media Company
stands in support of the Orlando LGBT community,
and all those affected by the PULSE nightclub tragedy.
Your strength inspires us all.

To donate, visit Equality Florida's Pulse Victims Fund at gofundme.com/PulseVictimsFund.

WE ASKED

How do you
pay it forward?



ANGEL RAIGOZA

DJ Kyd

A smile goes a long way, but bending over backwards makes it memorable. In my line of work you find many people just trying to find relief from day-to-day life. Keeping that dance floor moving is a must, but taking that extra step to play that request and mixing it just right, that's when they never forget you. When you're in a position to brighten up someone's day, or night, do it. Then when your finished, do it again. Blessings come in all shapes and forms. What may be small to you might be huge for someone else.



JOAN SCHAEFFER

*Community Liaison for
Adult LGBT Services*

Jewish Community Services of South Florida I am a proponent of paying it forward, and I deeply believe that when I do, I benefit more than anyone else, so it's a win-win. I try to cover my bases when choosing how I do this. I have some pet projects I enjoy giving to, but I also like to do things for entities that are new to me. I know that whatever goes outward eventually comes back to me, sometimes in unexpected ways. We are all connected, and deep down want the same general things from life. We are stronger together and can create a very strong energy when we all pay it forward. I also believe that when we stretch ourselves beyond what is comfortable, we reap great rewards of many sorts, and I try to remind myself of this.



THOMAS RYAN

Retired FDNY Firefighter

I retired because of 9/11. In the aftermath of 9/11, people all across America sent packages to NYC firehouses, and thousands stopped by in person, with the hope of helping. It built into me an even stronger desire to give back. I started to go to schools, civic groups, anywhere I could to share my experience. I wanted to pay forward what was given to me by strangers. I went to Louisiana after hurricane Rita, and I felt the need to pay it forward for the LGBT massacre in Orlando. I tried to give blood, but was rejected because I'm a gay man. I protested at the One Blood bus. I will partake in a massive fundraiser for AIDS Help of Monroe County for eight weeks and run for King of Fantasy Fest 2016.



KIOWA CATLIN

*Musician, Composer, Actor
and Producer*

My music is the spiritual expression of what I am — my experiences, discovering of truths, which have formed my own faith, my knowledge, my being. When you begin to see the endless possibilities of music, you desire to do something really good for people, to help humanity heal and free itself from its hang-ups and frustrations. Writing music and painting pictures with words, helps me overcome my past and enables me to become a positive part of my history. No matter what has happened in my past, I have decided to be the hero of my own story. Music, like laughter, is a universal healer.

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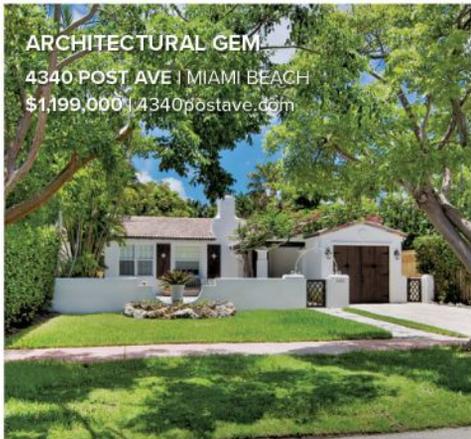
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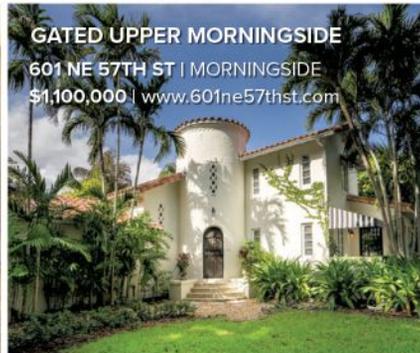
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GET CONNECTED



Steve Rothaus covers LGBT issues in South Florida and is also the *Miami Herald's* assistant community news editor. Don't forget to check out Steve Rothaus' Gay South Florida News in the *Miami Herald* and at miamiherald.com — and follow his Twitter account, @SteveRothaus — for the latest information about our community.



JULIE BALTER

Julie is a writer, yogi and calculated risk-taker. Her career has included everything from her 10+ years as a Screen Actors' Guild Florida Branch executive to her current role for LGBT-based marketing campaigns, such as Kiss for Equality. She's a former yoga instructor at Prana Yoga in Miami, the blog creator of *Yogi After Forty* and a contributing writer for *Elephant Journal*.
yogiafterforty.com



JUSTIN TRABERT

Justin has been in the fashion and luxury industry for over 18 years, during which he collaborated with such notable organizations as the Jeffrey store in New York City, Hugo Boss, Nanette Lepore and Y-3 Adidas. In his new role as the National Brand Ambassador for Christofle Paris, he is a leader in the home décor and gift market and a knowledgeable expert in both traditional and modern day etiquette training.



ANDREW PRINTER

Originally from England, Andrew is an artist, writer and photographer. Andrew's arts coverage has been recognized with three Press Club awards. His video-work has been broadcast internationally, and his photography is included in several national and private collections. He currently lives in Key West.
andrewprinter.com



CARINA MASK

A photographer based out of South Florida, Carina was taken ahold by wanderlust ever since she was little. She loves to travel and take photos of landscapes and portraits. Being half Japanese, she spent a lot of time overseas being exposed to different cultures. She has a passion for documenting and exploring how people from diverse backgrounds see the world.
SeaofColour.com



CHRISTINA MENDENHALL

Since she was a child, Christina has had a passion for photographing and filming an array of different subjects. She's been blessed with a gift for seeing the world in a unique way, and photography has given her the opportunity to explore this strange and beautiful world. She has documented everything from live music, people and street life to natural environments, sports, politics and architecture.
ThroughTheShutter.com



RICK KARLIN

Rick is an author, editor, columnist and playwright. In addition to *Palette* he has also been a contributor to *South Florida Gay News*, *Florida Agenda*, *boiMAGazine*, *OutTraveler.com*, *ChicagoPride.com*, *Metromix.com*, *Chicago Free Press*, *Wisconsin Gazette*, *Nightlines*, *Not for Tourists*, *Outlines*, *Windy City Times*, *Gay Chicago Magazine*, *Bay Area Reporter* and *GayLife*. He has written three novels, and dozens of his plays have been produced. The most recent was the musical *Witches Among Us*.

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER



They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and, as it turns out, it may also be a key to survival.

by GREGG SHAPIRO

Whether they're breathing new life into storied characters, covering beloved standards or revisiting the past, the following selections offer a fresh take on familiar content.

Going Cuckoo

Meryl Streep has many LGBT fans. Some fell in love with her as lesbian Jill Davis in *Manhattan* or as bisexual Clarissa Vaughan in *The Hours*. She's equally triumphant in the campy *Death Becomes Her* and the fashion-forward *The Devil Wears Prada*.

In Streep's latest film, *Florence Foster Jenkins*, the Oscar-winning actor stars as the titular character — a delusional socialite who bought her way onto the Carnegie Hall stage in the 1940s, despite not being

able to sing. Directed by Stephen Daldry, the film also features Hugh Grant as her husband/manager and Simon Helberg as her accompanist.

Songbirds

"Jazz isn't dead. It just smells funny," said the late Frank Zappa about this most American of musical genres. *Dream in the Blue* (Steel Bird) is a collaboration between jazz vocalist **Sara Gazarek** and pianist and composer **Josh Nelson**. The release combines inspired covers of familiar tunes along with captivating originals. The soaring "Blackbird/Bye Bye Blackbird," pairs the Beatles classic with Ray Henderson and Mort Dixon's songbook standard, and it colors the mood for what's to follow. Make that "Mood Indigo," which is also covered. Emotional renditions of "I Can't Make You Love Me" (made famous

by Bonnie Raitt) and Laura Mvula's "Father Father," flow nicely with Nelson's "All Again" and Gazarek and Nelson's "Behind Me." The effect is downright dreamy and has the aroma of a true winner.

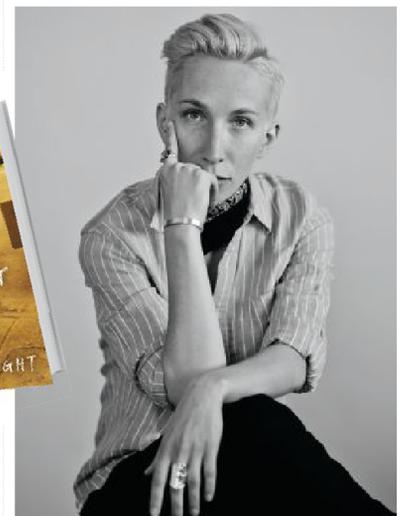
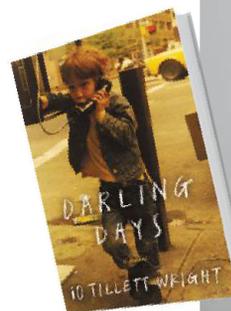
Out of the Nest

Darling Days is gender-queer writer and performer **iO Tillett Wright's** savage memoir about growing up with her mentally unstable, drug-addicted single mother, Rhonna. Written in a punk-prose style that owes a debt to Patti Smith, Wright sets the stage a few years before she was born in 1985 and concludes just before her 23rd birthday in 2008.

Based in Manhattan's Lower East Side — long before gentrification turned the neighborhood into real estate gold — the two women navigate their way through junkies nodding off at their doorstep and other terrifying encounters.

But the dangers outside are nothing compared to what Wright endures living with Rhonna. In this volatile setting, Wright develops the survival skills that eventually pay off at school and in other social situations, as she explores her own fluid gender identity and sexuality. Touching on trans issues, queer and straight relationships, a challenging family life and her own quest for love and stability, *Darling Days* pulls readers into truly dark spaces and then delivers them safely into hope. •

• From top: Meryl Streep as the titular character in *Florence Foster Jenkins*; *Darling Days* author iO Tillett Wright



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2



3

There's nothing better than ice cream on a hot summer day... except ice cream socks!

4



5

CITY WALK

The concrete jungle is your oasis. Hit the city streets looking super fly in threads that are cheeky and effortlessly cool.

Street style is real, functional and inspirational. Countless fashion designers take their cues from the veritable show they see parading up and down everyday thoroughfares. In the summer, days are long and work and schooling tends to be more relaxed, so it's the perfect time to step out and show off your fashion sense. Walk your dog. Even her leash can make a statement. Do a little writing or doodling and let your journal speak volumes for what you like. Or let your T-shirt do the talking. Avoid the sun with a cheeky cap and keep cool with a pair of shorts and sandals. Take everything you need in a backpack that can make it through TSA check-in. Make an everyday outing your moment in the spotlight. Go ahead: Strut your stuff! •

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6

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7

“THE BEST FASHION SHOW IS DEFINITELY ON THE STREET. ALWAYS HAS BEEN. ALWAYS WILL BE.”

– Bill Cunningham



9

8



10



1

Dreamed up by locals, Victoria Brewer and Alys Daly, this board game can be ordered at landingmrright.com!



2



3

GAME ON!

Hit hosting pay dirt by organizing your very own game night.

If you love to entertain but are fresh out of ideas, score points as the host that truly thinks outside the box by harking back to your earliest days having friends over. Just break out the board games and playing cards, and stay in for a classic game night! Not only will you avoid the crowds, parking fees and any inclement weather, but you won't need a DD. Whether you go the traditional route with Monopoly and Risk or opt for something newer — like Cards Against Humanity — you're sure to hit a sweet spot: equal parts laid-back get-together and creative crowd-pleaser. Step up your game with some playful cocktails and a few bite-size treats, and who knows? This might even become your signature event.



4



5



6

where to buy

1. Jacques Game Table: Jonathan Adler, Miami Design District; 4040 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.0200; jonathanadler.com
2. Landing Mr. Right Board Game: Babalu Palm Beach; 21 Via Mizner; 561.659.6662; ilovebabalu.com
3. Nachtmann Highland Tumblers: Bed Bath & Beyond; 19205 Biscayne Blvd., Aventura; 305.935.6244; bedbathandbeyond.com
4. Snow Leopard Faux Fur Beanbag: PB Teen; pbteen.com
5. Crushed Bamboo Swoop Serving Bowl: Sur La Table, Shops at Pembroke Gardens; 301 SW 145th Terr.; 954.266.3510; surlatable.com
6. DC Comics Bombshells Playing Cards: Hot Topic, The Falls; 8888 SW 136 St., Miami; 305.256.3840; hottopic.com



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TICKLED PINK

Summers are hot, long and best enjoyed with a chilled glass of rosé.

by SARA LISS

There was a time when magnums of Champagne signified largesse at swanky soirées and high-end brunches. But a blush-colored sea change has washed up on our sybaritic shores, and rosé wines have become the summertime beverage of choice.

• Château Minuty's Cuvée M rosé



Local Affinity

This rosé fascination makes perfect sense in South Florida. The sky dissolves into a spectrum of pastels with every sunset, and South Beach's Art Deco buildings are colored in a variety of coral hues. Plus, there's just something about it that encourages celebration. It feels right to order a cheese platter and a few bottles of chilled rosé at The Standard Spa, Miami Beach to watch the weekend recede. It's such a perfect fit that the hotel's waterfront Lido Bayside Grill offers more than 30 ways to enjoy it: by the glass or bottle, in magnums, three liters, cocktails and even as a frozen slushie-like treat aptly called f'rosé.

"Rosé is a universal choice for all occasions and all people," says Amy Demoga, the hotel's beverage director. "[It] doesn't take itself too seriously. It can be casual; it can be elegant; but it's always a fun wine."

Belle of the Ball

Originally from France's Provence region, rosé is believed to be the oldest kind of wine in the world. It is an intermediate style between red and white, taking its heft and color from different red grape varieties and its light, fresh character and fruit-forward qualities from white ones. It is traditionally dry and crisp, boasting luscious fruit flavor and refreshingly high acidity.

While these wines have enjoyed varying degrees of popularity in Europe for centuries, they haven't always garnered respect from American oenophiles. But that view has changed. In 2015 there was even a rosé shortage.

Fortunately, last year's wet spring, followed by a particularly dry, hot summer, resulted in some exceptional wines. Château Minuty's Cuvée M from St. Tropez is one of the year's standouts. It features an aromatic blend of grenache, tibouren and cinsault grapes and a perfect pale pink hue.

Winemaker Philippe Guigal — whose Vins Guigal boasts more than 50 vintages — says 2015 is a "vintage of a lifetime." Their own Côtes du Rhone Rosé is bursting with red fruit and pairs well with barbecue fare.

Famous Friends

In 2012, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt bought the Château Miraval estate in Provence and released their first vintage to rave reviews and a virtual sell out. Their 2014 is a beautiful salmon pink in the glass and has distinct berry notes.

Instagram comedy phenom, Fat Jew, recently partnered with White Girl Wine to release White Girl Rosé. And this kind of pop culture collaboration is not at all unusual. This year's bottle of Magic Maker rosé by SAVED was designed by celebrity tattoo artist Scott Campbell.

"Rosé wine, both still and sparkling, is having a renaissance in Miami," says Syed Ali, director of food and beverage at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach. The hotel's Mediterranean eatery, La Côte, is a haven for rosé enthusiasts. "It's a fun and frivolous wine that doesn't have a pretentious bone in its body."

Now, it can even be served on the rocks thanks to the venerable house of Moët & Chandon. Its popular Ice Impériale was followed by this year's introduction of Ice Impérial Rosé. Launched in just a handful of cities early this summer, one of the target markets was Miami. It's incredibly easy to drink and playful.

There are plenty of spots around town where you can enjoy a chilled glass. At the splashy new Driftwood Room at Nautilus, a SIXTY Hotel on South Beach the Sunday brunch includes free-flowing Château d'Esclans Whispering Angel rosé instead of the traditional bubbly.

"It's not as heavy as red wine and smoother than most white wines," says Steven Hiblum, general manager at Nautilus. "Hence why rosé is commonly referred to as summer water." •

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BOLD & FLAVORFUL

South Florida is the gateway to Latin America, so set off on a journey with flavor.

by JOHN DANGARAN

South Florida is known for its diverse Latin American cultural landscape. If it's Latino, you can bet you'll find it here — from juicy Argentine cuts of beef to Cuban classics and everything in-between. Here are a few selections of the flavors that make this the best place in the country to sample Latin fare.

Iberian Tendencies

Coral Gables' wildly successful **Bulla Gastrobar** is now even more accessible. Having expanded its popular Spanish tapas concept to Doral, the new Bulla doesn't fail to

impress at any hour, whether that's brunch on the weekend with the family, a quick workday lunch with friends or a casual dinner date.

The restaurant plays to its strengths with the Spanish bar top and open kitchen getting all the attention. But the heart and soul of Bulla is, of course, the menu, which is comprised of traditional Spanish and Catalan dishes reimaged in modern and playful ways. The signature dish, Huevos 'Bulla,' is a favorite — with good reason. It's a play on *huevos estrellados*, featuring two fried eggs topped with Serrano ham on a bed of homemade potato chips and potato

foam with truffle oil. Other favorites include the Cochinitillo Hash — shredded suckling pig with jumbo poached eggs, breakfast potatoes and salsa rosa — and the bite-size braised short rib sandwiches called Montaditos De Costilla. For a communal experience, try the paella, a large, family style portion of bomba rice, calamari, king prawn, clams, shrimp, hake, red sofrito and saffron. *5335 NW 87th Ave., #C102 Doral 305.260.6543 bullagastrobar.com*

Divine Fare

One thing you don't see very often in South Florida is upscale Mexican cuisine. The chef and owner of **Eduardo De San Angel**, Eduardo Pria, wants to ensure that the concept of Mexican dishes here goes beyond the notion of burritos or tacos served with chips and salsa. Chef Pria presents a menu chock-full of Mexican spices and flavors that is internationally inspired —

● PM Buenos Aires Fish & Steak House's Prime Tuna; Inset: interior of PM Buenos Aires

a nod to his early culinary exploits in San Sebastián, Madrid, Ibiza, Paris and Rome. The result is a refreshing culinary destination for those weary of the usual Tex-Mex and California-Mex style eateries.

Don't be afraid to let your server be your guide. Most of them are quite knowledgeable about the menu options, and while you will only find beer and wine on the beverage list, the restaurant does offer a large selection of the wines by the glass. The sangria and margarita with agave wine are two refreshing alternatives that you shouldn't miss.

As for the food, the menu's hidden gem is the cilantro soup, a creamy concoction with just a hint of heat and a tamale hidden at the bottom of the bowl. The grilled cactus paddle served with pork loin and guajillo chile is a delight, and the carne asada with rice and black beans is always a crowd pleaser.

*2822 E Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale
954.772.4731
eduardodesamangel.com*

Royal Treatment

Just a short walk from Mallory Square and its famous sunset-viewing vantage point is a small shack that boasts some of the best Cuban coffee in the Keys. And while the **Cuban Coffee Queen** does indeed serve up a great *café con leche* — with a name like that, expectations run high — don't underestimate the little window's food offerings. At the top of the breakfast menu is the go-to: The Keywester sandwich features two eggs, American cheese and a choice of meat — ham, bacon, sausage, chorizo or pork — pressed into a morning version of its iconic Cuban cousin. If you want something lighter, they also make killer smoothies, salads and desserts. They might not have formal seating, but the options make improvising part of the experience.

The Cuban Coffee Queen opens at 6:30 a.m. daily, so you can kick off

your day the right way. Just know that if you want to get your order first thing in the morning, you may have to get behind a few deck-hands grabbing their caffeine fix before casting off. Stay strong. It's well worth the wait.

*284 Margaret Street
Key West
305.292.4747
cubancoffeequeen.com*

Homemade Goodness

Little Havana, as the name implies, has historically been the heart of Miami's vibrant Cuban community. But it's also the setting for an authentic Mexican experience. Nothing is fancy at **Mi Rinconcito Mexicano**, and that's the point. Basic plastic tables and chairs fill a brightly lit space. You can tell right away it's the kind of place where portions are served with a ladle, not a scale or measuring cup. The ladies who run the kitchen (there's only ever been women back there when I've dined in) create dishes with a comforting, home cooked quality. There are no surprises. The *tortas* (Mexican sandwiches) are enormous; the Milanese de Res (breaded beef) is outstanding; and it's difficult to pick just one of the tacos, but the Barbacoa de Borrego (lamb barbecue) and Carnitas de Cerdo (shredded pork) are popular favorites. The enchiladas and burritos have yet to disappoint. When you go, take advantage of the free parking out back. It's a rare amenity in this part of town.

*1961 SW 8th Street
Miami
305.644.4015
mirinconcitomexicanoenmiami.com*

Southward Bound

To stand out among the crowd of steak houses in South Florida is an achievement in and of itself, so one that can break away from the chophouse mold and add a dose of Latin flavor is sure to leave an impression. **PM Buenos Aires Fish & Steak House** is just that. Starting

with its tribute to Puerto Madero — the waterfront district in Buenos Aires — PM easily caters to both *porteños* (Argentines from the capital city) and locals alike. The ambience at the restaurant is as reminiscent of steak houses in that city as the menu, with indoor and outdoor dining spaces that feature exposed red brick and dark- and light-wood walkways.

Not only does PM offer a variety of USDA prime cuts of beef and a selection of wagyu specialties, it also invites patrons to break away from the old adage of never ordering fish at a steak house. The impressive selection of fish could rival any seafood eatery on the wharf. Take your pick from Norwegian salmon, Chilean seabass, Alaskan black cod, Mediterranean bronzino or a wide array of shellfish dishes. And don't forget to hit the full bar, which serves specialty cocktails, including the Tierra del Fuego, Madero and El Tigre, as well as a number of choice South American wines from an extensive list.

*1453 South Miami Avenue
Miami*

*305.200.5606
pmrestaurantes.com*

• Ensalada de Pulpo
at Bulla Gastrobar



UP ALL NIGHT



These late-night eats offer plenty for those with munchies.

by SHAYNE BENOWITZ

When hunger strikes at the end of a great night out, you've gotta know what's open late. From cheesesteaks in Key West to braised pork lo mein at a trendy Miami Beach hotel, here's your guide to the best of South Florida's late night eats.

Grilled Cheese, Please!

A no-frills joint in the heart of the Wilton Manors strip, **New York Grilled Cheese** knows what everyone craves after dark.

What to Order: The Broadway Classic is an ooey-goopy lifesaver with melted Swiss and American cheese beautifully blended in garlic butter-brushed sourdough and served with tomato bisque for dipping.

Open Until: 4 a.m. Friday & Saturday; 3 a.m. Thursday & Sunday; and 11 p.m. Monday–Wednesday

Location: 2207 Wilton Dr., Wilton Manors; 954.564.6887
newyorkgrilledcheese.com

Burgers on the Intracoastal

A ramshackle al fresco saloon on the Intracoastal waterway, **Le Tub** offers late-night bites with a side of Old Florida charm.

What to Order: Their award-winning Sirloin Burger with Swiss cheese is a must-try. The 13-ounce ground top sirloin patty is chargrilled and dressed with lettuce, tomato and onions. Save room for the homemade Key lime pie.

Open Until: 2 a.m. weekends and 1 a.m. weekdays

Location: 1100 N. Ocean Dr., Hollywood; 954.921.9425

theletub.com

Asian Fusion Feast

Next door to Bardot lounge (and under the same ownership), **Gigi** is a late-night Midtown Miami staple that features crave-worthy Asian-fusion dishes that hold up well in daylight hours, too.

What to Order: Everything! The tapas-style menu is perfect for sharing. Don't miss the pork buns with tomato jam and crispy onions; Brussels sprouts with cauliflower, bacon and soy; or the churrasco chow fun noodles with bone marrow butter. The \$1 homemade mini soft-serve cone makes for a perfect finale.

Open Until: 5 a.m. Thursday–Saturday; 3 a.m. Tuesday–Wednesday; and midnight Sunday–Tuesday

Location: 3470 N. Miami Ave., Miami; 305.573.1520
giginow.com

Late Night Noodles

A newcomer to the Miami Beach scene by “Top Chef” contestant Dale **Talde**, his eponymous high-energy restaurant and lounge inside The Confidante hotel is where you can keep the party going into the wee hours — while you enjoy sriracha-slathered tater tots, of course.

What to Order: The aforementioned tots are a hit. Also try the samosas with sweet peas and kefir lime yogurt, bacon dumplings with shrimp and kale and the braised pork shank lo mein with pickled mustard greens.

Open Until: 4 a.m. Thursday–Saturday, 1 a.m. Sunday–Wednesday

Location: 4041 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; 786-605-4094

taldemiamibeach.com

One Baguette at Dawn

Across the street from South Beach's notorious Mac's Club Deuce, **La Sandwicherie**'s counter is open all night, serving up surprisingly fresh fare that's just as tempting for a picnic at the beach as it is at the break of dawn.

What to Order: Get chicken salad on a croissant with everything — lettuce, tomato, green and hot peppers, black olives, onions, cucumbers, cornichons, mayonnaise and French vinaigrette. Bottles of the vinaigrette line the counter. Don't be shy and squirt more on your sandwich. It's that good.

Open Until: 6 a.m. Friday & Saturday; 5 a.m. Sunday–Thursday

Location: 229 14th St., South Beach; 305.532.8934

lasandwicherie.com

Cheesesteaks in Paradise

When the lights come on at the Green Parrot or 801 Bourbon, make a beeline down the street to **Mr. Z's** for cheesesteak or a slice.

What to Order: Try their famous cheesesteak or a slice of pepperoni doused in hot sauce.

Open Until: 4 a.m. nightly

Location: 501 Southard St., Key West; 305.296.4445

mrzskewest.com

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ORLANDO STRONG



IN THE FACE OF UNSPEAKABLE HORROR, WHAT'S LEFT ARE THE STORIES. THESE PIECES OF SHARED EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM HAVE THE POWER TO HEAL, GIVE LOST ONES A VOICE AND PROVIDE FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH A FIGHTING CHANCE AT CHANGING THE STATE OF AFFAIRS. BY SOLE SASTRE



B

y now the American public is familiar with the tragic events of June 12. The country awoke to the news that yet another mass shooting had taken place, this time at an Orlando night club: Pulse. As the hours passed, an increasingly familiar roster of details pieced together a grisly story. A lone gunman with high-powered weaponry. A stand-off with police. Frantic texts and phone calls. A hostage situation. Unbelievable acts of bravery. Forlorn mothers. Devastated friends. What had begun as a commonplace Saturday night outing to a popular LGBT club hosting its regular Latin night would become the worst mass shooting in U.S. history, resulting in at least 53 injured and 49 dead.

That last number would capture the imagination of a country in mourning. Individuals and organizations, businesses and community leaders mobilized to lend their support with everything from blood donations and food for those waiting in line to help moving cars whose owners were not coming back. LGBT groups organized impromptu vigils from towns as close as Tampa and Miami Beach to cities around the world, including London. Half way through national Pride month, festivals across the country increased security and paid their respects.

Wilton Manors' Stonewall Parade and Street Festival coordinated with Latinos Salud to hold a special procession before the parade. In near silence, 49 participants dressed in white carried signs, each with the name of a shooting victim. The Human Rights Campaign in conjunction with Emmy Award-winning screenwriter, director and producer Ryan Murphy and 49 celebrities created a video in honor of the fallen. At the end of the 18-minute tribute video, viewers are directed to take action by visiting healorlando.org to donate, volunteer or assist in other ways like contacting legislators to push for passage of LGBT protections as well as gun violence prevention measures. Well-wishers and loved ones adorned 49 crosses that became part of a make-shift memorial near the emergency room of the Orlando Regional Medical Center, where most of the victims were taken. A month later, the crosses were moved to Orange County Regional History Museum in an effort to promote healing in the city. An unlikely coalition of gun-control advocates that included groups as varied as the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the LGBTQ advocacy group Equality Florida and Unite Here — which represents hotel, airport and gaming

employees — staged a 49-hour sit-in at Senator Marco Rubio's Orlando office. Protesting an hour for each victim, they wanted to call attention to inaction on gun-control reform.

"Our community understands being discriminated against, understands attacks against it," says Herb Sosa, one of the founders of the Unity Coalition/Coalición Unida and currently that organization's volunteer executive director. "We certainly won't forget. And we will keep the memories of all those individuals alive. We have to, because those are real people. They weren't numbers. They weren't statistics."

Dr. Stephen Fallon, executive director at Latinos Salud, works with young, gay Latino men daily. Like so many others, he was touched by the massacre and frustrated at the hate that caused it. But he was also concerned that with all the coverage the tragedy rightfully received, almost none of it elaborated on the Latino aspect of the story. He said his organization raised the issue at the United with Orlando event held by the city of Fort Lauderdale and at the Memorial at the Museum gathering at the NSU Art Museum. "We felt that the media's initial silence was deafening, regarding the gunman's targeting a Latin gay night," he says. But before long individual stories started telling a more colorful tale of who these people were beyond simply being victims.

Social media is an equalizer that can take a story that would otherwise have a single narrative and give voice to all those who want to add their piece to it. In that way, we have come to learn that Stanley Almodovar



SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE

Our hearts were broken on June 12, and even with all the monetary donations that poured in and time that was volunteered, people need to make a connection. You can share your message of love and hope at weareorlando.org/message-of-hope.html

III wasn't just a brave soul who pushed people out of harms way that evening. He loved to try out different looks, often changing his hair color and style. Jean Carlos Nieves Rodriguez had purchased his first home last spring, and Deonka Deidra Drayton expressed herself by writing poetry. Together for 16 years, Juan Pablo Rivera Velazquez and Luis Daniel Conde owned a hair salon. They also died together on that fateful night. As did Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon and Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, who met at a perfume shop, fell in love and had an eight-year relationship. Javier Jorge-Reyes loved fashion, and Shane Evan Tomlinson was the lead singer of a band. Brenda Lee Marquez McCool was dancing salsa that night with her son, something she loved to do. Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz was also an avid dancer, and Franky Jimmy De Jesús Velazquez had even been able to travel the world thanks to that very talent. Juan Chavez-Martinez was a kind man and a housekeeping supervisor, beloved by those who worked with him. Jerald Arthur Wright had a dog named Rusty, and Antonio Davon Brown did a tour of duty in Kuwait. Miguel Angel Honorato was a big soccer fan and a father of three boys.

Several had moved recently with dreams and goals in tow. Anthony Luis Laureano Disla moved from Puerto Rico to pursue his dream of becoming a choreographer, while K.J. Morris had moved from Hawaii, working to help her family. Alejandro Barrios Martinez was learning English, having just moved from Cuba two years ago.

Edward Sotomayor Jr. was the person responsible for coordinating the first-ever gay cruise to Cuba. Frankie Hernandez had a tattoo on his arm that read love has no gender. Akyra Monet Murray was 18 years old and had just graduated high school, third in her class. She was headed for college on a full scholarship. Joel Rayon Paniagua worked in construction to help his family back in Mexico. Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega was an assistant producer on Telemundo's "La Voz Kids." Yilmery Rodriguez Sullivan was treating herself to a night out with friends after having her second baby — that baby was three months old. Pop music fan Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez was in Orlando for a Selena Gomez concert. Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez was studying health care management and loved Saint Bernards. Mercedes Marisol Flores studied literature. Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz loved drawing. Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala had recently become a first-time home owner. Paul Terrell Henry was a self-taught piano and organ player. Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado had a 5-year-old son. Tevin Eugene Crosby was a young business owner with 20 employees. Amanda



#KEEPDANCINGORLANDO.COM

Latin night at just about any night club around the world invariably means one thing: dancing. Many artists already know their work promotes healing, so dance for life, dance for the joy of it and visit keepdancingorlando.com to share your moves.

Alvear was studying to be a nurse. Eddie Justice was an accountant. Angel Luis Candelario-Padro loved to help people get in shape as a Zumba instructor. Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez and Oscar Aracena-Montero had just come back from their vacation to Canada. They were among several couples who died together that night. Young Jason Benjamin Josaphat was just 19 and had been on the cheer squad in high school. Leroy Valentin Fernandez loved to blast Adele at work. Enrique Rios Jr. attended church regularly and was in town to celebrate a friend's birthday. Darryl Roman Burt II had just completed his masters degree. Cory James Connell was working toward becoming a firefighter. Martin Benitez Torres was a pharmacy student. Luis Vielma worked at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, where staff and park guests gathered outside Hogwarts castle to raise their wands in his honor. Omar Ocasio-Capo wanted to become a professional dancer and actor. Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera had gotten married less than a year ago. Juan Ramon Guerrero and Christopher Andrew Leinonen were madly in love. They too died together at Pulse.

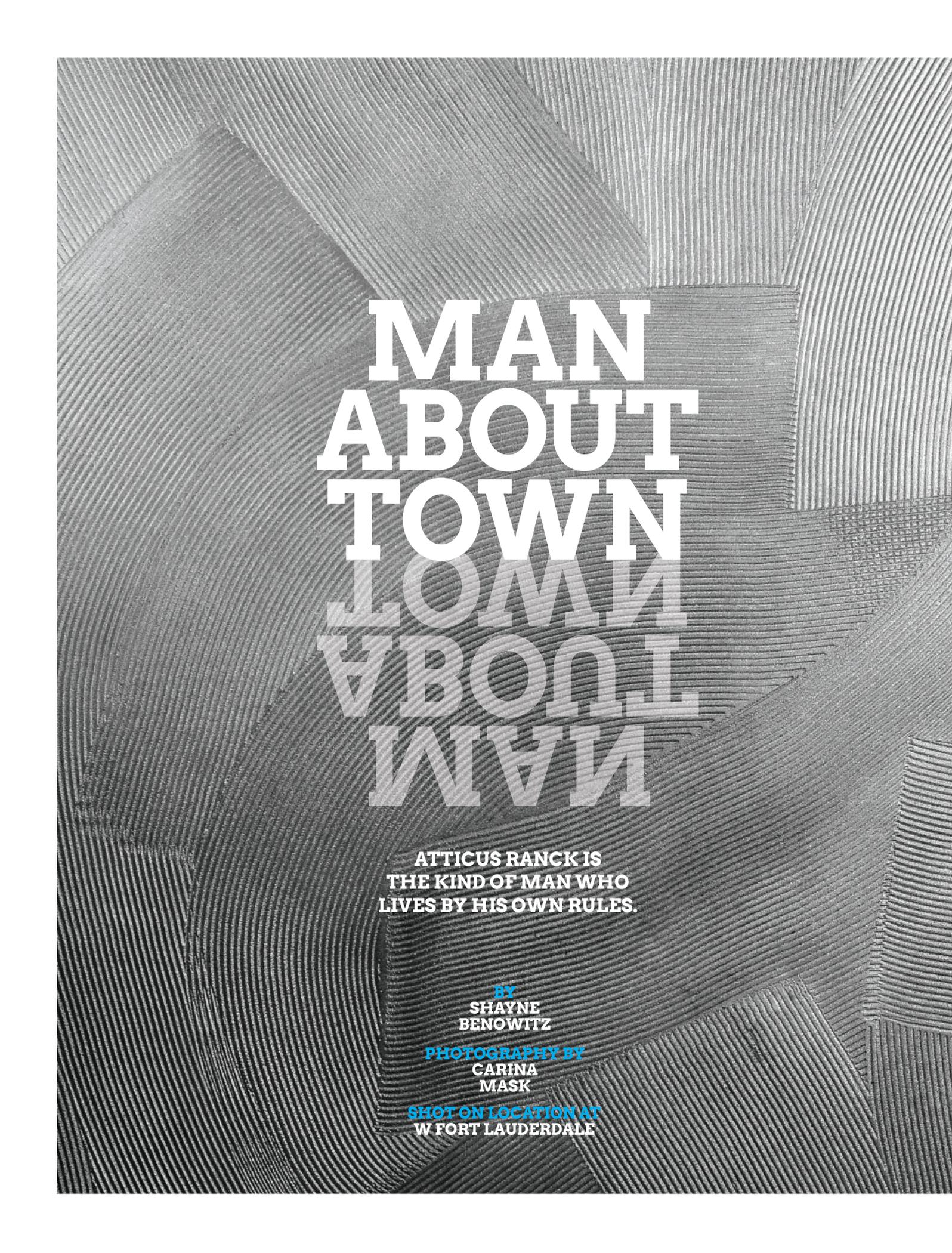
Not long after the initial news reports, survivors were able to share their harrowing stories, as well. One of the first to do so was Angel Colon, who tried to flee with a friend and was shot three times and trampled. He was shot two more times before being rescued by an unknown officer who had to drag his body across broken glass to get him to safety. His unlikely story of survival painted a vivid picture of the dread felt by those who spent hours trying to escape the scene and the heroism and dedication of the cops, first responders and medical teams that set the stage for healing to begin in earnest.

"These were families," says Sosa. "These were sons and daughters and cousins and neighbors and coworkers." And that is how they will be remembered.

May those who left us rest in peace, and may those fortunate enough to survive continue to share their stories. The best way to pay our respects is to listen and pass on a message of love. #WeAreOrlando•



Clockwise from top left: Al Diaz / Miami Herald; Emily Michor / Miami Herald; Christina Mendonca / [?]



MAN ABOUT TOWN LOW ABOUT MAN

ATTICUS RANCK IS
THE KIND OF MAN WHO
LIVES BY HIS OWN RULES.

BY
SHAYNE
BENOWITZ

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
CARINA
MASK

SHOT ON LOCATION AT
W FORT LAUDERDALE





IT WAS A LONG JOURNEY

for Atticus Ranck to become the man he is today. As the Director of Transgender Services at the Wilton Manors non-profit LGBT agency, SunServe, he works as an advocate and educator for South Florida's transgender community. Through the organization he provides clients with employment, housing, health care and recovery resources, as well as assistance with legal matters like changing names and gender markers on birth certificates. Hearing him speak, you would think he's been doing this for a long time. In a way, he has.

SMALL TOWN KID

It was exactly three years ago, in August 2013, that Ranck first visited SunServe for counseling during his own transition. In a small, cozy therapy room at SunServe, Ranck sat down to tell me his story, dressed in stylish navy track pants, a grey and blue striped T-shirt and gray Vans. Ranck has a well-groomed beard and a square jaw line. His demeanor is upbeat and open. He is accustomed to talking about his experience. Nonetheless, he still lets out a deep breath and says, "You know, it's still scary, sometimes, being this vulnerable."

He was born in Lancaster, Penn., to a tight-knit, churchgoing family, and he describes his childhood as "idyllic." With three siblings, Ranck recalls being a tomboy, playing basketball from an early age and taking on field hockey, softball and track in high school.

"The easy version of the story would be: I'm a boy. I've always been a boy. I've always felt like a boy. I never felt female. But that wouldn't be true. It's so much more complex. As a kid, I was allowed to be a tomboy. My mom didn't care. I could wear clothes from the boy's side and there was nothing incongruous about it. It

was only in church where I had to wear a dress.”

It wasn't until puberty that Ranck began to question certain aspects of his growing femininity. In seventh grade, he decided to start shaving his legs. He recalls his mom was resistant to it, not wanting “her little girl” to grow up too quickly. He also remembers a particular shopping outing with his dad and older brother during which he tried on a pair of figure-hugging flare jeans. “I hated them. They were so uncomfortable,” Ranck recalls, but his dad and brother thought they looked good.

At 17, he fell for a girl. “I don't think I even realized

we were crossing the line between friendship and romance at the time,” he says. “We were very affectionate, and I just knew I wanted to be around her all the time.”

Their relationship progressed sexually, and a few weeks before senior year began, he was outed to his parents by his best friend. Ranck says the effects were devastating. He had always been a “good kid” and now his parents were upset and forbade him from being with his girlfriend. It was the first time he'd ever been in trouble.

“It was a complete 180,” he explains. “I questioned a lot of things. I was mad at my parents and confused.”

Plus, the rumor trickled through school. “Everybody knew, but no one confronted me,” he says. “It was this strange isolation.”

Senior year he spent a lot of time hiding in the closet, crying in the room that he shared with his two sisters. At school, he threw himself into cross-country and stuck by his sister at lunch time.

STRIKING OUT

It wasn't until freshman year in college at Slippery Rock University, an hour north of Pittsburgh, that he came out as a lesbian for the first time. “One of the boys on my cross-country team liked me. And he was the kind of guy I would've

liked, if I was attracted to men. That's when I knew.”

He got involved with the campus's LGBT group, RockOUT, and eventually became its president. He embraced his lesbian identity. College life progressed, and as he dated women he started to “feel more connected to masculine energy.” His looks became more androgynous and butch, especially when he cut his hair the summer before his senior year in college. He was also drinking a lot. “It was becoming an issue,” he recalls, “But it wasn't interfering with my grades.”

After graduating, he moved to Boca Raton to attend graduate





school at Florida Atlantic University, pursuing a masters degree in gender studies and working as a graduate teaching assistant. During the orientation, an older lesbian GTA said to him casually, "You're going to be a boy."

BECOMING A MAN

During his first year, he wrote a research paper on prosthetic penises. Shortly thereafter, he ordered one. They're designed as alternatives to bottom surgery and can be used for urination, sex and simply feeling like you have a penis. With his own prosthetic, he began actively exploring his gender identity for the first time. The girl he was dating used the male pronoun with him in private and he sought counseling at SunServe to talk about transitioning. Still, drinking remained an issue. "Once I started, I couldn't stop," Ranck explains. "I was blacking out every other time."

His turning point came during a surprisingly quotidian interaction with a grocery

store clerk who called him sir, instead of ma'am. "It made me so happy," Ranck says. "I wanted that all the time."

Of course, he was initially nervous about what it would mean to lose his lesbian feminist identity to become a straight man. "I realized, I can be whatever kind of man I want to be. I can still like women. I can still be a feminist."

He quotes the line from John Green's best selling novel, *The Fault in Our Stars*, to explain how he came to his decision to transition. "I fell in love the way you fall asleep: slowly, and then all at once." Four months after his first visit to SunServe, Ranck began hormone therapy. He legally changed his name to Atticus, noting that he liked both the way it sounded and the obvious connection to *To Kill a Mockingbird's* Atticus Finch who was a hero of social justice. He had his top surgery in February 2015. He says bottom surgery is an option he's open to considering when it's financially feasible.

“THE EASY VERSION OF THE STORY WOULD BE, I’M A BOY. I’VE ALWAYS BEEN A BOY. I’VE ALWAYS FELT LIKE A BOY.”



Once the decision to transition was made, though, the road ahead was not without its bumps. In April 2014, he hit rock bottom with his drinking. While he prefers not to elaborate on what got him there, he started attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and has been sober ever since. While there are few reliable studies, it's widely believed that 25 percent of transgender people suffer from substance abuse.

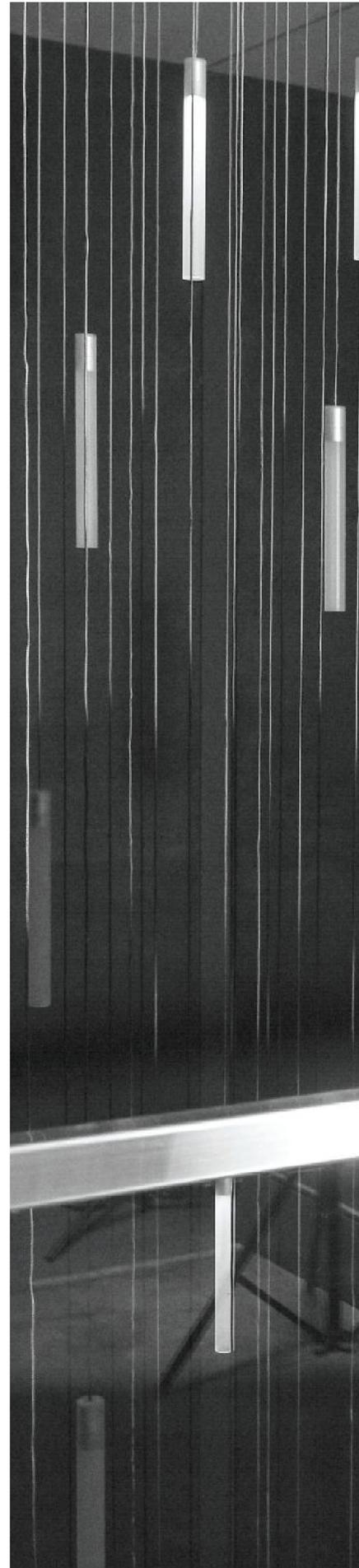
DO OVER

Ranck came out to his family as a transgender man over Thanksgiving in 2013, and while he says they still have trouble using the proper pronouns sometimes, they've grown to embrace their son for who he is. With all the recent controversy surrounding so-called bathroom bills, Ranck has been happy to see his father side with the transgender community. "He doesn't understand why [certain state legislatures] are making such a big deal."

Ranck's personal story is filled with the trials and growing pains we all go through on the road to adulthood — rebellion and conformity, bonds formed and broken, young love and the never-ending quest to become comfortable in your own skin. Only Ranck navigated these waters with the added confusion and isolation of defining his own sexual orientation and gender identity. As a testament, he emerged stronger and more at peace with himself. Today, he's a leading voice on transgender cultural awareness, speaking at various conferences, high schools and colleges across the country.

He's quick to caution that transitioning doesn't solve all of a transgender person's problems. As for him, he's still a work in progress, yet he takes immense comfort in looking at the mirror and seeing the right person looking back at him. In his body today, as a straight man, he says, "It's as close to home as I can get."•

**“I REALIZED,
I CAN BE
WHATEVER
KIND OF MAN
I WANT TO BE.
I CAN STILL
LIKE WOMEN.
I CAN STILL
BE A FEMINIST.”**





Style

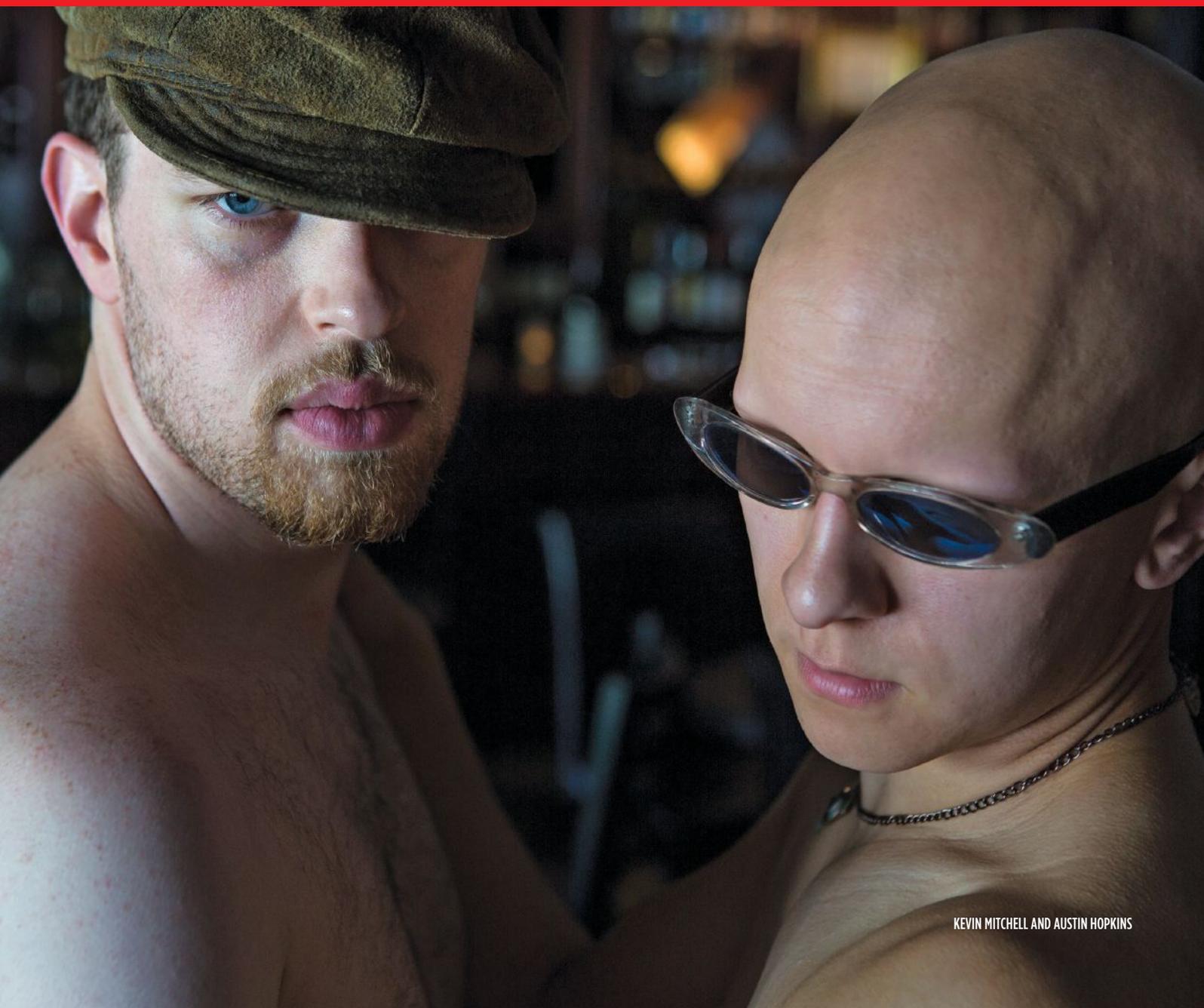
PHOTOS AND TEXT BY ANDREW PRINTER
PHOTO CIRCUS SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE LITTLE ROOM JAZZ CLUB AND WINE BAR.
MODEL: LACEY GINGER CAMPER

IF YOU WANT TO INDULGE IN YOUR PLAYFUL SIDE RUN
AWAY TO THE LAST KEY AND JOIN THE PHOTO CIRCUS.





Circus





FRANKIE POINTER



KATHLEEN DONAVON

One of the lesser known events in Key West — where grown-ups play pretend and showcase their more playful sides through costumes — is the Photo Circus. Dreamed up by Shawna Lacy Wynd, a longtime island resident and popular entertainer known locally as Frenchie, the annual event also provides professional photographers with access to a pool of diverse models, many of whom are local performers or aspiring models looking to update their portfolios. This year's shoot, with its gender-blending theme, was held at the Little Room Jazz Club and Wine Bar. Catch a glimpse of the magic that takes place when four photographers, two makeup professionals, 15 models and a videographer jockey for space and light — only in Key West!

At 6'2" Lacey Ginger Camper easily towers over the other models and photographers. She began the day in the violin room in a formidable *Cabaret* meets Ringling Bros. top hat and tails. She kicked off the shoot clearly poised to rule the gender-blending three-ring circus.





BRIAN GLASSBERG, ELLE TAYLOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER MIKE FREAS

An old suede laborer's cap and circa 1950s sunglasses were accessory enough for Kevin Mitchell and Austin Hopkins, who decided to make their first visit to Key West a memorable one. While most of the other models adorned themselves with feathers and fur, the Ohio couple opted for simpler garb and a more subtle approach, stealing away to a quiet, warmly sunlit corner of the club to enjoy an improvised dance lesson.

Frankie Pointer arrived late in the day, but came ready: in a form-fitting dress shirt and tie. She channeled no-nonsense masculinity, but it didn't stop her from savoring the perfume of a feathery pink corset lying abandoned on the wine bottle room floor. Even with feathers, there was nothing frilly about the looks Kathleen Donavon brought to the circus. For her first ensemble she melded tight black bondage gear with crow feathers and perched regally on her overstuffed throne.

Elle Taylor and her partner Brian Glassberg brought several suitcases bursting with costume jewelry, sequined suits and wigs. A professional performer, Elle wasted no time entertaining the other participants with some bar-top somersaults while she waited for her turn in front of local photographer Mike Freas' lens.

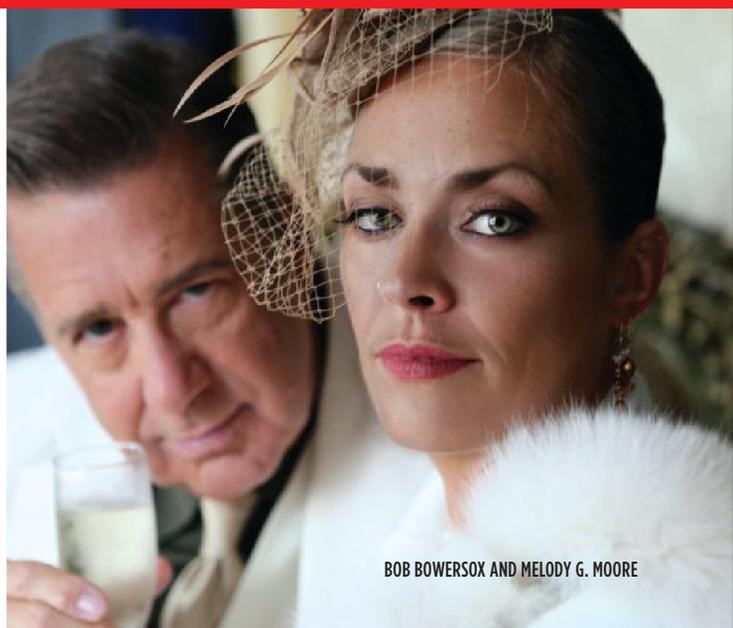
Zack Andrade-Konrad, Sean Callahan and Helena Fire Wynd settled into a classic family portrait configuration. Konrad's outfit was sleek, black and elegant with a hint of danger expressed through a single studded leather cuff. Callahan came with dozens of campy items, but in the end opted for a faux fur coat,



ZACK ANDRADE-KONRAD, SEAN CALLAHAN AND HELENA FIRE WYND

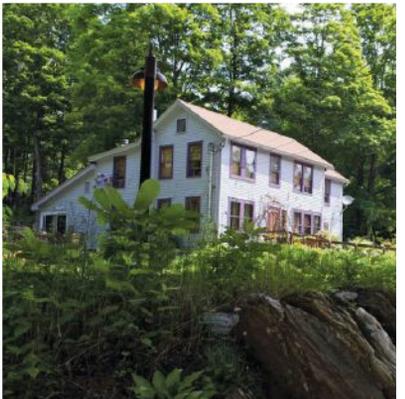
steam-punk top hat and silky Lady of Guadalupe trousers. Meanwhile, teenage Wynd chose a sensible shift dress, setting herself apart from her over-the-top elders.

Bob Bowersox and Melody G. Moore are fixtures of the local theater scene. Not surprisingly, they were able to pull a good selection of costumes and accessories from their personal wardrobe. Here, the real life couple chose an understated, aristocratic look. They sipped Champagne as they observed the lights, camera and action unfold. Despite the colorful chaos, Priscilla Arce maintained a quiet, elegant presence in her Gatsby-inspired look throughout the afternoon. And once all four photographers had finished working with her, she too relaxed with a well deserved cocktail. •



BOB BOWERSOX AND MELODY G. MOORE





Main photo: © Jonathan Welch / Alamy Stock Photo; Insets (from left): © Jennifer May; © Christopher Duggan; © Michelle Girard

HEAD TO THE BERKSHIRES
FOR A NEW ENGLAND
GETAWAY THAT
OFFERS A REFRESHINGLY
DIFFERENT SCENE.

Change of

PACE

BY JULIE BALTER



Opposite page: Zachery Kapeluck of BalletX
as the Captain in *Sunset, 0639 Hours*
at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.
This page: Fall foliage on Monument Mountain.



“Who goes to the BERKSHIRES?”

Nobody goes to the Berkshires,” quips Ramona Singer on “The Real Housewives of New York.” “The Berkshires is more for people who can’t afford the Hamptons!” While I would never argue per capita income with Ramona, I would agree: If you’re seeking a step-and-repeat red carpet scene or an arrive-in-your-helicopter oceanside retreat, then the Berkshires may not be a good destination for a second-home — or even a long-weekend getaway — for you.

But maybe you’re reading this while simmering poolside in South Florida, your sweltering summer imperceptibly slipping away into fall. Or maybe you’re sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic on the MacArthur Causeway (as a passenger, of course). Maybe you’re thinking that as much as you love the local *vida loca* and sun-soaked climate, it’s time to fly north.

Mountains flaming with gay rainbow-colored fall foliage? Sure, that’s nice, but what’s an über-cool queer like you going to

do in the country? Well, how about some world-class culture? Add to that a steady stream of social influencers from New York City and Boston and a local farm-to-table food revolution within one of the most scenic settings in the eastern United States.

South Floridians and gay friends of Ramona Singer, I give you the Berkshires! Setting: a patchwork of small towns in rural western Massachusetts all connected by high hills. Just two and a half hours from New York City, the area borders New York on the west and Connecticut and Vermont to the south and north, respectively.

The Berkshires is home to some of the most spectacular fall foliage displays, as well as acclaimed arts festivals like the Tanglewood Music Festival, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival and the Berkshire Theatre Festival. It’s also the historic home of artists and literati — think: Edith Wharton, Herman Melville and Norman Rockwell. Known for its storied inns, liberal attitudes and postcard

THE BERKSHIRES IS HOME TO SOME OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR FALL FOLIAGE DISPLAYS, AS WELL AS FAMOUS ARTS FESTIVALS LIKE JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL AND THE BERKSHIRE THEATRE FESTIVAL.





THE BERKSHIRES' AUTUMNAL EXPERIENCE IS ALL ABOUT THE APPLES, AND NONE ARE BETTER THAN THOSE AT BARTLETT'S ORCHARDS.



settings, the Berkshires practically kickstarted the gay destination wedding industry — long before the unions were even recognized.

Sorry, Ramona, but the Berkshires is actually a great progressive place that offers something for every type of traveler.

THE LEAF PEEPER

Let's start with the money shot. After all, you did leave behind a week at your local beach to see a five-star foliage show. For peak season, you'll want to arrive around mid-October. Recommended route: an eight-mile, high-drama ride with hairpin turns up Mount Greylock. At 3,491 feet, it is the highest natural point in Massachusetts and part of the Appalachian Trail. Hike it if you must, but if you're a Floridian through and through — more acclimated to sea-level — then may I suggest the more scalable

Monument Mountain, located just south in the funky little town of Great Barrington?

For a mash-up of scenic views, the deep gorges of Bash Bish Falls State Park, which straddles the border between Great Barrington and New York, offers a walk-in-the-woods-with-cascades experience. The falls are often ranked among the best in the state.

THE COFFEE WHORE

After you've climbed every mountain, spend a leisurely afternoon at a local coffee shop, where no one would dream of serving you in a paper cup. In West Stockbridge, try out Six Depot Roastery and Café, which is situated in an old train station and was recently voted the best coffee shop in New England by *Yankee Magazine*. Around the corner, you could sip on a beverage of



FOR MORE INFO

→ Berkshires, Massachusetts
//berkshires.org

→ Northampton, Massachusetts
//valleyvisitor.com

→ Hudson, New York
//gotohudson.net

Opposite page from top: Bittersweet chocolate torte with vanilla bean ice cream; classic spread at John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant.
This page: Apple picking at Bartlett's Orchards.

choice in front of the fireplace at Shaker Dam Coffeehouse. Adjacent is the gallery of photographer John Stanmeyer.

THE LOCAVORE

The Berkshires' autumnal experience is all about the apples, and none are better than those at Bartlett's Orchards. Here you'll find fresh-baked apple cider donuts made with fresh-squeezed apple cider — served piping hot or cooled — along with as many apple

varieties as you can imagine ready for purchase at the orchard's shop or to handpick directly from the orchards. Visit during full moon for a family-style dinner served in the gardens.

If by evening you need to bite on a different kind of fruit, you'll find a fine selection of the LGBT variety at Rumpy's Tavern in Lenox, a popular late-night spot. The rainbow sticker on the door's corner is hardly noticeable, but trust me, you'll feel at home.

THE FOODIE

In the Berkshires, you can skip the table and head directly to the farm for a fresh, organic and sophisticated meal. For a guide to all things local, pick up a copy of *Edible Berkshires*, a free magazine available at local co-ops and Guido's Fresh Marketplace. For the full table experience, try elegant organic fare in a rural



environment at John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant in Great Barrington. It was voted one of the World's 25 Best Farmstead Experiences by *The Daily Meal*. In downtown you'll also find the super cool Allium Restaurant + Bar, as well as casual Haven Cafe & Bakery, which has locations in Great Barrington and Lenox.

For a consummate fusion of flavor and atmosphere that's on-the-edge, make your way to The Dream Away Lodge in Becket. Once a 1920s speakeasy, it evolved into a 1960s hangout for the likes of Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. Today, the simple yet sophisticated cuisine made by chef Amy Loveless is often served alongside a hootenanny or the occasional gender-bending cabaret entertainer.

THE CULTURE VULTURE

Although summertime in the Berkshires is synonymous with performing arts festivals, fall is peak time for museum visits, when architecture and vistas seamlessly integrate with your tour. The north Berkshires boast two nationally acclaimed art museums. In Williamstown, the stunning Clark Art Institute — also known as The Clark — is known for its impressive collection of French Impressionists. The museum is situated on 140 acres of sprawling meadows and intricate hiking trails, with captivating views of Vermont's Green Mountains.

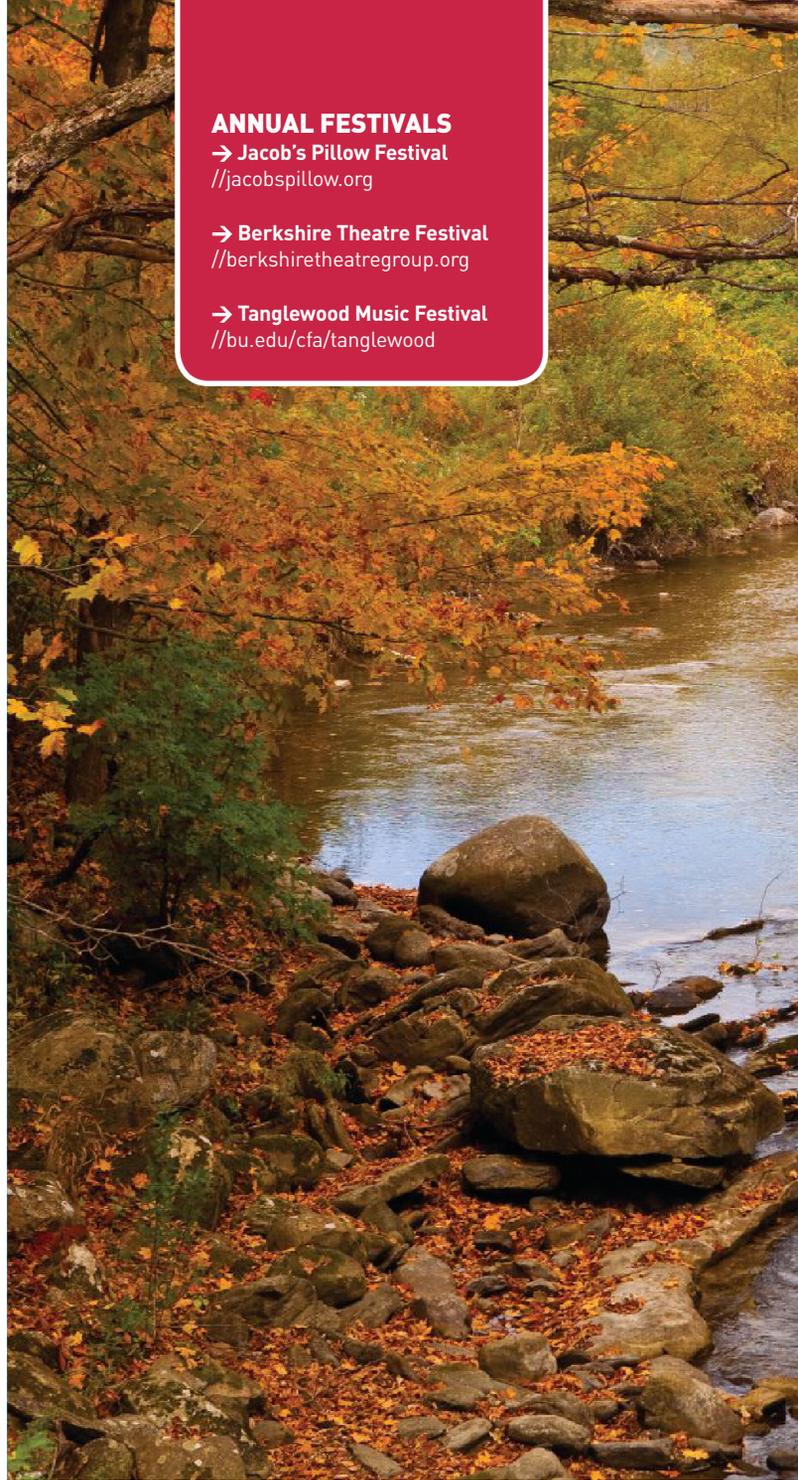
Nearby, North Adams is home to MASS MoCa, a world-famous contemporary visual art and performing arts center, located in a converted factory building complex. Be sure to check out their ongoing events, which could range from an outdoor silent film festival or a world music dance party to an avant-garde theater performance.

ANNUAL FESTIVALS

→ Jacob's Pillow Festival
[//jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org)

→ Berkshire Theatre Festival
[//berkshiretheatregroup.org](http://berkshiretheatregroup.org)

→ Tanglewood Music Festival
[//bu.edu/cfa/tanglewood](http://bu.edu/cfa/tanglewood)



For a more classic cultural affair, tour The Mount, Edith Wharton's sprawling turn-of-the-century residence and gardens. Located in Lenox, it is a hub of literary and cultural events that include readings with world-famous writers and concerts held on the porch and lawns. A storybook setting for a dreamy wedding, it's one of only five national landmarks dedicated to women.

DAY TRIPPERS, HIPSTERS AND LADY LOVERS

Approximately an hour east, Northampton, Mass. in the Pioneer Valley is home to the largest lesbian population, per capita, in the country. The crosswalks are rainbow colored, the bathrooms are unisex and nobody will blink twice at your blended family. Spend the day downtown counting couples and window shopping at the



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artsy and funky stores. In the evening head to Tunnel Bar, Pearl Street Nightclub or The Deuce, which showcases Bon Appétit, a “women-friendly, body-positive” neo-burlesque show.

Just west of the Berkshires is Hudson, New York, a small Brooklynesque river town that’s brimming with hipsters and weekend New Yorkers. The mile-long Warren Street and its environs overflow with antique shops, vintage clothing stores and artsy cafés. After hours, you might find the likes of Andrea Gibson performing at Club Helsinki or John Waters putting on a one-man show at Basilica Hudson.

It’s well worth the ride to these outlying areas. While Miami rush hour traffic might yield a five-mile crawl down Kendall Drive, in the Berkshires, cruising open roads with unending twists, dips and bends makes autumnal journeys as colorful as the end destinations. •

Opposite page: Pedestrian and bike-friendly Northampton, Mass.; autumn in the Berkshires; This page: sample coffee at Six Depot Roastery & Café; or pick up a few fragrant teas.

HAVE A BALL

Upgrade your average date night from circuit parties to the gala circuit.

by JUSTIN TRABERT

After six years of new relationship bliss, my husband and I found ourselves in a romantic rut. We would go from dinner at the kitchen counter to a marathon of our favorite shows. Then I uttered the fateful words that would change the course of our social lives forever: “We need to get out more,” and poof! As if the universe was one big cosmic genie, we went from couch potatoes to gala regulars.

Now, supporting charities is not exclusively for the high society or royalty — unless you’re a bonafide *Queen*, then I guess you’re automatically in. Many local philanthropic organizations have networking groups and host educational events, after parties and (best of all) elaborate galas. All of these range in price point, and there are many benefits to supporting them. Not only can you dance the night away at a fabulous ball, make new friends and hob knob with local movers and shakers, but you also get a nice tax deduction while supporting very worthy causes.

When you stop to examine the rising cost of dinner, drinks and movie theater tickets, I find the cost of admission or membership to these organizations is quite reasonable. Most of these galas and charitable events include dinner, performances, educational presentations and open bars, and, let’s be honest, who can’t drink their way through the cost of a ticket?

So, this season — I invite you to join the Traberts on the charitable dance floor, because my motto is,

“Life is one big gala. You only need to RSVP to attend.” Here are a few of our picks this season.

Be Our Guest

I recently discovered the hidden gem that is the **LGBT Visitor Center**. Not only do they host unique educational events at their Miami Beach office, you can host your own event there, too. But their pièce de resistance is the **Annual Pink Flamingo Awards**. This year’s affair — at Jungle Island on September 24th — will include an open-bar cocktail reception, three-course dinner and live entertainment. Later in the year, take an unwrapped toy to the **7th Annual Hologay Celebration and Toy Drive** to benefit the Miami Beach Police Departments’ Children’s Holiday Relief Fund and get in the holiday spirit. gogaymiami.com

Friends with Benefits

Inject some romance into your relationship with the sweet sounds of the New World Symphony. **Friends of New World Symphony** is a hip and vibrant group that enjoys concerts and chic social gatherings that range from dinners to musical yoga classes. A must-see is the **PULSE** series — a late-night lounge, complete with club-style lighting and artsy videos set to classical music. Members are invited to additional events throughout the year and enjoy steep discounts to other NWS events, including the annual **NWS Gala**, which will take place in February. nws.edu/friends



Movin' on Up

There is nothing like watching the trained and sculpted bodies of the Miami City Ballet dancers take the stage. Join **Miami City Ballet's Upper Room**, and receive two complimentary tickets to two performances — see you're already booked for two nights! Monthly events range from pre-show lectures and post-show receptions to exclusive opportunities to meet company dancers. miamicityballet.org

Coming of Age

Get your ball gowns ready, or whatever outfit fits **Julian's Reverse Quinceañera** theme this year. The over-the-top benefit pageant is one of Fort Lauderdale's hottest LGBT events, so grab your date and watch as not-so-talented locals compete for the title of Ms. Reverse Quinceañera while raising funds for this year's charities, including the Renand Foundation, The SMART Ride and Citizens of the World and Selfless Acts of Kindness. juliansrq.com

Even More Noteworthy Organizations

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beavoice.org

SCIENCE MUSEUM

frostscience.org

BIG BROTHERS BIG

bbsmiami.org

ADRIENNE ARSHT

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FORE! PLAY

South Florida's local LGBT golf league, The Goffers, make golf fun.

by RICK KARLIN

With more than 300 members, **The Goffers** is America's largest LGBT golf league. But while other leagues require members to play rounds throughout the season, The Goffers is a much more casual organization.

Chad Goff, a former estate attorney and the person for whom

the group is named, founded the organization more than 15 years ago. "The name of the group is a play on my last name; in addition, earliest written records of the game refer to it as goff."

Although he has played since the age of 10, Goff considers himself "mediocre, at best." He explains that he started the group to accommodate a fifth player into his regular foursome. "The extra player had friends, and it just grew from that base."

Teeing off three times a week — Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays — The Goffers tee times are reserved by the club, but each player pays his or her greens and cart fees at the course pro shop on the day of play.

Announcements for the following week's game are sent via e-mail and posted on the Goffers'

• Easter bonnet golf round participants: Tim Hart, J.L. Quebbeman, Bryan Taylor, Greg Elsner and Chris Loomis

Facebook page. Those interested in golfing simply respond to the organizer of that day's round.

J.L. Quebbeman, a retired federal government manager and one of the group's organizers, has only been playing for nine years, but he enjoys a high handicap. He says he enjoys the social aspect of the group as much as the opportunity to play with other LGBT athletes. In addition to the thrice-weekly rounds, the group also plans special events. Most are in conjunction with a holiday such as Christmas, Valentine's Day or Cinco de Mayo. Many Goffers cite the Easter Bonnet Parade as their favorite of these events. During that celebration, players wear outrageous bonnets as they make their way through all 18 holes. The Goffers also hold an annual Spring Fling golf scramble.

"Our golfers are players of all levels of ability, from low handicappers to high ones," says Quebbeman. "We usually like to make sure players can play a 4-hour round of golf on a championship course, simply because 99 percent of our golfers do."

That said, he also notes that the group has collected plenty of information on good teachers throughout the years, and they often direct new players to take lessons to help improve their game before they join.

Many of the club's members are avid competitors who also participate in gay golf tournaments throughout the world, including the Sin City Shootout in Las Vegas; Annual Rainbow Challenge in Palm Springs; German Rainbow Open in Schwerin, Germany; and even the Gay Games.

The congenial group of golfers of varying abilities plays year-round at various courses in Broward County. Participation is open and there are no membership fees to play. thegoffers.com•

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DEALING WITH PROSTATE PROBLEMS

As men age, prostate problems become a legitimate concern. Here's what you should know — and why you should see a doctor.

by WYATT MYERS

Most guys don't spare much thought on the prostate — the small gland between the bladder and the penis that releases seminal fluid. But with age, problems ranging from enlargement of the gland to prostate cancer become increasingly important. While Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) — commonly referred to as an enlarged prostate — essentially affects all men at some point in life, it's not always problematic. Still, it's always good to know when to get checked.

Prostate Health

Prostate cancer affects one in six men over 50 and is the cause of

death in one out of every three men over 50. Whether you're a gay, straight or bisexual man, the risk of developing prostate cancer or other prostate problems as you grow older increases. George Suarez, MD, a urologist in private practice in Miami, says there's no difference in rates of prostate problems based on sexual preference. He does note that all men, gay or straight, often have concerns about being able to perform sexually after treatment for enlarged prostate or prostate cancer. And men who are HIV positive also have specific concerns when it comes to treating prostate problems safely. Fortunately, cutting-edge treatments and procedures now offer viable options for all men.

Getting Checked

One danger with prostate problems is the lack of symptoms. Trouble urinating is the primary symptom of an enlarged or inflamed prostate, but early stage prostate cancer often presents no symptoms at all. Because of this, it's imperative to have your annual check up.

"Men who have a family history of prostate cancer — father, sibling, uncle or any other male relative — should have a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test on an annual basis beyond the age of 40," says Dr. Suarez. "All other men should do the same beginning at the age of 50." In some cases, a digital rectal exam (DRE) is also recommended.

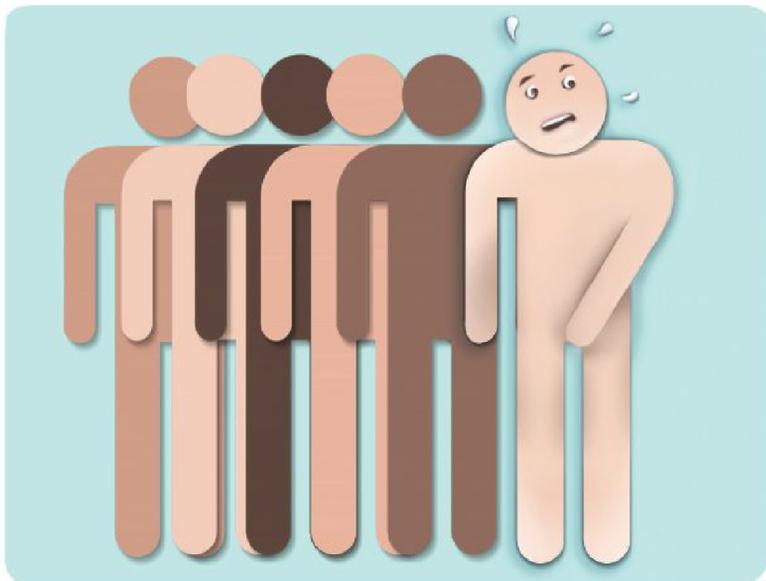
Cutting-Edge Treatments

Prostate treatments vary. Enlarged or inflamed prostates are typically treated with medication. If the problem is severe, a combination of medications is used to reduce the risk of prostate cancer.

Dr. Suarez is at the forefront of utilizing a fairly new treatment for prostate cancer called high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU).

"HIFU is a revolutionary technology that delivers an ablative treatment to the prostate cancer, while preserving the surrounding healthy vital tissue," he says. "[It] is delivered via a trans-rectal ultrasound probe, and the device functions under image-guided, computer-directed therapy."

Dr. Suarez notes that this approach has several advantages over traditional chemotherapy, radiation therapy or surgery. While these often pose a high risk of impotence or incontinence, the risks are dramatically lowered with HIFU. What's more, it's a one-time outpatient procedure with minimal recovery time. "It can be used as a first line of treatment or as a salvage treatment if another option has failed," adds Dr. Suarez. Typically, patients have follow-up appointments to ensure that their treatment was successful. •



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Q & A

Herb Sosa • Founder and Volunteer Executive Director of Unity Coalition|Coalición Unida

An unfortunate turn of events in Miami-Dade in the early 2000s, along with a few coincidences conspired to put Herb Sosa at the forefront of the LGBT rights movement here. But to hear him say it, he's just addressing a local need.

Q: How was Unity Coalition|Coalición Unida formed?

A: In 2001 there was a challenge to the Miami-Dade county human rights ordinance. And [we] realized there needed to be education for the voters. A lot of great organizations locally and nationally were doing great efforts in South Florida, but were quite candidly not addressing the Hispanic [or] Haitian community, really none of the minorities. Our intention was not to start an organization. It was really to educate

the voters, so we did. When the election came around we turned 13 different polls in favor of not overturning [the ordinance].

Q: So what kept Unity going?

A: The phone kept ringing. And we realized that people needed help with issues like immigration, marriage equality, adoption — a lot of things that luckily now have changed, but there are still many issues out there. We didn't even have a name, but we realized there was a need in the community.

Q: What does Unity work on now?

A: We have four major events: Elevate is a day of being nicer. Every February we bring together about 14 different workshops, everything from jewelry making, painting and gardening to yoga. And it's a day of being nicer to yourself, each other

and the world. We host TransART, and we host Celebrate Orgullo, a month-long celebration of Hispanic and LGBT pride. We [also sponsor] an LGBT college scholarship.

Q: Share a little bit about TransART.

A: There is a huge transgender community in South Florida, and we felt there was a void in celebrating [their] art and talent. It's easy to discriminate against groups when you don't know them, when you don't know there's a dimension to their life. TransArt is an exhibit; a competition — in the sense that you have to qualify; and the commonality is in order to have your work exhibited or presented, you have to identify as transgender.

Q: Orlando kicked off a conversation about hate crimes toward the LGBT community and to a lesser extent to Latinos. Can you speak to that?

A: Orlando shook the core of our community. In fact, it touched me personally as a Hispanic gay male. It touched me as a South Floridian. It affected me having been to that club, knowing people that died there and people who survived, personally. The easiest way to dehumanize victims is to wipe out who they were, whether it's their names, their sexual orientation, their heritage. All those things are very subtle, but they're ways of separating. That's why I really don't like to talk about numbers. These were individuals. •

• Herb Sosa is one of the founders and the volunteer Executive Director of Unity Coalition|Coalición Unida.



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DIVERSITY HONORS

Once again the charity event co-presented by the Harvey Milk Foundation and The Pride Center at Equality Park at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood honored everyday heroes, including superintendent of Broward County Schools Robert Runcie and 8-year-old Ryland Whittington.



Clockwise from top left: Jaime Collazos, Darran Mazaika, Patrick Smith and Michael Malenitza • Robert Boo (chief executive officer at The Pride Center at Equality Park), Hillary, Jeff, Brynly and Ryland Whittington, and Stuart Milk (co-founder and president of the Harvey Milk Foundation) • Austen Caraker, Jeff Wade and Javier Echenique-Vicacé • Jason King, Dean Trantalis, Roger Roa and Scott Wyman • Ilene Berliner and Maura Cane • Andy Perrot, Wayne Goolsby and Tim Moffitt • Julie Slater and Karen Carrol • Joe Imbrogno and Dereck Lee



Clockwise from top left: Ariel Dixon, Danielle Glunt and Isabelle Scott • Megan Coffey, Rae Wolfe and Rachel Petit • Devin's Aesthetics and Danielle DeNicola • Jonathan Perez aka KIKU • Jose Arce Jr. and Brad Allison • Damian Leon, Nicholas Ferrera, Luis Diaz and Regina Cocoa

OUTCON

South Florida's first gay-oriented geek convention, OUTCon took over the Miami Airport Convention Center with a number of fun events and activities, including a costume contest, K-Pop Hour, Drag Show Extravaganza and a Magic City Jedi panel. A portion of the profits went to a local animal shelter.



KEY WEST PRIDE

Famous for its One Human Family philosophy, Key West Pride truly exemplified that motto, as many participants and onlookers showed their support for the victims of the Orlando shooting. Among the those in the proud crowd, was Rocky Collins, winner of the Stoli Key West Cocktail Classic — whose winning concoction, the Key West Kitty Kat, featured Stoli Vanil.



Clockwise from top left: Patrik Gallineaux (National Ambassador at Stoli USA) • April Foreman, Lauren Mounthump and Karen Willis • Beverly Singleton, Delavin Jacks, Maryann Thompson and Amiee Turner • Matthew Mello, Sebastian Saadah, Trisha Corey and Lisa Morison • Daniel Gilbert (Events Coordinator of The Key West Business Guild) • Brad Hammond and Greg Tromba • Rocky Collins (winner of the 2016 Stoli Key West Cocktail Classic) • Key West Mayor Craig Cates and his wife Cheryl Cates



THE AMETHYST GALA

The Hilton Downtown Miami was awash in purple for the 15th annual gala and awards celebration. A sold-out crowd of almost 600 people attended to honor corporate and individual supporters of the local LGBT community, including Hot Spots Media, Damian Pardo and Raquel Matas.



Clockwise from top left: Lynn Herald and Michael Acton-Coles • Ted and Cinthia Batchelor and Michael C. Griego • Daisy Deadpetals and William Garcia • Christopher Maula, Cintia Deoliveira and Jeff Dunaway • Katherine Schober and Allison French • Janice Bush, Jennifer King and Andree Salomon • Paul Orshan and Mark Gilbert • Daniel Bourgoin and Lloyd Brathwaite

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here is a selection of the many events taking place in South Florida.

August

The Go-Go's Farewell Tour

Au-Rene Theater, Fort Lauderdale
Aug. 3
gogos.com/tour

10th Annual Midsummer Night's Dream & Spectacle

Fort East Martello, Key West
Aug. 6
kwahs.org

Tropical Heat

Key West
Aug. 11–14
tropicalheatkw.com

21st South Florida Tattoo Expo

True Love Tattoo of Fort Lauderdale
Aug. 12–14
floridatattooexpo.com

Season 8: The Queens

Parker Playhouse, Fort Lauderdale
Aug. 14
parkerplayhouse.com

Pridelines Masquerade Ball

The Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables
Aug. 15
pridelinesmasquerade.com

SAVE Luminaries Awards

Bacardi Headquarters
Coral Gables
Aug. 18
save.lgbt

Bowling to Fight Hunger

Sawgrass Lanes, Tamarac
Aug. 20
hungerfighter.givingspirit.com

2nd Annual Compass Women's Health Conference

Compass Community Center, Lake Worth
Aug. 20
compassglcc.com

Drake & Future Summer Sixteen Tour

AmericanAirlines Arena, Miami
Aug. 30 & 31
aaarena.com

September

Womenfest

Key West
Sept. 7–11
womenfest.com

Celebrate Orgullo

Miami/Miami Beach/Wilton Manors
Sept. 15–Oct. 15
celebrateorgullo.com

Leaders, Legends & Lovelies Ball

The Warner House, Miami
Sept. 16
unitycoalition.org

Australia's Thunder from Down Under

Male Review

The Fillmore Miami Beach
Sept. 16
fillmoremb.com

4th Annual Islamorada

Swim for Alligator Lighthouse
Sept. 17
swimalligatorlight.com

Miami Fashion Film Festival

Miami Beach Cinematheque
Sept. 20–23
miafff.com

4th Annual Pink Flamingo Awards

Jungle Island, Miami Beach
Sept. 22
pinkflamingoawards.com

Third Annual ARTOPIA

NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale
Sept. 24
GLBX.org

St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer

Tamiami Park, Miami
Sept. 24
fundraising.stjude.org

26th annual Southern Comfort Conference

Bonaventure Resort & Spa, Westin
Sept. 27–Oct. 1
southerncomfortconference.org

October

Rent

Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Oct. 8
browardcenter.org

Visit miamiherald.com/palette for an up-to-date listing of events!



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