

south florida's lgbtq magazine  
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Miami Herald  
CLARITY

# palette



## DISHING WITH THE DIVA

Elaine Lancaster discusses life, beauty and the politics of change

CLARITY Business Magazine • Go Gay in Montreal • Queer Wedding Planning  
Animal Magnetism • Boudoir Décor • Find the Right Doc & more...

## What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

**Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:**

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

**While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:**

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices.** Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
  - Have fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

**TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:**

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

### Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

**Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

**Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).**

### What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

**Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:**

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.  
**Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.**



Have you heard about  
**TRUVADA** for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

**Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.**

visit **start.truvada.com**

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200 mg emtricitabine · tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg

## IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

#### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

#### TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

### ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

#### Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.**

### BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

#### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

### HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **You must practice safer sex** by using condoms and you **must stay HIV-1 negative.**

### HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

### GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.

# A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS



While we feel all our issues are special, this particular one marks a new beginning for *Palette*. We are proud to kick off the first issue that features the Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's *CLARITY Business Magazine*.

For this inaugural issue we have invited Steve Adkins, president and CEO of the chamber, to write our letter to readers.

As always, we hope you enjoy the articles that follow. Don't forget to tweet us @palettelgbt, or drop me a line at ethan@miamiherald.com. We look forward to hearing from you. Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook as well.

Stay Gold,

Ethan Duran  
Creative Director



• Scott Bader, Steve Adkins and Jorge Richa of the Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Greetings!

Happy New Year members and friends. Beginning with this, our 36th edition, the Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's *CLARITY Business Magazine* will be included within the pages of *Palette*.

*CLARITY* will again appear in two of the remaining five *Palette* issues in 2017 — in April/May and August/September. While the other *Palette* issues will not include *CLARITY* in its entirety, they will nonetheless feature several pages of MDGLCC content that is dedicated to our programming, initiatives and market outreach.

What stays the same: *CLARITY* will continue intact as a member-driven publication that includes news and advertising by and about our nearly 600 member businesses.

What changes: Impact! the *Miami Herald* prints 35,000 copies of *Palette* which are distributed throughout South Florida, from Key West through Broward. We are combining our existing *CLARITY* distribution sites with *Palette*'s current locations to bring both publications to more viewers than ever before.

We are proud of our *CLARITY* magazine and even prouder of our 20-year relationship with the *Miami Herald*. By combining the market force of our two fine publications, the LGBTQ community will benefit from broader market reach and the ability to feature more of what you have come to expect: engaging content, great research and supportive advertising.

Thank you for your continued support and all the best in 2017!

Sincerely,

Steve Adkins  
President and CEO



## Follow Us:





# FEATURES

## 024 • **plan a dreamy wedding**

From engagement rings to planners, venues, florists and entertainers, we have rounded up a selection of what you need to start your new life together in the best way.

## 030 • **elaine lancaster**

A complex lady, Elaine Lancaster opens up about coming up in the drag scene, as well as the country's changing tides and how she fits in.

## 038 • **animal magnetism**

Donate, get educated or simply have a wonderful day out at any of the local animal wildlife rehabilitation centers, where sea turtles, dolphins and a whole host of other animals have found refuge and love.

## 044 • **montreal goes gay**

From cobblestoned streets to the most progressive and modern neighborhoods, the welcome in this city to the north will feel like a warm embrace.



**on the cover:**  
Elaine Lancaster  
photographed by  
Dmitry Zhitov;  
makeup by  
Derbis Aguilera.

**what's your temptation?**

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012



020



064

# DEPARTMENTS

**012 • in tune**

When Andrew Carnegie famously said, “Anything worth having is worth working for,” he probably didn’t have these difficult stories and entangled lives in mind.

**014 • statement pieces**

Get ready to paint the town red with the audacious and inspired pieces we selected just in time for the season of romance.

**016 • chez moi**

The bedroom is that most complex of spaces where you can retire after a long day of work or get down to business. Create the right ambience.

**018 • get cultured**

The posh parties and swanky soirees of Basel week may be well behind us, but the art festival season is just getting started.

**020 • the dish**

We’re offering up a selection of South Florida’s absolute best places to get a bloody mary. You’re welcome!

**022 • after hours**

Even if not in a car, there are plenty of places to watch movies under the stars here.

**050 • on trend**

With a few clicks and swipes these apps and sites will have you ready to meet the love of your life...or maybe just have a great Saturday night.

**052 • health check**

One of the most important relationships you can have is the one with your primary physician. Don’t leave it up to your insurance manual who takes on that role.

**054 • serious business**

John Tanzella, the President and CEO of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA), shares travel tips.

**064 • the scene**

Were you there? Find out who was at this year’s World AIDS Day vigil and remembrance walk, who sat in at TATE’s Substitute Santa or how the Key West Business Guild’s annual awards went.

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**CLARITY**  
MIAMI-DADE GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS MAGAZINE

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**055 • CLARITY**  
The Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce’s business magazine features stories about and for its members. Take a look at the many varied businesses that make this city run.

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CAROLINA CARDONA

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VANESSA MARTIN

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
SHAYNE BENOWITZ  
RICK KARLIN  
WYATT MYERS  
GREGG SHAPIRO  
JUSTIN TRABERT

**ART & DESIGN**  
HCP MEDIA CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
SCOTT GLICK

**PALETTE CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
ETHAN DURAN

**SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
CARLOS MARTIN

**GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**  
JESSICA BECERRA-ORTIZ  
EDWIN CRUZ  
LOURDES FERNANDEZ

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
CARINA MASK  
CHRISTINA MENDENHALL  
ANDREW PRINTER

**CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS**  
SEAN LATTRELL  
BARBARA POLLACK-LEWIS

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Advertising, sales and distribution information:  
305.376.2801  
kcorrales@miamiherald.com

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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](http://miamiherald.com) — and follow his Twitter account, @SteveRothaus — for the latest information about our community.



## SHAYNE BENOWITZ

Shayne is the Hotels and Travel editor for *Miami.com* and a frequent contributor to the *Miami Herald*. She's also the Miami destination expert and a hotel critic for London's *Daily Telegraph*. Her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Charlotte Observer*, as well as *Modern Luxury Interiors South Florida* and *Aventura* magazines.



## 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*.



## DANIEL SHOER ROTH

An author, journalist, biographer and essayist, Daniel's Sunday column in *el Nuevo Herald* casts a spotlight on critical issues often neglected in South Florida's melting pot. His work has received multiple honors from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Publications. Daniel has published three books and was named one of Miami's 100 most influential Latinos for his thoughtful and principled columns. Born in Venezuela, he's the grandson of Holocaust survivors.



## 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*



## 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](http://yogiafterforty.com)



## LYNARE ROBBINS

Lynare is a freelance journalist, lifestyle curator and screenwriter who has authored multiple publications, blogs and a short film that screened at the Miami Beach Cinematheque in 2011. In addition to her artistic endeavors, she is involved with several local organizations, including Aqua Foundation, Global Ties Miami and the City of Miami Beach. She is also the vice president of the Women's Program and Diversity Affairs for World OutGames Miami.



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# REBEL, REBEL

Maybe you like to explore; maybe you like to watch; and maybe it's just about playful beats.

by GREGG SHAPIRO

**O**utsiders can be a strange bunch. Sometimes perplexing, often alluring, the characters that populate these selections, give us license to step outside our own comfort zones and explore.

## Complex Creatures

There is no shortage of characters worthy of the title in *Difficult Women* (Grove Press, 2017), the short story collection by award-winning bisexual Haitian-American novelist, essayist and memoirist **Roxane Gay**.

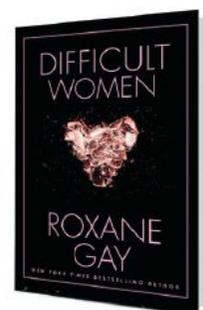
Set in a gated community, the dishy and dark “Florida” features one of the married female residents exploring erotic same-sex pleasures at the brothel being run out of the community spa. In the multi-section “How,” we learn just how Hanna became involved with Laura. In “Baby Arm,” a woman’s

relationship with a female co-worker takes an entirely unexpected turn. Gay is as skilled at short-short story writing, as she is at creating longer pieces that leave readers shaken, including the devastating “Break All The Way Down.”

## Broken Boys

In **Fernando Guzzoni’s** *Jesús* (Breaking Glass), bored bisexual Chilean high school student Jesús (Nicolás Durán) prefers performing dance-routines to studying or thinking about his future. He also enjoys drinking in excess, huffing and watching violent videos.

With his mother dead, he lives with his father, Héctor (Alejandro Goic), with whom he has a strained



• From top: Xiu Xiu’s *Forget*; *Difficult Women* by Roxane Gay; Sebastian Ayala and Nicolás Durán in Fernando Guzzoni’s *Jesús*

relationship. It doesn’t help much that Jesús lies to his father on a regular basis, but Héctor is not exactly parent of the year either. He can be violent and doesn’t approve of his son’s friends, including Beto and Pizzaro. He’d be even more disapproving of Pizzaro if he knew that he and Jesús were once lovers.

On one especially drunken night, after being kicked out of a club, Jesús and his buddies beat a drunk gay teen so badly the boy ends up in a coma. Friends turn on each other and, as it turns out, family may not be all that dependable either.

Sexually graphic and violent, *Jesús* excels at capturing the destructive ennui that takes hold of teenagers who lack supervision or a sense of direction. But writer/director Guzzoni’s self-indulgence and inability to bring a scene to an effective and timely close works against whatever message he is trying to convey. Even at a scant 85 minutes, *Jesús* feels entirely too long.

*Jesús* is one of the LGBTQ titles being screened at the Miami Film Festival this March.

## Musical Souls

You could never accuse **Xiu Xiu** of being accessible. Daringly experimental? Yes. Always.

Formed and still led by queer musician Jamie Stewart, Xiu Xiu has challenged and rewarded listeners with every album, sometimes even within the same song. Featuring a stellar line-up of guest artists, including drag legend Vaginal Davis, *Forget* (Polyvinyl) may actually be the band’s most broadly appealing release to date.

“Get Up” is practically a pop song, and the adult language of the EDM/hip-hop hybrid, “The Call,” might earn Xiu Xiu a whole new audience. Dance beats rule on the wondrous “Wondering” and the unforgettable title cut. “Jenny Gogo” plays like a tribute to the late Alan Vega and synth-minimalists Suicide, while “Queen of the Losers” pays homage to Low and *Lodger*-era Bowie. •



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*- Maya Angelou*

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11



# AN INSPIRED BEDROOM



If your home is your castle, your bedroom should be your sanctuary.

by OSKAR L. TORRES

The ideal bedroom is a space that makes you feel relaxed and worry free. Its very functional purpose is to serve as the place where you retire at the end of a long day, but you can make it much more. A bedroom should inspire both serenity and romance, but above all it should be inviting. It should be the kind of place that makes you want to jump right into bed to curl up under a fluffy comforter with the latest issue of your favorite magazine — *Palette* perhaps — to read the hours away. Here are some suggestions on how to elevate your bedroom set-up. All you have to provide is a cup of warm cocoa and yourself. Let the chilling begin! •



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*See Oskar's inspired stylings up close at the Housing Works Design on a Dime Benefit at the Moore Building in Miami, February 4-5!*



3



4



5

**where to buy •**

1. Missoni John Chevron Cotton Sateen Duvet Set: Saks Fifth Avenue, Brickell City Centre; 81 SW 8th St., Miami; 786.907.3800; [missoni.com](http://missoni.com)
2. Pony Hair Skylar Bench: Williams Sonoma; The Village at Gulfstream Park; 800 Silks Run #1305, Hallandale Beach; 954.454.9261; [williams-sonoma.com](http://williams-sonoma.com)
3. Bronze Buddha Statue: Bhoom Shanti, 5050 Biscayne Blvd. #100, Miami; 305.758.8282; [bhoomshanti.com](http://bhoomshanti.com)
4. Channing End Table: Jonathan Adler, Miami Design District; 4040 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.0200; [joanthanadler.com](http://joanthanadler.com)
5. Brooklyn Bed: Target, The Shops at Midtown Miami; 3401 Miami Ave., #100; 786.437.0164; [target.com](http://target.com)

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# SOUTH FLORIDA'S CREATIVE SOUL

Art festivals play an important role in community cohesion and also provide opportunities for local artists.

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH



Art is in the air, and you can sense it in South Florida's mild winter days. Long gone are the crowds, big-spenders, international collectors, jetsetters and celebrities who flocked to Art Basel Miami Beach and its satellite fairs.

"Regardless of where you are in your path toward cultural appreciation, these fairs provide an entry point for everyone," says Xavier Cortada, an artist-in-residence at Florida International University's School of Environment, Arts and Society. "It's not just northerners who fly in during Art Basel to consume art, it's a homegrown cadre of thousands of residents who populate these festivals."

The goal is to foster a community that is "culturally engaged and well informed about what the creative class is doing," explains Cortada, an openly gay painter who was once selected as the poster artist for the **Coconut Grove Arts Festival (CGAF)**.

Built on decades of local participation, this mile-long outdoor event held annually on Presidents' Day weekend, is a local arts scene institution. Countless artistic disciplines are featured, from visual and culinary to music. This year, organizers want to set a Guinness World Record for assembling the world's largest *arroz con pollo* in a gigantic paella pan.

"People are looking now to art as their source of entertainment," says CGAF president Monty Trainer.

Running concurrently is **Art Wynwood**, a comparatively newer fair that's held in Miami's hip Midtown district and has increasingly become a cultural destination in its own right. The atmosphere feels like an extension of Art Basel, given that the exhibitors are some of the same galleries that present emerging artists and contemporary and modern works at the big December fest. The difference here is that local artists are given prominence.

In Broward, **Las Olas Art Fair Part II** blends an eclectic mix of artists with great weather and food in downtown Fort Lauderdale, March 4-5. This high-caliber event is the ideal vehicle to engage fairgoers in contemporary and interactive art, breaking down the invisible walls between spectators and creators. Artists get to see people's unfiltered reactions to their work.

Meanwhile in Key West, the nationally renowned **Old Island Days Art Festival** enhances the city's character for embracing fine arts and culture. The open-air show takes place February 25-26 in the Old Town district. Hosting over 100 artists whose works range from watercolor, acrylics and oils to sculpture, collage and photography, the event gives art lovers a chance to mingle with both up-and-coming and established artists.

The Keys' creative community is also behind the **Pigeon Key Art Festival**, which transforms Marathon Community Park into a tropically themed oasis of color, February 4-5. In addition to the exemplary artists and craftsmen, hands-on exhibits like the marine touch tank, fun learning opportunities and art creation stations make this a truly family-friendly fair.

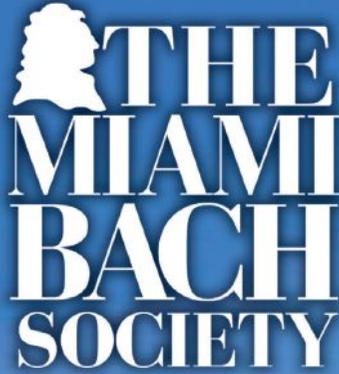
These festivals and several others that take place throughout the year are a testament to the legacy built by artists, gallery owners, public officials and museums locally.●

● Art Wynwood is on Presidents Day Weekend.

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**Profeti della Quinta: Profeti della Quinta** / Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Coral Gables Woman's Club, 1001 E Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables, FL 33134

**Ars Longa: Gulumba, Gulumbe** / Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 8:00 PM

Wertheim Concert Hall, Florida International University Campus, 10910 SW 17th St., Miami, FL 33172

**Acronym: The Concerto, Early Years** / Friday, March 3, 2017 at 8:00 PM

St. John, 4760 Pine Tree Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33140

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St. John, 4760 Pine Tree Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33140

Tickets: 305-669-1376 / [Info@MiamiBachSociety.org](mailto:Info@MiamiBachSociety.org)  
or [www.TropicalBaroqueMusicFestival.org](http://www.TropicalBaroqueMusicFestival.org)



# BLOODY BEST SHOT

From South Florida's finest establishments to its favorite holes-in-the-wall, today's bloody mary offerings are no longer your grandmother's 5 o'clock special.

by JULIE BALTER

**M**y Bloody Past: The Seafood Connection. Don't know it? That may be because you're under 75. Back in the '80s my parents never seemed to mind the Boca Raton restaurant's two-hour wait or the mass of senior snowbirds seeking early dinners there. You see, the Seafood Connection was the epicenter of a local foodie trend: When vacationing in South Florida, one would always dine out on defrosted Maine lobster or Alaskan king crab legs.

The rolls were free, dessert was included with dinner, and a grand piano self-played Dean Martin songs. Guests, crammed into the waiting area, shouted and cawed, as if struggling to carry conversations over the whoosh of a subway that never did pass.

What does any of this have to do with bloody marys you ask? Everything. For how else could anyone survive such a scene?

## New Blood

Fresh blood has been exhilaratingly infused into an old standard recipe laced with health-conscious ingredients. Consider fresh tomato juice spiked with vitamin C and a dash



of heart-pumping peppers stirred with a snappy celery stick. Bloody Hell! This savory vodka cocktail is practically farm-to-table good for you. By all means, have another!

But what is it exactly that makes a bloody taste so good? "It's about balance, says Erin Eberle, a former South Florida sommelier turned Portland-based plant food consultant for nourishpdx.com. "You get earthy, fruity, acid, sour and

spicy all in one beverage that happens to contain alcohol. How is that not an almost every-occasion drink?"

Doctors may be reluctant to promote the bloody's healing properties, but four out of five bartenders confidently recommend a brew or two. Around South Florida some of our favorite spots are serving creative bloody concoctions for happy hour specials and as part of a classic brunch spread.

• Boatyard's create-your-own bellini, mimosa and bloody mary bar is part of its stellar brunch menu.

## Fort Lauderdale

**Boatyard's** hook-to-table seafood is locally sourced and served with creative flair (tuna tacos and grilled octopus are the perfect foil for a pre-dinner bloody). So for Sunday brunch, don't miss the opportunity to play mad-scientist/mixologist at the create-your-own bloody bar, where you can make unlimited customized bloodys with spices, garnishes and vodka of choice. You might be staying for a while, so kick back and enjoy the scenery. Boatyard's outdoor lounge is the ideal place to burn off the blood-alcohol content.

*1555 SE 17th St., Fort Lauderdale*  
954.525.7400  
*boatyard.restaurant*

## Miami

It's as if the Seafood Connection patrons of past — the ones feasting on celestial shrimp cocktail — have reincarnated as Miami Beach hipsters, who can be found lounging at the **Broken Shaker** bar and 27 restaurant at The Freehand Miami. The cottage setting's Old World charm blends well with the eclectic art and innovative menus. Of course, the standard bloody mary

has been remixed as a green-hued, salad-inspired cocktail. Pressed cucumbers, kale-tomato juice and home-pickled garnishes round out the recipe. The secret ingredient, they say, is the fish sauce. Hmm... must be their grandmother's recipe. *2727 Indian Creek Dr., Miami Beach*  
305.531.2727  
*freehandhotels.com/miami*

## Key West

Old Town's breakfast cafés are as iconic as its bar crawls. While you might start your day searching for the fluffiest, prettiest, sweetest Belgian waffles on the island, a morning after may call for something stronger. **Pepe's Café** is the kind of old-sailor joint that's been sympathetically serving stiff bloodies to local patrons since 1909. It's more of a bearded Hemingway than bow-tied Capote kind of place.

For added relief, take in the island breezes at their outdoor patio, as you enjoy a hearty serving of eggs, toast, hash browns, bacon or whatever your bleary-eyed self and growling stomach may crave.

*806 Caroline St., Key West*  
305.294.7192  
*pepeskeywest.com*

## The Pickled Beet Bloody

by Erin Eberle



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 oz. Vodka of choice
- 4 oz. Bloody mix\*
- Ice cubes
- Glass

### \*BLOODY MIX

Prepare a batch ahead of time and have it on hand in the refrigerator. In a quart-size container, pour 24 ounces of tomato juice (canned or fresh, your call).

Add 3 tablespoons of grated horseradish, 2 tablespoons pickled beet juice (see below), 3-5 dashes of Tabasco sauce, 1 teaspoon celery salt, 1/2 teaspoon cracked black pepper, 1 ounce fresh lemon juice, 1 ounce olive brine and 1 ounce jarred pepperoncini liquid. Shake like hell and then let sit in the fridge until ready to serve.

### PICKLED BEETS

- 1 Bunch beets
- 1/4 Cup cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 Tsp. mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Boil beets in water until tender. At the same time, mix all the other ingredients in a separate bowl. Combine the beets with the liquid and let it marinate for at least an hour.

### GARNISH

pickled beet, celery, chili salted rim, lime slice



• The Broken Shaker's take on the bloody mary will make you green with delight.

# STAR GAZING

Though they are an increasingly endangered species, drive-in theaters haven't become extinct quite yet.

by RICK KARLIN

Not only are there still a few actual drive-ins left in operation throughout the country, many park districts and community organizations now showcase movies on giant outdoor screens as part of their social event calendars. So setup a lawn chair or put down a blanket, and get ready to watch the stars under the stars.

## Silver Screen Magic

**Blue Starlite**, which bills itself as a mini-urban drive-in, offers pop-up screenings at various locations, which have included Historic Virginia Key Beach and Cutler Ridge in the past.

[miamiurbandrivein.com](http://miamiurbandrivein.com)

**Canvas**, in downtown Miami, offers screenings every Thursday as part of its Movies Under the Stars program. It also presents screenings of films for the Miami International Film Festival. Nearby shops offer gourmet treats for guests to enjoy during the showing.

[aedistrictmiami.com](http://aedistrictmiami.com)

Every second Saturday of the month, hundreds of people gather at **Bay Harbor Island** to watch foreign and independent films.

[bayharborislands.org](http://bayharborislands.org)

But for the grand-daddy of all the local outdoor movie



experiences, head over to **Miami Beach SoundScape Exostage**, where classics and new releases are screened from October through May on a 7,000-square-foot projection wall with dynamic surround sound. Text MBFILM to 91011 for reminders and updates. [mws.edu/events-tickets](http://mws.edu/events-tickets)

## Date Night Movie

Every Friday, at Hollywood's ArtsPark at **Young Circle Amphitheater**, the city screens recent releases free of charge. Pack some snacks and enjoy the show!

[hollywoodfl.org](http://hollywoodfl.org)

Pompano Beach offers the same deal on the third Friday of each month. Head to the **Great Lawn**, at the corner of Atlantic and Pompano Beach Blvd. for a fun night out.

[pompanobeachfl.gov](http://pompanobeachfl.gov)

## Seeing Stars in Cars

Although drive-in theaters were open as early as 1921, they peaked in popularity in the 1950s and '60s when there were nearly 4,000 operating in the U.S. Now less than 400 remain scattered throughout the country, and of these only two are in Southern Florida.

Fort Lauderdale's, **Thunderbird Drive-in**, also known as the **Swap Shop Drive-in**, is the largest of America's drive-in theaters. It has 13 screens of varying sizes (screen nine is the original and largest). Audio is broadcast on FM channels. The **Lake Worth Drive-In** has one screen playing to more than 400 cars, also with FM audio. Both locations serve as flea markets during the day. [floridaswapshop.com](http://floridaswapshop.com)

Weston's **Moonlight Movies** program offers monthly screenings at the city's various parks, too.

[westonfl.org](http://westonfl.org)

## Flicker Show

In October, the **Humphrey Bogart Film Festival** in Key Largo features both indoor and outdoor showings of several Bogart classics.

[bogartfilmfestival.com](http://bogartfilmfestival.com)

Children's movies are screened in Key West's **Bayview Park** the first and third Friday of each month, from October through May.

Films are also screened poolside at the **Marker Waterfront Resort**. Food and drink specials are available all night long. Suit up and watch as you float in the pool. Both screenings are coordinated by **Key West Outdoor Movies**.

[kwoutdoormovies.com](http://kwoutdoormovies.com)



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# *Get Hitched!*



While the pomp and circumstance around weddings come with a set of long-held traditions, many couples have been rewriting the rules for quite some time.

*By Shayne Benowitz*





*When the Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act in June 2013 legalizing same-sex marriage, city halls across the country filled with couples that could finally make their love official under the law.*

Commitment ceremonies had been taking place for decades and individual states had already passed laws legalizing same-sex marriage, but the federal ruling ushered in a new era for the country's \$72 billion wedding industry.

"With same-sex weddings, there's no real rules," says Shai Tertner, owner of Shiraz Events with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Miami and London. "They can do it as they wish. They don't have to obey traditions. They can choose to if they want, but they don't have to."

Whether it's ignoring the superstition around seeing the bride

before walking down the aisle in favor of a "first look" photo session, skipping the bouquet and garter toss or forgoing the bridal party and groomsmen, couples are planning weddings that reflect who they are.

There's also a strong emphasis on throwing a fun reception that feels more like a party than a formal affair. At these, buffets and food stations are often preferred over traditional plated dinners. "People want to it to be fun and entertaining. They want to see people mingling," says Monika Moreno, principal at Swankey Events in Key West.

Pages 24-25: Giancarlo Perez and Bernardo Möller at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens on their wedding day. Opposite page: Hundreds of people gather around the Supreme Court as the Justices hear arguments on same-sex marriage. This page, from top: the W South Beach can host all kinds of events; LGBTQ couples can seek professional wedding planning services from well-established companies like Shiraz Events; DANHOV's Tubetto red domed men's band, available at Kirk Jewelers.

## The Engagement

For same-sex couples, there's even more to parse when interpreting wedding traditions. One thing Tertner's noticed is that many are forgoing the engagement party. However, for Miami's Giancarlo Perez and Bernardo Möller, the surprise wedding they were planning in St. Barths turned into their engagement party when their dream venue — Vizcaya Museum & Gardens — suddenly became available thanks to a cancellation. With St. Barths already booked, they invited an intimate group of friends to celebrate in a private villa perched on a bluff overlooking the Caribbean Sea.

The engagement is also a time to get creative with jewelry. One couple, who got engaged in the South of France, opted for Cartier bracelets instead of the traditional ring. Perez and Möller exchanged bands by Nak Armstrong. In South Florida, great jewelers include Gray & Sons in Miami Beach, Morays Jewelers in Coral Gables and Barclays Jewelers in downtown Miami. For a high fashion symbol of love, a trip to Kirk Jewelers in downtown Miami can lead couples to mesmerizing engagement rings and bridal jewelry from brands like DANHOV and Scott Kay.

## The Ceremony

Perez and Möller's wedding at Vizcaya became the first official same-sex wedding at the lavish historic property overlooking Biscayne Bay. Solving the question of who walks down the aisle and who waits at the altar, Perez and Möller made their grand entrance together aboard a sleek black Van Dutch open yacht.

Other excellent venues around South Florida include MAPS Backlot in Wynwood, The Biltmore and Hotel Colonnade in Coral Gables, Casa Casuarina and Fontainebleau Miami

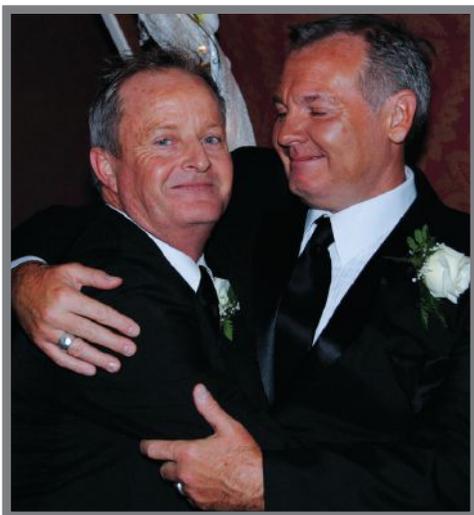
Beach, The Breakers in Palm Beach, W Hotels and the Casa Marina in Key West.

Perez and Möller had one of their best friends officiate and wrote their own vows, a trend that Tertner says has pretty much become the rule in same-sex weddings. "They'll take care of the legal process of marriage at city hall and then choose a friend who knows the couple well to officiate and make the ceremony more personal," he says.

For couples seeking a traditional church ceremony, the Coral Gables Congregational Church, Metropolitan Community Church Key West, Unity on the Bay in Miami and Sunshine Cathedral in Fort Lauderdale all perform same-sex weddings.

In lieu of bridesmaids and groomsmen, Perez and Möller requested that the ladies invited dress in white or blue gowns for a unified composition at their black tie affair. This is in line with the trend toward shedding the wedding party and opting out of the matchy-matchy bridesmaid dresses, according to Moreno.





### Inspiration & Planning

Like any wedding, Tertner points out that the dynamic of same-sex weddings can vary depending on the couple.

“It’s such a new industry,” he says. “For these couples, it can be very emotional on many levels. Fortunately, as same-sex weddings are becoming more of a norm, it’s becoming a little less so, which is a good thing.”

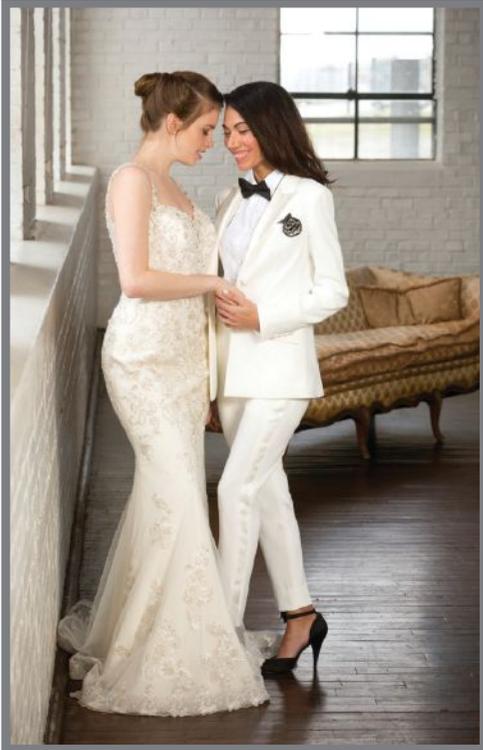
He suggests that couples turn to Pinterest and websites like The Knot and Style Me Pretty for inspiration. He’s also had clients create their entire color story based on a men’s luxury ad. For some lesbian couples, the question of what to wear, a white dress or a tux, often arises. The Little Black Tux online shop is an excellent resource for suits

tailored to women for those who’d like to go for the tuxedo look on their wedding day.

Attending conventions like Your Wedding Experience presented by David Tutera — which takes place at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center on May 21 — is a great way to start planning. Of course, hiring a professional wedding planner like Tertner, Moreno or Rainbow Bells, which specializes in same sex weddings, is key to a stress-free planning process.

### The Reception

At Perez and Möller’s wedding, the couple took advantage of Vizcaya’s formal gardens by incorporating long, romantic tables arranged with white



roses and tall branches by florist Roman Cusco that reached the willow trees above for a rustic and visually unifying effect. The use of simple materials, including branches, rope, dried beans and clothespins, creates a chic barnyard aesthetic that's currently very popular. "The trick is taking these humble, natural materials and elevating them," Tertner says. Other top local florists include Miami's Trias Flowers & Gifts and Fort Lauderdale's Doris the Florist.

Perez and Möller hired a live saxophonist and percussionist to complement the beats set by their DJ at the reception, creating a party atmosphere and keeping the energy lively. In addition to an open bar, they also created six separate sitting room-inspired vignettes throughout Vizcaya's gardens with bottle service set-ups that

mimicked the setting at a nightclub. Enlisting Junior's Entertainment Group, with offices in Miami, Palm Beach, New York and the Dominican Republic and their high-watt production value, is a great alternative. With 72 entertainers and a collection of 3,000 songs in 50 genres and seven different languages to select from, you can become another guest at your wedding.

The reception is an opportunity to get creative. Cake toppers can be anything from customized figures to laser cut words. Naked cakes — which are stripped of the traditional exterior fondant and buttercream, and constructed in layers with floral decor — are another fun way to switch things up. "It's a great modern twist to the traditional wedding cake," says Moreno. "[Couples] who lean towards this concept are open to new ideas and like to get creative with their wedding style." Top wedding confectioners include West Palm Beach's Earth and Sugar Bakery, Miami's Elegant Temptations Cakes and Key West Cakes.

Tertner says that after parties, whether hosted at a couple's home or with an extended reception, are a popular addition. Destination weddings with an entire wedding weekend planned offer yet another way for couples to personalize their celebration and buck tradition. "I think straight couples go to gay weddings and say, 'Oh, we can do it this way. It doesn't have to be a stuffy white wedding. We can have fun,'" says Tertner.

Ultimately, a wedding day is about having friends and family come together over a couple's love.

"I never thought that much about gay rights," says Möller. "But planning a wedding [with Giancarlo] and preparing for our special day brought such a level of maturity to our relationship and a strong bond. And I thought, 'Why would that be denied to someone?'" •





# killer queen

Extraordinarily nice,  
Elaine Lancaster  
is the kind of girl  
who's guaranteed  
to blow your mind.



the

six-foot-two leggy blond with the Southern drawl is clearly not from these parts, but she fits in just fine, thank you. Like Miami, the city that saw her star rise, Elaine Lancaster is a series of stunning contradictions, starting, of course, with the fact that she is nothing more than a fabulous character, created and performed by a man: James Davis. And yet, she is not just a figment of his imagination. Like any creation, she has taken on a life of her own, growing over the last two decades to play a prominent role in Davis' life and within the local community, too.

### girl next door

Born “off a dirt road” in Alabama the day before the largest civil rights march led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on Washington DC, Davis was raised in various states throughout the South — including Georgia and South Carolina — before his family finally settled in Kansas. He graduated from the University of Kansas in the early 1990s after a prolonged stint in college.

After that, he traveled around the world, even doing some modeling in the mid '90s. At the time, South Beach was a hotbed of models, photographers, artists and dreamers. One prominent resident being none other than famed designer Gianni Versace, at whose behest Davis moved. He arrived in Miami late in the evening the night before he was supposed to begin working for Versace, but not 24 hours had elapsed and Versace was dead, shot early in the morning on the steps of his Ocean Drive mansion.

“I moved here the day he died,” Davis says. “My friends told me they were having a memorial party the

following Wednesday at Warsaw Ballroom. And I thought, ‘what better way to honor his memory than to get into high drag and go celebrating?’”

He walked into the lobby at the Warsaw Ballroom and met General Manager Maxwell Blandford, who offered Elaine Lancaster a job on the spot as the emcee of the amateur strip contest on Wednesday nights.

“I made a lot of friends, but I made a lot of enemies, too,” says Davis. “The drag queens all hated me from that moment on. I had taken a job they all thought they were entitled to.”

For just about two decades now, Davis has played the part of Elaine Lancaster, entertaining and emceeing at numerous LGBTQ and non-gay galas throughout South Florida, including White Party, Miami Beach Gay Pride and The Blacks' Annual Gala (co-hosted by good friend Lea Black, with whom Elaine co-starred on Bravo's *Real Housewives of Miami* in 2010). She has come to count Pamela Anderson and Dennis Rodman among her good friends.







“i have a tendency to invoke emotions in people. i’m never angry. I’m never nasty. i don’t attack anybody. I never do.”

A number of proclamations — from Dallas, TX, several from Miami Beach, one from each Miami-Dade County and the city of Miami — adorn the walls of Davis’ apartment. By some counts he may just be the most awarded citizen — not just drag queen — in Miami and Miami Beach.

In 2015, Davis was recognized by the Harvey Milk Foundation and the Pride Center at Equality Park in Wilton Manors with one of the first Diversity Honors awards.

The organization sought candidates who give back to their communities or people who are unabashedly authentic, and Davis fulfilled both categories, according to Stuart Milk, president of the national Harvey Milk Foundation.

Thanks to Elaine’s growing presence and zealous work ethic, Davis now owns a four-unit apartment building in Miami’s Upper East Side. And “because you can’t live off your good looks forever,” he rents out two of the units and resides there, too. He shares the top floor with the woman in his life, the real landlady: Elaine. From his unit, a simple door separates his modest and orderly world from her profusion of embellished designer gowns, full flaxen wigs and trays upon trays of make-up.

### bad girl

“Wind me up and I’ll go,” says Davis. “I have a tendency to invoke emotions in people. I’m never angry. I’m never nasty. I don’t attack anybody. I never do.”

But the very same penchant for being outspoken that led to Elaine Lancaster’s rise, has also led to plenty of public scrutiny, especially given Davis’ very public support of Donald Trump.

“I’m a leader in the community, and I know I am and I take great responsibility in that,” he says. “I have never in my life experienced so much hatred, pettiness and animosity for me posting something.”

He says it started when he posted a statement about how Obama was like Madonna and Lady Gaga, playing the gay community. “The gays used to be the free thinkers. They used to be so progressive and so independent and now they’re sheep,” he says. “If the leader, whoever it may be Gaga or Madonna, says to do this, they all get in lock step. It’s ok to be a free dresser, an independent spirit, but don’t you dare deviate from the thought. Don’t you ever change the way you’re supposed to think.”

Many in the community have questioned and rejected Davis’



“I don’t consider anyone an enemy. I consider them sort of misguided perhaps, and if you create dialogue you can create change.”

political views. While Trump’s campaign was unorthodox by any measure and the discourse has been quite inflammatory in general, the LGBTQ community had a greater concern than offensive language. Trump’s chosen running mate, former Indiana governor Mike Pence, famously signed the controversial Religious Freedom Restoration Act into law in 2015, drawing plenty of attention to that state.

Davis admits he’s a little concerned by some of the appointments that have been made by the president elect. The EPA is one example. “Yeah, that scares me too because I’m a huge environmentalist,” he says. But in the end he says that issues like employment and the economy affect everyone, including the LGBTQ community and he feels that many have lost sight of that. “Without jobs, it doesn’t matter how many rights we get!”

As with just about every other aspect of this last presidential

campaign cycle, the political discussion between Davis and many in the community went from heated to downright aggressive in no time. Being a public figure, all the animosity played out in a very public way, and that has taken its toll.

“I’ve done all these events for all these gay causes, and people have literally said, ‘I’m gonna kill you. If I see you outside I’m gonna throw a brick at your head,’” he says.

He created what he calls The Folder of Hate, which includes screen shots of the nastier messages he’s received via social media. At least one he felt he had to report to the Miami Beach police department.

“I will not tolerate it anymore.”

### spreading the love

“I know how you effect change is you engage the so-called enemy,” says Davis. “I don’t consider anyone an enemy. I consider them sort of misguided perhaps, and if you create dialogue you can create change.”

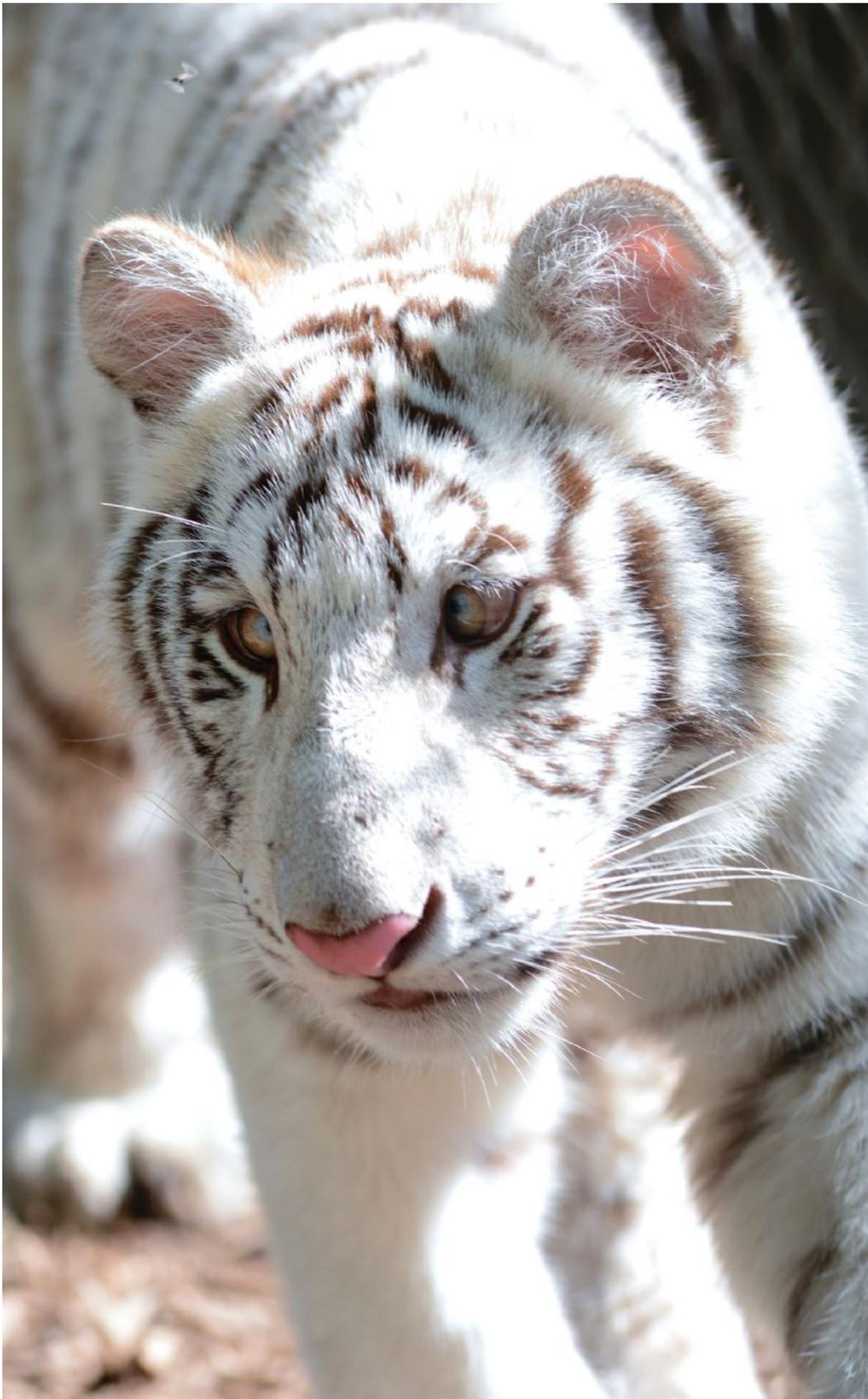
He says he once engaged political pundit Rush Limbaugh in this way, and he feels that Limbaugh listened because he was being included.

“It’s because so many people say, ‘if you’re not gonna accept me for who I am, ‘f’ you! I’m out of here.’ But they don’t create dialogue. There’s no communication.”

Davis has taken Lancaster to spread her message in foreign lands as part of an ongoing project titled *Diva Destinations*. The online travel show provides viewers with an insider’s look at some of the most glamorous places on Earth. Introducing viewers to places they would never have imaged, *Diva Destinations* has one completed episode filmed in Mykonos, Greece and a trip to Cuba is in the works.

In addition to the show and her ongoing drag performances at Señor Frogs in Miami Beach, Lancaster even developed her own line of lip gloss. She now has 12 shades in her collection and more is sure to come. •

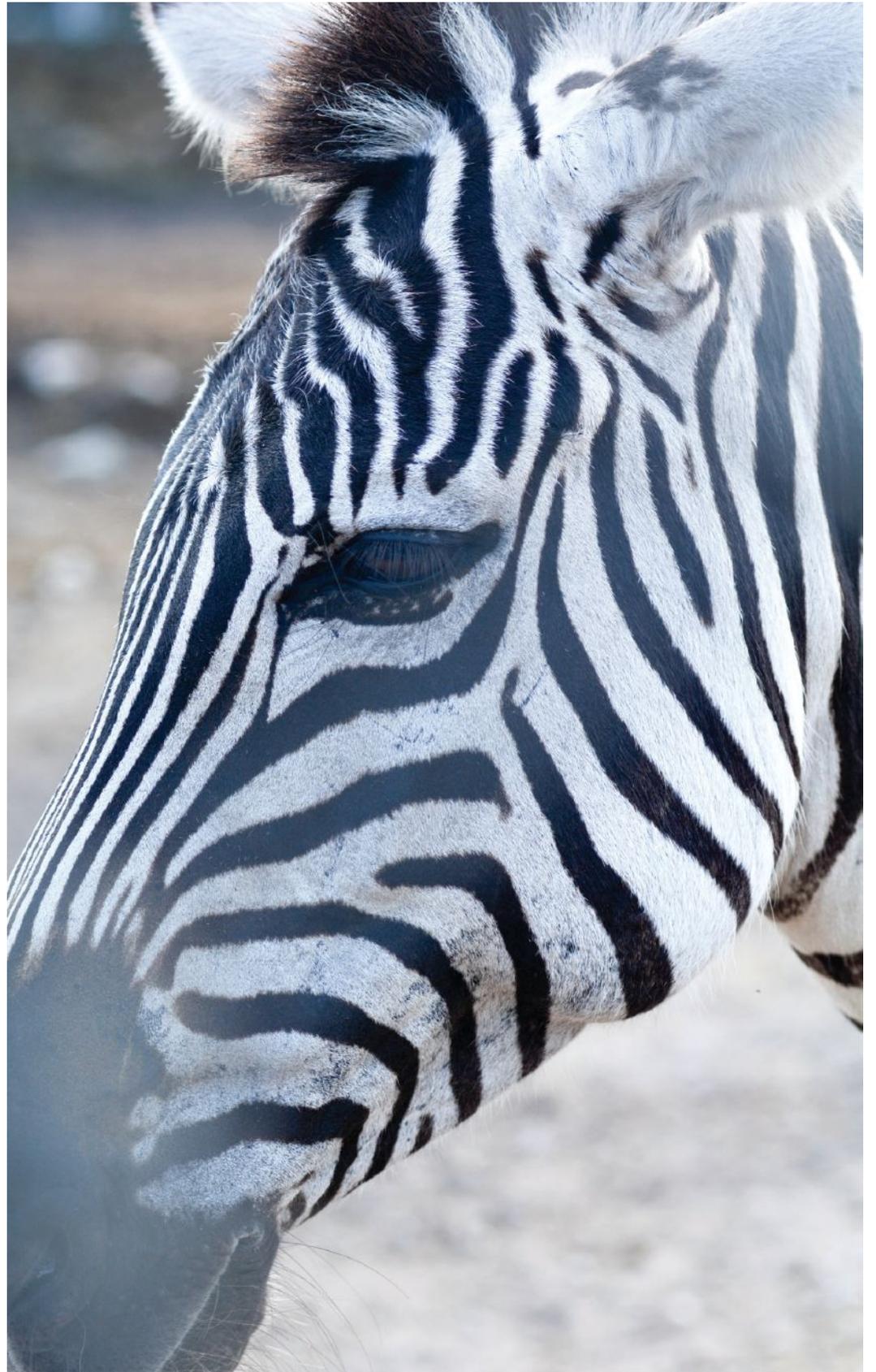




Carina Mask and Christina Mendenhall (3)

# Animal Magnetism

By Julie Balter



The emotional connection between our impassioned LGBTQ population and the animal kingdom surpasses common stereotypes, extending into the mystical.



**W**hy does our queer community actively embrace the stray dogs, broken-winged birds and endangered wildlife of the world? I don't want to play armchair psychologist or animal biologist — but wait — I really do! Sure, some similar outward attributes of our two species are worth noting. Anecdotal evidence suggests that queers are the most adorable, playful and charismatic Earth-beings, second only to our animal friends. There's nothing cute or cuddly looking about gay bashing politicians, for instance.

On the sad-dog-eyes side — and in all seriousness — we also understand exclusion. We've been tossed on the street and sometimes tamed against will. Many of us identify with wild things; we outright reject hetero

norms, be it marriage or monogamy. We're the feisty honey badgers who don't give a #\$\$%! But we're also like black swans who crave soul mates and domestic nests; our pets could practically be pushed in a baby carriage.

We see the gentle beauty within the pit bull "beast." We're the first to provide them safe shelter without breaking their spirit. "These dogs deserve the same love and compassion shown to other breeds," insists Sebrina Alfonso, conductor of the South Florida Symphony. Along with partner Jacqueline Lorber, she's tirelessly challenged the pit bulls' maligned stereotype and found homes for over 20 dogs on the verge of being euthanized.

We also can't pass by a frightened, flea-ridden cat without at least offering all of last night's leftovers. We write Christmas-sized checks to support rescue efforts. We might even own a wall-size portrait of our pet wearing a pink tutu (and we're only too proud to show you).

Combine our boundless love and open bleeding hearts with rabid loyalties, and our marginalized queer population becomes fiercely primed to protect our kindred animal friends. "All my dogs have been rescued," said Wendy Silva, owner of Phoebe & Friends, who, with partner Robin Schwartz (former Aqua Foundation director), cares for mixed-breeds Stella, Sebastian and Pooka. "They add so much to our lives, and we can only hope to give them love as unconditional as theirs is for us."

Our instinctive care could even be spiritually connected. Ganesh, the Hindu deity, appearing in form as an elephant, is often associated with the queer community. He is worshipped for removing obstacles, protections against adversity, and evoking creative arts and expression. St. Francis Assisi, the revered patron saint of animals, preached honor and equality of all



creatures and has also been thought to have engaged in gay relationships.

Call it nature or nurture, but 71 percent of LGBT adults compared to 63 percent of heterosexuals are pet owners — according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Here in South Florida, nestled between the endangered Everglades and the globally warmed Atlantic king tides, we're especially attuned to organizations focused on animal welfare.

Many South Florida animal rescue associations combine volunteer initiatives with educational ventures that make for amazing field trips. While so many non-profits make great use of contributions, here are a handful of remarkable organizations that offer friendly adventure in exchange for (or in addition to) a supportive financial donation.

**From left: Cats are common house pets; Loggerhead Marine Life Center releases rehabilitated green sea turtles; Island Dolphin Care offers interaction programs.**

## Rolling in the Deep

**Fun(d) Facts:** Dolphins are smart, playful, and frisky. The bottlenose, for instance, is also known to exhibit homoerotic behaviors, but did you know that they can also provide therapeutic interactions? Like many aquatic therapy techniques, spending time with dolphins has proven to aid human ailments ranging from anxiety and depression to physical disabilities and autoimmune diseases. Research suggests that by stimulating the production of endorphins and hormones, dolphin therapy can help reduce pain, enhance recovery and stimulate T-cell production.

**Local Efforts:** Island Dolphin Care, located in Key Largo, provides intensive dolphin therapy for children and adults with special needs and intensive disorders such as PTSD. Through deep immersions with the dolphins, participants enhance self-esteem, attention span and social development. Shorter programs are also offered to groups for half and full days, as are observation sessions.

**Learn and Return:** A tour can be pre-arranged for anyone interested in learning more about this unique animal. Financial contributions and volunteers for administrative assistance are always welcome.

## Grace Under Water

**Fund(d) facts:** Unlike their land-based counterparts, sea turtles can't hide their head and legs inside their shell. Like us, they're totally vulnerable. So much so, that they're going extinct, in spite of predating the age of dinosaurs.



If that wasn't enough reason to support their conservation, consider that sea turtles often travel more than 10,000 miles to lay their eggs at the same location they were born.

**Local Efforts:** Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach is worth the drive (especially when you consider how much farther than you the sea turtles have traveled). This leading center of research and rehabilitation cares for injured sea turtles such as Bear, a sub-adult who mistook a power plant canal for his native beach land. When rescued, Bear's internal

**Clockwise from left: Charleen Trimble with Pelican Harbor Seabird Station's opossum mascot, Orange Blossom; volunteer handling a young gator at Everglades Outpost; the resident same-sex couple at Pelican Harbor, Pepe and Enrique.**

temperature was 60 degrees and his heart was only beating at five beats per minute. Bear continues to be closely monitored by the center staff, along with rescued buddies such as Burt Reynolds, who was discovered tangled in a net. Like his celebrity namesake, Burt is responding well to therapy.

**Learn and Return:** From turtle hatching observations to veterinary learning lab-tours, Loggerhead offers educational activities for every age. And if you're searching for the perfect gift, you can sponsor the adoption of your very own reptile. For a \$35 donation (which goes toward food, medication and hospital care) you — or the recipient of choice — is anointed "turtle ambassador." You can visit your turtle anytime, so helicopter parents can receive progress updates.

### The Birdcage

**Fun(d) Facts:** Anyone who has spent time around South Florida's waterways knows that a pelican's vertical dive rivals that of Greg Louganis'. The brown birds with the big gulls are also first-class poopers who leave



## GAY DOGS

Our potent pet connection is scientifically proven to stimulate health and reduce stress. All the more reason to take on Pet Project, a Wilton Manors organization that helps people afflicted by HIV-related illnesses and other debilitating diseases care for their personal pets. Initiatives include a pet food bank and delivery, assistance with pet exercise, vet transportation, and – when needed – fostering and adoption facilitation.

Pet Project eagerly welcomes hands-on assistance, but they also suggest a creative way to contribute, one that every queer can relate to: Throw a party in the name of charitable contributions. After all, festivity, even in the face of extreme adversity, is perhaps our most admirable trait.

special packages on every marina. But what you may not know is that pelicans are an endangered species as consequence of losing their natural habitats and sustaining injuries from fishing hooks and lines.

**Local Efforts:** These birds flock together along our overdeveloped coastlines and therefore need urban-based treatment centers. Miami's Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is located on the 79th Street Causeway and cares for injured pelicans impacted by this ongoing

overdevelopment. Thousands of displaced and injured animals are received and cared for thanks to the generosity of private donors.

**Learn and Return:** The center welcomes visitors and offers group tours. For the ultimate urban eco-education take a guided sunset birding tour along Biscayne Bay, during which you could spot over 30 bird species. For a fun way to support, make plans to attend the annual Pelican Party on April 22nd at the Miami Shores Country Club ([pelicanharbor.org](http://pelicanharbor.org)).

## Lemurs, Monkeys and Bears

**Fun(d) Fact:** Only in South Florida could a panther be confiscated during a drug bust or a tiger found illegally kept as a stripper's pet. And of course, there are the monkeys allegedly held captive in the name of research. Suddenly, our pelican poop problem seems so benign.

**Local Efforts:** Bob Freer and his wife were innocently caring for injured birds, raccoons and possums. Times being what they are, it wasn't long before their Homestead-based Everglades Outpost transformed into a refuge of last resort for unwanted, and/or abused zebras, camels, alligators and any other animal unsuccessfully — and often illegally — procured as a pet. The Outpost's aim, whenever possible, is to rehabilitate and release animals back into their natural environment.

**Learn and Return:** To support treatment and caretaking costs, the Everglades Outpost offers tours, airboat rides, alligator-feeding shows, and personal snake-handling sessions. Don't worry! If you'd rather keep all your fingers accounted for, simply write a check before leaving. Godzilla, the alligator, will be most appreciative. •

Juvenile horned owl with Pelican Harbor volunteer, Doug.



# MONTREAL

BEAUTIFUL AND ROMANTIC, THE CITY OF SAINTS MAKES AN IDEAL WEEKEND GETAWAY FOR THOSE OF THE RAINBOW PERSUASION.

BY LYNARE ROBBINS



# PREAL

Je T'Aime





Of all the cities in the Americas, Montreal possesses a uniquely European feel, apparent in both its Old World charm and modern international sophistication. From romantic city strolls and world-class architecture to decadent dishes and a vibrant LGBTQ community, there is plenty for two love birds to do in this city, even on a quick weekend getaway.

### History Buffs

Built in 1656, the Notre-Dame Basilica is the oldest church and landmark in Montreal. It's a beautifully detailed structure where you can take a break from sightseeing to commune with your higher power or simply enjoy an organ recital or choral performance.

A five-minute walk down Rue Saint-François-Xavier will lead you to the Pointe-à-Callière Museum, which houses First Nation and early settler artifacts. This archaeology and history museum introduces visitors to the city and province's unique history. Just a short drive north will lead you to La Prison des Patriotes Exhibition Centre. Located in the heart of the former Pied-du-Courant prison, the institution commemorates the 1,300 patriots who were imprisoned — some, even executed — during the rebellion of 1837-1838.

For a bit of more recent history, head across town to The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, which educates visitors about the Holocaust while promoting respect for diversity and human life.



### Art Lovers

Artists and Montreal go hand in hand. The creative spirit is woven into the very soul of the city. If art is what you crave, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is a great place to start your day. Scheduled until June 2017, the *Chagall: Colour and Music* exhibit features 400 works by the modernist master, including paintings, sculptures, maquettes, stained glass windows, photographs, films and even puppets.

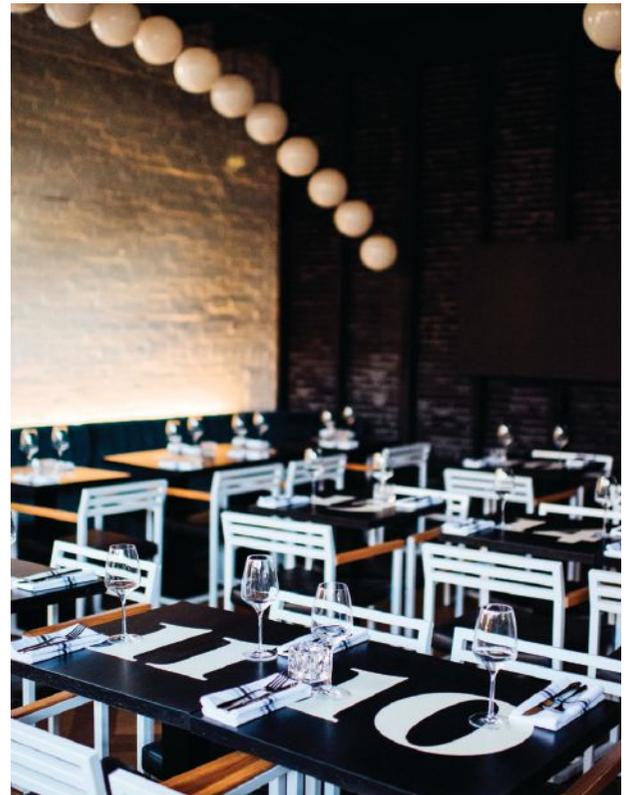
Film lovers can catch a cult classic or an international movie at the Centre Phi, which also hosts concerts, plays and exhibits. And if you and your sweetie prefer something a little more risqué, Cinema L'Amour shows vintage erotic films nightly.

### Naturalists

Montreal Botanical Garden is an excellent place for a little relaxation in a natural setting. The lush garden boasts more than 20,000 species and includes a rose garden, as well as Chinese and Japanese bonsai trees.

Opposite page:  
Notre-Dame Basilica  
altar. This page, from  
top: Marc Chagall's  
Le Triomphe de la  
Musique; Montreal  
Botanical Garden





Visitors who like to explore at their own pace can pick up a bike at any one of the 400 Bixi Stops across the city. Rent one for the day and head to Parc La Fontaine. Named after political activist, Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine, the stunning grounds are best appreciated during a leisurely ride. If you like to pursue heart-racing activities and water sports are your passion, try whitewater rafting on the Lachine Rapids, near downtown Montreal on the Saint Lawrence River.

### Gourmands

With all the activity and excitement, you must eat, and in Montreal you can eat very well indeed. For breakfast, Eggspectation on Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, offers diners 101 variations of eggs Benedict.

You can elevate your dining experience at Les Deux Singes de Montarvie. The gastronomic delight specializes in international, French, Canadian and vegetarian fare.

Give your fine dining experience an international spin at Damas, which serves up Syrian-inspired dishes. Le Virunga has become a trendy foodie destination. The pan-African restaurant gives local dishes an African twist. Plantain and poutine anyone?

Those keeping Kosher should try the signature knishes at Fletchers, which is tucked away inside the Museum of Jewish Montreal.

Le Bird Bar features 13 different sauces for fried chicken and faux chicken for vegetarians vegans,

too. The ever-famous Tuck Shop's sophisticated menu creations — think: stuffed courgette flowers and jerk hen — should not be missed.

Sure there are amazing restaurants everywhere, but you can also try your own dishes by taking a French cooking class at Ateliers and Saveurs or an Indian cooking class at Masala Indian Restaurant.

### Fashionistas

Besides the fantastic food, Montreal is also known for its fashion sense, especially when it comes to haircuts. For a great cut and style, go to Haas Hair Salon in the Gay Village. Then kick back and relax as you get an fabulous foot massage while you sip on a nice hot tea at Happy Foot.

Mutt and Jeff is a couture boutique that offers that latest European fashions from Turkey. A visit to the Underground City will reveal a network of underground malls, hotels and art venues that will undoubtedly result in a full shopping bag. Department stores and small boutiques line a 12-block stretch of Rue Saint Catherine.

### Community Pride

In 1996, the Canadian Human Rights Act added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination laws. In 2004 marriage equality was written into law across the land. While discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression is illegal in the province of Quebec, Canada as a whole

From left:  
Les Deux Singes  
de Montarvie;  
Le Bird Bar

has yet to follow suit. Federal bill C-16, proposed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, would address this disparity.

As with any metropolitan city, the place where an LGBTQ traveler can find out more about the queer community is the local LGBTQ Center, which in Montreal is the Centre Communautaire LGBTQ de Montreal. It has been serving the community for 26 years. Along with a host of resources, the Center is also home to a library with more than 12,000 documents on sexual diversity.

Queer visitors can have access to everything from LGBTQ AA meetings to a host of health services, including HIV testing and safe-sex

support at the Clinique Medicale Quartier Latin ([cliniquequartierlatin.com](http://cliniquequartierlatin.com)).

Nearby, Le Village is a thriving and diverse neighborhood with restaurants, bars, shops and other attractions. This is also where Montreal's annual Pride parade, known as Fierté Montréal, takes place in August. The week-long celebration hosts cultural events promoting LGBTQ awareness, visibility and inclusivity. An LGBTQ Human Rights Conference is also part of the Pride program, as is a Community Day.

Last August, a team from World OutGames Miami attended the festivities to promote and market the World OutGames in the city that first organized that event. "Attending Pride in Montreal was special last year since it was the 10-year celebration since World OutGames was hosted in Montreal," says Bruce Townsend, chair of the board of directors of World OutGames Miami. "It was monumental to be in the city where World OutGames started."

Diversity and inclusion are deeply cherished values in the city. Queer Tango Montreal is a tango group for the LGBTQ community that offers classes four nights a week. At the classes, students are taught to dance and gender roles are switched, explored, shared and played with.

The group hosts a three-day festival in early May that explores gender roles, promotes tango dancing and organizes a welcome dinner for festival attendees. •

*Clockwise from top left: Viva Delorme and Krista Baker dancing during last year's Queer Tango festival; Old Port Montréal; Couple under pink balls in Le Village*



# THE LOVE CONNECTION

Whether you're on a quest for your soul mate or just feeling frisky, there's an app for that.

by SOLE SASTRE

It's been a while since dating sites became the virtual singles bar where the curious, playful or hopeful post their wanted notices and wish lists. And while the concept took some time to gain traction with the mainstream public, for LGBTQ singles it was the ticket to a brave new world. After all, what better way to privately seek other like-minded individuals without having to deal with disapproving family members, outing yourself to coworkers or even placing yourself in a dangerous situation? Just the logistics of having to find a gathering spot in some parts of the country made the online experience a no-brainer.

That said, the dating world heavyweights made sure to include a few questions that allowed members to customize their profiles a little, but the effort — while well-intended perhaps — provided little more than that. Smaller sites lacked the numbers for any real diversity in their membership.

Enter LGBTQ-specific dating sites. I mean, why not? After all, there are farmer-specific sites, and in this case, sexual-orientation is incredibly relevant. Having worked at Match.com and tried the service himself, Onegoodlove.com creator, Frank Mastronuzzi, ultimately felt the need to build a site from scratch. That site is now the onegoodcrush dating app. And that's where it's at. While Match.com improved its LGBTQ game, and the Zoosk and OkCupid platforms were built to be

inclusive, it's been apps like Grindr, Jack'd, Fem and HER, among dozens of others that have taken dating to the next level.

So what do they have to offer? Here's a quick rundown:

## Fem

Unlike most dating apps, Fem offers video dating features instead of just basic photos. This allows members to let their personalities shine. Currently ranked No. 1 among lesbian dating apps in the iTunes app store, it's become a popular way for lesbians and bi-curious women to make new friends, chat and meet other singles.

## Grindr

This app was created with gay, bisexual and bi-curious men in mind. It has grown to have more than 5 million users, so there are plenty of men to choose from no matter where you are — members are scattered across 196 countries. Grindr is definitely on the casual side, so it's probably not the first choice for those seeking anything more long-term.

## HER

Formerly Dattch, this app verifies accounts, so lesbian, bisexual and queer women can safely and securely contact each other via unlimited messages and unlimited picture uploads. Members can also browse lesbian articles on pop culture and see what's happening in their cities. It's great if you're new in town. Play a

quick game of "Would You Rather?" to strike up a conversation.

## Jack'd

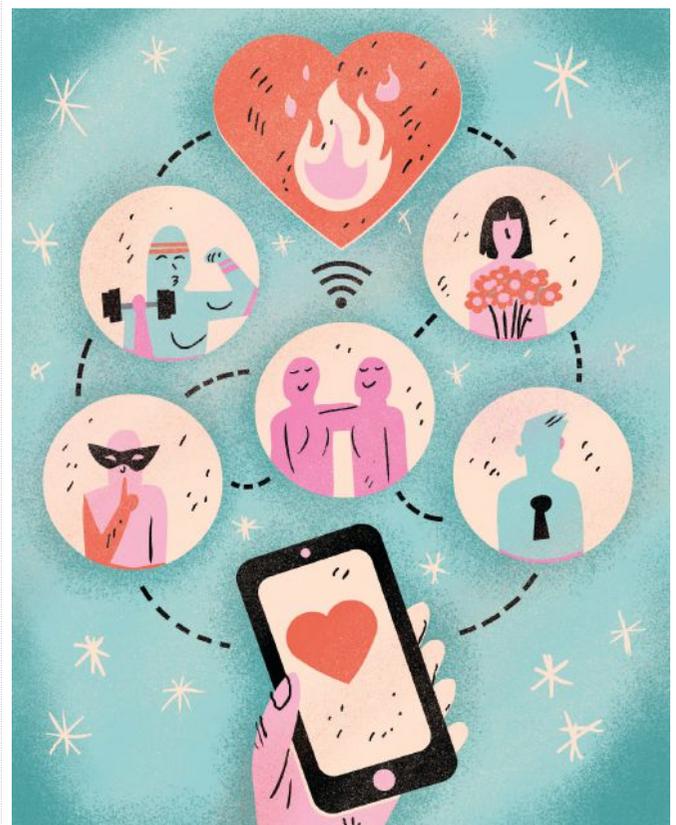
Guys who want to meet other guys can chat with more than 5 million users across the globe. Jack'd predominantly markets itself to gay black men and offers easy and accessible communication features. Woof!

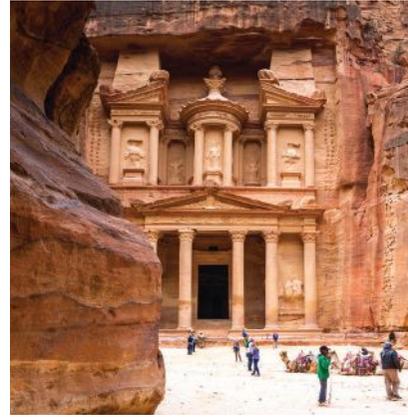
## OkCupid

Widely considered one of the best dating apps, the OkCupid platform makes it easy to browse profiles of other members that are nearby. It's available for iPhone, iPad and Android, and you can start by sending and receiving messages for free.

## Zoosk

This is yet another mainstream dating app that is great for LGBTQ singles, too. It features a robust platform that makes getting started easy. After just a few questions you'll be on your way to romantic bliss...or at least meeting some interesting people. •





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# THE DOCTOR DILEMMA

Choosing a primary care physician is one of the most important decisions you make. Here are a few tips on how to find one you can trust for a lifetime.

by WYATT MYERS

**A**s we grow older, we all make plenty of weighty, sometimes agonizing, decisions about our jobs, our relationships and other critical life choices. One important decision all of us must face — but we often overlook — is who we choose as a primary care physician.

Clifford Medina, MD, the Chief of General Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, says that taking the time to find the right primary care physician is worth the effort. Choose wisely, he says, and you'll have a trusted health professional in your corner who will ask the right questions, perform the proper tests and ensure that you always have the care you need. Choose poorly, and it's possible that you or your doctor could let critical health concerns slip through the cracks as the years progress.

Of course, choosing the right doctor is a highly personal decision. A doctor that works for one person might not be a great candidate for someone else. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you go about selecting a primary care physician for your own health care needs.

## Credentials

As is true of plumbers, electricians or any other professional, you want to start by making sure your doctor is qualified, notes Dr. Medina. "In addition, to having a degree from an accredited U.S. medical school or international equivalent, I would make sure that they are board-certified," he says. "Either an MD or a DO, which is an osteopathic physician, can be a good choice."

Generally, your primary care physician specializes in either family medicine or internal medicine. Though the training of these doctors

is somewhat different, either makes for a solid primary care physician. Family physicians focus on the care of all members of the family, while internists specialize primarily on adult care.

## Big Practice vs. Small Practice

Another consideration is whether you want your doctor to be affiliated with a hospital or large medical center or to be part of a smaller practice. Here again, this is a highly personal decision. Doctors that are part of larger organizations often hold certain advantages.

"Large networks just have more resources," says Dr. Medina. "For example, at Mount Sinai, if you see an internist who then refers you to a cardiologist, you can stay within our network, and all of your health information will be readily available to every specialist that you see."

## One-on-One Time

While all these considerations matter, the reality is that the most important factor is how you interact with the doctor on a personal level. If you feel like he or she takes the time to listen, answers all your questions in a way you can understand and makes you feel comfortable and at ease, then it might be a match made in heaven. Conversely, if you feel rushed, uncomfortable or pressed for time with the doctor, you may want to consider looking elsewhere.

## Putting It All Together

"In the end, it should be about how the doctor makes you feel," says Dr. Medina. "If you feel comfortable telling the doctor about all your health problems and confident that he or she will help you make the right decisions, then you probably made the right choice."

Dr. Medina notes that this process can sometimes take more than one visit. Don't be afraid to give yourself three or four appointments. If you still don't feel comfortable, then it's perfectly acceptable to keep looking. •

**For  
more  
info**

Care Resource provides a wealth of information at its various locations throughout South Florida. [careresource.org](http://careresource.org)

# Miracles Up Ahead

We're proud of our near century-long commitment to our community – and even prouder that there are more Jackson miracles on the horizon. With our first urgent care center opening this summer and plans for Jackson West in Doral moving forward, we're continuing our promise to you.

However, our commitment doesn't stop there. Every family that passes through our doors is a priority. Your family – and your family's rights – take equal precedence to providing quality, compassionate care. That's why Jackson Health System has been named a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation for the *sixth consecutive year*.

Learn more at [LGBTHealthLeader.org](http://LGBTHealthLeader.org).



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# Q & A

## John Tanzella • President and CEO of IGLTA

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH

**I**t is a well-documented statistic that gay men and lesbians travel more widely than their straight counterparts. We also tend to venture out to far-flung places. As a result, hundreds of businesses in more than 80 countries court around the world, welcome and support these intrepid explorers. These businesses are members of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA), which is based in Fort Lauderdale.

### Q: Why was the IGLTA founded?

**A:** In 1983, here in South Florida, to help gay and lesbian clientele find somewhere safe to stay. It was begun by an underground network of LGBT travel agents and gay guesthouse owners. They would send each other customers because back then there was no prominent advertising of gay travel in the United States.

### Q: How does the organization function?

**A:** A lot of what we do is marketing; it depends on where you are. If you are in a very gay-friendly country such as Canada, we do it more from a marketing perspective. But if you are in a developing country or you are an emerging LGBT destination, we would help fund their membership and promote them to travelers so they are able to get some business from the community.

### Q: What does it mean to be an LGBTQ-friendly destination?

**A:** One where the tourism board actively reaches out to the community, whether it's through training for the hospitality industry, creating LGBT specific websites for travelers, getting engaged in the local gay community. Beyond that, basically if there are things for people in our community to do and are

marketed to. It doesn't have to be gay nightlife per se, but it could be a film or wine festival.

### Q: How much has the LGBTQ travel industry grown and what countries are trending?

**A:** The market has grown but it has also evolved. Ten years ago, we didn't have corporate partners. Now, these massive mainstream companies are interested in the gay traveler. If you look at it from the corporate sector reaching out, the U.S. by far is the largest, but you are starting to see it everywhere, even in far reaching places in Latin America. In trends, Southern Africa has been huge and Southeast Asia. Gay and lesbian travelers tend to be early adapters to new places. Myanmar is now open; Cambodia is becoming popular; Vietnam; Cuba as well, for Americans.

### Q: Homosexuality is still criminalized in many places. How dangerous is it for LGBTQ travelers?

**A:** Whether you are straight or gay, you need to abide by the laws. Just be smart and do your research before. So it's just a matter of being mindful of the culture. But we never tell somebody not go anywhere. The State Department came out with a link on their website for Americans traveling abroad, specifically for LGBT travel, and the reason they did that was because they know, no matter what they say, gay people are still going to go. •

• John Tanzella,  
President and CEO of  
the International Gay &  
Lesbian Travel Association



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# The Good, Bad and Romantic

## TAKING A LOOK AT THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN IMMIGRATION AND MARRIAGE

By Antonia Canero, Immigration Lawyer Miami-Dade

Perhaps the most romantic adventure we can embark on is to plan a life with someone else. Then, it's up to us to keep day-to-day exciting. It's what makes us glow a little brighter, smile a little longer and sigh in a loving way. So how do romance and marriage play a role in immigration?

Well, let's begin with the fact that marriage is a serious commitment. Before contemplating an immigration solution by marriage to a U.S. citizen, a couple should be living together in a genuine marriage, co-mingling their funds and other important matters for a few years to obtain and keep a resident status. The U.S. citizen should be fully aware and prepared for the fact that the

affidavit of support — signed by the U.S. citizen to attest to their ability to support the foreign born spouse — is not terminated by a divorce. It is enforced until the foreign-born spouse becomes a U.S. citizen.

There is a fair amount of paperwork and presentation of evidence materials required, but it is not generally a difficult process. Many people don't have the patience to follow through with all the tedious details involved though. Often, U.S. citizens can become infuriated with the demands and delays, especially if their foreign-born spouse lives in another country and cannot come to the U.S. In those cases, it is prudent to involve an attorney.

Fortunately for true love, U.S. immigration law allows marriage to a U.S. citizen to remove almost all barriers and sanctions commonly imposed by immigration laws. Sadly this has also led to a much-abused "immigration solution." Many of us have seen the humorous side of this scenario as it played out in the 1990s film *Green Card*, but we rarely hear the true horrors of a marriage scam. You can orchestrate or pretend there is a bone fide marriage, but no one can guarantee that under the pressure of an interview with USCIS, the truth will not rear its ugly head. USCIS officers are particularly adept at knowing how to grill people.

The biggest problem with failing the "test," as some people call it, is that the foreigner gets deported and the U.S. citizen goes to jail. Not only does the foreigner get deported, but there is no solution, relief or way around the finality of the decision.

If a couple has been married for less than two years, the foreign-born spouse is given a conditional residence. Many people believe that they cannot get a divorce prior to removing the conditional residence or they will lose their status. That is not true. A bad marriage is a bad marriage, and you can get out. A U.S. citizen is not entitled to intimidate his or her spouse. The spouse would just need to document that the marriage took place in good faith.

To remove a condition, you must be married at the time of the interview or you have to be fully divorced. A mere separation does not allow you to remove the condition. To remove the condition after a divorce the foreign-born spouse must prove the marriage was for love and not for any other interest. If the foreign-born spouse has been beaten or mistreated, they can file for residency without the U.S. citizen, but they must still be married. •

*Antonia Canero*  
*Immigration Lawyer Miami-Dade*  
[acanero.com](http://acanero.com)  
*Corporate Partner Member of the*  
*Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber*  
*of Commerce*

# Love Boat

YOU AND YOUR PARTNER ARE ONE OF A KIND, SO YOUR WEDDING SHOULD BE, TOO.

By Lisa Mackenzie

Finding the perfect location, the right price point and a style that feels right is not always easy when planning a wedding. A yacht is a unique venue that offers a perfect alternative to the traditional land-based location. With a surprisingly affordable budget and irreplaceable ambience, a yacht charter is an undeniably sophisticated choice to create an unforgettable event.

Today, some high-end yachts are built specifically with weddings in mind. They offer open deck space for wedding ceremonies, full dining rooms, full workings galleys and even bridal suites. In upscale yachts, chefs are classically trained and clients are offered a full range of cuisine to suit their taste, style and budget. Be sure to inspect the galley to make sure all food is prepared fresh on board. Unlike a traditional catering hall or hotel, most yacht clients offer guests a buffet, an appropriate choice, since the yacht encourages movement and freedom between decks.

Whether clients prefer a trendy, cocktail party-style service or a formal sit-down affair, industry leaders have had to rise to the challenge. Clients are smarter about food, thanks to the wealth of culinary shows on TV and the return of small boutique-style restaurants. This requires premier yacht chefs to be flexible with dietary requirements, whether that is gluten free, vegetarian, vegan or any other.

The same goes for mixologists. With the recent popularity of classic cocktails, the bar options have flourished, from premium to specialty bars that feature tropical drinks or trendy craft cocktails.

So how does a yacht wedding work? Companies often offer clients pick-up at popular marinas that have plenty of guest parking available. More established yacht



charter companies also offer full planning services that can include everything from DJs and florists to house photographers that specialize in nautical events. There is no limit to the possibilities. From cigar rollers and flamenco dancers to Marilyn Monroe impersonators it's really up to you.

Most charters are typically four to five hours in length. Guests board the yacht and are ushered to the top deck for outdoor ceremonies. Larger yachts can also offer an indoor deck so clients can decide on what location works best for them and their guests.

Clients have a choice of sailing during the event or holding a dockside ceremony. One of the most exciting moments is getting underway. A yacht wedding offers something of a destination wedding feel. Guests experience a getaway without really having to get away.

Cocktail hour is usually around sunset. Guests enjoy passed hors d'oeuvres as they are treated to breathtaking views of the city and the sea beyond. Imagine a

calm intercoastal with orange and purple skies as a backdrop, accompanied by great food, family and friends. It is an unbeatable combination.

Typically, yachts offer basic linens, flatware and china. But be sure to ask plenty of questions, as specialty items like fine linens and chair covers are an additional expense, and not all yachts are created equal. Inspect the dining room. Ask what is included. Check out the dance floor and imagine it is open and your guests are surrounding you and your love to the pulsating sounds of the hottest beats and the moonlight shimmering on the water overhead. A yacht wedding makes a statement that is all your own and very far from ordinary. •

*Lisa Mackenzie  
South Beach Lady  
southbeachlady.com  
Corporate Partner Member of the  
Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber  
of Commerce*



# Lookin' for Love

## IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN A SONG

By Alana S. Perez

We've all heard the lyrics of *Lookin' For Love* (in all the wrong places) but there's one thing we know for sure: If South Florida is where you happen to live, you don't have to look very far at all to find love and romance. It's everywhere! It is virtually impossible to avoid romantic spots in these sultry tropics. There are so many choices for wedding venues, romantic dinners or places to go on date night, but we'd like to share one of the more unique venues for a romantic encounter; be it a formal event or impromptu visit.

Nothing spells romance quite like the sweet smell of flora, sounds of natural streams, tunes of songbirds

and a peaceful setting. And romance is celebrated in its many forms at the forested wetlands, hardwood hammock, cypress slough and a lake graced with swans and other waterfowl in Pinecrest Gardens, South Florida's Cultural Arts Park and Botanical Garden. From green fields where you and your loved one can spread a blanket for an afternoon picnic to a number of picturesque venues that are ideal for wedding vows and receptions, the 14-acre park uses its natural beauty to great effect. The 500-seat amphitheater, regularly used for Shakespearean plays or graceful dancers, even has a geodesic dome that minimizes the threat of inclement weather to no threat at all.

Formerly historic Parrot Jungle, this unique park tucked away in the municipality of Pinecrest welcomes around 150,000 visitors a year, but the winding paths shaded by natural tree canopy or protected by wooden path covers ensure you won't even notice either the summer heat or the other visitors. Wherever you may wander, small nooks and beautiful places off the beaten track provide the kind of privacy and peace scarcely found in the city. This is indeed a place where a budding romance can bloom. Wedding facilities can accommodate parties large and small, and each has its distinctive botanical appeal. Pinecrest Gardens, South Florida's Cultural Arts park might just be one of Miami's best kept secrets, only to be shared and experienced with someone you love. •

*Alana S. Perez*  
*Pinecrest Gardens*  
[pinecrestgardens.org](http://pinecrestgardens.org)  
 Corporate Member of the Miami-Dade  
 Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

VISIT [WWW.PINECRESTGARDENS.ORG](http://WWW.PINECRESTGARDENS.ORG) OR CALL 305.669.6990 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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# Spotlight: Alan Yabar

## VICE PRESIDENT AND MARKETING MANAGER OF WELLS FARGO, SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

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CORPORATE PARTNER MEMBER OF THE MIAMI-DADE GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

### Please share with us a bit of your personal background.

South Florida has been my home for the last seven years and I've loved every minute of it. With its wonderfully diverse people, warm weather and beautiful beaches, every day is an adventure here. Prior to my move, I lived in Los Angeles California where I still have the majority of my Colombian/Peruvian family and many incredible friends. Thankfully there are many parallels between both cities, making for a smooth transition.

I jumped aboard the Wells Fargo Stagecoach in 2002 as a part-time docent at the Wells Fargo History Museum in San Diego, CA (yes, Wells Fargo has 11 museums throughout the U.S. housing history of over 160 years), later transitioning

members to volunteer their personal time in partnership with over 50 South Florida non-profit organizations. We served meals for homeless people, painted and repaired homes, cleaned beaches and more all over the course of a weekend. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience that we now strive to keep as a tradition every year.

In 2010, I was proud to be a part of the team that led the merger between Wells Fargo and Wachovia, one of the largest and most complex mergers in banking history.

### Wells Fargo has historically supported the LGBTQ community. Do you see that support continuing?

Our history of serving diverse communities goes as far back as 1852, when we first opened our doors for business. Since



We are proud of our ongoing tradition and commitment to equality and inclusion for all our LGBT customers, team members and communities and work hard to build and sustain a culture where people feel valued and respected for who they are, as well as for their skills and experiences. We are truly committed to supporting the long-term prosperity of LGBT individuals, families and businesses.

### What are some of the unique features of doing business in South Florida?

With South Florida being known as the "Gateway to the Americas" we have the unique opportunity to work with customers with richly diverse and international experiences and that gives us the chance to help them succeed financially — both with their consumer and business needs.

From the perspective of a marketing professional, this community is both a dream and a challenge, because we have to position the value of a banking relationship to people of many cultures, languages, socio-economic backgrounds.

### As a Corporate Partner Member, what do you feel makes the Chamber worthy of your support?

As a financial institution, supporting the efforts of the MDGLCC is the right thing to do and one of the most important things we do at Wells Fargo. Aside from providing the platforms for LGBT businesses to grow and add jobs for our community to prosper, it also unites professionals by bringing them together for everyone's success. •

## WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ONGOING TRADITION AND COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY AND INCLUSION FOR ALL OUR LGBT CUSTOMERS, TEAM MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES.

to work as a marketing consultant for the Los Angeles Metro market and in 2010 moving to Miami as the South Florida Regional Marketing Manager overseeing the local marketing strategy for more than 150 banking locations.

Once here, I had the pleasure of founding Wells Fargo's South Florida LGBT team member network (PRIDE South Florida), which champions diversity and promotes awareness through professional and personal opportunities. Additionally, I'm an active member of the company's Diversity Council and volunteer program.

### Please share a few success stories.

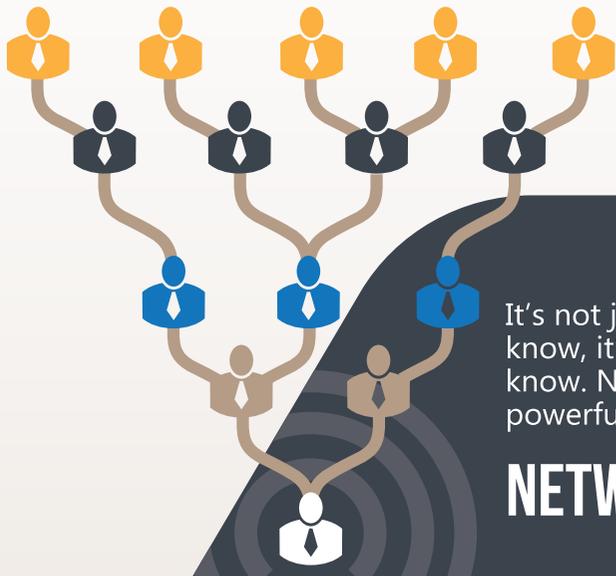
Most recently, I'm proud to have worked with the team that led the efforts around our third annual *Weekend of Service*, engaging more than 1,800 Wells Fargo team

the 1980s, we added sexual orientation to our nondiscrimination policy. And in 1998, all benefits extended to spouses of team members were also extended to the domestic partners.

To us, our support of the LGBT community is not just about our sponsorship of hundreds of PRIDE parades, events, LGBT nonprofit organizations like the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber locally and the prestigious Point Foundation nationally, or our support of LGBT anti-bullying campaigns like GLSEN. It's about our belief that diversity is fundamental to our success — it is a part of our Vision and Values — and it helps us develop an inclusive culture that is accepting of all of our differences and open to new ideas, allowing us to create a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

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# Rock Your World

REDEFINE ROMANCE THE NEXT TIME YOU AND BAE PLAN A STAYCATION.

By Jeremy Weinstein

We all have different stories about how we met and the secret to keeping the “magic” in our relationships. Perhaps it’s the grand gestures or maybe it’s the little things. There’s no one way to define romance. So whether you want to sweep your love off his feet or rock out with your girl, here are 10 of our favorite ways to feel the love.

## 01. A LITTLE R&R, AKA ROOM ROMANCE

Sometimes, leaving your bed is overrated. With room service just a phone call away to satisfy your every food craving and concierge service on rose petals, Champagne and sweets duty, staying in can be all the rage.

## 02. BASK IN PRIVACY

To hibernate or be immersed...is that even a question? Why choose when you can have both. Spend a day in a private poolside cabana made from traditional palm frond-covered Seminole chickees and complemented by personal butler service. Then, take a couple of steps toward the dramatic waterfalls, hot tubs, shallow pool and... people watching of course.

## 03. PUPPY LOVE

They’re too cute to leave behind, and there’s really no need to. Your furry friend is part of the family and deserving of love and pampering, too. Not to worry.

A number of the higher-end properties, including the Seminole Hard Rock have pet-friendly policies.

## 04. MENU SECRETO

Tell each other a secret. Or, let a well seasoned mixologists share one. If you are a tequila aficionado, you can sample premium tequilas from L Bar’s *Menu Secreto*. The secret menu is conferred by special request from those in the know or when you show tequila love in your cocktail order. Well, now the secret is out.

## 05. “THE DUET”

Why leave each other’s side, even for a minute? Rock Spa’s relaxing and indulgent couples’ massages is just another reason to lie side by side. Spend some quality time with your partner as you seclude yourselves for 50 or 80 minutes for a blissful escape in our couples’ suite. That sounds like a perfect pairing.

## 06. CLASSIC DATE NIGHT

There’s something about two tickets to a show that automatically gives a

couple that date night feeling. Grab your honey head to Hard Rock Live, where you will be able to sing along to your favorite tunes or have a serious laugh to some truly hysterical comedic banter. Go ahead, lose your voice. It's so worth it.

**07. DESSERT DECADENCE**

Intertwining ribbons of chocolate symbolizing lovers wrapped up in each other, the Hazelnut Bar — which was imagined and handcrafted by Executive Pastry Chef Ross Evans — has all the taste and texture to merit its spot as the most romantic dessert at Kuro Japanese restaurant. This piece of edible artwork can put any discerning chocolate lover in a euphoric mood.

**08. DECISIONS, DECISIONS**

When you have to choose from Council Oak Steaks & Seafood's selection of 400 *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence bottles from more than a dozen countries, dinner for two becomes infinitely more interesting. You really can't go wrong. Wine by the glass, half-bottle, bottle or large formats are all inspired and welcomed choices.

**09. TAKE A CHANCE**

Adrenaline can be a very powerful aphrodisiac. Thrill seekers, get ready to tantalize your senses as you get lucky. Then, win big, surrounded by bright lights, rock memorabilia and great music playing throughout the casino.

**10. AFTER-MIDNIGHT**

Winding down after a long night of fun can make anyone crave just one more bite to eat. Move on to round two at

the world-famous Hard Rock Café as you reminisce about the days when you stayed out late more often or keep an eye on the future. The night is young. •

*Jeremy Weinstein*  
*Seminole Hard Rock Hotel*  
*& Casino Hollywood*  
[seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://seminolehardrockhollywood.com)  
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## CLARITY: MIAMI-DADE GALLA

The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce hosted the Gay and Lesbian Lawyers Association (GALLA) at Perricone's Marketplace & Café. Tailored for attorneys, judges and legal professionals, the monthly luncheons offer members an opportunity to enjoy themselves and network with colleagues.



Clockwise from top left: Jorge Richa, Scott Bader and Steven Adkins • Leticia Carranzana and Marty Davis • Nora Rotella, Alan Newman and Patricia Hernandez • Victoria Azpurua and Amy Bloom • Nnamdi Jackson and Richard Bec • Paola Andrea Rodriguez and Jesika Diaz Munar



## CLARITY: HOLIGAY TOY DRIVE

Santa's workshop took over The Hub at the LGBT Visitor Center in Miami Beach in December for the 7th Annual HoliGay Celebration and Toy Drive. The community was invited to contribute an unwrapped toy to the Miami Beach Police Department's Children's Holiday Relief Fund for children in need.



Clockwise from top left: Andreas Romero and Carolina Romero • Steve Adkins, Cindi George, Bill Warren and Jamey Redinger • Maria Funez, Dave Cook and Levar Kennings • Melba DeLeon and Humberto Calero • Bea Fernandez and Heather Richards • Lori Lynch with one of Santa's helpers • Christian Aubert, Luis Castro and Michel Castro

## KEY WEST BUSINESS GUILD BEACH PARTY

Offering an open forum for members to learn about other organizations, events and topics relevant to the community, the Key West Business Guild holds monthly luncheons. The Annual Meeting, Award Ceremony & Party on the Beach in December at the Marriott Beachside was business as usual.



Clockwise from top left: Johnnie Hernandez and Steve Torrence • Neil Chamberlain, recipient of the 2017 KWBG President's Award • Kate Bauer-Jones, Bernadette Resitvo and Tonya Colston • Zachary Moses and Julianne Keskey • Zoey Charland winner of the PROUD Rainbow Award and Jarrett Merkey • Williams Jones, Bernadett Restivo, Abby Leomard and Aaron Huntsman • Dan Skahen and Karen Vaught



## SUBSTITUTE SANTA

Egg nog, mistletoe, pictures with Santa, these are all part and parcel of the season. Of course, the best part of traditions is making them your own. For several weekends in December TATE'S Comics + Toys + More gave us the opportunity to do just that. Pictures with Deadpool anyone?



Clockwise from top left: Rainbow Batman • Mary Rooney and Katie Murray • Erin Hurst, Andreaanna "Andy" Di Benedetto and Marlent Marquez with the Demogorgon • Charlie Malave, a stormtrooper and Alex Malave • Erica Devinney, Marissa DiFrancesco and Bobby DiFrancesco • Bucky the baby and the Demogorgon • Nicholas Solari, Deadpool and Marcela Gurdian

## 2ND ANNUAL GAY KEY WEST HOUSE PARTY

With poodle skirts and party animals mingling, the Gay Key West House Party was held to support the Key West Wildlife Center through silent auctions and sponsorship. Locals and HE Travel clients from around the world gathered at the Blue Macaw to take part in the 1950s themed event.



Clockwise from top left: Eugene Bougault, Loretta Adkins and Charles Green • Rock Solomon and Lance Harvey • Brianna Ansara • Trisha Ashcraft and Julianne Keskey • Philip Sheldon, president of HE Travel, and Jacob McMahon • Chris Colon, Richard Quint and Orlando Tapia • Kaleb Smith

Andrew Printer

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## WORLD AIDS DAY WILTON MANORS

South Florida's oldest and largest HIV/AIDS community service organization, Broward House, held a candlelight walk, vigil, rally and concert to commemorate World AIDS Day. Attendees gathered at Hagen Park and walked to The Pride Center at Equality Park, where they held their vigil.



Top row from left: The rain did not deter attendees. • Medina Rafa, Rafael Garcia and Adam Baracol. Second row from left: Dr. Joshua Caraballo • Joe Corry, Bret Thompson and Daniel Web • Kauser Kaus and Omar Gamez • The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Third row from left: Sunshine Cathedral • Andrew Wilkinson, Ismael Santiago, Walter Dickey and Derrick Harrison — the Red Solo Cup Queens • Latinos Salud. Bottom row from left: Gordon Fork, Felicia Butler and Edward Romero • Kristofer Fegenbush and Zeeke, the golden doodle • the AIDS quilt • Michael Julian

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