

south florida's lgbtq magazine  
dec 2017 | jan 2018 • vol. 16

Miami Herald  
**CLARITY**

# palette



## **DIVINE DIVA**

**Staunch LGBTQ ally Gloria Estefan gets honored**

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South Florida's Gay Choruses • Lesbians Speak Up about AIDS • Let's Go Brighton!

Out for the Holidays • Gay8 Festival • Italian Eats & more...

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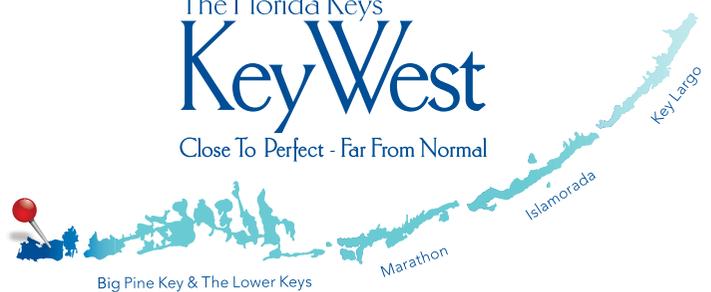
Love and let love.

The rest of the country has finally embraced the open-minded attitude that Key West has been committed to forever, but there will never be a more beautiful place to celebrate this historic achievement.

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**Key West**

Close To Perfect - Far From Normal



Big Pine Key & The Lower Keys

Marathon

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Key Largo

# FEATURES



## 018 • **winter funderland**

Whether you have a brood of your own or are putting in your time as everyone's favorite uncle or aunt, there are plenty of places in South Florida to go play.

## 024 • **the caretakers**

When the AIDS crisis was at its peak and all those dying were deemed untouchable by most, the caretakers stepped up to help.

## 030 • **gloria estefan**

The local darling was recently honored by the LGBTQ Task Force for her work.

## 032 • **chorus line**

It's the most wonderful time of the year. With all the food, gifting and days off, we want to make sure you don't forget all the shows! South Florida's gay choruses aim to keep you in a festive spirit.

## 038 • **all's bright in brighton**

Behind its gray and dreary stereotypes, England has a wealth to offer the traveler looking for a fun getaway. Case in point: Brighton, the de facto gay capital of the U.K.



**on the cover:**  
Gloria Estefan  
photographed by  
Omar Cruz.

**what's your temptation?**

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010



014



048

# DEPARTMENTS

## 010 • reviews

Live and let live is the philosophy that these selections embrace.

## 011 • tech & gadgets

If you're going to be spending so much time in the kitchen, you may as well have the best gadgets to keep you company.

## 012 • home décor

Oskar Torres turns up the sparkle factor in with dazzling suggestions that will make you want to stay home for the holidays.

## 014 • arts & culture

Join the party on Calle Ocho when the Gay8 festival takes over for its third year.

## 015 • after hours

There is no escape. Actually, there is, and figuring it out is what's so fun about heading to an escape room!

## 016 • dining

Italian food. So delicious. So filling. So typecast. These eateries serve up Italian like you've never tasted before.

## 048 • editorial column

Growing up is hard to do, especially when your party days were so much fun. Daniel Shoer Roth shares his journey.

## 050 • health & wellness

Feeling frazzled? Aren't we all... Maybe it's time you took a moment to meditate your way to good health. Just a thought.

## 052 • local getaways

The Keys may have had a rough month in September — thanks a lot Irma — but they're still just as fabulous as ever.

## 054 • q & a

Sue Martino, executive director of The Pet Project, shares her insight on why pets are so important to all of us and why we must help pet owners in need.

## 065 • social events

Were you there? Find out who was!

## 068 • final thoughts

*Belle de Jour* celebrates its 50th anniversary, and we celebrate that kiss.

Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science presents

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LAWRENCE FERBER  
WYATT MYERS  
GREGG SHAPIRO  
DANIEL SHOER ROTH  
OSKAR TORRES  
JULIE BALTER

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**ART DIRECTOR**  
ANGEL HERNANDEZ

**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  
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**Advertising, sales and distribution information:**  
305.376.2801  
[kcorrales@miamiherald.com](mailto:kcorrales@miamiherald.com)

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MIAMI-DADE GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS MAGAZINE

# THANK YOU.

**A**fter three years, it's incredible to think that this is the last issue of Palette. By this time in our production cycle we'd already be well into the next issue, with editorial outlines finalized, pitches approved or declined and photographers scheduling their assigned shoots. Having started with so many lofty goals and riding a wave of exhilarating national milestones, we're sad to see it all end.

Our first issue was all about us seeking out a sense of community. We wanted to engage in dialogue with a group of readers, who are widely dispersed — this magazine is distributed from Key West all the way through Broward and at a few spots in Palm Beach, too — but whose common experiences and interests might make us feel a bit closer than geography allows. We hope to have achieved that for some. We have certainly met and built great relationships with amazing people, and for that we are incredibly grateful. Our amazing contributors have not just provided intriguing stories, moving photography and playful illustrations, they have been our champions and ambassadors, letting people know about our magazine wherever they went. The Palette Board of Advisors has provided invaluable guidance and insight that comes from a place of genuinely wanting to see the LGBTQ community in South Florida grow and prosper holistically. We are deeply humbled by their experience and generosity and thankful that they chose to share their time with us despite traffic, conflicting work schedules, torrential downpours and personal commitments. The Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has been an exceptional partner, collaborating on the demanding but deeply rewarding responsibility of publishing a magazine that wanted above all to be inclusive of everyone within the LGBTQ community.

We thank you, our readers, for giving us a purpose and much appreciated emails of praise. That is the most powerful pick-me-up when you are working late in the day trying to meet a tight deadline.

This may be our last issue, but we are grateful to have gotten a chapter in this dazzlingly beautiful community's ongoing story.

Warmest Regards,

The Palette Magazine Team

## USEFUL RESOURCES

### Miami-Dade

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

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

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

Lotus House  
[lotushouse.org](http://lotushouse.org)

OUT Miami Foundation  
[outmiami.org](http://outmiami.org)

Pridelines  
[pridelines.org](http://pridelines.org)

SAVE  
[save.lgbt](http://save.lgbt)

The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth  
[glbtqalliance.org](http://glbtqalliance.org)

Unity Coalition | Coalición Unida  
[unitycoalition.org](http://unitycoalition.org)

Yes Institute  
[yesinstitute.org](http://yesinstitute.org)

### Broward

Broward House  
[browardhouse.org](http://browardhouse.org)

Pride Center at Equality Park  
[pridecenterflorida.org](http://pridecenterflorida.org)

Stonewall National Museum & Archives  
[stonewall-museum.org](http://stonewall-museum.org)

SunServe  
[sunserve.org](http://sunserve.org)

World AIDS Museum and Educational Center  
[worldaidsmuseum.org](http://worldaidsmuseum.org)

### Monroe

AIDS Help  
[ahmonroe.org](http://ahmonroe.org)

Key West Business Guild  
[gaykeywestfl.com](http://gaykeywestfl.com)

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# GET CONNECTED



**Steve Rothaus** covers LGBTQ issues in South Florida and is also the *Miami Herald's* assistant community news editor. Don't forget to check out Steve Rothaus' LGBTQ South Florida News in the *Miami Herald* and at [miamiherald.com](http://miamiherald.com) — and follow his Twitter account, [@SteveRothaus](https://twitter.com/SteveRothaus) — for the latest information about our community.



## ANDREW PRINTER

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



## SHAYNE BENOWITZ

Shayne is the Hotels and Travel editor for [Miami.com](http://Miami.com) and a frequent contributor to the *Miami Herald*. She is also the Miami destination expert and a hotel critic for the *Daily Telegraph* in London. Her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Charlotte Observer* newspapers and in *Modern Luxury Interiors South Florida* and *Aventura* magazines.



## CARINA MASK

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



## DREW LIMSKY

Based in Miami and Brooklyn, Drew is the editor-in-chief of the design magazine, *INTERIORS SOUTH FLORIDA*, published by Modern Luxury, and a contributing editor at *MIAMI* magazine. He is also editor-in-chief and art director of *MARINER*. His other credits include *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Architectural Digest Mexico* and *National Geographic Traveler*, among many others.



## 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.



## LAWRENCE FERBER

Born and raised in New York, travel and arts journalist Lawrence Ferber has written for *National Geographic Traveler*, *CondeNastTraveler.com*, *Islands Magazine*, *Fodors.com*, *The New York Post*, *Passport Magazine*, *Time Out New York* and many others. He co-wrote the 2010 gay romantic comedy *BearCity*, and his hobby photo project, *I Am A Tourist* chronicles tourists across the globe. [@iliketogethatthere](https://twitter.com/iliketogethatthere)

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# INSPIRED SETTINGS FOR UNFORGETTABLE WEDDINGS

Your wedding day deserves a setting that's as special as your love is. Fort Lauderdale's The District offers elegant ballrooms, historic houses and intimate waterfront settings – the perfect backdrop to your unforgettable wedding.



# WITHOUT PREJUDICE

These selections propose that a life without judgement is the best kind to live.

by GREGG SHAPIRO

The 124th title in the 33 1/3 series, *Workbook* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017) by Walter Biggins

and Daniel Couch is an intimate analysis of openly gay former Hüsker Dü front-man Bob Mould's legendary 1988 debut solo album by the same name. Through a series of conversations and "crosstalk" — via letters, emails, phone calls and Skype chats — the former classmates trace their interest in the influential Minneapolis trio to a mixtape they once passed around.

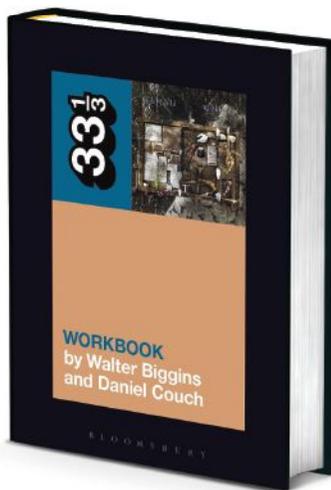
The band split up after less than 10 years (and seven studio albums), but its impact was far-reaching and long-lasting. Of its three members

(including Greg Norton and Grant Hart), it was the prolific Mould who would go on to have the most successful career — including solo work; a second trio, Sugar; a venture into electronic music; and a stint in the DJ/dance genre with musician Richard Morel.

The book includes Biggins' and Couch's interview with Mould and other musicians who performed on the album. Arriving, as it did, around the time of Grant Hart's death only serves to give the book a deeper impact.

## Recipe for Love

As feature film debuts go, writer/director Ophir Raul Graizer's *The Cakemaker* (Laila Films) ranks pretty high. The bakery café run by gay baker Tomas (Tim Kalkhof) is always the first stop that Israeli businessman Oren (Roy Miller) makes when he's in Berlin each month. Oren loves Tomas' pastries and makes sure to bring a box of cookies home to his wife, Anat, (Sarah Adler) and their son, Itai (Tamir Ben Yehuda). But before long, bisexual Oren is



sampling more than just pastries. By the time the men have been seeing each other for a year, tragedy ensues.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Anat has to adjust to life as a widow and single parent. She runs her kosher café under the watchful eye of Oren's brother Motti (Zohar Strauss). When Tomas arrives in Jerusalem, he goes to her café, becomes a regular and eventually gets a job there.

Anat begins piecing together clues, leading to a discovery that changes the course of all their lives. In German, Hebrew and English with subtitles, *The Cakemaker* screens as part of the Miami Jewish Film Festival's 21st annual edition, January 11-25.

## Having Faith

Christmas Day marks the one-year anniversary of George Michael's passing. His death capped off a year of shocking pop music losses, beginning with David Bowie and including Prince, Leonard Cohen and soul/funk singer Sharon Jones, among several others.

Michael, who burst onto the scene in the early 1980s as one half of the duo Wham!, had an extraordinary, if not especially fruitful, solo career. His 1987 solo debut breakthrough, *Faith*, earned him a Grammy and sold more than 20 million copies.

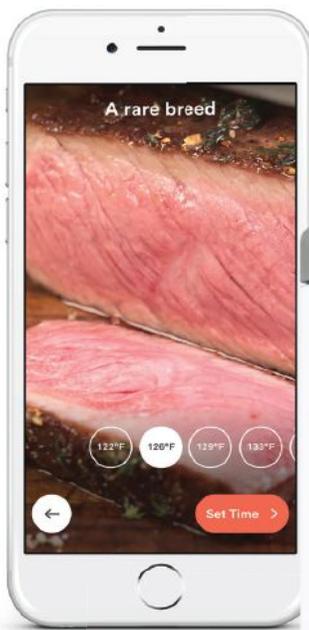
The latest release, an expanded reissue of Michael's second album, 1990's *Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1*, was originally scheduled for release in late 2016, but now includes the previously import-only *MTV Unplugged* set he recorded in 1996.

*Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1/MTV Unplugged* (Sony Music/Legacy) is available as a double CD set, a deluxe box set and on vinyl. It is a stunning audio portrait of an artist determined to be his own man. Tracks include the dramatic "Praying For Time" and "Mothers Pride," the lightly jazzy "Cowboys & Angels," a breathtaking cover of Stevie Wonder's "They Won't Go When I Go," and even the playful anthem "Freedom." •

• From top: *Workbook* by Walter Biggins and Daniel Couch; *The Cakemaker*



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## LET'S COOK

Spending as much time in the kitchen as the holidays demand calls for some fun, too.

Ugly sweaters, office party antics, overspending, countless Target runs — whether for better or worse, this time of year is all about excess. But if there's one thing for which the holidays are best known, it's eating, a lot. Many of us spend just as much time in the kitchen as we do chowing down, making all the goodies everyone enjoys, so it's the ideal time to give the cooks in your life a little love — and help yourself in the process, too. Whether you are ensuring your food is on point by gifting Joule's sous vide heater, providing a little retro style for your favorite June Cleaver or granting yourself the gift of perfection — pour after pour — getting techy in the kitchen is the way to go this season. •

### where to buy •

1. Joule Sous Vide by ChefSteps: Sur la Table, Shops at Pembroke Gardens; 301 SW 145th Terr., Pembroke Pines; 954.266.3510; [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com)

2. SMEG Electric Kettle: Macy's, Aventura Mall; 19535 Biscayne Blvd.; 305.682.3300; [macys.com](http://macys.com)

3. Perfect Drink Pro: [makeitperfectly.com](http://makeitperfectly.com)



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# ALL THAT GLITTERS

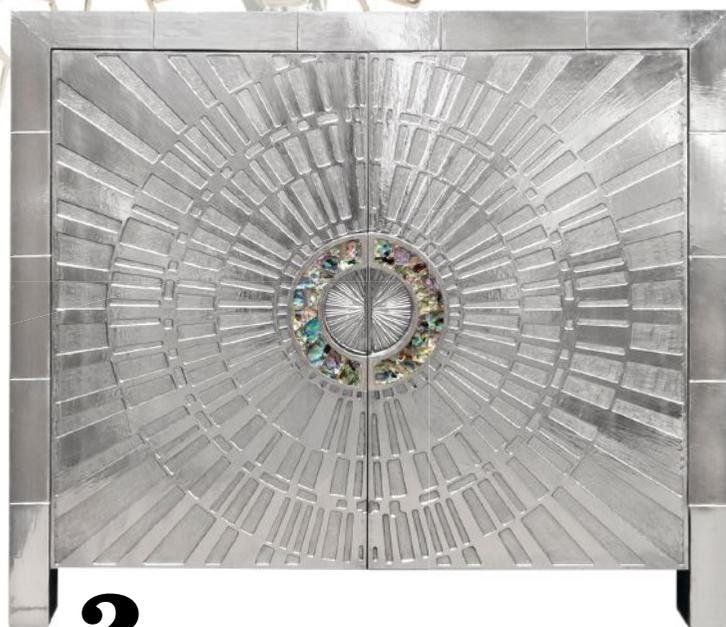
The holidays bring us all into a sparkle, shimmer and shine state of mind.

by OSKAR TORRES

**F**irst impressions always count, and making an entrance is much easier — and much more impressive — when it's heralded by metallics, sparkles and things that go twinkle in the night. The entryway or foyer of your home is the place to make that kind of magic happen. This small area needs to show your guest that you want them to feel welcome, that you are in the holiday spirit and, of course, that you've got style for miles. With these arresting furnishing selections you are certain to make your holiday, and that of your guests, happy and bright. •

#### where to buy •

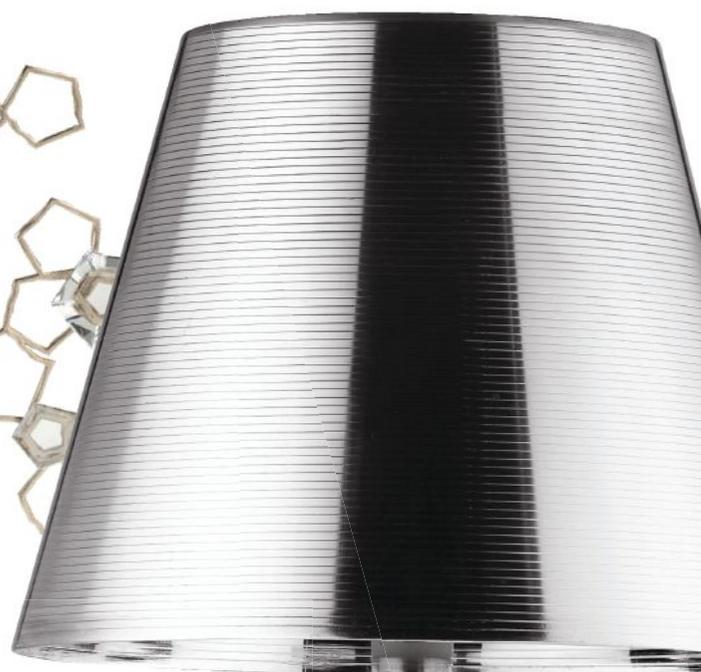
1. Blossom Mirror: Baker Furniture, DCOTA; 1855 Griffin Road, Dania Beach; 954.920.4565; [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com) 2. Talitha Console Cabinet: Jonathan Adler, Miami Design District; 4040 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.0200; [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com) 3. Miss K Table Lamp by Philippe Starck: Luminaire, Miami Design District; 3901 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.5788; [luminaire.com](http://luminaire.com) 4. Eros Gold Bowl: Nisi B. Home, Miami Design District; 39 NE 39th St.; 305.573.1939; [nisihome.com](http://nisihome.com)



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# IN THE MIX

## The Gay8 Festival brings to life a thriving LGBTQ Latino culture in the heart of a multi-ethnic community.

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH

**M**iami's Calle Ocho in Little Havana is an emblem of the city's multi-cultural identity — an enclave first reinvigorated by Cuban refugees in the 1960s and then settled by subsequent waves of Latin American immigrants seeking their own slice of a promised land.

It is also the heart and soul of the Gay8 Festival, a street celebration of queer arts, music and culture that its organizers define as “a great unifier for all communities.”

Immediately after its inception three years ago, the event sparked

interest because Little Havana is frequently seen as a stronghold of the kind of conservative values usually ascribed to Latino communities. “Never in my life would I have imagined that an event such as this one would come to Calle Ocho,” a U.S.-born, straight woman in her 60s told me during the first year. “This city has changed.”

After a dispute with City of Miami officials regarding the festival's presumed 2018 date, Gay8's third edition is scheduled to take place President's Day weekend, on Sunday Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The highlights are main stage performances, live bands, dance contests, the pet park, an art village, food vendors, free LGBTQ-themed films and cultural performances.

“Gay8 Festival promises to once again take South Florida by storm with mojito, cha-cha, cigar smoking, art shopping, cafecito infused salsa thumping, woo hoo,” says co-founder Damian Pardo, a long-time gay activist and financial advisor.

The festival arose from the recognition that South Florida — one of the most diverse regions in the U.S. — is essentially a segregated

place, according to Pardo and co-founder Joe Cardona, a filmmaker and longtime ally. Both aim to create a multi-cultural fun day that reaches out to diverse segments of the population to celebrate collectively in a historic part of town currently facing intense gentrification.

Known for its bodegas, small pharmacies called *boticas* and mom-and-pop cafeterias where customers were once greeted by name, the blue-collar neighborhood is being overrun by highrise condos and commercial development, given its proximity to Miami's financial center.

“[Gay8 is] opening Little Havana to the world and the world to Little Havana,” says Damian.

“Many people have described Gay8 as a ‘pride on steroids.’ It's LGBTQ pride, female pride, white man pride, black pride, Hispanic/Latino pride.... but ultimately it's a pride of very different people coming together,” he explains.

Outside of Little Havana's Domino Park, where Cuban old-timers gather to discuss politics, you might see two shirtless men dancing closely to the rhythm of merengue music. On the same route where colorful floats, school bands and popular telenovela stars march during the annual Three Kings Parade, the beloved drag queen Maritrini (Alexis Fernández) leads the gayest carnival-style conga you'll ever witness — a unique combination of “queens,” feathers and maracas that is so Miami.

The festival kicks off Friday February 16 in the evening with The Pa'Lante (Move Forward) Awards, which honor people in the community that have pushed the needle forward in terms of social change, cultural contributions and civil rights. This year's reception theme is immigration, a hot-button issue in today's America that for most Little Havana residents and Gay8 Festival attendees is an all too personal topic.

For more information visit [gay8festival.com](http://gay8festival.com).

### Save the Date

Pa'Lante Awards  
February 16  
7 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Gay8 Festival  
February 18  
11 a.m. – 10 p.m.





# THE GREAT ESCAPE

Escape rooms offer numerous options for a fun night that is out of the ordinary.

by RICK KARLIN

**I**magine you go out to spend an evening with a group of friends and you find yourselves locked in a room together. Depending on your relationship, it could be a delightful surprise or a melt-down waiting to happen. If you thought of the former, you might enjoy visiting an escape room.

Most escape rooms offer numerous options, ranging from scary to humorous, but the basic concept remains the same. Working together, your group must decipher clues and riddles in order to exit the room. Those of you with claustrophobia will be happy to know that all escape rooms have an emergency exit. After being greeted by a host or game master your group will be given a briefing which includes the basics of how the game

operates along with the back story of the mystery you need to solve in order to escape the room (usually via a secret door).

There are numerous venues in South Florida, ranging from simple storefronts to cavernous warehouse facilities with multiple themes.

Evolution Escape Rooms in Fort Lauderdale opened earlier this year and offers a choice of exploring a mysterious cabin in the woods or investigating the disappearance of a diner waitress.

In less than a year, Key Largo's The Lost Key Escape Room has proven so popular with its original concept Escape Pirate Island theme, that they're adding two additional experiences: The Conch Republic Diamond Repo and The Ray of Enlightenment: The Illuminati Experience.

Escape The Quest moved from Miami to Pompano Beach two years ago and has the most diverse selection with six different themed rooms: Crime Scene, Stay of Execution, House of Pain, In the Dark, Fun House and Crazy. The venue also has a party room available for rental.

M.D. Watson's Escape Rooms in Plantation offers two mystery-based rooms. House of Pawns is a political espionage thriller, and Gallery Heist requires your group to recover a stolen painting and discover the culprit before the police arrive and charge you with the robbery.

Lockbox Escape Room in Davie showcases a CIA task force-themed game and another focused on discovering a time machine.

Miami PanIQ Room began in Hungary in 2012 and opened a location in the U.S. in 2014. In addition to Miami, there are PanIQ Room franchises in San Francisco, San Diego, Phoenix, Chicago, Beverly Hills and Washington D.C. Among the theme rooms in Miami are: The Pirate's Den, Haunted Hospital and My Spy.

Think Escape Games in Fort Lauderdale has three game rooms: Laboratory51, Shady Tavern and The Study. It is about to open a new room based upon the exploration of a Mayan ruin.

Pay close attention to your game master's instructions; oftentimes there are tips and hints within the story you're being told. Groups are often given flashlights (the rooms are dimly lit for atmosphere, but not dark) and walkie-talkies, which can be used to ask for clues throughout the game. If one of the flashlights is equipped with a black-light bulb, scan the entire room, clues are frequently painted on the walls and ceilings in luminescent paint. Your group will need to work together to relay and link information so as to solve the puzzle, which provides the key to exiting the room. Other than that, just remember to have fun! •

• Go to one of the sites maintained by escape room fans, such as [escapeauthority.com](http://escapeauthority.com) or [roomescapist.com](http://roomescapist.com) for more information.



# TASTE OF AUTHENTICITY

In Miami's Italian food scene, tradition reigns supreme — if you just know where to look.

by DREW LIMSKY

If you understand Italian cuisine and the people who cook it, you know that it's not enough to refer to "authentic Italian." You have to speak regionally. I'll tell you a story to demonstrate just how specific

Italy's cuisine is as you travel the country. I often go to the Amalfi Coast. As the crow flies, once you get to Naples, you make your way south to Sorrento by bus or train, then hop a boat to Amalfi or Positano. But sometimes it's

actually faster to overshoot in this southerly direction by taking the train to Salerno, then backtracking a bit north to Amalfi. Once, while taking this alternate route, I was killing time in a bar at the Salerno port, and I ordered an unusual pastry — one I'd never seen on the Amalfi Coast just 10 miles away.

I asked the proprietress about it. "This is a Salerno pastry," she said casually but with pride. "You can only get it here."

That very sense of regional pride is in full force in Miami. At the 4-year-old Cipriani in Downtown Miami, when Maggio Cipriani speaks of Venetian dishes like calf's liver alla veneziana, baccalà mantecato and sarde in saor — also noting that the restaurant's olive oil is directly from Umbria — he's saying something gastronomically meaningful and very particular.

If the name Via Emilia 9, the moniker of a recently revamped little venue in South Beach, weren't enough to clue you in to the restaurant's roots in Emilia-Romagna, owner Valentina Cacciatori is quick to share that the handsome chef and co-owner — who happens to be her husband Giancarlo, aka "Wendy" — hails from Bologna, the capital of the region.

The Miami metro area has some of the most skilled Italian chefs in the country, and when you see Wendy through the street-side window, rolling pasta, or listen to Valentina discuss prosciutto, you understand why.

"We are doing hard research on this," Valentina says. "Normally prosciutto is aged for 18 months, and sometimes 24 months, but we are trying to get prosciutto aged 36 months, which is the finest." And she notes that Via Emilia 9 is the only place in Miami to find gnocco fritto, a sublime fried dough served with cheese and cured meats (I've seen it served in only two places in the country).

Above all, the Cacciatoris are committed to remaining

● Cipriani's Downtown Miami dining room

authentic. Some customers order tortellini thinking that the pasta is filled with cheese. “But in the traditional recipe,” Valentina explains, “tortellini is stuffed with prosciutto, mortadella, Parmesan and pork — and we do not change the recipe.”

Such statements of purity are repeated by Dario Cestaro, who runs the traditional panetteria Buon Pane Italiano on Fifth Street in South Beach. “We keep pizza’s 100-year-old tradition,” he says. “We stay away from compromise — people ask us to add pineapple to the pizza, and we say no. And our bread has only four ingredients: water, salt, yeast and

flour. Nothing else. No chemicals. When people say the bread is already hard the next day, that’s because it’s natural.”

This same commitment to tradition is on full display at Cipriani, the iconic global brand that began in Venice in 1931 as Harry’s Bar, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. Elements from other Cipriani locations were incorporated into the design for Cipriani Downtown Miami, such as the positioning of the bar, which echoes the layout of Harry’s Bar in Venice and is the restaurant’s focal point.

The menu carries on the legacy brilliantly. Other restaurants import their mozzarella; Cipriani does them

one better by producing their own in Italy and flying it in. And one beloved menu item is arguably identified with the brand more than any other.

“One dish that was invented by my great grandfather, Giuseppe, in 1950 and is probably the most popular, served at Harry’s Bar in Venice and in all the Cipriani around the world is the carpaccio,” enthuses Maggio Cipriani. Given its rich flavor, fanciful presentation and storied past, the carpaccio is all but required when dining the nautically themed, Michele Bonan-designed space in Brickell.

“The dish was inspired by the Countess Amalia Nani Mocenigo, whose doctor had prescribed a diet forbidding cooked meat,” he explains. “So he served her a plate covered with paper thin sheets of raw filet mignon with a light, cream colored sauce drizzled over the meat in a crosshatch pattern. At that time in Venice, a major exhibition of the Renaissance painter Vittore Carpaccio — an artist famous for his bright reds and shiny white colors — provided the name.”

The first time I had the legendary dish at Cipriani, I didn’t know the story, but I had the vague sense that I was eating a work of art. Now I know for sure. •

• From top: Cipriani’s ice cream a la minute, baccalà mantecato and calf’s liver with polenta.





# A GOOD TIME OUT

STORY BY  
**DREW LIMSKY**

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS OFTEN LEAD US OUTDOORS. WITH WINTER BRINGING A MORE PLEASANT CLIMATE, IT'S TIME TO PLAY!





ONCE INSIDE — AND OUTSIDE,  
FOR THE FROST IS A TRUE  
INDOOR-OUTDOOR MUSEUM  
— NOTHING IS SOLEMN AND  
CHILDREN ARE EVERYWHERE.

**T**he Miami metro area is replete with beaches, parks and pools, and the acclaimed Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science has instantly upped the cultural and intellectual ante for kids of all ages. Some attractions.

From the McArthur Causeway, one is struck by the serious geometric architecture of the new 250,000-square-foot Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science. The gleaming white façade with its sphere lording over everything is now a welcome part of Miami's skyline. But once inside — and outside,



for the Frost is a true indoor-outdoor museum — nothing is solemn, and children are everywhere.

Nowhere is the kid-friendliness more apparent than in the circular exhibition hall on the ground floor called MeLaB. Actually, kid-friendly is the wrong word: it's kid-focused. An interactive learning experience that emphasizes health and wellness, MeLaB shows kids how to understand their bodies and minds through five dynamic zones: eat, move, relax, connect and learn.

Positively bursting with color and light, the space engage and delight the underage set as they enjoy puzzles, simulations and brain teasers. On a recent visit, there was a lot of jumping on the interactive dance floor — and all the while, the kids were learning about nutrition, energy, stress and the healing benefits of music.

The museum's River of Grass exhibition is also designated for children. Outdoors, they can see, feel and experiment with the physics of water, as they're introduced to the hydrology that keeps the 300-mile Everglades and all its creatures alive. Inside, an interactive virtual environment awaits. Kids watch animal characters in a 20-minute journey presented as a day in the life of the

Everglades. As the sun rises, they can move a log to watch water and minnows pool; or part the grass to spot a deer or alligator's nest before an afternoon thunderstorm rolls in. As the sun goes down, eyes appear in the darkness, and children can use virtual flashlights to discover hidden animals.

Of course, the jewels in the Frost's crown are the aquarium and planetarium. With the former, it's best to start at the top: the Vista. There kids can get a sense of the vastness of the 100-foot wide, 500,000-gallon Gulf Stream Aquarium. Mahi-mahi, devil rays and hammerhead sharks ply the placid water. The waterworld is an open-air exhibit, and kids are invited to see and even touch gliding stingrays. At the vertical aquarium's lowest floor, the architectural standout is a 31-foot oculus lens that lets you see a foreshortened view of the tank from below. From this vantage point, the hammerheads seem closer than ever.

Any planetarium program is going to be catnip for kids, and the 250-seat, 16-million-color, 8K projection, surround sound and dome screen set up at the Frost does not disappoint. New to the lineup is *To Space & Back*, narrated by *Top Gear's* James May, the film portrays a macro-to-micro journey that explores the far reaches of our known



Clockwise from top left: The Feathers to the Stars exhibit follows the story of flight — from the earliest feathered dinosaurs to the future of space travel; the Frost is truly an indoor-outdoor venue that features spectacular views of the city; MeLaB lets kids explore the inner workings of their bodies.

universe, giving way to the most iconic landmarks in Earth's cities.

Finally, the museum just introduced two new exhibitions — Brain: The Inside Story and Monster Fish: In Search of the Last River Giants.

The Frost Museum is new, but it joins a range of child-welcoming venues in Miami, some nearly a century old. Head southeast to Coral Gables for sun and splashing. Nervous parents with young swimmers can go to the 630-acre Matheson Hammock Park on the edge of Biscayne Bay. Its ocean-filled, manmade atoll is placid and safe, and the beach is good for kids to kayak and try stand-up paddle boarding or kiteboarding. Dating back to 1930, the Hammock, designed by landscape architect William Lyman Phillip, is a

piece of Miami history that feels utterly unspoiled. Stick around for dinner at Red Fish Grill, where the twinkling lights coiled around the palm trees illuminate menu items like jumbo lump crab cakes, Caribbean bouillabaisse and cumin-crust bigeye tuna.

The Venetian Pool — also in Coral Gables and also historic — is surely one of the country's most unusual public swimming holes. Dating from 1924 and fed from artesian wells, the pool's origin story is that it was repurposed from a former coral stone quarry. It ranks as the largest freshwater pool in the country, and in 1981 it earned a spot on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Whether you're a kid or merely young at heart, once you pass through the turnstile you are

transported to a wonderland complete with striped Venetian mooring posts, a classic Venetian bridge, terra cotta-tile towers, waterfalls, a grotto and 820,000 gallons of emerald-green water. Food at the concession stand is comfort level: cheese dogs, burgers, nachos. Children must be at least 3 years old to enter.

In Miami Beach, the usually calm conditions beckon families with kids of all ages, but it's probably best to stick to South Beach where there's lots of casual food to grab right on Ocean Drive. There's a kids' menu at TGIFridays — chicken fingers, sliders, mac & cheese. Gelato-Go and

*This page: Venetian Pool in Coral Gables. Opposite page, from top: Classic car in the Art Deco District, South Beach; South Pointe Park; one of the iconic lifeguard stands on South Beach.*

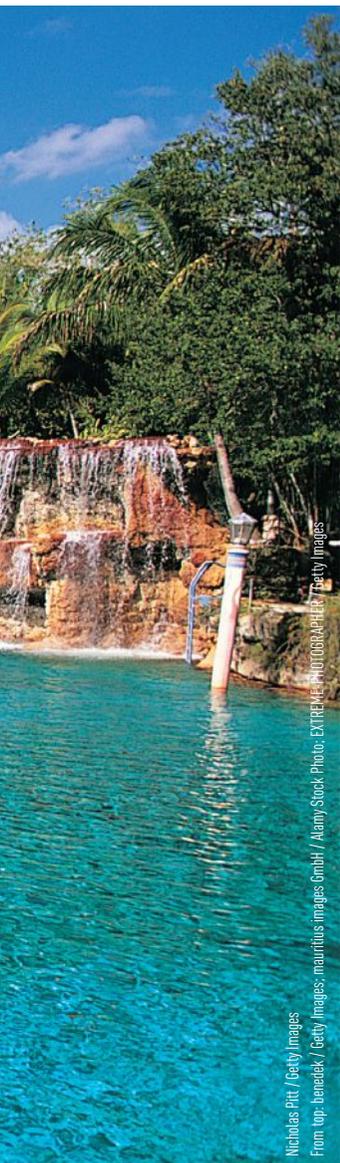




Mammamia Gelato Italiano, both on Ocean, are hot spots for cones and cups. If you find yourself on the north end of the Art Deco District, there's a Häagen-Dazs just north of 14th Street. Once on the beach, Boucher Brothers manages concessions, including lounge chairs, umbrellas and sun beds. Look for their sign and chairs in royal blue — other colors indicate chairs that are designated for guests of the various beachfront hotels and resorts. Kiosks sell beverages and sandwiches, but can sometimes sell out quickly.

For more of a local South Beach experience, Flamingo Park (entrance on 11th Street at Jefferson) is lovely, and has top-notch facilities. The 17 courts at the tennis center — renovated in 2013 — are among the area's best, and the park also has basketball courts, athletic fields and a track. Most locals know the aquatics center for its lap lanes, but the shallow section is reserved for recreational swimming and draws lots of families. A second pool, for toddlers and children, features a zero to 15-inch-deep interactive play pool with fountains to splash under and playhouses to climb. Lockers are available, and the pool is free for Miami Beach residents (\$6 for non-residents, ages 4-17; \$10 for non-residents, 18 and older; free for ages 3 and under). The park also runs a number of toddler, youth and teen instructional programs.

The far end of South Beach is taken up by the 17-acre South Pointe Park. While you can rent CitiBikes anywhere on South Beach, the beachfront promenade can get packed — so you may want to head to South Pointe for its openness alone. The paved pathways and inclines there are perfect for biking and skateboarding, and nothing beats the 360-degree views of the waterfront. Located on the edge of Government Cut, the park is a favorite spot for watching cruise ships come and go. Harried parents biking past the park's newly renovated Smith & Wollensky should make a note to return for a steak and a sundowner — after enlisting the help of a sitter. You've certainly earned it! •



Nicholas Pitt / Getty Images  
From top: ienatalek / Getty Images; mauritius images GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo; EXTREME PHOTOGRAPHY / Getty Images







Photos and Story  
By Carina Mask

WHAT UNITES ALL  
THE MEMBERS  
OF THE LGBTQ  
COMMUNITY IS  
VASTLY MORE  
POWERFUL  
THAN THE SMALL  
DIFFERENCES THAT  
EXIST, AND NOTHING  
MADE THAT CLEARER  
THAN THE RISE OF  
AIDS IN THE  
EARLY 1980S.

# THE BEGINNING STAGES



Clockwise from top: Ellen Feiler, Robin Bodiford and Katy Yankie.

# “It was 1982

I was sitting in my office. At the time, I was working for the health department for the state,” recalls Ellen Feiler, who was once the Director of Outreach and Education for the Florida Department of Health. “The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have a weekly newsletter called the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [MMWR]; it was describing a new disease that was spreading nationwide,” she says and pauses for a moment before she continues. “It was affecting men in communities in San Francisco and New York. They had been previously healthy; then became very ill, very quickly, developed pneumonia and then died.”

The disease moved fast, ravishing communities. As the epidemic gained momentum, gay men were met with hostility and unabashed homophobia. They were dying and being cast out for it. Misinformation spread and boisterous zealots claimed it was God’s Punishment.

The AIDS epidemic made some people feel like they had free license to vent their hostility. Before much was known about the disease, it was referred to as the gay cancer, gay plague and the more official-sounding GRID (gay-related

immune deficiency). In all the labels, the implication was that only homosexuals would contract the disease. Heroin addicts were overlooked as undesirables and hemophilia was too rare for the public at large to pause and make exceptions.

“My assistant at the time never admitted to me that he was gay. He was a Marine, a big tough guy,” says Feiler. “This was Florida. As free as things were in New York City, we were as closeted as can be down here. When I came here they still had segregated water fountains.”

Feiler sighs heavily before she starts her story. “It was Terry and Roger. Terry went on a business trip and came back really sick. Roger said he had ulcers, so, you know, I believed what he told me. When Terry died, they fumigated his office. In 1985 Roger finally told me he had AIDS. I guess because of my position as the head of education and outreach, or naiveté, or a strong sense of denial, I told Roger that [it] didn’t mean he was going to die,” she admits. “I couldn’t believe Roger could get sick. I loved him dearly.”

AIDS — and the indifference or outright panic displayed by traditional institutions — created a dire need for community-based organizations, and overnight it made unlikely bedfellows out of gay men, lesbians, transgender folks and straight allies. As friends, lovers, family members and so many others passed away, these groups created a support system, relying on each other to find positive outlets for their anger and frustration.

“I feel that gay women never got enough credit. There were so many people who made meals, stepped forward, wrapped Christmas gifts,” says Feiler. “They did education and outreach in the community; they drove people to the doctors when no one else would. They have never been recognized. They quilted [the AIDS quilt]; they stood guard over them; they stood by them and fought for them, but no one tells their story. They were there. We were there too.”

## **BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

Robin L. Bodiford, a practicing attorney in Fort Lauderdale recalls how she unwittingly became her brother’s advocate.

“My brother and I are from Miami, but after the Anita Bryant thing...we ran away to California to be gay,” she says, referring to the 1970s anti-gay activist who started the Save Our Children campaign. Robin and her brother, Peter Grover Bodiford, enrolled in law school in San Francisco in the late 1980s. “We were very successful. We were very, very gay.”

At the time, many people left their hometowns to find a more accepting place, and San Francisco was a paradise



Robin L. Bodiford with her brother, Peter Grover Bodiford.

for young gay men and women. In the Castro district, gay bars had windows, and gay men and women flirted openly in public spaces. It was a resurgence of the sexual revolution.

Not long after enrolling in school, Peter found a kaposi sarcoma lesion on his arm, so Robin went with him to get tested. He was diagnosed with AIDS. It was 1989.

“In those days it was a death sentence,” she remembers. “As his illness progressed to the point that he needed help, I was with him. He was never in the hospital by himself. I would spend the night, and then go home, get dressed...go back to work; then spend the night. Life was just on repeat.

“After getting over the initial shock of Peter’s diagnosis, honestly, I don’t remember what AIDS Project Los Angeles’ resources were [or] what they could offer us.”

To their good fortune Peter had an apartment and insurance and Robin had a master’s degree in social work, so she was able to find ways to work around the system.

Those diagnosed in places like South Florida were not as fortunate. According to Bodiford, volunteers had to go to gay bars and night clubs with donation cans. There were no resources and zero funding.

“I don’t really think of myself [as] his caretaker. He was my brother,” says Bodiford. “We had a small family; it was my brother, my mother and my stepfather. My stepfather really stepped up and did all the grocery shopping and everyday chores.”

For so many of Peter’s friends, that just wasn’t happening. He joined support groups. He had surrounded himself with a large community of young men that were dying of AIDS. At the time, no one was living with AIDS; everyone was dying from it. Many died alone.

“When I say family, I mean, mainly my parents. As supportive as they were, on top of him being terminally ill, [there was the] stigma of having AIDS. My parents couldn’t

tell anyone about it. None of their friends knew, everyone thought Peter had cancer.”

Countless gay men with AIDS found themselves homeless because of unemployment, evictions and medical costs. An untold number of physicians refused to provide medical care; funeral homes denied services; and obituaries did not report when a person had passed away from AIDS or complications from AIDS; death certificates usually listed the cause of death as adult respiratory distress syndrome. Families were often went into a state of denial when their loved ones contracted AIDS.

## ON THE FRONT LINES

On June 5th 1981, the CDC's monthly report described the outbreak of a new disease. Previously healthy, young men were walking into hospitals with advanced stages of opportunistic infections.

Clusters of an exceedingly rare but aggressive form of cancer known as Kaposi's sarcoma began to crop up between New York City, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Within days the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) initiated a task force to identify the risk factors, as well as the groups at risk, and to set up a national surveillance team.

“I came out a bit before I graduated high school, well to myself at least,” says Katy Yankie, LSCW and Director of Clinical services at Sunserve. “I grew up in a small town on the Maryland and West Virginia border called Cumberland. It wasn't a warm and fuzzy place to come out, but there was a group there. They were called [the] Significant Others; there were no gay bars unless you drove three hours. They would have potlucks, game nights or parties, and that was my support system.”

By age 27 Yankie had become the director of resident services at a retirement community in Broward County. But as her group of friends here became extremely ill and died, she left her job to become the AIDS education counselor at Henderson Behavioral Health. She started an education and outreach program with a speakers bureau in order to dispel many rumors that were spreading incorrect information.

At the beginning of the epidemic there were many unknowns about the transmission of the disease. It was difficult to distinguish between genuine fear and blatant homophobia; finding compassionate physicians and nurses was an incredible challenge.

“I was friends with a woman named Cassandra, who is a lesbian. She was in recovery for about 10 years when she was diagnosed. I brought her laundry home to wash, and my partner at the time had a fit, because everything wasn't

known at the time.” Yankie pauses and looks down at her hands, “I mean it was scary, but it didn't stop me.”

Like many in her situation, Yankie devoted herself to the cause. She began work at a hotline at Center One, Broward County's community service agency for HIV. She also facilitated a support group for HIV impacted gay couples.

“When I first started working there, it was before Protease inhibitors. Everybody died. Everybody. Every. Body. Died. Everyone you ever met,” says Yankie shaking her head.

One of her closest friends at the time was Patrick McManus, one of the first case managers for people with AIDS at Center One. She describes him as an amazing man with biting wit and unbridled sarcasm. He was the kind of person who would carry the food trays in at one of the local hospitals, because staff was too afraid to take the trays into the rooms. When he found out he was positive, his group of friends made a schedule of care and divided up chores — everything from walking the dog and cleaning the house to paying the bills and whatever else may be needed.

“Patrick had a brain biopsy, and I went to pick him up from the hospital,” recalls Yankie. “He began to seizure. He pulled his IV out; blood went everywhere; I had to go get tested myself, because it splashed all over my face. It was a horrible feeling, how difficult care giving is. I was his care giver, but we took care of each other.”

McManus passed away on October 25, 1993.

## THE SILVER LINING

Many lesbians founded or dedicated themselves to community-based organizations as a result of the AIDS epidemic. There simply a dire need for outreach, education, support and funding that was neither readily available nor being addressed with enough interest or urgency.

All of the women who became caregivers and advocates stood up to the challenge, and in doing so became the protectors of their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender loved ones. Most dove in head first without knowing the first thing about caretaking. Many were young, and did as much as they could with the means, time and energy they had. Now, the vast majority of women who were on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic are in their 50s and 60s, taking care of aging parents with the know-how and empathy they acquired. Their untold stories and experiences shed light on one of the darkest periods of this nation's modern history.

Just as those who died during the AIDS epidemic weren't merely numbers, all the survivors don't simply keep the memories of their loved ones alive. They are keepers of the community's history. ●



TOP

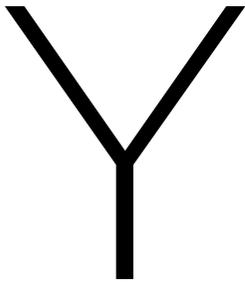
ON

HIGH

HELD

AS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND INFLUENTIAL FEMALE CONTEMPORARY POP ARTISTS, GLORIA ESTEFAN HAS USED HER CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT TO HELP ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF LGBTQ PEOPLE AND OTHER MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES.

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH



Years before her cutting-edge Latin sounds became a staple of mainstream radio, Gloria Estefan had an enormous following in South Florida's gay nightclubs, where her music was met with wide acclaim. Having shown compassion throughout her career for people who suffer from discrimination,

poverty and natural disasters, the pop icon took a great interest in supporting the LGBTQ community in the early 90s, after opening, along with husband Emilio, a splashy Cuban restaurant called Larios in South Beach, a gay mecca back then.

Today, few straight entertainers are as vocal about LGBTQ rights as Estefan. An activist for racial and economic justice, immigration and marriage equality, she served as the grand marshal of the 2014 Miami Beach Gay Pride parade and was also one of the first celebrities to record video messages of support for queer youth when the It Gets Better Project was launched.

Most recently, the Estefans produced a movie about a conservative heterosexual man who receives a heart transplant from a drag queen. Premiered at the OUTshine Film Festival in Miami, *A Change of Heart*, carries a strong message about acceptance and what it means to be human.

"The LGBTQ community is facing enormous challenges this year, with a new administration that is the most anti-LGBTQ in recent history," says Rea Carey, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force. "Friends like Gloria Estefan, who lend their energy and resources to the cause for equality, motivate us and give us hope as we keep working. She is an inspiration!"

The advocacy group bestowed her with the 2017 National Leadership Award. In her remarks at the Task Force gala held in October at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach, the 60-year-old singer and songwriter explained why it was personally important to be a visible ally.

"Human beings have to stick up for the rights of all human beings. When I was in college, one of the most impactful classes that I took was Literature of the Holocaust. I found that silence is our biggest enemy, and when we see something that doesn't feel fair, we need to speak up. We all share the same rights and we should have the right to love who we want. Adults should have the right to enter into a contract with whoever they want to share their lives and have their benefits and be able to be with them in difficult moments. For me, it was a no brainer; it has never been an issue."

"Whenever I talk to young people, I try to stress the fact that it is important for us to hold each other up," said Estefan when asked to suggest concrete ways in which straight people can become allies. "If you start in your own place, in your own family, in your own neighborhood, in your city, in your state, it's a chain reaction to the world."

Drawing on her Cuban roots, Estefan helped coin a "Miami Sound" that infectiously took off and spread throughout the world.

"In the same way Miami evolved to represent a welcoming and safe place for worldwide LGBTQ people, so did the music of Gloria Estefan," says Damian Pardo, SAVE Dade cofounder. "From gender-bending characters in their early videos to an entire video of Gloria-themed drag queens in the early 90s (when she was pregnant), Gloria Estefan made visible her support of LGBTQ people, including her very public support of same-sex marriage".

Her passionate lyrics sank deep into the hearts of minority communities. Her chart-topping albums *Mi Tierra* (My Homeland) and *Abriendo Puertas* (Opening Doors) beckoned listeners to honor their roots, let go of painful experiences and embrace the future with authenticity.

In 2015, Barack Obama honored her and her husband with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for their cultural accomplishments. According to Carey, Gloria embodies the Task Force vision that everyone can fully be themselves and "Be You" as the organization's slogan states. •





A PRAISE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SOUTH FLORIDA'S GAY MEN'S CHORUSES SING US SOMETHING THAT WE KNOW. | BY SHAYNE BENOWITZ

# CHORUS

“M

usic is a universal language. It touches people in ways they don't expect," says Dr. Gary E. Keating, founder and director of the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus. That's exactly the message that South Florida's gay men's choruses are out to spread this holiday season. Their concerts

will be staged everywhere from the Hard Rock Live in Hollywood — with special guest star Alan Cumming — to the historic Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ. Get to know the creative forces behind these organizations, and mark your calendars for some fun-loving holiday cheer.

#### FORT LAUDERDALE GAY MEN'S CHORUS

After attending a performance by the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, Keating was inspired to bring the concept to South Florida. With a doctoral degree in choral conducting from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, Keating was the right man for the job. In 1986, he conducted the first South Florida Gay Men's Chorus concert at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts (now the Olympia Theater).

Today, the group is called the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus. Composed of about 20 members — ages 23 to 70 — the group also supports a gay and lesbian youth choir, as well as a women's choir. "Everyone is welcome. We have members who didn't know a





quarter note from an umbrella when they joined,” says Keating, who also conducts choruses and teaches music theory at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School. “We have many new members who’ve recently moved to South Florida; they’re under 30, and they join the chorus to make friends and become a part of the community.”

Keating sees the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men’s Chorus as a vital part of not

only the LGBT community, but also greater Fort Lauderdale and South Florida as a whole. Around the holidays, they participate in the tree lighting ceremony in Wilton Manors and perform during Christmas on Las Olas festivities. Throughout the year, they perform at nursing homes and rehab facilities, and raise money for AIDS foundations across South Florida. “We want the community to meet us, see us and have experiences with people who are LGBT. We are their teachers, nurses, doctors,” says Keating.

To celebrate 30 years of performance, their holiday program is called Wishful Gifts and will be staged at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Fort Lauderdale on December 16 at 8 p.m. Guests can expect everything from Christmas carols like “Silver Bells” and “Deck the Halls” to classical music, Hanukkah songs and even an a cappella arrangement of OneRepublic’s “Good Life.”

“The holiday show is always the first show of the season,” says Keating. “In South Florida, you have a lot of people who don’t live near their biological family and the holidays are very family oriented. People miss that. We can act

**From top:** The Miami Gay Men’s Chorus show It Takes a Village, People!; the Gay Men’s Chorus of South Florida during their Holidays at The Hard Rock! performance in 2016.

as a surrogate replacement that imbues and embodies the holiday feeling. I think back to when we founded the chorus in 1986. The AIDS crisis was new. A lot of people were being abandoned by their families. It was Thanksgiving and I said to my mom and dad, ‘Let’s invite everyone from the chorus to our home.’ Forty-eight people showed up. It’s remained our annual tradition and to this day there are still 14 men from the original chorus who come to Thanksgiving every year.”

#### MIAMI GAY MEN’S CHORUS

“With humor and love, we bring music to our community,” says artistic director Anthony Cabrera, of the mission of the Miami Gay Men’s Chorus. Originally founded in South Beach in 1999, the chorus is now based in Coral Gables and has branched out to embrace all





From top: Miami Gay Men's Chorus Pop! Goes the Season performance in 2016; and It Takes a Village, People! in June.

of Miami. Cabrera joined the chorus as a performer during the 2006 season and became the artistic director a year later. With a degree in music from the University of Miami, he's also the choral director at the Young Women's Preparatory Academy in Little Havana and minister of liturgical arts at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ where the Miami Gay Men's Chorus rehearses and performs.

"It's an unlikely relationship between gay choruses and the church because the rejection of gay people, more than social is religious. It's often driven by the church, so it's nice that places of worship take us in," says Cabrera. "We rehearse and perform at the church and we're often invited to be featured performers for church fundraisers. We tend to reject things we're not familiar with, so we sing to make our community familiar."

The Miami Gay Men's Chorus is composed of about 30 members ranging in age from 23 to 94. It's also affiliated with GALA Choruses, the international gay and lesbian chorus association. Their holiday program Joy to the Gurl will be a holiday divas concert staged at the Miami Shores Community Church on December 15 at 8 p.m. and the Coral Gables Congregational Church on December 16 at 8 p.m. Cabrera says the audience can expect everything from a Celine Dion arrangement of "Oh Holy Night" to Barbara Streisand's rendition of "Ave Maria." He adds, "And, of course, there will be an homage to the ultimate divas — our moms."

**GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF SOUTH FLORIDA**  
South Florida's newest gay men's chorus is also its largest. The Gay Men's Chorus



of South Florida was founded in 2010 and boasts 135 members under the artistic direction of Harold Dioquino. This year, they pulled off a major coup by securing Broadway legend Alan Cumming as the headliner for one of their holiday concerts. Staged at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on December 17 at 7 p.m., it's also their largest venue to date, and they hope to sell upwards of 2,000 tickets. Patrons can expect a blend of traditional, highbrow and comedic numbers with both solo and joint performances by Cumming. They will also stage *Light & Joy* at the Sunshine Cathedral in Fort Lauderdale on December 9 at 8 p.m.

For executive director Mark Kent, diversity within the chorus and audience is an important aspect of the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida. In fact, 25 percent of their audience does not identify as LGBTQ. "We believe in the power of music to change minds and hearts," says Kent. "Our members come in all different shapes, sizes and colors. All ages, races and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as the disabled, are represented. Music cements and bonds us together."

Each of the three gay men's choruses in South Florida hold tightly to some version of this mission, that music has

the power to unite. "Music is a powerful way to touch humanity and uplift the spirit in a serious, emotional way," says Kent. "I also think it's the most accessible of the performing arts. Everyone loves music. It's a powerful thing to create this common language amongst people. When you're sitting in an auditorium moved, gripped and touched by a performance and the person sitting beside you also feels the same thing, there's a shared emotional bond that's amplified for the whole group." •



**Top:** Justin Knight, Shawn Jordan, Felix Fidelibus and Dr. Gary Keating at the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus fundraiser, *A Fashionable Lei*.



## HOLIDAY SHOWS

### Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida

*Light & Joy*

Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. at Sunshine Cathedral

*Holidays at the Hard Rock with Alan Cumming*

Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at Hard Rock Live

**Tickets**

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

**954.763.2266**

### Miami Gay Men's Chorus

*Joy to the Gurl*

Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. at Miami Shores

Community Church

Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. at Coral Gables

Congregational Church

**Tickets**

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

**786.671.6599**

### Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus

*Wishful Gifts*

Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church

**Tickets**

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



# LIKE

BRIGHTON IS THE KIND OF COASTAL TOWN THAT'S MADE FOR A HOLIDAY.

BY ANDREW PRINTER

# SUNDAY

**F**or a country the size of the state of Louisiana, England has managed to squeeze into its borders more than its fair share of top tier travel destinations. There's the Lake District in the north, Shakespeare's Stratford-Upon-Avon and Stonehenge. Oh, and there's that quaint little town called London. The list goes on.

Missing from that roster however are the seaside destinations. Ironically, the country is an island. Perhaps the oversight is because every coastal nation south of England has an iconic seaboard more desirable to the vacationing public than what "dreary" old Britain can offer.

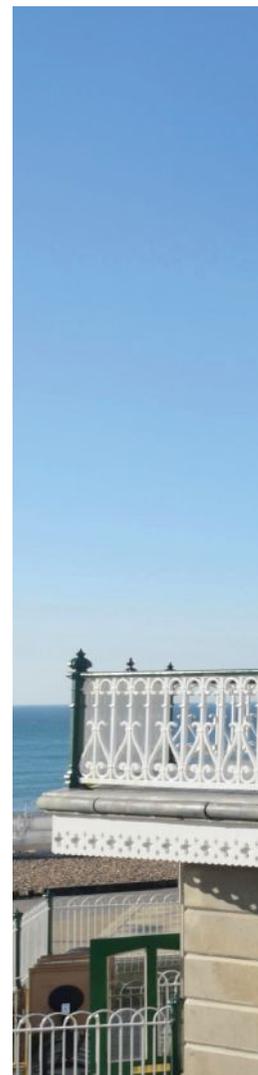


But, as with its cuisine, there's more to the English landscape than pastures and foggy moors. And, as far as seaside cities are concerned, there is the one and only Brighton, England's most popular coastal resort.

Brighton and Hove, to give the city its proper name, is approximately 55 miles south of London. It's where many Britons go for a holiday to enjoy the slightly warmer waters of the English Channel, shop and generally relax. Known to some as London-By-The-Sea because of its proximity to the capital, it is also home to a vibrant local culture. And Brighton is revered as the unofficial gay capital of the UK, hosting a boisterous gay pride each August, the largest in Britain.

From a bird's-eye view, Brighton and Hove hug the coast of the English Channel with Hove to the west and Brighton Marina three miles to the east. Walking the esplanade high above the beach is a wonderful way to orient yourself in this bright and lively town. Not only will you enjoy a bracing view of the sea — complete with the smell of sea salt and seagull cries — but you will also be treated to remarkable stretches of pristine Regency architecture.

Brighton's history stretches back to the Domesday Book of 1086 when the fishing town was known as Brijthelmstone. But it was the Regency and Victorian eras that influenced the city's distinctive appearance most.



Top: The Laines area of Brighton is full of restaurants and shops and quite popular with Londoners looking for a seaside getaway, as well as visitors from abroad.

You will find examples of tall, white, terraced Regency architecture everywhere, particularly in the broad crescents facing the water. Regency Square to the west and Sussex Square to the east are two such examples.

Those less inclined to walk three miles can take a flight of steps down to the beach instead and stroll toward Brighton Palace Pier. The Victorian structure, considered by some to be “the finest pier ever built,” is unavoidable once you are on the seafront.

As you amble along, you’ll pass converted fishermen’s huts that now serve as art galleries, cafés and shops. On the seaside, you’ll notice that Brighton’s beaches aren’t sandy. Rather, this entire stretch of coast is made of smooth, baseball-sized stones. It makes for an extraordinary visual

from the esplanade. Deck chairs are available if you aren’t comfortable sunbathing on the slightly lumpy ground. Alternatively, take advantage of a variety of beach activities, as local attractions include volleyball courts, Volk’s electric railway and the Brighton Wheel.

Once you arrive at the Palace Pier you’ll find it buzzing with roller coasters, fish-and-chip vendors and stores selling all kinds of novelties. It’s easy to spend half a day there playing carnival games or just dozing in the sun. If you are visiting the seafront in the evening, the pier’s lights make the experience even more festive.

Just north of the Palace Pier is Steine Gardens, the center of old Brixthelmstone and an ideal hub from which to explore the modern city. Take St. James Street east toward Kemptown — the LGBTQ quarter — to explore delightful pubs, cafés and trendy but unassuming restaurants. Redroaster is a bustling café, ideal for people watching. Farther along, the small but cheery Cosiez has a great menu for breakfast and lunch.

You’ll find that Kemptown is a tightly knit section of Brighton. It has a cozy appeal and is home to many charming bed and breakfasts. Properties vary in size, price



and amenities, but you can surely begin your day with a traditional English breakfast at any one of them.

Heading north from Old Steine, you'll quickly discover the Royal Pavilion, perhaps one of the most surprising buildings in any English town. This former royal home was built as a seaside pleasure palace for King George IV, a colorful character whose own extravagance likely led to Brighton's reputation as a hedonistic playground. What's surprising about the building itself is its unlikely blend of Regency grandeur with the visual details that took their cues from India and China. It's worth a tour. Or just relax in the historic building's lovely gardens.

Nearby are "the Lanes," a charming network of narrow streets — or twittens to the locals — that has two components. Just south of North Street, closer to the sea, you'll find a variety of independent shops and antique dealers. On Kings Road, parallel to the shore, look out for the confection known as Brighton rock. The cylindrical, stick-shaped peppermint candy is notable for its white center, pink exterior and interior pattern embedded throughout the length, which could be text or a logo.

Brighton's North Laine district is comprised of a string of pedestrian-friendly streets lined with bustling cafés, pubs and over 300 shops. This bohemian warren is an ideal place to idle away an afternoon browsing for one-of-a-kind gifts. Who, after all, wouldn't want a creamer shaped like a dormouse?

Clockwise from top left: The pavilion on Brighton Pier; macaroons in an afternoon tea platter; a parade participant in Pride Brighton + Hove.





Brighton is a resort town with plenty to offer during the day, but there's just as much to do at night. There are the pubs of course, each with its own personality, all of them conducive to meeting locals and discovering more about their seaside city. But there are nightclubs and retro bars throughout town, too; and performances abound.

The Brighton Dome and the Theatre Royal are both in the center of town. Each offers an eclectic line-up of music and touring shows throughout the year. In May, however, the whole city comes alive with the wildly popular Brighton Festival and accompanying Brighton Fringe.

For four to five weeks the city is transformed into a movable feast of comedy, drama, street performances, avant-garde presentations, films, lectures, experimental shows and music. Pubs are transformed into performance spaces, impromptu stages are erected — some in massive inflatable venues. There is truly something for everyone. Last year, Brighton Festival presented a children's parade and a magical adaption of *Swan Lake*, while Brighton Fringe held a *Frozen* sing-along and a motivational mind-reading experience. This is seriously the tip of a very large iceberg.

Traveling by car from London can take well over two hours, and you will surely encounter traffic, which will prolong your journey. But, if you have time to spare a road trip will allow you to detour into the countryside where you might stop for a ploughman's lunch (a meal of bread and cheese, typically with pickled vegetables and salad). Sussex and the nearby South Downs are dotted with pubs and villages to explore so you'll have plenty of options en route. The Laughing Fish in tiny Isfield, just 14 miles from Brighton is one possibility. If you go, make sure to try a pint of Seacider. You won't regret it. And check out the Lavender Line, a preserved stretch of rural railway that stops just next to the pub.

If you are eager to get to your hotel, however, then traveling by train is by far the better choice. There is a near constant service from Victoria Station in the heart of London. Or, if you are heading south straight from the airport take the Gatwick Express. This will have you in Brighton in no time.

Arriving at Brighton station can feel a bit like entering into a period movie set in the 1940's or, on a rainy day, maybe even 1840, the year it was built. In many respects it's an ideal introduction to this unique, well-preserved, creamsicle-

colored city. Trains glide into the terminus along a broad stretch of track and stop beneath a large, double-spanned curved glass and iron roof. The structure was substantially renovated in 2000 so there is a shiny veneer to the station but as you walk toward the main entrance you might feel yourself morphing into a character out of *Downton Abbey* or *Hogwarts Express*.

Steps away is an impressive view of the sea from the train station's hilltop perch. Between you and the water lies a lively, picturesque town waiting to be explored. Let your English adventure begin! •

Opposite page: The Royal Pavilion hosted one of the first legal same-sex marriage ceremonies to take place in the UK.

This page, clockwise from top left: A street performer at the Brighton Fringe festival; trendy neighborhood bar; the preserved Lavender Line Railway.



**ACCOMMODATIONS (LGBTQ FRIENDLY)**

- Blanch House – situated in a discreet Georgian terrace in fashionable Kemptown, each room has a unique design.
- Room With a View – all nine rooms at this stylish guest house boast the all-important sea view.
- Ambassador Brighton – a four star, mid-price, bed & breakfast in the heart of Kemptown. There are lots of special offers for longer stays.

**EVENTS**

- Pride Brighton and Hove – [brighton-pride.org](http://brighton-pride.org)
- Brighton Festival – [brightonfestival.org](http://brightonfestival.org)
- Brighton Fringe – [brightonfringe.org](http://brightonfringe.org)

**SHOPS**

- Brighton Museum Shop – a great selection of items, from the stylish to the quirky, for unique home wares and light-hearted seaside souvenirs.
- Brighton Gin – purveyor of gin made with 100 percent British organic wheat spirit and re-distilled with juniper, fresh orange and lime peel, locally-grown coriander and milk.
- Photomatic Shop – a new photobooth emporium in the heart of Brighton's historic North Laine. An essential stop for visitors seeking a more tactile souvenir than the common selfie.
- Brighton Rock Shop – candy, delicious candy!

**ACTIVITIES**

- Ghost Walk of the Lanes – walks take place every Wednesday through Saturday from The Druid's Head pub in Brighton Place.
- Brighton City Walks – this is Brighton's 90-minute traditional city walking tour.
- Volk's Electric Railway – opened in 1883, inventor Magnus Volk's Electric Railway is the "world's oldest operating electric railway."

**LGBTQ PUBS/CLUBS/BARS**

- Legends – a longtime Brighton favorite, Legends has an all-day bar with a sea-facing terrace and becomes a popular club on weekends.
- The Bulldog – with regular happy hours and special events, the Bulldog is a cozy Brighton gay pub in the center of Kemptown, and it's been around for more than 30 years!
- The Marlborough – a historic lesbian pub with a great small theater upstairs for the thespians, just off the Old Steine opposite the Royal Pavilion.
- Charles Street – one of the busiest gay bars in Brighton with its chic and trendy crowd and a central location.

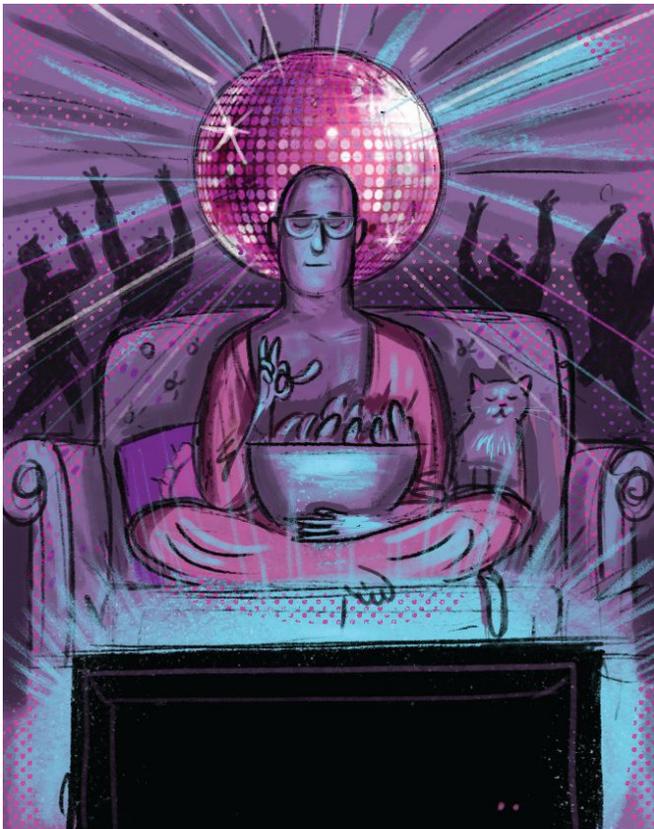
**OTHER**

- [visitbrighton.com](http://visitbrighton.com)
- [southernrailway.com/tickets-and-fares](http://southernrailway.com/tickets-and-fares)

# PARTY BOY GROUNDED

Once in my life, every week felt like a nonstop New Year's Eve party. Today, a box of rugelach and my cats are all I need to rejoice.

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH



**S**earching for Throwback Thursday photos in a dusty drawer, I recently uncovered quite a find — a treasure trove of cherished mementos of a time almost forgotten.

More than a dozen nightclub membership and VIP cards — including Salvation, Federation/Level, Space, Rize and Pump — were stashed away. These cards, whose venues were staples of Miami's gay nightlife in the early 2000s, took me back to a time when I was a keen partygoer and bon vivant rubbing shoulders with sweaty, handsome guys I hardly knew.

The discovery took me back to a lifestyle I had all but forgotten. A life of glitz and glamour, nonstop parties and love affairs that would eventually lead to a roller-coaster of emotions. Although surrounded by people, deep inside I experienced bouts of loneliness, anxiety and sorrow, which from my experience can sometimes be side-effects of the very party scene we seek and enjoy. It was those feelings that strengthened my determination to make a change. I yearned for a genuine inner transformation.

In truth, little did I know that I would embark on a path of challenges, adventures and spiritual awakening and growth.

Twenty years ago, I arrived in New York City to attend journalism graduate school. Shortly after my plane landed, I was already gleefully dancing at a night club. Coming from Latin America, where many of us stow ourselves away in the closet, this was a sort of liberation day. The bars were cool places filled with men from across the world, and it was relatively easy to meet someone special or enjoy a night of passion — which was a great boost to my self-esteem.

After graduation, I made Miami home. Down here, I almost became a fixture in the lively club scene, where I forged close friendships. Sure, we had many good laughs, but we also had rough times. I became familiar with a particular niche within gay night life: the rave-like circuit parties. I was there, but never felt like I fit in. There's nothing inherently wrong

with these gatherings, but just underneath the surface lurks a well-documented dark side. Some of the behaviors I engaged in made me realize that I was really trying to run from the emptiness I had felt for years — a consequence of childhood bullying, stigmatization and general societal rejection.

Under pressure from an existential crisis, in my early 30s I made a life-changing commitment to pursue quality in all aspects of my being through the healing process of recovery. Everything that I was looking for externally at the discos — acceptance, validation, love — I had to find within myself first with the help of a higher power. It was not an easy undertaking. Actually, it was strange and wonderful. I began to feel grounded.

Whereas before I required the presence of others — and their compliments, too — to feel valued, the more familiar I became with myself, the more comfortable I felt in my own skin. Being alone doesn't mean feeling lonely. I developed a deep-rooted optimistic nature that often wins out over discouraging circumstances. By replacing old habits for better ones, I also attracted new people and made new friends with similar thinking.

I began to take joy in doing simple things and savor each moment as a precious gift in its own right. Instead of clubbing trips to Europe's gay hubs, I embarked on spiritual pilgrimages to India and Israel. Dieting compulsively to attract guys transformed into treating myself to an overflowing bowl of organic chips and watching Netflix. My new personal motto: I enjoy everything I do, and I do what I enjoy.

A long time passed before I set foot in a bar and had intimate contact with another man. Today, when I drive by a night club and see the big crowds waiting in line, I smile remembering the good times but am grateful that I am somewhere else in my journey. •

“ Hello, I am Antonia Canero, founding partner of Canero Immigration Law Firm. I have practiced in Miami, Florida, since 1992, and specialize in U.S Immigration Law. Our firm focuses on business immigration and corporate matters, but has a litigation and family law section, so it is a full-service firm. For me, my daughter Michelle and for the rest of our staff, our support of the LGBTQ community is not just about being a Corporate Partner Member of MDGLCC or sponsorship of the PRIDE parades, or events of the Miami Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber locally. It's about our belief that diversity is fundamental to our success – it is a part of our Vision and Values – to welcome everyone as clients. We are proud of our ongoing tradition and commitment to equality and inclusion for all our LGBTQ customers, team members and communities.

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# SOMETHING TO MEDITATE ON

Life can get crazy, especially during the holidays when it feels like you're getting pulled in a million different directions. Taking a moment to find your Zen is a gift.

by NADIA DODD

**S**piritual traditions throughout history and across the globe have placed importance on meditation or meditative practices. Whether it's through prayer,

transcendental meditation, Tai Chi or yogic principles, the idea has been to shut out external stimuli and making the body slow down or even be still. Removing your thoughts from the everyday and

turning your focus inward can have multiple ends — cleansing the spirit, finding peace, reaching nirvana, what have you.

Modern times are so fraught with activity and stress that we could certainly use a little time to ourselves, to take our thoughts off what's weighing us down and regroup. Many studies — including a recent one run by Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta — have shown that taking even a little time to do unplug is also incredibly beneficial to our health.

## Stress Reducer

An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but five minutes of mental peace will do that and more. Practicing meditation, even casually, has been shown to improve physical well-being by lowering blood pressure, improving blood circulation and lowering heart rate and blood cortisol levels.

These physiological effects translate into psychological benefits that range from reduced stress, a better sense of well-being and increased concentration to a decrease in both anxiety and bouts of depression.

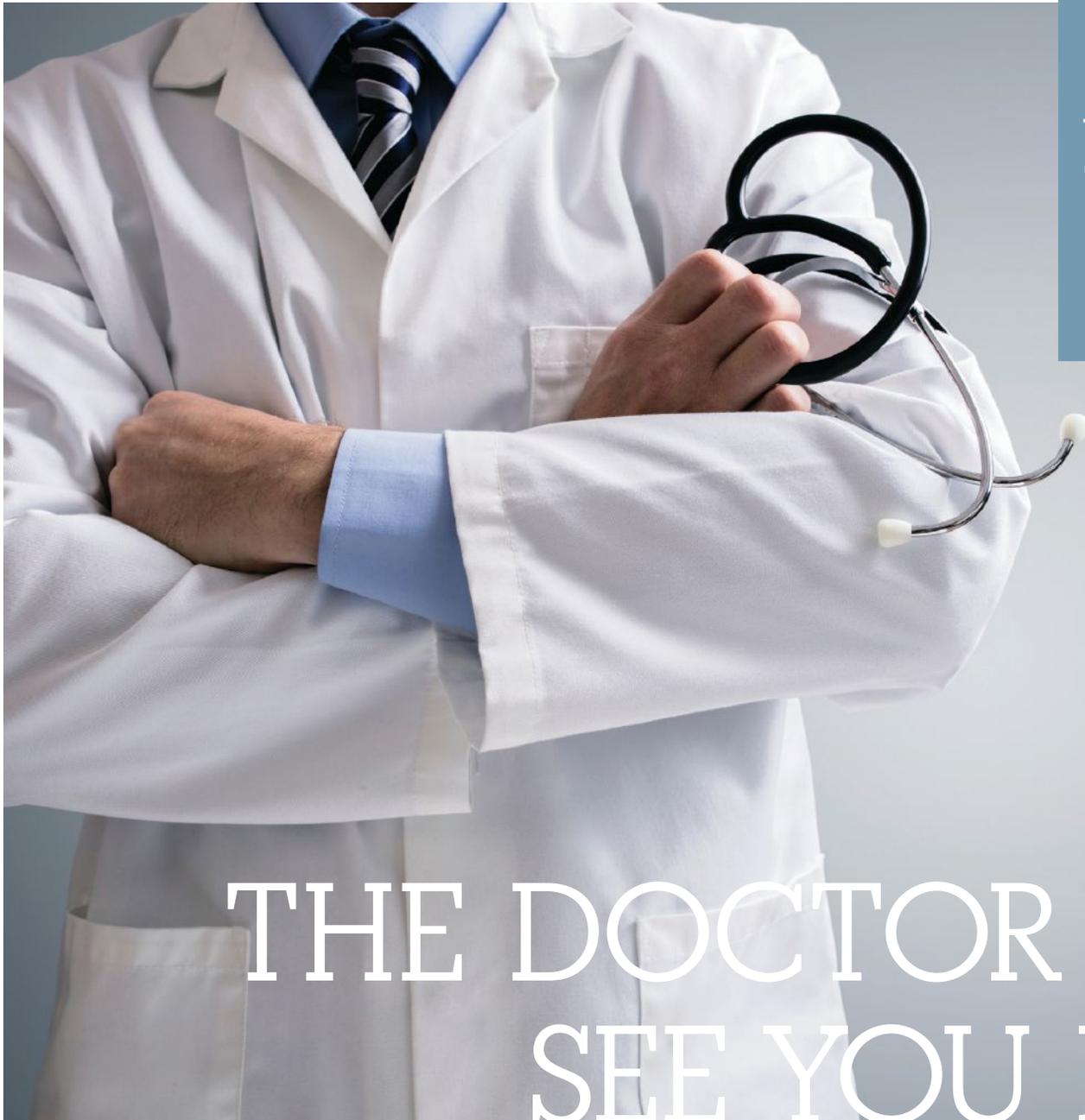
“We know stress is a contributor to all the major modern killers,” said Charles L. Raison, MD, clinical director of the Mind-Body Program at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta in a recent WebMD article. “It's hard to think of an illness in which stress and mood don't figure.”

## Five tips for finding a little inner peace

- Making the time to meditate can be a challenge, but don't stress about that, too! With a few simple tricks you can make it part of your routine.
- Find a comfortable spot
    - Close your eyes
    - Breathe naturally
    - Focus on your breath
  - Start with a few minutes

## Immune Boost

While it appears that meditation is a major stress reducer that can decrease or do away with a number of ailments, it also seems to give the immune system a proverbial shot in the arm, boosting its ability to respond to illnesses. So take a few minutes unplug and chill out. Your body will thank you. •



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18910 South Dixie Highway  
Cutler Bay, FL 33157  
305-585-9230



## RIGHT AT HOME

There is no better time to take a leisurely road trip down through the Florida Keys.

by NADIA DODD

**W**hen disaster strikes, people get the impression that a destination has become a no man's land. But by and large, the kinds of places that get hit by tropical storms and hurricanes are, well, tropical. Their proximity to the sea has blessed them with the kind of lush scenery that invites tourism, and their economies are

therefore highly dependent upon it. Such is the case with the Florida Keys.

Lucky for us, the locals, that the very notion that a place is off-limits, makes it easier for us to beat the usual crowds and enjoy it. If you go with an eye toward adventure, it's a wonderful trip — even the highway is scenic and historic. My advice? Drive down slowly. Stop along the

way. Take lots of pictures. Make yourself a road music playlist, and enjoy the ride.

### Park Life

Two of the best places to go in the Upper Keys are John Pennekamp State Park and Bahia Honda State Park. Right now they both have notices on their sites stating that there are “limited park activities due to storm related repairs, still underway.” Currently John Pennekamp is offering snorkel boat tours, glass-bottom boat tours, paddle sports equipment rentals (kayaks and paddle boards) and beach rental equipment; and Bahia Honda has beach equipment for rent. Farther down in Key West, Fort Zachary Taylor State Park is a similar destination with

• NYAH — which stands for Not Your Average Hotel — offers a new accommodations concept just off Duval Street.

one of the few actual beaches in that city.

### Deliciously Laid-back

From the Rain Barrel Artisan Village — a place with a HUGE shrimp (lobster?) sculpture out front — to Robbie's Marina, where you can feed enormous and hungry tarpon for a fewbucks, Islamorada is the kind of quirky that gives the region its legendary character.

Given enough time, it's also a great place to make an extended Upper Keys stop. If you've ever been to the Tiki Bar — or have heard of it — The Postcard Inn Resort bought the property and refashioned it into an old school American beach resort with modern amenities, designer furnishings and a nice little beach. Nearby, its sister property, Amara Cay Resort, steps up the chic factor with a designated adults-only beach area, a private seaside dock and a Mercedes Benz shuttle. Other resorts with a host of amenities include, Pelican Cove Resort & Marina — which has an oceanside pool — and the six-acre, palm-peppered La Siesta Resort

& Marina, whose accommodations include guest rooms, as well as cottages and houses.

The resorts all have fantastic eateries that run the gamut from Postcard Inn's Tiki Bar and Ciao Hound (as well as the last Starbucks for a long while) to Amara Cay's Reel Burger and Wild & Lime at Pelican Cove and Siesta Resort. But you would also do well to stop in at the Key Largo Conch House for amazing conch fritters made from locally sourced conch and the Key Largo Fisheries, where you can buy some of the freshest seafood to take back home at great prices. Don't forget it's stone crab season!

### Far, Far Away

On your way to Key West, make a stop at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon. The education center runs hourly tours of the facilities and the sea turtle rehabilitation area.

If you happen to make it to the last Key on a Thursday, join the Walk on White, the monthly gallery art walk. If not, there's plenty of creativity

all around even just walking down Duval Street. A stroll into the side streets will treat you to fantastic architecture. Old Town is believed to be the largest predominantly wooden district in the U.S.

If you're staying overnight, you can't go wrong at La Concha Hotel & Spa, at once historic and incredibly modern. If you'd like to watch the watercolor skies from your own room try Casa Marina. Pier House Resort & Spa extends out over the water on wooden piles and is a short walk from attractions, including Mallory Square, the Key West Aquarium and the Hemingway House & Museum. In keeping with the Keys vibe, NYAH — which stands for Not Your Average Hotel — is a boutique, adults-only property that works on a "Build Your Own Room" concept. Several resorts have teamed up with Keys Strong to assist with clean up and donating needed items. Visit [keysstrong.org](http://keysstrong.org) to learn more.

If you've never been down before, now is the time. And if this is old hat, then you know it's time to go again. •

• Shrimp and grits at Firefly; Pier House Resort & Spa.





# SUE MARTINO

## Executive Director of The Pet Project

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH

**T**he greatest gifts pets offer their owners are unconditional love, companionship, joy and healing. Among people living with a life threatening or disabling condition, surrendering their pets due to financial difficulties can often lead to isolation and a rapid health decline, especially among those who may already be estranged from their families. To preserve those human/animal bonds, The Pet Project in Wilton Manors assists South Florida's LGBTQ community with pet care and maintenance. The organization's slogan says it all: "Pets & People Together Forever."

**Q: Why was the Pet Project founded?**

A: It was founded in 2002 answering the call of people diagnosed with HIV. There were many social programs available to help them, but

there was nothing to help them keep their pets. Many of them were alone and had financial difficulties. Our founder saw this as a problem falling between the cracks. In 2007, when I came on board, I expanded it to include all disability; all illnesses and senior citizens on a low fix income.

**Q: What services does the organization offer?**

We have over 1,100 pets in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. We provide pet food; vaccines; pet supplies such as litter, leashes, water bowls, beds, flea medication [and] worm medication; reduced cost vet care; and in emergency situations, we absolutely help. When a client is hospitalized or passes away we foster their pet and, when needed, we find a new forever home for the pet.

**Q: Pet Project is also the Florida affiliate of the Rescue Bank. What is that program's mission?**

A: When pet food manufacturers have packaging issues or the date of the product is close to expiration, they donate the food to the Rescue Bank, which delivers it to pre-qualified animal welfare non-profits through a network of regional affiliates. We distribute their food

across Florida, and we are also allowed to enjoy the benefits, so it has reduced my pet food cost almost in half.

**Q: How significant are pets for LGBTQ seniors, the disabled and HIV-positive individuals?**

A: Monumentally important, because in many cases a lot of us in the LGBTQ community — particularly HIV-positive people and senior citizens — are alone. What they do have is the love and companionship of their pets. It's been scientifically proven that pet ownership helps people medically and encourages socialization with other pet owners. Taking away their pets is like taking away a child.

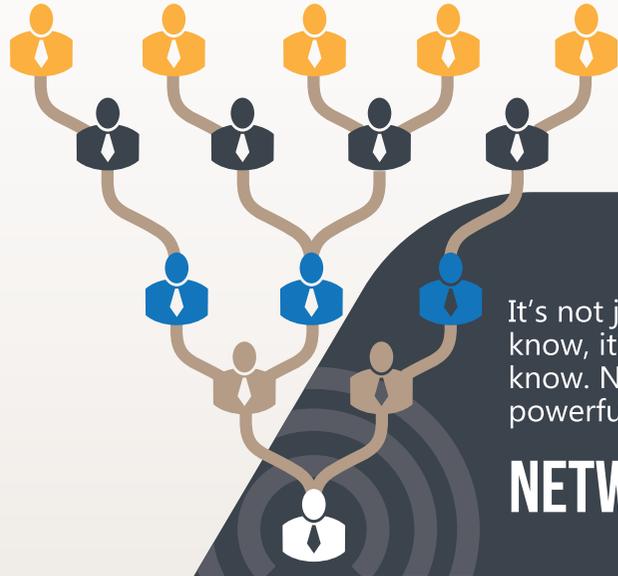
**Q: Do you think pets can provide the energy needed to those who may have otherwise given up hope?**

Absolutely. I have met so many people in the LGBTQ community that come to me and say, "If I couldn't keep my pet, I would have no reason to get up in the morning." We have people who call us while they are at the veterinarian office and the vet is telling them, "You don't have money; we should put this animal to sleep." That's why people are so grateful for our help. •

• Sue Martino,  
Executive Director  
of The Pet Project

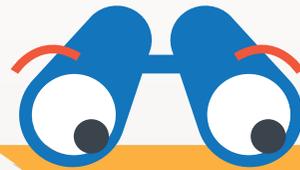
# WHY JOIN A CHAMBER?

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**CLARITY: EXPOSURE LUNCHEON AT PULLMAN MIAMI**

The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC) presented its popular EXPOSure Networking Luncheon on Thursday, October 26th at the Pullman Hotel. This luncheon sponsored by Jackson Health System featured speakers from local and national companies/organizations who deal in supplier diversity. The area of Supplier Diversity is an important market niche in the USA and most Fortune 200 companies have a strong desire to increase its business with the minority owned business marketplace in the foreseeable future. Clockwise from top left: Amber Lawhorn (Director, Small Business Enterprise Program at Jackson Health System) • Scott Bader, Grant Van Ulbrich, Justin G. Nelson (Co-Founder & President of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce), May Mayhew, Marty Davis, Chris Courtemanche and Steve Adkins • Kattie Berges and Jose Enguix • Samuel Espinoza, Diana Ampuero and Martin Gonzalez • Marty Davis, Bill Talbert, Lynare Robbins, Steve Adkins and George T. Neary



**CLARITY: SPOTLIGHT MEGA-MIXER AT THE COLONNADE HOTEL**

The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC) presented its Spotlight Mega-Mixer Networker on-Thursday,-August-31st-at-Hotel Colonnade Coral Gables. They welcomed the-LGBT community to "The-City Beautiful" with some-delicious food, open bar, entertainment, and free drawing of great prizes. Guests-experienced-the newly re-imagine Hotel Colonnade, formerly known as The Westin Colonnade,-a one of a kind venue that brings the exterior-garden look for all events.- They offer 23,000 sq. ft. of event space that can accommodate corporate meetings, groups, holiday parties, anniversaries, weddings and much more. Clockwise from top left: Jessica Lam • Andrew Weimer, Chris Harnett, Shane Danner and Dario Arana • Bill Warren and Mark Jernigan • Gloria Lorenzo and Mercedes Palomo • Kristina Corrales, Mark Gilbert and Victor Gimenez • Michael Angelo Turro, Alan Rifkin and Elsa Salmeron



### NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

NCLR was in Miami Saturday for a fabulous evening of amazing food, drinks, and dancing for a great cause! What a night it was, and thank you so much for coming! You can still make a donation by clicking here! We were thrilled to share the evening with you and our long-time NCLR supporter Martina Navratilova, who was our special guest for the evening. Thank you again so much for coming out and supporting a great cause! Clockwise from top left: DJ Zehno • Elizabeth Schwartz, Nora Rotella, Patricia Hernandez and Kate Kendall • Jerry and Raquel Delgado • Avra Jain and Dalia Lagoa • Chris Cantrell and Nicholas Romano • Frank LeFevre and Thomas Soto

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**Black Bean Quesadillas**

Serves 4 | Prep time: 5 min. | Total time: 15 min.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 cup GOYA® Pico de Gallo Salsa
- 1 can (15.5 oz.) GOYA® Black Beans, or GOYA LOW Sodium Black Beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped fresh cilantro
- 4 10" GOYA® Tortillas (for Burritos)
- 1 tsp. GOYA® Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- GOYA® Salsita (optional)

\*As defined by the USDA ©2015 GOYA Foods, Ins.

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Using small-hole strainer, drain liquid from Pico de Gallo Salsa; discard liquid. Transfer remaining tomato mixture to medium bowl. Mix in black beans, cheese and cilantro until combined.
2. Divide black bean mixture evenly over half of each tortilla (about 1/2 cup each). Fold tortillas in half.
3. Heat large griddle or skillet over medium-high heat. Brush with oil. Place filled tortillas on griddle. Cook, carefully flipping once, until tortillas are golden brown and crisp and cheese filling melts, about 5 minutes.
4. Cut quesadillas into wedges. Serve with your favorite GOYA® Salsita variety, if desired.

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**OUTSHINE PRELUDE PARTY**

Hosted by The Residences at W Fort Lauderdale, the intimate evening gave 60 of the festival's top donors a glimpse into the upcoming Fort Lauderdale Film Festival. Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour and light bites along with panoramic water views at the residential sales gallery. OUTSHINE Film Festival is South Florida's largest LGBT cultural arts event and serves as the platform for several premiers. The Fort Lauderdale edition kicked off October 6th. Clockwise from top left: Michael Schneider, Dino Mosquera, Mark Gilbert, James Moon, Jennifer Kriz, Victor Gimenez, Chris Vastine and Ebony Rhodes • David Campbell and Dino Mosquera • Mark Walter Braswell, Mark Jernigan, Jennifer Kriz, Mark Gilbert, Marc Lichtman and Mark Barnett • Marcones Macedo and Edwin Scharlau • Lynn Bove and Rebecca Batterman • Craig Studnicky and Fany Mendez



**LIPS VICTOR VICTORIA HURRICANE IRMA FUNDRAISER**

Through its Evening with Victor Victoria show, LIPS tuned its annual fundraiser to benefit Neighbors 4 Neighbors to focus squarely on those who had been most affected by Hurrican Irma. The event raised \$22,000 on October 3rd for the non-profit, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Clockwise from top left: LIPS MC • Oscar Llorente, Elina Stoylar Ari Perez John Hershman and Mark O'Singar • Carolyn Michaels and Andrew Horowitz • Kara Londre and Carrie Caldwell • Carolyn Michaels and Robert Boo • Steve Zunt, Alison Higgins and Michael Flemming



### CELEBRATE ORGULLO'S SARA GALA

Unity Coalition | Coalición Unida's Sara Gala — held on October 12 at the Coral Gables Woman's Club — was a magical night of music, dance, art, film, food, drinks and general fabulousness that closed out Celebrate ORGULLO's festival-long homage to 1950s Spanish diva, Sara Montiel. Whether through music, film or on stage Montiel's star shone bright, and as an outspoken ally of the LGBTQ community, she became an icon, especially among LGBTQ Latinos. Clockwise from top left: Jessmarie Gonzalez • Diana Hoppe, Herb Sosa and Brian Pla • Melba De Leon and Robert Dugger • Jose Aybar and Starr Tribue • Ann Atomic and Adrian Toca • Hannah Artman and Jonathan Senk • Daniel Shore Roth, Ibeti Perez and Susanna Taddei

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## RELIVING THE FANTASY

**I**t was the first time a young Catherine Deneuve had been dressed in Yves Saint Laurent for a film. She would become the designer's muse. It was also the first time LGBTQ audiences were treated to an actor who would become an icon. Luis Buñuel's 1967 classic, *Belle de Jour*, is as timely now as it was when it was first released 50 years ago. Exploring themes of infidelity, divergent sexual fantasy and bourgeois ennui, the film celebrates its golden anniversary with a re-release in select theaters and a 4k restoration on Criterion Blu-Ray. For modern audiences struggling with sexual harassment allegations and the culture that enabled them, a cinematic classic that captures the nuances and thrilling dangers of female-centered pleasure is nothing short of a revelation. •



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