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September 5, 2014  
About-Online.com



FREE PUBLICATION

**INSIDE  
DOES HOUSTON**

HAVE A HERO?  
By: Thomas Graham

cover story

**STEVE GRAND**

**MAGAZINE**

**About**



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**RuPaul's  
DRAG RACE**

# CUSTOMER APPRECIATION PARTY

## ALASKA

In The Top 3 Of Season 5

**ONE BIG SHOW!**

AFTER MIDNIGHT  
FOLLOWED BY AN

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AND PHOTOSHOOT!**

Alaska was a drag contestant on the fifth season of RuPaul's Drag Race, landing her a spot in the top 3. Her backstory was that an unidentified spacecraft crash landed in the Matanuska Valley of the South-Central region of Alaska. Officials from the US Government were able to recover one life-form from the crash --

A highly radioactive and severely disfigured alien of unknown species. source: <http://alaskathunderfuck.com/>



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## Does Houston Have A HERO?

### Laying Down The Gavel

by: Thomas C. Graham, ESQ.

*Exclusive to About Magazine*



Thomas C. Graham, ESQ. is a licensed attorney in the state of Texas graduating from the University of Houston Law School.



It has been hard to avoid hearing about the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO). The supporters and the opponents have been extremely vocal, visual and organized. The Houston City Council approved HERO by an 11-6 vote in May, after an 11-hour meeting. Many may recall that the meeting was attended by supporters and opponents numbering in the hundreds, making it the largest public turnout Houston had ever seen at a City Council meeting. Currently, a legal battle to have the repeal of HERO placed before the voters of Houston, next year, is proceedings through the court system. However, many people are left wondering what actually is encompassed in HERO and how it would protect them.

So what actually does the ordinance ban that would have so many people interested in its passage? HERO bans discrimination by private employers, in housing and in city employment and city contracting, and among businesses that serve the public. Opponents argued that HERO was not needed because federal law already has protections in place; however, despite efforts by the federal government those protections are not available to members of the LGBT community who are discriminated against solely because of their sexual orientation or identity. It is important to realize that HERO is not solely to protect members of the LGBT community; in fact, it extends protections to a large percentage of citizens. The language of the bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, familial status, marital status, military status, religion, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or pregnancy.

Under HERO the city will address and investigate discrimination claims in the areas of housing, public accommodations, and employment, with exemptions for religious employers and employers with fewer than 50 employees. Violation of HERO will not lead to anyone being arrested and tossed in to Harris County Jail, but they can be charged with a Class C misdemeanor. Such a charge could result in a fine of up to \$5,000 for violating the law. However, the enforcement of HERO is not currently in effect. Mayor Annise Parker already has agreed to suspend enforcement until a legal ruling is issued.

The movement by local governments to pass such ordinances is not new. In fact, before the passage of HERO Houston was the country's largest city with no laws protecting citizens against discrimination. To see how such an ordinance works, people need to only look down I-10 to San Antonio.

San Antonio passed their Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO) in September 2013. Shortly after the NDO's passage a contract worker, who is transgender and assigned to AT&T, reported to supervisors that he heard two AT&T employees talking about how they would commit violence against transgender people and a few days later he found a "no fag" sign on his chair at work. AT&T has publicly stated that it investigated the complaint and could not substantiate the allegations. The City of San Antonio is currently handling a complaint filed against AT&T filed under the NDO, in addition to a second complaint filed by two women who said they were kicked out of an ice house in San Antonio because they were kissing.

While Houston waits to find out if the attempts to have HERO placed to a public vote, the citizens of Houston must continue to wait for the protections it offers and are needed by all citizens. While opponents wage an extremely expensive legal battle, supporters are left to wonder how many people will lose employment opportunities, be evicted from their home or kicked out of a favorite restaurant due to the lack of protection from discrimination.





**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH**

**ONE BIG SHOW!**

**AFTER MIDNIGHT**

**FOLLOWED  
BY AN**

**AUTOGRAPH  
PARTY AND  
PHOTOSHOOT!**

**Shakira**  
**TRIBUTE**

**STARRING**

**Yara  
Sofia**



**RuPaul's  
DRAG RACE**

Yara was a cast member on the third season of RuPaul's Drag Race. With a heavy, yet comical accent and a catchphrase (Echa Pa'lante which translates to Move Forward) she became a fan favorite due to her unique use of makeup, wigs, contact lenses and fashion. Don't miss a special performance of Yara as Shakira, only at South Beach!



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*Featuring*

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Happy Hour Prices until 8pm

9pm—"Splash Divas" Drag Show

10:30pm—"Splash Dancers" performing Live  
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11:30pm—Dance All Night with Houston's Hottest DJs

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7pm—Sing-Along Sunday Retro Music Videos by Houston's DJ Alex

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featuring Karaoke with Debbie

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Wednesdays—Latin Night featuring \$50 Salsa  
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Thursdays—College Night featuring \$50 Swimsuit Contest  
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Community Health Services

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832-730-4431

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





9.21.14: 11AM

SPECIAL GUEST: Author & Pastor

RUDY RASMUS

SPECIAL MUSIC: SoLeNtELeKt MuVeMeNt

SoLeTiCkLeR

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PRESENTATION

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TALENT

QUESTION & ANSWER

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WINNER RECEIVES \$600 NIGHT OF,  
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1ST RUNNER UP \$300

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
Roxanne Collins  
or Tina Mitchell  
via FACEBOOK

*Featuring special guest*  
**Roxanne Collins**  
MISS COSMIC INTERNATIONAL



Adam & Eve's Presents  
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THE DOLLS OF YOUR FANTASY

# BOYS BOYSBOYS

Houston's All Male Cabaret Show

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**10:00 PM**



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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**

# THE BLACK PARTY

**SHARON NEEDLES**

**RuPaul's DRAG RACE**

**1<sup>st</sup> place winner season 4**

**ONE BIG SHOW!**

**AFTER MIDNIGHT FOLLOWED BY AN AUTOGRAPH PARTY AND PHOTOSHOOT!**

Sharon Needles is a self-described "stupid genius, reviled sweetheart, and Pabst Blue Ribbon princess." Needles rose to prominence on the fourth season of RuPaul's Drag Race, where she quickly became a fan favorite and was subsequently crowned "America's Next Drag Superstar". Don't miss this ghoulish queen only at SOBE!



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**SEPTEMBER 05-07, 2014**

# SMTX PRIDE

**SAN MARCOS**

**SEPT 5, 2014**  
8 PM - MIDNIGHT  
RAINBOW NIGHT  
FULLMOON SALOON  
MIDNIGHT TO 2 AM  
AFTER PARTY:  
BURN

**SEPT 6, 2014**

9 AM - 10 AM  
PARADE:  
COURT HOUSE GROUNDS BOOTHS:  
10 AM - 6 PM  
VFW DRAG SHOW & DANCE  
8 PM - 1 AM

**SEPT 7, 2014**  
11 AM TO NOON  
SMUUF SERVICE  
RIO VISTA PAVILLION  
1 PM - DONE  
SAME SEX  
MARRIAGE  
CEREMONIES,  
FLOAT THE RIVER  
8 PM TO MIDNIGHT  
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR  
DRAG SHOW & DANCE  
THE MARC

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# LESLIE JORDAN P SHOW N Y



Photos: Kelly Smith

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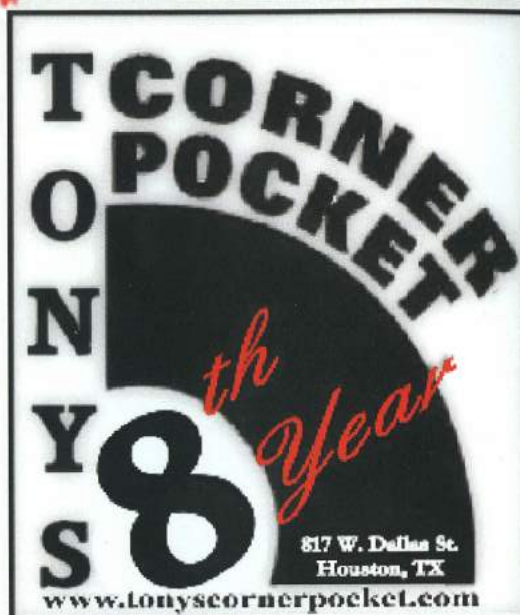
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enriqueiglesias.com

pitbullmusic.com

jbalvin.com

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**Tony's Corner Pocket**

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6 pm - 9 pm

**Midtown Spa**

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9 pm - 2 am

**WEDNESDAY**

**Bayou City**

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10 pm - 1 am

**Crystal Nightclub**

6680 SW Fwy., 77074  
10 pm - 1 am

**THURSDAY**

**Midtown Spa**

3100 Fannin St., 77004  
3 pm - 6 pm

**Tony's Corner Pocket**

817 W. Dallas St., 77019  
6 pm - 9 pm

**XL Houston**

817 W. Dallas St., 77002  
11 pm - 2 am

**FRIDAY**

**XL Houston**

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11 pm - 2 am

**SUNDAY**

**Bayou City**

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7 pm - 10 pm

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Friday: 8 am - 5 pm

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[www.hacstxs.org](http://www.hacstxs.org)

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The best part of all of this has been the people who walk up to me and say, "I'm from a small town. Thanks for telling my story. Thanks for giving me a voice."

# STEVE GRAND

Not long ago, Steve Grand was a little-known Chicago singer-songwriter. That all changed when his self-funded "All-American Boy" music video posted to YouTube. The song — about unrequited love between two men — went viral, accumulating 2.75 million views and landing Steve on "Good Morning America," CNN and BuzzFeed's "24 Most Brilliant Music Videos from 2013." Hailed as a "viral sensation" and one of America's "first openly gay country stars,"

By Cade Michals  
Photos by: Joem C. Bayawa

The song, set against a backdrop of country roads, an American flag, and friends around a campfire, struck a chord because it simply, beautifully tells the story of unrequited love between two men. Steve followed "All-American Boy" with a second single, "STAY." His third single, "Back to California," offers a sneak peek at songs to appear on his first full-length album due out this spring.

In addition to being a musician, Steve has become an active figure in the equality movement. He has performed at Pride events around the nation—and has partnered with causes such as The Human Rights Campaign, The Anti-Violence Project, Bailey House, the GLSEN Respect Awards, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates and the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality.

Born in Chicago and raised in Lemont, Illinois, Steve struggled for many years to accept himself as a gay person. Always feeling like an "outsider," he turned to music for comfort and strength, taking piano lessons and learning to play guitar and flute. In high school, Steve was a self-described "band geek" with long hair, who wore the same Paul McCartney T-shirt day after day. In addition to marching band, he sang in show choir and several other bands and was an Illinois Music Educators Association Finalist in voice.

**You've had an incredible rise since "All-American Boy." What has it been like?** It's been a whirlwind! On July 2, 2013, my life changed. When I posted "All-American Boy" to YouTube, I knew I was making myself vulnerable, telling my story to the world. But I never could have guessed how many people would be so touched by it! I wake up every day feeling grateful to my fans. Now I'm focused on turning all of this into something lasting for the thousands of people who have reached out to me.

**You've been called the first openly gay country star. Is that accurate?** I'm certainly not the first. I am in awe of the trailblazers who came before me. And I never labeled myself country. But if some people hear that in my music, that's great. I'm not sure I fit into any one box. I just want my music to touch people. If it does, I'm happy.

**What would you say to the fans who made you a viral sensation?** I'd like to say: "Thank you for changing my life and giving me a sense of purpose. You are what I think about when I wake up each morning and go to work writing music."

**What's next for your career?** I'm working on my first full-length album due out this spring! Once again, I'll be producing this as an independent artist, with help from my fans through a Kickstarter campaign. I feel a sense of purpose to honor the relationship and trust I've built with fans.

Whenever I'm making a decision about my career, my fans are always at the forefront of my mind.

He certainly kept his fans in mind when he recently striped down to noighting for the Ice Bucket Challenge.

"I don't always get naked, but when I do, it's for a good cause." He stated about jumping into Lake Superior, naked, after a performance in Duluth, MN.



**When did you realize you were gay?** I was 13 years old, and leaving Boy Scout summer camp. While there, I had an emotional connection to this one guy. On the five-hour ride home from Wisconsin to Chicago, I had this terrible ache inside me. That's when I realized the truth: I was in love with a man. It was the hardest summer of my life. I felt incredibly alone. But for all the kids out there who might be going through this, I want you to know that you are not alone. Hang in there. Be patient. You will go through many growing pains. But life is so much better when we accept our true, authentic selves.

Check Steve out! Great music, photos and tour information

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



**Emperor 30 Royce Wood &**

**Empress 30 Amber Anne Foxx Dion**

**When:** Saturday,  
September 6, 2014

**Doors:** 5:00 pm  
**Show:** 6:00 pm— 9:00 pm

**Where:** Meteor  
2306 Genesee St.  
Houston, TX 77006

**Suggested Donation:**  
\$5.00 per person  
\$20.00 per person  
Reserved VIP  
Seating with  
waiters

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Legacy

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For Questions or Reservations:

Emperor 30 Royce Wood: royce.wood@me.com

Empress 30 Amber Anne Foxx Dion: amber.major86@gmail.com

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**FIRE  
&  
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**Dress:** Formal

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- FOOD
- ENTERTAINMENT
- DANCING



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## Miss Gay America Send Off Show



**Dessie Love-Blake**

Miss Gay Texas America 2014  
Miss Gay Galveston America 2014



**September 13, 2014**  
**10:30pm**

**Entertainment By:**

Tara Dion	Kymber Devine
Kara Dion	Alexia Crawford
Lady Shamu	Trecinia St. James
Lana Blake	Farrah Dion
Kiki Dion Van Wales	Eva Nicole Blake
Ian Syder Blake	Jame Roberts

And Many More.....



Hosted By:  
**Tara Dion**  
MGTXA 2001



# IPR BALL 2014 STEAMPUNK

('STēM, PəNGK)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

W. I. GOODY HOUSTON, TX  
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**Tony's Corner Pocket**  
817 W. Dallas, Houston TX 77006



**George County Sports Bar**  
617 Fairview, Houston TX 77006

**F Bar**  
202 Tuam, Houston TX 77006

**Eagle Houston**  
611 Hyde Park, Houston TX 77006

**South Beach The Nightclub, JR's Bar and Grill**  
The Montrose Mining Company

**Bayou City Bar**  
2409 Grant, Houston TX 77006

**Blur Nightclub**  
710 Pacific, Houston TX 77006

**Crocker Bar**  
2312 Crocker, Houston TX 77006

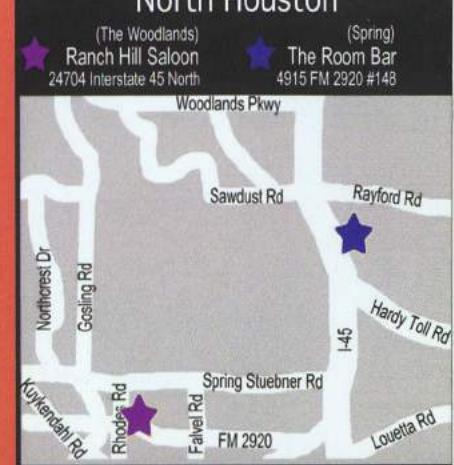
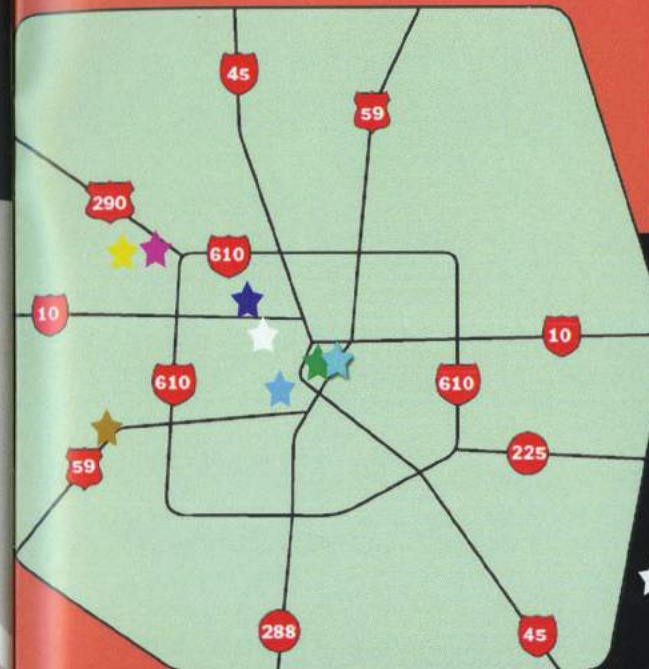
**TC's Bar & Club**  
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**The Ripcord**  
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**Meteor Lounge**  
2306 Genesee, Houston TX 77006

## Montrose Entertainment District THE BAR/CLUB GUIDE

## www.AbOUT-Online.com The Bar/Club Guide



### Greater Houston

**Crystal Nightclub**  
6684 Southwest Freeway

**Bar 13**  
1537 N. Shepherd

**Pearl Bar**  
4216 Washington Ave.

**Michael's Outpost**  
1419 Richmond Ave.

**Viviana's Nightclub**  
4624 Dacoma

**Neon Boots Dancehall**  
11410 Hempstead Highway

**Jet Lounge**  
1515 Pease St

### Galveston Island

**Third Coast Bar**  
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**Robert's Lafitte**  
2501 Avenue Q

**Pink Dolphin**  
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3120 Seawall Blvd





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First Achievers Community Excellence

An Evening Our HEROS Shine

Voting

October 24th - November 7th

Nominations Announced

November 14th

Winners Announced LIVE

**december 8th, 2014**

Arrivals 7:30PM | Show 8:00PM

Proud Home for 2014



11410 Hempstead Hwy Houston, TX 77092



nightculture

## SOMETHING WICKED

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 25

**BASSNECTAR**

**DILLON  
FRANCIS**

SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 26

**KASKADE**

**MARTIN  
GARRIX**

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

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Say Something

Nice....

Come sit by us

**YES Ma'am**  
**NO! Ma'am**

Over here  
bust'in my ass  
for these kids

Ain't  
nobody got  
time for  
all this!

They always said this retired Queen  
was a brown noser...  
But this brought it to a whole new  
level!



By Luke Anthony Schulte

## THREE LESBIANS WALK INTO A BAR. Champlin Brings 'Queer Queens' Comedy to Texas

Picture it. Sicily.... No! Kingston, Rhode Island. 1982. A young Poppy Champlin, star of the female basketball team at the University of Rhode Island, stares ponderingly into the future in her Keaney blue and white, cotton/polyester blend short-shorts with satin trim and nearly knee-high athletic socks. There wouldn't be a WNBA for another 14 years, so what was she to do? There was only one clear career path. Champlin turned to theatre and an innate ability to entertain those around her.

"I had natural timing," says Champlin. "I could say the right thing at the right time.... [I]n college, I performed a monologue in a show that tore the roof off the joint every night and that is what made me want to do it for my life."

32 years later, her talent has taken her across the country, led to specials on Showtime, VH1 and LOGO, earned her the title America's Funniest Woman (bestowed by the legendary Joan Rivers) and even taken her to sea; but things weren't always a laughing matter.

According to the Curve Magazine contributor, the desire to be a working comedian kept her in the closet until 2000. For nearly 20 years, she was afraid that coming out would torpedo her chances at fame.

"I finally couldn't stand lying, changing pronouns or flirting with guys to advance my career," Champlin said.

She was immediately offered a gig in Las Vegas by Bud Freeman, and has since opened for Ray Romano, Denis Leary, Bill Maher, Bill Hicks and Rosie O'Donnell, eventually touring with O'Donnell's "R Family Vacations" cruise.

Champlin recalls docking in St. Croix on the inaugural tour and being met by protestors wielding machetes and signs which said, "No sodomy." She laughed as we spoke about it, remembering that the signs were misspelled and wanting to correct them.

Formerly a writer for Show Me the Funny on FOX and star of News You Can't Use, a weekly web series which satirizes popular headlines, Champlin created the Queer Queens of Qomedy (sic) eight years ago, a national tour of LGBT comics performing for gay and lesbian audiences.

"I wanted to be able to go into big theatres and sell it out with my name – but that wasn't happening," Champlin said. "So I choose the name queer Queens of Qomedy and brought two more names you might not know but soon will."

The 'Queer Queens' perform later this month across Texas. The tour kicks off in Austin, September 15, at the Spiderhouse Ballroom; September 16 in San Antonio at the River Center Comedy Club; September 17 in Houston at the Neon Boots Dance Hall and Saloon; and wraps September 19 in Dallas at Ellen's.

For more information about the tour and to purchase tickets,

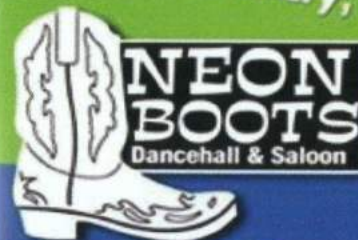
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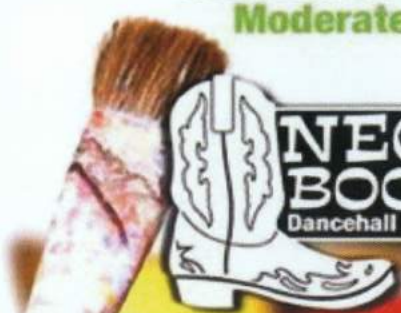
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