

BALLSBEER BBQ

SUNDAY MAY 10 5:00 8:00 PM

50/50 RAFTLE
GIFT BASKETS
\$4 FIREBALL SHOTS

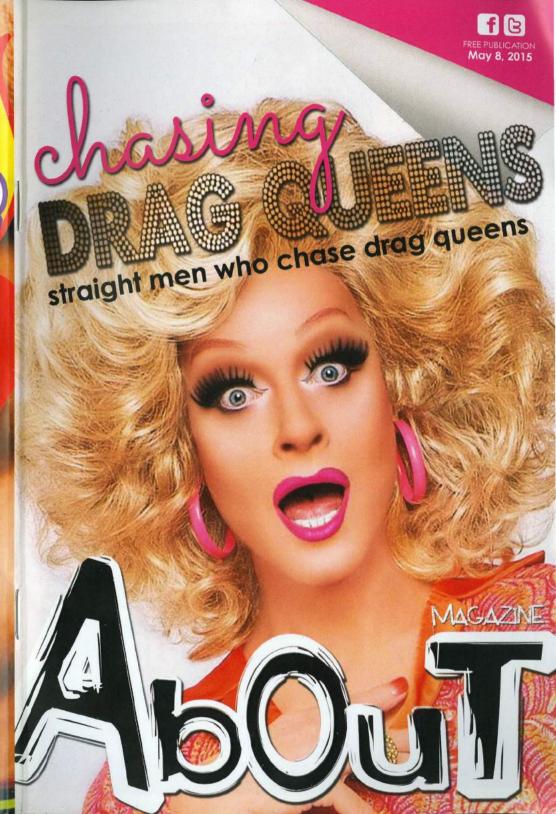
Houston FIREBALL Bar Night

> \$8 BBQ PLATE \$1 BEER (W/\$5 WRISTBAND)

A PROUD SPONSOR OF

fireballs

617 Fairview St | Houston Tx 77006 | 713-528-8102





FBARHOUSTON.COM

202 TUAM ST. HOUSTON TX 77006

713 522 FBAR





The 2014 VisitHouston.com LOCALS' CHOICE AWARD



Houston Press

COME GET SOCIAL























our det

Cade Michals Publisher | CEO Cade@about-online.com

Lance Wilcox Creative Marketing

Thomas C. Graham Attorney | Writer of "Laying The Gravel"

Royanne Collins Writer of "Society Columnist" Roxanneseabout-online.com

Larry King Galveston News Editor

San Antonio News Editor Luke@about-online.com

Contributing Writers Ritchie Allen, DI ID Arnold, DJ Wild Matthew Blanco, DI Mark D. Ray Hill

About Publications | About Magazine

P.O. Box 667626 Houston, TX 77266

(713) 396-2OUT (2688)

info@abOUT-online.com www.abOUT-Online.com

QSyndicate



arily reflect the position of AbOUT Publication. Publication of a photo or name in courage readers to support advertisers that make this magazine possible. AbOUT Pr



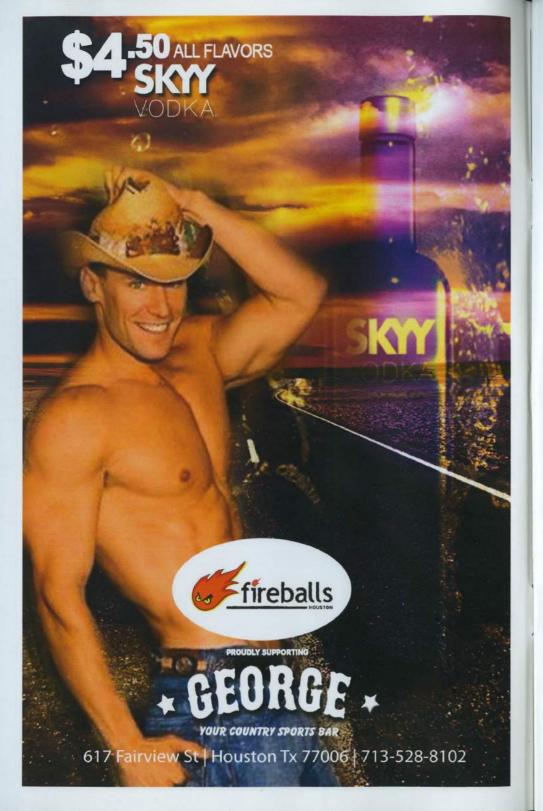
Only Bi-Weekly L.G.B.T. Publication in Texas

ABOUT MAGAZINE

May 8, 201



LANE & LEWIS FOR HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE POS. 1





Tempest DuJour from Tucson, Arizona is the oldest contestant to have competed so far on RuPaul's Drag Race, with a heart just as big, plus talent and campy comedy skills to match. Pearl from Brooklyn, New York is a youthful high fashion posh queen with an edge, who continues to throw shade, even at RuPaul himself. What can these two Season 7 queens possibly have in common, you ask? On Saturday, May 23rd, they will appear together on one stage in each of their Houston debuts, and only at South Beach!

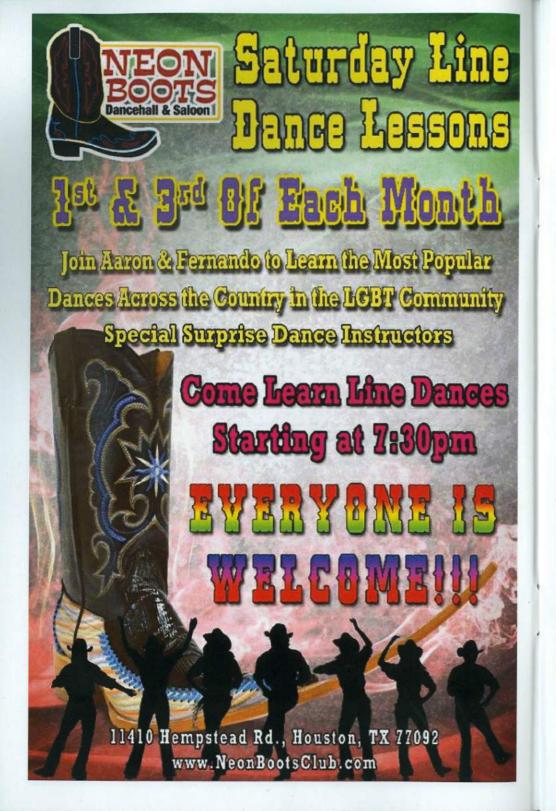
facebook twitter / SDBEHOUSTON instagram www.sobehouston.com



NO COVER BEFORE 10PM
WITH VIP TEXT. S15 AFTER 10 PM.
TEXT SOBE TO 46786 TO BE A VIP MEMBER



810 PACIFIC STREET · 713.529.SOBE · 9 PM - 4 AM · 18+ TO PARTY & 21+ TO DRINK



CONSTANT INCHANGE

Since 1981, Legacy Community Health Services has been a constant presence in the lives of LGBT Houstonians. We were there at the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, providing testing and linking clients to care. We are still here now, offering comprehensive medical care. For more than 30 years, Legacy has been a source of comfort for those who traditionally face barriers to care.

We are, now and always, constantly here for you.

Adult Primary Care
HIV/AIDS Testing & Prevention
Ryan White Health Care Services
STD Screening & Treatment
Transgender Specialty Care
Women's Services
Body Positive Wellness
Nutritional Counseling

Dental Care
Frost Eye Clinic
Behavioral Health Services
Vaccination & Immunization
Pediatrics
The Assistance Fund
On-site Pharmacy

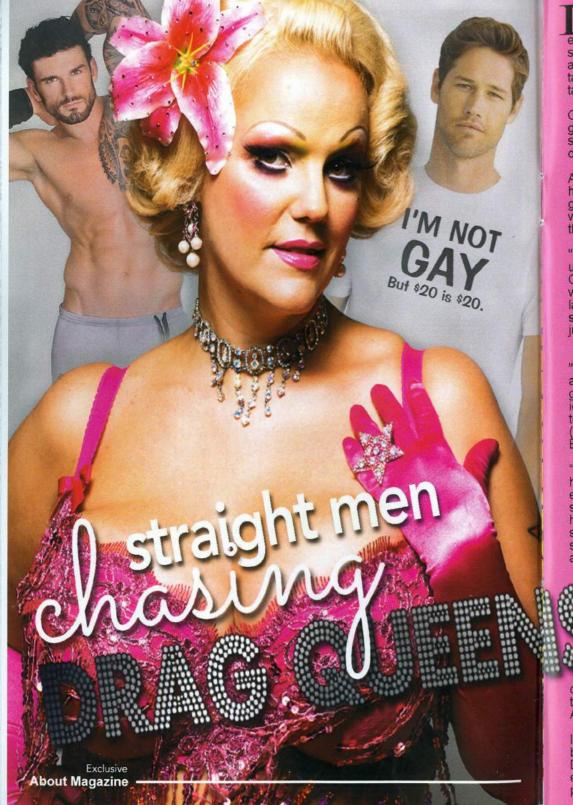






1415 California St., Houston, TX 77006 832-730-4431

LegacyCommunityHealth.org



t's a conundrum familiar to every drag queen, even if she doesn't talk about it publicly. How should one feel about Chasers, the men who aggressively pursue drag performers? We are talking about the men who will do whatever it takes to get lucky with queens.

Chasers can be found wherever drag queens gather. There's at least one at every show. They stand alone or post up at bars, waiting to introduce themselves.

Any queen can tell you that Chasers can be headaches who turn their work life into a tiring game of cat and mouse. But not every queen will admit the other side of the story, which is that some queens depend on them.

"I had an encounter that perfectly illustrates the uneasy symbiosis between queens and a Chasers." A Houston Queen tells us. "On my way to my Friday gig, dressed in a skimpy gold lame cocktail dress, a stranger approached to say "Hey, I'm straight but I really admire you for just being yourself."

"I knew this guy's game right away, but he had a Firefighter Calendar torso, and having a body guard while traveling in drag is never a bad idea, so I decided to play along. I took "Mikey" to my show, where he swept me off my feet (literally) for photo ops, and fetched my Red Bulls.

"I'm doing good for a straight guy in a gay bar, huh?" he grinned. He certainly was. And in exchange, I let him grab my padded rump, smell my hair, and even bite my ear too-too hard. "Don't tell anyone, but I've always had a secret thing for, you know, girls like you," Mikey said. "I've just never tried it." Mikey loved my attention, the audience loved him, and beneath

my mild irritation at his groping, I was queasily pleased by his worship. So it was a shame when he pitched a screaming fit after I declined to go home with him. His temper brought an end to our odd give-and-take.

Chasers are a mixed blessing for queens. They can be aggressive and disrespectful in their advances, sometimes to the point where they disrupt our performances. And yet there's something alluring about them.

I talked to my drag sister about this dichotomy, because she was there for the great Mikey Drama of 2015, yaaaaaazing and waving her enormous hispanic fan. She so perfectly explained the appeal of Chasers to me, I felt as

though she were reading from my diary. "When I'm home alone sewing all day, I take solace in the fact that there's guaranteed to be one gentleman at my show who will be all over me," she laughed. "I don't have to put out any effort. I can spit on him if I want to. He'll love it."

As performance artists, queens tend to spend the bulk of our time in isolating circumstances, either preparing for shows in the chaos of our little apartments, or hiding behind masks of rouge and lashes in the glare spotlights. That Chasers can fall in love with our masks makes them ideal matches for us. The façade that keeps most people at a distance only brings them closer, allowing us to enjoy the casual flirtations that other boys enjoy so freely at gay bars.

To anyone who looks down their nose at a queen accepting a Chaser's attention, my sister says, "Yes, they're attracted to something that isn't real, but I don't see how that's any different from a typical Grindr date." I'll avoid a born-naked-and-the-rest-is-drag joke here and just say it plain: A queen wearing heels and lipstick for Chasers is no different from a Montrose bottom wearing elaborate, expensive jock straps for tops. We gays have built a community where everyone must wear a costume—twink, bear, geek, pig-so it feels perfectly natural for a queen when she follows up an evening of performance art with a night of role-play.

"Yes, they're attracted to something that isn't real, but I don't see how that's any different from a typical Grindr date."

But a Chaser's affection comes at a price. I always joke that there's a vocational training course for Chasers at University of Houston, because they all seem to have the same perceptions of drag queens, and they all take the same approach. To borrow a description of trans chasers, drag Chasers often demonstrate an ugly misogyny, treating their targets as sex objects: "They don't care to know us very well, they just want



FBARHOUSTON.COM

202 TUAM ST. Houston TX 77006

713 522 FBAR







COME GET SOCIAL















to date us. Date us so hard." Or, to put a fine point on it, fuck us. And because Chasers ignore our humanity, they don't mind going wild with anger when we don't put out.

A typical Chaser begins by assuring me that's he's "a normal guy," explaining that he wandered into my gay bar by accident and mistook me for "real woman"—though I'm often dressed more like an extraterrestrial than a lady. Or maybe he'll admit to being gay, but claim that he's "never done this kind of thing before," even though he was spotted doing exactly this kind of thing with another gueen last week.

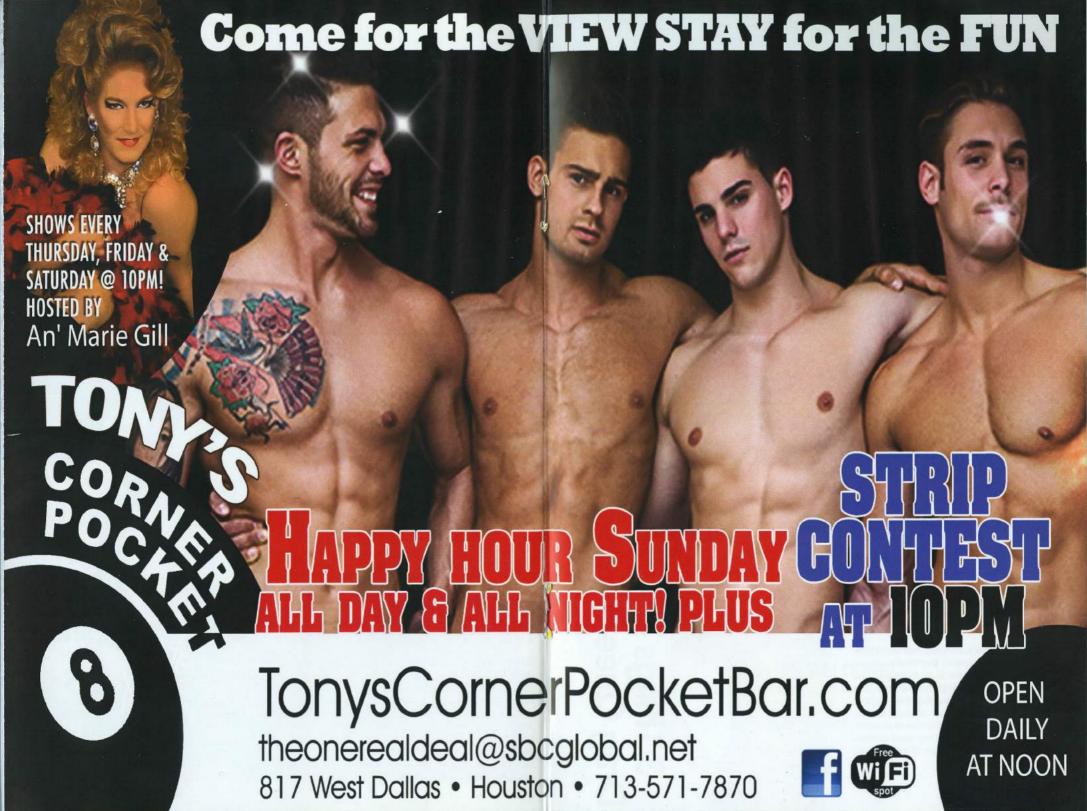
So flirting with a chaser involves manifold layers of pretending that can be truly discomfiting. The Chaser pretends that his flirtation is a new and thrilling transgression. The queen tries to fully embody the long-lashed, curvaceous cartoon woman of the Chaser's fantasies—as if her lady features aren't tacked on with spirit gum and duct tape, as if the living, breathing person beneath them is immaterial.

I recently brought home a Chaser who insisted so intensely that I was a "real woman," I couldn't tell what he expected to see when my dress slipped off. It was a surreal, disorienting moment where even I lost track of my gender. I wondered if my Chaser would react violently when I revealed my male chest, which suddenly seemed disgusting to me, so I decided to leave my little outfit on. Better not destroy the delusions of someone who stands a foot taller than you.

But it's absurd to otherize Chasers for chasing illusions. Everyone is drawn in by appearances before they search for the human beings behind them. Everyone has a type, and knows where to look for the people that embody it. And what man hasn't lost a few too many dollars buying drink for a lady whose lipstick caught his eye?

When I really think about it, I can only recall one man who went too far in his adoration of drag. That man quit his day job to spend all his nights and coins chasing one queen, ignoring friends, family, and personal well-being to give her the attentions and luxuries she demanded. That man forgot that a queen is just a fictional character, and lent his imagination to making her a real woman. That man is me.





he year was 2009 and all the drag queens were no where around. In the '80s and '90s, men wearing women's clothing had cultural clout. Legendary performers such as Divine would sing and dance and act. Films such as "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar," and "Wigstock: The Movie," which documented New York City's now-defunct drag festival, celebrated the art of gender transformation done fabulously. RuPaul had a modeling contract with MAC Cosmetics, a talk show with VH1, and made music videos that established her as the Supermodel of the World.

But then, for whatever combination of complex reasons that something falls out of public favor, drag queens mostly disappeared.

The Houston L.G.B.T. community embraced the re-launch of the drag performances. The country embraced drag. RuPaul's Drag Race, a reality TV competition show that has arguably caused the pendulum to swing back. Now in its eighth season, now has some of the the highest ratings ever recorded on the Logo network, which means more people watched 14 drag queens introduce themselves than they did Piers Morgan talk about gun control on CNN.

Given that experience, here are three reasons why drag queens are back and will continue to endure:

Drag Queens Are Dedicated To Their Craft:

The queens competing on "Drag Race" have big personalities, but in person they're also quite physically large, so maybe that makes sense somehow. Detox has legs the length of a giraffe's neck. Penny Tration and Alaska Thunderfuck, who wore a dress made of garbage bags that evening, had hair that stood at least two feet tall on their already far-from-the-ground heads. When all the girls crowded together to pose for photographs, they could have easily been mistaken for an NBA team comprised of several Dennis Rodmans, with a few of the shorter ones being the point guards or something.

That's all to say that to complete their transformation in a believable manner, they have to cover a lot of ground. They have to be thorough. They have to account for every inch, every pore. They have to practice maneuvering their gigantic bodies in a graceful manner while on stilettos, which I'm assuming takes a lot of work and pain. They must be disciplined. They need to know pop-culture history, be masters of makeup, and create a variety of characters.

Drag Queens Are Survivors:

By now the stories are somewhat familiar. Gay. Ostracized. Confused. Unwanted. Bullied. Misunderstood. Alienated. Disowned. Rejected. Those who enter the world of drag have usually undergone the experience of what these words represent. They have felt alone and perhaps persecuted for being different, and now have a narrative of hope to foster within themselves and share with others.

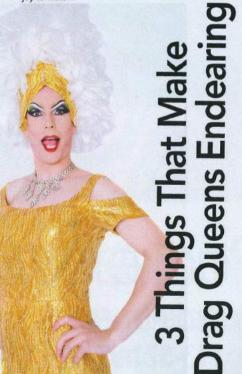
Yes, the culture of drag certainly involves some cartoon bitchiness, both genuine and contrived,

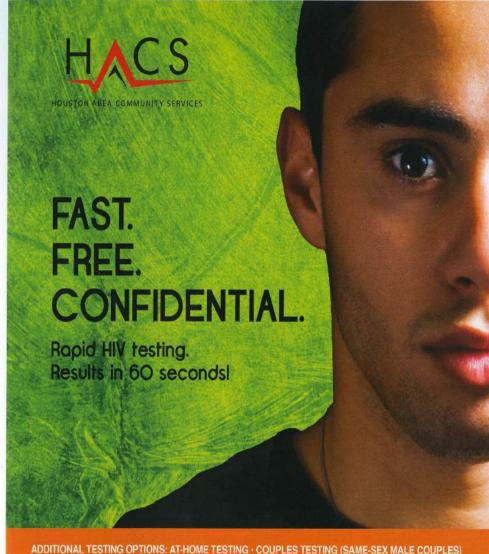
A reporter once asked a Queen what women today can learn from drag queens, she said: "Confidence – absolutely 100%. If you have to mask the things you're insecure about, go ahead. Wear four pairs of pantyhose, pad your hips, boost your boobs – dowhatever it takes to walk out the house feeling like you own the world."

Drag Queens Are Fun:

Drag is like permanent Halloween. Or as Bianca Del Rio puts it, "Welcome to Gay Christmas."

Drag nights are full of jokes, crazy costumes, witty banter, heartfelt performances, and beautiful dresses. The imagination of the people on stage is clearly palpable, and that's fun to see. Watching individuals who have multiple reasons to doubt themselves choose to believe in themselves before a crowd of strangers is a joy to watch.





TIONAL TESTING OPTIONS: AT-HOME TESTING • COUPLES TESTING (SAME-SEX MALE COUPLES

Houston Area Community Services 2150 West 18th Street 77008 (3rd floor) Monday-Thursday: 9 am - 6 pm Friday: 8 am - 5 pm

WALK-INS WELCOME!

hacstxs.org/testing · testing@hacstxs.org · facebook.com/TheTurndUpProject



www.hacstxs.org 832.384.1406



Galveston Summer KRave



Memorial Day Weekend

FRIDAY MAY 22 @ SPLASH BAR

6PM • Splash Dancers

10pm . Kara Dion hosts the Splash Divas Drag Show

11PM • DJ Melle Mel



KARA DION

SATURDAY MAY 23 @ SPLASH BAR

4PM • DJ Night Owl

6рм • Splash Dancers

10PM . Kourtney Paige Van Wales hosts the Splash Divas Drag Show

11pm • DJ Melle Mel

SUNDAYS MAY 24 @ SPLASH BAR

4PM . Carmen Can-Too and DJ Debbie Boyd host Sunday Fun Day Drag Bingo

10pm • DJ Joe Rios

MONDAY MAY 25 @ SPLASH BAR

Noon • Crawfish Boil and DJ Night Owl



KOURTNEY PAIGE **VAN WALES**



CARMEN CAN-TOO

Gay Beach Week

SUNDAY, MAY 31

10 M · ACCT Fundraiser Brunch at Galveston Island Convention Center

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 @ SPLASH BAR & KRAVE GALVESTON

Onening Party at Splash Bar Galveston

10M . Kara Dion hosts the Splash Divas Drag Show

11 M • DJ Melle Mel

Orening Party at Krave Galveston

11 M . Krave Dancers and DJ Night Owl

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

11 M-4PM • Gay Beach Event at East Beach/Apfel Park DJ MELLE MEL

After-Party at Splash Bar Galveston

10 M . Kourtney Paige Van Wales hosts the Splash Divas Drag Show

11M • DJ Melle Mel

Afer-Party at Krave Galveston

11M • Krave Dancers and DJ Houseman

SINDAY, JUNE 7 @ M&M RESTAURANT & BAR

11 M • Sunday Brunch at M&M Restaurant & Bar, 2401 Church St.

SINDAY FUN DAY @ SPLASH BAR

4pl • Carmen Can-Too and DJ Debbie Boyd host Sunday Fun Day Drag Bingo



CARMEN CAN-TOO

Escape to Galveston Island

SPLASH BAR GALVESTON - 3102 Seawall Blv

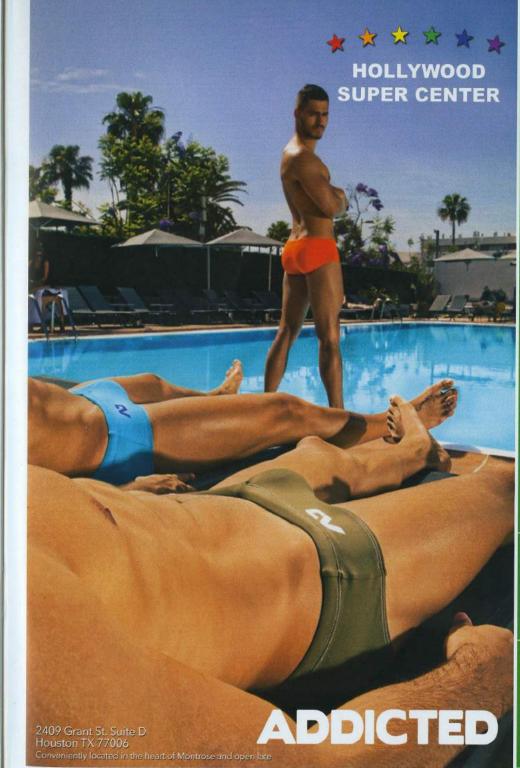
409.974.4176 • www.splashbargalveston.com

109.765.6911 • www.kravegalveston.com KRAVE GALVESTON . 2416 Postoffice .



Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, Step right up, Step right up. You won't believe your eyes! Behind this curtain is something you've never seen before, heard before, been before! The Dirtiest Show on Earth. Stripper Circus is the club concept that is sweeping the nation! Currently in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Austin. A fully interactive experience that combines music, entertainment, sexuality, games and the kind of wild and crazy fun you would expect from a traveling circus! It is truly a club night for the guest to discover and run away to the circus every week! Sexually stimulating carnival games! Prizes! Dozen GOGO BOYS. Checkout the same party in San Diego https://youtu.be/PCKIKi-Yn4o

810 PACIFIC ST | DOORS AT 9PM | RFTER HOURS TIL 3AM | FB.COM/SOBEHOUSTON | SOBEHOUSTON,COM | TWITTER.COM/SOBEHOUSTON / STRIPPERCIRCUS.NET



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO DRAG-SPEAK

About Magazine's House Mother-in-Residence gives you the vocabulary you need to werk it out. Get out your reading glasses, hunty. The library is open!

Beat |bēt|

verb: to apply make-up. "By the grace of MAC, you better beat that horse face into submission, hunty.

Fish IfiSHI

adjective: a drag look that is especially feminine in appearance.

"Kara Dion is serving fish. Yes, gurl. Low market tuna.

(Disclaimer: Using this term around women will very likely result in you getting a few side-eyes, and maybe a couple of black eyes so be warned.)

Gag |qaq|

verb: to react intensely, usually as a result of shock; also may be used as an exclamation. "I was gagging on all the eleganza."

Gurl |gerl|

noun: term of endearment; often used as an exclamatory remark. "Oh, gurl. I think he got me pregnant."

Hunty | hente

noun: term of endearment; originates from an inventive pairing of the words honey and a certain c-word.

(Note: Given the viral nature of gay speak, it's interesting to note how many people use the word hunty without thinking about its origin.)

Kiki | kēkē|

noun: get-together among close friends, usually for tea-spilling, confessions about one-night

intense discussions regarding the effectiveness

gun control.

"Let's have a kiki." Duh.

Read |red|

verb: to insult someone ruthlessly without breaking a sweat; see: Mariah Carey every time she refers to Nicki Minaj.

"Oh, miss thing. You don't want it. I will read you six feet under and then twerk on your grave."

Serve |serv|

verb: to present oneself in a certain way. Shamu was serving Hellen Keller Drowning Realness during the Water Tank Challenge.

Shade |SHād|

noun / verb: a similar but more subtle way of reading someone

"No tea, no shade, but plastic surgery wouldn't be the worst thing to happen to you.

(Shade is an art and should be left to the experts.)

Yaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa. |yes| exclamation: a much more fun way of saying ves; especially useful to shout repeatedly during Beyoncé performances.

"WHŎO, ĠURL! BEYONCE IS THE LIGHT AND THE GODDAMN WAY! YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

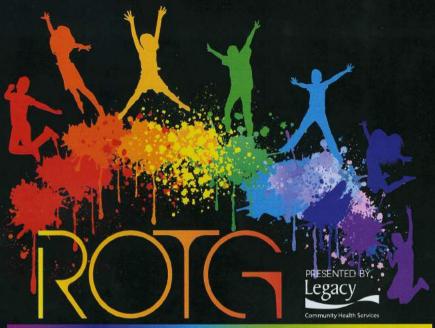
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA





ADAMEVETEXAS.COM

5TH ANNUAL LAND ROVER HOUSTON CENTRAL



RAINBOW ON THE GREEN

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH @ 7PM · 1500 MCKINNEY

YOU'RE INVITED TO A FREE, FABULOUS CITYWIDE LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION AND DANCE PARTY UNDER THE STARS AT DISCOVERY GREEN!

HOSTED BY MIX 96.5'S CHAD PITT WITH

DERRICK BARRY AS LADY GAGA & BRITNEY SPEARS

COCO MONTRESE, RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE TOP 5 CONTESTANT AS RIHANNA & JANET JACKSON INTERNATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST REINA

GRAMMY NOMINATED DANCER MARIE-CLAIRE "AMBER" CREMER













VIP LOUNGE TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR \$25 AND INCLUDE FOOD, LIBATIONS AND DISCOUNTED HOTEL RATE.







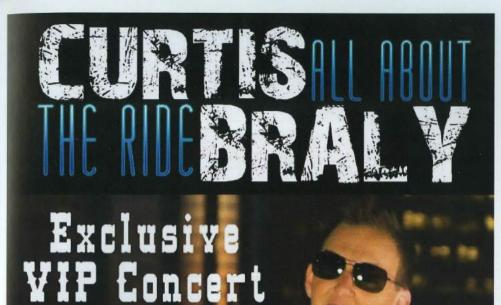






SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MEDIA SPONSORS KPRC CHANNEL 2, COMCAST, UNIVISION

DISCOVERYGREEN.COM/RAINBOW

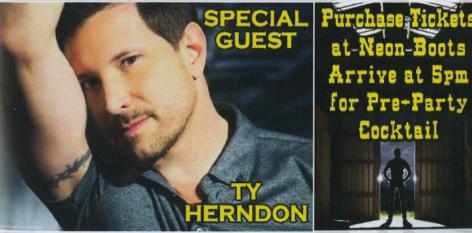


VIP TICKETS \$50

SATURDAY

AUG. 8TH • 7PM

BAYOU MUSIC CENTER 520 TEXAS ST., HOUSTON, TX 77002 INCLUDES ROUND TRIP BUS RIDE, CURTIS BRALY SWAG BAG, COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAIL BEFORE & AFTER CONCERT



www.NeonBootsClub.com



Montrose Entertainment District
BAR/CLUB GUIDE

干

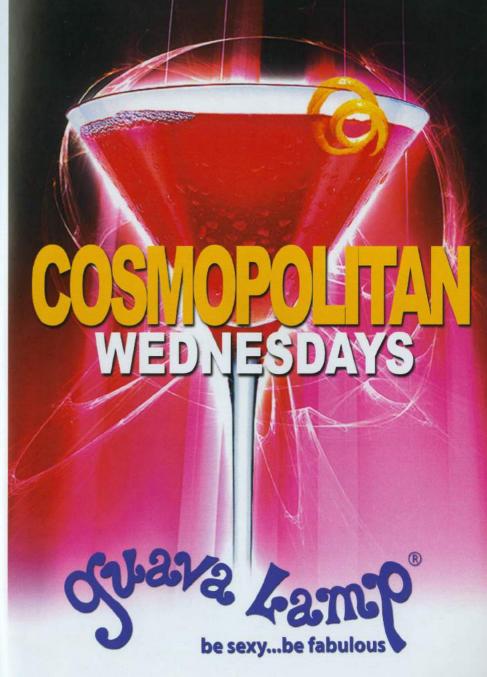


www.AbOUT-Online.com
The Bar/Club Guide

North Houston

Relena S

12 niwble8



713-524-3359 | NO COVER | 21+ 570 Waugh Drive @ Allen Parkway 7PM - 11PM Drink Special

