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DJ Ricardo! Presents
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Ultra.Weekend 2



joan
jett
cranks it up
with red.

Houston

July 2006

BUD LIGHT

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BE YOURSELF

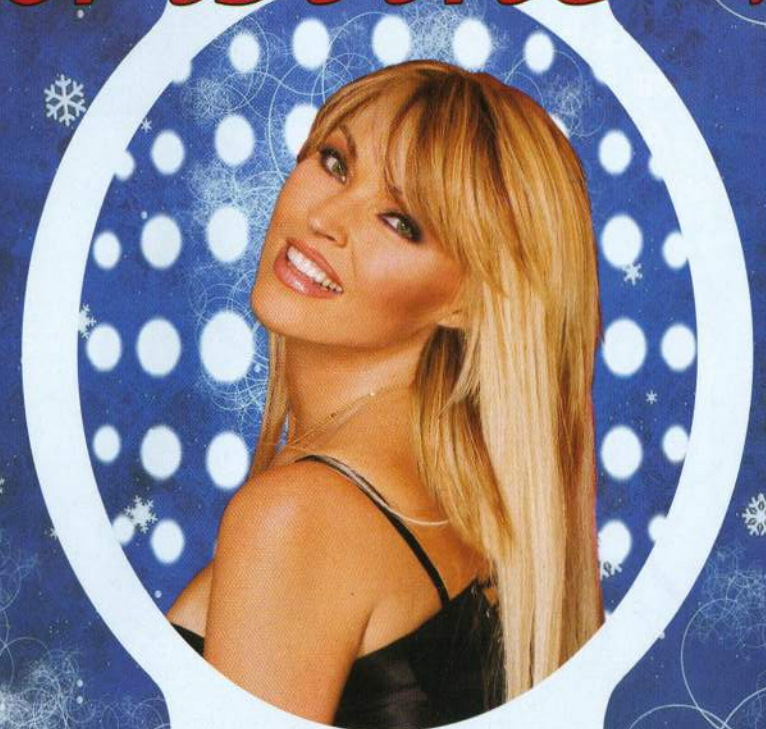
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Kristine W



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Red Nightlife, HZS, LLC
4000 N. Central, Ave., Ste. 310
Phoenix, AZ 85012
602-308-8310

Market Manager

Chris Smith
602-308-8310 x1
chris@rednightlife.com

Publisher

Chris Smith
602-308-8310 x1
chris@rednightlife.com

Managing Editor

David Salcido
602-308-8310 x3
editor@rednightlife.com

Creative Director

Michael Zydzik
602-308-8310 x4
mike@rednightlife.com

Contributing Art Director

Craig Venezuela

Contributing Graphic Designer

Levi McHale

Contributing Photographers

John Conroy
Michael Keele
David Lewis
Irvin Serrano

Party Cam Photographers

Paul Strickland

Contributing Writers

Hedda Bobbin
The Crimson Imp
Kevin Hamm
Galen Jones
Michael A. Knipp
Pandora
Mikey Rox
Grey Streat

Advertising Sales

Chris Smith
602-308-8310 x1
chris@rednightlife.com
Edward Crisostomo
713-478-4839
edward@rednightlife.com

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with a Casino Party
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412 Lovett, 7:00 - 10:30 P.M.

Holy St. Dymphna protect us!

Proceeds from this evening give us
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Your \$20.00 donation at the door gets you
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a little funny munny to play with and some light food.



What's the best part of a job working as **Managing Editor** for a nightlife guide like **Red**? Oh, there are so many. Really. I mean, who wouldn't love dealing with neurotic creative types and dysfunctional divas, not just here at **Red Central**, but all over the country? Deadlines and the keeping of same? I just can't gush enough. Keeping it all fresh and fabulous for you the intrepid and, we hope, regular reader? I live for it. And let's not forget the spectacular drama that inevitably comes when you cram several gay men into the same sandbox and ask them to play nice. *Nirvana!*

Of course, I jest. I love the people I work with, both here in the office and out there in the hinterlands. **Freakazoids** all, but they make my job extraordinary, even in the moments when I'm questioning my sanity. I can't count how many times I've been at my wit's end about a particular missed deadline or fashion faux pas, when the phone will ring or an e-mail will hit my in box to change all that. The various PR folks, studio representatives and freelance writers I deal with on a regular basis are, quite frankly, the best in the business. They are true professionals and are always on the lookout for content that fits the philosophy (yes, we have a philosophy!) of **Red Nightlife**. They are, in effect, my lifeline to the exciting world of entertainment outside my *drab little office*.

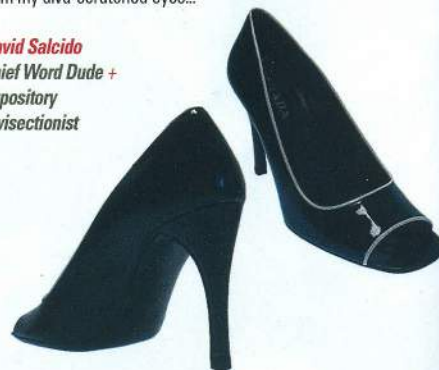
All of which really leads to the best part of the job, as mentioned earlier (and here you thought I was in the middle of one of my patented digressions...). The part that keeps me coming in, day after day. No, it isn't the notoriety that comes with being the Managing Editor of one of the most popular nightlife guides in three states. (Uh huh... **Dave**, who? *Whatever...*) No, the best part would be wrangling the various interviews and feature stories that eventually find their way into the pages of **Red**. That's what really gets my juices flowing (messy, yes, but nothing a sponge and a few extra changes of clothing can't fix). This issue is a prime example.

This month, our cover gal is none other than the Queen of pop punk, **Joan Jett**. Joan has been a long time hero of mine, ever since her early days crashing through gender barriers with **The Runaways** and on into the 80s when she made it

known worldwide that she loved Rock 'n Roll, with a string of top 10 hits. So, when the press release hit my desk announcing that she was not only releasing a new cd, but also crashing the boy's club known as **Van's Warped Tour**, I saw it as an opportunity to finally give one of my heroes her due. Phone calls were made and the wheels were set in motion. Our Creative Director, **Mike Zyzik**, and I sat down and planned out what we hoped would be the coolest interview ever conducted with this rock icon. The result appears here in its entirety and we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed working on it.

There's more, so much more, here that fills me with a sense of genuine pride. As I said before, I've got some of the best writers in the country working for me. And the design? What can I say, except I'm the luckiest editor in all three states to have the graphic designers I do giving life to the words within. I mean, c'mon, you have to admit, there aren't many magazines out there that are prettier. Vain, yes, but c'mon, we're **GAY!** We can own our vanity (after all, it goes so well with **Prada** and the hair of the month club). Smart writing and eye-catching visuals? It just doesn't get much better than this. Even on the days when I'm wiping sandy tears from my diva-scratched eyes...

David Salcido
Chief Word Dude +
Expository
Vivisectionist



Demi-Divas-R-Us

At the **Red** office we adhere to the simplest of dress codes, starting with a tidy little pair from **Prada**.

Saturdays

At Houston's Undisputed #1 Dance Club

Award Winning DJ Jimmy Skinner

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*Excluding Holidays and Special Events



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HERO DAY

by michael zyzik + david salido

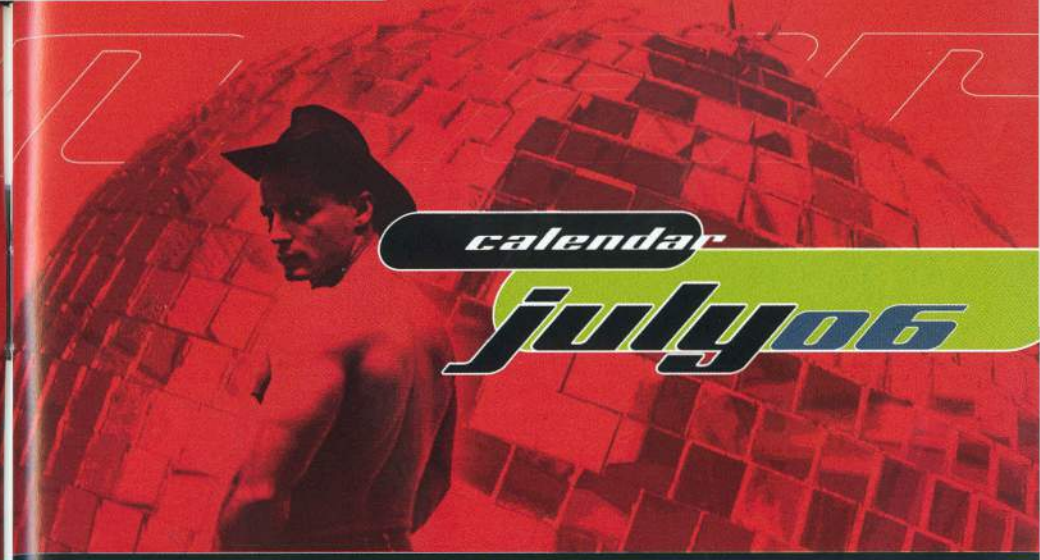
I'd like to propose a theory that every day people, living honest, every day lives, can be heroes. One of my personal heroes, **Joan Jett**, has been doing just that in the glare of the public eye, since her days in the **Runaways**, the all-teenage-girl punk band who were rrrriot before rrrriot existed (remember **Cherry Bomb**?). Using what she learned at such a young age, Joan helped define punk for the masses, bringing its irreverence and down-and-dirty approach into the mainstream with nine Top 40 singles and eight Platinum and Gold LPs.

In a time defined by Poop Culture, where the talentless and greed-motivated seem to get more than their 15 minutes of fame, Joan has simply done what she's always done: be a rock star. A real one. Unapologetically. Honestly. For close to three decades.



houston

Blur	-	-	Ladie's Night \$2 Longs/\$4 Martinis
Guava Lamp	SIN Night, Free Pool Happy Hour, 4 - 8pm	Happy Hour 4 - 8pm	Happy Hour, 4 - 8pm Karaoke w Todd, 10pm
JR's	Male Dance Contest With Kofi	2xist Amateur Strip Contest w Kofi + Roxanne	Kofi's Request Night Male Strip Contest
Meteor	Musical Theater Night Every 1st & 3rd Monday	Bingo!	Professional Women's Happy Hour
Rich's	Private Parties & Special Events	Private Parties & Special Events	Private Parties & Special Events
South Beach	Closed	Closed	Café con Leche DJ Cubanito
galveston			
Undercurrent	Industry Appreciation Night	Bottled Beer & Single Shot Wells, \$2	Well Martinis & Well Cosmos, \$3



calendar

july 06

"Mix" Night \$3 Doms/\$3 Well	DJ Awesome	DJ Mike Show	\$2 Well Until 10pm
Happy Hour 4 - 8pm	Happy Hour, 4 - 8pm Appetizers @ 5pm	Saturday VJ Chaz playing your fave vids	Karaoke with Todd, 10pm Happy Hour, 2 - 8pm
Karaoke w Marsha Carlton 9pm	Block Party	Block Party	Karaoke w Marsha Carlton, Kofi & Lana Blake
Hedda Layne Live	DJ Tad Dvorak Spins Hottest Music + Vids	DJs Tad Dvorak + Mark Goebel	Karaoke Idol
House + Hip Hop by DJ Real	Fusion; DJ Marc Nicholson 80s, 90s + today Club Hits	Radio -w- A Twist Mix 96.5 10pm-12am	Stimul8; DJ Real
DJ Mark Goebel Spins	Resident DJ Tucker No Cover 10:30 - 11pm	Curcuit Saturdays DJ Jimmy Skinner	Resident DJ JD Arnold
Single Shot Well Bourbon Cocktails, \$2	Single Shot "U-Call-It", \$4	Super Shot Saturday	Drink Specials



july 06

CONCERTS

- 3** **Fourth of July Eve**
Drink Specials all night!
Blur 8pm
- 8** **Pirate's Pillage + Plunder Party**
Undercurrent
- 15** **Ultra Sexy Party**
CD Release Party for *Out Anthems + Ultra Weekend 2*
Guava Lamp 10pm
- Christmas in July**
Special guest *Kristine W. Rich's*
- 22** **Beach Ball**
Special guest *DJ Roland Belmares*
South Beach
- Black + Blue Ball**
Leather/Levi Party
Undercurrent
- 25** **Christmas in July**
Undercurrent

- 2** **The Black Crowes**
C.W. Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- 4** **James Ingram**
Bicentennial Park, Baytown
Los Lonely Boys
Tinsley Park, Houston
- 6** **Anthrax**
Warehouse Live, Houston
- 7** **Pat Benatar**
Verizon Wireless Theatre, Houston
- 8** **Wynonna**
Jones Hall for Performing Arts, Houston
- 9** **Fiona Apple**
C.W. Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- 12** **System of A Down**
C.W. Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- 15** **The Subways**
Reliant Arena, Houston
- 16** **Melissa Etheridge**
C.W. Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- 19** **Dashboard Confessional**
Verizon Wireless Theatre, Houston
- 21** **Sounds of the Underground Tour**
Verizon Wireless Theatre, Houston
- 28** **Pink**
Warehouse Live, Houston
- 29** **Kelly Clarkson**
C.W. Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

special

events



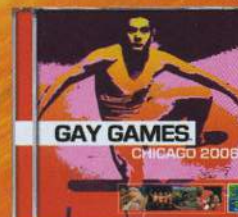
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Relocated this year from New Orleans, the **Essence Music Festival** brings *Earth, Wind, & Fire*, *Mary J. Blige*, *Toni Braxton*, *LL Cool J*, *Cedric "The Entertainer"*, *Steve Harvey* and more together in the largest annual African-American event in the country. At **Reliant Park**, July 1 - 3, 2006. (800) 488-5252, or essence.com.

Houston's official Fourth of July celebration, **Chevy's Freedom Over Texas**, provides one of the largest fireworks spectacles in the state. Set along the banks of Buffalo Bayou, the family-friendly festivities also include four stages of music and entertainment. At **Eleanor Tinsley Park**, July 4, 2006. (713) 247-3500, or visit houston specialevents.org.

The Woodlands' single largest event, **The 9th Annual Red, Hot & Blue Festival**, is a 23-minute fireworks spectacular, that is one of the largest in the Greater Houston region, second only to downtown Houston itself. Held in **Town Green Park** on the banks of The Woodlands Waterway, July 4, 2006. (281) 363-2447 or visit redhotblue.org.

Broadway in Houston presents the *Tony Award*-winning sensation **The Lion King**, where giraffes strut, birds swoop and gazelles leap to the pulsating rhythms of the African Pridelands and an unforgettable score by *Elton John* and *Tim Rice*. At the **Hobby Center for the Performing Arts**, July 6 - August 13, 2006. (713) 629-3700, or broadwayacrossamerica.com.

Lions, Tigers and
Clowns, oh
my!



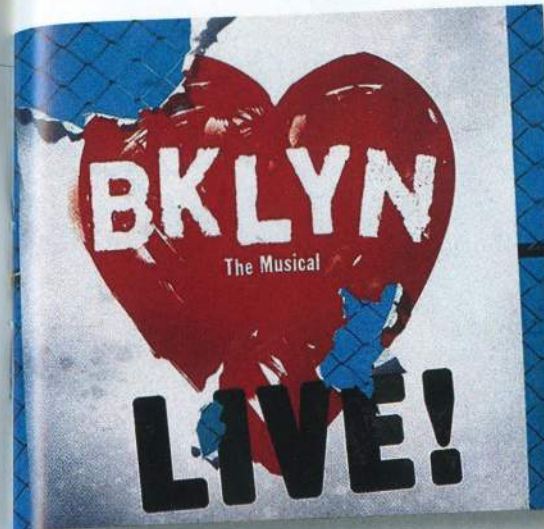
It's still considered the greatest show on earth after more than a century with more than 100 human and animal performers, so gather up the family and get on out to the 136th edition of the **Ringling Bros. And Barnum & Bailey Circus**. At **Reliant Stadium**, July 14 - 23, 2006. (713) 629-3700, or visit feldinc.com.

Written by **Peter Shaffer** (*Equus*, *Amadeus*), and using a theatrical device whereby the role of light and dark are

reversed, **Black Comedy** is a hilarious romp with a group of zany characters at a dinner party. Presented as part of the **Exxon Mobil Summer Chills** series, at the **Alley Theatre**, July 21 - August 6, 2006. (713) 228-8421, or visit alleytheatre.org.

Emerging and under-represented Houston area artists gain needed exposure during the annual open-call, juried exhibition known locally as **The Big Show**, which draws in hundreds of submissions and results in an exhibit featuring over a hundred accepted works. At the **Lawndale Art Center**, July 21 - August 24, 2006. (713) 528-5858, or lawndaleartcenter.org.

Two of the *Bard's* greatest crowd pleasers, **The Tempest** and **Titus Andronicus**, are given alternating production schedules as part of the **Houston Shakespeare Festival**. Presented by **University of Houston School of Theatre** at the **Miller Outdoor Theatre**, July 28 - August 12, 2006. (713) 284-8350, or visit hfac.uh.edu/theatre.



Quality Theater For Free!

Direct from Broadway, **Theatre Under The Stars** presents the Houston premiere of **Brooklyn The Musical**, as its annual free show. From the heart of Brooklyn comes a band of soulful street-corner singers and storytellers. With a mix of pop and soul, they set their stage and tell a wondrous sidewalk fairy tale about a young girl searching for fame and the father she never knew. With just one clue to lead her, she lands in the city that bears her name.

The Houston premiere of **Brooklyn The Musical** will star a stellar cast led by *American Idol's* **Diana DeGarmo** (Brooklyn), who recently made her Broadway debut as Penny Pingleton in **Hairspray**, **Melba Moore** (Paradise), who is best known for her *Tony Award*-winning role in **Purlie**, *Tony Award*-winner **Cleavant Derricks** (Streetsinger), **Julie Reiber** (Faith) and **Lee Morgan** (Taylor Collins), all of whom performed in the original Broadway production.

Brooklyn The Musical will run July 18 - 23 at the **Miller Outdoor Theatre**, in Houston. Tickets for the covered seats are available on the day of performance between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Miller Theatre Box Office. Any tickets remaining will be given out one hour before curtain. (713) 284-8350 or visit tuts.com.

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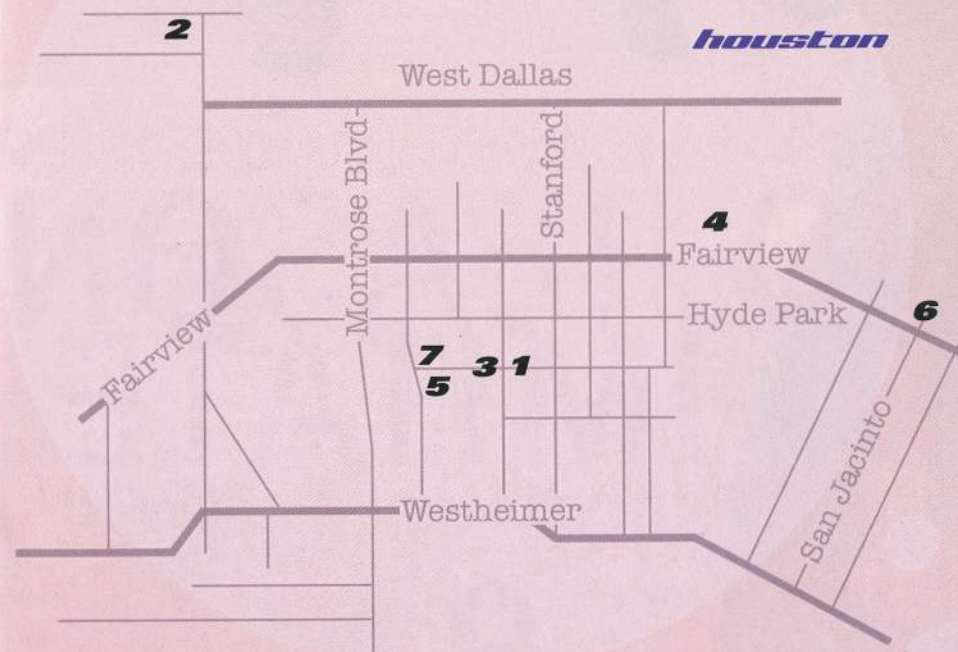


houston

- 1 **Blur** 700 Pacific St. @ Crocker, Houston blurbar.com
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- 2 **Guava Lamp** 570 Waugh, Houston (713) 524-3359
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- 3 **JR's** 808 Pacific St. @ Grant, Houston (713) 521-2519
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- 4 **Meteor** 2306 Genesee @ Fairview, Houston (713) 521-0123 meteorhouston.com
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- 5 **Montrose Mining Company** 805 Pacific Street, Houston (713) 529-7488
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Sandy Leon



Bill Gaither

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from page 12

This summer she rolls out as the headlining act for the traditionally male-dominated *Van's Warped Tour*, before hitting the road again to promote her latest release, *Sinner*. Considering she hasn't

released a new album since 1997's *Fetish*, this one has been highly anticipated. It's also been well worth the wait.

Many who have previewed the new disc agree that it hearkens back to Joan's roots, combining a tight pop smartness with that underlying grittiness which has always defined her music. "To me, it sounds like pretty traditional *Joan Jett And The Blackhearts* music," she says. "There was no real conscious effort to make it one way or the other, it just kind of happened." That organic creative process is one of the very reasons Joan continues to have a strong following, gaining new fans every time she hits the road, doing what she does best.

"I think it's very interesting that people are commenting on this Warped Tour and saying 'wow, man, that's really intense. Are you going to be able to handle it?'" she admits. "I don't get that. I've been doing live tours my whole life. This should be like falling off a log. I should knock on wood when I say that, 'cause I'll wake up a month from now and go, 'oh my god, what did I say?'"

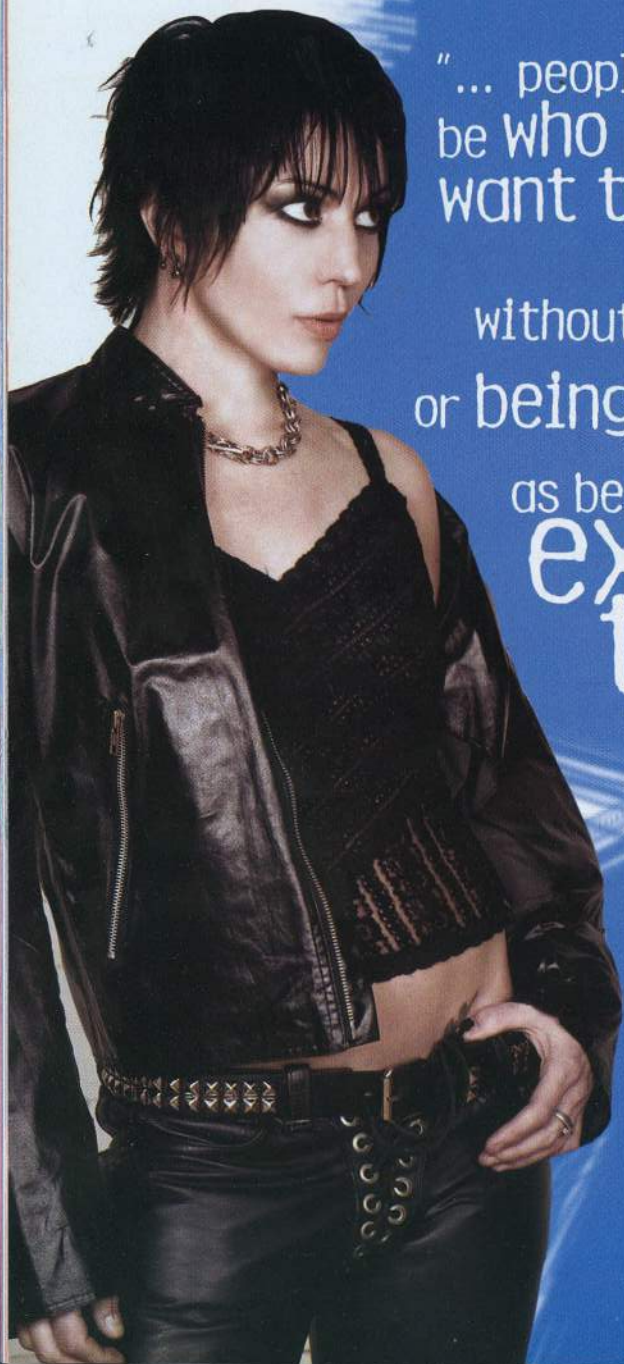
Her laughter is infectious, infused with genuine joy to be back where she belongs. The whisky tones of her speaking voice soften a little as she reflects on what it takes to "handle it." To have a career that spans decades, rather than months, especially in a male-dominated playground like rock 'n roll.

"I think you have to be yourself," she reveals. "You have to try anyway. I'm always quite amazed at how people find it odd that I'm just trying to live my life. Or the things that I do. I don't find them that weird or different. Just being a girl playing rock and roll, wearing leather and sweatin', seems pretty normal to me, but everybody else takes it as being something very different. In a

way, I suppose it is, because there just aren't a lot of girls out there doing it. I guess I just don't analyze the things that I do too much, I just do it. It's only through other people's reflections on what I do, that I'm able to look at it and try and think about how it relates to other people."

Obviously, normal is subjective, but that honesty about herself and what she does is part of





"... people should be able to
be who they
want to be

without being ridiculed
or being perceived

as being
ex-
treme...

what has gained Joan such a diverse appeal. She was, after all, breaking down gender barriers long before the word *Queer* became hip. "There are those of us out there that don't necessarily slip into these defined roles and aren't necessarily comfortable with rigid stereotypes," she says. "So, I think that really is what I'm trying to touch on. That people should be able to be who they want to be without being ridiculed or being perceived as being extreme in one form or another."

I posit the theory that this attitude is exactly what makes her a hero to so many people, from more than one generation. "That's really interesting," she says hesitantly. "I think it's great for people to let you know how much you've affected them, whether it's your music, or you, or something you've done. I think that's really valid. It's an exchange of energy between people."

I do get a little uncomfortable when it gets too... when it puts me on a level that's different from everybody else, you know? Because I want people to know, they can do what I do. They can do the same things. They can inspire people. It doesn't have to be as a musician or whatever, but everybody can follow their dreams. I'm not really doing anything special. I'm just following my dream.

"I don't want to think that I've got something that other people don't. We all have it. That's really what you try to fire up in people, is to find their own passion and find that thing that they love. Even if they don't know what it is yet, to not lose that belief that they're going to find something to lock into and they're going to be who they're going to be. They're going to be powerful in their own right. I guess sometimes I get uncomfortable with the adulation. I think a lot of it is great, you want to hear it, but when it goes overboard, that's when it gets a bit uncomfortable."

Because for Joan Jett, the every day hero, the whole reason for doing what she does is creating a bond between herself and the legions of fans who relate to her and her music. "To me, the whole magic of music and performing live, is those little moments when you connect with people," she says. "That's what it's about. You know, when you hear a song that just makes you feel so great and you don't why and you don't ever need to know why. It's just those moments when you look someone in the eye and there it is. It's heaven on earth. To me that's the real magic of it."

So, what is it that will set this latest release, *Sinner*, apart from the rest? Besides the honesty and ability to connect on a personal level? For many Joan's fans, it's



always been about the writing. The simplicity of her message and the complexity of the emotions that message brings about. She has found that as she has matured, so too has her outlook on life. "I'm still writing about sex and love and falling in and out of it and getting it and not getting it and all that stuff," she admits. "But I also want to write about bigger things, like maybe spirituality and politics. How do you discuss those topics without sounding preachy or corny? I think, somehow, without thinking about it too much, we were able to do that with a few songs here on *Sinner*. Specifically, *Riddles* and *Change The World*. They're definitely political or spiritual to some degree."

But don't go thinking that Joan is planning on changing her approach any time soon. The messages may be broadening, but she's still the same kick-ass rock star that she's always been. "I just try to lose myself in the audience, to watch them, connect with people, make eye contact, just really get into it. The music does the rest. There's something physical with guitar that just really gets me going. Playing the rhythm guitar, when I hear that sound, it just connects right through my crotch. That doesn't mean everything is sexual, it's just that it's one of those full body experiences. It's hard to put a finger on where it's coming from or why it's there, it just is."

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the true essence of Joan Jett; rock icon, trendsetting taboo breaker, ambassador of cool and every day hero to you and me, he and she and everything in-between.



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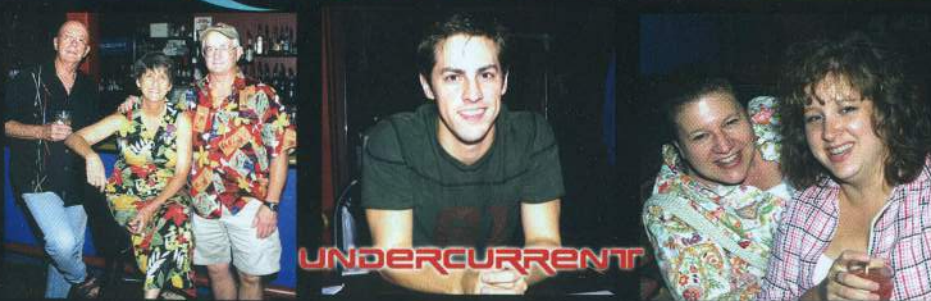
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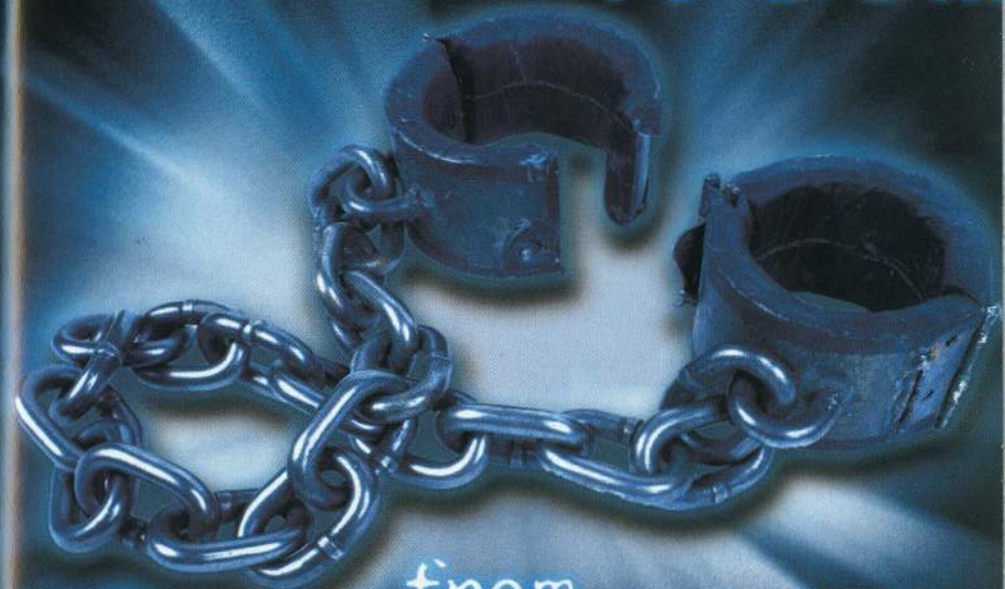
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The Gospel According To Gays

Spirit-pop duo **Jason & deMarco** are living proof that art imitates life, and that music can be inspired by the best that life has to offer.

In a recent interview, the couple - whose romantic relationship has endured a half-decade - picks up where their new album, *Till the End of Time*, leaves off, delving deeper into their lives as professional and personal partners.

Michael A. Knipp: I know several gay men and women who balk at the topic of religion. Because of its traditions, some feel that it has no place in gay culture. Considering that your music has religious undertones, is it hard to win over the homosexual secularists?

Jason: There have been so many people who have said they've heard of us, and even like our music, but they don't want to have to come to a church or pay for an event to see us. We totally understand this. A lot of people, particularly in the gay community, have been burnt by the church, or at least not welcomed. We feel it's no mistake that our first single is entitled, *Trying to Get to You*. We've been trying to get to our community for years now, and we've reached many, but we feel there are many more who can be exposed to us and our music.

MK: How much flak do you receive from anti-gay Christians?

deMarco: Fred Phelps has picketed a concert or two of ours before, but we've had some of the largest crowds at those shows come out and support us. We've joked and said that we wish he'd picket every show!

MK: You two have been dating for several years now. How do you keep the relationship fresh when you're with each other so much?

Jason: Great sex!

deMarco: We are total opposites. Where one is weak, the other is strong. I'm more grounded; **Jason** is more dreamy. We balance each other. It honestly surprises me that we still feel in love, considering we're together 24/7. I was a very independent person when Jason and I met. I never thought I would have been able to handle this type of life, but I love every minute of it. And when I don't, I am reminded of how many guys in our community aspire to having the kind of relationship that Jason and I have.

MK: How is your new album, *Till the End of Time*, different from your previous releases? Is your message still the same as when you started making records in 2001?

Jason: We definitely feel this new album is taking us to new places musically and artistically. This album focuses on the emotional landscapes of life - most of the songs written from personal experiences about the ups and downs we've faced in our relationships. We feel it's much edgier than our previous work and believe it's the best we've done yet. It's a new sound, but still very much *Jason & deMarco* because of the vocals.

MK: How much of your relationship together is on these tracks?

deMarco: It's very mixed. Jason tends to write more from personal experience, and I write more from my imagination. We obviously can relate to many of the songs personally.

Jason: I wrote a few of the songs about past relationships. *I Found the Number* is a true story of my finding out my ex was cheating on me. I literally found a number in his car and it said, "You're cute - give me a call," with a guy's name and phone number on it. I write songs that relate to where I am at the moment, usually emotionally.

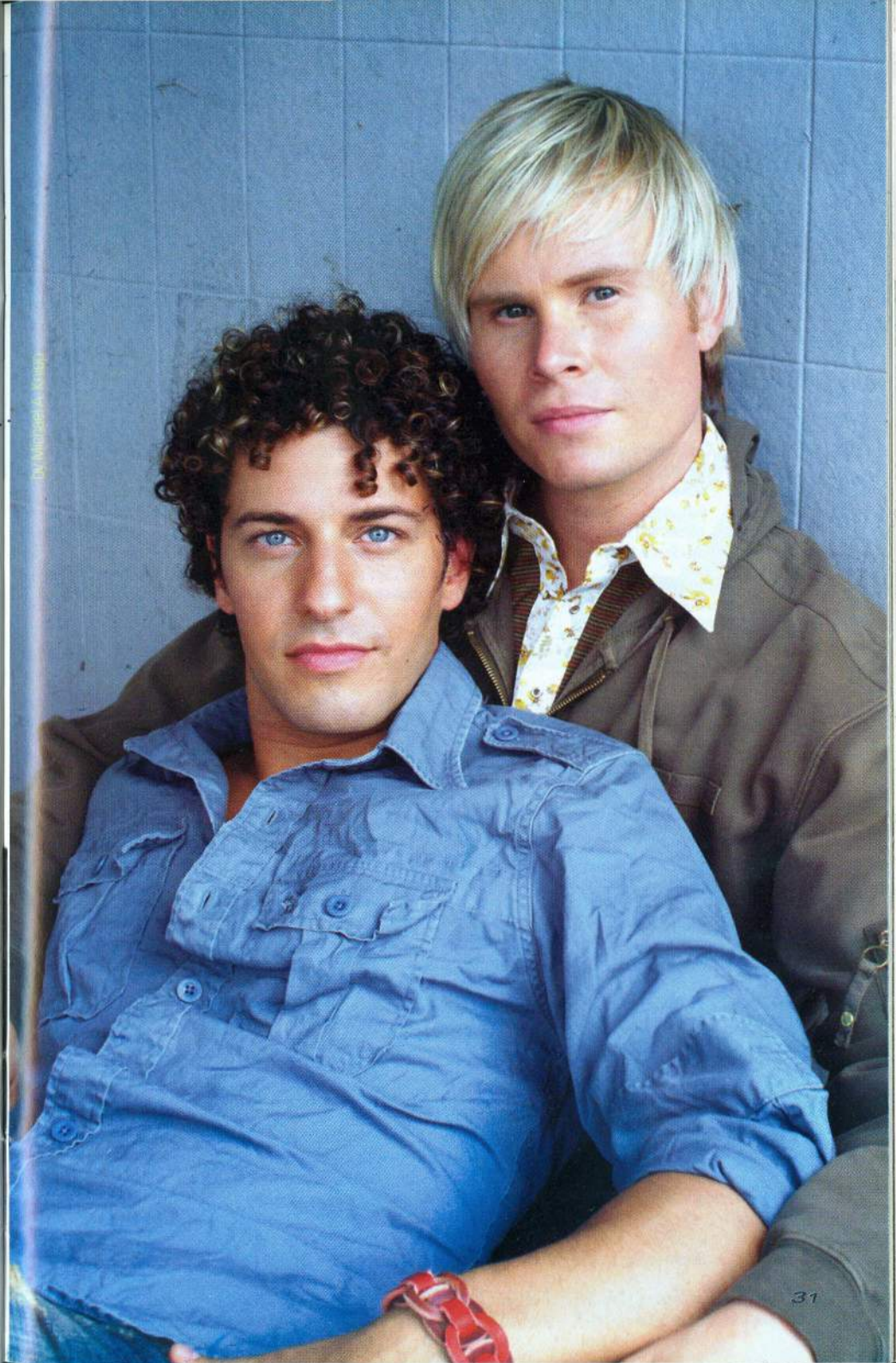
MK: As gay guys who're close both in business and in the bed, do you think that you're setting high hopes for your fans that could possibly be dashed? I hate to play the cynic, but after building your career around each other and your love for one another, what would happen if you two decided that perhaps you're not soul mates?

deMarco: We've been together five years now and we've gone through a lot together. We've had many tests and haven't always passed with flying colors. We've hurt each other, but we've also loved the other through those times and forgiven. We've learned so much about ourselves and our love has grown deeper and stronger because of it.

Jason: Our relationship today is stronger than it's ever been. No one knows what the future holds, but we can't imagine a day of not being in each others' lives. We've experienced too much together and have a love that goes too deep to suddenly vanish. Even if we weren't to be in a romantic relationship forever, we will always be in a relationship forever. We're best friends.

Jason & deMarco's latest release, *Till the End of Time*, is available nationwide. For more information, visit jasonand-demarco.com.

Michael A. Knipp is a Baltimore-based freelance writer and the founder of *Line/Byline Communications*. He can be reached at mybyline@aim.com.





redhot
galen jones

MYSPACE-2-GO-GO



Can't live without your **MySpace** fix? Stay connected with mobile service newcomer **Helio** (helio.com). Coming in two flavors, the **Hero**, with its coprocessor to enhance graphics, and the **Kickflip**, with its swiveling cover, both phones use **Sprint Nextel's 3G** network to handle voice and data service. In the pursuit to provide more, more, more, **Helio** not only offers instantaneous connection to music videos, games and news feeds, but also a specially tailored mobile platform for the tech-fad of the moment, **MySpace**. Which means that Helio users can upload photos, write e-mails and blogs, and even add friends to the owner's **MySpace** page. It's the best of all worlds for the on-the-go techno geek who defines him or herself solely on the number of friends he or she has on-line.



it comes to consumer kitsch) this hip coffee table book delves deeply into the psyches of every day folk like you and me, by airing dirty little secrets in creative ways. It does so through original postcards, submitted by ordinary people and emblazoned with their deepest secrets, which run the gamut from intentionally humorous to morbidly honest. Hardcover with 288 pages, by **Regan Books**, **PostSecret** is a fascinating look at the weird little thoughts that make us all human.

FUCK ART, LET'S DANCE

It isn't every day that a truly diverse dance cd hits the shelves. Let's face it, most dance music is so generic, only true fans of the genre can tell the artists, much less the dj's, apart. Thank all the disco gods for the heavenly father of **French House**, **Bob Sinclar**. His latest release, **Western Dream**, breaks away from the bland bump and thump to create a truly disparate collection, blending Rasta energy, Euro heat and old school Funk with a modern dance sensibility that just begs to be spun. **Love Generation**, the album's first single is the official theme song of the **World Soccer Cup** and already a number one hit worldwide. A steady stream of hits are sure to follow from this catchy gem released by **Tommy Boy Entertainment**. World Posi-Pop never sounded so damned good!



POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGEY

Fascinated by secrets, especially those uttered by complete strangers? **PostSecret: Extraordinary Confessions From Ordinary Lives** may be just the parcel of gratuitous voyeurism you've been looking for. Based on the popular blog postsecret.blogspot.com (and second only to **Found** magazine when

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the noshpit

kevin hann



ROMANO'S PIZZA

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Ah, after a long day and a long night and a longer next day, well, some of you might be in the mood to deal with a fancy-schmancy lunch. Something requiring you to both sit and act like an adult, while time passes and you await food, as well as, perhaps, well, hair product. However, for those days when I've been working a long project that has captured every waking moment of my life for a good week or so, the last thing I want to do is have to think about what I want off a menu of choices that begins to look like the matrix code dripping down the menu and onto my shoes. When I'm tired and just want something that I know will be great and won't take that long, it's time to call **Romano's**.

Located on West Gray, it's central to Montrose, but still sorta hidden away in the shopping center, dwarfed by the mammoth **Marshall's** and the overwhelming **FIT** gym. But, while their space is small, their dedication to all foods of Italian origination is bigger than **Tom DeLay's** ego.

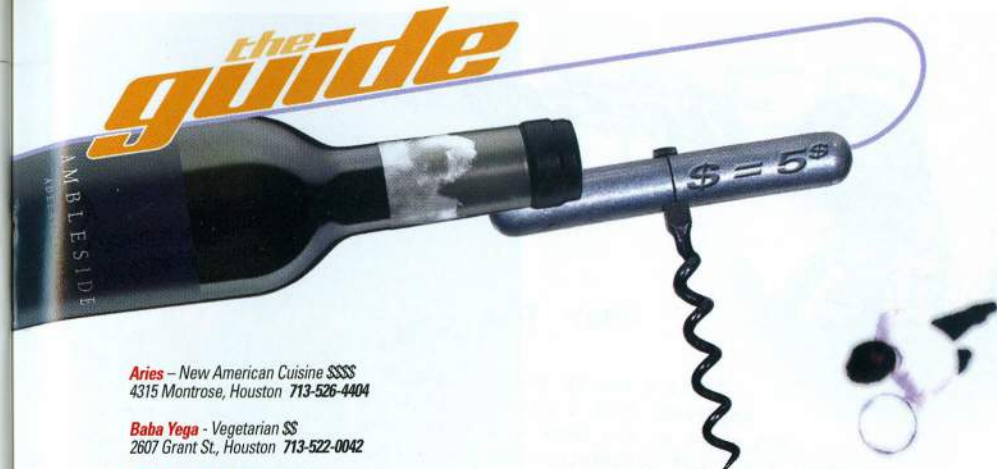
I was introduced to **Romano's** by a friend of mine a while back who, after yet another long project day, turned to me, squinted, lit a Newport, took a puff and then asked, with smoke slithering out his lips, "You wanna split a pie?" Well duh! Do your eyes work? I've got to eat to maintain my girlish figure, and dammit if pizza isn't the way to go!

Now, being that he's a New Yorker, we got a real pie, or as most everyone else calls it, a *cheese pizza*. It was delicious. The recipe for the pizza dough has been handed down since forever, and given that the owner is from Italy,

the story of the recipe could easily have **Sophia** spouting out, "Picture it: *Sicily, 1942...*" Regardless, it's fantastic, because at **Romano's** they care that they make great food. The sauce is spicy without being dramatic, and they don't drown the pie in tomato, nor do they leave it (or you) rasping for a beverage. The large slices fold easily and combine with adult beverages smoothly. That time, the pizza was devoured in record time, leaving only the scratched and mangled remains of the box as a sign that our appetites had been conquered.

Most recently I ordered the *chicken and garlic pizza*, which comes slightly lighter on the sauce, with finely sliced bits of chicken meat tossed under the cheese and *fresh slivers of garlic*. I've never seen anything like this on a pizza before, but it seems that the garlic was sliced like you would almonds and then tossed onto the pie like pepperoni. With my pale skin and nocturnal tendencies, you'd think I was a vampire, but after that pizza I'll be lucky if I can ever get the garlic off my breath, let alone get bitten by a vampire. And while I do recommend that you have a way to get to a bucket of **Scope** relatively quickly after eating the pizza, I really would contemplate having another slice if you have any left, first. Perhaps order another pie.

Either way, **Romano's** is a great place, and while I've only had the pizza's there for a meal, I've gotten to taste some of their other dishes - all of which are brilliant! **Paisan**, go eat!



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604 Fairview, Houston 713-522-0106

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Bibas Greek Pizza - Greek / Pizza \$\$
5526 Memorial, Houston 713-861-2266

Birraporetti's - Italian \$\$
500 Louisiana, Houston 713-224-9494

Bocados - Mexican Cuisine \$\$\$
1312 Alabama, Houston 713-523-5230

Brasil - American Cuisine \$\$\$
2604 Dunlavy St., Houston 713-528-1993

Cabo - Tex Mex \$
419 Travis, Houston 713-225-2060

Café Annie - Southwestern Cuisine SSSS
1728 Post Oak Blvd., Houston 713-840-1111

Café Express - Italian \$
1422 West Grey, Houston 713-522-3100

Captain Benny's Half Shell - Seafood \$\$
8506 Main St., Houston 713-666-5469

Carter & Cooley Company - Deli \$\$\$
375 W. 19th St., Houston 713-864-3354

Da Marco - Italian Cuisine SSSS
1520 Westheimer Rd., Houston 713-807-8857

French Quarter Market And Grill - Cajun Cuisine \$\$
7610 Cherry Park Dr., #A, Houston 281-550-9900

Guayaba Latin Grill & Bar - Latin Cuisine \$\$-\$\$\$
1603 Westgreen Blvd., Katy 281-829-2555

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Hollywood Café - \$\$
2409 Grant St., Houston 713-523-8855

Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese - Asian Cuisine \$\$\$
2409 Grant St., Houston 713-523-8808

Hunan Downtown Restaurant - Chinese \$\$\$
812 Capitol St., Houston 713-227-8999

Katz's Deli & Bar - American \$\$
616 Westheimer, Houston 713-521-3838

La Strada - Italian Cuisine \$\$\$
322 Westheimer, Houston 713-523-1014

Late Night Pie - Pizza \$\$-\$\$\$
502 Elgin Street, Houston 713-529-5522

Market Square Bar & Grill - American \$\$
311 Travis, Houston 713-224-6133

Mia Bella - Italian Cuisine \$\$\$
320 Main, Houston 713-237-0505

Michelangelo's Ristorante - Italian Cuisine \$\$\$
307 Westheimer, Houston 713-524-7836

Mo Mong - Vietnamese Cuisine \$\$\$
1201 Westheimer #B, Houston 713-524-5664

Mosquito Café - \$\$\$
628 14th St., Galveston 409-763-1010

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2504 Fm 1960 Rd., Houston 281-443-3530

Queen Of Sheba - Ethiopian \$\$
5710 Bellaire Blvd., Houston 713-665-3009

Ruggles Grille - American \$\$\$
903 Westheimer, Houston 713-524-3839

St. Pete's Dancing Marlin - Seafood \$\$\$
300 Main, Houston 713-227-1511

Taiko Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar - Hibachi \$\$\$
5857 Westheimer Rd., Houston 713-266-5888

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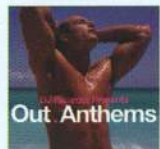
the **Foxbox** *mikey rox*



JASON & deMARCO Till the End of Time

If you think the spirit-pop duo **Jason & deMarco** are trying to get to you, well, they are. The couple's new CD, *Till the End of Time*, journeys through the peaks and valleys of relationships with 12 songs that slide the scale of love: discovering it, losing it, rediscovering it, holding onto it, and trusting that it will last forever. A lot to accomplish in less than hour, but it's all in a day for most of us. The album's first single, *Trying to Get to You*, is shaky in spots, but the **Tracy Young** remix version is worth a listen.

Unfortunately, while Jason & deMarco have obviously tried to train their chops for this LP, they vocally miss the mark. Their affection for one another, however, can't be denied - these kids are stuck on each other like white on rice. That in itself constitutes at least an *iTunes* download.



Out Anthems

OUT. ANTHEMS DJ Ricardo!

Ultra Records, America's biggest-selling dance label, will release its first queer compilation - just in time for Pride season! Featuring 14 of the world's hottest dance hits, *Out Anthems* promises to give a boost to both gay boys and girls. Among the tracks are three #1 dance radio songs: the **Freemasons**' *Watchin'*, **David Morales**' *How Would U Feel* and *All This Time* by **Jonathan Peters** feat. **Sylvester**. This groundbreaking disc also includes other popular artists such as **Tom Novy**, **Chocolate Puma**, and **Roger Sanchez**, whose single, *Lost*, from his forthcoming album, *Come With Me*, starts off the experience with evocative vocals, lingering piano, and a sensuality that'll give you flashbacks of sweaty summers with *Smirnoff* and a closeted frat boy named **Ferris** - who, by now, probably owns a pub in P-Town. Also featured on *Out Anthems*, presented by **DJ Ricardo!**, is diva **Amuka** with her club staple, *Craving*.

RUPAUL Reworked



You better work! Fifteen years after the release of the internationally successful Supermodel, **RuPaul** revisits the #1 dance sensation on an album of all-new remixes, *RuPaul. ReWorked*. Not a single beat short of fabulous, Ru's latest record features more than a dozen diverse remixes - including a fresh cut of *The Lonely* and classic tracks like *Free to Be* and *People are People* - transformed from outdated pop into booming electro funk, trance, crunk, luscious house and retro disco. The artists behind the metamorphoses include **Junior Vasquez**, **Patrick Benoit**, **Gomi**, **Craig C.**, **Giuseppe D.**, **Jens Bergmark** and **DJ BunJoe**, among other club-scene stars. RuPaul rose to fame in 1991 when she was voted *Queen of Manhattan* by New York City club owners, promoters and DJs. Shortly after, she signed with **Tommy Boy Records** to record *Supermodel of the World*.



PAUL OAKENFOLD A Lively Mind

There's no other name more widely associated with electronic music than **Paul Oakenfold**. And this summer his star will get a spit-shine with the **Maverick Records** release of *A Lively Mind*. Sly, hedonistic and celebratory, this follow-up to 2002's *Bunkka* features 12 songs completely composed and created by Oakenfold. Guest stars litter the Lively playlist, including the oh-so-smooth **Pharrell Williams** on *Sex 'N Money* and **Grandmaster Flash** on *Set It Off*. The album also features the vocal debut of actress **Brittany Murphy** (*Sin City*, *8 Mile*, *Girl Interrupted*) on the propulsive dance/electro/rock hybrid *Faster Kill Pussycat*. An early attention-grabber, the song was used for the *E!* network's pre-Oscar show earlier this year. *Faster Kill Pussycat* features remixes by **Roman Hunter**, **Nat Monday**, **Liam Shachar** and **Eddie Baez**. If nothing else, it provides a prime chance to take off your pants and dance. Like you need a reason.

Who is **Mikey Rox**? Who gives a fuck! But he can be reached at whoismikeyrox@aim.com.

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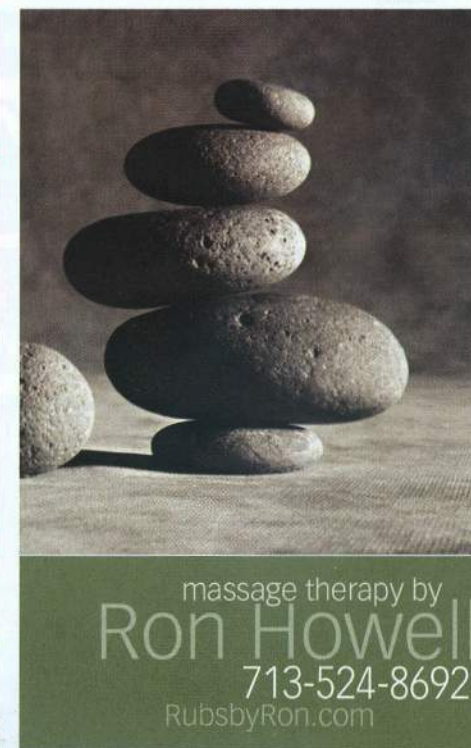
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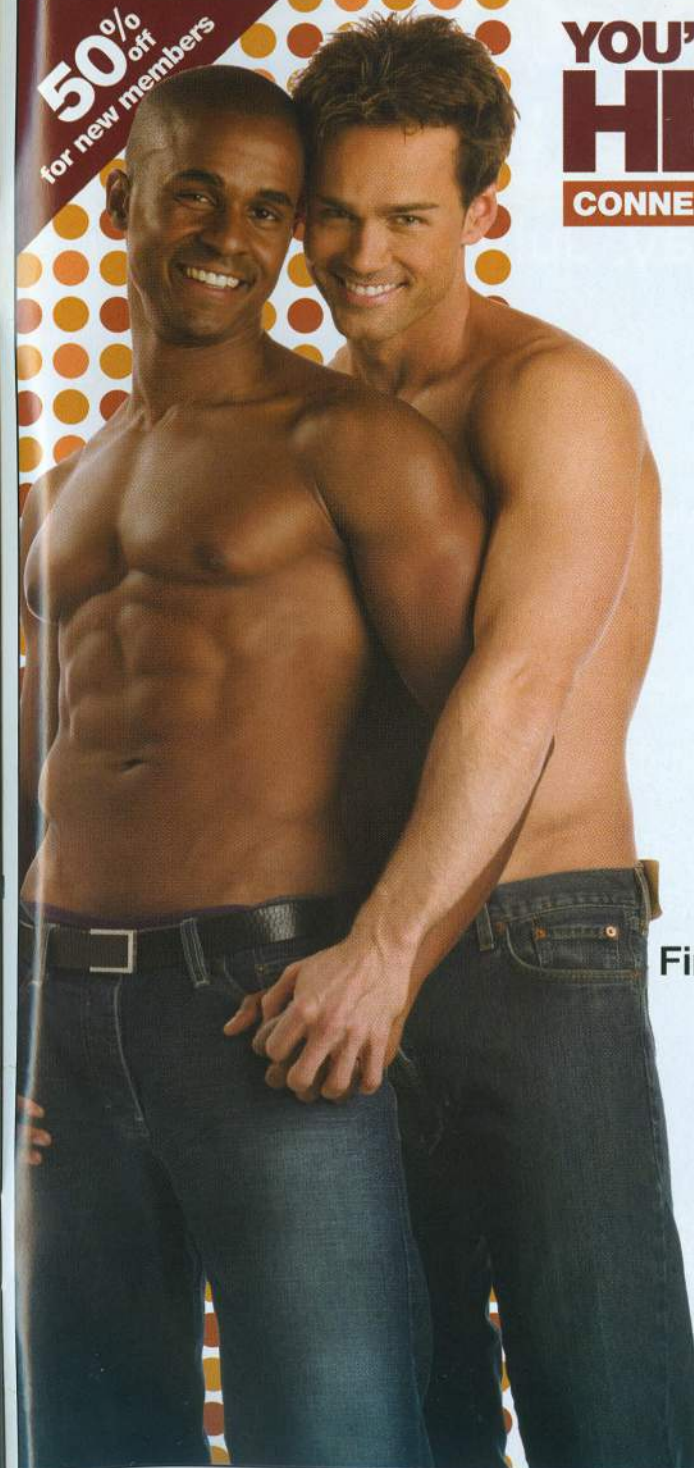
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